

films OF THE WEEK

A MEETING WITH THE SEA. 16mm, color, sound, 10 min. The Black Sea was once a freshwater body that was later inundated by the Mediterranean. Although most of the freshwater organisms perished, several like the ancient sturgeon adapted and survived. Underwater ecology and the survival of the fittest are the subjects of this film. Audience: high school, adult. Purchase information from McGraw-Hill Films, Dept. SN, 1221 Avenue of the Americas, New York, N.Y. 10020.

SAFETY: TOTAL LOSS CONTROL. 16mm, color, sound, 9½ min. Stresses the point that industry must direct its accident prevention efforts toward all incidents which might eventually lead to injury of employees. Of particular importance to loss control are fire prevention, preventing thefts, reducing pollution, particularly noise pollution and improving industrial health and hygiene. Presented also are the ideas that safety should not be a satellite function of industry, and that plant employees must be trained to watch for incidents which may lead to accidents. The principal message of the film is "Don't wait until it is too late." Audience: safety program directors, plant managers, all plant personnel. Purchase \$150 or rental \$15 from International Film Bureau, Dept. SN, 332 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill. 60604.

SIMPLE MACHINE SERIES. Four super 8mm, color, silent film loops. The series introduces the viewer to the nature of levers. Films are: Introduction to Levers (shows what a lever is and identifies the parts of a lever); Classes of Levers (the three types of levers are described and examples of the three types are shown at work); Working with Levers (shows how a lever provides us with an advantage, and demonstrates the relationship between force, resistance, and distance in a lever system); and Recognizing Levers (shows some levers at work and invites the viewer to find other levers in use in their everyday activities). Audience: elementary. Purchase series of four for \$80 or single loop \$20 from BFA Educational Media, Dept. SN, 2211 Michigan Ave., Santa Monica, Calif. 90404.

A SUPERCONDUCTING MAGNET FOR FUSION RESEARCH. 16mm, color, sound, 22 min. In nuclear research, intense magnetic fields are generally agreed to be the most promising means of confining hydrogen plasma to produce controlled fusion energy on earth. At the AEC's Lawrence Livermore Laboratory at the University of California, a 13-ton superconducting magnet has been designed and fabricated for the new Baseball II neutral beam injection experiment. This huge liquid helium-cooled magnet operates at cryogenic temperatures and is capable of containing dense gases whose temperature reaches 300 million degrees C. This film describes the general concept of the experiment, the winding and installations of the magnet system, and the initial testing. Audience: technical-professional. Free loan from AEC Film Library-tic, Dept. SN, P. O. Box 62, Oak Ridge, Tenn. 37830.

VD QUESTIONS, VD ANSWERS. 16mm, color, sound, 14½ min. Venereal diseases are "silent." A person, particularly a girl, might not be aware of the disease until too late. How does one contract venereal disease? How can we know if we have the disease? What can be done about prevention or treatment? Where does one get help? With the aid of animation, the film helps young people find the answers to the questions they are asking. Audience: junior high, senior high, college, adult. Purchase \$190 or rental \$12.50 from BFA Educational Media, Dept. SN, 2211 Michigan Ave., Santa Monica, Calif. 90404.

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

McGovern and science

Harry Palevsky's remark that the Scientists for George McGovern group includes "all the people in physics that count" and that sponsors include six Nobel laureates (SN: 8/26/72, p. 140) may have a ringing snob appeal but says little for Palevsky's political acumen in trying to aid McGovern's cause.

K. Frazier's editorial in the same issue notes the effects of this sort of pronouncement, resulting in disenchantment and disappointment (in science) by we members of the general public, which science presumably needs for funding, etc. And why will Palevsky's position papers be held back from the public depending on the direction of the campaign? Are his convictions subject to win or lose, or to just good old courage? Shouldn't fruitful thinking by the scientific community be offered to the public regardless?

The statement by Palevsky that "science is slowly dying in this country" is a generality that has been propounded by several in the past. The cosmologist Fred Hoyle in the 1950's noted the decline in quality of our scientific thinking. Whereas the discoveries of the giants of physics were made at relatively low cost, we now have laboratories conducting experiments that cost millions of dollars. Hoyle felt there were a dozen or more great discoveries to be made around the average scientific laboratory if we had the quality of thinking to find them.

Science dying? For want of quantity? Or quality? Or neither?

W. F. Conrad
Pine Valley, Calif.

Editor's note: We contacted Mr. Palevsky to check several questions raised by Mr. Conrad's letter and he requested we publish the following response:

W. F. Conrad's letter asking why position papers being prepared for the McGovern campaign will "be held back from the public depending on the direction of the campaign" is a misinterpretation of what was written in the article by Louise Purrett.

I would like to assure Mr. Conrad that no completed position papers will be withheld from the public. The main concern of the Scientists for George McGovern Organization working together

with the Senator and his staff is to be sure that the papers are well prepared and accurately reflect the views of George McGovern. It is precisely for the reason of getting the public's attention focused on scientific matters, that the timing of the release of the papers will be tied to a speech or press conference that will be given by the Candidate.

Harry Palevsky
Co-Chairman
Scientists for George McGovern
Cambridge, Mass.

Disaster preparedness

Concerning Brent Blackwelder's letter to the editor, criticizing the Federal Government for holding a narrow view of the measures necessary to reduce loss resulting from floods (SN: 7/22/72, p. 50), I invite your attention to our recent report to the Congress on *Disaster Preparedness*.

As indicated in this report by the Office of Emergency Preparedness and reflecting the contributions and views of all of the Federal departments and agencies, as well as many others, the Federal Government fully recognizes the need for better land use and construction and other complementary measures in order to reduce the nation's losses due to floods and other types of natural disasters. As a matter of fact, the report calls for action at all levels of government and the private sector to accomplish this purpose.

Robert E. Schnabel
Chief
Disaster Preparedness Division
Office of Emergency Preparedness
Executive Office of the President
Washington, D.C.

Psychology and 'credibility'

I feel impelled to call attention to what I assume to be a misprint in a direct quotation from my presidential address to the American Psychological Association in Honolulu. In your article entitled "Psychologists: In the shadow of Diamond Head" (SN: 9/9/72, p. 166) I am quoted as saying "Psychology cannot be employed to justify one's entire value system . . . such a state of affairs diminishes credulity, . . ." The word I used, both in my speech and in the written version, was "credibility." I am heartily in favor of diminishing credulity; it is the lessening of credibility that I oppose.

Anne Anastasi
President
American Psychological Association
Washington, D.C.

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