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1515 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10036

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Science on the Air

Science News prints the latest written word of scientific development 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. (R) indicates a repeat broadcast.

• Jan. 10 (PBS) "Right From the Start" investigates the importance of infant/parent relationships during the critical days following birth.

• Jan. 12 (PBS) National Geographic Society—"Rain Forest" explores the varieties of plant and animal life that exist in the rain forests of Costa Rica.

Series

• (PBS) "Nature": Jan. 2 "Living Together" is an exploration of the relationship between the behavior animals exhibit and the kinds of communities in which they live and function.

• (PBS) "NOVA": Jan. 4 "The Making of

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a Natural History Film" (R) gives a behind-the-scenes look at the making of a film about the stickleback fish; Jan. 11 "Salmon on the Run" (R) captures the power and determination of this threatened fish; Jan. 18 "Hawaii: Crucible of Life" reveals more than any tourist ever saw of this popular vacation spot; Jan. 25 "The Pleasure of Finding Things Out" is a candid portrait of Nobel Prize-winning physicist Richard Feynman.

• (PBS) "Odyssey": Jan. 6 "Some Women of Marrakech" (R) provides an unusually intimate glimpse into the lives of several Moroccan women.

• (PBS) "Life on Earth" (R): Jan. 16 "The Infinite Variety" investigates the factors behind the 4 million different forms of life; Jan. 23 "Building Bodies" examines three groups of invertebrates that have endured; Jan. 30 "The First Forests" explores the fight for survival of the first inhabitants of the land.



Nerve multimodal messages

Holiday colors reveal that nerve cells may be multilingual, producing different signal chemicals perhaps to achieve nuances of communication. Current microscopy techniques allow scientists to label two chemicals with different fluorescent dyes in the same preparation and then observe the location of each. The micrographs above show that the nerve cell of a single human nerve-muscle junction contains the enzymes required to produce at least two transmitters, the enzyme for catecholamines (red) and for GABA (green). See page 394

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