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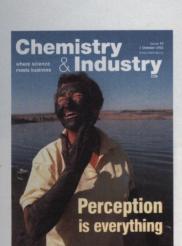
# Regulars

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**ICI sells Synetix** The latest shows, exhibitions and meetings **Data/analysis Multinational mergers** Phototherapy and illuminated power shower Women: pure genius behind the scenes Advanced materials and analytical chemistry

# Soap Lake

Marina Murphy reports on a unique, ancient lake rich in minerals and said to be full of natural healing powers, in the state of Washington. The soapy lake conditions could also give clues to life in space.



Cover illustration: Harley Soltes The Seattle Times



and crossword

# **BA Festival of science**

Marina Murphy reports on the British Association Festival of science in Leicester, Discover how an old invention was fuelled by beer, pictures are worth a thousand words and monitoring blood rythms could predict the likelihood of certain diseases.



# **Public Perception**

Steve Rayner, professor of science & society, examines how specific approaches to decision making could be alienating society. Mark Wade of Shell talks to Simon Robinson about how the group is embracing sustainable development. Universum Communications' surveys reveal student career expectations in the chemicals sector. Rachel Newton discusses how the industry and pressure groups can work together to improve public image.