

# SCIENCE NEWS

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**COVER:** The used nuclear fuel assembly is a part of the 8,000 tons of commercial and 75 million gallons of defense high-level radioactive waste that lay in temporary storage in the United States. Recent activities concerning the first step in finding them a more permanent home are reported on page 396. (Photo courtesy of Dept. of Energy)

PUBLISHER: **E. G. Sherburne Jr.**

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SCIENCE WRITER INTERN: **Ivars Peterson**

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**Subscription Department**  
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# SCIENCE ON THE AIR

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 and radio. Check your local listings for exact times.

• **Jan. 4 (PBS) "Reye's Syndrome: The Child Killer"** A close look at the causes and treatment of this disease, which strikes and frequently kills children between the ages of 1 and 18 after they have experienced a viral infection. The program also looks at a current movement to inform parents of the symptoms.

• **Jan. 7 (PBS) "Nick Mazucco: Biography of an Atomic Veteran"** A documentary that examines the potential effects of nuclear testing that took place in the 1950s.

• **Jan. 13 (PBS)**—National Geographic Society — **"Sharks"** An introduction to the realm of a much-maligned creature. Included are underwater shots and a visit to the giant fish market in Tokyo. Also featured is shark expert Eugenie Clark of the University of Maryland.



*Tiger shark receives an eye examination.*

© Chris Adair/NGS

## Series

• (PBS) **"Life on Earth"**: A 13-part series premiering Jan. 12 that tells the story of evolution through the use of wildlife photography. Evolutionary processes shown include the rise and fall of species, the struggle for survival and adaptation to new and hostile environments.

• (PBS) **"The Natural History of a Sunbeam"** is a 12-part series taken from England's Royal Institution Christmas lectures for children. It is a survey of chemistry, physics and biology, enlivened through the use of dramatic demonstrations and recreations of famous experiments. Jan. 16 **"First Light, Part 1"** illustrates the properties of light, using experimental equipment ranging from the first carbon arc light to a laser beam; Jan. 23 **"First**

**Light, Part 2"** investigates what happens when sunlight passes through the earth's atmosphere; Jan. 30 **"Light and Life, Part 1"** probes the origin of life on earth.

• (PBS) **"NOVA"**: Jan. 3 **"A Touch of Sensitivity"** An exploration of one of the most highly developed of the senses yet one that is frequently taken for granted; Jan. 10 **"Salmon on the Run"** A look at how business and technology are changing the future of the fishing industry; Jan. 17 **"Test Tube Babies"** An investigation of the ethical issues that underlie the process; Jan. 24 **"A Field Guide to Roger Tory Peterson"** An intimate look at the popularizer of bird-watching. The program also includes a look at some of the more spectacular birds Peterson has studied; Jan. 31 **"The Hunt for the Legion Killer"** The story of the search for the microbe responsible for Legionnaire's disease.

• (PBS) **"Odyssey"**: Jan. 5 **"We Are Mehinaku"** A look at a small Indian tribe from the Amazon River Basin who are holding on to a traditional way of life despite surrounding economic development.

• **"Omni"** is a syndicated science series inspired by OMNI magazine. Each half-hour program features two or three main segments, with shorter segments interspersed. Check local listings for more complete program information. Week of Jan. 4 features a report on a bionic arm, "reactive sculpture," in which technology is combined with human emotions, and a look at dolphin communication; week of Jan. 11 features a segment on a spinal implant of computerized electrodes that has enabled a cerebral palsy victim to use his hand for the first time and a look at an electronic composer who creates sound and voices for pinball machines; week of Jan. 18 features a profile of a gifted adolescent and a visit to a meeting at Jet Propulsion Laboratory in which decisions are made on what information Voyager 2 will send back; week of Jan. 25 features a segment on a victim of neurofibromatosis, or "Elephant Man's disease" and a look at experiments being done at the University of Colorado with "Mars Jars," in which the atmosphere and terrain of Mars are simulated in the hope that they can be altered to resemble earth's.

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