

The Skeptic Zone

Show 303 - 10 August 2014

TRIAL NUMBER	Result: 1 st or 2 nd Session	Claimant Session	Pass/ Fail
1	1	2	X _{Fail}
2	2	1	X _{Fail}

Million Dollar Challenge

1
00:00:20,450 --> 00:00:09,500
welcome to the skeptic zone the podcast

2
00:00:29,339 --> 00:00:23,069
hello and welcome to the skeptic zone

3
00:00:31,349 --> 00:00:29,349
episode number 303 303 303 something

4
00:00:33,270 --> 00:00:31,359
like that for the tenth of august twenty

5
00:00:35,729 --> 00:00:33,280
ordained Richard Saunders here with you

6
00:00:37,229 --> 00:00:35,739
from Sydney Australia on this week's

7
00:00:40,649 --> 00:00:37,239
episode we're going to be looking

8
00:00:42,810 --> 00:00:40,659
remembering considering reviewing going

9
00:00:45,319 --> 00:00:42,820
over the million dollar challenge at the

10
00:00:49,079 --> 00:00:45,329
recent amazing meeting in Las Vegas

11
00:00:51,780 --> 00:00:49,089
where I helped did my bit to put that

12
00:00:54,030 --> 00:00:51,790
together and i'll be reading my official

13
00:00:55,679 --> 00:00:54,040

report that i wrote a little while ago

14

00:00:58,170 --> 00:00:55,689

for the James Randi Educational

15

00:01:01,170 --> 00:00:58,180

Foundation all about the million-dollar

16

00:01:03,929 --> 00:01:01,180

challenge testing somebody who said that

17

00:01:06,480 --> 00:01:03,939

they had mystical energy coming out of

18

00:01:08,969 --> 00:01:06,490

their hand following that it's a week in

19

00:01:11,789 --> 00:01:08,979

science from the Royal Institution of

20

00:01:15,210 --> 00:01:11,799

Australia and then it's evidence please

21

00:01:16,469 --> 00:01:15,220

with Joe alabaster Joe was at skeptics

22

00:01:18,240 --> 00:01:16,479

in the pub the other night where I was

23

00:01:20,850 --> 00:01:18,250

giving a talk about the million-dollar

24

00:01:23,039 --> 00:01:20,860

challenge and after my talk she was

25

00:01:25,320 --> 00:01:23,049

asking pub goers what they thought of

26

00:01:27,060 --> 00:01:25,330

the whole concept of the million dollar

27

00:01:30,660 --> 00:01:27,070

challenge or in the case of Australia

28

00:01:34,500 --> 00:01:30,670

our \$100,000 challenge amongst other

29

00:01:36,420 --> 00:01:34,510

people Joe chat stew is the our chief

30

00:01:38,370 --> 00:01:36,430

investigator for Australian skeptics ian

31

00:01:41,130 --> 00:01:38,380

bryce and the editor of the skeptic

32

00:01:43,080 --> 00:01:41,140

magazine tim mendham went around off the

33

00:01:46,080 --> 00:01:43,090

show it's a grain of salt with a run sir

34

00:01:49,170 --> 00:01:46,090

give forget more interviews from QED the

35

00:01:51,240 --> 00:01:49,180

question explore discover conference in

36

00:01:54,090 --> 00:01:51,250

Manchester I was there last year and the

37

00:01:56,600 --> 00:01:54,100

year before at QED wow what a fabulous

38

00:02:00,420 --> 00:01:56,610

convention that was really enjoyed it

39

00:02:01,680 --> 00:02:00,430

really enjoyed it those sceptics from

40

00:02:04,320 --> 00:02:01,690

the Liverpool area in the Manchester

41

00:02:08,369 --> 00:02:04,330

area make sure know how to put on a good

42

00:02:14,360 --> 00:02:08,379

convention this week Iran chats to dr.

43

00:02:18,539 --> 00:02:14,370

Elizabeth pisani about HIV and AIDS and

44

00:02:21,210 --> 00:02:18,549

her thoughts on the current state of HIV

45

00:02:22,440 --> 00:02:21,220

and AIDS and you'll appreciate when you

46

00:02:25,830 --> 00:02:22,450

hear the interview why I'm not saying

47

00:02:29,250 --> 00:02:25,840

hiv/aids I'm saying HIV and AIDS and

48

00:02:31,050 --> 00:02:29,260

also her thoughts on circumcision hmm

49

00:02:32,670 --> 00:02:31,060

there's an interesting one for you a bit

50

00:02:34,110 --> 00:02:32,680

different that's a grain of salt with

51
00:02:36,660 --> 00:02:34,120
the runs to give to

52
00:02:37,890 --> 00:02:36,670
wind up the skeptic zone this week thank

53
00:02:41,640 --> 00:02:37,900
you to all those people sending in your

54
00:02:43,190 --> 00:02:41,650
interesting entries to our cosmos

55
00:02:45,979 --> 00:02:43,200
competition those people in Australia

56
00:02:48,530 --> 00:02:45,989
Australian listeners you have until the

57
00:02:50,819 --> 00:02:48,540
night of the 16th for midnight on the

58
00:02:56,100 --> 00:02:50,829
sixteenth of this month that's saturday

59
00:02:59,300 --> 00:02:56,110
night to send me via cosmos at skeptic

60
00:03:02,580 --> 00:02:59,310
zone TV a picture with the theme

61
00:03:05,759 --> 00:03:02,590
billions and billions how you interpret

62
00:03:09,300 --> 00:03:05,769
that it's entirely up to you and our

63
00:03:11,369 --> 00:03:09,310

judges now judge or somebody will have a

64

00:03:14,910 --> 00:03:11,379

look at all those entries and the winner

65

00:03:18,619 --> 00:03:14,920

will receive the new cosmos series on

66

00:03:22,860 --> 00:03:18,629

DVD which I have right here in my shelf

67

00:03:25,410 --> 00:03:22,870

somewhere what's this Star Wars now

68

00:03:28,020 --> 00:03:25,420

Superman that produces a hard day's

69

00:03:30,750 --> 00:03:28,030

night I know I put it up here somewhere

70

00:03:33,080 --> 00:03:30,760

maybe it's on this side have a look as

71

00:03:37,710 --> 00:03:33,090

my books James Randi what's this

72

00:03:41,430 --> 00:03:37,720

conjuring mask of Nostradamus up up here

73

00:03:43,920 --> 00:03:41,440

maybe Brian brushwood bizarre magick

74

00:03:47,009 --> 00:03:43,930

could haven't whatever I must really I

75

00:03:48,860 --> 00:03:47,019

hear it here it is here it is right next

76
00:03:52,080 --> 00:03:48,870
to adventures in paranormal

77
00:03:57,830 --> 00:03:52,090
investigation who wrote that John Diggle

78
00:04:03,059 --> 00:03:57,840
there you go cosmos a spacetime Odyssey

79
00:04:06,180 --> 00:04:03,069
4-disc set the new serious folks now the

80
00:04:07,619 --> 00:04:06,190
new series on DVD can be yours if you

81
00:04:09,750 --> 00:04:07,629
live in Australia and if you into the

82
00:04:11,250 --> 00:04:09,760
cosmos billions and billions competition

83
00:04:15,390 --> 00:04:11,260
don't forget send your photograph to

84
00:04:16,920 --> 00:04:15,400
cosmos at skeptic zone TV and some of

85
00:04:21,449 --> 00:04:16,930
the entries that are coming in we've put

86
00:04:26,339 --> 00:04:21,459
up on our our Facebook the skeptics own

87
00:04:28,469 --> 00:04:26,349
Facebook site which is um not used to

88
00:04:30,839 --> 00:04:28,479

the extent it should be really but I

89

00:04:33,150 --> 00:04:30,849

notice our reporter Joe alabaster has

90

00:04:35,460 --> 00:04:33,160

been attempting to sort of get more

91

00:04:37,080 --> 00:04:35,470

things happening with that anyway check

92

00:04:38,790 --> 00:04:37,090

it out and if you want to please enter

93

00:04:40,110 --> 00:04:38,800

our competition and I'll announce the

94

00:04:45,330 --> 00:04:40,120

winner next week who will get this

95

00:04:46,870 --> 00:04:45,340

lovely cosmos disc set but that's all

96

00:04:49,270 --> 00:04:46,880

for me at the moment

97

00:04:53,560 --> 00:04:49,280

I'm going to run downstairs I'm going to

98

00:04:56,950 --> 00:04:53,570

open up the cupboard licorice mmm salty

99

00:05:00,150 --> 00:04:56,960

licorice Europeans like style Dutch type

100

00:05:03,420 --> 00:05:00,160

Swedish type salty licorice type

101
00:05:06,610 --> 00:05:03,430
Norwegian or I think you get the idea

102
00:05:26,820 --> 00:05:06,620
mmm very nice well I'm doing that I hope

103
00:05:30,330 --> 00:05:29,460
the amazing meeting Lee annual gathering

104
00:05:34,110 --> 00:05:30,340
of the James Randi Educational

105
00:05:36,450 --> 00:05:34,120
Foundation jrf in Las Vegas is amazing

106
00:05:38,580 --> 00:05:36,460
for a number of reasons I for one find

107
00:05:41,070 --> 00:05:38,590
it amazing that although a whole year

108
00:05:43,170 --> 00:05:41,080
goes by from one meeting to the next one

109
00:05:45,870 --> 00:05:43,180
since concen the venue the south point

110
00:05:47,460 --> 00:05:45,880
casino and spa one can be forgiven for

111
00:05:49,710 --> 00:05:47,470
thinking that the last meeting was only

112
00:05:51,690 --> 00:05:49,720
a couple of weeks ago in the six years

113
00:05:54,510 --> 00:05:51,700

have been going to the south point it

114

00:05:58,080 --> 00:05:54,520

has scarcely changed while I just get a

115

00:06:00,720 --> 00:05:58,090

little older in 2012 and 2013 it was my

116

00:06:02,910 --> 00:06:00,730

pleasure to assist the jf in organizing

117

00:06:06,840 --> 00:06:02,920

and staging the preliminary test for the

118

00:06:08,730 --> 00:06:06,850

million dollar challenge MDC which over

119

00:06:12,210 --> 00:06:08,740

the years has become the grand finale of

120

00:06:14,520 --> 00:06:12,220

Tam in 2014 shortly before heading off

121

00:06:17,160 --> 00:06:14,530

to Las Vegas members of the MDC

122

00:06:19,650 --> 00:06:17,170

committee bannerchek Jamie and Swiss and

123

00:06:22,410 --> 00:06:19,660

chip Denman asked if I would once again

124

00:06:24,540 --> 00:06:22,420

come to the aid of the party with such

125

00:06:27,060 --> 00:06:24,550

highly regarded people as these acting

126

00:06:30,300 --> 00:06:27,070

on behalf of James Randi the answer was

127

00:06:32,940 --> 00:06:30,310

easy the email started flowing my way a

128

00:06:35,460 --> 00:06:32,950

day or two before my arrival followed by

129

00:06:39,090 --> 00:06:35,470

Skype meetings with Banacek and new to

130

00:06:41,130 --> 00:06:39,100

the MDC Krystyn Lambert highly respected

131

00:06:43,590 --> 00:06:41,140

up-and-coming magician who works with

132

00:06:46,530 --> 00:06:43,600

the likes of Criss Angel this year d

133

00:06:49,110 --> 00:06:46,540

claimant was one mr. fee Wong a Chinese

134

00:06:52,440 --> 00:06:49,120

national living and studying in Boston

135

00:06:54,510 --> 00:06:52,450

he had already been tested by the New

136

00:06:56,760 --> 00:06:54,520

England Center for the Advancement of

137

00:06:59,550 --> 00:06:56,770

paranormal science with seemingly

138

00:07:02,520 --> 00:06:59,560

positive results this report together

139

00:07:04,830 --> 00:07:02,530

with letters of recommendation satisfied

140

00:07:07,430 --> 00:07:04,840

the MDC committee that there was worth

141

00:07:10,530 --> 00:07:07,440

proceeding with testing this claimant

142

00:07:12,870 --> 00:07:10,540

mr. Wong's claims in his own words is I

143

00:07:15,240 --> 00:07:12,880

have some supernatural power that I can

144

00:07:17,760 --> 00:07:15,250

send out from my right hand and other

145

00:07:20,670 --> 00:07:17,770

people can simply feel it at a distance

146

00:07:23,760 --> 00:07:20,680

of about 30 centimeters away Mr Wong

147

00:07:26,220 --> 00:07:23,770

claims that he can project or transmit a

148

00:07:29,370 --> 00:07:26,230

power force or energy hitherto unknown

149

00:07:31,800 --> 00:07:29,380

to science from his right hand into the

150

00:07:34,620 --> 00:07:31,810

hand of a receptive subject the subject

151

00:07:37,260 --> 00:07:34,630

will be able to feel this energy as

152

00:07:39,270 --> 00:07:37,270

warmth movement tingling or some other

153

00:07:41,720 --> 00:07:39,280

notable sensations in there

154

00:07:44,730 --> 00:07:41,730

and it has also claimed that this energy

155

00:07:46,830 --> 00:07:44,740

possibly known as Qigong can be

156

00:07:50,550 --> 00:07:46,840

transmitted through various materials

157

00:07:52,500 --> 00:07:50,560

including wood plastic and metal it is

158

00:07:54,960 --> 00:07:52,510

important to note that this claimed

159

00:07:57,659 --> 00:07:54,970

ability still works even if the subject

160

00:08:00,870 --> 00:07:57,669

is unaware of the direct actions of mr.

