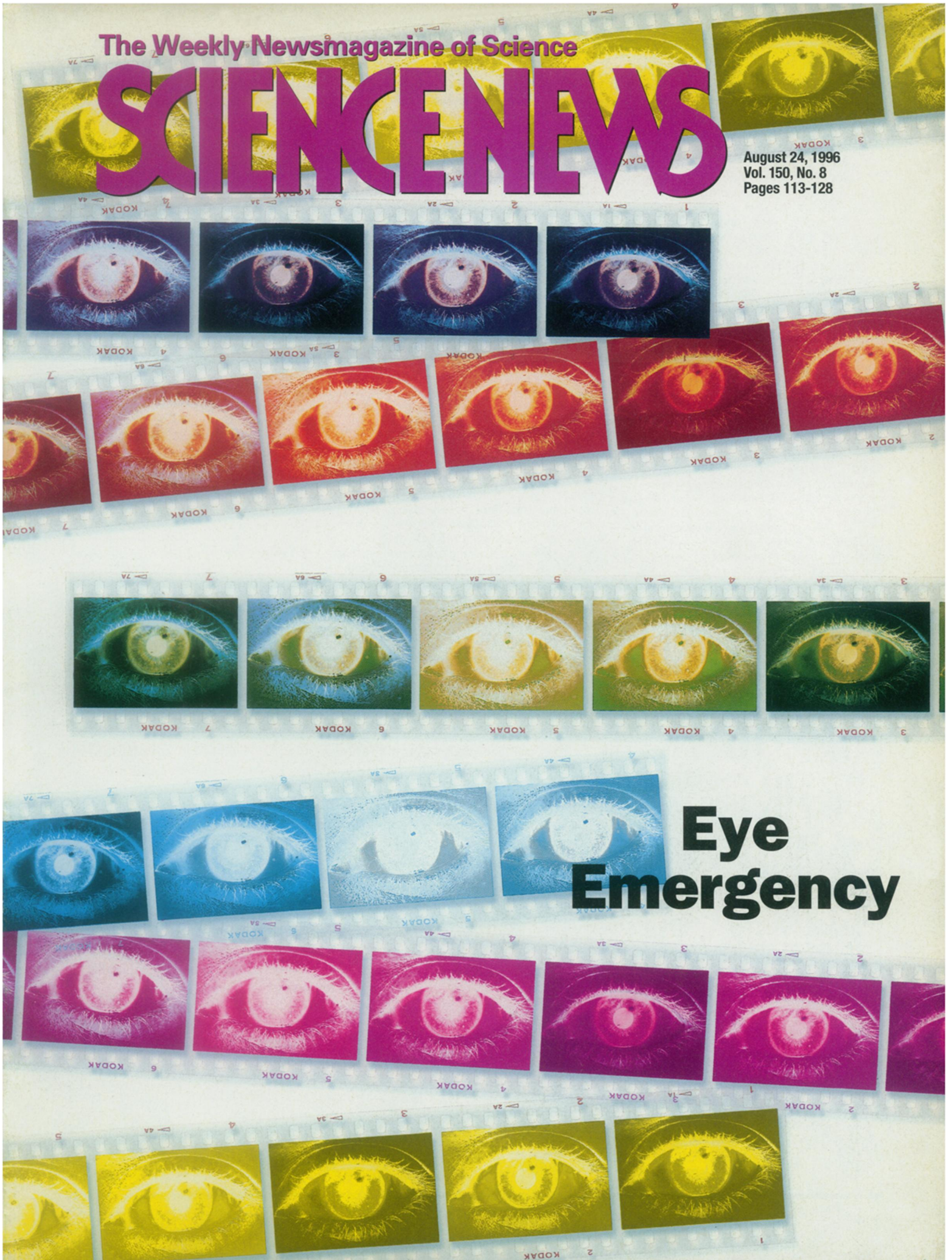


The Weekly Newsmagazine of Science

SCIENCE NEWS

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Pages 113-128



Eye Emergency

First proposed in 1946, funded and designed in the 1970s, built in the 1980s, launched in 1990, and repaired in 1993, The Hubble Space Telescope has only recently begun performing as it was meant to. In this book we see the first fruits of Hubble's long and difficult journey.

