

"No tendency is quite so strong in human nature as the desire to lay down rules of conduct for other people."

William Howard Taft
(1857—1930)

Phactum

The Newsletter and Propaganda Organ of the
Philadelphia Association for Critical Thinking
February 2011

editor: Ray Haupt email: phactpublicity@aol.com
Webmaster: Wes Powers <http://phact.org/>

PhACT Meeting - Saturday, February 19, 2011 at 2:00 PM

Dr. David Cattell, Chairman of the Physics Department of Philadelphia Community College, will host David Clark, an expert on Cults.

Destructive Cults



Cartoon by Chris Madden
<http://www.chrismadden.co.uk>
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At Community College of Philadelphia in room S2-03 of the Winnet Student Life Building, the round building on 17th Street about 500 feet south of Spring Garden Street.

Admission is FREE and open to the public.

Our February talk is on **Destructive Cults**. What is the definition of a cult? How do they operate and how do they suck people in? How do they get in your head and keep you in? What can be done to help people leave?

David Clark is a thought reform consultant from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Mr. Clark has been active in this field for more than 25 years. Mr. Clark has been on the Board of the Leo J. Ryan Education Foundation and reFOCUS. He was a contributing author for the Practical

(Continued on page 2)

We live in a stage of politics, where legislators seem to regard the passage of laws as much more important than the results of their enforcement.

William Howard Taft (1857 - 1930)

27th President of the United States, 10th Chief Justice of the Supreme Court

Guidelines for Exit Counseling chapter in the W.W. Norton book, *Recovery from Cults*. In 1985 he received the Hall of Fame Award from the "original" Cult Awareness Network. He was a founding member of the "original" Focus and reFOCUS, a national support network for former cult members. He has been a national and international conference speaker on the topic of cults and has been interviewed by newspapers, radio, and TV stations on the topic of mind control and cults for over two decades.

David Clark was the 2004 American plenary speaker at Academy of Pedagogical Sciences of the Ukraine for the F.P.P.S. International Scientific-Practical Conference with the presentation title of "Thought Reform Consultation, Youth Cult Education Preparation and Sect Family Intervention Work." He was also the April 21, 2006 United States of America plenary speaker for the International Scientific Conference of Cardinal August Hlond Upper Silesian School of Pedagogy in Mysolwice, Poland. The topic was "Thought Reform Consultation, Family Youth Cult Education Preparation and Sect Intervention Work."

Mr. Clark also contributed to a May 16, 2006 History Channel special on *Opus Dei* and was fea-

tured in John Allen's important book, *Opus Dei: An Objective Look Behind the Myths and Reality of the Most Controversial Force in the Catholic Church*. He spoke on exit counseling/thought reform consultation at an international conference, "Myth and Reality of Psychological Abuse and Practical Ways to Resist It," at the Russian State University of Humanities in Moscow (March 13-14, 2008). He spoke on life in a cult and leaving a cult at a conference on cults and gangs, sponsored by Creighton University's Department of Psychiatry and the Douglas County (NB) Sheriff's Department (April 18, 2008). In 2010 David Clark was featured as an international cult expert and published by the Shanghai Academy of the Social Sciences at their Shenzhen International Symposium on Cultic Studies in Shenzhen, China.



My child, there is a sea ... nay! ... a veritable ocean of humanity out there ... and you probably won't be able to relate to any of them.

Cartoon by Grea
<http://www.sangrea.net/free-cartoons/>
Used by Permission

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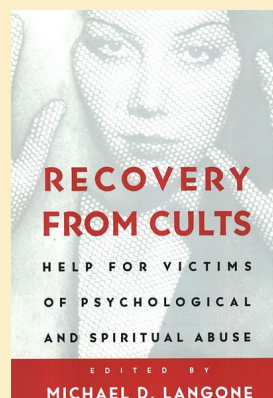
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Recovery from Cults: Help for Victims of Psychological and Spiritual Abuse

Edited by Michael D. Langone
 Publisher: W. W. Norton & Company;
 1 edition (June 17, 1995)
 Paperback: 432 pages \$17.95
 ISBN-10: 0393313212 ISBN-13: 978-0393313215



Drawing upon the clinical expertise of professionals and the personal experiences of those formerly involved in high-intensity mind-control groups, this book is a comprehensive guide to the cult experience. Michael Langone and his colleagues provide practical guidelines for helping former cult members manage the problems they encounter when leaving cults.



James Joyce
(1882 - 1941)

“I've put in so many enigmas and puzzles that it will keep the professors busy for centuries arguing over what I meant, and that's the only way of insuring one's immortality.”

James Joyce had developed considerable fame in academia as a psycho-babblist, and in accordance to his quotation above it does seem that he has achieved an immortality of sorts. We invite all to feverishly write to obtain an immortal niche and perhaps some of your writing will filter into Phactum.

Your thoughts are important and we invite you to participate in PhACT's newsletter. Puzzling and enigmatic prose and poetry are invited. We also like material that makes sense. The list of suitable topics is endless including an explication of a right to left reading of “Finnegan's Wake”. Suggested improvements to Phactum, letters of opinion, announcement of events, and articles of interest are always wanted.

“The demand that I make of my reader is that he should devote his whole Life to reading my works.”

Letters to the Editor

Editor: I was heartened to see a recent reposting of a slate.com article (<http://www.slate.com/id/114577/>) about lotteries by Jordan Ellenberg, a professor of mathematics, that explained why what's called the "expected value" of a ticket can sometimes exceed the price of the ticket. This is what I explained in a previous letter to the editor, and should serve again as a necessary corrective to the propaganda from anti-gambling zealots endemic to Phactum.

Howard J. Wilk
Philadelphia

Editors note: Thank you for the letter, Howard. I have the impression that we are not in agreement on the matter of gambling, but that is good. It makes things more interesting and I hope reinforces the notion that agreement with the Phactum Editor is not necessary.

The Slate article by mathematician Jordan Ellenberg certainly is interesting enough. I am skeptical of his conclusions however. Ellenberg talks about “expected value” of a lottery and begins with an example of a 1 in 10 probability of a win in a horse race where the prize is \$100. A gambler can easily comprehend such numbers and in a relatively small number of wagers will likely have an occasional win. When the probability of a win

is remote and the reward extremely large the mathematical perspective may well be the same but surely the social and psychological impact is far different. The PowerBall example cited by Ellenberg gives a 1 in 80,000,000 chance to the gambler to win or share a prize of \$280 million. The “expected value” is greater than 1 and thus is deemed a good bet despite being nearly a sure loss. There are sub-prizes, of course, but they do little to change the “expected value”.

In Pennsylvania Ellenberg's numbers are too optimistic. According to the official state lottery website:

<http://www.palottery.state.pa.us/payouts.aspx?id=450>

the odds of winning the PowerBall Jackpot are a dismal 1 in 195,249,054. The largest jackpot ever was \$340 million, great for the winners, not so hot for losers.

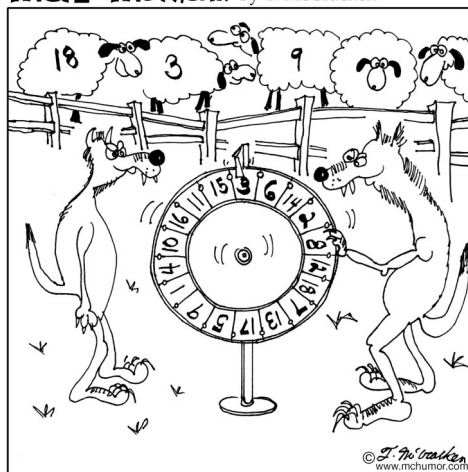
Meanwhile, the state is encouraging reckless financial behavior from its citizens under the mask of benefiting senior citizens.

Here is a website for a Mega Millions Lottery simulator. It is free. I did play ten times to simulate one century of betting. My results were that I bet \$10,400 which was offset by winnings of

\$1,025 for a net loss of \$9,375. Perhaps others will have better theoretical results.

<http://www.cockeyed.com/citizen/poker/megamillions.php>

MCHUMOR.COM by T. McCracken



Unnatural Selection.

Cartoon by T. McCracken
<http://www.mchumor.com/>
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Various Ruminations

Collected/Written by Ray Haupt
(with help from others)

George Washington Slept here ...

... according to some Philadelphia tour guides. And he slept there and there and there and so did Benjamin Franklin and likely Captain John Smith. It seems that Philadelphia tour



guides bolstered by a libertarian group, the Institute for Justice, are suing in Federal Court for the right to tell tall tales as they lead tourists around Philadelphia's historic sites. Some years ago Philadelphia created regulations that tour guides must have some minimal competence when relating history. The regulations were not enforced and apparently the competence level is indeed quite minimal.

None-the-less the tours and carriage rides are fun although the historical narrative may be suspicious ... except for the authoritative testimony of the bar tender at the Kite & Key Café, near Philadelphia Community College, that Benjamin Franklin discovered electricity at that exact spot.

http://www.philly.com/philly/blogs/inq_ed_board/Ben_Franklin_slept_here_and_so_did_Washington.html

War of the Worlds Radio Link

John Goslin, based in the UK, is an enthusiast for H.G. Wells, Orson Welles, the War of the Worlds broadcast of 1938, and all things Martian. Here is an internet link to his website: <http://www.war-of-the-worlds.co.uk/index.html>

It is a fascinating website. Check it out, and also see two articles by Don Nigroni in this Phactum on pages 9 to 12.

Also you might wish to check out this website for some classic old-time radio broadcasts:

<http://www.mercurytheatre.info/>

Facilitated communications case

In December 2007 Julian Wendrow and his wife Thal, of West Bloomfield, Michigan, a suburb of Detroit, were arrested on the charges that Julian had repeatedly raped his 14 year old autistic daughter since age 7 while Thal stood by failing to provide protection. The daughter is severely autistic operating at the level of a two year old and communicates with the help of a school supplied facilitated communications teaching aide. A statement detailing the charges was reportedly made through the teaching aide. There was no physical evidence of rape or other abuse.

In March of 2008, the case was dropped by prosecutors for lack of evidence. Furthermore, in court the aide who was not able to hear the judges questions to the girl, helped the girl type answers to those questions. Predictably the answers were gibberish.

But the damage had been done. Julian had been arrested and spent 80 days in jail, Thal was arrested and released with an electronic tether, and the girl and her 13 year old brother who has a mild case of Asperger's Syndrome were placed in foster care.

The Wendrow's brought suit against the West Bloomfield Township Police Department and in January 2011 a federal Judge awarded a \$1.8 million award to be paid by the township's insurance carrier. Further suits are likely against the Oakland County Prosecutor's Office, the Walled Lake Consolidated Schools, and the Michigan Department of Human Services.

And get a load of this: "Oakland County prosecutors said in depositions that they did not investigate the facilitated communication method before charging the Wendrows, and could not find anyone to testify that the method is reliable, despite nationwide calls after the arrests."

Interestingly, the news articles made no mention of the legal fate of the facilitated communicator and there was little mention of possibilities of trials of prosecutorial misconduct.

This tale is a fine example of **Nonsense of Stilts**. I wish the Wendrows well in upcoming trials, as they had been threatened with decades of imprisonment based on evidence so flimsy as to be non-existent.

<http://www.freep.com/article/20110112/NEWS03/101120405/1319/Family-to-get-1.8-million-in-dads-jailing-teens-false-sex-assault-interrogation>

First Century Christians in Philadelphia

The February 2011 PhACT meeting will concern itself with the adverse effects of Destructive Cults on society, led by cult expert David Clark. How convenient for PhACT's

Online PhACT Discussion Board

PhACT does have an online discussion board facility where skeptics, critical thinkers, and others can discuss whatever might be on their minds. At the moment there is some discussion of "**The Physics of Free Will**" which is the title of a scholarly Special Edition of Phactum that was authored by Al Fonda. That may be found at: <http://phact.org/special.php>

All are invited to participate in discussion of that topic or some other topic. You need not be a PhACT member. The discussion board may be found at: <http://phactforum.org/>

discussion and how desperately sad that on February 2, 2011 a Philadelphia couple was sentenced to ten years probation for having allowed their two year old son to die of bacterial pneumonia, opting instead to pray and heal by faith. The boy died in January of 2009.

The couple are members of the First Century Gospel Church of Juniata Park, a fundamentalist Christian congregation that teaches healing through prayer and considers medical care a lack of faith in God.

The probation sentence requires that the couple's SEVEN surviving children receive proper medical services and that medical records be made available to Probation Officers on demand. They must report in person to a probation officer during the first two years of their sentence and by phone the next three years. The last five years of probation do not require reporting.

The church considers members who get medical care to have sinned, it does not go so far as to shun members who see a doctor.

According to court testimony, the church permits dental care such as teeth-cleaning and filling cavities and does not proscribe other modern inventions such as personal computers.

And get a load of this: "The church's teaching has at times put it at odds with civil authorities, such as in 1991 when a city measles epidemic killed eight children whose parents were members of First Century Gospel Church or the nearby Faith Tabernacle of Nicetown, another congregation that espouses faith healing."

This sad story is yet again an example of **Nonsense on Stilts**, an example with deadly results.

The news article may be found online at:

http://www.philly.com/philly/news/20110202_Couple_who_prayed_while_son_died_get_probation.html?cmpid=41144277

Letters to the Phactum Editor about this event or similar ones are desired. What are your thoughts on the matter? phactpublicity@aol.com

Building a City of the Dead

No, we are not talking about ancient Egyptian pyramids or Catacombs in Rome, but we are talking about the creation and expansion of Philadelphia's Laurel Hill Cemetery.



