

## Books

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**Beyond Star Trek: Physics from Alien Invasions to the End of Time**—Lawrence M. Krauss. Krauss is skilled at explaining the complexities of the physical world by grounding them in popular culture and science fiction. In this follow-up to his successful book *The Physics of Star Trek*, Krauss looks at the television show *The X Files* and the motion picture *Independence Day*, among others, to present cosmological conundrums. Aliens like those in the blockbuster movie would probably have arrived on Earth only to find it devastated by meteorological phenomena brought about by the gravitational effects of their spaceships. The basics of quantum mechanics, advances in warp-drive systems, and the possibility of extraterrestrial life are deftly considered. Basic, 1997, 190 pages, hardcover, \$21.00.

**The Columbia Presbyterian Osteoarthritis Handbook: The Complete Guide to the Most Common Form of Arthritis**—Ronald P. Grelsamer and Suzanne Loebel, eds. The first of this book's two parts explains what osteoarthritis is and how it is treated through exercise, diet, and medication. The second treats the question of surgery, providing information about the replacement of particular joints and the specifics of surgery and the rehabilitation process. The appendix, written in a question-and-answer format, addresses a wide variety of concerns that patients may have. Originally published in hardcover in 1996. Macmillan, 1997, 278 p., paperback, \$14.95.

**Good Natured: The Origins of Right and Wrong in Humans and Other Animals**—Frans de Waal. Are animals like elephants and monkeys moral beings, or is morality exclusive to humans? In this intriguing glimpse into the growing field of cognitive ethology, de Waal argues that morality is grounded in the biology of all animals and is a product of evolution. On the basis of hundreds of observations of creatures from marine animals to primates, he describes numerous instances of compassion, cooperation, and conflict resolution. Originally published in hardcover in 1996. HUP, 1997, 296 p., b&w plates and illus., paperback, \$14.95.

**The Handy Space Answer Book**—Phillis Engelbert and Diane L. Dupuis. Set up like the game of *Jeopardy* in reverse, categories ranging from comets to the Whipple Observatory are presented in a question-and-answer format. Technical concepts are mixed with trivia, which in turn provide a background for the history and makeup of outer space. Visible Ink Pr, 1998, 576 p., b&w photos, paperback, \$17.95.

**How Do Astronauts Scratch an Itch?**—David Feldman. The guru of Imponderables® replies to a host of conundrums posed by readers of his previous titles. Among the tidbits not likely to be listed in your typical desk reference are answers to such questions as, Why are saltwater fish more colorful than freshwater fish? Is there any logic to the arrangement of numbers on a dartboard? Why do birds bother to fly back North? and Why do bees buzz? Originally published in hardcover in 1996. Berkeley, 1997, 315 p., b&w illus., paperback, \$13.00.

**The Number Sense: How the Mind Creates Mathematics**—Stanislas Dehaene. Cognitive neuroscience and mathematics collide as Dehaene argues that animals such as pigeons and raccoons can perform simple calculations and that infants as young as 4 days possess a rudimentary number sense. Dehaene's study of new brain imaging techniques, idiot savants, and mathematical prodigies illustrates humankind's innate ability to comprehend numerical data. Conversely, he reports on people with brain lesions that impede their ability to figure correctly; some may argue, for example, that  $2+2=3$ . The author uses his data to assess and propose alternative ways of teaching mathematics. OUP, 1997, 274 p., b&w photos/illus., hardcover, \$25.00.

**The Trees in My Forest**—Bernd Heinrich. While some nature writers seek out exotic locales for inspiration, Heinrich looks no farther than the 300-acre forest in his backyard. In this almost biographical book, Heinrich devotes his attention to individual, diverse aspects of this haven, describing, for example, the role of acorns and squirrels among the trees, the dynamics of the DNA of an apple seed, and the time-keeping mechanisms of a tree. Cliff Street Bks, 1997, 239 p., color plates/b&w illus., hardcover, \$24.00.

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