

KQED's Northern California Science & Environment Series April 2008 TV Episodes

Episode 201 – Air Date 4-1-08

- **SETI - The New Search for ET**

Is anyone out there? For over 40 years scientists have been searching for extraterrestrial intelligence, but they've found nothing. Now the new Allen Telescope Array, a string of 350 radio telescopes, is being built 300 miles north of San Francisco and is breathing new life into the search. Find out why SETI scientists now say we might be hearing from ET sooner than you think.

- **The Fierce Humboldt Squid**

A mysterious sea creature up to 7 feet long, with 10 arms, a sharp beak and a ravenous appetite, has invaded ocean waters off Northern California. Packs of fierce Humboldt Squid attack nearly everything they see, from fish to scuba divers. Marine biologists are working to discover why they've headed north from their traditional homes off South America.

Episode 202 – Air Date 4-8-08

- **Alzheimer's: Is the Cure in the Genes?**

By 2050, as our population ages, 15 million Americans will suffer from Alzheimer's disease – triple today's number. Researchers at San Francisco's Gladstone Institutes have found that a gene may hold the key to a cure.

- **Biofuels: Beyond Ethanol**

For years there's been buzz – both positive and negative – about generating ethanol fuel from corn. But thanks to recent developments, the Bay Area is rapidly becoming a world center for the next generation of green fuel alternatives. Meet the scientists investigating the newest methods for converting what we grow into what makes us go.

Episode 203 – Air Date 4-15-08

- **Super Laser at the National Ignition Facility**

It's the largest laser beam in the world and it's being built in the Bay Area. The National Ignition Facility at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory will shoot tremendous bursts of energy at an area the size of a pencil eraser. The goal? To recreate fusion – which powers the sun and some nuclear bombs -- perhaps harnessing a new source of clean energy for the 21st century.

- **Resurveying California's Wildlife 100 Years Later**

In the early 1900's, researchers from UC Berkeley's Museum of Vertebrate Zoology traveled around California and created detailed records of the wildlife they found. A century later, scientists are revisiting the same sites – including Yosemite National Park -- to see if the fauna has changed. They've found that global warming is already having an impact.

Episode 204 – Air Date 4-22-08

- **Earth Day Special: Where We've Been, Where We're Headed**

Journey back in time to the birth of the Bay Area environmental movement. Meet the everyday people who rescued the Bay Area from environmental disaster and who continue to inspire a new generation.

Episode 205 – Air Date 4-29-08

- **Emotions Revealed**

Is your face giving you away? Meet renowned psychologist Paul Ekman, who has spent his life studying how our facial muscles involuntarily reveal emotions like sadness and anger. His comprehensive catalog of human facial expressions has become an important tool for everyone from law enforcement agents to animators.

- **Amateur Astronomers**

Some of the most passionate astronomers don't even need to leave their own backyards. QUEST meets the amateur stargazers in the Bay Area who are making important observations about the cosmos and inventing tools at home to do it.