

1  
00:00:21,190 --> 00:00:27,650  
hello dr. Rachel here welcome to the

2  
00:00:24,679 --> 00:00:31,309  
skeptical Zone episode 18 for february the

3  
00:00:27,649 --> 00:00:34,729  
20th 2009 this week we present a super

4  
00:00:31,309 --> 00:00:36,469  
special Ben Goldacre show part 1 is an

5  
00:00:34,729 --> 00:00:39,709  
exclusive interview about the Jenny

6  
00:00:36,469 --> 00:00:41,600  
Barnett lbc affair and part 2 is the

7  
00:00:39,710 --> 00:00:45,829  
continuation of my interview with Ben

8  
00:00:41,600 --> 00:00:47,840  
from two weeks ago but first if you

9  
00:00:45,829 --> 00:00:48,979  
turned into last week's show you would

10  
00:00:47,840 --> 00:00:51,440  
have heard me talk about the

11  
00:00:48,979 --> 00:00:53,269  
circumstances surrounding Ben Goldacre

12  
00:00:51,439 --> 00:00:56,629  
once again being threatened with legal

13  
00:00:53,270 --> 00:00:58,940  
action this followed him posting an

14  
00:00:56,630 --> 00:01:01,550  
excerpt from a January seventh broadcast

15  
00:00:58,939 --> 00:01:04,609  
of Jenny Barnett's talkback show on LBC

16  
00:01:01,549 --> 00:01:07,009  
radio this broadcast has probably become

17  
00:01:04,609 --> 00:01:10,879  
best known for Jenny's attack on a colon

18  
00:01:07,009 --> 00:01:12,469  
and yasmin an NHS nurse who called in to

19  
00:01:10,879 --> 00:01:16,579  
correct some of Jenny's misinformation

20  
00:01:12,469 --> 00:01:19,159  
about vaccinations on this week skeptics

21  
00:01:16,579 --> 00:01:22,250  
own special we speak to Ben Goldacre to

22  
00:01:19,159 --> 00:01:23,899  
get his side of the story and also his

23  
00:01:22,250 --> 00:01:26,478  
impressions of the phenomenal response

24  
00:01:23,899 --> 00:01:29,290  
from skeptical bloggers and supporters

25  
00:01:26,478 --> 00:01:29,289  
across the world

26  
00:01:34,859 --> 00:01:40,599  
hello Ben Goldacre and welcome again to

27  
00:01:37,390 --> 00:01:42,400  
the skeptic sign hi hello hey Dee how

28  
00:01:40,599 --> 00:01:44,169  
are you is more to the point it's been a

29

00:01:42,400 --> 00:01:46,750  
crazy week for you this week I imagine

30  
00:01:44,170 --> 00:01:48,340  
oh no that's all just sort of

31  
00:01:46,750 --> 00:01:53,170  
childishness and distractions isn't it

32  
00:01:48,340 --> 00:01:55,350  
and but you're right lbc did send me a

33  
00:01:53,170 --> 00:01:59,289  
sort of flower threatening legal thing

34  
00:01:55,349 --> 00:02:00,819  
which i don't think it's surprising that

35  
00:01:59,289 --> 00:02:04,239  
many people have interpreted their

36  
00:02:00,819 --> 00:02:07,228  
actions over the past week as an attempt

37  
00:02:04,239 --> 00:02:10,568  
to stifle debate on a very irresponsible

38  
00:02:07,228 --> 00:02:12,909  
piece of broadcasting by lbc and a

39  
00:02:10,568 --> 00:02:15,068  
couple of weeks ago can we get on to the

40  
00:02:12,909 --> 00:02:17,079  
contents of that broadcast in a moment

41  
00:02:15,068 --> 00:02:19,539  
band but can I start off by asking you a

42  
00:02:17,080 --> 00:02:21,610  
little bit about the phenomenal reaction

43  
00:02:19,539 --> 00:02:23,798

that's occurred around the world from

44

00:02:21,610 --> 00:02:25,360

your supporters and bloggers it's really

45

00:02:23,799 --> 00:02:27,790

been a Streisand effect as they

46

00:02:25,360 --> 00:02:30,670

described it this week hasn't it it is

47

00:02:27,789 --> 00:02:32,889

yeah and I mean do people know what what

48

00:02:30,669 --> 00:02:34,449

happened or should I explain can you

49

00:02:32,889 --> 00:02:37,119

start off by telling us how it all

50

00:02:34,449 --> 00:02:40,389

started because you received this 44

51

00:02:37,120 --> 00:02:42,280

minute excerpt from Jenny banat lbc

52

00:02:40,389 --> 00:02:44,199

broadcast from a Raider janu is that how

53

00:02:42,280 --> 00:02:46,239

you became aware of it that's right yeah

54

00:02:44,199 --> 00:02:47,858

I mean I only really sort of write about

55

00:02:46,239 --> 00:02:49,569

stuff that people send in to me and

56

00:02:47,859 --> 00:02:51,909

actually I got contacted by a nurse

57

00:02:49,569 --> 00:02:54,159

called called Yasmin who had run into

58  
00:02:51,909 --> 00:02:56,469  
this radio show run by somebody called

59  
00:02:54,159 --> 00:02:59,019  
Jenny bonaire who's a very well known

60  
00:02:56,469 --> 00:03:01,930  
and wealthy TV and radio presenter in

61  
00:02:59,019 --> 00:03:03,939  
the UK and she'd Ryan because she'd

62  
00:03:01,930 --> 00:03:06,219  
heard Jenna Bonnette saying some really

63  
00:03:03,939 --> 00:03:08,889  
very foolishly responsible things about

64  
00:03:06,219 --> 00:03:11,680  
the MMR vaccine which as you know in the

65  
00:03:08,889 --> 00:03:13,929  
UK is a long-standing effectively hoax

66  
00:03:11,680 --> 00:03:16,569  
perpetrated by the media for the past 10

67  
00:03:13,930 --> 00:03:18,159  
years and and it's it's the most

68  
00:03:16,569 --> 00:03:20,229  
powerful example I think of

69  
00:03:18,159 --> 00:03:24,579  
irresponsible science broadcasting and

70  
00:03:20,229 --> 00:03:26,858  
in the UK because the media's MMR hoax

71  
00:03:24,579 --> 00:03:28,659  
has resulted in quite sort of serious

72  
00:03:26,859 --> 00:03:31,780  
public health consequences there was the

73  
00:03:28,659 --> 00:03:37,479  
mumps outbreak in 2005 which is arguably

74  
00:03:31,780 --> 00:03:39,849  
down to and the drop in NMR use and then

75  
00:03:37,479 --> 00:03:42,669  
there's also the exponential rise in

76  
00:03:39,849 --> 00:03:44,829  
measles cases which have gone up by at

77  
00:03:42,669 --> 00:03:46,409  
least two thousand percent over the past

78  
00:03:44,830 --> 00:03:49,990  
seven years that the

79  
00:03:46,409 --> 00:03:51,579  
has been running so there was this very

80  
00:03:49,990 --> 00:03:53,200  
irresponsible piece of broadcasting and

81  
00:03:51,580 --> 00:03:54,340  
yasmin as a nurse who'd run in and tried

82  
00:03:53,199 --> 00:03:57,039  
to sort of counter some of the

83  
00:03:54,340 --> 00:03:59,860  
foolishness being spouted by Jenny

84  
00:03:57,039 --> 00:04:00,939  
Barnett and others and was sort of very

85  
00:03:59,860 --> 00:04:05,650  
concerned and said you might be

86

00:04:00,939 --> 00:04:08,560  
interested in this clip so I went to the

87  
00:04:05,650 --> 00:04:11,110  
site grabbed a copy excerpted just the

88  
00:04:08,560 --> 00:04:12,580  
bit that was that was about MMR which

89  
00:04:11,110 --> 00:04:14,860  
was about a fully four minutes long and

90  
00:04:12,580 --> 00:04:17,230  
when i say i accepted it i mean what i

91  
00:04:14,860 --> 00:04:20,379  
actually did was I posted it on Twitter

92  
00:04:17,230 --> 00:04:24,129  
saying has anybody got the necessary

93  
00:04:20,379 --> 00:04:26,649  
skills to cut down mp3 for me please and

94  
00:04:24,129 --> 00:04:28,000  
somebody I have no idea who I can't

95  
00:04:26,649 --> 00:04:29,859  
remember his name it's terrible is my

96  
00:04:28,000 --> 00:04:31,420  
aunt I hope to thank him properly and

97  
00:04:29,860 --> 00:04:33,240  
but somebody just sort of you know

98  
00:04:31,420 --> 00:04:37,600  
pinged me back with an email and said

99  
00:04:33,240 --> 00:04:39,550  
here it is and I posted it up on my blog

100  
00:04:37,600 --> 00:04:40,900

assuming that this was you know a fairly

101

00:04:39,550 --> 00:04:42,699

normal and reasonable thing to do and I

102

00:04:40,899 --> 00:04:44,049

posted up saying you know this is a

103

00:04:42,699 --> 00:04:47,289

ridiculous clip and here are some of the

104

00:04:44,050 --> 00:04:49,389

ridiculous things in it and and it's my

105

00:04:47,290 --> 00:04:51,550

belief that this exemplifies some of the

106

00:04:49,389 --> 00:04:54,639

worst you know this is this is a good

107

00:04:51,550 --> 00:04:56,650

illustration of the wider problem of the

108

00:04:54,639 --> 00:04:59,889

misrepresentation of evidence on MMR in

109

00:04:56,649 --> 00:05:03,099

the media and it and in fact what I was

110

00:04:59,889 --> 00:05:04,599

hoping for was because it was so bad I

111

00:05:03,100 --> 00:05:07,570

mean you have to listen to it really is

112

00:05:04,600 --> 00:05:10,450

very very bad I believe me believe me

113

00:05:07,569 --> 00:05:11,829

when I listen to it in some respects I

114

00:05:10,449 --> 00:05:14,979

mean you have to take pleasure from this

115  
00:05:11,829 --> 00:05:17,289  
thickness you know but it wasn't easy it

116  
00:05:14,980 --> 00:05:21,100  
wasn't easy it's not easy listening no

117  
00:05:17,290 --> 00:05:23,290  
it's not Burt Bacharach um but but the

118  
00:05:21,100 --> 00:05:25,210  
the thing that I was hoping for was that

119  
00:05:23,290 --> 00:05:27,490  
it would be and it would be a useful

120  
00:05:25,209 --> 00:05:31,719  
resource because it felt to me as if it

121  
00:05:27,490 --> 00:05:33,639  
this clip genuinely did exemplify almost

122  
00:05:31,720 --> 00:05:34,270  
every single one of the canard almost

123  
00:05:33,639 --> 00:05:36,250  
every single one of the

124  
00:05:34,269 --> 00:05:38,918  
misunderstandings and misrepresentations

125  
00:05:36,250 --> 00:05:41,259  
that quacks and irresponsible

126  
00:05:38,918 --> 00:05:43,599  
journalists have made about MMR vaccines

127  
00:05:41,259 --> 00:05:45,610  
over the past ten years and it felt to

128  
00:05:43,600 --> 00:05:47,950  
me like it was almost the sort of you

129  
00:05:45,610 --> 00:05:49,750  
know the the document it was that it was

130  
00:05:47,949 --> 00:05:51,069  
the paradigm ask use on for the perfect

131  
00:05:49,750 --> 00:05:53,410  
illustration it was you know there was

132  
00:05:51,069 --> 00:05:55,449  
you know it was everything you need to

133  
00:05:53,410 --> 00:05:57,789  
know about how the media have

134  
00:05:55,449 --> 00:05:59,829  
misrepresented the evidence on omr with

135  
00:05:57,788 --> 00:06:01,990  
such catastrophic and try

136  
00:05:59,829 --> 00:06:03,789  
consequence and there was in a bit

137  
00:06:01,990 --> 00:06:07,720  
there were maybe sort of I don't know 50

138  
00:06:03,790 --> 00:06:09,430  
or 100 responses on the blog and you

139  
00:06:07,720 --> 00:06:10,600  
know you can't you can't make people on

140  
00:06:09,430 --> 00:06:12,100  
the internet do what you want and you

141  
00:06:10,600 --> 00:06:14,320  
wouldn't want to it's you know it's like

142  
00:06:12,100 --> 00:06:15,550  
herding cats or making water flow

143

00:06:14,319 --> 00:06:17,439  
downhill you know you sort of throw

144  
00:06:15,550 --> 00:06:19,270  
ideas out there and I have to admit like

145  
00:06:17,439 --> 00:06:20,439  
a little bit of me a tiny little bit me

146  
00:06:19,269 --> 00:06:22,240  
because I don't you know it's not that I

147  
00:06:20,439 --> 00:06:23,680  
think people should do what I would like

148  
00:06:22,240 --> 00:06:26,019  
them to do but a tiny little bit of me

149  
00:06:23,680 --> 00:06:27,250  
sort of felt are you know some of the

150  
00:06:26,019 --> 00:06:28,659  
comments here are really good but I was

151  
00:06:27,250 --> 00:06:30,310  
really hoping that people would really

152  
00:06:28,660 --> 00:06:32,470  
go for it and that we could we could

153  
00:06:30,310 --> 00:06:34,240  
sort of you know take analyze this line

154  
00:06:32,470 --> 00:06:35,380  
by line and have this perfect thing but

155  
00:06:34,240 --> 00:06:37,000  
it I guess it looks like that's going to

156  
00:06:35,379 --> 00:06:38,500  
happen and that's not a problem you know

157  
00:06:37,000 --> 00:06:40,720

and maybe I'll find the time myself to

158

00:06:38,500 --> 00:06:43,029

go through all 44 minutes and the post

159

00:06:40,720 --> 00:06:44,680

was pretty much dead you know so I got

160

00:06:43,029 --> 00:06:45,879

this thing from their head of legal and

161

00:06:44,680 --> 00:06:48,579

it was all right you have to take this

162

00:06:45,879 --> 00:06:50,939

down it's a copyright infringement words

163

00:06:48,579 --> 00:06:53,259

I don't even know the meaning of and and

164

00:06:50,939 --> 00:06:57,189

obviously I did what what literally

165

00:06:53,259 --> 00:06:59,139

anybody would do which is and I took it

166

00:06:57,189 --> 00:07:02,259

down because i don't have the personal

167

00:06:59,139 --> 00:07:05,019

resources to fight alien to fighter a

168

00:07:02,259 --> 00:07:06,969

case over a gray area in copyright I

169

00:07:05,019 --> 00:07:09,729

mean that's you know it's ridiculous the

170

00:07:06,970 --> 00:07:12,280

lbc and global radio are a company

171

00:07:09,730 --> 00:07:14,740

valued at hundreds of millions of pounds

172  
00:07:12,279 --> 00:07:17,259  
global radio bought lbc a couple of

173  
