



# *Cincinnati Skeptic*

## *Newsletter of The Association for Rational Thought*

Vol. 10 No. 2

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***Never assume a conspiracy when ignorance and incompetence can explain the situation.***  
***-- Bill Johnston, (on the 1993 Branch Davidian siege)***

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## ***September Meeting***

### **Cicada Guy Unlocks Origin**

Advised when he was a teenager to avoid the evil Darwin, September meeting speaker Gene Kritsky spent nearly a whole dollar on a copy of Darwin's *Origin of Species* and plunged right in, only to bog down among the pigeons in Chapter 2. Over the years, he became a professor of biology at the College of Mount St. Joseph and an expert on the periodical cicadas that inundate Cincinnati neighborhoods every 17 years. And he read and reread *Origin*. Not until the third or fourth reading did he begin to understand Darwin's message.

Later he polled his students to see how many would admit to having read Darwin's master work. Over the past 12 years, out of about 200 students, he has found only one who claims to have read it. After 24 years of teaching Darwin, Gene's own confusion and his students' reluctance to read Darwin at all convinced him to write *Instant Origin*, his own quickie tour of the *Origin of Species*.

Darwin originally planned to write a multi-volume series on speciation, but after receiving a

(Cont. Pg 6)

### **On the subject of the violent protests against the World Trade Organization in Seattle:**

(from *Intelligence Report* of the Southern Poverty Law Center, (no. 97, Winter 2000) pp. 41-42)

Right alongside the "progressive" groups that demonstrated in Seattle . . . were the hard-edged soldiers of neofascism. They carried signs decrying "The New World Order Agenda," bitterly denounced "Jewish media plus big capital" and, in at least one case, fought it out with black youths amidst the tear gas. The "Battle in Seattle" brought erstwhile antagonists together to face a common enemy in the streets.

What was behind this truly remarkable mix? How was it that members of the far "left" and "right" found themselves facing down police together? In the answers to these questions may lie the shape of future American extremism. . . .

More and more, people on both ends of the traditional political spectrum—particularly those who are young—are finding that their world views overlap. They are opposed to what are seen as the homogenizing forces of globalism. They despise capitalism, with its tendency to concentrate wealth and to make people and economies more and more alike—turning the planet into what is seen as a bland and materialistic McWorld. They pine for nations of peasant-like folk tied closely to the land and to their neighbors. They fight for a pristine environment, a land unsullied by corporate agriculture and urbanization. They detest man-centered philosophies, seeing animals as no less important than humans. They reject rationalism in favor of a kind of mystical spirituality. Above all, these mainly young people—in some ways, the descendants of the "back-to-the-land hippies of the 1960s—favor decentralization.

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*Your Help is needed!!!*

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The By-Laws require that officers for the following year be elected annually at the May meeting. They begin their duties on following July 1st.

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**Comments****Corner.....****“A Pugnacious Snapping Turtle”**

**by Joe Gastright**

Alva Curtis (1797-1881), an agent of Samuel Thompson arrived in Cincinnati in 1841 just in time to add Joseph Rodes Buchanan MD to the faculty of “The Literary and Botanico-Medical Institute of Cincinnati.” The school had been chartered in Columbus in 1839 as an academic version of the anti-intellectual Thompsonian “patent medicine” which was sweeping the country.

Curtis broke with Thompson because he thought a little education would improve the quality of herbal doctoring. His school was renamed the “American Medical Institute” to better compete with its crosstown rival the Eclectic Medical Institute”. Rechartered in 1851 as the “Physio-Medical Institute”, this lonely herbal college survived until 1880.

Joseph Rodes Buchanan (1814-1899) was born in Lexington, Ky. to the newly appointed founder of the medical school at Transylvania University. Described as a self-educated journalist, philosopher, educator, and sometime doctor, Joseph Buchanan Sr. was an ornament on the faculty of the “Athens of the West”. His lectures on the *Philosophy of Human Nature* composed one of the first books printed in the state of Kentucky (Richmond, 1812). This vitalistic and metaphysical attack on a problem still beyond, or more accurately, outside of science shows little interest in, or appreciation for the material side of existence. Father Buchanan decided on “Home Schooling” for his son who polished off geometry and astronomy by the time he was six years old. At twelve J.R. was writing commentaries on Blackstone’s *Commentaries on the Laws of England*.

