

The Skeptic Zone



Show 153 - 24 Sept 2011

1
00:00:22,060 --> 00:00:09,080
welcome to the skeptic zone the podcast

2
00:00:27,320 --> 00:00:25,130
yes it's the skeptic zone episode number

3
00:00:31,519 --> 00:00:27,330
1 million and well actually no it's

4
00:00:34,549 --> 00:00:31,529
episode number 153 but the skeptic zone

5
00:00:36,799 --> 00:00:34,559
in the past week has reached 1 million

6
00:00:39,979 --> 00:00:36,809
downloads and to all million of you

7
00:00:42,080 --> 00:00:39,989
thank you what's a shoot for another

8
00:00:44,690 --> 00:00:42,090
million Richard Saunders here with you

9
00:00:47,299 --> 00:00:44,700
from Sydney Australia now this week's

10
00:00:49,760 --> 00:00:47,309
episode of the skeptic zone is a Michael

11
00:00:52,760 --> 00:00:49,770
Shermer special oh yes Michael Sherman

12
00:00:55,729 --> 00:00:52,770
now I know he's influenced many of you

13
00:00:59,869 --> 00:00:55,739

he certainly influenced me and he's

14
00:01:02,479 --> 00:00:59,879
influenced Maynard oh yes so may not and

15
00:01:06,170 --> 00:01:02,489
I take it in turns this week to

16
00:01:08,750 --> 00:01:06,180
interview Michael Shermer an interesting

17
00:01:11,990 --> 00:01:08,760
approach you my interview at the top of

18
00:01:14,810 --> 00:01:12,000
the show then we have Michael Shermer at

19
00:01:17,149 --> 00:01:14,820
skeptics in the pub and some reactions

20
00:01:19,280 --> 00:01:17,159
from people going there and we get

21
00:01:23,300 --> 00:01:19,290
Maynard interviewing Michael Shermer

22
00:01:27,440 --> 00:01:23,310
from a slightly different point of view

23
00:01:30,560 --> 00:01:27,450
a Michael Shermer experienced today on

24
00:01:34,090 --> 00:01:30,570
the skeptic zone and this week's episode

25
00:01:38,390 --> 00:01:34,100
is brought to you by our good friends at

26

00:01:40,630 --> 00:01:38,400

skeptic bros oh yes skeptic bros the

27

00:01:43,880 --> 00:01:40,640

people who make the fabulous fabulous

28

00:01:49,030 --> 00:01:43,890

placebo band I'm wearing three one two

29

00:01:52,069 --> 00:01:49,040

three of them on my wrist as I speak

30

00:01:54,649 --> 00:01:52,079

pacey bow bands from skeptic bros these

31

00:01:57,469 --> 00:01:54,659

are the PM the answer the sceptical

32

00:02:01,880 --> 00:01:57,479

answer to those ridiculous power balance

33

00:02:03,859 --> 00:02:01,890

bands and all their clones little wrist

34

00:02:09,680 --> 00:02:03,869

bands with a hologram in them now if you

35

00:02:11,960 --> 00:02:09,690

go to ww skeptic Bros BR 0 s calm you

36

00:02:12,410 --> 00:02:11,970

can find out more including how to order

37

00:02:14,150 --> 00:02:12,420

them

38

00:02:16,850 --> 00:02:14,160

if you do order one of these fabulous

39

00:02:18,470 --> 00:02:16,860

placebo bands which are coming sort of

40

00:02:20,089 --> 00:02:18,480

camouflage color now which is pretty

41

00:02:22,400 --> 00:02:20,099

groovy and glow-in-the-dark and boy they

42

00:02:25,250 --> 00:02:22,410

really glow in the dark make sure you

43

00:02:27,800 --> 00:02:25,260

order three or four and where three or

44

00:02:29,690 --> 00:02:27,810

four or at least two because then you

45

00:02:31,430 --> 00:02:29,700

get people asking you questions if you

46

00:02:34,430 --> 00:02:31,440

just wear one nobody takes any notice

47

00:02:37,040 --> 00:02:34,440

but we're a couple and then people stop

48

00:02:38,930 --> 00:02:37,050

and say why are you wearing two or three

49

00:02:42,740 --> 00:02:38,940

of those things and then you can tell

50

00:02:45,530 --> 00:02:42,750

them exactly why exactly why well it's a

51
00:02:48,920 --> 00:02:45,540
very short introduction this week why

52
00:02:52,220 --> 00:02:48,930
because we all want to hear what Michael

53
00:02:55,990 --> 00:02:52,230
Shermer has to say Michael Shermer who

54
00:03:01,780 --> 00:02:56,000
was visiting Sydney in the past week so

55
00:03:04,900 --> 00:03:01,790
sit back grab your pipe and your hat

56
00:03:10,270 --> 00:03:04,910
slippers trusty dog by your side

57
00:03:34,850 --> 00:03:10,280
armchair newspaper and hot cocoa and

58
00:03:39,449 --> 00:03:36,990
well I'm sitting back here comfortably

59
00:03:41,729 --> 00:03:39,459
in a nice hotel room with Michael

60
00:03:43,740 --> 00:03:41,739
Shermer hi Michael I glad to see you in

61
00:03:46,199 --> 00:03:43,750
Australia get to be back again my fourth

62
00:03:50,880 --> 00:03:46,209
trip to the land down unda this must be

63
00:03:52,370 --> 00:03:50,890

your shortest trip let's say no actually

64

00:03:54,870 --> 00:03:52,380

when I did that round-the-world trip

65

00:03:57,059 --> 00:03:54,880

lecturing on a jet we were only in

66

00:03:58,729 --> 00:03:57,069

Australia for like a day and a half two

67

00:04:02,160 --> 00:03:58,739

days something like that we just were in

68

00:04:07,380 --> 00:04:02,170

karen's oh yes and said this time in saw

69

00:04:09,780 --> 00:04:07,390

three days now four days right so you

70

00:04:11,820 --> 00:04:09,790

were came of here really to attend the

71

00:04:14,670 --> 00:04:11,830

the Melbourne conference it was some

72

00:04:17,789 --> 00:04:14,680

thing think ink right yeah sort of Ted

73

00:04:20,909 --> 00:04:17,799

wanna be and you know as well attended

74

00:04:23,520 --> 00:04:20,919

like 900 people and neil degrasse tyson

75

00:04:27,240 --> 00:04:23,530

and myself and I NRC alley by video link

76

00:04:29,430 --> 00:04:27,250

and few others it was good fun but one

77

00:04:31,290 --> 00:04:29,440

day yeah I was one day they should have

78

00:04:32,850 --> 00:04:31,300

you know done the whole weekend but you

79

00:04:36,150 --> 00:04:32,860

know it's expensive to rent that place I

80

00:04:37,740 --> 00:04:36,160

assume at huge auditorium but it's a

81

00:04:40,350 --> 00:04:37,750

pretty enthusiastic crowd I mean it was

82

00:04:41,790 --> 00:04:40,360

it was you know pro reason rationality

83

00:04:44,250 --> 00:04:41,800

skepticism and all that is what they're

84

00:04:46,920 --> 00:04:44,260

promoting science but there were a lot

85

00:04:51,150 --> 00:04:46,930

of atheists there and he is impose a big

86

00:04:52,500 --> 00:04:51,160

theme Christina rad was there and yeah

87

00:04:54,570 --> 00:04:52,510

that's what people want to talk a lot

88

00:04:56,760 --> 00:04:54,580

about that that's interesting are you

89

00:04:59,580 --> 00:04:56,770

finding that more and more I mean in all

90

00:05:01,560 --> 00:04:59,590

your years of skeptical work I mean we

91

00:05:03,600 --> 00:05:01,570

all cover the big topics that will ring

92

00:05:05,790 --> 00:05:03,610

the old favorites are always there yeah

93

00:05:09,390 --> 00:05:05,800

psychics and and all this sort of stuff

94

00:05:13,290 --> 00:05:09,400

but more and more it seems to me that

95

00:05:15,840 --> 00:05:13,300

atheism and religion and yeah I know and

96

00:05:18,150 --> 00:05:15,850

it's it's interesting I mean I love the

97

00:05:20,100 --> 00:05:18,160

topic science and religion are all that

98

00:05:23,250 --> 00:05:20,110

and why people don't believe in God or

99

00:05:25,260 --> 00:05:23,260

why they do believe in God but but you

100

00:05:28,230 --> 00:05:25,270

know the skeptical movement at least as

101

00:05:29,850 --> 00:05:28,240

I envisioned it and specifically what

102

00:05:31,980 --> 00:05:29,860

we're doing in skeptic magazine is pro

103

00:05:33,210 --> 00:05:31,990

science that is you have to be for

104

00:05:33,420 --> 00:05:33,220

something that's not enough to define

105

00:05:35,070 --> 00:05:33,430

your

106

00:05:37,410 --> 00:05:35,080

but what you don't believe that's not

107

00:05:39,240 --> 00:05:37,420

going to get us there we we have to tell

108

00:05:40,680 --> 00:05:39,250

people what we do believe yeah we

109

00:05:42,810 --> 00:05:40,690

believe in science and reason and

110

00:05:45,300 --> 00:05:42,820

rationality in a rational society and

111

00:05:47,970 --> 00:05:45,310

the enlightenment values that have come

112

00:05:50,370 --> 00:05:47,980

down to us over the centuries from the

113

00:05:53,100 --> 00:05:50,380

great philosophers and thinkers and

114

00:05:54,750 --> 00:05:53,110

scientists and naturalist's and you know

115

00:05:56,190 --> 00:05:54,760

we believe in civil liberties and we

116

00:05:58,110 --> 00:05:56,200

believe in rights and equal treatment

117

00:06:03,270 --> 00:05:58,120

under the law we believe in the progress

118

00:06:06,110 --> 00:06:03,280

of civilization is pushed forward by you

119

00:06:08,400 --> 00:06:06,120

know liberal enlightenment values

120

00:06:10,050 --> 00:06:08,410

classical liberal enlightenment values I

121

00:06:12,030 --> 00:06:10,060

mean and equality in all those women

122

00:06:14,880 --> 00:06:12,040

yeah especially for women would you

123

00:06:16,860 --> 00:06:14,890

doesn't realize still I realize but you

124

00:06:20,730 --> 00:06:16,870

know much progress has been made social

125

00:06:23,400 --> 00:06:20,740

and no thanks to religion for any of the

126

00:06:25,530 --> 00:06:23,410

rights revolutions and the humanitarian

127

00:06:27,720 --> 00:06:25,540

revolutions over the last two centuries

128

00:06:30,450 --> 00:06:27,730

say it's largely been driven by secular

129

00:06:33,900 --> 00:06:30,460

values that are derived from

130

00:06:37,080 --> 00:06:33,910

Enlightenment principles beginning with

131

00:06:38,910 --> 00:06:37,090

the concept that you know people are not

132

00:06:41,910 --> 00:06:38,920

a means to an end but an end and of

133

00:06:43,740 --> 00:06:41,920

themselves and whatever you think our

134

00:06:45,780 --> 00:06:43,750

Creator is God or evolution doesn't

135

00:06:47,850 --> 00:06:45,790

really matter the point is that you know

136

00:06:50,790 --> 00:06:47,860

we have value and therefore you can't

137

00:06:52,430 --> 00:06:50,800

treat people certain ways that's that

138

00:06:54,600 --> 00:06:52,440

that's a lot i was a long time coming

139

00:06:57,570 --> 00:06:54,610

you know in the history of ten thousand

140

00:06:59,210 --> 00:06:57,580

year history civilization and and it's

141

00:07:01,860 --> 00:06:59,220

the kind of thing still to fight for but

142

00:07:04,740 --> 00:07:01,870

but religions always been slightly

143

00:07:06,390 --> 00:07:04,750

behind the wave not in front of it you

144

00:07:08,330 --> 00:07:06,400

know they'll take credit for the

145

00:07:10,640 --> 00:07:08,340

abolition of slavery for example

146

00:07:15,890 --> 00:07:10,650

pointing to people like Wilberforce

147

00:07:20,970 --> 00:07:18,900

but and it's true he wasn't an

148

00:07:23,480 --> 00:07:20,980

abolitionist but the heat he was

149

00:07:26,280 --> 00:07:23,490

fighting against his own fellow

150

00:07:29,280 --> 00:07:26,290

Christians who were opposed to

151

00:07:31,700 --> 00:07:29,290

abolishing slavery and which they

152

00:07:36,270 --> 00:07:31,710

defended on strict biblical theological

153

00:07:38,460 --> 00:07:36,280

arguments so really it's it's it's we

154

00:07:40,320 --> 00:07:38,470

