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Questar, the world's finest, most versatile small telescope, priced from \$795, is described in our newest booklet which contains 100 photographs by Questar owners. Send \$1 for mailing anywhere in North America. By air to rest of Western Hemisphere, \$2.50; Europe and North Africa, \$3.00; elsewhere, \$3.50.

# QUESTAR

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396/science news/vol. 95/april 26, 1969

## 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.

**ADAPTATIONS FOR SURVIVAL: BIRDS.** 16mm, color, sound, 14 min. Illustrates the structural and behavioral adaptations of birds to their environments. Shows how these adaptations enable the birds to get sufficient food, to defend themselves and to reproduce enough offspring—all requirements for continuing the species. The film is a "laboratory" for student observation, which may lead to the consideration of evolution. Audience: grades 4-8. Purchase \$165 or rental \$7.50 from International Film Bureau, 332 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Ill. 60604.

**BIG, BIG HARBOR.** 16mm, color, sound, 12 min. The view describes the varied types of transportation and specialized work necessary for the life of a harbor city and its surrounding communities through looking at New York harbor. Seen through the eyes of a young boy and girl, the busy harbor reveals itself as a place of beauty, mystery and infinite variety. Audience: elementary. Purchase \$130 from Universal Education and Visual Arts, 221 Park Ave., S., New York, N.Y. 10003.

**MAN, BEAST AND LAND.** 16mm, color, sound, 52 min. Illustrates the ecological relationships that dominate the Serengeti-Mara plainslands of East Africa, the last remaining plains area in the world where mixed species of wildlife still migrate freely. Focuses on the wildebeest, regarded by some as the most important species on these plains, but many other animals are shown, including the zebra, Thompson's gazelle, hyena, lion, cheetah, wild dog and antelope. Audience: grades 5-12, adult. Purchase \$600 or rental \$35 from McGraw-Hill Films, Dept. DF, 330 W. 42nd St., New York, N.Y. 10036. (Produced by NBC-TV.)

**OUR LIVING WORLD** series. 16mm, color, sound, each film about 16 min. A series of 73 color films which are a revision of the earlier film series developed by the American Institute of Biological Sciences. Films have been shortened and rearranged into eight key curriculum-related groups: Part I—Mechanisms of Reproduction (9 titles), Part II—Ecological Relationships (9 titles), Part III—Photosynthesis and the Energy Cycles (10 titles), Part IV—Patterns of Organization Among Organisms (10 titles), Part V—Animal Adaptations to Environment (9 titles), Part VI—Patterns of Reproduction and Development (10 titles), Part VII—Changes in Time and Environment (9 titles) and Part VIII—Vertebrate Physiology (7 titles). Purchase \$215 per film, discounts on quantity purchases. For more information write McGraw-Hill Films, Dept. DF, 330 W. 42nd St., New York, N.Y. 10036.

**THE ATOM AND THE MAN ON THE MOON.** 16mm, color, sound, 13 min. Describes SNAP-27, its mission, and its role in the Apollo program. In an early Apollo flight, astronauts on the moon will install a small laboratory to conduct lunar surface experiments. After they depart, the laboratory, known as ALSEP (Apollo Lunar Surface Package) will remain, transmitting its data to stations on earth for several years. ALSEP is powered by electricity from a thermoelectric generator called SNAP-27. Film discusses the generator and the kind of information that will be sent back. Audience: general. Purchase \$36.50 from Byron Motion Pictures, 65 K St. N.E., Washington, D. C. 20002, or free loan information from Audio-Visual Branch, Department of Public Information, U.S. Atomic Energy Commission, Washington, D. C. 20545.

## LETTERS

# to the editor

### Newcomer's moon

My congratulations to Dietrick Thomsen on his article "Seeking the why of the moon" (SN: 3/22, p. 290). The reading matter presented is clear and concise, easily understood, yet quite informative. Perhaps the most qualifying of its excellent characteristics is the background to the subject the author presented.

To a newcomer into the sciences like myself, a quick review of past discoveries relative to the article makes it easier to understand and correlate to facts already known.

James R. Mueller  
Milwaukee, Wis.

### A parochial chuckle

I would like to give professional astronomers something to chuckle about regarding the red shift (SN: 11/30, p. 554), Fred Hoyle's one hydrogen atom per quart of space each 4 billion years, the Second Law of Thermodynamics and the energies of cosmic rays. Namely, this theory: Isolated protons in space gradually accumulate the energies of radiations passing close by and eventually hybridize into two protons. Could not this or a similar process not only supply material for the steady state model of the universe but also be that by which "available" energy spontaneously accumulates in nature? All those megatons of light wheeling around the void must be good for something!

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Washington, D. C. 20036

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Subscription rate: 1 yr., \$7.50; 2 yrs., \$13.50; 3 yrs., \$19.50. Special trial offer: 39 weeks, \$3.97. Single copy, 25 cents. No charge for foreign postage. Change of address: Three weeks' notice is required. Please state exactly how magazine is addressed. Include zip code.

Printed in U.S.A. Second class postage paid at Washington, D.C. Established as Science News Letter® in mimeograph form March 13, 1922. Title registered as trademark U.S. and Canadian Patent Offices. Indexed in Reader's Guide to Periodical Literature, Abridged Guide and the Engineering Index. Member of Audit Bureau of Circulation. UNSOLICITED MANUSCRIPTS will not be returned unless accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

Published every Saturday by SCIENCE SERVICE, Inc., 1719 N St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036. North 7-2255. Cable Address: SCIENSERV.

### ADVERTISING

L. D. Young, Advertising Director, SCIENCE NEWS, 1719 N St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036. Phone 202-667-8945.

Advertising Representatives: SCRIPPS-HOWARD NEWSPAPERS. General Advertising Department: 200 Park Ave., New York, N.Y., TN 7-5000; 400 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago, Ill., SU 7-3355; Suite 211, Braniff Building, Dallas, Tex., PL 7-3847; 908 E. Northland Tower, Southfield, Mich., 444-4595; 6363 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif., OL 3-0026; Room 1522, Philadelphia National Bank Building, Philadelphia, Pa., LO 3-6275; 100 California St., San Francisco, Calif., 989-5570; Suite 417, 3384 Peachtree Rd., N.E., Atlanta, Ga. 261-1571.