

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.

IT FEELS LIKE YOU'RE LEFT OUT OF THE WORLD (EXPERIENCING LEARNING DISABILITIES). 16mm, b&w, sound, 28 min. Attempts to show what it is like to suffer from a perceptual handicap, and takes as its title a quote from one of the children. It looks at the various behavior patterns of some children that are probably caused by the disability itself—Dimitri's sauciness, Tommy's nervous reticence and Ross's desire to fail. Some of the parents of perceptually handicapped children take part in this program and there is a discussion about possible causes of learning disabilities. Audience: teachers, parents, college. Purchase \$195 or rental \$15 from Contemporary Films/McGraw-Hill.

Circle No. 110 on Reader Service Card

LOGARITHMS AND THE SLIDE RULE. 16mm, b&w, sound, 8 films each 30 min. A series of 8 films on the meaning and use of logarithms, consisting of lectures by Dr. Norman N. Royall, chairman of the Mathematics Department, University of Kansas City. These films provide a review or introduction to the fundamentals of logarithms and the slide rule. They may be used outside regular hours, leaving class time available for main course material. Audience: college. Purchase series \$795 or individual films \$125 each from International Film Bureau.

Circle No. 111 on Reader Service Card

PREDATORY BEHAVIOR OF THE ASP VIPER. 16mm, color, sound, 18 min. The way in which the different senses come to play in predation. Visual stimuli intervene for detecting and biting the living prey. The sense of smell alone intervenes in finding the bitten prey. Recognition of the retrieved prey and swallowing it head first are both connected with chemical stimuli. Audience: high school, college, general. Available for fee of \$5 from Society for French American Cultural Services and Educational Aid.

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THE WARM COAT. 16mm, color, sound, 13½ min. A conservation story of the transplanting of sea otters from Amchitka Island in the Bering Sea to Alaskan coves. Almost extinct at the turn of the century, the sea otter, known for its fine, dense, valuable fur, is staging a comeback in Alaskan waters. The state of Alaska, with cooperation from the U. S. AEC has airlifted several hundred sea otters from Amchitka, an island in the Aleutian chain, to other areas where large otter colonies lived centuries ago. The transplant took place in the summer of 1968, and hopefully, the sea otters will thrive in their new environment. Audience: general. Purchase information from National Audiovisual Center, Washington, D. C. 20409.

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to the editor

Antimatter

Dietrick Thomsen is to be commended for his enlightening discussion of antimatter and the universe (SN: 12/13, p. 562). Having been a technical writer and reviewer myself before retirement, I know how difficult it often is to review involved subjects in a manner understandable to all. The writer presents an excellent clarification of a rather abstruse subject.

Edward G. Ingram
Louisville, Ky.

Supernovas

Dietrick Thomsen's article on heavy elements from supernovas (SN: 12/20, p. 579) was very well written and contained an accurate account of our work at Rice University.

However, I did find one fault with the issue. It is implied that the picture on the cover is that of a supernova remnant, when actually it is a picture of M27, the Dumbbell nebula in Vulpecula. This is a planetary nebula, the product of a much less violent event than a supernova.

Gerald J. Fishman, Ph.D.
Brown Engineering
Huntsville, Ala.

On Soyuz

I would like to extend my congratulations to you on your unbiased coverage of the recent Soviet space venture.

Charges like those leveled by Mr. Boggs (SN: 12/13, p. 548) are completely unfounded. Your reporting was well done in that it stated only the facts about the mission that the Soviets themselves released.

Noting that the orbits were not high enough and the fact that the life-support systems could not last for a lengthy voyage, it seems to me that the whole mission was a dress rehearsal for the

formation of a space platform, which could come on the next mission. Only time will tell. The mission's function, therefore, would have been similar to Apollo 10's—a final dress rehearsal, with the most important phase left out.

On the whole the main thing the flights of Soyuz 6, 7 and 8 failed to do was to satisfy the wild predictions made by the majority of the Western press.

I think that your unbiased coverage of the Soviet space spectacular was in keeping with your excellent qualities of reporting only the facts.

Gary Shupak
Toronto, Canada

Something in between

As a former subscriber (five or seven years back) who lapsed, I am pleased to see your successful transformation into something bigger and better. Frankly, I was skeptical as to the place you aspired to fill. A high school library filler? A poor man's SCIENCE? Now it seems there is a need for something in between: something to be filled by broad-area, responsible reporting under well-defined editorial policies.

A case in point is Kendrick Frazier's report (SN: 12/27, p. 599) on my irrigation hypothesis. That article was very nicely placed between popular journalism and a too-cautious treatment that might have weakened it considerably. SCIENCE NEWS was an ideal forum from my point of view.

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