

Science on the Air

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

Nov. 4 (CNN) Future Watch Explores global threats to the planet — environmental, ecological and technological — and the search for solutions. Saturdays.

Nov. 4 (CNN) Healthweek Provides comprehensive coverage of medical and health issues. Saturdays.

Nov. 4 (CNN) Science and Technology Week Covers the latest news in science and technology. Saturdays.

Nov. 5 (PBS) Against All Odds: Inside Statistics Presents the concept of data analysis, focusing on the practical, everyday uses of statistics. Sundays.

Nov. 5 (PBS) Nature — "Meerkats United"/"The Bee Team" (R) The first of these half-hour specials looks at the meerkat, a 10-inch-tall mongoose that lives in the Kalahari Desert. The second program focuses on a colony of small birds called bee-eaters.

Nov. 5 (PBS) Newton's Apple Examines the adaptations that enable sloths to live upside down, explains the physiological effects of caffeine and visits a California monarch butterfly colony.

Nov. 7 (PBS) Nova — "Hurricane" Enters the heart of a hurricane and explains what researchers hope to learn from such close-up studies.

Nov. 8 (PBS) Alaska's Killer Whales: Between Worlds Examines the problems faced by Alaska's killer whales as their contact with man increases.

Nov. 8 (PBS) Crisis: Who Will Do Science? Explores the reasons why few blacks are entering the fields of science and engineering and examines the efforts being made to reverse this trend.

Nov. 8 (PBS) Discover: The World of Science Examines infant memory and how children of different ages remember the same event, and looks at prenatal and postnatal care for high-risk mares and their foals.

Nov. 12 (PBS) Nature — "Land of Dragons" Surveys the natural history of Hong Kong.

Nov. 12 (PBS) Newton's Apple Travels to Hawaii to explore an active volcano and a sugar factory.

Nov. 14 (PBS) Nova — "Will Venice Survive Its Rescue?" Investigates whether the floodgates protecting Venice will destroy the fragile lagoon surrounding the city.

Nov. 19 (PBS) Nature — "The Great Wood of Caledon" A prize-winning portrayal of the Caledonian forest in Scotland.

Nov. 19 (PBS) Newton's Apple Investigates how sunspot activity can disrupt telephone and radio communications, and embarks on a whale watch in Hawaii.

Nov. 21 (PBS) Nova — "What Is Music?" Explores the science of musical sound production and explains how the human brain perceives music.

Nov. 26 (PBS) Nature — "Moza the Snow Monkey" An unusual glimpse into the social organization of Japanese macaques, or snow monkeys.

Nov. 26 (PBS) Newton's Apple Examines the composition of the Milky Way and what happens to the brain during an epileptic seizure.

Nov. 28 (PBS) Nova — "Orangutans of the Rain Forest" (R) Travels to one of the last habitats of the wild orangutan.

Nov. 29 (PBS) The Infinite Voyage — "Crisis in the Atmosphere" Looks at how the greenhouse effect has enabled life to flourish on Earth and explores the repercussions of disturbing the atmospheric equilibrium.

Books

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Apprentices of Wonder: Inside the Neural Network Revolution — William F. Allman. A science writer takes the reader into the labs of researchers who study neural networks, a type of artificial intelligence mimicking the complex activity of the human brain. Known as connectionists, these scientists are merging pieces of brain and mind research in an effort to understand and reproduce the human mind. Allman uses puzzles, problems and brainteasers to illustrate the power and limitations of the brain's cognitive abilities. Bantam, 1989, 211 p., illus., hardcover, \$18.95.

The Computer and the Mind: An Introduction to Cognitive Science — P.N. Johnson-Laird. The author's aim, according to the prologue, is to describe cognitive science — including its origins and achievements — to those interested in the scientific explanations of mental phenomena. Johnson-Laird explores the nature of symbols and the theory of computation. Includes sections on current computational models of how the mind carries out its major tasks, such as visual perception, learning and memory. Human communication, the conscious and the unconscious mind, and free will are among the other topics discussed. The author concludes by defending a controversial, computational view of the mind. Originally published in hardcover in 1988. Harvard U Pr, 1989, 444 p., illus., paperback, \$14.95.

Eastern Wildflowers: A Photographic Celebration from New England to the Heartland — Rose Houk. Beautiful full-color photographs capture the eruption of spring color in the eastern United States from the Atlantic coastal plain to the 98th meridian. Lively text relates botanical facts and fascinating folklore, including some medicinal lore, about each flower. Chronicle Bks, 1989, 108 p., color illus., paperback, \$16.95.

The Family Mental Health Encyclopedia — Frank J. Bruno. A comprehensive, nontechnical reference book on mental health. The author, a psychologist, defines terms relating to psychiatry, clinical psychology and psychotherapy, providing lay readers with clear descriptions of such disorders as alcoholism, Alzheimer's disease and depression. Includes some controversial psychiatric diagnoses. Wiley, 1989, 422 p., hardcover, \$24.95.

Sexual Selection — James L. Gould and Carol Grant Gould. Surveys the diverse reproductive practices of species ranging from asexual microorganisms through insects and birds to mammals, including humans. The authors evaluate the most popular explanations of how animals choose their mates, how they amortize the high energy cost of mating and how they turn an awkward situation into a profitable proposition. Explores how an organism's ecological niche affects its reproduction strategies and why certain closely related species practice different types of sexual selection. W H Freeman, 1989, 277 p., color/b&w illus., hardcover, \$32.95.



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