

1
00:00:06,150 --> 00:00:13,699
welcome to the skeptic zone the podcast

2
00:00:09,119 --> 00:00:13,699
from Australia for science and reason

3
00:00:22,730 --> 00:00:31,339
yes it's the skeptic zone episode number

4
00:00:26,268 --> 00:00:33,659
198 for the fourth of August 2012

5
00:00:31,339 --> 00:00:37,710
Richard Saunders here with you from

6
00:00:33,659 --> 00:00:40,890
sydney australia in august oh boy August

7
00:00:37,710 --> 00:00:43,740
always ah yes August that means Dragon

8
00:00:40,890 --> 00:00:45,539
Con in atlanta georgia is coming up at

9
00:00:43,740 --> 00:00:48,359
the end of the month i think labor day

10
00:00:45,539 --> 00:00:50,009
long weekend in the united states I'm so

11
00:00:48,359 --> 00:00:52,320
sorry that I can't make it this year the

12
00:00:50,009 --> 00:00:58,049
skeptic zone podcast was actually

13
00:00:52,320 --> 00:01:00,509
launched at a dragon con in 2008 and for

14
00:00:58,049 --> 00:01:04,048
some years i was visiting that

15
00:01:00,509 --> 00:01:06,658
convention and dr. 80 also what a

16
00:01:04,049 --> 00:01:09,210
fabulous time it was I hope I hope I

17
00:01:06,659 --> 00:01:11,310
hope I can get there next year that's

18
00:01:09,209 --> 00:01:12,689
the plan folks that's the plan I've got

19
00:01:11,310 --> 00:01:14,969
a year to get that all happening and all

20
00:01:12,689 --> 00:01:18,450
together but let's bring ourselves back

21
00:01:14,969 --> 00:01:21,090
to 2012 and this week's show of the

22
00:01:18,450 --> 00:01:23,340
skeptic zone another loss of Vegas

23
00:01:21,090 --> 00:01:26,880
extravaganza I guess you can say kicking

24
00:01:23,340 --> 00:01:30,299
off with Maynard with a very good friend

25
00:01:26,879 --> 00:01:32,339
of mine professor bruce m hood made our

26
00:01:30,299 --> 00:01:34,289
chats to Professor Bruce temple what an

27
00:01:32,340 --> 00:01:36,810
interesting man he is Oh what an

28
00:01:34,290 --> 00:01:39,210
interesting man how the mind works how

29

00:01:36,810 --> 00:01:41,760
you perceive reality what does

30
00:01:39,209 --> 00:01:43,530
consciousness is there really somebody

31
00:01:41,760 --> 00:01:45,600
sitting in our heads directing our

32
00:01:43,530 --> 00:01:47,820
movements all that sort of stuff what an

33
00:01:45,599 --> 00:01:50,069
interesting man and just after that may

34
00:01:47,819 --> 00:01:53,029
not checks to Jim under down from the

35
00:01:50,069 --> 00:01:56,369
center for inquiry and the independent

36
00:01:53,030 --> 00:01:59,129
investigations group now Jim tells may

37
00:01:56,370 --> 00:02:02,340
not about the time he dealt with Uri

38
00:01:59,129 --> 00:02:05,189
Geller in Russia he recoloring Russia

39
00:02:02,340 --> 00:02:08,640
should be very interesting and after the

40
00:02:05,189 --> 00:02:10,709
break I catch up with somebody who I saw

41
00:02:08,639 --> 00:02:14,248
speak here in Sydney Australia many

42
00:02:10,709 --> 00:02:18,120
years ago in 1989 it's one of the very

43
00:02:14,248 --> 00:02:19,120

first Australian skeptics sponsored

44

00:02:18,120 --> 00:02:21,189
events I

45

00:02:19,120 --> 00:02:25,090
to can't even remember where it was

46

00:02:21,189 --> 00:02:28,628
exactly Robert Shaffer a world-renowned

47

00:02:25,090 --> 00:02:30,670
UFO expert what a pleasure it was for me

48

00:02:28,628 --> 00:02:34,268
to chat to Robert Shaffer after seeing

49

00:02:30,669 --> 00:02:36,219
him all those years ago even before I

50

00:02:34,269 --> 00:02:39,069
was involved in the skeptical movement

51

00:02:36,219 --> 00:02:41,500
UFOs and more coming up later in the

52

00:02:39,068 --> 00:02:44,798
show and to round off the show we have a

53

00:02:41,500 --> 00:02:48,280
wonderful interview with dr. rachy

54

00:02:44,799 --> 00:02:51,370
talking to Tim Farley from what's the

55

00:02:48,280 --> 00:02:53,348
harm dotnet now Tim is one of the

56

00:02:51,370 --> 00:02:55,900
hardest-working skeptics on the internet

57

00:02:53,348 --> 00:02:59,439
out there and he is interest apart from

58
00:02:55,900 --> 00:03:02,069
what bahama of course is Wikipedia so

59
00:02:59,439 --> 00:03:05,530
stay tuned for that in-depth interview

60
00:03:02,068 --> 00:03:07,208
to round off the skeptic zone well

61
00:03:05,530 --> 00:03:08,890
that's what I call a packed episode I'm

62
00:03:07,209 --> 00:03:12,609
not going to waste any more time I'm

63
00:03:08,889 --> 00:03:16,059
going to run downstairs I'm going to

64
00:03:12,609 --> 00:03:18,400
open the cupboard I'm going to see if I

65
00:03:16,060 --> 00:03:22,810
have the ingredients to make myself a

66
00:03:18,400 --> 00:03:24,250
pan galactic gargle blaster yes google

67
00:03:22,810 --> 00:03:26,379
it I'm sure some people know what I'm

68
00:03:24,250 --> 00:03:30,449
talking about well I'm doing that I'll

69
00:03:26,379 --> 00:03:30,449
let you enjoy the skeptic zone

70
00:03:43,139 --> 00:03:50,089
here's my not spooky action at a

71
00:03:47,729 --> 00:03:50,090
distance

72
00:03:51,060 --> 00:03:55,750
look legend gentlemen I'm backstage in

73
00:03:53,770 --> 00:03:57,130
an area you could hear echoing around if

74
00:03:55,750 --> 00:03:58,659
you can imagine that seem from spinal

75
00:03:57,129 --> 00:04:00,609
tap when they're going through and they

76
00:03:58,659 --> 00:04:02,169
don't ever ever find the stage that's

77
00:04:00,610 --> 00:04:03,490
where we are with Bruce hood good

78
00:04:02,169 --> 00:04:05,799
morning afternoon or whatever the hell

79
00:04:03,490 --> 00:04:07,360
it is I can worry how you did look now

80
00:04:05,800 --> 00:04:08,590
we're both very heavily jet-lagged you

81
00:04:07,360 --> 00:04:10,240
can see look I'm bleeding to death

82
00:04:08,590 --> 00:04:11,590
through my eyes can you see that it's oh

83
00:04:10,240 --> 00:04:13,600
yeah well I think call me a jet lag is

84
00:04:11,590 --> 00:04:15,430
probably a misnomer I mean I'm happily

85
00:04:13,599 --> 00:04:17,829
hungover as well but I guess of the

86

00:04:15,430 --> 00:04:21,430
territory i suppose and then this dish

87
00:04:17,829 --> 00:04:22,870
George hi George hey going up the number

88
00:04:21,430 --> 00:04:24,340
never seen him in a different cities

89
00:04:22,870 --> 00:04:28,509
always got a great selection of suits

90
00:04:24,339 --> 00:04:33,879
it's painted on and do you think he is

91
00:04:28,509 --> 00:04:35,709
the skeptical Bob Hope I'm not sure he's

92
00:04:33,879 --> 00:04:37,060
amazing he's done a remarkable job he's

93
00:04:35,709 --> 00:04:38,979
been introducing everybody running as a

94
00:04:37,060 --> 00:04:40,959
bespoke song for them you know it's been

95
00:04:38,980 --> 00:04:42,430
a lot of fun I should record my before I

96
00:04:40,959 --> 00:04:44,199
went on yesterday was actually more keen

97
00:04:42,430 --> 00:04:46,810
to hear what George had to say you know

98
00:04:44,199 --> 00:04:48,969
he's fantastic guy it's difficult to

99
00:04:46,810 --> 00:04:50,769
bring together skeptic ality and humor

100
00:04:48,970 --> 00:04:53,110

because Papa scientists or think you

101

00:04:50,769 --> 00:04:54,459

taking the piss and people who would

102

00:04:53,110 --> 00:04:56,439

like some comedy think you're being too

103

00:04:54,459 --> 00:04:57,668

serious no it's not necessarily i think

104

00:04:56,439 --> 00:04:59,589

that you know this is degree of

105

00:04:57,668 --> 00:05:02,949

intelligence and fun and you know people

106

00:04:59,589 --> 00:05:04,479

who are I've got a I say a more open

107

00:05:02,949 --> 00:05:06,009

view of the world ten people who

108

00:05:04,480 --> 00:05:07,780

actually enjoy bitter laugh anyway so

109

00:05:06,009 --> 00:05:09,939

I've always found that when I was

110

00:05:07,779 --> 00:05:12,219

speaking to skeptics that you know humor

111

00:05:09,939 --> 00:05:14,709

goes hand in hand I was watching your

112

00:05:12,220 --> 00:05:16,780

talk yesterday and a few things

113

00:05:14,709 --> 00:05:18,969

surprised me we'll get to the bomb

114

00:05:16,779 --> 00:05:20,679

detector later but you're saying that if

115
00:05:18,970 --> 00:05:22,690
you see a pattern in your brain is

116
00:05:20,680 --> 00:05:24,490
fooled by that pattern it's as if that

117
00:05:22,689 --> 00:05:25,959
pattern really does exist even if it is

118
00:05:24,490 --> 00:05:27,400
an illusion is that correct or something

119
00:05:25,959 --> 00:05:29,889
yeah that's it more that's why i was

120
00:05:27,399 --> 00:05:31,959
saying i mean the the thing is that you

121
00:05:29,889 --> 00:05:33,639
know whereas i experiencing happening is

122
00:05:31,959 --> 00:05:35,379
clearly clearly happening in your brain

123
00:05:33,639 --> 00:05:37,329
and actually there are some physiology

124
00:05:35,379 --> 00:05:39,610
to show that for example very simple

125
00:05:37,329 --> 00:05:42,039
visual illusions you can go in with kind

126
00:05:39,610 --> 00:05:43,419
of electrodes and find nerve circuits

127
00:05:42,040 --> 00:05:45,430
which are actually active when you're

128
00:05:43,418 --> 00:05:46,659
perceiving an illusory thing so as far

129
00:05:45,430 --> 00:05:48,370
as the brain is concerned there is an

130
00:05:46,660 --> 00:05:50,320
event going on and so it perceives that

131
00:05:48,370 --> 00:05:51,759
and you note all intents and purposes

132
00:05:50,319 --> 00:05:53,469
what's the difference between a loser

133
00:05:51,759 --> 00:05:55,269
event and a real event if it's all

134
00:05:53,470 --> 00:05:56,590
generating the same activity and is this

135
00:05:55,269 --> 00:05:58,209
is going along with the whole brain in a

136
00:05:56,589 --> 00:05:59,560
jar theory like if my brains in jars

137
00:05:58,209 --> 00:06:00,669
somewhere and I'm imagine I'm

138
00:05:59,560 --> 00:06:02,800
interviewing me now

139
00:06:00,670 --> 00:06:04,270
that's as it's that that doesn't change

140
00:06:02,800 --> 00:06:06,430
the reality because I'm still deciding

141
00:06:04,269 --> 00:06:08,889
to interview you even if my brains and

142
00:06:06,430 --> 00:06:10,420
jar somewhere see that's basically what

143

00:06:08,889 --> 00:06:12,219
I got off watching a discovery channel

144
00:06:10,420 --> 00:06:13,540
show now I got the wrong end of the

145
00:06:12,220 --> 00:06:14,950
popular call to stick there and I've

146
00:06:13,540 --> 00:06:16,870
better aberrant browned the bush and set

147
00:06:14,949 --> 00:06:17,949
fire to with it well then you know your

148
00:06:16,870 --> 00:06:19,300
abscess for I mean when there is no

149
00:06:17,949 --> 00:06:20,649
consensus about the relationship between

150
00:06:19,300 --> 00:06:21,879
mine and brain and there are various

151
00:06:20,649 --> 00:06:23,109
theories about how this could happen I

152
00:06:21,879 --> 00:06:25,060
mean look the basically issue is we

153
00:06:23,110 --> 00:06:26,980
don't have a very good idea about how a

154
00:06:25,060 --> 00:06:28,689
thing a material thing like the brain

155
00:06:26,980 --> 00:06:30,700
can create something na mature like

156
00:06:28,689 --> 00:06:32,529
consciousness and have we way of testing

157
00:06:30,699 --> 00:06:33,819

that no not really in the slightest I

158

00:06:32,529 --> 00:06:35,559

mean the all you can ever do is test

159

00:06:33,819 --> 00:06:36,550

output in terms of behavior or

160

00:06:35,560 --> 00:06:37,870

electrophysiology and all the

161

00:06:36,550 --> 00:06:39,280

electrophysiology is never going to give

162

00:06:37,870 --> 00:06:41,350

you consciousness is it's never going to

163

00:06:39,279 --> 00:06:42,639

tell you what someone's thinking all

164

00:06:41,350 --> 00:06:44,410

you've got is just this core

165

00:06:42,639 --> 00:06:47,050

immeasurable kind of you know physical

166

00:06:44,410 --> 00:06:48,790

event I'm behavior course is equally in

167

00:06:47,050 --> 00:06:49,750

you know you can't know what some was

168

00:06:48,790 --> 00:06:51,640

actually thinking when they're doing

169

00:06:49,750 --> 00:06:54,250

that so the problem consciousness and

170

00:06:51,639 --> 00:06:55,959

subjectivity is always going to elude a

171

00:06:54,250 --> 00:06:58,509

real good song to pick investigation as

172
00:06:55,959 --> 00:07:00,189
far as I believe so yeah the questions

173
00:06:58,509 --> 00:07:02,469
of the brain that jar duplicating brains

174
00:07:00,189 --> 00:07:04,660
transporting brains you know these are

175
00:07:02,470 --> 00:07:06,700
all thought experiments which induce

176
00:07:04,660 --> 00:07:08,140
different kind of ideas about you know

177
00:07:06,699 --> 00:07:09,909
what would happen if you really could

178
00:07:08,139 --> 00:07:11,949
actually you know duplicate something

179
00:07:09,910 --> 00:07:13,570
that the material issue thought

180
00:07:11,949 --> 00:07:15,099
experiments reminded me the famous

181
00:07:13,569 --> 00:07:16,599
thought experiment about where you push

182
00:07:15,100 --> 00:07:18,100
the fat guy and found the train to save

183
00:07:16,600 --> 00:07:19,840
a group of people yeah sure why is it

184
00:07:18,100 --> 00:07:22,120
always a fat guy why isn't the skies

185
00:07:19,839 --> 00:07:23,589
well why isn't the skinny woman at the

186
00:07:22,120 --> 00:07:25,509
opposite you don't like why is it always

187
00:07:23,589 --> 00:07:26,889
a fat guy why he has to be substantial

188
00:07:25,509 --> 00:07:29,289
enough to stop the train I suppose but

189
00:07:26,889 --> 00:07:31,000
yeah it's not fascism in any way no is

190
00:07:29,290 --> 00:07:33,250
this lee she wasn't logic of experiment

191
00:07:31,000 --> 00:07:34,899
but yeah it so it's a very another

192
00:07:33,250 --> 00:07:36,699
example of an experiment which just

193
00:07:34,899 --> 00:07:38,709
flips our rationality flips our

194
00:07:36,699 --> 00:07:40,779
reasoning very quickly and what seems

195
00:07:38,709 --> 00:07:43,149
such a obvious conclusion suddenly seems

196
00:07:40,779 --> 00:07:45,009
totally not obvious when you have that

197
00:07:43,149 --> 00:07:47,919
sort of a thing what drew you to this

198
00:07:45,009 --> 00:07:50,259
field why did you want to find out about

199
00:07:47,920 --> 00:07:51,670
what we perceive to be reality and make

200

00:07:50,259 --> 00:07:53,529
assumptions which can never be proven

201
00:07:51,670 --> 00:07:55,390
that's quite a stick to beat yer

202
00:07:53,529 --> 00:07:57,849
software yeah I think the thing for me

203
00:07:55,389 --> 00:08:00,639
is that you know what we really enjoy is

204
00:07:57,850 --> 00:08:03,820
the peculiarities of consciousness I've

205
00:08:00,639 --> 00:08:05,139
always been really that was somebody

206
00:08:03,819 --> 00:08:06,699
going by the way not me speaking I I

207
00:08:05,139 --> 00:08:09,519
think you said I'm going to have a bomb

208
00:08:06,699 --> 00:08:10,870
hey sexy you know these guys in Vegas

209
00:08:09,519 --> 00:08:13,629
see what happens in Vegas stays in Vegas

210
00:08:10,870 --> 00:08:15,639
no I I think that your question it

211
00:08:13,629 --> 00:08:17,620
the you know I've always been really

212
00:08:15,639 --> 00:08:19,300
interested in the macabre the

213
00:08:17,620 --> 00:08:21,160
supernatural the strange the

214
00:08:19,300 --> 00:08:22,750

peculiarities of human thinking have you

215

00:08:21,160 --> 00:08:24,310

yourself at her had a paranormal

216

00:08:22,750 --> 00:08:25,660

experience that led you to want to do

217