161

00:08:02,930 --> 00:08:00,880

Wong on the surface of it and this may

162

00:08:05,670 --> 00:08:02,940

appear to be a relatively simple test

163

00:08:08,370 --> 00:08:05,680

experience has shown us that even simple

164

00:08:10,080 --> 00:08:08,380

claims can be quite a task I arrived at

165

00:08:12,810 --> 00:08:10,090

the South Point the day before their

166

00:08:15,210 --> 00:08:12,820

first official tam events before long I

167

00:08:17,610 --> 00:08:15,220

found myself in the del mar bar the

168

00:08:18,900 --> 00:08:17,620

unofficial tam hangout spot working on

169

00:08:21,690 --> 00:08:18,910

the formal million dollar challenge

170

00:08:24,240 --> 00:08:21,700

document that would not only serve as

171

00:08:26,790 --> 00:08:24,250

the agreement between the jrf and Mr

172

00:08:29,610 --> 00:08:26,800

Wong but would also be a step-by-step

173

00:08:31,920 --> 00:08:29,620

protocol for the test itself this

174

00:08:34,500 --> 00:08:31,930

document would change many times each

175

00:08:37,230 --> 00:08:34,510

day as the committee and mr. Wang worked

176

00:08:39,060 --> 00:08:37,240

together to fine-tune the test the first

177

00:08:41,130 --> 00:08:39,070

hurdle to overcome was to make sure the

178

00:08:43,529 --> 00:08:41,140

subjects of the test those who were on

179

00:08:47,100 --> 00:08:43,539

the receiving end of mr. Wong's powers

180

00:08:50,070 --> 00:08:47,110

were ultimately unaware of when mr. Wang

181

00:08:52,680 --> 00:08:50,080

was sending his power at first the idea

182

00:08:54,840 --> 00:08:52,690

was to set up an aluminium petition on

183

00:08:57,000 --> 00:08:54,850

the table with the subject on one side

184

00:08:58,860 --> 00:08:57,010

and mr. Wong on the other there would be

185

00:09:00,990 --> 00:08:58,870

two holes in the partition through which

186

00:09:04,380 --> 00:09:01,000

the subject could extend their hands

187

00:09:07,110 --> 00:09:04,390

coming to rest inside two boxes mr. Wang

188

00:09:09,240 --> 00:09:07,120

would then work on either the left or

189

00:09:11,790 --> 00:09:09,250

right hand sending his energy through

190

00:09:13,800 --> 00:09:11,800

the box without the subject knowing in

191

00:09:16,440 --> 00:09:13,810

our first meeting with mr. Wang on

192

00:09:19,350 --> 00:09:16,450

Thursday we realized that he found this

193

00:09:21,990 --> 00:09:19,360

arrangement unacceptable as he claimed

194

00:09:24,750 --> 00:09:22,000

the power or energy would travel from

195

00:09:27,480 --> 00:09:24,760

his right hand through the box into the

196

00:09:29,820 --> 00:09:27,490

left hand of the subject and keep going

197

00:09:33,210 --> 00:09:29,830

up the other side into the right box

198

00:09:35,340 --> 00:09:33,220

bannerchek jamie chip mr. Wang and I all

199

00:09:37,350 --> 00:09:35,350

walked around the room for some time

200

00:09:39,540 --> 00:09:37,360

with our hands on our chins voicing

201
00:09:41,910 --> 00:09:39,550
ideas arguing the merits of each going

202
00:09:43,620 --> 00:09:41,920
back to the drawing board and so on then

203
00:09:45,930 --> 00:09:43,630
the idea came up with the screen or

204
00:09:48,240 --> 00:09:45,940
partition by which time it was agreed

205
00:09:51,000 --> 00:09:48,250
could be made from cardboard could be

206
00:09:52,860 --> 00:09:51,010
set at an angle so the energy would miss

207
00:09:55,410 --> 00:09:52,870
the other hand of the subject as

208
00:09:57,269 --> 00:09:55,420
it was being projected we also tied for

209
00:10:00,420 --> 00:09:57,279
a long time with the idea that Mr Wong

210
00:10:03,329 --> 00:10:00,430
and a placebo claimant ie someone with

211
00:10:05,610 --> 00:10:03,339
no special powers would approach the

212
00:10:07,500 --> 00:10:05,620
subject at the same time one working on

213
00:10:09,870 --> 00:10:07,510

the right hand the other on the left

214

00:10:11,670 --> 00:10:09,880

these ideas are bounced around the room

215

00:10:13,800 --> 00:10:11,680

for the next couple of hours as we

216

00:10:16,950 --> 00:10:13,810

change this and that drew diagrams and

217

00:10:19,500 --> 00:10:16,960

argued the small points all this goes to

218

00:10:21,050 --> 00:10:19,510

remind us of how complex and involve

219

00:10:23,280 --> 00:10:21,060

these preliminary tests can be

220

00:10:25,440 --> 00:10:23,290

especially when you consider that we

221

00:10:27,360 --> 00:10:25,450

were also constructing a live

222

00:10:29,280 --> 00:10:27,370

performance for an audience but the

223

00:10:31,500 --> 00:10:29,290

overriding consideration during this

224

00:10:34,769 --> 00:10:31,510

whole process was to ensure that mr.

225

00:10:37,290 --> 00:10:34,779

Wang was in agreement and comfortable

226

00:10:39,360 --> 00:10:37,300

with what we were suggesting to him he

227

00:10:41,490 --> 00:10:39,370

like any other claimant of this stage of

228

00:10:44,070 --> 00:10:41,500

the planning had the right to veto what

229

00:10:45,329 --> 00:10:44,080

we put forward I must say we found mr.

230

00:10:47,910 --> 00:10:45,339

Wang to be very helpful and polite

231

00:10:50,579 --> 00:10:47,920

throughout and was understanding of what

232

00:10:53,130 --> 00:10:50,589

we are trying to achieve somewhere along

233

00:10:54,990 --> 00:10:53,140

the way the idea developed that we only

234

00:10:57,420 --> 00:10:55,000

use the right hand of the subject and

235

00:10:59,699 --> 00:10:57,430

mr. Wang and our placebo claimant should

236

00:11:01,560 --> 00:10:59,709

take it in turns this met with the

237

00:11:04,230 --> 00:11:01,570

universal agreement as it eliminated

238

00:11:06,780 --> 00:11:04,240

quite a few problems we also agreed that

239

00:11:09,600 --> 00:11:06,790

two ping-pong balls one white the other

240

00:11:12,300 --> 00:11:09,610

black placed in a bag and shaken would

241

00:11:15,480 --> 00:11:12,310

be used to determine at random who would

242

00:11:17,400 --> 00:11:15,490

approach the subject first and second by

243

00:11:19,350 --> 00:11:17,410

now we all needed a rest and it was

244

00:11:21,420 --> 00:11:19,360

agreed we would meet the next day when

245

00:11:23,490 --> 00:11:21,430

mr. Wang could start meeting and

246

00:11:25,920 --> 00:11:23,500

assessing possible subjects for the test

247

00:11:27,990 --> 00:11:25,930

I headed back to my room and rewrote

248

00:11:29,699 --> 00:11:28,000

million dollar challenge document with

249

00:11:31,440 --> 00:11:29,709

the new conditions worked out an hour

250

00:11:33,960 --> 00:11:31,450

meeting complete with new diagrams

251

00:11:36,150 --> 00:11:33,970

Friday arrived in town was in full swing

252

00:11:37,740 --> 00:11:36,160

hundreds of people from all over the

253

00:11:40,199 --> 00:11:37,750

world with many old friends to meet

254

00:11:43,199 --> 00:11:40,209

again mr. Wang arrived at the reception

255

00:11:45,300 --> 00:11:43,209

desk around 12 45 and was escorted to

256

00:11:47,699 --> 00:11:45,310

the press room which we commandeered for

257

00:11:49,590 --> 00:11:47,709

the next few hours soon Kristin brought

258

00:11:51,690 --> 00:11:49,600

in the first group of possible subjects

259

00:11:54,720 --> 00:11:51,700

from the Las Vegas area all of whom were

260

00:11:56,730 --> 00:11:54,730

very keen to help in the week before Tam

261

00:11:58,949 --> 00:11:56,740

Kristin went about finding these

262

00:12:01,530 --> 00:11:58,959

subjects by placing flies at yoga

263

00:12:03,810 --> 00:12:01,540

studios Whole Foods mystic bookstores

264

00:12:06,750 --> 00:12:03,820

psychic reading places crystal dealers

265

00:12:08,820 --> 00:12:06,760

and even use Craigslist mr.

266

00:12:11,790 --> 00:12:08,830

had mentioned that people who practice

267

00:12:14,520 --> 00:12:11,800

meditation etc are more likely to be in

268

00:12:16,980 --> 00:12:14,530

paths for his energy but Mr Wong was

269

00:12:19,920 --> 00:12:16,990

also happy for us to use Tam delegates

270

00:12:21,480 --> 00:12:19,930

if we wanted the next three hours were

271

00:12:23,730 --> 00:12:21,490

spent with mr. Wang slowly and

272

00:12:25,320 --> 00:12:23,740

methodically testing each subject we

273

00:12:27,690 --> 00:12:25,330

even went to the trouble of blindfolding

274

00:12:30,120 --> 00:12:27,700

and placing industrial headphones on the

275

00:12:31,950 --> 00:12:30,130

subjects to make sure that they and mr.

276

00:12:34,830 --> 00:12:31,960

Wang were comfortable with this extra

277

00:12:37,410 --> 00:12:34,840

layer of security then bannerchek or I

278

00:12:40,140 --> 00:12:37,420

and mr. Wang would ask them if they felt

279

00:12:42,960 --> 00:12:40,150

any sensation in their hand when the

280

00:12:45,560 --> 00:12:42,970

energy seemed to be transmitted some

281

00:12:49,710 --> 00:12:45,570

said yes some said they weren't sure

282

00:12:51,810 --> 00:12:49,720

most said no mr. Wang had the final say

283

00:12:54,120 --> 00:12:51,820

as to whether an individual was deemed

284

00:12:57,390 --> 00:12:54,130

acceptable and they were asked to return

285

00:12:59,310 --> 00:12:57,400

for the live show noticing that mr.

286

00:13:01,710 --> 00:12:59,320

Wong's right hand was getting very close

287

00:13:04,320 --> 00:13:01,720

to the box it was agreed that a line be

288

00:13:07,020 --> 00:13:04,330

drawn to form a six centimeter barrier a

289

00:13:09,300 --> 00:13:07,030

great deal of time was used to work out

290

00:13:11,940 --> 00:13:09,310

just how long mr. Wang needed to

291

00:13:13,860 --> 00:13:11,950

concentrate between each subject in

292

00:13:16,140 --> 00:13:13,870

order for him to feel his energy levels

293

00:13:17,940 --> 00:13:16,150

were just about right it was during this

294

00:13:20,430 --> 00:13:17,950

session that it was decided that he

295

00:13:22,650 --> 00:13:20,440

would have exactly one minute to work on

296

00:13:25,260 --> 00:13:22,660

each subject which was more time than he

297

00:13:27,300 --> 00:13:25,270

really needed we also had to agree on

298

00:13:29,550 --> 00:13:27,310

how much time should elapse if we were

299

00:13:32,220 --> 00:13:29,560

to use the same subject more than once

300

00:13:34,320 --> 00:13:32,230

other details included where to put the

301
00:13:37,320 --> 00:13:34,330
curtains who should stand where and do

302
00:13:39,350 --> 00:13:37,330
what I videotaped the entire session for

303
00:13:42,060 --> 00:13:39,360
the archives with the permission of mr.

304
00:13:44,160 --> 00:13:42,070
11 of the details that change during

305
00:13:46,500 --> 00:13:44,170
this session was that the subject would

306
00:13:49,380 --> 00:13:46,510
face away from the audience instead of

307
00:13:51,390 --> 00:13:49,390
at right angles the stage curtains would

308
00:13:53,990 --> 00:13:51,400
also be used to help conceal mr. Wang

309
00:13:56,550 --> 00:13:54,000
and out placebo claimant Jamy Ian Swiss

310
00:13:58,500 --> 00:13:56,560
from the audience a copy of the document

311
00:14:01,140 --> 00:13:58,510
was emailed to mister wong for his

312
00:14:02,760 --> 00:14:01,150
records and comments saturday rolled

313
00:14:04,710 --> 00:14:02,770

around and once again we found ourselves

314

00:14:06,810 --> 00:14:04,720

in the press room with another group of

315

00:14:09,900 --> 00:14:06,820

possible subjects to be assessed by mr.

316

00:14:12,120 --> 00:14:09,910

Wang yet more operations to the tests

317

00:14:14,850 --> 00:14:12,130

were made as we learnt more about just

318

00:14:17,700 --> 00:14:14,860

what was needed and who we might be

319

00:14:19,350 --> 00:14:17,710

using the following night Kristin also

320

00:14:19,860 --> 00:14:19,360

took the opportunity to find out more

321

00:14:21,780 --> 00:14:19,870

about

322

00:14:24,390 --> 00:14:21,790

two wrongs background for the benefit of

323

00:14:26,640 --> 00:14:24,400

the audience like the day before this

324

00:14:29,610 --> 00:14:26,650

session took some hours and more the

325

00:14:32,550 --> 00:14:29,620

protocol was fine tuned by the end of it

326

00:14:35,160 --> 00:14:32,560

we only had five subjects with whom mr.

327

00:14:38,250 --> 00:14:35,170

Wong was happy from the two days of

328

00:14:40,590 --> 00:14:38,260

pre-tests more rewrites followed with me

329

00:14:43,560 --> 00:14:40,600

making two versions of the testing plan

330

00:14:45,210 --> 00:14:43,570

document one version was to cater for

331

00:14:48,720 --> 00:14:45,220

the possibility of using all our five

332

00:14:50,970 --> 00:14:48,730

subjects twice giving us 10 tests the

333

00:14:52,680 --> 00:14:50,980

other was a safety in case only three of

334

00:14:55,110 --> 00:14:52,690

the subjects turned up on the night in

335

00:14:58,470 --> 00:14:55,120

which case we would use them three times

336

00:14:59,820 --> 00:14:58,480

each giving us a total of nine tests as

337

00:15:03,090 --> 00:14:59,830

it turned out it was good to have a plan

338

00:15:05,700 --> 00:15:03,100

B finally Sunday the day of the

339

00:15:06,720 --> 00:15:05,710

preliminary challenge arrived all the

340

00:15:09,300 --> 00:15:06,730

members the million dollar challenge

341

00:15:11,760 --> 00:15:09,310

committee were very busy that day with

342

00:15:13,890 --> 00:15:11,770

talks or workshops and it wasn't until

343

00:15:17,190 --> 00:15:13,900

late into the afternoon after the last

344

00:15:19,380 --> 00:15:17,200

ham talk which happened to be mine that

345

00:15:22,019 --> 00:15:19,390

we had access to the main stage to start

346

00:15:24,150 --> 00:15:22,029

constructing the testing table cardboard

347

00:15:26,280 --> 00:15:24,160

screen the box and practice moving the

348

00:15:27,900 --> 00:15:26,290

curtains a video camera was also

349

00:15:29,850 --> 00:15:27,910

installed at the back of the stage to

350

00:15:32,250 --> 00:15:29,860

capture for the record what would be

351

00:15:34,019 --> 00:15:32,260

hidden from the audience mr. Wang joined

352

00:15:35,970 --> 00:15:34,029

us during this time to inspect the set

353

00:15:39,210 --> 00:15:35,980

up and go over the final protocols as

354

00:15:41,640 --> 00:15:39,220

did James Randi who took great care to

355

00:15:43,260 --> 00:15:41,650

examine the stage delegates may be

356

00:15:46,199 --> 00:15:43,270

forgiven if they think they saw a

357

00:15:48,329 --> 00:15:46,209

strange flash with a yellow tie tearing

358

00:15:50,280 --> 00:15:48,339

up and down the great hall laptop in

359

00:15:52,710 --> 00:15:50,290

hand as I ran to see to last minute

360

00:15:54,630 --> 00:15:52,720

loose ends including finding a printer

361

00:15:57,560 --> 00:15:54,640

to make copies of the now many times

362

00:15:59,970 --> 00:15:57,570

rewritten formal document all was ready

363

00:16:03,060 --> 00:15:59,980

however we only had three of the five

364

00:16:05,430 --> 00:16:03,070

subjects turn up for the test so Plan B

365

00:16:07,650 --> 00:16:05,440

it was we parked them in the service

366

00:16:09,750 --> 00:16:07,660

corridor near the main stage had mr.

