

## NEWS

## THE RISKS OF HIGH-TECH SOCIETY

... "How individuals can try to 'bullet-proof' themselves against the increasing fusillade of hazards created by our high-technology society is admirably explained in *Acceptable Risks*, a [book written by Pascal James Imperato and Greg Mitchell]. In their timely book, the authors take up both 'chosen' and 'imposed' risks. The chosen variety includes not only such harmless (to the rest of us) hobbies as hang-gliding and hot-air ballooning but also risks chosen by some that the rest of us are involuntarily forced to share, so that sometimes chosen and imposed risks become inseparable. Smokers who insist on puffing in public places envelop us in clouds of carcinogens. Drugs known to be dangerous are offered to the public for sale. Incompetent suppliers of drinking water expose us to dangerous parasites. . . . The good news,

according to *Acceptable Risks*, is that if science and technology have created new health hazards, they are also showing us how to reduce them. New techniques of pinpointing those who are genetically susceptible to chemicals in cigarette smoke, certain industrial substances or alcohol will allow us to sort out more effectively who is at greater risk against what."

[(Gene Bylinsky in *New York Times Book Review* 10 Mar 85, p. 14 (See also: E. Garfield, Risk analysis, parts 1 and 2. *Essays of an information scientist*. Philadelphia: ISI Press, 1983. Vol. 5, p. 643-51, 659-65.) Reproduced with permission from Press Digest, *Current Contents*®, No. 19, May 13, 1985, p. 16, (Published by the Institute for Scientific Information®, Philadelphia, PA, USA.)]

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