

BIOLOGY

B

From: "Bruce P. Dunn" <bpdunn@home.com>

Did you hear about the biologist who had twins? She baptized one and kept the other as a control.

B

From: "Rob Slade, doting grandpa of Ryan and Trevor"
<rslade@sprint.ca>

By the same token, this business of genes outside of the normal sequence is difficult. A great deal of genetic material appears to have no particular purpose. There is the standard joke that has geneticists finally decode some of this material, only to find that some great long string of codons reads "This space intentionally left blank."

B

From: "Alexander Vinogradov" <aevin@link.cytspb.rssi.ru>

Biology (or natural philosophy?)

Studying flatworms, the student observed <in a limping translation>:

"There gut exists, and the duct to gonad leads.
What else for happiness one needs?"

Another observation:

"The parasites die (only) on the corpse."

B

A joke that is too often used during a lecture on conferences:

The speaker shows a gen (3000 times the characters G,A,C and T) and says:

"People sitting at the back may not be able to read all of this, but the point is..."

(From the column of Ronald Plasterk in Intermediair, december 4, 1997)

B

From Aliquotes Volume V Number x October/97 (rogerb@microsoft.com)

Okay, let me see if I've got this right, Bioinformatics is the science of taking sequential, structural and functional data, developed through years

of tedious and painstaking experimentation by other hard-working scientists, manipulating the hell out of it with a series of statistical and computational algorithms, in the hope of presenting grand theories which you will never have to test yourselves but which will have to be verified by other scientists at a later date.

Cool. Where do I sign?

B

From Aliquotes Volume V Number xi September/97 (rogerb@microsoft.com)

I think that we should salute the dedicated scientists who spend every

waking hour slaving at the bench and in the clinics, working like dogs,
neglecting single-mindedly in pursuit of the answer to the causes of
Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder.

B

From Aliquotes Volume V Number xi September/97 (rogerb@microsoft.com)
A word of warning to those who are surfing the Internet and who may
fall
into this trap... when you see a posting for "FREE XXX", this is _NOT_
an
advertisement for a group of rebels in support of a free state for
women
with Klinefelter's Syndrome

B

From: oberon@vcn.bc.ca (Doug Skrecky)
A Short History of Medicine

I have an earache:

2000 B.C. -Here, eat this root.
1000 A.D. -That root is heathen. Here, say this prayer.
1850 A.D. -That prayer is superstition. Here, drink this potion.
1940 A.D. -That potion is snake oil. Here, swallow this pill.
1985 A.D. -That pill is ineffective. Here, take this antibiotic.
2000 A.D. -That antibiotic is artificial. Here, eat this root.:

B

From: bsb3@cornell.edu (Seth Bowden)
In neurobiology lecture today, the professor mentioned that much of
the
data we were seeing was culled from studies of leeches. He said, "Now,
a
lot of you may think leeches are nasty creatures. The people working
with
these creatures are quite fond of them, however. It is also reported
that
the leeches often become attached to the researchers."

B

From: (Robert Grove) rgrove@pogo.GPID.TEK.COM
A seventh grade Biology teacher arranged a demonstration for his
class.
He took two earth worms and in front of the class he did the
following:
He dropped the first worm into a beaker of water where it dropped to
the
bottom and wriggled about. He dropped the second worm into a beaker of
Ethyl
alcohol and it immediately shriveled up and died. He asked the class
if
anyone knew what this demonstration was intended to show them.

A boy in the second row immediately shot his arm up and, when called
on said:

"You're showing us that if you drink alcohol, you won't have worms."

B

From: Chris Morton (mortoncp@nextwork.rose-hulman.edu) do it
collection

From: Joao Batista(fbatista@cc.fc.ul.pt)
Biologists do it with clones.
Molecular biologists do it with hot probes.
Zoologists do it with animals.
Genetists do it with sick genes.
Geneticists Do Nearly Animalistically (DNA).
B

From: David Smillie:
A little neurological put down:
You've only got two neurons--and one of them's inhibitory.
B

Drew's Law of Highway Biology:
The first bug to hit a clean windshield lands directly in front
of your eyes.
B

Enzymes are things invented by biologists that explain things which
otherwise require harder thinking. -- Jerome Lettvin
B

From: johnston@mhc.uiuc.edu (SJANNA JOHNSTON)
Biology exam: Create life . Justify your answer.
B

THE HARVARD LAW
Under the most rigorously controlled conditions of pressure,
temperature,
volume, humidity, and other variables the organism will do as it damn
well pleases.
B

From: Tim.Nelson@Canada.ATTGIS.COM (list of Old * Never Die, they
just)
OLD BIOLOGISTS never die, they just ferment away
B

From: joeshmoe@world.std.com (Jascha Franklin-Hodge) (List of
Taglines)
Life is a sexually transmitted disease
Life is anything that dies when you stomp it!
Support bacteria - it's the only culture some people have!
Thesaurus: ancient reptile with an excellent vocabulary.
B

Much of what we know about man is derived from the study of sweet peas
and
a species of vinegar fly.
B

From: stuart.andrews@stanilite.com.au (Stuart Andrews)
Q. What does DNA stand for?
A. National Dyslexics Association
B

From: mwriggle@uoguelph.ca (Michael Wrigglesworth)
There was this biologist who was doing some experiments with frogs.
He
was measuring just how far frogs could jump. So he puts a frog on a
line

and says "Jump frog, jump!". The frog jumps 2 feet. He writes in his lab book: 'Frog with 4 legs - jumps 2 feet'.

Next he chops off one of the legs and repeats the experiment. "Jump frog jump!" he says. The frog manages to jump 1.5 feet. So he writes in his lab book: 'Frog with 3 legs - jumps 1.5 feet'.

He chops off another and the frog only jumps 1 foot. He writes in his book: 'Frog with 2 legs jumps 1 foot'.

He continues and removes yet another leg. " Jump frog jump!" and the frog somehow jumps a half of a foot. So he writes in his lab book again:
'Frog with one leg - jumps 0.5 feet'.

Finally he chops off the last leg. He puts the frog on the line and teels it to jump. "Jump frog, jump!". The frog doesn't move. "Jump frog, jump!!!". Again the frog stays on the line. "Come on frog, jump!". But to no avail.

The biologist finally writes in his book: 'Frog with no legs - goes deaf'

B_____

From: Aliquotes v.i (journal) (rogerb@microsoft.com)

NEW

From Pair-Docs Pictures

They killed his grant and they took away his lab.
Now, he's out for revenge...

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Mild lab worker, Zeno Puss, turns savage,
becoming a specialist in amphibious assault...

You can *Rana* but you cannot hide from...

"It's a BLASTula..."
Roger Egg-case, Taddlecreek Tattler

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"...metamorphic in scope..."
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Look for the soundtrack to

The Toad Warrior
With music by
Tina TAdpole

B

From: Aliquotes iv.i (journal) (rogerb@microsoft.com)

IN THE SWIM OF THINGS

It was a banner day in the world of sport as the woman who won gold for Canada at the 1985 Winter Olympics in Synchronized Freestyle 4x100m Individual Relay, set a new mark in the swimming world. Famed Fay Kloried set the world on its ear by being the first to be succesfull in a tripple crossing of the Ion Channel off the coast of Greece. When asked to explain this stellar feat, Ms. Kloried simply replied, "I stayed with the current and rode the gradient." Ms. Kloried stated that she next planned to take on a double crossing of the Kalseum Channel, which has only been accomplished by one other swimmer, Iona Fore.

B

A women who married for the fourth time appeared to be a virgin. She explained to her surprised new husband: "My first husband was a homosexual, the second had a weak heart and died during the wedding night. The Third was a gen therapist who kept telling me how good it would be if it would work.

B

From Aliquotes iv.v (journal)

Something tells me that no matter how good a series of experiments on reproductive technologies, the paper written about the work will never be described as seminal.

B

From: callista@phidar.traveller.com

A trio of biologists were studying fruit flies and attempting to do micro-

scopic observations. The first put his scalpel to work under the micro-scope and began to slice. He successfully chopped the wings off.

The second biologist began to work, and with a bit more effort managed to slice off the head from the body. Then the third one went to work, but nothing visible happened.

His two colleagues looked at him in astonishment. "What are you going to cut off?" one of them asked. His response was:

"You said to cut the fly, so this one won't be having children any more!"

B

From: Pam Baker <pambaker@umich.edu>

A biology professor was addressing his class, wanting to see if they'd read the assigned text. He asked Miss Smith to stand. She does.

Professor: Miss Smith, what part of the human body increases ten times when excited?

Miss Smith blushes and hesitates and giggles.

Professor: Miss Smith, please sit down. Miss Jones, please stand and tell me if you know what part of the human body increases ten times when excited.

Miss Jones: Yes, Professor. It's the pupil of the eye.

Professor: Very good. Thank you Miss Jones, you may sit down. Miss Smith, will you please stand again. (She does) I have three things to say to you.

1. You have not done your homework
2. You have a very dirty mind.
3. You're in for a big disappointment.

B

From: sbaker@oro.net (Steve Baker)

Dear Dr. Science:

In order for people to have babies, the female egg has to be fertilized by the male sperm. How does the sperm get to the egg?

"It hitchhikes. There are small arteries (or highways if you will) in the man's urethra. Small foreign bodies (or cars, if you will) pull over and pick up these little spermatozoans (Latin for 'tiny hitchhikers') then drive over the speed limit as fast as possible before the natural acids in a woman's body (the highway patrol, if you will) pull the sperm over reckless driving. ONce they get to the ovum (Latin for garage) they get out

of the car, turn out the lights, lock up, take off their shoes and watch TV until they fall asleep. This is where babies come from: small suburban ranch-style homes hidden deep in a woman's body. I hope I've answered your question. Good luck on your date tonight."

Dr. Science --- <http://www.drscience-com/> He knows more than you do!
B

From: Suzanne Sarlette/Gerald Pearson <suegerry@mutl.muscanet.com>
Several years ago, I read something along these lines on the back page of Chemical and Engineering News, in the "Postscripts" column.

New embryological research on salamanders has shown that when the optic nerve is connected to the anus at a very early stage of development, the organism usually develops into an animal with hindsight. Some of the animals show symptoms of tunnel vision.

B

From: Suzanne Sarlette/Gerald Pearson <suegerry@mutl.muscanet.com>
The Hexagon (Sigma Xi newsletter) column "Hot Retorts" told of a genetic engineering project going on at Texas A&M University. The principle investigators are working on developing a breed of cattle which are only 6 inches [15 cm] tall. If the project is successful, members of the research project are hoping to make a fortune selling microchips.

B

From: Mark Noworolski <noworol@eecg.toronto.edu>
A friend of mine studying medicine once told me this story.

Apparently one day there was a lab where all the students were learning how to identify various cells. As samples they were using tissue scraped from the inside of the mouth.

One girl was having terrible difficulties figuring out what kind of cell she was seeing under her microscope--eventually she called over the teaching assistant to identify it.

He came over, smirked, and exclaimed, loud enough for everyone to hear,

"Oh wow! That's a sperm cell!"

