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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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### THE CHINA CHALLENGE

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

Everyone knows that the huge U.S. trade deficit is partly due to China's keeping its currency pegged to the US\$. U.S. bond yields are also kept low because China has been buying Treasury bonds to hold down its currency. China finally moved to change that last week, with a small revaluation of the yuan — a move which could, if revaluation continues, drive U.S. bond yields higher and badly hurt the U.S. economy. But China's impact on world economy goes beyond the U.S. Its immense cheap labor force has forced competitors to lower their labor costs, driving down the cost of goods worldwide. Cheaper goods have kept interest rates low, encouraging borrowing — especially in the housing markets. China's demand for oil to fuel its growing economy has contributed to the rise in price, but in a way that is less likely to hurt global growth or raise inflation rates. It is clear that China will be a major player in the future world economy. Therefore, rather than enacting protectionist measures against China, it makes sense to make it a full member of forums such as the G7 and the OECD, so it will have a reason to support global economic stability.

See — “How China Runs the World Economy,” *The Economist*, v.376:no.8437 (July 30, 2005), p. 11.

### INDECENT REGULATION

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

With the FCC crackdown against “indecent” content in the media, the industry has been on the defensive, cutting back on any programming that could be considered controversial. However, if FCC regulation is extended to cable & satellite TV, the industry is poised to fight back. Counter-arguments to regulation focus on technological advances (e.g., the V-chip) which allow parents to control the exposure of their children to content they deem indecent. There is also a growing support for “a-la-carte” purchasing of media content — though that would likely mean higher costs for consumers.

See — “Scrubbing the Airwaves,” *The Economist*, v.376:no.8436 (July 23, 2005), p. 55-56.

### BIONIC MAN

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

25-yr-old **Matt Nagle** is the subject of a unique experiment in restoring function to those paralyzed by injury or disease — testing a brain/computer interface (BCI) system called **BrainGate**. Though scientists don't fully comprehend how the brain works, they have made progress on listening to and altering brain waves. The hope is eventually to create muscle stimulators in humans that bypass damaged parts of the nervous system. Much of the BCI research is being funded by the **U.S. Dept. of Defense**, which hopes to use it in combat situations. **Nagle** is the first experimental subject to have the interface implanted directly in his skull — he volunteered for the trial last year after being paralyzed by a knife attack in 2001. An array of tiny electrodes was implanted in the area of **Nagle's** brain that controls arm movement and connected to the **BrainGate** system. A big question was whether **Nagle's** brain could still produce coherent signals, years after his body had stopped responding to them. It did. His thoughts about movement produced specific and repeatable neural patterns that could be mapped to actions — operating a TV, playing computer games, controlling a computer cursor. BCI systems use the brain's plasticity (its ability to adapt and form neural pathways); the key to these systems is the multi-electrode array used to record brain signals. **BrainGate** requires that the electrodes be implanted directly in the brain — this is the solution that its founder, **John Donoghue**, believes works best. Other researchers are looking for less invasive ways to pick up the signals, since no one knows yet what the long-term effects of the implant will be.

See — “Mind Control” — *Wired* 13.03 (March 2005), p. 115-119

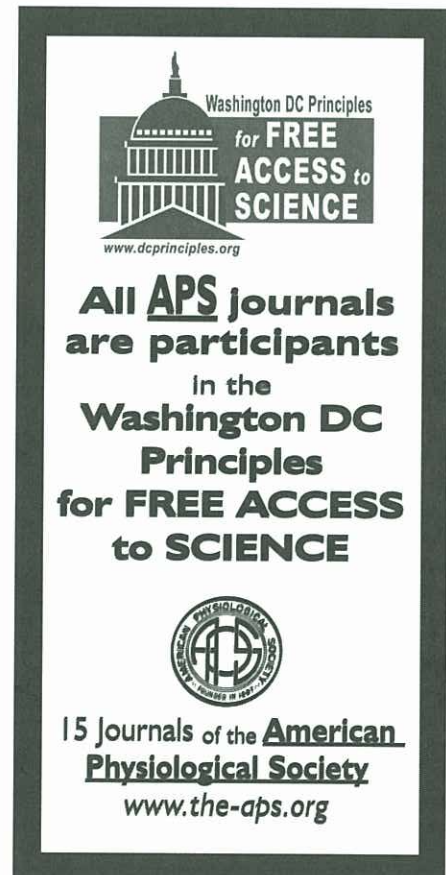
### Group Therapy from page 78

ment in a grassroots way by running a workshop on **Google Scholar** through our **Faculty Center for Teaching and eLearning**. It will be one of many kinds of workshops we are offering with their imprimatur. I prepared the description of the workshop and set the times. **FCTeL** will advertise it along with the other workshops, and their staff will also take registration for the workshop. Hopefully, we will get participants who otherwise would not have attended. This is the description of the workshop:

#### Google Scholar and Open Access to Scholarly Literature

So you think the Internet contains no access to scholarly literature? Think again. Come to this workshop to learn how you can access citations and some full-text to scholarly literature from academic presses, institutional repositories and professional societies.

Though my immediate objectives are to help faculty learn how to introduce **Google Scholar** to their students, I hope this will help some faculty understand the complexity of information, namely that it is not as simple as peer-reviewed vs. non peer-reviewed. Evaluation of information, ideologically, not simply authoritatively is imperative. Neither is it as simple as “good stuff is in subscription databases; bad stuff is on the nonproprietary part of the Web.” Finally, I hope it will encourage others to think of librarians as the logical administrators for institutional repositories.



