NEWS & COMMENT

Genetic Testing Set for Takeoff 464
NIH Grants: Peer Review Reforms Get Good Review 467
Cancer Treatment: Will History Repeat for Boron Capture Therapy? 468
Mikulski Boosts NSF Budget 469
Space Science: A Rejuvenated Companion for Ida? 470

RESEARCH NEWS

The Chemistry of Life at the Margins 471
Mathematicians Get an On-Line Fingerprint File 473
Time-Reversed Sound Waves Resonate Among Physicists 474
E. coli Scare Spawns Therapy Search 475

PERSPECTIVE

Searching for the Quark-Gluon Plasma 480
G. F. Berthou

ARTICLES

Lunar Laser Ranging: A Continuing Legacy of the Apollo Program 482

Mobile Point Defects and Atomic Basis for Structural Transformations of a Crystal Surface 490
I.-S. Hwang, S. K. Theiss, J. A. Golovchenko

REPORTS

Maggmatic Vapor Source for Sulfur 497
Dioxide Released During Volcanic Eruptions: Evidence from Mount Pinatubo 498
P. J. Wallace and T. M. Gerlach

Evidence from Paleosols for the Geological Antiquity of Rain Forest 499
G. J. Retallack and J. German-Heins

DEPARTMENTS

THIS WEEK IN SCIENCE 453
EDITORIAL 455
The Spousal Abuse Problem

LETTERS 457
Biological Diversity and Agriculture: C. R. Margules and K. J. Gaston; K. H. Redford and E. Dinerstein; M. Huston • Omission of References: L. B. McGown and G. Li

SCIENCESCOPE 463

RANDOM SAMPLES 476
Psychology in Crisis? • Professors Have Their Say

PRODUCTS & MATERIALS 554

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Motions of atoms on a germanium surface showing the fundamental excitations from crystalline order that bring about transformations of solids. The interstitial-like (lower left) and vacancy-like (middle right) excitations correspond to those responsible for mass transport, many phase transitions, and catalysis. This atomic-scale view of such dynamic phenomena is made possible by the tunneling microscope. See page 490. [Illustration: Jeff Knight]

Fabrication of Atomic-Scale Structures on Si(001) Surfaces
C. T. Salling and M. G. Lagally

Fluctuations and Supercolliding of DNA
J. F. Marko and E. D. Siggia

Engineered Biosynthesis of a Complete Macrolactone in a Heterologous Host
C. M. Kao, L. Katz, C. Khosla

Creation of Liquid Crystal Waveguides with Scanning Force Microscopy
M. Rüetschi, P. Grüter, J. Fünfschilling, H.-J. Güntherodt

Measurement of Laser-Plasma Electron Density with a Soft X-ray Laser Deflectometer

Contribution of Early Cells to the Fate of the Zebrafish Gastrula
K. A. Helde, E. T. Wilson, C. J. Cretekos, D. J. Grunwald

The High-Resolution Crystal Structure of a Parallel-Stranded Guanine Tetraplex

The Three-Dimensional Crystal Structure of the Catalytic Core of Celllobiohydrolase I from Trichoderma reesei

Fas and Perforin Pathways as Major Mechanisms of T Cell–Mediated Cytotoxicity
D. Kägi, F. Vignaux, B. Ledermann, K. Burk, V. Depaere, S. Nagata, H. Hengartner, P. Golstein

Interaction of Rac with p67phox and Regulation of Phagocytic NADPH Oxidase Activity
D. Diekmann, A. Abo, C. Johnston, A. W. Segal, A. Hall

14-3-3 Protein Homologs Required for the DNA Damage Checkpoint in Fission Yeast
J. C. Ford, F. Al-Khodairy, E. Fotou, K. S. Sheldrick, D. J. F. Griffiths, A. M. Carr

Association of Polyomavirus Middle Tumor Antigen with 14-3-3 Proteins
D. C. Pallas, H. Fu, L. C. Haehnel, W. Weller, R. J. Collier, T. M. Roberts

Sensing Starvation: A Homoserine Kinase Lactone–Dependent Signaling Pathway in Escherichia coli
G. W. Huisman and R. Kolter

Direct Cortical Representation of Drawing
A. B. Schwartz

Endothelial NOS and the Blockade of LTP by NOS Inhibitors in Mice Lacking Neuronal NOS

TECHNICAL COMMENTS

Cortical Reorganization and Deafferentation in Adult Macaques
J. P. Lund, G.-D. Sun, Y. Lamarre; T. P. Pons

Cellular fate in zebrafish

517

Indicates accompanying feature

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451