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**Are We Alone? Philosophical Implications of the Discovery of Extraterrestrial Life**—Paul Davies. What if NASA's Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence (SETI) project were actually to receive a transmission from outer space indicating that life exists beyond Earth? Davies contends that such a discovery—the "greatest discovery of all time"—would drastically change our views of science, religion, and the world in general. He goes on to explore the ramifications of an extraterrestrial presence on quantum theory, mind and matter, consciousness, and time. Originally published in hardcover in 1995. Basic, 1996, 160 p., b&w illus., paperback, \$12.00.

**The Beauty of the Beastly: New Views on the Nature of Life**—Natalie Angier. Written with the flair that earned Angier a Pulitzer prize, these 40 essays relay through vibrant imagery the similarities between depression in monkeys and in humans, both of which respond to Prozac; similar play habits of most young animals; and the work habits of ants. In seven sections—loving, dancing, slithering, adapting, healing, creating, and dying—some of the best-kept secrets of virtually every field of the biological sciences are revealed with wit and insight. Originally published in hardcover in 1995. HM, 1996, 278 p., paperback, \$12.95.

**Holography Handbook: Making Holograms the Easy Way**—Fred Unterseher, Jeannene Hansen, Bob Schlesinger. Illustrations, diagrams, and text guide readers through every step of hologram production, including selection of a location, how to make holograms, how to build or where to acquire the equipment needed, what to do with it, and what results to expect. The authors cover both basic and advanced procedures and offer insight into holography's future. Ross Bks, 1996, 408 p., paperback, \$32.50.

**The Practical Pediatrician: An A-Z Guide to Your Child's Health, Behavior, and Safety**—Howard Markel and Frank A. Oski. The focus of this guide extends beyond the traditional realm of ailments to behavioral and developmental issues. Arranged alphabetically, common problems, such as diaper rash, are interspersed with more complicated ones, such as dealing with separation anxiety or sleep disorders. A fold-out immunization chart proves handy, as do pages devoted to what to expect and when to go for well-baby visits. WH Freeman, 1996, 364 p., b&w illus., paperback, \$16.95.

**Queer Science: The Use and Abuse of Research into Homosexuality**—Simon LeVay. In 1991, LeVay published in *SCIENCE* a groundbreaking, yet admittedly inconclusive, study showing structural differences between the brains of homosexual and heterosexual men that suggest homosexuality is inborn rather than chosen. LeVay now presents a well-balanced, adroit look at the history of such research, from its change of focus from psychoanalytical to genetic causes and the moral and social implications of this change. MIT Pr, 1996, 364 p., hardcover, \$25.00.

**Searching for Memory: The Brain, the Mind, and the Past**—Daniel L. Schacter. In this cogent exploration of the way human memory works, Schacter combines findings from the latest research—including brain-imaging techniques—with fascinating case studies and examples from everyday life. He leads readers through the processes by which the brain stores and retrieves information, explaining that what we define as memory is not one, but several different systems that enable us to recall specific events from the past, learn skills, and maintain our general knowledge of the world. He challenges the validity of repressed memory, arguing that memory can be unreliable. The effect of disease on memory and the role memory plays in literature and art complete this fascinating work. Basic, 1996, 398 p., hardcover, \$27.00.

**Xeriscape Plant Guide**—Denver Water and American Water Works Association. The focus here is purely on plants—shrubs, perennials, vines, shade plants—that thrive with very little water in unadulterated soil. While most beneficial for desert regions, these plants can be grown in 90 percent of the United States. Listed alphabetically, each plant profile features information about use, size, characteristics, native regions, and cultivation, along with color illustrations and photos that show how the plant looks through the seasons, if pertinent. Fulcrum Pub, 1996, 184 p., color photos and illus., hardcover, \$34.95.

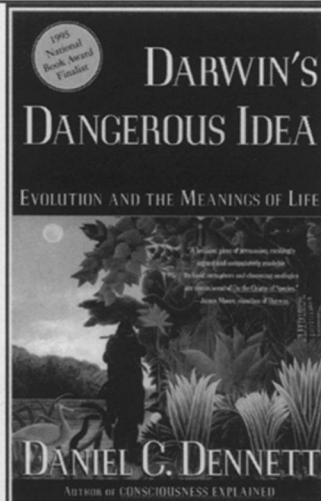
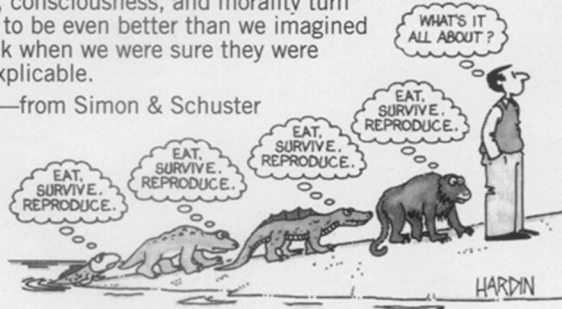
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**I**n this groundbreaking book, Daniel C. Dennett, the acclaimed author of *Consciousness Explained*, demonstrates the power of the theory of natural selection and shows how Darwin's great idea transforms and illuminates our traditional view of our place in the universe. He explains the scientific theory of natural selection in vivid terms and shows how it extends far beyond biology.

Dennett lays out the current controversies about the origin of life, punctuated equilibrium, sociobiology, the evolution of language and culture, and evolutionary ethics. He exposes the philosophical—even religious—yearnings that have distorted disputes among scientists and laypeople alike. He challenges the views of some of the most famous scientists of our day, including Stephen Jay Gould and Roger Penrose, extending Darwin's vision with impeccable arguments to their often surprising conclusions.

There is nothing sacred, in the traditional sense of the word, Dennett claims, but everything we have always held sacred is still of the greatest value—still morally important. Darwinism does not destroy meaning, but puts it on a new, better foundation. Dennett shows how the "miracles" of life, consciousness, and morality turn out to be even better than we imagined back when we were sure they were inexplicable.

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