



# Cincinnati Skeptic

*Newsletter of The Association for Rational Thought*

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**February/March 2002**

*“The future isn’t what it used to be.”*

*— Yogi Berra*



*Each man leading his dearest....*

*Is a trade possible?*

## **December Meeting**

### **A Skeptic in the Pantry-And the Feed bag**

William J. Tyznick, PhD, Professor Emeritus of Animal Science at Ohio State University, told members and guests at the December meeting about his adventures in combating nonsensical claims made about food for animals and humans.

Horses are especially prone to these claims because of the lack of a clear bottom line indicating their economic failure or success. Other livestock like pigs and chickens are more often the subject of research showing whether a particular dietary regimen is profitable, easily determined by weight at slaughter. Horses, which are not often sold by the pound, are the focus of irrational nutritional plans with no factual base. The idea that horses could not be fed corn because it was too “hot” and might kill them was one of these unresearched, irrational beliefs. Corn turned out to be a fine food for horses.

An entire class of horse feed supplements known in the trade as “jugs,” because they are injected into the unwitting animal’s jugular vein, partakes of this sort of uncritical, even magical thinking. Consideration of the fact that horses take their nutrients through the gut, which  
(Cont. Pg 5 )

## **January Meeting**

### **Evolution in the Chapel**

The Reverend Mendle Adams of Saint Peter’s United Church of Christ in Cincinnati, was the January guest speaker. The meeting was held at this church on 12 January. The subject of his presentation was the role of evolution in the church. He accepted as a given that all main line denominations, except the Baptists, accept evolution as the scientific interpretation of biological history. His words demonstrated that a minister can accept evolution and remain committed to his faith and devote his life to serving his church. He sprinkled his lecture with humor which evoked frequent laughter in the audience.

Adams spoke briefly about his background and how it had influenced his current views on evolution and the church. His forebears hail from Boone County across the river. His mother’s side of the family is Cherokee Indian. She taught him to honor the wisdom of the elders but to be open to the continual unfolding of the truth, to respect others’ beliefs, never become dogmatic, and to treat every scientific breakthrough as an epiphany to be cherished. He recounted a brief history of liberal churches like his own. The Congregational Church  
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The By-Laws require that officers for the following year be elected annually at the May meeting. They begin their duties on following July 1st.

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**Comments Corner.....****Going out with a Bang - Almost**

(Continued from Aug/Sept 2001, p. 2)

In 1846 Joseph Rodes Buchanan was appointed to the faculty of the Eclectic Institute and for the most part gave up his lecture tour promoting Neurology. Soon he was identified as a national figure defending the Eclectic movement and attacking regular Medical Conservatism. His work got him elected president of the National Eclectic Medical Association in 1848. Two years later he was elected dean of the Medical Institute and embarked on a tumultuous six year term.

Buchanan was a promoter of reform in all aspects of existence and the trustees of the medical school should not have been surprised that his tenure would be unsettling for some of the faculty. While still a faculty member he had convinced the school to establish a chair in Homeopathy at the Institute. Dr. Storm Rosa of Painesville, Ohio was appointed the "house" Homeopath in 1849. Two of the regular faculty immediately resigned in protest. At the end of the 1850 session, the entire faculty agreed with their departed brethren and the chair of Homeopathy was abolished. Oil and water had not mixed in theory or practice. Six of the 1850 graduates asked for and received both Eclectic and Homeopathic diplomas from the Institute.

Universal free education had long been one of Buchanan's pet ideas. In January 1852, he announced that in the next term all of the usual tuition would be abolished. Professors would instead "expect merely the reward arising from the consciousness of having given the most important of all knowledge to an immense number of students...." So many doctors would be graduated that the mortality rate would decline nationwide. He predicted that income would actually increase under the scheme as the faculty made up in quantity for the loss of pay, by selling books, from income from private lectures, and from fees for diplomas etc. In the short term it appears he was correct as enrollment soared. The faculty was split on the issue. More resigned and the remainder split into factions supporting and opposing Buchanan.