Corpse-Preserving Casket.
Circa 1871.
John Gravenstine, inventor.

This website was created by Friends of Laurel Hill Cemetery and the Library Company of Philadelphia.

The Library Company is America's first successful lending library and oldest cultural institution. It was founded in 1731 by

Benjamin Franklin as a subscription library supported by its shareholders, as it is to this day.

The history of the cemetery can be found at:

<http://www.librarycompany.org/laurelhill/geo.htm>

It was clever of Franklin to have this on a website.

Homeopathic Cold Remedy

Still more **Nonsense on Stilts** was reported by Dr. Robert L. Park, a physicist, in his weekly WHAT'S NEW newsletter of Friday, 14 Jan 2011.

Dr. Park writes:

ZICAM: BREAKTHROUGH! AT LAST, A PLACEBO WITH SIDE EFFECTS.



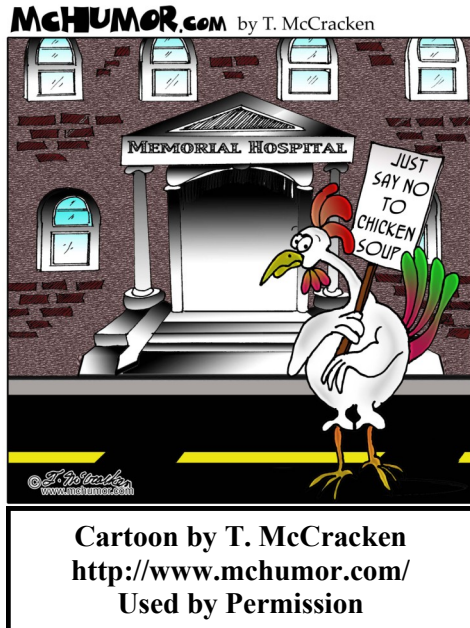
Although marketed as a homeopathic cold remedy, Zicam is not quite homeopathic. The 18th century German inventor of homeopathy, Samuel Hahnemann, believed in "vitalism," a spiritual essence that goes beyond physics or chemistry. This is by no means unusual; most people believe in spiritual or religious cures even today. "Medicine is most powerful," Hahnemann wrote, "when it communicates nothing material." Hahnemann's

counter-intuitive solution was to eliminate the cure. This he did by sequential dilution. Alas, Loschmidt had not yet determined Avogadro's number. To be certain that "nothing material" remained, Hahnemann typically used a dilution of 30C. That is, the substance was diluted to one part in 100, shaken (not stirred) and then diluted one part in 100 again, 30 times. This would exceed the dilution limit of the entire Earth, which is to say it's a meaningless result. Not so Zicam; the dilution is given on the package as only 2X; i.e., the X means the active ingredient, zinc, is diluted one part in 10, shaken, and diluted one part in 10 again. Now it's one part in 100. Compare that to Oscilloccinum, which is also marketed as a homeopathic cold remedy. The active ingredient is an extract of the liver of the Barbary duck at a ridiculous dilution of 200C. That would exceed the dilution limit of the entire visible universe and is thus totally meaningless. The average consumer is totally unaware that he's shelling out 10 bucks for a teaspoon of sugar.

SUPREME COMEDY: ENTER NOW THE NINE JUSTICES.

The case before the Court involves a class-action suit against Matrixx, the makers of Zicam, for failing to inform investors of reports that its main product might have caused some users to lose their sense of smell, a condition known as anosmia. Perhaps, but anosmia has many causes and true

homeopathic remedies have no side effects, or any other effects, since the active ingredient has been completely diluted away. But in Zicam the active ingredient, zinc, should be detectable by conventional means. In a brief explaining why Matrix did not feel obliged to report complaints of anosmia from users of Zicam, the company lawyer drew an anal-



ogy with old rumors that the Procter & Gamble logo had satanic links. The logo, consisted of a bearded man's face on the Crescent moon surrounded by 13 stars. It was said to be a satanic distortion of the heavenly symbol alluded to in Revelation 12:1. The flowing beard meets the surrounding circle with three curls that were said to be a mirror image of the number 666, the number of the beast. The foolish rumor damaged the P&G image and was withdrawn. Matrixx used the example to argue that there is no disclosure obligation on how "ignorant or paranoid people might react to false information." I would argue however that "ignorant or paranoid" is a reasonable description of anyone who buys a homeopathic product? The government position is that negative stories, even they're based on superstitious nonsense, should be disclosed to investors. According to the New York Times, Justice Scalia disagreed, saying it would hold companies to irrational standards. Standards? We're talking about a company that is marketing fraudulent medicine to a gullible pub-

lic. Inform the investors by all means, but first inform the public.

You can subscribe to Dr. Park's free newsletter by going to this website: whatsnew@bobpark.org

Gambling Notes

♣ An interesting segment on CBS 60 Minutes on slot machines that aired on 9 January - click link below to watch video. At about 8 minutes into the video, Pennsylvania Governor Ed Rendell heatedly defends gambling in Pennsylvania.

<http://www.cbsnews.com/video/watch/?id=7228424n&tag=contentMain;contentAux>

♣ Gambling survey will yield useful info - What are your gambling habits? A new survey will be used to zero in on problems associated with gambling in Pennsylvania and in the community. The gambling survey that is being conducted by the Mercyhurst Civic Institute isn't limited to questions about casino gambling. The survey also asks about Bingo, lotteries, raffle sales, games of chance, poker machines and sports betting. And it covers both legal and illegal gambling.

<http://www.goerie.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2011301259998>

♣ Dealt a bad hand - Pathological gamblers are also at risk for mental health disorders - A new Montreal inter-university study has shown these gamblers are also plagued by personality disorders. These findings, published in a recent issue of the Psychology of Addictive Behaviors, may have implications for developing improved targeted suicide prevention programs.

<http://www.healthcanal.com/mental-health-behavior/12678-Dealt-bad-hand-Pathological-gamblers-are-also-risk-for-mental-health-disorders.html>

♣ Get a load of this! Parkinson's drug in gambling addiction legal claim - A man who claims to have developed a gambling addiction after taking part in a drug trial is suing a doctor and Scotland's largest health board. He is now seeking £100,000 damages in an action at the Court of Session in Edinburgh.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-12356147>

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“An empty head is not really empty; it is stuffed with rubbish. Hence the difficulty of forcing anything into an empty head.”

~ Eric Hoffer (1902 - 1983),

American social writer and philosopher

PhACT Meeting Report(s) - January 2011

Professor Massimo Pigliucci - “Nonsense on Stilts”

The January 2011 PhACT meeting was well attended by students at Philadelphia Community College. The following meeting reports were prepared by Dr. Cattell’s physics students who took time to write their views of Dr. Pigliucci’s presentation. We encourage and appreciate student participation in PhACT events and in preparation of Phactum.

Said Elmenyawy

Massimo Pigliucci a Professor and the Department Chair of Philosophy at the City University of New York-Lehman College presented his new book “Nonsense on Stilts or How to tell Science from Bunk” during the last PhACT meeting. In spite of the title and cover of this book with fish walking on sticks, the book discussion took a fairly scientific and philosophical approach. His presentation focused on major questions discussed in the book including evolution, global warming and refusing to vaccinate children. Increased number of parents refusing to vaccinate their children as they think it causes autism where no proof was presented for the latter. Another topic presented was disbelief in the threat of global warming among American public even though many scientific discoveries were made to prove this threat real.

Pigliucci started his review by separating science from pseudoscience by depicting X and Y axis diagram and labeling them accordingly “Is the theory good?” and “Are the data supportive?” He, then, started placing different topics or disciplines on the field from Pseudoscience to Science and the position many of them took might have surprised a lot of people. Intelligent Design and Vaccine causes Autism topic ended up being placed as not good theories and not data supportive either. The next discipline that appeared on the field was Astrology. Astrology was placed in the same level though way above the first two topics, due to the fact that Astrology is data supportive and yet it is a pseudoscience. Psychology and Sociology are very data supportive disciplines and the theories are not bad; the problem with Psychology and Sociology data is that there is a lot of variation. The next group of disciplines that emerged was Scientific History, SETI and Evolutionary Psychology – very nice theories but data is extremely hard to come by. Molecular Biology, Standard Model, Evolutionary Biology and Global Warming are all good theories that have a lot of data to their support. The last one to appear on the field was String Theory that is a very good theory and yet, there is no data.

After determining which topic or discipline was a science or pseudoscience, Pigliucci put a question why should people care about it and answered it by saying that nonsense kills or hurts. He gave an example of a catch-phrase that pseudoscience successfully used in the past and unfortunately still uses now due to many people’s ignorance: “It has a 100% cure rate for...” This phrase serves as an immediate giveaway that a theory or discipline is a pseudoscience, as there is no 100% cure rate for any disease. Pigliucci then presented a wonderful example of hurting people using pseudoscience: President Yahya who is the President of Gambia uses “a murky brown mixture of seven herbs and spices” to cure HIV/AIDS in his country. Many Gambia’s citizens believed this nonsense due to their lack of knowledge and abandoned their proper medication. This careless behavior is very dangerous, and can cost thousands of lives. This example vividly shows the importance of searching the truth. Furthermore, it is a moral duty to search the truth as knowledge empowers. Massimo Pigliucci successfully used a quote of Noam Chomsky that “Intellectuals are in the position to expose the lies of governments, to analyze actions according to their causes and motives and often hidden intentions... It is the responsibility of intellectuals to speak the truth and expose the lies”.

MASSIVE HOMEOPATHIC OVERDOSE LEAVES HUNDREDS OF SCIENTISTS 0.000000000000000001% DEAD

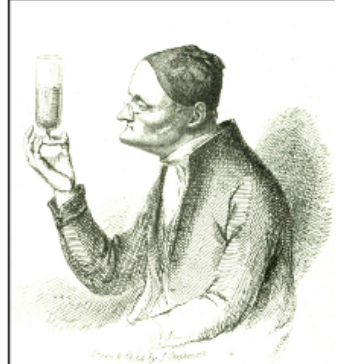
Act of Senseless Bravado
Leads to Horrifying
“Nanotragedy.”

SCIENTISTS IN MOURNING

Flag at Royal Society Lowered
Exactly One Nanometer in
Touching Tribute.

(Special to the Dispatch.)—A massive homeopathic overdose planned as a publicity stunt proved infinitesimally fatal today, as hundreds of scientists found themselves dead to a certain immeasurably small degree.

“Part of me died yesterday,” said Professor J. Dalton Quibble, a participant in the experiment. “A part that was so small the human mind cannot comprehend it.”



Professor J. Dalton Quibble searches unsuccessfully for a molecule of hepatica in a homeopathic remedy.

for the Western Pennsylvania Homeopathic Faculty who asked not to be identified. “This experiment is proof, if any were needed, that homeopathy works to an infinitesimal degree.” She cited

Next questions discussed are very important to consider: who should we listen to when evaluating claims about science and whose fault is it that public lacks the knowledge? The answer to the second question would be that it is everybody's fault that public lacks the knowledge on so many issues as scientists do not do a good job of explaining them well, people do not do a good job of studying and analyzing the material, and Media does not convey the message well. One of the problems with the Media is the argument for a pseudoscience by somebody who is an expert in a different field. Economist Bjorn Lomborg, the author of "The Skeptical Environmentalist", argued in his book that Global Warming is not an issue and people should stop believing in it. Having no prior education in the field of Biology, Bjorn Lomborg surprisingly claimed to be an expert and maintained his position dismissing Global Warming.

This example of faulty influence of Media led to the most important task: judging an expert. Pigliucci offered a solution that can be performed in a few steps: to examine the arguments presented by the expert and his/her rival – if a person has the technical know-how. If technical know-how is unavailable, then the evidence of agreement among experts should be sought. The most important addition to this step is that the experts should be from the same relevant scientific community. Then the search for independent evidence that the expert is, in fact, an expert should be conducted. At the same time questions should be asked about possible biases the expert might have about the topic under discussion. The last two steps in judging an expert would be looking at the track record of the expert and debating on intelligent design. Having this relatively easy matrix at hand, people might find it much easier now to spot the lies and distinguish between a science and a pseudoscience.

Xuan Pham

The meeting on Saturday 15th at 2pm took place in Student Life Building. Professor Massimo Pigliucci, a philosophy professor at the City University of New York, hosted the meeting. In the meeting, he introduced his new book "Nonsense on Stilts," with more telling about the subtitle "How to Tell Science from Bunk." The contents of the book present a highly approachable review and analysis of the unfolding and advancement of both the philosophy of science and science itself.

According to the introduction of Professor Massimo Pigliucci, the aim of the book was to determine the boundary separating science from non-science. He told that it is to not only find a line between science and "bunk", but also identify gray zones of science and pseudo-science. The book was introduced as three parts: the first part dealing with Science: almost science, science and pseudoscience; the second part discussing about the modern Science; the third part reviewing about the contemporary of the debate about Science. however, in the main part,

Professor Pigliucci carefully presented the examination of the "demarcation problem", famously addressed by Karl Popper. Moreover, he explained why sometimes it is difficult to bestow or deny the Science label on them, cases such as SETI, Evolutionary Psychology, and even History, etc. To make it easy to understand, he showed the audience a graph separating all kinds of science in specific area on the graph. Moreover, he also analyzed the complex relationship of the science and non-science. For example, he discussed about the critical importance and difference between deduction and induction in scientific reasoning. He was also talking about the combination of deduction, induction, mythology and postmodernism, and emphasis on constructivism, etc.