00:08:24,310 --> 00:08:27,370

this or that was just something you're

218

00:08:25,660 --> 00:08:28,780

interested in no never of course I mean

219

00:08:27,370 --> 00:08:29,949

I've had experiences which I interpreted

220

00:08:28,779 --> 00:08:31,959

the time of it could have been paranoid

221

00:08:29,949 --> 00:08:33,939

but no I don't believe categorically

222

00:08:31,959 --> 00:08:36,159

that there's any paranormal event or

223

00:08:33,940 --> 00:08:37,840

supernatural events now is there an area

224

00:08:36,159 --> 00:08:39,879

of the paranormal that does fascinate it

225

00:08:37,840 --> 00:08:42,190

was fast study goes is it lights in the

226

00:08:39,879 --> 00:08:43,840

sky is that the weird feeling in a room

227

00:08:42,190 --> 00:08:46,330

or is it all the way people react with

228

00:08:43,840 --> 00:08:48,399

each other no i said i don't really

229
00:08:46,330 --> 00:08:51,340
think there is any legitimate phenomenon

230
00:08:48,399 --> 00:08:52,569
which is scientifically credible but i

231
00:08:51,340 --> 00:08:54,310
am fascinated with the way that people

232
00:08:52,570 --> 00:08:55,690
think in a paranormal way and I want to

233
00:08:54,309 --> 00:08:57,519
know why that's the case with you know

234
00:08:55,690 --> 00:08:58,870
when they've got all the evidence why do

235
00:08:57,519 --> 00:09:01,179
they kind of disregard that and

236
00:08:58,870 --> 00:09:02,830
entertain these bizarre notions so to me

237
00:09:01,179 --> 00:09:04,719
the really interesting question is not

238
00:09:02,830 --> 00:09:06,280
if it exists I mean clearly I don't

239
00:09:04,720 --> 00:09:07,990
think that it does because it's actually

240
00:09:06,279 --> 00:09:09,129
trying to understand why people believe

241
00:09:07,990 --> 00:09:10,899
these sorts of things and I think that's

242
00:09:09,129 --> 00:09:12,909
a much more deeper interesting question

243
00:09:10,899 --> 00:09:14,949
about the nature of the mind well I have

244
00:09:12,909 --> 00:09:16,779
mentioned but you go visit the Shaymin

245
00:09:14,950 --> 00:09:19,629
in South America and ever I don't take a

246
00:09:16,779 --> 00:09:21,220
similar type hallucinogenic drug but

247
00:09:19,629 --> 00:09:23,649
they'll have exactly the same experience

248
00:09:21,220 --> 00:09:25,120
now that pharmacology explains a little

249
00:09:23,649 --> 00:09:26,949
bit but to have the exactly the same

250
00:09:25,120 --> 00:09:28,929
experience to me seems quite odd well

251
00:09:26,950 --> 00:09:32,259
yeah I've never heard that before and I

252
00:09:28,929 --> 00:09:34,509
was true I would have to really kind of

253
00:09:32,259 --> 00:09:35,470
question it but it's something that

254
00:09:34,509 --> 00:09:37,090
sounds like something it could be of

255
00:09:35,470 --> 00:09:38,500
interest mmm hope you got some people

256
00:09:37,090 --> 00:09:40,060
would chairs coming and it looked it's

257

00:09:38,500 --> 00:09:42,309
not exactly a Jerry Springer crab but it

258
00:09:40,059 --> 00:09:43,779
could get loud here but um I'll make it

259
00:09:42,309 --> 00:09:45,699
worth it yes I think we should we'll

260
00:09:43,779 --> 00:09:47,319
head away from the people waving chairs

261
00:09:45,700 --> 00:09:48,759
which in life is I think that's an

262
00:09:47,320 --> 00:09:49,960
evolutionary thing you learn to do don't

263
00:09:48,759 --> 00:09:51,730
you think that's right we evolved to

264
00:09:49,960 --> 00:09:53,980
avoid people carrying chairs there in

265
00:09:51,730 --> 00:09:56,560
the Pleistocene period when we evolved

266
00:09:53,980 --> 00:09:58,600
as a species at tam strand it was the

267
00:09:56,559 --> 00:10:00,459
first time I heard about the bomb

268
00:09:58,600 --> 00:10:02,290
detectors that were basically water

269
00:10:00,460 --> 00:10:04,030
water dowsing rods that's right yeah and

270
00:10:02,289 --> 00:10:05,230
I thought well that was the last letter

271
00:10:04,029 --> 00:10:07,299

here that because it's socially they'll

272

00:10:05,230 --> 00:10:09,730

never go ahead and next thing I know

273

00:10:07,299 --> 00:10:11,259

it's going to England and there's 85

274

00:10:09,730 --> 00:10:12,129

million dollars being spent on that give

275

00:10:11,259 --> 00:10:13,539

us a bit of the background of this

276

00:10:12,129 --> 00:10:15,519

because I thought it was so ridiculous

277

00:10:13,539 --> 00:10:16,719

it would never gone ahead yeah you would

278

00:10:15,519 --> 00:10:18,750

think so you'd imagine that something

279

00:10:16,720 --> 00:10:21,460

which was so obviously a complete fraud

280

00:10:18,750 --> 00:10:23,740

would just die death but no it what

281

00:10:21,460 --> 00:10:25,570

happened was that these individuals were

282

00:10:23,740 --> 00:10:26,460

after you know an investigation when

283

00:10:25,570 --> 00:10:28,379

James Randi

284

00:10:26,460 --> 00:10:29,940

exposing of their activities but they

285

00:10:28,379 --> 00:10:31,529

were kicked out of the US and then an

286
00:10:29,940 --> 00:10:33,270
offshoot of various members who work for

287
00:10:31,529 --> 00:10:35,939
the original company set up in England

288
00:10:33,269 --> 00:10:38,309
and there was at least two to three

289
00:10:35,940 --> 00:10:39,540
companies formed which were selling

290
00:10:38,309 --> 00:10:41,039
devices which to all intents and

291
00:10:39,539 --> 00:10:43,259
purposes if you weren't scientifically

292
00:10:41,039 --> 00:10:45,419
literate they looked as if they were a

293
00:10:43,259 --> 00:10:47,009
scientific you know devices of some form

294
00:10:45,419 --> 00:10:48,659
but they were based on the principle of

295
00:10:47,009 --> 00:10:49,620
dowsing which is a pendulum which swings

296
00:10:48,659 --> 00:10:52,889
when you think you've encountered

297
00:10:49,620 --> 00:10:54,810
something and so what we discovered is

298
00:10:52,889 --> 00:10:57,720
that they had been actively selling

299
00:10:54,809 --> 00:11:00,179
these to the Iraqi security forces to

300
00:10:57,720 --> 00:11:03,899
use these to basically screen for bombed

301
00:11:00,179 --> 00:11:05,489
for bombs and suicide bomber car so they

302
00:11:03,899 --> 00:11:07,730
have them use a checkpoint so they

303
00:11:05,490 --> 00:11:10,320
forgot you know they've given up all

304
00:11:07,730 --> 00:11:11,820
intensive security and searching cars

305
00:11:10,320 --> 00:11:13,710
and they're just pointing these dowsing

306
00:11:11,820 --> 00:11:14,970
rods of the cars the consequence was

307
00:11:13,710 --> 00:11:17,190
that literally hundreds of people were

308
00:11:14,970 --> 00:11:18,960
losing their lives and I got involved

309
00:11:17,190 --> 00:11:20,520
because the New York Times did an expose

310
00:11:18,960 --> 00:11:22,620
II on this because the contract to the

311
00:11:20,519 --> 00:11:24,329
Iraqi government was 85 million dollars

312
00:11:22,620 --> 00:11:25,740
which was a lot of money but there were

313
00:11:24,330 --> 00:11:28,020
hundreds and hundreds of people dying

314

00:11:25,740 --> 00:11:29,879
because look into any corruption in the

315
00:11:28,019 --> 00:11:31,710
in the string of the Iraqi government

316
00:11:29,879 --> 00:11:33,929
led by Benson because that sounds like a

317
00:11:31,710 --> 00:11:35,220
lot of money and I'm not with I don't

318
00:11:33,929 --> 00:11:36,209
know where where that was going I mean

319
00:11:35,220 --> 00:11:37,290
it wouldn't have all been going to the

320
00:11:36,210 --> 00:11:39,060
firm there might have been a bit lost

321
00:11:37,289 --> 00:11:39,839
along the way oh I absolutely think so

322
00:11:39,059 --> 00:11:42,089
there must have been a lot of

323
00:11:39,840 --> 00:11:43,379
backhanders going down there and there's

324
00:11:42,090 --> 00:11:45,210
a lot of questions which need to be

325
00:11:43,379 --> 00:11:47,970
asked us so for example why do they get

326
00:11:45,210 --> 00:11:49,830
a export order why did they get license

327
00:11:47,970 --> 00:11:52,350
from the British government from the

328
00:11:49,830 --> 00:11:53,759

department training industry and you

329

00:11:52,350 --> 00:11:55,740

know why was the the device is

330

00:11:53,759 --> 00:11:57,000

sanctioned by the College of Engineers

331

00:11:55,740 --> 00:11:58,560

so there was something a little bit

332

00:11:57,000 --> 00:11:59,940

strange about the whole process is it

333

00:11:58,559 --> 00:12:02,039

something that maybe just fell through

334

00:11:59,940 --> 00:12:03,090

the bureaucratic cracks I think that's

335

00:12:02,039 --> 00:12:06,149

probably mature I don't think there was

336

00:12:03,090 --> 00:12:08,070

any malicious intent in terms of the the

337

00:12:06,149 --> 00:12:09,269

you know the government I think it was

338

00:12:08,070 --> 00:12:10,710

just one of these examples that they

339

00:12:09,269 --> 00:12:12,569

hadn't really scrutinize what was going

340

00:12:10,710 --> 00:12:13,860

on you're not normally an activist on

341

00:12:12,570 --> 00:12:15,600

this level you said it just happened to

342

00:12:13,860 --> 00:12:17,340

be down the road from who you live yeah

343
00:12:15,600 --> 00:12:19,590
that's basically true I mean I'm an

344
00:12:17,340 --> 00:12:21,990
academic but then after reading new york

345
00:12:19,590 --> 00:12:23,280
times i discovered the chap who is and

346
00:12:21,990 --> 00:12:24,600
the company was based literally just

347
00:12:23,279 --> 00:12:27,389
down the road from me so i blogged about

348
00:12:24,600 --> 00:12:30,000
it to my great surprise he commented on

349
00:12:27,389 --> 00:12:31,590
the blog his name is jim mccormick he

350
00:12:30,000 --> 00:12:32,820
said come down I'll prove it works and

351
00:12:31,590 --> 00:12:35,190
so I thought well here's an opportunity

352
00:12:32,820 --> 00:12:37,980
to sort of expose what is clearly in my

353
00:12:35,190 --> 00:12:39,760
view a scab so I contacted the BBC and

354
00:12:37,980 --> 00:12:42,100
the Newsnight team we've got

355
00:12:39,759 --> 00:12:44,830
together and we we had a corresponds

356
00:12:42,100 --> 00:12:46,840
with the McCormick try to supper kind of

357
00:12:44,830 --> 00:12:49,240
an expose a you know when he's

358
00:12:46,840 --> 00:12:50,440
confronted with what he's done end up

359
00:12:49,240 --> 00:12:53,560
turning up filming and then broadcast

360
00:12:50,440 --> 00:12:55,240
and Jerry 2010 on the basis of that he

361
00:12:53,559 --> 00:12:58,269
was arrested and the government

362
00:12:55,240 --> 00:13:00,580
immediately impose a export order bad

363
00:12:58,269 --> 00:13:03,639
and that's what happened to in two and

364
00:13:00,580 --> 00:13:05,950
half years ago now that export order bad

365
00:13:03,639 --> 00:13:08,319
was really only for sales to Iraq in

366
00:13:05,950 --> 00:13:09,610
Afghanistan in the meantime you know

367
00:13:08,320 --> 00:13:11,860
these companies are still selling these

368
00:13:09,610 --> 00:13:13,690
devices to other companies most notably

369
00:13:11,860 --> 00:13:15,279
net Mexico but that I got a phone call

370
00:13:13,690 --> 00:13:16,450
two days ago just before I flew out to

371

00:13:15,279 --> 00:13:17,709
town from the police because they're

372
00:13:16,450 --> 00:13:19,030
given a statement to them in February

373
00:13:17,710 --> 00:13:21,610
telling me that they were going to

374
00:13:19,029 --> 00:13:22,870
actually make a prosecution against Jim

375
00:13:21,610 --> 00:13:25,180
McCormack in fact they went not just

376
00:13:22,870 --> 00:13:26,200
Richard McCormack but all of them so it

377
00:13:25,179 --> 00:13:28,149
wasn't just his company was all the

378
00:13:26,200 --> 00:13:30,070
other companies doing it and it all

379
00:13:28,149 --> 00:13:31,000
looks like it's going to I think that

380
00:13:30,070 --> 00:13:33,250
people are definitely going to end up

381
00:13:31,000 --> 00:13:35,289
President openness and how does it feel

382
00:13:33,250 --> 00:13:36,850
as someone who's been academic just

383
00:13:35,289 --> 00:13:38,199
suddenly put your head on the block be

384
00:13:36,850 --> 00:13:40,450
the face of something that's been the

385
00:13:38,200 --> 00:13:41,860

pointy end of the stick for change well

386

00:13:40,450 --> 00:13:43,210
I'm nervous about it I don't feel

387

00:13:41,860 --> 00:13:46,090
comfortable about it's not what I have

388

00:13:43,210 --> 00:13:49,210
sought to do I I speak in public and I

389

00:13:46,090 --> 00:13:51,430
obviously do events like this but it's

390

00:13:49,210 --> 00:13:53,080
kind of gratifying to know that these

391

00:13:51,429 --> 00:13:54,969
sorts of issues do make a real

392

00:13:53,080 --> 00:13:56,290
difference because you know that people

393

00:13:54,970 --> 00:13:57,639
believe all sorts of nonsense and I'm

394

00:13:56,289 --> 00:13:59,799
not I'm not one of these people need to

395

00:13:57,639 --> 00:14:01,539
sort of radical stupid thinking you know

396

00:13:59,799 --> 00:14:03,279
people are stupid and that's that's the

397

00:14:01,539 --> 00:14:05,230
nature being human but in this situation

398

00:14:03,279 --> 00:14:07,419
this is a cynical attempt to exploit

399

00:14:05,230 --> 00:14:08,680
naivety of people with a scientific

400
00:14:07,419 --> 00:14:11,049
looking device which has ended up

401
00:14:08,679 --> 00:14:12,069
costing fell in our lives so I think in

402
00:14:11,049 --> 00:14:14,439
that situation are going to feel some

403
00:14:12,070 --> 00:14:15,910
degrees you know smugness replace people

404
00:14:14,440 --> 00:14:17,920
can go and follow the story that you've

405
00:14:15,909 --> 00:14:19,419
uncovered well yeah I mean you can you

406
00:14:17,919 --> 00:14:20,919
can find a my blog but just google

407
00:14:19,419 --> 00:14:22,659
google the whole bomb detecting thing

408
00:14:20,919 --> 00:14:25,449
google me and you'll find the whole

409
00:14:22,659 --> 00:14:26,649
catalog and it's remarkable in fact that

410
00:14:25,450 --> 00:14:28,360
the story gets even better but I'm

411
00:14:26,649 --> 00:14:30,279
unfortunate I'm not allowed to tell you

412
00:14:28,360 --> 00:14:31,720
about until februari when it all exposes

413
00:14:30,279 --> 00:14:33,549
so the story isn't over yet there's more

414
00:14:31,720 --> 00:14:35,200
to be uncovered and for people out there

415
00:14:33,549 --> 00:14:36,339
at their own level at their grassroots I

416
00:14:35,200 --> 00:14:37,810
might say something that the local

417
00:14:36,340 --> 00:14:39,759
council or something they find a bit odd

418
00:14:37,809 --> 00:14:41,319
how much you advice to them to get

419
00:14:39,759 --> 00:14:42,610
involved and maybe try and change things

420
00:14:41,320 --> 00:14:43,870
a little bit for what you think is the

421
00:14:42,610 --> 00:14:45,909
better yeah I've been asked this

422
00:14:43,870 --> 00:14:47,470
question last night as well and so again

423
00:14:45,909 --> 00:14:49,629
wanted to know what can they do to make

424
00:14:47,470 --> 00:14:50,830
a difference and I would just I would

425
00:14:49,629 --> 00:14:52,629
just say look try and be reasonable

426
00:14:50,830 --> 00:14:53,170
about things and understand that people

427
00:14:52,629 --> 00:14:55,299
do

428

00:14:53,169 --> 00:14:57,189
stupid things and then sort of do a

429
00:14:55,299 --> 00:14:59,769
cost-benefit analysis you know how much

430
00:14:57,190 --> 00:15:01,480