Worse yet, everyone began to do their own thing, "each faculty member selected his own truth and became "a system" unto himself." Each concocted and sold "his own remedies, which lead to rivalry, competition, and disagreement" It was during these years that the Institute issued more diplomas than any school in the west. The two factions prepared for a showdown in April 1856 when a new board of trustees was to be elected. As a joint-stock corporation, the issue would be decided on the basis of the vote of the stockholders. The legal trustees, those supporting Buchanan's foe, Newton, voted a majority of the stock and their trustees would vote to fire Buchanan and his supporters. Buchanan's faction decided to issue enough new stock to give themselves control and proceeded to elect trustees to remove their foes. They then decided to lock the school doors and thereby gain victory. Their foes managed however to change the locks (Cont. pg 9)



## *Too Many Books.... Too Little Time....*

*Probability 1: Why There Must Be  
Intelligent Life in the Universe*  
by Amir D. Aczel

(New York: Harcourt, Brace & Co. 1998)

Recently we reviewed a book, *Rare Earth*, in these pages which asserted quite convincingly “why complex life is uncommon in the Universe” (Aug/Sept 2001). Here is a volume prepared to claim the exact opposite, that multi-celled life in general and intelligent beings in particular must exist elsewhere in the Universe. The authors of both of these books have the credentials to be taken seriously. However, both can not be true; and in the near future we shall not know which. The *Rare Earth* authors would be shown wrong by the first contact from an extra-terrestrial civilization. It is difficult to determine what would disprove the present author.

One of the simplest arguments against intelligent civilizations elsewhere is known as Fermi’s paradox. When the question was raised with the famous nuclear physicist Enrico Fermi, he asked “so, where are they?” Given that we estimate the age of the Universe since the Big Bang as 12 to 15 billion years, and the age of the Earth and the Solar System a mere 4.6 billion, it seems clear that other civilizations had many billions of years to develop and explore the Universe. Yet, we have no evidence of any space voyagers. Aczel starts by showing us why this paradox is wrong. Far from a young solar system, ours must be one of the oldest. He based this argument on what we know about the formation of the heavier chemical elements in the furnace of exploding supernovas.

Assuming other civilizations exist, chances are that we are among the first in our galaxy to arrive at this level of advancement. By the inspection paradox, we are probably more advanced than most other civilizations in the universe (p. 193).

Like earlier authors, including Carl Sagan, Aczel starts with Frank Drake’s equation, which examines the probabilities we must consider for estimating the prevalence of planets with civilizations. The values of

these probabilities — number of stars with earthlike planets, planets with intelligent life, and with civilizations, -- are simply not known. Speculation will only get us a little further, except that the final probability is certain to be very small. Aczel in a way turns this argument on its head. We know that civilization is possible from our own case. So no matter what the probability of civilization, it is larger than zero. Given an enormous length of time, and billions and billions of stars, other civilizations must exist.

Beyond probability 101, Aczel makes two arguments with which many will disagree. He posits that development of life and intelligence are expected on any planet which has appropriate conditions. “Given enough millions of years from the time the DNA molecule arrives or evolves on a planet, intelligence will be the ultimate outcome.” (p. 150)

Much of the preceding argument rests on his questioning the existence of random events. Aczel sees the interpretation of an event as random as a confession of ignorance. If we knew, measured, and controlled exactly all the variables of throwing a dice, the face it falls on would be predictable. Chance is merely our mathematical dodge for handling lack of precise knowledge. Thus he argues chance played no role in the evolution of the very structured DNA molecule.

Most likely, DNA was created as the outcomes of a complicated system of nonlinear equations that govern the rates of chemical reactions in the presence of catalysts in a rich solution of methane gas, water, carbon dioxide, phosphorus, nitrogen, and other compounds with the right temperature, time, and other conditions. Knowing the exact set of complicated equations and how they react chaotically would tell us if life exists on a given extrasolar planet once we know the exact conditions there. (p. 178)

That is really coming close to saying somebody planned and created life and civilization according to a blueprint or model. Aczel does not come out directly to say he thinks there is a creative force or first mover, but I don’t think he would disagree with the idea.

— Wolf Roder

*The Borderlands of Science:  
Where Sense Meets Nonsense*

by Michael Shermer

(New York: Oxford University Press, 2001)

For this book Shermer has set himself a difficult task, one that has defeated philosophers and historians, namely to distinguish clearly between the sense and rationality of science on the one side, and pseudo-science and quackery on the other. Science may be considered the empirical investigation of nature. The outcome may differ only marginally between true knowledge on the one hand or crude mistake on the other. Some mistaken theories — homeopathy in the eighteenth century, cold fusion more recently, — have become deeply believed pseudosciences. Whether the outcome of an investigation is science or error depends ultimately on the consensus of the knowledgeable, i.e. the scientists themselves. Who is, and who is not, to be counted among that group is only crudely indicated by the credentials each has to show.

