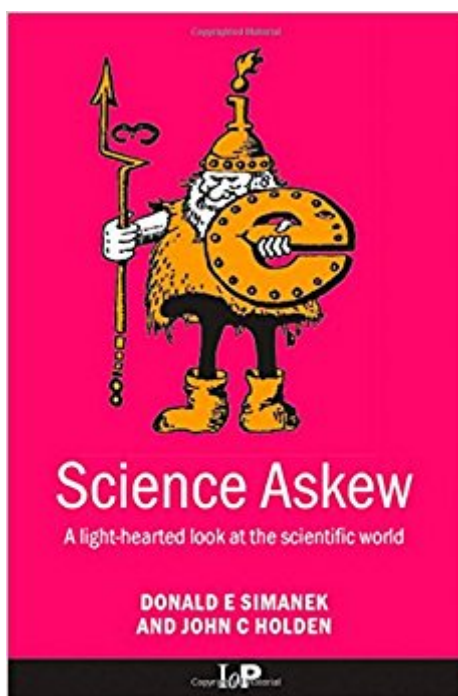


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Science Askew: A Light-hearted Look At The Scientific World (Institute Of Physics Conference Series)



Synopsis

Copiously illustrated throughout with many fine drawings by John C. Holden, *Science Askew: A Light-Hearted Look at the Scientific World* is a refreshing antidote to the daily grind. From continental drip to the life of Konrad Finagle via the murky depths of Loch Ness, we are treated to an off-kilter trip through the scientific world. This pocket-sized goldmine can be produced whenever a spare minute or two presents itself, when the reader feels in need of a chuckle, or when just plain old-fashioned enlightenment is required.

Book Information

Series: Institute of Physics Conference Series (Book 82)

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Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (5 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #2,051,580 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #133 inÂ Books > Humor & Entertainment > Humor > Science & Scientists #5328 inÂ Books > Textbooks > Science & Mathematics > Physics #23088 inÂ Books > Science & Math > Physics

Customer Reviews

I wrote and published this review in *The Journal of Irreproducible Results*, the science humor magazine, vol. 48 #4, November 2004: If you like JIR, you'll love *Science Askew*. Science satires, cartoons, puns, and parodies range from chapter-long tales down to punchy 1-liners. Among the rules of the lab: * Experiments must be reproducible; they should fail the same way each time. * Experience is directly proportional to equipment ruined. * Teamwork is essential; it allows you to blame someone else. My reaction upon reading most of the articles was "we should run this item in JIR!". But we reprinted an entire chapter in the last issue, and we published 2 of the articles (by the illustrator, retired geologist John C. Holden) in the 1970s, and the whole thing is already in a nifty package - this book. From the computer expert's glossary: * On-line: The idea that a human being should always be accessible to a computer. * Machine-Independent Program: A program that will not run on any machine. * Documentation: Instructions translated from Swedish by Japanese for

English-speaking people. Simanek and Holden include fuel for debunking pseudoscience, and teaching students the distinctions. Ever the teacher, Simanek takes several opportunities to "talk straight" and point out legitimate science lessons. The pair of articles arguing opposing sides of the DHMO "controversy" afford chuckles, as well as stimulation for student exercises. "Di-Hydrogen Monoxide", of course, is H₂O. What engineers say and what they mean by it: "Test results were extremely gratifying": It works, and are we ever surprised!

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