

1
00:00:00,800 --> 00:00:06,990
okay Google Play skeptoid by Brian

2
00:00:03,689 --> 00:00:10,638
Dunning I'm sorry I don't seem to have

3
00:00:06,990 --> 00:00:13,530
anything called skip told by my numbing

4
00:00:10,638 --> 00:00:17,129
okay Google Play the skeptics guide to

5
00:00:13,529 --> 00:00:18,989
the universe okay here's the latest

6
00:00:17,129 --> 00:00:19,710
episode of the skeptics guide to the

7
00:00:18,989 --> 00:00:22,709
universe

8
00:00:19,710 --> 00:00:30,480
the skeptics guide number 655 January

9
00:00:22,710 --> 00:00:34,950
27th 2018 you're listening to the

10
00:00:30,480 --> 00:00:40,079
skeptics guide to the universe hmm

11
00:00:34,950 --> 00:00:42,480
okay google play the skeptic zone okay

12
00:00:40,079 --> 00:00:51,808
playing the do writes J zone + Pablo

13
00:00:42,479 --> 00:00:55,769
Martin on YouTube okay google play the

14
00:00:51,808 --> 00:00:58,570
skeptic zone okay

15
00:00:55,770 --> 00:01:04,689
playing the skeptic zone on YouTube

16
00:00:58,570 --> 00:01:07,780
[Music]

17
00:01:04,688 --> 00:01:10,519
welcome to the skeptic zone the podcast

18
00:01:07,780 --> 00:01:12,609
from Australia for science and reason

19
00:01:10,519 --> 00:01:15,530
[Music]

20
00:01:12,609 --> 00:01:22,228
[Applause]

21
00:01:15,530 --> 00:01:25,000
[Music]

22
00:01:22,228 --> 00:01:28,000
yes it's the skeptic zone podcast with a

23
00:01:25,000 --> 00:01:33,478
little help from Google I think show

24
00:01:28,000 --> 00:01:35,680
number 484 for the 28th of January 2018

25
00:01:33,478 --> 00:01:39,009
Richardson is here with you from Sydney

26
00:01:35,680 --> 00:01:42,399
Australia muggy humid moist warm wet

27
00:01:39,009 --> 00:01:44,290
muggy muggy Sydney Australia I was at a

28
00:01:42,399 --> 00:01:46,149
social gathering yesterday with some of

29

00:01:44,290 --> 00:01:49,450
my colleagues from the TV and film

30
00:01:46,149 --> 00:01:51,549
business and we're all walking around

31
00:01:49,450 --> 00:01:53,670
you know how it is when it's really hot

32
00:01:51,549 --> 00:01:57,819
you grab the front of your shirt and you

33
00:01:53,670 --> 00:02:00,039
solder it back and forward it was crazy

34
00:01:57,819 --> 00:02:02,559
it's crazy muggy in Sydney Australia but

35
00:02:00,039 --> 00:02:04,859
never mind be glad you're where you are

36
00:02:02,560 --> 00:02:07,240
unless you're in Sydney at the moment

37
00:02:04,859 --> 00:02:08,919
enough of them weather report coming up

38
00:02:07,239 --> 00:02:10,599
on this week's show we're gonna start

39
00:02:08,919 --> 00:02:14,738
with a report just in the newspapers

40
00:02:10,599 --> 00:02:18,729
today about anti vaccination nurses

41
00:02:14,739 --> 00:02:21,039
being called to account now over the

42
00:02:18,729 --> 00:02:23,919
last year or so many anti vaccination

43
00:02:21,039 --> 00:02:26,889

nurses have come to the attention of

44

00:02:23,919 --> 00:02:29,500

skeptics and the story in today's paper

45

00:02:26,889 --> 00:02:32,649

is about one of them who is taking her

46

00:02:29,500 --> 00:02:35,229

own action to prevent further

47

00:02:32,650 --> 00:02:38,530

investigation or disciplinary action

48

00:02:35,229 --> 00:02:40,298

against her a very interesting story and

49

00:02:38,530 --> 00:02:43,090

one very important to skeptics and

50

00:02:40,299 --> 00:02:45,430

that's to kick off this week's episode

51

00:02:43,090 --> 00:02:47,229

of the skeptic zone following that I

52

00:02:45,430 --> 00:02:50,200

catch up on an old friend of mine dr.