00:07:14,740 --> 00:07:19,420  
years ago for 117 million pounds so

174  
00:07:17,259 --> 00:07:21,519  
global radio themselves must be worth an

175  
00:07:19,420 --> 00:07:22,810  
enormous amount of money and it's all

176  
00:07:21,519 --> 00:07:24,219  
very well for them to say well you know

177  
00:07:22,810 --> 00:07:27,189  
it's a legal gray area we could argue

178  
00:07:24,220 --> 00:07:29,500  
the toss but in reality it's very

179  
00:07:27,189 --> 00:07:31,540  
obvious that there's no way I can I can

180  
00:07:29,500 --> 00:07:33,069  
argue the toss about this I mean yeah

181  
00:07:31,540 --> 00:07:35,520  
then lots of people really quite

182  
00:07:33,069 --> 00:07:40,089  
touching actually sort of went you know

183  
00:07:35,519 --> 00:07:42,370  
this is a bad thing and can I tell you

184  
00:07:40,089 --> 00:07:46,119  
what happened on on this side bin yeah

185  
00:07:42,370 --> 00:07:48,069  
yeah I in fact had a copy of of it from

186  
00:07:46,120 --> 00:07:50,319  
the your podcast but I hadn't heard it

187  
00:07:48,069 --> 00:07:53,050  
yet and Richard Saunders had heard it

188  
00:07:50,319 --> 00:07:54,610  
and he said to me that he will he wanted

189  
00:07:53,050 --> 00:07:56,139  
to play it to me but he said to me I

190  
00:07:54,610 --> 00:07:57,730  
know that after five minutes you're

191  
00:07:56,139 --> 00:08:00,849  
going to start screaming me and telling

192  
00:07:57,730 --> 00:08:03,430  
me to stop turn it off and that indeed

193  
00:08:00,850 --> 00:08:04,750  
is exactly what happened in fact it is

194  
00:08:03,430 --> 00:08:06,670  
quite you do have to be sort of

195  
00:08:04,750 --> 00:08:09,279  
physically restrained to listen to it

196  
00:08:06,670 --> 00:08:11,290  
it's very difficult and we've talked

197  
00:08:09,279 --> 00:08:13,269  
about this on our podcast last night and

198  
00:08:11,290 --> 00:08:14,770  
I mentioned to people if they are a bit

199  
00:08:13,269 --> 00:08:16,509  
sensitive just stupidity they should

200

00:08:14,769 --> 00:08:18,669  
perhaps consider reading the transcript

201  
00:08:16,509 --> 00:08:20,139  
which is a bit less painful I disagree

202  
00:08:18,670 --> 00:08:22,060  
really i mean i think i think the

203  
00:08:20,139 --> 00:08:24,550  
hilariousness of how of how they back of

204  
00:08:22,060 --> 00:08:26,050  
how their actions of backfired is when

205  
00:08:24,550 --> 00:08:27,850  
it's written down in black and white I

206  
00:08:26,050 --> 00:08:29,430  
mean I agreed that you know her

207  
00:08:27,850 --> 00:08:32,500  
presentation and voice is obviously

208  
00:08:29,430 --> 00:08:33,879  
confrontational and and and hostile and

209  
00:08:32,500 --> 00:08:35,620  
infuriating and that's why she's

210  
00:08:33,879 --> 00:08:37,840  
employed by the talk radio station

211  
00:08:35,620 --> 00:08:39,820  
because she you know confrontational and

212  
00:08:37,840 --> 00:08:41,649  
infuriating that's you know that's her

213  
00:08:39,820 --> 00:08:43,870  
that's her appeal but actually I think

214  
00:08:41,649 --> 00:08:47,139

when it's written in black and white it

215

00:08:43,870 --> 00:08:48,639

looks quite a bit worse we decided to

216

00:08:47,139 --> 00:08:50,559

post it on YouTube I don't know if you

217

00:08:48,639 --> 00:08:52,569

if you know it's up there but Richard

218

00:08:50,559 --> 00:08:55,179

put it up on YouTube because that was

219

00:08:52,570 --> 00:08:57,129

when the you had said help I don't want

220

00:08:55,179 --> 00:08:58,659

to have it up anymore yeah yeah so we

221

00:08:57,129 --> 00:08:59,950

stuck it up there and then then after

222

00:08:58,659 --> 00:09:01,539

that that was when everyone started

223

00:08:59,950 --> 00:09:04,870

blogging about it and then it eventually

224

00:09:01,539 --> 00:09:06,909

appeared on Wikileaks did yeah and also

225

00:09:04,870 --> 00:09:08,889

people started doing some transcripts of

226

00:09:06,909 --> 00:09:10,959

it and then hosting two different

227

00:09:08,889 --> 00:09:13,629

sections of the transcript in different

228

00:09:10,960 --> 00:09:15,879

places and so you know it was a sort of

229  
00:09:13,629 --> 00:09:17,439  
it was a very predictable outcome i mean

230  
00:09:15,879 --> 00:09:20,110  
i think that surprised me i suppose was

231  
00:09:17,440 --> 00:09:21,730  
the story gets worse as as you know and

232  
00:09:20,110 --> 00:09:23,470  
as what comes to but you've kind of got

233  
00:09:21,730 --> 00:09:27,370  
a wonder whether i get the sense that

234  
00:09:23,470 --> 00:09:30,190  
Jenny Barnett and lbc didn't really have

235  
00:09:27,370 --> 00:09:31,509  
very good PR advice on this and didn't

236  
00:09:30,190 --> 00:09:33,790  
really have very good new media advice

237  
00:09:31,509 --> 00:09:35,350  
and actually I think also not really

238  
00:09:33,789 --> 00:09:37,599  
very good legal advice because I think

239  
00:09:35,350 --> 00:09:41,230  
in an ideal world the advice that you

240  
00:09:37,600 --> 00:09:44,190  
get from a lawyer on issues of copyright

241  
00:09:41,230 --> 00:09:48,039  
and reputation and defamation and so on

242  
00:09:44,190 --> 00:09:50,980  
should also include a consideration of

243  
00:09:48,039 --> 00:09:53,769  
the risks and of being perceived as

244  
00:09:50,980 --> 00:09:55,269  
being heavy-handed but perhaps we are I

245  
00:09:53,769 --> 00:09:57,610  
mean I don't know what the sort of Chile

246  
00:09:55,269 --> 00:09:59,829  
chain of reasoning was for OBC I suppose

247  
00:09:57,610 --> 00:10:01,779  
I don't really mind except i mean the

248  
00:09:59,830 --> 00:10:04,330  
phenomenal insight lessness that they

249  
00:10:01,779 --> 00:10:06,789  
have demonstrated synthesis is genuinely

250  
00:10:04,330 --> 00:10:08,050  
staggering actually so your blog crushed

251  
00:10:06,789 --> 00:10:11,049  
a couple of times because there was

252  
00:10:08,049 --> 00:10:12,549  
latest like and yeah going Boing I think

253  
00:10:11,049 --> 00:10:13,899  
it got linked on Boing Boing which i

254  
00:10:12,549 --> 00:10:16,839  
think is that if boy boy still the

255  
00:10:13,899 --> 00:10:19,360  
biggest blog on the internet because it

256  
00:10:16,840 --> 00:10:21,280  
is fairly stupid really that you know 44

257

00:10:19,360 --> 00:10:23,740  
minutes of a clip of something that was

258  
00:10:21,279 --> 00:10:24,370  
broadcast into our kitchens and cars on

259  
00:10:23,740 --> 00:10:28,450  
public

260  
00:10:24,370 --> 00:10:30,039  
airwaves you know I mean it's pretty

261  
00:10:28,450 --> 00:10:32,230  
natural to assume that if you've if

262  
00:10:30,039 --> 00:10:35,230  
there's some audio from that that's made

263  
00:10:32,230 --> 00:10:37,120  
up substantially if people from whom

264  
00:10:35,230 --> 00:10:38,980  
members of the public ringing in and and

265  
00:10:37,120 --> 00:10:40,929  
you know it's a matter of really

266  
00:10:38,980 --> 00:10:42,550  
important public discussion and stuff I

267  
00:10:40,929 --> 00:10:44,528  
mean I don't know what the law says but

268  
00:10:42,549 --> 00:10:45,819  
if the law says that's wrong and I don't

269  
00:10:44,528 --> 00:10:47,139  
have the money to find out if it does or

270  
00:10:45,820 --> 00:10:48,610  
not if the law says that's wrong then

271  
00:10:47,139 --> 00:10:50,169

the laws is wrong as far as I'm

272

00:10:48,610 --> 00:10:53,560  
concerned but anyway then weirdly

273

00:10:50,169 --> 00:10:55,899  
Stephen Fry and I've seen ya and fries

274

00:10:53,559 --> 00:10:58,149  
equal famous in Australian around yet

275

00:10:55,899 --> 00:11:01,120  
Stephen Fry how he ever did it and he's

276

00:10:58,149 --> 00:11:03,759  
got about a bazillion Twitter followers

277

00:11:01,120 --> 00:11:05,560  
and Festing Stephen probably posted a

278

00:11:03,759 --> 00:11:07,360  
comment on my blog which is like a sort

279

00:11:05,559 --> 00:11:11,729  
of Internet knighthood I really felt

280

00:11:07,360 --> 00:11:14,649  
like I won the internet little bit and

281

00:11:11,730 --> 00:11:16,600  
and that brought in lots of visitors and

282

00:11:14,649 --> 00:11:18,879  
yeah well I mean to say the web site

283

00:11:16,600 --> 00:11:21,370  
crashes bit unfair well no I mean the

284

00:11:18,879 --> 00:11:23,080  
website did crash sure so can you tell

285

00:11:21,370 --> 00:11:25,240  
us something about the early day motion

286  
00:11:23,080 --> 00:11:27,639  
that's now going on in become with

287  
00:11:25,240 --> 00:11:30,370  
Norman Lamb and Evan Harris what's that

288  
00:11:27,639 --> 00:11:32,019  
all about yeah well so then exactly

289  
00:11:30,370 --> 00:11:33,730  
explain to us what that is been because

290  
00:11:32,019 --> 00:11:35,769  
Australians don't know what that means

291  
00:11:33,730 --> 00:11:37,899  
can you just give us a brief overview of

292  
00:11:35,769 --> 00:11:39,370  
what an early day motion is okay so an

293  
00:11:37,899 --> 00:11:40,659  
early day motion isn't like you know

294  
00:11:39,370 --> 00:11:42,159  
it's not like an act of parliament it's

295  
00:11:40,659 --> 00:11:44,528  
not this sort of amazing big exciting

296  
00:11:42,159 --> 00:11:47,620  
thing and but an early day motion is

297  
00:11:44,528 --> 00:11:49,778  
basically if there's an MP who and who

298  
00:11:47,620 --> 00:11:51,879  
thinks that you know who has something

299  
00:11:49,778 --> 00:11:53,740  
important that they think and needs

300  
00:11:51,879 --> 00:11:57,039  
attention and perhaps needs a show of

301  
00:11:53,740 --> 00:11:58,419  
support from other MPs and and that may

302  
00:11:57,039 --> 00:12:00,879  
be a sort of seed for subsequent

303  
00:11:58,419 --> 00:12:02,289  
political action and then they can put

304  
00:12:00,879 --> 00:12:04,088  
an early day motion down it goes in a

305  
00:12:02,289 --> 00:12:07,240  
Birkin in the lobby or somewhere in

306  
00:12:04,089 --> 00:12:09,180  
Parliament and and then MPs can sign it

307  
00:12:07,240 --> 00:12:11,409  
to demonstrate their support and and

308  
00:12:09,179 --> 00:12:15,669  
members of the public can contact their

309  
00:12:11,409 --> 00:12:17,350  
MP and ask them to sign it Emily Harris

310  
00:12:15,669 --> 00:12:18,789  
but actually the make the proposal i

311  
00:12:17,350 --> 00:12:20,560  
think was was officially Norman Lamb

312  
00:12:18,789 --> 00:12:23,559  
whose the lib dems shadows but shadow

313  
00:12:20,559 --> 00:12:27,579  
health secretary or whatever posted that

314

00:12:23,559 --> 00:12:29,169  
up and yeah it's been signed by 28 MP so

315  
00:12:27,580 --> 00:12:30,879  
far which isn't bad for an early day

316  
00:12:29,169 --> 00:12:32,799  
motion I have to say and it's some and

317  
00:12:30,879 --> 00:12:35,439  
it's been signed by proper people you

318  
00:12:32,799 --> 00:12:37,599  
know and Glenda Jackson more cotan what

319  
00:12:35,440 --> 00:12:37,930  
is in this early day motion right what

320  
00:12:37,600 --> 00:12:40,750  
is it

321  
00:12:37,929 --> 00:12:43,479  
they sang MMR vaccine and the media EDM

322  
00:12:40,750 --> 00:12:45,309  
75 for that this house expresses its

323  
00:12:43,480 --> 00:12:47,470  
support for the combined MMR vaccine

324  
00:12:45,309 --> 00:12:49,000  
notes with concern the re-emergence of

325  
00:12:47,470 --> 00:12:50,379  
measles and the loss of life and

326  
00:12:49,000 --> 00:12:52,028  
long-term health problems which will

327  
00:12:50,379 --> 00:12:53,799  
afflicts children as a result of the

328  
00:12:52,028 --> 00:12:55,450

decline in the vaccination rate which

329

00:12:53,799 --> 00:12:57,969

followed dr. Andrew Wakefield's now

330

00:12:55,450 --> 00:13:00,240

discredited research paper suggesting a

331

00:12:57,970 --> 00:13:02,170

link between MMR vaccine and autism

332

00:13:00,240 --> 00:13:04,149

expresses its disappointment that

333

00:13:02,169 --> 00:13:06,819

ill-informed comments by presenters such

334

00:13:04,149 --> 00:13:08,589

as Jenny Barnett on her lbc radio show

335

00:13:06,820 --> 00:13:10,480

will continue to cause unfounded

336

00:13:08,589 --> 00:13:11,860

anxieties for many parents and are

337

00:13:10,480 --> 00:13:14,100

likely to result in some parents

338

00:13:11,860 --> 00:13:16,330

choosing not to vaccinate their children

339

00:13:14,100 --> 00:13:17,920

recognizes the right of jelly barnett as

340

00:13:16,330 --> 00:13:20,020

a parent to make her own judgment about

341

00:13:17,919 --> 00:13:22,419

vaccinations for her own children but

342

00:13:20,019 --> 00:13:23,949

implores her and others in the media to

343  
00:13:22,419 --> 00:13:25,539  
act more responsibly when making

344  
00:13:23,950 --> 00:13:27,879  
