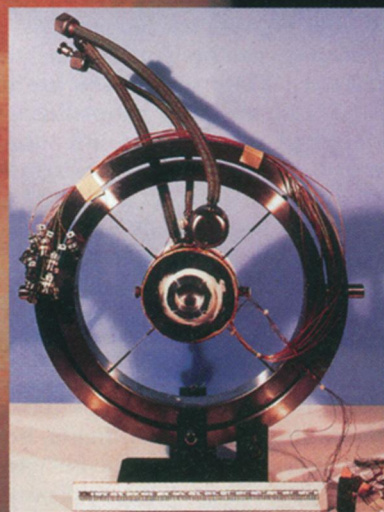


The Weekly Newsmagazine of Science

# SCIENCE NEWS

April 20, 1996  
Vol. 149, No. 16  
Pages 241-256



## Glimpsing Metallic Hydrogen

"Biophilia" is the term coined by Edward O. Wilson, author of *The Diversity of Life*, to describe what he believes is our innate affinity for the natural world. In his landmark book *Biophilia*, he examined how our tendency to focus on life and lifelike processes might be a biologically based need, integral to our development as individuals and as a species.

*The Biophilia Hypothesis* brings together the views of some of the most creative scientists of our time, each attempting to amplify and refine the concept of biophilia. The various perspectives — psychological, biological, cultural, symbolic, and aesthetic — frame the theoretical issues by presenting empirical evidence that supports or refutes the hypothesis. Numerous examples illustrate the idea that biophilia and its converse, biophobia, have a genetic component:

- people develop fear and even full-blown phobias of snakes and spiders with very little negative reinforcement
- people would rather look at water, green vegetation, or flowers than built structures of glass and concrete
- the development of language, myth, and thought appears to be greatly dependent on the use of natural symbols, particularly animals

The biophilia hypothesis, if substantiated, provides a powerful argument for the conservation of biological diversity.  
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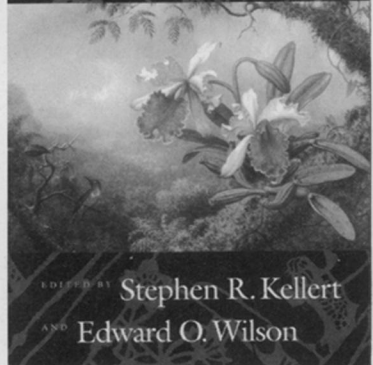
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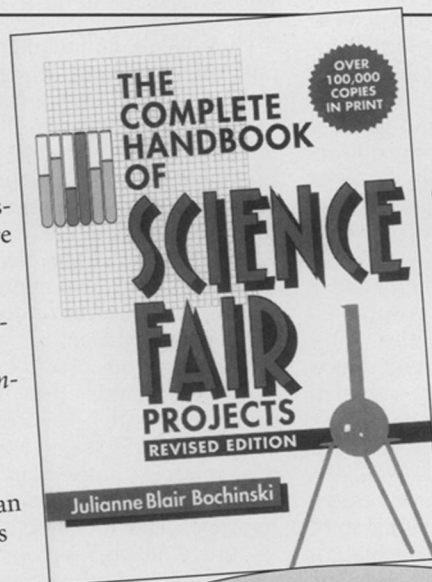
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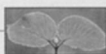
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# HOW AND WHY WE AGE

Including  
the Facts on  
Melatonin and  
Telomeres  
Our Internal  
Clocks



LEONARD HAYFLICK, Ph.D.  
With a Foreword by Robert N. Butler, M.D.

Based on more than 30 years of pioneering research in the field, preeminent cell biologist Leonard Hayflick presents what we actually know about human aging and explores the philosophical dimensions of what we believe about it. He defines the difference between biological and chronological age and takes a look at how our understanding of aging has changed through history.

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- Curing cancer would add only 2 years to the average 65-year-old American life. Curing heart disease, however, would add 14 years.
  - Hearts do not naturally get weaker with age.
  - Middle-aged people who are slightly overweight live longer than people who are very thin or very heavy.
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- from Ballantine Books

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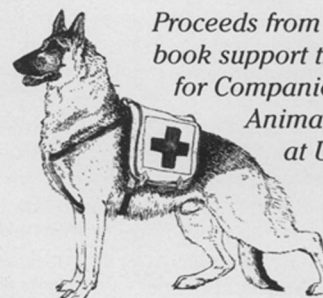
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# Book of Dogs

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