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76/science news/vol. 94/27 july 1968

LETTERS

to the editor

Pulsars and print

Sir:

Frankly I like one lesson of the pulsars article (SN:6/8 p. 546), which is that people should not rush into print on hot subjects and publish their results in the newspapers. I have felt for some time that although astronomy is fascinating to the public, it suffers from a great deal of overexposure, especially because of the dramatic new results being obtained. I cannot blame only the scientists involved, since I feel that some overpressure does come from the good science news writers, and possibly even from your type of publication.

My feeling is that science, in fact, is badly in need of good reporting, and should be communicated to the public clearly and fully as possible. However, science does not consist of the dramatic announcement of a discovery, whether the discovery is right or wrong. It is a slow accumulation, and, in fact, its method must be opposite to those that are involved in the search for news. Your last paragraph represents the kind of criticism I would make of the scientists involved, but I do not feel that they are wholly to blame.

Jesse L. Greenstein
California Institute
of Technology
Pasadena

Papago creator

Sir:

In (SN: 5/25, p. 499) you printed an article describing the complex of astronomical instruments on Kitt Peak. This is a nice description of some of the instruments and work done there; however, you fail to resist throwing in some cute statements about the Papago Indians, which aside from being irrelevant are grossly inaccurate. In particular, I

refer to your description of i:t'oi (Ee-ee-toi) as a god of clouds or storms. I:t'oi is the Papago creator spirit and not a god in our sense of the word, and he most certainly is not some Indian transform of Thor or Jupiter.

William W. Pilcher
Department of Anthropology
University of Illinois
Urbana

An accurate picture

Sir:

It was with great interest that I read your article (SN: 6/8, p. 555), describing our research on the responsiveness to cognitive demands of three-year-old, middle-class and Puerto Rican children. My colleagues and I agree that the article presented an accurate picture of our research design and findings.

Margaret E. Hertzog, M.D.
N.Y. University
Medical Center
New York

I.Q. and the spark

Sir:

Referring to your article (SN: 5/18, p. 479), "Creativity: Testing for the Spark":

I have worked with high school students in their pursuit and preparation of science projects for quite a number of years. From experience, I couldn't agree more with the factors you stated in the article for determining creativity and predicting success. I have found that a minimum I.Q. was essential but it was really these factors of persistence, independence and originality that were evident in the students who went on to win awards, who were really successful in college and in a scientific career after college.

(See Letters, p. 78)

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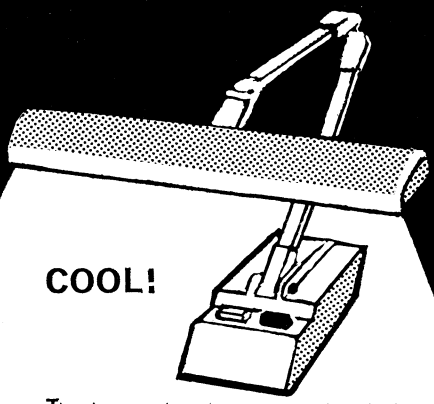
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films OF THE WEEK

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.

LSD: LETTVIN VERSUS LEARY. 16mm, b&w, sound, 51 min. A debate about LSD and marijuana usage by advocate Timothy Leary, former Harvard psychology professor, and dissenter Jerome Lettvin, former practicing psychologist and now a physiology professor at MIT. To Leary, LSD is something which enables one to penetrate the mysteries about us by changing the nervous system. To Lettvin, the visions are not worth the gamble; one person out of fifty who takes LSD suffers the permanent loss of the ability to make critical judgments. Audience: general. Purchase \$210 or rental \$8.90 from NET Film Service, Indiana University, Audio-Visual Center, Bloomington, Ind. 47401.

MUSIC THERAPY INTERNSHIP — M-1476-X. 16mm, b&w, sound, 20 min. Shows music therapy interns conducting a variety of therapy activities with retarded children. Describes the purpose and plan of therapy procedures, and discusses the contents of the three-month and six-month music therapy at Parsons State Hospital Training Center. Audience: high school and college general audiences; undergraduate music therapy students; music therapists; hospital staffs; parents; and organizations interested in mental retardation. Free loan from National Medical Audio-visual Center (Annex), Chamblee, Ga. 30005, Attention: Film Distribution.

