

George Wald

Quotes

Science, Life, War, Men, Nuclear, Believe, Origin Of Life, Years, Defense, Thinking, Stars, Generations, Knowledge, Death, Growth, Lectures, Future, Earth, Mean, Want

There's life all over this universe, but the only life in the solar system is on earth, and in the whole universe we are the only men.

~George Wald

Dropping those atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki was a war crime.

~George Wald

Civilization will end within 15 or 30 years unless immediate action is taken against problems facing mankind.

~George Wald

It would be a poor thing to be an atom in a universe without physicists, and physicists are made of atoms. A physicist is an atom's way of knowing about atoms.

~George Wald

A physicist is an atom's way of knowing about atoms.

~George Wald

I have lived much of my life among molecules. They are good company.

~George Wald

We are the products of editing, rather than of authorship.

~George Wald

I do not want to believe in God. Therefore I choose to believe in that which I know is scientifically impossible, spontaneous generation leading to evolution.

~George Wald

All War Departments are now Defense Departments. This is all part of the doubletalk of our time. The aggressor is always on the other side.

~George Wald

We have fallen in love with the body. That's that thing that looks back at us from the mirror. That's the repository of that lovely identity that you keep chasing all your life.

~George Wald

I tell my students to try early in life to find an unattainable objective.

~George Wald

Nuclear weapons offer us nothing but a balance of terror, and a balance of terror is still terror.

~George Wald

The only use for an atomic bomb is to keep somebody else from using one. It can give us no protection - only the doubtful satisfaction of retaliation...

~George Wald

We have to get rid of those nuclear weapons.

~George Wald

The thought that we're in competition with Russians or with Chinese is all a mistake, and trivial. We are one species, with a world to win.

~George Wald

I think all of you know there is no adequate defense against massive nuclear attack.

~George Wald

There is nothing worth having that can be obtained by nuclear war - nothing material or ideological - no tradition that it can defend. It is utterly self-defeating.

~George Wald

A lecture is much more of a dialogue than many of you probably realize.

~George Wald

So-called defense now absorbs sixty per cent of the national budget, and about twelve per cent of the Gross National Product.

~George Wald

We are living in a world in which all wars are wars of defense.

~George Wald

As you lecture, you keep watching the faces, and information keeps coming back to you all the time.

~George Wald

The great questions are those an intelligent child asks and, getting no answers, stops asking.

~George Wald

Every creature alive on the earth today represents an unbroken line of life that stretches back to the first primitive organism to appear on this planet; and that is about three billion years.

~George Wald

One has only to contemplate the magnitude of this task to concede that the spontaneous generation of a living organism is impossible. Yet here we are-as a result, I believe, of spontaneous generation.

~George Wald

Death seems to have been a rather late invention in evolution. One can go a long way in evolution before encountering an authentic corpse.

~George Wald

A scientist should be the happiest of men.

~George Wald

Evolution advances, not by a priori design, but by the selection of what works best out of whatever choices offer. We are the products of editing, rather than of authorship.

~George Wald

I am growing old, and my future, so to speak, is already behind me.

~George Wald

A scientist should be the happiest of men. Not that science isn't serious; but as everyone knows, being serious is one way of being happy, just as being gay is one way of being unhappy.

~George Wald

A scientist is in a sense a learned small boy. There is something of the scientist in every small boy. Others must outgrow it. Scientists can stay that way all their lives.

~George Wald

A peacetime draft is the most un-American thing I know.

~George Wald

When you have no experience of pain, it is rather hard to experience joy.

~George Wald

The concept of war crimes is an American invention.

~George Wald

The only point of government is to safeguard and foster life.

~George Wald

Not all living creatures die. An amoeba, for example, need never die; it

need not even, like certain generals, fade away. It just divides and becomes two new amoebas.

~George Wald

Science goes from question to question; big questions, and little, tentative answers. The questions as they age grow ever broader, the answers are seen to be more limited.

~George Wald

Since we have had a history, men have pursued an ideal of immortality.

~George Wald

The trouble with most of the things that people want is that they get them.

~George Wald

I think I know what is bothering the students. I think that what we are up against is a generation that is by no means sure that it has a future.

~George Wald

I can conceive of no nightmare so terrifying as establishing communication with a so-called superior (or, if you wish, advanced) technology in outer space.

~George Wald

Our business is with life, not death.

~George Wald

A scientist lives with all reality. There is nothing better. To know reality is to accept it, and eventually to love it.

~George Wald

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