

**SKEPTIC
ZONE**



THINKING CAPS
MUST BE WORN
IN THIS AREA

The
Podcast
from
Australia
for
Science
and
Reason

www.skepticzone.tv

1
00:00:25,640 --> 00:00:23,420
hello Richard Saunders here from Sydney

2
00:00:29,319 --> 00:00:25,650
Australia welcome to the skeptic zone

3
00:00:33,740 --> 00:00:29,329
show number 14 for the 23rd of January

4
00:00:35,509 --> 00:00:33,750
2009 a special episode later on we'll

5
00:00:38,090 --> 00:00:35,519
have some highlights from my adventure

6
00:00:40,310 --> 00:00:38,100
up the coast of Alaska with James Randi

7
00:00:42,950 --> 00:00:40,320
Phil Plait rebecca watson and many

8
00:00:45,619 --> 00:00:42,960
others but before then we have a special

9
00:00:48,860 --> 00:00:45,629
interview conducted by Kylie Sturgis

10
00:00:50,210 --> 00:00:48,870
with Jon Ronson Jon Ronson has written a

11
00:00:52,520 --> 00:00:50,220
book called the men who stare at goats

12
00:00:54,950 --> 00:00:52,530
which is currently being turned into a

13
00:01:03,079 --> 00:00:54,960

feature film starring such big names as

14

00:01:05,479 --> 00:01:03,089

well let's find out Jon Ronson is a

15

00:01:07,310 --> 00:01:05,489

writer and a documentary maker whose

16

00:01:09,350 --> 00:01:07,320

regular appearances in British

17

00:01:12,350 --> 00:01:09,360

publications include the Guardian

18

00:01:15,080 --> 00:01:12,360

newspaper and time out magazine he has

19

00:01:17,359 --> 00:01:15,090

even investigated a UFO conference with

20

00:01:19,580 --> 00:01:17,369

singer Robbie Williams and a character

21

00:01:22,520 --> 00:01:19,590

based upon Watson will soon be played by

22

00:01:25,930 --> 00:01:22,530

Ewan McGregor in a film starring George

23

00:01:29,210 --> 00:01:25,940

Clooney about not so psychic soldiers

24

00:01:31,760 --> 00:01:29,220

Jon Ronson's first book them adventures

25

00:01:33,620 --> 00:01:31,770

with extremists is an investigative

26

00:01:36,290 --> 00:01:33,630

account of his experiences with the

27

00:01:38,600 --> 00:01:36,300

likes of David Icke Randy Weaver Omar

28

00:01:41,690 --> 00:01:38,610

Bakri Mohammed and their conspiracy

29

00:01:44,240 --> 00:01:41,700

theory views he also follows independent

30

00:01:47,810 --> 00:01:44,250

investigators of secretive organizations

31

00:01:50,600 --> 00:01:47,820

such as the Bilderberg Group his second

32

00:01:52,760 --> 00:01:50,610

book the men who stare at goats deals

33

00:01:54,830 --> 00:01:52,770

with the secret new-age unit that was

34

00:01:57,050 --> 00:01:54,840

within the u.s. army called the first

35

00:01:59,120 --> 00:01:57,060

Earth battalion and why they believed

36

00:02:02,330 --> 00:01:59,130

people could walk through walls and even

37

00:02:04,340 --> 00:02:02,340

kill goats simply by staring at them the

38

00:02:07,490 --> 00:02:04,350

men who stare at goats is currently in

39

00:02:09,859 --> 00:02:07,500

production as a Hollywood movie his

40

00:02:11,720 --> 00:02:09,869

collections of essays include out of the

41

00:02:15,500 --> 00:02:11,730

ordinary true tales of everyday

42

00:02:18,020 --> 00:02:15,510

craziness and what I do more to tales of

43

00:02:19,880 --> 00:02:18,030

everyday craziness you can even read his

44

00:02:22,460 --> 00:02:19,890

account of attending a cruise with

45

00:02:25,550 --> 00:02:22,470

suppose that psychic Sylvia Browne on

46

00:02:27,860 --> 00:02:25,560

the Guardian newspaper website Jon

47

00:02:30,320 --> 00:02:27,870

Ronson also presents at the skeptics in

48

00:02:31,490 --> 00:02:30,330

the pub in the UK and he currently spoke

49

00:02:38,780 --> 00:02:31,500

to us from his home in

50

00:02:40,580 --> 00:02:38,790

the skeptics are John first of all thank

51
00:02:42,320 --> 00:02:40,590
you so much for joining us thanks to the

52
00:02:43,790 --> 00:02:42,330
wonders of technology we are now

53
00:02:46,760 --> 00:02:43,800
chatting to you all the way over there

54
00:02:49,340 --> 00:02:46,770
in London yeah yeah I'm being purchased

55
00:02:52,490 --> 00:02:49,350
by Richard and sickness just amazing

56
00:02:54,140 --> 00:02:52,500
yeah welcome to 2009 certainly one of

57
00:02:55,850 --> 00:02:54,150
the wonderful things about your work is

58
00:02:58,160 --> 00:02:55,860
that it's growing more and more in

59
00:02:59,900 --> 00:02:58,170
popularity the second book that you

60
00:03:01,880 --> 00:02:59,910
wrote the men who stared at goats is

61
00:03:04,640 --> 00:03:01,890
going to become a feature film soon

62
00:03:06,800 --> 00:03:04,650
knife I've read and I know yeah yeah you

63
00:03:08,449 --> 00:03:06,810

can't tell us too much about what is

64

00:03:10,820 --> 00:03:08,459

going to be involved but what can you

65

00:03:12,530 --> 00:03:10,830

tell us about the journey whatever you

66

00:03:14,750 --> 00:03:12,540

having a family yeah what minute boys

67

00:03:16,550 --> 00:03:14,760

feed them it's been fantastic to witness

68

00:03:20,479 --> 00:03:16,560

it all happen in it the guy my spell is

69

00:03:21,949 --> 00:03:20,489

about four years ago just before the

70

00:03:24,800 --> 00:03:21,959

book was published many stare at goats

71

00:03:26,690 --> 00:03:24,810

and you know silly they was kind of slow

72

00:03:28,580 --> 00:03:26,700

your interest I put a bit when I started

73

00:03:30,530 --> 00:03:28,590

right in the book I started thinking you

74

00:03:32,390 --> 00:03:30,540

know maybe there was you know it's a

75

00:03:34,220 --> 00:03:32,400

really clever screenwriter k belong

76

00:03:37,250 --> 00:03:34,230

maybe there was a movie in this because

77

00:03:39,500 --> 00:03:37,260

it's a mad story about your special

78

00:03:41,840 --> 00:03:39,510

forces soldiers trying to harness the

79

00:03:44,330 --> 00:03:41,850

power of the paradol born and I'm you

80

00:03:45,979 --> 00:03:44,340

know true story about Major Generals

81

00:03:48,590 --> 00:03:45,989

trying to walk through their walls and

82

00:03:50,449 --> 00:03:48,600

secrets arlington virginia and soldiers

83

00:03:52,670 --> 00:03:50,459

at Fort Bragg trying to kill goats just

84

00:03:55,009 --> 00:03:52,680

by staring at them in this mad little

85

00:03:56,960 --> 00:03:55,019

cabal like a real-life conspiracy you

86

00:03:58,729 --> 00:03:56,970

know it's like this is where they'd sort

87

00:04:01,190 --> 00:03:58,739

of fantasies of the conspiracy theorists

88

00:04:05,090 --> 00:04:01,200

come true so I thought this is just a

89

00:04:06,890 --> 00:04:05,100

fab store in and sure enough just before

90

00:04:09,229 --> 00:04:06,900

the book got published sort of film

91

00:04:12,560 --> 00:04:09,239

people called me up and said that they

92

00:04:14,360 --> 00:04:12,570

wanted to do it and and this screen

93

00:04:17,380 --> 00:04:14,370

writer called Peter straw the lives near

94

00:04:19,789 --> 00:04:17,390

me bro just the funniest screenplay and

95

00:04:21,620 --> 00:04:19,799

straight away we were getting the names

96

00:04:23,930 --> 00:04:21,630

of work being thrown around or just

97

00:04:26,990 --> 00:04:23,940

dizzy and people wanted to make the film

98

00:04:29,090 --> 00:04:27,000

having read Peter screenplay and in the

99

00:04:32,180 --> 00:04:29,100

end it got made by it's been directed by

100

00:04:34,700 --> 00:04:32,190

grant Heslov who's who wrote and

101
00:04:38,450 --> 00:04:34,710
produced good night and good luck and

102
00:04:41,540 --> 00:04:38,460
films like that and starring george

103
00:04:43,370 --> 00:04:41,550
clooney Kevin Spacey you and McGregor

104
00:04:43,870 --> 00:04:43,380
and Jeff British so we you know we

105
00:04:46,690 --> 00:04:43,880
really

106
00:04:48,790 --> 00:04:46,700
landed on her feet I will definitely say

107
00:04:50,920 --> 00:04:48,800
so yes they buzz on the internet movie

108
00:04:52,810 --> 00:04:50,930
database is is there really any

109
00:04:54,880 --> 00:04:52,820
potential margin of error that this film

110
00:04:58,810 --> 00:04:54,890
will end up is one of the cult hot you

111
00:05:03,190 --> 00:04:58,820
can't hit films of the decade gospel oak

112
00:05:05,350 --> 00:05:03,200
so yeah I like the fact that people that

113
00:05:07,240 --> 00:05:05,360

people are saying I'll go and see this

114

00:05:09,130 --> 00:05:07,250

film I would go and see a film called

115

00:05:11,470 --> 00:05:09,140

the men who stare at goats no matter

116

00:05:13,090 --> 00:05:11,480

what it's about and I like back since my

117

00:05:14,830 --> 00:05:13,100

wife's a deity called to call the book

118

00:05:16,720 --> 00:05:14,840

so she's thrilled that she's come up

119

00:05:19,000 --> 00:05:16,730

with her you know what are the great

120

00:05:20,740 --> 00:05:19,010

movie titles that's wonderful guy that's

121

00:05:24,370 --> 00:05:20,750

really lovely she turns up in a lot of

122

00:05:26,890 --> 00:05:24,380

your columns yeah yeah we went off to

123

00:05:28,600 --> 00:05:26,900

Puerto Rico and watch watch them filming

124

00:05:31,510 --> 00:05:28,610

it and it was just brilliant you know to

125

00:05:34,360 --> 00:05:31,520

see these real-life conversations I had

126

00:05:36,880 --> 00:05:34,370

with people five six years ago suddenly

127

00:05:41,350 --> 00:05:36,890

being reenacted by humor Greg and George

128

00:05:43,420 --> 00:05:41,360

Clooney it was a weird experience yeah

129

00:05:45,400 --> 00:05:43,430

and I believe that it was you have a bit

130

00:05:47,320 --> 00:05:45,410

of news about them adventures with

131

00:05:49,120 --> 00:05:47,330

extremists which was your first book you

132

00:05:51,490 --> 00:05:49,130

said that it was picked up and as an

133

00:05:53,680 --> 00:05:51,500

option to become a film back in 2005 and

134

00:05:55,470 --> 00:05:53,690

on your own for board you said there's

135

00:05:57,670 --> 00:05:55,480

been a bit of development since then

136

00:05:59,530 --> 00:05:57,680

yeah well I thought nothing was

137

00:06:03,460 --> 00:05:59,540

happening with it as is what happens

138

00:06:05,140 --> 00:06:03,470

with most books you know you know 99% of

139

00:06:07,170 --> 00:06:05,150

books agate auction nothing happened so

140

00:06:09,460 --> 00:06:07,180

we were you know you're so lucky with

141

00:06:11,530 --> 00:06:09,470

with George Clooney want me to do goats

142

00:06:14,020 --> 00:06:11,540

but yeh or suddenly there's been another

143

00:06:15,340 --> 00:06:14,030

sort of fluid and it looks like they are

144

00:06:17,560 --> 00:06:15,350

interested and they are going to make

145

