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Black Holes: A Traveler's Guide—Clifford A. Pickover. Although the Hubble Space Telescope has recently confirmed the existence of black holes, very little is known about them—keeping speculation about time travel, wormholes, and the like alive. Pickover provides an amusing tour of the known and unknown regions of black holes by exploring their composition and the possibilities of parallel universes. Indicative of his background in computer science, this is almost an interactive read as Pickover provides a wealth of experiments and computer applications that further the understanding of event horizons, tidal forces, warps, etc. Wiley, 1996, 210 p., color plates and b&w illus, hardcover, \$24.95.

Green Thumb Wisdom: Garden Myths Revealed—Doc Abraham and Katy Abraham. Old wives' tales proliferate not only in medicine but in gardening, too. This handy book sets the record straight about those tales concerning all kinds of planting. For those who believe that adding sand to clay soil improves drainage or that bonemeal makes good fertilizer, this may be worthwhile reading. Storey Comm Inc, 1996, 152 p., b&w illus., paperback, \$12.95.

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The Healthy Prostate: A Doctor's Comprehensive Program for Preventing and Treating Common Problems—Arnold Fox and Barry Fox. For both the afflicted and those looking to avoid prostate problems, this guidebook assesses your condition and offers step-by-step treatment plans and maintenance programs. Innovative as well as alternative therapies, such as cryosurgery and hydrotherapy, are analyzed as are a number of medications and the physiology of the prostate. Wiley, 1996, 244 p., b&w illus., paperback, \$14.95.

Humanity's Descent: The Consequences of Ecological Instability—Rick Potts. Adaptation to environmental change caused by climatic extremes, land uplift, and the like has been an essential element of human evolution over millions of years. Potts, an anthropologist at the Smithsonian Institution, asserts that the evolution of animals and plants is guided by the conditions in which they live as well as by the influence of other species. The environment has always been unstable, he argues, and seeing it as otherwise can be dangerous. He shows how humans have responded to environmental crises over the ages in creative and increasingly sophisticated ways. Morrow, 1996, 325 p., b&w illus., hardcover, \$25.00.

Numbers: How Many, How Long, How Far, How Much—Andrea Sutcliffe. An extremely handy reference, this guide is a kind of almanac minus the maps and history. It lists currency exchanges and loan amounts, the length of a typical human and a common nail, the distance between Barcelona and Brussels, prime numbers and metric conversions, zip codes and area codes. HarperPerennial, 1996, 630 p., b&w illus., paperback, \$20.00.

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Addison Wesley, 1993, 109 pages, 5'/4" x 8'/4", paperback, \$12.95

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322

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