

1
00:00:06,349 --> 00:00:14,119
welcome to the skeptic zone the podcast

2
00:00:09,509 --> 00:00:14,120
from Australia for science and reason

3
00:00:20,420 --> 00:00:27,618
hello and welcome to the skeptic zone

4
00:00:23,280 --> 00:00:35,579
episode number 84 the 30th of april 2010

5
00:00:27,618 --> 00:00:39,689
80 good heavens episode 80 only 20 more

6
00:00:35,579 --> 00:00:41,670
episodes until the huge 100 hang on to

7
00:00:39,689 --> 00:00:44,640
your false teeth for that one what a

8
00:00:41,670 --> 00:00:46,948
show we have for you this week are we

9
00:00:44,640 --> 00:00:50,189
going to kick off with an interview that

10
00:00:46,948 --> 00:00:54,000
Kylie has done with such wonderful

11
00:00:50,189 --> 00:00:57,238
bloggers as Colford watch gimpy and

12
00:00:54,000 --> 00:00:59,670
brain duck oh yes all will become clear

13
00:00:57,238 --> 00:01:02,849
they're going to be talking about the

14
00:00:59,670 --> 00:01:06,659
work they've done in exposing door now

15
00:01:02,850 --> 00:01:09,500
door was a program a sort of

16
00:01:06,659 --> 00:01:11,789
pseudoscience that was supposed to help

17
00:01:09,500 --> 00:01:14,489
dyslexic children and children with

18
00:01:11,789 --> 00:01:16,769
learning difficulties by getting them to

19
00:01:14,489 --> 00:01:19,349
balance and juggle and do all sorts of

20
00:01:16,769 --> 00:01:21,659
wacky things very interesting

21
00:01:19,349 --> 00:01:23,699
conversation coming up that's followed

22
00:01:21,659 --> 00:01:26,239
by a grain of salt with Iran so gift

23
00:01:23,700 --> 00:01:28,950
talking to David Aaron ovitch about

24
00:01:26,239 --> 00:01:31,500
conspiracy theories conspiracies all

25
00:01:28,950 --> 00:01:34,890
that sort of thing but before we get

26
00:01:31,500 --> 00:01:37,379
into the show for those of you who don't

27
00:01:34,890 --> 00:01:40,978
know a good skeptic in Australia has

28
00:01:37,379 --> 00:01:43,140
passed away sadly Jeff Clark now many of

29

00:01:40,978 --> 00:01:46,200
you will certainly know the name of Jeff

30
00:01:43,140 --> 00:01:48,478
Clark he with his son Theo put together

31
00:01:46,200 --> 00:01:51,719
the book the skeptics field guide to

32
00:01:48,478 --> 00:01:54,269
humbug spotting logical fallacies and

33
00:01:51,719 --> 00:01:59,789
thinking and the fantastic website

34
00:01:54,269 --> 00:02:03,000
hunting humbug 101 and the podcast to of

35
00:01:59,789 --> 00:02:06,750
course very very sad to hear that Jeff

36
00:02:03,000 --> 00:02:09,209
Clark has passed away and very grateful

37
00:02:06,750 --> 00:02:13,590
for all the work he did with his son

38
00:02:09,209 --> 00:02:17,430
Theo in teaching us all how to spot

39
00:02:13,590 --> 00:02:20,400
logical fallacies and I'll just hand

40
00:02:17,430 --> 00:02:23,219
over now to Kylie Sturgis who will give

41
00:02:20,400 --> 00:02:25,890
a short report about Jeff I first met

42
00:02:23,219 --> 00:02:27,419
Jeff Clark at the 2006 Australian

43
00:02:25,889 --> 00:02:29,968

skeptics national convention in

44

00:02:27,419 --> 00:02:32,098

Melbourne Victoria we were at the same

45

00:02:29,968 --> 00:02:33,509

table for the dinner and I mentioned I'd

46

00:02:32,098 --> 00:02:35,459

seen his website and

47

00:02:33,509 --> 00:02:38,729

recognized his name when he introduced

48

00:02:35,459 --> 00:02:40,769

himself we only talked briefly but he

49

00:02:38,729 --> 00:02:43,169

remained in my mind as an example of an

50

00:02:40,769 --> 00:02:44,760

enthusiastic skeptic who was very keen

51

00:02:43,169 --> 00:02:46,649

to use the internet to connect with

52

00:02:44,759 --> 00:02:48,870

people which was something that was very

53

00:02:46,650 --> 00:02:51,719

much in its early stages in Australian

54

00:02:48,870 --> 00:02:53,549

skepticism back then I think he was

55

00:02:51,719 --> 00:02:56,068

surprised that I recognized his name

56

00:02:53,549 --> 00:02:58,170

from the online book humbug which was

57

00:02:56,068 --> 00:03:00,479

one of the few hits that i found when

58
00:02:58,169 --> 00:03:03,000
searching for what resources skeptics

59
00:03:00,479 --> 00:03:05,039
had online back then Richard Saunders

60
00:03:03,000 --> 00:03:07,799
hadn't even started the skeptics own

61
00:03:05,039 --> 00:03:10,769
podcast it was only a year later that

62
00:03:07,799 --> 00:03:13,500
the tank vodcast began I don't recall

63
00:03:10,769 --> 00:03:16,319
meeting Jeff after that time but his son

64
00:03:13,500 --> 00:03:18,180
Theo presented at bris skepticon or the

65
00:03:16,318 --> 00:03:21,539
Australian skeptics national convention

66
00:03:18,180 --> 00:03:23,609
in 2009 by this time the hunting humbug

67
00:03:21,539 --> 00:03:26,250
podcast was well into development and

68
00:03:23,609 --> 00:03:28,379
Thea reflected his father's enthusiasm

69
00:03:26,250 --> 00:03:30,930
by demonstrating the use of google wave

70
00:03:28,378 --> 00:03:32,729
and Twitter in his talk about fallacies

71
00:03:30,930 --> 00:03:36,689
and there is an archive of that

72
00:03:32,729 --> 00:03:38,429
presentation featured on the site Jeff

73
00:03:36,689 --> 00:03:40,769
was probably best known amongst fellow

74
00:03:38,430 --> 00:03:43,859
online skeptics as the co-host of

75
00:03:40,769 --> 00:03:45,930
hunting humbug 101 which is a podcaster

76
00:03:43,859 --> 00:03:48,239
provides a crash course and shooting

77
00:03:45,930 --> 00:03:50,150
down bad arguments looking at fallacies

78
00:03:48,239 --> 00:03:52,980
from pseudo science science

79
00:03:50,150 --> 00:03:55,980
misconceptions politics philosophy and

80
00:03:52,979 --> 00:03:58,638
the media after a second battle with

81
00:03:55,979 --> 00:04:00,840
cancer he died earlier this month I

82
00:03:58,639 --> 00:04:03,299
regret that I did not get to know Jeff

83
00:04:00,840 --> 00:04:05,519
Clark more but he certainly contributed

84
00:04:03,299 --> 00:04:09,870
a significant body of material to

85
00:04:05,519 --> 00:04:12,359
Australian skepticism episode 35 the

86

00:04:09,870 --> 00:04:15,659
best of Jeff is available on the humbug

87
00:04:12,359 --> 00:04:17,970
site it also contains a link to all the

88
00:04:15,659 --> 00:04:20,399
back issues of the Australian skeptic

89
00:04:17,970 --> 00:04:23,460
magazine where he contributed numerous

90
00:04:20,399 --> 00:04:27,288
articles the official site of hunting

91
00:04:23,459 --> 00:04:32,098
humbug is hunting humbug 101 podbean

92
00:04:27,288 --> 00:04:36,418
calm Thank You Kylie for that very sad

93
00:04:32,098 --> 00:04:38,879
Jeff Clark file a Jeff Clark but let's

94
00:04:36,418 --> 00:04:41,448
press on with this week's show the

95
00:04:38,879 --> 00:04:41,449
skeptic sir

96
00:04:53,879 --> 00:05:00,519
I'm Carly Sturgis and I'm talking to

97
00:04:57,129 --> 00:05:02,949
holford watch gimpy and brain duck in

98
00:05:00,519 --> 00:05:04,990
this interview i'll be talking to these

99
00:05:02,949 --> 00:05:07,478
science bloggers about their websites

100
00:05:04,990 --> 00:05:10,389

but most importantly we're going to be

101

00:05:07,478 --> 00:05:13,300

talking about door I first met these

102

00:05:10,389 --> 00:05:15,280

people online by a dr. ben goldacre site

103

00:05:13,300 --> 00:05:19,120

and i have continued to work with them

104

00:05:15,279 --> 00:05:21,638

via my own site odd black calm we were

105

00:05:19,120 --> 00:05:24,579

all congratulated by dr. goldacre in the

106

00:05:21,639 --> 00:05:26,829

Guardian newspaper in 2008 for our joint

107

00:05:24,579 --> 00:05:29,319

efforts documenting the administration

108

00:05:26,829 --> 00:05:31,839

of the door company in Australia in an

109

00:05:29,319 --> 00:05:35,529

article called determined bloggers who

110

00:05:31,839 --> 00:05:37,329

blew the whistle on door specifically we

111

00:05:35,529 --> 00:05:39,429

all look at claims that about

112

00:05:37,329 --> 00:05:43,060

pseudoscience and learning difficulties

113

00:05:39,430 --> 00:05:45,430

which is where door comes into it the

114

00:05:43,060 --> 00:05:48,129

door program claims to treat dyslexia

115
00:05:45,430 --> 00:05:50,650
and other learning difficulties and has

116
00:05:48,129 --> 00:05:53,560
aroused controversy amongst researchers

117
00:05:50,649 --> 00:05:56,019
and doctors in Britain and elsewhere it

118
00:05:53,560 --> 00:05:57,699
consists of a series of exercises which

119
00:05:56,019 --> 00:06:00,430
are claimed to help develop the

120
00:05:57,699 --> 00:06:02,740
functions of the cerebellum you may have

121
00:06:00,430 --> 00:06:05,139
noticed that hopefully watch gimpy and

122
00:06:02,740 --> 00:06:07,449
brain duck do not use their real names

123
00:06:05,139 --> 00:06:10,569
in this interview or on their blog sites

124
00:06:07,449 --> 00:06:12,340
this is not new for many bloggers we can

125
00:06:10,569 --> 00:06:14,740
point to the example of author and

126
00:06:12,339 --> 00:06:17,469
blogger Belle de Jour who only recently

127
00:06:14,740 --> 00:06:19,930
outed herself as the scientists book

128
00:06:17,470 --> 00:06:22,210
McGann tea within skeptical circles

129
00:06:19,930 --> 00:06:24,819
there's the blog of the poet digital

130
00:06:22,209 --> 00:06:27,668
cuttlefish the recent you're not helping

131
00:06:24,819 --> 00:06:29,819
site an even or ack of science blogs

132
00:06:27,668 --> 00:06:33,549
prefers not to have his real identity

133
00:06:29,819 --> 00:06:35,680
widely discussed earlier in my series of

134
00:06:33,550 --> 00:06:38,168
interviews for the skeptic zone I spoke

135
00:06:35,680 --> 00:06:42,788
to the YouTube video creator hot hole of

136
00:06:38,168 --> 00:06:44,859
54 about his reasons for anonymity in

137
00:06:42,788 --> 00:06:46,889
the case of these three bloggers the

138
00:06:44,860 --> 00:06:49,330
legal ramifications in the UK

139
00:06:46,889 --> 00:06:51,759
particularly the litigious nature of the

140
00:06:49,329 --> 00:06:54,418
door company has led them to take the

141
00:06:51,759 --> 00:06:56,650
step of not revealing their now

142
00:06:54,418 --> 00:06:58,959
during this interview due to technical

143

00:06:56,649 --> 00:07:02,198
difficulties the blogger brain duck

144
00:06:58,959 --> 00:07:04,198
could only join in via text messages so

145
00:07:02,199 --> 00:07:10,449
I apologize for not having her voice

146
00:07:04,199 --> 00:07:12,669
included in this in here thank you very

147
00:07:10,449 --> 00:07:14,680
much for joining me ladies and gentlemen

148
00:07:12,668 --> 00:07:17,408
what we have here is a very unique

149
00:07:14,680 --> 00:07:20,439
interview because none of you are going

150
00:07:17,408 --> 00:07:23,740
to use your real names so i have here

151
00:07:20,439 --> 00:07:25,869
gympie from kim PS blog i have Halford

152
00:07:23,740 --> 00:07:29,889
watch from the whole furred watch blog

153
00:07:25,869 --> 00:07:32,680
and joining us by proxy using the typing

154
00:07:29,889 --> 00:07:34,180
function on skype we have brain duck so

155
00:07:32,680 --> 00:07:38,649
thank you very much all of you for

156
00:07:34,180 --> 00:07:41,889
joining me thank you great so let's

157
00:07:38,649 --> 00:07:43,809

begin from the beginning gympie how do

158

00:07:41,889 --> 00:07:48,459

you describe your blog and why do you

159

00:07:43,809 --> 00:07:51,639

blog well um my blog at the moment sort

160

00:07:48,459 --> 00:07:54,879

of goes through phases and at the moment

161

00:07:51,639 --> 00:07:56,499

I blog more on the regulation of

162

00:07:54,879 --> 00:07:58,778

alternative medicine or rather the

163

00:07:56,499 --> 00:08:01,809

arguments proponents of alternative

164

00:07:58,778 --> 00:08:04,689

medicine make when they are making the

165

00:08:01,809 --> 00:08:07,539

case for their regulation I've also been

166

00:08:04,689 --> 00:08:10,300

having a look at the the ethical issues

167

00:08:07,538 --> 00:08:13,360

involved with homeopathy particularly

168

00:08:10,300 --> 00:08:15,879

with respect to how they function in the

169

00:08:13,360 --> 00:08:19,419

developing world where there are not so

170

00:08:15,879 --> 00:08:23,139

strict safeguards on the government the

171

00:08:19,418 --> 00:08:25,680

the practice of medicine um I've also

172
00:08:23,139 --> 00:08:27,699
been taking a more recent look at

173
00:08:25,680 --> 00:08:29,978
charities involved in promoting

174
00:08:27,699 --> 00:08:32,528
alternative health which includes the

175
00:08:29,978 --> 00:08:35,019
princes foundation for integrated health

176
00:08:32,528 --> 00:08:38,198
who are having a few difficulties at the

177
00:08:35,019 --> 00:08:41,799
moment and when I first started blogging

178
00:08:38,198 --> 00:08:44,679
it was I was I think I was more

179
00:08:41,799 --> 00:08:48,250
interested in directly challenging the

180
00:08:44,679 --> 00:08:51,278
claims of quacks with their science but

181
00:08:48,250 --> 00:08:53,230
I I've come to realize time that there's

182
00:08:51,278 --> 00:08:55,328
really very little point in this and

183
00:08:53,230 --> 00:08:58,120
challenging them directly because they

184
00:08:55,328 --> 00:09:02,198
just do not listen it's more interesting

185
00:08:58,120 --> 00:09:04,688
to explain o.o to to investigate the

186
00:09:02,198 --> 00:09:06,338
ethical issues which arise from somebody

187
00:09:04,688 --> 00:09:07,569
has a strong belief in alternative

188
00:09:06,339 --> 00:09:10,750
medicine

189
00:09:07,570 --> 00:09:13,480
they try and present their alternative

190
00:09:10,750 --> 00:09:15,610
beliefs as being parallel to mainstream

191
00:09:13,480 --> 00:09:18,039
medical practice we just had brain duck

192
00:09:15,610 --> 00:09:20,409
join in with her comment about her blog

193
00:09:18,039 --> 00:09:22,509
she says that she started to blog to

194
00:09:20,409 --> 00:09:24,699
practice communication skills to use

195
00:09:22,509 --> 00:09:26,470
with patients and to help me learn more

196
00:09:24,700 --> 00:09:29,170
and share what I was doing as a part of

197
00:09:26,470 --> 00:09:31,779
my psychology degree in York people

198
00:09:29,169 --> 00:09:34,059
asking you awkward questions is a great

199
00:09:31,779 --> 00:09:36,490
way to learn so I guess it's not only

200

00:09:34,059 --> 00:09:39,459
the patients that you might deal with

201
00:09:36,490 --> 00:09:41,019
and common public but also people in the

202
00:09:39,460 --> 00:09:44,170
media that you're communicating with as

203
00:09:41,019 --> 00:09:46,809
well it's certainly true it's difficult

204
00:09:44,169 --> 00:09:49,000
to judge the impact of an anonymous blog

205
00:09:46,809 --> 00:09:52,359
because you can get feedback in the

206
00:09:49,000 --> 00:09:54,940
comments but I mean I suppose what we're

207
00:09:52,360 --> 00:09:58,470
all trying to do is create a sort of

208
00:09:54,940 --> 00:10:00,640
semi permanent digital record and

209
00:09:58,470 --> 00:10:02,920
counteracting most claims that people

210
00:10:00,639 --> 00:10:05,139
make I mean I suppose ultimately that's

211
00:10:02,919 --> 00:10:08,110
the root of my motivation for blogging

212
00:10:05,139 --> 00:10:10,389
it's just the frustration you feel when

213
00:10:08,110 --> 00:10:13,330
somebody's wrong and you know they're

214
00:10:10,389 --> 00:10:15,340

wrong and you just want to tell somebody

215

00:10:13,330 --> 00:10:18,370

so how would you describe your blog

216

00:10:15,340 --> 00:10:20,200

holford watch I sure as him there's a

217

00:10:18,370 --> 00:10:22,919

few I'm a few people contributing to the

218

00:10:20,200 --> 00:10:25,379

blog we were set up in response to some

219

00:10:22,919 --> 00:10:28,029

quite probably quite problematic

220

00:10:25,379 --> 00:10:30,519

scientific claims made by the by the

221

00:10:28,029 --> 00:10:32,829

