

New Scientist

WEEKLY 4 November 2023

A NEW WAY TO THINK
ABOUT THE ORIGINS OF LIFE

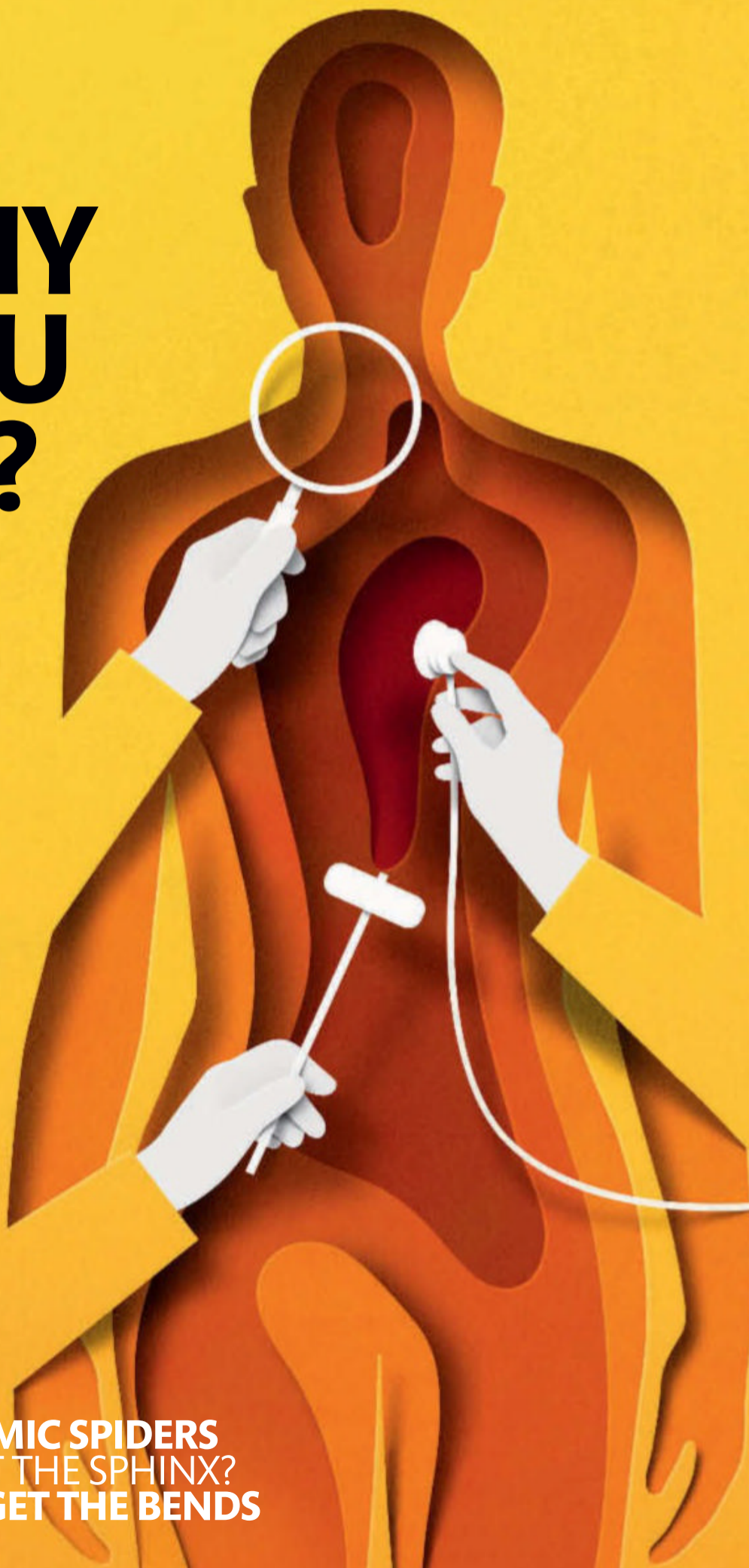
FIRST GLIMPSE OF A
BLACK HOLE BEING BORN

WHY A STARFISH HAS
NO BODY, JUST A HEAD

LARGEST QUANTUM
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The new tests
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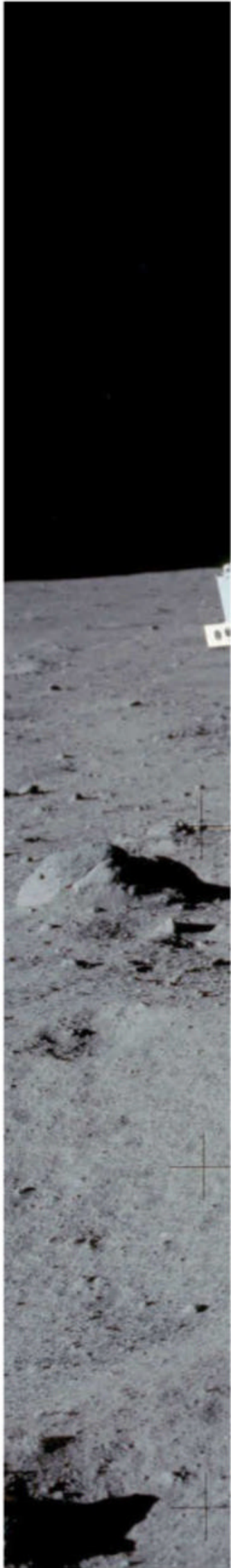
MACHINE UNLEARNING

Can we ever teach
an AI to forget?