Buchanan was orphaned while in his teens. He supported himself a printer and later a teacher and he attached himself to the man who replaced his father as the head of the Medical School, Charles Caldwell MD (1772-1853). Caldwell was a graduate of Benjamin Rush’s premier medical school in Philadelphia. A gifted writer, he practiced medicine in Philadelphia, taught at his alma mater, and edited (1812) the noted journal, “Port Folio”. While at Transylvania he wrote the first American volume on Phrenology (1826). He was also interested in Mesmerism, the Unity of Man, Prison Reform, and other controversial subjects of the day. In 1837 he fell out with the president of Transylvania and led most the medical faculty to Louisville where they established a medical school, which continues at the University of Louisville. He was a prolific writer of books and articles who could be found on the vitalistic and metaphysical, and liberal side of every controversy. His medical work was considered sound and part of the mainstream. Buchanan graduated in one of the first classes of the Louisville Medical Institute and shared many of his mentor’s interests and biases.

The Joseph Rodes Buchanan who came to Cincinnati in 1841 was ready to take up the fights and follow the style of both his father and

Charles Caldwell. These men were all very bright, for the day well educated, and by any standard good writers and communicators. They were also completely convinced of their own brilliance on any subject. Joseph Rodes went on record as saying that “he never looked at the views of others on a subject so that he would not have his own position diminished.” From his father he learned that all truth is intuitive and personal. Scientific truth was only the application of his attention to “experiments” the results of which would be immediately clear to him. Empirical results were “scientific.” If something was clear to him, it must be true and scientific. Caldwell who shared many of these “pre-scientific” but “postmodern” conceits, added pugnacity and public relations to Buchanan’s personality. He became Eclectic Medicine’s “bulldog” or “snapping turtle” as he attacked conventional medicine for the next 50 years. He probably did contribute to the decline of calomel use, and blood letting but his contributions to medical practice are at best limited. It is not clear that he ever practiced medicine or knew much about it. Unlike Caldwell he was not respected by the regular medical establishment. His fifteen years in Cincinnati were not uneventful, as we will see.

— Joe Gastright (September, 2000)



## ***Too Many Books... Too Little Time...***

*The Spark of Life:  
Darwin and the Primeval Soup*

by Christopher Wills and Jeffrey Bada  
(Cambridge, MA: Perseus Publishing, 2000)

Creationist writers tend to mix the question of evolution together with the problem of the origin of life. Perhaps this is because their interpretation of the Bible speaks only of genesis, not of earth history. If creationists were to be believed, human history began at the beginning of the earth. There was no earth history, no biological history, no human pre-history, no stone age. To science the two issues are very different and demand quite separate research approaches. Evolution deals only with gradual change in animals and plants over time, development from the one celled earliest biotic beings to the dinosaurs, the birds and the mammals. This is strictly a historical question in which all evidence comes from the traces left by the past.

This book, in contrast, is about the origin of life, a bio-chemical question in which historical evidence plays only a subordinate role. We are not likely to find much fossilized data about the processes of life’s beginnings. It is in the laboratory that science tries to recreate the conditions of the early earth to find experimental evidence how the first reproducing molecule may have arisen. Wills and Bada report on the state of this research. They examine all aspects of how life might have arisen on earth.

