

**SKEPTIC
ZONE**



**THINKING CAPS
MUST BE WORN
IN THIS AREA**

The
Podcast
from
Australia
for
Science
and
Reason

www.skepticzone.tv

1
00:00:10,390 --> 00:00:02,230
this is james randy and you're listening

2
00:00:24,790 --> 00:00:13,030
welcome to the skeptic zone the podcast

3
00:00:30,150 --> 00:00:27,269
hello and welcome to the skeptic zone

4
00:00:31,509 --> 00:00:30,160
for the 5th of february show number 68

5
00:00:32,470 --> 00:00:31,519
richard saunders here with you once

6
00:00:34,310 --> 00:00:32,480
again

7
00:00:37,030 --> 00:00:34,320
on today's show we have an interview by

8
00:00:38,709 --> 00:00:37,040
kylie sturgess with professor chris

9
00:00:40,869 --> 00:00:38,719
french from the uk

10
00:00:42,830 --> 00:00:40,879
what an interesting man he is

11
00:00:45,670 --> 00:00:42,840
investigating the paranormal the

12
00:00:47,430 --> 00:00:45,680
supernatural the unexplained

13
00:00:49,830 --> 00:00:47,440

that's followed by some highlights from

14

00:00:52,549 --> 00:00:49,840

the mystery investigator show the show

15

00:00:55,110 --> 00:00:52,559

for schools where dr rachie and i travel

16

00:00:56,630 --> 00:00:55,120

around and do a stage show teaching

17

00:00:59,189 --> 00:00:56,640

science i hope you'll find that

18

00:01:02,389 --> 00:00:59,199

interesting after that we have a brief

19

00:01:03,670 --> 00:01:02,399

report about the 1023 campaign by kylie

20

00:01:05,830 --> 00:01:03,680

sturgis

21

00:01:07,670 --> 00:01:05,840

and of course that's followed by dr

22

00:01:09,510 --> 00:01:07,680

rachie reports

23

00:01:11,910 --> 00:01:09,520

now before we get into the show there's

24

00:01:15,270 --> 00:01:11,920

a few things i guess i need to cover as

25

00:01:18,630 --> 00:01:15,280

mentioned uh last week on the think tank

26

00:01:24,149 --> 00:01:18,640

the happy g had house of pancake site

27

00:01:29,190 --> 00:01:26,310

was kind enough to nominate one day last

28

00:01:31,830 --> 00:01:29,200

week as international doctor raichy day

29

00:01:33,990 --> 00:01:31,840

that blog is worth checking out

30

00:01:35,670 --> 00:01:34,000

congratulations to rebecca watson from

31

00:01:38,149 --> 00:01:35,680

the skeptic's guide to the universe for

32

00:01:39,510 --> 00:01:38,159

appearing on robert llewellyn's carpool

33

00:01:41,429 --> 00:01:39,520

interview show

34

00:01:48,230 --> 00:01:41,439

it's a really great show certainly worth

35

00:01:51,190 --> 00:01:49,990

fascinating guests including ben

36

00:01:53,429 --> 00:01:51,200

goldacre

37

00:01:55,670 --> 00:01:53,439

and sir patrick stewart

38

00:01:58,550 --> 00:01:55,680

another thing worth checking out online

39

00:02:01,350 --> 00:01:58,560

is the new videos by captain disillusion

40

00:02:05,350 --> 00:02:01,360

and you can check him out at youtube.com

41

00:02:07,510 --> 00:02:05,360

slash user slash captain disillusion

42

00:02:10,790 --> 00:02:07,520

great videos great fun

43

00:02:12,070 --> 00:02:10,800

many thanks to listener paul mcgowan who

44

00:02:15,830 --> 00:02:12,080

sent us the

45

00:02:17,430 --> 00:02:15,840

cosmos dvd set um which we're probably

46

00:02:19,110 --> 00:02:17,440

going to auction a bit later might get

47

00:02:20,710 --> 00:02:19,120

somebody very famous to sign that and

48

00:02:22,550 --> 00:02:20,720

we'll see how we go

49

00:02:24,070 --> 00:02:22,560

and thank you too to those wonderful

50

00:02:26,550 --> 00:02:24,080

people who sent in

51
00:02:27,830 --> 00:02:26,560
large donations to the skeptic zone in

52
00:02:30,070 --> 00:02:27,840
the last week

53
00:02:32,470 --> 00:02:30,080
much appreciated and certainly helps us

54
00:02:34,070 --> 00:02:32,480
keep the show on air or online or

55
00:02:35,430 --> 00:02:34,080
whatever you want to say

56
00:02:37,509 --> 00:02:35,440
and finally

57
00:02:39,830 --> 00:02:37,519
if you haven't voted already you can

58
00:02:40,710 --> 00:02:39,840
still vote in the next few hours i think

59
00:02:43,830 --> 00:02:40,720
anyway

60
00:02:46,229 --> 00:02:43,840
for dr rachie in the shorty awards

61
00:02:48,949 --> 00:02:46,239
she's bleeding as i record this

62
00:02:48,959 --> 00:02:50,229
com shortyawards.com

63
00:02:52,710 --> 00:02:51,350

category

64

00:02:55,990 --> 00:02:52,720

slash health

65

00:02:57,670 --> 00:02:56,000

a vote for dr he is a vote for science

66

00:02:59,990 --> 00:02:57,680

and reason

67

00:03:13,589 --> 00:03:00,000

okay enough about that let's get on to

68

00:03:18,550 --> 00:03:16,070

i'm carly sturgis and i'm talking to

69

00:03:20,470 --> 00:03:18,560

professor christopher french professor

70

00:03:22,390 --> 00:03:20,480

christopher french is a psychologist and

71

00:03:24,390 --> 00:03:22,400

vocal skeptic specialising in the

72

00:03:27,190 --> 00:03:24,400

psychology of paranormal beliefs and

73

00:03:28,550 --> 00:03:27,200

experiences cognition and emotion

74

00:03:30,309 --> 00:03:28,560

he is currently the professor of

75

00:03:32,070 --> 00:03:30,319

psychology at goldsmiths college

76

00:03:34,149 --> 00:03:32,080

university of london and is head of

77

00:03:37,270 --> 00:03:34,159

their anomalistic psychology research

78

00:03:39,430 --> 00:03:37,280

unit which he founded in the year 2000

79

00:03:43,910 --> 00:03:39,440

he is also the co-editor of the skeptic

80

00:03:48,869 --> 00:03:45,910

hey thank you very much for joining us

81

00:03:51,030 --> 00:03:48,879

tell us about anomalistic psychology and

82

00:03:52,789 --> 00:03:51,040

how does it differ from parapsychology

83

00:03:56,390 --> 00:03:52,799

well basically what normalistic

84

00:03:58,830 --> 00:03:56,400

psychology focuses on is

85

00:04:01,830 --> 00:03:58,840

starting from the working

86

00:04:02,869 --> 00:04:01,840

hypothesis that paranormal forces don't

87

00:04:04,309 --> 00:04:02,879

exist

88

00:04:06,390 --> 00:04:04,319

are there other ways that we could

89

00:04:08,470 --> 00:04:06,400

explain ostensibly paranormal

90

00:04:11,270 --> 00:04:08,480

experiences now i mean it's important to

91

00:04:13,990 --> 00:04:11,280

point out that we're not saying that we

92

00:04:15,750 --> 00:04:14,000

know paranormal forces don't exist we're

93

00:04:17,670 --> 00:04:15,760

just saying that given that the wider

94

00:04:19,189 --> 00:04:17,680

scientific community

95

00:04:22,390 --> 00:04:19,199

isn't convinced by the evidence that's

96

00:04:24,950 --> 00:04:22,400

been put forward by parapsychologists

97

00:04:27,270 --> 00:04:24,960

then is it possible that we can explain

98

00:04:29,270 --> 00:04:27,280

the weird experiences that people have

99

00:04:31,270 --> 00:04:29,280

when they think they're experiencing

100

00:04:32,950 --> 00:04:31,280

telepathy or they've seen a ghost or

101
00:04:33,909 --> 00:04:32,960
they've seen a ufo or whatever else it

102
00:04:35,909 --> 00:04:33,919
may be

103
00:04:37,590 --> 00:04:35,919
can we explain those things

104
00:04:39,670 --> 00:04:37,600
in other terms and typically you know

105
00:04:41,830 --> 00:04:39,680
we're talking about in psychological

106
00:04:43,350 --> 00:04:41,840
terms

107
00:04:45,749 --> 00:04:43,360
we're actually starting as i say from

108
00:04:48,110 --> 00:04:45,759
the working assumption that paranormal

109
00:04:50,070 --> 00:04:48,120
forces don't exist now most

110
00:04:52,230 --> 00:04:50,080
parapsychologists put most of their

111
00:04:55,110 --> 00:04:52,240
effort into trying to

112
00:04:57,350 --> 00:04:55,120
prove that paranormal forces do exist

113
00:04:58,310 --> 00:04:57,360

um again what you find in practice is

114

00:05:00,310 --> 00:04:58,320

that

115

00:05:02,629 --> 00:05:00,320

at the anomalistic psychology research

116

00:05:05,510 --> 00:05:02,639

unit we do spend some of our time doing

117

00:05:07,590 --> 00:05:05,520

parapsychology we do test psychics we

118

00:05:09,029 --> 00:05:07,600

always get negative results we do test

119

00:05:10,469 --> 00:05:09,039

psychic claims

120

00:05:12,310 --> 00:05:10,479

and again we've never produced any

121

00:05:14,150 --> 00:05:12,320

positive results but we do think it's

122

00:05:15,830 --> 00:05:14,160

important to be open-minded in

123

00:05:18,629 --> 00:05:15,840

approaching these things

124

00:05:21,029 --> 00:05:18,639

and some parapsychologists are very

125

00:05:23,189 --> 00:05:21,039

interested in the kind of cognitive

126

00:05:24,710 --> 00:05:23,199

illusions where people believe that

127

00:05:26,629 --> 00:05:24,720

something paranormal happened even when

128

00:05:29,270 --> 00:05:26,639

it hasn't so it's more a matter of

129

00:05:31,029 --> 00:05:29,280

emphasis than anything else but uh if i

130

00:05:33,430 --> 00:05:31,039

had to bet my house i would bet my house

131

00:05:35,270 --> 00:05:33,440

that paranormal forces don't exist and

132

00:05:36,870 --> 00:05:35,280

therefore as a psychologist i'm really

133

00:05:39,830 --> 00:05:36,880

interested in why so many people think

134

00:05:41,670 --> 00:05:39,840

they do so what led you to become

135

00:05:44,070 --> 00:05:41,680

interested in this particular aspect of

136

00:05:46,150 --> 00:05:44,080

psychology anyway this has been going on

137

00:05:48,230 --> 00:05:46,160

for quite some time the work that you're

138

00:05:50,390 --> 00:05:48,240

doing with the anomalistic psychology

139

00:05:54,550 --> 00:05:50,400

research unit hasn't it

140

00:05:57,830 --> 00:05:54,560

it has um i mean i first started at uh

141

00:06:00,710 --> 00:05:57,840

goldsmiths in 1985

142

00:06:03,189 --> 00:06:00,720

and at the time i did i i should say by

143

00:06:05,430 --> 00:06:03,199

the way i've not always been a skeptic i

144

00:06:07,510 --> 00:06:05,440

mean when i when i was a teenager and

145

00:06:09,670 --> 00:06:07,520

even when i was going through university

146

00:06:11,590 --> 00:06:09,680

as an undergraduate i actually tended to

147

00:06:13,510 --> 00:06:11,600

believe in most of this stuff and for

148

00:06:15,830 --> 00:06:13,520

the reasons i think that most people do

149

00:06:17,990 --> 00:06:15,840

they i mean i'd read the books i've seen

150

00:06:20,710 --> 00:06:18,000

the films i've had the occasional spooky

151

00:06:22,550 --> 00:06:20,720

experience myself and

152

00:06:24,070 --> 00:06:22,560

it just didn't seem they seemed to me

153

00:06:25,590 --> 00:06:24,080

more sensible to believe these things

154

00:06:28,550 --> 00:06:25,600

really did exist

155

00:06:31,590 --> 00:06:28,560

than they didn't it was only when i read

156

00:06:34,550 --> 00:06:31,600

one particular book it was jim all cox

157

00:06:37,830 --> 00:06:34,560

parapsychology science on magic when i

158

00:06:39,189 --> 00:06:37,840

was doing my phd that suddenly i kind of

159

00:06:41,350 --> 00:06:39,199

realized it was another way of looking

160

00:06:42,790 --> 00:06:41,360

at all these things and that was the

161

00:06:45,749 --> 00:06:42,800

early 80s as i said i started at

162

00:06:47,189 --> 00:06:45,759

goldsmiths in 85 and initially i just

163

00:06:49,230 --> 00:06:47,199

did a couple of lectures from a very

164

00:06:51,189 --> 00:06:49,240

skeptical point of view on

165

00:06:53,189 --> 00:06:51,199

parapsychology

166

00:06:54,870 --> 00:06:53,199

and the students obviously really

167

00:06:57,430 --> 00:06:54,880

enjoyed it whether they were believers

168

00:06:59,110 --> 00:06:57,440

or skeptics themselves people do find

169

00:07:00,830 --> 00:06:59,120

these kinds of topics really interesting

170

00:07:06,309 --> 00:07:00,840

and fun to talk about

171

00:07:09,909 --> 00:07:08,550

that i actually realized

172

00:07:11,510 --> 00:07:09,919

i was really very interested in this

173

00:07:14,550 --> 00:07:11,520

stuff and i could put on a whole whole

174

00:07:17,510 --> 00:07:14,560

