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# to the editor

## Abortion suit

It is curious that Robert Trotter, in his article on abortions (SN: 1/29/72, p. 75), is not willing to allow for "politics" in a political issue, and instead suggests that the Byrn suit on behalf of unborn fetuses is something less than authentically compassionate. It is not at all inconsistent that one whose convictions are firm should use every available legal means to obtain a favorable decision. For Mr. Byrn, or Ms. Kimmey, to do otherwise would no doubt imply a lack of such commitment.

Kent Burtner  
Oakland, Calif.

## The semantics of sound

The article "Sounding out the womb" (SN: 12/25/71, p. 424) refers to workers in ultrasonics as ultrasonologists. I think that the term would better be called "ultrasonologist" after the science of ultrasonics: ultrasonology. This is in keeping with the accepted nomenclature, i.e., physiology, pharmacology, parasitology etc.

S. S. Fishman  
Sara Scientific Co.  
San Francisco, Calif.

## Enjoyable and useful

I would like to take this opportunity of telling you how much I enjoy reading SCIENCE NEWS and how useful I find it, especially in dealing with the many queries that come in to me here at Jodrell Bank.

T. W. Rackham  
Nuffield Radio Astronomy Laboratories  
Jodrell Bank, England

## Laser safety

Your article entitled "Leashing lasers" by Louise A. Purrett (SN: 2/5/72, p. 94) is excellent. I hope it can go to all users of lasers.

William G. Fateley  
Carnegie-Mellon University  
Pittsburgh, Pa.

## On open-mindedness

I have been familiar with SCIENCE NEWS now for 16 enjoyable months. Among the many reasons I find it so effective is that through it I have learned never to accept a theory as "this is it," but to remain open to new and varied suggestions. Alvin Toffler in his book *Future Shock* implies this; your publication exemplifies it.

Richard Roy  
Hull, Quebec  
Canada

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

# films OF THE WEEK

**THE SURGEON.** 16mm, color, sound, 13½ min. The film depicts careers in modern surgery. The camera follows a surgeon through a day in a major medical center, recording aspects of a world seldom seen by anyone outside the profession. Dramatic moments are provided by operation scenes, including such advanced procedures as open-heart surgery, organ transplantation and the insertion of a cardiac pacemaker and artificial heart valve. The film also outlines the surgeon's training, shows the various fields in which he can specialize, and reveals the physical and emotional demands of his work. Audience: high school, college. Loan information from Modern Talking Picture Service, Dept. SN, 2323 New Hyde Park Rd., New Hyde Park, N.Y. 11040.

**WOODWORKING MACHINE OPERATIONS.** Series of 13 film loops, Super 8mm, silent, color. In each film, step-by-step procedures are shown, and safety is emphasized. Titles include: The Jointer; Basic Use; Planer; Basic Use; Circular Saw: Changing the Blade; Circular Saw: Rippling Stock—Wide and Medium Widths; Circular Saw: Rippling Stock—Narrow Widths; Circular Saw: Crosscutting—Cutting Stock to Length; Circular Saw: Crosscutting—Duplicating Long Lengths; Circular Saw: Crosscutting—Duplicating Short Lengths; Bandsaw: Rippling—Rough and Surfaced Stock; Bandsaw: Resawing Narrow Stock; Bandsaw: Crosscutting; Bandsaw: Cutting Shapes; and Drill Press: Boring Various Holes. Audience: shop students. Purchase \$20 each or \$260 for series of 13 from BFA Educational Media, Dept. SN, 2211 Michigan Ave., Santa Monica, Calif. 90404.

**NORTHUMBERLAND CHILDREN.** 16mm, silent, b&w with color inserts. Made in an English nursery for three- and four-year olds. It is a study in depth of children in the setting of an innercity day-care program. It focuses on children involved with balances, water, paint, animals, outdoor equipment and on the ways adults contribute to the children's activities. The study of such a school can speak to all who recognize the complexity of the problems. Audience: parents, day-care personnel, general. Purchase information from Thorne Films, Dept. SN, 1229 University Ave., Boulder, Colo. 80302.

**INFLORESCENCE.** 16mm, color, sound, 7 min. This film was made without the use of a motion picture camera. Strips of geometric patterns, moire patterns and various precisely repeated designs were applied directly to the film stock and solarized. These images were then printed in positive and negative color through special printing techniques. The moire patterns demonstrate secondary color effects and the pattern overlay combined with strong complimentary colors creates a three-dimensional effect. Audience: general. Purchase \$135 or rental \$15 from Creative Film Society, Dept. SN, 14558 Valerio St., Van Nuys, Calif. 91405.

**PSYCHOLOGICAL ADJUSTMENT TO COLLEGE.** 16mm, b&w, sound, 43 min. Dr. Frederick Coons talks to young college students and describes five major developmental tasks they will encounter during their college years. He explains that people redefine both their relationships to others and their environment during adolescence, and that this can be a difficult period because college students are confronted with radically different value systems. The areas covered include resolving parent-child relationships, establishing a sexual identity, creating a value system, establishing true intimacy. Audience: Secondary, college, adult. Purchase \$235 or rental \$10.50 from Audio-Visual Center, Dept. SN, Indiana University, 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.*