who are on the cutting edge of that by

155

00:07:43,050 --> 00:07:40,330

we I mean not just skeptics but anybody

156

00:07:45,330 --> 00:07:43,060

who thinks rationally which are we would

157

00:07:47,100 --> 00:07:45,340

call them skeptics my skepticism I mean

158

00:07:48,960 --> 00:07:47,110

thoughtful inquiry it

159

00:07:51,330 --> 00:07:48,970

just scientist I typically if I agree

160

00:07:53,940 --> 00:07:51,340

and the word is is always dogging us

161

00:07:56,640 --> 00:07:53,950

because yes general public they'll never

162

00:07:59,640 --> 00:07:56,650

get it now I know all the cynics no no

163

00:08:01,950 --> 00:07:59,650

yeah yeah what are you skeptical of what

164

00:08:04,230 --> 00:08:01,960

don't you believe in right what you

165

00:08:05,850 --> 00:08:04,240

absolutely right what they don't say

166

00:08:07,950 --> 00:08:05,860

what are you 40 you're the guys who

167

00:08:10,710 --> 00:08:07,960

proved got us to this standard of living

168

00:08:13,680 --> 00:08:10,720

through science right why our children

169

00:08:15,570 --> 00:08:13,690

live past three and yeah and why we have

170

00:08:19,680 --> 00:08:15,580

all our teeth at 50 or whatever it is

171

00:08:22,020 --> 00:08:19,690

right that's interesting so how do you

172

00:08:24,030 --> 00:08:22,030

do you ever take sort of the long view

173

00:08:27,690 --> 00:08:24,040

of society's progress and civilization

174

00:08:32,580 --> 00:08:27,700

and if you did what sort of stage do you

175

00:08:34,470 --> 00:08:32,590

think we're at at the moment well i just

176

00:08:37,140 --> 00:08:34,480

read Steve bangers new book comes out

177

00:08:41,040 --> 00:08:37,150

next month the better angels of our

178

00:08:42,060 --> 00:08:41,050

nature why violence has declined but

179

00:08:43,320 --> 00:08:42,070

it's not just violence I mean he's

180

00:08:44,880 --> 00:08:43,330

talking about everything you know

181

00:08:46,800 --> 00:08:44,890

murders and homicides and rates of

182

00:08:48,900 --> 00:08:46,810

killing and Wars and all that yes but

183

00:08:52,800 --> 00:08:48,910

also you know treatment of blacks and

184

00:08:54,660 --> 00:08:52,810

women spanking has declined yes the

185

00:08:56,580 --> 00:08:54,670

death penalty is almost non-existent now

186

00:08:59,130 --> 00:08:56,590

whereas virtually everybody had the

187

00:09:00,960 --> 00:08:59,140

death penalty for like in England he

188

00:09:02,490 --> 00:09:00,970

shows it you know there were hundreds of

189

00:09:05,460 --> 00:09:02,500

crimes you could get the death penalty

190

00:09:07,560 --> 00:09:05,470

for it was like 240 crimes like just

191

00:09:11,790 --> 00:09:07,570

like 200 years ago that you could be put

192

00:09:13,560 --> 00:09:11,800

to death for now zero right so what I

193

00:09:15,300 --> 00:09:13,570

think you know we've come a long ways

194

00:09:16,740 --> 00:09:15,310

how much further do we have to go well I

195

00:09:18,690 --> 00:09:16,750

you know I don't what the scale is

196

00:09:23,910 --> 00:09:18,700

exactly the question yes there's no

197

00:09:26,070 --> 00:09:23,920

scale of course yes no end point but but

198

00:09:27,720 --> 00:09:26,080

I guess I would just describe it you

199

00:09:31,860 --> 00:09:27,730

know verbally is you know the huge

200

00:09:33,960 --> 00:09:31,870

progress we've come a long ways and do I

201

00:09:36,900 --> 00:09:33,970

agree with Peter singers expanding

202

00:09:39,050 --> 00:09:36,910

circle of sentiments and but I think we

203

00:09:41,580 --> 00:09:39,060

should expand it even a little bit more

204

00:09:44,760 --> 00:09:41,590

well first you know women and blacks now

205

00:09:46,800 --> 00:09:44,770

and you know gays next close you know

206

00:09:51,000 --> 00:09:46,810

there it's that it's happening right now

207

00:09:52,500 --> 00:09:51,010

and very very effectively I think yes

208

00:09:55,320 --> 00:09:52,510

although I would have thought a little

209

00:09:58,110 --> 00:09:55,330

faster banila will get there and so

210

00:10:00,790 --> 00:09:58,120

we're the last of the oppressed menorahs

211

00:10:02,650 --> 00:10:00,800

so to speak atheists I mean it-it's hard

212

00:10:04,780 --> 00:10:02,660

it started claim i'm in a present he

213

00:10:06,610 --> 00:10:04,790

minority is a white guy living in Los

214

00:10:08,710 --> 00:10:06,620

Angeles I mean it's like that's not

215

00:10:10,900 --> 00:10:08,720

exactly like it's a big problem but but

216

00:10:12,850 --> 00:10:10,910

there are places in the world and in the

217

00:10:14,410 --> 00:10:12,860

united states where it's not so well the

218

00:10:17,610 --> 00:10:14,420

United States government Richard oak

219

00:10:20,530 --> 00:10:17,620

enough tokens often says that any

220

00:10:24,430 --> 00:10:20,540

out-and-out atheist couldn't get elected

221

00:10:26,130 --> 00:10:24,440

to office yes well true is he I don't

222

00:10:30,060 --> 00:10:26,140

know I don't think that's actually true

223

00:10:32,920 --> 00:10:30,070

I mean there are some atheists

224

00:10:35,410 --> 00:10:32,930

congressman who have you know said that

225

00:10:39,880 --> 00:10:35,420

they are president I don't know maybe

226

00:10:41,590 --> 00:10:39,890

not um you know yet anyway not yet but

227

00:10:43,870 --> 00:10:41,600

we're getting maybe we're getting there

228

00:10:45,850 --> 00:10:43,880

it'll just takes time how long ago was

229

00:10:47,680 --> 00:10:45,860

it with the thought of an

230

00:10:50,829 --> 00:10:47,690

african-american president I don't think

231

00:10:53,350 --> 00:10:50,839

of yes right unthinkable Anthony go yeah

232

00:10:56,500 --> 00:10:53,360

i mean when kennedy ran it was a big

233

00:10:58,630 --> 00:10:56,510

thing that he was catholic yes it's like

234

00:11:00,430 --> 00:10:58,640

a big boy he's account and i think

235

00:11:03,100 --> 00:11:00,440

there's a chance that mitt romney will

236

00:11:06,940 --> 00:11:03,110

get the nomination over perry hopefully

237

00:11:08,829 --> 00:11:06,950

and he actually could defeat obama if

238

00:11:11,740 --> 00:11:08,839

the economy just turned around so we

239

00:11:13,750 --> 00:11:11,750

could have a Mormon president and it'll

240

00:11:16,269 --> 00:11:13,760

be interesting to see if that comes to

241

00:11:18,699 --> 00:11:16,279

the forefront you know like do you wear

242

00:11:21,010 --> 00:11:18,709

the underwear and do you really believe

243

00:11:24,730 --> 00:11:21,020

that Joseph Smith you know read the

244

00:11:26,650 --> 00:11:24,740

secret codes through these little peep

245

00:11:29,019 --> 00:11:26,660

stones in and out of my husband's out of

246

00:11:30,310 --> 00:11:29,029

a hat yeah yeah i mean really believe

247

00:11:31,840 --> 00:11:30,320

that I wonder if it whether the

248

00:11:33,699 --> 00:11:31,850

expression comes from you're talking out

249

00:11:37,120 --> 00:11:33,709

of your hat I don't think so but yeah I

250

00:11:40,329 --> 00:11:37,130

don't either anyway and apart from that

251

00:11:44,319 --> 00:11:40,339

I've been reading some of the and I

252

00:11:46,480 --> 00:11:44,329

think I have an audio report you've run

253

00:11:50,050 --> 00:11:46,490

into trouble with the truth is over the

254

00:11:52,840 --> 00:11:50,060

yeah yeah what why you specifically is

255

00:11:54,760 --> 00:11:52,850

that because you've been hammering them

256

00:11:57,519 --> 00:11:54,770

yeah well I'm the reason been hammering

257

00:11:59,680 --> 00:11:57,529

I'm pretty hard every chance I get just

258

00:12:01,360 --> 00:11:59,690

because I I don't know why it appeals to

259

00:12:02,920 --> 00:12:01,370

me is so much is that it's just one of

260

00:12:05,350 --> 00:12:02,930

the goofier things I've ever heard it's

261

00:12:08,620 --> 00:12:05,360

just so classically your rationale in

262

00:12:11,620 --> 00:12:08,630

the sense of making Mickey basic logical

263

00:12:15,130 --> 00:12:11,630

fallacies the conjunction fallacy

264

00:12:18,910 --> 00:12:15,140

example the probability of two events

265

00:12:20,220 --> 00:12:18,920

happening is always going to be less

266

00:12:24,310 --> 00:12:20,230

than either one of them by themselves

267

00:12:26,770 --> 00:12:24,320

happening and so we know planes crashed

268

00:12:29,020 --> 00:12:26,780

into the World Trade Center buildings so

269

00:12:31,050 --> 00:12:29,030

the belief that controlled demolition

270

00:12:36,190 --> 00:12:31,060

also happened you have to believe that

271

00:12:38,260 --> 00:12:36,200

both sets of improbable events happen at

272

00:12:40,120 --> 00:12:38,270

the same time and furthermore that

273

00:12:42,550 --> 00:12:40,130

somehow they planted the bombs and the

274

00:12:44,620 --> 00:12:42,560

exact same floors that the wings of the

275

00:12:46,300 --> 00:12:44,630

plane hit at that angle because that's

276

00:12:48,910 --> 00:12:46,310

the angle at which the buildings began

277

00:12:51,130 --> 00:12:48,920

to collapse you can see it's videos so

278

00:12:53,230 --> 00:12:51,140

somehow or another that would have it

279

00:12:55,900 --> 00:12:53,240

the pilots would have had to know okay

280

00:12:59,440 --> 00:12:55,910

we gotta hit floors you know 73 through

281

00:13:02,680 --> 00:12:59,450

82 it makes furious body yeah it is very

282

00:13:03,790 --> 00:13:02,690

because right and I had an email just

283

00:13:06,370 --> 00:13:03,800

the other day from one of the troopers

284

00:13:08,380 --> 00:13:06,380

going you know about the asbestos thing

285

00:13:09,670 --> 00:13:08,390

right when they built the World Trade

286

00:13:11,800 --> 00:13:09,680

Center buildings when they got up to

287

00:13:13,870 --> 00:13:11,810

like the 76th floor there was this big

288

00:13:16,450 --> 00:13:13,880

controversy about asbestos and they had

289

00:13:19,270 --> 00:13:16,460

no asbestos from the floors on up for

290

00:13:20,860 --> 00:13:19,280

fire protection and and so the pilots

291

00:13:23,350 --> 00:13:20,870

were told ahead of time there's no

292

00:13:25,690 --> 00:13:23,360

asbestos in the foot you know from floor

293

00:13:28,330 --> 00:13:25,700

73 on up so make sure you hit that floor

294

00:13:30,370 --> 00:13:28,340

and or higher in and they review ahead

295

00:13:35,110 --> 00:13:30,380

program the plane to hit it that it was

296

00:13:36,670 --> 00:13:35,120

like really really delete is but this is

297

00:13:38,920 --> 00:13:36,680

just one of them right this is just one

298

00:13:40,630 --> 00:13:38,930

of the theories yes all sorts of one's

299

00:13:43,450 --> 00:13:40,640

flying out that fly quoc shouldn't use

300

00:13:46,630 --> 00:13:43,460

that yeah but out there about they

301
00:13:49,930 --> 00:13:46,640
weren't planes at all oh right and crazy

302
00:13:52,000 --> 00:13:49,940
this remote-control plane flown planes

303
00:13:54,010 --> 00:13:52,010
well they had bombs strapped to them

304
00:13:55,210 --> 00:13:54,020
right there's I've heard yes they were

305
00:13:56,920 --> 00:13:55,220