367

00:16:13,260 --> 00:16:09,760

Wang wait in the wings let the audience

368

00:16:15,360 --> 00:16:13,270

in and the show started bannerchek and

369

00:16:18,090 --> 00:16:15,370

Jamie took to the stage to introduce the

370

00:16:21,060 --> 00:16:18,100

night then ship came out and covered the

371

00:16:22,769 --> 00:16:21,070

stats and calculations for Mr Wong to

372

00:16:26,430 --> 00:16:22,779

pass he would need to score at least

373

00:16:29,280 --> 00:16:26,440

eight hits out of nine Kristin gave an

374

00:16:31,560 --> 00:16:29,290

overview of mr. Wong and his claim then

375

00:16:33,369 --> 00:16:31,570

I entered the stage and really has it

376

00:16:35,889 --> 00:16:33,379

happened had nothing to say

377

00:16:38,199 --> 00:16:35,899

we then did a demonstration run of the

378

00:16:39,969 --> 00:16:38,209

test with Brian Walker taking the part

379

00:16:42,249 --> 00:16:39,979

of the subject for the benefit of the

380

00:16:45,339 --> 00:16:42,259

audience as they would not be able to

381

00:16:47,019 --> 00:16:45,349

see the vital part of the test maybe the

382

00:16:50,019 --> 00:16:47,029

most important procedure at this point

383

00:16:52,689 --> 00:16:50,029

was to have mr. Wang agree to and sign a

384

00:16:55,149 --> 00:16:52,699

copy of the formal document this made it

385

00:16:57,729 --> 00:16:55,159

clear that we were testing his claimed

386

00:17:01,359 --> 00:16:57,739

ability under conditions to which he

387

00:17:03,609 --> 00:17:01,369

agreed now bannerchek jamie chip and mr.

388

00:17:05,460 --> 00:17:03,619

wang went to the back of the stage while

389

00:17:08,079 --> 00:17:05,470

Kristen and I stayed near the front

390

00:17:10,749 --> 00:17:08,089

subject number one was brought from the

391

00:17:12,850 --> 00:17:10,759

corridor and I showed her to her seat in

392

00:17:14,799 --> 00:17:12,860

front of the cardboard screen and box I

393

00:17:16,090 --> 00:17:14,809

placed her hand in the box for a few

394

00:17:19,600 --> 00:17:16,100

moments so she could get accustomed to

395

00:17:21,759 --> 00:17:19,610

her arm being at that angle bannerchek

396

00:17:24,189 --> 00:17:21,769

gave the word that mr. Wang was ready

397

00:17:25,659 --> 00:17:24,199

the curtains were drawn I helped the

398

00:17:28,149 --> 00:17:25,669

subject with the blindfold and

399

00:17:30,369 --> 00:17:28,159

headphones and guided her hand once

400

00:17:32,980 --> 00:17:30,379

again into the box behind the curtains

401
00:17:35,200 --> 00:17:32,990
and unseen to the audience chip reached

402
00:17:37,539 --> 00:17:35,210
into the bag pulled out one of the

403
00:17:39,820 --> 00:17:37,549
ping-pong balls and trial number one was

404
00:17:42,460 --> 00:17:39,830
underway with mr. Wang or Jamie

405
00:17:44,350 --> 00:17:42,470
approaching the box as I stood there on

406
00:17:46,600 --> 00:17:44,360
the stage my mind taking over the

407
00:17:49,389 --> 00:17:46,610
seconds I looked over to Christian and I

408
00:17:51,669 --> 00:17:49,399
thought how come she gets a chair the

409
00:17:54,029 --> 00:17:51,679
audience is Everett tam showed great

410
00:17:56,590 --> 00:17:54,039
respect you could hear a pin drop

411
00:17:58,840 --> 00:17:56,600
bannerchek denounced when the time for

412
00:18:00,820 --> 00:17:58,850
session number one was up and I walked

413
00:18:02,560 --> 00:18:00,830

over and told the subject a few minutes

414

00:18:05,049 --> 00:18:02,570

later we were ready for session number

415

00:18:06,490 --> 00:18:05,059

two when session number two is over I

416

00:18:08,860 --> 00:18:06,500

removed the blindfold and headphones

417

00:18:10,779 --> 00:18:08,870

from the subject the curtains open

418

00:18:13,330 --> 00:18:10,789

Banacek came around from the back of the

419

00:18:15,610 --> 00:18:13,340

stage and asked the subject did you feel

420

00:18:18,100 --> 00:18:15,620

something during the first session the

421

00:18:20,820 --> 00:18:18,110

subject answered yes did you feel

422

00:18:24,399 --> 00:18:20,830

something during the second session no

423

00:18:26,740 --> 00:18:24,409

Kristen wrote 01 on the scoreboard now

424

00:18:29,259 --> 00:18:26,750

chip revealed who went first and second

425

00:18:31,930 --> 00:18:29,269

as it turned out in this case it was

426
00:18:35,769 --> 00:18:31,940
Jamie who had stepped up first so this

427
00:18:37,600 --> 00:18:35,779
trial was a fail for Mr Wong the subject

428
00:18:39,430 --> 00:18:37,610
was thanked and shown off the stage and

429
00:18:41,499 --> 00:18:39,440
the next subject sent in from the

430
00:18:43,090 --> 00:18:41,509
corridor the same process followed with

431
00:18:45,549 --> 00:18:43,100
resting her hand in the box for a few

432
00:18:46,419 --> 00:18:45,559
moments then placing the blindfold and

433
00:18:49,499 --> 00:18:46,429
headphones

434
00:18:51,669 --> 00:18:49,509
on trial number two session number one

435
00:18:53,769 --> 00:18:51,679
proceeded as normal but at the end

436
00:18:56,259 --> 00:18:53,779
bannerchek instructed me to remove the

437
00:18:58,600 --> 00:18:56,269
blindfold and headphones which were not

438
00:19:01,239 --> 00:18:58,610

originally planned but gave our subject

439

00:19:03,639 --> 00:19:01,249

a slight rest then the gear went back on

440

00:19:06,430 --> 00:19:03,649

for the next session when the time was

441

00:19:08,980 --> 00:19:06,440

up for session number two I remove the

442

00:19:10,720 --> 00:19:08,990

blindfold and headphones the curtains

443

00:19:12,399 --> 00:19:10,730

open bannercek came around from the

444

00:19:14,379 --> 00:19:12,409

back of the stage and asked the subject

445

00:19:17,560 --> 00:19:14,389

did you feel something during the first

446

00:19:19,049 --> 00:19:17,570

session the subject answered yes did you

447

00:19:22,359 --> 00:19:19,059

feel something during the second session

448

00:19:25,239 --> 00:19:22,369

also yes we had anticipated this

449

00:19:28,450 --> 00:19:25,249

possibility so Banacek then asked in

450

00:19:31,960 --> 00:19:28,460

which session did it feel stronger the

451
00:19:34,359 --> 00:19:31,970
answer the second session Kristin rota

452
00:19:37,180 --> 00:19:34,369
to on the scoreboard now chip revealed

453
00:19:39,430 --> 00:19:37,190
who went first and second as it turned

454
00:19:42,669 --> 00:19:39,440
out in this case it was Mr Wong who had

455
00:19:45,430 --> 00:19:42,679
stepped up first so the trial again was

456
00:19:48,129 --> 00:19:45,440
a fail unfortunately this meant the test

457
00:19:49,899 --> 00:19:48,139
overall was considered a fail for Mr

458
00:19:52,419 --> 00:19:49,909
Wong as he needed to score at least

459
00:19:54,850 --> 00:19:52,429
eight out of nine two passed on the

460
00:19:57,369 --> 00:19:54,860
night even though to first up fouls was

461
00:19:58,960 --> 00:19:57,379
always on the cards it was still a

462
00:20:00,820 --> 00:19:58,970
little disappointing in what I

463
00:20:02,889 --> 00:20:00,830

considered to be a sign of his sincerity

464

00:20:05,350 --> 00:20:02,899

Mr Wong was happy to answer questions

465

00:20:07,509 --> 00:20:05,360

from the audience I ducked down to have

466

00:20:09,970 --> 00:20:07,519

a word to Randy who wanted us to be sure

467

00:20:12,460 --> 00:20:09,980

that mr. Wong received a warm applause

468

00:20:14,680 --> 00:20:12,470

which is exactly what happened as the

469

00:20:16,810 --> 00:20:14,690

crowd filed out some people came up to

470

00:20:19,330 --> 00:20:16,820

question details of the test or to get a

471

00:20:21,940 --> 00:20:19,340

better idea of why we did this or that

472

00:20:24,730 --> 00:20:21,950

one concern raised was that it should

473

00:20:26,769 --> 00:20:24,740

have been me and not Banacek who asked

474

00:20:29,440 --> 00:20:26,779

questions of the subjects after each

475

00:20:31,600 --> 00:20:29,450

trial to maintain a double-blind aspect

476

00:20:33,820 --> 00:20:31,610

we took the point into consideration as

477

00:20:35,980 --> 00:20:33,830

important should we have progressed to

478

00:20:37,690 --> 00:20:35,990

the full-blown challenge despite mr.