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## HEIRS SING THE BLUES

by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

A relentless blues historian tracked down the half-sister of Gibson guitar legend **Robert Johnson**, and she opened a musty old trunk to show him two photos. **Johnson** died flat busted and intestate in 1938, poisoned by a jealous husband.

The sleuth, **Steve LaVere**, persuaded the elderly **Carrie Thompson** to assign him rights to the photos, memorabilia and all the songs which until then were thought to be public domain.

A little money started to roll in. Seven figures worth. And then other heirs started to show up with lawyers. A 73-year-old gravel truck driver had a birth certificate with "**R.L. Johnson**, laborer," as the father and an affidavit from an ancient woman who swore she witnessed the sexual intercourse nine months before the birth. Litigation has been going on for fifteen years.

See — **Mitchell Pacelle**, "Blues Rift: Snapshots of a Music Legend Lead to Tug of War," *The Wall Street Journal*, March 22, 2005, p.A1.

## TOP SECRET EXCESSES

by Bruce Strauch (The Citadel)

And for all of you who enjoy paranoia about the **Homeland Security Act**, the feds have ordered airline pilots to not fly near nuclear power plants on pain of being forced down by fighters — but won't reveal where the plants are. It's **Sensitive Security Information**.

Under the **Act**, **SSI** can include anything that might help someone defeat transportation security systems. The secrecy binge is running wild with agencies willy-nilly stamping things **FOUO** (For Official Use Only) — like a farewell breakfast invitation for retiring Federal Air Marshals.

See — **Robert Block**, "Information Incognito," *The Wall Street Journal*, March 22, 2005, p.B1.

## BIGGER ISN'T ALWAYS BETTER

by Sandra Beehler (Lewis & Clark College)

Enthusiasm for further enlargement of the **European Union** is waning and it is becoming less likely that more eastern European countries will be able to join as full members. This change in attitude is due to increasing fears among people in the existing member nations that cheap labor represented by these poorer countries will undermine their own quality of life. Officials in Brussels have not given up hope of enlargement, believing that it will help to stabilize Balkan governments and, in Turkey, strengthen ties with the Muslim world's only pro-Western democracy. However, voters fearful of losing their jobs and of security risks posed by extending the **EU** into the Middle East, are likely to vote negatively in any referendums on the enlargement.

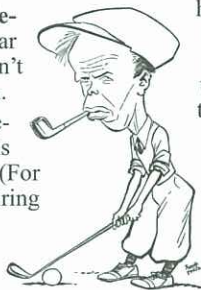
See — "The End of Enlargement," *The Economist*, v.376: no.8435 (July 16, 2005) p. 50.

## ICANN NOT UN CAN

by Sandra Beehler (Lewis & Clark College)

Since the inception of the Internet, the U.S. has controlled the infrastructure that underlies it, through the **Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN)**. Other countries have been lobbying to move that control to the **United Nations**, and the **UN's Working Group on Internet Governance** released a report in July which favors inter-governmental oversight of the system. Pre-empting that recommendation, on June 30th the current U.S. administration announced its decision to retain control of **ICANN**, citing concerns over the Internet's "security and stability." It is theoretically possible to create a new system of naming that would bypass **ICANN's** monopoly, but so far that idea has not been pursued.

See — "Eminent Domain," *The Economist*, v. 376: no.8434 (July 9, 2005), p. 56.



## International Dateline — Open Access Gathers Pace in Europe

by Peter T. Shepherd (Project Director, COUNTER) <pt\_shepherd@hotmail.com>

The summer of 2005 proved a hot one in Europe, at least for those engaged in the funding and publication of scientific research. In May following the success of their initial experiments in open access publishing, **Oxford University Press** launched *Oxford Open*, which offers an optional author-pays model to authors of accepted papers in a range of journal titles. This was followed in June by a very significant statement from **Research Councils UK (RCUK)** strongly favouring open access (OA) to the outputs of the research that they fund. **RCUK** sought reactions to their proposals and these have kept the temperature of the debate high in the ensuing months. Nor was the heat confined to England. At a September meeting in Geneva **CERN** took another step to advance its OA policy by holding a meeting of authors and key managers to discuss different publishing models. Meanwhile, the number of European-based open access journals continues to

grow. While there are literally dozens of open access journals in the life sciences, in some other fields they are rare indeed. One has now been sighted in chemistry, the *Beilstein Journal of Organic Chemistry*, published by the distinguished **Beilstein Institute** of Frankfurt, Germany and hosted by **BioMed Central**, the largest publisher of open access journals.

### Research Councils UK Position on Open Access

**RCUK** represents the eight **UK Research Councils** that are the principal investors in publicly-funded research in the UK. In June 2005 they responded to the debate on improved access to research outputs by putting forward their emerging views on the issue.<sup>1</sup> Their position was formed after extensive consultation with the research community, university administrators and with publishers. In launching the **RCUK** position statement **Professor Ian Diamond** said "The **Research Councils** are responsible for supporting and promoting the activities of a research base that is vibrant, productive and sustainable. We've therefore committed to ensuring the widest possible dissemination of

ideas and knowledge, effective quality assurance of research and its results, cost-effective use of public funds and the long-term preservation of research outputs. Our emerging position on the access issue should come as no surprise to those who understand our remit." **RCUK** argues that technology offers new possibilities to communicate the results of research through developments in electronic publishing such as open access journals and e-print repositories.

In summary, **RCUK** proposes:

- A requirement for all grants awarded from 1 October 2005 that, subject to copyright and licensing arrangements, a copy of any resultant published journal articles or conference proceedings should be deposited in an appropriate e-print repository (either institutional or subject-based) wherever such a repository is available to the award holder. Deposit should take place at the earliest opportunity, wherever possible around the time of publication.
- Research Councils will also encourage,

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