



Nation Barack Obama's new plan for Afghanistan



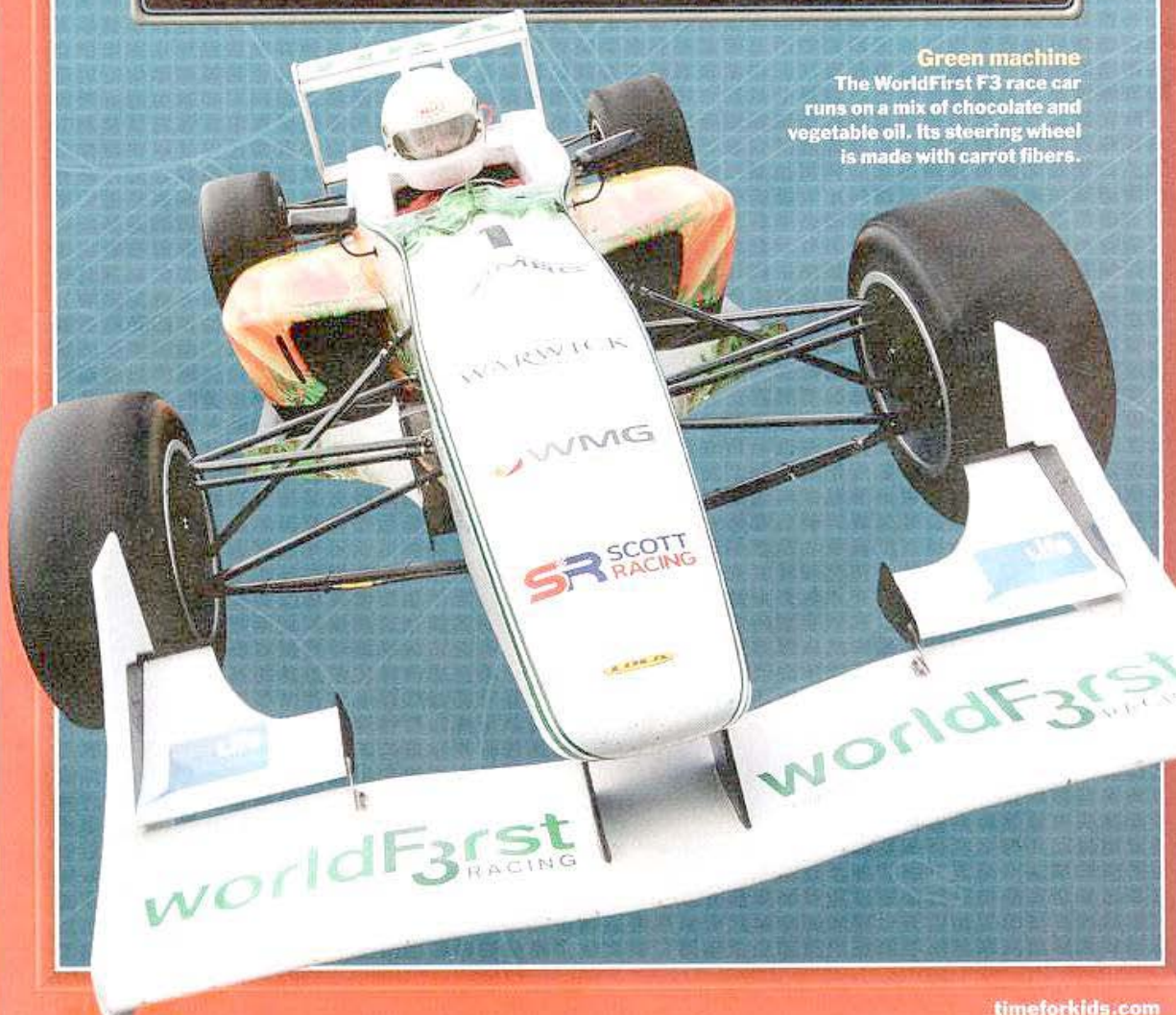
Environment Found: deep-sea creatures



Your Money Holiday shopping tips

TIME FOR KIDS

Coollest Inventions of 2009



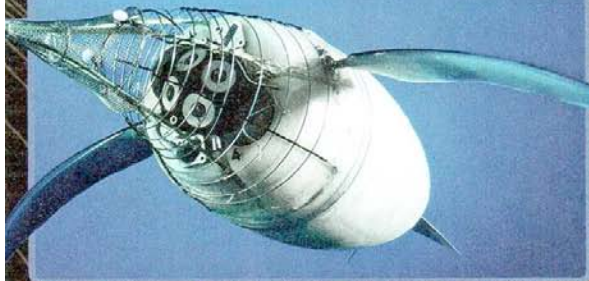
Green machine

The WorldFirst F3 race car runs on a mix of chocolate and vegetable oil. Its steering wheel is made with carrot fibers.

Coollest Inventions of 2009

The Robo-Penguin

Penguins are speedy swimmers and expert divers. The birds inspired scientists at Festo's Bionic Learning Network to develop the **AquaPenguin**. It "flies" underwater just like the real birds. It is highly flexible, and can move in cramped spaces and swim backward. One day, it may be used to build things.



WALTER FOGEL

The School of One

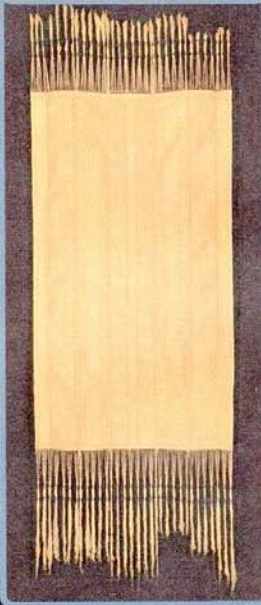
This past summer, a sixth-grade math class in New York City tried a new program. Students used a special lesson plan—called a **daily playlist**—that mixed virtual tutoring, in-class instruction and educational video games, tailored to each pupil's needs.



DAVIES AND STARR FOR TIME

Spiderweb Silk

Spiders spin webs with a material that's stronger than steel and far more flexible. This year, textiles expert Simon Peers and designer Nicholas Godley unveiled an 11-foot-long **spider-silk cloth**. Creating it took four years, half a million dollars and more than 1 million golden orb spiders.



Tall Farms

Farmers are running out of land on which to raise food for a growing population. So Valcent, a Texas company, has created **vertical farming**. Plants grow in rotating rows, one on top of another. The rotation gives plants just the right amount of light and nutrients. And by stacking the plants, farmers use less water.

Puppy Love

In 1997, Lou Hawthorne began studying animal cloning. A clone is a genetically identical copy of a living thing, created in a lab. In 2007, his company BioArts did it.

Hawthorne delivered **puppies** this year to five people who paid an average of \$144,000 for copies of their dogs. BioArts has since left the pet-cloning business.

JIM HARRIS

