

# Books

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**Conversations with Neil's Brain: The Neural Nature of Thought and Language** — William H. Calvin and George A. Ojemann. A composite of several patients, Neil is an epileptic who undergoes surgery to correct his condition. As usual in such neurosurgery, Neil remains awake and able to converse with those around him while his cerebral cortex is stimulated. Calvin, a neurophysiologist, and Ojemann, a neurosurgeon, give a firsthand account of Neil's surgery. Then, through conversations with their patient, the authors explain various aspects of the brain and offer insights into the mysteries of human memory, language, and thought. Addison-Wesley, 1994, 343 p., b&w illus., hardcover, \$24.00.

**Fluorescence: Gems and Minerals Under Ultraviolet Light** — Manuel Robbins. This survey of fluorescence in minerals provides enough background information and terminology to enable the amateur to understand the bulk of the book. The author offers locations of fluorescent minerals and the concept of activators, plus tables listing them. Additional chapters offer in-depth discussions of gemstone fluorescence and specific minerals, such as sphalerite and Terlingua calcite, that exemplify fluorescence. Geoscience Pr, 1994, 374 p., b&w photos and color plates, hardcover, \$40.00.

**Fuzzy Logic: The Revolutionary Computer Technology That Is Changing Our World** — Daniel McNeill and Paul Freiberger. Applications of fuzzy logic include cars that park themselves and washing machines that independently choose water temperature and detergent amounts. Here, beyond the applications of the mathematics of complexity, is an easily comprehended look at fuzzy logic, its concepts, and the implications of the theory. The history, pros and cons, possibilities yet to come or already explored by the Japanese are also included. Originally published in hardcover in 1993. Touchstone Bks, 1994, 319 p., b&w illus., paperback, \$12.00.

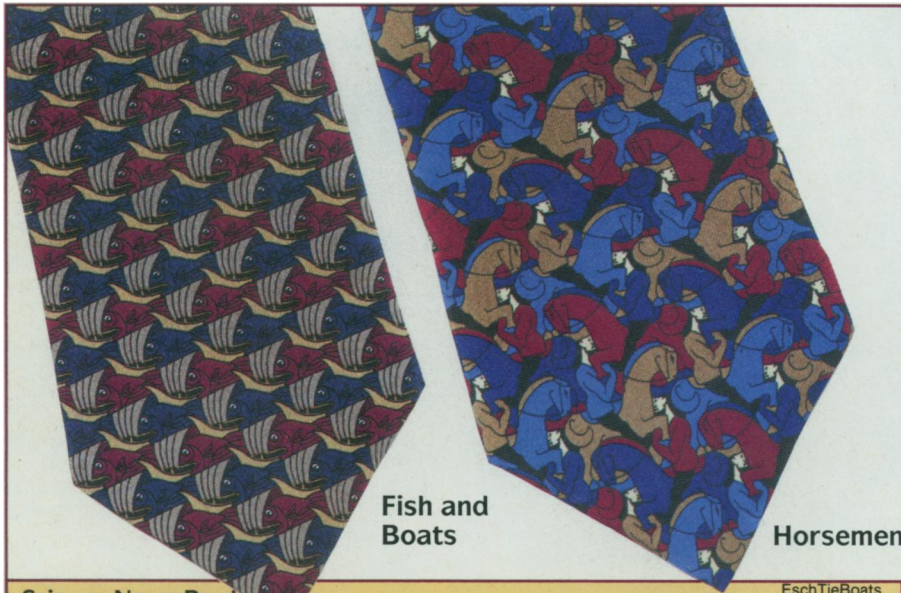
**The Gene Wars: Science, Politics, and the Human Genome** — Robert Cook-Deegan. This book ably illustrates the commingling of science and politics in the Human Genome Project. While introductory chapters outline the purpose of the project and some fundamental genetic principles, the remainder present a firsthand account of the people involved with the project at every level and of the perils of working with politicians on one of the biggest scientific endeavors ever embarked upon by the U.S. government. Cook-Deegan also explores the consequences of the project for lucrative biomedical industries, prenatal diagnosis, and privacy. Norton, 1994, 416 p., b&w illus. and photos, hardcover, \$25.00.

**The Knot Book: An Elementary Introduction to the Mathematical Theory of Knots** — Colin C. Adams. This primer explains the principles of knots through concise text and a large sample of problems that readers with a background in algebra should be able to solve. The classifications of knots, their properties, and ways of measuring their complexity complete this thorough introduction to knot theory and its role in modern mathematics and many other areas of science, such as biology and physics. WH Freeman, 1994, 306 p., b&w illus., hardcover, \$32.95.

**Nature's Mind: The Biological Roots of Thinking, Emotions, Sexuality, Language, and Intelligence** — Michael S. Gazzaniga. The codeveloper of the right brain-left brain theory argues that our brains are built to process things in certain ways and no amount of education or training can take us beyond these built-in characteristics. Using selection theory, Gazzaniga offers explanations for such problems as drug addiction, alcoholism, hypersexed behavior, and compulsions. Originally published in hardcover in 1992. Basic, 1994, 220 p., b&w photos and illus., paperback, \$15.00.

**The Plague Makers: How We Are Creating Catastrophic New Epidemics and What We Must Do to Avert Them** — Jeffrey A. Fisher. Because of the misuse of antibiotics over the years, bacterial infections such as dysentery and tuberculosis are making a deadly comeback, reports Fisher. The author offers advice for the proper use of these drugs by patients and physicians in addition to details about the crisis waiting to happen if this problem is ignored. S&S, 1994, 256 p., hardcover, \$23.00.

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