

New Scientist

WEEKLY 1 February 2025

WHAT TRUMP'S RETURN
MEANS FOR THE CLIMATE,
PANDEMICS AND MORE

DID DINOSAURS FIRST
EVOLVE IN THE AMAZON?

STRANGE ICY BALLS MAY
BE A NEW KIND OF STAR

QUANTUM BLACK HOLES

They could appear out of
nowhere and solve the biggest
mystery in physics

FIRST FASHION

How designer clothes were
invented in the Stone Age

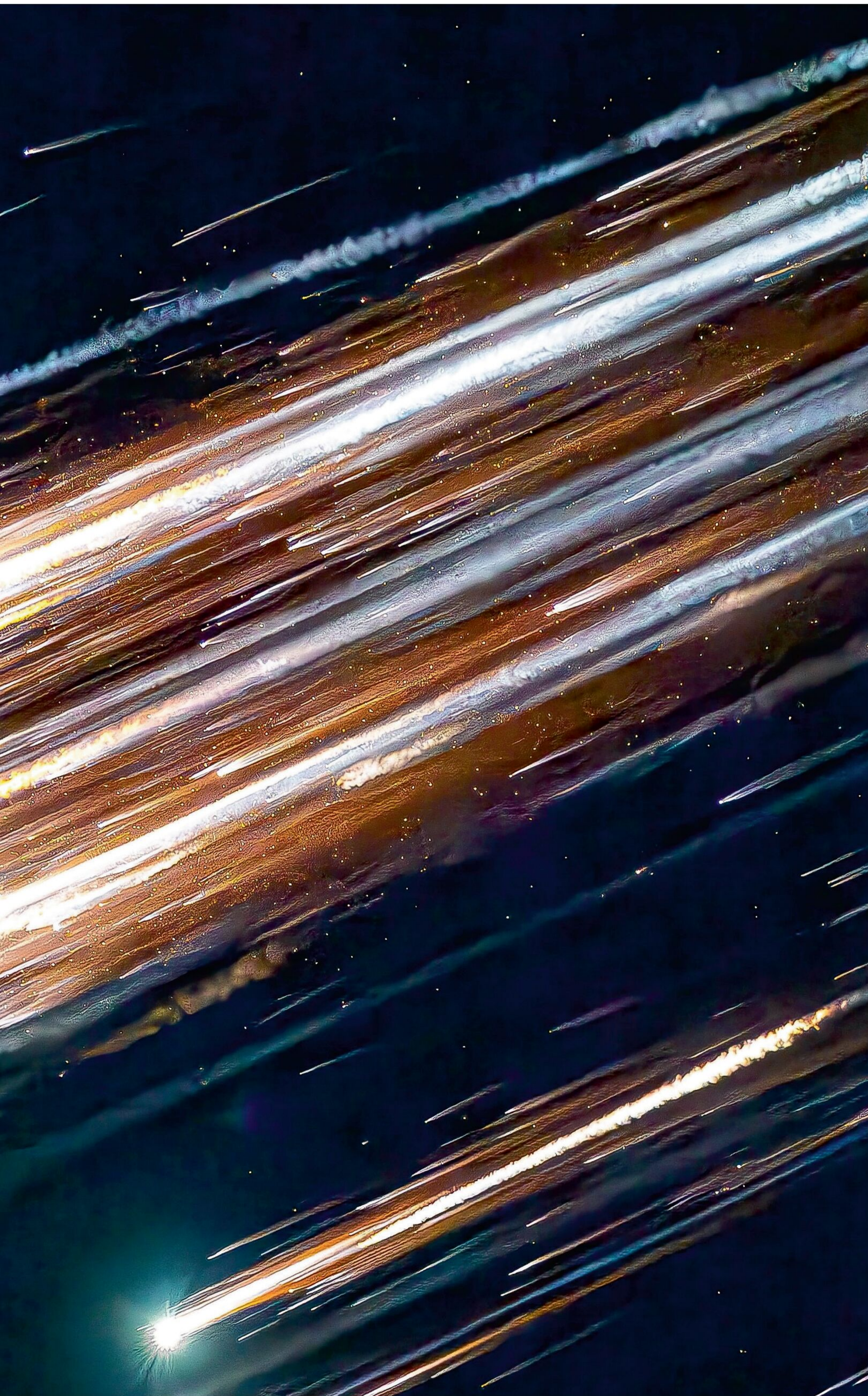
PLUS

PLANET OF EXTREME WIND / ORCHID'S SELF-POLLINATING FINGER /
THE WACKIEST SPACESHIPS IN THE UNIVERSE / SOLAR PANEL HEDGES

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Burning up



Photographer **James Temple**

THESE eerie images of a fiery sky show the moment when SpaceX's Starship rocket dramatically returned to Earth in pieces last month. They were captured by photographer James Temple, who was working as a chef on a superyacht in the Turks and Caicos Islands. When he realised what was happening, he grabbed his camera extender for a closer shot.

Starship's seventh test flight took off from SpaceX's site at Boca Chica, Texas, on 16 January, but experienced "rapid unscheduled disassembly", as the company creatively refers to explosions, following a fire in the rear section of the ship.

"We were all aware that the launch was taking place, but I didn't expect to witness such a dramatic moment," says Temple. He describes the scene as "almost otherworldly, reminiscent of something from the extinction of the dinosaurs".

While plenty of video exists showing the rocket's explosion, Temple's are the only known images shot by a professional photographer. He says it felt "surreal" to have been the one to take them. His other job as a chef meant that he was "in the right place at the right time to capture these images", he says. ■

Tim Boddy

