

CONTENTS

On the Cover

Before Katie Stubblefield had a face transplant, she posed for this portrait. It shows her severely injured face—but photographer Maggie Steber also wanted to capture “her inner beauty and her pride and determination.”

MAGGIE STEBER

PROOF



8

Rockets for Regular Folks

Each year in the Nevada desert, hobbyists gather to launch high-powered projectiles thousands of feet into the sky.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ROBERT ORMEROD

EMBARK

17

THE BIG IDEA

Bacteria Strike Back
Antibiotic resistance is on the rise, thanks to an evolutionary trick.

BY DAVID QUAMMEN

DATA SHEET

New Silent Spring
Birds are disappearing from French farmlands.

BY DAISY CHUNG AND MICHAEL GRESHKO

ALSO



Whale Tracking
Fishnet Benefit

EXPLORE



26

DECODER

Life on Cheese

The bacteria and fungi that live in cheese rinds are tiny—but may lead to solutions for some big world problems.

BY DANIEL STONE

THROUGH THE LENS

This Look Could Have Killed

In a cave teeming with bats and snakes, a photographer thought he knew the dangers.

BY JOEL SARTORE

ALSO

Alpine Highline
Red Panda Passion



FEATURES

Katie's New Face
 Identity. Experience. Emotion. The human face expresses all this and much more. As a result of one impulsive act, a teenager lost her face. Incredible medical advances and skilled surgeons made it possible for her to get a new one.
 BY JOANNA CONNORS
 PHOTOGRAPHS BY
 MAGGIE STEBER AND
 LYNN JOHNSON
 P. 40

Passage to Another Time
 Walking among the peaks of Central Asia.
 BY PAUL SALOPEK
 PHOTOGRAPHS BY
 MATTHIEU PALEY
 P. 96

Helmeted Hornbills Struggle to Survive
 The heads of these rare birds have become a target for traffickers.
 BY RACHAEL BALE
 PHOTOGRAPHS BY
 TIM LAMAN P. 112

▲
Building a New American Dream
 Expanding on their immigrant parents' successes, second-generation South Asian Americans are increasingly visible. And some are leaving their forebears' career paths to take on new roles: politician, astronaut, stand-up comedian.
 BY YUDHIJIT
 BHATTACHARJEE
 PHOTOGRAPHS BY
 ISMAIL FERDOUS P. 128