479

00:20:39,580 --> 00:20:37,700

Wong's confidence in his abilities

480

00:20:41,769 --> 00:20:39,590

choosing the subjects for the test

481

00:20:43,989 --> 00:20:41,779

himself taking part in the planning and

482

00:20:45,489 --> 00:20:43,999

agreeing to the conditions members of

483

00:20:48,310 --> 00:20:45,499

the million-dollar challenge committee

484

00:20:50,619 --> 00:20:48,320

and the TAM audience remained skeptical

485

00:20:53,109 --> 00:20:50,629

of his claim the energy or power or

486

00:20:54,940 --> 00:20:53,119

force he believes he possesses was

487

00:20:57,519 --> 00:20:54,950

seemingly absent during the preliminary

488

00:20:59,980 --> 00:20:57,529

tests and also failed on most of the

489

00:21:00,700 --> 00:20:59,990

subjects during the pretests in the days

490

00:21:03,669 --> 00:21:00,710

before

491

00:21:06,029 --> 00:21:03,679

it is possible that any reported

492

00:21:08,260 --> 00:21:06,039

sensation is more likely to be a

493

00:21:11,080 --> 00:21:08,270

psychological effect or simply a

494

00:21:13,510 --> 00:21:11,090

consequence of the arm and hand being

495

00:21:17,289 --> 00:21:13,520

held out during the process rather than

496

00:21:18,580 --> 00:21:17,299

a mystical unknown power I would like to

497

00:21:20,889 --> 00:21:18,590

thank the members the million-dollar

498

00:21:22,960 --> 00:21:20,899

challenge Committee for once again

499

00:21:26,019 --> 00:21:22,970

allowing me to take part in the event

500

00:21:37,149 --> 00:21:26,029

and especially to mr. womp who had the

501
00:21:39,149 --> 00:21:37,159
courage of his convictions now on

502
00:21:41,860 --> 00:21:39,159
Belfast FM we turn to the personal ads

503
00:21:44,169 --> 00:21:41,870
easygoing and confident skeptic seeks

504
00:21:46,210 --> 00:21:44,179
other critical thinkers for fun laughter

505
00:21:48,279 --> 00:21:46,220
and good times must be willing to apply

506
00:21:49,960 --> 00:21:48,289
logic liberally and a good listener

507
00:21:52,330 --> 00:21:49,970
expect something new and interesting

508
00:21:54,250 --> 00:21:52,340
every month come on meet me in Belfast

509
00:21:56,080 --> 00:21:54,260
in Northern Ireland if this sounds like

510
00:22:04,060 --> 00:21:56,090
you check out my profile on bail for

511
00:22:08,600 --> 00:22:06,620
welcome to a week in science from our

512
00:22:10,580 --> 00:22:08,610
ions bringing you the science you need

513
00:22:12,860 --> 00:22:10,590

to know you've just made your way out of

514

00:22:14,450 --> 00:22:12,870

a really frustrating traffic jam and

515

00:22:16,400 --> 00:22:14,460

you're looking around for the reason may

516

00:22:19,190 --> 00:22:16,410

be an accident or roadworks but you

517

00:22:23,860 --> 00:22:19,200

can't see anything so what in the world

518

00:22:28,430 --> 00:22:26,240

mathematicians use different models to

519

00:22:31,580 --> 00:22:28,440

explain these so-called phantom traffic

520

00:22:34,070 --> 00:22:31,590

jams one popular model likens traffic to

521

00:22:36,710 --> 00:22:34,080

a flowing liquid and traffic jams to a

522

00:22:39,289 --> 00:22:36,720

shockwave to investigate this Japanese

523

00:22:41,870 --> 00:22:39,299

researchers put 22 cars on a circular

524

00:22:45,289 --> 00:22:41,880

track and asked them to drive around at

525

00:22:47,810 --> 00:22:45,299

a steady 30 km/h for a little while all

526

00:22:50,450 --> 00:22:47,820

goes well but it takes just one car to

527

00:22:52,669 --> 00:22:50,460

slightly change speed to cause problems

528

00:22:55,399 --> 00:22:52,679

making the car behind slow down further

529

00:22:57,620 --> 00:22:55,409

and the next car back to slow down even

530

00:22:59,659 --> 00:22:57,630

more again the cars begin to clump

531

00:23:01,730 --> 00:22:59,669

together and this clumping effect

532

00:23:04,070 --> 00:23:01,740

reverberates backwards around the track

533

00:23:06,830 --> 00:23:04,080

like a shockwave even leaving two brief

534

00:23:09,080 --> 00:23:06,840

halts at points theoretically if traffic

535

00:23:13,279 --> 00:23:09,090

remains heavy this traveling wave could

536

00:23:15,919 --> 00:23:13,289

just keep going and going forever these

537

00:23:18,110 --> 00:23:15,929

invisible waves of congestion also occur

538

00:23:19,909 --> 00:23:18,120

in real life traffic jams they create a

539

00:23:22,519 --> 00:23:19,919

ripple effect which doesn't go away

540

00:23:24,950 --> 00:23:22,529

until all cars return to the same pace

541

00:23:27,710 --> 00:23:24,960

to prevent a jam you should maintain a

542

00:23:29,779 --> 00:23:27,720

steady speed so no changing lanes no

543

00:23:31,970 --> 00:23:29,789

slowing down to look at things and using

544

00:23:34,159 --> 00:23:31,980

your cruise control and you can always

545

00:23:35,779 --> 00:23:34,169

carpool or use public transport to

546

00:23:38,690 --> 00:23:35,789

reduce congestion in the first place

547

00:23:40,639 --> 00:23:38,700

another potential solution is driverless

548

00:23:42,590 --> 00:23:40,649

cars which are better at keeping a

549

00:23:44,990 --> 00:23:42,600

constant pace and which can wirelessly

550

00:23:46,630 --> 00:23:45,000

communicate with each other to respond

551
00:23:49,250 --> 00:23:46,640
to changing traffic conditions

552
00:23:50,960 --> 00:23:49,260
mathematicians help too by improving the

553
00:23:52,880 --> 00:23:50,970
algorithms that control our traffic

554
00:23:55,850 --> 00:23:52,890
lights and proved eating when and where

555
00:23:59,110 --> 00:23:55,860
traffic jams will occur and now for fast

556
00:24:02,029 --> 00:23:59,120
facts about pesky traffic

557
00:24:04,129 --> 00:24:02,039
traffic light timings optimize movement

558
00:24:06,200 --> 00:24:04,139
for the majority of traffic meaning that

559
00:24:08,450 --> 00:24:06,210
if you're driving against the blue you

560
00:24:10,879 --> 00:24:08,460
could hit a frustrating run of red light

561
00:24:13,279 --> 00:24:10,889
traffic psychology studies show that

562
00:24:15,529 --> 00:24:13,289
women cyclists are given more space on

563
00:24:17,629 --> 00:24:15,539

the road than men and you're more likely

564

00:24:20,570 --> 00:24:17,639

to let a car in front of you if you have

565

00:24:22,369 --> 00:24:20,580

passengers using theoretical physics to

566

00:24:26,989 --> 00:24:22,379

understand traffic congestion is

567

00:24:29,269 --> 00:24:26,999

creatively called gemology and in 2010 a

568

00:24:31,820 --> 00:24:29,279

100 kilometer stretch of highway between

569

00:24:33,980 --> 00:24:31,830

Beijing and Tibet came to a standstill

570

00:24:36,470 --> 00:24:33,990

for two weeks possibly the greatest

571

00:24:38,869 --> 00:24:36,480

traffic jam in history that's it for

572

00:24:41,450 --> 00:24:38,879

this week in science stuck on the maths

573

00:24:43,789 --> 00:24:41,460

about traffic jams go to the RAS website

574

00:24:46,609 --> 00:24:43,799

where we have some links are I aus

575

00:24:49,249 --> 00:24:46,619

stottle k you follow us on twitter at

576

00:24:50,749 --> 00:24:49,259

our iOS and like us on facebook i'm

577

00:24:52,100 --> 00:24:50,759

karen groom and we'll catch you next

578

00:25:01,539 --> 00:24:52,110

week

579

00:25:14,980 --> 00:25:04,789

what we want is some more evidence

580

00:25:20,660 --> 00:25:18,320

okay hello this is Joe alabaster i'm

581

00:25:23,540 --> 00:25:20,670

here at skeptics in the pub in sydney

582

00:25:25,490 --> 00:25:23,550

and we've just had a talk from Richard

583

00:25:27,170 --> 00:25:25,500

Saunders he's been talking about the

584

00:25:29,810 --> 00:25:27,180

jdubs million dollar challenge this year

585

00:25:31,549 --> 00:25:29,820

held at tam the preliminary event is

586

00:25:34,610 --> 00:25:31,559

they're talking about how has been

587

00:25:37,460 --> 00:25:34,620

designed and giving us a bit of a

588

00:25:38,900 --> 00:25:37,470

rundown on how it went and joining me at

589

00:25:40,970 --> 00:25:38,910

the moment you in the pub we got a

590

00:25:43,700 --> 00:25:40,980

little bit of background noise i'm here

591

00:25:46,250 --> 00:25:43,710

with am Bryce hello Ian hello Joe how

592

00:25:48,560 --> 00:25:46,260

are you fantastic and yourself excellent

593

00:25:51,350 --> 00:25:48,570

did you enjoy the talk oh yes very much

594

00:25:53,810 --> 00:25:51,360

to hear about Richards antics in Las

595

00:25:56,419 --> 00:25:53,820

Vegas what what an owner's duty it is

596

00:25:58,940 --> 00:25:56,429

willing to go there and pursue skeptical

597

00:26:01,100 --> 00:25:58,950

duties for a week fantastic absolutely

598

00:26:02,240 --> 00:26:01,110

terrible i hope that i never have to do

599

00:26:04,850 --> 00:26:02,250

that sort of thing that would be

600

00:26:06,860 --> 00:26:04,860

dreadful and yes don't get me to go

601
00:26:09,500 --> 00:26:06,870
there please Richard my question for

602
00:26:11,360 --> 00:26:09,510
today that I'm asking people what do you

603
00:26:12,830 --> 00:26:11,370
think of skeptical challengers what sort

604
00:26:14,500 --> 00:26:12,840
of value to the end they have these days

605
00:26:17,090 --> 00:26:14,510
the million dollar challenge or

606
00:26:19,520 --> 00:26:17,100
Australian skeptics how much doesn't

607
00:26:21,230 --> 00:26:19,530
time ten thousand nine hundred thousand

608
00:26:23,030 --> 00:26:21,240
hundred thousand dollars I'm selling a

609
00:26:24,260 --> 00:26:23,040
short I'm afraid well I think there are

610
00:26:26,990 --> 00:26:24,270
many benefits one thing they say about

611
00:26:29,870 --> 00:26:27,000
skeptics is there so scientific and

612
00:26:31,340 --> 00:26:29,880
technical and dry and humorless that

613
00:26:33,260 --> 00:26:31,350

enables us to have a bit of fun from

614

00:26:34,760 --> 00:26:33,270

time to time once it's all over of

615

00:26:36,980 --> 00:26:34,770

course we've got to conduct the tests in

616

00:26:38,780 --> 00:26:36,990

a serious manner and the other one is

617

00:26:42,350 --> 00:26:38,790

that brings our name before the media

618

00:26:43,669 --> 00:26:42,360

whenever whenever we conduct a test and

619

00:26:45,950 --> 00:26:43,679

have some results to put out there

620

00:26:49,580 --> 00:26:45,960

another one connects us with the rich

621

00:26:51,230 --> 00:26:49,590

and famous example that a patron Dick

622

00:26:53,560 --> 00:26:51,240

Smith came along to our water dividing

623

00:26:55,669 --> 00:26:53,570

tests long ago in 1989 in his helicopter

624

00:26:57,200 --> 00:26:55,679

that's fantastic i think i've actually

625

00:26:59,450 --> 00:26:57,210

seen a video of that is that out on

626
00:27:01,100 --> 00:26:59,460
youtube do you know well this was long

627
00:27:03,590 --> 00:27:01,110
before YouTube was invented that however

628
00:27:06,140 --> 00:27:03,600
I'm sure it's been put there since yes I

629
00:27:08,510 --> 00:27:06,150
understand one of the Australian

630
00:27:11,180 --> 00:27:08,520
skeptics sort of provisos that they've

631
00:27:14,330 --> 00:27:11,190
got for their challenge is that a

632
00:27:16,520 --> 00:27:14,340
claimant is willing to have everything

633
00:27:18,000 --> 00:27:16,530
reported and potentially go to the media

634
00:27:20,400 --> 00:27:18,010
is that the case

635
00:27:22,530 --> 00:27:20,410
yes sweet insist on that otherwise

636
00:27:24,330 --> 00:27:22,540
there's no point in it for example if we

637
00:27:25,620 --> 00:27:24,340
tested someone and they lost a masive we

638
00:27:28,380 --> 00:27:25,630

don't want you to publish the result

639

00:27:31,470 --> 00:27:28,390

we've put in a rather large amount of

640

00:27:33,030 --> 00:27:31,480

work and got nowhere our whole idea is

641

00:27:34,650 --> 00:27:33,040

to find out whether there's any truth in

642

00:27:38,240 --> 00:27:34,660

the claims of pseudoscience and the

643

00:27:40,410 --> 00:27:38,250

paranormal and so forth and all that

644

00:27:41,670 --> 00:27:40,420

relies on is publishing that's what we

645

00:27:42,960 --> 00:27:41,680

do we have a magazine in front of us

646

00:27:47,100 --> 00:27:42,970

called the skeptic which we've been

647

00:27:50,850 --> 00:27:47,110

producing that for 33 years I think it

648

00:27:54,240 --> 00:27:50,860

is that's cool so podcasts as you can

649

00:27:57,570 --> 00:27:54,250

tell all sorts of other forums in which

650

00:27:59,250 --> 00:27:57,580

we send out results in is so being able

651
00:28:01,740 --> 00:27:59,260
to publish your test is very important

652
00:28:02,970 --> 00:28:01,750
that's why we always insists beforehand

653
00:28:04,980 --> 00:28:02,980
that they agreed to as publishing the

654
00:28:06,600 --> 00:28:04,990
results positive or negative and of

655
00:28:08,760 --> 00:28:06,610
course that protects them as well

656
00:28:10,830 --> 00:28:08,770
because if they get a positive result

657
00:28:12,480 --> 00:28:10,840
that ensures we can d can't deny it

658
00:28:16,140 --> 00:28:12,490
never happened it's all been filmed and

659
00:28:18,570 --> 00:28:16,150
recorded and made available how much

660
00:28:20,640 --> 00:28:18,580
work goes into designing one of these

661
00:28:22,860 --> 00:28:20,650
tests understand you've been involved in

662
00:28:24,390 --> 00:28:22,870
designing a tests for Australian

663
00:28:27,590 --> 00:28:24,400

skeptics challenges can you tell me

664

00:28:31,740 --> 00:28:27,600

anything about that yes it's usually

665

00:28:33,390 --> 00:28:31,750

quite a lot of work and part of the

666

00:28:36,090 --> 00:28:33,400

problem is I the biggest problem is

667

00:28:39,030 --> 00:28:36,100

identifying a specific claim which they

668

00:28:41,450 --> 00:28:39,040

can do and which couldn't be done by

669

00:28:44,850 --> 00:28:41,460

other means for example we have many

670

00:28:46,410 --> 00:28:44,860

psychic readers become and so I can talk

671

00:28:47,940 --> 00:28:46,420

to someone and in five minutes I can

672

00:28:49,560 --> 00:28:47,950

tell tell you a lot of things about

673

00:28:51,510 --> 00:28:49,570

their personality and their future and

674

00:28:55,230 --> 00:28:51,520

their disposition whether been through

675

00:28:56,610 --> 00:28:55,240

in the past we say yes we've got mini's

676

00:28:58,950 --> 00:28:56,620

cold readers of our own who can do the

677

00:29:00,300 --> 00:28:58,960

same thing prove anything what we need

678

00:29:03,330 --> 00:29:00,310

is something that the men in the street

679

00:29:07,520 --> 00:29:03,340

could not do and that usually requires

680

00:29:09,080 --> 00:29:07,530

something a bit less dramatic than

681

00:29:10,520 --> 00:29:09,090

looking them in the face and telling

682

00:29:12,320 --> 00:29:10,530

what they can do usually that it

683

00:29:13,820 --> 00:29:12,330

requires the people to be isolated so

684

00:29:16,160 --> 00:29:13,830

you can't get clues to the visual nature

685

00:29:18,020 --> 00:29:16,170

and that's why Richards test with them

686

00:29:19,370 --> 00:29:18,030

separated by a screen it's the minimum

687

00:29:22,220 --> 00:29:19,380

you can do a separate them from visual

688

00:29:23,840 --> 00:29:22,230

clues so and so getting agreement from

689

00:29:26,060 --> 00:29:23,850

this between the two parties is the most

690

00:29:27,620 --> 00:29:26,070

difficult part by far they say look I

691

00:29:28,940 --> 00:29:27,630

always do it this way why can't you test

692

00:29:30,500 --> 00:29:28,950

that which they will it wouldn't be a

693

00:29:32,780 --> 00:29:30,510

valid test because it's not ruling up

694

00:29:35,150 --> 00:29:32,790

chance alone acting or cold reading

695

00:29:37,120 --> 00:29:35,160

skills and that's why it's difficult to

696

00:29:39,290 --> 00:29:37,130

find her something that can be tested

697

00:29:42,560 --> 00:29:39,300

people generally willing to collaborate

698

00:29:47,530 --> 00:29:42,570

with you on these tests ninety percent

699

00:29:54,020 --> 00:29:50,780

in Richards talk we found out that the

700

00:29:56,330 --> 00:29:54,030

time was very very cooperative from the

701
00:29:59,150 --> 00:29:56,340
word go it was clear that he believed in

702
00:30:00,410 --> 00:29:59,160
at one hundred percent and would be

703
00:30:03,950 --> 00:30:00,420
happy to go ahead with the test because

704
00:30:06,950 --> 00:30:03,960
he believed he was going to win we have

705
00:30:09,350 --> 00:30:06,960
had some other challenges who have been

706
00:30:13,160 --> 00:30:09,360
unhappy and tried to block us at every

707
00:30:15,350 --> 00:30:13,170
turn by changing the protocol and sad to

708
00:30:17,030 --> 00:30:15,360
say I suspect but they knew they were

709
00:30:18,920 --> 00:30:17,040
cheating and they found out they had

710
00:30:24,800 --> 00:30:18,930
some prospective way of cheating they

711
00:30:26,150 --> 00:30:24,810
believed and hence that's best it was

712
00:30:27,500 --> 00:30:26,160
because they knew they were cheating and

713
00:30:29,960 --> 00:30:27,510

they weren't sincere that it didn't go

714

00:30:31,190 --> 00:30:29,970

ahead but we do find the general we

715

00:30:32,960 --> 00:30:31,200

certainly the ones who were sincere a

716

00:30:34,640 --> 00:30:32,970

very cooperative and we're happy to

717

00:30:37,520 --> 00:30:34,650

reach an agreement but it can still take

718

00:30:40,370 --> 00:30:37,530

many months 4 weeks to reach have a

719

00:30:42,590 --> 00:30:40,380

great promo code and how many people

720

00:30:45,140 --> 00:30:42,600

that approach you what percentage of

721

00:30:48,850 --> 00:30:45,150

them end up going reaching the point

722

00:30:51,620 --> 00:30:48,860

where they're about to take a test I

723

00:30:53,930 --> 00:30:51,630

would say and these something like one

724

00:30:55,520 --> 00:30:53,940

in ten which we reach the point of

725

00:30:56,990 --> 00:30:55,530

proceeding to a test or agreeing to a

726
00:30:59,000 --> 00:30:57,000
protocol so there are many ways they can

727
00:31:00,920 --> 00:30:59,010
drop out well they keep insisting on

728
00:31:04,130 --> 00:31:00,930
impossible conditions yeah but I keep

729
00:31:05,720 --> 00:31:04,140
insisting on isn't doesn't contravene

730
00:31:07,070 --> 00:31:05,730
normal science for example reading

731
00:31:08,840 --> 00:31:07,080
someone face to face and telling you

732
00:31:11,270 --> 00:31:08,850
about their life doesn't you know when I

733
00:31:12,290 --> 00:31:11,280
when I sat down a list of questions for

734
00:31:14,480 --> 00:31:12,300
example

735
00:31:15,530 --> 00:31:14,490
country was this person born in how many

736
00:31:16,970 --> 00:31:15,540
times I've been married how many

737
00:31:19,940 --> 00:31:16,980
children that they got which suburbs

738
00:31:21,470 --> 00:31:19,950

they live in how old are they there are

739

00:31:23,660 --> 00:31:21,480

specific things with the right wrong

740

00:31:25,520 --> 00:31:23,670

answer then they quickly drop out and

741

00:31:27,200 --> 00:31:25,530

say no I I had more in mind what I

742

00:31:28,310 --> 00:31:27,210

normally do just tell you whether

743

00:31:32,030 --> 00:31:28,320

someone is introverted or extroverted

744

00:31:33,800 --> 00:31:32,040

and whether they whether I have suffered

745

00:31:35,630 --> 00:31:33,810

a setback in their life where they know

746

00:31:38,180 --> 00:31:35,640

someone who's had a serious disease yeah

747

00:31:40,700 --> 00:31:38,190

all these very big claims that pretty

748

00:31:42,170 --> 00:31:40,710

much can apply to more or less anybody

749

00:31:44,840 --> 00:31:42,180

that's right fish with a little bit of

750

00:31:48,770 --> 00:31:44,850

gulper shifting as well it's abandon

751
00:31:50,540 --> 00:31:48,780
statements yes um aside from people who

752
00:31:53,710 --> 00:31:50,550
claim to have psychic powers what other

753
00:31:57,230 --> 00:31:53,720
sorts of applicants have you had well

754
00:32:01,340 --> 00:31:57,240
water divining and metal divining yeah

755
00:32:03,170 --> 00:32:01,350
is it more of a scientific nature so we

756
00:32:05,810 --> 00:32:03,180
call it paranormal rather than psychic

757
00:32:08,450 --> 00:32:05,820
the supernatural so that's one that I

758
00:32:11,450 --> 00:32:08,460
like because in theory you could build a

759
00:32:12,710 --> 00:32:11,460
device that looked under the ground and

760
00:32:14,960 --> 00:32:12,720
told you what is normally hidden to the

761
00:32:17,990 --> 00:32:14,970
census see sorrow built many

762
00:32:20,240 --> 00:32:18,000
magnetometers and ground radars I've

763
00:32:22,610 --> 00:32:20,250

been involved in some of them myself so

764

00:32:24,140 --> 00:32:22,620

we have to rule out the fact that the

765

00:32:26,690 --> 00:32:24,150

person likely using those and that's the

766

00:32:28,040 --> 00:32:26,700

sort of thing we can do but if they did

767

00:32:30,140 --> 00:32:28,050

have a means of water dividing using

768

00:32:32,090 --> 00:32:30,150

only a rod yeah and we'd be delighted

769

00:32:33,800 --> 00:32:32,100

because it imagine what it would do to

770

00:32:35,900 --> 00:32:33,810

the water resources of the world if that

771

00:32:37,580 --> 00:32:35,910

worked I always think it'd be absolutely

772

00:32:40,460 --> 00:32:37,590

fascinating if somebody did actually

773

00:32:42,920 --> 00:32:40,470

pass one of these and we yeah get a

774

00:32:44,660 --> 00:32:42,930

chance to have a look at how things may

775

00:32:49,940 --> 00:32:44,670

work that we haven't been aware of until

776

00:32:51,980 --> 00:32:49,950

now but yet one of the most one of the

777

00:32:54,800 --> 00:32:51,990

most fast-rising areas is in energy

778

00:32:57,080 --> 00:32:54,810

because as our listeners may have

779

00:32:59,420 --> 00:32:57,090

noticed the world is in an energy crisis

780

00:33:02,780 --> 00:32:59,430

our consumption of energy is growing

781

00:33:05,210 --> 00:33:02,790

exponentially it's been a bit dampens

782

00:33:06,920 --> 00:33:05,220

by the price of electricity but that's

783

00:33:09,950 --> 00:33:06,930

steadily growing throughout the world

784

00:33:11,750 --> 00:33:09,960

while their resources of coal and the

785

00:33:15,770 --> 00:33:11,760

ability of the atmosphere to absorb the

786

00:33:16,880 --> 00:33:15,780

gases is reaching a limit so that means

787

00:33:19,390 --> 00:33:16,890

that there's a lot of money to be made

788

00:33:21,800 --> 00:33:19,400

through energy scams and in particular

789

00:33:23,480 --> 00:33:21,810

claims for energy saving devices for

790

00:33:25,820 --> 00:33:23,490

example something you plug in the power

791

00:33:28,970 --> 00:33:25,830

point and it perhaps the power used by

792

00:33:31,340 --> 00:33:28,980

your fridge that's something that we can

793

00:33:32,660 --> 00:33:31,350

test and a more dramatic one these

794

00:33:35,210 --> 00:33:32,670

things that you can put in your basement

795

00:33:36,590 --> 00:33:35,220

and they generate electricity power you

796

00:33:38,450 --> 00:33:36,600

ask and you don't even have to put

797

00:33:40,610 --> 00:33:38,460

petrol in them the free energy devices

798

00:33:42,320 --> 00:33:40,620

do you come across many of those yes

799

00:33:43,790 --> 00:33:42,330

quite a few years I've got a great

800

00:33:45,800 --> 00:33:43,800

collection of articles on that and I've

801
00:33:48,020 --> 00:33:45,810
tested quite a few over the years for

802
00:33:49,820 --> 00:33:48,030
the skeptic magazine I find it quite

803
00:33:51,740 --> 00:33:49,830
fascinating our mother she noticed on

804
00:33:53,150 --> 00:33:51,750
Twitter a lot of people approached dr.

