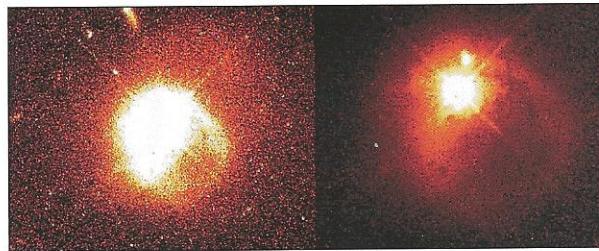


© 1996 Monterey Bay Aquarium, Photography by Randy Wilder



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.



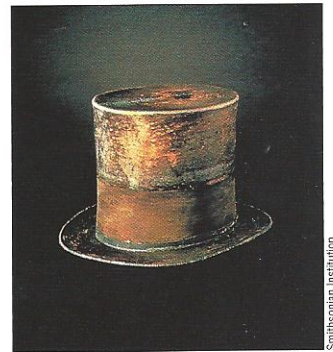
AP/Wide World



O₂ Spa Bar

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.

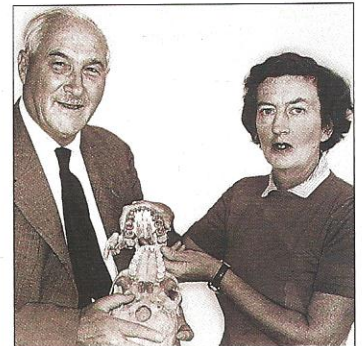
An "oxygen bar" in Toronto, Canada allows patrons to pay \$16 to spend 20 minutes breathing pure oxygen. The owners of the O₂ Spa Bar claim the treatment is a healthy way to reinvigorate the body and offer fruit "flavors" to liven up the experience.



Smithsonian Institution

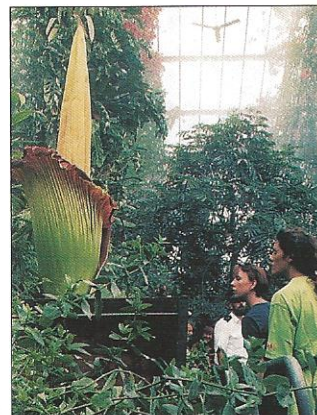
The Smithsonian Institution celebrates the 150th anniversary of its founding with a nationwide tour of prize exhibits, including this stovepipe hat worn by Abraham Lincoln.

Paleoanthropologist Mary Leakey, shown with husband Louis Leakey in a 1959 photograph, dies in December. Discoveries by the Leakeys throughout their careers are



UPI/Corbis-Bettman

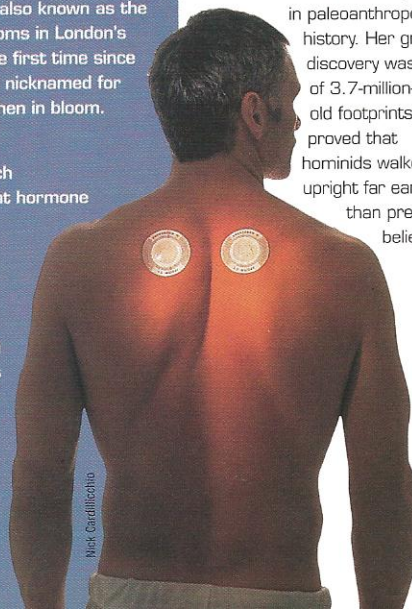
some of the most important in paleoanthropological history. Her greatest discovery was a trail of 3.7-million-year-old footprints, which proved that hominids walked upright far earlier than previously believed.



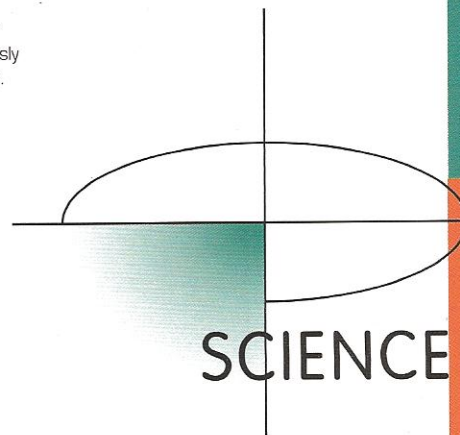
AP/Wide World

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/Corbis



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