The meeting was interesting. By listening the introduction of Professor Massimo Pigliucci, the listeners understand more about the science and non-science, which is a very sticky issue in today's society. Especially, the zone separating the science from the bunk is the greatest one. It can lead the society moving toward or backward depending on the progress the human will make.

HOMOEOPATHIC CURE FOR THIRST WARRANTED EFFICACIOUS

THE HOMOEOPATHIC PRINCIPLE holds that a substance which *causes* a symptom in large doses, will *cure* the same in a minuscule dose. PROFESSOR AUGUSTUS TREACLE of the Western Pennsylvania Homoeopathic Faculty has therefore prepared a 13C dilution of *Sodium Chloride* to cure even the most extreme cases of thirst. One eight-ounce bottle of Professor Treacle's homoeopathic preparation is generally enough to cure a mild case of thirst; for more severe cases, two or even three bottles may be indicated. The efficacy of this preparation is warranted *absolutely and positively without qualification.*

**WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA HOMOEOPATHIC FACULTY,
MERCENARY DIVISION, SCHENLEY FARMS.**

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Edward Lear (12 May 1812 – 29 January 1888) was an English artist, illustrator, author, and poet, renowned today primarily for his literary nonsense, in poetry and prose, and especially his limericks, a form that he popularized. It was Lear who created the fish on stilts which is used as the cover illustration of Professor Massimo Pigliucci's fine book "Nonsense on Stilts".



Some Limericks by Edward Lear

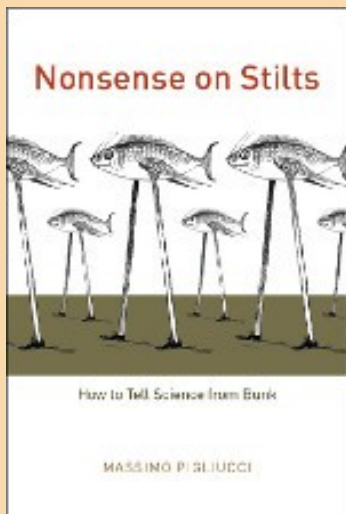
There was a Young Lady whose bonnet,
Came untied when the birds sate upon it;
But she said: 'I don't care!
All the birds in the air
Are welcome to sit on my bonnet!'

There was an Old Man of Kilkenny,
Who never had more than a penny;
He spent all that money,
In onions and honey,
That wayward Old Man of Kilkenny.

There was an Old Person of Ischia,
Whose conduct grew friskier and friskier;
He dance hornpipes and jigs,
And ate thousands of figs,
That lively Old Person of Ischia

The was a Young Lady of Bute,
Who played on a silver-gilt flute;
She played several jigs,
To her uncle's white pigs,
That amusing Young Lady of Bute.

Phactum readers are invited to submit Limericks, Clerihews, and other original poetry.



Nonsense on Stilts: How to Tell Science from Bunk By Massimo Pigliucci

Publisher: University Of Chicago Press (May 2010)
ISBN-10: 0226667863 ISBN-13: 978-0226667867
336 pages Cloth \$70.00 Paperback \$20.00

Recent polls suggest that fewer than 40 percent of Americans believe in Darwin's theory of evolution, despite it being one of science's best-established findings. More and more parents are refusing to vaccinate their children for fear it causes autism, though this link can be consistently disproved. And about 40 percent of Americans believe that the threat of global warming is exaggerated, despite near consensus in the scientific community that manmade climate change is real.

Why do people believe bunk? And what causes them to embrace such pseudoscientific beliefs and practices? Noted skeptic Massimo Pigliucci sets out to separate the fact from the fantasy in this entertaining exploration of the nature of science, the borderlands of fringe science, and—

borrowing a famous phrase from philosopher Jeremy Bentham—the nonsense on stilts. Presenting case studies on a number of controversial topics, Pigliucci cuts through the ambiguity surrounding science to look more closely at how science is conducted, how it is disseminated, how it is interpreted, and what it means to our society. The result is in many ways a "taxonomy of bunk" that explores the intersection of science and culture at large.

No one—not the public intellectuals in the culture wars between defenders and detractors of science nor the believers of pseudoscience themselves—is spared Pigliucci's incisive analysis. In the end, Nonsense on Stilts is a timely reminder of the need to maintain a line between expertise and assumption. Broad in scope and implication, it is also ultimately a captivating guide for the intelligent citizen who wishes to make up her own mind while navigating the perilous debates that will affect the future of our planet

Counterattack from the Green Gables

by Don Nigroni

On October 30, 1938 the Mercury Theatre on the Air performed their infamous dramatization of the 1898 H. G. Wells classic novel *The War of the Worlds* on their regularly scheduled Sunday radio program. The broadcast, using very realistic simulated special news bulletins and on-site



Figure 1. Green Gables tavern, Cranbury, NJ.
Photograph by Don Nigroni

reporting, told listeners that Martians had landed in Grover's Mill, New Jersey, near Princeton. Police, radio stations and newspapers evidently received at least tens of thousands and perhaps hundreds of thousands of telephone calls in response to the show.

On the 50th anniversary of the broadcast, an article appeared in a Minnesota newspaper, the *St. Paul Pioneer Press*, entitled *MARTIAN CHRONICLE WAS JUST A WAR OF WORDS*. According to that item, Henry Sears told reporters that back in 1938 he lived at the Green Gables tavern, which is located in Cranbury, near Grover's Mill, and "was doing his homework and listening to music when the first news flash cut in." Sears was 63 years old when telling the tale in 1988. He explained that he took the radio downstairs to the bar where there "were about eight customers" and "One of them, Sam Dey, said, 'Gawl damn, I'm going to get my shotgun and go find those Martians'" whereupon "Six carloads of armed farmers rushed to the landing site". After their arrival, someone said the Martians

aren't here and they all went back to the bar.

However, according to the radio show, the landing site was on the fictitious Wilmuth farm in the very real hamlet of Grover's Mill. Presumably after hearing the national broadcast mention a nearby sleepy hamlet, some men from the bar, like many other curiosity-seekers from all around, drove to Grover's Mill that night, probably to the heart of the hamlet where a grist mill and pond, at that time owned by the Dey family, were located. Upon arriving there, they probably encountered many other curiosity-seekers but, after checking things out, they then returned to the Green Gables.

In a footnote in his 2009 book *Waging "The War of the Worlds"*, John Gosling stated that the Green Gables "was located on Applegarth Road in Cranbury" but "was derelict and awaiting demolition." Nonetheless, on December 22, 2010, my cousin, Bruce A. Clark, his brother Bob, his son Andrew and I went to Cranbury in search of the place. And along Applegarth Road we found the dilapidated remains of a building with a green pitched roof that once housed a tavern (Figure 1) and inside were the remnants of a bar



Figure 2. Green Gables tavern, inside.
Photograph by Don Nigroni



Figure 3. Green Gables building, perhaps lodgings.
Photograph by Don Nigroni

(Figure 2). Presumably the family that owned the place, the Sears family, lived upstairs. Behind this building was a parking lot and beyond that was another structure, also with a green sloped roof, which might have had lodgings (Figure 3). From that very bar, shown in Figure 2, on a scary Halloween Eve night long, long ago those men must have drove to Grover's Mill armed only with shotguns. And they did so in spite of knowing full well that the radio was reporting that hostile aliens, possessing formidable weapons like heat-rays and poisonous black smoke, had landed in that typically humdrum hamlet!

Don Nigroni received a BS in economics in 1971 from Saint Joseph's University and a MA in philosophy from Notre Dame in 1973. He retired in 2007 after working 32 years as an economist for the US Bureau of Labor Statistics.

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1700 West Montgomery Avenue
, Philadelphia, PA 19121
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Wagner courses and events are free.
Tax deductible contributions are greatly appreciated.

Adult Education Course Schedule Spring 2011 Courses

Invasive Plants: A Growing Concern in the Mid-Atlantic Region, Professor Karen Snetselaar. 6 weeks, Wednesday, January 19, then Mondays, January 24 through February 21, 2011, 6:30 to 7:45 PM. Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, 100 N. 20th Street (20th and Arch Streets). This course will examine why plants are considered to be invasive and will look at common invasive plants of the Mid-Atlantic region.

This course requires preregistration. Preregistration is now open. To preregister, call 215-763-6529, ext. 23.

Adventures of a Molecular Geneticist: Tears of the Cheetah, Professor Mary Beth Davis. 6 Wednesdays, January 19 through February 23, 2011, 6:30 to 7:45 PM. Independence Branch of the Free Library, 18 S. 7th Street (between Market and Chestnut). This course will follow the work of world renowned geneticist Dr. Stephen J. O'Brien to learn basic concepts in population genetics, evolution, and genomics. No preregistration required.

Exceptional Fossil Preservation: Fossil Lagerstätten and what they reveal about prehistoric ecology and evolution, Professor William Gallagher. 10 Saturdays, January 29th through April 2nd, 2011, 10:30 AM to Noon. University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, 33rd and Spruce Streets. This course will survey some of the fossil sites that demonstrate exceptional preservation of prehistoric organisms and consider what these snapshots in time tell us about evolution and paleoecology.

No preregistration required.

Broadcasting the Barricades

by Don Nigrone

On Halloween Eve, October 30, 1938 the Mercury Theatre on the Air broadcasted on CBS radio an adaptation of the H. G. Wells 1898 novel *The War of the Worlds* concerning an alien invasion of Earth. In the radio play, the Martians initially land in Grover's Mill, New Jersey and proceed north to devastate New York City.

The regularly scheduled Sunday radio program was listed in the newspapers. Disclaimers were announced by the network at the beginning of the show, before and after the break and after the end of the play. Also, in his 1940 book *The Invasion from Mars*, Hadley Cantril noted that as it became apparent that the presentation was being misunderstood, 60% of all stations airing the network show interrupted the program to make their own disclaimers about the true nature of the broadcast. Nonetheless, there was a lengthy segment of the program consisting of very realistic simulated special news bulletins and on-site reporting. During this portion of the show, fake news reports were interspersed with orchestra music said to be coming from two hotels in New York City.

People felt insecure due to the Great Depression and anxious because of the impending world war. However, there were many clues within the play itself that something was amiss. The events were said to be taking place in 1939, not in 1938. The timing of events was out of sync with real time such as a reference to an incident that was said to have occurred at 9:15 PM on that day when the program was being aired between 8:00 PM and 9:00 PM. And reported events were occurring way too

rapidly within the hour-long show, e.g., 7,000 state militiamen were able to surround the Martians at Grover's Mill within minutes.

Nonetheless, newspaper accounts at the time indicated that on the night of October 30, in response to the dramatization, police, radio stations and newspapers received an enormous number of calls, at least tens of thousands, perhaps hundreds of thousands. The INS reported that police, radio stations and newspapers in Philadelphia alone received about 12,000 phone calls from hysterical radio listeners.

Orson Welles, the director and star of the 1938 CBS show, might have known about a radio skit that used simulated news bulletins which was broadcasted from Scotland in 1926. That show created quite a scare in the British Isles, though nowhere near the extent and intensity of that produced by the much more serious presentation of the 1938 radio play. Ronald Knox was an Anglican priest who converted to Catholicism in 1917 and was ordained a Catholic priest in 1919. He also wrote mystery novels. On Saturday night, January 16, 1926, against the backdrop of labor strife and the Red Menace, not from the Red Planet but from the Soviet Union, he broadcasted simulated news bulletins as if they were being announced by telephone from London concerning a riot there by unemployed demonstrators. Interspersed with the bogus news reports was band music said to be coming from the Savoy Hotel.

Monsignor Ronald Arbuthnott Knox (17 February 1888 - 24 August 1957) was an English theologian, priest and crime writer.



Knox wrote and broadcast on Christianity and other subjects. While a Roman Catholic chaplain at the University of Oxford (1926-1939) and as domestic prelate to Pope Pius XI (1936), he wrote classic detective stories. In 1929 he codified the rules for detective stories into a "decatalogue" of ten commandments. He was one of the founding members of the Detection Club which included Agatha Christie, Dorothy L. Sayers, Freeman Wills Crofts, Arthur Morrison, John Rhode, Jessie Rickard, Baroness Emma Orczy, R. Austin Freeman, G. D. H. Cole, Margaret Cole, E.C. Bentley and H. C. Bailey. G. K. Chesterton who was first president of the club. Knox wrote several works of detective fiction, including five novels and a short story featuring Miles Bredon, who is employed as a private investigator by the Indescribable Insurance Company.

From an article that appeared in *The Sioux City Sunday Journal* dated April 25, 1926 we can gather that the radio

show went out from Edinburgh at 7:40 PM over the BBC prompting numerous phone inquiries to the broadcasting headquarters and newspapers and about 200 calls to the Savoy Hotel which had presumably been blown up by the mob. The Iowa paper also related that there had been a disclaimer before the skit began.

Nonetheless, were there any hints within the simulated news bulletins that could have made listeners suspicious? While, unlike for the 1938 play, no audio recording of the 1926 show evidently exists, the script does appear in Knox's 1928 book *Essays in Satire*. Based on that script, below are just some of the fake reports from his 1926 radio skit *Broadcasting the Barricades*:

- 1) The demonstrators were led by Mr. Popplebury who was then Secretary of the National Movement for Abolishing Theatre Queues.
- 2) Sir Theophilus Gooch quickly attracted the attention of

his employers but as nothing was ever proved, he retired a wealthy man. However, while on his way to the radio station in London, he was seized and was being roasted alive by a mob in Trafalgar Square and would hence be unable to deliver his lecture on housing the poor.

