



Agents of Chaos explores the seismic and volcanic hazards that threaten North America and explains the geologic role of ice and fire in shaping this continent. Focusing on the West, Harris tours natural-disaster hotspots and examines what they tell us about our restless planet. He draws on sources ranging from the latest scientific research to ancient American Indian geomythology to illuminate the power of chaos and the geologic hazards through which it operates.

Mountain Press, 1990, 260 pages, 6" x 9", paperback, \$12.95

The Coming Quake

Science and Trembling on the California Earthquake Frontier
by T. A. Heppenheimer

The Coming Quake is a probing, in-depth study of California earthquakes of the past, present and future. Heppenheimer weaves scientific research with the history and legends of earthquakes in his exploration of the history of earthquake prediction, what scientists can and cannot predict about quakes, and scenarios for using technology to control them.

Paragon House, 1990, 290 pages, 5½" x 8¼", paperback, \$12.95

:15 Fifteen Seconds: The Great California Earthquake of 1989

This compilation of photographs and quotes from survivors captures the devastation, pain and loss left in the wake of the earthquake that struck the San Francisco Bay area in 1989. Dedicated to the earthquake's victims, heroes and volunteers, these moving images include contributions from some of the nation's best photographers and were published within weeks of the quake through a collaboration of editors and photographers. All proceeds benefit quake victims.

Island Press, 1989, 119 pages, 10" x 9½", paperback, \$19.95

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it lifted the burden of explaining to a science or engineering adviser why it was necessary to take that extra class in English, music, etc.

I have since found that my knowledge of logical problem solving improved my ability to think about nontechnical problems and write clearly focused papers. In turn, my humanities background has enriched my research as well as my ability to communicate the results, especially in my work as a statistical consultant with nontechnical collaborators.

Meredith G. Warshaw
Lincoln, Mass.

Adversarial assimilation?

Your article on the work of Denis R. Stanworth ("New allergy vaccine brings relief to rats," SN: 12/1/90, p.341), coupled with Stanworth's response to criticism by immunologist Henry Metzger (Letters, SN: 1/19/91, p.35), reveals the competition that so often characterizes innovative research efforts.

I wonder whether these "adversarial" camps have considered combining efforts by studying each other's research probes. It would be interesting to absorb Metzger's antisera with the synthesized peptide Stanworth has found capable of initiating nonspecific histamine release. Would this modified Metzger antisera be inactive? I also wonder whether immunization with Stanworth's peptide-based immunogen would alter the efficacy of Metzger's Fc-targeted antisera.

Richard H. Tew
Physician
Encinitas, Calif.

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