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This Week

- 188 First Peek at DNA Transcription
- 188 Eye pigments may depend on one amino acid
- 189 Conscience grows on temperamental ground
- 189 Swapping insulin syringes for tiny beads
- 190 Meteorite still holds inklings of life
- 190 New glucose test on the way for diabetes
- 191 Newfound gene linked to several cancers
- 191 Florida manatees' future: Grim or golden?

Research Notes

- 194 Astronomy
- 194 Biomedicine
- 196 Earth Science
- 196 Physics

Articles

- 192 Deep Dwellers

Cover: While scientists once considered the deep crust a lifeless place, microbiologists are now discovering a rich assortment of microbes locked in rock several kilometers underground. The red bacterial cells in this micrograph come from basalt formations in Washington State. They live on a diet of basalt and water, harnessing energy from hydrogen released by the rock. (Micrograph: T. Stevens/Pacific Northwest National Lab.)

- 198 Forbidden Flavors

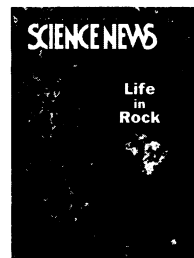
Departments

- 187 Letters
- 197 Books

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Letters

Relocated ruins?

I enjoyed and was heartened by the endeavors to protect our marble and limestone heritage, as addressed in "Consolidating the Stone" (SN: 1/25/97, p. 56). I was somewhat baffled, however, by the photo that purports to show the Mundo Maya Ruins in Mexico City.

Did the researchers relocate both the Temple of the Warriors and the Temple of Kukulkan, which normally reside at Chichén Itzá, to Mexico City to see how Yucatán limestone weathers in a different climate? Excellent job of landscape reconstruction as well.

Bill Preston
San Luis Obispo, Calif.

As you—and several other readers—point out, the ruins are not in Mexico City. —The Editors

Baseline: Normal

"1996: Year of warmth and weather reversals" (SN: 1/18/87, p. 38) includes a map and

caption that, taken together, boggle the mind. The map purports to show that the near-polar regions are warmer than the area between the tropics.

Surely, either the map is wrong or the caption is.

Russell Ward
Clover, S.C.

The caption should have read: Surface temperature anomalies, with cooler-than-normal regions in blue and warmer-than-normal regions in red. — R. Monastersky

CLARIFICATION

J. Koudy Williams of the Bowman Gray School of Medicine wishes to clarify a statement in "Hormone Therapy: Issues of the Heart" (SN: 3/8/97, p. 140). In terms of protection from heart disease, he says, the widely prescribed progesterone MPA "appears to lessen the beneficial effects of estrogen."

Seymour Cray is erroneously spelled Clay in the Books listing (SN: 3/1/97, p. S9).

Recent Awards

Three members of the SCIENCE NEWS staff have been honored recently for journalistic achievement.

David Lindley, associate editor, won a Phi Beta Kappa award for outstanding contributions to humanistic learning. He was recognized for *Where Does the Weirdness Go? Why Quantum Mechanics Is Strange but Not As Strange As You Think*, published last year by Basic Books.

John Travis, who writes about biology, received honorable mention in the Evert Clark Award for Science Journalism. The award was announced at the meeting last month in Seattle of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Julie Ann Miller, editor, was selected to receive the University of Wisconsin's Award for Distinguished Service to Journalism and Mass Communication. The award, which recognizes outstanding career accomplishment, will be presented in Madison next month.