



# REPORT

VOL. 22 NO. 3  
WINTER 2009-10

• **skeptic (n): a person who searches for truth through questioning and reasoning** •

## Assessing the Credibility of CFI's "Credibility Project" on MMGW

By Gary P. Posner

The September/October 2009 issue of *Skeptical Inquirer* carried a piece titled "Can a Reasonable Skeptic Support Climate Change Legislation?" by Dr. Stuart Jordan, a senior staff scientist (emeritus) at the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center and science advisor for the Center For Inquiry's Office of Public Policy (OPP) in Washington, D.C. (Tampa Bay Skeptics is a "Special Interest Group" of CFI's Tampa Bay branch.)

The article begins, "Skeptics are rightly challenged to assess claims made by all parties when an issue of major public importance arises. ... Questions related to [man-made global warming [MMGW]] ... represent such an issue today." Dealing more with the political debate surrounding proposed climate-change legislation than with specific scientific facts about global warming, Jordan later notes:

Both sides have made significant efforts to establish scientific credibility with the public. ... Those favoring action rely heavily on the IPCC-2007 science report [by the U.N.'s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change]. ... In contrast, [the office of dissenter] James Inhofe ... the ranking Republican member of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works ... has issued a ... report titled United States Senate Minority Report on Global Warming. ... As of January 2009, the number of ...

### Next TBS Meeting will be on January 16

**Be sure to mark your calendar now!** Due to the proximity of our next regularly scheduled meeting to Christmas, the winter meeting will be held three weeks later than usual. See the top of page 8 for more details.

individuals identified [in the Report] as scientists who allegedly dissent over [MMGW] claims ... was 687 [including] some quite well-known scientists.

Jordan then goes on to discuss the efforts of CFI's OPP to "vet the list [of 687 dissenting scientists] carefully to establish how credible it is overall." Though he doesn't mention its official name in the piece, this endeavor was dubbed by OPP as the "Credibility Project." And, as Jordan relates, its findings appear devastating for the dissenters.

After thus laying the groundwork for the following ostensible no-brainer, Jordan ends by rhetorically asking "the skeptic who is not acquainted with the relevant science where he or she thinks the most credible scientific assessment lies —

with the scientists whose published research is reported in the IPCC-2007 science report or with the much smaller group of scientists collected for the Senate minority report."

Some background: In May 2009, the OPP had disseminated a "Dear Citizen" announcement about its upcoming July 18-21 "Second Annual Civic Days at the Nation's Capital." Among the advertised agenda items:

**Dear Citizen**

**Join Us for Our Second Annual Civic Days at the Nation's Capital!**  
July 18-21, 2009

Come to Washington for three full days of immersion in how Congress and the nation's capital city work. You will hear about what's on Congress's agenda right now; about lobbying works; about The Credibility Project, an OPP-sponsored project exposing fake "scientists" who oppose global warming; visit the National Archives and other historical sites; go on a walking tour of Robert Green

(continued on page 5)

## TAMPA BAY SKEPTICS Statement of Purpose and "\$1,000 Challenge"

Tampa Bay Skeptics, Inc., a Special Interest Group of the Center For Inquiry Tampa Bay, is a nonprofit educational and scientific organization devoted to the critical examination of paranormal and fringe-science claims. TBS does not reject claims on a *priori* grounds, but rather is committed to objective and critical inquiry.

TBS's "\$1,000 Challenge" is open to anyone claiming verifiable scientific proof of the reality of ESP, UFOs, dowsing, astrology, or any paranormal phenomenon. Please contact us for details.

*Tampa Bay Skeptics Report* is published quarterly. We welcome news clippings, and articles and letters for publication (subject to editing for length, clarity, and taste), and solicit opposing points of view.

Views expressed in articles and letters are those of the author(s) and not necessarily those of Tampa Bay Skeptics or Center For Inquiry Tampa Bay.

### TAMPA BAY SKEPTICS REPORT

Since 1988

c/o Center For Inquiry Tampa Bay  
5201 W. Kennedy Blvd.  
Suite 124

Tampa, FL 33609  
Phone: (813) 849-7571  
Fax: (813) 849-7572

E-mail: [tbs@centerforinquiry.net](mailto:tbs@centerforinquiry.net)  
Web: [www.tampabay skeptics.org](http://www.tampabay skeptics.org)

Founder and Editor:  
Gary P. Posner

Cartoonist Memoritus: Don Addis

\$15/yr. (4 issues)

© 2009 by  
Tampa Bay Skeptics and  
Center For Inquiry Tampa Bay

All rights reserved.  
Publications may quote if  
appropriate credit is given.

