

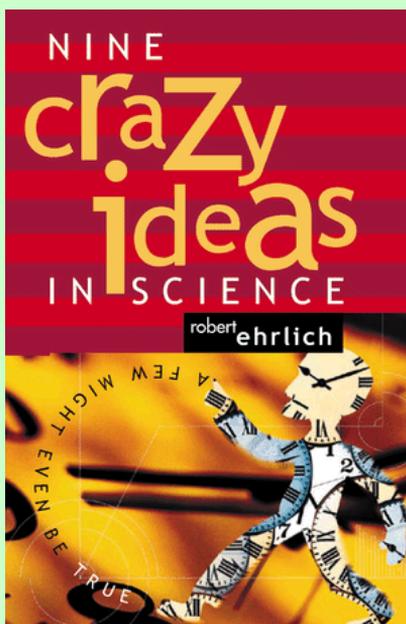


# Crazy Ideas in Science

by Prof. Robert Ehrlich

Friday, January 13, 2006

11:00 a.m., Bldg 101, Green Auditorium



Aids is not caused by HIV. Coal and oil are not fossil fuels. Radiation exposure is good for you. Distributing more guns reduces crime. These ideas make headlines, but most educated people scoff at them. Yet some of science's most important concepts —from gravity to plate tectonics —have surfaced from the pool of crazy ideas. In fact, a good part of science is distinguishing between useful crazy ideas and those that are just plain nutty. In this talk, based on a book with the same name, I discuss these and other controversial propositions, with a view to seeing how to evaluate a crazy idea's plausibility.

Dr. Robert Ehrlich is a Physics professor at George Mason. (He is not Governor of Maryland.) His research has been in particle physics, including possible evidence for faster than light tachyons. He also has worked on arms control issues and on physics education. He has published 20 books, most recently "Eight Preposterous Propositions"(2003) and "Nine Crazy Ideas in Science: A Few Might Even Be True"(2001). His homepage is at: <http://mason.gmu.edu/~rehlich/>

For info on his book see: <http://www.pupress.princeton.edu/titles/7022.html>