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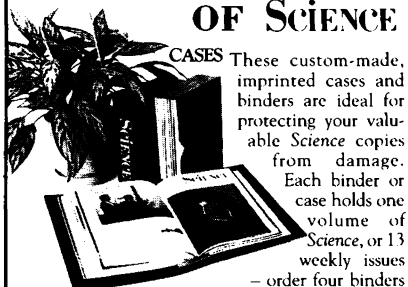
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the new ITS-90 temperature scale (Research News, 23 Mar., p. 1411), Robert Pool correctly lists the triple point of water as 273.16 K, but incorrectly as 0°C. The triple point is defined by the mutual thermodynamic equilibrium between pure water vapor, liquid water, and ice. The ice point of water, saturated with air at one standard atmosphere and in equilibrium with ice, is a thermodynamically distinct point and defined 0°C on the Celsius scale of temperature; but this is no longer used as a fixed point. The triple point defines 0.01°C (and part of the Celsius scale of temperature) and is consistent with the older, obsolete definition based on the ice point.

Pool's statement about what "any cook knows" is reminiscent of Aristotle's "knowledge" that women had fewer teeth than men, although he never looked inside the mouth of a healthy woman. Many authors' wives or husbands will readily share the knowledge that water boils at a lower temperature when air pressure is lower—95°C (203°F) will start the pot bubbling in Denver, but not in Honolulu. I invite the reader to consider at what temperature water would boil when exposed to the near-perfect vacuum (zero pressure) of outer space; its boiling point is not very high.

DAVID R. SMITH

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Response: My thanks to the many readers who have written or called to let me know that my foray into the kitchen left me with egg on my face. I've tried to use this blooper to convince my editor that I need a research trip to the mountains, preferably during ski season, but so far he's not biting.

—ROBERT POOL

Erratum: In Marcia Barinaga's article "Loma Prieta: Saved by a short, sharp shock" (15 Dec., p. 1390), the legend for the figure at the bottom of page 1390 should have indicated that the map was adapted from the work of S. E. Hough *et al.* at Columbia University's Lamont-Doherty Geological Observatory. In that map, the top part of the line representing the Nimitz Freeway from point A to point B should not have been drawn to the right of the boundary between the mud and the alluvium.

Erratum: In the Research News article by Robert Pool, "Heart like a wheel" (16 Mar., p. 1294), the Purkinje fibers were incorrectly identified as a system of nerves. They are instead modified heart muscle cells that are specialized for high-speed conduction.

Erratum: In the Table of Contents for 30 March 1990 (p. 1524), the letter by H. L. Robinson and M. Somasundaran, "Correction: Copy numbers of HIV-1 RNA," was inadvertently omitted.

Erratum: In the Author Index to volume 247, January-March 1990, the entry for "Spencer, Roy W. and Christy, John R." was incorrect. It should have read, "Precise monitoring of global temperature trends from satellites. p1558 30 Mar 1990."