Shermer's book comes down to a careful examination of the process of critical and rational thinking, how and why we conclude something is true or nonsense. He does this to a large extent by an examination of a variety of historical cases. He considers three kinds of borderlands, marginal theories which may or may not be true; scientists who have made solid achievements as well as dabbled on the doubtful edge, and specific historical cases.

In a chapter on "Racial Differences and What They Really Mean" Shermer examines the theory, defended by Jon Entine and Vincent Sarich, that Blacks dominate certain sports because they are genetically and biologically more fit for that particular activity. Despite some good evidence, Shermer is able to provide enough data to show the evidence is nowhere near complete to accept the case. Very often borderline theories are exactly that — open and inconclusive.

Alfred Russel Wallace, the co-discoverer of evolution, is one of Shermer's examples of a borderline scientist. On the one hand Wallace was a skeptic, who tried to convince flat earthers they were mistaken, on the other got involved in the spiritualist movement of the time. It eventually convinced him the existence of the human soul and psychic powers precluded the evolution of man. Another borderline scientist is Carl Sagan, who tried to keep an "exquisite balance" between orthodox

science and heresy close to fiction.

Among historical cases, Shermer examines the evidence that people lived better, healthier, more peaceful lives before White European Males destroyed paradise with imperialism, industrialism, capitalism, scientism and other isms. The evidence shows clearly that neither society nor the environment ever saw a golden age. Nor does Shermer accept "the Myth of the Miracle of Genius." Was Mozart, for instance, a musical genius? No, according to Shermer's examination. He simply worked harder and longer at his profession, spending little time on anything other than music. Shermer claims the same for geniuses of science. Einstein, Newton, Darwin and similar persons did spend long hours and much of their "thought time" in a single minded pursuit of the solution to the questions they had set themselves.

Shermer also re-examines the case of the Piltdown hoax, in which a recent fossil skull and an ape jaw, were foisted on the scientific community as "the missing link" and accepted for forty years. He finds "Piltdown is a painful reminder that intelligence and education is no prophylactic against fraud and flimflam." (p. 319) Even more, a single case does not make a major theory. Knowledge does not come from a single find, observation, or experiment, but from the convergence of evidence from a great variety of sources and sciences. Science is a seamless web in which all strands have to cohere, and which every fact must support. Unless and until all knowledge from the various sciences corresponds, the theory is not complete.

This is a very good book and deserves a careful reading by skeptics and by anyone concerned about critical thinking and the history of science.

— Wolf Roder



Who is truly civilized, the honest peasant working his fields simply and dwelling in a thatched mud hut, or the representative of modern progress in a mad race for wealth, despoiling the land, and whose greatest symbol of achievement is the stock market and the atom bomb?

— bio-astrologer Esmeralda von Löwenzahn-Dentdelion

## Pantry Skeptic..... from page 1

is capable of filtering and otherwise altering them, suggests that anything just dumped into the jugular evades the horse's digestive system and may have unexpected effects, or no effects, on the horse. An acquaintance profited nicely from this failure to think beyond the end of the IV needle, selling sterilized saline solution as a "jug," for a mere \$35 per pint.

Now horse owners are falling for the same scam that women did for many years: the use of gelatin to promote good hooves, or in the case of the women, long finger nails. Unfortunately gelatin goes through the digestive system the way other foods do, and is not sent selectively to the hooves, or the nails. Nevertheless, the hooves may appear to improve, if at the same time the gelatin is administered, the horse is turned out onto damp turf. Water really does improve hooves.



Human nutrition also suffers from misinformation and myths created by marketing and magical thinking. Parents often become so obsessed with their children's diet that they find themselves making dire predictions about the consequences of "Not Drinking Your Orange Juice" and other dreadful crimes. Children quickly discover that failure to guzzle the orange juice does not have any perceptible consequence other than undermining their belief in their parents' trustworthiness.

An example of marketing magical thinking to adults is the huge commercial success of glucosamine and chondroitin sulfate as an osteoarthritis remedy. Glucosamine is an amino acid derived from shellfish shells. Chondroitin is derived from cow cartilage. When these substances appear in your gut, your digestive system can't tell they are supposed to be sent to your arthritic left wrist. Instead they are used just as other nutrients are, as the body requires them, and the excess is excreted. No wonder the very limited research shows no benefit.

