



# Cincinnati Skeptic

*Newsletter of The Association for Rational Thought*

**Vol. 12 No.2**

**October/November 2002**

*All of human morality can be summarized in two sentences:*

*“We ought to. But we don’t.”*

*Kurt Tucholsky*

## *Do You have a Ph.D.?*



Yes, if it came bundled with the software.  
If it didn't, I don't need it.

## *September Meeting*

### **UFO Sightings and Alien Obsession**

Jim Moseley was the guest speaker at the ART meeting held at the Kings Island Resort Inn on the evening of September 27. He talked to our group about some of the many stories and characters he encountered in his personal UFO investigations along with some of his paranormal experiences. He has been researching UFO sightings since 1953 when he collected testimony about UFOs from Harry Truman, among others, but says he is less interested in the UFOs themselves than the people who believe in them. He is the author of books on UFOs and intermittently publishes his *Saucer Smear* newsletter.

Jim is a long-time friend of Philip Klass, the skeptical UFO investigator. Klass asked him to start a skeptics group in his hometown but Jim refused because he is not totally a skeptic. Klass said that we will not know  
(Cont. Pg 5)

## *If Noah lived in Cincinnati...*

In the year 2002 Noah lived in Cincinnati. The Lord spoke to Noah and said: “In one year, I am going to make it rain and cover the whole earth with water until all is destroyed. But I want you to save the righteous people and two of every kind of living thing on earth. Therefore, I command you to build an Ark.” In a flash of lightning, God delivered the specifications for an Ark.

Noah took the plans and agreed to build the Ark. “Remember,” said the Lord, “You must complete the Ark and bring everything aboard in one year.”

Exactly one year later, fierce storm clouds covered the earth and all the seas went into a tumult. The Lord saw Noah sitting in his front yard weeping. “Noah,” He said, “where is the Ark?”

“Lord, please forgive me!” cried Noah. “I did my best, but there were big problems. First, I had to get a permit for construction; and your plans did not comply with the codes. I had to hire an engineering firm to redraw the plans. Then, I got into a fight with OSHA over whether or not the Ark needed a fire sprinkler system and floatation devices. Then, my neighbor objected, claiming I was violating zoning ordinances by building the Ark in my front yard; so I  
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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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***A Puzzle for Thinkers...*****What American President wrote this torrid Love Poem?**

Do you ever dream, my sweetheart, of twilight long ago,  
Of a park in old Kalgoolie, where the bougainvilleas grow,  
Where the moonbeams on the pathway trace a shimmering brocade,  
And the over hanging peppers form a lovers' promenade?

Years have flown since then, my sweetheart, fleet as orchard blooms in May,  
But the hour that fills my dreaming, was it only yesterday?  
Stood we two a space in silence, while the summer sun slipped down,  
And you raised your tender glances darkly, dreamily to mine,  
And my pulses clashed like cymbals in rhapsody divine.

While the starlight-spangled heavens rolled around us where we stood,  
And a tide of bliss kept surging through the currents of our blood,  
And I spent my soul in kisses, crushed upon your scarlet mouth,  
Oh! My red-lipped, sun-browned sweetheart, dark-eyed daughter of the south.

I have fought my fight and triumphed, on the map I've writ my name,  
But I prize one hour of loving, more than fifty years of fame.

**Solution to last issue's puzzle: How Old is Grandpa?**

This young man could have been born as late as 1941, before the United States entered World War II. The depression had not yet lifted, and the "brave new world" was still four difficult war years in the future. In fact he could probably have been born about 1946 or 1947 before the world changed.

**How You Know When.**

One night in 1852, when he was thirty, Grant's successor Rutherford Hayes found himself overwhelmed by physical desire. He was attending a lecture by Professor Agassiz at the Young Men's Mercantile Library Association in Cincinnati, when he saw a young woman in the audience and was deeply attracted to her.

After the lecture was over, he found himself compelled to follow her out into the street. In the pouring rain, he followed her down towards the river where she disappeared into a shabby house. It was only then Hayes realized that the girl was a prostitute, and he knew that it was a matter of greatest urgency that he get married.

— Nigel Cawthorne, *Sex Lives of the Presidents* (1996) p. 113

State officials in Ohio are presiding over the state's demise. If you're wondering why the quality of life in Ohio seems to be lower than it used to be, look no further than our state leaders. Ohio ranks near the bottom among the fifty states in terms of investment in education. States with a strong tradition of such investment enjoy economic growth, high-paying jobs and more stable families and communities. In Ohio, our governor and the state legislature are now planning to fix this with even deeper cuts to education.

