

REPORT

VOL. 24 NO. 3
WINTER 2011-12

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

iPhony cures may have cost Apple's Steve Jobs his life

By Gary P. Posner, M.D.

Quack medical cures posted on the Internet seduced one of the world's greatest visionaries into delaying surgery for a potentially curable disease, possibly costing him his life.

In the recently published *Steve Jobs*, biographer Walter Isaacson unveils many heretofore hidden details surrounding the life and death of the notoriously guarded genius, whose innovative "i" (standing for "Internet") gadgetry has revolutionized the way humanity interacts in work and play.

Jobs' gaunt appearance in 2003 led to much public speculation about his health. It was not until the following year that he underwent surgery to remove a cancerous tumor from his pancreas, and his subsequent liver transplant in 2009 seemed a last-ditch effort to salvage a few additional months or years of life from one of the most uniformly deadly of all diagnoses.

But the type of cancer that Jobs had — an islet cell neuroendocrine tumor — often offers a far more promising prognosis than does the typical pancreatic adenocarcinoma. Whereas the latter almost uniformly leads to death within a year of discovery, Jobs' cell type, which comprises only 5% of cases, can carry a greater than 50% chance for cure if treated in time. "He was lucky," writes Isaacson, "that it was detected so early — as the bi-product of a routine kidney screening — and thus could be surgically removed before it had definitely spread."

Jobs fancied himself a lifelong skeptic — for instance, he abandoned Christianity at age 13 when his pastor couldn't explain to his satisfaction why God allows famine to claim the lives of innocent children. But his skepticism seems to have been mostly directed toward

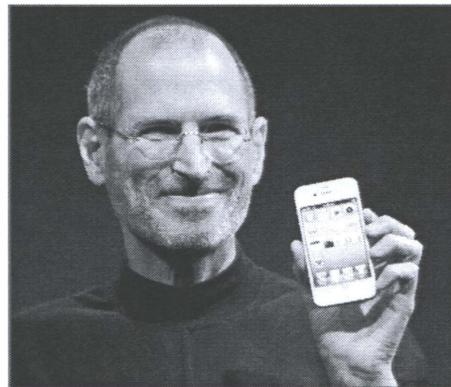
the conventional rather than the paranormal. As Isaacson puts it, "In the past he had been rewarded for what his wife called his 'magical thinking' — his assumption that he could will things to be as he wanted."

One relatively benign example: Jobs' belief that he needn't bathe more than once per week when adhering to a strict fruit-and-vegetable diet, which he often did, even as a teenager. A less benign one: That what Penn Jillette would term "NewAge (rhymes with 'sewage')" therapies might prove as effective as the dreaded knife in ridding his body of cancer. From the book: "Specifically, he kept to a strict vegan diet, with large quantities of fresh carrot and fruit juices. To that regimen he added acupuncture, a variety of herbal remedies, and a few other treatments he found on the Internet or by consulting people around the country, including a psychic."

After such "alternative" therapies failed to magically effect a cure, Jobs finally capitulated to the pleadings of physicians and family that he undergo surgery. His wife described for Isaacson "her husband's doctors tearing up with joy" nine months earlier when the needle biopsy results had unexpectedly offered far more than a mere glimmer of hope that their patient might survive for the long haul. But the hiatus may have provided the window of opportunity for his malignancy to spread — three liver metastases were found. Jobs' ensuing chemotherapy, which worked amazingly well for a time, was uniquely targeted to his tumor cells, thanks to his having "become one of the first twenty people in the world to have all the genes of his cancer tumor as well as of his normal DNA sequenced."

The price tag for that procedure exceeded \$100,000, a drop in the bucket for a billionaire. Jobs' magical mystery (de)tour through the world of iPhony cures may have ultimately proven far more costly.

[This article appears as a "News and Comment" item in the Jan/Feb 2012 issue of *Skeptical Inquirer*.]



**TAMPA BAY SKEPTICS
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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

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\$15/yr. (4 issues)

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C h a i r m a n ' s o r n e r

Faster than light? Well, not so fast!

By Terry A. Smiljanich

In September, physicists at an Italian laboratory reported that they had measured subatomic particles traveling faster than the speed of light. If true, this would violate one of the seemingly unshakable principles in modern physics, first formulated by Einstein, that nothing can travel faster than the speed of light. This universal speed limit has been the bane of science-fiction writers ever since. How can we travel to distant stars if it would take years or centuries for one round trip?