course so i now do a final year option

175

00:07:19,589 --> 00:07:17,520

as part of our bsc psychology program on

176

00:07:21,830 --> 00:07:19,599

anomalistic psychology and increasingly

177

00:07:23,029 --> 00:07:21,840

the research that i was doing was in

178

00:07:24,870 --> 00:07:23,039

that area

179

00:07:27,589 --> 00:07:24,880

um and eventually

180

00:07:29,670 --> 00:07:27,599

it really became my kind of prime focus

181

00:07:31,589 --> 00:07:29,680

of interest and so it was kind of fairly

182

00:07:34,469 --> 00:07:31,599

fairly gradual thing what started off as

183

00:07:36,390 --> 00:07:34,479

a kind of side interest in a hobby

184

00:07:38,870 --> 00:07:36,400

i i just realized that i just found it

185

00:07:39,909 --> 00:07:38,880

fascinating and i still do so uh it's

186

00:07:41,510 --> 00:07:39,919

good

187

00:07:43,510 --> 00:07:41,520

i've noticed that the

188

00:07:45,830 --> 00:07:43,520

research unit is very proactive when it

189

00:07:48,469 --> 00:07:45,840

comes to lectures and outreach i get

190

00:07:50,390 --> 00:07:48,479

regular email updates all the time has

191

00:07:52,070 --> 00:07:50,400

it influenced numbers of students taking

192

00:07:54,469 --> 00:07:52,080

courses in the subject

193

00:07:56,070 --> 00:07:54,479

i think this is certainly been

194

00:07:59,029 --> 00:07:56,080

a tremendous

195

00:08:01,510 --> 00:07:59,039

increase in the kind of general

196

00:08:03,189 --> 00:08:01,520

skeptical movement in the uk over about

197

00:08:05,830 --> 00:08:03,199

the last two years

198

00:08:07,510 --> 00:08:05,840

um and it's hard to say exactly what's

199

00:08:09,830 --> 00:08:07,520

caused that i think you can speculate

200

00:08:11,270 --> 00:08:09,840

that a number of factors were important

201

00:08:13,589 --> 00:08:11,280

um

202

00:08:15,430 --> 00:08:13,599

and i think richard dawkins uh god

203

00:08:17,909 --> 00:08:15,440

delusion and christopher hitchens and

204

00:08:19,990 --> 00:08:17,919

people like that have made it much more

205

00:08:21,029 --> 00:08:20,000

acceptable for atheists to actually

206

00:08:24,230 --> 00:08:21,039

express

207

00:08:26,710 --> 00:08:24,240

their their atheism um i think the fact

208

00:08:27,909 --> 00:08:26,720

that groups like skeptics in the pub

209

00:08:30,390 --> 00:08:27,919

i mean steps in the po has been going

210

00:08:31,909 --> 00:08:30,400

now for for over 10 years uh but

211

00:08:35,350 --> 00:08:31,919

certainly over the last couple of years

212

00:08:37,829 --> 00:08:35,360

not only has the skeptics in the pub

213

00:08:40,389 --> 00:08:37,839

group in london been so successful that

214

00:08:42,389 --> 00:08:40,399

now they regularly every month drawing

215

00:08:44,149 --> 00:08:42,399

well over 200 people and they've had to

216

00:08:46,070 --> 00:08:44,159

introduce a booking system

217

00:08:48,070 --> 00:08:46,080

um but also there are branches of

218

00:08:49,430 --> 00:08:48,080

skeptics in the pub springing up all

219

00:08:50,949 --> 00:08:49,440

over the country there's well over a

220

00:08:52,829 --> 00:08:50,959

dozen in different cities up and down

221

00:08:55,430 --> 00:08:52,839

the uk now

222

00:08:57,350 --> 00:08:55,440

um so i mean there's definitely kind of

223

00:08:59,590 --> 00:08:57,360

something in the air over here now again

224

00:09:01,670 --> 00:08:59,600

i wouldn't like to claim that um

225

00:09:04,310 --> 00:09:01,680

anomalistic psychology is the only

226

00:09:06,870 --> 00:09:04,320

reason people get into into skepticism

227

00:09:08,630 --> 00:09:06,880

uh but i think it's played a part um and

228

00:09:11,910 --> 00:09:08,640

one of the one things i'm most excited

229

00:09:14,550 --> 00:09:11,920

about is that as from this year

230

00:09:17,750 --> 00:09:14,560

on the psychology a level that's taken

231

00:09:19,910 --> 00:09:17,760

by kids in school from 16 to 18

232

00:09:22,630 --> 00:09:19,920

um one of the options one of the three

233

00:09:24,630 --> 00:09:22,640

options that they have is anomalistic

234

00:09:26,070 --> 00:09:24,640

psychology and that's just absolutely

235

00:09:27,829 --> 00:09:26,080

fantastic it's going to be thousands of

236

00:09:29,590 --> 00:09:27,839

kids every year who are going to be

237

00:09:30,949 --> 00:09:29,600

reading about anomalistic psychology and

238

00:09:33,829 --> 00:09:30,959

thinking wow that stuff's really

239

00:09:35,509 --> 00:09:33,839

interesting wanting to do at university

240

00:09:37,590 --> 00:09:35,519

and so i think it'll have ripple effects

241

00:09:39,190 --> 00:09:37,600

that more and more universities will

242

00:09:41,110 --> 00:09:39,200

actually start to put on courses like

243

00:09:42,630 --> 00:09:41,120

this but at the moment there's a there's

244

00:09:44,389 --> 00:09:42,640

a handful of them down the country but

245

00:09:46,310 --> 00:09:44,399

every year you hear about another two or

246

00:09:48,550 --> 00:09:46,320

three places that are putting on a

247

00:09:50,230 --> 00:09:48,560

course like this because i say the

248

00:09:51,509 --> 00:09:50,240

students find it really interesting it

249

00:09:53,110 --> 00:09:51,519

tells you

250

00:09:55,509 --> 00:09:53,120

it teaches you some very interesting

251
00:09:58,310 --> 00:09:55,519
things about human psychology and it's

252
00:10:01,350 --> 00:09:58,320
also just a great way of teaching

253
00:10:03,350 --> 00:10:01,360
critical thinking that applies beyond

254
00:10:05,269 --> 00:10:03,360
the realms of just the paranormal but to

255
00:10:06,870 --> 00:10:05,279
all kinds of other areas

256
00:10:09,829 --> 00:10:06,880
whether you're assessing alternative

257
00:10:11,910 --> 00:10:09,839
medicines or or any other kind of

258
00:10:13,750 --> 00:10:11,920
controversial claim that's out there

259
00:10:15,190 --> 00:10:13,760
then you need those critical thinking

260
00:10:17,509 --> 00:10:15,200
skills

261
00:10:19,269 --> 00:10:17,519
i remember that the news of the course

262
00:10:21,590 --> 00:10:19,279
was reported in your column in the

263
00:10:23,430 --> 00:10:21,600

guardian that has been a a recent

264

00:10:25,670 --> 00:10:23,440

opportunity hasn't it well yeah i mean

265

00:10:26,870 --> 00:10:25,680

i've got a column i only do a column for

266

00:10:29,269 --> 00:10:26,880

the online

267

00:10:32,150 --> 00:10:29,279

science page but uh it still reaches a

268

00:10:34,389 --> 00:10:32,160

kind of quite a wide audience and again

269

00:10:36,230 --> 00:10:34,399

it's just a great way of being able to

270

00:10:37,829 --> 00:10:36,240

get the message out there i mean it was

271

00:10:40,310 --> 00:10:37,839

quite interesting when i actually wrote

272

00:10:41,590 --> 00:10:40,320

the uh the piece on the introduction of

273

00:10:43,990 --> 00:10:41,600

anomalistic

274

00:10:46,470 --> 00:10:44,000

psychology into schools uh i thought it

275

00:10:49,030 --> 00:10:46,480

was a very innocent unprovocative little

276

00:10:50,310 --> 00:10:49,040

piece but clearly lots of people found

277

00:10:53,750 --> 00:10:50,320

it

278

00:10:55,430 --> 00:10:53,760

that i got on that from people who

279

00:10:57,829 --> 00:10:55,440

clearly had not actually bothered to

280

00:10:59,670 --> 00:10:57,839

read past the first couple of sentences

281

00:11:02,470 --> 00:10:59,680

and the nice picture of yuri geller

282

00:11:05,590 --> 00:11:02,480

holding a bent spoon um and they were

283

00:11:07,990 --> 00:11:05,600

they were up in arms about it um

284

00:11:09,509 --> 00:11:08,000

which is kind of interesting that

285

00:11:11,509 --> 00:11:09,519

this kind of topic

286

00:11:12,550 --> 00:11:11,519

whether you're talking to people who do

287

00:11:15,509 --> 00:11:12,560

believe in it or people who don't

288

00:11:16,470 --> 00:11:15,519

believe in it it arouses such emotion in

289

00:11:17,990 --> 00:11:16,480

people

290

00:11:19,350 --> 00:11:18,000

and

291

00:11:22,389 --> 00:11:19,360

as i say it was actually i was quite

292

00:11:24,069 --> 00:11:22,399

taken aback by that some of the comments

293

00:11:24,870 --> 00:11:24,079

that were there presumably from people

294

00:11:27,110 --> 00:11:24,880

who

295

00:11:29,430 --> 00:11:27,120

actually saw themselves as being very

296

00:11:30,389 --> 00:11:29,440

scientific and very skeptical but even

297

00:11:31,910 --> 00:11:30,399

then

298

00:11:34,069 --> 00:11:31,920

did not think that anything like this

299

00:11:35,750 --> 00:11:34,079

should ever be taught in schools uh

300

00:11:37,750 --> 00:11:35,760

which i think is personally i think is a

301
00:11:39,110 --> 00:11:37,760
quite ridiculous position to take the

302
00:11:41,269 --> 00:11:39,120
point is that

303
00:11:44,230 --> 00:11:41,279
opinion poll after opinion poll shows

304
00:11:46,150 --> 00:11:44,240
that the majority of the population

305
00:11:48,630 --> 00:11:46,160
in one way or another

306
00:11:49,509 --> 00:11:48,640
do express belief in the paranormal most

307
00:11:51,829 --> 00:11:49,519
people

308
00:11:53,350 --> 00:11:51,839
in any survey will endorse at least one

309
00:11:55,509 --> 00:11:53,360
paranormal claim

310
00:11:58,310 --> 00:11:55,519
now either that means that paranormal

311
00:11:59,590 --> 00:11:58,320
forces really do exist or it's telling

312
00:12:01,910 --> 00:11:59,600
us something really interesting about

313
00:12:03,509 --> 00:12:01,920

human psychology so either way

314

00:12:05,110 --> 00:12:03,519

we should definitely take these kinds of

315

00:12:06,710 --> 00:12:05,120

claims seriously and try to understand

316

00:12:09,110 --> 00:12:06,720

what's going on do you think that

317

00:12:11,590 --> 00:12:09,120

perhaps it points the way for people

318

00:12:14,790 --> 00:12:11,600

interested in the course to produce

319

00:12:17,030 --> 00:12:14,800

resources i think definitely um i mean i

320

00:12:18,629 --> 00:12:17,040

think there's already as you will know

321

00:12:21,750 --> 00:12:18,639

um

322

00:12:24,389 --> 00:12:21,760

quite a lot of good quality skeptical

323

00:12:27,430 --> 00:12:24,399

literature out there it's just that for

324

00:12:30,150 --> 00:12:27,440

a long time it's it's not been very

325

00:12:31,750 --> 00:12:30,160

obvious where it was uh i mean i

326

00:12:33,269 --> 00:12:31,760

i mean i mean i think yeah speak from

327

00:12:36,710 --> 00:12:33,279

personal experience as i said to you

328

00:12:39,190 --> 00:12:36,720

when i um first when i read my first

329

00:12:41,509 --> 00:12:39,200

skeptical book and my eyes were opened

330

00:12:42,629 --> 00:12:41,519

uh jim olcott's got a lot to answer for

331

00:12:44,949 --> 00:12:42,639

um

332

00:12:46,790 --> 00:12:44,959

then there are lots of references in the

333

00:12:49,269 --> 00:12:46,800

back of his book to this publication

334

00:12:52,230 --> 00:12:49,279

called the skeptical inquirer which i'd

335

00:12:54,470 --> 00:12:52,240

never heard of before in my life um and

336

00:12:56,230 --> 00:12:54,480

i started to subscribe to that and then

337

00:12:58,150 --> 00:12:56,240

realized that there were

338

00:13:00,629 --> 00:12:58,160

lots of uh

339

00:13:02,310 --> 00:13:00,639

other publications there were books out

340

00:13:03,829 --> 00:13:02,320

there there was this kind of this guy

341

00:13:06,470 --> 00:13:03,839

who again i'd never really heard of at

342

00:13:08,230 --> 00:13:06,480

the time called james randy and he had

343

00:13:10,389 --> 00:13:08,240

written some books on yuri geller in a

344

00:13:11,829 --> 00:13:10,399

book called flynn and suddenly you kind

345

00:13:15,350 --> 00:13:11,839

of got your hands on this stuff and it

346

00:13:16,470 --> 00:13:15,360

was just such a joy to read you know um

347

