

# films OF THE WEEK

**ASTRONOMY FILM LOOPS.** Six titles in 8mm or Super 8mm using originally designed sequential demonstrations, animation and time-lapse techniques, related to footage of natural phenomena. Titles include: Moon, Motion and Phases; Planetary Motion; Earth: Rotation and Revolution; Seasons; Times and Date-line; and Day and Night. Audience: high school, college. Purchase 8mm \$21.50 each or Super 8mm \$22.95 each from Hubbard Scientific Co., P.O. Box 105, Northbrook, Ill. 60062.

**WHAT IN THE WORLD IS WATER?** 16mm, color, sound. 12 min. Explains what water is—not by its chemical composition, but by its function as a carrier of other substances. Students will see how important water is to man, and learn about such concepts as condensation, erosion, irrigation, and water power. The film ends with an illustration of the energy potential of atmospheric water and stored water in a reservoir. Audience: junior and senior high school. Purchase \$160 or rental \$6 from McGraw-Hill Films, Dept. DF, 330 W. 42nd St., New York, N.Y. 10036.

**THE SAVAGES.** 16mm, b&w, sound, 25 min. The title, like the film itself, is meant to pose a question to the viewer: is it the people in the ghetto or their surroundings that are savage? In impressionistic documentary style, the film illuminates the explosive environment underlying the scenes of urban violence that appear in the mass media. Scenes show a ghetto family, teenagers on the street and in cars, and a part that erupts in violence and ends in depression. Audience: professionals and lay persons concerned with the urban crisis, or who are preparing to encounter it as teachers, counselors, social workers, police, probation or parole officers, poverty workers, or public administrators. Purchase \$160 or rental \$12.50 from Univ. of California Media Center, Berkeley, Calif. 94720.

**THE FEAST.** 16mm, color, sound, 29 min. This anthropological film shows the first stages of alliance formation between two of the many hostile Yanomamo Indian villages in southern Venezuela and northern Brazil. Through feasting, trading, dancing and chanting, the hosts and their guests, wearing only decorative paint and feathers, hope to renew an old alliance. But both, though surrounded by hostile enemies and desperately needing allies, are fearful because such a feast can end in violence through treachery or flaring of tempers. Audience: behavioral scientists, college and high school students. Purchase or free loan information from Audio-Visual Branch, AEC, Washington, D.C. 20545.

**GRID ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.** 16mm, color, sound, 35 min. Using the grid approach, presents current thinking about the development and management of people in organizations. Audience: management. Purchase \$420 and rental \$25 from Univ. of Calif. Media Center, Berkeley, Calif. 94720.

*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

## Second century coin

Your very informative report on "RA II" (SN: 7/25, p. 61) apparently contains a confusing error—possibly due to faulty translating or typing. You state that the coin, found in Martinique, was identified by the Institute of Numismatics in Paris "as a genuine Ptolemaic coin of the Second or Third Egyptian Dynasty."

However, the Ptolemies—descendants of one of Alexander the Great's generals—ruled Egypt from 305 to 30 B.C., ending with Cleopatra. The Second and Third Egyptian Dynasties, however, ruled more than 2,000 years earlier: Zoser, the founder of the Third Dynasty, 2700-2650 B.C. is mainly known as the builder of the step pyramid at Sakkara.

A coin from the days of the Ptolemies can therefore not be related to the Second or Third Dynasty, or vice versa. Could the Institute of Numismatics have referred to the 2nd or 3rd centuries (B.C.)—the time of Ptolemaic rule? I hope you will be able to clarify this highly significant point.

Henry C. Sutton  
Washington, D.C.

I refer to the article "Second time success" (SN: 7/25, p. 61).

As a numismatist and as a student of history, I was surprised at the reference to a Ptolemaic coin of the Second or Third Egyptian Dynasty. It seems to me that the Second or Third Egyptian Dynasty would be about 4,000 years ago in the early beginnings of recorded history. Ptolemy seized the throne of Egypt after the death of Alexander approximately 323 B.C. Ptolemy created a Greek Dynasty on the Egyptian throne which ended with Cleopatra VII (of Caesar and Mark Antony fame).

What is overlooked is the propensity of people to carry a pocket piece as a good luck token especially if it is unusual. Genuine Ptolemaic coins are not rare and exist literally in tens of thousands of pieces. Just as ancient Judean coinage has turned up in Central Europe where it may have been carried by Roman Legionnaires as souvenirs, a pirate between the 15th and 18th centuries could have dropped his Ptolemaic coin good luck piece on the beach in Martinique.

Harold J. Nussbaum  
Washington, D.C.

*(Our readers are right: Heyerdahl was referring to the 2nd or 3rd centuries B.C., not the Second or Third Dynasties. Ed.)*

## Laetrile and cancer

In response to the article "The apricot pit bit" (SN: 7/25, p. 55), I may say that I felt that it was very well written and aptly epitomized by the keynote heading, "Laetrile deserves a try," which neatly sums up my main viewpoint in four words.

Many press articles on Laetrile are inclined to a liberal amount of the snide so well described 500 years ago in the *Knights Tale*, "The Smyler with the Knyf under the Cloke," (Chaucer) or 400 years ago in *Macbeth* by "Daggers in men's smiles." I am happy to report to you that I find none of this in the *SCIENCE NEWS* article. I will also admit that I have boasted rather widely that should *SCIENCE NEWS* ever write on the current Laetrile situation, the Chaucer quotation would not pertain.

Apropos "the relatively few but highly placed opponents of the IND 6734 study of Laetrile-amygdalin, who" (See p. 214)

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