

## 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 or circle the appropriate number on the Readers' Service Card.

**ANALYSIS BY MASS.** 16mm, color, sound, 27 min. The development, operation and applications of the mass spectrometer. The film explains the basic principle of the spectrometer and shows how the information can be used to establish molecular structure in order to identify unknown liquids, solids and gaseous substances. Also shown is the use of the spectrometer in medicine, geology, chemistry and metallurgy. Audience: college. Purchase \$225 from International Film Bureau, 332 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60604. (Produced by Associated Electrical Industries Ltd.)

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**NORELCO FILM SERIES IN PHYSICS AND ELECTRONICS.** 16mm, color, sound, 19 films from 13 to 25 min. running time. Series provides comprehensive introduction to the study of semiconductor electronics and physics, television and atomic physics. Titles include: "The Diode Characteristic," "The Transistor Configurations," "The Transistor States of Operation," "The Transient Behavior of the Diode," "The Transient Behavior of the Transistor," "Conduction in Pure Crystals," "Conduction in P- and N-Crystals," "The P-N Junction," "The Crystal Diode," "The Transistor," "The Television Picture Tube," "The Television Carrier Wave," "The Television Camera Tube," "Color Television," "Naturally Occurring Isotopes," "Man-Made Isotopes," "Nuclear Energy," "The Klystron," and "The Stirling Engine." Audience: senior high, college. Purchase and rental information from McGraw-Hill Films, Dept. DF, 330 W. 42nd St., New York, N.Y. 10036.

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**PUZZLES IN GEOMETRY.** 16mm, b&w, sound, 28 min. That a straight line is the shortest distance between two points on a plane is made clear as distances between points on intersecting planes, cylinders and spheres are estimated and measured. A drill that makes a square hole, and curved triangular wheels that produce a smooth ride are seen as examples of curves of constant width. A cycloid is drawn with the help of a coffee can. The shortest line between two points on a downhill path proves to be not a straight line, nor part of a circle, but a cycloid. Audience: upper elementary, junior high. Purchase \$130 from Prism Productions, 220 East 23rd St., New York, N.Y. 10010. (From Inquiries in Science series with Mr. Wizard.)

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**TREES: THEIR IMPORTANCE TO MAN.** 16mm, color, sound, 14 min. Depicts the many ways in which man benefits from the fruitless tree. There is an overview of the importance of the tree to the development of America. Also deals with conservation and manufacturing, with emphasis on the practical use, as well as the esthetic value of trees. The words from the Joyce Kilmer poem "Trees" end the film. Audience: elementary, junior high. Purchase \$160 from AV-ED Films, 7934 Santa Monica Boulevard, Hollywood, Calif. 90046.

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## to the editor

### A broad truth

What was otherwise an excellent article on Biosatellite 3 (SN: 11/1, p. 393), was marred by the very first sentence.

How can the staff of a magazine come to such an airtight conclusion when the entire NASA can't?

Your magazine is supposed to be a reporter of the scientific world, and as such excels. However, aside from editorial comment, it is neither the Science Service's duty or place to draw a "one-way" conclusion.

I am a recent subscriber, and wish to compliment the editors on an otherwise excellent publication.

Peter J. Burinskas  
Torrington, Conn.

(While there are many questions about the specific physiological reasons for Bonnie's death, there doesn't seem to be much question in anybody's mind that, in fact, as we said, "Weightlessness killed Bonnie." Ed.)

### Climatological pioneers

"Earth's Cooling Climate" (SN: 11/15, p. 458) is quite a good article, and will help spread the word. I'm glad to have made the grade in the last paragraph.

One thing bothers me: The top picture on p. 459 was derived from unpublished data by Hubert Lamb (as stated in Mitchell's text). Lamb is one of the real pioneers, and deserves a mention.

F. Kenneth Hare  
Department of Geography  
University of Toronto  
Toronto 181, Canada

### Political bias

I object to the sensational, unscientific headlines on the "Science News of the Week" articles. Those of Oct.

18 ("Another giant step . . .") and Nov. 1 ("Zero gravity's deadly effects") were especially repugnant. At the time the first was written, there was no detailed information of even the goals of this Soyuz mission. As it turned out, the mission was a failure. The second makes a sensational and wholly unconfirmed statement. Animals are known to simply give up the will to live when conditions are sufficiently unpleasant.

Worst of all, I detect a strong pro-Soviet, anti-American bias in these articles.

Elmer R. Boggs  
Pepeekeo, Hawaii

### Engineering education

Good job! I have strong feelings about the subject of engineering education, and I think you handled the Thayer story (SN: 11/15, p. 456) clearly and accurately.

Myron Tribus  
Assistant Secretary of Commerce  
for Science and Technology  
Washington, D.C.

Edward Gross did a fair and informative story. I commend him for his realistic interpretation and interesting writing.

I have had a letter from a Thayer alumnus of forty-nine years ago expressing pleasure and pride in the story.

It is now our job to live up to these statements and improve upon the results.

S. R. Stearns  
Professor of Civil Engineering  
Thayer School of Engineering

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