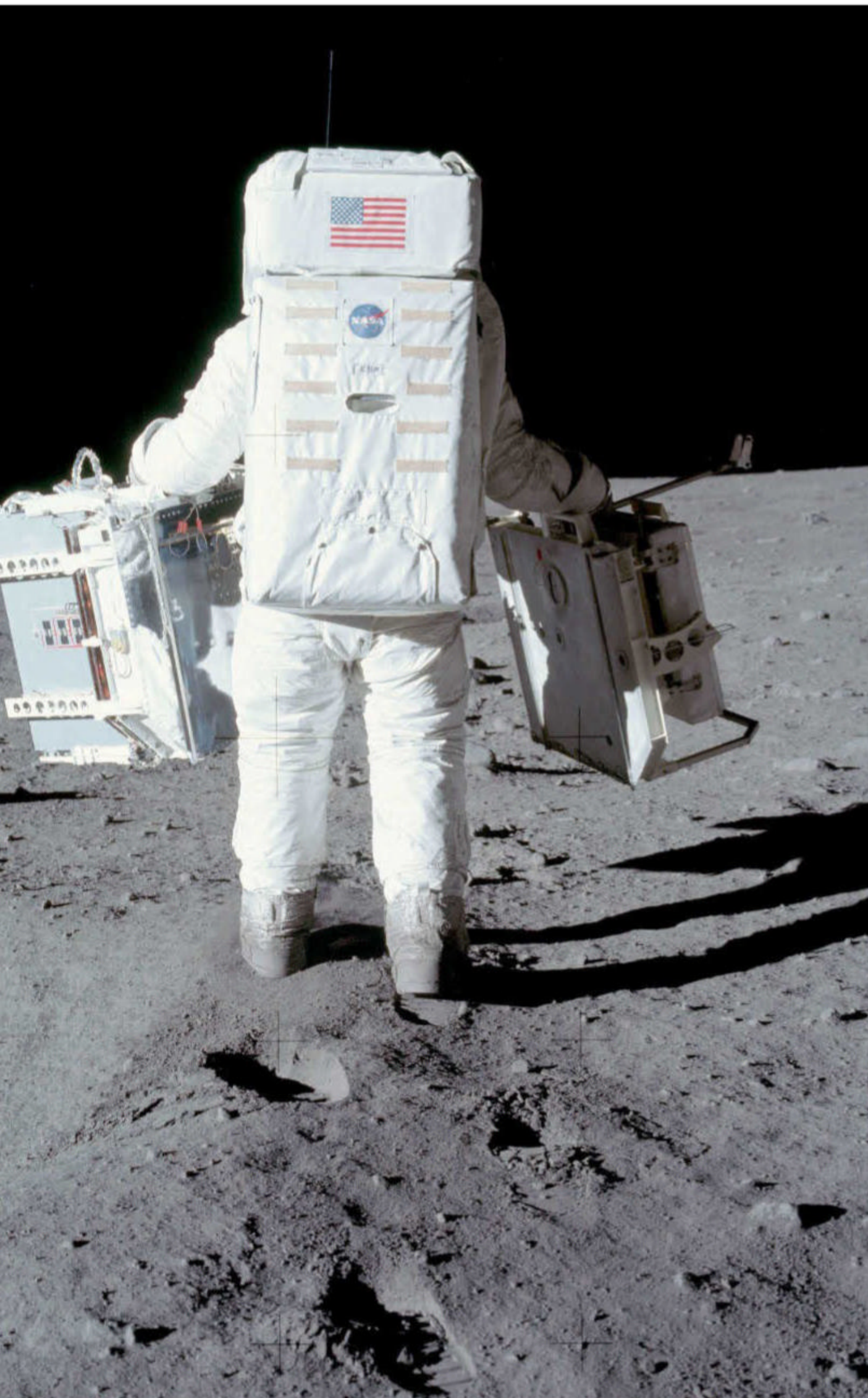
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NASA (ALL)



Boldly going



Century

SPACE, the final frontier, the stuff of dreams. Yet, in reality, a place that is fraught with danger and sometimes tragedy. This time, its dramatic tale is told by British astronaut Tim Peake in his book *Space: The human story*, from which these images are taken.

It is about the rollercoaster experience and the “absurd normality of what we try and make out our job to be – it’s ordinary people doing extraordinary jobs”, says Peake, currently an ambassador for the European Space Agency.

The main image features arguably the biggest feat so far: the first moon landing on 20 July 1969. This isn’t the iconic shot of Neil Armstrong’s first steps, but a more candid picture (taken by Armstrong) of Buzz Aldrin walking across the lunar surface.

Four days earlier, the Apollo 11 mission set off for the moon, as a striking image of its launch shows. To its left, Ed White can be seen spacewalking during the Gemini 4 mission in June 1965, which saw him suspended roughly 150 kilometres above Earth.

White and astronauts Gus Grissom and Roger Chaffe were set to crew the Apollo 1 mission (a predecessor of Apollo 11 that was meant to launch into orbit around Earth in February 1967). The image at top left shows them during capsule training. Tragically, all three died on 27 January 1967, after a fire broke out during a test.

Thinking of the future, Peake says: “We’re looking at establishing a lunar station and stepping stones to Mars. As the ISS [International Space Station] comes to its retirement, it felt like the right time to bring the whole story up to date.” ■

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