

edited by Mitch Leslie

EXHIBIT

Crick Sampler

Francis Crick, who died last month, co-discovered the double helix and helped shepherd the field of molecular biology through its youth. You can peruse a selection of his early manuscripts, letters, notebooks, and photos at The Crick Papers from Britain's Wellcome Trust. The exhibit includes gems such as a draft of the 1953 paper that elucidated DNA's structure and the 1962 telegram informing him of his Nobel Prize. (Above, a 1953 sketch of the double helix.)

www.wellcome.ac.uk/en/genome/geneticsandsociety/hg13f012.html

RESOURCES

You Can Get There From Here

Although its name conjures up fallen arches and jet lag, the traveling salesman problem (TSP) is a mathematical conundrum that requires calculating the cheapest route among a selection of cities. The problem intrigues mathematicians because it can provide insight into theoretical questions and help with a host of practical puzzles, from manufacturing microchips to mapping the genome. Uncover more at Solving TSPs, hosted by Georgia Tech University in Atlanta. Newbies can trace the idea's development—its origins are uncertain, but it inspired a parlor game in the 1800s—or peruse images of famous or attractive shortest routes. Experts will find free software for cracking problems. In background, the optimal route for visiting 666 of the world's most famous sights.

www.tsp.gatech.edu/index.html

DATABASE

The Science of Supplements

Research on the safety and effectiveness of dietary supplements is more plentiful than you might think, judging from this refurbished site from the National Institutes of Health. Aimed at researchers and the public, the database supplies titles and in most cases abstracts for more than 730,000 studies, news articles, and other publications. For example, you'll find more than 160 entries on the weight-loss preparation ephedra, which the Food and Drug Administration recently banned because it can trigger heart attacks and strokes.

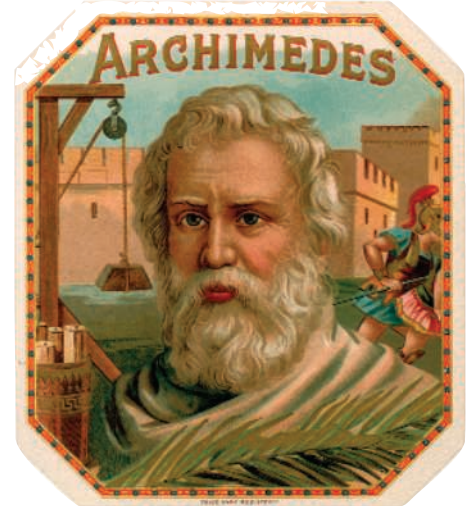
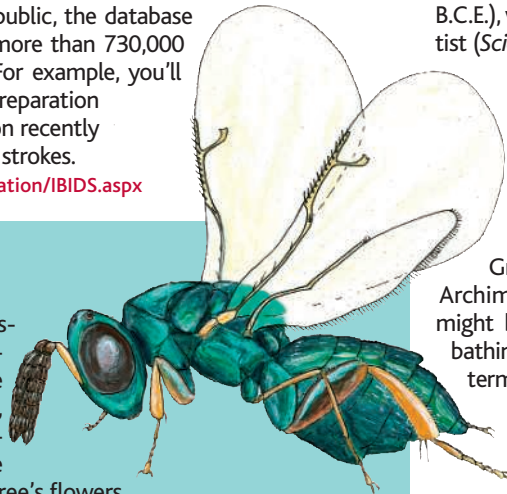
dietary-supplements.info.nih.gov/Health_Information/IBIDS.aspx

EDUCATION

Home Sweet Home

The wasp and the fig tree isn't one of Aesop's lesser-known fables, it's the true story of an interkingdom partnership essential for producing the tasty fruit. Discover the details of this intricate, reciprocally beneficial relationship—what ecologists call a mutualism—at this site from the Iziko Museums in Cape Town, South Africa. The tree's flowers are tucked inside the fig, whose alluring scents draw female wasps. The minute insects wriggle into the fruit's interior, where they lay their eggs and pollinate the flowers. Newly hatched wasps munch on the fig then fly away, carrying pollen to another tree. The site features photos and artwork illustrating fig and bug adaptations. Cheaters can prosper in this situation—this species of *Otitessella* (above) injects its eggs into the fig without spreading pollen.

www.figweb.org



EXHIBIT

The First Eureka Moment

Historians usually rank Archimedes as one of the three greatest mathematicians for achievements from refining estimates of pi to laying the groundwork for calculus. This archive from Chris Rorres, an applied mathematician at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia, brims with lore and trivia about Archimedes (circa 287 B.C.E.–212 B.C.E.), who was also an engineer and scientist (*Science*, 20 August, p. 1102).

