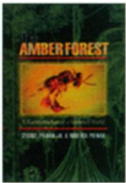
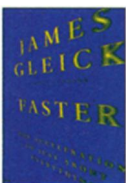


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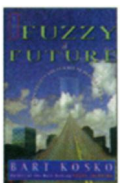
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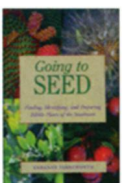
The Amber Forest: A Reconstruction of a Vanished World—George Poinar and Roberta Poinar. The algarrobo tree, a canopy tree prevalent in ancient tropical forests, leached a sticky resin that often captured critters and flora in its flow. Once this resin hardened into translucent amber, it perfectly preserved its captors. Highly regarded for their work with such amber-preserved fossils, the Poinars sketch an ecosystem likely to have existed on the island of Hispaniola between 15 million and 45 million years ago. On the basis of their research and some spectacular specimens, they portray an amazing view of this largely extinct kingdom. Princeton U Pr, 1999, 239 p., color plates/b&w photos/illus., hardcover, \$29.95.



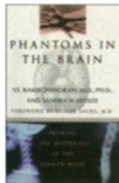
Faster: The Acceleration of Just About Everything—James Gleick. Even linguists must maintain a furious pace in order to keep up with the vernacular that people use in their ever-faster lives. Terminology such as *multitasking*, *channel surfing*, *real-time*, *gridlock*, and *instant gratification* signify the impetus to move faster and do more. Gleick (author of *Genius*, the lauded biography of Richard Feynman) assesses the momentum of this trend. He considers whether people drive the technology or the technology drives people in this quest for speed. In doing so, he considers a host of people, places, and things dominated by the clock, including the U.S. government's time keeper, the door-close button in elevators, and fast food. Pantheon, 1999, 324 p., hardcover, \$24.00.



The Fuzzy Future: From Society and Science to Heaven in a Chip—Bart Kosko. For decades, the binary, on-off, black-white world of the computer chip dominated technology. Whether or not consumers know it, the gray applications of artificial intelligence are beginning to permeate society. For instance, the automatic transmission in the new Volkswagen Beetle adapts to the driver's style. Some railway switching systems can determine how to prioritize trains. However, Kosko feels that these examples are mere novelties compared with devices and systems to come. In three sections, he considers the potential impact of fuzzy logic on politics, science, and culture and how our view of each field will be substantially altered. Harmony, 1999, 353 p., hardcover, \$25.00.



Going to Seed: Finding, Identifying, and Preparing Edible Plants of the Southwest—Kahanah Farnsworth. Buttercups may appear to be a sweet wildflower, but in their raw form they contain a volatile toxic agent. Such warnings accompany profiles of nearly 90 plants indigenous to the southwestern United States. Each description includes the plant's physical attributes, types of flowers, facts about its blooms, and how it can be used as medicine or food—including recipes. Anc City Pr, 1999, 236 p., color plates/b&w illus., paperback, \$15.95.



Phantoms in the Brain: Probing the Mysteries of the Human Mind—V.S. Ramachandran and Sandra Blakeslee. As director of the Center for Brain and Cognition at the University of California, San Diego, Ramachandran sees patients whose symptoms baffle other physicians. The authors describe the "phantom" experiences of some of these patients: having feeling in missing limbs, being convinced (and even having symptoms) of pregnancy when a woman is not, and seeing cartoon characters cavorting in one's field of vision. In this book, the authors link brain mechanisms to facets of self, such as body image and belief systems. They propose that the brain is constantly updating its model of reality. Originally published in hardcover in 1998. Quill, 1999, 328 p., paperback, \$16.00.



A Skywatcher's Year—Jeff Kanipe. Each season provides a different vantage point for viewing the heavens. For the benefit of stargazers in both the Northern and Southern Hemispheres, *A Skywatcher's Year* highlights celestial events for each week. Readers learn how to determine the location of constellations, stars, nebulae, and meteors. The book also recommends how to determine the best times to view celestial events using the naked eye, binoculars, or a telescope. Appendices list solar and lunar eclipses for the next 25 years and general planet locations for the next decade. Cambridge U Pr, 1999, 189 p., b&w illus., paperback, \$19.95.



Slicing Pizzas, Racing Turtles, and Further Adventures in Applied Mathematics—Robert B. Banks. In a follow-up to *Towing Icebergs*, *Falling Dominoes*, and *Other Adventures in Applied Mathematics*, Banks presents a new collection of puzzles and the mathematical wherewithal to solve them. Clever readers can discern how many people have inhabited Earth, what blastoff velocity is needed to escape Earth's gravitational pull, why snowflakes have six sides, and whether it's better to walk or run through a downpour. With a healthy dose of algebra and geometry and a little calculus and trigonometry, Banks works through the problems. Princeton U Pr, 1999, 286 p., b&w photos/illus., hardcover, \$24.95.



Swift as a Shadow: Extinct and Endangered Animals—Rosamind Purcell. The National Museum of Natural History in The Netherlands has a grim reputation as the keeper of one of the largest collections of specimens of extinct and endangered wildlife. This collection of photographs features roughly 100 of the most visually arresting and important creatures at the museum. In two sections—continental animals and island and marine animals—the book features some familiar stories, such as those of the California condor and the rhinoceros, both of which are battling for survival. Some less famous creatures pictured include the quagga and the Cape Verde giant skink. Mariner, 1999, 159 p., color photos, paperback, \$20.00.

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