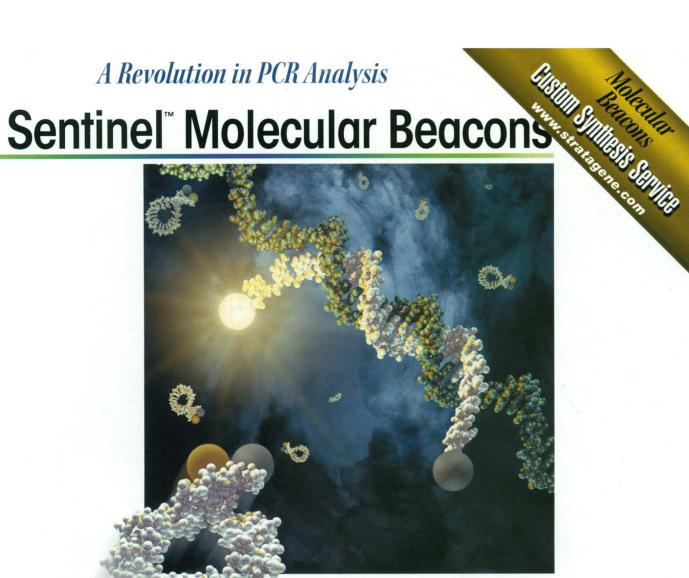
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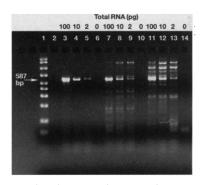




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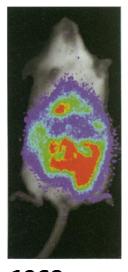
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NEWS OF THE WEEK



COVER Combined fluorescence images of focal adhesions (multicolored patches) and microfilaments (red) in a stationary fibroblast expressing green fluorescent protein—integrin (image width, $\sim 50~\mu m$). Color-encoded time-lapse images of the focal adhesions (earliest, orange; latest, purple) show that focal adhesions move while remaining connected to microfilaments. Immotile focal adhesions in migrating cells may reflect the activity of a molecular clutch. [Image: A. Mikhailov and G. G. Gundersen]





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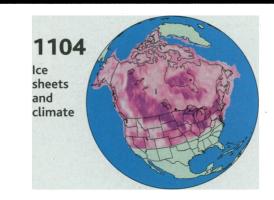
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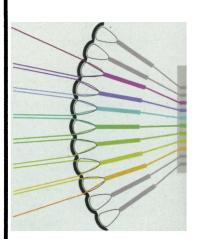
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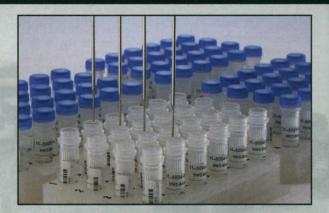
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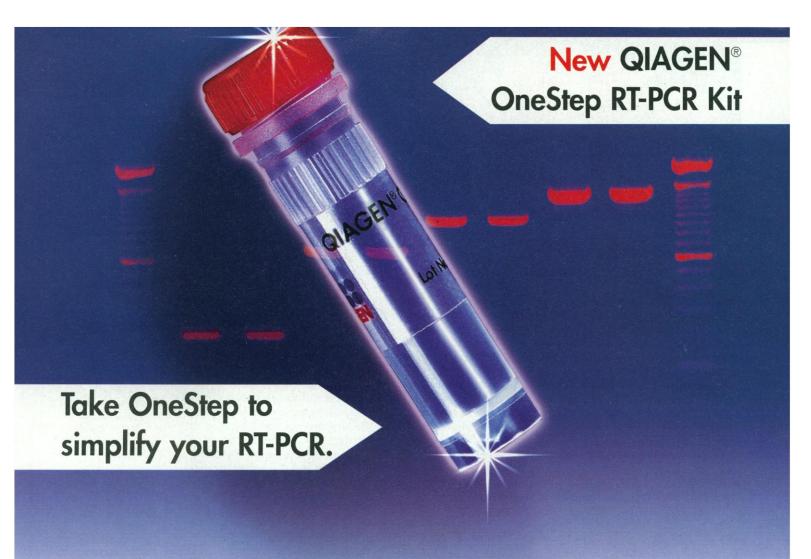
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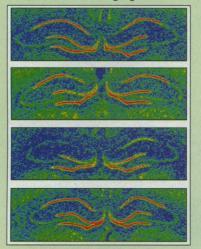
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THIS WEEK IN SCIENCE edited by PHIL SZUROMI

STRESS ACROSS THE GENERATIONS

Although it has been clear that parents can transmit personality traits to their children, it has not been easy to determine the extent to which such transfer occurs through genetic inher-



itance or through nongenomic, behavioral mechanisms. Francis *et al.* (p. 1155) have looked at generations of mice that show genetic differences in fearfulness. By cross-fostering offspring, they have shown that the environment can trigger differences in behavior and in stress-related gene expression that are passed on to the next generation.

