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Charging Ahead: The Business of Renewable Energy and What It Means for America-John J. Berger. Current stable energy prices reduce concerns about securing alternative sources of energy. However, scientists are steadily making technological advances in the areas of geoth-

ermal, solar, wind, and other power. Berger surveys these fields to show the practicability of these alternatives to fossil fuels, both technologically and economically. Originally published in hardcover 1997. U CA Pr, 1998, 399 p., b&w photos, paperback, \$18.95.



The Earth in Turmoil: Earthquakes, Volcanoes, and Their Impact on Humankind-Kerry Sieh and Simon LeVay. A chronicle of the United States' most significant quakes and eruptions, this book includes current theories of why these events occur and how to predict them.

The San Andreas Fault is the focal point of Sieh's research career, and he devotes three chapters to this fault. However, the text is wellinformed on all fronts. The methodology of and insight gleaned by seismologists, geologists, and volcanologists is revealed while the interrelationship of earthquakes and volcanoes is depicted. Neuroscientist LeVay guards against geologic jargon. WH Freeman, 1998, 324 p., color plates/b&w photos/illus., hardcover, \$24.95.



Eco Homo: How the Human Being Emerged From the Cataclysmic History of the Earth-Noel T. Boaz. Working from the assumption that humankind arose in Africa, Boaz sets forth eight hypotheses that link the genetic development of our ancestors to Earth's climatic and ecologi-

cal fluctuations. He even contends that human culture emerged in response to rapid environmental changes during the Pleistocene Glacial Maximum, saving our species from extinction. Boaz' wealth of paleoecological theorizing includes a link between the evaporation of the Mediterranean Sea between 5 and 6 million years ago and the spread of the Sahara Desert, which split the hominid and chimpanzee lineages. Originally published in hardcover in 1997. Basic, 1998, 278 p., b&w illus., paperback, \$14.00.



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Geometry Civilized: History, Culture, and Technique-J.L. Heilbron. By blending the history of Euclid and the Greeks with a dash of Chinese mathematics and an introduction to plane geometry and trigonometry, Heilbron seeks to communicate the origins, cultural impor-

tance, and fundamentals of geometry and relate them to practical situations. Brimming with sample equations and diagrams, Heilbron aids students in mastering these fields. OUP, 1998, 309 p., illus., hardcover, \$65.00.



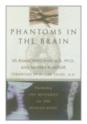
Hungry Hollow: The Story of a Natural Place-A.K. Dewdney. A mathematician by trade, Dewdney considers himself a biologist/naturalist as well. He practices his avocation in the forested areas around his home, which he calls Hungry Hollow, a name he gives to all such areas in the Eastern Unit-

ed States. Dewdney profiles flora and fauna prevalent in these areas and weaves in poetic chapters on the life and death processes of the ecosystem. Writing from the vantage point of an ant or a house sparrow, Dewdney imparts a sense of the diversity and dynamics of the deciduous forest. Copernicus, 1998, 233 p., illus., hardcover, \$26.00.



NASA and the Exploration of Space-Roger D. Launius and Bertram Ulrich. Norman Rockwell and Robert McCall represent two of the 100 or so artists whose work constitutes this unique retrospective of the NASA program. From the outset, NASA commissioned artists

to render the emotional spirit of the agency's work. These works are compiled with a written history of the space program in celebration of NASA's 40th anniversary. Stewart Tabori & Chang, 1998, 224 p., color photos/illus., hardcover, \$60.00.



Phantoms in the Brain: Probing the Mysteries of the Human Mind-V.S. Ramachandran and Sandra Blakeslee. In his position as director of the Center for Brain and Cognition at the University of California, San Diego, Ramachandran receives and studies many patients whose symptoms have

baffled other physicians. The authors describe the "phantom" experiences of some of these patients: experiencing feeling in missing limbs, having the conviction (and even symptoms) of being pregnant when not, and seeing cartoon characters cavorting in one's field of vision. Here, Ramachandran and Blakeslee link the mechanisms of the brain to facets of the self such as body image and belief systems. They propose that the brain is constantly updating its model of reality. Morrow, 1998, 328 p., hardcover, \$27.00.



Sex on the Brain: The Biological Differences Between Men and Women-Deborah Blum. As the mother of two boys, science writer Blum finally became convinced that the differences between men and women go deeper than culture. She covers the territory from Venus to Mars with style and

intelligence, surveying a wealth of information on male and female brains, emotions, and hormones. Blum also reports on strides being made in the understanding of sexual orientation and its relationship to testosterone and estrogen. Originally published in hardcover in 1997. Penguin, 1998, 329 p., paperback, \$13.95.

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