LANGUAGE DETECTIVES ROBOT BABYSITTERS

SCIENCE

ILLUSTRATED



Did an Ancient Impact Set the Continents in Motion? 148



P.56

Who Will Survive?

What Climate Change Means for Biodiversity P.64

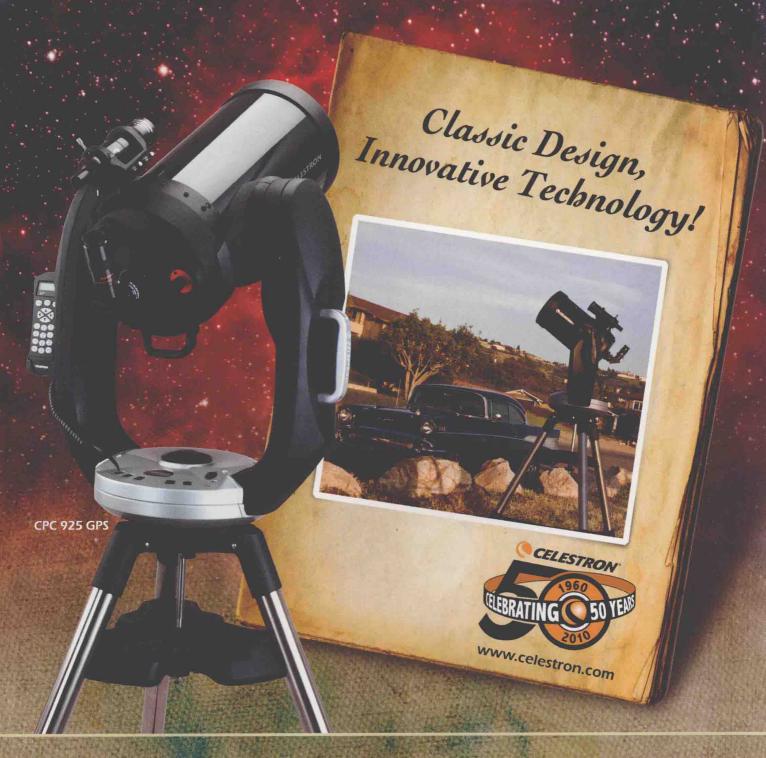
Anti-Cancer Proteins

Primordial Molecules Deliver Two Ways to Fight Disease P.46

Daydream Disorders

Wandering Minds May Hold Clues to Alzheimer's, Autism





CPC GPS Series

Some say they don't build them like they used to. At Celestron we disagree with that completely. Back in the 60's we were the first company to make the Schmidt-Cassegrain telescope commercially available. Today this optical system is still manufactured to the same high standards that were instituted back then. The CPC Series incorporates the best from the past with the technologies and ergonomic design features of today! The result is a high-end optical system that is easy to transport, set-up and use. Making each night under the stars a memorable experience:

