

Science on the Air

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

Sept. 1 (CNN) Future Watch Explores global threats to the planet — environmental, ecological and technological — and the search for solutions. Saturdays.

Sept. 1 (CNN) Healthweek Provides comprehensive coverage of medical and health issues. Saturdays and Sundays.

Sept. 1 (CNN) Science and Technology Week Covers the latest news in science and technology. Saturdays and Sundays.

Sept. 1 (PBS) Wild America — “Woodpeckers — Nature’s Hammerheads” (R) Looks at the birds that whack away at tree trunks in their quest for food and shelter.

Sept. 2 (PBS) A 3-2-1 Contact Extra — “You Can’t Grow Home Again” Visits Costa Rica to explore the implications of worldwide rain forest destruction.

Sept. 3 (PBS) Adventure — “Captain Bligh and the Child of the Bounty” (R) An Australian mariner and his crew retrace the extraordinary 1789 Tonga-to-Timor voyage of William Bligh, captain of the *HMS Bounty*.

Sept. 4 (PBS) Nova — “Rise of the Dragon: The Genius That Was China” (R) Traces Chinese civilization from the 13th century to the present, showing how politics, culture and economy have affected its advancement.

Sept. 8 (PBS) Wild America — “Designs for Defense” (R) Examines the varied survival strategies evolved by wild animals, including four species of skunks.

Sept. 10 (PBS) Adventure — “Fat Man Goes Gaucho” Journeying through Argentina from the pampa to the Sierra de Córdoba mountains, a bicyclist discovers danger in the grass and encounters bits and pieces of Ireland, France, Germany and Old England.

Sept. 11 (PBS) Nova — “Empires in Collision” (R) Examines the extraordinary transformation that propelled Europe into the rest of the world during the 15th to 18th centuries, while China remained the insular “middle kingdom.”

Sept. 12 (PBS) Profit the Earth Aired as part of Operation Earth, public television’s environmental outreach campaign, this documentary presents case studies of creative solutions to environmental problems. Features individuals with new ideas — some highly controversial — that might benefit both the pocketbook and the planet.

Sept. 15 (PBS) Wild America — “Cutthroat — Part 1: Yellowstone Lake” (R) Explores a vast underwater wilderness, including the home of the cutthroat trout.

Sept. 18 (PBS) Nova — “The Threat from Japan” (R) Explores the East-West conflict over trade and power in the 19th century, and examines how Japan mastered Western methods in later years, while China did not.

Sept. 22 (PBS) Wild America — “Cutthroat — Part 2: Yellowstone River” (R) Examines a cutthroat trout up close at LeHardy Rapids, and dives into the turbulence to hand-feed a large school of trout with salmonfly larvae.

Sept. 29 (PBS) Wild America — “Cutthroat — Part 3: Grizzly Creek” (R) Highlights the life cycle of the trout with underwater footage of its fascinating spawning ritual.

Sept. 30 (PBS) Nature — “Seasons in the Sea” Explores the thriving marine wilderness off the coast of California. Reveals 5-foot sharks that bury themselves in the sand to ambush prey, 50-pound rays that kill with electricity, squid that cover miles of ocean floor with a layer of eggs 2 feet thick, and the rare blue whale — the largest animal that ever lived.

Books

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Cambridge Air and Space Dictionary — P.M.B. Walker, Ed. This reference book defines 6,000 terms drawn from the acclaimed *Cambridge Dictionary of Science and Technology* to cover such areas as aeronautics, acoustics, astronomy and meteorology. Terms are presented alphabetically, often with line drawings for clarification. Useful for students or professionals. Cambridge U Pr, 1990, 216 p., illus., paperback, \$12.95.

Genome: The Story of the Most Astonishing Scientific Adventure of Our Time — The Attempt to Map All the Genes in the Human Body — Jerry E. Bishop and Michael Waldholz. Although the mapping of the entire human genome has just begun, scientists around the world have been attempting to map disease-causing genes for nearly a decade. This book describes for the lay reader some of the spectacular medical breakthroughs already made — including identification of the genes causing Huntington’s disease and cystic fibrosis — and profiles the people who made them. Concludes with a discussion of the social and ethical questions arising from the gene-mapping project. S&S, 1990, 352 p., illus., hardcover, \$22.95.

How Computers Play Chess — David Levy and Monty Newborn. After tracing the history of computer chess, the authors analyze the state of the art and introduce the leading chess programs. Writing for the chess or computer enthusiast, they discuss how computers select moves, whether computers can learn, what we can expect from computer chess in the future, and whether human players will be able to compete with this technology. W H Freeman, 1990, 246 p., illus., hardcover, \$23.95, paperback, \$11.95.

Rockets into Space — Frank H. Winter. This comprehensive history of rocket development launches a new series, *Frontiers of Space*, which will explore many facets of space science and technology. Winter, writing for the general reader, tells the story of the launch vehicle from the mythological musings of the Babylonians and Greeks to today’s manned and unmanned space flights. Highlights the contributions of Goddard, Oberth, Korolev and Wernher von Braun, as well as future possibilities such as photon- and laser-powered propulsion systems. Harvard U Pr, 1990, 165 p., illus., hardcover, \$22.50.

The SETI Factor: How the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence is Revolutionizing Our View of the Universe and Ourselves — Frank White. Draws on interviews with eminent scientists and other experts to discuss how the search for extraterrestrial intelligence (SETI) could influence our view of ourselves and our universe. NASA plans to begin a major new search in 1992, and the author investigates the implications of its possible results. Concludes with suggestions on how we can prepare for the potential repercussions of contact with other worlds. Walker & Co, 1990, 250 p., hardcover, \$19.95.

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