

to the editor

Science's torment

The writer of "A time of torment for science," (SN: 1/2, p. 5) falls far short of good science reporting. Numerous statements are made as facts which at best are opinions and at worst are false. Some examples:

"1970 has been a disastrous year for science." False; 1970 was a good year for science.

"Even research in biology and medicine . . . was cut to the bone." False; good research projects are still being funded.

"(Scientists) promote an unpopular war . . ." False; I know many scientists, and I know none who promotes war whether popular or unpopular.

"Even the moon adventure has been scientifically disappointing . . ." False; reaching the moon was the most exciting scientific exploit I can recall, including the atomic bomb on which I worked during World War II.

Please suggest to the author that he consult a dictionary on the proper use of the word "inhabitable."

I have three science writers working for me. If any one of them turned in as poor copy as that I have just criticized, I would fire him.

*Robert G. Tucker, Ph.D.
Deerfield, Ill.*

As a nonscientist who reads SCIENCE NEWS for no reason but the pleasure of knowing a little of what goes on in the scientific world, I wish to commend you for your article "A time of torment for science." If it is representative of the attitude of most of the scientific community, I would say it is one of the most encouraging things I have seen in recent times. Most people or groups of people, when toppled from positions of power or prestige, respond with cries of foul and dire predictions of the consequences of such an upset in proper social balance. You seem to accept science's loss of prestige as simply an unfortunate fact of the times, and to resolve to work only the harder to meet the needs of the times, even without the appreciation you have heretofore received. It seems to me that whether or not there is a future for civilized life might well depend on how many people are able to maintain such an attitude.

*Hubert Herndon
Lakeview, Ore.*

Vitamin C

As a result of my own study of the literature, I have been taking vitamin C at the rate of a gram a day for years for a broken back. The results have been most excellent as far as the back

is concerned and there has been this by-product that I have not had a cold in three or four years.

So your article "The case of vitamin C" (SN: 12/26, p. 477), seems to me extraordinarily ignorant. It seems to me that anyone who looks up the medical literature would come to the same conclusion as Dr. Pauling. It is no exaggeration to say the tone of the article is anything but factual.

*W. J. Hitchcock
Naples, Fla.*

Dr. Pauling is not the first and only scientist to have made claims for massive doses of vitamin C, nor will he be the last. Tons of similar research material have existed for decades, but none of it will be applied until doctors are taught enough nutrition to do so.

Unless the American Medical Association-Food and Drug Administration complex approves a new treatment, it is doomed. And they will never approve anything which helps people to help themselves. Their propaganda that we are all so well fed that vitamin supplementation is a waste of money is reflected in this piece of biased reporting (SN: 12/26, p. 477). They have just spent millions of dollars on hearings intended to prove their propaganda, which would result in the establishment of standardized doses of a minute number of vitamins. The recommended dosage of vitamin C was set at 75 milligrams per day. Of course they're not going to approve of Dr. Pauling's conclusions.

*Mrs. Julio P. Gasteiro
Stanford, Conn.*

Lunokhod's mirrors

This letter concerns your article "Robot on moon" (SN: 11/21, p. 397).

You mentioned that mirrors for a laser beam on board Luna 17 have been produced by France. If one of your cooperators could read German, please note, the enclosed cut out of a German newspaper reads different: Lenses for the laser beam have been produced in Hanau (Germany). The delivery took place through France, which has an agreement with Russia for cooperation in space science.

*Fritz Goettner
Consulting Engineer
Adrian, Mich.*

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films OF THE WEEK

URBAN ECOLOGY. Set of 10 film-loops, color, silent, super-8mm. One does not need to live in the suburbs or the country to study living things first hand. Even a student living in the city, if he knows how and where to look, can discover a rich and varied ecology within his immediate neighborhood. Titles include: Pigeons, Trees, Dandelions, Walls as Habitats, Cracks in the Pavement, Vacant Lots, Garbage Dumps, What's in the Air, Water in the City, and the City as a Human Habitat. Audience: elementary, junior high. Purchase set of 10 \$249.50 or individual loops \$24.95 each, from Ealing Films, Dept. SN, 2225 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, Mass. 02140.

THE UNDERSEA WORLD OF JACQUES COUSTEAU. Set of 13 color film-loops, Super-8mm cartridges. Film is selected from that shot by Cousteau and the crew of the Calypso. Titles include: Deep Sea Diving; Exploring the Undersea World; Wonders of the Coral Jungle; Coral Reef Community; Investigating Protective Behavior; Investigating Territorial Behavior; Investigating Predatory Behavior; Investigating Shark Behavior; Reproductive Behavior of the Turtle; Shark Feeding Frenzy; Struggle for Survival; Hatching Turtles; Conservation; Man Helps Young Turtles; Fishes and Giants of the Deep; Whale Behavior. Audience: high school, college biology. Purchase set of 13 for \$324.35 or individual loops \$24.95 each from Ealing Films, Dept. SN, 2225 Massachusetts Ave., Cambridge, Mass. 02140.

ELECTRICITY SERIES. Series of 11 color film loops, Super 8mm, silent. Designed to help students understand basic principles of electricity. Provide laboratory experiences which might be otherwise difficult to obtain. Titles include: "A Parallel Wire Current Balance"; "Charges in Motion—Part 1: Flow of Charge"; "Charges in Motion—Part 2: The Induction Process"; "Photoelectricity"; "Photoelectric Cells"; "The Primary Cell"; "The Secondary Cell"; "The Motor Effect"; "Electromagnetic Induction"; "Mutual Induction"; and "The Transformer." Audience: high school. Purchase series for \$220 or each film loop \$20 from BFA Educational Media, Dept. SN, 2211 Michigan Ave., Santa Monica, Calif. 90404.

NATURE'S CAMOFLAGE. 16mm, color, sound, 13 min. Has a cast of spiders, beetles, butterflies, chameleons, frogs, water scorpions and flatfish (among others) who act out the drama of life and death which goes on in every field and stream. Ways of hiding from enemies, or deceiving possible prey, include a beetle which looks like a leaf, a butterfly which resembles an owl, a frog who plays dead, and various insects and animals who seem to disappear into their surroundings. Audience: intermediate, junior, senior high school, scout groups, nature centers, general public. Purchase \$160 from ACT Films, Dept. SN, 35 W. 45th St., New York, N.Y. 10036.

HERE'S HELP. 16mm, color, sound, 28 min. Explores the various treatment and rehabilitation projects for drug users, and offers a firsthand view of individuals responding to treatment. The addicts' total rehabilitation is a personal struggle, and requires honesty, courage and perseverance. For those who make it, the reward is sweet—they leave behind a world of misery and desperation and are free to seek fulfillment as total human beings. An exaddict in the film proudly proclaims: "I didn't do it by myself. I had help . . . plenty of help." Audience: general adult. Free loan from NIMH Drug Abuse Film Collection, Distribution Branch, National Audiovisual Center (gsa), Washington, D.C. 20409.

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.