INSIDE AAAS

edited by DIANA PABST

All Aboard for Kids' Radio

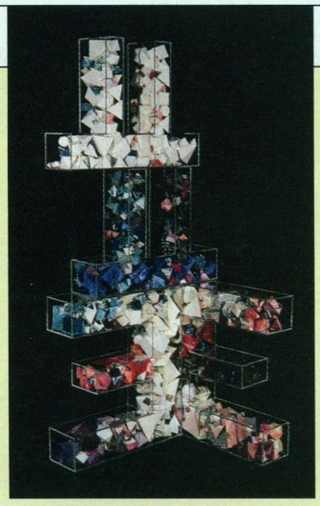
An imaginary train fueled by AAAS ingenuity will soon carry kids to adventures in science at the turn of a dial. "Kinetic City Super Crew," conceived and produced in AAAS studios, will air weekly in half-hour episodes beginning 1 October.

The program, funded by a $3-million National Science Foundation grant, will reach children and their families through the rapidly growing market of children's radio. At least 20 stations across the country now offer content exclusively for children. "The kids' radio phenomenon is just getting under way," said AAAS project director Bob Hirshon. "It's a great opportunity for us."

So far programming for kids is mainly disc jockeys spinning records and hosting games or call-in shows. "Ours will be the first independently produced educational children's drama," Hirshon said. Four pilot shows last year got highly positive reviews.

Each episode begins when the young crew members of a super-powered train get a phone call that embroils them in a mystery [see Inside AAAS, 30 April 1993]. They set out to find the answers with the help of an on-board computer, called ALEC, and other characters. Stories, interviews, and music are woven through the plots. The shows include experiments to do at home, as well as a toll-free phone number listeners can call to ask questions and describe results for later on-the-air use.

AAAS radio, part of the Education and Human Resources Directorate, also produces "Science Update," an award-winning series of 90-second features for general audiences aired by more than 400 stations on the Mutual Broadcasting System. The 1000th episode will air next month.



Points of view. *More Than 1257 Possibilities*, too limited a number.

Infinite Permutations

More Than 1257 Possibilities, the title of this sculpture now on exhibit at AAAS headquarters, "is really a misnomer," said the artist, Barbara Erdman. The possibilities for arranging the component parts are in fact limitless. The four plexiglass forms can be positioned horizontally, vertically, or at zigzagged angles; front and back views are interchangeable. The shapes inside, mathematically based hedrons made of monoprinted paper, move with the changes.

"They're like executive toys that can be put together in different ways," said Erdman, of Santa Fe, New Mexico. "What I want is for people to contemplate them, move them, watch how the colors flow and the relationships between spaces and shapes change—almost a lesson in architecture."

Erdman, who studied painting at Cornell University and later lived in Italy and England, said classical training in the craft of art has been very important to her work, which also includes paintings, prints, and photography. She uses a graphics workshop to produce her prints. Sometimes she prints both sides of the paper. The only preplanned element of the sculptures is the shape of the plastic forms, which must be fabricated.

"I work intuitively," Erdman said. "I do not want to know how my pieces will end up until I'm finished. For me it's the process that's most creative."

Erdman's work is on display at AAAS through 3 June under AAAS's Art of Science and Technology Program. For more information, call Jinny Stern at 202-326-6672.

Panel to Seek *Science* Editor

This month AAAS's Board of Directors completed the selection of a committee to screen and propose candidates to succeed Daniel E. Koshland Jr. as editor-in-chief of *Science*.

At the annual meeting in February Koshland announced his decision to step down next year after 10 years at the helm of the journal, established by Thomas Edison in 1880 and the official journal of AAAS since 1900.

The committee was asked to submit the names of three respected scientists as candidates for the position. The board will interview those recommended and make the final selection. The board asked the committee to respond by the end of this year if possible.

The panel is headed by outgoing AAAS board chairman F. Sherwood Rowland, of the University of California, Irvine. Other committee members, selected to represent the broad spectrum of disciplines in AAAS, are:

- Florence Haseltine, director of the Center for Population Research at the National Institute for Child Health and Human Development and a former AAAS board member.
- Chang-Lin Tien, Ph.D. in mechanical engineering, chancellor of the University of California, Berkeley, and currently on the AAAS board.
- John Hopfield of the chemistry and biology divisions at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech) and a member of *Science*'s editorial board.
- Robert Solow of the economics department at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, also on *Science*'s editorial board.
- Maxine Singer, president of the Carnegie Institution of Washington and former head of the National Cancer Institute. She served on the selection committee that recommended Koshland for editor-in-chief.
- Peter Raven, director of the Missouri Botanical Garden and home secretary of the National Academy of Sciences.
- Jessica Tuchman Mathews, a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and the editorial board of the *Washington Post*. She has a Ph.D. in biology from Caltech and is a former AAAS Congressional Fellow.
- Richard Atkinson, Ph.D. in psychology, chancellor of the University of California, San Diego, and past president of AAAS.
- Richard Nicholson, Ph.D. in chemistry, executive officer of AAAS and publisher of *Science*.

The selection committee indicated it would be pleased to receive names of potential candidates for the editor-in-chief position but asked that the names be accompanied by a short justification for the nomination. Suggestions can be sent to the committee's attention via a special e-mail post office box at search @aaas.org on the Internet; or to the attention of the AAAS Human Resources Office via fax (202-682-1630) or mail to 1333 H Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005. All material will be treated confidentially.