

# 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.

**A CRISIS IN MEDICINE.** 16 mm, b&w sound 15 min. Most black people are being provided with inadequate medical and dental care, and today there are fewer black doctors graduating from medical schools than there were in 1955. In black communities, there is one black doctor for every 5,000 people compared to a ratio of one physician to 670 people in white communities. Efforts such as the recruiting of medical students to alleviate this present situation are described. Audience: secondary, college, adult. Purchase \$100 or rental \$5 from Indiana University, Audio-Visual Center, Bloomington, Ind. 47401.

**TOO MANY \$\$ FOR HEALTH CARE.** 16mm., color, sound, 28 min. Dwight Wilbur, M.D., past president, American Medical Association, and Mark Berke, president of the American Hospital Association, are interviewed on Doctors News Conference on the causes and extent of increases in the costs of health care, and an analysis of costs trends for the future. Audience: college, adults. Purchase \$225 or rental \$20 from Lawren Productions, P.O. Box 1542, Burlingame, Calif. 94010.

**ONE OF SIXTEEN MILLION.** 16mm, color, sound, 15 min. Provides a basic medical course in the causes of arthritis, the courses of treatment, and the new hope that modern medicine is bringing to its victims. Information is given through a case history of one arthritis sufferer and his education about the various "cures" for arthritis, from sassafras tea to the \$300 million business of panaceas and quackery. Audience: general. For further information, write to Association Films, 600 Grand Avenue, Ridgefield, N.J. 07657. (Produced by the Arthritis Foundation.)

**PROJECT DEEP PROBE.** 16mm, color, sound, 28 min. Scientists, using the ship Glomar Challenger as their research tool, are trying to determine what the earth looked like millions of years ago. They hypothesize that the earth was once a single body of land rather than the continents that we now know. The ship, a floating drill platform, is capable of sending a probe 20,000 feet to retrieve samples of the ocean floor for analysis. Audience: secondary, college, adult. Purchase \$240 or rental \$10 from Indiana University, Audio-Visual Center, Bloomington, Ind. 47401.

**PHOTOSYNTHESIS AND THE ENERGY CYCLES.** 16mm, color, sound, ten films, 16 min. each. Series drawn from existing footage of AIBS biology film course. Titles are: "The Interlocking Parts of the Cell Mechanism," "The Chemical System of the Cell," "Energy Cycles in the Cell," "Photosynthesis as Energy Transfer," "Vehicle for Photosynthesis—Chlorophyll," "Mechanisms for Photosynthesis," "The Plant as an Energy Factory," "Site of Photosynthesis—Leaves," "Supplies of Nutrient—Roots." Audience: high school. Purchase \$215 per film from McGraw-Hill Films, 330 W. 42nd St., New York, N.Y. 10036.

# to the editor

## Antarctic fossil

Your excellent article about the fabulous fossil find in Antarctica (SN: 12/13, p. 549) is the only account that sticks to the facts of the whole story and I am grateful to you. I wish I had many reprints to send to some of the people who have written rather foolish accounts.

I think I may have been one of the original subscribers to SCIENCE NEWS LETTER and I do greatly appreciate even more SCIENCE NEWS with its careful attention to accuracy. The case in point is an excellent one because obviously your staff did some real research to present an adequate picture of the significance of *Lystroraurus*.

Laurence M. Gould  
College of Mines

Department of Geology  
University of Arizona, Tucson

## Singlet oxygen

As one of the co-chairmen of the recent Singlet Oxygen Symposium sponsored by the New York Academy of Sciences, it is a pleasure for me to acknowledge receipt of the issue of SCIENCE NEWS in which you covered our meeting so well (SN: 12/6, p. 538).

I have one comment relative to the reference to myself. I am not exposing tobacco seedlings to singlet oxygen. My interest is in the chemistry of singlet oxygen. In general, however, I thought that Mr. Gross did a good job in calling public attention to this subject.

Robert W. Murray  
Professor of Chemistry

University of Missouri—St. Louis

## Pinkville

I thought the piece on the Pinkville atrocities (SN: 12/6, p.522) fair, objective and informative. I'm sorry you didn't get in touch with the Chief of Army Psychiatry in the Surgeon Gen-

eral's office, as it would be good to know what the official line of explanation on such behavior is at the moment. But perhaps it is just as well to let this wait for a later time when the facts are clearer, on the one hand, or, on the other, it is clear that the facts are going to be suppressed or vastly distorted for the sake of letting the whole matter disappear from the public mind, as in the Green Beret case.

John P. Spiegel, M.D., Director  
Lemberg Center for  
the Study of Violence  
Brandeis University  
Waltham, Mass.

## Platelet Behavior

Your article, "Substitute for the pill," (SN: 6/7, p. 555) was most interesting and informative. It should be noted that the side effects associated with blood coagulation are receiving increasing attention. One coagulation factor in particular, the platelet, has shown some definite reactions to oral contraceptive substances. While these findings have been conflicting, Bolton, Hampton and Mitchell (LANCET, I:1336, 1968) appear to have made a significant contribution with their findings that women taking oral contraceptives containing synthetic estrogens exhibit platelet behavior resembling that of patients with arterial disease, while natural estrogens and contraceptive preparations containing progesterone only appear to have no effect on platelet behavior.

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## SCIENCE NEWS

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