

**SKEPTIC
ZONE**



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

The
Podcast
from
Australia
for
Science
and
Reason

www.skepticzone.tv

1
00:00:20,410 --> 00:00:09,500
welcome to the skeptic zone the podcast

2
00:00:27,609 --> 00:00:23,270
hello and welcome to the skeptic zone

3
00:00:35,570 --> 00:00:27,619
episode number 84 the 30th of april 2010

4
00:00:39,680 --> 00:00:35,580
80 good heavens episode 80 only 20 more

5
00:00:41,660 --> 00:00:39,690
episodes until the huge 100 hang on to

6
00:00:44,630 --> 00:00:41,670
your false teeth for that one what a

7
00:00:46,939 --> 00:00:44,640
show we have for you this week are we

8
00:00:50,180 --> 00:00:46,949
going to kick off with an interview that

9
00:00:53,990 --> 00:00:50,190
Kylie has done with such wonderful

10
00:00:57,229 --> 00:00:54,000
bloggers as Colford watch gimpy and

11
00:00:59,660 --> 00:00:57,239
brain duck oh yes all will become clear

12
00:01:02,840 --> 00:00:59,670
they're going to be talking about the

13
00:01:06,650 --> 00:01:02,850

work they've done in exposing door now

14

00:01:09,490 --> 00:01:06,660

door was a program a sort of

15

00:01:11,779 --> 00:01:09,500

pseudoscience that was supposed to help

16

00:01:14,480 --> 00:01:11,789

dyslexic children and children with

17

00:01:16,760 --> 00:01:14,490

learning difficulties by getting them to

18

00:01:19,340 --> 00:01:16,770

balance and juggle and do all sorts of

19

00:01:21,650 --> 00:01:19,350

wacky things very interesting

20

00:01:23,690 --> 00:01:21,660

conversation coming up that's followed

21

00:01:26,230 --> 00:01:23,700

by a grain of salt with Iran so gift

22

00:01:28,940 --> 00:01:26,240

talking to David Aaron ovitch about

23

00:01:31,490 --> 00:01:28,950

conspiracy theories conspiracies all

24

00:01:34,880 --> 00:01:31,500

that sort of thing but before we get

25

00:01:37,370 --> 00:01:34,890

into the show for those of you who don't

26

00:01:40,969 --> 00:01:37,380

know a good skeptic in Australia has

27

00:01:43,130 --> 00:01:40,979

passed away sadly Jeff Clark now many of

28

00:01:46,190 --> 00:01:43,140

you will certainly know the name of Jeff

29

00:01:48,469 --> 00:01:46,200

Clark he with his son Theo put together

30

00:01:51,710 --> 00:01:48,479

the book the skeptics field guide to

31

00:01:54,260 --> 00:01:51,720

humbug spotting logical fallacies and

32

00:01:59,779 --> 00:01:54,270

thinking and the fantastic website

33

00:02:02,990 --> 00:01:59,789

hunting humbug 101 and the podcast to of

34

00:02:06,740 --> 00:02:03,000

course very very sad to hear that Jeff

35

00:02:09,199 --> 00:02:06,750

Clark has passed away and very grateful

36

00:02:13,580 --> 00:02:09,209

for all the work he did with his son

37

00:02:17,420 --> 00:02:13,590

Theo in teaching us all how to spot

38

00:02:20,390 --> 00:02:17,430

logical fallacies and I'll just hand

39

00:02:23,210 --> 00:02:20,400

over now to Kylie Sturgis who will give

40

00:02:25,880 --> 00:02:23,220

a short report about Jeff I first met

41

00:02:27,410 --> 00:02:25,890

Jeff Clark at the 2006 Australian

42

00:02:29,959 --> 00:02:27,420

skeptics national convention in

43

00:02:32,089 --> 00:02:29,969

Melbourne Victoria we were at the same

44

00:02:33,500 --> 00:02:32,099

table for the dinner and I mentioned I'd

45

00:02:35,449 --> 00:02:33,510

seen his website and

46

00:02:38,720 --> 00:02:35,459

recognized his name when he introduced

47

00:02:40,759 --> 00:02:38,730

himself we only talked briefly but he

48

00:02:43,160 --> 00:02:40,769

remained in my mind as an example of an

49

00:02:44,750 --> 00:02:43,170

enthusiastic skeptic who was very keen

50

00:02:46,640 --> 00:02:44,760

to use the internet to connect with

51
00:02:48,860 --> 00:02:46,650
people which was something that was very

52
00:02:51,710 --> 00:02:48,870
much in its early stages in Australian

53
00:02:53,539 --> 00:02:51,720
skepticism back then I think he was

54
00:02:56,059 --> 00:02:53,549
surprised that I recognized his name

55
00:02:58,160 --> 00:02:56,069
from the online book humbug which was

56
00:03:00,470 --> 00:02:58,170
one of the few hits that i found when

57
00:03:02,990 --> 00:03:00,480
searching for what resources skeptics

58
00:03:05,030 --> 00:03:03,000
had online back then Richard Saunders

59
00:03:07,789 --> 00:03:05,040
hadn't even started the skeptics own

60
00:03:10,759 --> 00:03:07,799
podcast it was only a year later that

61
00:03:13,490 --> 00:03:10,769
the tank vodcast began I don't recall

62
00:03:16,309 --> 00:03:13,500
meeting Jeff after that time but his son

63
00:03:18,170 --> 00:03:16,319

Theo presented at bris skepticon or the

64

00:03:21,530 --> 00:03:18,180

Australian skeptics national convention

65

00:03:23,599 --> 00:03:21,540

in 2009 by this time the hunting humbug

66

00:03:26,240 --> 00:03:23,609

podcast was well into development and

67

00:03:28,369 --> 00:03:26,250

Thea reflected his father's enthusiasm

68

00:03:30,920 --> 00:03:28,379

by demonstrating the use of google wave

69

00:03:32,720 --> 00:03:30,930

and Twitter in his talk about fallacies

70

00:03:36,680 --> 00:03:32,730

and there is an archive of that

71

00:03:38,420 --> 00:03:36,690

presentation featured on the site Jeff

72

00:03:40,759 --> 00:03:38,430

was probably best known amongst fellow

73

00:03:43,849 --> 00:03:40,769

online skeptics as the co-host of

74

00:03:45,920 --> 00:03:43,859

hunting humbug 101 which is a podcaster

75

00:03:48,229 --> 00:03:45,930

provides a crash course and shooting

76
00:03:50,140 --> 00:03:48,239
down bad arguments looking at fallacies

77
00:03:52,970 --> 00:03:50,150
from pseudo science science

78
00:03:55,970 --> 00:03:52,980
misconceptions politics philosophy and

79
00:03:58,629 --> 00:03:55,980
the media after a second battle with

80
00:04:00,830 --> 00:03:58,639
cancer he died earlier this month I

81
00:04:03,289 --> 00:04:00,840
regret that I did not get to know Jeff

82
00:04:05,509 --> 00:04:03,299
Clark more but he certainly contributed

83
00:04:09,860 --> 00:04:05,519
a significant body of material to

84
00:04:12,349 --> 00:04:09,870
Australian skepticism episode 35 the

85
00:04:15,650 --> 00:04:12,359
best of Jeff is available on the humbug

86
00:04:17,960 --> 00:04:15,660
site it also contains a link to all the

87
00:04:20,390 --> 00:04:17,970
back issues of the Australian skeptic

88
00:04:23,450 --> 00:04:20,400

magazine where he contributed numerous

89

00:04:27,279 --> 00:04:23,460

articles the official site of hunting

90

00:04:32,089 --> 00:04:27,289

humbug is hunting humbug 101 podbean

91

00:04:36,409 --> 00:04:32,099

calm Thank You Kylie for that very sad

92

00:04:38,870 --> 00:04:36,419

Jeff Clark file a Jeff Clark but let's

93

00:04:53,870 --> 00:04:38,880

press on with this week's show the

94

00:05:00,510 --> 00:04:57,120

I'm Carly Sturgis and I'm talking to

95

00:05:02,939 --> 00:05:00,520

holford watch gimpy and brain duck in

96

00:05:04,980 --> 00:05:02,949

this interview i'll be talking to these

97

00:05:07,469 --> 00:05:04,990

science bloggers about their websites

98

00:05:10,379 --> 00:05:07,479

but most importantly we're going to be

99

00:05:13,290 --> 00:05:10,389

talking about door I first met these

100

00:05:15,270 --> 00:05:13,300

people online by a dr. ben goldacre site

101
00:05:19,110 --> 00:05:15,280
and i have continued to work with them

102
00:05:21,629 --> 00:05:19,120
via my own site odd black calm we were

103
00:05:24,570 --> 00:05:21,639
all congratulated by dr. goldacre in the

104
00:05:26,820 --> 00:05:24,580
Guardian newspaper in 2008 for our joint

105
00:05:29,310 --> 00:05:26,830
efforts documenting the administration

106
00:05:31,830 --> 00:05:29,320
of the door company in Australia in an

107
00:05:35,520 --> 00:05:31,840
article called determined bloggers who

108
00:05:37,320 --> 00:05:35,530
blew the whistle on door specifically we

109
00:05:39,420 --> 00:05:37,330
all look at claims that about

110
00:05:43,050 --> 00:05:39,430
pseudoscience and learning difficulties

111
00:05:45,420 --> 00:05:43,060
which is where door comes into it the

112
00:05:48,120 --> 00:05:45,430
door program claims to treat dyslexia

113
00:05:50,640 --> 00:05:48,130

and other learning difficulties and has

114

00:05:53,550 --> 00:05:50,650

aroused controversy amongst researchers

115

00:05:56,010 --> 00:05:53,560

and doctors in Britain and elsewhere it

116

00:05:57,689 --> 00:05:56,020

consists of a series of exercises which

117

00:06:00,420 --> 00:05:57,699

are claimed to help develop the

118

00:06:02,730 --> 00:06:00,430

functions of the cerebellum you may have

119

00:06:05,129 --> 00:06:02,740

noticed that hopefully watch gimpy and

120

00:06:07,439 --> 00:06:05,139

brain duck do not use their real names

121

00:06:10,560 --> 00:06:07,449

in this interview or on their blog sites

122

00:06:12,330 --> 00:06:10,570

this is not new for many bloggers we can

123

00:06:14,730 --> 00:06:12,340

point to the example of author and

124

00:06:17,460 --> 00:06:14,740

blogger Belle de Jour who only recently

125

00:06:19,920 --> 00:06:17,470

outed herself as the scientists book

126

00:06:22,200 --> 00:06:19,930

McGann tea within skeptical circles

127

00:06:24,810 --> 00:06:22,210

there's the blog of the poet digital

128

00:06:27,659 --> 00:06:24,820

cuttlefish the recent you're not helping

129

00:06:29,810 --> 00:06:27,669

site an even or ack of science blogs

130

00:06:33,540 --> 00:06:29,820

prefers not to have his real identity

131

00:06:35,670 --> 00:06:33,550

widely discussed earlier in my series of

132

00:06:38,159 --> 00:06:35,680

interviews for the skeptic zone I spoke

133

00:06:42,779 --> 00:06:38,169

to the YouTube video creator hot hole of

134

00:06:44,850 --> 00:06:42,789

54 about his reasons for anonymity in

135

00:06:46,879 --> 00:06:44,860

the case of these three bloggers the

136

00:06:49,320 --> 00:06:46,889

legal ramifications in the UK

137

00:06:51,749 --> 00:06:49,330

particularly the litigious nature of the

138

00:06:54,409 --> 00:06:51,759

door company has led them to take the

139

00:06:56,640 --> 00:06:54,419

step of not revealing their now

140

00:06:58,950 --> 00:06:56,650

during this interview due to technical

141

00:07:02,189 --> 00:06:58,960

difficulties the blogger brain duck

142

00:07:04,189 --> 00:07:02,199

could only join in via text messages so

143

00:07:10,439 --> 00:07:04,199

I apologize for not having her voice

144

00:07:12,659 --> 00:07:10,449

included in this in here thank you very

145

00:07:14,670 --> 00:07:12,669

much for joining me ladies and gentlemen

146

00:07:17,399 --> 00:07:14,680

what we have here is a very unique

147

00:07:20,429 --> 00:07:17,409

interview because none of you are going

148

00:07:23,730 --> 00:07:20,439

to use your real names so i have here

149

00:07:25,859 --> 00:07:23,740

gympie from kim PS blog i have Halford

150

00:07:29,879 --> 00:07:25,869

watch from the whole furred watch blog

151
00:07:32,670 --> 00:07:29,889
and joining us by proxy using the typing

152
00:07:34,170 --> 00:07:32,680
function on skype we have brain duck so

153
00:07:38,639 --> 00:07:34,180
thank you very much all of you for

154
00:07:41,879 --> 00:07:38,649
joining me thank you great so let's

155
00:07:43,799 --> 00:07:41,889
begin from the beginning gympie how do

156
00:07:48,449 --> 00:07:43,809
you describe your blog and why do you

157
00:07:51,629 --> 00:07:48,459
blog well um my blog at the moment sort

158
00:07:54,869 --> 00:07:51,639
of goes through phases and at the moment

159
00:07:56,489 --> 00:07:54,879
I blog more on the regulation of

160
00:07:58,769 --> 00:07:56,499
alternative medicine or rather the

161
00:08:01,799 --> 00:07:58,779
arguments proponents of alternative

162
00:08:04,679 --> 00:08:01,809
medicine make when they are making the

163
00:08:07,529 --> 00:08:04,689

case for their regulation I've also been

164

00:08:10,290 --> 00:08:07,539

having a look at the the ethical issues

165

00:08:13,350 --> 00:08:10,300

involved with homeopathy particularly

166

00:08:15,869 --> 00:08:13,360

with respect to how they function in the

167

00:08:19,409 --> 00:08:15,879

developing world where there are not so

168

00:08:23,129 --> 00:08:19,419

strict safeguards on the government the

169

00:08:25,670 --> 00:08:23,139

the practice of medicine um I've also

170

00:08:27,689 --> 00:08:25,680

been taking a more recent look at

171

00:08:29,969 --> 00:08:27,699

charities involved in promoting

172

00:08:32,519 --> 00:08:29,979

alternative health which includes the

173

00:08:35,009 --> 00:08:32,529

princes foundation for integrated health

174

00:08:38,189 --> 00:08:35,019

who are having a few difficulties at the

175

00:08:41,790 --> 00:08:38,199

moment and when I first started blogging

176

00:08:44,670 --> 00:08:41,800

it was I was I think I was more

177

00:08:48,240 --> 00:08:44,680

interested in directly challenging the

178

00:08:51,269 --> 00:08:48,250

claims of quacks with their science but

179

00:08:53,220 --> 00:08:51,279

I I've come to realize time that there's

180

00:08:55,319 --> 00:08:53,230

really very little point in this and

181

00:08:58,110 --> 00:08:55,329

challenging them directly because they

182

00:09:02,189 --> 00:08:58,120

just do not listen it's more interesting

183

00:09:04,679 --> 00:09:02,199

to explain o.o to to investigate the

184

00:09:06,329 --> 00:09:04,689

ethical issues which arise from somebody

185

00:09:07,560 --> 00:09:06,339

has a strong belief in alternative

186

00:09:10,740 --> 00:09:07,570

medicine

187

00:09:13,470 --> 00:09:10,750

they try and present their alternative

188

00:09:15,600 --> 00:09:13,480

beliefs as being parallel to mainstream

189

00:09:18,030 --> 00:09:15,610

medical practice we just had brain duck

190

00:09:20,400 --> 00:09:18,040

join in with her comment about her blog

191

00:09:22,500 --> 00:09:20,410

she says that she started to blog to

192

00:09:24,690 --> 00:09:22,510

practice communication skills to use

193

00:09:26,460 --> 00:09:24,700

with patients and to help me learn more

194

00:09:29,160 --> 00:09:26,470

and share what I was doing as a part of

195

00:09:31,770 --> 00:09:29,170

my psychology degree in York people

196

00:09:34,050 --> 00:09:31,780

asking you awkward questions is a great

197

00:09:36,480 --> 00:09:34,060

way to learn so I guess it's not only

198

00:09:39,450 --> 00:09:36,490

the patients that you might deal with

199

00:09:41,010 --> 00:09:39,460

and common public but also people in the

200

00:09:44,160 --> 00:09:41,020

media that you're communicating with as

201
00:09:46,800 --> 00:09:44,170
well it's certainly true it's difficult

202
00:09:48,990 --> 00:09:46,810
to judge the impact of an anonymous blog

203
00:09:52,350 --> 00:09:49,000
because you can get feedback in the

204
00:09:54,930 --> 00:09:52,360
comments but I mean I suppose what we're

205
00:09:58,460 --> 00:09:54,940
all trying to do is create a sort of

206
00:10:00,630 --> 00:09:58,470
semi permanent digital record and

207
00:10:02,910 --> 00:10:00,640
counteracting most claims that people

208
00:10:05,130 --> 00:10:02,920
make I mean I suppose ultimately that's

209
00:10:08,100 --> 00:10:05,140
the root of my motivation for blogging

210
00:10:10,380 --> 00:10:08,110
it's just the frustration you feel when

211
00:10:13,320 --> 00:10:10,390
somebody's wrong and you know they're

212
00:10:15,330 --> 00:10:13,330
wrong and you just want to tell somebody

213
00:10:18,360 --> 00:10:15,340

so how would you describe your blog

214

00:10:20,190 --> 00:10:18,370

holford watch I sure as him there's a

215

00:10:22,910 --> 00:10:20,200

few I'm a few people contributing to the

216

00:10:25,370 --> 00:10:22,920

blog we were set up in response to some

217

00:10:28,020 --> 00:10:25,380

quite probably quite problematic

218

00:10:30,510 --> 00:10:28,030

scientific claims made by the by the

219

00:10:32,820 --> 00:10:30,520

