



Shadow of a Doubt

THE MONTHLY CALENDAR OF THE NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA SKEPTICS

February, 2000

Child Abuse: Pseudoscience, False Memory, and False Accusations

Sue Taylor

False Memory Syndrome Foundation

Virginia State Contact

Child Abuse accusations are different from other accusations; innocent people can be and are convicted and imprisoned for acts that they not only did not commit, but that **NOBODY** committed. And even when actual imprisonment does not occur, reputations, family relationships and economic security are damaged beyond repair. Those who follow the situation describe it as a national "Witch Hunt."

Sue Taylor knows the Witch Hunt first-hand, and is familiar with the pseudoscience that is often involved in cases of this type. She has worked with families victimized by "Recovered Memory" therapy, as well as with false child abuse accusations that arise in more conventional situations. Sue will describe her work with the False Memory Syndrome Foundation, and describe her view "from the trenches" where she attempts to help the accused and their families.

Saturday, February 12, 2000, 2pm-3:30pm

Bethesda Public Library

7400 Arlington Road

Bethesda, Maryland

Everyone welcome - members and non-members

Call the NCAS Skeptic Line at 301-587-3827 for further info.

GARY NULL ON WETA

Are you upset about the way WETA Channel 26 has allowed alternative medicine advocate Gary Null seemingly endless hours of self-promotion during pledge drives? Write WETA to express your displeasure:

Elizabeth P. Campbell

J. Roderick Heller III

Sharon P. Rockefeller

Founder and Vice-President, WETA

Chair, Board of Trustees, WETA

President & CEO, WETA

All at: WETA, 2775 South Quincy Street, Arlington, VA 22206

SCIENCE FAIRS

After a lapse of several years, NCAS intends to once again judge local science fairs and give awards to those projects that best exhibit good science and skepticism. If you have an interest in this activity and wish to help with a science fair in northern Virginia on Saturday, March 18, leave your name and telephone number on the NCAS telephone line or send an email message to ncas@ncas.org.

EXPLORING THE UNKNOWN

The Skeptics television series *Exploring the Unknown* is rerunning Friday nights on Fox Family Channel at 10pm. Michael Shermer was told by the V.P of programming that they love the show, the series continues getting good ratings, but that they have yet to hear from the powers that be on a pick up of another run of them. [Skeptics Society notice]

CREATIONISM IN ARIZONA

You might be interested to know that the AZ legislature is contemplating forcing teaching of creationism in high school biology classes. Here's an article on the topic taken from *The Tucson Weekly*:

<http://www.tucsonweekly.com/tw/2000-01-20/skinny.html>

IF YOU ARE IN SOUTHERN VIRGINIA ...

Investigating Modern Pseudo-Science, The 2000 Old Dominion University College of Sciences, Distinguished Visitor Lecture Series (Now through April 21):

Public Lectures 8:00 PM Thursdays

Science Colloquia 3:00 PM Fridays

Room 102 Mills Godwin Bldg

Room 200 Oceanography-Physics Bldg

For specific event information visit <http://www.physics.odu.edu/htmlstuf/sue/cal-lec-99.htm>

For more information contact: Dr. Larry Weinstein, Department of Physics, Old Dominion University, Norfolk, VA 23529

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