NEW S :::: MAY 2001 ::::

31 may 01


Webzine 2001: New York and San Francisco. JB

And another Happy Birthday to Zeldman! JB

Happy 71st Birthday to an all time favorite of mine, Clint Eastwood. JB

ACRL's 10th National Conference Proceedings are now available. CB

Check out the XML Cover Pages - everything you always wanted to know about XML (and related standards) but may not have known to ask. CB

From this month's issue of Current Cites:

- Cataloguing the missteps at the French National Library (BNF).
- Interesting article on the paradox and promise of digital preservation.
- They threw me a computer ... but what I really needed was a life preserver - the role of libraries and museums in cultivating literacy, access, content and training. CB

This guy likes libraries, and he might like them more if he used public transportation. JB

Two retiring librarians talk about changes they've seen over their careers - "New technology is not the only challenge facing librarians... The students are different, too." JB

Filter? Not in Iowa. JB

Excellent way to review your collection: chain it! [link via Library Geek ] JB

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30 may 01

Librarians speak - publishers listen. After 61 days of protest by libraries and other institutions, Nature adopted a new licensing policy for libraries, ending the full-text embargo on their online content. [thanks BC] CB
Science doesn't destroy our cities, deform our children, and cause global warming. Greed does. My beef: cite every source. [link via k10k] JB

How does a library’s commitment to lifelong learning remain strong as ever when that library is cancelling 1120 periodical subscriptions? JB

Meet the new "Face of New China," the avant-garde Weiku: dressed in Kurt Cobain and Che Guevara t-shirts and ingesting a daily 10 hours on the Internet, the Weiku generation is remaking China. JB

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29 may 01

A plea to web developers: don't disable the back button. CB

Linked from the Virtual Acquisition Desk:

- Search US Court of Appeals decisions
- ShelfLife: free weekly news summary from RLG. Also available via email. CB

Expanding the borders of the Internet - e-mail from Mars? [link via Newstrolls] CB

Netscape 4, the undead coelecanth. Heh. JB

Litkicks: Sweet site "devoted to a few experimental literary movements that tried to uncover some deeper truths about life." I see all my favorite authors. JB

Whoa! This is good - The Science world is finally taking action by boycotting publishers who refuse to make scientific research papers freely available on the internet after six months. JB


Careful when flirting in the library. JB

Mixing mediums: LivePlanet's basic plan - "to produce traditional media (including films and television shows) based on live events (like the runner's cross-country trek) that allow viewers to participate (through on-line or wireless games or contests)." LivePlanet consists of Ben Affleck, Matt Damon, Chris Moore and Sean Bailey. JB


Information, Knowledges and Society, Havana, 22-26 April 2002. JB


Highlights of Harper's Weekly Review:

Missouri's governor apologized for spending $1 million on his inauguration. The Museum of International Folk, part of the Museum of New Mexico, decided to leave an artwork on display that
depicts Our Lady of Guadalupe wearing a rose-covered bikini; Roman Catholics were outraged. McDonald's apologized to Hindus whom it lured into sin (condemning them, perhaps, to countless lifetimes of suffering) by secretly putting beef flavorings on its french fries. After a five-year investigation, Heinz was fined $180,000 for underfilling its ketchup bottles and agreed to overfill them by 1 percent, at a cost of $650,000, for a year. Japan apologized to its lepers for keeping them confined in colonies for decades after the disease was cured. President George W. Bush gave the 300th commencement address at Yale University, received an honorary degree, and reassured other C students that their lives were not yet wasted. Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton also spoke to Yale's graduating seniors. "Hair matters," she said. "Your hair will send significant messages to those around you....Pay attention to your hair." Someone threw a haggis through the window of a Scottish woman living in England; police said they were treating the incident as a "racially-motivated hate crime." Doctors in Egypt removed a 100-pound cyst from the stomach of a 17-year-old girl. An honors student in Fort Myers, Florida, was suspended and banned from her graduation after a school security guard found a kitchen knife in her car; the young woman, who spent the weekend in jail on a felony weapons-possession charge, tried to explain that the knife was left there accidentally after she moved house over the weekend. Scientists found signs of syphilis in the bones of a medieval girl from Essex, England; the find may prove that Christopher Columbus did not carry syphilis to Europe from the New World as was previously thought. Suspicion was cast on Vikings. An enraged cow attacked a golfer in Stockholm. JB

