

SCIENCE

20 October 1995 Vol. 270 • Pages 349<u>-</u>544

GENOME ISSUE

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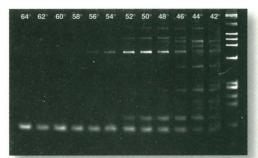
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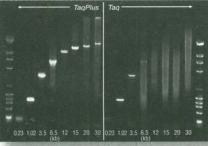
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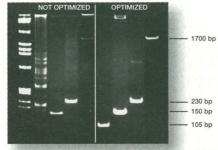
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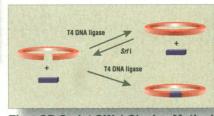
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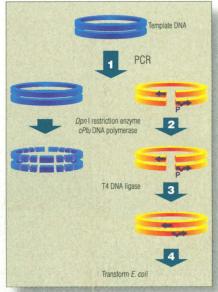
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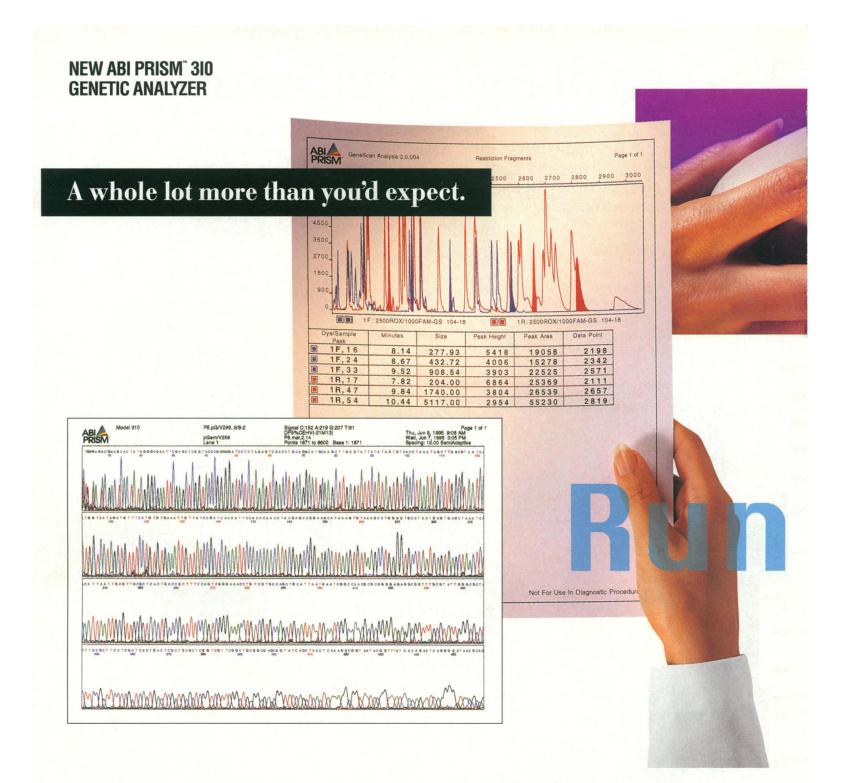
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The Genome Project adds a new dimension to questions on gene expression in humans and model systems. A chart on page 415 summarizes progress in the Caenorhabditis elegans Genome Project and indicates some ways information about sequences can be used.

News stories, Articles, Perspectives, Policy Forums, and Reports focus on technological developments, clinical applications, and ethical concerns resulting from the burgeoning of genomic information. [C. elegans image: F. Maduro and D. Pilgrim, University of Alberta]

Fritchman, J. F. Weidman, K. V. Small, M. Sandusky, J. Fuhrmann, D. Nguyen, T. R. Utterback, D. M. Saudek, C. A. Phillips, J. M. Merrick, J.-F. Tomb, B. A. Dougherty, K. F. Bott, P.-C. Hu, T. S. Lucier, S. N. Peterson, H. O. Smith, C. A. Hutchison III, J. C. Venter

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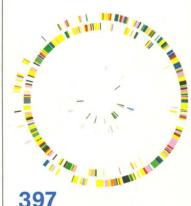
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THIS WEEK IN SCIENCE

edited by PHIL SZUROMI

Prominent alluvial fans have formed along the faulted front of many mountain ranges in the western United States. By analyzing cosmogenic isotopes in boulders on fan surfaces, Bierman et al. (p. 447) dated fans along the eastern front of the Sierra Nevada in California, some of which were offset by the great 1872 Lone Pine earthquake. The data show that the surfaces of the fans were stabilized at least 8000 years ago, and that the recurrence interval of great earthquakes on the fault is 5800 to 8000 years.

