

# Books

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**Bubbles, Voids and Bumps in Time: The New Cosmology** — edited by James Cornell. In a readable style, six leading cosmologists provide a "state of the universe" report on the probable beginning and possible end of the cosmos, describing what scientists have learned about its nature and what pieces are still missing from the cosmic puzzle. They show how each new discovery has also posed new questions. With black-and-white illustrations. First published in hardcover in 1989. Cambridge U Pr, 1991, 190 p., paperback, \$15.95.

**Living with Parkinson's: A Guide for the Patient and Caregiver** — David L. Carrojl. The author of *When Your Loved One Has Alzheimer's* describes Parkinson's disease and uses case histories and anecdotes to discuss coping with symptoms such as tremors, slowness of movement, sexual dysfunction and slurred speech. He offers an analysis of the available treatments — including drugs, physical therapy programs, exercises and diet — and discusses ways for caregivers and families to help the Parkinson's sufferer maintain an independent life. Harper-Collins, 1992, 241 p., hardcover, \$20.00.

**To Engineer Is Human: The Role of Failure in Successful Design** — Henry Petroski. How did a simple design error cause one of the great disasters of the 1980s — the collapse of the walkways at the Kansas City Hyatt Regency Hotel? What made the graceful and innovative Tacoma Narrows Bridge twist apart in a mild wind in 1940? Tracing the fine connection between the quantifiable realm of science and the chaotic realities of everyday life, the author, a professor of civil engineering, argues that the concept of mechanical and structural failure is central to understanding engineering. He describes how the colossal disasters that do occur are ultimately failures of design and shows how these failures lead to greater safety margins and, hence, new periods of success. In an afterword, Petroski discusses the limitations in technology as experienced in the final launch of the space shuttle Challenger. Vintage, 1992, 251 p., paperback, \$11.00.

**Why in the World: Adventures in Geography** — George J. Demko. The former director of the U.S. Office of the Geographer demonstrates that geography is not a science concerned solely with dots on a map, continents, state capitals and the exploration routes of pioneers. Writing for lay readers, he describes the interactions between people and the planet and shows how geography involves such issues as population and immigration, cultural patterns, politics, sociology, history, geology, biology, economics and agriculture. Includes maps, cartoons, photographs, anecdotes and original biographies of each of the world's 173 nations. Anch, 1992, 399 p., paperback, \$10.00.

## MESA WORKS! HERE'S A CHANCE TO FIND OUT HOW.

Mathematics, Engineering and Science Achievement (MESA) is one of the nation's most successful programs to assist historically underrepresented ethnic students earn technical degrees from four-year colleges.

MESA, founded more than 20 years ago in California, is a school-based academic support program aimed at ensuring that the growing population of ethnic minority youth completes four years of college preparatory math and English in addition to chemistry and physics.

The success rate among young African Americans, American Indians, Mexican Americans and other Latino Americans in the MESA program is impressive.

Some examples:

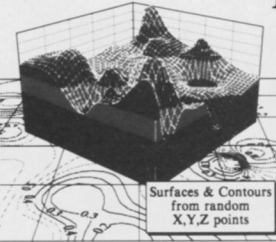
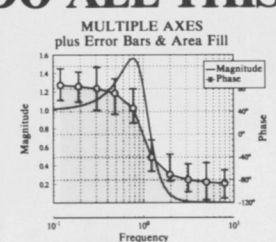
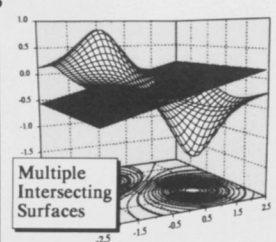
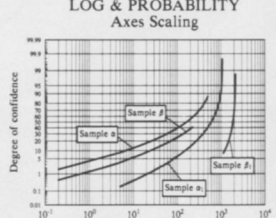
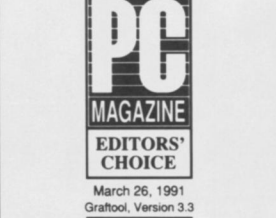
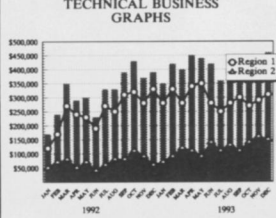
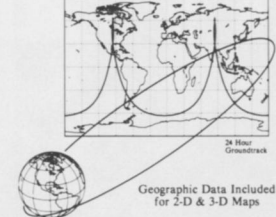
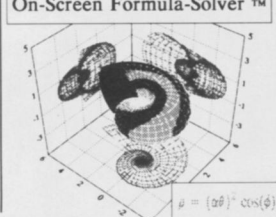
- MESA graduates account for nearly 2/3 of California's bachelor degrees in engineering earned by underrepresented students.
- The grade point for MESA high school students is 3.25 — almost a full point higher than the 2.37 state average for their counterparts.
- Nearly 80% go on to college the fall after they graduate, compared to 57% of all California high school students.
- While just 13% of California's underrepresented minorities enroll in four-year colleges, MESA's four-year college enrollment rate is 73%.

Wilfred O. Easter, Statewide Director of MESA, and Dr. James Harold, Capitol Center MESA Director-Sacramento, will describe the program and answer questions at a Shoptalk Event at the International Science and Engineering Fair in Nashville on Thursday, May 14. The hour-long presentation will start at 9 a.m. in Room 206 of the Nashville Convention Center.

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