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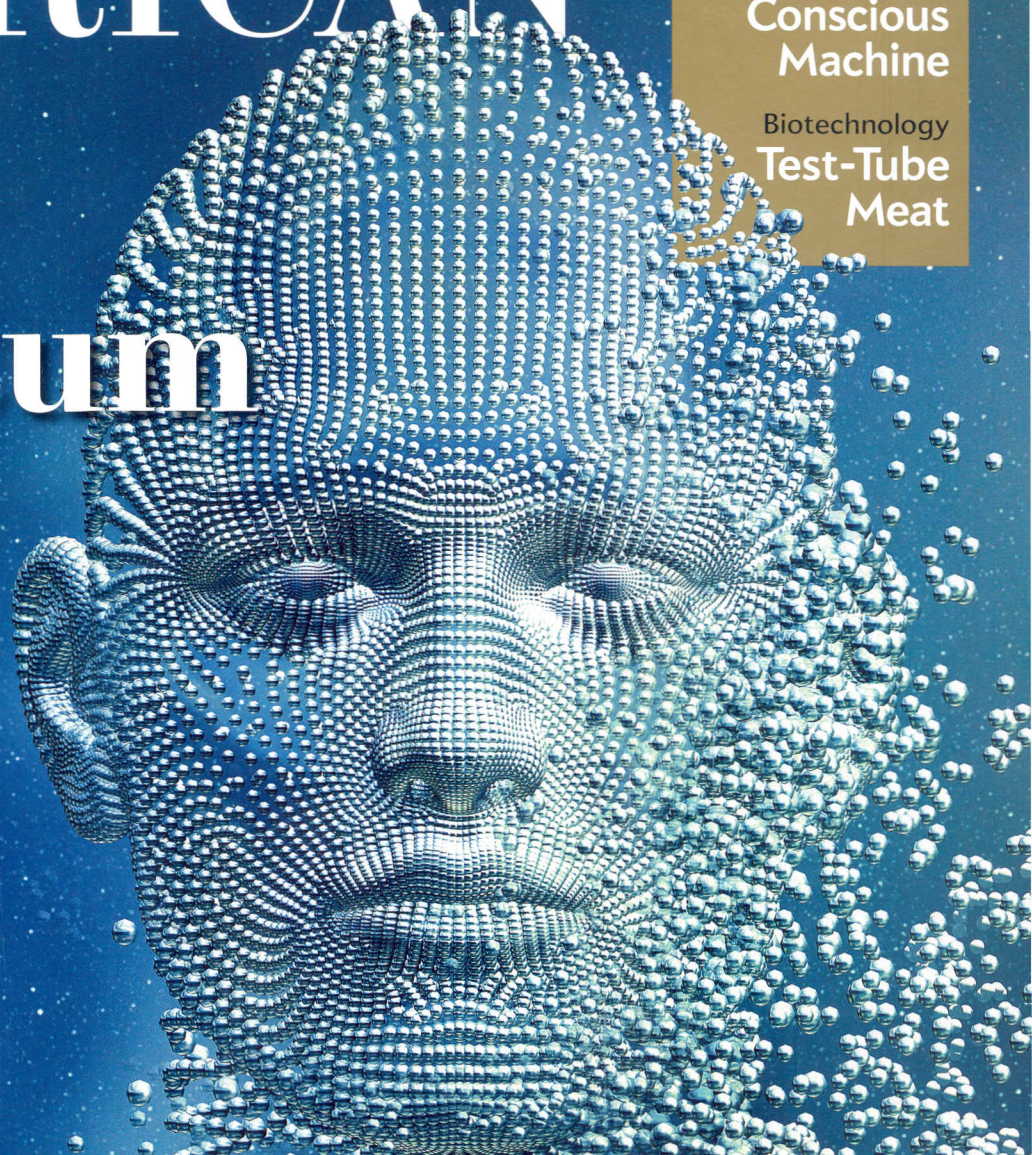
LIVING IN A Quantum World

Small-scale physics has a "spooky" power over the world at large



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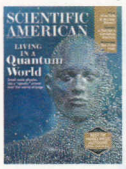

Physicists usually describe the weirdness of quantum mechanics in terms of particles: particles that pass through two slits at once, for example, or those that influence one another directly without sending signals through the intervening space. Yet the very same phenomena affect larger bodies, too, and may be observable in crystals and even in life. Image by Kenn Brown, Mondolithic Studios.

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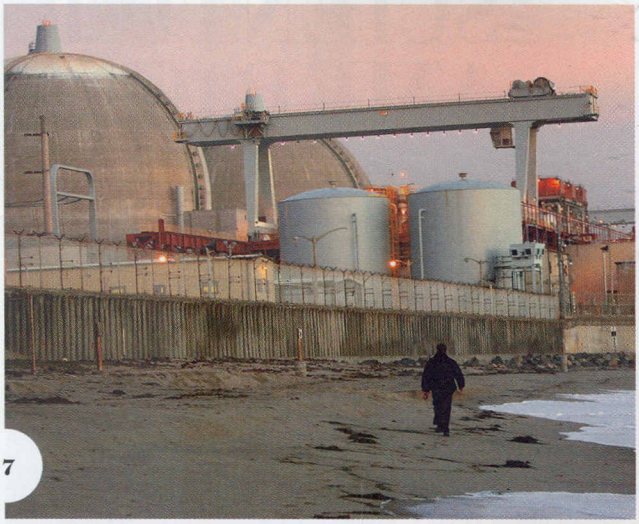
FEATURES

Photograph by Kevin Van Aelst



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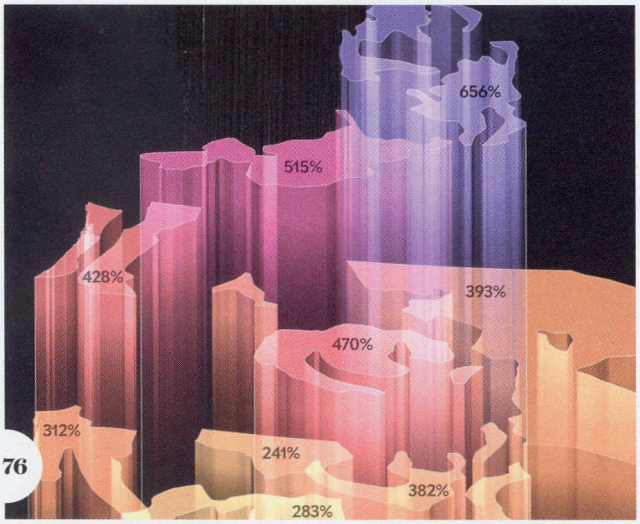

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DEPARTMENTS

ON THE WEB

Spotlight on Dark Matter
For four days in May, leading physicists and astronomers from around the world gathered in Baltimore to talk about the abundant but mysterious stuff that accounts for one quarter of the contents of the universe.
Go to www.ScientificAmerican.com/jun2011/dark-matter

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