00:06:20,530 --> 00:06:17,570

them possibly the next year or year or

146

00:06:22,930 --> 00:06:20,540

two so again that's just brilliant you

147

00:06:26,350 --> 00:06:22,940

know these are both books the the

148

00:06:28,360 --> 00:06:26,360

skeptic community like but don't really

149

00:06:30,850 --> 00:06:28,370

piss off the community of believers

150

00:06:33,910 --> 00:06:30,860

either you know it's like a guard over

151
00:06:35,470 --> 00:06:33,920
you know bridge across the divide I do

152
00:06:37,630 --> 00:06:35,480
think you know when i read the goat

153
00:06:39,160 --> 00:06:37,640
script for the first time I felt this is

154
00:06:41,830 --> 00:06:39,170
a film that skeptics will really really

155
00:06:43,870 --> 00:06:41,840
like but you know true believers already

156
00:06:46,180 --> 00:06:43,880
like it as well but if that is the case

157
00:06:48,070 --> 00:06:46,190
that they can be found you're very

158
00:06:49,660 --> 00:06:48,080
interested in creating that breach I

159
00:06:51,550 --> 00:06:49,670
could see that through the article that

160
00:06:53,740 --> 00:06:51,560
you wrote with your journey with Robbie

161
00:06:55,460 --> 00:06:53,750
Williams the singer to the Nevada desert

162
00:06:58,280 --> 00:06:55,470
in order to find out about a you

163
00:07:00,530 --> 00:06:58,290

fo conference and yeah it was very

164

00:07:02,630 --> 00:07:00,540

respectful and I could see how Robbie

165

00:07:05,030 --> 00:07:02,640

Williams was demonstrating a bit of

166

00:07:08,060 --> 00:07:05,040

skepticism himself and reflecting upon

167

00:07:10,880 --> 00:07:08,070

your influence in developing that sort

168

00:07:12,470 --> 00:07:10,890

of critical eye at times yeah i mean i

169

00:07:15,230 --> 00:07:12,480

can't i can't give myself complete

170

00:07:16,730 --> 00:07:15,240

credit for breaking out into to Robbie's

171

00:07:18,470 --> 00:07:16,740

laugh because I've been one or two of

172

00:07:20,990 --> 00:07:18,480

his friends as a guy called Brandon is a

173

00:07:22,640 --> 00:07:21,000

real hardcore skeptic and and he was

174

00:07:25,100 --> 00:07:22,650

always there saying you know Rob this is

175

00:07:26,630 --> 00:07:25,110

nuts but it was really nice there was

176
00:07:29,270 --> 00:07:26,640
there was you know Robbie in the middle

177
00:07:31,370 --> 00:07:29,280
on one side there were friends of hers

178
00:07:32,510 --> 00:07:31,380
who were real believe it's in this stuff

179
00:07:35,630 --> 00:07:32,520
you know really believed that everything

180
00:07:37,670 --> 00:07:35,640
in UFO abductees Edwards was true then

181
00:07:39,920 --> 00:07:37,680
his other firms would just thought they

182
00:07:41,030 --> 00:07:39,930
were all insane as it was a look and he

183
00:07:43,940 --> 00:07:41,040
was in the middle trying to work out

184
00:07:46,340 --> 00:07:43,950
which one was true so it was really nice

185
00:07:48,320 --> 00:07:46,350
to see it I don't my guess is that he's

186
00:07:50,780 --> 00:07:48,330
more on the skeptic camp now than that

187
00:07:52,700 --> 00:07:50,790
he was a year ago he says every time he

188
00:07:54,350 --> 00:07:52,710

meets one of these people they're just

189

00:07:58,130 --> 00:07:54,360

disappointing because they turned out to

190

00:07:59,840 --> 00:07:58,140

be the nuts or somehow capitalizing on

191

00:08:02,540 --> 00:07:59,850

their friendship with him will I give

192

00:08:06,140 --> 00:08:02,550

you some examples yes please for

193

00:08:08,300 --> 00:08:06,150

instance but I noticed it the first time

194

00:08:10,250 --> 00:08:08,310

he called me this is back in 2005 he

195

00:08:13,370 --> 00:08:10,260

said that he wanted to spend the night

196

00:08:14,900 --> 00:08:13,380

in a haunted house yes I know any yeah

197

00:08:17,630 --> 00:08:14,910

so I said well I'll make some calls if

198

00:08:19,460 --> 00:08:17,640

you likes are you build all these ladies

199

00:08:22,000 --> 00:08:19,470

of banana and kind of big country houses

200

00:08:26,240 --> 00:08:22,010

in England say get oh dear Lady

201

00:08:28,100 --> 00:08:26,250

Bracknell I hear that if the portrait in

202

00:08:31,430 --> 00:08:28,110

your drawing room has moved a ghost

203

00:08:33,170 --> 00:08:31,440

apparently manifests itself recently the

204

00:08:34,430 --> 00:08:33,180

pop star robbie williams contacted me to

205

00:08:36,409 --> 00:08:34,440

say he'd love to spend it at the haunted

206

00:08:38,630 --> 00:08:36,419

house so i was wondering if he and i

207

00:08:40,279 --> 00:08:38,640

could pay you a private visit and i kind

208

00:08:42,829 --> 00:08:40,289

of didn't think any anyone was going to

209

00:08:45,650 --> 00:08:42,839

email me back but you know one hundred

210

00:08:48,350 --> 00:08:45,660

percent of the of the Duchess's i

211

00:08:50,030 --> 00:08:48,360

emailed email straight away to say you

212

00:08:52,160 --> 00:08:50,040

know yeah yeah absolutely our house is a

213

00:08:54,050 --> 00:08:52,170

house is definitely haunted Robbie can

214

00:08:57,980 --> 00:08:54,060

come whenever he likes and then Robbie

215

00:09:00,710 --> 00:08:57,990

would invite over these famous you know

216

00:09:03,500 --> 00:09:00,720

sort of paranormal leaders like like

217

00:09:05,660 --> 00:09:03,510

famous psychics and they'll always rip

218

00:09:07,730 --> 00:09:05,670

them off you know that always sell sell

219

00:09:08,690 --> 00:09:07,740

their story to the news of the world you

220

00:09:11,090 --> 00:09:08,700

know I helped Robbie

221

00:09:13,970 --> 00:09:11,100

contact is dead man he had a fantastic

222

00:09:18,380 --> 00:09:13,980

encounter with this guy called Carl BTW

223

00:09:21,110 --> 00:09:18,390

is the producer of most haunted living

224

00:09:23,000 --> 00:09:21,120

TV I don't meet we get here yes yeah

225

00:09:26,090 --> 00:09:23,010

well row pick up a excites invited kyle

226

00:09:28,150 --> 00:09:26,100

BTW over for dinner and called me up

227

00:09:30,680 --> 00:09:28,160

afterwards and i said how did it go

228

00:09:32,690 --> 00:09:30,690

Eddie said wow you know it was alright

229

00:09:35,870 --> 00:09:32,700

went really well until sort of dessert

230

00:09:37,550 --> 00:09:35,880

word kyle BTW said to me he said rob you

231

00:09:40,130 --> 00:09:37,560

know i'm not only the producer of most

232

00:09:43,370 --> 00:09:40,140

haunted i'm also only one of eight

233

00:09:46,730 --> 00:09:43,380

people outside japan ever to be awarded

234

00:09:49,700 --> 00:09:46,740

a summoner I ship out if the Emperor's

235

00:09:52,280 --> 00:09:49,710

ever in peril I have to drop everything

236

00:09:53,960 --> 00:09:52,290

and fly over and protect him so Robert

237

00:09:57,350 --> 00:09:53,970

said to me oh you know doesn't something

238

00:09:58,580 --> 00:09:57,360

plausible you know so we kind of did it

239

00:10:00,260 --> 00:09:58,590

did some research should realize that

240

00:10:03,170 --> 00:10:00,270

you know nobody's been awarded the

241

00:10:05,240 --> 00:10:03,180

samurai ship since 1872 and the word

242

00:10:06,860 --> 00:10:05,250

some UI ship doesn't even exist so each

243

00:10:09,530 --> 00:10:06,870

tabby cutter dips his toe into the water

244

00:10:11,900 --> 00:10:09,540

of the paranormal he'll you know The

245

00:10:15,110 --> 00:10:11,910

Skeptical side have always rings alarm

246

00:10:17,300 --> 00:10:15,120

bells I guess that also brings up the

247

00:10:20,750 --> 00:10:17,310

question of when is it harmless Robbie

248

00:10:22,580 --> 00:10:20,760

Williams investigating UFOs heading to a

249

00:10:23,930 --> 00:10:22,590

conference talking to people you can

250

00:10:25,520 --> 00:10:23,940

quite easily I view that's harmless

251

00:10:27,650 --> 00:10:25,530

that's investigating the world around

252

00:10:30,170 --> 00:10:27,660

even and being a questioning person I

253

00:10:31,970 --> 00:10:30,180

believe at one point and at one point of

254

00:10:33,560 --> 00:10:31,980

the article he even said something along

255

00:10:35,780 --> 00:10:33,570

the lines of I'm just trying to find

256

00:10:37,730 --> 00:10:35,790

myself maybe it's just a stage maybe I'm

257

00:10:39,830 --> 00:10:37,740

going to get over it so where is the

258

00:10:41,870 --> 00:10:39,840

line drawn I mean he himself got very

259

00:10:43,880 --> 00:10:41,880

early with one particular psychic i

260

00:10:46,100 --> 00:10:43,890

believe which as you said he felt he was

261

00:10:48,830 --> 00:10:46,110

just having his fame used to sell a

262

00:10:50,840 --> 00:10:48,840

newspaper article yeah well i do think

263

00:10:52,820 --> 00:10:50,850

that you know Robbie try to work out

264

00:10:55,720 --> 00:10:52,830

whether the paranormals true i mean that

265

00:10:58,010 --> 00:10:55,730

starts mrs. completely harmless and and

266

00:10:59,750 --> 00:10:58,020

understandable but the people that you

267

00:11:02,420 --> 00:10:59,760

meet in these conferences i mean we met

268

00:11:06,500 --> 00:11:02,430

this woman called an androids who was

269

00:11:09,140 --> 00:11:06,510

yes she was giving a big she's one of

270

00:11:11,390 --> 00:11:09,150

the keynote speakers of this convention

271

00:11:13,760 --> 00:11:11,400

for an alien abductees and it's not her

272

00:11:16,730 --> 00:11:13,770

who was abducted it's her it's her son

273

00:11:19,100 --> 00:11:16,740

had teenage son Jason and she said that

274

00:11:21,500 --> 00:11:19,110

you know poor Jason suffers terrible

275

00:11:22,310 --> 00:11:21,510

bullying you know he can't go to the

276

00:11:25,190 --> 00:11:22,320

shop without

277

00:11:28,880 --> 00:11:25,200

being screamed her and so after after

278

00:11:31,970 --> 00:11:28,890

she gave her talk Robbie said to an so

279

00:11:32,990 --> 00:11:31,980

when did this boolean start and I said

280

00:11:36,250 --> 00:11:33,000

well it was when i published my first

281

00:11:39,350 --> 00:11:36,260

book about Jason which is called Jason

282

00:11:41,420 --> 00:11:39,360

my indigo child raising a

283

00:11:43,580 --> 00:11:41,430

multidimensional star child in a

284

00:11:44,480 --> 00:11:43,590

changing world so kind of stands to

285

00:11:47,090 --> 00:11:44,490

reason that you're going to get some

286

00:11:48,830 --> 00:11:47,100

bullying so so you know Robbie entering

287

00:11:50,300 --> 00:11:48,840

into this world is harvest but what you

288

00:11:53,450 --> 00:11:50,310

found in the world isn't terminus

289

00:11:55,550 --> 00:11:53,460