## Chairman's

### o r n e r

## "Once more unto the breach, dear friends" –Shakespeare

Once again, our esteemed founder has plunged into the morass that seems to surround the man-made global warming (MMGW) debate. I was initially leery of seeing *TBS Report* publish another article by Gary (see "Confessions of a 'Holocaust Denier,'" Spring 2009) about what at first may appear to be a pet peeve of his (and some other of our members), but a careful review of what he has written convinced me that publication was appropriate.

And to add fuel to this fire, we now have "Climategate," the controversy surrounding the unauthorized publication of internal e-mails between certain climate scientists, which imply some attempts to fudge the figures in order to downplay any cooling trends.

What bothers me about the whole MMGW debate is the ideological flavor permeating the issue, with conservatives flocking to one side, and liberals to the other, of what is essentially a scientific, not political, debate. If you believe the liberals, all MMGW skeptics are blind followers of Rush Limbaugh and Sean ("The debate is over") Hannity, with their patently ridiculous comments on this complicated subject, while if you believe the conservatives, all proponents of MMGW are elitists or socialists who believe Al Gore is the world's foremost climate scientist.

But clearly Gary is right that the MMGW proponents have unfairly compared the published lists of scientists in the competing reports he talks about. And thanks somewhat to Gary's prodding, CFI's Office of Public Policy now realizes that the scientific debate is not as one-sided as they originally assumed.

Thus, the liberal OPP (a confession — I am also proud to call myself a liberal) clearly rushed a little too quickly to judgment over the bona fides of the scientists signing on to the Senate Republican "Minority Report on Global Warming." Now, with both sides involved in a "vetting war" over who has more "legitimate" climate scientists on their side, we see this scientific

debate carried on as though science were a debating club.

I also do not like to see as much attention being paid in local skeptical groups like ours to what is clearly not an issue of paranormal significance. We do promote scientific literacy in addition to questioning the paranormal, but the MMGW debate among the pundits and political leaders has plenty of scientific illiteracy on both sides. Unlike the Intelligent Design/Creationist issue, one side of this debate does not have a monopoly on good science. I am left to wonder, however, why even among skeptics, ideological leanings (both liberal and conservative) seem to be so predictive of opinions.

As I have written before, I am more in the middle on this than many of my colleagues. I am not as well read or competent on the subject as either Gary on one side or those scientists on the other who argue that MMGW is a proven reality. From what I have read, I tend to believe that human pollution is harming our planet and causing long-term damage, including climate changes. No, however, I don't think New York will soon be under water or that "killer hurricanes" will descend upon us in droves.

As I also have mentioned before, I have two close friends who are marine biologists studying biota in our oceans and gulfs. At a recent Christmas party at their house, I talked to some climate scientists and biologists about the "Climategate" controversy. They all rolled their eyes and bemoaned the fact that conservative pundits have been so quick to proclaim victory. They asked, "Does anyone really think that you can just tinker with some facts and change the scientific results? Do people think we scientists are so stupid?" When they tell me that preeminent European "climate scientists" of their close acquaintance are firmly convinced of MMGW and tell them that this appears to be a close consensus among their

(continued on page 6)

## Human Lie Detectors (Part II)

By Valerie Grey

When I left off, back in our Summer 2008 issue, I was discussing people who think they can infallibly detect when others are deliberately lying to them, face to face. I next want to touch upon the fascinating side issue of the believability of theatrical acting, i.e., our propensity to become so absorbed in the drama that we sometimes manage to forget that the people are “acting.” What does that say about us as a culture, that some of our highest accolades celebrate expertise in professional prevarication?

I always enjoy when a movie star telegraphs to the audience that his or her character is obviously — ineptly — lying, as opposed to the more subtle, expert lying the character is doing when supposedly telling the truth. Hence my puzzlement over a TV public service announcement in which Elizabeth Taylor makes what seems a heartfelt pitch for what sounds like a worthy charity, all the while continuously shaking her head “No.” And she’s hardly the only actor I’ve seen do that incongruous head-shaking that seems to visually deny the verbal message.