00:13:17,750 --> 00:13:16,480

but

348

00:13:19,269 --> 00:13:17,760

i mean i think it's

349

00:13:21,670 --> 00:13:19,279

these days i think kind of skeptical

350

00:13:23,509 --> 00:13:21,680

literature is a bit more out there but

351
00:13:26,069 --> 00:13:23,519
still if you walk into your average book

352
00:13:28,870 --> 00:13:26,079
shop on the high street you will find

353
00:13:30,310 --> 00:13:28,880
shelf after shelf after shelf of pro

354
00:13:32,470 --> 00:13:30,320
paranormal

355
00:13:35,110 --> 00:13:32,480
new age nonsense

356
00:13:37,269 --> 00:13:35,120
and maybe a couple of little books

357
00:13:38,870 --> 00:13:37,279
tucked away here and there that actually

358
00:13:42,069 --> 00:13:38,880
take a critical approach they're more

359
00:13:44,790 --> 00:13:42,079
skeptical but the tide is very very

360
00:13:46,389 --> 00:13:44,800
slowly turning i'd say i mean again

361
00:13:47,670 --> 00:13:46,399
mentioning richard dawkins i think the

362
00:13:49,990 --> 00:13:47,680
fact that

363
00:13:51,829 --> 00:13:50,000

his book was a bestseller and that other

364

00:13:53,670 --> 00:13:51,839

people have been able to to

365

00:13:57,110 --> 00:13:53,680

to follow up on that ben gold acres bad

366

00:13:58,550 --> 00:13:57,120

science and and various others um you

367

00:14:00,949 --> 00:13:58,560

know there is there are signs that

368

00:14:03,110 --> 00:14:00,959

things are slowly beginning to change

369

00:14:05,269 --> 00:14:03,120

we touched briefly upon skeptical

370

00:14:07,269 --> 00:14:05,279

activism and i've recently had the

371

00:14:10,949 --> 00:14:07,279

opportunity to talk to the merseyside

372

00:14:13,030 --> 00:14:10,959

skeptics and their 1023 campaign has

373

00:14:15,829 --> 00:14:13,040

there been much of a relationship of

374

00:14:16,949 --> 00:14:15,839

skepticism to consumer affairs in the uk

375

00:14:18,389 --> 00:14:16,959

i think that again i think that's

376

00:14:21,269 --> 00:14:18,399

something that's that's beginning to

377

00:14:23,670 --> 00:14:21,279

happen more um i mean there's the 1023

378

00:14:24,870 --> 00:14:23,680

campaign which which is fantastic

379

00:14:27,350 --> 00:14:24,880

um

380

00:14:30,310 --> 00:14:27,360

and and there was also you'll know that

381

00:14:32,470 --> 00:14:30,320

simon singh is being sued by the british

382

00:14:36,069 --> 00:14:32,480

chiropractic association

383

00:14:37,910 --> 00:14:36,079

um and this actually led to a couple of

384

00:14:39,590 --> 00:14:37,920

people in the uk

385

00:14:41,509 --> 00:14:39,600

um

386

00:14:43,350 --> 00:14:41,519

basically i mean simon perry for example

387

00:14:46,710 --> 00:14:43,360

who runs the leicester branch of

388

00:14:48,550 --> 00:14:46,720

skeptics in the pub um decided that it

389

00:14:49,829 --> 00:14:48,560

would be a good idea

390

00:14:51,189 --> 00:14:49,839

to

391

00:14:53,750 --> 00:14:51,199

write a little bit of software that

392

00:14:56,470 --> 00:14:53,760

would look on all the

393

00:14:58,550 --> 00:14:56,480

websites for the members of the british

394

00:15:01,350 --> 00:14:58,560

chiropractic association

395

00:15:03,829 --> 00:15:01,360

and if they mentioned the word colic and

396

00:15:04,790 --> 00:15:03,839

claimed that to be treating colic then

397

00:15:10,710 --> 00:15:04,800

he

398

00:15:12,949 --> 00:15:10,720

a letter campaign which was very i mean

399

00:15:15,509 --> 00:15:12,959

i i helped out with this i sent some i

400

00:15:16,790 --> 00:15:15,519

sent a bachelor letters myself

401
00:15:19,269 --> 00:15:16,800
and uh

402
00:15:21,189 --> 00:15:19,279
it was very easy to send out

403
00:15:22,710 --> 00:15:21,199
well over 80 letters

404
00:15:24,629 --> 00:15:22,720
and just basically saying these people

405
00:15:26,949 --> 00:15:24,639
are making claims that they can't

406
00:15:28,470 --> 00:15:26,959
substantiate actually using the kind of

407
00:15:30,470 --> 00:15:28,480
trade descriptions

408
00:15:32,870 --> 00:15:30,480
legislation to

409
00:15:34,150 --> 00:15:32,880
uh to attack these people and basically

410
00:15:35,829 --> 00:15:34,160
it's been a very very successful

411
00:15:37,430 --> 00:15:35,839
campaign lots of them have had to stop

412
00:15:40,069 --> 00:15:37,440
making those claims on their websites

413
00:15:40,949 --> 00:15:40,079

and into literature and and now they

414

00:15:42,710 --> 00:15:40,959

know

415

00:15:44,949 --> 00:15:42,720

that people

416

00:15:46,389 --> 00:15:44,959

are kind of watching them and taking

417

00:15:48,550 --> 00:15:46,399

note of what they're saying and

418

00:15:51,110 --> 00:15:48,560

challenging them and and i think there's

419

00:15:52,629 --> 00:15:51,120

got to be got to be a good thing

420

00:15:53,749 --> 00:15:52,639

um

421

00:15:55,829 --> 00:15:53,759

there is a

422

00:15:57,350 --> 00:15:55,839

the british chiropractic association in

423

00:15:59,509 --> 00:15:57,360

taking the action they took against

424

00:16:01,189 --> 00:15:59,519

simon saying i think they've really shot

425

00:16:02,069 --> 00:16:01,199

themselves in the foot because so many

426
00:16:03,509 --> 00:16:02,079
people

427
00:16:05,590 --> 00:16:03,519
in this country and again i don't know

428
00:16:06,949 --> 00:16:05,600
what it's like in australia but in this

429
00:16:10,389 --> 00:16:06,959
country lots of people thought that

430
00:16:12,550 --> 00:16:10,399
chiropractic was actually a legitimate

431
00:16:15,269 --> 00:16:12,560
part of conventional medicine they

432
00:16:19,030 --> 00:16:15,279
didn't realize that it was actually had

433
00:16:21,189 --> 00:16:19,040
a large amount of woo in there um

434
00:16:22,870 --> 00:16:21,199
and so by actually bringing this to the

435
00:16:24,949 --> 00:16:22,880
floor and

436
00:16:26,470 --> 00:16:24,959
people are now talking about the kind of

437
00:16:29,269 --> 00:16:26,480
that the claims and the underlying

438
00:16:30,710 --> 00:16:29,279

theories and they realize that actually

439

00:16:32,310 --> 00:16:30,720

there's no evidence to support a lot of

440

00:16:34,069 --> 00:16:32,320

these claims and so they've really got a

441

00:16:36,550 --> 00:16:34,079

lot of very bad publicity from their

442

00:16:38,310 --> 00:16:36,560

point of view and i'm very pleased about

443

00:16:40,389 --> 00:16:38,320

that it serves them right

444

00:16:42,310 --> 00:16:40,399

i think we have a very similar attitude

445

00:16:45,189 --> 00:16:42,320

over here in australia towards the

446

00:16:47,670 --> 00:16:45,199

chiropractic profession uh we had simon

447

00:16:49,670 --> 00:16:47,680

singh uh do a short tour where he went

448

00:16:51,350 --> 00:16:49,680

to adelaide and sydney we were very

449

00:16:53,350 --> 00:16:51,360

fortunate to have him present for the

450

00:16:56,550 --> 00:16:53,360

australian skeptics i guess what we have

451
00:16:59,430 --> 00:16:56,560
now is not only an overlap with consumer

452
00:17:01,509 --> 00:16:59,440
affairs awareness but also science

453
00:17:03,670 --> 00:17:01,519
communication has there been much

454
00:17:05,829 --> 00:17:03,680
consultation with formal science

455
00:17:07,350 --> 00:17:05,839
communication bodies in the uk well

456
00:17:08,949 --> 00:17:07,360
again there are

457
00:17:11,029 --> 00:17:08,959
i mean things have tended to kind of

458
00:17:13,669 --> 00:17:11,039
grow if you like kind of fairly kind of

459
00:17:15,909 --> 00:17:13,679
organically to this point things are

460
00:17:17,510 --> 00:17:15,919
getting kind of much more organized

461
00:17:19,270 --> 00:17:17,520
these days i mean thanks to the internet

462
00:17:21,110 --> 00:17:19,280
it's much easier to kind of have

463
00:17:23,429 --> 00:17:21,120

organized campaigns

464

00:17:25,669 --> 00:17:23,439

and have networks and so on and so forth

465

00:17:28,710 --> 00:17:25,679

and that's that's very much a feature of

466

00:17:30,789 --> 00:17:28,720

skepticism in the uk at the moment um i

467

00:17:33,909 --> 00:17:30,799

mean there are groups as you know sense

468

00:17:36,390 --> 00:17:33,919

about science who are organizing uh

469

00:17:37,990 --> 00:17:36,400

amongst other activities they are have

470

00:17:40,150 --> 00:17:38,000

organized a campaign

471

00:17:42,549 --> 00:17:40,160

in support of simon singh

472

00:17:45,430 --> 00:17:42,559

um one of the things that's happened

473

00:17:47,590 --> 00:17:45,440

there recently is that the

474

00:17:49,190 --> 00:17:47,600

sense about science campaign against the

475

00:17:50,950 --> 00:17:49,200

the libel laws and particularly the

476

00:17:52,070 --> 00:17:50,960

where the libel laws are having an

477

00:17:54,950 --> 00:17:52,080

effect on

478

00:17:57,830 --> 00:17:54,960

science communication um but they've now

479

00:18:00,390 --> 00:17:57,840

joined forces with uh two other groups

480

00:18:03,350 --> 00:18:00,400

who are also campaigning against the

481

00:18:05,830 --> 00:18:03,360

very very unfair english libel laws

482

00:18:07,270 --> 00:18:05,840

that's english pen who represent

483

00:18:09,590 --> 00:18:07,280

the literary world

484

00:18:13,029 --> 00:18:09,600

and index on censorship so now there's a

485

00:18:16,789 --> 00:18:13,039

very very strong coalition there with

486

00:18:20,710 --> 00:18:16,799

all a huge array of very big names uh

487

00:18:22,390 --> 00:18:20,720

jonathan ross stephen fry dara o'brien

488

00:18:25,029 --> 00:18:22,400

uh all these people

489

00:18:27,110 --> 00:18:25,039

coming together lots of mps party

490

00:18:29,430 --> 00:18:27,120

support and there is a real chance that

491

00:18:31,990 --> 00:18:29,440

they may actually have a have a lasting

492

00:18:33,590 --> 00:18:32,000

effect on getting the english libel laws

493

00:18:37,270 --> 00:18:33,600

reform now i mean that would be

494

00:18:38,950 --> 00:18:37,280

fantastic achievement um and again from

495

00:18:41,669 --> 00:18:38,960

the point of view of people in the world

496

00:18:43,029 --> 00:18:41,679

of science it's the way that people like

497

00:18:45,590 --> 00:18:43,039

simon singh

498

00:18:48,390 --> 00:18:45,600

and peter wilmshurst who is he was also

499

00:18:50,150 --> 00:18:48,400

a victim of these very unfair libel laws

500

00:18:51,750 --> 00:18:50,160

the way they've been treated has drawn

501
00:18:55,750 --> 00:18:51,760
people's attention to the fact that

502
00:18:58,950 --> 00:18:55,760
there is this big problem in the uk

503
00:19:01,590 --> 00:18:58,960
in so far as scientists are sometimes

504
00:19:02,870 --> 00:19:01,600
quite cautious about what they'll

505
00:19:04,789 --> 00:19:02,880
actually put into writing and what

506
00:19:06,470 --> 00:19:04,799
they'll say in lectures

507
00:19:08,789 --> 00:19:06,480
um and that's not the way science is

508
00:19:11,190 --> 00:19:08,799
supposed to work and so

509
00:19:13,029 --> 00:19:11,200
i think i mean the campaign in itself is

510
00:19:15,190 --> 00:19:13,039
obviously just a very very just campaign

511
00:19:16,630 --> 00:19:15,200
with implications beyond beyond just the

512
00:19:19,350 --> 00:19:16,640
world of science

513
00:19:21,029 --> 00:19:19,360

but um i think it also has been very

514

00:19:23,270 --> 00:19:21,039

useful in so far as it actually

515

00:19:25,029 --> 00:19:23,280

highlights the way science works that

516

00:19:27,190 --> 00:19:25,039

science is all about

517

00:19:29,510 --> 00:19:27,200

putting ideas up there having them

518

00:19:31,590 --> 00:19:29,520

criticized testing them against the

519

00:19:33,909 --> 00:19:31,600

evidence and trying to refine your

520

00:19:35,590 --> 00:19:33,919

theories and and produce better ideas

521

00:19:38,870 --> 00:19:35,600

and letting the evidence speak rather

522

00:19:41,110 --> 00:19:38,880

than any kind of appeals to authority or

