

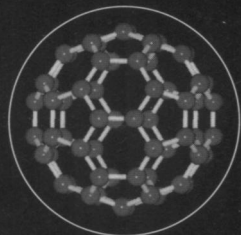
Peanut butter  
into diamonds



## The New Alchemists

Breaking Through  
the Barriers of  
High Pressure

by Robert M. Hazen



In a riveting drama of a major science frontier — the astounding epic of the scientists who synthesized diamonds.

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T I M E S B O O K S

## Books

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**Critters: Adventures in Wildest Suburbia** — A.B.C. Whipple. Noting that animals such as squirrels, raccoons, deer, gulls, and bats seem to be not just averting extinction in suburban areas but actually multiplying as they adjust to their changing environment, Whipple offers advice for living peacefully and successfully with these critters. Examples include harmless ways to keep skunks out of the cellar and deer out of the orchard. St Martin, 1994, 208 p., b&w illus., hardcover, \$18.95.

**In Our Own Image: Building an Artificial Person** — Maureen Caudill. Science fiction is quickly becoming reality, Caudill reports, detailing advances in the areas of artificial intelligence and neural networks. She notes that soon androids will see and that the technology for forward mobility on leg-like units, as opposed to wheels, is approaching. After providing a thorough update on the status of the technology, the author debates some of the philosophical issues we will face when robots reach our level of intelligence and embody reasoning skills and feelings. For instance, will they have civil rights? Originally published in hardcover in 1992. OUP, 1994, 242 p., b&w photos and illus., paperback, \$13.95.

**InfoCulture: The Smithsonian Book of Information Age Inventions** — Steven Lubar. As Lubar points out, people generally declare that civilization will fall as each new, unfamiliar technology emerges. However, he shows that technologies — especially those involving communications — usually arise because of demands within changing societies and economic factors. By tracing inventions from books and the postal system to modern machines such as faxes and computerized data networks, he examines why inventions arise at a particular time and what the inventors who create machines that influence culture actually intended. The author argues that modern information, communications, and entertainment machines, and the social structures they are part of, have played an important role in defining our culture, hence his concept of an info-culture. HM, 1993, 408 p., color and b&w photos, hardcover, \$34.95.

**McGraw-Hill Dictionary of Scientific and Technical Terms** — Sybil P. Parker, ed. More than 105,000 terms culled from 102 scientific disciplines make up the fifth edition of this unabridged dictionary. Definitions for even the most technical terms are clearly written and understandable and are enhanced by numerous diagrams, appendixes, and biographical listings of more than 1,500 noted scientists. McGraw, 1993, 2,242 p., b&w photos & illus., hardcover, \$110.50.

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**The Physics of Baseball** — Robert K. Adair. During his tenure as "Physicist to the National League" in 1987, Adair prepared a report, later expanded into a book, for the late baseball commissioner Bart Giamatti on the elements of baseball that can be described quantitatively. In this second edition, Adair revises and expands the original text to include updated statistics and chapters on running the bases, throwing from the infield and outfield, playing in high altitudes, and hitting left- and right-handed. Some facts he reveals: For maximum distance, the ball's trajectory off the bat should be at a 35° angle; there is no such thing as a rising fastball; and a 400-foot home run will go about 6 feet farther for every 1-inch drop of the barometer. HarperPerennial, 1994, 142 p., b&w illus., paperback, \$10.00.

**Tiger-Wallahs: Encounters with the Men Who Tried to Save the Greatest of the Great Cats** — Geoffrey C. Ward with Diane Raines Ward. In 1973, the Indian government founded Project Tiger in an effort to preserve the rapidly declining Bengal Tiger population. However, these animals are expected to become extinct in the wild by the end of the century. If this does happen, it will be in spite of the efforts of the four conservationists depicted: John Corbett, Fateh Singh Rathore, Valmik Thapar, and Billy Arjan Singh. The pages of this book pay homage to the tigers themselves and to the work and lives of these four tiger-wallahs, or tiger men. Stunning color photographs of tigers grace many pages. HarperCollins, 1993, 174 p., color photos, hardcover, \$35.00.

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