

## Books

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**Agents of Chaos: Earthquakes, Volcanoes, and Other Natural Disasters** — Stephen L. Harris. Investigates how natural forces shape the North American continent and the life it supports, describing events ranging from explosive volcanic eruptions in the Yellowstone region 2 million years ago to the 1989 quake that shook the San Francisco area. Focusing on the western United States, Harris tours natural-disaster hotspots and — beginning with an explanation of the Richter scale — examines what they tell us about our restless planet. Extensively illustrated with photographs and diagrams. Mountain Pr, 1990, 260 p., illus., paperback, \$12.95.

**The Challenge of Art to Psychology** — Seymour Sarason. The author contends that all children hold the potential for artistic expression and development, but he says forces operating inside and outside the school system suppress artistic inclination in favor of more objective pursuits such as reading and mathematics. While noting that not everyone is capable of developing into a great artist, Sarason demonstrates that individuals who have never before shown evidence of creative talent can learn to participate in artistic activity. A well-documented and inspiring critique of our cultural values and educational practices. Yale U Pr, 1990, 188 p., illus., hardcover, \$25.00.

**Diary of a Baby: What Your Child Sees, Feels, and Experiences** — Daniel N. Stern. This is the diary of Joey, a hypothetical child, from the age of 6 weeks to 4 years. In tracing Joey's development, Stern — a child psychologist — alternates between entries "written" by Joey and nontechnical explanations of how each entry reflects the child's maturing interpretation of the world around him. The journey is both engaging and informative as Joey evolves from an infant enthralled by a patch of sunlight on the wall to a boy dealing with sadness and anger at being punished. Harper-Collins, 1990, 165 p., hardcover, \$18.95.

**Environmental Vacations: Volunteer Projects to Save the Planet** — Stephanie Ocko. An overview of the types of programs available to people who would like to spend their yearly vacation time (a week or more) as volunteers for environmental research projects, either inside or outside the United States. Includes a discussion of middleman organizations and a list of organizations offering environmental opportunities. Norton (John Muir Pubs), 1990, 235 p., color/b&w illus., paperback, \$15.95.

**Great Mambo Chicken and the Transhuman Condition** — Ed Regis. The author of *Who Got Einstein's Office?* visits the murky border between science fact and fiction, where scientists work to create artificial life forms, build time machines and molecule-sized robots, download the human mind onto a computer, achieve immortality through cryonic suspension, and much more. An enthusiastic and witty portrait of these pioneer-scientists and the obstacles they face. Addison-Wesley, 1990, 308 p., hardcover, \$18.95.

**Keeping Watch: A History of American Time** — Michael O'Malley. An engaging history of how the clock came to hold such influence over our lives. O'Malley chronicles the conversion of time from a local measure determined by nature's rhythms to an abstract standard determined by machine. He shows how this change — inevitable as U.S. communities became increasingly linked to one another through trade and travel — revolutionized pursuits such as transportation and labor management, inspiring a whole new dependence on time as a means of social organization. Viking, 1990, 384 p., hardcover, \$19.95.

**Lost in a Book: The Psychology of Reading for Pleasure** — Victor Nell. This in-depth exploration will fascinate anyone who has ever been so absorbed in a book that looking up was like waking from a dream. Nell examines the components of pleasure reading from the choice of a book to comprehension and absorption. Differentiating between absorption and entrancement, he investigates the physiology of reader trance and compares it with dreaming and hypnosis. Originally published in hardcover in 1988. Yale U Pr, 1990, 336 p., paperback, \$14.95.

**Separate Lives: Why Siblings Are So Different** — Judy Dunn and Robert Plomin. Why do children reared in the same family turn out so different? Two professors of human development summarize the research conducted on sibling differences, examining the causes and explaining how children can experience the same family environment differently. A provocative approach to the nature/nurture dichotomy. Basic, 1990, 210 p., hardcover, \$19.95.

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