

Episode **621**

THE  
**SKEPTIC  
ZONE**  
PODCAST

5 September 2020

[www.skepticzone.tv](http://www.skepticzone.tv)

Jennifer Hathorn with  
Dragon\*Con Memories.

LIVE from Skeptrack!

We talk to Dr Angie Mattke  
and Derek Colanduno  
from the studio floor.

Richard Saunders reports  
on skepticism in the US -  
Dragon\*Con and  
the Solano Stroll.



1  
00:00:08,470 --> 00:00:06,630  
[Music]

2  
00:00:11,270 --> 00:00:08,480  
welcome to the skeptic zone

3  
00:00:16,840 --> 00:00:11,280  
the podcast from australia for science

4  
00:00:23,349 --> 00:00:16,850  
and reason

5  
00:00:25,189 --> 00:00:23,359  
[Music]

6  
00:00:27,830 --> 00:00:25,199  
yes it's the skeptic zone podcast

7  
00:00:30,790 --> 00:00:27,840  
episode number 621

8  
00:00:32,310 --> 00:00:30,800  
for the 5th of september 2020 richard

9  
00:00:33,270 --> 00:00:32,320  
saunders here with you from sydney

10  
00:00:36,470 --> 00:00:33,280  
australia

11  
00:00:37,910 --> 00:00:36,480  
no you you need not check your calendars

12  
00:00:39,350 --> 00:00:37,920  
or your clocks or

13  
00:00:41,510 --> 00:00:39,360

think you've traveled a day into the

14

00:00:44,310 --> 00:00:41,520

future the skeptic zone is out

15

00:00:46,470 --> 00:00:44,320

one day early this week very good reason

16

00:00:49,029 --> 00:00:46,480

for that because i wanted to

17

00:00:50,229 --> 00:00:49,039

really promote skeptrak at dragoncon

18

00:00:53,670 --> 00:00:50,239

which is happening

19

00:00:56,630 --> 00:00:53,680

right now as i speak and

20

00:00:57,510 --> 00:00:56,640

that is a chock-a-block program for you

21

00:00:59,990 --> 00:00:57,520

to view

22

00:01:01,029 --> 00:01:00,000

on youtube of skeptical talks i'm giving

23

00:01:04,710 --> 00:01:01,039

a talk

24

00:01:06,710 --> 00:01:04,720

uh pretty soon and in fact if you're

25

00:01:09,270 --> 00:01:06,720

listening to this and it's before

26  
00:01:09,750 --> 00:01:09,280  
sunday morning in australia i'm speaking

27  
00:01:13,030 --> 00:01:09,760  
at

28  
00:01:13,510 --> 00:01:13,040  
9 30 on sunday morning so this week's

29  
00:01:16,310 --> 00:01:13,520  
show

30  
00:01:18,070 --> 00:01:16,320  
is dedicated to skip track and some of

31  
00:01:20,630 --> 00:01:18,080  
the fun times and memories

32  
00:01:22,230 --> 00:01:20,640  
and basically promoting that skeptical

33  
00:01:23,270 --> 00:01:22,240  
outreach we're going to start with our

34  
00:01:25,990 --> 00:01:23,280  
new reporter

35  
00:01:26,870 --> 00:01:26,000  
jennifer hathawn who i met in atlanta

36  
00:01:29,749 --> 00:01:26,880  
georgia

37  
00:01:31,670 --> 00:01:29,759  
about a decade ago and she's going to be

38  
00:01:33,990 --> 00:01:31,680

recounting some of her memories

39

00:01:34,870 --> 00:01:34,000

and the history of the skeptrak at

40

00:01:37,590 --> 00:01:34,880

dragoncon

41

00:01:39,109 --> 00:01:37,600

in atlanta georgia welcome jennifer to

42

00:01:42,389 --> 00:01:39,119

the skeptic zone

43

00:01:43,670 --> 00:01:42,399

and her segment's called here's my two

44

00:01:47,350 --> 00:01:43,680

cents worth

45

00:01:50,069 --> 00:01:47,360

after that i ease drop live

46

00:01:51,350 --> 00:01:50,079

so to speak with skeptrak as it's

47

00:01:54,069 --> 00:01:51,360

happening right now

48

00:01:55,749 --> 00:01:54,079

i speak to dr angie matki and derek

49

00:01:58,550 --> 00:01:55,759

colenduno

50

00:01:59,109 --> 00:01:58,560

and i was very lucky to get them between

51

00:02:02,389 --> 00:01:59,119

talks

52

00:02:05,510 --> 00:02:02,399

so to speak a live crossover to the uh

53

00:02:07,429 --> 00:02:05,520

to the virtual dragon con this year

54

00:02:08,630 --> 00:02:07,439

following that it's my report about

55

00:02:12,150 --> 00:02:08,640

skeptrek

56

00:02:14,949 --> 00:02:12,160

and the solano stroll from 2019

57

00:02:16,550 --> 00:02:14,959

as uh reported in the pages of the

58

00:02:18,150 --> 00:02:16,560

skeptic magazine the journal from

59

00:02:21,589 --> 00:02:18,160

australian skeptics

60

00:02:25,510 --> 00:02:21,599

find out my impressions of dragon con

61

00:02:29,430 --> 00:02:25,520

2019 and the wonderful solano

62

00:02:31,430 --> 00:02:29,440

street fair in berkeley california

63

00:02:33,589 --> 00:02:31,440

where i was lucky enough to take part in

64

00:02:36,790 --> 00:02:33,599

some skeptical outreach

65

00:02:38,869 --> 00:02:36,800

and if you go back about a year

66

00:02:40,710 --> 00:02:38,879

and if you go back here buddy and if you

67

00:02:41,670 --> 00:02:40,720

go back about a year on the skeptic zone

68

00:02:44,390 --> 00:02:41,680

podcast

69

00:02:45,350 --> 00:02:44,400

you can hear my live reports from those

70

00:02:47,830 --> 00:02:45,360

events

71

00:02:48,949 --> 00:02:47,840

now because the show's out a day early

72

00:02:51,990 --> 00:02:48,959

it's a

73

00:02:53,589 --> 00:02:52,000

an abbreviated show this is the

74

00:02:55,990 --> 00:02:53,599

the reader's digest version of the

75

00:02:57,110 --> 00:02:56,000

skeptic zone so it's not as long as the

76

00:02:59,030 --> 00:02:57,120

normal show

77

00:03:01,430 --> 00:02:59,040

but i'm sure you'll understand i really

78

00:03:04,149 --> 00:03:01,440

needed to get this show out a bit early

79

00:03:04,790 --> 00:03:04,159

so uh people who didn't know really had

80

00:03:08,229 --> 00:03:04,800

a good

81

00:03:11,750 --> 00:03:08,239

uh chance to uh to tune into the live

82

00:03:14,790 --> 00:03:11,760

skip track events

83

00:03:15,830 --> 00:03:14,800

but now it's time for me to stay right

84

00:03:19,030 --> 00:03:15,840

here

85

00:03:22,309 --> 00:03:19,040

switch on my youtube

86

00:03:22,949 --> 00:03:22,319

and keep watching skip track well i do

87

00:03:24,309 --> 00:03:22,959

that

88

00:03:26,869 --> 00:03:24,319

all right i'll have a cup of coffee

89

00:03:29,270 --> 00:03:26,879

while i'm doing it maybe a pancake

90

00:03:31,030 --> 00:03:29,280

some toast i wonder if there are any

91

00:03:47,730 --> 00:03:31,040

eggs well i do that

92

00:03:50,390 --> 00:03:47,740

i hope you enjoy the skeptic zone

93

00:03:55,830 --> 00:03:50,400

[Music]

94

00:04:03,350 --> 00:04:01,750

with jennifer hathorne

95

00:04:05,260 --> 00:04:03,360

here's my two cents worth about

96

00:04:09,030 --> 00:04:05,270

dragoncon

97

00:04:11,030 --> 00:04:09,040

[Music]