Misuse of statistics also contributes to the problem. Much has been made in recent years of the fact that Japanese have fewer heart attacks than Americans. The difference has been attributed



to the prevalence of rice and fish, both "good foods," in the Japanese diet and nicely larded beef, a very "bad" food indeed, in the American diet. Rarely is it mentioned, although it is true, that the Japanese have more strokes than do Americans.

Correlations between two behaviors, such as eating more fish and having fewer heart attacks, is just that, a relationship showing that eating more fish is associated with fewer heart attacks. A correlation standing alone has no power to show cause and effect. Some very high correlations show no cause and effect relationship. It is a fact, for example, that the presence of hemorrhoids is very highly correlated with the use of toilet paper. But we cannot conclude that toilet paper causes hemorrhoids.

Sometimes magical thinking occurs because of a lack of basic information. Beef fat has long been held to be a dangerous component of the American diet. It is rarely noted that beef fat isn't absorbed very well in the human digestive tract, since it doesn't melt at normal human temperature, around 98.6 degrees F. Cows run a bit warmer, at 102 - 103 degrees F., so beef fat is difficult for humans to melt and digest.

Market power alone can promote magical thinking. The current soybean and soybean product fad is largely the product of our major soybean producer, the huge conglomerate, Archer Daniel Midland. The only magical result appears in ADM's bottom line.

On the other hand, sometimes marketing can produce good nutrition in unlikely places. Bill once did research for White Castle, which was concerned that its little square hamburgers provide a balanced diet for children. The only requirement that was missing was calcium, which was added to the bread the buns are made of, producing good, cheap meals for kids, whether their parents believe it or not.

Tradition also promotes poor nutritional thinking. For many years minks were thought to be unable to digest cereal, because they are equipped with a short gastrointestinal tract. Bill researched the



question and developed a cereal diet for minks which is still in use today. He outwitted tradition by substituting focused research results which provided reality-based information.



Human beings have many ways to befog nutritional thinking for themselves and their beasts. Bill Tyznick offers a clear path out of the confusion: careful research.

— Reported by Virginia Jergens



**Dream On.**

A dream researcher at Santa Clara University has found that Republicans are three times more likely than Democrats to have bad dreams. Republicans believe the reason is that they are “cleaning up” after Clinton; Democrats believe it’s because Bush inspires nightmares.

— www.newscientist.com (19 July 2001)



In the 17th-century Spanish girls considered large breasts to be in poor fashion taste. For this reason, they wore heavy lead breastplates to stunt the growth of their chests.

— Lance Rancier, *Sex Chronicles*

**A Puzzle for Thinkers**



Can you identify the language for each line, and perhaps translate it?

Τι σοι λεγω, μειρακιον,  
 Now that this fickle heart is won?  
 Me semper amaturam te  
 And never, never, never stray?  
 Herzschtzchen, Du verlangst zuviel  
 When you demand so strict a seal.  
 N'est-ce pas assez que je t'aime  
 Without remaining still the same?  
 Gij daarom geeft u liefde niet  
 If others may not have a treat.  
 Muy largo es me corazon.  
 And fifty holds as well as one.  
 Non far nell' acqua buco che  
 I am resolved to have my way;  
 Im lo boteach atta bi,  
 I'm willing quite to set you free:  
 Be you content with half my time,  
 As half in English is my rhyme.

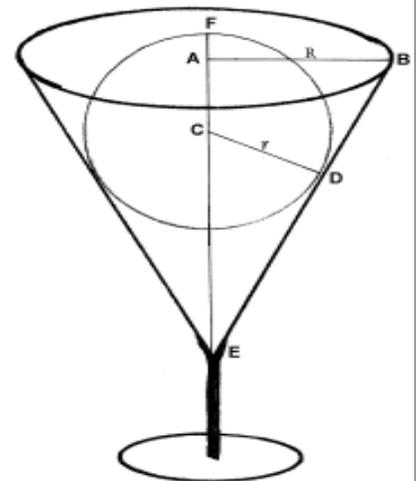
Source: Charles. C. Bombaugh, *Gleanings for the Curious from the Harvest-fields of Literature* (1875)

**Solution for the problem in the last issue:**

A two inch diameter ball in a three inch cone glass. Easiest to find is the angle at the apex of the cone, angle at E;  $R/AE = \tan E/2$  ( $26.57^\circ$ ). Where the sphere touches the glass is a tangent, hence another right angle. In this triangle CE is the hypotenuse, so that  $r/CE = \sin E/2$  which can be solved for  $CE = 2.236$ . The distance by which AE exceeds CE, is the extent to which the center of the ball is submerged below the base of the cone; hence  $AF = CE+r-AE = .2361$  is the height of the segment not submerged. The volume of the segment is  $V_s = .1613$ ; deduct this from the volume of the whole sphere leaves 4.0275 which is the quantity sought.

