

Photo: Wendy Hughes



**Richard Saunders**  
**Bruce M. Hood**

**The Skeptic Zone**  
**Show 198 - 4 Aug 2012**

1  
00:00:22,720 --> 00:00:09,110  
welcome to the skeptic zone the podcast

2  
00:00:31,330 --> 00:00:26,259  
yes it's the skeptic zone episode number

3  
00:00:33,650 --> 00:00:31,340  
198 for the fourth of August 2012

4  
00:00:37,700 --> 00:00:33,660  
Richard Saunders here with you from

5  
00:00:40,880 --> 00:00:37,710  
sydney australia in august oh boy August

6  
00:00:43,730 --> 00:00:40,890  
always ah yes August that means Dragon

7  
00:00:45,530 --> 00:00:43,740  
Con in atlanta georgia is coming up at

8  
00:00:48,350 --> 00:00:45,540  
the end of the month i think labor day

9  
00:00:50,000 --> 00:00:48,360  
long weekend in the united states I'm so

10  
00:00:52,310 --> 00:00:50,010  
sorry that I can't make it this year the

11  
00:00:58,040 --> 00:00:52,320  
skeptic zone podcast was actually

12  
00:01:00,500 --> 00:00:58,050  
launched at a dragon con in 2008 and for

13  
00:01:04,039 --> 00:01:00,510

some years i was visiting that

14

00:01:06,649 --> 00:01:04,049

convention and dr. 80 also what a

15

00:01:09,200 --> 00:01:06,659

fabulous time it was I hope I hope I

16

00:01:11,300 --> 00:01:09,210

hope I can get there next year that's

17

00:01:12,680 --> 00:01:11,310

the plan folks that's the plan I've got

18

00:01:14,960 --> 00:01:12,690

a year to get that all happening and all

19

00:01:18,440 --> 00:01:14,970

together but let's bring ourselves back

20

00:01:21,080 --> 00:01:18,450

to 2012 and this week's show of the

21

00:01:23,330 --> 00:01:21,090

skeptic zone another loss of Vegas

22

00:01:26,870 --> 00:01:23,340

extravaganza I guess you can say kicking

23

00:01:30,290 --> 00:01:26,880

off with Maynard with a very good friend

24

00:01:32,330 --> 00:01:30,300

of mine professor bruce m hood made our

25

00:01:34,280 --> 00:01:32,340

chats to Professor Bruce temple what an

26

00:01:36,800 --> 00:01:34,290

interesting man he is Oh what an

27

00:01:39,200 --> 00:01:36,810

interesting man how the mind works how

28

00:01:41,750 --> 00:01:39,210

you perceive reality what does

29

00:01:43,520 --> 00:01:41,760

consciousness is there really somebody

30

00:01:45,590 --> 00:01:43,530

sitting in our heads directing our

31

00:01:47,810 --> 00:01:45,600

movements all that sort of stuff what an

32

00:01:50,060 --> 00:01:47,820

interesting man and just after that may

33

00:01:53,020 --> 00:01:50,070

not checks to Jim under down from the

34

00:01:56,360 --> 00:01:53,030

center for inquiry and the independent

35

00:01:59,120 --> 00:01:56,370

investigations group now Jim tells may

36

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

not about the time he dealt with Uri

37

00:02:05,180 --> 00:02:02,340

Geller in Russia he recoloring Russia

38

00:02:08,630 --> 00:02:05,190

should be very interesting and after the

39

00:02:10,699 --> 00:02:08,640

break I catch up with somebody who I saw

40

00:02:14,239 --> 00:02:10,709

speak here in Sydney Australia many

41

00:02:18,110 --> 00:02:14,249

years ago in 1989 it's one of the very

42

00:02:19,110 --> 00:02:18,120

first Australian skeptics sponsored

43

00:02:21,180 --> 00:02:19,120

events I

44

00:02:25,080 --> 00:02:21,190

to can't even remember where it was

45

00:02:28,619 --> 00:02:25,090

exactly Robert Shaffer a world-renowned

46

00:02:30,660 --> 00:02:28,629

UFO expert what a pleasure it was for me

47

00:02:34,259 --> 00:02:30,670

to chat to Robert Shaffer after seeing

48

00:02:36,210 --> 00:02:34,269

him all those years ago even before I

49

00:02:39,059 --> 00:02:36,220

was involved in the skeptical movement

50

00:02:41,490 --> 00:02:39,069

UFOs and more coming up later in the

51  
00:02:44,789 --> 00:02:41,500  
show and to round off the show we have a

52  
00:02:48,270 --> 00:02:44,799  
wonderful interview with dr. rachy

53  
00:02:51,360 --> 00:02:48,280  
talking to Tim Farley from what's the

54  
00:02:53,339 --> 00:02:51,370  
harm dotnet now Tim is one of the

55  
00:02:55,890 --> 00:02:53,349  
hardest-working skeptics on the internet

56  
00:02:59,430 --> 00:02:55,900  
out there and he is interest apart from

57  
00:03:02,059 --> 00:02:59,440  
what bahama of course is Wikipedia so

58  
00:03:05,520 --> 00:03:02,069  
stay tuned for that in-depth interview

59  
00:03:07,199 --> 00:03:05,530  
to round off the skeptic zone well

60  
00:03:08,880 --> 00:03:07,209  
that's what I call a packed episode I'm

61  
00:03:12,599 --> 00:03:08,890  
not going to waste any more time I'm

62  
00:03:16,050 --> 00:03:12,609  
going to run downstairs I'm going to

63  
00:03:18,390 --> 00:03:16,060

open the cupboard I'm going to see if I

64

00:03:22,800 --> 00:03:18,400

have the ingredients to make myself a

65

00:03:24,240 --> 00:03:22,810

pan galactic gargle blaster yes google

66

00:03:26,370 --> 00:03:24,250

it I'm sure some people know what I'm

67

00:03:43,130 --> 00:03:26,380

talking about well I'm doing that I'll

68

00:03:51,050 --> 00:03:47,720

here's my not spooky action at a

69

00:03:55,740 --> 00:03:53,760

look legend gentlemen I'm backstage in

70

00:03:57,120 --> 00:03:55,750

an area you could hear echoing around if

71

00:03:58,650 --> 00:03:57,130

you can imagine that seem from spinal

72

00:04:00,600 --> 00:03:58,660

tap when they're going through and they

73

00:04:02,160 --> 00:04:00,610

don't ever ever find the stage that's

74

00:04:03,480 --> 00:04:02,170

where we are with Bruce hood good

75

00:04:05,790 --> 00:04:03,490

morning afternoon or whatever the hell

76

00:04:07,350 --> 00:04:05,800

it is I can worry how you did look now

77

00:04:08,580 --> 00:04:07,360

we're both very heavily jet-lagged you

78

00:04:10,230 --> 00:04:08,590

can see look I'm bleeding to death

79

00:04:11,580 --> 00:04:10,240

through my eyes can you see that it's oh

80

00:04:13,590 --> 00:04:11,590

yeah well I think call me a jet lag is

81

00:04:15,420 --> 00:04:13,600

probably a misnomer I mean I'm happily

82

00:04:17,819 --> 00:04:15,430

hangover as well but I guess of the

83

00:04:21,420 --> 00:04:17,829

territory i suppose and then this dish

84

00:04:22,860 --> 00:04:21,430

George hi George hey going up the number

85

00:04:24,330 --> 00:04:22,870

never seen him in a different cities

86

00:04:28,500 --> 00:04:24,340

always got a great selection of suits

87

00:04:33,870 --> 00:04:28,510

it's painted on and do you think he is

88

00:04:35,700 --> 00:04:33,880

the skeptical Bob Hope I'm not sure he's

89

00:04:37,050 --> 00:04:35,710

amazing he's done a remarkable job he's

90

00:04:38,970 --> 00:04:37,060

been introducing everybody running as a

91

00:04:40,950 --> 00:04:38,980

bespoke song for them you know it's been

92

00:04:42,420 --> 00:04:40,960

a lot of fun I should record my before I

93

00:04:44,190 --> 00:04:42,430

went on yesterday was actually more keen

94

00:04:46,800 --> 00:04:44,200

to hear what George had to say you know

95

00:04:48,960 --> 00:04:46,810

he's fantastic guy it's difficult to

96

00:04:50,760 --> 00:04:48,970

bring together skepticism and humor

97

00:04:53,100 --> 00:04:50,770

because Papa scientists or think you

98

00:04:54,450 --> 00:04:53,110

taking the piss and people who would

99

00:04:56,430 --> 00:04:54,460

like some comedy think you're being too

100

00:04:57,659 --> 00:04:56,440

serious no it's not necessarily i think

101  
00:04:59,580 --> 00:04:57,669  
that you know this is degree of

102  
00:05:02,940 --> 00:04:59,590  
intelligence and fun and you know people

103  
00:05:04,470 --> 00:05:02,950  
who are I've got a I say a more open

104  
00:05:06,000 --> 00:05:04,480  
view of the world ten people who

105  
00:05:07,770 --> 00:05:06,010  
actually enjoy bitter laugh anyway so

106  
00:05:09,930 --> 00:05:07,780  
I've always found that when I was

107  
00:05:12,210 --> 00:05:09,940  
speaking to skeptics that you know humor

108  
00:05:14,700 --> 00:05:12,220  
goes hand in hand I was watching your

109  
00:05:16,770 --> 00:05:14,710  
talk yesterday and a few things

110  
00:05:18,960 --> 00:05:16,780  
surprised me we'll get to the bomb

111  
00:05:20,670 --> 00:05:18,970  
detector later but you're saying that if

112  
00:05:22,680 --> 00:05:20,680  
you see a pattern in your brain is

113  
00:05:24,480 --> 00:05:22,690

fooled by that pattern it's as if that

114

00:05:25,950 --> 00:05:24,490

pattern really does exist even if it is

115

00:05:27,390 --> 00:05:25,960

an illusion is that correct or something

116

00:05:29,880 --> 00:05:27,400

yeah that's it more that's why i was

117

00:05:31,950 --> 00:05:29,890

saying i mean the the thing is that you

118

00:05:33,630 --> 00:05:31,960

know whereas i experiencing happening is

119

00:05:35,370 --> 00:05:33,640

clearly clearly happening in your brain

120

00:05:37,320 --> 00:05:35,380

and actually there are some physiology

121

00:05:39,600 --> 00:05:37,330

to show that for example very simple

122

00:05:42,030 --> 00:05:39,610

visual illusions you can go in with kind

123

00:05:43,409 --> 00:05:42,040

of electrodes and find nerve circuits

124

00:05:45,420 --> 00:05:43,419

which are actually active when you're

125

00:05:46,650 --> 00:05:45,430

perceiving an illusory thing so as far

126

00:05:48,360 --> 00:05:46,660

as the brain is concerned there is an

127

00:05:50,310 --> 00:05:48,370

event going on and so it perceives that

128

00:05:51,750 --> 00:05:50,320

and you note all intents and purposes

129

00:05:53,460 --> 00:05:51,760

what's the difference between a loser

130

00:05:55,260 --> 00:05:53,470

event and a real event if it's all

131

00:05:56,580 --> 00:05:55,270

generating the same activity and is this

132

00:05:58,200 --> 00:05:56,590

is going along with the whole brain in a

133

00:05:59,550 --> 00:05:58,210

jar theory like if my brains in jars

134

00:06:00,660 --> 00:05:59,560

somewhere and I'm imagine I'm

135

00:06:02,790 --> 00:06:00,670

interviewing me now

136

00:06:04,260 --> 00:06:02,800

that's as it's that that doesn't change

137

00:06:06,420 --> 00:06:04,270

the reality because I'm still deciding

138

00:06:08,880 --> 00:06:06,430

to interview you even if my brains and

139

00:06:10,410 --> 00:06:08,890

jar somewhere see that's basically what

140

00:06:12,210 --> 00:06:10,420

I got off watching a discovery channel

141

00:06:13,530 --> 00:06:12,220

show now I got the wrong end of the

142

00:06:14,940 --> 00:06:13,540

popular call to stick there and I've

143

00:06:16,860 --> 00:06:14,950

better aberrant browned the bush and set

144

00:06:17,940 --> 00:06:16,870

fire to with it well then you know your

145

00:06:19,290 --> 00:06:17,950

abscess for I mean when there is no

146

00:06:20,640 --> 00:06:19,300

consensus about the relationship between

147

00:06:21,870 --> 00:06:20,650

mine and brain and there are various

148

00:06:23,100 --> 00:06:21,880

theories about how this could happen I

149

00:06:25,050 --> 00:06:23,110

mean look the basically issue is we

150

00:06:26,970 --> 00:06:25,060

don't have a very good idea about how a

151

00:06:28,680 --> 00:06:26,980

thing a material thing like the brain

152

00:06:30,690 --> 00:06:28,690

can create something na mature like

153

00:06:32,520 --> 00:06:30,700

consciousness and have we way of testing

154

00:06:33,810 --> 00:06:32,530

that no not really in the slightest I

155

00:06:35,550 --> 00:06:33,820

mean the all you can ever do is test

156

00:06:36,540 --> 00:06:35,560

output in terms of behavior or

157

00:06:37,860 --> 00:06:36,550

electrophysiology and all the

158

00:06:39,270 --> 00:06:37,870

electrophysiology is never going to give

159

00:06:41,340 --> 00:06:39,280

you consciousness is it's never going to

160

00:06:42,630 --> 00:06:41,350

tell you what someone's thinking all

161

00:06:44,400 --> 00:06:42,640

you've got is just this core

162

00:06:47,040 --> 00:06:44,410

immeasurable kind of you know physical

163

00:06:48,780 --> 00:06:47,050

event I'm behavior course is equally in

164

00:06:49,740 --> 00:06:48,790

you know you can't know what some was

165

00:06:51,630 --> 00:06:49,750

actually thinking when they're doing

166

00:06:54,240 --> 00:06:51,640

that so the problem consciousness and

167

00:06:55,950 --> 00:06:54,250

subjectivity is always going to elude a

168

00:06:58,500 --> 00:06:55,960

real good song to pick investigation as

169

00:07:00,180 --> 00:06:58,510

far as I believe so yeah the questions

170

00:07:02,460 --> 00:07:00,190

of the brain that jar duplicating brains

171

00:07:04,650 --> 00:07:02,470

transporting brains you know these are

172

00:07:06,690 --> 00:07:04,660

all thought experiments which induce

173

00:07:08,130 --> 00:07:06,700

different kind of ideas about you know

174

00:07:09,900 --> 00:07:08,140

what would happen if you really could

175

00:07:11,940 --> 00:07:09,910

actually you know duplicate something

176

00:07:13,560 --> 00:07:11,950

that the material issue thought

177

00:07:15,090 --> 00:07:13,570

experiments reminded me the famous

178

00:07:16,590 --> 00:07:15,100

thought experiment about where you push

179

00:07:18,090 --> 00:07:16,600

the fat guy and found the train to save

180

00:07:19,830 --> 00:07:18,100

a group of people yeah sure why is it

181

00:07:22,110 --> 00:07:19,840

always a fat guy why isn't the skies

182

00:07:23,580 --> 00:07:22,120

well why isn't the skinny woman at the

183

00:07:25,500 --> 00:07:23,590

opposite you don't like why is it always

184

00:07:26,880 --> 00:07:25,510

a fat guy why he has to be substantial

185

00:07:29,280 --> 00:07:26,890

enough to stop the train I suppose but

186

00:07:30,990 --> 00:07:29,290

yeah it's not fascism in any way no is

187

00:07:33,240 --> 00:07:31,000

this lee she wasn't logic of experiment

188

00:07:34,890 --> 00:07:33,250

but yeah it so it's a very another

189

00:07:36,690 --> 00:07:34,900

example of an experiment which just

190

00:07:38,700 --> 00:07:36,700

flips our rationality flips our

191

00:07:40,770 --> 00:07:38,710

reasoning very quickly and what seems

192

00:07:43,140 --> 00:07:40,780

such a obvious conclusion suddenly seems

193

00:07:45,000 --> 00:07:43,150

totally not obvious when you have that

194

00:07:47,910 --> 00:07:45,010

sort of a thing what drew you to this

195

00:07:50,250 --> 00:07:47,920

field why did you want to find out about

196

00:07:51,660 --> 00:07:50,260

what we perceive to be reality and make

197

00:07:53,520 --> 00:07:51,670

assumptions which can never be proven

198

00:07:55,380 --> 00:07:53,530

that's quite a stick to beat yer

199

00:07:57,840 --> 00:07:55,390

software yeah I think the thing for me

200

00:08:00,630 --> 00:07:57,850

is that you know what we really enjoy is

201  
00:08:03,810 --> 00:08:00,640  
the peculiarities of consciousness I've

202  
00:08:05,130 --> 00:08:03,820  
always been really that was somebody

203  
00:08:06,690 --> 00:08:05,140  
going by the way not me speaking I I

204  
00:08:09,510 --> 00:08:06,700  
think you said I'm going to have a bomb

205  
00:08:10,860 --> 00:08:09,520  
hey sexy you know these guys in Vegas

206  
00:08:13,620 --> 00:08:10,870  
see what happens in Vegas stays in Vegas

207  
00:08:15,630 --> 00:08:13,630  
no I I think that your question it

208  
00:08:17,610 --> 00:08:15,640  
the you know I've always been really

209  
00:08:19,290 --> 00:08:17,620  
interested in the macabre the

210  
00:08:21,150 --> 00:08:19,300  
supernatural the strange the

211  
00:08:22,740 --> 00:08:21,160  
peculiarities of human thinking have you

212  
00:08:24,300 --> 00:08:22,750  
yourself at her had a paranormal

213  
00:08:25,650 --> 00:08:24,310

experience that led you to want to do

214

00:08:27,360 --> 00:08:25,660

this or that was just something you're

215

00:08:28,770 --> 00:08:27,370

interested in no never of course I mean

216

00:08:29,940 --> 00:08:28,780

I've had experiences which I interpreted

217

00:08:31,950 --> 00:08:29,950

the time of it could have been paranoid

218

00:08:33,930 --> 00:08:31,960

but no I don't believe categorically

219

00:08:36,150 --> 00:08:33,940

that there's any paranormal event or

220

00:08:37,830 --> 00:08:36,160

supernatural events now is there an area

221

00:08:39,870 --> 00:08:37,840

of the paranormal that does fascinate it

222

00:08:42,180 --> 00:08:39,880

was fast study goes is it lights in the

223

00:08:43,830 --> 00:08:42,190

sky is that the weird feeling in a room

224

00:08:46,320 --> 00:08:43,840

or is it all the way people react with

225

00:08:48,390 --> 00:08:46,330

each other no i said i don't really

226

00:08:51,330 --> 00:08:48,400

think there is any legitimate phenomenon

227

00:08:52,560 --> 00:08:51,340

which is scientifically credible but i

228

00:08:54,300 --> 00:08:52,570

am fascinated with the way that people

229

00:08:55,680 --> 00:08:54,310

think in a paranormal way and I want to

230

00:08:57,510 --> 00:08:55,690

know why that's the case with you know

231

00:08:58,860 --> 00:08:57,520

when they've got all the evidence why do

232

00:09:01,170 --> 00:08:58,870

they kind of disregard that and

233

00:09:02,820 --> 00:09:01,180

entertain these bizarre notions so to me

234

00:09:04,710 --> 00:09:02,830

the really interesting question is not

235

00:09:06,270 --> 00:09:04,720

if it exists I mean clearly I don't

236

00:09:07,980 --> 00:09:06,280

think that it does because it's actually

237

00:09:09,120 --> 00:09:07,990

trying to understand why people believe

238

00:09:10,890 --> 00:09:09,130

these sorts of things and I think that's

239

00:09:12,900 --> 00:09:10,900

a much more deeper interesting question

240

00:09:14,940 --> 00:09:12,910

about the nature of the mind well I have

241

00:09:16,770 --> 00:09:14,950

mentioned but you go visit the Shaymin

242

00:09:19,620 --> 00:09:16,780

in South America and ever I don't take a

243

00:09:21,210 --> 00:09:19,630

similar type hallucinogenic drug but

244

00:09:23,640 --> 00:09:21,220

they'll have exactly the same experience