53

00:02:47,229 --> 00:02:53,560

Angie matki who is a an emergency

54

00:02:50,199 --> 00:02:57,879

physician she's the she's one of the

55

00:02:53,560 --> 00:03:00,699

women who looks after patients when

56

00:02:57,879 --> 00:03:04,719

they're brought in from the ambulances

57

00:03:00,699 --> 00:03:07,149

or whatever straight into the ER she's

58
00:03:04,719 --> 00:03:10,959
just a sort of person you really want to

59
00:03:07,150 --> 00:03:15,219
have on your side her amazing skill and

60
00:03:10,959 --> 00:03:18,699
training and the good news is that she's

61
00:03:15,219 --> 00:03:21,689
been appointed to be part of the Skip

62
00:03:18,699 --> 00:03:24,189
track DragonCon the amazing incredible

63
00:03:21,689 --> 00:03:26,620
indescribable science fiction and

64
00:03:24,189 --> 00:03:29,769
fantasy convention in Atlanta Georgia

65
00:03:26,620 --> 00:03:30,909
every year so Angie's going to be on the

66
00:03:29,769 --> 00:03:32,810
line she's going to tell us all about

67
00:03:30,909 --> 00:03:35,180
that what to expect what

68
00:03:32,810 --> 00:03:37,550
like the benefits of having something

69
00:03:35,180 --> 00:03:39,980
like a skeptical outreach at a fantasy

70
00:03:37,550 --> 00:03:43,270
and science fiction convention and also

71
00:03:39,979 --> 00:03:46,909
she'll discuss some of the superstitions

72
00:03:43,270 --> 00:03:48,230
regarding what she does much like we had

73
00:03:46,909 --> 00:03:51,259
a couple of weeks ago with our friend

74
00:03:48,229 --> 00:03:52,009
Trish Han in the emergency departments

75
00:03:51,259 --> 00:03:55,509
and hospitals

76
00:03:52,009 --> 00:04:01,639
what strange beliefs and superstition as

77
00:03:55,509 --> 00:04:03,409
ng dr. Angela Maki encountered then to

78
00:04:01,639 --> 00:04:06,679
round off the show another tribute to

79
00:04:03,409 --> 00:04:08,659
the late Barry Williams some of the

80
00:04:06,680 --> 00:04:10,700
Australian skeptics committee and some

81
00:04:08,659 --> 00:04:13,579
family and some friends over the years

82
00:04:10,699 --> 00:04:16,189
gathered for the funeral of Barry

83
00:04:13,580 --> 00:04:19,129
Williams just a few days ago we heard

84
00:04:16,189 --> 00:04:22,100
stories from his days in the Royal

85
00:04:19,129 --> 00:04:24,740
Australian Air Force and other family

86

00:04:22,100 --> 00:04:29,060
stories and our very own Tim Mendham

87
00:04:24,740 --> 00:04:31,939
gave a very touching review of Barry's

88
00:04:29,060 --> 00:04:36,800
life now when it came to his skeptical

89
00:04:31,939 --> 00:04:39,560
work and prompted by the sad passing of

90
00:04:36,800 --> 00:04:41,538
Barry Williams I raided the archives

91
00:04:39,560 --> 00:04:43,788
down at the State Library here in Sydney

92
00:04:41,538 --> 00:04:46,339
went through lots of microfilm and I

93
00:04:43,788 --> 00:04:49,159
found various newspaper clippings that

94
00:04:46,339 --> 00:04:50,538
feature Barry and discovered he was once

95
00:04:49,160 --> 00:04:53,210
on the front page of The Sydney Morning

96
00:04:50,538 --> 00:04:56,029
Herald but I will read out a bit later

97
00:04:53,209 --> 00:04:59,509
on in the show an article dating way

98
00:04:56,029 --> 00:05:03,109
back to 1987 entitled it's fun to shoot

99
00:04:59,509 --> 00:05:05,538
down UFOs and con men in profile Barry

100
00:05:03,110 --> 00:05:07,370

Williams I think you'll enjoy that but

101

00:05:05,538 --> 00:05:08,719

before we really get under way with this

102

00:05:07,370 --> 00:05:12,019

week's show I thought I'd bring you up

103

00:05:08,720 --> 00:05:13,970

to date with the story that we recently

104

00:05:12,019 --> 00:05:17,240

ran about the skeptical community

105

00:05:13,970 --> 00:05:20,539

gathering or mustering its forces to

106

00:05:17,240 --> 00:05:24,918

support Brit hermès who you will

107

00:05:20,538 --> 00:05:26,870

remember is being sued by a naturopath

108

00:05:24,918 --> 00:05:28,159

in the United States or the naturopath

109

00:05:26,870 --> 00:05:29,449

seen in the United States Brits an

110

00:05:28,160 --> 00:05:32,419

American which he's now living in

111

00:05:29,449 --> 00:05:34,668

Germany in the beautiful city of Kiel

112

00:05:32,418 --> 00:05:36,699

City I know it's lovely up there right

113

00:05:34,668 --> 00:05:38,870

up in the north bit of Germany and

114

00:05:36,699 --> 00:05:40,339

recently under the leadership of Iran's

115
00:05:38,870 --> 00:05:46,280
to give the president of Australian

116
00:05:40,339 --> 00:05:47,039
skeptics an international there's been

117
00:05:46,279 --> 00:05:49,229
an international

118
00:05:47,040 --> 00:05:52,790
response I guess you'd say their call to

119
00:05:49,230 --> 00:05:55,939
arms to help brick fight this case via

120
00:05:52,790 --> 00:05:59,730
donations to illegal fighting fund and

121
00:05:55,939 --> 00:06:02,040
as reported at skeptics comdata you with

122
00:05:59,730 --> 00:06:03,480
an update on the 22nd of January we are

123
00:06:02,040 --> 00:06:05,460
very excited to announce that our

124
00:06:03,480 --> 00:06:08,100
campaign to support skeptical campaigner

125
00:06:05,459 --> 00:06:12,419
Brett Hermes has achieved its initial

126
00:06:08,100 --> 00:06:15,450
goal as of 11:30 p.m. Australian Eastern

127
00:06:12,420 --> 00:06:17,160
Daylight Time or 12:30 p.m. Greenwich

128
00:06:15,449 --> 00:06:19,860
Mean Time the fundraising campaign

129
00:06:17,160 --> 00:06:23,310
organized by Australian skeptics Inc ASI

130
00:06:19,860 --> 00:06:27,180
has raised more than 80,000 dollars

131
00:06:23,310 --> 00:06:29,579
Australian or about 50,000 euros in more

132
00:06:27,180 --> 00:06:31,910
than 2000 donations from around the

133
00:06:29,579 --> 00:06:35,759
world in less than nine days the

134
00:06:31,910 --> 00:06:38,100
campaign goal of at least \$80,000 is the

135
00:06:35,759 --> 00:06:41,310
amount brits lawyer has advised would

136
00:06:38,100 --> 00:06:43,100
likely be required but the fundraising

137
00:06:41,310 --> 00:06:45,810
doesn't stop considering the

138
00:06:43,100 --> 00:06:48,689
unpredictable nature of legal costs the

139
00:06:45,810 --> 00:06:51,269
final amount required may vary we need

140
00:06:48,689 --> 00:06:53,519
to raise enough to ensure that Brit is

141
00:06:51,269 --> 00:06:57,060
not out of pocket and definitely not

142
00:06:53,519 --> 00:06:58,680
silenced by the defamation action so

143

00:06:57,060 --> 00:07:01,709
there you are folks more information at

144
00:06:58,680 --> 00:07:04,019
skeptics comdata you but all those

145
00:07:01,709 --> 00:07:07,169
people listening who supported this

146
00:07:04,019 --> 00:07:10,919
campaign by donations Wow a big thank

147
00:07:07,170 --> 00:07:14,120
you and it really does show dramatically

148
00:07:10,920 --> 00:07:17,009
that the worldwide skeptical movement

149
00:07:14,120 --> 00:07:20,220
can make a difference and come and can

150
00:07:17,009 --> 00:07:24,420
come to support of skeptics who really

151
00:07:20,220 --> 00:07:26,640
need it well done great news and again

152
00:07:24,420 --> 00:07:28,740
we'll keep you updated but now it's time

153
00:07:26,639 --> 00:07:33,240
for me to run downstairs and have a cup

154
00:07:28,740 --> 00:07:35,790
of lemon tea with ginger because I think

155
00:07:33,240 --> 00:07:39,090
I'm just starting to get the very very

156
00:07:35,790 --> 00:07:41,610
beginning of a skeptical cold or

157
00:07:39,089 --> 00:07:43,739

something I'm not sure I hope not

158

00:07:41,610 --> 00:07:48,420

there's nothing worse than having a cold

159

00:07:43,740 --> 00:07:50,430

and steamy hot muggy weather hmm hmm I

160

00:07:48,420 --> 00:07:53,340

better run downstairs and do that well I

161

00:07:50,430 --> 00:07:53,910

do that I hope you enjoy the skeptic

162

00:07:53,339 --> 00:08:11,428

zone

163

00:07:53,910 --> 00:08:11,429

[Music]