nutritionist patrick holford this does

220

00:10:37,380 --> 00:10:32,830

because starting to feel an extent there

221

00:10:39,690 --> 00:10:37,390

can be little patience with to simply

222

00:10:42,150 --> 00:10:39,700

pointing out again and again that the

223

00:10:43,710 --> 00:10:42,160

same claim that the same claim is wrong

224

00:10:45,420 --> 00:10:43,720

and it's still wrong when it's made an

225

00:10:47,400 --> 00:10:45,430

owl and it's still going to be one was

226

00:10:50,580 --> 00:10:47,410

made in getting too into in two weeks

227

00:10:52,740 --> 00:10:50,590

time I mean things like you still here

228

00:10:56,310 --> 00:10:52,750

even argue against vaccination or penny

229

00:10:57,900 --> 00:10:56,320

about are the mercury in MMR whereas in

230

00:11:00,240 --> 00:10:57,910

there in ever contained it has been

231

00:11:02,460 --> 00:11:00,250

making point out number of times but it

232

00:11:05,760 --> 00:11:02,470

still continues as a memo as a meme of

233

00:11:08,340 --> 00:11:05,770

source so does the blogging that we do

234

00:11:10,020 --> 00:11:08,350

now is around it's going to put its kind

235

00:11:13,170 --> 00:11:10,030

of focus around around health

236

00:11:15,540 --> 00:11:13,180

information and advil and research and

237

00:11:18,360 --> 00:11:15,550

looking at some of the representation

238

00:11:21,030 --> 00:11:18,370

the practice any ethics of of the search

239

00:11:23,040 --> 00:11:21,040

and the condom and the kind of broader

240

00:11:25,860 --> 00:11:23,050

in the kind of bored of impact impact

241

00:11:28,110 --> 00:11:25,870

this can have so at least if someone's

242

00:11:32,069 --> 00:11:28,120

repeatedly making the same ink Yvette's

243

00:11:34,019 --> 00:11:32,079

claim it means that if someone blogs

244

00:11:36,210 --> 00:11:34,029

about this if the journalists Google's

245

00:11:38,999 --> 00:11:36,220

them for writing a story on it they'll

246

00:11:40,590 --> 00:11:39,009

at least be able to access the record of

247

00:11:42,720 --> 00:11:40,600

whether it was made in the past why is

248

00:11:45,569 --> 00:11:42,730

inaccurate and be able to question why

249

00:11:48,090 --> 00:11:45,579

the claims still being made today one

250

00:11:51,389 --> 00:11:48,100

particular group that I continue to get

251
00:11:53,999 --> 00:11:51,399
hits for his door and that was where we

252
00:11:56,730 --> 00:11:54,009
first met when we started up a sort of a

253
00:11:59,280 --> 00:11:56,740
loose conglomeration called translucent

254
00:12:01,410 --> 00:11:59,290
science what led all of us to be

255
00:12:04,350 --> 00:12:01,420
interested in door in the first place I

256
00:12:07,230 --> 00:12:04,360
have ducked down here with her response

257
00:12:09,150 --> 00:12:07,240
I also started blogging about door

258
00:12:11,280 --> 00:12:09,160
because I was fed up with them trying to

259
00:12:13,170 --> 00:12:11,290
use people who pointed out that their

260
00:12:15,930 --> 00:12:13,180
research really wasn't up to scratch

261
00:12:17,910 --> 00:12:15,940
they tried to sue parent associations

262
00:12:20,550 --> 00:12:17,920
including off spelled in Australia as

263
00:12:23,400 --> 00:12:20,560

well as individual parents and academics

264

00:12:25,410 --> 00:12:23,410

and this over research which I as an

265

00:12:27,629 --> 00:12:25,420

undergraduate could pick holes in I

266

00:12:29,850 --> 00:12:27,639

thought there was something that smelt

267

00:12:31,769 --> 00:12:29,860

wrong there and the closer I looked the

268

00:12:34,620 --> 00:12:31,779

otter it all got how do you feel about

269

00:12:37,860 --> 00:12:34,630

the experience gimpy well actually

270

00:12:42,079 --> 00:12:37,870

blogging about door is is more personal

271

00:12:46,379 --> 00:12:42,089

for me and because the door is a charity

272

00:12:48,030 --> 00:12:46,389

which claims to be able to if not cure

273

00:12:50,490 --> 00:12:48,040

then certainly alleviate the West

274

00:12:53,220 --> 00:12:50,500

symptoms are various specific learning

275

00:12:55,500 --> 00:12:53,230

difficulties and they've also expanded

276

00:12:59,610 --> 00:12:55,510

this to include Asperger's spectrum

277

00:13:02,819 --> 00:12:59,620

disorders and ADHD as well now I have a

278

00:13:05,850 --> 00:13:02,829

variety of specific learning disorders

279

00:13:08,910 --> 00:13:05,860

which mean I struggled greatly with my

280

00:13:12,420 --> 00:13:08,920

spelling and with my writing and with a

281

00:13:14,699 --> 00:13:12,430

pen or pencil anyway and computer solves

282

00:13:16,829 --> 00:13:14,709

most of these problems but when I was at

283

00:13:20,819 --> 00:13:16,839

school and growing up I wasn't diagnosed

284

00:13:23,129 --> 00:13:20,829

until I was in my my mid-teens and i

285

00:13:26,550 --> 00:13:23,139

also had these difficulties at school

286

00:13:29,189 --> 00:13:26,560

but i was academically capable but

287

00:13:32,220 --> 00:13:29,199

perceived as being lazy which I suppose

288

00:13:34,540 --> 00:13:32,230

is the the plasticware dislikes people

289

00:13:39,610 --> 00:13:34,550

feel often before the diagnosed

290

00:13:41,500 --> 00:13:39,620

and it was some time ago so i think the

291

00:13:44,650 --> 00:13:41,510

ignorance on the part of my teachers at

292

00:13:46,930 --> 00:13:44,660

school can be excused and i have no

293

00:13:49,630 --> 00:13:46,940

bitterness about it but I I think I I

294

00:13:52,319 --> 00:13:49,640

have appreciation for what it's like to

295

00:13:56,290 --> 00:13:52,329

struggle with them specific learning

296

00:13:59,920 --> 00:13:56,300

difficulties and what door do is to take

297

00:14:02,560 --> 00:13:59,930

advantage of people's struggles and to

298

00:14:08,040 --> 00:14:02,570

offer them sort of a false hope through

299

00:14:13,030 --> 00:14:10,690

scenes and they charge an awful lot of

300

00:14:15,370 --> 00:14:13,040

money for this it's normally around a

301

00:14:18,280 --> 00:14:15,380

thousand thousand pounds for for a

302

00:14:20,560 --> 00:14:18,290

course of door and that is money which

303

00:14:22,509 --> 00:14:20,570

parents could be spending on things like

304

00:14:24,180 --> 00:14:22,519

computers and software to aid their

305

00:14:28,449 --> 00:14:24,190

children if they have these difficulties

306

00:14:30,490 --> 00:14:28,459

so what makes me so angry about door is

307

00:14:32,620 --> 00:14:30,500

that they charge an awful lot of money

308

00:14:35,110 --> 00:14:32,630

for something which lacks an evidence

309

00:14:38,250 --> 00:14:35,120

base and it takes advantage of people

310

00:14:40,930 --> 00:14:38,260

who are in a very difficult situation on

311

00:14:43,180 --> 00:14:40,940

how about yourself Harvard watch how did

312

00:14:45,940 --> 00:14:43,190

you feel about it no way there's there's

313

00:14:47,170 --> 00:14:45,950

huge numbers of treatment very specific

314

00:14:49,780 --> 00:14:47,180

learning difficulties we started have a

315

00:14:52,960 --> 00:14:49,790

good evidence base but what made what

316

00:14:55,660 --> 00:14:52,970

made store stand out for me was it was a

317

00:14:57,280 --> 00:14:55,670

couple of things personally the way

318

00:14:59,769 --> 00:14:57,290

they've been assisting they've been so

319

00:15:01,810 --> 00:14:59,779

successful in attracting in attracting

320

00:15:04,560 --> 00:15:01,820

media coverage of the marketing what

321

00:15:08,500 --> 00:15:04,570

they do as a type as something with this

322

00:15:11,590 --> 00:15:08,510

something with this with scientific of a

323

00:15:13,720 --> 00:15:11,600

search beta search basis to it so on I

324

00:15:16,300 --> 00:15:13,730

mean for at least I thought there was

325

00:15:19,300 --> 00:15:16,310

never too challenging what they do

326

00:15:23,260 --> 00:15:19,310

whereas for some treatments which are

327

00:15:25,030 --> 00:15:23,270

just one per one person in there in

328

00:15:27,670 --> 00:15:25,040

there in there shed with some slightly

329

00:15:30,480 --> 00:15:27,680

strange ideas may not of having words

330

00:15:34,630 --> 00:15:30,490

make the same amount of time criticizing

331

00:15:36,430 --> 00:15:34,640

but also I think I long something along

332

00:15:38,259 --> 00:15:36,440

the lines of all gimpy was saying I

333

00:15:40,600 --> 00:15:38,269

think the aspects of tour would show

334

00:15:43,150 --> 00:15:40,610

particularly with Richie really

335

00:15:47,980 --> 00:15:43,160

particularly problematic there's not

336

00:15:54,550 --> 00:15:51,220

sebo but it's not a particularly nice

337

00:15:57,699 --> 00:15:54,560

time nice type of receiver either this

338

00:16:01,320 --> 00:15:57,709

veal difficulties nabil opportunity cost

339

00:16:04,180 --> 00:16:01,330

with we get your child particularly will

340

00:16:06,940 --> 00:16:04,190

get a chance to do these exercises for

341

00:16:09,400 --> 00:16:06,950

10 for 10 minutes twice twice a day a

342

00:16:12,250 --> 00:16:09,410

couple of years meticulous um sure

343

00:16:14,350 --> 00:16:12,260

pacifica pacifically difficulties most

344

00:16:18,639 --> 00:16:14,360

specialist tomorrow to do struggle to do

345

00:16:21,579 --> 00:16:18,649

this and give a skimpy mentioned it's

346

00:16:25,090 --> 00:16:21,589

not a cheap program either the cost can

347

00:16:26,740 --> 00:16:25,100

be incredibly incredibly significant for

348

00:16:30,220 --> 00:16:26,750

the families of individual seduced you

349

00:16:31,900 --> 00:16:30,230

choose to buy into this and to dilute

350

00:16:35,019 --> 00:16:31,910

out declines please do that to do that

351
00:16:37,030 --> 00:16:35,029
to children just did not seem good no no

352
00:16:39,579 --> 00:16:37,040
it's very much targeting those who are

353
00:16:42,400 --> 00:16:39,589
quite vulnerable in society duck has

354
00:16:44,440 --> 00:16:42,410
added to this double basically screen

355
00:16:46,540 --> 00:16:44,450
for children who are always going to do

356
00:16:48,550 --> 00:16:46,550
well they choose only those whose

357
00:16:51,790 --> 00:16:48,560
parents can keep up the regular twice

358
00:16:54,220 --> 00:16:51,800
daily treatments and demand 95%

359
00:16:56,740 --> 00:16:54,230
compliance with treatments even HIV

360
00:16:58,600 --> 00:16:56,750
medication does not get that it's a huge

361
00:17:00,190 --> 00:16:58,610
opportunity cost so she certainly

362
00:17:03,819 --> 00:17:00,200
agreeing with you there Holford watch

363
00:17:06,370 --> 00:17:03,829

she adds they pretend they have lots of

364

00:17:08,650 --> 00:17:06,380

scientific evidence and sell it as being

365

00:17:10,990 --> 00:17:08,660

very medical but this is just not the

366

00:17:13,270 --> 00:17:11,000

case they've taken some very decent

367

00:17:15,400 --> 00:17:13,280

basic research at sheffield and pushed

368

00:17:17,439 --> 00:17:15,410

it far beyond where it can be justified

369

00:17:19,120 --> 00:17:17,449

oh since it one of the interesting

370

00:17:21,549 --> 00:17:19,130

things about dora's with many

371

00:17:23,500 --> 00:17:21,559

alternative medicines is that the people

372

00:17:26,770 --> 00:17:23,510

who practice it and those who believe it

373

00:17:29,470 --> 00:17:26,780

they are very genuine I mean they

374

00:17:31,419 --> 00:17:29,480

genuinely want to help children who have

375

00:17:36,040 --> 00:17:31,429

these difficulties there is no doubt

376

00:17:39,630 --> 00:17:36,050

about that but the trouble is they I

377

00:17:42,130 --> 00:17:39,640

think they lack an understanding of how

378

00:17:45,160 --> 00:17:42,140

medical research scientific research

379

00:17:46,810 --> 00:17:45,170

works where it's not simply enough to

380

00:17:49,540 --> 00:17:46,820

have a good idea that you build yourself

381

00:17:52,690 --> 00:17:49,550

into believing is true you have to

382

00:17:56,260 --> 00:17:52,700

establish an evidence base that can be

383

00:17:58,270 --> 00:17:56,270

replicated and this leads on from ducks

384

00:18:00,680 --> 00:17:58,280

palm two beds them in the scientific

385

00:18:03,620 --> 00:18:00,690

evidence and pushing it beyond

386

00:18:08,690 --> 00:18:03,630

the point at which it can be justified

387

00:18:10,850 --> 00:18:08,700

and there were almost looking for

388

00:18:12,950 --> 00:18:10,860

confirmation of their beliefs from this

389

00:18:17,120 --> 00:18:12,960

research and they just take it too far

390

00:18:19,190 --> 00:18:17,130

and I think because they don't want to

391

00:18:22,640 --> 00:18:19,200

abandon their ideas that occasionally

392

00:18:25,850 --> 00:18:22,650

leads them into am problematic behaviors

393

00:18:28,400 --> 00:18:25,860

duck is added to that she says that they

394

00:18:30,740 --> 00:18:28,410

claim to treat very many conditions when

395

00:18:33,590 --> 00:18:30,750

their original research was not even on

396

00:18:35,180 --> 00:18:33,600

children who have dyslexia they say that

397

00:18:38,120 --> 00:18:35,190

if you get better or worse during the

398

00:18:40,130 --> 00:18:38,130

treatment it's down to door and if you

399

00:18:43,580 --> 00:18:40,140

get better for two years after finishing

400

00:18:45,530 --> 00:18:43,590

door that's down to door too so child

401
00:18:48,770 --> 00:18:45,540
gets better at something in four years

402
00:18:50,960 --> 00:18:48,780
then it's still because of door that

403
00:18:52,640 --> 00:18:50,970
seems really quite overwhelming

404
00:18:54,950 --> 00:18:52,650
certainly in terms of trying to

405
00:18:56,680 --> 00:18:54,960
challenge what is going on and it's

406
00:18:59,690 --> 00:18:56,690
worth mentioning their parents may also

407
00:19:02,720 --> 00:18:59,700
put additional resources into education

408
00:19:04,640 --> 00:19:02,730
so for example charl does door payment

409
00:19:06,470 --> 00:19:04,650
pen having subsequently pays for

410
00:19:08,690 --> 00:19:06,480
personal tutor and child gets better

411
00:19:10,100 --> 00:19:08,700
which is supposedly because of door the

412
00:19:12,350 --> 00:19:10,110
other thing is quite striking with door

413
00:19:15,680 --> 00:19:12,360

with those use of scientific evidence is

414

00:19:19,100 --> 00:19:15,690

they make questionable steps at a number

415

00:19:20,690 --> 00:19:19,110

of stages so firstly there's some

416

00:19:22,400 --> 00:19:20,700

interesting evidence around around

417

00:19:24,500 --> 00:19:22,410

dyslexia specific learning difficulties

418

00:19:26,450 --> 00:19:24,510

in the cerebellum but nothing to wish

419

00:19:29,240 --> 00:19:26,460

kind but nothing definitive to prove

420

00:19:31,430 --> 00:19:29,250

with us that's the cause of it but then

421

00:19:35,120 --> 00:19:31,440

a second but then a second step they

422

00:19:36,320 --> 00:19:35,130

take is to argue that because they

423

00:19:39,320 --> 00:19:36,330

believe the table and place the

424

00:19:41,180 --> 00:19:39,330

significant role that's they've got that

425

00:19:43,130 --> 00:19:41,190

particular exercise is going to are

426

00:19:45,350 --> 00:19:43,140

going to be able to treat it there's not

427

00:19:47,840 --> 00:19:45,360

sufficient evidence provided for this

428

00:19:50,090 --> 00:19:47,850

but for what I believe is the cause of

429

00:19:52,540 --> 00:19:50,100

what they're treating and there's and

430

00:19:54,650 --> 00:19:52,550

there's considered less evident right

431

00:19:57,580 --> 00:19:54,660

provided that the treatment actually

432

00:20:00,740 --> 00:19:57,590

doesn't assign there's anything useful

433

00:20:02,360 --> 00:20:00,750

brain dark adds to that yes door tell

434

00:20:05,180 --> 00:20:02,370

them that they must have extra tuition

435

00:20:07,310 --> 00:20:05,190

alongside the door program or they won't

436