245

00:09:25,110 --> 00:09:23,650

now that pharmacology explains a little

246

00:09:26,940 --> 00:09:25,120

bit but to have the exactly the same

247

00:09:28,920 --> 00:09:26,950

experience to me seems quite odd well

248

00:09:32,250 --> 00:09:28,930

yeah I've never heard that before and I

249

00:09:34,500 --> 00:09:32,260

was true I would have to really kind of

250

00:09:35,460 --> 00:09:34,510

question it but it's something that

251

00:09:37,080 --> 00:09:35,470

sounds like something it could be of

252

00:09:38,490 --> 00:09:37,090

interest mmm hope you got some people

253

00:09:40,050 --> 00:09:38,500

would chairs coming and it looked it's

254

00:09:42,300 --> 00:09:40,060

not exactly a Jerry Springer crab but it

255

00:09:43,770 --> 00:09:42,310

could get loud here but um I'll make it

256

00:09:45,690 --> 00:09:43,780

worth it yes I think we should we'll

257

00:09:47,310 --> 00:09:45,700

head away from the people waving chairs

258

00:09:48,750 --> 00:09:47,320

which in life is I think that's an

259

00:09:49,950 --> 00:09:48,760

evolutionary thing you learn to do don't

260

00:09:51,720 --> 00:09:49,960

you think that's right we evolved to

261

00:09:53,970 --> 00:09:51,730

avoid people carrying chairs there in

262

00:09:56,550 --> 00:09:53,980

the Pleistocene period when we evolved

263

00:09:58,590 --> 00:09:56,560

as a species at tam strand it was the

264

00:10:00,450 --> 00:09:58,600

first time I heard about the bomb

265

00:10:02,280 --> 00:10:00,460

detectors that were basically water

266

00:10:04,020 --> 00:10:02,290

water dowsing rods that's right yeah and

267

00:10:05,220 --> 00:10:04,030

I thought well that was the last letter

268

00:10:07,290 --> 00:10:05,230

here that because it's socially they'll

269

00:10:09,720 --> 00:10:07,300

never go ahead and next thing I know

270

00:10:11,250 --> 00:10:09,730

it's going to England and there's 85

271

00:10:12,120 --> 00:10:11,260

million dollars being spent on that give

272

00:10:13,530 --> 00:10:12,130

us a bit of the background of this

273

00:10:15,510 --> 00:10:13,540

because I thought it was so ridiculous

274

00:10:16,710 --> 00:10:15,520

it would never gone ahead yeah you would

275

00:10:18,740 --> 00:10:16,720

think so you'd imagine that something

276

00:10:21,450 --> 00:10:18,750

which was so obviously a complete fraud

277

00:10:23,730 --> 00:10:21,460

would just die death but no it what

278

00:10:25,560 --> 00:10:23,740

happened was that these individuals were

279

00:10:26,450 --> 00:10:25,570

after you know an investigation when

280

00:10:28,370 --> 00:10:26,460

James Randi

281

00:10:29,930 --> 00:10:28,380

exposing of their activities but they

282

00:10:31,520 --> 00:10:29,940

were kicked out of the US and then an

283

00:10:33,260 --> 00:10:31,530

offshoot of various members who work for

284

00:10:35,930 --> 00:10:33,270

the original company set up in England

285

00:10:38,300 --> 00:10:35,940

and there was at least two to three

286

00:10:39,530 --> 00:10:38,310

companies formed which were selling

287

00:10:41,030 --> 00:10:39,540

devices which to all intents and

288

00:10:43,250 --> 00:10:41,040

purposes if you weren't scientifically

289

00:10:45,410 --> 00:10:43,260

literate they looked as if they were a

290

00:10:47,000 --> 00:10:45,420

scientific you know devices of some form

291

00:10:48,650 --> 00:10:47,010

but they were based on the principle of

292

00:10:49,610 --> 00:10:48,660

dowsing which is a pendulum which swings

293

00:10:52,880 --> 00:10:49,620

when you think you've encountered

294

00:10:54,800 --> 00:10:52,890

something and so what we discovered is

295

00:10:57,710 --> 00:10:54,810

that they had been actively selling

296

00:11:00,170 --> 00:10:57,720

these to the Iraqi security forces to

297

00:11:03,890 --> 00:11:00,180

use these to basically screen for bombed

298

00:11:05,480 --> 00:11:03,900

for bombs and suicide bomber car so they

299

00:11:07,720 --> 00:11:05,490

have them use a checkpoint so they

300

00:11:10,310 --> 00:11:07,730

forgot you know they've given up all

301  
00:11:11,810 --> 00:11:10,320  
intensive security and searching cars

302  
00:11:13,700 --> 00:11:11,820  
and they're just pointing these dowsing

303  
00:11:14,960 --> 00:11:13,710  
rods of the cars the consequence was

304  
00:11:17,180 --> 00:11:14,970  
that literally hundreds of people were

305  
00:11:18,950 --> 00:11:17,190  
losing their lives and I got involved

306  
00:11:20,510 --> 00:11:18,960  
because the New York Times did an expose

307  
00:11:22,610 --> 00:11:20,520  
ll on this because the contract to the

308  
00:11:24,320 --> 00:11:22,620  
Iraqi government was 85 million dollars

309  
00:11:25,730 --> 00:11:24,330  
which was a lot of money but there were

310  
00:11:28,010 --> 00:11:25,740  
hundreds and hundreds of people dying

311  
00:11:29,870 --> 00:11:28,020  
because look into any corruption in the

312  
00:11:31,700 --> 00:11:29,880  
in the string of the Iraqi government

313  
00:11:33,920 --> 00:11:31,710

led by Benson because that sounds like a

314

00:11:35,210 --> 00:11:33,930

lot of money and I'm not with I don't

315

00:11:36,200 --> 00:11:35,220

know where where that was going I mean

316

00:11:37,280 --> 00:11:36,210

it wouldn't have all been going to the

317

00:11:39,050 --> 00:11:37,290

firm there might have been a bit lost

318

00:11:39,830 --> 00:11:39,060

along the way oh I absolutely think so

319

00:11:42,080 --> 00:11:39,840

there must have been a lot of

320

00:11:43,370 --> 00:11:42,090

backhanders going down there and there's

321

00:11:45,200 --> 00:11:43,380

a lot of questions which need to be

322

00:11:47,960 --> 00:11:45,210

asked us so for example why do they get

323

00:11:49,820 --> 00:11:47,970

a export order why did they get license

324

00:11:52,340 --> 00:11:49,830

from the British government from the

325

00:11:53,750 --> 00:11:52,350

department training industry and you

326

00:11:55,730 --> 00:11:53,760

know why was the the device is

327

00:11:56,990 --> 00:11:55,740

sanctioned by the College of Engineers

328

00:11:58,550 --> 00:11:57,000

so there was something a little bit

329

00:11:59,930 --> 00:11:58,560

strange about the whole process is it

330

00:12:02,030 --> 00:11:59,940

something that maybe just fell through

331

00:12:03,080 --> 00:12:02,040

the bureaucratic cracks I think that's

332

00:12:06,140 --> 00:12:03,090

probably mature I don't think there was

333

00:12:08,060 --> 00:12:06,150

any malicious intent in terms of the the

334

00:12:09,260 --> 00:12:08,070

you know the government I think it was

335

00:12:10,700 --> 00:12:09,270

just one of these examples that they

336

00:12:12,560 --> 00:12:10,710

hadn't really scrutinize what was going

337

00:12:13,850 --> 00:12:12,570

on you're not normally an activist on

338

00:12:15,590 --> 00:12:13,860

this level you said it just happened to

339

00:12:17,330 --> 00:12:15,600

be down the road from who you live yeah

340

00:12:19,580 --> 00:12:17,340

that's basically true I mean I'm an

341

00:12:21,980 --> 00:12:19,590

academic but then after reading new york

342

00:12:23,270 --> 00:12:21,990

times i discovered the chap who is and

343

00:12:24,590 --> 00:12:23,280

the company was based literally just

344

00:12:27,380 --> 00:12:24,600

down the road from me so i blogged about

345

00:12:29,990 --> 00:12:27,390

it to my great surprise he commented on

346

00:12:31,580 --> 00:12:30,000

the blog his name is jim mccormick he

347

00:12:32,810 --> 00:12:31,590

said come down I'll prove it works and

348

00:12:35,180 --> 00:12:32,820

so I thought well here's an opportunity

349

00:12:37,970 --> 00:12:35,190

to sort of expose what is clearly in my

350

00:12:39,750 --> 00:12:37,980

view a scab so I contacted the BBC and

351

00:12:42,090 --> 00:12:39,760

the Newsnight team we've got

352

00:12:44,820 --> 00:12:42,100

together and we we had a corresponds

353

00:12:46,830 --> 00:12:44,830

with the McCormick try to supper kind of

354

00:12:49,230 --> 00:12:46,840

an expose a you know when he's

355

00:12:50,430 --> 00:12:49,240

confronted with what he's done end up

356

00:12:53,550 --> 00:12:50,440

turning up filming and then broadcast

357

00:12:55,230 --> 00:12:53,560

and Jerry 2010 on the basis of that he

358

00:12:58,260 --> 00:12:55,240

was arrested and the government

359

00:13:00,570 --> 00:12:58,270

immediately impose a export order bad

360

00:13:03,630 --> 00:13:00,580

and that's what happened to in two and

361

00:13:05,940 --> 00:13:03,640

half years ago now that export order bad

362

00:13:08,310 --> 00:13:05,950

was really only for sales to Iraq in

363

00:13:09,600 --> 00:13:08,320

Afghanistan in the meantime you know

364

00:13:11,850 --> 00:13:09,610

these companies are still selling these

365

00:13:13,680 --> 00:13:11,860

devices to other companies most notably

366

00:13:15,270 --> 00:13:13,690

net Mexico but that I got a phone call

367

00:13:16,440 --> 00:13:15,280

two days ago just before I flew out to

368

00:13:17,700 --> 00:13:16,450

town from the police because they're

369

00:13:19,020 --> 00:13:17,710

given a statement to them in February

370

00:13:21,600 --> 00:13:19,030

telling me that they were going to

371

00:13:22,860 --> 00:13:21,610

actually make a prosecution against Jim

372

00:13:25,170 --> 00:13:22,870

McCormack in fact they went not just

373

00:13:26,190 --> 00:13:25,180

Richard McCormack but all of them so it

374

00:13:28,140 --> 00:13:26,200

wasn't just his company was all the

375

00:13:30,060 --> 00:13:28,150

other companies doing it and it all

376

00:13:30,990 --> 00:13:30,070

looks like it's going to I think that

377

00:13:33,240 --> 00:13:31,000

people are definitely going to end up

378

00:13:35,280 --> 00:13:33,250

President openness and how does it feel

379

00:13:36,840 --> 00:13:35,290

as someone who's been academic just

380

00:13:38,190 --> 00:13:36,850

suddenly put your head on the block be

381

00:13:40,440 --> 00:13:38,200

the face of something that's been the

382

00:13:41,850 --> 00:13:40,450

pointy end of the stick for change well

383

00:13:43,200 --> 00:13:41,860

I'm nervous about it I don't feel

384

00:13:46,080 --> 00:13:43,210

comfortable about it's not what I have

385

00:13:49,200 --> 00:13:46,090

sought to do I I speak in public and I

386

00:13:51,420 --> 00:13:49,210

obviously do events like this but it's

387

00:13:53,070 --> 00:13:51,430

kind of gratifying to know that these

388

00:13:54,960 --> 00:13:53,080

sorts of issues do make a real

389

00:13:56,280 --> 00:13:54,970

difference because you know that people

390

00:13:57,630 --> 00:13:56,290

believe all sorts of nonsense and I'm

391

00:13:59,790 --> 00:13:57,640

not I'm not one of these people need to

392

00:14:01,530 --> 00:13:59,800

sort of radical stupid thinking you know

393

00:14:03,270 --> 00:14:01,540

people are stupid and that's that's the

394

00:14:05,220 --> 00:14:03,280

nature being human but in this situation

395

00:14:07,410 --> 00:14:05,230

this is a cynical attempt to exploit

396

00:14:08,670 --> 00:14:07,420

naivety of people with a scientific

397

00:14:11,040 --> 00:14:08,680

looking device which has ended up

398

00:14:12,060 --> 00:14:11,050

costing fell in our lives so I think in

399

00:14:14,430 --> 00:14:12,070

that situation are going to feel some

400

00:14:15,900 --> 00:14:14,440

degrees you know smugness replace people

401  
00:14:17,910 --> 00:14:15,910  
can go and follow the story that you've

402  
00:14:19,410 --> 00:14:17,920  
uncovered well yeah I mean you can you

403  
00:14:20,910 --> 00:14:19,420  
can find a my blog but just google

404  
00:14:22,650 --> 00:14:20,920  
google the whole bomb detecting thing

405  
00:14:25,440 --> 00:14:22,660  
google me and you'll find the whole

406  
00:14:26,640 --> 00:14:25,450  
catalog and it's remarkable in fact that

407  
00:14:28,350 --> 00:14:26,650  
the story gets even better but I'm

408  
00:14:30,270 --> 00:14:28,360  
unfortunate I'm not allowed to tell you

409  
00:14:31,710 --> 00:14:30,280  
about until februari when it all exposes

410  
00:14:33,540 --> 00:14:31,720  
so the story isn't over yet there's more

411  
00:14:35,190 --> 00:14:33,550  
to be uncovered and for people out there

412  
00:14:36,330 --> 00:14:35,200  
at their own level at their grassroots I

413  
00:14:37,800 --> 00:14:36,340

might say something that the local

414

00:14:39,750 --> 00:14:37,810

council or something they find a bit odd

415

00:14:41,310 --> 00:14:39,760

how much you advice to them to get

416

00:14:42,600 --> 00:14:41,320

involved and maybe try and change things

417

00:14:43,860 --> 00:14:42,610

a little bit for what you think is the

418

00:14:45,900 --> 00:14:43,870

better yeah I've been asked this

419

00:14:47,460 --> 00:14:45,910

question last night as well and so again

420

00:14:49,620 --> 00:14:47,470

wanted to know what can they do to make

421

00:14:50,820 --> 00:14:49,630

a difference and I would just I would

422

00:14:52,620 --> 00:14:50,830

just say look try and be reasonable

423

00:14:53,160 --> 00:14:52,630

about things and understand that people

424

00:14:57,180 --> 00:14:53,170

do

425

00:14:59,759 --> 00:14:57,190

cost-benefit analysis you know how much

426

00:15:01,470 --> 00:14:59,769

harm has been done here if it's doing no

427

00:15:03,120 --> 00:15:01,480

one any harm than allow people be stupid

428

00:15:04,710 --> 00:15:03,130

in their beliefs because you know you

429

00:15:07,290 --> 00:15:04,720

shouldn't go around trying to change

430

00:15:08,759 --> 00:15:07,300

people's ideas but if it looks like

431

00:15:10,769 --> 00:15:08,769

there's a clear or travesty of justice

432

00:15:12,569 --> 00:15:10,779

or someone who's been exploited then you

433

00:15:14,400 --> 00:15:12,579

must do something to stop it and and

434

00:15:16,230 --> 00:15:14,410

then I would just as I say contact

435

00:15:18,360 --> 00:15:16,240

authorities or you know get it can get

436

00:15:21,240 --> 00:15:18,370

other people to to examine the evidence

437

00:15:22,980 --> 00:15:21,250

and a former group because once you know

438

00:15:24,720 --> 00:15:22,990

there's a group of you then you don't

439

00:15:26,819 --> 00:15:24,730

seem like this isolated kind of ranting

440

00:15:28,230 --> 00:15:26,829

person you know it becomes an issue and

441

00:15:30,569 --> 00:15:28,240

then build up for the grassroots level

442

00:15:32,340 --> 00:15:30,579

and a website I'd like to recommend that

443

00:15:34,170 --> 00:15:32,350

is a might help give you the tools for

444

00:15:35,460 --> 00:15:34,180

that oh well I mean there are a lot of

445

00:15:38,250 --> 00:15:35,470

them out there if you just if you just

446

00:15:39,930 --> 00:15:38,260

our blog for a skeptical thinking James

447

00:15:41,460 --> 00:15:39,940

Randi organized at the forum on the

448

00:15:44,009 --> 00:15:41,470

James or any organization is pretty good

449

00:15:45,660 --> 00:15:44,019

but Bruce would thanks for your time as

450

00:15:48,600 --> 00:15:45,670

we've learned a lot about furniture

451  
00:15:51,000 --> 00:15:48,610  
removal here this afternoon and is there

452  
00:15:53,009 --> 00:15:51,010  
a cure for jet lag or is every possible

453  
00:15:54,900 --> 00:15:53,019  
cure for jet lag Justin yeah I have a

454  
00:15:58,680 --> 00:15:54,910  
hundred percent the curious to buy my

455  
00:16:00,180 --> 00:15:58,690  
book the self elution which is now okay

456  
00:16:01,530 --> 00:16:00,190  
and if your head is in the jar your

457  
00:16:03,120 --> 00:16:01,540  
shoes still should be able to read it

458  
00:16:07,070 --> 00:16:03,130  
these that's all right thank you very

459  
00:16:10,940 --> 00:16:08,870  
looked at there's lots of silly stuff

460  
00:16:12,620 --> 00:16:10,950  
going on in the lounge where late night

461  
00:16:13,790 --> 00:16:12,630  
skeptics hang and we've got a late

462  
00:16:16,160 --> 00:16:13,800  
nights kept because it's got some

463  
00:16:17,390 --> 00:16:16,170

interesting stories here but I was

464

00:16:19,670 --> 00:16:17,400

pointed to you you got to talk to this

465

00:16:21,860 --> 00:16:19,680

guy he did a show with Uri Geller in

466

00:16:23,060 --> 00:16:21,870

Russia who are you and what the hell are

467

00:16:25,700 --> 00:16:23,070

you doing in the former Soviet Union

468

00:16:27,950 --> 00:16:25,710

with Uri Geller yeah I was in the

469

00:16:31,070 --> 00:16:27,960

Ukraine my name is Jim under now and I'm

470

00:16:32,570 --> 00:16:31,080

the head and founder of the independent

471

00:16:34,910 --> 00:16:32,580

investigations group and i run the

472

00:16:36,980 --> 00:16:34,920

center for inquiry in los angeles mmm

473

00:16:39,860 --> 00:16:36,990

look and you doing a lot of work there

474

00:16:42,890 --> 00:16:39,870

how does that get you working with you

475

00:16:45,170 --> 00:16:42,900

regular well they've been doing the show

476

00:16:48,140 --> 00:16:45,180

called battle of the psychics in Kiev

477

00:16:50,390 --> 00:16:48,150

for something like eight or nine years

478

00:16:52,610 --> 00:16:50,400

those are the greco-roman wrestling kind

479

00:16:55,060 --> 00:16:52,620

of thing a physical contest with each

480

00:16:57,710 --> 00:16:55,070

other arm wrestling mr. three Falls

481

00:16:59,960 --> 00:16:57,720

wouldn't that be wonderful actually some

482

00:17:01,550 --> 00:16:59,970

of the tests they did were fantastic one

483

00:17:03,950 --> 00:17:01,560

of the one of the tests they put the

484

00:17:06,290 --> 00:17:03,960

psychics through they had to choose the

485

00:17:10,190 --> 00:17:06,300

right fire extinguisher to use in a

486

00:17:11,870 --> 00:17:10,200

randomly set fire and if they chose the

487

00:17:13,790 --> 00:17:11,880

wrong thing you know it sort of blew up

488

00:17:15,740 --> 00:17:13,800

in their face a little bit literally and

489