The scientists at the Gran Sasso National Laboratory in Italy performed measurements over the course of three years, timing the speed of neutrinos coming from the CERN facility in Geneva, Switzerland, 730 kilometers away. Traveling at the speed of light, it should have taken 2.43 milliseconds to make the trip, but on average the neutrinos got there 60 nanoseconds sooner than expected. (A nanosecond is one billionth of a second.)

Scientists around the world were befuddled. How can this be? Will we have to rewrite the basic laws of physics? Woo-woo artists everywhere started speculating that know-it-all scientists were getting a comeuppance, and that proof of psychic phenomena will soon follow. Or could this be another "cold fusion" fiasco, a new earth-shattering discovery soon to be discredited?

As it turns out, neither appears to be the case. There is an important lesson to be learned in watching this exciting report unfold. This is science at its best, not its most ridiculous.

Notice, first of all, how the dis-

covery was reported. The scientists didn't call a press conference announcing that Einstein had been proven wrong and that a new world of physics had begun. The scientists instead reported their findings at a conference of peers at CERN, and set forth the specific ways in which the experiments had been performed, their attempts to triple-check the results, and the uncertainty they felt existed in their measurements. Rather than making room on their mantles for a Nobel Prize, they instead invited their fellow scientists to duplicate the experiments and find its flaws.

Also notice the reaction of the scientific community when presented with a clear description of how the experiments were performed. They immediately began exploring ways in which the findings might be wrong. Perhaps a systematic error in the experiment gave rise to the anomalous results. Perhaps there was uncertainty in the "cloud of neutrinos" that were under observation. Perhaps an electronic malfunction of some sort occurred. No one threw out their physics books.

Since the initial report, the same laboratory asked CERN to "tighten" the cloud of neutrinos being generated and sent to Italy, in order to further refine the parameters of the experiment. In mid-November, they reported that even with this change in the stream of neutrinos, they measured the same 60-nanosecond-faster-than-light speed. This eliminates one possible source of error. But another group of scientists, pointing out that if the neutrinos had indeed traveled faster than light they

(continued on page 5)

What is James Van Praagh hiding from?

[Editor's note: The following (minimally edited) is from the above-titled article by JREF President D.J. Grothe, posted on the Huffington Post on October 10. My review (of sorts) of Van Praagh's book, *Talking to Heaven*, appeared in our Summer 1998 issue and as a "Commentary" in *Skeptic* magazine (Vol. 6, No. 1, 1998).]

The James Randi Educational Foundation (JREF) is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing reliable information about paranormal claims, and helping members of the public protect themselves against "psychic" and pseudoscientific scams. JREF's founder, James Randi, is the world-famous conjuror and escape artist who exposed a number of so-called "psychics" and faith-healers who were using simple magic tricks to convince others they had supernatural abilities, bilking their followers out of money and otherwise inspiring harmful belief.

Most magicians make an honest living from their performances, because their audiences know that what they're watching is an illusion. JREF decries when dishonest people use the same tricks to lie to people, pretending they can talk to people's deceased loved ones, or promising to heal people with the power of a god. That's why Randi retired from magic and is devoting the rest of his career to preventing these charlatans from swindling people and endangering their health.

At the JREF, we've never seen a self-described "psychic" who could demonstrate an observable "psychic" power without cheating. And we've seen a lot of people who claim to be psychics — for more than a decade, we've offered a \$1-million challenge to anyone who can demonstrate real psychic powers under fair, mutually agreed-upon conditions. Those who have taken our tests have performed no better than would be expected from random guessing.

For the most part, the people who've accepted our challenge have genuinely believed they have psychic abilities, and most have been shocked that the abilities they thought they had didn't help them. On the other hand, there are prominent "psychics" who make big money from their performances, yet seem to be very afraid to demonstrate their abilities under fair conditions that prevent cheating. We challenged celebrity medium

James Van Praagh in August, putting our million dollars on the line and asking him if he'll agree to a fair test. So far, he's refused to answer. Today, we sent Mr. Van Praagh the following letter:

Mr. James Van Praagh:

I'm sure you received my letter of Sept. 9 encouraging you to accept the James Randi Educational Foundation's Million Dollar Challenge by agreeing to demonstrate your claimed psychic powers in a fair, mutually agreed-upon test, under conditions that would prevent cheating. The certified letter was confirmed to have been picked up from your local post office.