certainly the family on the side and how

290

00:11:57,680 --> 00:11:55,560

other people can respond to it it

291

00:11:59,690 --> 00:11:57,690

doesn't seem to really come to the

292

00:12:01,760 --> 00:11:59,700

forefront of people's minds at times I

293

00:12:03,380 --> 00:12:01,770

guess yeah well I guess it's like any

294

00:12:05,900 --> 00:12:03,390

sort of fundamentalist religion that

295

00:12:08,690 --> 00:12:05,910

family comes second to belief it's like

296

00:12:10,760 --> 00:12:08,700

these kids who died you know HIV because

297

00:12:12,470 --> 00:12:10,770

their parents don't believe AIDS exists

298

00:12:14,900 --> 00:12:12,480

and so on even you see this stuff

299

00:12:16,610 --> 00:12:14,910

happening all the time and I've noticed

300

00:12:18,260 --> 00:12:16,620

that you've described yourself as a

301

00:12:20,840 --> 00:12:18,270

rationalist who experiences

302

00:12:22,430 --> 00:12:20,850

approximately one irrational spiral each

303

00:12:25,070 --> 00:12:22,440

week which you then proceed to write a

304

00:12:27,230 --> 00:12:25,080

newspaper column about so what links you

305

00:12:30,320 --> 00:12:27,240

to be curious rather than condemning

306

00:12:33,320 --> 00:12:30,330

about how irrational we all can be well

307

00:12:36,680 --> 00:12:33,330

because I experienced it myself and you

308

00:12:38,960 --> 00:12:36,690

know so do my friends and neighbors I've

309

00:12:41,780 --> 00:12:38,970

always thought for years now probably

310

00:12:43,640 --> 00:12:41,790

more than 10 years I've been hanging out

311

00:12:46,370 --> 00:12:43,650

with the sort of people that are of

312

00:12:49,340 --> 00:12:46,380

interest to the skeptical community so

313

00:12:52,030 --> 00:12:49,350

if you were everyone from Islamic

314

00:12:54,830 --> 00:12:52,040

militant leaders through two leading

315

00:12:56,420 --> 00:12:54,840

conspiracy theorists and political

316

00:12:59,720 --> 00:12:56,430

extremists and all this all those people

317

00:13:01,670 --> 00:12:59,730

who are you know usually roundly

318

00:13:03,710 --> 00:13:01,680

condemned by the skeptical community but

319

00:13:06,620 --> 00:13:03,720

I you know but I always kind of

320

00:13:09,590 --> 00:13:06,630

recognize certain of my own character

321

00:13:11,900 --> 00:13:09,600

traits in them I get neurotic and worked

322

00:13:13,820 --> 00:13:11,910

up about stupid nonsense and so do my

323

00:13:15,650 --> 00:13:13,830

friends and so I would probably argue I

324

00:13:18,470 --> 00:13:15,660

do a lot of skeptics but what they don't

325

00:13:21,050 --> 00:13:18,480

do is is realize that there's there's a

326

00:13:22,520 --> 00:13:21,060

kind of similarity you know the things

327

00:13:25,700 --> 00:13:22,530

we get worked up about a much more

328

00:13:27,830 --> 00:13:25,710

ordinary domestic you know this person

329

00:13:30,170 --> 00:13:27,840

slighted me and now I can't stand them

330

00:13:31,520 --> 00:13:30,180

and this person's our nut and I'm really

331

00:13:33,170 --> 00:13:31,530

worked up about them and I woke up from

332

00:13:34,940 --> 00:13:33,180

rid of the night worrying about this

333

00:13:36,230 --> 00:13:34,950

stupid thing that I did you know the

334

00:13:39,270 --> 00:13:36,240

thing that sort of

335

00:13:42,120 --> 00:13:39,280

domestica rationality that powers our

336

00:13:44,760 --> 00:13:42,130

everyday lives and I just noticed that

337

00:13:47,730 --> 00:13:44,770

people like Alex Jones the stuff they

338

00:13:50,340 --> 00:13:47,740

get worked up about is much crazier than

339

00:13:53,370 --> 00:13:50,350

that it's much more out there but the

340

00:13:55,440 --> 00:13:53,380

impulses struck me is quite similar so I

341

00:13:58,440 --> 00:13:55,450

thought if I was going to be a skeptical

342

00:14:00,990 --> 00:13:58,450

writer I had to turn the spotlight on

343

00:14:03,300 --> 00:14:01,000

myself and on my friends and on my own

344

00:14:06,600 --> 00:14:03,310

world it was it was a fair thing to do

345

00:14:09,390 --> 00:14:06,610

and even if I don't agree with you know

346

00:14:12,650 --> 00:14:09,400

I there's not a answer to me that

347

00:14:16,890 --> 00:14:12,660

believes that 911 was an inside job or

348

00:14:18,660 --> 00:14:16,900

their ghosts exist and so on so I don't

349

00:14:20,910 --> 00:14:18,670

believe in any of that stuff but

350

00:14:24,510 --> 00:14:20,920

nonetheless I can see that the workings

351

00:14:26,370 --> 00:14:24,520

of their brains I'm not completely you

352

00:14:28,020 --> 00:14:26,380

know I listen to a lot of skeptical

353

00:14:29,670 --> 00:14:28,030

vodka so this is something that comes up

354

00:14:31,830 --> 00:14:29,680

quite a lot you know and on the Jerry

355

00:14:33,630 --> 00:14:31,840

rest for them as well yeah why do these

356

00:14:35,220 --> 00:14:33,640

people believe the things that they

357

00:14:37,610 --> 00:14:35,230

believe in and I think if we look into

358

00:14:40,950 --> 00:14:37,620

our own minds if we're looking to the

359

00:14:43,500 --> 00:14:40,960

stupid way our own minds though we can

360

00:14:45,750 --> 00:14:43,510

maybe answer that question one of the

361

00:14:47,460 --> 00:14:45,760

other investigations you did which did

362

00:14:49,890 --> 00:14:47,470

look into fundamentalist religion was

363

00:14:52,530 --> 00:14:49,900

the Alpha pause and I had a discussion

364

00:14:54,330 --> 00:14:52,540

with someone at a skeptics conference a

365

00:14:57,570 --> 00:14:54,340

little while back raving about her word

366

00:14:59,760 --> 00:14:57,580

and he said the fact that this man Nikki

367

00:15:02,370 --> 00:14:59,770

Gumbel created a 10-week session that

368

00:15:04,050 --> 00:15:02,380

trains agnostics to become believers he

369

00:15:06,060 --> 00:15:04,060

had hopes that maybe someone would come

370

00:15:09,320 --> 00:15:06,070

up with a similar course that would draw

371

00:15:12,900 --> 00:15:09,330

someone towards rationalism um how how

372

00:15:15,810 --> 00:15:12,910

reasonable do you think that is that's a

373

00:15:18,150 --> 00:15:15,820

great idea I think so we should do it

374

00:15:21,540 --> 00:15:18,160

yeah I think you should throw down the

375

00:15:23,940 --> 00:15:21,550

gauntlet there I'm about to do another

376

00:15:25,770 --> 00:15:23,950

alpha course um really the people who

377

00:15:26,940 --> 00:15:25,780

don't know yeah the people who don't

378

00:15:30,540 --> 00:15:26,950

know the arthur course is this 10-week

379

00:15:32,340 --> 00:15:30,550

course that tries to get agnostic to

380

00:15:33,990 --> 00:15:32,350

become true believe this by the end of

381

00:15:36,270 --> 00:15:34,000

the course and i have to say you know

382

00:15:38,460 --> 00:15:36,280

it's it's brilliantly dumb you know the

383

00:15:40,200 --> 00:15:38,470

way it's constructed by by by its

384

00:15:42,450 --> 00:15:40,210

inventor whose ago kubicki gumbo whoo

385

00:15:45,840 --> 00:15:42,460

soo who runs a huge church in London

386

00:15:48,000 --> 00:15:45,850

alphas you know enormously burger suits

387

00:15:49,590 --> 00:15:48,010

you got it in Australia

388

00:15:51,510 --> 00:15:49,600

I wouldn't be surprised if there's

389

00:15:54,900 --> 00:15:51,520

elements of it out he we get all sorts

390

00:15:57,870 --> 00:15:54,910

of triple on effects from the UK and the

391

00:15:59,970 --> 00:15:57,880

US of certain Greek salad over here

392

00:16:03,680 --> 00:15:59,980

they'll buy anything because they bought

393

00:16:07,200 --> 00:16:03,690

at a time like Monty Python precise on

394

00:16:09,060 --> 00:16:07,210

yeah but but yeah the way it's

395

00:16:10,950 --> 00:16:09,070

constructed basically you get a talk at

396

00:16:12,690 --> 00:16:10,960

the beginning of each week the you know

397

00:16:14,190 --> 00:16:12,700

whichever pastoral vicar is running this

398

00:16:16,530 --> 00:16:14,200

church gives the talk and then there's

399

00:16:19,560 --> 00:16:16,540

dinner and then you split up into these

400

00:16:22,050 --> 00:16:19,570

groups of 10 and a discussion happens

401
00:16:23,400 --> 00:16:22,060
and and the power of the small group

402
00:16:24,870 --> 00:16:23,410
when I guess it's like Alcoholics

403
00:16:26,310 --> 00:16:24,880
Anonymous you know you can't

404
00:16:29,340 --> 00:16:26,320
underestimate the power of the small

405
00:16:30,780 --> 00:16:29,350
group it's amazing watching these

406
00:16:34,140 --> 00:16:30,790
agnostic sand is that there's a group

407
00:16:35,940 --> 00:16:34,150
leader who's a Christian and yeah but

408
00:16:37,830 --> 00:16:35,950
the idea is that these acoustics will

409
00:16:40,080 --> 00:16:37,840
talk themselves into being Christians

410
00:16:41,850 --> 00:16:40,090
and and I've always been you know I

411
00:16:43,560 --> 00:16:41,860
really like the piece I wrote that alpha

412
00:16:46,470 --> 00:16:43,570
which is quite a long time ago mouths

413
00:16:49,080 --> 00:16:46,480

like eight years ago so I've decided to

414

00:16:51,660 --> 00:16:49,090

make a documentary inside an alpha

415

00:16:54,120 --> 00:16:51,670

course to hopefully capture you know

416

00:16:55,200 --> 00:16:54,130

this incredible small group dynamic and

417

00:16:57,330 --> 00:16:55,210

we're going to start in a couple of

418

00:16:59,340 --> 00:16:57,340

weeks that's wonderful news that's great

419

00:17:01,470 --> 00:16:59,350

you've been very busy doing I guess

420

00:17:03,330 --> 00:17:01,480

we've all of these events happening yeah

421

00:17:05,670 --> 00:17:03,340

yeah it's been a busy time pretty

422

00:17:07,590 --> 00:17:05,680

stressful just outside last seven

423

00:17:08,880 --> 00:17:07,600

building a kind of intervention the

424

00:17:10,500 --> 00:17:08,890

other day saying what was too stressed

425

00:17:12,090 --> 00:17:10,510

out though that's what I mean about how

426

00:17:14,939 --> 00:17:12,100

we shouldn't think of ourselves as

427

00:17:16,260 --> 00:17:14,949

better than the people we attack there's

428

00:17:19,319 --> 00:17:16,270

the things they believe it might be

429

00:17:22,170 --> 00:17:19,329

absurd and crazy by and large like 911

430

00:17:24,870 --> 00:17:22,180

being an inside job and so on but the

431

00:17:27,270 --> 00:17:24,880

way their mind works is not wholly alien

432

00:17:29,100 --> 00:17:27,280

I would say to the way people's minds

433

00:17:30,930 --> 00:17:29,110

work in the mainstream domestic world

