LETTERS
Acid Rain Report: S. F. Singer; Federal R&D Policy: A. Schriesheim; Strategic Choices: S. J. Brahms; C. A. Zraket; Population Projections: E. A. Hammel; H. E. Goeller and A. Zucker ........................................ 780

EDITORIAL
Population Growth and Development: D. A. Hamburg ........................................ 785

ARTICLES
Deep Seismic Sounding with Nuclear Explosives in the Soviet Union: J. F. Scheimer and I. Y. Borg ........................................... 787
The Significance of Responses of the Genome to Challenge: B. McClintock ........... 792
The Population Factor in Africa's Development Dilemma: F. T. Sai ..................... 801
The Eocene/Oligocene Boundary Event in the Deep Sea: B. H. Corliss et al. .... 806

NEWS AND COMMENT
President Vetoes NIH Bill .............................................................. 811
Industry Studies the Environment .................................................... 812
Mo Cell Case Has Its First Court Hearing ....................................... 813
Briefing: Fear of Nuclear Power: A Phobia?; Congress Gives Archives Separate Status; Columbia Law Gets Chair in Science, Technology; Total Doctorates Edge Up in Science, Engineering; Medical School Enrollment Still Edging Downward ........................................... 814
EPA Dumps Chemical Data System .................................................. 816
An Endless Siege of Implausible Inventions ..................................... 817
New Study Adds to Antibiotic Debate ............................................. 818

RESEARCH NEWS
Do Antibodies Prefer Moving Targets? ............................................. 819
Soft X-ray Laser at Lawrence Livermore Lab .................................... 821
Tumor-Prone Mice—and myc .......................................................... 823

ANNUAL MEETING
Call for Contributed Papers .......................................................... 824

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Black bear. In winter, the black bear does not eat, drink, urinate, or defecate. Weeks before denning, while food and water are still readily available, the bear achieves this remarkable independence of the need for food and water. A ratio of blood urea to creatinine of 10 or less indicates that the bear is prepared for winter. See page 841. [Tom Beck, Colorado Division of Wildlife, Crawford 81415]