

EARTH

TRACKING VOLCANIC ASH

SCIENTISTS
HELP AIRPLANES
AVOID
CATASTROPHE

PLUS:

- Geoscientists aid in the aftermath of disasters
- Energy and water: inextricably linked
- Detecting tsunamis from space
- Snowfall on Mars surprises scientists
- Nanotechnology unleashes geothermal energy

NOT ENOUGH
COLD FOR
CALIFORNIA'S
FRUIT

EARTH

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FEATURE

TRACKING THE ASH

When volcanoes erupt, scientists at volcanic ash advisory centers jump into action — tracking ash clouds, issuing alerts and helping airplanes avoid catastrophe. But with many volcanoes under-monitored, researchers are working to improve this system.

Carolyn Gramling



FEATURE

REPORT FROM GROUND ZERO

From the wreckage of the World Trade Center buildings to volcanic eruptions, and from wildfires to the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, geoscientists are helping clean up after environmental disasters by analyzing how dusts, ash and muds affect human health.

Geoff Plumlee

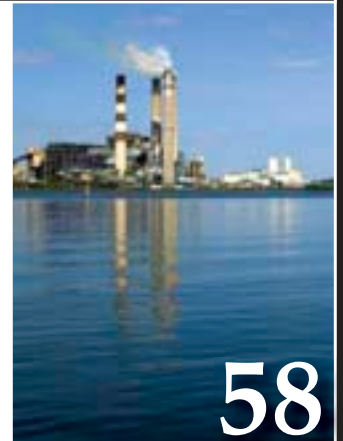


FEATURE

WATER IS POWER

Across the United States, cities need more power. Likewise they have a growing appetite for water. Because water and power are inextricably linked, the question is, do we have enough of either?

Erin Wayman



TRENDS AND INNOVATIONS

HOW TO DEFLECT AN INCOMING ASTEROID

In a Hollywood movie, if an asteroid were on a collision course with Earth, we would simply send a motley crew to plant a nuclear bomb on the asteroid to blow it to smithereens. But in the real world, scientists have other ideas about how to deflect anything that threatens Earth.

Brian Fisher Johnson



NEWS

- 7 NEWS SHORTS
- 8 TREMORS HARBINGERS OF LARGE QUAKES ON SAN ANDREAS?
- 9 NEPTUNE REDISCOVERED
- 10 TRACKING TSUNAMIS VIA SATELLITES COULD SAVE LIVES
- 11 FALSE ALARM MYSTERY AT VOLCANO SOLVED
- 12 SOLAR CYCLE HEATS UP
EL NIÑO/LA NIÑA DEBATE
- 13 GEMSTONES:
GETTING THE MOST
SHINE FOR THE CUT
- 14 CHEMICAL
SIGNATURES
REVEAL ANCIENT
GEOGRAPHY
- 15 BURROWING
DINOSAURS
- 16 VENUS' GENTLER,
EARTH-LIKE PAST
- 17 POLAR AURORAE NOT MIRRORS OF EACH OTHER
- 17 PIRANHA INTERMEDIATE FOUND
- 18 COLD CASE: SHINING CLOUDS IMPLICATE
A COMET IN SIBERIAN IMPACT
- 19 AN UNPRECEDENTED
LOOK UP A
SUPERVOLCANO'S
SKIRT
- 20 DECREASING WINTER
CHILL FORETELLS
FRUIT PROBLEMS
- 21 TINY NANO-
CAGES UNLEASH
GEOTHERMAL
ENERGY
- 21 DUST: AROUND THE
WORLD IN 13 DAYS
- 22 LET IT SNOW
— ON MARS
- 23 HEY,
LAY OFF MY DUNG!
- 24 TOXIC TRIASSIC
TERMINUS
- 25 MINING REFORM ON THE TABLE, AGAIN
- 26 PLANTS AND MOUNTAINS PLAY STARRING ROLE
IN CO₂ MANAGEMENT
- 27 MICROBE CITIES BUILT THESE ROCKS
- 27 NANOSCALE CARBON CAPTURE
- 28 LANDSCAPE CHAOS BECOMES ORDER
IN EARTH'S VALLEYS
- 29 MINERAL RESOURCE OF THE MONTH: GALLIUM



VIEWS

- 95 **A COMMENT**
BUILDING A MORE EARTH SCIENCE-LITERATE PUBLIC
Thanks to an enormous effort, students, textbook publishers, policymakers and the general public now have a go-to document that lists the essential knowledge that everyone should know about earth science.
Michael Wysession
- 96 **GEOLOGIC COLUMN**
A FRESH START
Marie Morisawa got a rare opportunity in science: the chance to roll back time and see a geological process start from the beginning. Such fresh starts are equally rare in politics, so when one happens, we need to seize upon it.
Lisa A. Rossbacher

DEPARTMENTS

- 4 **FROM THE EDITOR**
- 6 **LETTERS: PERSPECTIVES FROM READERS**
- 68 **GEOMEDIA**
Web: Computing a Place in the Tree of Life
Web: Twitter: Spreading the Word About Earthquakes
Books:
Buildings' Untold Stories Recorded in "Stories in Stone"



Audio: Putting Earth's History to Sound
Books: The Life and Times of "Uranium"

- 74 **CROSS-SECTION: A PUZZLE**
- 75 **WHERE ON EARTH?**
- 76 **BENCHMARKS**
October 9, 1865: First Successful U.S. Oil Pipeline
- 79 **DOWN TO EARTH WITH ...**
PALEOBIOLOGIST, PALEOCLIMATOLOGIST, GEOCHEMIST AND
SCIENTIFIC ILLUSTRATOR JESSICA WHITESIDE
- 82 **GEOMARKETPLACE**
- 84 **CLASSIFIEDS: CAREER OPPORTUNITIES**