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The Axemaker's Gift: A Double-Edged History of Human Culture—James Burke and Robert Ornstein. Two leading authors in history and psychology, respectively, join forces to evaluate the impact of people whose thoughts and inventions have directed and changed the world, our minds, and the values by which we live. Shamen, astronomers, printers, cardinals, engineers, philosophers, and quantum physicists are just some of the ax makers Burke and Ornstein profile as they proficiently and gracefully evaluate society as it has evolved and the perils we face today as a result of these great achievements. In conclusion, they state that they have confidence in these ax makers to help us overcome the dilemmas posed by our rapid movement into modern society. Grosset-Putnam, 1995, 348 p., hardcover, \$27.95.

The Complete Guide to Household Chemicals—Robert J. Palma with Mark Espenscheid. Chemistry professor Robert Palma tours a typical home to answer questions about products found in the kitchen, bath, laundry room, garage, living room and backyard. How does antifreeze protect a car's radiator? What is freezer burn? What is an "all fabric bleach"? How does cement differ from concrete? These are just a sampling of the questions posed and answered. Prometheus Bks, 1995, 325 p., hardcover, \$24.95.

Dr. Pitcairn's Complete Guide to Natural Health for Dogs & Cats—Richard H. and Susan Hubble Pitcairn. With the help of his wife, veterinarian Pitcairn has updated his classic guide to natural pet care. They show how to select a healthy pet and one appropriate for your lifestyle, then provide a comprehensive overview of homeopathic remedies for ailments that might develop over its lifetime. The Pitcairns stress the importance of a healthy diet in preventing disease and list the ingredients in commercial pet foods (most of which you wouldn't intentionally feed to your dog), and then outline a number of alternatives. Rodale Pr Inc, 1995, 383 p., b&w illus., paperback, \$16.95.

Five Golden Rules: Great Theories of 20th Century Mathematics—and Why They Matter—John Casti. The author of *Complexification* examines the origins of some of the most important modern mathematical discoveries and the boundless ways in which they apply to everyday problems and events such as optimizing investment returns, sending people into space, and creating modern computer technology. Casti offers the minimax theorem (game theory), the Brouwer fixed-point theorem (topology), Morse's theorem (singularity theory), the halting theorem (theory of computation), and the simplex method (optimization theory) as those with the greatest influence during the last century. Wiley, 1996, 235 p., b&w illus., hardcover, \$24.95.

Instant Physics: From Aristotle to Einstein, and Beyond—Tony Rothman. Breezily written, this often wry primer introduces the layman to the fundamentals of physics. Here "physics-lite" readers will gain insight into the theories of Greek philosophers, learn why gravity is a "romantic" force, and acquire the ability to discuss the derivation of $E=mc^2$. Fawcett, 1995, 242 p., b&w photos and illus., paperback, \$10.00.

The Physics of Immortality: Modern Cosmology, God and the Resurrection of the Dead—Frank J. Tipler. After acknowledging that many will question his contention that "...theology is a branch of physics" useful in calculating the existence of God, Tipler nonetheless ardently presents his case. He begins from a viewpoint that humans are a type of machine and the soul is just a program being run on our computerlike brains. He then goes on to argue how these machinelike attributes allow him to "prove" humans probably possess free will, shall have life after death, and that life itself "can be regarded as the cause of the universe." Originally published in hardcover in 1994. Anchor Pr, 1995, 527 p., paperback, \$14.95.

The Zone: A Dietary Road Map—Barry Sears. A pioneer in biotechnological cancer treatments presents his research into the manipulation of eicosanoid hormones through diet. Eicosanoids control virtually every human body function, from the immune system to the cardiovascular system. With the low-carbohydrate dietary regime explained here, Sears contends that people can reach a peak physical and mental level often referred to by professional athletes as "the zone," while preventing disease. HarperCollins, 1995, 286 p., hardcover, \$22.00.

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that this grand vision is to be free of charge. Two-thirds of the way through the article, he tells us that there's no such thing as a free lunch and goes on to discuss pricing and billing techniques. Which is it to be?

A family with three youngsters can check out enough books to satisfy the requirements of the moment. How do you get three kids to share a single computer at homework time?

Finally, on a blustery winter night, how do you curl up with a good computer?

*Donald Chandler
Lincoln, Calif.*

The vision is to have free access to information; the reality may prove somewhat different. Even today's public library isn't actually free—it depends on tax dollars. —R. Lipkin

As journal costs increase and library budgets decrease, many libraries are becoming marginally useful information resources. As a doctoral student in New York City, I found that about 60 percent of the articles I needed had to be acquired through interlibrary loan from libraries outside the city.

I'm looking forward to the day when all those hard-to-get journal articles are available on-line. Then again, as a librarian, I may be out of a job!

*Phil Stoffer
Brooklyn College
Brooklyn, N.Y.*

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