For more information please visit, www.celestron.com

CPC 800 GP5 (8") \$1999.00

shipping and handling \$95.00

CPC 925 GP5 (9.25") \$2499.00

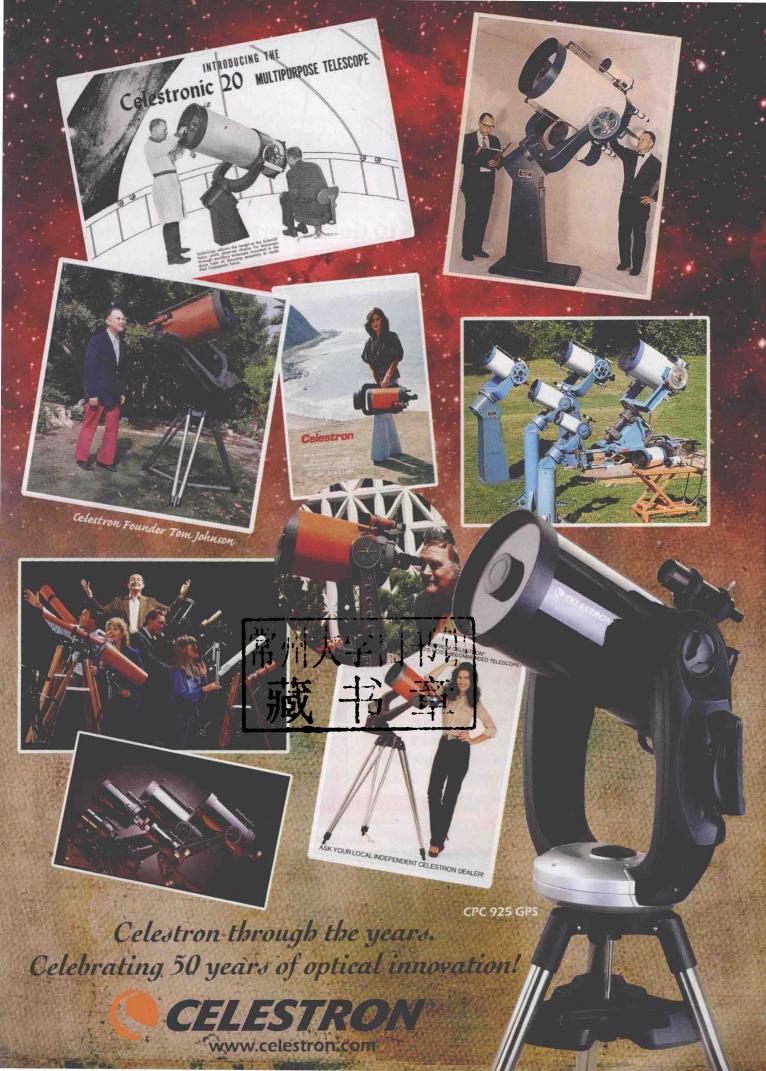
shipping and handling \$115.00

CPC 1100 GPS (11") \$2799.00

shipping and handling \$125.00



*Minimum purchase of \$29.99. Does not apply to gift cards or certificates, same-day or international delivery, shipping and handling, taxes or third-party hosted products (e.g. wine, wedding flowers). Offer expires 2/14/2010.



Rare Hoard of 100-Year-Old U.S. Gold Coins Released to Public

HISTORICUS GOLD ON SALE

Just discovered hoard of U.S. \$10 Gold Liberty Coins Now Available

Shown larger than actual size of 27 mm in diameter

Our buyers just discovered one of the most significant European Bank hoards of U.S. gold in years. They secured 1,769 magnificent U.S. gold coins guaranteed to be over 100 years old. The vintage coins in this hoard represent dates ranging from 1866 through 1907 that uniquely represent the history of our nation in fine gold.

Uncirculated Gold Coins from the Past are Timeless Treasures

Each of these \$10 Gold
Liberty coins is certified in
Uncirculated Condition. As gold
values have soared with unpredictable oil prices and the falling dollar,
you may never again have the opportunity
to own these gold coins at this price.

With the falling dollar, demand for these coins continues to escalate as collectors and investors scramble to scoop up U.S. gold

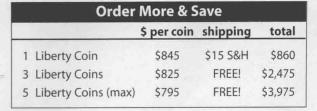
coins for their pure gold content and scarcity.

Certified genuine uncirculated U.S. gold coins have historical and numismatic value that bullion gold cannot match, making these coins even more attractive.

As low as **795** ea.

Don't Miss This Opportunity: Order Now!

Consider that the number of U.S. coin collectors has sharply risen to over 50 million today, you may never get a second chance to take advantage of this opportunity. Order now while our limited supplies last. Buy more and save! Due to our limited supply of these coins, we must issue a strict limit of 5 coins per customer. Why pay \$900 or more for similar coins? Prices and orders subject to availability, so call today. Your satisfaction is assured by our 30-day money-back guarantee.



