US adds more jobs than expected

The US economy added 337,000 jobs in October - a seven-month high and far more than Wall Street expectations.

In a welcome economic boost for newly re-elected President George W Bush, the Labor Department figures come after a slow summer of weak jobs gains. Jobs were created in every sector of the US economy except manufacturing. While the separate unemployment rate went up to 5.5% from 5.4% in September, this was because more people were now actively seeking work.

The 337,000 new jobs added to US payrolls in October was twice the 169,000 figure that Wall Street economists had forecast. In addition, the Labor Department revised up the number of jobs created in the two previous months - to 139,000 in September instead of 96,000, and to 198,000 in August instead of 128,000. The better than expected jobs data had an immediate upward effect on stocks in New York, with the main Dow Jones index gaining 45.4 points to 10,360 by late morning trading. "It looks like the job situation is improving and that this will support consumer spending going into the holidays, and offset some of the drag caused by high oil prices this year," said economist Gary Thayer of AG Edwards & Sons.

Other analysts said the upbeat jobs data made it more likely that the US Federal Reserve would increase interest rates by a quarter of a percentage point to 2% when it meets next week. "It should empower the Fed to clearly do something," said Robert MacIntosh, chief economist with Eaton Vance Management in Boston. Kathleen Utgoff, commissioner of the Bureau of Labor, said many of the 71,000 new construction jobs added in October were involved in rebuilding and clean-up work in Florida, and neighbouring Deep South states, following four hurricanes in August and September. The dollar rose temporarily on the job creation news before falling back to a new record low against the euro, as investors returned their attention to other economic factors, such as the US's record trade deficit. There is also speculation that President Bush will deliberately try to keep the dollar low in order to assist a growth in exports.

Sundance to honour foreign films

International films will be given the same prominence as US films at next year's Sundance Film Festival, with movies dominated by the theme of war.

The independent film festival will feature two new international cinema competitions, during its 20-30 January season in Utah. Forty-two films will debut at Sundance, including The Liberace of Baghdad by British director Sean McAllister. The prestigious festival was founded by actor Robert Redford in 1981.

"We have always had an international component, but from next year they will enter a jury competition," festival director Geoffrey Gilmore said. "We wanted to give world cinema more emphasis and have now put it on par with the American dramatic and documentary competitions." Twelve films competing in the new world cinema documentary category focus on countries and people under siege.

The Liberace of Baghdad features an Iraqi pianist hiding in a hotel as he waits for a visa, while Finnish film The Three Rooms of Melancholia looks at the war in Chechnya. Shake Hands With The Devil: The Journey of Romeo Dallaire tells of a UN mission to Rwanda during the 1994 genocide, while French-Israeli production Wall looks at Israel's controversial security wall separating it from the Palestinian territories. The 16 films competing in the new world cinema dramatic category include works from Germany, South Korea, Angola, China, Denmark and Australia.

Several Hollywood stars feature in the festival's American independent drama category, including Keanu Reeves and Benjamin Bratt. Vince Vaughn stars in quirky movie Thumbsucker while 21 Grams actress Naomi Watts plays a budding Hollywood actress in Ellie Parker. The top Grand Jury prize at this year's festival went to low budget sci-fi thriller Primer, written and directed by Shane Carruth. Morgan Spurlock earned the directing award for Super Size Me, which became an international box office hit.

Greene sets sights on world title

Maurice Greene aims to wipe out the pain of losing his Olympic 100m title in Athens by winning a fourth World Championship crown this summer.

He had to settle for bronze in Greece behind fellow American Justin Gatlin and Francis Obikwelu of Portugal. "It really hurts to look at that medal. It was my mistake. I lost because of the things I did," said Greene, who races in Birmingham on Friday. "It's never going to happen again. My goal - I'm going to win the worlds." Greene crossed the line just 0.02 seconds behind Gatlin, who won in 9.87 seconds in one of the closest and fastest sprints of all time. But Greene believes he lost the race and his title in the semi-finals. "In my semi-final race, I should have won the race but I was conserving energy. "That's when Francis Obikwelu came up and I took third because I didn't know he was there. "I believe that's what put me in lane seven in the final and, while I was in lane seven, I couldn't feel anything in the race.

"I just felt like I was running all alone. "I believe if I was in the middle of the race I would have been able to react to people that came ahead of me." Greene was also denied Olympic gold in the 4x100m men's relay when he could not catch Britain's Mark Lewis-Francis on the final leg. The Kansas star is set to go head-to-head with Lewis-Francis again at Friday's Norwich Union Grand Prix. The pair contest the 60m, the distance over which Greene currently holds the world record of 6.39 seconds. He then has another indoor meeting in France before resuming training for the outdoor season and the task of recapturing his world title in Helsinki in August. Greene believes Gatlin will again prove the biggest threat to his ambitions in Finland. But he also admits he faces more than one rival for the world crown. "There's always someone else coming. I think when I was coming up I would say there was me and Ato (Boldon) in the young crowd," Greene said. "Now you've got about five or six young guys coming up at the same time."

In article <noringC5snsx.KMo@netcom.com>, noring@netcom.com (Jon Noring) writes:

>In article rind@enterprise.bih.harvard.edu (David Rind) writes:

>>In article davpa@ida.liu.se (David Partain) writes:

>>>Someone I know has recently been diagnosed as having Candida Albicans,

>>>a disease about which I can find no information. Apparently it has something

>>>to do with the body's production of yeast while at the same time being highly

>>>allergic to yeast. Can anyone out there tell me any more about it?

I have a lot of info about this disease. I am posting a small amount of

it that I extracted. If more is required, e-mail me @

ls8139@gemini.albany.edu. Please, it takes me some time to upload it, so

be advised, only request it if you \*really\* want it.

here is some info from InfoTrac - Health Reference Center

Also, check you local of univeristy library. They most likely have the

InfoTrac cd-rom this info was taken from......

InfoTrac - Health Reference Center ~ Oct '89 - Oct '92

Heading: CANDIDA ALBICANS

!Dictionary Definition

1. Mosby's Medical and Nursing Dictionary, 2nd edition

COPYRIGHT 1986 The C.V. Mosby Company

Candida albicans

A common, budding, yeastlike, microscopic fungal

organism normally present in the mucous membranes of

the mouth, intestinal tract, and vagina and on the skin

of healthy people. Under certain circumstances, it may

cause superficial infections of the mouth or vagina

and, less commonly, serious invasive systemic infection

and toxic reaction. See also candidiasis.

InfoTrac - Health Reference Center ~ Oct '89 - Oct '92

THE MATERIAL CONTAINED IN Health Reference Center ~ Oct '89 - Oct '92 IS PROVIDED

Heading: CANDIDA ALBICANS

1. Yogurt cure for Candida. (acidophilus) il v22 East

West Natural Health July-August '92 p17(1)

COPYRIGHT East West Partners 1992

Another folk remedy receives the blessing of medical study.

Researchers have found that eating a cup of yogurt a day drastically

reduces a woman's chances of getting vaginal candida, a yeast infection.

For the year-long study, researchers at Long Island Jewish Medical

Center in New Hyde Park, New York, recruited 13 women who suffered from

chronic yeast infections. For the first 6 months, the women each day ate

8 ounces of yogurt containing Lactobacillus acidophilus. For the second

6 months, the women did not eat yogurt. The researchers examined the

women each month and found that incidents of colonization and infection

were significantly lower during the period when the women ate yogurt.

The fungus Candida albicans can live in the body without doing harm.

It is an overproliferation of the fungus that leads to infection. The

researchers concluded that the L. acidophilus bacteria found in some

brands of yogurt retard overgrowth of the fungus. Streptococcus

thermophilus and L. bulgaricus are the two bacteria most commonly used

in commercial yogurt production. Neither one appears to exert a

protective effect against Candida albicans, however. Women who want to

try yogurt as a preventive measure should choose a brand that lists

acidophilus in its contents.

--- end ---

InfoTrac - Health Reference Center ~ Oct '89 - Oct '92

THE MATERIAL CONTAINED IN Health Reference Center ~ Oct '89 - Oct '92 IS PROVIDED

Heading: CANDIDA ALBICANS

1. Candida (Monilia). (Infections Caused by Fungi)

(Infectious Diseases) by Harold C. Neu The Columbia

Univ. Coll. of Physicians & Surgeons Complete Home

Medical Guide Edition 2 '89 p472(1)

COPYRIGHT Crown Publishers Inc. 1989

Candida (Monilia)

This disease is usually caused by Candida albicans, a fungus that we

all carry at one time or another. In some circumstances, though, the

organisms proliferate, producing symptomatic infection of the mouth,

intestines, vagina, or skin. When the mouth or vagina are infected, the

disease is commonly called thrush.

Vaginitis caused by Candida often afflicts women on birth control

pills or antibiotics. There is itching and a white, cheesy discharge.

Among narcotic addicts, Candida infections can lead to heart valve

inflammation.

Diagnosis of Candida infections is confirmed by cultures and blood

tests. Treatment can be with amphotericin B or orally with ketoconazole.

There is no evidence that Candida in the intestine of normal individuals

leads to disease. All people at one time or another have Candida in

their intestines. Claims for any benefit from special diets or chronic

antifungal agents is not based on any solid evidence.

--- end ---

I hope this is informative.

Larry

Live From New York, It's SATURDAY NIGHT...

Tonight's special guest:

Lawrence Silverberg from The State University of New York @ Albany

aka:ls8139@gemini.Albany.edu

The 8 types of graphic design

Graphic design uses visual compositions to solve problems and communicate ideas through typography, imagery, color and form. There’s no one way to do that, and that’s why there are several types of graphic design, each with their own area of specialization.

Though they often overlap, each type of graphic design requires specific set of skills and design techniques. Many designers specialize in a single type; others focus on a set of related, similar types. But because the industry is constantly changing, designers must be adaptable and lifelong learners so they can change or add specializations throughout their careers.

Whether you are an aspiring designer or seeking design services for your business, understanding the eight types of graphic design will help you find the right skills for the job.

1. Visual identity graphic design

—

A brand is a relationship between a business or organization and its audience. A brand identity is how the organization communicates its personality, tone and essence, as well as memories, emotions and experiences. Visual identity graphic design is exactly that: the visual elements of brand identity that act as the face of a brand to communicate those intangible qualities through images, shapes and color.

