



REPORT

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Psychic in Caylee Anthony case skewered on national TV

By Gary P. Posner

A female psychic based in Virginia — not Noreen Renier this time — has insinuated herself as a featured player in the Caylee Anthony case, and has come under fire on national television.

As this article is being written in mid-January, a videotape has been circulating on TV for the past several days, showing a private investigator hired by the Anthony family searching the same area where little Caylee's bones were discovered in November. But his search took place in October, and he is observed on the tape talking on his cell phone as he probed the ground looking for the remains. According to all accounts, the person at the other end of the phone was "psychic" Ginnette Lucas.

Although I did not see Nancy Grace's January 13 program on the Headline News cable channel, Lucas was a guest that evening. She reportedly told of how she had been instrumental in guiding that investigator to the area, which came to her in a dream, where the remains would be found a month later.

And perhaps she was. After all, even though nothing was found during that search, it did turn out to be the general area where the body had been deposited. But others have pointed out that it had long since become common knowledge that the toddler's mother — Casey Anthony, the suspected murderer — and her friends had played in that part of the neighborhood woods during their childhood and had even buried their deceased pets there.

I did catch the following night's edition of *Nancy Grace*, and was pleasantly surprised by the discussion that ensued about Ginnette Lucas, and psychics in general. First to comment was WFTV/Orlando TV reporter Kathi Belich, a regular on Grace's show during the life of this case. (She had been a reporter for Ch. 10 in Tampa at the time of the 1989 Tarpon Springs "Weeping Icon" fiasco and I had accompanied her to the Greek Orthodox shrine in TBS's first investigative effort, which

garnered much press attention.) Belich told Grace that shortly after the previous night's show, she received a call from a woman in Virginia who said that about 20 years ago her niece was murdered by an unknown assailant, and that she and her sister (the mother), desperate after a month, had paid Lucas about \$5,000 "and got only useless information" in return. They lived near a military base, and Lucas' clues mentioned a soldier in a red car, and automobile license numbers that turned out to be invalid, "and then when their money ran out, so did her clues, and she believes that she's a fake."

A New York psychologist, Dr. Caryn Stark, then empathized with desperate people who elect to seek out psychics, but noted that that psychics are "fallible just like you would be and I would be, so I wouldn't be surprised if sometimes she would make mistakes, and sometimes get it right." When asked by Grace about the alleged \$5,000 rip-off, Stark clarified, "Well, if there is that avarice component to it, then we have to assume that she really isn't a valid psychic, if there is such a thing, and she is just out to be a part of all of the circus that's surrounding this [case]."

But the coup de grâce to the notion of psychic detectives was delivered by Mark Klaas, the victims' rights advocate whose daughter Polly was kidnapped and murdered nearly 16 years ago in a high-profile California case. His words of wisdom:

To the point that this woman took \$5,000 and stopped giving clues when the money ran out, if that is true, it is predatory. There is an old adage that if you put enough monkeys in a room with typewriters, they'll eventually make Shakespeare. Well, it's also true that if you put enough pushpins into a map, you're going to come up with a positive hit. Psychics give broad generalities that allow them ultimately to say they've been able to solve a case. On the west coast, they'll say, "I see mountains. I hear a babbling brook. I see a road. . . ." Well, you've just described 95% of California. . . . In Florida, "I see flatland, I see marshes, and I see alligators." I think psychics should not be consulted in these situations. They never solve the cases. The police don't want them in. That's the end of the story as far as I'm concerned with psychics.

If only such rationality were the norm.

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C h a i r m a n ' s

O r n e r

Global Warming and the "Confirmation Bias"

By Terry A. Smiljanich

The next page of this newsletter carries an extended "confessional" by founder Gary Posner, who admits to blasphemous skepticism concerning the alleged adverse affects that humanity's activities are having on the global climate, a skepticism that seemingly puts him at odds with the great majority of the scientific community (or at least the most vocal members of that community).