— *Akron Beacon Journal* (4 June 2002)



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

*The Dawn of Human Culture:  
A Bold New Theory on what Sparked the “Big Bang”  
of Human Consciousness*

by Richard G. Klein with Blake Edgar  
(New York: John Wiley & Sons, 2002)

You get two things in this book. First, a fairly complete review of human evolutionary history from *Orrorin tugenensis* about six million years in the past to modern *Homo sapiens* some fifty thousand years ago. This is an up to date narrative by a Stanford University professor of anthropology. The co-author is a science writer and editor, whose expertise assures us a clear and consistent story. The book also contains a plethora of indispensable line illustration which have been specifically redrawn for this volume.

The second aspect of the book is Klein’s hypothesis about when, and in which branch of the human family tree, modern intelligence and consciousness arose. Klein is careful to give credit to earlier thinkers who have proposed many of the ideas he incorporates into his theory. He also makes clear distinctions between evidence he can adduce and rational speculation, which may be plausible but for which he has no or inadequate evidence.

Klein makes repeated use of the hypothesis of “punctuated equilibrium,” the idea that evolution often proceeds in intensive spurts in small isolated populations. Thus he accepts, along with other paleoanthropologists, that the human family tree contains many twigs and branches which lead nowhere. Extinct human species include almost certainly the Neanderthals, and quite possibly the species *Homo erectus*, which he interprets as limited to the Asian continent. The author also has to face the fact that fossils tell us very little about evolutionary development in the brain. We have to infer increased cognitive capacity from changes in culture.

Klein sees four such spurts in human history. The first occurred about five to seven million years ago, when an African ape learned to walk upright. Lucy, the *Australopithecus afarensis*, is the best known represen-

tative of this species. The second is represented by the first hand axe and similar stone tool makers who emerged two-and-a-half million years ago. The third punctuation came about 1.8 million years ago, when humans with modern body shapes colonized Europe and Asia. The final spurt, and the focus of this book, is the development of the modern brain with complex language capacity, art and a more advanced technology. This occurred a mere 60 to 50 thousand years ago, and is the topic of this volume.

In essence, Klein rejects the “out of Africa” theory, that Neanderthals and *Homo erectus* are ancestors, who colonized the old world and evolved into modern humans. Rather, he systematizes the “African Eve” thesis, that modern *Homo sapiens* evolved rather suddenly about sixty thousand years ago in Africa and colonized the rest of the world only since that time. He theorizes that this change does not represent a phase of cultural learning, but a distinct genetic mutation. Much of the evidence for this theory rests on recent DNA measurement technology, and Klein relies on these strongly. Which means that *Homo neanderthalensis* and *Homo erectus* are separate species who represent dead ends on the human family tree. We do not carry their genes.

Put another way. Klein sees a change in species between the Middle Stone Age, which includes the Mousterian culture in Europe, and the Aurignacian of Cro-Magnon man in the Late Stone Age. It also means that Neanderthals evolved in Europe and the Middle East, and never lived in Africa. Erectus, in this interpretation, were confined to Asia and never expanded their range into Europe.

I think this is a very important book. It gave me extensive insight into the present state of human evolution research. Whether Klein’s theoretical interpretation is correct depends, as he himself emphasizes repeatedly, on future archaeological finds. He provides many leads which require falsification or confirmation.

— Wolf Roder



Intellectuals and academics do mess up the social class structure. They tend to have lower-class incomes, bourgeois values, upper-class tastes, and prefer high-brow music.

— bio-astrologer Esmeralda von  
Löwenzahn-Dentdelion

*Drawing the Line: How Mason and Dixon Surveyed  
the Most Famous Border in America*

by Edwin Danson

(New York: John Wiley & Sons, 2001)

Charles Mason (1728-1786) and Jeremiah Dixon (1733-1779) had absolutely nothing to do with the perpetuation of slavery or where slavery was practiced. In fact, in their time slavery was as much at home in Pennsylvania as in Maryland. The two men were astronomers and geographers, mathematical scientists and geodetic surveyors. They were hired by the owners of Pennsylvania and Maryland; respectively the heirs of George Calvert, Lord Baltimore and of William Penn, who had been granted the proprietorships of these lands by royal charter in the seventeenth century. Mason and Dixon were brought over from England as experts to survey the contentious border between what were to become the States.

