

PODCAST

Vital Signs on
your iPod

VIDEO CONTEST

Explain string theory
in two minutes or
less to win

ARCHIVES

Free content back
to 1992

RESOURCES

Links to great,
relevant content on
DISCOVER.com
and other sites

NEWS

Fresh articles on
breakthrough
science

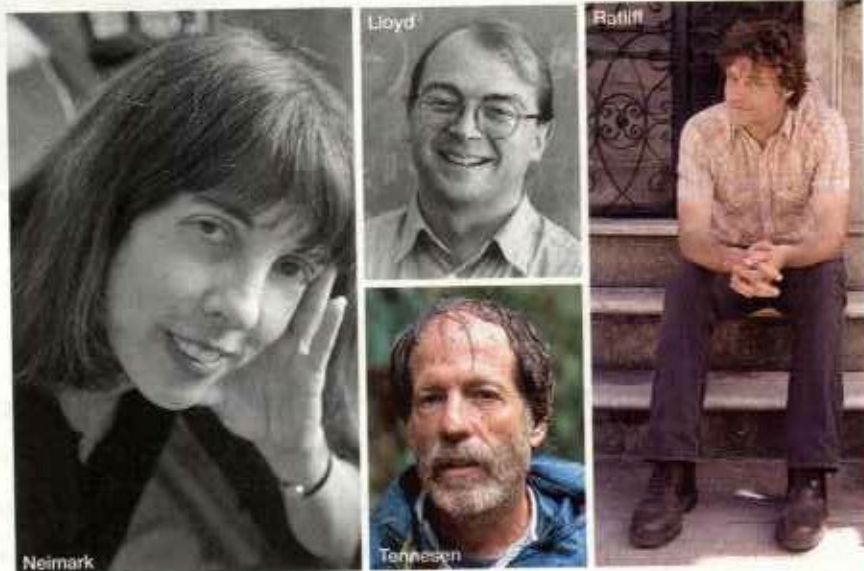
EXCLUSIVES

Photo galleries,
polls, and more

BLOG

DISCOVER editors
on science news
of the day

contributors



JILL NEIMARK ("Autism: It's Not Just in the Head," page 32) is a science journalist, novelist, and children's author. "One of the most amazing aspects of autism is that children are trapped in a nervous system that has gone awry," she says, "and yet biomedical intervention can bring out the real person inside." Neimark was a features editor at *Psychology Today*. Her latest book, *Why Good Things Happen to Good People: The Exciting New Research That Proves the Link Between Doing Good and Living a Longer, Healthier, Happier Life*, written with bioethicist Stephen Post, comes out next month.

SETH LLOYD ("You Know Too Much," page 54) is the MIT engineer who developed the first quantum computer designs. He went on to describe all of existence as bits and bytes in his 2006 book *Programming the Universe: A Quantum Computer Scientist Takes On the Cosmos*. Lloyd says there is a "misconception that science is taking over the world." On the contrary: With so much data being created, he says, "science is in danger of being overwhelmed with junk information." To his chagrin, even his DISCOVER article wound up in his editor's junk mailbox once. Lloyd has written for *Scientific American* and has been featured in *The New York Times*, *Nature*, and *The Economist*.

MICHAEL TENNESEN ("Black Gold of the Amazon," page 46) went to Tikal, Guatemala, for his book *Flight of the Falcon* and to the cloud forests of Peru for *Smithsonian*. On his travels, he heard about a past culture in the Brazilian Amazon that may have been far more complex than many archaeologists suspected. The long-lost agricultural methods of those early inhabitants turn out to be "an enormous gift," Tennesen says. "They give the modern-day settlers an alternative to burning down extensive forest" to create more cropland. Tennesen wrote *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Global Warming* (2004), and his work appears in *Air & Space*, *New Scientist*, and *Men's Health*.

EVAN RATLIFF (The DISCOVER Interview, page 60) talks to the multifaceted Paul Allen, cofounder of Microsoft and *Forbes* magazine's sixth-richest person in the world. "From sports to philanthropy," Ratliff says, "he's almost like a kid living out his childhood fantasies." Ratliff is a contributing editor at *Wired*, appears in *The New Yorker* and *The New York Times Magazine*, and writes regularly for *ReadyMade*, a magazine of do-it-yourself culture. He coauthored *Safe: The Race to Protect Ourselves in a Newly Dangerous World* (2005) and received a National Press Foundation award in 2001.