How to Create Images with Transparent Background for Your Website

Published in Graphic design

Is your excellent picture for your blog post ruined by a terrible background? Do you need to save a photo with a plain background for your e-commerce store or new blog? There are several reasons why you may want to make an image background transparent.

But just in case you are wondering how to make the background of a picture transparent, all hope is not lost yet. Below we will describe three methods using various photo editing software like Photoshop, PhotoWorks and Paint that you can use to get rid of an unwanted background for a picture for your website.

Method 1. Using Photoshop

Photoshop is one of the leading photo editing software you can use to create an image with transparent background. It’s no surprise that it is on this list, a vast number of photo editors use it across the globe.

Here are a few steps you need to follow to use Photoshop to remove the background of an image.

Step 1. Choose Quick selection from the list of tools on the toolbar.

Step 2. Choose the part of the image you want to retain. Photoshop will automatically help you isolate it from the background.

Step 3. If the automatic selection isn’t as accurate as you like, you can use the Subtract from selection option to retouch the edges.

Step 4. Now you can inverse the selection by right-clicking and choosing Select inverse. The background image of the picture should now be transparent.

7 Best Free Tools Allows You to Create Professional Graphics

Published in Graphic design, Tools

There are multiple numbers of free online tools, namely as the graphic creator. In the scenario that is present today, it is imperative to showcase good professional graphics. Moreover, it is a vital asset to portray the superiority of your content that you have. Not just this, if you are making good graphics to your website or any other platform, it increases the market value of your people.

Furthermore, with the usage and the requirement of critical graphic tools, the expenses of using top class tools are very high. Hence, at the end of the day, what will the people do who are just stepping into this field? Therefore for them, numerous free tools are present in the market.

You can access these tools quite very easily and create the quality graphics that you want to. Therefore, in this article, you will know about the seven best free devices that allow you to create professional graphics.

Crello

Yes, it is undoubtedly one of the best free graphic creators. Also, the purposes and the areas where you can use it are vast enough. The platform has a lot of options to choose and can be in use as a multifunction tool. Not just this, numerous other added advantages present this platform an extra edge over many different platforms.

Assuming itself as “the simplest online image editor,” this application does not have a fixed tariff. However, the materials and resources available are limited, making the user have to buy the most compelling images and icons. Anyway, this application has several positive points: a series of pre-prepared layouts in different formats (social networks, banners, and posters), a set of themes in various sectors the possibility of using animated templates, and finally the option to download in different formats (JPEG, PNG, PDF).

Furthermore, there are an end number of images that are present on this platform, and making is one of the most versatile tool currents for free use. Moreover, there are many types of animations that are a significant part of this tool.

Canva

It is probably the most popular application of its kind. The freely available version allows you to choose from several formats: social media posts, online advertising, flyers, posters, etc. In the development of a graphic piece, it is possible to start with the suggestions that are in offer.

Moreover, to create an original design from scratch. The application provides images, backgrounds, and other resources, but it is possible to have access to a higher number of materials by opting for the paid format.

Van Nistelrooy set to return

Manchester United striker Ruud van Nistelrooy may make his comeback after an Achilles tendon injury in the FA Cup fifth round tie at Everton on Saturday.

He has been out of action for nearly three months and had targeted a return in the Champions League tie with AC Milan on 23 February. But Manchester United manager Sir Alex Ferguson hinted he may be back early. He said: "There is a chance he could be involved at Everton but we'll just have to see how he comes through training." The 28-year-old has been training in Holland and Ferguson said: "Ruud comes back on Tuesday and we need to assess how far on he is. "The training he has been doing in Holland has been perfect and I am very satisfied with it." Even without Van Nistelrooy, United made it 13 wins in 15 league games with a 2-0 derby victory at Manchester City on Sunday. But they will be boosted by the return of the Dutch international, who is the club's top scorer this season with 12 goals. He has not played since aggravating the injury in the 3-0 win against West Brom on 27 November. Ferguson was unhappy with Van Nistelrooy for not revealing he was carrying an injury. United have also been hit by injuries to both Alan Smith and Louis Saha during Van Nistelrooy's absence, meaning Wayne Rooney has sometimes had to play in a lone role up front. The teenager has responded with six goals in nine games, including the first goal against City on Sunday.

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A wide variety of images, data, catalogs, information releases, and

other material dealing with space and astronomy may be found on the net.

A few sites offer direct dialup access or remote login access, while the

remainder support some form of file transfer. Many sites are listed as

providing 'anonymous FTP'. This refers to the File Transfer Protocol on

the Internet. Sites not connected to the Internet cannot use FTP

directly, but there are a few automated FTP servers which operates via

email. Send mail containing only the word HELP to ftpmail@decwrl.dec.com

or bitftp@pucc.princeton.edu, and the servers will send you instructions

on how to make requests.

The sources with the broadest selection of material are the NASA Ames

SPACE archive and the National Space Science Data Center.

Don't even ask for images to be posted to the net. The data volume is

huge and nobody wants to spend the time on it.

The possible combinations of image formats and machines is forebodingly

large, and I won't attempt to cover common formats (GIF, etc.) here. To

read PDS and VICAR (and many other) formats on Unix systems running X,

use XV 2.11, available by anonymous FTP from export.lcs.mit.edu

(18.24.0.12) in contrib/xv-2.11.tar.Z and the other standard X11 FTP

sites.

The FAQ for the Usenet group alt.binaries.pictures discusses image

formats and how to get image viewing software. A copy of this document

is available by anonymous FTP from the Usenet FAQ archives at

pit-manager.mit.edu (18.72.1.58), in directory

pub/usenet/alt.binaries.pictures.

Extensive archives are maintained at NASA Ames and are available via

anonymous FTP or an email server. These archives include many images and

a wide variety of documents including this FAQ list, NASA press

releases, shuttle launch advisories, and mission status reports. Please

note that these are NOT maintained on an official basis.

FTP users should connect to ames.arc.nasa.gov (128.102.18.3) and look in

pub/SPACE. pub/SPACE/Index contains a listing of files available in the

archive (the index is about 200K by itself).

To access the archives by email, send a letter to

archive-server@ames.arc.nasa.gov (or ames!archive-server). In the

subject of your letter (or in the body), use commands like:

send SPACE Index

send SPACE SHUTTLE/ss01.23.91.

The capitalization of the subdirectory names is important. All are in

caps. Only text files are handled by the email server at present; use

one of the FTP email servers described in the introduction to this

section for images or programs.

The Magellan Venus and Voyager Jupiter, Saturn, and Uranus CD-ROM image

disks have been put online in the CDROM and CDROM2 directories. The

disks will be rotated on a weekly basis. Thousands of images are

available in these collections.

The GIF directory contains images in GIF format. The VICAR directory

contains Magellan images in VICAR format (these are also available in

the GIF directory). A PC program capable of displaying these files is

found in the IMDISP directory (see the item "VIEWING IMAGES" below).

The NASA media guide describes the various NASA centers and how to

contact their public affairs officers; this may be useful when pursuing

specific information. It's in MISC/media.guide.

Any problems with the archive server should be reported to Peter Yee

(yee@ames.arc.nasa.gov).

The ADS is a distributed data retrieval system which is easy to use and

provides uniform access to ground-based and space-based astronomy data

from NASA data centers across the country. It currently has over 140

data catalogs of radio, infrared, optical, UV, and X-ray data which can

be queried by position or any other parameter in the catalog. The ADS

also provides tools to manipulate and plot tabular results. In addition,

ADS has a Beta version of an Abstracts Service which allows users to

query over 125,000 abstracts of astronomy papers since 1975 by authors,

keywords, title words, or abstract text words.

ADS use requires direct Internet access. For more info and to sign up to

become a user, email ads@cuads.coloradu.edu. The User's Guide and

"QuickStart" Guide are available by anonymous FTP to sao-ftp.harvard.edu

in directory pub/ads/ADS\_User\_Guide (PostScript files).

Contact Carolyn Stern Grant (stern@cfa.harvard.edu).

pubinfo.jpl.nasa.gov (128.149.6.2) is an anonymous FTP site operated by

the JPL Public Information Office, containing news releases, status

reports, fact sheets, images, and other data on JPL missions. It may

also be reached by modem at (818)-354-1333 (no parity, 8 data bits, 1

stop bit).

Contact newsdesk@jplpost.jpl.nasa.gov or phone (818)-354-7170.

techreports.larc.nasa.gov is an anonymous FTP site offering technical

reports. To get started, cd to directory pub/techreports/larc/92 and

retrieve files README and abstracts.92. Most files are compressed

PostScript. The reports are also in a WAIS database with the following

description:

(:source

:version 3

:ip-name "techreports.larc.nasa.gov"

:tcp-port 210

:database-name "nasa-larc-abs"

:cost 0.00

:cost-unit :free

:maintainer "M.L.Nelson@LaRC.NASA.GOV"

:description "NASA Langley Research Center Technical Reports

Contact tr-admin@techreports.larc.nasa.gov.

SpaceLink is an online service located at Marshall Space Flight Center

in Huntsville, Alabama. The system is specifically designed for

teachers. The data base is arranged to provide easy access to current

and historical information on NASA aeronautics, space research, and

technology transfer information. Also included are suggested classroom

activities that incorporate information on NASA projects to teach a

number of scientific principles. Unlike bulletin board systems, NASA

Spacelink does not provide for interaction between callers. However it

does allow teachers and other callers to leave questions and comments

for NASA which may be answered by regular mail. Messages are answered

electronically, even to acknowledge requests which will be fulfilled by

mail. Messages are generally handled the next working day except during

missions when turnaround times increase. The mail system is closed-loop

between the user and NASA.

SpaceLink also offers downloadable shareware and public domain programs

useful for science educators as well as space graphics and GIF images

from NASA's planetary probes and the Hubble Telescope.

You can dial in at (205)-895-0028 (300/1200/2400/9600(V.32) baud, 8

bits, no parity, 1 stop bit), or telnet to spacelink.msfc.nasa.gov

(128.158.13.250, also known as xsl.msfc.nasa.gov) if you're on the

Internet. Anonymous FTP capability (password guest) is now available.

Most of this information is also available from the Ames server in

directory SPACELINK.

The National Space Science Data Center is the official clearinghouse for

NASA data. The data catalog (\*not\* the data itself) is available online.

Internet users can telnet to nssdca.gsfc.nasa.gov (128.183.36.23) and

log in as 'NODIS' (no password). You can also get the catalog by sending

email to 'request@nssdc.gsfc.nasa.gov'.

