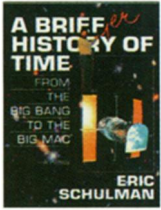
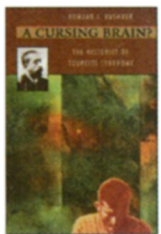


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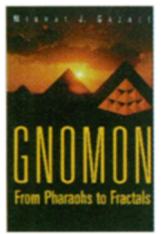
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**A Briefer History of Time: From the Big Bang to the Big Mac—A Parody—Eric Schulman.** A disciple of the Ig Nobel Prizes applies the irreverence of that event to the history of the universe. The first of 53 succinct chapters begins as any good story does, at 10<sup>-43</sup> seconds after the Big Bang with "Once upon a time, long ago . . ." These passages lead, among other places, to Martha Stellar's Living (which is devoted to learning how to make a star) and dissection of multicellular organisms based on the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual for Mental Disorders*. Freeman, 1999, 171 p., b&w illus., paperback, \$14.95.



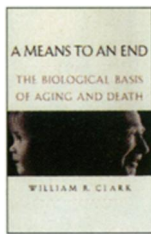
**A Cursing Brain? The Histories of Tourette Syndrome—Howard I. Kushner.** First reported 150 years ago in France as bizarre behavior including obscene shouts and curses, what is now called Tourette syndrome represents one of the fastest-growing diagnoses in North America. Kushner, a medical historian, tracks this condition and revisits the notion that it may be linked to infectious disease. Systematically, Kushner recounts past misinterpretations and misdiagnoses of motor and vocal tics. His well-researched treatise evolves into the modern understanding of Tourette syndrome, with its ties to the neurotransmitter dopamine and the area of the brain that regulates motor movements. HUP, 1999, 303 p., b&w illus., hardcover, \$29.95.



**Gnomon: From Pharaohs to Fractals—Midhat J. Gazalé.** By definition, a gnomon is a self-repeating shape such as those found in spiral seashells and defined by Fibonacci sequences of numbers. Gazalé fully considers gnomons by virtue of their properties and application as well as their historical heritage, founded in ancient Egyptian and Greek timekeeping. Not for readers who eschew math, this book is loaded with formulas exemplifying "gnomonity" in fractions, logarithms, spirals, fractals, and "the famous golden number." Princeton U Pr, 1999, 259 p., color plates/b&w illus., hardcover, \$29.95.



**How to Spot Butterflies—Patricia Taylor Sutton and Clay Sutton.** First avid birders and now butterfly-gazing converts, the Suttons convey environmentally sound tricks of their hobby. Introductory chapters describe butterfly life cycles, behaviors, and habitats. Discussion of net free study methods leads to instructions on spotting the insect in likely locations. Replete with color photos, the concluding identification guide of butterflies of North America provides useful data. HM, 1999, 160 p., color photos, paperback, \$17.00.



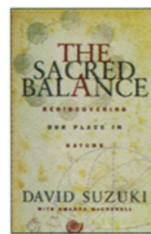
**A Means to an End: The Biological Basis of Aging and Death—William R. Clark.** Advances in molecular biology and genetics are unleashing new ideas about the causes and possible curtailment of human aging. A noted authority on cellular immune reactions offers an academic report on death at the level of individual cells. Clark insightfully examines the links between cellular senescence and cancer and the causes of degenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's and Werner's syndrome. The body of data at his disposal leads him to suggest that antioxidant doses and reduced intake of calories may slow the aging process. OUP, 1999, 234 p., illus., hardcover, \$27.50.



**Owning the Future—Seth Shulman.** What was new used to be tangible: inventions, products, works of art. Now, knowledge itself typically drives our technologies and economies and, according to Shulman, is controlled by very few people. A drug for treating cancer is held up because one pharmaceutical company is suing another over ownership of a part of the drug's underlying technology. A mathematician wins a patent for two large prime numbers, securing exclusive use of them for the next 20 years. And, who will own specific gene maps once the Human Genome Project is completed? Shulman uses these examples and others to assess the "threat" from private ownership of intellectual property. HM, 1999, 240 p., hardcover, \$25.00.



**Planetary Dreams: The Quest to Discover Life Beyond Earth—Robert Shapiro.** A thoroughgoing survey of our sporadic quest to locate evidence of extraterrestrial life forms and the associated debate about such pursuits leads Shapiro to posit ideas for the best places to look. Since he believes that life elsewhere is inevitably linked to our own origins, Shapiro intertwines Earthly life with that which may dwell in the ice-covered oceans of Jupiter's airless moons or in the underground hot springs of Mars. He also updates readers on NASA's life-seeking probes. Wiley, 1999, 306 p., hardcover, \$27.95.



**The Sacred Balance: Rediscovering Our Place in Nature—David Suzuki.** A disciple of Edward O. Wilson, Suzuki argues that our "non-negotiable" needs fall into three basic categories—biological, social, and spiritual. He explains how the natural world enables us to fulfill these needs and how, when they are not met, we fall ill or perish. For that reason, environmental sustainability is imperative to the long-term well-being of humankind. Suzuki defines our place within the natural world and shows what can be and is being done to maintain a vibrant environment. Originally published in hardcover in 1998. Greystone Bks, 1999, 259 p., paperback, \$14.95.

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