



Superstitious?

In our most compulsive desire to make new friends we had decided to **give away** a whole truckload of **MACK THE KNIFE**... masterpiece of Vulcan's art. At home in kitchen, glove compartment or on a camping trip, self-appointed experts have nominated versatile **MACK** "Knife Of The Year." But, alas, our generous impulse was thwarted by one of our superstitious super-numeraries who officiously insisted that giving away a knife is very bad luck and in order not to kill an incipient friendship (and to ward off the "evil eye") we should assess a token charge! Reluctantly giving in to this troglodyte we agreed to charge **\$1** for "**MACK**," (although he lists for \$4.95 in our catalog). **AND**—that isn't all. For that same \$1 we'll also send you our **COLOR-FULL CATALOG** (which many call "America's Most Exciting Wish Book") **AND**—**A \$2 GIFT CERTIFICATE** (good for your first purchase). If you think this is an unusual offer you're right. Better take advantage of it before our accountant returns from vacation and reads us the Riot Act!

Yes, I simply can't resist your amazing offer. Here is my \$1 bill. (No checks please, they drive our bankers mad!) Rush me **"MACK", MULTI-PURPOSE KNIFE** (slicer, serrated slicer, beer can opener and from-the-jar pickle snatcher.) **COLOR-FULL CATALOG AND \$2 GIFT CERTIFICATE.**

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books OF THE WEEK

AMERICAN USAGE: The Consensus—Roy H. Copperud—Van Nostrand Reinhold, 1970, 292 p., \$8.95. A compendium of authoritative comments concerning disputed points in the English language, from the use of "a, an" to "zoom."

ETHOLOGY AND SOCIETY: Towards an Anthropological View—Hilary Callan—Oxford Univ. Press, 1970, 176 p., \$6.50. Social anthropologist explores the theoretical and methodological basis on which animal studies may be related to human society. Specifically discussed are such aspects as regulation of numbers, aggression, greeting ceremonies, and the position of females in relation to male hierarchies.

A GUIDE TO THE NATIVE MAMMALS OF AUSTRALIA—W. D. L. Ride—Oxford Univ. Press, 1970, 249 p., drawings by Ella Fry, map, \$10.75. A concise work of identification for the various species of wallabies, possums, wombats, bandicoots, native-cats, bats, dingos, monotremes and other mammals, with appendix for student and professional user.

HANDBOOK OF MAGNETIC RECORDING—Finn Jorgensen—TAB Bks., 1970, 192 p., photographs, diagrams, \$7.95; paper, \$4.95. Explores the differences between recorder types and their specific applications, ranging from audio to weather surveillance data recording.

NATIONAL SCIENCE POLICIES IN EUROPE: Present Situation and Future Outlook—UNESCO—UNIPUB., N.Y., 1970, 490 p., diagrams, charts, paper, \$9.50. Collection and analysis of data concerning organization of scientific research in member states and the policies of member states in that respect.

OUR ENVIRONMENT CAN BE SAVED—Nelson A. Rockefeller—Doubleday, 1970, 176 p., \$5.95. Based on some practical experience with environmental efforts in New York State, the book deals with governmental approaches to project the quality of air, water, land, and the arts.

OWLS: Their Natural and Unnatural History—John Sparks and Tony Soper—Taplinger, 1970, 206 p., plates, drawings, \$5.95. Brings together in readable form a wealth of information about the various species of owls and some of the legends of the mythical bird.

PSYCHEDELICS: The Uses and Implications of Hallucinogenic Drugs—Bernard Aaronson and Humphry Osmond, Eds.—Doubleday, 1970, 512 p., diagrams, paper, \$2.45. Reports on wide range of experience and experimentation with LSD and other psychedelics, their effect on religion and on mental functioning, therapeutic applications, and sociological observations.

RACE AND ETHNICITY: Essays in Comparative Sociology—Pierre L. van den Berghe—Basic Bks., 1970, 312 p., \$7.95. Essays spanning more than a decade of field work and research in Mexico, Guatemala, and South and East Africa (including work on overseas Indians).

THE REAL MAJORITY—Richard M. Scammon and Ben J. Wattenberg—Coward-McCann, 1970, 347 p., \$7.95. An analytical study of the American electorate.

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to the editor

Policy coverage

Please continue to include coverage of budgetary affairs, pending legislation, and appointments and reorganizations of the Federal bureaucracy. Such matters, which are manifestations of our country's policy (or nonpolicy) for science, greatly interest ex-scientists like myself who hold down planning or administrative jobs. We need a balanced coverage of research, technology and science management.

Your Aug. 8 issue (page 112) contained a succinct report on Gilbert Fitzhugh's Blue Ribbon Panel for reorganization of the Pentagon. Since I work in aerospace as a planner, I had to read every analysis of the Fitzhugh Report that I could lay my hands on, and then I had to write my own analysis. I liked your coverage so well that I sent copies around the company, as an appendix.

*Dr. Jay S. Mendell
Pratt & Whitney Aircraft
East Hartford, Conn.*

Snowbank ecosystems

By and large, the article, "Life in a snowbank" (SN: 7/25, p. 80) by Richard Gilluly is good. However, because there are several points that Dr. Clifford Amundsen and I disagree on, I think both points of view should have been presented. For example, he states that ". . . the algae don't move on their own, but are passive. . . ." He's referring to the red spores, and, of course, they are passive. The vegetative stage of these cells, however, is probably motile although vegetative cells are rarely collected, perhaps because they're dispersed throughout the snowbank. There are several other examples of this nature.

I am pleased to think that the article will help call the attention of biologists to the snowbank ecosystem, since, in my opinion, it has considerable potential value for research on ecosystems.

*Dr. Robert Pollock
University of North Dakota
Grand Forks, N.D.*

Changing people

I find your article "Auto emissions: Two-way attack" (SN: 7/25, p. 60), to reflect quite well what I said. Particularly I was happy that you chose to include my statement regarding a possible route of changing people as well as machines in order to reduce air pollution.

*Dr. E. S. Starkman, Professor
Mechanical Engineering
University of California
Berkeley, Calif.*