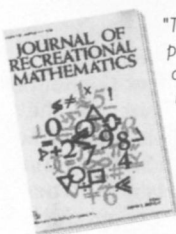


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**The Idea of Biodiversity: Philosophies of Paradise**—David Takacs. The term "biodiversity" has become ubiquitous in recent years, bringing to the forefront the importance of a variety of species working in tandem to form viable ecosystems. Takacs excerpts 23 conversations with leading conservation biologists whose life's work is to promote the values and longevity of biodiversity. A chapter is devoted to the founder of biodiversity, E.O. Wilson. Takacs also visits Costa Rica's National Institute of Biodiversity to show how biologists are reshaping the way Costa Ricans view nature. Johns Hopkins, 1996, 393 p., hardcover, \$35.95.

**Impure Science: AIDS, Activism, and the Politics of Knowledge**—Steven Epstein. AIDS has produced the most knowledgeable, proactive patient-advocacy groups in medical history. Epstein, a sociologist, examines the impact of these groups on the credibility of the scientific establishment and on policy makers, who appear likely to change the way drugs are approved and research is conducted as a result. Based on his dissertation, Epstein takes a thorough, scholarly, and unimpassioned approach to his subject matter as he lays out the history of AIDS research and the democratization of medical research in general. U CA Pr, 1996, 466 p., hardcover, \$29.95.

**Laboratory Earth: The Planetary Gamble We Can't Afford to Lose**—Stephen H. Schneider. One of the earliest prophets of global warming briefly assesses the history of climate and the effects of pollutants on global climate change. As an "Earth Systems Scientist," Schneider makes evaluations holistically, by incorporating physical, biological, and social sciences into his studies. Through discussion of the Gaia hypothesis, the demise of the dinosaurs, and the likelihood of an impending ice age, Schneider offers surprisingly upbeat theories for how to avert climatic disaster in the next century, using advances such as those in climate modeling. Basic, 1997, 174 p., b&w illus., hardcover, \$20.00.

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**Life Itself: Exploring the Realm of the Living Cell**—Boyce Rensberger. At the center of the most prevalent and life-threatening ailments facing humans are cells gone awry. Rensberger, a science writer for the *WASHINGTON POST*, surveys advancements in molecular and cell research in recent years as scientists strive to comprehend the underpinnings of the cell and grasp the nature of life and how it works. After reading his thorough, detailed explanation of how cells move, heal, and die, one understands the sequence of cellular events necessary to precipitate cancer, for example, and why AIDS is so hard to defeat. OUP, 1996, 290 p., b&w illus., hardcover, \$30.00.

**A Mood Apart: Depression, Mania, and Other Afflictions of the Self**—Peter C. Whybrow. By concentrating on the extremes of mood disorders, Whybrow shows how the brain functions and what happens when our "emotional homeostasis" is disturbed. Emotional homeostasis balances our interaction with the world. Three disturbances exhibited in mood disorders—thinking, bodily functions, and emotional communication—indicate an imbalance in emotional homeostasis. In this treatise, Whybrow, a psychiatrist, blends hundreds of case studies with advances in neurobiology to show how psychiatric drugs work and how those drugs and talk therapy work together to restore emotional homeostasis. Basic, 1997, 363 p., hardcover, \$24.00.

**A Natural History of Amphibians**—Robert C. Stebbins and Nathan W. Cohen. Two professors experienced in the study of amphibians present an overview of amphibian groups, as well as their populations, taxonomic relationships, how and where they live and reproduce, how they interact with one another and their environment, and the evolutionary processes likely to shape the future of these toads, frogs, salamanders, and caecilians. Originally published in hardcover in 1995. Princeton U Pr, 1997, 316 p., b&w illus., paperback, \$19.95.

**The Penguin Historical Atlas of the Dinosaurs**—Michael Benton. Assembled in handbook format, this guide traces the history of dinosaurs and places each species within its geographic and evolutionary context using a wide variety of maps and other illustrations. Discoveries of dinosaurs and a basic understanding of how these creatures fit into the time line of all living things introduce sections on the Triassic, Jurassic, and Cretaceous periods and the various species that dominated and were then extinguished in each era. Penguin, 1996, 144 p., color photos and illus., paperback, \$16.95.

**Race and Human Evolution: A Fatal Attraction**—Milford Wolpoff and Rachel Caspari. In this book, two anthropologists lay assault to the prevailing out-of-Africa theory, which posits that modern humans are the descendants of a single, relatively recent African Eve whose offspring spread throughout the world and were replaced by related species. Instead, Wolpoff and Caspari argue, several small populations left Africa much earlier and spread to many regions, where they mixed and evolved into the various human races that exist today. In their case for multiregionalism, they argue that the evidence gleaned from the fossil record does not always coincide with the mitochondrial DNA data, which points to a single Eve. They also show how skulls of ancient humans indicate a connectedness. S&S, 1997, 462 p., b&w illus., hardcover, \$26.00.