00:17:18,020 --> 00:17:15,750

I thought that was the greatest thing in

490

00:17:19,820 --> 00:17:18,030

the world how do you how did they set

491

00:17:21,680 --> 00:17:19,830

the randomly set fire to the computer

492

00:17:23,390 --> 00:17:21,690

randomly fire off a fire underneath

493

00:17:24,890 --> 00:17:23,400

something well they would out there but

494

00:17:29,090 --> 00:17:24,900

let's say they would set it this was at

495

00:17:31,400 --> 00:17:29,100

a firefighting facility and they would

496

00:17:34,600 --> 00:17:31,410

set a grease fire and the psychics would

497

00:17:36,530 --> 00:17:34,610

have to pick the black box which had the

498

00:17:38,150 --> 00:17:36,540

extinguisher in it best suited to

499

00:17:42,460 --> 00:17:38,160

putting out a grease fire and if they

500

00:17:45,770 --> 00:17:42,470

chose the wrong box randomly like a ball

501  
00:17:47,090 --> 00:17:45,780  
later a petrol a bore up no it was

502  
00:17:48,980 --> 00:17:47,100  
always something that would put some

503  
00:17:50,840 --> 00:17:48,990  
kind of fire out but like if they would

504  
00:17:53,450 --> 00:17:50,850  
you know throw up a bucket of water on a

505  
00:17:55,580 --> 00:17:53,460  
grease fire it flamed up the wait a bit

506  
00:17:57,650 --> 00:17:55,590  
and that actually happened once and i

507  
00:18:00,770 --> 00:17:57,660  
think the psychic actually got cinched a

508  
00:18:02,690 --> 00:18:00,780  
little bit and and what is your feeling

509  
00:18:04,820 --> 00:18:02,700  
about the psychics involved in that and

510  
00:18:06,800 --> 00:18:04,830  
and uri geller do you think that they

511  
00:18:07,880 --> 00:18:06,810  
they think they have the genuine powers

512  
00:18:09,410 --> 00:18:07,890  
and what do you think of you every what

513  
00:18:12,860 --> 00:18:09,420

do you think's going on in there yeah I

514

00:18:14,400 --> 00:18:12,870

think they probably all I don't know who

515

00:18:18,000 --> 00:18:14,410

knows what's going through their minds

516

00:18:19,860 --> 00:18:18,010

they all seemed to genuinely believe in

517

00:18:21,870 --> 00:18:19,870

their powers I had nothing to do with

518

00:18:24,120 --> 00:18:21,880

setting up the tests or making sure was

519

00:18:27,060 --> 00:18:24,130

tight even would you made the test even

520

00:18:30,330 --> 00:18:27,070

harder III would have made him tighter I

521

00:18:32,280 --> 00:18:30,340

mean they had some hard tests but people

522

00:18:33,810 --> 00:18:32,290

were successful in ways that made me

523

00:18:37,140 --> 00:18:33,820

very suspicious about information

524

00:18:40,500 --> 00:18:37,150

leakage so I mean this is a television

525

00:18:42,600 --> 00:18:40,510

show not a scientific experiment so you

526

00:18:44,880 --> 00:18:42,610

know who knows how well was conducted I

527

00:18:47,580 --> 00:18:44,890

felt my role there was to introduce as

528

00:18:49,320 --> 00:18:47,590

much skepticism as possible into the

529

00:18:51,300 --> 00:18:49,330

process without just sitting there

530

00:18:54,150 --> 00:18:51,310

saying this is [h\_\_h] every single

531

00:18:55,560 --> 00:18:54,160

time Richard Saunders was involved in a

532

00:18:57,540 --> 00:18:55,570

similar type show in Australia called

533

00:19:00,150 --> 00:18:57,550

the one the psychics didn't have that

534

00:19:02,040 --> 00:19:00,160

greater hit rate and so the show wasn't

535

00:19:03,900 --> 00:19:02,050

all that interesting for that reason and

536

00:19:06,360 --> 00:19:03,910

we've been pitching these shows in the

537

00:19:08,760 --> 00:19:06,370

u.s. why I live in Hollywood Center for

538

00:19:10,770 --> 00:19:08,770

inquiry Los Angeles is in Hollywood we

539

00:19:13,230 --> 00:19:10,780

pitch these shows for years and the

540

00:19:14,880 --> 00:19:13,240

producers always say okay how long till

541

00:19:17,130 --> 00:19:14,890

somebody passes and wins a million

542

00:19:20,400 --> 00:19:17,140

dollars and I say if I'm running the

543

00:19:23,010 --> 00:19:20,410

test maybe never oh well we can't do

544

00:19:24,360 --> 00:19:23,020

that but if someone does get win the

545

00:19:26,880 --> 00:19:24,370

million dollars that means your show

546

00:19:29,040 --> 00:19:26,890

gets a Nobel Prize hahaha right that

547

00:19:31,680 --> 00:19:29,050

would be very excited because there

548

00:19:33,600 --> 00:19:31,690

would be something there is anything

549

00:19:35,250 --> 00:19:33,610

that's even made you wonder for a little

550

00:19:37,380 --> 00:19:35,260

while I mean is there any paranormal

551  
00:19:40,260 --> 00:19:37,390  
element you've personally in Canada that

552  
00:19:43,530 --> 00:19:40,270  
it's made you go oh hang on yeah one

553  
00:19:46,530 --> 00:19:43,540  
time a claimant did not show up for a

554  
00:19:48,720 --> 00:19:46,540  
test so we substituted one of our own

555  
00:19:52,350 --> 00:19:48,730  
people and it was a Zener card test one

556  
00:19:55,110 --> 00:19:52,360  
out of five chance for each guest our

557  
00:19:58,050 --> 00:19:55,120  
own guy just to go through the rehearsal

558  
00:20:01,320 --> 00:19:58,060  
got the first three right and I said

559  
00:20:04,140 --> 00:20:01,330  
what the hell is going on here are you

560  
00:20:07,620 --> 00:20:04,150  
people messing with me and cheating but

561  
00:20:09,300 --> 00:20:07,630  
it turned out that he just got on this

562  
00:20:11,730 --> 00:20:09,310  
and credit he let me miss like the next

563  
00:20:14,460 --> 00:20:11,740

15 in a row but he got the first three

564

00:20:16,650 --> 00:20:14,470

right and it was kind of fun and wild it

565

00:20:18,300 --> 00:20:16,660

was on such a hot streak there what's

566

00:20:19,890 --> 00:20:18,310

the percentage odds of that is that like

567

00:20:21,700 --> 00:20:19,900

ten percent one percent one in or

568

00:20:25,210 --> 00:20:21,710

whatever yeah it's a

569

00:20:28,899 --> 00:20:25,220

one in five chance each time so you know

570

00:20:31,720 --> 00:20:28,909

wanted to know 125 I guess to get three

571

00:20:34,690 --> 00:20:31,730

in a row correct so that was a little

572

00:20:37,269 --> 00:20:34,700

unusual and I've been asking everyone in

573

00:20:40,210 --> 00:20:37,279

this this weekend what psychic ability

574

00:20:42,100 --> 00:20:40,220

or what realm of the paranormal that you

575

00:20:43,750 --> 00:20:42,110

guys claim is not true would you like to

576

00:20:45,580 --> 00:20:43,760

be true would you imagine will be true

577

00:20:47,620 --> 00:20:45,590

is there some element of whew that you

578

00:20:50,950 --> 00:20:47,630

wish would be true oh I wish say

579

00:20:53,649 --> 00:20:50,960

afterlife were true somehow I like to

580

00:20:55,870 --> 00:20:53,659

live forever in one form or another even

581

00:20:59,169 --> 00:20:55,880

if it just meant floating around and

582

00:21:00,370 --> 00:20:59,179

hearing initials but yeah that'd

583

00:21:03,549 --> 00:21:00,380

probably be the best one because that

584

00:21:05,409 --> 00:21:03,559

has an eternal sort of repercussion and

585

00:21:07,269 --> 00:21:05,419

look up musically I've also been asking

586

00:21:08,649 --> 00:21:07,279

people about music here at ten if

587

00:21:10,090 --> 00:21:08,659

there's a song i could play now it

588

00:21:12,370 --> 00:21:10,100

doesn't be a skeptic song it could be

589

00:21:15,070 --> 00:21:12,380

any song what would it be and why would

590

00:21:16,870 --> 00:21:15,080

you want to hear it the song i would

591

00:21:20,169 --> 00:21:16,880

like to hear right this minute is cold

592

00:21:22,299 --> 00:21:20,179

sweat by james brown because i think the

593

00:21:24,039 --> 00:21:22,309

let the man come into the popcorn that's

594

00:21:27,039 --> 00:21:24,049

pretty good by James Barack corn yeah

595

00:21:28,510 --> 00:21:27,049

that'd be good but I like cold sweat

596

00:21:29,529 --> 00:21:28,520

because I think that's what the claimant

597

00:21:31,960 --> 00:21:29,539

tomorrow night's going to be

598

00:21:33,460 --> 00:21:31,970

experiencing yeah yeah you think it's

599

00:21:35,860 --> 00:21:33,470

going to be difficult to to keep

600

00:21:37,269 --> 00:21:35,870

everyone like calm in the face of

601  
00:21:39,130 --> 00:21:37,279  
someone like that who's presenting a

602  
00:21:40,240 --> 00:21:39,140  
barely extraordinary claim because I

603  
00:21:42,399 --> 00:21:40,250  
don't want people to be rude to the

604  
00:21:44,980 --> 00:21:42,409  
person yeah I mean we really try to be

605  
00:21:46,299 --> 00:21:44,990  
fairly nice and respectful for people

606  
00:21:49,120 --> 00:21:46,309  
even though I really don't think

607  
00:21:51,430 --> 00:21:49,130  
anyone's ever going to pass I think the

608  
00:21:53,080 --> 00:21:51,440  
egg be on your face when we discover a

609  
00:21:54,909 --> 00:21:53,090  
new area of physics tomorrow night you

610  
00:21:56,110 --> 00:21:54,919  
didn't know existed you're gonna be

611  
00:21:58,120 --> 00:21:56,120  
laughing so when are we gonna be

612  
00:22:01,060 --> 00:21:58,130  
laughing you're gonna go haha no yeah I

613  
00:22:03,310 --> 00:22:01,070

want in on that damn right who the hell

614

00:22:05,769 --> 00:22:03,320

am I to get a Nobel Prize but it put me

615

00:22:07,570 --> 00:22:05,779

on the list yet no I you know I think if

616

00:22:08,830 --> 00:22:07,580

people know that this is a serious thing

617

00:22:10,510 --> 00:22:08,840

and then you know they don't want to

618

00:22:12,490 --> 00:22:10,520

screw it up that they'll they'll be at

619

00:22:15,000 --> 00:22:12,500

least quiet and you've been breaking a

620

00:22:16,960 --> 00:22:15,010

cold sweat

621

00:22:28,820 --> 00:22:16,970

that's right thank you much for your

622

00:22:35,040 --> 00:22:32,880

hi I'm a skeptic little Nessa the wee

623

00:22:37,020 --> 00:22:35,050

beastie who lives in the look I want to

624

00:22:39,270 --> 00:22:37,030

talk about monster talk the podcast

625

00:22:41,880 --> 00:22:39,280

skeptically examines monster story oh

626

00:22:44,370 --> 00:22:41,890

listen to it your fancy talk why are you

627

00:22:48,150 --> 00:22:44,380

just watching the Lulu monster shows on

628

00:22:49,710 --> 00:22:48,160

the teller last night huh oh yeah but

629

00:22:51,690 --> 00:22:49,720

but I watched those because they helped

630

00:22:54,630 --> 00:22:51,700

me hone my skeptical don't a bit telling

631

00:22:56,220 --> 00:22:54,640

me I porky pies live look why don't you

632

00:22:57,870 --> 00:22:56,230

go back in that water over there and let

633

00:23:00,090 --> 00:22:57,880

me talk to people about monster talk Oh

634

00:23:02,670 --> 00:23:00,100

does that interest oh it doesn't have

635

00:23:04,890 --> 00:23:02,680

pictures as a podcast I like textures

636

00:23:06,450 --> 00:23:04,900

missile that's proper television look if

637

00:23:08,190 --> 00:23:06,460

you like pictures so much the how come

638

00:23:09,900 --> 00:23:08,200

all the photos of you are so blurry I

639

00:23:12,360 --> 00:23:09,910

don't know what you're talking about a

640

00:23:14,460 --> 00:23:12,370

live a happy picture taken that's that's

641

00:23:16,650 --> 00:23:14,470

probably true I don't want to be on your

642

00:23:19,290 --> 00:23:16,660

show i want to be on britain's got

643

00:23:21,930 --> 00:23:19,300

talent like Susan Boyle I want to sing a

644

00:23:23,370 --> 00:23:21,940

proper Scottish song anyway please check

645

00:23:25,680 --> 00:23:23,380

out monster talk from your preferred

646

00:23:37,960 --> 00:23:25,690

podcast aggregator apart from monster

647

00:23:44,180 --> 00:23:41,539

I'm Robert Schaefer I've been a fellow

648

00:23:48,019 --> 00:23:44,190

of Psych off for a long time now psych

649

00:23:50,509 --> 00:23:48,029

out now CSI I've been writing The

650

00:23:52,850 --> 00:23:50,519

Skeptical in The Skeptical Inquirer the

651

00:23:56,600 --> 00:23:52,860

psychic vibrations column for a long

652

00:23:59,419 --> 00:23:56,610

time and it's now out or some of its out

653

00:24:03,200 --> 00:23:59,429

in book form some of the older columns

654

00:24:05,720 --> 00:24:03,210

and i also have a blog called bad UFOs

655

00:24:08,570 --> 00:24:05,730

and i try to keep up to date on the

656

00:24:10,369 --> 00:24:08,580

various crazy UFO claims they're still

657

00:24:12,919 --> 00:24:10,379

going on isn't that amazing after all

658

00:24:15,139 --> 00:24:12,929

these years when do you remember this

659

00:24:18,549 --> 00:24:15,149

whole thing really starting for me

660

00:24:21,680 --> 00:24:18,559

personally I was a kid in the 1970s and

661

00:24:23,360 --> 00:24:21,690

in the late 70s especially I remember

662

00:24:26,080 --> 00:24:23,370

the world seemed to be going UFO

663

00:24:28,490 --> 00:24:26,090

craziness I think that was mostly

664

00:24:30,680 --> 00:24:28,500

Australia was going UFO crazy at that

665

00:24:33,110 --> 00:24:30,690

point in time although there were some

666

00:24:36,769 --> 00:24:33,120

in the US with the Close Encounters of

667

00:24:39,860 --> 00:24:36,779

the Third Kind oh that's yeah yeah well

668

00:24:42,019 --> 00:24:39,870

is of course it all started way before

669

00:24:44,480 --> 00:24:42,029

that you know in the late forties

670

00:24:46,999 --> 00:24:44,490

kenneth arnold is sighting in Washington

671

00:24:49,340 --> 00:24:47,009

State and then within a few days

672

00:24:51,799 --> 00:24:49,350

everybody you know all the newspapers in

673

00:24:54,769 --> 00:24:51,809

the US and then in other countries were

674

00:24:56,869 --> 00:24:54,779

filled with stories of UFO sightings so

675

00:24:59,570 --> 00:24:56,879

what do you think the fascination is and

676

00:25:01,399 --> 00:24:59,580

I'm a little surprised still going on

677

00:25:03,379 --> 00:25:01,409

but of course there's always every year

678

00:25:05,779 --> 00:25:03,389

you hear about more and more or more

679

00:25:07,700 --> 00:25:05,789

people who claim my first is it but just

680

00:25:09,740 --> 00:25:07,710

because it's so ingrained in popular

681

00:25:12,560 --> 00:25:09,750

culture that's part of it but it's but

682

00:25:17,450 --> 00:25:12,570

it's really much richer than that you

683

00:25:21,830 --> 00:25:17,460

know the 14 researcher Hillary Evans has

684

00:25:24,980 --> 00:25:21,840

said that the UFO mythos looked at in

685

00:25:29,119 --> 00:25:24,990

its you know fullness is the richest set

686

00:25:31,399 --> 00:25:29,129

of you know contemporary myth when you

687

00:25:34,399 --> 00:25:31,409

consider all that has come from it what

688

00:25:39,310 --> 00:25:34,409

has come from it the men in black saucer

689

00:25:42,880 --> 00:25:39,320

crashes Roswell aliens alien abductions

690

00:25:44,920 --> 00:25:42,890

you know uh alien hybrids it just goes

691

00:25:46,450 --> 00:25:44,930

on and on from there it's not just

692

00:25:48,190 --> 00:25:46,460

something a little narrow like Bigfoot

693

00:25:49,750 --> 00:25:48,200

like you know you go out in the forest

694

00:25:52,690 --> 00:25:49,760

and maybe you see Bigfoot maybe you

695

00:25:55,960 --> 00:25:52,700

don't ufos have evolved into this this

696

00:25:58,380 --> 00:25:55,970

enormous richness as a social phenomenon

697

00:26:00,790 --> 00:25:58,390

it's interesting you should say the word

698

00:26:05,350 --> 00:26:00,800

evolved there because I also can't help

699

00:26:07,690 --> 00:26:05,360

that notice that the craft themselves

700

00:26:10,660 --> 00:26:07,700

have evolved over the years what people

701  
00:26:12,550 --> 00:26:10,670  
report and I wonder and you might have

702  
00:26:15,460 --> 00:26:12,560  
an opinion about this is because our

703  
00:26:18,520 --> 00:26:15,470  
technology is advancing and evolving and

704  
00:26:20,020 --> 00:26:18,530  
surely before too long we'll have the

705  
00:26:22,690 --> 00:26:20,030  
technology and crafts that make the

706  
00:26:24,460 --> 00:26:22,700  
original UFOs look positively antiquated

707  
00:26:27,910 --> 00:26:24,470  
well I don't think that's the case

708  
00:26:30,490 --> 00:26:27,920  
because the UFOs as reported routinely

709  
00:26:32,500 --> 00:26:30,500  
violate the laws of motion right they

710  
00:26:33,970 --> 00:26:32,510  
have you know massless acceleration if

711  
00:26:36,790 --> 00:26:33,980  
you want to accelerate from a certain

712  
00:26:38,530 --> 00:26:36,800  
point and you want to go off in you know

713  
00:26:40,390 --> 00:26:38,540

to the left well something has to go out

714

00:26:42,640 --> 00:26:40,400

to the right to push you to the left I

715

00:26:44,470 --> 00:26:42,650

mean I mean unless something else grabs

716

00:26:47,110 --> 00:26:44,480

you and picks you up or you have

717

00:26:48,610 --> 00:26:47,120

propellers or something but UFOs aren't

718

00:26:51,550 --> 00:26:48,620

supposed to be like that they just kind

719

00:26:53,440 --> 00:26:51,560

of zip around yeah and make right angle

720

00:26:56,500 --> 00:26:53,450

turns you know all of this completely in

721

00:26:58,360 --> 00:26:56,510

violation of laws of motion so I'm quite

722

00:27:01,030 --> 00:26:58,370

sure that our technology is not going to

723

00:27:03,130 --> 00:27:01,040

go anywhere near that until we figure

724

00:27:06,610 --> 00:27:03,140

out how to build a you know a square

725

00:27:09,610 --> 00:27:06,620

circle or or a perpetual motion machine

726  
00:27:11,740 --> 00:27:09,620  
yeah yes that's what you would need you

727  
00:27:13,500 --> 00:27:11,750  
would and that you make a very good

728  
00:27:16,090 --> 00:27:13,510  
point of course our technology is

729  
00:27:18,040 --> 00:27:16,100  
increasing quite a click and we've got

730  
00:27:21,370 --> 00:27:18,050  
more advanced aircraft but we're still

731  
00:27:24,280 --> 00:27:21,380  
limited by laws of motion  $F$  equals  $MA$