434

00:17:33,030 --> 00:17:30,940

the way that one thought can lead to

435

00:17:35,310 --> 00:17:33,040

another thought and it can spiral you

436

00:17:37,110 --> 00:17:35,320

see what I mean yes absolutely I guess

437

00:17:39,030 --> 00:17:37,120

the end of the spiral is another thing

438

00:17:41,730 --> 00:17:39,040

that we have to reflect upon to and

439

00:17:44,010 --> 00:17:41,740

whether or not people can grow out of it

440

00:17:46,050 --> 00:17:44,020

or reason themselves out of it for

441

00:17:48,210 --> 00:17:46,060

example we had an earlier interview with

442

00:17:51,120 --> 00:17:48,220

Mark Roberts in New York talking about

443

00:17:54,480 --> 00:17:51,130

well in his interview he described it as

444

00:17:56,700 --> 00:17:54,490

a post-mortem of the 911 truthers

445

00:17:59,580 --> 00:17:56,710

movement that it was indeed dying out

446

00:18:02,289 --> 00:17:59,590

that the height of its power was 2006

447

00:18:05,440 --> 00:18:02,299

well it's funny I haven't noticed that

448

00:18:08,200 --> 00:18:05,450

but now you say it I think it's true so

449

00:18:12,100 --> 00:18:08,210

it knew the attacks on me have gone I'm

450

00:18:14,230 --> 00:18:12,110

were at their high in about 2006 yeah

451
00:18:15,370 --> 00:18:14,240
that to be a time when they had to put

452
00:18:16,990 --> 00:18:15,380
their money where their mouths words

453
00:18:19,570 --> 00:18:17,000
right there had to be a time when they

454
00:18:21,340 --> 00:18:19,580
had to produce some evidence to back up

455
00:18:25,930 --> 00:18:21,350
their claims some real irrefutable

456
00:18:28,810 --> 00:18:25,940
evidence and they never did so I guess I

457
00:18:31,419 --> 00:18:28,820
guess if it is dying that's the reason

458
00:18:34,360 --> 00:18:31,429
why for my own part I wondered whether

459
00:18:36,730 --> 00:18:34,370
or not the election of Obama had perhaps

460
00:18:39,310 --> 00:18:36,740
an influence upon these people's beliefs

461
00:18:41,409 --> 00:18:39,320
that now maybe it's in fresh start the

462
00:18:44,440 --> 00:18:41,419
bushier is over let's wipe it clean

463
00:18:47,019 --> 00:18:44,450

start ahead optimistically perhaps yeah

464

00:18:49,389 --> 00:18:47,029

it's possible I mean you know movements

465

00:18:51,100 --> 00:18:49,399

die I remember the you know the militia

466

00:18:53,590 --> 00:18:51,110

movement the neo-nazi movement in

467

00:18:56,230 --> 00:18:53,600

America pretty much died with the

468

00:18:59,139 --> 00:18:56,240

Oklahoma City bombing that it was

469

00:19:01,840 --> 00:18:59,149

somebody from within their own world who

470

00:19:04,419 --> 00:19:01,850

killed 186 people i think it was

471

00:19:07,600 --> 00:19:04,429

including up you know crash of children

472

00:19:09,760 --> 00:19:07,610

and it shocked the neo-nazi world so

473

00:19:11,080 --> 00:19:09,770

much in America that pretty much died

474

00:19:14,260 --> 00:19:11,090

away and you know you'd be hard-pressed

475

00:19:16,720 --> 00:19:14,270

to find a thriving militia in America

476

00:19:18,850 --> 00:19:16,730

now so nothing seismic like that has

477

00:19:21,970 --> 00:19:18,860

happened in the 911 truth movement but

478

00:19:23,889 --> 00:19:21,980

you're right it's going I I wonder

479

00:19:26,710 --> 00:19:23,899

whether the fact that it got hijacked so

480

00:19:28,659 --> 00:19:26,720

much by unpleasant people you know maybe

481

00:19:31,330 --> 00:19:28,669

the kind-hearted people who got involved

482

00:19:34,000 --> 00:19:31,340

in the early days you know became so

483

00:19:36,880 --> 00:19:34,010

shouty on the internet and maybe as you

484

00:19:38,440 --> 00:19:36,890

say yeah Obama coming in whatever it is

485

00:19:40,120 --> 00:19:38,450

I think it's quite a blessed relief I

486

00:19:42,220 --> 00:19:40,130

think there's genuine things to be

487

00:19:44,350 --> 00:19:42,230

worried about in this world and you know

488

00:19:46,570 --> 00:19:44,360

fantasies I'm one of them yeah certainly

489

00:19:49,450 --> 00:19:46,580

one of the wonderful things about the

490

00:19:52,000 --> 00:19:49,460

Internet is okay sure we get youtube

491

00:19:54,250 --> 00:19:52,010

videos which are promoting some of these

492

00:19:56,769 --> 00:19:54,260

rather odd ideas in certainly dangerous

493

00:19:58,539 --> 00:19:56,779

ideas but more and more I see people

494

00:20:01,120 --> 00:19:58,549

fighting back producing their own

495

00:20:03,070 --> 00:20:01,130

YouTube videos their own materials and a

496

00:20:04,930 --> 00:20:03,080

lot of your own work has started popping

497

00:20:08,680 --> 00:20:04,940

up online I've noticed that you're not

498

00:20:10,240 --> 00:20:08,690

opposed to for example mp3's of some of

499

00:20:12,220 --> 00:20:10,250

your work popping up online

500

00:20:14,980 --> 00:20:12,230

have you considered about getting more

501
00:20:16,870 --> 00:20:14,990
into online broadcasting yeah I know

502
00:20:18,640 --> 00:20:16,880
that I should I mean you know you right

503
00:20:21,490 --> 00:20:18,650
there if anybody I've been puts my films

504
00:20:25,030 --> 00:20:21,500
up on youtube or google video or my

505
00:20:26,740 --> 00:20:25,040
radio shows up on i'm always all forward

506
00:20:28,480 --> 00:20:26,750
because i think it's better to produce

507
00:20:30,010 --> 00:20:28,490
you know to go to dissipate something

508
00:20:31,960 --> 00:20:30,020
for nothing they're not distributed at

509
00:20:33,670 --> 00:20:31,970
all you know i know that i should i

510
00:20:36,550 --> 00:20:33,680
should be writing blogs and i should be

511
00:20:38,380 --> 00:20:36,560
doing podcasts and all of that you so

512
00:20:40,540 --> 00:20:38,390
much already as well that's the thing

513
00:20:42,220 --> 00:20:40,550

well that's the thing I work so hard and

514

00:20:44,380 --> 00:20:42,230

I'm frankly by about three o'clock in

515

00:20:45,820 --> 00:20:44,390

the afternoon I'm just knackered you

516

00:20:47,620 --> 00:20:45,830

know the last I got to do is any more

517

00:20:49,510 --> 00:20:47,630

work I wanted to sort either slumped

518

00:20:51,460 --> 00:20:49,520

onto the sofa you know good to the gym

519

00:20:55,060 --> 00:20:51,470

or something and so I think I work hard

520

00:20:56,770 --> 00:20:55,070

enough but if I had more energy you know

521

00:20:59,470 --> 00:20:56,780

if I had the energy of myself when I was

522

00:21:01,450 --> 00:20:59,480

about 28 I would do it I would be doing

523

00:21:03,340 --> 00:21:01,460

a podcast definitely you know i'm a big

524

00:21:05,890 --> 00:21:03,350

fan of them and i'm delighted to be

525

00:21:08,710 --> 00:21:05,900

doing this one so i wish i had the

526

00:21:11,200 --> 00:21:08,720

gumption to do me on yeah one of the

527

00:21:13,510 --> 00:21:11,210

things that you do do however um you do

528

00:21:16,630 --> 00:21:13,520

the UK skeptics in the pub and you're

529

00:21:19,030 --> 00:21:16,640

becoming more active as a as a skeptic

530

00:21:21,370 --> 00:21:19,040

who is talking to other skeptics and

531

00:21:23,680 --> 00:21:21,380

taking part in activities um how

532

00:21:25,150 --> 00:21:23,690

enjoyable of those are you okay yeah no

533

00:21:27,190 --> 00:21:25,160

really I don't those guests in the pub

534

00:21:28,810 --> 00:21:27,200

fed so gray uh I never sort of thought I

535

00:21:31,600 --> 00:21:28,820

was a skeptic you know what I wrote them

536

00:21:32,860 --> 00:21:31,610

and the minister goats actually i didn't

537

00:21:34,030 --> 00:21:32,870

i didn't consider I didn't even realize

538

00:21:36,400 --> 00:21:34,040

that there was like a kind of movement

539

00:21:37,810 --> 00:21:36,410

of people who were interested in the

540

00:21:39,220 --> 00:21:37,820

same things I was interested in and

541

00:21:41,320 --> 00:21:39,230

basically believe the same things I

542

00:21:42,910 --> 00:21:41,330

believed it came to toe surprised

543

00:21:45,760 --> 00:21:42,920

enriched I didn't realize that Jay ref

544

00:21:47,650 --> 00:21:45,770

existed or any of these you know skeptic

545

00:21:49,120 --> 00:21:47,660

podcasts existed I just didn't know I

546

00:21:51,280 --> 00:21:49,130

don't think that's what i was doing when

547

00:21:52,620 --> 00:21:51,290

i was writing them and goats I thought I

548

00:21:55,330 --> 00:21:52,630

was distracting this kind of funny

549

00:21:57,760 --> 00:21:55,340

adventure stories try to get inside the

550

00:21:59,680 --> 00:21:57,770

minds of people who you know mines had

551
00:22:01,150 --> 00:21:59,690
spiraled to the kind of crazy place like

552
00:22:03,580 --> 00:22:01,160
David Icke believe in this world for

553
00:22:05,710 --> 00:22:03,590
lizards and so on so I didn't see it as

554
00:22:06,850 --> 00:22:05,720
a kind of position at all but I'll tell

555
00:22:08,920 --> 00:22:06,860
you what it was I think it was Mark

556
00:22:12,400 --> 00:22:08,930
Roberts or certainly one of the nine

557
00:22:14,740 --> 00:22:12,410
eleven people gravy gravy smart Roberts

558
00:22:17,350 --> 00:22:14,750
isn't it he is ordered to speaks very

559
00:22:20,770 --> 00:22:17,360
good I'll cool well I think it was him i

560
00:22:23,560 --> 00:22:20,780
think he emailed me and invited me to to

561
00:22:24,290 --> 00:22:23,570
have a look at the j ref for and so I

562
00:22:25,700 --> 00:22:24,300
did

563
00:22:29,270 --> 00:22:25,710

and I was just really surprised like

564

00:22:31,550 --> 00:22:29,280

everyone I'd ever hung out with from you

565

00:22:34,250 --> 00:22:31,560

know oma baku mohammed ur alex jones to

566

00:22:35,830 --> 00:22:34,260

david icke to Jim Tucker you know all of

567

00:22:38,450 --> 00:22:35,840

these people were being kind of

568

00:22:41,630 --> 00:22:38,460

discussed by you know people who were

569

00:22:43,220 --> 00:22:41,640

equally enthusiastic interested in bed

570

00:22:45,710 --> 00:22:43,230

and I just thought it was a mess and

571

00:22:47,270 --> 00:22:45,720

Sylvia Browne and you know these people

572

00:22:49,010 --> 00:22:47,280

who fascinated made suddenly you know

573

00:22:52,490 --> 00:22:49,020

what fascinating this massive group of

574

00:22:54,650 --> 00:22:52,500

people so so now I go on jf almost every

575

00:22:56,750 --> 00:22:54,660

day and I listen to the skeptics guide

576

00:22:58,130 --> 00:22:56,760

to the universe and you know I kind of

577

00:22:59,780 --> 00:22:58,140

really consider myself part of the gang

578

00:23:01,700 --> 00:22:59,790