As Gary points out, there is ample reason to doubt the sometimes strident voices predicting imminent doom for mankind unless drastic and expensive steps are taken to reduce immediately the release of man-made carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. Former Vice President and Oscar-and-Nobel-award-winning Al Gore, standing on a crane and illustrating the contemporary huge increase in greenhouse gases, is emblematic of this posture.

At the same time we are confronted with these voices, however, we also hear the likes of Rush Limbaugh crowing every time America or Europe experiences a cold snap, or we get e-mails sending us the latest evidence that this past winter was one of the coldest ever. Take that, global warming doomsayers!

Gary's article illustrates the fact that the jury is still out, and that there are qualified climate experts who question the certainty of man-made global warming (MMGW). I myself tend to credit reports that global warming is real and that mankind is a viable suspect. I have good friends who are scientists convinced that MMGW is supported by the better evidence.

But I'm not a climate expert and neither are you, the reader. As we encounter conflicting reports on a subject such as MMGW, how should

we sift through them and come to any conclusions, tentative though they may be?

We should remain cautious of falling into the "confirmation bias," which is the common tendency to give more attention to data that confirms what we have already come to believe or suspect as true. It's hot in Oregon? See, the ice caps are melting! It's cold in Georgia? See, there's nothing to worry about.

We naturally tend to give greater credence to reports that confirm a belief we currently hold. We are all guilty of this. When I read yet another account of a failed ESP experiment, I smile knowingly. When I read one about a seemingly positive ESP result, I frown and look for the flaws.

There's nothing wrong with this to a point, as long as we remember that the extraordinary claim should be treated with greater skepticism. Gary has pointed out to me that though his "critical thinking" mentor, UFO skeptic Philip J. Klass, died in 2005 (so we can't query him), today's two leading UFO skeptics, James Oberg and Robert Sheaffer, both view the "MMGW crisis" hypothesis as the more extraordinary climate claim.

Though I disagree with them, we need to maintain the requisite open-mindedness to consider views contrary to our own. That is what differentiates our mindset from that of, say, a 9/11 conspiracist who leaps on any and all stray bits of information to confirm his fevered imagination.

On a subject such as MMGW, a topic of which few of us are experts, we should always be on the lookout for any tendency to fall into the "confirmation bias." Let's remain skeptical, but let's not selectively seek out evidence that confirms our initial positions.

Confessions of a “Holocaust Denier”

By Gary P. Posner

I was moved to (crocodile) tears when I read of British-born Bishop Richard Williamson’s apology to the Holy See, Pope Benedict XVI, for having denied, in a January 21 Swedish television interview, the systematic genocidal gassing of the Jews by the Nazis. Perhaps the ghosts of my ancestors had talked some sense into this man of God. But I doubt it. His perfunctory apology, in which he expressed regret for his “imprudent” remarks, seemed a mere formality.

Yet, I awakened the next morning with a calling to confess my own sins to those to whom so many of *my* humble earthly labors are devoted, namely, the Skeptical See. If I don’t move all of you to tears, perhaps I might at least move some of you an inch.

I could begin by confessing my doubts about the very existence of God. But even though the overwhelming majority of the world’s inhabitants feel otherwise, and a significant minority would not only deny me the right to *express* those doubts but would smite me dead on sight for even *thinking* them, I am confident that the Skeptical See is largely in agreement with my point of view here.

I could confess my doubts about UFOs, which preoccupied the “religious belief” circuits of my brain until my late 20s. During my formative years, Richard Hall was the assistant director of the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP) and editor of *The UFO Evidence*, which was my “bible” as an impressionable youth. But even though, when I met him at a 1999 MUFON convention, Hall accused me of “dishonesty” and of being “full of shit” for having evolved a skeptical stance toward his beloved extra-terrestrial hypothesis, which is embraced by about a third of Americans, I am confident that the Skeptical See is largely in agreement with my point of view on this topic as well.