732  
00:27:26,050 --> 00:27:24,290  
and so on even if you use relativistic

733  
00:27:28,930 --> 00:27:26,060  
mechanics you're still limited by the

734  
00:27:31,330 --> 00:27:28,940  
laws of man this was the great out the

735  
00:27:33,190 --> 00:27:31,340  
great out of that is for the believer to

736  
00:27:35,440 --> 00:27:33,200  
say our world these creatures have

737  
00:27:37,600 --> 00:27:35,450  
obviously invented that you know well I

738  
00:27:39,370 --> 00:27:37,610

know I know it's crazy as it sounds but

739

00:27:41,080 --> 00:27:39,380

I know well way to remember though

740

00:27:44,070 --> 00:27:41,090

what was it talk we heard yesterday

741

00:27:46,870 --> 00:27:44,080

saying about how they limited the

742

00:27:48,430 --> 00:27:46,880

expectation of what any new particles

743

00:27:51,010 --> 00:27:48,440

could be according to the standard law

744

00:27:52,960 --> 00:27:51,020

standard model of quantum mechanics and

745

00:27:55,390 --> 00:27:52,970

is basically these these things that

746

00:27:58,810 --> 00:27:55,400

they're hypothesizing it's just not

747

00:28:00,880 --> 00:27:58,820

realistic so within your situation do

748

00:28:03,730 --> 00:28:00,890

you get many people writing in to you

749

00:28:06,670 --> 00:28:03,740

emails or contacting you with heartfelt

750

00:28:09,490 --> 00:28:06,680

stories of encounters sometimes not so

751  
00:28:11,110 --> 00:28:09,500  
much specifically to me but Allah you

752  
00:28:13,660 --> 00:28:11,120  
know the organizations that collect

753  
00:28:16,060 --> 00:28:13,670  
these reports like Mia fun and some of

754  
00:28:18,400 --> 00:28:16,070  
the others see how they get a get a fair

755  
00:28:20,410 --> 00:28:18,410  
number of them and for many people and

756  
00:28:22,510 --> 00:28:20,420  
even sophisticated people you'd be

757  
00:28:25,420 --> 00:28:22,520  
surprised they seem to operate on the

758  
00:28:28,600 --> 00:28:25,430  
conclusion that well I can tell who is

759  
00:28:31,210 --> 00:28:28,610  
sincere and who is not I can tell who is

760  
00:28:32,620 --> 00:28:31,220  
credible and who is not now if they can

761  
00:28:34,900 --> 00:28:32,630  
do this and they're better than any

762  
00:28:37,060 --> 00:28:34,910  
psychologist in the world mmm because I

763  
00:28:40,030 --> 00:28:37,070

think just about every psychologists it

764

00:28:42,790 --> 00:28:40,040

makes you cannot tell sincerity just by

765

00:28:44,670 --> 00:28:42,800

what somebody says and even if they are

766

00:28:48,070 --> 00:28:44,680

sincere that doesn't mean that they're

767

00:28:51,130 --> 00:28:48,080

correct it's so easy to be so you

768

00:28:54,340 --> 00:28:51,140

couldn't so convinced of an error yeah

769

00:28:56,050 --> 00:28:54,350

apps and when you are in error but

770

00:28:57,400 --> 00:28:56,060

you'll convince its reality then you

771

00:28:59,650 --> 00:28:57,410

have all the sincerity in the world

772

00:29:02,530 --> 00:28:59,660

that's right and that's then they go out

773

00:29:04,870 --> 00:29:02,540

and find a support group for either UFO

774

00:29:07,240 --> 00:29:04,880

cidars or UFO abductees and they each

775

00:29:09,130 --> 00:29:07,250

tell each other their stories and they

776

00:29:11,020 --> 00:29:09,140

don't even notice all the points you

777

00:29:13,240 --> 00:29:11,030

know of this agreement like one might

778

00:29:14,620 --> 00:29:13,250

say well the aliens have you know big

779

00:29:16,060 --> 00:29:14,630

heads and the other one says they have

780

00:29:19,450 --> 00:29:16,070

small heads you know they're each

781

00:29:21,430 --> 00:29:19,460

supporting the other I did not yes I

782

00:29:25,690 --> 00:29:21,440

think I've heard about this it's is

783

00:29:27,430 --> 00:29:25,700

other meetings group sessions or what

784

00:29:28,720 --> 00:29:27,440

are they call them groups with people

785

00:29:30,610 --> 00:29:28,730

they get together to share their

786

00:29:32,650 --> 00:29:30,620

experience of all certainly let's say

787

00:29:35,500 --> 00:29:32,660

being abducted for example Oh certainly

788

00:29:38,680 --> 00:29:35,510

and and there are even larger ones just

789

00:29:41,260 --> 00:29:38,690

for all UFO things for example in

790

00:29:44,460 --> 00:29:41,270

Phoenix area each year now they have the

791

00:29:47,380 --> 00:29:44,470

international UFO Congress I was there

792

00:29:48,230 --> 00:29:47,390

this year and it's sort of like the anti

793

00:29:50,990 --> 00:29:48,240

Tamia

794

00:29:53,510 --> 00:29:51,000

we're here were skeptical of things that

795

00:29:55,220 --> 00:29:53,520

cannot be proven and they're there you

796

00:29:57,350 --> 00:29:55,230

tell me your story and not love it you

797

00:29:59,990 --> 00:29:57,360

know that's there and in fact there was

798

00:30:02,180 --> 00:30:00,000

even a place there some guy set up a

799

00:30:05,750 --> 00:30:02,190

little business called alien and scalpel

800

00:30:08,090 --> 00:30:05,760

research saddle recent yes and the idea

801  
00:30:10,490 --> 00:30:08,100  
is when you give them twenty dollars and

802  
00:30:12,260 --> 00:30:10,500  
they will somehow take a DNA sample from

803  
00:30:16,190 --> 00:30:12,270  
you and they will tell you you are an

804  
00:30:17,750 --> 00:30:16,200  
alien hybrid you also have angelic DNA

805  
00:30:20,210 --> 00:30:17,760  
110 is telling you that they told her

806  
00:30:22,549 --> 00:30:20,220  
you know she had DNA I don't know what

807  
00:30:25,790 --> 00:30:22,559  
angels DNA is like but I guess they do

808  
00:30:28,940 --> 00:30:25,800  
and everything so preposterous is this

809  
00:30:30,710 --> 00:30:28,950  
and it's it's a large conference just

810  
00:30:32,270 --> 00:30:30,720  
like this in fact it's probably bigger

811  
00:30:34,669 --> 00:30:32,280  
than theirs I was about to make the

812  
00:30:36,590 --> 00:30:34,679  
point these things have no trouble

813  
00:30:39,950 --> 00:30:36,600

getting many many attendees do that's

814

00:30:41,660 --> 00:30:39,960

right that's right Ill guess a lot of

815

00:30:43,730 --> 00:30:41,670

people go along they were very in

816

00:30:45,620 --> 00:30:43,740

varying degrees of belief and interest

817

00:30:47,419 --> 00:30:45,630

in UFO I mean I'm interested in you I

818

00:30:49,790 --> 00:30:47,429

always found it interesting there's a

819

00:30:51,830 --> 00:30:49,800

there's a relatively few people there

820

00:30:53,720 --> 00:30:51,840

while the number of actual skeptics

821

00:30:55,880 --> 00:30:53,730

there would be you know one or two who

822

00:30:59,660 --> 00:30:55,890

might just go out of curiosity like me

823

00:31:02,930 --> 00:30:59,670

but some of the UFO research is the pro

824

00:31:05,299 --> 00:31:02,940

UFO researchers are more or less careful

825

00:31:08,450 --> 00:31:05,309

in the sense that they realize most of

826

00:31:09,950 --> 00:31:08,460

its bogus and they require only you know

827

00:31:12,200 --> 00:31:09,960

they require what they consider to be

828

00:31:15,080 --> 00:31:12,210

solid Evans but for them solid evidence

829

00:31:17,330 --> 00:31:15,090

is good testimony yeah you know I'm a

830

00:31:20,090 --> 00:31:17,340

credible person I'm a police officer I'm

831

00:31:22,430 --> 00:31:20,100

a pillar of the community and I saw this

832

00:31:24,530 --> 00:31:22,440

thing land in my backyard and therefore

833

00:31:26,419 --> 00:31:24,540

you know it's true because he's credible

834

00:31:29,690 --> 00:31:26,429

that argument that I've heard so many

835

00:31:32,660 --> 00:31:29,700

times a policeman sword or a pilot sword

836

00:31:34,220 --> 00:31:32,670

and they're trained is trying to absorb

837

00:31:36,500 --> 00:31:34,230

things well who trains them I don't

838

00:31:39,380 --> 00:31:36,510

think so I I don't think that's quite

839

00:31:41,210 --> 00:31:39,390

what people think it is it's such an

840

00:31:43,430 --> 00:31:41,220

easy thing to say to say at least

841

00:31:46,180 --> 00:31:43,440

credible person sort and they have big

842

00:31:48,650 --> 00:31:46,190

they're trained right exactly exactly

843

00:31:51,290 --> 00:31:48,660

well but what many of these people

844

00:31:53,290 --> 00:31:51,300

forget was that even that the delayed J

845

00:31:56,120 --> 00:31:53,300

Allen Hynek who was the Blue Book

846

00:31:57,660 --> 00:31:56,130

Project Blue Book scientific consultant

847

00:32:02,280 --> 00:31:57,670

and he's sort of a hero too

848

00:32:03,690 --> 00:32:02,290

many of the pro UFO people he said after

849

00:32:07,530 --> 00:32:03,700

looking at a number of cases where

850

00:32:09,000 --> 00:32:07,540

pilots had made very serious perceptual

851  
00:32:11,180 --> 00:32:09,010  
errors you know when they see a meteor

852  
00:32:14,820 --> 00:32:11,190  
or something like that he wrote that

853  
00:32:17,190 --> 00:32:14,830  
pilots surprisingly make relatively poor

854  
00:32:20,190 --> 00:32:17,200  
observers when they're when they hit

855  
00:32:22,230 --> 00:32:20,200  
with some surprise unusual stimulus

856  
00:32:24,900 --> 00:32:22,240  
their thought is not G let me analyze

857  
00:32:26,400 --> 00:32:24,910  
what that thing is a thing is you know

858  
00:32:28,380 --> 00:32:26,410  
their thought is oh my god I'm going to

859  
00:32:32,430 --> 00:32:28,390  
collide with everything I better go into

860  
00:32:34,350 --> 00:32:32,440  
a bank you know and so that's a good

861  
00:32:36,630 --> 00:32:34,360  
thing to remember because it does come

862  
00:32:38,430 --> 00:32:36,640  
up quite a lot especially in your game

863  
00:32:40,230 --> 00:32:38,440

in my game people will put that argument

864

00:32:43,200 --> 00:32:40,240

and I'll remember that that's a it's a

865

00:32:45,780 --> 00:32:43,210

good thing to remind people and like any

866

00:32:47,520 --> 00:32:45,790

but like you and I would be surprised if

867

00:32:51,240 --> 00:32:47,530

something unexpected happened we may not

868

00:32:53,430 --> 00:32:51,250

remember clearly right which is being

869

00:32:55,800 --> 00:32:53,440

very human of course now if people want

870

00:32:57,390 --> 00:32:55,810

to find out more about what you're up to

871

00:33:00,210 --> 00:32:57,400

what's the best website people can

872

00:33:03,300 --> 00:33:00,220

nervous it well my blog on UFOs is just

873

00:33:06,300 --> 00:33:03,310

called bad UFOs calm and I try to stay

874

00:33:10,350 --> 00:33:06,310

up to date on all the crazy claims there

875

00:33:12,570 --> 00:33:10,360

and I also have a website called the

876

00:33:15,540 --> 00:33:12,580

bunker calm which has more of an archive

877

00:33:20,100 --> 00:33:15,550

of older skeptical texts and things like

878

00:33:21,480 --> 00:33:20,110

that so I'm there's some I think that's

879

00:33:23,850 --> 00:33:21,490

probably the best source of information

880

00:33:27,060 --> 00:33:23,860

on this subject in fact I've been

881

00:33:29,010 --> 00:33:27,070

actually I have quite because I've been

882

00:33:32,640 --> 00:33:29,020

in doing this for a long time I have a

883

00:33:34,560 --> 00:33:32,650

lot of correspondence and things from

884

00:33:37,200 --> 00:33:34,570

well-known ufologists and people like

885

00:33:40,260 --> 00:33:37,210

you know Philip J class and Jalen hi

886

00:33:41,850 --> 00:33:40,270

Nick and so on and so I have been in the

887

00:33:45,120 --> 00:33:41,860

process of scanning these and putting

888

00:33:47,550 --> 00:33:45,130

them as pdfs out as historical documents

889

00:33:50,130 --> 00:33:47,560

to document the history of ufology and

890

00:33:52,950 --> 00:33:50,140

important controversies and so on yeah

891

00:33:54,480 --> 00:33:52,960

and i have i have pages devoted to

892

00:33:57,210 --> 00:33:54,490

certain cases like for example the

893

00:33:59,700 --> 00:33:57,220

Travis Walton UFO story where he claims

894

00:34:03,090 --> 00:33:59,710

it he was out with these people in the

895

00:34:04,770 --> 00:34:03,100

forest and and they stopped they saw UFO

896

00:34:06,120 --> 00:34:04,780

they stopped and he ran out toward it

897

00:34:08,340 --> 00:34:06,130

and it zapped him and someone well the

898

00:34:11,130 --> 00:34:08,350

whole thing is a hoax as it wouldn't

899

00:34:11,820 --> 00:34:11,140

surprise you he'll class spent a lot of

900

00:34:13,560 --> 00:34:11,830

time on this

901  
00:34:15,780 --> 00:34:13,570  
class of course was one of the founding

902  
00:34:18,120 --> 00:34:15,790  
fellows of psych up and it was probably

903  
00:34:22,560 --> 00:34:18,130  
the best known UFO skeptic a white I'm

904  
00:34:24,540 --> 00:34:22,570  
and so I'm you know putting all this

905  
00:34:26,970 --> 00:34:24,550  
information that a lot of it was not

906  
00:34:29,240 --> 00:34:26,980  
previously available put it together why

907  
00:34:31,200 --> 00:34:29,250  
we think exactly that it's a hoax

908  
00:34:33,090 --> 00:34:31,210  
fantastic stuff there you are folks

909  
00:34:35,460 --> 00:34:33,100  
visit those websites if you're

910  
00:34:54,600 --> 00:34:35,470  
interested in UFOs robert chamber thank

911  
00:34:56,280 --> 00:34:54,610  
you very much thank you Richard the

912  
00:35:00,210 --> 00:34:56,290  
Australian skeptics annual convention

913  
00:35:02,910 --> 00:35:00,220

for 2012 will be held in melbourne from

914

00:35:06,450 --> 00:35:02,920

friday the 30th of november to sunday

915

00:35:10,470 --> 00:35:06,460

the second of december speakers this

916

00:35:12,570 --> 00:35:10,480

year include James the amazing Randi DJ

917

00:35:14,880 --> 00:35:12,580

Grothe president of the James Randi

918

00:35:18,330 --> 00:35:14,890

Educational Foundation Brian Thompson

919

00:35:22,380 --> 00:35:18,340

outreach coordinator from the jf rebecca

920

00:35:25,380 --> 00:35:22,390

watson lawrence loon dr. dre chi dunlop

921

00:35:28,500 --> 00:35:25,390

lynn kelly dr. chrissy wilson dr. ken

922

00:35:31,850 --> 00:35:28,510

harvey choice magazine consumer of the

923

00:35:36,030 --> 00:35:31,860

year award winner adam van langenberg

924

00:35:38,070 --> 00:35:36,040

