

SCIENCE



flash

A 9,300-year-old skeleton discovered in July near Richland, Washington is the oldest and most intact set of human bones ever discovered in North America. Research is suspended, however, as the tribes from the Native American grounds where it is found claim the skeleton as an ancestor and want the bones buried.

Trauma Seal, a new medical adhesive that is applied like a lip-balm stick, is in clinical trials at 10 hospitals and health care institutions nationwide. The biodegradable adhesive could eliminate stitches and return visits.

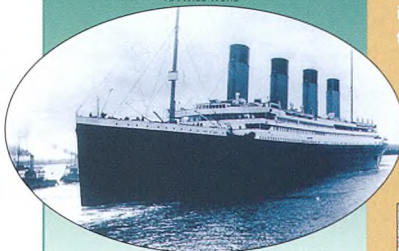
New York Police Department canines begin wearing three-pound, infrared cameras, scouting out potentially dangerous areas before police officers enter the scene. Handlers are developing bullet-proof vests for the dogs to wear.

A new category of animal is discovered in the form of bacteria that live on the lips of lobsters. *Symbion pandora*, which lives on food scraps from lobster lips, is called "the zoological highlight of the decade."



Videogame giant Nintendo releases its long-awaited Nintendo 64, a new hardware system that draws players into the game and moves three times faster than any existing system.

AP/Wide World



An expedition to raise the *Titanic*, the legendary "unsinkable" ocean liner that sank on its maiden voyage in 1912, from its North Atlantic grave more than two miles deep, ends in failure in August due to rough seas.



In August, scientists discover evidence of bacteria-like life on a meteorite found in 1984 and believed to be part of the crust of Mars 4.5 billion years ago. It is the first possible proof that life is not unique to Earth.



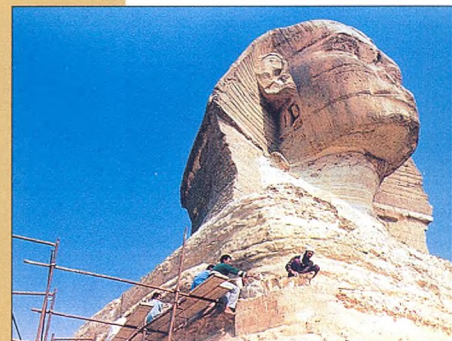
NASA



American astronaut Shannon Lucid (right) spends 188 days in space, breaking American space endurance records after joining the crew of the Russian space station *Mir*.



Egyptians begin work to preserve the Great Sphinx from the ravages of wind, pollution and time. The 4,500-year-old statue is located in Giza near the giant pyramids.



AP/Wide World



The Mars Surveyor Trolley, named *Sojourner*, is carried on-board *Mars Pathfinder*, an unmanned spacecraft launched in December. *Sojourner*, a free-roving probe the size of a child's wagon, will photograph the Martian surface and determine the composition of rocks on Mars.



NASA



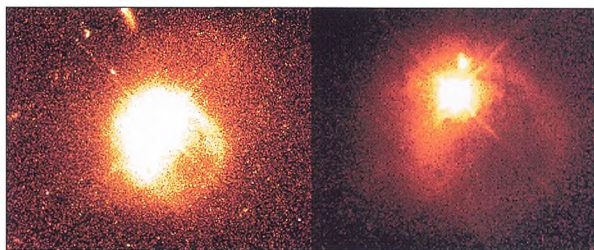
Satellite dishes become one of the year's hottest-selling electronic consumer products. Owners find the savings of not paying for cable services cover the cost within a few months.




Echostar Communications Corp.




© 1996 Monterey Bay Aquarium, Photography by Randy Wilder




J. Bahcall (Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton) and NASA

 California's Monterey Bay Aquarium opens a new wing in March 1996. The million-gallon indoor ocean showcases the marine life of the outer reaches of Monterey Bay, 5 to 60 miles offshore.

 The Hubble Space Telescope captures new images of quasars, the universe's most powerful and baffling phenomena. Previously thought only to exist in colliding galaxies, new pictures indicate quasars can also exist in undisturbed galaxies—causing astronomers to revisit their theories.




AP/Wide World

 Steam and ash from Iceland's Loki volcano blast 33,000 feet in the air on October 9. Molten rock from the volcano's 5-mile-wide fissure melts through more than 2,000 feet of glacial ice, threatening the island with widespread flooding.




O. Spa Bar

 An "oxygen bar" in Toronto, Canada allows patrons to pay \$16 to spend 20 minutes breathing pure oxygen. The owners of the O₂ Spa Bar claim the treatment is a healthy way to reinvigorate the body and offer fruit "flavors" to liven up the experience.





Smithsonian Institution

 The Smithsonian Institution celebrates the 150th anniversary of its founding with a nationwide tour of prize exhibits, including this stovepipe hat worn by Abraham Lincoln.




AP/Wide World

 The world's largest flower, the Titan Arum, also known as the "corpse flower," blooms in London's Kew Gardens for the first time since 1963. The flower is nicknamed for its strong stench when in bloom.

 New research suggests that hormone therapies can keep middle-aged men stronger and more youthful. A testosterone-releasing skin patch called Androderm is prescribed by many doctors to supplement the natural hormone.



Nick Cardillo/Chicago

 Paleoanthropologist Mary Leakey, shown with husband Louis Leakey in a 1959 photograph, dies in December. Discoveries by the Leakeys throughout their careers are some of the most important in paleoanthropological history. Her greatest discovery was a trail of 3.7-million-year-old footprints, which proved that hominids walked upright far earlier than previously believed.



UPI/Corbis-Bettmann

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