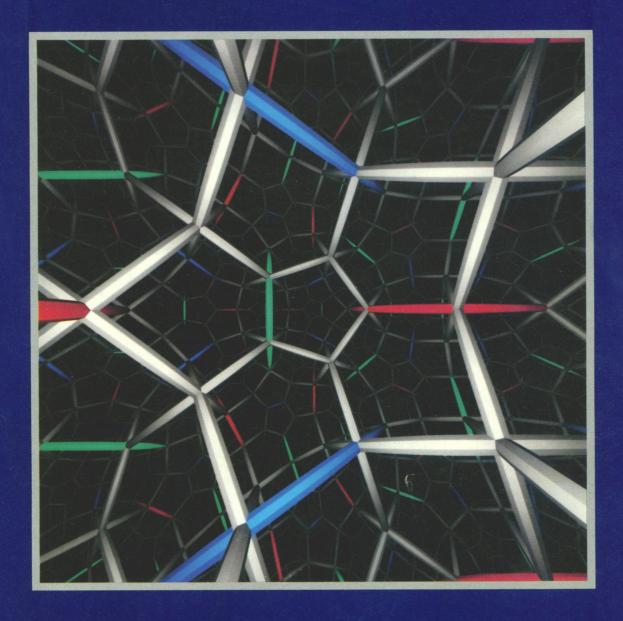
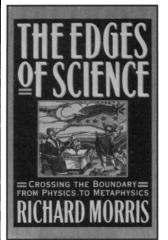
The Weekly Newsmagazine of Science

November 24, 1990 Vol. 138, No. 21 Pages 321-336



Graphic Math



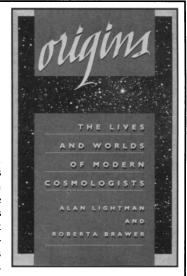
Prentice Hall Press, 1990, 244 pages, $5\frac{3}{4}$ " x $8\frac{3}{4}$ ", hardcover, \$18.95

City_

Daytime Phone (_

The Edges of Science is a lucid examination of the rapidly expanding fields of particle physics and cosmology — the study of the structure, origin and fate of the universe. Physicists are now pondering questions that have long been considered metaphysical; Morris looks at the unique nature of some current scientific activity and reviews cosmologists' theoretical speculations, which often outpace experiment. This book captures both the excitement and the controversy generated as the boundary between physics and metaphysics becomes blurred.

The scientists probing this boundary are introduced in *Origins:* The Lives and Worlds of Modern Cosmologists. Lightman and Brawer compiled 27 interviews with such eminent cosmologists as Stephen Hawking and Roger Penrose, questioning them about their family history, early work and beliefs. Some view the universe as too small, others see it as pointless. The interviewers steer the cosmologists toward the areas of modern theory that falter the most under scrutiny; their thorough examination reveals the differences in world views, motivations and prejudices among the cosmologists and explores how these differences affect individual scientific speculation.



Harvard Univ. Pr., 1990, 563 pages, 6½" x 9½", hardcover, \$29.95

Science News Books 1719 N Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036 EdgesSci OriginsLives
Please send me the book(s) marked below. I enclose the price of the book(s) plus \$2.00
for postage and handling per book (maximum \$4.00 charge). Domestic orders only.

____ The Edges of Science, \$18.95

____ Origins: The Lives and Worlds of Modern Cosmologists, \$29.95

Name
_____ Address

State

(used only for problems with order)

"Lightman and Brawer have made something special. . . . Half of it is the theory of our horizons being pushed out to the very edges of the universe. . . . The other half is far more sober: the story of the scientific community, despite all the knowledge it has gained, caught in a moment when its theories are in a terrible, uncertain flux."

- James Gleick The Atlantic

Boojums All the Way ThroughCommunicating Science In a Prosaic Age

A collection of essays that deals in a variety of ways with the process of communicating modern physics to both physicists and non-physicists. Mermin, a well-known theoretical physicist, recently won the first Julius Edgar Lilienfeld prize of the American Physical Society "for his remarkable clarity and wit as a lecturer to nonspecialists on difficult subjects." Among other things, readers will encounter reflections on the style of doing physics and the problems encountered when writing about it, novel and elementary ways of demonstrating what is extraordinary about the quantum theory, a mock Shakespearean drama that states the essential character of relativity theory, an exuberant sermon on the rare delights to be found in computing the logarithm of 2, and the tale, from which the title of this book is drawn, of the adventures that befell the author when he set out to introduce the word 'boojum' into the technical lexicon of modern physics. Mermin's wry humor is at work in most of these essays, but even the more sober of them are characterized by a liveliness and a commitment to finding startlingly simple ways of presenting complex ideas. This book will appeal to physicists at all levels, to other scientists, mathematicians and engineers, and indeed to anyone who enjoys fresh and lively new ways of looking at science and the pursuit of science. — from the publisher

By N. David Mermin

Cambridge U Press, 1990, 308 pages, 9" x 6", paperback, \$16.95

Science News Books 1719 N Street, NW Washington, DC 20036	Boojums
Please send me copies of Bo the Way Through. I include a check p Science News Books for \$16.95 p postage and handling (total \$18.95 copy. Domestic orders only.	payable to lus \$2.00
Name	
Address	
City	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
State Zip _	
Daytime Phone # () (Used only for problems with order)	RB1338