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

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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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FLORA

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

The fifth largest country in the world by area, Brazil contains some 20 percent of all plant species, concentrated in some areas to 3000 species per square mile. Preserving the genetic code of endangered plants is the first priority of 5 full-time researchers at the DNA Bank, a laboratory and greenhouse in Rio de Janeiro's lush Botanical Gardens. The facility, inaugurated by Environment Minister **Marina Silva**, hopes to collect, freeze and preserve 1000 DNA samples a year, eventually providing a repository for all plants in the country.

See — "Brazil Inaugurates DNA Bank for Endangered Flora" at http://www.enn.com/news/2004-06-10/s_24739.asp.

...AND FAUNA

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

In Britain, a "Frozen Ark" has been established as "the world's first DNA and tissue bank dedicated to all the world's endangered animals." A project of London's Natural History Museum, the Zoological Society of London, and the Institute of Genetics at the **U. of Nottingham**, the ark will be both a real and a virtual resource aiming to fill in the gaps. There are currently no plans to clone the specimens which will be kept in zoo and museum freezers.

See — "Bank for Endangered DNA" in *Science*, July 30, 2004, p.603.

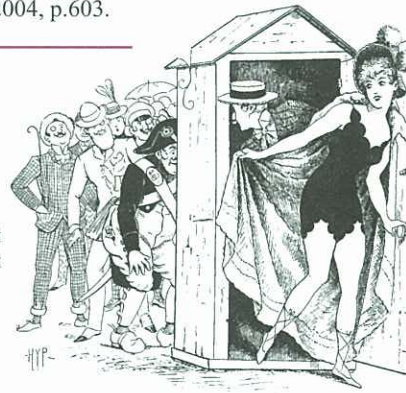
Seamless Consumer Culture

by **Bruce Strauch** (The Citadel)

The industry agreed upon standards dividing ads from editorial content are going by the boards. Now *Country Living* delivers up an ad from **Home Depot's EXPO Design Center** juxtaposed against a feature story on jazzing up that dreary kitchen. *Country Living* claims it was coincidental, but the authors are dubious.

And that's not all. Products are being mentioned in articles. And ads are using layouts that resemble the magazine content.

See — **Brian Steinberg** and **James Bandler**, "Blurring the Line" in *The Wall Street Journal*, Aug. 9, 2004, p. B1.



DROPPED DOLLARS

by **Sandra Beehler** (Lewis & Clark College)

Once again, the dollar's value is dropping on the international market, a trend that may continue. This is largely attributable to America's current-account deficit

— a combination of high U.S. trade deficits, and dependence on income from foreign investments in the U.S. Currently, America's current-account deficit amounts to 3.2% of the GDP, and some economists believe it could rise as high as 7% of GDP. Foreign investment in the U.S. dropped in the past 12 months and Asian banks slowed their purchase of dollars — both actions are bad news for the American economy and the dollar.

See — "The Dollar: Keep an Eye on It," *The Economist*, July 10, 2004, p. 63-64.


Leaving the Books Behind

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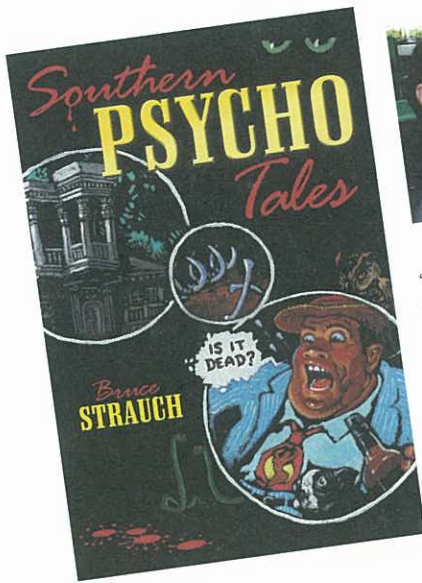
illustrations. And then for actual detailed instruction with magnificent carefully drawn illustrations, there is *Book Repair*, 2nd ed., by **Keneth Lavender** (ISBN 1555704085). Here you will be able to learn how to properly tip in a page, replace endsheets, recase a textblock and many more essential repairs to save books from the dark recesses of the back room.

I strongly recommend for all students to consider how they will learn to deal with damage done to books. I had anticipated that there would be a course on introductory book repair

that would enable us, as future librarians, to confidently address issues that arise in every size and type of library. From school library media specialists to law librarians, we will be faced with the question of how to handle the routine situation of wear and tear to the unfortunate situation of wet books. As stewards, entrusted with maintaining in a useable format the knowledge obtained from human endeavor through the ages, we must be prepared to save these resources for the community that we serve. Every citizen has the right to access literary resources. Misuse combined with lack of care and knowledge should not hinder those who have entrusted us with maintaining literary treasures from utilizing these resources. Otherwise, we

are participating in a form of censorship — electing to permit items to be inaccessible, simply because we choose not to return them to a useful state. We have an obligation to provide access to all materials. That does not mean it resides in the library's catalog and is unavailable. There must be true access and availability to all of the library's materials. Next time you pick up a book, think about the possibility for damage and the steps that you would take to repair it for continued access and availability for your community of patrons. And above all else, enjoy the pleasure of repairing a book or serial, holding in your hand the accomplishment of a once again usable piece of our literary heritage. 