I hope everyone had a long, relaxing weekend and enjoyable Memorial Day. I learned something over the weekend I thought I would pass on: if you're ever transporting through an arboretum of stinging nettle, pour beer over the exposed skin for an all over tingly, not quite burning, almost ecstatic sensation. Some pay big money for that feeling. JB

Hot diggity! The New York Public Library is looking mighty fine! Zeldman has designed the Click on @ The Library: Narrowing the Digital Divide Program, a program promoting computers and web access, training and outreach to everyone. Carrie has been in on this from day one. JB

Meet Biblia, the Warrior Librarian. JB

26 may 01

Meant to post this yesterday, but... NewBreed Librarian may be unavailable for up to 4 hours starting 2:00 am PST on May 27 so that our ISP can move us to a new server. CB

25 may 01

Porn exposure creates a hostile environment for 12 Minneapolis public librarians. JB

If Arctic Wildlife Refuge matters to you, take a few seconds and do something about it. JB

The Semantic Web: feature article in this month's Scientific American by Tim Berners-Lee, James Hendler and Ora Lassila. An important read. JB
24 may 01

**What are you reading? JB**

Librarian puts up a first-rate display and gets accused of *idolatry* by a brassbound, over zealous, bible-blinders mother. **JB**

A nice piece on a **horticulture library** unlike any other. **JB**

The infamous **L.C. won't be scratching up any more dogs** at Escondido Public Library, including ones coming around to "bait her." **JB**

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23 may 01

**Wireless logjam is a-comin'. CB**

**For Juanita** (nothing to do with libraries) **CB**

Thanks Colleen... but you're a day late and a dollar short. I saw it this morning :-). **Mr. Waits** for god. Did you know he once saved a baby from drowning? He's been seen at the table with kings? **JB**

**Students swap beer for the 'net. CB**

Kerouac's *"On the Road"* auctioned at a record $2.43 million. **JB**

**Momos at the bookdrop.** Vandalizing libraries is wacked. [link via Stuff] **JB**

One of the more - how do they say - *abrading* requests at the reference desk come from **Websumers** who insist on avoiding print resources (too much work) to the detriment of their papers and perennial disappointment of their teachers. **JB**

Step Right Up: **Librarian Puppet** on eBay. Heh. [thanks Ryan] **JB**

**Can I get an AMEN?! JB**

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22 may 01

Dear Susan, **What is the best way to meet a smart woman? JB**

**Fear and loathing in Las Vegas:** and they wonder what's wrong with our schools. [link via Unknown News] **CB**

**The Internet is not television.** [link via NewsTrolls] **CB**

**You can't have it both ways.** [link via GeekPress] **CB**
Alternative browsers: when Microsoft and AOL just don't do it for you anymore. CB

Wild and crazy times... from Harper's WEEKLY REVIEW

Israeli security forces assassinated five Palestinian soldiers as they prepared a late-night snack, which was a mistake, as it turned out, since the intended targets were stationed in another guardhouse nearby. The Israeli newspaper Yediot Aharonot observed that "only a revenge-seeking fool could believe that eliminations and missile fire, the demolition of neighborhoods, the killing of soldiers and civilians and the destruction of homes could restore personal calm and security." A Palestinian suicide bomber killed ten Israelis and wounded 100 others at a shopping mall; Israel responded with F-16 jet strikes. More people died. Some New York politicians, including the governor, demanded that a wax likeness of Yasir Arafat be removed from Madame Tussaud's Wax Museum. The United States finally got around to declaring the "Real IRA" a terrorist organization. Russia bombed ice flows on the Lena River in Siberia. President Vladimir Putin of Russia and President George W. Bush made a date to meet for the first time. Police were searching for a "monkey man" in Delhi, India, who was terrorizing people; he was said to have brass gloves, long, poisoned iron claws, iron boots, a helmet, and a black bodysuit. Several people died fleeing the monkey man, including one who jumped from a roof. A woman in Chicago bit off a man's testicles when he assaulted her and demanded that she fellate him; she deposited her trophy at a police station shortly thereafter. Former president Bill Clinton was struck by a raw egg in Poland. Francisco Toledo, the Mexican artist, paid his taxes with 27 sketchbooks entitled "Notebooks of Shit."

