

SCIENCE NEWS®

The Weekly Newsmagazine of Science

Science Service Publication
Volume 149, No. 22, June 1, 1996

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SCIENCE NEWS (ISSN 0036-8423) is published weekly on Saturday, except the last week in December, for \$49.50 for 1 year or \$88.00 for 2 years (foreign postage \$6.00 additional per year) by Science Service, Inc., 1719 N Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036. Second-class postage paid at Washington, D.C., and additional mailing office. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to SCIENCE NEWS, P.O. Box 1925, Marion, Ohio 43305. Change of address: Four to six weeks' notice is required — old and new addresses, including zip codes, must be provided. Copyright © 1996 by Science Service, Inc. Title registered as trademark U.S. and Canadian Patent Offices. Printed in U.S.A. on recycled paper. ♻️ Reproduction of any portion of SCIENCE NEWS without written permission of the publisher is prohibited.

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Letters

Extending credit

The actual experiment discussed in "A constellation of thermometers" (SN: 3/2/96, p. 143) was put together and led by Randolph Ware and Mike Exner of the Universities Corporation for Atmospheric Research (UCAR) and funded in large part by the National Science Foundation. This and other assistance from UCAR was not mentioned in your article, and we would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge it.

*E. Robert Kursinski
Jet Propulsion Laboratory
Pasadena, Calif.*

The root of the decay problem?

"Survey finds gaps in kids' dental care" (SN: 3/16/96, p. 165) has a gap of its own. The government survey mentioned seems to attribute high incidences of tooth decay to cutbacks in Medicaid and lack of insurance, but how about mentioning how these teeth got rotten in the first place: poor dental hygiene!

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Cover: Comet Hyakutake, as seen near Casa Grande, Ariz., on March 25, the day this icy wayfarer passed closest to Earth. The comet is now departing from the inner solar system but has left behind several mysteries for astronomers to solve. (Photograph: Ken Matesich)

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It seems obvious that, aside from a few dollars for a toothbrush and some toothpaste, income status needn't have much effect on getting a good brushing.

*Jodee D. Bray
Roland J. Couture
Portland, Ore.*

It has been my experience after 27 years in private dental practice that the main access problem regarding children's dental care is their parents' unwillingness to properly care for their teeth.

I, and I'm sure many of my colleagues, donate dental services to underprivileged children, but in many cases the parents won't even take the time to bring them in. If they do, it is the exceptional case where proper home

care is given to protect the work done and prevent further decay.

*Robert J. Carbon
Thibodaux, La.*

Setting things rightside up

"Tracking the bright comet Hyakutake" (SN: 3/23/96, p. 183) contains a sky map and instructions to hold the map upside down when using it. This is incorrect.

Also, the article quotes Daniel Green as saying the comet should form a brilliant tail by mid-April and be as bright as Jupiter by the third week of April. Comets are known to be unpredictable, and I am surprised that Green made this prediction, even with the qualifier "should." Was he misquoted?

*Tom Hoffelder
Half Moon Bay, Calif.*

CORRECTION

The Geshen Benot Ya'akov archaeological site in Israel ("Ancient Israeli implements: Out of Africa," SN: 3/23/96, p. 183) is located 6 miles north of the Sea of Galilee, not the Red Sea.

The instructions might have been clearer if they had told readers to hold the map "over your head" when using it. As to Green, he was not misquoted.

— R. Cowen