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Skeptics Series underway at Blair Academy

by [Warren Reporter](#)

Thursday September 10, 2009, 9:00 PM

BLAIRSTOWN -- The public is welcome to attend the weekly Society of Skeptics series at Blair Academy, which has been in continuous existence since 1977 and is one of the premier high school lecture series in the country.

The series was an outgrowth of the Blair International Society, begun in 1962, and has served as a forum for the discussion and debate of important national and international issues. Over the past 25 years, under the tutelage of Dr. Martin Miller, the weekly lecture series has featured a wide variety of speakers who are engaging, accomplished in their respective fields and often controversial.

One thing is certain: they all succeed in generating healthy discussion in the Blair classrooms and around campus.

The first three programs of the fall terms are as follows (all lectures are 7 p.m. in Cowan Auditorium unless otherwise noted):

Sept. 15

Doug Bandow, senior fellow at the Cato Institute, specializing in foreign policy and civil liberties, will speak on "Confronting North Korea." Bandow worked as special assistant to President Reagan and editor of the political magazine Inquiry. He writes regularly for leading publications such as Fortune magazine and speaks frequently at academic conferences, on college campuses and to business groups. Bandow has been a regular commentator on ABC, CBS, NBC, CNN, Fox News Channel, and MSNBC. He holds a J.D. from Stanford University. He will address the current situation in North Korea as it concerns relations with South Korea (four South Korean fishermen were released in August, and North Korea has invited the U.S. to send an envoy). Bandow also notes that he is anticipating the Japanese election results, as they may affect policy towards the U.S., China and North Korea.

Sept. 22

Ralph Jerome, vice president for research and development at Mars SnackFood, will discuss "Sustainability Issues."

Oct. 13

Tad LaFountain will discuss "The American Mesopotamia: Establishing America's Ideals in the Delaware/Raritan Arc." He notes: "Our ideals have been involved in a process from colonial times to the present. Most interestingly, this process has overwhelmingly taken place in an arc extending from the Delaware Bay up the Delaware River across central New Jersey to the Raritan Bay. I describe this Delaware/Raritan arc as 'The American Mesopotamia.' Within this relatively small geographic crucible is a fortuitous combination of English Quakers, Scottish and Scots-Irish Presbyterians, Pietist Germans and Reformed Dutch reached critical mass. Their individual and collective interplays led to radical implementations of fundamental freedoms and liberties, extending to all creeds, nationalities and genders. Concepts such as racial equality, suffrage and equal accessibility to education were developed and brought to fruition here.

"When I was a senior at Westtown in 1968, I was elected that spring to serve



Doug Bandow, senior fellow at the Cato Institute, specializing in foreign policy and civil liberties, will speak on "Confronting North Korea" as part of Blair Academy's Society of Skeptics Series.

Warren County headlines

- [Ceremony at Warren County War Memorial in Belvidere remembers Sept. 11, 2001](#) 10:08 a.m. ET
- [New Jersey alumni to reconnect at school reunions](#) 7:45 a.m. ET
- [Victorian Days, Renaissance Faire, sheep herding planned in Warren, Hunterdon counties](#) 12:31 a.m. ET
- [Police, good Samaritans rescue Warren County man from Delaware River](#) 3:03 p.m. ET
- [Police, good Samaritans rescue man clinging to Delaware River bridge pier](#) 1:19 p.m. ET
- [Restoration project saves Old Port Colden Schoolhouse in Washington Township](#) 10:48 a.m. ET

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as the chairman of our mock convention (which that year happened to be Republican). The evening of April 4, we were having a platform committee meeting when someone came into the room and told us of Dr. King's assassination. The head of the history department was in the meeting, and he was a revered and respected teacher who had been at Westtown for decades (even after I went to Princeton and studied under Eric Goldman). I'll never forget him sadly shaking his head and softly saying, "The world has gone mad." When I read about things like Yugoslavia, it serves as a stark reminder that the world appears to go mad on a fairly regular basis, like solar storms or earthquakes..."

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- [I believe that I've by RepublicCons](#) 09/10/2009 7:41 p.m. ET
- [two four six 8 by rootstock](#) 09/10/2009 10:52 a.m. ET

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