More at http://www.harpers.org/weekly-review. JB

For those of you going to ALA, here are some helpful transportation links: SF's Convention & Visitors Bureau and Transit Info. JB

Howdy,
I'm back from a long weekend and am fully rested and sunburnt and annoyingly happy. I've started going through an avalanche of email and found conferences of interest in the EPIC News Alert. So, if you're planning for next year's conferences, you might pencil one or two of these in, especially if your traveling plans include Sweden.


21 may 01

Linkage from Booknotes - cool! CB
Supreme Court to hear appeal over Child Online Protection Act's unconstitutionality (is that a word?).

The web's days are numbered - at least according to these guys. "The executable Net - termed X Internet by Forrester - will consist of quickly downloaded, disposable programs loaded onto PCs and handhelds, and move away from today's transactional Web services." Where does that leave the independents?

Knowledge management, storytelling, and blogs: "We are talking of the "storytelling" as the killer strategy, and "blogs" as the killer technology. Both of them share one common ground: grassroots interaction - a concept voiced by the likes of John Seely Brown, Larry Prusak, Steve Dennings, Dave Snowden, David Weinberger, among other prominent KM personalities." [link via NewsTrolls]

Are flamingos pink because they eat shrimps? Coming at you from "Cecil's storehouse of human knowledge."

Digital copy protection just a pipe dream? [link via Geek Press]

We're proud to be a member of the Independent Web.

18 May 01

Juanita headed to San Francisco, and I headed to an Oregon Library Association board meeting - my first since last fall. The meeting today reminded me why I stay active in the profession - there are so many things going on, and it's not easy to find out about it. Just like our news. Here's a sample of today's meeting:

- Why we may not get the money we asked for from the Oregon legislature
- Plans for a regional leadership institute, mentoring network, and external review program for public libraries (academic and school libraries already have one)
- A long-term fund development program for Summer Reading
- A resolution in support of legal action against CIPA and NCIPA
- A grant proposal to develop a succession plan for Oregon libraries
- An updated look for the association's journal and web site

What else have I missed this year?

Online museum of propaganda and vintage posters from from Russia, Czech republic, Poland and Cuba. Amazing! [link via Textism]

17 May 01

Wow... you've come a long way baby. [link via Zeldman]
Willow Street, under the Curtis tomb. **You’ll find your window. JB**

Holy Iomega Batman! All the storage space you need in a **pocket-sized drive.** [link via Surfstation] JB

Guilty of the first three, **especially the third.** And here, I thought it was because of being in front of a computer all day long. JB

Speaking of... I will not be in front of a computer until next Tuesday. I'm off to San Francisco for some **hashing** and Bay to Breakers. JB

The San Francisco Chronicle **article on stolen books** has generated discussion over at Plastic: *if you absolutely f*cking have to underline and notate ... use a pencil. JB*

**What's in a name?** Apparently a lot of time figuring out what it's going to be. JB

First Cells, Then Species, **Now the Web. JB**

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**16 may 01**

**Stay of execution:** "Public libraries will have until July 2002 to certify that they have adopted Internet filtering technologies required by a new federal law, under terms of an agreement reached in U.S. district court." CB

Patricia Schroeder: **avatar of antediluvian thinking.** [thanks Blake] JB

**Letters** has been updated: "There is an opportunity for people in library schools and in library professions to see the value that we bring to the world of designing better information access tools and methods." CB

Kerouac's 50-year-old original manuscript **On the Road**, sets sail for Christie's on May 22nd. It's valued around $1.5 million. JB

**Where are they going to put the library? JB**

The **National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum** is seeking an entry-level reference librarian to coordinate all activities within the A. Bartlett Giamatti Research Center. The Center hosts over 6,000 visiting researchers annually to access the library's 2.5 million documents in all formats. Clients include schoolchildren, authors, filmmakers, the news media, the baseball industry, genealogists, and, most importantly, baseball fans.

