

**Announcement & Call for Abstracts
The Petaflops Frontier
Workshop - February 6, 1995**

A **Petaflops** is a measure of computer performance equal to a million billion floating point operations per second and is more powerful than all the computers on the Internet combined.

A **one day workshop** is being organized to explore this extreme region of computing performance from the perspective of systems technology and applications requirements.

It will be held in Washington, DC at the **1995 Conference on Massively Parallel Computation** sponsored by the IEEE.

Extended **abstracts** are solicited in the fields of applications, device technology, and systems structures as they relate to petaflops scale computation.

Submissions of 1500 words are due by January 6, 1995. For submissions and more information contact: michele@usra.edu or Michele O'Connell, USRA/CESDIS, 301-286-4403 Fax: 301-286-1777

Aha...



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The Cartoon History of the Universe II: Volumes 8-13, From the Springtime of China to the Fall of Rome — Larry Gonick. Whimsical cartoons document many of the historical aspects of India, China, and Rome, as well as Christianity, Hinduism, and Buddhism. Learning about Confucius, the myth and history of India, and the rise of Christianity becomes effortless and delightful for children and adults with this guidebook to world history. Doubleday, 1994, 305 p., b&w illus., paperback, \$15.95.

Evolutionary Medicine: Rethinking the Origins of Disease — Marc Lippé. In response to the burgeoning rate of untreatable infectious diseases such as AIDS, Lippé applies the theories of evolution to the spread and treatment of these seemingly unstoppable diseases. Pointing to an upswing in disorders such as asthma and diabetes, he argues that this may result from a lack of understanding by the medical community of the interplay of disease, human and microbial coevolution, and modern therapeutics. He shows why many infections are resistant to antibiotics, where these exotic diseases come from, and why some are more virulent and intractable than others. Sierra, 1994, 255 p., hardcover, \$30.00.

Egyptian Mummies: Unraveling the Secrets of an Ancient Art — Bob Brier. Realizing that many mummies are unwrapped as a means of understanding ancient Egyptians better while few bodies are actually mummified today, Brier set about making his own mummy, duplicating ancient techniques. This work serves as a prologue to that event. Brier provides a large amount of historical data about how and why Egyptians performed this kind of burial, as well as the intricacies of the mummification process. In great detail, he discusses the often gruesome methods as well as the problems with this 70-day process, many of which occur because embalming is excluded. He focus considerable attention on acquiring the tools and spices needed to do the job right. Morrow, 1994, 352 p., b&w photos and illus., hardcover, \$23.00.

Fear of Physics: A Guide for the Perplexed — Lawrence M. Krauss. A professor who teaches a course titled "Physics for Poets" demystifies some baffling fundamental principles of modern physics, making them accessible to readers who may find today's research intimidating. Krauss shows how the everyday principles of life fit together with complicated theories of the physical world. If, for instance, you are trying to determine the volume of a cow, think of the animal as two spheres connected by a rod, and reason from there. Originally published in hardcover in 1993. Basic, 1993, 206 p., b&w illus., paperback, \$12.00.

The Patent Wars: The Battle to Own the World's Technology — Fred Warshofsky. As billions of dollars are won by corporations worldwide in settlements over patent and copyright infringement, equal amounts of money are spent to protect the products of industrialists from piracy and fraud, reports Warshofsky. Placing special emphasis on high-tech industries such as software, semiconductors, and biotechnology, he documents some of the most well-known and important court cases in these fields, such as Apple vs. Microsoft. He provides insights into what is at stake for all involved with these creative inventions so crucial to the world's economy. Wiley, 1994, 298 p., hardcover, \$27.95.

Power Surge: Guide to the Coming Energy Revolution — Christopher Flavin and Nicholas Lenssen. On the basis of data compiled by the Worldwatch Institute, the authors proclaim that a swing from traditional means of energy production is imminent. Anticipating this trend, Flavin and Lenssen report on new technologies lying in wait to take over the world's energy demands. Super-efficient electric cars that can be refueled at home; the conversion of coal plants to gas turbines; cost-competitive wind and solar generators; and rooftop solar panels for personal energy generation are a sample of such advances. An outline of certain policy and corporate conversions is included as well. Norton, 1994, 382 p., paperback, \$10.95.

Voyage to the Great Attractor: Exploring Intergalactic Space — Alan Dressler. A member of a seven-person research team determined to explain whether the universe has expanded smoothly and symmetrically since its creation, Dressler relays the methodology and experiences of this group in its search. The group discovered that our galaxy and its neighbors are moving toward a distant continent of matter — a "great attractor" — whose mostly invisible mass is decorated with thousands of galaxies. Dressler's poignant story reflects more than the research itself: It is a fundamental tale of how science is performed, from the organization of the initial mission to why it is so important. Knopf, 1994, 355 p., b&w photos and illus., hardcover, \$25.00.

Warblers of the Americas: An Identification Guide — Jon Curson, David Quinn, and David Beadle. After giving a solid overview of warblers in general, the authors present all 116 species indigenous to North, South, and Central America, with full-color illustrations, maps indicating distribution, and text describing features specific to males, females, fledglings, and subspecies. More detailed descriptions include data on voice, molt, size, aging, sexing, breeding habits, movements, skull, status, and geological variation. HM, 1994, 252 p., b&w and color illus., hardcover, \$40.00.

Winning Scholarships for College: An Insider's Guide — Marianne Ragins. Awarded more than \$400,000 in scholarship money herself, Ragins introduces students of all ages, locations, income levels, intellects, and special needs to methods of finding and winning scholarships. After illustrating how to find sources of financial aid and make the most of a guidance counselor, she tells how to take tests, fill out applications, write essays, and look for special qualities within oneself and one's family. H Holt & Co, 1994, 158 p., paperback, \$10.95.

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