A DIP IN DEEP WATER?

Deep ocean circulation is driven in part by cold water from polar regions sinking and flowing underneath and mixing with the warmer ocean. This deep-ocean circulation has played a major role in large, abrupt climate changes such as deglaciations. The last major reorganization of the deep ocean's thermohaline circulation is believed to have occurred at the end of the Younger Dryas, approximately 11,500 years ago. Since then, climate and oceanic circulation apparently have been remarkably stable, but this stability may be an illusion. Broecker et al. (p. 1132; see the news story by Kerr) compared recent measurements of the chlorofluorocarbon tracer CFC-11 in the deep Southern Ocean with data on the distribution of carbon-14 and phosphate. They conclude that the rate at which Southern Ocean deep water has been forming during the past century is only about one-third of that during the preceding 700 years. This result would imply that the period of unusually cold weather in Europe that lasted from about 1400 to 1900, called the Little Ice Age, may have been a mild analog of the Younger Dryas, and only one of a continuing series of such episodes that have been occurring roughly every 1500 years for the past 130,000 years.

ASSESSING ANTIAROMATICITY

The unusual reactivity and stability of benzene compared to alkenes can be attributed in simple models to resonance interactions between its three double bonds. The stabilization of cyclic unsaturated molecules, or aromatic molecules, in which 4n + 2 electrons (n = 0, 1, 2,...)form π bonds, contrasts with the destabilization of antiaromatic molecules, cyclic species with $4n \pi$ -electrons. The most notable example is cyclobutadiene, which is destabilized to such an extent that its high reactivity makes measuring antiaromaticity difficult. Deniz et al. (p. 1119) have now used photoacoustic calorimetry to determine the enthalpy of formation of cyclobutadiene produced in a photochemical reaction. They estimated its antiaromaticity relative to a hypothetical strainless, conjugated diene reference and a reference with isolated double bonds.

BIOGENIC GLASS FORMERS

Diatoms are able to produce highly organized nanostructured silica cell walls at ambient temperatures and at high rates. The initial formation of a silica sphere is regulated by biomolecules, but their characterization has remained difficult. Kröger et al. (p. 1129; see the news story by Amato) show that these biomolecules—called silaffins—are polycationic peptides that contain posttranslational modifications crucial for their activity at the pH conditions relevant for biosilicification in diatoms. When silaffins were added to solutions of silicic acid, silica nanospheres were generated in a few seconds.

ROOM-TEMPERATURE HYDROGEN STORAGE IN NANOTUBES

The use of hydrogen as a clean-burning fuel is limited in part by difficulties in storing it. Carbon nanotubes of various types have shown promise as a hydrogenstorage medium but have required either cryogenic storage conditions or high-temperature desorption conditions. Liu et al. (p. 1127) show that wider single-wall nanotubes (mean diameters of 1.85

nanometers) are promising materials for this application. Such nanotubes, after cleaning with acid and thermally annealing, can store 4.2% by weight hydrogen at room temperature after exposure to hydrogen at 100 atmospheres.

CAUGHT IN THE TRAP

Isotopes with extremely low abundance present a difficult analytical challenge, but their measurement can prove useful. For example, krypton-81 could be used for dating ice and groundwater or in neutrino detection if more sensitive detection methods could be developed. Chen et al. (p. 1139) analyzed krypton gas samples that were excited into a metastable electronic state and introduced into a magneto-optical trap. Isotope analysis was performed by measuring laser-induced fluorescence. Single atoms of the rare isotopes could be detected, and abundances were determined by counting.