98

00:04:13,750 --> 00:04:11,040

dragoncon is the largest annual

99

00:04:16,469 --> 00:04:13,760

multimedia popular culture convention

100

00:04:17,349 --> 00:04:16,479

focusing on science science fiction

101  
00:04:21,030 --> 00:04:17,359  
fantasy

102  
00:04:22,150 --> 00:04:21,040  
gaming comics literature art music and

103  
00:04:23,990 --> 00:04:22,160  
film

104  
00:04:25,270 --> 00:04:24,000  
it takes place in atlanta georgia on

105  
00:04:29,670 --> 00:04:25,280  
labor day weekend

106  
00:04:32,310 --> 00:04:29,680  
which is the first weekend in september

107  
00:04:33,350 --> 00:04:32,320  
the convention got its start in 1987 as

108  
00:04:35,030 --> 00:04:33,360  
a project

109  
00:04:37,110 --> 00:04:35,040  
of the local science fiction and gaming

110  
00:04:38,230 --> 00:04:37,120  
group the dragon alliance of gamers and

111  
00:04:42,469 --> 00:04:38,240  
role players

112  
00:04:44,230 --> 00:04:42,479  
and drew about 1400 attendees the idea

113  
00:04:46,150 --> 00:04:44,240

behind the convention was combined

114

00:04:47,590 --> 00:04:46,160

phantoms and genres into a single

115

00:04:49,909 --> 00:04:47,600

convention for fans

116

00:04:51,990 --> 00:04:49,919

who like the founders were interested in

117

00:04:54,790 --> 00:04:52,000

different aspects of the culture

118

00:04:56,150 --> 00:04:54,800

33 years later dragoncon boasts a

119

00:04:59,189 --> 00:04:56,160

staggering 85

120

00:04:59,909 --> 00:04:59,199

000 plus attendees which in a very real

121

00:05:01,990 --> 00:04:59,919

way

122

00:05:03,350 --> 00:05:02,000

transforms the downtown atlanta area

123

00:05:06,790 --> 00:05:03,360

into a futuristic

124

00:05:09,950 --> 00:05:06,800

fantasy landscape everyone is in costume

125

00:05:12,150 --> 00:05:09,960

there are superheroes robots strange

126

00:05:15,430 --> 00:05:12,160

extraterrestrial beings

127

00:05:17,189 --> 00:05:15,440

spartans walking the streets eating in

128

00:05:19,909 --> 00:05:17,199

restaurants and living as though

129

00:05:21,430 --> 00:05:19,919

everything is perfectly normal music is

130

00:05:23,670 --> 00:05:21,440

in the air from both sponsored and

131

00:05:25,830 --> 00:05:23,680

spontaneous celebrations

132

00:05:27,430 --> 00:05:25,840

all you need to start a party is a radio

133

00:05:29,990 --> 00:05:27,440

and the will to get down

134

00:05:32,150 --> 00:05:30,000

let me emphasize there are people here

135

00:05:33,189 --> 00:05:32,160

representing every facet of popular

136

00:05:34,790 --> 00:05:33,199

culture

137

00:05:36,629 --> 00:05:34,800

whatever you can think of there's a

138

00:05:38,950 --> 00:05:36,639

person in the costume of it

139

00:05:39,909 --> 00:05:38,960

9 foot tall off miss prime they've got

140

00:05:42,230 --> 00:05:39,919

you covered

141

00:05:43,590 --> 00:05:42,240

screen accurate stormtroopers there are

142

00:05:46,550 --> 00:05:43,600

hundreds of them

143

00:05:48,790 --> 00:05:46,560

and they commit to the role too i once

144

00:05:51,270 --> 00:05:48,800

saw a person dressed as jason voorhees

145

00:05:52,870 --> 00:05:51,280

from the friday the 13th movies stand

146

00:05:54,710 --> 00:05:52,880

outside in the extreme

147

00:05:56,390 --> 00:05:54,720

heat and humidity of a southern us

148

00:05:58,309 --> 00:05:56,400

summer for 12

149

00:06:00,230 --> 00:05:58,319

hours just to scare people while in

150

00:06:02,230 --> 00:06:00,240

character and it is that kind of

151  
00:06:02,469 --> 00:06:02,240  
commitment to character that expressed

152  
00:06:05,430 --> 00:06:02,479  
in

153  
00:06:07,189 --> 00:06:05,440  
every happy attendee i guarantee no

154  
00:06:07,909 --> 00:06:07,199  
matter the size or newness of your

155  
00:06:10,469 --> 00:06:07,919  
fandom

156  
00:06:12,950 --> 00:06:10,479  
dragoncon will represent you my first

157  
00:06:14,950 --> 00:06:12,960  
dragoncon was 2001.

