NEWS & COMMENT
The Race to Understand Matter 1392
1996 U.S. Science Policy: Memo Backs Basic Research With Words, Not Cash 1395
Space Science: Europe Lays Plans to Shoot the Moon 1396
Panel Presents a Vision for Physics 1397
After the Supercollider Competition Looms for a Linear Collider

RESEARCH NEWS
Drug Discovery on the Assembly Line 1399
Putting Genes on a Chip
Atmospheric Chemistry: A High-Flying Fix for Ozone Loss 1401
AIDS Vaccines: Immune Response Corp.—Take Two 1402
Cemetery Reveals Complex Aboriginal Society 1403
Genome Mapping: Closing in on Human and Mouse Maps 1404

Mystery Ailment Strikes Serengeti Lions 1404
Case Closed for a Giant Black Hole 1405
Running Rings Around a Supernova 1405

POLICY FORUM
Secrecy Runs Amok 1410
G. T. Seaborg

PERSPECTIVES
Community Unity? 1412
J. B. C. Jackson
At Last A. Hall

ARTICLES
Jak-STAT Pathways and Transcriptional Activation in Response to IFNs and Other Extracellular Signaling Proteins J. E. Darnell Jr., I. M. Kerr, G. R. Stark

DEPARTMENTS
THIS WEEK IN SCIENCE 1381
EDITORIAL 1383
Continuing Evolution of U.S. Agriculture
LETTERS 1385
Agricultural Research at Berkeley: K. R. Farrell; B. O. Schneeman; A. P. Gutierrez; A. H. Goldstein; M. Barinaga • Blood Type and the Risk of Gastric Disease: A. E. Hallstone and E. A. Perez; T. Borén and P. Falk

SCIENCESCOPE 1391

RANDOM SAMPLES 1398
Rugged Family Planning for Ticks • Bringing Home the Bacon • Crack on the Wane in New York • Mathematical March on Washington

BOOK REVIEWS 1479
The RNA World, reviewed by H. D. Robertson • The Quark and the Jaguar, S. Coleman • The Unraveling of the World System, S. Pollock • Vignettes • Books Received

PRODUCTS & MATERIALS 1484

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In certain fungi, the products of one meiosis remain encapsulated as a group, or tetrad, a feature that has allowed geneticists to study allelic segregation, recombination, gene conversion, and other chromosomal properties. These studies are now possible in the higher plant Arabidopsis thaliana because of the discovery of the quartet mutations. Shown are pollen grains from plants with a quartet mutation, which, unlike wild-type pollen grains, are released in fused meiotic tetrads. See page 1458. [Photo: Daphne Preuss and Sung Y. Rhee]

Automatic Analysis, Theme Generation, and Summarization of Machine-Readable Texts
G. Salton, J. Allan, C. Buckley, A. Singhal

RESEARCH ARTICLE
Structure of the Allosteric Regulatory Enzyme of Purine Biosynthesis

REPORTS
Younger Dryas Age Advance of Franz Josef Glacier in the Southern Alps of New Zealand
G. H. Denton and C. H. Hendy

Implications for Mantle Dynamics from the High Melting Temperature of Perovskite
P. E. van Keken, D. A. Yuen, A. P. van den Berg

Species Pool and Dynamics of Marine Paleocommunities
M. A. Buzas and S. J. Culver

High-Pressure and High-Temperature Experiments on Core-Mantle Segregation in the Accreting Earth
V. J. Hillgren, M. J. Drake, D. C. Rubie

Phase Transitions Between β and γ (Mg,Fe)SiO, in the Earth’s Mantle: Mechanisms and Rheological Implications
D. C. Rubie and A. J. Brearley

Arabidopsis ABA Response Gene ABI1: Features of a Calcium-Modulated Protein Phosphatase
J. Leung, M. Bouvier-Durand, P.-C. Morris, D. Guerrier, F. Chefdor, G. Giraudat

A Protein Phosphatase 2C Involved in ABA Signal Transduction in Arabidopsis thaliana
K. Meyer, M. P. Leube, E. Grill

Estrogen Receptor–Associated Proteins: Possible Mediators of Hormone-Induced Transcription
S. Halachmi, E. Marden, G. Martin, H. MacKay, C. Abbondanza, M. Brown

Tetrad Analysis Possible in Arabidopsis with Mutation of the QUARTET (QRT) Genes
D. Preuss, S. Y. Rhee, R. W. Davis

Liquid-Crystalline Mesophases of Plasmid DNA in Bacteria
Z. Reich, E. J. Wachtel, A. Minsky

Activation of Raf as a Result of Recruitment to the Plasma Membrane

Reversal of Terminal Differentiation Mediated by p107 in Rb– Muscle Cells
J. W. Schneider, W. Gu, L. Zhu, V. Mahdavi, B. Nadal-Ginard

Inhibition of Hepatic Chylomicron Remnant Uptake by Gene Transfer of a Receptor Antagonist
T. E. Willnow, Z. Sheng, S. Ishibashi, J. Herz

De Novo and Inherited Deletions of the 5q13 Region in Spinal Muscular Atrophies

Cover

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Indicates accompanying feature

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