We also sent the letter to you via email. During the week prior to that, our challenge to you was covered by ABC News and Time.com. AOL News reached out to you for an answer, but you didn't reply to them, either. All this time, you have refused to give an honest answer to the question of whether or not you'll accept our challenge.

It seems odd that you won't return our messages. After all, if you can really do what you claim, we're offering you one million dollars and a chance to prove wrong everyone who doubts you, including those of us at the JREF. If your "psychic" powers are real, hiding from our offer makes as much sense as throwing away a winning lottery ticket. So, we can only guess at why you haven't answered.

Perhaps it's because what you do is not "psychic" at all, but a stale and repetitive performance of cold-reading techniques, in which you throw out vague guesses and then repeat back to your audience things they've already told you or things that are simply obvious, all while claiming their dead relatives are speaking to you.

Perhaps it's because your well-worn tricks actually fall flat quite often, such as when you had a spectacular failure on the Australian Channel Ten program *The Circle*.

Perhaps it's because you were just exposed on ABC's *Primetime Nightline* for stuffing your reading of an ABC correspondent with personal facts that were publicly available with a simple Internet search, but which you claimed were revealed to you by spirits.

Perhaps it's because you have given so many people bad information that you were even called out by Barbara Walters on *The View* for falsely warning her that she had a serious health problem.

Or perhaps you have nothing to fear, and you have just been too busy to collect our million dollars.

Will you accept our challenge? We hope you will make the time to give us, and the media, your answer.

—D.J. Grothe, President
James Randi Educational Foundation

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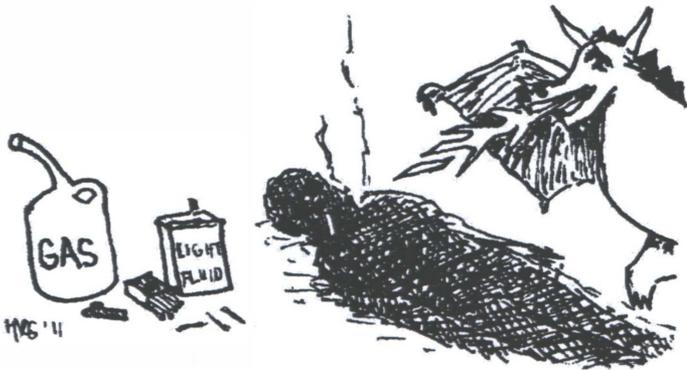
AT LARGE: William W. Hall (Professor, Dept. of Communications, St. Petersburg College)

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Snippets

The world has been alerted to Ireland's first documented case of "spontaneous human combustion" (SHC). In December 2010, 76-year-old Michael Faherty, badly burned (as were the ceiling and floor immediately above and below him), had been found dead at home lying on his back with his head near an open fireplace. Yet, West Galway coroner Dr. Ciaran McLoughlin states, "This fire was thoroughly investigated and I'm left with the conclusion that this fits into the category of spontaneous human combustion, for which there is no adequate explanation." But Mike Green, a retired pathology professor, has his doubts: "I think if the heavens were striking in cases of spontaneous combustion then there would be a lot more cases. I go for the practical, the mundane explanation."

(BBC News online, Sept. 23)



Another obvious case of "SHC"
(with thanks to Peter, Paul and Mary)

Attorney Mark Anthony is the chief deputy of the court clerk's office in Brevard County. He may not be Mark Antony or Marc Anthony, but that doesn't mean he's not a very special someone in his own right. In fact, he's supernaturally so, or so he says. "I communicate with spirits. I see them. I feel sensations." And why shouldn't he? After all, he's billed on his Website as "The Psychic Lawyer," and in his spare time he helps people overcome their grief by communicating with their dead loved ones. And his new book, *Never Letting Go*, sounds like a real stocking-stuffer!

