

given for owning: pride/enjoyment; investment; hedge against inflation; savings incentive; taxes and interest deductions; extra space; freedom to make improvements; and improved credit rating. A few "drawbacks" are also noted.

The information for each of the items listed above usually entails a brief, general paragraph; however, it introduces probably as much as high school students will be attentive to and retain. The target audience is grades 7-12, and a seventh grade reading level is used. It would appear that the additional activities described in the teachers' guide would be essential to add both depth and interest. The teachers' guide gives a brief overview and rationale, suggests various ways to use the packets, and gives quiz answers. Finally, four activities (guest speakers, roleplaying, "ideal apartment" description, and bulletin board) are given, plus a four-item bibliography of other high school level consumer education sources. Two other packets in this series that may be of interest: "The Energy Crisis" and "Health and Homeowner's Insurance."

B. J. White

Filmstrip Reviews: From the Basic Living Skills series, produced and distributed by RMI Media Productions, Inc., 701 Westport Road, Kansas City, Missouri 64111. Both are dated 1976, include a cassette recording, take about 25 minutes, and are each priced at \$35.00.

1. "Housing: Renting and Decoration," No. 5910.

This program leads with reference to the all-American owned home (3 bedrooms and two baths), and homes as a reflection of residents' lifestyles, but concludes that with today's costs, renting is replacing the American dream of ownership for newlyweds, singles, retired couples, and families (and for longer periods than before). Advantages given for renting include: (usually) lower and fixed monthly costs; mobility; amenities with no physical expense; security pro-

vided by management; and rental location choices saving transportation costs. Decision-making considerations noted are location, price range and inclusions, deposits, rental location agencies, and renters' insurance. The point is made against signing a lease if there is job instability or potential mobility. Tips on both interior and exterior factors to check in choosing a rental are given. Everyone in the household is to be involved in the decision, which includes the preplanning necessary with roommates. Pets are noted as perhaps either limiting housing alternatives and/or raising the costs.

The decorating portion emphasizes choice of case goods and upholstered products since appliances may be provided. Questions to ask and things to do (including the "bounce test" on chairs) are given: planning and cost comparisons, brand names, adaptability, warranties, new vs. used furniture, and self-finishing. Design principles are suggested, and the student is urged to create individual character and "surprise."

This program could easily be subdivided into separate discussions on renting and decorating. The photographs are up to date, and in fact, the inclusion of so many brand-new items may not be realistic for the first home away from home.

2. "Home Maintenance: Simple Repairs," No. 5913.

This set opens with an assault on the principle of planned obsolescence, noting that inflation and an uncertain economy have meant a return to "traditions of American pragmatism and know-how." Specialized repair services are at a premium, so many are opting for do-it-yourself home maintenance on some small projects. Women especially have learned that a by-product of independence is the ability to effect small repairs. Overall suggestions are given on electrical safety: checking the warranty; getting and comparing firm bids/estimates; using owners' guides; first checking the power source for any breakdown; and when to call the experts. Large appliances are cheaper to repair than replace, and are necessities. Small appliances are usually convenience

items so not critical to be in working condition; and some are designed for simple home repair and some not. Appliance repair and maintenance tips are included for blenders, waffle irons, grills/frypans, and toasters, as well as for the range, refrigerator/freezer, washer and dryer, vacuum cleaner, television, and furnace. Students are taught what information to call in for repairs and informed of factory service. Simple plumbing repairs (faucet washers and toilet tanks) are shown by both boys and girls, but will likely require hands-on training and/or more description to understand terms used. How to clear blocked drains and unstop garbage disposals are also shown. Electrical circuit breaker and fuse boxes are explained; and wall switch, outlet, plug, and

fluorescent bulb replacement are also quickly demonstrated. Finally, a basic list of beginning tools is given with a final caution to "play it safe" with electricity.

A great deal of information is presented in a good introduction to the common sense things that are easy to learn the hard (expensive) way. The title may mislead in that an almost equal (and appropriate) emphasis is placed on preventive maintenance and proper operation.

Educational consultant on both filmstrips was Jacqueline Skubol, M.A., Instructor of Home Economics. Others in the series designed for high school and college singles and couples are on food, clothing, and cars.

B. J. White

Reviewers for V5.

The following people have reviewed articles for *Housing and Society* during the past year:

Jeannette Soeldner Brandt
Dorothy Browne
Kyle Jane Coulter
Vera Ellithorpe
Abe Farkas
Sherman Hanna
Marge Inman
Richard Leiker
Suzanne Lindamood
Betty Jo Manhart
Cora McKown
Georgia Moroney
Earl Morris
Roberta Null
Letty Shapiro
Kay Stewart
Jane Stolper
Mary Winter
Joe Wysocki