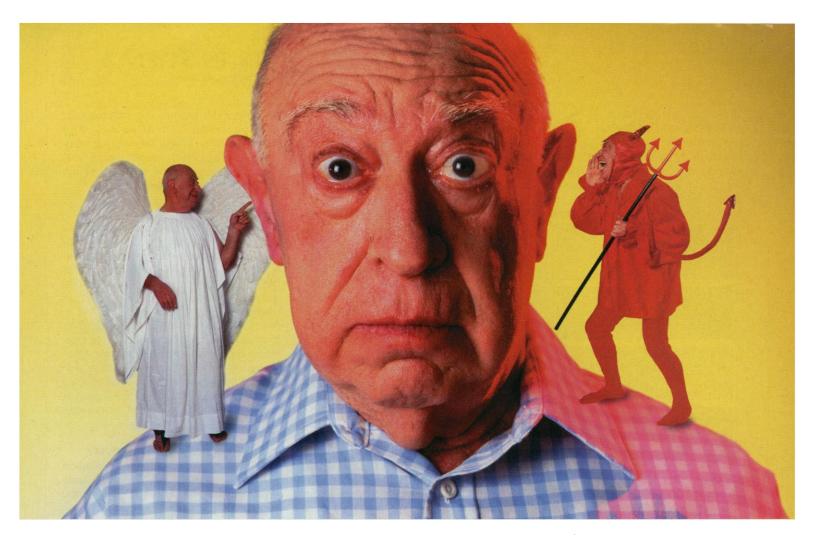
DIVERSITY AND PRODUCTIVITY

Satisfactory answers to major ecological questions frequently demand large-scale experiments. Hector et al. (p. 1123; see the Perspective by Tilman) examined the key question of the relation between biodiversity and ecosystem productivity in an experimental study at eight different locations across Europe. Different levels of grassland plant species diversity were simulated by synthesizing communities of different numbers of species. After harvesting, a consistent pattern of decreasing productivity was seen with decreasing plant diversity.

NOT JUST SITTING AROUND

Before a fibroblast cell migrates, it must modulate its adhesive contacts to an underlying substrate. These points of contact, called focal adhesions, are comprised of cell surface integrins that bind externally to the substrate and internally to the cell's actin cytoskeleton. Smilenov et al. (p. 1172; see the cover and the Perspective by Horwitz and Parsons) labeled focal adhesions in living cells with a fluorescent probe and observed that these contact points are motile in stationary cells. When a cell was stimulated to move, focal adhesions became stationary except at the rear of the cell. The authors propose that a clutch-like mechanism may regulate both the strength of integrin interaction with the substrate and the tension applied by associated actin filaments. A cell could switch from a nonmotile to motile state by stabilizing substrate con-

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THIS WEEK IN SCIENCE

tacts and increasing its traction. Otherwise, when sitting still, focal adhesions may be in an active "idling" state, ready to engage when a cell wants to move.

LINKING BREAST CANCER AND DNA REPAIR

Failure of cell cycle checkpoint mechanisms that prevent cell division in the presence of damaged DNA can lead to an accumulation of genetic errors and can contribute to formation of cancerous cells. Cortez et al. (p. 1162; see the Perspective by Venkitaraman) report that two proteins that are associated with increased risk of breast cancer in humans in their mutated form actually interact with one another in cells and function in the response to DNA damage. They provide evidence that Brca1 (for breast cancer gene 1) is a substrate for ATM (for mutated in ataxia telangiectasia), a protein kinase that is activated in cells with damaged DNA. Phosphorylation of Brca1 by ATM appears to be required for proper function of Brca1 in protecting cells from DNA damage.

SEARCHING FOR ACTIVITY

Complete genomes for some organisms, such as yeast, are now available, but methods are needed to screen the possible activities of the proteins that are encoded. Martzen et al. (p. 1153) have combined biochemical assays with genomic arrays to create a rapid way to identify the functions of expressed proteins. Open reading frames representing more than 6000 genes were fused to a tag that facilitated affinity purification of gene products, which were then assayed to identify previously unknown proteins involved in the transfer RNA splicing pathway. This technique may shorten the process of functional identification from months or years to days.

CHIMP HISTORY

Comparative DNA sequence analysis continues to unravel the story of the evolutionary relationships of humans and the great apes. Kaessmann et al. (p. 1159) have generated a large database of DNA sequences from the X chromosomes of chimpanzees in order to compare the variation found in humans to that in chimps. Chimps have an evolutionary history that is more extensive and diverse than our own, which implies a greater age for the common ancestor of chimpanzee sequences compared to that for humans. Their data also show that chimps do not divide cleanly into several subspecies but that the subspecies are highly intermixed. The bonobo appears to have diverged from other chimp lineages less than 1 million years ago, much more recently than indicated by other measures.

