

Science Book News is published weekly. It lists new books of science with brief excerpts from press releases and often includes links to reviews of science books.

NEW NONFICTION

“Proofiness: The Dark Art of Mathematical Deception” by Charles Seife. Viking, \$25.95, 304 pages. Publication date September 23. Seife is an associate professor of journalism at New York University and the author of four previous books, including “Sun in a Bottle.” Here, he examines “the art of using nonsensical mathematical arguments to convince us of the veracity of things we know in our hearts to be false.”

“Disconnect: The truth about Cell Phone Radiation, What the Industry Has Done to Hide It, and How to Protect Your Family” by Devra Davis. Dutton, \$26.95, 274 pages. Publication date September 23.

Davis is a visiting professor at Georgetown University and the author of “When Smoke Ran Like Water,” a finalist for the National Book Award. This book “explains the science behind cell phone radiation, reveals the shocking lack of government regulation, and uncovers the alarming abuse of science by the mobile phone industry.”

“Origins: How the Nine Months Before Birth Shape the Rest of Our Lives” by Annie Murphy Paul. Free Press, \$26, 305 pages. Publication date September 28.

Paul is a journalist and he author of “The Cult of Personality.” In this book, she “ventures into the laboratories of fetal researchers ... [and] emerges with a bold new view of pregnancy as a crucial staging ground for our health, ability, and well-being throughout life.”

“Anarchy Evolution: Faith, Science, and Bad religion in a World Without God” by Greg Graffin and Steve Olson. itbooks, \$22.99, 304 pages. Publication date September 28.

Graffin has a Ph.D. in zoology but is best known as a member of the punk rock band Bad religion; Olson is the author of several previous books, including one of my favorites “Countdown.” “Graffin weds his experiences in punk culture and the academic world, and explores the deep connection between art, religion, and science ...”

NOW AVAILABLE IN PAPERBACK

“Sexual Chemistry: A History of the Contraceptive Pill” by Lara V. Marks. Yale; hardback published in 2001, paperback now available for \$22; 416 pages. Publication date September 28.

“Whole Earth Discipline: Why Dense Cities, Nuclear Power, Transgenic Crops, Restored Wildlands, and Geoengineering Are Necessary” by Stewart Brand. Penguin; hardback published in 2009, paperback now available for \$16; 336 pages. Publication date September 28.

LATE ARRIVAL

“Wondering About: Curiosity, Imagination, and Science: A Personal Journey by an Unusual Mind” by David Strumfels. Xlibris paperback original, \$17.99, 262 pages. Publication date February 28.

RECENT REVIEWS: Phillip Manning's latest is a review of Hal Herzog's "**Some We Love, Some We Hate, Some We Eat**" in the Raleigh News & Observer and the Charlotte Observer. It is available at <http://www.scibooks.org>

OTHER REVIEWS: Steven Strogatz reviewed Charles Seife's "Proofiness: The Dark Arts of Mathematical Deception" in the September 17 NY Times.
<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/09/19/books/review/Strogatz-t.html?ref=books>

QUOTATION OF THE WEEK: *"The American mind seems extremely vulnerable to the belief that any alleged knowledge which can be expressed in figures is in fact as final and exact as the figures in which it is expressed."* Richard Hofstadter as quoted in Charles Seife's "Proofiness"

NOTE: If you know of a published review of a science book and would like a link to it included in Science Book News, email me with the link. I cannot promise to use it, but I will consider it.