

the events that have shaken the Alliance (e.g., the building of the Berlin Wall in 1961, the 1973 Mideast War and the ensuing oil crisis), Barnet argues that West European opposition to America's role in Vietnam accounts for the "neutralist impulse" in Europe today. Fear now seems to be the strongest cement holding the partnership together—"fear," Barnet writes, "of the Soviet Union and the lingering suspicion of a Germany cut off from the American alliance."

### Science & Technology

**THE WINGED GOSPEL:**  
**America's Romance with**  
**Aviation, 1900-1950**  
 by Joseph J. Corn  
 Oxford, 1983  
 177 pp. \$17.95

Many Americans greeted the airplane in the first half-century of its development with a fervor normally reserved for the coming of a savior. Indeed, some folk seemed convinced that airplanes would usher in the millennium. (In the early 1920s, an elderly woman asked the barnstorming Charles Lindbergh how much he would charge to take her to heaven.) Such faith was in keeping with America's "tradition of technological messianism," writes Corn, a Stanford historian, and even high-brow types were caught up in it: One 1907 *Harper's* article predicted the advent of "aerial man," a higher form of humanity that would be freed, by aviation, from the physical and spiritual limitations of an earthbound existence. But popular fascination with flying machines was soon tempered by concern about the growing number of "intrepid birdmen" who had crashed into martyrdom. So the nascent aircraft manufacturing industry set about "domesticating" the image of flight, with the help of "lady pilots." At least 500 women aviators were active in the 1920s and '30s; three were among the top five finishers in the 1936 transcontinental Bendix Trophy air race. (The airline industry, however, hired women only as stewardesses until the 1970s.) The vision of an "Airphibian" in every garage was eventually dashed by practical considerations. And the "winged gospel" became a victim of its own success: As flight became commonplace



during the 1950s, the ills it was supposed to cure (urban congestion, economic inequality, and even war) persisted. But if aviation is no longer the popular hope of the future, echoes of the gospel reverberate in the recent enthusiasm for "ultralights"—lightweight aircraft that fly over 100 miles for every gallon of fuel—and in the visionaries' dream of colonies in outer space.

**FIELD DAYS:**  
**Journal of an**  
**Itinerant Biologist**  
by Roger B. Swain  
Scribner's, 1983  
217 pp. \$12.95

Swain's approach in these 23 essays is to light upon a commonplace item—avocados, flypaper, hamburgers—and then to trace its connections with the larger biological world. Throughout, Swain tempers his affection for nature with an unsentimental regard for facts. Acknowledging the allure of evergreens in wintry landscapes, he proceeds to explain that their slow rate of photosynthesis means longevity (but not immortality) for pine needles and other hibernating hangers-on. Swain, science editor of *Horticulture* magazine, can be amusing, pointing out, for instance, how easy it is to lure farm guests to work *if* the work involves heavy machinery such as tractors or chain saws. He demonstrates how felling large trees for firewood rather than lumber results in net energy and income losses for many communities. Swain writes shrewdly about fickle human nature and the ways in which it sometimes threatens a fragile ecosystem.

**FRAMES OF MIND:**  
**The Theory of**  
**Multiple Intelligences**  
by Howard Gardner  
Basic, 1983  
412 pp. \$23.50

Psychologists have sought for decades to dispel the idea that intelligence is a single, measurable trait, like height or eye color. Gardner, a Harvard psychologist, attempts to finish the job, carefully documenting his theory that the human mind accommodates at least six different "intelligences." These distinct endowments—linguistic, musical, logical-mathematical, spatial, bodily-kinesthetic, and personal—are most obvious in geniuses or *idiots savants*. All types of intelligence are