She was somewhat more careful after that experience....

B

From: wmoon@jupiter.uucp (Woo Moon)
Q:What's the difference between a hormone and a vitamin?
A:You can't make a vitamin....

(take your time..)

++++
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=4.1 BIOLOGY POETRY

B

From: George Mayhew <mayhew@midgaard.genetics.wisc.edu>
<http://www.genetics.wisc.edu/staff/mayhew/>
One truth in life is the need to laugh at difficult situations.
Humour can
make a difficult task more enjoyable. I think that this group
(news:bionet.genome.autosequencing) is uniquely suited to understand
the
repetitious nature of high throughput sequencing. So I'm passing
along a
piece of humour constructed by one of our lab technicians. Feel free
to
pass it along to your technicians or anyone else who might appreciate
the
inside humour.

(with sincere apologies to the musical group Chumbawumba)

"Labgrumping"

(to the tune of "Tubthumping" by Chumbawumba)

I take gels down, and put 'em up again,
and I run 'em for another round.
I take gels down, and put 'em up again,
and I run 'em for another round.

Sequencing DNA, sequencing DNA.

We wash the plates again, we pour the gels again,
we wash the gels again, we flip the combs again,

Then we retrack and extract all the gel files,
then we analyze and dump all the sample files.

No life for me, life for me, life for meeee....

I take gels down, and put 'em up again,
and I run 'em for another round.
I take gels down, and put 'em up again,
and I run 'em for another round.

Adapted by:
Guy Peyrot
E.coli Genome Center
gpeyrot@genetics.wisc.edu
B

From: "rusty" <rustysmith@cyber-wizard.com>
A biologist of world renown
says a chromosome's gender is found
by being so bold
as to take a good hold
of it's genes...and then pull them down.
B

ODE TO A CLONE
By John Scalzi (wwwscalzi@aol.com)

(This originally appeared in America Online's "Howdy"

area on March 6th.)

Oh clone, my clone, how can you bear it
To exist knowing you have only one parent?
No zygote you, when haploid cells met
You were produced with a full chromosome set.
And now I can see that you are confused
To discover your genes have arrived slightly used.
To answer your questions is the aim of this poem
You who are like me, my clone, oh my clone.

You were not produced from between sweaty sheets
In fact, you arose from cells scraped off of my cheek.
Your genes gently placed in an egg we provided
And then shocked with a current until they divided.
You sat there a while till it was time to fish
That thing that was you from that petri dish.
(And though it may seem churlish at this time to mention,
we suspect that the dish had post-partum depression).

Oh clone, my clone, don't feel angst or feel grief
Because the genes that you have are not bought but are leased.
You have no mother, but that's no impediment
Indeed, you've bypassed the whole Complex of Oedipus.
To your one parent you can always relate
To do otherwise is a form of self hate.
Who can tell us apart when we answer the phone?
No one at all, my clone, oh my clone.

Think of all the experiences we'll have!
(That is, once they allow you to go from the lab).
I'll take you to places that I've already been
So you can see them once more for the first time again.
Let's go to work, where I think we will find
That we'll get twice as much done in just half the time.
And should we play tennis, our opponents have troubles
As they must play singles, but we shall play doubles.

Oh clone, my clone, I see you are vexed
By ethical issues admittedly complex.
If you are my clone, are you wed to my wife?
And would having two husbands cause marital strife?
Suppose that we clone her? Then what would that be?
Bigamy, polygamy, or polyandry?
Oh, the guilt I would have would go to the bone
If I accidentally slept with your wife, oh my clone.

Perhaps it would be better if we lived all our days
Away from each other -- and go separate ways.
I would stay here and live with my mate
And you would take yours to some other state
Perhaps to Alaska, with Northern Lights blue
To live off the land, in a hut or igloo.
And with a deep sense of pride all my friends would be shown
Many pictures of your house, a Nome clone dome home.

Oh clone, my clone, you impressive feat
The one person born with no help from gametes.
When you have troubles getting yourself to sleep
Do you think on your compatriot, Dolly the sheep?
It's true that we both share our genetic information

But I know that your mind performs its own peregrinations.
In the end I am me, and you are just you alone
You are your own person, my clone, oh my clone.
B

Keith Bostic <bostic@bostic.com>
MARY HAD A LITTLE FLOCK

Mary had a little lamb,
 then two and three and four.
And each a perfect replica
 of all that went before.
The followed her to school one day
 which was against the rule.
It made the children laugh and play
 to see her flock at school.
The teacher turned the woolies out
 to wait the bell at four.
But when the children tried to leave
 more sheep had jammed the door.
"What makes those lambs love Mary so?"
 The eager children fish.
Says teacher, dialing 9-1-1:
 "She's got the Petri dish."

Toronto Sun
B

From: Randy Willis <willis@gandalf.psf.sickkids.on.ca>
(from bionet.microbiology--by someone signing as Yersinia)

(1) A Mad Scientist Christmas

Twas the night before Christmas and all thru my house,
Not a specimen was stirring, not even a louse.
The test tubes were capped and the rat cages closed,
The mold cultures fuzzy, the mice in repose.
The oven kept warm the ebola and pox,
I still need to locate my husband's clean socks...
But that has to wait till tomorrow, I know;
My buggies still need that much more time to grow.

When from the kitchen came a massive explosion,
I leapt from my bed in perpetual motion.
Grabbing my lab coat I pulled on my pants,
Struggling into them a sick sort of dance.
With fury and haste I put on a shirt,
Running out of the bedroom on feet black with dirt.
Buttoning my lab coat and donning a mask,
I ran into the kitchen holding an Erlenmeyer flask.

I nearly passed out when the man who I saw,
dressed in containment gear sealed without flaw,
Held high a huge sack with his arm stiff and straight,
I could tell he must have a hard time with his weight.
Through the mike from his suit he said without pause,
"Ho Ho Ho, Merry Christmas, I'm Hanta Claus!"
Over his shoulder he hefted the sack,
We walked into the living room, I offered a snack.
He took it and smiled, placed the sack by my bench,
Instantly I noticed the Clostridium stench.

Brimming with joy, I cried out with glee,
"Did you bring all of these germies for me?"
"Oh yes," said Hanta, "I must show propriety;
By bringing you microbes, I'm saving society.
"You are the only one who loves these diseases.
Therefore I'm glad to oblige who it pleases."

Delirious with excitement I sat by his side
While he gave me a year's stock of microscope slides,
And pasteur pipettes, drug resistant bacteria,
Such as staph, strep and cultures from the genus Neisseria.

The gleam in my eyes caused the house to be lit,
The moment he gave me a gram-staining kit,
Clostridium tetani, perfringens and sporogenes,
Salmonella typhi and Streptococcus pyogenes!
Plus viruses known to produce hepatitis,
Herpes, and rabies, yellow fever and meningitis!
But that was not all, he had parasites too,
Plasmodia, trypanosomes and schistosomes true!
Tapeworms and roundworms, plague-carrying fleas.
How sincerely generous, Hanta did aim to please!

At long last he said he must now go away,
His sled was experiencing radioactive decay.
"Thanks for the presents," I said, shaking his hand,
"They'll keep me off the streets, you understand."

Hanta Claus smiled and bid me goodnight,
Shouting "Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good blight!"
~~~~~

(2) Hark! The Streptococcus Brings (Melody: "Hark! The Herald =  
Angels Sing")

Hark! the Streptococcus brings  
Strep sore throat to all who sing,  
Chloraseptic doesn't cure it  
Other people's sneezing lures it.  
If the strep bug has a virus  
Scarlet fever then arises,  
Cross reaction with the heart  
Causes it to come apart,  
Hark! the Streptococcus totes,  
Toxin and fire to all it smotes.

Pneumonia makes you cough and wheeze,  
Mucus fills the lungs with sleaze  
A viscous greenish oozing cloak,  
That causes you to gasp and choke  
Without water you can drown  
If you breathe the strep germ down  
Hark! The Streptococcus breeds  
The misery of a bad disease

Of fecal strep in food beware,  
Methane gas befouls the air,  
Speedily you drop your pants  
As if they held live fire ants  
On the toilet you are dying  
Bent in pain, guts liquefying  
Hail! the Streptococcus means

Glory to those who would be lean  
~~~~~  
(3) O Humid Night (Melody: "O Holy Night")

O Humid Night
Anopheline mosquitoes
Are circling you in the hope of a meal.
She takes a bite, saliva from her mouthparts
Drool parasites which you can't see or feel

Your brain can get sick,
You will have a coma
After the rage and the headaches have passed
You're veggie soup, home to protozoa,
Mosquito lands, time to go home at last..

Fall on your knees,
Pale, burning with fever
Plasmodia
Are in your blood, were in your spleen
Malaria
There's no real cure, just in your dreams...
~~~~~  
(4) Away in a Test Tube (Melody: "Away in a Manger")

Away in a test tube  
My plague cultures grow  
On nutrient agar  
Mankind's greatest foe

It's easy to grow them  
If one does it right  
At thirty-five Celsius  
All day and all night

Once they are ready  
You can let them go  
To sicken the masses  
With pus-filled buboes.  
~~~~~

"Van der waals with boughs of holly..."

B

From: awilllis@ix.netcom.com (al willlis) Orig. Al Willis
This Salk by the name of Jonas
Promised wealth and a title and bonus
 To these monkeys called Rhesus
 Who agreed, "You can lease us,"
But don't come on strong like you own us."
B

From: awilllis@ix.netcom.com (al willlis) Orig. Al Willis
From bionet.general Thu Apr 27 10:06:46 1995
The transplant had finally started.
The incision was carefully charted.
 The dog was just sliced,
 And the chicken was spliced,
And the dog is now chicken-hearted.

B

From: awilllis@ix.netcom.com (al willlis)
Sal is feared by all of us,
But he's a decent fella.
His label is a handicap:
His name is Sal Monella. -- Al Willis

B

From: Ibelgaufits@vms.biochem.mpg.de (H Ibelgaufits)
Bacterial Genetics

When studying bacterial mating
Lederberg found it frustrating
to make things look nice
and do everything twice
he invented replica plating

Reassociation kinetics:

A scientist studying Cot
and to him it meant rather a lot
the lines that he plotted
were very much dotted
but the referee thought it was Rot

B

From: mazda@basic2.kpu-m.ac.jp (Osam Mazda)
A Scientist thought of a theory on lymphocyte
after drinking overnight
The theory became complicated more and more
until finally nobody understood it any more
And the reality was not also in his sight

B

From: peterk@sci.kun.nl (Peter Klaren)
A couple of years ago I bought The Biochemist's Songbook. It's great!
It's
got all major biological pathways described and set to the tune of
popular (folk) songs.

Allright, I'll give an example....

*** Protein Synthesis *** (tune: My Bonnie Is Over The Ocean)

The primary sequence of proteins
Is coded within DNA
On the sense strand of the double helix
coiled antiparallel way

(chorus:)
Intron and exons
changes are posttranscriptional, and all
Glycosylations
Don't alter such basics at all

(... and so on for about 15 stanzas. The synthesis of proteins from
DNA is a
complex pathway....)

