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announced that yes, I was in charge of it, which so confused Mr. Wilson we had very little to say to each other during the rest of the lunch."

**ENERGY AND CONFLICT:  
The Life and Times of**

**Edward Teller**

By Stanley A. Blumberg  
and Gwinn Owens  
Putnam, 1976, 492 pp. \$12.95  
L of C 75-43812  
ISBN 0-399-11551-X

Blumberg and Owens, two Baltimore journalists, base this first full account of the life of "the father of the H-bomb" on Edward Teller's unclassified papers and on lengthy interviews with their controversial subject, his scientific colleagues, and his friends. They provide fresh and interesting material on Teller's youth and education in Europe. Their main concern, however, is Teller's major role in America's race with the Soviet Union in the late '40s and early '50s to develop advanced nuclear weapons; and their most significant argument is that "the Russians achieved not only the first experimental nuclear fusion on earth, but also produced [in 1953] the first deliverable hydrogen bomb." Unfortunately, this claim is based on the misreading of incomplete evidence. It flaws an otherwise good popular biography, which more thorough research outside Teller's circle could have made a better book.

**PENGUINS: Past and Present, Here and There**

By George Gaylord Simpson  
Yale, 1976, 150 pp. \$10  
L of C 75-27211  
ISBN 0-300-01969-6

The first European discoverers of penguins thought they were geese. Simpson, a well-known biologist, writes—for "adults who do not necessarily know much about penguins but for whom there is nothing that they do not really want to know"—a history of man's association with these beguiling birds that is also a witty treatise on their biological uniqueness. His chapter on "the basic penguin" answers many questions about their unbirdlike attributes, such as why they can't fly and why they stand up in such a formal, funny way. Other chapters cover the ecology and behavior of the 18 species—and their surprisingly wide distribution, from Antarctica to New Zealand, to Peru, to the Galápagos and the Falkland Islands, where, until recently, November 9 was a school holiday traditionally devoted to penguin-egg hunting.