Call Toll-Free:

1-800-695-3120 ext. 2347

New York Mint, 5577 W 78th St., Edina, MN 55439 Not affiliated with the U.S. Government



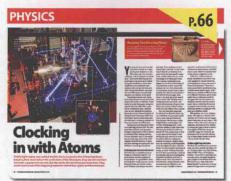
Clues from language help map the last great human migration: the peopling of the Pacific.

Continental IMPACT

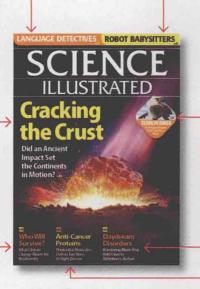
Ancient impacts from celestial bodies may have set plate tectonics in motion.



How species are responding to climate change, and which ones may not make it.



How the most precise clocks yet will improve GPS, map Earth's magnetic field, and more.



"In another 250 million years, the continents could once again come together into a supercontinent, only to break apart."

P.48



Primordial proteins that protect cells from stress damage could help combat cancer.



Robotic workers are taking on new roles, from making coffee to rescuing disaster victims.



How did gigantic prehistoric birds get so big, and what led to their demise?



What daydreams can teach us about autism and Alzheimer's disease.



Particle collisions reveal surprising results that challenge our notions of the earliest matter.

ASK US p.32



Departments

Bull's-Eye

P.8

This month's gallery of amazing images: a giant German celebration, the world's largest wind tunnel, an epilepsy x-ray, and a lion's close-up.

Science Update

p. 1

A fertility figurine, a virus takes form, why Antarctica froze, baby birds that do math, 13,000-year-old tools, and a way to rein in space junk.

Ask Us

P.27

You asked, we answered: How do aquatic insects breathe? When did Earth's atmosphere form? How do fireworks explode in shapes?

World of Science

p.78

The largest (and smallest) flowers, river-dwelling dolphins, ants that really use their heads, and other nuggets of scientific knowledge.

Letters

P.6

Trivia Countdown

P.80

Brain Trainers

P.84









The paper used for this magazine comes from certified forests that are managed in a sustainable way to meet the social, economic and environmental needs of present and future generations.



World's Most Famous Diamond Found Inside Toaster

Stauer introduces a scientifically created tribute to the legendary Hope Diamond!

It's a wonder that the *Hope Diamond* survived the 20th century. In the hands of eccentric millionaire heiress Evalyn Walsh McLean, the 45½ carat deep blue diamond was treated more like a fancy plaything than a precious gem. McLean wore it on rollercoasters, while swimming and when doing yard work. She hid it underneath couch cushions and from time to time, even kept it inside her toaster!

These days, the *Hope Diamond* is the superstar of the National Gem Collection at the Smithsonian's Museum of Natural History. And even though the spectacular blue stone attracts millions of visitors a year, it looks lonely stuck behind that 3-inch bulletproof glass. So we decided to set it free.

Science recreates a legend of luxury. We challenged our gemologists to reimagine the largest and most perfect blue diamond in existence. They came back with the magnificent *Eternal Hope Necklace*, a lab-created beauty inspired by the \$350 million original. Using the legendary *Hope* as their guide, they carefully cut lab-created blue spinel to match the color, shape and geometric angles of the world famous stone. And, because of our advanced science, our lab-created stone's clarity is superior to the original.

The *Hope Diamond* remains one of the world's most unattainable treasures, but we've set the price of our *Eternal Hope Necklace* at an unbelievably accessible \$195!

When being called a "jewel thief" is a badge of honor. The final product is so convincing that it will surely have museum curators double checking their vault. Our update keeps the allure of the original, the magic that captivated Maharajahs, kings and queens.

The custom-cut stone is brilliant cobalt blue lab-created spinel. Spinels are considered the greatest impostors in gemstone history. One of the most valuable gemstones in the world,

the Black Prince in the British Crown Jewels, was only recently discovered to be a spinel. They are favored by jewelers because of their brilliance and hardness. And the structure of a spinel is similar to a diamond—they both have the same high symmetry (4/m bar 3 2/m).