comments in the public domain and

345  
00:13:25,539 --> 00:13:30,099  
further expresses its hope that in the

346  
00:13:27,879 --> 00:13:31,870  
future reporting on the issue of MMR

347  
00:13:30,100 --> 00:13:36,519  
will be less sensationalist and more

348  
00:13:31,870 --> 00:13:38,528  
evidence-based so that's fantastic it is

349  
00:13:36,519 --> 00:13:40,689  
pretty good isn't it and if you were

350  
00:13:38,528 --> 00:13:42,879  
sort of I mean it's a bit us it's a bit

351  
00:13:40,690 --> 00:13:45,339  
of a slap down Jenny pon it in lbc is

352  
00:13:42,879 --> 00:13:47,110  
now an eva thought it was me at that

353  
00:13:45,339 --> 00:13:49,120  
point I'd have gone all right look you

354  
00:13:47,110 --> 00:13:51,909  
know we're sorry it was foolish let me

355  
00:13:49,120 --> 00:13:53,080  
just say publicly I'm you know we're

356  
00:13:51,909 --> 00:13:55,838  
really going to try not to do this again

357  
00:13:53,080 --> 00:13:57,430  
and we're not going to let Jenny Barnett

358  
00:13:55,839 --> 00:13:58,959  
talk about medical issues until she's

359  
00:13:57,429 --> 00:14:01,120  
bothered to familiarize herself with the

360  
00:13:58,958 --> 00:14:02,859  
basics of the discipline because we

361  
00:14:01,120 --> 00:14:03,789  
wouldn't let somebody talk about sport

362  
00:14:02,860 --> 00:14:06,250  
if they didn't know the difference

363  
00:14:03,789 --> 00:14:07,539  
between cricket and rugby so why do we

364  
00:14:06,250 --> 00:14:09,059  
have this person talking about medical

365  
00:14:07,539 --> 00:14:12,879  
issues and science when they don't

366  
00:14:09,059 --> 00:14:14,919  
understand the absolute basics and you

367  
00:14:12,879 --> 00:14:16,929  
might also say look you know here's the

368  
00:14:14,919 --> 00:14:19,929  
clip we're hosting it free to access

369  
00:14:16,929 --> 00:14:22,509  
here you are here it is fine and job

370  
00:14:19,929 --> 00:14:25,870  
done but instead they just continued to

371

00:14:22,509 --> 00:14:27,278  
to inflame and big do things which I

372  
00:14:25,870 --> 00:14:29,049  
think a lot of people again are

373  
00:14:27,278 --> 00:14:30,338  
interpreting as further efforts to

374  
00:14:29,049 --> 00:14:32,979  
stifle debate and I think they've had

375  
00:14:30,339 --> 00:14:35,320  
very very bad PR advice again I mean I

376  
00:14:32,980 --> 00:14:36,670  
almost feel sorry for Jenny barling one

377  
00:14:35,320 --> 00:14:39,240  
of the things that happened in the last

378  
00:14:36,669 --> 00:14:41,799  
couple of days been was Jenny's agent

379  
00:14:39,240 --> 00:14:44,220  
came out and said that she's been

380  
00:14:41,799 --> 00:14:47,259  
receiving abusive emails and abusive

381  
00:14:44,220 --> 00:14:49,060  
personal attacks on her blog and that

382  
00:14:47,259 --> 00:14:51,639  
was the reasons why she took off the

383  
00:14:49,059 --> 00:14:51,789  
comments from people that were writing

384  
00:14:51,639 --> 00:14:53,230  
on

385  
00:14:51,789 --> 00:14:56,079

blog and saying hey we think you might

386

00:14:53,230 --> 00:15:00,430

be misinformed yeah this person who were

387

00:14:56,080 --> 00:15:03,310

who were sort of invited to feel sorry

388

00:15:00,429 --> 00:15:05,500

for because she's been upset by by

389

00:15:03,309 --> 00:15:07,089

horrible comments I mean firstly they

390

00:15:05,500 --> 00:15:08,649

said holy examine listen they weren't I

391

00:15:07,090 --> 00:15:09,730

don't think any really very horrible

392

00:15:08,649 --> 00:15:11,350

comments on her blog there were more

393

00:15:09,730 --> 00:15:15,129

horrible comments on her blog about me

394

00:15:11,350 --> 00:15:16,720

than ever and I think I mean I think I

395

00:15:15,129 --> 00:15:20,830

think everybody has to be very careful

396

00:15:16,720 --> 00:15:23,529

in in debates like this and not to sort

397

00:15:20,830 --> 00:15:25,389

of childishly start competing for

398

00:15:23,529 --> 00:15:27,339

victimhood and the sort of role as the

399

00:15:25,389 --> 00:15:28,659

most bullied person you know there are

400  
00:15:27,340 --> 00:15:30,190  
some idiots on the internet who post

401  
00:15:28,659 --> 00:15:33,579  
stupid things but that's not a new story

402  
00:15:30,190 --> 00:15:35,920  
you know and yeah but also yeah you're

403  
00:15:33,580 --> 00:15:39,160  
right i mean there was a there was a an

404  
00:15:35,919 --> 00:15:40,539  
era of irony and I suppose hypocrisy you

405  
00:15:39,159 --> 00:15:43,059  
know on the one hand here was somebody

406  
00:15:40,539 --> 00:15:45,579  
who's saying and I'm being really

407  
00:15:43,059 --> 00:15:48,719  
horribly treated here in bullied but on

408  
00:15:45,580 --> 00:15:52,420  
the other hand yeah a very wealthy and

409  
00:15:48,720 --> 00:15:55,060  
TV presenter and radio presenter on her

410  
00:15:52,419 --> 00:15:58,539  
very well about Brett well read personal

411  
00:15:55,059 --> 00:16:00,039  
blog was posting very very inappropriate

412  
00:15:58,539 --> 00:16:01,719  
things about a nurse he'd run into her

413  
00:16:00,039 --> 00:16:03,490  
program Yasmin who was extremely polite

414  
00:16:01,720 --> 00:16:04,899  
and courteous I mean the ridiculous

415  
00:16:03,490 --> 00:16:07,539  
thing about them she was about them

416  
00:16:04,899 --> 00:16:10,179  
insisting on taking the clipdown is what

417  
00:16:07,539 --> 00:16:11,500  
how am I gonna how am I gonna prove to

418  
00:16:10,179 --> 00:16:14,289  
you that Yasmin was polite and courteous

419  
00:16:11,500 --> 00:16:16,450  
and nice you know because i'll be seeing

420  
00:16:14,289 --> 00:16:21,219  
them won't let you hear the clip you

421  
00:16:16,450 --> 00:16:23,020  
know here is a really wealthy television

422  
00:16:21,220 --> 00:16:25,840  
presenter radio presenter with with

423  
00:16:23,019 --> 00:16:28,779  
access with a platform and to my mind

424  
00:16:25,840 --> 00:16:30,850  
she abused fat by describing Yasmin a

425  
00:16:28,779 --> 00:16:32,500  
nurse who works for the NHS for the

426  
00:16:30,850 --> 00:16:34,690  
public good who rang up very politely

427  
00:16:32,500 --> 00:16:38,610  
and courteously by describing her as

428

00:16:34,690 --> 00:16:41,580  
vicious and then most crucially of all

429  
00:16:38,610 --> 00:16:44,590  
deleting all the comments from her blog

430  
00:16:41,580 --> 00:16:47,320  
including you know defense you know

431  
00:16:44,590 --> 00:16:50,139  
people who were defending and Yasmin

432  
00:16:47,320 --> 00:16:51,850  
against that accusation so Ben what what

433  
00:16:50,139 --> 00:16:54,279  
do you think of this sort of destroys

434  
00:16:51,850 --> 00:16:55,600  
and effect that God got all these people

435  
00:16:54,279 --> 00:16:57,490  
together from all over the world it was

436  
00:16:55,600 --> 00:16:58,930  
like a new sort of skeptical false in a

437  
00:16:57,490 --> 00:17:01,480  
way wasn't it that almost happened

438  
00:16:58,929 --> 00:17:03,250  
overnight it was amazing I mean I

439  
00:17:01,480 --> 00:17:05,088  
wouldn't want to be sort of narcissistic

440  
00:17:03,250 --> 00:17:08,209  
about it I mean I don't you know

441  
00:17:05,088 --> 00:17:10,788  
it was like a lot go away no but it was

442  
00:17:08,209 --> 00:17:12,828

a hose it's it's kind of it's kind of

443

00:17:10,788 --> 00:17:16,338  
flattering but but i think it's i think

444

00:17:12,828 --> 00:17:20,149  
what we was really really good about it

445

00:17:16,338 --> 00:17:22,458  
is so much of the coverage so much of

446

00:17:20,150 --> 00:17:27,528  
what people wrote was incredibly

447

00:17:22,459 --> 00:17:29,720  
thoughtful and balanced and sensible and

448

00:17:27,528 --> 00:17:31,640  
where it was sort of silly and childish

449

00:17:29,720 --> 00:17:33,380  
and funny it was silly and childish and

450

00:17:31,640 --> 00:17:37,009  
funny in exactly the kind of way that I

451

00:17:33,380 --> 00:17:38,929  
enjoy you know anything and yeah and and

452

00:17:37,009 --> 00:17:40,250  
so constructive that I mean that was

453

00:17:38,929 --> 00:17:42,980  
what was really amazing about it was

454

00:17:40,250 --> 00:17:45,259  
actually was to kind of go God not only

455

00:17:42,980 --> 00:17:48,230  
are there quite a lot of us but actually

456

00:17:45,259 --> 00:17:50,690  
we're all quite quite sound minded and

457  
00:17:48,230 --> 00:17:52,880  
that was the young that was the really

458  
00:17:50,690 --> 00:17:54,769  
great thing I think you know that and

459  
00:17:52,880 --> 00:17:56,179  
the fact that also now with so many

460  
00:17:54,769 --> 00:17:58,639  
people covering it with so much

461  
00:17:56,179 --> 00:18:00,649  
attention drawn to it it has become like

462  
00:17:58,640 --> 00:18:03,860  
what I what I initially hoped which is

463  
00:18:00,648 --> 00:18:04,969  
this very instructive example and people

464  
00:18:03,859 --> 00:18:06,619  
are really sort of going through it

465  
00:18:04,970 --> 00:18:08,329  
piece by piece instead of pulling out

466  
00:18:06,619 --> 00:18:10,099  
all of the errors and misrepresentations

467  
00:18:08,329 --> 00:18:12,019  
and and everybody kind of linking to

468  
00:18:10,099 --> 00:18:14,240  
everybody else and talking through stuff

469  
00:18:12,019 --> 00:18:15,440  
and actually I think I think the one the

470  
00:18:14,240 --> 00:18:17,659  
only sort of one thing that maybe needs

471  
00:18:15,440 --> 00:18:19,909  
to happen now and that would be really

472  
00:18:17,659 --> 00:18:23,360  
useful I don't know if it has happened

473  
00:18:19,909 --> 00:18:26,090  
yet is them if anybody was sort of was

474  
00:18:23,359 --> 00:18:30,259  
bored and procrastinating on a more

475  
00:18:26,089 --> 00:18:32,750  
important Road yeah maybe to rewrite to

476  
00:18:30,259 --> 00:18:35,019  
really collate and to collate the fully

477  
00:18:32,750 --> 00:18:38,298  
for the whole 44-minute transcript and

478  
00:18:35,019 --> 00:18:40,538  
with links to the rebuttals of each and

479  
00:18:38,298 --> 00:18:44,119  
every step would just be a fascinating

480  
00:18:40,538 --> 00:18:47,240  
hilarious document to have because we've

481  
00:18:44,119 --> 00:18:50,778  
crowdsource so much an energy and and

482  
00:18:47,240 --> 00:18:52,308  
knowledge here and and it's you know I

483  
00:18:50,778 --> 00:18:54,079  
think it's I think it's a great example

484  
00:18:52,308 --> 00:18:55,759  
of what things can do but and it's also

485

00:18:54,079 --> 00:18:57,980  
a great example of the seal the

486  
00:18:55,759 --> 00:19:00,558  
paradoxical effects that things can have

487  
00:18:57,980 --> 00:19:02,870  
on the internet and I mean if you asked

488  
00:19:00,558 --> 00:19:04,970  
for it happen it would never happen you

489  
00:19:02,869 --> 00:19:06,829  
know it just it just wouldn't for those

490  
00:19:04,970 --> 00:19:09,350  
of you yet to hear the broadcast the

491  
00:19:06,829 --> 00:19:11,599  
entire 44 minute excerpt from Jenny's

492  
00:19:09,349 --> 00:19:17,119  
show is posted on my youtube account

493  
00:19:11,599 --> 00:19:19,369  
located at rachey said RAC hie sy d

494  
00:19:17,119 --> 00:19:22,719  
for the full transcript visit the

495  
00:19:19,369 --> 00:19:25,909  
science Punk blog at science blogs com l

496  
00:19:22,720 --> 00:19:28,360  
am also hosting part 4 of the transcript

497  
00:19:25,910 --> 00:19:33,620  
at my blog the skeptics book of poo poo

498  
00:19:28,359 --> 00:19:36,019  
located at ww skeptics book calm zone

499  
00:19:33,619 --> 00:19:39,558

reporter Kylie Sturgis also has part of

500

00:19:36,019 --> 00:19:41,299

the transcript at pod black calm you can

501

00:19:39,558 --> 00:19:43,789

find links to other blogs about the

502

00:19:41,299 --> 00:19:47,450

affair at Hallford watch visit holford

503

00:19:43,789 --> 00:19:50,440

watch dot info plus check ben's blog at

504

00:19:47,450 --> 00:19:53,870

bad science net for updates and news

505

00:19:50,440 --> 00:19:56,420

after the break more ben goldacre part 2

506

00:19:53,869 --> 00:19:58,159

of my interview from two weeks ago where

507

00:19:56,420 --> 00:20:00,800

we continue our discussion about the

508

00:19:58,160 --> 00:20:02,390

matthias wrath defamation case and bad

509

00:20:00,799 --> 00:20:04,899

science reporting by the mainstream

510

00:20:02,390 --> 00:20:04,900

media

511

00:20:10,190 --> 00:20:18,690

this stuff is fun you're listening too

512

00:20:16,049 --> 00:20:20,849

far by George her ab you can find out

513

00:20:18,690 --> 00:20:24,600

more about George her ad by visiting his

514  
00:20:20,849 --> 00:20:28,079  
website at [www George horab dot blog](http://www.Georgehorab.com)

