

correct, the needs of people have not changed all that much, as indicated by the large numbers of people who are now leaving the city for life in the country.

Second, the success of the Green Revolution is greatly exaggerated. Evidence shows that food production increased slightly after the inception of some Green Revolution practices, but such gains were subsequently lost to massive soil erosion, inavailability of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, and high costs.

Third, in the section on the future and feeding the world, such statements as "cold statistical view" and "uncomfortable solution" tend to bias the program away from objective discussion of biologically sound alternatives. Mixing science with emotion is a deceptive practice.

Finally, the program is sexist. Few women are shown, and none are shown in roles other than the "starving Indian mother."

In summary, the program is flawed in many respects. I do not recommend it.

Robert D. Judy, Jr.

*Biological Sciences Curriculum Study
Boulder, Colorado*

AFRICAN ECOLOGY AND JUNGLE CAT

1979. Walt Disney Educational Media Company (500 South Buena Vista Street, Burbank, California 91521). Series of 5 color-sound filmstrips. 7½ to 10¼ minutes each. Purchase \$112.

These five sound filmstrips are based on the Disney films *The African Lion* and *The Jungle Cat*.

The African Lion and His Realm gives a warm, personal view of the lions—both young and old. Many animals are shown that inhabit the same areas as the lion. Although the narration treats mainly

animals, the African flora are clearly visible and could be discussed by a teacher familiar with the more common types. The ecological niche of the lion is clearly illustrated, and interesting facts about other African animals are given. *Elephants and Hippos in Africa* shows the two giant herbivores and many of the animals closely associated with them, including birds and fish. Plants are clearly illustrated as the food source of these animals. *Birds, Baboons and Other Animals* is a marvelous display of a variety of African wildlife. Peculiar and unique characteristics of many animals are illustrated. *Jungle Cat of the Amazon* is a beautiful presentation of the jaguar and the rain forests of South America. The predatory nature of this carnivore is clearly illustrated. *Animals of the South American Jungle* is probably the best filmstrip of the five to illustrate ecological relationships, adaptation, and evolution in a jungle environment.

Walt Disney Productions indicates that the set is designed for use from kindergarten through twelfth grade. Its main use, however, should be at the elementary and junior high levels. High school use would require significant additional comments and information from the teacher. The illustrations and tapes are very well done. The Teacher's Guide includes limited suggestions for the use of each filmstrip. I highly recommend this series.

Richard R. Tolman

*Biological Sciences Curriculum Study
Boulder, Colorado*

THE PREDATORS

1977. Marty Stouffer Productions Ltd., (300 South Spring Street, Aspen, Colorado 15057). 16 mm color-sound film. 26 minutes (condensed version). Purchase \$450; rental \$45.

The basic theme of this film is that predators have an important role to play in balanced ecosystems and, though they

have had a history of persecution and attempted eradication by humans, their survival is crucial to the health of those systems. In the early history of wildlife films, beginning with the Disney short features of the forties, the predators were either minimized or else made the heavies in nature's dramas. More ecologically astute filmmakers and their audiences, in the last decade, have made possible realistic films showing the important roles of predators.

Among the North American predators shown in this film are bobcats, timber and red wolves, weasels, and cougars. They are the true stars of the film. In crisply photographed scenes of extraordinarily colorful wilderness, the predators stalk, pursue, and often capture their prey, which range from tiny deer mice to big-horn sheep. The judicious use of slow motion photography highlights the life-or-death pursuits. The film is careful to illustrate the many unsuccessful attempts at predation. In one scene, a bobcat immediately releases a deer mouse after the small rodent has bitten its mouth.

Another theme of the film, and one which is only partially developed, is the problem of endangered species. The whooping crane, prairie chicken, and pelican are shown as representative species threatened with extinction because of habitat destruction and indiscriminate use of insecticides and other chemicals in the environment. I believe that this subject was more thoroughly covered in the David Wolper film *Say Goodbye* of several years ago.

Robert Redford does a serviceable job as narrator. The music is appropriate to the subject and unobtrusive, something that doesn't always happen in wildlife films.

The Predators is a well-photographed film containing an important message. It can be used in general biology and ecology classes at the high school and college levels.

Warren Marchioni

*Montclair High School
Montclair, New Jersey*