00:20:09,650 --> 00:20:07,320

get better at reading and writing they

437

00:20:11,810 --> 00:20:09,660

use proxy endpoints they tell people

438

00:20:14,080 --> 00:20:11,820

that if you can juggle beanbags better

439

00:20:15,580 --> 00:20:14,090

you are cured and of course

440

00:20:17,380 --> 00:20:15,590

course after two years of juggling

441

00:20:19,570 --> 00:20:17,390

beanbags it gets you better at juggling

442

00:20:22,240 --> 00:20:19,580

beanbags so this must be very

443

00:20:24,519 --> 00:20:22,250

disempowering to the children absolutely

444

00:20:27,750 --> 00:20:24,529

and is it and the whole whole approach

445

00:20:29,500 --> 00:20:27,760

to potentially disappearing this idea of

446

00:20:31,299 --> 00:20:29,510

specific learning difficulties is

447

00:20:34,180 --> 00:20:31,309

something which had which wick out which

448

00:20:36,640 --> 00:20:34,190

has to be cured and the I what it has to

449

00:20:39,130 --> 00:20:36,650

be at least has retreated and the idea

450

00:20:41,260 --> 00:20:39,140

that if people with specific learning

451
00:20:43,810 --> 00:20:41,270
difficulties succeeded doing things that

452
00:20:46,419 --> 00:20:43,820
this is that this is a sign that they're

453
00:20:47,769 --> 00:20:46,429
somehow being being cured and be able to

454
00:20:49,659 --> 00:20:47,779
move beyond the specific learning

455
00:20:50,710 --> 00:20:49,669
difficulties lower than figs out but

456
00:20:52,899 --> 00:20:50,720
they've been able to develop good coping

457
00:20:55,899 --> 00:20:52,909
good coping strategies in order to

458
00:20:58,450 --> 00:20:55,909
progress yes brain duck is writing a

459
00:21:01,450 --> 00:20:58,460
very big yes in response to that now

460
00:21:03,789 --> 00:21:01,460
gympie has said about how the people who

461
00:21:05,500 --> 00:21:03,799
work with door who are within the door

462
00:21:07,600 --> 00:21:05,510
company often believe that they're

463
00:21:09,760 --> 00:21:07,610

giving genuine help and this was

464

00:21:12,669 --> 00:21:09,770

something that we discovered back when

465

00:21:14,860 --> 00:21:12,679

wheel bloggers in 2008 we were all

466

00:21:17,049 --> 00:21:14,870

compared by dr. ben goldacre in the

467

00:21:20,049 --> 00:21:17,059

Guardian newspaper when compared to the

468

00:21:23,159 --> 00:21:20,059

mainstream media coverage of door we win

469

00:21:26,700 --> 00:21:23,169

on timeliness accuracy relevant ethics

470

00:21:30,570 --> 00:21:26,710

effort and stupid names so what exactly

471

00:21:33,549 --> 00:21:30,580

happened in regards to the changes in

472

00:21:37,240 --> 00:21:33,559

2008 to the status of door in Australia

473

00:21:39,669 --> 00:21:37,250

and what did we do it's very nice very

474

00:21:43,600 --> 00:21:39,679

nice of them both it's just taking an

475

00:21:45,519 --> 00:21:43,610

interest in things which maybe other

476

00:21:47,350 --> 00:21:45,529

people don't I mean it's just filling

477

00:21:49,360 --> 00:21:47,360

this is the great thing by blogs is they

478

00:21:51,669 --> 00:21:49,370

allow you to fill a vacuum of knowledge

479

00:21:55,060 --> 00:21:51,679

with your own interests and in the case

480

00:21:56,529 --> 00:21:55,070

of door I mean this is there's a lot of

481

00:21:57,519 --> 00:21:56,539

people out there who have specific

482

00:22:00,519 --> 00:21:57,529

learning difficulties and may be

483

00:22:02,919 --> 00:22:00,529

targeted by door but um it's interesting

484

00:22:07,450 --> 00:22:02,929

to see how door have changed since then

485

00:22:09,510 --> 00:22:07,460

because shortly after we really started

486

00:22:12,340 --> 00:22:09,520

blogging intensively on them they

487

00:22:14,919 --> 00:22:12,350

underwent some financial difficulties

488

00:22:17,230 --> 00:22:14,929

due to their business model which I

489

00:22:20,139 --> 00:22:17,240

think goes back to them being motivated

490

00:22:23,889 --> 00:22:20,149

out of a genuine willingness to help is

491

00:22:25,960 --> 00:22:23,899

that they hadn't really thought through

492

00:22:27,520 --> 00:22:25,970

their business plan or rather they had

493

00:22:27,910 --> 00:22:27,530

thought it through it just proved more

494

00:22:30,610 --> 00:22:27,920

different

495

00:22:32,590 --> 00:22:30,620

to air follow than they expected because

496

00:22:34,720 --> 00:22:32,600

they charge so much money because they

497

00:22:36,430 --> 00:22:34,730

have at that point they had a large

498

00:22:39,070 --> 00:22:36,440

infrastructure including various

499

00:22:41,020 --> 00:22:39,080

training centers and technologies it was

500

00:22:42,820 --> 00:22:41,030

very expensive to run which is partly

501
00:22:45,310 --> 00:22:42,830
why they were charging people so much

502
00:22:48,850 --> 00:22:45,320
for it and what happened was that they

503
00:22:51,430 --> 00:22:48,860
failed to get enough people am to join

504
00:22:55,150 --> 00:22:51,440
the program to pay for its running costs

505
00:22:57,480 --> 00:22:55,160
so they went into administration and at

506
00:23:00,970 --> 00:22:57,490
the time we thought that this would um

507
00:23:03,340 --> 00:23:00,980
perhaps be the end of door and it would

508
00:23:05,740 --> 00:23:03,350
just be another footnote in the long

509
00:23:09,850 --> 00:23:05,750
history of quackery but unfortunately

510
00:23:12,400 --> 00:23:09,860
since then they restarted with almost

511
00:23:16,330 --> 00:23:12,410
exactly the same business model with a

512
00:23:18,700 --> 00:23:16,340
few tweaks so it sometimes feels like

513
00:23:22,480 --> 00:23:18,710

all our blog in efforts were were to no

514

00:23:25,350 --> 00:23:22,490

avail a bottom I think there's a change

515

00:23:28,420 --> 00:23:25,360

in people's perception and certainly am

516

00:23:31,450 --> 00:23:28,430

within the media within blogs or so

517

00:23:33,910 --> 00:23:31,460

because we've established the criticism

518

00:23:37,060 --> 00:23:33,920

of door it's easy to look at criticism

519

00:23:38,890 --> 00:23:37,070

and reapply it to the nude or even

520

00:23:41,200 --> 00:23:38,900

though did not really changed that much

521

00:23:44,320 --> 00:23:41,210

I think they are really beginning to

522

00:23:47,680 --> 00:23:44,330

find it difficult at the moment dark has

523

00:23:50,440 --> 00:23:47,690

touched upon how we as bloggers became

524

00:23:52,840 --> 00:23:50,450

very supportive she writes that we ended

525

00:23:54,670 --> 00:23:52,850

up telling door uses much more than the

526

00:23:56,440 --> 00:23:54,680

official door information for the first

527

00:23:59,500 --> 00:23:56,450

month or so when it went into

528

00:24:02,230 --> 00:23:59,510

administration in Australia and as you

529

00:24:04,000 --> 00:24:02,240

alluded to gympie predicted door going

530

00:24:07,150 --> 00:24:04,010

broke six months before they actually

531

00:24:09,040 --> 00:24:07,160

did door we're investing all of this in

532

00:24:10,750 --> 00:24:09,050

treatment and none into research which

533

00:24:13,030 --> 00:24:10,760

could have bought in government funding

534

00:24:15,010 --> 00:24:13,040

they promised when they restarted after

535

00:24:17,230 --> 00:24:15,020

going bust that Winfred door would

536

00:24:18,940 --> 00:24:17,240

concentrate on funding research more

537

00:24:20,920 --> 00:24:18,950

than treatment but none of this has

538

00:24:22,660 --> 00:24:20,930

seemed to have happened what was your

539

00:24:25,000 --> 00:24:22,670

take on it health would watch it heard

540

00:24:26,560 --> 00:24:25,010

what blogs waved offer as opposed to an

541

00:24:28,960 --> 00:24:26,570

addition in addition to them in addition

542

00:24:31,300 --> 00:24:28,970

to the mainstream media I think part of

543

00:24:34,120 --> 00:24:31,310

it was definitely a skimpy was talking

544

00:24:35,440 --> 00:24:34,130

about and as duck mention the timeless

545

00:24:38,350 --> 00:24:35,450

of the timelessness of what we were

546

00:24:40,060 --> 00:24:38,360

doing same do it gympie was able to quit

547

00:24:41,200 --> 00:24:40,070

predict these problems well before there

548

00:24:41,890 --> 00:24:41,210

was any mention of this in the main

549

00:24:46,240 --> 00:24:41,900

street in the main

550

00:24:49,060 --> 00:24:46,250

gmedia more like intelligent or we were

551
00:24:52,180 --> 00:24:49,070
able to off of information and support

552
00:24:54,550 --> 00:24:52,190
to p2 door-to-door uses when the company

553
00:24:56,620 --> 00:24:54,560
went into administration to get on and

554
00:25:00,340 --> 00:24:56,630
to get on to this almost more quickly

555
00:25:02,950 --> 00:25:00,350
the more established bodies look looking

556
00:25:05,110 --> 00:25:02,960
this looking the story could do but I

557
00:25:07,660 --> 00:25:05,120
think also a different ethical approach

558
00:25:10,810 --> 00:25:07,670
was available to us as well we didn't

559
00:25:13,990 --> 00:25:10,820
have the type of type the type of

560
00:25:16,360 --> 00:25:14,000
pressures of time or illness in some

561
00:25:19,600 --> 00:25:16,370
sense of resources which wish to witness

562
00:25:21,400 --> 00:25:19,610
might it might have been facing so we

563
00:25:24,370 --> 00:25:21,410

were to go some of the research more

564

00:25:26,650 --> 00:25:24,380

depth to outset to access some of the

565

00:25:28,510 --> 00:25:26,660

some of the research papers about a part

566

00:25:29,800 --> 00:25:28,520

door and to be able to provide some

567

00:25:32,950 --> 00:25:29,810

deeper coverage of the topic as well

568

00:25:35,140 --> 00:25:32,960

what brain duck is added to this is how

569

00:25:37,270 --> 00:25:35,150

we ended up doing press releases to the

570

00:25:39,760 --> 00:25:37,280

media we ended up telling users how to

571

00:25:41,590 --> 00:25:39,770

reclaim what they had paid and staff how

572

00:25:44,080 --> 00:25:41,600

to clean welfare benefits which was

573

00:25:45,790 --> 00:25:44,090

really surreal we even got the

574

00:25:48,100 --> 00:25:45,800

background on what was happening with

575

00:25:51,160 --> 00:25:48,110

door six months before I kicked off so

576
00:25:53,260 --> 00:25:51,170
as you have both said very well prepared

577
00:25:55,870 --> 00:25:53,270
ahead of time and it was just chance

578
00:25:58,300 --> 00:25:55,880
that door happened to hit MSM when it

579
00:26:01,180 --> 00:25:58,310
did I guess there's another thing to

580
00:26:02,830 --> 00:26:01,190
pick up is because of the of the

581
00:26:05,350 --> 00:26:02,840
positions were fighting on there's not

582
00:26:07,870 --> 00:26:05,360
we don't feel any pressure to maintain a

583
00:26:11,230 --> 00:26:07,880
kind of a kind of force a kind of force

584
00:26:14,470 --> 00:26:11,240
neutrality so where is journalists

585
00:26:17,800 --> 00:26:14,480
covering this might or might often feel

586
00:26:21,280 --> 00:26:17,810
like they have to for example have put a

587
00:26:24,910 --> 00:26:21,290
story in terms of the great weight of

588
00:26:28,330 --> 00:26:24,920

scientific evidence says this but door

589

00:26:31,450 --> 00:26:28,340

have a couple of committing really nice

590

00:26:33,190 --> 00:26:31,460

stories about people who did door and

591

00:26:35,770 --> 00:26:33,200

learn to read it and learn to read at

592

00:26:40,210 --> 00:26:35,780

the state at the same time we're able to

593

00:26:43,030 --> 00:26:40,220

offer much stronger account of what the

594

00:26:45,400 --> 00:26:43,040

of all the evidence in the topic doesn't

595

00:26:47,470 --> 00:26:45,410

doesn't show without feeling without

596

00:26:51,100 --> 00:26:47,480

feeling the need to head to construct

597

00:26:52,690 --> 00:26:51,110

this kind of false balance which also

598

00:26:55,710 --> 00:26:52,700

made him eat mainstream looking out

599

00:26:57,180 --> 00:26:55,720

that's a push towards brain decades

600

00:27:00,060 --> 00:26:57,190

in that we don't have to worry about

601
00:27:02,430 --> 00:27:00,070
being sued this improves coverage a lot

602
00:27:04,320 --> 00:27:02,440
my lecturers can't talk about door in

603
00:27:07,200 --> 00:27:04,330
public much and they have to watch their

604
00:27:09,840 --> 00:27:07,210
words carefully she believed she doesn't

605
00:27:11,850 --> 00:27:09,850
do you ever reflect upon the fact that

606
00:27:14,190 --> 00:27:11,860
we had the example of Simon Singh

607
00:27:19,740 --> 00:27:14,200
getting sued for what he said well I

608
00:27:21,570 --> 00:27:19,750
think Simon Singh is was in a very lucky

609
00:27:23,940 --> 00:27:21,580
position as well as been an extremely

610
00:27:26,310 --> 00:27:23,950
brave man and that he had both the

611
00:27:30,720 --> 00:27:26,320
willingness to defend himself finances

612
00:27:34,560 --> 00:27:30,730
to defend himself and and unfortunately

613
00:27:38,130 --> 00:27:34,570

most of us don't have access to his kind

614

00:27:40,440 --> 00:27:38,140

of money so I think this is partly why I

615

00:27:43,980 --> 00:27:40,450

am certainly I blocks you can

616

00:27:46,260 --> 00:27:43,990

anonymously it's just to reduce the

617

00:27:47,909 --> 00:27:46,270

defense that somebody may consult a

618

00:27:49,380 --> 00:27:47,919

lawyer rather than the comment section

619

00:27:53,520 --> 00:27:49,390

of my blog when they have a disagreement

620

00:27:56,039 --> 00:27:53,530

with me yeah but and certainly door do

621

00:27:59,909 --> 00:27:56,049

have a long track record as doc I said

622

00:28:03,270 --> 00:27:59,919

of em using threats of legal action to

623

00:28:06,060 --> 00:28:03,280

suppress criticism hopefully Simon has

624

00:28:08,789 --> 00:28:06,070

changed things for the best I mean there

625

00:28:11,130 --> 00:28:08,799

is still the the legislation's with

626

00:28:12,899 --> 00:28:11,140

libel law but that is a matter for the

627

00:28:18,180 --> 00:28:12,909

next government of the United Kingdom

628

00:28:20,669 --> 00:28:18,190

and so I I hope it will improve am but

629

00:28:23,720 --> 00:28:20,679

the internet does offer a great deal of

630

00:28:27,029 --> 00:28:23,730

anonymity if you want to offer up am

631

00:28:29,549 --> 00:28:27,039

criticism which which is usually a good

632

00:28:32,250 --> 00:28:29,559

thing I'm certainly lovable laws are

633

00:28:34,680 --> 00:28:32,260

definitely consider d even even after

634

00:28:37,380 --> 00:28:34,690

this in case the type of pasta people

635

00:28:40,560 --> 00:28:37,390

think that you that you incur if he gets

636

00:28:43,409 --> 00:28:40,570

sued go way beyond what a typical person

637

00:28:45,570 --> 00:28:43,419

could afford I mean it's in case with

638

00:28:49,380 --> 00:28:45,580

only partway through and I think he ran

639

00:28:51,630 --> 00:28:49,390

up to about 200 about 200,000 pounds Wow

640

00:28:53,130 --> 00:28:51,640

works both ways to an extent of course

641

00:28:55,590 --> 00:28:53,140

if you're running up if the person

642

00:28:58,049 --> 00:28:55,600

students also running up huge costs then

643

00:29:00,210 --> 00:28:58,059

the the orders of the person they're

644

00:29:03,930 --> 00:29:00,220

suing even having money to pay costs on

645

00:29:05,730 --> 00:29:03,940

that grade as if even even winning even

646

00:29:08,340 --> 00:29:05,740

working the case it looks like singers

647

00:29:09,490 --> 00:29:08,350

lost and I chunk of two years of his

648

00:29:11,590 --> 00:29:09,500

life

649

00:29:14,620 --> 00:29:11,600

and even if you if it gets costs facts

650

00:29:16,690 --> 00:29:14,630

like to be back about 40,000 down which

651
00:29:18,850 --> 00:29:16,700
in yourself as well it is is the way

652
00:29:22,210 --> 00:29:18,860
above the average annual income in the

653
00:29:24,190 --> 00:29:22,220
UK brain dark adds to this that door

654
00:29:26,230 --> 00:29:24,200
went after several leading dyslexia