Animations and reconstructions show how some of his devices might have worked. For example, you can study the mechanics of Archimedes' claw, a huge crane for upending enemy ships designed to defend his home of Syracuse, a Greek city-state. As the site relates, Archimedes' most famous "discovery" might be apocryphal. He was supposedly bathing when he figured out how to determine if the king's golden crown contained silver; thrilled, he reportedly ran through the streets naked shouting, "Eureka!" Scholars, however, note that his solution—comparing the volume of water displaced by the crown and by an equal mass of pure gold to see if they had the same density—doesn't display his usual creativity and would have required precise measurements hard to obtain at the time.

www.math.nyu.edu/~rorres/Archimedes/contents.html

Send site suggestions to netwatch@aaas.org. Archive: www.sciencemag.org/netwatch

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CAMPAIGNS

Mobilizing millions. Lee Iacocca, the former auto executive who created the Ford Mustang, is asking 1 million Americans to donate \$10 each to fund a clinical trial of a novel diabetes treatment. Scientists at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston have struck out finding money from conventional sources.



Image not available for online use.

Mass General immunobiologist Denise Faustman reported in *Science* last year (14 November 2003, p. 1223) that injecting adult spleen cells into diabetic mice allowed their pancreases to regenerate, offering a potential treatment for type I diabetes. The Food and Drug Administration gave Mass General the go-ahead to try to replicate the approach in humans using an already-approved drug, but funding sources such as the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation were unconvinced that it was a bigger priority than other experimental treatments.

That's when Iacocca, whose wife Mary died of type I diabetes more than 20 years ago,

stepped in. He says he wrote a personal check to Faustman for \$1 million before asking the public to help. "We have not had any success getting support from other groups," says Iacocca, and "I decided I didn't want to wait." He hopes to raise enough money by the end of the year.

IN MEMORIAM

Canadian tragedy. The University of Toronto is setting up a scholarship to honor an engineering student killed while driving a solar-powered car he helped build for a school project.

Andrew Frow, 21, died 12 August while participating in the inaugural 10,000-kilometer Canadian Solar Tour across Ontario and Quebec. Frow lost control of Faust II and veered into the path of an oncoming minivan shortly after the six-car convoy started out from Windsor, Ontario. Police speculate that gusting winds may have caused the 190-kg car to fishtail out of its lane. Officials immediately canceled the tour.

Frow's family says Andrew

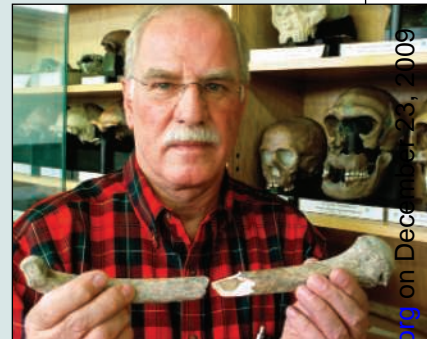
ON CAMPUS

Alleged skullduggery. A German anthropologist who's been accused by his university of peddling chimpanzee skulls that don't belong to him is now facing questions about his research, too.

Reiner Protsch von Zieten, the former director of the Institute of Anthropology and Human Genetics for Biology at Goethe University in Frankfurt am Main, Germany, was put on leave by the university in April after officials said he had tried to sell 280 chimpanzee skulls for \$70,000. The university says the skulls belong to its collection; Protsch has told reporters that he bought them from a Heidelberg doctor nearly 30 years ago.

Last week, the weekly magazine *Der Spiegel* added to Protsch's woes with a report that several fossils originally dated by Protsch have been found to be several thousand years younger than he had claimed. According to the magazine, the fossils were reexamined as part of a larger study of Paleolithic fossils by archaeologists Thomas Terberger of the University of Greifswald and Martin Street of the Research Center for the Early Stone Age in Neuwied. Protsch told *Der Spiegel* that the new measurements are wrong.

Although the misconduct accusations are serious, says anthropologist Carsten Niemitz of the Free University in Berlin, the impact on the field is "marginal" because of ongoing work that will answer questions about who was living in Germany 30,000 years ago.



"was passionate about the project," and they hope solar-car enthusiasts will continue developing the technology.

DEATHS

Nobelist. Sune Bergstrom, the biochemist who shared the 1982 Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine for his work on prostaglandins, died in his native Sweden on 15 August. He was 88.

Cloning researcher. John Clark, the head of the Roslin Institute in Edinburgh, U.K., was found dead in his vacation home along the Berwickshire coast in Scotland on 12 August. The 53-year-old Clark played a role in the creation of Dolly and became Roslin's director in 2002.

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POLITICS

Tit for tat. Michael Reagan, son of the former president and his first wife Jane Wyman, will defend President George W. Bush's stem cell research policies at the Republican national convention next week in New York City.

Brother Ron, a Democrat, made a plea for expanded stem cell research at the Democratic convention last month (*Science*, 23 July, p. 473). News reports indicate that the Republicans lined up 59-year-old Michael after it became clear that Nancy Reagan would not be attending the convention.

Michael, who lives in Los Angeles, is host of a conservative talk show that airs on the Internet and on satellite radio. On a recent broadcast, he observed that not all the Reaganes endorse human embryonic stem cell research, saying, "my father, as I do, opposed the creation of human embryos for the sole purpose of using their stem cells as possible medical cures."



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