Richard Saunders and many more for more

925

00:35:41,820 --> 00:35:38,080

information and to book your tickets

926

00:35:46,890 --> 00:35:41,830

which are selling out fast visit w WV

927

00:35:49,950 --> 00:35:46,900

skeptics wordpress com yes folks don't

928

00:35:52,320 --> 00:35:49,960

forget this is your chance to meet James

929

00:36:03,690 --> 00:35:52,330

the amazing Randi and lots of other

930

00:36:12,880 --> 00:36:07,090

now it's time for dr. Richie reports

931

00:36:16,360 --> 00:36:12,890

with dr. Rachel Dunlop so here i am at

932

00:36:17,800 --> 00:36:16,370

tam 10 in las vegas and I'm just been

933

00:36:20,050 --> 00:36:17,810

joined by Tim Farley from what's the

934

00:36:22,960 --> 00:36:20,060

harm net has just come off stage from

935

00:36:25,900 --> 00:36:22,970

giving a presentation about the internet

936

00:36:28,600 --> 00:36:25,910

and the future of skepticism on the

937

00:36:30,550 --> 00:36:28,610

internet so to me also that's been the

938

00:36:32,530 --> 00:36:30,560

theme of your talks during the weekend

939

00:36:35,920 --> 00:36:32,540

you gave a workshop on Thursday with

940

00:36:37,750 --> 00:36:35,930

Derek kanji know about skeptic tools

941

00:36:40,240 --> 00:36:37,760

related to the internet and you also

942

00:36:43,060 --> 00:36:40,250

have a blog that talks about skeptic

943

00:36:46,720 --> 00:36:43,070

tools room because you are the internet

944

00:36:48,700 --> 00:36:46,730

expert aren't you well I try I try to be

945

00:36:50,860 --> 00:36:48,710

the expert on using the tools that are

946

00:36:52,930 --> 00:36:50,870

available on the internet for skeptical

947

00:36:54,660 --> 00:36:52,940

purposes things that go beyond just

948

00:36:56,770 --> 00:36:54,670

creating a website or creating a blog

949

00:36:58,720 --> 00:36:56,780

clever ways that you can take advantage

950

00:37:01,570 --> 00:36:58,730

of stuff that's out there like Wikipedia

951  
00:37:05,800 --> 00:37:01,580  
and and browser plugins and things like

952  
00:37:07,090 --> 00:37:05,810  
that to to do skeptic work so can we

953  
00:37:08,290 --> 00:37:07,100  
talk about some of those tools because

954  
00:37:11,200 --> 00:37:08,300  
some of the ones you brought up on

955  
00:37:13,330 --> 00:37:11,210  
Thursday I hadn't heard of there was one

956  
00:37:15,670 --> 00:37:13,340  
that is sort of like a forum for

957  
00:37:17,770 --> 00:37:15,680  
skeptics to pose questions and answers

958  
00:37:19,630 --> 00:37:17,780  
which I had not come across before yeah

959  
00:37:21,820 --> 00:37:19,640  
it's called skeptic stack exchange it's

960  
00:37:23,830 --> 00:37:21,830  
actually a whole series of sites called

961  
00:37:26,320 --> 00:37:23,840  
stack exchange and each one's on a topic

962  
00:37:28,630 --> 00:37:26,330  
and it was specifically to solve the

963  
00:37:31,060 --> 00:37:28,640

problem of question-and-answer sites on

964

00:37:32,890 --> 00:37:31,070

the internet being terrible if you've

965

00:37:34,330 --> 00:37:32,900

ever looked at yahoo answers or any of

966

00:37:36,190 --> 00:37:34,340

the answer question and answer sites

967

00:37:38,230 --> 00:37:36,200

they're just terrible it's just terrible

968

00:37:39,790 --> 00:37:38,240

questions and terrible answers so these

969

00:37:41,800 --> 00:37:39,800

couple of software developers said we

970

00:37:44,370 --> 00:37:41,810

can do a better job and they came up

971

00:37:46,540 --> 00:37:44,380

with this thing and made it all free and

972

00:37:48,970 --> 00:37:46,550

eventually someone they were looking for

973

00:37:50,590 --> 00:37:48,980

other topics and Richard Stelling in the

974

00:37:53,470 --> 00:37:50,600

UK went to them and said hey why don't

975

00:37:54,940 --> 00:37:53,480

we do a skeptic topic and they said yes

976  
00:37:56,740 --> 00:37:54,950  
and so there's this whole skeptic

977  
00:37:58,720 --> 00:37:56,750  
section and the neat thing about the

978  
00:38:01,990 --> 00:37:58,730  
site is is that it's specifically

979  
00:38:04,270 --> 00:38:02,000  
designed to show up well in Google so

980  
00:38:06,160 --> 00:38:04,280  
when you put a piece of question on

981  
00:38:07,780 --> 00:38:06,170  
there and then you google for that

982  
00:38:08,720 --> 00:38:07,790  
question the stack skeptic stack

983  
00:38:11,120 --> 00:38:08,730  
exchange

984  
00:38:13,220 --> 00:38:11,130  
answer will usually be the first result

985  
00:38:15,680 --> 00:38:13,230  
so we have a bunch of skeptics on their

986  
00:38:17,480 --> 00:38:15,690  
answering questions and there's a whole

987  
00:38:19,910 --> 00:38:17,490  
process where the questions get voted on

988  
00:38:21,620 --> 00:38:19,920

and people get the scores and it's kind

989

00:38:22,880 --> 00:38:21,630

of a game it's almost like Foursquare

990

00:38:24,560 --> 00:38:22,890

one of those games where you can get

991

00:38:26,360 --> 00:38:24,570

badges and things like that so it's kind

992

00:38:31,250 --> 00:38:26,370

of fun you compete to get the best

993

00:38:33,500 --> 00:38:31,260

answers and nice little pithy skeptic

994

00:38:35,840 --> 00:38:33,510

nuggets that don't require a 5,000 word

995

00:38:37,520 --> 00:38:35,850

blog post just as like the example I

996

00:38:39,980 --> 00:38:37,530

gave was someone asked the question of

997

00:38:42,440 --> 00:38:39,990

what formal education does I ron hubbard

998

00:38:43,910 --> 00:38:42,450

the Creator Scientology have and there

999

00:38:46,370 --> 00:38:43,920

had been a lot of misinformation about

1000

00:38:47,600 --> 00:38:46,380

that from the church and I when I saw

1001

00:38:48,920 --> 00:38:47,610

that question I happen to know the

1002

00:38:50,540 --> 00:38:48,930

answer because there had been an article

1003

00:38:53,060 --> 00:38:50,550

about it recently so I wrote the answer

1004

00:38:55,070 --> 00:38:53,070

up and cited the article and my answer

1005

00:38:56,810 --> 00:38:55,080

was picked by the people on the site and

1006

00:38:59,450 --> 00:38:56,820

now that's the number one result in

1007

00:39:01,730 --> 00:38:59,460

google if you if you look that up and

1008

00:39:03,310 --> 00:39:01,740

it's a skeptical answer and what is the

1009

00:39:06,290 --> 00:39:03,320

answer to me the answer is that

1010

00:39:07,970 --> 00:39:06,300

basically he does not have any advanced

1011

00:39:10,940 --> 00:39:07,980

degrees even though the church claims

1012

00:39:12,950 --> 00:39:10,950

that he does okay he did some college

1013

00:39:14,780 --> 00:39:12,960

but never really finished and the

1014

00:39:16,730 --> 00:39:14,790

interesting thing about that site too is

1015

00:39:18,800 --> 00:39:16,740

that you can write a question and answer

1016

00:39:20,840 --> 00:39:18,810

it yourself right is that and is that

1017

00:39:24,140 --> 00:39:20,850

different to say yahoo answers a

1018

00:39:25,580 --> 00:39:24,150

question yeah they in order to encourage

1019

00:39:27,800 --> 00:39:25,590

people to it's all about knowledge

1020

00:39:29,360 --> 00:39:27,810

sharing it originally was a programmers

1021

00:39:31,340 --> 00:39:29,370

technical site and all these weird

1022

00:39:32,720 --> 00:39:31,350

little super technical questions about

1023

00:39:34,820 --> 00:39:32,730

how do you do this or how do you do that

1024

00:39:36,440 --> 00:39:34,830

and a lot of people have knowledge like

1025

00:39:38,090 --> 00:39:36,450

that and need a place to share it but

1026

00:39:40,220 --> 00:39:38,100

maybe they don't have a blog to post it

1027

00:39:42,350 --> 00:39:40,230

on so you can go to the site if you you

1028

00:39:44,240 --> 00:39:42,360

come up with an interesting piece of

1029

00:39:46,190 --> 00:39:44,250

skeptical knowledge and you don't have a

1030

00:39:48,470 --> 00:39:46,200

blog to post it on you can go to skeptic

1031

00:39:50,420 --> 00:39:48,480

stack exchange write it in the form of a

1032

00:39:51,440 --> 00:39:50,430

question and then click the button to

1033

00:39:53,750 --> 00:39:51,450

say I'm going to answer this question

1034

00:39:55,700 --> 00:39:53,760

myself and you write the answer yourself

1035

00:39:58,550 --> 00:39:55,710

and hopefully you'll get a good score

1036

00:40:00,920 --> 00:39:58,560

but in any case the content will be

1037

00:40:03,260 --> 00:40:00,930

there and it'll be easily accessible to

1038

00:40:04,910 --> 00:40:03,270

Google yeah I thought one of the really

1039

00:40:06,410 --> 00:40:04,920

interesting points that you made in the

1040

00:40:08,690 --> 00:40:06,420

workshop on Thursday was you were

1041

00:40:11,630 --> 00:40:08,700

comparing the number of hits that your

1042

00:40:14,120 --> 00:40:11,640

blog or website what's the harm net gets

1043

00:40:18,020 --> 00:40:14,130

versus the amount of hits that Wikipedia

1044

00:40:20,750 --> 00:40:18,030

gets and your point was to I guess to

1045

00:40:22,520 --> 00:40:20,760

target where you put information of a

1046

00:40:25,160 --> 00:40:22,530

skeptical nature to make sure it's

1047

00:40:26,930 --> 00:40:25,170

it's viewed more often and what were you

1048

00:40:29,920 --> 00:40:26,940

saying about that yeah well it's easy to

1049

00:40:33,200 --> 00:40:29,930

get into a false dichotomy a sort of

1050

00:40:34,820 --> 00:40:33,210

fallacy there and say that oh well let's

1051

00:40:36,560 --> 00:40:34,830

just go post everything on Wikipedia and

1052

00:40:38,900 --> 00:40:36,570

of course that's not the answer we need

1053

00:40:42,710 --> 00:40:38,910

skeptic websites too but you gotta look

1054

00:40:44,870 --> 00:40:42,720

at where is where's our time best spent

1055

00:40:46,880 --> 00:40:44,880

and if i can write something on on

1056

00:40:48,740 --> 00:40:46,890

what's the harm and it's going to be

1057

00:40:50,660 --> 00:40:48,750

seen by a few thousand people but i can

1058

00:40:52,370 --> 00:40:50,670

write the same thing on wikipedia and it

1059

00:40:54,200 --> 00:40:52,380

follows the wikipedia rules it's going

1060

00:40:55,850 --> 00:40:54,210

to be seen by a million people then

1061

00:40:58,370 --> 00:40:55,860

maybe i should write it on wikipedia

1062

00:41:01,280 --> 00:40:58,380

instead and of course probably i should

1063

00:41:03,710 --> 00:41:01,290

write it on both but generally skeptic

1064

00:41:07,730 --> 00:41:03,720

websites don't nearly ranked as high as

1065

00:41:11,390 --> 00:41:07,740

wikipedia they get much more traffic so

1066

00:41:13,190 --> 00:41:11,400

even if you hate wikipedia you have to

1067

00:41:14,360 --> 00:41:13,200

acknowledge the fact that the general

1068

00:41:16,730 --> 00:41:14,370

public is getting their information

1069

00:41:17,990 --> 00:41:16,740

about homeopathy and chiropractic and

1070

00:41:19,820 --> 00:41:18,000

all these things that we know about

1071

00:41:21,860 --> 00:41:19,830

they're getting that information from

1072

00:41:23,990 --> 00:41:21,870

Wikipedia in a very large degree so we

1073

00:41:26,870 --> 00:41:24,000

owe it to them to try to make those

1074

00:41:28,850 --> 00:41:26,880

articles as skeptical as possible so you

1075

00:41:30,560 --> 00:41:28,860

talks a little bit about the ins and

1076

00:41:33,230 --> 00:41:30,570

outs of Wikipedia and you mentioned

1077

00:41:36,170 --> 00:41:33,240

specifically that Susan Garrick has a

1078

00:41:38,570 --> 00:41:36,180

project going to encourage skeptics to

1079

00:41:40,490 --> 00:41:38,580

get involved can you tell us a bit about

1080

00:41:43,250 --> 00:41:40,500

that yeah Susan garvik has a blog called

1081

00:41:45,170 --> 00:41:43,260

guerrilla skepticism on Wikipedia if you

1082

00:41:48,560 --> 00:41:45,180

just google that you can find it and she

1083

00:41:50,450 --> 00:41:48,570

kind of organizes skeptics around you

1084

00:41:52,400 --> 00:41:50,460

know different projects or you know some

1085

00:41:53,420 --> 00:41:52,410

figuring out where people can spend

1086

00:41:56,750 --> 00:41:53,430

their time so that they're not

1087

00:41:58,970 --> 00:41:56,760

duplicating effort or giving them help

1088

00:42:01,730 --> 00:41:58,980

when they need help and try just trying

1089

00:42:03,260 --> 00:42:01,740

to get skeptics energized about editing

1090

00:42:05,000 --> 00:42:03,270

Wikipedia and she's got a project that

1091

00:42:07,820 --> 00:42:05,010

she's a sub-project that she's been

1092

00:42:09,410 --> 00:42:07,830

organizing here at tam where she wants

1093

00:42:11,810 --> 00:42:09,420

to get skeptics interested in

1094

00:42:14,030 --> 00:42:11,820

translating content into other languages

1095

00:42:15,950 --> 00:42:14,040

so that not only in the English

1096

00:42:17,900 --> 00:42:15,960

Wikipedia but in the Portuguese

1097

00:42:19,550 --> 00:42:17,910

Wikipedia and the and the French

1098

00:42:21,590 --> 00:42:19,560

Wikipedia and whatnot all the best

1099

00:42:24,530 --> 00:42:21,600

information about homeopathy or James

1100

00:42:26,720 --> 00:42:24,540

Randi or you know psychic channeling or

1101

00:42:28,340 --> 00:42:26,730

whatever is the same on all the

1102

00:42:29,990 --> 00:42:28,350

wikipedias and of course that's a huge

1103

00:42:32,190 --> 00:42:30,000

effort and she's going to start small

1104

00:42:34,470 --> 00:42:32,200

and fan out but

1105

00:42:35,730 --> 00:42:34,480

it's good because if you've ever played

1106

00:42:39,240 --> 00:42:35,740

around with a different language

1107

00:42:41,220 --> 00:42:39,250

wikipedias they can be very you know one

1108

00:42:43,380 --> 00:42:41,230

might have a really detailed article

1109

00:42:44,910 --> 00:42:43,390

about something and then you go to the

1110

00:42:47,280 --> 00:42:44,920

French version or the Spanish version

1111

00:42:49,950 --> 00:42:47,290

and the article is much smaller and less

1112

00:42:52,290 --> 00:42:49,960

well edited right and you were talking

1113

00:42:54,240 --> 00:42:52,300

about how in the early days wiki was

1114

00:42:56,400 --> 00:42:54,250

looking for content that was their

1115

00:42:58,170 --> 00:42:56,410

primary focus but now they've got a lot

1116

00:42:59,730 --> 00:42:58,180

of content now they need or was it

