

# PITTMED

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In spirit and action, Vinny Londino could easily have been confused with Saint Nick.

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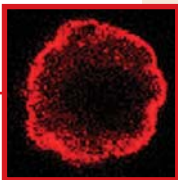
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Fire gods and the corruption of youth.



## CONTRIBUTORS

Born in Brazil as the son of a cattle rancher, **SEBASTIÃO SALGADO** [cover, "The End of Polio"] was 29 with a PhD in economics when he decided to become a photographer. Within four years, he was elected to membership in Magnum Photos, a prestigious international cooperative. Subjects of the acclaimed documentary photographer include Latin American peasants, refugees, migrants, and Doctors Without Borders. All his photographs are "about human beings fighting for their dignity and trying to live better together," Salgado revealed to one reporter.

**LEAH KAUFFMAN** ["The King of Peptides"], the former managing editor of the journal *Genetics*, is a freelance science writer who's been instrumental in bringing a European phenomenon called Café Scientifique to Pittsburgh. Their slogan says it all: "Eat. Drink. Talk science." About once a month, the public is invited to a Pittsburgh brewpub to join a lively scientific discussion. Kauffman and her co-organizer line up speakers on topics like stem cells, quantum theory, and genetically modified foods. Kauffman hopes it will help "break down the invisible wall of authority between scientists and the public."

## COVER

Will 2005 be the year of polio's worldwide eradication? (©2001 Sebastião Salgado/Amazonas Images/Contact Press Images.)



## FEATURES

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Before Klaus Hofmann came along, most hormone chemistry was hypothesis.

BY LEAH KAUFFMAN

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It's been 50 years since the Salk vaccine developed at Pitt was licensed, and the World Health Organization hopes to announce polio's eradication this year. The road to ending the scourge has not been easy.

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By studying very short lives, a Pitt researcher may have found a mechanism at work in aging.

BY CHUCK STARESINIC