

## films OF THE WEEK

**WE CAME IN PEACE.** 16mm, color, sound, 38 min. Traces space travels through Jules Verne's prophetic books, NASA footage, "home movies" by pioneers in the field, and short scenes from early classic motion pictures. Also includes footage on U.S. space missions, including the historical suborbital flight of Alan Shepard, the earth-orbiting missions of John Glenn and Scott Carpenter, and the recent missions to the moon. Audience: general. Free loan from Association-Sterling Films, 600 Madison Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022.

**ISOLATION AND IDENTIFICATION OF SALMONELLAE**—T-1494. 16mm TV film recording, b&w, sound, 24 min. John R. Boring, Ph.D., Departments of Preventive Medicine and Medicine, Emory University School of Medicine, discusses the diseases caused by salmonellae and their epidemiology and characteristics; principles of isolation; reactions on brilliant green agar, TSI, and biochemical reactions; and serological typing. Audience: medical. Purchase information from General Services Information, National Archives and Records Service, Washington, D.C. 20409, Attn: Government Sales, or free loan from National Medical Audiovisual Center (Annex), Station K, Atlanta, Ga. 30324.

**ISOLATION AND IDENTIFICATION OF ENTERIC BACTERIA.** T-1496. 16mm (TV film recording), b&w, sound, 25 min. John R. Boring, Ph.D., Departments of Preventive Medicine and Medicine, Emory University School of Medicine, presents an illustrated review of enteric bacteria including a discussion of the following groups of pathogens: enteric bacteria; lactose fermentation; selective plating media; reactions on MAC, SS agar, and triple sugar iron agar; differentiation of *Escherichia coli*, *Klebsiella pneumoniae*, and *Citrobacter*. Audience: medical. Purchase from General Services Administration, National Archives and Records Service, Washington, D.C. 20409, Attn: Government Film Sales, or free loan from National Audiovisual Medical Center (Annex), Station K, Atlanta, Ga. 30324.

**NUCLEAR POWER AND THE ENVIRONMENT.** 16mm, color, sound, 14 min. Takes up the problems that stem from the growing demands for electricity in the United States, demands which are doubling every year. To meet these future needs, the most practical means of producing power in large amounts is to build steam-powered electrical power plants, with both fossil-fueled and nuclear power. The film discusses the great care taken in studying and controlling the effects of nuclear power plants on the environment. Environmental surveys are conducted to predict and control effects on fish life, ecology and hydrology. Storage of waste products, safety of nuclear plants, and aesthetic values are also touched upon. Audience: general. Free loan information from Audio-Visual Branch, Department of Public Information, U.S. 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

### PCB's insulate

I am taking the liberty of writing to correct a statement which appears in the item "Monsanto reduces sales" (SN: 7/25, p. 69): "Monsanto will continue to sell PCB's for use as a lubricant in transformers and for paints and adhesives, the company said."

Polychlorinated biphenyls, known under the generic name of askarels, as well as by various trade names, are not used as lubricants but as insulating liquids. These compounds are used for various reasons but especially because they are nonflammable, whereas petroleum-base insulating oils will, of course, burn.

*Samuel Sass, Librarian  
William Stanley Library  
General Electric Co.  
Pittsfield, Mass.*

### Complete version

The article "Five years away" (SN: 7/11, p. 30) on our work on drug-induced lesions was extraordinarily complete and well written.

*Bernard B. Brodie, Ph.D.  
Chief, Laboratory of  
Chemical Pharmacology  
National Heart and  
Lung Institute  
Bethesda, Md.*

The article "Five years away" (SN: 7/11, p. 30) is very well done. Apparently we didn't make clear that carbon tetrachloride is activated by a mechanism other than by epoxidation. Some people think that the toxic effects of carbon tet might be due for a free radical.

*James R. Gillette, Ph.D.  
Head, Section on Drug Metabolism  
Laboratory of Chemical Pharmacology  
National Heart and Lung Institute  
Bethesda, Md.*

### Negligible effect

The article "Industry focuses on unleaded gas" (SN: 7/25, p. 71) has effectively described the current status of the developing trend toward unleaded gasoline. However, another facet of the situation should be more clearly enunciated in the technical literature. This has to do with the character of the pollution problem, as it involves the period of transition from present fuels and present cars, to 1975 model cars operating on fuels appropriate for their emissions control systems (whatever that may be).

Press reports and trade literature treat the present fuels controversy almost wholly in the light of the 1975 and later automobile. This is excellent as long-range planning, but in fact, the 1975 automobiles will have negligible effect on the smog problem until the latter part of this decade. Indications are that we are in for serious trouble before that time, and attention should be given to the impact of proposed fuel change upon pollution from 1971 through the late 1970's.

Possibly the situation with respect to the transition period could be usefully explored in another short article.

*R. W. Hurn  
Project Coordinator  
Fuels Combustion Research  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Mines  
Bartlesville, Okla.*

### Science policy

The article "On the road to advocacy" (SN: 8/15, p. 146) was accurate, but in my opinion incomplete. You dwelled almost exclusively on the importance of the National Academy of Sciences' Committee on Science and Public Policy, yet failed to name any of the members or either of the two (See p. 242)

## SCIENCE NEWS

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## ... letters

chairmen to date (George Kistiakowsky and, currently, Harvey Brooks). Also, in reviewing the past contributions of the committee, no mention was made of its recent report on Technology Assessment, which is probably its most influential one so far. It seems, in short, that the article was based almost entirely on an interview with President Philip Handler of the NAS, who is certainly an impeccable source, but without some of the supporting research that I think your readers deserve.

To close on a positive note, I find SCIENCE NEWS a useful and interesting periodical and I, for one, would like to see you do more on science policy and, in general, on the social implications of scientific and technological developments.

*Emmanuel G. Mesthene*  
Office of the Director  
Harvard University  
Program on Technology and Society  
Cambridge, Mass.

## Not a fish

Regarding your article "Improving shark and herring" (SN: 8/29, p. 167), I cannot help but call to your attention that according to most marine biologists neither the squid nor the whale is a fish.

*John E. Hoffman*  
Roslyn Heights, N.Y.

## Timely topic

Frazier's article "Geopolitics of plate tectonics" (SN: 7/11, p. 29) accurately discussed a timely topic that, to my knowledge, has not been reported before. Certainly, it is very appropriate "science news" and very well done.

*Dr. John M. Bird*  
Chairman, Department of  
Geological Sciences  
State University of New York  
Albany, N.Y.

## Environmental perspective

I think that Richard Gilluly definitely did an excellent job ["Politics important" (SN: 7/11, p. 36)] on summarizing the major points on my article (accepted for publication in *BIO SCIENCE*) as well as the more important papers of the Interdisciplinary Resource Biology conference of AIBS at the University of Wyoming. I met with him during the conference and he has an unusual knack and talent for sharp, analytical thinking on the topic at hand. I believe that he has an environmental perspective, which many people in the field lack. It is good that you have people like him.

*Dr. Daniel H. Henning*  
University of New Mexico  
Albuquerque, N.M.