805
00:33:55,130 --> 00:33:53,160
Karl pretty much on a daily basis

806
00:33:58,520 --> 00:33:55,140
claiming to have free energy devices and

807
00:34:00,350 --> 00:33:58,530
his current approach to this seems to be

808
00:34:02,990 --> 00:34:00,360
to tell them just to go and make them

809
00:34:05,720 --> 00:34:03,000
and bring them out and we'll can test

810
00:34:09,380 --> 00:34:05,730
them but before that yeah the claims

811
00:34:11,659 --> 00:34:09,390
it's not so much yes I know it was very

812
00:34:14,180 --> 00:34:11,669
said I've got a friend who's a retired

813
00:34:16,790 --> 00:34:14,190

engineer which in fact I am as well and

814

00:34:19,220 --> 00:34:16,800

he's turned his hand to a free energy

815

00:34:21,230 --> 00:34:19,230

device every year or so he invites me to

816

00:34:22,820 --> 00:34:21,240

come and look at his energy debate he

817

00:34:24,919 --> 00:34:22,830

says he'll reveal all to me as long as I

818

00:34:27,590 --> 00:34:24,929

promise not to tell the reveal his

819

00:34:29,450 --> 00:34:27,600

secret he's way past retirement age by

820

00:34:31,940 --> 00:34:29,460

now what's he holding the secret on for

821

00:34:33,350 --> 00:34:31,950

what's he waiting for now well then when

822

00:34:35,000 --> 00:34:33,360

I'm jus together in me I'm just look I

823

00:34:36,320 --> 00:34:35,010

can't I thought I could have it working

824

00:34:38,060 --> 00:34:36,330

by now but I haven't quite got it

825

00:34:41,330 --> 00:34:38,070

working I'll give you a call in a few

826
00:34:43,880 --> 00:34:41,340
days when it's working going on for many

827
00:34:45,230 --> 00:34:43,890
years now so except the setting you want

828
00:34:47,810 --> 00:34:45,240
a little bit

829
00:34:51,020 --> 00:34:47,820
no no no you I think he's having himself

830
00:34:52,159 --> 00:34:51,030
on okay oh thank you very much for

831
00:34:57,410 --> 00:34:52,169
joining me and answering some questions

832
00:35:00,320 --> 00:34:57,420
in to talk to you thank you and now i'm

833
00:35:04,250 --> 00:35:00,330
joined by tim mendham who is editor of

834
00:35:05,540 --> 00:35:04,260
the skeptic magazine and Tim what sort

835
00:35:08,210 --> 00:35:05,550
of value do you think that

836
00:35:09,740 --> 00:35:08,220
million-dollar challenges and Australian

837
00:35:13,190 --> 00:35:09,750
skeptics hundred thousand dollar

838
00:35:14,920 --> 00:35:13,200

challenge have I think that's one of the

839

00:35:17,030 --> 00:35:14,930

key issues actually that people don't

840

00:35:19,010 --> 00:35:17,040

people say that they don't think the

841

00:35:20,750 --> 00:35:19,020

skeptics take themselves seriously or

842

00:35:24,770 --> 00:35:20,760

don't take the situation seriously that

843

00:35:28,460 --> 00:35:24,780

they're just knockers etc these things

844

00:35:29,930 --> 00:35:28,470

actually putting up money is a sure sign

845

00:35:33,020 --> 00:35:29,940

that we are serious because their

846

00:35:34,490 --> 00:35:33,030

significant sums of money and people do

847

00:35:35,750 --> 00:35:34,500

know they're out there now some people

848

00:35:38,270 --> 00:35:35,760

say you're never going to give the money

849

00:35:40,430 --> 00:35:38,280

but we actually do have it we have it in

850

00:35:43,130 --> 00:35:40,440

that account well what happens is that

851
00:35:44,570 --> 00:35:43,140
people don't think the test is going to

852
00:35:46,400 --> 00:35:44,580
be too hard people who never actually

853
00:35:47,600 --> 00:35:46,410
approached us are always saying although

854
00:35:49,190 --> 00:35:47,610
I'll never give the money away they'll

855
00:35:52,190 --> 00:35:49,200
create a test which is impossible to

856
00:35:53,780 --> 00:35:52,200
achieve to succeed at but one of the

857
00:35:55,430 --> 00:35:53,790
things that we do make sure is as

858
00:35:57,260 --> 00:35:55,440
Richard was talking about in these talk

859
00:35:59,330 --> 00:35:57,270
just earlier on was that we have to make

860
00:36:01,849 --> 00:35:59,340
sure that the the applicant the claimant

861
00:36:03,470 --> 00:36:01,859
understands the test agrees with the

862
00:36:06,020 --> 00:36:03,480
test approved of the test and does so

863
00:36:08,120 --> 00:36:06,030

formally once they do that they realize

864

00:36:10,370 --> 00:36:08,130

the test is aboveboard both sides have

865

00:36:13,010 --> 00:36:10,380

to agree have to be mutually agreeable

866

00:36:15,800 --> 00:36:13,020

that this test is a fair test without

867

00:36:17,120 --> 00:36:15,810

that the test is off so that impacts on

868

00:36:18,740 --> 00:36:17,130

that's as much as it impacts on them

869

00:36:19,820 --> 00:36:18,750

certainly so it's a serious thing the

870

00:36:21,260 --> 00:36:19,830

money is there the money is actually

871

00:36:23,900 --> 00:36:21,270

there and we're very happy to test

872

00:36:25,220 --> 00:36:23,910

people in Australia and most people who

873

00:36:27,500 --> 00:36:25,230

come forward to the tests been one of

874

00:36:29,240 --> 00:36:27,510

the ones mm-hmm who we all regard is

875

00:36:31,370 --> 00:36:29,250

very genuine people they certainly

876

00:36:33,440 --> 00:36:31,380

believe they have the ability they just

877

00:36:34,849 --> 00:36:33,450

under the circumstances under the test

878

00:36:36,590 --> 00:36:34,859

which they agree to the protocols they

879

00:36:38,180 --> 00:36:36,600

just haven't been able to do it we have

880

00:36:40,340 --> 00:36:38,190

psychics we have astrologers we have

881

00:36:42,060 --> 00:36:40,350

clairvoyance as well that what the

882

00:36:44,400 --> 00:36:42,070

diviners come up most

883

00:36:47,100 --> 00:36:44,410

and how often do you tend to have people

884

00:36:49,500 --> 00:36:47,110

come and apply to do the challenges I'm

885

00:36:52,080 --> 00:36:49,510

the only the front line there so people

886

00:36:54,150 --> 00:36:52,090

when they claim they I first received

887

00:36:58,140 --> 00:36:54,160

their claim that comes in bio email most

888

00:36:59,490 --> 00:36:58,150

the time and I would get one a week but

889

00:37:00,660 --> 00:36:59,500

from all over the world actually we have

890

00:37:02,460 --> 00:37:00,670

to point out that the test has to be

891

00:37:03,450 --> 00:37:02,470

done in Australia okay for Australian

892

00:37:05,040 --> 00:37:03,460

residents we're not going to bring

893

00:37:06,780 --> 00:37:05,050

someone over from overseas so have you

894

00:37:08,220 --> 00:37:06,790

ever had somebody willing to travel over

895

00:37:09,390 --> 00:37:08,230

to Australia different people have said

896

00:37:10,890 --> 00:37:09,400

they're willing to travel over the air

897

00:37:14,450 --> 00:37:10,900

but they've never actually you've never

898

00:37:17,670 --> 00:37:14,460

got them to clearly explain what the

899

00:37:19,680 --> 00:37:17,680

talent is okay and not for actually for

900

00:37:20,880 --> 00:37:19,690

us to agree to do a test I mean we have

901
00:37:22,860 --> 00:37:20,890
to get that all sort of that before they

902
00:37:24,450 --> 00:37:22,870
made the effort yeah and the expense I

903
00:37:25,440 --> 00:37:24,460
mean we point out that if they won the

904
00:37:27,390 --> 00:37:25,450
hundred thousand dollars that would

905
00:37:28,770 --> 00:37:27,400
happily pay for their expenses certainly

906
00:37:31,620 --> 00:37:28,780
in coming here but we don't want people

907
00:37:33,240 --> 00:37:31,630
to do it if it's a fairly sort of dodgy

908
00:37:35,370 --> 00:37:33,250
claim and you're not quite frankly most

909
00:37:38,370 --> 00:37:35,380
of the claims I get in a so vague yeah

910
00:37:41,610 --> 00:37:38,380
and so easily I some of them I can I can

911
00:37:43,560 --> 00:37:41,620
explain after a short email okay that

912
00:37:45,060 --> 00:37:43,570
this has been done before we've seen

913
00:37:47,550 --> 00:37:45,070

this before that the method you're

914

00:37:49,140 --> 00:37:47,560

talking about has certain floors look at

915

00:37:50,940 --> 00:37:49,150

this side baked claims that you've been

916

00:37:53,910 --> 00:37:50,950

getting all sorts of things are the

917

00:37:55,530 --> 00:37:53,920

recently I had one who can move an

918

00:37:58,440 --> 00:37:55,540

object like a little propeller under a

919

00:37:59,700 --> 00:37:58,450

glass dome yeah right and you point out

920

00:38:01,080 --> 00:37:59,710

that there's all sorts of things that

921

00:38:02,880 --> 00:38:01,090

you actually can influence that sort of

922

00:38:05,100 --> 00:38:02,890

thing this year that yeah I'm not

923

00:38:07,230 --> 00:38:05,110

touching it but you know there's also

924

00:38:08,730 --> 00:38:07,240

thinking ab is a sealed down again

925

00:38:10,740 --> 00:38:08,740

urging something or this sort of thing

926

00:38:12,720 --> 00:38:10,750

that various things yeah i mean the

927

00:38:15,150 --> 00:38:12,730

tests have to be have to be very clearly

928

00:38:17,460 --> 00:38:15,160

claimed and the protocols have to be so

929

00:38:18,900 --> 00:38:17,470

over there but that's not the fun not

930

00:38:20,160 --> 00:38:18,910

the fun for us is actually figuring out

931

00:38:22,260 --> 00:38:20,170

what's a good test of these things when

932

00:38:25,390 --> 00:38:22,270

the claim is not very clear

933

00:38:27,100 --> 00:38:25,400

so people say what's your claim say

934

00:38:28,510 --> 00:38:27,110

clearly what do you get out of it this

935

00:38:29,650 --> 00:38:28,520

one that Richard spoke about the guy has

936

00:38:31,750 --> 00:38:29,660

energy but I'm not quite sure what he

937

00:38:34,480 --> 00:38:31,760

does really energy yeah what is energy

938

00:38:37,510 --> 00:38:34,490

using bad energy the energy didn't

939

00:38:39,070 --> 00:38:37,520

really have a specific name or somewhere

940

00:38:41,470 --> 00:38:39,080

that it came from or a purpose either

941

00:38:42,730 --> 00:38:41,480

but I hope it was enough to test I have

942

00:38:44,080 --> 00:38:42,740

been people who were very big vague

943

00:38:46,330 --> 00:38:44,090

about they claimed a very insistent on

944

00:38:47,710 --> 00:38:46,340

getting the money ah I had one person

945

00:38:49,870 --> 00:38:47,720

who family up a couple of times it was

946

00:38:51,160 --> 00:38:49,880

incredibly abusive mm-hmm I mean

947

00:38:52,780 --> 00:38:51,170

probably the most abusive ankles have

948

00:38:54,610 --> 00:38:52,790

ever had in my life how's it off sound

949

00:38:56,290 --> 00:38:54,620

off very nice very polite yeah within

950

00:38:58,690 --> 00:38:56,300

about 30 seconds was calling me every

951
00:39:00,130 --> 00:38:58,700
name under the Sun that had four letters

952
00:39:01,660 --> 00:39:00,140
in and everything I said hang on come

953
00:39:04,030 --> 00:39:01,670
down come down I hope you don't expect a

954
00:39:06,460 --> 00:39:04,040
carrot challenge this way he needed the

955
00:39:08,890 --> 00:39:06,470
money okay and there he was desperate

956
00:39:11,530 --> 00:39:08,900
together yeah he yeah he quickly got off

957
00:39:13,420 --> 00:39:11,540
on the wrong foot Gerald oh yeah but

958
00:39:15,310 --> 00:39:13,430
generally do you find people are polite

959
00:39:17,260 --> 00:39:15,320
yes scare most murmurs are very good

960
00:39:19,870 --> 00:39:17,270
mostly firmly believe in their talent

961
00:39:21,010 --> 00:39:19,880
and I and I mean we're happy to test

962
00:39:23,530 --> 00:39:21,020
them as long as we can get a good client

963
00:39:25,360 --> 00:39:23,540

a clear client that's wonderful thank

964

00:39:28,900 --> 00:39:25,370

you very much for talking with me to my

965

00:39:31,990 --> 00:39:28,910

pleasure and now i'm joined by Ray Ray

966

00:39:33,580 --> 00:39:32,000

has traveled even further than I have to

967

00:39:36,670 --> 00:39:33,590

