8 | 10 QUESTIONS Ray Kurzweil

11 INBOX

BRIEFING

19 | quotes Notable utterances and predictions of the 'oos, from Bill Gates to Paris Hilton

20 | THE WORLD The decade in numbers, from the growth in the U.S. defense budget and college costs to the shrinking of the ice cap

22 | MILESTONES The birth of the human genome, the iPod and the G-20, and the death of the Concorde, the Mir space station and Kodachrome

COMMENTARY

23 | TUNED IN James Poniewozik on the never ending news ticker

24 | VIEWPOINT John McWhorter on what Obama has done for black America

27 | IN THE ARENA Joe Klein on why he was wrong about privatizing Social Security



TimeFrames What we have learned from some of the major stories of the past decade

THE WELL

32 | COVER The Decade That Was In a special TimeFrames issue, TIME looks back at the start of the millennium to sort the news from the noise by Nancy Gibbs

34 | The Great Election of 2000 What the closest presidential election in U.S. history taught us about our venerated institutions and human nature by David Von Drehle

40 | **Ground Zero Today** Building a memorial out of tragedy *by Michael Bloomberg*

46 | Lessons from Iraq The ongoing education of Americans and Iraqis about each other by Bobby Ghosh

54 | **Pirate Lives** The stories of four programmers you never heard of who changed the way we entertain ourselves with digital media today *by Lev Grossman* 61 | Instant Icons Catching up with the overnight newsmakers of the past decade

64 | China After SARS Has anything changed about Beijing's instinct for obfuscation and denial? by Karl Taro Greenfeld

70 | Cleaning Up After Katrina The hurricane was only the trigger for a man-made disaster already in the making by Michael Grunwald

76 | **The Economy** Was it really so bad? by Michael Elliott

80 | It's Good to Be Green Pixar may have cornered the market on cute, but DreamWorks has redefined the animated feature with attitude by Richard Corliss

84 | THE AWESOME COLUMN Joel Stein takes credit for the rise of first-person journalism

ON THE COVER: Design by Paula Scher for Time. Photo insets, from top: Helene Seligman—AFP/Getty Images; Peter Parks—AFP/Getty Images; Stephen Jaffe—AFP Photo/Getty Images; Chris Mueller—Redux; Shepard Fairey for Time; Win McNamee—Getty Images

TIME (ISSN 0040-781X) is published weekly, except for two issues combined at year-end, by Time Inc. Principal Office: Time & Life Building, Rockefeller Center, New York, N.Y. 10020-1393. Jack Griffin, Chairman, CEO. Periodicals postage paid at New York, New York, and at additional mailing offices. Canada Post Publications Mail Agreement No. 40110178. Return undeliverable Canada addresses to: Postal Strn A, P.O. Box 4322, Toronto, Ont., M5W 369, GST #122781974RT 60 2010 Time Inc. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is prohibited. TIME and the Red Border Design are protected through trademark registration in the United States and in the foreign countries where TIME magazine circulates, U.S., subscriptions: \$49 for one year. **Subscribers**: If the Postal Service alerts us that your magazine is undeliverable, we have no further obligation unless we receive a corrected address within two years. **Postal Service** and address changes to TIME, P.O. Box 30601, Tampa, R. B. 3363-0-6601. **CUSTOMES-REVICE AND SUBSCRIPTIONS—for 247**, Fervice, please use our website: www.time.com/customerservice. You can also call 1800-843-TIME or write to TIME at P.O. Box 30601, Tampa, Fla. 33630-0601. **Mailing list:** We make a portion of our mailing list available to reputable firms. If you would prefer that we not include your name, please call, or write us at P.O. Box 60001, Tampa, Fla. 33630, or send us an e-mail at **privacy@time.customersvc.com**. Printed in the U.S.