

# Letters

## IDRC and Cassava

Paul Tisdall's article about cassava in *Science Dimension* 1984/3 was very interesting. I was pleased to see Dr. Kartha (a researcher well-known at IDRC) mentioned, as well as the names of international organizations involved in the preservation of cassava germplasm.

However, I was surprised that there was no mention of the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), since it has contributed substantial assistance toward Dr. Kartha's research on cassava. Our Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Sciences Division gave the National Research Council a grant of \$49 000 (in 1978 and 1981) so that Dr. Kartha could pursue his research on the cryopreservation of cassava meristems.

**Robert Charbonneau**  
Communications Division  
IDRC  
Ottawa

*The 'cryopreservation' Mr. Charbonneau refers to is a technique of sudden deep-freezing of plant tissue in liquid nitrogen. Ed.*

## Kudos

The article "Watch on the Rain" in the 1984/2 edition of *Science Dimension* is excellent for use in the Biology 20 program in Alberta. It provides more than a textbook approach to the problem.

As well, your publication contains many articles relating to the chemistry and physics curriculum. These articles give a practical application to the study of science.

Several students read the subscription copy that comes to me at the school. Many of these students have applied for the one-year subscription that you offer.

*Science Dimension* is an excellent publication.

**Philip Lenko**  
Hilltop High School  
Whitecourt, Alta.

## Solar Gaffe

In your recent issue of *Science Dimension*, you have an interesting article about Ground-Based Astronomy at NRC (1984, Vol. 16, No. 1). The figure on page 27 has several errors. The caption reads: "The view from Shirley's Bay: The Sun in H-alpha light...". The photograph was actually taken by Skylab astronauts orbiting above the Earth's atmosphere. The photograph as taken at a wavelength of 304 Ångströms (singly ionized helium). Radiation at this wavelength cannot penetrate the Earth's atmosphere. Photographs of the sun in H-alpha light are taken at a wavelength of 6562 Ångströms, the strongest line of hydrogen, in the red part of visible light which is able to penetrate the Earth's atmosphere to the ground. Incidentally, the photograph is also reversed.

The photograph is published, for example, in *The New Solar System* 1982, 1981 (eds. J.K. Beatty et al.) (Cambridge University Press), page 12.

It is particularly unfortunate that an article stressing ground-based astronomy should mistakenly have used a photograph obtained above the Earth's atmosphere!

**P.H. Andersen**  
Assistant Professor  
University of Manitoba  
Winnipeg, Man.

*Our mistake. Professor Anderson's letter arrived just after we received a telephone call from Shirley's Bay! Ed.*

## Kudos

I receive *Science Dimension* regularly and was very interested in the article on radio astronomy in SD 1984/3.

I have been reading your magazine for several years now, and I especially like the wide variety of articles it contains. It's a great way to keep up to date on Canadian science.

**Dr. Jacques Trémolières**  
Mechanical Engineer  
and Biologist  
Stains, France



## Kudos

I read with interest your article "Suzuki" in *Science Dimension*. Allow me first to congratulate you on an excellent publication and then Dr. Suzuki for the timely reminder that the basic scientific research is still the basis for which all applied applications spring. My students will not forget this. Thanks.

**Isidore A. Julien**  
Instructor — Biology  
Roxbury Community College  
Boston, Mass.

## Science History

As co-ordinator of the Youth Science Foundation's plans for 1985 International Youth Year, I am interested in obtaining additional information on an article which appeared in the Capsules section of Volume 16, No. 2, 1984 of the magazine.

The article entitled "History of Science and Technology in Canada" discussed a meeting held at Kingston in October 1983. Since I am now collecting historical dates in Canadian science, I would be interested in obtaining a copy of the proceedings of the meeting. If you have the name and address of a contact for this meeting, it would be most helpful.

**Melissa Clark**  
Ottawa, Ont.

*The person to write to is Professor Richard A. Jarrell, the Secretary-Treasurer of the Canadian Science and Technology Historical Association. His address is: Department of Natural Sciences, Atkinson College, York University, Downsview, Ontario M3J 2R7. Ed.*