harm has been done here if it's doing no

431
00:14:59,769 --> 00:15:03,129
one any harm than allow people be stupid

432
00:15:01,480 --> 00:15:04,720
in their beliefs because you know you

433
00:15:03,129 --> 00:15:07,299
shouldn't go around trying to change

434
00:15:04,720 --> 00:15:08,769
people's ideas but if it looks like

435
00:15:07,299 --> 00:15:10,778
there's a clear or travesty of justice

436
00:15:08,769 --> 00:15:12,578
or someone who's been exploited then you

437
00:15:10,778 --> 00:15:14,409
must do something to stop it and and

438
00:15:12,578 --> 00:15:16,239
then I would just as I say contact

439
00:15:14,409 --> 00:15:18,370
authorities or you know get it can get

440
00:15:16,240 --> 00:15:21,250
other people to to examine the evidence

441
00:15:18,370 --> 00:15:22,990
and a former group because once you know

442
00:15:21,250 --> 00:15:24,730

there's a group of you then you don't

443

00:15:22,990 --> 00:15:26,829

seem like this isolated kind of ranting

444

00:15:24,730 --> 00:15:28,240

person you know it becomes an issue and

445

00:15:26,828 --> 00:15:30,578

then build up for the grassroots level

446

00:15:28,240 --> 00:15:32,350

and a website I'd like to recommend that

447

00:15:30,578 --> 00:15:34,179

is a might help give you the tools for

448

00:15:32,350 --> 00:15:35,470

that oh well I mean there are a lot of

449

00:15:34,179 --> 00:15:38,259

them out there if you just if you just

450

00:15:35,470 --> 00:15:39,940

our blog for a skeptical thinking James

451

00:15:38,259 --> 00:15:41,470

Randi organized at the forum on the

452

00:15:39,940 --> 00:15:44,019

James or any organization is pretty good

453

00:15:41,470 --> 00:15:45,670

but Bruce would thanks for your time as

454

00:15:44,019 --> 00:15:48,610

we've learned a lot about furniture

455

00:15:45,669 --> 00:15:51,009

removal here this afternoon and is there

456

00:15:48,610 --> 00:15:53,019

a cure for jet lag or is every possible

457
00:15:51,009 --> 00:15:54,909
cure for jet lag Justin yeah I have a

458
00:15:53,019 --> 00:15:58,690
hundred percent the curious to buy my

459
00:15:54,909 --> 00:16:00,189
book the self elution which is now okay

460
00:15:58,690 --> 00:16:01,540
and if your head is in the jar your

461
00:16:00,190 --> 00:16:03,130
shoes still should be able to read it

462
00:16:01,539 --> 00:16:05,370
these that's all right thank you very

463
00:16:03,129 --> 00:16:05,370
much

464
00:16:07,080 --> 00:16:10,950
looked at there's lots of silly stuff

465
00:16:08,879 --> 00:16:12,629
going on in the lounge where late night

466
00:16:10,950 --> 00:16:13,800
skeptics hang and we've got a late

467
00:16:12,629 --> 00:16:16,169
nights kept because it's got some

468
00:16:13,799 --> 00:16:17,399
interesting stories here but I was

469
00:16:16,169 --> 00:16:19,679
pointed to you you got to talk to this

470
00:16:17,399 --> 00:16:21,870
guy he did a show with Uri Geller in

471
00:16:19,679 --> 00:16:23,069
Russia who are you and what the hell are

472
00:16:21,870 --> 00:16:25,710
you doing in the former Soviet Union

473
00:16:23,070 --> 00:16:27,960
with Uri Geller yeah I was in the

474
00:16:25,710 --> 00:16:31,080
Ukraine my name is Jim under now and I'm

475
00:16:27,960 --> 00:16:32,580
the head and founder of the independent

476
00:16:31,080 --> 00:16:34,920
investigations group and i run the

477
00:16:32,580 --> 00:16:36,990
center for inquiry in los angeles mmm

478
00:16:34,919 --> 00:16:39,870
look and you doing a lot of work there

479
00:16:36,990 --> 00:16:42,899
how does that get you working with you

480
00:16:39,870 --> 00:16:45,179
regular well they've been doing the show

481
00:16:42,899 --> 00:16:48,149
called battle of the psychics in Kiev

482
00:16:45,179 --> 00:16:50,399
for something like eight or nine years

483
00:16:48,149 --> 00:16:52,620
those are the greco-roman wrestling kind

484
00:16:50,399 --> 00:16:55,069
of thing a physical contest with each

485

00:16:52,620 --> 00:16:57,720
other arm wrestling mr. three Falls

486
00:16:55,070 --> 00:16:59,970
wouldn't that be wonderful actually some

487
00:16:57,720 --> 00:17:01,560
of the tests they did were fantastic one

488
00:16:59,970 --> 00:17:03,960
of the one of the tests they put the

489
00:17:01,559 --> 00:17:06,299
psychics through they had to choose the

490
00:17:03,960 --> 00:17:10,200
right fire extinguisher to use in a

491
00:17:06,299 --> 00:17:11,879
randomly set fire and if they chose the

492
00:17:10,200 --> 00:17:13,799
wrong thing you know it sort of blew up

493
00:17:11,880 --> 00:17:15,750
in their face a little bit literally and

494
00:17:13,799 --> 00:17:18,029
I thought that was the greatest thing in

495
00:17:15,750 --> 00:17:19,829
the world how do you how did they set

496
00:17:18,029 --> 00:17:21,690
the randomly set fire to the computer

497
00:17:19,829 --> 00:17:23,399
randomly fire off a fire underneath

498
00:17:21,690 --> 00:17:24,900
something well they would out there but

499
00:17:23,400 --> 00:17:29,100

let's say they would set it this was at

500

00:17:24,900 --> 00:17:31,410

a firefighting facility and they would

501

00:17:29,099 --> 00:17:34,609

set a grease fire and the psychics would

502

00:17:31,410 --> 00:17:36,540

have to pick the black box which had the

503

00:17:34,609 --> 00:17:38,159

extinguisher in it best suited to

504

00:17:36,539 --> 00:17:42,470

putting out a grease fire and if they

505

00:17:38,160 --> 00:17:45,779

chose the wrong box randomly like a ball

506

00:17:42,470 --> 00:17:47,100

later a petrol a bore up no it was

507

00:17:45,779 --> 00:17:48,990

always something that would put some

508

00:17:47,099 --> 00:17:50,849

kind of fire out but like if they would

509

00:17:48,990 --> 00:17:53,460

you know throw up a bucket of water on a

510

00:17:50,849 --> 00:17:55,589

grease fire it flamed up the wait a bit

511

00:17:53,460 --> 00:17:57,660

and that actually happened once and i

512

00:17:55,589 --> 00:18:00,779

think the psychic actually got cinched a

513

00:17:57,660 --> 00:18:02,700

little bit and and what is your feeling

514
00:18:00,779 --> 00:18:04,829
about the psychics involved in that and

515
00:18:02,700 --> 00:18:06,809
and uri geller do you think that they

516
00:18:04,829 --> 00:18:07,889
they think they have the genuine powers

517
00:18:06,809 --> 00:18:09,419
and what do you think of you every what

518
00:18:07,890 --> 00:18:12,870
do you think's going on in there yeah I

519
00:18:09,420 --> 00:18:14,410
think they probably all I don't know who

520
00:18:12,869 --> 00:18:18,009
knows what's going through their minds

521
00:18:14,410 --> 00:18:19,870
they all seemed to genuinely believe in

522
00:18:18,009 --> 00:18:21,879
their powers I had nothing to do with

523
00:18:19,869 --> 00:18:24,129
setting up the tests or making sure was

524
00:18:21,880 --> 00:18:27,070
tight even would you made the test even

525
00:18:24,130 --> 00:18:30,340
harder III would have made him tighter I

526
00:18:27,069 --> 00:18:32,289
mean they had some hard tests but people

527
00:18:30,339 --> 00:18:33,819
were successful in ways that made me

528

00:18:32,289 --> 00:18:37,149
very suspicious about information

529

00:18:33,819 --> 00:18:40,509
leakage so I mean this is a television

530

00:18:37,150 --> 00:18:42,610
show not a scientific experiment so you

531

00:18:40,509 --> 00:18:44,890
know who knows how well was conducted I

532

00:18:42,609 --> 00:18:47,589
felt my role there was to introduce as

533

00:18:44,890 --> 00:18:49,330
much skepticism as possible into the

534

00:18:47,589 --> 00:18:51,309
process without just sitting there

535

00:18:49,329 --> 00:18:54,159
saying this is every single

536

00:18:51,309 --> 00:18:55,569
time Richard Saunders was involved in a

537

00:18:54,160 --> 00:18:57,550
similar type show in Australia called

538

00:18:55,569 --> 00:19:00,159
the one the psychics didn't have that

539

00:18:57,549 --> 00:19:02,049
greater hit rate and so the show wasn't

540

00:19:00,160 --> 00:19:03,910
all that interesting for that reason and

541

00:19:02,049 --> 00:19:06,369
we've been pitching these shows in the

542

00:19:03,910 --> 00:19:08,769
u.s. why I live in Hollywood Center for

543
00:19:06,369 --> 00:19:10,779
inquiry Los Angeles is in Hollywood we

544
00:19:08,769 --> 00:19:13,240
pitch these shows for years and the

545
00:19:10,779 --> 00:19:14,889
producers always say okay how long till

546
00:19:13,240 --> 00:19:17,140
somebody passes and wins a million

547
00:19:14,890 --> 00:19:20,410
dollars and I say if I'm running the

548
00:19:17,140 --> 00:19:23,020
test maybe never oh well we can't do

549
00:19:20,410 --> 00:19:24,370
that but if someone does get win the

550
00:19:23,019 --> 00:19:26,889
million dollars that means your show

551
00:19:24,369 --> 00:19:29,049
gets a Nobel Prize hahaha right that

552
00:19:26,890 --> 00:19:31,690
would be very excited because there

553
00:19:29,049 --> 00:19:33,609
would be something there is anything

554
00:19:31,690 --> 00:19:35,259
that's even made you wonder for a little

555
00:19:33,609 --> 00:19:37,389
while I mean is there any paranormal

556
00:19:35,259 --> 00:19:40,269

element you've personally in Canada that

557

00:19:37,390 --> 00:19:43,540

it's made you go oh hang on yeah one

558

00:19:40,269 --> 00:19:46,539

time a claimant did not show up for a

559

00:19:43,539 --> 00:19:48,730

test so we substituted one of our own

560

00:19:46,539 --> 00:19:52,359

people and it was a Zener card test one

561

00:19:48,730 --> 00:19:55,120

out of five chance for each guest our

562

00:19:52,359 --> 00:19:58,059

own guy just to go through the rehearsal

563

00:19:55,119 --> 00:20:01,329

got the first three right and I said

564

00:19:58,059 --> 00:20:04,149

what the hell is going on here are you

565

00:20:01,329 --> 00:20:07,629

people messing with me and cheating but

566

00:20:04,150 --> 00:20:09,310

it turned out that he just got on this

567

00:20:07,630 --> 00:20:11,740

and credit he let me miss like the next

568

00:20:09,309 --> 00:20:14,470

15 in a row but he got the first three

569

00:20:11,740 --> 00:20:16,660

right and it was kind of fun and wild it

570

00:20:14,470 --> 00:20:18,309

was on such a hot streak there what's

571
00:20:16,660 --> 00:20:19,900
the percentage odds of that is that like

572
00:20:18,309 --> 00:20:21,710
ten percent one percent one in or

573
00:20:19,900 --> 00:20:25,220
whatever yeah it's a

574
00:20:21,710 --> 00:20:28,909
one in five chance each time so you know

575
00:20:25,220 --> 00:20:31,730
wanted to know 125 I guess to get three

576
00:20:28,909 --> 00:20:34,700
in a row correct so that was a little

577
00:20:31,730 --> 00:20:37,278
unusual and I've been asking everyone in

578
00:20:34,700 --> 00:20:40,220
this this weekend what psychic ability

579
00:20:37,278 --> 00:20:42,109
or what realm of the paranormal that you

580
00:20:40,220 --> 00:20:43,759
guys claim is not true would you like to

581
00:20:42,109 --> 00:20:45,589
be true would you imagine will be true

582
00:20:43,759 --> 00:20:47,629
is there some element of whew that you

583
00:20:45,589 --> 00:20:50,959
wish would be true oh I wish say

584
00:20:47,630 --> 00:20:53,659
afterlife were true somehow I like to

585
00:20:50,960 --> 00:20:55,880
live forever in one form or another even

586
00:20:53,659 --> 00:20:59,179
if it just meant floating around and

587
00:20:55,880 --> 00:21:00,380
hearing initials but yeah that'd

588
00:20:59,179 --> 00:21:03,559
probably be the best one because that

589
00:21:00,380 --> 00:21:05,419
has an eternal sort of repercussion and

590
00:21:03,558 --> 00:21:07,278
look up musically I've also been asking

591
00:21:05,419 --> 00:21:08,659
people about music here at ten if

592
00:21:07,278 --> 00:21:10,099
there's a song i could play now it

593
00:21:08,659 --> 00:21:12,380
doesn't be a skeptic song it could be

594
00:21:10,099 --> 00:21:15,079
any song what would it be and why would

595
00:21:12,380 --> 00:21:16,880
you want to hear it the song i would

596
00:21:15,079 --> 00:21:20,178
like to hear right this minute is cold

597
00:21:16,880 --> 00:21:22,309
sweat by james brown because i think the

598
00:21:20,179 --> 00:21:24,048
let the man come into the popcorn that's

599

00:21:22,308 --> 00:21:27,048
pretty good by James Barack corn yeah

600
00:21:24,048 --> 00:21:28,519
that'd be good but I like cold sweat

601
00:21:27,048 --> 00:21:29,538
because I think that's what the claimant

602
00:21:28,519 --> 00:21:31,970
tomorrow night's going to be

603
00:21:29,538 --> 00:21:33,470
experiencing yeah yeah you think it's

604
00:21:31,970 --> 00:21:35,870
going to be difficult to to keep

605
00:21:33,470 --> 00:21:37,278
everyone like calm in the face of

606
00:21:35,869 --> 00:21:39,139
someone like that who's presenting a

607
00:21:37,278 --> 00:21:40,250
barely extraordinary claim because I

608
00:21:39,140 --> 00:21:42,409
don't want people to be rude to the

609
00:21:40,250 --> 00:21:44,990
person yeah I mean we really try to be

610
00:21:42,409 --> 00:21:46,309
fairly nice and respectful for people

611
00:21:44,990 --> 00:21:49,130
even though I really don't think

612
00:21:46,308 --> 00:21:51,440
anyone's ever going to pass I think the

613
00:21:49,130 --> 00:21:53,090

egg be on your face when we discover a

614

00:21:51,440 --> 00:21:54,919

new area of physics tomorrow night you

615

00:21:53,089 --> 00:21:56,119

didn't know existed you're gonna be

616

00:21:54,919 --> 00:21:58,130

laughing so when are we gonna be

617

00:21:56,119 --> 00:22:01,069

laughing you're gonna go haha no yeah I

618

00:21:58,130 --> 00:22:03,320

want in on that damn right who the hell

619

00:22:01,069 --> 00:22:05,778

am I to get a Nobel Prize but it put me

620

00:22:03,319 --> 00:22:07,579

on the list yet no I you know I think if

621

00:22:05,778 --> 00:22:08,839

people know that this is a serious thing

622

00:22:07,579 --> 00:22:10,519

and then you know they don't want to

623

00:22:08,839 --> 00:22:12,500

screw it up that they'll they'll be at

624

00:22:10,519 --> 00:22:15,009

least quiet and you've been breaking a

625

00:22:12,500 --> 00:22:16,970

cold sweat

626

00:22:15,009 --> 00:22:19,180

that's right thank you much for your

627

00:22:16,970 --> 00:22:19,180

time

628
00:22:28,829 --> 00:22:35,049
hi I'm a skeptic little Nessa the wee

629
00:22:32,890 --> 00:22:37,030
beastie who lives in the look I want to

630
00:22:35,049 --> 00:22:39,279
talk about monster talk the podcast

631
00:22:37,029 --> 00:22:41,889
skeptically examines monster story oh

632
00:22:39,279 --> 00:22:44,379
listen to it your fancy talk why are you

633
00:22:41,890 --> 00:22:48,160
just watching the Lulu monster shows on

634
00:22:44,380 --> 00:22:49,720
the teller last night huh oh yeah but

635
00:22:48,160 --> 00:22:51,700
but I watched those because they helped

636
00:22:49,720 --> 00:22:54,640
me hone my skeptical don't a bit telling

637
00:22:51,700 --> 00:22:56,230
me I porky pies live look why don't you

638
00:22:54,640 --> 00:22:57,880
go back in that water over there and let

639
00:22:56,230 --> 00:23:00,099
me talk to people about monster talk Oh

640
00:22:57,880 --> 00:23:02,680
does that interest oh it doesn't have

641
00:23:00,099 --> 00:23:04,899
pictures as a podcast I like textures

642
00:23:02,680 --> 00:23:06,460
missile that's proper television look if

643
00:23:04,900 --> 00:23:08,200