So, here goes. I’ll just flat-out confess it: I have doubts about the existence of a man-made global warming (MMGW) crisis. But before you, the Skeptical See, hang me at Nuremberg not so much for *expressing* my doubts as for even *thinking* them, allow me to purge my soul just a bit.

In a February 2007 op-ed piece read ’round the world, columnist Ellen Goodman (and she is far from alone on this) portrayed ongoing global warming as

“impossible to deny,” man’s culpability as “about as certain as scientists ever get,” and deniers of this MMGW crisis as “on a par with Holocaust deniers.” As I observed in my letter to the *St. Petersburg Times* this past July 12, “Thanks to Goodman, Al Gore, the United Nations, et al., orthodoxy now demands that everything from Hurricane Katrina to hemorrhoidal itching be attributed to man-made global warming.”

A companion letter to mine was written by a local resident, self-described as “an environmental professional,” who noted that “tens of thousands of atmospheric and environmental scientists reject the notion that global warming is primarily caused by humans.” When I commented similarly to Jim Peterson, president of the Tampa Bay Post Carbon Council, during his presentation at our last TBS meeting, he quibbled over the numbers but at least acknowledged that there is a controversy. Many members of the Skeptical See do not even cede that point.

Our letters were prompted by a July 5 *Times* article regarding NOAA researcher Stanley Goldenberg’s study in the journal *Science* questioning the claimed connection between global warming and the frequency and strength of hurricanes. The *Times* even dared defy the wrath of Goodman and Gore (and more) by mentioning that Goldenberg (who I suspect also lost many family members in the Holocaust) is a MMGW skeptic!

To my mind, the comparison to Holocaust denial would perhaps be conscionable if there were thousands of otherwise respectable historians positing that Hitler’s concentration-camp showers and ovens were strictly for keeping the Jews’ hygiene and bread up to Kosher standards. But are there even a hundred, or a handful, such historians in the world?

Yet there are thousands of otherwise respectable scientists whose professional knowledge has compelled them, even in the face of the most vile criticism and at the risk of their very careers, to dissent from the doctrine that mankind is responsible for having created a global warming crisis. Some have demanded that their names be removed from the U.N.’s MMGW pronouncements, which appear to them (and to me) to be tainted by politics. Many have pointed to temperature measurements from NASA satellites and the multinational Argo deep-ocean buoys, which are deemed more reliable than urbanly skewed ground measurements, as indicating that the earth’s latest warming trend may have actually plateaued a decade ago.

(continued on page 5)

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Snippets

Remember back to the glory days when Dionne Warwick fronted for the Psychic Friends Network? And you knew you could trust their “master psychics” not to rip you off, because, after all, Warwick boasted an incomparable three-octave voice and string of top hits in the 1960s and ’70s? I always wondered why her psychic friends were never able to divine the directions to San José for her — but I digress. Recently, a PFN infomercial featuring Vivica A. Fox began airing, but unlike Warwick, Fox claims Sgt. Schultz-like ignorance of the entire affair. A posting from her camp on BlackVoices.com’s “BV Buzz” blog claims that “Vivica A. Fox is no friend of the Psychic Friends Network,” and that it is “using her unauthorized likeness, footage, voice and photographs as an endorsement of their service.” Maybe that’s because, as is obvious to viewers of even non-psychic persuasion, Fox recorded a promotional Psychic Friends Network video. Speculation is that there may have been a monetary/contractual dispute.

(*St. Pete Times, Feb. 5*)

Though the news coverage has been pitiful for such a potentially monumental discovery, NASA scientists have announced the detection of substantial quantities of methane gas being essentially belched (or flatulated) from beneath the surface of Mars, in specific areas and at specific times. “We believe this definitely increases prospects for finding life on Mars,” according to Michael Mumma of the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center. “No other discovery has done as much to increase the chances of finding life.” Not even the photographs of Richard Hoagland’s “Face”? And how on earth (so to speak) could organisms survive under such inhospitable conditions? Researchers have recently found microbes in a South African gold mine that derive their energy needs from the radioactive decay of rocks, and compared to that environment, Martian soil, in combination with deposits of ice, seems downright homey.

