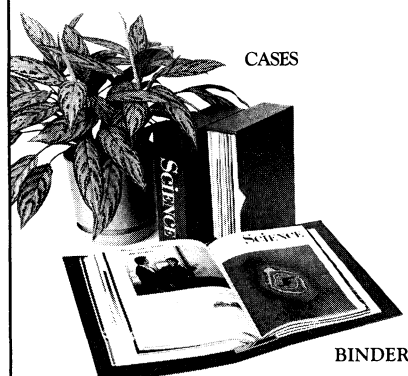


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1. National Science Board, *Science & Engineering Indicators—1989* (Government Printing Office, Washington, DC, 1989).
2. R. Reich, *Atlantic* 267, 35 (February 1991).
3. Office of Technology Assessment, *Federal Funding of Research: Decisions for a Decade* (Government Printing Office, Washington, DC, 1991).

## B Meson Lifetime

Please allow me comment on Gary Taubes' interesting and informative article about B factories (*News & Comment*, 22 Mar., p. 1419) recalling important results from B physics. The MAC Collaboration at the Stanford Linear Accelerator published the first measurement of the B meson lifetime (1). The publication alluded to by Taubes (2) (the MARK II experiment) came later, confirming the surprisingly long lifetime reported by MAC.

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## REFERENCES

1. E. Fernandez *et al.*, *Phys. Rev. Lett.* 51, 1022 (1983).
2. N. S. Lockyer *et al.*, *ibid.*, p. 1316.

*Erratum:* In the report "Isolation of sequences that span the fragile X and identification of a fragile X-related CpG island" by D. Heitz *et al.* (8 Mar., p. 1236), in the first line of figure 1 ("Chromosomal breakpoints"), PeCH should not have appeared. The breakpoint indicated corresponds to the APC5 cell line described by G. K. Suthers *et al.* [*Am. J. Hum. Genet.* 47, 187 (1990)].

*Erratum:* In Constance Holden's *News & Comment* article "Kuwait's unjust deserts: Damage to its deserts" (8 Mar., p. 1175), the second sentence of the fifth paragraph should have read, "Any rock that has sat on the desert for a long time develops a shiny 'desert varnish' of light-absorbing manganese and iron oxides."

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