158  
00:06:17,510 --> 00:06:14,960  
it was my very first time going to any

159  
00:06:20,070 --> 00:06:17,520  
convention and folks believe me when i

160  
00:06:22,230 --> 00:06:20,080  
tell you that i was blown away

161  
00:06:24,230 --> 00:06:22,240  
from the inaugural dragoncon parade to

162  
00:06:25,510 --> 00:06:24,240  
the midnight live showing of the rocky

163  
00:06:27,830 --> 00:06:25,520

horror picture show

164

00:06:30,070 --> 00:06:27,840

i was enthralled and encompassed by

165

00:06:31,990 --> 00:06:30,080

waves of costume revelers

166

00:06:33,590 --> 00:06:32,000

that were just as happy to see me as i

167

00:06:36,790 --> 00:06:33,600

was to see them

168

00:06:37,189 --> 00:06:36,800

a real family atmosphere the years flew

169

00:06:39,029 --> 00:06:37,199

by

170

00:06:41,189 --> 00:06:39,039

and i would enjoy attending panels where

171

00:06:43,590 --> 00:06:41,199

i would meet my heroes from film

172

00:06:45,830 --> 00:06:43,600

television and literature by day while

173

00:06:46,550 --> 00:06:45,840

raging at parties taylor made for nerds

174

00:06:49,110 --> 00:06:46,560

like me

175

00:06:51,029 --> 00:06:49,120

at night but it was in 2008 that

176

00:06:54,710 --> 00:06:51,039

something different came along

177

00:06:56,790 --> 00:06:54,720

the skiptrack clearly founders derek

178

00:06:58,309 --> 00:06:56,800

colenduno and robin mccarthy

179

00:07:00,230 --> 00:06:58,319

saw a need in the community for a

180

00:07:01,510 --> 00:07:00,240

gathering place for critical thinkers to

181

00:07:04,150 --> 00:07:01,520

share ideas and ask

182

00:07:06,309 --> 00:07:04,160

questions skip track is a four day

183

00:07:07,510 --> 00:07:06,319

subconference within dragon con with

184

00:07:09,589 --> 00:07:07,520

panels featuring

185

00:07:11,749 --> 00:07:09,599

professional skeptics and free thinking

186

00:07:14,070 --> 00:07:11,759

celebrities from all over the world

187

00:07:15,110 --> 00:07:14,080

in the early years there were folks like

188

00:07:18,230 --> 00:07:15,120

george robb

189

00:07:19,670 --> 00:07:18,240

of the geological podcast dr phil plate

190

00:07:22,710 --> 00:07:19,680

the bad astronomer

191

00:07:25,029 --> 00:07:22,720

the sgu and none other than richard

192

00:07:28,550 --> 00:07:25,039

saunders and dr rachel dunlop

193

00:07:30,070 --> 00:07:28,560

from the skeptic zone and every year the

194

00:07:33,430 --> 00:07:30,080

skype track was more fabulous

195

00:07:35,510 --> 00:07:33,440

than the last oh the places you'll go

196

00:07:37,189 --> 00:07:35,520

i have so many favorites but i want to

197

00:07:38,790 --> 00:07:37,199

speak about my all-time thrills

198

00:07:41,110 --> 00:07:38,800

attending the skeptrac

199

00:07:43,110 --> 00:07:41,120

mendisathomas the founder and president

200

00:07:45,270 --> 00:07:43,120

of black non-believers incorporated

201  
00:07:47,110 --> 00:07:45,280  
was a delight to speak with her

202  
00:07:47,830 --> 00:07:47,120  
organization's goals are eliminating

203  
00:07:49,830 --> 00:07:47,840  
stigma

204  
00:07:52,070 --> 00:07:49,840  
increasing visibility and providing

205  
00:07:54,230 --> 00:07:52,080  
support and networking opportunities

206  
00:07:56,150 --> 00:07:54,240  
around non-belief in the black community

207  
00:07:58,390 --> 00:07:56,160  
and their allies

208  
00:07:59,830 --> 00:07:58,400  
mendisa was warm and wonderful and made

209  
00:08:01,110 --> 00:07:59,840  
me feel welcome in all of our

210  
00:08:03,830 --> 00:08:01,120  
conversations

211  
00:08:05,350 --> 00:08:03,840  
meeting the skeptics was awesome

212  
00:08:07,270 --> 00:08:05,360  
skepchick is an organization

213  
00:08:09,189 --> 00:08:07,280

and blog dedicated to promoting

214

00:08:10,950 --> 00:08:09,199

skepticism and critical thinking among

215

00:08:14,469 --> 00:08:10,960

women around the world

216

00:08:17,589 --> 00:08:14,479

its founder rebecca watson was engaging

217

00:08:19,749 --> 00:08:17,599

dynamic and genuinely lovely to meet her

218

00:08:20,390 --> 00:08:19,759

grasp of how skeptic and social justice

219

00:08:23,430 --> 00:08:20,400

issues

220

00:08:25,110 --> 00:08:23,440

fits into the wider world is unmatched

221

00:08:28,309 --> 00:08:25,120

the skeptic parade a part of the

222

00:08:30,309 --> 00:08:28,319

dragoncon parade is a must-see event

223

00:08:32,310 --> 00:08:30,319

dragoncon attendees can sign up and

224

00:08:34,870 --> 00:08:32,320

dress up as their favorite skeptical

225

00:08:36,949 --> 00:08:34,880

or science personalities and wave to

226

00:08:38,389 --> 00:08:36,959

thousands of adoring fans as you walk

227

00:08:41,110 --> 00:08:38,399

with your fellow skeptics

228

00:08:42,389 --> 00:08:41,120

at over 000 other marching costume

229

00:08:44,790 --> 00:08:42,399

conventioners

230

00:08:45,750 --> 00:08:44,800

through downtown atlanta georgia and

231

00:08:48,150 --> 00:08:45,760

finally

232

00:08:49,269 --> 00:08:48,160

there's a time i met the amazing james

233

00:08:51,430 --> 00:08:49,279

randy

234

00:08:54,310 --> 00:08:51,440

for those who don't know him he is a

235

00:08:56,310 --> 00:08:54,320

canadian american retired stage magician

236

00:08:57,910 --> 00:08:56,320

and scientific skeptic who was

237

00:08:59,990 --> 00:08:57,920

responsible for the formation of the

238

00:09:02,710 --> 00:09:00,000

committee for skeptical inquiry

239

00:09:04,310 --> 00:09:02,720

the amazing meeting and the james randy

240

00:09:06,470 --> 00:09:04,320

educational foundation

241

00:09:08,710 --> 00:09:06,480

which most famously held the one million

242

00:09:10,870 --> 00:09:08,720

dollar paranormal challenge

243

00:09:12,710 --> 00:09:10,880

which offered a prize of 1 million us

244

00:09:14,470 --> 00:09:12,720

dollars to eligible applicants

245

00:09:16,550 --> 00:09:14,480

who could demonstrate evidence of any

246

00:09:19,110 --> 00:09:16,560

paranormal supernatural or

247

00:09:20,389 --> 00:09:19,120

cult power or event under test

248

00:09:23,590 --> 00:09:20,399

conditions

249

00:09:25,350 --> 00:09:23,600

james randy is a great man and a master

250

00:09:27,910 --> 00:09:25,360

of deception

251

00:09:28,389 --> 00:09:27,920

when he looked at me it was like he

252

00:09:30,949 --> 00:09:28,399

could see

253

00:09:32,470 --> 00:09:30,959

right through the back of my skull i was

254

00:09:35,350 --> 00:09:32,480

totally intimidated

255

00:09:35,990 --> 00:09:35,360

but folks let me tell you he was the

256

00:09:38,790 --> 00:09:36,000

kindest

257

00:09:41,269 --> 00:09:38,800

most caring person you'll ever meet it

258

00:09:43,030 --> 00:09:41,279

was a sincere pleasure to speak with him

259

00:09:44,790 --> 00:09:43,040

i was quite young at the time and he

260

00:09:45,829 --> 00:09:44,800

took an interest in my budding science

261

00:09:47,829 --> 00:09:45,839

career

262

00:09:51,430 --> 00:09:47,839

i was star struck and babbling the whole

263

00:09:53,910 --> 00:09:51,440

time and he listened he really listened

264

00:09:55,269 --> 00:09:53,920

speaking of the amazing randy i asked

265

00:09:57,110 --> 00:09:55,279

derek colin dunno

266

00:09:59,509 --> 00:09:57,120

director for scientific skepticism at

267

00:10:01,590 --> 00:09:59,519

dragoncon if he had a favorite highlight

268

00:10:03,430 --> 00:10:01,600

from years past

269

00:10:05,509 --> 00:10:03,440

he said that his favorite was when he

270

00:10:07,590 --> 00:10:05,519

got james randy to come to dragoncon

271

00:10:09,829 --> 00:10:07,600

at the last minute the same year that

272

00:10:12,069 --> 00:10:09,839

alice cooper was going to be there

273

00:10:14,310 --> 00:10:12,079

many fans of alice cooper don't know

274

00:10:16,829 --> 00:10:14,320

that it was james randy who helped form

275

00:10:18,069 --> 00:10:16,839

the alice cooper's signature look and

276

00:10:19,430 --> 00:10:18,079

character

277

00:10:21,670 --> 00:10:19,440

james randy was the one who helped

278

00:10:24,150 --> 00:10:21,680

design the stage show for the tour

279

00:10:25,990 --> 00:10:24,160

and was on stage for most of the time as

280

00:10:28,470 --> 00:10:26,000

different characters

281

00:10:30,949 --> 00:10:28,480

now if you think that's cool head over

282

00:10:33,030 --> 00:10:30,959

to the dragoncon videos on youtube

283

00:10:34,790 --> 00:10:33,040

and watch the on stage event where they

284

00:10:37,030 --> 00:10:34,800

share all sorts of cool stories about

285

00:10:38,389 --> 00:10:37,040

their time on the road together

286

00:10:40,550 --> 00:10:38,399

i've been privileged to witness a

287

00:10:43,590 --> 00:10:40,560

community of amazing skeptic talent that

288

00:10:45,590 --> 00:10:43,600

grew from just a few enthusiastic fans

289

00:10:48,470 --> 00:10:45,600

to one of the most significant skeptic

290

00:10:50,230 --> 00:10:48,480

events of the year in the u.s

291

00:10:52,870 --> 00:10:50,240

because it is a part of an ever-growing

292

00:10:54,790 --> 00:10:52,880

dragon con new people get to experience

293

00:10:56,710 --> 00:10:54,800

what it is like to attend a skeptical

294

00:10:57,750 --> 00:10:56,720

conference for the very first time every

295

00:11:02,470 --> 00:10:57,760

year

296

00:11:04,269 --> 00:11:02,480

will be open for everyone to attend

297

00:11:06,630 --> 00:11:04,279

you can check out details at

298

00:11:08,389 --> 00:11:06,640

[dragoncon.org](http://dragoncon.org)

299

00:11:09,990 --> 00:11:08,399

i'm delighted to say that our very own

300

00:11:12,389 --> 00:11:10,000

richard saunders will be speaking this

301  
00:11:14,550 --> 00:11:12,399  
year all the way from australia

302  
00:11:17,269 --> 00:11:14,560  
personally i plan on being there for as

303  
00:11:19,350 --> 00:11:17,279  
many panels as possible

304  
00:11:20,389 --> 00:11:19,360  
even if covid 19 keeps us physically

305  
00:11:26,790 --> 00:11:20,399  
distant

306  
00:11:30,150 --> 00:11:29,030  
and that my skeptical friends was my two

307  
00:11:33,570 --> 00:11:30,160  
cents worth

308  
00:11:38,870 --> 00:11:33,580  
until next time this is jennifer

309  
00:11:42,260 --> 00:11:40,829  
[Music]

