



REPORT

VOL. 24 NO. 1
SUMMER 2011

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

“Psychic Detective” Noreen Renier Lambasted in Judge’s Ruling

By Gary P. Posner

“[Noreen] Renier is a psychic who asserts that she has paranormal powers. [John] Merrell is a skeptic who believes that it is his moral charge to disprove the validity of those powers. The conflict between these parties makes Charles Dickens’ *Bleak House* read like a novella.” So begins page two of Judge William E. Anderson’s March 21, 2011, order in the case of *Renier v. Merrell, United States Bankruptcy Court, Western District of Virginia, Lynchburg*.

The world-renowned “psychic detective” had already gotten a sweetheart deal from Anderson in June 2010 when he ruled that Renier, who declared bankruptcy in 2007, would have to pay Merrell only \$5,470 of the more than \$40,000 he had been awarded in damages and legal fees when she violated a 1992 agreement that neither party would again publicly disparage the other. She had included two derogatory chapters about Merrell in her 2005 memoir, *A Mind for Murder* (see my Summer 2005 review), which was subsequently withdrawn from the market and later reissued, absent those chapters, by another publisher (see Fall 2008).

Not content to get away so lightly, with the ink barely dry on that ruling — which also contained a stipulation imposing a \$30,000 penalty to be paid to the aggrieved party should either of them violate its prohibitions — Renier filed another complaint, alleging that postings remaining on Merrell’s website were in violation and that she was thus entitled to the \$30,000. A two-day hearing eventually ensued in Virginia on December 20–21, 2010 (see last issue for my related article), and the judge’s order was finally issued three months later.

When we get to page 5 of the order, we find this:

The overwhelming problem with Renier’s case [for the \$30,000] is that this court did not find her ... to be a credible witness. There are reasons for this conclusion, beyond her demeanor. First, she misled the court when she

indicated that she intended to abide by [another directive in the 2010] order. ... Renier stood not five feet away [from this bench] and agreed to abide. ... Her [later] testimony ... evidences that she did not intend at any time to abide by the memorialization of the court’s words.

Judge Anderson further concludes that Renier “filed pleadings in an effort to begin [still more] litigation that would, she hoped, result in a \$30,000 judgment in her favor against Merrell. This court is convinced that this is the only reason she agreed to the terms of [the 2010] order.”

As we have reported in these pages over the years, Renier and Merrell have been at each other’s throats off and on for more than a quarter century, appearing before nine judges across five states. They’ve argued over matters ranging from missing persons and a mysterious airplane crash to FBI endorsements, with various twists and turns worthy of Hollywood. It all began when Renier was awarded \$25,000 in a 1986 libel judgment against Merrell, after tricking him (by writing to him under an assumed name) into investigating some of her own “psychic” claims, which he then publicly characterized as “fraudulent.” Merrell’s own 1989 request to have that debt discharged by a bankruptcy judge (after guaranteeing full payment to his other creditors) was denied.

In Renier’s initial 2007 bankruptcy pleading, she had declared barely \$40,000 as her entire gross income for the preceding thirty-two months. Knowing that to be an impossibly lowball figure, Merrell uncovered evidence of additional income, resulting in Renier incrementally amending that figure upward, ultimately by more than \$100,000. But information later obtained by Merrell via subpoena, and never taken into account by the court, documented an additional \$30,000 in income, plus unknown assets being held in several unreported bank accounts and a safe deposit box. In addition, Story House Productions, producers of Court TV’s *Psychic Detectives*, refused to honor its subpoena, which could have disclosed how much money Renier had received over those thirty-two months for her recurring appearances in that series.

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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.

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TAMPA BAY SKEPTICS REPORT

Since 1988

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\$15/yr. (4 issues)

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C h a i r m a n ' s

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The Rapture

By Terry A. Smiljanich

If you're reading this, I assume you didn't fly off into space on May 21, the day the Bible (according to some calculations) predicted that the Rapture would occur. If instead you are like me, we have to wait around until October to witness the *true* end of the world, but it doesn't look good for us. The Big Judgment is coming.

The hype surrounding the supposed end of the world illustrates a constant problem faced by all religions. Although they claim to provide spiritual answers about the hypothetical unseen, people always demand more. "We want tangible proof, not vague promises."

So religion attempts to provide such proofs. Answered prayers, apparitions of gods and holy people, weeping icons, the vengeful wrath of hurricanes, healing powers, creationism, saints performing miracles, shamans with superpowers, and knowledge of the future (including predictions of "end times") — all are ways of assuring believers that religion isn't all just blind faith.

