



FORGOTTEN GENIUS

Percy Julian
and the
Neglected Science
of Chemistry

Stephen Lyons

Moreno/Lyons Productions, Boston
producer of the NOVA documentary
Forgotten Genius

During his lifetime, the late African American chemist Percy Julian was one of America's most famous scientists, celebrated for his contributions in steroid medicine and other fields. But in the decades after his death in 1975, Julian was largely forgotten. Chemistry itself has suffered a similar fate. Few sciences have had more impact on the way people live than chemistry yet few are so thoroughly ignored by the popular media. While countless prime-time documentaries have been produced on archaeology, astronomy, biology, earth science, physics and other sciences, only a handful have been made about chemistry. Chemistry is largely absent from newspapers, magazines and popular science books as well. In this talk, a longtime producer of public television science programs examines why chemistry is The Neglected Science and explores what steps could be taken to bring more chemistry to the public through the popular media. Includes a clip from Lyons' most recent award-winning documentary, "Forgotten Genius," NOVA's two-hour profile of Percy Julian.

Tuesday, January 22, 2008 – 4:00 p.m.
Seminar Hall – 1315 Chemistry Building
1101 University Avenue