523

00:19:43,510 --> 00:19:41,120

to divine truth or whatever else it may

524

00:19:45,110 --> 00:19:43,520

be i think the support for skepticism

525

00:19:47,430 --> 00:19:45,120

that's being shown in the uk

526

00:19:49,669 --> 00:19:47,440

particularly the intersection of pop

527

00:19:51,909 --> 00:19:49,679

culture particularly comedy i've noticed

528

00:19:54,390 --> 00:19:51,919

the comedians getting behind politics

529

00:19:55,830 --> 00:19:54,400

and science that's it's it's

530

00:19:57,750 --> 00:19:55,840

yeah i'm sorry i brought you there

531

00:20:00,230 --> 00:19:57,760

that's that's actually been amazing but

532

00:20:02,310 --> 00:20:00,240

um you know we've got uh we've got your

533

00:20:04,310 --> 00:20:02,320

tim minchin who is

534

00:20:05,270 --> 00:20:04,320

a complete genius

535

00:20:06,789 --> 00:20:05,280

um

536

00:20:09,029 --> 00:20:06,799

and i mean and that is just such an

537

00:20:11,110 --> 00:20:09,039

effective way of getting skepticism

538

00:20:13,270 --> 00:20:11,120

across as well and we've also yeah we've

539

00:20:15,029 --> 00:20:13,280

got dara obrie and i mean stephen fry

540

00:20:18,070 --> 00:20:15,039

for a long time people have known that

541

00:20:20,150 --> 00:20:18,080

he's a a card carrying skeptic

542

00:20:22,310 --> 00:20:20,160

robin insta is doing a fantastic job in

543

00:20:24,310 --> 00:20:22,320

terms of organizing these events i'm

544

00:20:25,669 --> 00:20:24,320

sure you've heard about the um

545

00:20:28,310 --> 00:20:25,679

nine lessons

546

00:20:30,390 --> 00:20:28,320

and carols for godless people

547

00:20:32,070 --> 00:20:30,400

shows that he organizes around christmas

548

00:20:34,149 --> 00:20:32,080

here it would be lovely if it came

549

00:20:35,830 --> 00:20:34,159

touring to australia or if maybe we had

550

00:20:37,990 --> 00:20:35,840

someone inspired to do something similar

551
00:20:39,350 --> 00:20:38,000
here so yeah it's absolutely great and

552
00:20:42,070 --> 00:20:39,360
he got along to these things and one of

553
00:20:44,070 --> 00:20:42,080
the nice things about it is the sense of

554
00:20:45,830 --> 00:20:44,080
community because for a long time i

555
00:20:48,230 --> 00:20:45,840
think that was something that

556
00:20:50,310 --> 00:20:48,240
religious people had but skeptics and

557
00:20:52,470 --> 00:20:50,320
atheists and humanists maybe didn't so

558
00:20:54,149 --> 00:20:52,480
much and it's nice to go along to these

559
00:20:55,990 --> 00:20:54,159
events and think you know these are your

560
00:20:58,390 --> 00:20:56,000
kind of people these are people who i

561
00:21:01,190 --> 00:20:58,400
mean by no means obviously as you will

562
00:21:04,710 --> 00:21:01,200
i'm sure you will know uh you don't find

563
00:21:06,230 --> 00:21:04,720

that skeptics all sing from the same

564

00:21:08,310 --> 00:21:06,240

song sheet they they're all they're

565

00:21:10,149 --> 00:21:08,320

opinionated bunch but they they love a

566

00:21:12,710 --> 00:21:10,159

good argument but it's all about the

567

00:21:15,750 --> 00:21:12,720

kind it's all done in the sense of just

568

00:21:17,510 --> 00:21:15,760

enjoying that debate and

569

00:21:19,029 --> 00:21:17,520

recognizing that kind of trying to take

570

00:21:21,190 --> 00:21:19,039

a rational approach to things is the

571

00:21:22,470 --> 00:21:21,200

best way forward

572

00:21:25,510 --> 00:21:22,480

and it's nice in those kind of

573

00:21:27,830 --> 00:21:25,520

situations particularly a comedy show to

574

00:21:30,310 --> 00:21:27,840

actually you know to enjoy yourself and

575

00:21:32,310 --> 00:21:30,320

to actually feel that you are part of a

576

00:21:34,789 --> 00:21:32,320

larger community and i said there's a

577

00:21:35,830 --> 00:21:34,799

big big sense over here that things are

578

00:21:38,149 --> 00:21:35,840

happening

579

00:21:40,470 --> 00:21:38,159

the the people have got behind the

580

00:21:42,230 --> 00:21:40,480

simon singh campaign um there are

581

00:21:44,950 --> 00:21:42,240

various other campaigns that are taking

582

00:21:46,950 --> 00:21:44,960

off some of which you mentioned and

583

00:21:48,870 --> 00:21:46,960

just generally there is there is a real

584

00:21:51,830 --> 00:21:48,880

buzz about skepticism in the uk at the

585

00:21:54,070 --> 00:21:51,840

moment yeah i think this intersection is

586

00:21:56,710 --> 00:21:54,080

reflected in the recent relaunch of the

587

00:21:58,070 --> 00:21:56,720

uk skeptic magazine well again this is

588

00:22:00,230 --> 00:21:58,080

another case in point i mean the

589

00:22:03,590 --> 00:22:00,240

magazine's been going for for over 20

590

00:22:05,750 --> 00:22:03,600

years and for a lot of that time it just

591

00:22:07,430 --> 00:22:05,760

kind of chugged along and we had a a

592

00:22:09,990 --> 00:22:07,440

hardcore of

593

00:22:12,390 --> 00:22:10,000

loyal readers um

594

00:22:14,950 --> 00:22:12,400

but there was this kind of sense that

595

00:22:17,110 --> 00:22:14,960

things were right in the uk now to try

596

00:22:19,909 --> 00:22:17,120

and kind of take it to the to

597

00:22:22,710 --> 00:22:19,919

the next level uh so what we've done is

598

00:22:27,510 --> 00:22:22,720

we've um we've expanded it we've gone

599

00:22:30,310 --> 00:22:27,520

from uh 28 pages to 40 pages

600

00:22:32,149 --> 00:22:30,320

and we've got lots of um new columnists

601
00:22:34,789 --> 00:22:32,159
in we've got lots of we've put together

602
00:22:36,870 --> 00:22:34,799
an editorial advisory board that is uh

603
00:22:39,270 --> 00:22:36,880
that's just to die for basically we've

604
00:22:41,830 --> 00:22:39,280
got a couple of a couple of aussies on

605
00:22:44,870 --> 00:22:41,840
there we've got tim minchin and uh

606
00:22:48,070 --> 00:22:44,880
current stocks now uh we've got stephen

607
00:22:50,870 --> 00:22:48,080
fry we've got uh robin ins we've got

608
00:22:52,950 --> 00:22:50,880
richard dawkins we've i mean richard

609
00:22:56,070 --> 00:22:52,960
wiseman simon singh the list goes on and

610
00:22:57,990 --> 00:22:56,080
on elizabeth loftus this you know all

611
00:22:59,190 --> 00:22:58,000
these people that i mean when we're

612
00:23:00,549 --> 00:22:59,200
going to when we're going to touch with

613
00:23:02,390 --> 00:23:00,559

them one of the things that was very

614

00:23:05,990 --> 00:23:02,400

really very

615

00:23:08,470 --> 00:23:06,000

nice and rewarding was their enthusiasm

616

00:23:09,590 --> 00:23:08,480

i mean it wasn't just a matter of uh

617

00:23:11,430 --> 00:23:09,600

for most of them it wasn't a matter of

618

00:23:14,870 --> 00:23:11,440

just saying oh yes i'll have my name

619

00:23:16,870 --> 00:23:14,880

attached to your magazine it was uh and

620

00:23:18,549 --> 00:23:16,880

you know what can i do to help and and

621

00:23:20,310 --> 00:23:18,559

that was just great so we've got this

622

00:23:22,870 --> 00:23:20,320

kind of fantastic resource there now

623

00:23:24,630 --> 00:23:22,880

that we can draw on um and people you

624

00:23:25,990 --> 00:23:24,640

know getting people like that that we

625

00:23:27,110 --> 00:23:26,000

can ask to write articles for the

626

00:23:28,549 --> 00:23:27,120

magazine

627

00:23:30,870 --> 00:23:28,559

um and it's just going from strength to

628

00:23:33,590 --> 00:23:30,880

strength so it's it's all good so people

629

00:23:35,669 --> 00:23:33,600

can subscribe to the new uk skeptic

630

00:23:38,149 --> 00:23:35,679

magazine by heading to your official

631

00:23:40,390 --> 00:23:38,159

site you've also worked on the haunt

632

00:23:42,549 --> 00:23:40,400

project and on a richard dawkins

633

00:23:44,470 --> 00:23:42,559

documentary what other research are you

634

00:23:47,430 --> 00:23:44,480

currently working upon there's lots

635

00:23:48,710 --> 00:23:47,440

going on at the moment um

636

00:23:50,549 --> 00:23:48,720

recently

637

00:23:52,950 --> 00:23:50,559

we've actually been uh doing lots of

638

00:23:56,070 --> 00:23:52,960

work looking at the relationship between

639

00:23:59,270 --> 00:23:56,080

um memory distortion and belief in the

640

00:24:01,029 --> 00:23:59,280

paranormal uh i did some work with uh

641

00:24:02,230 --> 00:24:01,039

chrissy wilson who

642

00:24:05,270 --> 00:24:02,240

since has

643

00:24:07,669 --> 00:24:05,280

gone to us uh yes indeed dr chrissy

644

00:24:09,510 --> 00:24:07,679

wilson uh becoming quite a part of the

645

00:24:11,669 --> 00:24:09,520

sydney skeptic scene i've noticed she's

646

00:24:13,510 --> 00:24:11,679

moved from the university of tasmania up

647

00:24:15,909 --> 00:24:13,520

to new south wales so hopefully we get

648

00:24:17,590 --> 00:24:15,919

to hear more on our show yes yep well

649

00:24:19,430 --> 00:24:17,600

again i mean chrissy did some

650

00:24:21,750 --> 00:24:19,440

interesting work while she was at

651
00:24:24,870 --> 00:24:21,760
goldsmiths in the anomalistic psychology

652
00:24:27,590 --> 00:24:24,880
research unit um looking at the

653
00:24:29,990 --> 00:24:27,600
relationship between susceptibility to

654
00:24:32,070 --> 00:24:30,000
false memories and

655
00:24:34,230 --> 00:24:32,080
belief in the paranormal and it turns

656
00:24:35,990 --> 00:24:34,240
out that um

657
00:24:38,789 --> 00:24:36,000
we suspected this would be the case on

658
00:24:41,190 --> 00:24:38,799
previous literature but we

659
00:24:42,149 --> 00:24:41,200
actually directly tested the idea that

660
00:24:45,110 --> 00:24:42,159
people

661
00:24:47,750 --> 00:24:45,120
who were more prone to false memories

662
00:24:49,830 --> 00:24:47,760
would also be more likely to believe in

663
00:24:51,909 --> 00:24:49,840

the paranormal and to report paranormal

664

00:24:54,870 --> 00:24:51,919

experiences and we did experiments that

665

00:24:57,029 --> 00:24:54,880

actually did support that hypothesis we

666

00:24:58,950 --> 00:24:57,039

want to try and carry on and do further

667

00:25:03,430 --> 00:24:58,960

work in that area

668

00:25:06,710 --> 00:25:03,440

um we're also i'm working on um a book

669

00:25:08,789 --> 00:25:06,720

on anomalistic psychology um that's been

670

00:25:11,029 --> 00:25:08,799

co-written with a colleague anna stone

671

00:25:12,830 --> 00:25:11,039

at the university of east london

672

00:25:15,110 --> 00:25:12,840

um we've just

673

00:25:17,750 --> 00:25:15,120

recently uh finished editing a

674

00:25:22,470 --> 00:25:17,760

collection of the best of the skeptic

675

00:25:24,630 --> 00:25:22,480

this is a book called why statues weep

676

00:25:26,470 --> 00:25:24,640

and that should be appearing within the

677

00:25:27,750 --> 00:25:26,480

next couple of months we're actually now

678

00:25:30,390 --> 00:25:27,760

at the kind of proof

679

00:25:31,909 --> 00:25:30,400

proofreading stage on that one um so

680

00:25:33,350 --> 00:25:31,919

there's just kind of there's just so

681

00:25:35,269 --> 00:25:33,360

much going on it's just trying to you

682

00:25:36,789 --> 00:25:35,279

know i could do with finding a way to

683

00:25:39,750 --> 00:25:36,799

get say

684

00:25:40,830 --> 00:25:39,760

48 72 hours in a day that would be good

685

00:25:43,430 --> 00:25:40,840

that would

686

00:25:45,350 --> 00:25:43,440

help brilliant oh one of the things that

687

00:25:48,710 --> 00:25:45,360

probably this is just related to my own

688

00:25:50,789 --> 00:25:48,720

research you've recently investigated uh

689

00:25:52,870 --> 00:25:50,799

contributing factors to conspiracy

690

00:25:54,870 --> 00:25:52,880

theory belief was one of the papers

691

00:25:56,630 --> 00:25:54,880

i wrote to you about has there been any

692

00:25:58,310 --> 00:25:56,640

development on that front

693

00:26:01,830 --> 00:25:58,320