strapped to them I've heard that one

306
00:13:59,650 --> 00:13:56,930
that the remote control there was nobody

307
00:14:01,600 --> 00:13:59,660
in them here right so then you ask him

308
00:14:04,330 --> 00:14:01,610
what were worth worth of passengers go

309
00:14:06,580 --> 00:14:04,340
because you know there were people well

310
00:14:08,020 --> 00:14:06,590
they swept him off and took him to a

311
00:14:10,330 --> 00:14:08,030
warehouse and we're all they have to say

312
00:14:11,980 --> 00:14:10,340
is well the US government well they can

313
00:14:13,480 --> 00:14:11,990

do anything they might I US government

314

00:14:15,850 --> 00:14:13,490

seem to have their omniscient and

315

00:14:17,020 --> 00:14:15,860

omnipotent yeah yeah they can't get the

316

00:14:18,430 --> 00:14:17,030

tax system right or the health system

317

00:14:20,020 --> 00:14:18,440

right but they can make all these people

318

00:14:22,510 --> 00:14:20,030

just right

319

00:14:23,770 --> 00:14:22,520

it is and what about the people that

320

00:14:25,660 --> 00:14:23,780

were talking to their loved ones on

321

00:14:27,610 --> 00:14:25,670

their cell phones yeah well you know the

322

00:14:28,810 --> 00:14:27,620

FBI and the CIA they have the special

323

00:14:31,840 --> 00:14:28,820

equipment where they can replicate

324

00:14:33,670 --> 00:14:31,850

people's conversations and actually

325

00:14:35,890 --> 00:14:33,680

running a conversation with you know

326

00:14:40,090 --> 00:14:35,900

just goes on and on it's just so absurd

327

00:14:41,620 --> 00:14:40,100

so yeah I hammer that pretty good I must

328

00:14:43,990 --> 00:14:41,630

do you hidden isn't that there's no end

329

00:14:45,850 --> 00:14:44,000

I mean you can't you can't give them the

330

00:14:47,680 --> 00:14:45,860

fate of complete rest that's not

331

00:14:51,280 --> 00:14:47,690

possible for sometimes people do you

332

00:14:52,600 --> 00:14:51,290

find that there's the similar similarity

333

00:14:55,390 --> 00:14:52,610

between the truth is and the climate

334

00:14:58,690 --> 00:14:55,400

change deniers well I guess in a sense

335

00:15:03,190 --> 00:14:58,700

of there's no facts that will convince

336

00:15:05,370 --> 00:15:03,200

them I mean the ice cap on Greenland

337

00:15:08,740 --> 00:15:05,380

could fall off into the ocean and then

338

00:15:10,810 --> 00:15:08,750

it's a left-wing conspiracy or something

339

00:15:13,810 --> 00:15:10,820

you know because you know there'll be

340

00:15:15,460 --> 00:15:13,820

people listening to this interview great

341

00:15:17,350 --> 00:15:15,470

listeners of the skeptic zone who will

342

00:15:20,140 --> 00:15:17,360

now there is we'll be burning because

343

00:15:22,300 --> 00:15:20,150

they consider that we're crazy that we

344

00:15:25,390 --> 00:15:22,310

three exhale you know I consensus on

345

00:15:26,950 --> 00:15:25,400

climate change right it's a fascinating

346

00:15:28,900 --> 00:15:26,960

I understand what are coming from and I

347

00:15:30,460 --> 00:15:28,910

was skeptical of the climate stuff for

348

00:15:32,220 --> 00:15:30,470

quite a while I mean when I was in

349

00:15:35,350 --> 00:15:32,230

college the environmentalist movement

350

00:15:37,270 --> 00:15:35,360

used a lot of scare tactics and you know

351

00:15:39,630 --> 00:15:37,280

things created this sort of dystopia

352

00:15:42,790 --> 00:15:39,640

world that we were all heading into and

353

00:15:44,950 --> 00:15:42,800

you know overpopulation and I remember

354

00:15:46,990 --> 00:15:44,960

that rainforests would be gone peak oil

355

00:15:49,210 --> 00:15:47,000

would you see the world now before you

356

00:15:50,950 --> 00:15:49,220

highlights of it yeah and well what

357

00:15:53,530 --> 00:15:50,960

happened well what happened was science

358

00:15:55,480 --> 00:15:53,540

really saved us were able to feed those

359

00:15:56,770 --> 00:15:55,490

people now unlike before and and the

360

00:16:00,580 --> 00:15:56,780

earth can sustain more because of

361

00:16:02,140 --> 00:16:00,590

science and technology and and also they

362

00:16:03,460 --> 00:16:02,150

exaggerated so you know the projections

363

00:16:05,710 --> 00:16:03,470

are hard to make and the science wasn't

364

00:16:08,080 --> 00:16:05,720

very good in 1970s but it's really good

365

00:16:10,390 --> 00:16:08,090

now right so I kind of lost track of it

366

00:16:13,410 --> 00:16:10,400

for a while and it seemed like there was

367

00:16:17,350 --> 00:16:13,420

a lot of exaggeration going on and and

368

00:16:19,090 --> 00:16:17,360

but but really by 2000 2000 s I think

369

00:16:20,410 --> 00:16:19,100

the evidence was pretty overwhelming you

370

00:16:23,200 --> 00:16:20,420

know there was just a lot of really good

371

00:16:24,460 --> 00:16:23,210

data and I think the way a skeptic

372

00:16:27,370 --> 00:16:24,470

should think about it is the same way

373

00:16:29,170 --> 00:16:27,380

that we know evolution happened that

374

00:16:31,480 --> 00:16:29,180

there's a convergence of evidence for

375

00:16:32,500 --> 00:16:31,490

multiple lines of inquiry so the idea

376

00:16:34,960 --> 00:16:32,510

that

377

00:16:36,700 --> 00:16:34,970

climate change climate science is sort

378

00:16:39,700 --> 00:16:36,710

of a conspiracy of sorts and these guys

379

00:16:41,500 --> 00:16:39,710

are all in cahoots to get funding and

380

00:16:42,760 --> 00:16:41,510

that sort of thing this is the same

381

00:16:44,110 --> 00:16:42,770

accusation creationist bank about

382

00:16:45,370 --> 00:16:44,120

evolution it's like they're all meeting

383

00:16:47,260 --> 00:16:45,380

on the weekends get their stories

384

00:16:49,780 --> 00:16:47,270

straight you know and that's not how it

385

00:16:51,700 --> 00:16:49,790

happens I mean evolution is understood

386

00:16:54,550 --> 00:16:51,710

through so many different fields of

387

00:16:56,140 --> 00:16:54,560

science of scientists that don't even

388

00:16:57,940 --> 00:16:56,150

know each other they don't go to the

389

00:17:00,670 --> 00:16:57,950

same conferences they work in different

390

00:17:01,930 --> 00:17:00,680

fields completely different fields and

391

00:17:03,490 --> 00:17:01,940

the same thing with climates I mean you

392

00:17:04,810 --> 00:17:03,500

got the glacier guys they you know

393

00:17:07,510 --> 00:17:04,820

they're one group and they go to their

394

00:17:10,000 --> 00:17:07,520

own conferences and the people study

395

00:17:13,000 --> 00:17:10,010

clouds and and then you got the the

396

00:17:16,260 --> 00:17:13,010

colleges that study some obscure frog

397

00:17:18,910 --> 00:17:16,270

that has to breed with this kind of hmm

398

00:17:20,860 --> 00:17:18,920

when these plants open or some bird or

399

00:17:22,990 --> 00:17:20,870

whatever that and these plants are now

400

00:17:27,220 --> 00:17:23,000

opening earlier and earlier every year

401
00:17:28,270 --> 00:17:27,230
because it's you know it's you know the

402
00:17:29,710 --> 00:17:28,280
clients getting warmer and warmer

403
00:17:32,710 --> 00:17:29,720
earlier and earlier because of global

404
00:17:35,200 --> 00:17:32,720
warming now that guy you know he doesn't

405
00:17:37,000 --> 00:17:35,210
know anything about clouds or climate

406
00:17:39,670 --> 00:17:37,010
modeling he's an ecologist that studies

407
00:17:43,680 --> 00:17:39,680
butyl flowering plants and he's

408
00:17:45,640 --> 00:17:43,690
documenting this change shift right so

409
00:17:47,350 --> 00:17:45,650
that's how we know about the climate

410
00:17:50,020 --> 00:17:47,360
change is multiple lines of inquiry is

411
00:17:53,890 --> 00:17:50,030
Concilium inductions that it makes

412
00:17:55,600 --> 00:17:53,900
science so robust and therefore when a

413
00:17:57,520 --> 00:17:55,610

climate deniers is oh yeah but what

414

00:18:00,940 --> 00:17:57,530

about this mistake that they made or you

415

00:18:03,070 --> 00:18:00,950

know what about this this station a

416

00:18:04,690 --> 00:18:03,080

temperature recording station that's in

417

00:18:08,080 --> 00:18:04,700

a parking lot of black parking lot the

418

00:18:10,090 --> 00:18:08,090

heat island effect well I mean do you

419

00:18:11,620 --> 00:18:10,100

think these people are idiots that do

420

00:18:13,090 --> 00:18:11,630

climate science they don't know about

421

00:18:14,560 --> 00:18:13,100

the heat island effect that you know

422

00:18:16,210 --> 00:18:14,570

they don't take that into account with

423

00:18:18,220 --> 00:18:16,220

this you know there's thousands of these

424

00:18:21,000 --> 00:18:18,230

temperature stations there are nowhere

425

00:18:23,740 --> 00:18:21,010

near cities and they're showing these

426
00:18:27,610 --> 00:18:23,750
constantly changing trends of the earth

427
00:18:30,250 --> 00:18:27,620
getting warmer so that's just one of

428
00:18:31,780 --> 00:18:30,260
these like distracting things like the

429
00:18:33,670 --> 00:18:31,790
creationists used like if you can't

430
00:18:37,450 --> 00:18:33,680
explain this you know one little tiny

431
00:18:40,360 --> 00:18:37,460
thing here then evolution is wrong yeah

432
00:18:42,760 --> 00:18:40,370
that's a really I think this skeptics

433
00:18:44,480 --> 00:18:42,770
are becoming I mean they take their on

434
00:18:47,210 --> 00:18:44,490
the wrong side on this one now

435
00:18:49,549 --> 00:18:47,220
that's where the word is really terrible

436
00:18:51,650 --> 00:18:49,559
yeah right so I mean climate-change

437
00:18:54,710 --> 00:18:51,660
skeptic is firmly implanted in the

438
00:18:56,299 --> 00:18:54,720

public yes right right that's why I was

439

00:18:59,840 --> 00:18:56,309

discussing with you a little bit earlier

440

00:19:01,850 --> 00:18:59,850

where I'm used to be people say you're a

441

00:19:04,370 --> 00:19:01,860

climate-change skeptic right yeah

442

00:19:07,010 --> 00:19:04,380

frequently as they used to not so much

443

00:19:08,510 --> 00:19:07,020

anymore you used to say you guys are

444

00:19:15,680 --> 00:19:08,520

crazy you don't even think we went to

445

00:19:18,080 --> 00:19:15,690

the moon yeah right yeah so yeah you

446

00:19:20,240 --> 00:19:18,090

know the climate are skeptics who are

447

00:19:22,850 --> 00:19:20,250

climate skeptics are a different breed

448

00:19:25,310 --> 00:19:22,860

because they tend to also be liberal

449

00:19:26,510 --> 00:19:25,320

they're not politically motivated like

450

00:19:29,000 --> 00:19:26,520

the right-wingers right wingers

451
00:19:30,710 --> 00:19:29,010
conservatives they're against climate

452
00:19:33,470 --> 00:19:30,720
change because they think it's a liberal

453
00:19:36,710 --> 00:19:33,480
plot against business and capitalism and

454
00:19:38,810 --> 00:19:36,720
free markets and and those elite snobby

455
00:19:40,070 --> 00:19:38,820
liberals in Harvard and these Coast

456
00:19:41,419 --> 00:19:40,080
liberals and all they want to run the

457
00:19:42,950 --> 00:19:41,429
world because they think they know best

458
00:19:46,790 --> 00:19:42,960
