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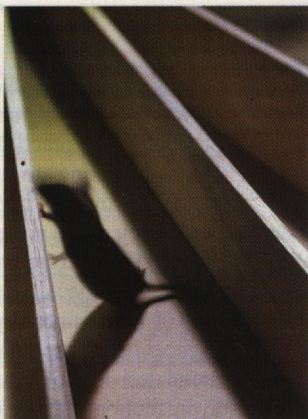
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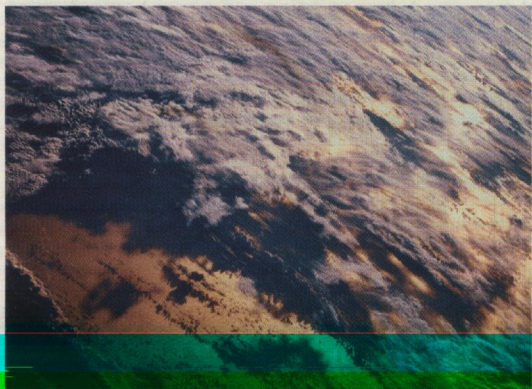
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- ◆ BASF weathers the economic market storms
- ◆ New Health and Safety Commission guidance for lab workers
- ◆ GSK sells Affymax drug discovery operation for \$9M

495 BUSINESS

Bayer in crisis but 'not in need of rescue'

First it withdrew its drug *Lipobay*, and now Bayer says it would consider merging its pharma division. Dede Williams finds out just what's happening.

496 ASTROBIOLOGY

Microbial cells found in outer space

Results showing that living organisms could come from outer space put into question the theory of the origin of life on Earth. Richard Butler reports.

497 AFTERWORDS

498 PATENTS

CROP-PROTECTION SPECIAL

500 **The crop-protection industry**

A rapidly expanding world population needs more food to eat. Crop protection plays a vital role in fulfilling the market demands. An introduction to the industry by Leonard Copping.

502 **Crop protection for the future**

The past ten years have seen radical changes in the way we develop chemicals for protecting our crops. David Evans asks what the future holds.

505 **Agricultural biotechnology**

GM crop technology is stalled in the UK, meanwhile farmers worldwide are benefiting from the technology. So what are the real benefits? Nigel Halford explains.

508 **The global crop-protection market**

Excess crop production, economic downturns and genetic modification have all