Some defenders of religion argue that science deals with the seen world, while religion deals with the unseen world. Even some scientists such as the late Stephen Jay Gould argue that religion and science occupy two separate non-overlapping "magisteria," in which science and religion are not in conflict, but rather represent two different "realms." According to this argument, science examines the empirical world of fact and physical theories, while religion seeks to explain ultimate meanings and moral questions.

This is a valiant attempt to try and declare the science/religion conflict a tie, but it doesn't bear up to close examination. All religions, and

I mean every single one, posit a supernatural realm that affects and changes the natural realm around us. Who is listening to and answering prayers by interfering with the world? From where do humans get the common concepts of good and bad that almost all of us share? How did Jesus, Mohammed, Zeus, Buddha, Ganesh, or Yaweh perform the miracles believers are required to accept as true? Religion cannot attempt to live in a separate world of its own. Believers won't stand for it.

As science advances our knowledge, religion keeps getting put into a smaller and smaller corner. It used to explain the motions of the sun, moon and planets. Now it just argues that someone was saved from a tornado by the grace of God.

It reminds me somewhat of the UFO cult. It's no fun to sit around and just speculate on visitors from another planet. There have to be sightings. When these sightings are debunked, there have to be remnants of physical evidence (crashed saucers). When these are debunked, there have to be abductions. The bar keeps escalating. For believers, the final proof is always just around the corner.

So it is with prophecies of the Final Judgment. The Bible talks of it, so it must be inevitable. The world will end in 1994. No? Well how about 2001, the millennium? No? Well how about May 21, 2011? No? Well actually it's going to be in October of this year ... and on and on.

People are free to believe in whatever supernatural beings they wish to, but if they claim that these ghosts are interacting with us humans, they need proof. We're waiting.

Why aren't cell-phone-safety skeptics being vilified like AGW skeptics?

By Gary P. Posner

I'm steamed — and I don't mean from global warming, or from my cell phone cooking my brain. And not about my own situation, mind you, since I am *already* considered by many to be akin to not merely a flat-earther, but a Holocaust denier, because of my confessed (beginning in our Spring 2009 issue) doubts about there being an anthropogenic-global-warming (AGW) crisis. No, my heart aches for those scientists who have worked so hard for the same privilege but have yet to be so stigmatized, despite their skepticism of the safety of cell phones.

Skeptical Inquirer magazine, which in 1988 nurtured the creation of *TBS Report*, has limited its terms of endearment towards AGW skeptics to nothing stronger than “science-challenged” or “extreme gullibility” (well, OK, maybe a “witless mean-spiritedness” thrown in as well), but its primary standard-bearer, NASA's Dr. David Morrison, has declared the matter settled: “There is no dispute among climate scientists about ... the fact that [global warming] is primarily caused by accelerated burning of fossil fuels.” And articles such as S. T. Lakshmikumar's (September/October 2009) have made comparable pronouncements about the safety of cell phones: “Unless one is willing to discard ... the entire body of quantum physics, it is simply not possible for ... a cell phone to cause cancer.” So why are the cell-phone-safety skeptics, whose heads are apparently as deeply buried in sand as the AGW skeptics' are, not being similarly vilified?

For example, a February 22, 2011, article on the ABC News website begins, “Fears concerning the possible dangers of prolonged cell phone use won't go away, despite numerous studies showing no conclusive link between cell phones and brain tumors or cancer. Now new data from the National Institutes of Health suggesting that cell phone radiation boosts brain activity is poised to stir the debate even further.” The study, published in that week's issue of *JAMA*, finds that “brain metabolism ... in the region closest to the [cell phone]

antenna ... was significantly higher” with the phone on rather than off. The lead author, according to the ABC News story, “says their findings reopen the debate about cell phone concerns and make it impossible to ignore that prolonged use over many years might have some kind of unknown effect on the brain.”

So not everyone concerned about possible adverse effects of cell phone use upon the brain is confined to a psych ward, though some do work in hospital wards treating patients who they believe have possibly suffered such ill effects, including cancer. On CNN's May 20 edition of *AC360*, host Anderson Cooper, not heretofore relegated to the Holocaust-denier camp, announced that he would begin wearing an earpiece with his cell phone, rather than holding it to his head. In a segment titled “Cell Phone Cancer Questions,” he asked, “What if the [negative] research is incomplete, because many cancers take a long time to develop, and cell phones haven't been around that long?” He pointed out that the manufacturers recommend holding their phones at least a half inch away from one's head. And in his introduction to a report by neurosurgeon Sanjay Gupta, CNN's Chief Medical Correspondent, he noted that “as Gupta found out, there are serious people asking life-and death questions,” and he wasn't referring to what happened at Treblinka.

