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**Notes:**

- SCIENCE (ISSN 0036-8075) is published weekly on Friday, except the last week in December, by the American Association for the Advancement of Science, 1333 H Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005. Second-class postage (publication No. 484440) paid at Washington, DC, and additional mailing offices. Copyright © 1991 by the American Association for the Advancement of Science. The title SCIENCE is a registered trademark of the AAAS. Domestic individual membership and subscription (51 issues): $82 ($47 allocated to subscription). Domestic institutional subscription (51 issues): $150. Foreign postage extra: Mexico, Caribbean (surface mail) $50; Other countries (air assist delivery) $95. First class, airmail, student and emeritus rates on request. Canadian rates with GST available upon request, GST #1254 86125. Change of address: allow 8 weeks, giving old and new addresses and 11-digit account number. Postmaster: Send change of address to Science, P.O. Box 2003, Marion, OH 43305-2003. Single copy sales: $6.00 per issue prepaid includes surface postage; Guide to Biotechnology Products and Instruments, $25. Bulk rates on request. Authorization to photocopy material for internal or personal use under circumstances not falling within the fair use provisions of the Copyright Act is granted by AAAS to libraries and other users registered with the Copyright Clearance Center (CCC) Transactional Reporting Service, provided that the base fee of $1 per copy plus $0.10 per page is paid directly to CCC, 27 Congress Street, Salem, Massachusetts 01970. The identification code for Science is 0036-8075/83 $1 + .10. Science is indexed in the Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature and in several specialized indexes.

- The American Association for the Advancement of Science was founded in 1848 and incorporated in 1874. Its objectives are to further the work of scientists, to facilitate cooperation among them, to foster scientific freedom and responsibility, to improve the effectiveness of science in the promotion of human welfare, to advance education in science, and to increase public understanding and appreciation of the importance and promise of the methods of science in human progress.
COVER  The fossil record is rich in information on past changes in biodiversity and patterns of extinction. Echinoderms such as those on the cover (maximum test diameter 8 centimeters; arms may exceed 1 meter), *Uinacrinus socialis* Grinnell from Kansas (Smoky Hill Member, Niobrara Formation), are thought to have adopted a planktonic existence, and they were abundant and globally distributed in Late Cretaceous seas. The Uinacrinida order suddenly became extinct well before the end of the Cretaceous. See p. 754. [Photo by John Weinstein, courtesy of the Field Museum of Natural History]

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