

# Books

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**The Betrayal of Health: The Impact of Nutrition, Environment, and Lifestyle on Illness in America** — Joseph D. Beasley. Drawing on a ground-breaking, 10-year study, Beasley contends that our society is fixated on symptoms and treatments and fails to address the underlying causes of social and health-care problems. He highlights evidence linking chronic illness and criminal behavior to bad nutrition, abuse of alcohol and drugs, and poor environmental quality and asserts that behavioral changes are a more effective weapon against such problems than pharmacology and medical breakthroughs. Random, 1991, 274 p., hardcover, \$23.00.

**The Home Planet** — Kevin W. Kelley, Ed. This stunning compilation of photographs of the Earth taken from space is supplemented with moving comments from astronauts and cosmonauts about their experiences in space. The Association of Space Explorers, whose members have orbited the Earth at least once, organized interviews with space travelers from China, Germany, France, Vietnam, the United States, Russia and other countries to produce this international exaltation of the beauty of our common denominator — the planet Earth. Originally published in hardcover in 1988. Addison-Wesley, 1991, approx. 250 pages, color/b&w illus., paperback, \$22.95.

**Kingdoms of Gold, Kingdoms of Jade: The Americas Before Columbus** — Brian M. Fagan. A fascinating account of pre-Columbian civilizations that flourished in the Americas. This acclaimed archaeological writer briefly describes for the general reader the Aztecs, Incas and earlier civilizations including the Olmec, Maya, Chavin, Nazca and native North American cultures. Generously illustrated with photographs, diagrams and maps. Thames Hudson, 1991, 240 p., color/b&w illus., hardcover, \$24.95.

**The Miner's Canary: Unraveling the Mysteries of Extinction** — Niles Eldredge. A thought-provoking examination of how historical periods of mass extinction compare to the current extinction crisis and of the effects of human intervention. Using the analogy of the miner's canary, brought into coal mines because its death alerted miners to the presence of deadly, non-odorous fumes, this renowned paleontologist argues that the accelerating rate of species extinction is indicative of deteriorating global environmental conditions that humans themselves might not survive. Prentice Hall Pr, 1991, 246 p., hardcover, \$20.00.

**Mystery Dance: On the Evolution of Human Sexuality** — Lynn Margulis and Dorion Sagan. In this provocative exposé of our sexual heritage, the authors of *Microcosmos: Four Billion Years of Microbial Evolution* argue that virtually all our ancestors have left their mark on contemporary sexual behavior. Using a metaphorical striptease to illustrate the many layers in the evolution of our sexual characteristics and behavior, they track sexuality through a long line of nonhuman ancestors, from apes to promiscuous bacteria. Summit Bks, 1991, 224 p., hardcover, \$19.95.

**Origins of the Modern Mind: Three Stages in the Evolution of Culture and Cognition** — Merlin Donald. This psychologist proposes that the human mind evolved in three stages: The first transition marked development of the ability to produce self-initiated, representational acts; the second was characterized by the development of speech; and the third was a largely nonbiological transition represented by the emergence of external memory storage devices, such as graphic symbols. His well-referenced argument is written for lay readers. Harvard U Pr, 1991, 413 p., hardcover, \$27.95.

**The Unschooled Mind: How Children Think and How Schools Should Teach** — Howard Gardner. Gardner contends that for children to truly understand what they are taught in school, educators must use hands-on approaches such as the interactive techniques of modern children's museums rather than the rote, book-learning approach of traditional curricula. Writing for both educators and interested readers, Gardner challenges the developmental theories of Piaget and Chomsky and suggests ways to restructure classrooms to harness the intuitive learning of young children. Basic, 1991, 303 p., hardcover, \$23.00.

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