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Letters

Lead to believe

Granted Janet Raloff is too young to have undergone the advertising barrage that foisted lead tetraethyl ("Lead in gas: Costs prompt new limits," SN: 8/4/84, p. 71) upon our environment, all unsuspecting — like Graham McNamee and Ed Wynn, Texaco's Fire Chief, along with ping-ometer demonstrations at the Pullyallup Fair.

But either that lethal additive "changed ping to purr," or the hoax was even greater than the EPA. Inasmuch as I found that it would do just that in my Chev' on Seattle's hillsides — Raloff

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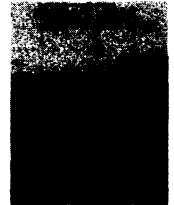
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186 Radar From Space: The Sightseeing Plans of SIR-B

Cover: Though not a trace shows in this photo of Means Valley in California's Mojave Desert, a synthetic-aperture radar image from the Seasat satellite indicates that there is a linear feature—possibly a lava dike—beginning just beyond the nearest hill and stretching out toward the horizon for about two kilometers. The implication is that the radar can "see" it *through* the sand, a phenomenon that will be studied by the SIR-B radar system on the next space shuttle flight. (Photo: Courtesy R. G. Blom, Jet Propulsion Laboratory)



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also missed the early slogan that sold Chevrolets: "Watch 'er climb!"—I wonder how come she plugged it as a lubricant for old clunks. Is that a new petro industry advertising gimmick?

Robert Archer Smith
Seattle, Wash.

Dog doodle?

The picture on your 8/25/84 cover is an awesome display of an irregular galaxy. It is also a cute picture of a regular little dog's head.



with a ball in its mouth. Turn the cover page upside down and examine the largest glob of stars just right of top center. Located there — jaws open with a ball between them, a nose, two eyes and an ear—behold the head of a puppy dog.

The puppy head could be a clue to the mechanics of galaxy formation. Maybe God is a doodler and gets bored with doodling up nothing but spiral galaxies, and for a change of pace throws in an irregular one with a picture to show he really does have a sense of humor.

W. E. Tullos
Gulfport, Miss.

SEPTEMBER 22, 1984

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