Everett points out there is a more elegant because simpler solution to finding the length CE. Note that the triangle formed by ABE, is similar to the triangle CDE, both are right triangles and share the angle at E. Hence, corresponding sides are one and a half times as large. Using

Pythagoras to calculate the side of the cone, and taking two-thirds of that, we find  $CE = 2.236$  without invoking the aid of trigonometry.



Volume of a segment of a sphere of height h:

$$V_s = \frac{\pi h^2}{3} (3r - h)$$

Volume of a sphere:

$$V = \frac{4\pi r^3}{3}$$

## Evolution..... from page 1

played a role in many progressive movements, in antislavery agitation, women's rights, legal abortion.



Many churches joined together in these movements for a common cause. He has been in a pastor for forty years and has wide experience working with people in all walks of life and of all faiths. Before coming to Kentucky, he was the ecumenical chaplain at

Oklahoma State University with the responsibility of orchestrating diverse religious groups and helping them work together.

Our speaker described himself as a child of the twentieth century as well as a child of faith. He was a student at a fundamentalist Bible school when he was introduced to the teachings of evolution. At that time he was taught that evolution is a product of Lucifer the Devil and that Cro-Magnon and Neanderthal man were lesser humans created by Lucifer. He wanted to affirm his faith while reconciling it with evolution as a pillar of science. Rather than rejecting either religion or evolution he accepted both but rejected the inflexible Christian fundamentalist teachings espousing a literal interpretation of the Bible. He accepted religion as a cherished set of stories to be interpreted metaphorically that keep the sacred center of the community alive and help people to cope with the chaos of life and the inevitable prospect of death. He views science as a light illuminating all the faiths and serving everyone. Reverend Adams shares the view expressed by Carl Sagan on the television program *Cosmos* that we are the local embodiment of the universe grown to self-awareness. And for the first time in history, all humans can agree on the basic story of the world, the sun, the earth, the stars, the age of the solar system, and the evolution of life on earth. The insidious attempts by the creationists to control education only fans the flames of dissension and strife.

The Reverend spoke honestly of his open-minded



views that no one knows what happens after death and that a specific set of religious beliefs does not provide an entrance into heaven. In contrast to the fundamentalist dogma proclaiming only

one true set of doctrines, he welcomes all believers and nonbelievers alike with open arms, judging them by what they do rather than what they believe. He rejects the dogmatism of the fundamentalist Christians who spread hatred against any who do not accept their specific literal interpretation of the Bible. He quoted Bishop Spong of the Episcopal Church to the effect that Christianity must change with the times or die if it clings to ancient dogmas.

As an example of where rabid fanaticism may lead, he cited the Heaven's Gate cult led by the messianic figure of Marshall Applewhite. This group committed suicide in March of 1997 in the expectation that their souls would escape the prison of earth and ascend to a spaceship traveling in the tail of the comet Hale-Bopp which would then transport them to a heavenly paradise. The speaker further voiced the fear if the Christian fundamentalists gained the power to control our government, they would become an American Taliban.



Adams was the founding pastor of High Point Church in Union, Kentucky. Over the past several years he acted as a leading opponent to the efforts of the organization *Answers in Genesis* (AiG) to build his Creationist Museum on the doorsteps of Big Bone Lick State Park. He described AiG as a self-serving cultic group spewing forth hatred for anyone opposing them. Their leader Ken Ham has repeatedly insisted that those who believe in evolution are not only evil but demon possessed. Ham blames everything he considers evil on evolution -- racism, abortion, homosexuality. He denounces those who believe in evolution as misguided sinful men who cannot truly be Christians because they place man's authority above God. He denounces natural history museums as untrustworthy and riddled with mistakes in their displays of early humans, dinosaurs and other fossils.

