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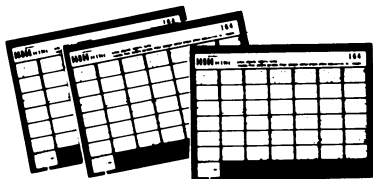
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Science and TV: 'Ascent' and 'Nova'

With the long-awaited inauguration of *The Ascent of Man* on national television, two highly acclaimed series about science are now available to viewers in the United States. The 13-program *The Ascent of Man*, which began on Jan. 7, is being shown on Tuesday evenings. In many cities, each program is repeated on Wednesday afternoons and Saturday evenings. *NOVA*, a series of documentaries on current research, now in its second season, is being shown on Sunday evenings. Both are on stations of the Public Broadcasting Service.

The *Ascent of Man* is the late J. Bronowski's handsomely produced personal view of human cultural progress as seen through man's intellectual and scientific achievements (*SN*: 6/23/73, p. 409; 12/8/73, p. 362). It is designed to complement Kenneth Clark's *Civilisation* series, also produced by BBC, but goes far beyond it in scope and treatment. The programs, under Bronowski's narration, are filled with wonder and insight and wisdom and philosophy. More than 200 colleges and universities are offering college credit for courses based on the series. As a public service, *SCIENCE NEWS* lists below the schedules for the remaining programs in both *The Ascent of Man* and *NOVA*:

The Ascent of Man

- Jan. 21** *The Grain in the Stone.* Man the sculptor, from ancient Greece to modern Los Angeles, concentrating on his search for the essential structure—the "grain"—of the world around him.
- Jan. 28** *The Hidden Structure.* The search for finer and finer structure leads to the submicroscopic level and chemistry. Along the way we witness the creation of a samurai sword and the origin of molecular theory.
- Feb. 4** *The Music of the Spheres.* Traces the development of mathematics from earliest studies of the musical scale to the modern understanding of DNA based on the fundamental geometry of nature.
- Feb. 11** *The Starry Messenger.* The Copernican Revolution challenges the established order through the figure of Galileo, seen through an intensely personal recounting of Galileo's trial and imprisonment.
- Feb. 18** *The Majestic Clockwork.* A three-century progression of the understanding of the most fundamental concepts of the physical world, from Newton's "clockwork" universe to the encompassing relativity of Einstein.
- Feb. 25** *The Drive for Power.* How the industrial revolution changed the daily lives of the world's people and how it represented a democratization of both political power and the power of nature.
- March 4** *The Ladder of Creation.* Bronowski says that biology as we know it began with the 18th-century naturalists, and he traces the careers of two of the most famous: Charles Darwin and Alfred Wallace.
- March 11** *World Within World.* Within molecules were atoms and within atoms was energy unimagined; the development of atomic theory is traced from

Mendeleev's table of elements to the realization that the sun is a hydrogen reactor.

- March 18** *Knowledge or Certainty.* The most personal and moving program of the series, which poses the tolerant skepticism of science against the "monstrous certainty" of ideology and ends with Bronowski scooping up mud from the pond at Auschwitz where the ashes of prisoners were dumped—including members of his own family.
- March 25** *Generation upon Generation.* The mechanism of heredity and discovery of the genetic code, a photographic essay on human relationships and sexuality.
- April 1** *The Long Childhood.* An upbeat finale to the series, posing the knowledge, understanding and ability to reason man has gained in his "ascent" as the means by which he can continue to survive and prosper.

NOVA

- Jan. 26** *First Signs of Washoe.* The sign-talking chimpanzee.
- Feb. 2** *Take the World from Another Point of View.* Profiles of two scientists, physicist Richard Feynman and biologist-social activist Jonathan King.
- Feb. 9** *Lysenko Affair.*
- Feb. 16** *The Tuaregs.* Nomadic peoples of the Sahara.



- Feb. 23** *Birdbrain—The Mystery of Bird Navigation.*
- March 2** *Search for Life.*
- March 9** *Plutonium Connection.*
- March 16** *To be announced.*
- March 23** *Crab Nebula.*
- March 30** *Lost World of the Maya.*
- April 6** *Fish shortage.*