- 3) The rowdy crowd demolished the Houses of Parliament with trench mortars and Big Ben had fallen to the ground, therefore, Greenwich Time would be given that evening from Edinburgh on Uncle Leslie's repeating watch.

The BBC, originally known as the British Broadcasting Company, was new, having only begun operations in 1922, and the fear that a Bolshevik revolution might break out in England was palpable. Nonetheless, the broadcast did have many touches of humor indicting that it was all just a joke.

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Monsignor Ronald Knox's Decalogue of Crime Novel Genre Rules from 1929

1. The criminal must be someone mentioned in the early part of the story, but must not be anyone whose thoughts the reader has been allowed to follow.
2. All supernatural or preternatural agencies are ruled out as a matter of course.
3. Not more than one secret room or passage is allowable.
4. No hitherto undiscovered poisons may be used, nor any appliance that will need a long scientific explanation at the end.
5. No Chinaman must figure in the story.
6. No accident must ever help the detective, nor must he ever have an unaccountable intuition that proves to be right.
7. The detective must not himself commit the crime.
8. The detective must not light on any clues which are not instantly produced for the inspection of the reader.
9. The stupid friend of the detective, the Watson, must not conceal any thoughts that pass through his mind; his intelligence must be slightly, but very slightly, below that of the average reader.
10. Twin brothers, and doubles generally, must not appear unless we have been duly prepared for them.



IS IT HYPOCRISY TO ARGUE CONTRARY TO YOUR OWN POSITION?

by Paul Schlueter III

hypocrisy - n. 1. The practice of professing beliefs, feelings, or virtues that one does not hold or possess; insincerity. -The American Heritage Dictionary, 2nd College Ed.

What parental argument hasn't been rebutted by a teen's proclamation that the parent is a hypocrite? For a teen, there aren't many epithets more venomous than hypocrisy; to someone who still holds tightly to idealism and absolute values (teen or otherwise), there is little worse than a double standard.

Yet, the very open-mindedness that marks scientific or rational inquiry MANDATES that one eschew "a priori" judgement: (the reaching of a conclusion prior to examination of all the facts available.). In order to give your honest best effort to reaching a well-reasoned conclusion, it is a NECESSITY to fairly consider all sides and factors of an issue or question. To do this, it is unavoidable for a reasonable person to engage in technical hypocrisy, attempting to fully and accurately consider "the opposing viewpoint."

Very few of us have the mental discipline to engage in pure logic, as would the fictional "Spock" in the Star Trek series. We all ask our questions with SOME a priori leaning already established. In the case of those likely to be reading this, it's almost a given that we highly value our existing academic knowledge, and are disinclined to consider factors we feel are based in intuition, belief, or myth. We are probably quick to assume that one making a surprising claim is either a

charlatan or a fool. We tend to have a high level of confidence in what we already think we know. To the degree that we can be defined as having a common character, that pretty much defines it. However, that very "skeptical" mindset can get in the way of our giving unexpected or unusual claims a truly fair hearing. It takes a certain sort of determined discipline to REFRAIN from simply dismissing arguments out-of-hand, in the belief that we already know better.

This is where the "Devil's Advocate" becomes the skeptic's conscience! We need, in some corner of our awareness, that voice that constantly asks us, "Yeah, but what if ...?" If we are REALLY serious about our investigations, and use a full team of people to make the most of our work, then we need to include on that team at least one very clever person, capable of arguing for the woo-woo position, to keep us honest. That person doesn't necessarily have to believe the far-out, but they MUST be capable of playing the role of a true believer with effectiveness and integrity... in other words, they must be either a believer, or a very good hypocrite.

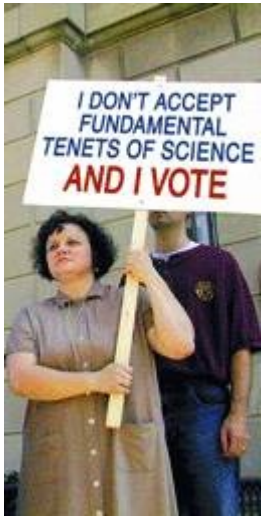
Within our own minds, it may be a bit difficult to pin down the neurological location of the alternate personality

who can fairly argue against the position we tend to already hold. Still, any self-respecting rationalist has an ethical obligation to develop just such an alter ego, and to feed it generously. Let's say someone comes to me with a new invention enabling the use of an alternate, renewable fuel for my car. My initial reaction may

"... [S]cience always encounters uncertainty at one level or another. Embracing uncertainty is one of science's strengths - it allows for new information to modulate judgements and correct mistaken beliefs. The skill is in distinguishing between what is certain and what isn't (or at least what lies closer to one end or the other of that spectrum)."

**~ Tom Siegfried, Editor in Chief,
Science News Editorial, Dec. 4, 2010, re. Climate
Change and its deniers**

well be, "Yeah, right..." but if I wish to be fair and reasonable, I MUST at least give his claims a cursory review, and listen for plausible theories, for evidence of a rational approach during R&D, for indications that people with integrity have witnessed any test results, and so on. As my alter ego listens for such indications that "this nut" may actually have something, my inner skeptic must also be willing to withhold judgement at least until I'm able to figure out if the guy knows his stuff or not. If I DON'T give the alter ego a fair hearing, then there's a strong chance that, sooner or later, I'll make a fool out of myself in refusing to audition a deserving idea, simply because my a priori mindset thought it knew better, when it actually didn't.



Given this recognition, I have to conclude that it is NOT hypocrisy to argue contrary to one's own position - at least, not automatically so the dictionary definition here lacks an important caveat, specifically the need to argue (either internally, or as the Devil's Advocate of a group) against one's first impression, and maybe even against several of the subsequent impressions, in the spirit of ethical open mindedness and the rational need to consider all the possibilities prior to reaching a conclusion.

This doesn't mean that I have to go through this every time the teen wants to go out drinking with classmates; whether I drink with my friends or not, there's still a legal drinking age that trumps all cries of "unfairness." Also, if I have had previous encounters with a person who had no logical clue, or who I caught running a con, there's no obligation to give him a full, careful audition for each new

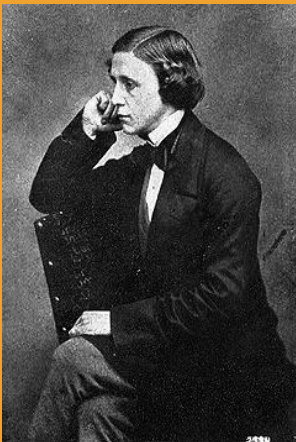


claim; you don't try to pet a dog that bit your hand the last time!

In that light, there's another indication I think is fairly revealing; if the person making a claim DOES NOT give me a clear indication that he has engaged in effective self-critical thinking in preparing his case for presentation, I'll have a pretty good indication that he's a credulous, single-minded true believer, lacking maturity at best, and perhaps stubbornly refusing to acknowledge even the possibility of error at the middle. At worst, such a person is deliberately attempting to mislead others. So, ask yourself if the claimant is a little too concerned about being thought a hypocrite; it could just be an indication of deliberate deception.

Paul Schlueter III is serving Life in Prison in NE Pennsylvania. His supporters have created a website about him. www.jaylbird.org

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Lewis Carroll
(1832 - 1898)

"There is no use trying, said Alice; one can't believe impossible things. I dare say you haven't had much practice, said the Queen. When I was your age, I always did it for half an hour a day. Why, sometimes I've believed as many as six impossible things before breakfast."

~ Lewis Carroll, *Alice in Wonderland*

Suicide, a la Al-Qaeda

by Paul Schlueter III

After reading "Suicide and the Bible" (Sept. 2010), a friend gave me a book he thought would help clarify what Islam has to say about suicide, particularly in light of the suicide bomber terrorists who claim to represent Islam. The book is a Pulitzer Prize winner, "*The Looming Tower; Al-Qaeda and the Road to 9/11*", by Lawrence Wright (Vantage Books, 2007, ISBN 978-1-4000-3084-2, \$15.95), an historical narrative spanning five decades of Al-Qaeda's rise to infamy.

For 421 pages, Wright relates personal interviews and research, and then he tacks on 120 pages of bibliography, notes, interviews, and credits. This is a serious intellectual effort of non-fiction, yet the writing is accessible and interesting. The extensive index includes a listing for suicide, broken into two sections. The first lists mentions of suicide bombers, while the second lists mentions of Islam's taboo on suicide.

Suicide bombing, as a tactic of the specific group called Al-Qaeda, dates back to the early '80s. Imad Mugnyiah, head of Hezbollah's security service, had planned the 1983 suicide car bombing of the U.S. Embassy and Marine barracks in Beirut, which killed more than 300 Americans (and 58 French, who also shared the barracks); the attack led to the withdrawal of peacekeeping forces from Lebanon soon after. Bin Laden sent some of his top people to train with the Hezbollah, and Mugnyiah agreed to train Al-Qaeda operatives in exchange for weapons.

In 1995, Zawahiri's men bombed the Egyptian Embassy in Islamabad, Pakistan. A pickup truck loaded with 250 lbs. of explosives was set off by two suicide bombers, killing sixteen and wounding sixty; it was the first mass murder under Zawahiri's administration of al-Jihad. Pakistan locked up two hundred terrorist suspects for deportation, and Bin Laden showed up with airline tickets to take them to Sudan. Though Islam expressly forbids suicide (see below), Zawahiri devised an argument to rebut those who criticized his use of suicide bombers: First, he declared that there were, by definition, no "innocents" within the embassy, and all persons there were "supporters of the Egyptian regime,"

which had detained Islamic fundamentalists and would not permit Islam to hold the force of law. This made them all, in Zawahiri's argument, enemies of Al-Qaeda. Second, he declared that no "true Muslim" could work for the regime. Finally, as for such innocents as children, etc., "Muslims are weak and their enemy is so powerful," so the rules against slaughtering innocents must be relaxed to help level the battlefield.

The Koran states (citation not offered), "Do not kill yourselves." Also, the Prophet's Sayings (hadith) "are replete with instances in which Mohammed condemns" suicide. The punishment for suicide is to burn in hell, and "to be forever in the act of dying by means of the same instrument that was used" to commit suicide.

Zawahiri, defending the use of suicide bombers, argued that "the way of death and martyrdom is a weapon that tyrants and their helpers, who worship their salaries instead of God, do not have." Zawahiri could find only one example in Islamic tradition; a group of early Muslims, captured by "idolaters," were forced to choose between renouncing Islam or being killed, and they chose the latter. Following this train of doctrine, Zawahiri declared that "anyone who gives his life in pursuit of the true faith - such as the bombers in Islamabad - is to be regarded not as a suicide ... but as a heroic martyr."

Wright's words are too profound to paraphrase. "With such sophistry, Zawahiri reversed the language of the Prophet and opened the door to universal murder."

There's much more in this book on the subject of suicide, and on Al-Qaeda's adoption of suicide bombers in what they declare to be support of Islam, but I'm already pressing the boundaries of "fair use" in quoting as much as I have, and paraphrasing the rest of the explanation above. Besides, Wright is just one author, no matter how authoritative his work may be, and we should not rely too heavily on a single opinion of anything.

I'll wrap up by saying that I've invariably heard that Islam is no more "terroristic" in its nature than Christianity, Judaism, the old Japanese Shinto religion, and many others.

"If you are talking about terrorism, you need to sit down and understand what is making these people put dynamite around their waists and blow themselves up."

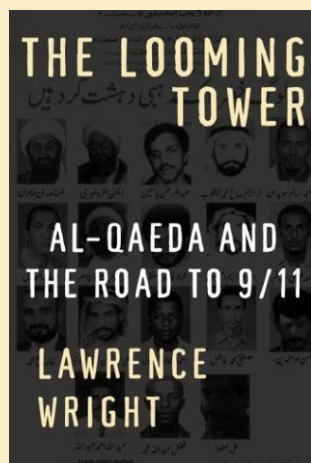
~ Lakhdar Brahimi, born January 1, 1934 in Algeria, United Nations envoy and advisor until retirement in 2005

Religions do, at times, make fodder from the violence of old leaders and true believers. Some religions go so far as to codify the actions of warriors, declaring that such and such will be honorable, while this and that other action is blasphemous or sacrilegious. It's difficult to say that one is "good," while another is "evil," for having defined the rules of engagement for its adherents to follow!

However, the U.S. population is currently enthralled by a certain anti-Muslim bigotry, often "justified" by quoting the misinformation that Islam inherently supports the suicide bombing tactics of certain radical fundamentalists (or revisionists, such as Zawahiri). Until someone offers credible

evidence that the hadith of Mohammed or the text of the Koran support such methods, whether in terrorism or in declared warfare, then I think it's a critical thinker's obligation to refute such ignorant bigotry, and to point out that Al-Qaeda does not speak, nor act, for all of Islam. One need not adopt Islam (nor ANY religion) to insist that bigotry between religions is deeply unethical. None of us can thrive if we're attacking one another in ideological hatred.

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The Looming Tower: Al-Qaeda and the Road to 9/11 By Lawrence Wright

Publisher: Knopf; 1 edition (August 8, 2006)

Hardcover: 480 pages, \$30.00

ISBN-10: 037541486X ISBN-13: 978-0375414862

Lawrence Wright has written an utterly absorbing book that will both captivate and appall you, and not just because of his recounting of the breathtaking horrors that took place on September 11, 2001. Equally appalling is Wright's depiction of the entrenched bureaucrats at the CIA, FBI and the National Security Agency, who failed to share crucial information with one another because of petty personal differences and agency cultures that value conformity above true

investigative ability. Had the CIA, in particular, released information regarding the whereabouts of several individuals who ultimately participated in the 9-11 attacks, those tragedies might well have been prevented.