655
00:29:28,180 --> 00:29:26,240
academics they should be able to show

656
00:29:31,210 --> 00:29:28,190
that they are right by research and not

657
00:29:32,950 --> 00:29:31,220
by libel law yes oh I mean this is

658
00:29:35,320 --> 00:29:32,960
always the trouble with alternative

659
00:29:37,330 --> 00:29:35,330
medicine or the wealthy proponents of

660
00:29:39,790 --> 00:29:37,340
alternative medicine anyway because the

661
00:29:42,280 --> 00:29:39,800
evidence base is so lacking the the

662
00:29:44,200 --> 00:29:42,290
courts are relatively easy way of

663
00:29:46,870 --> 00:29:44,210

ensuring that awkward questions aren't

664

00:29:49,360 --> 00:29:46,880

asked I mean it'd be nice in a perfect

665

00:29:51,280 --> 00:29:49,370

world of everybody could debate the

666

00:29:53,890 --> 00:29:51,290

strength of a visit and on the basis of

667

00:29:55,690 --> 00:29:53,900

evidence supporting it but some people

668

00:29:58,390 --> 00:29:55,700

have to be at kicking and screaming to

669

00:30:01,360 --> 00:29:58,400

do just that it is now quite some time

670

00:30:03,340 --> 00:30:01,370

after 2008 what has changed with door

671

00:30:05,230 --> 00:30:03,350

it's a bit complicated because as you

672

00:30:07,630 --> 00:30:05,240

know I am door went into administration

673

00:30:12,030 --> 00:30:07,640

and then a new doll rose from the ashes

674

00:30:16,120 --> 00:30:12,040

and and the door was still quite

675

00:30:18,820 --> 00:30:16,130

uncertain of where they got the money

676

00:30:21,130 --> 00:30:18,830

and how they bought the old version of

677

00:30:23,740 --> 00:30:21,140

doors intellectual property rights I am

678

00:30:25,720 --> 00:30:23,750

investigating it um and I do hope to

679

00:30:28,060 --> 00:30:25,730

blog on it soon in the next couple of

680

00:30:31,300 --> 00:30:28,070

weeks the only trouble is there's a UK

681

00:30:33,580 --> 00:30:31,310

election on at the moment so this I will

682

00:30:36,250 --> 00:30:33,590

be looking into and who is behind the

683

00:30:38,380 --> 00:30:36,260

new door but as i said earlier their

684

00:30:40,810 --> 00:30:38,390

business model seems to be roughly the

685

00:30:43,720 --> 00:30:40,820

same as the previous door which raises

686

00:30:46,450 --> 00:30:43,730

serious questions about the phone I the

687

00:30:48,010 --> 00:30:46,460

financial viability I mean they used to

688

00:30:49,930 --> 00:30:48,020

saying theories they seem to use the

689

00:30:51,520 --> 00:30:49,940

same sort of infrastructures you stand

690

00:30:54,730 --> 00:30:51,530

on your wobble board and you throw your

691

00:30:58,630 --> 00:30:54,740

bean bags and they have a few new and

692

00:31:00,670 --> 00:30:58,640

web based methods of assessment but what

693

00:31:02,860 --> 00:31:00,680

is interesting is that the new door who

694

00:31:05,110 --> 00:31:02,870

are now called dinoball limited or the

695

00:31:08,470 --> 00:31:05,120

work called dynamo limited up until

696

00:31:10,630 --> 00:31:08,480

January of this year and have now become

697

00:31:14,190 --> 00:31:10,640

what is called a community interest

698

00:31:17,530 --> 00:31:14,200

company now this is a sort of unique and

699

00:31:21,340 --> 00:31:17,540

structure in the UK for businesses whose

700

00:31:23,170 --> 00:31:21,350

main aim is to improve the to improve

701
00:31:24,910 --> 00:31:23,180
the community basically I mean I think

702
00:31:27,220 --> 00:31:24,920
back to the people behind or being

703
00:31:30,700 --> 00:31:27,230
quickly genuine in their desire to to

704
00:31:34,810 --> 00:31:30,710
help people but what this does is it

705
00:31:37,060 --> 00:31:34,820
offers and tax breaks and it reduces the

706
00:31:39,460 --> 00:31:37,070
liability of the shareholders and the

707
00:31:42,010 --> 00:31:39,470
event of administration which is an

708
00:31:44,800 --> 00:31:42,020
interesting issue given doors past but

709
00:31:47,380 --> 00:31:44,810
it also limits the ability of share

710
00:31:49,870 --> 00:31:47,390
holders to profits as well which I think

711
00:31:51,910 --> 00:31:49,880
on the face of it does give this new

712
00:31:55,060 --> 00:31:51,920
version of door making increased moral

713
00:31:56,410 --> 00:31:55,070

standing at least to this and say we're

714

00:31:58,450 --> 00:31:56,420

in it because we want to make people

715

00:32:00,160 --> 00:31:58,460

better not for the money but that's

716

00:32:02,260 --> 00:32:00,170

never really been an argument against

717

00:32:04,030 --> 00:32:02,270

them the argument is simply it's a

718

00:32:06,190 --> 00:32:04,040

simple question of efficacy does door

719

00:32:08,590 --> 00:32:06,200

work if it doesn't work then why are you

720

00:32:10,270 --> 00:32:08,600

charging this money for it I am trying

721

00:32:12,850 --> 00:32:10,280

to find out why they haven't submitted

722

00:32:14,950 --> 00:32:12,860

their accounts they have got a

723

00:32:16,720 --> 00:32:14,960

legitimate extension of this but they

724

00:32:19,330 --> 00:32:16,730

are not responding to inquiries at the

725

00:32:21,610 --> 00:32:19,340

moment brain dark ads that door could

726

00:32:23,770 --> 00:32:21,620

afford much better PR than a bunch of

727

00:32:25,330 --> 00:32:23,780

bloggers if it wasn't for being Goldacre

728

00:32:28,150 --> 00:32:25,340

I doubt we wouldn't have even been

729

00:32:29,920 --> 00:32:28,160

noticed much however right we are but

730

00:32:31,990 --> 00:32:29,930

when people have this information they

731

00:32:34,120 --> 00:32:32,000

do change their behavior there was a

732

00:32:36,730 --> 00:32:34,130

fantastic program in Australia four

733

00:32:39,070 --> 00:32:36,740

corners the behavior business which when

734

00:32:41,200 --> 00:32:39,080

door file for bankruptcy we could see

735

00:32:43,210 --> 00:32:41,210

cut their customer signups by half

736

00:32:45,790 --> 00:32:43,220

leading daughter go bankrupt in

737

00:32:48,820 --> 00:32:45,800

Australia and not restart when there has

738

00:32:50,860 --> 00:32:48,830

restarted in many other countries dogs

739

00:32:54,280 --> 00:32:50,870

seem to have responded to this by using

740

00:32:56,920 --> 00:32:54,290

soft PR using case studies they've even

741

00:32:59,530 --> 00:32:56,930

taken the nonsensical boss all common

742

00:33:01,750 --> 00:32:59,540

research of their website it now has

743

00:33:04,510 --> 00:33:01,760

pictures of smiling children not

744

00:33:07,300 --> 00:33:04,520

white-coated doctors door have

745

00:33:09,400 --> 00:33:07,310

increasingly also being using rugby

746

00:33:12,010 --> 00:33:09,410

players to promote their business some

747

00:33:14,380 --> 00:33:12,020

of whom now own the company and this

748

00:33:17,050 --> 00:33:14,390

isn't usually mentioned on TV interviews

749

00:33:19,000 --> 00:33:17,060

talk about the about the advertising

750

00:33:22,180 --> 00:33:19,010

standards authority building connected

751
00:33:24,100 --> 00:33:22,190
or basically door were advertising with

752
00:33:26,770 --> 00:33:24,110
Google's but with google sports

753
00:33:29,980 --> 00:33:26,780
sponsored search fodor's and they had an

754
00:33:31,990 --> 00:33:29,990
advert suggestion the boating the door

755
00:33:36,520 --> 00:33:32,000
program asked people needed help with

756
00:33:37,299 --> 00:33:36,530
dyslexia ADHD dyslexia or source

757
00:33:40,210 --> 00:33:37,309
purchase

758
00:33:41,590 --> 00:33:40,220
I put in a complaint to the UK's

759
00:33:44,350 --> 00:33:41,600
Advertising Standards Authority about

760
00:33:46,930 --> 00:33:44,360
this as it in most settings in the UK

761
00:33:48,639 --> 00:33:46,940
and almost advertised I put a product or

762
00:33:50,169 --> 00:33:48,649
service is being able to do as be able

763
00:33:52,690 --> 00:33:50,179

to do something you have to have

764

00:33:55,509 --> 00:33:52,700

reasonable evidence that that can do it

765

00:33:58,090 --> 00:33:55,519

so I put in a complaint challenging were

766

00:34:00,759 --> 00:33:58,100

Theodore was actually able to be to be

767

00:34:03,100 --> 00:34:00,769

any help with with these with his little

768

00:34:05,470 --> 00:34:03,110

learning difficulties they named which

769

00:34:07,690 --> 00:34:05,480

resulted in the AAS a building that the

770

00:34:09,339 --> 00:34:07,700

door advert was misleading and that he

771

00:34:11,490 --> 00:34:09,349

breached the essays rules on

772

00:34:14,530 --> 00:34:11,500

truthfulness and substantiation

773

00:34:16,750 --> 00:34:14,540

effectively they say us asked or what

774

00:34:18,490 --> 00:34:16,760

evidence they they had that their

775

00:34:20,800 --> 00:34:18,500

program could work to help with these

776

00:34:23,200 --> 00:34:20,810

conditions door submitted to what

777

00:34:25,000 --> 00:34:23,210

evidence what evidence they could they

778

00:34:26,859 --> 00:34:25,010

say found the evidence is admitted it

779

00:34:29,409 --> 00:34:26,869

wasn't enough to support the type of

780

00:34:32,470 --> 00:34:29,419

claims the door the door was making and

781

00:34:34,589 --> 00:34:32,480

therefore up and therefore upheld to

782

00:34:39,280 --> 00:34:34,599

come up hard to complaint against them

783

00:34:40,780 --> 00:34:39,290

which if any means they're taking the

784

00:34:42,879 --> 00:34:40,790

time to assess the evidence door was

785

00:34:44,430 --> 00:34:42,889

able to provide and found is not

786

00:34:48,010 --> 00:34:44,440

sufficient to support the type of claims

787

00:34:51,490 --> 00:34:48,020

their doors making however [h__\h] is

788

00:34:53,559 --> 00:34:51,500

point out door still have since then

789

00:34:56,440 --> 00:34:53,569

continue to make to make these types of

790

00:34:58,569 --> 00:34:56,450

claims one of the things about modern

791

00:35:01,270 --> 00:34:58,579

technology we now have access to twitter

792

00:35:03,339 --> 00:35:01,280

and brain duck ads we've also had to put

793

00:35:05,589 --> 00:35:03,349

in complaints about several claims by

794

00:35:07,780 --> 00:35:05,599

door on twitter where they've claimed

795

00:35:11,020 --> 00:35:07,790

that they treat the root causes of

796

00:35:13,170 --> 00:35:11,030

dyslexia so we're continuing to watch on

797

00:35:15,640 --> 00:35:13,180

several different fronts now i guess

798

00:35:18,040 --> 00:35:15,650

that definitely i think one of the

799

00:35:22,390 --> 00:35:18,050

things bloggers can do is where

800

00:35:24,460 --> 00:35:22,400

companies use the new media in attempt

801
00:35:27,579 --> 00:35:24,470
to generate good good PR or to generate

802
00:35:30,970 --> 00:35:27,589
attention blog yourself be quite well

803
00:35:33,579 --> 00:35:30,980
placed to respond flexibly to this so

804
00:35:35,440 --> 00:35:33,589
what do you also recommend gimpy in

805
00:35:38,710 --> 00:35:35,450
terms of what people can do to help

806
00:35:40,240 --> 00:35:38,720
raise awareness it's basically about

807
00:35:42,250 --> 00:35:40,250
telling as many people as possible

808
00:35:44,230 --> 00:35:42,260
whether that's through the media or on

809
00:35:49,750 --> 00:35:44,240
twitter or through the blog and so on

810
00:35:50,920 --> 00:35:49,760
and there's a lot of conflicting causes

811
00:35:55,569 --> 00:35:50,930
that people have so

812
00:35:58,690 --> 00:35:55,579
an approach that I'm becoming more fond

813
00:36:02,950 --> 00:35:58,700

of these days it's as well as the sort

814

00:36:04,900 --> 00:36:02,960

of general raising awareness of the

815

00:36:07,839 --> 00:36:04,910

problems of the various air dubious

816

00:36:10,079 --> 00:36:07,849

sound claimed skewers for specific

817

00:36:12,609 --> 00:36:10,089

learning difficulties and so on but I'm

818

00:36:14,470 --> 00:36:12,619

they go going back to what I said it

819

00:36:16,329 --> 00:36:14,480

started it's about also about the

820

00:36:21,849 --> 00:36:16,339

regulatory structures that are in place

821

00:36:24,940 --> 00:36:21,859

to prevent and companies lab door taking

822

00:36:28,420 --> 00:36:24,950

advantage of people no door unlike comee

823

00:36:30,900 --> 00:36:28,430

path so on should in theory be following

824

00:36:32,680 --> 00:36:30,910

illustrate laws governing the conduct of

825

00:36:36,790 --> 00:36:32,690

businesses at Community Interest

826

00:36:40,859 --> 00:36:36,800

companies charities and so on so yeah

827

00:36:43,720 --> 00:36:40,869

one of the ways to challenge door is to

828

00:36:47,650 --> 00:36:43,730

bring to the attention of the regulators

829

00:36:50,140 --> 00:36:47,660

there conducts as a means of an

830

00:36:51,910 --> 00:36:50,150

increasing sort of regulatory scrutiny

831

00:36:55,470 --> 00:36:51,920

on them to make sure that they are

832

00:36:58,630 --> 00:36:55,480

behaving appropriately I also liked

833

00:37:02,260 --> 00:36:58,640

talking to parents keeping in touch with

834

00:37:04,270 --> 00:37:02,270

people who do work in ABA treatments in

835

00:37:06,690 --> 00:37:04,280

treatments which have been shown to help

836

00:37:10,059 --> 00:37:06,700

out with things like dyslexia dyspraxia

837

00:37:12,309 --> 00:37:10,069

autism and brain duck has added here

838

00:37:14,620 --> 00:37:12,319

that one particularly worrying thing

839

00:37:16,690 --> 00:37:14,630

about door being partly owned by various

840

00:37:18,910 --> 00:37:16,700

welsh rugby players is that they're

841

00:37:21,339 --> 00:37:18,920

using this to get special access to the

842

00:37:24,160 --> 00:37:21,349

welsh assembly government using fame

843

00:37:25,990 --> 00:37:24,170

rather than evidence she's turned up to

844

00:37:27,970 --> 00:37:26,000

the welsh assembly in person to

845

00:37:29,589 --> 00:37:27,980

challenge this but it's difficult when

846

00:37:32,319 --> 00:37:29,599

you have to start by explaining the

847

00:37:33,700 --> 00:37:32,329

concept of a fair trial would you think

848

00:37:35,589 --> 00:37:33,710

speaks number for some of the broader

849

00:37:38,319 --> 00:37:35,599

issues around how people have people

850

00:37:40,870 --> 00:37:38,329

think about evidence it's a it's an

851

00:37:45,549 --> 00:37:40,880

interesting question because it's pretty

852

00:37:48,660 --> 00:37:45,559

unreasonable to expect and the entire

853

00:37:53,500 --> 00:37:48,670

political class inside media class to

854

00:37:55,569 --> 00:37:53,510

understand the issues of having a

855

00:37:59,079 --> 00:37:55,579

specific learning difficulty as well as

856

00:38:01,300 --> 00:37:59,089

to know how to determine your signs from

857

00:38:06,370 --> 00:38:01,310

your pseudoscience and so on

858

00:38:08,380 --> 00:38:06,380

ultimately what people who are

859

00:38:10,480 --> 00:38:08,390

interested in trying to increase the

860

00:38:14,950 --> 00:38:10,490

amount of skepticism in society have to

861

00:38:18,450 --> 00:38:14,960

do is explain to people why their own

862

00:38:21,930 --> 00:38:18,460

personal judgment is often not a good

863

00:38:25,450 --> 00:38:21,940

guarantee of how true a claim is and

864

00:38:27,930 --> 00:38:25,460

it's about teaching people the value of

865

00:38:31,390 --> 00:38:27,940

evidence the value of expertise and

866

00:38:35,790 --> 00:38:31,400

knowing that simply alton opinion

867

00:38:38,440 --> 00:38:35,800

yourself is not a justification for a

868

00:38:40,330 --> 00:38:38,450

policy or someone that you're interested

869

00:38:43,210 --> 00:38:40,340

in but you you have to consider the

870

00:38:45,820 --> 00:38:43,220

wider evidence base brain duck is added

871

00:38:47,320 --> 00:38:45,830

to this i would probably also add the

872

00:38:50,320 --> 00:38:47,330

fact that we networked together as

873

00:38:52,510 --> 00:38:50,330

bloggers and the opportunities that dr.

