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Science Notes - Understanding Science and Its Human Impact: A Public Symposium

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Understanding Science and Its Human Impact: A Public Symposium

A public symposium titled "Understanding Science and Its Human Impact" will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on May 5, 1990, at Des Moines Area Community College, Ankeny, Iowa. Designed primarily for the general public and teachers of science and other subjects, especially humanistic disciplines, the symposium is a sequel to the workshop "The Nature of Science and Science Teaching" held at Grinnell in November 1988. This five-session symposium is sponsored by the Iowa Committee of Correspondence and co-sponsored by the Iowa Academy of Science, Iowa State Education Association, Iowa Department of Education, Central and Waldorf Colleges, Drake University and AEAs 12 and 15.

The purpose of the symposium is to develop in Iowans, especially the general public and teachers, an understanding of the nature of science: its validity, its strengths and its limitations.

The Iowa Committee of Correspondence originated about 10 years ago during a period of intense controversy within Iowa (and nationwide) over the creation-evolution issue. It is a voluntary, non-profit educational movement committed to making clear the distinction between religion and science by answering the claims of pseudoscientific groups.

Each of the five sessions will feature a speaker, a responder and an opportunity for audience participation and questions.

Michael Zimmerman, professor of biology at Oberlin College and newspaper columnist on issues of scientific ethics, ecology and the environment, will speak on "The Ethics of Good Science" with William Paul, retired professor of philosophy from Central College, as responder.

Davis Young, professor of geology at Calvin College and evangelical author of "Christianity and the Age of the Earth," will speak on "Christianity and Science: Is There a Conflict?" with John Ayers, Clear Lake attorney, Catholic deacon and supporter of evolution, as responder.

Francisco Ayala, distinguished professor of biological sciences at the University of California-Irvine and world-famous geneticist (holding additional degrees in philosophy and theology), will address the topic "Evolution and Creationism in Historical Perspective" with David Wilson, professor of history and mechanical engineering at Iowa State University as responder.

SCIENCE NOTES

George Magrane, Iowa educational consultant and curriculum specialist, will speak on "Teaching Responsible Science in Small-town Iowa." Responders will be Madeline Nash, Chicago-based senior science and technology correspondent for *Time* magazine, and Brian Glenister, professor of geology at the University of Iowa and an advocate of evolution education.

Michael Ruse, professor of philosophy at the University of Guelph (Canada) and well-known speaker and writer on the philosophy of science, will address the issue of "Science: Its Nature and Social Responsibilities" with Paul Johnson, state representative from Decatur, responding.

Registration is \$5 (free to paid Iowa Committee of Correspondence members), and advance registration is recommended. Make checks payable to the Iowa Committee of Correspondence and send to Dr. Donald Huffman, Biology Department, Central College, Pella, IA 50219.

--Ruth W. Swenson

University of Iowa 1989-90 Museum Programs

The University of Iowa's Museum of Natural History is continuing its series of programs for students and teachers. "Field Trips" and "Animal Tales: Stories for Children" are ongoing programs open to the public.

The "Field Trips" series continues with a look at "History from Headstones" on April 15. The trip will be led by Mary Whelan, professor of anthropology. Ken Jensen, a researcher in botany, will lead a group in "Know Your Leaves: Tree Identification" on June 17 and an "Adult Nature Weekend" is planned for August at the Lakeside Lab on Lake Okoboji. The date is to be announced.

The "Animal Tales" series, led by Deanne Wortman and Tom Nothnagle, concludes with a session on April 5 at 2:30 p.m. in the Museum of Natural History's Bird Hall.

For more information about the University of Iowa's 1989-90 Museum Programs, contact Karole Fuller, Program Coordinator, Museum of Natural History, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA 52242, ph. (319) 335-0482.

--S.A.A.