

It Ain't Necessarily So David Murray

Dr. David Murray discusses and signs his book, *It Ain't Necessarily So: How Media Make and Unmake the Scientific Picture of Reality*. The book will be available for purchase at the talk. The first chapter may be read online at <http://www.stats.org/book.htm>

"Until we learn the intricacies of media-culture and the processes by which news is made, we are vulnerable to a daily dose of misunderstanding contained in each morning's headlines. Indeed, we are at risk of perpetually misdiagnosing our modern world and the role we play in it." - from the introduction

Dr. Murray is Director of Research for the Statistical Assessment Service (STATS), a non-profit organization dedicated to improving media coverage of scientific and statistical information.

Saturday, October 27, 2pm - 3:30 pm
Twinbrook Library, 202 Meadow Hall Drive, Rockville

Note: Because of reconstruction at our usual meeting place, programs this season are scheduled at different locations and sometimes at different times than in the past. Please be careful that you check the correct location AND time for each meeting.

The Twinbrook Library (intersection of Veirs Mill and Twinbrook) is 3.4 mile from the Twinbrook Metro on the Red Line or take Metro Bus Q2 or Ride On bus 45 (www.rideonbus.com)

Next Month -- Childhood Vaccine Controversy

Saturday, November 10, 10:30-12:30, Twinbrook Library

Arthur Allen will speak about recent controversies regarding the safety of childhood vaccines. He will touch on scientific issues as well as the motivation, ideology and historical role of anti-vaccine activists in America. Allen is a freelance writer who regularly contributes health, science and other articles to The Washington Post, Salon.com and other publications. [Rescheduled from March 2001]



National Capital Area Skeptics Public Lecture Series

FREE admission - Everyone welcome - members and non-members

For more information call the 24-hour NCAS skeptic Line recording at (301) 587-3827

e-mail: ncas@ncas.org

web: www.ncas.org



Shadow of a Doubt

THE MONTHLY CALENDAR OF THE NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA SKEPTICS

OCTOBER 2001

Welcome to NCAS's 15th year of programs: 1987--2002

WANT FREE ENERGY FOR YOUR HOME?

Dennis Lee has been lecturing around the country promoting his free energy device. He is scheduled to be in this area for a free lecture on November 12th at University of Maryland, Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center, Tawes Theatre, College Park MD 20742. For a skeptical view of his devices, the Philadelphia Skeptics organization (PHACT) has an interesting website: <http://www.phact.org/e/dennis.html>. Lee's website is <http://ucsofa.com/>. Lee's message is "It is our passion and goal to achieve the conversion to a non polluting energy source. We have worked hard toward that goal & suffered many setbacks. Our opposition would have you believe that we are just liars, but we do NOT promise when it will happen, only that it WILL happen." A few skeptics at his meeting can't hurt.

HAVE PROBLEMS WITH COMPUTER VIRUSES?

Is your hard drive a bit sluggish? Need a mhz boost? Visit the Institute of Holistic Computer Wellness at <http://www.bestweb.net/~bennetc/holistic> for a dose of computer homeopathy and other new-age treatments for your machine.

LEARNING WITH THE STARS

Inside the country's first college of astrology. BY MARK D. FEFER [From the Seattle Weekly.]

This week, in a central Seattle classroom, several dozen students and teachers are reviving an academic subject that's been scorned, vilified, and banned from universities for the past four hundred years or so. Kepler College of Astrological Arts and Sciences is now in session.

Kepler claims to be the first institution of higher learning in North America authorized to offer degrees in astrology--an authorization it received from the Washington state Higher Education Coordinating Board last year. The school is mostly a "distance learning" program, in which students read on their own and consult instructors by e-mail. But three times a year, the students and faculty gather in Seattle for a weeklong symposium. This week, the school's inaugural class is back in town for the first symposium of their sophomore term, and a dozen new students have arrived as freshmen.

If you wish to let the Washington Higher Education Coordinating Board (www.hecb.wa.gov) know your opinions about this, their address is 917 Lakeridge Way, Olympia, WA 98504

LAST CHANCE TO RENEW

at 1987 renewal rates. Check your mailing label. If the renewal date has passed, please send \$20 (for 1 person) or \$30 (for 2-member households) for a one-year renewal to the NCAS address at the top of this page, or you will be dropped as a member. NCAS has never raised its membership fees since it began in 1987; however, costs have climbed since then. Beginning next month rates rise \$10/year for single and 2-member households.



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