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### LETTERS

# to the editor

A suggestion

The recent addition of Science Notes, giving abstracts of current work in various specific fields (Physical Science Notes, Behavioral . . . Medical . . . etc.) concentrates a great deal of fascinating material in a compact format.

Allow me to offer what I hope will be a constructive suggestion:

In many cases the note includes the source on which it is based, so that an intrigued reader will be able to get more detailed information. In others, you don't, leaving the fascinated reader frustrated.

A reference in parentheses to the article on which the note is based would relieve such frustration, since most of your subscribers live within 25 miles of a university library which carries the scholarly journals you cover.

Rabbi Amos Edelheit Willimantic, Conn.

(We cite journal references where journals are the source of our information. But Science News is a news magazine, not a journal of abstracts; more often than not our sources are the people conducting the research and not the scientific or technical journals. Our function is to keep our readers currently aware of developments in the fields of science and its applications. All we can suggest in case where a re-porter's initiative, rather than a journal, is the source of a story is that further information may be secured from the researchers or institutions cited. Ed.)

### Inventors invent

Responsive to the report "Engineers Plan World Link" (SN: 11/25) I would like to point out that basic inventions are concepts which stem from the intuitive insight of individual inventors; whereas R & D relates primarily to the routine development of specific embodiments by teams of professional engineers, based on the concepts previously conceived by inventors.

The inference is obvious.

Harry B. Fuchs Farmingdale, N. Y.

### On precision

In your article on Human Hibernation, (SN: 11/4), you state that "Body temperature is maintained precisely at 98.6 degrees F." The body temperature varies as much as 1 to 2 degrees F. in the course of every 24 hours; also See page 606

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continued from page 604 from season to season. It is just as incorrect to give the body temperature to the decimal point as it would be to say that the human heart beat rate is 72 beats per minute.

Nathaniel Kleitman Professor of Physiology Emeritus (ret.) Santa Monica, Calif.

### Blame Webster's Third

Up until now, we always thought so highly of your publication!

Webster would be turning green in his grave if he knew what you had done to the participle of the verb "to bus" (SN: 11/18 p. 486). It is not affection we are advocating for the ghetto children, it is transportation!

C. Silver, Librarian Long Beach (N.Y.) HS

(No greener that he turned when the "Third New International Dictionary" was published. It prefers "bussed" and "bussing" for transportation, while kissing off "buss" without any participles at all. Ed.)

### Sofie and Alfred

Sir:

As publishers of the Nobel Prize lectures in the English language, we of course, were interested in your feature article (SN: 11/11) regarding Nobel and his prizes.

You have certainly made the subject interesting and lively, although there were a few errors in the facts you mentioned. For example, the romance with Sofie Hess was a matter of grave concern to the executors of Nobel's will because of the legal posture of Miss Hess. She threatened to publish all of Nobel's private correspondence with her in the European press, and in the end the executors made a substantial settlement and Miss Hess withdrew all claims.

To a degree, the relatives of Nobel went through the same process and a very substantial settlement was made by the executors after several years of extensive legal maneuvering.

Ben Russak, president American Elsevier Pub. Co. Inc. New York, N.Y.

## TIMS OF THE WEEK

Listing is for readers' information of new 16mm and 8mm films on science, engineering, medicine and agriculture for professional, student and general audiences. For further information on purchase, rental or free loan, write to distributor.

ASSIGNMENT: SHOOT THE MOON. 16mm, color, sound, 28 min. Portrait of the moon based on thousands of photographs of the lunar surface and its features. Shows how close-up studies of the moon by the Ranger, Surveyor and Lunar Orbiter spacecraft have provided an important aid for the men who will first set foot on lunar soil. Audience: general. Free loan from National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Code FAD-2, Washington, D.C., or NASA research center film libraries.

THE DISEASE CALLED ALCOHOLISM. 16mm, color, sound, 24 min. Stresses the fact that while alcoholism is symtomatic of psychopathology, it is also a physiological disease itself, and that even in the well-nourished alcoholic, drinking creates changes in the body water and electrolyte content, in the cardiovascular system, and in the liver, blood lipids, and hematopoietic system. Audience: medical profession and other interested groups. Free loan from Pfizer Medical Teaching Film Library, 267 W. 25th St., New York, N.Y. 10017.

EXPLORING THE MILKY WAY. 16mm, color, sound, 28½ min. Taken at the Lick Observatory in California, shows how the work of Dr. George Preston with the 120-inch reflecting telescope, together with the results of other investigations, may help explain the formation of our own Galaxy. Audience: high school seniors with some mathematical background; can be used from seventh grade through college. Purchase or rental information from Modern Learning Aids, 1212 Avenue of the Americas, New York, N.Y. 10036.

THE TRAFFIC SNARL. 16mm, b&w, sound, 60 min A seport conserving the conversion caused. Avenue of the Americas, New York, N.Y. 10036.

THE TRAFFIC SNARL. 16mm, b&w, sound, 60 min. A report concerning the congestion caused by the automobile in most of our cities, and some examples of present and future means for coping with this traffic snarl. Audience: senior high, college, adult. Purchase \$200 or rental \$9.15 from NET Film Service, Indiana University, Audio-Visual Center, Bloomington, Ind. 47401.

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WE ARE NOT ALONE: IS THERE LIFE ON OTHER PLANETS. 16mm, b&w, sound, 31 min. Based on the book by Walter Sullivan, the film explores the possibility of life existing elsewhere in the universe, discusses how such life might have evolved differently than that on earth, and surveys space exploration plans for the near future. Audience: high school, adult. Purchase \$185 from McGraw-Hill Films, Dept. WP, 330 W. 42nd St., New York, N.Y. 10036.

WHAT HAPPENED TO MOORETOWN—M-1449-X. 16mm, b&w, sound, TV film recording, 18¾ min. Shows how a high disease incidence neighborhood in Shreveport took action to correct its communicable disease problem through programs involving improvement in housing, sewage disposal, vector control and general environmental sanitation. Audience: health and health-related professions, civic and fraternal groups, general public. Free loan from National Medical Audiovisual Center, Atlanta, Ga. 30333, or purchase from DuArt Film Laboratories, 245 W. 55th St., New York, N.Y. 10019.

WILD WINGS. 16mm, color, sound, 35 min. Explores the Wildfowl Trust at Slimbridge. England.

New York, N.Y. 10019.

WILD WINGS. 16mm, color, sound, 35 min. Explores the Wildfowl Trust at Slimbridge, England, and shows the many activities involved in the study and conservation of 122 of 147 described species of wildfowl which either migrate to the sanctuary yearly or make it their permanent home. Audience: conservation groups, biology students, general. Purchase \$235 or rental \$15 from International Film Bureau, 332 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Ill. 60604.

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