(*Washington Post via St. Pete. Times, Jan. 16*)



If we are unable to find those gassy Martians, maybe it’s because they are light-years ahead of the “cloaking device” team at Duke University. Using more than 10,000 individual pieces of fiberglass arranged in parallel rows, they have developed a material that can currently cloak an item from detection by a number of wavelengths, including microwaves. The effect is akin to a mirage, and progress is continuing.

(*St. Pete. Times, Jan. 16*)

Harrison J. Schmitt, the Apollo 17 geologist-astronaut who famously exclaimed his discovery of “orange” soil in the moon’s Taurus-Littrow region, has resigned from the Planetary Society. Co-founded by Carl Sagan to promote space exploration, the nonprofit organization has taken a position blaming global warming on human activity. In his resignation letter, Schmitt, who also served as U.S. Senator from New Mexico, said that the “global warming scare is being used as a political tool.” In later comments, Schmitt added, “It’s one of the few times you’ve seen a sizeable portion of scientists who ought to be objective take a political position, and it’s coloring their objectivity.”

(*A.P. via the Internet, Feb. 15*)

An increase in cosmic rays due to the current unexpected decrease in solar flares (as explained on the following page) threatens astronauts with an increased risk of cancer and infertility. But astronauts also *benefit* from the reduced number of solar flares, since they too contain dangerous radiation. The sun’s next expected cyclical plunge in solar wind is expected to begin in the early 2020s, at about the time that NASA plans to resume human exploration of the moon, according to the Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology.

(*London Daily Mail via the Internet, Jan. 8*)

Scientists have long blamed climate change for the sudden disappearance of North America’s Clovis people and extinction of the continent’s massive animals (mammoths, mastadons, saber-toothed cats, etc.) 12,900 years ago. But a new hypothesis, bolstered by the recent discovery of “nanodiamonds” deposited in the sediments of that age, suggests that the calamity may have been precipitated by a cometary impact. Though controversial, “This is a big idea,” says Doug Kennett, an archeologist at the University of Oregon and lead author of the paper in the journal *Science*.

(*Washington Post via St. Pete. Times, Jan. 2*)

“Snippets” are derived from the referenced sources and then rewritten by *TBS Report*’s editor. Please submit your clippings to TBS.

“Confessions of a ‘Holocaust Denier’” (from page 3)

I possess no professional expertise in these matters. I am merely a consumer of information and a proponent of applying skepticism toward claims that strike me as worthy of critical inquiry. I do have a friend involved in graduate research in the Atmospheric Science Department at Colorado State University with the likes of legendary hurricane expert William Gray and Colorado’s former state climatologist Roger Pielke, and from what he tells me, it would seem that Ellen Goodman would have nothing civil to say about any of them.

Ironically, oceanographer Roger Revelle, the man responsible for Al Gore’s having become a MMGW activist, grew to have his own serious doubts by the time of his death about 15 years ago. John Coleman, creator of the Weather Channel, in his January 28 article titled “The Amazing Story Behind the Global Warming Scam,” recounts how Gore studied under Revelle at Harvard and that, in his 2002 book *Earth in the Balance*, Gore describes Revelle as a mentor to him and a “wonderful, visionary professor [who was] one of the first people in the academic community to sound the alarm on global warming.” But Coleman goes on to explain the origins of Revelle’s hypothesis and the fact that, later in his life, in cautionary letters to Congress as well as in a published article, he expressed his evolving opinion that the impact of CO₂ on global warming was not at all certain.

Coleman also reminds us that carbon dioxide comprises a mere 0.04% of our atmospheric gasses. Experts also note that water vapor, of which there is almost 100 times more in the atmosphere than CO₂, is the most potent greenhouse gas. Though many MMGW alarmists contend that CO₂’s role is primary, and that the matter has been settled, many other scientists contend that water vapor accounts for more than 90% of the entire greenhouse effect, with CO₂ contributing less than 5%.

