Armstrong was the first to land on the moon but few would bother to recollect Edwin Aldrin, who joined him on the lunar surface just 20 minutes later. Almost every school-kid would answer that Columbus was the first to discover America, but who was the second? We proudly recall that Rakesh Sharma was the first Indian to make an orbital flight but who was his back-up?

Dr. S.K. Gurta, Jaipur

The Spectre of Eclipses

Your July editorial Spectacle of a Lifetime mentions that during the last lunar eclipse there were predictions by many that it will unleash natural calamities. Like the lunar eclipse a solar eclipse creates panic on an even greater scale – the solar eclipse of 16 February 1980 did just that. Unfortunately, during and after the eclipse senseless and superfluous rites are performed. How can our children develop a scientific temper when they see their elders engaged and subscribing to absurd ritualism? Superstitious have a habit of clinging tenaciously even when convincing scientific proof to the contrary is available. As bad luck would have it, in our country a large number of people, because of their religious leanings, educated or otherwise, fail easy prey to the machinations and mumbo-jumbo of priests and astrologers.

Debasis Ghosh
Anandapuri, Barrackpur

Care for the Teeth

I admired the article Healthy Teeth for a Dazzling Smile in the May issue. Most of us are not aware about the conditions of our teeth. Unfortunately we neglect small problems that could lead to severe ailments in future. The column provided useful measures to sensitize us to taking more care of our teeth.

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Saved by SR

As a regular reader of Science Reporter for many years, I deeply respect this magazine. This month, just one day before salary, I and many of my colleagues got a mail from our bank that our salary account had been suspended and to fix it our account details were needed. When I got this mail, I immediately alerted my colleagues and bank. In this way I was able to save their hard earned money. I sincerely thank the authors and Science Reporter for this.

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In developing countries like India there are even today places where people are not aware of the wonderful advances of science. Especially, in a small town like Darjeeling District the need for more information on science is greatly felt. Your science magazine Science Reporter provides an excellent source of scientific information for students of the Hills. I personally would be grateful if you add more information about mathematics that is becoming uncommon amongst the Hills students.

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We Would Like to Hear From You

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