there's we've not done anything else

694

00:26:02,710 --> 00:26:01,840

since what we do we did a a tv program

695

00:26:06,549 --> 00:26:02,720

um

696

00:26:08,070 --> 00:26:06,559

myself and a colleague at royal holloway

697

00:26:10,870 --> 00:26:08,080

um

698

00:26:13,430 --> 00:26:10,880

it was a program for channel four

699

00:26:15,190 --> 00:26:13,440

on uh belief in conspiracy theories and

700

00:26:18,070 --> 00:26:15,200

it was a nice way for us to actually be

701
00:26:19,909 --> 00:26:18,080
able to collect some real data now since

702
00:26:21,669 --> 00:26:19,919
then my colleague has said that he said

703
00:26:23,430 --> 00:26:21,679
that he would write this up and turn it

704
00:26:25,990 --> 00:26:23,440
into a proper paper and it's just not

705
00:26:27,990 --> 00:26:26,000
happened yet because and again i know

706
00:26:31,350 --> 00:26:28,000
how difficult it is to find the time

707
00:26:33,190 --> 00:26:31,360
because i'm just as bad myself yeah um

708
00:26:34,870 --> 00:26:33,200
but i can i get a lot of research done

709
00:26:36,950 --> 00:26:34,880
by our project students and i've got a

710
00:26:38,710 --> 00:26:36,960
very good project student at the moment

711
00:26:40,950 --> 00:26:38,720
who's wanting to look at

712
00:26:43,110 --> 00:26:40,960
some of the kind of cognitive factors

713
00:26:45,669 --> 00:26:43,120

that might be involved in um

714

00:26:48,269 --> 00:26:45,679

belief in conspiracy theories it's it's

715

00:26:51,110 --> 00:26:48,279

a really good area because it's it's

716

00:26:53,190 --> 00:26:51,120

under-researched oh it is

717

00:26:55,590 --> 00:26:53,200

there's not very much out there and what

718

00:26:57,029 --> 00:26:55,600

little bit there is you can kind of um

719

00:26:57,909 --> 00:26:57,039

you can get on top of that you can you

720

00:26:59,590 --> 00:26:57,919

feel your

721

00:27:01,350 --> 00:26:59,600

you know what literature's there i mean

722

00:27:03,830 --> 00:27:01,360

some of the other topics that you might

723

00:27:06,390 --> 00:27:03,840

want to do research on you know you you

724

00:27:08,549 --> 00:27:06,400

realize there are hundreds of papers

725

00:27:10,710 --> 00:27:08,559

and it's a bit thing but something like

726

00:27:12,789 --> 00:27:10,720

this i mean and obviously it's a very

727

00:27:14,230 --> 00:27:12,799

very relevant issue at the moment i mean

728

00:27:17,909 --> 00:27:14,240

there are so many different

729

00:27:19,669 --> 00:27:17,919

aspects to belief in conspiracy theories

730

00:27:21,510 --> 00:27:19,679

lots of which i've got kind of you know

731

00:27:23,909 --> 00:27:21,520

serious real life implications when

732

00:27:25,110 --> 00:27:23,919

people buy into these kind of mindsets

733

00:27:28,230 --> 00:27:25,120

they

734

00:27:30,549 --> 00:27:28,240

taking on some very very weird values in

735

00:27:32,870 --> 00:27:30,559

the process i think it was uh three of

736

00:27:35,110 --> 00:27:32,880

the items on the survey that dr martin

737

00:27:37,269 --> 00:27:35,120

bridgstock and i did by the time i had

738

00:27:39,430 --> 00:27:37,279

finished looking for my lit review at

739

00:27:41,269 --> 00:27:39,440

the conspiracy theory papers i was

740

00:27:43,590 --> 00:27:41,279

really pleased to notice that there was

741

00:27:46,470 --> 00:27:43,600

a growth in new papers coming out but

742

00:27:48,470 --> 00:27:46,480

yes very very recent yeah that's right

743

00:27:51,110 --> 00:27:48,480

yeah i mean there's karen douglas at

744

00:27:53,190 --> 00:27:51,120

kent university as well she's done some

745

00:27:54,950 --> 00:27:53,200

interesting work and she's an australian

746

00:27:55,990 --> 00:27:54,960

as well i've noticed

747

00:27:58,310 --> 00:27:56,000

yes

748

00:28:00,149 --> 00:27:58,320

so yeah you get everywhere don't you do

749

00:28:04,789 --> 00:28:00,159

you really do

750

00:28:08,789 --> 00:28:07,029

uh my current co-editor is uh is

751
00:28:11,430 --> 00:28:08,799
canadian but my the one before that was

752
00:28:13,830 --> 00:28:11,440
australian so uh so the skeptic is kind

753
00:28:16,149 --> 00:28:13,840
of you know we we we like a bit of

754
00:28:17,750 --> 00:28:16,159
aussie import here and there yeah the

755
00:28:19,110 --> 00:28:17,760
networking is important for all of us i

756
00:28:21,990 --> 00:28:19,120
think yeah

757
00:28:23,510 --> 00:28:22,000
i think so quite definitely yeah i mean

758
00:28:25,590 --> 00:28:23,520
that's one that's one of the good things

759
00:28:27,029 --> 00:28:25,600
obviously again yeah to state the

760
00:28:29,190 --> 00:28:27,039
bleeding obvious

761
00:28:31,029 --> 00:28:29,200
uh i mean the internet has just kind of

762
00:28:32,549 --> 00:28:31,039
completely revolutionized things it's

763
00:28:35,350 --> 00:28:32,559

just so easy now

764

00:28:36,950 --> 00:28:35,360

to want to do podcasts to do

765

00:28:38,070 --> 00:28:36,960

research collaborative research with

766

00:28:41,510 --> 00:28:38,080

people around the other side of the

767

00:28:43,190 --> 00:28:41,520

planet um and it's just you know once

768

00:28:44,789 --> 00:28:43,200

things that would have been so difficult

769

00:28:46,870 --> 00:28:44,799

to organize they're just you know so

770

00:28:49,190 --> 00:28:46,880

much easier these days so if people want

771

00:28:51,110 --> 00:28:49,200

to find out more about the uk skeptics

772

00:28:51,909 --> 00:28:51,120

and the various projects that are going

773

00:28:53,909 --> 00:28:51,919

on

774

00:28:55,669 --> 00:28:53,919

which website should they head to i

775

00:28:57,510 --> 00:28:55,679

don't know the first uh that i mean the

776

00:28:59,269 --> 00:28:57,520

main two for the skeptic magazine and

777

00:29:04,789 --> 00:28:59,279

for stuff related to the skeptic

778

00:29:10,149 --> 00:29:07,830

skeptic with the k not surprisingly um

779

00:29:14,470 --> 00:29:10,159

and for the anomalistic psychology

780

00:29:20,070 --> 00:29:14,480

research unit that's www dot goldsmiths

781

00:29:22,630 --> 00:29:20,080

dot ac dot uk forward slash apo and uh

782

00:29:25,430 --> 00:29:22,640

there's a lot of our papers and what

783

00:29:26,470 --> 00:29:25,440

have you are downloadable from that site

784

00:29:29,190 --> 00:29:26,480

if people want to find out what's

785

00:29:36,470 --> 00:29:29,200

happening marvelous thank you very much

786

00:29:39,909 --> 00:29:37,990

alright guys i was talking to uh richard

787

00:29:42,230 --> 00:29:39,919

saunders today all right uh he said if

788

00:29:44,310 --> 00:29:42,240

we record a trailer for a podcast

789

00:29:45,830 --> 00:29:44,320

skeptics with a k uh he'd play it on

790

00:29:47,190 --> 00:29:45,840

there on their show that's nice of him

791

00:29:48,389 --> 00:29:47,200

that's very generous it's pretty good

792

00:29:50,310 --> 00:29:48,399

i'm not sure what we could do though i

793

00:29:51,830 --> 00:29:50,320

mean well i suppose you tell people the

794

00:29:54,630 --> 00:29:51,840

show's about but it's basically just

795

00:29:56,310 --> 00:29:54,640

this yeah like yeah but you know we talk

796

00:29:57,510 --> 00:29:56,320

about science and skepticism and things

797

00:29:58,710 --> 00:29:57,520

that's that's true i suppose you know

798

00:30:01,350 --> 00:29:58,720

you mentioned the website address not

799

00:30:02,950 --> 00:30:01,360

mercy side skeptics.uk yeah yeah i'll

800

00:30:04,389 --> 00:30:02,960

just like search for snitunes oh and

801
00:30:06,830 --> 00:30:04,399
then we could end with like a big song

802
00:30:11,510 --> 00:30:06,840
like the skeptics with

803
00:30:14,950 --> 00:30:13,029
for seven years now it's been my

804
00:30:17,990 --> 00:30:14,960
pleasure to be part of the mystery

805
00:30:20,870 --> 00:30:18,000
investigators show for schools

806
00:30:23,590 --> 00:30:20,880
originally with linda brown and now with

807
00:30:26,549 --> 00:30:23,600
dr rachie dunlop we visit schools and

808
00:30:28,630 --> 00:30:26,559
perform our mystery investigators show

809
00:30:30,549 --> 00:30:28,640
where we explore the paranormal the

810
00:30:32,710 --> 00:30:30,559
supernatural the strange

811
00:30:34,710 --> 00:30:32,720
and the mysterious

812
00:30:36,870 --> 00:30:34,720
it's such an important part of what i do

813
00:30:39,029 --> 00:30:36,880

in skepticism dr rachie too i thought

814

00:30:40,470 --> 00:30:39,039

you might like to hear a little bit

815

00:30:42,230 --> 00:30:40,480

of the show

816

00:30:43,190 --> 00:30:42,240

we performed at abbotsley school for

817

00:30:45,990 --> 00:30:43,200

girls

818

00:30:47,190 --> 00:30:46,000

just this week and here are a few

819

00:30:49,750 --> 00:30:47,200

highlights

820

00:30:54,950 --> 00:30:49,760

we start off with good old-fashioned

821

00:30:54,960 --> 00:30:59,750

one more time

822

00:31:02,870 --> 00:31:01,750

okay thank you tess now it's my turn to

823

00:31:05,029 --> 00:31:02,880

stop still

824

00:31:06,549 --> 00:31:05,039

it's all right

825

00:31:08,470 --> 00:31:06,559

thank you very much

826

00:31:09,590 --> 00:31:08,480

i hate to hold this other one too nice

827

00:31:11,110 --> 00:31:09,600

and tight

828

00:31:12,630 --> 00:31:11,120

what i'm going to do at the moment is

829

00:31:15,669 --> 00:31:12,640

i'm going to do something i'm going to

830

00:31:18,470 --> 00:31:15,679

try and use the power of my mind and all

831

00:31:19,909 --> 00:31:18,480

your help of course to make this metal

832

00:31:22,070 --> 00:31:19,919

and the spoon

833

00:31:23,750 --> 00:31:22,080

melt in my hands

834

00:31:26,149 --> 00:31:23,760

just by using a couple of fingers to

835

00:31:28,710 --> 00:31:26,159

hold it like that

836

00:31:31,029 --> 00:31:28,720

you're going to help me everybody

837

00:31:34,389 --> 00:31:31,039

everybody concentrate on the spoon and i

838

00:31:36,310 --> 00:31:34,399

want you all to think as loudly as you

839

00:31:38,950 --> 00:31:36,320

can the word

840

00:31:41,830 --> 00:31:38,960

bend can you do that for me i practice

841

00:31:44,430 --> 00:31:41,840

ready one two three

842

00:31:48,149 --> 00:31:44,440

think as

843

00:31:50,310 --> 00:31:48,159

loud you're getting there one two three

844

00:31:51,669 --> 00:31:50,320

oh very good all right

845

00:31:54,470 --> 00:31:51,679

here we go so make sure to hold your

846

00:31:56,389 --> 00:31:54,480

spoon up everyone think ben

847

00:31:58,230 --> 00:31:56,399

and i'm going to try and give you a bit

848

00:32:00,549 --> 00:31:58,240

of an optical illusion let's see if we

849

00:32:03,990 --> 00:32:00,559

can make it look like that

850

00:32:06,630 --> 00:32:05,190

wiggles

851
00:32:08,149 --> 00:32:06,640
see how that looks like it's getting

852
00:32:25,509 --> 00:32:08,159
wiggly

853
00:32:29,029 --> 00:32:26,950
of course it's not it's just a trick

854
00:32:31,029 --> 00:32:29,039
it's an optical illusion because

855
00:32:38,710 --> 00:32:31,039
metal doesn't oh

856
00:32:38,720 --> 00:32:47,830
last time i did that everybody applauded

857
00:33:01,430 --> 00:32:49,669
for being a great volunteer you could

858
00:33:05,990 --> 00:33:03,669
so we are the mystery investigators

859
00:33:08,149 --> 00:33:06,000
quick introduction for you all

860
00:33:13,269 --> 00:33:08,159
we have in the show today

861
00:33:18,950 --> 00:33:16,389
dr he is a real scientist working in

862
00:33:22,070 --> 00:33:18,960
heart medicine with the heart institute

863
00:33:23,909 --> 00:33:22,080

research there she is doing real science

864

00:33:25,669 --> 00:33:23,919

and the work that she does helps

865

00:33:27,830 --> 00:33:25,679

discover all about heart disease and

866

00:33:29,750 --> 00:33:27,840

makes our lives a whole lot better she

867

00:33:31,190 --> 00:33:29,760

works very hard at that

868

00:33:32,870 --> 00:33:31,200