I mean I suppose I think they're always

579

00:23:02,900 --> 00:23:01,710

disappoints me a bit oh you I do learn

580

00:23:05,060 --> 00:23:02,910

things by the way I you know I bought

581

00:23:07,010 --> 00:23:05,070

this airborne you know this vitamin C

582

00:23:09,470 --> 00:23:07,020

fizzy thing that you stickin you know

583

00:23:12,620 --> 00:23:09,480

that I swear by I know it turns out to

584

00:23:14,390 --> 00:23:12,630

be total nonsense so so disappointed me

585

00:23:17,360 --> 00:23:14,400

i only found that up from like going on

586

00:23:19,610 --> 00:23:17,370

a rush I had no idea so now of course

587

00:23:21,200 --> 00:23:19,620

you know what's stopping colds because

588

00:23:23,360 --> 00:23:21,210

of the placebo effects but now won't

589

00:23:25,040 --> 00:23:23,370

work at all but I do learn more and more

590

00:23:26,210 --> 00:23:25,050

when i go on to these sites and listen

591

00:23:28,420 --> 00:23:26,220

to these podcasts you know there's still

592

00:23:31,760 --> 00:23:28,430

areas that i don't know about aspose

593

00:23:33,230 --> 00:23:31,770

goats and them sort of informed that

594

00:23:35,360 --> 00:23:33,240

world because of all the research i did

595

00:23:37,940 --> 00:23:35,370

you wrote them but that world is also

596

00:23:39,380 --> 00:23:37,950

informing me and in fact the piece i did

597

00:23:42,170 --> 00:23:39,390

on i did a piece when i went on a cruise

598

00:23:44,750 --> 00:23:42,180

with Sylvia Browne and metro and you

599

00:23:46,760 --> 00:23:44,760

know sort of challenged her although she

600

00:23:49,430 --> 00:23:46,770

was so terrified I did tryna show choirs

601
00:23:51,560 --> 00:23:49,440
quite as well as I should have but you

602
00:23:54,560 --> 00:23:51,570
know that came from reading about her on

603
00:23:56,030 --> 00:23:54,570
the giraffe forum so you know so it's

604
00:23:58,010 --> 00:23:56,040
kind of this kind of traffic of

605
00:24:01,460 --> 00:23:58,020
informations going both ways I think and

606
00:24:03,230 --> 00:24:01,470
I I'd like to think that I was still a

607
00:24:05,000 --> 00:24:03,240
bit more open-minded or certainly more

608
00:24:08,900 --> 00:24:05,010
humanist you know but my one criticism

609
00:24:11,450 --> 00:24:08,910
of the movement is sometimes the objects

610
00:24:14,180 --> 00:24:11,460
of their derision are treated with you

611
00:24:16,520 --> 00:24:14,190
know total disrespect which is

612
00:24:19,100 --> 00:24:16,530
understandable to a large extent because

613
00:24:21,470 --> 00:24:19,110

they're peddling nonsense but I still

614

00:24:24,080 --> 00:24:21,480

like to think that when I meet those

615

00:24:26,300 --> 00:24:24,090

people you know on a human level we get

616

00:24:28,310 --> 00:24:26,310

on well and we can respect each other

617

00:24:30,740 --> 00:24:28,320

and the way I write about them could be

618

00:24:32,150 --> 00:24:30,750

respectful so I suppose that's where I

619

00:24:34,850 --> 00:24:32,160

differ with some of the people in

620

00:24:36,770 --> 00:24:34,860

skeptical community it's what if you

621

00:24:38,390 --> 00:24:36,780

don't I mean yes I do know what

622

00:24:40,790 --> 00:24:38,400

mean it's one of the reasons why i

623

00:24:42,800 --> 00:24:40,800

support dragoncon because there is a

624

00:24:45,290 --> 00:24:42,810

place for everybody there the

625

00:24:47,120 --> 00:24:45,300

paranormalists the skeptics they are

626

00:24:48,980 --> 00:24:47,130

both equally welcome they both have

627

00:24:51,440 --> 00:24:48,990

their own tracks there and there's a

628

00:24:54,680 --> 00:24:51,450

debate that happens where respect and

629

00:24:57,500 --> 00:24:54,690

dialogue between the two is is paramount

630

00:24:59,120 --> 00:24:57,510

you cannot just have isolation and

631

00:25:01,940 --> 00:24:59,130

certain well you cannot have someone

632

00:25:04,040 --> 00:25:01,950

writing a book called them the skeptics

633

00:25:07,490 --> 00:25:04,050

in response and saying look at them they

634

00:25:09,050 --> 00:25:07,500

are just as crazy as they call us I mean

635

00:25:12,950 --> 00:25:09,060

that's not that it isn't how it's

636

00:25:14,750 --> 00:25:12,960

supposed to work yeah absolutely I'm

637

00:25:18,200 --> 00:25:14,760

thinking about registering for dragoncon

638

00:25:20,360 --> 00:25:18,210

yes that would be fabulous yeah i agree

639

00:25:22,520 --> 00:25:20,370

i mean you know i couldn't agree we'll

640

00:25:24,920 --> 00:25:22,530

blow with you but I'm not in that I'm

641

00:25:26,780 --> 00:25:24,930

not attacking you know people the people

642

00:25:28,280 --> 00:25:26,790

who are more hardline skeptics I'm not

643

00:25:31,700 --> 00:25:28,290

attacking some of the jurors people

644

00:25:33,980 --> 00:25:31,710

because you know I understand why it's

645

00:25:35,720 --> 00:25:33,990

very easy to get really worked up about

646

00:25:37,820 --> 00:25:35,730

people especially when they're attacking

647

00:25:40,640 --> 00:25:37,830

you amiguita when the 911 movement was

648

00:25:42,860 --> 00:25:40,650

attacking me as viciously as it was you

649

00:25:45,230 --> 00:25:42,870

know I became you know just furious with

650

00:25:47,390 --> 00:25:45,240

them and I saw no good in them at all so

651
00:25:49,400 --> 00:25:47,400
I really do understand but at the same

652
00:25:51,770 --> 00:25:49,410
time I think it's a kind of gift to be

653
00:25:54,260 --> 00:25:51,780
able to to turn up and have a pleasant

654
00:25:57,800 --> 00:25:54,270
tube8 with them where people actually

655
00:25:59,510 --> 00:25:57,810
gain gain something from being you know

656
00:26:01,580 --> 00:25:59,520
these these opposing camps and being

657
00:26:05,330 --> 00:26:01,590
with each other than just hating each

658
00:26:07,220 --> 00:26:05,340
other so dragoncon sounds great so any

659
00:26:10,460 --> 00:26:07,230
future events that you'll be taking part

660
00:26:13,370 --> 00:26:10,470
in or upcoming documentaries and

661
00:26:15,110 --> 00:26:13,380
certainly the film release of the men

662
00:26:20,050 --> 00:26:15,120
who stare at goats they can go to your

663
00:26:23,270 --> 00:26:20,060

website which is wwan calm can't they

664

00:26:25,130 --> 00:26:23,280

yeah there's no action John jo n ro

665

00:26:27,380 --> 00:26:25,140

Ernesto one you've been asked to get

666

00:26:30,140 --> 00:26:27,390

some new members as well we're quite cut

667

00:26:32,030 --> 00:26:30,150

a small guy at the moment so be nice to

668

00:26:34,160 --> 00:26:32,040

get some new members all I'm doing at

669

00:26:36,260 --> 00:26:34,170

the moment is is writing i'm making this

670

00:26:38,360 --> 00:26:36,270

alpha film and i'm doing a new series of

671

00:26:40,040 --> 00:26:38,370

my radio 4 series but other than that

672

00:26:43,460 --> 00:26:40,050

i'm just writing some screenplays and

673

00:26:45,830 --> 00:26:43,470

try to work on a new book so it's quite

674

00:26:47,450 --> 00:26:45,840

sort of quiet time for me but i think

675

00:26:50,570 --> 00:26:47,460

the release of the men who stare at

676
00:26:52,549 --> 00:26:50,580
goats is going to change all that

677
00:26:54,590 --> 00:26:52,559
that's going to be a big film you know

678
00:26:56,029 --> 00:26:54,600
the script is fantastic and what I saw

679
00:26:59,210 --> 00:26:56,039
the filming it looked like they were

680
00:27:01,669 --> 00:26:59,220
doing it like really brilliantly and so

681
00:27:02,750 --> 00:27:01,679
I've got high expectations for it i

682
00:27:05,210 --> 00:27:02,760
think is going to be a really good film

683
00:27:09,169 --> 00:27:05,220
any quickens about what the new books

684
00:27:11,899 --> 00:27:09,179
going to be around nah because i will i

685
00:27:14,870 --> 00:27:11,909
will interpret every not only would it

686
00:27:16,759 --> 00:27:14,880
be sort of wrong to say because it would

687
00:27:18,980 --> 00:27:16,769
be kind of indiscreet but also because i

688
00:27:21,470 --> 00:27:18,990

would interpret your response you know

689

00:27:24,259 --> 00:27:21,480

it's like if you went oh I'd interpret

690

00:27:27,769 --> 00:27:24,269

that as you thinking that sounds crap so

691

00:27:30,320 --> 00:27:27,779

yeah so I've got to I've got to take

692

00:27:31,909 --> 00:27:30,330

completely silent about it but it's not

693

00:27:34,370 --> 00:27:31,919

that dissimilar I'm trying to write a

694

00:27:35,960 --> 00:27:34,380

book that people who liked then and the

695

00:27:37,100 --> 00:27:35,970

men who stare at goats would like you

696

00:27:39,529 --> 00:27:37,110

know it's certainly not a kind of

697

00:27:41,870 --> 00:27:39,539

massive it's not a romantic novel and

698

00:27:44,269 --> 00:27:41,880

considers the books also set in this

699

00:27:46,669 --> 00:27:44,279

world well we will love your work

700

00:27:49,310 --> 00:27:46,679

regardless uncertain and we're sending

701
00:27:52,220 --> 00:27:49,320
you an origami DVD which was created by

702
00:27:54,289 --> 00:27:52,230
Richard Saunders and Jim will share the

703
00:27:56,570 --> 00:27:54,299
rhyme keeper so I hope you enjoy those

704
00:27:58,700 --> 00:27:56,580
and we are certainly going to enjoy your

705
00:28:01,669 --> 00:27:58,710
forthcoming work both on a silver screen

706
00:28:03,379 --> 00:28:01,679
and on the page oh well thank you very

707
00:28:17,890 --> 00:28:03,389
much indeed curly and thank you to

708
00:28:24,050 --> 00:28:21,170
hi I'm Theo Clark host and reduce of the

709
00:28:26,240 --> 00:28:24,060
podcast hunting humbug 101 each week I'm

710
00:28:28,040 --> 00:28:26,250
joined by my father Jeff Clark and we

711
00:28:30,140 --> 00:28:28,050
discuss a particular logical fallacy

712
00:28:31,670 --> 00:28:30,150
with real-life examples of fallacies

713
00:28:34,040 --> 00:28:31,680

from pseudo science science

714

00:28:37,430 --> 00:28:34,050

misconceptions politics philosophy and

715

00:28:39,860 --> 00:28:37,440

the media hacking humbug 101 is a

716

00:28:41,900 --> 00:28:39,870

companion podcast to our book humbug the

717

00:28:44,150 --> 00:28:41,910

skeptics field guide to spotting

718

00:28:46,820 --> 00:28:44,160

fallacies in thinking you can download

719

00:28:48,860 --> 00:28:46,830

them and subscribe to our podcast obtain

720

00:28:51,110 --> 00:28:48,870

a free copy of the ebook version of our

721

00:28:53,300 --> 00:28:51,120

book humbug and see many more real

722

00:28:59,410 --> 00:28:53,310

examples of fallacious reasoning at our

723