Reading these things was deeply painful for me, who watched the Trade Towers collapse as I sped across Queens trying to get home to my family in Brooklyn Heights. I can only imagine how distressing this experience might be to those who lost friends and loved ones in the attacks that day. Yet Wright has handled this difficult material in a way that makes it bearable to read, and his pacing of the story is masterful. The Looming Tower reads like a suspense novel at times and the writing is lyrical.

The book is also chock full of pertinent facts and background material that help make sense, insofar as that is even possible, of the motivations of the terrorists. I have never seen logic in the tactics of al Qaeda and similar groups, but this book has helped me understand that logic is not the driving force. Rather it seems to be history, the pursuit of a tribal conception of "honor" and a desire to recreate past glory that is far more important than logic. Wright connects those dots to paint a picture of the "terrorist" that is far more three-dimensional than the one that Bush Administration officials and the media have given us.

There are also a number of oddball facts and anecdotes that enliven The Looming Tower and add to its interest. For example, Wright relates a tidbit that highlights the so-called "clash of cultures" better than anything I've read to date: "[Jamal al-Fadl] would become al-Qaeda's first traitor. He offered to sell his story to various intelligence agencies in the Middle East, including the Israelis. He eventually found a buyer when he walked into the American Embassy in Eritrea in June 1996. In return for nearly \$1 million, he became a government witness. While in protective custody, he won the New Jersey Lottery."

There are lots of other gems in this book, including some nearly unbelievable tales about John O'Neill, who would be the hero (or perhaps anti-hero) of Wright's book, if it had a hero, which it doesn't. You should really buy The Looming Tower right away and read it for yourself.

PHACT CALENDAR

Dr. David Cattell, Chairman of the Physics Department of Community College of Philadelphia hosts meetings of **PhACT** - at 2:00 PM on the third Saturday of most months at Community College of Philadelphia... Parking is easily available and costs \$3.75 for all day. Enter the college parking lot on 17th Street which is one way south bound. This meeting site is handicap accessible. **PhACT Meetings are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted.**



Note: This month's meeting will be in the Winnet Student Life Building, on 17th St. See Page 1.

Saturday, February 19, 2011 - Our February talk is on **Destructive Cults** and will be led by **David Clark**, an expert on cults. What is the definition of a cult? How do they operate and how do they suck people in? How do they get in your head and keep you in? What can be done to help people leave? will speak on cults.

See page 1 for more details. This event is **FREE** and open to the general public.

Saturday, March 19, 2011 - **Real Geology vs Hollywood Disaster Movies** - **Professor Jon Nyquist**, an environmental geophysicist at Temple University will be our speaker.

Saturday, April 16, 2011 - TBA

Saturday, May 21, 2011 - **Annual PhACT Banquet at Sorello Rose in Flourtown, PA.** **Thomas Beebee**, Professor of Comparative Literature at Pennsylvania State University will discuss the End of the World, including the End of the World scheduled for that day. Should our meal begin with dessert?

Tuesday, February 8, 2011 at 7:30PM - **Annette Gordon-Reed | "Andrew Johnson: The American Presidents Series: The 17th President, 1865-1869"** at **Free Library of Philadelphia**, 1901 Vine Street, 19103 - When Andrew Johnson succeeded Abraham Lincoln to the presidency of the United States, he faced a nearly impossible task: to reconcile the nation after the Civil War while working with a recalcitrant Congress controlled by the Radical Republicans. In her new biography, Annette Gordon-Reed—a leading historian of slavery in the United States—illustrates Johnson's pivotal moments and missed opportunities. A professor of law at New York Law School, Gordon-Reed won the Pulitzer Prize and National Book Award for *The Hemingses of Monticello*. She is the author of *Thomas Jefferson and Sally Hemings: An American Controversy*, co-author with Vernon Jordan of *Vernon Can Read!*, and the editor of *Race on Trial*. Cost: \$15 General Admission, \$7 Students, Buy tickets online <http://libraryphila.tix.com/Event.asp?Event=329959>, Tickets on sale January 7, 2011 at 10:00 AM

Thursday, February 10, 2011 - 4:00 - 7:00 PM, Lecture at 5:30 PM at the Wagner Free Institute of Science, 1700 West Montgomery Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19121
Nasal Attraction: How Your Nose Can Help You Select a Suitable Partner

Presented by **Dr. Johan Lundstrom**, Monell Chemical Senses Center
Does the nose know best? Recent scientific discoveries have shown that a woman's partner choice depends on personal chemistry. More specifically, the data demonstrates that information about genetic similarities is hidden within body odor and that this information can help in the selection of a partner. Just in time for Valentine's Day, this talk will reveal how this mechanism was discovered, how it works, and how it may impact our everyday lives. Dr. Johan Lundström leads the Cognitive Neuroimaging Laboratory at the Monell Chemical Senses Center. His research aims to provide a better understanding of how the human brain allows us to perceive, process and understand chemosensory information. Free. **ph 215-763-6529** www.wagnerfreeinstitute.org

Thursday, February 10, 2011 at 7:30PM - **Michael Scheuer | "Osama bin Laden"** at **Free Library of Philadelphia**, 1901 Vine Street, 19103 Michael Scheuer—the former chief of the bin Laden unit at the CIA's Counterterrorist Center—is the bestselling author of *Imperial Hubris: Why the West is Losing the War on Terrorism* and *Through Our Enemies' Eyes: Osama bin Laden, Radical Islam, and the Future of America*. With Osama bin Laden, Scheuer challenges bin Laden biographers who depict the mastermind of the attacks of September 11, 2001, as a no-longer-relevant historical figure. Instead, he offers a hard-headed, closely reasoned

The **PhACT Calendar** is open to members and non-members who wish to announce meetings and events of other groups of which they are interested or affiliated. These events should be of some general interest to the Skeptical or Scientific community and should be within a reasonable radius of Philadelphia. Send submissions to the editor at phactpublicity@aol.com. Keep the announcements brief. Space is limited and insertions will be made on a first come-first served basis after the needs of PhACT are accomplished. Phactum does not accept paid advertising.

portrait that shows bin Laden as a leader and strategic genius with considerable rhetorical abilities. Patient, devout, and ruthless, Scheuer's bin Laden remains a formidable enemy of the West.
FREE. No tickets required. For Info: 215-567-4341.

**Saturday, February 12, 2011 at Noon to 2pm -
at Laurel Hill Cemetery 3822 Ridge Avenue - Philadelphia, PA19132.
'Til Death do Us Part: The Love Stories of Laurel Hill**



Join us in honoring the "spirit" of Valentines' Day. Love and Death...The preferred subjects of poets and philosophers across eras and oceans...Subjects intertwined in their great mystery, in their power to inspire, to destroy, and to change our worlds forever.

Some may contend that Death can not bring an end to true Love, while others deem only Love itself to be colder, more unforgiving than Death. The love stories of Laurel Hill are as varied as the hearts from which they have sprung...Hearts no longer intact, though perhaps still beating...for someone...somewhere.

While many of the stories we'll hear may certainly warm our hearts, the rest of our appendages will be subject to the stone-cold of a cemetery winter. Please dress appropriately. Red wine and sultry bites will warm your flesh afterwards. \$25.00 **215-228-8200**

<http://www.thelaurehillcemetery.org>

Sunday, February 13, 2011 from 2 to 4 pm. Cape May Traditional Jazz Society Presents Traditional Jazz. at VFW Post 386, 419 Congress St., Cape May, NJ 609-884-7961 "Al Harrison Dixieland Band" Al Harrison trumpet, Joe Midiri clarinet, Fred Scott trombone, Jim Parker tuba, Lew Leabman drums, Franny Smith, banjo with a red hot, swinging, fun show. Ticket charge - \$10 advance purchase (609-884-7961) / \$15 at door - everyone is welcome.

www.capemaytraditionaljazzsociety.com

www.alharrisonmusic.com

Monday, February 14, 2011 - St. Valentines Day - you know what to do, guys, so get to it!

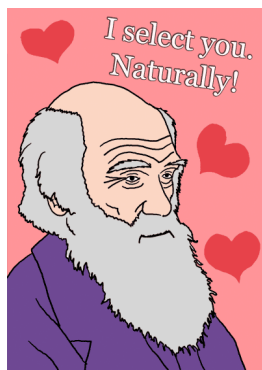
Monday, February 14 @ 6:00 PM - Science on Tap: A Science Café

at **National Mechanics**, 22 South Third St. Philadelphia PA 19106, 215-701-4883

In celebration of the **International Year of Chemistry (IYC 2011)**, we're pleased to welcome **Sam Kean**, author of *The Disappearing Spoon and Other True Tales of Madness, Love, and the History of the World from the Periodic Table of the Elements*. Kean, who was interviewed in a recent episode of *Distillations*, CHF's award-winning podcast, will speak further about his publication and the human stories within the field of chemistry.

Free and Open to the public (age 21+) or minors accompanied by a chaperone 25+. Want to join the Science on Tap mailing list? Contact us at scienceontapphilly@gmail.com and include "subscribe to mailing list" as the subject line

<http://www.chemheritage.org/visit/events/science-on-tap/index.aspx>



SOCRATES CAFE is moderated by: Lewis Mifsud, Ph.D., P.E., a member of PhACT and of The American Academy of Forensic Sciences. At the Springfield Township Public Library (215-836-5300) at 1600 Papermill Mill Road, Wyndmoor, PA. 19038. This philosophical discussions group is free and open to the public. Join us and share your critical thinking, questions and opinions.



Tuesday, February 15, 2011 at Noon to 1:00 p.m. at the Chemical Heritage Foundation, 315 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106

Brown Bag Lecture: "The Frog, the Ox, and the Hanged Man: Giovanni Aldini and the Popular Uses of Galvanism in Britain, 1802-1803"

A talk by Iain Watts

In the winter of 1802-1803 the Italian experimental philosopher Giovanni Aldini visited Britain to showcase his experiments in the new and rapidly developing science of Galvanism. His dramatic displays involving the application of the newly invented voltaic battery to animal bodies—often with powerful and lurid results—captured an audience of the social elite and turned Galvanism into a popular vogue existing at the border between scientific demonstration and grotesque spectacle. This talk, based on work in progress, will examine Aldini's experiments and the sensation they created, and also their reappropriation as a cultural object by newspapers and by other experimenters who refashioned them into popular instructive entertainments staged in various venues, from London theaters to Yorkshire pubs. In the process it will touch on what it meant for this particular science to become "popular" circa 1800; on the consequent connection to jokes, spoof, and satire; and on the birth of electrochemistry.

Iain Watts is a graduate student in the history department at Princeton University, working in the areas of history of science and British history in the 18th and 19th centuries. Previously he completed an M.Sc. in history of science from University College London and Imperial College London, and originally trained in natural sciences at the University of Cambridge.

Free. Open to the Public Tel: 215-925-2222 •

<http://www.chemheritage.org>

Tuesday, February 15, 2011 at 7:30PM at the Free Library of Philadelphia, 1901 Vine Street, 19103

How the West Was Lost: Fifty Years of Economic Folly—and the Stark Choices Ahead

Global economist Dambisa Moyo is the author of the controversial and critically acclaimed New York Times bestseller *Dead Aid: Why Aid is Not Working and How There is a Better Way for Africa*, which details the inefficacy of development aid for poor countries. Kofi Annan, former United Nations Secretary-General, acknowledged that Moyo "makes a compelling case for a new approach in Africa." And, *Time* named her one of the "100 Most Influential People in the World." In her new book, Moyo examines how politically motivated policy decisions about capital, labor, and technology—key ingredients for growth—have unbalanced the already-precarious global economy.

Cost: \$15 General Admission, \$7 students.

<http://libwww.freelibrary.org/authorevents/>

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2011 at 12 noon -

at College of Physicians of Philadelphia, 19 South Twenty-Second Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103/

40 Years and Counting: The War on Cancer

In 1970, President Richard Nixon declared war on cancer. During the past forty years, much progress has been made toward achieving the goal of controlling this disease, and the mortality rates for almost all cancers have declined. Significant advances have been made, especially in the cure of pediatric cancers, by virtue of a coordinated national effort. Medical oncologists have successfully adopted the approaches of pediatric oncologists, which has also led to cures. In addition, greater knowledge of specific etiological factors has reduced mortality through prevention efforts made worldwide. However, the most dramatic advances during the past four decades have been in the areas of basic science and genetics. We will discuss the roles of heredity, environment and spontaneous mutation in the origin of cancer, what we may learn from hereditary cancer, how some cancers can be cured and others prevented, and why the disease will never disappear.

Speakers: Alfred Knudson, MD and Anna Meadows, MD

Alfred Knudson, MD, discovered the world of genetics in Morgan's Biology Department at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech) as an undergraduate. He then traveled east to study medicine, discovering pediatrics at Columbia's College of Physicians and Surgeons. He earned a

PhD in Genetics at Caltech, and then went to the University of Texas and MD Anderson Cancer Center where he served as Dean of the Graduate School. In 1976 he became the Director of the Institute for Cancer Research at the Fox Chase Cancer Center. He continues his research at Fox Chase, where he also serves as special assistant to the president.

