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COVER This image of the enormous hydrogen coma surrounding Comet Halley was obtained by the Pioneer Venus Orbiter over a 5-day period in early February 1986. The image was constructed from over 9000 data points that were obtained as the spin axis of the rotating spacecraft was held fixed and the comet drifted across the instrument field of view. The false-color image, embellished by white constantbrightness contours, shows the Lyman- α brightness distribution at 1216 angstroms. The spacecraft is now headed toward a fiery death in the upper atmosphere of Venus in the fall of 1992. See page 1008. [Image processing by A. I. F. Stewart and M. R. Combi]

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Fractured sea floor

he longest chain of mountains and the most active network of volcanoes in the solar system are found beneath the sea on the ridges that separate Earth's crustal plates. Geologic observations reviewed by Macdonald et al. (p. 986) reveal a hierarchy of segmentation and cracking along the ridges, from large long-lasting fractures to small transient discontinuities. Molten rock rising along the ridge system creates new ocean floor and promotes the formation of cracks and segments. The cracks, in turn, influence undersea volcanic activity. Although the data are from diverse sources, researchers are beginning to reach agreement on a unified picture of the life cycle of these mid-ocean ridges.

Gravity's ring arcs

mong the more striking images returned by the Voyager space-craft were those of Neptune's ring arcs. How these objects formed has been a puzzle, with many theories offered but none chosen. In a re-analysis of the Voyager data (p. 995), Porco finds that Neptune's innermost moon Galatea may act as a shepherd to sequester the ring particles into arcs. The model provides an explanation for several of the arcs' properties; moreover, re-examination of the data revealed new arcs that lend support to Porco's explanation.

Right-angle DNA bend

he catabolite gene activator protein, or CAP, bends DNA by 90°. Schultz *et al.* (p. 1001) report the results of a high-resolution crystal structure of CAP complexed with a 30-base pair DNA sequence. The bend results from two 40° kinks, one on each side of the dyad axis. The authors propose a possible mechanism in which CAP may activate transcription by producing upstream contacts with RNA polymerase.

Halley hydrogen

uring its last visit, Comet Halley came close enough to Venus to have its picture taken in ultraviolet light by instruments aboard the Pioneer-Venus spacecraft (cover). Energetic hydrogen atoms, produced by dissociation of water vapor from Halley's nucleus, emit light at the Lyman alpha wavelength of 1216 ångstroms. Smyth et al. took more than 9000 data points from the Pioneer spectra and constructed an image of Halley's hydrogen coma (p. 1008). The image was compared with a physical model of the comet's hydrogen cloud, from which the authors conclude that emission of water vapor from the core may be 30% higher than previously thought.

This Week in

Science

Midge thermometer

he distributions of fossil midges 1 has been used to investigate the course of climatic events at the end of the last deglaciation in Atlantic Canada. The relatively warm Allerød event (before 11,000 years ago) was interrupted for about 1,000 years by the cooler Younger Dryas event. This climatic reversion is well documented in Europe, but more evidence has been needed to verify whether these events occurred in Atlantic Canada. The temperature record constructed by Walker et al. (p. 1010) based on the distribution of cold-water and temperate-water midges confirms the inference from pollen studies that these paleoclimate events occurred on both sides of the Atlantic.

Text retrieval

Relation of large texts such as encyclopedias, newspapers, and instruction manuals are of little use without efficient ways to search and retrieve them. Salton (p. 974) reviews the technology of automatic text storage, manipulation, and retrieval. In addition to advances in

text-matching methods, the author discusses new approaches to automatic indexing and text analysis as well as methods drawn from linguistics and artificial intelligence. In a companion report, Salton and Buckley (p. 1012) consider the performance of "flexible text matching" for searching large text collections.

The Wright shift

ne of the most comprehensive theories of adaptive evolution, Wright's shifting balance theory, has been demonstrated experimentally. In the early 1930s Wright proposed how a well-adapted species could move to an even better adapted state even if that process required passing through a less fit intermediate. He argued that when partially isolated subpopulations are present, favorable gene combinations may arise in one of them that could then spread through the entire population. Wade and Goodnight (p. 1015) used the number of progeny as a measure of average fitness in subpopulations of flour beetles; the more fit progeny contributed more members to the next breeding generation. After 24 generations, mean productivity had increased significantly compared with control populations. Crow (p. 973) discusses the implications of this demonstration that the Wright process can indeed work.

Calcium control

single amino acid site in subunits of glutamate receptors can control the flow of calcium ions through the receptor. Hume *et al.* (p. 1028) cloned a family of genes encoding the non-NMDA (*N*-methyl-D-aspartate) glutamate receptors. Some combinations of subunits showed high calcium permeability while others did not. Mutation of a particular glutamine to arginine, or vice versa, altered the rectifying properties and calcium permeability of these receptors.

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E. J. COREY, Introductory Remarks ARACHIDONIC ACID METABOLISM: FROM CHEMISTRY TO HEALTH CARE BENGT SAMUELSSON

NEW OPPORTUNITIES AT THE INTERFACE OF CHEMISTRY AND BIOLOGY **PETER G. SCHULTZ**

SESSION II

WILLIAM N. LIPSCOMB, Presiding Chairman

INTUITIVE AND COMPUTER-ASSISTED APPROACHES TO THE DESIGN OF CONFORMATIONALLY RESTRAINED PEPTIDES AND THEIR MIMICS PAUL A. BARTLETT

INHIBITOR COMPLEXES OF HIV PROTEASE-TARGET FOR DRUG DESIGN ALEXANDER WLODAWER

IMMUNOPHILIN-LIGAND COMPLEXES AS PROBES OF THE BLACK BOX OF SIGNAL TRANSDUCTION STUART L. SCHREIBER

Tuesday, October 29, 1991

SESSION III PETER G. SCHULTZ, Prèsiding Chairman

THE PHOSPHORYLATION AND DEPHOSPHORYLATION OF PROTEINS: A KEY PROCESS IN BIOLOGICAL SIGNALING EDWIN G. KREBS MAN-DESIGNED BLEOMYCINS BASED ON THE ANTICANCER MECHANISM OF NATURAL BLEOMYCINS MASAJI OHNO DESIGN, SYNTHESIS AND EVALUATION OF FUNCTIONAL ANALOGS OF CC-1065 AND DUOCARMYCIN A DALE L. BOGER

SESSION IV PAUL A. BARTLETT, Presiding Chairman

PRINCIPLES OF ENZYME REGULATION DERIVED FROM STUDIES ON GLUTAMINE SYNTHETASE EARL R. STADTMAN

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