Drs. Fox and Hill respond:

We are gratified that our article has generated general interest.

Dr. Donahoe’s suggestion was included in our list of acceptable perfect cubes, and known by us to be prime, but we had a slight preference for the cube closest to the center of the known range of values. As we stated, any of the ten cubes in that range will serve equally well. Dr. Williams’ suggestion that $2^{29}$ is a simpler choice is true enough, but $6.024 	imes 10^{23}$ is well outside the current accepted range of values of $6.0221415(10) 	imes 10^{23}$.

Dr. Csuhu made interesting remarks about crystal structure. However, each of Dr. Csuhu’s divisors follows from the prime factors of $84,446,888 = 2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 17 \times 620,933$ that are connected to the crystal lattice. But we prefer a number that is not linked to any particular lattice structure, simply because the defining base element (currently carbon-12) has been changed before, and may well be changed again, in which case the corresponding lattice structure may change. Also, the suggestion of a number based on crystal structures presupposes that one day it may be possible to assemble N$_4^+$ atoms of a pure isotope into the required arrangement. Imagine a process that self-assembles the atoms at a rate of a billion per second. It would take 10 million years to finish. Thus, choosing a particular integer for N$_4^+$ is sufficient to remove the artifact, Le Grand K, from further usage as a mass standard and consequently redefines the kilogram.

**How to Write to American Scientist**

Brief letters commenting on articles that have appeared in the magazine are welcomed. The editors reserve the right to edit submissions. Please include a fax number or e-mail address if possible. Address: Letters to the Editors, American Scientist, P.O. Box 13975, Research Triangle Park, NC 27709 or editors@amsci.org.

**Errata**

In “An Exact Value for Avogadro’s Number” (MacroScope, March–April), and accent is missing from Le Système International d’Unités.

In the Table of Contents of the March–April issue, the first author of MacroScope should have been Ronald F. Fox.

**Illustration Credits**

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The Uniqueness of Human Recursive Thinking
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The Most Dangerous Equation
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