now

869

00:33:34,470 --> 00:33:32,880

who remembers a couple of years ago

870

00:33:36,870 --> 00:33:34,480

there was a funny show on tv about

871

00:33:39,029 --> 00:33:36,880

looking for australia's best psychic did

872

00:33:40,470 --> 00:33:39,039

anybody yeah you remember that

873

00:33:41,509 --> 00:33:40,480

it was called

874

00:33:42,789 --> 00:33:41,519

the one

875

00:33:44,549 --> 00:33:42,799

now do you remember there was that

876

00:33:45,909 --> 00:33:44,559

goofball on it that silly guy who was

877

00:33:47,029 --> 00:33:45,919

the skeptic

878

00:33:48,230 --> 00:33:47,039

the judge

879

00:33:52,230 --> 00:33:48,240

you remember him

880

00:33:55,669 --> 00:33:54,230

yeah somebody recognized me out there

881

00:33:57,669 --> 00:33:55,679

that's nice

882

00:33:59,590 --> 00:33:57,679

there i am doing the show what we're

883

00:34:02,549 --> 00:33:59,600

going to do in the show today is talk

884

00:34:04,070 --> 00:34:02,559

about this sort of things the strange

885

00:34:05,990 --> 00:34:04,080

and the mysterious

886

00:34:08,550 --> 00:34:06,000

now i must also say that joining us

887

00:34:14,470 --> 00:34:08,560

today in the show as our assistant all

888

00:34:17,270 --> 00:34:16,069

you're going to be nice to dr chrissy

889

00:34:29,510 --> 00:34:17,280

she's going to be handing out some

890

00:34:29,520 --> 00:34:46,950

isn't she nice

891

00:34:46,960 --> 00:34:51,349

meeting oh yes

892

00:34:56,470 --> 00:34:53,589

one of the main points we try to make in

893

00:34:57,670 --> 00:34:56,480

the show is to do with testimonials and

894

00:34:59,829 --> 00:34:57,680

anecdotes

895

00:35:03,190 --> 00:34:59,839

we have a whole routine where i come out

896

00:35:13,829 --> 00:35:03,200

with some juggling balls and well

897

00:35:18,230 --> 00:35:15,910

now richard sometimes you might hear

898

00:35:19,990 --> 00:35:18,240

people

899

00:35:22,310 --> 00:35:20,000

tell you that they've read

900

00:35:24,150 --> 00:35:22,320

something written about a product that

901
00:35:25,589 --> 00:35:24,160
says it was good and it worked for me

902
00:35:30,230 --> 00:35:25,599
and

903
00:35:31,990 --> 00:35:30,240
we should always ask questions about

904
00:35:33,990 --> 00:35:32,000
that if someone has a claim about

905
00:35:35,030 --> 00:35:34,000
something you should always ask for

906
00:35:38,710 --> 00:35:35,040
evidence

907
00:35:41,589 --> 00:35:38,720
now my friend here dr richard

908
00:35:45,109 --> 00:35:41,599
he says doctor are you promoting me no

909
00:35:45,910 --> 00:35:45,119
sorry just richard

910
00:35:47,829 --> 00:35:45,920
now

911
00:35:49,589 --> 00:35:47,839
he gave me this the other day he emailed

912
00:35:51,349 --> 00:35:49,599
this to me and he said that

913
00:35:54,550 --> 00:35:51,359

as you can see up here it says that he

914

00:35:55,910 --> 00:35:54,560

can juggle three tennis balls now

915

00:35:57,589 --> 00:35:55,920

this is from the melbourne street

916

00:35:58,870 --> 00:35:57,599

performers academy richard they sound

917

00:36:02,470 --> 00:35:58,880

like a pretty

918

00:36:07,270 --> 00:36:04,390

yeah it says i mean it's signed by fred

919

00:36:09,430 --> 00:36:07,280

merk he's the principal of the melbourne

920

00:36:11,270 --> 00:36:09,440

street performance

921

00:36:13,109 --> 00:36:11,280

well now you write it as a sign it's

922

00:36:15,510 --> 00:36:13,119

just written there it's not signed but

923

00:36:17,109 --> 00:36:15,520

it does say you can juggle three tennis

924

00:36:18,710 --> 00:36:17,119

balls

925

00:36:21,589 --> 00:36:18,720

yes i think that's enough for me to

926

00:36:23,190 --> 00:36:21,599

realize that you can ah well it would be

927

00:36:25,589 --> 00:36:23,200

but press that button and you'll

928

00:36:27,750 --> 00:36:25,599

discover

929

00:36:30,230 --> 00:36:27,760

look at that oh i see there's another

930

00:36:32,790 --> 00:36:30,240

one now this is from your scout leader

931

00:36:34,230 --> 00:36:32,800

isn't it saying that a good scout leader

932

00:36:36,630 --> 00:36:34,240

a very good scout leader saying that you

933

00:36:38,310 --> 00:36:36,640

can also juggle three tennis balls so

934

00:36:39,670 --> 00:36:38,320

i'm pretty convinced that you can juggle

935

00:36:41,109 --> 00:36:39,680

three tennis balls i don't think we need

936

00:36:43,510 --> 00:36:41,119

to do that

937

00:36:45,990 --> 00:36:43,520

press it one more time

938

00:36:47,990 --> 00:36:46,000

there's another one there's another one

939

00:36:50,069 --> 00:36:48,000

well this is from the justice of the

940

00:36:52,230 --> 00:36:50,079

peace now

941

00:36:54,790 --> 00:36:52,240

they're really important people and they

942

00:36:57,349 --> 00:36:54,800

they say that you can juggle your three

943

00:36:58,310 --> 00:36:57,359

tennis balls as well so

944

00:37:00,310 --> 00:36:58,320

yep

945

00:37:01,750 --> 00:37:00,320

i think that's enough uh evidence guys

946

00:37:04,310 --> 00:37:01,760

what do you think we don't need to see

947

00:37:18,550 --> 00:37:04,320

anymore in fact

948

00:37:18,560 --> 00:37:31,510

you believe me don't you

949

00:37:47,190 --> 00:37:33,510

all right

950

00:37:47,200 --> 00:37:57,910

i think you better you better

951
00:38:09,990 --> 00:38:01,030
so there you go it is true so that means

952
00:38:15,430 --> 00:38:11,589
now this one is about you being able to

953
00:38:19,270 --> 00:38:15,440
juggle five tennis balls five times

954
00:38:23,030 --> 00:38:21,030
it's the same person who said he could

955
00:38:26,790 --> 00:38:23,040
juggle three and he can so it must be

956
00:38:32,310 --> 00:38:28,630
oh and here's another one from the same

957
00:38:34,470 --> 00:38:32,320
scout leader who says he can juggle fly

958
00:38:35,430 --> 00:38:34,480
now i'm hearing someone say that they're

959
00:38:38,870 --> 00:38:35,440
old

960
00:38:40,630 --> 00:38:38,880
too it doesn't matter yeah maybe they're

961
00:38:42,230 --> 00:38:40,640
out of date

962
00:38:44,470 --> 00:38:42,240
i don't know i think they're pretty good

963
00:38:49,030 --> 00:38:44,480

i i believe i mean he said in jungle

964

00:38:54,069 --> 00:38:51,349

because look it said i could juggle

965

00:38:56,150 --> 00:38:54,079

three the testimonials is absolutely

966

00:38:57,750 --> 00:38:56,160

right you all saw i could juggle three

967

00:39:04,790 --> 00:38:57,760

there's no point in showing you five

968

00:39:07,750 --> 00:39:06,630

you want me to do it

969

00:39:10,550 --> 00:39:07,760

really

970

00:39:12,790 --> 00:39:10,560

yeah i think well

971

00:39:26,230 --> 00:39:12,800

they want you to show that you can do it

972

00:39:32,390 --> 00:39:28,470

thank you

973

00:39:35,349 --> 00:39:34,470

you said you could juggle five tennis

974

00:39:37,589 --> 00:39:35,359

balls

975

00:39:39,270 --> 00:39:37,599

and we had bits of paper that said you

976

00:39:40,950 --> 00:39:39,280

could juggle fly tennis balls but it

977

00:39:42,630 --> 00:39:40,960

turns out that you can't do that but i

978

00:39:44,310 --> 00:39:42,640

could juggle three

979

00:39:46,150 --> 00:39:44,320

yes but

980

00:39:49,910 --> 00:39:46,160

i think that's evidence that we need to

981

00:39:51,990 --> 00:39:49,920

ask for proof don't we yes absolutely

982

00:39:54,550 --> 00:39:52,000

it really doesn't matter what's written

983

00:39:58,230 --> 00:39:54,560

on a piece of paper if you have any

984

00:40:00,950 --> 00:39:58,240

serious doubts it's your right to ask

985

00:40:03,349 --> 00:40:00,960

for more proof like you did with me

986

00:40:04,710 --> 00:40:03,359

if you see something it looks amazing

987

00:40:06,630 --> 00:40:04,720

and someone says it's true look it's

988

00:40:10,150 --> 00:40:06,640

written on this piece of paper or it's

989

00:40:11,990 --> 00:40:10,160

written on the internet

990

00:40:13,030 --> 00:40:12,000

we say take it with a pinch of salt

991

00:40:15,589 --> 00:40:13,040

always

992

00:40:17,910 --> 00:40:15,599

be ready to ask for more evidence if you

993

00:40:19,589 --> 00:40:17,920

really want to very important i think

994

00:40:23,589 --> 00:40:19,599

very important

995

00:40:27,670 --> 00:40:25,190

throughout the show we hand out

996

00:40:29,109 --> 00:40:27,680

astrology reports for the kids at the

997

00:40:30,069 --> 00:40:29,119

end of the show we sort of collect the

998

00:40:32,230 --> 00:40:30,079

scores

999

00:40:41,430 --> 00:40:32,240

helping us with this section was dr

1000

00:40:41,440 --> 00:41:18,630

what was yours

1001
00:41:18,640 --> 00:41:23,190
what about the virgo who had bobo

1002
00:41:26,230 --> 00:41:24,790
well that's good

1003
00:41:29,990 --> 00:41:26,240
libra

1004
00:41:31,430 --> 00:41:30,000
yours

1005
00:41:47,430 --> 00:41:31,440
age

1006
00:41:51,750 --> 00:41:49,750
dr chrissy and our pisces where's our

1007
00:41:54,230 --> 00:41:51,760
slices

1008
00:41:55,109 --> 00:41:54,240
nine and a half

1009
00:41:57,109 --> 00:41:55,119
wow

1010
00:41:59,270 --> 00:41:57,119
so only a very few of you thought that

1011
00:42:10,550 --> 00:41:59,280
they weren't very good so now i'm just

1012
00:42:14,150 --> 00:42:12,309
i tell you what i think you might be

1013
00:42:16,230 --> 00:42:14,160

honest dr chrissy could you just read

1014

00:42:19,030 --> 00:42:16,240

out the first part of your one and those

1015

00:42:21,430 --> 00:42:19,040

who have the paper have a look okay this

1016

00:42:24,230 --> 00:42:21,440

is this is my special reading that the

1017

00:42:27,829 --> 00:42:24,240

psychic gave me okay

1018

00:42:29,349 --> 00:42:27,839

while at times you have serious doubts

1019

00:42:31,990 --> 00:42:29,359

as to whether you have made the right

1020

00:42:33,829 --> 00:42:32,000

decision or done the right thing you are

1021

00:42:35,349 --> 00:42:33,839

disciplined and controlled on the

1022

00:42:37,190 --> 00:42:35,359

outside anyway i'm getting giggles

1023

00:42:39,349 --> 00:42:37,200

what's going on

1024

00:42:40,630 --> 00:42:39,359

this is saying

1025

00:42:42,950 --> 00:42:40,640

let me do some more

1026

00:42:46,230 --> 00:42:42,960

you tend to be worrisome

1027

00:42:49,190 --> 00:42:46,240

and insecure on the inside your basic

1028

00:42:51,750 --> 00:42:49,200

intuitions usually right and you are an

1029

00:42:56,069 --> 00:42:51,760

excellent judge of character your sense

1030

00:43:05,190 --> 00:42:59,589

are you saying that they're all the same

1031

00:43:08,630 --> 00:43:06,710

who reads their astrology in the

1032

00:43:09,910 --> 00:43:08,640

newspaper

1033

00:43:11,750 --> 00:43:09,920

and then

1034

00:43:14,230 --> 00:43:11,760

every time we ask there's less people

1035

00:43:16,390 --> 00:43:14,240

now yeah but this lady down the front

1036

00:43:18,710 --> 00:43:16,400

was spot on because she said that if you

1037

00:43:20,230 --> 00:43:18,720

mix up the cosmopolitan and the dolly

1038

00:43:22,390 --> 00:43:20,240

star science they're all the same is

1039

00:43:24,069 --> 00:43:22,400

that what you said they're all like yeah

1040

00:43:25,829 --> 00:43:24,079

like if you read every single one of

1041

00:43:27,990 --> 00:43:25,839

them they're all basically the same just

1042

00:43:33,510 --> 00:43:28,000

change the word so they could apply to

1043

00:43:37,750 --> 00:43:35,750

in all the years

1044

00:43:40,470 --> 00:43:37,760

that scientists have been seriously

1045

00:43:42,230 --> 00:43:40,480

studying the claims of astrologers

1046

00:43:43,990 --> 00:43:42,240

we've discovered that there's really

1047

00:43:46,150 --> 00:43:44,000

nothing in it

1048

00:43:48,069 --> 00:43:46,160

it's good fun it's great to be just

1049

00:43:49,990 --> 00:43:48,079

outside and have a giggle

1050

00:43:51,750 --> 00:43:50,000

but as far as we know the planets and

