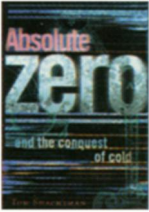
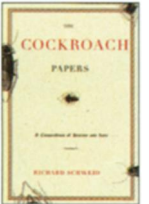


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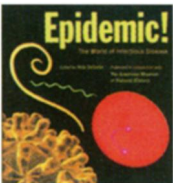
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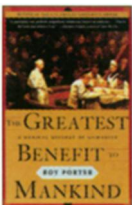
Absolute Zero: And the Conquest of Cold—Tom Shachtman. The study of heat, with its connection to the sun and fire, has long been a vibrant scientific pursuit. The properties of cold went largely ignored until this century, however, due to difficulties in artificially creating low temperatures, as well as to people's association of cold with death. As Shachtman reports, once refrigeration and air conditioning harnessed cold, humans could live in large cities away from fresh food supplies, even in the hottest places. Mastery of cold also paved the way for faster computers, whose manufacture relies on refrigeration. Shachtman's book also describes the scientific pursuit of absolute zero, -273°C , on Earth and in deep space. HM, 1999, 261 p., hardcover, \$25.00.



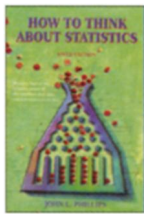
The Cockroach Papers: A Compendium of History and Lore—Richard Schweid. As documented here, many cockroach habits are just as creepy as they are reputed to be. Their taste buds favor feces, corpses, and their own young. However, people's perception of these insects is not completely accurate. While cockroaches sift through filth, they actually obsess over cleanliness. They seem ravenous but can survive 45 days without food. They are the oldest insects on the planet and survive despite the estimated \$4 billion a year spent to eradicate them. Schweid weaves details of the entomological attributes and oddities of these creatures with vignettes exploring human relationships with cockroaches. FWEW, 1999, 193 p., b&w photos/illus., paperback, \$16.00.



Epidemic: The World of Infectious Disease—Rob DeSalle, ed. Published in conjunction with an exhibit of the same title currently displayed at the American Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C., this collection of essays examines the diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of infectious diseases throughout history and across cultures. Topics range from the AIDS virus to mad cow disease. The text includes essays penned by Nobel prize-winners, profiles of scientists and researchers, and case studies detailing the damage pathogens wreak on humans. New Pr, 1999, 246 p., b&w photos/illus., paperback, \$19.95.



The Greatest Benefit to Mankind: A Medicinal History of Humanity—Roy Porter. The author concentrates on the 2,500 years of Western medicine after it split from the ancient practices of the Chinese, Indians, and Greeks. Clearly written and laden with anecdotes as well as data, Porter's book explains the interplay of medical breakthroughs with relevant social, political, and religious trends. Porter also discusses the impact of such trends on physicians and scientists. Originally published in hardcover in 1998. Norton, 1999, 831 p., b&w plates, paperback, \$17.95.



How to Think About Statistics—John L. Phillips. Now in its sixth edition, this revised and expanded volume helps readers understand the quantitative facts that permeate politics, advertising, sports, education, and medicine. Emphasizing the logical structure of statistical thinking, Phillips imparts a basic understanding of concepts such as frequency distribution, standard deviation, standard scores, correlation, mean, and precision of inference. Yet he uses a limited amount of mathematics to make his points, relying instead on applicable real-life scenarios. WH Freeman, 2000, 202 p., illus., paperback, \$16.95.



The Invisible Universe—David Malin. Recognized as one of the world's leading astrophotographers, Malin uses an unusual method of capturing galaxies and nebulae on film. Each image requires three exposures, which Malin may separate by several years. Shot mostly from the Southern Hemisphere with some of the most powerful Earth-based telescopes, the photographs in this collection constitute an atlas of the constellations. A historical summary, selections of poetry with celestial connotations, and archaic astronomical renderings accompany each of the 50 giant, full-color photographs in this book. Bullfinch, 1999, 132 p., color/b&w photos/illus., hardcover, \$50.00.



The Trade-Off Myth: Fact and Fiction about Jobs and the Environment—Eban Goodstein. Economist Goodstein's book is a systematic response to people who believe that environmental-protection measures result in industrialized countries' loss of high-paying manufacturing jobs to developing countries. He examines the minimal impact of environmental measures on heavy industry and argues that these changes often, in fact, create jobs. Layoffs that do occur represent a small fraction of those that regularly result to the market's shifts in supply and demand. Island Pr, 1999, 195 p., hardcover, \$27.50.



Why Geese Don't Get Obese (and We Do): How Evolution's Strategies for Survival Affect Our Everyday Lives—Eric P. Widmaier. If you had the metabolism of a shrew, you could consume the equivalent of 50 Thanksgiving dinners a day. If you had the lungs of a bird, you wouldn't need an oxygen tank as you scaled the highest mountains. Animals and humans all need food, water, and oxygen, but each living creature is structured differently depending on its needs and survival mechanisms. Physiologist Widmaier's fascination with these differences leads him to examine how animals compare with humans under similar conditions. Originally published in hardcover in 1998. WH Freeman, 1999, 213 p., paperback, \$14.95.

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