515  
00:20:24,599 --> 00:20:29,879  
spot.com where you can even find the

516  
00:20:28,079 --> 00:20:32,389  
lyrics to this song try singing along

517  
00:20:29,880 --> 00:20:35,400  
with it of course he's singing about the

518  
00:20:32,390 --> 00:20:39,450  
365 days of astronomy podcast one

519  
00:20:35,400 --> 00:20:43,650  
podcast every day for 2009 and you can

520  
00:20:39,450 --> 00:20:46,620  
find that at 365 days of astronomy one

521  
00:20:43,650 --> 00:20:51,080  
word or go check it out there will be a

522  
00:20:46,619 --> 00:20:51,079  
contribution by the skeptic zone in May

523  
00:20:55,819 --> 00:21:02,659  
there by car in a day and super crazy

524  
00:20:59,029 --> 00:21:06,920  
far but just false ours way stars

525  
00:21:02,660 --> 00:21:06,920  
there's a down to a shower

526  
00:21:12,589 --> 00:21:18,269  
hello I'm dr. Karen stalls know from the

527  
00:21:15,779 --> 00:21:21,420  
Skip bitch block and bad language I'm

528  
00:21:18,269 --> 00:21:23,009  
also editor of the skeptic magazine the

529  
00:21:21,420 --> 00:21:25,529  
skeptic is an almost 30 year old

530  
00:21:23,009 --> 00:21:28,589  
magazine about skepticism science and

531  
00:21:25,529 --> 00:21:30,839  
society we feature skeptical articles

532  
00:21:28,589 --> 00:21:33,449  
about a broad range of paranormal occult

533  
00:21:30,839 --> 00:21:38,279  
and supernatural topics including ghosts

534  
00:21:33,450 --> 00:21:40,440  
astrology psychics UFOs and Colts we

535  
00:21:38,279 --> 00:21:43,109  
talk the skeptical talk but also walk

536  
00:21:40,440 --> 00:21:45,480  
the skeptical walk the skeptic road test

537  
00:21:43,109 --> 00:21:47,250  
pseudoscience investigates bizarre

538  
00:21:45,480 --> 00:21:50,009  
beliefs and practices like fire walking

539  
00:21:47,250 --> 00:21:51,569  
and divining you'll recognize a few

540  
00:21:50,009 --> 00:21:54,390  
faces from the skeptic zone too

541  
00:21:51,569 --> 00:21:57,210  
including Richard Saunders dr. Rachel

542

00:21:54,390 --> 00:21:59,970  
Dunlop Michael Willa hen Kylie Sturgis

543  
00:21:57,210 --> 00:22:03,298  
and me we're always looking for new

544  
00:21:59,970 --> 00:22:07,169  
contributors and new readers visit the

545  
00:22:03,298 --> 00:22:09,089  
link on our website at wwc apx Comte you

546  
00:22:07,169 --> 00:22:11,610  
where you can check out some articles

547  
00:22:09,089 --> 00:22:13,259  
and subscribe and look out for the

548  
00:22:11,609 --> 00:22:15,589  
skeptic in newsstands and bookstores

549  
00:22:13,259 --> 00:22:15,589  
soon

550  
00:22:21,490 --> 00:22:26,089  
in our last skeptics own special we

551  
00:22:24,170 --> 00:22:29,180  
spoke with dr. ben goldacre of the bad

552  
00:22:26,089 --> 00:22:31,359  
science column blog and book he told us

553  
00:22:29,180 --> 00:22:32,960  
all about his experiences exposing the

554  
00:22:31,359 --> 00:22:35,659  
misrepresentation of science in the

555  
00:22:32,960 --> 00:22:37,610  
media he also gave us some insight into

556  
00:22:35,660 --> 00:22:39,950

the details surrounding the libel or

557

00:22:37,609 --> 00:22:42,919

defamation case brought against him and

558

00:22:39,950 --> 00:22:44,870

the Guardian by Matthias wrath and this

559

00:22:42,920 --> 00:22:47,210

was a result of ben's criticism of the

560

00:22:44,869 --> 00:22:50,389

man's campaign to introduce vitamins as

561

00:22:47,210 --> 00:22:52,309

a cure for AIDS in south africa on this

562

00:22:50,390 --> 00:22:54,380

week skeptics own special we present

563

00:22:52,309 --> 00:22:56,599

part 2 of this interview where Ben

564

00:22:54,380 --> 00:22:58,520

covers the outcome of the case and tells

565

00:22:56,599 --> 00:23:00,949

us why he is just as critical of the

566

00:22:58,519 --> 00:23:04,009

pharmaceutical industry as he is of the

567

00:23:00,950 --> 00:23:05,960

alternative medicine community I started

568

00:23:04,009 --> 00:23:10,009

off by asking Ben about the outcome of

569

00:23:05,960 --> 00:23:14,150

the libel case uh well he pulled out and

570

00:23:10,009 --> 00:23:16,279

after 15 months of you know having to

571  
00:23:14,150 --> 00:23:19,070  
tool around and deal with lawyers and

572  
00:23:16,279 --> 00:23:20,899  
stuff and our legal costs were five

573  
00:23:19,069 --> 00:23:22,779  
hundred and thirty five thousand pounds

574  
00:23:20,900 --> 00:23:26,000  
of which he's already paid i think

575  
00:23:22,779 --> 00:23:27,740  
220,000 and we're pursuing him for the

576  
00:23:26,000 --> 00:23:29,750  
remainder it's worth pointing out that

577  
00:23:27,740 --> 00:23:32,509  
he's and you know he's got a long track

578  
00:23:29,750 --> 00:23:35,359  
record of suing people people including

579  
00:23:32,509 --> 00:23:38,029  
med sansome frontiere I mean whose shoes

580  
00:23:35,359 --> 00:23:41,240  
hey why'd he tried to sue Metis also

581  
00:23:38,029 --> 00:23:43,190  
frontier yes no you did yeah and there

582  
00:23:41,240 --> 00:23:44,599  
was this really weary press release when

583  
00:23:43,190 --> 00:23:46,700  
it collapsed where they just sort of

584  
00:23:44,599 --> 00:23:48,349  
said we're really glad this is over now

585  
00:23:46,700 --> 00:23:51,319  
we can get on with doing like real work

586  
00:23:48,349 --> 00:23:54,319  
and you know he sued I mean it's endless

587  
00:23:51,319 --> 00:23:56,179  
the list of people that he sued he's

588  
00:23:54,319 --> 00:23:57,950  
Superman action campaign all of that

589  
00:23:56,180 --> 00:23:59,750  
yeah I mean when you're suing MSF you

590  
00:23:57,950 --> 00:24:02,269  
know you're like there's something wrong

591  
00:23:59,750 --> 00:24:04,789  
with you really isn't it well yeah I

592  
00:24:02,269 --> 00:24:06,589  
guess so that's that's the way it is

593  
00:24:04,789 --> 00:24:10,819  
with that with our legal system and not

594  
00:24:06,589 --> 00:24:16,009  
but I mean I suppose you know I'm one

595  
00:24:10,819 --> 00:24:19,250  
tenacious you know and I guess I mean

596  
00:24:16,009 --> 00:24:22,970  
you come out of 15 months of that sort

597  
00:24:19,250 --> 00:24:25,940  
of scale of nonsense with with a very

598  
00:24:22,970 --> 00:24:30,440  
large number of boxes containing witness

599

00:24:25,940 --> 00:24:33,350  
statements and examples of adverts from

600  
00:24:30,440 --> 00:24:36,679  
matara and all of that and I guess I now

601  
00:24:33,349 --> 00:24:38,178  
no more about this guy than probably

602  
00:24:36,679 --> 00:24:41,059  
anybody else in the world with the

603  
00:24:38,179 --> 00:24:43,429  
exception of the people in South Africa

604  
00:24:41,058 --> 00:24:45,950  
you know like tack I'm not a wealthy man

605  
00:24:43,429 --> 00:24:48,019  
I need to sort of make the best that I

606  
00:24:45,950 --> 00:24:50,419  
can of the time that I've spent on that

607  
00:24:48,019 --> 00:24:54,019  
so I guess you know I'm going to have to

608  
00:24:50,419 --> 00:24:57,110  
write a maybe a book about me Thomas

609  
00:24:54,019 --> 00:24:59,480  
Rath will find some useful sort of way

610  
00:24:57,109 --> 00:25:01,909  
of putting all that time to use you know

611  
00:24:59,480 --> 00:25:03,410  
me not not not out of vindictiveness but

612  
00:25:01,910 --> 00:25:05,179  
just you know I mean I there's a lot of

613  
00:25:03,410 --> 00:25:07,940

information there which I suppose and

614

00:25:05,179 --> 00:25:10,030

you know it it would be a tragedy if

615

00:25:07,940 --> 00:25:12,140

some good didn't come of this yes

616

00:25:10,029 --> 00:25:14,629

ridiculous really sort of in a

617

00:25:12,140 --> 00:25:17,570

million-dollar waste of time and effort

618

00:25:14,630 --> 00:25:19,400

and effort and money yeah well one of

619

00:25:17,569 --> 00:25:21,470

the things that you do Ben is your very

620

00:25:19,400 --> 00:25:23,419

critical of alt alternative medicine but

621

00:25:21,470 --> 00:25:25,759

you're also critical of Big Pharma and

622

00:25:23,419 --> 00:25:27,440

this confuses a lot of your critics

623

00:25:25,759 --> 00:25:29,480

because they try to go with the line of

624

00:25:27,440 --> 00:25:32,269

Big Pharma stooge but in fact you're

625

00:25:29,480 --> 00:25:33,529

just as critical of Big Pharma can you

626

00:25:32,269 --> 00:25:36,589

give us some idea about why you

627

00:25:33,529 --> 00:25:39,740

criticize Big Pharma uh because they do

628  
00:25:36,589 --> 00:25:45,199  
really bad stuff okay can you be more

629  
00:25:39,740 --> 00:25:46,880  
specific yeah well I mean this is kyle

630  
00:25:45,200 --> 00:25:48,890  
you know this is what I I teach medical

631  
00:25:46,880 --> 00:25:52,820  
students and doctors on this you know I

632  
00:25:48,890 --> 00:25:54,530  
do a legit and course and it's called

633  
00:25:52,819 --> 00:25:56,928  
drug company is how it actually

634  
00:25:54,529 --> 00:25:59,119  
would appear Zahn the UCL timetable I

635  
00:25:56,929 --> 00:26:00,679  
was delighted I see where it's called

636  
00:25:59,119 --> 00:26:02,658  
critically appraising clinical trial

637  
00:26:00,679 --> 00:26:04,580  
methodologies from industry yeah i mean

638  
00:26:02,659 --> 00:26:07,570  
the you know i don't see any real

639  
00:26:04,579 --> 00:26:09,678  
dividing line between Big Pharma and

640  
00:26:07,569 --> 00:26:12,288  
alternative therapists quacks you know

641  
00:26:09,679 --> 00:26:15,019  
they're all using the same tricks the

642  
00:26:12,288 --> 00:26:16,220  
same sleight of hand to sell pills and

643  
00:26:15,019 --> 00:26:18,769  
treatments to people and they're all

644  
00:26:16,220 --> 00:26:22,069  
using the same tricks to misrepresent

645  
00:26:18,769 --> 00:26:23,150  
evidence I mean big pharma because

646  
00:26:22,069 --> 00:26:25,158  
they're not allowed to advertise

647  
00:26:23,150 --> 00:26:27,919  
directly to doctors outside of America

648  
00:26:25,159 --> 00:26:29,419  
and New Zealand and yea big farmer tends

649  
00:26:27,919 --> 00:26:31,970  
to have to use slightly more

650  
00:26:29,419 --> 00:26:34,030  
sophisticated tricks because they're

651  
00:26:31,970 --> 00:26:36,710  
using these tricks on people like

652  
00:26:34,029 --> 00:26:38,149  
pharmacists and doctors and so the

653  
00:26:36,710 --> 00:26:41,029  
slights of hands have to be slightly

654  
00:26:38,150 --> 00:26:42,919  
more elegant and sophisticated and also

655  
00:26:41,029 --> 00:26:45,500  
because they're not sort of carrying out

656

00:26:42,919 --> 00:26:46,710  
these acts of sleight of hand in terms

657  
00:26:45,500 --> 00:26:49,528  
of misrepresenting the evidence

658  
00:26:46,710 --> 00:26:52,230  
so commonly in mainstream popular

659  
00:26:49,528 --> 00:26:54,480  
culture it's a discourse that happens in

660  
00:26:52,230 --> 00:26:57,089  
academia and in sort of teaching I mean

661  
00:26:54,480 --> 00:26:59,190  
I couldn't very well write about fair a

662  
00:26:57,089 --> 00:27:01,099  
few of the things that I teach on to

663  
00:26:59,190 --> 00:27:03,720  
doctors and medical students because

664  
00:27:01,099 --> 00:27:06,119  
they're not examples from popular

665  
00:27:03,720 --> 00:27:08,100  
culture no substantive it although I do

666  
00:27:06,119 --> 00:27:09,209  
often in the column wherever I can

667  
00:27:08,099 --> 00:27:11,519  
