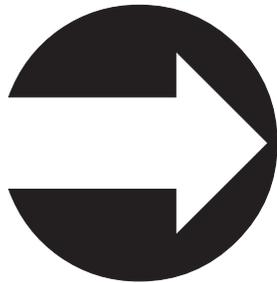


National Capital Area Skeptics Public Lecture Series

NCAS is pleased to
announce our Fall 2002
Public Lecture Series,
beginning Saturday, Oct 5.



In the meantime, Chip and Grace Denman invite NCAS members and their guests to celebrate NCAS's 15th superstition-free year on Friday evening, September 13, 7 - 10 pm, in Silver Spring. We'll supply light fare and beverages -- and the chance for you to scoff and harrumph as much as you like.

Please leave a message on the NCAS line -- 301-587-3827 -- by Tuesday, Sept 10 to let us know to expect you. We'll get back to you with directions.

Saturday, October 5

■ **Chris Mooney, journalist.**

Chris is a former staff writer for Skeptical Inquirer, currently writing for American Prospect magazine. He has recently produced articles on alternative medicine for Washington Monthly and the Washington Post, and his talk will deal with his current assignments.

Saturday, November 2

■ **Walter Rowe, forensic scientist,**

George Washington University, and long-time NCAS board member. With network TV having re-discovered the importance of science in criminal investigations, Walter will explain how TV sometimes gets it right and sometimes gets it wrong in its portrayals of forensic investigators at work.

Saturday, December 7

■ **Stuart Jordan, NASA solar physicist.**

Dr. Jordan will review the current state of knowledge on the role of the Sun in relationship to the "hot topic" of global warming.

PLEASE PUT THESE EVENTS ON YOUR CALENDARS, and try to bring a friend. Good crowds at our current events make it easier to attract interesting speakers in the future.

Locations will be announced shortly.



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

www.ncas.org



Shadow of a Doubt

THE MONTHLY CALENDAR OF THE NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA SKEPTICS

SEPTEMBER 2002

NCAS Board

As a result of the elections last spring, the NCAS Board of Directors for this year is as follows:

Executive Committee	Chip Denman, President
Gary Stone, Vice President	Grace Denman, Treasurer
Marv Zerkowitz, Secretary	Paul Jaffe
Board members	Doris Bloch
Jonathan Boswell	Sharlene Deskins
Herb Federhen	Jim Giglio
Stephen Goodson	Eugene Ossa
Walter Rowe	Tim Scanlon
Scott Snell	Jamy Ian Swiss

Crop circles

Because of the Mel Gibson movie "Signs," there is renewed interest in crop circles. *From Skeptic Society*: Crop circles may be one of the world's great unsolved mysteries, but a close second has to be if the creators of Crop Circle Cereal are serious about this marketing plan to launch a new breakfast cereal made from wheat grown in fields where crop circles have appeared. See all the ideas from the creative boys -- the box, sample ad spots, collectible cards and alien space music. Venture capitalists: the line starts over there. in the back 40.

Time to Renew?

Check your mailing label. If the renewal date has passed, please send \$30 (for 1 person) or \$40 (for 2 member households) for a one year renewal to the NCAS address below, or you will be dropped as a member.

Georgia's Second-Largest School District to Consider Teaching About Different Origin of Life Theories

Georgia's second-largest school district is considering a policy that could allow teaching about different theories on the origin of life, including biblical creationism. Some parents have asked that creationism be taught. The Cobb County school board voted unanimously Thursday to review for 30 days a proposal that says the district "believes that discussion of disputed views of academic subjects is a necessary element of providing a balanced education, including the study of the origin of the species." The board is expected to vote on the policy Sept. 26. Cobb County schools are already in court over the science curriculum. The American Civil Liberties Union on Wednesday sued to remove disclaimers on biological evolution in thousands of middle and high school textbooks. (Aug 22, Associated Press)

More psychic results

We were listening to a lecture on psychic phenomena in our Comparative Religions course. Our instructor told us about a woman who contacted police working on a missing-persons case. "She gave eerily detailed instructions on where to find the body," the teacher said. "In fact, the detectives did find the body just as she had described. Now what would you call that kind of person?"

While the rest of us pondered the question, a sheriff's officer taking the course raised his hand and replied, "A suspect." --Lane D. Peebles

Psychic website

For an amusing psychic trick, go to the website <http://sprott.physics.wisc.edu/pickover/esp.html>. What is equally amusing are the explanations that are given to how it works.



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