

contents

FEATURE ARTICLES

8

Fathoming the Last Leviathans

by Patricia J. West

Ongoing research is settling basic questions about the ancestry, physiology, social behavior, and numbers of the world's remaining whales.

30

How Old Is the Universe?

by Donald Goldsmith

Recent observations that imply a universe much younger than its oldest stars have presented astronomers a disturbing paradox.

48

Searching for Other Worlds

by Robert A. Brown

Astronomers are searching the sky for planets that are circling far-distant stars. To date they have found three likely candidates.

60

The Counterfeit Buck Stops Here

by J.M. Haslop

The threat of "desktop counterfeiting" from color copiers and personal computers is being met with novel approaches to security.

76

The Pulsating Rhythm of Evolution

by Peter M. Sheehan

New evidence provided by fossils indicates that the evolution of life on Earth has been punctuated by mass extinctions and gradual recoveries.

88

What Is Happening to El Niño?

by Kevin Trenberth

The longest El Niño in this century causes scientists to ask whether global warming will generate future long-term El Niños.

100

Complexity: In Search of Nature's Patterns

by Ian Stewart

The bold new science of complexity theory is opening unconventional ways to think about the intricate behavior of the real world.

116

Caves in Crisis

by Thomas Aley

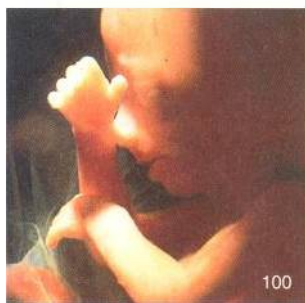
Caves throughout the world house unique riches, but many of these treasures have been destroyed by human activities.

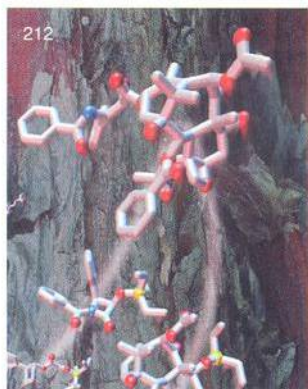
134

Images Imperfect: The Legacy of Scientific Illustration

by Brian J. Ford

Many early portrayals of scientific findings were vivid, faithful representations of reality. Others, however, perpetuated error for centuries.





158

The Archaeology of Us

by W.L. Rathje

When archaeologists dug into our own trash, they found that we knew surprisingly little about what we discarded—and why.

178

Engineering Evolution—with Molecules

by Andrew D. Ellington and Ichiro Matsumura

Scientists have learned how to remove molecules from their natural roles and adapt them to perform specific technological tasks.

188

Science in Russia: Poverty, Power Struggles, and Hope

by Paul R. Josephson

Challenged by the breakup of the Soviet Union, Russian scientists are learning to adapt to their new world of democracy.

202

A Sense of Wonder: Yesterday's Vision of the Future

by Sam Moskowitz

Old science-fiction magazines vividly portray the future.



212

The Scripps Research Institute: Innovation, Invention, and Discovery

by Richard A. Lerner

Since 1924 the Scripps Research Institute has been a leader in the effort to understand and combat human disease.

ENCYCLOPÆDIA BRITANNICA UPDATE

227

Public Works (in part)

245

Telecommunications Systems (in part)

THE SCIENCE YEAR IN REVIEW

258

Contents

423

Contributors

INDEX

425

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

448