wherever there's something that sort of

668  
00:27:09,210 --> 00:27:13,319  
hit the news then I'll certainly done

669  
00:27:11,519 --> 00:27:15,329  
live in and but the tricks of the trade

670  
00:27:13,319 --> 00:27:17,189

are all exactly the same and all of the

671

00:27:15,329 --> 00:27:19,199

all of things that you know homeopaths

672

00:27:17,190 --> 00:27:21,509

used to rig their trials like inadequate

673

00:27:19,200 --> 00:27:23,220

blinding inadequate randomization that

674

00:27:21,509 --> 00:27:25,019

kind of thing have all been seen in

675

00:27:23,220 --> 00:27:26,640

pharmaceutical industry trials before

676

00:27:25,019 --> 00:27:29,839

I'm working on something at the moment

677

00:27:26,640 --> 00:27:32,278

with a couple of colleagues on an

678

00:27:29,839 --> 00:27:33,808

interpretive bias in acupuncture studies

679

00:27:32,278 --> 00:27:35,250

and its really interesting how you know

680

00:27:33,808 --> 00:27:36,808

exactly the same things I found in

681

00:27:35,250 --> 00:27:39,599

acupuncture studies that you find in Big

682

00:27:36,808 --> 00:27:41,398

Pharma so interpretive biases basically

683

00:27:39,599 --> 00:27:42,359

you know you've reported the methods and

684

00:27:41,398 --> 00:27:44,699

the results of your experiment

685  
00:27:42,359 --> 00:27:46,288  
accurately but your interpretation of

686  
00:27:44,700 --> 00:27:48,058  
those in the discussion section is just

687  
00:27:46,288 --> 00:27:49,740  
completely bonkers and off the wall and

688  
00:27:48,058 --> 00:27:51,629  
in the anatomic your royal the rest of

689  
00:27:49,740 --> 00:27:54,120  
that yeah exactly yeah so in the

690  
00:27:51,630 --> 00:27:56,370  
acupuncture world it's you know people

691  
00:27:54,119 --> 00:27:58,949  
do three armed studies they do sort of

692  
00:27:56,369 --> 00:28:00,989  
you know treatment as usual in a or sort

693  
00:27:58,950 --> 00:28:03,240  
of no treatment at all then sham

694  
00:28:00,990 --> 00:28:05,069  
acupuncture sort of randomly using fake

695  
00:28:03,240 --> 00:28:07,679  
needles that random points the body

696  
00:28:05,069 --> 00:28:09,240  
against genuine acupuncture so proper

697  
00:28:07,679 --> 00:28:10,830  
full on ceremonial acupuncture and the

698  
00:28:09,240 --> 00:28:14,190  
results of these trials are almost

699  
00:28:10,829 --> 00:28:17,099  
always both sham and genuine acupuncture

700  
00:28:14,190 --> 00:28:18,840  
do better than nothing but there's no

701  
00:28:17,099 --> 00:28:21,359  
difference between sham acupuncture and

702  
00:28:18,839 --> 00:28:22,678  
genuine acupuncture and all of the

703  
00:28:21,359 --> 00:28:24,359  
acupuncture is say all right that means

704  
00:28:22,679 --> 00:28:26,820  
acupuncture works in your life no it

705  
00:28:24,359 --> 00:28:29,609  
hasn't it means it's that a really

706  
00:28:26,819 --> 00:28:31,558  
elaborate placebo ritual with lots of

707  
00:28:29,609 --> 00:28:33,629  
sauce ceremonial components and works

708  
00:28:31,558 --> 00:28:37,139  
and that doesn't surprise me I'm cool

709  
00:28:33,630 --> 00:28:38,789  
with that you know getting but what's

710  
00:28:37,140 --> 00:28:41,130  
interesting about that is that exactly

711  
00:28:38,788 --> 00:28:42,509  
the same thing happens in mainstream

712  
00:28:41,130 --> 00:28:44,899  
medicine so for example there was a very

713

00:28:42,509 --> 00:28:47,000  
interesting study recently comparing

714  
00:28:44,898 --> 00:28:49,288  
industry-funded meta-analysis

715  
00:28:47,000 --> 00:28:51,659  
meta-analysis against independent

716  
00:28:49,288 --> 00:28:54,298  
cochrane meta-analyses and they found

717  
00:28:51,659 --> 00:28:57,570  
that the actual results that they

718  
00:28:54,298 --> 00:29:00,329  
reported were genuine generally the same

719  
00:28:57,569 --> 00:29:01,950  
but the industry-funded meta-analyses

720  
00:29:00,329 --> 00:29:05,038  
ended in their discussion sections to

721  
00:29:01,950 --> 00:29:06,750  
say and that means our drug works where

722  
00:29:05,038 --> 00:29:08,730  
is the independent ones we tend to say

723  
00:29:06,750 --> 00:29:11,849  
and that means it's not really worth

724  
00:29:08,730 --> 00:29:13,589  
easier and so you know it's it's you

725  
00:29:11,849 --> 00:29:14,969  
know it's just surprising yeah yeah

726  
00:29:13,589 --> 00:29:16,288  
who'd of thought ain't so it's just

727  
00:29:14,970 --> 00:29:18,450

fascinating really how the different

728

00:29:16,288 --> 00:29:20,940

tent sort of industries use exactly the

729

00:29:18,450 --> 00:29:22,519

same and tricks and you know the other

730

00:29:20,940 --> 00:29:24,899

thing is you know all of the things that

731

00:29:22,519 --> 00:29:27,839

the alternative therapists accuse other

732

00:29:24,898 --> 00:29:29,969

people of you know they do and that's a

733

00:29:27,839 --> 00:29:32,250

that's what I find fascinating but then

734

00:29:29,970 --> 00:29:33,389

you know I mean I think it's important

735

00:29:32,250 --> 00:29:35,339

to remember that in the world of

736

00:29:33,388 --> 00:29:36,898

alternative therapy you know they set

737

00:29:35,339 --> 00:29:39,058

themselves up in opposition to the

738

00:29:36,898 --> 00:29:41,579

pharmaceutical industry not in any

739

00:29:39,058 --> 00:29:44,158

meaningful sense but just as an aspect

740

00:29:41,579 --> 00:29:45,599

of their brand identity and they do so

741

00:29:44,159 --> 00:29:48,090

with good reason because they've been

742  
00:29:45,599 --> 00:29:50,129  
huge numbers of surveys of why people do

743  
00:29:48,089 --> 00:29:52,079  
why people go for alternative therapies

744  
00:29:50,130 --> 00:29:55,409  
and it's actually very very hard to find

745  
00:29:52,079 --> 00:29:57,359  
anything consistent and expected so for

746  
00:29:55,409 --> 00:29:58,740  
example you know a level of scientific

747  
00:29:57,359 --> 00:30:00,000  
understanding doesn't correlate very

748  
00:29:58,740 --> 00:30:02,519  
well with how much people use

749  
00:30:00,000 --> 00:30:04,319  
alternative therapies and but the one

750  
00:30:02,519 --> 00:30:06,509  
thing that does repeatedly come out is

751  
00:30:04,319 --> 00:30:09,480  
that people who've had a bad experience

752  
00:30:06,509 --> 00:30:12,298  
with mainstream medicine are more likely

753  
00:30:09,480 --> 00:30:14,038  
to seek out alternative therapies and I

754  
00:30:12,298 --> 00:30:16,109  
think that people who are marketing

755  
00:30:14,038 --> 00:30:19,500  
these alternative therapies know that

756  
00:30:16,109 --> 00:30:21,538  
and that's why they set themselves up in

757  
00:30:19,500 --> 00:30:23,519  
opposition to Big Pharma that's why and

758  
00:30:21,538 --> 00:30:25,349  
and mainstream medicine you know that's

759  
00:30:23,519 --> 00:30:27,808  
why they're constantly sort of making

760  
00:30:25,349 --> 00:30:30,329  
these rather shrill and melodramatic

761  
00:30:27,808 --> 00:30:33,089  
critiques in mainstream medicine which I

762  
00:30:30,329 --> 00:30:35,339  
think again you know represent quite a

763  
00:30:33,089 --> 00:30:36,928  
serious opportunity cost opportunity

764  
00:30:35,339 --> 00:30:38,158  
cost is you know the true cost of of

765  
00:30:36,929 --> 00:30:40,320  
something is what you give up in order

766  
00:30:38,159 --> 00:30:42,330  
to get it so an opportunity cost is

767  
00:30:40,319 --> 00:30:43,740  
something that you do wastefully when

768  
00:30:42,329 --> 00:30:45,960  
you could be doing something useful

769  
00:30:43,740 --> 00:30:48,450  
instead and that's that's probably the

770

00:30:45,960 --> 00:30:50,519  
greatest concrete harm that comes from

771  
00:30:48,450 --> 00:30:52,440  
alternative therapies because firstly

772  
00:30:50,519 --> 00:30:55,019  
when you could be spending all of this

773  
00:30:52,440 --> 00:30:57,000  
sort of health risk behavior motivation

774  
00:30:55,019 --> 00:30:58,409  
that you have on doing something useful

775  
00:30:57,000 --> 00:31:00,808  
for your health instead you're buying

776  
00:30:58,409 --> 00:31:02,909  
these pointless vitamin pills or or you

777  
00:31:00,808 --> 00:31:04,470  
know doing a 5 day detox or something

778  
00:31:02,909 --> 00:31:06,330  
but the other problem is that you know

779  
00:31:04,470 --> 00:31:09,569  
there's cultural opportunity cost which

780  
00:31:06,329 --> 00:31:10,788  
is there are huge huge problems with the

781  
00:31:09,569 --> 00:31:13,538  
way that the pharmaceutical industry

782  
00:31:10,788 --> 00:31:15,429  
runs itself and they do practically run

783  
00:31:13,538 --> 00:31:17,408  
selves because regulators have

784  
00:31:15,429 --> 00:31:19,690

repeatedly shown themselves to be pretty

785

00:31:17,409 --> 00:31:21,070

pretty hopeless in this area there are

786

00:31:19,690 --> 00:31:23,830

huge problems with the way that big

787

00:31:21,069 --> 00:31:26,618

farmer is going but they're slightly

788

00:31:23,829 --> 00:31:29,079

complicated issues and they don't have

789

00:31:26,618 --> 00:31:31,808

any purchase in popular culture but

790

00:31:29,079 --> 00:31:34,388

instead yes what you get is this really

791

00:31:31,808 --> 00:31:36,038

childish right stuff like you know big

792

00:31:34,388 --> 00:31:38,288

farmers evil therefore homeopathy works

793

00:31:36,038 --> 00:31:41,378

better than placebo big fun with you

794

00:31:38,288 --> 00:31:43,749

therefore vaccines cause autism and the

795

00:31:41,378 --> 00:31:46,598

tragedy of that is that I wrote about

796

00:31:43,749 --> 00:31:49,479

the pharmaceutical industry deliberately

797

00:31:46,598 --> 00:31:51,878

hiding evidence of harm from their drugs

798

00:31:49,479 --> 00:31:53,859

and evidence of drugs not being much

799  
00:31:51,878 --> 00:31:56,319  
better than placebo I wrote about that

800  
00:31:53,858 --> 00:31:58,598  
in national newspapers that was SSRIs

801  
00:31:56,319 --> 00:32:00,308  
wasn't that yeah yeah yeah and and I

802  
00:31:58,598 --> 00:32:01,928  
read about that in in three different

803  
00:32:00,308 --> 00:32:07,058  
newspapers on two different continents

804  
00:32:01,929 --> 00:32:10,720  
that story lasted globally for about

805  
00:32:07,058 --> 00:32:13,118  
five days and then it just died and that

806  
00:32:10,720 --> 00:32:14,710  
was a true story about real bad stuff

807  
00:32:13,118 --> 00:32:16,269  
that will still go on because their

808  
00:32:14,710 --> 00:32:18,190  
regulatory response to it is inadequate

809  
00:32:16,269 --> 00:32:19,388  
we don't have you know proper clinical

810  
00:32:18,190 --> 00:32:21,249  
trials registers and all the stuff I

811  
00:32:19,388 --> 00:32:25,089  
write about in the book done so crap on

812  
00:32:21,249 --> 00:32:26,769  
it the book by the book the work and you

813  
00:32:25,089 --> 00:32:31,298  
know they don't have any of that staff

814  
00:32:26,769 --> 00:32:33,368  
in place meanwhile this childish fantasy

815  
00:32:31,298 --> 00:32:38,048  
that that the MMR vaccine causes autism

816  
00:32:33,368 --> 00:32:39,548  
in the UK has run for 10 years you know

817  
00:32:38,048 --> 00:32:42,249  
and the people who are driving it have

818  
00:32:39,548 --> 00:32:45,788  
the grandiosity to portray themselves as

819  