The book is dedicated to Stanley L. Miller who half a century ago took the first step in this exploration. In a famous experiment he created simple amino acids by shooting sparks through what was then thought might have been the conditions of the early atmosphere. Our understanding of the early atmosphere, the sources of energy, the earliest life forms, and many other question have changed dramatically in the past fifty years. For one thing, rather than life existing for the past six hundred thousand to one billion years, we now understand life

### **WANTED!!!**

#### **Urgently Needed!**

**Member willing to give A.R.T. about one hour a month from September to June. The job is to get information about upcoming meetings from Brad Bonham and send the information to the *Enquirer*, the *Post*, and *City Beat*. These meeting announcements are our only local publicity. They may be sent by mail, e-mail or fax. The method for doing this is already set up and ready to go, in the Publicity Coordinator’s notebook.**

**Volunteer now!**

**Call or e-mail Roy Auerbach, 731-2774, or [raa@cinci.rr.com](mailto:raa@cinci.rr.com).**

may have come into being as far as four billion years in the past. While it was thought life might have taken hundreds of millions of years to come into being, we now see that we may be dealing with a genesis time span of only a few thousand years.

Our understanding of early environments differs considerably from Miller's experiment. The consistency of the early atmosphere remains unclear, and probably was subject to change both over short time spans, and in the vicinity of volcanoes. Energy sources available on the earliest earth in addition to lightning include not only volcanic explosions and heat, but also the impact of massive meteorites. Underwater volcanic vents have also been proposed as the site of early life.

Entering into hypothesizing about the beginning of life is our much more detailed understanding of the nature of living cells. The discovery of the double helix of DNA as the blueprint for life provides one aim in the search of life's beginnings. Some researchers think the messenger RNA, which is more stable in many environments, may have formed earliest life. Others expect a much more primitive molecule, one that no longer exists, to have been the first replicator.

Life, we know today, can exist under extreme conditions. Microscopic life has been discovered in water and brines deep below the earth's surface. Other primitive living things are ensconced near the surface but inside Antarctic rock. Life also survives under extreme harsh conditions in the cold waters of the Arctic ocean.

We have come a long way from Darwin's own suggestion that life may have begun somewhere in a warm little pond. Generations of astronomers, geologists, chemists, and biologists have modified our understanding of the early earth beyond recognition. The earliest environments are seen as a storm assaulted, volcano studded, earthquake wracked chaos. Tidal forces and gigantic cyclonic winds would not have permitted many warm little ponds. As knowledge spreads, questions proliferate, and the frontier of knowledge broadens rather than shrinks.

This book is no more than an interim review of ongoing research. It is a good way to catch up on what is going on now, what is known at this time.

— Wolf Roder

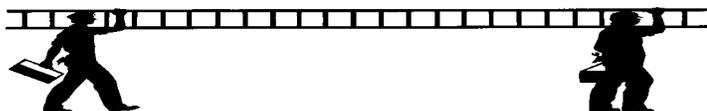
*Denying History: Who says the Holocaust Never Happened and Why do They Say it?*

By Michael Shermer and Alex Grobman  
(University of California Press, 2000)

History is full of hoaxes, that is narratives of events that never happened and claims that certain events that did, in fact did not. There probably never was a King Arthur, nor did Lady Godiva ride naked anywhere, neither St. Claus nor the Pied Piper can be documented. Scholars regularly churn out books which depict Jesus Christ not as an actual person but a mixing together of various myths and legends. All of these people lived hundreds of years ago, long before photography or voice recording. But how could anyone deny the Holocaust, the deliberate destruction of six million Jews between 1941 and 1945. Compared to doubtful historical data, this event happened within the memory of the still living, it was documented in photography and film, in eye witness narratives, in bureaucratic records, and in every way in which data can and could be made in this century.

Those who deny the Holocaust, essentially assert three things. While many, perhaps hundreds of thousands of Jews died at the hands of the Germans, millions did not. The deaths that did occur were part of the chaos of war and did not represent intentional extermination, and neither were there ever any gas chambers in which men, women, and children were murdered. Make no mistake about it, the men whose writings deny these facts have an ideological agenda, namely to revive anti-Jewish hatreds and to justify racist nationalism. In other words Holocaust denial is part and parcel of the revival of Nazism.

