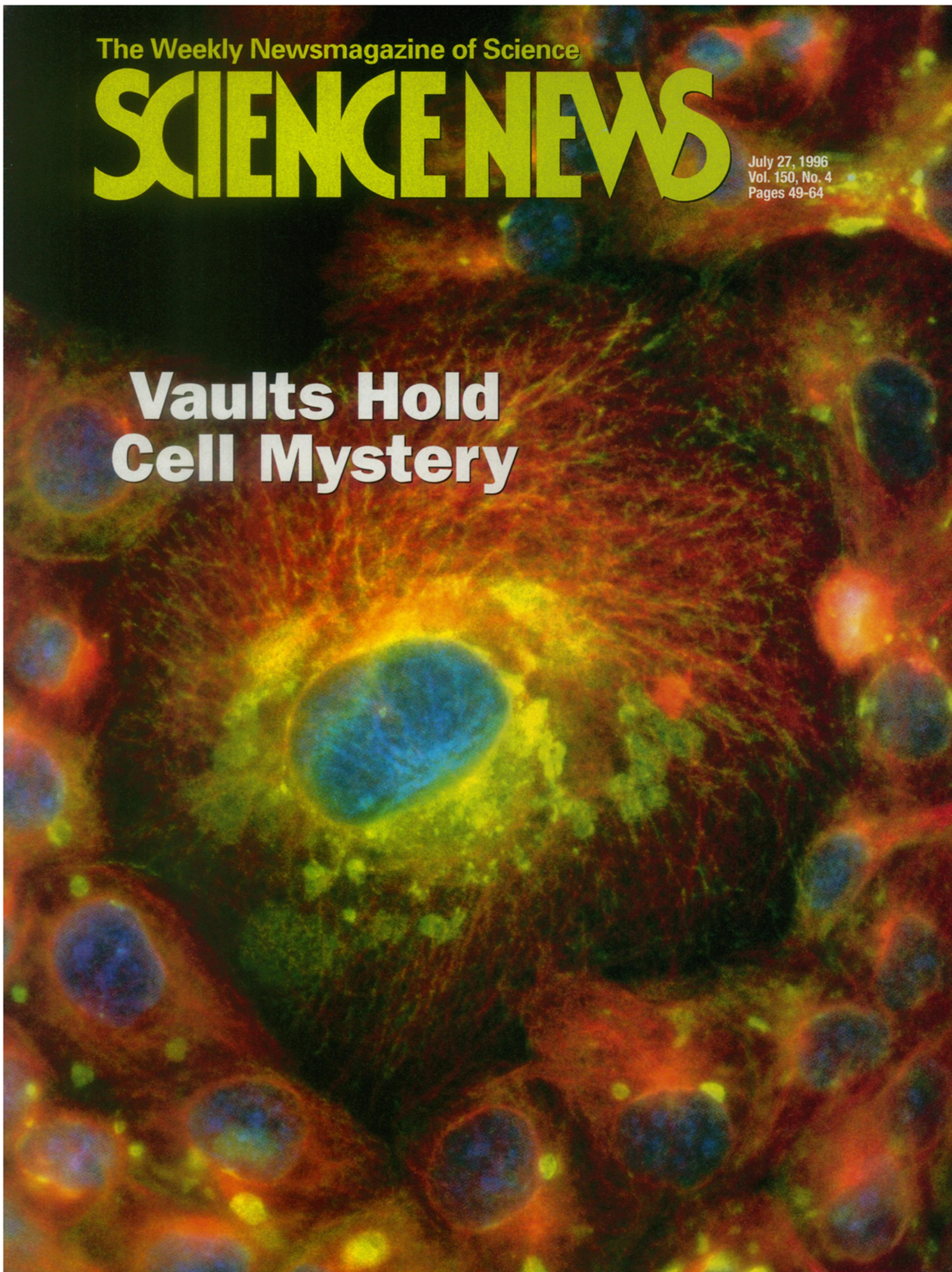


The Weekly Newsmagazine of Science

SCIENCE NEWS

July 27, 1996
Vol. 150, No. 4
Pages 49-64

Vaults Hold Cell Mystery



"A brilliant and troubling attempt to look into who we really are. . . Wright's book constantly goads the reader to introspection, to fresh perspectives about one's choices and place in society. . . A subtle and stimulating interpretation that deserves wide debate." — Boston Globe

Is monogamy natural for men? For women? Where does sibling rivalry come from? Why do parents favor some children over others? What evolutionary advantages might come from having low self-esteem? What are the biological roots of self-deception? These are among the questions that have made *The Moral Animal* one of the most provocative science books in recent years, as well as one of the most genuinely important.