00:32:42,249 --> 00:32:48,399  
these noble figures battling against big

820  
00:32:45,788 --> 00:32:50,950  
farmer and you just think you know you

821  
00:32:48,398 --> 00:32:53,558  
guys are just the biggest barrier to a

822  
00:32:50,950 --> 00:32:55,090  
meaningful discourse on on the crimes of

823  
00:32:53,558 --> 00:32:58,118  
a pharmaceutical industry that I could

824  
00:32:55,089 --> 00:32:59,918  
possibly imagine you know well it was

825  
00:32:58,118 --> 00:33:02,978  
then it was only yesterday that another

826  
00:32:59,919 --> 00:33:05,200  
article appeared in in the BBC i believe

827

00:33:02,979 --> 00:33:08,319  
wasn't it in print about mmm oh you may

828  
00:33:05,200 --> 00:33:10,479  
listen yeah daily mail yet wasn't even

829  
00:33:08,319 --> 00:33:11,769  
autism I it was some other so you know

830  
00:33:10,479 --> 00:33:13,330  
it's just you know a kid who suddenly

831  
00:33:11,769 --> 00:33:14,888  
got ill and it was a couple of days

832  
00:33:13,329 --> 00:33:16,868  
after having the vaccine yeah that's

833  
00:33:14,888 --> 00:33:19,689  
right i mean what you're kind of seeing

834  
00:33:16,868 --> 00:33:23,348  
there is is a number of different things

835  
00:33:19,690 --> 00:33:24,639  
firstly in mainstream medicine we have

836  
00:33:23,348 --> 00:33:26,700  
this thing called the hierarchy of

837  
00:33:24,638 --> 00:33:28,619  
evidence right which is

838  
00:33:26,700 --> 00:33:30,029  
your analyses which are you get all of

839  
00:33:28,619 --> 00:33:31,169  
the results from all of your little

840  
00:33:30,029 --> 00:33:32,700  
clinical trials and you put them all

841  
00:33:31,170 --> 00:33:36,150

into one big spreadsheet and you get a

842

00:33:32,700 --> 00:33:37,549

really big number of participants and so

843

00:33:36,150 --> 00:33:39,750

that gives you a much more accurate

844

00:33:37,549 --> 00:33:41,609

answer of whether a treatment works or

845

00:33:39,750 --> 00:33:42,509

not right so in the hierarchy of

846

00:33:41,609 --> 00:33:44,669

evidence in mainstream medicine

847

00:33:42,509 --> 00:33:45,990

meta-analysis and systematic review are

848

00:33:44,670 --> 00:33:48,120

right at the top and then it kind of

849

00:33:45,990 --> 00:33:49,620

goes down your trials observational

850

00:33:48,119 --> 00:33:52,109

studies perspective coval studies case

851

00:33:49,619 --> 00:33:54,569

control then right at the bottom you

852

00:33:52,109 --> 00:33:57,000

have individual case reports like you

853

00:33:54,569 --> 00:33:59,159

know anecdotes and then write the bottom

854

00:33:57,000 --> 00:34:01,890

even below that you have expert opinion

855

00:33:59,160 --> 00:34:06,000

because you know expert opinions

856  
00:34:01,890 --> 00:34:07,500  
definitely always and and the

857  
00:34:06,000 --> 00:34:09,300  
interesting thing about that is it seems

858  
00:34:07,500 --> 00:34:12,329  
to me that in mainstream media and i'm

859  
00:34:09,300 --> 00:34:14,100  
doing a quantitative study on on media

860  
00:34:12,329 --> 00:34:17,489  
output in the UK up on this at the

861  
00:34:14,099 --> 00:34:19,230  
moment it seems to me that the hierarchy

862  
00:34:17,489 --> 00:34:22,799  
of evidence in mainstream media is is

863  
00:34:19,230 --> 00:34:26,219  
inverted so individual case reports and

864  
00:34:22,800 --> 00:34:29,640  
expert opinions are front page news page

865  
00:34:26,219 --> 00:34:31,709  
news right but meta analyses and

866  
00:34:29,639 --> 00:34:33,750  
chrome reviews and stuff yes barely

867  
00:34:31,710 --> 00:34:36,000  
register you know they barely deserve a

868  
00:34:33,750 --> 00:34:38,159  
mention and that to me is really

869  
00:34:36,000 --> 00:34:39,900  
fascinating you know I've got a paper

870  
00:34:38,159 --> 00:34:41,940  
being submitted at moment showing that

871  
00:34:39,900 --> 00:34:43,349  
over the past a year a whole years worth

872  
00:34:41,940 --> 00:34:46,920  
of coverage for the Cochrane Library

873  
00:34:43,349 --> 00:34:48,750  
which is you know produces gold standard

874  
00:34:46,920 --> 00:34:50,820  
systematic reviews and meta-analyses is

875  
00:34:48,750 --> 00:34:54,059  
this independent academic collaboration

876  
00:34:50,820 --> 00:34:57,559  
that's worldwide truly amazing resource

877  
00:34:54,059 --> 00:35:00,119  
and institution it is they publish about

878  
00:34:57,559 --> 00:35:02,789  
600 systematic reviews and meta-analyses

879  
00:35:00,119 --> 00:35:04,650  
every year and in the UK they had 50

880  
00:35:02,789 --> 00:35:06,719  
items of news coverage in one year in

881  
00:35:04,650 --> 00:35:09,180  
total throughout all newspapers and

882  
00:35:06,719 --> 00:35:11,429  
that's nothing you know yeah and that's

883  
00:35:09,179 --> 00:35:13,289  
that what doctors and a dose would

884

00:35:11,429 --> 00:35:16,139  
consider to be gold standard evidence

885  
00:35:13,289 --> 00:35:18,300  
and it's nowhere in mainstream media

886  
00:35:16,139 --> 00:35:20,460  
meanwhile these some little stories our

887  
00:35:18,300 --> 00:35:22,110  
fanpage earnings anyway the I mean the

888  
00:35:20,460 --> 00:35:24,809  
other interesting thing about that are

889  
00:35:22,110 --> 00:35:27,150  
taking the Daily Mail is that individual

890  
00:35:24,809 --> 00:35:29,309  
children may well occasionally have

891  
00:35:27,150 --> 00:35:30,900  
adverse consequences from vaccinations I

892  
00:35:29,309 --> 00:35:32,969  
don't know about the details of this

893  
00:35:30,900 --> 00:35:33,960  
case I do know that they had an exactly

894  
00:35:32,969 --> 00:35:36,599  
they had a very similar case about a

895  
00:35:33,960 --> 00:35:39,059  
month ago where they were saying oh you

896  
00:35:36,599 --> 00:35:39,670  
know this coroner's report is coming up

897  
00:35:39,059 --> 00:35:41,048  
there's a

898  
00:35:39,670 --> 00:35:44,260

this case it's being heard at the moment

899

00:35:41,048 --> 00:35:45,639

it's MMR vaccine on trial this child was

900

00:35:44,260 --> 00:35:46,839

damaged by the MMR vaccine and they

901

00:35:45,639 --> 00:35:48,759

reported all of that while it was on

902

00:35:46,838 --> 00:35:51,279

going and then the result of the

903

00:35:48,760 --> 00:35:53,160

coroner's inquest was yeah this had

904

00:35:51,280 --> 00:35:56,319

nothing to do with the MMR vaccine and

905

00:35:53,159 --> 00:35:57,608

only one of the 80 newspapers or

906

00:35:56,318 --> 00:36:00,400

something that covered it actually

907

00:35:57,608 --> 00:36:02,889

bothered to report the outcome which is

908

00:36:00,400 --> 00:36:06,099

pretty astonishing but anyway you talk

909

00:36:02,889 --> 00:36:07,568

about Lebanese sorry yeah yeah no no you

910

00:36:06,099 --> 00:36:09,460

were mentioning my book that's great I'm

911

00:36:07,568 --> 00:36:11,380

very bad the book when you talk about

912

00:36:09,460 --> 00:36:13,900

that in in your book bad science because

913  
00:36:11,380 --> 00:36:16,329  
you talk about how a lot of these big

914  
00:36:13,900 --> 00:36:18,818  
stories don't go to specialist science

915  
00:36:16,329 --> 00:36:20,740  
journalists they'll go to journalists

916  
00:36:18,818 --> 00:36:23,199  
who don't have much expertise in its

917  
00:36:20,739 --> 00:36:24,729  
area so they'll just follow that the

918  
00:36:23,199 --> 00:36:26,469  
line of well the evidence has been

919  
00:36:24,730 --> 00:36:29,769  
debunked but when it never was really

920  
00:36:26,469 --> 00:36:32,379  
there in the case of MMR at least that's

921  
00:36:29,769 --> 00:36:34,780  
what I'm here to talk about and so in

922  
00:36:32,380 --> 00:36:37,568  
the book yeah I mean like I I kind of

923  
00:36:34,780 --> 00:36:40,240  
try and go after a prolonged sort of

924  
00:36:37,568 --> 00:36:43,659  
parade of morons from mainstream news

925  
00:36:40,239 --> 00:36:45,159  
media I try to understand what's going

926  
00:36:43,659 --> 00:36:47,289  
on and you're right one of the most

927  
00:36:45,159 --> 00:36:49,179  
interesting things is when I first got

928  
00:36:47,289 --> 00:36:50,259  
into this game I I thought all health

929  
00:36:49,179 --> 00:36:51,789  
and science journalists must just be

930  
00:36:50,260 --> 00:36:53,799  
morons because there were no other

931  
00:36:51,789 --> 00:36:55,539  
explanation for the phenomena that I was

932  
00:36:53,798 --> 00:36:57,190  
observing but actually it turns out that

933  
00:36:55,539 --> 00:36:59,639  
it's it's a bit more complicated than

934  
00:36:57,190 --> 00:37:02,500  
that you know and actually that's the

935  
00:36:59,639 --> 00:37:03,608  
that's that's the slogan on a t-shirt

936  
00:37:02,500 --> 00:37:05,139  
that I'm selling through the website

937  
00:37:03,608 --> 00:37:07,568  
bad-sized on it I personally believe

938  
00:37:05,139 --> 00:37:09,129  
this is the funniest slogan t-shirt ever

939  
00:37:07,568 --> 00:37:11,048  
produced in the history of mankind it

940  
00:37:09,130 --> 00:37:13,210  
just says I think you'll find it's a bit

941

00:37:11,048 --> 00:37:15,219  
more complicated than that and have a

942  
00:37:13,210 --> 00:37:17,230  
purpose and we're holding a competition

943  
00:37:15,219 --> 00:37:18,969  
where you can send in pictures of you

944  
00:37:17,230 --> 00:37:20,679  
wearing the t-shirt next to somebody

945  
00:37:18,969 --> 00:37:23,169  
else wearing their own slogan t-shirt so

946  
00:37:20,679 --> 00:37:23,889  
it's like drop beats not bombs I think

947  
00:37:23,170 --> 00:37:26,588  
you'll find it's a bit more complicated

948  
00:37:23,889 --> 00:37:27,670  
than that and stuff I saw somebody on

949  
00:37:26,588 --> 00:37:29,259  
the to the other day wearing a t-shirt

950  
00:37:27,670 --> 00:37:32,190  
that said I need a hug and I just

951  
00:37:29,260 --> 00:37:34,630  
thought this is the perfect opportunity

952  
00:37:32,190 --> 00:37:37,150  
anyway um can I suggest something to you

953  
00:37:34,630 --> 00:37:40,450  
Ben just it just quickly I'd love you to

954  
00:37:37,150 --> 00:37:42,548  
make a t-shirt of the title of your blog

955  
00:37:40,449 --> 00:37:44,289

recently the one that said the barefaced

956

00:37:42,548 --> 00:37:47,710

cheek of these characters will never

957

00:37:44,289 --> 00:37:49,480

cease to amaze and delight me that's one

958

00:37:47,710 --> 00:37:52,889

of the best titles for a blog of ever

959

00:37:49,480 --> 00:37:54,869

seen that gave me such a big love

960

00:37:52,889 --> 00:37:57,150

they are pretty shameless yeah but

961

00:37:54,869 --> 00:37:58,440

anyway what we do oh yeah yes it's a bit

962

00:37:57,150 --> 00:38:00,059

more complicated than just science and

963

00:37:58,440 --> 00:38:03,389

health Dennis being being morons in

964

00:38:00,059 --> 00:38:05,309

actual fact it seems to be more commonly

965

00:38:03,389 --> 00:38:07,289

that it's sort of senior figures at the

966

00:38:05,309 --> 00:38:09,539

paper you know the sort of the flaky

967

00:38:07,289 --> 00:38:11,489

humanities graduates in senior executive

968

00:38:09,539 --> 00:38:13,889

and editorial rolled whom who wear their

969

00:38:11,489 --> 00:38:17,129

ignorance of basic science as a matter

970  
00:38:13,889 --> 00:38:18,509  
of pride on their sleeves who sort of go

971  
00:38:17,130 --> 00:38:21,360  