Perhaps the most striking visual in Gore’s *An Inconvenient Truth* is the graph portraying a remarkable rise in atmospheric CO₂, followed in lockstep by a corresponding rise in temperature. But it seems that Gore may have presented those lines in *reverse order*. Though temp and CO₂ were tightly correlated, Antarctic ice core samples appear to indicate that the rise in temperature *preceded* the rise in CO₂, presumably due to the oceans, as they warm, being less able to hold onto CO₂.

So what else, if not man, might account for what

Gore calls earth’s “fever” — which, again, may have actually “broken” a decade ago? Certainly not the sun! That would be too simple an explanation, and leave little for liberal and conservative politicians, and developed and developing nations, to fight about. But many scientists are becoming concerned not about global *warming*, but *cooling*, due to the failure of the cyclical sunspot cycle to return to normal numbers!

At issue is not the sun’s brightness and surface temperature, which remain fairly constant, but its spasmodic explosions known as solar flares, which propel aggregations of charged particles across the solar system. When a particularly large flare reaches our planet, the polar auroras shimmer and orbiting satellites shudder. But it appears that even the garden-variety streams of charged particles (the “solar wind”) have an indirect warming effect on the earth by deflecting cosmic rays that would otherwise penetrate the atmosphere and contribute to cloud formation. The less solar flares, the more cosmic rays penetrate and interact with atmospheric nuclei, the more seeds of cloud formation are thus created, and more clouds reflect more sunlight, resulting in cooler temperatures. This is why, with current sunspot activity at an unexpectedly low level and failing (so far) to increase as per the normal cycle, an increasing number of scientists are pointing out that the scales may now be tipping in favor of global cooling.

But they may be as crazy as I am! After all, we all (including Ellen Goodman) know that the Himalayan glaciers are melting and could even be gone in 30 years. The following item from the November 2006 *Environment & Climate News* could be nuts as well:

Glaciers are growing in the Himalayan Mountains, confounding global warming alarmists who have recently claimed the glaciers were shrinking and that global warming was to blame.

A new study of the Karakoram, Hindu Kush, and Western Himalaya mountain ranges by researchers at England’s Newcastle University shows consistent recent growth among the region’s glaciers.

Researchers found cooler summers are failing to melt winter snows, which are themselves becoming more frequent, resulting in advancing ice sheets.

The study was published in the September 2006 issue of the American Meteorological Society’s *Journal of Climate*.

And we have all heard that the Arctic and Antarctic ice is melting at an alarming rate. But what about studies indicating that the Antarctic ice has been *growing*? For example, from a September 12, 2008, Reuters item:

“The Antarctic wintertime ice extent increased . . . at a rate of 0.6 percent per decade” from 1979-2006, said Donald Cavalieri, a senior research scientist at the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center.

. . . The average year-round ice extent has risen too.

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TBS T-shirts (S, M, L, XXL and XXXL) are available from the CFI/Tampa office. 100% cotton, black, crew style, no pocket, with TBS name/logo in white across the chest.

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full page of "Resource Links"

Stanton Friedman Lectures at Science Museum

*The following item is taken from
the January 10 issue of Jim Moseley's
Saucer Smear newsletter:*

A Florida State University physics professor named Paul Cottle wrote an angry letter to his local newspaper in advance of Stanton Friedman's booking for a UFO lecture at the Mary Brogan Museum of Art and Science in Tallahassee. He bemoaned "the threat of pseudoscience undermining scientific literacy in our state," called Friedman a "well-known charlatan," and questioned his credentials as a nuclear physicist. He accused the Museum of undermining efforts to "improve the scientific environment in Tallahassee."