During his service in Kentucky, Adams befriended many nonbelievers and found that secular humanists were not the evil demons portrayed by fundamentalist teachings but honest caring people. Backing his words with action, he served as the treasurer for Ed Kagin's election campaign. With many others, Reverend Adams organized opposition to the

Creationist Museum. He appeared as a witness before the zoning commission to protest major structures, which would devastate the natural peace and beauty of the rural countryside. Voluminous quantities of sewage would need disposal. Petitions signed by eleven hundred neighbors opposed this institution. Mr Ham has claimed falsely that his proposal was supported by all the churches and only opposed by secular humanists and atheists. However, none of the mainline churches supported the museum. As a minister, Adams characterized creationism not only as laughable science, but as ridiculous theology as well. He mentioned *Voices for Evolution*, a joint publication of the United Church of Christ and other mainline churches, as a contrasting source.

The original site for the museum was denied for strictly environmental reasons. AiG continues to raise millions of dollars and wields considerable political influence. The Creationist Museum has found a new, approved site near Exit 11 on Interstate Highway 275 and is planning to open in 2004.

— Reported by Bryan Sellers

### Poem In a Box!



### Random thoughts on humans, or Mankind.

A modern man in love combines the warm emotions of a computer with the gentleness of a jumbo-jet.

Anna Magnani

All of human morality can be summarized in two sentences: We ought to. But we don't.

Kurt Tucholsky

I have not found much that is good in humans. In my experience it's mostly rubbish.

Sigmund Freud

I love pigs. Dogs worship us. Cats look down on us. Only pigs treat us with equality.

Winston S. Churchill

I expect of every man the worst, even of myself, and I was rarely disappointed.

Johann Nepomuk Nestroy

If anything, all men are created unequal from birth.

Magnus Hirschfeld

In the past people were closer to each other. They had no choice, fire-arms did not carry far.

Stanislaw Jerzy Lec

I've never understood why we should stop considering a mediocre person mediocre merely because he can write.

Christian Morgenstern

The human: an ape who slipped past quality control.

Gabriel Laub

To the Middle Ages we owe the two worst human inventions: romantic love and gunpowder.

André Maurois

We must always begin by seeing only the good in every man: Hitler for instance was a non-smoker.

Tobias Inderbitzin

We don't devour each other, we merely butcher one another.

Georg Christoph Lichtenberg

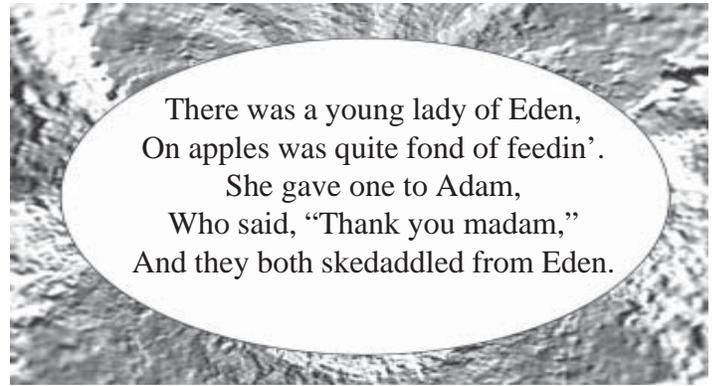
When you think about it, the human being is nothing more than a precise, grandiose, working machine, which uses unlimited bio-technology to convert a hundred year old Bordeaux into urine.

Isak Dinesen

**Comments Corner...page 2**

and gain possession. Knives, pistols, chisels, bludgeons and blunderbusses, were freely displayed by Buchanan and his troops who surrounded the entrance. The stand-off was maintained for a night and a day. Finally the legal board obtained a six-pound cannon and covered the entrance.

Buchanan and his supporters retired in disgust. The Newton trustees took the issue to court and won. The illegal stock was called in, and Buchanan retired from the fray. His group incorporated as "The Eclectic College of Medicine" and opened that fall in competition with the Eclectic Newton Group Institute. The new school lasted for three years, but without Buchanan who returned to Louisville with his dying wife.  
-- Joe Gastright (January 2002)



There was a young lady of Eden,  
On apples was quite fond of feedin'.  
She gave one to Adam,  
Who said, "Thank you madam,"  
And they both skedaddled from Eden.

**Golf Anyone**

The University of Birmingham's School of Metallurgy and Materials, in partnership with the PGA, is now offering an undergraduate degree program in "applied golf management studies."

— *lingua franca* (August 2001)

**Science Book-Club Meetings for 2002**

All meetings are held at the downtown Cincinnati Public Library in meeting room 3A on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor at 2:30 pm on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month unless otherwise specified.