164

00:08:11,759 --> 00:08:16,419

here's the story brought to my attention

165

00:08:13,750 --> 00:08:19,769

by Heidi Robinson the raw skeptic and

166

00:08:16,418 --> 00:08:22,478

this is reported in the Daily Telegraph

167

00:08:19,769 --> 00:08:28,329

newspaper and also I noticed in The

168

00:08:22,478 --> 00:08:31,408

Courier Mail the story by Vander Carson

169

00:08:28,329 --> 00:08:37,120

18 nurses face a disciplinary action

170

00:08:31,408 --> 00:08:39,908

after aunt Eve accents on Facebook 18

171

00:08:37,120 --> 00:08:42,129

nurses are facing possible disciplinary

172
00:08:39,908 --> 00:08:44,259
action for allegedly posting

173
00:08:42,129 --> 00:08:46,929
anti-vaccination comments on Facebook

174
00:08:44,259 --> 00:08:49,379
after a probe vaccination campaigner

175
00:08:46,929 --> 00:08:52,179
reported them to the health watchdog

176
00:08:49,379 --> 00:08:54,939
details of the investigation into the

177
00:08:52,179 --> 00:08:57,309
nurses actions were revealed in the

178
00:08:54,940 --> 00:09:00,550
Supreme Court in Brisbane as part of a

179
00:08:57,309 --> 00:09:03,159
legal bid by a Sunshine Coast nurse and

180
00:09:00,549 --> 00:09:05,379
Midwife to block disciplinary action

181
00:09:03,159 --> 00:09:07,929
over accusations she acted

182
00:09:05,379 --> 00:09:10,179
unprofessionally by posting anti

183
00:09:07,929 --> 00:09:12,370
vaccination comments on facebook the

184
00:09:10,179 --> 00:09:13,958
group of nurses who were reported to the

185
00:09:12,370 --> 00:09:16,929
Australian health practitioners

186
00:09:13,958 --> 00:09:20,649
regulatory agency AHPRA

187
00:09:16,929 --> 00:09:22,870
in May 2016 faced restrictions on their

188
00:09:20,649 --> 00:09:25,990
nursing registration if they are found

189
00:09:22,870 --> 00:09:29,139
to have engaged in quote unsatisfactory

190
00:09:25,990 --> 00:09:31,120
in quote professional conduct the nurses

191
00:09:29,139 --> 00:09:33,519
have been told by the healthcare

192
00:09:31,120 --> 00:09:36,009
watchdog that they can be investigated

193
00:09:33,519 --> 00:09:38,649
for their actions beyond the care of

194
00:09:36,009 --> 00:09:41,049
patients sunshine Beach nurse aide

195
00:09:38,649 --> 00:09:43,899
Elizabeth Jane Craig has been told by

196
00:09:41,049 --> 00:09:46,389
the AHPRA that she is facing a possible

197
00:09:43,899 --> 00:09:48,850
caution and could be forced to study

198
00:09:46,389 --> 00:09:51,730
quote evidence-based practice end quote

199
00:09:48,850 --> 00:09:54,540
after she posted quote numerous anti

200

00:09:51,730 --> 00:09:57,459
vaccination statements and quote online

201
00:09:54,539 --> 00:10:00,879
quote including a post in which you

202
00:09:57,458 --> 00:10:04,989
state that the vaccines are Satan's

203
00:10:00,879 --> 00:10:06,370
latest plan to Tate and change human DNA

204
00:10:04,990 --> 00:10:08,320
end quote

205
00:10:06,370 --> 00:10:11,799
you know letter to miss Craig on

206
00:10:08,320 --> 00:10:13,699
December the fifth last year AHPRA told

207
00:10:11,799 --> 00:10:15,649
her that the nursing in mid with

208
00:10:13,698 --> 00:10:17,958
three bored of Australia believed her

209
00:10:15,649 --> 00:10:20,778
quote conduct is or may be

210
00:10:17,958 --> 00:10:23,088
unsatisfactory unquote quote you promote

211
00:10:20,778 --> 00:10:25,458
the use of religious belief to gain an

212
00:10:23,089 --> 00:10:27,919
exemption from vaccination by way of a

213
00:10:25,458 --> 00:10:31,368
comment on the post and quote AHPRA

214
00:10:27,918 --> 00:10:34,369

states in its letter quote your facebook

215

00:10:31,369 --> 00:10:36,619
profile as at 21st of May 2016

216

00:10:34,369 --> 00:10:39,019
identifies that you have completed

217

00:10:36,619 --> 00:10:41,899
Nursing and Midwifery qualifications and

218

00:10:39,019 --> 00:10:45,048
in a comment on a post on the 24th of

219

00:10:41,899 --> 00:10:47,448
March 2014 you advise you work for

220

00:10:45,048 --> 00:10:49,458
Queensland Health it is considered

221

00:10:47,448 --> 00:10:52,338
likely that you would have been required

222

00:10:49,458 --> 00:10:54,798
to provide advice and/or administer

223

00:10:52,339 --> 00:10:57,549
vaccines as part of your role as a nurse

224

00:10:54,798 --> 00:11:01,838
or Midwife in quote the letter states

225

00:10:57,548 --> 00:11:04,999
AHPRA said her actions showed an quote

226

00:11:01,839 --> 00:11:06,709
apparent lack of insight end quote and a

227

00:11:04,999 --> 00:11:10,639
possible breach of the code of conduct

228

00:11:06,708 --> 00:11:14,298
and the social media policy miss Craig

229
00:11:10,639 --> 00:11:16,938
was told she had until January 8 to

230
00:11:14,298 --> 00:11:18,889
respond to the complaint but instead has

231
00:11:16,938 --> 00:11:22,278
gone to the Supreme Court in Brisbane

232
00:11:18,889 --> 00:11:23,720
seeking judicial review her case is due

233
00:11:22,278 --> 00:11:27,798
in court tomorrow

234
00:11:23,720 --> 00:11:29,569
that being the 29th of January she told

235
00:11:27,798 --> 00:11:31,608
the court that quote there is no

236
00:11:29,568 --> 00:11:34,639
evidence to support that a reasonable

237
00:11:31,609 --> 00:11:37,220
person would identify me as providing a

238
00:11:34,639 --> 00:11:40,730
health service or giving clinical advice

239
00:11:37,220 --> 00:11:42,769
I deny I have ever promoted an anti

240
00:11:40,730 --> 00:11:45,079
vaccination stance and quote she told

241
00:11:42,769 --> 00:11:49,028
the court she claims that the

242
00:11:45,078 --> 00:11:51,558
whistleblower who reported her has quote

243
00:11:49,028 --> 00:11:53,448
misrepresented and quote her Facebook

244
00:11:51,558 --> 00:11:57,198
posts as quote professional conduct

245
00:11:53,448 --> 00:11:59,418
unquote when they were quote under my

246
00:11:57,198 --> 00:12:02,028
personal name end quote

247
00:11:59,418 --> 00:12:04,338
ms Craig claims that if a condition were

248
00:12:02,028 --> 00:12:07,759
placed on her registration it would have

249
00:12:04,339 --> 00:12:09,919
quote long-term professional personal

250
00:12:07,759 --> 00:12:12,528
and employment consequences end quote

251
00:12:09,918 --> 00:12:16,369
the anonymous complaint filed in court

252
00:12:12,528 --> 00:12:19,129
state said ms Craig quote is a long-term

253
00:12:16,369 --> 00:12:22,399
a member of the rabidly anti-vaccination

254
00:12:19,129 --> 00:12:25,278
secret Facebook group vaccine choice

255
00:12:22,399 --> 00:12:27,629
Australia unquote and advised the

256
00:12:25,278 --> 00:12:30,328
anti-vaxxer mother of a 1we

257

00:12:27,629 --> 00:12:33,000
old baby in February 2016 that her

258
00:12:30,328 --> 00:12:35,189
breast milk quote provides immunity and

259
00:12:33,000 --> 00:12:38,129
quote the complaint it also states that

260
00:12:35,190 --> 00:12:40,589
Craig shed anti vaccination posts and

261
00:12:38,129 --> 00:12:43,198
quote promoted end quote a quote

262
00:12:40,589 --> 00:12:46,199
discredited anti vaccination activist in

263
00:12:43,198 --> 00:12:49,109
quote and asked another Facebook user

264
00:12:46,198 --> 00:12:51,479
not to post the name of an anti

265
00:12:49,110 --> 00:12:54,778
vaccination midwife working at Royal

266
00:12:51,480 --> 00:12:56,519
Brisbane and Women's Hospital it is not

267
00:12:54,778 --> 00:13:00,120
the first time this Craig has been

268
00:12:56,519 --> 00:13:03,209
reported to nursing regulators in August

269
00:13:00,120 --> 00:13:05,578
2014 she was cautioned after her

270
00:13:03,208 --> 00:13:08,099
comments on Facebook giving advice to

271
00:13:05,578 --> 00:13:11,068

other anti-vaxxers to avoid mandatory

272

00:13:08,100 --> 00:13:13,290

workplace jabs for hepatitis B by

273

00:13:11,068 --> 00:13:15,708

claiming quote religious and quote

274

00:13:13,289 --> 00:13:19,019

objection were found to be quote

275

00:13:15,708 --> 00:13:21,328

unsatisfactory in quote quote documents

276

00:13:19,019 --> 00:13:23,730

state that in October 2016 the Nursing

277

00:13:21,328 --> 00:13:26,219

and Midwifery Board of Australia told

278

00:13:23,730 --> 00:13:28,740

its members it had become aware that a

279

00:13:26,220 --> 00:13:31,290

quote small number and quote of nurses

280

00:13:28,740 --> 00:13:33,180

and midwives were quote promoting anti

281

00:13:31,289 --> 00:13:35,759

vaccination statements to patients and

282

00:13:33,179 --> 00:13:37,979

the public via social media which

283

00:13:35,759 --> 00:13:39,539

contradict the best available scientific

284

00:13:37,980 --> 00:13:42,389

evidence end quote

285

00:13:39,539 --> 00:13:44,549

the board told members that the AHPRA

286
00:13:42,389 --> 00:13:47,039
has the power to quote prosecutor and

287
00:13:44,549 --> 00:13:53,539
quota nurses the distribute false or

288
00:13:47,039 --> 00:13:56,009
misleading anti vaccination material and

289
00:13:53,539 --> 00:13:59,309
that story has been published in various

290
00:13:56,009 --> 00:14:03,300
newspapers including the Courier Mail

291
00:13:59,309 --> 00:14:04,759
and we will keep you up-to-date as this

292
00:14:03,299 --> 00:14:20,498
story develops

293
00:14:04,759 --> 00:14:23,899
[Music]