But what about detecting *unintentional* falsehoods? For example, due to misinformation or an incorrect inference, a person erroneously thinks something is true, and thus, when speaking of it, is not giving off any of the voice or body-language signals associated with intentional deceit. Do our human “lie detectors” think they can ferret out *those* untruths, even in the absence of any telltale empirical or logical contradictions? Are their intuitions strictly probing the superficial human level, or do they think they truly access, with the help of some sort of psychic ability, a deeper realm of absolute knowledge?

In its purest form, the truth or falsity of a statement would be a function of the words themselves, as in a typed transcript or other written treatise. But there are millions of people who claim to be thoroughly convinced that they are able to determine the truth or falsity of the written words of other humans (whom they have never met personally and who may have been dead for centuries or even millennia), completely apart from any consideration of internal logical consistency, correspondence to natural laws, or induction from verifiable facts. Indeed, they frequently claim to be convinced of the truth of these often anonymously authored

documents (with no reliable historical provenance) in the face of gross internal logical *in*consistencies and fantastical claims that seemingly violate of the laws of physics! The fact that these people find these wholly unsupported ideas or theories (e.g., astrology or acupuncture) more palatable than the truth — that they find vague, circular, hollow-worded explanations easier to understand than, say, advanced differential equations or molecular biochemistry — perhaps helps to explain their eagerness to believe in psychic magic.

So far, no such human “lie detector” claimant has volunteered to be tested for TBS’s \$1,000 prize, although it would be an easy enough test to devise. Create, say, 20 sentences, each containing multiplication equations of two 20-digit numbers. Some of the multiplication products would be correct, others incorrect by only one numeral in the middle of the number — in case the claimant were sophisticated enough to spot obvious inaccuracies without a calculator (like the final digit not corresponding to the product of the final digits of the two multiplicands, or the product obviously containing the wrong number of digits).

Though such testing cannot prove the negative, failure to correctly determine which multiplication products were correct vs. incorrect (i.e., “truth” vs. “lie”) would certainly reinforce our skepticism of any claimed ability to know the truth or falsity of written statements merely by feeling it in their heart, knowing it in the deepest depths of their being, or however else it is that these people try to poetically gloss over what inescapably amounts to claims of psychic ability.

In contrast to such magical thinking, if, say, the value of a gold mine were at issue, these human “lie detectors” would almost certainly insist upon solid proof before investing their money. So why are they willing to settle for a lower standard of evidence (or none at all) when it comes to claims of intuitive spiritual certainty? At least gold mines, in theory, don’t violate the laws of physics.

### Tampa Bay Skeptics T-Shirts



TBS T-shirts (S, M, L, XXL and XXXL) are available from the TBS/CFI office.

The shirts are 100% cotton, black, crew style, no pocket, with TBS name/logo in white across the chest.

Cost is \$10 each (plus \$4 total per order if shipping is required). Make check payable to “Tampa Bay Skeptics.”

### TAMPA BAY SKEPTICS EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

CHAIRMAN: Terry A. Smiljanich, J.D., Tampa (James, Hoyer, Newcomer & Smiljanich, P.A.)

VICE CHAIRMAN: Jack H. Robinson, Ed.D. (Professor emeritus, Astronomy program, University of South Florida, Tampa)

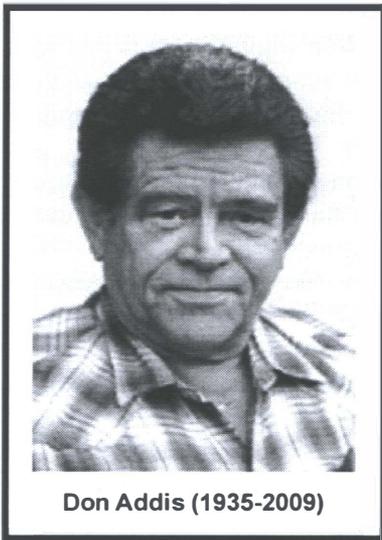
EXEC. DIR.: Gary P. Posner, M.D., Tampa (Scientific consultant, Committee for Skeptical Inquiry [CSI — formerly CSICOP])

AT LARGE: James W. Lett, Ph.D. (Professor of Anthropology, Indian River Community College, Fort Pierce)

AT LARGE: William W. Hall (Professor, Dept. of Communications, St. Petersburg College)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Gary P. Posner, Terry A. Smiljanich, Jack H. Robinson