nutritionist patrick holford this does

222

00:10:30,519 --> 00:10:37,389

because starting to feel an extent there

223

00:10:32,830 --> 00:10:39,700

can be little patience with to simply

224

00:10:37,389 --> 00:10:42,159

pointing out again and again that the

225

00:10:39,700 --> 00:10:43,720

same claim that the same claim is wrong

226

00:10:42,159 --> 00:10:45,429

and it's still wrong when it's made an

227

00:10:43,720 --> 00:10:47,410

owl and it's still going to be one was

228

00:10:45,429 --> 00:10:50,589

made in getting too into in two weeks

229
00:10:47,409 --> 00:10:52,750
time I mean things like you still here

230
00:10:50,590 --> 00:10:56,320
even argue against vaccination or penny

231
00:10:52,750 --> 00:10:57,909
about are the mercury in MMR whereas in

232
00:10:56,320 --> 00:11:00,250
there in ever contained it has been

233
00:10:57,909 --> 00:11:02,469
making point out number of times but it

234
00:11:00,250 --> 00:11:05,769
still continues as a memo as a meme of

235
00:11:02,470 --> 00:11:08,350
source so does the blogging that we do

236
00:11:05,769 --> 00:11:10,029
now is around it's going to put its kind

237
00:11:08,350 --> 00:11:13,180
of focus around around health

238
00:11:10,029 --> 00:11:15,549
information and advil and research and

239
00:11:13,179 --> 00:11:18,370
looking at some of the representation

240
00:11:15,549 --> 00:11:21,039
the practice any ethics of of the search

241
00:11:18,370 --> 00:11:23,049
and the condom and the kind of broader

242
00:11:21,039 --> 00:11:25,870
in the kind of bored of impact impact

243
00:11:23,049 --> 00:11:28,120
this can have so at least if someone's

244
00:11:25,870 --> 00:11:32,078
repeatedly making the same ink Yvette's

245
00:11:28,120 --> 00:11:34,028
claim it means that if someone blogs

246
00:11:32,078 --> 00:11:36,219
about this if the journalists Google's

247
00:11:34,028 --> 00:11:39,009
them for writing a story on it they'll

248
00:11:36,220 --> 00:11:40,600
at least be able to access the record of

249
00:11:39,009 --> 00:11:42,730
whether it was made in the past why is

250
00:11:40,600 --> 00:11:45,579
inaccurate and be able to question why

251
00:11:42,730 --> 00:11:48,100
the claims still being made today one

252
00:11:45,578 --> 00:11:51,399
particular group that I continue to get

253
00:11:48,100 --> 00:11:54,009
hits for his door and that was where we

254
00:11:51,399 --> 00:11:56,740
first met when we started up a sort of a

255
00:11:54,009 --> 00:11:59,289
loose conglomeration called translucent

256
00:11:56,740 --> 00:12:01,419
science what led all of us to be

257

00:11:59,289 --> 00:12:04,360
interested in door in the first place I

258
00:12:01,419 --> 00:12:07,240
have ducked down here with her response

259
00:12:04,360 --> 00:12:09,159
I also started blogging about door

260
00:12:07,240 --> 00:12:11,289
because I was fed up with them trying to

261
00:12:09,159 --> 00:12:13,179
use people who pointed out that their

262
00:12:11,289 --> 00:12:15,939
research really wasn't up to scratch

263
00:12:13,179 --> 00:12:17,919
they tried to sue parent associations

264
00:12:15,940 --> 00:12:20,560
including off spelled in Australia as

265
00:12:17,919 --> 00:12:23,409
well as individual parents and academics

266
00:12:20,559 --> 00:12:25,419
and this over research which I as an

267
00:12:23,409 --> 00:12:27,639
undergraduate could pick holes in I

268
00:12:25,419 --> 00:12:29,860
thought there was something that smelt

269
00:12:27,639 --> 00:12:31,778
wrong there and the closer I looked the

270
00:12:29,860 --> 00:12:34,629
otter it all got how do you feel about

271
00:12:31,778 --> 00:12:37,870

the experience gimpy well actually

272

00:12:34,629 --> 00:12:42,088

blogging about door is is more personal

273

00:12:37,870 --> 00:12:46,389

for me and because the door is a charity

274

00:12:42,089 --> 00:12:48,040

which claims to be able to if not cure

275

00:12:46,389 --> 00:12:50,500

then certainly alleviate the West

276

00:12:48,039 --> 00:12:53,230

symptoms are various specific learning

277

00:12:50,500 --> 00:12:55,509

difficulties and they've also expanded

278

00:12:53,230 --> 00:12:59,620

this to include Asperger's spectrum

279

00:12:55,509 --> 00:13:02,828

disorders and ADHD as well now I have a

280

00:12:59,620 --> 00:13:05,860

variety of specific learning disorders

281

00:13:02,828 --> 00:13:08,919

which mean I struggled greatly with my

282

00:13:05,860 --> 00:13:12,430

spelling and with my writing and with a

283

00:13:08,919 --> 00:13:14,708

pen or pencil anyway and computer solves

284

00:13:12,429 --> 00:13:16,838

most of these problems but when I was at

285

00:13:14,708 --> 00:13:20,828

school and growing up I wasn't diagnosed

286
00:13:16,839 --> 00:13:23,139
until I was in my my mid-teens and i

287
00:13:20,828 --> 00:13:26,559
also had these difficulties at school

288
00:13:23,139 --> 00:13:29,198
but i was academically capable but

289
00:13:26,559 --> 00:13:32,229
perceived as being lazy which I suppose

290
00:13:29,198 --> 00:13:34,549
is the the plasticware dislikes people

291
00:13:32,230 --> 00:13:39,620
feel often before the diagnosed

292
00:13:34,549 --> 00:13:41,509
and it was some time ago so i think the

293
00:13:39,620 --> 00:13:44,659
ignorance on the part of my teachers at

294
00:13:41,509 --> 00:13:46,939
school can be excused and i have no

295
00:13:44,659 --> 00:13:49,639
bitterness about it but I I think I I

296
00:13:46,940 --> 00:13:52,329
have appreciation for what it's like to

297
00:13:49,639 --> 00:13:56,299
struggle with them specific learning

298
00:13:52,328 --> 00:13:59,929
difficulties and what door do is to take

299
00:13:56,299 --> 00:14:02,569
advantage of people's struggles and to

300
00:13:59,929 --> 00:14:07,179
offer them sort of a false hope through

301
00:14:02,570 --> 00:14:07,180
there what they called a miracle cure

302
00:14:08,049 --> 00:14:13,039
scenes and they charge an awful lot of

303
00:14:10,700 --> 00:14:15,379
money for this it's normally around a

304
00:14:13,039 --> 00:14:18,289
thousand thousand pounds for for a

305
00:14:15,379 --> 00:14:20,570
course of door and that is money which

306
00:14:18,289 --> 00:14:22,519
parents could be spending on things like

307
00:14:20,570 --> 00:14:24,190
computers and software to aid their

308
00:14:22,519 --> 00:14:28,459
children if they have these difficulties

309
00:14:24,190 --> 00:14:30,500
so what makes me so angry about door is

310
00:14:28,458 --> 00:14:32,629
that they charge an awful lot of money

311
00:14:30,500 --> 00:14:35,120
for something which lacks an evidence

312
00:14:32,629 --> 00:14:38,259
base and it takes advantage of people

313
00:14:35,120 --> 00:14:40,940
who are in a very difficult situation on

314

00:14:38,259 --> 00:14:43,189
how about yourself Harvard watch how did

315
00:14:40,940 --> 00:14:45,950
you feel about it no way there's there's

316
00:14:43,190 --> 00:14:47,180
huge numbers of treatment very specific

317
00:14:45,950 --> 00:14:49,790
learning difficulties we started have a

318
00:14:47,179 --> 00:14:52,969
good evidence base but what made what

319
00:14:49,789 --> 00:14:55,669
made store stand out for me was it was a

320
00:14:52,970 --> 00:14:57,290
couple of things personally the way

321
00:14:55,669 --> 00:14:59,778
they've been assisting they've been so

322
00:14:57,289 --> 00:15:01,819
successful in attracting in attracting

323
00:14:59,778 --> 00:15:04,570
media coverage of the marketing what

324
00:15:01,820 --> 00:15:08,510
they do as a type as something with this

325
00:15:04,570 --> 00:15:11,600
something with this with scientific of a

326
00:15:08,509 --> 00:15:13,730
search beta search basis to it so on I

327
00:15:11,600 --> 00:15:16,310
mean for at least I thought there was

328
00:15:13,730 --> 00:15:19,310

never too challenging what they do

329

00:15:16,309 --> 00:15:23,269

whereas for some treatments which are

330

00:15:19,309 --> 00:15:25,039

just one per one person in there in

331

00:15:23,269 --> 00:15:27,679

there in there shed with some slightly

332

00:15:25,039 --> 00:15:30,490

strange ideas may not of having words

333

00:15:27,679 --> 00:15:34,639

make the same amount of time criticizing

334

00:15:30,490 --> 00:15:36,440

but also I think I long something along

335

00:15:34,639 --> 00:15:38,269

the lines of all gimpy was saying I

336

00:15:36,440 --> 00:15:40,610

think the aspects of tour would show

337

00:15:38,269 --> 00:15:43,159

particularly with Richie really

338

00:15:40,610 --> 00:15:47,919

particularly problematic there's not

339

00:15:43,159 --> 00:15:47,919

good evidence that door is anything that

340

00:15:47,990 --> 00:15:54,560

sebo but it's not a particularly nice

341

00:15:51,230 --> 00:15:57,709

time nice type of receiver either this

342

00:15:54,559 --> 00:16:01,329

veal difficulties nabil opportunity cost

343
00:15:57,708 --> 00:16:04,189
with we get your child particularly will

344
00:16:01,330 --> 00:16:06,950
get a chance to do these exercises for

345
00:16:04,190 --> 00:16:09,410
10 for 10 minutes twice twice a day a

346
00:16:06,950 --> 00:16:12,259
couple of years meticulous um sure

347
00:16:09,409 --> 00:16:14,360
pacifica pacifically difficulties most

348
00:16:12,259 --> 00:16:18,649
specialist tomorrow to do struggle to do

349
00:16:14,360 --> 00:16:21,589
this and give a skimpy mentioned it's

350
00:16:18,649 --> 00:16:25,100
not a cheap program either the cost can

351
00:16:21,589 --> 00:16:26,750
be incredibly incredibly significant for

352
00:16:25,100 --> 00:16:30,230
the families of individual seduced you

353
00:16:26,750 --> 00:16:31,909
choose to buy into this and to dilute

354
00:16:30,230 --> 00:16:35,028
out declines please do that to do that

355
00:16:31,909 --> 00:16:37,039
to children just did not seem good no no

356
00:16:35,028 --> 00:16:39,588
it's very much targeting those who are

357
00:16:37,039 --> 00:16:42,409
quite vulnerable in society duck has

358
00:16:39,589 --> 00:16:44,450
added to this double basically screen

359
00:16:42,409 --> 00:16:46,549
for children who are always going to do

360
00:16:44,450 --> 00:16:48,560
well they choose only those whose

361
00:16:46,549 --> 00:16:51,799
parents can keep up the regular twice

362
00:16:48,559 --> 00:16:54,229
daily treatments and demand 95%

363
00:16:51,799 --> 00:16:56,750
compliance with treatments even HIV

364
00:16:54,230 --> 00:16:58,610
medication does not get that it's a huge

365
00:16:56,750 --> 00:17:00,200
opportunity cost so she certainly

366
00:16:58,610 --> 00:17:03,829
agreeing with you there Holford watch

367
00:17:00,200 --> 00:17:06,380
she adds they pretend they have lots of

368
00:17:03,828 --> 00:17:08,659
scientific evidence and sell it as being

369
00:17:06,380 --> 00:17:11,000
very medical but this is just not the

370
00:17:08,660 --> 00:17:13,279
case they've taken some very decent

371

00:17:11,000 --> 00:17:15,410
basic research at sheffield and pushed

372
00:17:13,279 --> 00:17:17,449
it far beyond where it can be justified

373
00:17:15,410 --> 00:17:19,130
oh since it one of the interesting

374
00:17:17,449 --> 00:17:21,558
things about dora's with many

375
00:17:19,130 --> 00:17:23,510
alternative medicines is that the people

376
00:17:21,558 --> 00:17:26,779
who practice it and those who believe it

377
00:17:23,509 --> 00:17:29,480
they are very genuine I mean they

378
00:17:26,779 --> 00:17:31,428
genuinely want to help children who have

379
00:17:29,480 --> 00:17:36,049
these difficulties there is no doubt

380
00:17:31,429 --> 00:17:39,640
about that but the trouble is they I

381
00:17:36,049 --> 00:17:42,139
think they lack an understanding of how

382
00:17:39,640 --> 00:17:45,170
medical research scientific research

383
00:17:42,140 --> 00:17:46,820
works where it's not simply enough to

384
00:17:45,170 --> 00:17:49,550
have a good idea that you build yourself

385
00:17:46,819 --> 00:17:52,700

into believing is true you have to

386

00:17:49,549 --> 00:17:56,269

establish an evidence base that can be

387

00:17:52,700 --> 00:17:58,279

replicated and this leads on from ducks

388

00:17:56,269 --> 00:18:00,690

palm two beds them in the scientific

389

00:17:58,279 --> 00:18:03,629

evidence and pushing it beyond

390

00:18:00,690 --> 00:18:08,700

the point at which it can be justified

391

00:18:03,630 --> 00:18:10,860

and there were almost looking for

392

00:18:08,700 --> 00:18:12,960

confirmation of their beliefs from this

393

00:18:10,859 --> 00:18:17,129

research and they just take it too far

394

00:18:12,960 --> 00:18:19,200

and I think because they don't want to

395

00:18:17,130 --> 00:18:22,650

abandon their ideas that occasionally

396

00:18:19,200 --> 00:18:25,860

leads them into am problematic behaviors

397

00:18:22,650 --> 00:18:28,410

duck is added to that she says that they

398

00:18:25,859 --> 00:18:30,750

claim to treat very many conditions when

399

00:18:28,410 --> 00:18:33,600

their original research was not even on

400
00:18:30,750 --> 00:18:35,190
children who have dyslexia they say that

401
00:18:33,599 --> 00:18:38,129
if you get better or worse during the

402
00:18:35,190 --> 00:18:40,140
treatment it's down to door and if you

403
00:18:38,130 --> 00:18:43,590
get better for two years after finishing

404
00:18:40,140 --> 00:18:45,540
door that's down to door too so child

405
00:18:43,589 --> 00:18:48,779
gets better at something in four years

406
00:18:45,539 --> 00:18:50,970
then it's still because of door that

407
00:18:48,779 --> 00:18:52,649
seems really quite overwhelming

408
00:18:50,970 --> 00:18:54,960
certainly in terms of trying to

409
00:18:52,650 --> 00:18:56,690
challenge what is going on and it's

410
00:18:54,960 --> 00:18:59,700
worth mentioning their parents may also

411
00:18:56,690 --> 00:19:02,730
put additional resources into education

412
00:18:59,700 --> 00:19:04,650
so for example charl does door payment

413
00:19:02,730 --> 00:19:06,480
pen having subsequently pays for

414
00:19:04,650 --> 00:19:08,700
personal tutor and child gets better

415
00:19:06,480 --> 00:19:10,110
which is supposedly because of door the

416
00:19:08,700 --> 00:19:12,360
other thing is quite striking with door

417
00:19:10,109 --> 00:19:15,689
with those use of scientific evidence is

418
00:19:12,359 --> 00:19:19,109
they make questionable steps at a number

419
00:19:15,690 --> 00:19:20,700
of stages so firstly there's some

420
00:19:19,109 --> 00:19:22,409
interesting evidence around around

421
00:19:20,700 --> 00:19:24,509
dyslexia specific learning difficulties

422
00:19:22,410 --> 00:19:26,460
in the cerebellum but nothing to wish

423
00:19:24,509 --> 00:19:29,250
kind but nothing definitive to prove

424
00:19:26,460 --> 00:19:31,440
with us that's the cause of it but then

425
00:19:29,250 --> 00:19:35,130
a second but then a second step they

426
00:19:31,440 --> 00:19:36,330
take is to argue that because they

427
00:19:35,130 --> 00:19:39,330
believe the table and place the

428

00:19:36,329 --> 00:19:41,189
significant role that's they've got that

429
00:19:39,329 --> 00:19:43,139
particular exercise is going to are

430
00:19:41,190 --> 00:19:45,360
going to be able to treat it there's not

431
00:19:43,140 --> 00:19:47,850
sufficient evidence provided for this

432
00:19:45,359 --> 00:19:50,099
but for what I believe is the cause of

433
00:19:47,849 --> 00:19:52,549
what they're treating and there's and

434
00:19:50,099 --> 00:19:54,659
there's considered less evident right

435
00:19:52,549 --> 00:19:57,589
provided that the treatment actually

436
00:19:54,660 --> 00:20:00,750
doesn't assign there's anything useful

437
00:19:57,589 --> 00:20:02,369
brain dark adds to that yes door tell

438
00:20:00,750 --> 00:20:05,190
them that they must have extra tuition

439
00:20:02,369 --> 00:20:07,319