Above the plane

Solar flares and other energetic processes inject electrons and ions into space, where they are guided by the solar magnetic field. Electron interactions with plasma can generate radio emissions (type II radio bursts) whose frequency decreases with distance from the sun. Such emis-



sions are beamed along the solar system plane, so they are best observed from above or below the ecliptic. Reiner *et al.* (p. 461) report radio measurements obtained from the Ulysses spacecraft, which was put into an orbit that takes it over the poles of the sun. Such measurements allow coronal disturbances to be tracked as they move away from the sun, and they also verify theoretical predictions that the solar coronal magnetic field has an Archimedean spiral structure.

Hydrogen ecology deep underground

Nearly all known ecosystems on Earth, including those existing deep in the terrestrial subsurface, are somehow ultimately dependent on photosynthesis for energy. Stevens and McKinley (p. 450; see the news story by Kaiser, p. 377), however, describe bacterial communities in deep aquifers in the Columbia River Basalt Group in the northwestern United States. Their energy source appears to be hydrogen produced by reactions of water and rock in the basalt.

An old warm-up

Measurements of oxygen isotopes in ice cores have provided a detailed record of paleotemperatures at high latitudes during the Holocene; however, factors other than surface temperature may affect oxygen isotope ratios in ice. Because of heat diffusion from the surface, inversion of a borehole temperature record can provide an independent view of changes in surface temperature with time and can be used to calibrate the oxygen isotope thermometer. Cuffey et al. (p. 455; see the Perspective by McAyeal, p. 444) analyzed the borehole temperature record from the GISP2 ice core in Greenland. The temperature profile suggests that average temperatures increased by about 15°C from glacial conditions to the Holocene, an increase several times greater than that in the tropics.

Processed for export

Certain proteins, including several interleukins and types of fibroblast growth factor, are secreted directly from cells across the plasma membrane avoiding transport through the traditional secretory. This nonclassical secretory pathway for the production, processing, and transport of these important molecules has been very difficult to characterize in mammalian systems—in particular, the processing of precursors to ma-

ture, transport-competent proteins is not well understood. Adames et al. (p. 464) examined the export and processing of the yeast pheromone a factor, which is secreted by a similar nonclassical pathway. A yeast protease denoted Axl1p, related to the mammalian insulin degrading enzymes, played a critical role in the processing of the a factor precursor. The protease also played a role in bud site selection, but this function did not require an active protease. These findings not only bear on the classical pathway but also show that a single protein can regulate distinct signaling pathways-bud site selection and the mating response.

Gene expression by the numbers

Variations in the types and amount of genes expressed at different times in development, between normal and pathological states, or between different tissues can provide clues to gene expression. Two reports describe new methods for speeding the quantitative assessment of gene function (see news story by Nowak, p. 368). Schena et al. (p. 467) have developed a robotic system for rapidly generating high-density arrays of complementary DNA clones (in this case, 45 genes from Arabidopsis thaliana). By labeling samples with different dyes, differences in mRNA expres-

sion (such as between root and leaf) could be quantified. Velculescu et al. (p. 484) took a different approach to this problem which they call serial analysis of gene expression, or SAGE. They developed a system for producing concatenates of short diagnostic sequence tags; more than 1000 transcripts could be analyzed in a 3-hour period. Expression levels of tags corresponding to known genes were consistent with known mRNA expression, and new pancreatic transcripts were identified.

Gene therapy in SCID

A form of severe combined immune deficiency (SCID) results from defects in the gene for adenosine deaminase (ADA); deoxyadenosine then accumulates and is toxic to T cells. Bone marrow transplants can cure this disease but donors are usually not available; some symptomatic relief can be afforded by the use of enzyme replacements, such as ADA conjugated to polyethylene glycol (PEG-ADA). Two reports discuss the results of separate clinical trials in which the ADA gene has been transferred with retroviral vectors to two children with SCID during 2-year treatment periods. Blaese et al. (p. 475) targeted T cells and showed that vector integration and ADA expression persisted 2 years after gene treatment ended. Bordignon et al. (p. 470) used two different vectors to target peripheral blood lymphocytes and bone marrow cells. T cells derived from the marrow gradually dominated the population after treatment stopped. In each trial PEG-ADA was also given, but both reports conclude that gene therapy has contributed to therapeutic improvements in SCID.

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Figure 1.

