

# to the editor

## Scope on the moon

The moon's crater Tycho, suggested as a landing site in the Apollo program (SN: 9/19, p. 247), would be an ideal spot for a small experimental telescope presaging the big one to come later. There stars and galaxies in most of the sky can be photographed continuously for long periods (impossible in earth-orbiting observatories), and the temperature extremes of the lunar equator are avoided.

It is somewhat ironic that, although several major space projects are being discussed long in advance of the intended launch dates, with presumably some spinoff from outside suggestions and criticisms, the one which will yield more basic information than all the others combined, and which would use and not merely study the now-reached moon, has received little attention for years. The last appraisal of such a project known to this writer was one by Fritz Zwicky, reported in the January 1966, SKY AND TELESCOPE. It listed

some 40 points sufficient to convince most readers that science in general will be drastically advanced, if not revolutionized, by just one big telescope on the moon. But that was a long time ago as science moves. And among points not mentioned was the unique bonus of a moon-perch for studying the earth's atmosphere as a whole, plus the surrounding Van Allen belt—a project of high economic as well as scientific importance which is getting piecemeal attention today through various probes.

Indeed, a good case can be made for granting priority for a moon observatory over manned trips to Mars. The presence or absence of life there, in view of the fact that it is here, will have little bearing on the moral certainty of life elsewhere in the universe. But the tremendously farther and better look into space provided by the telescope will make the local information gathered in trips through the solar system speck (important as it is) seem provincial and piddling in comparison. In any case, since scientists agree about the merit of a moon-telescope goal, the ultimate boss—we, the people—should be encouraged to keep it in sight.

*R. S. Underwood*  
Emeritus Professor of  
Mathematics and Astronomy  
Texas Tech University  
Lubbock, Tex.

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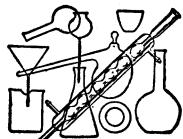
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## Bread defender

In the article "Enriched bread enhances rat growth" (SN: 11/14, p. 384) it is stated that two-thirds of the rats in a test who were fed only the ordinary "so-called enriched" white bread died within 90 days. Is there any one food product on the market today that will maintain life at a healthy level?

Enriched white bread never claimed to be an all-purpose food, and any food could have all the nutrients added that Dr. Roger J. Williams suggests and thus be improved for human consumption.

After all, lots of people don't eat bread, so if the rest of the public is cheated because white bread isn't enriched enough, they are no worse off than people who don't eat bread. Why the onus on bread?

*Mrs. M. S. Alterman*  
Atlanta, Ga.

Address communications to Editor,  
Science News, 1719 N Street, N.W.  
Washington, D. C. 20036

# films OF THE WEEK

**THE TREMBLING EARTH.** 16mm, color, sound, 30 min. A documentation of earthquakes which focuses on the seismic studies of the Lamont Geological Observatory of Columbia University. Dr. Jack Oliver, a seismologist, is shown working in an observatory located within a mine. The instruments are shown and explained. Aerial views of two earth faults accompany an explanation of their relationship to earthquakes. Other seismologists are shown gathering data on micro-earthquakes in Alaska. Scenes of the 1964 Alaskan earthquake graphically demonstrate the destructive power of an earthquake. Audience: secondary, college, adult. Purchase \$240 or rental \$10 from Indiana University, Audio-Visual Center, Dept. SN, Bloomington, Ind. 47401.

**EAST AFRICA** (2nd edition). 16mm, color, sound, 22 min. The principal regions of East Africa are examined in this film. It focuses on Nairobi, the capital of the Republic of Kenya; Mombasa, the principal seaport for Kenya and Uganda; the Nile River from its beginnings at Lake Victoria through its long journey to the Mediterranean; and Dar Es Salaam, the capital and major seaport of the Republic of Tanzania. Audience: high school. Purchase \$265 or rental \$10 from BFA Educational Media, Dept. SN, 2211 Michigan Ave., Santa Monica, Cal. 90904.

**WHO IS: VICTOR VASARELY.** 16mm, color, sound, 30 min. Victor Vasarely, Hungarian-born artist, considered to be the founder of "op-art," believes that the truths of our time are represented by relativity, the speed of light, and the weight of the atom. To this end, Vasarely has gone from representational abstraction, through kinetic experiment, to what he terms an abstract geometrical alphabet. It is the artist's philosophy that all persons have a right to enjoy and own art. Hence, many of Vasarely's pictures are prototypes designed for unlimited reproduction. Audience: secondary, college, adult. Purchase \$315 or rental \$11.50 from Indiana University, Audio-Visual Center, Dept. SN, Bloomington, Ind. 47401.

**A DAY IN THE DEATH OF DONNY B.** 16mm, b&w, sound, 15 min. Confronts the viewer with an unflinching look at the eroded life of a young drug addict as he is filtered through the streets and alleys of an urban ghetto. The film challenges the viewer to experience the isolation and despair of a youngster stripped of his humanity by a narcotic drug. His world is far removed from the realm of our modern human experiences, but his affliction is tied into an array of problems which reach throughout our entire society. Film brings the viewer face to face with a segment of our society that we would like to ignore—but the addict's problems no longer can be ignored—they are our problems. Audience: inner-city school students. Free loan from NIMH Drug Abuse Film Collection, Dept. SN, Distribution Branch, National Audiovisual Center (GSA), Washington, D.C. 20409.

**JOURNEY INTO NUTRITION.** 16mm, color, sound, 25 min. Children attending the Little Red Schoolhouse in New York City learn that common nutrient needs are met differently by various countries. In Greece, for example, feta cheese and bread are substituted for milk. The children study the food of a country and then make a complete meal out of these foods. They also learn that overeating is just as bad as undereating, and that snacks should complement rather than replace meals. Audience: primary, intermediate. Purchase \$315 or rental \$11.50 from Indiana University, Audio-Visual Center, Dept. SN, Bloomington, Ind. 47401.

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.