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**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 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. Originally published in hardcover in 1992. Collier, 1994, 208 p., b&w plates, paperback, \$10.00.

**I'm a Spam Fan: America's Best-Loved Foods** — Carolyn Wyman. An entertaining look at the lore surrounding the origins of the most common packaged foods, such as Cool Whip, Rice Krispies, Coca Cola, and Gatorade. Some of the more interesting revelations include the recipe for Grape Nuts and the forging of Campbell's soup into an American icon. Longmeadow Pr, 1993, 144 p., b&w photos and illus., hardcover, \$15.00.

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**A Natural History of Shells** — Geerat J. Vermeij. Rather than list types of shells, Vermeij investigates what shells can tell us about biology. He notes that shells are fossils inscribed with a detailed record of events that mark the lives of mollusks as they grow. The author examines the architecture, adaptation, distribution, and history of shells and shows how the natural environment alters their evolutionary course. Princeton U Pr, 1993, 207 p., hardcover, \$29.95.

**Okavango: Africa's Last Eden** — Frans Lanting. An incredibly beautiful photographic montage of the flora and fauna indigenous to the Okavango Delta wetlands in southern Africa, which remains as one of the most untouched areas of the continent. On assignment from NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC, Lanting strove to become part of the landscape. Each photograph is accompanied by a short narrative written by Lanting, whose theme is the importance of water to the area and the reaction of the land and animals to it. Chronicle Bks, 1993, 168 p., color photos, hardcover, \$45.00.

**Our Medical Future: Breakthroughs in Health and Longevity by the Year 2000 and Beyond** — Jeffrey A. Fisher. An anatomical and clinical pathologist prognosticates about the development and availability of breakthrough cures, diagnostic procedures, and preventive techniques for the next 40 years. Fisher's calendar includes routine use of artificial organs, the elimination of allergies, and reliable tests to indicate a predisposition to cystic fibrosis, cancer, osteoporosis, and schizophrenia. Originally published in hardcover in 1992 as *RX 2000*. PB, 1993, 271 p., paperback, \$10.00.

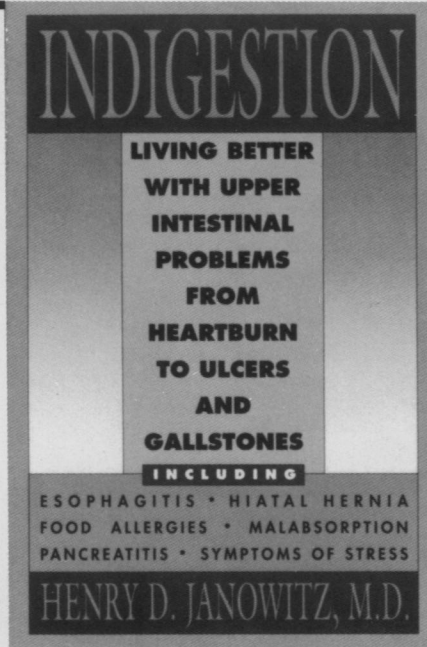
**Signs of Life: The Language and Meanings of DNA** — Robert Pollack. In a compelling format, Pollack describes DNA as a veritable language subject to varied interpretations and focuses on his ideas for how to interpret this text. As an apprentice to James Watson (of DNA fame) and as an educator, Pollack gleaned many fundamental insights about what knowledge we can hope to garner from DNA research, how our bodies read DNA, and the social implications of this merging of biology and medicine — all of which he relays here. For example, he contends that although this new biology can never be implemented for determining personality and behavior, it promises to eliminate genetic diseases. HM, 1994, 212 p., hardcover, \$19.95.

**Steve Jobs and the NeXT Big Thing** — Randall E. Stross. An exposé of Steve Jobs, co-founder of Apple Computer, who reluctantly resigned from that company and tried to found a second computer empire called NeXT. Clearly, Jobs has not repeated the success he experienced at Apple, as Stross illustrates, but his support from corporate conglomerates based on his previous accomplishments has been great enough to support NeXT for eight years without turning a profit — even during a recent period when Jobs did not have a product to sell. An interesting look at the inner workings of this microcosm of the Silicon Valley and an intriguing glimpse into the world of computer technology and business over the last decade. Atheneum, 1993, 374 p., b&w plates, hardcover, \$24.00.

In clear language, free of medical jargon, Dr. Henry D. Janowitz provides you with everything you need to know about indigestion, offering sound advice on how to avoid problems and soothing the fears of those in distress. He shows you how to prepare for a visit to the doctor — what the physician needs to know, what tests you might undergo, and what the latest diagnostic techniques are (including MRI and endoscopy). Dr. Janowitz then zeroes in on specific problems of the esophagus, stomach, gall bladder, liver, and pancreas. He outlines the causes of peptic ulcers and discusses the best methods of prevention and treatment, shows how to distinguish between chest pain originating in the esophagus and the anginal pain of heart disease, and surveys such problems as gallstones, pancreatic disorders, jaundice, malabsorption, maldigestion, and food allergies. He also examines the effects of aging on the upper digestive tract and, in a final chapter, illuminates the role of stress in functional indigestion.

— from Oxford University Press

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Oxford University Press, 1994, 227 pages, 5 1/4" x 8", paperback, \$8.95

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