1051
00:43:54,069 --> 00:43:51,760
the stars

1052
00:43:56,150 --> 00:43:54,079
can't really influence your lives the

1053
00:43:58,470 --> 00:43:56,160
way that astrologers say

1054
00:44:00,150 --> 00:43:58,480
they can

1055
00:44:02,390 --> 00:44:00,160
every teenager's life i think you're

1056
00:44:05,990 --> 00:44:02,400
right however

1057
00:44:08,230 --> 00:44:06,000
there is a real science called astronomy

1058
00:44:15,349 --> 00:44:08,240
and astronomy did i get an applause for

1059
00:44:18,630 --> 00:44:16,870
if you want

1060
00:44:20,950 --> 00:44:18,640
real magic

1061
00:44:23,510 --> 00:44:20,960
and real wonder and real beauty then

1062
00:44:26,710 --> 00:44:23,520
astronomy is for you because unlike

1063
00:44:29,510 --> 00:44:26,720

astrology astronomy can really take us

1064

00:44:57,030 --> 00:44:29,520

to the planets and stars some of you may

1065

00:45:01,990 --> 00:44:59,750

and most of you know that really is a

1066

00:45:03,750 --> 00:45:02,000

lovely panorama from the surface of

1067

00:45:06,470 --> 00:45:03,760

planet mars

1068

00:45:08,150 --> 00:45:06,480

we using science have visited other

1069

00:45:10,390 --> 00:45:08,160

planets and we're going to be visiting

1070

00:45:12,870 --> 00:45:10,400

other stars in our universe

1071

00:45:14,630 --> 00:45:12,880

ladies that's where science can take us

1072

00:45:17,109 --> 00:45:14,640

that's why we love science so much and

1073

00:45:17,430 --> 00:45:17,119

it's been our pleasure to

1074

00:45:23,510 --> 00:45:17,440

i'd perform for

1075

00:45:42,550 --> 00:45:25,270

and all the way from london our

1076

00:45:55,589 --> 00:45:44,150

and again you've been a wonderful

1077

00:46:02,790 --> 00:45:58,069

so that's the mystery investigators show

1078

00:46:07,430 --> 00:46:04,870

you can also find us performing at the

1079

00:46:19,109 --> 00:46:07,440

australian museum in science week and at

1080

00:46:24,230 --> 00:46:21,190

this is eugenie scott national center

1081

00:46:28,230 --> 00:46:24,240

for science education you can find us at

1082

00:46:32,230 --> 00:46:29,990

come see us if you want to know anything

1083

00:46:34,790 --> 00:46:32,240

about the creationism and evolution

1084

00:46:36,710 --> 00:46:34,800

conflict in the united states or

1085

00:46:38,630 --> 00:46:36,720

moors the pity internationally these

1086

00:46:41,829 --> 00:46:38,640

days we are clearing house for

1087

00:46:43,750 --> 00:46:41,839

information on this vexing but certainly

1088

00:46:51,109 --> 00:46:43,760

very interesting problem

1089

00:46:55,589 --> 00:46:53,270

the boom effect is an auction in action

1090

00:46:57,990 --> 00:46:55,599

for sonic boom's future started by a

1091

00:46:59,829 --> 00:46:58,000

group of podcasters and writers as a way

1092

00:47:01,510 --> 00:46:59,839

for these communities to show support

1093

00:47:03,670 --> 00:47:01,520

for the morris family

1094

00:47:05,430 --> 00:47:03,680

t morris is a beloved founding father of

1095

00:47:06,750 --> 00:47:05,440

the podcasting community

1096

00:47:09,190 --> 00:47:06,760

he is the co-creator of

1097

00:47:11,349 --> 00:47:09,200

potaudiobooks.com writer of four social

1098

00:47:13,109 --> 00:47:11,359

media books and the first novelist to

1099

00:47:15,349 --> 00:47:13,119

serialize his novel

1100

00:47:17,510 --> 00:47:15,359

on the 5th of january 2010 he found

1101
00:47:20,550 --> 00:47:17,520
himself facing raising his daughter with

1102
00:47:22,390 --> 00:47:20,560
the alias of sonic boom alone after the

1103
00:47:23,829 --> 00:47:22,400
sudden shocking death of his wife

1104
00:47:25,510 --> 00:47:23,839
natalie

1105
00:47:27,990 --> 00:47:25,520
if you head to the official site at

1106
00:47:30,710 --> 00:47:28,000
theboomfect.org you'll find a variety of

1107
00:47:32,630 --> 00:47:30,720
auction items amongst them is a box of

1108
00:47:34,550 --> 00:47:32,640
skeptical goodness donated by the

1109
00:47:35,990 --> 00:47:34,560
skeptic zone and the token skeptic

1110
00:47:37,829 --> 00:47:36,000
podcasts

1111
00:47:40,230 --> 00:47:37,839
in there you'll find signed photos by

1112
00:47:42,710 --> 00:47:40,240
skeptic zone podcasters richard saunders

1113
00:47:44,790 --> 00:47:42,720

and dr rachel dunlop and other items

1114

00:47:45,750 --> 00:47:44,800

including region free dvds of team

1115

00:47:48,390 --> 00:47:45,760

mention

1116

00:47:51,109 --> 00:47:48,400

the interrobang album by george robb tim

1117

00:48:08,710 --> 00:47:51,119

tams mustix and the latest book by dr

1118

00:48:14,790 --> 00:48:11,910

at 10 23 a.m on january the 30th on uk

1119

00:48:16,630 --> 00:48:14,800

time more than 300 homeopathy skeptics

1120

00:48:18,790 --> 00:48:16,640

nationwide took part in a mass

1121

00:48:20,950 --> 00:48:18,800

homeopathic overdose in protests at

1122

00:48:23,190 --> 00:48:20,960

boots continued endorsement and sale of

1123

00:48:25,109 --> 00:48:23,200

homeopathic remedies and in order to

1124

00:48:27,270 --> 00:48:25,119

raise public awareness about the fact

1125

00:48:28,230 --> 00:48:27,280

that homeopathic remedies have nothing

1126
00:48:30,069 --> 00:48:28,240
in them

1127
00:48:32,309 --> 00:48:30,079
consumer rights activists took part in

1128
00:48:34,390 --> 00:48:32,319
the protests on that day culminating in

1129
00:48:36,549 --> 00:48:34,400
a mass homeopathic overdose

1130
00:48:37,670 --> 00:48:36,559
taking place in city centres across the

1131
00:48:39,270 --> 00:48:37,680
world

1132
00:48:41,109 --> 00:48:39,280
here's some of the reactions that we got

1133
00:48:43,670 --> 00:48:41,119
when we were taking part as skeptic zone

1134
00:48:45,829 --> 00:48:43,680
members both richard saunders and myself

1135
00:48:47,190 --> 00:48:45,839
in sydney new south wales and in perth

1136
00:48:49,589 --> 00:48:47,200
western australia

1137
00:48:51,109 --> 00:48:49,599
well here we are it's the 1023 campaign

1138
00:48:53,109 --> 00:48:51,119

in sydney australia

1139

00:48:55,190 --> 00:48:53,119

we're outside a real pharmacy we just

1140

00:48:57,750 --> 00:48:55,200

bought packets and packets of

1141

00:48:58,790 --> 00:48:57,760

homeopathic sleeping tablets sleeping

1142

00:49:00,870 --> 00:48:58,800

tablets

1143

00:49:05,990 --> 00:49:00,880

my friend

1144

00:49:10,790 --> 00:49:07,750

skeptics in the pub are committing

1145

00:49:13,270 --> 00:49:10,800

suicide we'd like to thank the 10 23

1146

00:49:16,710 --> 00:49:13,280

events for making this process

1147

00:49:18,710 --> 00:49:16,720

this actually tastes good like good yeah

1148

00:49:20,309 --> 00:49:18,720

yeah i'd buy them just for the for the

1149

00:49:22,069 --> 00:49:20,319

resolution

1150

00:49:23,750 --> 00:49:22,079

yeah that means one

1151

00:49:25,750 --> 00:49:23,760

molecule of arsenic

1152

00:49:29,349 --> 00:49:25,760

for 80 million

1153

00:49:31,910 --> 00:49:29,359

earth volumes of filler oh my god so far

1154

00:49:33,430 --> 00:49:31,920

i'm not feeling any death coming on i

1155

00:49:36,390 --> 00:49:33,440

can tell you one thing about death it is

1156

00:49:42,069 --> 00:49:38,150

it looks like we've managed to ingest

1157

00:49:46,150 --> 00:49:44,710

i agree the sugar rush is nice

1158

00:49:48,309 --> 00:49:46,160

great sugar rush

1159

00:49:50,549 --> 00:49:48,319

how are you feeling awesome tasty

1160

00:49:53,430 --> 00:49:50,559

they're good i'm eating them very slowly

1161

00:49:54,870 --> 00:49:53,440

very slowly yeah i i spent 15 in a whole

1162

00:49:56,069 --> 00:49:54,880

packet of these you better be enjoying

1163

00:49:58,549 --> 00:49:56,079

them

1164

00:50:00,470 --> 00:49:58,559

still wide awake unfortunately but we'll

1165

00:50:02,230 --> 00:50:00,480

see okay

1166

00:50:05,430 --> 00:50:02,240

still awake no effects whatsoever

1167

00:50:06,309 --> 00:50:05,440

delicious yummy

1168

00:50:09,510 --> 00:50:06,319

love that

1169

00:50:10,630 --> 00:50:09,520

yeah you could use some wedges

1170

00:50:12,150 --> 00:50:10,640

ladies and gentlemen do you think i

1171

00:50:17,430 --> 00:50:12,160

should have just brought you jelly beans

1172

00:50:17,440 --> 00:50:35,750

um

1173

00:50:39,910 --> 00:50:37,750

the 1023 event was only just the

1174

00:50:42,710 --> 00:50:39,920

beginning of an awareness campaign about

1175

00:50:44,630 --> 00:50:42,720

homeopathy and how there's nothing in it

1176
00:50:46,750 --> 00:50:44,640
you can find out more and discover about

1177
00:50:53,030 --> 00:50:46,760
ongoing efforts at

1178
00:51:01,030 --> 00:50:55,990
now it's time for dr rachie reports with

1179
00:51:06,150 --> 00:51:02,870
hello listeners and welcome to this very

1180
00:51:08,390 --> 00:51:06,160
special edition of dr reche reports

1181
00:51:10,390 --> 00:51:08,400
this week i give you a roundup of news

1182
00:51:12,950 --> 00:51:10,400
from a huge week in science and

1183
00:51:15,270 --> 00:51:12,960
skepticism with some very big events

1184
00:51:16,950 --> 00:51:15,280
restoring my faith in the world well for

1185
00:51:18,710 --> 00:51:16,960
a short time anyway

1186
00:51:20,870 --> 00:51:18,720
one such event was announced to me by

1187
00:51:22,470 --> 00:51:20,880
the bad astronomer phil plate when he

1188
00:51:24,870 --> 00:51:22,480

passed on the good news about an

1189

00:51:26,630 --> 00:51:24,880

e-newsletter sent by the australian

1190

00:51:29,510 --> 00:51:26,640

vaccination network

1191

00:51:31,670 --> 00:51:29,520

the headlines screamed avn to close its

1192

00:51:34,630 --> 00:51:31,680

doors at the end of the month

1193

00:51:37,750 --> 00:51:34,640

and the contents explained that after 17

1194

00:51:40,069 --> 00:51:37,760

years the president merrill dory was

1195

00:51:42,710 --> 00:51:40,079

tendering my resignation as president of

1196

00:51:44,470 --> 00:51:42,720

this great organization and moving on to

1197

00:51:47,109 --> 00:51:44,480

the next stage of my own personal

1198

00:51:49,750 --> 00:51:47,119

development as mother wife activist and

1199

00:51:52,309 --> 00:51:49,760

researcher the reasons she cited were

1200

00:51:54,069 --> 00:51:52,319

primarily monetary she described the

1201

00:51:56,549 --> 00:51:54,079

stress of not knowing when money to

1202

00:51:58,150 --> 00:51:56,559

cover wages and bills would come in

1203

00:52:00,309 --> 00:51:58,160

and that she was stepping down to spend

1204

00:52:01,750 --> 00:52:00,319

more time with her family

1205

00:52:03,589 --> 00:52:01,760

she said

1206

00:52:05,589 --> 00:52:03,599

i am getting older my children have

1207

00:52:08,630 --> 00:52:05,599

missed out on so much so i could run the

1208

00:52:10,470 --> 00:52:08,640

avn and at this stage in my existence i

1209

00:52:12,710 --> 00:52:10,480

need to be able to work on this subject

1210

00:52:14,230 --> 00:52:12,720

and still have a life then came the

1211

00:52:15,349 --> 00:52:14,240

irony

1212

00:52:17,430 --> 00:52:15,359

quote

1213

00:52:20,790 --> 00:52:17,440

without a large injection of capital

1214

00:52:22,870 --> 00:52:20,800

behind me i simply cannot continue

1215

00:52:25,270 --> 00:52:22,880

she used the word injection

1216

00:52:27,910 --> 00:52:25,280

ms dory you do amuse

1217

00:52:30,549 --> 00:52:27,920

so the upshot whoops was that she is

1218

00:52:32,549 --> 00:52:30,559

broke and the future of the avn was grim

1219

00:52:35,190 --> 00:52:32,559

unless quote

1220

00:52:37,109 --> 00:52:35,200

a benefactor or series of benefactors

1221

00:52:39,430 --> 00:52:37,119

come forward to establish a fund that

1222

00:52:42,069 --> 00:52:39,440

would guarantee the avn's existence for

1223

00:52:44,069 --> 00:52:42,079

at least the next two to three years

1224

00:52:46,630 --> 00:52:44,079

this is not the first time ms dory has

1225

00:52:48,630 --> 00:52:46,640

