be allowed to pass without comment. Rather, the facts indicate the reverse. Recent results have demonstrated that the Earth is an asteroid-pelted planet (*1*), that evolution is a chaotic process (*2*), that impacts drive at least the major branch points of the evolutionary tree (*3*), and that their decrease through geologic time has allowed life to develop (*4*) and now presents a significant, potentially avoidable, hazard to civilization (*5*) with a statistically insurable risk estimated at several hundred million dollars per year. Applied astronomy (*6*) has a promising future—provided the comet or asteroid does not get us first. Whatever the merits of high-energy astronomy (and there are many), modern astronomy also addresses a wide range of issues that are clearly fundamental and of great value to society; the debate is not advanced by the propagation of myths or the collective burial of heads in the sand.

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Corrections and Clarifications

The title of the Report by S. Kandels-Lewis and B. Séraphin on page 2035 of the 24 December issue should have been "Involvement of U6 snRNA in 5′ splice site selection."

The map accompanying the Perspective "The deadly Latur earthquake" by H. K. Gupta (10 Dec., p. 1666) incorrectly designated a portion of eastern India as "Myanmar."

In the Research Article "The U5 and U6 small nuclear RNAs as active site components of the spliceosome" by E. J. Sontheimer and J. A. Steitz (24 Dec., p. 1989), figures 4A and 4B (p. 1992) were printed incorrectly. The correct figure is shown below.