

**BLACK MEN AND IRON HORSES.** 16mm or super 8mm, color, sound, 18 min. Americans have long celebrated the legend of John Henry. And the brawny blacks who laid track for the nation's vast railroad network belong to the rich folklore of our lands. But blacks did more than just help build the railroads. Their creative genius helped shape the future of American railroading. For example, Elijah McCoy developed lubricators to solve engine overheating. Andrew Beard invented automatic car-coupling. Granville Wood devised a telegraph warning system that reduced death on the rails. Film shows how railroading benefited from these contributions while restricting most black workers to menial jobs. Audience: upper elementary, high school. Purchase 16mm \$200 or super 8mm \$160 from New York Times, Library Services and Information Div. 229 W. 43rd St., New York, N. Y. 10036.

**FLIGHT WITHOUT WINGS.** 16mm, color, sound, 14 min. Shows the principle of the lifting body and the progress which has been made in its development. This craft, which obtains lift from the contour of its body, will be able to enter the atmosphere from space and fly to a predetermined earth landing site. The technology being developed will enable NASA eventually to build a craft that will carry men and materials to and from an earth-orbiting space station which can be reused many times. Audience: general. Free loan from NASA field libraries or headquarters, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Code FAD, Washington, D. C. 20546.

**GO FISSION.** 16mm, color, sound, 14 min. In a "mod" style, with a jazz musical score, this nuclear careers film is designed to appeal to high school students. In a kaleidoscopic presentation, many young people are shown at work in various interesting phases of nuclear research and nuclear science and industry. Film does not have narration in the usual sense. Instead, young voices are heard asking questions about careers. The visuals are, in effect, answers to the questions—questions that cover education required, clothes, living, recreation, on-the-job training, where the jobs are, the kinds of

people with whom one would be associated, changes for independent research, careers for women and types of job opportunities. Purchase \$46.95 from WRS Motion Picture Lab., 210 Semple St., Pittsburgh, Pa. 15213, or free loan information from Audio-Visual Branch, Department of Public Information, U. S. Atomic Energy Commission, Washington, D. C. 20545.

**A MATTER OF TIME.** 16mm, b&w, sound, 53 min. Depicts the life of a cancer patient in Princess Margaret Hospital in Toronto from the time the patient notices a small lump in his neck through the diagnosis and prescribed treatment of this unforeseen disease. A doctor is assigned to the patient; however, specialists from various areas collectively decide upon the treatment to be used. After examination, he receives radiotherapy for Hodgkin's disease. Also shown is the mental strain upon the patient and how this affects his relationships with others. Audience: secondary, college, adult. Lease \$80 per year or rental \$11.75 from Indiana University, Audio-Visual Center, Bloomington, Ind. 47401.

**ORIGIN OF THE MOON.** 16mm, color, sound, 5 min. Our earth and its moon may have begun about 5 billion years ago in a cloud of cold gases. Whirling and concentrating, the gases formed into our solar system. Moon and earth, held together by gravity so closely that meteoroids may have scattered dust from one to the other, influenced each other greatly as they developed to their present form. A major variation in the developmental patterns may have been due to the difference in mass of the two bodies and the consequent ability to amass an atmosphere. Because the two bodies shared so closely in their development, we may learn much about the earth by studying the moon. Audience: elementary, junior high. Purchase \$75 or rental \$6.50 from BFA Educational Media, 11559 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 90025.

*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.*

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### ADVERTISING STAFF

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Address all advertising to Sherago Associates, 11 West 42nd St., New York, N.Y. 10036.

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# to the editor

## Reasonable appraisal

The statements in "Polarization and magnetism" (SN: 5/16, p. 477) are quite a reasonable appraisal of the present state of affairs in understanding the galactic magnetic field.

E. N. Parker  
The Enrico Fermi Institute  
University of Chicago  
Chicago, Ill.

## Infinite forces

It would seem to me that in the big-bang theory of cosmology the original huge atom or fireball (SN: 5/9, p. 464) would have the characteristics attributed to the "black hole" where infinite gravitational forces would prevent the escape and expansion of matter.

Glenn R. Miller  
Boiling Springs, Pa.

## NAS ferment

Re: "NAS: Confronting change," (SN: 5/9, p. 453): I consider the statement there to be a very responsible piece of reporting. You have described the major problems and major issues and presented these in a factual manner rather than as juicy gossip. I very much appreciate this mature presentation of a matter of the highest interest to this Academy.

Philip Handler, President  
National Academy of Sciences  
Washington, D.C.

## Election behavior

Re your recent story headlined "Election behavior typical" (SN: 5/23, p. 507):

Drs. Klein and Grossman say that their study of voting habits in mentally ill persons "should dispel any factual basis for disenfranchising mental patients" of their voting rights, because their voting patterns followed those of noninstitutionalized persons.

Looking at this study from another angle, is it possible that it tells us something about the mental state of the average, noninstitutionalized voter?

David Hendin, News Editor  
Enterprise Science Service  
New York, N.Y.

Address communications to Editor,  
Science News, 1719 N Street, N.W.  
Washington, D. C. 20036