alongside the door program or they won't

440
00:20:05,190 --> 00:20:09,660
get better at reading and writing they

441
00:20:07,319 --> 00:20:11,819
use proxy endpoints they tell people

442
00:20:09,660 --> 00:20:14,090

that if you can juggle beanbags better

443

00:20:11,819 --> 00:20:15,589
you are cured and of course

444

00:20:14,089 --> 00:20:17,389
course after two years of juggling

445

00:20:15,589 --> 00:20:19,579
beanbags it gets you better at juggling

446

00:20:17,390 --> 00:20:22,250
beanbags so this must be very

447

00:20:19,579 --> 00:20:24,528
disempowering to the children absolutely

448

00:20:22,250 --> 00:20:27,759
and is it and the whole whole approach

449

00:20:24,528 --> 00:20:29,509
to potentially disappearing this idea of

450

00:20:27,759 --> 00:20:31,308
specific learning difficulties is

451

00:20:29,509 --> 00:20:34,190
something which had which wick out which

452

00:20:31,308 --> 00:20:36,649
has to be cured and the I what it has to

453

00:20:34,190 --> 00:20:39,140
be at least has retreated and the idea

454

00:20:36,650 --> 00:20:41,269
that if people with specific learning

455

00:20:39,140 --> 00:20:43,820
difficulties succeeded doing things that

456

00:20:41,269 --> 00:20:46,429
this is that this is a sign that they're

457
00:20:43,819 --> 00:20:47,778
somehow being being cured and be able to

458
00:20:46,429 --> 00:20:49,669
move beyond the specific learning

459
00:20:47,778 --> 00:20:50,720
difficulties lower than figs out but

460
00:20:49,669 --> 00:20:52,909
they've been able to develop good coping

461
00:20:50,720 --> 00:20:55,909
good coping strategies in order to

462
00:20:52,909 --> 00:20:58,460
progress yes brain duck is writing a

463
00:20:55,909 --> 00:21:01,460
very big yes in response to that now

464
00:20:58,460 --> 00:21:03,798
gympie has said about how the people who

465
00:21:01,460 --> 00:21:05,509
work with door who are within the door

466
00:21:03,798 --> 00:21:07,609
company often believe that they're

467
00:21:05,509 --> 00:21:09,769
giving genuine help and this was

468
00:21:07,609 --> 00:21:12,678
something that we discovered back when

469
00:21:09,769 --> 00:21:14,869
wheel bloggers in 2008 we were all

470
00:21:12,679 --> 00:21:17,059
compared by dr. ben goldacre in the

471
00:21:14,869 --> 00:21:20,058
Guardian newspaper when compared to the

472
00:21:17,058 --> 00:21:23,168
mainstream media coverage of door we win

473
00:21:20,058 --> 00:21:26,710
on timeliness accuracy relevant ethics

474
00:21:23,169 --> 00:21:30,580
effort and stupid names so what exactly

475
00:21:26,710 --> 00:21:33,558
happened in regards to the changes in

476
00:21:30,579 --> 00:21:37,250
2008 to the status of door in Australia

477
00:21:33,558 --> 00:21:39,678
and what did we do it's very nice very

478
00:21:37,250 --> 00:21:43,609
nice of them both it's just taking an

479
00:21:39,679 --> 00:21:45,528
interest in things which maybe other

480
00:21:43,609 --> 00:21:47,359
people don't I mean it's just filling

481
00:21:45,528 --> 00:21:49,369
this is the great thing by blogs is they

482
00:21:47,359 --> 00:21:51,678
allow you to fill a vacuum of knowledge

483
00:21:49,369 --> 00:21:55,069
with your own interests and in the case

484
00:21:51,679 --> 00:21:56,538
of door I mean this is there's a lot of

485

00:21:55,069 --> 00:21:57,528
people out there who have specific

486
00:21:56,538 --> 00:22:00,528
learning difficulties and may be

487
00:21:57,528 --> 00:22:02,929
targeted by door but um it's interesting

488
00:22:00,528 --> 00:22:07,460
to see how door have changed since then

489
00:22:02,929 --> 00:22:09,519
because shortly after we really started

490
00:22:07,460 --> 00:22:12,350
blogging intensively on them they

491
00:22:09,519 --> 00:22:14,929
underwent some financial difficulties

492
00:22:12,349 --> 00:22:17,240
due to their business model which I

493
00:22:14,929 --> 00:22:20,149
think goes back to them being motivated

494
00:22:17,240 --> 00:22:23,899
out of a genuine willingness to help is

495
00:22:20,148 --> 00:22:25,969
that they hadn't really thought through

496
00:22:23,898 --> 00:22:27,529
their business plan or rather they had

497
00:22:25,970 --> 00:22:27,920
thought it through it just proved more

498
00:22:27,529 --> 00:22:30,619
different

499
00:22:27,920 --> 00:22:32,600

to air follow than they expected because

500

00:22:30,619 --> 00:22:34,729

they charge so much money because they

501

00:22:32,599 --> 00:22:36,439

have at that point they had a large

502

00:22:34,730 --> 00:22:39,079

infrastructure including various

503

00:22:36,440 --> 00:22:41,029

training centers and technologies it was

504

00:22:39,079 --> 00:22:42,829

very expensive to run which is partly

505

00:22:41,029 --> 00:22:45,319

why they were charging people so much

506

00:22:42,829 --> 00:22:48,859

for it and what happened was that they

507

00:22:45,319 --> 00:22:51,439

failed to get enough people am to join

508

00:22:48,859 --> 00:22:55,159

the program to pay for its running costs

509

00:22:51,440 --> 00:22:57,490

so they went into administration and at

510

00:22:55,160 --> 00:23:00,980

the time we thought that this would um

511

00:22:57,490 --> 00:23:03,349

perhaps be the end of door and it would

512

00:23:00,980 --> 00:23:05,750

just be another footnote in the long

513

00:23:03,349 --> 00:23:09,859

history of quackery but unfortunately

514
00:23:05,750 --> 00:23:12,410
since then they restarted with almost

515
00:23:09,859 --> 00:23:16,339
exactly the same business model with a

516
00:23:12,410 --> 00:23:18,710
few tweaks so it sometimes feels like

517
00:23:16,339 --> 00:23:22,490
all our blog in efforts were were to no

518
00:23:18,710 --> 00:23:25,360
avail a bottom I think there's a change

519
00:23:22,490 --> 00:23:28,430
in people's perception and certainly am

520
00:23:25,359 --> 00:23:31,459
within the media within blogs or so

521
00:23:28,430 --> 00:23:33,920
because we've established the criticism

522
00:23:31,460 --> 00:23:37,069
of door it's easy to look at criticism

523
00:23:33,920 --> 00:23:38,900
and reapply it to the nude or even

524
00:23:37,069 --> 00:23:41,210
though did not really changed that much

525
00:23:38,900 --> 00:23:44,330
I think they are really beginning to

526
00:23:41,210 --> 00:23:47,690
find it difficult at the moment dark has

527
00:23:44,329 --> 00:23:50,449
touched upon how we as bloggers became

528
00:23:47,690 --> 00:23:52,850
very supportive she writes that we ended

529
00:23:50,450 --> 00:23:54,680
up telling door uses much more than the

530
00:23:52,849 --> 00:23:56,449
official door information for the first

531
00:23:54,680 --> 00:23:59,509
month or so when it went into

532
00:23:56,450 --> 00:24:02,240
administration in Australia and as you

533
00:23:59,509 --> 00:24:04,009
alluded to gympie predicted door going

534
00:24:02,240 --> 00:24:07,160
broke six months before they actually

535
00:24:04,009 --> 00:24:09,049
did door we're investing all of this in

536
00:24:07,160 --> 00:24:10,759
treatment and none into research which

537
00:24:09,049 --> 00:24:13,039
could have bought in government funding

538
00:24:10,759 --> 00:24:15,019
they promised when they restarted after

539
00:24:13,039 --> 00:24:17,240
going bust that Winfred door would

540
00:24:15,019 --> 00:24:18,950
concentrate on funding research more

541
00:24:17,240 --> 00:24:20,930
than treatment but none of this has

542

00:24:18,950 --> 00:24:22,670
seemed to have happened what was your

543
00:24:20,930 --> 00:24:25,009
take on it health would watch it heard

544
00:24:22,670 --> 00:24:26,570
what blogs waved offer as opposed to an

545
00:24:25,009 --> 00:24:28,970
addition in addition to them in addition

546
00:24:26,569 --> 00:24:31,309
to the mainstream media I think part of

547
00:24:28,970 --> 00:24:34,130
it was definitely a skimpy was talking

548
00:24:31,309 --> 00:24:35,450
about and as duck mention the timeless

549
00:24:34,130 --> 00:24:38,360
of the timelessness of what we were

550
00:24:35,450 --> 00:24:40,069
doing same do it gympie was able to quit

551
00:24:38,359 --> 00:24:41,209
predict these problems well before there

552
00:24:40,069 --> 00:24:41,899
was any mention of this in the main

553
00:24:41,210 --> 00:24:46,250
street in the main

554
00:24:41,900 --> 00:24:49,070
gmedia more like intelligent or we were

555
00:24:46,250 --> 00:24:52,190
able to off of information and support

556
00:24:49,069 --> 00:24:54,559

to p2 door-to-door uses when the company

557

00:24:52,190 --> 00:24:56,630

went into administration to get on and

558

00:24:54,559 --> 00:25:00,349

to get on to this almost more quickly

559

00:24:56,630 --> 00:25:02,960

the more established bodies look looking

560

00:25:00,349 --> 00:25:05,119

this looking the story could do but I

561

00:25:02,960 --> 00:25:07,670

think also a different ethical approach

562

00:25:05,119 --> 00:25:10,819

was available to us as well we didn't

563

00:25:07,670 --> 00:25:14,000

have the type of type the type of

564

00:25:10,819 --> 00:25:16,369

pressures of time or illness in some

565

00:25:14,000 --> 00:25:19,609

sense of resources which wish to witness

566

00:25:16,369 --> 00:25:21,409

might it might have been facing so we

567

00:25:19,609 --> 00:25:24,379

were to go some of the research more

568

00:25:21,410 --> 00:25:26,660

depth to outset to access some of the

569

00:25:24,380 --> 00:25:28,520

some of the research papers about a part

570

00:25:26,660 --> 00:25:29,810

door and to be able to provide some

571
00:25:28,519 --> 00:25:32,960
deeper coverage of the topic as well

572
00:25:29,809 --> 00:25:35,149
what brain duck is added to this is how

573
00:25:32,960 --> 00:25:37,279
we ended up doing press releases to the

574
00:25:35,150 --> 00:25:39,769
media we ended up telling users how to

575
00:25:37,279 --> 00:25:41,599
reclaim what they had paid and staff how

576
00:25:39,769 --> 00:25:44,089
to clean welfare benefits which was

577
00:25:41,599 --> 00:25:45,799
really surreal we even got the

578
00:25:44,089 --> 00:25:48,109
background on what was happening with

579
00:25:45,799 --> 00:25:51,169
door six months before I kicked off so

580
00:25:48,109 --> 00:25:53,269
as you have both said very well prepared

581
00:25:51,170 --> 00:25:55,880
ahead of time and it was just chance

582
00:25:53,269 --> 00:25:58,309
that door happened to hit MSM when it

583
00:25:55,880 --> 00:26:01,190
did I guess there's another thing to

584
00:25:58,309 --> 00:26:02,839
pick up is because of the of the

585
00:26:01,190 --> 00:26:05,360
positions were fighting on there's not

586
00:26:02,839 --> 00:26:07,879
we don't feel any pressure to maintain a

587
00:26:05,359 --> 00:26:11,240
kind of a kind of force a kind of force

588
00:26:07,880 --> 00:26:14,480
neutrality so where is journalists

589
00:26:11,240 --> 00:26:17,809
covering this might or might often feel

590
00:26:14,480 --> 00:26:21,289
like they have to for example have put a

591
00:26:17,809 --> 00:26:24,919
story in terms of the great weight of

592
00:26:21,289 --> 00:26:28,339
scientific evidence says this but door

593
00:26:24,920 --> 00:26:31,460
have a couple of committing really nice

594
00:26:28,339 --> 00:26:33,199
stories about people who did door and

595
00:26:31,460 --> 00:26:35,779
learn to read it and learn to read at

596
00:26:33,200 --> 00:26:40,220
the state at the same time we're able to

597
00:26:35,779 --> 00:26:43,039
offer much stronger account of what the

598
00:26:40,220 --> 00:26:45,410
of all the evidence in the topic doesn't

599

00:26:43,039 --> 00:26:47,480
doesn't show without feeling without

600
00:26:45,410 --> 00:26:51,110
feeling the need to head to construct

601
00:26:47,480 --> 00:26:52,700
this kind of false balance which also

602
00:26:51,109 --> 00:26:55,719
made him eat mainstream looking out

603
00:26:52,700 --> 00:26:57,190
that's a push towards brain decades

604
00:26:55,720 --> 00:27:00,069
in that we don't have to worry about

605
00:26:57,190 --> 00:27:02,440
being sued this improves coverage a lot

606
00:27:00,069 --> 00:27:04,329
my lecturers can't talk about door in

607
00:27:02,440 --> 00:27:07,210
public much and they have to watch their

608
00:27:04,329 --> 00:27:09,849
words carefully she believed she doesn't

609
00:27:07,210 --> 00:27:11,860
do you ever reflect upon the fact that

610
00:27:09,849 --> 00:27:14,199
we had the example of Simon Singh

611
00:27:11,859 --> 00:27:19,750
getting sued for what he said well I

612
00:27:14,200 --> 00:27:21,580
think Simon Singh is was in a very lucky

613
00:27:19,750 --> 00:27:23,950

position as well as been an extremely

614

00:27:21,579 --> 00:27:26,319

brave man and that he had both the

615

00:27:23,950 --> 00:27:30,730

willingness to defend himself finances

616

00:27:26,319 --> 00:27:34,569

to defend himself and and unfortunately

617

00:27:30,730 --> 00:27:38,140

most of us don't have access to his kind

618

00:27:34,569 --> 00:27:40,450

of money so I think this is partly why I

619

00:27:38,140 --> 00:27:43,990

am certainly I blocks you can

620

00:27:40,450 --> 00:27:46,269

anonymously it's just to reduce the

621

00:27:43,990 --> 00:27:47,919

defense that somebody may consult a

622

00:27:46,269 --> 00:27:49,389

lawyer rather than the comment section

623

00:27:47,919 --> 00:27:53,530

of my blog when they have a disagreement

624

00:27:49,390 --> 00:27:56,049

with me yeah but and certainly door do

625

00:27:53,529 --> 00:27:59,918

have a long track record as doc I said

626

00:27:56,048 --> 00:28:03,279

of em using threats of legal action to

627

00:27:59,919 --> 00:28:06,070

suppress criticism hopefully Simon has

628
00:28:03,279 --> 00:28:08,798
changed things for the best I mean there

629
00:28:06,069 --> 00:28:11,139
is still the the legislation's with

630
00:28:08,798 --> 00:28:12,908
libel law but that is a matter for the

631
00:28:11,140 --> 00:28:18,190
next government of the United Kingdom

632
00:28:12,909 --> 00:28:20,679
and so I I hope it will improve am but

633
00:28:18,190 --> 00:28:23,730
the internet does offer a great deal of

634
00:28:20,679 --> 00:28:27,038
anonymity if you want to offer up am

635
00:28:23,730 --> 00:28:29,558
criticism which which is usually a good

636
00:28:27,038 --> 00:28:32,259
thing I'm certainly lovable laws are

637
00:28:29,558 --> 00:28:34,690
definitely consider d even even after

638
00:28:32,259 --> 00:28:37,390
this in case the type of pasta people

639
00:28:34,690 --> 00:28:40,570
think that you that you incur if he gets

640
00:28:37,390 --> 00:28:43,419
sued go way beyond what a typical person

641
00:28:40,569 --> 00:28:45,579
could afford I mean it's in case with

642
00:28:43,419 --> 00:28:49,390
only partway through and I think he ran

643
00:28:45,579 --> 00:28:51,639
up to about 200 about 200,000 pounds Wow

644
00:28:49,390 --> 00:28:53,140
works both ways to an extent of course

645
00:28:51,640 --> 00:28:55,600
if you're running up if the person

646
00:28:53,140 --> 00:28:58,059
students also running up huge costs then

647
00:28:55,599 --> 00:29:00,219
the the orders of the person they're

648
00:28:58,058 --> 00:29:03,940
suing even having money to pay costs on

649
00:29:00,220 --> 00:29:05,740
that grade as if even even winning even

650
00:29:03,940 --> 00:29:08,350
working the case it looks like singers

651
00:29:05,740 --> 00:29:09,500
lost and I chunk of two years of his

652
00:29:08,349 --> 00:29:11,599
life

653
00:29:09,500 --> 00:29:14,630
and even if you if it gets costs facts

654
00:29:11,599 --> 00:29:16,699
like to be back about 40,000 down which

655
00:29:14,630 --> 00:29:18,860
in yourself as well it is is the way

656

00:29:16,700 --> 00:29:22,220
above the average annual income in the

657
00:29:18,859 --> 00:29:24,199
UK brain dark adds to this that door

658
