Bet You Missed It-DNA and spaghetti

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Bet You Missed It

Press Clippings — In the News — Carefully Selected by Your Crack Staff of News Sleuths

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CYBER LIBERALS

By Phil Dankert (Cornell University)

According to the results of an extensive survey of American public opinion, Internet users are more tolerant of diverse viewpoints than those who do not venture into cyberspace. "The findings challenge the notion that the Internet could lead users to become more narrow-minded in their beliefs because they can easily filter what they see in cyberspace and block out views with which they disagree." For those interested in finding out more, the data from this survey, a part of the 2000 General Social Survey, has been placed on the University of Maryland's Web site (http://www.webuse.umd.edu).


ORGANISMAL BIOLOGY

by Pamela M. Rose (University at Buffalo)

Backed by an intriguing alliance of science and tech figures, the All Species Project launched last fall in California aims to record all 7 million to 100 million species on earth within 25 years. The goal is to "...[look] for the bottlenecks and the holes in funding" rather than duplicate ongoing species inventories and database projects.


A DELAYED PHOENIX RISES

by Pamela M. Rose (University at Buffalo)

After 25 years of preparation, the Bibliotheca Alexandrina, successor to the great library burned in A.D. 48, is scheduled to open this fall. Shaped like a cylinder sliced along the diagonal with a buried front end, the library is supposed to help restore Alexandria to its former cultural glory. Director Ismail Serageldin hopes to make the library an international center of expertise on scientific ethics, as well as offering a planetarium, calligraphy institute, a replica of Sweden's Nobel museum, and a conservation center for restoration of ancient papyri.


THE RIGHT UNDERGRADUATE STUFF

by Pamela M. Rose (University at Buffalo)

Special issue explores global trends in undergraduate science education. The section includes 9 articles and one viewpoint piece that cover this vast topic, but common themes include improving the introductory course, increasing diversity in the student population, involving more students in research earlier in their studies, and the ironic difficulty of online scientific instruction via a technology (the Internet) created largely to serve the global scientific community.

Article titles are: Reintroducing the Intro Course; Making Room for Diversity Makes Sense; Europe Seeks to Harmonize Its Degrees; Student Research: What Is It Good For?; China Broadens Training for Elite Students; Online, On Campus: Proceed with Caution [note that MIT intends to offer world-class courses for free in the next two years on their "OpenCourseWare" Web site]; Are We Having Fun Yet? Joys and Sorrows of Learning Online [an excellent real-life experience with an online introductory biology course]; Open University: A Pioneer Presses On; and Online Science Is a Stretch for Asia. The viewpoint is titled: Undergraduate Research, Graduate Mentoring, and the University's Mission.


Inside Pandora's Box —


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I usually do not employ this column for product reviews, however, I am going to make an exception in this situation for Kendall Svengalis' 2001 Legal Information Buyer's Guide and Reference Manual. It has been published by Rhode Island Law Press annually for eight years and remains the most effective guide for lawyers, lay-persons and librarians to the world of legal publishing. The world of legal publishing has long been a source of mystery and frustration for acquisitions and collection development librarians outside the pale of the law library. For many, the concept of a looseleaf service was esoteric enough not to continue on page 88


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