The authors of *Denying History* take apart the arguments of the Holocaust deniers thought for thought to show how and where they are plain wrong. In the process the authors show very clearly the difference between rational research and pseudo-history. They also discuss with clarity how history is done. Holocaust denial is very much like creationism in that the deniers never clearly state what they conclude or assert what they think really happened, but concentrate on picking apart statements by historians. As creationists tend to insist on the *smoking gun*, "show me just one transitional fossil," so Holocaust deniers insist on "just one gas chamber, or one concrete piece of evidence." Any one piece of evidence can always be rejected,



explained away, or relativized. Deniers can always find a way of insisting, that a particular can of poison was used for delousing, or this gas chamber was only used for disinfection of clothing.

The Holocaust, and the authors bring this out extremely well, was a complex event which stretched over several years, and had many aspects. We know of the murders, the gassings, and that the Germans intended to exterminate the Jews from many sources. History is not like a trial with individual crucial pieces of evidence neatly labeled and laid out on a table, rather historical knowledge is the result of many lines of evidence, documents, eye witness accounts, architectural remains, photographs. No single piece would show the process and intent of the Germans. In the history of the Holocaust, as in other complex events of the past, we are looking at many lines of rational inference from a multitude of facts. The process is not arbitrary. There are valid ways in which historians draw conclusions. A great merit of this book is that Shermer and Grobman explain the process of history and the difference between valid and irrational conclusions.

— Wolf Roder



A thoroughly healthy person is one who has not yet been examined by a psychiatrist or a quack.

— bio-astrologer Esmeralda von Löwenzahn-Dentdelion



We've a major-league President, Bill,  
 With a pitch for which players would kill.  
 He can get to first base  
 At a blistering pace,  
 And can score standing perfectly still.



### A Puzzle for Thinkers

#### Pocket Money

Tom, Richard and Helen, three students at Walnut School are discussing pocket money. Tom can not believe he receives only half as much pocket money as Richard who is only months older and in the same grade. Helen, who is almost an adult and a female to boot, gets one-and-a-half as much as Richard. Together all three collect \$ 28.80 per week. How much does each student receive?

— adapted from *Mathematische Denkspiele* (1997) p. 57

**Solutions from last month's puzzle:** Three doors, one with girl and two with goat.

The astonishing answer is, yes it makes a difference and he should change his choice to the other door. When the contestant made his original choice he had a one in three chance of picking the girl, which that door still has. The other unopened door has a one in two chance of holding the girl, so it is the better pick. It may be easier to understand if we imagine there was one girl and nine goats. There is only a one in ten chance of picking the right door first off. Then the host opens eight other doors with goats. What is the likelihood the guest picked the right door the first time, what is the chance the remaining door of nine holds the girl?



#### Beware of Magnets that Really Work:

The latest health fad is using magnets to relieve pain. No one has shown they work other than as a placebo, until Dr. Thomas Mattioni of the Arizona Heart Institute in Phoenix completed a study which shows magnets indeed have a real effect on some patients. The magnetic field can kill people who have a pacemaker or an implanted defibrillator, so magnets should be kept at least six inches from such devices, he says. For instance, someone with a pacemaker and a magnetic mattress pad could find their pacemaker shut off if they roll over onto their stomach. (AP)

### *Cicada Guy Unlocks Origin (from pg 1)*

request for an abstract in 1858, he wrote the one volume *Origin*, an "abstract" well over 500 pages. Gene has reduced that to 125 pages of excerpts and illustrations linked with his own notes explaining Darwin's argument.

The *Origin of Species* aimed at refuting the claims of creationists who believed that all species were created in a single event followed years later by a flood, after which animals dispersed from a single location all over the earth. Darwin tested this belief against observations he made in the field and found it wanting.

He observed that the Galapagos Islands are volcanic, fairly barren, and marked by lava that looks freshly poured. Although the lava is about four million years old, it is younger by far than nearby South America. Darwin found the islands inhabited by an array of unique species, which varied slightly from island to island. Darwin's famous finches, for example, showed beak size that varied from island to island. If it were true that all species were dispersed from somewhere in Turkey, where the flood was thought to have taken place, how had the finches managed to disperse across all the vast land areas between Turkey and South America and not leave descendants along the way?