Anna T. Meadows, MD, earned a BA from Queens College, an MA in Psychology from New York University, and an MD Degree from Women's Medical College. In 1972, she came to The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) as a Fellow, eventually becoming a Professor of Pediatrics in the School of Medicine. She developed the first survivorship program at CHOP and, later, the Living Well after Cancer Program at the University of Pennsylvania. She has served as the Chief of Oncology at CHOP, and as the first Director of the Office of Cancer Survivorship at the National Cancer Institute. Dr. Meadows' clinical and research work has focused on the epidemiology of childhood cancer, and developing treatment programs for children with leukemia, lymphoma and retinoblastoma. Her major professional efforts have addressed the study of cancer survivors.

Cost: \$10.00 includes lunch.

Register at: <http://www.eventbrite.com/event/1111423297>

(215) 563-3737 x304 http://www.collphyphil.org/prog_calendar.htm

Wednesday, February 16, 2011 at 7:00 PM - Penn Science Café. At the MarBar, 40th and Walnut streets, 2nd floor of the Marathon Grill, menu items available for purchase **Dog My Cats: Why Cats Are Not Small Dogs In Shelters: The Obvious, the Occult, and the Counterintuitive World of Animal Sheltering.** **Michael Moyer, VMD, Rosenthal Director of Shelter Animal Medicine.**

Cats, sheltering, homeless animals, and prospective adopter markets are not always in perfect alignment. The situation for dogs is better, but for certain breed types, still not very good. Dr. Moyer is a former animal shelter executive, a practicing veterinarian, and more recently, an educator in a field of high stakes, scarce resources, and often absent data. Moyer has also held various elected and appointed positions within these organizations, notably having served as the PVMA's President for the year 2004 and was awarded the PVMA Veterinarian of the Year award for 2005. He is currently the President-Elect and Board Member of the American Animal Hospital Association.

Free and open to the public.

<http://www.upenn.edu/pennnews/sciencecafe>

Thursday, February 17, 2011 at 7:30PM at the Free Library of Philadelphia, 1901 Vine Street, 19103

The Bridge: The Life and Rise of Barack Obama

With his New York Times bestselling biography *The Bridge*, **David Remnick**—editor of *The New Yorker*—offers a personal and historical context for Barack Obama's extraordinary political career. Remnick's exhaustive research—including interviews with Obama's schoolmates, teachers, mentors, and disparagers—illuminates the President's critical formative years, showing the evolution of his social conscience, as he developed from student to community organizer to Senator, and situates his political rise against the galvanizing intersection of race and politics in Chicago. "Remnick has many important additions and corrections to make to our reading of *Dreams from My Father*," writes Garry Wills in the *New York Times Book Review*. "The book's insights into Obama's character will be very useful for understanding the man's performance as president."

Cost: \$15 General Admission, \$7 students.

<http://libwww.freelibrary.org/authorevents/>

Friday, February 18, 2011 at 6:30PM - at College of Physicians of Philadelphia, 19 South Twenty-Second Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103—**Illustrated reading with Mary Cappello, author of *Swallow: Foreign Bodies, Their Ingestion, Inspiration, and the Curious Doctor Who Extracted Them*.** As one of the most popular exhibits in the Mütter Museum, the Chevalier Jackson collection of swallowed objects has fascinated museum-goers for years. Now come and experience the Chevalier Jackson collection in a whole new way as the Mütter Museum hosts Mary Cappello, author of *Swallow: Foreign Bodies, Their Ingestion, Inspiration, and the Curious Doctor Who Extracted Them*, a new book on the collec-

tion. Additionally, Cappello will serve as co-curator of the new Chevalier Jackson collection. Don't miss Cappello's unique take on the collection, sure to engage newcomers and veterans of the Museum alike. Event will also feature a book signing.

(215) 563-3737 x304 http://www.collphyphil.org/prog_calendar.htm

February 18, 2011 at 7:00 PM - Delaware Valley Amateur Astronomers in the Greater Plymouth Community Center, 2910 Jolly Rd, Plymouth Meeting, PA -

"BLAST --Balloon-borne Large-aperture Submillimeter Telescope"

Professor Mark Devlin, University of Pennsylvania's Physics & Astronomy Dept., on "BLAST -- Balloon-borne Large-aperture Submillimeter Telescope" and its latest findings - experimental cosmology. Free and open to the public. <http://dvaa.org>

Saturday, February 19, 2011 at 4pm - at Laurel Hill Cemetery 3822 Ridge Avenue - Philadelphia, PA19132.

The Victorian Celebration of Death

During the Victorian period, the burial customs and places used by western society changed greatly and for a variety of reasons. Join us for a discussion inside Laurel Hill's historic Gatehouse concerning the rituals surrounding the death of a loved one, including clothing, burial processions, monuments and symbolism. Following this, a tour of the cemetery will highlight monuments and gravestones illustrating the mourning symbolism discussed earlier. The program will focus on individuals who lived (and died) in this period, such as famed painter Thomas Sully and publisher of Godey's Lady's Book, Louis Antoine Godey. \$20.00 215-228-8200 <http://www.thelaurehillcemetery.org>

Sunday, February 20, 2011 12 Noon - 5 PM --- West Laurel Hill Cemetery, Bala Cynwyd - 13th ANNUAL GEN. MEADE SOCIETY SYMPOSIUM: "PHILADELPHIA ON THE HOME FRONT IN THE CIVIL WAR"

The event will feature noted author and historian, Judith Ann Giesberg, PhD, of Villanova University, author of *Army at Home: Women and the Civil War on the Northern Home Front (Civil War America)*, and *Civil War Sisterhood: The U.S. Sanitary Commission and Women's Politics in Transition*, and society members Carol Neumann, Kerry Bryan, and Michael Wunsch.

The cost of the event is \$30 per person, including registration; luncheon & refreshments, to register, contact Jerry McCormick at 215-848-7753 or gjedwinmc@msn.com



Louisa May Alcott (1832 - 1888) best known as the author of *Little Women* was a nurse at Georgetown Union Hospital in Washington DC beginning December 1862. She continued to nurse as long as her health permitted. She left her position in 1863, when she contracted typhoid fever from her patients. During her recuperation, she wrote of her nursing experiences in her first published book called **HOSPITAL SKETCHES**. The book is valuable for its vivid descriptions of medical activities during the war. Appalled by the lack of sanitation, Louisa described the military hospital as a "perfect pestilence box."

Tuesday, February 22, 2011 at Noon to 1:00 p.m. at the Chemical Heritage Foundation, 315 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106

Brown Bag Lecture: "Mercury Therapies for Syphilis in Early-Modern Japan (1550-1850)"

A talk by Daniel Trambaiolo

Syphilis arrived in East Asia during the 16th century, and soon spread across China's coastal provinces and the Japanese archipelago. By the end of the 18th century the infection rate in some regions of Japan may have reached as high as half the total population, and syphilis was the disease that many early-modern doctors were most commonly called upon to treat.

Technical treatises and self-care manuals on syphilis emerged as distinctive genres of medical writing, including annotated editions of Chinese books, translations of Dutch treatises, technical instructions for the preparation of therapeutic mercury compounds, and popular allegorical fiction.

This talk will explore the contexts of mercury-based therapeutics for syphilis in Japan, tracing the material and cultural flows of drugs and medical practices through the East Asian region and the early-modern world. It will examine economic aspects of the production, distribution, and consumption of mercurial compounds, as well as the ways in which knowledge about mercurial compounds was kept secret or disseminated. Finally, it will consider the ways in which early-modern Japanese doctors and their patients justified the use of therapies with such harsh side effects and the broader impact of mercurial syphilis therapies on the culture of early-modern Japanese medicine.

Daniel Trambaiolo completed doctoral studies at the University of Cambridge, working in the MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology on the structure and mechanism of proteins involved in bacterial cell division. His current research explores the history of early-modern East Asian medicine, with a particular focus on the history of therapeutics in 18th- and 19th-century Japan.

Free. Open to the Public Tel: 215-925-2222 •

<http://www.chemheritage.org>

Wednesday, February 23, 2011 - at 7:30 P.M. - at Broad Axe Tavern, 901 West Butler Pike, Ambler, PA 19002, American Revolution Round Table of Philadelphia (ARRTOP) Barnet Schecter on his new book "George Washington's America: A Biography Through His Maps". - This meeting is free and open to the public. <http://arrtop.com/>

Wednesday, February 23, 2011 at 6:00 pm at Laurel Hill Cemetery 3822 Ridge Avenue - Philadelphia, PA19132. 215-228-8200

<http://www.thelaurelhillemetery.org>

Boneyard Bookworms February Book Discussion

Read in Peace. Laurel Hill and West Laurel Hill Cemeteries are pleased to announce the establishment of their first book club, **Boneyard Bookworms**. Join us each month as we explore fun and fascinating books from our "unique" perspective. Book topics will include cemetery and Victorian-era history, death rituals and mourning customs, horticulture, biographies and of course, mystery. The Boneyard Bookworms will meet monthly at Laurel Hill or West Laurel Hill Cemetery (215 Belmont Avenue, Bala Cynwyd 19004). There is no fee to join or to attend our monthly discussions but advance registration for each session is required. You can sign up, buy books and download discussion questions at www.boneyardbookworms.com. Free.

February's Book

Her Fearful Symmetry by Audrey Niffenegger

Set in and around the Highgate Cemetery in London, Her Fearful Symmetry is both a ghost story and a tale about enduring love. Fans will find plenty of rewards in her clever ... [and] unique modern ghost story... Her descriptions transport the reader directly into a moody Victorian landscape of beauty and death... Mesmerizing... A deeply moving story filled with unforgettable characters... A beautiful testament to Niffenegger's fertile imagination and love of storytelling. - Mary Houlihan, *Chicago Sun-Times*

Wednesday, February 23, 6:00 p.m. - "Poetics and Politics: The Life of Frances Harper"

This month marks the 100th anniversary of the death of Frances Ellen Watkins Harper, one of the best known African American poets of the 19th century and a staunch abolitionist. Join us for a panel discussion about the poetics and politics of Harper's life, featuring several distinguished professors and authors including Lena Ampadu, Melba Joyce Boyd, and Sonia Sanchez. Co-sponsored by the Historical Society of Pennsylvania and Robin's Books. This event is free and open to the public and will take place at the **Historical Society of Pennsylvania (1300 Locust St).**

Please RSVP here: <http://francesharper.eventbrite.com/>

Thursday, February 24, 2011 at 06:00PM - 08:00PM - an Archeological Institute of America lecture. "Roman provincial coins: between civic pride and state control". Michel Amandry will lecture, at University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology.



Under the Roman Empire, hundred of cities struck bronze coinage. These coins used to be called "Greek imperials", indicating that they were struck under the Roman Empire but mostly with legends in Greek. In the past, they were deemed to be part of Greek coinage, and they were catalogued and classed in coin cabinets as Greek coins, following on from the archaic, classical and hellenistic series. The new terminology - Roman provincial coinage - stresses the rôle of these coins alongside the Imperial coinage. This unifying term nevertheless covers considerable diversity: coins of individual Greek cities with or without an imperial portrait (these last often called "pseudo-autonomous"), coins struck by leagues (such as the Thessalian or Lycian leagues), koina (like those of Macedon or Cyprus), by Roman colonies or municipia. What unites them all is their function. Instead of seeing them as the final, degenerate phase of Greek coinage, we now recognise their importance as part of the stock of coinage circulating in the Roman Empire. Admission: Pay-what-you-want at the door.

Friday, February 25, 2011 - 11:30AM - 12:30PM Unleashing the Power of Open Data to Improve Health at College of Physicians of Philadelphia, 19 South Twenty-Second Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103, (215) 563-3737 x304

Speaker: Todd Park, Chief Technology Officer, Health and Human Services Department, is responsible for helping HHS leadership harness the power of data, technology, and innovation to improve the health and welfare of the nation. He has also served in a volunteer capacity as a Senior Fellow at the Center for American Progress, where he focused on health IT and health reform policy, and as senior health care advisor to Ashoka, a leading global incubator of social entrepreneurs, where he helped start a venture to bring affordable telehealth, drugs, diagnostics, and clean water to rural India.

http://www.collphyphil.org/prog_calendar.htm

Sponsored by the College's Section on Public Health & Preventive Medicine

Friday, February 25, 2011 - Reception: 5:30 p.m. • Program: 6:00 p.m. A lecture, reception, and book signing at the American Philosophical Society, Benjamin Franklin Hall, 427 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia

Abigail Adams

Woody Holton is associate professor of history at the University of Richmond in Virginia and the recipient of a coveted Guggenheim Fellowship for Abigail Adams, which was awarded the Bancroft Prize for 2010. His first book, *Forced Founders*, received the prestigious Merle Curti Award for social history from the Organization of American Historians; *Unruly Americans and the Origins of the Constitution* was a finalist for the George Washington Book Prize and the National Book Award and was long-listed for the Cundill Prize. In this vivid new biography of Abigail Adams, the most illustrious woman of the founding era, Woody Holton offers a sweeping reinterpretation of Adams' life story and of women's roles in the creation of the republic. Using previously overlooked documents from numerous archives, Abigail Adams shows that the wife of the second president of the United States was far more charismatic and influential than historians have realized. One of the finest writers of her age, Adams passionately campaigned for women's education, denounced sex discrimination, and matched wits not only with her brilliant husband, John, but with Thomas Jefferson and George Washington. Holton vividly captures the charm and spunk of Abigail Adams, and shows why she deserves her place at the table along with



Abigail Adams (1744 - 1818)
Illustration from Harper's
New Monthly Magazine,
(March 1884)

her husband John and the other Founders.

