K. S. Noll, Space Telescope Science Institute (STScI); D. C. Stephens, Brigham Young University; W. M. Grundy, Lowell Observatory; H. F. Levison, Southwest Research Institute; and S. D. Kern, STScI, report the detection of a binary companion to the transneptunian object (123509) in observations made during 2005 Nov. 24.365–24.395 UT with the High Resolution Camera of the Advanced Camera for Surveys on the Hubble Space Telescope (HST), using the clear filters with one 300-s exposure at each of four dithered positions on the detector. The two components are clearly resolved in each image and in the coadded image; they were separated by an angular distance of 0\textquoteleft0.080 ± 0\textquoteleft0.004 and differ in brightness by 0.40 magnitude. The fainter component lies at a position angle of 138° ± 5° from the primary. The projected separation of the objects in the sky plane is 2470 ± 60 km. The HST corrected for parallax and tracked both components of (123509) as they moved together at an average rate of 0.50/\textquoteleft/min.

COMETS C/2006 V2–V10 (SOHO)

Additional Kreutz sungrazing comets have been found on SOHO website images (cf. IAUC 8807). C/2006 V2 was very bright, peaking at mag 1.3 on Nov. 3.154 UT at 11.0\textit{R}_☉ in C3 images, with a thin tail that was 1\textquoteleft25 long at 8.0\textit{R}_☉ on Nov. 3.429; in C2 images, the long, thin tail survived for some hours after the comet’s head had disappeared behind the occultor. C/2006 V3 and V4 were stellar in appearance and faint (mag 7.5). C/2006 V5, V6, V7, V8, and V10 were somewhat diffuse and faint (mag ~ 8, 7.5, 7.5, and 8, respectively). C/2006 V9 was stellar in appearance and of mag ~ 5 in C3 images; in C2 images, it had a condensed head and an extremely faint, thin tail that extended to ~ 17\textquoteleft on Nov. 14.171 at 5\textit{R}_☉.