“I’d rather read these tales than eat shrimp & grits on Meeting Street...”



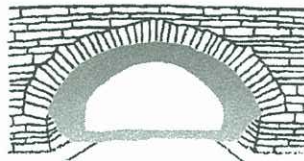
Bruce Strauch is an adopted Charlestonian and — as a professor of law at the Citadel — a genuine Southern colonel in the S.C. “Unorganized” Militia. He has published stupefyingly dull academic journal articles as well as five gore-drenched, mass-market horror novels with his wife Katina. An artist and world traveler, he is convinced that he can speak French.

“I’d rather read these tales than eat shrimp & grits on Meeting Street or bourbon-drizzled pecan pie with cream whipped in the kitchen. Strauch’s understanding of the droll sides of Southern culture is deep, wide, and endlessly fertile, and he has the ear of a feeding bat when it comes to setting down the rhythms and nuances of Low Country speech.”

— Jerry Leath Mills, author of *The Dead Mule Rides Again*

“Strauch’s stories are not the best of the South. They are better. *Southern Psycho Tales* bristles with stories of lies and treachery and things that do more than go bump in the night. They rise from the twisted, tortured and tattooed underbelly of the South. They are about people next door — people whose souls know no sane home.”

— Loyd Little, author of *Smokehouse Jam* and whose novels include the PEN-Hemingway winner *Parthian Shot*



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Books Of Regional Interest & Beyond

“Strauch’s entertainingly bizarre imagination soars in *Southern Psycho Tales*. If the players from ‘Rockford Files’ or ‘Twin Peaks’ had ever flown to the South, they’d have landed in — and been right at home in — Strauch’s riotously venal social landscape. Nowhere else will one find a woman in bondage to a beauty-parlor hair-dryer.”

— Bland Simpson, author of *Ghost Ship of Diamond Shoals*

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KaZaA’S SKYPE

by Sandra Beehler (Lewis & Clark College)

Niklas Zennstrom & Janus Friis, founders of Napster’s file-swapping successor KaZaA, have turned their talents to the field of telecoms. Last August they launched Skype: an application that enables transmission of sound in real time between PCs — for free. The software has already been downloaded by over 14 million people, and is easy to set up, has good sound quality, and runs on Windows and Linux. The newest version of Skype expands access to ordinary phones for a cost of about 1 cent/minute. In future, Mr. Zennstrom believes it possible to make all phone connections run through the Internet — doing away with reliance on infrastructure currently owned by telecoms. The catch may be that Skype’s file-sharing standard will be eclipsed by the SIP standard used by other Internet-telephone companies — as KaZaA’s proprietary standard was largely replaced by open standard file-sharing.

See — “Face Value: the Quiet Iconoclast,” *The Economist*, July 3, 2004, p. 54.

HANDSHAKE PANKY

by Sandra Beehler (Lewis & Clark College)

Throw away your PAs — and get ready to type on your forearm. Microsoft recently patented a method and apparatus for transmitting power and data using the skin’s conductive properties. Though details are scanty, Microsoft theorizes that the body could generate enough kinetic power to run small devices and that human skin could generate signals as a keypad does. The idea of using the human body as a network was originally developed by MIT’s Media Lab & IBM around ten years ago; they demonstrated a prototype PAN (personal area network) that transmitted business data through a handshake at a trade show in 1996. It will be up to Microsoft to convince consumers that such a device’s capabilities offset the inconvenience of attaching electrodes to their skin.

See — “The Skinny on IT,” *The Economist*, July 3, 2004, p. 66-67.

Mary Kate Olsen’s Anorexia At A Low, Low Price by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

Celebrity gossip magazine prices are in free-fall. *Time, Inc.’s People* is cheap at the newsstands at \$3.29, but *In Touch Weekly* has dropped its price from \$1.99 to an incredible 25 cents!

In Touch is owned by Bauer Verlagsgruppe with an established reputation for undercutting the opposition.

Time is fighting back with the launch of *All You*, a women’s monthly that will be sold exclusively at Wal-Mart. And the price is expected to be low.

Free-distribution that so shakes newspapers is coming soon to glossies. *National Enquirer* is down to \$2.99 and the *Globe* goes for \$2.35.

See — Deborah Steinborn, “A Race to the Bottom,” in *Forbes*, Aug. 16, 2004, p. 46.

Another Full Employment for Lawyers Bill by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

When Napster was shut down, for-profit copyright piracy facilitators moved out of the U.S., making it hard to get judgments against them. Despite Senator Orrin Hatch has introduced the Induce Act to make it possible to sue those who “induce” piracy i.e., makers of the technology.

The *WSJ* sees it provoking a wave of frivolous lawsuits against a plethora of technology makers. This in turn could deter new investment in technology. Rather than criminalizing the tools of the trade, why not just use copyright law with its statutory penalties and whack the thieves?

This of course is counter to frequent *WSJ* editorials in favor of forcing the music/film industry to package their product in such a way that it’s not worthwhile to pirate. But the *Journal* is perturbed by new causes of action for trial lawyers.

See — Editorial, “Internet Pirates,” in *The Wall Street Journal*, Aug. 10, 2004, p. A10.