You can also dial in at (301)-286-9000 (300, 1200, or 2400 baud, 8 bits,

no parity, one stop). At the "Enter Number:" prompt, enter MD and

carriage return. When the system responds "Call Complete," enter a few

more carriage returns to get the "Username:" and log in as 'NODIS' (no

password).

The system is menu-driven; topics available as of 3/93 are:

1 - Master Directory - NASA & Global Change

2 - Personnel Information Management System

3 - Nimbus-7 GRID TOMS Data

4 - Interplanetary Medium Data (OMNI)

5 - Request data and/or information from NSSDC

6 - Geophysical Models

7 - CANOPUS Newsletter

8 - International Ultraviolet Explorer Data Request

9 - CZCS Browse and Order Utility

10 - Astronomical Data Center (ADC)

11 - STEP Bulletin Board Service

12 - Standards and Technology Information System

13 - Planetary Science & Magellan Project Information

14 - Other Online Data Services at NSSDC

15 - CD-ROMS Available at NSSDC

For users with Internet access, datasets are made available via

anonymous FTP once you select the desired datasets from the online

catalog. For other users, data may be ordered on CD-ROM and in other

formats. Among the many types of data available are Voyager, Magellan,

and other planetary images, Earth observation data, and star catalogs.

Viewers for Macintosh and IBM systems are also available. As an example

of the cost, an 8 CD set of Voyager images is $75. Data may ordered

online, by email, or by physical mail. The postal address is:

National Space Science Data Center

Request Coordination Office

Goddard Space Flight Center

Code 633

Greenbelt, MD 20771

Telephone: (301) 286-6695

Email address: request@nssdca.gsfc.nasa.gov

stsci.edu (130.167.1.2) has a large amount of information about the

Hubble Space Telescope available by anonymous FTP, such as status

reports and newsletters, in addition to material oriented towards HST

observers and proposers. Get the top level README file to begin with.

Contact Pete Reppert (reppert@stsci.edu) or Chris O'Dea

(odea@stsci.edu).

The Space Telescope European Coordination Facility, at ESO/Garching

provides on-line access to a huge astronomical database, featuring

- Observation log files of several satellites/telescopes

- Spectra and images (IUE, HST).

- Most of the astronomical catalogues (SAO, HR, NGC, PPM, IRAS,

Veron, GSC and many others, more than 50) in a very convenient

way (give center+radius+kind of objects, and you get the

corresponding files!).

Log on as ``starcat'' (no password) on node stesis.hq.eso.org

(134.171.8.100) or on STESIS (DECnet). The files created can be

retreived by FTP. Contact: Benoit Pirenne, bpirenne@eso.org (phone +49

89 320 06 433) at ST-ECF

The full SAO stellar database is \*NOT\* available online, probably due to

the 40 MB size. It may be ordered on magnetic tape from the NSSDC. A

subset containing position and magnitude only is available by FTP (see

"Astronomy Programs" below).

nic.funet.fi (128.214.6.100) has a large collection of astronomical

programs for many types of computers, databases of stars and deep sky

objects, and general astronomy information in directory /pub/astro. This

site is mainly for European users, but overseas connections are

possible.

The Ames archives contain a database of 8,436 galaxies including name,

RA, declination, magnitude, and radial velocity in MISC/galaxy.dat.

Supplied by Wayne Hayes (wayne@csri.utoronto.ca).

iris1.ucis.dal.ca (129.173.18.107) has a number of GIFs from Voyager,

Hubble, and other sources available by anonymous FTP in pub/gif (most of

this data is also in SPACE/GIF on the Ames server). Please restrict

access to 5pm - 8am Atlantic time.

pomona.claremont.edu has the Yale Bright Star catalog for anonymous FTP

in directory [.YALE\_BSC]. Contact James Dishaw

(jdishaw@hmcvax.claremont.edu).

The Hubble Guide Star catalog is available on CD-ROM for the Mac and PC

for $49.95 US (catalog # ST101).

Astronomical Society of the Pacific

390 Ashton Ave.

San Francisco, CA 94112

Phone: (415) 337-2624 9 AM - 3 PM Pacific Time

For German (and possibly other European) readers, Jost Jahn has a

service to distribute astronomical data to interested amateurs at cost.

About 30-40 catalogs are available for DM 6..8/disk. Several floppy disk

formats are available. Because of the expense of receiving email on his

system, he asks that you contact him by physical mail:

Jost Jahn

Neustaedter Strasse 11

W-3123 Bodenteich

Phone: FRG-5824-3197

Various astronomy-related programs and databases posted to the net in

the past are archived for anonymous FTP at multiple sites, including

ftp.uu.net (137.39.1.9). Also see the ASTRO-FTP list posted to sci.astro

monthly, which is more complete than this list.

Astonomical/Space-related sources of interest in comp.sources.unix:

Volume 8: phoon moon phase and date routines

Volume 12,13: starchart starchart program & Yale Star data

Volume 15: moontool shows moon phase picture on Suns

Volume 16: sao reduced SAO catalog

Astonomical/Space-related sources of interest in comp.sources.misc:

Volume 8: moon another moon phase program

Volume 11: starchart starchart program, version 3.2

Volume 11: n3emo-orbit orbit: track earth satellites

Volume 12: starchart2 starchart program, update to version 3.2.1

Volume 13: jupmoons plotter for Jupiter's major moons [in perl]

Volume 13: lunisolar lunisolar (not sure what this does)

Volume 14: ephem-4.21 astronomical ephemeris, v4.21

Volume 14: n3emo-orbit patch to orbit 3.7

Volume 18: planet planet generation simulator

Elwood Downey (e\_downey@tasha.cca.cr.rockwell.com), the author of

"ephem", has offered to mail copies to people who can't find it on one

of the archives.

XSAT, an X Window System based satellite tracking program, is

available by anonymous FTP from export.lcs.mit.edu (18.24.0.12) in

contrib/xsat1.0.tar.Z. Contact Dave Curry (davy@ecn.purdue.edu)

for more information.

Xsky, a computerized sky atlas for the X Window System, is available for

anonymous FTP on arizona.edu in the directory [.SOFTWARE.UNIX.XSKY] as

xsky.tarz. Contact Terry R. Friedrichsen (terry@venus.sunquest.com) for

more information.

The "Variable Stars Analysis Software Archive" is available via

anonymous FTP from kauri.vuw.ac.nz (130.195.11.3) in directory

pub/astrophys. This is intended for specialists in this field, and they

would appreciate people from outside New Zealand confining their FTP

access to the astrophys directory, as they pay a significant amount for

Internet access. Contents are relatively sparse at present due to the

youth of the archive - contributions are encouraged. Contact the archive

administrator, Timothy Banks (bankst@kauri.vuw.ac.nz) for more

information.

The "IDL Astronomy Users Library" is available by anonymous FTP from

idlastro.gsfc.nasa.gov (128.183.57.82). This is a central repository for

general purpose astronomy procedures written in IDL, a commercial image

processing, plotting, and programming language. Contact Wayne Landsman

(landsman@stars.gsfc.nasa.gov) for more information.

The most recent orbital elements from the NASA Prediction Bulletins are

carried on the Celestial BBS, (513)-427-0674. Documentation and tracking

software are also available on this system. The Celestial BBS may be

accessed 24 hours/day at 300, 1200, or 2400 baud using 8 data bits, 1

stop bit, no parity.

Orbital element sets are available via anonymous FTP from the

following sites:

archive.afit.af.mil (129.92.1.66) NASA,TVRO,Shuttle

directory: /pub/space

ftp.funet.fi (128.214.6.100) NASA,TVRO,Molczan,CelBBS,

directory: /pub/astro/pc/satel Shuttle (\*)

kilroy.jpl.nasa.gov (128.149.1.165) NASA,Molczan

directory: /pub/space/

Copies of back issues of Space Digest are archived on

LISTSERV@UGA.BITNET. Send mail containing the message "INDEX SPACE" to

get an index of files; send it the message "GET filename filetype" to

get a particular file.

You can get black-and-white 1:1M prints, negatives, or positives for

$10, $18, $12 respectively for any Landsat data more than 2 years old

from EDC, (Eros (Earth Resources Orbiting Satellite) Data Center). Call

them at (605)-594-6511. You get 80 meter resolution from the MSS

scanner, 135x180 kilometers on a picture 135x180 mm in size. I think you

have to select one band from (green, red, near IR, second near IR), but

I'm not sure. Digitial data is also available at higher prices.

Transparencies of all NASA photos available to the public can be

borrowed from the NASA photo archive; you can have copies or prints

made.

NASA Audio-Visual Facility

918 North Rengstorff Ave

Mountain View, CA 94043

The USGS address for maps of the planets is:

U.S. Geological Survey,

Distribution Branch,

Box 25286, Federal Center, Bldg. 41

Denver, CO 80225

Maps cost $2.40 to $3.10 per sheet (a few come in sets of 2 or 3 sheets).

The best global maps of Mars based on Viking images are 1:15,000,000

scale in 3 sheets. These maps are:

I-1535 (2 sheets only) - relief, albedo, names

I-1618 (3 sheets) - relief, names

I-2030 (3 sheets) - relief, topographic contours

I-1802-A,B,C (3 sheets) - geology

There are many other maps as well: 30 sheets at 1:5,000,000 scale in

relief, albedo, geology, photomosaic forms (not all 30 sheets available

in all formats); 140 sheets at 1:2,000,000 scale as photomosaics of the

whole planet, about 100 sheets of interesting sites at 1:500,000 scale

in photomosaic format, and lots of special sheets.

Then there are maps of Mercury, Venus, the Moon, the four Galilean

Satellites, six moons of Saturn and five of Uranus. [Phil Stooke

(stooke@vaxr.sscl.uwo.ca), the author of this item, has offered to

respond to email requests for information on any topic relating to lunar

and planetary maps.]

The Central Bureau for Astronomical Telegrams and the Minor Planet

Center announce the sixth edition of the Catalogue of Cometary Orbits in

IAU Circular 4935. The catalogue contains 1292 entries which represent

all known comets through November 1989 and is 96 pages long.