00:29:10,870 --> 00:28:59,420

website wwc upticks field guide dot net

724

00:29:19,250 --> 00:29:14,480

the open laboratory the best writing on

725

00:29:21,620 --> 00:29:19,260

science blogs 2008 is now out it's a

726

00:29:24,080 --> 00:29:21,630

yearly anthology featuring skeptical

727

00:29:26,660 --> 00:29:24,090

bloggers from around the world science

728

00:29:29,930 --> 00:29:26,670

blog readers nominate favorite posts

729

00:29:32,570 --> 00:29:29,940

with only 50 selected from about 500

730

00:29:36,170 --> 00:29:32,580

entries including one cartoon and one

731

00:29:39,440 --> 00:29:36,180

poem bora of blog around the clock on

732

00:29:43,340 --> 00:29:39,450

science blogs com has run it for the

733

00:29:46,700 --> 00:29:43,350

past three years and for 2008 the editor

734

00:29:49,850 --> 00:29:46,710

is Jennifer Rowan from mind the gap blog

735

00:29:51,920 --> 00:29:49,860

on the Nature Network Kylie Sturgis

736

00:29:55,730 --> 00:29:51,930

reporter for the skeptic zone has been

737

00:30:01,850 --> 00:29:55,740

selected with an entry from her blog pod

738

00:30:04,280 --> 00:30:01,860

black cat at ww.com she joins other

739

00:30:06,530 --> 00:30:04,290

great well known science bloggers such

740

00:30:10,760 --> 00:30:06,540

as dr. Phil plates the bad astronomy

741

00:30:15,230 --> 00:30:10,770

blog and popular web cartoon XK CD and

742

00:30:19,820 --> 00:30:15,240

the digital cuttlefish of ww digital

743

00:30:22,010 --> 00:30:19,830

cuddlefish blogspot com check out how to

744

00:30:25,820 --> 00:30:22,020

get your own copy of the open laboratory

745

00:30:30,460 --> 00:30:25,830

the best writing on science blogs 2008

746

00:30:38,340 --> 00:30:30,470

by heading to WWI enca blogs com

747

00:30:43,930 --> 00:30:41,800

the amazing adventure to cruise north to

748

00:30:46,870 --> 00:30:43,940

Alaska was held from the second to the

749

00:30:49,270 --> 00:30:46,880

ninth of sep tember 2007 aboard the

750

00:30:51,550 --> 00:30:49,280

celebrity cruise lines infinity vessel

751
00:30:54,760 --> 00:30:51,560
joining us on the cruise was none other

752
00:30:57,940 --> 00:30:54,770
than James Randi himself Phil Plait the

753
00:31:01,360 --> 00:30:57,950
bad astronomer how bid lack Jeff wag and

754
00:31:04,470 --> 00:31:01,370
skip chick rebecca watson the ship left

755
00:31:08,410 --> 00:31:04,480
vancouver sailed up the inside passage

756
00:31:10,960 --> 00:31:08,420
where we visited Ketchikan Alaska then

757
00:31:14,080 --> 00:31:10,970
the hubbard glacier before turning back

758
00:31:17,800 --> 00:31:14,090
visiting juno icy strait point and

759
00:31:20,170 --> 00:31:17,810
finally arriving back in vancouver the

760
00:31:22,360 --> 00:31:20,180
cruise gave everybody the chance to sit

761
00:31:26,990 --> 00:31:22,370
and talk with James Randi and I took my

762
00:31:30,269 --> 00:31:27,000
opportunity one morning over breakfast

763
00:31:32,010 --> 00:31:30,279

we're on the amazing adventure to up the

764

00:31:34,649 --> 00:31:32,020

coast of Alaska on here having breakfast

765

00:31:36,930 --> 00:31:34,659

with mr. James Randy Randy now you are a

766

00:31:40,890 --> 00:31:36,940

seasoned traveler to say the least what

767

00:31:42,779 --> 00:31:40,900

sure your saves advice for travelers the

768

00:31:45,659 --> 00:31:42,789

world well this is the season of my

769

00:31:47,669 --> 00:31:45,669

discontent let's put it that way the

770

00:31:52,529 --> 00:31:47,679

ship there's been rolling like crazy

771

00:31:55,260 --> 00:31:52,539

during the night and it it was not quite

772

00:31:57,180 --> 00:31:55,270

seat it's down to a reasonable roll

773

00:31:59,510 --> 00:31:57,190

right now we've got mr. it's in the

774

00:32:01,860 --> 00:31:59,520

background as you can hear me but no I

775

00:32:05,850 --> 00:32:01,870

they just got your joke from last night

776

00:32:07,830 --> 00:32:05,860

yeah I'm having a wonderful time it's

777

00:32:12,510 --> 00:32:07,840

very stimulating to be with such good

778

00:32:14,039 --> 00:32:12,520

friends and fans here and i like the

779

00:32:15,810 --> 00:32:14,049

little curtsies that people give when I

780

00:32:18,060 --> 00:32:15,820

hands by and you know that's her

781

00:32:21,120 --> 00:32:18,070

standing to attention yes and I give

782

00:32:23,250 --> 00:32:21,130

them a quick blessing as I passed I know

783

00:32:26,010 --> 00:32:23,260

it's really fun ritual to would be here

784

00:32:28,320 --> 00:32:26,020

with folks like you who from some

785

00:32:31,049 --> 00:32:28,330

distance to be here and that's very

786

00:32:33,389 --> 00:32:31,059

flattering indeed and I have not seen

787

00:32:34,860 --> 00:32:33,399

this part of the world before and

788

00:32:38,100 --> 00:32:34,870

certainly not from this particular

789

00:32:40,590 --> 00:32:38,110

vantage point with so I'm having a very

790

00:32:42,269 --> 00:32:40,600

good time I'm highly entertained and I

791

00:32:44,250 --> 00:32:42,279

hope that along the way I might provide

792

00:32:46,470 --> 00:32:44,260

some of the entertainment I think that

793

00:32:49,740 --> 00:32:46,480

the situation like this even though

794

00:32:51,539 --> 00:32:49,750

we're on a large vessel box it's much

795

00:32:53,490 --> 00:32:51,549

like your amazing meetings it simply a

796

00:32:55,620 --> 00:32:53,500

great opportunity to make new friends to

797

00:32:58,560 --> 00:32:55,630

network like many social organizations I

798

00:33:01,049 --> 00:32:58,570

guess well you know we we launched this

799

00:33:01,690 --> 00:33:01,059

this cruise as we have with others and

800

00:33:03,970 --> 00:33:01,700

with

801

00:33:07,060 --> 00:33:03,980

meetings and such for purposes of

802

00:33:09,789 --> 00:33:07,070

funding the J raft that's very obvious

803

00:33:13,389 --> 00:33:09,799

and we've never concealed the facts

804

00:33:16,090 --> 00:33:13,399

about it but on this particular venture

805

00:33:18,940 --> 00:33:16,100

we won't make very much money but that's

806

00:33:23,320 --> 00:33:18,950

not the only purpose of it the purpose

807

00:33:26,529 --> 00:33:23,330

of interacting with friends of like mind

808

00:33:28,029 --> 00:33:26,539

and I've done a great deal about in just

809

00:33:31,480 --> 00:33:28,039

the last couple of days and we're barely

810

00:33:33,370 --> 00:33:31,490

started on this metric it's been most

811

00:33:36,039 --> 00:33:33,380

rewarding in that respect that's

812

00:33:40,600 --> 00:33:36,049

touching the flesh and making sure that

813

00:33:42,430 --> 00:33:40,610

people i have met I to I and I as I made

814

00:33:45,159 --> 00:33:42,440

a little speech at the very beginning Oh

815

00:33:47,259 --> 00:33:45,169

when we first boarded here I want people

816

00:33:48,789 --> 00:33:47,269

to come over and make sure that I shake

817

00:33:51,039 --> 00:33:48,799

their hand I look him straight in the

818

00:33:52,659 --> 00:33:51,049

eye and what questions have begun and

819

00:33:55,720 --> 00:33:52,669

people have followed me up on that

820

00:33:58,180 --> 00:33:55,730

invitation and it cornered me I'm very

821

00:34:00,129 --> 00:33:58,190

gladly and happily cornered and let's

822

00:34:03,190 --> 00:34:00,139

say I have no objection to it in fact I

823

00:34:05,080 --> 00:34:03,200

encourage it so if it's been wonderful

824

00:34:07,800 --> 00:34:05,090

it's just been wonderful a good good

825

00:34:10,510 --> 00:34:07,810

experience and though I'm a little

826
00:34:12,369 --> 00:34:10,520
annoyed at being out of cell phone reach

827
00:34:14,349 --> 00:34:12,379
and Internet reach with the law and

828
00:34:17,079 --> 00:34:14,359
until we come to the next port as I've

829
00:34:19,930 --> 00:34:17,089
got to send in the week a coffee a swift

830
00:34:21,190 --> 00:34:19,940
in person that shirt impairs on me but

831
00:34:23,139 --> 00:34:21,200
I've got it all prepared to shin the

832
00:34:26,020 --> 00:34:23,149
computer and ready to press a button to

833
00:34:28,270 --> 00:34:26,030
say transmit right so I'm looking after

834
00:34:30,099 --> 00:34:28,280
my duties at the same time so how do you

835
00:34:33,089 --> 00:34:30,109
think this compares to the amazing

836
00:34:35,500 --> 00:34:33,099
meetings which ride three day events

837
00:34:37,059 --> 00:34:35,510
literally I am viviette to go to and I

838
00:34:39,460 --> 00:34:37,069

hope to go everyone next year but this

839

00:34:40,690 --> 00:34:39,470

is a seven day cruise so innocent good

840

00:34:43,569 --> 00:34:40,700

hitting on what's a different thing

841

00:34:45,250 --> 00:34:43,579

altogether and you know we can break

842

00:34:46,419 --> 00:34:45,260

away from a group and the next day we

843

00:34:47,950 --> 00:34:46,429

know that they'll be around someplace

844

00:34:49,960 --> 00:34:47,960

you know join them at the breakfast

845

00:34:50,980 --> 00:34:49,970

table or whatever and continue on with

846

00:34:53,379 --> 00:34:50,990

the conversations

847

00:34:56,800 --> 00:34:53,389

has that advantage it says wonderful

848

00:34:59,380 --> 00:34:56,810

opportunity to interact with the

849

00:35:01,630 --> 00:34:59,390

faithful my soda sleeping it's a smaller

850

00:35:03,550 --> 00:35:01,640

group than amazing meeting aspects

851
00:35:05,050 --> 00:35:03,560
people do then have the opportunity to

852
00:35:07,180 --> 00:35:05,060
spend a little bit more time with you oh

853
00:35:10,570 --> 00:35:07,190
yes you must be a little overwhelmed

854
00:35:12,630 --> 00:35:10,580
sometimes the meetings oh no no no gosh

855
00:35:15,280 --> 00:35:12,640
well I'm so busy at the meeting I use

856
00:35:17,740 --> 00:35:15,290
yeah I I don't know who I spoken to her

857
00:35:20,440 --> 00:35:17,750
what I said but you know the last

858
00:35:22,600 --> 00:35:20,450
amazing meeting we had 810 people in

859
00:35:24,910 --> 00:35:22,610
attendance that's about huge red very

860
00:35:28,600 --> 00:35:24,920
hard to manage which we got 93 people on

861
00:35:31,620 --> 00:35:28,610
this cruise and them that's much more

862
00:35:34,870 --> 00:35:31,630
Asian as you said much more handleable

863
00:35:36,580 --> 00:35:34,880

number and a little whatever you had a

864

00:35:39,370 --> 00:35:36,590

good word I like that with all right

865

00:35:42,040 --> 00:35:39,380

guys well I just invented a subject that

866

00:35:45,280 --> 00:35:42,050

any case it's been a very good rewarding

867

00:35:52,480 --> 00:35:45,290

experience and I'm enjoying every mr.

