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CONTENIDO

VOLUME 304 No. 5 MAY 2011

FEATURES

SUSTAINABILITY

7 Radical Energy Solutions.

Most of these technologies may fail, but the ones that don't could significantly alter how we generate energy and how efficiently we are it.

COSMOLOGY

46 The Lost Galaxies.

36

By the latest estimate the observable universe contains 200 billion galaxies. Astronomers wonder: Why so few? *James E. Geach.*

NEUROSCIENCE

54 The hidden Organ in Our Eyes.

Our bodies adjust to the cycle and night thanks to specialized neurons in our eyes. Study of these cells could lead to new treatments for winter depression and other conditions. *Ignacio Provencio*.

MATHEMATICS

60 **The Strangest Numbers in String Theory.** A long-ignored number system invented in the 19th century provides the

A long-ignored number system invented in the 19th century provides the simplest explanation for why our universe could have 10 dimensions. *John C. Baez and John Huerta.*

MEDICINE

66 Fast Track to Vaccines.

Biologists may have found a way to make effective vaccines against AIDS, tuberculosis and other difficult diseases. *Alan Aderem.*

PHYSICS

72 **The Space Station's Crown Jewel.** A fancy cosmic-ray detector is about to scan the cosmos for dark matter, antimatter and more. *George Musser.*

AGRICULTURE

74 The Growing Menace from Superweeds.

Pigweed, ragweed and other monsters have begun to outsmart the advanced technologies that protect the biggest U.S. cash crops.

Jerry Adler.

NATURAL HISTORY

80 Masters of Disguise.

Animal mimicry takes many forms — including chemical and acoustic varieties— and offers unique insights into evolution. *Peter Forbes.*

CREATIVITY

84 Inner sparks.

Hearing specialist Charles J. Limb says that studying the brain in moments of musical improvisation may provide keys to unlocking creativity. *Interview by Alicia Anstead.*

DEPARTAMENTS

4 From the Editor

6 Letters

10 Science Agenda.

The system for funding science needs to be fixed. *The Editors*.

12 Forum.

Why so many people choose not to believe what scientists say. *Daniel T. Willingham.*

16 Advances.

Extreme weather. Why coral spawn at twilight. Smartphone diagnostics. Bracing for the big one. The U.S.'s newest nukes. Chernobyl's steel rainbow.

32 The Science of Health.

Breast cancer screening tests are far from perfect. What's next? *Nancy Shute.*

36 TechnoFiles.

Saving your gadget from the trash heap. *David Pogue*.

88 Recommended.

Climate change and Greenland. Limits of the cosmos. Pleasure in the brain. Killing the BP gusher. *Kate Wong*.

90 Skeptic.

Does new research prove paranormal precognition or normal postcognition? *Michael Shermer*.

92 Anti Gravity.

Odiferous adventures in home plumbing. *Steve Mirsky*.

94 50, 100 & 150 Years Ago.

96 Graphics Science.

Medical imaging and radiation exposure. *Mark Fischetti.*

On the Cover

Better renewable technologies will broaden energy supply, but radical innovations are needed to fundamentally change the energy game, $S_{CIENTIFIC} A_{MERICAN}$ has un earthed seven exotic technologies that may be long shots to succeed, but if they do they could significantly improve energy security and efficiency, And the prototypes are just plain fascinating.

Illustration by *Chris Labrooy*.