

Science on the Air

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

May 1 (PBS) Nova – "Hurricane!" (R) Studies hurricanes by flying straight into one in hopes that such close-up studies will supply scientists with the data necessary to make better predictions.

May 5 (CNN) Future Watch Explores global threats – environmental, ecological and technological – and searches for solutions. Saturdays.

May 5 (CNN) Healthweek Provides comprehensive coverage of medical and health issues. Saturdays.

May 5 (CNN) Science and Technology Week Covers the latest news in science and technology. Saturdays.

May 5 (PBS) Wild America – "Minnesota Mink" (R) Profiles the wild mink, which is as graceful in water as an otter, as feisty on land as a wolverine, and as pungent under stress as a skunk.

May 6 (PBS) Nature – "The Making of the Bush" (R) Showcases Australia's varied forests, from rain forests to crackling dry eucalyptus glades, which serve as the homes of rock-climbing fish, insect-eating plants and man-eating crocodiles.

May 8 (PBS) Nova – "Volcano!" (R) Follows scientists developing new techniques to predict when and how violently volcanoes will erupt.



May 12 (PBS) Wild America – "Season of the Seals" (R) Explores the various species of seals and sea lions on the Pacific Coast.

May 13 (PBS) Nature – "The Sunburnt Country" (R) Spotlights the wildlife dwelling in Australia's arid outback – including rabbit-eared bandicoots, stumped-tailed skunks and thorny devils.

May 15 (PBS) Nova – "Will Venice Survive Its Rescue?" (R) Showcases the romantic city of Venice, which is counting on high-tech floodgates to save it from drowning. Environmentalists worry that these gates may destroy the fragile lagoon that surrounds the city.

May 19 (PBS) Wild America – "Wild Turkey, Part I" (R) Looks at the nation's largest game birds, including the shy gobblers of the eastern woodlands as well as their lanky western kin.



May 20 (PBS) Nature – "Land of Flood and Fire" (R) Examines Australia's rugged northeast, an uneasy land where frogs, fish eagles, flying foxes, man-eating crocodiles and crocodile-eating men struggle to survive.

May 21 (PBS) Nature – "The End of Isolation" (R) Explores the evolution of life in Australia from the ancient aborigines, who survived by using their deep understanding of native plants and animals, to some modern Australians who are planning a future where humans can live once again in harmony with this strange and beautiful land.

May 22 (PBS) Nova – "Secrets of the Lost Red Paint People" (R) Examines the mysteries of an ancient culture that once thrived on the Atlantic Coast of the northern United States and Canada.

May 23 (PBS) The Aids Quarterly Looks at the inadequate health-care facilities for AIDS patients in small-town hospitals – a problem that is forcing AIDS sufferers to already-overcrowded big city hospitals – and explores short-term solutions.

May 26 (PBS) Wild America – "Wild Turkey, Part II" (R) Shows how successful game management has caused an overabundance of wild turkeys in some states.

May 29 (PBS) Nova – "Poison in the Rockies" (R) Looks at the 100-year-old legacy of pollution – caused by mining, acid rain and economic development – that poisons the once-pristine waters of the Rocky Mountain states.

Books

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The Almanac of Science and Technology: What's New and What's Known – Richard Golob and Eric Brus, Eds. An overview by two science writers, covering developments and relevant background in the fields of astronomy, biology, brain and behavior, chemistry, computers, earth sciences, environment, medicine and physics. Clearly written and up-to-date articles (including one on the "cold fusion" controversy) illustrated with black-and-white photographs make this book worthwhile for the general reader as well as for scientists catching up outside their field. HBJ, 1990, 530 p., illus., hardcover, \$59.95, paperback, \$29.95.

Edward Teller: Giant of the Golden Age of Physics – Stanley A. Blumberg and Louis G. Panos. A biography of a physicist who helped create the atomic bomb, designed the hydrogen bomb and, in his late 70s, supported the Strategic Defense Initiative. The book chronicles his controversial career as well as the development of the world of nuclear energy. Scribner, 1990, 306 p., illus., hardcover, \$24.95.

My Weeds: A Gardener's Botany – Sara B. Stein. "Gardeners have as peculiar a relationship with weeds as they have with plants they intend to grow," writes the author. This book, covering the history, reproductive habits, anatomy and methods of destruction of most common weeds, is readable and well illustrated with detailed line drawings. Originally published in hardcover in 1988. Har-Row, 1989, 229 p., illus., \$8.95.

Neuro-: Life on the Frontlines of Brain Surgery and Neurological Medicine – David Noonan. A captivating book for the general reader about the people who tinker with the human nervous system. The first section describes the workings of the central, peripheral and autonomic nervous systems and humanity's efforts to understand them. Noonan, who spent several years witnessing neurological operations, goes on to detail the day-to-day procedures he observed, including patient reactions. Finally, to highlight the non-invasive side of neurology, he describes aphasia, schizophrenia and the so-called Lou Gehrig's disease. Originally published in hardcover in 1989 by S&S. Ballantine, 1990, 226 p., paperback, \$4.95.

Race to the Stratosphere: Manned Scientific Ballooning in America – David H. DeVorkin. Traces manned ballooning attempts in the United States, from the first successful attempt to enter and safely return from the stratosphere in 1931 through the *Explorer* and *Helios* projects. Examines how scientific balloonists justified their efforts during the Depression and World War II and how this compared to justifications for the 1960s Apollo program. Springer-Verlag, 1989, 406 p., illus., hardcover, \$39.50.