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films OF THE WEEK

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 or circle the appropriate number on the Readers' Service Card.

HEAT TRANSFER TRICKS. 16mm, b&w, sound, 28 min., transferred from network-quality 2-inch video tapes. Methods of heat transfer are illustrated with glass and copper tubing, hot and cold water and a radiometer activated with a heat lamp. A series of demonstrations are performed and explained, but the explanations can be either true or false. Answers are selected and reasons for choosing them are developed. Demonstrations include unburnable paper money, a radiometer run with cold water, a home-made infrared detector and a hot air balloon made from plastic clothing bags. Audience: upper elementary, junior high. Purchase \$130 from Prism Productions, 220 E. 23rd St., New York, N. Y. 10010 (part of Inquiries in Science Series, with TV's Mr. Wizard).

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IRREGULARLY DELAYED EXPERIMENTAL CLOSURE IN THE RHESUS MONKEY. 16mm, color, sound, 17 min. Shows laboratory apparatus and experimental procedure. Animals are trained to a stimulus sequence that consists of a low brightness warning light, a bright-safe light and a bright-shock light. A response during the bright-safe period, pushing a lever, produces a reward and prevents a shock. Groups are tested under various conditions, some which involve unpredictable variations in the stimulus sequence. Effects on behavior of animals are shown. Results indicate that if an unpredictable situation exceeds an organism's experiential capacities for control, it introduces aberrations of behavior in intensity, diversity and persistence—what in humans would be called neurotic to psychotic. Audience: psychologists, psychology students. Purchase \$180 or rental \$6.10 from Audio-Visual Services, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, Pa. 16802.

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MODERN GEODETIC SURVEYING. 16mm, color, sound, 20 min. Explains the origins and development of geodetic surveying and man's progress in measuring the earth. Audience: general. Free loan from Public Affairs Officers in all Naval Districts.

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LETTERS

to the editor

The Apollo era

You say, "Apollo made it under the wire with only six months to spare in fulfilling President John F. Kennedy's desire of putting a man on the moon by the end of the decade" (SN: 7/19, p. 58).

I beg your pardon but that statement is not correct. The Christian era did not begin with the year zero but with the year one. The first decade was the year one to the year 10. The first century, from the year one to the year 100. The first 1900 years, from the year one to the year 1900.

This decade began 1961 and ends Dec. 31, 1970. So Apollo made it under the wire by 18 months.

Eldorous L. Dayton
U.S. Steel Corp.
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Claim premature

The claim of Dr. Abraham Ravich in recent letters to the editor (SN: 9/20, p. 231) that his viral venereal concept of genital cancer, promulgated in the JOURNAL OF UROLOGY in 1942, has been confirmed is premature. Thus far, the evidence implicating type 2 (genital) herpes virus in the causation of cervical carcinoma, while highly suggestive, is in fact circumstantial. The available data are also compatible with other interpretations, including, namely, that type 2 herpetic infections and cervical carcinoma are independent concomitants with some other factors, e.g., sexual promiscuity, or that the progressive cytologic changes leading to invasive carcinoma providing increasingly favorable conditions for initiation of herpes type 2 infection. In the latter case, malignancy would cause increase incidence of infection rather

(see p. 346)

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Director: EARL J. SCHERAGO Advertising Sales Manager: RICHARD L. CHARLES

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