

WPSU LOBBY TALK SERIES PRESENTS "SCOPES MONKEY TRIAL" FEB. 3
Forum in Outreach Building Lobby A Collaboration with Penn State Public
Broadcasting and the College of Liberal Arts

UNIVERSITY PARK, (Jan. 29, 2006) -- In 1925, a trial about one of the great debates of American society played out in a rural Tennessee courthouse in the Scopes trial. Eight decades later, the same issues, evolution and creationism in public schools, are alive and in state courts. The public is invited to participate in the forum "**Scopes Monkey Trial: Context for Controversy**," on **Friday, February 3 at 7:00 p.m.** in the lobby of the Outreach Building in Innovation Park, presented by Penn State Public Broadcasting (PSPB) in partnership with the Penn State College of Liberal Arts Science, Medicine and Technology in Culture program.

Moderated by WPSU host Patty Satalia, the discussion will set the stage for the upcoming Center for the Performing Arts presentation of the L.A. Theatre Works touring production, "The Great Tennessee Monkey Trial," at Schwab Auditorium on February 7 and 8. The discussion is part of PSPB's on-going "Lobby Talks" series of community forums.

"Penn State Public Broadcasting's series of 'lobby talks' have been successful in bringing members of the local community together in thoughtful discussion with Penn State faculty and other guest experts," said Station Manager Tracy Vosburgh. "We are happy to open the doors of our new facility to the public as part of our community outreach."

Panelists include Pat Shipman, adjunct professor of anthropology in the College of Liberal Arts; Preston Green, associate professor of education in the Department of Education Policy Studies and Ronald L. Numbers, chair of the Department of History of Medicine at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and author of "The Creationists" and "Darwinism Comes to America."

The Outreach Building is located in Innovation Park in State College, across the street and down from the Penn State Conference Hotel, the Innovation Park exits 73 or 74 off the 322/220 by-pass.

The Science, Medicine and Technology in Culture (SMTC) project includes a study group to examine ethical, cultural and technological issues facing public service media and to produce forums to explore them. Additional SMTC lobby discussions will be "Do No Harm: Medicine and Ethics On the Anniversary of the Nazi Doctors' Trial" on February 22 and on Alzheimer's disease in the spring. PSPB presented a lobby talk on issues of aging in January. For additional information log on to <http://rockethics.psu.edu/events/smtc0506.html> online

"The Great Tennessee Monkey Trial" stage production will feature Edward Asner (playing lawyer William Jennings Bryant), Mike Farrell and Sharon Gless. Written by Peter Goodchild, the radio docudrama is drawn from transcripts of Tennessee vs. John Thomas Scopes, a controversial court case from 1925 involving a high school teacher

charged with violating Tennessee's Butler Act prohibiting teaching of evolution in public schools.

Penn State Public Broadcasting serves 29 counties in central Pennsylvania with programming and educational services.

#####

Contact: Carol Wonsavage
(814) 863-5483
carolw@outreach.psu.edu