Actually, before they could start on the line that bears their name, they faced an even more challenging assignment, to survey the western boundary of the three counties which became the State of Delaware. This line is also an eastern boundary of Maryland. It runs roughly north of northwest starting from the center point on an east-west line crossing the Delmarva peninsula, to form a tangent on a circle, which has the spire of the Newcastle courthouse as its center and a radius of twelve miles. Much of the region traversed was swamp land at the time.

The border between the lands of Penn and Calvert was finally defined — after much quarrel and dispute — as running along a parallel of latitude fifteen miles south of the southernmost part of Philadelphia, which was eventually agreed to be a particular house on South Street. In fact the northern side of this house. This parallel was to run for five degrees of longitude from its intersection with the right bank of the Delaware River. A very difficult assignment at a time when the length of neither a degree of latitude nor of longitude was known with certainty. Mason and Dixon arrived in Philadelphia in November 1763, and did not leave until September 1768 after they had completed these tasks.



Mason and Dixon could not measure south of Philadelphia without crossing the Delaware into New Jersey. They thus had to project the latitude of their starting point 31 miles westward, before starting south to establish the required latitude of the boundary. It was found as the parallel of 39 degrees 43 minutes and 18.2 seconds of North latitude. Only after this finding could they push west to survey the line.

Remember that going straight west is an oxymoron. West is along a parallel, which is not a straight, but a curving line. Thus Mason and Dixon ran a straight, i.e. great circle line for ten minute increments, and then calculated the offsets to the parallel. All of which required clearing an eight yard wide trace through the wilderness. The last part of their survey entered Indian territory, and a delegation of Mohawk and Onondaga was sent to accompany the survey party.

Danson gives us a good description of the problems and hardships of travel and survey in the eighteenth century. Mason and Dixon met, consulted, advised, and were hosted by many of the educated and leading men of the colonies. The need for a firm boundary was widely understood, as the uncertainties of title and taxation in the disputed territories had already occasioned strife and warfare in the borderlands. Danson also provides a fair introduction and description of the problems of surveying at the time. The most technical details however are relegated to twelve page appendix. We do learn why the Statute Mile has such an odd number of feet, 5280. A mile consists of eight furlongs, important for subdividing it into halves and quarters. Ten chains make a furlong, and each chain has a hundred links, or alternately four poles. These chains, links, and poles were used to measure the earth by Mason and Dixon.

— Wolf Roder

**Just what we needed.**

Two British master's degree students have invented a device they call a "molar mobile" that can be implanted into a tooth and will receive telephone calls, listen to broadcasts and connect to verbal Internet sites.

— *Associated Press* (28 June 2002)

*Noah from page 1....*

had to get a variance from the city planning commission.

I had problems getting enough wood for the Ark, because there was a ban on cutting trees to protect the Spotted Owl. I finally convinced the U.S. Forest Service that I needed the wood to save the owls.

However, the Fish and Wildlife Service won't let me catch any owls. So, no owls. The carpenters formed a union and went out on strike. I had to negotiate a settlement with their Labor Union. Now I have 16 carpenters on the Ark, but still no owls.

When I started rounding up the other animals, I got sued by an animal rights group. They objected to my only taking two of each kind aboard. Just when I got the suit dismissed, the EPA notified me that I could not complete the Ark without filing an environmental impact statement on your proposed flood. They didn't take very kindly to the idea that they had no jurisdiction over the conduct of the Creator of the Universe. Then, the Army Corps of Engineer demanded a map of the proposed new flood plain. I sent them a globe.



Right now, I am trying to resolve a complaint filed with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission that I am practicing discrimination by not taking godless, unbelieving people aboard! The IRS has seized all my assets, claiming that I'm building the Ark in preparation to flee the country to avoid paying taxes. I just got a notice from the State that I owe some kind of user tax and failed to register the Ark as a recreational watercraft.



Finally, the ACLU got the courts to issue an injunction against further construction of the Ark, saying that since God is flooding the earth, it is a religious event and, therefore, unconstitutional. I really don't think I can finish the Ark for another five or six years!" Noah wailed.

The sky began to clear; the sun began to shine, and the seas began to calm. A rainbow arched across the sky. Noah looked up hopefully. "You mean You are not going to destroy the earth, Lord?" And the Lord spake: "There is no need, for the Government has already done it."

