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Bet You Missed It -- Press Clippings -- In the News -- Carefully Selected by Your Crack Team of News Sleuths

Pamela M. Rose M.L.S.

University of Buffalo, pmrose@acsu.buffalo.edu

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Bet You Missed It

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

Column Editor: **Pamela M. Rose, M.L.S.** (Web Services & Library Promotion Coordinator, University at Buffalo; Phone: 716-829-2408 x129; Fax: 716-829-2211) <pmrose@acsu.buffalo.edu> wings.buffalo.edu/~pmrose

Column Editor's Note: Hey, are you reading this? Your esteemed column editor would like to know what you think! Zip off a quick email to <pmrose@buffalo.edu>. Does BYMI fill your needs? Do you have any suggestions for changes? I'm listening! — PR

CHEEK TO SMITH

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

Was **Joseph Smith**, the founding father of the Latter-Day Saints (Mormons), one of your ancestors? Now you can find out at the **Sorenson Molecular Genealogy Foundation**. The first version of a free database combining family records with genetic information will aid researchers who can have their DNA analyzed by submitting a few cheek cells, and then look for a match. If successful, clients will be given the names and locations of people with similar DNA born before 1900 (to protect the privacy of the donors). The extensiveness of the repository will also prove useful to geneticists tracking down disease genes.

See — "Mormon Genealogy Goes High Tech" in Random Samples edited by **Constance Holden**, *Science*, March 12, 2004, p.1608.

CREATIONIST BOOK CORRECTION

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

Science mis-reported on this story which was summarized in the February issue of *ATG*. The Public Information Manager of the American Geophysical Union, **Harvey Leifert**, sent the following clarification:

"*Science* magazine misstated the position of the scientific society presidents regarding the creationist Grand Canyon book. (AGU is one of the seven societies.) We did not seek to censor the book, nor did we ask "that sales be stopped"... The letter, dated last December 16, says that the book, "if it remains available in Grand Canyon bookstores," should be shelved with other nonsense books, as "we must clearly distinguish religious tenets from scientific knowledge."

The controversial book, *The Grand Canyon: A Different View*, is a collection of creationist essays. *Science* has agreed to publish a correction as well.

See — The full text of the letter at http://www.agu.org/sci_soc/policy/grandcanyon.pdf.

VISA VETO

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

A sizeable number of international students are declining to even apply for graduate study in the U.S. because of the specter of long delays and uncertainties in obtaining a visa. A survey (www.nafsa.org/content/PublicPolicy/FortheMedia/appssurveyresults.pdf) found 47% fewer graduate applications for fall 2004.

See — "Foreign Graduate Student Applications Drop" by **Yudhijit Bhattacharjee**, *Science*, March 5, 2004, p.1453.

SCIENTIFIC SAVVY

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

How does a country help establish themselves as a scientific power? The answer may be to tackle the expensive prospect of starting their own internationally recognized scientific journal. Growing concern over the health of the country's current scientific publications and the impressive number of Japanese researchers being published in other prestigious journals was discussed at a symposium "Strengthening Global Information Dissemination Capabilities" held in Tokyo on February 27th of this year. One researcher has suggested such a new endeavor should be electronic to make the material more accessible.

See — "Japan Ponders Starting a Global Journal" by **Dennis Normile**, *Science*, March 12, 2004, p.1599.

FREE ISN'T FAR ENOUGH

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

The **Principles for Free Access to Science** (www.dcpinciples.org), a statement issued by a U.S. coalition of 48 nonprofit scientific societies in response to public pressure, signifies agreement to make information as free as possible. Some "open access" advocates still say the statement doesn't go far enough, and others say it sidesteps key issues, such as whether scientists can retain ownership of their papers.

See — "Scientific Societies Lay Out 'Free Access' Principles" by **David Malakoff**, *Science*, March 26, 2004, p.1959.

Little Red Herrings

from page 88

baries have already pooled their exiguous funds to get **PASCAL** infrastructure built. Our efforts have demonstrated only too clearly, in all three of **PASCAL**'s major program offerings, that South Carolina's academic librarians think this consortium *very worthwhile*. But don't take my word for it. See for yourself:

— **EBSCO buyer's club deal for 4 databases and 28 participants. Cost-avoidance: \$100,000;**

• **ScienceDirect with 8 participants and about \$1.1million spent;**

- **Institute of Physics Archives with full, consortia-wide participation;**
- **Joint, statewide borrowing with a universal delivery to begin soon;**
- **Digital statewide virtual library of images.**

Imagine what **PASCAL** could do with statewide funding along the lines of what other consortia in Alabama, Georgia, Tennessee, Virginia and Kentucky receive! South Carolina academic libraries are already stepping up to the plate pledging, in these troublous economic times, portions of their scant materials budget to get **PASCAL** moving. That's how important it is to us. To learn more about **PASCAL** visit its website at <http://pascal.tcl.sc.edu/>.

Academic librarians understand that this

is a great undertaking, but we also understand that South Carolina is a great state. Great states are known for their support of education. We are sympathetic to those who complain about the cost of learning. We agree that education is a costly venture that, rightly, should never really end.

We argue that while education *is* a costly endeavor, its opposite, ignorance, is more costly still. Ignorance impoverishes the mind while making the eyes blind. This helps to explain why states that eschew educational funding become increasingly poor with each passing year. Many of those same states watch their decline in horror but are never able to see or even understand why it occurs.