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The Ancient Maya — Robert J. Sharer. Authoritative and broad in scope, this encyclopedic tome encompasses nearly 50 years of research in Maya studies. Now in its fifth edition, Sharer's book incorporates the most up-to-date findings about the Maya environment, cultural history, trade and external relations, social and political organization, ideology and cosmology, arithmetic, sculpture, artifacts, and, in an epilogue, fate at the hands of the Spanish. Stanford U Pr, 1994, 892 p., b&w photos and illus., paperback, \$24.95.

The Coming Plague: Newly Emerging Diseases in a World Out of Balance — Laurie Garrett. Extensively researched, Garrett's book documents the history of the emergence of disease, highlighting the reasons for microbial epidemics and the ways in which humans respond. The biology of evolution at the microbial level is also dissected. She looks at which disease agents and their vectors are adapting to counter the weapons marshalled against them, as well as the errors people make that actually aid microbes. In conclusion, she offers solutions that may prove useful to policy makers and urges physicians and researchers to become fluent in diagnosing diseases like the hantavirus that may currently be considered "history" but could reemerge at any time. FS&G, 1994, 750 p., hardcover, \$25.00.

Dorling Kindersley World Reference Atlas — Ian Castello-Cortes. Part atlas, part encyclopedia, part gazetteer, this reference discusses the current state and formation of the physical and political world, as well as the most important attributes of 192 countries. It includes statistics about the environment, economics, education, health, and resources of each country. This very visual and well-organized reference is particularly handy for students. Dorling Kindersley, 1994, 732 p., color photos and illus., hardcover, \$50.00.

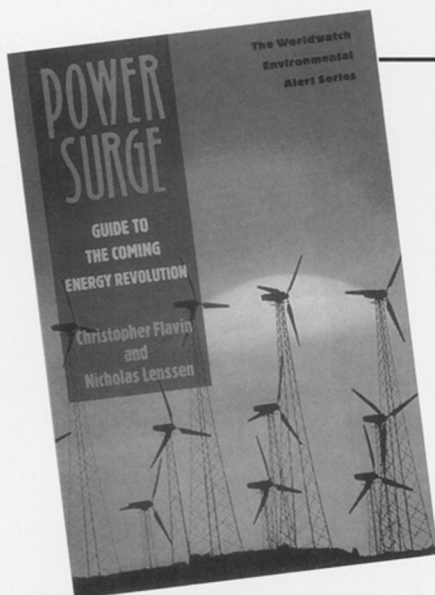
Earth's First Steps: Tracking Life Before the Dinosaurs — Jerry MacDonald. Once thought to be rare, Permian fossil footprints are actually fairly abundant in the Robledo Mountains of New Mexico, MacDonald discovered. After realizing how many slabs containing these fossils were being unearthed and used for construction in the booming area, he set out to search specifically for the tracks and managed to uncover hundreds of them. In fact, he proved the existence of trackways, or series of footprints, which are more valuable to scientists studying dinosaurs than isolated tracks. His efforts led him to what is now touted as the richest Paleozoic footprint discovery in North America. Here, he relays his experiences as a paleontologist in the midst of this find and as a politician looking for support and recognition. Johnson Bks, 1994, 290 p., b&w photos and illus., hardcover, \$22.95.

How the Leopard Changed Its Spots: The Evolution of Complexity — Brian Goodwin. Goodwin uses chaos theory, along with traditional biology, as the foundation for an alternative theory to evolution and 20th century genetics. Known as "the poet of theoretical biology," he agrees that Darwinism applies to the small-scale aspects of evolution but believes it leaves a void for the large-scale ones. He contends that organisms cannot be reduced to the properties of their genes. Instead, they must be understood as dynamic systems with distinctive properties that characterize the living state, all of which he outlines here. Scribner, 1994, 252 p., b&w photos and illus., hardcover, \$23.00.

The National Seashores: The Complete Guide to America's Scenic Coastal Parks — Ruth Wolverton and Wait Wolverton. Covering the 10 federally administered coastal parks — seven on the East Coast, two on the Gulf of Mexico, and one in the Pacific — this guide provides comprehensive information about activities, campsites, hunting and fishing regulations, wildlife preserves, trails, lighthouses, and forts. Maps and historical information are also included, in addition to activities that take place year-round. R Rinehart, 1994, 287 p., b&w illus., paperback, \$13.95.

The Quest for the Rose — Roger Phillips and Martyn Rix. Profusely illustrated with stunning color photographs, this comprehensive guidebook identifies more than 1,000 varieties of roses and tells the history of this universally loved flower. The myths and legends surrounding roses are followed by chapters identifying each with a photograph and describing its size, heritage, scent, and bloom. Random, 1994, 256 p., color photos, hardcover, \$35.00.

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The world energy economy is poised for a sweeping shift away from imported oil and environmentally damaging coal during the next few decades, according to the findings in *Power Surge*, the latest book from the Worldwatch Institute.

Pushed by the need to stabilize Earth's climate, and pulled by the investment opportunities that beckon, global energy markets are beginning a rapid move to more efficient, decentralized, and cleaner systems, echoing the shift from mainframe to personal computers during the 1980s.

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WW Norton & Co., 1994, 382 pages,
5 1/2" x 8 1/4",
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Among the emerging changes expected: a new generation of lightweight, super-efficient electric cars that can be refueled at home; the rapid conversion of coal and nuclear plants to efficient gas turbines; a new generation of mass-produced wind and solar generators that are cost-competitive; and tiny fuel cells and rooftop solar panels that allow people to generate their own electricity.

The authors of *Power Surge*, Christopher Flavin and Nicholas Lenssen, have identified recent deployments of new energy technologies by enterprising engineers, small entrepreneurs, and eccentric tinkerers in countries around the world, providing an early glimpse of the massive changes ahead.

— from W.W. Norton & Co.

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