294
00:14:20,499 --> 00:14:26,749
hi this is dr. Pamela gay from astronomy

295
00:14:23,899 --> 00:14:28,639
cast each week Fraser Cain and I take

296
00:14:26,749 --> 00:14:30,860
our listeners on a fact-based journey

297
00:14:28,639 --> 00:14:33,589
through the cosmos with our weekly

298
00:14:30,860 --> 00:14:36,409
podcast we explain not just what we know

299
00:14:33,589 --> 00:14:39,259
but how we know what we know about this

300
00:14:36,409 --> 00:14:41,719
universe that we share check us out at

301
00:14:39,259 --> 00:14:44,119
astronomy cast calm and look for us in

302
00:14:41,720 --> 00:15:20,989
itunes google play and where ever you

303
00:14:44,119 --> 00:15:22,668
download podcasts see online and joining

304
00:15:20,989 --> 00:15:24,980
me now all the way from beautiful

305
00:15:22,668 --> 00:15:29,058
Atlanta Georgia an old friend of mine

306
00:15:24,980 --> 00:15:30,980
dr. Angie McGee hello dr. Angie hey good

307
00:15:29,058 --> 00:15:33,409
morning Richard or afternoon or whatever

308
00:15:30,980 --> 00:15:36,259
it is there it's gonna talk to you it's

309
00:15:33,409 --> 00:15:37,909
strangely enough it's morning it's and I

310
00:15:36,259 --> 00:15:41,209
think it's afternoon where you are

311
00:15:37,909 --> 00:15:43,730
it is submit' afternoon here that's

312
00:15:41,208 --> 00:15:46,818
wonderful I thought I'd give you a call

313
00:15:43,730 --> 00:15:49,879
contact you because I saw just recently

314

00:15:46,818 --> 00:15:53,838
and you are putting this about that you

315
00:15:49,879 --> 00:15:56,480
are now quite involved in the wonderful

316
00:15:53,839 --> 00:15:57,980
Dragon Con in Atlanta Georgia which is

317
00:15:56,480 --> 00:16:01,039
on the Labor Day long weekend in the

318
00:15:57,980 --> 00:16:03,619
United States involved with Derek Colin

319
00:16:01,039 --> 00:16:07,068
dunno to run the Skip track and what can

320
00:16:03,619 --> 00:16:08,839
you tell us about that well Derek has

321
00:16:07,068 --> 00:16:11,118
done such a great job at this kept track

322
00:16:08,839 --> 00:16:15,799
and has brought so many new people into

323
00:16:11,119 --> 00:16:20,089
the skepticism including me actually but

324
00:16:15,798 --> 00:16:21,919
it's it's a big job and he needed some

325
00:16:20,089 --> 00:16:25,040
help and so

326
00:16:21,919 --> 00:16:28,610
I am now the assistant director for the

327
00:16:25,039 --> 00:16:30,078
track and we are very excited about this

328
00:16:28,610 --> 00:16:32,629

year I can't wait we're trying to get

329

00:16:30,078 --> 00:16:35,929

you to come Jamie and Swiss has already

330

00:16:32,629 --> 00:16:39,278

confirmed and we're we're still working

331

00:16:35,929 --> 00:16:41,809

on getting folks into the into the

332

00:16:39,278 --> 00:16:44,689

roster so that we can have the best

333

00:16:41,809 --> 00:16:46,399

Dragon Con skip track ever now for those

334

00:16:44,690 --> 00:16:54,010

of you who haven't been to Dragon Con

335

00:16:46,399 --> 00:16:57,980

and I have not been myself since Oh 2010

336

00:16:54,009 --> 00:17:00,439

and of course Dragon Con in 2008 was the

337

00:16:57,980 --> 00:17:02,839

very first time the skeptic zone was

338

00:17:00,440 --> 00:17:05,088

recorded well what can you tell people

339

00:17:02,839 --> 00:17:12,078

what's it like Dragon Con in general and

340

00:17:05,088 --> 00:17:15,318

the skeptic track in particular Dragon

341

00:17:12,078 --> 00:17:17,928

Con itself is probably the biggest

342

00:17:15,318 --> 00:17:21,168

spectacle that I've ever seen and

343
00:17:17,929 --> 00:17:23,929
believe me I've seen some but and and it

344
00:17:21,169 --> 00:17:26,750
seems sort of like that with the skip

345
00:17:23,929 --> 00:17:28,759
track the science track and those seem

346
00:17:26,750 --> 00:17:32,750
to sort of be the calm in the middle of

347
00:17:28,759 --> 00:17:35,480
a storm but there is so there are so

348
00:17:32,750 --> 00:17:39,109
many opportunities to indulge your your

349
00:17:35,480 --> 00:17:41,630
love for any particular fandom BBC

350
00:17:39,109 --> 00:17:44,298
fandom you've got the Doctor Who the

351
00:17:41,630 --> 00:17:49,580
Star Trek Star Wars Battlestar Galactica

352
00:17:44,298 --> 00:17:51,230
gamers pasta rumours video game I mean

353
00:17:49,579 --> 00:17:55,490
like just everything you can think of

354
00:17:51,230 --> 00:17:58,819
this is the world's repository of pop

355
00:17:55,490 --> 00:18:00,558
culture science fiction fantasy and a

356
00:17:58,819 --> 00:18:04,460
good bit of rock and roll thrown in

357
00:18:00,558 --> 00:18:07,399
there for good measure that's not a bad

358
00:18:04,460 --> 00:18:09,529
description what caught my attention the

359
00:18:07,400 --> 00:18:17,179
times I went all those years ago was the

360
00:18:09,529 --> 00:18:19,940
sheer volume of geeks dressed up it

361
00:18:17,179 --> 00:18:22,340
really is and it's one of the things I

362
00:18:19,940 --> 00:18:24,590
really love about Dragon Con I think

363
00:18:22,339 --> 00:18:28,939
that there is a lack of passion anymore

364
00:18:24,589 --> 00:18:32,899
people who have passion for things for

365
00:18:28,940 --> 00:18:35,720
these whole universes of fandom they

366
00:18:32,900 --> 00:18:36,980
don't really have a whole lot of

367
00:18:35,720 --> 00:18:39,919
places that they can share their

368
00:18:36,980 --> 00:18:42,019
passions with others and DragonCon is

369
00:18:39,919 --> 00:18:46,070
one of the few that that you can really

370
00:18:42,019 --> 00:18:50,089
indulge your passion and I I kind of

371

00:18:46,069 --> 00:18:54,259
don't cost them because I they are so

372
00:18:50,089 --> 00:18:57,529
far out of my league so I just go and

373
00:18:54,259 --> 00:18:59,480
when I go I really enjoy seeing the the

374
00:18:57,529 --> 00:19:01,730
passion that people have applied to

375
00:18:59,480 --> 00:19:03,470
their costumes and and they bring more

376
00:19:01,730 --> 00:19:05,569
than one that's the other thing I find

377
00:19:03,470 --> 00:19:07,339
just amazing people will have two

378
00:19:05,569 --> 00:19:10,189
costumes a day they'll have two word

379
00:19:07,339 --> 00:19:13,058
room changes a day and they have devoted

380
00:19:10,190 --> 00:19:16,900
so much time and energy into producing

381
00:19:13,058 --> 00:19:20,480
either a very creative mashup or or a

382
00:19:16,900 --> 00:19:22,880
very high fidelity version of a

383
00:19:20,480 --> 00:19:25,970
particular costume it's really amazing

384
00:19:22,880 --> 00:19:28,850
it really is and what I loved about it

385
00:19:25,970 --> 00:19:30,829

of course the times I went what was

386

00:19:28,849 --> 00:19:34,959

taking part in the skip track was Derek

387

00:19:30,829 --> 00:19:38,119

and and lots of all friends and it was a

388

00:19:34,960 --> 00:19:39,710

fantastic opportunity because we would

389

00:19:38,119 --> 00:19:41,359

set up our sessions and I would give a

390

00:19:39,710 --> 00:19:43,548

talk or there'd be a panel or something

391

00:19:41,359 --> 00:19:45,709

like that and a lot of the audience

392

00:19:43,548 --> 00:19:48,589

would be people just drifting in or

393

00:19:45,710 --> 00:19:50,990

soared on the itinerary and came in out

394

00:19:48,589 --> 00:19:52,970

of curiosity so we got a lot of people

395

00:19:50,990 --> 00:19:54,409

who are introduced to skepticism and I

396

00:19:52,970 --> 00:19:57,490

think that's probably the case ever

397

00:19:54,409 --> 00:20:00,289

since skeptic began all those years ago

398

00:19:57,490 --> 00:20:02,120

and I thought that was a really really

399

00:20:00,288 --> 00:20:03,288

worthwhile thing I mean they were of

400
00:20:02,119 --> 00:20:05,599
course there were skeptics in the

401
00:20:03,288 --> 00:20:07,849
audience a lot some people go there too

402
00:20:05,599 --> 00:20:09,408
because they know what to expect but all

403
00:20:07,849 --> 00:20:11,119
those other strange people in their

404
00:20:09,409 --> 00:20:13,730
costumes wandering in and sitting down

405
00:20:11,119 --> 00:20:15,168
being introduced to skepticism and I

406
00:20:13,730 --> 00:20:18,319
think that's probably the first time I

407
00:20:15,169 --> 00:20:20,390
met you is probably there it was as a

408
00:20:18,319 --> 00:20:22,548
matter of fact I don't know if you were

409
00:20:20,390 --> 00:20:23,929
there I'm I don't remember seeing her

410
00:20:22,548 --> 00:20:26,150
last year but the Flying Spaghetti

411
00:20:23,929 --> 00:20:30,019
Monster often will stop by to see a

412
00:20:26,150 --> 00:20:32,210
track and take photos but and of course

413
00:20:30,019 --> 00:20:35,658
Margaret Downey arranges our section of

414
00:20:32,210 --> 00:20:39,350
the parade now we have often will have

415
00:20:35,659 --> 00:20:41,510
cars that we can drive a particularly

416
00:20:39,349 --> 00:20:45,019
Maneri I've driven James Randi twice now

417
00:20:41,509 --> 00:20:49,490
in the parade and that gets out the

418
00:20:45,019 --> 00:20:52,519
message of questioning beliefs

419
00:20:49,490 --> 00:20:54,829
out to the larger audience especially

420
00:20:52,519 --> 00:21:01,190
since now there televising the parades

421
00:20:54,829 --> 00:21:04,279
and so we're able to give kudos to

422
00:21:01,190 --> 00:21:08,600
people who have been skeptics throughout

423
00:21:04,279 --> 00:21:12,558
history and just other regular messages

424
00:21:08,599 --> 00:21:14,269
of question things so so there are so

425
00:21:12,558 --> 00:21:17,720
many opportunities for outreach there

426
00:21:14,269 --> 00:21:19,129
it's just staggering the the really nice

427
00:21:17,720 --> 00:21:20,960
thing about thus kept track and I think

428

00:21:19,130 --> 00:21:23,090
one of the things you alluded to is that

429
00:21:20,960 --> 00:21:25,929
it's really sort of in the middle of

430
00:21:23,089 --> 00:21:28,970
everything as people are walking through

431
00:21:25,929 --> 00:21:33,200
from one hotel to another it's really

432
00:21:28,970 --> 00:21:35,360
well situated and and pretty easy to get

433
00:21:33,200 --> 00:21:38,920
to from other parts of the convention

434
00:21:35,359 --> 00:21:42,829
and so I think that that is one of the

435
00:21:38,920 --> 00:21:44,480
reasons for its initial success was

436
00:21:42,829 --> 00:21:46,369
because people could just kind of wander

437
00:21:44,480 --> 00:21:49,370
in there when they saw something

438
00:21:46,369 --> 00:21:50,808
interesting on the schedule it's not

439
00:21:49,369 --> 00:21:52,939
something you had to hunt for like on

440
00:21:50,808 --> 00:21:55,339
the bowels of the Hyatt who you know was

441
00:21:52,940 --> 00:21:58,220
pretty much for the most committed of

442
00:21:55,339 --> 00:22:00,889

fans yeah it's it's it's an interesting

443

00:21:58,220 --> 00:22:03,470

thing of course because I'm saying these

444

00:22:00,890 --> 00:22:04,970

strange people sort of drift in and I

445

00:22:03,470 --> 00:22:08,329

don't mean strange in a bad way they

446

00:22:04,970 --> 00:22:09,890

just dressed bizarrely as characters

447

00:22:08,329 --> 00:22:13,009

from everything you can possibly imagine

448

00:22:09,890 --> 00:22:15,350

from Doctor Who to Star Wars to comic

449

00:22:13,009 --> 00:22:18,140

books that I'm unfamiliar with elaborate

450

00:22:15,349 --> 00:22:19,939

costumes huge costumes sometimes you

451

00:22:18,140 --> 00:22:21,670

can't even get into the elevator because

452

00:22:19,940 --> 00:22:23,740

they're full of wookies and angels and

453

00:22:21,670 --> 00:22:26,210

[Laughter]