asked for money from her members a few

1226
00:52:50,470 --> 00:52:48,640
months ago she was asking people to put

1227
00:52:52,630 --> 00:52:50,480
aside a percentage of their government

1228
00:52:53,750 --> 00:52:52,640
paid family allowance to donate to the

1229
00:52:56,230 --> 00:52:53,760
avn

1230
00:52:58,069 --> 00:52:56,240
the day following this e-newsletter ms

1231
00:53:00,950 --> 00:52:58,079
dory sent another e-newsletter

1232
00:53:02,630 --> 00:53:00,960
clarifying that the avn would only close

1233
00:53:04,950 --> 00:53:02,640
if she did not receive the required

1234
00:53:07,190 --> 00:53:04,960
funds and she was sorry if she had

1235
00:53:09,190 --> 00:53:07,200
worried her followers

1236
00:53:11,670 --> 00:53:09,200
this clarification became somewhat

1237
00:53:14,150 --> 00:53:11,680
clouded today however when she sent yet

1238
00:53:15,829 --> 00:53:14,160

another e-newsletter with the masthead

1239

00:53:19,109 --> 00:53:15,839

exclaiming

1240

00:53:20,950 --> 00:53:19,119

living wisdom avn closing down sale

1241

00:53:23,109 --> 00:53:20,960

this e-newsletter detailed that all

1242

00:53:25,190 --> 00:53:23,119

their educational material would be on

1243

00:53:27,030 --> 00:53:25,200

sale for the next three weeks

1244

00:53:29,990 --> 00:53:27,040

after which time they would be closing

1245

00:53:32,069 --> 00:53:30,000

down so is she or isn't she

1246

00:53:33,910 --> 00:53:32,079

one has to wonder however why she is

1247

00:53:35,109 --> 00:53:33,920

asking her supporters for an injection

1248

00:53:36,790 --> 00:53:35,119

of cash

1249

00:53:39,270 --> 00:53:36,800

why haven't the big guys come to the

1250

00:53:40,710 --> 00:53:39,280

table the likes of generation rescue and

1251
00:53:42,950 --> 00:53:40,720
age of autism

1252
00:53:45,349 --> 00:53:42,960
perhaps they see a flailing company as

1253
00:53:47,109 --> 00:53:45,359
not a very good investment

1254
00:53:49,109 --> 00:53:47,119
on top of this her reputation has

1255
00:53:50,069 --> 00:53:49,119
received a battering over the last 12

1256
00:53:51,910 --> 00:53:50,079
months

1257
00:53:53,670 --> 00:53:51,920
at last count there were two pending

1258
00:53:56,230 --> 00:53:53,680
complaints lodged with the new south

1259
00:53:58,150 --> 00:53:56,240
wales healthcare complaints commission

1260
00:54:00,230 --> 00:53:58,160
there were also two with the office of

1261
00:54:02,710 --> 00:54:00,240
liquor gaming and racing the charity

1262
00:54:06,470 --> 00:54:02,720
watchdog one accusing her of operating

1263
00:54:08,230 --> 00:54:06,480

without a charity license for two years

1264

00:54:10,630 --> 00:54:08,240

she was also awarded the Australian

1265

00:54:12,630 --> 00:54:10,640

skeptics bent spoon award for being a

1266

00:54:14,309 --> 00:54:12,640

threat to public health

1267

00:54:16,230 --> 00:54:14,319

and she has been forced to change

1268

00:54:18,150 --> 00:54:16,240

seminar venues when organizers

1269

00:54:20,150 --> 00:54:18,160

discovered the true nature of her

1270

00:54:21,829 --> 00:54:20,160

information

1271

00:54:23,510 --> 00:54:21,839

and not to mention she has taken a

1272

00:54:25,510 --> 00:54:23,520

battering in the press for spreading

1273

00:54:27,430 --> 00:54:25,520

false statistics and scare-mongering

1274

00:54:29,349 --> 00:54:27,440

about the safety and efficacy of

1275

00:54:30,950 --> 00:54:29,359

vaccines

1276

00:54:33,349 --> 00:54:30,960

i think this might be the beginning of

1277

00:54:36,470 --> 00:54:33,359

the end for the embattled avn

1278

00:54:38,309 --> 00:54:36,480

and i for one won't miss him not at all

1279

00:54:40,309 --> 00:54:38,319

also this week the general medical

1280

00:54:42,390 --> 00:54:40,319

council in the united kingdom handed

1281

00:54:46,790 --> 00:54:42,400

down their findings about the conduct of

1282

00:54:49,670 --> 00:54:46,800

controversial mmr dr andrew wakefield

1283

00:54:52,309 --> 00:54:49,680

on january 28 after the lengthiest case

1284

00:54:54,870 --> 00:54:52,319

in history the leading anti-vaccination

1285

00:54:58,549 --> 00:54:54,880

proponent dr andrew wakefield was found

1286

00:55:00,390 --> 00:54:58,559

to be dishonest irresponsible and guilty

1287

00:55:03,030 --> 00:55:00,400

of putting children through painful and

1288

00:55:05,190 --> 00:55:03,040

unnecessary tests this included

1289

00:55:08,470 --> 00:55:05,200

subjecting children to lumbar punctures

1290

00:55:10,790 --> 00:55:08,480

or spinal taps and colonoscopies

1291

00:55:13,030 --> 00:55:10,800

wakefield also collected blood samples

1292

00:55:15,990 --> 00:55:13,040

for his control studies at his son's

1293

00:55:18,549 --> 00:55:16,000

birthday party and later laughed about

1294

00:55:20,390 --> 00:55:18,559

how children had vomited and fainted

1295

00:55:21,990 --> 00:55:20,400

after he took their blood and then paid

1296

00:55:23,790 --> 00:55:22,000

them five pounds

1297

00:55:26,710 --> 00:55:23,800

the history of this story goes back to

1298

00:55:29,109 --> 00:55:26,720

1998 when the lancet published a paper

1299

00:55:31,190 --> 00:55:29,119

by wakefield and others outlining

1300

00:55:33,589 --> 00:55:31,200

research which supposedly found a link

1301
00:55:34,549 --> 00:55:33,599
between mmr or measles mumps rubella

1302
00:55:37,430 --> 00:55:34,559
vaccine

1303
00:55:39,670 --> 00:55:37,440
and autism the upshot of the release of

1304
00:55:41,829 --> 00:55:39,680
wakefield's findings was a great deal of

1305
00:55:44,150 --> 00:55:41,839
media coverage outlining the supposed

1306
00:55:46,710 --> 00:55:44,160
dangers of mmr leading to autism in

1307
00:55:48,950 --> 00:55:46,720
children these findings were immediately

1308
00:55:51,510 --> 00:55:48,960
picked up by anti-vaccination groups as

1309
00:55:54,230 --> 00:55:51,520
evidence of the dangers of vaccination

1310
00:55:56,069 --> 00:55:54,240
what has been described as panic ensued

1311
00:55:58,710 --> 00:55:56,079
with vaccination rates immediately

1312
00:56:01,430 --> 00:55:58,720
dropping in the uk to as low as 50

1313
00:56:03,109 --> 00:56:01,440

percent in some parts of london and of

1314

00:56:05,190 --> 00:56:03,119

course this led to an increase in

1315

00:56:06,309 --> 00:56:05,200

diseases that mmr was designed to

1316

00:56:08,150 --> 00:56:06,319

prevent

1317

00:56:10,069 --> 00:56:08,160

even today vaccination rates have

1318

00:56:12,549 --> 00:56:10,079

apparently still not fully recovered to

1319

00:56:14,230 --> 00:56:12,559

the levels before the scare

1320

00:56:16,870 --> 00:56:14,240

yet this research has not been

1321

00:56:19,109 --> 00:56:16,880

duplicated by others and most of the

1322

00:56:23,829 --> 00:56:19,119

co-authors of the paper subsequently

1323

00:56:25,349 --> 00:56:23,839

dissociated themselves from it in 2004

1324

00:56:28,230 --> 00:56:25,359

yet this seemed to be of no

1325

00:56:30,230 --> 00:56:28,240

consideration to the anti-vaxx movement

1326
00:56:32,870 --> 00:56:30,240
their case as far as they were concerned

1327
00:56:34,710 --> 00:56:32,880
was proved end of story

1328
00:56:37,030 --> 00:56:34,720
one of the poster boys of the global

1329
00:56:38,950 --> 00:56:37,040
anti-vaccination movement the findings

1330
00:56:41,109 --> 00:56:38,960
against wakefield mean there is a strong

1331
00:56:43,750 --> 00:56:41,119
possibility of him being struck off the

1332
00:56:45,670 --> 00:56:43,760
medical register but with the gmc's

1333
00:56:47,750 --> 00:56:45,680
findings against wakefield's dishonest

1334
00:56:49,750 --> 00:56:47,760
and irresponsible practices the

1335
00:56:52,069 --> 00:56:49,760
anti-vaccination movement took a heavy

1336
00:56:54,069 --> 00:56:52,079
blow as his research has been the

1337
00:56:55,750 --> 00:56:54,079
foundation of much of its specious

1338
00:56:57,910 --> 00:56:55,760

argument

1339

00:57:00,069 --> 00:56:57,920

the next blow to wakefield's reputation

1340

00:57:02,150 --> 00:57:00,079

came from the lancet itself

1341

00:57:04,390 --> 00:57:02,160

on january the 2nd the prestigious

1342

00:57:07,190 --> 00:57:04,400

medical journal issued a full retraction

1343

00:57:09,349 --> 00:57:07,200

of the paper stating that

1344

00:57:11,990 --> 00:57:09,359

it has become clear that several

1345

00:57:14,470 --> 00:57:12,000

elements of the 1998 paper by wakefield

1346

00:57:16,549 --> 00:57:14,480

ettel are incorrect

1347

00:57:18,950 --> 00:57:16,559

therefore we fully retract this paper

1348

00:57:20,789 --> 00:57:18,960

from the published record true to form

1349

00:57:23,109 --> 00:57:20,799

the anti-vaccination movement came out

1350

00:57:24,950 --> 00:57:23,119

in defense of wakefield describing him

1351
00:57:26,870 --> 00:57:24,960
as a martyr to the cause

1352
00:57:30,150 --> 00:57:26,880
and wakefield has been quoted as saying

1353
00:57:32,470 --> 00:57:30,160
he has no regrets over his work

1354
00:57:35,829 --> 00:57:32,480
one correspondent on a forum described

1355
00:57:38,390 --> 00:57:35,839
the gmc panel as quote evil judges from

1356
00:57:40,150 --> 00:57:38,400
the garden of stalin but it is without

1357
00:57:42,470 --> 00:57:40,160
doubt that the movement has suffered a

1358
00:57:44,789 --> 00:57:42,480
serious blow as wakefield's research

1359
00:57:45,829 --> 00:57:44,799
underpinned much of its often hysterical

1360
00:57:47,670 --> 00:57:45,839
argument

1361
00:57:49,829 --> 00:57:47,680
as is also true to form for the

1362
00:57:51,829 --> 00:57:49,839
anti-vaccination movement they are now

1363
00:57:53,990 --> 00:57:51,839

crying fail and saying this is a big

1364

00:57:56,309 --> 00:57:54,000

pharma big government conspiracy to

1365

00:57:59,109 --> 00:57:56,319

cover up the truth one day maybe they'll

1366

00:58:01,030 --> 00:57:59,119

think of some original arguments

1367

00:58:03,270 --> 00:58:01,040

and that's it for the wrap up of a huge

1368

00:58:04,950 --> 00:58:03,280

week in science and skepticism but

1369

00:58:07,030 --> 00:58:04,960

before i leave you for this week i'm

1370

00:58:09,829 --> 00:58:07,040

reminded of the consequences of the

1371

00:58:11,510 --> 00:58:09,839

anti-vaccination movement worldwide if

1372

00:58:13,670 --> 00:58:11,520

it wasn't for scare mongering about the

1373

00:58:15,270 --> 00:58:13,680

safety and efficacy of vaccines by the

1374

00:58:17,990 --> 00:58:15,280

likes of andrew wakefield and the

1375

00:58:20,309 --> 00:58:18,000

australian vaccination network today on

1376

00:58:22,309 --> 00:58:20,319

february the 5th 2010 we would be

1377

00:58:24,630 --> 00:58:22,319

celebrating the first birthday of dana

1378

00:58:26,789 --> 00:58:24,640

mccaffrey who tragically passed away

1379

00:58:29,510 --> 00:58:26,799

from pertussis or whooping cough on

1380

00:58:31,030 --> 00:58:29,520

march 9 2009

1381

00:58:32,069 --> 00:58:31,040

our thoughts are with the mccaffrey

1382

00:58:34,309 --> 00:58:32,079

family

1383

00:58:55,829 --> 00:58:34,319

and until next time this has been dr

1384

00:59:00,789 --> 00:58:57,430

well thank you for listening to the

1385

00:59:02,390 --> 00:59:00,799

skeptic zone show number 68 on the 5th

1386

00:59:04,069 --> 00:59:02,400

of february

1387

00:59:06,230 --> 00:59:04,079

another great show coming up next week

1388

00:59:09,349 --> 00:59:06,240

our special guest will be

1389

00:59:11,670 --> 00:59:09,359

mentalist and master magician philippa

1390

00:59:13,109 --> 00:59:11,680

scoffy who's currently touring australia

1391

00:59:15,829 --> 00:59:13,119

from the uk

1392

00:59:16,630 --> 00:59:15,839

and of course we'll have the think tank

1393

00:59:18,789 --> 00:59:16,640

so

1394

00:59:24,470 --> 00:59:18,799

until next week this is richard saunders

1395

00:59:31,510 --> 00:59:26,150

you've been listening to the skeptic