
PAPERBOUNDS

CRIMINAL VIOLENCE, CRIMINAL JUSTICE. By Charles E. Silberman. Vintage reprint, 1980. 745 pp. \$4.95

This year, three Americans out of 100 are likely to be victims of violent crimes; one household in 10 will be burglarized. Afraid? Two of 5 people—in large cities, one out of two—fear going out alone at night. In this far-ranging and well-documented study, writer Silberman surveys America's prisons, police, courts, and juvenile justice systems. He paints a bleak picture: "No approach to rehabilitation seems to work." Yet, he argues, tougher punishment is not the answer. "When people feel that the criminal justice system is too harsh, they become reluctant to cooperate with the police and courts." Among Silberman's suggestions: Police departments should build stronger ties to their communities by, for example, reinstating foot patrols. Juvenile courts should stop handling truancy and runaway cases; they should exercise jurisdiction only when a child's actions would be considered criminal if committed by an adult. Silberman backs up his proposals with case studies of programs that have worked and, he argues, can be made to work again.

BERTOLT BRECHT: Poems, 1913–1956. Edited by John Willett and Ralph Manheim. Methuen, 1980. 627 pp. \$12.50 (cloth, \$25)

Bertolt Brecht is more renowned for his plays — *The Threepenny Opera*, *Mother Courage*, *The Caucasian Chalk Circle* — than for his poetry. Brecht (1898–1956) wanted it that way. Two-thirds of the 500 poems in this collection were not published in any form during his lifetime. Nevertheless, W. H. Auden (and many

later literary critics) thought him a better poet than a playwright. Brecht's poetry is expansive; he wrote lyrical poems, unrhymed political verse, ballads, love poems, sonnets, and children's verse. All share a simplicity of style and an unswerving identification with the common man (. . . *the compassion of the oppressed for the oppressed is indispensable/It is the world's one hope*). A long-time foe of the Nazis, Brecht fled war-torn Europe for California in 1941; he returned to East Germany in 1947 and embraced communism. Western officials labeled him the "communist poet laureate." Yet, Brecht never let go of his essential humanity — or his sense of humor. When East German workers rioted in 1953, he deflated outraged party officials in verse: *Would it not be easier . . . for the government/To dissolve the people/and elect another?*

IN PATAGONIA. By Bruce Chatwin. Summit reprint, 1980. 205 pp. \$4.95

In 1865, a band of Welsh coal miners "combed the earth for a stretch of open country uncontaminated by Englishmen." They settled in Patagonia, where their independent-minded descendants live today. At the southern tip of Argentina and Chile, Patagonia's Cape Horn was, before construction of the Panama Canal, a landmark for sea voyagers. Today, the region's southern desert remains wild, rugged, sparsely populated. Chatwin, a British travel writer, whose grandmother's cousin lost a ship in the Horn's Strait of Magellan, roamed this desolate landscape, interviewing the miners and herdsmen, the descendants of runaway criminals, revolutionaries, and sailors lured by the place's "absolute remoteness." Charles Darwin traveled to