



JET PROPULSION LABORATORY/NASA

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What a year we have seen. Shakespeare wrote, "When beggars die, there are no comets seen; the heavens themselves blaze forth the death of princes." And this time the comet swept in an abundance of portents and wonders: the passing of Diana, the ascension of Mother Teresa, the duplication of Dolly, the multiplication of the McCaugheys

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Roger Rosenblatt ponders a year ruled by emotion, in which distant communities joined to weep for a princess who seemed to live next door, to gasp in unison at murders continents away, to wag fingers—like neighborly know-it-alls—at a bereft mother and her au pair

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