

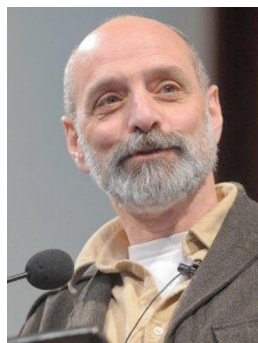
THE PROGRESSIVE FORUM

Great Minds, Great Answers

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Eric Schlosser at The Progressive Forum September 24, 2013



Investigative journalist Eric Schlosser will speak at The Progressive Forum on Tuesday, September 24, 2013, at the Wortham Center, Cullen Theater at 7:30. He will be discussing his new book, *Command and Control: Nuclear Weapons, The Damascus Accident, and the Illusion of Safety*. He will sign books and greet fans at the end of the evening.

Tickets range from \$19 to \$79. Tickets are available at ProgressiveForumHouston.org or by calling 832-251-0706. There is no physical box office except at the theater on event night.

A decade after *Fast Food Nation* exposed the harms of our industrial food system, famed investigative journalist Eric Schlosser addresses the existential threat of nuclear weapons. Schlosser returns to The Progressive Forum to launch his latest book, *Command and Control*. He reports on missile explosions, bomber crashes, rogue officers and more. Unlike other books on the high-level diplomacy of arms control, Schlosser provides an unprecedented look at the everyday management of our weapons systems and the dangers routinely faced by those managing the arsenals— and what needs to be fixed.

Command and Control is a groundbreaking account of accidents, near misses, extraordinary heroism, and technological breakthroughs. It explores the dilemma that has existed since the dawn of the nuclear age: How do you deploy weapons of mass destruction without being destroyed by them? That question has never been resolved— and Schlosser reveals how the combination of human fallibility and technological complexity still poses a grave risk to humankind. *Command and Control* depicts the urgent effort by American scientists, policy makers, and military officers to ensure that nuclear weapons can't be stolen, sabotaged, used without permission, or detonated inadvertently.

Schlosser also looks at the Cold War from a new perspective, from the ground up. He tells stories of bomber pilots, missile commanders, maintenance crews, and other ordinary servicemen who risked their lives to avert a nuclear holocaust. At the heart of the book lies the struggle, amid the rolling hills and small farms of Damascus, Arkansas, to prevent the explosion of a ballistic missile, written with the vibrancy of a first-rate thriller.

Drawing on recently declassified documents and interviews with people who designed and routinely handled nuclear weapons, *Command and Control* takes the reader into a terrifying but fascinating world that, until now, has been largely hidden from view.

Schlosser originally appeared at The Progressive Forum on September 30, 2010 to discuss his book *Fast Food Nation: The Dark Side of the All-American Meal*. *Fast Food Nation* was on *The New York Times* bestseller list for over two years and translated into more than twenty languages. The book is a fierce indictment of our industrialized agricultural food system. It helped start a revolution on how American's think about what they eat and earned Schlosser comparisons to Upton Sinclair.

Schlosser also served as executive producer and cowriter of the film *Fast Food Nation* and coproducer and cowriter of the celebrated documentary *Food, Inc.* His other books include the bestselling children's book *Chew on This*, cowritten with Charles Wilson, and *Reefer Madness*. Schlosser began his career as a journalist with *The Atlantic Monthly*. His work has appeared in several publications, including *Rolling Stone*, *Vanity Fair*, *The New Yorker*, and *The Nation*. He won the National Magazine Award as well as the Sidney Hillman Foundation Award. He is also a playwright whose plays *Americans* and *We the People* were produced in London. Schlosser earned his graduate degree in British Imperial History from Oxford after studying American History at Princeton University. He lives in California with his wife and two children.

The Progressive Forum originated a new model for civic speaker organizations in Houston by presenting speakers in the city's finest theater, compared to the hotel luncheons of traditional organizations. It was designed to present the world's intellectual stars to large audiences in a high quality, theatrical experience. The Progressive Forum markets region-wide to sell tickets to the public in open events. There is no membership fee and the ticket prices are low starting at \$19.

The Progressive Forum also originated a unique innovation in public media, reaching a worldwide audience by presenting the great minds online. The Progressive Forum is America's only civic speaker group providing website pages with event video on its past speakers. These pages are in-depth and comprehensive and include video, biographical sketches, news updates, related links, and reading lists. Most of the videos are longer than common internet fare; however they're broken down into segments and short clips on interesting topics. The website is intended to serve as a source of inspiration for scholars and seekers, a source of perpetual enrichment long after the curtains have closed on the theatrical event.

Speakers have included Michelle Alexander, Karen Armstrong, Lester Brown, Ken Burns, Gail Collins, Richard Dawkins, Jared Diamond, Sylvia Earle, Elizabeth Edwards, Tim Flannery, Jane Goodall, Al Gore, Brian Greene, James Hansen, Seymour Hersh, Arianna Huffington, Molly Ivins, Garrison Keillor, Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., Joe Klein, George Lakoff, Richard Leakey, Rachel Maddow, William McDonough, Bill McKibben, Bill Moyers, Nancy Pelosi, T. Boone Pickens, Michael Pollan, Robert Redford, Frank Rich, Sir Ken Robinson, Eric Schlosser, Anna Deavere Smith, George Soros, Sonia Sotomayor, Gloria Steinem, John Paul Stevens, Alice Waters, Larry Wilmore, and Edward O. Wilson.

Founder and president, Randall R. Morton, operated Randall Morton International, Inc. for over 32 years, an advertising and public relations agency whose clients included leading oil equipment companies in the U.S., Japan, Mexico, and Europe. Morton cocreated and cohosted the Oilfield Breakfast Forum from 1994 to 2003, another speaker series which is still the largest in the oil industry. He earned a B.A. degree in government from Georgetown University, and attained a national ranking of three as a pass receiver in nonscholarship football. While at

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Georgetown, he served as an issue writer for the Democratic National Committee. Later, he earned a second B.A. in communications from Tulsa University, serving the following year as adjunct professor teaching advertising design and copy. He is married to Suzanne Longley, formerly prima ballerina of the Houston Ballet and now owner of Suzanne Longley Landscapes. They have two children who are in college.