— contributed by Ed Kagin

**Spiritual-medical-psyche self-help.**

I was having an out-of-body experience and almost astral-traveled away yesterday, so I grounded myself and got centered with the help of my spirit guides and then the phone rang, and sensing the negative vibrations, I threw the I-Ching and checked my numerology chart, nearly having a primal scream, but my energy was too blocked.

So I did some bio-energetics and self-parenting, took some flower essences and ate an organic oat bran ginseng muffin, but my inner child wasn't feeling nurtured yet. To fix this, I had a Rice Dream Frozen Pie, which, of course, made me hyper, so I did the relaxation response technique I had just learned at the Self Healing Angst Tree Defoliating Center while listening to my subliminal tapes.

But that left me feeling depersonalized, so I did some polarity work, foot reflexology, and past life regression, then rebirthed myself and called Moon Beam, my body worker, to make an appointment for a Shiatsu/ Reike/ Rolfing/ Feldenkreis/ Swedish/ Japanese deep tissue massage. Unfortunately, she flaked out and never returned my call, so I decided to energize my crystals and do some positive imagery because all my visualization techniques and affirmations made my space feel invaded.

So to get empowered, I got a psychic reading from Mother Heart Love, around the issue of my assertiveness, so I could feel my radiance and have some energy for my psychocalisthenics and inversion-swing before my harmonic brain wave synergy session.

This made me more focused for my actualization seminar, holistic healing class and dream workshop, which in turn, made me clearer for my Gestalt behavioral cognitive transpersonal Reichian- Jungian-Freudian- Ericksonian session at the hot springs, but my aura was too weak for my trance channeling group, so I fasted until noon to recharge my chakras.

At that point, I sensed my intuition was high and my cycle was focused, so I turned on my ion generator to open up for my Neural Linguistic Programming session. But I needed to have my pyramid recharged before my guided synchronicity meditation, so I got some craniosacral therapy, which aligned me for the fire walk between my tarot card reading and my sensory deprivation tank appointment.

But even after all that, I felt what I truly needed was a meaningful relationship to mirror myself, so I went to my personal shaman, and then to my guru, but they were no help, so instead I went to the Intensive Whole Life Earth Rebirth Cosmic Expo Symposium Workshop to find someone who really knew what was going on. That didn't help either, so I locked myself in a calcium-coated Orgone Box and meditated until 9 p.m..



None of it really worked for me, so I rolled a big fat doobie, got stoned, drank a half a bottle of Cabernet, and ate a carton of Ben & Jerry's Chocolate Chip Cookie Dough Ice Cream —and did I feel right with the world!



— from internet by Charles Hughes

# HAUNTED EVENTS!!

## A Cincinnati Halloween

Booga booga! All right, that has never served well to scare the skeptics.

So what's a skeptic to do on Halloween? Personally, I fire up the VCR and watch *Tremors*, or the 1982 remake of *The Thing*, or something else of that nature. Orville Redenbacher provides the munchies. If you're looking to get out of the house for something other than wearing a mask and mooching candy, there are a few things going on in the Greater Cincinnati area (or nearby) on and around Halloween.

Be sure to check out *CityBeat*, in dead-tree version or online at <http://www.citybeat.com/>, for their Halloween List which appears a week or two before Halloween. However, gathered from various sources and using the telephone to verify as much as possible, here's an advance peek at some of your likely Halloween options:

### The Haunted Village

Why visit just a haunted house, when you can bring the whole family to ... A Haunted Village! Stroll through candle-lit walkways and experience haunted tales and legends of times past. From the chilling laughter of the headless horseman, to a disappearing ghost train, to the terrible cackle of the witches' lair, Heritage Village has it all. There will also be a funeral parlor, a haunted graveyard, and of course, a haunted house. This historic Village is transformed into a ghoulish good time of "slight fright" for the entire family."

#### Haunted Village at Heritage Village Museum

in Sharon Woods 513/563-9484

Friday - Sunday, Oct. 11 - 27

Fridays, 6-9 p.m. Saturday/Sundays 5-8 p.m.

Admission \$7, children under 3 free.



### Haunted Cincinnati Bus Tour

Learn the Queen City's supernatural tales and visit its famous ghostly haunts. At Bob Mackey's nightclub, hear the tragic tale of the ghosts of headless Pearl Bradly and her lover. Along the way the tour guide will point out the sites of the area's most notorious crimes."

