

Malaria & AIDS Countermeasures in the Developing World:

**Policies that work, policies
that don't, and why**

Roger Bate, PhD.

Based both on his field work and his academic background in economics and environmental management, Dr. Bate takes issue with much of the conventional wisdom that prevails in these important international programs. He contends, for example, that the currently banned pesticide, DDT, has a legitimate use in combating malaria, and that it can be so used in an environmentally responsible manner.

Dr. Bate is a Visiting Fellow at the American Enterprise Institute. He studies water policy, health policy and endemic diseases in developing countries; international environmental and health agreements; policies on genetically-modified organisms and pesticide use in those countries; and the role of aid agencies and NGOs in policy development.

Dr. Bate is a Fellow of the International Policy Network and the Institute of Economic Affairs (IEA), founder and former director, IEA

Environmental Unit, cofounder, European Science and Environment Forum, and member of the board of Africa Fighting Malaria.

Dr. Bate has also worked in the private sector as a Research Analyst, Warburg Securities and Charles Stanley & Co.

**Saturday May 15, 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 2004

It's Time for the Annual NCAS Board Elections

You'll be receiving a ballot in the mail soon for the annual election for NCAS board members. Board members are elected for a 2-year term.

Please vote, and remember, you don't have to be a member of the board to participate and help. If interested in helping out send email to ncas@ncas.org.

Randi Announces the 2003 Pigasus Awards

On April 1 every year, Randi awards the coveted Pigasus awards in variable categories, for accomplishments in the previous year. Check out Randi's site to find out the latest winners: <http://www.randi.org/>

Penn & Teller's Bullshit! in its Second Season on Showtime

There is still time to catch a few shows of *Bullshit!* on Showtime. Love it, hate it, or somewhere in between, there is plenty here to react to. As the website says:

"No matter how popular a form of bullshit is—and regardless of what deep pockets or beloved figures support it—Penn & Teller are pit bulls for the truth, poised to tear down these myths in the most jaw-dropping fashion possible with their trademark wit and off-center comic sensibilities."

Bullshit! URL: <http://www.sho.com/site/ptbs/home.do>

One Less Worry for Skeptics: Mythical Giant Serpent is Placed on Sweden's Endangered Species List

Sweden has its own legend similar to the Loch Ness monster of a giant serpent that has lived for centuries in Jaemtland's Lake Storsjoen, Sweden's fifth-largest lake. It has been seen but never photographed.

A man who wanted to search for and hatch the serpents' eggs was turned down because of a 1986 decision placing the monster under protection.

An ombudsman last week asked the Jaemtland county administrative board to send the documents that led to its decision in 1986.

For more details: URL: <http://news.scotsman.com/international.cfm?id=506752004>

TLC (The Learning Channel) has Mini Articles and Presentations on its Website Around the Theme: ALIEN INVASION

TLC'S site has both credulous and skeptical (but skewed towards the credulous) material. Lots of fun and educational stuff. My favorite: a quiz in the form of a game called "*Spot the UFO*." The description of nine photos of UFOs reads:

"Can you pick the two unidentified flying objects (meaning their appearance has never been explained) among these UFO wannabes? Click on an image to discover the truth."

Once you click on the image, the sources of the photos are described. Though the site claims two of the nine photos are unexplained, I found that the seven weird-looking photos with mundane explanations undermined the claims of the unexplained photos. See what you think: <http://tlc.discovery.com/convergence/aliens/photos/game.html>

Time to Renew!

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



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