The executive director of the museum quite rightly sent in a swift reply, defending Friedman's scientific credentials (an M.S. from the University of Chicago followed by 14 years as a practicing physicist). Said she, "UFOs and dinosaurs attract people of all ages to (we hope) seek truth, learn more, and perhaps be entertained while being inspired."

In any case, Friedman apparently lectured twice in a row at the Museum, as planned, to a packed house each time. Hopefully he skipped the increasingly archaic "Cosmic Watergate" stuff. Egads!

• • • • •

"Confessions . . ." (from page 5)

Some climate skeptics point to the differing trends at the poles as a sign that worries about climate change are exaggerated. However, experts say they can explain the development.

And what is their explanation? Global warming: "Another theory

was that warmer air absorbs more moisture and means more snow and rainfall. . . . That could mean more fresh water at the sea surface around Antarctica."

Again, I claim no expert knowledge of such things. MMGW may indeed be a crisis, and the cause of both warming and cooling, of both melting and freezing, and may both precede and follow rises in atmospheric CO2. Hell, it *may even be* the cause of hemorrhoidal itching for all I know! But should I, and the many thousands of skeptical scientists who *are* experts, be placed in the company of Holocaust deniers for daring to deny that the case for a MMGW crisis is closed?

The following may not be a perfect analogy, but I can still remember biologist Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* when I was a child. I didn't read the book, but I saw the CBS News documentary about it. Thanks to her efforts, a juggernaut of scientific and popular support was marshaled to impose a worldwide ban on the pesticide DDT. The book, which gave birth to the environmentalist movement, was widely considered one of the most influential of its time, and *Time* magazine named Carson one of its "100 People of the Century." Some species benefited from the DDT ban, but *Homo sapiens* was not among them, as millions have subsequently succumbed to malaria from mosquitoes that have survived inferior insecticides.

So, that is my confession. I am skeptical of those who proclaim that a MMGW crisis is threatening civilization and that questioning of this premise is tantamount to "Holocaust denial." I continue to seek the truth, and acknowledge that my current opinions, shared by thousands of knowledgeable scientists, could be wrong. It seems to me that such a principled position is the hallmark of scientific skepticism. But, then again, maybe I'm just nuts.

Letters • Readers' Forum

Editor: I have psychic abilities and can prove it. I can describe any person dead or alive when someone is talking to me about this person. I can do it over the phone or in person. But I do believe to pass the test I would need you to get a person that is open to psychic abilities and not a total disbeliever.

You can reach me at 770-377-xxxx [redacted].

[Name not given]
DiaWdd@aol.com

Gary Posner's e-mail reply: That is too vague a test to be of interest to us. Too many people share similar traits, and almost anyone, with a little practice, can learn to do convincing readings like that (the technique is known as "cold reading").

Claimant's response: You don't understand the depth of the description, but that is your choice. There are a lot of others interested in what I can do. This is not a practiced skill, it's a gift.

Posner's e-mail reply: We need to know precisely what you claim to be able to do. For example, if you could correctly divine the person's name, age, birthplace, and profession (or just 3 out of 4), that would be convincing. And why do you need to be talking with someone else about the person, as opposed to looking at the person's photograph, unless the purpose is to obtain feedback to help guide your reading, as in the parlor games "Hot and Cold" and "20 Questions"? That's how the famous TV "spirit mediums" do their acts.

Claimant's response: Loved your response. But you don't have a clue and I'm sure a total non-believer. I don't ask anything about the person's habits, hobbies, or routines, nor age, until I know what they look like. When a person speaks of their friend or family member I get a clear picture of that person, dead or alive.

Posner's reply: I'll try one last time: We need to know precisely what you claim to be able to do. "A clear picture" is nebulous and worthless as far as conducting a scientific test. You contacted a scientific organization that conducts scientific tests. For an example of the degree of specificity required in conducting a scientific test, as opposed to a parlor game, see www.tampabayskeptics.org/Moore_chall.html#protocol.

Claimant's response: You know what, forget it. You're looking for a scientist, not a psychic.

