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CONTENIDO

VOLUME 304 No. 4 APRIL 2011

FEATURES

COSMOLOGY

36 **The Inflation Debate.**

A key theory explaining cosmic evolution may be fatally flawed.
Paul J. Steinhardt.

MEDICINE

46 **The Enemy Within.**

A new kind of antibiotic resistance threatens to leave us defenseless against a frightening range of bacterial infections.
Maryn McKanna.

IMAGING

54 **Neuroscience in the Courtroom.**

Studies of the brain could transform judicial views of whether defendants are responsible for their actions.
Michael S. Gazzaniga.

ENVIRONMENT

60 **Can the Dead Sea Live?**

Irrigation and mining are sucking the sacred sea dry, but together Israel, Jordan and the Palestinian Authority hope to save it.
Story and photographs by Eitan Haddok.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

66 **Solving the Cocktail Party Problem.**

Computers have great trouble deciphering the words of people speaking simultaneously: That may soon change.
Graham P. Collins.

CELL BIOLOGY

68 **The Orderly Chaos of Proteins.**

To carry out critical work in cells, proteins must adopt specific rigid shapes — or so standard wisdom says. Yet many key proteins turn out to be quite floppy.
A. Keith Dunker and Richard W. Krowacki.

SEISMOLOGY

74 **Seconds before the Big One.**

Forecasting an earthquake is still beyond reach, but scientists have figured out how to give many seconds of advance warning —time enough to save

lives.
Richard Allen.

SUSTAINABILITY

- 80 **Food Fight.**
Genetically modified crops, says agro-research czar Roger Beachy, get an unjustified shellacking from environmentalists.
Interview by Brendan Borrell.

ANIMAL BEHAVIOR

- 84 **Natural-Born killer.**
Lethal from day one, the tentacled snake uses surprisingly sly tactics to capture fish.
Kenneth C. Catania.

DEPARTMENTS

- 6 **From the Editor**
- 8 **Letters**
- 12 **Science Agenda.**
Antibiotic use in animals can — and should— be reduced.
The Editors.
- 14 **Forum.**
Fifty years after the first human ventured into space, it's time to reconsider the rationale.
Lawrence M. Krauss.
- 16 **Advances.**
Outsmarting dengue. Tiger parents. Watson finds work. A math enigma, Flea genomics. India's water crisis. Prenatal testing. The science of bit.ly. Raising crabs.
- 32 **The Science of Health.**
Don't blame cleanliness for rising asthma rates.
Veronique Greenwood.
- 34 **TechnoFiles.**
How to ensure that your digital photos and videos can be viewed decades from now.
David Pogue.
- 88 **Recommended.**
Chauvet caves. World without fish.
Kate Wong.
- 90 **Skeptic.**
Unexplained phenomena do not automatically invalidate good theories.

Michael Shermer.

92

Anti Gravity.

Science on the small screen

Steve Mirsky.

94

50, 100 & 150 Years Ago.

96

Graphics Science.

Clean tech leaders today.

Mark Fischetti.

On the Cover

The well- tested theory of cosmic inflation holds that the universe has the structure we know and love because the early universe underwent a period of incredibly rapid expansion. Now a leading contributor to the concept confesses that he and other scientists have been sweeping important problems with the theory under the rug.

Illustration by *Malcolm Godwin.*