



NCAS Summer picnic: What's your excuse for not being there?

Saturday, June 24 -- Noon to 5

Chip and Grace Denman invite NCAS to an afternoon at their home in Silver Spring, Maryland. It's a great time to catch up with fellow NCAS members, especially those familiar faces from across the room at the regular lectures. Discuss recent meetings, and current events - and talk about what you'd like to see in the coming year.

NCAS will provide burgers, hotdogs, and drinks. Bring anything else you'd like - the grill will be hot and the ice will be cold.

Leave a message on the Skeptic line at 301-587-3827; and we'll get back to you with directions.

Saturday, June 24

Noon-5pm

Call NCAS line for directions.

Everyone welcome - members and non-members

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

A Rest for the Shadow

As in the past, the pace of NCAS activities slows during the summer months. This is the last Shadow until the fall. Publication will resume in September.

Vote

If you are a paid-up NCAS member, you should have your election ballot for the new NCAS Board. Please vote and send in your ballot. Even better, call the NCAS phone line and volunteer to work with the Board on exciting new projects planned for the fall.

Monthly quote

"But maybe everything need not and should not be so antibacterial; maybe we need to start making the tedious distinctions between good and bad germs and not simply try to kill all of them. E. coli in general is good for us; E. coli 0157:H7 is very bad for us. Parents need to use common sense: Let a kid play in the dirt, but don't let a kid play with a raw chicken in the dirt." - Susan McCarthy, Salon.com, May 4 [From www.stats.org May newsletter.]

Vitamin O

"VITAMIN O": COMPANY AGREES TO PAY \$375,000 TO SETTLE. Rose Creek Health Products was marketing ordinary salt water as a dietary supplement for \$10 per ounce, with claims of significant health benefits. If oxygen could be absorbed by the gastrointestinal tract, which it can't, you would need to drink two liters each second to supply your minimum daily requirement. That's usually called drowning. In addition to consumer redress, the company is barred from claiming that research has demonstrated health benefits. Meanwhile, Beverly Sassoon & Co. picked up the scam, selling salt water as BiOxygen at \$17.50 per ounce [From What's New, May 5, 2000]

In the beginning

According to a new Gallup Poll, the percentages of Americans who believe:

1. God created man pretty much in his present form at one time within the last 10,000 years.
2. Man has developed over millions of years from less advanced forms of life, but God guided this process, including man's creation.
3. Man has developed over millions of years from less advanced forms of life. God had no part in this process.

	1	2	3
All Americans	47	40	9.0
Men	39	45	11.9
College graduates	25	54	16.5
No high school diploma	65	23	4.6
Income above \$50,000	29	50	17.0
Income below \$20,000	59	28	6.5
Whites	46	40	9.0
Blacks	53	41	4.0

These figures have not changed significantly over the last 8 years. [Skeptics Society email, May 18, 2000.]