His goal was to establish that descent takes place via natural selection over very long periods of time, and to contrast this notion with the creationist approach that all species were created at once, in one place and not so long ago. He also wanted to nail his theory down by predicting future finds. He found a brilliant white orchid growing in Madagascar with a long 12 inch nectary, a curving funnel in which nectar is produced. The flowers stay open for weeks.

These observations led Darwin to predict that natural selection had produced an insect suited to feeding from and pollinating this orchid. He predicted the insect would be a moth, because moths feed at night when the white flower would be quite visible, and that the moth would have a proboscis about as long as the nectary. About 50 years later the discovery of a moth unique to Madagascar confirmed Darwin's prediction



The moth was nocturnal, had a proboscis nine inches long, pollinated the orchid, and was given the appropriate subspecies name *predicta*.

When he wrote the 500+ page "abstract" that we know as the *Origin of Species*, Darwin did not begin by attacking his enemy head on. Instead he began with something he believed he could entice many readers to accept: that variation takes place under domestication. Even this was an uphill battle because in the mid-nineteenth century, it was widely accepted that each domestic variety was derived from a similar species in the wild, suggesting a valley somewhere in the south of France where packs of wild poodles still roamed. It was not well understood that breeds of dogs are variations within one species, or that cabbage, Brussels sprouts, kale, broccoli, and so on are also all variations of one species.

To make his argument, he used observations drawn from archeological finds. He was able to show, for example, that selective breeding of the ibis had gone on for centuries, resulting in different horn shapes over time. He was able to show the power of selection also by comparing varieties of domestic pigeons, all descendants of the rock dove, selected for various characteristics. Fantails and pouters with their puffed chests are so different from each other and from the Rock Dove that they could well have been mistaken for different species. Darwin presented evidence that domestication created variation through selection, with the goal of persuading his readers that variation is the result of selection.



In his second chapter Darwin set out to convince readers that variation occurs in nature. He showed that if a species has a wide geographic distribution, it will show a continuum of variation across species, subspecies and varieties, implying a process, not the definitive single creation of a set of species that the creationists argued for. He was able to show, for example, that a species of Tiger Cowry inhabiting wide stretches of the Indian Ocean showed wide variation in its shell patterns. Another species of Cowry, found only on Easter Island, on the other hand, showed little variation. He predicted that broad geographical distribution led to wide variation and found evidence to support it.

Having shown that variation takes place in

nature as well as under domestication, Darwin set out to show why variations occur. The first step was to show that nature is a struggle for existence in which populations produce many offspring of which only some survive. Chapter 3 lays out the struggle for survival.

The fourth chapter of *Origin* carries Darwin's argument forward by illustrating the adaptive value of variation. Protective coloration of moths is an example. Chapter 4 also diagrams the rate of change, to illustrate his argument that species change at various rates. He also argued that competition for resources is greatest among similar individuals who need the same resources. Such competition is a pressure for change.

Chapter 5 discusses problems for his theory, including the notion that the eye must have been created, because it is so complex and perfect that stepwise variations leading to the eye would not be functional. Darwin disposes of this idea by demonstrating that primitive but functional versions of eyes exist in many species. The same argument can be made that the honeycomb made by the honeybee is so perfect that it must have been created in a single stroke. Darwin shows that the honey containers made by different species of bees form a graded series of variation, showing that process, rather than single stroke creation caused the variation.

Darwin goes on to demonstrate that species occur which can cross-breed and produce fertile offspring. Species are not totally independent entities which can produce fertile offspring only through in-breeding. An example is two of the six species of periodical cicada, the 13 year species and the 17 year species. These do not cross reproduce in nature, because they emerge from the ground at different times, but if the two are put together artificially they can reproduce.

