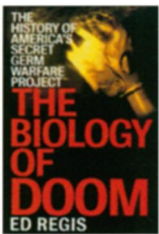
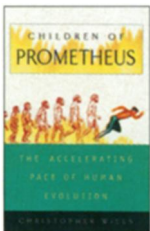


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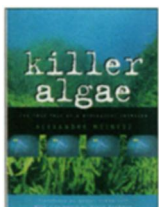


The Biology of Doom: The History of America's Secret Germ Warfare Project—Ed Regis. At the turn of the millennium, the public seems more concerned about terrorist attacks with biological weapons than full-scale nuclear or germ warfare. Regis reports that the United States covertly conducted a large biological weapons project for nearly 30 years while it decried others' production and stockpiling of anthrax, botulism, Ebola, and smallpox. While the existence of the program may not be that startling in hindsight, Regis' report offers disquieting accounts of experiments in which pathogens were unleashed on people and animals, even in the open environment. This thrilling and chilling tale is based on facts gleaned from hundreds of pages of declassified documents. H Holt & Co, 1999, 259 p., hardcover, \$25.00.



Children of Prometheus: The Accelerating Pace of Human Evolution—Christopher Wills. The popular notion that swift, human-induced environmental change, which is affecting the evolution of other species, isn't really a major factor in the plodding course of human evolution is just plain wrong, asserts Wills.

He maintains the opposite position: Our evolutionary progress is accelerating, especially as it relates to mental processes. Through a wide-ranging assortment of case studies—from Tibetans who endure and thrive in extreme altitudes to stress-ridden civil service workers in London—Wills illustrates how our genetic composition reacts amazingly quickly to environmental upheaval. Originally published in hardcover in 1998. Perseus, 1999, 310 p., illus., paperback, \$15.00.



Killer Algae: The True Tale of a Biological Invasion—Alexandre Meinesz. It all began innocently enough. While workers cleaned the tanks at the Oceanographic Museum in Monaco about 15 years ago, they flushed some lush, green algae into the Mediterranean. No one believed

that the tropical plant *Caulerpa taxifolia* could survive in the relatively cold waters. It did; it flourished; and now it covers 10,000 acres of the coasts of France, Spain, Italy, and Croatia, laying waste to native ecosystems. Meinesz sounded the first alarm upon discovering a small patch of the alga in 1988. His warnings were met with resounding indifference and accusations that he merely sought more research funding through his claims. In recounting the perils of his experience, Meinesz explores the impact of non-native species on biological diversity and the mistakes people make when addressing them. U Ch Pr, 1999, 360 p., color images, hardcover, \$25.00.

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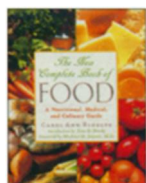


Marking Time: The Epic Quest to Invent the Perfect Calendar—Duncan Steel. People around the world are planning millennium festivities, but Steel is a party pooper. He contends that this global celebration is 4 years late because a monk in Rome, Dionysius Exiguus, misunderstood Jesus' birth date. Steel reveals a number of such gaffes throughout the ages that have affected the Gregorian calendar. In telling this history, he shows how politicians and the clergy frequently dictated and altered the dating of events to suit their beliefs and purposes. In fact, Julius Cesar gets credit for the lengths of the months as we know them today. An astronomer by trade, Steel points out the date-related conundrums in his field and applies his expertise to reconsider some elements of the calendar. Wiley, 2000, 422 p., illus., hardcover, \$27.95.



Music of the Birds: A Celebration of Bird Song—Lang Elliott. Some people merely use bird songs as an identification tool. Elliott appreciates the aesthetic qualities of avian songs and points to many poets and liter-

ary giants who have shared his passion. Prose and poetry by William Cullen Bryant, Benjamin Leggett, Henry David Thoreau, and many other writers inspired by bird songs complement vivid pictures and text. Descriptions specify the unique vocal elements of each species. A compact disc accompanies the book and features an audio tour of more than 70 North American songbirds featured in the book. HM, 1999, 135 pages, paperback, CD 75 minutes long, \$25.00.



The New Complete Book of Food: A Nutritional, Medical, and Culinary Guide—Carol Ann Rinzler. Cooks can recover some of the water-soluble B vitamins lost when a chicken is roasted by making chicken gravy. Eating spinach, strawberries, and blueberries reduces the risk of memory loss and birth defects. Such facts enliven descriptions of more than 300 foods in this book. Each entry describes the food's nutritional properties; the most nutritious ways to serve it; diets that restrict it; how to buy, store, and process it; and what happens when it's cooked. Reports of the medicinal benefits of foods are common here and elsewhere, but this guide also conveys the possible adverse effects of eating each profiled food and details many food-drug interactions. Checkmark Bks, 1999, 440 p., paperback, \$19.95.



The Nothing That Is: A Natural History of Zero—Robert Kaplan. It's hard to imagine that computer language is based solely on zeros and ones, considering the frequent absence of zero in early counting systems. Yet as Kaplan shows, zero not only provides the foundation for computers but also frequently receives top billing by mathematicians as the most important number. As he tracks the recognition of zero from the time of the ancient Sumerians, Greeks, Romans, Indians, and Arabs to the moderns, he shows how this number went from being a place holder to a vital concept of mathematics, especially calculus. Kaplan also considers the philosophical and theological implications of nothing. OUP, 1999, 225 p., illus., hardcover, \$22.00.

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