you like pictures so much the how come

644
00:23:06,460 --> 00:23:09,910
all the photos of you are so blurry I

645
00:23:08,200 --> 00:23:12,370
don't know what you're talking about a

646
00:23:09,910 --> 00:23:14,470
live a happy picture taken that's that's

647
00:23:12,369 --> 00:23:16,659
probably true I don't want to be on your

648
00:23:14,470 --> 00:23:19,299
show i want to be on britain's got

649
00:23:16,660 --> 00:23:21,940
talent like Susan Boyle I want to sing a

650
00:23:19,299 --> 00:23:23,379
proper Scottish song anyway please check

651
00:23:21,940 --> 00:23:25,690
out monster talk from your preferred

652
00:23:23,380 --> 00:23:30,120
podcast aggregator apart from monster

653
00:23:25,690 --> 00:23:30,120
talk org I'm gonna be rich

654
00:23:37,970 --> 00:23:44,190
I'm Robert Schaefer I've been a fellow

655
00:23:41,548 --> 00:23:48,028
of Psych off for a long time now psych

656

00:23:44,190 --> 00:23:50,519
out now CSI I've been writing The

657
00:23:48,028 --> 00:23:52,859
Skeptical in The Skeptical Inquirer the

658
00:23:50,519 --> 00:23:56,609
psychic vibrations column for a long

659
00:23:52,859 --> 00:23:59,428
time and it's now out or some of its out

660
00:23:56,609 --> 00:24:03,209
in book form some of the older columns

661
00:23:59,429 --> 00:24:05,730
and i also have a blog called bad UFOs

662
00:24:03,210 --> 00:24:08,579
and i try to keep up to date on the

663
00:24:05,730 --> 00:24:10,378
various crazy UFO claims they're still

664
00:24:08,579 --> 00:24:12,928
going on isn't that amazing after all

665
00:24:10,378 --> 00:24:15,148
these years when do you remember this

666
00:24:12,929 --> 00:24:18,559
whole thing really starting for me

667
00:24:15,148 --> 00:24:21,689
personally I was a kid in the 1970s and

668
00:24:18,558 --> 00:24:23,369
in the late 70s especially I remember

669
00:24:21,690 --> 00:24:26,090
the world seemed to be going UFO

670
00:24:23,369 --> 00:24:28,500

craziness I think that was mostly

671

00:24:26,089 --> 00:24:30,689

Australia was going UFO crazy at that

672

00:24:28,500 --> 00:24:33,119

point in time although there were some

673

00:24:30,690 --> 00:24:36,778

in the US with the Close Encounters of

674

00:24:33,119 --> 00:24:39,869

the Third Kind oh that's yeah yeah well

675

00:24:36,778 --> 00:24:42,028

is of course it all started way before

676

00:24:39,869 --> 00:24:44,489

that you know in the late forties

677

00:24:42,028 --> 00:24:47,009

kenneth arnold is sighting in Washington

678

00:24:44,490 --> 00:24:49,349

State and then within a few days

679

00:24:47,009 --> 00:24:51,808

everybody you know all the newspapers in

680

00:24:49,349 --> 00:24:54,778

the US and then in other countries were

681

00:24:51,808 --> 00:24:56,878

filled with stories of UFO sightings so

682

00:24:54,778 --> 00:24:59,579

what do you think the fascination is and

683

00:24:56,878 --> 00:25:01,408

I'm a little surprised still going on

684

00:24:59,579 --> 00:25:03,388

but of course there's always every year

685
00:25:01,409 --> 00:25:05,789
you hear about more and more or more

686
00:25:03,388 --> 00:25:07,709
people who claim my first is it but just

687
00:25:05,788 --> 00:25:09,750
because it's so ingrained in popular

688
00:25:07,710 --> 00:25:12,569
culture that's part of it but it's but

689
00:25:09,750 --> 00:25:17,460
it's really much richer than that you

690
00:25:12,569 --> 00:25:21,839
know the 14 researcher Hillary Evans has

691
00:25:17,460 --> 00:25:24,990
said that the UFO mythos looked at in

692
00:25:21,839 --> 00:25:29,128
its you know fullness is the richest set

693
00:25:24,990 --> 00:25:31,409
of you know contemporary myth when you

694
00:25:29,128 --> 00:25:34,408
consider all that has come from it what

695
00:25:31,409 --> 00:25:39,320
has come from it the men in black saucer

696
00:25:34,409 --> 00:25:42,890
crashes Roswell aliens alien abductions

697
00:25:39,319 --> 00:25:44,929
you know uh alien hybrids it just goes

698
00:25:42,890 --> 00:25:46,460
on and on from there it's not just

699

00:25:44,930 --> 00:25:48,200
something a little narrow like Bigfoot

700

00:25:46,460 --> 00:25:49,759
like you know you go out in the forest

701

00:25:48,200 --> 00:25:52,700
and maybe you see Bigfoot maybe you

702

00:25:49,759 --> 00:25:55,970
don't ufos have evolved into this this

703

00:25:52,700 --> 00:25:58,390
enormous richness as a social phenomenon

704

00:25:55,970 --> 00:26:00,799
it's interesting you should say the word

705

00:25:58,390 --> 00:26:05,360
evolved there because I also can't help

706

00:26:00,799 --> 00:26:07,700
that notice that the craft themselves

707

00:26:05,359 --> 00:26:10,669
have evolved over the years what people

708

00:26:07,700 --> 00:26:12,559
report and I wonder and you might have

709

00:26:10,670 --> 00:26:15,470
an opinion about this is because our

710

00:26:12,559 --> 00:26:18,529
technology is advancing and evolving and

711

00:26:15,470 --> 00:26:20,029
surely before too long we'll have the

712

00:26:18,529 --> 00:26:22,700
technology and crafts that make the

713

00:26:20,029 --> 00:26:24,470
original UFOs look positively antiquated

714
00:26:22,700 --> 00:26:27,920
well I don't think that's the case

715
00:26:24,470 --> 00:26:30,500
because the UFOs as reported routinely

716
00:26:27,920 --> 00:26:32,509
violate the laws of motion right they

717
00:26:30,500 --> 00:26:33,980
have you know massless acceleration if

718
00:26:32,509 --> 00:26:36,799
you want to accelerate from a certain

719
00:26:33,980 --> 00:26:38,539
point and you want to go off in you know

720
00:26:36,799 --> 00:26:40,399
to the left well something has to go out

721
00:26:38,539 --> 00:26:42,649
to the right to push you to the left I

722
00:26:40,400 --> 00:26:44,480
mean I mean unless something else grabs

723
00:26:42,650 --> 00:26:47,120
you and picks you up or you have

724
00:26:44,480 --> 00:26:48,620
propellers or something but UFOs aren't

725
00:26:47,119 --> 00:26:51,559
supposed to be like that they just kind

726
00:26:48,619 --> 00:26:53,449
of zip around yeah and make right angle

727
00:26:51,559 --> 00:26:56,509

turns you know all of this completely in

728

00:26:53,450 --> 00:26:58,370

violation of laws of motion so I'm quite

729

00:26:56,509 --> 00:27:01,039

sure that our technology is not going to

730

00:26:58,369 --> 00:27:03,139

go anywhere near that until we figure

731

00:27:01,039 --> 00:27:06,619

out how to build a you know a square

732

00:27:03,140 --> 00:27:09,620

circle or or a perpetual motion machine

733

00:27:06,619 --> 00:27:11,750

yeah yes that's what you would need you

734

00:27:09,619 --> 00:27:13,509

would and that you make a very good

735

00:27:11,750 --> 00:27:16,099

point of course our technology is

736

00:27:13,509 --> 00:27:18,049

increasing quite a bit and we've got

737

00:27:16,099 --> 00:27:21,379

more advanced aircraft but we're still

738

00:27:18,049 --> 00:27:24,289

limited by laws of motion $F = ma$

739

00:27:21,380 --> 00:27:26,060

and so on even if you use relativistic

740

00:27:24,289 --> 00:27:28,940

mechanics you're still limited by the

741

00:27:26,059 --> 00:27:31,339

laws of man this was the great out the

742
00:27:28,940 --> 00:27:33,200
great out of that is for the believer to

743
00:27:31,339 --> 00:27:35,449
say our world these creatures have

744
00:27:33,200 --> 00:27:37,610
obviously invented that you know well I

745
00:27:35,450 --> 00:27:39,380
know I know it's crazy as it sounds but

746
00:27:37,609 --> 00:27:41,089
I know well way to remember though

747
00:27:39,380 --> 00:27:44,080
what was it talk we heard yesterday

748
00:27:41,089 --> 00:27:46,879
saying about how they limited the

749
00:27:44,079 --> 00:27:48,439
expectation of what any new particles

750
00:27:46,880 --> 00:27:51,020
could be according to the standard law

751
00:27:48,440 --> 00:27:52,970
standard model of quantum mechanics and

752
00:27:51,019 --> 00:27:55,400
is basically these these things that

753
00:27:52,970 --> 00:27:58,819
they're hypothesizing it's just not

754
00:27:55,400 --> 00:28:00,890
realistic so within your situation do

755
00:27:58,819 --> 00:28:03,740
you get many people writing in to you

756
00:28:00,890 --> 00:28:06,680
emails or contacting you with heartfelt

757
00:28:03,740 --> 00:28:09,500
stories of encounters sometimes not so

758
00:28:06,680 --> 00:28:11,120
much specifically to me but Allah you

759
00:28:09,500 --> 00:28:13,670
know the organizations that collect

760
00:28:11,119 --> 00:28:16,069
these reports like Mia fun and some of

761
00:28:13,670 --> 00:28:18,410
the others see how they get a get a fair

762
00:28:16,069 --> 00:28:20,419
number of them and for many people and

763
00:28:18,410 --> 00:28:22,519
even sophisticated people you'd be

764
00:28:20,420 --> 00:28:25,430
surprised they seem to operate on the

765
00:28:22,519 --> 00:28:28,609
conclusion that well I can tell who is

766
00:28:25,430 --> 00:28:31,220
sincere and who is not I can tell who is

767
00:28:28,609 --> 00:28:32,629
credible and who is not now if they can

768
00:28:31,220 --> 00:28:34,910
do this and they're better than any

769
00:28:32,630 --> 00:28:37,070
psychologist in the world mmm because I

770

00:28:34,910 --> 00:28:40,040
think just about every psychologists it

771
00:28:37,069 --> 00:28:42,799
makes you cannot tell sincerity just by

772
00:28:40,039 --> 00:28:44,680
what somebody says and even if they are

773
00:28:42,799 --> 00:28:48,079
sincere that doesn't mean that they're

774
00:28:44,680 --> 00:28:51,140
correct it's so easy to be so you

775
00:28:48,079 --> 00:28:54,349
couldn't so convinced of an error yeah

776
00:28:51,140 --> 00:28:56,060
apps and when you are in error but

777
00:28:54,349 --> 00:28:57,409
you'll convince its reality then you

778
00:28:56,059 --> 00:28:59,659
have all the sincerity in the world

779
00:28:57,410 --> 00:29:02,540
that's right and that's then they go out

780
00:28:59,660 --> 00:29:04,880
and find a support group for either UFO

781
00:29:02,539 --> 00:29:07,250
ciders or UFO abductees and they each

782
00:29:04,880 --> 00:29:09,140
tell each other their stories and they

783
00:29:07,250 --> 00:29:11,029
don't even notice all the points you

784
00:29:09,140 --> 00:29:13,250

know of this agreement like one might

785

00:29:11,029 --> 00:29:14,629

say well the aliens have you know big

786

00:29:13,250 --> 00:29:16,069

heads and the other one says they have

787

00:29:14,630 --> 00:29:19,460

small heads you know they're each

788

00:29:16,069 --> 00:29:21,439

supporting the other I did not yes I

789

00:29:19,460 --> 00:29:25,700

think I've heard about this it's is

790

00:29:21,440 --> 00:29:27,440

other meetings group sessions or what

791

00:29:25,700 --> 00:29:28,730

are they call them groups with people

792

00:29:27,440 --> 00:29:30,620

they get together to share their

793

00:29:28,730 --> 00:29:32,660

experience of all certainly let's say

794

00:29:30,619 --> 00:29:35,509

being abducted for example Oh certainly

795

00:29:32,660 --> 00:29:38,690

and and there are even larger ones just

796

00:29:35,509 --> 00:29:41,269

for all UFO things for example in

797

00:29:38,690 --> 00:29:44,470

Phoenix area each year now they have the

798

00:29:41,269 --> 00:29:47,389

international UFO Congress I was there

799

00:29:44,470 --> 00:29:48,240

this year and it's sort of like the anti

800

00:29:47,390 --> 00:29:51,000

Tamia

801

00:29:48,240 --> 00:29:53,519

we're here were skeptical of things that

802

00:29:51,000 --> 00:29:55,230

cannot be proven and they're there you

803

00:29:53,519 --> 00:29:57,359

tell me your story and not love it you

804

00:29:55,230 --> 00:30:00,000

know that's there and in fact there was

805

00:29:57,359 --> 00:30:02,189

even a place there some guy set up a

806

00:30:00,000 --> 00:30:05,759

little business called alien and scalpel

807

00:30:02,190 --> 00:30:08,100

research saddle recent yes and the idea

808

00:30:05,759 --> 00:30:10,500

is when you give them twenty dollars and

809

00:30:08,099 --> 00:30:12,269

they will somehow take a DNA sample from

810

00:30:10,500 --> 00:30:16,200

you and they will tell you you are an

811

00:30:12,269 --> 00:30:17,759

alien hybrid you also have angelic DNA

812

00:30:16,200 --> 00:30:20,220

110 is telling you that they told her

813
00:30:17,759 --> 00:30:22,558
you know she had DNA I don't know what

814
00:30:20,220 --> 00:30:25,799
angels DNA is like but I guess they do

815
00:30:22,558 --> 00:30:28,950
and everything so preposterous is this

816
00:30:25,799 --> 00:30:30,720
and it's it's a large conference just

817
00:30:28,950 --> 00:30:32,279
like this in fact it's probably bigger

818
00:30:30,720 --> 00:30:34,679
than theirs I was about to make the

819
00:30:32,279 --> 00:30:36,599
point these things have no trouble

820
00:30:34,679 --> 00:30:39,960
getting many many attendees do that's

821
00:30:36,599 --> 00:30:41,669
right that's right III guess a lot of

822
00:30:39,960 --> 00:30:43,740
people go along they were very in

823
00:30:41,670 --> 00:30:45,630
varying degrees of belief and interest

824
00:30:43,740 --> 00:30:47,429
in UFO I mean I'm interested in you I

825
00:30:45,630 --> 00:30:49,800
always found it interesting there's a

826
00:30:47,429 --> 00:30:51,840
there's a relatively few people there

827

00:30:49,799 --> 00:30:53,730
while the number of actual skeptics

828
00:30:51,839 --> 00:30:55,889
there would be you know one or two who

829
00:30:53,730 --> 00:30:59,670
might just go out of curiosity like me

830
00:30:55,890 --> 00:31:02,940
but some of the UFO research is the pro

831
00:30:59,670 --> 00:31:05,308
UFO researchers are more or less careful

832
00:31:02,940 --> 00:31:08,460
in the sense that they realize most of

833
00:31:05,308 --> 00:31:09,960
its bogus and they require only you know

834
00:31:08,460 --> 00:31:12,210
they require what they consider to be

835
00:31:09,960 --> 00:31:15,090
solid Evans but for them solid evidence

836
00:31:12,210 --> 00:31:17,340
is good testimony yeah you know I'm a

837
00:31:15,089 --> 00:31:20,099
credible person I'm a police officer I'm

838
00:31:17,339 --> 00:31:22,439
a pillar of the community and I saw this

839
00:31:20,099 --> 00:31:24,539
thing land in my backyard and therefore

840
00:31:22,440 --> 00:31:26,429
you know it's true because he's credible

841
00:31:24,539 --> 00:31:29,700

that argument that I've heard so many

842

00:31:26,429 --> 00:31:32,670

times a policeman sword or a pilot sword

843

00:31:29,700 --> 00:31:34,230

and they're trained is trying to absorb

844

00:31:32,670 --> 00:31:36,509

things well who trains them I don't

845

00:31:34,230 --> 00:31:39,390

think so I I don't think that's quite

846

00:31:36,509 --> 00:31:41,220

what people think it is it's such an

847

00:31:39,390 --> 00:31:43,440

easy thing to say to say at least

848

00:31:41,220 --> 00:31:46,190

credible person sort and they have big

849

00:31:43,440 --> 00:31:48,660

they're trained right exactly exactly

850

00:31:46,190 --> 00:31:51,299

well but what many of these people

851

00:31:48,660 --> 00:31:53,300

forget was that even that the delayed J

852

00:31:51,299 --> 00:31:56,129

Allen Hynek who was the Blue Book

853

00:31:53,299 --> 00:31:57,669

Project Blue Book scientific consultant

854

00:31:56,130 --> 00:32:02,290

and he's sort of a hero too

855

00:31:57,670 --> 00:32:03,700

