

# NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

Hawk High Over OUR CORNERS.

> SCOTLAND 2 GAZA 28 SCYTHIANS 54 TARANTULAS 98 FIRE 116

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SEPTEMBER 1996



- 2 **Scotland** This rugged northern reach of Britain remains a world apart, a land of windswept lochs and heather hills, a people of industriousness and idiosyncrasy.

  BY ANDREW WARD PHOTOGRAPHS BY JIM RICHARDSON
- 28 **Gaza** Palestinians in the 140-square-mile arid strip along the Mediterranean Sea cling to their dream of building a new state.

  ARTICLE AND PHOTOGRAPHS BY ALEXANDRA AVAKIAN
- Searching for the Scythians Legendary horsemen who swept across the European steppe in the seventh century B.C. left clues to their culture in finely wrought gold.

  BY MIKE EDWARDS PHOTOGRAPHS BY SISSE BRIMBERG
- Hawk High Over Four Corners Where four states meet in the Southwest, nature spreads a splendid panorama.

  BY T. H. WATKINS PHOTOGRAPHS BY ADRIEL HEISEY
- 98 **Tarantulas** Huge, hairy, and horrific, tarantulas are also delicate, timid, and mostly harmless.

  BY RICHARD CONNIFF PHOTOGRAPHS BY MARK W. MOFFETT
- The Essential Element of Fire More friend than foe to many ecosystems, fire helps keep the planet in balance.

  BY MICHAEL PARFIT PHOTOGRAPHS BY RAYMOND GEHMAN

### **Departments**

Behind the Scenes Forum Geographica

Flashback On Television Earth Almanac On Assignment

#### **The Cover**

Sandstone pillars cast long shadows in Monument Valley, Arizona. Photograph by Adriel Heisey

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