CHUNK-PIXELATED VISION

Anyone who has purchased a personal computer will be familiar with the exponential relation between monitor size and cost. The cost arises not only from the actual display size but also from the associated hardware and processing speed needed to support the vastly increased amount of data in a larger number of pixels. Buschbeck et al. (p. 1178) describe a cost-effective solution implemented by a parasitic insect, one whose entire life cycle is spent within the body of the host wasp (in the case of the female) or the wasp nest (male). The eyes of these insects are organized to grab visual data in a small number of chunks, about 50 per eye, with a separate retina subserving each chunk of the visual field. This resolution may be sufficient for the insect's somewhat limited visual requirements, or it may help to concentrate limited light in a fashion reminiscent of trilobite eyes.

TECHNICAL COMMENT SUMMARIES

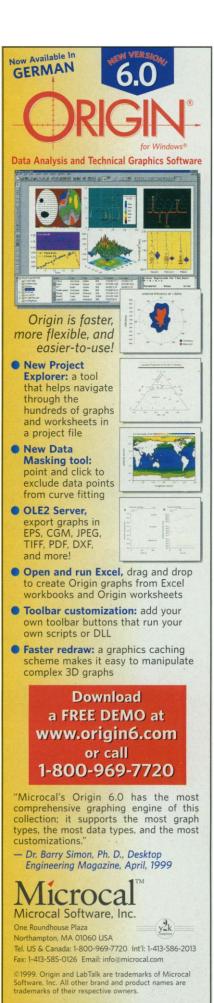
Protonated Methane

The full text of these comments can be seen at www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/286/5442/1051a

White *et al.* (Reports, 2 Apr., p. 135) reported the infrared spectrum of CH₅+, and Marx and Parrinello (Perspectives, 2 Apr., p. 59) reviewed recent theoretical work which suggests that the bonds in this species are highly fluxional.

Kramer comments that previous mass spectrometry studies suggest that, in the absence of intermolecular collisions, CH_4D^+ and CD_4H^+ are not rearranging and can be described as a van der Waals complex of a methyl cation and a hydrogen molecule.

In response, Oka and White point out some difficulties in the interpretation of the mass spectrometry cited and note that a more static structure would still have a complex infrared spectrum. Marx and Parrinello have performed additional calculations on CH_4D^+ that show scrambling of the D atom, and note that complexation may "freeze" the scrambling of the H atoms.



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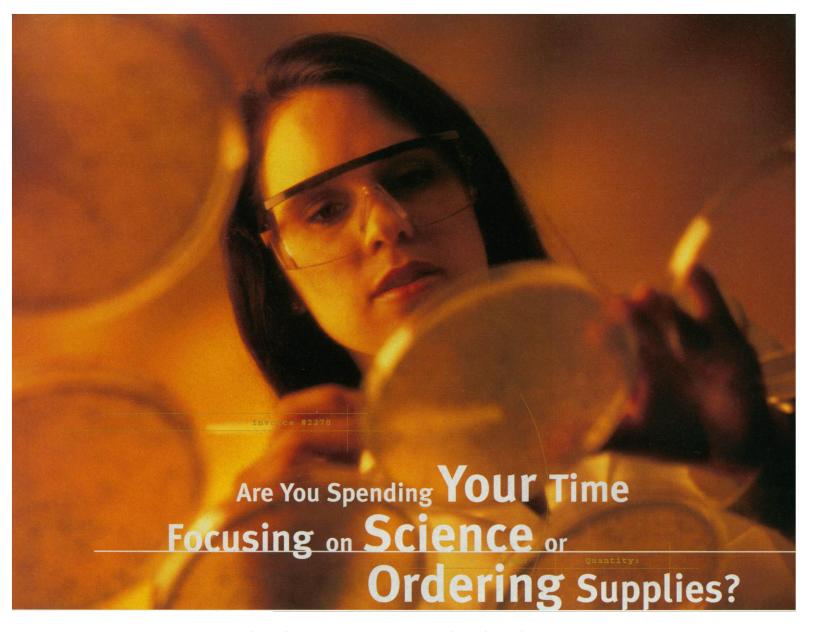
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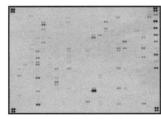
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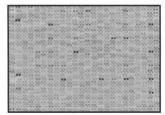