One of my favourites:

*** The Michaelis Anthem *** (tune: The Red Flag)

The substrate changed by an enzyme
Initially, in unit time
Varies, if not in excess
With substrate concentration, [S]
If enzyme concentration's low
And reaction back from product's slow
Then if we choose a steady state
Velocity and [S] relate.

This relationship can be derived
As Briggs and Haldane first contrived:
The unbound enzyme, [E], we guess
Is [E0] (total), less [ES]
 $k_1[S][E]$ gives [ES] formation
and $k_2[ES]$, dissociation
And [ES] gives the product, P,
At a rate that's [ES] times k_3

When [ES] is at the steady state
These terms are all seen to relate
 $([E0] \text{ less } [ES]) \text{ times } k_1[S]$
Equals $(k_2 + k_3) \text{ times } [ES]$
Now the maximum velocity
is $k_3[E0]$, (or big V)
These terms can be manipulated
If one more definition's stated

Define as K_m (just for fun)
 $(k_2 + k_3) \text{ on } k_1$
And note that v (velocity)
Is always [ES] times k_3
Then rearranging these equations
We get the final rate equation
 $V \text{ times } [S] \text{ on } K_m + [S]$
is v (initial) - more or less

OK, one more taster....

*** The Respiratory Chain *** (tune: Battle Hymn of The Republic)

My eyes have seen the glory of respiratory chain
In every mitochondrion intrinsic to membranes
Functionally organised in complex sub-domains
Where electron flow along

(chorus)
Glory, glory respiration
Glory, glory respiration
Glory, glory respiration
Where electrons flow along

(etc., etc.)

B

From: ez005881@dale.ucdavis.edu (Noel Fong)
There was once a cloner named Hector,
who had problems in his private sector,

his wife was depressed,
'cos his genes weren't expressed,
for lack of a functioning vector!

B

From: mini-AIR
A biology prof name of Caster
Had a project she knew would outlast her,
For it was most complex,
Aimed at changing the sex
Of drosophila melanogaster.
--Don Homuth

Finally, a try at Don Homuth's effort might give, allowing
(illegally) an extra unaccented syllable at the end:

A biology prof name of Cast-
er who's project she wanted to last
Took an idea complex
Aimed at changing the sex
Of drisophila melanogaster.
-- Jay M. Pasachoff

[Based on a TRUE event that occurred in 1965, when I was a lab
assistant at
North Dakota State University:]
The zoology coed did squirm
At the lab quiz that ended the term.
When asked "What are tadpoles?",
(In the specimen bowls),
She wrote down "They are elephant sperm."
--David Hormuth

A research professor (Renee),
Cloned people from ape DNA.
The project went well,
Anyone can tell,
'Cause they're members of congress today.
--Frank Weisel Montgomery County Public Schools, Rockville, MD

B

From: Hugh Baker <drhugh@idirect.com>
What I Learned in Food Micro

Bacteria have these flagella
That spin like a little propella.
They'll swim for a while
Up a river of bile
To your liver, which makes you turn yella.

Entamoeba

Nasty little protozoa
Living in my lower bowel
Make my gut like Krakatoa
Paper's no good: use a towel!

B

From: Neve@ecol.ucl.ac.be (Gabriel NEVE)
Behold the mighty dinosaur,
Famous in prehistoric lore,

Not only for his power and strength,
But for his intellectual length.
You will observe from these remains
The creature had two sets of brains;
One in his head, the usual place,
The other at his spinal base.
Thus he could reason a priori
As well as a posteriori.
No problem bothered him a bit
He made both head and tail of it.
So wise was he, so wise and solemn,
Each thought filled a spinal column.
If one brain found the pressure strong
It passed a few ideas along;
If something slipped his forward mind,
'T was rescued by the one behind.

Source forgotten.

B

From: Aliquotes iv.xi (journal) (rogerb@microsoft.com)
Foment of Ferment
By Wm. Shakespipette

They would heva bleached hereafter.
There would have been a time for such a growth.
E. coli and E. coli and E. coli
swirls in his petty flask from day to day
to the last sample of recorded density
And all our protocols have lighted fools
the way to frothy death. Out, out brief culture!
Life's but a tepid incubator, a poor plater
that dabs and streaks his colony upon the stage
and then is grown no more; it is a thesis
told by an idiot, full of sound and fury
signifying nothing.
Thou comest to mouth pipette; thy inoculum quickly.
CB

From: Aliquotes iv.xii (journal) (rogerb@microsoft.com)
THE NIGHT BEFORE DEFENCE
(or A Visit From Citrate)

Twas the night before defence, when all through te lab
Not a gel box was shaking, with stain or with MAb;
The columns were hung in the cold room with care,
In hopes that my protein, I soon could prepare;

The post-docs were nestled all smug in their beds,
While extracts of barley muddled their heads;
With the tech in the suburbs and PI the same,
I had just settled down to another video game.

When out of the fridge there arose such a clatter
I sprang from the terminal to see what was the matter.
Away to the cold box, I flew like a flash
But the stench was o'erpowering and I threw up beef hash.

The mould on the dampest of walls were cold
Had the softness of kittens only seven weeks old;
When what to my view, a thing I despise

But a half eaten sandwich and four tiny mice;

With a little old scientist, so lively and galling,
I knew at a glance was Linus Pauling.
More vapid than undergrads, his charges they came,
And he whistled, and shouted, and called them rude names.

"Now, Watson! Now Francis! You strange little modellers!
On Luria! On Bertani! You stupid old broth'lers!
To the top of the bench, to the top of the wall!
Purify! Purify! Purify all!"

As dry heaves before the committee meeting, bend
A young student's body and his colon distend,
So up their earlobes, acytes they grew,
With a sack full of antibodies, their skin turning blue.

And then, for a second, I heard from the 'fuge,
An unbalanced rotor spinning something too huge.
Where I put down my hand, to better hear the sound,
Came the snapping of sparks from a wire sans ground.

Pauling's hair was all wavy, and I thought I must be sick
'Cause the curls in his hair looked just like a helix.
On an arm load of oranges, he started to snack
An I recalled his fetish with citrate, the quack.

His eyes were all wrinkled, but the cheeks were yet red;
Not too shabby for a man who was several years dead;
The leer of his smile was just a tad scary
And the snow on his rooftop made his head yet quite hairy;

The end of a pipette, he held in his teeth
And a pile of kimwipes lay around his big feet.
He held a small vial of something quite gel-ly,
A mercaptan no doubt, for it make him quite smelly.

He changed 'round the columns, adding to the confusion
And I laughed to spite my own paranoid delusion.
A wink of his eye and a rotation of his head,
Told me whatever I drank would soon leave me dead.

He spoke not a word, just buggered up my work,
And dried all my resins, that silly old jerk.
And separating his middle finger from first, fourth and third,
That crazy, old bugger, just flipped me the bird.

He grabbed up his cohorts and ran down the hall,
And away they all flew, letting me take the fall.
That is why, dear Committee, I am sorry to say,
I need a five year extension, starting today.

+++++

=4.2 BIOLOGY QUOTES

B

From: Philip Clarke <clar0318@flinders.edu.au>

Trying to determine the structure of a protein by UV spectroscopy was like

trying to determine the structure of a piano by listening to the sound it

made while being dropped down a flight of stairs.
-- Francis Crick [British molecular biologist, 1916-]
B

From: edftz@aol.com (Ed Fitzgerald)
EVOLUTION
[A] curious aspect of the theory of evolution is that everybody thinks he understands it.
-- Jacques Monod (1910-1979) _On the Molecular Theory of Evolution_ (1974)
(French Biochemist, Nobel Prize Medicine 1965)

Orgel's Second Rule: Evolution is cleverer than you are.
-- Francis Crick (British molecular biologist, 1916-) quoted by Daniel C. Dennett in _Elbow Room_ (1984)

Evolution is a tinkerer.
-- Francois Jacob (French biochemist 1920-) "Evolution and Tinkering" (1977)

From: kriman@acsu.buffalo.edu (Alfred M. Kriman)
A hen is only an egg's way of making another egg.
-- Samuel Butler _Life and Habit_ (1877)
B

@A: Haldane, John Burdon Sanderson (British geneticist and writer, 1892-1964)
@Q: He seems to have an inordinate fondness for beetles.
@%: When asked late in his life whether his studies had taught him anything about God that he might care to share.
@%: JBS Haldane was an atheist.
@%: Beetles comprise about a quarter of all known species.
@Poster: Dan Case (V140PXGT@ubvms.cc.buffalo.edu), who has had correspondence published in _The New Republic_, and others.
PB

From: gt4495c@prism.gatech.edu (Giannhs)
Physics-envy is the curse of biology. -- Joel Cohen
B

From: Neve@ecol.ucl.ac.be (Gabriel NEVE)
"The death of the butterfly is the one drawback to an entomological career"
- Margaret E. Fountaine (1892)
B

From: Ian Ellis <ian@iglou.com>
"The species of whale known as the black right whale has four kilos of brains and 1,000 kilos of testicles. If it thinks at all, we know what it is thinking about."

Jon Lien, "Whale Professor" at St. John's University, Newfoundland,
speaking to the Norwegian Telegram Agency (spring 1995).

B

"Science has proof without any certainty. Creationists have certainty without any proof." -- Ashley Montague

B

From: eclayton@trincoll.edu (Edward Clayton)
"Louis Pasteur's theory of germs is ridiculous fiction".
--Pierre Pachet, Professor of Physiology at Toulouse, 1872

B

From: eclayton@trincoll.edu (Edward Clayton)
"The abdomen, the chest, and the brain will forever be shut from the intrusion of the wise and humane surgeon".
--Sir John Eric Ericksen, British surgeon, appointed Surgeon-Extraordinary to Queen Victoria 1873.

B

From: eclayton@trincoll.edu (Edward Clayton)
"If excessive smoking actually plays a role in the production of lung cancer, it seems to be a minor one."
--Dr. W.C. Heuper of the National Cancer Institute, as quoted in the New York Times on April 14, 1954.

B

From: eclayton@trincoll.edu (Edward Clayton)
"For the majority of People, smoking has a beneficial effect."
--Dr. Ian G. Macdonald, Los Angeles surgeon, quoted in "Newsweek", Nov.18th 1963.

B

Every species of plant and animal is determined by a pool of germ plasm that has been most carefully selected over a period of hundreds of millions of years. We can understand now why it is that mutations in these carefully selected organisms almost invariably are detrimental. The situation can be suggested by a statement by Dr. J.B.S. Haldane: "My clock is not keeping perfect time. It is conceivable that it will run better if I shoot a bullet through it; but it is much more probable that it will stop altogether." Professor George Beadle, in this connection, has asked: "What is the chance that a typographical error would improve Hamlet?"
- Linus Pauling (in "No more War!")

