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COVER: And all that jazz. Music composed by computer out of 1/f noise and fractal structure symbolized by the snowflaky Koch curve sounds in fact a bit like ragtime. The ancient philosophers who first posited a relationship between music and mathematics were perhaps more sedate, but they had never heard of fractional dimensions. See p. 187. (Composite illustration courtesy of Mandelbrot and Voss)

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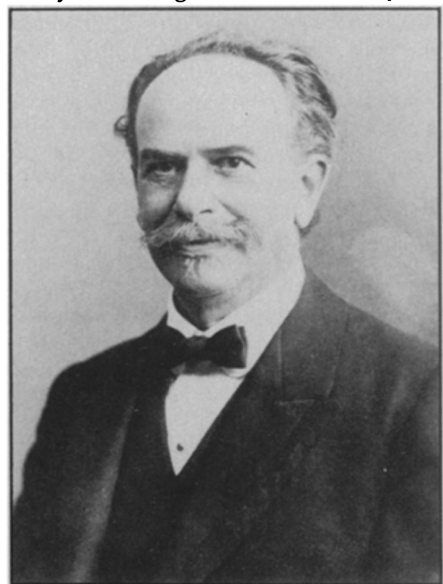
SCIENCE ON TV

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

• **April 7 (PBS) National Geographic Society — "The Superliners: Twilight of an Era"** provides a nostalgic look at the heyday of transatlantic liners, beginning at the turn of the century and lasting for close to 60 years.

• **April 7 (PBS) Synthesis II — "The Grand Canyon: Who Needs It?"** follows scientists and river runners exploring the Grand Canyon and its ecological problems caused by the Glen Canyon Dam and motorboat use on the Colorado River.

• **Odyssey (PBS)** — A twelve-week anthropology series that travels to all parts of the globe where human beings have left their mark. It was developed by Michael Ambrosino, the creator of "NOVA." **April 6 "Seeking the First Americans"** traces the search by archaeologists from Texas to Alaska for clues to the identity of the first people to tread the American continent — the early hunters who between 11,000 and 50,000 years ago crossed the Bering Sea in pursuit of game; **April 13 "N!ai, The Story of a !Kung Woman"** traces 26 years



Boas: Father of American anthropology.

in the life of a !Kung bushwoman in the Kalihari Desert; **April 20 "Franz Boas (1858-1942)"** is a portrait of the man re-



N!ai as a young girl sharing water from an ostrich egg with her baby brother.

sponsible for shaping the course of American anthropology; **April 27 "Shipwreck: La Trinidad Valencera"** examines the discovery of the wreck of the fourth largest ship in the Spanish Armada by amateur divers off the coast of Ireland.

• **NOVA (PBS)** goes into reruns this month: **April 1 "The Keys of Paradise"** are endorphins — substances manufactured in our brains that may turn out to be the most promising drugs of the 20th century; **April 8 "The Desert's Edge"** examines the human-caused and rapidly growing problem of desertification — the loss of arable lands to the advancing tide of sand dunes; **April 15 "Across the Silence Barrier"** explores the world of deafness in a society that takes hearing and language for granted; **April 22 "A Whisper from Space"** is a trace of energy left over from the theoretical "big bang" millions of years ago that may be telling us about the origins of the universe; **April 29 "Life on a Silken Thread"** shows the delicate grace and beauty, as well as the amazing array of lifestyles, of the spider.

• **"How About . . ."** a nationally syndicated science series for commercial television, is currently being shown in some parts of the country. Underwritten by the General Motors Corp. and the National Science Foundation, the series consists of 52 eighty-second reports highlighting interesting and current developments in science and technology. The taped reports are being integrated into local newscasts and magazine shows.

• **(ABC) — "ABC News Closeup"** Scheduled to run the end of April (an exact date has not been announced), this program is an investigation into the uranium business and its politics. The lack of state and federal supervision of health and safety standards in and around mines and mills is shown to be jeopardizing the lives of miners and others.