

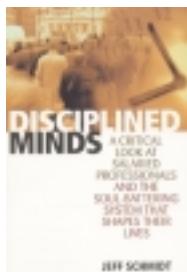
Disciplined Minds: A Critical Look at Salaried Professionals and the Soul-Battering System That Shapes Their Lives

Jeff Schmidt

Rowman & Littlefield, Lanham, Md. \$26.95

Schmidt offers a provocative critique of how scientists, engineers, and other professionals are groomed to fulfill a specific function in society—that of maintaining the status quo—and, in the process, end up sidelining their own goals and ideals.

The book is both well researched and highly readable. Some readers may disagree with its conclusions, but everyone will recognize its descriptions of the often wrenching choices that today's professionals must make. JK



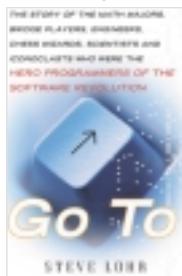
SOFTWARE

Go To: The Story of the Math Majors, Bridge Players, Engineers, Chess Wizards, Scientists and Iconoclasts Who Were the Hero Programmers of the Software Revolution

Steve Lohr

Basic Books, New York \$27.50

Go To surveys the history of modern software, from the creation of the first successful high-level language, Fortran, and its compiler in the 1950s, through to the open source movement of today. The development of Unix and C, the rise of the graphical user-interface, and the creation of the spreadsheet are included among the events that shaped modern computing. Although some will argue with the choices of topics covered—for example, an entire chapter is devoted to Java, while no mention is made of the development of the Internet protocol—the book is full of fascinating details about an intangible creation that has had a very tangible impact on the modern world. SAC



TRANSPORTATION

Free Flight: From Airline Hell to a New Age of Travel

James Fallows

Public Affairs, New York \$25

When published in June, Fallows' idea of developing a network of small air taxis, to be hailed like a cab at the airport arrivals curb, was dismissed by some in the industry as somewhat far-fetched and totally impractical. But in the aftermath of 11 September, private and corporate jet use is on a hot growth streak. The plane-taxi idea may not be a winner, but the notion of using smaller jets, booked as one might a car or rail cabin, is worth exploring. EAB



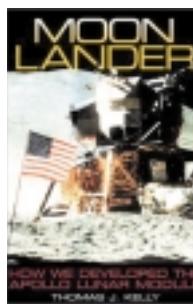
SPACE

Moon Lander

Tom Kelly

Smithsonian Institution Press, Washington, D.C. \$27.95

It's surprising that the man most responsible for the spindly Apollo lunar landers, Tom Kelly, hasn't told his story years before. Lucid and engaging, he tells how his team at Grumman in Bethpage, Long Island, went from paper studies to delivering hardware that would help change history. Beyond historical interest, the book has lessons for anyone involved in a large project at the cutting edge of technology. SAC



COMMUNICATIONS

Virtuality Check:

Power Relations and Alternative Strategies in the Information Society

François Fortier

Verso, London \$23

Information and communications technologies (ICTs), such the Internet or videoconferencing, are often glorified as

an instrument of a more efficient economy and as the electronic enabler of participatory democracy. Fortier thinks differently. He believes that corporations actually nurtured them as a means of political and economic control. In *Virtuality Check*, he explores the ways in which the technologies are used to subjugate workers, manipulate the consumer, and extend media monopolies, while leaving just enough room for the Slashdots and Alternets of the world to weave together some feeble resistance. HG



SCIENCE

Emergence: The Connected Lives of Ants, Brains, Cities, and Software

Steven Johnson

Scribner, New York \$25

When his online magazine *Feed* went belly up last year, editor Steven Johnson had a lot of extra time on his hands. The devil made work for them: *Emergence*, his followup on 1997's *Interface Culture*. *Emergence* explores the various forms of interconnectivity as it has evolved over the years, from ants that organize themselves to act as a single entity to computer programs that produce their own software offspring. HG



The Book of Nothing: Vacuums, Voids, and the Latest Ideas About the Origins of the Universe

John D. Barrow

Pantheon Books, New York \$27.50

Part history, part modern cosmology, and part humor, this book delves into the understanding of Nothingness, both mathematical and physical. From the

