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Before Katie Stubblefield had a face transplant, she posed for this portrait. It shows her severely injured face—but photographer Maggie Steber also wanted to capture "her inner beauty and her pride and determination."

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Bacteria Strike Back Antibiotic resistance is on the rise, thanks to an evolutionary trick. BY DAVID QUAMMEN

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In a cave teeming with bats and snakes, a photographer thought he knew the dangers.
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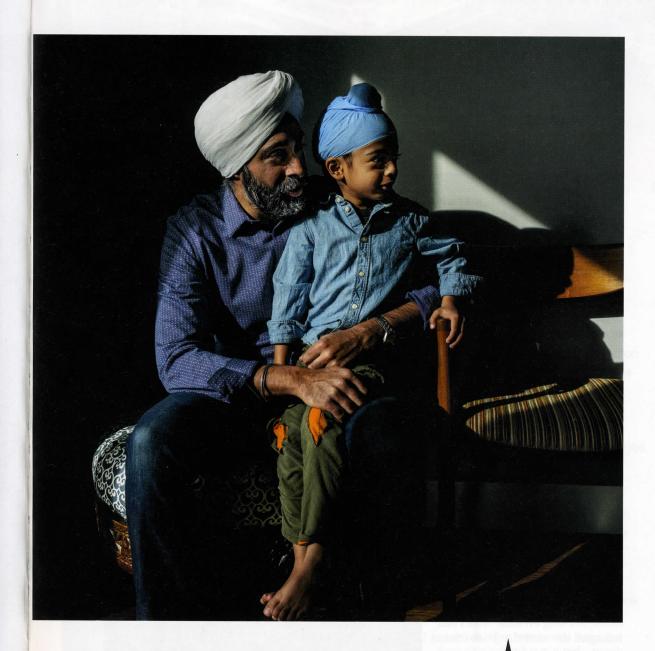
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Rockets for Regular Folks

Each year in the Nevada desert, hobbyists gather to launch high-powered projectiles thousands of feet into the sky. PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROBERT ORMEROD



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Katie's New Face

Identity. Experience. Emotion. The human face expresses all this and much more. As a result of one impulsive act, a teenager lost her face. Incredible medical advances and skilled surgeons made it possible for her to get a new one.

BY JOANNA CONNORS PHOTOGRAPHS BY MAGGIE STEBER AND LYNN JOHNSON

Passage to Another Time

Walking among the peaks of Central Asia. BY PAUL SALOPEK PHOTOGRAPHS BY MATTHIEU PALEY

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American Dream Expanding on their immigrant parents' successes, secondgeneration South Asian Americans are increasingly visible. And some are leaving their forebears' career paths to take on new roles: politician, astronaut, stand-up comedian. BY YUDHIJIT BHATTACHARJEE PHOTOGRAPHS BY ISMAIL FERDOUSP. 128