

# ***NEW SCIENTIST***

## **CONTENIDO**

**VOLUME 208 Nos. 2792/2793, DECEMBER/JANUARY 2011**

### **NEWS**

- 6 THIS WEEK**  
Your environment matters more than your genes. Dog masters 1000-world vocabulary. No Black holes found at the LHC – yet. Microwave map hints at other universes.
- 12 IN BRIEF**  
Google’s fossil record of 5 million books. Chimp juveniles “play mother”. Black holes saved by superhero move. On the origin of Earth’s oxygen.
- 19 Goodbye 2010, hello 2011.**  
Stories to look out for in the coming year, plus a look back at 2010.
- 15 TECHNOLOGY**  
Photo editing enters the third dimension. Protecting Trappist beer from imitations.

### **OPINION**

- 5 EDITORIAL**  
Ask the right questions and you can predict the future.
- 32 Atrife on Mars.**  
Don’t wreck the search for ET, pleads Barry E. DiGregorio.
- 33 One minute with...Apollo 13’s crew.**  
Listen in to the astronauts before and after the explosion that almost took their lives.
- 34 LETTERS**  
Holiday fun, with number puzzles, atomic limericks and robots hands.
- 36 The real me.**  
New year, new diary. But what do you really want to record about yourself, asks Alun Anderson.
- 38 Ray Kurzweil vs mortality.**  
He wants to live forever, so how fit is he now?

### **CHRISTMAS FEATURES**

- 40 **Sozzled superconductors.**
- 42 **Once upon a time.**
- 45 **Botanical ballistics.**
- 48 **Steampunk Lego.**
- 50 **Wherefore art thou robot?**
- 53 **Booze truths.**
- 56 **The gunpowder gang.**
- 58 **Santa strategy.**
- 60 **No accounting for taste.**
- 63 **Attack me if you dare.**
- 66 **Alive, alive o!**
- 68 **The roast of Christmas future.**
- 70 **Jingle hells.**
- 73 **Big bird.**
- 76 **Bambi bites back.**

## **CULTURELAB**

- 78 **2010 Flash fiction competition.**  
Science fiction author Neil Gaiman picks the winners from stories set in works where discarded science turned out to be true.
- 80 Neurologist Kevin Nelson on his fresh take on near-death in *The Spiritual Doorway in the Brain*.

## **REVIEWS**

- 81 Gruff Davies's thriller poses deep questions.
- 82 The "Scientist Pope" is given his due by Nancy Marie Brown.

## **REGULARS**

- 34 **Enigma**
- 96 **Feedback**  
Interesting lives.

97

**End of Year Quiz.**

Test your recall of 2010's events and advances.

84

**Jobs & Careers.**

**Coming next week...**

**Fuzzy evolution.**

Life is even more random than anyone thought.

**Instant expert: Metamaterials.**

How the invisibility cloak became a reality.