Don't forget the eye-catching Eternal Hope Ring.

Add the world's most famous rock band. Enhance the look of your stunning Necklace with the *Eternal Hope Ring*, a gorgeous ring version of the pendant stone, prong-set on a .925 sterling silver band. Flanked by 10 dazzling, lab-created Diamond*Aura**, the Ring perfectly complements the Pendant.

Try the *Eternal Hope Necklace* for 30 days. If for any reason you are not satisfied with your purchase, simply return it to us for a full refund of the purchase price. Don't miss this chance to claim your own historic piece of Hope!

JEWELRY SPECS:

- Faceted blue spinel center stone
- Stone's dimensions: 21 x 17 x 8 ½ mm
- Diamond Aura® accents
- .925 sterling silver setting, bail and chain
- 18" cable chain with 2" extender
- Ring sizes 5-10

Eternal Hope Necklace MSRP \$1,110

Your price \$195 +s&p

Eternal Hope Ring MSRP \$820 Your price \$145 +s&p

Call now to take advantage of this limited offer.

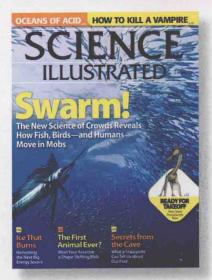
1-888-201-7075

Promotional Code HDN154-02 Please mention this code when you call.

Stauer

14101 Southcross Drive W., Dept. HDN154-02 Burnsville, Minnesota 55337 www.stauer.com

Smart Luxuries—Surprising Prices



Targeting the Flu

Now that we know that swine flu replicates better in lungs than seasonal flu [Bull's-Eye, November/December 2009], we can develop a targeted treatment. Unlike when the Spanish flu hit in 1918, modern medicine will let us target the cause, rather than just treating the symptoms.

Ronald Edwards Via e-mail

Defining Day

"What does the 'D' in D-day stand for?" [Ask Us, Nov./Dec.] omits the term's true origin and meaning. "D-day" was not used for the many invasions prior to the June 6, 1944, Normandy invasion. Dwight D. Eisenhower and his staff coined the term for an unknown date with a purpose: the debarkation of troops from their ships to the shore. Hence "D-day" is "debarkation day."

Robert Marsh Via e-mail

EDS: Michael J. Edwards, a historian at the University of New Orleans Eisenhower Center, says that the "D" in D-day was first

used during World War I as a stand-in for the actual date of an upcoming operation. He suspects that alternative definitions, including "debarkation," death" and "doom," may have been coined by World War II troops during the invasion at Normandy.

Increasing Visibility

"The Search for Another Earth' [September/October 2009] points out how difficult and indirect the process for finding other "Earths" is. Perhaps we should change our strategy. What can we do to become more visible to searchers from other planets?

Ben Dubner Via e-mail

EDS: The Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence (SETI) Institute used the Arecibo radio telescope in 1974 to broadcast a simple pictorial message into space. According to SETI astrophysicist Frank Drake, it's unclear whether repeating such a transmission would be cost-effective. The Earth's many high-power radio transmissions may already make it visible enough.

Corrections

The world speed record held by the Blackbird jet is 2,193 mph, not 1,293 mph [World of Science, Nov./Dec.].

In "Colors of Infection" [Bull's-Eye, Sept./ Oct.], the image of virus-infected cells was not fully credited. The image was captured by Anthony Ambrosini, a Princeton University molecular-biology graduate student. It is part of Princeton's 2009 Art of Science Exhibition (princeton .edu/~artofsci).

Two alternative solutions were omitted from guestion #5 in Brain Trainers [Nov./ Dec.]: 4, 2, 3, 4, 7, 1 and 3, 3, 2, 5, 6, 2.

MAIN OFFICE

2 Park Ave., 9th Fl. New York, NY 10016 Fax: 212-779-5108 Web: scienceillustrated.com

NEW SUBSCRIPTIONS

Phone: 866-429-0139 Web: scienceillustrated.com/subscribe

LETTERS

Please send letters to the editor to letters@scienceillustrated.com. We regret that we cannot answer unpublished letters. Letters may be edited for length or clarity.

