

# SCIENCE NEWS

The Weekly Newsmagazine of Science

A Science Service Publication  
Volume 122, No. 11, September 11, 1982

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1719 N Street, N.W., Washington, D. C. 20036

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Subscription Department  
231 West Center Street, Marion, Ohio 43302

Subscription rate: 1 yr., \$27.50; 2 yrs., \$47.50; 3  
yrs., \$67.00. (Foreign postage \$5.00 additional per  
year.) Change of address: Four to six weeks' notice  
is required. Please state exactly how magazine is to  
be addressed. Include zip code. For new  
subscriptions only call (1) 800-247-2160. Printed in  
U.S.A. Second class postage paid at Washington,  
D. C. Title registered as trademark U. S. and Canadian  
Patent Offices. Published every Saturday by  
SCIENCE SERVICE, Inc. 1719 N St., N.W.,  
Washington, D. C. 20036. (202-785-2255)  
ISSN 0036-8423

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**Breakthrough to the Computer Age** — Harry  
Wulforst. A very readable account of the pio-  
neering personalities and the key events that in-  
fluenced the development of electronic comput-  
ing concepts. Recounts the building of the early  
machines and the achievements of those ma-  
chines. Scribner, 1982, 185 p., illus., \$12.95.

**Charles Babbage: Pioneer of the Computer**  
— Anthony Hyman. Discusses the career of this  
leading British advocate of the systematic use of  
science in industry. Babbage was the creator of  
machines that were precursors of the modern  
computer. Princeton U Pr, 1982, 287 p., illus.,  
\$25.

**Evolution from Space: A Theory of Cosmic  
Creationism** — Sir Fred Hoyle and N.C. Wick-  
kramasinghe. These two eminent astrophysi-  
cists argue that the complexity of life on earth

## This Week

- 164 Instant Replays for Researchers
- 164 Hominoid history: Filling the fossil gap
- 165 Oil spill model born of Ixtoc I
- 165 The Viking Fund: Keeping the Marslink
- 166 Aluminum and disease: Another indictment
- 166 Progress in paralysis treatment
- 167 Scared crooked: Does punishment promote juvenile delinquency?

## Research Notes

- 168 Technology
- 168 Behavior
- 169 Chemistry
- 169 Biology

## Articles

- 170 Is Beauty Only Skin Deep?  
Cover: A pair of spotted bowerbirds (*Chlamydera malculata*) at the male's decorated bower. Bowers, used only for courtship and mating, evolved through a process of evolution Charles Darwin called sexual selection. Their full significance remains a mystery. (Drawing from *The Descent of Man and Selection in Relation to Sex* by Charles Darwin, Princeton U Pr reprint, 1981)
- 172 Trying to Put Quasars in Their Place



## Departments

- 163 Books
- 167 Letters

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cannot have been caused by a sequence of ran-  
dom processes, but must have come from a  
cosmic intelligence. Life, they claim, had already  
evolved to a high standard of information long  
before the earth was formed, so that our planet  
received life with the fundamental problems al-  
ready solved. Originally published in London by  
J.M. Dent in 1981. S&S, 1982, 176 p., illus.,  
\$13.95 (SN: 1/16/82, p. 44).

**Glossary of Astronomy and Astrophysics** —  
Jeanne Hopkins, foreword by S. Chandrasekhar.  
This glossary of commonly used terms com-  
piled by an editor of the *Astrophysical Journal*  
was revised and enlarged for this second edi-  
tion. Originally published in hardback in 1980. U  
of Chicago Pr, 1982, 196 p., \$6.95.

**Hazardous Materials Spills Handbook** —  
Gary F. Bennett, Frank S. Feates and Ira Wilder,  
Eds. Features contributions by more than 60 ex-  
perts in the field, writing on their special areas of  
interest and expertise. Focuses on both spill  
prevention and methods for mitigating those  
spills that do occur. McGraw, 1982, 674 p., illus.,  
\$49.50.

**The Lighter Side of Gravity** — Jayant V. Nar-  
likar. A basic force of the universe, gravity con-  
trols a wide range of astronomical phenomena.  
This book describes for the general reader "the  
diversity, pervasiveness and importance of this  
enigmatic force." The emphasis of this work,  
according to the preface, is on the successes of  
the ideas of Newton and Einstein and on the dar-  
ing and speculative applications that these ideas  
have inspired. The author feels that the last  
word on gravity has not yet been said. WH  
Freeman, 1982, 194 p., illus., \$17.95, paper,  
\$8.95.

**The Mindful Brain: Cortical Organization and  
the Group-Selective Theory of Higher Brain  
Function** — Gerald M. Edelman and Vernon B.  
Mountcastle. Two papers that examine from dif-  
ferent perspectives the relationships that con-  
nect the high brain function — learning, thinking,  
memory — with what goes on at the most basic  
levels of neural activity, with particular stress on  
the role of local neuronal circuits. Originally pub-  
lished in hardback in 1978. MIT Pr, 1982, 100 p.,  
illus., paper, \$5.95.

Continued on p. 174

SEPTEMBER 11, 1982

163

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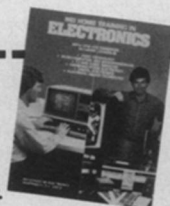
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## ...Books

**Portraits in the Wild: Behavior Studies of East African Mammals** — Cynthia Moss. Brings together the results of some of the important studies carried out on Africa's mammals. Presents a picture of the behavior of 15 major species. In this second edition the chapters on the elephant and the black rhinoceros have been revised and the bibliography brought up to date. U of Chicago Pr, 2nd ed., 1982, 371 p., illus., \$25, paper, \$9.95.

**Progress and Privilege: America in the Age of Environmentalism** — William Tucker. An attempt, the preface says, to understand environmentalism at its social roots and how it is related to privilege. "It is also an attempt to reaffirm technology — the human effort to meet human needs." Doubleday, 1982, 314 p., \$17.95.

**Spider Communication: Mechanisms and Ecological Significance** — Peter N. Witt and Jerome S. Rovner, Eds. "Understanding communication between living beings requires insight into many different aspects of life." Leading researchers from many countries review here their discoveries in the area of spider communication. Princeton U Pr, 1982, 440 p., illus., \$30.

**Toxic Shock Syndrome: Assessment of Current Information and Future Research Needs** — NAS/Institute of Medicine. This report reviews present knowledge concerning many of the clinical, epidemiological, pathological, microbiological and other aspects of the toxic shock syndrome. Points out where gaps in information and data exist and recommends where research should be directed. Natl Acad Pr, 1982, 116 p., paper, \$10.50.

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