

## 10 | 10 QUESTIONS

Nassim Taleb

## 15 | INBOX

## BRIEFING

**21 | THE MOMENT** The Pentagon says, Repeal "Don't ask, don't tell"

## 22 | THE WORLD

Elections in Haiti; a government takeover of the no-fly list; Iranian scientists are murdered

## 24 | LAB REPORT

New vitamin-D and calcium guidelines; the benefits of acupuncture

## 26 | VERBATIM

Berlusconi denies partying; Peru is melancholy

**27 | HISTORY** Korean border skirmishes

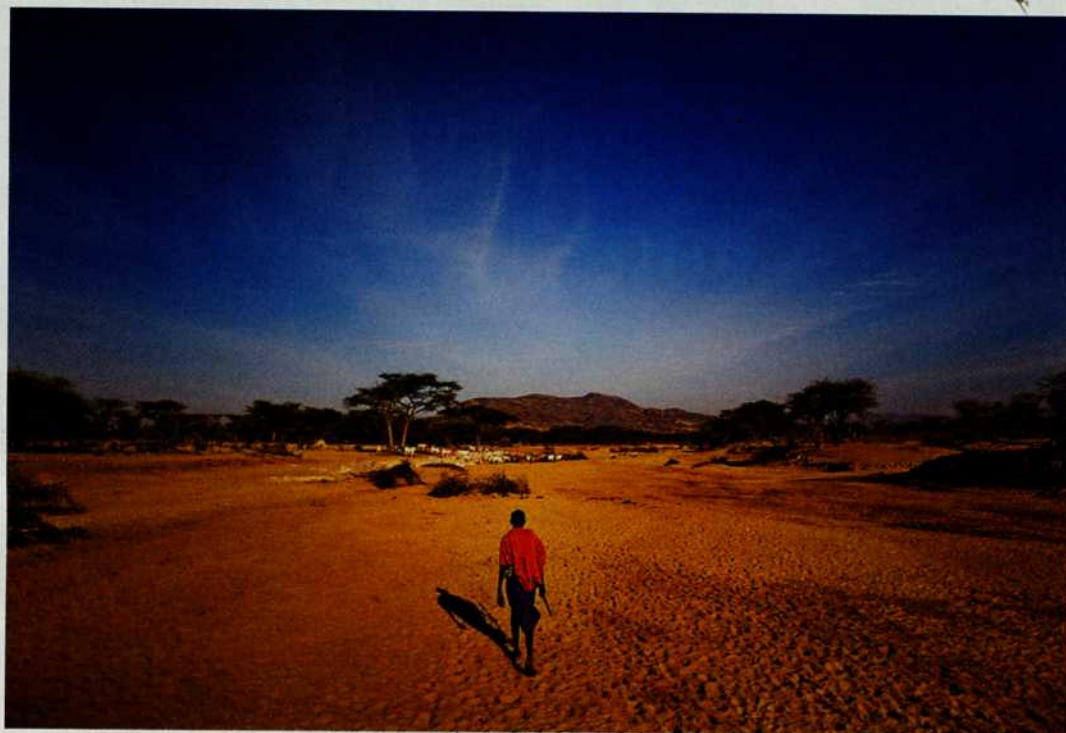
## 28 | MILESTONES

Farewell to Leslie Nielsen and a *Star Wars* director

## COMMENTARY

## 29 | WORLDVIEW

Fareed Zakaria on the reassuring nature of the WikiLeaks cables



**All dried up** A Samburu elder walks where a river once flowed in drought-ridden Archer's Post, Kenya. Photograph by Dominic Nahr—Magnum for TIME

## THE WELL

**30 | COVER Wikidump** The number of secret documents produced by the U.S. has exploded in recent years, which may explain why Julian Assange is on a mission by Massimo Calabresi

**44 | Robotic Surgery** Is this trend worth the expense? by David Von Drehle

**53 | Prescription** Surgery without a scalpel by Mehmet Oz

**55 | Sacred Cows** Three ways to help solve our long-term fiscal crisis by Michael Crowley

**60 | The Irish Nightmare** History helps explain why the republic ignored red flags on its way to economic ruin by Catherine Mayer

**68 | Greening Africa** How climate change could be a boon for the continent by Alex Perry

**74 | Girl Power** The UConn women's basketball team is on track to make history by Sean Gregory

## LIFE

**77 | GOING GREEN** The vertical garden—energy saver or marketing gimmick?

**79 | TECHNOLOGIZER** Early adopters of 3-D television may find themselves with nothing to watch

**80 | CASH CRUNCH** More than 1 million Haitians are homeless; how you can help this holiday season

## ARTS

**83 | MOVIES** Critics Richard Corliss and Mary Pols preview the holiday season's films—Natalie Portman in a role she was born to play, *Rabbit Hole*'s brilliant take on a familiar theme and a Jeff Bridges—Coen brothers reunion

**92 | ESSAY** Nancy Gibbs on Sarah Palin's restoration rhetoric



Natalie Portman, page 83

ON THE COVER: Photograph by Kate Peters for TIME. Photo-Illustration by D.W. Pine

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 Stn A, P.O. Box 4322, Toronto, Ont., M5W 3G9. GST #122781974RT © 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. **Postmaster:** Send address changes to TIME, P.O. Box 30601, Tampa, Fla. 33630-0601. **CUSTOMER SERVICE AND SUBSCRIPTIONS—For 24/7 service, please use our website: [www.time.com/customerservice](http://www.time.com/customerservice).** You can also call 1-800-843-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](mailto:privacy@time.customersvc.com). Printed in the U.S.