NEWS & COMMENT

New Virus Reports Rile AIDS Meeting
Progress on Other Fronts 604

Human SIV Infections Suspected 606

Germany: Astrophysics Institute at Risk 606

Bad News on Second-Hand Smoke 607

Frustrated EMBL Chief Resigns 607

A Scramble for Data on Arctic
Radioactive Dumping 608

An NSF Survey Rattles Some Nerves 609

RESEARCH NEWS

Trapping Particles of Darkness 610

A Match Made in Laser Heaven 611

The Earliest Mass Extinction? 612

Forcing the Evolution of an RNA
Enzyme in the Test Tube 613

Adhesion Protein Studies Provide New
Clue to Metastasis 614

SPECIAL NEWS REPORT

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Confusion on the Cutting Edge 616

Journal-istic Guidelines • Not Merely Academic

When Does Intellectual Passion Become
Conflict of Interest? 620

Sex on the Brain • The Perils of a Deeply Held
Point of View • Small Comets/Big Flap

NSF Deals With Conflicts Every Day 624

Intellectual Conflicts—Boon or Bust? 624

Conflicting Views: The Readers Respond 625

PERSPECTIVE

The Logic of Cell Division in the Life
Cycle of Yeast 626

C. J. Gimeno and G. R. Fink

ARTICLE

Structural Processes at Slow-Spreading
Ridges 627

J. C. Mutter and J. A. Karson

DEPARTMENTS

THIS WEEK IN SCIENCE 593

EDITORIAL
Conflict of Interest Policy 595

LETTERS
Paleoanthropological Contexts: G. A. Clark
• Teraflop Computers: W. D. Hills • Confidence in
Science: A. Mazur • AIDS Epicenter: D. Mavoungou
• Healthy Museum: M. J. Novacek • Clear Vision:
H. S. Thompson 597

INFORMATION FOR CONTRIBUTORS 600

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590
Coral skeleton of the genus Favia. Scleractinian corals secrete a hard skeleton composed of aragonite (CaCO₃), which incorporates strontium along with calcium in a ratio that depends on sea-surface temperature. Recent findings suggest that for corals of the genus Porites this dependence may be used to recover records of Pleistocene and Holocene sea-surface temperatures with an apparent accuracy of better than 0.5°C. See page 644. [Photomicrograph: J. W. Beck]