454

00:22:23,740 --> 00:22:28,069

yes you have to be careful of the pointy

455

00:22:26,210 --> 00:22:31,850

things you do have to be careful axes

456

00:22:28,069 --> 00:22:34,579

and swords and and saying before the

457
00:22:31,849 --> 00:22:37,819
sheer volume of people over many many

458
00:22:34,579 --> 00:22:41,750
mega giant hotels it's quite a spectacle

459
00:22:37,819 --> 00:22:45,399
the the the convention has taken over

460
00:22:41,750 --> 00:22:48,230
five major hotels in downtown Atlanta

461
00:22:45,400 --> 00:22:49,910
Dragon Con has become a fixture in

462
00:22:48,230 --> 00:22:53,509
Atlanta society the mayor has given

463
00:22:49,910 --> 00:22:57,650
Dragon Con Award there are special

464
00:22:53,509 --> 00:23:00,019
banners we get our own wall in the

465
00:22:57,650 --> 00:23:02,960
Atlanta Airport as you're coming up from

466
00:23:00,019 --> 00:23:03,379
baggage to go into the baggage claim as

467
00:23:02,960 --> 00:23:06,440
you're coming

468
00:23:03,380 --> 00:23:11,540
the large escalators everyone goes past

469
00:23:06,440 --> 00:23:14,420
this whole billboard which is in the

470
00:23:11,539 --> 00:23:16,549
world's biggest busiest airport and it's

471
00:23:14,420 --> 00:23:19,870
all about Dragon Con it welcomes Dragon

472
00:23:16,549 --> 00:23:23,149
Con to Atlanta I'm not I'm not surprised

473
00:23:19,869 --> 00:23:26,239
the income for the the city of Atlanta

474
00:23:23,150 --> 00:23:28,519
must be extraordinary now I I hope I can

475
00:23:26,240 --> 00:23:31,700
make it no promises at this early stage

476
00:23:28,519 --> 00:23:33,349
I miss it every year it comes around and

477
00:23:31,700 --> 00:23:35,630
I just wish I could be there folks if

478
00:23:33,349 --> 00:23:37,759
you want to have a flavor of what it's

479
00:23:35,630 --> 00:23:39,650
like and if you haven't been there I

480
00:23:37,759 --> 00:23:41,720
think YouTube's the best just go to

481
00:23:39,650 --> 00:23:45,519
youtube and look up Dragon Con and

482
00:23:41,720 --> 00:23:53,150
you'll get a taste of the nonstop

483
00:23:45,519 --> 00:23:56,319
bizarreness of this one it doesn't even

484
00:23:53,150 --> 00:23:58,730
hold a candle to actually being there

485

00:23:56,319 --> 00:24:00,529
seeing things in person you can examine

486
00:23:58,730 --> 00:24:02,960
the details on the costumes just to

487
00:24:00,529 --> 00:24:06,769
stand at the time for the Marriott and

488
00:24:02,960 --> 00:24:08,420
look down at this sea of people I'll

489
00:24:06,769 --> 00:24:09,889
never forget this one time we were

490
00:24:08,420 --> 00:24:12,950
standing up at the top and looking down

491
00:24:09,890 --> 00:24:17,330
and there were these two huge walking

492
00:24:12,950 --> 00:24:19,460
dinosaur bones skeletons it was sort of

493
00:24:17,329 --> 00:24:23,599
a it was an articulated dinosaur

494
00:24:19,460 --> 00:24:26,180
skeleton and it was easily 20 feet long

495
00:24:23,599 --> 00:24:28,099
it was enormous yes that's absolutely

496
00:24:26,180 --> 00:24:31,160
typical of the sort of things you'll see

497
00:24:28,099 --> 00:24:33,409
a dragon cutting and again it's it's

498
00:24:31,160 --> 00:24:35,509
full of very passionate people who love

499
00:24:33,410 --> 00:24:37,279

science fiction and fantasy and that

500

00:24:35,509 --> 00:24:40,160

sort of ties in so well because there's

501

00:24:37,279 --> 00:24:42,379

also other tracks there like the science

502

00:24:40,160 --> 00:24:44,870

track for example where it's just

503

00:24:42,380 --> 00:24:46,640

dedicated to scientific research and all

504

00:24:44,869 --> 00:24:48,559

that sort of stuff and the other track

505

00:24:46,640 --> 00:24:50,630

which is close to my heart which I took

506

00:24:48,559 --> 00:24:53,240

part in when I was there was the Silk

507

00:24:50,630 --> 00:24:55,640

Road which is sort of I think Asian

508

00:24:53,240 --> 00:24:58,519

culture which I was able to demonstrate

509

00:24:55,640 --> 00:25:00,620

origami there and give lessons and take

510

00:24:58,519 --> 00:25:03,589

part in that so yes a lot of reasons for

511

00:25:00,619 --> 00:25:05,239

me to try and get back ng I think agreed

512

00:25:03,589 --> 00:25:07,819

please please please try to come back

513

00:25:05,240 --> 00:25:09,769

Richard we miss you thank you now

514
00:25:07,819 --> 00:25:11,899
something else I'll ask you about

515
00:25:09,769 --> 00:25:13,400
because a couple of weeks on the skeptic

516
00:25:11,900 --> 00:25:15,800
zone listeners will remember we spoke to

517
00:25:13,400 --> 00:25:17,120
trish han who works at the Royal Prince

518
00:25:15,799 --> 00:25:18,950
Alfred hospital here in

519
00:25:17,119 --> 00:25:21,979
and she was talking about some of the

520
00:25:18,950 --> 00:25:24,200
odd superstitions and practices she's

521
00:25:21,980 --> 00:25:26,390
seen in the emergency department when

522
00:25:24,200 --> 00:25:28,519
people come in they may refuse to take

523
00:25:26,390 --> 00:25:31,210
off a crucifix for an x-ray for example

524
00:25:28,519 --> 00:25:33,500
because they have superstitious beliefs

525
00:25:31,210 --> 00:25:35,930
compel them to hang on to it and you can

526
00:25:33,500 --> 00:25:37,460
sort of understand that in a way you

527
00:25:35,930 --> 00:25:39,920
must have come across some interesting

528
00:25:37,460 --> 00:25:43,579
cases in your line which is very similar

529
00:25:39,920 --> 00:25:46,100
but I I wonder have you seen that sort

530
00:25:43,579 --> 00:25:47,720
of thing or is it more than you come

531
00:25:46,099 --> 00:25:49,219
across people who maybe indulge in

532
00:25:47,720 --> 00:25:52,100
alternative medicine which could be a

533
00:25:49,220 --> 00:25:55,490
problem well I do see the alternative

534
00:25:52,099 --> 00:25:58,279
medicine thing affair about and I do

535
00:25:55,490 --> 00:26:01,940
have to choose my word carefully because

536
00:25:58,279 --> 00:26:04,639
I do not wish to offend my patients I

537
00:26:01,940 --> 00:26:06,440
also don't wish them to be taken

538
00:26:04,640 --> 00:26:09,530
advantage of by charlatans who were

539
00:26:06,440 --> 00:26:13,549
trying to sell them nonsense so I try

540
00:26:09,529 --> 00:26:16,819
very hard to be judicious in that the

541
00:26:13,549 --> 00:26:18,319
things that I address now I have to give

542

00:26:16,819 --> 00:26:20,450
you credit and I think I've told this

543
00:26:18,319 --> 00:26:22,909
story before I had a patient who was

544
00:26:20,450 --> 00:26:24,049
wearing a power band bracelet and I

545
00:26:22,910 --> 00:26:26,600
believe he was having an allergic

546
00:26:24,049 --> 00:26:28,609
reaction to the bracelet Wow and he

547
00:26:26,599 --> 00:26:31,928
explained about the demon that the

548
00:26:28,609 --> 00:26:37,389
demonstration he had seen and I showed

549
00:26:31,929 --> 00:26:40,730
him using my stethoscope as the talisman

550
00:26:37,390 --> 00:26:42,290
about how he had been deceived and he

551
00:26:40,730 --> 00:26:44,929
toured the bracelet off and threw it

552
00:26:42,289 --> 00:26:46,549
away and so I have to thank you for that

553
00:26:44,929 --> 00:26:51,500
because I think you may have helped

554
00:26:46,549 --> 00:26:56,960
clear up his skin condition but so I

555
00:26:51,500 --> 00:26:58,730
that I has been one direct way I could

556
00:26:56,960 --> 00:27:03,860

demonstrate that this is actually not a

557

00:26:58,730 --> 00:27:06,589

helpful thing the superstitions that I

558

00:27:03,859 --> 00:27:09,819

bump into I hear from from staff a lot

559

00:27:06,589 --> 00:27:14,419

about the full-moon being a soup being a

560

00:27:09,819 --> 00:27:16,009

poor harbinger of bad night even though

561

00:27:14,420 --> 00:27:18,769

I've tried to explain it doesn't really

562

00:27:16,009 --> 00:27:20,869

seem to when you when you when you do a

563

00:27:18,769 --> 00:27:22,819

double-blind study and then I go try to

564

00:27:20,869 --> 00:27:24,678

explain about cognitive bias and they

565

00:27:22,819 --> 00:27:29,059

just aren't interested because that's

566

00:27:24,679 --> 00:27:30,460

what they always learned yeah so so I

567