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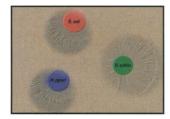
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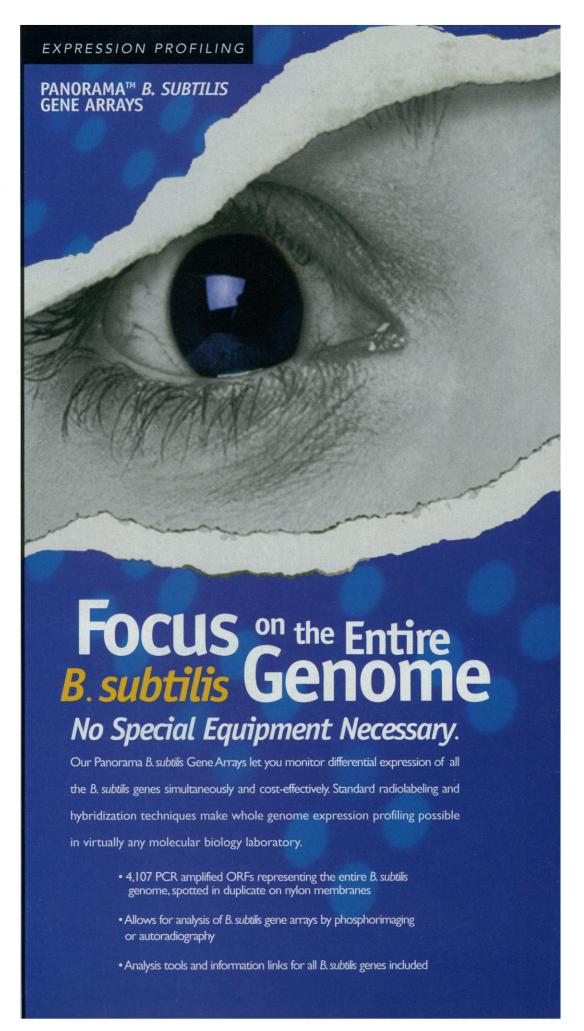
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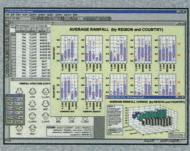


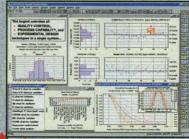
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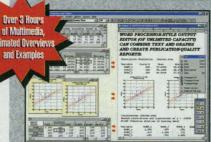










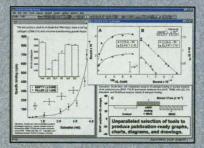














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Comparison of *C.therm.* Polymerase, Supplier L's RNase H⁻ Reverse Transcriptase, and Supplier P's AMV Reverse Transcriptase for RT-PCR. (Template: Total RNA isolated from K562 cell line;

Primer: TGFR; Target: 650 bp product; 1.5 M betaine to dissolve secondary structure;

Positive Controls: 1 ng of a 997 bp ß-actin fragment from mouse).

Panel A: C.therm. Polymerase & Taq polymerase for 30 min at 60°C

Panel B: Supplier L's RNase H⁻ Reverse Transcriptase & Taq polymerase for 50 min at 42°C

Panel C: Supplier P's AMV Reverse Transcriptase & Taq polymerase for 60 min at various temperatures.

