

# National Capital Area Skeptics Public Lecture Series



## **Prof. 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 Rowe will explain how TV sometimes gets it right and sometimes gets it wrong in its portrayals of forensic investigators at work.

**Saturday October 5, 2-4pm  
B-CC Services Center  
4805 Edgemoor Lane  
Bethesda, Maryland**



## **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](mailto:ncas@ncas.org)

[www.ncas.org](http://www.ncas.org)

### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

#### **Saturday, November 2**

##### **■ 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, 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.

The Bethesda-Chevy Chase Services Center is located at 4805 Edgemoor Lane in downtown Bethesda, across the street from the Bethesda Metro station. The Center is located in the two-story County office building on the plaza level of the Metropolitan complex, above a County parking garage. Free parking is available in the garage on weekends.



# Shadow of a Doubt

THE MONTHLY CALENDAR OF THE NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA SKEPTICS

OCTOBER 2002

## Perpetual Motion

Inventor Carl Tilley rented the Nashville SuperSpeedway to demonstrate his amazing electric generator. He took a 1981 DeLorean and replaced the engine with a conventional electric motor connected to twelve ordinary 12-volt batteries. The motor not only runs the DeLorean, it also runs a generator that charges the batteries, so the car just keeps going. As Tilley explains, "it utilizes the generation of static electricity rather than cutting magnetic fields which has been common practice to date." Eric Krieg, the relentless foe of perpetual motion quacks at PHACT, the Philadelphia Association for Critical Thinking, predicted that the DeLorean would suffer mechanical failure after 25 miles or so. Actually, Tilley stopped the demonstration at 52 miles, explaining that a wheel bearing had failed. That happens when you lubricate bearings with snake oil. [What's New, September 13, 2002]

## World Peace at a Profit

Two weeks after 9/11, the Maharishi Mahesh Yogi ran full-page ads appealing for donations of \$1 billion to fund an elite corps of 40,000 trained Yogic Fliers to "generate a powerful, scientifically-proven unified consciousness field," that would create permanent world peace. He now plans to fund the project with bonds issued by the Global Country of World Peace, a virtual nation he founded last year. Imagine 40,000 Yogic Fliers in the lotus position, launching themselves a few inches off the floor by constricting their sphincter muscles in unison. [What's New, August 30, 2002]

## The Truth behind the Legends

Free Forensic Mystery Workshops at the National Museum of Health and Medicine, Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Washington, DC, will be offered at 11am and noon on October 26. Registration required by calling 202-782-2200.

## Pseudoscience in Japan

[Note: The *Shadow* editor is off to Japan on a trip. Before going, a quick search of the web on current skeptical Japanese activities.]

### Are There Any Effects Other Than Suggestion in External Qi? Mikio YAMAMOTO, National Institute of Radiological Sciences, Japan.

Some qigong masters (sender) cause body movements in others (receivers) or cure diseases without any physical contact. The authors carried out scientific experiments using double blinded and randomized conditions and statistical analysis. These results show the possibility that there are some other effects than just suggestion.

### Non-visible Recognition and Pill Moving through Glass Bottle without any Physical Touch. Yoshio MACHI, Tokyo Denki University, Japan

We carried out clairvoyance experiments and obtained several physiological values to clarify the phenomenon of clairvoyance. We also conducted another experiment in physiologically moving an object without any physical contact.

### Human PSI Forum, 22-27 August, 2002, OVTA, Makuhari, Chiba (near Tokyo), Japan

[Conclusion: Pseudoscience is alive and well in Japan.]

## Out-of-Body Brain Site Found

Researchers in Switzerland have cast new light on so-called out-of-body experiences (OBEs) by triggering the experience through electrical stimulation of the brain. The find suggests that OBEs call on a part of the brain implicated in other illusory bodily perceptions:

<http://www.Academicpress.com/inscight/09192002/graphb.htm>

## Time to Renew?

Check your mailing label – **this means you**. 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.



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