

Lederman

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organizations as N.A.S.A. and the Department of Education are concerned they won't get the quality people they need in the coming years.

"We'll never be a world leader like we used to be...but we can get in the game again," Lederman said.

His concern for making science understandable and accessible to all people has caused Lederman to launch one of the nation's most aggressive battles against illiteracy in science and mathematics. Lederman travels the country extensively promoting science literacy and education through lecture tours.

Lederman is the president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Described as "a pioneer on the frontiers of human knowledge," Lederman served as director of the Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory in Batavia, Illinois for

ten years. He was involved in such projects as theorizing the beginnings of the universe and developing the structure of the atom.

Lederman presented a two-part talk. First, he spoke on the history of science, touching on such topics as the Big Bang theory, how the universe is expanding, and of the advances made in the study of the atom, which began seriously after World War II.

The second half of his speech dealt with how important it is that educators stress science literacy in the 20th century. Lederman talked about how culture, economics, and democracy have been and will be directly affected by science in our society.

Culture involves science in that humans are always trying to understand the world they live in Lederman said. Secondly, economics involves science due to

the eroding economic condition of the country, and the need for new ways to get back on top.

Lederman stated how in the 1960s, we were on top of the market, but in the 90s, there is a "diminishing of interest in education."

Finally, Lederman said democracy involves science in that important environmental topics are always being debated by top officials of our country and the media.

He concluded by stating that our main problem is that "we haven't got the public convinced we have a problem yet." He compared the importance placed on the Persian Gulf War with how little importance is placed on the condition of education in the country.

Lederman feels that it's not just educators who need to be concerned and motivated. "Everyone can help," he said.

Picks

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