00:27:29,059 --> 00:27:32,980

hear that one a lot

568

00:27:30,460 --> 00:27:34,840

and I've heard about people being called

569

00:27:32,980 --> 00:27:39,069

black clouds that whenever they're on

570

00:27:34,839 --> 00:27:41,138

shift bad things seem to happen and you

571
00:27:39,069 --> 00:27:45,220
know I can't say that there aren't

572
00:27:41,138 --> 00:27:47,079
people who don't create drama but I

573
00:27:45,220 --> 00:27:48,909
can't say that it's that there's a

574
00:27:47,079 --> 00:27:53,168
superstitious element to it in those

575
00:27:48,909 --> 00:27:55,090
cases but but I don't really bump up

576
00:27:53,169 --> 00:27:57,369
against a whole lot of the superstition

577
00:27:55,089 --> 00:27:59,618
partly because as an emergency physician

578
00:27:57,368 --> 00:28:01,359
my time with him is often limited and we

579
00:27:59,618 --> 00:28:05,888
don't get to delve that deeply into

580
00:28:01,359 --> 00:28:07,719
those things but I'm not at all

581
00:28:05,888 --> 00:28:10,959
surprised if that radiologist was

582
00:28:07,720 --> 00:28:12,970
finding those patients resistant to

583
00:28:10,960 --> 00:28:15,308
taking off particular pieces of jewelry

584
00:28:12,970 --> 00:28:17,499
I have had actually now that you mention

585
00:28:15,308 --> 00:28:19,778
it I do have I did have a couple of

586
00:28:17,499 --> 00:28:21,519
patients with rings that they did not

587
00:28:19,778 --> 00:28:23,200
want removed when it was painfully

588
00:28:21,519 --> 00:28:26,528
obvious they would lose their fingers if

589
00:28:23,200 --> 00:28:28,269
we did not remove the Rings and so there

590
00:28:26,528 --> 00:28:31,419
was a little bit of resistance there but

591
00:28:28,269 --> 00:28:33,999
I was able to persuade them that it was

592
00:28:31,419 --> 00:28:35,259
the way to save their fingers so I think

593
00:28:33,999 --> 00:28:35,950
that only happened twice in my career

594
00:28:35,259 --> 00:28:38,769
though

595
00:28:35,950 --> 00:28:40,389
well I'll imagine yes there would be

596
00:28:38,769 --> 00:28:42,759
certain similarities I don't think in

597
00:28:40,388 --> 00:28:44,288
any Hospital tell me something now that

598
00:28:42,759 --> 00:28:46,269
I think of it and I'm thinking of what

599

00:28:44,288 --> 00:28:49,960
Trish hand was discussing with me a few

600
00:28:46,269 --> 00:28:54,220
weeks ago does the number 13 come up as

601
00:28:49,960 --> 00:28:57,548
in there are no words 13 or beds 13 in

602
00:28:54,220 --> 00:28:59,980
your hospitals hospitals where I've

603
00:28:57,548 --> 00:29:06,038
worked there pretty much always been a

604
00:28:59,980 --> 00:29:09,190
bed 13 I can't think of any where 13 has

605
00:29:06,038 --> 00:29:10,898
been a number that's been a problem well

606
00:29:09,190 --> 00:29:12,460
that's that's something good to know

607
00:29:10,898 --> 00:29:17,368
because occasionally in hospitals that

608
00:29:12,460 --> 00:29:17,369
still crops up well we have our

609
00:29:17,970 --> 00:29:22,690
specialty Society meetings and hotels

610
00:29:20,829 --> 00:29:24,189
and I have been in hotels where there

611
00:29:22,690 --> 00:29:30,340
was no 4:30

612
00:29:24,190 --> 00:29:34,240
oh that's Las Vegas for you yeah when we

613
00:29:30,339 --> 00:29:36,038

go to meetings si con last year and the

614

00:29:34,240 --> 00:29:37,899

amazing meeting for many years of many

615

00:29:36,038 --> 00:29:43,929

of those hotels simply don't have a

616

00:29:37,898 --> 00:29:44,349

level 13 right right well I I hope that

617

00:29:43,929 --> 00:29:45,880

the ho

618

00:29:44,349 --> 00:29:48,009

tells in Atlanta Georgia at least have a

619

00:29:45,880 --> 00:29:50,950

13th level and I hope I get to stay on

620

00:29:48,009 --> 00:29:53,109

one of those 13 level later in the year

621

00:29:50,950 --> 00:29:55,360

Angie how can people find out more about

622

00:29:53,109 --> 00:29:57,099

this kept track and DragonCon dragonhide

623

00:29:55,359 --> 00:30:00,009

comm would probably be arrests best

624

00:29:57,099 --> 00:30:01,990

resource okay folks there's the word and

625

00:30:00,009 --> 00:30:05,470

i'll link to that in the show notes plus

626

00:30:01,990 --> 00:30:09,279

the link for the thus kept track again

627

00:30:05,470 --> 00:30:10,690

thanks to the ongoing efforts of Derek :

628
00:30:09,279 --> 00:30:12,629
do you know who's been tirelessly

629
00:30:10,690 --> 00:30:15,279
working for that for many years and now

630
00:30:12,630 --> 00:30:16,600
I'm so pleased that you're on board too

631
00:30:15,279 --> 00:30:22,658
Angie because I know you'll add a

632
00:30:16,599 --> 00:30:24,490
certain now shall I say style to the it

633
00:30:22,659 --> 00:30:28,720
really is a group effort though this is

634
00:30:24,490 --> 00:30:32,980
this is a labor of love for us it the

635
00:30:28,720 --> 00:30:35,470
con is run by volunteers overwhelmingly

636
00:30:32,980 --> 00:30:37,058
and they do a wonderful job people

637
00:30:35,470 --> 00:30:41,279
donate their personal time money

638
00:30:37,058 --> 00:30:43,359
resources to produce the best convention

639
00:30:41,279 --> 00:30:45,609
possible for everyone involved

640
00:30:43,359 --> 00:30:49,000
absolutely what a lot of fun it is to

641
00:30:45,609 --> 00:30:51,129
again well who knows maybe maybe I can

642
00:30:49,000 --> 00:30:58,359
come along and be skeptical there at

643
00:30:51,130 --> 00:31:00,400
DragonCon once again Angie dr. Angie

644
00:30:58,359 --> 00:31:02,209
McGee thank you very much

645
00:31:00,400 --> 00:31:07,849
thank you Richard

646
00:31:02,210 --> 00:31:07,848
[Music]

647
00:31:09,569 --> 00:31:25,439
oh hi Maynard

648
00:31:22,288 --> 00:31:28,288
oh hi Heidi great day in this park

649
00:31:25,440 --> 00:31:32,249
yeah if you like that sort of thing look

650
00:31:28,288 --> 00:31:36,739
over there oh yeah we there are no such

651
00:31:32,249 --> 00:31:40,350
things as URIs silly hmm might be just

652
00:31:36,739 --> 00:31:43,619
dog a big dog I think it's a King

653
00:31:40,349 --> 00:31:47,308
Charles Spaniel thing mmm no no no no

654
00:31:43,618 --> 00:31:50,668
it's a Yowie Maynard if it's a choice

655
00:31:47,308 --> 00:31:54,089
between it being a dog or a Yowie no no

656

00:31:50,669 --> 00:31:57,119
no see how ii yo ii yo ii yo ii yo ii

657
00:31:54,089 --> 00:32:00,449
argument from Authority it's Joey

658
00:31:57,118 --> 00:32:03,089
hey you two what are you arguing about

659
00:32:00,450 --> 00:32:06,499
may not thinks that dog lookin thing

660
00:32:03,089 --> 00:32:10,829
over there is a Yowie oh yeah II

661
00:32:06,499 --> 00:32:14,129
well maybe Chu Becker the wookie over

662
00:32:10,829 --> 00:32:16,769
her I see okay we better look this up in

663
00:32:14,128 --> 00:32:19,528
the skeptics dictionary online though

664
00:32:16,769 --> 00:32:22,048
Wow the skeptics dictionary online

665
00:32:19,528 --> 00:32:24,628
features definitions arguments and

666
00:32:22,048 --> 00:32:27,089
essays on hundreds of strange beliefs

667
00:32:24,628 --> 00:32:28,168
amusing descriptions and dangerous

668
00:32:27,089 --> 00:32:30,778
delusions

669
00:32:28,169 --> 00:32:33,599
it also features dozens of entries on

670
00:32:30,778 --> 00:32:37,038

logical fallacies cognitive biases

671

00:32:33,598 --> 00:32:48,319
perception science and philosophy

672

00:32:37,038 --> 00:32:52,618
it's w WS k EP di c common right ha d

673

00:32:48,319 --> 00:32:55,798
prepared to be amazed okay

674

00:32:52,618 --> 00:33:00,269
yaoi ah here it is send a Bigfoot it

675

00:32:55,798 --> 00:33:02,098
says most scientists discount the

676

00:33:00,269 --> 00:33:04,769
evidence of Bigfoot because the evidence

677

00:33:02,098 --> 00:33:08,158
supporting belief in the survival of a

678

00:33:04,769 --> 00:33:11,819
prehistoric biped ape-like creature of

679

00:33:08,159 --> 00:33:15,210
such dimensions is scant you know maybe

680

00:33:11,819 --> 00:33:20,329
that is just a hand oh okay that it's

681

00:33:15,210 --> 00:33:20,329
just it's just jebecca after all

682

00:33:23,339 --> 00:33:28,918
thank you skeptics dictionary online

683

00:33:36,250 --> 00:33:47,940
[Music]