As was made clear, cell phones do not emit *ionizing* radiation, which is known to cause cancer. But, asked Gupta, “What is that [microwave] heating and that increased metabolism going to do in the long run? Could it lead to cancer? That's what a lot of people are trying to figure out.” Dr. Keith Black, Chairman of the Department of Neurosurgery at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles, told Gupta that he is starting to see an uptick in brain tumors among people who use cell phones the most. “There's no way to say that cell phone use is safe,” Dr. Black dared opine on camera. How could Gupta, in good conscience, allow such observations to see the light of day without, at the very least, having the courtesy to call his guest extremely gullible, or perhaps witless, to his face (and much worse behind his back)?

Gupta then showed a memo, sent by the head of the University of Pittsburg Cancer Institute to all its employees, urging them to limit their cell phone use because of the possible risk of cancer. He also noted that

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Snippets

In a mirror-image scenario of a 1996 NASA press conference, Richard Hoover of NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center has announced his findings of fossilized alien bacterial life in two meteorites. But unlike 15 years ago, when David McKay announced his team's discovery of evidence suggesting fossilized bacteria in a Martian meteorite, NASA is distancing itself from the recent claim, which appears in the March *Journal of Cosmology*, a non-prestigious publication founded in 2009 and reportedly folding this summer. Hoover, a solar physics specialist with no professional expertise in astrobiology, is being subjected not only to criticism, but ridicule, by scientists inside and outside of NASA. "There has been no one in the scientific community, certainly no one in the meteorite analysis community, that has supported these conclusions," according to NASA Astrobiology Institute Director Carl Pilcher.

(A.P. via Tampa Tribune, March 8)

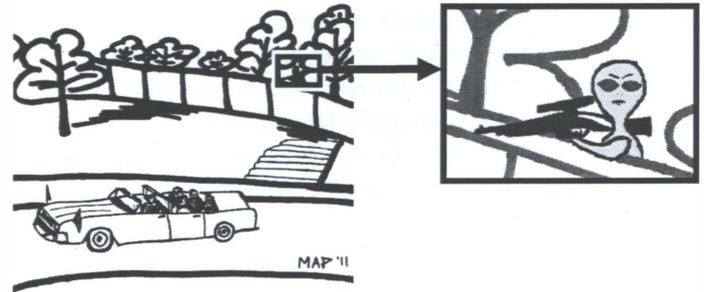
As we reported at the time, in 2005 Tampa General Hospital began utilizing the new-age therapy known as "Therapeutic Touch" (TT), which actually involves waving one's hands over the body, without actually touching it, to promote healing by manipulating the patient's energy fields. But TT was concocted back in the 1970s, so its "new"ness is wearing off. At around the turn of the millennium, "Eye Movement Desensitization Reprocessing" (EMDR) came into being, to treat emotional disorders such as PTSD. But even that is becoming old hat. Enter, in 2007, "Accelerated Resolution Therapy" (ART), perhaps the newest of a dozen or so eye-movement therapies, about which reporter Howard Altman asks, "Can post traumatic stress disorder ... be treated with the wave of a few fingers?" He goes on to say that the University of South Florida's College of Nursing is "using part of a \$2.1 million U.S. Army grant [for the study of emotional and mild traumatic brain injury] to prove it." USF hopes to begin the study this summer and have it completed by next March.

(Tampa Tribune, May 23)

Conspiracy theories about the assassination of President Kennedy go back a decade further than TT. Many people still wonder if Karl Rove, I mean Lee Harvey Oswald, did it alone, or at all. Was the CIA, or the FBI, or the Mafia, or even Fidel Castro, behind the heinous deed? But until now, few have asked if the president might have been killed because of his inquiries to the CIA about UFOs. But it seems that just 10 days before his death, Kennedy sent a memo to the CIA requesting a "review of all UFO intelligence files affecting national security." His stated reason seems

innocent enough: As the article quotes author William Lester, whose FOI request resulted in the release of the document, "One of his concerns was that a lot of these UFOs were being seen over the Soviet Union and he was very concerned that the Soviets might misinterpret these UFOs as U.S. aggression, believing that it was some of our technology." But another dubious and undated document, known as the "burned memo" because of its scorch marks (having allegedly been salvaged from a CIA purge of sensitive material) and supposedly leaked to ufologist Timothy Cooper by the CIA in 1999, indicates that Kennedy's interest in UFOs led to his death. In it, the CIA director writes, "Lancer [Kennedy's Secret Service code name] has made some inquiries regarding our [UFO-related] activities, which we cannot allow."