SUBSCRIPTION INQUIRIES

Report address changes and subscription questions to: SCIENCE LILUSTRATED P.O. Box 420235 Palm Coast, FL 32142-0235 Phone: 866-429-0139 Web: scienceillustrated.com/cs

SCIENCE

Editor-in-Chief Mark Jannot

Creative Director Sam Syed Deputy Editor Jacob Ward Senior Associate Editor Jennifer Abbasi Science Editor Martha Harbison Editorial Production Manager Felicia Pardo Translator Jonathan D. Beard Copy and Research Director Rina Bander

Editor Aaron Shattuck Staff Editors Lauren Aaronson, Doug Cantor, Bjorn Carey, Nicole Dyer,

Seth Fletcher, Mike Haney, Corinne lozzio, Susannah F. Locke Fact Checkers Brooke Borel, Melynda Fuller, Erika Villani

Editorial Assistant Amy Geppert Contributing Art Director Patrick F. Albertson

Photo Editors Kristine LaManna

Contributing Mathematician I. Martin Isaacs

Contributing Writers Keld Conradsen, Rasmus Kragh Jakobsen, Otto Lerche, Jørn Madsen, Rolf Haugaard Nielsen, Lars Petersen, Anders Priemé, Klaus Wilhelm

Editorial Intern Sandeep Ravindran

BONNIER TECHNOLOGY GROUP

Group Publisher Gregg R. Hano

Associate Publishers Wendi S. Berger, Anthony Ruotolo **Executive Assistant Christopher Graves** Marketing Director Mike Gallic

Financial Director Tara Bisciello

Vice President, Corporate Sales and Marketing Pete Michalsky Northeast Advertising Office Lauren Brewer, Scott Constantine, Alex DeSanctis, Susan Faggella, Taryn Guillermo, Sara Schiano Midwest Manager John Marquardt 312-252-2838

Ad Assistant Krissy Van Rossum

West Coast Account Managers Robert Hoeck 310-227-8958, Bob Meth 310-227-8955

Ad Assistant Kate Gregory

Detroit Manager Edward A. Bartley 248-282-5545, Ad Assistant Diane Pahl

Southern Manager Jason A. Albaum 404-892-0760 Classified Advertising Sales Patrick Notaro, Chip Parham

Marketplace Sales Manager Keith Henderson Interactive Sales Manager Chris Young

Digital Sales Development Manager Brian Glaser Sales Development Managers Alexis Costa, Mike Kelly, Kerri Levine Group Director, Creative Services/Events Mike ladanza

Director of Special Events Michelle Cast Special Events Manager Erica Johnson

Digital Days Coordinator Athos Kyriakides Marketing Art Directors Lindsay Krist, Shawn Woznicki

Promotions Manager Eshonda Carawa Consumer Marketing Director Bob Cohn

Associate Directors Lauren Rosenblatt, Andrew Schulman

Sr. Planning Manager Raymond Ward New Business Manager Cliff Sabbag

Retention Director Connie Cotner Single Copy Sales Director Vicki Weston Publicity Manager Amanda McNally

Human Resources Manager Kim Putman

Production Manager Deborah Kriska **Group Production Director** Laurel Kurnides Operations Director Mimi Rosenfeld

SCIENCE ILLUSTRATED DENMARK

Editor-in-Chief Jens E. Matthiesen International Editor Christian Bækgaard

Art Director Hanne Bo

Picture Editors Allan Baggesø, Lisbeth Brünnich, Peter Eberhardt

BONNIER

Corporation

Chairman Jonas Bonnier Chief Executive Officer Terry Snow

Chief Operating Officer Dan Altman Chief Financial Officer Randall Koubek

Vice President, Consumer Marketing Bruce Miller

Vice President, Production Lisa Earlywine Vice President, E-Media Bill Allman

Vice President, Enterprise Systems Shawn Larson Vice President, Human Resources Cathy Hertz