Cincinnati Museum Center,  
Union Terminal,  
1301 Western Ave Event Phone:  
513/287-7000, 800/733-2077.  
Saturday, Oct. 26, 9 - noon.  
Members \$40, non-members \$45.  
Registration deadline: Fri, Oct. 25.

### The Haunted Farm

There will be a new: Crazy Corn Maze. 18th Annual Haunted Hayride featuring movie scenes and spooky fun. New frights, bonfires, food, Country Farm Market, Halloween and fall shopping. Pumpkins and more.

**Bonnybrook Farms**, 9400 Clyn, Centerville, OH  
45458 Phone: 937/433-6393

Sep. 27 through Oct. 26;

Fridays and Saturdays; 7:30 p.m.-11:30 p.m.

Haunted Farm admission \$12; children 3 to 5 \$5.

Hayride only \$8, children 3 to 5 \$3. Corn maze only \$5, children 3 to 5 \$3. Children 2 and younger free. Free parking.

### Bicentennial Halloween Festival

Activities for the children during the day and fun for adults at night. Parade, games, contests, food, prizes, etc."

Downtown Lebanon in Lebanon, OH  
513/932-1100  
Saturday, Oct. 26, 2002, 1:00 p.m.



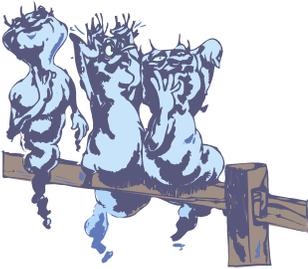
### Halloween Campout

Activities include games, contests, Halloween decorations and trick-or-treat. Regular camping fees apply. One of Ohio's largest parks, East Fork State Park is 25 miles outside of Cincinnati in Clermont County. The park has camping, hiking, fishing, hunting and boating. Harsha Lake is 2,160 acres.

Presented by **East Fork State Park**,  
Bethel, OH 45106  
513/734-4323  
Friday/Saturday, Oct. 25/26

### Freak Show

A frightful array of theatrical shorts, comedy and original sketches. Themed rock 'n' roll ... will include Santana's *Evil Ways*, Tori Amos' *Precious Things*, Michael Jackson's *Thriller* and everybody's favorite, "Time Warp" from *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*. ... the first act will include two short plays ... *Lurker* depicts a man's obsession with his mysterious neighbor and *Discoverie of Witchcraft* tells the story of a young woman's dark ancestry. ... Frankenstein, Dracula, the Wolfman, the Mummy and Voodoo Barbie all make appearances in the lighter second segment of the show, as does Jason, who will be back with more of his scary stories.



### Boofest 2002

This annual family friendly event continues this year with a *Haunted Neighborhood* featuring characters from fairy tales and children's songs, each one waiting to greet you with tricks and treats. At the BooFest Carnival, kids can ride the Erie Express, a haunted train, and win prizes while playing Halloween games. With the facility's lights turned up, Thursday afternoons are specially designed for children four years old and under."



**Cincinnati History Museum**, - Museum Center.  
1301 Western Avenue. Queensgate. 513/287-7000.  
Throughout Oct.  
2-7 p.m. Thursdays. 5:30-9 p.m. Fridays.  
10 a.m.-9:30 p.m. Saturdays. 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Sundays.  
\$6.75 adults, \$5.75 seniors, \$3.75 children 12 and under.

For the mouse potato there's a **Haunted Cincinnati Website** (no relation to the event noted above) at <http://www.hauntedcincinnati.com/>. Dedicated in trying to capture and record anomalistic and paranormal occurrences.

This site has links to various articles such as "09-03-02 Police helicopter chases UFO" and "08-30-02 TV Crew hunting legend of ghost", and has a Haunted House Picture Gallery.

The Haunted Cincinnati site notes that it "has visited some of the more well known locations in our area rumored to have paranormal activity. Several residential places we have visited have asked to remain anonymous therefore they will not be published below." They list Wesleyan Cemetery, Cody Road, Mansfield Reformatory, Spring Grove Cemetery, and Witching Tree of Alexandria, and note that "In the near future we hope to visit the following locations: Music Hall, Bobby Mackeys Music World."

— Happy Haunting, Dave Locke (15 Oct.'02)

**Shadowbox Cabaret** South One 1 Levee Way  
Suite 4101, Newport 859/416-7625  
Sept. 18-Nov. 30. Wednesday and Thursday, 7 p.m. (\$20); Friday and Saturday, 8 p.m. (\$25), with an 11 p.m. late show on Saturday (\$20). Ticket price for students and seniors is \$10 for all shows. No show Fri. Oct. 25 "due to a special fundraising event."

