

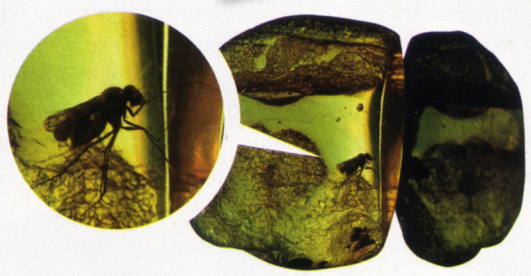
RENEWABLE BRIDGE



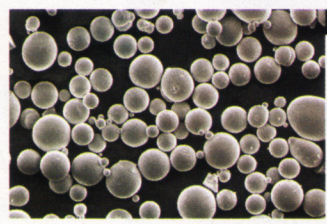
Drivers in the Chinese city of Leiyang are now using a newly opened bridge built primarily from bamboo. Nine girders made of the material support the bridge, which was designed by University of Southern California engineering professor Yan Xiao, while the superstructure is composed of processed bamboo painted with a gray waterproof coating. A team of eight workers built the bridge without using heavy equipment. Chinese authorities approved loads up to 8 tons, but lab tests indicate the bridge could handle up to 90 tons. Using bamboo has an environmental benefit: Unlike the manufacture of concrete, which produces carbon dioxide, bamboo reaches maturity in three years and absorbs CO₂ as it grows. There is a tradeoff, however. Xiao says the bridge will need to be replaced within 20 years.

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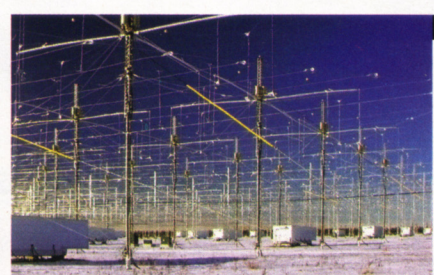
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t enough to use indoors. Scientists at
brightness by punching nanoscale



BUGGED TO EXTINCTION? Climate change from a catastrophic asteroid impact may have pushed dinosaurs to the brink, but it was emerging and evolving insects that helped finish them off, researchers at Oregon State University hypothesize. Previous research indicates that dinosaurs gradually declined over thousands of years after the end of the Cretaceous period, 65 million years ago. Within the guts of amber-encased ticks, mites and biting flies, OSU scientists found the preserved remains of pathogens and parasites that the immune systems of dinosaurs would have been unprepared to fight.



HOT-RUNNING MAGNETS The magnets in motors of electric, hybrid and experimental fuel cell cars lose about half of their power when they're heated to 250 F. Scientists at the Department of Energy's Ames Laboratory in Iowa have developed a modified magnetic alloy that comes in a spherical powder (left) that is suitable for injection molding, a common process used by car manufacturers. The new magnets maintain performance up to 392 F.



ROUND-TRIP MOONBEAM From the wilds of Alaska to the New Mexico desert, via the moon, in 2.4 seconds: Air Force and Navy scientists bounced a 3.6-million-watt radar signal off the moon at 7.4 MHz, producing the lowest frequency lunar radar echo ever detected. The signal was generated at the High-Frequency Active Auroral Research Program facility, an array of 180 antennas near Gakona, Alaska. Scientists could use such reflected waves to probe lunar geologic structures hidden below the surface to find how the moon was formed.

NEWSBRIEFS COMPILED BY ALEX HUTCHINSON

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