Free. To register: <http://www.amphilsoc.org/events/02252011>

Saturday, February 26, 2011 at 11am at Corner: 6th & Lombard Streets, Philadelphia, PA



Octavius V. Catto (1839-1871), a black educator, intellectual, and civil rights activist, in Philadelphia was murdered on Election Day.

The General George G. Meade Society

Annual Octavius V. Catto Honor Ceremony

Honoring the great Black civil rights and military leader. Wreath-Laying ceremony. All military units, period civilians, veterans and heritage groups are encouraged to participate. Colors, wreaths and music encouraged.

Information: Dr. Andy Waskie 215-204-5452 or

andy.waskie@temple.edu

Saturday, February 26, 2011, 11 am – 1 pm (rain/snow date is March 5, 2011) at The Academy of Natural Sciences, 1900 Benjamin Franklin Parkway, Philadelphia, PA 19103.

Urban Forestry Hike

The term "urban forestry" may

sound a bit odd, but trees in the city play just as big a part in our ecology as the trees in the deep dark forest. In honor of the United Nation's declaration of 2011 being the International Year of the Forests, we will take a close look at trees growing in the concrete canyons of Philadelphia and right outside the Academy's doors.

Dr. David Hewitt, a research associate in the Academy's Botany Department, will talk about where these trees came from, how to identify them in winter, and discuss their important roles in our ecosystem.

\$15/members; \$20/non-members, Maximum of 12 participants, Call 215-299-1060 to register. www.ansp.org/environmental/

Monday, February 28, 2011 at 7:30PM at the Free Library of Philadelphia, 1901 Vine Street, 19103

The Penguin Book of Victorian Women in Crime

Michael Sims, author of *Apollo's Fire* and *Adam's Navel*, is also the editor of *The Penguin Book of Gaslight Crime* and *The Annotated Archy and Mehitabel*. In *The Penguin Book of Victorian Women in Crime*, Sims brings together the greatest crime-fighting females of the Victorian era. His array of game-changing female detectives includes Love-day Brooke, Dorcas Dene, and Lady Molly of Scotland Yard. And they're all out there shadowing suspects, crawling through secret passages, fingerprinting corpses, and sometimes committing a lesser crime in order to solve a murder.

Free. <http://libwww.freelibrary.org/authorevents/>

Tuesday, March 1, 2011 at 7:30PM - at the Free Library of Philadelphia, 1901 Vine Street, 19103

"The Information: A History, a Theory, a Flood", at Free Library of Philadelphia.

James Gleick's bestselling book, *Chaos: Making a New Science*, explained chaos theory in layman's terms by focusing on the stories of those scientists who were pioneers in the field and was a finalist for the National Book Award and the Pulitzer Prize. A former science writer for the *New York Times*, Gleick is the author of two bestselling biographies: *Genius: The Life and Science of Richard Feynman* and *Isaac Newton*, as well as *Faster: The Acceleration of Just About Everything*. His first book in seven years, *The Information* shows how our modern information age developed, following the people, technologies, and theories that helped shape it.

Free. <http://libwww.freelibrary.org/authorevents/>

For Info: 215-567-4341.

Wednesday, March 2, 2011 at 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM at University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology. **Great Adventures along the Silk Road Lecture Series "Samarkand in the Age of Tamerlane (Timur Lang)".** Old Samarkand- Afrasiyab was completely destroyed by the Mongol invasion of 1220. The centuries-old site stood abandoned. The new Timurid Samarkand arose in the surrounding gardens to become a model for early modern cities of western Asia. Reception to follow. Admission: \$5 per lecture with advance registration; FREE for Penn Museum members with advance registration; \$10 at the door.

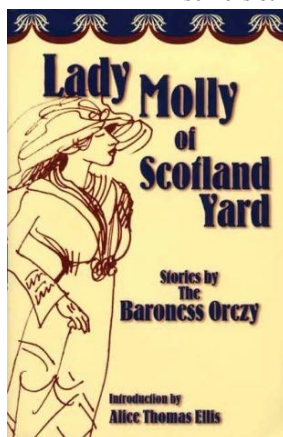
Thursday, March 3, 2011 at 7:30PM - Dr. Izzeldin Abuelaish - "I Shall Not Hate: A Gaza Doctor's Journey on the Road to Peace and Human Dignity" at Free Library of Philadelphia, 1901 Vine Street, 19103 - Born and raised in the Jabalia refugee camp in Gaza, Izzeldin Abuelaish is a Palestinian doctor who worked in Israeli hospitals as an obstetrician and gynecologist specializing in infertility. In January 2009, three of his daughters and a niece were killed by Israel Defense Forces at his home in Gaza. Dr. Abuelaish's heartbreaking response to the incident was captured live on Israeli television and broadcast across the country and beyond. Despite his tragic loss, Dr. Abuelaish—a Nobel Peace Prize nominee—has become an inspiring advocate for peace for people of many faiths. As a monument to the lives of his daughters, he created Daughters for Life, a foundation dedicated to providing education and health services to women and girls throughout the Middle East. FREE. No tickets required. For Info: 215-567-4341.

Sunday, March 6, 2011 at 2pm at Laurel Hill Cemetery 3822 Ridge Avenue - Philadelphia, PA19132. 215-228-8200

Where is Julia?: Pretty Places & Victorian-Era Superstitions

The Victorian Era: a time period named for a woman, but a patriarchal society to its core. Meander through Laurel Hill's scenic grounds and funeral monuments - pretty in any setting - that reflect the Victorian people and their beliefs about themselves. Hear about being buried alive and what rain drops and a clap of thunder during a funeral meant in this superstitious time. Oh...and where is Julia? \$15.00 general / \$12.00 members / \$10.00 seniors & students. Children under 12 are free.

<http://www.thelaurehillcemetery.org>



Wednesday, March 9, 2011 at 7:30 PM - Rittenhouse Astronomical Society Monthly Meeting. At the Franklin Institute, Free. www.rittenhouseastronomicalsociety.org

Sunday, March 13, 2011 at 2pm at Laurel Hill Cemetery 3822 Ridge Avenue - Philadelphia, PA19132. 215-228-8200

The Quick and the Dead: Early Transportation to Philadelphia's Final Destination

When 30,000 people a season visited Laurel Hill in the mid-1800s, they had many different travel choices: boat, train, carriage and streetcar. This tour will introduce you to the owners, builders, and inventors of all of these varied modes of transportation that made our nation unified. Philadelphia was a driving force as the industrial capital of the world, and

transportation was the key. Meet the Traction Twins: Mr. Elkins and Mr. Widener, among many others who contributed and profited through transportation.

Laurel Hill is one of Philadelphia's premier historic sites, and one of the only cemeteries in the United States to be honored as a National Historic Landmark, where countless people of both local and national fame are buried. Its natural beauty renders it a bucolic retreat nestled within the city's limits overlooking the Schuylkill River. The cemetery's beautiful green space is further complimented by the breathtaking art, sculpture and architecture that can be found here.

\$15.00 general / \$12.00 members / \$10.00 seniors & students. Children under 12 are free.

<http://www.thelaurehillcemetery.org>

Wednesday, March 16, 2011 - 4:00 - 7:00 PM, Lecture at 5:30 PM
at the Wagner Free Institute of Science, 1700 West Montgomery Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19121

A New Formula: A Behind the Scenes Look at the Wagner's Building Conservation Plan

Presented by Architectural Conservators DOROTHY KROTZER and MARLENE GOEKE

Learn more about the intriguing field of architectural conservation, a profession that blends science, history, and design in order to understand why buildings deteriorate and what can be done to save them. Using the Wagner Free Institute's exhibit hall ceiling as a case study, this talk will focus on how conservators investigate historic buildings and the diagnostic tools they use in the field and laboratory to develop solutions for restoration projects.



Marlene Goeke surveys the Wagner Free Institute's exhibit hall ceiling.

Dorothy Krotzer is the Director of the Philadelphia office of Building Conservation Associates (BCA), a consulting firm that assists in all aspects of building restoration.

Marlene Goeke is a staff conservator at BCA and a recent graduate of the University of Pennsylvania's Graduate Program

in Historic Preservation.

The speakers led the recent Getty Foundation-funded study of the Wagner's plaster ceiling.

ph 215-763-6529 www.wagnerfreeinstitute.org

Wednesday, March 16, 2011 at 12noon at College of Physicians of Philadelphia, 19 South Twenty-Second Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103, (215) 563-3737 x304 http://www.collphyphil.org/prog_calendar.htm
The Science Center: Rocking Philadelphia's Cradle of Eds, Meds, and Innovation

Established in 1963, the University City Science Center was the first, and continues to be one of the largest, urban research parks in the United States. What began as a collaboration among several local academic institutions has grown to include thirty-two colleges, universities and research institutions. Throughout its history, the Science Center has provided physical space and other resources to help commercialize new technologies and nurture new companies. Learn more about the past, present, and future of America's oldest, largest urban science research park.

Speaker: Stephen Tang, PhD, MBA

Dr. Tang became President and CEO of The University City Science Center in February 2008. A seasoned life science, energy technology, and management consulting executive, Dr. Tang previously served as group vice president and general manager with Olympus America Inc., as president and CEO of Millennium Cell Inc., as vice president of A.T. Kearney Inc., and as vice president and co-managing director of the global chemical and environmental practice for Gemini Consulting Inc. He has also served as the Assistant Director and Senior Research Engineer at the Lehigh University Center for Molecular Bioscience and Biotechnology. Dr. Tang earned a doctorate in Chemical Engineering from Lehigh University, an M.B.A. from the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania, and a B.S. in Chemistry from the College of William and Mary.

Cost: \$10.00 includes lunch.

<http://www.eventbrite.com/event/1111439345>

Wednesday, March 16, 2011 at 7:00 PM Penn Science Café. At the MarBar, 40th and Walnut streets, 2nd floor of the Marathon Grill, menu items available for purchase. **Stealing the Past: Collectors and Museums of the 21st Century - Richard Leventhal, Curator, Penn Museum.**

What would people in the United States say if one day we woke up and found that the Liberty Bell had been stolen and was in a museum in

another country? When asked to return the symbol of our country, the museum replied that it would be better cared for in their museum and therefore they would not return it.

Does this story sound outrageous? Stories similar to this can be found throughout the world as the global heritage is slowly being looted from archaeological sites and off the walls of churches and museums to feed the ever-growing appetite of collectors and museums from wealthy countries around the world.

Dr. Richard M. Leventhal, professor of Anthropology, curator of the American Section at Penn Museum, and former Williams Director of the Penn Museum, is founder and director of the new Penn Cultural Heritage Center. The PCHC draws upon the expertise of the Museum's curators, researchers and students to educate diverse audiences, including law enforcement, customs officers, lawyers, policymakers, and academics involved in cultural property protection and issues-as well as community stakeholders and the general public. Free and open to the Public.

<http://www.upenn.edu/pennnews/sciencecafe>

Thursday, March 17, 2011 - St. Patrick's Day

How Irish Dancing Started -

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m0rrLdWLu_0

Thursday, March 17, 2011 at 5:30pm. at Laurel Hill Cemetery 3822 Ridge Avenue - Philadelphia, PA19132. 215-228-8200

<http://www.thelaurehillcemetery.org>

In Heaven There is No Beer...That is why We Drink it Here: St. Patrick's Day Tour & Toast

Though dead men tell no tales, there are two places that we can learn much about them: the wake-house and Laurel Hill Cemetery. Join us at the latter, as we celebrate St. Patrick's Day, while honoring the heritage and accomplishments of our proudest Irish souls, now gone to their final reward. 'Tis a festive occasion to be enjoyed by the living, for earth has no sorrows that heaven cannot heal! So, while we await healing, let us tip our hats, take our drinks, and expand our minds at Laurel Hill!

Afterwards, join us in our historic Gatehouse, where the beer will be plenty and the 'spirits' will be merry.

Advance Registration required. \$25.00 general / \$22.00 members / \$20.00 seniors & students



Friday, March 18, 2011 • Reception: 5:30 p.m. • Program: 6:00 p.m., at the American Philosophical Society, Benjamin Franklin Hall, 427 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia

Tories: Fighting for the King in America's First Civil War

Thomas B. Allen is the author of numerous history books, including *George Washington, Spymaster* and *Remember Valley Forge*. Allen is a contributor to *Smithsonian Magazine*, *National Geographic*, *Military History Quarterly*, *Naval History*, the *U.S. Naval Institute's Proceedings*, and other publications. He was named by the *U.S. Naval Institute* as 2004 *Naval History Author of the Year* "for the sustained high quality of his literary contributions to *Naval History* magazine." A surprising, insightful narrative, *TORIES* unearths little known information about Loyalists. New York City and Philadelphia were Tory strongholds throughout the Revolution; at times, Georgia and the Carolinas had more trained and armed Tories than British Redcoats; Lord Dunmore, a Virginia royal governor, offered freedom to any slave that joined the British fight, creating thousands of black Loyalists; Scottish Highlanders, though onetime foes of the British, fought for the crown in exchange for land grants; and William Franklin, son of Benjamin Franklin, led a brutal Tory guerrilla force that terrorized New Jersey.

