

# ***DISCOVER***

## **CONTENIDO**

### **VOLUME 32 No. 10, DECEMBER 2011**

**34    *How to Survive the end of the Universe.***

A handy guide to the real science of how the universe will end-and the equally real, if wildly improbable, ways humans might survive the next trillion years.

*Andrew Grant.*

#### **THE FUTURE OF WATER**

**42    *Our Data, Ourselves.***

Could obsessively tracking your daily behavior be the secret to happiness, productivity, and better health? Our reporter takes the plunge.

*Kate Greene.*

**48    *Water Wranglers.***

The world is getting thirstier. Four experts debate how to keep the taps flowing in the face of drought, population growth, and conflict over the world's most precious resource.

**56    *Going to Extremes.***

Australia has been rocked by wild swings of wet and dry weather. The country's responses offer lessons in how to adapt to climate change.

*Linda Marsa.*

**64    *Cancer's Wandering Gene.***

The 2,500-year journey of a breast cancer gene is profoundly changing lives, reshaping medicine, and rewriting history from Brooklyn's brownstones to the suburbs of New Mexico.

*Jeff Wheelwright.*

#### **ON THE COVER**

We can do really well going from star to star, slowly consuming them.

Pag. 39.

**4    *Mail.***

**5    *Editor's Note.***

- 6 **Data.**  
Homeland Security's plan to presage crime, volcanic lightning, debating the oldest fossil, secrets of a six-legged assassin, the Iceman's last meal, a meteorologist explains how he put a murderer behind bars, visualizing planets around other stars, and more.
- 20 **Hot Science.**  
Get up to speed on the best geek-culture moments of 2011-television shows, books, movies, and more. Also: The worst of the year (adios, *V* and *Green Lantern*), along with a sneak peek at what's coming in 2012.
- 26 **Vital Signs.**  
A patient with a history of mental illness seeks help for his "possessed" hands. Could his delusion betray a serious medical condition?  
*Dena Rivkin.*
- 28 **Impatient Futurist.**  
Boring college lectures are ruining American science education. And we've got the research to prove it.  
*David H. Freedman.*
- 32 **The Brain.**  
Multiple senses plug into your brain, yet only one picture of the world comes out. The mind's ability to weave together all this information is impressive but far from perfect: One little glitch on a Netflix download can send things into confusion.  
*Carl Zimmer.*
- 80 **20 Things You Didn't Know About Alcohol.**  
We drink it, pump it into our cars, and find it scattered between the stars. Here is the story behind the little organic molecules that bring so much pleasure and pain to the world.  
*LeeAundra Keany.*