with the possible effects of acid deposition. Recent experiments have shown that a combination of acid precipitation and ozone caused greater reduction in yield of soybeans than ozone alone.

6. Finally, your article states that "acid precipitation with a pH far lower than 5.0 has been recorded on many occasions in the Amazon jungle, Hawaii and even in the far South Pacific--areas far removed from the US power plants." While this statement is true, it merely illustrates that the acid rain phenomenon is a global problem that is not restricted to any one region or country. Furthermore, there are power plants not only in the US but in other industrialized regions of the world--Europe, Canada, the USSR, the Middle East, Africa, and Australia.

In summary, important changes are taking place in the chemical climate of the Earth. These changes are affecting the lakes, streams, fields and forests on which both the abundance and quality of our life depends. Wise management of these resources requires communication among biologists, hydrologists, atmospheric chemists, meteorologists, regulatory strategists, and both industrial and political leaders in the United States and other countries. Let us continue that communication by focusing our collective knowledge on the development of more adequate plans for management of air quality and its effects on plants, animals, soils, surface waters and materials. The current debate about possible revision of the Clean Air Act is one of the important occasions for such collective thinking.

Doyle Kline, Superintendent, Big South Fork National River and Recreation Area, Oneida, Tennessee.

REVIEW

THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, by William C. Everhart (Boulder, Colorado: The Westview Press, 1983), 198 pages, $23.50 hardcover, $10.95 paperback.

Bill Everhart's, *The National Park Service,* is a short book that all persons interested in the Service and the National Park System will want to read. It provides information, food for thought, commentary and, for old hands, a twinge or two of nostalgia. NPS Director Dickenson wrote that Bill's credentials for commenting on the Service "are as good as any man can have." All who know Bill will agree, and the book confirms this judgment. It reflects his deep knowledge of the Service, his insight and his ability to detect irony. The text displays his sense of humor, affection for the Service and its people--"his touchable heart," and his refreshing candor.

This is not a repeat of the Everhart book of the same title written a decade ago; the Service has changed somewhat since then, and there are those who would alter it even more. Bill has commented on much of this. For instance, some will agree with and others might resent his observation that the energy and idealism that once characterized the Service, if they have not vanished, are "victims of a slight recession."

Two of the book's twelve chapters deal with the Service's origin and its evolution to the organization it is today. Other chapters are more or less topical. They present a variety of subjects--personnel, friends and supporters, visitation, wilderness, "The Problem of Concessions" (the 1972 book had a chapter entitled only "Concessions"), Alaskan parks, foreign park systems, threats--including burros, of course--and the politicizing of the Service. Bill provides a brief treatment of such subjects, presenting their essence and bringing them into focus with pertinent examples and apt comments.

The chapter, "The Alaskan Park System," is a particularly helpful synopsis of the Service's challenges and accomplishments in that vast area where it has accomplished so much, but where its trials have hardly begun. The chapter, "The Politicizing of the Service," promises to provoke the most interest and comment. The Service's increasing budget and visibility attract growing political interest and action. To simplify, as Bill observes, this has been manifested on one hand by "Park Barrell" legislation and by frequent changes in directors on the other. The former has resulted in some good things, but it has prostituted the System to political expediency and greed--national significance and other criteria be damned. (My words, not his.) The latter has given the Service five directors in eight years, some having been appointed for reasons other than a demonstrated ability to do the job. Bill holds the Nixon administration particularly responsible for this unhappy condition. Readers reactions to this chapter will be varied and pronounced. Most will commend the author for his candor and many will wish that he had shown even less restraint.

There are a few flaws. The index could be more inclusive. One of the book's twenty-six illustrations is wrongly identified with Fredericksburg NMP; Mesa Verde could hardly be said to have established the precedent of historic preservation on the national level and, thankfully, the proposed and unworthy Legionville site has no real connection with the American Legion. I particularly regret that more attention was not given to the Service's management of its historical and archeological areas. As he points out, over half of the System's units fall within this grouping, and their lineage is as ancient as and parallels that of the Yosemite-Yellowstone line. The "enlightened stewardship" that they were to have received from the Service merits more attention and comment.

Bill closed with nine well reasoned predictions. One reflects his concern for the politicization of the Service, one holds that future changes in policy or philosophy are likely to be gradual and in the direction of preservation. The former threatens trouble, but the latter suggests that Bill believes that the Service will survive the storm.

