

# Books

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**Ancestral Passions: The Leakey Family and the Quest for Humankind's Beginnings**—Virginia Morell. This biography of the premier family in the field of paleoanthropology begins with the early life of Leakey patriarch Louis. From there, Morell recounts Leakey's union with his second wife and partner, Mary, and their discovery at Olduvai Gorge, which confirmed Louis' belief that humans originated in Africa. The accomplishments and competition of his son Richard add other dimensions to this tale, which weaves great scientific adventure and discovery with compelling personal and professional triumphs and obstacles. Originally published in hardcover in 1995. Touchstone Bks, 1996, 638 p., b&w plates, paperback, \$16.00.

**And the Blood Cried Out: A Prosecutor's Spellbinding Account of the Power of DNA**—Harlan Levy. A prosecutor known for his expertise in DNA evidence dissects 14 high-profile criminal cases in which such evidence affected the outcome and shows how the evidence was used in the courtroom. He illustrates how DNA evidence is sometimes deemed completely credible and at other times, such as during the O.J. Simpson trial, can be successfully attacked. Levy combines the science of DNA with true crime stories to show science in action. Basic, 1996, 223 p., hardcover, \$24.00.

**The Bird in the Waterfall: A Natural History of Oceans, Rivers, and Lakes**—Jerry Dennis. This celebration of seeping springs and tidal bores, whirligig beetles, and manatees is enhanced by effective line drawings by Glenn Wolff, in this mix of scientific research, historical anecdote, folklore, and personal observation. In all, Dennis confronts conundrums such as: Why do rivers meander? How do migrating marine animals navigate so unerringly through the ocean? and Why do we throw coins in fountains? HarpC, 1996, 340 p., b&w illus., hardcover, \$26.00.

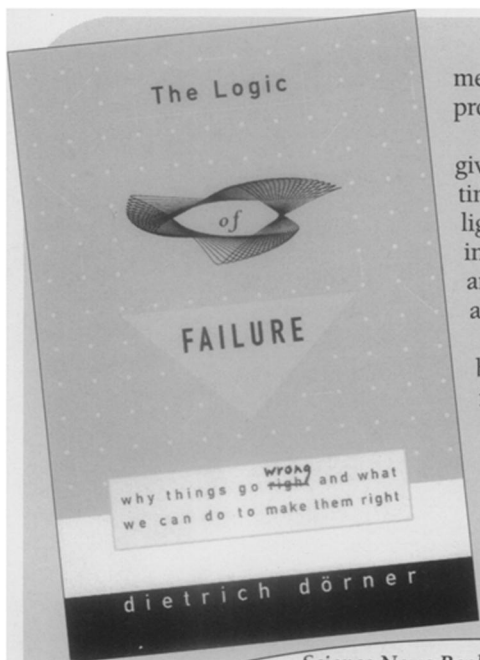
**Online Kids: A Young Surfer's Guide to Cyberspace**—Preston Gralla. This guide introduces youngsters and their parents to the World Wide Web and those sites most interesting to children. Chat groups with athletes and scientists, the President's E-mail address, the address for the NASA Shuttle Web, and sites to help with homework are introduced and outlined. Broken into topics, each entry has a "usefulness index" and a "cool index." Wiley, 1996, 282 p., b&w illus., paperback, \$14.95.

**Sixty Years of Biology: Essays on Evolution and Development**—John Tyler Bonner. The author of *Life Cycles* expounds on that work in this collection of essays comparing basic biological processes, from molecular interactions through multicellular development to behavior and social interactions. Instrumental in the development of biology as an experimental science, Bonner covers many facets of the field, including self-organization/competition and natural selection, gene accumulation and gene silencing, and the division of labor in organisms at all levels, from cellular to social. Princeton U Pr, 1996, 143 p., b&w illus., hardcover, \$24.95.

**Skyscrapers**—Judith Dupré. Unique in that its shape reflects the exaggerated height of skyscrapers, this book tours 50 of the greatest such structures from around the world. Historical snapshots relay the architectural, fireproofing, and other obstacles, both social and economic, that had to be overcome to complete these mammoth creations. Vital statistics include a brief, but thorough, look at how each building was built and are accompanied by very tall full-page pictures. Black Dog & Leventhal, 1996, 127 p., b&w photos, hardcover, \$19.98.

**Yellow Fever, Black Goddess: The Coevolution of People and Plagues**—Christopher Wills. Wills examines from a biologist's perspective how disruptions in ecosystems pave the way for epidemics and pandemics, though not necessarily for endemic diseases, which afflict every species of plants and animals. Wills focuses on the struggle of the microbes themselves and shows how disease has driven the biological diversity of the planet. He provides a basic understanding of the evolutionary environment in which disease-causing organisms thrive, including tropical breeding grounds and resistant temperate zones, in order to show how we can attempt to control disease. Addison-Wesley, 1996, 324 p., b&w illus., hardcover, \$24.00.

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Why do trains crash when the signals are working? Why does a nuclear reactor melt down with all operators alert at their posts? Why do so many of our best-laid professional and personal plans so often go awry?

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—from Metropolitan Books

Metropolitan Books, 1996, 222 pages,  
6 1/4" x 9 1/4", hardcover, \$25.00

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