

# Answering basic science questions

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Scientific discovery will continue to flow from laboratories in the coming century. But the nature of research is such that results cannot be anticipated, so predicting what the next major advancements will be is really informed guesswork.

With every breakthrough that provides us with insights, new challenges need to be met and new questions arise, some of which we may have never before considered. The unexpected discovery of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) in the atmosphere, for example, led to the understanding of how human activities were damaging the ozone layer.

Still, based on current scientific progress, it's reasonable to surmise that we may well be able to answer some of humanity's most basic questions within the next few decades, including whether life exists elsewhere in the universe, what the genetic instructions are that make us human and many others.

Extraterrestrial life may actually exist right here in our own solar system, perhaps as microbial organisms hidden in the oceans that scientists say are buried beneath the ice on Europa (one of Jupiter's moons), or beneath the surface of Mars. Scientists have also so far found about 28 other planets orbiting distant stars.

These are thought to be lifeless bodies many times larger than Jupiter. However, in the coming decades many more planets will undoubtedly be found, and we may finally discover whether there are other Earth-like planets orbiting some of the stars in the sky.

At home, researchers are furiously working to decode the human genome (the entire genetic make-up of human beings). It's a formidable task. Just listing the units of DNA that make up the human genome would fill the pages of 200 big-city telephone books!

And that's not even beginning to describe the functions of the individual units. Scientists now expect that the full sequence should be complete by 2003, but it will be a while longer before we understand the intricacies that could provide valuable clues to help diagnose and treat many diseases.

Meanwhile, computers continue to gain power exponentially. IBM is currently working on "Blue Gene", a new super-computer destined for biological research. When completed in five years, it is expected to be two million times more powerful than today's desktop computers - so powerful that it could download the entire Internet in just one second!

Some researchers even say that artificial intelligence could surpass our own in the next few decades, and that some of the great scientific discoveries of the future may actually be made by computers.

It's certainly an exciting time for science, but in our race for the widespread application of scientific knowledge it's easy to forget that our technologies also carry costs.

We cannot forget that science advances incrementally and the application of new processes and theories should be treated with caution. Scientists are fallible and simple mistakes can prove costly. The respected scientists at NASA, for example, lost their Mars Climate Orbiter in October because the calculations designed to put the craft into Mars' orbit had been formulated using both metric and imperial measures and ended up hurling the Orbiter to its demise.

Perhaps the most important advancement science can make in the next century would be to help usher in what has been dubbed the second Copernican revolution. Today we can only marvel at the complexity and interconnectedness of the Earth's ecological systems. We can hope that continued research will result in a clearer picture of these processes, enabling us to better understand the Earth's ecological limits and then find the best ways to live within them.

## OUR HAWAIIAN PORK

From our entrée freezer we have Hawaiian pork. It's made with chunks of pork tenderloin (no kidding) in a sweet & sour sauce with pineapple and some slices of sweet pepper. It's fully cooked—all you need to do is warm it and serve with some rice.

Reg. 13.95 ea.  
Serves 3-4

**25% OFF THIS WEEK**

## OUR BRATWURST SAUSAGES

We make these sausages with coarsely ground pork, coriander, garlic salt, pepper and a bit of mace. During the winter while your barbecue is under a snowdrift, you can oven roast these and serve them with mashed potatoes and gravy - it's a lunchtime hit at our store.

Reg. 3.99 lb.

**1/3 OFF THIS WEEK**

## PILE O' BONES

This week we have a good supply of our teriyaki-marinated prime rib bones. Forget about your barbecue this time - they're really good just oven roasted. We pack them in a pack of 3 lb. or more and it serves 3 or 4 people. It's a good meal and a good deal.

Come early. When they're gone, they're gone!

**7.95 Pkg.**

## CALIFORNIA STRAWBERRIES

California Strawberries are once again available. During the off season we get strawberries from New Zealand and Florida—but the best (apart from our own) come from California and we're always happy when they come back in season.

Heading pinks ...

**2.99 each**

## OUR APPLE TARTES

These are wonderful tartes filled with either cranberry-apple or blueberry-apple and custard in a shortbread crust, topped with streusel. We make them daily, totally from scratch.

Are they good? You Bet!

Serve them at Room Temperature  
Serves 6-8  
Reg. \$16.95 each

**25% OFF**

## HAWAIIAN SUGARLOAF PINEAPPLES

We have a good quantity of these amazing Pineapples this week. They have a very deceiving look. They have a green skin and a white flesh—not what you normally look for when you pick a pineapple. But they are ripe and as delicious as can be. You'll find that they have a low acid level and a very high sweetness level.

**4.99 each**

## WHO WON THE BIG SANTA?

Miss Katrina Pollock was the winner of our big chocolate Santa. If you have a good memory, you'll know that she won it last year as well.

She loves Chocolate!!  
CONGRATULATIONS

## BREADED CHICKEN CUTLETS

We use boneless and skinless free-range chicken breasts to make these, so you can bet they're good. Just fry in a heavy pan in a combo of 1/2 butter and 1/2 oil when Cathy makes them for us she browns them quickly in hot oil, both sides, and finishes them in the oven. This method cuts down on the amount of fat absorbed.

**7.95 lb. THIS WEEK**

## ORGANIC SALAD GREENS

These appear with regularity on our table. Cathy loves these because they're easy to use. They come prewashed and there is a good assortment of different baby lettuces.

You can use them solo or you can 'kick them up a notch' with the addition of toasted pecans and bacon bits, perhaps strawberry slices, avocado or kiwi. They're a great compliment to almost any meal.

Reg. \$1.99/100g

**1/3 OFF THIS WEEK**

## EXTRA LARGE FLORIDA NAVEL ORANGES

Did you ever wonder why they make orange juice from Florida oranges rather than California oranges? The answer is because those from Florida have a higher juice content than California oranges. What they lack in cosmetic perfection, they more than make up for with juice and sweetness.

Seedless, Huge size

**99¢ lb.**

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ECONOMIST & SUN

## COMING NEXT WEEK!

Our Smoked Chickens!



## THANKS FOR YOUR PATIENCE

Over the holidays we've been particularly busy in the store, resulting in the inevitable line-ups. Thanks for your patience - and Thank You for your patronage now and throughout the past year.

*Thanks*

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