Non-subscribers to the Circulars may purchase the catalogue for $15.00

while the cost to subscribers is $7.50. The basic catalogue in ASCII

along with a program to extract specific orbits and calculate

ephemerides is available on MS-DOS 5.25-inch 2S2D diskette at a cost of

$75.00 (the program requires an 8087 math coprocessor). The catalogue

alone is also available by e-mail for $37.50 or on magnetic tape for

Except for the printed version of the catalogue, the various magnetic

media or e-mail forms of the catalogue do not specifically meantion

non-subscribers. It is possible that these forms of the catalogue may

not be available to non-subscribers or that their prices may be more

expensive than those given. Mail requests for specific information and

orders to:

Central Bureau for Astronomical Telegrams

Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory

Cambridge, MA 02138, USA

In article <1993Apr15.170048.1@fnalf.fnal.gov>, higgins@fnalf.fnal.gov (Bill Higgins-- Beam Jockey) writes:

>This was known as \*Journey to the Far Side of the Sun\* in the United

>States and as \*Doppelganger\* in the U.K... Later, they went

>on to do more live-action SF series: \*UFO\* and \*Space: 1999\*.

>The astronomy was lousy, but the lifting-body spacecraft, VTOL

>airliners, and mighty Portugese launch complex were \*wonderful\* to

>look at.

They recycled a lot of models and theme music for UFO. Some of the

concepts even showed up in SPACE: 1999.

Software engineering? That's like military intelligence, isn't it?

The Coolest Ancient Ruins in Algeria, Africa

A melting pot of cultural influences, Algeria is a highly underrated North African tourist destination that has a lot to offer the historically, and culturally, minded traveler. With a veritable treasure trove of past influences ranging from French to Spanish and Berber to Roman, it’s no wonder the ruins here are almost as good as the architecture that still remains. Predominantly Roman, take your pick from our list of the eight coolest ancient ruins to visit in Algeria.

Khemissa

The home to a well-preserved and little-visited Roman theater rather grandly called Thubursicum Numidarum, Khemissa is a town in north eastern Algeria which is well worth a visit if you’re hunting for an in-the-know spot. The ruins, what are left of the old Roman town which was once there, have merged with the landscape, adding to the beauty and the drama of the hillside location which looks out onto Khemissa itself. The view from the small old forum is amazing, and the well-formed and still intact arches are truly impressive.

Ruines de Khemissa, Algeria, North Africa

Timgad

Rather grandly titled the ‘Pompeii of Africa,’ and UNESCO World Heritage recognized, Timgad is a fantastic example of a Roman colonial town that is a regularly recommended Algerian tourist attraction. Set in the lush hills of the northern Aurès Mountains, some of the must see points of interest at this fascinating sight include the Trajan Arch, which was restored at some point in the second century, and the Capitoline Temple. The latter is dedicated to Jupiter and is approximately the same size as the Pantheon in Rome, to give you some impression of the grandeur of this place. It is also one of the best examples of the logistics of Roman town planning, if that’s the kind of thing that floats your boat.

Timgad, Algeria, North Africa

Qal’a of Beni Hammad

Moving briefly away from Roman ruins, the Qal’a of Beni Hammad was in the 11th century the first capital city of the Hammadid rulers. Not much survives of this fortified city, however the little that does is an intriguing insight into what life may have been like before the abandonment of it in 1900 due to the threat of a Hilalian invasion. Officially recognised by UNESCO in 1980, this archaeological site is set at a height of 1000m above sea level and is surrounded by an impressively beautiful mountainous setting. As one of the most precisely dated complexes of the Islamic civilization, the Qal’a of Beni Hammad is also home to the second oldest minaret in the country and a testament to the past palatial culture of North Africa.

Qal’a of Beni Hannad, Algeria, North Africa

Tipaza

Previously known as Tipasa, this is another of Algeria’s most famed Roman ruins and with good reason. Constructed on three small hills, overlooking the ocean, it was a small trading-post of much commercial, but little cultural, importance in Roman Algeria. However, this cultural unimportance has long since been banished to the past, as Tipaza boasts a unique amalgamation of Phoenician, Roman, palaeochristian and Byzantine ruins, alongside indigenous monuments. This is according to the UNESCO World Heritage Site website, to which Tipaza was inaugurated in 1982. Aside from all this historical interest, the pristine Mediterranean beach location doesn’t hurt, either.

Tipaza, Algeria, North Africa

Lambaesis

Among some of the most interesting and perhaps lesser-known ruins in northern Africa, we have the Roman ruin of Lambaesis, situated next to the modern village of Tazoult. Similarly to Timgad, it is located in the Aurès Mountains and is also home to arches, baths and even aqueducts. However, this garrison town is well worth a visit for the gem that is the praetorium of the Third Augustan Legion alone. This commandant’s house dates from around 268 and dominates the site of the modern day ruins of Lambaesis, which was once the capital of the Roman province, Numidia.

Lambaesis, Algeria, North Africa

Tiddis

One of Algeria’s most beautiful and well-preserved Roman archaeological sites, the Roman town of Tiddis is a rarely visited spot by travelers, making it one of the country’s coolest ruins to check out. Tiny in size, but grand in history, Tiddis is also the home to a temple of Mithra, the ancient Persian god of light and wisdom, cisterns and archways and is very close to the visually stunning ‘city of bridges,’ Constantine. However, unlike many Roman towns, Tiddis is unusual for its use of winding pathways that climb the steep hillsides on which it is set. Archaeologists believe this to be because the site was originally a Berber settlement that was occupied and developed by the Romans during the first century.

Tiddis, Algeria, North Africa

Djemila

Meaning ‘beautiful’ in Arabic, Djemila is just that. Of the trio of well-known Roman cities in Algeria, this one is undoubtedly the best known, and it’s easy to see why. Set in the mountains of Setif, Djemila was formerly known as Cuicol and founded by Emperor Nerva Trajan in the first century. Arguably the most impressive feature of this ruin is the ornate, lavishly tiled museum that is incredibly well-maintained. Every inch of the ample walls is covered with mosaics, making for an intriguing and unmissable visual display. There are also a handful of elaborate houses, Byzantine churches and ancient temples on offer at these awesome Roman ruins. For its display of classical Roman architecture, Djemila easily warrants a spot in Algeria’s coolest ruins.

Djemila, Algeria, North Africa

Tlemcen National Park

To round off the list, we move to Tlemcen, ‘the town of cherries.’ This National Park is a recent addition to the national parks of Algeria, but it is one of the best as it includes not only expansive forests, cliffs and waterfalls, but also several archaeological sites, most notably that of Mansoura. Mansoura was the ancient city upon which the modern town of Tlemcen was built, and it’s well worth checking out. The 13th-century ruins of this enormous ancient mosque are really imposing, giving you some sense of life in the ancient world and a remarkable introduction to the architectural magnificence of it. If Mansoura doesn’t interest you though, the mausoleum of Sidi Boumediene, a 12th-century Sufi leader, is also situated within Tlemcen national park.

Tlemcen National Park, Algeria, North Africa

As soon as he learned about the existence of ancient wheat specimens at University College London’s Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology from a 2018 BBC documentary, Richard Mott of the UCL Genetics Institute wanted to study them. The samples likely contained bits of ancient wheat DNA, he reasoned, which could yield valuable insights into the history of cultivation of this all-important crop species.

Archaeobotanists at UCL helped Mott and a team of collaborators choose a handful of well-preserved husks from the museum’s collection of ancient emmer wheat, a variety native to the Near East and one of the first crops to be domesticated in the region, from which the researchers selected two husks for DNA extraction. After carefully removing the husks from the box, photographing them, and wrapping them in foil, the scientists transported the centuries-old plant material to a freshly bleached cleanroom used exclusively to process ancient and forensic samples.

There, team member Laura Botigué, a population geneticist and visiting researcher from the Centre for Research in Agricultural Genomics (CRAG) in Barcelona, Spain, donned a hairnet, two Tyvek suits, two pairs of latex gloves, and a mask—part of a protocol designed to avoid contaminating the samples with her own cells. Uncertain how the delicate husks would hold up to the standard decontamination protocol of bleaching the samples, Botigué bleached one and left the second untouched. Then, to lyse the plant’s cells, she put the samples in a rotator that gently shook the husks inside an oven over the next several days. Finally, she used a centrifugation protocol to separate any DNA from the degraded cell walls and proteins.

Once the samples had been prepped and delivered to the UCL Genomics facility for sequencing, it was a waiting game to see if the procedure had yielded any readable wheat DNA. “This is the more stressful part,” Botigué says. Because they lack the type of protective collagen matrix found in bones, plants don’t preserve ancient DNA as well as animals. “You finish, the DNA is theoretically extracted, but you don’t see it in the tube,” says Botigué. “You’re in the blind until you hear back from the sequencing services.”

Within just a few weeks, the team got good news. For the husk that Botigué had bleached, about two-thirds of the reads aligned with genomes of modern wild and domesticated emmer wheat varieties—a relatively good success rate for ancient DNA, according to evolutionary geneticist Michael Scott, a postdoc in Mott’s lab who conducted the bioinformatics analysis of the sequences. “The first surprise was how well it worked,” he says. “It appears that the dry conditions in Egypt were good for DNA preservation.” The unbleached husk had yielded a smaller quantity of sequences, but those fragments mostly matched the ones in the bleached sample, validating the identity of those sequences as coming from the ancient wheat samples rather than from contaminants.

The museum wheat, which carbon dating showed was from between 1130 and 1000 BC, was genetically much more similar to modern domesticated varieties than to modern wild ones, suggesting that the plant lineage the samples came from had already been domesticated. Specifically, the sequences most resembled those of modern domesticated strains grown in Turkey, Oman, and India. There was also evidence for genetic exchange between the museum wheat strain and the wild emmer wheat that grew in the Levant, a large region in the Eastern Mediterranean that was a center of agricultural development in the Neolithic period, and where emmer was first cultivated. The genetic exchange could have occurred before the wheat’s introduction to Egypt from the Levant, says Scott. Alternatively, it’s possible that the ancient Egyptians’ wheat was able to interbreed with wild wheat in the Southern Levant thanks to interactions between the people in the two regions.

The bioinformatics analysis also uncovered some genetic variants in the ancient samples that weren’t found in any of the modern emmer wheat genomes the researchers studied. If these variants helped the wheat survive in arid locations around the Near East, perhaps introducing those sequences into modern varieties could help make them more sustainable or more drought resistant, Scott says, though he admits that this “is very much just an idea.”

The detection of ancient genetic variation is a notable achievement because wheat genomes are large—three to five times the length of a human genome—and repetitive, making the “analysis . . . incredibly complex,” says James Breen, head of the bioinformatics core at the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute who reviewed the study and coauthored the perspective with Rabanus-Wallace, a PhD student in his lab at the Australian Centre for Ancient DNA at the time. “So being able to find unique pieces of DNA in that genome is very difficult.” He adds that after a couple of additional validation tests performed by the UCL team, he was convinced that “the data that came out was legitimately ancient.”

