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COVER: Scientists have long been puzzled by the rapid disappearance of many life forms at the end of the Cretaceous period 65 million years ago. Now, evidence that an extraterrestrial body may have hit the earth then is spurring new research into causes for the extinctions. See p. 314. (Cover photograph courtesy of Martin Grassman)

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National Award to SN Writer

Janet Raloff, policy/technology editor of SCIENCE NEWS, has won the prestigious Science-in-Society Journalism Award given by the National Association of Science Writers. Chosen from more than 170 entries from across the United States, Raloff's two-part series on EMP (electromagnetic pulse) (SN: 5/9/81, p. 300; 5/16/81, p. 314), was cited by NASW President Barbara J. Culliton for its "comprehensive and knowledgeable" coverage of the subject. Raloff, who has been at SCIENCE NEWS since 1977, shares the 1981 award with SCIENCE Magazine's William J. Broad, a former intern at SCIENCE NEWS. The awards were presented last week in Columbus, Ohio, at the annual dinner of the Council for the Advancement of Science Writing.

In an Oct. 7 memorandum, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Atomic Safety and Licensing Board cited Raloff's series in pointing up the board's "serious concern . . . relating to the potentially disruptive effect of



Gerald Karey

electromagnetic pulses on [nuclear] plant operation."

Congratulations to another in a growing list of SCIENCE NEWS award winners.

—Joel Greenberg

BOOKS

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THE CAMEL: Its Evolution, Ecology, Behavior, and Relationship to Man — Hilde Gauthier-Pilters and Anne Innis Dagg. Describes the camel in its natural habitat in the northwestern and western Sahara and points out the importance of camel men in the ecology of the desert, "for without them, there would be no camels to utilize the desert's resources." U of Chicago Pr, 1981, 208 p., illus., \$26.

EARTH SHELTERS — David Martindale. A comprehensive look at earth-sheltered architecture. Well-designed buildings buried either partially or totally underground realize dramatic energy savings. Dutton, 1981, 148 p., color/b&w illus., \$18.50, paper, \$10.25.

THE ILLUSTRATED ENCYCLOPEDIA OF SPACE TECHNOLOGY: A Comprehensive History of Space Exploration — Kenneth Gatlund, foreword by Arthur C. Clarke. This beautifully illustrated book traces the history of man's conquest of space from the forgotten pioneers like Tsiolkovsky to the space shuttle of the 1980s, then looks to the future and discusses such concepts as satellite solar power stations and space colonies. Special features include a space diary outlining major events and their dates beginning in 360 B.C., fold-out pages illustrating launch vehicles, Salyut and Skylab and a chart with detailed information on the world's space launch vehicles. Crown, 1981, 289 p., color/b&w illus., \$24.95.

INCREDIBLE LIFE: A Handbook of Biological Mysteries — William R. Corliss. A collection from scientific literature of all types of biological anomalies from synchronous bamboo flowering to the convergence of external appearance. Some examples of adaptation, mimicry, parasitism and symbiosis that are so remarkable that they appear to be anomalous are included. Sourcebook, 1981, 1018 p., illus. by John C. Holden, \$22.50.

THE MIND'S I: Fantasies and Reflections on Self and Soul — Douglas R. Hofstadter and Daniel C. Dennett. Explores the meaning of self and consciousness through the perspectives of literature, artificial intelligence, psychology and other disciplines. This book, according to the preface, "is designed to provoke, disturb and befuddle its readers, to make the obvious strange and the strange obvious." Basic, 1981, 501 p., illus., \$15.50.

THE NATURAL HISTORY OF WILD SHRUBS AND VINES: Eastern and Central North America — Donald W. Stokes. Concentrates on shrubs and vines that grow naturally in the wild. Plants are described at the genus level. Although there are many helpful clues to identification in the text and illustrations, this book is not intended as a field guide but rather to point up the interesting natural history of vines and shrubs. Harrow, 1981, 246 p., illus. by Deborah Prince Smith, \$16.95.

THE PRACTICAL ASTRONOMER — Colin A. Ronan. Explores the universe following in the steps of the astronomers of the past through to the recent results of space research. The book begins using only the naked eye as the early astronomers did. Outlines many experiments done by these scientists that the reader may perform. Then, using binoculars, a telescope and other simple equipment the author leads the reader on through some of history's most outstanding experiments and discoveries about our universe. Macmillan, 1981, 208 p., color/b&w illus., \$20.