The U.S. Census Bureau data reports released in the last few weeks show that Ohio is among the most aggressive states in the country in spending money to build sports arenas, dorms and classrooms at its state universities, but falls far below average in providing the operating money that makes an education more affordable.

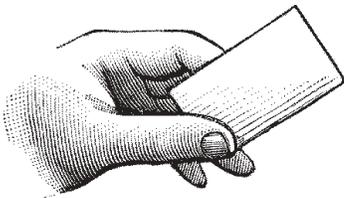
— Akron Beacon Journal (6 June 2002)



## UFO Sightings from page 1....

any more about UFOs when we die than we now know, implying that there is nothing more to know, that sightings and claims are frauds or delusions and that no major event will ever occur where indisputable evidence settles the issue for once and for all. He says Klass may be right, but Jim thinks there are genuine mysteries involved with these sightings that are currently unsolvable even if they are not actually alien space ships and that science will eventually solve them, but perhaps not in our lifetimes.

He mentioned airline pilots appearing on Art Bell's radio show. They would never express their experiences about their sightings of UFOs on the airwaves for fear of being labeled crackpots or delusional, but behind the scenes they spoke freely about unusual unexplained sightings that could not be easily explained away. Jim is more of an agnostic than a skeptic about God, UFOs, and the paranormal. He is not a scientist and does not understand quantum physics but accepts this on faith. In the same vein, he is not skeptical of the mysteries surrounding UFOs and the paranormal, only the claims of believers. Likewise, he does not accept the scientific dismissals and explanations of all the reported UFO and paranormal phenomena.



Jim thinks some people have psychic powers,--sometimes. He briefly discussed James Randi's offer of a million dollar prize to anyone who can demonstrate any psychic powers whatsoever of their own choosing under controlled conditions. All those claiming psychic powers who have taken the test have failed miserably and Jim says will continue to fail because he thinks psychic powers only occur sporadically and spontaneously for short bursts of time and then disappear. He agrees with Randi that psychic powers must be tested under tightly controlled conditions, but also believes these tightly controlled

sightings and claims are frauds or delusions and that no major event will ever occur where indisputable evidence settles the issue for once and for all. He says Klass may be right, but Jim thinks there are genuine mysteries involved with these sightings that are currently unsolvable even if they are not actually alien

conditions wreck spontaneous psychic powers, which all skeptics know is the standard excuse of believers when any demonstrations of psychic powers fail.

For the second half of the talk Jim talked about some of his unusual personal experiences with UFOs and the paranormal. In 1990 while on a flight passing over Cape Kennedy at the exact time of a shuttle launch, he noticed a persistent light following the plane, thinking at first it might be an unexplainable UFO. When he asked the stewardess about this, she said it was the wing light. He mentioned this as an example of when someone's mind is attuned to expecting something paranormal or alien, that person may be deceived into thinking an ordinary occurrence is paranormal or a UFO.

Related to this same form of self-deception, Jim told of an experience in 1954 soon after he became interested in saucers. In Coconut Grove, Florida, Jim would stay up late and watch for UFOs. Once he stood on a roof top for two or three hours but nothing happened so he played a mind game to keep from being bored. He wondered if a flying saucer was pretending to be a star. Watching a constellation of five stars, one light suddenly split off from the group and headed down like a meteor. He asked himself whether this was a hallucination or self-hypnosis or did he really see a UFO? But this experience never occurred again.

In 1953 he while gathering material for a book, Jim traveled to Orangeburg, South Carolina, to talk to a couple who reported regularly seeing UFOs around dusk. The couple lived close to an airport. Sure enough when he went outside on the porch with the couple at dusk he



saw a glowing object rise from one horizon pass overhead and then dip below the opposite horizon. It was a bright starlike object with



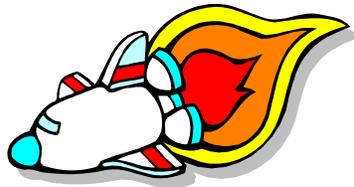


pulsating orange lights that followed the same path night after night. Jim called the local air force base. They expressed interest in the sighting, neither rejecting it nor explaining it as something from the

base. Jim said it certainly could have been an airplane or some secret device, but who knows for sure?