310  
00:11:48,630 --> 00:11:42,270  
hathorne

311  
00:11:53,430 --> 00:11:51,269  
skepicon 2020 the australian skeptics

312  
00:11:56,230 --> 00:11:53,440  
national convention

313  
00:11:56,870 --> 00:11:56,240

skeptic activism workshop with joe

314

00:12:00,949 --> 00:11:56,880

bedimu

315

00:12:03,750 --> 00:12:00,959

and mandy lee noble it is of no surprise

316

00:12:04,470 --> 00:12:03,760

but of great frustration to those in the

317

00:12:07,430 --> 00:12:04,480

skeptic

318

00:12:09,670 --> 00:12:07,440

community witnessing the false and often

319

00:12:09,990 --> 00:12:09,680

downright bizarre claims being made

320

00:12:12,629 --> 00:12:10,000

about

321

00:12:13,670 --> 00:12:12,639

health and medicine spurred on by the

322

00:12:17,269 --> 00:12:13,680

recent covert

323

00:12:19,430 --> 00:12:17,279

pandemic of course pseudoscientific

324

00:12:20,949 --> 00:12:19,440

assertions have long persisted in all

325

00:12:24,389 --> 00:12:20,959

areas of healthcare

326

00:12:27,509 --> 00:12:24,399

often causing harm or death as a result

327

00:12:30,150 --> 00:12:27,519

joe bettamu and mandy lee noble are no

328

00:12:33,110 --> 00:12:30,160

strangers to this working in fields

329

00:12:36,230 --> 00:12:33,120

often targeted by misinformation

330

00:12:37,269 --> 00:12:36,240

and woo joe benamu is a senior clinical

331

00:12:39,590 --> 00:12:37,279

research nurse

332

00:12:41,829 --> 00:12:39,600

at peter mccullum cancer center with

333

00:12:42,710 --> 00:12:41,839

almost 20 years of experience in

334

00:12:45,190 --> 00:12:42,720

clinical

335

00:12:46,629 --> 00:12:45,200

nursing she is a founding member of

336

00:12:48,550 --> 00:12:46,639

stopped the avn

337

00:12:50,710 --> 00:12:48,560

and co-authored several papers

338

00:12:53,670 --> 00:12:50,720

challenging anti-vaccination papers

339

00:12:54,710 --> 00:12:53,680

in the scientific literature joe is also

340

00:12:57,509 --> 00:12:54,720

a vice president

341

00:12:59,670 --> 00:12:57,519

of australian skeptics inc mandy lee

342

00:13:00,710 --> 00:12:59,680

noble is an accredited practicing

343

00:13:03,509 --> 00:13:00,720

dietitian

344

00:13:04,710 --> 00:13:03,519

and verified health at every size

345

00:13:06,710 --> 00:13:04,720

practitioner

346

00:13:08,550 --> 00:13:06,720

mandy looks after a range of clients

347

00:13:12,310 --> 00:13:08,560

including those with eating disorders

348

00:13:14,470 --> 00:13:12,320

ibs and chronic disease together

349

00:13:17,190 --> 00:13:14,480

joe and mandy will talk us through what

350

00:13:19,590 --> 00:13:17,200

we as a skeptical community can do

351  
00:13:21,990 --> 00:13:19,600  
to help fight for ethical and

352  
00:13:26,790 --> 00:13:22,000  
evidence-based approaches to healthcare

353  
00:13:29,910 --> 00:13:26,800  
in their skeptic activism workshop

354  
00:13:32,470 --> 00:13:29,920  
joe benamu and mandy lee noble just two

355  
00:13:34,389 --> 00:13:32,480  
of the speakers at skepticon 2020

356  
00:13:36,310 --> 00:13:34,399  
the australian skeptics national

357  
00:13:39,330 --> 00:13:36,320  
convention

358  
00:13:40,750 --> 00:13:39,340  
for more information and tickets visit

359  
00:13:42,230 --> 00:13:40,760  
[Music]

360  
00:13:47,830 --> 00:13:42,240  
[www.skepticon.org](http://www.skepticon.org)

