

NOVEMBER 29, 2004

BEHIND THE CIA SHAKE-UP  
SPOOKED!

# TIME

THE MOST  
AMAZING

# inventions

# OF 2004

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BLAST! FIND OUT  
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## SMOOTH OPERATOR

U.S. soldiers who return from Iraq missing a leg from the thigh down are getting back on their feet a lot faster these days, thanks to the Rheo Knee. The new prosthetic joint, developed in Iceland, is designed to learn the nuances of an individual's movements and adjust itself. An innovative control module—made up of sensors, a computer chip and software—reacts instantaneously to changes in the wearer's gait, so there's less strain on the hips and back.

**INVENTORS** Ossur, M.I.T.

**AVAILABILITY** Now, at select clinics

**TO LEARN MORE** [ossur.com](http://ossur.com)



## THE LIGHT STUFF

Here's something nobody wants to think about:

bathrooms are a great breeding ground for bacteria, and so are toothbrushes. No, rinsing them doesn't do much to help the situation. Enter the Violight toothbrush sanitizer, a high-tech toothbrush holder. Pop your toothbrush inside (it holds four), push a button, and the Violight bathes it with ultraviolet light, which eliminates 99.9% of germs and bacteria on the brush within 10 min.

**INVENTOR** Violight

**AVAILABILITY** Now, \$49.95

**TO LEARN MORE** [violight.com](http://violight.com)



for  
your health



## TAKING THE BLINDERS OFF

You're sick of wearing glasses, but the LASIK people turned you down. Here's help: the new Verisyse corrective lens, which treats nearsightedness too severe for laser surgery to fix. The lens is implanted between the cornea and the iris through a 6-mm incision. If there are complications (infection, cataracts), it can be removed. A competing implantable lens, the Visian ICL, developed by Staar Surgical, still awaits FDA approval.

**INVENTOR** Jan Worst

**AVAILABILITY** Now, \$3,000 to \$4,000 an eye

**TO LEARN MORE** [visioninfocus.com](http://visioninfocus.com)