# Snippets

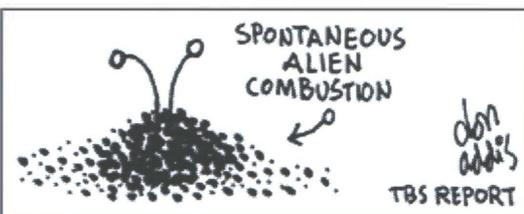
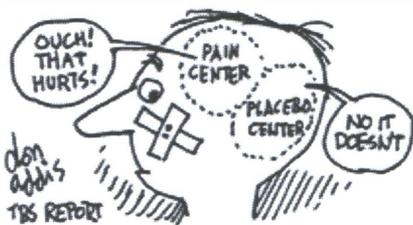


Don Addis (1935-2009)

Don Addis, a member of TBS since our first month of operations in 1988, died of lung cancer on November 29. A uniquely gifted intellect and cartoonist, Don's contributions for two decades to the "Snippets" page were of incalculable value in helping TBS Report achieve whatever credibility it has enjoyed.

To read his *St. Petersburg Times* obituary, containing highlights of Don's remarkable career, do a Web search for the following quote from his daughter: "He operated at a megahertz not many people do."

We have coined a term and, on page 2, will continue to list Don as our "cartoonist memoritus." Following are but a few of the 'toons (as he called them) that Don graciously created for us over the years.



### “CFI’s ‘Credibility Project’” (from page 1)

“You will hear about ... an OPP-sponsored project exposing fake ‘scientists’ who oppose global warming” (see page 1 inset). But two months later, in an invitation to the Credibility Project’s July 17 Press Conference at the National Press Club, no longer was OPP referring to the dissenting scientists as “fake.” When I inquired as to whether this reflected “an evolution on CFI’s part,” OPP executive director Toni Van Pelt (formerly the executive director of CFI’s Tampa Bay branch) replied, “It is true, Gary, that your many emails [I routinely copy her when corresponding on this subject] influenced my decision to commission this research.”

Because I harbor my own doubts (as detailed in our Spring 2009 issue) about there being a man-made-global-warming crisis, as proud godfather I anxiously awaited the details of the Credibility Project’s assessment of the skeptical scientists. Its most significant finding constitutes the subtitle of Dr. Jordan’s *Skeptical Inquirer* piece: “CFI vets list of 687 ‘dissenting scientists’ in Senate minority report; 80 percent haven’t published peer-reviewed climate research.” Largely for this reason, in its July 17 Press Release, OPP concluded that its findings “expose a lack of credibility among dissenting scientists challenging man-made global warming.”

But in my follow-up to Toni, I explained why “It simply does not logically follow that [those skeptical scientists] necessarily lack the credibility to speak to the issues at hand,” any more than I lack the legitimacy to critique, for example, medical studies touting prayer and healing, as I have done in CFI-sponsored magazines despite never having published studies of my own in the peer-reviewed literature.

Speaking further to the relevance of “80 percent [not having] published peer-reviewed climate research,” *Skeptical Inquirer* columnist Robert Sheaffer e-mailed a letter to the editor (cc’ed to other interested parties, including Jordan and myself) that reads in part, “I am wondering whether Dr. Jordan and CFI likewise vetted the U.N.’s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), described [in the article] as a group of ‘approximately 2,000 scientists worldwide.’ If this vetting was not done, why not? Did CFI simply assume that all 2,000 are professional climate researchers who have published peer-reviewed research? Very bad assumption!”

Sheaffer then references a recent debate (available on YouTube) in which Prof. William Schlesinger, a lead IPCC author, when asked, “Of the 2,500 members of the IPCC, how many are climate scientists?” responded, “Actually there is a huge range of different disciplines represented there. I’m going to have to give you a guess that something in the order of 20% have some dealing with climate.” Sheaffer’s letter continues:

In other words, 80 percent of the IPCC membership had absolutely no dealing with the climate as part of their academic studies. Jordan’s ‘knockout punch’ was: “80 percent [of dissenters] haven’t published peer-reviewed climate research.”

So, these two groups appear to have approximately the same makeup in terms of actual [climate] scientists. In fact, the dissenting group appears stronger, because their 20% is held to a higher standard (peer-reviewed research) vs. the IPCC’s (had some academic study of climate).

