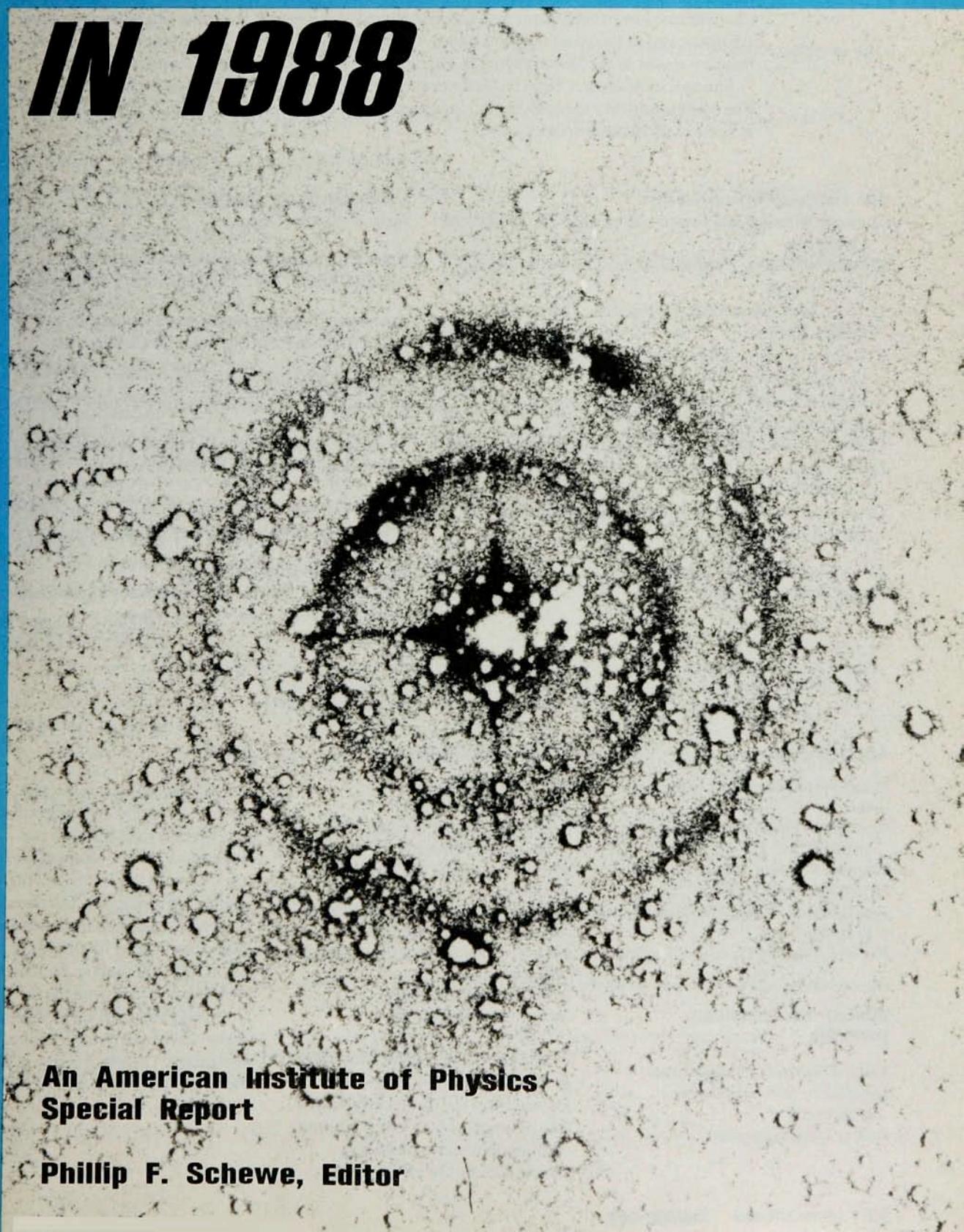


PHYSICS NEWS IN 1988



**An American Institute of Physics
Special Report**

Philip F. Schewe, Editor

PREFACE

Physics News in 1988, prepared by the Public Information Division of the American Institute of Physics (AIP), is the 20th in a series of annual reviews of physics news. In past years *Physics News* was published in booklet form and was distributed to reporters, students, librarians, teachers, scientists, and to the general public. More recently *Physics News* has been published as a supplementary report in the January issue of *Physics Today*, beginning with the January 1984 issue.

The articles in *Physics News in 1988* were selected and prepared by the AIP Member Societies. The editor would like to thank the following individuals, who helped to organize the chapters and in some cases to write articles:

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COVER:

Interstellar bull's eye. The two concentric circles in this negative print are the light echoes from Supernova 1987A, observed on July 15, 1988 with the 3.9-meter Anglo-Australian Telescope. The two circles represent reflections from two distinct dust clouds about 1000 light years and about 400 light years in front of the supernova as seen from Earth. Confusing effects of nebulosity in the region have been photographically subtracted. (Photo courtesy of D. Malin, Anglo-Australian Observatory.)