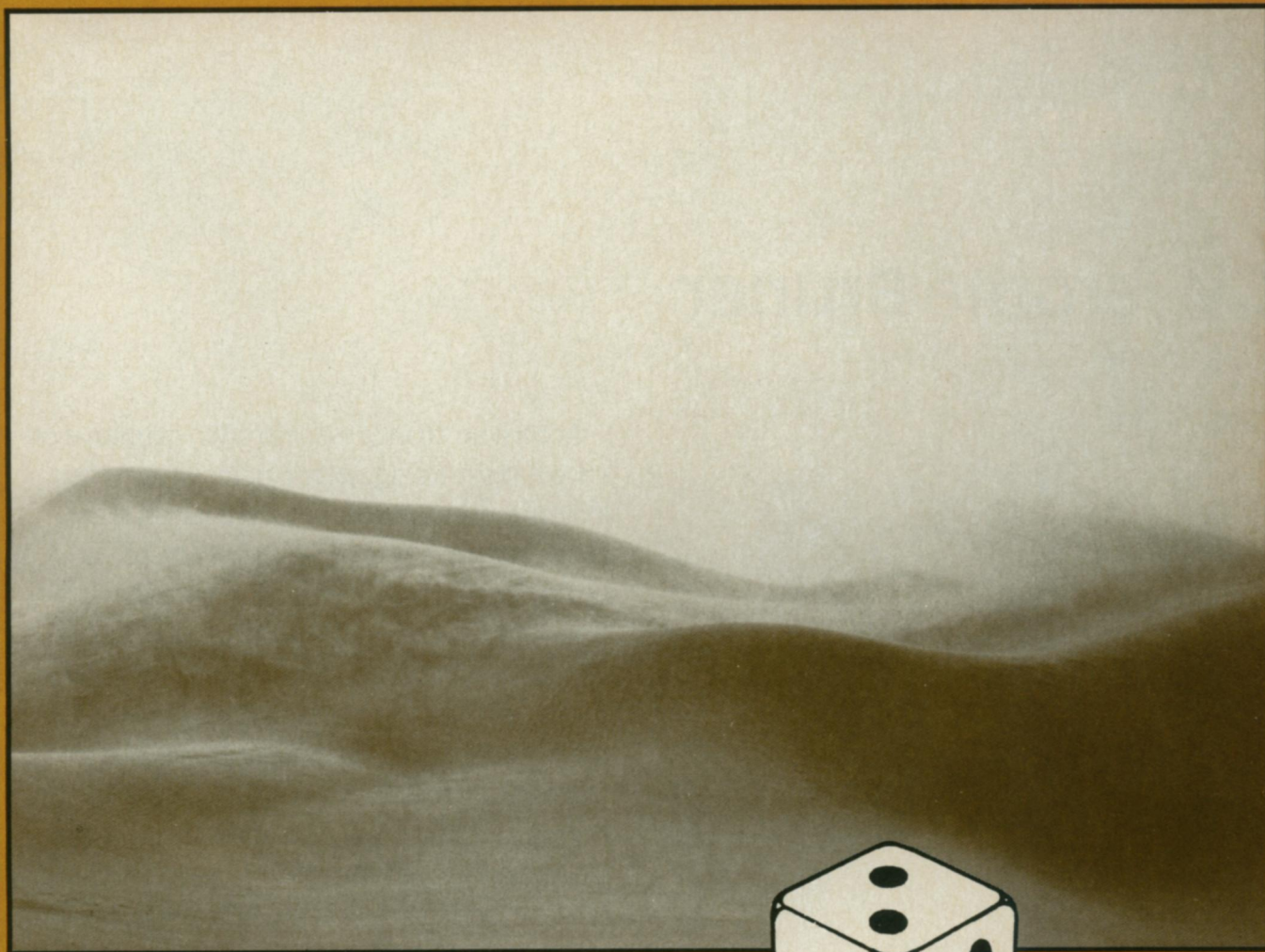


The Weekly Newsmagazine of Science

SCIENCE NEWS

May 3, 1986
Vol. 129, No. 18
Pages 273-288



Of Dice and Dunes



ACTUAL MINDS, POSSIBLE WORLDS

By Jerome Bruner

Harvard University Press, 1986, 201 pages, 9¹/₂" x 6¹/₄", hardcover, \$15.00

According to Professor Bruner, cognitive science has set its sights too narrowly on the logical, systematic aspects of mental life — those thought processes we use to solve puzzles, test hypotheses, and advance explanations. There is obviously another side to the mind — a side devoted to the irrepressibly human acts of imagination that allow us to make experience meaningful. This is the side of the mind that leads to good stories, gripping drama, primitive myths and rituals, and plausible historical accounts. Bruner calls it the "narrative mode," and his book makes important advances in the effort to unravel its nature.

Over twenty years ago, Jerome Bruner first sketched his ideas about the mind's other side in his justly admired book *On Knowing: Essays for the Left Hand*. *Actual Minds, Possible Worlds* can be read as a sequel to this earlier work, but it is a sequel that goes well beyond its predecessor by providing rich examples of just how the mind's narrative mode can be successfully studied. The collective force of these examples points the way toward a more humane and subtle approach to the investigation of how the mind works.

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Please send _____ copy(ies) of *Actual Minds, Possible Worlds*. I include a check payable to Science News Book Order Service for \$15.00 plus \$1.00 handling (total \$16.00) for each copy. Domestic orders only.

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