Please send resume and cover letter to: Director of Human Resources, National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum, 25 Main St., P.O. Box 590, Cooperstown, NY 13326.  

JB

A Purdue University team has developed a new watermark technology for electronic text. "It's much more difficult than watermarking images. ...In natural language, there is no redundancy. That is, every word means something. If you change it, you change the meaning of the sentence. That's the difficulty."  

CB

Last night I caught the last two minutes of A&E's biography of Cheryl Tiegs. Apparently she loves reading so much that if she hadn't become a supermodel, she would have become a librarian - oh, puhleeze...  

CB

ALA announces a whole slew of award winners. CB

Also from ALA: grant opportunity related to publishing. Deadline is November 5, 2001. CB

15 may 01

The Bible; police officer exam-prep manuals; the occult, car repair, and sexuality; growing pot, pregnancy, and STDs: things that seem to walk off library shelves most frequently. CB

Apparently, winning an Oscar adds years to your life. No, really - it was published in a scientific journal. CB

Can spam ever be stopped? [link via Newsfactor] CB

Creating a knowledge culture: "Knowledge is now the lifeblood of all companies. Don't confuse it with information." CB

Playing 20 questions with databases [link via Virtual Acquisition Desk] CB

More from the Virtual Acquisition Desk:

- RDN Virtual Training Site: subject searching on the 'net.
- ERIC user's guide for librarians: selection, indexing, and abstracting policies, along with search tips.
- Salaryexpert.com: by job title and geographic location (U.S. and Canada).
- Grug.org: open source Internet crawler that will "provide a radical solution to the problem of outdated links and incomplete searches provided by search engines today." CB

We're becoming a nation of aliterates. Bummer. But what the heck... you can't force good books, good music, or even good beer on anyone. People are entitled to spend their time how they see fit. Maybe someday they'll see the light. [link via LISNews] JB
NPR's Library Internship. Summer internships are full, but the deadline to apply for a Fall 2001 internship is July 15, and for a Winter/Spring internship is November 15. More info about a previous NPR internship here. JB

"There's nothing that you can study today that you can study entirely digitally." I agree, for now, but wonder how long this will remain true as information is increasingly reproduced and created in digital form and conveniently available remotely. JB

14 may 01

Red Hat announces plans to dump Netscape as soon as Mozilla reaches the version 1.0 milestone. CB

OpenCola has some intriguing implications for library technology. CB

"The column you are reading today is copyrighted by The New York Times until 2096. After that, you can mess with it all you like, unless Congress pops with another unconscionable extension." William Safire on copyright. [link via Scripting News] CB

"HCL's impending mag-extermination coincides with a nationwide trend to dumb-down library collections, a development spawned partly by the profession's mindless embrace of purely digital resources on the one hand, and a desire to impress funders with big circulation numbers on the other. What gets lost, of course, is the public library's traditional commitment to unfettered access to a wide variety of ideas, activities, and information -- to being a genuine, noncommercial alternative to profit-driven bookstore chains, dot-com vendors, and conglomerate-owned mass media. Also increasingly lost is the importance of the library as a place, a physical space for browsing, reading, and socializing." Ouch. JB

What's a library? From a kid's point of view. JB

Shake your Stacks to Daft Punk after hours at the Seattle Public Library. JB

"Second Chance" program at Buffalo & Erie County Public Library will help kids clear their cards of all fees for lost and damaged books. JB


Neil Gaiman has a weblog! JB

An exceptional collection of rare books and antiquities at the Thomas Aquinas College including Aquinas, Descartes and a Bible from 1584. JB

Filters don't work - education does. JB
12 may 01

A mother's day tribute from Google - couldn't have done it better myself. CB

11 may 01

Baltimore: serious about libraries and librarians. JB

Busted! JB

Let's chuck that memorial out the window and build us a car park boys! Who needs to remember book burning anyway? JB

10 may 01

Smithsonian decides to close three library branches, as well as their conservation research center. CB

Disturbing Search Requests: a compilation of the weirdness to be found in referrer logs. Masturbating chinchilla? Why?? JB