come to skeptics in the pub this evening

968

00:39:39,460 --> 00:39:36,680

where are you from right Ralston Ralston

969

00:39:42,640 --> 00:39:39,470

so that's inland from katoomba one and a

970

00:39:45,510 --> 00:39:42,650

half hours yes goodness may have you

971

00:39:48,190 --> 00:39:45,520

enjoyed your night so far yes very much

972

00:39:51,100 --> 00:39:48,200

expertly talk by Richard that's very

973

00:39:52,900 --> 00:39:51,110

good to hear i'm wondering regarding the

974

00:39:55,630 --> 00:39:52,910

million-dollar challenge and also the

975

00:39:57,610 --> 00:39:55,640

australian skeptics \$100,000 challenge

976

00:39:59,620 --> 00:39:57,620

what sort of value do you think that

977

00:40:03,490 --> 00:39:59,630

these things have these days huge

978

00:40:05,050 --> 00:40:03,500

amounts because some in science they get

979

00:40:08,170 --> 00:40:05,060

put up before scientists and

980

00:40:11,089 --> 00:40:08,180

peer-reviewed and such and knock down if

981

00:40:13,870 --> 00:40:11,099

someone says that i can

982

00:40:16,370 --> 00:40:13,880

lift Nash tray or whatever it might be

983

00:40:18,769 --> 00:40:16,380

you can reply to them well that's

984

00:40:22,160 --> 00:40:18,779

excellent I know the perfect challenge

985

00:40:23,749 --> 00:40:22,170

for you and then send them off to this

986

00:40:26,029 --> 00:40:23,759

I've done that to a couple of people

987

00:40:29,299 --> 00:40:26,039

ought not people who can claim what they

988

00:40:32,150 --> 00:40:29,309

can do but people who said I know a

989

00:40:34,609 --> 00:40:32,160

person that can do this that's a whole

990

00:40:37,039 --> 00:40:34,619

excellent there's a challenge out there

991

00:40:39,920 --> 00:40:37,049

for them so it's something to enter into

992

00:40:43,099 --> 00:40:39,930

conversation to sort of say to people as

993

00:40:45,559 --> 00:40:43,109

a response to an interesting plan well

994

00:40:47,479 --> 00:40:45,569

you can do this as opposed to just to

995

00:40:48,950 --> 00:40:47,489

humoring them on their claim or asking

996

00:40:52,099 --> 00:40:48,960

them more about it or discussing it it's

997

00:40:55,130 --> 00:40:52,109

a by version perhaps to tell people that

998

00:40:58,999 --> 00:40:55,140

they can go to the skeptics yes but it's

999

00:41:00,769 --> 00:40:59,009

also saying that if these people can do

1000

00:41:03,380 --> 00:41:00,779

what they claim they can do they can

1001
00:41:06,289 --> 00:41:03,390
actually make money out of it ah and be

1002
00:41:08,630 --> 00:41:06,299
proven or disproven in case may be and

1003
00:41:12,710 --> 00:41:08,640
the good thing is skeptics aren't out to

1004
00:41:15,319 --> 00:41:12,720
disprove their out to actually try and

1005
00:41:16,519 --> 00:41:15,329
help them prove their claim that's

1006
00:41:19,489 --> 00:41:16,529
certainly I mean I think there's a

1007
00:41:22,009 --> 00:41:19,499
general sense that if somebody's claim

1008
00:41:24,620 --> 00:41:22,019
was proven to be true it would be

1009
00:41:27,229 --> 00:41:24,630
fascinating it wouldn't be a defeat for

1010
00:41:29,299 --> 00:41:27,239
the skeptics to be what do you think it

1011
00:41:30,920 --> 00:41:29,309
would turn the world upside down perhaps

1012
00:41:34,249 --> 00:41:30,930
literally depending on what that Bang

1013
00:41:37,880 --> 00:41:34,259

was yes thank you very much right no

1014

00:41:41,120 --> 00:41:37,890

worries and now i'm sitting here with

1015

00:41:43,640 --> 00:41:41,130

Eric hello Eric hey how are you I'm good

1016

00:41:46,130 --> 00:41:43,650

how are you yeah excellent I understand

1017

00:41:49,339 --> 00:41:46,140

you're actually visiting from America at

1018

00:41:51,700 --> 00:41:49,349

the moment yes I'm here attending a the

1019

00:41:53,520 --> 00:41:51,710

Uni working on a master's degree walking

1020

00:41:57,010 --> 00:41:53,530

masters can ask what you're studying

1021

00:41:58,630 --> 00:41:57,020

coaching psychology Oh psychology is so

1022

00:42:00,400 --> 00:41:58,640

you might have something to say about

1023

00:42:03,579 --> 00:42:00,410

some of the million-dollar challenges

1024

00:42:06,280 --> 00:42:03,589

here I'm actually asking people today

1025

00:42:08,140 --> 00:42:06,290

what sort of value do you think that the

1026

00:42:09,790 --> 00:42:08,150

JFS million-dollar challenge and the

1027

00:42:12,370 --> 00:42:09,800

Australian skeptics hundred thousand

1028

00:42:13,960 --> 00:42:12,380

dollar challenge have I think it

1029

00:42:17,020 --> 00:42:13,970

provides a lot of value in the sense

1030

00:42:18,520 --> 00:42:17,030

that you look at certain claims to

1031

00:42:21,180 --> 00:42:18,530

understand whether they provide some

1032

00:42:23,829 --> 00:42:21,190

efficacy or some true mahila clang and

1033

00:42:27,130 --> 00:42:23,839

that it can help individuals in the

1034

00:42:29,740 --> 00:42:27,140

general public sort of weed out some of

1035

00:42:32,079 --> 00:42:29,750

these claims that are not true yeah and

1036

00:42:35,260 --> 00:42:32,089

hopefully stop some of the money that's

1037

00:42:37,060 --> 00:42:35,270

been spent been so it can publicize some

1038

00:42:39,760 --> 00:42:37,070

of these claims that get made and

1039

00:42:41,230 --> 00:42:39,770

actually publicize them rather than the

1040

00:42:43,660 --> 00:42:41,240

claimants talking about them in the

1041

00:42:46,900 --> 00:42:43,670

media we're getting a bit of a more

1042

00:42:50,200 --> 00:42:46,910

skeptical view and a bit of a testing

1043

00:42:53,079 --> 00:42:50,210

going on there excellent how are you in

1044

00:42:54,820 --> 00:42:53,089

Australia for um I'll be here to

1045

00:42:57,640 --> 00:42:54,830

December only been here for a few months

1046

00:42:59,770 --> 00:42:57,650

yeah so only if you much more more left

1047

00:43:01,200 --> 00:42:59,780

to go well we're here every month if

1048

00:43:03,359 --> 00:43:01,210

you're interested in joining us again

1049

00:43:05,950 --> 00:43:03,369

yeah I'm definitely can see you cover

1050

00:43:09,040 --> 00:43:05,960

fantastic thank you very much tific

1051
00:43:11,140 --> 00:43:09,050
bye-bye now i'm here with Natalie

1052
00:43:13,300 --> 00:43:11,150
Natalie what do you think is the value

1053
00:43:15,310 --> 00:43:13,310
of the j refs million-dollar challenge

1054
00:43:16,839 --> 00:43:15,320
the australian skeptics hundred thousand

1055
00:43:18,440 --> 00:43:16,849
dollar challenge all the sceptical

1056
00:43:20,510 --> 00:43:18,450
challenges

1057
00:43:22,540 --> 00:43:20,520
well the value for me is when I'm having

1058
00:43:25,940 --> 00:43:22,550
conversations of people who have

1059
00:43:28,040 --> 00:43:25,950
alternative beliefs and such um I don't

1060
00:43:30,800 --> 00:43:28,050
have the scientific knowledge to be able

1061
00:43:33,230 --> 00:43:30,810
to argue with them and so much but it's

1062
00:43:35,900 --> 00:43:33,240
great to say when they're I'm confident

1063
00:43:38,599 --> 00:43:35,910

in their own beliefs and they're adamant

1064

00:43:40,760 --> 00:43:38,609

that they're true and such and I talk to

1065

00:43:42,560 --> 00:43:40,770

them about this challenge and they said

1066

00:43:44,300 --> 00:43:42,570

you know it's available let's say we

1067

00:43:46,190 --> 00:43:44,310

don't need the right now so yes but you

1068

00:43:48,050 --> 00:43:46,200

can use the money to donate to charity

1069

00:43:50,120 --> 00:43:48,060

or whatever you like but if you really

1070

00:43:51,859 --> 00:43:50,130

adamant that in your beliefs and you

1071

00:43:53,990 --> 00:43:51,869

want to prove it this is a way to do it

1072

00:43:56,599 --> 00:43:54,000

because its peer reviewed and it's done

1073

00:43:58,160 --> 00:43:56,609

in such a way do you find many of these

1074

00:43:59,690 --> 00:43:58,170

people do you think they want to be

1075

00:44:01,609 --> 00:43:59,700

tested or they just want to make their

1076

00:44:05,540 --> 00:44:01,619

claim without really having it checked

1077

00:44:08,390 --> 00:44:05,550

on I don't believe they have ever taken

1078

00:44:10,250 --> 00:44:08,400

it up about the challenge of course or

1079

00:44:14,569 --> 00:44:10,260

they haven't even looked it up but it's

1080

00:44:17,599 --> 00:44:14,579

effective oh it's easy to just say it's

1081

00:44:19,400 --> 00:44:17,609

there yeah give them the option and it

1082

00:44:21,050 --> 00:44:19,410

stops the arguments sometimes you

1083

00:44:22,730 --> 00:44:21,060

understand or not I'll give it people

1084

00:44:25,190 --> 00:44:22,740

you can you can go round and round in

1085

00:44:27,200 --> 00:44:25,200

exactly it's wonderful to be able to

1086

00:44:29,450 --> 00:44:27,210

refer people on to this circuit and the

1087

00:44:32,000 --> 00:44:29,460

onus is on them to prove themselves not

1088

00:44:35,809 --> 00:44:32,010

to me due to have to you know Basham

1089

00:44:37,309 --> 00:44:35,819

against it also and this is the fact ya

1090

00:44:40,819 --> 00:44:37,319

know that's very good thank you very

1091

00:44:43,460 --> 00:44:40,829

much earlier amazing and now I'm here

1092

00:44:45,230 --> 00:44:43,470

with Jason Brown who have been speaking

1093

00:44:46,880 --> 00:44:45,240

to online for quite a long while and I'm

1094

00:44:48,950 --> 00:44:46,890

meeting for the first time this evening

1095

00:44:50,660 --> 00:44:48,960

at Sydney skeptics in the pub good to

1096

00:44:53,540 --> 00:44:50,670

meet you haha Joe it's nice to meet you

1097

00:44:56,390 --> 00:44:53,550

here fantastic I'm asking people today

1098

00:44:57,890 --> 00:44:56,400

what value do you think the J refs

1099

00:44:59,480 --> 00:44:57,900

million dollar challenge and the

1100

00:45:01,280 --> 00:44:59,490

Australian skeptics hundred thousand

1101
00:45:04,040 --> 00:45:01,290
dollar challenge and all the skeptical

1102
00:45:05,930 --> 00:45:04,050
challengers have well there's a thought

1103
00:45:08,150 --> 00:45:05,940
I don't want everyone else has said but

1104
00:45:14,690 --> 00:45:08,160
I think

1105
00:45:17,920 --> 00:45:14,700
we've got come on bring it on ah ok so a

1106
00:45:20,390 --> 00:45:17,930
bit of bravado bit of bravado convert

1107
00:45:23,660 --> 00:45:20,400
excellent word I think that's what it is

1108
00:45:28,250 --> 00:45:23,670
I think it's like hey look science over

1109
00:45:29,809 --> 00:45:28,260
here yeah bring your leg up yeah yeah no

1110
00:45:32,599 --> 00:45:29,819
that's that's a different perspective

1111
00:45:35,359 --> 00:45:32,609
actually that's very interesting I think

1112
00:45:36,890 --> 00:45:35,369
we haven't had that yet oh good thank

1113
00:45:39,380 --> 00:45:36,900

you I like having a pittance it no one

1114

00:45:41,630 --> 00:45:39,390

else's job I'm one of them oh very

1115

00:46:03,120 --> 00:45:41,640

unique sleuth snowflake and I thank you

1116

00:46:07,419 --> 00:46:05,919

are you enjoying the skeptics on podcast

1117

00:46:09,849 --> 00:46:07,429

and wondering where you can find more

1118

00:46:11,589 --> 00:46:09,859

skeptical information skeptics on the

1119

00:46:13,509 --> 00:46:11,599

net is an online directory for

1120

00:46:15,579 --> 00:46:13,519

everything skeptical it features

1121

00:46:18,640 --> 00:46:15,589

listings for skeptical podcasts blogs

1122

00:46:20,799 --> 00:46:18,650

people local groups and more it also

1123

00:46:22,390 --> 00:46:20,809

includes the sotn blog where people in

1124

00:46:24,099 --> 00:46:22,400

the know right introductions to their

1125

00:46:42,249 --> 00:46:24,109

favorite skeptical and pseudo scientific

1126

00:46:52,579 --> 00:46:44,829

it'll take this with a grain of salt

1127

00:46:54,769 --> 00:46:52,589

he's around ticket I'm here with dr.

