

National Capital Area Skeptics Public Lecture Series

Dr. Stuart Jordon

Hot Topics: Global Warming, Solar Physics & Political Choices

The reality of global warming is now well established in spite of a persistent minority view, but the question of what is primarily responsible remains open. While much evidence favors greenhouse gases produced by human activity, and especially carbon dioxide, as the main culprit, legitimate questions remain. One possibility is that the Sun plays a larger role than is estimated from the direct heating of the terrestrial atmosphere alone.

Dr. Stuart Jordon, a solar physicist at the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center, will discuss these competing possibilities and others, and review options for clarifying the picture in the future.

Decisions that could affect future global temperatures are being made now. Dr. Jordon will review some current political efforts to control global warming until the various climate drivers are better understood. Advantages of, and flaws in, the "Kyoto Protocol" will

be addressed. The talk will include a demonstration of how those who wish to do nothing can cleverly stack the cards in support of their position, presented as a challenge to this audience of skeptics to see through the arguments presented.

**Saturday December 7, 2-4pm
B-CC Services Center
4805 Edgemoor Lane
Bethesda, Maryland**

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.



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

DECEMBER 2002

Greatest Briton

On Sunday 24 November on BBC TWO there was a live debate hosted by Anne Robinson, Peter Snow and the ten 'Great Britons' presenters. Voting continued until the end of the show - then the overall winner was announced. the Greatest Briton of all time. Two scientists were on the top 10 list: Newton and Darwin. Final votes were:

- 1 Churchill 456,498 (28.1%)
- 2 Brunel 398,526 (24.6%)
- 3 Diana 225,584 (13.9%)
- 4 Darwin 112,496 (6.9%)
- 5 Shakespeare 109,919 (6.8%)
- 6 Newton 84,628 (5.2%)
- 7 Elizabeth I 71,928 (4.4%)
- 8 Lennon 68,445 (4.2%)
- 9 Nelson 49,171 (3%)
- 10 Cromwell 45,053 (2.8%)

November 24th - the date the results of this BBC vote was announced -was also the anniversary date of the original publication of The Origin of Species in 1859.

Newtonmas is coming soon

This December 25 marks the 360th birthday of Sir Isaac Newton, the real pilot of the Apollo 8 spacecraft (in the words of Jim Lovell). (From Skeptic Society.)

Study Concludes No Difference Between Ionized Bracelet And Placebo For Musculoskeletal Pain Relief

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., Nov. 8, 2002- Researchers from Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, Fla., report wearing ionized bracelets for the treatment of muscle and joint pain was no more effective than wearing placebo bracelets in the November 2002 issue of Mayo Clinic Proceedings. Authors of the published study randomly assigned 305 participants to wear an ionized bracelet for 28 days and another 305 participants to wear a placebo bracelet for the same duration. [Are you surprised?] URL of details: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2002/11/021112075531.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. Multi-year discounts are available – avoid the annual hassle of renewing by signing up for 2, 5 or lifetime memberships. (See rates on website.)

Do Vaccines Cause Autism?

TIME MAGAZINE- Thursday, Nov. 14, 2002 By Christine Gorman- (Full story at: <http://www.time.com/time/magazine/article/0,9171,1101021118-388948,00.html?cnn=yes>) Many parents believe they do. But a large Danish study, the most rigorous so far, found no link. Any rite of passage that involves jabbing needles into small children is bound to worry more than a few parents. But that doesn't begin to explain why so many moms and dads are convinced that despite mounting scientific evidence to the contrary the triple vaccine against measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) causes autism in some youngsters



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