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Cover: Oceanographers are awash in new information about the seafloor, thanks to two satellites that have surveyed Earth's crust from space. Drawn from the satellite data, this map shows variations in the planet's gravity that are caused primarily by features on the ocean floor. (Image: David T. Sandwell/ Scripps Institution of Oceanography)

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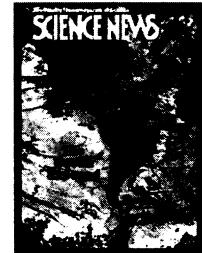
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Science Service, which publishes SCIENCE NEWS, is a nonprofit corporation founded in 1921. It gratefully accepts tax-deductible contributions and bequests to assist its efforts to increase the public understanding of science, with special emphasis on young people. More recently, it has included in its mission increasing scientific literacy among members of underrepresented groups. Through its Youth Programs it administers the International Science and Engineering Fair, the Science Talent Search for the Westinghouse Science Scholarships, and publishes and distributes the *Directory of Student Science Training Programs for Precollege Students*.

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Letters

DES and sexual orientation

In commenting on our study of fertility among DES sons, correspondent Dippy suggests that DES might influence sexual orientation and that our cohort would be a good place to look for such an effect ("Does DES affect behavior?" SN: 8/26/95, p.131). That had occurred to us as well. We asked both sons and daughters about their sexual partners and found no differences in choice of partners between those exposed to DES and those not exposed.

Allen J. Wilcox
Research Triangle Park, N.C.

Feline's phenomenal observation

"Toil and trouble over double bubbles" (SN: 8/13/95, p.101) mentioned a competing geometric structure in perimeter minimization: the torus bubble. In fairness, I should

like to report an interesting research observation on such torus bubbles made by a feline scientist some years ago.

As a neuroscientist, I've learned to join in the observation whenever my cat, Sinbad, has been fascinated for hours by some small-scale phenomenon. Often, she has detected a remarkable state of affairs.

One day in 1988, I found her perched on the edge of our kitchen sink laboratory, mesmerized by some hydrodynamic phenomenon. Fetching a magnifying glass to mimic her optical resolution, I took up a seat beside her to ascertain the cause of her wonder.

Drops of water were falling from the faucet, colliding with the basin surface, and shattering into microdroplets. Hurling sideways, these daughter droplets would often collide with a larger blob which had previously come to rest.

Disintegration of both bodies or absorption of one by the other are the two outcomes to

be expected from such an encounter. But the smaller droplet was entering and reemerging from the greater without harm being done to either!

Graduate students are now being assigned credit for discoveries previously attributed to professors. I've long wondered whether, through her superhuman senses, curiosity, and patience, my feline scientist-friend might have made a noteworthy discovery about the dynamics of torus bubbles—meriting publication somewhere, beyond the species barrier.

Patrick Gunkel
Toronto, Ontario

CORRECTION

In "Molecules bind mutant huntington proteins" (SN: 11/18/95, p.325), the protein produced by the normal gene that when mutated causes Huntington's disease is misspelled. The correct spelling is *huntingtin*. — The Editors