Botigué and Scott emphasize that the study is primarily a proof of concept that museum-kept plant samples can yield readable genetic material. “We were able to look at DNA from specimens that had been stored in the museum for over 90 years without special preservation conditions—the museum was actually even bombed and flooded during wartime,” says Scott. “We think our study helps demonstrate the importance of museum collections as sources of genetic data, which”—in combination with new samples—“can be used to uncover the history of selection on crops and their movement around the globe.”

Learn from the Experts: 3 Simple Tricks To Design A Standout Brand

Published in Branding, Graphic design

A good brand equals great business. Businesses that present a brand consistently across their business can increase their revenue by up to 23 percent, according to statistics cited by Forbes. With nearly every business expert continually driving home the importance of branding for business success, it’s no surprise that companies are now plugging millions into building a great brand. But with so many companies competing in the same market both on and offline, designing a standout image and brand is essential for businesses looking to make promotion and advertising easier. Whether your aim is to increase your business value or drive consumer recognition, brand building can tick all the right boxes if done the right way and with a core focus on visuals.

Make Your Social Media Presence Visually Appealing

Social media is now ingrained into the consumer buying process. On Instagram, 90 percent of users follow businesses that they like and the engagement rate between them is currently 1.90 percent, indicating just how often the platform is used for viewing and interacting. When it comes to video marketing — a key content marketing trend for 2020 — social media continues to lead the way, accounting for 28.7 percent of total video ad spending.

With studies like PWC’s Retail 2017 survey showing that 59 percent of consumers use social media for everyday inspiration, having a well-curated social media account is now a necessity for any business looking to get on the map and stay there. Visual content is more likely to be shared on social media, which means it goes a long way in building your brand and getting your name out there. In addition to high-quality visual images, your graphics should be original and your content delivered in easily summed-up formats, such as infographics. A great idea is to choose a social media color palette and posting styles, such as grayscale images for a still, serene, and more personal tone.

Make Your Brand’s Print Visuals A Priority

In article <20773.3049.uupcb@factory.com> jim.zisfein@factory.com (Jim Zisfein) writes:

>Headaches that seriously interfere with activities of daily living

>affect about 15% of the population. Doesn't that sound like

>something a "primary care" physician should know something about? I

>tend to agree with HMO administrators - family physicians should

>learn the basics of headache management.

Absolutely. Unfortunately, most of them have had 3 weeks of neurology

in medical school and 1 month (maybe) in their residency. Most

of that is done in the hospital where migraines rarely are seen.

Where are they supposed to learn? Those who are diligent and

read do learn, but most don't, unfortunately.

>Sometimes I wonder what tension-type headaches have to do with

>neurology anyway.

We are the only ones, sometimes, who have enough interest in headaches

to spend the time to get enough history to diagnose them. Too often,

the primary care physician hears "headache" and loses interest in

anything but giving the patient analgesics and getting them out of

the office so they can get on to something more interesting.

>(I am excepting migraine, which is arguably neurologic). Headaches

I hope you meant "inarguably".

Gordon Banks N3JXP | "Skepticism is the chastity of the intellect, and

geb@cadre.dsl.pitt.edu | it is shameful to surrender it too soon."

Claxton hunting first major medal

British hurdler Sarah Claxton is confident she can win her first major medal at next month's European Indoor Championships in Madrid.

The 25-year-old has already smashed the British record over 60m hurdles twice this season, setting a new mark of 7.96 seconds to win the AAAs title. "I am quite confident," said Claxton. "But I take each race as it comes. "As long as I keep up my training but not do too much I think there is a chance of a medal." Claxton has won the national 60m hurdles title for the past three years but has struggled to translate her domestic success to the international stage. Now, the Scotland-born athlete owns the equal fifth-fastest time in the world this year. And at last week's Birmingham Grand Prix, Claxton left European medal favourite Russian Irina Shevchenko trailing in sixth spot.

For the first time, Claxton has only been preparing for a campaign over the hurdles - which could explain her leap in form. In previous seasons, the 25-year-old also contested the long jump but since moving from Colchester to London she has re-focused her attentions. Claxton will see if her new training regime pays dividends at the European Indoors which take place on 5-6 March.

Stars gear up for Bafta ceremony

Film stars from across the globe are preparing to walk the red carpet at this year's Bafta award ceremony.

The 2005 Orange British Academy Film Awards are being held at The Odeon in London's Leicester Square. A host of Hollywood stars, including Cate Blanchett, Leonardo DiCaprio, Keanu Reeves and Richard Gere, are expected to attend Saturday's ceremony. Hosted by Stephen Fry, the glittering ceremony will be broadcast on BBC One at 2010 GMT.

Other actors expected to add to the glamour of the biggest night in UK film are Gael Garcia Bernal, Imelda Staunton, Diane Kruger, Christian Slater, Anjelica Huston, Helen Mirren and former James Bond star Pierce Brosnan. Hollywood blockbuster The Aviator, starring DiCaprio, leads the field with 14 nominations, including best film.

It is up against Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind, Finding Neverland, The Motorcycle Diaries and British film Vera Drake, which has 11 nominations. British hope Imelda Staunton is one of the favourites to land the best actress award for her gritty role as a backstreet abortionist in the small-budget film. Other nominees in the best actress category include Charlize Theron for Monster, Ziyi Zhang for House of Flying Daggers and UK star Kate Winslet, who has two nods for her roles in Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind and Finding Neverland.

DiCaprio faces competition from Bernal, Jamie Foxx, Jim Carrey and Johnny Depp in the best actor category. And British actor Clive Owen is hoping to repeat his Golden Globe success with a best supporting actor award for his role in Closer. His co-star Natalie Portman is up against Blanchett, Heather Craney, Julie Cristie and Meryl Streep in the best supporting actress category. Mike Leigh is up for the best director award for Vera Drake, alongside Martin Scorsese for The Aviator, Michael Mann for Collateral, Michel Gondry for Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind and Marc Forster for Finding Neverland.

I'm interested in find out what is involved in processing pairs of

stereo photographs. I have black-and-white photos and would like

to obtain surface contours.

I'd prefer to do the processing on an SGI, but would be interested

in hearing what software/hardware is used for this type of

image processing.

Please email and/or post to comp.sys.sgi.graphics your responses.

Thanks,

Dane Hendrix | email: dane@wizard.dt.navy.mil

DTMB (a.k.a. Headquarters, Carderock Div.,| or hendrix@oasys.dt.navy.mil

Naval Surface Warfare Center) | or hendrix@nas.nasa.gov

Code 1542, Bethesda, MD 20084-5000 | phone: (301)227-1340

Tarantino 'to make Friday sequel'

Director Quentin Tarantino is in talks to write and direct a new instalment in the Friday the 13th horror franchise, according to the Hollywood Reporter.

The film-maker will reportedly meet executives from New Line Cinema this week to discuss the 12th film in the long-running 'stalk and slash' series. The original film, released in 1980, has spawned ten sequels based around mask-wearing murderer Jason Voorhees. The most recent, Freddy Vs Jason, was released in summer 2003. That film saw Jason battle Freddy Krueger, star of the Nightmare on Elm Street franchise. According to the industry newspaper, New Line had been trying to make another sequel involving Ash, the hero of the Evil Dead movies, but was unable to agree terms with director Sam Raimi. Tarantino is said to be intrigued by the prospect of building a new film around one of the horror genre's most recognised figures. First, however, he is scheduled to direct the season finale of US television series CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. Filming is due to start in early April. Tarantino's episode, for which he also wrote the original story, will be broadcast in the US on 19 May.

Glaxo aims high after profit fall

GlaxoSmithKline saw its profits fall 9% last year to £6.2bn ($11.5bn), but Europe's biggest drugmaker says a recovery during 2005 is on the way.

Cheap copies of its drugs, particularly anti-depressants Paxil and Wellbutrin, and a weak dollar had hit profits, but global sales were up 1% in 2004. The firm is confident its new drug pipeline will deliver profits despite the failure of an obesity drug. Chief executive Jean-Pierre Garnier said it had been a "difficult year".

In early afternoon trade in London the company share price was down 1% at 1218 pence. Mr Garnier said the company had absorbed over £1.5bn of lost sales to generics but still managing to grow the business. "The continuing success of our key products means we can now look forward to a good performance in 2005," he said. "2005 will also be an important year in terms of research and development pipeline progress." However, the firm discontinued development of an experimental treatment for obesity, known as '771, after disappointing clinical trial results. Glaxo is relying on new treatments for conditions such as cancer, diabetes, depression, HIV/AIDS and allergies to lift the pace of sales growth after several disappointing years.

World War I

World War I (often abbreviated as WWI or WW1), also known as the First World War or the Great War, was a global war originating in Europe that lasted from 28 July 1914 to 11 November 1918. Contemporaneously described as "the war to end all wars",[7] it led to the mobilisation of more than 70 million military personnel, including 60 million Europeans, making it one of the largest wars in history. It is also one of the deadliest conflicts in history, with an estimated nine million combatant and seven million civilian deaths as a direct result of the war, while resulting genocides and the related 1918 influenza pandemic caused another 17–50 million deaths worldwide.

On 28 June 1914, Gavrilo Princip, a Bosnian Serb Yugoslav nationalist, assassinated the Austro-Hungarian heir Archduke Franz Ferdinand in Sarajevo, leading to the July Crisis. In response, on 23 July, Austria-Hungary issued an ultimatum to Serbia. Serbia's reply failed to satisfy the Austrians, and the two moved to a war footing.

A network of interlocking alliances enlarged the crisis from a bilateral issue in the Balkans to one involving most of Europe. By July 1914, the great powers of Europe were divided into two coalitions: the Triple Entente—consisting of France, Russia, and Britain—and the Triple Alliance of Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Italy (the Triple Alliance was only defensive in nature, allowing Italy to stay out of the war until April 1915, when it joined the Allied Powers after its relations with Austria-Hungary deteriorated). Russia felt it necessary to back Serbia and, after Austria-Hungary shelled the Serbian capital of Belgrade on the 28 July, approved partial mobilisation. Full Russian mobilisation was announced on the evening of 30 July; on the 31st, Austria-Hungary and Germany did the same, while Germany demanded Russia demobilise within twelve hours. When Russia failed to comply, Germany declared war on Russia on 1 August in support of Austria-Hungary, with Austria-Hungary following suit on 6 August; France ordered full mobilisation in support of Russia on 2 August.