and they're using climate change as a

459
00:19:49,070 --> 00:19:46,800
way of manipulating you know policy

460
00:19:52,220 --> 00:19:49,080
political public policy and things like

461
00:19:54,260 --> 00:19:52,230
that obviously skeptics don't think that

462
00:19:56,440 --> 00:19:54,270
because they tend not to be conservative

463
00:20:00,260 --> 00:19:56,450

all right ours are skeptics indignant

464

00:20:01,850 --> 00:20:00,270

and but again most the people that mouth

465

00:20:04,730 --> 00:20:01,860

off about it really don't know much

466

00:20:07,549 --> 00:20:04,740

climate science I I agree i mean when i

467

00:20:08,930 --> 00:20:07,559

read primers book when i first came out

468

00:20:10,750 --> 00:20:08,940

he and lemurs book i thought hey you

469

00:20:13,520 --> 00:20:10,760

know this guy's in our camp yeah he

470

00:20:14,930 --> 00:20:13,530

debunked those crazy creations he was

471

00:20:16,520 --> 00:20:14,940

one of the first guys that came out here

472

00:20:19,820 --> 00:20:16,530

line for god he did it he did a

473

00:20:22,250 --> 00:20:19,830

wonderful job so he had street cred with

474

00:20:24,950 --> 00:20:22,260

jeff walz back yeah yeah so when i read

475

00:20:27,470 --> 00:20:24,960

his book i thought okay this guy's you

476

00:20:28,910 --> 00:20:27,480

know i can trust this guy and wow the

477

00:20:30,290 --> 00:20:28,920

stuff he's right in here you know maybe

478

00:20:33,020 --> 00:20:30,300

I'm wrong maybe I had a shift back and

479

00:20:37,130 --> 00:20:33,030

be skeptical of the climate stuff again

480

00:20:38,690 --> 00:20:37,140

and I read it on a plane and then when I

481

00:20:41,330 --> 00:20:38,700

got back I called Don Prothero my

482

00:20:44,720 --> 00:20:41,340

resident expert in these matters at

483

00:20:46,430 --> 00:20:44,730

Caltech and he said oh no no no here go

484

00:20:49,820 --> 00:20:46,440

to this web page there's like a you know

485

00:20:52,610 --> 00:20:49,830

a list of 200 errors in the lemurs book

486

00:20:56,299 --> 00:20:52,620

and not just errors but stuff like he it

487

00:20:58,220 --> 00:20:56,309

really looks like he intentionally lied

488

00:21:00,260 --> 00:20:58,230

about data sets and

489

00:21:01,730 --> 00:21:00,270

and change graphs to make it look

490

00:21:04,100 --> 00:21:01,740

different i mean it was really quite

491

00:21:05,390 --> 00:21:04,110

disturbing what i was reading and I mean

492

00:21:07,250 --> 00:21:05,400

I could check you can check it you have

493

00:21:09,799 --> 00:21:07,260

his book there's the web page you could

494

00:21:12,560 --> 00:21:09,809

look and see what he did it's like this

495

00:21:14,750 --> 00:21:12,570

is really infuriating it's not just that

496

00:21:16,940 --> 00:21:14,760

you made a few errors it really looks at

497

00:21:19,700 --> 00:21:16,950

almost intentional you know so I must

498

00:21:23,150 --> 00:21:19,710

admit I haven't written a book and I do

499

00:21:26,870 --> 00:21:23,160

tend to steer away from the issue in

500

00:21:28,100 --> 00:21:26,880

general yeah simply because or the two

501
00:21:30,100 --> 00:21:28,110
reasons what I don't know enough about

502
00:21:32,810 --> 00:21:30,110
it I really don't know I mean I'd like

503
00:21:35,419 --> 00:21:32,820
what most of my concentration time is

504
00:21:38,810 --> 00:21:35,429
spent on the classical stuff yeah I'll

505
00:21:41,090 --> 00:21:38,820
made all pasiba bands that you have it

506
00:21:43,520 --> 00:21:41,100
on you in your hand right now or ghost

507
00:21:45,680 --> 00:21:43,530
of money all this sort of right that's

508
00:21:47,690 --> 00:21:45,690
where my strengths are and the other one

509
00:21:50,120 --> 00:21:47,700
is because of the passion stirs up and

510
00:21:52,070 --> 00:21:50,130
people write to me extraordinary email

511
00:21:54,530 --> 00:21:52,080
so you must get these all the time oh

512
00:21:56,480 --> 00:21:54,540
yeah yeah yeah you're a skeptic I'm a

513
00:21:59,360 --> 00:21:56,490

skeptic so why aren't you skeptical of

514

00:22:01,159 --> 00:21:59,370

the climate stuff isn't it obvious we

515

00:22:04,190 --> 00:22:01,169

published a beautiful article in skeptic

516

00:22:06,260 --> 00:22:04,200

by tapio schneider at Caltech who's a

517

00:22:08,000 --> 00:22:06,270

professional climate scientists and i

518

00:22:10,490 --> 00:22:08,010

commissioned him just give us give us

519

00:22:13,370 --> 00:22:10,500

like how do we know climate change is

520

00:22:15,440 --> 00:22:13,380

real what give us like a 10 bullet point

521

00:22:16,789 --> 00:22:15,450

the best grass the best datasets what

522

00:22:19,250 --> 00:22:16,799

are they you know we published it and

523

00:22:20,990 --> 00:22:19,260

the letters we got just hundreds of

524

00:22:23,390 --> 00:22:21,000

emails you know but you know how crazy

525

00:22:25,490 --> 00:22:23,400

or to believe this stuff yeah yeah and

526

00:22:28,460 --> 00:22:25,500

again it's like the heat island effect

527

00:22:30,350 --> 00:22:28,470

is thrown off all the measuring even

528

00:22:32,090 --> 00:22:30,360

though he says right in there you know

529

00:22:35,450 --> 00:22:32,100

most of these measuring stations are

530

00:22:39,020 --> 00:22:35,460

nowhere near cities it's like did they

531

00:22:41,299 --> 00:22:39,030

even read this article just doesn't sort

532

00:22:42,590 --> 00:22:41,309

of a knee-jerk thing I don't know now

533

00:22:44,270 --> 00:22:42,600

you know penduline makes a big thing

534

00:22:45,799 --> 00:22:44,280

like a tam you know it should be okay to

535

00:22:47,390 --> 00:22:45,809

say i don't know he says I don't know if

536

00:22:49,190 --> 00:22:47,400

climate change is really not I don't

537

00:22:52,520 --> 00:22:49,200

know it should be okay to say I don't

538

00:22:54,919 --> 00:22:52,530

know yes as a confession of I don't know

539

00:22:56,360 --> 00:22:54,929

anything about it to know whether it's

540

00:22:59,419 --> 00:22:56,370

real well I don't know anything about

541

00:23:01,220 --> 00:22:59,429

string theory either or really I don't

542

00:23:04,669 --> 00:23:01,230

know much about much of most of

543

00:23:08,930 --> 00:23:04,679

cosmology or biochemistry or genetics

544

00:23:11,400 --> 00:23:08,940

you know I mean and yet we we accept

545

00:23:12,810 --> 00:23:11,410

that we don't say you know I

546

00:23:14,310 --> 00:23:12,820

really don't know about that DNA

547

00:23:18,260 --> 00:23:14,320

genetics this is the difference between

548

00:23:20,580 --> 00:23:18,270

saying I generally accept something and

549

00:23:22,050 --> 00:23:20,590

and on the other side of the coin it

550

00:23:24,060 --> 00:23:22,060

doesn't mean I can go out and stand in

551

00:23:25,770 --> 00:23:24,070

front of the public and defend it yes

552

00:23:28,440 --> 00:23:25,780

very and I would that's right and a foal

553

00:23:31,200 --> 00:23:28,450

dad because they have a question pitch

554

00:23:35,070 --> 00:23:31,210

that may not be what would I say yeah

555

00:23:36,690 --> 00:23:35,080

right oh yeah like cosmology so the

556

00:23:39,930 --> 00:23:36,700

climate thing is definitely politicized

557

00:23:43,710 --> 00:23:39,940

for sure and it's certainly a hot-button

558

00:23:45,600 --> 00:23:43,720

issue and so to speak so I wonder and do

559

00:23:47,280 --> 00:23:45,610

you see anything on the horizon what's

560

00:23:50,160 --> 00:23:47,290

the next big thing that's going to come

561

00:23:53,160 --> 00:23:50,170

along yeah I can't see the future but

562

00:23:55,500 --> 00:23:53,170

yeah I don't know well you know the

563

00:23:58,920 --> 00:23:55,510

anti-vaccine vaxors thing is still

564

00:24:03,570 --> 00:23:58,930

pretty hot yeah you know that we're

565

00:24:06,000 --> 00:24:03,580

still going strong with that the wealth

566

00:24:09,810 --> 00:24:06,010

you know I just assumed that creation

567

00:24:11,730 --> 00:24:09,820

and stuff will never fully die it I mean

568

00:24:13,580 --> 00:24:11,740

we've got a lot of good things in this

569

00:24:16,710 --> 00:24:13,590

country I must boast about it and

570

00:24:18,600 --> 00:24:16,720

working the creationists pretty hot over

571

00:24:20,130 --> 00:24:18,610

the years yeah i mean that's been pretty

572

00:24:22,020 --> 00:24:20,140

successful i mean they're still there of

573

00:24:24,570 --> 00:24:22,030

course but i don't have nearly the

574

00:24:27,180 --> 00:24:24,580

influence that you right i don't know i

575

00:24:29,610 --> 00:24:27,190

mean i'm now dear friend Eugenie Scott

576

00:24:31,560 --> 00:24:29,620

certainly has our hands full constantly

577

00:24:33,360 --> 00:24:31,570

cäcilie yeah you'd think they'd be

578

00:24:36,330 --> 00:24:33,370

progress by now it just keeps evolving

579

00:24:38,100 --> 00:24:36,340

the movement so to speak so well we'll

580

00:24:40,230 --> 00:24:38,110

go next well you know the intelligent

581

00:24:42,030 --> 00:24:40,240

design movement is much more

582

00:24:46,140 --> 00:24:42,040

sophisticated in the previous soon

583

00:24:48,090 --> 00:24:46,150

gracious so they continue to have legs

584

00:24:49,710 --> 00:24:48,100

but not quite as much as before the

585

00:24:51,210 --> 00:24:49,720

Dover trial is certainly a blow against

586

00:24:55,350 --> 00:24:51,220

that yes yes but they haven't gone away

587

00:24:56,760 --> 00:24:55,360

for sure they're still around like I

588

00:25:00,360 --> 00:24:56,770

guess it's one of the things that makes

589

00:25:01,590 --> 00:25:00,370

our job interesting yeah right going to

590

00:25:03,510 --> 00:25:01,600

happen next emit a couple of years ago

591

00:25:06,000 --> 00:25:03,520

I'd never heard of the the power balance

592

00:25:07,770 --> 00:25:06,010

bracelet oh right I came a while that's

593

00:25:10,470 --> 00:25:07,780

relatively new isn't it may be five yeah

594

00:25:12,060 --> 00:25:10,480

this this sort of the holograph in the

595

00:25:15,210 --> 00:25:12,070

rubberband sort of thing I mean I only

596

00:25:16,560 --> 00:25:15,220

had first heard about it in 2009 that

597

00:25:20,580 --> 00:25:16,570

it's been an interesting thing I've ever

598

00:25:23,770 --> 00:25:20,590

on American athletes use it so they have

599

00:25:26,240 --> 00:25:23,780

proper balance in their sport

600

00:25:28,490 --> 00:25:26,250

well whatever it is michael shermer I'm

601
00:25:31,100 --> 00:25:28,500
sure you'll be receiving emails

602
00:25:32,810 --> 00:25:31,110
constantly yeah well that's but I have

603
00:25:34,250 --> 00:25:32,820
job security in that sense there is

604
00:25:37,730 --> 00:25:34,260
always going to be something for us to

605
00:25:41,000 --> 00:25:37,740
do there is eternal vigilance that's the

606
00:25:43,550 --> 00:25:41,010
price of freedom yet and at my sanity if

607
00:25:46,940 --> 00:25:43,560
cost our sanity sometimes here go I'm

608
00:25:48,860 --> 00:25:46,950
afraid so if our listeners I don't

609
00:25:50,480 --> 00:25:48,870
subscribe to your magazine and they