B

From: scotth9999@aol.com (ScottH9999)
"[Louis Pasteur's]... theory of germs is a ridiculous fiction."
"How do you think that these germs in the air can be numerous enough to develop into all these organic infusions? If that were true, they would be numerous enough to form a thick fog, as dense as iron."
--Pierre Pochet, Professor of Physiology at Toulouse, "The Universe: The Infinitely Great and the Infinitely Small" (1872); quoted in "The Experts Speak: The Definitive Compendium of Authoritative Misinformation",

ed. by Christopher Cerf and Victor Navasky, (NY: Pantheon Books, 1984),
p. 30.
B

From: <xanthus@qni.com>
Sex is a relatively recent addition to the dance of life. For more than
2,000,000,000 years, asexual reproduction was the rule. You know, if you
were a creature, you just separated into two clones.
-- Walters, Mark Jerome The Harper Book of Quotations. Third Edition
B

From: eugenio@ci.uminho.pt (Eugenio Campos Ferreira)
"The best model of a cat is another cat or, better, the cat itself" - N.WIENER
B

From: sjb8502@ucs.usl.edu (Bienvenu Jay)
"People are DNA's way of making more DNA." - Edward O. Wilson, 1975
B

From: milligan@smartlink.net (Michael M Milligan)
Dr. Francis Gunther, known to his peers as the father of pesticide residue chemistry, once said regarding humankind's ever increasing ability to detect infinitesimal quantities of pesticides in food and the paranoia that attends it in the minds of some:

"Yesterday we looked for little bits of a few things in some things; today we look for less of more things in anything; tomorrow we will look for nothing in everything."
+++++
=4.3 BIOLOGY PUNS
B

From: SWISH3303@aol.com (Robert Ohabim)
Q: what do you call the leader of a biology gang?
A: The nucleus
B

From: saz@xxxjdal.demon.co.uk (Sarah Dalrymple) [remove the xxx to reply]
"A bloke walks into a pub, and asks for a pint of Adeninetriphosphate. The barman says "That'll be 80p (ATP) please!"

(note 100p = £1, and ATP is short for Adeninetriphosphate, but you already knew that :))
B

From: Philip Clarke <clar0318@flinders.edu.au>
Q: Why are there no asprin in the jungle?
A: Because the parrots-eat-them-all.
B

From: "Heather Thompson" <Hpthompson@btinternet.com>
Two guys, called Joe and Dean, were fishermen. Every day, before dawn,

they set out to sea with their crews, coming home late in the evening with their catches of fish. Now, there was one particular area where they would cast their nets, because of a particular type of fish which was to be found there. This was a mutant type of fish which had no hearing apparatus. These rare fish fetched a high price from the local marine biologists who liked to study them. Now, the area where Joe and Dean caught these fish was very difficult to reach, and involved long hours of sailing through treacherous waters, which Joe didn't like at all. Well, one week, Joe didn't turn up for work at all, and when one of his crew went to Joe's house to find out what was wrong, Joe said, "I don't know what's wrong with me. I'm feeling really tired and lethargic. I have no energy at all."

"Don't worry," said the crewman, "Dean has been putting all his catch of those mutant fish through as yours, so you will still have some money to pay our wages this week." "Oh, no," said Joe. "That means that I will have to get over this feeling of exhaustion and go out to that awful bit of the sea next week, and all because -

I OWE DEAN DEAF FISH IN SEA."
(Iodine deficiency)

B _____

From: David Stillman (david.stillman@qmserver.hci.utah.edu)
Some two hybrid humor:

I was grading exams, and a student referred to the components of a two hybrid screen as "bait" and "pray." There may be some truth to that!

B _____

From: wall@ti-csl.csc.ti.com (Raj Wall)

I heard this morning that veterinarians are beginning to use on household animals expensive upscale diagnostic equipment previously only available for humans, including CAT and PET scanners.

B _____

From: "Pierre Abbat" <phma@trellis.net>
Some genetic researchers were studying *Acinonyx jubatus* to find out why he had a high abnormal sperm count. They gave a group of these animals a histocompatibility (tissue-type) test.

"This is singular," observed one to the other. "Every one of these cats gave the same answers."

"Aw," drawled the other, "they're all a bunch of cheetahs

B

From: Gwynt (author) (<http://www.geocities.com/Hollywood/Hills/9609/>)

Q: How so you call a member of the finacial staff of the faculty of Biology?

A: A Buy-ologist.

Q: Organ transplantation in the future. Brain transplantations are possible

between relatives (immunological advantage). Father dies and donates his

brain to his daughter. How do you call such a donor father?

A: You call him Brain-dad.

Windows 95 has a program option to index candybars:
the Mars explorer.

Do you know why dr. Frankenstein sometimes smoked knees and elbows?
He just liked to smoke joints.

You learn your whole life. When you were young you went to school. But even in the grave the learning goes on, because your head goes back to skull.

B

From: Matthew K Ashford <mkast9+@pitt.edu>

Q: What do you have upon a request for a mother's identification?

A: Cardamom!!

B

From: "Brenda L. Carroll" <blcarrol@ehc.edu>

"Did you say you were 'mating' in lab? That gives new meaning to the phrase, 'oral exam.'"

-Birchell Goldston

B

From: mini-AIR <marca@wilson.harvard.edu>

1997-02-10 Gene Story Contest Winners

Here are the winning stories submitted for our GENE STORY ANTHOLOGY contest. Contestants were asked to write short stories -
- 100 words tops -- in which all nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs are the names of genes or gene products (such as "sonic hedgehog"). Some cheating was allowed -- it was okay to also use "him," "her," is, etc. Both winners will receive a copy of The Annals of Improbable Research specail Symmettra Issue (vol 2, no 3) autographed by scientist/supermodel Symmettra.

WINNER (1): Jonathan Epstein

GOLIATH CAN CAST a GEM farther than BEN HUR. At its APEX, the fast OPAL HITA WHITE ANGEL. The ANGEL then BEAT a GALE. But the ANGEL's BOSS, GOD, from AFAR CAN CALM the ANGEL. GOD FUSED the GAP between GOLIATH, the ANGEL, and their ILK.

The names in this story come from eight different species.

(They are listed int the database Entrez, which is on the web at
http://www3.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/Entrez/.)
Drosophila melanogaster: goliath ben white angel beat boss fused
Homo sapiens: can CAST gem HuR fast GAP ILK CALM
Mus musculus: Apex
Haemophilus influenza: hitA galeE
Neisseria gonorrhoeae: opal
Aspergillus niger: god
Rattus norvegicus: AFAR

WINNER (2): Jym Mohler

In the LOT behind CLUB ETHER-A-GOGO, AMY PRUNE's BREATHLESS TORSO
was SPLAYED in the GRAVEL. Her CROOKED-NECK was BENT over the
STONEWALL in an ABRUPT TWIST. Her REFRACTING THRONG was
DISHEVELED and her WHITE-MOTTLED MINI UPTURNED . But no COPPER
would ARREST the DERANGED KILLER-OF-PRUNE. No CELL would HOLD-UP
that HEARTLESS SNAKE. For a SHOTGUN had REDUCED OSKAR's BIG-BRAIN
into STARDUST and FAINT-LITTLE-BALLS.

All the genes mentioned in this story are from Drosophila.

B

From: "Pierre Abbat" <phma@trellis.net>
>neural crest.....an oral hygiene product for the brain

Use with mental floss.

B

From: David den Ouden (D.I.denOuden@stud.biol.ruu.nl)
After the homeotic - and oncogenes they recently discovered a new
group of
genes; the dancing genes, e.g. Gene Kelly

B

"Biology is the only science in which multiplication means the same
thing as division."

B

From: David den Ouden (D.I.denOuden@stud.biol.ruu.nl)
Q: How do you eat DNA-spaghetti?
A: With a replication fork.

B

Do molecular biologists wear designer genes?

B

From: lozinski@netcom.com (Joe Cool)

MEDICAL TERMINOLOGY FOR THE LAYMAN

Artery-----The study of fine paintings.
Barium-----What you do when CPR fails.
Cesarean Section-----A district in Rome.
Colic-----A sheep dog.
Coma-----A punctuation mark.
Congenital-----Friendly.
Dilate-----To live long.
Fester-----Quicker.

GI Series-----Baseball game between teams of soldiers.
 Grippe-----A suitcase.
 Hangnail-----A coat hook.
 Medical staff-----A doctor's cane.
 Minor operation-----Coal digging.
 Morbid-----A higher offer.
 Nitrate-----Lower than the day rate.
 Node-----Was aware of.
 Organic-----Church musician.
 Outpatient-----Person who has fainted.
 Post-operative-----A letter carrier.
 Protein-----In favor of young people.
 Secretion-----Hiding anything.
 Serology-----Study of English knighthood.
 Tablet-----A small table.
 Tumor-----An extra pair.
 Urine-----Opposite of you're out.
 Varicose veins-----Veins which are very close together.
 Benign-----What you be after you be eight.

From: Santasam <Santasam@AOL.COM>

ANTIBODY: against everyone
 ARTERY: the study of fine paintings
 BACTERIA: back door to a cafeteria
 BENIGN: what you be after you be eight
 BOWEL: letters like A, E, I, O, or U
 CAESAREAN SECTION: a district in Rome
 CARDIOLOGY: advanced study of poker playing
 CAT SCAN: searching for ones lost kitty
 CAUTERIZE: made eye contact with her
 COMA: a punctuation mark
 CONGENITAL: friendly
 CORTIZONE: the local courthouse
 D & C: where Washington is
 DILATE: to live longer
 ENEMA: not a friend
 ER: the things on your head that you hear with
 FIBRILLATE: to tell lies
 GENES: blue denim slacks
 HEMORRHOID: a male from outer space
 IMPOTENT: distinguished, well known
 LABOR PAIN: hurt at work
 MINOR OPERATION: somebody else's
 ORGAN TRANSPLANT: what you do to your piano when you move
 PARALYZE: two far-fetched stories
 PATHOLOGICAL: a reasonable way to go
 PHARMACIST: person who makes a living dealing in agriculture
 PROTEIN: in favor of young people
 RED BLOOD COUNT: Dracula
 RHEUMATIC: amorous
 SECRETION: hiding anything
 TABLET: a small table
 TERMINAL ILLNESS: getting sick at the airport
 TIBIA: country in North Africa
 TRIPLE BYPASS: better than a quarterback sneak
 TUMOR: an extra pair
 URINE: opposite of "you're out"
 VARICOSE: very close
 VEIN: conceited

B

From: Aliquotes iv.v (journal) (rogerb@microsoft.com)

DR. NOAH BUDDY'S HANDY REFERENCE GUIDE TO SCIENTIFIC TERMINOLOGY

aminoacyl-----An -NH/sub2 that's a real jerk
apical membrane-----That green bumpy stuff on the outside of a baby
dill
asymmetry-----Where you bury dead people
beta-sheet-----Linen you only bring out for company
CA/sup{2+} channel-----The all-milk TV station
chemotaxis-----A cab which provides drug therapy
detergents-----What women do when telling a guy to take a hike
diglyceride-----what you scream out when trying to kill a
glyceride
hippocampus-----where hippos go to university.
microtome-----An itty bitty book
pachytene-----Adolescent elephants
plastid-----Drunk
prokaryote-----In favour of take-out food
redox-----Rusty cattle
taxol-----Liberal plan for increasing revenue
B

From: Aliquotes v.vii (journal) (rogerb@microsoft.com)

You know you weren't prepared for the exam when you gave the following
definitons:

stereochemistry.....having the correct speakers for your CD player
free radical.....a political movement
propane.....sadomasochistic tendencies
grignard.....a three foot mile
periodic acid.....sometimes it is and sometimes it ain't
biotin.....how much coffee you purchase
prostate.....when you want FSU to beat U.Florida in football
helminth.....what the hockeyplayers wear on their heads,
thilly
IL-2.....me also
homology.....the study of real estate
membrane.....the opposite of forgettin'
synapse.....what you have after horizontal recreation
phorbol.....why the batter took first base
B

From: Aliquotes iv.xi (journal) (rogerb@microsoft.com)

I Don't Re-Membrane, I Don't Recall

For many, to understand membranes is to understand key biological and
biochemical determinants of life and because of this they are real
pains in
the butt to work with (Murphy, 1973). In an effort to assist anyone
in
their studies of membrane biochemistry, we have formulated this brief
list of some of the terms across which they will come and our own
special
definitions of these terms.