You may have noticed that so far Darwin has

failed to drag in the fossil record for evidence to support his argument. Not only does he not use fossil evidence, he goes out of his way to spend an entire chapter discrediting fossils. He takes this approach because of creationists' criticism that the fossil record is incomplete, failing to show intermediate stages. One

problem with the fossil record is that we can't recognize intermediate stages when we see them. He did predict that fossils predating the Cambrian Age would someday be found, which has indeed occurred. He also wrote that although all the fossils known in his time could be fitted into present day categories, we would eventually find fossils old and different enough not to fit into those categories, a prediction which also has been confirmed.

Having dumped fossils as evidence, Darwin goes on to the essence of his

argument: the predictability of the distribution of plants and animals using principles of biogeography, He demonstrates that climate alone, although it causes variation, is not the sole cause of variation. The finches of the Galapagos islands vary from one island to the next, even though all of the islands have the same climate. Competition is needed in addition to climate and other aspects of geography to account for change. Darwin's final chapter demonstrates that classification of plants and animals has a branching pattern consistent with, and more understandable from, the point of view of variations and speciation caused by natural selection.

You will no doubt have noticed that Darwin has avoided the word "evolution" with even more vigor than he dumped fossils. In fact, he never used the word in the *Origin of Species*, due to concern that it would arouse the ire of the creationists. Herbert Spencer, a British sociologist, invented the phrase "survival of the fittest" and used the word evolution.

— Reported by Virginia Jergens.





**WHO :** All local skeptics - their friends and family - including members of FIG, ART, UC Skeptics, CORI (Columbus,OH), KASES (Kentucky), Lexington (TN) Skeptics, and South Shore Skeptics (Cleveland,OH) - adults only, please.

**WHAT :** Explore the World of Superstitions - rational & irrational, familiar & unfamiliar. Then, test your courage - del. one or two - open an umbrella inside, walk under a ladder, or step on a crack. Will you get home safely? Will you live to tell the tale? Join us and find out!



**WHEN :** Friday, October 13, 2000 at 7:30 P.M.--10 ish. Pop, Snacks, finger food and desserts. BYOB - wine and beer, no hard liquor.

**WHERE :** St. John's Unitarian Church, 320 Resor Ave. Cincinnati, OH



Please RSVP (so we know how many people to prepare for)  
with Donna Loughry at (513) 961-7331 after 5PM.

***Mark your calendars and plan to attend!***

**The Association for Rational Thought** is an independent, nonprofit, scientific and educational organization. We share the ideas and philosophies of CSICOP, the Skeptics Society, and JREF.

**CSICOP** : the *Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal* publishes the *Skeptical Inquirer*, a journal of investigations of paranormal claims. PO. Box 703, Amherst, NY 14226-0703, phone: 800-634-1610, fax: 716-636-1733, [www.scicop.org](http://www.scicop.org)

**The Skeptics Society**, publishes *The Skeptic Magazine*. PO Box 338, Altadena, CA 91001; phone: 626-794-3119; fax 626-794-1300; [skepticmag@aol.com](mailto:skepticmag@aol.com) and [www.skeptic.com](http://www.skeptic.com).

**JREF**: the James Randi Educational Foundation publishes the *Swift Newsletter*. 201 SE Davie Blvd. Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316-1815. phone: (954) 467-1112, fax: (954)467-1660, [www.randi.org](http://www.randi.org)

**A.R.T.** meets on the second Saturday of each month September through June, 10:00 AM at James Tavern in Blue Ash and publishes *Cincinnati Skeptic* each month. A.R.T. meetings are open to the public. A.R.T. also maintains a database of information on paranormal claims for local new media to consult and investigates local paranormal claims. A.R.T. was founded by Cincinnati area skeptics in 1991. Annual dues are \$15.00 and include a subscription to the *Cincinnati Skeptic*.