00:29:22,220 --> 00:29:26,240
went after several leading dyslexia

659
00:29:24,200 --> 00:29:28,190
academics they should be able to show

660
00:29:26,240 --> 00:29:31,220
that they are right by research and not

661
00:29:28,190 --> 00:29:32,960
by libel law yes oh I mean this is

662
00:29:31,220 --> 00:29:35,329
always the trouble with alternative

663
00:29:32,960 --> 00:29:37,340
medicine or the wealthy proponents of

664
00:29:35,329 --> 00:29:39,799
alternative medicine anyway because the

665
00:29:37,339 --> 00:29:42,289
evidence base is so lacking the the

666
00:29:39,799 --> 00:29:44,210
courts are relatively easy way of

667
00:29:42,289 --> 00:29:46,879
ensuring that awkward questions aren't

668
00:29:44,210 --> 00:29:49,370
asked I mean it'd be nice in a perfect

669
00:29:46,880 --> 00:29:51,290
world of everybody could debate the

670
00:29:49,369 --> 00:29:53,899

strength of a visit and on the basis of

671

00:29:51,289 --> 00:29:55,700

evidence supporting it but some people

672

00:29:53,900 --> 00:29:58,400

have to be at kicking and screaming to

673

00:29:55,700 --> 00:30:01,370

do just that it is now quite some time

674

00:29:58,400 --> 00:30:03,350

after 2008 what has changed with door

675

00:30:01,369 --> 00:30:05,239

it's a bit complicated because as you

676

00:30:03,349 --> 00:30:07,639

know I am door went into administration

677

00:30:05,240 --> 00:30:12,039

and then a new doll rose from the ashes

678

00:30:07,640 --> 00:30:16,130

and and the door was still quite

679

00:30:12,039 --> 00:30:18,829

uncertain of where they got the money

680

00:30:16,130 --> 00:30:21,140

and how they bought the old version of

681

00:30:18,829 --> 00:30:23,750

doors intellectual property rights I am

682

00:30:21,140 --> 00:30:25,730

investigating it um and I do hope to

683

00:30:23,750 --> 00:30:28,069

blog on it soon in the next couple of

684

00:30:25,730 --> 00:30:31,309

weeks the only trouble is there's a UK

685
00:30:28,069 --> 00:30:33,589
election on at the moment so this I will

686
00:30:31,309 --> 00:30:36,259
be looking into and who is behind the

687
00:30:33,589 --> 00:30:38,389
new door but as i said earlier their

688
00:30:36,259 --> 00:30:40,819
business model seems to be roughly the

689
00:30:38,390 --> 00:30:43,730
same as the previous door which raises

690
00:30:40,819 --> 00:30:46,460
serious questions about the phone I the

691
00:30:43,730 --> 00:30:48,019
financial viability I mean they used to

692
00:30:46,460 --> 00:30:49,940
saying theories they seem to use the

693
00:30:48,019 --> 00:30:51,529
same sort of infrastructures you stand

694
00:30:49,940 --> 00:30:54,740
on your wobble board and you throw your

695
00:30:51,529 --> 00:30:58,639
bean bags and they have a few new and

696
00:30:54,740 --> 00:31:00,680
web based methods of assessment but what

697
00:30:58,640 --> 00:31:02,870
is interesting is that the new door who

698
00:31:00,680 --> 00:31:05,120
are now called dinoball limited or the

699
00:31:02,869 --> 00:31:08,479
work called dynamo limited up until

700
00:31:05,119 --> 00:31:10,639
January of this year and have now become

701
00:31:08,480 --> 00:31:14,200
what is called a community interest

702
00:31:10,640 --> 00:31:17,540
company now this is a sort of unique and

703
00:31:14,200 --> 00:31:21,350
structure in the UK for businesses whose

704
00:31:17,539 --> 00:31:23,180
main aim is to improve the to improve

705
00:31:21,349 --> 00:31:24,919
the community basically I mean I think

706
00:31:23,180 --> 00:31:27,230
back to the people behind or being

707
00:31:24,920 --> 00:31:30,710
quickly genuine in their desire to to

708
00:31:27,230 --> 00:31:34,819
help people but what this does is it

709
00:31:30,710 --> 00:31:37,069
offers and tax breaks and it reduces the

710
00:31:34,819 --> 00:31:39,470
liability of the shareholders and the

711
00:31:37,069 --> 00:31:42,019
event of administration which is an

712
00:31:39,470 --> 00:31:44,809
interesting issue given doors past but

713

00:31:42,019 --> 00:31:47,389
it also limits the ability of share

714
00:31:44,809 --> 00:31:49,879
holders to profits as well which I think

715
00:31:47,390 --> 00:31:51,920
on the face of it does give this new

716
00:31:49,880 --> 00:31:55,070
version of door making increased moral

717
00:31:51,920 --> 00:31:56,420
standing at least to this and say we're

718
00:31:55,069 --> 00:31:58,460
in it because we want to make people

719
00:31:56,420 --> 00:32:00,170
better not for the money but that's

720
00:31:58,460 --> 00:32:02,269
never really been an argument against

721
00:32:00,170 --> 00:32:04,039
them the argument is simply it's a

722
00:32:02,269 --> 00:32:06,200
simple question of efficacy does door

723
00:32:04,039 --> 00:32:08,599
work if it doesn't work then why are you

724
00:32:06,200 --> 00:32:10,279
charging this money for it I am trying

725
00:32:08,599 --> 00:32:12,859
to find out why they haven't submitted

726
00:32:10,279 --> 00:32:14,960
their accounts they have got a

727
00:32:12,859 --> 00:32:16,729

legitimate extension of this but they

728

00:32:14,960 --> 00:32:19,340
are not responding to inquiries at the

729

00:32:16,730 --> 00:32:21,620
moment brain dark ads that door could

730

00:32:19,339 --> 00:32:23,779
afford much better PR than a bunch of

731

00:32:21,619 --> 00:32:25,339
bloggers if it wasn't for being Goldacre

732

00:32:23,779 --> 00:32:28,160
I doubt we wouldn't have even been

733

00:32:25,339 --> 00:32:29,929
noticed much however right we are but

734

00:32:28,160 --> 00:32:32,000
when people have this information they

735

00:32:29,930 --> 00:32:34,130
do change their behavior there was a

736

00:32:32,000 --> 00:32:36,740
fantastic program in Australia four

737

00:32:34,130 --> 00:32:39,080
corners the behavior business which when

738

00:32:36,740 --> 00:32:41,210
door file for bankruptcy we could see

739

00:32:39,079 --> 00:32:43,220
cut their customer signups by half

740

00:32:41,210 --> 00:32:45,799
leading daughter go bankrupt in

741

00:32:43,220 --> 00:32:48,829
Australia and not restart when there has

742
00:32:45,799 --> 00:32:50,869
restarted in many other countries dogs

743
00:32:48,829 --> 00:32:54,289
seem to have responded to this by using

744
00:32:50,869 --> 00:32:56,929
soft PR using case studies they've even

745
00:32:54,289 --> 00:32:59,539
taken the nonsensical boss all common

746
00:32:56,930 --> 00:33:01,759
research of their website it now has

747
00:32:59,539 --> 00:33:04,519
pictures of smiling children not

748
00:33:01,759 --> 00:33:07,309
white-coated doctors door have

749
00:33:04,519 --> 00:33:09,410
increasingly also being using rugby

750
00:33:07,309 --> 00:33:12,019
players to promote their business some

751
00:33:09,410 --> 00:33:14,390
of whom now own the company and this

752
00:33:12,019 --> 00:33:17,059
isn't usually mentioned on TV interviews

753
00:33:14,390 --> 00:33:19,009
talk about the about the advertising

754
00:33:17,059 --> 00:33:22,190
standards authority building connected

755
00:33:19,009 --> 00:33:24,109
or basically door were advertising with

756
00:33:22,190 --> 00:33:26,779
Google's but with google sports

757
00:33:24,109 --> 00:33:29,990
sponsored search fodor's and they had an

758
00:33:26,779 --> 00:33:32,000
advert suggestion the boating the door

759
00:33:29,990 --> 00:33:36,529
program asked people needed help with

760
00:33:32,000 --> 00:33:37,308
dyslexia ADHD dyslexia or source

761
00:33:36,529 --> 00:33:40,220
purchase

762
00:33:37,308 --> 00:33:41,599
I put in a complaint to the UK's

763
00:33:40,220 --> 00:33:44,360
Advertising Standards Authority about

764
00:33:41,599 --> 00:33:46,939
this as it in most settings in the UK

765
00:33:44,359 --> 00:33:48,648
and almost advertised I put a product or

766
00:33:46,940 --> 00:33:50,179
service is being able to do as be able

767
00:33:48,648 --> 00:33:52,699
to do something you have to have

768
00:33:50,179 --> 00:33:55,519
reasonable evidence that that can do it

769
00:33:52,700 --> 00:33:58,100
so I put in a complaint challenging were

770

00:33:55,519 --> 00:34:00,769
Theodore was actually able to be to be

771
00:33:58,099 --> 00:34:03,109
any help with with these with his little

772
00:34:00,769 --> 00:34:05,480
learning difficulties they named which

773
00:34:03,109 --> 00:34:07,699
resulted in the AAS a building that the

774
00:34:05,480 --> 00:34:09,349
door advert was misleading and that he

775
00:34:07,700 --> 00:34:11,500
breached the essays rules on

776
00:34:09,349 --> 00:34:14,539
truthfulness and substantiation

777
00:34:11,500 --> 00:34:16,760
effectively they say us asked or what

778
00:34:14,539 --> 00:34:18,500
evidence they they had that their

779
00:34:16,760 --> 00:34:20,810
program could work to help with these

780
00:34:18,500 --> 00:34:23,210
conditions door submitted to what

781
00:34:20,809 --> 00:34:25,009
evidence what evidence they could they

782
00:34:23,210 --> 00:34:26,869
say found the evidence is admitted it

783
00:34:25,010 --> 00:34:29,419
wasn't enough to support the type of

784
00:34:26,869 --> 00:34:32,480

claims the door the door was making and

785

00:34:29,418 --> 00:34:34,598

therefore up and therefore upheld to

786

00:34:32,480 --> 00:34:39,289

come up hard to complaint against them

787

00:34:34,599 --> 00:34:40,789

which if any means they're taking the

788

00:34:39,289 --> 00:34:42,889

time to assess the evidence door was

789

00:34:40,789 --> 00:34:44,440

able to provide and found is not

790

00:34:42,889 --> 00:34:48,019

sufficient to support the type of claims

791

00:34:44,440 --> 00:34:51,500

their doors making however's GIMP is

792

00:34:48,019 --> 00:34:53,568

point out door still have since then

793

00:34:51,500 --> 00:34:56,449

continue to make to make these types of

794

00:34:53,568 --> 00:34:58,579

claims one of the things about modern

795

00:34:56,449 --> 00:35:01,279

technology we now have access to twitter

796

00:34:58,579 --> 00:35:03,349

and brain duck ads we've also had to put

797

00:35:01,280 --> 00:35:05,599

in complaints about several claims by

798

00:35:03,349 --> 00:35:07,789

door on twitter where they've claimed

799

00:35:05,599 --> 00:35:11,030
that they treat the root causes of

800

00:35:07,789 --> 00:35:13,179
dyslexia so we're continuing to watch on

801

00:35:11,030 --> 00:35:15,650
several different fronts now i guess

802

00:35:13,179 --> 00:35:18,049
that definitely i think one of the

803

00:35:15,650 --> 00:35:22,400
things bloggers can do is where

804

00:35:18,050 --> 00:35:24,470
companies use the new media in attempt

805

00:35:22,400 --> 00:35:27,588
to generate good good PR or to generate

806

00:35:24,469 --> 00:35:30,980
attention blog yourself be quite well

807

00:35:27,588 --> 00:35:33,588
placed to respond flexibly to this so

808

00:35:30,980 --> 00:35:35,449
what do you also recommend gimpy in

809

00:35:33,588 --> 00:35:38,719
terms of what people can do to help

810

00:35:35,449 --> 00:35:40,250
raise awareness it's basically about

811

00:35:38,719 --> 00:35:42,259
telling as many people as possible

812

00:35:40,250 --> 00:35:44,239
whether that's through the media or on

813
00:35:42,260 --> 00:35:49,760
twitter or through the blog and so on

814
00:35:44,239 --> 00:35:50,929
and there's a lot of conflicting causes

815
00:35:49,760 --> 00:35:55,579
that people have so

816
00:35:50,929 --> 00:35:58,699
an approach that I'm becoming more fond

817
00:35:55,579 --> 00:36:02,960
of these days it's as well as the sort

818
00:35:58,699 --> 00:36:04,909
of general raising awareness of the

819
00:36:02,960 --> 00:36:07,849
problems of the various air dubious

820
00:36:04,909 --> 00:36:10,088
sound claimed skewers for specific

821
00:36:07,849 --> 00:36:12,619
learning difficulties and so on but I'm

822
00:36:10,088 --> 00:36:14,480
they go going back to what I said it

823
00:36:12,619 --> 00:36:16,338
started it's about also about the

824
00:36:14,480 --> 00:36:21,858
regulatory structures that are in place

825
00:36:16,338 --> 00:36:24,949
to prevent and companies lab door taking

826
00:36:21,858 --> 00:36:28,429
advantage of people no door unlike comee

827

00:36:24,949 --> 00:36:30,909
path so on should in theory be following

828
00:36:28,429 --> 00:36:32,690
illustrate laws governing the conduct of

829
00:36:30,909 --> 00:36:36,799
businesses at Community Interest

830
00:36:32,690 --> 00:36:40,869
companies charities and so on so yeah

831
00:36:36,800 --> 00:36:43,730
one of the ways to challenge door is to

832
00:36:40,869 --> 00:36:47,660
bring to the attention of the regulators

833
00:36:43,730 --> 00:36:50,150
there conducts as a means of an

834
00:36:47,659 --> 00:36:51,920
increasing sort of regulatory scrutiny

835
00:36:50,150 --> 00:36:55,480
on them to make sure that they are

836
00:36:51,920 --> 00:36:58,639
behaving appropriately I also liked

837
00:36:55,480 --> 00:37:02,269
talking to parents keeping in touch with

838
00:36:58,639 --> 00:37:04,279
people who do work in ABA treatments in

839
00:37:02,269 --> 00:37:06,699
treatments which have been shown to help

840
00:37:04,280 --> 00:37:10,069
out with things like dyslexia dyspraxia

841
00:37:06,699 --> 00:37:12,318

autism and brain duck has added here

842

00:37:10,068 --> 00:37:14,630

that one particularly worrying thing

843

00:37:12,318 --> 00:37:16,699

about door being partly owned by various

844

00:37:14,630 --> 00:37:18,920

welsh rugby players is that they're

845

00:37:16,699 --> 00:37:21,348

using this to get special access to the

846

00:37:18,920 --> 00:37:24,170

welsh assembly government using fame

847

00:37:21,349 --> 00:37:26,000

rather than evidence she's turned up to

848

00:37:24,170 --> 00:37:27,980

the welsh assembly in person to

849

00:37:26,000 --> 00:37:29,599

challenge this but it's difficult when

850

00:37:27,980 --> 00:37:32,329

you have to start by explaining the

851

00:37:29,599 --> 00:37:33,710

concept of a fair trial would you think

852

00:37:32,329 --> 00:37:35,599

speaks number for some of the broader

853

00:37:33,710 --> 00:37:38,329

issues around how people have people

854

00:37:35,599 --> 00:37:40,880

think about evidence it's a it's an

855

00:37:38,329 --> 00:37:45,559

interesting question because it's pretty

856
00:37:40,880 --> 00:37:48,670
unreasonable to expect and the entire

857
00:37:45,559 --> 00:37:53,510
political class inside media class to

858
00:37:48,670 --> 00:37:55,579
understand the issues of having a

859
00:37:53,510 --> 00:37:59,089
specific learning difficulty as well as

860
00:37:55,579 --> 00:38:01,310
to know how to determine your signs from

861
00:37:59,088 --> 00:38:06,380
your pseudoscience and so on

862
00:38:01,309 --> 00:38:08,389
ultimately what people who are

863
00:38:06,380 --> 00:38:10,490
interested in trying to increase the

864
00:38:08,389 --> 00:38:14,960
amount of skepticism in society have to

865
00:38:10,489 --> 00:38:18,459
do is explain to people why their own

866
00:38:14,960 --> 00:38:21,940
personal judgment is often not a good

867
00:38:18,460 --> 00:38:25,460
guarantee of how true a claim is and

868
00:38:21,940 --> 00:38:27,940
it's about teaching people the value of

869
00:38:25,460 --> 00:38:31,400
evidence the value of expertise and

870
00:38:27,940 --> 00:38:35,800
knowing that simply alton opinion

871
00:38:31,400 --> 00:38:38,450
yourself is not a justification for a

872
00:38:35,800 --> 00:38:40,340
policy or someone that you're interested

873
00:38:38,449 --> 00:38:43,219
in but you you have to consider the

874
00:38:40,340 --> 00:38:45,829
wider evidence base brain duck is added

875
00:38:43,219 --> 00:38:47,329
to this i would probably also add the

876
00:38:45,829 --> 00:38:50,329
fact that we networked together as

877
00:38:47,329 --> 00:38:52,519
bloggers and the opportunities that dr.