Free. To register: <http://www.amphilsoc.org/node/2517>

Friday, March 18, 2011 at 7:00 PM - Delaware Valley Amateur Astronomers in the Greater Plymouth Community Center, 2910 Jolly Rd, Plymouth Meeting, PA

Traveling with a Telescope - Lt. Col. Preston Smith

Free and open to the public. <http://dva.org>

Saturday, March 19, 10 am – 4 pm (rain/snow date is March 26) -) at The Academy of Natural Sciences, 1900 Benjamin Franklin Parkway, Philadelphia, PA 19103.

Fossil Collecting Field Study

Join Ned Gilmore, collection manager of the Vertebrate Paleontology Department, as he takes you back in time 70 million years to the Late Cretaceous. Discover animals and plants that once lived in the primeval swamps and seas of our region by examining ancient sediments exposed from the diggings of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal. Keep what you find!

(Scientifically significant specimens may be retained for the Academy's paleontology collections.)

\$35/members; \$40/non-members, Maximum of 20 participants, Call 215-299-1060 to register.

www.ansp.org/environmental/

Sunday, March 20, 2011 at 2 – 4 pm, Jazz Luncheon

Presented by Regol Concerts: The Lenny Pierro Group

Featuring vocalist Katie Eagleson, Al Harrison trumpet, Lenny Pierro saxophone and arranger, Tom Lawton piano, Madison Rast bass, Grant MacAvoy drums.

All tickets \$12, \$10 for groups of 15 or more and \$5 for children under 12 Includes lunch. At Abington Presbyterian Church, 1082 Old York Road, Abington, PA 19001 (corner of Old York and Susquehanna Roads).

Awesome music, fabulous food! Make your reservations early for this late luncheon!

215.528.0582 www.regolconcerts.org

Tuesday, March 22, 2011 at noon to 1:00 PM. at the Chemical Heritage Foundation, 315 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106

Brown Bag Lecture: "Pedagogy and Practicing at Medicine in Surgeon's Square, Edinburgh: Anatomy outside the Academy"

A talk by Carin Berkowitz

Although the surgeon-anatomist John Bell (1763–1820) was a popular teacher, he functioned not only outside, but also in direct opposition to, the Edinburgh medical establishment. This talk examines what it meant to practice anatomy in late 18th- and early 19th-century Edinburgh outside the university and without its sanction. Conflict with the establishment shaped Bell's teaching possibilities, and teaching was central to his ideas about developing anatomy as a science.

Bell attended lectures at the University of Edinburgh. He took classes there when the university's medical school was at its height, attending the lectures of Joseph Black, William Cullen, and Alexander Monro Secundus. Bell's was the very essence of a traditional education; yet after the university rejected his proposals to lecture on the application of anatomy to surgical practice, Bell set up his own school at Surgeon's Square in Edinburgh. At his private anatomy school he cemented his position as an outsider and entered into a number of conflicts with university faculty. As a result of a dispute with James Gregory, Bell was also eventually excluded from the Royal Infirmary.

Although Bell continued to write and to practice after this, he closed his school. Practical dissection and experience—the practicing of medicine—only available through affiliation with the infirmary, were crucial to Bell's visions of medical science and medical pedagogy.

About the Speaker

Carin Berkowitz is associate director of the Beckman Center at CHF. She received her Ph.D. in science and technology studies from Cornell University in 2010, with a dissertation entitled "Medical Science as Pedagogy in Early Nineteenth-Century Britain: Charles Bell and the Politics of London Medical Reform." She was the recipient of the American Association for the History of Medicine's 2010 Shryock Medal and spent 2009–2010 as a Philadelphia Area Center for the History of Science writing fellow.

Tel: 215-925-2222 • <http://www.chemheritage.org>

Wednesday, March 23, 2011 - at 7:30 P.M. - at Broad Axe Tavern, 901 West Butler Pike, Ambler, PA 19002, American Revolution Round Table of Philadelphia (ARRTOP)

Kim Hanley appearing as Abigail Adams. <http://ahtheatre.org/america/home/abigail-adams> - This meeting is free and open to the

public. <http://arrtop.com/>

Wednesday, March 23, Reception at 5:30, Program at 6:00 p.m. at the Library Company of Philadelphia, 1314 Locust Street, Philadelphia, PA 19107

"Technology Versus Art: The Early Daguerreotype's Confounding Status in Philadelphia, 1839-1845"

Sarah Gillespie, current William H. Helfand American Visual Culture Fellow at the Library Company, will discuss the initial reception of the daguerreotype in Philadelphia. The Library Company holds over 200 daguerreotypes, primarily produced in Philadelphia between 1840 and 1860. Many of these early photographs were recently on display in the Library Company's exhibition "Catching a Shadow: Daguerreotypes in Philadelphia, 1839-1860" and can now be seen in the online exhibition.

Free and open to the public. Please email lpropst@librarycompany.org or call 215.546.3181 to RSVP for this event.

<http://www.librarycompany.org/>

Saturday, March 26, 2011 at 1:00 PM, Museum is open 12:00 to 4:00 PM, at the Wagner Free Institute of Science, 1700 West Montgomery Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19121



Westbrook Lecture 2011 - "Adventures Among Ants"

Mark W. Moffett, Smithsonian Institution

Ecologist, entomologist, National Geographic photographer and intrepid world-traveler, Mark Moffett will discuss his research on ants from the Amazon to Borneo. Nicknamed "The Indiana Jones of Entomology" by the National Geographic Society, Dr. Moffett has traveled the globe studying the mysterious world of ants, discovering new species and behaviors in the process. His talk will explore the many parallels between ant colonies and human societies.

Dr. Mark Moffett is a Research Associate in Entomology at the Smithsonian Institution. His work focuses on the ecology of forest canopies and the behavior of social insects. He studied under E.O. Wilson at Harvard University, and oversaw the world's largest ant collection at the Museum of Comparative Zoology. He is the author of 80 peer-reviewed publications and 3 books, including *Adventures Among Ants*, winner of the 2010 National Outdoor Book Award, and has appeared on the *Colbert Report* and *Late Night with Conan O'Brien*. Free. ph 215-763-6529 www.wagnerfreeinstitute.org

Thursday, March 31, 2011 at 7:30PM - Bart D. Ehrman | "Forged: Writing in the Name of God—Why the Bible's Authors Are Not Who We Think They Are" at Free Library of Philadelphia, 1901 Vine Street, 19103. Bart D. Ehrman is the author of more than 20 books, including the New York Times bestsellers *Misquoting Jesus*, *God's Problem*, and *Jesus, Interrupted*. The James A. Gray Distinguished Professor of Religious Studies at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, Ehrman is a leading authority on the historical Jesus, early Christian apocrypha, the apostolic fathers, and the manuscript tradition of the New Testament. In *Forged*, Ehrman offers new, original research that reveals the contentious religious, political, and personal rivalries that shaped the form and content of the New Testament—and considers the evidence and implications of forgeries in the Bible. Cost: \$15 General Admission, \$7 Students

| <http://libraryphila.tix.com/Event.asp?Event=329967>

Sat. & Sun., April 2 & 3, 2011 - 10:00 - 4:00 PM - The 3rd Regiment Infantry United States Colored Troops Civil War Re-enactors will present programs of civil war history focusing on the contributions of Colored troops in the Civil War. This event will be at historic Fort Mifflin located at Fort Mifflin & Hog Island Roads near Philadelphia International Airport. Admission is free with the price of admission to the Fort.

For more information:

3rd Regiment: www.3rduset.org

Fort Mifflin: www.fortmifflin.us

Saturday, April 2, 2011 at Noon at Cedar Hill Cemetery, Frankford Ave. Philadelphia

General George G. Meade Society

Re-Dedication of the repaired monument to Col. Edwin Glenn, com-

mander of the 198th P.V. 6th Union League Regiment, Killed in Action at the Battle of Five Forks, Va. April 1, 1861. Sponsored by the Civil War Round Table of the Union League of Philadelphia. Union military and civilian reenactors, heritage and veterans' groups and the public are Welcome!

Saturday, April 9, 2011

General George G. Meade Society

Annual Grand Army Museum Preservation Dinner

at Cannstatter Volksfest Verein, 9130 Academy Rd. Philadelphia, PA 19114 (215) 332-0121

11am open for book browsing, and signings;

12 noon cocktails;

1pm luncheon

2pm presentation: **"Birth of the Army of the Potomac"** by noted historian: Jeffrey Wert, Presentation of the 'Grand Army Award' for preservation efforts, Fundraiser raffle of prints; door prizes; books; sutlers; entertainment; fun!

Cost: \$40 per person - \$75 per couple. Choice of Beef, Chicken, or Salmon

To reserve contact: garmuslib@verizon.net; or call: 215-289-6484

Deadline: April 2, 2011!

Saturday & Sunday, April 9 & 10, 2011

Northeast Conference on Science & Skepticism 2011

The third annual Northeast Conference on Science & Skepticism (NECSS – pronounced "nexus") will be at the Baruch Performing Arts Center in Manhattan. As its name suggests, NECSS explores the intersection of science, skepticism, the media, and society for the purpose of promoting a

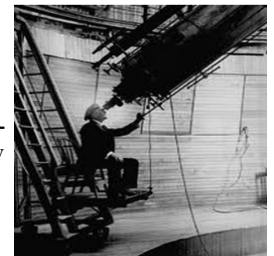
more rational world. Scheduled speakers include Eugenie C. Scott, Phil Plait, Steve Novella, John Allen Paulos, and many more. For more information, visit <http://www.necsscon.org/>

April 12–13, 1861 - The Battle of Fort Sumter - the bombardment and surrender of Fort Sumter, near Charleston, South Carolina, started the American Civil War.

Friday, April 15, 2:00 – 5:45 p.m., followed by a reception

"Motives of Honor, Pleasure, and Profit: Plantation Management in the Colonial Chesapeake, 1607-1765"

Join us for the Tenth Annual Conference of the Program in Early American Economy and Society that will be devoted to an exploration of this recent book by historian Lorena Walsh. This conference is free and open to the public but pre-registration is required. Please visit our events page at www.librarycompany.org/events or call 215.546.3181 to learn more and to register.



Wednesday, April 13, 2011 at 7:30 PM - Rittenhouse Astronomical Society Monthly Meeting. At the Franklin Institute, Free.

www.rittenhouseastronomicalsociety.org

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Mark your calendar for the 2011 Philadelphia Science Festival! April 15 - April 28, 2011

Programs and exhibitions will take place throughout the city's many neighborhoods, fueled by the best scientific and educational resources the region has to offer--all geared towards making science interesting, relevant, and fun.

Science Carnival

The Festival will open with an outdoor carnival on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway on April 16, 2011. This celebration of sciences will be highlighted by hands-on exhibits, science-themed performances and demonstrations, and family-oriented science entertainment. The Free Library of Philadelphia—a Science Festival partner organization—will host its annual Book Festival on the same day, making the Benjamin Franklin Parkway an unrivaled destination for family-friendly informal learning opportunities.

Neighborhood Science

Science outreach programs will take place in every neighborhood in Philadelphia over the course of the first week of the Science Festival. Through partnerships with each of the large science centers in the city and all partnering colleges and universities, programming will take place throughout Philadelphia so that every city resident has an opportunity in his or her neighborhood to engage directly in a Philadelphia Science Festival event or activity.

Science Conversations

Focusing on direct interactions between scientists and other residents, Science Conversations will feature lecture events, panel discussion, etc. from the city's finest scientists, as well as science discussions from award-winning scientists in untraditional settings such as bars and restaurants.

I support the aims of PhACT and would like to join/rejoin for the next year. The annual membership is \$15 and \$10 for students which includes e-mail delivery of Phactum.

If you wish **US Mail delivery annual membership is \$25.** Checks should be payable to **PhACT.**

Membership dues of \$ _____ enclosed to pay for _____ years of membership.

Donation of \$ _____ enclosed for additional support
Donation of \$ _____ dedicated for High School Science Fair prizes

**Mail checks to:
PhACT
639 W. Ellet Street
Philadelphia, PA 19119**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E_mail _____

The Philadelphia Association for Critical Thinking is grateful for the hospitality extended by Community College of Philadelphia and especially Dr. David Cattell, Chair of the Physics Department, for hosting PhACT and giving us access to such excellent facilities. Part of CCP's mission is to serve Philadelphia as a premiere learning institution and PhACT is pleased to support this goal by having talks on wide ranging, engaging, and educational topics.

Phactum is, in theory, distributed 6 times a year and is the main propaganda organ for the Philadelphia Association for Critical Thinking.

If you are not a supporting member/subscriber we invite you to become one. \$15 for a one year membership to PhACT with email Phactum subscription. \$25 for US Mail subscription. \$10 for students, email only. Donations are welcome.

Send letters of rebuttal, ideas, short essays, poetry, opinion pieces, complaints, and lavish praise to Ray Haupt, Phactum editor, at phactpublicity@aol.com.

PhACT's High School Science Fair Student Prize Funds

Total contributed for 2010 prizes	= \$318.00
Prizes awarded in 2010	= \$300.00
Leftover funds from 2010 fund	= \$ 18.00
contributions to 2011 prizes	= \$ 510.00
Total 2011 Prize Fund	= \$ 528.00

Please donate. Small contributions are preferred and donations in excess of the 2011 goal will be applied to the 2012 Prize Fund or some other youth science education project not yet determined.

ALL money collected for this project will be used for student prizes. PhACT members and others are invited to participate as judges. Contact Eric Krieg for more information: erickrieg@verizon.net

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Contact the editor, Ray Haupt: phactpublicity@aol.com

The PhACT Council 2010/11

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The PhACT website is: www.phact.org