

National Capital Area Skeptics Public Lecture Series

Humans only use ten percent of their brains.

Eating junk food makes your face break out.

Magnets and aromatherapy cure diseases.

Milk does a body good.

Natural means safe.

Bad Medicine:

Health Myths & Quack Alternative Medicine

Christopher Wanjek Science Journalist

In articles, TV appearances, and his recent book ***Bad Medicine***, Wanjek exposes alternative medicine for the sham that it often is, specifically: magnet therapy, homeopathy, aromatherapy, liver de-toxification, mind-body healing, touch therapy, distance healing, and the "latest & greatest" in fashionable new trends, "oxygen-fortified" soft drinks.

Christopher Wanjek is a graduate of Temple University and Harvard School of Public Health. He writes on a variety of science topics for *The Washington Post* and NASA. He is a fixture on Discovery Channel Canada, has been featured on the BBC World Service and radio programs in six countries, as well as in *The Times of London*, *The Guardian*, *Science News*, and *New Scientist*. He is also a contributing writer for The Tonight Show and Saturday Night Live; humor blends with science in his writings and TV appearances.

**Saturday May 3, 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

MAY 2003

TWO NEW SKEPTICS BOOKS

Skeptic Magazine Senior Editor Frank Miele has recently authored two books: *Intelligence, Race, Genetics: Conversations with Arthur R. Jensen* (Boulder, CO: Westview Press) and *The Battlegrounds of Bio-Science: Cross-Examining the Experts on Evolutionary Psychology, Race, Intelligence, and Genetics, and Population, Environment, and Cloning* (Bloomington, IN: 1stBooks Library)

Intelligence, Race, and Genetics: Conversations with Arthur R. Jensen was favorably reviewed by *Intelligence* and *Metapsychology*, recommended by the editors of *Scientific American* (Nov. 2002), becoming the best seller on the SciAm on-line bookstore in its first month after publication, and endorsed by, among others, sociobiologist E. O. Wilson. It can be ordered through <http://www.sciam.com/books> or through amazon.com or barnesandnoble.com.

The Battlegrounds of Bio-Science brings together in one volume Miele's Skeptic Magazine interviews of best selling, world class scholars such as evolutionists Richard Dawkins (*The Selfish Gene*) and E. O. Wilson (*On Human Nature, The Ants*), anthropologists Donald Johanson (*From Lucy to Language*), Lionel Tiger & Robin Fox (*The Imperial Animal*), psychologist Robert Sternberg (*The Encyclopedia of Intelligence*), political scientist Charles Murray (*The Bell Curve*), ecologist Garrett Hardin (*The Tragedy of the Commons*), and economist Julian Simon (*The Ultimate Resource*) who take opposing views on these controversial issues. It can be ordered through Amazon.com or barnesandnoble.com.

NCAS ELECTIONS

Spring is the time for the annual elections for board positions in NCAS. If you are interested in working with other NCAS Board members on skeptical issues important to you, contact the NCAS board at ncas@ncas.org.

GRAD STUDENT NEEDED FOR PBS DOCUMENTARY

Michael Shermer recently participated as a "talking head" for a PBS documentary series on science and religion, based on a Harvard course taught by Armand Nicholi on Sigmund Freud and C. S. Lewis. The producer e-mailed him, "wondering whether you would have recommendations for a great, articulate East Coast graduate student who could engage in a dialogue about these issues from an agnostic point of view." This will be part of a mock classroom set up with the professor.

If you meet the above criteria contact the producer:

Dominique Lasseur dlassueur@tatgeprod.com
212 222 5677 212 222 6978 (direct line)

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.

MORE CREATIONISM

The Blount County (Tennessee) Board of Education in early April denied the adoption of three new biology textbooks because they teach evolution but do not cover creationism. The vote to deny the texts passed by a 2-1 margin Thursday night. Four board members did not vote. The three textbooks in question were not among the 37 science, consumer science, wellness and agriculture books adopted by the board.



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