In his emailed reply to Sheaffer (et al.), Dr. Jordan advises Sheaffer that

One of the favorite tactics of global warming deniers is to refer to the [IPCC’s summary] report for policy-makers, which summarizes [their separate] science report [authored by 2000 real climate scientists]. There [in the summary report] it is true that the majority are not climate scientists, because they are presenting a summary, that is based upon the science report, to government officials, in the language of policy recommendations. Clearly this is comparing apples and oranges. The IPCC-2007 report titled “The Physical Science Basis” is a true science report, written by and summarizing the work of approximately 2000 real scientists.

However, Sheaffer compares apples to apples — he did not reference the “summary” report, authored by 51 members of the IPCC. And though the 2,000 (actually closer to 2,500) are, as Dr. Jordan says, “real scientists,” if Prof. Schlesinger’s “guess” was close to the target, only about 500 or so (20%) “have some dealing with climate.” And only 620 contributed to the writing of the IPCC-2007 report, as Sheaffer points out in an addendum to his original letter, which also notes that “we do not know for certain that all 620 of them have published at least one climate-related paper in a peer-reviewed journal, the criterion by which the other group is measured.” Sheaffer concludes, “This whole exercise [by CFI’s OPP] is logically flawed and invalid unless both groups are ‘vetted’ by the same criteria, and the results compared.”

It thus seems that the “Credibility Project,” conceived by CFI’s Office of Public Policy for the purpose of “exposing fake ‘scientists’” who dare dissent from the prevailing climate of climate-change alarmism, has some credibility problems of its own. After polishing the Project’s clouded lens, as one again examines Dr. Jordan’s question about whether “the most credible scientific assessment lies ... with the [IPCC] scientists ... or with the ... scientists collected for the Senate minority report,” the answer doesn’t appear to be such a no-brainer after all.

[A version of this article appears in the Jan/Feb 2010 *Skeptical Inquirer*, followed by a response from Dr. Jordan.]

### TAMPA BAY SKEPTICS CONSULTANTS

Judith Becker Bryant, Ph.D.  
Psychology Dept.  
Univ. of South Florida (USF)  
Tampa

Charles R. Mathews, M.D.  
Former Asst. Sec. for Health Services  
Florida Dept. of Corrections  
Tallahassee

Vincent E. Parr, Ph.D.  
Clinical psychologist  
Tampa

James "The Amazing" Randi  
Magician, author  
Plantation

Daryl L. Schrader  
Dept. of Mathematics  
St. Petersburg College

Alan L. Soli, Ph.D.  
Dept. of Chemistry  
Eckerd College  
St. Petersburg

### Other Skeptical Sources on the Paranormal

#### • *Prometheus Books* •

100<sup>+</sup>-page catalog  
(30% discount if ordered via TBS)  
59 John Glenn Dr.  
Amherst, NY 14228  
(800) 421-0351  
[www.prometheusbooks.com](http://www.prometheusbooks.com)

#### • *Skeptical Inquirer* •

Published by CSI (formerly CSICOP)  
Box 703  
Amherst, NY 14226  
(716) 636-1425  
[www.csicop.org](http://www.csicop.org)

#### • *Skeptic* •

Published by the Skeptics Society  
P.O. Box 338  
Altadena, CA 91001  
(818) 794-3119  
[www.skeptic.com](http://www.skeptic.com)

#### • *James Randi Educ. Foundation* •

201 S.E. 12th St.  
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33316-1815  
(954) 467-1112  
[www.randi.org](http://www.randi.org)

And check out the TBS website's  
full page of "Resource Links"

## Global Warming Debate Heats Up As Climate Cools

Before the November release of the hacked "Climategate" e-mails, which were described by the A.P. on December 11 as "suggesting that scientists suppressed contrary views about climate change," BBC News climate correspondent Paul Hudson wrote the following on October 9 (excerpted):

For the last 11 years we have not observed any increase in global temperatures. And our climate models did not forecast it. ...

What is really interesting at the moment is what is happening to our oceans. ... According to ... Professor Don Easterbrook from Western Washington University ... the oceans and global temperatures are correlated. ...

Last month, Mojib Latif, a member of the IPCC, says that we may indeed be in a period of cooling worldwide temperatures that could last another 10-20 years.

And the following excerpts are from a November 19 article in Germany's *Der Spiegel*:

Climatologists are puzzled as to why average global temperatures have stopped rising over the last 10 years. ...

Hamburg Max Planck Institute scientist Jochem Marotzke says, "I hardly know any colleagues who would deny that it hasn't gotten warmer in recent years." ...

