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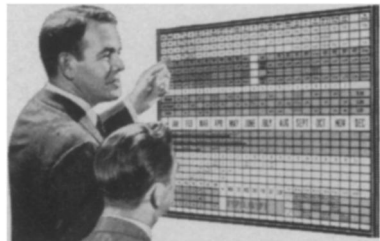
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## films OF THE WEEK

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.

**BLACK SWALLOWTAIL BUTTERFLY (Larval Molt).** 8mm, color, sound, 3:30 min. A butterfly larva, or caterpillar, goes through five stages of development, each called an instar. The caterpillar molts between each stage. (Part of series of 5). Audience: high school, college. Purchase \$13.00 for 8mm Standard and \$14.50 for 8mm Super from Modern Learning Aids, 1212 Avenue of the Americas, New York, N.Y. 10036.

**FRESH WATER PLANKTON.** 16mm, color, sound, 16 min. Shows, in one small lake during the year, the water of various plant and animal plankton in the water feeding chain, and how they reproduce. Includes stop-motion photography as well as photomicroscopy. Audience: high school, college. Purchase \$175 from Fleetwood Films, 34 Macquesten Parkway South, Mount Vernon, N.Y. 10050.

**PLANTS THAT HAVE NO FLOWERS OR SEEDS.** 16mm, color or b&w, sound, 11 min. With the aid of microscopic and time-lapse photography, combined with artwork, shows examples of plants that have neither flowers nor seeds—fungi, algae, mosses, and ferns—and the various ways in which such plants reproduce and obtain their food. Audience: grades 4-6. Purchase color \$120 or b&w \$60 from Coronet Films, 65 E. South Water St., Chicago, Ill. 60601.

**SKYWARD THE GREAT SHIPS—HQ 166.** 16mm, b&w, sound, 27 min. A report on the various kinds of propulsion being developed for space missions and the applications and advantages of each. Illustrates research in chemical, nuclear, and electrical propulsion systems. Audience: high school, adult. Free loan from NASA field libraries or NASA Headquarters, Code FAD-2, Washington, D.C. 20546.

**SPACE NAVIGATION—HQ 116.** 16mm, color, sound, 21min. Illustrates with animation and live-action photography the equipment, techniques and mathematics of space navigation between the earth and moon and between the earth and other planets. Audience: high school, adult. Free loan from NASA field libraries or NASA Headquarters, Code FAD-2, Washington, D.C. 20546.

**SUN, PLANTS, AND ANIMALS.** 16mm, color or b&w, sound, 10 min. Explains the inter-related roles of the sun, plant life, insects, birds and animals in the continuation of life on earth. Shows how each life form benefits from the existence of other forms, and presents ecological relationships from the use of the sun's energy to the derivation of energy from chemical decomposition. Audience: elementary, high school. Purchase \$125 color or \$50 b&w from Fleetwood Films, 34 Macquesten Parkway South, Mount Vernon, N.Y. 10050.

**TRIODE TRANSFER CHARACTERISTICS.** Super-8mm or regular 8mm cartridges, silent, color. Shows steps a student would follow in a laboratory exercise for deriving the transfer characteristic curves of a typical triode vacuum tube. Animated. Audience: college, junior college, high school, adult. Purchase Super-8mm \$17.00 or regular-8mm \$15.00 from Animated Electronic Films, P.O. Box 2036, Eads Station, Arlington, Va. 22202.

## LETTERS

# to the editor

### Nor did they bite

Sir:

The claim of a Russian scientist, Dr. Vladimir P. Demikhof, to having transplanted dogs' heads is seemingly accepted by the staff of SCIENCE NEWS (SN: 3/25/67 p. 282). It is possible, though, that our scientists have merely smothered their incredulity as a professional courtesy. A layman's skepticism in light of this Russian miracle might remind one of Hotspur's retort to Glendower's assertion in Shakespeare's Henry IV, Part I: "I can call spirits from the vasty deep." "Why, so can I," Hotspur averred, "or so can any man; but will they come when you do call for them?" Doubtless anyone who can overcome his squeamishness to gore could transplant a dog's head—so could I, so could any man, but would the dog bark again?

*Lt. Col. James W. Branch, Chairman  
Division of Humanities  
New Mexico Military Institute  
Roswell, N.M.*

*(We are not sure whether the transplanted heads of dogs have been able to bark again, but we do know that the feat has been accomplished, not only by Russian scientists but in this country.*

*Back in 1959 at the American College of Surgeons' convention in Atlantic City, Drs. Samuel P. Harbison and Barnard Fisher explained that Dr. C. C. Guthrie had previously transplanted a second head on a white terrier, and they displayed a picture of the two-headed dog. Also displayed at the exhibit was another head transplant, photographed for use in the Nov. 14, 1908 Journal of the American Medical Association.*

*Very few surgeons expect transplanted heads or brains to function normally but they have developed knowledge of the behavior of nerves and blood vessels in observing experiments. Ed.)*

## SCIENCE NEWS

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