

THE PROGRESSIVE FORUM

Great Minds, Great Answers

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For Immediate Release

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Acclaimed Scientist Tim Flannery and Mayor Bill White
To Speak on Global Warming Monday, March 19,
Wortham Center at 7:30

PHOTOS: Flannery, White

Internationally acclaimed scientist, Tim Flannery, and Houston Mayor Bill White will speak on global warming at The Progressive Forum, Monday, March 19, at the Wortham Center, Cullen Theater, at 7:30. Flannery is the author of the bestseller, *The Weather Makers: How Man Is Changing the Climate and What It Means for Life on Earth* (2005) which has sold more than one million copies. Mayor White will offer remarks on global warming and introduce Tim Flannery. Books will be on sale throughout the event, and Flannery will sign books at the end of the evening.

Mayor White is quoted on the inside front cover of Flannery's book, saying, "Flannery allows the reader to understand and explain why humans ought to alter the atmosphere with humility. We and other species already have experienced climate change, humans have tipped the 10,000-year balance between carbon dioxide and absorption. Through a combination of personal responsibility and international law, we must slow the pace of change to give the global community a chance to reflect and plan."

Randall Morton, Progressive Forum president, said, "Tim Flannery's book presents the powerful connection between climate change and human activity, and lays

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out a plan for halting and eventually reversing the damage that we ‘weather makers’ are doing. His book is widely acclaimed to be the finest and clearest book on the science of global warming.”

Flannery was named 2007 Australian of the Year for his contributions to the environment and sustainability practices. At Harvard, he spent a year as professor of Australian studies. He’s written nine books and contributed to over 90 scientific papers. Flannery is director of the South Australian Museum and the National Geographic Society’s Australasian representative. He’s a regular contributor to *The New York Review of Books* and *The Times Literary Supplement*, as well as ABC Radio, NPR, and the BBC.

Joe Klein, senior *Time* magazine columnist, will appear Thursday, April 12 with a program entitled “Islam, Iraq, and The War On Terror.” Klein is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and the author of many books including his latest, *Politics Lost: How American Politics Was Trivialized By People Who Think You’re Stupid*, about the disservice rendered by political consultants; and *Primary Colors*, inspired by the 1992 presidential race, a book which was on *The New York Times* bestseller list for 25 consecutive weeks.

Actress, playwright, and educator, Anna Deavere Smith, will appear Monday, May 21, in a program entitled “Snapshots: Glimpses of America in Change.” In her singular brand of theater, she slips in and out of roles during her presentation, creating a diversity of viewpoints. She was awarded a “genius” grant from the MacArthur Foundation for creating a “new form of theater.” She is perhaps best known as the author and performer of two one-woman plays about racial tensions in American cities, *Fires In the Mirror*, and *Twilight: Los Angeles*. She is a tenured professor at New York University. She founded the Institute on the Arts and Civic Dialogue at Harvard (now at

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NYU), which explores the role of arts in relation to vital social issues. She is the author of *Letters to a Young Artist: Straight-up Advice On Making a Life in the Arts*, as well as *Talk to Me: Travels in Media and Politics*.

In the fall, Gloria Steinem will appear September 17 in a program entitled “The Progression of Feminism, Where Are We Going From Here.” James Hansen, NASA climatologist, will speak on October 24 in a program called “Global Warming: The Latest Science.” And Ken Burns will finish the year on November 13, his latest PBS documentary about World War II, called “The War,” will air in the fall, Burns will appear in a program honoring veterans during Veteran’s Day week.

The Progressive Forum is a nonpartisan, nonprofit 501(C)(3) civic speaker organization presenting seven events a year at The Wortham Center. Its purpose is to enrich our democracy and culture by presenting the great minds who are moving our species and life towards success, speakers from all the fields of human endeavor, the sciences and the humanities, as well as politics and public affairs. Its progressive viewpoint is rooted in the mainstream constitutional, enlightenment, and egalitarian values of America’s founding fathers, moderate values that need affirming, now more than ever.

The Progressive Forum is pioneering a new model in the field of public affairs to deliver a higher quality experience and larger audiences than typically attend speaking events. The Forum operates like a performing arts company, using the finest theaters, paying speaker fees to attract the top cultural stars, and offering convenient box office services.

Founder and president Randall R. Morton has owned Randall Morton International, Inc., for 31 years, an advertising and public relations agency whose clients have included leading oil equipment companies in the U.S., Japan, Mexico, and Europe. Morton created and hosted the Oilfield Breakfast Forum, which became the largest speaker platform in the oil industry whose surplus went to Houston’s SEARCH Homeless Project. While earning a degree in government from Georgetown University in

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Washington, D.C., he served as an issue writer for the Democratic National Committee.

Tickets for all events range from \$19 to \$59 with further discounts at certain price levels for students, seniors over 65, and groups of fifteen or more. Patron tickets of \$110 include a private reception with the speaker, autographed book, and preferred seat location. Tickets are available on line at www.progressiveforumhouston.org which allows you to print your tickets at your computer. For tickets by phone, call 832-251-0706. There is no physical box office to purchase tickets in advance. For more information, call The Progressive Forum office at 713-664-0020.