These stunning observations have focused much recent attention on the use of these underground detectors as "neutrino telescopes." Originally meant to study proton decay, they are beginning to sample the energetic neutrinos emerging from the superhot cores of nearby astrophysical objects like the sun. The fledgling scientific field of neutrino astronomy, which received a great boost from this fortuitous event, owes its existence to the foundations laid by the last three decades of high-energy physics.