878
00:38:50,329 --> 00:38:54,380
ben goldacre gave us was extremely

879
00:38:52,519 --> 00:38:56,780
useful when you are explaining why

880
00:38:54,380 --> 00:38:59,180
something does not work use this as a

881
00:38:56,780 --> 00:39:01,720
toolkit communicate how to evaluate

882
00:38:59,179 --> 00:39:04,519
claims not just all this is nonsense

883
00:39:01,719 --> 00:39:07,069
it's not unreasonable to expect people

884

00:39:04,519 --> 00:39:09,860
to not understand what a control group

885
00:39:07,070 --> 00:39:12,019
is but they can be taught since she

886
00:39:09,860 --> 00:39:14,360
considers herself a psychology geek it's

887
00:39:12,019 --> 00:39:17,360
also about understanding what cognitive

888
00:39:14,360 --> 00:39:20,059
biases are your own how to overcome them

889
00:39:17,360 --> 00:39:21,829
and other people's to explain them and

890
00:39:20,059 --> 00:39:25,250
to hijack them towards a better

891
00:39:21,829 --> 00:39:28,489
understanding of how to use evidence the

892
00:39:25,250 --> 00:39:30,849
other thing one aspect of this is there

893
00:39:28,489 --> 00:39:32,899
is the kind of social context in which

894
00:39:30,849 --> 00:39:35,000
in which specifically learning

895
00:39:32,900 --> 00:39:37,820
difficulties as well as challenging

896
00:39:35,000 --> 00:39:39,679
dubis GBS treatment service for these

897
00:39:37,820 --> 00:39:41,900
conditions it's also important to

898
00:39:39,679 --> 00:39:44,779

emphasize that is not the end of the

899

00:39:41,900 --> 00:39:47,539

world that people do do develop do

900

00:39:44,780 --> 00:39:49,610

develop coping strategies and that time

901

00:39:47,539 --> 00:39:55,039

energy resources might be better spent

902

00:39:49,610 --> 00:39:58,220

on developing so so developing social

903

00:39:55,039 --> 00:40:00,710

structures where people with some

904

00:39:58,219 --> 00:40:02,659

difficulties are more able to contribute

905

00:40:00,710 --> 00:40:05,090

fully rather than desperately hunting

906

00:40:02,659 --> 00:40:07,819

for some kind some kind of miracle cure

907

00:40:05,090 --> 00:40:09,950

very well put yes and that's one of the

908

00:40:07,820 --> 00:40:11,900

things that Winfred or even put on his

909

00:40:09,949 --> 00:40:14,329

book that he had the miracle cure

910

00:40:11,900 --> 00:40:15,079

through what he was doing and it just

911

00:40:14,329 --> 00:40:18,440

hasn't been

912

00:40:15,079 --> 00:40:21,469

own to be true brain dark ads absolutely

913
00:40:18,440 --> 00:40:24,829
door sales hope but people with SPL DS

914
00:40:21,469 --> 00:40:28,249
don't need to buy it I actually it's

915
00:40:24,829 --> 00:40:32,180
always slightly difficult I find to

916
00:40:28,248 --> 00:40:34,639
argue but coping with specific loan debt

917
00:40:32,179 --> 00:40:38,719
about cocaine it's never about curing it

918
00:40:34,639 --> 00:40:42,650
and I think it's certainly it's

919
00:40:38,719 --> 00:40:45,349
something I he struggled with a bit as a

920
00:40:42,650 --> 00:40:47,358
teenager just I mean I was also a

921
00:40:45,349 --> 00:40:50,329
critically noxious teenagers which

922
00:40:47,358 --> 00:40:54,048
probably partly to do with that but just

923
00:40:50,329 --> 00:40:55,670
I think the realization that's times you

924
00:40:54,048 --> 00:40:57,440
just have to work a little bit harder

925
00:40:55,670 --> 00:41:00,289
than everyone else to achieve the steam

926
00:40:57,440 --> 00:41:02,958
sort of standards but i think that like

927

00:41:00,289 --> 00:41:07,700

the freeway isn't it i mean you cope

928

00:41:02,958 --> 00:41:09,649

with the hydrogen and you buy on support

929

00:41:07,699 --> 00:41:12,468

from your family from friends from wider

930

00:41:09,650 --> 00:41:14,420

society and and you get it which is the

931

00:41:12,469 --> 00:41:17,239

great thing about it i mean and things

932

00:41:14,420 --> 00:41:19,670

like or just a distraction they were

933

00:41:17,239 --> 00:41:22,909

distraction the important things which

934

00:41:19,670 --> 00:41:27,619

is basically getting on with it as best

935

00:41:22,909 --> 00:41:31,338

you can and appreciating the help with

936

00:41:27,619 --> 00:41:33,318

people offer ya brain duck also adds yes

937

00:41:31,338 --> 00:41:35,838

but developmental differences are not

938

00:41:33,318 --> 00:41:37,880

developmental stasis people find a niche

939

00:41:35,838 --> 00:41:39,619

and learn to do things better no one

940

00:41:37,880 --> 00:41:41,749

thought when I was first diagnosed with

941

00:41:39,619 --> 00:41:44,509
dyspraxia that I would be ending up

942
00:41:41,748 --> 00:41:47,238
running marathons so that is wonderful

943
00:41:44,509 --> 00:41:50,298
tonight thank you so much all of you

944
00:41:47,239 --> 00:41:53,119
gimpy holford watch and brain dark for

945
00:41:50,298 --> 00:41:55,858
joining us on a skeptic zone

946
00:41:53,119 --> 00:41:57,960
to learn more about door and the other

947
00:41:55,858 --> 00:42:00,858
skeptical investigations that these blob

948
00:41:57,960 --> 00:42:05,099
is right about head to GIMP ease blog at

949
00:42:00,858 --> 00:42:09,420
gimpy blog wordpress com brain ducks

950
00:42:05,099 --> 00:42:11,940
blog at Brenda wordpress com and the

951
00:42:09,420 --> 00:42:28,588
whole food watch blog at Hallford watch

952
00:42:11,940 --> 00:42:30,838
dot info this is des Rochelle hosted

953
00:42:28,588 --> 00:42:33,059
skeptically speaking check out our

954
00:42:30,838 --> 00:42:37,019
website at skeptically speaking calm and

955
00:42:33,059 --> 00:42:40,799

listen to us live on CJ sr 88.5 FM in

956

00:42:37,019 --> 00:42:51,630

edmonton alberta canada I now return you

957

00:42:40,800 --> 00:42:56,720

to the skeptic zone let's all take this

958

00:42:51,630 --> 00:42:56,720

with a grain of salt he's around second

959

00:42:59,539 --> 00:43:03,889

David R&R which is a journalist with a

960

00:43:01,980 --> 00:43:06,780

regular column in The Times newspaper

961

00:43:03,889 --> 00:43:09,150

he's also a broadcaster a documentary

962

00:43:06,780 --> 00:43:10,800

maker in the author of two books the

963

00:43:09,150 --> 00:43:12,990

latter of which is voodoo history's

964

00:43:10,800 --> 00:43:15,510

about the role of the conspiracy theory

965

00:43:12,989 --> 00:43:16,649

in shaping modern history David thank

966

00:43:15,510 --> 00:43:18,480

you very much for joining me on the

967

00:43:16,650 --> 00:43:20,190

skeptic zone are you're more than

968

00:43:18,480 --> 00:43:21,750

welcome could you tell me a little bit

969

00:43:20,190 --> 00:43:24,240

about your role as a journalist because

970
00:43:21,750 --> 00:43:25,440
we in when we spoke before recording you

971
00:43:24,239 --> 00:43:27,029
told me about a few of the things that

972
00:43:25,440 --> 00:43:28,500
you're interested in and of course

973
00:43:27,030 --> 00:43:31,500
you're interested in conspiracy theories

974
00:43:28,500 --> 00:43:33,690
but that's not your only interest I know

975
00:43:31,500 --> 00:43:36,889
it's a it's not I mean I've been a

976
00:43:33,690 --> 00:43:39,960
journalist in television radio and print

977
00:43:36,889 --> 00:43:41,670
four more years really Navin I like to

978
00:43:39,960 --> 00:43:43,230
enumerate you always think of yourself

979
00:43:41,670 --> 00:43:44,519
as young but there comes a certain point

980
00:43:43,230 --> 00:43:47,159
that we tried to admit we've been doing

981
00:43:44,519 --> 00:43:49,079
for a long time and I've been working in

982
00:43:47,159 --> 00:43:53,429
journalism for the quarter of a century

983
00:43:49,079 --> 00:43:56,309
now and I'm mostly interested in

984
00:43:53,429 --> 00:43:58,289
international affairs politics culture

985
00:43:56,309 --> 00:44:02,429
and the media and the interrelationship

986
00:43:58,289 --> 00:44:05,099
between them so that's the area that I

987
00:44:02,429 --> 00:44:06,750
write about for the times as a columnist

988
00:44:05,099 --> 00:44:09,059
and I've also worked on other newspapers

989
00:44:06,750 --> 00:44:10,769
too now you wrote a book about

990
00:44:09,059 --> 00:44:12,299
conspiracy theories of course the

991
00:44:10,769 --> 00:44:15,360
introduction of the book is titled blame

992
00:44:12,300 --> 00:44:17,670
Kevin and it arrives it describes how

993
00:44:15,360 --> 00:44:20,190
you came to be aware and skeptical of

994
00:44:17,670 --> 00:44:23,070
conspiracy theories can you tell us how

995
00:44:20,190 --> 00:44:25,679
that happened yeah absolutely i mean I

996
00:44:23,070 --> 00:44:27,120
believe I i I've increasingly been very

997
00:44:25,679 --> 00:44:28,889
interested in why people believe what

998

00:44:27,119 --> 00:44:30,420
they do this is largely because I was

999
00:44:28,889 --> 00:44:32,730
brought up in the household of

1000
00:44:30,420 --> 00:44:34,470
Communists my father was a full-time

1001
00:44:32,730 --> 00:44:40,409
worker for the British Communist Party

1002
00:44:34,469 --> 00:44:41,909
and in the 50s and 60s and I've spent a

1003
00:44:40,409 --> 00:44:43,980
lot of time my next book actually will

1004
00:44:41,909 --> 00:44:45,960
be an exploration of that world but that

1005
00:44:43,980 --> 00:44:47,880
business of why people choose to believe

1006
00:44:45,960 --> 00:44:50,550
what they do and about commitments I was

1007
00:44:47,880 --> 00:44:52,920
always fascinated me and but one aspect

1008
00:44:50,550 --> 00:44:57,750
of it that began to introduce me a lot

1009
00:44:52,920 --> 00:44:59,400
after nine eleven was the area of hoaxes

1010
00:44:57,750 --> 00:45:02,550
and conspiracy theories in other words

1011
00:44:59,400 --> 00:45:04,289
how people would choose to believe that

1012
00:45:02,550 --> 00:45:06,539

what seems on the face of it to be

1013

00:45:04,289 --> 00:45:08,519

absurd things and how intelligent people

1014

00:45:06,539 --> 00:45:11,789

will believe absurd things now there's a

1015

00:45:08,519 --> 00:45:14,250

particular cause which is a moment which

1016

00:45:11,789 --> 00:45:15,480

made me think if I need to I feel like I

1017

00:45:14,250 --> 00:45:18,239

kind of need to write this book and this

1018

00:45:15,480 --> 00:45:21,300

was when I was with this chap called

1019

00:45:18,239 --> 00:45:24,539

Kevin terrific guy we were filming in

1020

00:45:21,300 --> 00:45:27,390

Tunisia together for a BBC program which

1021

00:45:24,539 --> 00:45:30,389

was about empower in tourist

1022

00:45:27,389 --> 00:45:32,519

destinations the tourists can go about

1023

00:45:30,389 --> 00:45:35,940

their business completely unaware of the

1024

00:45:32,519 --> 00:45:37,800

bad treatment and torture of local

1025

00:45:35,940 --> 00:45:39,329

dissidents and so this is kind of

1026

00:45:37,800 --> 00:45:40,710

difficult program to do because the

1027
00:45:39,329 --> 00:45:42,210
Tunisian secret police were watching

1028
00:45:40,710 --> 00:45:44,670
quite a lot of the places where we were

1029
00:45:42,210 --> 00:45:47,010
going and so on and so kevin was a kind

1030
00:45:44,670 --> 00:45:49,289
of ultra-reliable ultra sensible and

1031
00:45:47,010 --> 00:45:50,910
intelligent guy to go with he was acting

1032
00:45:49,289 --> 00:45:54,059
as the cameramen and we had to travel

1033
00:45:50,909 --> 00:45:56,730
down from the north to the center of the

1034
00:45:54,059 --> 00:45:58,289
country quite a long way and it was on

1035
00:45:56,730 --> 00:46:01,650
this journey that he sadly turned around

1036
00:45:58,289 --> 00:46:04,860
to me and started talking about the moon

1037
00:46:01,650 --> 00:46:06,420
landings the moon landing in 1969 and he

1038
00:46:04,860 --> 00:46:07,920
asked me what I thought about it I said

1039
00:46:06,420 --> 00:46:10,769
but I've seen it on television when I

1040
00:46:07,920 --> 00:46:12,630
was a kid and he then would not to tell

1041
00:46:10,769 --> 00:46:15,750
me that I hadn't it has all been mocked

1042
00:46:12,630 --> 00:46:17,550
up in a stage somewhere the evidence for

1043
00:46:15,750 --> 00:46:17,940
this lioness is playing a series of

1044
00:46:17,550 --> 00:46:21,210
discs

1045
00:46:17,940 --> 00:46:22,858
repin see about the photography and so

1046
00:46:21,210 --> 00:46:25,559
on and then said you know what do you

1047
00:46:22,858 --> 00:46:27,029
think about this and I said well my

1048
00:46:25,559 --> 00:46:29,909
first reaction this wasn't know anything

1049
00:46:27,030 --> 00:46:31,560
about it if I I feel instinctively able

1050
00:46:29,909 --> 00:46:34,769
to taken a lot more effort to organize a

1051
00:46:31,559 --> 00:46:36,659
hoax moon-landing than a real one much

1052
00:46:34,769 --> 00:46:38,068
easier to do the real one so in a way

1053
00:46:36,659 --> 00:46:41,309
what you're choosing to believe I said

1054
00:46:38,068 --> 00:46:44,940
in is something much more ridiculous

1055

00:46:41,309 --> 00:46:46,409
than that there would be a real moon

1056
00:46:44,940 --> 00:46:48,599
landing something much more complicated

1057
00:46:46,409 --> 00:46:49,828
something and it's interesting to me

1058
00:46:48,599 --> 00:46:51,838
that you want to believe it and I

1059
00:46:49,829 --> 00:46:53,519
thought about this out afterwards I

1060
00:46:51,838 --> 00:46:57,239
thought there's something really here to

1061
00:46:53,519 --> 00:46:59,449
be explained I wondered how you could

1062
00:46:57,239 --> 00:47:01,618
choose to believe something that was

1063
00:46:59,449 --> 00:47:03,210
choose to believe something that was

1064
00:47:01,619 --> 00:47:06,000
inherently more ridiculous from the

1065
00:47:03,210 --> 00:47:10,889
thing that you were questioning that was

1066
00:47:06,000 --> 00:47:12,568
inherently are much more unlikely and so

1067
00:47:10,889 --> 00:47:14,338
that kind of started me often looking at

1068
00:47:12,568 --> 00:47:16,469
the conspiracy is an all-star about the

1069
00:47:14,338 --> 00:47:19,230

time that the first conspiracy theories

1070

00:47:16,469 --> 00:47:23,129

about 911 were beginning to appear this

1071

00:47:19,230 --> 00:47:24,568

was in 2002 so I looked I just simply

1072

00:47:23,130 --> 00:47:25,829

started looking at all the conspiracy

1073

00:47:24,568 --> 00:47:28,108

theories that went around including at

1074

00:47:25,829 --> 00:47:31,380

least a couple which I had in a kind of

1075

00:47:28,108 --> 00:47:34,710

quiet way believed in myself like the

1076

00:47:31,380 --> 00:47:36,420

conspiracy to kill JFK or the idea that

1077

00:47:34,710 --> 00:47:38,699

Hitler would set fire to the Reichstag I

1078

00:47:36,420 --> 00:47:41,250

looked at dozens and actually boiling

1079

00:47:38,699 --> 00:47:42,838

them down to get to see a range of

1080

00:47:41,250 --> 00:47:44,969

conspiracy theories of different types

1081

00:47:42,838 --> 00:47:47,009

and see both what they had in common and

1082

00:47:44,969 --> 00:47:49,078

what was different about them was really

1083

00:47:47,010 --> 00:47:51,420

a huge task just like took me nearly six

1084
00:47:49,079 --> 00:47:53,818
years to write the book it took me a

1085
00:47:51,420 --> 00:47:55,800
very long time but it was it was

1086
00:47:53,818 --> 00:47:58,380
fascinating and I could easily have

1087
00:47:55,800 --> 00:48:01,769
extended the book to include urban myths

1088
00:47:58,380 --> 00:48:04,588
or extended it to include conspiracy

1089
00:48:01,769 --> 00:48:06,358
theories not in Western countries but in

1090
00:48:04,588 --> 00:48:09,449
other countries too and so on but it was

1091
00:48:06,358 --> 00:48:12,539
so many that boiling them down was a

1092
00:48:09,449 --> 00:48:15,719
real kind of labor but I got through it

1093
00:48:12,539 --> 00:48:17,190
in the end now before we actually go on

1094
00:48:15,719 --> 00:48:18,899
just to speak about the specific

1095
00:48:17,190 --> 00:48:20,750
conspiracies that you cover in your book

1096
00:48:18,900 --> 00:48:22,858
you're discussing the book several

1097