(American Bar Association Journal online, Feb. 1)

According to his ads in the local papers, on Friday, February 10, "internationally acclaimed psychic medium, lecturer and author" John Edward will be appearing at the Doubletree Hotel Tampa Airport to do his Mark Anthony impression. And from his Website: "A John Edward 'group' event is reading intensive. There will be question and answer sessions and messages from the

other side. No one attending any John Edward event is guaranteed a reading." But billing himself as "internationally" acclaimed is far too modest. Edward was crowned "Biggest Douche in the Universe" (not merely Earth) in this classic 2002 episode of *South Park*. Trey Parker and Matt Stone, the show's creators, have said that Edward was the unanimous choice of the entire South Park Studios crew. No argument here.



(Tampa Tribune ad, Dec. 3)

Yoga, as defined in the opening of its Wikipedia entry, is "a physical, mental, and spiritual discipline [for] the attainment of a state of perfect spiritual insight and tranquility." But according to a recent study, believed to be the largest of its kind, of 228 adults with low back pain, about the only operative word in that description is "physical." Other than being effective in relieving their pain, the study, funded by the NIH's Office of Complementary and Alternative Medicine and published in the *Archives of Internal Medicine*, found no evidence that yoga provides any broader mental benefits. Karen J. Sherman, the paper's lead author, says that the benefits obtained by the participants through yoga exercises could be attributed entirely to the physical stretching.

(Wall Street Journal online, Oct. 25)

Now for some really *good* news! "The earth will not spin into a black hole or collide with Planet X" when the Mayan calendar ends a year from now, nor will there be deadly solar flares, widespread earthquakes and tsunamis, or other such worldwide devastation on that day. With tongue firmly in cheek, columnist Al Lewis reassures us that "New Agers have been misinterpreting the Mayan calendar for years. ... My own theory says ... the Mayans, for all their numerical genius, simply couldn't calculate the [financial] losses they envisioned in a global economic collapse. They obviously analyzed derivatives, credit default swaps, mortgage-backed securities, collateralized debt obligations, etc. [and] concluded that all of this was far too complicated for any human to ever calculate how it would all end." After all, as he also points out, they "didn't [even] think to invent toilet paper." So they just threw up their hands and decided to end their calendar on December 21, 2012.

(Wall Street Journal via Tampa Tribune, Nov. 27)

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

The story of a successful(?) psychic séance

By James W. Moseley

[Editor's note: The following (minimally edited) article is from the October 2011 issue of Moseley's gossipy and often humorous Saucer Smear newsletter, which he has published since 1954 (originally named Saucer News). Moseley, who has previously contributed an occasional column to TBS Report, is also coauthor of Shockingly Close to the Truth: Confessions of a Grave-Robbing Ufologist (Prometheus Books, 2002). He can be reached at P.O. Box 1709, Key West, Florida 33041.]

I have warned you that in the course of a long lifetime, I have had almost a dozen unexplainable experiences — a few of them UFO oriented, but mostly of the (alleged) psychic variety. With profound apologies to Dr. Gary Posner of the Tampa Bay Skeptics, I hereby summarize an interesting event in the latter category.

Back in the late 1970s, my daughter Elizabeth (then a teenager) and I used to visit the Robb family, who then had a house in Anaheim, California, just south of Los Angeles. Stewart Robb was a highly educated man, an expert on Nostradamus, and a hard-core believer in many kinds of psychic phenomena. His wife Marilyn was a much milder version of the same sort of thing. They had a daughter named Denise, who was about the same age as Elizabeth.

Stewart was obsessed with a specific type of informal séance in his home. He would allow each person in the room to make a short personal statement or ask a question on a tape recorder, and then play the recording back at maximum volume. A short period of silence would follow each person's contribution, to give the spirits(?) time to respond. The microphone would be passed around the room from person to person. Then the tape would be played back, to see if any sounds or words were on it that could not be attributed to anyone present. Then the whole procedure would be repeated — endlessly! Each complete cycle was about 30 to 40 minutes long.

The procedure was somewhat boring, but humorous at times, when Stewart would argue with his wife or others as to whether or not a given sound on the tape was significant. Usually it was just a cat on the roof, loud trucks on a nearby freeway, or sometimes even a person in the room moving his or her chair a bit. The high volume of the tape playback magnified everything.

We participated in this strange game several times during our visits to the Robbs, which were spread out over a period of a few years. Nothing significant ever

happened (in our opinion) except once.

