

films OF THE WEEK

GAMES FUTURISTS PLAY. 16mm, color, sound, 26 min. An examination of some of the methods man is utilizing in his search for knowledge of existing social problems as well as project social problems of the future, this film introduces viewers to new games man is now playing to prepare himself for tomorrow. However, we see each has serious uses. As we witness such games, we learn how they can help educators to teach future citizens about politics and democracy, generals and admirals to develop future strategies, and social planners to choose alternate futures for the world. Purchase \$300 or rental \$16 from McGraw-Hill Films, Dept. DF, 330 W. 42nd St., New York, N.Y. 10036.

BLACK AND WHITE: UPTIGHT. 16mm, color, sound, 35 min. The myths that perpetuate prejudice and the subtle ways hate is learned are explored in this film. The differences that do exist between black and white people are seen as results of inequities in education, economic opportunity and even protection of the law. The riots that have erupted have forced long-standing issues to the surface for all Americans to face. The current question, "What can I do to help?" is answered in this film for teenagers. Their new attitudes can guarantee a better tomorrow for all Americans. Audience: teenagers, general. Purchase \$420 from Bailey-Film Associates, 11559 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 90025.

THE FOOD REVOLUTION. 16mm, color, sound, 26 min. Focuses on some efforts being made by scientists and others to cope with the enormous and frightening problem of feeding the ever-increasing billions of people of the world. Provided the birth rate becomes stabilized or lowered before the beginning of the 21st century, there are some pilot projects now under way that seem to offer hope. Examples include a program in Guatemala where hungry people are given a cheap, good-tasting food that has as much protein as milk but costs only one-fifth as much, and a Nutritional Rehabilitation Center in Latin America. Audience: general. Purchase \$300 or rental \$16 from McGraw-Hill Films, Dept. DF, 330 W. 42nd St., New York, N.Y. 10036.

REPRODUCTION CYCLE OF THE ANGELFISH. 16mm, color, sound, 10 min. Details the process of reproduction of angelfish. The film begins with the courtship and proceeds through the egg-laying, fertilization and incubation stages to the development of the newly hatched fry. The watchfulness and care of the parent angelfish are documented as they protect and tend their young during the first six weeks of growth. Close-up photography captures the release of the tiny eggs from the female's body and follows the male as he fertilizes row after row of the newly laid eggs. With the aid of a microscope the development of the embryo fish within the shell is seen and the movement of blood through the fry's tiny veins and arteries is traced. Sale \$135, rental \$8 from International Film Bureau, 332 S. Mich. Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60604.

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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to the editor

Difficult design

Alan Perlmeter's article "Redesigning the guitar" (SN: 8/29, p. 180) was timely and welcomed but it may leave readers with the impression that the 20 instruments were made by John Schneider, rather than by several luthiers. Six were made in Miami by Jose Fernandez who is well known for his own contributions to design along more traditional lines.

Readers may appreciate more fully the difficulty of improving the sonority of the instrument knowing that the traditional Spanish sound of the classic guitar or of the Flamenco guitar, must be retained; that the response must be even throughout the entire range; that the 1/16-inch thick top, sides and back must withstand the nearly 100 pounds of string tension throughout a wide range of relative humidity and temperatures, and that the instrument must be physiologically correct for playing. So far nobody has fully defined the Spanish sound which the masters cause to be perpetuated. Suitable materials are extremely limited and increasing in scarcity, and tap tones are akin to craftsmanship.

Chico Taylor
North Miami, Fla.

Superior feelings

Being a mere layman but also an inquisitive "Rock-turner-overer," I find your magazine a refreshing and enlightening source of information. Every now and then the newspapers will come out with a semi-headline, that such and so is being done and I immediately feel so superior, because I already know all about it; having read it in SCIENCE NEWS! Thanks for the privilege.

Reference "Thunderstorms fall mainly on land" (SN: 9/5, p. 207), I have, many times, observed that such storms repeatedly follow a certain path through the countryside. Of course I was told by

the local "wisemen" that these storms follow watercourses. But what about the ones that have no watercourses? Your article gives the answer for I am sure that there is a direct connection between a magnetic field (either positive or negative) in the ground and lightning. At least I have a good argument.

Joseph B. Yznaga
Washington, D.C.

Priorities questioned

Your article "Hope for disabled undersea vessels" (SN: 9/12, p. 231) seems to me to go beyond the point of reasonable reporting to a point of special pleading. On page 232 it states that, despite Congressional criticism on costs of the DSRV, "the need for the vehicle was so great and so obvious that the program continues."

The point of criticism, as I understand it, centered on whether the same amount of money spent in other ways (e.g. reduction of infant mortality) would not save more American lives. Specifically, cutting the six DSRV program to four. I find this argument appealing since I know of no reason why one American life is worth more than another. Is there some point I have overlooked?

H. W. Adams
Deelmar, N.Y.

(The same kind of argument could be applied to a question of whether to put up a traffic light at a busy intersection or add onto the county hospital. Nevertheless, if our sentence had read "Congress decided the need was great and obvious," you could take up the question of priorities with your Representative. Ed.)

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