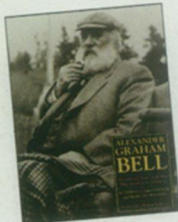


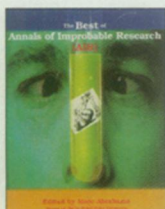
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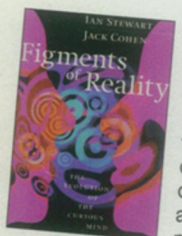
**Alexander Graham Bell: The Life and Times of the Man Who Invented the Telephone**—by Edwin S. Grosvenor and Morgan Wesson. On the anniversary of Bell's 150th birthday, his grandson teams with documentary producer Wesson

to produce a retrospective of Bell's career and personal life, as well as the history of the telephone industry. Grosvenor plumbed the family's obviously extensive photo album for pictures to enhance the text. Ironically, the man who invented the telephone also worked extensively with the deaf, as both a teacher and a researcher. Filled with little-known facts about Bell's commitment to education, his role in the creation of the National Geographic Society and its magazine, and his early advocacy of civil rights, this biography is a graphic and insightful salute. Abrams, 1997, 304 p., color/b&w photos, hardcover, \$45.00.



**The Best of Annals of Improbable Research**—Marc Abrahams. Where else could one find out how scientists approach a limerick, the taxonomy of Barney, or the complete list of the Ig Nobel prizewinners but the ANNALS OF IMPROBABLE RESEARCH? Mixing true yet "colorful and

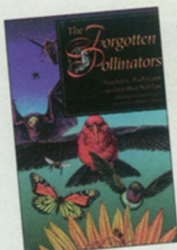
stupefyingly impressive" research culled from "serious" research journals with interviews, articles, and tips for teachers, this humorous retrospective lets readers peek inside research labs and the minds of the greats. For example, James Watson reveals how he keeps his eyes open during a dull lecture, and Roald Hoffmann provides tips for dealing with junk mail. Freeman, 1998, 208 p., b&w photos, paperback, \$14.95.



**Figments of Reality: The Evolution of the Curious Mind**—Ian Stewart and Jack Cohen. Mathematician Stewart and biologist Cohen join forces once again, this time offering their slant on the rise of mind, culture, technology, and philosophy. Arguing that minds and culture coevolved,

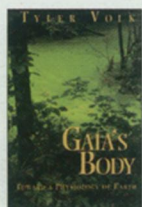
they provide an external, contextual viewpoint of how a conscious, intelligent mind could evolve. This process of accumulating knowledge has its own structure and behavior, and the authors coin the word "extelligence" to define the concept. Stewart and Cohen show how intelligence and extelligence interact by way of language and how the end product formulates culture. While the subject matter is rather heady, the authors are quick-witted and provide a lively exposition. Cambridge U Pr, 1997, 325 p., hardcover, \$24.95.

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### The Forgotten Pollinators—

Stephen L. Buchmann and Gary Paul Nabhan. Imagine Thanksgiving without cranberries or Halloween without pumpkins. While these scenarios may seem unlikely, Buchmann and Nabhan point to the survival crisis now facing pollinators of these and other fruits and vegetables—bees, butterflies, hummingbirds, moths, and bats. The authors use vignettes from scientific fieldwork around the world to detail the intricacies of the plant-pollinator partnership and outline ways to improve pollination of crops and protect pollinators. Originally published in hardcover in 1996. Island Pr, 1997, 292 p., b&w illus., paperback, \$16.95.



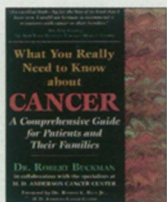
**Gaia's Body: Toward a Physiology of Earth**—Tyler Volk. The concept of Gaia—the "interacting system of life, soil, atmosphere, and ocean"—was initially conceived and set forth by Jim Lovelock and Lynn Margulis. Here, Volk offers his own

slant on this system of nesting parts within wholes that he calls a "symphony of material flows and cycles." Volk's aim in understanding the systems and chemical cycles of our biosphere is to ponder humankind's role within them, as well as to be able to rationalize, for instance, how exotic, distant organisms affect the plants in one's own backyard. Copernicus, 1998, 269 p., b&w photos/illus., hardcover, \$27.00.



### The Rise of Birds: 225

Million Years of Evolution—Sankar Chatterjee. In 1983, Chatterjee found in the deserts of west Texas what he claims is a roughly 225-million-year old avian fossil, *Protoavis*. The controversial finding places the emergence of birds in the Triassic period, some 75 million years before *Archaeopteryx*, which many paleontologists consider the earliest avian creature. In this volume, Chatterjee surveys the rise of Mesozoic birds, evaluating their anatomy, function, evolutionary trends, distribution, phylogenetic relationships, and the "explosive evolution of birds during the Tertiary period." In doing so, he establishes the connection between dinosaurs and modern birds and asserts his "arboreal theory," which posits that dinosaurs began to fly not from the ground up, but from the trees down, with tree-climbing creatures leaping off branches and gliding to the ground. Johns Hopkins, 1997, 312 p., b&w illus., hardcover, \$39.95.



### What You Really Need to Know About Cancer: A Comprehensive Guide for Patients and Their Families—

Robert Buckman. An oncologist reviews the basic types of cancer, organ by organ, and outlines the causes, symptoms, tests, and other data for each. He follows this information with an analysis of various kinds of treatment, both traditional and alternative, and their side effects and ends with a discussion about how to live with cancer. Johns Hopkins, 1997, 363 p., b&w illus., paperback, \$19.95.

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