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1. Nielson, K. and Mathur, E.J. (1990)

- Strategies 3:17-19. 2. Nielson, K. and Mathur, E.J. Manuscript in preparation.
- patents filed. **1.** Mullis, K.B., and Faloona, F.A. (1987) Meth. Enzymol. 155:335-350.

3. Nielson, K. and Mathur E.J. (1989) U.S.

Figure Legend: A photograph of a 1% agarose gel stained with ethidium bromide representing reaction products from PCR amplifications using the GeneAmpTM Kit1 from Perkin-Elmer Cetus according to manufacturer's instructions. The reactions were conducted with (lanes 1 and 3) and without (lanes 2 and 4) the inclusion of 1 uni Perfect Match polymerase enhancer. Lanes 1 and 2 represent 100 ng of human genomic DNA amplified with two 26-mer primers separated by 1400 nucleotides. Lanes 3 and 4 represent 100 ng of mouse genomic DNA amplified with two 23-mer primers separated by 550 nucleotides. Figure 1 shows two examples of *in vitro* amplification reactions that are significantly enhanced by the addition of Perfect Match polymerase enhancer to the polymerase preparation. Note that in lanes 1 and 2, the desired PCR product cannot be detected unless Perfect Match polymerase enhancer is added to the amplification reaction.

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COVER Inspired by Leonardo da Vinci's "Proportions of the Human Figure According to Vitruvius," the cover image symbolizes that the creativity of scientists is at the center of technological advances. Scientists' curiosity about biological processes has often led to discoveries that proved useful for biotechnology. One-half of the figure's appendages are robot-like, showing that technology is an extension of its creator. The figure holds a flask of microorganisms, an antibody, and oligonucleotide primers, representing some of the tools of biotechnology discussed in this issue; the fistful of dollars signifies the entrepreneurial aspect of biotechnology. See pages 1643 to 1681. [Illustration by Julie Cherry]

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The big chill

T seems to be the rule rather than the exception that, professionally, women astronomers and physicists are treated as second class citizens. At meetings and in the workplace, they are subjected to a "chilly climate;" they are often excluded from informal social events, where, as all scientists are aware, much of the inside information of science is passed along. Flam reports on two recent surveys-one conducted by an astronomer and the other performed under the auspices of the American Astronomical Society-that indicate a high level of discontent among women astronomers and physicists (page 1604). In general the complaint is not one of overt discrimination but of forms of discrimination that are more subtle and more difficult to document. In a companion piece, Selvin describes the legal battles of Jenny Harrison, a mathematician who was denied tenure at the University of California at Berkeley in 1986. She is currently suing the university, charging overt sex discrimination in the math department's decision to deny her tenure (page 1606).

Workhorse virus

N 1980, the World Health Organization declared that smallpox had been eradicated from the earth; the last naturally occurring case had developed in Somalia in 1977. Successful control of the disease was achieved with a vaccine made from a virus (vaccinia) related to but not the same as the smallpox virus (variola). Even though smallpox vaccines are no longer administered, the vaccinia virus is not being consigned to retirement. In one of the $\hat{6}$ articles in this Frontiers in Biotechnology issue (see pages 1643 to 1681 and the editorial on page 1593), Moss describes some of the research projects and clinical trials that are now underway or in the planning stages with this versatile virus (page 1662). One of the most interesting is the proposed use of vaccinia in vaccines for diseases that are unrelated to smallpox. The virus has a

large genome and can easily accommodate a dozen or more average-size genes. Thus vaccinia viruses could serve as live vectors, multiplying in hosts and carrying with them the genes for immunogenic substances of one or more pathogens. Perhaps a cocktail of many recombinant vaccinia viruses might one day be used in a multi-pathogen vaccine. Risks from the vaccine were acceptable for smallpox because smallpox was such a serious disease; for future uses, some modifications of vaccinia viruses may be necessary to further reduce side effects of these viral agents.

Southern Hemisphere atmosphere pollution

IOMASS burning in Africa and in southeastern Brazil has caused Jpollution not only locally in the troposphere but throughout the Southern Hemisphere (page 1693). Evidence of widespread pollution was obtained with satellite data and ozonesonde measurements made at Brazzaville, Congo, and at Ascension Island in the Atlantic Ocean. The ozone that is produced over southern Africa during the dry season (August to October) is transported by low-troposphere easterlies to the eastern South Atlantic Ocean. Some ozone then rises into the upper troposphere where westerlies can transport it long distances, even as far as Australia. In addition to ozone, tropospheric abundances of two other gases-carbon monoxide and methane-vary seasonally. Fishman et al. note that these three pollutants typically have been associated with human activities in industrialized countries of the Northern Hemisphere; in the Southern Hemisphere their seasonal variabilities are best explained by the seasonal differences in the amount of biomass that gets burned.

Accepting xenografts

T is not easy to graft tissue between species (xenografts), because tissue that is so unlike self typically elicits a powerful reaction from the immune system of the graft recipient. One way around this problem is to suppress the immune system of the host, but this leaves the host vulnerable to infections. A different approach is to try to mask the foreignness of the graft such that the immune system is not activated. Faustman and Coe have had a remarkable success with the second approach (page 1700). They report that when human pancreatic islet cells (the cells that were to be grafted) were pretreated with specific antibody fragments, these cells could then be successfully transplanted into mice; survival exceeded 200 days. The antibody fragments were those directed against the cells' surface HLA class I antigens, which are among the target antigens against which the host's immune response is usually directed. This result is surprising and exciting; if it is broadly applicable, it could simplify tissue grafting across many types of transplantation barriers.

Fusion toxin for HIV-1-infected cells

chimeric molecule has been found to halt the effects of the / human immunodeficiency virus type 1 (HIV-1) on lymphoid cells in vitro (page 1703). The fusion toxin consists of the receptor-binding domain of interleukin-2 (IL-2) and portions of the diphtheria toxin. Receptors for IL-2 are expressed on HIV-1-infected cells after the cells are activated. The fusion toxin binds selectively to activated but not quiescent cells and then specifically kills the cells. Finberg et al. report that production of viral proteins was blocked by this treatment and thus the proliferation of infectious viruses was inhibited. Because the IL-2 receptors appear on cell surfaces only after the cells have been activated, normal T lymphoid cells are not affected by the treatment. This form of chemotherapy might be valuable not only for the treatment of the early stages of infection with HIV-1 but for other diseases in which the activation of T lymphoid cells also marks the beginning of the disease process.

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Conformations and Forces in Protein Folding

Barry T. Nall and Ken A. Dill, editors

P rotein folding, the self-directed transition from disorganized chains to highly ordered and functional biological structures, is of increasing practical concern for the biotechnology industry and for interpreting DNA sequences. In the biological sciences folding is of major importance in the "self-assembly" process that produces the protein catalysts that facilitate and regulate cellular chemistry. Folding plays a role in such diverse cellular processes as macro-molecular transport and assembly, targeting of proteins to intra- or extracellular locations, and in vivo stability of proteins.

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1991; ca. 272 pp.; indexed and illustrated; #91-058 — softcover; \$34.95 (members \$27.95); ISBN 0-81768-394-6

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