



Shadow of a Doubt

THE MONTHLY CALENDAR OF THE NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA SKEPTICS

April, 2000

VAMPIRES: THE TRUTH BEHIND THE LEGEND

Paul Sledzik, Ph.D.

Curator, National Museum of Health and Medicine

This talk will be an examination of the European and American vampire folklores, focusing on how these folklores were formed from the misinterpretation of biological phenomena.

Paul Sledzik is a forensic anthropologist and curator at the National Museum of Health and Medicine, Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, in Washington, DC.

Saturday, April 8, 2000, 2pm-3:30pm

Lipsett Amphitheater

First Floor, Clinical Center Building 10

National Institutes of Health

9000 Rockville Pike

Bethesda, Maryland

NOTE: THIS IS A DIFFERENT LOCATION FROM MOST OF OUR OTHER MEETINGS

Everyone welcome - members and non-members

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

NCAS ELECTIONS

Its time once again for the annual NCAS Board elections. Each year 8 (of 16) Board members are elected for a two year term. Any paid-up member may run. If interested send email to ncas@ncas.org by April 8, 2000.

MAGNETIC MAGIC SHOW

For the past 32 year, Fred Jeffers (of Iomega Corp.) has collected, elaborated upon, and developed a number of remarkable magnetic "magic tricks." They are demonstrations of real magnetic physics, doing seemingly impossible things. Many of the effects demonstrated are at first completely inexplicable, even to experts. He has been awarded more than 50 U.S. patents and is an IEEE Fellow. Friday, April 7.

10:30am - Natl. Institute for Standards and Technology, Green Auditorium, Gaithersburg, MD (I270. Exit 10, Rt. 117 West)

3pm- Laboratory for Physical Science, 8050 Greenmead Dr., College Park (Rt. 1 to Rt. 193 West. Right on Metzertott, first right onto Greenmead.)

RICHARD DAWKINS: SCIENCE, DELUSION, AND THE APPETITE FOR WONDER

Cosponsored with the British Embassy, Mon., April 10, 6 p.m. In a special visit to the Smithsonian, Richard Dawkins, one of the most influential scientists of our time, assesses the most compelling topics in the field today. He deftly combines astronomy, genetics, virtual reality, and other disciplines in a landmark statement of the human appetite for wonder. General tickets are \$13 and can be ordered online at: <http://www.tsa.si.edu/rap/otoapr/dawkins.htm> or call (202) 357-3030.

PHYSICS IS PHUN

The University of Maryland Physics Department presents a series of free public lecture-demonstrations affectionately known as PHYSICS IS PHUN. Different programs are presented four times yearly, typically in early November, mid-January, mid-March, and early May, on dates governed by the University class calendar. The same program is presented on consecutive Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evenings. The next lecture will be May 11-13. More information see the web site:

<http://www.physics.umd.edu/deptinfo/facilities/lecdem/phph.htm>

SKEPTIC SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING

The Skeptics Society normally holds its annual conference in May or June every year, but this year they are having it on Saturday, October 7, 2000 [at Caltech in Pasadena, CA], in a special Festschrift to honor Stephen Jay Gould who will be retiring after 300 consecutive essays in Natural History magazine (#300 appears in the December issue, but he'll be done writing by October), and as a tribute to his remarkable contributions to evolutionary theory, science, and literature.

TEXTBOOK DISCLAIMER ON EVOLUTION DISALLOWED

A requirement by Oklahoma's textbook committee that state science textbooks include a disclaimer against evolution has been thrown out, a spokesman for the state's attorney general said on [February 3, 2000]. Attorney General Drew Edmondson ruled that the Oklahoma State Textbook Committee had overstepped its bounds in trying to dictate the content of textbooks and violated Oklahoma's open meeting laws by failing to notify the public that it was taking the action, spokesman Gerald Adams said.