

Science on the Air

Check your local listings for exact times and dates. (R) indicates a repeat broadcast.

Nov. 1 (PBS) Nova—“Tornado!” (R) Travels to Oklahoma, where new and increasingly accurate observation techniques are used to forecast the arrival of tornadoes.

Nov. 2 (PBS) The Mind — “Addiction” Examines how addictions to tobacco, alcohol, cocaine, gambling and food arise and how recovery is governed by factors influencing the mind.

Nov. 3 (PBS) Science Journal Provides timely news on the week's events in science, medicine and technology. Thursdays.

Nov. 5 (PBS) Wild America—“Killer Mice” (R) Follows the tiny but fierce grasshopper mouse in the Arizona desert.

Nov. 6 (PBS) Nature—“Hawaii: Islands of the Fire Goddess” (R) Looks at the tranquility and tumult of the natural world in and around the Hawaiian Islands.

Nov. 8 (PBS) Nova—“Nomads of the Rain Forest” (R) Visits a tribe of Indians in a remote corner of Ecuador whose way of life provides insights into the existence of a Stone Age people.

Nov. 9 (PBS) The Mind — “Pain and Healing” Reports on new discoveries linking the mind to the immune system.

Nov. 12 (PBS) Wild America—“Controversial Coyote” (R) Focuses on the versatility of the coyote, which accounts for its survival despite efforts to eradicate it.



National Geographic Society

Nov. 13 (PBS) Nature—“A Separate Creation” Explores the mammals for which Australia is famous, including giant kangaroos and Tasmanian devils.



Nov. 14 (PBS) Discover — “The World of Science” Includes segments on land iguanas in the Galápagos, how children think and the correlation between heart attacks and psychological stress.

Nov. 14 (PBS) Survival Specials — “The Parenthood Game” Looks at parents in the animal kingdom and how humans might learn from them.

Nov. 15 (PBS) Nova—“Who Shot President Kennedy?” On the 25th anniversary of John F. Kennedy's death, this program analyzes the scientific evidence surrounding the assassination.

Nov. 16 (PBS) The Mind — “Depression” Explores the relationship between nature and nurture in causing depression.

Nov. 19 (PBS) Wild America — “Remarkable Reptiles” (R) Observes a variety of North America's reptiles.

Nov. 20 (PBS) Nature — “Seas Under Capricorn” Focuses on Australia's marine life and the Great Barrier Reef.

Nov. 22 (PBS) Nova — “The Light Stuff” Explores the human-body-as-machine through an attempt by a group from MIT to fly a human-powered plane between Crete and Santorini.

Nov. 23 (PBS) The Mind — “Language” Reports on our ability to share ideas, thoughts and opinions through the use of language.

Nov. 26 (PBS) Wild America — “Tracking Wildlife” (R) Shows viewers how to decipher nature's clues to track wildlife.

Nov. 27 (PBS) Nature — “The Making of the Bush” Looks at Australia's forests and the animals that live in them.

Nov. 29 (PBS) Nova — “Can You Still Get Polio?” (R) Uses the development of polio vaccines as a backdrop for questions about U.S. vaccine policy.

Nov. 30 (PBS) The Mind — “Thinking” Focuses on the uniquely human qualities of thought.

Books

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The Facts on File Dictionary of Geology and Geophysics — Dorothy Farris Lapidus. A reference to the basic vocabulary of geology and geophysics. Contains more than 3,000 entries defining for the general reader and student a wide range of geophysical phenomena. Originally published in hardback in 1987. Facts on File, 1988, 347 p., illus., paper, \$12.95.

Mind Children: The Future of Robot and Human Intelligence — Hans Moravec. The director of the Mobile Robot Laboratory at Carnegie-Mellon University introduces the general reader to the power of the machine in present and future society. The author declares in the preface that “. . . within the next century [our machines] will mature into entities as complex as ourselves, and eventually into something transcending everything we know — in whom we can take pride when they refer to themselves as our descendants.” He maintains that many predictable intermediate steps have already occurred — such as the shift of information storage from our minds to our libraries to our computers — and speculates on how our minds will participate in future changes. Harvard U Pr, 1988, 214 p., illus., hardcover, \$18.95.

The Puzzling Adventures of Dr. Ecco — Dennis Shasha. The author is a computer scientist who offers the reader a combination of compelling stories and challenging puzzles. The fictitious Dr. Jacob Ecco is a mathematical detective and puzzle solver who solves his clients' dilemmas by drawing on the current methods and thinking of researchers in computer science and mathematics. In this collection of short stories, the reader can solve the puzzles without a background in these two fields with the help of Ecco's assistant, whose remarks and questions are clues toward solving the puzzles. Solutions are given. W H Freeman, 1988, 181 p., illus., paper, \$9.95.

Superconductors: Conquering Technology's New Frontier — Randy Simon and Andrew Smith. Written by two scientists active in the field of superconductivity, this book is for readers who have no prior background in physics or electronics and includes no mathematics. In three parts the book presents the nature, history and current theoretical understanding of superconductivity; a survey of its practical uses and varied roles in today's economy; and recent discoveries in high-temperature superconductivity and their impact on future technology. Plenum Pub, 1988, 326 p., illus., hardcover, \$23.95.

“What Do You Care What Other People Think?”: Further Adventures of a Curious Character — Richard P. Feynman. More stories — some light, others tragic — as told by this brilliant theoretical physicist to Ralph Leighton. Includes Feynman's witty insights into his last big adventure, before his death in early 1988, as part of the committee investigating the Challenger explosion. Concludes with an inspiring address Feynman gave in 1955 on the value of science. Norton, 1988, 255 p., illus., hardcover, \$17.95.