00:48:20,750 --> 00:48:26,039
possible definitions of a conspiracy

1098
00:48:22,858 --> 00:48:27,299
theory and you chose one definition can

1099
00:48:26,039 --> 00:48:30,340
you tell us what it is and why you chose

1100
00:48:27,300 --> 00:48:32,950
it yeah but essentially

1101
00:48:30,340 --> 00:48:36,100
it is if you like the abduction of them

1102
00:48:32,949 --> 00:48:37,899
of a less likely theory as being the

1103
00:48:36,099 --> 00:48:39,639
most likely theory that's essentially

1104
00:48:37,900 --> 00:48:41,230
what a conspiracy theory is I mean the

1105
00:48:39,639 --> 00:48:44,259
one thing you can say about conspiracy

1106
00:48:41,230 --> 00:48:46,960
theories in entirety is that they tend

1107
00:48:44,260 --> 00:48:49,740
to abandon the role of accidents and

1108
00:48:46,960 --> 00:48:52,630
contingency in human life and to give

1109
00:48:49,739 --> 00:48:53,979
agency deliberate agency for almost

1110
00:48:52,630 --> 00:48:56,200
everything that happens so in other

1111
00:48:53,980 --> 00:48:59,139
words to conspiracy theorists the First

1112

00:48:56,199 --> 00:49:02,649
World War was was was deliberated upon

1113
00:48:59,139 --> 00:49:05,379
by somebody and its outcome decided by

1114
00:49:02,650 --> 00:49:08,500
somebody whereas installing would see it

1115
00:49:05,380 --> 00:49:11,320
as a combination of a huge number of

1116
00:49:08,500 --> 00:49:16,269
disparate incidents which combine to

1117
00:49:11,320 --> 00:49:18,610
create a particular event and so all the

1118
00:49:16,269 --> 00:49:19,960
time although it is both infocus

1119
00:49:18,610 --> 00:49:23,200
projector is usually a huge

1120
00:49:19,960 --> 00:49:25,869
simplification it is also a huge over

1121
00:49:23,199 --> 00:49:27,969
complex over complexification at the

1122
00:49:25,869 --> 00:49:30,460
same time if you see what I mean it

1123
00:49:27,969 --> 00:49:34,539
manages at the same time to be both of

1124
00:49:30,460 --> 00:49:37,510
conspiracy who is essentially a decision

1125
00:49:34,539 --> 00:49:39,130
to believe a less likely version of

1126
00:49:37,510 --> 00:49:41,590

history that's that's pretty much what

1127

00:49:39,130 --> 00:49:44,140
it is and you've chosen specific

1128

00:49:41,590 --> 00:49:47,380
conspiracies that obviously first of all

1129

00:49:44,139 --> 00:49:49,150
meet that definition but also cover a

1130

00:49:47,380 --> 00:49:51,220
range of different as you mentioned

1131

00:49:49,150 --> 00:49:53,079
earlier types of conspiracy theories

1132

00:49:51,219 --> 00:49:54,519
could you mention a few of the theory of

1133

00:49:53,079 --> 00:49:55,989
a few of the conspiracy theories you've

1134

00:49:54,519 --> 00:49:58,300
recovered and tell us why you've chosen

1135

00:49:55,989 --> 00:49:59,919
to include those well I wanted for

1136

00:49:58,300 --> 00:50:01,539
instance the first conspiracy theory

1137

00:49:59,920 --> 00:50:03,519
which I look at is the protocols of the

1138

00:50:01,539 --> 00:50:05,739
Elders design or the idea was Jewish

1139

00:50:03,519 --> 00:50:07,960
world conspiracy but it actually could

1140

00:50:05,739 --> 00:50:10,599
stand in the for the notion that a small

1141
00:50:07,960 --> 00:50:12,039
group of people on a global level try to

1142
00:50:10,599 --> 00:50:14,349
cause something to happen which is a

1143
00:50:12,039 --> 00:50:16,539
sort of constant theme in a certain type

1144
00:50:14,349 --> 00:50:18,819
of conspiracy theory the second one that

1145
00:50:16,539 --> 00:50:21,550
I look at is a state-sponsored

1146
00:50:18,820 --> 00:50:23,530
conspiracy theory I the the one in

1147
00:50:21,550 --> 00:50:25,920
Stalinist Russia there was a gigantic

1148
00:50:23,530 --> 00:50:28,480
Trotskyite conspiracy to undermine

1149
00:50:25,920 --> 00:50:32,200
Russia and all the accidents and

1150
00:50:28,480 --> 00:50:34,210
industrial problems that Stalinist

1151
00:50:32,199 --> 00:50:36,609
industrialization had led to was somehow

1152
00:50:34,210 --> 00:50:39,880
the product of deliberate sabotage by

1153
00:50:36,610 --> 00:50:42,010
these people I look at what you might

1154
00:50:39,880 --> 00:50:44,890
call pseudo history

1155
00:50:42,010 --> 00:50:47,200
in terms of what led up to the cut the

1156
00:50:44,889 --> 00:50:48,789
dan brown I mean not me no not those in

1157
00:50:47,199 --> 00:50:50,649
the same league but it's very

1158
00:50:48,789 --> 00:50:52,539
interesting psychologically the Holy

1159
00:50:50,650 --> 00:50:55,180
Blood Holy Grail the idea that the

1160
00:50:52,539 --> 00:50:57,099
Catholic Church conspire to suppress the

1161
00:50:55,179 --> 00:50:59,230
secret bloodline of Jesus because in

1162
00:50:57,099 --> 00:51:01,509
that one I'm looking to see what it is

1163
00:50:59,230 --> 00:51:03,429
about it that people like so much I'd

1164
00:51:01,510 --> 00:51:09,010
love I'd love you to actually tell us

1165
00:51:03,429 --> 00:51:11,619
what the name of that chapter is then

1166
00:51:09,010 --> 00:51:16,090
kids Holy Blood Holy Grail holy the

1167
00:51:11,619 --> 00:51:18,339
name of my circular track by her just

1168
00:51:16,090 --> 00:51:20,260
straight forward me from from memory I

1169

00:51:18,340 --> 00:51:21,789
mean and incidentally is one of those

1170
00:51:20,260 --> 00:51:23,380
kind of things about book writing I put

1171
00:51:21,789 --> 00:51:26,199
that chapter heading down always

1172
00:51:23,380 --> 00:51:29,680
expecting that the publishers would

1173
00:51:26,199 --> 00:51:31,210
demand that I take it out I suppose in a

1174
00:51:29,679 --> 00:51:34,480
way we rather hoping that they would and

1175
00:51:31,210 --> 00:51:36,010
when they didn't I left it in I like it

1176
00:51:34,480 --> 00:51:38,260
that way and then there are they that

1177
00:51:36,010 --> 00:51:42,340
those the conspiracy theories which

1178
00:51:38,260 --> 00:51:45,490
involve cippec iconic individuals a JFK

1179
00:51:42,340 --> 00:51:47,200
Marilyn Princess Diana well I think

1180
00:51:45,489 --> 00:51:49,089
something else is happening there which

1181
00:51:47,199 --> 00:51:52,839
are trying to explain to ourselves the

1182
00:51:49,090 --> 00:51:55,090
sudden taking away of an iconic and

1183
00:51:52,840 --> 00:51:57,039

important figure and then write the way

1184

00:51:55,090 --> 00:51:58,420
down to 911 and some other theories on

1185

00:51:57,039 --> 00:51:59,619
the way I mean there's a whole slew of

1186

00:51:58,420 --> 00:52:02,050
conspiracy theories which are

1187

00:51:59,619 --> 00:52:04,150
essentially similar from the 1980s which

1188

00:52:02,050 --> 00:52:05,950
show that in the old kind of built using

1189

00:52:04,150 --> 00:52:08,079
the Dawkins word conspiracy theories are

1190

00:52:05,949 --> 00:52:09,939
also mimetic in other words there's a

1191

00:52:08,079 --> 00:52:11,889
fashion for certain types of conspiracy

1192

00:52:09,940 --> 00:52:14,619
theories at certain points of history

1193

00:52:11,889 --> 00:52:16,809
which then suddenly disappear well if

1194

00:52:14,619 --> 00:52:18,369
you were to believe in most conspiracy

1195

00:52:16,809 --> 00:52:20,289
theories you wouldn't expect there to be

1196

00:52:18,369 --> 00:52:22,179
only fashionable conspiracy theories to

1197

00:52:20,289 --> 00:52:23,920
be true so it tells us something that

1198
00:52:22,179 --> 00:52:26,619
the construction of conspiracy theories

1199
00:52:23,920 --> 00:52:29,320
is not totally unlike the construction

1200
00:52:26,619 --> 00:52:31,420
of that's a religious movements and so on

1201
00:52:29,320 --> 00:52:34,960
it has the same it has a similar kind of

1202
00:52:31,420 --> 00:52:39,280
faith-based element to it I think

1203
00:52:34,960 --> 00:52:41,829
historically and so that's the kind of

1204
00:52:39,280 --> 00:52:43,960
range that I tried to I try to get in

1205
00:52:41,829 --> 00:52:45,730
and coming right up to date in the in

1206
00:52:43,960 --> 00:52:47,110
the American edition and in the paper

1207
00:52:45,730 --> 00:52:50,380
back which is that be released here in

1208
00:52:47,110 --> 00:52:53,930
Britain also the anti-clinton anti-obama

1209
00:52:50,380 --> 00:52:57,019
conspiracy theories including the birth

1210
00:52:53,929 --> 00:52:59,210
conspiracy theory which show that we

1211
00:52:57,019 --> 00:53:02,420
show the conspiracy theories also are

1212
00:52:59,210 --> 00:53:04,550
come often be a matter of the

1213
00:53:02,420 --> 00:53:07,250
rationalization by the politically

1214
00:53:04,550 --> 00:53:09,470
defeated of their own defeat in other

1215
00:53:07,250 --> 00:53:11,050
words the idea that somebody like you

1216
00:53:09,469 --> 00:53:14,029
know yours Republicans you only lost

1217
00:53:11,050 --> 00:53:17,329
because of the devilishness of this man

1218
00:53:14,030 --> 00:53:20,480
Clinton or the incredible fiendish

1219
00:53:17,329 --> 00:53:22,190
capacity of this terrible man Obama he

1220
00:53:20,480 --> 00:53:24,318
sees you you talk about current politics

1221
00:53:22,190 --> 00:53:26,480
um I was wanted to ask you about the the

1222
00:53:24,318 --> 00:53:27,769
last conspiracy in the in the edition of

1223
00:53:26,480 --> 00:53:31,099
the book which I read which is the

1224
00:53:27,769 --> 00:53:33,230
british version with no Zeds or hardly

1225
00:53:31,099 --> 00:53:35,599
any that that's about dr. David Kelly

1226

00:53:33,230 --> 00:53:37,130
who committed suicide following some

1227
00:53:35,599 --> 00:53:39,019
revelations regarding the war in iraq

1228
00:53:37,130 --> 00:53:40,640
and i was just wondering whether you

1229
00:53:39,019 --> 00:53:42,980
felt you've taken maybe a bit of a risk

1230
00:53:40,639 --> 00:53:44,719
by including something that is as recent

1231
00:53:42,980 --> 00:53:46,730
as that well i imagine that when you say

1232
00:53:44,719 --> 00:53:49,368
taken a risk do you mean I took a risk

1233
00:53:46,730 --> 00:53:50,900
because it may I might turn out to be

1234
00:53:49,369 --> 00:53:53,000
wrong he seems that it could be

1235
00:53:50,900 --> 00:53:55,010
something that he's still high on the

1236
00:53:53,000 --> 00:53:58,579
political agenda in Britain and perhaps

1237
00:53:55,010 --> 00:54:01,339
not seen as a conspiracy theories in the

1238
00:53:58,579 --> 00:54:04,190
minds of most people the way for example

1239
00:54:01,338 --> 00:54:06,108
the JFK conspiracy might look might look

1240
00:54:04,190 --> 00:54:08,780

to to the ordinary person in the street

1241

00:54:06,108 --> 00:54:10,519

oh sure I'm in that case it just makes

1242

00:54:08,780 --> 00:54:12,710

it in my mind that we just make it all

1243

00:54:10,519 --> 00:54:15,170

the fresher it would make it it makes it

1244

00:54:12,710 --> 00:54:17,210

all the more salient and because people

1245

00:54:15,170 --> 00:54:19,760

are actually dealing with one which is

1246

00:54:17,210 --> 00:54:21,650

if you like on the go now they can see

1247

00:54:19,760 --> 00:54:23,299

how it's constructed but also my

1248

00:54:21,650 --> 00:54:25,789

motivation they're partially was because

1249

00:54:23,298 --> 00:54:28,599

the book alleging a murder and

1250

00:54:25,789 --> 00:54:33,019

conspiracy was such a an almost perfect

1251

00:54:28,599 --> 00:54:35,750

example of the technique of constructing

1252

00:54:33,019 --> 00:54:38,509

a conspiracy theory that I just couldn't

1253

00:54:35,750 --> 00:54:41,030

let it go I mean it was absolutely the

1254

00:54:38,510 --> 00:54:44,059

model as i said in the chapter of

1255
00:54:41,030 --> 00:54:46,460
normalizing the abnormal and abnormal

1256
00:54:44,059 --> 00:54:48,530
izing the normal in fact and reversing

1257
00:54:46,460 --> 00:54:50,000
everything in order to come up with the

1258
00:54:48,530 --> 00:54:52,099
conclusion that you wanted to get that

1259
00:54:50,000 --> 00:54:53,929
the that the author wanted to come up

1260
00:54:52,099 --> 00:54:57,309
with him I wanted to am atomized and

1261
00:54:53,929 --> 00:55:00,199
show exactly how he done it how he

1262
00:54:57,309 --> 00:55:03,440
overlooked anything that didn't help his

1263
00:55:00,199 --> 00:55:05,000
case only gated it or cast doubt upon

1264
00:55:03,440 --> 00:55:07,210
the motives of those who have the

1265
00:55:05,000 --> 00:55:09,550
evidence which negated it how

1266
00:55:07,210 --> 00:55:11,740
he blew up effectively and exaggerated

1267
00:55:09,550 --> 00:55:13,810
anything that could conceivably support

1268
00:55:11,739 --> 00:55:18,389
his case until eventually he kind of

1269
00:55:13,809 --> 00:55:21,369
stood this mountain on a pinhead of

1270
00:55:18,389 --> 00:55:22,989
actual conjecture and no evidence

1271
00:55:21,369 --> 00:55:24,940
whatsoever not the slightest bit of

1272
00:55:22,989 --> 00:55:26,679
evidence whatsoever to the extent that

1273
00:55:24,940 --> 00:55:29,050
it would nevertheless had people who

1274
00:55:26,679 --> 00:55:30,759
were reviewing his book saying he put

1275
00:55:29,050 --> 00:55:33,070
forward a convincing case of which what

1276
00:55:30,760 --> 00:55:34,839
a true skeptic has to say if this is a

1277
00:55:33,070 --> 00:55:37,420
convincing case what on earth is your

1278
00:55:34,838 --> 00:55:39,789
idea of an unconvincing case you know in

1279
00:55:37,420 --> 00:55:42,460
others how easily convince some people

1280
00:55:39,789 --> 00:55:44,289
are well there are reasons why you're

1281
00:55:42,460 --> 00:55:45,519
easily convinced of something more

1282
00:55:44,289 --> 00:55:47,139
easily convince of some things from

1283

00:55:45,519 --> 00:55:49,750
others and that is larger because you

1284
00:55:47,139 --> 00:55:51,819
want to be and that's quite an important

1285
00:55:49,750 --> 00:55:53,650
you know that's quite it's an obvious

1286
00:55:51,820 --> 00:55:56,140
but there is an important lesson

1287
00:55:53,650 --> 00:55:58,720
basically use that as an example of what

1288
00:55:56,139 --> 00:56:00,940
a conspiracy theory is to people who are

1289
00:55:58,719 --> 00:56:03,338
aware of the details and could follow it

1290
00:56:00,940 --> 00:56:05,530
in the in the press and then they could

1291
00:56:03,338 --> 00:56:07,480
see through your analysis how this

1292
00:56:05,530 --> 00:56:10,660
really pans out as a conspiracy theory

1293
00:56:07,480 --> 00:56:12,250
um well I mean yes this is what this

1294
00:56:10,659 --> 00:56:13,989
particular web miquellee one comes up

1295
00:56:12,250 --> 00:56:15,219
every four or five months because a

1296
00:56:13,989 --> 00:56:18,009
group of doctors there are six of them

1297
00:56:15,219 --> 00:56:21,309

also every now and again demand a new

1298

00:56:18,010 --> 00:56:23,560

inquest or demand a new inquiry and the

1299

00:56:21,309 --> 00:56:25,750

story is reported by certain papers as

1300

00:56:23,559 --> 00:56:26,949

if it had just happened so in something

1301

00:56:25,750 --> 00:56:30,010

like the Daily Mail France has now

1302

00:56:26,949 --> 00:56:31,899

reported this four or five times and

1303

00:56:30,010 --> 00:56:33,790

every time it does is as if this is some

1304

00:56:31,900 --> 00:56:35,559

kind of significantly new story was in

1305

00:56:33,789 --> 00:56:38,050

fact is exactly the same old people

1306

00:56:35,559 --> 00:56:39,639

saying exactly the same old thing adding

1307

00:56:38,050 --> 00:56:42,039

absolutely nothing to what they've said

1308

00:56:39,639 --> 00:56:44,279

before and this is because it kind of

1309

00:56:42,039 --> 00:56:46,750

fits the agenda of that particular

1310

00:56:44,280 --> 00:56:49,390

newspaper I not so much I think in their

1311

00:56:46,750 --> 00:56:52,929

case because they actually believe it

1312
00:56:49,389 --> 00:56:55,650
but also it speaks to a kind of belief

1313
00:56:52,929 --> 00:56:58,179
that sometimes happens that and

1314
00:56:55,650 --> 00:56:59,769
governments are so wicked in the West

1315
00:56:58,179 --> 00:57:02,289
democratic governments were very capable

1316