German strategy for a war on two fronts against France and Russia was to rapidly concentrate the bulk of its army in the West to defeat France within six weeks, then shift forces to the East before Russia could fully mobilise; this was later known as the Schlieffen Plan. On 2 August, Germany demanded free passage through Belgium, an essential element in achieving a quick victory over France. When this was refused, German forces invaded Belgium on 3 August and declared war on France the same day; the Belgian government invoked the 1839 Treaty of London and in compliance with its obligations under this, Britain declared war on Germany on 4 August. On 12 August, Britain and France also declared war on Austria-Hungary; on the 23 August, Japan sided with Britain, seizing German possessions in China and the Pacific. In November 1914, the Ottoman Empire entered the war on the side of the Central Powers, opening fronts in the Caucasus, Mesopotamia, and the Sinai Peninsula. The war was fought in and drew upon each power's colonial empire as well, spreading the conflict to Africa and across the globe. The Entente and its allies would eventually become known as the Allied Powers, while the grouping of Austria-Hungary, Germany and their allies would become known as the Central Powers.

The German advance into France was halted at the Battle of the Marne and by the end of 1914, the Western Front settled into a battle of attrition, marked by a long series of trench lines that changed little until 1917 (the Eastern Front, by contrast, was marked by much greater exchanges of territory). In 1915, Italy joined the Allied Powers and opened a front in the Alps. Bulgaria joined the Central Powers in 1915 and Greece joined the Allies in 1917, expanding the war in the Balkans. The United States initially remained neutral, though even while neutral it became an important supplier of war materiel to the Allies. Eventually, after the sinking of American merchant ships by German submarines, the declaration by Germany that its navy would resume unrestricted attacks on neutral shipping, and the revelation that Germany was trying to incite Mexico to make war on the United States, the U.S. declared war on Germany on 6 April 1917. Trained American forces would not begin arriving at the front in large numbers until mid-1918, but ultimately the American Expeditionary Force would reach some two million troops.

Though Serbia was defeated in 1915, and Romania joined the Allied Powers in 1916 only to be defeated in 1917, none of the great powers were knocked out of the war until 1918. The 1917 February Revolution in Russia replaced the Tsarist autocracy with the Provisional Government, but continuing discontent with the cost of the war led to the October Revolution, the creation of the Soviet Socialist Republic, and the signing of the Treaty of Brest-Litovsk by the new government in March 1918, ending Russia's involvement in the war. This allowed the transfer of large numbers of German troops from the East to the Western Front, resulting in the German March 1918 Offensive. This offensive was initially successful, but failed to score a decisive victory and exhausted the last of the German reserves. The Allies rallied and drove the Germans back in their Hundred Days Offensive, a continual series of attacks to which the Germans had no reply. Bulgaria was the first Central Power to sign an armistice—the Armistice of Salonica on 29 September 1918. On 30 October, the Ottoman Empire capitulated, signing the Armistice of Mudros.On 4 November, the Austro-Hungarian empire agreed to the Armistice of Villa Giusti. With its allies defeated, revolution at home, and the military no longer willing to fight, Kaiser Wilhelm abdicated on 9 November and Germany signed an armistice on 11 November 1918, effectively ending the war.

World War I was a significant turning point in the political, cultural, economic, and social climate of the world. The war and its immediate aftermath sparked numerous revolutions and uprisings. The Big Four (Britain, France, the United States, and Italy) imposed their terms on the defeated powers in a series of treaties agreed at the 1919 Paris Peace Conference, the most well known being the German peace treaty—the Treaty of Versailles. Ultimately, as a result of the war the Austro-Hungarian, German, Ottoman, and Russian Empires ceased to exist, with numerous new states created from their remains. However, despite the conclusive Allied victory (and the creation of the League of Nations during the Peace Conference, intended to prevent future wars), a second world war would follow just over twenty years later.

Todays New York TImes just wrote about a pact being negotiated

between us and the Russians to develope High Temperature

Gas Cooled Fission Reactors using Re-Cycled Weapons Grade plutonium

from Warhead stockpiles. THe fuel will be pelletized in ceramic

for safety, and then after depletion will be sufficiently

contaminated with by-products to make extraction of the remaining

plutonium hazardous enough to deter re-use.

Apparently the project will be led by General Atomics of San Diego

with funding from the US GOvernment. THe pilot plant will be built

and operated by the russians.

Pat

In article <VNci2B7w165w@inqmind.bison.mb.ca>, victor@inqmind.bison.mb.ca

(Victor Laking) writes:

> Does anyone have any info on the apparent sightings of Vulcan?

> All that I know is that there were apparently two sightings at

> drastically different times of a small planet that was inside Mercury's

> orbit. Beyond that, I have no other info.

The sightings were apparently spurious. There is no planet inside of

the orbit of Mercury.

The idea of Vulcan came from the differences between Mercury's observed

perihelion precession and the value it should have had according to

Newtonian physics. Leverrier made an extensive set of observations

and calculations during the mid 19th century, and Simon Newcombe later

improved on the observations and re-calculated using Leverrier's system

of equations. Now Leverrier was one of the co-discoverers of Neptune

and since he had predicted its existence based on anomalies in the orbit

of Uranus his inclination was to believe the same sort of thing was

afoot with Mercury.

But alas, 'twere not so. Mercury's perihelion precesses at the rate

it does because the space where it resides near the sun is significantly

curved due to the sun's mass. This explanation had to wait until 1915

and Albert Einstein's synthesis of his earlier theory of the electrodynamics

of moving bodies (commonly called Special Relativity) with Reimanian

geometry. The result was the General Theory of Relativity, and one of

it's most noteworthy strengths is that it accounts for the precession

of Mercury's perihelion almost exactly. (Exactly if you use Newcomb's

numbers rather than Leverrier's.)

Of course not everybody believes Einstein, and that's fine. But subsequent

efforts to find any planets closer to the sun than Mercury using radar

have been fruitless.

-Bill Gawne

"Forgive him, he is a barbarian, who thinks the customs of his tribe

are the laws of the universe." - G. J. Caesar

Any opinions are my own. Nothing in this post constitutes an official

statement from any person or organization.

They don’t move, they don’t complain, and they’re impervious to X-ray damage. In other words, mummies are “a perfect subject for medical radiography,” according to conservator JP Brown of Chicago’s Field Museum of Natural History.

Scientists figured this out early on: just months after Wilhelm Roentgen’s discovery of X-rays in the fall of 1895, a physicist, Walter Koenig, captured the first radiographic images of mummified remains at the Physical Society of Frankfurt-am-Main. Up until that point, studying mummies had mostly meant unwrapping them, a process that Brown notes is “necessarily destructive.” A few decades later, the Field Museum became a pioneer of mummy imaging. Edward Jerman of the Victor X-Ray Corporation of Chicago volunteered his services and radiographed 32 ancient Egyptian and Peruvian mummies in the museum’s collection with what curator Berthold Lauer called “such gratifying and convincing results” that museum president Stanley Field opened a division of roentgenology in 1926.

In 1931, the museum published a radiographic study by paleopathologist Roy Moodie that captured many of its mummies in vivid skeletal detail, including child mummies from Egypt and Peru, and a skull with an outgrowth that Moodie diagnosed as a cranial tumor. The study also turned up “imitation mummies” made of assorted feathers, bones, and scraps of skin—believed to have been either created to help guide disintegrated bodies on their journey to the afterlife, or assembled by embalmers as a sly attempt to earn extra money.

Although X-rays allow a noninvasive glimpse into unopened mummies, they create distortion by magnifying objects closer to the X-ray source, and they obscure the appearance of soft tissues and textiles. When CT scanning, which produces high-resolution, cross-sectional images of the body, emerged in the 1970s, mummy preservation experts quickly realized its potential for revealing ancient mortuary practices.

Case in point: a 2011 CT scan at the Field Museum revealed wax figurines of the sons of the ancient Egyptian god Horus bound to individual organ packets stuffed inside the mummy. Because each of the sons designated certain organs in Egyptian culture, Brown was able to identify the intestines, stomach, liver, and lungs. He then used these findings to help identify unknown organ packets in other mummies that didn’t have wax figurines. “That was pretty awesome,” he says, because “apart from flagrant guessing, we had no previous methodological basis” for determining organ identity.

Mimi Leveque, a conservator at the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, Massachusetts, and self-described “mummy doctor” who has collaborated with Brown, recalls CT scanning an Egyptian mummy known as Padihershef at Massachusetts General Hospital in 2013 and seeing it imaged “layer by layer by layer so you could see the face, you could see the bones . . . of the face, you could see inside the head . . . you could still see the brain tissue.” CT scanning has also helped Leveque design custom housings to support the deteriorated bones of North America’s oldest mummy, a roughly 4,000-year-old specimen from Egypt at the Michael C. Carlos Museum in Atlanta.

Despite the long history of mummy scanning, Brown says that many questions remain about ancient mortuary practice that can’t be answered with individual scans. He points to archives being developed at the Penn Museum and the IMPACT mummy database, which compile scans of mummies and offer access to researchers who wish to study them, as steps toward improving our understanding of both the mummification process and its artifacts.

Japanese growth grinds to a halt

Growth in Japan evaporated in the three months to September, sparking renewed concern about an economy not long out of a decade-long trough.

Output in the period grew just 0.1%, an annual rate of 0.3%. Exports - the usual engine of recovery - faltered, while domestic demand stayed subdued and corporate investment also fell short. The growth falls well short of expectations, but does mark a sixth straight quarter of expansion.

The economy had stagnated throughout the 1990s, experiencing only brief spurts of expansion amid long periods in the doldrums. One result was deflation - prices falling rather than rising - which made Japanese shoppers cautious and kept them from spending.

The effect was to leave the economy more dependent than ever on exports for its recent recovery. But high oil prices have knocked 0.2% off the growth rate, while the falling dollar means products shipped to the US are becoming relatively more expensive.

The performance for the third quarter marks a sharp downturn from earlier in the year. The first quarter showed annual growth of 6.3%, with the second showing 1.1%, and economists had been predicting as much as 2% this time around. "Exports slowed while capital spending became weaker," said Hiromichi Shirakawa, chief economist at UBS Securities in Tokyo. "Personal consumption looks good, but it was mainly due to temporary factors such as the Olympics. "The amber light is flashing." The government may now find it more difficult to raise taxes, a policy it will have to implement when the economy picks up to help deal with Japan's massive public debt.