(London Daily Mail, April 19)



The "Grassy Knoll"

There are no conspiracy theories surrounding the death of Sathya Sai Baba, the revered, frizzy-haired Hindu guru whose antics ended in an Indian hospital on April 24 following a prolonged illness. The most notorious of the so-called "godmen" of India, Sai Baba's devotees included royalty in politics, movies, sports and industry. In a relationship much akin to James Randi v. Uri Geller, Basava Premanand, founder of the Indian Skeptics, who died in 2009, was relentless in his challenges to Sai Baba and his alleged miracles, which included the materialization of holy ash as well as gold jewelry such as Rolex watches.

(A.P. via Tampa Tribune, April 25)

And from our Unimpeachable Sources Dept.: Rock star Sammy Hagar was violated one night in his sleep by ETs. "It was real. They were plugged into me. It was a download situation ... or they uploaded something from my brain, like an experiment." What more is there to say?

(Reuters via Yahoo! News, March 21)

"Snippets" are derived from the referenced sources and then rewritten by TBS Report's editor. Please submit your clippings to TBS.

“Judge Lambasts Renier” (from page 1)

During Judge Anderson’s three months of reflection, he came to realize that “the jurisdiction of this [bankruptcy] court does not extend to every corner of the parties’ ongoing dispute,” and he therefore, in his new order, vacated his June 2010 order insofar as it relates to anything beyond the amount of money Renier’s estate had to pay her creditors (with Merrell being her largest). Among his overreaching, now-defunct declarations in that 2010 order was this: “Merrell’s co-author [yours truly] may continue [though Merrell may not] with the writing and publication of said book [about Renier, but] any mention of Merrell’s name [in the book] shall constitute a breach.” I had no intention of abiding by any such directive and wrote, in our the Fall 2010 issue, that the judge could “stick [that stipulation] where the moon don’t shine.”

By vacating his 2010 order, in which the \$30,000 penalty had been memorialized, Judge Anderson has rendered moot Renier’s chances of snaring the jackpot, though they were nil anyway for the above-discussed reasons relating to her credibility. Anderson takes a parenthetical swipe at Merrell’s credibility as well, and goes on to opine that regarding their litigious history, “neither is capable of introspection [or] approaches matters concerning the other with even a modicum of reason,” leaving him “not so naïve [as] to believe that the parties will now go their separate ways.” To my mind, however, one of the parties occupies the higher (by far) moral ground and has more than a modicum of reason to be skeptical of the other’s paranormal claims.

True to Anderson’s predictions, Renier has filed a 40-page appeal of Judge Anderson’s ruling, arguing (in part) that the court erred “factually and legally in its assertions regarding [Renier’s] credibility” and in vacating its 2010 order (with its \$30,000 penalty to which Renier claims entitlement).

[A version of this article appears in the July/August issue of Skeptical Inquirer.]

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“Cell-phone-safety Skeptics” (from page 3)

although the FCC is satisfied that no precautions need to be taken when using a cell phone, “the European Environmental Agency has pushed for more studies, saying cell phones could be as big a public health risk as smoking, asbestos and leaded gasoline.” But I guess Gupta considers that rogues’ gallery of risks trivial

compared to using incandescent light bulbs, since no invectives were hurled at any of those ignoramuses in spite of their practically begging for it.

Gupta did emphasize that such opinions are “at odds with headlines from the largest international study on cell phones and cancer. Their conclusion: little or no evidence cell phones are associated with brain tumors.” But he then blitzkrieged to the bowels of that research paper, published in the March 8, 2010, *International Journal of Epidemiology*, where the Appendix contains data documenting, in his words, that “participants in the study who used a cell phone for 10 years or more had double the rate of brain glioma.” In the positive scientific spirit of ClimateGate, how could that journal not have insisted upon an Appendectomy?