1117

00:43:01,740 --> 00:42:59,740

editors no they were looking for editors

1118

00:43:03,420 --> 00:43:01,750

primarily first up but now they're

1119

00:43:05,640 --> 00:43:03,430

looking for content and you said that in

1120

00:43:07,349 --> 00:43:05,650

some aspects of that the camp it's

1121

00:43:10,800 --> 00:43:07,359

taking advantage of that and flooding

1122

00:43:13,770 --> 00:43:10,810

wiki with with with sort of pseudo

1123

00:43:16,829 --> 00:43:13,780

science topics yeah to a certain extent

1124

00:43:18,510 --> 00:43:16,839

uh it's they're not really flooding it

1125

00:43:21,060 --> 00:43:18,520

but but they do come in from time to

1126  
00:43:22,680 --> 00:43:21,070  
time in the early days of Wikipedia they

1127  
00:43:24,540 --> 00:43:22,690  
didn't have any articles so they wanted

1128  
00:43:26,339 --> 00:43:24,550  
people to write small stub article so

1129  
00:43:28,170 --> 00:43:26,349  
you could kind of get away with a lot

1130  
00:43:30,839 --> 00:43:28,180  
because they needed the articles written

1131  
00:43:32,730 --> 00:43:30,849  
now most of the major topics like all

1132  
00:43:35,190 --> 00:43:32,740  
the major skeptic topics have articles

1133  
00:43:37,079 --> 00:43:35,200  
so it's starting to get down into the

1134  
00:43:39,690 --> 00:43:37,089  
fringe topics so like homeopathy

1135  
00:43:41,550 --> 00:43:39,700  
obviously we know it's nonsense but it's

1136  
00:43:43,319 --> 00:43:41,560  
still a cultural phenomenon so it

1137  
00:43:46,290 --> 00:43:43,329  
deserves to have an article in Wikipedia

1138  
00:43:48,240 --> 00:43:46,300

but if you find some quack you know that

1139

00:43:51,390 --> 00:43:48,250

he's the only one doing some quack

1140

00:43:53,430 --> 00:43:51,400

remedy and it's just this one guy that

1141

00:43:55,380 --> 00:43:53,440

doesn't belong on Wikipedia because

1142

00:43:57,030 --> 00:43:55,390

under Wikipedia rules it's not notable

1143

00:43:59,040 --> 00:43:57,040

enough but sometimes those quacks will

1144

00:44:00,809 --> 00:43:59,050

go in there and try to add it so there's

1145

00:44:02,910 --> 00:44:00,819

a whole section on Wikipedia called the

1146

00:44:04,859 --> 00:44:02,920

fringe theories board where people kind

1147

00:44:06,870 --> 00:44:04,869

of watch out for that sort of stuff and

1148

00:44:10,319 --> 00:44:06,880

they have a pretty good process in place

1149

00:44:12,300 --> 00:44:10,329

where they will delete stuff if it

1150

00:44:13,890 --> 00:44:12,310

doesn't belong there and sometimes you

1151

00:44:16,230 --> 00:44:13,900

can kind of run afoul of it because

1152

00:44:18,359 --> 00:44:16,240

skeptics will document our own like

1153

00:44:20,490 --> 00:44:18,369

we'll put our own people in there a good

1154

00:44:22,859 --> 00:44:20,500

example was actually just today or

1155

00:44:26,430 --> 00:44:22,869

yesterday the article for Brian Dunning

1156

00:44:28,620 --> 00:44:26,440

sceptile cast was it wasn't really

1157

00:44:30,210 --> 00:44:28,630

deleted but it was merged they decided

1158

00:44:32,190 --> 00:44:30,220

they didn't want a separate article for

1159

00:44:33,900 --> 00:44:32,200

his podcast because this podcast wasn't

1160

00:44:36,210 --> 00:44:33,910

well known enough so what they did was

1161

00:44:39,150 --> 00:44:36,220

they took the material from that article

1162

00:44:41,790 --> 00:44:39,160

and merged it into his biography which

1163

00:44:44,099 --> 00:44:41,800

is okay it's nicer to have two articles

1164

00:44:45,430 --> 00:44:44,109

but the content is still there and it's

1165

00:44:47,349 --> 00:44:45,440

still one so sometimes you lose

1166

00:44:48,490 --> 00:44:47,359

battles like that you just have to you

1167

00:44:51,010 --> 00:44:48,500

have to be aware that you're not going

1168

00:44:53,410 --> 00:44:51,020

to win every battle on Wikipedia so you

1169

00:44:55,540 --> 00:44:53,420

mentioned they but who is who is this

1170

00:44:57,250 --> 00:44:55,550

elusive a okay well that is that's

1171

00:44:58,750 --> 00:44:57,260

interesting because a lot of people have

1172

00:45:00,910 --> 00:44:58,760

this image that there's this sort of

1173

00:45:02,589 --> 00:45:00,920

cabal that runs Wikipedia but it's

1174

00:45:05,319 --> 00:45:02,599

really just a whole bunch of people and

1175

00:45:07,000 --> 00:45:05,329

it just it's very haphazard as to

1176

00:45:11,290 --> 00:45:07,010

whether or not anyone else will notice

1177

00:45:13,930 --> 00:45:11,300

what you're doing and market for

1178

00:45:15,430 --> 00:45:13,940

deletion or push back on what your the

1179

00:45:16,839 --> 00:45:15,440

changes you're making sometimes you can

1180

00:45:18,880 --> 00:45:16,849

make changes on Wikipedia and no one

1181

00:45:20,260 --> 00:45:18,890

will notice for quite some time but

1182

00:45:22,390 --> 00:45:20,270

other times they will notice within

1183

00:45:23,920 --> 00:45:22,400

minutes I fix some vandalism the other

1184

00:45:25,990 --> 00:45:23,930

day that someone pointed out to me in

1185

00:45:28,120 --> 00:45:26,000

Wikipedia and the net time that that

1186

00:45:29,920 --> 00:45:28,130

vandalism was president was a conspiracy

1187

00:45:32,230 --> 00:45:29,930

theory someone had put into the middle

1188

00:45:34,180 --> 00:45:32,240

of an article and it was only visible on

1189

00:45:36,130 --> 00:45:34,190

Wikipedia for like 30 minutes before I

1190

00:45:38,890 --> 00:45:36,140

had fixed it and it's amazing how much

1191

00:45:40,240 --> 00:45:38,900

that gets in there but there just is you

1192

00:45:41,980 --> 00:45:40,250

just have to be aware there are other

1193

00:45:44,530 --> 00:45:41,990

editors there and not all of them are

1194

00:45:46,780 --> 00:45:44,540

aware of skepticism or on board with

1195

00:45:48,880 --> 00:45:46,790

skepticism and sometimes they'll be a

1196

00:45:51,760 --> 00:45:48,890

little suspicious of you pushing an

1197

00:45:53,589 --> 00:45:51,770

agenda so you have to be careful about

1198

00:45:55,030 --> 00:45:53,599

that you can't go in and like for

1199

00:45:57,490 --> 00:45:55,040

instance decide I'm going to be the

1200

00:45:59,410 --> 00:45:57,500

homeopathy wikipedia editor and just

1201  
00:46:02,859 --> 00:45:59,420  
edit homeopathy articles all the time

1202  
00:46:04,540 --> 00:46:02,869  
because people will be suspicious of you

1203  
00:46:07,329 --> 00:46:04,550  
that think you're pushing an agenda so

1204  
00:46:08,920 --> 00:46:07,339  
for instance when I edit Wikipedia I try

1205  
00:46:11,050 --> 00:46:08,930  
to mix it up a bit and I've written a

1206  
00:46:13,300 --> 00:46:11,060  
number of really large articles about

1207  
00:46:14,680 --> 00:46:13,310  
historic buildings in the town that I

1208  
00:46:17,200 --> 00:46:14,690  
live in which has nothing to do with

1209  
00:46:19,420 --> 00:46:17,210  
skepticism but it helps convince the

1210  
00:46:22,059 --> 00:46:19,430  
rest of the people on wikipedia that I'm

1211  
00:46:23,500 --> 00:46:22,069  
serious about Wikipedia and I'm not just

1212  
00:46:25,990 --> 00:46:23,510  
a skeptic that's trying to advertise

1213  
00:46:28,270 --> 00:46:26,000

skeptic stuff on Wikipedia I like

1214

00:46:30,670 --> 00:46:28,280

Wikipedia as an encyclopedia so I all

1215

00:46:32,620 --> 00:46:30,680

right a you know a 10,000 word article

1216

00:46:34,839 --> 00:46:32,630

about a hundred year old church in

1217

00:46:37,000 --> 00:46:34,849

Atlanta because it deserves to have an

1218

00:46:39,700 --> 00:46:37,010

article that make you a massive nerd or

1219

00:46:40,990 --> 00:46:39,710

something yeah probably I actually spent

1220

00:46:42,730 --> 00:46:41,000

there was one article about this

1221

00:46:44,200 --> 00:46:42,740

hundred-year-old building and I spent a

1222

00:46:46,000 --> 00:46:44,210

considerable amount of time going to the

1223

00:46:47,650 --> 00:46:46,010

library and looking through microfilm to

1224

00:46:49,990 --> 00:46:47,660

find the right because the key to

1225

00:46:52,059 --> 00:46:50,000

Wikipedia is it's like writing a

1226  
00:46:53,410 --> 00:46:52,069  
research paper in college you've got to

1227  
00:46:55,870 --> 00:46:53,420  
have the footnotes you've got to have

1228  
00:46:58,340 --> 00:46:55,880  
your references to back up every piece

1229  
00:46:59,960 --> 00:46:58,350  
of information and if you do your home

1230  
00:47:01,820 --> 00:46:59,970  
work and get good references and

1231  
00:47:05,330 --> 00:47:01,830  
footnote every fact that you put in the

1232  
00:47:06,770 --> 00:47:05,340  
article you can you can put a lot of

1233  
00:47:08,150 --> 00:47:06,780  
material on there and people will not

1234  
00:47:09,980 --> 00:47:08,160  
argue with you they'll look at it and

1235  
00:47:13,820 --> 00:47:09,990  
they say well he's got his references in

1236  
00:47:17,420 --> 00:47:13,830  
place and this article is is legitimate

1237  
00:47:19,300 --> 00:47:17,430  
and okay well they'll let it stand so i

1238  
00:47:21,590 --> 00:47:19,310

want to touch on selected slacktivism

1239

00:47:23,390 --> 00:47:21,600

wrote him because you mentioned that in

1240

00:47:25,100 --> 00:47:23,400

your workshop and I so I didn't see your

1241

00:47:28,580 --> 00:47:25,110

talk today but I no doubt you probably

1242

00:47:32,300 --> 00:47:28,590

mentioned that again what what is

1243

00:47:34,280 --> 00:47:32,310

slacktivism slacktivism is a term and it

1244

00:47:36,110 --> 00:47:34,290

was originally met as a positive term

1245

00:47:39,620 --> 00:47:36,120

but it's come to be a pejorative term

1246

00:47:41,930 --> 00:47:39,630

about how folks younger folks typically

1247

00:47:43,490 --> 00:47:41,940

the millennial generation will do simple

1248

00:47:46,370 --> 00:47:43,500

things online thinking that they're

1249

00:47:48,080 --> 00:47:46,380

making a difference and not actually do

1250

00:47:51,650 --> 00:47:48,090

anything substantive so for instance

1251

00:47:53,480 --> 00:47:51,660

they'll click like on a charity but they

1252

00:47:55,130 --> 00:47:53,490

won't give any money to that charity or

1253

00:47:56,840 --> 00:47:55,140

they'll change their avatar on Twitter

1254

00:47:59,630 --> 00:47:56,850

but they won't actually call their

1255

00:48:02,390 --> 00:47:59,640

congressman about the law it used to be

1256

00:48:05,150 --> 00:48:02,400

don't do anything yet change your

1257

00:48:09,860 --> 00:48:05,160

location to Tehran as if thats actually

1258

00:48:11,630 --> 00:48:09,870

fools the spy agency in Iran yeah that

1259

00:48:13,130 --> 00:48:11,640

kind of stuff where people kind of fool

1260

00:48:14,800 --> 00:48:13,140

themselves into believing they're making

1261

00:48:17,990 --> 00:48:14,810

a difference and the things don't really

1262

00:48:19,940 --> 00:48:18,000

amount to a hill of beans whereas their

1263

00:48:21,790 --> 00:48:19,950

stuff that you know when you put a piece

1264

00:48:25,160 --> 00:48:21,800

of content like I wrote George rabs

1265

00:48:27,770 --> 00:48:25,170

biography on and i wrote care installs

1266

00:48:30,140 --> 00:48:27,780

knows biography and Harriet halls

1267

00:48:32,180 --> 00:48:30,150

biography on Wikipedia and that content

1268

00:48:36,170 --> 00:48:32,190

is not only available in Wikipedia but

1269

00:48:38,330 --> 00:48:36,180

because Wikipedia is a open license it

1270

00:48:41,060 --> 00:48:38,340

can appear in books it can be cross

1271

00:48:43,580 --> 00:48:41,070

posted to other websites so that content

1272

00:48:48,200 --> 00:48:43,590

will have a life of its own for years to

1273

00:48:50,390 --> 00:48:48,210

come and it will last whereas your twiba

1274

00:48:52,910 --> 00:48:50,400

knew nobody will remember it next week

1275

00:48:56,600 --> 00:48:52,920

if they even noticed it this week so

1276

00:48:59,360 --> 00:48:56,610

yeah damn it when i touch my trip in

1277

00:49:00,980 --> 00:48:59,370

blue I was going to save the world so

1278

00:49:02,900 --> 00:49:00,990

with that in mind what was something you

1279

00:49:05,150 --> 00:49:02,910

covered quite a lot in you worry tell us

1280

00:49:07,370 --> 00:49:05,160

about the web of trust web of trust is

1281

00:49:09,440 --> 00:49:07,380

an outfit out of I think Finland and

1282

00:49:10,789 --> 00:49:09,450

it's another browser plugin and the idea

1283

00:49:13,759 --> 00:49:10,799

is to try to warn you

1284

00:49:15,859 --> 00:49:13,769

scams and other bad stuff on the

1285

00:49:18,859 --> 00:49:15,869

internet pornography to a certain extent

1286

00:49:21,019 --> 00:49:18,869

but mostly scams and privacy violations

1287

00:49:22,579 --> 00:49:21,029

so you go to some random online store

1288

00:49:23,660 --> 00:49:22,589

that wants your credit card number how

1289

00:49:25,429 --> 00:49:23,670

do you know they're not going to steal

1290

00:49:27,410 --> 00:49:25,439

your credit card and do something with

1291

00:49:29,660 --> 00:49:27,420

it we all know the big vendors like

1292

00:49:30,620 --> 00:49:29,670

paypal and ebay and amazon we can trust

1293

00:49:33,890 --> 00:49:30,630

them because they're well-known

1294

00:49:36,349 --> 00:49:33,900

companies but if you go to Fred's sock

1295

00:49:37,849 --> 00:49:36,359

shop calm how do you know Fred's not

1296

00:49:41,209 --> 00:49:37,859

going to steal your credit card you mean

1297

00:49:43,819 --> 00:49:41,219

I love fritz so whether Trust is a way

1298

00:49:45,949 --> 00:49:43,829

to get an idea of that and it's done

1299

00:49:47,749 --> 00:49:45,959

through crowdsourcing again where people

1300

00:49:50,359 --> 00:49:47,759

who have actually been to Fred's shock

1301  
00:49:52,130 --> 00:49:50,369  
shop and had an experience can vote in

1302  
00:49:53,689 --> 00:49:52,140  
web of trust and say yeah I like Fred

1303  
00:49:56,150 --> 00:49:53,699  
sock shop I bought something from him

1304  
00:49:57,799 --> 00:49:56,160  
the thing arrived he didn't he didn't I

1305  
00:50:00,349 --> 00:49:57,809  
bought some socks they were great socks

1306  
00:50:03,019 --> 00:50:00,359  
he didn't steal my credit card I'm good

