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Countdown: A History of Space Flight—T.A. Heppenheimer. With the unveiling of Soviet documents and classified CIA documents, the whole story of the space programs can now be told. Heppenheimer describes the feats of both countries, from the first rocket scientists working out of wine cellars with cocktail shakers as tools to men walking on the moon. He also reveals the politics of these endeavors. Khrushchev, for example, began the space program in order to convince Third World countries of Soviet technological prowess. Kennedy countered with a push to the moon, which was facilitated by a U.S. space program launched by the CIA and the Air Force. Wiley, 1997, 398 p., b&w plates, hardcover, \$30.00.

Leaves: In Myth, Magic & Medicine—Alice Thoms Vitale. Open this charming book to revisit the story of Johnny Appleseed, to learn how sage repels insects, to garner the curative properties of sagebrush, and to identify the leaves of more than 100 trees, shrubs, and woody vines. In a unique presentation, Vitale blends the basics—Latin and English names, location, and special characteristics—with descriptions of the leaves' medicinal uses over the ages, a historical quote about the plant, and the role of the leaf in old and modern cultures. Images of the leaves were produced by rolling an actual specimen in ink and applying it to paper. Stewart Tabori & Chang, 1997, 351 p., illus., hardcover, \$29.95.

Mirrors in Mind—Richard Gregory. Mirrors make cats' eyes shine. On a philosophical level, mirrors reflect objective perceptions to create subjective thoughts. Ancients probably thought that mirror images suggest the mind and soul are separate from the body. Mirrors in science, art, and history are covered in this book, which spans the ages and helps the reader understand the varied perspectives of reflections as well as the technological aspects of mirrors and optics. WH Freeman, 1997, 302 p., color plates/b&w photos/illus., hardcover, \$26.95.

The Science of Jurassic Park and the Lost World: Or, How to Build a Dinosaur—Rob DeSalle and David Lindley. While the story of *Jurassic Park* has mesmerized millions, is it really possible to recreate dinosaurs from ancient DNA? SCIENCE NEWS associate editor Lindley and DeSalle, a DNA specialist from the American Museum of Natural History, weave their way through the intricacies of such an endeavor, from how dinosaur DNA would have to be isolated to who would "teach" the creature to be a dinosaur and the ethics involved. With wit and a sound dose of basic genetics, the authors explain why suitable dinosaur DNA will never be found in the Costa Rican setting of the movie—New Jersey would actually be a prime spot—and how many goats would actually have to be sacrificed per day in a "real" Jurassic Park. Basic, 1997, 194 p., b&w photos/illus., hardcover, \$18.00.

Snakes: The Evolution of Mystery in Nature—Harry W. Greene. In what is surely one of the most thorough herpetological texts ever produced, Greene's text is accessible to both a general and a specialized audience. Issues related to the biology of all snakes and characteristics unique to the major groups of snakes: boas, colubrids, sea snakes, vipers, and so on are detailed. A bibliography with more than 800 listings and numerous color photographs round out this authoritative volume. U CA Pr, 1997, 351 p., color photos, hardcover, \$45.00.

Why Toast Lands Jelly-Side Down: Zen and the Art of Physics Demonstrations—Robert Ehrlich. If you find the task of illustrating and humanizing the fundamental principles of the physical world daunting, Ehrlich offers a series of easy "demos" that are virtually foolproof and well described. Some of the 100 demos include Terminal Velocity of Falling Coffee Filters, Dropping Two Rolls of Toilet Paper, and the "Tachyon Telephone." Princeton U Pr, 1997, 196 p., b&w illus., paperback, \$14.95.

Yes, We Have No Neutrons: An Eye-Opening Tour Through the Twists and Turns of Bad Science—A.K. Dewdney. In a book dedicated to notorious debunker Martin Gardner, Dewdney, presents eight of the best-known cases of bad science. Thus the book stars cold fusion, N rays, Binet's IQ theory, Biosphere 2, neural nets, and even Sigmund Freud. By closely scrutinizing cases of science gone awry, he illustrates the value of sticking to the scientific method and shows what happens when scientists deviate from it—especially when the deviations are palatable to the news media. Wiley, 1997, 180 p., b&w illus., hardcover, \$22.95.

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