many of the pro UFO people he said after

856
00:32:02,289 --> 00:32:07,539
looking at a number of cases where

857
00:32:03,700 --> 00:32:09,009
pilots had made very serious perceptual

858
00:32:07,539 --> 00:32:11,190
errors you know when they see a meteor

859
00:32:09,009 --> 00:32:14,829
or something like that he wrote that

860
00:32:11,190 --> 00:32:17,200
pilots surprisingly make relatively poor

861
00:32:14,829 --> 00:32:20,199
observers when they're when they hit

862
00:32:17,200 --> 00:32:22,240
with some surprise unusual stimulus

863
00:32:20,200 --> 00:32:24,910
their thought is not G let me analyze

864
00:32:22,240 --> 00:32:26,410
what that thing is a thing is you know

865
00:32:24,910 --> 00:32:28,390
their thought is oh my god I'm going to

866
00:32:26,410 --> 00:32:32,440
collide with everything I better go into

867
00:32:28,390 --> 00:32:34,360
a bank you know and so that's a good

868
00:32:32,440 --> 00:32:36,640
thing to remember because it does come

869
00:32:34,359 --> 00:32:38,439
up quite a lot especially in your game

870
00:32:36,640 --> 00:32:40,240
in my game people will put that argument

871
00:32:38,440 --> 00:32:43,210
and I'll remember that that's a it's a

872
00:32:40,240 --> 00:32:45,789
good thing to remind people and like any

873
00:32:43,210 --> 00:32:47,529
but like you and I would be surprised if

874
00:32:45,789 --> 00:32:51,250
something unexpected happened we may not

875
00:32:47,529 --> 00:32:53,440
remember clearly right which is being

876
00:32:51,250 --> 00:32:55,809
very human of course now if people want

877
00:32:53,440 --> 00:32:57,400
to find out more about what you're up to

878
00:32:55,809 --> 00:33:00,220
what's the best website people can

879
00:32:57,400 --> 00:33:03,310
nervous it well my blog on UFOs is just

880
00:33:00,220 --> 00:33:06,309
called bad UFOs calm and I try to stay

881
00:33:03,309 --> 00:33:10,359
up to date on all the crazy claims there

882
00:33:06,309 --> 00:33:12,579
and I also have a website called the

883
00:33:10,359 --> 00:33:15,549
bunker calm which has more of an archive

884

00:33:12,579 --> 00:33:20,109
of older skeptical texts and things like

885
00:33:15,549 --> 00:33:21,490
that so I'm there's some I think that's

886
00:33:20,109 --> 00:33:23,859
probably the best source of information

887
00:33:21,490 --> 00:33:27,069
on this subject in fact I've been

888
00:33:23,859 --> 00:33:29,019
actually I have quite because I've been

889
00:33:27,069 --> 00:33:32,649
in doing this for a long time I have a

890
00:33:29,019 --> 00:33:34,569
lot of correspondence and things from

891
00:33:32,650 --> 00:33:37,210
well-known ufologists and people like

892
00:33:34,569 --> 00:33:40,269
you know Philip J class and Jalen hi

893
00:33:37,210 --> 00:33:41,860
Nick and so on and so I have been in the

894
00:33:40,269 --> 00:33:45,129
process of scanning these and putting

895
00:33:41,859 --> 00:33:47,559
them as pdfs out as historical documents

896
00:33:45,130 --> 00:33:50,140
to document the history of ufology and

897
00:33:47,559 --> 00:33:52,960
important controversies and so on yeah

898
00:33:50,140 --> 00:33:54,490

and i have i have pages devoted to

899

00:33:52,960 --> 00:33:57,220

certain cases like for example the

900

00:33:54,490 --> 00:33:59,710

Travis Walton UFO story where he claims

901

00:33:57,220 --> 00:34:03,100

it he was out with these people in the

902

00:33:59,710 --> 00:34:04,779

forest and and they stopped they saw UFO

903

00:34:03,099 --> 00:34:06,129

they stopped and he ran out toward it

904

00:34:04,779 --> 00:34:08,349

and it zapped him and someone well the

905

00:34:06,130 --> 00:34:11,140

whole thing is a hoax as it wouldn't

906

00:34:08,349 --> 00:34:11,829

surprise you he'll class spent a lot of

907

00:34:11,139 --> 00:34:13,569

time on this

908

00:34:11,829 --> 00:34:15,789

class of course was one of the founding

909

00:34:13,570 --> 00:34:18,130

fellows of psych up and it was probably

910

00:34:15,789 --> 00:34:22,570

the best known UFO skeptic a white I'm

911

00:34:18,130 --> 00:34:24,550

and so I'm you know putting all this

912

00:34:22,570 --> 00:34:26,980

information that a lot of it was not

913
00:34:24,550 --> 00:34:29,250
previously available put it together why

914
00:34:26,980 --> 00:34:31,210
we think exactly that it's a hoax

915
00:34:29,250 --> 00:34:33,099
fantastic stuff there you are folks

916
00:34:31,210 --> 00:34:35,470
visit those websites if you're

917
00:34:33,099 --> 00:34:54,610
interested in UFOs robert chamber thank

918
00:34:35,469 --> 00:34:56,289
you very much thank you Richard the

919
00:34:54,610 --> 00:35:00,220
Australian skeptics annual convention

920
00:34:56,289 --> 00:35:02,920
for 2012 will be held in melbourne from

921
00:35:00,219 --> 00:35:06,459
friday the 30th of november to sunday

922
00:35:02,920 --> 00:35:10,480
the second of december speakers this

923
00:35:06,460 --> 00:35:12,579
year include James the amazing Randi DJ

924
00:35:10,480 --> 00:35:14,889
Grothe president of the James Randi

925
00:35:12,579 --> 00:35:18,340
Educational Foundation Brian Thompson

926
00:35:14,889 --> 00:35:22,389
outreach coordinator from the jf rebecca

927
00:35:18,340 --> 00:35:25,390
watson lawrence loon dr. dre chi dunlop

928
00:35:22,389 --> 00:35:28,509
lynn kelly dr. chrissy wilson dr. ken

929
00:35:25,389 --> 00:35:31,859
harvey choice magazine consumer of the

930
00:35:28,510 --> 00:35:36,040
year award winner adam van langenberg

931
00:35:31,860 --> 00:35:38,079
Richard Saunders and many more for more

932
00:35:36,039 --> 00:35:41,829
information and to book your tickets

933
00:35:38,079 --> 00:35:46,900
which are selling out fast visit w WV

934
00:35:41,829 --> 00:35:49,960
skeptics wordpress com yes folks don't

935
00:35:46,900 --> 00:35:52,329
forget this is your chance to meet James

936
00:35:49,960 --> 00:35:56,070
the amazing Randi and lots of other

937
00:35:52,329 --> 00:35:56,069
amazing people in person

938
00:36:03,699 --> 00:36:12,889
now it's time for dr. Richie reports

939
00:36:07,099 --> 00:36:16,369
with dr. Rachel Dunlop so here i am at

940
00:36:12,889 --> 00:36:17,809
tam 10 in las vegas and I'm just been

941

00:36:16,369 --> 00:36:20,059
joined by Tim Farley from what's the

942
00:36:17,809 --> 00:36:22,969
harm net has just come off stage from

943
00:36:20,059 --> 00:36:25,909
giving a presentation about the internet

944
00:36:22,969 --> 00:36:28,609
and the future of skepticism on the

945
00:36:25,909 --> 00:36:30,559
internet so to me also that's been the

946
00:36:28,610 --> 00:36:32,539
theme of your talks during the weekend

947
00:36:30,559 --> 00:36:35,929
you gave a workshop on Thursday with

948
00:36:32,539 --> 00:36:37,759
Derek kanji know about skeptic tools

949
00:36:35,929 --> 00:36:40,250
related to the internet and you also

950
00:36:37,760 --> 00:36:43,070
have a blog that talks about skeptic

951
00:36:40,250 --> 00:36:46,730
tools room because you are the internet

952
00:36:43,070 --> 00:36:48,710
expert aren't you well I try I try to be

953
00:36:46,730 --> 00:36:50,869
the expert on using the tools that are

954
00:36:48,710 --> 00:36:52,940
available on the internet for skeptical

955
00:36:50,869 --> 00:36:54,670

purposes things that go beyond just

956

00:36:52,940 --> 00:36:56,780

creating a website or creating a blog

957

00:36:54,670 --> 00:36:58,730

clever ways that you can take advantage

958

00:36:56,780 --> 00:37:01,580

of stuff that's out there like Wikipedia

959

00:36:58,730 --> 00:37:05,809

and and browser plugins and things like

960

00:37:01,579 --> 00:37:07,099

that to to do skeptic work so can we

961

00:37:05,809 --> 00:37:08,299

talk about some of those tools because

962

00:37:07,099 --> 00:37:11,210

some of the ones you brought up on

963

00:37:08,300 --> 00:37:13,340

Thursday I hadn't heard of there was one

964

00:37:11,210 --> 00:37:15,679

that is sort of like a forum for

965

00:37:13,340 --> 00:37:17,780

skeptics to pose questions and answers

966

00:37:15,679 --> 00:37:19,639

which I had not come across before yeah

967

00:37:17,780 --> 00:37:21,830

it's called skeptic stack exchange it's

968

00:37:19,639 --> 00:37:23,839

actually a whole series of sites called

969

00:37:21,829 --> 00:37:26,329

stack exchange and each one's on a topic

970
00:37:23,840 --> 00:37:28,640
and it was specifically to solve the

971
00:37:26,329 --> 00:37:31,069
problem of question-and-answer sites on

972
00:37:28,639 --> 00:37:32,900
the internet being terrible if you've

973
00:37:31,070 --> 00:37:34,340
ever looked at yahoo answers or any of

974
00:37:32,900 --> 00:37:36,200
the answer question and answer sites

975
00:37:34,340 --> 00:37:38,240
they're just terrible it's just terrible

976
00:37:36,199 --> 00:37:39,799
questions and terrible answers so these

977
00:37:38,239 --> 00:37:41,809
couple of software developers said we

978
00:37:39,800 --> 00:37:44,380
can do a better job and they came up

979
00:37:41,809 --> 00:37:46,549
with this thing and made it all free and

980
00:37:44,380 --> 00:37:48,980
eventually someone they were looking for

981
00:37:46,550 --> 00:37:50,600
other topics and Richard Stelling in the

982
00:37:48,980 --> 00:37:53,480
UK went to them and said hey why don't

983
00:37:50,599 --> 00:37:54,949
we do a skeptic topic and they said yes

984
00:37:53,480 --> 00:37:56,750
and so there's this whole skeptic

985
00:37:54,949 --> 00:37:58,730
section and the neat thing about the

986
00:37:56,750 --> 00:38:02,000
site is is that it's specifically

987
00:37:58,730 --> 00:38:04,280
designed to show up well in Google so

988
00:38:02,000 --> 00:38:06,170
when you put a piece of question on

989
00:38:04,280 --> 00:38:07,790
there and then you google for that

990
00:38:06,170 --> 00:38:08,730
question the stack skeptic stack

991
00:38:07,789 --> 00:38:11,130
exchange

992
00:38:08,730 --> 00:38:13,230
answer will usually be the first result

993
00:38:11,130 --> 00:38:15,690
so we have a bunch of skeptics on their

994
00:38:13,230 --> 00:38:17,490
answering questions and there's a whole

995
00:38:15,690 --> 00:38:19,920
process where the questions get voted on

996
00:38:17,489 --> 00:38:21,629
and people get the scores and it's kind

997
00:38:19,920 --> 00:38:22,889
of a game it's almost like Foursquare

998

00:38:21,630 --> 00:38:24,570
one of those games where you can get

999
00:38:22,889 --> 00:38:26,369
badges and things like that so it's kind

1000
00:38:24,570 --> 00:38:31,260
of fun you compete to get the best

1001
00:38:26,369 --> 00:38:33,509
answers and nice little pithy skeptic

1002
00:38:31,260 --> 00:38:35,850
nuggets that don't require a 5,000 word

1003
00:38:33,510 --> 00:38:37,530
blog post just as like the example I

1004
00:38:35,849 --> 00:38:39,989
gave was someone asked the question of

1005
00:38:37,530 --> 00:38:42,450
what formal education does I ron hubbard

1006
00:38:39,989 --> 00:38:43,919
the Creator Scientology have and there

1007
00:38:42,449 --> 00:38:46,379
had been a lot of misinformation about

1008
00:38:43,920 --> 00:38:47,610
that from the church and I when I saw

1009
00:38:46,380 --> 00:38:48,930
that question I happen to know the

1010
00:38:47,610 --> 00:38:50,550
answer because there had been an article

1011
00:38:48,929 --> 00:38:53,069
about it recently so I wrote the answer

1012
00:38:50,550 --> 00:38:55,080

up and cited the article and my answer

1013

00:38:53,070 --> 00:38:56,820

was picked by the people on the site and

1014

00:38:55,079 --> 00:38:59,460

now that's the number one result in

1015

00:38:56,820 --> 00:39:01,740

google if you if you look that up and

1016

00:38:59,460 --> 00:39:03,320

it's a skeptical answer and what is the

1017

00:39:01,739 --> 00:39:06,299

answer to me the answer is that

1018

00:39:03,320 --> 00:39:07,980

basically he does not have any advanced

1019

00:39:06,300 --> 00:39:10,950

degrees even though the church claims

1020

00:39:07,980 --> 00:39:12,960

that he does okay he did some college

1021

00:39:10,949 --> 00:39:14,789

but never really finished and the

1022

00:39:12,960 --> 00:39:16,740

interesting thing about that site too is

1023

00:39:14,789 --> 00:39:18,809

that you can write a question and answer

1024

00:39:16,739 --> 00:39:20,849

it yourself right is that and is that

1025

00:39:18,809 --> 00:39:24,150

different to say yahoo answers a

1026

00:39:20,849 --> 00:39:25,589

question yeah they in order to encourage

1027
00:39:24,150 --> 00:39:27,809
people to it's all about knowledge

1028
00:39:25,590 --> 00:39:29,370
sharing it originally was a programmers

1029
00:39:27,809 --> 00:39:31,349
technical site and all these weird

1030
00:39:29,369 --> 00:39:32,730
little super technical questions about

1031
00:39:31,349 --> 00:39:34,829
how do you do this or how do you do that

1032
00:39:32,730 --> 00:39:36,449
and a lot of people have knowledge like

1033
00:39:34,829 --> 00:39:38,099
that and need a place to share it but

1034
00:39:36,449 --> 00:39:40,230
maybe they don't have a blog to post it

1035
00:39:38,099 --> 00:39:42,360
on so you can go to the site if you you

1036
00:39:40,230 --> 00:39:44,250
come up with an interesting piece of

1037
00:39:42,360 --> 00:39:46,200
skeptical knowledge and you don't have a

1038
00:39:44,250 --> 00:39:48,480
blog to post it on you can go to skeptic

1039
00:39:46,199 --> 00:39:50,429
stack exchange write it in the form of a

1040
00:39:48,480 --> 00:39:51,449
question and then click the button to

1041
00:39:50,429 --> 00:39:53,759
say I'm going to answer this question

1042
00:39:51,449 --> 00:39:55,710
myself and you write the answer yourself

1043
00:39:53,760 --> 00:39:58,560
and hopefully you'll get a good score

1044
00:39:55,710 --> 00:40:00,929
but in any case the content will be

1045
00:39:58,559 --> 00:40:03,269
there and it'll be easily accessible to

1046
00:40:00,929 --> 00:40:04,919
Google yeah I thought one of the really

1047
00:40:03,269 --> 00:40:06,420
interesting points that you made in the

1048
00:40:04,920 --> 00:40:08,700
workshop on Thursday was you were

1049
00:40:06,420 --> 00:40:11,639
comparing the number of hits that your

1050
00:40:08,699 --> 00:40:14,129
blog or website what's the harm net gets

1051
00:40:11,639 --> 00:40:18,029
versus the amount of hits that Wikipedia

1052
00:40:14,130 --> 00:40:20,760
gets and your point was to I guess to

1053
00:40:18,030 --> 00:40:22,530
target where you put information of a

1054
00:40:20,760 --> 00:40:25,170
skeptical nature to make sure it's

1055

00:40:22,530 --> 00:40:26,940
it's viewed more often and what were you

1056
00:40:25,170 --> 00:40:29,930
saying about that yeah well it's easy to

1057
00:40:26,940 --> 00:40:33,210
get into a false dichotomy a sort of

1058
00:40:29,929 --> 00:40:34,829
fallacy there and say that oh well let's

1059
00:40:33,210 --> 00:40:36,570
just go post everything on Wikipedia and

1060
00:40:34,829 --> 00:40:38,909
of course that's not the answer we need

1061
00:40:36,570 --> 00:40:42,720
skeptical websites too but you gotta look

1062
00:40:38,909 --> 00:40:44,879
at where is where's our time best spent

1063
00:40:42,719 --> 00:40:46,889
and if i can write something on on

1064
00:40:44,880 --> 00:40:48,750
what's the harm and it's going to be

1065
00:40:46,889 --> 00:40:50,670
seen by a few thousand people but i can

1066
00:40:48,750 --> 00:40:52,380
write the same thing on wikipedia and it

1067
00:40:50,670 --> 00:40:54,210