1307  
00:50:04,579 --> 00:50:03,029  
with him and enough people vote and it's

1308  
00:50:07,459 --> 00:50:04,589  
not just a straight Democratic vote

1309  
00:50:10,459 --> 00:50:07,469  
there's some computer magic in there to

1310  
00:50:12,349 --> 00:50:10,469  
try to judge whether someone is voting

1311  
00:50:14,809 --> 00:50:12,359  
in a trustworthy manner and things like

1312  
00:50:17,509 --> 00:50:14,819  
that to help keep people from gaming the

1313  
00:50:19,489 --> 00:50:17,519

system but one of the ratings that web

1314

00:50:21,130 --> 00:50:19,499

of trust has is trustworthiness that's

1315

00:50:23,359 --> 00:50:21,140

the number one rating and

1316

00:50:25,009 --> 00:50:23,369

trustworthiness I think goes right to

1317

00:50:27,049 --> 00:50:25,019

what skeptics are about do you trust a

1318

00:50:29,239 --> 00:50:27,059

psychic do you trust that homeopath no I

1319

00:50:31,279 --> 00:50:29,249

don't they're not trustworthy so I think

1320

00:50:32,870 --> 00:50:31,289

it's perfectly reasonable for skeptics

1321

00:50:35,179 --> 00:50:32,880

to go and say this is not a trustworthy

1322

00:50:37,749 --> 00:50:35,189

person now the other stuff there's other

1323

00:50:40,669 --> 00:50:37,759

ratings in Weber trusts like privacy

1324

00:50:42,529 --> 00:50:40,679

it's it's not really right for a skeptic

1325

00:50:44,900 --> 00:50:42,539

to say this site has a privacy violation

1326

00:50:46,309 --> 00:50:44,910

unless you know something about that but

1327

00:50:49,219 --> 00:50:46,319

the trustworthiness I think goes

1328

00:50:51,849 --> 00:50:49,229

directly to it so let's all vote the the

1329

00:50:54,049 --> 00:50:51,859

quacks and the psychics down on

1330

00:50:55,699 --> 00:50:54,059

trustworthiness and the neat part is is

1331

00:50:57,140 --> 00:50:55,709

that if you have web of trust installed

1332

00:50:59,539 --> 00:50:57,150

and you actually try to go to one of

1333

00:51:01,549 --> 00:50:59,549

these sites this giant warning comes up

1334

00:51:04,370 --> 00:51:01,559

on your screen and says warning this

1335

00:51:06,319 --> 00:51:04,380

site is not considered trustworthy and

1336

00:51:07,880 --> 00:51:06,329

yet they can see details about that and

1337

00:51:10,249 --> 00:51:07,890

they can click a button go to the site

1338

00:51:12,169 --> 00:51:10,259

anyway but at least you get that warning

1339

00:51:14,239 --> 00:51:12,179

and 30 million people have that thing

1340

00:51:16,699 --> 00:51:14,249

installed and Facebook is there and

1341

00:51:18,829 --> 00:51:16,709

Facebook started doing it on their

1342

00:51:20,630 --> 00:51:18,839

external links so when people link to

1343

00:51:22,959 --> 00:51:20,640

sites because so many of these scams and

1344

00:51:24,529 --> 00:51:22,969

things have been pushed through facebook

1345

00:51:26,719 --> 00:51:24,539

facebook is started

1346

00:51:28,339 --> 00:51:26,729

putting it on external links so you get

1347

00:51:29,509 --> 00:51:28,349

you don't get the full screen warning

1348

00:51:33,319 --> 00:51:29,519

but you get a little bit of a warning

1349

00:51:35,209 --> 00:51:33,329

and that's 900 million people that have

1350

00:51:37,459 --> 00:51:35,219

accounts on facebook so that's a huge

1351  
00:51:39,439 --> 00:51:37,469  
outreach I mean that's way there's no

1352  
00:51:41,959 --> 00:51:39,449  
skeptical blog that comes anywhere close

1353  
00:51:43,400 --> 00:51:41,969  
to that but one of the things that you

1354  
00:51:44,870 --> 00:51:43,410  
emphasize don't think I want you to

1355  
00:51:46,189 --> 00:51:44,880  
emphasize this again for the listeners I

1356  
00:51:48,380 --> 00:51:46,199  
think it's a really important point is

1357  
00:51:50,419 --> 00:51:48,390  
that don't be dishonest with that system

1358  
00:51:52,729 --> 00:51:50,429  
yeah you mentioned there are four things

1359  
00:51:54,769 --> 00:51:52,739  
you can vote on trustworthiness privacy

1360  
00:51:58,309 --> 00:51:54,779  
child safety and what was the other one

1361  
00:51:59,900 --> 00:51:58,319  
the other one is I think reliability

1362  
00:52:02,120 --> 00:51:59,910  
basically did they deliver the goods

1363  
00:52:04,189 --> 00:52:02,130

what they ship them on time did they

1364

00:52:05,989 --> 00:52:04,199

overcharge you that's kind of business

1365

00:52:08,239 --> 00:52:05,999

sort of things and I think the only two

1366

00:52:10,309 --> 00:52:08,249

that really apply to skepticism are the

1367

00:52:12,289 --> 00:52:10,319

trustworthiness clearly and then maybe I

1368

00:52:15,019 --> 00:52:12,299

often vote in the child safety for

1369

00:52:17,269 --> 00:52:15,029

anti-vaccine site thats pretty obvious

1370

00:52:21,019 --> 00:52:17,279

maybe chiropractors who adjust kid's

1371

00:52:22,999 --> 00:52:21,029

name right yeah yeah so I vote in those

1372

00:52:24,829 --> 00:52:23,009

two ratings and the other thing is the

1373

00:52:27,559 --> 00:52:24,839

same thing I said about wikipedia where

1374

00:52:29,299 --> 00:52:27,569

don't just vote negatively in web of

1375

00:52:30,649 --> 00:52:29,309

trust find some sites that you like find

1376  
00:52:32,749 --> 00:52:30,659  
some sites that have nothing to do with

1377  
00:52:35,059 --> 00:52:32,759  
skepticism and give them a green vote

1378  
00:52:37,099 --> 00:52:35,069  
and that will help on the system

1379  
00:52:39,439 --> 00:52:37,109  
understand that you're not just a angry

1380  
00:52:41,299 --> 00:52:39,449  
person on the internet going and voting

1381  
00:52:43,279 --> 00:52:41,309  
down all the sites that you hate that

1382  
00:52:45,319 --> 00:52:43,289  
you're a real internet user and you like

1383  
00:52:47,299 --> 00:52:45,329  
this site and you hate that site and it

1384  
00:52:49,219 --> 00:52:47,309  
will see that your votes whether your

1385  
00:52:50,719 --> 00:52:49,229  
votes tend to agree or disagree with

1386  
00:52:53,899 --> 00:52:50,729  
other users on the internet and the

1387  
00:52:56,149 --> 00:52:53,909  
system will tend to trust you and you

1388  
00:53:00,919 --> 00:52:56,159

can make a huge effect when Stanislaw

1389

00:53:02,630 --> 00:53:00,929

Burzynski became a big deal last fall we

1390

00:53:04,969 --> 00:53:02,640

put out the links to the web of trust

1391

00:53:08,120 --> 00:53:04,979

pages for all four or five however many

1392

00:53:10,489 --> 00:53:08,130

sites he has and I tweeted it and then

1393

00:53:12,620 --> 00:53:10,499

the bad astronomer Phil Plait put it in

1394

00:53:15,870 --> 00:53:12,630

a blog post and like it was like within

1395

00:53:18,269 --> 00:53:15,880

a day all his sights were red

1396

00:53:20,039 --> 00:53:18,279

and then I actually saw it there's a

1397

00:53:22,079 --> 00:53:20,049

forum on web of trust where you can go

1398

00:53:25,049 --> 00:53:22,089

and talk about the product and complain

1399

00:53:27,240 --> 00:53:25,059

about bugs and the webmaster for

1400

00:53:29,160 --> 00:53:27,250

Pierzynski showed up and said I think

1401

00:53:31,140 --> 00:53:29,170

people are trying to engineer our

1402

00:53:33,990 --> 00:53:31,150

ratings and it's not fair we're an

1403

00:53:36,150 --> 00:53:34,000

honest business and they didn't they

1404

00:53:37,440 --> 00:53:36,160

didn't do anything but but I asked you

1405

00:53:39,059 --> 00:53:37,450

this question the other day because it

1406

00:53:41,160 --> 00:53:39,069

puzzles me because I mean this is a

1407

00:53:43,470 --> 00:53:41,170

crowdsourced tall which means that

1408

00:53:46,140 --> 00:53:43,480

anyone can use it right so baczynski

1409

00:53:48,120 --> 00:53:46,150

fans or friends or you know they could

1410

00:53:50,609 --> 00:53:48,130

really go in and use this tool and vote

1411

00:53:52,499 --> 00:53:50,619

it back green but in this case in

1412

00:53:53,999 --> 00:53:52,509

baczynski case it hasn't happened yeah

1413

00:53:55,380 --> 00:53:54,009

and when in the case of the Australian

1414

00:53:57,660 --> 00:53:55,390

vaccination network it hasn't happened

1415

00:54:00,870 --> 00:53:57,670

and I don't why do you think that is

1416

00:54:02,670 --> 00:54:00,880

yeah I'm a little uh I'm not sure I

1417

00:54:07,349 --> 00:54:02,680

think there's a number of explanations I

1418

00:54:09,660 --> 00:54:07,359

have seen some misinformation sites that

1419

00:54:11,940 --> 00:54:09,670

do have pretty strong green ratings

1420

00:54:14,009 --> 00:54:11,950

where clearly their readers have gone

1421

00:54:15,839 --> 00:54:14,019

and voted it up so I think it just

1422

00:54:17,789 --> 00:54:15,849

depends on whether or not the site has

1423

00:54:20,970 --> 00:54:17,799

become aware of it and also how

1424

00:54:22,710 --> 00:54:20,980

tech-savvy the followers of that site

1425

00:54:24,329 --> 00:54:22,720

are and I think a lot of the followers

1426

00:54:26,999 --> 00:54:24,339

of some of these alt med people are

1427

00:54:28,769 --> 00:54:27,009

maybe not that tech savvy and don't know

1428

00:54:31,190 --> 00:54:28,779

what a browser plug-in is and can't

1429

00:54:34,470 --> 00:54:31,200

figure out how to create an account and

1430

00:54:37,740 --> 00:54:34,480

they just can't get enough people to do

1431

00:54:39,809 --> 00:54:37,750

the voting and you can actually see that

1432

00:54:42,210 --> 00:54:39,819

in web of trust there's an icon next to

1433

00:54:45,269 --> 00:54:42,220

the rating that has little people little

1434

00:54:47,400 --> 00:54:45,279

cartoon people and if only it's like 125

1435

00:54:49,440 --> 00:54:47,410

people and depending on how many of them

1436

00:54:51,240 --> 00:54:49,450

are filled in that's roughly how many

1437

00:54:53,670 --> 00:54:51,250

people have actually voted so that tells

1438

00:54:55,230 --> 00:54:53,680

you how confident the value is and if

1439

00:54:56,880 --> 00:54:55,240

all five of the people are filled in

1440

00:54:58,410 --> 00:54:56,890

dark then that's probably a pretty

1441

00:55:00,509 --> 00:54:58,420

strong rating and you're going to have a

1442

00:55:02,130 --> 00:55:00,519

hard time moving it yeah but a lot of

1443

00:55:04,049 --> 00:55:02,140

sites you know a lot of these alt med

1444

00:55:05,970 --> 00:55:04,059

sites really not a lot of people go to

1445

00:55:08,700 --> 00:55:05,980

them so not a lot of people vote so it's

1446

00:55:11,579 --> 00:55:08,710

not hard for skeptics to move the rating

1447

00:55:13,289 --> 00:55:11,589

pretty quickly so Tim why did you yell

1448

00:55:16,259 --> 00:55:13,299

at people during your talk just then

1449

00:55:17,849 --> 00:55:16,269

well I was I was talking about all this

1450

00:55:20,249 --> 00:55:17,859

stuff whatever trust and what not and

1451

00:55:21,870 --> 00:55:20,259

how you know with just a few minutes

1452

00:55:23,999 --> 00:55:21,880

time you can actually make a difference

1453

00:55:26,400 --> 00:55:24,009

on the Internet create some content or

1454

00:55:28,049 --> 00:55:26,410

fix something on Wikipedia or vote on

1455

00:55:29,609 --> 00:55:28,059

web of trust and it will actually make a

1456

00:55:31,140 --> 00:55:29,619

difference in skepticism

1457

00:55:33,210 --> 00:55:31,150

but so many people are spending their

1458

00:55:36,980 --> 00:55:33,220

time online doing things like arguing

1459

00:55:39,839 --> 00:55:36,990

and 15 on page 50 of a forum thread or

1460

00:55:42,870 --> 00:55:39,849

you know pedantically pointing out

1461

00:55:44,789 --> 00:55:42,880

spelling errors and blog posts and just

1462

00:55:46,440 --> 00:55:44,799

other sorts of stuff not that we

1463

00:55:49,049 --> 00:55:46,450

shouldn't be arguing for instance with

1464

00:55:51,539 --> 00:55:49,059

the alt matters online but just I'll you

1465

00:55:53,999 --> 00:55:51,549

know figure out where the focus actually

1466

00:55:55,920 --> 00:55:54,009

makes a difference and do it where it

1467

00:55:59,279 --> 00:55:55,930

makes a difference and and then go spend

1468

00:56:00,599 --> 00:55:59,289

some time spend some time on something

1469

00:56:02,759 --> 00:56:00,609

that actually does make a difference the

1470

00:56:05,039 --> 00:56:02,769

big example that I gave was poll bombing

1471

00:56:07,470 --> 00:56:05,049

there's a number of atheist bloggers

1472

00:56:10,200 --> 00:56:07,480

that love to send their readers off to

1473

00:56:12,690 --> 00:56:10,210

go distort the results in a poll and

1474

00:56:15,150 --> 00:56:12,700

it's this colossal waste of time and

1475

00:56:17,519 --> 00:56:15,160

effort because no one cares what online

1476  
00:56:19,349 --> 00:56:17,529  
polls mean and you guys had that whole

1477  
00:56:21,210 --> 00:56:19,359  
thing where the poll somebody bombed the

1478  
00:56:23,190 --> 00:56:21,220  
pole and then it got into the news and

1479  
00:56:24,450 --> 00:56:23,200  
there was accusations and whatnot and

1480  
00:56:25,859 --> 00:56:24,460  
then there was a story about how the

1481  
00:56:27,599 --> 00:56:25,869  
pole was bombed with a pole at the

1482  
00:56:30,329 --> 00:56:27,609  
bottom of the story and that poked up

1483  
00:56:32,759 --> 00:56:30,339  
bombs yeah and it's just like just to

1484  
00:56:34,710 --> 00:56:32,769  
point our device it is it's ridiculous

1485  
00:56:36,690 --> 00:56:34,720  
and you know a year later none of these

1486  
00:56:39,210 --> 00:56:36,700  
polls are visible anymore everyone's

1487  
00:56:40,739 --> 00:56:39,220  
forgotten what the result was but a year

1488  
00:56:43,470 --> 00:56:40,749

later the stuff that you put into

1489

00:56:45,120 --> 00:56:43,480

Wikipedia is still there right and that

1490

00:56:47,849 --> 00:56:45,130

rating that you put on web of trust is

1491

00:56:49,890 --> 00:56:47,859

still blocking Pierzynski site so i

1492

00:56:51,749 --> 00:56:49,900

think we should be spending the time you

1493

00:56:53,759 --> 00:56:51,759

know you could look at the web of trust

1494

00:56:56,460 --> 00:56:53,769

voting as a poll bomb and i guess maybe

1495

00:56:58,739 --> 00:56:56,470

it is but it's a poll bomb that actually

1496

00:56:59,999 --> 00:56:58,749

