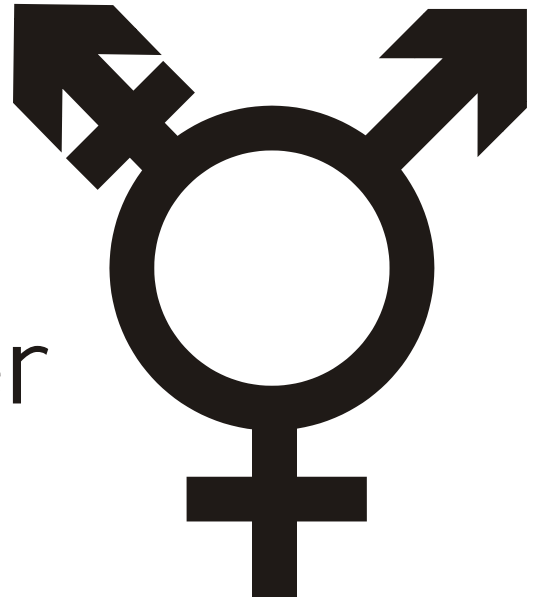


Defining Normal: Sex and Gender Misconceptions



Karen North

Most people think that there are only two sexes, that these two sexes are easy to distinguish, and that gender is just another word for sex.

None of these beliefs are true. This talk will explain the confusion, demonstrate the distinctions, and clarify the differences between Sexual Identity, Sexual Orientation, Gender Expression, and Gender Identity.

Saturday, Oct 11, 2008
1:30 - 4 pm
[Note the new start time]

Bethesda Library, 7400
Arlington Rd., Bethesda,
MD (near Bethesda metro)
Parking at the library is free, but you must enter your parking space number into a kiosk in the lobby. Parking is validated for two hours. Patrons can extend parking for an additional two hours by re-punching their number at the kiosk.

FREE admission – Everyone welcome,
members and non-members

For more information, call the 24-hour NCAS
Skeptic Line recording at 301-587-3827.
E-mail: ncas@ncas.org
www.ncas.org



National Capital Area Skeptics Public Lecture Series
20/20 SINCE 1987



Shadow of a Doubt

The Monthly Calendar of the National Capital Area Skeptics

October
2008

Recycling Waste Into...Waste

On September 16, the ABC News program, *Primetime*, aired “UFOs: Seeing is Believing,” hosted by David Muir. If the title seems vaguely familiar, you’re right . . . the same basic program aired on the network in February 2005, when it was hosted by Peter Jennings. About 20 minutes of new material were added (focusing on the January 2008 Stephenville, Texas, UFO sightings, along with a new segment about NASA’s Phoenix Mars Lander) and the program was shortened from 2 hours to 90 minutes.


Unchanged was its main conclusion: that mainstream scientists have ignored UFOs, and that a true scientific study is long overdue.

Both versions of the program failed to inform their many viewers (numbering over 11 million in 2005, and about half that this time around, still good enough to finish 40th among all prime time broadcast programs for that week) that scientific studies of UFOs **have** been conducted. The largest study was done by the University of Colorado under contract from the US Air Force from 1966-1968. The study’s final report, entitled “The Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects,” (also known as “The Condon Report,” after noted physicist Edward U. Condon, its scientific director) is hosted exclusively by NCAS at <http://www.ncas.org/condon>, by permission of the Regents of the University of Colorado.

This is not an obscure study that *Primetime* somehow missed. In fact, the final report was instrumental in the Air Force decision to terminate Project Blue Book, its longtime study of UFO reports. (The 1969

termination news release is shown in close up during the program, its reference to “The Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects” visible to any sharp eyed viewers using a digital video recorder.)

Moreover, the Condon Report was reviewed at the time by a panel of the National Academy of Sciences, which concurred with its findings, which includes “Careful consideration of the record as it is available to us leads us to conclude that further extensive study of UFOs probably cannot be justified in the expectation that science will be advanced thereby.”

Did the *Primetime* producers omit any mention of the Condon Report because it contradicts the main point of their program? Whether by intentional omission or through poor research, *ABC News* has done its viewers a disservice, misleading them into believing that scientists have kept their heads in the sand when it comes to UFOs. Unfortunately, the damage is ongoing: the National Geographic Channel continues to show the original Jennings program periodically. 

Election Results

Two new board members were elected in the recent voting: Nelson Davis, Jr. and Melissa Pollak. Reelected and incumbent members are: Chip Denman, Grace Denman, Mike Epstein, Herb M. Federhen, Bing Garthright, Curtis Haymore, J. D. Mack, Brian Morton, Eugene W. Ossa, and Jamy Ian Swiss. Officers are: Scott Snell, president; Gary Stone, vice president; Walter F. Rowe, secretary; and Marv Zerkowitz, treasurer. 