follows the wikipedia rules it's going

1068
00:40:52,380 --> 00:40:55,860
to be seen by a million people then

1069
00:40:54,210 --> 00:40:58,380

maybe i should write it on wikipedia

1070

00:40:55,860 --> 00:41:01,289

instead and of course probably i should

1071

00:40:58,380 --> 00:41:03,720

write it on both but generally skeptic

1072

00:41:01,289 --> 00:41:07,739

websites don't nearly ranked as high as

1073

00:41:03,719 --> 00:41:11,399

wikipedia they get much more traffic so

1074

00:41:07,739 --> 00:41:13,199

even if you hate wikipedia you have to

1075

00:41:11,400 --> 00:41:14,369

acknowledge the fact that the general

1076

00:41:13,199 --> 00:41:16,739

public is getting their information

1077

00:41:14,369 --> 00:41:18,000

about homeopathy and chiropractic and

1078

00:41:16,739 --> 00:41:19,829

all these things that we know about

1079

00:41:18,000 --> 00:41:21,869

they're getting that information from

1080

00:41:19,829 --> 00:41:24,000

Wikipedia in a very large degree so we

1081

00:41:21,869 --> 00:41:26,880

owe it to them to try to make those

1082

00:41:24,000 --> 00:41:28,860

articles as skeptical as possible so you

1083

00:41:26,880 --> 00:41:30,570

talks a little bit about the ins and

1084
00:41:28,860 --> 00:41:33,240
outs of Wikipedia and you mentioned

1085
00:41:30,570 --> 00:41:36,180
specifically that Susan Garrick has a

1086
00:41:33,239 --> 00:41:38,579
project going to encourage skeptics to

1087
00:41:36,179 --> 00:41:40,500
get involved can you tell us a bit about

1088
00:41:38,579 --> 00:41:43,259
that yeah Susan garvik has a blog called

1089
00:41:40,500 --> 00:41:45,179
guerrilla skepticism on Wikipedia if you

1090
00:41:43,260 --> 00:41:48,570
just google that you can find it and she

1091
00:41:45,179 --> 00:41:50,460
kind of organizes skeptics around you

1092
00:41:48,570 --> 00:41:52,410
know different projects or you know some

1093
00:41:50,460 --> 00:41:53,429
figuring out where people can spend

1094
00:41:52,409 --> 00:41:56,759
their time so that they're not

1095
00:41:53,429 --> 00:41:58,980
duplicating effort or giving them help

1096
00:41:56,760 --> 00:42:01,740
when they need help and try just trying

1097
00:41:58,980 --> 00:42:03,269
to get skeptics energized about editing

1098
00:42:01,739 --> 00:42:05,009
Wikipedia and she's got a project that

1099
00:42:03,269 --> 00:42:07,829
she's a sub-project that she's been

1100
00:42:05,010 --> 00:42:09,420
organizing here at tam where she wants

1101
00:42:07,829 --> 00:42:11,819
to get skeptics interested in

1102
00:42:09,420 --> 00:42:14,039
translating content into other languages

1103
00:42:11,820 --> 00:42:15,960
so that not only in the English

1104
00:42:14,039 --> 00:42:17,909
Wikipedia but in the Portuguese

1105
00:42:15,960 --> 00:42:19,559
Wikipedia and the and the French

1106
00:42:17,909 --> 00:42:21,599
Wikipedia and whatnot all the best

1107
00:42:19,559 --> 00:42:24,539
information about homeopathy or James

1108
00:42:21,599 --> 00:42:26,730
Randi or you know psychic channeling or

1109
00:42:24,539 --> 00:42:28,349
whatever is the same on all the

1110
00:42:26,730 --> 00:42:30,000
wikipedias and of course that's a huge

1111
00:42:28,349 --> 00:42:32,199
effort and she's going to start small

1112

00:42:30,000 --> 00:42:34,480
and fan out but

1113
00:42:32,199 --> 00:42:35,739
it's good because if you've ever played

1114
00:42:34,480 --> 00:42:39,250
around with a different language

1115
00:42:35,739 --> 00:42:41,229
wikipedias they can be very you know one

1116
00:42:39,250 --> 00:42:43,389
might have a really detailed article

1117
00:42:41,230 --> 00:42:44,920
about something and then you go to the

1118
00:42:43,389 --> 00:42:47,289
French version or the Spanish version

1119
00:42:44,920 --> 00:42:49,960
and the article is much smaller and less

1120
00:42:47,289 --> 00:42:52,300
well edited right and you were talking

1121
00:42:49,960 --> 00:42:54,250
about how in the early days wiki was

1122
00:42:52,300 --> 00:42:56,410
looking for content that was their

1123
00:42:54,250 --> 00:42:58,179
primary focus but now they've got a lot

1124
00:42:56,409 --> 00:42:59,739
of content now they need or was it

1125
00:42:58,179 --> 00:43:01,750
editors no they were looking for editors

1126
00:42:59,739 --> 00:43:03,429

primarily first up but now they're

1127

00:43:01,750 --> 00:43:05,650

looking for content and you said that in

1128

00:43:03,429 --> 00:43:07,358

some aspects of that the camp it's

1129

00:43:05,650 --> 00:43:10,809

taking advantage of that and flooding

1130

00:43:07,358 --> 00:43:13,779

wiki with with with sort of pseudo

1131

00:43:10,809 --> 00:43:16,838

science topics yeah to a certain extent

1132

00:43:13,780 --> 00:43:18,519

uh it's they're not really flooding it

1133

00:43:16,838 --> 00:43:21,070

but but they do come in from time to

1134

00:43:18,519 --> 00:43:22,690

time in the early days of Wikipedia they

1135

00:43:21,070 --> 00:43:24,550

didn't have any articles so they wanted

1136

00:43:22,690 --> 00:43:26,349

people to write small stub article so

1137

00:43:24,550 --> 00:43:28,180

you could kind of get away with a lot

1138

00:43:26,349 --> 00:43:30,849

because they needed the articles written

1139

00:43:28,179 --> 00:43:32,739

now most of the major topics like all

1140

00:43:30,849 --> 00:43:35,200

the major skeptic topics have articles

1141
00:43:32,739 --> 00:43:37,088
so it's starting to get down into the

1142
00:43:35,199 --> 00:43:39,699
fringe topics so like homeopathy

1143
00:43:37,088 --> 00:43:41,559
obviously we know it's nonsense but it's

1144
00:43:39,699 --> 00:43:43,328
still a cultural phenomenon so it

1145
00:43:41,559 --> 00:43:46,299
deserves to have an article in Wikipedia

1146
00:43:43,329 --> 00:43:48,250
but if you find some quack you know that

1147
00:43:46,300 --> 00:43:51,400
he's the only one doing some quack

1148
00:43:48,250 --> 00:43:53,440
remedy and it's just this one guy that

1149
00:43:51,400 --> 00:43:55,389
doesn't belong on Wikipedia because

1150
00:43:53,440 --> 00:43:57,039
under Wikipedia rules it's not notable

1151
00:43:55,389 --> 00:43:59,049
enough but sometimes those quacks will

1152
00:43:57,039 --> 00:44:00,818
go in there and try to add it so there's

1153
00:43:59,050 --> 00:44:02,920
a whole section on Wikipedia called the

1154
00:44:00,818 --> 00:44:04,869
fringe theories board where people kind

1155
00:44:02,920 --> 00:44:06,880
of watch out for that sort of stuff and

1156
00:44:04,869 --> 00:44:10,329
they have a pretty good process in place

1157
00:44:06,880 --> 00:44:12,309
where they will delete stuff if it

1158
00:44:10,329 --> 00:44:13,900
doesn't belong there and sometimes you

1159
00:44:12,309 --> 00:44:16,239
can kind of run afoul of it because

1160
00:44:13,900 --> 00:44:18,369
skeptics will document our own like

1161
00:44:16,239 --> 00:44:20,500
we'll put our own people in there a good

1162
00:44:18,369 --> 00:44:22,869
example was actually just today or

1163
00:44:20,500 --> 00:44:26,440
yesterday the article for Brian Dunning

1164
00:44:22,869 --> 00:44:28,630
sceptile cast was it wasn't really

1165
00:44:26,440 --> 00:44:30,220
deleted but it was merged they decided

1166
00:44:28,630 --> 00:44:32,200
they didn't want a separate article for

1167
00:44:30,219 --> 00:44:33,909
his podcast because this podcast wasn't

1168
00:44:32,199 --> 00:44:36,219
well known enough so what they did was

1169

00:44:33,909 --> 00:44:39,159
they took the material from that article

1170
00:44:36,219 --> 00:44:41,799
and merged it into his biography which

1171
00:44:39,159 --> 00:44:44,108
is okay it's nicer to have two articles

1172
00:44:41,800 --> 00:44:45,440
but the content is still there and it's

1173
00:44:44,108 --> 00:44:47,358
still one so sometimes you lose

1174
00:44:45,440 --> 00:44:48,500
battles like that you just have to you

1175
00:44:47,358 --> 00:44:51,019
have to be aware that you're not going

1176
00:44:48,500 --> 00:44:53,420
to win every battle on Wikipedia so you

1177
00:44:51,019 --> 00:44:55,550
mentioned they but who is who is this

1178
00:44:53,420 --> 00:44:57,260
elusive a okay well that is that's

1179
00:44:55,550 --> 00:44:58,760
interesting because a lot of people have

1180
00:44:57,260 --> 00:45:00,920
this image that there's this sort of

1181
00:44:58,760 --> 00:45:02,599
cabal that runs Wikipedia but it's

1182
00:45:00,920 --> 00:45:05,329
really just a whole bunch of people and

1183
00:45:02,599 --> 00:45:07,010

it just it's very haphazard as to

1184

00:45:05,329 --> 00:45:11,300

whether or not anyone else will notice

1185

00:45:07,010 --> 00:45:13,940

what you're doing and market for

1186

00:45:11,300 --> 00:45:15,440

deletion or push back on what your the

1187

00:45:13,940 --> 00:45:16,849

changes you're making sometimes you can

1188

00:45:15,440 --> 00:45:18,889

make changes on Wikipedia and no one

1189

00:45:16,849 --> 00:45:20,269

will notice for quite some time but

1190

00:45:18,889 --> 00:45:22,400

other times they will notice within

1191

00:45:20,269 --> 00:45:23,929

minutes I fix some vandalism the other

1192

00:45:22,400 --> 00:45:26,000

day that someone pointed out to me in

1193

00:45:23,929 --> 00:45:28,129

Wikipedia and the net time that that

1194

00:45:26,000 --> 00:45:29,929

vandalism was president was a conspiracy

1195

00:45:28,130 --> 00:45:32,240

theory someone had put into the middle

1196

00:45:29,929 --> 00:45:34,190

of an article and it was only visible on

1197

00:45:32,239 --> 00:45:36,139

Wikipedia for like 30 minutes before I

1198
00:45:34,190 --> 00:45:38,900
had fixed it and it's amazing how much

1199
00:45:36,139 --> 00:45:40,250
that gets in there but there just is you

1200
00:45:38,900 --> 00:45:41,990
just have to be aware there are other

1201
00:45:40,250 --> 00:45:44,539
editors there and not all of them are

1202
00:45:41,989 --> 00:45:46,789
aware of skepticism or on board with

1203
00:45:44,539 --> 00:45:48,889
skepticism and sometimes they'll be a

1204
00:45:46,789 --> 00:45:51,769
little suspicious of you pushing an

1205
00:45:48,889 --> 00:45:53,598
agenda so you have to be careful about

1206
00:45:51,769 --> 00:45:55,039
that you can't go in and like for

1207
00:45:53,599 --> 00:45:57,500
instance decide I'm going to be the

1208
00:45:55,039 --> 00:45:59,420
homeopathy wikipedia editor and just

1209
00:45:57,500 --> 00:46:02,869
edit homeopathy articles all the time

1210
00:45:59,420 --> 00:46:04,550
because people will be suspicious of you

1211
00:46:02,869 --> 00:46:07,338
that think you're pushing an agenda so

1212
00:46:04,550 --> 00:46:08,930
for instance when I edit Wikipedia I try

1213
00:46:07,338 --> 00:46:11,059
to mix it up a bit and I've written a

1214
00:46:08,929 --> 00:46:13,309
number of really large articles about

1215
00:46:11,059 --> 00:46:14,690
historic buildings in the town that I

1216
00:46:13,309 --> 00:46:17,210
live in which has nothing to do with

1217
00:46:14,690 --> 00:46:19,429
skepticism but it helps convince the

1218
00:46:17,210 --> 00:46:22,068
rest of the people on wikipedia that I'm

1219
00:46:19,429 --> 00:46:23,509
serious about Wikipedia and I'm not just

1220
00:46:22,068 --> 00:46:26,000
a skeptic that's trying to advertise

1221
00:46:23,510 --> 00:46:28,280
skeptic stuff on Wikipedia I like

1222
00:46:26,000 --> 00:46:30,679
Wikipedia as an encyclopedia so I all

1223
00:46:28,280 --> 00:46:32,630
right a you know a 10,000 word article

1224
00:46:30,679 --> 00:46:34,848
about a hundred year old church in

1225
00:46:32,630 --> 00:46:37,010
Atlanta because it deserves to have an

1226

00:46:34,849 --> 00:46:39,710
article that make you a massive nerd or

1227
00:46:37,010 --> 00:46:41,000
something yeah probably I actually spent

1228
00:46:39,710 --> 00:46:42,740
there was one article about this

1229
00:46:41,000 --> 00:46:44,210
hundred-year-old building and I spent a

1230
00:46:42,739 --> 00:46:46,009
considerable amount of time going to the

1231
00:46:44,210 --> 00:46:47,659
library and looking through microfilm to

1232
00:46:46,010 --> 00:46:50,000
find the right because the key to

1233
00:46:47,659 --> 00:46:52,068
Wikipedia is it's like writing a

1234
00:46:50,000 --> 00:46:53,420
research paper in college you've got to

1235
00:46:52,068 --> 00:46:55,880
have the footnotes you've got to have

1236
00:46:53,420 --> 00:46:58,349
your references to back up every piece

1237
00:46:55,880 --> 00:46:59,970
of information and if you do your home

1238
00:46:58,349 --> 00:47:01,829
work and get good references and

1239
00:46:59,969 --> 00:47:05,339
footnote every fact that you put in the

1240
00:47:01,829 --> 00:47:06,779

article you can you can put a lot of

1241
00:47:05,340 --> 00:47:08,160
material on there and people will not

1242
00:47:06,780 --> 00:47:09,990
argue with you they'll look at it and

1243
00:47:08,159 --> 00:47:13,829
they say well he's got his references in

1244
00:47:09,989 --> 00:47:17,429
place and this article is is legitimate

1245
00:47:13,829 --> 00:47:19,309
and okay well they'll let it stand so i

1246
00:47:17,429 --> 00:47:21,599
want to touch on selected slacktivism

1247
00:47:19,309 --> 00:47:23,400
wrote him because you mentioned that in

1248
00:47:21,599 --> 00:47:25,110
your workshop and I so I didn't see your

1249
00:47:23,400 --> 00:47:28,590
talk today but I no doubt you probably

1250
00:47:25,110 --> 00:47:32,309
mentioned that again what what is

1251
00:47:28,590 --> 00:47:34,289
slacktivism slacktivism is a term and it

1252
00:47:32,309 --> 00:47:36,119
was originally met as a positive term

1253
00:47:34,289 --> 00:47:39,630
but it's come to be a pejorative term

1254
00:47:36,119 --> 00:47:41,940
about how folks younger folks typically

1255
00:47:39,630 --> 00:47:43,500
the millennial generation will do simple

1256
00:47:41,940 --> 00:47:46,380
things online thinking that they're

1257
00:47:43,500 --> 00:47:48,090
making a difference and not actually do

1258
00:47:46,380 --> 00:47:51,660
anything substantive so for instance

1259
00:47:48,090 --> 00:47:53,490
they'll click like on a charity but they

1260
00:47:51,659 --> 00:47:55,139
won't give any money to that charity or

1261
00:47:53,489 --> 00:47:56,849
they'll change their avatar on Twitter

1262
00:47:55,139 --> 00:47:59,639
but they won't actually call their

1263
00:47:56,849 --> 00:48:02,400
congressman about the law it used to be

1264
00:47:59,639 --> 00:48:05,159
don't do anything yet change your

1265
00:48:02,400 --> 00:48:09,869
location to Tehran as if that's actually

1266
00:48:05,159 --> 00:48:11,639
fools the spy agency in Iran yeah that

1267
00:48:09,869 --> 00:48:13,139
kind of stuff where people kind of fool

1268
00:48:11,639 --> 00:48:14,809
themselves into believing they're making

1269
00:48:13,139 --> 00:48:18,000
a difference and the things don't really

1270
00:48:14,809 --> 00:48:19,949
amount to a hill of beans whereas their

1271
00:48:18,000 --> 00:48:21,800
stuff that you know when you put a piece

1272
00:48:19,949 --> 00:48:25,169
of content like I wrote George rabs

1273
00:48:21,800 --> 00:48:27,780
biography on and i wrote care installs

1274
00:48:25,170 --> 00:48:30,150
knows biography and Harriet halls

1275
00:48:27,780 --> 00:48:32,190
biography on Wikipedia and that content

1276
00:48:30,150 --> 00:48:36,180
is not only available in Wikipedia but

1277
00:48:32,190 --> 00:48:38,340
because Wikipedia is a open license it

1278