610
00:25:51,740 --> 00:25:50,490
should of course what's the best website

611
00:25:54,440 --> 00:25:51,750
they can go to to find out more about

612
00:25:56,840 --> 00:25:54,450
you your work in the magazine skeptic

613
00:26:00,410 --> 00:25:56,850

calm that's easy it's easy it's very

614

00:26:02,390 --> 00:26:00,420

great website yeah it is yet very simple

615

00:26:04,730 --> 00:26:02,400

straightforward if you ever want to sell

616

00:26:07,730 --> 00:26:04,740

it you'd make a fortune in maybe I don't

617

00:26:09,740 --> 00:26:07,740

know about that skeptical Michael

618

00:26:11,960 --> 00:26:09,750

Shermer we you and I are about to walk

619

00:26:13,580 --> 00:26:11,970

around the corner down to skeptics in

620

00:26:15,800 --> 00:26:13,590

the pub here and so that's good see

621

00:26:18,560 --> 00:26:15,810

that's all another movement that I never

622

00:26:20,420 --> 00:26:18,570

anticipated all the social media and the

623

00:26:22,670 --> 00:26:20,430

growth of skepticism from the bottom up

624

00:26:24,560 --> 00:26:22,680

it's you know every city I go to there's

625

00:26:25,940 --> 00:26:24,570

you know a skeptics at the pub a these

626

00:26:27,110 --> 00:26:25,950

beat-up group the facebook group

627

00:26:29,450 --> 00:26:27,120

whatever you know it's like they're

628

00:26:31,580 --> 00:26:29,460

everywhere it's good stuff agree with

629

00:26:34,540 --> 00:26:31,590

you I've been heavily into this with

630

00:26:37,670 --> 00:26:34,550

just over ten years and this grassroots

631

00:26:39,530 --> 00:26:37,680

socializing meeting yeah just didn't

632

00:26:41,840 --> 00:26:39,540

happen yep that's right so it's all

633

00:26:43,390 --> 00:26:41,850

involved that's right and no one

634

00:26:46,790 --> 00:26:43,400

directed it there's no one in charge

635

00:26:49,970 --> 00:26:46,800

which I like we're having our own Arab

636

00:26:51,530 --> 00:26:49,980

Spring Michaels you ever enjoy the rest

637

00:27:04,460 --> 00:26:51,540

of your short stay in Australia and

638

00:27:10,710 --> 00:27:08,220

hi this is scary papi i am ross Blocher

639

00:27:14,160 --> 00:27:10,720

okay Ross hey we're from a podcast

640

00:27:15,870 --> 00:27:14,170

called oh no Ross and Carrie we find out

641

00:27:17,280 --> 00:27:15,880

what happens when you show up and ask

642

00:27:19,530 --> 00:27:17,290

questions we've hung out with the

643

00:27:22,080 --> 00:27:19,540

Cabalists the Mormons we've gone and

644

00:27:24,540 --> 00:27:22,090

gotten ear candle gone to the Sikhs we

645

00:27:26,160 --> 00:27:24,550

show up so you don't have to so find out

646

00:27:28,260 --> 00:27:26,170

where we're going next we'll even have

647

00:27:30,660 --> 00:27:28,270

special episodes where we have famous

648

00:27:32,670 --> 00:27:30,670

guests like Brian Dalton from mr. deity

649

00:27:34,650 --> 00:27:32,680

you heard that awesome theme music he

650

00:27:39,060 --> 00:27:34,660

wrote that you should come visit us at

651
00:27:41,640 --> 00:27:39,070
Oh No podcast.com or facebook.com slash

652
00:27:45,750 --> 00:27:41,650
on rack what the hell's honor a cross Oh

653
00:27:52,169 --> 00:27:45,760
in RAC oh oh no Ross and Carrie that's

654
00:27:59,480 --> 00:27:56,549
here's my not spooky action at a

655
00:28:03,830 --> 00:28:01,520
well we're here about to see Michael

656
00:28:05,270 --> 00:28:03,840
Sherman L why do you wanna see Michael

657
00:28:06,590 --> 00:28:05,280
Sherman up why'd you come along you seen

658
00:28:10,370 --> 00:28:06,600
him before I have seen in me for years

659
00:28:11,810 --> 00:28:10,380
I've is it the skeptics skeptic and more

660
00:28:14,180 --> 00:28:11,820
or less i think yes i mean there if

661
00:28:15,799 --> 00:28:14,190
something's like or although i disagree

662
00:28:17,360 --> 00:28:15,809
with something he says agree with if we

663
00:28:18,620 --> 00:28:17,370

all agree with each other someone once

664

00:28:21,740 --> 00:28:18,630

said if two people agree on everything's

665

00:28:23,330 --> 00:28:21,750

totally one of them's redundant but i

666

00:28:26,830 --> 00:28:23,340

think in many standoff had a good work

667

00:28:29,480 --> 00:28:26,840

for skepticism he's also i like his

668

00:28:32,570 --> 00:28:29,490

breadth of what he does he isn't just

669

00:28:33,620 --> 00:28:32,580

concert on one particular area of it my

670

00:28:35,330 --> 00:28:33,630

son was asked me the other day i was

671

00:28:37,430 --> 00:28:35,340

really booing my symbol is he's written

672

00:28:39,290 --> 00:28:37,440

12 books all of which I accept which

673

00:28:40,549 --> 00:28:39,300

cover about eight different topics he's

674

00:28:42,049 --> 00:28:40,559

done the Holocaust and oil thing which

675

00:28:44,540 --> 00:28:42,059

is excellent proceeded to attend

676
00:28:46,250 --> 00:28:44,550
historical research he's done research

677
00:28:49,460 --> 00:28:46,260
in psychology which is his academic

678
00:28:53,740 --> 00:28:49,470
background so I think he's interesting

679
00:28:56,150 --> 00:28:53,750
as a skeptic person he's he's not too

680
00:28:57,410 --> 00:28:56,160
one-dimensional then not saying all

681
00:28:59,930 --> 00:28:57,420
people are but most people concert on

682
00:29:04,340 --> 00:28:59,940
one area they'll do alternative medicine

683
00:29:06,290 --> 00:29:04,350
or they'll do okay paranormal stuff on

684
00:29:07,310 --> 00:29:06,300
him that he does the lot and does

685
00:29:08,810 --> 00:29:07,320
everything I think that's what's

686
00:29:12,860 --> 00:29:08,820
interesting about Sherman but he's not

687
00:29:14,240 --> 00:29:12,870
into you don't like everybody else yeah

688
00:29:15,350 --> 00:29:14,250

and your along receive Michael Schur me

689

00:29:17,390 --> 00:29:15,360

here tonight how come here along the

690

00:29:19,240 --> 00:29:17,400

scene I've seen him before a few years

691

00:29:22,310 --> 00:29:19,250

ago in Sydney and he did a debate with

692

00:29:24,260 --> 00:29:22,320

Professor John Lennox and that was very

693

00:29:26,840 --> 00:29:24,270

good that filled out there was a filled

694

00:29:30,230 --> 00:29:26,850

up the Wesley center got 800 people

695

00:29:32,600 --> 00:29:30,240

there I think he really mop the floor

696

00:29:35,630 --> 00:29:32,610

with a proposal and what was it about

697

00:29:38,150 --> 00:29:35,640

that time over does site has science

698

00:29:41,780 --> 00:29:38,160

buried God was the question

699

00:29:44,300 --> 00:29:41,790

Lennox was trying to set that science

700

00:29:46,510 --> 00:29:44,310

proves the existence of God and Sherman

701
00:29:48,770 --> 00:29:46,520
was arguing the opposite point of view

702
00:29:49,820 --> 00:29:48,780
and what are you hoping to hear from him

703
00:29:54,740 --> 00:29:49,830
tonight what do you think is the hot

704
00:29:56,450 --> 00:29:54,750
button issue for schirmer fans today I'm

705
00:29:59,360 --> 00:29:56,460
really not in I'd really don't know what

706
00:30:00,800 --> 00:29:59,370
to expect tonight so I'm interested to

707
00:30:06,800 --> 00:30:00,810
hear what it says on all sorts of issues

708
00:30:08,420 --> 00:30:06,810
about religion other things like climate

709
00:30:10,700 --> 00:30:08,430
change I want to see what he has a view

710
00:30:13,910 --> 00:30:10,710
on that and the interesting because I

711
00:30:15,980 --> 00:30:13,920
know a lot of skeptics in Australia have

712
00:30:17,240 --> 00:30:15,990
differing views on climate change yeah

713
00:30:19,160 --> 00:30:17,250

and there's a lot of confusion about

714

00:30:21,680 --> 00:30:19,170

what the word means yeah it's very much

715

00:30:23,510 --> 00:30:21,690

a schism issue with with skeptics along

716

00:30:25,130 --> 00:30:23,520

with religion and belief in God the the

717

00:30:28,010 --> 00:30:25,140

global warming is another one isn't it

718

00:30:31,880 --> 00:30:28,020

yeah and I think Sherman has published

719

00:30:33,880 --> 00:30:31,890

on that on his blog so you comes down

720

00:30:36,260 --> 00:30:33,890

quite strongly in favor of the

721

00:30:38,330 --> 00:30:36,270

anthropogenic global warming and

722

00:30:41,690 --> 00:30:38,340

criticizing the

723

00:30:44,250 --> 00:30:41,700

the global warming skeptic so-called

724

00:30:46,169 --> 00:30:44,260

witnesses all he says tonight yes I'm

725

00:30:47,669 --> 00:30:46,179

looking forward to her right and why you

726

00:30:51,810 --> 00:30:47,679

long to see Michael show me here tonight

727

00:30:54,299 --> 00:30:51,820

with the chicken and beef and salad um

728

00:30:56,160 --> 00:30:54,309

because i haven't seen michael shermer

729

00:30:58,169 --> 00:30:56,170

speak before in the flesh and i'd like

730

00:31:01,799 --> 00:30:58,179

to here's why I'm here you think it's a

731

00:31:03,210 --> 00:31:01,809

skeptic skeptic yeah i was thinking

732

00:31:05,850 --> 00:31:03,220

about a moment today I thought he's a

733

00:31:09,120 --> 00:31:05,860

bit like a younger version of james

734

00:31:11,070 --> 00:31:09,130

randi in terms of you know skeptical

735

00:31:13,590 --> 00:31:11,080

stature and other what sort of issues

736

00:31:16,260 --> 00:31:13,600

mighty won't you be really able to use

737

00:31:17,520 --> 00:31:16,270

opinion on I don't really mind I think

738

00:31:19,350 --> 00:31:17,530

whatever he wants to talk about probably

739

00:31:20,700 --> 00:31:19,360

gonna be interesting enough okay and can

740

00:31:23,430 --> 00:31:20,710

ask you why you're here to see Michael

741

00:31:25,380 --> 00:31:23,440

Sherman tonight I'm here because Michael

742

00:31:28,980 --> 00:31:25,390

was one of the first people that I was

743

00:31:33,419 --> 00:31:28,990

introduced to when I left the church so

744

00:31:34,919 --> 00:31:33,429

for me I hesitate to use word hero at

745

00:31:36,240 --> 00:31:34,929

all because it's probably doesn't fit

746

00:31:39,270 --> 00:31:36,250

the bill and I don't think it'd like

747

00:31:41,250 --> 00:31:39,280

that but for me it was him and richard

748

00:31:43,650 --> 00:31:41,260

dawkins were the first people that I i

749

00:31:45,570 --> 00:31:43,660

was able to get ahold of to learn about

750

00:31:47,520 --> 00:31:45,580

critical thinking and you know in

751
00:31:49,740 --> 00:31:47,530
questioning where my own beliefs and

752
00:31:51,510 --> 00:31:49,750
what the church was teaching and was it

753
00:31:53,669 --> 00:31:51,520
any particular book of his that did it

754
00:31:56,220 --> 00:31:53,679
or just his general writings you know

755
00:31:58,169 --> 00:31:56,230
what it was actually TED Talks for the

756
00:32:02,029 --> 00:31:58,179
first place I started and and he did a

757
00:32:06,659 --> 00:32:02,039
revision of a Carl Sagan's

758
00:32:08,909 --> 00:32:06,669
the baloney detection kit so for me

759
00:32:11,730 --> 00:32:08,919
those are the first first two things and

760
00:32:13,409 --> 00:32:11,740
now I've moved into a Dawkins book from

761
00:32:15,779 --> 00:32:13,419
there which was obviously quite

762
00:32:17,519 --> 00:32:15,789
enlightening to me at the time over one