684

00:33:45,148 --> 00:33:53,829
from The Sydney Morning Herald newspaper

685
00:33:47,940 --> 00:33:55,538
published August the 13th 1987 Ian

686
00:33:53,829 --> 00:34:01,298
cockerel meets the self-appointed

687
00:33:55,538 --> 00:34:04,479
watchdog for the blindly trusting it's

688
00:34:01,298 --> 00:34:07,089
fun to shoot down UFOs and con men in

689
00:34:04,479 --> 00:34:10,190
profile Barry Williams

690
00:34:07,089 --> 00:34:13,068
[Music]

691
00:34:10,190 --> 00:34:15,230
believe it or not mr. Barry Williams is

692
00:34:13,068 --> 00:34:17,358
mainly in it for the fun it may be

693
00:34:15,230 --> 00:34:20,240
little comfort for the unscrupulous

694
00:34:17,358 --> 00:34:22,818
magicians or the gurus of the pseudo

695
00:34:20,239 --> 00:34:24,798
religions but it is amusing for those

696
00:34:22,818 --> 00:34:27,529
who have seen the national president of

697
00:34:24,798 --> 00:34:30,798
the Australian skeptics in action mr.

698
00:34:27,530 --> 00:34:34,789
Williams enjoys exposing charlatans not

699
00:34:30,798 --> 00:34:37,219
in a malicious way but methodically the

700
00:34:34,789 --> 00:34:39,260
48 year old Roseville man places his

701
00:34:37,219 --> 00:34:43,459
faith in things that are supported by

702
00:34:39,260 --> 00:34:45,079
scientific evidence and scrutiny his 600

703
00:34:43,460 --> 00:34:47,750
strong organization is the

704
00:34:45,079 --> 00:34:50,329
self-appointed watchdog for the blindly

705
00:34:47,750 --> 00:34:53,088
trusting it tackles people who would

706
00:34:50,329 --> 00:34:55,669
seek to profit from the ingenuous among

707
00:34:53,088 --> 00:34:57,650
us but it is also a voluntary

708
00:34:55,668 --> 00:35:00,679
organization whose members share a

709
00:34:57,650 --> 00:35:04,548
fascination for the infinite gullibility

710
00:35:00,679 --> 00:35:07,548
of mankind and the subjects which snare

711
00:35:04,548 --> 00:35:09,588
people's interests and money one-fifth

712
00:35:07,548 --> 00:35:12,679
of the members live on Sydney's North

713

00:35:09,588 --> 00:35:14,719
Shore quote I find it intellectually

714
00:35:12,679 --> 00:35:17,269
stimulating and a lot of fun and quote

715
00:35:14,719 --> 00:35:19,848
said mr. Williams a trade exhibition

716
00:35:17,269 --> 00:35:21,650
promoter quote now I've built up an

717
00:35:19,849 --> 00:35:24,410
immense library since joining the

718
00:35:21,650 --> 00:35:27,619
skeptics and if I didn't have scruples

719
00:35:24,409 --> 00:35:30,259
myself with the things I've seen I could

720
00:35:27,619 --> 00:35:32,240
become enormous ly wealthy in fact we

721
00:35:30,260 --> 00:35:35,000
joke at the branch meetings about

722
00:35:32,239 --> 00:35:37,189
setting up a religious or psychic body

723
00:35:35,000 --> 00:35:39,230
to make our fortunes end quote

724
00:35:37,190 --> 00:35:43,369
the Australian skeptics were formed in

725
00:35:39,230 --> 00:35:45,679
1981 prompted by a UFO sighting in New

726
00:35:43,369 --> 00:35:47,960
Zealand dick Smith Philip Adams and Mark

727
00:35:45,679 --> 00:35:50,808

Plummer decided to organize a body to

728

00:35:47,960 --> 00:35:53,869

investigate such claims Smith and Adams

729

00:35:50,809 --> 00:35:57,440

with the former head of the CSIRO dr.