On his own half-hour program the following morning (the *AC360* segment had been but a preview), Gupta showed his interview with former White House senior health advisor Devra Davis, a physician, researcher, and founder of the Environmental Health Trust, who noted that “the governments of France and Finland and Israel have issued warnings [about cell phones], and those are not countries known to take these issues lightly.” Gupta, who said he had been investigating these issues for the past several months, proclaimed his surprise that “the voices urging caution are not only getting louder, but they’re getting more prominent.” How can he, especially after admitting to always using an earpiece with his cell phone due to his own concerns, be permitted to utter such incendiary words? When one uses comparable language in pointing out the same with regard to AGW skepticism, the fires of hell erupt!

Not only did Gupta get away unscathed, but parts of his report were even repeated on Memorial Day’s edition of *AC360*. And the gates of hell were thrown wide open the following day (May 31) when the WHO’s International Agency for Research on Cancer issued a Press Release declaring “radiofrequency electromagnetic fields as possibly carcinogenic to humans (Group 2B), based on an increased risk for glioma, a malignant type of brain cancer, associated with wireless phone use” — grouped with more than 250 agents including carbon black, firefighter occupational exposure, and gasoline engine exhaust. Apparently its IPCC-like team of 31 scientists from 14 countries, upon reviewing the available peer-reviewed studies, decided to play ostrich with the laws of quantum physics. These so-called “scientists,” who would now have us fear carrying our cell phones in our pockets, certainly can’t stand accused of being in the pocket of the cell-phone industry, but can’t they at least

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Dr. Brian Weiss Reincarnated

It seems like a lifetime ago that psychiatrist Brian Weiss was among those featured in a Spring 1995 article that we lovingly called "Past Lives' gurus bring their side-show shtick to Tampa Bay" (tampabayskeptics.org/Past_Lives.html). At the time, Kathy Fountain had just had him on her Ch. 13 talk show promoting his books and his upcoming \$200/head Sunday "reincarnation" workshop at a posh Tampa hotel.

We resurrect Dr. Weiss here because not only has his brand of "pure quackery" (per the director of the American Psychiatric Association) not died, it may even be more popular than ever. The May 15 installment of CBS-TV News' *Sunday Morning* devoted its "Cover Story" to Weiss. Its opening sentence: "More than a thousand people gathered at this New York City conference center on a recent Sunday, coming from around the world in hopes of an out-of-this-world experience." The good(?) news is, the entry fee for this priceless opportunity to be hypnotized back to a past life was a mere \$139.

At least on this show (unlike Fountain's), rationality was represented, and by two skeptics, including Dr. Michael Shermer of *Skeptic* magazine: "I think it's a complete construction of our brains projecting ourselves into a ... state that does not exist."

"Cell-Phone Safety" (from p. 5)

be likened to those who deny the shape of the earth, or the fate of Sobibor's guests?

Asked another way, why does one deserve vilification for expressing skepticism of "Settled Science A" but not for expressing skepticism of "Settled Science B"? *Numerically*, matters relating to cell phones affect only their users (though increasingly children), whereas climate affects the population of the entire world, but that distinction doesn't seem to answer my question. *Philosophically*, perhaps the answer is this: expressing skepticism of the *highly politicized* settled science of man's role in global warming is deserving of a reaction akin to what a political conservative should expect when attempting to address a typical college audience.

But haven't cell-phone-safety skeptics proven themselves every bit as witless, gullible and science-challenged as AGW skeptics? To them, the quantum-physics-proven reassurance "There's no reason to worry" must sound an awful lot like the soothing words issued to those departing the trains for the Auschwitz showers. Aaahhhhhhh. Maybe *that's* why, no matter how hard they try, they just can't seem to earn Holocaust-denier status! I suppose, at best, cell-phone-safety skeptics may just have to aspire to comparison with the *second-worst*-imaginable faction of humankind: AGW skeptics.

Tampa Bay Skeptics T-Shirts

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

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

The cost is \$10 each (plus \$4 total per order if shipping is required). Make check payable to "Tampa Bay Skeptics."



Letters • Readers' Forum

Editor: I saw you listed in the *Mensa Bulletin's* Special Interest Groups list and had to write. I'm locked up and have no access to a computer. My cellmate is cool, we get along fine, and he's in fact a little smarter than average, but like so many of the "lower 98%," he also happens to believe some really stupid things.

I won't bore you with any long rants about it, but suffice it to say that he's an Art Bell fan and is quite certain that our government is hiding information it has on UFOs and related tripe. He's been particularly impressed by some nonsense they've been talking about in the last year or so wherein a UFO is claimed to have caused one or more of our nuclear missile silos to "open." I think it may have been connected to an alleged "mass UFO sighting" at O'Hare Airport in Chicago.