MoralAnimal

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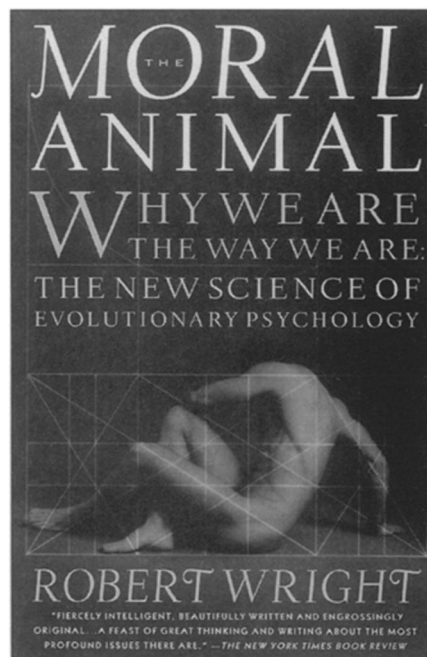
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As he presents the latest findings in the emerging field of evolutionary psychology—which views human behavior in light of Darwinian theory—Robert Wright unveils the unconscious strategies that shape our romantic choices, familial feelings, friendships, and office politics. And on a deeper level, this book compels us to rethink our most basic moral assumptions, with lasting implications for our public policy as well as for our intimate daily actions.

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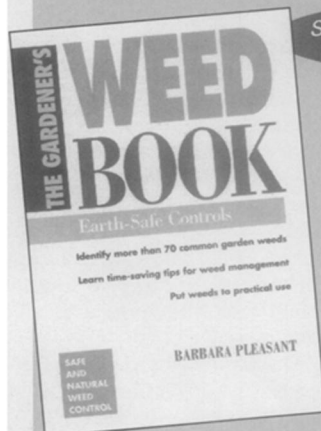
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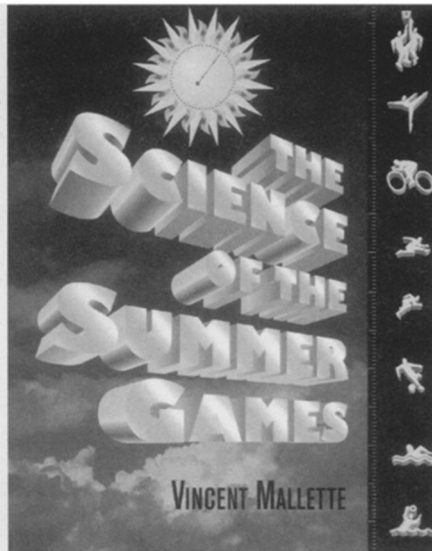
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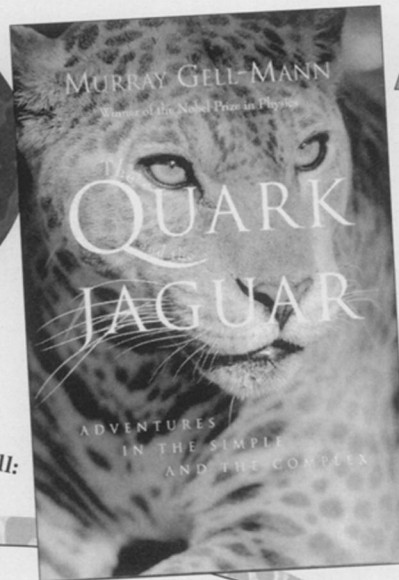
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As a theoretical physicist, Murray Gell-Mann's achievements include the 1969 Nobel Prize for work leading up to his discovery of the quark—the basic building block of all atomic nuclei throughout the universe. But Gell-Mann is a man of many intellectual passions, with lifelong interests in fields that seek to understand existence at its most complex: natural history, biological evolution, the history of language, and the study of creative thinking.

These seemingly disparate pursuits come together in Gell-Mann's current work at The Santa Fe Institute, where scientists are investigating the similarities and differences among *complex adaptive systems*—systems that learn or evolve by utilizing acquired information. They include a child learning a language, a strain of bacteria becoming resistant to an antibiotic, a society developing new customs or superstitions, or a computer learning to play chess.

The Quark and the Jaguar is Gell-Mann's own story of finding the connections between the basic laws of physics and the complexity and diversity of the natural world.

The simple: a quark inside an atom.
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