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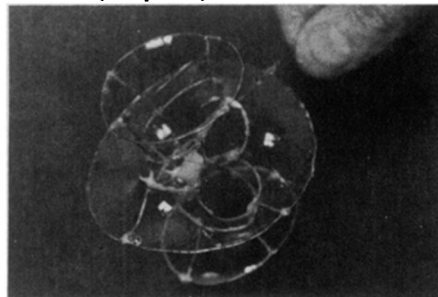
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Letters

Bubble basket

We thought you might appreciate that the
unusual bubble discovered by Hoffman and
Meeks ("Three Bites in a Doughnut," SN:
3/16/85, p.168) has now actually been con-
structed (see photo).



An associate of mine, Robert R. Weekley,
became intrigued after recently coming
across Ivars Peterson's article, and con-

This Week

- 292 Alcohol-Breast Cancer Link
- 292 Blood imbalance detected in SIDS victims
- 293 U.S. space station controversy grows
- 293 Painting with superconductors
- 294 Silicon devices: LED there be light
- 295 Getting the picture in the infrared
- 295 Worldwide progress in ozone talks

Research Notes

- 296 Biomedicine
- 296 Paleontology
- 303 Physical Sciences
- 303 Science & Society

Articles

- 297 Will There Be an AIDS Vaccine?
- 300 X-Ray Microscopy in 3-D

Cover: The new technique of X-ray microtomography can give three-dimensional reconstructions of the interiors of mineral samples and other small objects. This is a slice through a lump of coal, showing high-density mineral inclusions (reddish spots) and pores (white). (Photo: Corporate Research, Exxon Research and Engineering Co.)

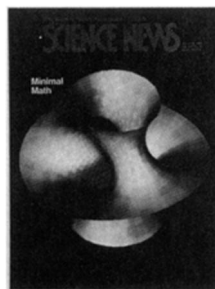


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- 291 Letters
- 299 Books

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structed a "basket"
that guides the bubble
into the desired
shape when dipped in
a solution. It is absolutely
mesmerizing in
real life.

We are working on a
"dissolving frame"
and a permanent bubble
material, so that
after dipping and drying
you have just three hoops
and pure bubble. If one
of your readers has the
"solution" we would appreciate
hearing from them.

Tim W. Baxley
Lugoff, S.C.

Stress vs. smoke

The researchers cited in "Less colitis
among smokers" (SN: 4/4/87, p.213) need to

consider the psychological rather than only
the biological implications of their study.
They say there are "currently no plausible
biologic explanations" for the apparent "pro-
tective" effect of cigarette smoking on ul-
cerative colitis. Can it be that those people
who quit smoking did not develop other ways
of dealing with stress and so developed
ulcerative colitis? It is almost too obvious to
say that smokers don't develop ulcerative
colitis but die of lung cancer instead.

Donna Graham
Silver Spring, Md.

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Please limit letters to 250 words.

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291