868

00:35:54,430 --> 00:35:52,490

Lynch Thank You certainly one of the

869

00:35:58,060 --> 00:35:54,440

highlights of the cruise was the chance

870

00:36:00,640 --> 00:35:58,070

to see hubbard glacier up close very

871

00:36:03,370 --> 00:36:00,650

close as a matter of fact the vessel

872

00:36:07,210 --> 00:36:03,380

pulled into the inlet where the glacier

873

00:36:09,550 --> 00:36:07,220

meets the ocean and we spent a good half

874

00:36:13,450 --> 00:36:09,560

an hour to 45 minutes as the captain

875

00:36:15,520 --> 00:36:13,460

slowly turned the vessel around this

876

00:36:18,490 --> 00:36:15,530

gave everybody the chance to rush up to

877

00:36:20,440 --> 00:36:18,500

the top decks take photographs take

878

00:36:23,290 --> 00:36:20,450

photographs and then take some more

879

00:36:26,400 --> 00:36:23,300

photographs I bumped into some skeptics

880

00:36:30,089 --> 00:36:26,410

also enjoying the view

881

00:36:33,240 --> 00:36:30,099

this is the walking up to the glacier up

882

00:36:36,150 --> 00:36:33,250

here now I'm here on the deck that

883

00:36:38,250 --> 00:36:36,160

fourth need a cover so infinity vessel

884

00:36:41,700 --> 00:36:38,260

we're viewing the glacier and sometimes

885

00:36:43,410 --> 00:36:41,710

bits of it are falling off and I'm here

886

00:36:45,720 --> 00:36:43,420

with a lovely skeptical Texas can you

887

00:36:47,670 --> 00:36:45,730

introduce yourself I'm Susan Hurst from

888

00:36:49,950 --> 00:36:47,680

Fort Worth and what do you think of the

889

00:36:51,779 --> 00:36:49,960

view so far it's incredible it was

890

00:36:53,819 --> 00:36:51,789

routine anything like it it's stunning

891

00:36:57,930 --> 00:36:53,829

the end of the glacier here and it is

892

00:37:00,240 --> 00:36:57,940

blue it's stunningly blue ice I've never

893

00:37:01,620 --> 00:37:00,250

seen anything like it in my life the

894

00:37:04,319 --> 00:37:01,630

mountains are surrounding us and there's

895

00:37:06,839 --> 00:37:04,329

lots of people here up on deck but you

896

00:37:09,359 --> 00:37:06,849

you've joined the amazing courses this

897

00:37:12,510 --> 00:37:09,369

your first amazing event or your

898

00:37:14,490 --> 00:37:12,520

destroyed it's my fourth yeah I've been

899

00:37:17,039 --> 00:37:14,500

to two amazing meetings and this is our

900

00:37:19,170 --> 00:37:17,049

second freeze your second cruise oh wow

901
00:37:22,440 --> 00:37:19,180
well be amazing adventure one through

902
00:37:25,380 --> 00:37:22,450
the Bermuda Triangle to a last mobile

903
00:37:27,120 --> 00:37:25,390
that's quite a difference it is and

904
00:37:29,490 --> 00:37:27,130
that's what makes it really special yeah

905
00:37:29,940 --> 00:37:29,500
some of the same people on both cruises

906
00:37:33,870 --> 00:37:29,950
and

907
00:37:35,640 --> 00:37:33,880
people all good it's all good that's I

908
00:37:37,020 --> 00:37:35,650
tell you folks that the benefits of

909
00:37:39,210 --> 00:37:37,030
being a skeptic at too numerous to

910
00:37:43,079 --> 00:37:39,220
mention especially when you can see this

911
00:37:46,440 --> 00:37:43,089
incredible view now as we are now moving

912
00:37:48,000 --> 00:37:46,450
away from the Glacia we can look further

913
00:37:50,250 --> 00:37:48,010

back and see there's incredible

914

00:37:52,440 --> 00:37:50,260

mountains with the snow streaked about

915

00:37:56,060 --> 00:37:52,450

them and they're not far from the vessel

916

00:37:58,170 --> 00:37:56,070

either more and more people sort of

917

00:38:00,599 --> 00:37:58,180

gathering around to look at all this I'm

918

00:38:03,089 --> 00:38:00,609

here i can see Phil played the bad

919

00:38:04,589 --> 00:38:03,099

astronomer and his wife and groups of

920

00:38:06,839 --> 00:38:04,599

other people that's another thing about

921

00:38:09,120 --> 00:38:06,849

these events isn't it the people are

922

00:38:10,800 --> 00:38:09,130

incredible and you get to talk to people

923

00:38:12,690 --> 00:38:10,810

that you wouldn't imagine you would get

924

00:38:18,980 --> 00:38:12,700

to talk to have dinner with James Randi

925

00:38:25,470 --> 00:38:22,740

tickets and of course with you oh look

926

00:38:29,320 --> 00:38:25,480

it's incredible

927

00:38:31,660 --> 00:38:29,330

hi now here with Phil Plait the bad

928

00:38:34,570 --> 00:38:31,670

astronomer Phil I know you're somewhat

929

00:38:36,970 --> 00:38:34,580

disappointed with the crew so far and

930

00:38:41,230 --> 00:38:36,980

especially this mediocre most Lisa

931

00:38:43,840 --> 00:38:41,240

guests the guests is it Dan I was told

932

00:38:44,920 --> 00:38:43,850

cattle would be born and this camping is

933

00:38:47,760 --> 00:38:44,930

just completely different than I

934

00:38:52,480 --> 00:38:49,960

that wasn't true that wasn't me that was

935

00:38:55,210 --> 00:38:52,490

how you can take that out right I can

936

00:38:57,250 --> 00:38:55,220

have it that obvious and now that that's

937

00:38:58,870 --> 00:38:57,260

just to the glacier and fallen off

938

00:39:01,420 --> 00:38:58,880

in front of us now some cruise away from

939

00:39:02,500 --> 00:39:01,430

it like tiny mini eight little icebergs

940

00:39:06,820 --> 00:39:02,510

but apparently they haven't said

941

00:39:10,000 --> 00:39:06,830

although we do that way too late it's on

942

00:39:11,650 --> 00:39:10,010

the other side up now let's mix of the

943

00:39:14,920 --> 00:39:11,660

classier falling off with you happier oh

944

00:39:19,620 --> 00:39:14,930

yeah let me create a little wave comes

945

00:39:25,110 --> 00:39:19,630

off from oh wow here's an iceberg right

946

00:39:28,990 --> 00:39:25,120

yep right nearest now that's an iceberg

947

00:39:32,380 --> 00:39:29,000

the bug look maybe yeah I like that's a

948

00:39:35,240 --> 00:39:32,390

big one right there again the incredible

949

00:39:38,900 --> 00:39:35,250

blue color of the ice

950

00:39:42,620 --> 00:39:38,910

she just passed frozen bird in that

951
00:39:45,680 --> 00:39:42,630
thing um it might be I don't know what

952
00:39:48,170 --> 00:39:45,690
art is they're really mice chasing acorn

953
00:39:51,800 --> 00:39:48,180
to their favorite or advice but the

954
00:39:55,040 --> 00:39:51,810
world chasing acharya with it the sound

955
00:39:57,590 --> 00:39:55,050
to a doctor this is really phenomenal

956
00:40:00,170 --> 00:39:57,600
look at this look biggie just big enough

957
00:40:01,610 --> 00:40:00,180
a little like Lincoln's legs now look at

958
00:40:03,770 --> 00:40:01,620
the mountains in the background there

959
00:40:06,080 --> 00:40:03,780
look at that is it AG like a river of

960
00:40:12,140 --> 00:40:06,090
ice ice oh you up into the mountains

961
00:40:16,850 --> 00:40:12,150
isn't that incredible yeah it is hello

962
00:40:18,970 --> 00:40:16,860
that was a big one somewhere very eerie

963
00:40:21,680 --> 00:40:18,980

sound suppression of bone-crushing

964

00:40:22,850 --> 00:40:21,690

noises thumping noises it's really

965

00:40:27,400 --> 00:40:22,860

terrible how people kept throwing their

966

00:40:29,859 --> 00:40:27,410

drinks over the side oh yeah

967

00:40:36,180 --> 00:40:29,869

you can over the layers jump under that

968

00:40:41,350 --> 00:40:38,650

after viewing the wonders of the glacier

969

00:40:44,080 --> 00:40:41,360

I went down below decks to the martini

970

00:40:47,560 --> 00:40:44,090

lounge where I run the food with rebecca

971

00:40:50,020 --> 00:40:47,570

watson the skeptic or was it we had a

972

00:40:52,300 --> 00:40:50,030

martini in the rendezvous lounge I can't

973

00:40:55,210 --> 00:40:52,310

remember which one rebecca watson this

974

00:40:58,660 --> 00:40:55,220

great fun a great skeptic and always has

975

00:40:59,920 --> 00:40:58,670

something to say and I'm still on the

976

00:41:01,840 --> 00:40:59,930

ship believe it or not now we were

977

00:41:04,420 --> 00:41:01,850

talking to the famous Rebecca Rebecca

978

00:41:06,310 --> 00:41:04,430

how are you are we I'm fine how are you

979

00:41:08,620 --> 00:41:06,320

any I'm very well you enjoying the trip

980

00:41:12,130 --> 00:41:08,630

of course I am I'm with you how could I

981

00:41:13,900 --> 00:41:12,140

not and that's all for now thank you and

982

00:41:16,060 --> 00:41:13,910

what's been the highlight so far I know

983

00:41:17,740 --> 00:41:16,070

we've only been going for three days the

984

00:41:20,140 --> 00:41:17,750

highlight so far well today we saw a

985

00:41:22,930 --> 00:41:20,150

glacier calving I was gorgeous Hubbard

986

00:41:24,850 --> 00:41:22,940

was a hubbard glacier yeah it was

987

00:41:27,220 --> 00:41:24,860

absolutely beautiful it was immense and

988

00:41:29,470 --> 00:41:27,230

it made these amazing sounds like

989

00:41:31,840 --> 00:41:29,480

thunder is really beautiful that was

990

00:41:34,000 --> 00:41:31,850

dilated so what's it like being the

991

00:41:39,060 --> 00:41:34,010

token female skip take it from the

992

00:41:43,900 --> 00:41:39,070

cruise yeah it's like being Smurfette I

993

00:41:45,970 --> 00:41:43,910

don't know that means it's no it's it's

994

00:41:47,470 --> 00:41:45,980

also better there are other women here

995

00:41:52,660 --> 00:41:47,480

and that's true but you're the official

996

00:41:54,160 --> 00:41:52,670

I'm the only official one I mean if you

997

00:41:57,250 --> 00:41:54,170

would I yeah it's a problem because I'm

998

00:42:00,460 --> 00:41:57,260

so used to it heavy what is your advice

999

00:42:03,070 --> 00:42:00,470

for young ladies out there who are

1000

00:42:06,990 --> 00:42:03,080

thinking that me maybe skepticism is for

1001
00:42:11,800 --> 00:42:07,000
me um my advice is that it is for you I

1002
00:42:13,150 --> 00:42:11,810
think if I I think the idea is a lot of

1003
00:42:15,100 --> 00:42:13,160
women out there have this little

1004
00:42:16,300 --> 00:42:15,110
thoughts there's skeptical thoughts but

1005
00:42:19,360 --> 00:42:16,310
it doesn't really occur to them to get

1006
00:42:20,890 --> 00:42:19,370
involved in the skeptical community or

1007
00:42:25,050 --> 00:42:20,900
movement or whatever you want to call it

1008
00:42:27,609 --> 00:42:25,060
and when they come to an event like this

1009
00:42:30,940 --> 00:42:27,619
hopefully they see people like me and

1010
00:42:35,430 --> 00:42:30,950
and one of the many other women who are

1011
00:42:38,020 --> 00:42:35,440
here today they see us as out-and-proud

1012
00:42:40,690 --> 00:42:38,030
skeptics and they realize that it's okay

1013
00:42:42,730 --> 00:42:40,700

and that they can do that too and it's

1014

00:42:44,730 --> 00:42:42,740

kind of difficult cuz the skepticism by

1015

00:42:48,490 --> 00:42:44,740

definition is kind of an in-your-face

1016

00:42:50,530 --> 00:42:48,500

sort of thing it's it's going against

1017

00:42:52,150 --> 00:42:50,540

the grain it's telling people that what

1018

00:42:53,740 --> 00:42:52,160

they believe is not true and it's not

1019

00:42:54,819 --> 00:42:53,750

always the popular thing to do and it's

1020

00:42:58,240 --> 00:42:54,829

not something that women are always

1021

00:43:01,480 --> 00:42:58,250

taught is ok to do and so I think that

1022

00:43:03,130 --> 00:43:01,490

were just trying to make headway showing

1023

00:43:05,079 --> 00:43:03,140

them that it is okay to keep that I

1024

00:43:06,640 --> 00:43:05,089

guess a lot of people have that don't

1025

00:43:08,440 --> 00:43:06,650

realize that it is skeptical also

1026
00:43:10,810 --> 00:43:08,450
involves hanging out and problem cruises

1027
00:43:13,720 --> 00:43:10,820
a little bitty place yeah I thought we

1028
00:43:17,589 --> 00:43:13,730
were keeping that a secret it's all very

1029
00:43:19,450 --> 00:43:17,599
hard work very hard work no it's a lot

1030
00:43:21,339 --> 00:43:19,460
of fun things like this are so great I

1031
00:43:23,740 --> 00:43:21,349
love meeting all the new people like

1032
00:43:25,839 --> 00:43:23,750
this the first time we bet it was and I

1033
00:43:28,960 --> 00:43:25,849
was just walking today and or no

1034
00:43:30,400 --> 00:43:28,970
yesterday and I really I said that my

1035
00:43:32,980 --> 00:43:30,410
favorite thing about these things are I

1036
00:43:36,190 --> 00:43:32,990
always meet just a few people who I

1037
00:43:38,349 --> 00:43:36,200
really really like and then the worst

1038
00:43:40,000 --> 00:43:38,359

part is at the end they always go to the

1039

00:43:43,300 --> 00:43:40,010

other side of the world yeah it's always

1040

00:43:46,569 --> 00:43:43,310

related but then you know on the

1041

00:44:03,620 --> 00:43:46,579

brighter side I also meet people like

1042

00:44:10,170 --> 00:44:06,720

