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Comet of the Century: From Halley to Hale-Bopp—Fred Schaaf. Capable of outshining a full moon, stretching their tails across most of the sky, almost completely reversing direction in mere hours while traveling at speeds greater than a million miles an hour, and grazing the surface of the sun and surviving, comets also possess the ability to cause mass destruction. As we await the arrival of what is potentially "the comet of the century"—Hale-Bopp—this spring, fascination with comets is intensifying. Schaaf reflects on past comets, such as Halley, blending lore with first-hand accounts of these sightings, technical information, and methods for optimum viewing of Hale-Bopp in the months to come. Copernicus, 1997, 384 p., b&w plates/photos/illus., hardcover, \$29.00.

The Five Biggest Ideas in Science—Charles M. Wynn and Arthur W. Wiggins. Is it possible to explain science by focusing on just a few ideas? Wynn and Wiggins elaborate on five ideas they think go a long way toward doing just that: the model of the atom, the periodic law, Big Bang theory, plate tectonics, and evolution. By combining an analysis of each of these elements with discussion of the scientific method and benefit-risk analysis, the authors provide an interesting and informative introduction to science. Wiley, 1997, 200 p., b&w illus., paperback, \$14.95.

Kasparov versus Deep Blue: Computer Chess Comes of Age—Monty Newborn. Newborn tracks the history of computer technology as it runs neck-and-neck with the greatest chess minds of modern times. Beginning chapters alternate between the accomplishments of early computer chess programs such as KAISSA, BELLE, and GRAY BLITZ and up-and-coming human chess masters. Laden with hundreds of game scenarios played out in tournaments over the last 30 years, the book climaxes with play-by-play accounts of 41 games played by Deep Blue, as well as those in which Kasparov prevailed over the computerized chess master. Springer-Verlag, 1997, 322 p., b&w photos & illus., hardcover, \$29.95.

Next of Kin: Great Fossils at the American Museum of Natural History—Lowell Dingus. Designed to impart the feeling of climbing the vertebrate evolutionary tree, the refurbished halls of one of the finest fossil collections in the world are full of hundreds of specimens, from the Barosaurus to mastodons. Laden with stunning new and archival photographs, this guidebook intertwines descriptive text about the displays with information on how the fossils were reconstructed as well as a behind-the-scenes look at how the exhibits are arranged and selected. Rizzoli Intl, 1996, 160 p., color photos, hardcover, \$40.00.

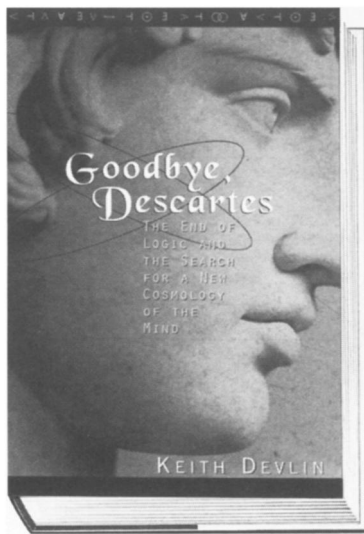
Osler's Web: Inside the Labyrinth of the Chronic Fatigue Syndrome Epidemic—Hillary Johnson. By chronicling case after case of chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS) and its ancestors, Lake Tahoe disease and Yuppie flu, Johnson captures the reactions, research, and trends associated with CFS. Johnson has herself recovered from the disease. She argues that a virus as potentially infectious as AIDS is afoot and that the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will not acknowledge it because many physicians feel CFS is a psychosomatic disorder. Originally published in hardcover in 1996. Penguin Bks, 1997, 720 p., paperback, \$15.95.

Prostate Cancer: A Family Consultation—Philip Kantoff with Malcolm McConnell. Written from the perspective of a leading oncology researcher at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Harvard Medical School, this book explores the realm of prostate cancer from its earliest stages, now detectable with a blood test, to more advanced stages. Alternative as well as standard treatment options are presented, along with a complete description of the workings of the prostate. HM, 244 p., b&w illus., paperback, \$15.00.

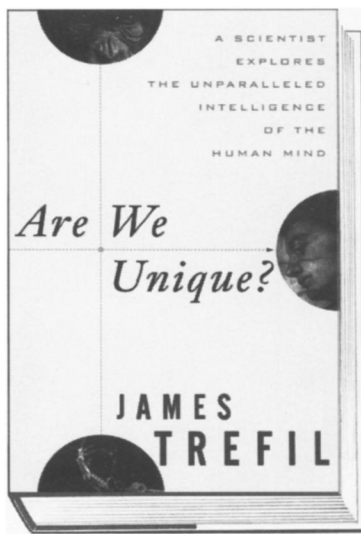
The Rarest of the Rare: Vanishing Animals, Timeless Worlds—Diane Ackerman. As a means of celebrating a few endangered things, Ackerman eloquently chronicles her first-hand experiences with six of the rarest animals and ecosystems in the world: the monk seal, short-tailed albatross, golden lion tamarin, the Amazon region, insects of the Florida scrublands, and the migration of the monarch butterfly, an "endangered phenomenon." Originally published in hardcover in 1995. Vin, 1997, 184 p., paperback, \$12.00.

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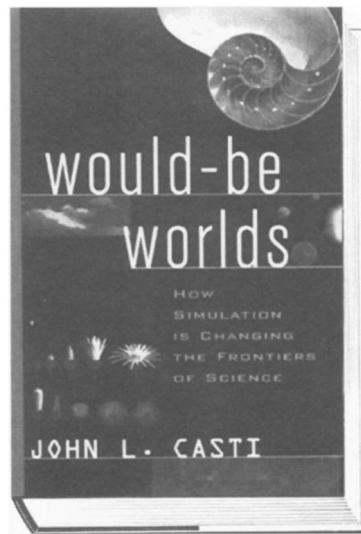
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