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Bet You Missed It-PNAS and cryptids

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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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It's Not Just For Icelanders Anymore by Pamela M. Rose (SUNY at Buffalo)

A group of Estonian geneticists want to catalog the health information and genotypes of Estonia's population and are seeking collaboration with Icelandic company **deCODE Genetics**. Protests have erupted after the proposal was presented to the government before any public

debate occurred, citing more pressing population needs such as focusing on reducing smoking and drug abuse. See — **Lone Frank**, "Storm Brews Over Gene Bank of Estonian Population" in *Science*, Nov. 12, 1999, p.1262-63.

Tarnished Shine

by Pamela M. Rose (SUNY at Buffalo)

Did the *Lancet* use notoriety for its own publicity? The decision to publish biochemist **Arpad Pusztai's** controversial study, which claimed to show that transgenic potatoes may make rats sick, was made after an unusually rigorous review, and would have been published even

without the British war over genetically modified food. The *New England Journal of Medicine* isn't convinced, claiming the *Lancet* "really [dropped] the bar" on this one. See — **Martin Enerink**, "The Lancet Scolded over Pusztai Paper," in *Science*, Oct. 22, 1999, p. 656.

Nourishment in the Form of STKE by Pamela M. Rose (SUNY at Buffalo)

The **Signal Transduction Knowledge Environment (STKE)** is a new and ambitious feature of *Science online*. STKE "takes advantage of new information technologies to deliver to scholars essential information and enhance their ability to integrate that information into useful knowledge and testable theory." Updated weekly, it functions as an

electronic journal, a repository of original Perspectives and Reviews on topics of broad interest, and thus functions as a powerful electronic library. See — **Floyd E. Bloom**, "New Online Tools for Scholars: 3," *Science*, Oct. 22, 1999, p.679.

Can Yeti Be Far Behind?

by Pamela M. Rose (SUNY at Buffalo)

The father of cryptozoology (the study of improbable beasts known as "cryptids"), **Bernard Heuvelmans**, has donated 50,000 documents, photos and specimens to the Museum of Zoology in Lausanne, Switzerland. Some of the cryptids have turned out to

be real, including the mountain gorilla and the coelacanth. See — "Museum Accepts Cryptic Collection" in **Random Samples** section edited by **Constance Holden**, *Science*, Nov. 5, 1999, p.1079.

Conditions of Credibility

by Pamela M. Rose (SUNY at Buffalo)

The conditions under which the prestigious **Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS)** agreed to release their papers to **PubMed Central** include a 1-year limit on the experiment, no commercial use of PNAS material, no fees for participating authors, and the requirement that the outlets for peer and non-peer reviewed ar-

ticles be completely separate. **Community of Science**, a **Johns Hopkins University** initiative which will profit from advertising rather than subscription fees, is also making plans to use **PubMed Central** as its distribution network. See — **Eliot Marshall**, "PNAS to Join PubMed Central — On Condition" in *Science*, Oct. 22, 1999, p. 655-6.

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Internet Moves to the Courtroom by Bruce Strauch (the Citadel)

Competition among Internet companies has shifted into patent wars over who owns the rights to key methods of doing business online. **Trilogy** claims title to a method of picking options in car purchases. **Amazon** says it invented customers running a credit tab. **Priceline** says it owns the process of shoppers agreeing to buy if merchants meet their price. What once was

a breakneck free-for-all of innovation threatens to grind to a halt. **Amazon** is suing **Barnesandnoble.com** over a patent on "1-Click" shopping. And other merchants are wondering who is the next target. See — **Thomas E. Weber**, "Battles Over Patents Threaten to Damp Web's Innovative Spirit," *The Wall Street Journal*, Nov. 8, 1999, p.B1.

Inquiring Minds Don't Always Know by Twyla Racz (Eastern Michigan University)

In 1973 the directors of **Yale University Press** and **Princeton University Press**, concerned about the erosion of college and university materials budgets and the corresponding effect on scholarly publishing, formed a plan of action which became the **National Enquiry into Scholarly Communication**. The **National Inquiry** was sponsored by the American Council of

Learned Societies and funded primarily by the National Endowment for the Humanities. In this article Abel discusses the National Enquiry and the reasons why in actuality it had little impact. See — **Richard Abel**, "The National Enquiry into Scholarly Communication—Twenty Years After," *Publishing Research Quarterly*, vol. 15 (1) (Spring 1999), p. 3-19.

Admin Greed Runs Rampant — It's the money, stupid! by Bruce Strauch (the Citadel)

Harvard Law prof **Arthur Miller** virtually created the "court t.v." concept and moonlighted for years without objection under the 20% rule. Now (during summer vac) he has filmed 11 lectures and sold them to an online college. Harvard says he can't do this. He's teaching at two colleges at the same time. Miller says that's nonsense. He has no interaction with students whatsoever. It's just a series of lectures no different from any other ed material—casebooks, texts or audio tapes. What's deeply disturbing about this is the implication that Harvard somehow owns his course. Prof. **Louis Gates**, head of the Afro-American Dept. has starred in a PBS series. He says, "I've been teaching the same course, with modifications, for 23 years. I've taught at Yale, Cornell and

Duke, too, and when I moved to a new university nobody said to me I couldn't take my course with me because the university owned it." Harvard's response? Rules and an application process that requires a prof to seek permission from the corporation that governs the university. Cutting through Harvard's high-blown rhetoric about how Miller is "diluting" the university—to the cynical core, the notorious **Alan Dershowitz** says, "It's the money. What distinguishes the Internet from everything else is the number of zeroes." This is an issue of enormous importance to profs and should be read in toto. See — **Amy Dockser Marcus**, "Why Harvard Law Wants to Rein In One Of Its Star Professors," *The Wall Street Journal*, Nov. 22, p.A1.

Journalist Hits It Big in Academe by Bruce Strauch (the Citadel)

Peter Drucker began as a financial journalist with an eye for the big story. In 1943 he did a two-year analysis of GM, the first of its kind, and invented the subject of management. Through the 50s, 60s & 70s, he laid out one seminal idea after the next. He never lost sight of the fact that people deeply resent and resist being

managed. In his latest work on improving productivity in the knowledge industry he focuses on helping folks manage themselves. He was 90 years old in November. See — **Joan Magretta** and **Nan Stone**, "The Original Management Guru," *The Wall Street Journal*, Nov. 19, p.A20

Batten Down the Consumer Hatches by Twyla Racz (Eastern Michigan University)

China has enormous potential as an economic market because of its developing consumer market, but it poses a threat because of its piracy of books, software, and music compact disks. The author discusses the publishing

industry in China and the improvement in copyright protection. See — **Ian McGowan**, "Publishing in China", *Publishing Research Quarterly*, vol. 15 (1) (Spring 1999), p. 20-32

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