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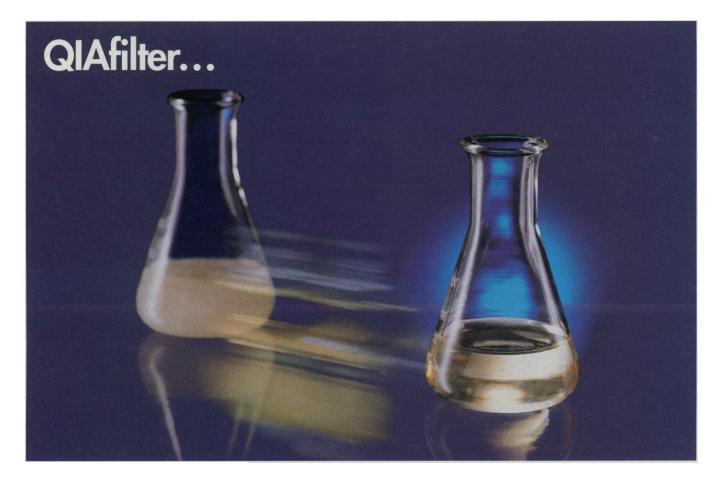
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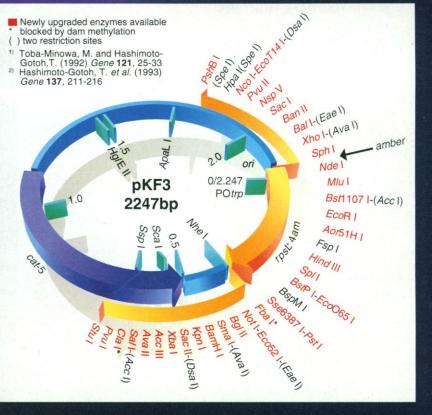
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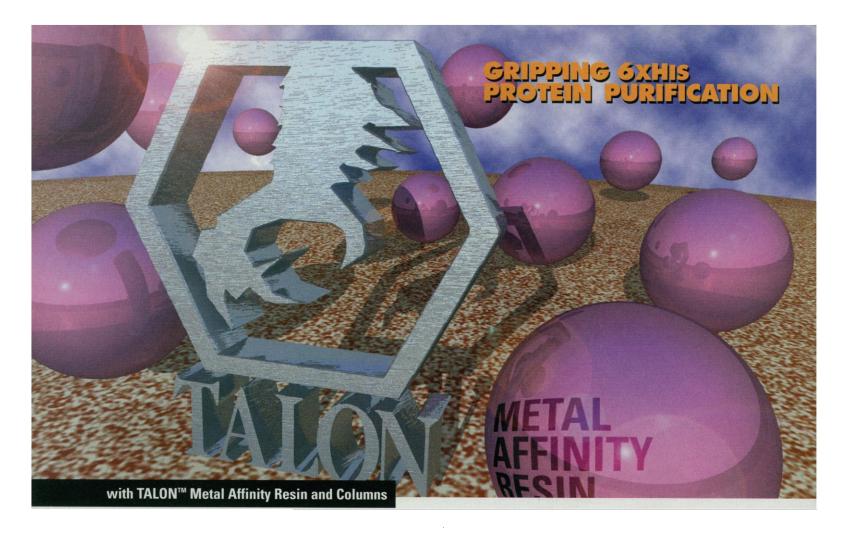
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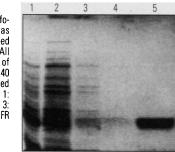
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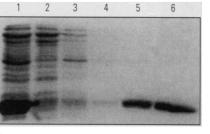
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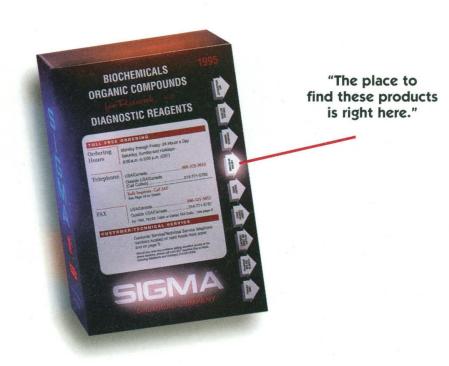
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Doris Dixon

