

to the editor

Budget woes

Since Donald R. Steele of Denver has asked for reader criticism or support of his letter (SN: 7/11, p. 28), I write to say that I, too, deplore all the attention given to administrative budget matters, about which I can do nothing, being interested mainly in adding to my mind's knowledge of what is being discovered in the field of science. I have my own budget woes! As who doesn't. I skip any article that has a dollar sign in it, and sometimes it doesn't take me long to read an issue on this basis.

I also think his suggestion about summary articles on certain subjects periodically is a very fine idea. Though your index is very helpful, I find I don't use it much but would read such a new article refreshing my memory, whenever one happened to appear.

I would also like to say that you completely ignore the field of scientific psychic research of a serious and intelligent kind, which is certainly going on in many areas. This relates very definitely to psychology and the science of personality, as well as to social relationships and I think it should have recognition in a comprehensive magazine such as yours. You seem to cover everything else that remotely relates to science.

The most outstanding thing I have noticed about the Letters to the Editor is the almost universal appreciation of workers themselves of the way in which you report their research activities. It is good for the reader to know of this accuracy and integrity, and it gives your magazine a value far above the average. I, too, appreciate it, budget matters excepted!

*Beatrice Collier
Sacramento, Calif.*

Some time ago, several months, I complained about the extensive coverage you were giving to political, budgetary and many other nonscience topics. It was gratifying to see (SN: 7/11, p. 28), that I am not alone. I refer to Donald R. Steele's letter on this subject.

It might interest you to know that quite a few readers and subscribers that I know in this area feel the same way but do not express the displeasure, except of course to me. I tell them to tell you but you know how that is.

I don't really expect anything to be done about this situation, because it has happened to many another good publication, which I no longer buy.

*Leonard W. Gardner
Tonawanda, N.Y.*

Exciting prospect

Re: the article, "The making of metallic hydrogen," (SN: 6/27, p. 623): We thought that the discussion which compared the magnetic implosion squeeze with direct shock compression was particularly lucid. The possibility of making metallic hydrogen is certainly one of the most exciting scientific prospects today. However, use of the same technique to study other materials should not be overlooked. When accurate measurement methods are devised, more nearly adiabatic, high pressure data may be obtained to supplement that now available from shock wave techniques.

*C. M. Fowler
Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory
Los Alamos, N.M.*

Radar probing

I found your discussion of our work on high-resolution radar observations of clear air turbulence (SN: 6/27, p. 621) both attractive to the general scientist and the layman and also quite accurate.

May I suggest that the time and altitude scales on the radar pictures would have helped the reader considerably. Also, the UFO picture seems a little out of place without more of a discussion or caption.

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films OF THE WEEK

SOLVING PROBLEMS WITH A MICROSCOPE. 16mm, b&w, sound, 28 min. A low power microscope attached to a television camera helps solve such puzzles as: How big is a needle's eye? What happens when a light bulb filament burns out? Can a typewriter be identified by its type? Why do burrs stick to clothing? These questions and more are answered when objects are studied at magnifications of 25 to 100 times. The statue inside the Lincoln Memorial is a surprise "hidden" on one side of a Lincoln penny. Audience: upper elementary, junior high. Purchase \$130 from Prism Productions, 220 E. 23rd St., New York, N.Y. 10010.

STONE-AGE AMERICANS. 16mm, color, sound, 21 min. Introduces the vanished Indians of the Mesa Verde in Colorado. After thirteen centuries of development, these Indians disappeared, probably because of the drought of 1275, but the setting of their life remains in Soda Canyon of the Mesa Verde, where their cliff dwellings were discovered in 1888. The film presents the history of these former Indians by examining the cliff dwellings and artifacts discovered in them. Audience: upper elementary or junior high. Purchase \$265 or rental \$15 from International Film Bureau, 332 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60604.

TOBACCO: IDIOT'S DELIGHT. 16mm, color, sound, 28 min. The social pressures placed on young people to smoke cigarettes are enormous. Two hundred million dollars are spent each year to convince people that they will enjoy smoking. From the time children are very young, they see smoking as a natural thing. Those they love and respect smoke. In novels and motion pictures, their favorite characters smoke. This film ridicules the affectation of various types of smokers and satirizes an advertising campaign for a new cigarette. It also emphasizes the health risks of smoking. Audience: school, adult. Purchase \$335 from Bailey-Film Associates, 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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