874

00:38:54,370 --> 00:38:52,520

ben goldacre gave us was extremely

875

00:38:56,770 --> 00:38:54,380

useful when you are explaining why

876

00:38:59,170 --> 00:38:56,780

something does not work use this as a

877

00:39:01,710 --> 00:38:59,180

toolkit communicate how to evaluate

878

00:39:04,510 --> 00:39:01,720

claims not just all this is nonsense

879

00:39:07,060 --> 00:39:04,520

it's not unreasonable to expect people

880

00:39:09,850 --> 00:39:07,070

to not understand what a control group

881

00:39:12,010 --> 00:39:09,860

is but they can be taught since she

882

00:39:14,350 --> 00:39:12,020

considers herself a psychology geek it's

883

00:39:17,350 --> 00:39:14,360

also about understanding what cognitive

884

00:39:20,050 --> 00:39:17,360

biases are your own how to overcome them

885

00:39:21,820 --> 00:39:20,060

and other people's to explain them and

886

00:39:25,240 --> 00:39:21,830

to hijack them towards a better

887

00:39:28,480 --> 00:39:25,250

understanding of how to use evidence the

888

00:39:30,840 --> 00:39:28,490

other thing one aspect of this is there

889

00:39:32,890 --> 00:39:30,850

is the kind of social context in which

890

00:39:34,990 --> 00:39:32,900

in which specifically learning

891

00:39:37,810 --> 00:39:35,000

difficulties as well as challenging

892

00:39:39,670 --> 00:39:37,820

dubis GBS treatment service for these

893

00:39:41,890 --> 00:39:39,680

conditions it's also important to

894

00:39:44,770 --> 00:39:41,900

emphasize that is not the end of the

895

00:39:47,530 --> 00:39:44,780

world that people do do develop do

896

00:39:49,600 --> 00:39:47,540

develop coping strategies and that time

897

00:39:55,030 --> 00:39:49,610

energy resources might be better spent

898

00:39:58,210 --> 00:39:55,040

on developing so so developing social

899

00:40:00,700 --> 00:39:58,220

structures where people with some

900

00:40:02,650 --> 00:40:00,710

difficulties are more able to contribute

901
00:40:05,080 --> 00:40:02,660
fully rather than desperately hunting

902
00:40:07,810 --> 00:40:05,090
for some kind some kind of miracle cure

903
00:40:09,940 --> 00:40:07,820
very well put yes and that's one of the

904
00:40:11,890 --> 00:40:09,950
things that Winfred or even put on his

905
00:40:14,320 --> 00:40:11,900
book that he had the miracle cure

906
00:40:15,069 --> 00:40:14,330
through what he was doing and it just

907
00:40:18,430 --> 00:40:15,079
hasn't been

908
00:40:21,459 --> 00:40:18,440
own to be true brain dark ads absolutely

909
00:40:24,819 --> 00:40:21,469
door sales hope but people with SPL DS

910
00:40:28,239 --> 00:40:24,829
don't need to buy it I actually it's

911
00:40:32,170 --> 00:40:28,249
always slightly difficult I find to

912
00:40:34,630 --> 00:40:32,180
argue but coping with specific loan debt

913
00:40:38,709 --> 00:40:34,640

about cocaine it's never about curing it

914

00:40:42,640 --> 00:40:38,719

and I think it's certainly it's

915

00:40:45,339 --> 00:40:42,650

something I he struggled with a bit as a

916

00:40:47,349 --> 00:40:45,349

teenager just I mean I was also a

917

00:40:50,319 --> 00:40:47,359

critically noxious teenagers which

918

00:40:54,039 --> 00:40:50,329

probably partly to do with that but just

919

00:40:55,660 --> 00:40:54,049

I think the realization that's times you

920

00:40:57,430 --> 00:40:55,670

just have to work a little bit harder

921

00:41:00,279 --> 00:40:57,440

than everyone else to achieve the steam

922

00:41:02,949 --> 00:41:00,289

sort of standards but i think that like

923

00:41:07,690 --> 00:41:02,959

the freeway isn't it i mean you cope

924

00:41:09,640 --> 00:41:07,700

with the hydrogen and you buy on support

925

00:41:12,459 --> 00:41:09,650

from your family from friends from wider

926
00:41:14,410 --> 00:41:12,469
society and and you get it which is the

927
00:41:17,229 --> 00:41:14,420
great thing about it i mean and things

928
00:41:19,660 --> 00:41:17,239
like or just a distraction they were

929
00:41:22,900 --> 00:41:19,670
distraction the important things which

930
00:41:27,609 --> 00:41:22,910
is basically getting on with it as best

931
00:41:31,329 --> 00:41:27,619
you can and appreciating the help with

932
00:41:33,309 --> 00:41:31,339
people offer ya brain duck also adds yes

933
00:41:35,829 --> 00:41:33,319
but developmental differences are not

934
00:41:37,870 --> 00:41:35,839
developmental stasis people find a niche

935
00:41:39,609 --> 00:41:37,880
and learn to do things better no one

936
00:41:41,739 --> 00:41:39,619
thought when I was first diagnosed with

937
00:41:44,499 --> 00:41:41,749
dyspraxia that I would be ending up

938
00:41:47,229 --> 00:41:44,509

running marathons so that is wonderful

939

00:41:50,289 --> 00:41:47,239

tonight thank you so much all of you

940

00:41:53,109 --> 00:41:50,299

gimpy holford watch and brain dark for

941

00:41:55,849 --> 00:41:53,119

joining us on a skeptic zone

942

00:41:57,950 --> 00:41:55,859

to learn more about door and the other

943

00:42:00,849 --> 00:41:57,960

skeptical investigations that these blob

944

00:42:05,089 --> 00:42:00,859

is right about head to [h__\h] ease blog at

945

00:42:09,410 --> 00:42:05,099

gimpy blog wordpress com brain ducks

946

00:42:11,930 --> 00:42:09,420

blog at Brenda wordpress com and the

947

00:42:28,579 --> 00:42:11,940

whole food watch blog at Hallford watch

948

00:42:30,829 --> 00:42:28,589

dot info this is des Rochelle hosted

949

00:42:33,050 --> 00:42:30,839

skeptically speaking check out our

950

00:42:37,010 --> 00:42:33,060

website at skeptically speaking calm and

951
00:42:40,790 --> 00:42:37,020
listen to us live on CJ sr 88.5 FM in

952
00:42:51,620 --> 00:42:40,800
edmonton alberta canada I now return you

953
00:42:59,530 --> 00:42:51,630
to the skeptic zone let's all take this

954
00:43:03,880 --> 00:43:01,970
David R&R which is a journalist with a

955
00:43:06,770 --> 00:43:03,890
regular column in The Times newspaper

956
00:43:09,140 --> 00:43:06,780
he's also a broadcaster a documentary

957
00:43:10,790 --> 00:43:09,150
maker in the author of two books the

958
00:43:12,980 --> 00:43:10,800
latter of which is voodoo history's

959
00:43:15,500 --> 00:43:12,990
about the role of the conspiracy theory

960
00:43:16,640 --> 00:43:15,510
in shaping modern history David thank

961
00:43:18,470 --> 00:43:16,650
you very much for joining me on the

962
00:43:20,180 --> 00:43:18,480
skeptic zone are you're more than

963
00:43:21,740 --> 00:43:20,190

welcome could you tell me a little bit

964

00:43:24,230 --> 00:43:21,750

about your role as a journalist because

965

00:43:25,430 --> 00:43:24,240

we in when we spoke before recording you

966

00:43:27,020 --> 00:43:25,440

told me about a few of the things that

967

00:43:28,490 --> 00:43:27,030

you're interested in and of course

968

00:43:31,490 --> 00:43:28,500

you're interested in conspiracy theories

969

00:43:33,680 --> 00:43:31,500

but that's not your only interest I know

970

00:43:36,880 --> 00:43:33,690

it's a it's not I mean I've been a

971

00:43:39,950 --> 00:43:36,890

journalist in television radio and print

972

00:43:41,660 --> 00:43:39,960

four more years really Navin I like to

973

00:43:43,220 --> 00:43:41,670

enumerate you always think of yourself

974

00:43:44,510 --> 00:43:43,230

as young but there comes a certain point

975

00:43:47,150 --> 00:43:44,520

that we tried to admit we've been doing

976
00:43:49,070 --> 00:43:47,160
for a long time and I've been working in

977
00:43:53,420 --> 00:43:49,080
journalism for the quarter of a century

978
00:43:56,300 --> 00:43:53,430
now and I'm mostly interested in

979
00:43:58,280 --> 00:43:56,310
international affairs politics culture

980
00:44:02,420 --> 00:43:58,290
and the media and the interrelationship

981
00:44:05,090 --> 00:44:02,430
between them so that's the area that I

982
00:44:06,740 --> 00:44:05,100
write about for the times as a columnist

983
00:44:09,050 --> 00:44:06,750
and I've also worked on other newspapers

984
00:44:10,760 --> 00:44:09,060
too now you wrote a book about

985
00:44:12,290 --> 00:44:10,770
conspiracy theories of course the

986
00:44:15,350 --> 00:44:12,300
introduction of the book is titled blame

987
00:44:17,660 --> 00:44:15,360
Kevin and it arrives it describes how

988
00:44:20,180 --> 00:44:17,670

you came to be aware and skeptical of

989

00:44:23,060 --> 00:44:20,190

conspiracy theories can you tell us how

990

00:44:25,670 --> 00:44:23,070

that happened yeah absolutely i mean I

991

00:44:27,110 --> 00:44:25,680

believe I i I've increasingly been very

992

00:44:28,880 --> 00:44:27,120

interested in why people believe what

993

00:44:30,410 --> 00:44:28,890

they do this is largely because I was

994

00:44:32,720 --> 00:44:30,420

brought up in the household of

995

00:44:34,460 --> 00:44:32,730

Communists my father was a full-time

996

00:44:40,400 --> 00:44:34,470

worker for the British Communist Party

997

00:44:41,900 --> 00:44:40,410

and in the 50s and 60s and I've spent a

998

00:44:43,970 --> 00:44:41,910

lot of time my next book actually will

999

00:44:45,950 --> 00:44:43,980

be an exploration of that world but that

1000

00:44:47,870 --> 00:44:45,960

business of why people choose to believe

1001
00:44:50,540 --> 00:44:47,880
what they do and about commitments I was

1002
00:44:52,910 --> 00:44:50,550
always fascinated me and but one aspect

1003
00:44:57,740 --> 00:44:52,920
of it that began to introduce me a lot

1004
00:44:59,390 --> 00:44:57,750
after nine eleven was the area of hoaxes

1005
00:45:02,540 --> 00:44:59,400
and conspiracy theories in other words

1006
00:45:04,280 --> 00:45:02,550
how people would choose to believe that

1007
00:45:06,530 --> 00:45:04,290
what seems on the face of it to be

1008
00:45:08,510 --> 00:45:06,540
absurd things and how intelligent people

1009
00:45:11,780 --> 00:45:08,520
will believe absurd things now there's a

1010
00:45:14,240 --> 00:45:11,790
particular cause which is a moment which

1011
00:45:15,470 --> 00:45:14,250
made me think if I need to I feel like I

1012
00:45:18,230 --> 00:45:15,480
kind of need to write this book and this

1013
00:45:21,290 --> 00:45:18,240

was when I was with this chap called

1014

00:45:24,530 --> 00:45:21,300

Kevin terrific guy we were filming in

1015

00:45:27,380 --> 00:45:24,540

Tunisia together for a BBC program which

1016

00:45:30,380 --> 00:45:27,390

was about empower in tourist

1017

00:45:32,510 --> 00:45:30,390

destinations the tourists can go about

1018

00:45:35,930 --> 00:45:32,520

their business completely unaware of the

1019

00:45:37,790 --> 00:45:35,940

bad treatment and torture of local

1020

00:45:39,320 --> 00:45:37,800

dissidents and so this is kind of

1021

00:45:40,700 --> 00:45:39,330

difficult program to do because the

1022

00:45:42,200 --> 00:45:40,710

Tunisian secret police were watching

1023

00:45:44,660 --> 00:45:42,210

quite a lot of the places where we were

1024

00:45:47,000 --> 00:45:44,670

going and so on and so kevin was a kind

1025

00:45:49,280 --> 00:45:47,010

of ultra-reliable ultra sensible and

1026
00:45:50,900 --> 00:45:49,290
intelligent guy to go with he was acting

1027
00:45:54,050 --> 00:45:50,910
as the cameramen and we had to travel

1028
00:45:56,720 --> 00:45:54,060
down from the north to the center of the

1029
00:45:58,280 --> 00:45:56,730
country quite a long way and it was on

1030
00:46:01,640 --> 00:45:58,290
this journey that he sadly turned around

1031
00:46:04,850 --> 00:46:01,650
to me and started talking about the moon

1032
00:46:06,410 --> 00:46:04,860
landings the moon landing in 1969 and he

1033
00:46:07,910 --> 00:46:06,420
asked me what I thought about it I said

1034
00:46:10,760 --> 00:46:07,920
but I've seen it on television when I

1035
00:46:12,620 --> 00:46:10,770
was a kid and he then would not to tell

1036
00:46:15,740 --> 00:46:12,630
me that I hadn't it has all been mocked

1037
00:46:17,540 --> 00:46:15,750
up in a stage somewhere the evidence for

1038
00:46:17,930 --> 00:46:17,550

this lioness is playing a series of

1039

00:46:21,200 --> 00:46:17,940

discs

1040

00:46:22,849 --> 00:46:21,210

repin see about the photography and so

1041

00:46:25,550 --> 00:46:22,859

on and then said you know what do you

1042

00:46:27,020 --> 00:46:25,560

think about this and I said well my

1043

00:46:29,900 --> 00:46:27,030

first reaction this wasn't know anything

1044

00:46:31,550 --> 00:46:29,910

about it if I I feel instinctively able

1045

00:46:34,760 --> 00:46:31,560

to taken a lot more effort to organize a

1046

00:46:36,650 --> 00:46:34,770

hoax moon-landing than a real one much

1047

00:46:38,059 --> 00:46:36,660

easier to do the real one so in a way

1048

00:46:41,300 --> 00:46:38,069

what you're choosing to believe I said

1049

00:46:44,930 --> 00:46:41,310

in is something much more ridiculous

1050

00:46:46,400 --> 00:46:44,940

than that there would be a real moon

1051
00:46:48,589 --> 00:46:46,410
landing something much more complicated

1052
00:46:49,819 --> 00:46:48,599
something and it's interesting to me

1053
00:46:51,829 --> 00:46:49,829
that you want to believe it and I

1054
00:46:53,510 --> 00:46:51,839
thought about this out afterwards I

1055
00:46:57,230 --> 00:46:53,520
thought there's something really here to

1056
00:46:59,440 --> 00:46:57,240
be explained I wondered how you could

1057
00:47:03,200 --> 00:46:59,450
choose to believe something that was

1058
00:47:05,990 --> 00:47:03,210
inherently more ridiculous from the

1059
00:47:10,880 --> 00:47:06,000
thing that you were questioning that was

1060
00:47:12,559 --> 00:47:10,890
inherently are much more unlikely and so

1061
00:47:14,329 --> 00:47:12,569
that kind of started me often looking at

1062
00:47:16,460 --> 00:47:14,339
the conspiracy is an all-star about the

1063
00:47:19,220 --> 00:47:16,470

time that the first conspiracy theories

1064

00:47:23,120 --> 00:47:19,230

about 911 were beginning to appear this

1065

00:47:24,559 --> 00:47:23,130

was in 2002 so I looked I just simply

1066

00:47:25,819 --> 00:47:24,569

started looking at all the conspiracy

1067

00:47:28,099 --> 00:47:25,829

theories that went around including at

1068

00:47:31,370 --> 00:47:28,109

least a couple which I had in a kind of

1069

00:47:34,700 --> 00:47:31,380

quiet way believed in myself like the

1070

00:47:36,410 --> 00:47:34,710

conspiracy to kill JFK or the idea that

1071

00:47:38,690 --> 00:47:36,420

Hitler would set fire to the Reichstag I

1072

00:47:41,240 --> 00:47:38,700

looked at dozens and actually boiling

1073

00:47:42,829 --> 00:47:41,250

them down to get to see a range of

1074

00:47:44,960 --> 00:47:42,839

conspiracy theories of different types

1075

00:47:47,000 --> 00:47:44,970

and see both what they had in common and

1076

00:47:49,069 --> 00:47:47,010

what was different about them was really

1077

00:47:51,410 --> 00:47:49,079

a huge task just like took me nearly six

1078

00:47:53,809 --> 00:47:51,420

years to write the book it took me a

1079

00:47:55,790 --> 00:47:53,819

very long time but it was it was

1080

00:47:58,370 --> 00:47:55,800

fascinating and I could easily have

1081

00:48:01,760 --> 00:47:58,380

extended the book to include urban myths

1082

00:48:04,579 --> 00:48:01,770

or extended it to include conspiracy

1083

00:48:06,349 --> 00:48:04,589

theories not in Western countries but in

1084

00:48:09,440 --> 00:48:06,359

other countries too and so on but it was

1085

00:48:12,530 --> 00:48:09,450

so many that boiling them down was a

1086

00:48:15,710 --> 00:48:12,540

real kind of labor but I got through it

1087

00:48:17,180 --> 00:48:15,720

in the end now before we actually go on

1088

00:48:18,890 --> 00:48:17,190

just to speak about the specific

1089

00:48:20,740 --> 00:48:18,900

conspiracies that you cover in your book

1090

00:48:22,849 --> 00:48:20,750

you're discussing the book several

1091

00:48:26,030 --> 00:48:22,859

possible definitions of a conspiracy

1092

00:48:27,290 --> 00:48:26,040

theory and you chose one definition can

1093

