

The Weekly Newsmagazine of Science

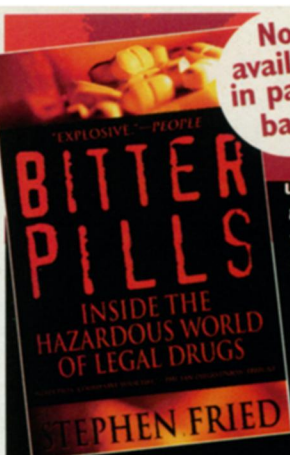
# SCIENCE NEWS

October 23, 1999  
Vol. 156, No. 17  
Pages 257-272



**Nuclear Rx**





Now  
available  
in paper-  
back!

Adverse reactions to prescription and over-the-counter medications kill more people every year than all illegal drug use combined. In 1998, the *Journal of the American Medical Association* found that more than 100,000 Americans die each year from adverse reactions, making them the fourth leading cause of death in the United States. In 1992, Stephen Fried's wife experienced such a reaction when she took a pill that a physician had prescribed for a minor infection. A few hours later, she ended up in the emergency room, a victim of what Fried calls "the other drug problem."

An experienced investigative journalist, Fried set out to explore the pharmaceutical safety net that his wife had fallen through. His quest became a 5-year probe of the legal drug culture, beginning with an article for *Philadelphia* magazine on what he discovered about the new antibiotic that his wife had

taken. The article won the 1994 National Magazine Award and set off an FDA investigation.

The single most profitable legal manufacturing industry in the world, pharmaceuticals are dominated by competitive companies with vast resources for marketing and promoting their products. During the course of his research, Fried visited the American Psychiatric Association's national meeting, and found the convention floor resembling a drug company trade show—"a Disneyland of Drugs" with the industry's "grand display areas dwarfing those of every care facility, scientific publisher, and patient advocacy group."

Fried found the medical community itself to be vulnerable to such tactics. Doctors receive minimal education in pharmacology in medical school. Thereafter, a great many of them draw all their information about new drugs from company handouts and the detail men who call on them—sales reps who are prone to hard-sell their products and, on occasion, offer seductive inducements to the physician in exchange for prescribing their drugs.

This book also presents dramatic accounts of the drug development and approval system. Fried critiques the FDA and demonstrates the pressure that powerful drug companies and pressures politicians committed to deregulation exert on FDA employees.

We assume our doctors are well-informed, our drug companies scrupulous, our FDA diligent—and our medications safe. In *Bitter Pills*, Fried gives readers disturbing reasons to question these assumptions. —from Bantam

Bantam, 1998, 431 pages, 6" x 9 1/4", paperback, \$13.95

**BooksNow** The Virtual Bookstore™ 400 Morris Ave., Long Branch, NJ 07740  
Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ copy(ies) of *Bitter Pills*. I include a check payable to Books Now for \$13.95 plus \$4.95 postage and handling for the first book (total \$18.90). Add \$2.50 for postage and handling for each additional book.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Daytime Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
(used only for problems with order)

Order by phone for faster service!

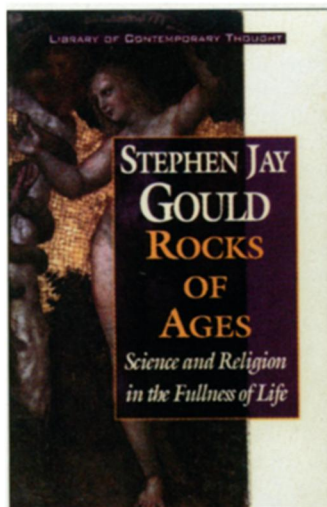
**1-800-266-5766**

Dept. 1494

Visa, MasterCard, or American Express

See our Web site at  
[www.sciencenewsbooks.org](http://www.sciencenewsbooks.org)

A service of  
Science News Books



Ballantine Books, 1999  
241 pages, 5 1/4" x 8 1/4"  
hardcover, \$18.95

"People of good will wish to see science and religion at peace . . . I do not see how science and religion could be unified, or even synthesized, under any common scheme of explanation or analysis; but I also do not understand why the two enterprises should experience any conflict." So states internationally renowned evolutionist and best-selling author Stephen Jay Gould in the simple yet profound thesis of his brilliant new book.

Writing with bracing intelligence and elegant clarity, Gould sheds new light on a dilemma that has plagued thinking people since the Renaissance. Instead of choosing between science and religion, Gould asks, why not opt for a golden mean that accords dignity and distinction to each realm?

At the heart of Gould's penetrating argument is a lucid, contemporary principle he calls NOMA (for nonoverlapping magisteria)—a "blessedly simple and entirely conventional resolution" that allows science and religion to coexist peacefully in a position of respectful noninterference. With separate spheres of influence, science defines the natural world and religion, our moral world.

In elaborating and exploring this thought-provoking concept, Gould delves into the history of science, sketching affective portraits of scientists and moral leaders wrestling with matters of faith and reason. Stories of seminal figures such as Galileo, Darwin, and Thomas Henry Huxley make vivid Gould's argument that individuals and cultures must cultivate both a life of the spirit and a life of rational inquiry to experience the fullness of being human.

—from Ballantine Books

ORDER BY PHONE FOR FASTER SERVICE!

**1-800-266-5766**

Dept. 1494

Visa, MasterCard, or American Express

See our Web site at  
[www.sciencenewsbooks.org](http://www.sciencenewsbooks.org)

A service of Science News Books

**BooksNow** The Virtual Bookstore™ 400 Morris Ave., Long Branch, NJ 07740

Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ copy(ies) of *Rock of Ages*. I include a check payable to Books Now for \$18.95 plus \$4.95 postage and handling for the first book (total \$23.90). Add \$2.50 for postage and handling for each additional book.

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

(used only for problems with order)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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