763
00:32:19,019 --> 00:32:17,529

of the people but people's always

764

00:32:21,090 --> 00:32:19,029

references demon haunted world as a

765

00:32:22,710 --> 00:32:21,100

great start for critical thinking I read

766

00:32:24,600 --> 00:32:22,720

demon haunted world and it didn't it was

767

00:32:26,190 --> 00:32:24,610

a little bit dry for me but why people

768

00:32:28,409 --> 00:32:26,200

believe weird things was something that

769

00:32:30,360 --> 00:32:28,419

came a bit more alive to me um do you

770

00:32:32,940 --> 00:32:30,370

think he has a really interesting way of

771

00:32:35,129 --> 00:32:32,950

twisting things around I think partly

772

00:32:36,749 --> 00:32:35,139

because of his his own background which

773

00:32:38,399 --> 00:32:36,759

I've read a little bit about I know that

774

00:32:41,369 --> 00:32:38,409

he's come out of a similar church set up

775

00:32:43,830 --> 00:32:41,379

to what I was in he his communication

776

00:32:46,049 --> 00:32:43,840

style was something that was quite

777

00:32:47,669 --> 00:32:46,059

familiar to me and was very easy to

778

00:32:50,340 --> 00:32:47,679

break through and I quite appreciated

779

00:32:53,970 --> 00:32:50,350

that then why you here to see Michael

780

00:32:56,460 --> 00:32:53,980

Sherman and I why Michael because he's

781

00:32:59,430 --> 00:32:56,470

the founder of you just written the

782

00:33:01,350 --> 00:32:59,440

American skeptics so I've been coming to

783

00:33:03,600 --> 00:33:01,360

the skeptics meeting fairly regularly so

784

00:33:05,460 --> 00:33:03,610

I wanted to see ya you know what he has

785

00:33:07,409 --> 00:33:05,470

to say and also I bought his book so i'm

786

00:33:10,680 --> 00:33:07,419

going to which book was that the

787

00:33:14,369 --> 00:33:10,690

believing brain is it one topic you'd

788

00:33:16,860 --> 00:33:14,379

like to see him talk about tonight i'm

789

00:33:18,210 --> 00:33:16,870

sure i just want to get surprised i

790

00:33:20,249 --> 00:33:18,220

didn't have anything specific in mind

791

00:33:23,129 --> 00:33:20,259

and it's halfway through the book and i

792

00:33:25,680 --> 00:33:23,139

think it's a great book so you just want

793

00:33:27,740 --> 00:33:25,690

to see Freddie can't tell you how it

794

00:33:31,560 --> 00:33:27,750

ends that'll spoil alone

795

00:33:33,060 --> 00:33:31,570

hi dinner maybe and how come you're here

796

00:33:34,680 --> 00:33:33,070

to see Michael Sherman tonight well

797

00:33:36,810 --> 00:33:34,690

actually to be honest I don't know much

798

00:33:38,430 --> 00:33:36,820

about Michael specifically but you know

799

00:33:40,860 --> 00:33:38,440

I think they're coming out to hear talks

800

00:33:42,930 --> 00:33:40,870

is a great way to one first hand about

801
00:33:44,070 --> 00:33:42,940
what someone's about yeah well just

802
00:33:46,230 --> 00:33:44,080
looking around your table here got

803
00:33:47,700 --> 00:33:46,240
people at interest in atheist issues in

804
00:33:49,560 --> 00:33:47,710
scientists issues in philosophical

805
00:33:51,000 --> 00:33:49,570
issues so I mean that there's a great

806
00:33:52,159 --> 00:33:51,010
broad range of experiences you can have

807
00:33:54,810 --> 00:33:52,169
in the one room it and that isn't

808
00:33:56,519 --> 00:33:54,820
absolutely yeah I think I heard Michael

809
00:33:58,080 --> 00:33:56,529
being interviewed by the the skeptics

810
00:34:01,110 --> 00:33:58,090
guide to the universe at one point and

811
00:34:03,870 --> 00:34:01,120
from memory he seems really interesting

812
00:34:06,690 --> 00:34:03,880
I personally feel that it's good idea to

813
00:34:09,960 --> 00:34:06,700

take the opportunity to hear anyone you

814

00:34:12,480 --> 00:34:09,970

know giving a skeptical talk because you

815

00:34:14,399 --> 00:34:12,490

know it's we we've just had time

816

00:34:16,680 --> 00:34:14,409

Australia fairly recently which is great

817

00:34:18,570 --> 00:34:16,690

and just the more people we can show

818

00:34:20,070 --> 00:34:18,580

that show support that we're coming we

819

00:34:23,430 --> 00:34:20,080

can come out to see them I think the

820

00:34:25,619 --> 00:34:23,440

better it is the excitement's building

821

00:34:28,379 --> 00:34:25,629

here at the mezz bar the mezz bar in

822

00:34:29,820 --> 00:34:28,389

Sydney I'm with may not I may not oh hi

823

00:34:30,960 --> 00:34:29,830

look I'm really excited because I really

824

00:34:33,089 --> 00:34:30,970

want to have a chat to Michael Shermer

825

00:34:35,460 --> 00:34:33,099

about alien abductions because I believe

826

00:34:37,349 --> 00:34:35,470

that he deigns yes a baby because I

827

00:34:39,450 --> 00:34:37,359

think he probably became a skeptic

828

00:34:41,099 --> 00:34:39,460

because he's in denial about his own

829

00:34:43,260 --> 00:34:41,109

alien abduction which you can read about

830

00:34:45,780 --> 00:34:43,270

in his book you know I didn't even think

831

00:34:47,869 --> 00:34:45,790

the talk to him about you didn't know we

832

00:34:50,430 --> 00:34:47,879

chatted about the 911 and creepers and

833

00:34:53,369 --> 00:34:50,440

climate change but we didn't talk about

834

00:34:54,930 --> 00:34:53,379

aliens and as someone who's a major

835

00:34:57,510 --> 00:34:54,940

skeptic I would like to know what he

836

00:34:59,579 --> 00:34:57,520

would concede to be a piece of evidence

837

00:35:01,500 --> 00:34:59,589

in favor of alien abduction or indeed

838

00:35:03,210 --> 00:35:01,510

UFOs especial I mean most people say

839

00:35:04,800 --> 00:35:03,220

they want a piece of the spaceship what

840

00:35:07,230 --> 00:35:04,810

would be enough for him as a major

841

00:35:08,280 --> 00:35:07,240

skeptic in the entire world or what be

842

00:35:10,650 --> 00:35:08,290

the evidence for him I mean what would

843

00:35:14,260 --> 00:35:10,660

it be for you Richard

844

00:35:15,670 --> 00:35:14,270

no I don't know I'm arrived in the

845

00:35:17,920 --> 00:35:15,680

spaceship I well that's a good question

846

00:35:21,010 --> 00:35:17,930

for me personally of the science is sort

847

00:35:22,630 --> 00:35:21,020

of two different questions because my

848

00:35:24,850 --> 00:35:22,640

level of evidence would be lower than

849

00:35:27,460 --> 00:35:24,860

the general scientific I mean I could be

850

00:35:29,590 --> 00:35:27,470

taken tomorrow on a UFO right and I'd be

851

00:35:32,230 --> 00:35:29,600

convinced yes that's it well got the

852

00:35:33,700 --> 00:35:32,240

answer it wouldn't mean jugglery society

853

00:35:35,380 --> 00:35:33,710

I couldn't prove it yeah I mean there's

854

00:35:37,030 --> 00:35:35,390

plenty of credible people that have seen

855

00:35:38,260 --> 00:35:37,040

something which I believe most skeptics

856

00:35:40,390 --> 00:35:38,270

would believe would be an argument from

857

00:35:42,760 --> 00:35:40,400

Authority let's ask the man right now

858

00:35:45,400 --> 00:35:42,770

Michael Shermer we have an interesting

859

00:35:46,780 --> 00:35:45,410

question for you is hosed by Maynard now

860

00:35:48,280 --> 00:35:46,790

I'm just want to get you as one of the

861

00:35:50,110 --> 00:35:48,290

major skeptics of the world what would

862

00:35:52,420 --> 00:35:50,120

you consider an acceptable piece of

863

00:35:54,340 --> 00:35:52,430

evidence in favor of alien abduction or

864

00:35:57,160 --> 00:35:54,350

indeed the UFO phenomenon itself a piece

865

00:36:00,490 --> 00:35:57,170

of the spacecraft at one particularly

866

00:36:03,150 --> 00:36:00,500

good eye witness that you believe no no

867

00:36:05,650 --> 00:36:03,160

eyewitness account it's going to do it

868

00:36:08,650 --> 00:36:05,660

you know in biology to name a new

869

00:36:13,240 --> 00:36:08,660

species you have to have a type specimen

870

00:36:14,500 --> 00:36:13,250

holotype they're called and and you have

871

00:36:19,300 --> 00:36:14,510

to have you know it's a physical

872

00:36:22,090 --> 00:36:19,310

specimen not a footprint not a grainy

873

00:36:24,100 --> 00:36:22,100

video or a blurry photograph you know

874

00:36:28,560 --> 00:36:24,110

not some hair that could be a dog hair

875

00:36:32,080 --> 00:36:28,570

bear here an actual body that can be

876
00:36:34,270 --> 00:36:32,090
dissected and like when the Platypus was

877
00:36:35,590 --> 00:36:34,280
first you know introduced to Europeans

878
00:36:39,280 --> 00:36:35,600
they thought it was a fake Yeah right

879
00:36:41,230 --> 00:36:39,290
but once you have it you can dissect it

880
00:36:42,000 --> 00:36:41,240
and so on and you can tell whether it's

881
00:36:44,730 --> 00:36:42,010
real or not

882
00:36:47,940 --> 00:36:44,740
that's what we need for an alien or a

883
00:36:49,590 --> 00:36:47,950
Bigfoot up nearly enjoyed in your book

884
00:36:51,240 --> 00:36:49,600
where you had your own alien abduction

885
00:36:52,920 --> 00:36:51,250
experience how can you be sure that

886
00:36:56,040 --> 00:36:52,930
wasn't it actually an alien abduction

887
00:36:57,690 --> 00:36:56,050
experience because I had the the book

888
00:36:58,800 --> 00:36:57,700

this will do spoken word broken you

889

00:37:02,040 --> 00:36:58,810

sound a pretty convinced you'd been

890

00:37:05,520 --> 00:37:02,050

abducted there right well I woke up

891

00:37:09,600 --> 00:37:05,530

after my sleep breaking the aliens went

892

00:37:11,280 --> 00:37:09,610

away that's how we now why are you

893

00:37:12,780 --> 00:37:11,290

pushing yourself that hard bike riding

894

00:37:15,270 --> 00:37:12,790

anyway I have to write it was a bike

895

00:37:17,700 --> 00:37:15,280

race and I hope you won a large cash

896

00:37:21,690 --> 00:37:17,710

prosody and then there's no money yeah

897

00:37:23,400 --> 00:37:21,700

sorry for the love of the sport only why

898

00:37:25,020 --> 00:37:23,410

not you've had your question answered

899

00:37:27,090 --> 00:37:25,030

after all these years that's why I'll

900

00:37:30,750 --> 00:37:27,100

get back to my chicken now think thanks

901
00:37:36,060 --> 00:37:33,600
now I'm with our skeptic secretary

902
00:37:38,130 --> 00:37:36,070
Jessica singer hi Jessica hey Richard

903
00:37:39,600 --> 00:37:38,140
how are you I'm well look at this and

904
00:37:42,180 --> 00:37:39,610
big turnout tonight for Michael Shermer

905
00:37:44,960 --> 00:37:42,190
at the Mesmer here in Sydney and and

906
00:37:47,700 --> 00:37:44,970
still law coming up the stairs right now

907
00:37:50,160 --> 00:37:47,710
here's somebody else just signing in now

908
00:37:52,140 --> 00:37:50,170
and I'm also with Tim mendham the editor

909
00:37:54,570 --> 00:37:52,150
and executive officer of Australian

910
00:37:56,250 --> 00:37:54,580
skeptics I to him I Richard I see some

911
00:37:58,110 --> 00:37:56,260
really good to have these social events

912
00:38:00,060 --> 00:37:58,120
ninja that's fantastic actually the most

913
00:38:01,860 --> 00:38:00,070

weight a meeting people they're catching

914

00:38:03,510 --> 00:38:01,870

up with names with putting faces to

915

