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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>).

See — Jeffrey R. Young, "A Study Finds More Tolerance Among Web Users," *Chronicle Of Higher Education*, p. A33, Jun. 29, 2001.

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 on 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.

See — "Modern World Wonder" in Random Samples section edited by Constance Holden, *Science*, p. 1255, Aug. 17, 2001.

IT'S NOT JUST FOR DINNER ANYMORE!

by **Pamela M. Rose** (University at Buffalo)

The Lausanne cooked spaghetti experts (who, in 1999 in a letter to *Science*, insisted that cooked spaghetti is vastly superior to uncooked for modelling DNA) report they have now used a cooked spaghetti model to "expose hitherto unknown intimate details of how knotted strings break." Really!

See — "Annals of Spaghetti" in Random Samples section edited by Constance Holden, *Science*, p. 1255, Aug. 17, 2001.

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.

See — "Whole Earth Catalog", in ScienceScope section (contributors Jocelyn Kaiser, David Malakoff, Martin Enserink) in *Science*, p. 1571, Aug. 31, 2001.

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.

See — "Trends in Undergraduate Education", special section (contributors: Jeffrey Mervis, Erik Stokstad, Camille Mojica Ray, Robert Koenig, Ding Yimin, Kathryn Brown, R. John Davenport, John Pickrell, Dennis Normile, and Christina Gonzalez) in *Science*, p. 1607-1626, Aug. 31, 2001.

Inside Pandora's Box —

The 2001 Legal Information Buyer's Guide and Reference Manual: A Valuable Resource: A Review of an Essential Tome

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The 2001 Legal Information Buyer's Guide and Reference Manual: A Valuable Resource: A Review of an Essential Tome

I usually do not employ this column for product reviews, however, I am going to make an exception in this situation for **Kendall**

Svengalis's 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

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