Vice President, Corporate Communications Dean Turcol

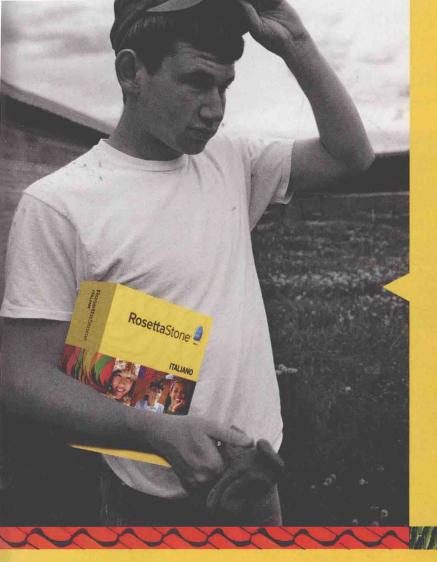
Brand Director John Miller

Publishing Consultant Martin S. Walker

Corporate Counsel Jeremy Thompson

SCIENCE ILLUSTRATED is published under license agreement with Bonnier Publications. Copyright 2009 Bonnier Publications, Copenhagen, Denmark.

For customer service, go to scienceillustrated.com/cs. You can also call 866-429-0139; outside the U.S., please call 386-597-4388. Or you may write Customer Service, P.O. Box 420235, Palm Coast, FL 32142-0235.



He was a hardworking farm boy.

She was an Italian supermodel.

He knew he would have just one chance to impress her.

The fastest and easiest way to learn ITALIAN.

Arabic • Chinese (Mandarin) • Danish • Dutch • English (American) • English (British) • Filipino (Tagalog) • French • German Greek • Hebrew • Hindi • Indonesian • Irish • Italian • Japanese • Korean • Latin • Pashto • Persian (Farsi) • Polish Portuguese (Brazil) • Russian • Spanish (Latin America) • Spanish (Spain) • Swahili • Swedish • Thai • Turkish • Vietnamese • Welsh

Rosetta Stone® brings you a complete language-learning solution, wherever you are: at home, in the car or on the go. You'll learn quickly and effectively, without translation or memorization. You'll discover our method, which keeps you excited to learn more and more.

- You'll experience **Dynamic Immersion**® as you match real-world images to words spoken by native speakers so you'll find yourself engaged, learning your second language like you learned your first.
- Our proprietary Speech Recognition Technology evaluates your speech and coaches you on more accurate pronunciation. You'll speak naturally.
- Only Rosetta Stone has Adaptive Recall, that brings back material to help you where you need it most, for more effective progress.
- And Rosetta Stone includes Audio Companion, which allows you to take the Rosetta Stone experience anywhere you use a CD or MP3 player.

Innovative software. Immersive method. Complete mobility. It's the total solution. Get Rosetta Stone — The Fastest Way to Learn a Language. Guaranteed.



SAVE 10%

SIX-MONTH, NO-RISK MONEY-BACK GUARANTEE.*

Level 1 Reg. \$229 NOW \$206

Level 1&2 Reg. \$409 NOW \$368

Level 1,2&3 Reg. \$539 NOW \$485

©2008 Rosetta Stone Ltd. All rights reserved. Offer applies to Personal Edition only. Patent rights pending, Offer cannot be combined with any other offer. Prices subject to change without notice. "Six-Month Money-Back Guarantee is limited to product purchases made directly from Rosetta Stone and does not include return shipping. Guarantee does not apply to an online subscription or to Audio Companion purchased separately from the CD-ROM product. All materials included with the product at the time of purchase must be returned together and undamaged to be eligible for any exchange or refund.

(866) 290-5111

Online RosettaStone.com/sws010

Use promotional code sws010 when ordering.

Offer expires May 31, 2010.