FROM PELVOUX TO VISO. 16mm, color, English sound, 32 min. Account of a geological flight over the Alps including some better known transverse features: Pelvoux massif, from Remolton to the Guil Valley, Ubaye Valley, and Mount Viso. Morphology of the various tectonic units encountered; construction of a simplified geological section; and tectonic explanation illustrated schematically. Audience: geology students. Rental \$5.00 from Society for French American Cultural Services and Educational Aid, 972 Fifth Ave., New York, N.Y. 10021 (Accompanying slides available for additional \$5.00 rental).

RHIZOPUS. 8 mm Standard or 8mm Super, color, silent, 3½ min. Rhizopus forms a round spore case which grows on the end of a stalk. As the spore case matures, the content within it divides it into a mass of spores which gradually become black before they are scattered. Audience: high school or college biology. Purchase 8mm Standard \$13 or 8mm Super \$14.50 from Modern Talking Picture Service Inc., 1212 Avenue of the Americas, New York, N.Y. 10036.

STEREOTAXIC NEUROPHYSIOLOGY AND NEUROSURGERY. 16mm, color, English sound, 26 min. Results obtained in neurophysiological experiments on animals have found their main field of application to humans in stereotaxic neurosurgery. A survey of the key factors of cerebral structure exploration leads to an account of stereotaxic surgery applied to the treatment of Parkinson's disease. Audience: medical, general. Rental \$5 from Society for French American Cultural Services and Educational Aid, 972 Fifth Ave., New York, N.Y. 10021.

TRICHODERMAN GROWTH RINGS. 8mm Standard or 8mm Super, color, silent, 3½ min. This mold grows evenly out from the center of a petri dish. The different characteristics which are seen as easily differentiated things give rise to the question of which stimulus—light, moisture, temperature or other—influences the growth pattern so strikingly. Audience: high school, college biology. Purchase 8mm Standard \$13 or 8mm Super \$14.50 from Modern Talking Picture Service, 1212 Avenue of the Americas, New York, N.Y. 10036.

MANNED SPACE FLIGHT QUARTERLY REPORT NO. 20—January, February, March, 1968—MSC-68-465. 16mm, color, sound, 13 min. Included are flammability tests, two gas systems, and new manufacturing and testing techniques for the Saturn program. Describes Apollo 5 mission; progress in Apollo 6 and AS-503; status of AS-504, AS-505 and AS-506; and development of Apollo Applications Program. Audience: professional, general. Free loan from National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Manned Spacecraft Center, AP2, Houston, Tex. 77058.

IT'S THE BREAKS. 16mm, color, sound, 12 min. Depicting the tremendous annual glass-breakage costs, film points out that 95 percent of windows broken in public facilities are smashed intentionally, and suggests that stopping the vandal from throwing rocks is almost impossible. Suggestion is made that a tough, water-clear thermoplastic is the answer, and demonstrations are shown of such a material. Audience: administrative and maintenance officials in schools and public facilities. Free loan from Chemical Materials Department, General Electric Co., One Plastics Ave., Pittsfield, Mass. 01201.

Another thing, these students were at least dreaming into the future although they had difficulty organizing their work to meet deadlines. Disorder was certainly evident. They had some idea what they wanted to be doing next month, next year, or five years from now but needed someone to take care of the details so they could get there. On the other hand, most of the high I.Q. students I have worked with have been more concerned with today. A notable example is a boy I knew with a very high I.Q. but lacking these other qualities who entered college to major in science and mathematics, then after two years changed to economics, and now after two years of graduate work, is entering a theological seminary.

Charles Sidlo, President
 South Dakota Academy of Science
 Sioux Falls

Science of dentistry

Sir:

The article on the "New Shape of Dental Research" (SN: 6/15, p. 571) is very well done and should be helpful in creating a better understanding of the science of dentistry.

Joseph L. Bernier, D.D.S., M.S.
 Professor and Chairman
 School of Dentistry
 Georgetown University
 Washington, D.C.

It was Charles

Sir:

Your reference to Senator William Graham Sumner (SN: 7/6, p. 10) is, I am quite sure, in error. It must have been Senator Charles Sumner (R-Mass.) who supported the idea of the metric system in 1866. William Graham Sumner, the American sociologist and political economist, may very well have supported the metric proposal, but in 1866 he was only a young man of 26 years of age and certainly not the United States Senator.

Harold J. Jonas, Professor
 Department of History
 Orange County Community College
 Middletown, N.Y.

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