00:56:59,769 --> 00:57:05,139
of anything secret including deleting

1317
00:57:02,289 --> 00:57:07,179
all the email of those doctors oh yeah

1318
00:57:05,139 --> 00:57:09,608
including I mean that's a kind of

1319
00:57:07,179 --> 00:57:11,618
classic every time a conspiracy theories

1320
00:57:09,608 --> 00:57:13,659
has a problem with his or her computer

1321
00:57:11,619 --> 00:57:16,119
and was always his computer then in that

1322
00:57:13,659 --> 00:57:18,338
case that's the authorities doing

1323
00:57:16,119 --> 00:57:20,490
something to them now it is true as

1324
00:57:18,338 --> 00:57:22,920
we've know from China

1325
00:57:20,489 --> 00:57:26,250
an Iran that there are organized state

1326
00:57:22,920 --> 00:57:28,380
hackers who do sometimes do these things

1327
00:57:26,250 --> 00:57:30,179
and so on but on the whole I think we

1328
00:57:28,380 --> 00:57:32,250
can honestly say that most conspiracy

1329
00:57:30,179 --> 00:57:34,019
theorists in America and Britain a

1330
00:57:32,250 --> 00:57:37,889
fairly safe from their governments I

1331
00:57:34,019 --> 00:57:38,730
mean one of the things I put into an

1332
00:57:37,889 --> 00:57:41,460
after I wrote for The Wall Street

1333
00:57:38,730 --> 00:57:43,170
Journal was that it was it seemed to be

1334
00:57:41,460 --> 00:57:44,970
a fact that despite the fact that the

1335
00:57:43,170 --> 00:57:47,430
spirit of fear is were the people who

1336
00:57:44,969 --> 00:57:49,289
had discovered the supposed truth and

1337
00:57:47,429 --> 00:57:51,899
were proving it about these people in

1338
00:57:49,289 --> 00:57:54,000
power who were capable of any act that

1339
00:57:51,900 --> 00:57:56,340
had despicable none of them have

1340

00:57:54,000 --> 00:57:57,780
actually been killed themselves The Wall

1341
00:57:56,340 --> 00:57:59,700
Street Journal were rather worried that

1342
00:57:57,780 --> 00:58:01,310
I was inciting people to kill conspiracy

1343
00:57:59,699 --> 00:58:03,659
theorists and maybe tone down that

1344
00:58:01,309 --> 00:58:05,940
sentence it sounds to me like you don't

1345
00:58:03,659 --> 00:58:09,569
really expect to convince any any

1346
00:58:05,940 --> 00:58:12,389
conspiracy theorist well actually I've

1347
00:58:09,570 --> 00:58:14,400
had several communications I mean emails

1348
00:58:12,389 --> 00:58:16,289
and letters from people saying they have

1349
00:58:14,400 --> 00:58:18,090
changed their minds as a result of

1350
00:58:16,289 --> 00:58:20,309
reading the book I had to say I was a

1351
00:58:18,090 --> 00:58:22,079
bit surprised because on the whole if

1352
00:58:20,309 --> 00:58:23,639
you believe in conspiracy theories and

1353
00:58:22,079 --> 00:58:26,789
you're presented with a book that says

1354
00:58:23,639 --> 00:58:29,250

that at the outset that this is a partly

1355

00:58:26,789 --> 00:58:30,960
of debunking exercise most conspiracy

1356

00:58:29,250 --> 00:58:34,050
theories I'm not going to want to read

1357

00:58:30,960 --> 00:58:35,730
it but some people do you know I mean

1358

00:58:34,050 --> 00:58:37,890
some people who believe in conspiracy

1359

00:58:35,730 --> 00:58:41,179
theories are genuinely open-minded kind

1360

00:58:37,889 --> 00:58:42,989
of questing thinkers who just not really

1361

00:58:41,179 --> 00:58:45,779
manage that that man to kind of

1362

00:58:42,989 --> 00:58:47,519
calculate reality and the odds on

1363

00:58:45,780 --> 00:58:50,160
reality and they're not had you know

1364

00:58:47,519 --> 00:58:51,269
they have a skeptical cast of mind but

1365

00:58:50,159 --> 00:58:53,849
they've not really applied their

1366

00:58:51,269 --> 00:58:56,280
skepticism with any kind of rigor and

1367

00:58:53,849 --> 00:58:58,079
everyone again I'd have and it's been

1368

00:58:56,280 --> 00:58:59,400
immensely encouraging got something like

1369
00:58:58,079 --> 00:59:01,230
that read the book and said changed my

1370
00:58:59,400 --> 00:59:04,230
mind as a result of it now I don't

1371
00:59:01,230 --> 00:59:07,440
expect that to be a huge number but you

1372
00:59:04,230 --> 00:59:09,740
know I mean you know the kind of as a

1373
00:59:07,440 --> 00:59:12,539
skeptic yourself and always good yeah

1374
00:59:09,739 --> 00:59:13,669
the pleasure of the one person who says

1375
00:59:12,539 --> 00:59:16,289
that to you it will the wretch

1376
00:59:13,670 --> 00:59:18,240
absolutely the thing is with regards to

1377
00:59:16,289 --> 00:59:21,239
that is that very often you expect

1378
00:59:18,239 --> 00:59:23,549
conspiracy theorists to take the general

1379
00:59:21,239 --> 00:59:25,589
line of conspiracies which is evidence

1380
00:59:23,550 --> 00:59:28,230
against the conspiracy is evidence of

1381
00:59:25,590 --> 00:59:30,960
the conspiracy so a book like yours

1382
00:59:28,230 --> 00:59:32,460
could actually make some people stronger

1383
00:59:30,960 --> 00:59:34,079
in their beliefs because he is there's

1384
00:59:32,460 --> 00:59:34,409
this important journalist writing a book

1385
00:59:34,079 --> 00:59:36,358
with

1386
00:59:34,409 --> 00:59:42,480
this evidence in dedicating 300 pages

1387
00:59:36,358 --> 00:59:43,798
too it must be true um political I mean

1388
00:59:42,480 --> 00:59:45,780
one of the things I love about modern

1389
00:59:43,798 --> 00:59:47,818
conspiracy theories is that increasingly

1390
00:59:45,780 --> 00:59:50,579
they kind of have to take on the

1391
00:59:47,818 --> 00:59:52,858
appearance of scholarship and that means

1392
00:59:50,579 --> 00:59:54,809
that if you're person who write is a

1393
00:59:52,858 --> 00:59:57,058
professor as in the case of david ray

1394
00:59:54,809 --> 01:00:00,660
griffin who's miss theologian is now

1395
00:59:57,059 --> 01:00:03,510
written eight books about 911 and it's

1396
01:00:00,659 --> 01:00:06,629
packed full of footnotes then that per

1397

01:00:03,510 --> 01:00:08,640
se constitutes scholarship because it

1398
01:00:06,630 --> 01:00:10,349
has scholarships currently appears now

1399
01:00:08,639 --> 01:00:11,848
what is actually in the book and what

1400
01:00:10,349 --> 01:00:14,280
the footnotes referred to might be

1401
01:00:11,849 --> 01:00:16,230
absolute rubbish but as long as it looks

1402
01:00:14,280 --> 01:00:17,940
like something like it then you can

1403
01:00:16,230 --> 01:00:19,260
think that it is and I think it's

1404
01:00:17,940 --> 01:00:21,389
absolutely right i mean the point that

1405
01:00:19,260 --> 01:00:23,700
you're making when i first saw the

1406
01:00:21,389 --> 01:00:27,358
documentaries on the BBC that the Holy

1407
01:00:23,699 --> 01:00:29,538
Blood Holy Grail were based on and that

1408
01:00:27,358 --> 01:00:31,650
led up to the famous Da Vinci Code

1409
01:00:29,539 --> 01:00:32,970
introduction from Dan Brown remember at

1410
01:00:31,650 --> 01:00:34,530
the beginning of in Chicago when he said

1411
01:00:32,969 --> 01:00:36,989

a number of the things in this book are

1412

01:00:34,530 --> 01:00:38,339

actually true and then goes on to

1413

01:00:36,989 --> 01:00:41,788

enumerate a number of things which

1414

01:00:38,338 --> 01:00:43,409

complete rubbish and like he's got them

1415

01:00:41,789 --> 01:00:45,510

largely from the Holy Blood Holy Grail

1416

01:00:43,409 --> 01:00:47,969

I'm Holy Blood Holy Grail was written by

1417

01:00:45,510 --> 01:00:51,778

people who created these documentaries

1418

01:00:47,969 --> 01:00:54,629

with BBC television in its history and

1419

01:00:51,778 --> 01:00:57,239

archaeology series called Chronicle now

1420

01:00:54,630 --> 01:00:59,430

I think we were entitled to believe and

1421

01:00:57,239 --> 01:01:01,439

I did as a teenager that it cut it was

1422

01:00:59,429 --> 01:01:04,009

on the BBC and because it was one of the

1423

01:01:01,440 --> 01:01:07,588

BBC's leading programs it was true I

1424

01:01:04,010 --> 01:01:09,900

thought that the man presenting it must

1425

01:01:07,588 --> 01:01:12,028

be a historian I did not realize that he

1426
01:01:09,900 --> 01:01:14,338
was actually a TV script writer for a

1427
01:01:12,028 --> 01:01:16,079
science fiction series but he was on

1428
01:01:14,338 --> 01:01:17,699
television it's like you know it's it's

1429
01:01:16,079 --> 01:01:19,680
in the paper so it must be true I guess

1430
01:01:17,699 --> 01:01:22,379
it's the same with television that's why

1431
01:01:19,679 --> 01:01:24,118
we get these appetites sometimes for a

1432
01:01:22,380 --> 01:01:26,099
lot of conspirators I mean I give you an

1433
01:01:24,119 --> 01:01:28,559
example and I think I'm right in saying

1434
01:01:26,099 --> 01:01:30,750
that when it comes to the bombing of the

1435
01:01:28,559 --> 01:01:34,369
USS liberty the air attack on the USS

1436
01:01:30,750 --> 01:01:36,358
liberty in 1967 by the Israelis the only

1437
01:01:34,369 --> 01:01:39,170
documentaries that have been shown our

1438
01:01:36,358 --> 01:01:43,259
documentaries claiming it was conspiracy

1439
01:01:39,170 --> 01:01:45,298
nobody had ever I mean as ever I believe

1440
01:01:43,260 --> 01:01:47,099
made the documentary showing the truth

1441
01:01:45,298 --> 01:01:47,710
what I think is almost certainly the

1442
01:01:47,099 --> 01:01:50,380
truth

1443
01:01:47,710 --> 01:01:52,599
about it which was that it was a case of

1444
01:01:50,380 --> 01:01:55,210
mistaken identity now I wanted to ask

1445
01:01:52,599 --> 01:01:58,450
you what is it about conspiracy theories

1446
01:01:55,210 --> 01:02:00,880
because there are people who are not

1447
01:01:58,449 --> 01:02:02,199
only self-professed skeptics like Jim

1448
01:02:00,880 --> 01:02:03,670
that you mentioned in the last chapter

1449
01:02:02,199 --> 01:02:06,699
the guy who was with you in this call

1450
01:02:03,670 --> 01:02:09,490
board but we're really very skeptical in

1451
01:02:06,699 --> 01:02:11,618
many areas of if but they buy into one

1452
01:02:09,489 --> 01:02:14,049
very specific conspiracy conspiracy

1453
01:02:11,619 --> 01:02:15,820
theory it might even love off other

1454

01:02:14,050 --> 01:02:18,160
conspiracy theories and would definitely

1455
01:02:15,820 --> 01:02:20,950
have a general skeptical attitude but

1456
01:02:18,159 --> 01:02:24,639
this one pc theory just they just really

1457
01:02:20,949 --> 01:02:25,809
bad this guy that you mentioned i was an

1458
01:02:24,639 --> 01:02:27,730
interesting kind of skeptic because

1459
01:02:25,809 --> 01:02:29,829
actually he wasn't a skeptic at all but

1460
01:02:27,730 --> 01:02:33,159
it was a kind of it was a former self

1461
01:02:29,829 --> 01:02:36,098
description he didn't believe him that

1462
01:02:33,159 --> 01:02:40,088
the authorities told him now that he's

1463
01:02:36,099 --> 01:02:41,470
not a skeptical position a skeptical

1464
01:02:40,088 --> 01:02:44,079
position does not start off on the

1465
01:02:41,469 --> 01:02:45,848
position of i'm always being lied to a

1466
01:02:44,079 --> 01:02:47,380
skeptic because you might not be being

1467
01:02:45,849 --> 01:02:49,359
lied to it's perfectly reasonable to

1468
01:02:47,380 --> 01:02:50,710

expect in quite a lot of situations that

1469

01:02:49,358 --> 01:02:54,159

you might be telling that would be told

1470

01:02:50,710 --> 01:02:58,119

the truth secondly he was incredibly

1471

01:02:54,159 --> 01:03:00,879

credulous when it came to theories which

1472

01:02:58,119 --> 01:03:02,559

which contradicted what he regards being

1473

01:03:00,880 --> 01:03:04,358

the official view argument and give you

1474

01:03:02,559 --> 01:03:08,108

an example with this particular America

1475

01:03:04,358 --> 01:03:10,929

which I give him the book he believed he

1476

01:03:08,108 --> 01:03:14,259

will firmly believe that people who did

1477

01:03:10,929 --> 01:03:16,719

mental illusions what actually mind

1478

01:03:14,260 --> 01:03:18,490

reader's you know he told me in this

1479

01:03:16,719 --> 01:03:19,689

case about her this mind reader he was

1480

01:03:18,489 --> 01:03:22,149

actually convince Archie going because a

1481

01:03:19,690 --> 01:03:23,769

real my I said to him look there's two

1482

01:03:22,150 --> 01:03:25,990

things here firstly when you see a

1483
01:03:23,769 --> 01:03:27,719
magician swartland heart don't think

1484
01:03:25,989 --> 01:03:31,299
she's really been sawed in half do you

1485
01:03:27,719 --> 01:03:32,889
you know there's a trick and the fact is

1486
01:03:31,300 --> 01:03:34,750
it's a brilliant trick you don't know

1487
01:03:32,889 --> 01:03:37,210
how it's done but you know it's a trick

1488
01:03:34,750 --> 01:03:39,400
I said well exactly the same happens

1489
01:03:37,210 --> 01:03:42,220
when you get one of these mental

1490
01:03:39,400 --> 01:03:44,559
illusionist I sell other thing is the

1491
01:03:42,219 --> 01:03:46,149
clue lies in the word illusionists

1492
01:03:44,559 --> 01:03:48,239
that's why they call themselves

1493
01:03:46,150 --> 01:03:51,608
illusionist the cause it's an illusion

1494
01:03:48,239 --> 01:03:54,250
if you want to believe its clue in other

1495
01:03:51,608 --> 01:03:56,139
words he was no kind of a skeptic he was

1496
01:03:54,250 --> 01:03:58,539
actually even less he's even less

1497
01:03:56,139 --> 01:03:59,909
skeptical than the people invited but in

1498
01:03:58,539 --> 01:04:02,639
his mind

1499
01:03:59,909 --> 01:04:05,009
his total lack of skepticism or emerged

1500
01:04:02,639 --> 01:04:07,769
from his room his kind of self hara

1501
01:04:05,010 --> 01:04:09,960
lysing notion of himself as a skeptic is

1502
01:04:07,769 --> 01:04:12,059
that that's why i actually said not only

1503
01:04:09,960 --> 01:04:13,380
people like him would self-professed

1504
01:04:12,059 --> 01:04:15,599
skeptics but people who are really

1505
01:04:13,380 --> 01:04:17,730
actually actually skeptical in their

1506
01:04:15,599 --> 01:04:19,289
attitude I do make that distinction

1507
01:04:17,730 --> 01:04:21,329
because I do know that a lot of people

1508
01:04:19,289 --> 01:04:23,400
will say something like you know I'm

1509
01:04:21,329 --> 01:04:27,480
skeptical in general or I used to be a

1510
01:04:23,400 --> 01:04:29,338
skeptic but we hear that a lot but I'm

1511

01:04:27,480 --> 01:04:31,829
actually wondering about a skeptics do

1512
01:04:29,338 --> 01:04:33,509
you encounter that yeah I think I mean

1513
01:04:31,829 --> 01:04:35,970
you can see you can feel away why it

1514
01:04:33,510 --> 01:04:38,809
happens I mean because governments do

1515
01:04:35,969 --> 01:04:41,879
sometimes lie or you know companies

1516
01:04:38,809 --> 01:04:44,309
exaggerated people cover things up and

1517
01:04:41,880 --> 01:04:45,809
so on now you can decide whether or not

1518
01:04:44,309 --> 01:04:49,410
you think that those such things are

1519
01:04:45,809 --> 01:04:50,579
lying and deceits are habitual and you

1520
01:04:49,409 --> 01:04:52,108
can decide whether or not you think

1521
01:04:50,579 --> 01:04:53,250
you're likely to get away with them or

1522
01:04:52,108 --> 01:04:55,139
whether things are too complicated

1523
01:04:53,250 --> 01:04:57,659
people the people actually to have

1524
01:04:55,139 --> 01:05:00,808
planned out and so on I mean you know

1525
01:04:57,659 --> 01:05:03,808

that's in that sometimes sometimes in

1526

01:05:00,809 --> 01:05:05,670

the mix you can be skeptical about the

1527

01:05:03,809 --> 01:05:08,579

claims that people make for themselves

1528

01:05:05,670 --> 01:05:11,130

and so on but being skeptical means

1529

01:05:08,579 --> 01:05:14,490

saying I want to either examine this

1530

01:05:11,130 --> 01:05:16,980

myself or this is as near as I can get

1531

01:05:14,489 --> 01:05:19,288

given the time I have available and give

1532

01:05:16,980 --> 01:05:20,789

them what I think I know about expertise

1533

01:05:19,289 --> 01:05:24,390

and so on and what my experience tells

1534

01:05:20,789 --> 01:05:26,339

me to what I to what's going on I mean

1535

01:05:24,389 --> 01:05:28,048