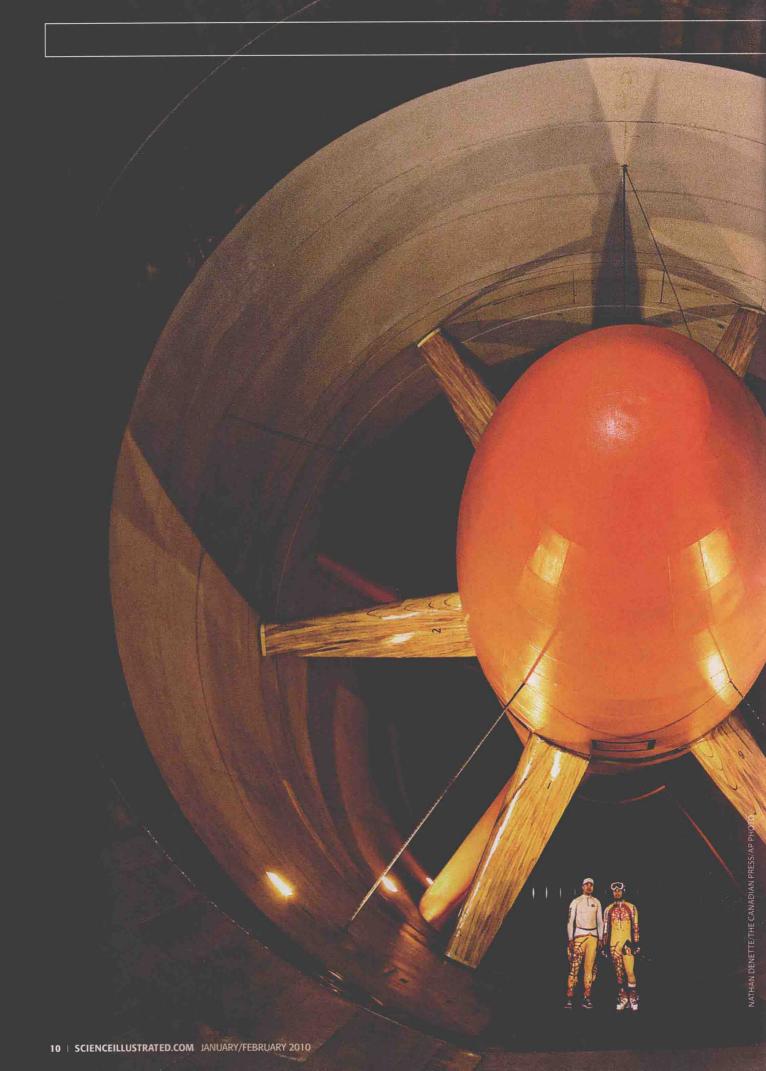




Puppet Masters

The Royal de Luxe street-theater group marches its Little Giantess and Big Giant puppets through Berlin. The wooden marionettes, operated by ropes, pulleys and hydraulics, are recurring characters in the French troupe's performance-art saga, adapted for six countries so far. This four-day event, starting last October 1, celebrated the 20th anniversary of the reunification of Germany. The giantess started her journey in East Berlin, while her "uncle" crawled out of the Spree River and walked toward her from West Berlin. They were reunited at the historic Brandenburg Gate.







Wind-Blown Look

Canadian alpine skiers Jan Hudec [left] and Tyler Nella show the scale of the 43-foot-tall propeller in the world's largest wind tunnel at the General Motors Aerodynamics Laboratory in Warren, Michigan. The skiers used the facility to refine their form before the World Cup races in Alberta last November. The hundreds of GM cars tested at the lab every year are subjected to winds of up to 138 mph, while the skiers endured a maximum of 75 mph in the tuck position [inset].



Mind Mapping

In research led by scientists at the University of California at San Diego, doctors implant electrodes into the brains of epilepsy patients to pinpoint seizure-causing regions for removal and to map healthy brain functions like language and hearing. As revealed in this x-ray, electrodes on the left frontal and anterior temporal lobes send electrical data from the brain to ribbonlike cables along the back of the head, which then connect to computers for analysis.



