

Books

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Bats in Question: The Smithsonian Answer Book—Don E. Wilson. Some have faces that resemble pigs and foxes. Others look like dogs and cats. But one need not worry about any of these bats flying into your hair—just invading your space as they come in for a closer inspection. In a thoroughly indexed question and answer format, the realm of the bat, including biological factors, conservation status, evolutionary history, impact on ecosystems, and habits is dissected and profusely illustrated. Almost one quarter of the world's mammal species are bat varieties. This book is a guide to identifying these creatures and clearing up some of the myths surrounding them. Smithsonian, 1997, 168 p., color photos, paperback, \$24.95.

Dominion—Niles Eldredge. The Bible says that God intended humans to have "dominion . . . over every creeping thing," but Eldredge argues that this is a dangerous myth that continues to be perpetuated in spite of ecological upheaval. Eldredge first discusses what we know about human evolution and humankind's interactions with the environment through the ages. He follows with a discourse on how long we can continue to be separated from global ecology and what ramifications genetic engineering will have on population control and food supplies. Originally published in hardcover in 1995. U CA Pr, 1997, 190 p., paperback, \$11.95.

The End of Certainty: Time, Chaos, and the New Laws of Nature—Ilya Prigogine. Contrary to what is assumed in other sciences, many physicists assert that there is no fundamental arrow of time—in other words, no objective distinction between past and future. Prigogine claims that the new physics of non-equilibrium processes—which has opened the door to such concepts as self-organization, dissipative structures, and the chaotic behavior of unstable systems—has led to a reinvention of the concept of irreversibility and a credible definition of unidirectional time. For 40 years, Prigogine has worked on this problem, and here he outlines recent progress in order to better explain non-equilibrium and complexity. In conclusion, he finds that quantum mechanics is not time-reversible and that time actually preceded the Big Bang. Originally published in France in 1996. Free Pr, 1997, 228 p., hardcover, \$24.00.

Feeling Dizzy: Understanding and Treating Dizziness, Vertigo, and Other Balance Disorders—Brian W. Blakley and Mary-Ellen Siegel. Not everyone who feels "dizzy" suffers from vertigo. This guide helps individuals discern the difference and grasp how the vestibular system controls balance and position. For the benefit of the 5 million people each year who seek treatment for vertigo, this book also explains how to cope and what other ailments vertigo signals. Originally published in hardcover in 1995. Macmillan, 1997, 244 p., paperback, \$14.95.

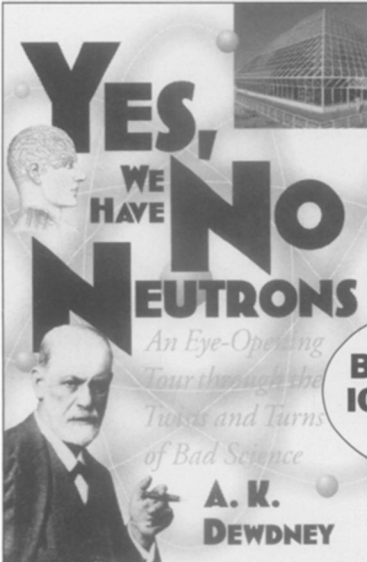
The Fire Within the Eye: A Historical Essay on the Nature and Meaning of Light—David Park. From Greek and Neoplatonic philosophy to Galileo and the modern world of laser and optical technology, Park shows how ideas about light have evolved and explains why people were inclined to believe as they did, especially when influenced by ideas about God and astrology. Princeton U Pr, 1997, 377 p., color plates, b&w photos/illus., hardcover, \$29.95.

Managing 00: Surviving the Year 2000 Computing Crisis—Peter de Jager and Richard Bergeon. The majority of computing systems are unable to distinguish the year 2000 from the year 1900. The lack of interest among businesspeople about this fact stuns de Jager and Bergeon, who envision society stumbling to a halt on January 1, 2000; trouble calculating future loan payments and the like has already occurred. The authors assess the problem and offer management ideas to cope with the complex, time-consuming, and costly solutions that, so far, seem not to be yielding any quick fixes. Wiley, 1997, 226 p., paperback, \$19.99.

Why Is Sex Fun? The Evolution of Human Sexuality—Jared Diamond. Humans are virtually unique in their habit of engaging in sexual intercourse for pleasure, not just procreation. Diamond, a physiologist and an evolutionary biologist, assesses our evolutionary past to discover why this is so and argues that this sexual tendency is at least as important to overall human development as walking upright and having a large brain. Among other human sexual oddities covered are menopause, having sex in private, and the role of men in human societies. Basic, 1997, 165 p., hardcover, \$20.00.

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Yes, We Have No Neutrons
An Eye-Opening Tour through the Twists and Turns of Bad Science
A. K. DEWDNEY

N rays
Cold Fusion
Binet's IQ theory

In this lively excursion, the acclaimed author of *200% of Nothing* takes a fun-filled, in-depth look at eight famous (or rather, *infamous*) cases of bad science: highly touted discoveries or projects that are astonishing examples of serious scientific slipups. Originally trumpeted as impressive projects full of promise, some of this century's most publicized studies—SETI (the search for extraterrestrial intelligence), Binet's IQ theory, neural nets—have been fatally flawed. From the alleged detection of N rays to the Biosphere 2 debacle, *Yes, We Have No Neutrons* unveils exactly what went wrong.

A.K. Dewdney takes us behind the scenes to reveal why bad science occurs, whether due to faulty methodology or flawed interpretations of results. In some instances, researchers—amateur as well as experienced—neglected key ingredients of the scientific method, leading to conclusions that were either not feasible or simply could not be reproduced. That accounts for the unfortunate circumstance of not only René Blondlot and his N rays, but also Frank Drake and his failed Project Ozma. In other cases, overzealous researchers declare their conclusions without strong proof, the results can lead to such notorious findings as the now infamous cold fusion discovery.

In *Yes, We Have No Neutrons*, Dewdney's sharp-eyed wit offers irrefutable proof that bad science makes great reading!

—from John Wiley & Sons

*John Wiley & Sons, 1997, 180 pages
 6 1/4" x 9 1/2", hardcover, \$22.95*

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