



**The universe is composed mostly of hydrogen, a light, colorless, odorless gas which given enough time turns into people. We, humankind, are a piece of the universe which has become self-aware.**

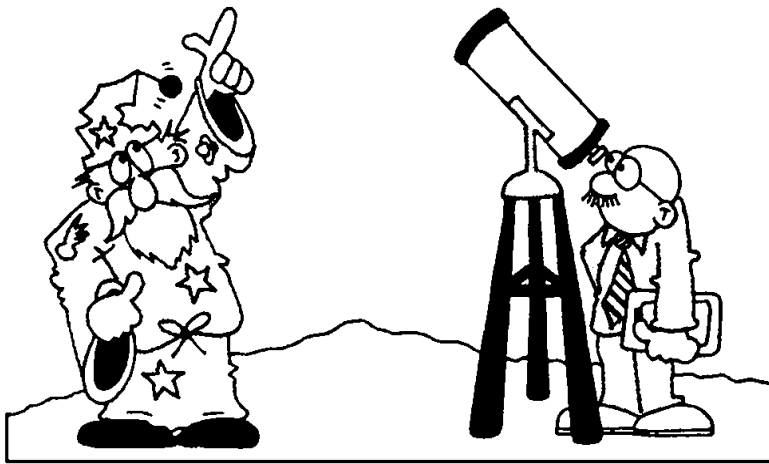


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**Cover:** **Steve L. Pfenninger's** pencil drawing, "Chrono-Synclastic Infundibula," graces the front cover of this book. It depicts the last moment of existence of an astronaut plunging into the abyss of a black hole. Steve was a student of mine at the very beginning of my teaching career.

**\*\*\* BECKER'S \*\*\***  
**ASTRONOMY SURVIVAL NOTEBOOK**



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**To my love, Susan:**

My wife and soul mate during our  
current voyage of discovery  
through this universe...