00:48:36,179 --> 00:48:41,069
can appear in books it can be cross

1279
00:48:38,340 --> 00:48:43,590
posted to other websites so that content

1280
00:48:41,070 --> 00:48:48,210
will have a life of its own for years to

1281
00:48:43,590 --> 00:48:50,400
come and it will last whereas your twiba

1282
00:48:48,210 --> 00:48:52,920
knew nobody will remember it next week

1283

00:48:50,400 --> 00:48:56,610
if they even noticed it this week so

1284
00:48:52,920 --> 00:48:59,369
yeah damn it when i touch my trip in

1285
00:48:56,610 --> 00:49:00,990
blue I was going to save the world so

1286
00:48:59,369 --> 00:49:02,909
with that in mind what was something you

1287
00:49:00,989 --> 00:49:05,159
covered quite a lot in you worry tell us

1288
00:49:02,909 --> 00:49:07,379
about the web of trust web of trust is

1289
00:49:05,159 --> 00:49:09,449
an outfit out of I think Finland and

1290
00:49:07,380 --> 00:49:10,798
it's another browser plugin and the idea

1291
00:49:09,449 --> 00:49:13,768
is to try to warn you

1292
00:49:10,798 --> 00:49:15,869
scams and other bad stuff on the

1293
00:49:13,768 --> 00:49:18,868
internet pornography to a certain extent

1294
00:49:15,869 --> 00:49:21,028
but mostly scams and privacy violations

1295
00:49:18,869 --> 00:49:22,588
so you go to some random online store

1296
00:49:21,028 --> 00:49:23,670
that wants your credit card number how

1297
00:49:22,588 --> 00:49:25,438

do you know they're not going to steal

1298

00:49:23,670 --> 00:49:27,420

your credit card and do something with

1299

00:49:25,438 --> 00:49:29,670

it we all know the big vendors like

1300

00:49:27,420 --> 00:49:30,630

paypal and ebay and amazon we can trust

1301

00:49:29,670 --> 00:49:33,900

them because they're well-known

1302

00:49:30,630 --> 00:49:36,358

companies but if you go to Fred's sock

1303

00:49:33,900 --> 00:49:37,858

shop calm how do you know Fred's not

1304

00:49:36,358 --> 00:49:41,219

going to steal your credit card you mean

1305

00:49:37,858 --> 00:49:43,828

I love fritz so whether Trust is a way

1306

00:49:41,219 --> 00:49:45,958

to get an idea of that and it's done

1307

00:49:43,829 --> 00:49:47,759

through crowdsourcing again where people

1308

00:49:45,958 --> 00:49:50,368

who have actually been to Fred's shock

1309

00:49:47,759 --> 00:49:52,139

shop and had an experience can vote in

1310

00:49:50,369 --> 00:49:53,699

web of trust and say yeah I like Fred

1311

00:49:52,139 --> 00:49:56,159

sock shop I bought something from him

1312
00:49:53,699 --> 00:49:57,809
the thing arrived he didn't he didn't I

1313
00:49:56,159 --> 00:50:00,358
bought some socks they were great socks

1314
00:49:57,809 --> 00:50:03,028
he didn't steal my credit card I'm good

1315
00:50:00,358 --> 00:50:04,588
with him and enough people vote and it's

1316
00:50:03,028 --> 00:50:07,469
not just a straight Democratic vote

1317
00:50:04,588 --> 00:50:10,469
there's some computer magic in there to

1318
00:50:07,469 --> 00:50:12,358
try to judge whether someone is voting

1319
00:50:10,469 --> 00:50:14,818
in a trustworthy manner and things like

1320
00:50:12,358 --> 00:50:17,518
that to help keep people from gaming the

1321
00:50:14,818 --> 00:50:19,498
system but one of the ratings that web

1322
00:50:17,518 --> 00:50:21,139
of trust has is trustworthiness that's

1323
00:50:19,498 --> 00:50:23,368
the number one rating and

1324
00:50:21,139 --> 00:50:25,018
trustworthiness I think goes right to

1325
00:50:23,369 --> 00:50:27,059
what skeptics are about do you trust a

1326
00:50:25,018 --> 00:50:29,248
psychic do you trust that homeopath no I

1327
00:50:27,059 --> 00:50:31,289
don't they're not trustworthy so I think

1328
00:50:29,248 --> 00:50:32,879
it's perfectly reasonable for skeptics

1329
00:50:31,289 --> 00:50:35,189
to go and say this is not a trustworthy

1330
00:50:32,880 --> 00:50:37,759
person now the other stuff there's other

1331
00:50:35,188 --> 00:50:40,678
ratings in Weber trusts like privacy

1332
00:50:37,759 --> 00:50:42,539
it's it's not really right for a skeptic

1333
00:50:40,679 --> 00:50:44,910
to say this site has a privacy violation

1334
00:50:42,539 --> 00:50:46,319
unless you know something about that but

1335
00:50:44,909 --> 00:50:49,228
the trustworthiness I think goes

1336
00:50:46,318 --> 00:50:51,858
directly to it so let's all vote the the

1337
00:50:49,228 --> 00:50:54,058
quacks and the psychics down on

1338
00:50:51,858 --> 00:50:55,708
trustworthiness and the neat part is is

1339
00:50:54,059 --> 00:50:57,150
that if you have web of trust installed

1340

00:50:55,708 --> 00:50:59,548
and you actually try to go to one of

1341
00:50:57,150 --> 00:51:01,559
these sites this giant warning comes up

1342
00:50:59,548 --> 00:51:04,380
on your screen and says warning this

1343
00:51:01,559 --> 00:51:06,329
site is not considered trustworthy and

1344
00:51:04,380 --> 00:51:07,890
yet they can see details about that and

1345
00:51:06,329 --> 00:51:10,259
they can click a button go to the site

1346
00:51:07,889 --> 00:51:12,179
anyway but at least you get that warning

1347
00:51:10,259 --> 00:51:14,248
and 30 million people have that thing

1348
00:51:12,179 --> 00:51:16,709
installed and Facebook is there and

1349
00:51:14,248 --> 00:51:18,838
Facebook started doing it on their

1350
00:51:16,708 --> 00:51:20,639
external links so when people link to

1351
00:51:18,838 --> 00:51:22,969
sites because so many of these scams and

1352
00:51:20,639 --> 00:51:24,538
things have been pushed through facebook

1353
00:51:22,969 --> 00:51:26,729
facebook is started

1354
00:51:24,539 --> 00:51:28,349

putting it on external links so you get

1355

00:51:26,728 --> 00:51:29,518

you don't get the full screen warning

1356

00:51:28,349 --> 00:51:33,329

but you get a little bit of a warning

1357

00:51:29,518 --> 00:51:35,218

and that's 900 million people that have

1358

00:51:33,329 --> 00:51:37,469

accounts on facebook so that's a huge

1359

00:51:35,219 --> 00:51:39,449

outreach I mean that's way there's no

1360

00:51:37,469 --> 00:51:41,969

skeptic blog that comes anywhere close

1361

00:51:39,449 --> 00:51:43,409

to that but one of the things that you

1362

00:51:41,969 --> 00:51:44,880

emphasize don't think I want you to

1363

00:51:43,409 --> 00:51:46,199

emphasize this again for the listeners I

1364

00:51:44,880 --> 00:51:48,390

think it's a really important point is

1365

00:51:46,199 --> 00:51:50,429

that don't be dishonest with that system

1366

00:51:48,389 --> 00:51:52,739

yeah you mentioned there are four things

1367

00:51:50,429 --> 00:51:54,778

you can vote on trustworthiness privacy

1368

00:51:52,739 --> 00:51:58,318

child safety and what was the other one

1369
00:51:54,778 --> 00:51:59,909
the other one is I think reliability

1370
00:51:58,318 --> 00:52:02,130
basically did they deliver the goods

1371
00:51:59,909 --> 00:52:04,199
what they ship them on time did they

1372
00:52:02,130 --> 00:52:05,999
overcharge you that's kind of business

1373
00:52:04,199 --> 00:52:08,249
sort of things and I think the only two

1374
00:52:05,998 --> 00:52:10,318
that really apply to skepticism are the

1375
00:52:08,248 --> 00:52:12,298
trustworthiness clearly and then maybe I

1376
00:52:10,318 --> 00:52:15,028
often vote in the child safety for

1377
00:52:12,298 --> 00:52:17,278
anti-vaccine site thats pretty obvious

1378
00:52:15,028 --> 00:52:21,028
maybe chiropractors who adjust kid's

1379
00:52:17,278 --> 00:52:23,009
name right yeah yeah so I vote in those

1380
00:52:21,028 --> 00:52:24,838
two ratings and the other thing is the

1381
00:52:23,009 --> 00:52:27,568
same thing I said about wikipedia where

1382
00:52:24,838 --> 00:52:29,308
don't just vote negatively in web of

1383
00:52:27,568 --> 00:52:30,659
trust find some sites that you like find

1384
00:52:29,309 --> 00:52:32,759
some sites that have nothing to do with

1385
00:52:30,659 --> 00:52:35,068
skepticism and give them a green vote

1386
00:52:32,759 --> 00:52:37,108
and that will help on the system

1387
00:52:35,068 --> 00:52:39,449
understand that you're not just a angry

1388
00:52:37,108 --> 00:52:41,308
person on the internet going and voting

1389
00:52:39,449 --> 00:52:43,289
down all the sites that you hate that

1390
00:52:41,309 --> 00:52:45,329
you're a real internet user and you like

1391
00:52:43,289 --> 00:52:47,309
this site and you hate that site and it

1392
00:52:45,329 --> 00:52:49,229
will see that your votes whether your

1393
00:52:47,309 --> 00:52:50,729
votes tend to agree or disagree with

1394
00:52:49,228 --> 00:52:53,908
other users on the internet and the

1395
00:52:50,728 --> 00:52:56,158
system will tend to trust you and you

1396
00:52:53,909 --> 00:53:00,929
can make a huge effect when Stanislaw

1397

00:52:56,159 --> 00:53:02,640
Burzynski became a big deal last fall we

1398
00:53:00,929 --> 00:53:04,979
put out the links to the web of trust

1399
00:53:02,639 --> 00:53:08,129
pages for all four or five however many

1400
00:53:04,978 --> 00:53:10,498
sites he has and I tweeted it and then

1401
00:53:08,130 --> 00:53:12,630
the bad astronomer Phil Plait put it in

1402
00:53:10,498 --> 00:53:15,879
a blog post and like it was like within

1403
00:53:12,630 --> 00:53:18,278
a day all his sights were red

1404
00:53:15,880 --> 00:53:20,048
and then I actually saw it there's a

1405
00:53:18,278 --> 00:53:22,088
forum on web of trust where you can go

1406
00:53:20,048 --> 00:53:25,059
and talk about the product and complain

1407
00:53:22,088 --> 00:53:27,250
about bugs and the webmaster for

1408
00:53:25,059 --> 00:53:29,170
Pierzynski showed up and said I think

1409
00:53:27,250 --> 00:53:31,150
people are trying to engineer our

1410
00:53:29,170 --> 00:53:34,000
ratings and it's not fair we're an

1411
00:53:31,150 --> 00:53:36,160

honest business and they didn't they

1412

00:53:34,000 --> 00:53:37,449
didn't do anything but but I asked you

1413

00:53:36,159 --> 00:53:39,068
this question the other day because it

1414

00:53:37,449 --> 00:53:41,169
puzzles me because I mean this is a

1415

00:53:39,068 --> 00:53:43,480
crowdsourced tall which means that

1416

00:53:41,170 --> 00:53:46,150
anyone can use it right so baczynski

1417

00:53:43,480 --> 00:53:48,130
fans or friends or you know they could

1418

00:53:46,150 --> 00:53:50,619
really go in and use this tool and vote

1419

00:53:48,130 --> 00:53:52,509
it back green but in this case in

1420

00:53:50,619 --> 00:53:54,009
baczynski case it hasn't happened yeah

1421

00:53:52,509 --> 00:53:55,389
and when in the case of the Australian

1422

00:53:54,009 --> 00:53:57,670
vaccination network it hasn't happened

1423

00:53:55,389 --> 00:54:00,879
and I don't why do you think that is

1424

00:53:57,670 --> 00:54:02,680
yeah I'm a little uh I'm not sure I

1425

00:54:00,880 --> 00:54:07,358
think there's a number of explanations I

1426
00:54:02,679 --> 00:54:09,669
have seen some misinformation sites that

1427
00:54:07,358 --> 00:54:11,949
do have pretty strong green ratings

1428
00:54:09,670 --> 00:54:14,019
where clearly their readers have gone

1429
00:54:11,949 --> 00:54:15,848
and voted it up so I think it just

1430
00:54:14,018 --> 00:54:17,798
depends on whether or not the site has

1431
00:54:15,849 --> 00:54:20,980
become aware of it and also how

1432
00:54:17,798 --> 00:54:22,719
tech-savvy the followers of that site

1433
00:54:20,980 --> 00:54:24,338
are and I think a lot of the followers

1434
00:54:22,719 --> 00:54:27,009
of some of these alt med people are

1435
00:54:24,338 --> 00:54:28,778
maybe not that tech savvy and don't know

1436
00:54:27,009 --> 00:54:31,199
what a browser plug-in is and can't

1437
00:54:28,778 --> 00:54:34,480
figure out how to create an account and

1438
00:54:31,199 --> 00:54:37,750
they just can't get enough people to do

1439
00:54:34,480 --> 00:54:39,818
the voting and you can actually see that

1440
00:54:37,750 --> 00:54:42,219
in web of trust there's an icon next to

1441
00:54:39,818 --> 00:54:45,278
the rating that has little people little

1442
00:54:42,219 --> 00:54:47,409
cartoon people and if only it's like 125

1443
00:54:45,278 --> 00:54:49,449
people and depending on how many of them

1444
00:54:47,409 --> 00:54:51,250
are filled in that's roughly how many

1445
00:54:49,449 --> 00:54:53,679
people have actually voted so that tells

1446
00:54:51,250 --> 00:54:55,239
you how confident the value is and if

1447
00:54:53,679 --> 00:54:56,889
all five of the people are filled in

1448
00:54:55,239 --> 00:54:58,419
dark then that's probably a pretty

1449
00:54:56,889 --> 00:55:00,518
strong rating and you're going to have a

1450
00:54:58,420 --> 00:55:02,139
hard time moving it yeah but a lot of

1451
00:55:00,518 --> 00:55:04,058
sites you know a lot of these alt med

1452
00:55:02,139 --> 00:55:05,980
sites really not a lot of people go to

1453
00:55:04,059 --> 00:55:08,710
them so not a lot of people vote so it's

1454

00:55:05,980 --> 00:55:11,588
not hard for skeptics to move the rating

1455
00:55:08,710 --> 00:55:13,298
pretty quickly so Tim why did you yell

1456
00:55:11,588 --> 00:55:16,268
at people during your talk just then

1457
00:55:13,298 --> 00:55:17,858
well I was I was talking about all this

1458
00:55:16,268 --> 00:55:20,258
stuff whatever trust and what not and

1459
00:55:17,858 --> 00:55:21,880
how you know with just a few minutes

1460
00:55:20,259 --> 00:55:24,009
time you can actually make a difference

1461
00:55:21,880 --> 00:55:26,410
on the Internet create some content or

1462
00:55:24,009 --> 00:55:28,059
fix something on Wikipedia or vote on

1463
00:55:26,409 --> 00:55:29,618
web of trust and it will actually make a

1464
00:55:28,059 --> 00:55:31,150
difference in skepticism

1465
00:55:29,619 --> 00:55:33,220
but so many people are spending their

1466
00:55:31,150 --> 00:55:36,990
time online doing things like arguing

1467
00:55:33,219 --> 00:55:39,848
and 15 on page 50 of a forum thread or

1468
00:55:36,989 --> 00:55:42,879

you know pedantically pointing out

1469

00:55:39,849 --> 00:55:44,798

spelling errors and blog posts and just

1470

00:55:42,880 --> 00:55:46,450

other sorts of stuff not that we

1471

00:55:44,798 --> 00:55:49,059

shouldn't be arguing for instance with

1472

00:55:46,449 --> 00:55:51,548

the alt matters online but just I'll you

1473

00:55:49,059 --> 00:55:54,009

know figure out where the focus actually

1474

00:55:51,548 --> 00:55:55,929

makes a difference and do it where it

1475

00:55:54,009 --> 00:55:59,289

makes a difference and and then go spend

1476

00:55:55,929 --> 00:56:00,608

some time spend some time on something

1477

00:55:59,289 --> 00:56:02,769

that actually does make a difference the

1478

00:56:00,608 --> 00:56:05,048

big example that I gave was poll bombing

1479

00:56:02,768 --> 00:56:07,479

there's a number of atheist bloggers

1480

00:56:05,048 --> 00:56:10,210

that love to send their readers off to

1481

00:56:07,480 --> 00:56:12,699

go distort the results in a poll and

1482

00:56:10,210 --> 00:56:15,159

it's this colossal waste of time and

1483
00:56:12,699 --> 00:56:17,528
effort because no one cares what online

1484
00:56:15,159 --> 00:56:19,358
polls mean and you guys had that whole

1485
00:56:17,528 --> 00:56:21,219
thing where the poll somebody bombed the

1486
00:56:19,358 --> 00:56:23,199
pole and then it got into the news and

1487
00:56:21,219 --> 00:56:24,459
there was accusations and whatnot and

