

# science news

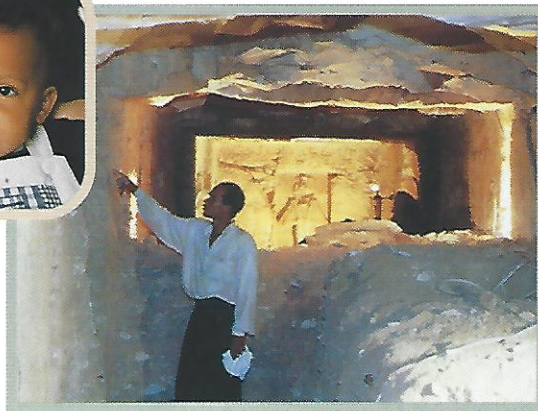
Wubbo De Jong/Het Parool from Sygma

As the result of an improperly cleaned test tube at a fertility clinic, a woman in the Netherlands gives birth to twin boys, each from a different father.



NASA

A stunning photograph from the Hubble Space Telescope captures a moment in the birth of a star in the Eagle Nebula, 7,000 light years from Earth. Light from the young star's nuclear furnace lifts towering pillars of hydrogen gas and interstellar dust.

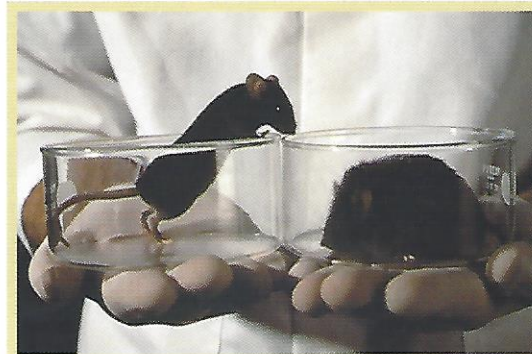


AP/Wide World



In March, the Federal Drug Administration approves a chicken-pox vaccine. Rarely fatal, chicken-pox affects 3.7 million Americans annually.

Archaeologists discover a 3,000-year-old tomb in May that is believed to hold the remains of 52 sons of Ramses II, Pharaoh of Egypt.



Dr. Jeffrey Fried, Gamma/Liaison

Researchers announce that they have isolated a gene in mice linked to obesity. Mice with a mutated OB gene are injected with the hormone leptin, resulting in dramatic weight loss. The public is tantalized at the prospect of leptin as a slimming treatment for use in humans.



© Cincinnati Zoo

The world's first test-tube gorilla is born at the Cincinnati Zoo in October as part of an effort to save the western lowland gorilla, an endangered species that numbers fewer than 450 animals.



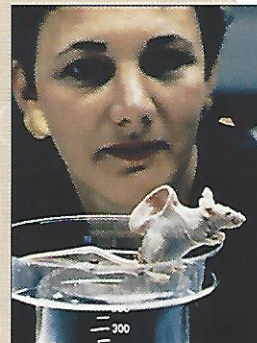
AP/Wide World

Fossils of a jawbone (left) and leg bone (right) found in Kenya in August reveal a previously unknown species of upright hominid that lived four million years ago, pushing the emergence of bipedalism back half a million years. Walking upright is a key adaptation that separates humans from apes.



Val Mazzanti/Chicago Tribune

Media attention focuses on melatonin, a naturally occurring hormone used to induce sleep and slow the effects of aging. Lauded as a wonder drug, a kilogram of synthetic melatonin sells for as much as \$10,000.



In a procedure known as tissue engineering, scientists grow a human ear under the skin of a laboratory mouse. Researchers hope the procedure will play an important role in the future of transplant surgery.



AP/Wide World

As a protective measure against counterfeiting in the era of digital publishing, the Treasury Department redesigns U.S. currency bills, to be issued over the next five years, starting early 1996 with the new \$100 bill.