For more information call: President Roy Auerbach (513)731-2774 or Nurit Bowman, (513) 731-0642 or visit our website. **Address Changes and Corrections, Membership Questions:** Roy Auerbach (513) 731-2774 E-mail: [raa@cinci.rr.com](mailto:raa@cinci.rr.com)

**Mailing Label Information:** "00/00/00 Member": You are a member in good standing; your membership will expire on the date on the label. "Lapsed": (*highlighted*) - your membership has expired. Please send your dues as soon as possible.

**Yes!** — I want to support the important work of **The Association for Rational Thought** and receive *Cincinnati Skeptic* and meeting notices. I have enclosed funds for:

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Renewing Member

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*We have kept dues low and will continue to do so in spite of rising costs. However, if you are able to, your additional contributions are very much appreciated. Please give generously, if possible. Thank you very much!*

**I would like to make a contribution in addition to my dues to further the important work of the Association:**

Contribution Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Dues: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Make your check payable to the **Association for Rational Thought** and mail to A.R.T., P.O. Box 12896, Cincinnati OH 45212. *Contributions are not at present tax deductible, but we are working on it.*

Request subjects for future meetings \_\_\_\_\_

Please do *not* include my name and address in mailing lists exchanged with other groups.

### ***Skepticism and ART on the Electronic Media***



For the latest in skeptical news via e-mail, join SANE, the Skeptical Area Network Effort. You will find cheerful, rational messages from CSICOP, James "The Amazing" Randi, your fellow local skeptics and ART in your e-mail box every week. This is our means of staying in touch between issues of the *Cincinnati Skeptic*.

Be sure to check out our skeptical website at <http://www.cincinnati-skeptics.org> --- It contains: our BLURBS on various subjects; lots of nifty links to skeptical thinking around the world; the information for joining SANE; the basic definition of who we are, what we do, and our bylaws. In addition, you'll find such things as how to get to our meetings held at James Tavern; other ways to reach us; and how to send sample copies of the newsletter to potential members.

—David Wall, Web Site Manager

**Web:** <http://www.cincinnati-skeptics.org>

**E-mail:** [darkon@one.net](mailto:darkon@one.net)



**Association for Rational Thought**  
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**Cincinnati, OH 45212**

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The Association for Rational Thought is an organization committed to encouraging rational, well-informed evaluation of fringe-science, pseudoscience, and paranormal claims. A.R.T. encourages the investigation of paranormal and pseudoscientific claims from a responsible, scientific viewpoint and the distribution of the results of such investigations to the public. You are cordially invited to become a member of A.R.T. Membership information is included elsewhere in this issue.

## **Preview Of Coming Attractions....**

**Second Meeting of the 2000-2001 Season! Date and Day: Friday, 13 October 2000**

**Friday the 13th -- a great evening for a Superstition Bash!!**

***Mark your calendar and plan to attend!***

**NOTE: There will not be any Meeting on Saturday, October 14, 2000 !**

**Third Meeting of the 2000-2001 Season! Date and Day: Saturday November 11, 2000**

**Place: NEW LOCATION!!! NEW LOCATION!!!** Bonham Branch Library; 500 Springfield Pike, Wyoming, OH. Library is at NE corner of "the pike" & Wyoming Ave. Parking is extremely limited at library & for nearby businesses, so if you're at all ambulatory, PLEASE park down Wyoming Ave. (toward Sturkey's). Coffee & doughnuts can be had at the Wyoming Pastry Shop, 1/2 block E of Sturkey's & across the street. Or, coffee & croissants can be had at Le Cezanne, directly across Wyoming Ave. from the library. Do not browse the library w/food in hand — it causes too much confusion about just what the rules are.

**Time: 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM -- program -->12:15PM - 2:00 PM -- lunch at Sturkeys**

Sturkey's Restaurant; 400 Wyoming Ave.; to preview the menu, or get a good map: <http://www.sturkeys.com>

[http://www.sturkeys.com/pages/info\\_location.htm](http://www.sturkeys.com/pages/info_location.htm)

**Please mark your calendar and plan to attend!..See you there!**

***Join us....to find out what's real and what's not!***