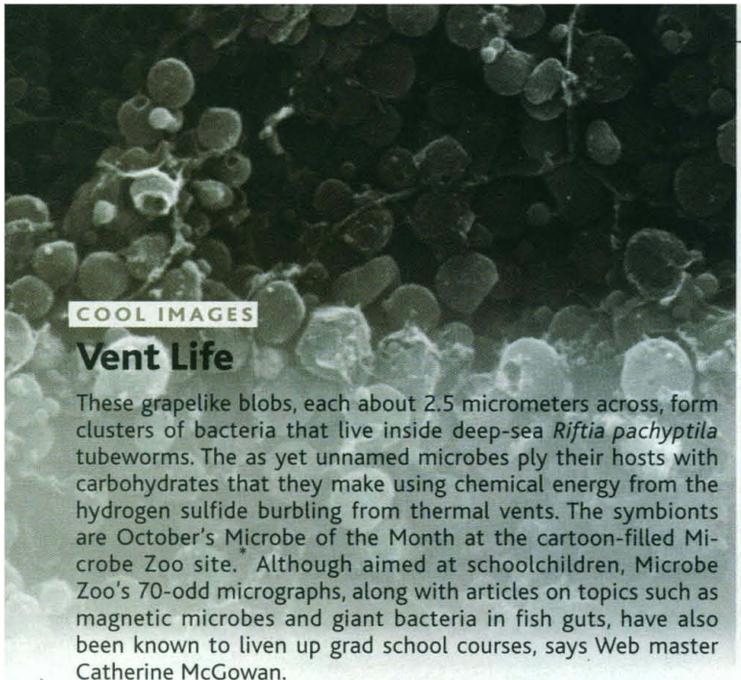


CREDIT (TOP): COLLEEN CAVANAUGH/HARVARD UNIVERSITY

COOL IMAGES

Vent Life

These grapelike blobs, each about 2.5 micrometers across, form clusters of bacteria that live inside deep-sea *Riftia pachyptila* tubeworms. The as yet unnamed microbes ply their hosts with carbohydrates that they make using chemical energy from the hydrogen sulfide burbling from thermal vents. The symbionts are October's Microbe of the Month at the cartoon-filled Microbe Zoo site.* Although aimed at schoolchildren, Microbe Zoo's 70-odd micrographs, along with articles on topics such as magnetic microbes and giant bacteria in fish guts, have also been known to liven up grad school courses, says Web master Catherine McGowan.

* commtechlab.msu.edu/sites/dlc-me

HOT PICKS

Anatomy of a quake. It's been 10 years since the Loma Prieta earthquake rocked northern California, and the San Francisco Exploratorium is marking the occasion with a tour of the science of the San Andreas fault. Webcast visits from 9 to 17 October will include a seismology lab, trenches dug across the fault, and a huge drill used to study crustal stresses.
www.exploratorium.edu/faultline/share.html

Earth in the balance sheet. One of the hottest areas in environmental science is "ecological economics," which probes the interplay of commerce and ecosystem health. A new online article in the journal *Conservation Ecology* features a computer model for exploring such trade-offs. The model lets participants assume the guise of farmers or land managers, whose competing interests determine how much phosphorus—a byproduct of fertilizer use that spurs algal growth—gets dumped into a lake. Too much and you can kiss those fish goodbye.
www.consecol.org/Journal/vol3/iss2/art4

Dino-mite. Dinosaur fans won't want to miss this fact-packed BBC home page featuring remarkably lifelike video clips of creatures such as *Peteinosaurus* (a flying lizard) and *Postosuchus* (a 6-meter-long carnivore). The site accompanies a TV series airing this fall. www.bbc.co.uk/dinosaurs

NET NEWS

DOE Unveils Citations Database

For the past few years, biomedical researchers have been the only scientists to enjoy a free, comprehensive papers database courtesy of Uncle Sam. But now there's a sort of PubMed for the physical sciences as well. On 1 October, the Department of Energy (DOE) unveiled *PubSCIENCE*,* an online citations database for physical sciences journals announced last summer (*Science*, 6 August, p. 811).

With 21 publishers (including AAAS, publisher of *Science*) and about 1000 journals lined up so far, *PubSCIENCE* already has over a million citations from as far back as 1974. For example, searching last week for "nanotechnology" brought up 571 references in publications ranging from the *Bulletin of the American Physical Society* to *Technology Review*. Over 85% of the citations pull up free abstracts, and recent ones link to the journals' own sites, where you might need a subscription to see full text, says R. L. Scott, associate manager of DOE's Office of Scientific and Technical Information. He says *PubSCIENCE* expects to build up to as many as 2000 journals of interest to DOE scientists, as well as cut a deal soon with a private firm that would broker full-text articles.

* pubsci.osti.gov

NETWATCH

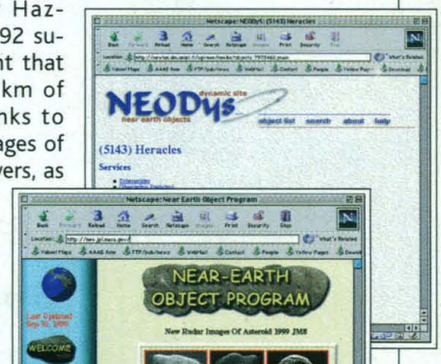
edited by JOCELYN KAISER

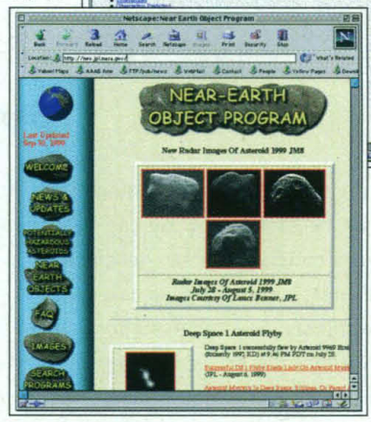
SITE VISITS

Hit or Miss

Asteroids wreak global havoc only once every 100,000 years or so—contrary to what tabloid headlines might suggest. But planetary scientists have plenty of reasons to eyeball asteroids: Aside from keeping a vigil for wayward rocks headed our way, they probe cosmic chunks for carbon and water—the raw materials for life—and even for signs of life itself.

To bone up on asteroids, try the Web site of NASA's Jet Propulsion Lab's Near-Earth Object Program,* where you can learn about Potentially Hazardous Asteroids (PHAs): 192 supersized rocks at last count that come within 7.5 million km of Earth's orbit. The site links to news stories and offers images of asteroids and meteor showers, as well as info on spacecraft sent on asteroid rendezvous. For gritty technical details, experts can visit NEODyS,† a database that generates a Web page of observational data on each PHA and its predicted orbit. One that researchers are keeping a particularly close eye on is 1998OX4, which could hit Earth between 2014 and 2046. Don't blow your life savings just yet: The probability is less than one in a million, and, even if it does hit, at 200 meters across, 1998OX4 is not big enough to inflict cataclysmic damage.





* neo.jpl.nasa.gov

† newton.dm.unipi.it/neodys

Science ONLINE

Science's Next Wave has just begun a collaboration with the German research agency Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft to offer career advice to young scientists. The German-language home page debuts this week with a debate about university reforms. www.nextwave.org/de

Send Internet news and great Web site suggestions to netwatch@aaas.org