

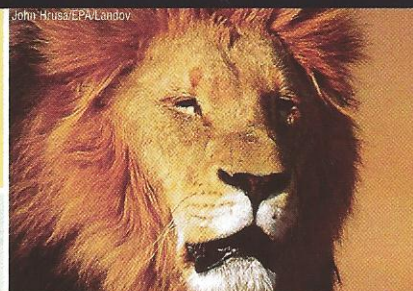
nature



Amy Lana

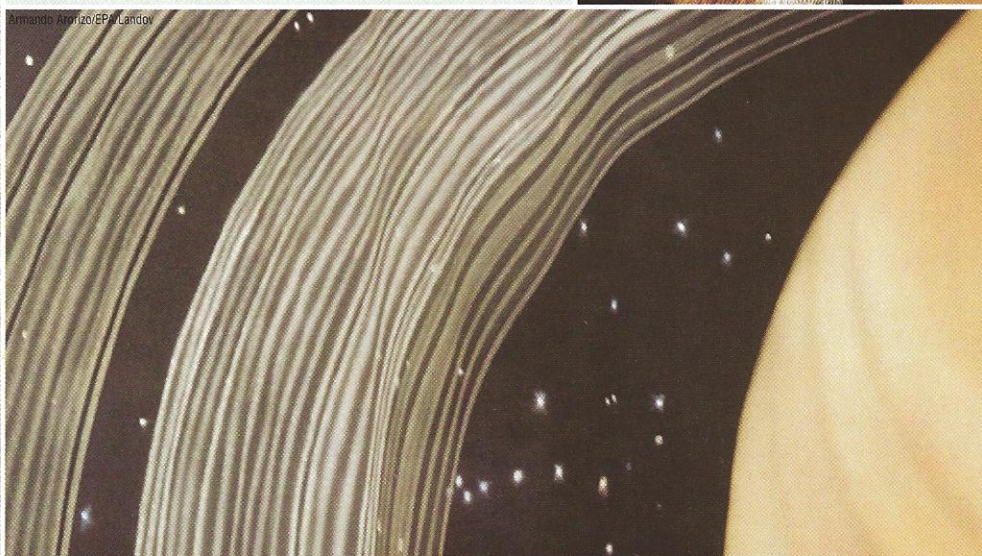
➤ Designer dog breeds like the "Goldendoodle," an allergy-friendly cross between a golden retriever and a poodle, are in high demand.

➤ African lions join the endangered species list because they are being killed to protect domestic livestock and their habitats are being destroyed.

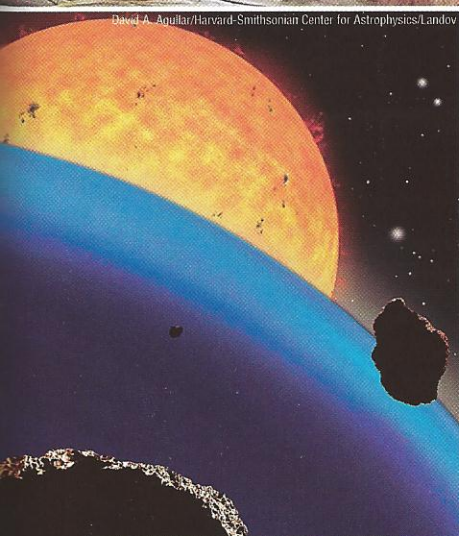


John Hines/EPA/Landov

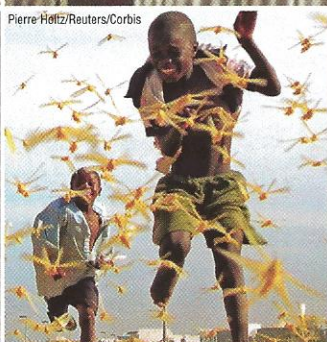
➤ Although Saturn's rings look solid from Earth, images taken by the international Cassini spacecraft show they are more like rivers of dust and ice, with particles ranging in size from specks to mountains.



Armando Anorize/EPA/Landov



David A. Aguilar/Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics/Landov



Pierre Heltz/Reuters/Corbis

➤ Swarms of locusts destroy millions of acres of crops in West Africa.

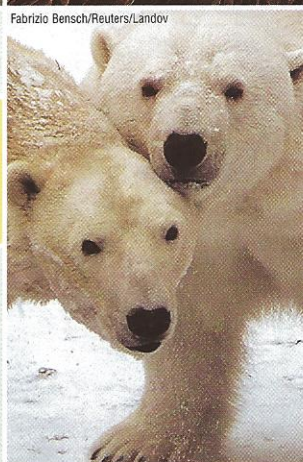
➤ In September, astronomers announce the discovery in the Milky Way galaxy of a new and possibly abundant class of planets.

➤ On a remote island in Indonesia, scientists find 18,000-year-old skeletons of a hobbit-like human species that grew no larger than today's average three-year-old child.

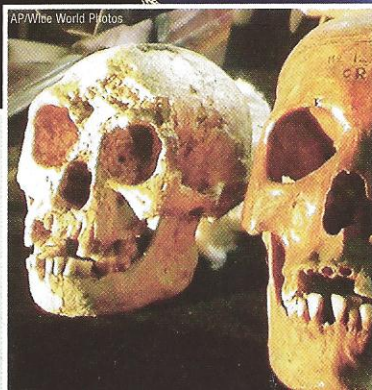


Fabrizio Bensch/Reuters/Landov

➤ In October, Mount St. Helens vents ash and steam for the first time since its major eruption in 1980.



➤ Threatened by the spread of hormone-disrupting chemicals and global warming, polar bears are added to the endangered species list.



AP/Wide World Photos