

to the editor

Soviet turbines

In reference to your recent bulletin on 100-megawatt Soviet stationary gas turbines (SN: 1/11, p. 36), you might also mention their advances in large steam turbines. A cross compound 800-megawatt (300/500) turbine is in operation, an 800-megawatt single shaft unit is under construction, and a 1,000-megawatt unit is being developed.

While steam turbines may not share the glamor of gas turbines, they do have the crucial feature of being able to use any high-temperature heat source whatsoever, thus ensuring their presence for some time to come.

Dudley M. Jones
Cranbury, N.J.

Numbers

I read the article "Checking Coulomb's Law" (SN: 12/14/68, p. 596). There was one problem that I had with the things that you said there. What is nine thousand-billionths? It could be 9/1,000,000,000,000 or it could be 9,000/1,000,000. It would seem from the context that the former was the correct answer since the accuracy has obviously improved. It seems, however, to me that you should have said nine trillionths. There is nothing to be gained by thousand-billionths that I can imagine. If you wish to eliminate the European confusion over numbers, that occurs with millions as well so that problem is not resolved either.

Douglas Quine
Boston, Mass.

(The hyphen tells the tale. Ed.)

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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.

AIR: A FIRST FILM. 16mm, color, sound, 9½ min. Our earth is covered by an ocean of air. Although it is all around us, air cannot be seen, but still it is a very important part of the world in which we live. We use air in many ways and moving air brings changes in weather to us. Without air, life on earth probably could not exist. Audience: primary. Purchase \$120 from Film Associates, 11559 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 90025.

ANIMALS OF AFRICA. 16mm, color, sound, 14 min. Africa's vanishing wildlife seen in its natural habitat, and the work being done by conservationists to preserve the remaining animals from extinction. Audience: school, college, adult. Purchase \$190 or rental \$12.50 from McGraw-Hill Films, Dept. DF, 330 W. 42nd St., New York, N.Y. 10036. (Film is a portion of the ABC-TV Documentary on Africa.)

APOLLO MISSION HIGHLIGHTS. 16mm, color, sound, 12 min. AD-1 a new look at the plans and preparation for man's first journey to the moon. Through photography and animation, shows the techniques of launching, earth orbit, lunar landing, exploration of the moon, return and recovery of the astronauts. Explains briefly what the astronauts plan to do on the moon, and how scientists will evaluate the lunar rock samples which are brought back to earth. Audience: general. Free loan from NASA field libraries or National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Code FAD-2, Washington, D.C. 20546.

BLUE ICE. 16mm, color, sound, 30 min. Polar exploration by an Australian Antarctic Expedition. Audience: general. Purchase \$255 or rental \$7.50 from Films Officer, Australian News and Information Bureau, 636 Fifth Ave., New York, N.Y. 11020, or Western States, Press and Information Officer, Australian Consulate-General, 350 Post St., San Francisco, Calif. 94108.

BUSHMEN OF THE KALAHARI. 16mm, color, sound, 12 min. The life and culture of the Bushmen of the Kalahari desert in central and southern Botswana. Audience: school, college, adult. Purchase \$160 or rental \$10 from McGraw-Hill Films, Dept. DF, 330 W. 42nd St., New York, N.Y. 10036. (Film is a portion of the ABC-TV Documentary on Africa.)

CHANGE FOR THE BETTER. 16mm, color, sound, 20 min. Presents the vast panorama of change in the scientific and technological field, and the role that aluminum plays in shaping man's progress. Audience: school, college, adult. Free loan regional film centers of Association Films, or loan information from Association Films, 600 Madison Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022. (Aluminum Company of America film.)

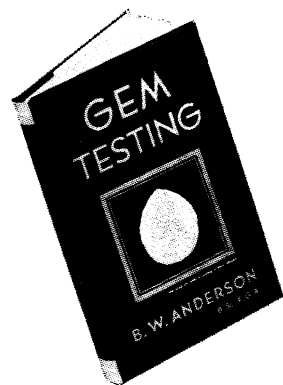
FOLLOW THE LEADER. 16mm, b&w, sound, 23 min. About mob psychology and rule as seen through observing children who play at war with make-believe guns. Steve, a young boy, invades a deserted amusement park in search of solitude. There he is captured by the "enemy," pre-teen boys. What happens to Steve when he is sentenced to be shot as a spy is a reflection of human psychology as manifested in a children's game. Audience: elementary, high school, college, adult. Purchase \$135 from Carousel Films, 1501 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10036.



For Fun & Profit

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8 february 1969/vol. 95/science news/133