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.

Sept. 30 (PBS) Survival Specials — "The Waterhole" Captures the drama that takes place when wildlife inhabitants of Etosha National Park in Africa gather at the waterhole.

Oct. 2 (PBS) Only One Earth — "Valley of Heart's Delight" Focuses on the birth defects of children raised in Silicon Valley, Calif., that have been linked to the local computer chip industry and the area's water supply.

Oct. 3 (PBS) The Great Space Race — "The Next Civilization"(R) Explores with some of the world's top scientists the sociological implications of space stations, lunar bases, Mars colonization and free-floating colony capsules in space.

Oct. 3 (PBS) Innovation — "A Sound Idea" Traces the history of sound technology from Edison's invention of the phonograph to today's high-tech, multi-billion-dollar business of sound recording and reproduction.

Oct. 3 (PBS) Wild America — "Watching Wildlife" (R) Looks at where, when and how to find and watch wild animals in their natural surroundings.

Oct. 4 (PBS) Nature — "Spirits of the Forest" Visits the island of Madagascar, where, for millions of years, plants and animals have evolved in total isolation.

Oct. 4 (PBS) Only One Earth — "The Struggling People" Examines the geometric rise in Africa's population, which is likely to double in the next 20 years.

Oct. 5 (PBS) The Health Century Addresses the activities of medical science that often affect the health of the elderly, including a new cancer treatment, Alzheimer's disease and organ transplants.

Oct. 6 (PBS) Nova — "Death of a Star" Tracks the recent discovery of Supernova 1987A, an exploding star in a nearby galaxy.

Oct. 7 (PBS) Discover: The World of Science Looks at manatees and why their survival in Florida is in jeopardy, a car race in Switzerland that features a solar-powered auto and an implantable insulin pump for treating diabetics.

Oct. 7 (PBS) Together to Mars? Focuses on the future exploration of Mars and evaluates the past achievements and future plans of both the United States and the Soviet Union.

Oct. 11 (PBS) Nature — "Where Eagles Fly" (R) Portrays the golden eagle, which makes its home in the ruggedly beautiful Scottish highlands.

Oct. 12 (PBS) The Health Century Provides a summary and review of significant developments in molecular biology and genetics.

Oct. 13 (PBS) Nova — "Spy Machines" Examines the secret world of espionage, pointing out the pivotal role science and technology have played in providing information about our political adversaries.

Oct. 17 (PBS) Wild America — "Wild Dogs" Looks at the domestic dog's wild relatives, including the wolf, coyote and fox.

Oct. 18 (PBS) Nature — "Perspectives of Paradise" Tells the story of the Galápagos islands, where Charles Darwin developed ideas for his theory of evolution.

Oct. 18 (PBS) Only One Earth — "Big Fish, Little Fish" Looks at what may be our most abused natural resource, the ocean.

Oct. 20 (PBS) Nova — "The Hidden Power of Plants" Follows the urgent efforts to track down new medicines in nature.

Oct. 20 (PBS) The Ring of Truth — "Looking" Explores how the state of scientific tools shapes our world.

Oct. 24 (PBS) Wild America — "Mountain Monarchs" Looks at the special adaptations of Alpine animals that allow them to survive in the mountain ecosystem.

Oct. 25 (PBS) Nature — "Galápagos: How They Got There"(R) Discusses the different theories of how animals came to inhabit the Galápagos islands.

Oct. 25 (PBS) Only One Earth — "China's Changing Face" Explores modern-day issues affecting the evolution of rural industry in China.

Oct. 27 (PBS) Nova — "Japan's American Genius" Profiles inventor Stanford Ovshinsky, famous for his contribution to solar-cell technology.

Oct. 27 (PBS) The Ring of Truth — "Change" Looks at the scientific law stating that matter is equivalent to energy and the experiments that show it to be true.

Oct. 28 (PBS) The Infinite Voyage — "Unseen Worlds" Journeys from the smallest parts of matter to the farthest reaches of the universe to see through the eyes of science what is beyond our everyday experience.

Books

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Bones of Contention: Controversies in the Search for Human Origins — Roger Lewin. Examines many of the most famous and controversial discoveries in the history of paleoanthropology, which has as its major goal, according to the author, the search for the place of humans in nature. Lewin feels that in paleoanthropology, more than in any other science, subjectivity plays a major role; since there are so few significant fossils, the interpretation of the fossils takes on greater importance. The Leakey-Johanson differences over fossil hominids are well covered here. S&S, 1987, illus., $19.95.

Man-Made Minds: The Promise of Artificial Intelligence — M. Mitchell Waldrop. Tells about the developments in the field of artificial intelligence, beginning just over three decades ago when it became a separate discipline. Emphasizes the progress in expert systems, natural language and vision. Discusses the upheavals that have taken place in AI since about 1980, caused by a boom in commercial AI applications, particularly expert systems, and a change in the outlook of the AI research community. Explores what the world of the future may be like and what roles intelligent machines may be given. Intelligent machines, according to the author, have the potential to affect human society in ways we can only dimly foresee. Walker, 1987, 280 p., illus., $22.95, paper, $14.95.

Space 2000: Meeting the Challenge of a New Era — Harry L. Shipman. Assesses where the United States has been in space and what we have accomplished there. Tells what is planned in space for the future and projects what the United States should be doing in space in the 21st century. Includes detailed reference notes. Plenum, 1987, 431 p., illus., $19.95.

The Supercomputer Era — Sidney Karin and Norris Parker Smith. This introduction to supercomputing describes the machines, the current uses, the manufacturers and the sources of supercomputer services. Examines trends in this field, considers the future of supercomputing and the prospects for minisupercomputers (which offer, according to the preface, performance close to supercomputer levels at lower prices) and explores the international dimensions of supercomputing. HarBraceJ, 1987, 313 p., color/b&w illus., $19.95.

The Urban Naturalist — Steven D. Garber. Looks at city plants and animals and explains how to observe and identify these species in their urban habitats. Offers suggestions on maintaining and improving the quality and quantity of plants and animals in the world's rapidly increasing urban ecosystems and explores how certain species were introduced to urban areas. Illustrated with beautiful line drawings. Wiley, 1987, 242 p., illus. by Jerome Lo, paper, $12.95.

Walks of California — Gary Ferguson. Designed for those who want to discover back-country nature at a gentle pace, these 80 short day-walks through California's deserts, coasts, mountains and forests reveal the beauty and variety of this large state. Describes flora and fauna to see for each walk, giving the natural and cultural history of the area as well as tips on walking in each environment. P-H Pr, 1987, 278 p., illus., paper, $11.95.