00:38:06,570 --> 00:38:03,520

names yeah it's excellent can take the

916

00:38:08,010 --> 00:38:06,580

number of faces and names here that I

917

00:38:09,390 --> 00:38:08,020

don't recognize there are new to me

918

00:38:10,410 --> 00:38:09,400

which is a good thing excellent thing

919

00:38:11,610 --> 00:38:10,420

actually they're quite a few people have

920

00:38:13,410 --> 00:38:11,620

come along for the first time to one of

921

00:38:16,080 --> 00:38:13,420

these so it's excellent yeah free

922

00:38:17,960 --> 00:38:16,090

pleased so I think the message would be

923

00:38:21,090 --> 00:38:17,970

four people out there considering

924

00:38:22,620 --> 00:38:21,100

organizing a social activity a pubs a

925

00:38:24,090 --> 00:38:22,630

great place to do it for skeptics it

926
00:38:25,410 --> 00:38:24,100
would seem I mean perhaps a perfect

927
00:38:26,790 --> 00:38:25,420
place especially yeah right now we've

928
00:38:28,290 --> 00:38:26,800
got this broom to ourselves actually

929
00:38:29,610 --> 00:38:28,300
yeah this makes a very intimate because

930
00:38:32,160 --> 00:38:29,620
we will have a decent crowd will fill

931
00:38:34,470 --> 00:38:32,170
this room and and our guest at the

932
00:38:36,500 --> 00:38:34,480
moment is circulating and chatting to

933
00:38:38,520 --> 00:38:36,510
people so it's quite intimate and

934
00:38:40,590 --> 00:38:38,530
everybody's you know getting to have a

935
00:38:42,240 --> 00:38:40,600
have a chat with him and we just gaze

936
00:38:44,040 --> 00:38:42,250
over there there he is Michael Shona

937
00:38:45,330 --> 00:38:44,050
just at a table now chatting to some

938
00:38:47,400 --> 00:38:45,340

punters who have come along which is

939

00:38:49,980 --> 00:38:47,410

really great yeah it's fantastic it's

940

00:38:52,410 --> 00:38:49,990

it's much more intimate and I think

941

00:38:54,300 --> 00:38:52,420

friendlier and and nicer than you have

942

00:38:55,830 --> 00:38:54,310

another type of venue like a lecture

943

00:38:58,260 --> 00:38:55,840

theatre or something and you can have a

944

00:39:00,120 --> 00:38:58,270

beer and you can have it be a very

945

00:39:03,300 --> 00:39:00,130

important for me somewhere you can drink

946

00:39:05,250 --> 00:39:03,310

yes or as main artist doing I may not

947

00:39:07,830 --> 00:39:05,260

look at him holding into that chicken

948

00:39:10,620 --> 00:39:07,840

over there oh and a she's very important

949

00:39:13,050 --> 00:39:10,630

you stop commenting on your hoeing into

950

00:39:14,670 --> 00:39:13,060

the chicken that is fantastic chicken in

951
00:39:16,110 --> 00:39:14,680
fact i'll recommend after good

952
00:39:18,000 --> 00:39:16,120
discussion with Marple schirmer about

953
00:39:20,660 --> 00:39:18,010
alien abduction that is a chicken in the

954
00:39:25,370 --> 00:39:22,609
we let him go back to his chicken and

955
00:39:28,490 --> 00:39:25,380
this salad and shortly we'll we'll all

956
00:39:29,210 --> 00:39:28,500
enjoy Michaels talk very much it's

957
00:39:30,620 --> 00:39:29,220
actually the first time I've seen

958
00:39:33,039 --> 00:39:30,630
Michael Shermer so I'm really looking

959
00:39:35,990 --> 00:39:33,049
forward to it really oh there you go I

960
00:39:39,049 --> 00:39:36,000
remember seeing saw Michael when he was

961
00:39:41,150 --> 00:39:39,059
in Australia in 2008 yes and he spoke at

962
00:39:43,220 --> 00:39:41,160
the American car yes I remember that day

963
00:39:46,490 --> 00:39:43,230

though yeah a good day and of course he

964

00:39:49,190 --> 00:39:46,500

also spoke at tam this year tam 9 from

965

00:39:50,299 --> 00:39:49,200

outer space in Las Vegas he did I'll

966

00:39:53,210 --> 00:39:50,309

take your word for that because my

967

00:39:58,140 --> 00:39:53,220

memory is shot of terminal yeah I expect

968

00:40:02,589 --> 00:40:00,819

look ladies and gentlemen I'm ki hobe

969

00:40:04,240 --> 00:40:02,599

this man in the lobby of his hotel he

970

00:40:06,280 --> 00:40:04,250

may not even pay his hotel bill after

971

00:40:07,870 --> 00:40:06,290

idea give him a hard time here but the

972

00:40:10,170 --> 00:40:07,880

word skeptic comes up and people think

973

00:40:12,579 --> 00:40:10,180

skeptic oh no crackpots with evidence

974

00:40:15,810 --> 00:40:12,589

Craig parts of evidence i like that me

975

00:40:19,000 --> 00:40:15,820

start using that well you know we're

976

00:40:21,310 --> 00:40:19,010

we're scientists were critical thinkers

977

00:40:23,650 --> 00:40:21,320

were people interested in the way the

978

00:40:25,720 --> 00:40:23,660

world really works we want to know the

979

00:40:27,750 --> 00:40:25,730

solved mysteries and the unsolved

980

00:40:30,339 --> 00:40:27,760

mysteries and solve them where we can

981

00:40:32,950 --> 00:40:30,349

anybody that's curious about any of this

982

00:40:34,960 --> 00:40:32,960

stuff would be a candidate for skeptic

983

00:40:37,270 --> 00:40:34,970

magazine or to join one of these kept

984

00:40:39,550 --> 00:40:37,280

achsah sia tease i think it's really

985

00:40:40,960 --> 00:40:39,560

just being well really technically what

986

00:40:42,730 --> 00:40:40,970

it means skepticism is thoughtful

987

00:40:45,430 --> 00:40:42,740

inquiry and that's what we do we just

988

00:40:48,099 --> 00:40:45,440

thoughtfully inquire into how the world

989

00:40:49,329 --> 00:40:48,109

works and how did you get onto this

990

00:40:51,280 --> 00:40:49,339

track did you have some sort of

991

00:40:53,349 --> 00:40:51,290

revelation or some experience or some

992

00:40:55,300 --> 00:40:53,359

almost paranormal event which made you

993

00:40:57,359 --> 00:40:55,310

thought hang on i need to rationalize

994

00:40:59,290 --> 00:40:57,369

this as a Haycock message that's a much

995

00:41:01,599 --> 00:40:59,300

personal experience so that we've all

996

00:41:03,819 --> 00:41:01,609

had unusual i mean i've had deja vu

997

00:41:07,440 --> 00:41:03,829

experiences and add about experiences

998

00:41:09,430 --> 00:41:07,450

stuff like that but no i'm by training a

999

00:41:11,530 --> 00:41:09,440

experimental psychologist cognitive

1000

00:41:16,030 --> 00:41:11,540

psychologists whatever and i'm

1001
00:41:18,849 --> 00:41:16,040
interested in how the mind works and how

1002
00:41:21,670 --> 00:41:18,859
it comes to believe weird things to me

1003
00:41:25,089 --> 00:41:21,680
is another subset of these cognitive

1004
00:41:27,040 --> 00:41:25,099
studies like why do people believe

1005
00:41:29,260 --> 00:41:27,050
anything at all and so that sort of

1006
00:41:31,720 --> 00:41:29,270
takes you into the world of trying to

1007
00:41:33,400 --> 00:41:31,730
understand through science not just the

1008
00:41:35,290 --> 00:41:33,410
explanations for the weird things but

1009
00:41:36,849 --> 00:41:35,300
why people believe them even when

1010
00:41:38,800 --> 00:41:36,859
there's no evidence is there a

1011
00:41:41,050 --> 00:41:38,810
psychological experiment you always want

1012
00:41:45,430 --> 00:41:41,060
to run but can't because of an ex ithaca

1013
00:41:47,440 --> 00:41:45,440

committee I guess the 21 grams theory of

1014

00:41:50,290 --> 00:41:47,450

measuring people when they die would

1015

00:41:52,510 --> 00:41:50,300

probably not get approval by any ethics

1016

00:41:55,240 --> 00:41:52,520

committee going into the hospital and

1017

00:41:57,490 --> 00:41:55,250

carefully weighing them seconds before

1018

00:42:00,670 --> 00:41:57,500

and seconds after but that would be

1019

00:42:02,290 --> 00:42:00,680

interesting short of that you know what

1020

00:42:03,849 --> 00:42:02,300

we do is just try to trace that where

1021

00:42:06,130 --> 00:42:03,859

that story came from the first place and

1022

00:42:07,640 --> 00:42:06,140

that's usually what it you don't even

1023

00:42:09,230 --> 00:42:07,650

have to run the experiment usually

1024

00:42:11,240 --> 00:42:09,240

doubt that you know these things get

1025

00:42:14,000 --> 00:42:11,250

exaggerated look you've written that the

1026
00:42:15,470 --> 00:42:14,010
paranormal is a gateway drug to science

1027
00:42:17,330 --> 00:42:15,480
yeah and does that mean it works both

1028
00:42:19,100 --> 00:42:17,340
ways it can make people go off on

1029
00:42:20,840 --> 00:42:19,110
tangents or it can get people interested

1030
00:42:23,330 --> 00:42:20,850
in finding out the scientific method

1031
00:42:25,850 --> 00:42:23,340
behind anything well that's how i'm

1032
00:42:28,130 --> 00:42:25,860
using it is that people may not be

1033
00:42:32,300 --> 00:42:28,140
interested in the philosophy of science

1034
00:42:34,610 --> 00:42:32,310
or logic or critical thinking it sounds

1035
00:42:36,620 --> 00:42:34,620
boring and academic and kind of stuffy

1036
00:42:38,900 --> 00:42:36,630
but you might be interested in Bigfoot

1037
00:42:40,640 --> 00:42:38,910
Loch Ness monster aliens conspiracy

1038
00:42:42,350 --> 00:42:40,650

theories who really killed kennedy did

1039

00:42:43,970 --> 00:42:42,360

we really go to the moon you know people

1040

00:42:46,010 --> 00:42:43,980

go yeah yeah I've heard about these

1041

00:42:47,870 --> 00:42:46,020

things what's the fire walking yeah do

1042

00:42:49,280 --> 00:42:47,880

they do that is it really mine over me

1043

00:42:52,370 --> 00:42:49,290

and before you know you're talking

1044

00:42:54,950 --> 00:42:52,380

physics chemistry biology of illusionary

1045

00:42:58,100 --> 00:42:54,960

theory cosmology and your methods of

1046

00:42:59,510 --> 00:42:58,110

science and and and all that because

1047

00:43:01,670 --> 00:42:59,520

people are interested in these subjects

1048

00:43:04,310 --> 00:43:01,680

and have you found the Australian

1049

00:43:06,740 --> 00:43:04,320

conspiracy theory situation and a

1050

00:43:09,200 --> 00:43:06,750

situation he obviously we have climate

1051

00:43:10,190 --> 00:43:09,210

change and climate date going on here we

1052

00:43:13,160 --> 00:43:10,200

have you found the difference win here

1053

00:43:15,110 --> 00:43:13,170

in America I've been surprised that the

1054

00:43:17,570 --> 00:43:15,120

climate deniers are as big as they are

1055

00:43:19,370 --> 00:43:17,580

here we don't have any death threats to

1056

00:43:21,260 --> 00:43:19,380

sign climate scientists in America so I

1057

00:43:24,350 --> 00:43:21,270

thought we were the worst maybe you guys

1058

00:43:26,180 --> 00:43:24,360

have given to some competition to use

1059

00:43:27,950 --> 00:43:26,190

the word deny there is that because it's

1060

00:43:30,230 --> 00:43:27,960

just such an obvious scientific fact you

1061

00:43:32,090 --> 00:43:30,240

use the word yeah well so you know are

1062

00:43:33,950 --> 00:43:32,100

the climate revisionists or you know

1063

00:43:36,760 --> 00:43:33,960

climate skeptics climate deniers is a

1064

00:43:39,110 --> 00:43:36,770

reasonable adjective i think because

1065

00:43:41,210 --> 00:43:39,120

there's so much evidence now that you

1066

00:43:44,480 --> 00:43:41,220

really just have to deny it i think and

1067