makes a difference yeah and and isn't

1497

00:57:01,499 --> 00:57:00,009

going to be forgotten because really and

1498

00:57:02,999 --> 00:57:01,509

truly these newspaper sites that put

1499

00:57:05,759 --> 00:57:03,009

these poles up they don't care what the

1500

00:57:07,799 --> 00:57:05,769

result is it's just this checkbox item

1501  
00:57:09,900 --> 00:57:07,809  
that says oh you've got to have poles

1502  
00:57:11,190 --> 00:57:09,910  
because it's interactivity because

1503  
00:57:12,509 --> 00:57:11,200  
people will vote in the poll and then

1504  
00:57:14,400 --> 00:57:12,519  
they'll come back the next day to find

1505  
00:57:16,109 --> 00:57:14,410  
out what the result is and you know and

1506  
00:57:17,519 --> 00:57:16,119  
they're so desperate to get you to come

1507  
00:57:20,190 --> 00:57:17,529  
back the next day so they can show you

1508  
00:57:21,900 --> 00:57:20,200  
another ad and it's a desperate industry

1509  
00:57:24,420 --> 00:57:21,910  
that's just trying to cling onto their

1510  
00:57:26,039 --> 00:57:24,430  
readers and there and so they don't care

1511  
00:57:27,809 --> 00:57:26,049  
they don't care what the racially those

1512  
00:57:29,430 --> 00:57:27,819  
poll questions are very badly wedded

1513  
00:57:31,559 --> 00:57:29,440

anyway yeah they're terrible because

1514

00:57:33,210 --> 00:57:31,569

like an afterthought at the end of an

1515

00:57:34,950 --> 00:57:33,220

article yeah they've got a deadline 30

1516

00:57:36,839 --> 00:57:34,960

seconds away or something right and even

1517

00:57:39,299 --> 00:57:36,849

the bloggers that send people to bomb

1518

00:57:42,359 --> 00:57:39,309

the polls point out that the polls are

1519

00:57:43,380 --> 00:57:42,369

stupid which becomes this sort of what

1520

00:57:45,390 --> 00:57:43,390

it's like okay if the

1521

00:57:47,279 --> 00:57:45,400

all is stupid then why are we bombing it

1522

00:57:49,650 --> 00:57:47,289

shouldn't we bomb it the wrong way to

1523

00:57:52,680 --> 00:57:49,660

show how stupid it is I don't even get

1524

00:57:54,750 --> 00:57:52,690

it so you know I just I just feel like

1525

00:57:56,579 --> 00:57:54,760

you know you can do it you know go ahead

1526

00:57:58,140 --> 00:57:56,589

bomb a poll if you think it's fun but I

1527

00:58:00,690 --> 00:57:58,150

just think that there are a lot of

1528

00:58:02,339 --> 00:58:00,700

better ways that you can spend your time

1529

00:58:04,289 --> 00:58:02,349

on the internet that can really make a

1530

00:58:06,210 --> 00:58:04,299

difference so that was kind of a fame of

1531

00:58:08,400 --> 00:58:06,220

your talk today was the future of

1532

00:58:10,049 --> 00:58:08,410

skepticism and how we can have an

1533

00:58:11,759 --> 00:58:10,059

influence on what what appears on the

1534

00:58:13,620 --> 00:58:11,769

net so what else is there anything else

1535

00:58:15,240 --> 00:58:13,630

that you think skeptic should be doing

1536

00:58:16,440 --> 00:58:15,250

in that regard well one of the things is

1537

00:58:18,150 --> 00:58:16,450

just paying attention there were a

1538

00:58:19,620 --> 00:58:18,160

couple of examples I gave in the talk

1539

00:58:20,880 --> 00:58:19,630

and there was one that was from just a

1540

00:58:24,029 --> 00:58:20,890

couple of weeks ago that happened in

1541

00:58:26,160 --> 00:58:24,039

Ireland where there's a new psychic that

1542

00:58:28,259 --> 00:58:26,170

was on the one of the TV channels and he

1543

00:58:31,019 --> 00:58:28,269

was on late night it was a very cheesy

1544

00:58:32,759 --> 00:58:31,029

psychic guy but he would talk and take

1545

00:58:34,410 --> 00:58:32,769

callers on the air and on the bottom

1546

00:58:36,240 --> 00:58:34,420

third of the screen there would be

1547

00:58:38,190 --> 00:58:36,250

pictures of other psychics that you

1548

00:58:39,809 --> 00:58:38,200

could talk to so psychic Dave or

1549

00:58:42,269 --> 00:58:39,819

whatever and then there'd be psychic Joe

1550

00:58:44,339 --> 00:58:42,279

and psychic Jane down at the bottom and

1551  
00:58:46,319 --> 00:58:44,349  
there was a blogger in Ireland who saw

1552  
00:58:48,029 --> 00:58:46,329  
the pictures and thought those pictures

1553  
00:58:49,620 --> 00:58:48,039  
look a little odd something looks

1554  
00:58:50,970 --> 00:58:49,630  
familiar about them and there are some

1555  
00:58:53,339 --> 00:58:50,980  
tools on the internet that lets you

1556  
00:58:54,509 --> 00:58:53,349  
search pictures by the picture so show

1557  
00:58:56,160 --> 00:58:54,519  
me a picture that looks like this

1558  
00:58:57,450 --> 00:58:56,170  
picture so you can give it a picture of

1559  
00:58:59,609 --> 00:58:57,460  
a dog and I'll show you other pictures

1560  
00:59:01,829 --> 00:58:59,619  
of dogs and he used those tools to

1561  
00:59:03,599 --> 00:59:01,839  
search and lo and behold all of those

1562  
00:59:06,420 --> 00:59:03,609  
pictures of the other psychics down at

1563  
00:59:08,759 --> 00:59:06,430

the bottom were stock photos well I

1564

00:59:11,279 --> 00:59:08,769

stock photo com some of them were stolen

1565

00:59:13,019 --> 00:59:11,289

off of people's facebook profiles none

1566

00:59:15,539 --> 00:59:13,029

of them were real people none of them

1567

00:59:17,490 --> 00:59:15,549

were psychics right so it was all fake

1568

00:59:19,740 --> 00:59:17,500

there was this one psychic guy on the

1569

00:59:22,140 --> 00:59:19,750

air and a bunch of fake ones down below

1570

00:59:24,390 --> 00:59:22,150

and he pointed that out in a blog post

1571

00:59:26,490 --> 00:59:24,400

and the newspaper got hold of it and now

1572

00:59:28,499 --> 00:59:26,500

the TV network is saying well maybe we

1573

00:59:30,299 --> 00:59:28,509

won't have this psychic on anymore and

1574

00:59:32,039 --> 00:59:30,309

that was some awesome skepticism that

1575

00:59:34,140 --> 00:59:32,049

this guy did from his living room using

1576

00:59:35,460 --> 00:59:34,150

a web browser in a search tool instead

1577

00:59:37,710 --> 00:59:35,470

of fighting with someone on a fork

1578

00:59:39,900 --> 00:59:37,720

instead of fighting with someone on a

1579

00:59:43,890 --> 00:59:39,910

forum he did some searching and did some

1580

00:59:45,589 --> 00:59:43,900

awesome skepticism yeah yeah so Tim you

1581

00:59:48,059 --> 00:59:45,599

have a quite a thorough blog about

1582

00:59:49,140 --> 00:59:48,069

describing these tools in more detail

1583

00:59:51,749 --> 00:59:49,150

waking hour lessons find more

1584

00:59:54,870 --> 00:59:51,759

information it's at skepp tools com

1585

00:59:57,269 --> 00:59:54,880

sk-ii p t 00 LS

1586

00:59:59,970 --> 00:59:57,279

coms called skeptical software tools and

1587

01:00:01,799 --> 00:59:59,980

yeah I blog about all this stuff and new

1588

01:00:04,380 --> 01:00:01,809

tools that come along and new techniques

1589

01:00:07,410 --> 01:00:04,390

and all sorts of things related to that

1590

01:00:09,930 --> 01:00:07,420

but you also do skeptical history on

1591

01:00:12,299 --> 01:00:09,940

skeptic ality yes I do a segment on

1592

01:00:14,130 --> 01:00:12,309

skeptic ality and now it's a kind of

1593

01:00:16,289 --> 01:00:14,140

changed it recently it's not just

1594

01:00:20,279 --> 01:00:16,299

history i call it skepticism past and

1595

01:00:22,230 --> 01:00:20,289

future so i do some history some patio

1596

01:00:24,180 --> 01:00:22,240

stuff that happened years ago and then i

1597

01:00:26,430 --> 01:00:24,190

do something typically that's taken out

1598

01:00:28,319 --> 01:00:26,440

of the skepta blog that's future topics

1599

01:00:30,420 --> 01:00:28,329

and i try to tie that try to tie them

1600

01:00:32,400 --> 01:00:30,430

together so you know here's the history

1601  
01:00:34,620 --> 01:00:32,410  
of homeopathy and then here's a

1602  
01:00:36,690 --> 01:00:34,630  
technique for you know finding false

1603  
01:00:39,359 --> 01:00:36,700  
claims on homeopathy websites or

1604  
01:00:40,769 --> 01:00:39,369  
something like that and and then I've

1605  
01:00:43,289 --> 01:00:40,779  
got a really good reaction to that

1606  
01:00:44,880 --> 01:00:43,299  
because people like the sort of you know

1607  
01:00:47,549 --> 01:00:44,890  
the dual nature of it and whatnot and

1608  
01:00:49,710 --> 01:00:47,559  
it's a good way to kind of cross promote

1609  
01:00:51,749 --> 01:00:49,720  
the stuff that I'm doing on schedules

1610  
01:00:53,339 --> 01:00:51,759  
but I like the history stuff because I

1611  
01:00:55,859 --> 01:00:53,349  
think we've got a lot of young skeptics

1612  
01:00:57,480 --> 01:00:55,869  
who are just getting involved and it's

1613  
01:00:59,460 --> 01:00:57,490

important to know that you know this

1614

01:01:02,130 --> 01:00:59,470

stuff has been going on for you know 30

1615

01:01:04,200 --> 01:01:02,140

40 years in earnest but there are

1616

01:01:06,089 --> 01:01:04,210

incidents that are of a skeptical nature

1617

01:01:07,529 --> 01:01:06,099

that were hundreds of years old and it's

1618

01:01:08,910 --> 01:01:07,539

always interesting to see what's gone

1619

01:01:11,880 --> 01:01:08,920

before so we don't make the same

1620

01:01:13,980 --> 01:01:11,890

mistakes yeah and of course what's the

1621

01:01:17,940 --> 01:01:13,990

harm Mitch what's the harm not yet

1622

01:01:21,150 --> 01:01:17,950

that's my famous websites all stories of

1623

01:01:23,039 --> 01:01:21,160

harm so if you somebody says hey you

1624

01:01:24,390 --> 01:01:23,049

know what's the harm in homeopathy I can

1625

01:01:25,859 --> 01:01:24,400

give you a bunch of stories and there's

1626

01:01:27,390 --> 01:01:25,869

a twitter feed associated with that

1627

01:01:30,900 --> 01:01:27,400

which is what's the harm on Twitter and

1628

01:01:32,970 --> 01:01:30,910

I I post usually one a day of news

1629

01:01:34,680 --> 01:01:32,980

stories and it's kind of amazing I've

1630

01:01:36,450 --> 01:01:34,690

gotten the site's gotten so famous that

1631

01:01:38,069 --> 01:01:36,460

I literally do not have to do any

1632

01:01:40,559 --> 01:01:38,079

research anymore people just send me

1633

01:01:42,240 --> 01:01:40,569

stuff yeah and they said they'd just

1634

01:01:44,670 --> 01:01:42,250

when I think I've heard the nuttiest

1635

01:01:46,079 --> 01:01:44,680

stories in the week where I got one just

1636

01:01:48,870 --> 01:01:46,089

the other day I haven't posted it yet

1637

01:01:50,490 --> 01:01:48,880

but it was something about cannibal the

1638

01:01:55,620 --> 01:01:50,500

headline was something like cannibal

1639

01:02:01,440 --> 01:01:55,630

cult cannibal cult members arrested for

1640

01:02:04,230 --> 01:02:01,450

for 6 murders over sorcery fees so so

1641

01:02:07,170 --> 01:02:04,240

basically the local witches we're

1642

01:02:08,730 --> 01:02:07,180

shaking down the local cannibals over

1643

01:02:10,350 --> 01:02:08,740

fees like a protection

1644

01:02:12,570 --> 01:02:10,360

Beckett or maybe they wanted for spells

1645

01:02:14,640 --> 01:02:12,580

and the cannibals didn't like that the

1646

01:02:18,000 --> 01:02:14,650

fees were going up so they killed the

1647

01:02:20,100 --> 01:02:18,010

witches and ate them and then they and

1648

01:02:22,290 --> 01:02:20,110

then that agreed is that come on I don't

1649

01:02:25,380 --> 01:02:22,300

know what category i'm gonna put that in

1650

01:02:29,640 --> 01:02:25,390

three yeah what's the harm in raising

1651

01:02:31,740 --> 01:02:29,650

your fees I think but it was set on

1652

01:02:35,670 --> 01:02:31,750

Maddie it was like somebody made this up

1653

01:02:39,000 --> 01:02:35,680

this can't be a real story sorry I'm

1654

01:02:41,100 --> 01:02:39,010

laughing too loud at your story and just

1655

01:02:44,040 --> 01:02:41,110

finally your twitter handle is a curl

1656

01:02:45,480 --> 01:02:44,050

neck k Arielle and ik all right thank

1657

01:02:49,490 --> 01:02:45,490

you Tim and thanks for joining us here

1658

01:02:54,180 --> 01:02:52,020

look the Rachel Dunlop is one of

1659

01:02:56,340 --> 01:02:54,190

Australia's foremost media commentators

1660

01:02:58,980 --> 01:02:56,350

in matters concerning so-called

1661

01:03:01,530 --> 01:02:58,990

alternative medicine she has appeared on

1662

01:03:04,440 --> 01:03:01,540

national radio and national television

1663

01:03:09,060 --> 01:03:04,450

dr. AG is available for interviews and

1664

01:03:25,599 --> 01:03:09,070

you can contact her at Rachel at skeptic

1665

01:03:30,890 --> 01:03:28,339

thank you for listening to the skeptic

1666

01:03:32,989 --> 01:03:30,900

zone thank you for those people who chip

1667

01:03:34,519 --> 01:03:32,999

in every week to listen to the skeptics

1668

01:03:36,140 --> 01:03:34,529

and you don't have to of course if you

1669

01:03:39,019 --> 01:03:36,150

like listening to the skeptic zone I'm

1670

01:03:40,670 --> 01:03:39,029

delighted that's fantastic but if you

1671

01:03:42,289 --> 01:03:40,680

want to chip in less than a dollar a

1672

01:03:46,880 --> 01:03:42,299

week or there are different ways you can

1673

01:03:49,130 --> 01:03:46,890

chip in check out w w skeptics on TV the

1674

01:03:51,559 --> 01:03:49,140

skeptic zone team will be very grateful

1675

01:03:54,289 --> 01:03:51,569

don't forget it's because of people like

1676

01:03:55,999 --> 01:03:54,299

you that may not finally got to go to

1677

01:03:58,849 --> 01:03:56,009

the amazing meeting and now we can all

1678

01:04:01,249 --> 01:03:58,859

enjoy his wonderful wonderful interviews

1679

01:04:04,220 --> 01:04:01,259

lots more coming up over the following

1680

01:04:07,309 --> 01:04:04,230

weeks including Bob novella been Radford

1681

01:04:09,890 --> 01:04:07,319

Pamela gay Michael Shermer the list goes

1682

01:04:13,220 --> 01:04:09,900

on well I better get cracking on next

1683

01:04:15,739 --> 01:04:13,230

week's show & Antle then this is Richard

1684

01:04:21,739 --> 01:04:15,749

Saunders signing off from Sydney

1685

01:04:26,450 --> 01:04:21,749

Australia you've been listening to the

1686

01:04:30,289 --> 01:04:26,460

skeptic zone visit our website at [www](http://www)