That evening, when Elizabeth's first turn at the mike came, she very unexpectedly said (approximately), "There *are* no spirits. You are adults and I am just a young girl. You should all be ashamed of yourselves." On the playback, a loud, whispered voice could clearly be heard saying (precisely), "She's a fake. It couldn't be true." These words did not overlap Elizabeth's at all, and this is indeed the most amazing part of the incident.

But there was more to come. A little later on the same tape, the playback suddenly came out with "DENISE" — not in any kind of whisper but *loud*, with a strong sound of *panic* in the voice. Marilyn Robb was seated near me, and we watched carefully as she panicked and ran into a nearby bedroom where Denise, who had been bored with the whole thing, was peacefully asleep in her bed.

Our question is this: If a very meaningful sound can be heard on the playback, *why* was it not heard by anyone in the room when the recording was made? We have no answer for this.

Both Stewart and Marilyn Robb are now deceased, but Denise remembers this very strange incident, even though she was not directly a part of it. So does my daughter Elizabeth. So do I!

I'm not saying that the above narrative proves anything. Obviously, we could have made the whole thing up (though we didn't), or there could be any of several more subtle explanations. All we say is — keep an open mind.

• • • • •

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

would have lost a predictable amount of energy, looked for such loss in energy and found none.

Scientists will continue — as they should — looking for additional evidence contrary to the "faster-than-light" hypothesis and trying to figure out what (if anything) is wrong with the original experimental design. If they cannot find such systemic errors, then they will need to begin speculating about the ways in which the theory of special relativity may require revision. Some have even argued that special relativity could allow for such a phenomenon under very limited circumstances. Whatever happens, true scientific findings are falsifiable, and scientific theories are always open to disproof and change. Compare that to a typical psychic claim.

As Carl Sagan said, and we often repeat, "Extraordinary claims require extraordinary proof."

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JREF Relocates From Florida

The James Randi Educational Foundation has temporarily moved its administrative offices from Fort Lauderdale to Falls Church, VA. Randi and an assistant remain in Ft. Lauderdale, as does the JREF's 4,000-volume library.

D.J. Grothe, the group's president, has moved to Los Angeles, where the JREF will ultimately be relocating once its new offices there are completed.

For further information about the JREF, see the lower-left box.

TBS Community and Media Affairs

TBS was represented for a few seconds in Jeremy Campbell's November 9 story about reincarnation on the 11:00 p.m. WTVT-TV 13 newscast. Terry Smiljanich, who was King George IV in a previous life, had been interviewed on October 13 for the piece, but somehow his footage wound up getting deleted from the Ch. 13 computer (no doubt due to the curse of the double-13). With Terry unavailable at the last minute for a redux, Gary Posner, who recalls having been a mere gravedigger in *his* previous incarnation, stepped in to save the day.

On November 3, we received an e-mail from Anna Kowalski, a researcher for *William Shatner's Weird*

or What?, a popular Canadian TV series on that country's History Television network. From the program's Website:

We're all fascinated by mysteries and strange phenomena. But is the unexplained really unexplainable? In this irresistible new series, join science fiction legend William Shatner as we investigate all that's weird in the world and attempt to find a logical, scientific explanation. From paranormal phenomena to weird and wonderful creatures, from medical oddities to mysterious disappearances, from bizarre natural disasters to mystical monster attacks, this absorbing series has a deliberately wide brief.

We had Guss Wilder, our in-house video expert, respond to her, but we suspect that she had sent out such feelers to multiple sources, as Wilder was soon advised that she had already found someone to assist her.

Responding to invitations from two relatively new regional skeptics groups, Gary Posner delivered versions of his autobiographical "Metamorphosis from 'Believer' to 'Skeptic'" PowerPoint presentation to the Orlando Skeptics on November 19 and the Suncoast Skeptics (in Sarasota) on December 11. This multimedia lecture, which also covers some of TBS's early investigative efforts that garnered much media attention, was originally created for the 2003 inaugural CFI-Tampa Bay conference in St. Petersburg.

Other Skeptical Sources on the Paranormal

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www.prometheusbooks.com

• *Skeptical Inquirer* •

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(716) 636-1425
www.csicop.org

• *Skeptic* •

Published by the Skeptics Society
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Altadena, CA 91001
(818) 794-3119
www.skeptic.com

• *James Randi Educ. Foundation* •

2941 Fairview Park Dr., Suite 105
Falls Church, VA 22042
(703) 226-3780
www.randi.org

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

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

Hello: My paranormal claim is medical dowsing. For four years now I have been investigating the claim together with the skeptical community.