Jim mentioned one other personal UFO experience while he was in Peru treasure hunting in the late fifties. While on the train coming back from Arequipa, Peru, he saw two brilliant lights on Mt. Chachani in the Andes somewhere around an altitude he estimated as 16,000 feet. There were no roads or anything else man-made at that height. He asked himself what could it be?

Lively discussion ensued after the talk as several of the skeptical audience members challenged his leaving open the possibility of so many supposedly paranormal and UFO phenomena being true and his refusal to accept simple scientific explanations as resolving the mysteries. One questioner asked him how he could compare his faith in quantum mechanics and other common sense defying scientific theories and discoveries firmly established by over a century of research to his faith in the supposed mysteries of UFOs and the paranormal when there is not one shred of reliable evidence for UFOs and the paranormal? Others questioned how he could consider some unlikely coincidences with cards or slot machines as inexplicable by natural physical explanations but instead possibly being psychic phenomena



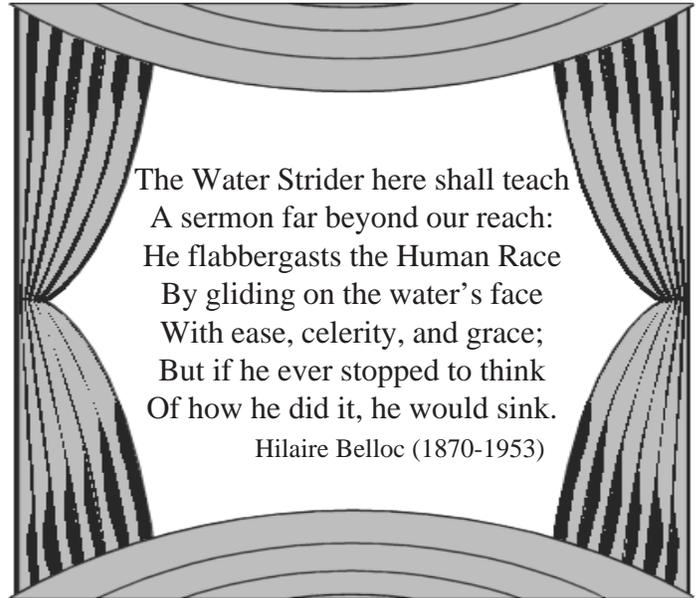
-- reported by Bryan Sellers

Books by James W. Moseley:

*Jim Moseley's Book of Saucer News* (ed. 1967)  
*UFO Crash Secrets at Wright Patterson Air Force Base* (1991)

*Shockingly Close to the Truth: Confessions of a Grave Robbing Ufologist* (2002)

### Poem in a Box



The Water Strider here shall teach  
 A sermon far beyond our reach:  
 He flabbergasts the Human Race  
 By gliding on the water's face  
 With ease, celerity, and grace;  
 But if he ever stopped to think  
 Of how he did it, he would sink.

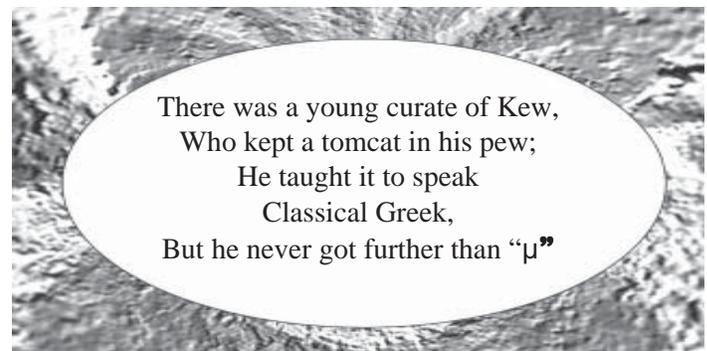
Hilaire Belloc (1870-1953)

### Explaining how to deal with appropriations bills too big or too small..

Well, I would tell you what I would say to members of my own party, and it is really third grade economics. So prepare yourself. I know I am speaking down to you but ... the appropriations process is trying to pretend that you put out thirteen bowls of ice cream. . . .

In order to get the little bowls sold, it is not enough for some people. So they dip a little ice cream out of the big bowls. . . . So they get all the bowls sold, and they have still got three or four of the biggest bowls. There is not enough ice cream left in them to sell them, and so they have to go out and find some more ice cream. That is the game we have played around here for a long, long time.

— House Speaker Dennis Hastert (R-IL) *The Hill*



There was a young curate of Kew,  
 Who kept a tomcat in his pew;  
 He taught it to speak  
 Classical Greek,  
 But he never got further than "μ"





## Details of Upcoming Events...



Second Meeting of the  
2002-2003 Season!