361  
00:13:57,750 --> 00:13:47,840  
dot a u

362  
00:14:01,990 --> 00:14:00,470  
and joining me now on the line direct

363  
00:14:04,949 --> 00:14:02,000

direct from the skip track

364

00:14:06,310 --> 00:14:04,959

at dragoncon it's dr angie matkey hello

365

00:14:08,949 --> 00:14:06,320

angie

366

00:14:10,949 --> 00:14:08,959

hi richard how are you i'm really well

367

00:14:13,990 --> 00:14:10,959

i've got up especially early oh

368

00:14:15,269 --> 00:14:14,000

deary me because of the ridiculous time

369

00:14:17,430 --> 00:14:15,279

differences between here

370

00:14:18,949 --> 00:14:17,440

and atlanta you're in you're in the

371

00:14:19,750 --> 00:14:18,959

nerve center you're right there at

372

00:14:22,310 --> 00:14:19,760

dragon con

373

00:14:22,949 --> 00:14:22,320

well so to speak well we're at the

374

00:14:25,750 --> 00:14:22,959

virtual

375

00:14:26,069 --> 00:14:25,760

dragon con we're in the skeptic uh track

376

00:14:30,069 --> 00:14:26,079

uh

377

00:14:33,910 --> 00:14:30,079

held at

378

00:14:36,790 --> 00:14:33,920

calico studios which is mark ditzler's

379

00:14:37,990 --> 00:14:36,800

company he is kind and generous enough

380

00:14:40,470 --> 00:14:38,000

to give us

381

00:14:41,990 --> 00:14:40,480

the absolute best av that anywhere in

382

00:14:45,430 --> 00:14:42,000

the convention and so we are

383

00:14:48,790 --> 00:14:45,440

live streaming today tomorrow

384

00:14:49,990 --> 00:14:48,800

through monday uh and well monday in the

385

00:14:52,550 --> 00:14:50,000

us

386

00:14:54,949 --> 00:14:52,560

and um as far as we can tell we may be

387

00:14:56,790 --> 00:14:54,959

the only track that is streaming live

388

00:14:58,470 --> 00:14:56,800

everybody else seems to be posting their

389

00:14:59,110 --> 00:14:58,480

pre-recorded videos but we're doing it

390

00:15:01,670 --> 00:14:59,120

live

391

00:15:03,910 --> 00:15:01,680

well and i'm absolutely thrilled and

392

00:15:06,790 --> 00:15:03,920

delighted to be part of skeptrek

393

00:15:07,509 --> 00:15:06,800

uh this year and folks you can see me

394

00:15:10,949 --> 00:15:07,519

give a talk

395

00:15:14,550 --> 00:15:10,959

on sydney time it'll be sunday morning

396

00:15:16,629 --> 00:15:14,560

at 9 30 but check your

397

00:15:18,389 --> 00:15:16,639

guides and everything uh how's it been

398

00:15:21,110 --> 00:15:18,399

going so far

399

00:15:22,870 --> 00:15:21,120

so far we have been so lucky we had a

400

00:15:24,790 --> 00:15:22,880

couple of little technical glitches

401  
00:15:25,670 --> 00:15:24,800  
early but we've been doing fine ever

402  
00:15:27,750 --> 00:15:25,680  
since

403  
00:15:29,509 --> 00:15:27,760  
everyone has been so wonderful even

404  
00:15:31,509 --> 00:15:29,519  
accounting for time zones

405  
00:15:33,269 --> 00:15:31,519  
i'm in fact interviewing lynn kelly

406  
00:15:35,829 --> 00:15:33,279  
tonight from australia

407  
00:15:36,310 --> 00:15:35,839  
uh she is someone i have always wanted

408  
00:15:39,829 --> 00:15:36,320  
to get

409  
00:15:41,590 --> 00:15:39,839  
on dragon con but just the travel is

410  
00:15:44,150 --> 00:15:41,600  
just prohibitive sometimes

411  
00:15:44,790 --> 00:15:44,160  
and so i'm just delighted that we can

412  
00:15:47,430 --> 00:15:44,800  
have you

413  
00:15:49,430 --> 00:15:47,440

and lynn and uh we've got leo iguay

414

00:15:50,389 --> 00:15:49,440

going to be calling in from nigeria on

415

00:15:54,389 --> 00:15:50,399

monday

416

00:15:56,550 --> 00:15:54,399

uh we've got um um uh

417

00:15:57,749 --> 00:15:56,560

we had a talk this morning from uh

418

00:16:01,350 --> 00:15:57,759

emergency physician

419

00:16:03,030 --> 00:16:01,360

in iowa on uh the relationship between

420

00:16:06,069 --> 00:16:03,040

love whiskey and adrenaline

421

00:16:06,550 --> 00:16:06,079

uh so these videos are all available on

422

00:16:09,590 --> 00:16:06,560

the

423

00:16:13,030 --> 00:16:09,600

skeptic track video feed

424

00:16:14,629 --> 00:16:13,040

at thevideo.skiptrack.com um

425

00:16:16,790 --> 00:16:14,639

these are the old videos and then you

426  
00:16:17,509 --> 00:16:16,800  
can also see these videos on the skeptic

427  
00:16:20,150 --> 00:16:17,519  
track

428  
00:16:21,829 --> 00:16:20,160  
feed on youtube i will certainly add to

429  
00:16:23,430 --> 00:16:21,839  
the link in the show notes folks but if

430  
00:16:25,030 --> 00:16:23,440  
you're listening to this show

431  
00:16:26,470 --> 00:16:25,040  
it's out a day early and if you're

432  
00:16:30,230 --> 00:16:26,480  
listening to it

433  
00:16:31,269 --> 00:16:30,240  
over the weekend go stop hit pause

434  
00:16:33,110 --> 00:16:31,279  
or listen to the rest of the show

435  
00:16:33,910 --> 00:16:33,120  
whatever you want to do and check out

436  
00:16:36,710 --> 00:16:33,920  
the live

437  
00:16:38,629 --> 00:16:36,720  
feed from dragoncon i love dragon con i

438  
00:16:40,389 --> 00:16:38,639

was all geared up

439

00:16:42,629 --> 00:16:40,399

at the end of last year excitedly

440

00:16:44,710 --> 00:16:42,639

looking forward to this year 2020

441

00:16:47,430 --> 00:16:44,720

as people will hear in the next segment

442

00:16:49,990 --> 00:16:47,440

which is my report from about a year ago

443

00:16:52,150 --> 00:16:50,000

and folks i'm actually looking i've got

444

00:16:53,670 --> 00:16:52,160

a sneak peek i'm looking at dr

445

00:16:55,269 --> 00:16:53,680

angle you're standing in front of a

446

00:16:56,389 --> 00:16:55,279

green screen but before you were sort of

447

00:16:58,949 --> 00:16:56,399

turning the camera around

448

00:17:00,790 --> 00:16:58,959

i could see all the uh uh the amazing

449

00:17:04,069 --> 00:17:00,800

action there at the studios

450

00:17:06,309 --> 00:17:04,079

that's right wow that's right yeah it's

451

00:17:07,829 --> 00:17:06,319

it's really exciting to have everybody

452

00:17:10,870 --> 00:17:07,839

here we we've had

453

00:17:14,470 --> 00:17:10,880

we've had to oops we've had to um uh

454

00:17:16,390 --> 00:17:14,480

be very cautious about socializing

455

00:17:18,069 --> 00:17:16,400

because of covert we've all tested

456

00:17:21,429 --> 00:17:18,079

negatives so that we could have

457

00:17:23,350 --> 00:17:21,439

to get together and and um have our on

458

00:17:24,789 --> 00:17:23,360

our altogether discussion here comes

459

00:17:28,390 --> 00:17:24,799

derek i can see

460

00:17:28,789 --> 00:17:28,400

derrick collin coming my way my goodness

461

00:17:30,470 --> 00:17:28,799

me

462

00:17:32,310 --> 00:17:30,480

it's great to i don't know if he can

463

00:17:36,789 --> 00:17:32,320

hear me

464

00:17:39,270 --> 00:17:36,799

hi derek great to see you hello

465

00:17:40,230 --> 00:17:39,280

yeah he has injured his knee oh so he's

466

00:17:42,710 --> 00:17:40,240

limping around

467

00:17:43,750 --> 00:17:42,720

yes he always seems to injure himself

468

00:17:47,029 --> 00:17:43,760

around dragon con

469

00:17:49,110 --> 00:17:47,039

yeah i'm uh derek i'm

470

00:17:51,029 --> 00:17:49,120

i'm just telling i was just telling dr

471

00:17:53,270 --> 00:17:51,039

angie i'm putting the skeptic zone out

472

00:17:54,230 --> 00:17:53,280

uh 24 hours early this week which is

473

00:17:56,470 --> 00:17:54,240

very rare

474

00:17:59,110 --> 00:17:56,480

to make sure more people can tune in to

475

00:18:02,230 --> 00:17:59,120

uh to the scout track at dragoncon

476  
00:18:02,470 --> 00:18:02,240  
very cool yeah we have more stuff coming

477  
00:18:05,510 --> 00:18:02,480  
up

478  
00:18:06,150 --> 00:18:05,520  
in the next three days so indeed we've

479  
00:18:08,789 --> 00:18:06,160  
got uh

480  
00:18:09,190 --> 00:18:08,799  
some terrific speakers i'm very excited

481  
00:18:11,190 --> 00:18:09,200  
and

482  
00:18:12,470 --> 00:18:11,200  
we're excited to have you as part of our

483  
00:18:14,870 --> 00:18:12,480  
program we

484  
00:18:16,789 --> 00:18:14,880  
um have been working tirelessly mark

485  
00:18:19,110 --> 00:18:16,799  
ditzler is tearing his hair out

486  
00:18:21,510 --> 00:18:19,120  
which is actually pretty routine for him

487  
00:18:23,190 --> 00:18:21,520  
but but he always gives us such a great

488  
00:18:23,590 --> 00:18:23,200

show we can't even complain about his

489

00:18:28,789 --> 00:18:23,600

method

490

00:18:31,830 --> 00:18:30,470

oh right we didn't have to rent a truck

491

00:18:35,510 --> 00:18:31,840

oh yeah of course

492

00:18:37,590 --> 00:18:35,520

well i i i i remember last year the

493

00:18:39,430 --> 00:18:37,600

setup was extraordinary and mark ditzer

494

00:18:41,990 --> 00:18:39,440

and his company certainly did

495

00:18:43,270 --> 00:18:42,000

a very worthwhile job there putting it

496

00:18:45,350 --> 00:18:43,280

all together it was just

497

00:18:46,390 --> 00:18:45,360

like being in a space station their

498

00:18:47,909 --> 00:18:46,400

control panel

499

00:18:50,710 --> 00:18:47,919

[Laughter]

500

00:18:52,710 --> 00:18:50,720

well look uh dr angie and derek i know

501  
00:18:55,029 --> 00:18:52,720  
you've got a ton of things to do it's

502  
00:18:57,029 --> 00:18:55,039  
wonderful to break into your

503  
00:18:59,029 --> 00:18:57,039  
evening or afternoon right now just

504  
00:18:59,750 --> 00:18:59,039  
quickly to update the skeptic's own

505  
00:19:03,510 --> 00:18:59,760  
listeners

506  
00:19:05,909 --> 00:19:03,520  
there a wonderful

507  
00:19:07,110 --> 00:19:05,919  
weekend of skepticism and outreach at

508  
00:19:09,510 --> 00:19:07,120  
dragoncon and

509  
00:19:13,110 --> 00:19:09,520  
i guess we can say well we hope we can

510  
00:19:15,110 --> 00:19:13,120  
all be together again in 2021 who knows

511  
00:19:16,950 --> 00:19:15,120  
i hope so richard i can't wait to see

512  
00:19:19,110 --> 00:19:16,960  
y'all and see you in person

513  
00:19:20,710 --> 00:19:19,120

thank you so much for joining us on the

514

00:19:22,549 --> 00:19:20,720  
on this live stream we're looking

515

00:19:26,070 --> 00:19:22,559  
forward to having a chat

516

00:19:27,590 --> 00:19:26,080  
uh officially all right and i think dr

517

00:19:28,470 --> 00:19:27,600  
angie oddly enough you're going to be

518

00:19:30,230 --> 00:19:28,480  
appearing on

519

00:19:31,909 --> 00:19:30,240  
the next episode of the skeptic zone

520

00:19:36,870 --> 00:19:31,919  
something about a a sick

521

00:19:41,590 --> 00:19:38,950  
we'll see what happens next uh next week

522

00:19:44,789 --> 00:19:41,600  
or about that

523

00:19:46,549 --> 00:19:44,799  
but for now derek colenduno and dr

524

00:19:47,830 --> 00:19:46,559  
angie mack here all the way over there

525

00:19:50,470 --> 00:19:47,840  
in atlanta georgia

526  
00:19:51,990 --> 00:19:50,480  
get back to work and thank you very much

527  
00:19:52,789 --> 00:19:52,000  
for sparing some time for the skipping

528  
00:19:54,710 --> 00:19:52,799  
zone

529  
00:20:06,650 --> 00:19:54,720  
of course anytime thank you richard see

530  
00:20:11,029 --> 00:20:06,660  
you soon

531  
00:20:13,430 --> 00:20:11,039  
[Music]