...Dr. Harry W. Pfanz

REVIEW

ALGENY, by Jeremy Rifkin. Viking. $14.75. 312 pages.

When your doctor prescribes a drug you have never heard of, you have the Food and Drug Administration's assurance that however bitter the pill, it won't kill you and should even behave more or less as claimed. The Environmental Protection Agency keeps an eye on what is sprayed on forest and field.

When it comes to the contents of books, however, you are on your own. The protection of free speech rightly outweighs a reader's need for significance, or even for good writing, and whatever quality control publishers once exercised has gone the way of the dodo.

Algeny, Jeremy Rifkin's new book, is a shameless potpourri of misinformation and faulty logic. That is unexceptional in today's "nonfiction" book list. Rifkin's book is worth discussing, however, not only because it epitomizes some of the many things wrong with American letters, but also because Rifkin decorates his book with the praises of such well-known worthies as Sen. Mark Hatfield, Rep. Albert Gore, Jr., Robert Rodale, Bishop A. James Armstrong, and others who should be ashamed of themselves; either they did not read the book or more likely did not think about it.

After all Rifkin is a good guy who comes to the right conclusions however tortured the path, and his energized, heavily referenced writing sounds persuasive if you just listen to the beat.

So what is it all about? Rifkin disproves the Darwinian theory of evolution through natural selection by demonstrating it was nothing more than the bourgeois reflection of 19th-century industrialist Britain. That thinking is out, passe, defended only by a shrinking herd of mental dinosaurs. An intellectual revolution is taking place that supplants the Darwinian model with an "informational" cosmology that itself reflects the comming age of bioengineering.

This new thinking, Rifkin concludes, is leading us to a brave new world in which nature will cease to exist, replaced by human-engineered "life." Rifkin finds such a future repugnant, and so do I. Fortunately for both of us, there is nothing in his thinking to persuade me that we are in for it.

Rifkin is labeled a social scientist, yet among all the misleading statements, a sleight-of-mind and abused citations, his worst crime in this reviewer's eyes is misrepresentation of the formal protocols of science.

Certainly, as scientist-essayist Stephen Jay Gould has observed on several occasions, Darwin was a man of his time and class who did borrow metaphors from his society and--just possibly--was somehow inspired in his inductive flash by newly capitalist Britain. That, however, is irrelevant to the truth of his hypothesis. Rifkin is guilty, over and over again, of confusing models

with hypotheses.

There is great ferment today among evolutionary biologists. The development of new lineages may take place much more rapidly than Darwin thought possible, and perhaps natural selection does not control 100 percent of evolution. But Rifkin misrepresents the discipline of biology when he baldly states that the central thesis of biology has been tossed out in favor of a new "metaphor" of information.

Rifkin's leitmotif is nothing more than intellectual corruption, not because it cannot be true but because he rejects the concept of objective truth while hanging fervently on the coattails of science. You can't have it both ways.

Algeny promises a dramatic synthesis of cybernetics and biology to reveal the evil direction science is taking us. Instead, it epitomizes how corrupt, sloppy thinking succeeds in the marketplace when neither publisher nor public is equipped to analyze and reject it.

...*David Graber,* Sequoia National Park, California

REVIEW

THE MAKING OF A RANGER: Forty Years with the National Parks, by Lemuel A. Garrison, introduction by Russell Dickenson. Howe Brothers, Salt Lake City, $19.95, ISBN 0-935704-19-1; paper $10.95 ISBN 0-935704-18-2.

He started out as a seasonal ranger at Sequoia National Park; when he retired as Superintendent of Yellowstone, "Lon" Garrison had served at every level of the national park system. His experiences ranged from lifesaving rescues in the mountains and stocking fish streams to long-range planning for park protection and improvement. His memoir is a rewarding story of utter harmony between a man and his job. Whether he was at Yosemite, Glacier, Hopewell, Big Bend or Yellowstone, Garrison enjoyed his work. A field man at heart, he was dedicated to preserving the natural beauty of the parks yet acutely conscious of his responsibilities to the public. Since his service spanned the years of visitor explosion in the parks, Garrison's book is also an interesting history of the modern National Park Service.

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