Heh, this is great. Remember the four ejects who tried to get on MTV's Jackass by running over their buddy? The judge sentenced them to 12 classics each and a book report every two weeks. No television save nightly news programs. [link via LISNews] JB

Adflip: a vast, searchable archive of classic print ads. Score for pop culture! [link via k10k] JB

¿Habla español? The 2000 U.S. Census revealed a 53% increase in the number of people of Mexican origin over the last decade. Presumably they'll want library services – here's your chance. CB

First International Conference on Knowledge Capture, Oct 21-23 2001 in Victoria BC. JB

Retired nuns open internet cafe. JB

A fried egg, sewing needle, personal letters, feathers, playing cards, an invitation to the ordination of a priest, yarn, a used condom, parking tickets, popsicle sticks, combs, and an arrest warrant used as BOOKMARKS. JB

09 may 01

Yesterday, Zeldman spent over three hours advocating standards compliance to the web developers and coordinators of the New York Public Library's website. I'll be interested in seeing the new site when it's finished. On another note, if you're interested in hearing him speak, check out JZ's world tour. JB
Dean removes student Barbie sculpture from library display, which the provost then overturns. Yet, the student makes a statement about censorship by refusing to put it back. **JB**

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**08 may 01**

This discovery put a big smile on my face today: NBL looks damn good in text-based browsers like Lynx. We'll be adding a couple of minor enhancements to make it even better. **CB**

Cyberchondria sweeping the internet. **JB**

What's going on with the Semantic Web? **JB**

Scholar-led innovations in scholarly communication, an initiative of the California Digital library. **JB**

Landmark status could trammel remodeling initiatives and much needed upgrades for 7 Carnegie branches. **JB**

If you've come across any hacked sites recently, this probably explains it. [link via k10k] **JB**

Yet another web archive that is transforming the quality of research and encouraging multinational collaboration. **JB**

Ambient Intelligence, how will this transfer to libraries? **JB**

A couple from NewPages: Has public radio become privatized, high-quality programming for the affluent, well-educated elite? And librarians as digital authors and publishers **JB**

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**07 may 01**

The wireless Internet hits campus. Are we ready? **CB**

I'll take the Ctrl+B. **JB**

"Induction programmes, handholding sessions and attending conferences help, but cannot replace recognised professional training (i.e. post-graduate diplomas and master's degrees in library and information science)." Excellent piece by Choy Fatt Cheong. **JB**

Aluminum grids, floating bookshelves and tinted glass make for a love-it-or-hate-it design for the new Seattle Central Library. **JB**

Ex-library employee embezzled nearly $130,000 in late fees. **JB**

If it couldn't be found, he found it - within six months. **JB**
A new kind of library: transforming physical space into learning zones. **JB**

"Matching human personalities to literary ones", an enjoyable aspect of our work. **JB**

Quebec, April 2001. A photographic essay. **JB**

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**05 may 01**

**Debunking the digital divide** - a new book "challenges the notion that minorities are simply victims of technology. The compilation of essays limns the many ways that minorities have not only excelled in the information age, but have adapted and created new technologies." **CB**

A few sites found while surfing the web:

- Survey on trends in online library recruitment by Sarah Nesbeitt
- **Canadian Librarians in America**: join the CanLib community for lots of great advice on moving to the U.S.
- **Librarians in the 21st Century**: career possibilities, future trends & issues, pathfinders, and LIS education, from the students in the Syracuse distance program.
- **Librarians' Career Manifesto**: "Librarianship is challenging and frustrating and exhilarating and exhausting all at the same time." (But we do it anyways, because we love it.)
- **Career Profile: Librarian** - Pros: constant access to books, opportunity for advancement; Cons: long workdays with little assistance, high stress level, clueless customers; Personality Matches: analytical, efficient, literate; Personality Misses: emotional, disorganized.
- **The Librarians' Primer**: "What do you owe to the profession? A lot. Librarians have a responsibility to train new librarians through mentoring and publishing. Too often, we have good intentions that are quickly forgotten but remember that without the efforts of librarians that came before us, we would still be wearing our hair in buns and telling little kids to hush." I couldn't agree more. **CB**