A group of NASA scientists led by David Rind ... recently published in *Geophysical Research Letters* [that] reduced solar activity is the most important cause of stagnating global warming.

## Noreen Renier and the Tiffany Sessions Case

Readers may recall the case of Tiffany Sessions, the 20-year-old coed who disappeared from the University of Florida's Gainesville campus in February 1989. Our Winter 1991-92 and Spring 1992 issues carried articles about

Sessions' mother utilizing "psychic detective" John Monti in an ultimately unsuccessful effort to locate her daughter, and we quoted Mrs. Sessions that "Mr. Monti was probably the 25th psychic" that she had worked with.

But we did not know, until recently discovering the April 25, 1989, issue of the *Weekly World News* on the Web, that before the mother had worked with Monti, the father had consulted Noreen Renier. The article quotes Renier: "I can find Tiffany Sessions — dead or alive. ... I've gotten some leads from her toothbrush because it gave off enough energy for a psychic reading. ... I get pictures in my head. ... I have some very good vibes about this case. ... My job is to find her, one way or another."

And Tiffany's father says of Renier, "She has just started, but she has certainly given me enough information to show me she has a good feel for the case."

Unfortunately, more than a decade has since passed, and there has still been no trace of Tiffany.

### • • • • • "Chairman's Corner" (from p. 2)

respective colleagues, do I take this as convincing "proof?" Does the "Arctic Dipole" effect, explaining loss of Arctic ice due to climate changes, settle the matter? No, and I think we should still consider the jury to be out. But when I see MMGW deniers point to the fact that there was more polar cap loss in 2007 than there was this year, while ignoring the clear trends stretching over years, I wonder how fair they are being.

Whether Senate Republicans or former Democratic Vice Presidents believe that MMGW is or is not an important issue is wholly beside the point. One thing we know for certain: The answers are in nature, and the more we understand nature the clearer the answers will become, regardless of which side has more votes or "better" scientists.

## Letters • Readers' Forum

Hi, Gary: My talk show career started with an interview with you. Would you like to close it down as well [see page 8 box]?

We would like to have you as a guest on December 8 about climate change. I know you're skeptical and we'd love to have you on the panel to discuss the "Climategate" e-mail controversy. Are you available?

Kathy Fountain  
WTVT-TV 13

Kathy.Fountain@FoxTV.com

*Back in 1989 I was one of three panelists on Kathy's second show, which included a discussion about the results of TBS's first "\$1,000 Challenge" test (of local "psychic" Joan Morin, who participated from the studio audience). During my Dec. 8 appearance (my ninth altogether, again as one of three panelists), I made clear that I was expressing my own views on global warming and not necessarily those of TBS. —G.P.*

Hello: I am a journalism student at Ithaca College in New York. I am currently taking a critical thinking and skepticism course and working on a research paper in which I am trying to disprove the claims of someone who calls himself a psychic. I found TBS through research, and was intrigued by the results that you have found. I was wondering if you would be willing to do an interview with me about skepticism and people with supernatural abilities. Thank you very much.

Gillian Smith  
gsmith1623@gmail.com

*During the approximately 30-minute telephone interview, as I began to explain why it is not possible to "prove the negative," Gillian informed me that her course had just covered that point the previous day! —G.P.*

Editor: I am new to the Tampa Bay area, having moved here recently with my wife for work. I saw the TBS website and found it fascinating and thought I would write to find out a little more about your organization. I recently graduated with my Ph.D. in clinical psychology

and am employed at Tampa General Hospital and working toward full licensure as a psychologist. I am very interested by both the ridiculousness of paranormal claims as well as the very human tendency to be drawn to such claims. In particular, I'm troubled by the increasing amount of "ghost hunter" groups and TV shows that purport to search "scientifically" for evidence of spirits.

Looking forward to more contact with you and the other skeptics!

Joseph Barron  
dr.joseph.barron@gmail.com

Editor: GEARTURBINE -Atypical Combustion Turbine Engine, -New Thermodynamic Technology, -With Retrodynamic "Dextrogiro vs Levogiro" Effect, is when the inflow direction moves is against of the circular rotary dynamic, RPM Rotor Move VS Inflow Conduits Way, making in a simple way a very strong concept of power thrust, a unique technical quality. -Non parasitic losses form-function engine system for; cooling, lubrication & combustion; -Lubrication & Combustion inside a conduit radial position, out way direction, activated by centrifugal force (centripetal to in), -Cooling in & out; In by Thermomix flow & Out by air Thermo transference, activated by the dynamic rotary move, -like to move the head to the side of the strike punch) (or like the antimateria device; flow vs flow colision dynamic concept) -A pretender of very high % efficient engine looking to make posible an cheap electrolisis. -Patent From;Dic 1991 IMPI Mexico #197187 -Hey Skeptic what do you think this is yes or this is no, Tic Tac Toe, Fi Fa Fo.