up to the health and science products

972  
00:38:18,510 --> 00:38:23,550  
and say you must cover this stupid story

973  
00:38:21,360 --> 00:38:24,990  
and then there are sort of big arguments

974  
00:38:23,550 --> 00:38:26,580  
and that happened with things like you

975  
00:38:24,989 --> 00:38:28,649  
know the kind of journalism stuff like

976  
00:38:26,579 --> 00:38:31,289  
wall men will have big willy's that sort

977  
00:38:28,650 --> 00:38:32,610  
of bogus they are so if you know the

978  
00:38:31,289 --> 00:38:34,769  
equations for the happiest day of the

979  
00:38:32,610 --> 00:38:37,079  
year sponsored by a travel company

980  
00:38:34,769 --> 00:38:39,150  
against the end of January perfect time

981  
00:38:37,079 --> 00:38:40,920  
to book a holiday if equation for the

982  
00:38:39,150 --> 00:38:43,019  
happiest day of the year is is a

983  
00:38:40,920 --> 00:38:45,570  
beginning of summer perfect time for

984  
00:38:43,019 --> 00:38:47,369  
buying ice cream and sponsored bad man

985  
00:38:45,570 --> 00:38:49,289  
and when that sort of action actually

986  
00:38:47,369 --> 00:38:51,299  
Bennett was reported here on the 19th of

987  
00:38:49,289 --> 00:38:54,300  
January that it was the most depressing

988  
00:38:51,300 --> 00:38:56,010  
day of the year that was we got one of

989  
00:38:54,300 --> 00:38:57,330  
those stories it because I just read

990  
00:38:56,010 --> 00:38:59,160  
your book and I read all that and then

991  
00:38:57,329 --> 00:39:01,650  
it appeared in the papers here on the

992  
00:38:59,159 --> 00:39:04,889  
19th of January it is so brilliantly

993  
00:39:01,650 --> 00:39:06,210  
nuts but anyway and so you know the the

994  
00:39:04,889 --> 00:39:07,589  
science and health correspondents are

995  
00:39:06,210 --> 00:39:09,329  
sort of approached by senior editorial

996  
00:39:07,590 --> 00:39:10,980  
figures to write up stupid stories like

997  
00:39:09,329 --> 00:39:12,360  
that and I now know because I go out

998

00:39:10,980 --> 00:39:13,949  
drinking with these people that they say

999  
00:39:12,360 --> 00:39:16,050  
look please don't make me write the

1000  
00:39:13,949 --> 00:39:18,119  
really stupid story and then a you know

1001  
00:39:16,050 --> 00:39:19,650  
a battle will ensue but even more

1002  
00:39:18,119 --> 00:39:21,449  
interesting Lee than that when a story

1003  
00:39:19,650 --> 00:39:22,980  
becomes a big political hot potato it

1004  
00:39:21,449 --> 00:39:25,469  
tends to get taken out of the hands of

1005  
00:39:22,980 --> 00:39:26,969  
the individual specialist health and

1006  
00:39:25,469 --> 00:39:29,129  
science journalist and put into the

1007  
00:39:26,969 --> 00:39:32,069  
hands of the generalists you know the

1008  
00:39:29,130 --> 00:39:33,420  
Star News correspondent the columnist

1009  
00:39:32,070 --> 00:39:34,920  
who's normally writing about really

1010  
00:39:33,420 --> 00:39:37,470  
funny thing the au pair said on the way

1011  
00:39:34,920 --> 00:39:39,990  
to a dinner party and suddenly those

1012  
00:39:37,469 --> 00:39:43,169

Joker's are writing about MMR and giving

1013

00:39:39,989 --> 00:39:44,849

people you know health advice on really

1014

00:39:43,170 --> 00:39:48,090

complicated issues of immunology and

1015

00:39:44,849 --> 00:39:50,579

epidemiology and in the case of MMR for

1016

00:39:48,090 --> 00:39:52,200

example and there's a very good study

1017

00:39:50,579 --> 00:39:54,269

done by Cardiff University School of

1018

00:39:52,199 --> 00:39:56,159

Journalism which showed that stories

1019

00:39:54,269 --> 00:39:57,599

about MMR were twice as likely to be

1020

00:39:56,159 --> 00:39:58,679

written about by generalist I think was

1021

00:39:57,599 --> 00:40:00,500

eighty percent of all stories are

1022

00:39:58,679 --> 00:40:02,399

written about by generalists right and

1023

00:40:00,500 --> 00:40:04,500

twice it's like to be written about by

1024

00:40:02,400 --> 00:40:05,460

generous than stories about cloning for

1025

00:40:04,500 --> 00:40:08,429

example and

1026

00:40:05,460 --> 00:40:10,079

other science stories so you know as

1027  
00:40:08,429 --> 00:40:12,029  
obviously as soon as the morons took

1028  
00:40:10,079 --> 00:40:13,949  
over the quality of the carriage

1029  
00:40:12,030 --> 00:40:16,800  
declined and you can see exactly the

1030  
00:40:13,949 --> 00:40:17,909  
same thing with GM so I personally have

1031  
00:40:16,800 --> 00:40:19,680  
a slightly sort of conflicted

1032  
00:40:17,909 --> 00:40:22,679  
relationship with GM food because I'm

1033  
00:40:19,679 --> 00:40:24,199  
not very enthusiastic about GM food not

1034  
00:40:22,679 --> 00:40:26,399  
because I think it's going to kill us

1035  
00:40:24,199 --> 00:40:27,659  
not because i think you know it's not

1036  
00:40:26,400 --> 00:40:29,970  
the sort of you know the sort of weird

1037  
00:40:27,659 --> 00:40:31,858  
green narcissistic thing of iron

1038  
00:40:29,969 --> 00:40:34,049  
personally going to come to harm from

1039  
00:40:31,858 --> 00:40:36,329  
genetically modified food I'm dubious

1040  
00:40:34,050 --> 00:40:37,530  
about GM food because it strikes me as

1041  
00:40:36,329 --> 00:40:39,449  
yes another opportunity for

1042  
00:40:37,530 --> 00:40:41,280  
multinational corporations to try and

1043  
00:40:39,449 --> 00:40:43,348  
take control of the global food stock

1044  
00:40:41,280 --> 00:40:45,240  
and particularly the production of food

1045  
00:40:43,349 --> 00:40:47,430  
in developing countries you know also

1046  
00:40:45,239 --> 00:40:49,769  
Monsanto is the company that made them

1047  
00:40:47,429 --> 00:40:51,329  
Agent Orange you know and there are

1048  
00:40:49,769 --> 00:40:54,750  
certain thing is that they're quite hard

1049  
00:40:51,329 --> 00:40:56,940  
to forgive so I've got a problem with GM

1050  
00:40:54,750 --> 00:40:58,800  
food but it's not GM food is going to

1051  
00:40:56,940 --> 00:41:01,380  
kill us all right but that was the

1052  
00:40:58,800 --> 00:41:03,269  
headline stories in 1998 in UK it was

1053  
00:41:01,380 --> 00:41:06,660  
like Frankenstein food and all of that

1054  
00:41:03,269 --> 00:41:10,108  
stuff and fascinatingly for the first

1055

00:41:06,659 --> 00:41:12,420  
three days of the GM Frankenstein food

1056  
00:41:10,108 --> 00:41:16,319  
scare stories in the British news media

1057  
00:41:12,420 --> 00:41:20,070  
not a single one of the news or comment

1058  
00:41:16,320 --> 00:41:22,170  
pieces in any single national newspaper

1059  
00:41:20,070 --> 00:41:24,450  
in the UK was written by a specialist

1060  
00:41:22,170 --> 00:41:28,470  
health or science correspondent not a

1061  
00:41:24,449 --> 00:41:30,269  
single wow one and when you talk to the

1062  
00:41:28,469 --> 00:41:32,279  
old duffers who were around back then

1063  
00:41:30,269 --> 00:41:34,800  
because obviously 10 years ago makes you

1064  
00:41:32,280 --> 00:41:36,390  
an old duffer and if he talks to people

1065  
00:41:34,800 --> 00:41:37,740  
who are all done for it enough to have

1066  
00:41:36,389 --> 00:41:38,940  
retired and not care anymore and be

1067  
00:41:37,739 --> 00:41:41,338  
willing to be very indiscreet with your

1068  
00:41:38,940 --> 00:41:44,070  
parties they will say yeah we were

1069  
00:41:41,338 --> 00:41:46,259

hammering on the editors door saying

1070

00:41:44,070 --> 00:41:49,109

what are you doing with this story this

1071

00:41:46,260 --> 00:41:51,240

is ninety percent cog but they weren't

1072

00:41:49,108 --> 00:41:53,549

listen to and bat I think it's the kind

1073

00:41:51,239 --> 00:41:56,639

of real backstory to house so much it's

1074

00:41:53,550 --> 00:41:58,619

dismal coverage gets into the news yeah

1075

00:41:56,639 --> 00:42:01,019

well a lot of this stuff is covered in

1076

00:41:58,619 --> 00:42:02,849

your book been so how can our listeners

1077

00:42:01,019 --> 00:42:06,300

get a copy of your best-selling book bad

1078

00:42:02,849 --> 00:42:08,490

science well that's a very very good

1079

00:42:06,300 --> 00:42:10,410

quest I don't know okay bye I mean it's

1080

00:42:08,489 --> 00:42:12,358

a racket out in Australia but I'd sort

1081

00:42:10,409 --> 00:42:13,980

of had this vague sensation that it was

1082

00:42:12,358 --> 00:42:16,469

maybe annoyingly difficult to find I

1083

00:42:13,980 --> 00:42:17,860

mean it shouldn't be it sold one metric

1084  
00:42:16,469 --> 00:42:20,379  
ton of copies over here after

1085  
00:42:17,860 --> 00:42:23,440  
to my astonishment and slight concern

1086  
00:42:20,380 --> 00:42:24,789  
well its shadow and Christmas in the UK

1087  
00:42:23,440 --> 00:42:27,340  
didn't it it's sold out over christmas

1088  
00:42:24,789 --> 00:42:28,960  
in the UK they had like three emergency

1089  
00:42:27,340 --> 00:42:30,640  
repressing i don't know how many

1090  
00:42:28,960 --> 00:42:32,909  
thousand serie pressings you have to

1091  
00:42:30,639 --> 00:42:35,139  
have before it's sort of just routine

1092  
00:42:32,909 --> 00:42:39,309  
but yeah yeah i mean you know i think

1093  
00:42:35,139 --> 00:42:42,519  
there is something like 60 or 70,000

1094  
00:42:39,309 --> 00:42:45,250  
copies in print 45 or 50 thousand of

1095  
00:42:42,519 --> 00:42:47,280  
sold already it's with dice bizarre it

1096  
00:42:45,250 --> 00:42:50,469  
really doesn't surprise me a half anyway

1097  
00:42:47,280 --> 00:42:52,330  
no it's like brilliant boy i've read it

1098  
00:42:50,469 --> 00:42:54,489  
a couple of times i really enjoyed it

1099  
00:42:52,329 --> 00:42:56,500  
that's very kind but I don't I mean I

1100  
00:42:54,489 --> 00:42:57,969  
hope that the examples aren't aren't too

1101  
00:42:56,500 --> 00:42:59,320  
English for an Australian audience I

1102  
00:42:57,969 --> 00:43:02,049  
mean you have Gillian McKeith over there

1103  
00:42:59,320 --> 00:43:04,030  
don't you and well but when mostly these

1104  
00:43:02,050 --> 00:43:06,250  
always don't forget Ben we're an

1105  
00:43:04,030 --> 00:43:09,370  
international show so we go to America

1106  
00:43:06,250 --> 00:43:10,989  
and the UK and everywhere so know a lot

1107  
00:43:09,369 --> 00:43:13,509  
of well yeah so America's really buggy

1108  
00:43:10,989 --> 00:43:15,789  
mitt and I'm actually because I half my

1109  
00:43:13,510 --> 00:43:17,200  
web traffic comes from the US and loads

1110  
00:43:15,789 --> 00:43:19,599  
of people have asked me if it's going to

1111  
00:43:17,199 --> 00:43:23,079  
come out there and stuff and then the

1112

00:43:19,599 --> 00:43:24,429  
only publishers who want it the hot sort

1113  
00:43:23,079 --> 00:43:26,469  
of american version of HarperCollins and

1114  
00:43:24,429 --> 00:43:27,940  
they want to sort of take lots of things

1115  
00:43:26,469 --> 00:43:29,919  
out I've just been talking about

1116  
00:43:27,940 --> 00:43:31,539  
yesterday ously they will take things

1117  
00:43:29,920 --> 00:43:32,619  
out that aren't very American and I'm

1118  
00:43:31,539 --> 00:43:34,300  
gonna I mean I'd really appreciate

1119  
00:43:32,619 --> 00:43:35,829  
anybody wants to sort of the email me

1120  
00:43:34,300 --> 00:43:38,590  
been at bad science don't net if you've

1121  
00:43:35,829 --> 00:43:40,360  
got any sort of advice on I'm really

