

# New Scientist

WEEKLY March 9-15, 2024

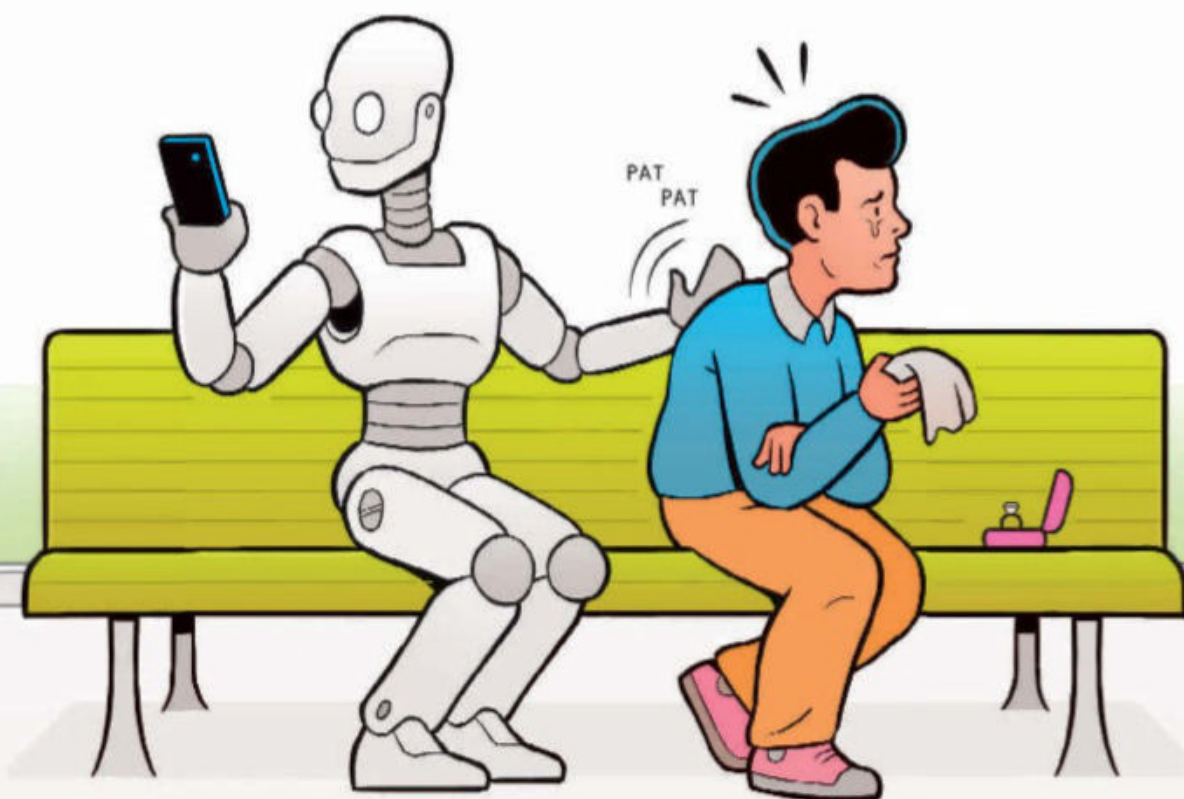
HOW WE EVOLVED TO UNDERSTAND ZERO

THE ASTEROID HUNTER SEARCHING FOR THE ORIGINS OF LIFE

DOES EVEN MILD COVID-19 AFFECT YOUR MEMORY?

## ARTIFICIAL KINDNESS

Will AI ever be capable of genuine empathy?

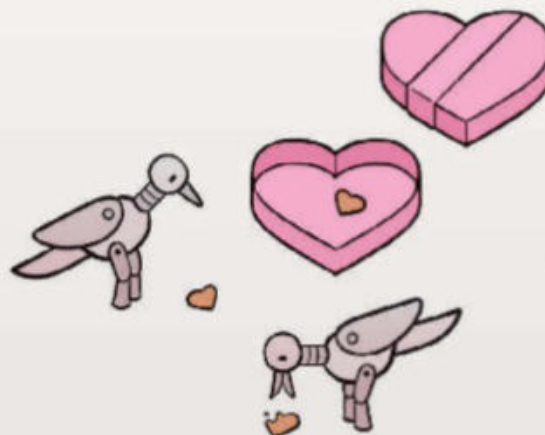


### TACKLING CONCUSSION

How sport is finally taking head injuries seriously

**PLUS** THE WAY TO BEFRIEND ANY DOG  
**STAR TREK BOOSTS AI MATHS SKILLS**  
SCIENCE OF CHOCOLATE CAKE

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## Fetal treatment

Organoids made using cells from uterus fluid **p9**

## Quantum quest

Google launches a \$5 million computing competition **p10**

## Genetic discovery

Mystery of octopus sex determination finally solved **p11**

## Personal medicine

What the decline of gene-testing firm 23andMe means **p14**

## Not in harmony

Pythagoras was wrong about pleasant sounding music **p15**



SPACEX

## Space

### Bird's-eye view of a Starship

Shrouded in vapour, SpaceX's gleaming, stainless-steel Starship has undergone a final rehearsal before its next flight test later this month. The rocket and its Super Heavy booster, together standing 121 metres tall, were filled with a total of more than 4500 tonnes of liquid methane and liquid oxygen propellant for a fuelling test in Boca Chica, Texas.