



S. CHANDRA SEKARAN/THIAGARAJAR COLL. **The alga *Kappaphycus alvarezii* is choking coral.**

cultivation sites, whereas PepsiCo says the more likely source is the institute's seaweed depot on the island. According to CSMCRI, that depot was closed down in 2003.

Ecologists are worried that *K. alvarezii*, which is currently spreading asexually, could switch to sexual reproduction by spores. These could be carried by wind to the remaining 20 coral-fringed islands in the bioserve.

Donation breathes life into Fermilab's balance sheet

A private donor has given US\$5 million to particle physics. The donation ends unpaid leaves of absence that physicists at Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory in Batavia,

Illinois, have been forced to take since February because of budget cuts.

The money, from a family that wishes to remain anonymous, was given on 27 May to the University of Chicago, which in turn will hire Fermilab to do contract work on neutrinos and rare particle decay. The furloughs, scheduled to last into September, were intended to save \$12 million. The \$5 million gift, plus an additional \$1 million of savings through early retirements, allowed the leaves to end on 31 May.

Fermilab has also reduced from 200 to 140 the number of lay-offs it expects to make starting in June.

Researchers kidnapped near Atacama telescope

Officials at the Atacama Large Millimeter Array (ALMA) telescope are stepping up security at its construction site in Chile after two researchers were kidnapped on a nearby road.

On 11 March, Rolf Güsten, an astronomer with the Atacama Pathfinder Experiment, an ALMA-related project, and a senior engineer were stopped by four men dressed as policemen on a highway near the site in a remote part of northern Chile. The men commandeered the vehicle and drove it into

Bolivia, where a few hours later they left the pair at the side of the road. "Fortunately, none of us was injured," Güsten says.

ALMA has since increased security by hiring more guards and adding more cameras and phones at the site, and is working with Chilean authorities.

Correction

The Editorial 'Working double-blind' (*Nature* **451**, 605–606; 2008) referred to a study¹ that found more female first-author papers were published using a double-blind, rather than a single-blind, peer-review system. The data reported in ref. 1 have now been re-examined². The conclusion of ref. 1, that *Behavioral Ecology* published more papers with female first authors after switching to a double-blind peer-review system, is not in dispute. However, ref. 2 reports that other similar ecology journals that have single-blind peer-review systems also increased in female first-author papers over the same time period. After re-examining the analyses, *Nature* has concluded that ref. 1 can no longer be said to offer compelling evidence of a role for gender bias in single-blind peer review. In addition, upon closer examination of the papers listed in PubMed on gender bias and peer review, we cannot find other strong studies that support this claim. Thus, we no longer stand by the statement in the fourth paragraph of the Editorial, that double-blind peer review reduces bias against authors with female first names.

1. Budden, A. E. *et al.* *Trends Ecol. Evol.* **23**, 4–6 (2008).
2. Webb, T. J., O'Hara, B. & Freckleton, R. P. *Trends Ecol. Evol.* doi:10.1016/j.tree.2008.03.003 (2008).