

SCIENCE NOTEBOOK

Scientific Observations

"The pertinence of the phrase 'two cultures' continues; the science kids and the humanities kids, as it were, still sit at different tables in the lunchroom.... Most disturbingly, however, the nagging continued relevance of Snow's phrase should force us to rethink our intended solutions to today's moral concerns, including energy policy, global warming, and genetic engineering." —ROBERT P. CREASE OF STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY, WRITING ABOUT THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF C.P. SNOW'S "THE TWO CULTURES" LECTURE, AT PHYSICSWORLD.COM



SN Online

www.sciencenews.org

ATOM & COSMOS

Astronauts completed the final space walk to repair the Hubble Space Telescope on May 18 (below). For stories and images visit www.sciencenews.org/HealingHubble



Science Past | FROM THE ISSUE OF JUNE 6, 1959



A squirrel monkey wears a special molded plastic helmet over leather like the one that protected Monkey Baker, one of two primates blasted into space on May 28, 1959.

SPACE FLIGHT SUCCEEDS — Two little monkeys, one clad in a space suit and the other lying in a special capsule with her knees drawn up under her, were blasted 300 miles into space on Thursday, May 28, from Cape Canaveral, Fla., the National Aeronautics and Space Administration has revealed. Drama of the experiment was heightened as U.S. Navy frogmen successfully snatched the missile nose cone from shark-infested waters in the Atlantic Ocean. This makes the animals the first monkeys known to have been shot into space and successfully retrieved.... The monkey experiment helps pave the way for "Mr. Mercury," one of the seven men to be chosen by NASA to ride the first manned space capsule in orbit.... Earth-bound scientists were able to study the effects of noise, acceleration, deceleration, vibration, rotation and weightlessness upon the two little monkey pioneers as they zoomed into space, then whistled back at 10,000 miles an hour to their Atlantic landing point.

Science Future

June 7-19

High school students compete in the USA Biology Olympiad national finals in Fairfax, Va. See www.cee.org/programs/usabo

July 11-15

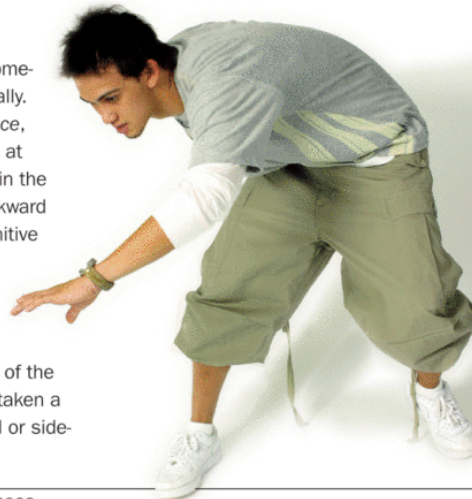
American Society for Virology annual meeting in Vancouver, Canada. See www.asv2009.com

September 15

Deadline for the International Science & Engineering Visualization Challenge. Visit www.nsf.gov/news/special_reports

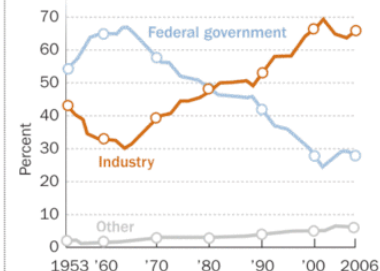
How Bizarre

If you're having trouble with something, take a step back—literally. In the May *Psychological Science*, Severine Koch and colleagues at Radboud University Nijmegen in the Netherlands report that a backward step appears to enhance cognitive control. Participants in a study who were shown a color word in a different hue—such as blue shown in red—stated the color instead of the word more quickly if they had taken a step backward, versus forward or sideways, just before the task.



Science Stats | R&D SPENDING

Proportion of national research and development expenditures funded by U.S. government and industry, 1953-2006



SOURCE: SCIENCE & ENGINEERING INDICATORS, 2008

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: ©PETER MENZEL/MENZELPHOTO.COM; NASA TV; ERIC FOUGERE/VIP IMAGES/CORBIS; SCIENCE NEWS LETTER