

# Smithsonian

AUGUST 2005 VOLUME 36, NUMBER 5

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They've prowled the seas with impunity for some 400 million years, but now these terrors of the deep are in danger of succumbing to an even more fearsome predator—man

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SMITHSONIAN readers share their memories—joyous, tearful, poignant—of the end of World War II, 60 years ago this month

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BY STANLEY KARNOW / PHOTOGRAPHS BY CATHERINE KARNOW

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What happens to the millions of computer monitors, cellphones, TVs and other electronic devices that Americans discard each year? It's not a pretty picture. (But *ours* are)

BY ELIZABETH ROYTE / PHOTOGRAPHS BY CHRIS JORDAN

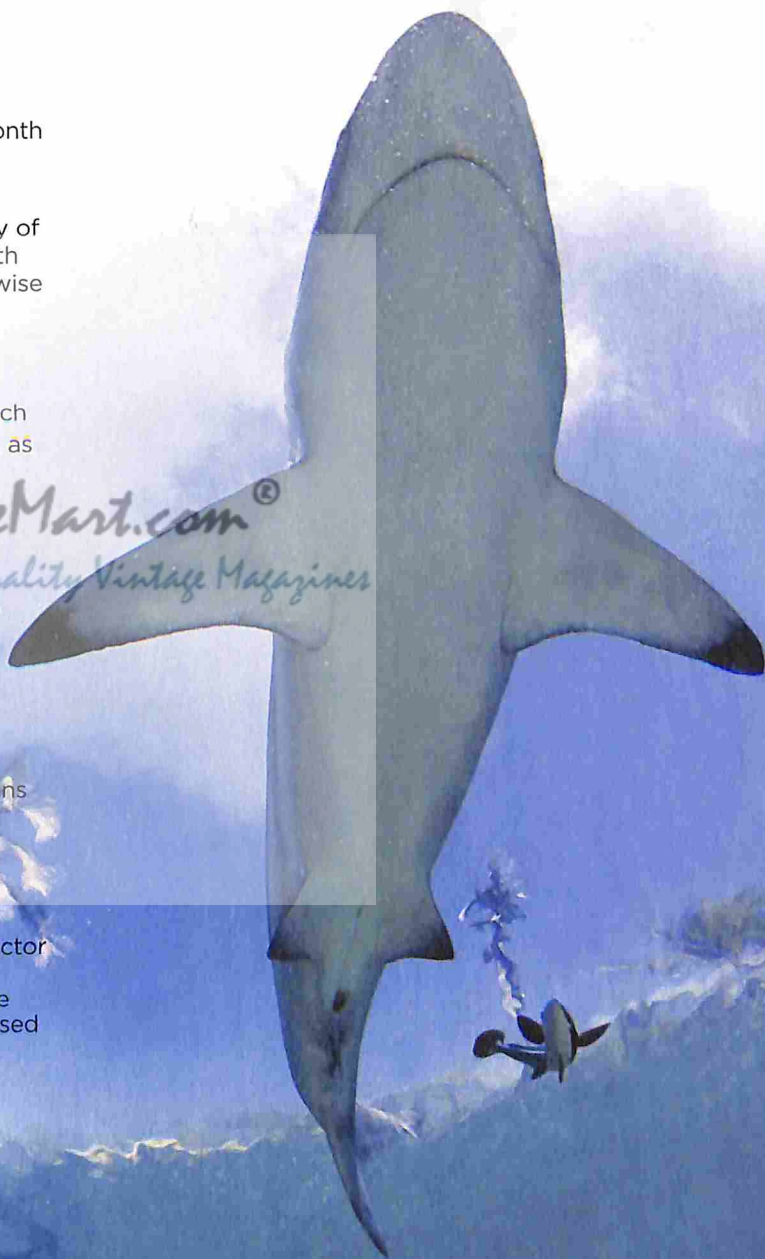
### 88 BUILDING THE BOMB

A new biography of physicist J. Robert Oppenheimer, director of the secret Los Alamos lab, chronicles the tense months leading up to the atomic bomb's initial test and the debate among his co-workers about how the weapon should be used

BY KAI BIRD AND MARTIN J. SHERWIN

"The mere prospect of a chance encounter with a shark is nightmarish. Never mind that on average, for every American killed by a shark, 37 are killed by snakes and 45 by pet dogs."

—"SHARK," PAGE 42



**THIS PAGE:** There will be "serious and unforeseen consequences," says fisheries expert Ramón Bonfil, if shark populations don't rebound. (A blacktip shark patrols the waters at Atlantis Aquarium, Paradise Island, Bahamas.) Photograph by Andrea Pistolessi / Getty Images.

**COVER:** Army surgical tech Richard Hagerman (in frame) with a letter he wrote his fiancée on V-J Day from Aschaffenburg, Germany, spent August 15, 1945, "looking into 200 mouths for tonsillitis." Photograph by Peter Garfield (Alicia Maris, stylist).



MYSTERY MAN OF STONEHENGE

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60 YEARS AGO

WWII  
ENDS!

OUR READERS  
REMEMBER

PLUS

DEBATING THE BOMB



Return of the  
"Ghost" Bird

Alaska's Glaciers:  
Going, Going . . .

The Surprising  
Science of Sharks

Vietnam's Shangri-La

Where Old Computers Go to Die