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TV SHOWS GAMES JOKES TIMEWASTERS STAND-UP FANBASE SHOP

TONIGHTS SCHEDULE	8:00PM Comic Remix	8:30PM Comic Remix	9:00PM Third Annual Comics Come Home Presents	10:00PM Comedy Central
	COMPLETE SCHEDULE >>			
Don't let the badge fool you. RENO 911! Starts WED. JULY 23 10:30 PM 9:30 C				
TV Shows	Games, Timewasters & more			

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ABOUT THE SHOW

SHOP

MEAT MARKET: Week of 7/21: Produce Pete, Back in Black, plus more!

ONLY ON THE WEB: TECHNOLOGY



A REALLY LONG TIME AGO, IN A GALAXY FAR, FAR AWAY... DATE:

7/11/2003

Further lowering our own solar system's self-esteem, astronomers announced the discovery of the oldest planet ever detected. It is more than twice the size of Jupiter and nearly 13 billion years old, although it does still giggle whenever someone mentions "Uranus."

Compared with the relative youth and stability of our own system, the oldest planet is located near the heart of a globular star cluster. Globular clusters are generally considered lousy environments to form planets because they were so early in the universe's development that the heavier elements needed to make planets didn't really exist yet. Upon hearing of the planet's struggle but ultimate success, Hollywood instantly greenlighted an inspiring biopic on the planet, directed by Denzel Washington and starring Robin Williams as the mentor.

The old planet and its globular cluster are located some 5,600 light-years, or 17 meters, from Earth in the constellation Scorpius, which is traditionally a moody and untrustworthy constellation, especially when its mate is a Pisces.

In announcing his discovery, Steinn Sigurdsson of Penn State University said, "We think this planet formed with its star 12.713 billion years ago when the Milky Way galaxy was very young, just in the process of forming." This supports the standing theory that our own solar system may have been an unplanned, later-in-life accident.

This old planet is among the more than 100 planets so far detected outside our galaxy, and is also the 100th planet not to feature any of the hot green-skinned women promised by "Star Trek."

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