

# Books

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**Cosmic Questions: Galactic Halos, Cold Dark Matter, and the End of Time**—Richard Morris. What is the universe made of? Did the Big Bang really happen? Is space infinite? Morris answers these and seven other essential questions about cosmology in easy-to-understand prose that will help bring the lay reader up to speed on the latest theories and advances in astrophysics. Originally published in hardcover in 1993. Wiley, 1995, 200 p., b&w illus., paperback, \$16.95.

**The Dying of the Trees: The Pandemic in America's Forests**—Charles E. Little. Eloquent and carefully written, this book surveys the health of the forests across America. Little finds that all is not well and that trees from one coast to the other are succumbing to the havoc wrecked by humans. From specific extinctions—such as the Ponderosa pine in California and the Eastern dogwood—Little explains what plagues these species: acid rain, clear cutting, fire suppression, and the increase in gypsy moths due to changing forest composition. Through hundreds of interviews with scientists, government officials, and citizens, he details how these problems are being addressed and what we can expect if this decline in forests continues. Viking, 1995, 275 p., hardcover, \$22.95.

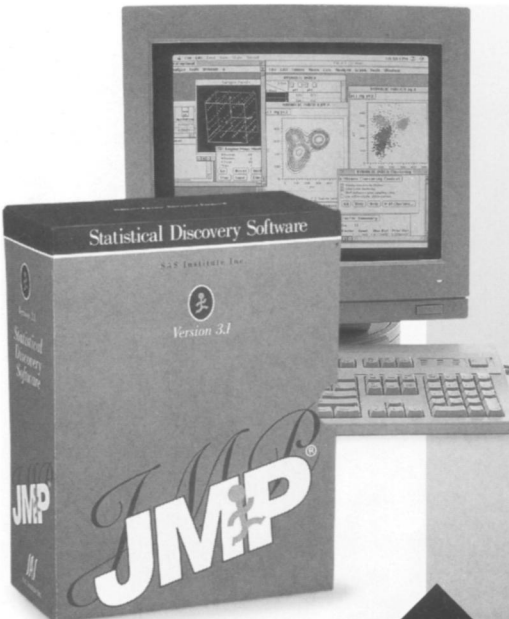
**The Hubble Wars: Astrophysics Meets Astro-politics in the Two-Billion-Dollar Struggle over the Hubble Space Telescope**—Eric J. Chaisson. A member of the Hubble team at the Space Telescope Science Institute recounts the misfortunes surrounding the launch of the Hubble Space Telescope. Chaisson offers numerous theories and explanations for what has gone wrong with Hubble, from the outset through the mission to fix the telescope's flawed vision in December 1993. Originally published in hardcover in 1994. Harper-Perennial, 1995, 386 p., b&w photos and illus. and color plates, paperback, \$15.00.

**The Mind's Fate: A Psychiatrist Looks at His Profession**—Robert Coles. Nearly half the essays in this second edition of a classic treatise on psychiatry's look at the human experience are new, complementing those which are timeless. Coles covers an impressive span of subjects, including the moral development of children, the "fever of genius" in Vincent Van Gogh, the psychological value of spiritual life, racism, even ethics. Divided into four parts, his book features social and clinical comment; the work of individuals (such as Freud and Sullivan); creativity, leadership, and "psychohistory;" and lectures (including Coles' talks on children, for which he is best known). Little, 1995, 420 p., hardcover, \$25.95.

**Overcoming Math Anxiety** — Sheila Tobias. Since the original publication of this text in 1978, Tobias has continued her research into why mathematics seems to be more difficult for women and minorities to learn. As before, she concludes that everyone possesses the mental capabilities necessary for becoming fluent in mathematics, but biases in teaching and within society lead many people to think they just are not good at math, thus causing math anxiety. Many pages are dedicated to obtaining "mathematical mental health" through hands-on learning with word problems and problem-solving techniques. Originally published in hardcover in 1994. Norton, 1995, 260 p., b&w illus., paperback, \$12.95.

**Pythagoras' Trousers: God, Physics, and the Gender Wars**—Margaret Wertheim. How is it that women have broken into many of the sciences quite effectively yet physics seems to steadfastly remain a man's domain? Science writer Wertheim blames this situation on a purported unity of religion and physics that dates back to Pythagoras' belief of numbers as gods and continues to this day with Stephen Hawking's interpretation of the Theory of Everything as the "mind of God." Wertheim argues that this religious connection kept women out of physics just as the modern priesthood does. Throughout, Wertheim bolsters her thesis by profiling the work of the originators of "religious" physics—and those women who have been able to break the barrier over time, including Lise Meitner, Marie Curie, and Emmy Noether. Times Bks, 1995, 279 p., hardcover, \$23.00.

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