

Another unlikely source for an Information Crossfile item was James J. Kilpatrick, whose mid-October column on language uses and misuses contained this gem:

"The New York Times reported last year that a nature conservancy near Palm Desert, Calif., is doing well. It protects lizards, burrowing owls and 'raptures of all kinds.' A lovely thought, to preserve a rapture, but the sanctuary probably is preserving raptors."

Helen Lorber of the ***Knight-Ridder News Service***, in reviewing Jean Auel's latest book in the "Earth Children" series (starring Ayla, who seems personally to have made every advance in prehistoric human history), makes one observation that deserves a place in these pages. Lorber objects to "the excruciating detail" in which Auel describes "the weather, flora, and fauna." She offers as an example, the following paragraph:

"Relict areas of temperate deciduous trees were maintained in certain protected areas and at the lower latitudes, with hardier needled evergreens appearing in the boreal regions to the north of them"

Lorber continues. "A certain amount of factual material is important, but Auel seems intent on including every fact she dredged up in her research." (A major source for Auel's "excruciating detail" was a paper on Paleoecology of Beringia. No citation given.)