PIP2.....finding your boss at the next urinal
micellar.....where I stayed when the tornado hit
palmitoyl.....what your hands secrete when you're nervous
polar head group.....Inuit psychiatrists
amphipathic.....the ability to hike both ways

bilayer.....yeh, like, I'm gonna touch that one
lecithin.....fatter
porin.....what it is when it's rainin'
Schiff base.....stealing second
ionophore.....where I ended when I fell
hydrophobic.....fear of your electricity bill
deoxycholate.....countin' the oxen
sulfatide.....the effect of a moon on Venusian oceans

B

From: Aliquotes iv.xii (journal) (rogerb@microsoft.com)
As molecular biology and biochemistry come to play more important roles in the field of developmental biology, it is important for biochemists to truly understand some of the more unusual terminology which they will face as they set up collaborations or just try to keep up with the literature.
For this reason, we have presented the following definitions as a guide.

placenta.....Act III of V
allantois.....how we found out wat Allan knew
neural crest.....an oral hygiene product for the brain
trophectoderm.....the outer layer of the Stanley Cup
spermatagonia.....the reproductive area in South America
oogonia.....the clumsy area of South America
oviposition.....your opinion on whether one can eat eggs and still

be a vegetarian

uturus.....the question of whether you're a native of a visitor

B

From: phma@trellis.net
Q: Why didn't the dendrochronologist get married?
A: All he ever dated was trees!

Q: How did the herpetologist know he would be married soon?
A: He caught the garter snake.

B

From: David den Ouden (D.I.denOuden@stud.biol.ruu.nl)
Computational / Theoretical Biology:

Q: How do you call eight Rabbits?

A: One Rabbyte

Biology, Morphology:

Q: How do you call being drunk at the same side of your body?

A: Tipsi-lateral

Q: Heredity at the same time?

A: Synchromosome

Q: How do you call a positively charged pussy-cat?

A: A CATion

B

From: David den Ouden <D.I.denOuden@stud.biol.ruu.nl>

Q: How do you call a laboratory in which they use rats as test-animals (guineapigs)?

A: Lab-rat-ory

B

From: jimd@gate.net (James D. Davis)

Q: What rock band keeps changing their music?

A: Mutagenesis.

Q: Which biochemicals wash up on beaches?

A: Nucleotides.

B

Pat Bowne (pbowne@omnifest.uwm.edu)

Q: What is a paramecium?

A: Two latin mice

B

From: mtwenzel@pdqnet.com (Michael Wenzel)

Q: What is the only thing worse than a mecium?

A: A Paramecium

B

From: Garland Stern <stern@tiger.asel.udel.edu>, Matthew K Ashford
<mkast9+@pitt.edu>

Q: What does the H. in Jesus H. Christ stand for?

A: In order of increasing groans:

1: Hallowed.

2: Harold. (As in, "Harold be thy name.)

3: Haploid. (Best of all.)

B

From: "Encarnacion Perez, Jr." <e.perezjr.@worldnet.att.net>

Q: As what did the antibody go to the Halloween costume party?

A: As an "immunoglobulin"

B

From: Sandy Waldow <sandyw@sbei.com>

Q: how do you tell the sex of chromosome?

A: Pull down it's genes

B

From: mace@NorthNet.org (Mace)

Q: What did the male stamen say to the female pistil?

A: I like your "style"

B

From: cvsjpd@leeds.ac.uk (J P Diesch)

'I want to shag a sheep' says one ribonucleotide to another.

'Dont be so base!'

B

From: Aliquotes i.v (journal) (rogerb@microsoft.com)

The G to F transition is due to proteins which are "actin up".

People who go through waves of euphoria can be said to be suffering
from

PEP-tides.

B

From: De Guerin <da6bd@herts.ac.uk>

Q: What do you call a faulty spirometer?

A: Expired!

B

From: Teg Pipes <teg@fruitfly.berkeley.edu>
Scientists are LAME!

The straight line I've been waiting for for the past four years was finally delivered today. In the lab, obviously, four people were there, standing around the water cooler, talking about some heroic genetic screen, nice, pregnant pause after the straight line just begging to be exploited like a coal mine in the south east and I slid my joke in beautifully and...NOTHING! THEY ALL JUST STARED AT ME! FUCKS! I'LL KILL YOU ALL!

POST-DOC: ...that was the night that I mated four-thousand
pairs of flies.

<pause>

ME: Boy, you must've been really sore after that!

<silence>

ME: G'NIGHT FOLKS! DRIVE SAFELY!

I work in a stupid genetics lab for FOUR YEARS waiting for that line, FOUR YEARS! And when it finally comes, I make my joke and EVERYONE JUST LOOKS AT ME! ARRRRRRGH! I COULD'VE BEEN DOING BIOCHEMISTRY ALL THIS TIME!
++++
=4.4 CLONING

B

From: Aliquotes v.iv (journal) (rogerb@microsoft.com)
(Begin 1997, the first cloning of a sheep was announced. The sheep was called Dolly, because she was cloned from breast tissue. - JV)

EWE GOT THAT RIGHT

With the recent events in Scotland, we are saddened to announce that the mamalian male of each and every population has just taken an evolutionary step backward. After eons of enlarging anatomical development, to deal with harsh environments such that the female may brood in safety and security, a human male has now started us down the road to where our half of the species is obsolete. Just as the Western females of the species were discovering the early mortality and rampant disease that had largely

been teh male domain, they have now been introduced to a system whereby much of their stress can be alleviated through the removal of the male population from the gene pool. FBI agent Clarissa would have been happy to see these events unfold in a story that can only be termed

THE SILENCE OF THE RAMS

B

From: jmbay@leland.Stanford.EDU (Joseph Michael Bay)
Newsgroups: news:sci.chem.analytical, news:alt.religion.kibology

"M. Otis Beard" <movinghand@geocities.com> writes:

> I'm glad you asked that question, Sarah. It reminds me of the time that
>my father and I had a conversation regarding just this issue. My father was
>a self-made man in the truest sense of the word; he educated himself, built
>his fortune on strict principles of hard work and integrity, and never once
>tried to get ahead by slinging mud or stabbing somebody else in the back.

That's interesting, because my father was a self-made man in the truest sense of the word. He enucleated an egg cell from a donor, micro-injected a nucleus from one of his own pluripotent stem cells, and implanted it in a psuedopregnant female goat. After gestation, he delivered himself and educated himself. Of course his fortune was largely willed to him by himself, but he had made that before, so it was okay. And to this day, he prides himself on his integrity, his compassion, and his ability to eat tin cans.

B

From: Aliquotes v.iv (journal) (rogerb@microsoft.com)
New Scotland Bovine Labs

COW SYSTEM: Transgenic protein purification system

Instruction Manual

Introduction to Cow System(TM):

The Cow cloning system is an advanced protocol for the purification of recombinatn proteins from lactating bovine species. The system is more reliable than current sheep cloning methods, requires less starting material, is less expensive and will not cause public controversy when the press get holds of it.

1) Description:

The Cow System(TM) is the most powerfull system for the cloning and expression of recombinat protein. Target genes are cloned in clow plasmids under control of the bovine serum albumin promotor. The desired product can comprise more than 10% (50kg) of the animal after a few hours of fermentation, in inclusion bodies.

2) Host for cloning:

Suitable cows for cloning include the Cowalbi, which are albino, and allows the black/white screening for the library when plated on the suitable field spread with X-Grass(TM) (GG) selective medium. Note that the Scottish Highland Cows (SHC) are more sensitive to the heat shock transformation.

3) Preparation of the medium:

You need a very, very big flas (two million liters), a very, very big shaker and a clothes peg for your nose. The growth medium, "Cow Dip" or

C.D. broth, is made from 0.5M grass, 0.5M hay supplement, 0.2mM ice cream

(vanilla flavour), pH7.2. An oxygen carrier, such as myoglobin, can be

added to increase growth and prevent drowning. Alternatively, Farmer Seah(R) provide bovine aqualungs for growth in liquid media. Always, autoclave the medium in order to kill scrapie prions.

4) Transformation:

You need alt least 12kg of plamid, a vet and a big swimming pool at 37C and

a sauna at 42C. It is possible to use the FarmerKit(TM) from Farmer Seah(R). Supercompetent Cowalbi calves are provided with the kit.

Recently, a protocol derived from Maniatis has been described by Jersey et

al. (1996) using Brute Force(TM) on mature bovine.

a- Place the cows in a room on ice and mix gently to assure that the cows

are in good shape.

b- Add 2kg of plasmid directly in each cow using a clean glove.

Rotate

gently to mix.

c- Place cows on ice for 30 minutes.

d- Heat shock the cows by placing them in the sauna at 42C for exactly 40

seconds. Do not vortex; the cows will break the mixer.

e- Place the cows in a cold room for 2 minutes.

f- Add two million liters of GG medium.

g- Incubate the cows at 37C with shaking in Earthquake zone for one hour

and spread the cows on a green field(*). Note that premade libraries are

available from Cowtech (Cambridge).

5) Expression:

a- To start the culture, add two tonnes of transformed cows (0.25 vol. of

total bovine prep (TBP)) in the liquid culture (figure 1)

b- Incubate with shaking the culture at 37C until OD₆₀₀ of the supernatant

reaches 0.8.

c - The cows could be separated by decantation using a shepherd and his

dog, by gentle centrifugation (5g) or filtration (filter, 1m).

d- Lyse by osmotic shock in 2M Chocolate Syrup(**) or with three medium

shrapnel devices. Atomic weapons are not advised. Note that English cows are very resistant to lysis. It is possible to use a French Press. e- Purify the product using normal procedures. For enhanced purification, use the Cow-Lyse Kit(TM).

6) Cloned gene expression in Cow System(TM)

The plasmid included with this kit is the new pBSE, the Bovine System Expression plasmid. Other Cow-based expression systems can be used but may

not over-express to the same extent.

