

# PRISONER'S DILEMMA



JOHN VON NEUMANN,  
GAME THEORY,  
AND THE PUZZLE  
OF THE BOMB

WILLIAM  
POUNDSTONE

*"Zero-sum games, war games, cold war games — from poker via the Bomb to the amoral but seductive doctrine of preventive war. William Poundstone's penetrating biography of John von Neumann reveals what it is like to be a prisoner trapped in a dilemma of one's own making."*

Ian Stewart, Professor of Mathematics  
*Scientific American Mathematical Recreations*

Should you watch public television without pledging? . . . Exceed the posted speed limit? . . . Hop a subway turnstile without paying? . . . These questions illustrate the so-called "prisoner's dilemma," a social puzzle that we all face every day.

Watching players bluff in a poker game inspired John von Neumann — father of the modern computer — to construct game theory, a mathematical study of conflict and deception that was readily embraced at the RAND Corporation. In 1950 two RAND scientists made a momentous discovery. Called the "prisoner's dilemma," it is a disturbing and mind-bending game where two or more people may betray the common good for individual gain.

A masterful work of science writing, *Prisoner's Dilemma* weaves together a biography of the brilliant and tragic von Neumann, a history of pivotal phases of the cold war, and an investigation of game theory's far-reaching influence on public policy today.

—from the publisher

Doubleday, 1992, 290 pages,  
6¼" x 9½", hardcover, \$22.50

To order by phone from  
Science News Books, call:  
**1-800-544-4565**  
(Visa or MasterCard Only)  
In D.C. Area: 202-331-9653

Science News Books, 1719 N Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036

PrisonDilemH

Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ copy(ies) of *Prisoner's Dilemma*. I include a check payable to Science News Books for \$22.50 plus \$2.00 postage and handling (total \$24.50) for each copy. Domestic orders only.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

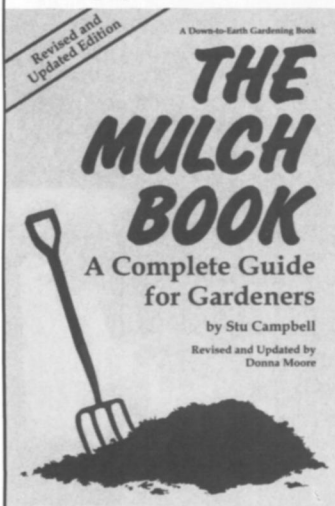
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_

(used only for problems with order)

RB1588

Storey Publ., 1991, 120 pages,  
6" x 9", paperback, \$8.95



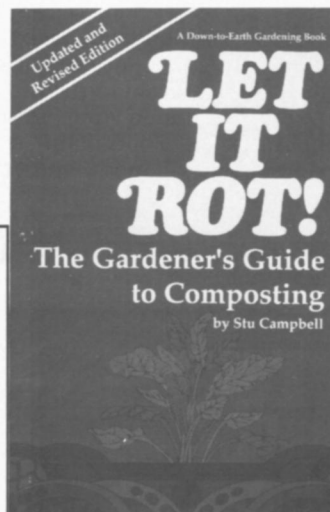
For years, successful gardeners and landscapers have hailed mulching as a labor-saving way of reducing the need for weeding and watering, while at the same time improving soil and protecting plants from harsh weather. Discover for yourself the many benefits mulch has to offer you. *The Mulch Book* details everything you need to know about mulching, including:

- \* How much mulch to use
- \* When to apply mulch for maximum benefit
- \* What mulches best suit specific plants
- \* Information on the newest mulching products
- \* How to make your own mulch.

—from the publisher



Composting is a natural way to put much of your household waste to productive use. Since 1975, *Let It Rot!* has helped countless gardeners recycle waste materials such as household garbage, grass clippings and ashes to create useful, soil-nourishing compost. Updated and revised for the 1990s, *Let It Rot!* includes:



- \* A helpful guide to choosing the right materials for compost
- \* A full discussion of the many uses of compost for gardens and lawns
- \* Instructions for building the equipment necessary for a compost pile
- \* Simplification of the technical terminology involved
- \* A discussion of modern equipment.

—from the publisher



Science News Books  
1719 N Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036

MulchBook  
LetItRot  
SetMulchRot

Please send my the book(s) marked below. I enclose the price of the book(s) plus \$2.00 for postage and handling per book (maximum \$4.00 charge). Domestic orders only.

\_\_\_\_\_ *The Mulch Book*, \$8.95    \_\_\_\_\_ Set of both, \$16.50  
\_\_\_\_\_ *Let It Rot!*, \$8.95