Date and Day: Sat. Oct. 12, 2002

**Time:** 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM -- program

-->12:15PM - 2:00 PM Lunch (The Dubliner.)

**Professor Edgar M. Slotkin** of the University of Cincinnati will speak on “**Witches and Fairies: A Short View of Accusations and Legends.**” The topic is the nature of witchcraft but especially the witchcraft accusation hysteria of the Renaissance. Of interest are both where it occurred and where it didn't; also the inverse relationship between fairy legends and witchcraft accusations.

Third Meeting  
of the 2002-2003 Season!

Date and Day: Sat. Nov. 9, 2002

**Time:** 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM -- program

-->12:15PM - 2:00 PM Lunch (The Dubliner)

**Professor Bill Jensen** of the University of Cincinnati on **Winds of Delusion: Telekinesis and the Radiometer Effect.** The talk will review some historical attempts to verify experimentally the existence of both telekinesis and the human soul and will show how these faulty experiments generated spurious results through a failure to take into account the most rudimentary facts of physics and chemistry.

## Membership Duration And Dues.....

### REMINDER.....

All memberships start in August, coordinated with our fiscal year, from 1 August to 31 July of the next year. This will allow us to mail renewal requests only once a year in the Fall.

### REMINDER....

### YEARLY MEMBERSHIPS ARE DUE NOW!

Please Pay/Send In Your  
Membership Dues Now!

SEE THE  
FORM ON  
PAGE 11.....



## Science Book-Club Meetings for 2002

All meetings are held at the downtown Cincinnati Public Library in meeting room 3A on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor at 2:30 pm on the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of each month unless otherwise specified.

**Oct 27** - *Extinct Humans* by Ian Tattersall and Jeffrey H. Schwartz

**Nov 24** - *E=MC<sup>2</sup>* by David Bodanis

**Dec 15** - Sunday at 2:30 *Seven Daughters of Eve* by Bryan Sykes)



**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. P.O. Box 703, Amherst, NY 14226-0703, phone: 800-634-1610, fax: 716-636-1733, www.scicop.org

**The Skeptics Society**, publishes *The Skeptic Magazine*. PO Box 338, Altadena, CA 91001; phone: 626-794-3119; fax 626-794-1300; skepticism@aol.com and 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

**A.R.T.** meets on the second Saturday of each month September through June, 10:00 AM and publishes *Cincinnati Skeptic* bi-monthly. 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 Rick Davis (513) 474-3087 or visit our website.

**Address Changes & Corrections, Membership Questions:** Brad Bonham (513) 761-5613 (bonham@compuserve.)

**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:

New Member

Renewing Member

Contribution

Gift membership for/by:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Work: \_\_\_\_\_ Home: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

***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; 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  
P.O. Box 12896  
Cincinnati, OH 45212

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### What is a skeptic?

Modern skepticism is a response to the torrent of paranormal and pseudoscientific claims that pervade our lives. The stories of ghosts, flying saucers, miracle cures, lake monsters and many other fringe beliefs often go unchallenged. Skeptics provide the challenge.

While many of us are not scientists, we embrace the scientific method as mankind's best invention for seeking knowledge. Skeptics are not cynics. We don't simply reject every unusual idea. We do know extraordinary claims demand extraordinary evidence. We insist on the evidence.

Cincinnati Skeptics, The Association for Rational Thought, meet to discuss such claims. We debate the merits; we skewer dogmatism. We have fun.

The truth is out there. And skeptics are looking for it.

## Preview Of Coming Attractions....

*Second Meeting of the 2002-2003 Season!*      *Date and Day:* Sat. Oct. 12, 2002

**Time:** 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM -- program -->12:15PM - 2:00 PM Lunch (usual place.)

*Third Meeting of the 2002-2003 Season!*      *Date and Day:* Sat. Nov. 9, 2002

**Time:** 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM -- program -->12:15PM - 2:00 PM Lunch (usual place.)

*Fourth Meeting of the 2002-2003 Season!*      *Date and Day:* Sat. Dec. 14, 2002

**Time:** 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM -- program -->12:15PM - 2:00 PM Lunch (usual place.)

***Watch your mail for further details!***

**This year there will be a Friday 13<sup>th</sup> in December, and June.**

**Help the program committee think about a celebration!**

***Join US!***