- Presently researching protein expression and DNA/RNA isolation and purification systems.
- Published in Gene, Journal of Immunology, and Molecular Biology of the Cell.
- Presented abstracts at Symposium for Protein Society and ASBMB/DBC-ACS Joint Meeting.
- Prior to Sigma, worked four years in the Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology at a major pharmaceutical company.
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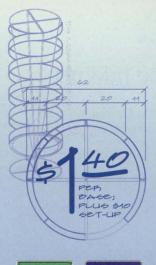
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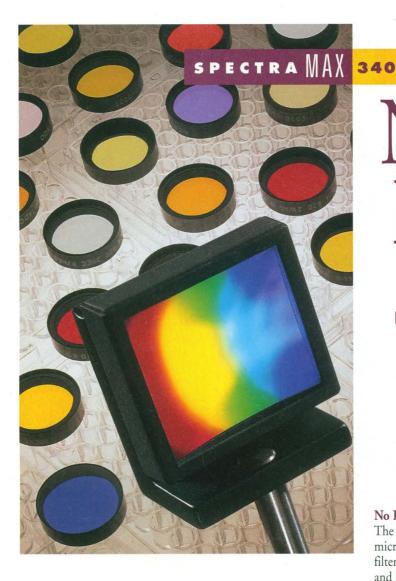
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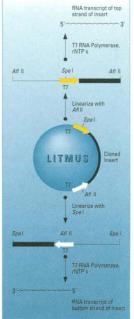
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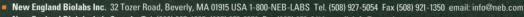
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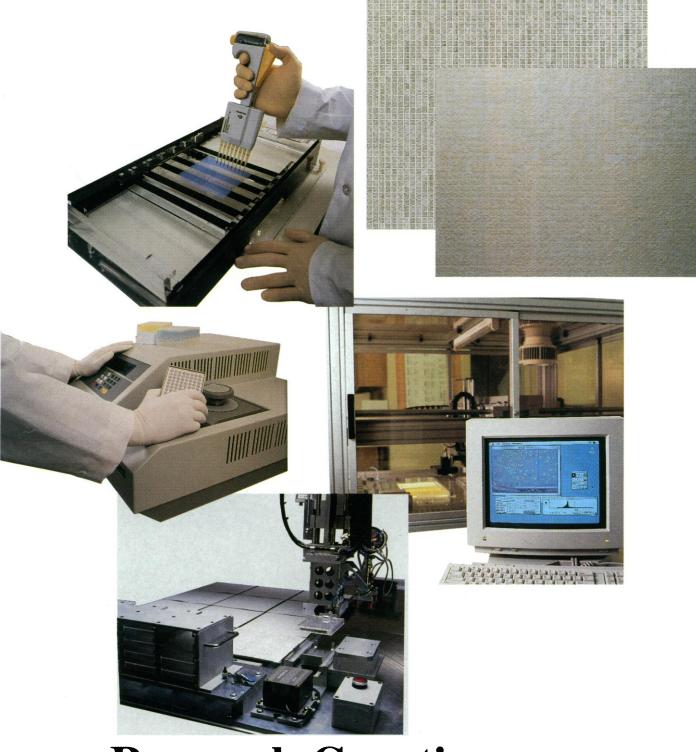
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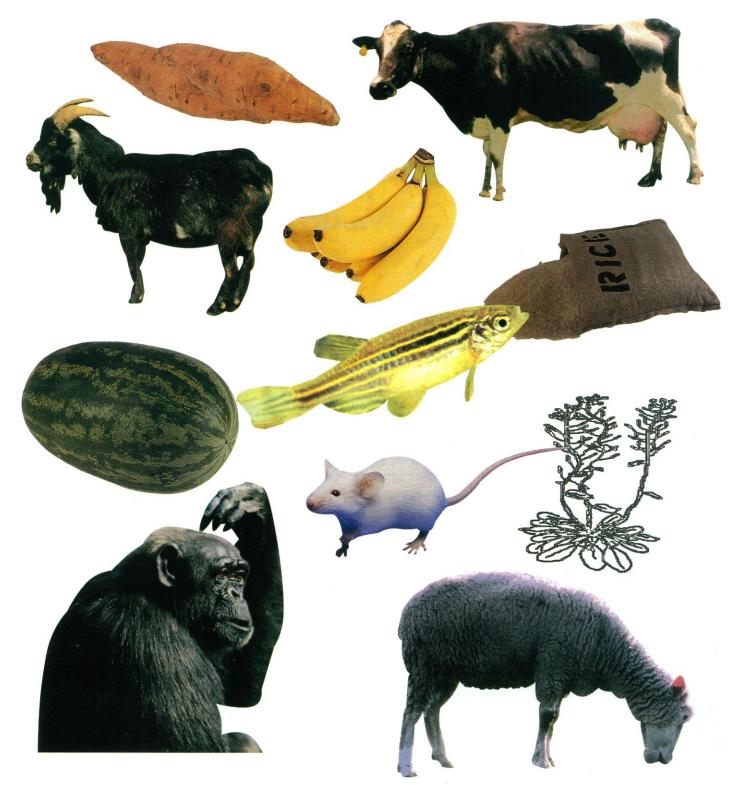
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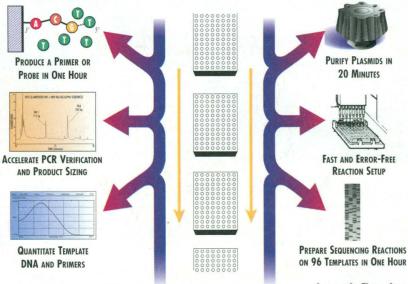
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Panel A: pTTQ plasmid template samples run on genomyxLR DNA Sequencer (2 hr, 100 W, 3000 V, 50°C, 6% HR-1000[™] denaturing gel).