00:48:30,330 --> 00:48:27,300

you tell us what it is and why you chose

1094

00:48:32,940 --> 00:48:30,340

it yeah but essentially

1095

00:48:36,090 --> 00:48:32,950

it is if you like the abduction of them

1096

00:48:37,890 --> 00:48:36,100

of a less likely theory as being the

1097

00:48:39,630 --> 00:48:37,900

most likely theory that's essentially

1098

00:48:41,220 --> 00:48:39,640

what a conspiracy theory is I mean the

1099

00:48:44,250 --> 00:48:41,230

one thing you can say about conspiracy

1100

00:48:46,950 --> 00:48:44,260

theories in entirety is that they tend

1101
00:48:49,730 --> 00:48:46,960
to abandon the role of accidents and

1102
00:48:52,620 --> 00:48:49,740
contingency in human life and to give

1103
00:48:53,970 --> 00:48:52,630
agency deliberate agency for almost

1104
00:48:56,190 --> 00:48:53,980
everything that happens so in other

1105
00:48:59,130 --> 00:48:56,200
words to conspiracy theorists the First

1106
00:49:02,640 --> 00:48:59,140
World War was was was deliberated upon

1107
00:49:05,370 --> 00:49:02,650
by somebody and its outcome decided by

1108
00:49:08,490 --> 00:49:05,380
somebody whereas installing would see it

1109
00:49:11,310 --> 00:49:08,500
as a combination of a huge number of

1110
00:49:16,260 --> 00:49:11,320
disparate incidents which combine to

1111
00:49:18,600 --> 00:49:16,270
create a particular event and so all the

1112
00:49:19,950 --> 00:49:18,610
time although it is both infocus

1113
00:49:23,190 --> 00:49:19,960

projector is usually a huge

1114

00:49:25,860 --> 00:49:23,200

simplification it is also a huge over

1115

00:49:27,960 --> 00:49:25,870

complex over complexification at the

1116

00:49:30,450 --> 00:49:27,970

same time if you see what I mean it

1117

00:49:34,530 --> 00:49:30,460

manages at the same time to be both of

1118

00:49:37,500 --> 00:49:34,540

conspiracy who is essentially a decision

1119

00:49:39,120 --> 00:49:37,510

to believe a less likely version of

1120

00:49:41,580 --> 00:49:39,130

history that's that's pretty much what

1121

00:49:44,130 --> 00:49:41,590

it is and you've chosen specific

1122

00:49:47,370 --> 00:49:44,140

conspiracies that obviously first of all

1123

00:49:49,140 --> 00:49:47,380

meet that definition but also cover a

1124

00:49:51,210 --> 00:49:49,150

range of different as you mentioned

1125

00:49:53,070 --> 00:49:51,220

earlier types of conspiracy theories

1126

00:49:54,510 --> 00:49:53,080

could you mention a few of the theory of

1127

00:49:55,980 --> 00:49:54,520

a few of the conspiracy theories you've

1128

00:49:58,290 --> 00:49:55,990

recovered and tell us why you've chosen

1129

00:49:59,910 --> 00:49:58,300

to include those well I wanted for

1130

00:50:01,530 --> 00:49:59,920

instance the first conspiracy theory

1131

00:50:03,510 --> 00:50:01,540

which I look at is the protocols of the

1132

00:50:05,730 --> 00:50:03,520

Elders design or the idea was Jewish

1133

00:50:07,950 --> 00:50:05,740

world conspiracy but it actually could

1134

00:50:10,590 --> 00:50:07,960

stand in the for the notion that a small

1135

00:50:12,030 --> 00:50:10,600

group of people on a global level try to

1136

00:50:14,340 --> 00:50:12,040

cause something to happen which is a

1137

00:50:16,530 --> 00:50:14,350

sort of constant theme in a certain type

1138

00:50:18,810 --> 00:50:16,540

of conspiracy theory the second one that

1139

00:50:21,540 --> 00:50:18,820

I look at is a state-sponsored

1140

00:50:23,520 --> 00:50:21,550

conspiracy theory I the the one in

1141

00:50:25,910 --> 00:50:23,530

Stalinist Russia there was a gigantic

1142

00:50:28,470 --> 00:50:25,920

Trotskyite conspiracy to undermine

1143

00:50:32,190 --> 00:50:28,480

Russia and all the accidents and

1144

00:50:34,200 --> 00:50:32,200

industrial problems that Stalinist

1145

00:50:36,600 --> 00:50:34,210

industrialization had led to was somehow

1146

00:50:39,870 --> 00:50:36,610

the product of deliberate sabotage by

1147

00:50:42,000 --> 00:50:39,880

these people I look at what you might

1148

00:50:44,880 --> 00:50:42,010

call pseudo history

1149

00:50:47,190 --> 00:50:44,890

in terms of what led up to the cut the

1150

00:50:48,780 --> 00:50:47,200

dan brown I mean not me no not those in

1151

00:50:50,640 --> 00:50:48,790

the same league but it's very

1152

00:50:52,530 --> 00:50:50,650

interesting psychologically the Holy

1153

00:50:55,170 --> 00:50:52,540

Blood Holy Grail the idea that the

1154

00:50:57,090 --> 00:50:55,180

Catholic Church conspire to suppress the

1155

00:50:59,220 --> 00:50:57,100

secret bloodline of Jesus because in

1156

00:51:01,500 --> 00:50:59,230

that one I'm looking to see what it is

1157

00:51:03,420 --> 00:51:01,510

about it that people like so much I'd

1158

00:51:09,000 --> 00:51:03,430

love I'd love you to actually tell us

1159

00:51:11,610 --> 00:51:09,010

what the name of that chapter is then

1160

00:51:16,080 --> 00:51:11,620

kids Holy Blood Holy Grail holy [h__h] the

1161

00:51:18,330 --> 00:51:16,090

name of my circular track by her just

1162

00:51:20,250 --> 00:51:18,340

straight forward me from from memory I

1163

00:51:21,780 --> 00:51:20,260

mean and incidentally is one of those

1164

00:51:23,370 --> 00:51:21,790

kind of things about book writing I put

1165

00:51:26,190 --> 00:51:23,380

that chapter heading down always

1166

00:51:29,670 --> 00:51:26,200

expecting that the publishers would

1167

00:51:31,200 --> 00:51:29,680

demand that I take it out I suppose in a

1168

00:51:34,470 --> 00:51:31,210

way we rather hoping that they would and

1169

00:51:36,000 --> 00:51:34,480

when they didn't I left it in I like it

1170

00:51:38,250 --> 00:51:36,010

that way and then there are they that

1171

00:51:42,330 --> 00:51:38,260

those the conspiracy theories which

1172

00:51:45,480 --> 00:51:42,340

involve cippec iconic individuals a JFK

1173

00:51:47,190 --> 00:51:45,490

Marilyn Princess Diana well I think

1174

00:51:49,080 --> 00:51:47,200

something else is happening there which

1175

00:51:52,830 --> 00:51:49,090

are trying to explain to ourselves the

1176

00:51:55,080 --> 00:51:52,840

sudden taking away of an iconic and

1177

00:51:57,030 --> 00:51:55,090

important figure and then write the way

1178

00:51:58,410 --> 00:51:57,040

down to 911 and some other theories on

1179

00:51:59,610 --> 00:51:58,420

the way I mean there's a whole slew of

1180

00:52:02,040 --> 00:51:59,620

conspiracy theories which are

1181

00:52:04,140 --> 00:52:02,050

essentially similar from the 1980s which

1182

00:52:05,940 --> 00:52:04,150

show that in the old kind of built using

1183

00:52:08,070 --> 00:52:05,950

the Dawkins word conspiracy theories are

1184

00:52:09,930 --> 00:52:08,080

also mimetic in other words there's a

1185

00:52:11,880 --> 00:52:09,940

fashion for certain types of conspiracy

1186

00:52:14,610 --> 00:52:11,890

theories at certain points of history

1187

00:52:16,800 --> 00:52:14,620

which then suddenly disappear well if

1188

00:52:18,360 --> 00:52:16,810

you were to believe in most conspiracy

1189

00:52:20,280 --> 00:52:18,370

theories you wouldn't expect there to be

1190

00:52:22,170 --> 00:52:20,290

only fashionable conspiracy theories to

1191

00:52:23,910 --> 00:52:22,180

be true so it tells us something that

1192

00:52:26,610 --> 00:52:23,920

the construction of conspiracy theories

1193

00:52:29,310 --> 00:52:26,620

is not totally unlike the construction

1194

00:52:31,410 --> 00:52:29,320

of that's a religious movements and so on

1195

00:52:34,950 --> 00:52:31,420

it has the same it has a similar kind of

1196

00:52:39,270 --> 00:52:34,960

faith-based element to it I think

1197

00:52:41,820 --> 00:52:39,280

historically and so that's the kind of

1198

00:52:43,950 --> 00:52:41,830

range that I tried to I try to get in

1199

00:52:45,720 --> 00:52:43,960

and coming right up to date in the in

1200

00:52:47,100 --> 00:52:45,730

the American edition and in the paper

1201
00:52:50,370 --> 00:52:47,110
back which is that be released here in

1202
00:52:53,920 --> 00:52:50,380
Britain also the anti-clinton anti-obama

1203
00:52:57,010 --> 00:52:53,930
conspiracy theories including the birth

1204
00:52:59,200 --> 00:52:57,020
conspiracy theory which show that we

1205
00:53:02,410 --> 00:52:59,210
show the conspiracy theories also are

1206
00:53:04,540 --> 00:53:02,420
come often be a matter of the

1207
00:53:07,240 --> 00:53:04,550
rationalization by the politically

1208
00:53:09,460 --> 00:53:07,250
defeated of their own defeat in other

1209
00:53:11,040 --> 00:53:09,470
words the idea that somebody like you

1210
00:53:14,020 --> 00:53:11,050
know yours Republicans you only lost

1211
00:53:17,319 --> 00:53:14,030
because of the devilishness of this man

1212
00:53:20,470 --> 00:53:17,329
Clinton or the incredible fiendish

1213
00:53:22,180 --> 00:53:20,480

capacity of this terrible man Obama he

1214

00:53:24,309 --> 00:53:22,190

sees you you talk about current politics

1215

00:53:26,470 --> 00:53:24,319

um I was wanted to ask you about the the

1216

00:53:27,760 --> 00:53:26,480

last conspiracy in the in the edition of

1217

00:53:31,089 --> 00:53:27,770

the book which I read which is the

1218

00:53:33,220 --> 00:53:31,099

british version with no Zeds or hardly

1219

00:53:35,589 --> 00:53:33,230

any that that's about dr. David Kelly

1220

00:53:37,120 --> 00:53:35,599

who committed suicide following some

1221

00:53:39,010 --> 00:53:37,130

revelations regarding the war in iraq

1222

00:53:40,630 --> 00:53:39,020

and i was just wondering whether you

1223

00:53:42,970 --> 00:53:40,640

felt you've taken maybe a bit of a risk

1224

00:53:44,710 --> 00:53:42,980

by including something that is as recent

1225

00:53:46,720 --> 00:53:44,720

as that well i imagine that when you say

1226

00:53:49,359 --> 00:53:46,730

taken a risk do you mean I took a risk

1227

00:53:50,890 --> 00:53:49,369

because it may I might turn out to be

1228

00:53:52,990 --> 00:53:50,900

wrong he seems that it could be

1229

00:53:55,000 --> 00:53:53,000

something that he's still high on the

1230

00:53:58,569 --> 00:53:55,010

political agenda in Britain and perhaps

1231

00:54:01,329 --> 00:53:58,579

not seen as a conspiracy theories in the

1232

00:54:04,180 --> 00:54:01,339

minds of most people the way for example

1233

00:54:06,099 --> 00:54:04,190

the JFK conspiracy might look might look

1234

00:54:08,770 --> 00:54:06,109

to to the ordinary person in the street

1235

00:54:10,510 --> 00:54:08,780

oh sure I'm in that case it just makes

1236

00:54:12,700 --> 00:54:10,520

it in my mind that we just make it all

1237

00:54:15,160 --> 00:54:12,710

the fresher it would make it it makes it

1238

00:54:17,200 --> 00:54:15,170

all the more salient and because people

1239

00:54:19,750 --> 00:54:17,210

are actually dealing with one which is

1240

00:54:21,640 --> 00:54:19,760

if you like on the go now they can see

1241

00:54:23,289 --> 00:54:21,650

how it's constructed but also my

1242

00:54:25,780 --> 00:54:23,299

motivation they're partially was because

1243

00:54:28,589 --> 00:54:25,790

the book alleging a murder and

1244

00:54:33,010 --> 00:54:28,599

conspiracy was such a an almost perfect

1245

00:54:35,740 --> 00:54:33,020

example of the technique of constructing

1246

00:54:38,500 --> 00:54:35,750

a conspiracy theory that I just couldn't

1247

00:54:41,020 --> 00:54:38,510

let it go I mean it was absolutely the

1248

00:54:44,049 --> 00:54:41,030

model as i said in the chapter of

1249

00:54:46,450 --> 00:54:44,059

normalizing the abnormal and abnormal

1250

00:54:48,520 --> 00:54:46,460

izing the normal in fact and reversing

1251
00:54:49,990 --> 00:54:48,530
everything in order to come up with the

1252
00:54:52,089 --> 00:54:50,000
conclusion that you wanted to get that

1253
00:54:53,920 --> 00:54:52,099
the that the author wanted to come up

1254
00:54:57,299 --> 00:54:53,930
with him I wanted to am atomized and

1255
00:55:00,190 --> 00:54:57,309
show exactly how he done it how he

1256
00:55:03,430 --> 00:55:00,200
overlooked anything that didn't help his

1257
00:55:04,990 --> 00:55:03,440
case only gated it or cast doubt upon

1258
00:55:07,200 --> 00:55:05,000
the motives of those who have the

1259
00:55:09,540 --> 00:55:07,210
evidence which negated it how

1260
00:55:11,730 --> 00:55:09,550
he blew up effectively and exaggerated

1261
00:55:13,800 --> 00:55:11,740
anything that could conceivably support

1262
00:55:18,380 --> 00:55:13,810
his case until eventually he kind of

1263
00:55:21,359 --> 00:55:18,390

stood this mountain on a pinhead of

1264

00:55:22,980 --> 00:55:21,369

actual conjecture and no evidence

1265

00:55:24,930 --> 00:55:22,990

whatsoever not the slightest bit of

1266

00:55:26,670 --> 00:55:24,940

evidence whatsoever to the extent that

1267

00:55:29,040 --> 00:55:26,680

it would nevertheless had people who

1268

00:55:30,750 --> 00:55:29,050

were reviewing his book saying he put

1269

00:55:33,060 --> 00:55:30,760

forward a convincing case of which what

1270

00:55:34,829 --> 00:55:33,070

a true skeptic has to say if this is a

1271

00:55:37,410 --> 00:55:34,839

convincing case what on earth is your

1272

00:55:39,780 --> 00:55:37,420

idea of an unconvincing case you know in

1273

00:55:42,450 --> 00:55:39,790

others how easily convince some people

1274

00:55:44,280 --> 00:55:42,460

are well there are reasons why you're

1275

00:55:45,510 --> 00:55:44,290

easily convinced of something more

1276

00:55:47,130 --> 00:55:45,520

easily convince of some things from

1277

00:55:49,740 --> 00:55:47,140

others and that is larger because you

1278

00:55:51,810 --> 00:55:49,750

want to be and that's quite an important

1279

00:55:53,640 --> 00:55:51,820

you know that's quite it's an obvious

1280

00:55:56,130 --> 00:55:53,650

but there is an important lesson

1281

00:55:58,710 --> 00:55:56,140

basically use that as an example of what

1282

00:56:00,930 --> 00:55:58,720

a conspiracy theory is to people who are

1283

00:56:03,329 --> 00:56:00,940

aware of the details and could follow it

1284

00:56:05,520 --> 00:56:03,339

in the in the press and then they could

1285

00:56:07,470 --> 00:56:05,530

see through your analysis how this

1286

00:56:10,650 --> 00:56:07,480

really pans out as a conspiracy theory

1287

00:56:12,240 --> 00:56:10,660

um well I mean yes this is what this

1288

00:56:13,980 --> 00:56:12,250

particular web miquellee one comes up

1289

00:56:15,210 --> 00:56:13,990

every four or five months because a

1290

00:56:18,000 --> 00:56:15,220

group of doctors there are six of them

1291

00:56:21,300 --> 00:56:18,010

also every now and again demand a new

1292

00:56:23,550 --> 00:56:21,310

inquest or demand a new inquiry and the

1293

00:56:25,740 --> 00:56:23,560

story is reported by certain papers as

1294

00:56:26,940 --> 00:56:25,750

if it had just happened so in something

1295

00:56:30,000 --> 00:56:26,950

like the Daily Mail France has now

1296

00:56:31,890 --> 00:56:30,010

reported this four or five times and

1297

00:56:33,780 --> 00:56:31,900

every time it does is as if this is some

1298

00:56:35,550 --> 00:56:33,790

kind of significantly new story was in

1299

00:56:38,040 --> 00:56:35,560

fact is exactly the same old people

1300

00:56:39,630 --> 00:56:38,050

saying exactly the same old thing adding

1301
00:56:42,030 --> 00:56:39,640
absolutely nothing to what they've said

1302
00:56:44,270 --> 00:56:42,040
before and this is because it kind of

1303
00:56:46,740 --> 00:56:44,280
fits the agenda of that particular

1304
00:56:49,380 --> 00:56:46,750
newspaper I not so much I think in their

1305
00:56:52,920 --> 00:56:49,390
case because they actually believe it

1306
00:56:55,640 --> 00:56:52,930
but also it speaks to a kind of belief

1307
00:56:58,170 --> 00:56:55,650
that sometimes happens that and

1308
00:56:59,760 --> 00:56:58,180
governments are so wicked in the West

1309
00:57:02,280 --> 00:56:59,770
democratic governments were very capable

1310
00:57:05,130 --> 00:57:02,290