1488
00:56:23,199 --> 00:56:25,868
then there was a story about how the

1489
00:56:24,460 --> 00:56:27,608
pole was bombed with a pole at the

1490
00:56:25,869 --> 00:56:30,338
bottom of the story and that poked up

1491
00:56:27,608 --> 00:56:32,768
bombs yeah and it's just like just to

1492
00:56:30,338 --> 00:56:34,719
point our device it is it's ridiculous

1493
00:56:32,768 --> 00:56:36,699
and you know a year later none of these

1494
00:56:34,719 --> 00:56:39,219
polls are visible anymore everyone's

1495
00:56:36,699 --> 00:56:40,748
forgotten what the result was but a year

1496
00:56:39,219 --> 00:56:43,480
later the stuff that you put into

1497
00:56:40,748 --> 00:56:45,129
Wikipedia is still there right and that

1498
00:56:43,480 --> 00:56:47,858
rating that you put on web of trust is

1499
00:56:45,130 --> 00:56:49,900
still blocking Pierzynski site so i

1500
00:56:47,858 --> 00:56:51,759
think we should be spending the time you

1501
00:56:49,900 --> 00:56:53,769
know you could look at the web of trust

1502
00:56:51,759 --> 00:56:56,469
voting as a poll bomb and i guess maybe

1503
00:56:53,768 --> 00:56:58,748
it is but it's a poll bomb that actually

1504
00:56:56,469 --> 00:57:00,009
makes a difference yeah and and isn't

1505
00:56:58,748 --> 00:57:01,509
going to be forgotten because really and

1506
00:57:00,009 --> 00:57:03,009
truly these newspaper sites that put

1507
00:57:01,509 --> 00:57:05,769
these poles up they don't care what the

1508
00:57:03,009 --> 00:57:07,809
result is it's just this checkbox item

1509
00:57:05,768 --> 00:57:09,909
that says oh you've got to have poles

1510
00:57:07,809 --> 00:57:11,200
because it's interactivity because

1511

00:57:09,909 --> 00:57:12,518
people will vote in the poll and then

1512
00:57:11,199 --> 00:57:14,409
they'll come back the next day to find

1513
00:57:12,518 --> 00:57:16,118
out what the result is and you know and

1514
00:57:14,409 --> 00:57:17,528
they're so desperate to get you to come

1515
00:57:16,119 --> 00:57:20,200
back the next day so they can show you

1516
00:57:17,528 --> 00:57:21,909
another ad and it's a desperate industry

1517
00:57:20,199 --> 00:57:24,429
that's just trying to cling onto their

1518
00:57:21,909 --> 00:57:26,048
readers and there and so they don't care

1519
00:57:24,429 --> 00:57:27,818
they don't care what the racially those

1520
00:57:26,048 --> 00:57:29,440
poll questions are very badly wedded

1521
00:57:27,818 --> 00:57:31,568
anyway yeah they're terrible because

1522
00:57:29,440 --> 00:57:33,220
like an afterthought at the end of an

1523
00:57:31,568 --> 00:57:34,960
article yeah they've got a deadline 30

1524
00:57:33,219 --> 00:57:36,848
seconds away or something right and even

1525
00:57:34,960 --> 00:57:39,309

the bloggers that send people to bomb

1526

00:57:36,849 --> 00:57:42,369

the polls point out that the polls are

1527

00:57:39,309 --> 00:57:43,390

stupid which becomes this sort of what

1528

00:57:42,369 --> 00:57:45,400

it's like okay if the

1529

00:57:43,389 --> 00:57:47,288

all is stupid then why are we bombing it

1530

00:57:45,400 --> 00:57:49,660

shouldn't we bomb it the wrong way to

1531

00:57:47,289 --> 00:57:52,690

show how stupid it is I don't even get

1532

00:57:49,659 --> 00:57:54,759

it so you know I just I just feel like

1533

00:57:52,690 --> 00:57:56,588

you know you can do it you know go ahead

1534

00:57:54,760 --> 00:57:58,150

bomb a poll if you think it's fun but I

1535

00:57:56,588 --> 00:58:00,699

just think that there are a lot of

1536

00:57:58,150 --> 00:58:02,349

better ways that you can spend your time

1537

00:58:00,699 --> 00:58:04,298

on the internet that can really make a

1538

00:58:02,349 --> 00:58:06,220

difference so that was kind of a fame of

1539

00:58:04,298 --> 00:58:08,409

your talk today was the future of

1540
00:58:06,219 --> 00:58:10,058
skepticism and how we can have an

1541
00:58:08,409 --> 00:58:11,768
influence on what what appears on the

1542
00:58:10,059 --> 00:58:13,630
net so what else is there anything else

1543
00:58:11,768 --> 00:58:15,250
that you think skeptic should be doing

1544
00:58:13,630 --> 00:58:16,450
in that regard well one of the things is

1545
00:58:15,250 --> 00:58:18,159
just paying attention there were a

1546
00:58:16,449 --> 00:58:19,629
couple of examples I gave in the talk

1547
00:58:18,159 --> 00:58:20,889
and there was one that was from just a

1548
00:58:19,630 --> 00:58:24,039
couple of weeks ago that happened in

1549
00:58:20,889 --> 00:58:26,170
Ireland where there's a new psychic that

1550
00:58:24,039 --> 00:58:28,269
was on the one of the TV channels and he

1551
00:58:26,170 --> 00:58:31,028
was on late night it was a very cheesy

1552
00:58:28,268 --> 00:58:32,768
psychic guy but he would talk and take

1553
00:58:31,028 --> 00:58:34,420
callers on the air and on the bottom

1554
00:58:32,768 --> 00:58:36,250
third of the screen there would be

1555
00:58:34,420 --> 00:58:38,200
pictures of other psychics that you

1556
00:58:36,250 --> 00:58:39,818
could talk to so psychic Dave or

1557
00:58:38,199 --> 00:58:42,278
whatever and then there'd be psychic Joe

1558
00:58:39,818 --> 00:58:44,349
and psychic Jane down at the bottom and

1559
00:58:42,278 --> 00:58:46,329
there was a blogger in Ireland who saw

1560
00:58:44,349 --> 00:58:48,039
the pictures and thought those pictures

1561
00:58:46,329 --> 00:58:49,630
look a little odd something looks

1562
00:58:48,039 --> 00:58:50,980
familiar about them and there are some

1563
00:58:49,630 --> 00:58:53,349
tools on the internet that lets you

1564
00:58:50,980 --> 00:58:54,519
search pictures by the picture so show

1565
00:58:53,349 --> 00:58:56,170
me a picture that looks like this

1566
00:58:54,518 --> 00:58:57,459
picture so you can give it a picture of

1567
00:58:56,170 --> 00:58:59,619
a dog and I'll show you other pictures

1568

00:58:57,460 --> 00:59:01,838
of dogs and he used those tools to

1569
00:58:59,619 --> 00:59:03,608
search and lo and behold all of those

1570
00:59:01,838 --> 00:59:06,429
pictures of the other psychics down at

1571
00:59:03,608 --> 00:59:08,768
the bottom were stock photos well I

1572
00:59:06,429 --> 00:59:11,288
stock photo com some of them were stolen

1573
00:59:08,768 --> 00:59:13,028
off of people's facebook profiles none

1574
00:59:11,289 --> 00:59:15,549
of them were real people none of them

1575
00:59:13,028 --> 00:59:17,500
were psychics right so it was all fake

1576
00:59:15,548 --> 00:59:19,750
there was this one psychic guy on the

1577
00:59:17,500 --> 00:59:22,150
air and a bunch of fake ones down below

1578
00:59:19,750 --> 00:59:24,400
and he pointed that out in a blog post

1579
00:59:22,150 --> 00:59:26,500
and the newspaper got hold of it and now

1580
00:59:24,400 --> 00:59:28,509
the TV network is saying well maybe we

1581
00:59:26,500 --> 00:59:30,309
won't have this psychic on anymore and

1582
00:59:28,509 --> 00:59:32,048

that was some awesome skepticism that

1583

00:59:30,309 --> 00:59:34,150

this guy did from his living room using

1584

00:59:32,048 --> 00:59:35,469

a web browser in a search tool instead

1585

00:59:34,150 --> 00:59:37,720

of fighting with someone on a fork

1586

00:59:35,469 --> 00:59:39,909

instead of fighting with someone on a

1587

00:59:37,719 --> 00:59:43,899

forum he did some searching and did some

1588

00:59:39,909 --> 00:59:45,598

awesome skepticism yeah yeah so Tim you

1589

00:59:43,900 --> 00:59:48,068

have a quite a thorough blog about

1590

00:59:45,599 --> 00:59:49,150

describing these tools in more detail

1591

00:59:48,068 --> 00:59:51,759

waking hour lessons find more

1592

00:59:49,150 --> 00:59:54,880

information it's at skepp tools com

1593

00:59:51,759 --> 00:59:57,278

sk-ii p t 00 LS

1594

00:59:54,880 --> 00:59:59,980

coms called skeptical software tools and

1595

00:59:57,278 --> 01:00:01,809

yeah I blog about all this stuff and new

1596

00:59:59,980 --> 01:00:04,389

tools that come along and new techniques

1597
01:00:01,809 --> 01:00:07,420
and all sorts of things related to that

1598
01:00:04,389 --> 01:00:09,940
but you also do skeptical history on

1599
01:00:07,420 --> 01:00:12,309
skeptic ality yes I do a segment on

1600
01:00:09,940 --> 01:00:14,139
skeptic ality and now it's a kind of

1601
01:00:12,309 --> 01:00:16,298
changed it recently it's not just

1602
01:00:14,139 --> 01:00:20,288
history i call it skepticism past and

1603
01:00:16,298 --> 01:00:22,239
future so i do some history some patio

1604
01:00:20,289 --> 01:00:24,190
stuff that happened years ago and then i

1605
01:00:22,239 --> 01:00:26,439
do something typically that's taken out

1606
01:00:24,190 --> 01:00:28,329
of the skepta blog that's future topics

1607
01:00:26,440 --> 01:00:30,429
and i try to tie that try to tie them

1608
01:00:28,329 --> 01:00:32,410
together so you know here's the history

1609
01:00:30,429 --> 01:00:34,629
of homeopathy and then here's a

1610
01:00:32,409 --> 01:00:36,699
technique for you know finding false

1611
01:00:34,630 --> 01:00:39,369
claims on homeopathy websites or

1612
01:00:36,699 --> 01:00:40,778
something like that and and then I've

1613
01:00:39,369 --> 01:00:43,298
got a really good reaction to that

1614
01:00:40,778 --> 01:00:44,889
because people like the sort of you know

1615
01:00:43,298 --> 01:00:47,559
the dual nature of it and whatnot and

1616
01:00:44,889 --> 01:00:49,719
it's a good way to kind of cross promote

1617
01:00:47,559 --> 01:00:51,759
the stuff that I'm doing on schedules

1618
01:00:49,719 --> 01:00:53,348
but I like the history stuff because I

1619
01:00:51,759 --> 01:00:55,869
think we've got a lot of young skeptics

1620
01:00:53,349 --> 01:00:57,490
who are just getting involved and it's

1621
01:00:55,869 --> 01:00:59,470
important to know that you know this

1622
01:00:57,489 --> 01:01:02,139
stuff has been going on for you know 30

1623
01:00:59,469 --> 01:01:04,209
40 years in earnest but there are

1624
01:01:02,139 --> 01:01:06,098
incidents that are of a skeptical nature

1625

01:01:04,210 --> 01:01:07,539
that were hundreds of years old and it's

1626
01:01:06,099 --> 01:01:08,920
always interesting to see what's gone

1627
01:01:07,539 --> 01:01:11,890
before so we don't make the same

1628
01:01:08,920 --> 01:01:13,990
mistakes yeah and of course what's the

1629
01:01:11,889 --> 01:01:17,949
harm Mitch what's the harm not yet

1630
01:01:13,989 --> 01:01:21,159
that's my famous websites all stories of

1631
01:01:17,949 --> 01:01:23,048
harm so if you somebody says hey you

1632
01:01:21,159 --> 01:01:24,399
know what's the harm in homeopathy I can

1633
01:01:23,048 --> 01:01:25,869
give you a bunch of stories and there's

1634
01:01:24,400 --> 01:01:27,400
a twitter feed associated with that

1635
01:01:25,869 --> 01:01:30,910
which is what's the harm on Twitter and

1636
01:01:27,400 --> 01:01:32,980
I I post usually one a day of news

1637
01:01:30,909 --> 01:01:34,690
stories and it's kind of amazing I've

1638
01:01:32,980 --> 01:01:36,460
gotten the site's gotten so famous that

1639
01:01:34,690 --> 01:01:38,079

I literally do not have to do any

1640
01:01:36,460 --> 01:01:40,568
research anymore people just send me

1641
01:01:38,079 --> 01:01:42,250
stuff yeah and they said they'd just

1642
01:01:40,568 --> 01:01:44,679
when I think I've heard the nuttiest

1643
01:01:42,250 --> 01:01:46,088
stories in the week where I got one just

1644
01:01:44,679 --> 01:01:48,879
the other day I haven't posted it yet

1645
01:01:46,088 --> 01:01:50,500
but it was something about cannibal the

1646
01:01:48,880 --> 01:01:55,630
headline was something like cannibal

1647
01:01:50,500 --> 01:02:01,449
cult cannibal cult members arrested for

1648
01:01:55,630 --> 01:02:04,240
for 6 murders over sorcery fees so so

1649
01:02:01,449 --> 01:02:07,179
basically the local witches we're

1650
01:02:04,239 --> 01:02:08,739
shaking down the local cannibals over

1651
01:02:07,179 --> 01:02:10,359
fees like a protection

1652
01:02:08,739 --> 01:02:12,579
Beckett or maybe they wanted for spells

1653
01:02:10,360 --> 01:02:14,650
and the cannibals didn't like that the

1654
01:02:12,579 --> 01:02:18,009
fees were going up so they killed the

1655
01:02:14,650 --> 01:02:20,110
witches and ate them and then they and

1656
01:02:18,010 --> 01:02:22,300
then that agreed is that come on I don't

1657
01:02:20,110 --> 01:02:25,390
know what category i'm gonna put that in

1658
01:02:22,300 --> 01:02:29,650
three yeah what's the harm in raising

1659
01:02:25,389 --> 01:02:31,750
your fees I think but it was set on

1660
01:02:29,650 --> 01:02:35,680
Maddie it was like somebody made this up

1661
01:02:31,750 --> 01:02:39,010
this can't be a real story sorry I'm

1662
01:02:35,679 --> 01:02:41,109
laughing too loud at your story and just

1663
01:02:39,010 --> 01:02:44,050
finally your twitter handle is a curl

1664
01:02:41,110 --> 01:02:45,490
neck k Arielle and ik all right thank

1665
01:02:44,050 --> 01:02:49,470
you Tim and thanks for joining us here

1666
01:02:45,489 --> 01:02:49,469
at tam 10 in Las Vegas yeah thank you

1667
01:02:49,500 --> 01:02:54,190
look the Rachel Dunlop is one of

1668
01:02:52,030 --> 01:02:56,350
Australia's foremost media commentators

1669
01:02:54,190 --> 01:02:58,990
in matters concerning so-called

1670
01:02:56,349 --> 01:03:01,539
alternative medicine she has appeared on

1671
01:02:58,989 --> 01:03:04,449
national radio and national television

1672
01:03:01,539 --> 01:03:09,070
dr. AG is available for interviews and

1673
01:03:04,449 --> 01:03:12,689
you can contact her at Rachel at skeptic

1674
01:03:09,070 --> 01:03:12,690
zone got TV

1675
01:03:25,608 --> 01:03:30,900
thank you for listening to the skeptic

1676
01:03:28,349 --> 01:03:32,999
zone thank you for those people who chip

1677
01:03:30,900 --> 01:03:34,528
in every week to listen to the skeptics

1678
01:03:32,998 --> 01:03:36,149
and you don't have to of course if you

1679
01:03:34,528 --> 01:03:39,028
like listening to the skeptic zone I'm

1680
01:03:36,150 --> 01:03:40,680
delighted that's fantastic but if you

1681
01:03:39,028 --> 01:03:42,298
want to chip in less than a dollar a

1682

01:03:40,679 --> 01:03:46,889
week or there are different ways you can

1683
01:03:42,298 --> 01:03:49,139
chip in check out w w skeptics on TV the

1684
01:03:46,889 --> 01:03:51,568
skeptic zone team will be very grateful

1685
01:03:49,139 --> 01:03:54,298
don't forget it's because of people like

1686
01:03:51,568 --> 01:03:56,009
you that may not finally got to go to

1687
01:03:54,298 --> 01:03:58,858
the amazing meeting and now we can all

1688
01:03:56,009 --> 01:04:01,259
enjoy his wonderful wonderful interviews

1689
01:03:58,858 --> 01:04:04,230
lots more coming up over the following

1690
01:04:01,259 --> 01:04:07,318
weeks including Bob novella been Radford

1691
01:04:04,230 --> 01:04:09,900
Pamela gay Michael Shermer the list goes

1692
01:04:07,318 --> 01:04:13,230
on well I better get cracking on next

1693
01:04:09,900 --> 01:04:15,749
week's show & Antle then this is Richard

1694
01:04:13,230 --> 01:04:21,748
Saunders signing off from Sydney

1695
01:04:15,748 --> 01:04:26,459
Australia you've been listening to the

1696
01:04:21,748 --> 01:04:30,298

skeptic zone visit our website at www

1697

01:04:26,460 --> 01:04:34,009

skeptics on TV the comments contacts and

1698

01:04:30,298 --> 01:04:34,009

extra video reports