you know we face a whole series of

1536

01:05:26,338 --> 01:05:29,788

classic situations like this in a

1537

01:05:28,048 --> 01:05:31,679

technologically very complete and

1538

01:05:29,789 --> 01:05:34,020

scientifically very complicated world

1539

01:05:31,679 --> 01:05:35,460

what are we going to take on trust and

1540
01:05:34,019 --> 01:05:37,710
what are we not going to take on trust

1541
01:05:35,460 --> 01:05:39,420
and why will we do it when we try to

1542
01:05:37,710 --> 01:05:41,970
assess let's say whether or not a

1543
01:05:39,420 --> 01:05:44,818
vaccine has some of the effects of the

1544
01:05:41,969 --> 01:05:47,009
claim for it by some people we're not

1545
01:05:44,818 --> 01:05:49,079
paying for ourselves going to be able to

1546
01:05:47,010 --> 01:05:52,049
step into the laboratory put on the

1547
01:05:49,079 --> 01:05:54,839
white codes Don the mantle of the

1548
01:05:52,048 --> 01:05:56,250
expertise and so right we've tested it

1549
01:05:54,838 --> 01:05:58,288
for ourselves and we can tell you what

1550
01:05:56,250 --> 01:06:01,170
the truth is we're going to have to do a

1551
01:05:58,289 --> 01:06:03,569
much for shortened version of that which

1552
01:06:01,170 --> 01:06:05,278
involves us kind of assessing within the

1553
01:06:03,568 --> 01:06:07,829
time that we have to do it the various

1554
01:06:05,278 --> 01:06:08,940
arguments and the various expertise the

1555
01:06:07,829 --> 01:06:10,269
people involved in order to take a

1556
01:06:08,940 --> 01:06:12,039
position on it

1557
01:06:10,269 --> 01:06:14,409
that's you know that's where the true

1558
01:06:12,039 --> 01:06:16,900
skeptic must add the true skeptic is not

1559
01:06:14,409 --> 01:06:18,609
somebody who says I speak to achieve a

1560
01:06:16,900 --> 01:06:20,680
state of Olympian knowledge of

1561
01:06:18,610 --> 01:06:22,420
everything this is impossible absolutely

1562
01:06:20,679 --> 01:06:24,429
now we we've started talking about

1563
01:06:22,420 --> 01:06:27,099
skeptics and I wanted to know that do

1564
01:06:24,429 --> 01:06:29,859
you think of yourself as a skeptic might

1565
01:06:27,099 --> 01:06:35,949
most like most of us I regard myself as

1566
01:06:29,860 --> 01:06:38,740
the one true skeptic okay there we all

1567
01:06:35,949 --> 01:06:41,619
you know what you know you know yes I do

1568

01:06:38,739 --> 01:06:45,149
i do I think I'm increasingly a skeptic

1569
01:06:41,619 --> 01:06:46,989
as I become more if you like I mean I i

1570
01:06:45,150 --> 01:06:48,700
started off fairly doctrinaire

1571
01:06:46,989 --> 01:06:52,809
politically because that was the that

1572
01:06:48,699 --> 01:06:56,859
was my inheritance and I think that

1573
01:06:52,809 --> 01:07:00,190
experience has led me to try and form if

1574
01:06:56,860 --> 01:07:03,120
you like a escape a properly skeptical

1575
01:07:00,190 --> 01:07:07,720
cast of mine including knowing when I

1576
01:07:03,119 --> 01:07:09,429
may need to take things on trust because

1577
01:07:07,719 --> 01:07:12,730
that's important too when I just had you

1578
01:07:09,429 --> 01:07:14,649
know to put it I mean it's kind of

1579
01:07:12,730 --> 01:07:15,909
obvious context when you step into an

1580
01:07:14,650 --> 01:07:18,340
error play and so when you put

1581
01:07:15,909 --> 01:07:20,019
yourselves in the hands of the pilot you

1582
01:07:18,340 --> 01:07:21,789

choose to do this dozens of times over

1583

01:07:20,019 --> 01:07:23,440

this is a rational thing to do otherwise

1584

01:07:21,789 --> 01:07:25,960

we couldn't actually achieve anything ah

1585

01:07:23,440 --> 01:07:28,659

but you know if your worst sort of a

1586

01:07:25,960 --> 01:07:30,579

series of extremely bad air accidents

1587

01:07:28,659 --> 01:07:33,009

which were unexplained and so on you

1588

01:07:30,579 --> 01:07:35,199

might it might be a less obvious thing

1589

01:07:33,010 --> 01:07:37,690

to do so now said so in other words I

1590

01:07:35,199 --> 01:07:40,449

think of myself as a proper skeptic I

1591

01:07:37,690 --> 01:07:42,460

mean I have to say my sis came to being

1592

01:07:40,449 --> 01:07:45,549

a great skeptic would be strengthened if

1593

01:07:42,460 --> 01:07:48,820

I had more scientific knowledge I mean

1594

01:07:45,550 --> 01:07:50,350

I'm a classic product of the division

1595

01:07:48,820 --> 01:07:53,019

between the arts and the science

1596

01:07:50,349 --> 01:07:56,199

Sciences in the sense that I had nearly

1597
01:07:53,019 --> 01:07:59,820
no scientific training whatsoever and I

1598
01:07:56,199 --> 01:08:03,789
have had to look at people who I trust

1599
01:07:59,820 --> 01:08:07,480
whose instincts and whose whose approach

1600
01:08:03,789 --> 01:08:09,639
to life seems to me to to be properly

1601
01:08:07,480 --> 01:08:11,860
critical in order to in a sense kind of

1602
01:08:09,639 --> 01:08:13,929
understand where I might appear on that

1603
01:08:11,860 --> 01:08:15,700
spectrum let's take kind of some of that

1604
01:08:13,929 --> 01:08:18,278
Ben Goldacre who somebody I admire very

1605
01:08:15,699 --> 01:08:20,829
much and people like him I don't know

1606
01:08:18,279 --> 01:08:24,010
the things that Ben knows and

1607
01:08:20,829 --> 01:08:26,350
consequently I in a way you know so in a

1608
01:08:24,010 --> 01:08:28,510
way being a skeptic having a skeptics

1609
01:08:26,350 --> 01:08:30,850
movement partially means a little

1610
01:08:28,510 --> 01:08:32,890
allowing bits of it to have expertise

1611
01:08:30,850 --> 01:08:34,300
for you which is can seem like a

1612
01:08:32,890 --> 01:08:36,130
slightly unscripted cool thing to do

1613
01:08:34,300 --> 01:08:37,838
before we end there's there's one thing

1614
01:08:36,130 --> 01:08:39,850
I wanted to ask you maybe a bit of

1615
01:08:37,838 --> 01:08:42,369
advice what one thing that skeptics

1616
01:08:39,850 --> 01:08:44,500
often find difficulties when dealing

1617
01:08:42,369 --> 01:08:46,869
with true believers is how to treat them

1618
01:08:44,500 --> 01:08:50,079
with respect because often their beliefs

1619
01:08:46,869 --> 01:08:52,239
are so patently ridiculous that but you

1620
01:08:50,079 --> 01:08:54,309
can't help but you know lose a bit of

1621
01:08:52,239 --> 01:08:57,550
respect now your book is is very

1622
01:08:54,310 --> 01:09:00,460
entertaining often funny but it is also

1623
01:08:57,550 --> 01:09:02,260
very detailed and and no no point in

1624
01:09:00,460 --> 01:09:04,838
time through the book do you dismiss

1625

01:09:02,260 --> 01:09:08,500
claims on appearance only now can you

1626
01:09:04,838 --> 01:09:10,119
suggest to skeptics out there how one

1627
01:09:08,500 --> 01:09:12,819
might be respectful of a conspiracy

1628
01:09:10,119 --> 01:09:14,619
theorist without writing a 300 page book

1629
01:09:12,819 --> 01:09:17,500
because obviously not all of us can do

1630
01:09:14,619 --> 01:09:20,829
that what I'm in the first point is as I

1631
01:09:17,500 --> 01:09:22,838
referred to earlier I had been another

1632
01:09:20,829 --> 01:09:24,939
conspiracy theorist in the sense of kind

1633
01:09:22,838 --> 01:09:26,920
of active in it but I believer in

1634
01:09:24,939 --> 01:09:29,319
certain conspiracy theories you know

1635
01:09:26,920 --> 01:09:31,569
maybe in the case of JFK because I once

1636
01:09:29,319 --> 01:09:33,880
or documentary which mentioned the magic

1637
01:09:31,569 --> 01:09:35,229
bullet and so I'm also because i found

1638
01:09:33,880 --> 01:09:38,440
the idea of the conspiracy a more

1639
01:09:35,229 --> 01:09:41,199

interesting story i liked actually like

1640

01:09:38,439 --> 01:09:42,219

the story better it was more satisfying

1641

01:09:41,199 --> 01:09:44,079

i mean that's the one of the things to

1642

01:09:42,220 --> 01:09:46,900

remember about quite a lot of these

1643

01:09:44,079 --> 01:09:49,569

stories is that they are actually better

1644

01:09:46,899 --> 01:09:51,789

stories than the truth and a lot of us a

1645

01:09:49,569 --> 01:09:53,710

lot of the time are attracted to the

1646

01:09:51,789 --> 01:09:55,420

better story than the truth i mean let

1647

01:09:53,710 --> 01:09:57,279

me give you a clean the example of the

1648

01:09:55,420 --> 01:09:59,649

way we tell stories about ourselves and

1649

01:09:57,279 --> 01:10:00,880

it was pointed out to me by a number of

1650

01:09:59,649 --> 01:10:04,089

friends of mine who work in

1651

01:10:00,880 --> 01:10:06,310

psychoanalysis or psychotherapy people

1652

01:10:04,090 --> 01:10:07,930

are continuously giving back histories

1653

01:10:06,310 --> 01:10:11,230

to things like they're since their

1654
01:10:07,930 --> 01:10:13,329
illnesses or anthropomorphizing the

1655
01:10:11,229 --> 01:10:15,489
weather you know the way it always rains

1656
01:10:13,329 --> 01:10:17,680
on my birthday unless ticket and

1657
01:10:15,489 --> 01:10:19,659
football supporters for instance the

1658
01:10:17,680 --> 01:10:22,750
referee doesn't like my team my team

1659
01:10:19,659 --> 01:10:25,750
always gets the bad decisions against it

1660
01:10:22,750 --> 01:10:27,819
or we always are scored against in the

1661
01:10:25,750 --> 01:10:31,659
last minute and so on a whole series of

1662
01:10:27,819 --> 01:10:34,630
notions in which we if you like impose a

1663
01:10:31,659 --> 01:10:37,380
narrative and an agency

1664
01:10:34,630 --> 01:10:40,420
on actually a series of fairly random

1665
01:10:37,380 --> 01:10:43,420
events so another words what so you have

1666
01:10:40,420 --> 01:10:45,940
respected people because we all do it if

1667
01:10:43,420 --> 01:10:48,130
we recognized within ourselves always

1668
01:10:45,939 --> 01:10:50,799
the tendency and the desire for the

1669
01:10:48,130 --> 01:10:52,510
better narrative and for faith I think

1670
01:10:50,800 --> 01:10:55,360
it becomes much easier to deal with

1671
01:10:52,510 --> 01:10:57,639
people who who who take that the next

1672
01:10:55,359 --> 01:11:00,309
stage forward and make those a kind of

1673
01:10:57,639 --> 01:11:02,500
systematic part of their lives in other

1674
01:11:00,310 --> 01:11:04,600
word for just doing what we do but more

1675
01:11:02,500 --> 01:11:06,729
so now of course sometimes the thing

1676
01:11:04,600 --> 01:11:11,560
becomes more urgent we'll take the

1677
01:11:06,729 --> 01:11:13,959
example of Jim Carrey and MMR Jim Carrey

1678
01:11:11,560 --> 01:11:16,210
has decided to make a major campaign

1679
01:11:13,960 --> 01:11:18,850
against the MMR vaccine as if he's

1680
01:11:16,210 --> 01:11:21,219
successful kids will die of measles who

1681
01:11:18,850 --> 01:11:24,039
don't need to die you need to be very

1682

01:11:21,219 --> 01:11:26,439
very firm with Jim Carrey and people

1683
01:11:24,039 --> 01:11:29,319
like him about the consequences of his

1684
01:11:26,439 --> 01:11:31,479
way of thinking I mean but you also

1685
01:11:29,319 --> 01:11:33,579
recognize that it partially comes out of

1686
01:11:31,479 --> 01:11:36,158
the experience that his girlfriend had

1687
01:11:33,579 --> 01:11:38,800
with having an autistic child and so on

1688
01:11:36,158 --> 01:11:41,289
and the desire that we have have an

1689
01:11:38,800 --> 01:11:42,789
overarching and clear explanation for

1690
01:11:41,289 --> 01:11:45,609
the catastrophes that happen to this

1691
01:11:42,789 --> 01:11:47,170
they've done out of time I would like to

1692
01:11:45,609 --> 01:11:49,149
thank you very much first of all for a

1693
01:11:47,170 --> 01:11:51,429
very enjoyable and informative book and

1694
01:11:49,149 --> 01:11:53,769
for joining me on the skeptics on

1695
01:11:51,429 --> 01:11:56,130
podcast thank you very much David thank

1696
01:11:53,770 --> 01:11:56,130

you very much

1697

01:12:00,260 --> 01:12:02,320

you

1698

01:12:09,389 --> 01:12:13,810

thank you for listening to the skeptic

1699

01:12:12,340 --> 01:12:17,010

zone now a couple of our little

1700

01:12:13,810 --> 01:12:19,449

announcements before we go before I go

1701

01:12:17,010 --> 01:12:21,250

people have been writing in about Stefan

1702

01:12:19,448 --> 01:12:23,078

where's Stefan where Stefan they say

1703

01:12:21,250 --> 01:12:25,420

Stefan has not been very well lately

1704

01:12:23,078 --> 01:12:27,670

he's much better now and I think he

1705

01:12:25,420 --> 01:12:30,760

should be on deck for next week's

1706

01:12:27,670 --> 01:12:34,690

episode get well quick Stefan I'd also

1707

01:12:30,760 --> 01:12:37,510

like to thank very much Seth Wilson who

1708

01:12:34,689 --> 01:12:38,979

wrote to me saying what he's doing what

1709

01:12:37,510 --> 01:12:42,429

he's up to whilst listening to the

1710

01:12:38,979 --> 01:12:45,549

skeptic zone and he has a most amazing

1711
01:12:42,429 --> 01:12:49,328
cider I checked it out it's really

1712
01:12:45,550 --> 01:12:52,690
interesting Seth does all sorts of crazy

1713
01:12:49,328 --> 01:12:56,019
things with modelling body parts for

1714
01:12:52,689 --> 01:13:00,729
medical or surgical simulators it's just

1715
01:12:56,020 --> 01:13:07,239
fascinating check his site out at ww RL

1716
01:13:00,729 --> 01:13:10,448
escort com that's re al scul PT calm

1717
01:13:07,238 --> 01:13:12,578
thanks Seth I really I really got a kick

1718
01:13:10,448 --> 01:13:15,460
out of looking at your website great

1719
01:13:12,578 --> 01:13:18,069
work also don't forget to check out

1720
01:13:15,460 --> 01:13:22,149
Rachel Dunlop's blog the skeptics book

1721
01:13:18,069 --> 01:13:24,519
of poo poo skeptics book calm for the

1722
01:13:22,149 --> 01:13:26,500
latest information about the vaccination

1723
01:13:24,520 --> 01:13:30,030
scare here in Australia with the flu

1724
01:13:26,500 --> 01:13:33,310
vaccine very interesting and finally

1725
01:13:30,029 --> 01:13:35,529
there's been some controversy lately on

1726
01:13:33,310 --> 01:13:40,179
the skeptics guide to the universe about

1727
01:13:35,529 --> 01:13:45,670
a certain ah imitation of Samuel

1728
01:13:40,179 --> 01:13:48,639
Hahnemann and Brian Dunning it's a bit

1729
01:13:45,670 --> 01:13:50,230
of a complicated story apparently some

1730
01:13:48,639 --> 01:13:51,969
people think that Brian Dunning is the

1731
01:13:50,229 --> 01:13:53,379
voice of Samuel Hahnemann as heard on

1732
01:13:51,969 --> 01:13:55,840
the skeptics oh and some people thought

1733
01:13:53,380 --> 01:14:01,929
it was all sorts of other people but I'm

1734
01:13:55,840 --> 01:14:03,699
here to tell you it wasn't O'Brien I'm

1735
01:14:01,929 --> 01:14:07,000
sorry people thought you were samuel

1736
01:14:03,698 --> 01:14:08,529
hahnemann that's a to get back at you

1737
01:14:07,000 --> 01:14:12,189
for all those terrible Australian

1738
01:14:08,529 --> 01:14:14,289
accents anyway thank you all for

1739

01:14:12,189 --> 01:14:16,960
listening to the skeptic zone thank you

1740
01:14:14,289 --> 01:14:18,578
for everybody writing in telling us what

1741
01:14:16,960 --> 01:14:20,920
you're up to while listening to the

1742
01:14:18,578 --> 01:14:21,880
skeptics and we just love it and thank

1743
01:14:20,920 --> 01:14:24,460
you to those people

1744
01:14:21,880 --> 01:14:27,489
who contribute with donations or

1745
01:14:24,460 --> 01:14:30,310
subscribe very much appreciated the big

1746
01:14:27,488 --> 01:14:32,218
countdown to episode 100 but until next

1747
01:14:30,310 --> 01:14:35,139
week anyway this is Richard Saunders

1748
01:14:32,219 --> 01:14:39,420
with many thanks to the skeptic zone

1749
01:14:35,139 --> 01:14:39,420
team signing off from Sydney Australia

1750
01:14:40,560 --> 01:14:48,010
you've been listening to the skeptic

1751
01:14:42,969 --> 01:14:51,039
zone visit our website at WWF digs on TV

1752
01:14:48,010 --> 01:14:53,480
for comments contacts and extra video

1753
01:14:51,039 --> 01:14:57,019

reports

1754

01:14:53,479 --> 01:14:57,019

the skids

1755

01:15:04,899 --> 01:15:06,899

Oh

1756

01:15:12,029 --> 01:15:14,090

you