

# Books

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**Adventuring in the California Desert**—Lynne Foster. Despite its barren terrain, the California desert is rich in opportunities for bird-watching, hiking, and anthropological tours. This guide expertly details hundreds of adventures as well as how best to prepare for the unusual climate. The book begins with complete background information on the natural history and the plant and animal life of the desert. It then provides guided tours, directions, and details about the facilities at Joshua Tree National Park, Indian Wells, the Mojave National Preserve, and many others. Sierra, 1997, 496 p., b&w photos/illus., paperback, \$16.00.

**Curing Cancer: Solving One of the Greatest Medical Mysteries of Our Time**—Michael Waldholz. Advances in genetics have had probably their greatest impact on the causes of and treatments for cancer. Waldholz, science editor of the *WALL STREET JOURNAL*, candidly portrays the work and politics of several researchers who focus on such advances. Two key players in Waldholz' story are Bert Vogelstein, who discovered the tumor-suppressing power of the *p53* gene, thus substantiating the idea that cancer begins in a single cell and grows unchecked, and Mary-Claire King, whose argument that cancer is inherited has been validated in studies of breast cancer. Waldholz also interviews families facing some of the ethical dilemmas posed by genetic testing. S&S, 318 p., 1997, b&w plates, hardcover, \$24.00.

**The Flight From Science and Reason**—Paul R. Gross, Norman Levitt, and Martin W. Lewis. These proceedings reflect the views of 40 scholars, scientists, and other experts who spoke at a 1995 conference of this title at the New York Academy of Sciences. The breadth of the subject matter is as deep and weighty as the volume itself, ranging from particle physics to religion, from feminism to education. Each author speaks strongly to critics of the scientific method and to those who acquiesce to mystics, radical environmentalists, and creationists. They also issue a powerful exhortation to turn back this trend and revert to reliance on reason and logic. NY Acad Sci, 1997, 593 p., paperback, \$19.95.

**The Headache Alternative: A Neurologist's Guide to Drug-Free Relief**—Alexander Mauskop and Marietta Abrams Brill. Covering both conventional and a wealth of alternative remedies for headache pain, this guide helps readers understand different kinds of headaches and the elements of one's diet and environment that trigger them. Mauskop, a neurologist and licensed acupuncturist, is director of the New York Headache Center. The approaches he describes range from the physical to mind-body to botanical, but the key to treatment, he says, is prevention of attacks by monitoring the triggers. DTP, 1997, 411 p., paperback, \$13.95.

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**Next of Kin: What Chimpanzees Have Taught Me About Who We Are**—Roger Fouts. After teaching American Sign Language to a chimp named Washoe, Fouts began a staggering journey into the anthropology of chimpanzees and the plight of captive chimps in research facilities. Fouts' kinship with Washoe over the last 30 years has produced a profound understanding of the similarities between chimp and human, both emotional and intellectual. It has also given Fouts, a writer with a gift for narrative prose, insight into our ability to speak. As much a biography of Washoe as of the author, this portrayal of two closely bonded creatures provides an intimate, riveting look at scientific research. Morrow, 1997, 420 p., b&w plates, hardcover, \$25.00.

**On the Market: Surviving the Academic Job Search**—Christina Boufis and Victoria C. Olsen. Forty or so PhDs impart their personal perspective on finding a teaching or research position in the midst of stiff competition, low pay, and fewer openings. For example, some write about their climb to a tenured professorship, while others teach in prison. Rejection, politics, financial hardship, and hindsight are all facets of this anthology, which is alternately insightful, bitter, and comical. Riverhead, 1997, 381 p., paperback, \$12.95.

**Questioning the Millennium: A Rationalist's Guide to a Precisely Arbitrary Countdown**—Stephen Jay Gould. Rather than play Nostradamus, He tackles the fundamental questions of what, why, and when is the millennium anyhow? Gould wittily explores the role of Jesus, the appropriate celebration date, and an amazingly accurate date-counting autistic man in grasping this 1,000-year phenomenon. Harmony, 1997, 190 p., b&w illus., hardcover, \$17.95.

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