00:43:46,580 --> 00:43:44,490

so that seems an appropriate modifier

1068

00:43:49,820 --> 00:43:46,590

and and you don't seem to have that

1069

00:43:53,810 --> 00:43:49,830

level of intensity going on the US well

1070

00:43:55,460 --> 00:43:53,820

it's it's there it's intense maybe not

1071

00:43:57,230 --> 00:43:55,470

as intense as here we get no death

1072

00:43:58,850 --> 00:43:57,240

threats but you know with our political

1073

00:44:00,890 --> 00:43:58,860

a presidential actually coming up in

1074

00:44:03,110 --> 00:44:00,900

2012 the candidates are feeling the need

1075

00:44:05,600 --> 00:44:03,120

to speak out according to what they

1076
00:44:06,920 --> 00:44:05,610
think they're supposed to say again this

1077
00:44:07,910 --> 00:44:06,930
is part of the problem you know I don't

1078
00:44:09,200 --> 00:44:07,920
know if these guys they don't know

1079
00:44:10,730 --> 00:44:09,210
anything about climate science what do

1080
00:44:12,200 --> 00:44:10,740
they know the right but they're saying

1081
00:44:13,730 --> 00:44:12,210
what they think their constituents want

1082
00:44:15,230 --> 00:44:13,740
to hear well yeah um do you think

1083
00:44:16,520 --> 00:44:15,240
America is just too ripped apart by the

1084
00:44:17,930 --> 00:44:16,530
whole blue sky ridge site they

1085
00:44:19,510 --> 00:44:17,940
absolutely it's very black and my very

1086
00:44:21,830 --> 00:44:19,520
tribal

1087
00:44:25,910 --> 00:44:21,840
have you got a favorite candidate even

1088
00:44:28,130 --> 00:44:25,920

well i think obama will probably win if

1089

00:44:29,870 --> 00:44:28,140

the economy turns around even a little

1090

00:44:31,640 --> 00:44:29,880

bit just make some progress in the next

1091

00:44:33,800 --> 00:44:31,650

12 months if not i think you'll probably

1092

00:44:35,930 --> 00:44:33,810

lose doesn't matter who is on the other

1093

00:44:37,960 --> 00:44:35,940

side I feel about the real the the

1094

00:44:40,640 --> 00:44:37,970

outside of candidates like Trump oh I

1095

00:44:43,130 --> 00:44:40,650

actually like someone Ron Paul stuff of

1096

00:44:44,660 --> 00:44:43,140

course I'm a libertarian so I would he's

1097

00:44:46,130 --> 00:44:44,670

a little nutty in some other areas some

1098

00:44:47,990 --> 00:44:46,140

libertarians get a little conspiratorial

1099

00:44:51,770 --> 00:44:48,000

he made that comment one of the debates

1100

00:44:54,470 --> 00:44:51,780

a couple weeks ago about the immigration

1101

00:44:58,099 --> 00:44:54,480

wall built down there by Mexico is built

1102

00:45:00,830 --> 00:44:58,109

to keep Americans in as well as Mexicans

1103

00:45:02,780 --> 00:45:00,840

I was like wait wait what and then oh

1104

00:45:04,370 --> 00:45:02,790

yeah that's that conspiracy about how

1105

00:45:06,410 --> 00:45:04,380

you know the government's building

1106

00:45:07,370 --> 00:45:06,420

highways with the black helicopters and

1107

00:45:09,740 --> 00:45:07,380

they're going to put us all in

1108

00:45:11,480 --> 00:45:09,750

concentration camps and you know suspend

1109

00:45:12,770 --> 00:45:11,490

all civil liberties you know this is

1110

00:45:15,140 --> 00:45:12,780

going to happen I've been hearing this

1111

00:45:16,849 --> 00:45:15,150

since I was a teenager and it hasn't

1112

00:45:20,120 --> 00:45:16,859

happened yet so do you spend a little

1113

00:45:22,250 --> 00:45:20,130

time yelling at the television I propo

1114

00:45:25,160 --> 00:45:22,260

bugs at it Oh phone books that no one

1115

00:45:26,839 --> 00:45:25,170

uses any more look and just that one

1116

00:45:28,700 --> 00:45:26,849

last question though with you in your

1117

00:45:30,950 --> 00:45:28,710

book you talk about the the dualism of

1118

00:45:33,200 --> 00:45:30,960

the mind and how we think of the brain

1119

00:45:34,490 --> 00:45:33,210

and the mind could you just explain that

1120

00:45:36,589 --> 00:45:34,500

briefly it was that to something we have

1121

00:45:38,210 --> 00:45:36,599

to read in 500 pages no no actually it's

1122

00:45:40,070 --> 00:45:38,220

a very simple concept called dualism

1123

00:45:41,480 --> 00:45:40,080

that were natural-born dualists we tend

1124

00:45:43,820 --> 00:45:41,490

to almost everybody tends to think

1125

00:45:45,910 --> 00:45:43,830

there's two substances corporeal and in

1126

00:45:48,410 --> 00:45:45,920

corporeal body and soul brain in mind

1127

00:45:51,980 --> 00:45:48,420

there's something else out there behind

1128

00:45:53,270 --> 00:45:51,990

besides this the physical world and the

1129

00:45:54,859 --> 00:45:53,280

fact is there's no evidence for this

1130

00:45:56,599 --> 00:45:54,869

there really isn't but we think that

1131

00:45:58,160 --> 00:45:56,609

there is it is not a healthy thing and

1132

00:46:00,670 --> 00:45:58,170

then that's what's made us motor Michael

1133

00:46:04,160 --> 00:46:00,680

is great scientific discoveries well

1134

00:46:05,390 --> 00:46:04,170

like what I mean I don't know maybe we

1135

00:46:06,950 --> 00:46:05,400

SAT around the world to find out what

1136

00:46:08,480 --> 00:46:06,960

was there because wondering yeah I see

1137

00:46:09,920 --> 00:46:08,490

the search for some mystery yeah sure of

1138

00:46:11,720 --> 00:46:09,930

course it's I mean one of the great

1139

00:46:14,089 --> 00:46:11,730

unsolved mysteries is consciousness you

1140

00:46:16,520 --> 00:46:14,099

know how does this even happen or mine

1141

00:46:18,230 --> 00:46:16,530

well I do we can construct mind out of

1142

00:46:20,180 --> 00:46:18,240

just brain cells you know brain cells

1143

00:46:22,970 --> 00:46:20,190

are just it's just chemistry it's

1144

00:46:24,440 --> 00:46:22,980

electric meet with you know chemicals

1145

00:46:27,109 --> 00:46:24,450

and hormones swapping around in there

1146

00:46:27,280 --> 00:46:27,119

how does that gets translated into what

1147

00:46:29,080 --> 00:46:27,290

you

1148

00:46:31,000 --> 00:46:29,090

and I are doing right now thinking and

1149

00:46:33,160 --> 00:46:31,010

talking and being cognitive you know

1150

00:46:34,660 --> 00:46:33,170

cognitively aware i'm aware i'm aware

1151

00:46:36,760 --> 00:46:34,670

that you're aware i know that you know

1152

00:46:39,280 --> 00:46:36,770

that i know that you know and how is

1153

00:46:40,630 --> 00:46:39,290

that even possible we don't know this is

1154

00:46:42,520 --> 00:46:40,640

one of the great unsolved mysteries but

1155

00:46:44,830 --> 00:46:42,530

that doesn't mean it's paranormal it

1156

00:46:46,660 --> 00:46:44,840

just means we don't know and we what

1157

00:46:49,660 --> 00:46:46,670

you're saying it's okay to say we don't

1158

00:46:51,610 --> 00:46:49,670

know in science yes our brains are not

1159

00:46:53,290 --> 00:46:51,620

comfortable doing that but with training

1160

00:46:56,290 --> 00:46:53,300

you can learn to do it I actually like

1161

00:46:58,090 --> 00:46:56,300

it I think it's kind of energizing to

1162

00:47:00,070 --> 00:46:58,100

thank god there's a lot of really cool

1163

00:47:03,310 --> 00:47:00,080

mysteries out there that I don't know

1164

00:47:05,440 --> 00:47:03,320

and let's go in search what's the quick

1165

00:47:08,410 --> 00:47:05,450

way to train your brain whoa like not

1166

00:47:10,090 --> 00:47:08,420

knowing I mean I'm is a quick shortcut

1167

00:47:12,310 --> 00:47:10,100

to that just say it just say you know

1168

00:47:15,730 --> 00:47:12,320

just say it's okay to say I don't know

1169

00:47:17,710 --> 00:47:15,740

go ahead sit I don't know I don't know

1170

00:47:19,870 --> 00:47:17,720

Michael but I do know I'm very tired

1171

00:47:32,710 --> 00:47:19,880

you're very tired it's time for bed

1172

00:47:37,849 --> 00:47:35,839

hey bro oh hey / what's up check it out

1173

00:47:39,920 --> 00:47:37,859

finally a Back to the Future invention

1174

00:47:44,329 --> 00:47:39,930

that is coming to existence i present to

1175

00:47:46,460 --> 00:47:44,339

you mahavir ball dude that's a BS band

1176

00:47:49,430 --> 00:47:46,470

skateboard deck from the ashy skateboard

1177

00:47:51,500 --> 00:47:49,440

yes a skateboard without wheel yeah

1178

00:47:53,480 --> 00:47:51,510

you're supposed to buy your own wheels

1179

00:47:55,519 --> 00:47:53,490

and bolt the law and look it has a

1180

00:47:57,950 --> 00:47:55,529

placebo been right here in the packaging

1181

00:47:59,720 --> 00:47:57,960

that must be what powers it what do you

1182

00:48:02,299 --> 00:47:59,730

own a pair that's right your very own

1183

00:48:04,220 --> 00:48:02,309

hoverboard and skeptic browser com has

1184

00:48:06,200 --> 00:48:04,230

one to give away do it a skeptic bros

1185

00:48:08,210 --> 00:48:06,210

calm and click on the comp tab for more

1186

00:48:11,690 --> 00:48:08,220

details that's a skateboard deck right

1187

00:48:13,759 --> 00:48:11,700

not a hoverboard it doesn't actually fly

1188

00:48:15,500 --> 00:48:13,769

you go get the car I'll get my Michael J

1189

00:48:17,870 --> 00:48:15,510

on hold on to the bumper and float down

1190

00:48:30,540 --> 00:48:17,880

the freeway sure why not that could be

1191

00:48:34,990 --> 00:48:33,070

thank you for listening to the skeptic

1192

00:48:38,380 --> 00:48:35,000

zone now I've got very exciting news

1193

00:48:40,450 --> 00:48:38,390

always i'm heading for Manchester I'm

1194

00:48:45,730 --> 00:48:40,460

heading for Manchester in the UK to

1195

00:48:48,370 --> 00:48:45,740

attend QED in march next year cannot

1196

00:48:50,530 --> 00:48:48,380

wait for that more information as the

1197

00:48:52,720 --> 00:48:50,540

months go by are you can find out more

1198

00:48:55,810 --> 00:48:52,730

right now those people like he enough to

1199

00:48:59,020 --> 00:48:55,820

live in the UK Google QED Manchester or

1200

00:49:02,170 --> 00:48:59,030

QED Khan and away you go so I am

1201

00:49:05,770 --> 00:49:02,180

absolutely thrilled that i'll be

1202

00:49:07,480 --> 00:49:05,780

speaking at QED hopefully hopefully some

1203

00:49:10,450 --> 00:49:07,490

people will be listening I'm also

1204

00:49:12,730 --> 00:49:10,460

thrilled that i'll be speaking at the

1205

00:49:15,310 --> 00:49:12,740

convention in New Orleans for the

1206

00:49:18,610 --> 00:49:15,320

committee for skeptical inquiry so icon

1207

00:49:20,890 --> 00:49:18,620

in New Orleans and that's sir towards

1208

00:49:22,750 --> 00:49:20,900

the end of October that's going to be

1209

00:49:25,120 --> 00:49:22,760

fun in fact i'll spend a few days with

1210

00:49:29,110 --> 00:49:25,130

brian dunning after that and chase a few

1211

00:49:30,790 --> 00:49:29,120

ghosts or or something hmm anyway thank

1212

00:49:33,670 --> 00:49:30,800

you for listening to this michael

1213

00:49:41,020 --> 00:49:33,680

shermer special this is Richard Saunders

1214

00:49:44,410 --> 00:49:41,030

signing off from Sydney Australia you've

1215

00:49:49,000 --> 00:49:44,420

been listening to the skeptic zone visit

1216

00:49:51,490 --> 00:49:49,010

our website at www.skeptics.org on TV the