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**04 may 01**

Interesting survey on faculty status of academic librarians. **CB**

**netLibrary** has adopted the new **Open eBook Specification** standards. **CB**

**Connecticut History Online**, one of many projects funded by an IMLS grant, includes "about 14,000 photographs, drawings and prints depicting Connecticut's social, educational, political, civic and cultural life from 1800 to 1950" - the web can really be an amazing thing. **CB**

Whew! This standards compliance stuff is exhausting. Yesterday I learned that our home page didn't **validate**, so I spent last night working on that. Today I learned that the news scroller wasn't working on
some browsers, but thanks to some help from Jeffrey Zeldman, it should work now. Tomorrow's task is to tackle the browser differences between IE5/Windows and other standards-compliant browsers.

So why do it at all?

I've asked myself this question several times, believe me. I hesitated for several minutes before putting up the index.html page on the new site, and when I did it, my hands were shaking. Are we concerned that we're losing some of our regulars, or that we might scare off new folks? Yes. Do we still feel strongly about the standards? You bet! The web is in a period of transition right now, between the old way and the better way. Change is hard, and often painful. It sometimes means alienating people, although that is certainly not our intention.

But by encouraging you to upgrade to a standards-compliant browser, and by following the standards ourselves, we're ensuring that in the future things won't be as complicated for you. Paying attention to standards means that you'll still be able to read these web pages several browser generations from now (or at least that's the idea!). Another benefit is accessibility - our content is more available to people with disabilities and to folks using newer technologies, such as wireless Internet devices.

And, frankly, the NewBreed in us just won't let us *not* pay attention to stuff like this. We work in a profession that uses many standards, from cataloging to user services to facilities planning. These are no different, nor should we view them differently. As an information professional, I feel that these standards for making information available should be part of my professional toolkit.

We hope that you'll stick with us on this journey and continue to visit us on a regular basis. And please let us know how we're doing - we really enjoy hearing from you. CB

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03 may 01

"Scientific publishing is too important to be left in the hands of Elsevier, Springer-Verlag, and the other 'legitimate businessmen' protected by heat-packing, high-forehead homunculi deep inside black limousines." [thanks Chet] JB

The Evolution of writing JB

Serve up CliffsNotes or Shakespeare? JB

"The most important moment in the history of California State University at San Marcos" was breaking ground on the $44.5 million, 198,000-square-foot, high-tech library last Sunday. JB

Polyamorous category-hoppers... and seven cross-pollinating surfer-types. JB

Discussing easier library access isn't worth this Council's time. JB

What to do with $34 million? How about a planetarium? I wonder what MN downtown pays their librarians. JB

Brace yourselves... so bad, sooo bad! JB
Not your father's bookmobile. JB

02 may 01

Nuances, affordances, the click - the non-verbal web. [link via webactivism.org] CB

If the *mountain won't come* to Mohammed...? (couldn't resist this one) [link via Geekpress] CB

Amazon.com just says no to bricks and mortar. [link via Newsfactor] CB

Excellent new Juice up today with an editorial from Rory on *classic and neo-information*. JB

You get a **free scoop**, and Baskin Robbins donates to First Book. JB

01 may 01

Velma Dinkley: *librarian archetype?* JB

Two roads diverged in a wood and I, I took the one **shared and open**; and that has made all the difference. JB

**Internet demographics** more like Walmart these days than Nordstroms. [link via Digital Web] JB

In recognition of the **May 1st Reboot**, Colleen has spent a butt-load of hours revamping NewBreed Librarian to be **standards-compliant**. So if you're using a non-compliant browser, update your **browser** or get ready for some warpig-ugly web pages. This is our small part to **support standards**. JB

A technical note: not all standards-compliant browsers are fully compliant. Some parts of the site may not display as elegantly in some browsers (IE5/Mac comes to mind). We hope that the content on our site will keep you from being chased away by these annoyances. CB

**Server 54, Where Are You?** [link via Red Rock Eater] JB

OCLC has a new **LIS web site** with links to LIS news, resources, and schools, including close-up features on schools - this month's feature is **UNC-Chapel Hill**. [Thanks, Mick]. CB

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