Sea Secrets

Exploring the Dimensions of Our Oceans

2000/2001

Ocean Research and Education Foundation
And The
University of Miami
Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2000

The Octopus That Ate San Francisco: The Biomechanics of Sea Creatures, Giant Ants, and Other Hollywood Horrors

By Michael LaBarbera, professor, Department of Anatomy and Geophysical Sciences, University of Chicago

"Monster" movies might seem an unlikely venue for scientific analysis, but their subject matter prompts us to ask questions that we probably would not otherwise address. Why aren't there Godzilla-like sea creatures, giant ants, and grasshoppers? For movie fans and biologists from ages 8 to 80, this lecture will explore biological diversity, both real and imagined. In the process we will learn some tidbits about science fiction movies (and their protagonists) that even the producers didn't know.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2001

Marine Geology of the Biblical Flood

By Walter C. Pitman, professor, Department of Oceanography, Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory of Columbia University

Geologic data have revealed that a catastrophic flood occurred 7,600 years ago in the Black Sea region. Was anyone there? Was this event the source of the Noah's flood story and other flood myths? Walter Pitman will address these and other questions in the context of recent major discoveries in the Black Sea by Robert Ballard and other explorers that provide concrete evidence of human habitation prior to the great flood.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2001

Sea Greats: Australia's Barrier Reef and Great White Sharks

By David Doubilet, photographer and author, National Geographic Society

Readers of the National Geographic Magazine know David Doubilet's remarkable and artistic underwater photographs of the world's oceans. In this program he will display new views of Australia's Barrier Reef—its 1,500 miles of "coral countries" of awesome power and delicacy. And from South Africa, he will bring spectacular photographs of great white sharks bounding out of the water to seize their prey.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 11, 2001

Ghost Ships and Sea Monsters

By Emory Kristof, special projects photographer, National Geographic Society

In deep, dark water—far below the depths visited by scuba divers—are some of the world's best-preserved shipwrecks, plus gargantuan meat-eating sharks. Explore this little-known, but vast part of the world with National Geographic photographer Emory Kristof. See hot water volcanic vents miles deep that teem with strange animals. Cruise the decks of the Titanic, and lure into those big sharks for a small snack. These are the depths of the ocean that Jacques Cousteau never reached.