

to look for evidence for or against an event horizon after collapse of a heavy star or group of stars is ascertained. Although the concept of an event horizon is problematic in general relativity, as is the theory itself, its absence would be consistent with the new theory.

As for the discovery of quasars without the expected surrounding matter, the possibility exists that quasars may be local objects, which seems also compatible with the new theory. Twenty-two years ago, the late Roger E. Clapp (6) presented arguments in favor of this theory and of the position of Halton Arp, Geoffrey Burbidge, and Adelaide Hewitt (7) on the locality of quasars. Clapp studied 151 quasars and called the quasar problem the *fifth test* of gravitational theory. His ideas should be reinvestigated.

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References and Notes

1. M. Miyoshi *et al.*, "Evidence for a black hole from high rotation velocities in a sub-parsec region of NGC 4258," *Nature* **373**, 127 (1995).
2. J. Bahcall, talk presented at the 185th Meeting of the American Astronomical Society, Tucson, AZ, 8 to 12 January 1995; quoted by K. Sawyer, *Washington Post*, 13 January 1995, p. A2.
3. H. Yilmaz, *Il Nuovo Cimento* **107B**, 941 (1992).
4. C. Alley, in *Frontiers of Fundamental Physics*, M. Barone and F. Selleri, Eds. (Plenum, New York, 1994), pp. 125-137; H. Yilmaz, in *ibid.*, pp. 115-124.
5. Term used by C. W. Misner, quoted by I. Peterson, *Sci. News* **146**, 376 (1994), and paraphrased by Flam.
6. R. E. Clapp, "Preliminary quasar model based on the Yilmaz exponential metric" *Phys. Rev. D* **7**, 345 (1973).
7. G. Burbidge and A. Hewitt, *Sky Tel.* (December 1994), p. 32.



Rosetta: An ESA Mission

Jon Cohen, in his interesting article "Getting all turned around over the origins of life on Earth" (News, 3 Mar., p. 1265), states

In 2003, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration [NASA] will launch its Rosetta mission, a spacecraft that will orbit the comet Wirtanen . . .

I would like to stress that the International Rosetta Mission is not a NASA mission. It is one of the four Cornerstones of the Horizon 2000 long-term plan of the Scientific Programme of the European Space Agency. NASA participates in this mission by providing, in cooperation with the French Space Agency, CNES (Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales), one of the two Surface Science Packages, and through the use of its Deep Space Network.

R. M. Bonnet

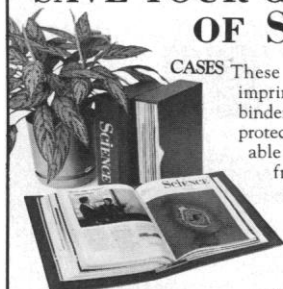
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Agence Spatiale Européenne,
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Corrections and Clarifications

In the report "Evidence from 18S ribosomal DNA that the lophophorates are protostome animals" by K. M. Halanych *et al.* (17 Mar., p. 1641), the third sentence in the second paragraph should have read, "Earlier researchers often allied lophophorates with protostome taxa on the basis of the presence of chitin, the lack of sialic acids, and several embryological features. . . ."

In the Random Samples item about the Dial of Ahaz (17 Mar., p. 1599), the miracle referred to concerned the sickness, not of King Ahaz, but of his son Hezekiah.

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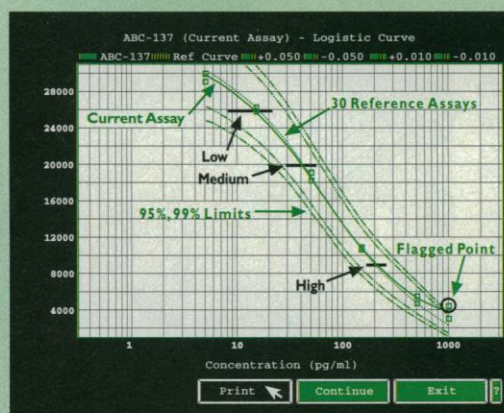
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