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This Week

- 84 Tap Water's Toxic Touch and Vapors
- 84 How water reacts with solid catalysts
- 85 Kids: Getting under Mom's skin for decades
- 85 Making waves with sound velocity in water
- 86 Excess lead linked to boys' delinquency
- 86 Planning the budget for this year and last
- 87 Tracing the architecture of dark matter

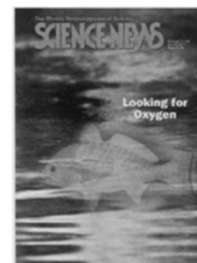
Research Notes

- 93 Biomedicine

Articles

- 88 The Expiration of Respiration

Cover: Ocean water in many locations is getting low on oxygen. A wide variety of marine animals, such as the spot fish (*Leiostomus xanthurus*), which lives off the Atlantic and Gulf Coasts of the United States, tolerate hypoxia poorly.



- 90 Bits of Uncertainty
- 95 Surfing a Laser Wave

Departments

- 82 Books
- 83 Letters

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

Slowing the charge to hybrid cars

"Hybrid Cars" (SN: 10/7/95, p. 232) notes that "only electric cars are truly emissions-free." I live 8 miles downwind from a non-nuclear power plant that would no doubt supply a portion of the electricity to recharge the batteries of electric cars.

Since I have to wipe its grit off my patio furniture before I can sit outside, and having seen clouds that stretched to the horizon forming around the particulates from its stacks, I have a problem trying to grasp the concept of emissionsfree electricity.

David Brown
Sun City Center, Fla.

May I inject real-life requirements for any motor vehicle I would purchase?

It must be capable of carrying four passengers massing approximately 240 kilograms total (Mom, Dad, and two early teen

daughters).

It must be capable of carrying a payload massing up to 500 kg (half a ton of horse manure for the compost heap or camping gear for a Girl Scout troop and food for a week).

It must be capable of accelerating from 40 kilometers per hour to 100 kph in 12 seconds or less while fully loaded (there's often a truck hauling limestone block coming up from behind when we merge onto the interstate).

It must do all this in an ambient temperature range of 40°C to -40°C [104°F to -40°F] and must provide heat while operating in the low end of this temperature range. (It would be desirable to provide cool temperatures while operating in the high end.)

Every vehicle I have ever owned, even my first, a 40-horsepower Volkswagen, has been able to satisfy these needs, within reason. I strongly doubt that any electric or electric hybrid will ever be able to accomplish any two.

J. Stephen Noe
Southport, Ind.

Status seekers

"Ihy and Hetep's excellent afterlife" (SN: 11/11/95, p. 312) says, "No other nonroyal Egyptians are known to have purposely placed their tombs in a spot reserved for kings."

Has the author considered Senmut, whose unfinished tomb is cut into the rock foundation of Hatshepsut's funerary temple at Deir el-Bahri?

Donald V. Etz
Dayton, Ohio

Senmut, whose tomb was constructed around 1450 B.C., served as the top bureaucratic assistant to Hatshepsut, a woman who ruled as king. Senmut was also Hatshepsut's romantic partner, although they were not officially married, according to University of Pennsylvania archaeologist David Silverman. Senmut thus had close ties to the royal family and far more power than Ihy or Hetep.

Still, Senmut's royal status is debatable, Silverman says.

— B. Bower