

## Books

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**Beauty and the Brain: Biological Aspects of Aesthetics**—Ingo Rentschler, *et al.*, Eds. A group of neuroscientists, psychologists, anthropologists, artists, musicians and a poet met four times over a five-year period to discuss the biological aspects of aesthetic judgment and creativity. They concluded that there is a human compulsion to beautify oneself and one's surroundings, and that aesthetic endeavors, such as painting, dancing or cooking, serve as a communicative behavior for socializing as well as for venting hostility; such behavior establishes a bond among members of each culture. Their ideas and conclusions are presented here with data to support them. Birkhauser, 1989, 325 p., illus., hardcover, \$49.50.

**Machine Learning: Principles and Techniques**—Richard Forsyth, Ed. Experts in machine learning research present key findings in the field for students and professionals. Useful for those setting out to design or use a computer system that in some sense "learns" to improve its performance. The book also surveys the highly active research field, whose results are beginning to have important practical applications. Chapman and Hall, 1989, 255 p., charts & graphs, hardcover, \$85.00, paperback, \$29.95.

**An Old Man's Toy: Gravity at Work and Play in Einstein's Universe**—A. Zee. A book for the general reader on the physics of gravity and related phenomena, such as the dynamic universe. Zee begins with Newtonian theories on gravity; covers Einstein's revolutionary ideas about gravity and their impact on future thought; mentions scientists, such as Hubble and Lemaître, who tried to solve the mysteries of gravity and universe, and concludes with a glimpse of gravity's innermost secrets. A well-illustrated book by the author of *Fearful Symmetry*. Macmillan, 1989, 272 p., hardcover, \$21.95.

**Scientific Reasoning: The Bayesian Approach**—Colin Howson and Peter Urbach. According to the Bayesian view, scientific reasoning and much of everyday reasoning is conducted in probabilistic terms: Evaluating an uncertain claim involves calculating its probability in light of given information. The authors trace the background of this view; present the calculus of probability, which is its foundation; and argue that the Bayesian approach to scientific reasoning is far superior to its rivals. Open Court, 1989, 312 p., charts & graphs, hardcover, \$34.95, paperback, \$16.95.

**Whales of the World**—Nigel Bonner. A beautifully illustrated look at the evolution, social structure, feeding, breeding and migration patterns of whales the world over. Covers right whales, bowheads, belugas and killer whales, among others. Concludes with a section on whales and humans throughout history and discusses the current crisis of porpoise deaths as a by-product of the tuna fishing industry. Facts on File, 1989, 191 p., color illus., hardcover, \$22.95.

## Science on the Air

Check your local listings for exact times and dates. (R) indicates a repeat broadcast.

**Sept. 2 (CNN) Future Watch** Explores global threats to the planet—environmental, ecological and technological—and the search for solutions. Saturdays.

**Sept. 2 (PBS) Healthweek** Provides comprehensive coverage of medical and health issues. Saturdays.

**Sept. 2 (PBS) Science and Technology Week** Covers the latest in science and technology news. Saturdays.

**Sept. 2 (PBS) Wild America—“Wild Babies” (R)** Documents how wild animal young learn survival skills.

**Sept. 3 (PBS) Down the Shore** Investigates the environmental problems plaguing East Coast beaches and what is being done about them.

**Sept. 3 (PBS) Innovation—“The Gene Machine”** Explores efforts to map the human genome and the medical advances such a map could make possible. Part 1 of 2.

**Sept. 6 (PBS) The Infinite Voyage—“The Champion Within”** Examines the efforts of scientists who are studying athletes to learn more about the human body and how to make it work better.

**Sept. 9 (PBS) Wild America—“Animal Oddities” (R)** Looks at unusual animal species throughout time—from prehistoric giant armadillos to modern diving spiders.

**Sept. 10 (PBS) Innovation—“The Genetic Prophecy”** Examines the potential opportunities for abuse engendered by a genomic map and the problems surrounding ownership rights to the new information. Part 2 of 2.

**Sept. 11 (PBS) Other Faces of AIDS** Documents the rapid spread of AIDS in minority communities and the importance of educational efforts in slowing this progression.

**Sept. 12 (PBS) Nova—“Secrets of Easter Island” (R)** Examines the mysteries of Easter Island, the most isolated inhabited place on Earth, and how to explain the culture found there.

**Sept. 13 (PBS) The Infinite Voyage—“The Search for Ancient Americans” (R)** Looks at the evidence and technology helping scientists to understand more about the hunters who crossed the Bering land bridge thousands of years ago to become the first North American immigrants.

**Sept. 13 (PBS) Survival Specials—“The Incredible Flight of the Snow Geese”** Focuses on the migration of the snow geese and how 14 human-raised goslings made their way back to the wild.

**Sept. 16 (PBS) Wild America—“Born to Run” (R)** A celebration of graceful creatures found only in North America, such as the pronghorn of the western prairies.

**Sept. 17 (PBS) Innovation—“The Critical Difference”** Travels with some of the best emergency medical technicians (EMTs) in the country to observe the lifesaving professionalism of today's EMTs.

**Sept. 20 (PBS) The Infinite Voyage—“The Great Dinosaur Hunt” (R)** Investigates new evidence that is altering prevalent beliefs about dinosaurs, portraying them as less like reptiles and more like birds and mammals.

**Sept. 23 (PBS) Innovation—“A New Perspective”** Examines new engineering techniques, lasers and computers that help art curators and conservators study and preserve works of art.

**Sept. 23 (PBS) Wild America—“Owls—Lords of Darkness” (R)** A rare look at these nocturnal hunters, whose shyness and extraordinary sensory powers have kept them shrouded in secrecy.

**Sept. 25 (PBS) National Geographic Specials—“In the Shadow of Vesuvius” (R)** Follows excavations of the ancient city Herculaneum to reconstruct events during the eruption of the volcano Vesuvius.

**Sept. 26 (PBS) Mauna Kea: On the Verge of Other Worlds** Takes viewers to the summit of Mauna Kea, Hawaii's highest mountain, to look at one of the world's finest astronomical observatories.

**Sept. 26 (PBS) Nova—“Are You Swimming in a Sewer?” (R)** Explores how several major U.S. cities deal with harbor pollution.

**Sept. 27 (PBS) The AIDS Quarterly** This third edition of the quarterly focuses on AIDS and its unique implications for women and minorities afflicted with the virus.

**Sept. 27 (PBS) The Infinite Voyage—“Life in the Balance” (R)** Examines looming environmental crises and current attempts to educate the international community about them.

**Sept. 30 (PBS) Wild America—“Hog Wild” (R)** A look at the funny, bizarre and sometimes violent lives of peccaries and wild hogs.