1122  
00:43:38,590 --> 00:43:43,809  
going to use your podcast to solicit

1123  
00:43:40,360 --> 00:43:46,240  
help no I think that's gotten a good tip

1124  
00:43:43,809 --> 00:43:47,949  
of advice on what sort of them on what

1125  
00:43:46,239 --> 00:43:50,529  
sort of stories from the book are likely

1126  
00:43:47,949 --> 00:43:52,629

to be mystifying to an American audience

1127

00:43:50,530 --> 00:43:53,740

that'd be really useful or if people

1128

00:43:52,630 --> 00:43:57,220

have got any good sort of parallel

1129

00:43:53,739 --> 00:43:59,500

replacement examples i don't think i can

1130

00:43:57,219 --> 00:44:01,659

replace my fifteen thousand word take

1131

00:43:59,500 --> 00:44:03,309

down at the MMR vaccine hoax with the

1132

00:44:01,659 --> 00:44:04,929

American mercury story but I think

1133

00:44:03,309 --> 00:44:07,449

actually it's and hopefully they'll be

1134

00:44:04,929 --> 00:44:09,429

persuadable that it's and useful to have

1135

00:44:07,449 --> 00:44:12,519

a sort of an English parallel of a

1136

00:44:09,429 --> 00:44:14,559

vaccine hoax that has now sort of played

1137

00:44:12,519 --> 00:44:16,750

itself out to extinction almost in the

1138

00:44:14,559 --> 00:44:19,570

UK as they are kind of at the beginning

1139

00:44:16,750 --> 00:44:22,059

in the middle of their mercury hoax yeah

1140

00:44:19,570 --> 00:44:24,580

I think it translates to the states not

1141  
00:44:22,059 --> 00:44:27,730  
necessarily the MMR the thimerosal thing

1142  
00:44:24,579 --> 00:44:30,610  
but the Jim Carrey and Jenny McCarthy

1143  
00:44:27,730 --> 00:44:32,048  
thing that's still so big yeah the whole

1144  
00:44:30,610 --> 00:44:34,869  
sort of celebrity and

1145  
00:44:32,048 --> 00:44:36,099  
expert thing yeah i mean i don't know i

1146  
00:44:34,869 --> 00:44:38,019  
think that worries me is there might be

1147  
00:44:36,099 --> 00:44:39,699  
a version an American version this sort

1148  
00:44:38,018 --> 00:44:41,588  
of bits missing the people might bump

1149  
00:44:39,699 --> 00:44:46,059  
Imus tape anyway this is a lot of any

1150  
00:44:41,588 --> 00:44:47,588  
interest at all to global audience but

1151  
00:44:46,059 --> 00:44:49,778  
yes if anybody's got any advice on how

1152  
00:44:47,588 --> 00:44:52,538  
to sort of foreign eyes my book I'd love

1153  
00:44:49,778 --> 00:44:54,608  
to hear from them but you also want

1154  
00:44:52,539 --> 00:44:56,349  
people to send you stories from other

1155  
00:44:54,608 --> 00:44:59,288  
parts of the world that would possibly

1156  
00:44:56,349 --> 00:45:00,369  
be relevant for you oh god always but

1157  
00:44:59,289 --> 00:45:01,929  
what I really want people to do is to

1158  
00:45:00,369 --> 00:45:04,150  
start a blog I mean sometimes people

1159  
00:45:01,929 --> 00:45:06,099  
send me emails that are just so it sort

1160  
00:45:04,150 --> 00:45:08,528  
of amazingly ornate and and well

1161  
00:45:06,099 --> 00:45:10,539  
researched there's so much really sort

1162  
00:45:08,528 --> 00:45:12,400  
of valuable nerd energy out there I

1163  
00:45:10,539 --> 00:45:13,809  
think if we harnessed all of the angry

1164  
00:45:12,400 --> 00:45:17,289  
nerds in the world we could have this

1165  
00:45:13,809 --> 00:45:19,359  
automatic refutation box that would just

1166  
00:45:17,289 --> 00:45:21,400  
you know produce an equal and opposite

1167  
00:45:19,358 --> 00:45:23,798  
output to all of the that's around

1168  
00:45:21,400 --> 00:45:25,358  
America you know ignore the Internet to

1169

00:45:23,798 --> 00:45:26,829  
a large extent because I just I don't

1170  
00:45:25,358 --> 00:45:28,449  
know any sort of squabble so if you know

1171  
00:45:26,829 --> 00:45:30,068  
some loony over there said something

1172  
00:45:28,449 --> 00:45:32,259  
silly on the internet maybe I'm being I

1173  
00:45:30,068 --> 00:45:34,659  
don't know to some one night I don't

1174  
00:45:32,259 --> 00:45:36,938  
know if I keep playing you see you play

1175  
00:45:34,659 --> 00:45:39,368  
your part with bad science net I think

1176  
00:45:36,938 --> 00:45:40,928  
in that sense very kind listen I mean

1177  
00:45:39,369 --> 00:45:42,910  
there are some truly amazing blog's

1178  
00:45:40,929 --> 00:45:45,099  
around bad time stock bad science blogs

1179  
00:45:42,909 --> 00:45:46,748  
net instantly and it's like an

1180  
00:45:45,099 --> 00:45:49,269  
aggregator of lots and lots of other

1181  
00:45:46,748 --> 00:45:50,978  
English blogs that look at miss

1182  
00:45:49,268 --> 00:45:54,129  
representation of science in the media

1183  
00:45:50,978 --> 00:45:55,629

and quacks and big farmer and stuff so

1184

00:45:54,130 --> 00:45:57,278

people that are interested in that sort

1185

00:45:55,630 --> 00:45:59,949

of stuff that's really good and people

1186

00:45:57,278 --> 00:46:02,380

like quack omeater and David Calhoun are

1187

00:45:59,949 --> 00:46:04,329

really good in there as well as lots of

1188

00:46:02,380 --> 00:46:08,439

other stuff excellent so Ben are you

1189

00:46:04,329 --> 00:46:11,619

going to be at tam in 2009 uh it's at

1190

00:46:08,438 --> 00:46:13,149

the english one yeah yeah totally I'll

1191

00:46:11,619 --> 00:46:16,028

the English term while I was referring

1192

00:46:13,150 --> 00:46:17,199

to the American term oh no I haven't

1193

00:46:16,028 --> 00:46:21,130

been invited maybe I did something

1194

00:46:17,199 --> 00:46:23,108

either the last war I don't I'm not sure

1195

00:46:21,130 --> 00:46:24,640

I've never sort of one so massively

1196

00:46:23,108 --> 00:46:27,639

identify myself with the skeptics

1197

00:46:24,639 --> 00:46:30,400

movement I don't tend it sort of it's

1198  
00:46:27,639 --> 00:46:32,409  
not it's not really a sort of group in

1199  
00:46:30,400 --> 00:46:34,358  
England and all time to a pathologically

1200  
00:46:32,409 --> 00:46:35,798  
not i'd join them I suppose but also I

1201  
00:46:34,358 --> 00:46:38,199  
don't really care about ghosts and sun

1202  
00:46:35,798 --> 00:46:39,728  
kicks and stuff I quite okay I enjoy all

1203  
00:46:38,199 --> 00:46:42,720  
that stuff I do you get angry about

1204  
00:46:39,728 --> 00:46:45,059  
ghosts that's fine i don't mind you can

1205  
00:46:42,719 --> 00:46:46,439  
no I I don't tend to get angry about

1206  
00:46:45,059 --> 00:46:48,299  
ghosts I tend to get angry about

1207  
00:46:46,440 --> 00:46:50,730  
alternative medicine person maybe that's

1208  
00:46:48,300 --> 00:46:52,170  
just my thing but anyway but you've

1209  
00:46:50,730 --> 00:46:54,000  
gotta love them they bring so much joy

1210  
00:46:52,170 --> 00:46:57,389  
and so many valuable teaching

1211  
00:46:54,000 --> 00:46:59,099  
opportunities at the moment then I'm

1212  
00:46:57,389 --> 00:47:01,049  
actually researching ear candles and I'm

1213  
00:46:59,099 --> 00:47:04,130  
just astounded as to how completely

1214  
00:47:01,050 --> 00:47:07,950  
stupid they are but that's another story

1215  
00:47:04,130 --> 00:47:11,789  
but you know I kind of think again they

1216  
00:47:07,949 --> 00:47:13,319  
are so stupid it's interesting to talk

1217  
00:47:11,789 --> 00:47:15,090  
about how stupid and it's interesting

1218  
00:47:13,320 --> 00:47:16,650  
just leave my buddy to quote that paper

1219  
00:47:15,090 --> 00:47:18,900  
that actually measured the vacuum and

1220  
00:47:16,650 --> 00:47:20,400  
all that yes but are these really

1221  
00:47:18,900 --> 00:47:22,139  
accidents or are they throwing

1222  
00:47:20,400 --> 00:47:24,809  
themselves willingly into the roads you

1223  
00:47:22,139 --> 00:47:26,730  
know I just I just don't know and people

1224  
00:47:24,809 --> 00:47:29,309  
who are so stupid that they'll by ear

1225  
00:47:26,730 --> 00:47:31,289  
candles we I think that ear candles will

1226

00:47:29,309 --> 00:47:33,679  
be the least of their worries it right

1227  
00:47:31,289 --> 00:47:36,059  
okay that's a good way of looking at it

1228  
00:47:33,679 --> 00:47:39,029  
anyway Ben I think we'd better wrap this

1229  
00:47:36,059 --> 00:47:40,789  
up cool thank you so much thank you so

1230  
00:47:39,030 --> 00:47:43,740  
much for joining us on the zone today

1231  
00:47:40,789 --> 00:47:45,269  
that's very good fun as a little present

1232  
00:47:43,739 --> 00:47:47,819  
we're going to send you a DVD of

1233  
00:47:45,269 --> 00:47:50,909  
Australian poetry which is done by our

1234  
00:47:47,820 --> 00:47:53,760  
voiceover man Jim will cheer and I hope

1235  
00:47:50,909 --> 00:47:57,149  
you'll enjoy and also a DVD on how to

1236  
00:47:53,760 --> 00:47:59,700  
fold origami by Richard Saunders cologne

1237  
00:47:57,150 --> 00:48:01,619  
really handy hours of fun and also a

1238  
00:47:59,699 --> 00:48:04,108  
copy of the great skeptic CD from

1239  
00:48:01,619 --> 00:48:06,059  
Australian skeptics cool anything with

1240  
00:48:04,108 --> 00:48:07,829

australian accents no I'm Australian I

1241

00:48:06,059 --> 00:48:09,809

mean on paper only obviously in the

1242

00:48:07,829 --> 00:48:12,150

flesh and possibly the most English man

1243

00:48:09,809 --> 00:48:14,460

you've ever met but I have like an

1244

00:48:12,150 --> 00:48:16,588

Australian passport and everything I am

1245

00:48:14,460 --> 00:48:17,940

or XIV a lot yeah and I went to school

1246

00:48:16,588 --> 00:48:20,219

in Perth and stuff and all my family

1247

00:48:17,940 --> 00:48:22,320

living in Australian all right ok i just

1248

00:48:20,219 --> 00:48:24,779

put this accent on because i'm desperate

1249

00:48:22,320 --> 00:48:26,789

for approval right well perhaps you

1250

00:48:24,780 --> 00:48:28,920

might like to come down in 2010 for the

1251

00:48:26,789 --> 00:48:33,509

australian national skeptics conference

1252

00:48:28,920 --> 00:48:35,838

been oh yeah gonna be great oh come on

1253

00:48:33,510 --> 00:48:39,270

down mate we'll see you in 2010

1254

00:48:35,838 --> 00:48:42,480

excellent that's extremely kind ok ok

1255  
00:48:39,269 --> 00:48:44,539  
we're cheers thank you very much

1256  
00:48:42,480 --> 00:48:44,539  
you

1257  
00:48:48,599 --> 00:48:52,930  
thanks for joining me for this week

1258  
00:48:50,679 --> 00:48:55,029  
skeptics own special we are very

1259  
00:48:52,929 --> 00:48:58,480  
grateful to Ben Goldacre for giving us

1260  
00:48:55,030 --> 00:49:00,849  
his time two weeks in a row join us next

1261  
00:48:58,480 --> 00:49:03,579  
week for our regular show where I will

1262  
00:49:00,849 --> 00:49:05,859  
be back with dr. Rachel reports plus our

1263  
00:49:03,579 --> 00:49:08,829  
other regular segments the roundup grain

1264  
00:49:05,858 --> 00:49:12,608  
of salt the think tank plus Richard and

1265  
00:49:08,829 --> 00:49:14,890  
Stefan return until next time this has

1266  
00:49:12,608 --> 00:49:20,259  
been dr. H II saying goodbye from the

1267  
00:49:14,889 --> 00:49:23,250  
skeptic zone you've been listening to

1268  
00:49:20,260 --> 00:49:27,190  
the skeptic zone visit our website at

1269  
00:49:23,250 --> 00:49:31,769  
wwc a petting zoo TV for comments

1270  
00:49:27,190 --> 00:49:31,769  
contacts and extra video reports

1271  
00:49:32,018 --> 00:49:35,018  
skin

1272  
00:49:36,199 --> 00:49:38,259  
Oh

1273  
00:49:50,139 --> 00:49:52,199  
you