

NOTE ON THE "PUBLIC RELATIONS WEB"

The following letter was rejected by Science "as Kolata's article was not intended to be a comprehensive review of all recent work on theoretical paleontology but rather a report specifically on the work of Schopf, Raup, Gould and Simberloff." The phrase in the title is Rodger Mitchell's (Science 184:1131 [1974]) and refers to the same web that he did.

Laws derived from paleontology

It is odd that Kolota's report (Science 189:625 [1975]) on work in theoretical paleontology by the team of Raup, Schopf, Gould, and Simberloff fails to mention my earlier but independent work on the same subject (e.g. *Evol. Theory* 1:1, 1973). My work came to some of the same conclusions, differs in others, is based on real evidence rather than simulation, and motivated the first precise theory of large-scale evolution. This theory has found application as a third explanation of molecular evolution (L. Van Valen, *J. Molec. Evol.* 3:89, 1974; *Nature* 252:298, 1974), and in other ways.

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