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COVER Model systems are vital for carrying scientists toward their goal of understanding the human genome. This issue presents a wall chart (pages 247 to 262) summarizing progress in mapping the human genome and one of the classic model systems, *Drosophila melanogaster*. In addition, there is a special news feature on genome databases (pages 201 to 207) as well as articles, reports, and a perspective relating to genome analysis. [Cover illustration by R. J. Kaufman, Charlotte, North Carolina]

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