Can you send me some paperwork on this? Just a thing or two off your computer that you think would be of use to me in disabusing my cellie of this foolishness. Of course I'm assuming here that the claims about this UFO and what it did are false — if you think otherwise, then by all means please let me know that too. Any assistance you might give me in this regard would be verily appreciated, and if you have any enemies in the federal prison system, let me know and I'll squash them. (Just kidding.) (Not really, but whatever.)

Anyway, thanks regardless, and until another time, be well and all the best.

[Name withheld]
Mensa # _____ [withheld]
Lewisburg, PA

Editor's reply: I copied and mailed to this incarcerated inquirer pages 11-14 of the March-April 2010 issue of Tim Printy's SUNlite online newsletter (tinyurl.com/lswlul) debunking the story about the 1967 so-called Malmstrom AFB missile shutdown (not "open") incident in Montana. As for the

unrelated 2006 O'Hare Airport affair, skeptic Robert Sheaffer informs me that he is unaware of any published skeptical commentary about this other than his own, which I also forwarded along. The following is excerpted/edited from Sheaffer, whose quotes are from Leslie Keane's book, UFOs: Generals, Pilots and Government Officials Go On the Record:

Several employees of United Airlines reported seeing a "strange object hovering just under a cloud bank. ... The metallic-looking disc was about the size of a quarter or half dollar held at arm's length." Unfortunately, no photographs exist of this object hovering over one of the world's busiest airports in daytime, and nothing showed up on radar. After approximately five to fifteen minutes, "the suspended disc suddenly shot up at an incredible speed and was gone in less than a second, leaving a crisp, cookie-cutter-like hole in the dense clouds. The opening was approximately the same size as the object [Sheaffer then parenthetically suggests that the opening was in fact the object], and those directly underneath it could see blue sky visible on the other side." ... An FAA spokesman suggested that the observers saw a "hole-punch cloud," an unusual weather phenomenon where a large, dramatic circular hole is formed in a cloud layer, though temperatures were probably too high for a hole-punch cloud to form at the 1,900-foot elevation of the ceiling. In any case, the low ceiling might easily have briefly opened up to reveal a much higher cloud layer, where a hole-punch cloud already existed. It is interesting that the photo used on a NOAA website to illustrate the phenomenon of the hole-punch cloud was taken exactly eight days after the O'Hare Field "incursion," from nearby Wisconsin (see www.crh.noaa.gov/grb/?n=holepunch).

Our inquiring inmate wrote back:

Many thanks for the material. Maybe not surprisingly, my cellie was unmoved. He read both items, and when I asked if he was sure it was "nuclear missile silos opening on their own" vs. shutting down, he not only

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Followed by optional lunch at a local restaurant

"Letters / Readers' Forum" (from p. 7)

insisted the silos had opened on their own, but now it was that it had happened in "several countries" and that "hundreds of people" had seen UFOs floating over the silos when it happened. I again suggested to him that if such a thing had happened, it's pretty unlikely that no major media would have documented it, but he found this unconvincing, and I realized I was dealing with someone who believes for reasons having nothing to do with facts or objective reality. I wonder if they even *have* many UFO sightings in the Scandinavian countries, or Japan, given their higher average IQs compared to here. I have no reason to think we're the only sentient life in the universe or that some alien couldn't show up here and poke around. But I find so many of these types of sightings we always hear about to be ridiculous. Oh, well. Thanks again for your help.



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A Special Interest Group of the



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And if you have downloaded a QR Code reader app for your smartphone, you can access our Website by scanning the above code.

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TBS and JREF "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 prize to the first person able to successfully produce proof of paranormal powers for an independent authority, in accordance with the rules at www.randi.org.

All UFOlogists, psychics, astrologers, dowsers, and the like are encouraged to come forward, offer your proof, and make history. See the "\$\$\$ Challenges" page on the TBS website or contact us for more details.

Center For Inquiry Tampa Bay

Center for Inquiry Tampa Bay (of which Tampa Bay Skeptics is a Special Interest Group) offers an opportunity to join other reasoning people in working for positive change in society. CFI Tampa Bay sponsors social events for free-thinkers as well as intellectual programming, and assists with campus outreach.

For more information on upcoming CFI Tampa Bay events, visit their website (www.CenterForInquiry.net/Tampa) or contact them by U.S. mail (c/o Rick O'Keefe, 4011 S. Manhattan Ave. #139, Tampa, FL 33611-1277) or e-mail (Tampa@CenterForInquiry.net).

FIRST CLASS