1128

00:46:57,380 --> 00:46:54,779

Elizabeth Bassani who's an

1129

00:47:00,049 --> 00:46:57,390

epidemiologist and she gave a talk this

1130

00:47:03,219 --> 00:47:00,059

morning about about AIDS in particular

1131

00:47:06,170 --> 00:47:03,229

HIV and AIDS amongst other things

1132

00:47:07,640 --> 00:47:06,180

Elizabeth can you give us a bit of a and

1133

00:47:09,410 --> 00:47:07,650

all of you of what we stuff was it your

1134

00:47:11,059 --> 00:47:09,420

talk was about well I'm interested that

1135

00:47:13,910 --> 00:47:11,069

you said that I gave a talk about HIV

1136

00:47:16,120 --> 00:47:13,920

and AIDS and I'm glad that you said that

1137

00:47:20,239 --> 00:47:16,130

because many people still use the term

1138

00:47:22,160 --> 00:47:20,249

hiv/aids with an implied hyphen maybe

1139

00:47:24,380 --> 00:47:22,170

between the two but seeing the two as

1140

00:47:25,939 --> 00:47:24,390

really one epidemic and I guess the

1141

00:47:27,910 --> 00:47:25,949

point that I was trying to make this

1142

00:47:31,039 --> 00:47:27,920

morning was that these are now two

1143

00:47:34,729 --> 00:47:31,049

completely separate epidemics and the

1144

00:47:37,699 --> 00:47:34,739

AIDS epidemic is essentially if not

1145

00:47:41,029 --> 00:47:37,709

beaten quite yet definitely on the wane

1146

00:47:43,999 --> 00:47:41,039

the HIV epidemic on the other hand is

1147

00:47:46,309 --> 00:47:44,009

growing and our failure to recognize the

1148

00:47:48,829 --> 00:47:46,319

difference between those two things is

1149

00:47:51,620 --> 00:47:48,839

one of the things that is making it

1150

00:47:54,589 --> 00:47:51,630

difficult for us to actually address HIV

1151
00:47:56,630 --> 00:47:54,599
effectively obviously we have in some

1152
00:47:58,759 --> 00:47:56,640
solutions now the entry antiretroviral

1153
00:48:02,059 --> 00:47:58,769
drugs that help with fur controlling

1154
00:48:04,670 --> 00:48:02,069
AIDS why is why are we not able to

1155
00:48:08,359 --> 00:48:04,680
control HIV in the same way well because

1156
00:48:10,459 --> 00:48:08,369
HIV has become completely invisible HIV

1157
00:48:12,199 --> 00:48:10,469
is invisible it only becomes visible

1158
00:48:14,089 --> 00:48:12,209
when it progresses to AIDS now that

1159
00:48:16,219 --> 00:48:14,099
we've got effective treatment very few

1160
00:48:19,749 --> 00:48:16,229
people are progressing to AIDS in any

1161
00:48:23,900 --> 00:48:19,759
visible way and what that means is that

1162
00:48:26,299 --> 00:48:23,910
no one is walking into a bar with their

1163
00:48:28,699 --> 00:48:26,309

face covered in kaposi sarcoma getting

1164

00:48:30,799 --> 00:48:28,709

thinner and thinner every week no one is

1165

00:48:33,979 --> 00:48:30,809

spending as I did when I was in my teens

1166

00:48:36,229 --> 00:48:33,989

their weekends at funerals of friends

1167

00:48:40,189 --> 00:48:36,239

weekend after weekend after weekend

1168

00:48:44,140 --> 00:48:40,199

there is no visible face to HIV and so

1169

00:48:46,329 --> 00:48:44,150

people are not as aware of it and

1170

00:48:49,210 --> 00:48:46,339

be those that are aware of it aren't as

1171

00:48:51,519 --> 00:48:49,220

frightened of it now I would say that

1172

00:48:53,289 --> 00:48:51,529

that's probably a good thing you know

1173

00:48:55,390 --> 00:48:53,299

there's a reason for them not to be as

1174

00:49:00,640 --> 00:48:55,400

frightened of it because it's not as

1175

00:49:02,440 --> 00:49:00,650

scary so it's a pill a day it's a bit of

1176

00:49:04,180 --> 00:49:02,450

a pain because you're going to have to

1177

00:49:06,609 --> 00:49:04,190

have that conversation with anyone you

1178

00:49:09,339 --> 00:49:06,619

sleep with well you're probably going to

1179

00:49:12,190 --> 00:49:09,349

have to have that conversation by the

1180

00:49:15,039 --> 00:49:12,200

way something you should know I'm

1181

00:49:19,180 --> 00:49:15,049

infected but more and more people are

1182

00:49:21,130 --> 00:49:19,190

not even having that conversation what

1183

00:49:24,880 --> 00:49:21,140

that means is that transmission is

1184

00:49:28,660 --> 00:49:24,890

continuing because the private cost of

1185

00:49:30,549 --> 00:49:28,670

being infected is actually very low it's

1186

00:49:32,079 --> 00:49:30,559

taking a pill every day essentially now

1187

00:49:33,940 --> 00:49:32,089

that's something that I've done for 30

1188

00:49:36,010 --> 00:49:33,950

years I've taken a pill every day so

1189

00:49:38,079 --> 00:49:36,020

that I can have as much sex as I want

1190

00:49:41,109 --> 00:49:38,089

without suffering the appalling

1191

00:49:43,990 --> 00:49:41,119

consequences of promiscuity among them

1192

00:49:47,920 --> 00:49:44,000

pregnancy so I've taken a pill every day

1193

00:49:51,519 --> 00:49:47,930

to avoid that perfectly happily and I

1194

00:49:53,769 --> 00:49:51,529

think that it's a it's a behavior that

1195

00:49:58,269 --> 00:49:53,779

many people are perfectly happy to live

1196

00:50:03,220 --> 00:49:58,279

with the problem is that the public cost

1197

00:50:06,490 --> 00:50:03,230

of HIV is still very very high so people

1198

00:50:12,150 --> 00:50:06,500

are on expensive medications for life

1199

00:50:15,809 --> 00:50:12,160

and the risk of developing mutations and

1200

00:50:18,430 --> 00:50:15,819

developing non treatable forms of HIV

1201
00:50:20,319 --> 00:50:18,440
increase with the number of people who

1202
00:50:22,120 --> 00:50:20,329
are infected in the population and are

1203
00:50:24,279 --> 00:50:22,130
still sexually active and transmitting

1204
00:50:27,490 --> 00:50:24,289
the virus so the public cost is very

1205
00:50:29,980 --> 00:50:27,500
high but people don't make decisions in

1206
00:50:32,500 --> 00:50:29,990
their sex lives or in their injecting

1207
00:50:35,260 --> 00:50:32,510
lives about things that are a cost to

1208
00:50:36,279 --> 00:50:35,270
the taxpayer they only make decisions

1209
00:50:40,120 --> 00:50:36,289
about things that are a cost to

1210
00:50:42,700 --> 00:50:40,130
themselves but there was a time from the

1211
00:50:44,859 --> 00:50:42,710
late 80s till the mid 90s where

1212
00:50:46,539 --> 00:50:44,869
particularly in gay communities in the

1213
00:50:48,700 --> 00:50:46,549

Australian case but also among drug

1214

00:50:50,859 --> 00:50:48,710

injectors people were exceptionally

1215

00:50:53,200 --> 00:50:50,869

aware of the risk of AIDS and actually

1216

00:50:56,180 --> 00:50:53,210

were changing their behavior quite a bit

1217

00:50:58,520 --> 00:50:56,190

because of that so condom use rose to

1218

00:51:00,770 --> 00:50:58,530

really remarkably high levels and it's

1219

00:51:02,329 --> 00:51:00,780

now sunk right back down again so do you

1220

00:51:04,130 --> 00:51:02,339

find that the younger generation are

1221

00:51:06,559 --> 00:51:04,140

less aware of the risk of AIDS or the

1222

00:51:08,870 --> 00:51:06,569

less conscious of it perhaps well the

1223

00:51:11,329 --> 00:51:08,880

point is there is no risk of AIDS for

1224

00:51:12,290 --> 00:51:11,339

them there's a risk of acquiring HIV but

1225

00:51:14,120 --> 00:51:12,300

they're not going to get AIDS because

1226

00:51:16,460 --> 00:51:14,130

they'll get treatment so AIDS has

1227

00:51:20,839 --> 00:51:16,470

disappeared so are they less aware of

1228

00:51:22,790 --> 00:51:20,849

the risk of HIV I think yes because are

1229

00:51:25,130 --> 00:51:22,800

they less aware of it I don't know do

1230

00:51:27,109 --> 00:51:25,140

they care less about it yes because

1231

00:51:29,300 --> 00:51:27,119

there is now no longer or really any

1232

00:51:33,920 --> 00:51:29,310

practical risk of AIDS or you know end

1233

00:51:38,180 --> 00:51:33,930

of a of a protracted ugly and very

1234

00:51:40,339 --> 00:51:38,190

painful death in their early adult ears

1235

00:51:44,359 --> 00:51:40,349

which is what used to happen yeah the

1236

00:51:45,530 --> 00:51:44,369

Gremory Reapers it's gone exactly so you

1237

00:51:48,140 --> 00:51:45,540

don't want to terrify people I suppose

1238

00:51:49,910 --> 00:51:48,150

nowadays but but you do want to send a

1239

00:51:51,410 --> 00:51:49,920

very strong message you don't want to

1240

00:51:53,690 --> 00:51:51,420

terrify people partly because there's

1241

00:51:57,980 --> 00:51:53,700

nothing to be terrified of to the extent

1242

00:52:01,280 --> 00:51:57,990

that HIV genuinely is not at the

1243

00:52:03,170 --> 00:52:01,290

personal level something to be terrified

1244

00:52:05,390 --> 00:52:03,180

of I mean pregnancy is much more

1245

00:52:07,910 --> 00:52:05,400

life-changing consequence of sex than

1246

00:52:11,750 --> 00:52:07,920

than HIV is these days I have three boys

1247

00:52:15,950 --> 00:52:11,760

yet you've convinced me exactly but I

1248

00:52:19,910 --> 00:52:15,960

feel that that we really have not found

1249

00:52:22,790 --> 00:52:19,920

a way to make a case for for--why to

1250

00:52:25,790 --> 00:52:22,800

avoid HIV we go on telling people how to

1251
00:52:28,819 --> 00:52:25,800
avoid HIV but we haven't made a case for

1252
00:52:30,920 --> 00:52:28,829
why to avoid HIV in a post AIDS world

1253
00:52:32,870 --> 00:52:30,930
there is a public message problem and

1254
00:52:36,589 --> 00:52:32,880
the public message problem is in

1255
00:52:40,250 --> 00:52:36,599
large part I think because the agenda

1256
00:52:42,410 --> 00:52:40,260
has changed so radically so quickly that

1257
00:52:45,559 --> 00:52:42,420
many of the people who are still in

1258
00:52:48,589 --> 00:52:45,569
charge of shaping the message don't

1259
00:52:51,170 --> 00:52:48,599
actually get the fact that it's changed

1260
00:52:54,020 --> 00:52:51,180
you know we're still so imbued with that

1261
00:52:56,120 --> 00:52:54,030
whole HIV leads to AIDS leads to death

1262
00:52:58,099 --> 00:52:56,130
therefore it's terrible that we don't

1263
00:53:00,829 --> 00:52:58,109

get the fact that it genuinely is not

1264

00:53:03,170 --> 00:53:00,839

terrible anymore from a public point of

1265

00:53:06,620 --> 00:53:03,180

view it's terrible it's incredibly

1266

00:53:09,520 --> 00:53:06,630

expensive to deal with there are huge

1267

00:53:10,630 --> 00:53:09,530

risks of resistance to

1268

00:53:13,270 --> 00:53:10,640

a big and that would take us right back

1269

00:53:17,800 --> 00:53:13,280

to nineteen eighty-four but there's also

1270

00:53:20,890 --> 00:53:17,810

you know unpleasant consequences of

1271

00:53:24,850 --> 00:53:20,900

treatment there are issues of disclosure

1272

00:53:27,070 --> 00:53:24,860

that lead to issues of stigma does exist

1273

00:53:30,280 --> 00:53:27,080

although probably not nearly as badly as

1274

00:53:32,380 --> 00:53:30,290

some of the dinosaurs believe I really

1275

00:53:34,480 --> 00:53:32,390

think that we need to have a whole new

1276
00:53:37,180 --> 00:53:34,490
generation thinking about this disease

1277
00:53:38,590 --> 00:53:37,190
out with the dinosaurs so I'm going to

1278
00:53:40,630 --> 00:53:38,600
shut up about it and leave it to the new

1279
00:53:42,070 --> 00:53:40,640
generation so you consider yourself to

1280
00:53:43,690 --> 00:53:42,080
be one of the dinosaurs because you just

1281
00:53:45,790 --> 00:53:43,700
because he sounds to me like you're

1282
00:53:47,770 --> 00:53:45,800
quite an original thinker definitely the

1283
00:53:49,270 --> 00:53:47,780
talk today was not the kind of thing

1284
00:53:51,430 --> 00:53:49,280
that I would have expected to hear from

1285
00:53:56,500 --> 00:53:51,440
a public health advocates in this area

1286
00:54:00,280 --> 00:53:56,510
so HIV transmission is hugely dependent

1287
00:54:02,740 --> 00:54:00,290
on what we call very Mia the amount of

1288
00:54:06,390 --> 00:54:02,750

essentially the amount of free virus in

1289

00:54:10,300 --> 00:54:06,400

your blood and your genital fluids and

1290

00:54:12,880 --> 00:54:10,310

that is something that is extremely time

1291

00:54:14,650 --> 00:54:12,890

dependent so its highest just after you

1292

00:54:16,510 --> 00:54:14,660

first become infected when you almost

1293

00:54:21,010 --> 00:54:16,520

certainly don't know you're infected and

1294

00:54:24,250 --> 00:54:21,020

probably when you're in what I'll use

1295

00:54:27,880 --> 00:54:24,260

the technical term a phase so all

1296

00:54:31,810 --> 00:54:27,890

of our models of HIV transmission tend

1297

00:54:33,910 --> 00:54:31,820

to be structured around averages so we

1298

00:54:36,010 --> 00:54:33,920

have an average number of partners in a

1299

00:54:38,080 --> 00:54:36,020

year and we have an average number of

1300

00:54:40,060 --> 00:54:38,090

sex acts with a partner and we have an

1301
00:54:42,220 --> 00:54:40,070
average proportion of condom use in

1302
00:54:45,220 --> 00:54:42,230
those sex acts and etc but as I'm sure

1303
00:54:48,250 --> 00:54:45,230
you know our lives are not lived in

1304
00:54:49,720 --> 00:54:48,260
averages our lives or lived in phases

1305
00:54:52,180 --> 00:54:49,730
and you can be in a long-term

1306
00:54:54,310 --> 00:54:52,190
relationship for a long time and then it

1307
00:54:55,900 --> 00:54:54,320
breaks up and then you go and you hit

1308
00:54:58,450 --> 00:54:55,910
the clubs and you play the field for a

1309
00:54:59,980 --> 00:54:58,460
bit and you may turn over more partners

1310
00:55:01,930 --> 00:54:59,990
in that three-month period then you have

1311
00:55:04,150 --> 00:55:01,940
in the previous four years and then you

1312
00:55:06,070 --> 00:55:04,160
settle down again and then oh you have

1313
00:55:09,040 --> 00:55:06,080

another phase it's in those

