

films OF THE WEEK

MAGNETISM AT WORK. 16mm, color, sound, 11½ min. Focuses on the uses of magnets in today's technology. Shows magnetic applications in sound and video recording computers, agriculture and medicine. Begins with history of magnetism, from discovery through compasses, magnetic fields and electromagnetics. Gives explanation of what magnetism is, covering diamagnetism, paramagnetism, ferromagnetism and domains. Ends with more applications, including demonstration of one of magnetism's role in modern medicine. Audience: general. For sale only; information from General Electric Educational Films, 60 Washington Ave., Schenectady, N.Y. 12305.

APOLLO 13: HOUSTON, WE'VE GOT A PROBLEM. 16mm, color, sound, 28 min. Tells the story of the efforts to bring the astronauts home safely following an explosion that severely damaged the Apollo service module and caused a critical loss of power and oxygen. Also illustrates the worldwide concern for the astronauts and the response to their recovery. Motion picture photography taken by the Apollo 13 crew dramatically shows why they were forced to leave the lifeless command module Odyssey and huddle together in the chilly lunar module Aquarius. Their photographs of the moon and the damaged service module are also included, as well as excerpts from earlier color telecasts from the space mission. Audience: general. Free loan from NASA field libraries, or loan information from NASA Headquarters, Audio-Visual Branch, Washington, D. C. 20546.

CHROMATOGRAPHY. 16mm, color, sound. Part I—Introduction and Gas Chromatography, 28 min., and Part II—Liquid Chromatography, 22 min. Films introduce the theory and principles of chromatography as a separation technique, and the variants of the method: gas chromatography; liquid column chromatography, including ion exchange and gel permeation chromatography; paper and thin layer chemistry. Audience: college. Purchase Part I \$300 and Part II \$200 from John Wiley and Sons, 605 3rd Ave., New York, N. Y. 11016.

HORIZONS UNLIMITED. 16mm, color, sound 37 min. Urges young people to think carefully about their future. The growth of nuclear energy and its applications have opened the door for many career opportunities. The role of nuclear power to produce electricity, desalt seawater, manufacture fertilizer, propel rockets and mine minerals is described. Nuclear research and the tools used by nuclear scientists and engineers are briefly examined. Nuclear science has made a substantial contribution to the life sciences, with researchers investigating the biological processes which produce and sustain life. The potential benefits of nuclear energy are many, but taking advantage of them will require creative minds. Audience: students. Free loan information from Audio-Visual Branch, Atomic Energy Commission, Washington, D. C. 20545.

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

Just right

I think "Hurricane Watch" (SN: 6/13, p. 573) was just right; the subject was not over-played nor was it too elementary. My quotes were not out of context or slanted toward sensationalism, which happens so often, particularly in weather stories, in most news media.

A. L. Sugg
National Hurricane Center
Coral Gables, Fla.

Science and society

I deplore your extensive attention to political considerations and the unending budgetary problems of the numerous scientific agencies and laboratories, both United States and foreign. It seems that fully one-third of your content is devoted to considerations and speculations by the endless administrators of science programs. I would suggest that you limit coverage of the interminable economic woes to one page, and relegate this to the next to the last item rather than give it first priority as in your present format.

It might appear that you are taxed for material to fill your allotted space. I would like to offer a positive suggestion here, if such is within your means. It would be very informative if you could incorporate recent articles of information (past 5 or 10 years) on a given topic, such as a coverage of the field of quasars and pulsars, the field of plate tectonics, the field of human body immune systems, the field of educational psychology, etc. This would refresh the reader on poorly remembered and scattered articles, so as to give a comprehensive understanding of specific topics and provide a framework to incorporate the latest findings.

Some of your articles are presented in this format, are quite comprehensive

in giving the in-depth picture, and are much appreciated. Possibly you could offer additional issues of special content, at extra cost, to the extent of three or four a year, prepared by specialists in a particular field, not to involve undue complexity, but to present a coverage and assembly of the latest knowledge in a restricted area for the enlightenment of those in other disciplines.

I would appreciate your comments, and reader criticism on my letter, to determine whether I am out of line in my thinking, or have considerable support.

Donald R. Steele
Denver, Colo.

(We are by no means taxed for material. But we are convinced of the importance of the interdependence of science and the rest of society. This not only concerns the social implications of decisions in Government, university councils, industry or wherever there is a synergistic or abrasive interface. This interface, we believe, has such long-range significance that we must assign a share of our limited space to it. Ed.)

Kent State

The tragedy at Kent State is not an issue that can be classified as to which news weekly should or should not allow print space. An incident as monumental as this tragedy should be of concern to all Americans in all communities. The science community is not an island.

I commend your effort to enlighten us as to the relationship between the behavioral sciences and the murders of four Kent State students.

But why have you not found a sociologist to connect the laws of science and Jackson State?

Arnold Strickman
Brighton, Mass.

SCIENCE NEWS

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Published every Saturday by SCIENCE SERVICE, Inc., 1719 N St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036. North 7-2255. Cable Address: SCIENSERV.

ADVERTISING STAFF

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

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