NEWS & COMMENT

Hughes’ Tough Stand on Industry Ties
Conflict Confusion: Five Views on Equity
Federal Conflict Rules Nearing Completion

A Shot in the Arm for TB Research

NASA Stakes Its Reputation on Fix for Hubble Telescope

Scripps-Sandoz Deal Comes Under Fire

AIDS Research: Shalala Backs Reorganization

RESEARCH NEWS

Will Future Computers Be All Wet?
Chemists Work Their Way From Pores to Riches

Unexpected Intelligence Turns Up in a Cellular Gel
Polymer Gels Get Smarter

Mathematicians Gather to Play the Numbers Game

Cell Communication Failure Leads to Immune Disorder
Tyrosine Kinase Defect Also Causes Immunodeficiency

SPECIAL SECTION

Evolution of Atmospheres

NEWS

Is the Geological Past a Key to the (Near) Future?

Searching for Clues to Ancient Carbon Dioxide

An ‘Outrageous Hypothesis’ for Mars: Episodic Oceans

Earth Scientists Look NASA’s Gift Horse in the Mouth
The Sad Saga of Small Satellites

ARTICLES

Atmospheric Evolution of the Terrestrial Planets
D. M. Hunten

Earth’s Early Atmosphere
J. F. Kasting

The Ice Record of Greenhouse Gases
D. Raynaud, J. Jouzel, J. M. Barnola, J. Chappellaz, R. J. Delmas, C. Lorus

The Global Carbon Dioxide Budget
E. T. Sundquist

DEPARTMENTS

THIS WEEK IN SCIENCE

873

EDITORIAL

Evolution of Atmospheres

875

LETTERS

877

Asteroid or Volcano: Have the Volcanists Been Heard? D. M. McLean; D. E. Koshyland, Jr.
Basic Research and Society: R. W. Biehl; R. G. Sachs
Correction: A Li-Fraumeni Syndrome p53 Mutation: D. Malkin and S. H. Friend

REVIEW

Revolutions in Mathematics, reviewed by J. McCleary
• Containing the Atom, J. M. Jasper
• Vignettes: Book Promotions

PRODUCTS & MATERIALS

998

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Owen N. Witte
Keith Yamamoto

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870

SCIENCE • VOL. 259 • 12 FEBRUARY 1993
Thin section of Antarctic ice (from a depth of 87 meters) observed under polarized light; the variety of colors reflects different orientations of the ice crystals. Air bubbles (black, about 1 millimeter across) provide a tiny record of ancient atmospheres that can be preserved in the ice for more than 100,000 years. See page 926. Other aspects of atmospheric evolution are discussed in the special section beginning on page 905. [Photograph: Michel Creeseur]