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It may look like a delicate celestial butterfly fluttering its wings against an eternal void, but the image on the previous spread is actually a planetary nebula in the Milky Way galaxy. It exists 4,000 light years away from Earth in the constellation Scorpius. At its center is a dying star that was once five times bigger than our sun. The swaths extending out from each side are turbulent gases that clock in at more than 36,000 degrees Fahrenheit and are hurtling through space at 600,000 miles an hour. The photograph – alongside the snapshot of a remote galaxy on the facing page – is part of a new series of images taken by NASA's refurbished Hubble Space Telescope. Over the next few years Hubble will peer further into the folds of space than ever before. It is expected to reveal unknown facets of the universe, provide clues about happenings in distant galaxies and help us understand the mysterious behavior of dark energy. Eclipsed by a different kind of wonder altogether, the three people on this page were photographed while playing video games.