730

00:35:53,869 --> 00:36:00,318

Paul Wilde remained the patrons quote I

731

00:35:57,440 --> 00:36:02,358

had the first inkling I was a skeptic

732

00:36:00,318 --> 00:36:04,730

when I read Chariots of the Gods in

733

00:36:02,358 --> 00:36:06,798

quote mr. Williams said quote I thought

734

00:36:04,730 --> 00:36:09,079

it was fascinating until I got to the

735

00:36:06,798 --> 00:36:12,798

bit about the pyramids now then remember

736

00:36:09,079 --> 00:36:14,720

thinking this is tripe later I was

737

00:36:12,798 --> 00:36:17,480

watching dick Smith being interviewed

738

00:36:14,719 --> 00:36:18,980

about UFOs and I began to think was I

739

00:36:17,480 --> 00:36:20,280

the only person who didn't believe in

740

00:36:18,980 --> 00:36:23,190

them then

741

00:36:20,280 --> 00:36:25,860

said it was time somebody challenged the

742
00:36:23,190 --> 00:36:27,329
existence of things like new fos I wrote

743
00:36:25,860 --> 00:36:29,430
to him saying that if he ever got

744
00:36:27,329 --> 00:36:31,529
something off the ground I was

745
00:36:29,429 --> 00:36:34,919
interested I have a natural antipathy

746
00:36:31,530 --> 00:36:37,800
for being ripped off by charlatans the

747
00:36:34,920 --> 00:36:40,019
skeptics targets range from psychics to

748
00:36:37,800 --> 00:36:42,960
astrologers and fringe religious

749
00:36:40,019 --> 00:36:44,960
organizations quote we mainly concern

750
00:36:42,960 --> 00:36:47,070
ourselves with paranormal events in

751
00:36:44,960 --> 00:36:50,010
pseudoscience and quote mr. Williams

752
00:36:47,070 --> 00:36:52,680
said quote currently there is a fed on

753
00:36:50,010 --> 00:36:56,100
channeling which is really a hi-tech

754
00:36:52,679 --> 00:36:57,929
name for spiritualism astrology seems to

755
00:36:56,099 --> 00:37:00,210
be on the wane although there are still

756
00:36:57,929 --> 00:37:02,039
those who firmly believe in it at our

757
00:37:00,210 --> 00:37:03,929
National Convention in Melbourne last

758
00:37:02,039 --> 00:37:06,570
year we had our members collect all the

759
00:37:03,929 --> 00:37:09,059
astrological charts for one week and of

760
00:37:06,570 --> 00:37:11,550
course they were all different we tend

761
00:37:09,059 --> 00:37:13,500
to steer clear of religions except for

762
00:37:11,550 --> 00:37:16,680
the creation science people and the

763
00:37:13,500 --> 00:37:19,110
Scientologists but in taking on those we

764
00:37:16,679 --> 00:37:22,649
have the support of the major churches

765
00:37:19,110 --> 00:37:24,539
we are not vindictive about it a lot of

766
00:37:22,650 --> 00:37:27,150
psychics sincerely believe they have

767
00:37:24,539 --> 00:37:29,340
some sort of power but there are the

768
00:37:27,150 --> 00:37:32,030
ones who get away from reading tea

769
00:37:29,340 --> 00:37:35,550
leaves and are well aware what they do

770

00:37:32,030 --> 00:37:37,650
taking people's money quote it can be

771
00:37:35,550 --> 00:37:40,530
dangerous just look at the tragic case

772
00:37:37,650 --> 00:37:43,050
in Newport recently when a guy cut his

773
00:37:40,530 --> 00:37:46,470
hand off in the belief it would release

774
00:37:43,050 --> 00:37:48,330
him for astral traveling it's tough

775
00:37:46,469 --> 00:37:51,439
enough in this world as it is without

776
00:37:48,329 --> 00:37:53,759
being conned all the time end quote to

777
00:37:51,440 --> 00:37:56,670
make it tougher on the tricksters the

778
00:37:53,760 --> 00:37:59,820
Australian skeptics have put up \$20,000

779
00:37:56,670 --> 00:38:02,820
for anybody you can perform a paranormal

780
00:37:59,820 --> 00:38:04,530
act under scientific scrutiny with its

781
00:38:02,820 --> 00:38:05,970
American parent organization the

782
00:38:04,530 --> 00:38:09,420
committee for scientific investigation

783
00:38:05,969 --> 00:38:11,309
of claims of the paranormal and branches

784
00:38:09,420 --> 00:38:13,980

in other countries the group has more

785

00:38:11,309 --> 00:38:17,070

than 250 thousand dollars on offer

786

00:38:13,980 --> 00:38:19,769

worldwide to anybody willing to accept

787

00:38:17,070 --> 00:38:22,140

the challenge quote not surprisingly

788

00:38:19,769 --> 00:38:23,820

nobody has been able to prove they have

789

00:38:22,139 --> 00:38:26,670

these powers end quote mister Williams

790

00:38:23,820 --> 00:38:28,350

said quote fortunately we have no really

791

00:38:26,670 --> 00:38:30,840

bad practitioners in this country

792

00:38:28,349 --> 00:38:33,360

Australians tend to be more skeptical by

793

00:38:30,840 --> 00:38:34,108

and large than other races it's a

794

00:38:33,360 --> 00:38:37,349

healthy state of

795

00:38:34,108 --> 00:38:39,088

mind but I think our education system is

796

00:38:37,349 --> 00:38:41,640

to blame for not teaching kids to

797

00:38:39,088 --> 00:38:44,068

examine critically things presented to

798

00:38:41,639 --> 00:38:47,098

them and the media is partly to blame

799
00:38:44,068 --> 00:38:49,199
for reporting sensational stories just

800
00:38:47,099 --> 00:38:52,470
look at that woman who claims she knew

801
00:38:49,199 --> 00:38:55,199
where the Colossus of Rhodes was we've

802
00:38:52,469 --> 00:38:57,449
locked horns with her before it turned

803
00:38:55,199 --> 00:39:00,960
out to be something some Greek travel

804
00:38:57,449 --> 00:39:03,088
agent had dreamed up and quote to

805
00:39:00,960 --> 00:39:05,068
demonstrate how readily people accept

806
00:39:03,088 --> 00:39:06,058
the credentials of those claiming

807
00:39:05,068 --> 00:39:08,460
psychic powers

808
00:39:06,059 --> 00:39:10,289
the skeptics perpetuated a hoax a few

809
00:39:08,460 --> 00:39:12,809
years ago when they brought over a

810
00:39:10,289 --> 00:39:14,999
magician member from America he was

811
00:39:12,809 --> 00:39:16,769
touted as a psychic and appeared twice

812
00:39:14,998 --> 00:39:19,469
on the Bert Newton television show

813
00:39:16,768 --> 00:39:22,258
before revealing the fraud and his third

814
00:39:19,469 --> 00:39:23,998
appearance quote the switchboard was

815
00:39:22,259 --> 00:39:26,159
jammed with complaints from people

816
00:39:23,998 --> 00:39:29,399
annoyed at being conned in quote mr.

817
00:39:26,159 --> 00:39:32,219
Williams said quote they didn't thank

818
00:39:29,400 --> 00:39:35,068
him for helping to show them how easy it

819
00:39:32,219 --> 00:39:38,399
was to be taken in by a good con man

820
00:39:35,068 --> 00:39:38,809
couching things an exotic jargon in

821
00:39:38,400 --> 00:39:42,480
quote

822
00:39:38,809 --> 00:39:42,480
[Music]

823
00:39:43,010 --> 00:39:48,030
and that story was published in The

824
00:39:45,510 --> 00:39:52,310
Sydney Morning Herald way back on the

825
00:39:48,030 --> 00:39:55,410
13th of August 1987 by Ian cockerel and

826
00:39:52,309 --> 00:39:58,610
it certainly sums up the Barry Williams

827

00:39:55,409 --> 00:39:58,609
we all knew

828
00:40:00,349 --> 00:40:19,929
[Music]

829
00:40:24,940 --> 00:40:30,619
thank you for listening to the skeptic

830
00:40:27,498 --> 00:40:32,028
zone and thank you to the the people who

831
00:40:30,619 --> 00:40:33,039
did actually gather the other day to

832
00:40:32,028 --> 00:40:36,708
farewell

833
00:40:33,039 --> 00:40:41,239
barry williams and he's a man who won't

834
00:40:36,708 --> 00:40:43,129
easily be forgotten if ever coming up on

835
00:40:41,239 --> 00:40:45,318
next week's show we hope to have Maynard

836
00:40:43,130 --> 00:40:48,798
once again reporting from skeptics in

837
00:40:45,318 --> 00:40:51,798
the pub here in Sydney and he'll be

838
00:40:48,798 --> 00:40:53,809
asking the big question hmm

839
00:40:51,798 --> 00:40:55,130
answers on a postcard I'm not sure we

840
00:40:53,809 --> 00:40:57,559
always make up the big question for

841
00:40:55,130 --> 00:40:59,539

Maynard just before skeptics in the pub

842

00:40:57,559 --> 00:41:01,160

anyway but if you're in Sydney first

843

00:40:59,539 --> 00:41:03,829

Thursday of the month at the Occidental

844

00:41:01,159 --> 00:41:07,219

hotel down at Wynyard kicking off around

845

00:41:03,829 --> 00:41:10,309

5:00 6:00 p.m. we'd love to see you and

846

00:41:07,219 --> 00:41:13,068

now by a request and now the dice game

847

00:41:10,309 --> 00:41:15,079

this is where I toss the dice and you

848

00:41:13,068 --> 00:41:18,380

use your psychic prediction powers to

849

00:41:15,079 --> 00:41:22,099

predict what the number will be this

850

00:41:18,380 --> 00:41:25,369

time my recent trip to the United States

851

00:41:22,099 --> 00:41:29,660

I went to a games store in Berkeley in

852

00:41:25,369 --> 00:41:33,369

California and I bought myself a 60

853

00:41:29,659 --> 00:41:36,498

sided dice yes there is such a thing I

854

00:41:33,369 --> 00:41:37,278

have it right here on the table it's

855

00:41:36,498 --> 00:41:42,228

ridiculous

856
00:41:37,278 --> 00:41:46,219
so predict away predict away a number

857
00:41:42,228 --> 00:41:48,218
from 1 to 60 hmm are you predicting are

858
00:41:46,219 --> 00:41:51,309
you predicting have you got that number

859
00:41:48,219 --> 00:41:55,150
all right here we go

860
00:41:51,309 --> 00:42:00,829
fell off the table mmm here we go again

861
00:41:55,150 --> 00:42:03,680
it's coming to a rest on number ah 27

862
00:42:00,829 --> 00:42:05,650
for all you people who got 27 well done

863
00:42:03,679 --> 00:42:13,038
let's do it one more time

864
00:42:05,650 --> 00:42:18,048
here we go number 30 now why not one

865
00:42:13,039 --> 00:42:23,778
more time one more time and it's coming

866
00:42:18,048 --> 00:42:25,429
to rest on number 39 so the odds are

867
00:42:23,778 --> 00:42:28,869
getting all three numbers are 60 times

868
00:42:25,429 --> 00:42:31,190
60 times 60 while you figure that out

869
00:42:28,869 --> 00:42:35,440
I'll say this is Richard Saunders

870
00:42:31,190 --> 00:42:35,440
signing off from Sydney Australia

871
00:42:37,079 --> 00:42:42,509
you've been listening to the skeptic

872
00:42:39,579 --> 00:42:49,179
zone podcast please visit our website at

873
00:42:42,510 --> 00:42:52,680
wwlp.com tax and to access the bat

874
00:42:49,179 --> 00:42:55,359
catalog of episodes going back to 2008

875
00:42:52,679 --> 00:42:58,659
you can follow the skeptic zone podcast

876
00:42:55,360 --> 00:43:00,940
on twitter at skeptic zone visit our

877
00:42:58,659 --> 00:43:01,799
facebook page or leave a review on

878
00:43:00,940 --> 00:43:04,510
itunes

879
00:43:01,800 --> 00:43:08,410
you can also support the skeptic zone

880
00:43:04,510 --> 00:43:10,990
via patreon or paypal you can be part of

881
00:43:08,409 --> 00:43:15,369
the show by downloading the voice byte

882
00:43:10,989 --> 00:43:18,759
app at Voice bite comm and using the

883
00:43:15,369 --> 00:43:21,480
hashtag skeptic zone the skeptic zone

884

00:43:18,760 --> 00:43:23,860
podcast is an independent production

885
00:43:21,480 --> 00:43:25,990
reviews and opinions expressed on the

886
00:43:23,860 --> 00:43:28,329
skeptical zone are not necessarily those

887
00:43:25,989 --> 00:43:30,129
of Australian skeptics or any other

888
00:43:28,329 --> 00:43:36,598
sceptical organisation

889
00:43:30,130 --> 00:43:36,599
[Music]

890
00:43:38,059 --> 00:43:42,360
okay the x-files new season has just

891
00:43:40,710 --> 00:43:44,220
started with the premise that the

892
00:43:42,360 --> 00:43:46,800
government may wipe out humanity with a

893
00:43:44,219 --> 00:43:48,959
pathogen to recolonize another planet so

894
00:43:46,800 --> 00:43:50,700
holy Dooley heavy stuff earth is dying

895
00:43:48,960 --> 00:43:53,309
and they need to cull the human race to

896
00:43:50,699 --> 00:43:55,349
make sure we don't take too many to the

897
00:43:53,309 --> 00:43:57,239
new planet but is this complete a

898
00:43:55,349 --> 00:43:59,460

Hollywood fantasy or would the

899

00:43:57,239 --> 00:44:01,319

government keep secrets like this from

900

00:43:59,460 --> 00:44:03,690

the general public Richard Saunders he

901

00:44:01,320 --> 00:44:06,330

joins us every week welcome Richard

902

00:44:03,690 --> 00:44:14,220

hello Richard welcome imagine if the

903

00:44:06,329 --> 00:44:18,480

government was that competent with the

904

00:44:14,219 --> 00:44:22,859

first line fantastic stuff Richard hey

905

00:44:18,480 --> 00:44:26,070

you know how thank you there's no need

906

00:44:22,860 --> 00:44:28,309

for you to continue here he's here all

907

00:44:26,070 --> 00:44:28,309

week