

## 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 and dates. (R) indicates a repeat broadcast.

**May 2, 9, 16, 23 (PBS) Knowzone**—Tailored to the 10- to 14-year-old viewer, these programs respectively examine pond life, fire, methods of deaf communication and crime.

**May 2 (PBS) Innovation — "To the Nth Dimension . . . and Back"** Discusses the complex world of mathematics with particular attention devoted to fractal geometry.

**May 3 (PBS) Nature — "Selva Verde: The Green Jungle" (R)** Journeys to Belize, Central America, to study the ecology of the tropical rain forest.

**May 5 (PBS) Nova — "Are You Swimming in a Sewer?" (R)** How several major U.S. cities — Boston, Los Angeles, Philadelphia and others — are dealing with harbor pollution.

**May 7 (PBS) Wild America — "The Man Who Loved Bears" Part I (R)** Tells how Marty Stouffer raised a grizzly cub as a mate for Colorado's last male bear.

**May 9 (PBS) Innovation — "You Won't Feel a Thing"** Profiles the work of a team of anesthesiologists as they prepare the complex anesthetic that will see a patient through difficult surgery.

**May 10 (PBS) Nature — "Lords of Hokkaido"** Follows a family of red foxes through the year on Hokkaido, Japan's northernmost island.

**May 11 (PBS) Water, Birth, the Planet Earth (R)** — Examines the critical role played by water in the evolution of life on earth.

**May 12 (PBS) Nova — "The Mystery of Animal Pathfinders" (R)** Discusses how different animals such as the trumpeter swan, freetail bat and monarch butterfly navigate over huge territories.

**May 13 (PBS) Smithsonian World — "The Elephant on the Hill: Art and the New Technology"** Examines the historical reasons for the separation between artist and scientist and how this may change in the future.

**May 14 (PBS) Wild America — "The Man Who Loved Bears" Part II (R)** The conclusion of Marty Stouffer's tale.

**May 16 (PBS) Innovation — "Our Aching Backs"** Explores the causes of severe back pain, most of which lie in the habits of daily life.

**May 17 (PBS) Nature — "Towers of Wax, Palaces of Paper"** From weaving to papermaking, animals employ a diversity of construction techniques.

**May 18 (PBS) Spaceflight — "Thunder in the Skies" (R)** Outlines the early history of rockets and spaceflight from Robert Goddard to the Mercury astronauts.

**May 19 (PBS) Nova — "Sail Wars" (R)** A behind-the-scenes look at how a team of designers built a sailboat for competition in the America's Cup.

**May 20 (PBS) Discover: The World of Science (R)** Reports on wild horses, respiratory disorders in premature infants, the biomechanics of figure skating and a new potato chip.

**May 20 (PBS) The Creation of the Universe (R)** Explores scientific evidence about the origin and evolution of the universe.

**May 21 (PBS) Wild America — "Backyard Wildlife" (R)** Looks at the variety of animals adapting to a world they increasingly share with humans.

**May 23 (PBS) Innovation — "Crisis in Contraception"** Discusses developments in contraceptive research, including a synthetic progestin implant, a "once a month" pill, an antipregnancy vaccine and male birth control pills.

**May 24 (PBS) Nature — "Masked Monkeys"** Investigates the case of the guenon, an African forest monkey, whose colorful face is an evolutionary puzzle.

**May 25 (PBS) Spaceflight — "The Wings of Mercury" (R)** Profiles the early space programs of the United States and the Soviet Union.

**May 26 (PBS) Nova — "Can AIDS Be Stopped?" (R)** Reports the latest in the search to find a vaccine to treat AIDS and examines new theories about how the disease is spread.

**May 28 (PBS) Wild America — "All-American Animals" (R)** A look at North America's striking panorama of wild creatures found nowhere else on earth.

**May 30 (PBS) Innovation — "Epilepsy: Taming the Brainstorm"** Examines one of the most common and misunderstood neurological disorders in the United States, which afflicts one out of every 100 Americans.

**May 31 (PBS) Nature — "The Feathered Swarm" (R)** A look at the battle of a small bird's survival on the plains of east Africa.

## Books

Books is an editorial service for readers' information. To order any book listed or any U.S. book in print please remit retail price, plus \$1.00 handling charge for each book, to **Science News Books**, 1719 N Street, NW, Washington, DC 20036. All books sent postpaid. Domestic orders only.

**The Cognitive Connection: Thought and Language in Man and Machine**—Howard Levine and Howard Rheingold. This book explains how people write the instructions to cause a computer to carry out such tasks as "move this paragraph," "reserve a seat on flight 744," "add the income column" or "monitor the house for smoke." Tells how the computer translates these instructions into symbols that it can manipulate. This, according to the introduction, is a story that has more to do with language than machines. Computer languages, like natural languages, are tools for extending the power and expanding the scope of thought. Prentice Hall Pr, 1987, 276 p., illus., \$19.95.

**The Mind-Boggling Universe: A Dazzling Scientific Journey Through Distant Space and Time** — Neil McAleer. A survey of the universe starting with the Milky Way, moving on to the nearby galaxies, then to the faraway galaxies and on to the most distant celestial objects ever discovered, quasars. The author then considers the universe as a whole and concludes with its past and future. In the course of the journey the reader is introduced to an amazing array of facts such as, if you started driving at 55 miles per hour, it would take 520,000 centuries to reach the nearest star. Doubleday, 1987, 245 p., illus., \$16.95, paper, \$8.95.

**Mining Urban Wastes: The Potential for Recycling** — Cynthia Pollock. Growing volumes of refuse and a scarcity of disposal sites plague cities worldwide, says this Worldwatch report. A city the size of San Francisco, according to the introduction, disposes of more aluminum than is produced by a small bauxite mine, more copper than a medium copper mine and more paper than a good-sized timber stand. Recycling, the report contends, offers communities everywhere the opportunity to trim their waste disposal needs, thus reducing disposal costs while easing stress on the environment. Worldwatch Inst, 1987, 58 p., paper, \$4.

**The Right Dose: How to Take Vitamins & Minerals Safely** — Patricia Hausman. Discusses the vitamins and minerals needed for good health and shows consumers how to get maximum benefit from an appropriate supplement program. Details the health benefits that can be attained by using supplements sensibly and the dangers of overdosing. Rodale Pr, 1987, 528 p., \$24.95.

**Star Wars: A Question of Initiative** — Richard Ennals. A critic of the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI), who resigned as head of a British government program in advanced information technology after an agreement was signed committing Britain to SDI research, here examines the technical, economic, strategic, political and legal issues surrounding Star Wars. Ennals feels that the key to SDI technology will be the enormously complex software required to control, secure and guide it. Discusses the limits of computer technology and outlines constructive alternative uses of resources currently devoted to SDI, such as education, training, health and medicine. Wiley, 1986, 236 p., paper, \$14.95.