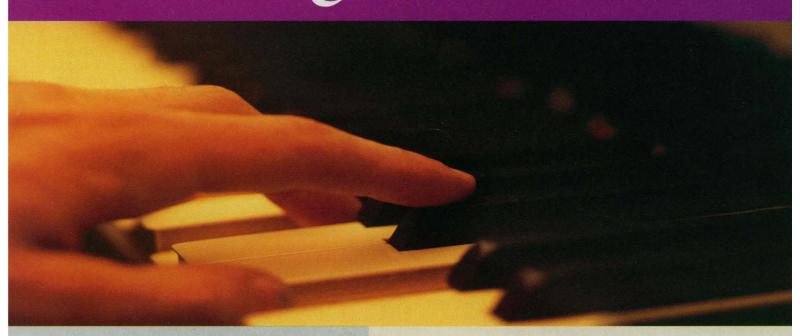


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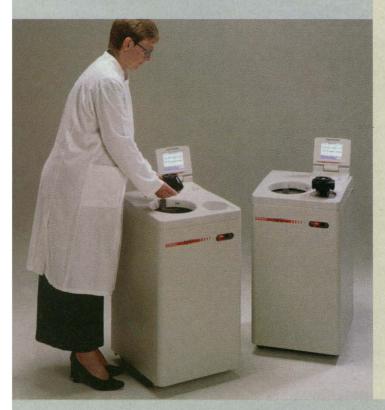
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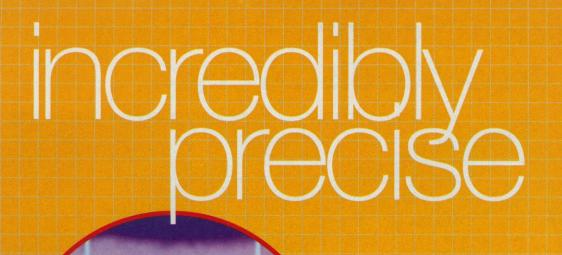
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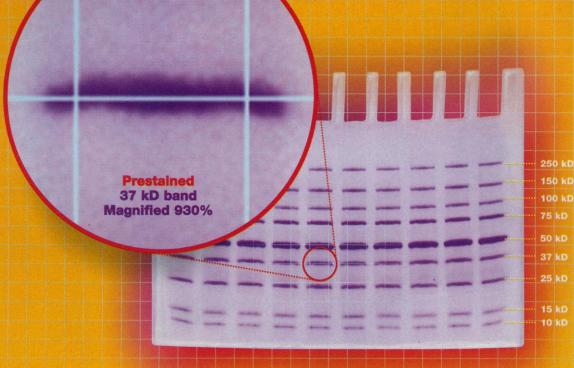
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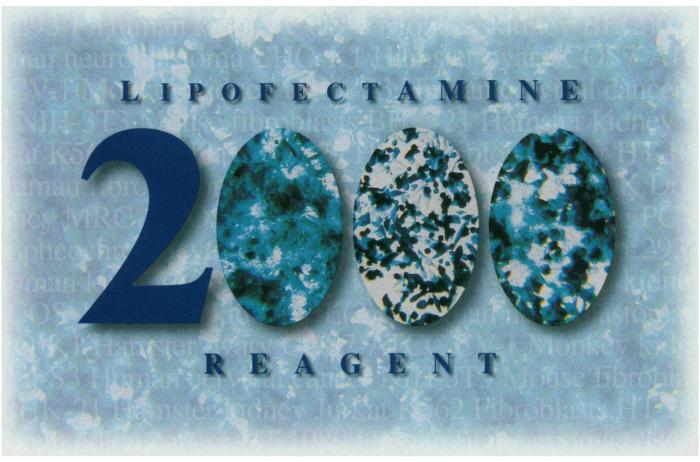