Carlos Barrera Garza  
gearturbine@yahoo.com  
www.gearturbine.260mb.com

*The above e-mail is unedited, other than our deletion (for space reasons) of 29 consecutive lines from the middle. Can you correctly fill in the missing information via "psychic" power and win our "\$1,000 Challenge" prize? —G.P.*

### MEMBERSHIP / SUBSCRIPTION / DONATION / BACK-ORDER FORM

Membership Options:  \$15 for TBS membership only  \$60 for Center For Inquiry Tampa Bay membership, including TBS\*  
 This is a renewal.  Donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ enclosed. \*For 1st-time TBS membership only

Other options:  \$15 for *Tampa Bay Skeptics Report* subscription only (not TBS or CFI membership)  This is a renewal.  
 \$60 for Center For Inquiry Tampa Bay membership only (not including TBS)  This is a renewal.

The following back issues of *TBS Report* are requested (\$1 each): \_\_\_\_\_

Make TBS-only checks payable to "Tampa Bay Skeptics" and CFI checks payable to "Center For Inquiry Tampa Bay" and mail to:

Center For Inquiry Tampa Bay  
5201 W. Kennedy Blvd., Suite 124  
Tampa, FL 33609



Announcing . . .

## Tampa Bay Skeptics Quarterly Meeting

\*\*\* *Change of Schedule* \*\*\*

This quarter, because of the proximity of our next regularly scheduled meeting to Christmas, the winter meeting will be held three weeks later than usual, on the third Saturday of January.

Therefore, our next meeting will be:

\*\*\* SATURDAY, JANUARY 16 \*\*\*

11:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.

TBS HOME OFFICE (AT CFI TAMPA BAY)

BRIDGEPORT CENTER BUILDING

5201 W. KENNEDY BLVD., SUITE 124, TAMPA

(Next building westward from West Shore Plaza)

**Featured: Video of TV coverage of the paranormal,  
plus Open Forum and other fun stuff**

**Followed by optional lunch at a local restaurant**

Press and  
Public  
Welcome

### Visit TBS's Website

[www.tampabayskeptics.org](http://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, dowers, 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.

### Kathy Fountain Retires from TV

Kathy Fountain, a good friend of Tampa Bay Skeptics who hosted TBS members more than a dozen times from 1989 through 2009 on her afternoon talk show, is retiring from Ch. 13 as of January 1 to work full time in mental health counseling (she holds a master's degree in the field).

Her very second program (9/5/89) covered the results of TBS's very first "\$1,000 Challenge." TBS conducted live "\$1,000 Challenges" on her show in 1993 and 1994. Another planned in 1999 was preempted by late-breaking news on the arrest of the parents of missing toddler Sabrina Aisenberg.

Though she also interviewed guests such as "Gulf Breeze UFO" photographer Ed Walters, whom she thanked for his "honesty" (unaware that he was a hoaxer), on balance Fountain was a beacon of light, and an absolute delight.

As for Kathy's new career path, we wish her well and can authoritatively report that there is no truth to the rumor that she will specialize in treating "UFO abductees."

### Center For Inquiry Tampa Bay

As the opening paragraph of its website explains, Center for Inquiry Tampa Bay (of which Tampa Bay Skeptics is a Special Interest Group) offers an opportunity to put your principles into practice by joining other reasoning people in working for positive change in society. CFI Tampa Bay 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 Bay events, visit their website ([www.CenterForInquiry.net/Tampa](http://www.CenterForInquiry.net/Tampa)) or contact them by mail (5201 W. Kennedy Blvd., Suite 124, Tampa, FL 33609), e-mail ([Tampa@CenterForInquiry.net](mailto:Tampa@CenterForInquiry.net)), phone (813-849-7571), or fax (813-849-7572).



c/o Center For Inquiry Tampa Bay  
5201 W. Kennedy Blvd., Suite 124  
Tampa, FL 33609



A Special Interest Group of the



TBS wishes you a  
**FIRST CLASS**  
Holiday Season and