532  
00:20:15,270 --> 00:20:13,440  
principles of curiosity is skeptoid

533  
00:20:17,669 --> 00:20:15,280  
media's 2017

534  
00:20:18,310 --> 00:20:17,679  
film that teaches an easy method anyone

535  
00:20:21,510 --> 00:20:18,320  
can use

536  
00:20:24,470 --> 00:20:21,520  
to tell fact from fiction and now

537  
00:20:26,950 --> 00:20:24,480  
it's available on amazon prime

538  
00:20:28,070 --> 00:20:26,960

principles of curiosity teaches the

539

00:20:30,950 --> 00:20:28,080

three c's

540

00:20:31,510 --> 00:20:30,960

challenge consider and conclude as a way

541

00:20:33,590 --> 00:20:31,520

to learn

542

00:20:35,110 --> 00:20:33,600

what's real and what's just more pop

543

00:20:37,669 --> 00:20:35,120

culture nonsense

544

00:20:39,590 --> 00:20:37,679

from the fiery depths of death valley to

545

00:20:42,070 --> 00:20:39,600

the farthest reaches of space

546

00:20:42,710 --> 00:20:42,080

principles of curiosity puts the three

547

00:20:45,990 --> 00:20:42,720

c's

548

00:20:48,470 --> 00:20:46,000

to the test search amazon prime for

549

00:20:50,149 --> 00:20:48,480

principles of curiosity watch it

550

00:20:52,390 --> 00:20:50,159

enjoy it and give it a rating so it'll

551  
00:20:55,590 --> 00:20:52,400  
be suggested to other prime customers

552  
00:20:56,710 --> 00:20:55,600  
who need it principles of curiosity from

553  
00:21:02,230 --> 00:20:56,720  
skeptoid

554  
00:21:12,549 --> 00:21:02,240  
now available on amazon prime

555  
00:21:15,750 --> 00:21:14,390  
now as i said at the top of the show how

556  
00:21:18,070 --> 00:21:15,760  
i would love

557  
00:21:19,190 --> 00:21:18,080  
to be in atlanta georgia right now i

558  
00:21:20,950 --> 00:21:19,200  
know it's it's fun to be in the

559  
00:21:22,630 --> 00:21:20,960  
skeptic's own studios but i'd love to be

560  
00:21:24,149 --> 00:21:22,640  
in atlanta georgia right now taking part

561  
00:21:27,029 --> 00:21:24,159  
in dragon con

562  
00:21:28,870 --> 00:21:27,039  
in the uh the skype track it's a crazy

563  
00:21:31,029 --> 00:21:28,880

experience and a wonderful chance for

564

00:21:31,669 --> 00:21:31,039

outreach so i thought i would read to

565

00:21:33,430 --> 00:21:31,679

you

566

00:21:35,430 --> 00:21:33,440

my official report for the skeptic

567

00:21:38,390 --> 00:21:35,440

magazine the journal from australian

568

00:21:40,870 --> 00:21:38,400

skeptics of course not to be confused

569

00:21:42,830 --> 00:21:40,880

with other magazines of the same name my

570

00:21:45,909 --> 00:21:42,840

report about last year's dragoncon

571

00:21:47,909 --> 00:21:45,919

dragoncon 2019

572

00:21:49,350 --> 00:21:47,919

and this report appears in the skeptic

573

00:21:52,800 --> 00:21:49,360

magazine

574

00:21:56,830 --> 00:21:52,810

volume 39 number four from december

575

00:21:56,840 --> 00:21:59,909

2019

576  
00:22:04,149 --> 00:22:02,310  
enter the dragon richard saunders

577  
00:22:07,590 --> 00:22:04,159  
reports on skepticism

578  
00:22:10,630 --> 00:22:07,600  
in the us dragoncon and

579  
00:22:13,110 --> 00:22:10,640  
the solano stroll

580  
00:22:13,990 --> 00:22:13,120  
eleven years ago during the filming of

581  
00:22:16,710 --> 00:22:14,000  
the tv show

582  
00:22:18,070 --> 00:22:16,720  
the one the search for australia's most

583  
00:22:20,149 --> 00:22:18,080  
gifted psychic

584  
00:22:21,830 --> 00:22:20,159  
i flew to las vegas to appear at the

585  
00:22:24,870 --> 00:22:21,840  
amazing meeting

586  
00:22:27,430 --> 00:22:24,880  
it was there i met derek colenduno

587  
00:22:29,350 --> 00:22:27,440  
and robin mccarthy who were famous in

588  
00:22:33,190 --> 00:22:29,360

the skeptical world for their podcast

589

00:22:35,909 --> 00:22:33,200

skepticity at the time i was also

590

00:22:38,870 --> 00:22:35,919

planning to start a podcast to be called

591

00:22:41,270 --> 00:22:38,880

the skeptic zone so it was very good to

592

00:22:43,750 --> 00:22:41,280

meet and talk with them

593

00:22:45,270 --> 00:22:43,760

derek told me of another event held in

594

00:22:48,789 --> 00:22:45,280

atlanta georgia

595

00:22:52,390 --> 00:22:48,799

later in the year called dragoncon or

596

00:22:56,070 --> 00:22:52,400

dc a sort of

597

00:23:00,390 --> 00:22:56,080

fantasy sci-fi gaming tv movie

598

00:23:03,590 --> 00:23:00,400

fandom convention on a monumental scale

599

00:23:06,549 --> 00:23:03,600

before i knew it i was saving my pennies

600

00:23:07,990 --> 00:23:06,559

indeed the skeptic zone podcast had its

601  
00:23:11,350 --> 00:23:08,000  
first recording session

602  
00:23:14,310 --> 00:23:11,360  
at dc in the skype track

603  
00:23:15,990 --> 00:23:14,320  
a room dedicated to skeptical outreach a

604  
00:23:17,669 --> 00:23:16,000  
report from that year can be found in

605  
00:23:20,789 --> 00:23:17,679  
the pages of the skeptic

606  
00:23:22,470 --> 00:23:20,799  
december 2008 volume 28 number four i

607  
00:23:26,230 --> 00:23:22,480  
was to go back to skeptrac

608  
00:23:29,029 --> 00:23:26,240  
in 2009 and 2010

609  
00:23:30,710 --> 00:23:29,039  
fast forward to 2019 and after an

610  
00:23:33,190 --> 00:23:30,720  
absence of nine years i

611  
00:23:34,710 --> 00:23:33,200  
finally returned to atlanta derrick is

612  
00:23:38,149 --> 00:23:34,720  
still running the skeptrak

613  
00:23:40,470 --> 00:23:38,159

with the aid of dr angie matki much

614

00:23:41,750 --> 00:23:40,480

was the same as it was all those years

615

00:23:45,029 --> 00:23:41,760

ago

616

00:23:48,149 --> 00:23:45,039

and much had changed drowning

617

00:23:48,870 --> 00:23:48,159

in people although i was warned that the

618

00:23:51,510 --> 00:23:48,880

event is

619

00:23:53,350 --> 00:23:51,520

much bigger than it was ten years ago i

620

00:23:56,630 --> 00:23:53,360

had trouble trying to comprehend

621

00:23:57,430 --> 00:23:56,640

how that could possibly be i remember

622

00:24:00,070 --> 00:23:57,440

being in a

623

00:24:00,710 --> 00:24:00,080

crush of thousands of people spread over

624

00:24:04,070 --> 00:24:00,720

many

625

00:24:06,230 --> 00:24:04,080

mega interconnected hotels not being

626

00:24:07,110 --> 00:24:06,240

able to use the lifts as they were full

627

00:24:09,669 --> 00:24:07,120

of

628

00:24:10,710 --> 00:24:09,679

wookies and other creatures from parts

629

00:24:13,990 --> 00:24:10,720

unknown

630

00:24:17,110 --> 00:24:14,000

in 2010 there were somewhere around

631

00:24:18,149 --> 00:24:17,120

30 000 people attending but the warning

632

00:24:21,430 --> 00:24:18,159

was correct

633

00:24:23,350 --> 00:24:21,440

the event has indeed grown in area

634

00:24:24,710 --> 00:24:23,360

now covering more hotels and other

635

00:24:27,190 --> 00:24:24,720

venues

636

00:24:28,710 --> 00:24:27,200

and in sheer number of people attending

637

00:24:32,870 --> 00:24:28,720

in 2019

638

00:24:35,430 --> 00:24:32,880

a record 85 000

639

00:24:37,909 --> 00:24:35,440

at times moving from one location to

640

00:24:40,870 --> 00:24:37,919

another proved to be a real challenge

641

00:24:42,310 --> 00:24:40,880

as a sea of people most of whom were in

642

00:24:45,830 --> 00:24:42,320

elaborate costumes

643

00:24:46,870 --> 00:24:45,840

acted as a human tide heading one way or

644

00:24:49,269 --> 00:24:46,880

another

645

00:24:51,669 --> 00:24:49,279

at the height of the crush i found the

646

00:24:52,230 --> 00:24:51,679

quickest way to get from one hotel to

647

00:24:55,510 --> 00:24:52,240

another

648

00:24:58,070 --> 00:24:55,520

was to run out into the street and find

649

00:24:58,950 --> 00:24:58,080

an e-scooter and zip around the side

650

00:25:01,350 --> 00:24:58,960

streets

651  
00:25:02,710 --> 00:25:01,360  
the e-scooters in downtown atlanta

652  
00:25:05,830 --> 00:25:02,720  
litter the footpaths

653  
00:25:08,630 --> 00:25:05,840  
but are an excellent if a bit dicey

654  
00:25:10,710 --> 00:25:08,640  
way of getting around putting all this

655  
00:25:13,990 --> 00:25:10,720  
madness and heat

656  
00:25:16,870 --> 00:25:14,000  
summer in atlanta is hot and muggy aside

657  
00:25:18,549 --> 00:25:16,880  
the reason i was at dc was to once again

658  
00:25:20,470 --> 00:25:18,559  
be part of skeptrak

659  
00:25:21,830 --> 00:25:20,480  
this is a large room on the first floor

660  
00:25:24,549 --> 00:25:21,840  
of the hilton hotel

661  
00:25:25,510 --> 00:25:24,559  
with skeptical talks and presentations

662  
00:25:28,310 --> 00:25:25,520  
every day

663  
00:25:28,789 --> 00:25:28,320

over the four days of dc track is the

664

00:25:31,430 --> 00:25:28,799

name

665

00:25:32,070 --> 00:25:31,440

given to an area set aside for a certain

666

00:25:33,909 --> 00:25:32,080

theme

667

00:25:36,710 --> 00:25:33,919

so there was a science track an

668

00:25:39,190 --> 00:25:36,720

animation track horror track and so on

669

00:25:41,269 --> 00:25:39,200

anyone who has a general ticket can

670

00:25:44,789 --> 00:25:41,279

simply walk into the room

671

00:25:47,110 --> 00:25:44,799

find a seat and see the presentations

672

00:25:48,549 --> 00:25:47,120

this means the skeptrac room gets a lot

673

00:25:50,630 --> 00:25:48,559

of drop-ins

674

00:25:52,149 --> 00:25:50,640

people who stick their nose in to see

675

00:25:54,789 --> 00:25:52,159

what it's all about on their way to a

676  
00:25:56,470 --> 00:25:54,799  
star wars talk or to meet george takai

677  
00:25:58,789 --> 00:25:56,480  
from star trek

678  
00:26:00,950 --> 00:25:58,799  
yes he was at the event as well as a

679  
00:26:01,909 --> 00:26:00,960  
smattering of other heroes and heroines

680  
00:26:05,430 --> 00:26:01,919  
from

681  
00:26:06,070 --> 00:26:05,440  
time and space derek put me on several

682  
00:26:08,870 --> 00:26:06,080  
panels

683  
00:26:10,549 --> 00:26:08,880  
including one on end of the world

684  
00:26:13,269 --> 00:26:10,559  
hysteria

685  
00:26:15,750 --> 00:26:13,279  
people for millennia have been preparing

686  
00:26:18,630 --> 00:26:15,760  
for the final curtain of planet earth

687  
00:26:19,830 --> 00:26:18,640  
i recounted the time in the 1920s when

688  
00:26:22,870 --> 00:26:19,840

an amphitheater

689

00:26:23,430 --> 00:26:22,880

was built at balmoral beach in sydney to

690

00:26:26,470 --> 00:26:23,440

welcome

691

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

jesus christ as he strode on the waters

692

00:26:30,549 --> 00:26:27,760

of the harbour

693

00:26:31,990 --> 00:26:30,559

hard to tell the truth from myth but it

694

00:26:34,470 --> 00:26:32,000

gave the audience a laugh

695

00:26:35,029 --> 00:26:34,480

the skeptic zone was featured as i did a

696

00:26:37,110 --> 00:26:35,039

live

697

00:26:39,029 --> 00:26:37,120

taping of the show all the talks at

698

00:26:42,149 --> 00:26:39,039

skiptrack were also sent out

699

00:26:42,710 --> 00:26:42,159

as live video streams on the internet i

700

00:26:44,070 --> 00:26:42,720

spoke

701  
00:26:46,149 --> 00:26:44,080  
a little about the history of the

702  
00:26:46,549 --> 00:26:46,159  
podcast and then interviewed my old

703  
00:26:48,789 --> 00:26:46,559  
friend

704  
00:26:50,789 --> 00:26:48,799  
margaret downey who was very active in

705  
00:26:54,070 --> 00:26:50,799  
the humanist community

706  
00:26:59,549 --> 00:26:54,080  
in the usa you can watch this live

707  
00:27:03,510 --> 00:27:01,029  
[video.skiptrack.org](http://video.skiptrack.org)

