American Association for the Advancement of Science

915 This Week in Science

Editorial

917 Risk Research: When Should We Say "Enough"?: M. G. Morgan

Letters


News & Comment

921 Budget Bills Boost R&D Spending
925 Soviet–U.S. Fusion Pact Divides Administration
928 Briefing: Creationism Case Goes to Supreme Court. House Policy Group Reviews Science Academies. DOD Backtracks on Grants to SDI Critics. Senate Tax Bill Draws Few Protests from Research Community

Research News

930 Bird Chimeras May Be Models for Certain Neurological Diseases
932 Briefing: Cancer Progress Data Challenged
933 The Continental Plates Are Getting Thicker
935 Factoring on Microcomputers
936 A Cosmic String in Leo?

Articles

951 Biochemical Topology: Applications to DNA Recombination and Replication: S. A. Wasserman and N. R. Cozzarelli
960 Two-Dimensional Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy: A. Bax and L. Lerner

Reports

975 Sulfate and Nitrate Concentrations from a South Greenland Ice Core: P. A. Mayewski, W. B. Lyons, M. J. Spencer, M. Twickler, W. Dansgaard, B. Koci, C. I. Davidson, R. E. Honrath
980 Evolution of Human Influenza A Viruses over 50 Years: Rapid, Uniform Rate of Change in NS Gene: D. A. Buonaguro, S. Nakada, J. D. Parvin, M. Krystal, P. Palese, W. M. Fitch
985 Induction of Synaptic Potentiation in Hippocampus by Patterned Stimulation Involves Two Events: J. Larson and G. Lynch

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cover Fijian war clubs presented to the U.S. Exploring Expedition on its visit to Ovalau in 1840. "Short round-headed throwing or missile clubs such as the two at the top and one in the foreground were used to stun an enemy. . . . The larger two-handed clubs have different functions. The center club was said to slice and snap through bone, while the painted battle hammer on the right made a neat hole in the skull." The collection of Fijian artifacts made during the Expedition is "one of the three most important in the world and the only one that can document a specific time period." [Courtesy of the National Museum of Natural History; from A. L. Kaeppelin, "Anthropology and the Exploring Expedition," in Magnificent Voyagers, reviewed on page 1020]

988 Associative Induction of Potentiation and Long-Term Potentiation in CA1 Neurons of Rat Hippocampus: B. R. SASTRY, J. W. GOH, A. AUYEUNG
993 Hyperphoretic Dispersal of a Pyxidiophora Anamorph: M. BLACKWELL, J. K. BRIDGES, J. C. MOSER, T. J. PERRY
1001 Mapping Epitopes on a Protein Antigen by the Proteolysis of Antigen-Antibody Complexes: R. JEMMERSOHN and Y. PATerson
1004 Steroid Hormone Metabolites Are Barbiturate-Like Modulators of the GABA Receptor: M. D. MAJewska, N. L. HARRISON, R. D. SCHWARTZ, J. L. BARKER, S. M. PAUL

Book Reviews

1008 Modes of Higher Education: B. L. R. SMITH; other reviews by S. S. ELBERG, L. E. KLOPPE, L. PAINE
1013 A Professional Transmigration: S. ROTHBLLATT; other review by R. JACKAL
1014 Processes of Persuasion: S. M. WALT; other review by W. H. LAMBRIGHT
1016 The American Telephone Industry: H. N. SCHEIBER; other reviews by W. B. CARLSON, S. BAATZ
1021 Contractual Arrangements: W. T. BIELBY; other review by H. S. FARBER
1023 Native History in North America: B. G. TRIGGER; other reviews by R. S. DAVIS, C. O. LOVEJOY
1027 Biology Syncretized: L. G. HARRISON; other reviews by S. H. GILBERT, L. KRUGER, R. L. SMITH, S. K. ROBINSON, J. T. GREGORY
1031 The Hubbard Brook Ecosystem: J. M. MELACK; other reviews by E. SUES, K. HUNKINS, T. L. WRIGHT, W. B. WHITE
1035 A Reunion in Physics: W. J. MARCIANO; other reviews by B. ZUCKERMAN, J. SILK, G. WYNN-WILLIAMS, F. M. PIPEKIN, J. BARKON
1039 New Looks at Faraday: D. B. WILLSON; other reviews by T. L. HANKINS, A. H. KOBLITZ
1042 Books Reviewed in Science, 17 May 1985 through 16 May 1986
1045 Books Received

Products & Materials

1048 Cell Culture Incubator ■ Metering Pumps ■ Coated Labware ■ DNA-Based Test for AIDS ■ Microelectrodes ■ Epithelial Cell Marker ■ Staphylococcal Nuclease ■ Literature