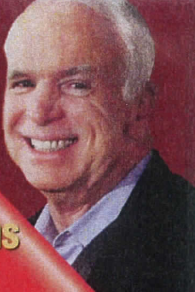


TIME FOR KIDS



Republicans
Choose
McCain!



Face-Off

After
close contests
on March 4,
Hillary Clinton
and Barack Obama
fight on for the
Democratic Party
nomination

Touching Outer Space

A braille book of the universe

WHEN SHE WAS A CHILD, Noreen Grice liked to think about what might be “beyond the Earth,” in space. Now, she is helping others envision things that were once beyond their reach.

Grice, an astronomer, owns a company called You Can Do Astronomy. She helps blind and visually impaired students see the wonders of the universe. She designs touchable pictures of the sun, stars, distant galaxies and other cosmic sights, and writes text in braille, a language of raised dots that blind people read with their fingers.

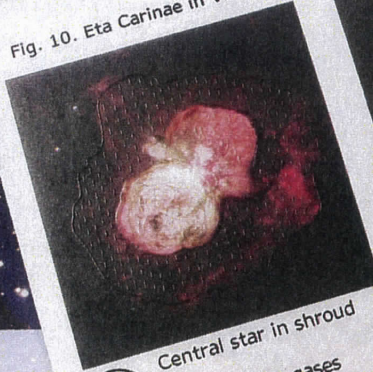
Grice is a coauthor of *Touch the Invisible Sky*, a new book from NASA that is available in schools for the blind, libraries and museums. The 60-page book features 28 color photos taken by Hubble and other NASA telescopes. Each image is also illustrated with textures like raised lines and dots. These patterns represent shapes and other features.

Grice has published five braille books on astronomy. They fill what was once a black hole in braille publishing. Translating pictures into braille is costly, so not many science books for blind people include raised images and graphics. Grice says she wants to put these images at blind students’ fingertips “so that they can make pictures in their minds’ eyes, and maybe discover things that other people didn’t notice.”

Chelsea Cook, 15, is visually impaired. When she looks at the night sky, she is able to make out a full moon but not the stars. Grice’s books are helping Chelsea envision a future twinkling with possibility. “[The books] definitely opened doors to a lot of opportunities that I didn’t think probable,” Chelsea told TFK. “I want to become the first blind astronaut.”

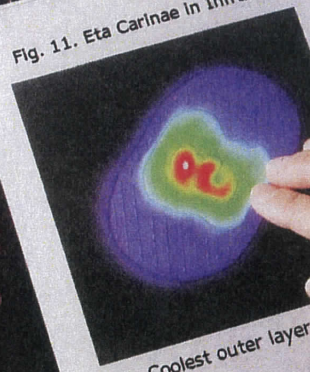
—By Kathryn R. Satterfield

Fig. 10. Eta Carinae in Visible



Central star in shroud
Surrounding gases
Expanding lobes of gas

Fig. 11. Eta Carinae in Infrared



Coollest outer layer
Dust

Reaching for a star: Raised lines show the layers of Eta Carinae.

Dear TFK,

I am glad that artist Timm Etters is painting murals now instead of bridges [“Go Ahead, Paint the Walls!” 2/29]. I hope he will continue to inspire kids with his great artwork.

Jessica B., 11
Oregon

It is great that Brent Roberts and his students are collecting books for the kids at Fords Prairie Elementary [“Spotlight on Service,” 2/29]. They are heroes.

Gabriela R., 10
New Jersey

I watched the Westminster Dog Show on television [“America’s New Top Dog,” 2/29]. Uno is very cute. He deserved to win!

Brianna G., 9
Missouri

It is amazing that a pit crew can complete all of those tasks in 20 seconds [“Quick Change,” 2/29]. The next time I watch NASCAR, I’ll remember the important part the pit crew plays in getting a win for the team.

Boone R., 10
Texas

Write to TFK at
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