708  
00:27:04,070 --> 00:27:03,520  
other highlights included me being a

709  
00:27:06,549 --> 00:27:04,080  
guest

710  
00:27:08,310 --> 00:27:06,559  
rogue on two recordings of the skeptic's

711  
00:27:10,870 --> 00:27:08,320  
guide to the universe podcast

712  
00:27:11,990 --> 00:27:10,880  
attending other tracks and talks taking

713  
00:27:15,269 --> 00:27:12,000

part in the dc

714

00:27:18,549 --> 00:27:15,279

street parade dressed as epicurious a

715

00:27:21,350 --> 00:27:18,559

greek philosopher from 200 bce and

716

00:27:23,669 --> 00:27:21,360

getting lost on the four or five huge

717

00:27:26,950 --> 00:27:23,679

floors of the vendors building

718

00:27:30,070 --> 00:27:26,960

one can buy everything from replica

719

00:27:33,350 --> 00:27:30,080

laser guns to artworks to whatever

720

00:27:35,510 --> 00:27:33,360

you name it a big thanks to derek dr

721

00:27:37,510 --> 00:27:35,520

angie and the hard-working technical

722

00:27:41,350 --> 00:27:37,520

team at scope track

723

00:27:47,190 --> 00:27:41,360

hope to be back in 2020

724

00:27:51,590 --> 00:27:49,430

well as you know i am back i am back at

725

00:27:54,230 --> 00:27:51,600

dragoncon this year

726

00:27:54,950 --> 00:27:54,240

virtually and i'm very pleased to be

727

00:27:59,110 --> 00:27:54,960

able to be

728

00:28:02,470 --> 00:27:59,120

part of it again in one way or another

729

00:28:05,750 --> 00:28:02,480

but this article goes on solano

730

00:28:10,149 --> 00:28:08,470

meanwhile on the other side of the us i

731

00:28:11,430 --> 00:28:10,159

was invited to volunteer at the

732

00:28:14,710 --> 00:28:11,440

information stall

733

00:28:18,950 --> 00:28:14,720

of the bay area skeptics at the

734

00:28:21,190 --> 00:28:18,960

solano avenue stroll since 1974

735

00:28:23,350 --> 00:28:21,200

solano avenue and the twin cities of

736

00:28:26,549 --> 00:28:23,360

albany and berkeley california

737

00:28:28,630 --> 00:28:26,559

have hosted the solano avenue stroll

738

00:28:30,070 --> 00:28:28,640

one of the largest street festivals in

739

00:28:33,430 --> 00:28:30,080

the usa

740

00:28:34,070 --> 00:28:33,440

thousands of people march at a leisurely

741

00:28:36,870 --> 00:28:34,080

pace

742

00:28:39,190 --> 00:28:36,880

along the 3.5 kilometers of the fair

743

00:28:41,510 --> 00:28:39,200

stopping to visit the hundreds of small

744

00:28:44,389 --> 00:28:41,520

stalls and tents along the way

745

00:28:47,269 --> 00:28:44,399

with the crowds wandering by it is a

746

00:28:50,149 --> 00:28:47,279

great opportunity for outreach

747

00:28:51,430 --> 00:28:50,159

but how to get the punters to visit the

748

00:28:53,110 --> 00:28:51,440

stall

749

00:28:55,190 --> 00:28:53,120

bay area skeptics have come up with a

750

00:28:58,230 --> 00:28:55,200

simple and fun way to get people

751  
00:28:59,190 --> 00:28:58,240  
interested a test of one's psychic

752  
00:29:02,230 --> 00:28:59,200  
powers

753  
00:29:04,470 --> 00:29:02,240  
by way of telekinesis can

754  
00:29:05,909 --> 00:29:04,480  
passersby influence the role of a

755  
00:29:09,510 --> 00:29:05,919  
six-sided die

756  
00:29:12,149 --> 00:29:09,520  
with mind power alone the test was

757  
00:29:12,630 --> 00:29:12,159  
quick and easy as our would-be psychics

758  
00:29:15,430 --> 00:29:12,640  
chose

759  
00:29:16,950 --> 00:29:15,440  
in secret a number from one to six from

760  
00:29:20,549 --> 00:29:16,960  
a series of labeled

761  
00:29:22,950 --> 00:29:20,559  
cards they put that card in an envelope

762  
00:29:23,590 --> 00:29:22,960  
and hid the other five cards under a

763  
00:29:26,549 --> 00:29:23,600

bowl

764

00:29:27,590 --> 00:29:26,559

on the table then they would roll a die

765

00:29:30,389 --> 00:29:27,600

into the bowl

766

00:29:31,110 --> 00:29:30,399

ten times each time willing the die to

767

00:29:34,470 --> 00:29:31,120

rest

768

00:29:35,350 --> 00:29:34,480

with the chosen number face up after the

769

00:29:37,350 --> 00:29:35,360

tenth roll

770

00:29:40,710 --> 00:29:37,360

the number they originally chose would

771

00:29:43,830 --> 00:29:40,720

be shown and we would work out the maths

772

00:29:46,950 --> 00:29:43,840

how many times were they successful

773

00:29:49,190 --> 00:29:46,960

and what that meant statistically

774

00:29:52,310 --> 00:29:49,200

needless to say at the end of the day

775

00:29:52,950 --> 00:29:52,320

the results of the about 45 trials

776

00:29:55,669 --> 00:29:52,960

fitted

777

00:29:57,510 --> 00:29:55,679

nicely into the bell curve predicted by

778

00:30:00,149 --> 00:29:57,520

pure random chance

779

00:30:01,590 --> 00:30:00,159

there was no evidence of any paranormal

780

00:30:04,149 --> 00:30:01,600

influence

781

00:30:04,710 --> 00:30:04,159

no one seemed disappointed although one

782

00:30:08,230 --> 00:30:04,720

woman

783

00:30:11,590 --> 00:30:08,240

who scored four hits out of ten

784

00:30:15,110 --> 00:30:11,600

said it confirmed what she already knew

785

00:30:16,630 --> 00:30:15,120

that she was indeed psychic it was a

786

00:30:18,549 --> 00:30:16,640

busy but pleasant day

787

00:30:20,630 --> 00:30:18,559

with people chatting to us to find out

788

00:30:23,110 --> 00:30:20,640

more i noted that

789

00:30:23,669 --> 00:30:23,120

more than a few people thought that we

790

00:30:26,470 --> 00:30:23,679

must

791

00:30:27,990 --> 00:30:26,480

also be climate change skeptics the

792

00:30:31,029 --> 00:30:28,000

curse of the word skeptic

793

00:30:31,909 --> 00:30:31,039

being used in the mass media we also had

794

00:30:43,269 --> 00:30:31,919

a

795

00:30:44,630 --> 00:30:43,279

they were the results of terrorism he

796

00:30:47,909 --> 00:30:44,640

exploded

797

00:30:50,070 --> 00:30:47,919

with a rant about professor so and so

798

00:30:52,389 --> 00:30:50,080

proving that the micro dust could only

799

00:30:54,070 --> 00:30:52,399

be produced by this or that explosive

800

00:30:57,990 --> 00:30:54,080

and on and on and on

801  
00:31:01,190 --> 00:30:58,000  
well i said calmly there you go

802  
00:31:02,950 --> 00:31:01,200  
and smiled amazingly enough he shook his

803  
00:31:06,230 --> 00:31:02,960  
head and stormed off

804  
00:31:08,710 --> 00:31:06,240  
a victory for my sanity at least

805  
00:31:10,789 --> 00:31:08,720  
thanks to dr eugenie scott and the bay

806  
00:31:11,909 --> 00:31:10,799  
area skeptics for letting this blow in

807  
00:31:16,950 --> 00:31:11,919  
from australia

808  
00:31:21,909 --> 00:31:19,269  
and that was enter the dragon richard

809  
00:31:26,950 --> 00:31:21,919  
saunders reports on skepticism in the us

810  
00:31:30,070 --> 00:31:28,549  
and you can read that for yourself in

811  
00:31:33,350 --> 00:31:30,080  
the skeptic magazine

812  
00:31:34,470 --> 00:31:33,360  
volume 39 number four and i think that

813  