Editor: Not all of Richard Hoagland's claims about the moon are as easily dismissed as your website implies. The tower is an enigmatic structure standing five miles high off the surface composed of cubic cells. And the castle appears to be a structure suspended by mysterious means seven miles off the surface.

Kook or not, the photographic evidence speaks for itself in that these claims cannot be confirmed nor denied until all evidence is critically examined. This cannot be done until these sites are visited with sufficient instrumentation to put these claims to bed.

To write everything off because the messenger is a kook is unworthy of critical thinking. Labeling someone a kook does not falsify his claims

Mike Breach, M.S., P.E.
mquasi@erie.net

Posner's e-mail reply: I agree that Hoagland is not a "kook" simply because his brain creates patterns out of grainy artifacts caused by excessive enlargement of photographs. He has provided other reasons as well. But the human brain seems to have evolved the propensity to create such patterns, as with the once-imagined "canals" on Mars, animals in the stellar constellations, images in the clouds, etc. I bet you a buck that no "instrumentation" will ever be "sufficient" to convince Hoagland otherwise.

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Public
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Followed by optional lunch at a local restaurant

TBS's YouTube Video of Virginia Levy Elicits Confrontational Viewer Comments

TBS's two-hour video of "psychic" Virginia Levy's 1998 unsuccessful "\$1,000 Challenge" attempt, which we posted on YouTube late last year in response to an August 8 *St. Petersburg Times* article containing false and defamatory allegations from Levy (see page 6 of last issue), has elicited several fascinating comments posted by viewers — including Levy herself. One offers, "She's . . . just another 'no talent/no skill' spiritual huckster." A second person points out to Levy, "You were 0 out of 7. . . delusions of a malignant narcissist."

To another's similar comment, Levy responds, "Do you realize you're agreeing with [the second person above] who's a sexual predator and a sociopath, who's been stalking and harassing me now for nearly 10 years? . . . I trained him and expelled him from my school for using his spiritual gifts for evil! He has hurt a lot of innocent people! Including my family!" And she once again falsely claims, "I purposely threw the Challenge when I saw that I'd walked into a trap!" Our video shows her agreeing it was a fair test and trying hard to win. But it was a "trap" of sorts, in the sense that winning required the presence of genuine "psychic" ability.

Visit TBS's Award-Winning Website

www.tampabayskeptics.org

If for no other reasons, check out the web versions of our *TBS Report* articles for their related links and for the occasional graphics not present in our printed newsletters due to space constraints.

And send us your e-mail address if you would like to be added to our TBS Update Service.

TBS and James Randi "Psychic" Challenges

Tampa Bay Skeptics has a standing "\$1,000 Challenge" for scientific proof of any paranormal phenomenon.

The James Randi Educational Foundation will award its fully secured \$1,000,000 jackpot to the first person able to successfully demonstrate paranormal power for Randi.

These monetary rewards, and a place in history, await the first successful candidates. All UFOlogists, psychics, astrologers, dowzers, and the like are encouraged to come forward and offer your proof. See the "\$\$\$ Challenges" page on the TBS website or contact us for more details.

Center For Inquiry / Tampa

As the opening paragraph of its website explains, Center for Inquiry/Tampa (of which Tampa Bay Skeptics is a Special Interest Group) offers an opportunity to put your principles into practice by joining other rationalists in working for positive change in society. CFI/Tampa sponsors social events for freethinkers as well as intellectual programming, and assists with campus outreach.

One ongoing event, the lecture series on the third Saturday of each month at 11:00 a.m., often covers topics that may be of particular interest to TBS members.

For more information on upcoming CFI/Tampa events, visit their website (www.CenterForInquiry.net/Tampa) or contact them by mail (5201 W. Kennedy Blvd., Suite 124, Tampa, FL 33609), e-mail (Tampa@CenterForInquiry.net), phone (813-849-7571), or fax (813-849-7572).



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