1314

00:55:12,070 --> 00:55:09,050

phases that you're most likely to

1315

00:55:13,900 --> 00:55:12,080

contract HIV and it's in those

1316

00:55:15,850 --> 00:55:13,910

phases that you're most likely to pass

1317

00:55:18,160 --> 00:55:15,860

on HIV because you're having a large

1318

00:55:21,160 --> 00:55:18,170

number of partners in a short period of

1319

00:55:22,840 --> 00:55:21,170

time when you're likely to be highly

1320

00:55:25,330 --> 00:55:22,850

infectious so

1321

00:55:27,100 --> 00:55:25,340

by the time you're out of your

1322

00:55:29,710 --> 00:55:27,110

vision in your stable relationship we've

1323

00:55:31,510 --> 00:55:29,720

probably your that your antibody

1324

00:55:33,370 --> 00:55:31,520

response has kicked in you've brought

1325

00:55:36,130 --> 00:55:33,380

down your viral load and you're much

1326

00:55:38,380 --> 00:55:36,140

less likely to pass it on so there's

1327

00:55:41,350 --> 00:55:38,390

much less transmission in long-term

1328

00:55:44,350 --> 00:55:41,360

stable partnerships then there is during

1329

00:55:47,680 --> 00:55:44,360

the period of rapid turnover for viral

1330

00:55:50,200 --> 00:55:47,690

ah gical reasons as well as for the

1331

00:55:53,500 --> 00:55:50,210

reasons of mathematical numbers of

1332

00:55:56,410 --> 00:55:53,510

partnerships so what does that mean it

1333

00:55:58,990 --> 00:55:56,420

means that HIV transmission happens in

1334

00:56:02,350 --> 00:55:59,000

settings where people are turning over

1335

00:56:05,260 --> 00:56:02,360

partners rapidly in a short space of

1336

00:56:10,230 --> 00:56:05,270

time what about abstinence abstinence

1337

00:56:13,690 --> 00:56:10,240

works very very well technically

1338

00:56:15,490 --> 00:56:13,700

unfortunately behaviorally it doesn't

1339

00:56:17,860 --> 00:56:15,500

work so well so abstinence works

1340

00:56:20,950 --> 00:56:17,870

perfectly for those that use it

1341

00:56:23,940 --> 00:56:20,960

consistently yeah ah not many of them my

1342

00:56:29,580 --> 00:56:23,950

experience that's not many of those and

1343

00:56:33,610 --> 00:56:29,590

for those that are practicing that I

1344

00:56:37,630 --> 00:56:33,620

chapeau and I'm sorry for you yeah you

1345

00:56:39,610 --> 00:56:37,640

know I I can't remember who said it but

1346

00:56:42,340 --> 00:56:39,620

there's there's a quote I really like

1347

00:56:45,310 --> 00:56:42,350

and that is that abstinence-only sex

1348

00:56:49,420 --> 00:56:45,320

education is like just holding to potty

1349

00:56:52,360 --> 00:56:49,430

training sir may not may not necessarily

1350

00:56:53,830 --> 00:56:52,370

work that's that's right i mean it does

1351
00:56:55,750 --> 00:56:53,840
work technically and you should again

1352
00:56:59,260 --> 00:56:55,760
you shouldn't dis it for those for whom

1353
00:57:00,550 --> 00:56:59,270
it works great one more thing that i

1354
00:57:02,050 --> 00:57:00,560
want to go back to with rue does the

1355
00:57:04,630 --> 00:57:02,060
circumcision you mentioned earlier that

1356
00:57:06,010 --> 00:57:04,640
you've had the nastiest oh i don't

1357
00:57:08,610 --> 00:57:06,020
remember that nastiest was the word he

1358
00:57:10,540 --> 00:57:08,620
used but used some word to describe the

1359
00:57:14,980 --> 00:57:10,550
emails that you got from the

1360
00:57:18,460 --> 00:57:14,990
anti-circumcision lobbyists i suppose as

1361
00:57:20,430 --> 00:57:18,470
the it's the most most extreme so can

1362
00:57:23,819 --> 00:57:20,440
you talk about that a little

1363
00:57:26,970 --> 00:57:23,829

yeah I can't even I've buried them in my

1364

00:57:30,120 --> 00:57:26,980

hate mail file somewhere and but yeah

1365

00:57:36,690 --> 00:57:30,130

I've always been really interested by

1366

00:57:41,069 --> 00:57:36,700

this visceral rejection of circumcision

1367

00:57:43,740 --> 00:57:41,079

all I'm saying is here's the science the

1368

00:57:46,530 --> 00:57:43,750

science suggests that lopping off your

1369

00:57:49,530 --> 00:57:46,540

foreskin reduces the likelihood that you

1370

00:57:52,470 --> 00:57:49,540

will contract HIV by about sixty percent

1371

00:57:57,030 --> 00:57:52,480

in a high prevalence heterosexual

1372

00:58:00,750 --> 00:57:57,040

setting now that's all I'm saying if you

1373

00:58:04,530 --> 00:58:00,760

believe that that is somehow advocating

1374

00:58:07,500 --> 00:58:04,540

for the mutilation of helpless babies or

1375

00:58:11,579 --> 00:58:07,510

whatever that's your problem but do i

1376

00:58:16,170 --> 00:58:11,589

I've so I now have a block on no sorg

1377

00:58:18,720 --> 00:58:16,180

and and and other organizations that

1378

00:58:23,550 --> 00:58:18,730

feel strongly about this because I have

1379

00:58:25,890 --> 00:58:23,560

no axe to grind no scalpel to sharpen in

1380

00:58:27,480 --> 00:58:25,900

this debate I'm just saying that that's

1381

00:58:29,520 --> 00:58:27,490

what the science has no penis in this

1382

00:58:32,550 --> 00:58:29,530

game I have no penis in this game I

1383

00:58:35,010 --> 00:58:32,560

would say however as someone who doesn't

1384

00:58:37,290 --> 00:58:35,020

have a penis in this game that one of

1385

00:58:41,790 --> 00:58:37,300

the things that amuses me about the

1386

00:58:43,980 --> 00:58:41,800

circumcision debate or the screaming

1387

00:58:45,720 --> 00:58:43,990

match perhaps that goes on around this

1388

00:58:48,440 --> 00:58:45,730

is that one of the things you don't

1389

00:58:51,630 --> 00:58:48,450

understand but you know the it

1390

00:58:53,579 --> 00:58:51,640

circumcision reduces sensitivity for man

1391

00:58:56,430 --> 00:58:53,589

therefore you're reducing our sexual

1392

00:59:00,589 --> 00:58:56,440

pleasure etcetera etcetera now I am a

1393

00:59:04,550 --> 00:59:00,599

woman and you know women are blessed

1394

00:59:08,880 --> 00:59:04,560

thank the Lord guys are always like

1395

00:59:11,040 --> 00:59:08,890

people who complain about discrimination

1396

00:59:13,920 --> 00:59:11,050

against women always forget this but you

1397

00:59:18,780 --> 00:59:13,930

know we get the multiple orgasms thank

1398

00:59:21,480 --> 00:59:18,790

you lord so so as a woman capable of

1399

00:59:23,700 --> 00:59:21,490

multiple orgasms the fact that your

1400

00:59:26,069 --> 00:59:23,710

sensitivity is slightly reduced and

1401

00:59:30,809 --> 00:59:26,079

therefore that you're going to keep at

1402

00:59:32,180 --> 00:59:30,819

it slightly longer it's not really a

1403

00:59:36,390 --> 00:59:32,190

great problem from

1404

00:59:38,700 --> 00:59:36,400

so guys tend to think always about their

1405

00:59:40,410 --> 00:59:38,710

sexual pleasure but if any part of their

1406

00:59:44,400 --> 00:59:40,420

sexual pleasure comes from delivering

1407

00:59:48,090 --> 00:59:44,410

sexual satisfaction then a slightly

1408

00:59:50,160 --> 00:59:48,100

reduced sensitivity is probably no bad

1409

00:59:52,970 --> 00:59:50,170

thing now I'm not going to give you the

1410

00:59:56,010 --> 00:59:52,980

N of my study but on the whole

1411

00:59:58,890 --> 00:59:56,020

circumcised guys are generally better

1412

01:00:00,960 --> 00:59:58,900

lays than uncircumcised guys and I'm not

1413

01:00:17,280 --> 01:00:00,970

very positive note we want in this

1414

01:00:18,810 --> 01:00:17,290

interview thank you very much ilysm this

1415

01:00:20,790 --> 01:00:18,820

is jay novella from the skeptics guide

1416

01:00:22,380 --> 01:00:20,800

to the universe podcast did you know

1417

01:00:24,360 --> 01:00:22,390

that there are thousands of skeptical

1418

01:00:26,190 --> 01:00:24,370

reports interviews and investigations

1419

01:00:29,940 --> 01:00:26,200

going back to nineteen eighty one free

1420

01:00:32,460 --> 01:00:29,950

to download just visit w WC ethics com a

1421

01:00:33,990 --> 01:00:32,470

you click the publications link and

1422

01:00:35,820 --> 01:00:34,000

enjoy almost every back issue of the

1423

01:00:38,010 --> 01:00:35,830

skeptic the journal from Australian

1424

01:00:39,720 --> 01:00:38,020

skeptics you can also subscribe online

1425

01:00:41,730 --> 01:00:39,730

and get the latest digital or hard copy

1426

01:00:44,910 --> 01:00:41,740

of this the world's second oldest

1427

01:00:47,520 --> 01:00:44,920

skeptical magazine that's ww skeptics

1428

01:00:53,620 --> 01:00:47,530

come to you or just google Australian

1429

01:01:07,950 --> 01:01:03,950

you

1430

01:01:10,110 --> 01:01:07,960

zone don't forget the Australian

1431

01:01:12,030 --> 01:01:10,120

skeptics national convention is coming

1432

01:01:17,940 --> 01:01:12,040

up and you can check out all the details

1433

01:01:19,950 --> 01:01:17,950

at convention dot skeptics com au and

1434

01:01:22,830 --> 01:01:19,960

kicks off on the twenty-eighth for

1435

01:01:25,200 --> 01:01:22,840

november this year 28th 29th and 30th of

1436

01:01:26,640 --> 01:01:25,210

november really looking forward to that

1437

01:01:29,070 --> 01:01:26,650

we're going to have a lot of

1438

01:01:31,590 --> 01:01:29,080

international guests including the

1439

01:01:34,530 --> 01:01:31,600

skeptics guide to the universe crew

1440

01:01:36,210 --> 01:01:34,540

can't wait to see them dr. carl cruising

1441

01:01:39,480 --> 01:01:36,220

iski and all sorts of other people dr.

1442

01:01:43,710 --> 01:01:39,490

Rachel be giving a talk of course and i

1443

01:01:45,380 --> 01:01:43,720

think the convention committee I think

1444

01:01:47,940 --> 01:01:45,390

the convention committee have been

1445

01:01:50,100 --> 01:01:47,950

hinting to me that they're going to be

1446

01:01:52,980 --> 01:01:50,110

announcing some more guests very soon

1447

01:01:54,720 --> 01:01:52,990

that should be really exciting now our

1448

01:01:57,090 --> 01:01:54,730

good friends at the Victorian skeptics

1449

01:01:59,160 --> 01:01:57,100

have let me know that they have arranged

1450

01:02:01,080 --> 01:01:59,170

a dinner at dinner with Lawrence Krauss

1451

01:02:04,590 --> 01:02:01,090

and this is happening on the

1452

01:02:08,190 --> 01:02:04,600

twenty-ninth of August details at Vic

1453

01:02:10,290 --> 01:02:08,200

skeptics wordpress com but the blurb

1454

01:02:11,850 --> 01:02:10,300

says the Victorian skeptics are pleased

1455

01:02:15,300 --> 01:02:11,860

to announce a special event featuring

1456

01:02:18,570 --> 01:02:15,310

cosmologist Lawrence Krauss Lawrence is

1457

01:02:21,150 --> 01:02:18,580

presenting a talk entitled an update on

1458

01:02:23,400 --> 01:02:21,160

cosmology and thoughts on education

1459

01:02:26,040 --> 01:02:23,410

Lawrence is well known for his critical

1460

01:02:27,510 --> 01:02:26,050

thinking and promotion of science the

1461

01:02:29,670 --> 01:02:27,520

dinner and talk will be held at the

1462

01:02:31,920 --> 01:02:29,680

University of Melbourne graduate house

1463

01:02:35,010 --> 01:02:31,930

and they're telling me tickets are

1464

01:02:38,430 --> 01:02:35,020

already selling fast an extra special

1465

01:02:40,380 --> 01:02:38,440

event again if you're in the melbourne

1466

01:02:41,820 --> 01:02:40,390

area or if you're in Victoria you might

1467

01:02:45,210 --> 01:02:41,830

want to check this out in fact I think

1468

01:02:48,060 --> 01:02:45,220

you should Vic skeptics dot wordpress

1469

01:02:50,820 --> 01:02:48,070

com for all the details that date again

1470

01:02:54,120 --> 01:02:50,830

is the 29th of August a dinner and a

1471

01:02:55,710 --> 01:02:54,130

talk with Lawrence Krauss and a little

1472

01:02:59,430 --> 01:02:55,720

update on the vaccinations chronicles

1473

01:03:01,500 --> 01:02:59,440

DVD wow it's wrong well I guess it is

1474

01:03:04,470 --> 01:03:01,510

finished in a matter of speaking it's um

1475

01:03:06,630 --> 01:03:04,480

a work in progress I've put out a few

1476

01:03:10,080 --> 01:03:06,640

review test copies out there for people

1477

01:03:12,260 --> 01:03:10,090

to to try on their systems to see if the

1478

01:03:14,460 --> 01:03:12,270

sound works and all the links work and

1479

01:03:17,309 --> 01:03:14,470

subtitles look about right I'm getting

1480

01:03:18,689 --> 01:03:17,319

more subtitles every week which is

1481

01:03:20,849 --> 01:03:18,699

really cool then I can just add them

1482

01:03:24,719 --> 01:03:20,859

progressively i think i'm getting

1483

01:03:26,339 --> 01:03:24,729

russian soon Oh still very interesting

1484

01:03:28,529 --> 01:03:26,349

work but as soon as that's more or less

1485

01:03:30,269 --> 01:03:28,539

ready to go out there and finish them

1486

01:03:33,089 --> 01:03:30,279

I'll let you know and then I'll just

1487

01:03:36,390 --> 01:03:33,099

have to work out a way you can get a

1488

01:03:37,979 --> 01:03:36,400

copy of that DVD and when I work that

1489

01:03:40,349 --> 01:03:37,989

out it won't cost very much because

1490

01:03:43,199 --> 01:03:40,359

because the only thing I'm interested in

1491

01:03:46,199 --> 01:03:43,209

is just recouping production costs which

1492

01:03:48,509 --> 01:03:46,209

and all that fantastically big anyway

1493

01:03:50,759 --> 01:03:48,519

more news about that well hopefully next

1494

01:03:52,739 --> 01:03:50,769

week but for this week this is Richard

1495

01:03:57,839 --> 01:03:52,749

Saunders signing off from Sydney

1496

01:04:01,559 --> 01:03:57,849

Australia you've been listening to the

1497

01:04:05,249 --> 01:04:01,569

skeptic zone visit our website at www

1498

01:04:08,610 --> 01:04:05,259

skipped exhume TV for comments contacts

1499

01:04:11,720 --> 01:04:08,620

and extra video reports

1500

01:04:21,250 --> 01:04:11,730

I skin