When cloning chimaeric gene constructs, remember to use Cowalbi which are

missing the gene coding for the restriction enzyme BDNA I. Cowalbi are

also immunosuppressed to aid expression of hideously deforming genes.

If gene products are poor, try the Rhino Kit(TM). This incorporates a grey/white selection procedure to replace the Blue Whale Kit(TM), which has

been discontinued due to poor yields and international pressures.

(*) Single cloned cows could be stored as frozen at -80C or in a field in Greenland.

(**) Note that the use of chocolate syrup osmotic shock can lead to milkshake production in certain bovine species.

(***) pMooscript can be used instead for lower expression levels.

figure 1: Fermentation conditions (Cows floating in a BIG erlenmeyer)

Related products:

New Scotland Bovine Labs Mootagenesis(TM) kit

New Scotland Bovine Labs Cow-Lyse(TM) kit for release of inclusion bodies

from bovine and udder sources.

The Cow System is covered by Scottish patent. _For research use only._
B

From: Aliquotes v.iii (journal) (rogerb@microsoft.com)

WHEN PUSH COMES TO SHOVE

Not to be outdone by their Highland brethren and Dolly, the Andean Association for Animal Science has recently announced the results of their

most stunning achievement to date. Following on the heels of the nuclear

tranplantation experiments which generated a cloned sheep, a group of Chilean researchers have used the technology of embryo fusions to generate

the world's first Pushme-Pullyou, famed from the many novels of the adventures of Dr. Doolittle. This creature has the forelimbs and heads of

two individuals at opposite ends. Due to the genesis of this animal, the

Chilean group regrets that Butthead, as he is affectionately known, lacks

any reproductive organs. Needless to say, Butthead is a very sad and bored animal.

The same group was rather evasive about the results of the other half of the embryonic fusion experiments and there is an unconfirmed report that the other creature escaped from its pen and was last seen running for political office in Canada.

B

From: Aliquotes v.iv (journal) (rogerb@microsoft.com)

PANIC IN THE HIGHLANDS

A reprint of some articles in newsgroups similar to the cloning debate.

Excerpted from the bio.plants.monk newsgroup:

"I say to you all that we must stop the insanity before it is too late. What our Brother Gregor has been doing recently in the rectory garden is sacrilegious and dangerous for the general population. I mean, what self-respecting Brother of the cloth would stoop, literally and figuratively, to determine the colour and texture of peas? Can he not see where this will lead? Next thing you know, he will be doing experiments with chickens and horses. And from there, chaos. If the good lord had wanted these plants to mate, he would have made them all one colour... I imagine a beige of a nice taupe. There is a reason that these peas are a different colour and texture and that is because God said it should be so and we should stop Brother Gregor before he brings His wrath down on us."

Excerpted from the sci.chem.h-bond newsgroup:

"I'm telling you that this recent discovery by Drs. Watson and Crick will be the end of us all. Now that they have elucidated the structure of DNA, there is no end to what some crackpot can do with this technology. Think of it. If this really is the stuff that makes us what we are, what is to prevent the crazies from looking further at it and finding out that we're not all that different after all. Not that I'm e prejudiced, you all understand, but it would be the end of civilization to find out that 'l share the same basic coding sequence with people like Siam and Rhodesia. It just wouldn't do, you see. And heaven forbid that they find this out. They might expect to be treated like us, and we certainly can't have that.

++++
++++
=4.5 BIOCHEMISTRY

From Aliquotes Volume V Number xiii August/97 (rogerb@microsoft.com)
WATCH YOUR LANGUAGE

The Sciences are very jargon oriented and this can cause problems when over-excited scientists carry on conversations in the real world... you know, the one without the pipettes and shakers and chemical bottles. The following are three true stories.

Politically Corrects

Two young scientists, a student and a post-doc, had left the lab after another successful day. As they rode the local transit on their way home, they began a rather animated discussion about the day's results and more specifically about the success that one had with her gel retardation or mobility shift assays. On and on they went about the "retards" doing this and the "retards" doing that when a woman across the aisle from them finally turned in disgust and said: "The word is mentally handicapped and it's not very nice to call them retards." The two scientist were shocked by this sudden outburst and the woman got off of the train before the two could correct her on the subject to which they were referring.

The Cutting Edge

In a protein lab, it is common for people to set up their proteins as a fusion with other domains which are easily purified through their affinity to ligands attached to resin beads. One of the most common of these domains is the glutathione S-transferase protein or GST. Typically, there is a small linker region between the protein of interest and the fusion partner and this amino acid sequence contains recognition sequences for proteases. After months in the lab, having limited success with her proteolysis reactions, a young female grad student finally had her patience and perseverance pay off when she destained yet another gel and saw that her protein had indeed been cut by the protease. In her joy, the young woman ran out into the hallway, proclaiming proudly to all: "I've got cleavage. I've got cleavage. Come over here. Look at my cleavage."

A Graphic Plot

In another lab, on another day, yet another young, female graduate student was working on a poster for presentation at an upcoming meeting. She had

been using fluorescence to study the binding of a protein to its ligand and had spent quite a bit of time getting just the right distribution of data points for her graph. After several days in front of the fluorimeter and hours in front of the computer, plotting her data, she sat back in satisfaction at her accomplishments. Seeing one of the guys from her lab passing in the hallway, she called out to him in a loud voice, "Hey come look at my figure. Are these outstanding curves or what?" They were nice curves and she had a really nice figure.

B

From: Aliquotes v.vi (journal) (rogerb@microsoft.com)
If it's NOT one thing, it's another

Your protein has NOT denaturated,
it is simply structurally ambivalent.
Your DNA has NOT degraded,
it is entropically exhuberant.
Your enzyme is NOT aggregated,
it is monomerically challenged.
Your peptide has NPT precipitated on the column,
it is merely elution reticent.
Your column resin is NOT compacting,
it is being spatially frugal.
Your BamHI does NOT have star activity,
it is simply expressing its individuality.
Your PCR products are NOT all mutant,
they are just indulging in unscheduled evolution.
Your tissue culture is NOT contaminated,
it is simply sharing living quarters.
Your computer has NPT crashed,
it is merely being introspective.

B

From: Aliquotes v.vi (journal) (rogerb@microsoft.com)
Toronto (ATP): Reports are slowly filtering in about an incident in a Toronto lab where one technician found that extra hand which he had requested from his boss, even though Human Resources was not involved. They say that good help is hard to find, but not if you simply dig a little

THE ICE MAN COMETH

Here's a story that'll frost your test tubes. The lab had been operational for several years when the technician decided that they were going to need to be able to put more than two sample boxes in the lab's -70 C freezer. Unfortunately, this was going to mean cutting through several feet of ice. As well, there was the serious danger of drowning as the ice began to melt into the lab. Thus, equipped with a hair dryer, hipwaders and aqualung, the technician pulled the plug from the outlet and went to lunch while

waiting for the ice to begin to melt. (As an aside, please note the use of the hair dryer... this is how men defrost a freezer, unlike many women I have known who attack the ice with a knife or screwdriver, often leading to punctured freon tanks and larger ozone holes.)

Returning from lunch, the technician spent the first half hour apologizing profusely to the graduate student whose sequencing gel he had turned off when he pulled the plug for the power pack instead of the one for the freezer. After that, he pulled the correct plug and spent the next several hours with the hair dryer pointed into the freezer and carefully pulling small glaciers from the shelves and sides of the freezer. As he proceeded deeper and deeper into the various icy strata, the history of the lab began to unfold. Within the first foot, he began to uncover the now-soggy cardboard storage boxes of the recently graduated students, unearthing (de-icing?) a couple of years worth of work and a number of plasmid vectors which the lab had given up on finding and had long ago reordered from the supplier. An hour or so into the work, he began to scrape the second foot of ice away and saw initial signs of a large package under the ice, but the frosting of the ice prevented him from immediately determining what it was. In the meantime though, he was able to free up some radiolabeled ATP which was now colder than it's environment and there was a vial of C14-labelled amino-acids which must have been a remnant of an early life and defied dating even with the most modern techniques. Another layer down, and on his third sink of ice, the technician got closer to the unidentified object locked in its frosty grave. On the way, he then began to pull out more sample boxes of people whose names he couldn't recognize and small brown vials containing enzymes with a best before date which predated him... not the date of his hiring, but his own age. But still, the icy object eluded extraction.

As afternoon gave way to evening, the technician could begin to make out details on the alien in the freezer and he quickly began to realize that the poor thing had a human form. He increased his pace but still spent several hours removing more ice before he could begin to free the poor person from the ice. Finally, he had removed enough that an arm fell free of the ice and the hair dryer began to warm the flesh. In less than an hour, he had removed the last of the ice and the body fell to the floor,

shivering. As the body warmed, its lips moved as though trying to speak.
It was another hour though, before words began to form. The tech asked the young man what had happened. Slowly, and with great effort, the young scientist began to speak.

"I was on my way to the freezer to get some more DNA for my crystallization trials -- I think that I'm close to getting a structure, you know -- when I got trapped. I know I should have been using gloves, but I was in a hurry. I grabbed for a box at the back of the freezer when my arm hit the side and got stuck. Quickly the ice crystallized around me and someone later came by, saw the door open and closed it without seeing that I was in there.", he said, still shivering. "By the way, how are McCarthy hearings going, anyway?"

This was not going to be an easy one to explain to the boss.

B

From: Aliquotes v.v (journal) (rogerb@microsoft.com)

You know your lab is too warm when...

- 1) Your low melt agarose does.
- 2) No matter how often you fill them, your ethanol bottles are always empty.
- 3) You can heat-shock your bacterial transformations on your bench.
- 4) The gas from a bunsen burner spontaneously ignites.
- 5) You put your plates in the incubator to cool down.
- 6) Every time you open the fridge door, it rains.
- 7) The urea in your sequencing gel mixes, goes into solution without difficulty.
- 8) A pellet of dry ice has a half-life of 12.3 seconds.
- 9) The Taq polymerase begins to denature.
- 10) The glucose in the cupboard begins to caramelize.

B

From: Aliquotes v.v (journal) (rogerb@microsoft.com)

Cabin Fever

Every so often, a lab citizen can be struck with what is commonly referred to as cabin-fever. This condition often leads to a display of bizarre behavior by the afflicted individual, often riveting the attention of lab-mates and bystanders alike - (most disconcerting to the PI, general progress in the lab can be severely affected). Of course, it is well known that these temporary bouts of lunacy are exacerbated by many things such as malfunctioning fume-hoods, looming committee meetings, sub-cloning, and gloves that cut off the circulation to the rest of your body. But the origin of this dangerous yet entertaining behavior is almost invariably linked to sensitization to the lab environment, usually as a result of

excessive experimentation. Although the laboratory strain of cabin-fever is not necessarily contagious, exposure can be dangerous. (Sadly, even pipette tips are harzardous when they fall into the wrong hands.) For this reason, we at *Aliquotes* have endeavored to provide you with some warning signs that may protend a possible breakdown. According to our guidelines, it is advisable to vacate the lab if you notice your labmate doing any of the following:

- * Suddenly screams "Don't touch my tweezers! I swear to (insert PC-sanctioned deity here) I'll *kill* you if you even look at my tweezers again!".
- * Spends the morning penciling in her name for all 365 days on the sign-up calendar by the HPCL machine.
- * Starts extending the use of yellow post-it notes to delineate new territory in the lab.
- * Is observed cradling a stir-bar while quietly muttering "They'll never get you my dear, you're my special one, my one and only and they can never take you away from me..."
- * Takes his coffee break underneath is desk. (Same place he keeps his tarot cards and palmistry book.)
- * Roots around the garbage sobbing, "No, No! Come back!"
- * Sits in front of the computer for days, endlessly changing the background colour on his slides.
- * Looks up dirty words in the Swiss-protein data bank.
- * Requires sunglasses if the curtains are opened in the lab.
- * Starts an elbow fight with you because you are pipetting on her side of the lab.
- * Autoclaves articles of your clothing when you don't strictly adhere to the schedule on the sign-up sheet.
- * Scrawls the words "Lab Police" in magic marker on the back of his lab coat and starts using the butt of his pipettelman as a tool for law enforcement.

