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- **SCIENCE** is published weekly on Friday, except the last week in December, and with an extra issue in March by the American Association for the Advancement of Science, 1333 H Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005. Second-class postage (publication No. 484460) paid at Washington, DC, and at an additional entry. Now combined with **The Scientific Monthly**® Copyright © 1989 by the American Association for the Advancement of Science. The title **SCIENCE** is a registered trademark of the AAAS. Domestic individual membership and subscription (51 issues): \$75. Domestic institutional subscription (51 issues): \$120. Foreign postage extra: Canada \$46, other (surface mail) \$46, air mail via Amsterdam \$85. First class, airmail, school-year, and student rates on request. **Single copy sales**: Current issue, \$3.50; back issues, \$5.00; Biotechnology issue, \$6.00 (for postage and handling, add per copy \$0.50 U.S., \$1.00 all foreign); Guide to Biotechnology Products and Instruments, \$18 (for postage and handling add per copy \$1.00 U.S., \$1.50 Canada, \$2.00 other foreign). Bulk rates on request. **Authorization to photocopy** material for internal or personal use under circumstances not falling within the fair use provisions of the Copyright Act is granted by AAAS to libraries and other users registered with the Copyright Clearance Center (CCC) Transactional Reporting Service, provided that the base fee of \$1 per copy plus \$0.10 per page is paid directly to CCC, 27 Congress Street, Salem, Massachusetts 01970. The identification code for *Science* is 0036-8075/83 \$1 + .10. **Change of address**: allow 6 weeks, giving old and new addresses and 11-digit account number. **Postmaster**: Send Form 3579 to *Science*, P.O. Box 1722, Riverton, NJ 08077. *Science* is indexed in the *Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature* and in several specialized indexes.
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**COVER** Lightning over a Colorado night sky. Recent attempts to understand such electrical discharges are motivated by spectacular accidents involving aircraft and spacecraft. Uman and Krider (page 457) describe research on natural and artificially initiated discharges that aims to both clarify the physics of lightning and find new ways of protecting against lightning damage. [Photo by John Deeks, Science Source/Photo Researchers]

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**246 (4929)**

*Science* **246** (4929), 427-514.

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