Last Star Wars 'not for children'

The sixth and final Star Wars movie may not be suitable for young children, film-maker George Lucas has said.

He told US TV show 60 Minutes that Revenge of the Sith would be the darkest and most violent of the series. "I don't think I would take a five or six-year-old to this," he told the CBS programme, to be aired on Sunday. Lucas predicted the film would get a US rating advising parents some scenes may be unsuitable for under-13s. It opens in the UK and US on 19 May. He said he expected the film would be classified PG-13 - roughly equivalent to a British 12A rating.

The five previous Star Wars films have all carried less restrictive PG - parental guidance - ratings in the US. In the UK, they have all been passed U - suitable for all - with the exception of Attack of The Clones, which got a PG rating in 2002. Revenge of the Sith - the third prequel to the original 1977 Star Wars film - chronicles the transformation of the heroic Anakin Skywalker into the evil Darth Vader as he travels to a Hell-like planet composed of erupting volcanoes and molten lava. "We're going to watch him make a pact with the devil," Lucas said. "The film is much more dark, more emotional. It's much more of a tragedy."

O'Sullivan could run in Worlds

Sonia O'Sullivan has indicated that she would like to participate in next month's World Cross Country Championships in St Etienne.

Athletics Ireland have hinted that the 35-year-old Cobh runner may be included in the official line-up for the event in France on 19-20 March. Provincial teams were selected after last Saturday's Nationals in Santry and will be officially announced this week. O'Sullivan is at present preparing for the London marathon on 17 April. The participation of O'Sullivan, currentily training at her base in Australia, would boost the Ireland team who won the bronze three years agio. The first three at Santry last Saturday, Jolene Byrne, Maria McCambridge and Fionnualla Britton, are automatic selections and will most likely form part of the long-course team. O'Sullivan will also take part in the Bupa Great Ireland Run on 9 April in Dublin.

In article <SHAFER.93Apr6094402@rigel.dfrf.nasa.gov> shafer@rigel.dfrf.nasa.gov (Mary Shafer) writes:

>Dryden flew the first digital fly by wire aircraft in the 70s. No

>mechnaical or analog backup, to show you how confident we were.

Confident, or merely crazed? That desert sun :-)

>successful we were. (Mind you, the Avro Arrow and the X-15 were both

>fly-by-wire aircraft much earlier, but analog.)

Gee, I thought the X-15 was Cable controlled. Didn't one of them have a

total electrical failure in flight? Was there machanical backup systems?

|The NASA habit of acquiring second-hand military aircraft and using

|them for testbeds can make things kind of confusing. On the other

|hand, all those second-hand Navy planes give our test pilots a chance

|to fold the wings--something most pilots at Edwards Air Force Base

|can't do.

What do you mean? Overstress the wings, and they fail at teh joints?

You'll have to enlighten us in the hinterlands.

Pat

I've recently listened to a tape by Dr. Stanislaw Burzynski, in which he

claims to have discovered a series naturally occuring peptides with anti-

cancer properties that he names antineoplastons. Burzynski says that his

work has met with hostility in the United States, despite the favorable

responses of his subjects during clinical trials.

What is the generally accepted opinion of Dr. Burzynski's research? He

paints himself as a lone researcher with a new breakthrough battling an

intolerant medical establishment, but I have no basis from which to judge

his claims. Two weeks ago, however, I read that the NIH's Department of

Alternative Medicine has decided to focus their attention on Burzynski's

work. Their budget is so small that I imagine they wouldn't investigate a

treatment that didn't seem promising.

Any opinions on Burzynski's antineoplastons or information about the current

status of his research would be appreciated.

Joshua Schwimmer

[jschwimmer@eagle.wesleyan.edu](mailto:jschwimmer@eagle.wesleyan.edu)

As soon as he learned about the existence of ancient wheat specimens at University College London’s Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology from a 2018 BBC documentary, Richard Mott of the UCL Genetics Institute wanted to study them. The samples likely contained bits of ancient wheat DNA, he reasoned, which could yield valuable insights into the history of cultivation of this all-important crop species.

ABOVE: ROGERS FUND, 1930, CHARLES K WILKINSON

As soon as he learned about the existence of ancient wheat specimens at University College London’s Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology from a 2018 BBC documentary, Richard Mott of the UCL Genetics Institute wanted to study them. The samples likely contained bits of ancient wheat DNA, he reasoned, which could yield valuable insights into the history of cultivation of this all-important crop species.

Archaeobotanists at UCL helped Mott and a team of collaborators choose a handful of well-preserved husks from the museum’s collection of ancient emmer wheat, a variety native to the Near East and one of the first crops to be domesticated in the region, from which the researchers selected two husks for DNA extraction. After carefully removing the husks from the box, photographing them, and wrapping them in foil, the scientists transported the centuries-old plant material to a freshly bleached cleanroom used exclusively to process ancient and forensic samples.

There, team member Laura Botigué, a population geneticist and visiting researcher from the Centre for Research in Agricultural Genomics (CRAG) in Barcelona, Spain, donned a hairnet, two Tyvek suits, two pairs of latex gloves, and a mask—part of a protocol designed to avoid contaminating the samples with her own cells. Uncertain how the delicate husks would hold up to the standard decontamination protocol of bleaching the samples, Botigué bleached one and left the second untouched. Then, to lyse the plant’s cells, she put the samples in a rotator that gently shook the husks inside an oven over the next several days. Finally, she used a centrifugation protocol to separate any DNA from the degraded cell walls and proteins.

Once the samples had been prepped and delivered to the UCL Genomics facility for sequencing, it was a waiting game to see if the procedure had yielded any readable wheat DNA. “This is the more stressful part,” Botigué says. Because they lack the type of protective collagen matrix found in bones, plants don’t preserve ancient DNA as well as animals. “You finish, the DNA is theoretically extracted, but you don’t see it in the tube,” says Botigué. “You’re in the blind until you hear back from the sequencing services.”

Within just a few weeks, the team got good news. For the husk that Botigué had bleached, about two-thirds of the reads aligned with genomes of modern wild and domesticated emmer wheat varieties—a relatively good success rate for ancient DNA, according to evolutionary geneticist Michael Scott, a postdoc in Mott’s lab who conducted the bioinformatics analysis of the sequences. “The first surprise was how well it worked,” he says. “It appears that the dry conditions in Egypt were good for DNA preservation.” The unbleached husk had yielded a smaller quantity of sequences, but those fragments mostly matched the ones in the bleached sample, validating the identity of those sequences as coming from the ancient wheat samples rather than from contaminants.

The museum wheat, which carbon dating showed was from between 1130 and 1000 BC, was genetically much more similar to modern domesticated varieties than to modern wild ones, suggesting that the plant lineage the samples came from had already been domesticated. Specifically, the sequences most resembled those of modern domesticated strains grown in Turkey, Oman, and India. There was also evidence for genetic exchange between the museum wheat strain and the wild emmer wheat that grew in the Levant, a large region in the Eastern Mediterranean that was a center of agricultural development in the Neolithic period, and where emmer was first cultivated. The genetic exchange could have occurred before the wheat’s introduction to Egypt from the Levant, says Scott. Alternatively, it’s possible that the ancient Egyptians’ wheat was able to interbreed with wild wheat in the Southern Levant thanks to interactions between the people in the two regions.

“With big data and with a really good analysis method they were able to detect this gene flow,” says M. Timothy Rabanus-Wallace, an agricultural geneticist at the Leibniz Institute of Plant Genetics and Crop Plant Research in Germany who coauthored a perspective published alongside the study in Nature Plants last October. “It’s fascinating to see this gene flow happening . . . in an area important for human history.”

See “Confessing to Plant Blindness”

The bioinformatics analysis also uncovered some genetic variants in the ancient samples that weren’t found in any of the modern emmer wheat genomes the researchers studied. If these variants helped the wheat survive in arid locations around the Near East, perhaps introducing those sequences into modern varieties could help make them more sustainable or more drought resistant, Scott says, though he admits that this “is very much just an idea.”

The detection of ancient genetic variation is a notable achievement because wheat genomes are large—three to five times the length of a human genome—and repetitive, making the “analysis . . . incredibly complex,” says James Breen, head of the bioinformatics core at the South Australian Health and Medical Research Institute who reviewed the study and coauthored the perspective with Rabanus-Wallace, a PhD student in his lab at the Australian Centre for Ancient DNA at the time. “So being able to find unique pieces of DNA in that genome is very difficult.” He adds that after a couple of additional validation tests performed by the UCL team, he was convinced that “the data that came out was legitimately ancient.”

Botigué and Scott emphasize that the study is primarily a proof of concept that museum-kept plant samples can yield readable genetic material. “We were able to look at DNA from specimens that had been stored in the museum for over 90 years without special preservation conditions—the museum was actually even bombed and flooded during wartime,” says Scott. “We think our study helps demonstrate the importance of museum collections as sources of genetic data, which”—in combination with new samples—“can be used to uncover the history of selection on crops and their movement around the globe.”

See “The Narluga: New Insights from Old Bones”

“I think that’s one of the biggest values of ancient DNA in plants,” adds Nathan Wales, an archaeologist at the University of York who was not involved in Scott and Botigué’s study—“to draw connections between different cultures and the different agricultural products they were growing and trading, and seeing how that changed over time.”

Lufthansa flies back to profit

German airline Lufthansa has returned to profit in 2004 after posting huge losses in 2003.

In a preliminary report, the airline announced net profits of 400m euros ($527.61m; £274.73m), compared with a loss of 984m euros in 2003. Operating profits were at 380m euros, ten times more than in 2003. Lufthansa was hit in 2003 by tough competition and a dip in demand following the Iraq war and the killer SARS virus. It was also hit by troubles at its US catering business. Last year, Lufthansa showed signs of recovery even as some European and US airlines were teetering on the brink of bankruptcy. The board of Lufthansa has recommended paying a 2004 dividend of 0.30 euros per share. In 2003, shareholders did not get a dividend. The company said that it will give all the details of its 2004 results on 23 March.

Man Utd stroll to Cup win

Wayne Rooney made a winning return to Everton as Manchester United cruised into the FA Cup quarter-finals.