Panel B: Large fragment DD-PCR samples run on genomyxLR DNA Sequencer (18 hr, 100 W, 703 V, 40°C, 6% HR-1000 denaturing gel). Lanes represent total RNA prepared from untreated and treated human cell line cultures. DD-PCR carried out with GenHunter RNAimage™ Kit. Data provided by Dr. Karen Lowe (Genomyx Corporation).

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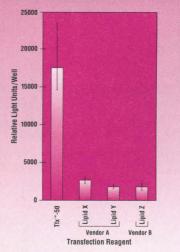
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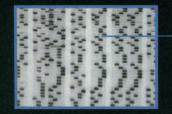
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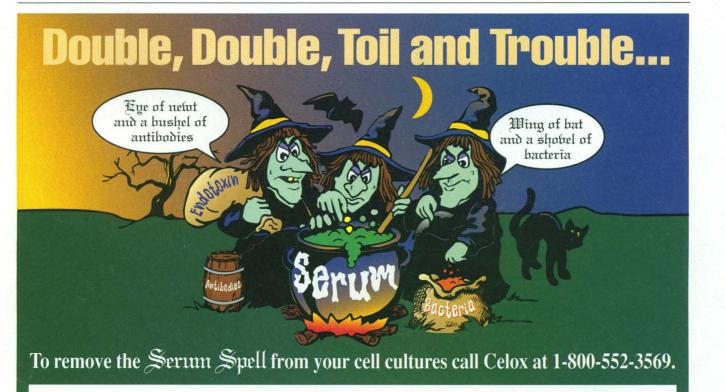
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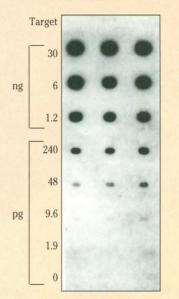
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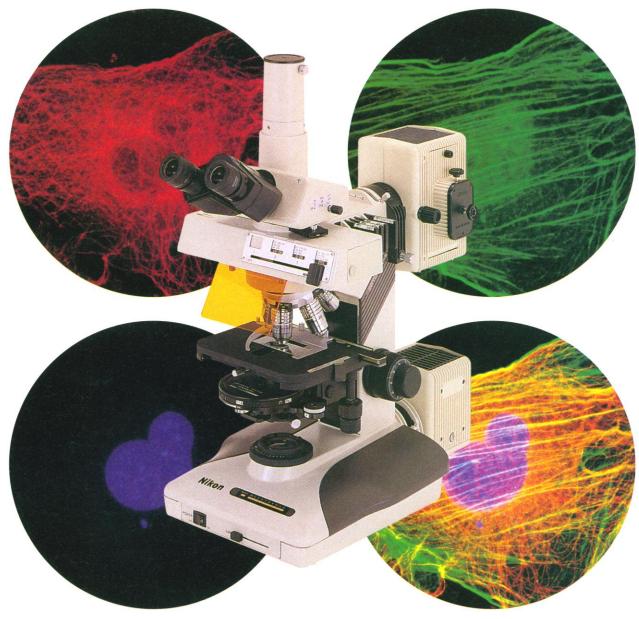
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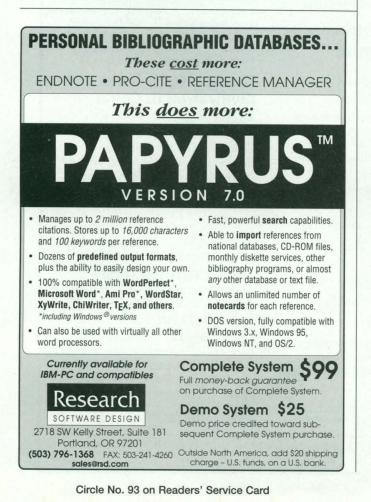
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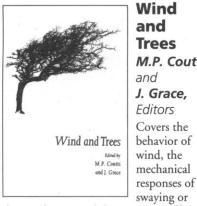
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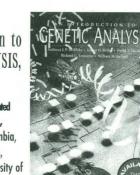
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