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FEATURE ARTICLES

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What Is Killing the Reefs?

by Barbie Bischof

Alarming reports of coral reef die-offs have prompted scientists to mount a global investigation of these beautiful and complex undersea ecosystems.

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Going with the Flow

by Stephen M. Born

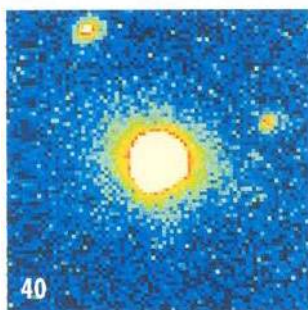
Societies once considered megadams the ultimate triumph over nature. After weighing their benefits against their enormous social, environmental, and economic costs, however, many countries now are considering the unthinkable—letting some rivers run free.

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Warming Up to the Outer Solar System

by Dale P. Cruikshank

As astronomers explore the brink of interstellar space, they are finding vast numbers of cometlike chunks of matter that have been drifting in cold storage for eons.



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Star Maps of the Ancient Orient

by F. Richard Stephenson

Charts and descriptions of the night sky preserved from bygone centuries in China, Korea, and Japan are providing valuable information about the past visitations of Halley's Comet and the catastrophic death of stars.

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Feathers: An Ancient Perfection

by Alan Feduccia

Remaining essentially unchanged for some 150 million years, feathers are among the most varied, beautiful, and multifunctional of all animal features.

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Celluloid Dreams*by John Kenly Smith, Jr.*

Developed little more than a century ago, plastics have so thoroughly penetrated every arena of human activity that it is difficult to imagine the world without them.

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The Great Consciousness Debate*by James Trefil*

For centuries philosophers have argued about the nature of human consciousness. Today the mind-body problem is once again at the center of vigorous disagreement.

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Izanagi's Inheritors: The Search for Japanese Origins*by Brian Chisholm*

Who were the ancient forebears of the modern people of Japan? The efforts of archaeologists, anthropologists, linguists, and, most recently, genetic researchers are providing some answers.

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The Force Is with Us*by James D. Livingston*

Lodestones and compasses guided Columbus and others in the age of exploration. Today far more powerful, often unseen "neo" magnets are conducting us through the information age.

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The Birds and the Bees, the Flowers and the Trees*by May Berenbaum*

A decline in pollinating insects and other animals has raised concerns that our farm fields and wild areas may be facing a reproductive crisis.

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Science for the Soldier: The U.S. Army's Natick Labs*by Philip Brandler*

The U.S. Army Natick Research, Development and Engineering Center takes its mandate of protecting and sustaining the individual soldier into the new millennium.

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Enchanting the Earth*Essay by Chet Raymo**Sculptures and photographs**by Andy Goldsworthy*

Using ordinary materials at hand, sculptor Andy Goldsworthy creates ephemeral and quietly unfamiliar earthworks that lead viewers to probe the human and natural forces at work in the world.

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