

1978

## New Scientist

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participate in some kind of metric measuring activity. One of the activities was this game, which was one of the most popular, particularly with students. Some students have designed very interesting and sophisticated tracks on which to play the game. Innovations are limited only by the imaginations of those playing the game. The game provides drill and practice using metric units under psychological conditions that reduce boredom.

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### When You've Reached the Last Straw

Flatten one end of a drinking straw. With scissors, trim the flattened end into the shape shown in Figure 1. Put the flattened, trimmed end into your mouth and blow hard. With a few tries you should become proficient in producing a loud squawk. Then, while continuously producing sound, quickly clip one-centimeter sections off the end of the tube with scissors. The results demonstrate the relation between the length of a resonating air column and the pitch of a sound. If this becomes a popular activity at school you may end up grasping for the last straw.



Fig. 1.

Adapted from *The Colorado Science Teachers Association Newsletter*.

\* \* \*

### New Scientist

*New Scientist* is an interesting magazine concerning new discoveries in science having large social, environmental and technological impact written in a popular style. For further information write J. Watts, Subscription Editor, King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London SE 19LS.

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### Free Films

The Canadian Consulate has a series of excellent science films available to educators on a free loan basis. For instructions on how to obtain these films write: Canadian Consulate General, Film Library, 310 South Michigan Ave., Chicago, Illinois 60604. Films of interest are:

*The Spruce Bog*, 20 min., color.

*Life of the Sockeye Salmon*, 25 min., color.

*Continental Drift*, 10 min., color.

*Castleguard Cave*, 54 min., color.