of anything secret including deleting

1311
00:57:07,170 --> 00:57:05,140
all the email of those doctors oh yeah

1312
00:57:09,599 --> 00:57:07,180
including I mean that's a kind of

1313
00:57:11,609 --> 00:57:09,609

classic every time a conspiracy theories

1314

00:57:13,650 --> 00:57:11,619

has a problem with his or her computer

1315

00:57:16,109 --> 00:57:13,660

and was always his computer then in that

1316

00:57:18,329 --> 00:57:16,119

case that's the authorities doing

1317

00:57:20,480 --> 00:57:18,339

something to them now it is true as

1318

00:57:22,910 --> 00:57:20,490

we've know from China

1319

00:57:26,240 --> 00:57:22,920

an Iran that there are organized state

1320

00:57:28,370 --> 00:57:26,250

hackers who do sometimes do these things

1321

00:57:30,170 --> 00:57:28,380

and so on but on the whole I think we

1322

00:57:32,240 --> 00:57:30,180

can honestly say that most conspiracy

1323

00:57:34,010 --> 00:57:32,250

theorists in America and Britain a

1324

00:57:37,880 --> 00:57:34,020

fairly safe from their governments I

1325

00:57:38,720 --> 00:57:37,890

mean one of the things I put into an

1326

00:57:41,450 --> 00:57:38,730

after I wrote for The Wall Street

1327

00:57:43,160 --> 00:57:41,460

Journal was that it was it seemed to be

1328

00:57:44,960 --> 00:57:43,170

a fact that despite the fact that the

1329

00:57:47,420 --> 00:57:44,970

spirit of fear is were the people who

1330

00:57:49,280 --> 00:57:47,430

had discovered the supposed truth and

1331

00:57:51,890 --> 00:57:49,290

were proving it about these people in

1332

00:57:53,990 --> 00:57:51,900

power who were capable of any act that

1333

00:57:56,330 --> 00:57:54,000

had despicable none of them have

1334

00:57:57,770 --> 00:57:56,340

actually been killed themselves The Wall

1335

00:57:59,690 --> 00:57:57,780

Street Journal were rather worried that

1336

00:58:01,300 --> 00:57:59,700

I was inciting people to kill conspiracy

1337

00:58:03,650 --> 00:58:01,310

theorists and maybe tone down that

1338

00:58:05,930 --> 00:58:03,660

sentence it sounds to me like you don't

1339

00:58:09,560 --> 00:58:05,940

really expect to convince any any

1340

00:58:12,380 --> 00:58:09,570

conspiracy theorist well actually I've

1341

00:58:14,390 --> 00:58:12,390

had several communications I mean emails

1342

00:58:16,280 --> 00:58:14,400

and letters from people saying they have

1343

00:58:18,080 --> 00:58:16,290

changed their minds as a result of

1344

00:58:20,300 --> 00:58:18,090

reading the book I had to say I was a

1345

00:58:22,070 --> 00:58:20,310

bit surprised because on the whole if

1346

00:58:23,630 --> 00:58:22,080

you believe in conspiracy theories and

1347

00:58:26,780 --> 00:58:23,640

you're presented with a book that says

1348

00:58:29,240 --> 00:58:26,790

that at the outset that this is a partly

1349

00:58:30,950 --> 00:58:29,250

of debunking exercise most conspiracy

1350

00:58:34,040 --> 00:58:30,960

theories I'm not going to want to read

1351
00:58:35,720 --> 00:58:34,050
it but some people do you know I mean

1352
00:58:37,880 --> 00:58:35,730
some people who believe in conspiracy

1353
00:58:41,170 --> 00:58:37,890
theories are genuinely open-minded kind

1354
00:58:42,980 --> 00:58:41,180
of questing thinkers who just not really

1355
00:58:45,770 --> 00:58:42,990
manage that that man to kind of

1356
00:58:47,510 --> 00:58:45,780
calculate reality and the odds on

1357
00:58:50,150 --> 00:58:47,520
reality and they're not had you know

1358
00:58:51,260 --> 00:58:50,160
they have a skeptical cast of mind but

1359
00:58:53,840 --> 00:58:51,270
they've not really applied their

1360
00:58:56,270 --> 00:58:53,850
skepticism with any kind of rigor and

1361
00:58:58,070 --> 00:58:56,280
everyone again I'd have and it's been

1362
00:58:59,390 --> 00:58:58,080
immensely encouraging got something like

1363
00:59:01,220 --> 00:58:59,400

that read the book and said changed my

1364

00:59:04,220 --> 00:59:01,230

mind as a result of it now I don't

1365

00:59:07,430 --> 00:59:04,230

expect that to be a huge number but you

1366

00:59:09,730 --> 00:59:07,440

know I mean you know the kind of as a

1367

00:59:12,530 --> 00:59:09,740

skeptic yourself and always good yeah

1368

00:59:13,660 --> 00:59:12,540

the pleasure of the one person who says

1369

00:59:16,280 --> 00:59:13,670

that to you it will the wretch

1370

00:59:18,230 --> 00:59:16,290

absolutely the thing is with regards to

1371

00:59:21,230 --> 00:59:18,240

that is that very often you expect

1372

00:59:23,540 --> 00:59:21,240

conspiracy theorists to take the general

1373

00:59:25,580 --> 00:59:23,550

line of conspiracies which is evidence

1374

00:59:28,220 --> 00:59:25,590

against the conspiracy is evidence of

1375

00:59:30,950 --> 00:59:28,230

the conspiracy so a book like yours

1376

00:59:32,450 --> 00:59:30,960

could actually make some people stronger

1377

00:59:34,070 --> 00:59:32,460

in their beliefs because he is there's

1378

00:59:34,400 --> 00:59:34,080

this important journalist writing a book

1379

00:59:36,349 --> 00:59:34,410

with

1380

00:59:42,470 --> 00:59:36,359

this evidence in dedicating 300 pages

1381

00:59:43,789 --> 00:59:42,480

too it must be true um political I mean

1382

00:59:45,770 --> 00:59:43,799

one of the things I love about modern

1383

00:59:47,809 --> 00:59:45,780

conspiracy theories is that increasingly

1384

00:59:50,569 --> 00:59:47,819

they kind of have to take on the

1385

00:59:52,849 --> 00:59:50,579

appearance of scholarship and that means

1386

00:59:54,799 --> 00:59:52,859

that if you're person who write is a

1387

00:59:57,049 --> 00:59:54,809

professor as in the case of david ray

1388

01:00:00,650 --> 00:59:57,059

griffin who's miss theologian is now

1389

01:00:03,500 --> 01:00:00,660

written eight books about 911 and it's

1390

01:00:06,620 --> 01:00:03,510

packed full of footnotes then that per

1391

01:00:08,630 --> 01:00:06,630

se constitutes scholarship because it

1392

01:00:10,339 --> 01:00:08,640

has scholarships currently appears now

1393

01:00:11,839 --> 01:00:10,349

what is actually in the book and what

1394

01:00:14,270 --> 01:00:11,849

the footnotes referred to might be

1395

01:00:16,220 --> 01:00:14,280

absolute rubbish but as long as it looks

1396

01:00:17,930 --> 01:00:16,230

like something like it then you can

1397

01:00:19,250 --> 01:00:17,940

think that it is and I think it's

1398

01:00:21,380 --> 01:00:19,260

absolutely right i mean the point that

1399

01:00:23,690 --> 01:00:21,390

you're making when i first saw the

1400

01:00:27,349 --> 01:00:23,700

documentaries on the BBC that the Holy

1401

01:00:29,529 --> 01:00:27,359

Blood Holy Grail were based on and that

1402

01:00:31,640 --> 01:00:29,539

led up to the famous Da Vinci Code

1403

01:00:32,960 --> 01:00:31,650

introduction from Dan Brown remember at

1404

01:00:34,520 --> 01:00:32,970

the beginning of in Chicago when he said

1405

01:00:36,980 --> 01:00:34,530

a number of the things in this book are

1406

01:00:38,329 --> 01:00:36,990

actually true and then goes on to

1407

01:00:41,779 --> 01:00:38,339

enumerate a number of things which

1408

01:00:43,400 --> 01:00:41,789

complete rubbish and like he's got them

1409

01:00:45,500 --> 01:00:43,410

largely from the Holy Blood Holy Grail

1410

01:00:47,960 --> 01:00:45,510

I'm Holy Blood Holy Grail was written by

1411

01:00:51,769 --> 01:00:47,970

people who created these documentaries

1412

01:00:54,620 --> 01:00:51,779

with BBC television in its history and

1413

01:00:57,230 --> 01:00:54,630

archaeology series called Chronicle now

1414

01:00:59,420 --> 01:00:57,240

I think we were entitled to believe and

1415

01:01:01,430 --> 01:00:59,430

I did as a teenager that it cut it was

1416

01:01:04,000 --> 01:01:01,440

on the BBC and because it was one of the

1417

01:01:07,579 --> 01:01:04,010

BBC's leading programs it was true I

1418

01:01:09,890 --> 01:01:07,589

thought that the man presenting it must

1419

01:01:12,019 --> 01:01:09,900

be a historian I did not realize that he

1420

01:01:14,329 --> 01:01:12,029

was actually a TV script writer for a

1421

01:01:16,069 --> 01:01:14,339

science fiction series but he was on

1422

01:01:17,690 --> 01:01:16,079

television it's like you know it's it's

1423

01:01:19,670 --> 01:01:17,700

in the paper so it must be true I guess

1424

01:01:22,370 --> 01:01:19,680

it's the same with television that's why

1425

01:01:24,109 --> 01:01:22,380

we get these appetites sometimes for a

1426

01:01:26,089 --> 01:01:24,119

lot of conspirators I mean I give you an

1427

01:01:28,549 --> 01:01:26,099

example and I think I'm right in saying

1428

01:01:30,740 --> 01:01:28,559

that when it comes to the bombing of the

1429

01:01:34,359 --> 01:01:30,750

USS liberty the air attack on the USS

1430

01:01:36,349 --> 01:01:34,369

liberty in 1967 by the Israelis the only

1431

01:01:39,160 --> 01:01:36,359

documentaries that have been shown our

1432

01:01:43,250 --> 01:01:39,170

documentaries claiming it was conspiracy

1433

01:01:45,289 --> 01:01:43,260

nobody had ever I mean as ever I believe

1434

01:01:47,089 --> 01:01:45,299

made the documentary showing the truth

1435

01:01:47,700 --> 01:01:47,099

what I think is almost certainly the

1436

01:01:50,370 --> 01:01:47,710

truth

1437

01:01:52,589 --> 01:01:50,380

about it which was that it was a case of

1438

01:01:55,200 --> 01:01:52,599

mistaken identity now I wanted to ask

1439

01:01:58,440 --> 01:01:55,210

you what is it about conspiracy theories

1440

01:02:00,870 --> 01:01:58,450

because there are people who are not

1441

01:02:02,190 --> 01:02:00,880

only self-professed skeptics like Jim

1442

01:02:03,660 --> 01:02:02,200

that you mentioned in the last chapter

1443

01:02:06,690 --> 01:02:03,670

the guy who was with you in this call

1444

01:02:09,480 --> 01:02:06,700

board but we're really very skeptical in

1445

01:02:11,609 --> 01:02:09,490

many areas of if but they buy into one

1446

01:02:14,040 --> 01:02:11,619

very specific conspiracy conspiracy

1447

01:02:15,810 --> 01:02:14,050

theory it might even love off other

1448

01:02:18,150 --> 01:02:15,820

conspiracy theories and would definitely

1449

01:02:20,940 --> 01:02:18,160

have a general skeptical attitude but

1450

01:02:24,630 --> 01:02:20,950

this one pc theory just they just really

1451

01:02:25,800 --> 01:02:24,640

bad this guy that you mentioned i was an

1452

01:02:27,720 --> 01:02:25,810

interesting kind of skeptic because

1453

01:02:29,820 --> 01:02:27,730

actually he wasn't a skeptic at all but

1454

01:02:33,150 --> 01:02:29,830

it was a kind of it was a former self

1455

01:02:36,089 --> 01:02:33,160

description he didn't believe him that

1456

01:02:40,079 --> 01:02:36,099

the authorities told him now that he's

1457

01:02:41,460 --> 01:02:40,089

not a skeptical position a skeptical

1458

01:02:44,070 --> 01:02:41,470

position does not start off on the

1459

01:02:45,839 --> 01:02:44,080

position of i'm always being lied to a

1460

01:02:47,370 --> 01:02:45,849

skeptic because you might not be being

1461

01:02:49,349 --> 01:02:47,380

lied to it's perfectly reasonable to

1462

01:02:50,700 --> 01:02:49,359

expect in quite a lot of situations that

1463

01:02:54,150 --> 01:02:50,710

you might be telling that would be told

1464

01:02:58,109 --> 01:02:54,160

the truth secondly he was incredibly

1465

01:03:00,870 --> 01:02:58,119

credulous when it came to theories which

1466

01:03:02,550 --> 01:03:00,880

which contradicted what he regards being

1467

01:03:04,349 --> 01:03:02,560

the official view argument and give you

1468

01:03:08,099 --> 01:03:04,359

an example with this particular America

1469

01:03:10,920 --> 01:03:08,109

which I give him the book he believed he

1470

01:03:14,250 --> 01:03:10,930

will firmly believe that people who did

1471

01:03:16,710 --> 01:03:14,260

mental illusions what actually mind

1472

01:03:18,480 --> 01:03:16,720

reader's you know he told me in this

1473

01:03:19,680 --> 01:03:18,490

case about her this mind reader he was

1474

01:03:22,140 --> 01:03:19,690

actually convince Archie going because a

1475

01:03:23,760 --> 01:03:22,150

real my I said to him look there's two

1476

01:03:25,980 --> 01:03:23,770

things here firstly when you see a

1477

01:03:27,710 --> 01:03:25,990

magician swartland heart don't think

1478

01:03:31,290 --> 01:03:27,720

she's really been sawed in half do you

1479

01:03:32,880 --> 01:03:31,300

you know there's a trick and the fact is

1480

01:03:34,740 --> 01:03:32,890

it's a brilliant trick you don't know

1481

01:03:37,200 --> 01:03:34,750

how it's done but you know it's a trick

1482

01:03:39,390 --> 01:03:37,210

I said well exactly the same happens

1483

01:03:42,210 --> 01:03:39,400

when you get one of these mental

1484

01:03:44,550 --> 01:03:42,220

illusionist I sell other thing is the

1485

01:03:46,140 --> 01:03:44,560

clue lies in the word illusionists

1486

01:03:48,230 --> 01:03:46,150

that's why they call themselves

1487

01:03:51,599 --> 01:03:48,240

illusionist the cause it's an illusion

1488

01:03:54,240 --> 01:03:51,609

if you want to believe its clue in other

1489

01:03:56,130 --> 01:03:54,250

words he was no kind of a skeptic he was

1490

01:03:58,530 --> 01:03:56,140

actually even less he's even less

1491

01:03:59,900 --> 01:03:58,540

skeptical than the people invited but in

1492

01:04:02,630 --> 01:03:59,910

his mind

1493

01:04:05,000 --> 01:04:02,640

his total lack of skepticism or emerged

1494

01:04:07,760 --> 01:04:05,010

from his room his kind of self hara

1495

01:04:09,950 --> 01:04:07,770

lysing notion of himself as a skeptic is

1496

01:04:12,049 --> 01:04:09,960

that that's why i actually said not only

1497

01:04:13,370 --> 01:04:12,059

people like him would self-professed

1498

01:04:15,589 --> 01:04:13,380

skeptics but people who are really

1499

01:04:17,720 --> 01:04:15,599

actually actually skeptical in their

1500

01:04:19,279 --> 01:04:17,730

attitude I do make that distinction

1501
01:04:21,319 --> 01:04:19,289
because I do know that a lot of people

1502
01:04:23,390 --> 01:04:21,329
will say something like you know I'm

1503
01:04:27,470 --> 01:04:23,400
skeptical in general or I used to be a

1504
01:04:29,329 --> 01:04:27,480
skeptic but we hear that a lot but I'm

1505
01:04:31,819 --> 01:04:29,339
actually wondering about a skeptics do

1506
01:04:33,500 --> 01:04:31,829
you encounter that yeah I think I mean

1507
01:04:35,960 --> 01:04:33,510
you can see you can feel away why it

1508
01:04:38,799 --> 01:04:35,970
happens I mean because governments do

1509
01:04:41,870 --> 01:04:38,809
sometimes lie or you know companies

1510
01:04:44,299 --> 01:04:41,880
exaggerated people cover things up and

1511
01:04:45,799 --> 01:04:44,309
so on now you can decide whether or not

1512
01:04:49,400 --> 01:04:45,809
you think that those such things are

1513
01:04:50,569 --> 01:04:49,410

lying and deceits are habitual and you

1514

01:04:52,099 --> 01:04:50,579

can decide whether or not you think

1515

01:04:53,240 --> 01:04:52,109

you're likely to get away with them or

1516

01:04:55,130 --> 01:04:53,250

whether things are too complicated

1517

01:04:57,650 --> 01:04:55,140

people the people actually to have

1518

01:05:00,799 --> 01:04:57,660

planned out and so on I mean you know

1519

01:05:03,799 --> 01:05:00,809

that's in that sometimes sometimes in

1520

01:05:05,660 --> 01:05:03,809

the mix you can be skeptical about the

1521

01:05:08,569 --> 01:05:05,670

claims that people make for themselves

1522

01:05:11,120 --> 01:05:08,579

and so on but being skeptical means

1523

01:05:14,480 --> 01:05:11,130

saying I want to either examine this

1524

01:05:16,970 --> 01:05:14,490

myself or this is as near as I can get

1525

01:05:19,279 --> 01:05:16,980

given the time I have available and give

1526
01:05:20,779 --> 01:05:19,289
them what I think I know about expertise

1527
01:05:24,380 --> 01:05:20,789
