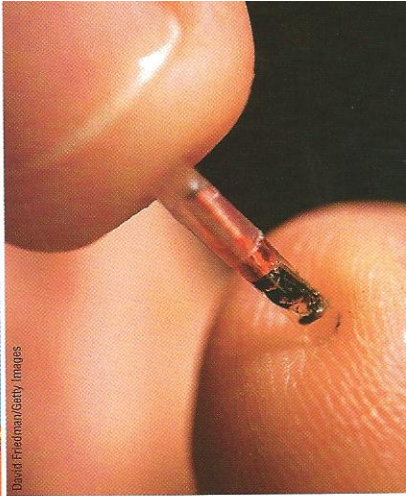
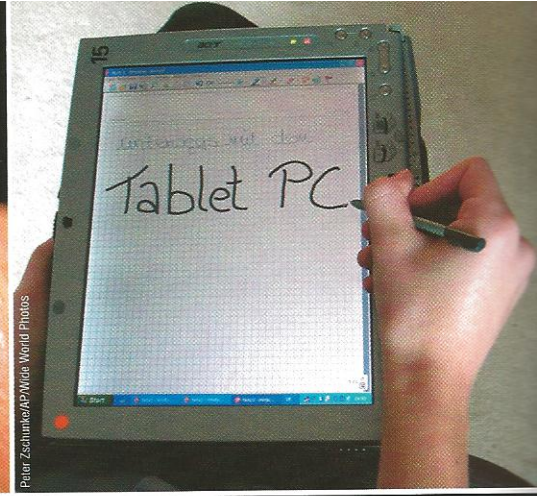


➤ Patients in Florida are the first to receive the VeriChip, a computer chip bearing personal medical data that is injected into the forearm.

➤ Microsoft's Tablet PC enables users to write directly on the screen rather than typing on a keyboard.



David Friedman/Getty Images



Peter Zschunke/AP/Wide World Photos

SCI-TECH

SCI-TECH SCI-TECH SCI-TECH

➤ The *Journal of the American Medical Association* reports that children who grow up with pets have a reduced risk of developing common allergies.

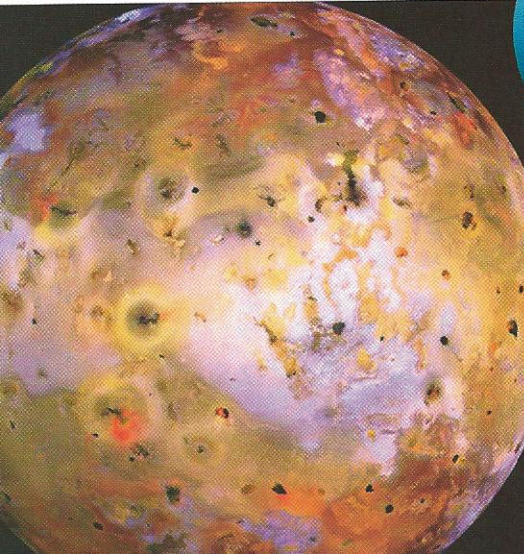


UCLA/Getty Images

➤ Maria de Jesus and Maria Teresa Quiej-Alvarez, 1-year-old Guatemalan twins born joined at the head, are successfully separated after over 22 hours of surgery.

➤ Just before burning up in Jupiter's atmosphere, the Galileo spacecraft captures the closest shots ever taken of Jupiter's moon Io.

NASA/AP/Wide World Photos



ALLERGIES



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➤ Both Italian doctor Severino Antinori and Raelian scientists at Clonaid, who believe aliens created humans, claim to have produced the first cloned human. Neither claim is proven genetically.



Bozo Vukicevic/AP/Wide World Photos

➤ El Niño causes snow and ice storms up and down the East Coast, rainstorms in California and a devastating December tornado in Mississippi.



Arman/AP/Wide World Photos

➤ A blanket of pollution over South Asia, dubbed the "Asian Brown Cloud," threatens the lives of millions worldwide with respiratory disease.