B

Q: How many company biotechnologists does it take to change a light bulb?

A: Four; one to write the proposal, one to design the bulb-changer, one to design the bulb-fetcher, and one to design the bulb.

Q: How many freelance biotechnologists does it take to change a light bulb?

A: One; he designs the bulb to crawl up the wall, unscrew the old one and screw itself in.

Q: How many evolutionists does it take to change a light bulb?

A: Only one, but it takes eight million years.

From: mjenson@silver.ucs.indiana.edu (Mike Jenson)

Q:How many fruit flies does it take to screw in a light bulb?

A:None. Fruit flies don't screw in light bulbs they screw in fruit
BC

From: Aliquotes v.ii (journal) (rogerb@microsoft.com)

In development,
A new musical by
Andy Wirld-Whyde Webber

YUSEF
And the amazing Technicolor Labcoat

The story of a lonely MSc who is doted on by his supervisor,
raising the
jealousy of his lab mates. To show his pleasure with Yusef, the
supervisor
creates for him a special lab coat covered with a variety of stains
and
this technicolor lab coat sends his mates wild. While on their way to
a
lab products show, they trap Yusef in a cold room and sell him as
summer
student labour to a passing post-doc. Yussef works dutifully for his
new
master until another post-doc in the same group covets Yusef but Yusef
rejects her advances. This second post-doc is angered by Yusef's
rebuff
and buggers up the work of the first post-doc, blaming it on Yusef.

Yusef is then chained to his bench as a volunteer labourer until
one
day, the Chair of the department walks by bemoaning a sub-cloning
problem.
Yusef offers a piece of advice involving plasmid methylation and the
Chair
tells his graduate students to check it out. They succesfully sub-
clone
the fragment and it turns out to be a novel gene. To express his
gratitude, the Chair frees Yusef from his fetters and takes him under
his
wing as protege. Eventually, the Chair runs off to form his own
compagny
and takes Yusef with him as Head of Research and Development.

Years later, the lab mates from Yusef's original lab are about to
finish
their degrees when their supevisor's grants run out and they are
destitute. Yusef's old supervisor sends them to seek their fortunes
in the
mystical land of Industry where they accidently meet on Yusef's
doorstep.
They do not recognize Yusef although he knows them, but he takes pity
on
them and sends for the old supervisor. They are happily reunited and
all
receive their degrees and, eventually, are tenured at al nearby
university.

B

From: Aliquotes iv.iii (journal) (rogerb@microsoft.com)

In the beginning, there was ...

Biochemistry's greatest hits. Now from *Kant tell records* comes the
followup album:

BIOCHEMISTRY'S DAMNED GOOD NEAR MISSES

"Never on a sunday" by The Technicians
 "Hi, Hi, Hi" by The Fume Sucker Four.
 "Do You believe in magic?" by the Seminar Six
 "Zhang-a-gong" by The Collum Driers
 "One more Gel" by The Thesis Writers
 "Scary Monsters, Super Freaks" by the Transgenics
 "In the air tonight" by Nat and The Fumehoods
 "G.I. Blues" by The Red Hot Chili Peppers
 "Sex is a Drug" by nanoMouskouri
 "the end" from the movie "The Graduate"
 "Light my fire" by Randy and the Bunsen Burners
 "Another one bites the dust" by The Grant Reviewers
 "It wont't be long" by The Committee
 "I don't Remember" by The Reclassifiers
 "I wanna be your man" by The Frustrated Fat Boys

B

From: Aliquotes iv.iii (journal) (rogerb@microsoft.com)
 The subtle irony of a neurotoxin like acrylamide is that you are the last
 one to realize that you should have worn gloves.

B

From: Aliquotes i.v (journal) (rogerb@microsoft.com)
 THE GRADUATE GAME OF LIFE (?)

[Adapted for ASCII]
 Rules: Using one die, move your game piece the number of spaces that the die indicates and try to be the first to succesfully defend your graduate work.
 It's not as easy as it looks.

```
=====
--
|Welcome  ->->  |          |Cells didn't|Tube          |Cells not
|
|To square One  | -->   |   grow   |labelled Taq  |competent
|
|In the Graduate|        | miss a turn|is really ExoIII|Are you?
|
| Game of Life  |        |          |Miss 2 turns   |Go back 3
spaces|
=====
-|
|congratulations!|          |Controls didn't
|
|You've graduated|          |work again.
|
|Run like hell,  |          |Go back 2
spaces|
|before they look| -----
-|
|too closely at  |  |You failed   |Leads backwards |course work
|
|at your thesis. |  |MCAT         |on gel box      |piles up.  <-
|
```

-----	Advance 1 space Go back 3 spaces Miss a turn
Thesis rejected	-----
--	
You're dejected	You failed
Advance 2 spaces	LSAT
-----	Advance 1 space
Could not repeat	-----

critical	You failed Too many exams Found point Read
experiment	PSAT to mark deletion
sequencing gel	
Advance 3 spaces	Advance 1 space Miss a turn Miss a
turn inverted	
-----	----- Go back
2spaces	
Competitors	-----

scoop you on	Subcloned
PCR	
results	product
backwards	
Advance 4 spaces	Miss a
turn	
-----	-----

Collaborator	Fell into coma while Got drunk at party Tuition
due	
faked all data	using ether told of PI Miss 3
turns while	
Advance 5 spaces	\ / Miss a turn Miss a turn working
for summer	
-----	-----

Your NMR sample	
is betalactamase	\ /
Advance 6 spaces	----- -----

-----	Dropped flask Blotted gel onto You passed
the MCAT	
^	-> of pure protein paper towels Leave game
now and	
/ \	Go back 3 spaces Go back 2 spaces be
joyfull	

	Ran air
through	
-----	sizing
column	
Radiation badge	Go back 4
spaces	
lights	-----

fluorescent	
Ultracentrifuge tube	
bulbes	broke, lose
sample	
Miss 3 turns	Miss a turn


```

|-----|
|-----|
|Computer crashes|
| |
| lose notes |
| / |
|Go back 3 spaces|
space . |
|-----|
|-----|
|Writing you PI's| Committee member|You failed PSAT |You failed
|
|grant proposal |<- missed meeting |Getting desperate? |LCAT again
|
|Miss 2 turns | Miss a turn. |Miss a turn |Advance 1
space |
|-----|
|-----|
+++++
+++++
=4.6 EVOLUTION

```

B

From: aj13@mindspring.com (Blind faith is overated, and very dangerous when the terrain is rough.) [That's what the header says anyway - JV]

LADIES & GENTLEMAN !!!!
IT'S THE BATTLE OF THE MILLENIUM !!!!
CREATION VS. EVOLUTION!!!

This is going to be a caged, no holds barred match, to the death!!!!

In one corner we have EVOLUTION, who brings with it an assortment of weapons, including : records, fossils, actual proof, and even a bit of faith & belief.

In the other corner we have CREATION, who brings---wait a minute, CREATION is pulling something from out of a sack, it's a....it's a.... It's a book ?!? CREATION has brought a book to use in battle. And yes a bit of faith & belief.

It's unbelievable the way they are going at each other folks ! It's a battle royal. Who will win this grudge match? Who will suffer from their loss? We may never know. Let's watch & see, and pray ours is the victorious one, which ever that may be.

B

From: LEISTI@cc.Helsinki.FI (Teemu Leisti)

(Original version by Erkki Aalto, Dept. of Obstetrics, Gynaecology and Stork Science, University of Helsinki)

(English version by Jopi Louko, Institute of Stork Research, University of Alberta)

Ovulation versus cretinism

Two different theories exist concerning the origin of children: the theory of sexual reproduction, and the theory of the stork. Many people believe in the theory of sexual reproduction because they have been taught this theory at school.

In reality, however, many of the world's leading scientists are in favour of the theory of the stork. If the theory of sexual reproduction is taught in schools, it must only be taught as a theory and not as the truth. Alternative theories, such as the theory of the stork, must also be taught.

Evidence supporting the theory of the stork includes the following:

1. It is a scientifically established fact that the stork does exist. This can be confirmed by every ornithologist.
2. The alleged human foetal development contains several features that the theory of sexual reproduction is unable to explain.
3. The theory of sexual reproduction implies that a child is approximately nine months old at birth. This is an absurd claim. Everyone knows that a newborn child is newborn.
4. According to the theory of sexual reproduction, children are a result of sexual intercourse. There are, however, several well documented cases where sexual intercourse has not led to the birth of a child.
5. Statistical studies in the Netherlands have indicated a positive correlation between the birth rate and the number of storks. Both are decreasing.
6. The theory of the stork can be investigated by rigorous scientific methods. The only assumption involved is that children are delivered by the stork.

B

From: mini-air
1996-07-04 Scientific Correctness Survey

A recent survey by the U.S. National Science Foundation found that 52% of the respondents believe that the earliest human beings lived at the same time as the dinosaurs.

Once again it is time to vote on "scientific correctness" and help the scientific community decide which side of various issues it should accept as "correct".

Please check only one:

13% Dinosaurs and man walked together millions of years ago.
06% Dinosaurs and man walked together less than 10,000 years ago.
61% Dinosaurs and man walked together, but it was purely platonic.
14% Dinosaurs became extinct before the first humans existed.
06% Humans became extinct before the first dinosaurs existed.

But later on, mini-air reported:

1997-01-12 Scientific Correctness: Dino Survey Results

Thank you to everyone who participated in the first of our SCIENTIFIC CORRECTNESS SURVEYS to establish the correct answers to heated scientific controversies. This first question is now settled. The lion and the lamb, the preacher and the politician, the spider and the fly -- all can now walk hand in hand (or other, analogous appendage), in harmonious agreement.

Here are the results, of the vote:

33% Dinosaurs and man walked together less than 10,000 years ago.
30% Dinosaurs became extinct before the first humans existed.
23% Dinosaurs and man walked together millions of years ago.
09% Humans became extinct before the first dinosaurs existed.
02% Declined, or were unable, to express an opinion
02% Agreed with all of the choices listed above
01% Dinosaurs and man walked together, but it was purely platonic.