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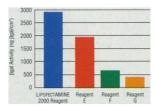
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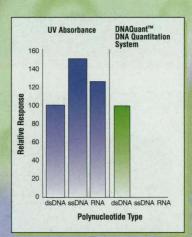
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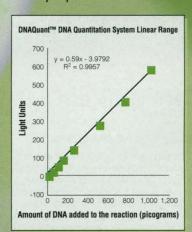
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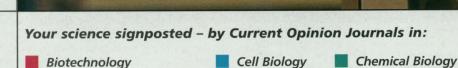
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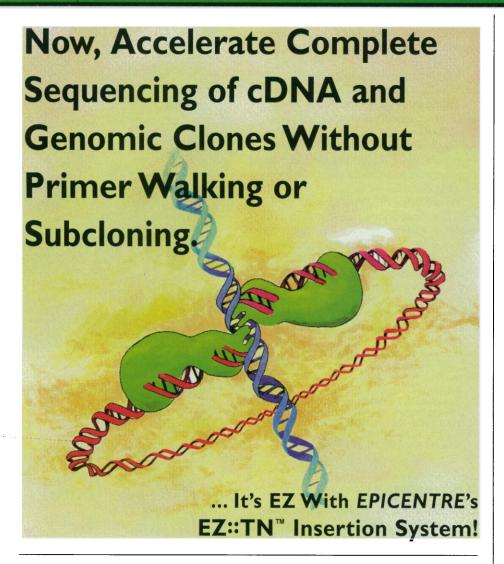
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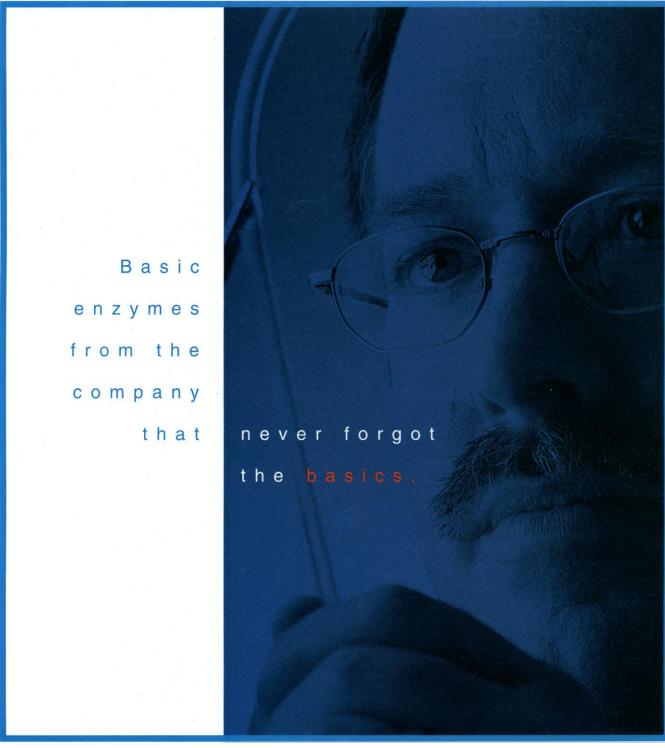
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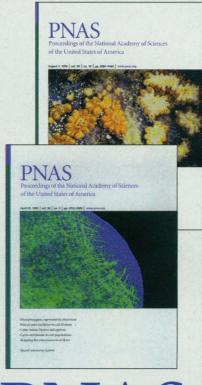
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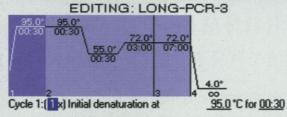
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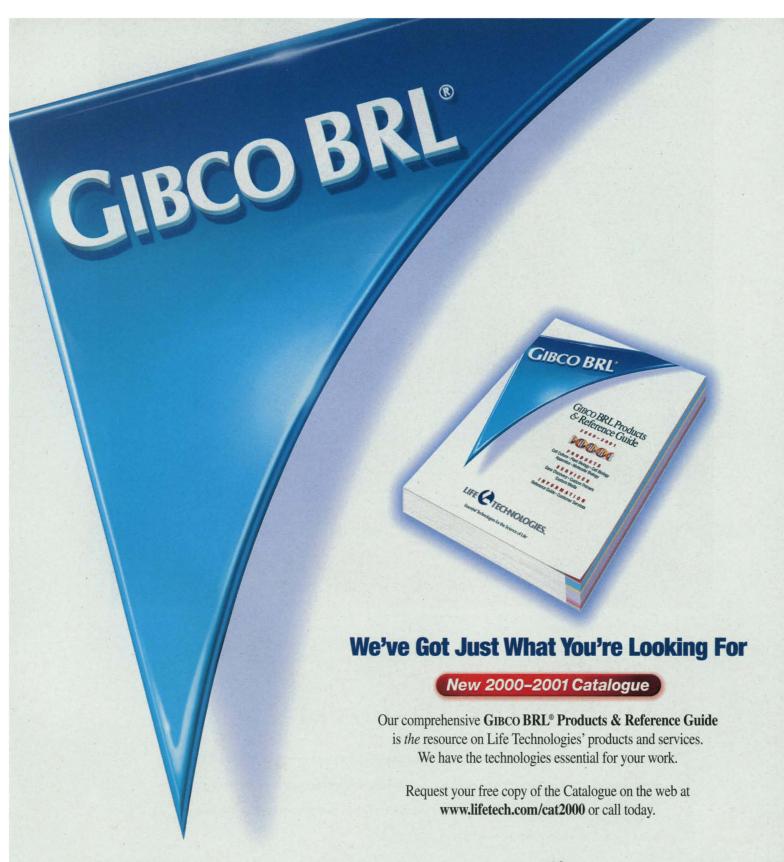
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