

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.

APOLLO 11: PINPOINT FOR SCIENCE. 16mm, color, sound, 28 min. Presents a chronological story of the historic mission from the launching through the return of the astronauts to the recovery ship U.S.S. Hornet. The story is told largely by the astronauts themselves through extensive use of their commentary during the mission. Motion pictures, still and television photographs are employed to visualize the highlights of the journey. Film emphasizes the pinpoint accuracy of the lunar landing and the scientific experiments taken to the moon by the astronauts. Audience: general. Free loan from nearest NASA Research Center, or purchase information from Sales Branch, National Audiovisual Center (GSA), Washington, D. C. 20409.

COLD. 16mm, color, sound, 11 min. Student inquiry into the basic concept of "cold" at the beginning level. From the subjective viewpoint of the world around them, children in the film learn the characteristics and the effects of cold, and of the many uses of cold in the community and in our daily lives. Includes such points as that when we say something is cold, we are making a comparison; cold is the absence of heat; how cold can be produced mechanically for preserving things; insulation; and how to measure cold. Audience: primary, middle level. Purchase \$130 from Aims Instructional Media Services, P. O. Box 1010, Hollywood, Calif. 90028.

IS THE PILL DANGEROUS? 16mm, color, sound, 28 min. Keith P. Russell, M.D. (immediate past president of the American Academy of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Minnie B. Goldberg, M.D. (clinical professor of medicine, emeritus, University of California School of Medicine, and a pioneer in the use of estrogens), and Walter M. Ballard, M.D. (chief of Family Health and Population, Bureau of Maternal and Child Health, California State Department of Public Health) are interviewed on "Doctors News Conference" on the side effects, dangers and benefits traceable to use of oral contraceptives. Audience: high school, college, adults. Purchase \$225 or rental \$20 from Lawren Productions, P. O. Box 1542, Burlingame, Calif. 94010.

THE QUIET SUN. 16mm, color, sound, 27 min. Reveals recent advances in the scientific study of the sun, and calls attention to some of the new techniques being used to observe the sun and study its emissions—with particular emphasis upon research undertaken during the IQSY (the International Years of the Quiet Sun, 1964-65)—to promote a better understanding of the sun and its influence on the solar system. As the film progresses, we learn about the cycles of change in solar activity ("active" versus "quiet" periods), the structure and composition of the sun, and its comparison with other stars. Highlights include a visit to the Kitt Peak National Observatory and Mt. Wilson, Calif. Audience: elementary to adult. Purchase \$220 or rental \$16 from McGraw-Hill Films, Dept. DF, 330 West 42nd St., New York, N.Y. 10036.

to the editor

Dutch elm disease

Your recent article "Dutch Elm Disease Again" (SN: 12/6, p. 527) was interesting but contained an error. This disease is caused by a fungus, *Ceratomyces ulmi*, which invades the vessels of the elm tree. It is true that the bark beetle carries the fungus to new trees and so is directly responsible for transmission except in cases where the fungus grows through root grafts between adjacent trees. Nevertheless, I doubt that many people would worry about the beetle alone; it is the "bad company" that the beetle keeps!

Robert N. Campbell
Associate Professor
Department of Plant Pathology
University of California, Davis

Collaborators

The collaborators on our paper on water pollution (SN: 12/26, p. 596) were listed solely as co-workers. They, Dr. Henry R. Bungay III, Clemson University, Clemson, S.C., and Dr. Walter M. Sanders III, Southeast Water Laboratory, Athens, Ga., deserve at least equal credit for the work.

Dr. William J. Whalen
Director of Research
St. Vincent Charity Hospital
Cleveland, Ohio

Census corrected

In reference to "Census Challenged," (SN: 6/7, p. 560): I was very much interested in the reproduction of the chart representing the first United States Census taken in 1790.

In rechecking the figures, the total number of inhabitants listed as 3,893,635 should read 3,893,637. The error arises in the total given for the state of Delaware, which should read 59,096 instead of 59,094.

Of course, this is no earth-shattering discovery, but I was wondering whether

or not the Census Bureau was aware of this slight error.

Constantine D. J. Generales Jr., M.D.
New York, N.Y.

(The Census Bureau caught the error too, recently. Census says the error occurred in adding the population breakdown figures for Delaware horizontally, which then affected the totals. Census' most recent publication will carry the corrected total. Ed.)

No slap

I quote from your article "From sun to moon" (SN: 1/10, p. 35), "Circling the earth unshielded by any protective atmosphere . . ."

The inference is that the moon lacks any trace of atmosphere, unless the adjective "protective" is supposed to allow for air too thin to provide protection. Yet a tiny bit of air would protect against very tiny meteorites. An extended comparison of meteoric impacts on the moon and on a vehicle in space—say a communication satellite outside the main body of the earth's air—would seem to be a simple and worthwhile experiment which would throw light upon the amount of the moon's atmosphere.

This letter was first planned as a protest against the unwarranted and very general practice of saying in a variety of ways that the moon has no atmosphere at all, in spite of arguments and direct evidence to the contrary. However, the experiment mentioned above is perhaps more worth attention than is the intended collective slap on a lot of wrists.

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