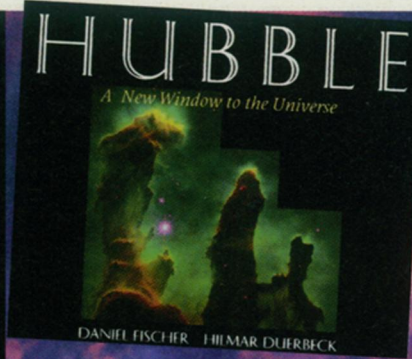
Everywhere it looks, Hubble is discovering new phenomena in space, clearing up old mysteries, and creating new ones. Among its startling recent findings are:

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- ▶ The first direct observation of "core collapse" in a globular cluster (M15)
- ▶ The first genuine brown dwarf candidate, a companion to the star Gliese 229 that appears to be 20 to 50 times the size of Jupiter
- ▶ Confirmation that quasars do indeed reside in galaxies—but not in the kind of galaxies we had always thought
- ▶ Discovery of the second known supermassive black hole at the center of a galaxy—an object in NGC 4621 with a mass roughly a billion times that of the sun. Or is it not a black hole but perhaps a supermassive disk?



In addition, Hubble has given us stunning images of the "stellar nursery" in Orion, the spectacular 1994 comet crash on Jupiter, turbulent weather on Saturn, and dozens of other astonishing sights. This beautiful book explains and recounts the long path that led to Hubble's launching, describes how it is currently being used, and offers a glimpse into the future of telescopes in space.

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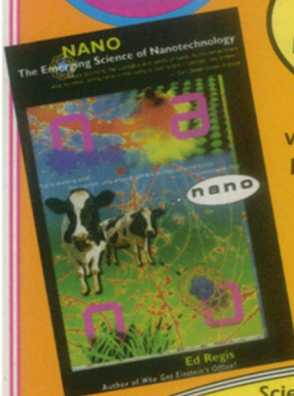
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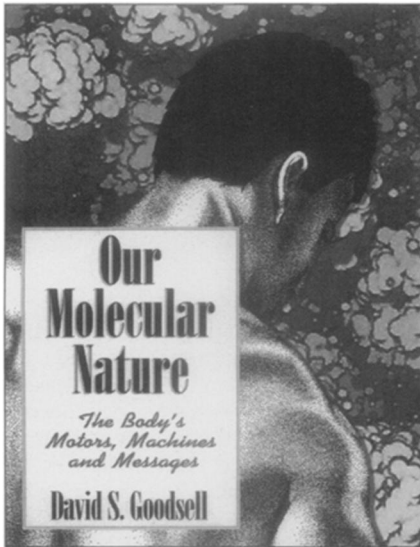
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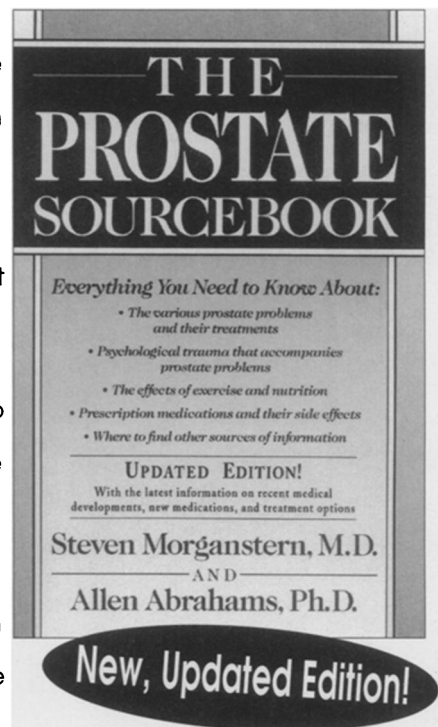
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