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Chalk up Another One: The Best of Sidney Harris. The doyen of science cartoonists returns with another collection of witty and insightful observations about life in the worlds of science, medicine, and academics. This "best of the best" features 146 cartoons from throughout Harris' 25-year career and includes the classics from his previously published collections. AAAS Pr, 1992, 146 p., paperback, \$10.95.

Complexity: Life at the Edge of Chaos—Roger Lewin. Complexity theory holds that a set of identifiable rules lies at the root of all complex systems, that order emerges spontaneously from complex, dynamical systems. Lewin describes the multidisciplinary search for those rules in the biological sciences. Focusing on both the scientists involved — including Edward O. Wilson, Stephen J. Gould, and Daniel Dennett — and their ideas, he explores the implications of complexity theory for such diverse issues as evolution, the origin of consciousness, and the rise and fall of civilizations. He even ponders whether complexity lends support to the Gaia hypothesis. Macmillan, 1992, 208 p., hardcover, \$22.

John von Neumann: The Scientific Genius Who Pioneered the Modern Computer, Game Theory, Nuclear Deterrence, and Much More—Norman Macrae. For three decades, von Neumann influenced major scientific and political issues. This biography, written by the recently retired principal editor of *THE ECONOMIST*, describes how von Neumann's brilliant work in areas such as game theory, mathematics, physics, and meteorology paved the way for such discoveries as the modern computer, the atom bomb, radar, and artificial intelligence. Pantheon, 1992, 405 p., hardcover, \$25.00.

Life in Amber—George O. Poinar Jr. A noted entomologist and amber authority offers a compendium on fossils found in amber, a semi-precious gem formed over eons out of tree resins. Poinar begins with the fascination of prehistoric peoples with amber and describes how amulets and beads dating from 35,000 to 1,800 B.C. often helped establish ancient trade routes. He surveys the life forms — from microbes, to vertebrates, to plants — discovered embedded in amber at deposits throughout the world, beginning with pieces dating back some 300 million years. Illustrated with color and black-and-white photographs, drawings, and maps. Stanford U Pr, 1992, 350 p., hardcover, \$55.00.

Microbe Hunters—Paul de Kruif. A classic popular account of biological investigators at work, which inspired countless would-be scientists and two motion pictures, comes to life as a book on tape, narrated by actor Andrew P. Cross. The author dramatically profiles the early germ hunters who changed medicine, including Anton van Leeuwenhoek, Louis Pasteur, Robert Koch, Walter Reed, and Paul Ehrlich, the German scientist who introduced the phrase "magic bullet" to medicine. De Kruif's book, first published 60 years ago, "turned my entire generation toward a career in medical research," Nobel laureate Joshua Lederberg wrote in 1987. Sound Writings, 1992, 8 tapes, 12 hrs, \$69.

Space Age—William J. Walter. A journalist and filmmaker opens this companion volume to the PBS television series with engaging stories of pioneering rocketeers such as Konstantin Tsiolkovsky, who first calculated how to launch a rocket beyond Earth; Robert Goddard, who launched the first working liquid-fuel rocket; and Herman Oberth, who built the first in a long line of rockets that led to the Saturn V booster. He recounts the adventures of humans in space and the extraordinary exploration of the moon. Walter also describes the quest for Mars and the attempt to discover Earth from space. Finally, he discusses the new frontiers in space exploration. Generously illustrated with color and black-and-white photographs. Random, 1992, 333 p., hardcover, \$30.00.

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