listeners can make up their own mind I'm

1043

00:44:12,390 --> 00:44:10,180

kidding no i I've been having a lot of

1044

00:44:15,240 --> 00:44:12,400

fun and eating very amusing people like

1045

00:44:17,010 --> 00:44:15,250

this out and it's great to see him of

1046

00:44:19,170 --> 00:44:17,020

course James Randi here on the trip and

1047

00:44:22,140 --> 00:44:19,180

he's been the life and soul he's always

1048

00:44:24,840 --> 00:44:22,150

a story noise magic tricks I i adore

1049

00:44:27,750 --> 00:44:24,850

Randy and the best thing in the world is

1050

00:44:29,700 --> 00:44:27,760

to just be walking through the ship or

1051
00:44:31,920 --> 00:44:29,710
if you come to the amazing meeting in

1052
00:44:33,720 --> 00:44:31,930
Las Vegas or in Fort Lauderdale to just

1053
00:44:36,840 --> 00:44:33,730
be walking around a hotel and you run

1054
00:44:38,580 --> 00:44:36,850
into randy and he's always so accessible

1055
00:44:40,710 --> 00:44:38,590
and you just pull him off into a little

1056
00:44:43,290 --> 00:44:40,720
nook and he will sit down and he will

1057
00:44:46,350 --> 00:44:43,300
tell you the most outrageous and amazing

1058
00:44:49,980 --> 00:44:46,360
stories I mean stories about Richard

1059
00:44:52,140 --> 00:44:49,990
Feynman or alice cooper or screw the

1060
00:44:54,720 --> 00:44:52,150
other names he'll just tell you amazing

1061
00:44:56,520 --> 00:44:54,730
stories about himself and all the weird

1062
00:44:58,110 --> 00:44:56,530
adventures that he's gotten into that

1063
00:45:00,000 --> 00:44:58,120

happened to us today we were in the

1064

00:45:02,940 --> 00:45:00,010

elevator going down to one of the lower

1065

00:45:04,350 --> 00:45:02,950

decks we saw the secret let down on the

1066

00:45:05,900 --> 00:45:04,360

Norris take a walk he had it and

1067

00:45:10,500 --> 00:45:05,910

suddenly they're behind us was right

1068

00:45:12,750 --> 00:45:10,510

exactly he turns up in and really odd

1069

00:45:14,250 --> 00:45:12,760

spot I don't he's you know Phil Plait

1070

00:45:16,230 --> 00:45:14,260

the baddest runner or not the state

1071

00:45:18,660 --> 00:45:16,240

right that's the thing everywhere you

1072

00:45:20,520 --> 00:45:18,670

turn is somebody who has something

1073

00:45:22,710 --> 00:45:20,530

interesting to say somebody who is an

1074

00:45:24,840 --> 00:45:22,720

expert on something and can look at

1075

00:45:27,780 --> 00:45:24,850

things in a different way in a weird way

1076

00:45:30,480 --> 00:45:27,790

and that's I think that's what's amazing

1077

00:45:33,930 --> 00:45:30,490

about the amazing meetings it's such an

1078

00:45:35,880 --> 00:45:33,940

awesome collection of people that you

1079

00:45:40,090 --> 00:45:35,890

can't help a love that's cool thanks

1080

00:45:45,530 --> 00:45:42,740

before joining the amazing adventure too

1081

00:45:48,020 --> 00:45:45,540

I spent some time in Colorado I was the

1082

00:45:50,930 --> 00:45:48,030

guest of Phil Plait and the guest of the

1083

00:45:53,180 --> 00:45:50,940

Denver skeptics everyone treated me so

1084

00:45:55,490 --> 00:45:53,190

well I enjoyed giving a talk to the

1085

00:45:57,710 --> 00:45:55,500

Denver skeptics and then they took me up

1086

00:46:01,040 --> 00:45:57,720

Mount Evans where I nearly passed out

1087

00:46:02,630 --> 00:46:01,050

through lack of oxygen in Colorado I

1088

00:46:05,510 --> 00:46:02,640

took the opportunity to buy the latest

1089

00:46:08,570 --> 00:46:05,520

copy of the skeptic magazine and noticed

1090

00:46:12,350 --> 00:46:08,580

an article written by skeptic Harriet

1091

00:46:17,450 --> 00:46:12,360

hall I didn't know she would be on the

1092

00:46:18,740 --> 00:46:17,460

cruise now with charades going on in the

1093

00:46:20,900 --> 00:46:18,750

background it's the final day of the

1094

00:46:22,670 --> 00:46:20,910

amazing cruise the amazing adventure to

1095

00:46:25,730 --> 00:46:22,680

to Alaska north to Alaska with James

1096

00:46:28,700 --> 00:46:25,740

Randi and I'm sitting here with a skip

1097

00:46:32,570 --> 00:46:28,710

doc Harriet Hall hello Harry hello

1098

00:46:37,370 --> 00:46:32,580

Richie now you have an interesting story

1099

00:46:39,290 --> 00:46:37,380

to tell about someone who has decided to

1100

00:46:42,680 --> 00:46:39,300

contribute to the skeptical literature

1101

00:46:46,910 --> 00:46:42,690

and it's even a surprise to you is that

1102

00:46:49,040 --> 00:46:46,920

a good description I guess so I've been

1103

00:46:50,990 --> 00:46:49,050

a passive skeptic for literally decades

1104

00:46:53,300 --> 00:46:51,000

I've been reading The Skeptical Inquirer

1105

00:46:56,630 --> 00:46:53,310

and reading from acceptable literature

1106

00:46:58,610 --> 00:46:56,640

and then I became a groupie I started

1107

00:47:00,440 --> 00:46:58,620

going to meetings and worshipping all

1108

00:47:02,420 --> 00:47:00,450

those people up on the stage but I never

1109

00:47:04,790 --> 00:47:02,430

did anything result I had anything to

1110

00:47:07,370 --> 00:47:04,800

contribute and I went to the skeptics

1111

00:47:09,800 --> 00:47:07,380

toolbox workshop one somewhere in Oregon

1112

00:47:11,360 --> 00:47:09,810

and I met some of these people these

1113

00:47:13,640 --> 00:47:11,370

high and mighty people from up on the

1114

00:47:15,170 --> 00:47:13,650

stage we're young talking to the rest of

1115

00:47:16,700 --> 00:47:15,180

us and they were doing beings and they

1116

00:47:18,650 --> 00:47:16,710

were fun and I got to know them and they

1117

00:47:21,010 --> 00:47:18,660

started encouraging me one thing led to

1118

00:47:23,510 --> 00:47:21,020

another and what pretty soon I had

1119

00:47:26,690 --> 00:47:23,520

published some articles i was skeptical

1120

00:47:30,360 --> 00:47:26,700

inquirer then I went to the amazing

1121

00:47:32,370 --> 00:47:30,370

volume to michael shermer spoke and I

1122

00:47:34,350 --> 00:47:32,380

I find one of the brakes and I told him

1123

00:47:36,300 --> 00:47:34,360

about a book i read recently called God

1124

00:47:38,210 --> 00:47:36,310

so now not the bible code but another

1125

00:47:41,460 --> 00:47:38,220

one even another one that almost makes

1126
00:47:43,080 --> 00:47:41,470
the Bible Code sound sane I called the

1127
00:47:45,360 --> 00:47:43,090
god code that was completely off the

1128
00:47:47,130 --> 00:47:45,370
wall and I asked Michael if he'd read it

1129
00:47:48,480 --> 00:47:47,140
and he said no but it sounded like

1130
00:47:51,030 --> 00:47:48,490
something that would be good for this

1131
00:47:53,130 --> 00:47:51,040
magazine I think you should get somebody

1132
00:47:56,070 --> 00:47:53,140
to write a preview for skeptic magazine

1133
00:47:57,900 --> 00:47:56,080
he said what is your right away yeah so

1134
00:47:59,880 --> 00:47:57,910
now all of a sudden I'm not only

1135
00:48:02,940 --> 00:47:59,890
publishing and skeptic but i have my own

1136
00:48:04,890 --> 00:48:02,950
column I'm contributing editor I've got

1137
00:48:11,580 --> 00:48:04,900
three articles coming out in the next

1138
00:48:14,250 --> 00:48:11,590

issue so what is your main focus of

1139

00:48:17,760 --> 00:48:14,260

interest their health fraud I was a

1140

00:48:20,820 --> 00:48:17,770

retired family physician and I've been

1141

00:48:22,650 --> 00:48:20,830

working with a quick lunch I'm website

1142

00:48:23,910 --> 00:48:22,660

of the health fraud discussion based on

1143

00:48:25,650 --> 00:48:23,920

quack watch and I've learned a

1144

00:48:27,300 --> 00:48:25,660

tremendous amount from interacting with

1145

00:48:29,850 --> 00:48:27,310

the people on their written some

1146

00:48:32,550 --> 00:48:29,860

articles for the clock watch site I

1147

00:48:35,430 --> 00:48:32,560

mainly trying to use my medical

1148

00:48:36,900 --> 00:48:35,440

expertise for something useful and then

1149

00:48:38,400 --> 00:48:36,910

retired for quite a while now but this

1150

00:48:41,160 --> 00:48:38,410

is a way that I can contribute now

1151

00:48:44,880 --> 00:48:41,170

mm-hmm and I have you been getting much

1152

00:48:46,740 --> 00:48:44,890

Cara much feedback well yes I wrote an

1153

00:48:49,050 --> 00:48:46,750

article for skeptical inquiry called

1154

00:48:51,150 --> 00:48:49,060

teaching things to sing about my

1155

00:48:53,790 --> 00:48:51,160

experiences trying to introduce some

1156

00:48:56,030 --> 00:48:53,800

skeptical ideas to a group of the

1157

00:48:58,440 --> 00:48:56,040

general public but she was I can say

1158

00:49:00,300 --> 00:48:58,450

teaching things to sing only waste your

1159

00:49:02,610 --> 00:49:00,310

time and annoys the pigs yeah sort of

1160

00:49:04,860 --> 00:49:02,620

was the story of that but I got a lot of

1161

00:49:07,800 --> 00:49:04,870

feedback and my favorite one was an

1162

00:49:11,220 --> 00:49:07,810

email that started out dear Harriet will

1163

00:49:12,780 --> 00:49:11,230

you marry me he went on to say he was

1164

00:49:16,530 --> 00:49:12,790

actually already happily married but we

1165

00:49:18,300 --> 00:49:16,540

could move to Utah all right so you have

1166

00:49:19,560 --> 00:49:18,310

at least that lets you know that people

1167

00:49:21,480 --> 00:49:19,570

are out there and they're reading your

1168

00:49:24,000 --> 00:49:21,490

articles yes it's been very gratifying

1169

00:49:26,040 --> 00:49:24,010

I've had requests to use my articles for

1170

00:49:29,490 --> 00:49:26,050

college courses on critical thinking and

1171

00:49:30,599 --> 00:49:29,500

Wow a request to post it on websites and

1172

00:49:32,819 --> 00:49:30,609

to reprint it

1173

00:49:34,950 --> 00:49:32,829

so it's better that is got a very

1174

00:49:38,190 --> 00:49:34,960

gratifying and I noticed in the the

1175

00:49:41,249 --> 00:49:38,200

issue of the skeptic will you have an

1176

00:49:43,799 --> 00:49:41,259

article in the issue of the spider-man

1177

00:49:45,870 --> 00:49:43,809

on the cover no let's let's a skeptical

1178

00:49:47,190 --> 00:49:45,880

Inquirer or the skeptic has Dawkins on

1179

00:49:48,930 --> 00:49:47,200

the cover I get them all confused

1180

00:49:51,900 --> 00:49:48,940

picture of richard dawkins where your

1181

00:49:53,220 --> 00:49:51,910

article it's a very interesting line

1182

00:49:55,079 --> 00:49:53,230

drawing of you or was that the

1183

00:49:58,529 --> 00:49:55,089

photograph turned into a light before i

1184

00:50:00,930 --> 00:49:58,539

sent a photograph to Pat Lindsay the art

1185

00:50:02,700 --> 00:50:00,940

lady at skeptic at her request oh she

1186

00:50:04,950 --> 00:50:02,710

did the pencil sketch she had not met me

1187

00:50:10,109 --> 00:50:04,960

hell yeah yeah my daughter says it makes

1188

00:50:12,239 --> 00:50:10,119

me look me oh who incidentally is on the

1189

00:50:14,579 --> 00:50:12,249

cruiser of this your daughter I thought

1190

00:50:16,499 --> 00:50:14,589

her ass yes I had dinner without the the

1191

00:50:18,450 --> 00:50:16,509

other night she's super charming thank

1192

00:50:20,489 --> 00:50:18,460

you so thank you very much for chatting

1193

00:50:22,589 --> 00:50:20,499

to me enjoy the rest of the cruise I

1194

00:50:24,630 --> 00:50:22,599

think there are some whales to be

1195

00:50:36,230 --> 00:50:24,640

spotted this afternoon thank you very

1196

00:50:41,220 --> 00:50:38,400

thank you for joining me for this

1197

00:50:43,320 --> 00:50:41,230

episode of the skeptic zone thanks to

1198

00:50:45,900 --> 00:50:43,330

Jon Ronson and thanks to everybody on

1199

00:50:48,270 --> 00:50:45,910

the amazing adventure to north to Alaska

1200

00:50:51,060 --> 00:50:48,280

with James Randi and something I'll

1201
00:50:53,220 --> 00:50:51,070
never forget next week we have our

1202
00:50:55,710 --> 00:50:53,230
regular episode with dr. ray cheer

1203
00:50:58,440 --> 00:50:55,720
apports the round up the think tank and

1204
00:51:00,390 --> 00:50:58,450
all the features you love thank you to

1205
00:51:04,590 --> 00:51:00,400
everybody who's been leaving comments on

1206
00:51:06,090 --> 00:51:04,600
our website WWDC a petting zoo TV and a

1207
00:51:08,400 --> 00:51:06,100
special thank you to everybody who's

1208
00:51:10,860 --> 00:51:08,410
been donating a few dollars our way it

1209
00:51:15,860 --> 00:51:10,870
really does make a difference until next

1210
00:51:22,260 --> 00:51:18,270
you've been listening to the skeptic

1211
00:51:26,070 --> 00:51:22,270
zone visit our website at wwc a petting

1212
00:51:29,290 --> 00:51:26,080
zoo TV for comments contacts and extra

1213
00:51:29,300 --> 00:51:33,750

skits

1214

00:51:33,760 --> 00:51:40,859

check

1215

00:51:40,869 --> 00:51:42,920

Oh