Rooney received a hostile reception, but goals in each half from Quinton Fortune and Cristiano Ronaldo silenced the jeers at Goodison Park. Fortune headed home after 23 minutes before Ronaldo scored when Nigel Martyn parried Paul Scholes' free-kick. Marcus Bent missed Everton's best chance when Roy Carroll, who was later struck by a missile, saved at his feet.

Rooney's return was always going to be a potential flashpoint, and he was involved in an angry exchange with a spectator even before kick-off. And Rooney's every touch was met with a deafening chorus of jeers from the crowd that once idolised the 19-year-old. Everton started brightly and Fortune needed to be alert to scramble away a header from Bent near the goal-line. But that was the cue for United to take complete control with a supreme passing display on a Goodison Park pitch that was cutting up. Fortune gave United the lead after 23 minutes, rising to meet Ronaldo's cross from eight yards after the Portuguese youngster had been allowed too much time and space by the hapless Gary Naysmith. United dominated without creating too many clear-cut chances, and they almost paid the price for not making the most of their domination two minutes before half-time. Mikel Arteta played a superb ball into the area but Bent, played onside by Gabriel Heintze, hesitated and Carroll plunged at his fee to save. United almost doubled their lead after 48 minutes when Ronaldo's low drive from 25 yards took a deflection off Tony Hibbert, but Martyn dived to save brilliantly. And Martyn came to Everton's rescue three minutes later when Rooney's big moment almost arrived as he raced clean through, but once again the veteran keeper was in outstanding form. But there was nothing Martyn could do when United doubled their lead after 57 minutes as they doubled their advantage. Scholes' free-kick took a deflection, and Martyn could only parry the ball out for Ronaldo, who reacted first to score easily. Everton's problems worsened when James McFadden limped off with an injury. And there may be further trouble ahead for Everton after goalkeeper Carroll required treatment after he was struck on the head by a missile thrown from behind the goal. Rooney's desperate search for a goal on his return to Everton was halted again by Martyn in injury-time when he outpaced Stubbs, but once again Martyn denied the England striker.

- Manchester United coach Sir Alex Ferguson: "It was a fantastic performance by us. In fairness I think Everton have missed a couple of players and got some young players out. "The boy Ronaldo is a fantastic player. He's persistent and never gives in. "I don't know how many fouls he had He gets up and wants the ball again, he's truly a fabulous player." Everton: Martyn, Hibbert, Yobo, Stubbs, Naysmith, Osman, Carsley, Arteta, Kilbane, McFadden, Bent. Subs: Wright, Pistone, Weir, Plessis, Vaughan. Manchester United: Carroll, Gary Neville, Brown, Ferdinand, Heinze, Ronaldo, Phil Neville, Keane, Scholes, Fortune, Rooney. Subs: Howard, Giggs, Smith, Miller, Spector. Referee: R Styles (Hampshire)

WorldCom director admits lying

The former chief financial officer at US telecoms firm WorldCom has admitted before a New York court that he used to lie to fellow board members.

Speaking at the trial of his former boss Bernard Ebbers, Scott Sullivan said he lied to the board to cover up the hole in WorldCom's finances. Mr Ebbers is on trial for fraud and conspiracy in relation to WorldCom's collapse in 2002. He pleads not guilty. The firm had been overstating its accounts by $11bn (£8.5bn). Mr Sullivan, 42, has already pleaded guilty to fraud and will be sentenced following Mr Ebbers' trial, where he is appearing as a prosecution witness. Mr Ebbers, 63, has always insisted that he was unaware of any hidden shortfalls in WorldCom's finances.

In the New York court on Wednesday, Mr Ebbers' lawyer Reid Weingarten asked Mr Sullivan: "If you believe something is in your interest, you are willing and able to lie to accomplish it, isn't that right?"

"On that date, yes. I was lying," replied Mr Sullivan. Mr Weingarten has suggested that Mr Sullivan is implicating Mr Ebbers only to win a lighter sentence, something Mr Sullivan denies. Mr Sullivan also rejects a suggestion that he had once told fellow WorldCom board member Bert Roberts that Mr Ebbers was unaware of the accounting fraud at WorldCom. The trial of Mr Ebbers is now into its third week.

Under 23 hours of questioning from a federal prosecutor, Mr Sullivan has previously told the court that he repeatedly warned Mr Ebbers that falsifying the books would be the only way to meet Wall Street revenue and earnings expectations. Mr Sullivan claims that Mr Ebbers refused to stop the fraud. Mr Ebbers could face a sentence of 85 years if convicted of all the charges he is facing. WorldCom's problems appear to have begun with the collapse of the dotcom boom which cut its business from internet companies. Prosecutors allege that the company's top executives responded by orchestrating massive fraud over a two-year period. WorldCom emerged from bankruptcy protection in 2004, and is now known as MCI.

[reply to dufault@lftfld.enet.dec.com (MD)]

>After many metabolic tests, body structure tests, and infection/virus

>tests the doctors still do not know quite what type of siezures he is

>having (although they do have alot of evidence that it is now pointing

>to infantile spasms ). This is where we stand right now....As I know

>now, these particular types of disorders are still not really well

>understood by the medical community.

Infantile spasms have been well understood for quite some time now. You

are seeing a pediatric neurologist, aren't you? If not, I strongly

recommend it. There is a new anticonvulsant about to be released called

felbamate which may be particularly helpful for infantile spasms. As

for learning more about seizures, ask your doctor or his nurse about a

local support group.

David Nye (nyeda@cnsvax.uwec.edu). Midelfort Clinic, Eau Claire WI

This is patently absurd; but whoever wishes to become a philosopher

must learn not to be frightened by absurdities. -- Bertrand Russell

In article <1993Apr20.180835.24033@lmpsbbs.comm.mot.com> dougb@ecs.comm.mot.com writes:

:My wife's ob-gyn has an ultrasound machine in her office. When

:the doctor couldn't hear a fetal heartbeat (13 weeks) she used

:the ultrasound to see if everything was ok. (it was)

:On her next visit, my wife asked another doctor in the office if

:they read the ultrasounds themselves or if they had a radiologist

:read the pictures. The doctor very vehemently insisted that they

:were qualified to read the ultrasound and radiologists were NOT!

:[stuff deleted]

This is one of those sticky areas of medicine where battles frequently

rage. With respect to your OB, I suspect that she has been certified in

ultrasound diagnostics, and is thus allowed to use it and bill for its

use. Many cardiologists also use ultrasound (echocardiography), and are

in fact considered by many to be the 'experts'. I am not sure where OBs

stand in this regard, but I suspect that they are at least as good as the

radioligists (flame-retardant suit ready).

= Kenneth Gilbert \_\_|\_\_ University of Pittsburgh =

= General Internal Medicine | "...dammit, not a programmer!" =

Boogeyman takes box office lead

The low-budget horror film Boogeyman has knocked Robert de Niro thriller Hide and Seek from the top spot at the UK box office.

The film, in which a young man is forced to revisit a traumatic childhood experience, took £788,439 in its first three days on release. Hide And Seek, which was knocked off the top of the US box office by Boogeyman last month, fell one place. Oscar nominee Hotel Rwanda was also a new entry in the chart, at number five. The film, which scored Oscar nominations for Don Cheadle and British actress Sophie Okonedo, made £507, 596 in its first week of nationwide release.

Comedy sequel Meet The Fockers and Shall We Dance?, starring Jennifer Lopez and Richard Gere, completed the top five. Clint Eastwood's Million Dollar Baby re-entered the charts at number eight, following its recent success at the Oscars. The boxing drama, which won four awards including best film and best director, has made £4.4m to date. Two other new entries, a remake of the 1965 film Flight of the Phoenix, and the teen comedy Harold and Kumar Get The Munchies, debuted outside the top 10.

Peugeot deal boosts Mitsubishi

Struggling Japanese car maker Mitsubishi Motors has struck a deal to supply French car maker Peugeot with 30,000 sports utility vehicles (SUV).

The two firms signed a Memorandum of Understanding, and say they expect to seal a final agreement by Spring 2005. The alliance comes as a badly-needed boost for loss-making Mitsubishi, after several profit warnings and poor sales. The SUVs will be built in Japan using Peugeot's diesel engines and sold mainly in the European market. Falling sales have left Mitsubishi Motors with underused capacity, and the production deal with Peugeot gives it a chance to utilise some of it.

In January, Mitsubishi Motors issued its third profits warning in nine months, and cut its sales forecasts for the year to March 2005. Its sales have slid 41% in the past year, catalysed by the revelation that the company had systematically been hiding records of faults and then secretly repairing vehicles. As a result, the Japanese car maker has sought a series of financial bailouts. Last month it said it was looking for a further 540bn yen ($5.2bn; £2.77bn) in fresh financial backing, half of it from other companies in the Mitsubishi group. US-German carmaker DaimlerChrylser, a 30% shareholder in Mitsubishi Motors, decided in April 2004 not to pump in any more money. The deal with Peugeot was celebrated by Mitsubishi's newly-appointed chief executive Takashi Nishioka, who took over after three top bosses stood down last month to shoulder responsibility for the firm's troubles. Mitsubishi Motors has forecast a net loss of 472bn yen in its current financial year to March 2005. Last month, it signed a production agreement with Japanese rival Nissan Motor to supply it with 36,000 small cars for sale in Japan. It has been making cars for Nissan since 2003.

As the 1918 Flu Emerged, Cover-Up and Denial Helped It Spread

Nations fighting in World War I were reluctant to report their flu outbreaks.

“Spanish flu” has been used to describe the flu pandemic of 1918 and 1919 and the name suggests the outbreak started in Spain. But the term is actually a misnomer and points to a key fact: nations involved in World War I didn’t accurately report their flu outbreaks.

Spain remained neutral throughout World War I and its press freely reported its flu cases, including when the Spanish king Alfonso XIII contracted it in the spring of 1918. This led to the misperception that the flu had originated or was at its worst in Spain.

“Basically, it gets called the ‘Spanish flu’ because the Spanish media did their job,” says Lora Vogt, curator of education at the National WWI Museum and Memorial in Kansas City, Missouri. In Great Britain and the United States—which has a long history of blaming other countries for disease—the outbreak was also known as the “Spanish grip” or “Spanish Lady.”

Historians aren’t actually sure where the 1918 flu strain began, but the first recorded cases were at a U.S. Army camp in Kansas in March 1918. By the end of 1919, it had infected up to a third of the world’s population and killed some 50 million people. It was the worst flu pandemic in recorded history, and it was likely exacerbated by a combination of censorship, skepticism and denial among warring nations.