

ner of his cage and turning his back. In another instance cited by Scully, an African gray parrot taught to form sentences by MIT researcher Irene Pepperberg overcame the reservations of skeptics with his intellectual prowess and language skills. The bird developed a vocabulary of hundreds of words and could identify and distinguish between shapes and objects. He could do so regardless of who was asking the questions and would apologize for incorrect answers. Studies with rats, beavers, chimpanzees, and elephants are all cited by Scully to show the broad range of findings confirming the strikingly complex reasoning skills demonstrated by animals in the wild and the laboratory.

In reflecting on his goal, Scully concedes that in advocating the humane treatment of animals he "felt that at times that I was venturing into forbidden territory, and at other times that I was saying things almost too obvious to bear mentioning. Often I have had both feelings at once. An author describing the methods of intensive farming, or the excesses of sport hunting, or even the harsher uses of animals in science writes with confidence that most readers will share his sense of concern and indignation. Sounding the call to action — convincing people that change is not only necessary, but actually possible — is more problematic. In protecting animals from cruelty, it is always just one step from the mainstream to the fringe. To condemn the wrong is obvious, to suggest its abolition radical." But Scully suggests reforms in some practices and the abolition of others. He cites bills introduced in Congress by both sides of the aisle that have sought to ban the worst abuses, such as the unchecked importation of exotic animals for uses from personal ownership to game-farm hunting. He gives examples of the excesses of hunting that he would either ban or restrict, such as baiting to attract wild game, bow hunting, steel-jawed leg-hold traps, and the killing of species of animals from bears to doves in numbers that cannot be justified by any need and will inevitably threaten their existence as a species.

Scully would strengthen the laws and treaties that protect whales, ele-

phants, gorillas, lions, and tigers, and he urges support for nations that are attempting to capitalize on ecotourism, like Kenya. He would see the favorable tax status of SCI revoked. "Wherever Safari Club belongs in our law, it does not belong in the same category as the Sisters of Charity, the Salvation Army, and the Humane Society of the United States." He encourages examining the practices of the factory-farming industry and the treatment of animals in laboratories. "Many of our scientific researchers have lost all appreciation for ethical complexity, while animal rights advocates, almost alone today, are left to remind us that there are other values beyond scientific progress of which we must at least be mindful. Nor must one be a scientist to know that something has gone seriously wrong, any more than one must be a farmer to know that veal crates are cruel or a skilled marksman to know that canned hunting is cowardly." He is especially critical of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's lax interpretation and enforcement of the Animal Welfare Act, which is intended to prevent the abuse of animals in scientific research and commercial product testing. The agency, Scully notes, has overseen the "completely arbitrary removal of all legal protection for the small animals [rats and mice] used by the millions in laboratories across America."

In the end, Scully urges us to examine our own moral perspective on our dominion over animals, and he sees those who share his views as an untapped political resource. He believes they are largely silent on this issue but that the individual acts of kindness and personal decisions made by those who share his beliefs will serve as a catalyst for change. His message is one not easily forgotten. It will resonate in the memory, heightening awareness of the stories buried in the back pages of newspapers about the planet's nonhuman inhabitants and the depredations they suffer at human hands. If *Dominion* has that effect, then I believe that Scully will be satisfied that he's made his point. **TFL**

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Triangle: The Fire That Changed America

By David Von Drehle

Atlantic Monthly Press, New York, NY, 2003.
340 pages, \$25.00.

REVIEWED BY HENRY S. COHN

Washington Post journalist David Von Drehle's book on the terrible Triangle shirtwaist fire of 1911, in which 146 people died, follows the standard pattern of fire literature, picturing first the social circumstances of the community where the fire occurred, then a minute-by-minute description of the fire itself, followed by the fallout from the fire — legal and otherwise. Because of his writing ability and the sheer drama of the story, however, Von Drehle's book rises above the more typical of these accounts.

While it may be hyperbole to claim that this was "the fire that changed America," the Triangle fire certainly stands as a significant event in labor-management relations and has had a vast political impact. The fire broke out in the garment district of New York City on Saturday, March 25, 1911, at quitting time on the upper floors of the Triangle Waist Company. Its victims were mostly young female immigrants from Poland and Italy living in the crowded tenements of the Lower East Side.

Von Drehle relies heavily on Irving Howe's classic study of tenement life, *World of Our Fathers*, to describe the physical layout of turn-of-the-century clothing factories, the type of piecework produced ("a shirtwaist" was a fashionable blouse), and the crushing poverty and few diversions in the lives of the employees of Triangle and similar shops. As one would suspect, there were virtually no occupational safety laws. The workers sat at their stations for long hours and under hazardous

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