Investigator Thomas B. Roos reports that he plans to use this survey in future exams at Dartmouth College.

Investigator J. Mohler reports, "As documented in the comic strip "Alley Oop", while dinosaurs and humans coexisted during prehistoric times, they rarely if ever walked together. When they were going in the same direction, the human invariably choose to ride."

Investigator John J. Lannutti concludes that, currently, "dinosaurs mostly fly while man mostly walks."

Investigator Jim Culter concludes that dinosaur bones were placed in the fossil strata 10,000 years ago in order to confuse and mislead 20th century scientists, and that dinosaurs never actually existed.

Investigator Frank Stephan raises a concern common to the German scientific community, in reporting, "This vote is placed in the belief, that alligators do not count as dinosaurs in spite of the fact that these two species are relatives. But in this case it was more a hating than loving relationship."

B

From: jokemaster@jokecenter.com (JokeMaster)

Dating Dinosaur Bones

Some tourists in the Chicago Museum of Natural History are marveling at the dinosaur bones. One of them asks the guard, "Can you tell me how old the dinosaur bones are?"

The guard replies, "They are 73 million, four years, and six months old."

"That's an awfully exact number," says the tourist. "How do you know

their age so precisely?"

The guard answers, "Well, the dinosaur bones were seventy three million years old when I started working here, and that was four and a half years ago."

[JokeCenter.com - <http://www.jokecenter.com>]

(PS I added 70 million to the date to get some semblance of correctness
- JV)

++++
=4.7 MICE AND RATS

B

From: JMFS19A@prodigy.com (Nancy Carson)

Q: What did one lab rat say to the other?

A: "I've got my scientist so well trained that every time I push the buzzer, he brings me a snack.

B

SCIENTIFIC STUDY

The Cameron Column #41

In an extraordinary new scientific study which answers the question, "are we giving scientists too much money to investigate this kind of stuff?" researchers have determined that providing rats the equivalent of six cups of coffee enables them (the rats) to be one percent more productive.

Several questions immediately leap to mind. First, what, exactly, makes a rat more "productive?" The mice my son had (until he left the door to the cage open, and then the cat had them) "produced" only tiny black pellets. Did scientists count these pellets and find there were slightly more of them after six cups of coffee? If so, they may have inadvertently discovered a job for which my brother-in-law is qualified. As long as counting pellets doesn't involve (a) showing up for work on time or (b) showing up for work, I can see him rising to the top of his profession.

Second, what is the "equivalent" of six cups of coffee? Maybe the scientists stuck the little rat paws into an electric outlet. In that case, heck YES there were more black pellets, probably left there by rats awaiting their turn at the socket. Do the People for the Ethical Treatment of Rodents We Would Otherwise Exterminate know about this? I'm picturing rats sitting around with tiny cups and saucers, reading the equivalent of the morning newspaper, watching the equivalent of the Today show, getting ready for the equivalent of the morning rush hour so they can get to their little rat offices and start producing one percent more pellets. The scientists studying this must feel they are doing the

equivalent of contributing to society.

Finally, if I drink the equivalent of 600 cups of coffee, does this mean

I will be 100% more productive, thus able to stay home and do nothing while my more productive self goes off to work? How the heck can I be more productive if I am in the bathroom all day unloading 600 cups of coffee? If Al Gore drank 600 cups of coffee, would he change expression?

I have a suggestion: maybe next time the scientists should drink the coffee themselves, and then they could come up with a better idea for something to study. Like, if you gave my brother-in-law the equivalent of six cups of coffee, would he find a job?

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B

From: brett@hpsrbkc.hp.com (Brett K. Carver)

Here's something I wrote after reading one too many of this type of story.

LIVING IN CAGES LINKED TO CANCER IN LABORATORY RATS

AP--The federal government today released the findings of a four year study that linked living in cages to increased potential of developing cancer in laboratory rats.

The study, which cost an estimated \$17 Million, was started in 1983 when all the rats in a laboratory test control group contracted cancer.

Spokesperson John Smith explained: "We were running a test on the possible link between excess popcorn intake and increased incidence of colon cancer. The test group consisted of twenty rats who were force fed three quarts (roughly one and a half times their body weight) of popcorn daily, a perfectly reasonable amount. The control group consisted of twenty rats who lived in cages carefully shielded from all known carcinogens. To our surprise, all twenty control rats developed cancer within six months."

Mr. Smith went on to say: "We had always had some trouble with control rats contracting cancer. But as long as more of the rats in the test group than the control group got cancer, we were able to feel pretty good about condemning whatever we were testing at the time."

Mr Smith was then questioned about the possibility of test results being invalid if any of the control rats developed cancer. He responded: "Yeah, we had an scientist at the lab ask that once. We had to let him go though when we found out he was a member of the Audubon Society; you know, conflict of interest. He was a real trouble maker, always asking questions like: 'Wouldn't eating that much popcorn give anyone cancer?' We just didn't need that kind of a negative influence. The last thing you want in a research lab is someone asking a lot of fool questions."

When asked if these results would change any previous findings Mr. Smith replied: "Why yes. This could blow our whole gig. I mean, if it's been the cages all along, this could mean that things like asbestos, smoking, even radiation are perfectly harmless!"

Mr Smith continued: "This could change everything! We may be forced to recall all our previous findings at a cost of millions of dollars. This says nothing of the possible lawsuits from individuals who contracted cancer while spending time in prison, or zoo workers forced to spend extended periods inside the animal's cages."

When asked why the study cost seventeen million dollars, Mr Smith responded: "Oh, you know how it goes; a little here, a little there. Besides, do you have any idea how expensive it is to provide food and living conditions for rats that doesn't expose them to any of the things we have determined to cause cancer? In fact right now we're in the middle of a two year study that may link breathing with lung cancer. You think the cost is bad now, just wait till we are forced to prevent the control rats from breathing so as not to invalidate the results by having more of the control rats get cancer than test rats."

When asked if John Smith was his real name, the spokesperson replied: "Huh, what? You talking to me?"
B

From: Aliquotes i.v (journal) (rogerb@microsoft.com)
BOOK REVIEW COLUMN

After the experiments are over:
101 uses for transgenic mice

New from the "Book of the Mouse Club" is this volume describing the uses of of a transgenic mouse colony when the experiment is no longer in progress. This has often been a problem in the world of developmental biology, where

resources are limited and the animal rights community is always observing in the distance. Why waste this valuable commodity when there are so many interesting uses which do not necessarily involve science.

Some of the chapters in this book include:

- *Why you should never bet on the shivere mice.
- *Do you serve a white wine or red with the kabobs?
- *Opening a Home Shopping Network of cat toys.
- *Testing those unlabelled vials in the medicine cabinet.
- *ES cell omelettes, and other recipes.

"No development lab should be without this hand reference volume"
- Myc E Mouse

"This books ranks with the classics, 'Gone with the grant' and 'The post-doc of Venice'" - M.T. Wallat
++++
=4.8 CELL BIOLOGY

B

From: Ian Ellis <ian@iglou.com>
From "Readers Digest," April '93, 'Campus Comedy', p.125-6

As we took notes, our anatomy instructor labored through a lecture on the way nerve cells transmit impulses. "Who can tell me how these cells communicate with one another?" he asked, expecting someone to explain the phenomenon of neurotransmission. After a few muffled whispers, one student finally spoke up. "With cellular phones?"

----- same source:

"...at Lamar University in Beaumont Texas, I noticed this sign on the door of the microbiology lab: 'STAPH ONLY!'"
PB

From: David den Ouden (D.I.denOuden@stud.biol.ruu.nl)
Ideal experimental integration of Physics in Cell Biology: Treating epidermal solar cells with Growth Vectors

B

From: David den Ouden (D.I.denOuden@stud.biol.ruu.nl)
Human being to a narrowminded science-o-holic Cell Biologist:
Human being: "You are so narrowminded, only preoccupied with your cells. You don't know anything about the world you are living in. For instance, what do you know about culture?"

Science-o-holic: "You mean CELL cultures?"
B

From: centaur@nai.net (Dave Wright)
Scientifically, maybe body cells -do- replace themselves completely in seven years -- but, legally, you're still married.

--Attorney to client, cartoon by Bunny Hoest and John Reiner

B

From: Aliquotes i.v (journal) (rogerb@microsoft.com)

What's hot on the tube this month?

What's out for the hottest new show on the Dizzy Channel.

A new dramatic series set in the hustle bustle world of high fashion protein synthesis It's ...

ROUGH ER

See the drama of these hot young ribosomes as they fight to save proteins, surrounded by the harsh and cruel reducing environment of the big cytoplasm.

Watch as the mutilated remains of spliced and modified RNA come into the ER to be transformed into hardy new proteins. Ready to take on anything the extracellular environment can throw at them, as they go for the Golgi.

Stay tuned to your TV listings for where to tune for

ROUGH ER

(Sponsored by AAA, Amino Acids Anonymous)

+++++

=4.9 BACTERIA

B

From Aliquotes Volume V Number vii July/97 (rogerb@microsoft.com)

CATS AND BUGS

Life as a graduate student or other student can get kind of lonely and it would be nice to be able to go home to a loved one who is excited to see you. Having such a bizarre life style can cause problems though as pet ownership is a big responsibility. Thus, we at Aliquotes, would like to make a suggestion which we hope will ease those lonely nights. The following is a list of reasons why one might consider having bacteria as pets as opposed to the more traditional cat. We hope that this is of assistance.

1. A numbers game: To get more cats (why you would want them is another question), you need at least two of the opposite sex. With bacteria, one will set you up for life.

2. Sleepless nights: Unlike cats, bacteria do not go into heat and will keep you awake all night crying for a little fun.

3. Low maintenance: There is no litter box to change and bacteria can be easily fed by adding more sugar to their medium.
4. Vacation consideration: Bacteria do not require a neighbour's attention while you're away. Just put them in the fridge and they'll stay fresh. This can also be done with cats but is heavily frowned upon.
5. Life in a vacuum: While bacteria are also covered with hair (cilia), but on a microscopic level, they do not feel the need to leave said hairs all over the place.
6. Exercise your rights: You do not need to put your bacteria out for exercise. Simply put them in a large flask and shake them for a few hours. They are also easier to round up by using the centrifuge.
7. Death before dishonour: Bacteria will not bring dead animals into your house, displaying them proudly at dinner. At worst a renegade bacterium will keep you in the bathroom for a few days.
8. Scratching the surface: Washing a bacterial pellet does not require a knowledge of the martial arts and will not leave you with scar tissue.
9. I can see clearly now: It is rare when you cannot see the TV screen because of a bacterium sleeping on top, dangling its legs. If this is a problem, it typically implies that you should spend a little more on your next TV set.
10. Feeling a little flushed: A bacterium is less likely to clog your toilet when it dies, causing a \$500 plumbing bill.

B_____

From: mike@tao.eco.twg.com (Mike Bartman)
These two positive-strain E-Coli go into a bar. The first one says, "I'm so thirsty I could suck the cytoplasm off a Bacillus Anthrax' pilli!" and the second one says, "Moooo!!!"