

Letters continued from p. 227

drinking water began to surface, and hundreds of Jews were put to death.

Although certainly all murder in all societies is not perpetuated by feelings of helplessness and fear, I think, in the case of the Gebusi, it is a hypothesis that merits some consideration.

Melanie J. Stright
River Ridge, La.

Since the Gebusi tribe still exists, the high homicide rate is not decreasing the tribal population. Could the homicides be a "lemming effect" whose purpose is simply to control overpopulation? This might happen if there were a shortage of food or land, and Bruce Bower indicated that the available wilderness areas were shrinking.

Wayne Wyrick
Warr Acres, Okla.

"Murder in Good Company" was most striking, not only in the description of the Gebusi, but also in the total omission of input from psychoanalytic observation and theory.

It is almost axiomatic that when we deny awareness of internal aggression we set the stage for misperceiving the aggression as having an external source. At that point "retaliation" becomes the expression of the original rage so disguised as to render it "acceptable."

It appears likely that the Gebusi have institutionalized paranoid perception and projective mechanisms in attempting to minimize their sense of helplessness when con-

fronted with death.

In a nuclear world with our capability of causing immense destruction, we cannot afford to ignore our personal and collective "dark side." Peace in our communities and on the planet requires much more than controlling violence on television.

William B. Groppe
Psychiatrist
Long Beach, Calif.

Gebusi killing is not a strategy for group survival, says Bruce M. Knauft, who studied the tribe. Rather, it is an important cause of a continuing decline in the population and the average life span of its members. Knauft presents a preliminary psychoanalytic discussion of Gebusi violence and conflict avoidance in the *JOURNAL OF PSYCHOANALYTIC ANTHROPOLOGY*, Vol. 10, No. 2.

—B. Bower

Dehydrated aliens?

I am fascinated by "Death-Defying Dehydration" (SN: 2/13/88, p.107). That these organisms can sustain life in a dormant state with no water, and also be protected by their very dehydration from extremes of temperature, strong vacuums and high doses of ionizing radiation, suggests to my imagination a scenario of dormancy of otherwise "lifeless" planets for unknown periods of time, and eventual inadvertent transfer through space to colonize new worlds. Has anyone checked all those moon rocks for a pulse?

Friedrick Haines
Englewood, Colo.

Books

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A Brief History of Time: From the Big Bang to Black Holes

— Stephen W. Hawking. One of the world's leading theoretical physicists describes for the general reader the basic ideas about the origin and fate of the universe. The only mathematical equation included in the book is Einstein's, $E = mc^2$. Hawking traces the history of cosmology from the early Greeks to modern times. He then provides a clear explanation of the currently accepted physical theories of the universe and discusses the outlook for a unified theory. This brilliant scientist, who has amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, retains the use of only three fingers and can communicate only through a specially designed computer. Bantam, 1988, 198 p., illus., \$18.95.

A Field Guide to Southeastern and Caribbean Seashores

— Eugene H. Kaplan. This Peterson Field Guide describes the ecology and common organisms of seashores from North Carolina through Florida, the Gulf Coast and the Caribbean. The book is divided into two parts. Part one provides an overview of the different environments encountered along the shores or beneath the inshore seas, focusing on habitats and the interrelationships between the plants and animals that inhabit them. Part two describes the common animals found in each habitat with an emphasis on field markings to help readers identify each organism. HM, 1988, 425 p., color/b&w illus., paper, \$14.95.

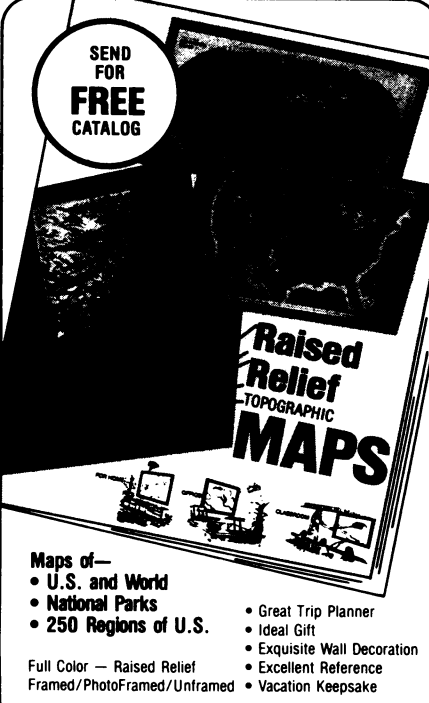
Flowering Trees & Shrubs — Brian Davis. This Gardeners' Pocket Picture Guide contains 450 entries arranged alphabetically and providing details on care and cultivation with illustrations showing both the overall shape of the tree or shrub and its appearance when in flower. Rodale Pr, 1988, 96 p., color illus., paper, \$7.95.

Free Radical: Albert Szent-Gyorgyi and the Battle over Vitamin C

— Ralph W. Moss, foreword by Studs Terkel. An intimate biography of this renaissance man who won the 1937 Nobel Prize for Physiology and Medicine in his native Hungary at the age of 44. He emigrated to the United States at 54 and continued to do research at Woods Hole until his death in 1986 at the age of 93. A charismatic teacher-researcher and anti-war activist, he used his great talents to, among other things, discover vitamin C, unravel the mechanisms of cellular respiration and pioneer a radically different way to investigate cancer. Paragon Hse, 1988, 316 p., illus., \$22.95.

Marks in Place: Contemporary Responses to Rock Art

— Linda Connor et al. Five artists here have photographed rock art and in accompanying essays have discussed their reactions to it. Most of these petroglyphs are found in the southwestern United States, with a few examples of Peruvian work. The rock art represents several thousand years of graphic expression by American Indians. An essay by a research associate at the Museum of New Mexico suggests ways in which rock art can be interpreted and how some of it functioned. U of NM Pr, 1988, 133 p., color/b&w illus., \$45, paper, \$24.95.



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Meditations at 10,000 Feet: A Scientist in the Mountains — James Trefil. The mountains are used as a springboard to introduce natural phenomena found there and to present to the general reader in fascinating essays the scientific theories involved. Originally published in hardback in 1986. Macmillan, 1987, 236 p., illus., paper, \$8.95.

The New Harvard Guide to Psychiatry

— Armand M. Nicholi Jr., Ed. This book maintains a scientific approach with an emphasis on current research, but also concentrates on the patient as a person. Part one focuses on the examination and assessment of patients with psychiatric disorders and on the diagnosis and classification of those disorders. Part two reflects the concentrated effort of psychiatrists to establish the neurological and biological basis of the major psychiatric disorders. Part three introduces new research on the psychological aspects of mental illness. Part four addresses the treatment and management of patients with psychiatric illness. Part five focuses on special groups of patients and on environmental and psychosocial factors that play a role in the pathogenesis of the major psychiatric illnesses. Part six explores the relationship between psychiatry and culture. Harvard U Pr, 1988, 865 p., \$39.95.

Next: The Coming Era in Science

— Holcomb B. Noble, Ed. A leading physicist and well-known science writers explore the theoretical and practical applications of the 20th century's major scientific accomplishments, which foreshadow what is to come in the 21st century. Little, 1988, 190 p., \$17.95, paper, \$9.95.