Jan 27 - *A Beautiful Mind: A Biography of John Forbes Nash, Jr., Winner of the Nobel Prize in Economics, 1994*  
by Sylvia Nasar

Feb 24 - *The Botany of Desire: A Plant's Eye View of the World* by Michael Pollan

Mar 24 - *Guns, Germs, and Steel: The Fates of Human Societies* by Jared Diamond

Apr 28 - *The Universal Computer: The Road from Leibniz to Turing* by Martin Davis

May 20 - Monday evening at 5:30 *The Road Since Structure: Philosophical Essays 1970-1993*  
by Thomas Kuhn, edited by James Conant and John Haugeland,

June 23 - *Asimov's Chronology Of Science And Discovery* by Isaac Asimov

July 28 - *Animal Minds: Beyond Cognition to Consciousness* by Donald R. Griffin

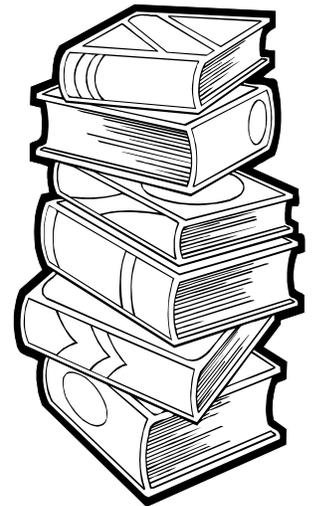
August 25 - *The Greatest Benefit to Mankind: A Medical History of Humanity* by Roy Porter,

Sept 22 - *The Mismeasure of Man* by Stephen Jay Gould,

Oct 27 - *Extinct Humans* by Ian Tattersall and Jeffrey H. Schwartz

Nov 24 - *E=MC<sup>2</sup>* by David Bodanis

Dec 15 - Sunday at 2:30 *Seven Daughters of Eve* by Bryan Sykes)





*Details  
of*



## *Upcoming Events...*

### Fifth Meeting of the 2001-2002 Season!



**Date and Day:**  
Sat. February 9, 2002

**Time:** 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM -- program  
12:15PM - 2:00 PM -- Lunch

**Speaker:** Joe Nickell, Senior Research Fellow of the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal (CSICOP).

**Topic:** Join us for a talk by world class **Investigator of the Paranormal**. If you have ever wanted to know the truth behind the fiction, Joe will know or will find out! His talk will be interesting and informative.

### Sixth Meeting of the 2001-2002 Season!



**Date and Day:**  
Sat. March 9, 2002

**Time:** 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM -- program  
12:15PM - 2:00 PM -- Lunch

**Speaker:** Elaine Billmire, MD. ART Member

**Topic:** When Good Vaccines Go Bad

Childhood vaccines -- How do they act to prevent disease? What diseases are prevented? What are the documented risks and benefits? Join us as Dr. Billmire reviews these basics, then addresses numerous alleged associations between particular vaccines and a range of untoward side effects.

### Huxley on the topic of psychics talking with the beyond



Huxley thought psychic manifestations might at least reduce suicides. "Better living a crossing sweeper than die and be made to talk twaddle by a medium hired at a guinea a seance."

-- Leonard Huxley, *Life and Letters of Thomas Henry Huxley*  
(1900) vol. 1, pp. 419-420

### Membership Duration

#### And Dues.....

All memberships start in August, coordinated with our fiscal year, from 1 August to 31 July of the next year. This will allow us to mail renewal requests only once a year in the Fall.

**REMINDER....  
IF YOU HAVE  
NOT PAID YOUR  
DUES THEY ARE  
LATE!!!  
PLEASE PAY/SEND  
IN YOUR  
MEMBERSHIP DUES  
NOW!**

SEE THE FORM ON PAGE 11.....



### So that's why.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has been doing research on why so many drug prescription errors kill an estimated 100,000 Americans per year. Guess what they found? In meetings and interviews with doctors the FDA learned that most doctors don't bother to read the pages of fine print given them by the company rep with the drug. The medicine is not likely to kill their patient, and the next appointment is waiting. (AP)

**The Association for Rational Thought** is an independent, nonprofit, scientific and educational organization. We share the ideas and philosophies of CSICOP, the Skeptics Society, and JREF.