I have already had two larger-scale tests, one with the Independent Investigations Group (IIG) in Los Angeles in November 2009. That test had three trials. Each trial had six people. One of the six people in each trial was missing a kidney. I was to say in each trial which person was missing a kidney and whether it was the right or left kidney that was missing. The results were revealed only later at the very end of the test.

In the first trial, I was unable to form a confident answer, and complained about my lack of confidence for the whole 10-minute break before the second trial. My answer in trial 1 was incorrect.

In trial 2, I was very confident of the answer, and I expressed great confidence in the answer during the entire 10-minute break after trial 2 and before trial 3. My answer in trial 2 was correct — the correct person and correct side.

In trial 3, I was confident of the person but unable to decide on the side because I was fatigued by then after almost one and a half hours of testing. My person was correct but the side was wrong.

I did not get 100% on the test, as was required to “pass” the test. But 100% of my test segments in which I was confident were correct.

In July 2010, I had a small test with the James Randi Educational Foundation at their TAM8 convention in Las Vegas. This time there were five people and one of them was missing a kidney. Out of ten kidney spaces total, I saw a kidney in all but two spaces. My choice for the answer was *not* the target, so I failed this test. I declared my claim falsified and over. But then audience members asked to see my notes, and that is when I found out that the only other space where I had not seen a kidney was the person and side where it was in fact missing.

I have done several readings on skeptics, with

interesting results. In undocumented cases I have detected that a kidney or uterus was missing, and other information. In a documented case I detected and described the Hepatitis C virus in Michael Shermer. I also described his personal life and emotions in great detail, and he says only a very close friend could have known him so well. Shermer encouraged me to investigate further.

My results in the past have not been perfect, but they have certainly been good. If all it has been in the past is lucky guesses that happen to place me in the upper bound of what random chance allows, then future testing should begin to place me in the lower bound of random statistics. I am hopeful that you can set up something for me. It could be either informal in-person readings, like what I had with Michael Shermer, or following a test format.

I would be happy to hear from you. And I assure you I would not wish to waste your time. This is a well-researched claim and it does seem to mandate further testing! Thanks for being Skeptics.

Anita Ikonen

www.visionfromfeeling.com

Editor's reply: The IIG Website contains an extensive write-up about Anita's test (see tinyurl.com/ikonen-iig). They believe that although her successful pick in trial 2 was probably a lucky guess, it could have been in part due to that person's unique physical characteristics, resulting from a motorcycle accident, which had been discussed in a JREF Website forum that Anita may possibly have seen. Re: Michael Shermer, he points out to me that “she herself has stated on her own Web page [tinyurl.com/ikonen-shermer] that she did not diagnose Hepatitis C and, in fact, knew little about it until I explained to her what it was” (though she does say she detected a “disease with the blood”). We informed her that we would potentially be interested, if she could suggest a test protocol that would be easy to administer and adjudicate, but that we do not intend to search far and wide for people with missing kidneys, or have her do readings that are open to interpretation. So far, no reply after more than a month.

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Last Saturday of every March, June, September,
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TOP STORIES
AT WEST VIRGINIA CHEMICAL PLANT

What the . . . ???

One of our original 1988 TBS Executive Council members, Jerry Touchton, has recently written to us from his home in Louisiana, to warn us of this dangerous creature, purportedly photographed with a hunting camera on a deer stand at 1:44 a.m. on 11/30/10 (a year ago) in Berwick, LA. Some cynics claim it to be a Photoshopped image from *I Am Legend* or the third Harry Potter film. But given that the graphic is from a report on MSNBC, the big money is on this being a politician on a very bad hair day. Yet Herman Cain claims no knowledge of the incident, Dick Cheney has denied having stalked this particular woods on the night in question (to the best of his recollection), and we see almost no resemblance at all to Nancy Pelosi. We're stumped!

Visit TBS's Website
www.tampabayskeptics.org



If for no other reason, 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 if you have downloaded a QR Code reader app for your smartphone, you can access our Website by scanning the above code.

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

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, dowsters, 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).



at CFI—Tampa Bay (c/o R. O'Keefe)
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