and so on and what my experience tells

1528
01:05:26,329 --> 01:05:24,390
me to what I to what's going on I mean

1529
01:05:28,039 --> 01:05:26,339
you know we face a whole series of

1530
01:05:29,779 --> 01:05:28,049
classic situations like this in a

1531
01:05:31,670 --> 01:05:29,789
technologically very complete and

1532
01:05:34,010 --> 01:05:31,680
scientifically very complicated world

1533
01:05:35,450 --> 01:05:34,020
what are we going to take on trust and

1534
01:05:37,700 --> 01:05:35,460
what are we not going to take on trust

1535
01:05:39,410 --> 01:05:37,710
and why will we do it when we try to

1536
01:05:41,960 --> 01:05:39,420
assess let's say whether or not a

1537
01:05:44,809 --> 01:05:41,970
vaccine has some of the effects of the

1538
01:05:47,000 --> 01:05:44,819

claim for it by some people we're not

1539

01:05:49,069 --> 01:05:47,010

paying for ourselves going to be able to

1540

01:05:52,039 --> 01:05:49,079

step into the laboratory put on the

1541

01:05:54,829 --> 01:05:52,049

white codes Don the mantle of the

1542

01:05:56,240 --> 01:05:54,839

expertise and so right we've tested it

1543

01:05:58,279 --> 01:05:56,250

for ourselves and we can tell you what

1544

01:06:01,160 --> 01:05:58,289

the truth is we're going to have to do a

1545

01:06:03,559 --> 01:06:01,170

much for shortened version of that which

1546

01:06:05,269 --> 01:06:03,569

involves us kind of assessing within the

1547

01:06:07,819 --> 01:06:05,279

time that we have to do it the various

1548

01:06:08,930 --> 01:06:07,829

arguments and the various expertise the

1549

01:06:10,260 --> 01:06:08,940

people involved in order to take a

1550

01:06:12,030 --> 01:06:10,270

position on it

1551

01:06:14,400 --> 01:06:12,040

that's you know that's where the true

1552

01:06:16,890 --> 01:06:14,410

skeptic must add the true skeptic is not

1553

01:06:18,600 --> 01:06:16,900

somebody who says I speak to achieve a

1554

01:06:20,670 --> 01:06:18,610

state of Olympian knowledge of

1555

01:06:22,410 --> 01:06:20,680

everything this is impossible absolutely

1556

01:06:24,420 --> 01:06:22,420

now we we've started talking about

1557

01:06:27,090 --> 01:06:24,430

skeptics and I wanted to know that do

1558

01:06:29,850 --> 01:06:27,100

you think of yourself as a skeptic might

1559

01:06:35,940 --> 01:06:29,860

most like most of us I regard myself as

1560

01:06:38,730 --> 01:06:35,950

the one true skeptic okay there we all

1561

01:06:41,610 --> 01:06:38,740

you know what you know you know yes I do

1562

01:06:45,140 --> 01:06:41,620

i do I think I'm increasingly a skeptic

1563

01:06:46,980 --> 01:06:45,150

as I become more if you like I mean I i

1564

01:06:48,690 --> 01:06:46,990

started off fairly doctrinaire

1565

01:06:52,800 --> 01:06:48,700

politically because that was the that

1566

01:06:56,850 --> 01:06:52,810

was my inheritance and I think that

1567

01:07:00,180 --> 01:06:56,860

experience has led me to try and form if

1568

01:07:03,110 --> 01:07:00,190

you like a escape a properly skeptical

1569

01:07:07,710 --> 01:07:03,120

cast of mine including knowing when I

1570

01:07:09,420 --> 01:07:07,720

may need to take things on trust because

1571

01:07:12,720 --> 01:07:09,430

that's important too when I just had you

1572

01:07:14,640 --> 01:07:12,730

know to put it I mean it's kind of

1573

01:07:15,900 --> 01:07:14,650

obvious context when you step into an

1574

01:07:18,330 --> 01:07:15,910

error play and so when you put

1575

01:07:20,010 --> 01:07:18,340

yourselves in the hands of the pilot you

1576

01:07:21,780 --> 01:07:20,020

choose to do this dozens of times over

1577

01:07:23,430 --> 01:07:21,790

this is a rational thing to do otherwise

1578

01:07:25,950 --> 01:07:23,440

we couldn't actually achieve anything ah

1579

01:07:28,650 --> 01:07:25,960

but you know if your worst sort of a

1580

01:07:30,570 --> 01:07:28,660

series of extremely bad air accidents

1581

01:07:33,000 --> 01:07:30,580

which were unexplained and so on you

1582

01:07:35,190 --> 01:07:33,010

might it might be a less obvious thing

1583

01:07:37,680 --> 01:07:35,200

to do so now said so in other words I

1584

01:07:40,440 --> 01:07:37,690

think of myself as a proper skeptic I

1585

01:07:42,450 --> 01:07:40,450

mean I have to say my sis came to being

1586

01:07:45,540 --> 01:07:42,460

a great skeptic would be strengthened if

1587

01:07:48,810 --> 01:07:45,550

I had more scientific knowledge I mean

1588

01:07:50,340 --> 01:07:48,820

I'm a classic product of the division

1589

01:07:53,010 --> 01:07:50,350

between the arts and the science

1590

01:07:56,190 --> 01:07:53,020

Sciences in the sense that I had nearly

1591

01:07:59,810 --> 01:07:56,200

no scientific training whatsoever and I

1592

01:08:03,780 --> 01:07:59,820

have had to look at people who I trust

1593

01:08:07,470 --> 01:08:03,790

whose instincts and whose whose approach

1594

01:08:09,630 --> 01:08:07,480

to life seems to me to to be properly

1595

01:08:11,850 --> 01:08:09,640

critical in order to in a sense kind of

1596

01:08:13,920 --> 01:08:11,860

understand where I might appear on that

1597

01:08:15,690 --> 01:08:13,930

spectrum let's take kind of some of that

1598

01:08:18,269 --> 01:08:15,700

Ben Goldacre who somebody I admire very

1599

01:08:20,820 --> 01:08:18,279

much and people like him I don't know

1600

01:08:24,000 --> 01:08:20,830

the things that Ben knows and

1601

01:08:26,340 --> 01:08:24,010

consequently I in a way you know so in a

1602

01:08:28,500 --> 01:08:26,350

way being a skeptic having a skeptics

1603

01:08:30,840 --> 01:08:28,510

movement partially means a little

1604

01:08:32,880 --> 01:08:30,850

allowing bits of it to have expertise

1605

01:08:34,290 --> 01:08:32,890

for you which is can seem like a

1606

01:08:36,120 --> 01:08:34,300

slightly unscripted cool thing to do

1607

01:08:37,829 --> 01:08:36,130

before we end there's there's one thing

1608

01:08:39,840 --> 01:08:37,839

I wanted to ask you maybe a bit of

1609

01:08:42,360 --> 01:08:39,850

advice what one thing that skeptics

1610

01:08:44,490 --> 01:08:42,370

often find difficulties when dealing

1611

01:08:46,860 --> 01:08:44,500

with true believers is how to treat them

1612

01:08:50,070 --> 01:08:46,870

with respect because often their beliefs

1613

01:08:52,230 --> 01:08:50,080

are so patently ridiculous that but you

1614

01:08:54,300 --> 01:08:52,240

can't help but you know lose a bit of

1615

01:08:57,540 --> 01:08:54,310

respect now your book is is very

1616

01:09:00,450 --> 01:08:57,550

entertaining often funny but it is also

1617

01:09:02,250 --> 01:09:00,460

very detailed and and no no point in

1618

01:09:04,829 --> 01:09:02,260

time through the book do you dismiss

1619

01:09:08,490 --> 01:09:04,839

claims on appearance only now can you

1620

01:09:10,110 --> 01:09:08,500

suggest to skeptics out there how one

1621

01:09:12,810 --> 01:09:10,120

might be respectful of a conspiracy

1622

01:09:14,610 --> 01:09:12,820

theorist without writing a 300 page book

1623

01:09:17,490 --> 01:09:14,620

because obviously not all of us can do

1624

01:09:20,820 --> 01:09:17,500

that what I'm in the first point is as I

1625

01:09:22,829 --> 01:09:20,830

referred to earlier I had been another

1626
01:09:24,930 --> 01:09:22,839
conspiracy theorist in the sense of kind

1627
01:09:26,910 --> 01:09:24,940
of active in it but I believer in

1628
01:09:29,310 --> 01:09:26,920
certain conspiracy theories you know

1629
01:09:31,560 --> 01:09:29,320
maybe in the case of JFK because I once

1630
01:09:33,870 --> 01:09:31,570
or documentary which mentioned the magic

1631
01:09:35,220 --> 01:09:33,880
bullet and so I'm also because i found

1632
01:09:38,430 --> 01:09:35,230
the idea of the conspiracy a more

1633
01:09:41,190 --> 01:09:38,440
interesting story i liked actually like

1634
01:09:42,210 --> 01:09:41,200
the story better it was more satisfying

1635
01:09:44,070 --> 01:09:42,220
i mean that's the one of the things to

1636
01:09:46,890 --> 01:09:44,080
remember about quite a lot of these

1637
01:09:49,560 --> 01:09:46,900
stories is that they are actually better

1638
01:09:51,780 --> 01:09:49,570

stories than the truth and a lot of us a

1639

01:09:53,700 --> 01:09:51,790

lot of the time are attracted to the

1640

01:09:55,410 --> 01:09:53,710

better story than the truth i mean let

1641

01:09:57,270 --> 01:09:55,420

me give you a clean the example of the

1642

01:09:59,640 --> 01:09:57,280

way we tell stories about ourselves and

1643

01:10:00,870 --> 01:09:59,650

it was pointed out to me by a number of

1644

01:10:04,080 --> 01:10:00,880

friends of mine who work in

1645

01:10:06,300 --> 01:10:04,090

psychoanalysis or psychotherapy people

1646

01:10:07,920 --> 01:10:06,310

are continuously giving back histories

1647

01:10:11,220 --> 01:10:07,930

to things like they're since their

1648

01:10:13,320 --> 01:10:11,230

illnesses or anthropomorphizing the

1649

01:10:15,480 --> 01:10:13,330

weather you know the way it always rains

1650

01:10:17,670 --> 01:10:15,490

on my birthday unless ticket and

1651
01:10:19,650 --> 01:10:17,680
football supporters for instance the

1652
01:10:22,740 --> 01:10:19,660
referee doesn't like my team my team

1653
01:10:25,740 --> 01:10:22,750
always gets the bad decisions against it

1654
01:10:27,810 --> 01:10:25,750
or we always are scored against in the

1655
01:10:31,650 --> 01:10:27,820
last minute and so on a whole series of

1656
01:10:34,620 --> 01:10:31,660
notions in which we if you like impose a

1657
01:10:37,370 --> 01:10:34,630
narrative and an agency

1658
01:10:40,410 --> 01:10:37,380
on actually a series of fairly random

1659
01:10:43,410 --> 01:10:40,420
events so another words what so you have

1660
01:10:45,930 --> 01:10:43,420
respected people because we all do it if

1661
01:10:48,120 --> 01:10:45,940
we recognized within ourselves always

1662
01:10:50,790 --> 01:10:48,130
the tendency and the desire for the

1663
01:10:52,500 --> 01:10:50,800

better narrative and for faith I think

1664

01:10:55,350 --> 01:10:52,510

it becomes much easier to deal with

1665

01:10:57,629 --> 01:10:55,360

people who who who take that the next

1666

01:11:00,300 --> 01:10:57,639

stage forward and make those a kind of

1667

01:11:02,490 --> 01:11:00,310

systematic part of their lives in other

1668

01:11:04,590 --> 01:11:02,500

word for just doing what we do but more

1669

01:11:06,720 --> 01:11:04,600

so now of course sometimes the thing

1670

01:11:11,550 --> 01:11:06,730

becomes more urgent we'll take the

1671

01:11:13,950 --> 01:11:11,560

example of Jim Carrey and MMR Jim Carrey

1672

01:11:16,200 --> 01:11:13,960

has decided to make a major campaign

1673

01:11:18,840 --> 01:11:16,210

against the MMR vaccine as if he's

1674

01:11:21,209 --> 01:11:18,850

successful kids will die of measles who

1675

01:11:24,030 --> 01:11:21,219

don't need to die you need to be very

1676

01:11:26,430 --> 01:11:24,040

very firm with Jim Carrey and people

1677

01:11:29,310 --> 01:11:26,440

like him about the consequences of his

1678

01:11:31,470 --> 01:11:29,320

way of thinking I mean but you also

1679

01:11:33,570 --> 01:11:31,480

recognize that it partially comes out of

1680

01:11:36,149 --> 01:11:33,580

the experience that his girlfriend had

1681

01:11:38,790 --> 01:11:36,159

with having an autistic child and so on

1682

01:11:41,280 --> 01:11:38,800

and the desire that we have have an

1683

01:11:42,780 --> 01:11:41,290

overarching and clear explanation for

1684

01:11:45,600 --> 01:11:42,790

the catastrophes that happen to this

1685

01:11:47,160 --> 01:11:45,610

they've done out of time I would like to

1686

01:11:49,140 --> 01:11:47,170

thank you very much first of all for a

1687

01:11:51,419 --> 01:11:49,150

very enjoyable and informative book and

1688

01:11:53,760 --> 01:11:51,429

for joining me on the skeptics on

1689

01:12:00,250 --> 01:11:53,770

podcast thank you very much David thank

1690

01:12:13,800 --> 01:12:09,379

you

1691

01:12:17,000 --> 01:12:13,810

zone now a couple of our little

1692

01:12:19,439 --> 01:12:17,010

announcements before we go before I go

1693

01:12:21,240 --> 01:12:19,449

people have been writing in about Stefan

1694

01:12:23,069 --> 01:12:21,250

where's Stefan where Stefan they say

1695

01:12:25,410 --> 01:12:23,079

Stefan has not been very well lately

1696

01:12:27,660 --> 01:12:25,420

he's much better now and I think he

1697

01:12:30,750 --> 01:12:27,670

should be on deck for next week's

1698

01:12:34,680 --> 01:12:30,760

episode get well quick Stefan I'd also

1699

01:12:37,500 --> 01:12:34,690

like to thank very much Seth Wilson who

1700

01:12:38,970 --> 01:12:37,510

wrote to me saying what he's doing what

1701

01:12:42,419 --> 01:12:38,980

he's up to whilst listening to the

1702

01:12:45,540 --> 01:12:42,429

skeptic zone and he has a most amazing

1703

01:12:49,319 --> 01:12:45,550

cider I checked it out it's really

1704

01:12:52,680 --> 01:12:49,329

interesting Seth does all sorts of crazy

1705

01:12:56,010 --> 01:12:52,690

things with modelling body parts for

1706

01:13:00,720 --> 01:12:56,020

medical or surgical simulators it's just

1707

01:13:07,229 --> 01:13:00,730

fascinating check his site out at ww RL

1708

01:13:10,439 --> 01:13:07,239

escort com that's re al scul PT calm

1709

01:13:12,569 --> 01:13:10,449

thanks Seth I really I really got a kick

1710

01:13:15,450 --> 01:13:12,579

out of looking at your website great

1711

01:13:18,060 --> 01:13:15,460

work also don't forget to check out

1712

01:13:22,140 --> 01:13:18,070

Rachel Dunlop's blog the skeptics book

1713

01:13:24,510 --> 01:13:22,150

of poo poo skeptics book calm for the

1714

01:13:26,490 --> 01:13:24,520

latest information about the vaccination

1715

01:13:30,020 --> 01:13:26,500

scare here in Australia with the flu

1716

01:13:33,300 --> 01:13:30,030

vaccine very interesting and finally

1717

01:13:35,520 --> 01:13:33,310

there's been some controversy lately on

1718

01:13:40,169 --> 01:13:35,530

the skeptics guide to the universe about

1719

01:13:45,660 --> 01:13:40,179

a certain ah imitation of Samuel

1720

01:13:48,629 --> 01:13:45,670

Hahnemann and Brian Dunning it's a bit

1721

01:13:50,220 --> 01:13:48,639

of a complicated story apparently some

1722

01:13:51,959 --> 01:13:50,230

people think that Brian Dunning is the

1723

01:13:53,370 --> 01:13:51,969

voice of Samuel Hahnemann as heard on

1724

01:13:55,830 --> 01:13:53,380

the skeptics oh and some people thought

1725

01:14:01,919 --> 01:13:55,840

it was all sorts of other people but I'm

1726

01:14:03,689 --> 01:14:01,929

here to tell you it wasn't O'Brien I'm

1727

01:14:06,990 --> 01:14:03,699

sorry people thought you were samuel

1728

01:14:08,520 --> 01:14:07,000

hahnemann that's a to get back at you

1729

01:14:12,180 --> 01:14:08,530

for all those terrible Australian

1730

01:14:14,280 --> 01:14:12,190

accents anyway thank you all for

1731

01:14:16,950 --> 01:14:14,290

listening to the skeptic zone thank you

1732

01:14:18,569 --> 01:14:16,960

for everybody writing in telling us what

1733

01:14:20,910 --> 01:14:18,579

you're up to while listening to the

1734

01:14:21,870 --> 01:14:20,920

skeptics and we just love it and thank

1735

01:14:24,450 --> 01:14:21,880

you to those people

1736

01:14:27,479 --> 01:14:24,460

who contribute with donations or

1737

01:14:30,300 --> 01:14:27,489

subscribe very much appreciated the big

1738

01:14:32,209 --> 01:14:30,310

countdown to episode 100 but until next

1739

01:14:35,129 --> 01:14:32,219

week anyway this is Richard Saunders

1740

01:14:40,550 --> 01:14:35,139

with many thanks to the skeptic zone

1741

01:14:48,000 --> 01:14:42,959

you've been listening to the skeptic

1742

01:14:51,030 --> 01:14:48,010

zone visit our website at WWF digs on TV

1743

01:14:53,470 --> 01:14:51,040

for comments contacts and extra video

1744

01:15:04,890 --> 01:14:53,480

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