

films OF THE WEEK

CRYSTAL STRUCTURES AT HIGH PRESSURES. 16mm, color, sound, 40 min. Describes and illustrates basic principles of X-ray diffraction of single crystals and their application to structure determination. Describes a new technique for obtaining the crystal structures of high-pressure forms of materials. The concept of pressure-temperature phase equilibrium diagrams is developed and illustrated by striking sequences of high-pressure transitions in carbon tetrachloride, potassium nitrate, water and benzene. A unique high-pressure diamond cell and other special apparatus and techniques developed to solve specific problems arising in high-pressure experiments are shown. Audience: chemistry and physics students. Free loan or purchase from Office of Technical Information and Publications, Room B08, Administration Building, National Bureau of Standards, Washington, D.C. 20234.

THE EARTH: COASTLINES. 16mm, color or b&w, sound, 11 min. Dramatic coastline views from high in the air and from undersea, and wave tank simulations help students understand how coastlines change, what waves do and what is happening underwater. Hydrographic models demonstrate near-shore terraces, valleys and mountains, and contour maps illustrate the results of diastrophism. Film emphasizes that the topography of a coast is in constant change. Purchase color \$130 or b&w \$65 from Coronet Films, 65 E. South Water St., Chicago, Ill. 60601.

SMALLPOX VACCINATION—SHOULD OUR POLICY BE CHANGED?—T-1678. 16mm (film recording from video tape), b&w, sound, 28½ min. Part of a series of films to provide the medical viewer with the divergent points of view of experts representing their specialty fields. In this film, Dr. John Neff of the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine contends that our present vaccination policy for American children should be changed, since more children die or suffer from vaccination complications than from smallpox. Dr. Samuel Katz of the Duke University School of Medicine contends that our current freedom from smallpox is totally dependent upon the continued use of the vaccine. Audience: professional medical. Free loan from National Medical Audiovisual Center (Annex), Station K, Atlanta, Ga. 30324.

WHO COPS OUT? 16mm, color, sound, 10 min. Raises the questions of the choices today's adolescents make when faced with the confusion and uncertainty of the teenage years. Introduces a pregnant girl who may be asked to leave school, a school dropout working at a gas station, a high school football star, a scholastic achiever, and a runaway drug user. Each of these young people describes his feelings and attempts to explain the reasons for his choice. Audience: high school. Purchase \$150 or rental \$8 from International Film, 332 S. Mich. Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60604.

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.

to the editor

Shared laurels

With regard to the article (SN: 2/21, p. 202) concerning Dr. Aldrete's work with Dr. Starzl in the transplantation of livers at VA Hospital, Denver:

I have nothing to add other than to express the feeling that the article was well written and presented the problem quite fairly. Certainly Dr. Aldrete is to be congratulated on his close attention and excellent handling of these extremely critical patients. There is no doubt in Dr. Starzl's mind also that a good deal of the success that he has had is a result of Dr. Aldrete's efforts. I would hasten to add, however, that the other factor, Dr. Starzl's extreme competence along with that of the rest of his team in carrying out this most difficult procedure, is to be given a very great share accounting for the success.

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Life or identity

Your article on abortion legislation (SN: 1/17, p. 75) brought a response from a reader (SN: 3/7, p. 238) who accused you of falsely implying that opposition to such legislation comes primarily from theologians. Unfortunately, that reader committed the same offense, in the opposite direction, when he stated that you "must" know that "embryologists, geneticists and other biologists hold that the human zygote is a live individual of the species *Homo sapiens*." Certainly it is true that some biologists feel this way, just as it is true that some theologians hold the opposite belief. As a biologist, I can re-

port that a great many of my colleagues do not concur with your reader's hasty generalization. Yes, the human zygote is living, just as a heart or kidney is living, but is not (and will not be for many months) an individual. I am curious as to what sorts of "disaster" this reader ominously predicts for those societies embracing the legislative changes discussed in your article.

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The anti-abortion argument of "the right of the zygote to life" advanced by Dr. Gregory J. White (SN: 3/7, p. 238) strikes me as altogether preposterous.

What physicians, lawyers and many others do know is that if human beings continue to exercise their "right" to reproduce themselves at the present rate, then all lesser rights will indeed be meaningless.

For a bit of perspective on the matter, I would strongly urge Dr. White to write to his Senator for a copy of the Reuss Committee document on the "Effects of Population Growth on Natural Resources and the Environment"—hearings held last September before a subcommittee of the Committee on Government Operations (Subcommittee on Conservation and Natural Resources), chaired by Rep. Henry Reuss (D-Wis.).

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