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_

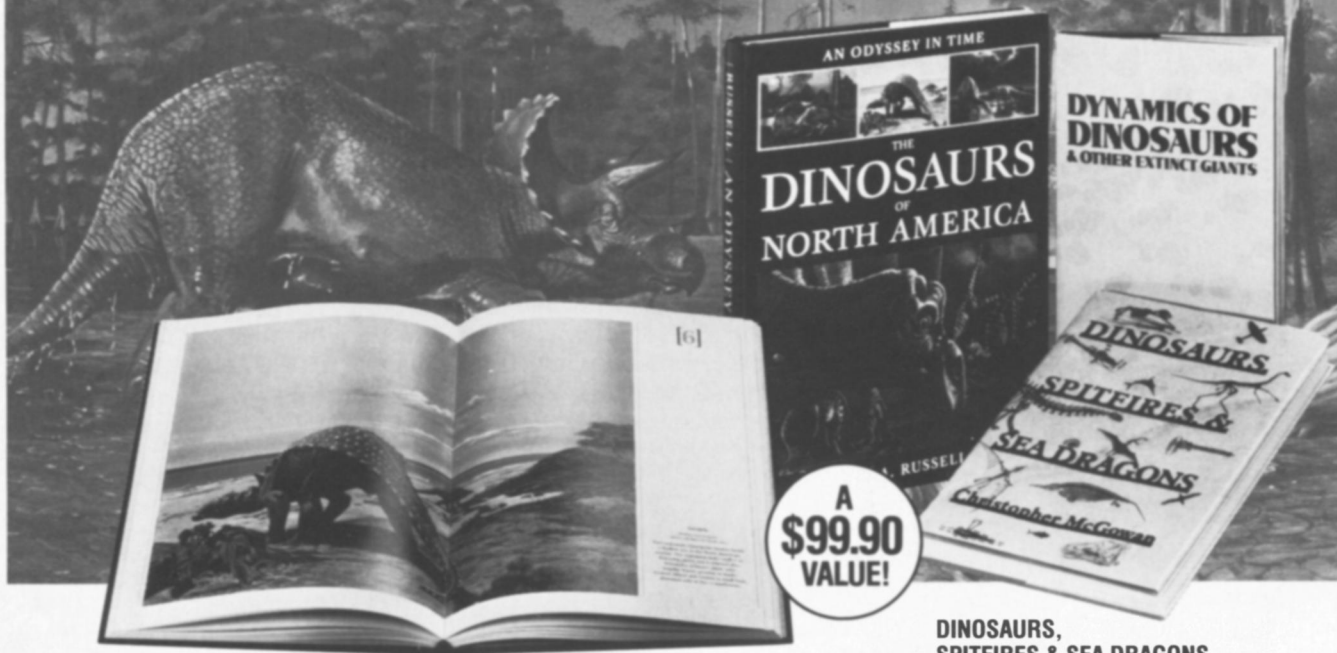
(used only for problems with order)

RB1589

Storey Publ., 1990, 152 pages,  
6" x 9", paperback, \$8.95

# DINOSAURS

Join the fascinating quest for knowledge about our prehistoric past



A  
**\$99.90**  
VALUE!

## Get the 3-volume DINOSAUR LIBRARY for just **\$2.95**

as your introduction to the  
Natural Science Book Club

You simply agree to buy three more books – at significant savings – within the next 12 months.

### Natural Science Book Club

A Newbridge Book Club  
3000 Cindel Drive, Delran, NJ 08370-0001

Please accept my application for trial membership and send me the Dinosaur Library (00128) billing me only \$2.95, plus shipping and handling and send my free Dinosaur Postcards (42287). I agree to purchase at least three additional Selections or Alternates over the next 12 months. Savings generally range from 15% to 30% off the publishers' prices. My membership is cancelable any time after I buy these three additional books. A shipping and handling charge is added to all shipments.

**No-Risk Guarantee:** If I am not satisfied—for any reason—I may return the Dinosaur Library within 10 days. My membership will be canceled, and I will owe nothing.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Apt. \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

(Books purchased for professional purposes may be a tax-deductible expense. Offer good in Continental U.S. and Canada only. Prices slightly higher in Canada.)

Science News 4/4/92 4-CV9

### AN ODYSSEY IN TIME: THE DINOSAURS OF NORTH AMERICA

Dale A. Russell

"The finest work ever produced on the dinosaurs" – Robert A. Long, Univ. of Calif. Bringing together an enormous amount of information from fields of geology, biology, and paleontology, Russell examines dinosaurs in the context of the environments in which they evolved and thrived. A unique look at how 150 million years of dinosaur evolution coincided with dramatic changes in the Earth's ecosystems. *Publisher's price: \$39.95*

### DYNAMICS OF DINOSAURS

R. McNeill Alexander

If dinosaurs are the ancestors of birds, could they sing? How fast could they run? And were they warm-blooded? Alexander applies the methods of physics and engineering – scale models, careful calculations of volume, density, and mass – to deduce specific characteristics and abilities of dinosaurs. The result is a thoroughly original and highly readable perspective on these giants of the Mesozoic. *Publisher's price: \$30.00*

### DINOSAURS, SPITFIRES & SEA DRAGONS

Christopher McGowan

"McGowan, the world's leading expert on ichthyosaurs, tells their story better than ever before."  
– Stephen Jay Gould

One of the best overviews available on modern thinking about dinosaurs, this straightforward and accessible book is based on the premise that we must interpret the past in light of what we know today. McGowan reveals how paleontologists "read" a skeleton, and how they draw conclusions about everything from dietary habits to brain power. *Publisher's price: \$29.95*

## YOURS FREE

30 full-color  
postcards  
(a \$5.95  
value)



## 4 Good Reasons to Join

**1. The Finest Books.** Of the hundreds of books submitted to us each year, only the very finest are selected and offered.

**2. Big Savings.** In addition to getting the Dinosaur Library for only \$2.95 and the Dinosaur Postcards for free when you join, you'll receive discounts on the books you choose to purchase. Discounts range from 15% to 30% off the publishers' prices, and occasionally even more. (For example, your total savings as a trial member—including this introductory offer—can easily be over 50%. That's like getting every other book free!)

**3. Bonus Books.** Also, you will immediately become eligible to participate in our Bonus Book Plan, with savings of more than 50% off the publishers' prices.

**4. Convenient Service.** At 3-4 week intervals (15 times per year), you will receive the Natural Science Book Club News, describing the Main Selection and Alternate Selections, together with a dated reply card. In addition, up to three times a year, you may receive offers of Special Selections which will be made available to a group of select members. If you want the Main Selection, do nothing, and it will be sent to you automatically. If you prefer another selection, or no book at all, simply indicate your choice on the card and return it by the date specified. You will have at least 10 days to decide. If, because of late mail delivery of the News, you should receive a book you do not want, we guarantee return postage.

©Newbridge Communications, Inc.