**CSICOP**: the *Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal* publishes the *Skeptical Inquirer*, a journal of investigations of paranormal claims. P.O. Box 703, Amherst, NY 14226-0703, phone: 800-634-1610, fax: 716-636-1733, www.scicop.org

**The Skeptics Society**, publishes *The Skeptic Magazine*. PO Box 338, Altadena, CA 91001; phone: 626-794-3119; fax 626-794-1300; skepticismag@aol.com and www.skeptic.com,.

**JREF**: the James Randi Educational Foundation publishes the *Swift Newsletter*. 201 SE Davie Blvd. Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316-1815. phone: (954) 467-1112, fax: (954)467-1660, www.randi.org

**A.R.T.** meets on the second Saturday of each month September through June, 10:00 AM and publishes *Cincinnati Skeptic* bi-monthly. A.R.T. meetings are open to the public. A.R.T. also maintains a database of information on paranormal claims for local new media to consult and investigates local paranormal claims. A.R.T. was founded by Cincinnati area skeptics in 1991. Annual dues are \$15.00 and include a subscription to the *Cincinnati Skeptic*.

For more information call: President Roy Auerbach (513)731-2774 or Lance Moody (513) 336-9834 or visit our website. **Address Changes and Corrections, Membership Questions:** Nurit Bowman (513) 731-0642 E-mail: nuritb@netscape.net

**Mailing Label Information:** "00/00/00 Member": You are a member in good standing; your membership will expire on the date on the label. "Lapsed": (*highlighted*)- your membership has expired. Please send your dues as soon as possible.

**Yes!** — I want to support the important work of **The Association for Rational Thought** and receive *Cincinnati Skeptic* and meeting notices. I have enclosed funds for:

New Member       Renewing Member       Contribution       Gift membership for/by:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Work: \_\_\_\_\_ Home: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

***We have kept dues low and will continue to do so in spite of rising costs. However, if you are able to, your additional contributions are very much appreciated. Please give generously, if possible. Thank you very much!***

**I would like to make a contribution in addition to my dues to further the important work of the Association:**

Contribution Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Dues: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Make your check payable to the **Association for Rational Thought** and mail to A.R.T., P.O. Box 12896, Cincinnati OH 45212. *Contributions are not at present tax deductible, but we are working on it.*

Request subjects for future meetings

Please do *not* include my name and address in mailing lists exchanged with other groups.

### ***Skepticism and ART on the Electronic Media***



For the latest in skeptical news via e-mail, join SANE, the Skeptical Area Network Effort. You will find cheerful, rational messages from CSICOP, James "The Amazing" Randi, your fellow local skeptics and ART in your e-mail box every week. This is our means of staying in touch between issues of the *Cincinnati Skeptic*.

Be sure to check out our skeptical website at <http://www.cincinnati-skeptics.org> --- It contains: our BLURBS on various subjects; lots of nifty links to skeptical thinking around the world; the information for joining SANE; the basic definition of who we are, what we do, and our bylaws. In addition, you'll find such things as how to get to our meetings; other ways to reach us; and how to send sample copies of the newsletter to potential members.

—David Wall, Web Site Manager

**Web:** <http://www.cincinnati-skeptics.org>

**E-mail:** [darkon@one.net](mailto:darkon@one.net)



Association for Rational Thought  
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Cincinnati, OH 45212

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### What is a skeptic?

Modern skepticism is a response to the torrent of paranormal and pseudoscientific claims that pervade our lives. The stories of ghosts, flying saucers, miracle cures, lake monsters and many other fringe beliefs often go unchallenged. Skeptics provide the challenge.

While many of us are not scientists, we embrace the scientific method as mankind's best invention for seeking knowledge. Skeptics are not cynics. We don't simply reject every unusual idea. We do know extraordinary claims demand extraordinary evidence. We insist on the evidence.

Cincinnati Skeptics, The Association for Rational Thought, meet to discuss such claims. We debate the merits; we skewer dogmatism. We have fun.

The truth is out there. And skeptics are looking for it.

## Preview Of Coming Attractions...



*Fifth Meeting of the 2001-2002 Season!*

*Date and Day: Sat. February 9, 2002*

**Time:** 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM -- program -->12:15PM - 2:00 PM Lunch



*Sixth Meeting of the 2001-2002 Season!*

*Date and Day: Sat. March 9, 2002*

**Time:** 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM -- program -->12:15PM - 2:00 PM Lunch

**Mark your Calendars,  
Watch your mail & See Inside (p. 10) for Details!**