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**COVER:** As technology becomes more advanced, and controls more of our lives, the quality of human performance in dealing with machines becomes increasingly critical—and the cost of human error more frightening. See p. 122. (Drawing by Lorenz; © 1979, The New Yorker Magazine, Inc. Photograph-D. Appleman)

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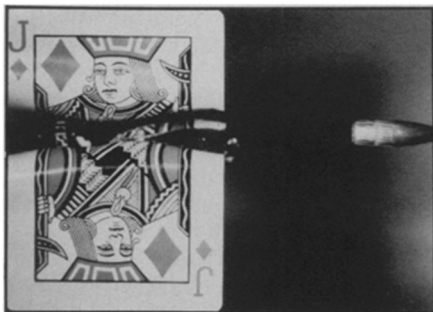
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**SCIENCE ON TV**

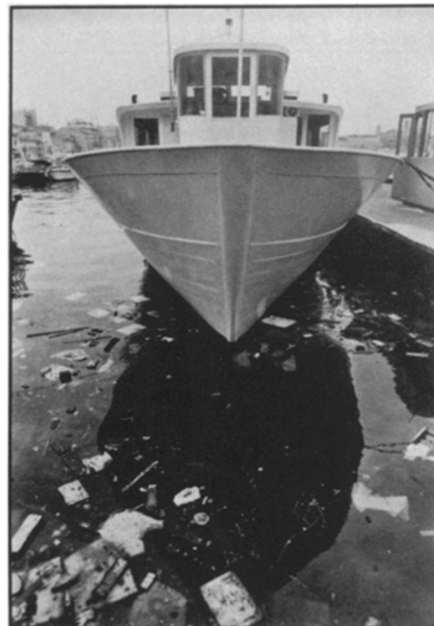
SCIENCE NEWS prints the latest written word of scientific developments and noteworthy news. We've set this space aside to inform our readers of programs of scientific interest that are scheduled on television. Check your local listings for exact times.

• **March 3 (PBS)** — National Geographic Society — “The Invisible World” is a surprisingly large one, since although the human eye is a versatile organ it offers a relatively narrow window on the world. Yet with the development of special photographic equipment it is now possible to see things that were previously too small, too large, too fast, too slow or beyond the spectrum of visible light. Among the tools we might use to enter the invisible world are advanced imaging devices such as the scanning electron microscope; but ingenious adaptations of more conventional equipment can bring surprising — and breathtaking — results. A camera attached to a microscope and with polarizing filters added is able to depict the crystallization of water into ice and color the process. Not only are such glimpses aesthetically pleasing, they have important medical, chemical, electronic and metallurgic applications as well.



Speeding bullet captured on film.

• **NOVA (PBS)** — **March 4 “Umealit: The Whale Hunters”** provides an examination of the emotional controversy pitting conservationists against Eskimos — the first and last American whalers. The thousands of years that the Eskimos and their ancestors have hunted whales have led to the activity assuming a position as the basis of their entire culture. Yet the dwindling numbers of bowhead whales — called by earlier Yankee whalers the “right” whale to kill — have led to the reduction by the International Whaling Commission of the



Another side to the French Riviera.

seasonal quota — an amount that the Eskimos feel is too low. The whale hunters, however, face another potential obstacle, a natural one in the form of oil spills. **March 11 “The Safety Factor”** is that involved in flying, a method of locomotion safer than automobile travel yet subject to major disaster in the event of human error. Current technological solutions are being experimented with to aid the flight crew at take-off and landing — the most crucial moments of any flight and the times when most accidents occur — and during the flight itself. **March 18 “A Mediterranean Prospect”** explores the paradoxical problems brought about by a thriving tourist industry and growing numbers of industrial plants — the fouling of the clear azure waters that draw the tourists each year. In addition to endangering the health of swimmers, the polluted waters have meant danger to the fishing industry. The 18 countries along the Mediterranean coast, however, have joined together under Stiepan Keckes, who heads a United Nations team managing sea pollution control projects worldwide, to halt and eventually reverse the damage. **March 25 “Mr. Ludwig’s Tropical Dreamland”** is a former three-and-a-half-million-acre rainforest in the Amazon that has been transformed into a thriving paper mill and rice operation. Despite the economic success of the project, the intentional alteration of the area’s ecosystem has angered many people.

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