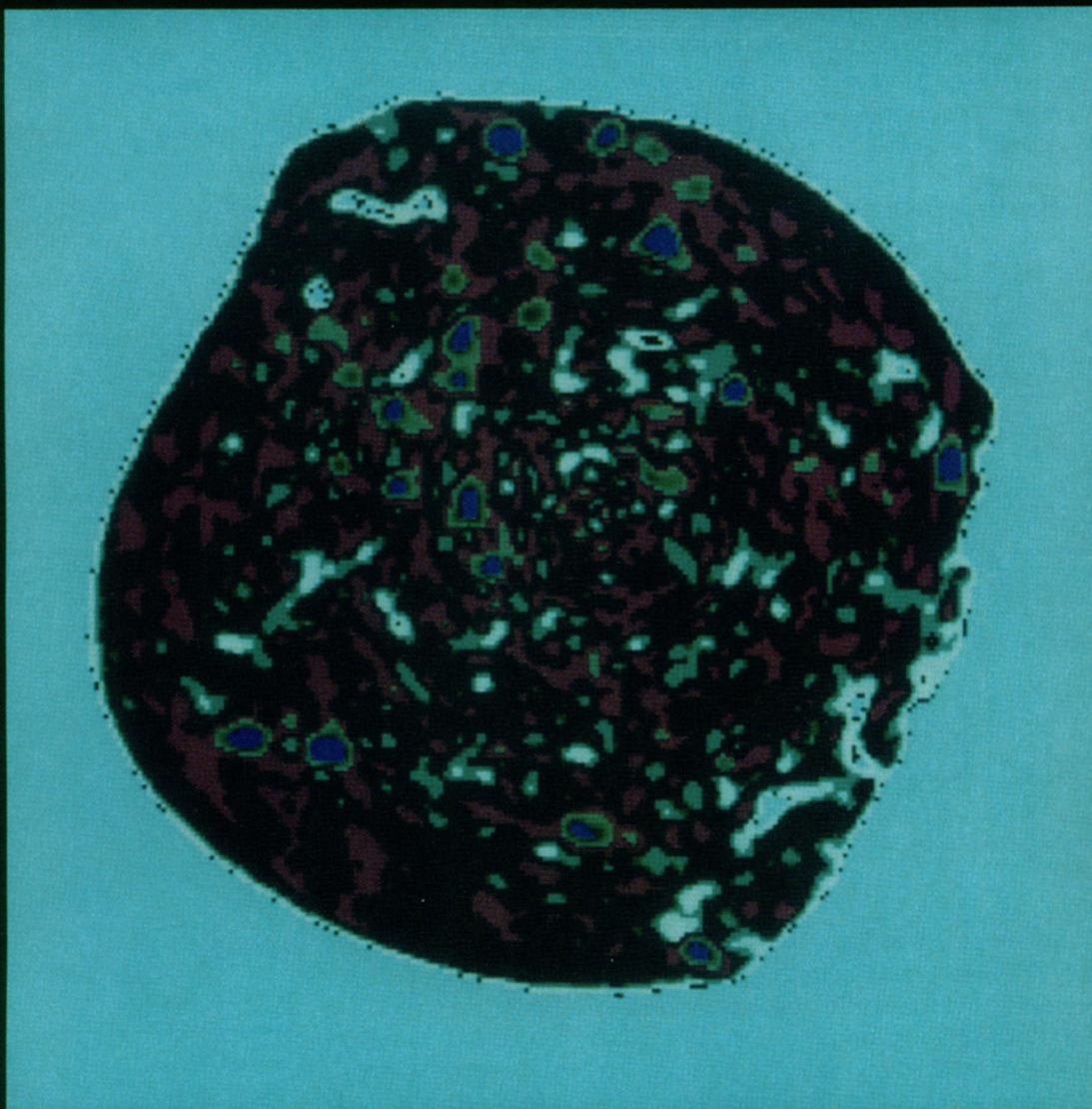


The Weekly Newsmagazine of Science

SCIENCE NEWS

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Pages 289-304



Inside a Lump of Coal

Forever Undecided

A Puzzle Guide to Gödel

By Raymond Smullyan

With all the wit and charm that have delighted readers of his previous books, Smullyan transports us once again to that magical island where knights always tell the truth and knaves always lie. Here we meet a new and amazing array of characters, visitors to the island, seeking to determine the natives' identities. Among them: the census-taker

McGregor; a philosopher-logician in search of his flighty bird-wife, Oona; and a regiment of Reasoners (timid ones, normal ones, conceited, modest and peculiar ones) armed with the rules of propositional logic (if X is true, then so is Y). By following the Reasoners through brain-tingling exercises and adventures—including journeys into the “other possible worlds” of Kripke semantics—even the most illogical of us come to understand Gödel's two great theorems on incompleteness and undecidability, some of their philosophical and mathematical implications, and why we, like Gödel himself, must remain *Forever Undecided!*

—from the publisher

“Smullyan's gift is to make complex ideas both accessible and enjoyable to the persevering reader.”

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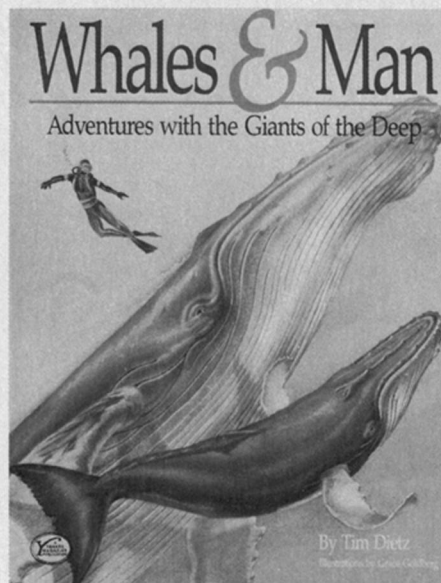
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Adventures with the
Giants of the Deep

By Tim Dietz

Meet a man in Maine who risks his life to save whales trapped in fishermen's nets; witness a sperm whale giving birth in the middle of the Indian Ocean; and cheer as thousands of whales trapped in Arctic pack ice are lured to freedom by the strains of classical music. Share these adventures and learn the latest scientific theories about whales: How some whales may use bursts of sound to stun their prey; how disturbances in the earth's magnetic field may cause the deaths of hundreds of whales on some beaches; how, despite skepticism from many of their colleagues, some scientists are trying to learn "delphinese," the language of dolphins.

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