00:31:37,669 --> 00:31:34,480

issue will be

814

00:31:40,630 --> 00:31:37,679

online free to download in the coming

815

00:31:42,470 --> 00:31:40,640

months but of course you can read many

816

00:31:44,549 --> 00:31:42,480

back issues of the skeptic magazine

817

00:31:48,230 --> 00:31:44,559

going back to 1981

818

00:31:53,110 --> 00:31:51,029

and maybe you'd like to do what i did i

819

00:31:56,310 --> 00:31:53,120

went to that page and i downloaded

820

00:31:59,269 --> 00:31:56,320

the complete back catalog to my ipad

821

00:31:59,990 --> 00:31:59,279

and put them in in the books app so

822

00:32:02,490 --> 00:32:00,000

they're always

823

00:32:10,710 --> 00:32:02,500

there at my fingertips

824

00:32:17,110 --> 00:32:13,509

hi there i'm abhijit and i host the

825

00:32:19,110 --> 00:32:17,120

rationable podcast on berationable.com

826  
00:32:20,630 --> 00:32:19,120  
every couple of weeks i science the hell

827  
00:32:23,190 --> 00:32:20,640  
out of alternative medicines

828  
00:32:24,070 --> 00:32:23,200  
health and nutrition fads social media

829  
00:32:27,350 --> 00:32:24,080  
forwards

830  
00:32:29,830 --> 00:32:27,360  
science news and lots more of course

831  
00:32:31,750 --> 00:32:29,840  
you can find all of my articles podcast

832  
00:32:35,990 --> 00:32:31,760  
episodes and lots more

833  
00:32:40,830 --> 00:32:36,000  
on [www.berationable.com](http://www.berationable.com)

834  
00:32:53,200 --> 00:32:40,840  
see you there and until then always be

835  
00:32:56,630 --> 00:32:54,870  
[Applause]

836  
00:32:58,950 --> 00:32:56,640  
thank you for listening to the skeptic

837  
00:33:00,710 --> 00:32:58,960  
zone and now i hope

838  
00:33:03,190 --> 00:33:00,720

that sweated your appetite and you can

839

00:33:06,470 --> 00:33:03,200

join in on the interesting live

840

00:33:09,909 --> 00:33:06,480

presentations direct more or less

841

00:33:12,310 --> 00:33:09,919

sort of from dragon con and the skep

842

00:33:14,389 --> 00:33:12,320

track coming up on next week's show the

843

00:33:18,470 --> 00:33:14,399

strange case of a uh

844

00:33:20,470 --> 00:33:18,480

a new age vet and a sick pussycat hmm

845

00:33:22,070 --> 00:33:20,480

i don't know what that's all about and

846

00:33:23,990 --> 00:33:22,080

of course as ever i can't look into the

847

00:33:25,830 --> 00:33:24,000

future so we'll just have to wait

848

00:33:27,669 --> 00:33:25,840

and find out thank you to those people

849

00:33:30,470 --> 00:33:27,679

and those new people who have uh

850

00:33:32,549 --> 00:33:30,480

recently chimed in to support the

851

00:33:34,950 --> 00:33:32,559

skeptic zone at patreon or paypal

852

00:33:37,029 --> 00:33:34,960

if you go to skepticzone.tv and click

853

00:33:40,310 --> 00:33:37,039

the obvious link

854

00:33:43,590 --> 00:33:40,320

you can you can certainly help out there

855

00:33:47,110 --> 00:33:43,600

and i must admit i think next year

856

00:33:49,590 --> 00:33:47,120

um you know the whole show well 90

857

00:33:51,110 --> 00:33:49,600

of it is actually produced off an ipad

858

00:33:54,710 --> 00:33:51,120

believe it or not

859

00:33:57,669 --> 00:33:54,720

uh and maybe maybe it's time that i

860

00:33:59,909 --> 00:33:57,679

i'd whatever model is coming next to the

861

00:34:03,590 --> 00:33:59,919

ipad so your contributions do help

862

00:34:05,669 --> 00:34:03,600

directly help keep the show going

863

00:34:07,029 --> 00:34:05,679

in many ways the microphone i'm speaking

864

00:34:09,270 --> 00:34:07,039

into right now

865

00:34:11,349 --> 00:34:09,280

which is being fed into another unit

866

00:34:13,510 --> 00:34:11,359

which is being fed into the ipad

867

00:34:14,470 --> 00:34:13,520

all paid for by skeptic zone listeners

868

00:34:16,550 --> 00:34:14,480

so i'm very

869

00:34:18,790 --> 00:34:16,560

very grateful indeed and it means that

870

00:34:21,190 --> 00:34:18,800

you and everybody else can

871

00:34:22,149 --> 00:34:21,200

keep hopefully enjoying the show but for

872

00:34:24,470 --> 00:34:22,159

this week

873

00:34:30,790 --> 00:34:24,480

this is richard saunders signing off

874

00:34:34,069 --> 00:34:32,629

you've been listening to the skeptic

875

00:34:37,230 --> 00:34:34,079

zone podcast

876

00:34:38,629 --> 00:34:37,240

please visit our website at

877

00:34:41,669 --> 00:34:38,639

www.skepticzone.tv

878

00:34:43,669 --> 00:34:41,679

for show notes contacts and to access

879

00:34:47,190 --> 00:34:43,679

the back catalog of episodes

880

00:34:49,270 --> 00:34:47,200

going back to 2008. you can follow the

881

00:34:52,710 --> 00:34:49,280

skeptic's own podcast on twitter

882

00:34:56,310 --> 00:34:52,720

at skepticzone visit our facebook page

883

00:34:57,670 --> 00:34:56,320

or leave a review on itunes you can also

884

00:35:00,870 --> 00:34:57,680

support the skeptic zone

885

00:35:01,670 --> 00:35:00,880

via patreon or paypal the skeptic zone

886

00:35:04,550 --> 00:35:01,680

podcast

887

00:35:06,310 --> 00:35:04,560

is an independent production the views

888

00:35:06,790 --> 00:35:06,320

and opinions expressed on the skeptic

889

00:35:08,790 --> 00:35:06,800

zone

890

00:35:09,990 --> 00:35:08,800

are not necessarily those of australian

891

00:35:23,750 --> 00:35:10,000

skeptics or

892

00:35:27,030 --> 00:35:25,349

hello to the people who listen after the

893

00:35:28,550 --> 00:35:27,040

music i haven't forgotten you

894

00:35:29,990 --> 00:35:28,560

i don't think we've done did we do this

895

00:35:32,310 --> 00:35:30,000

last week i can't remember no we didn't

896

00:35:35,910 --> 00:35:32,320

we didn't do this last week

897

00:35:39,589 --> 00:35:35,920

it's the dice game i roll a 10-sided die

898

00:35:42,630 --> 00:35:39,599

and you have three opportunities to uh

899

00:35:44,230 --> 00:35:42,640

foresee the number which has already

900

00:35:45,990 --> 00:35:44,240

happened by the time you hear this but

901  
00:35:49,190 --> 00:35:46,000  
that's just the quantum

902  
00:35:50,630 --> 00:35:49,200  
strange world we live in first number

903  
00:35:53,030 --> 00:35:50,640  
coming up

904  
00:35:54,180 --> 00:35:53,040  
oops first come keep dropping it here we

905  
00:35:55,589 --> 00:35:54,190  
go

906  
00:35:59,349 --> 00:35:55,599  
[Music]

907  
00:36:02,470 --> 00:35:59,359  
today's first number is six

908  
00:36:05,109 --> 00:36:02,480  
right six

909  
00:36:06,310 --> 00:36:05,119  
and if i ever see you in person once we

910  
00:36:09,030 --> 00:36:06,320  
get back to

911  
00:36:09,829 --> 00:36:09,040  
live talks and events and conferences

912  
00:36:12,790 --> 00:36:09,839  
and stuff

913  
00:36:14,950 --> 00:36:12,800

come and say hello and i will give you a

914

00:36:17,270 --> 00:36:14,960

skeptic's own ten-sided die here we go

915

00:36:19,750 --> 00:36:17,280

next one

916

00:36:20,630 --> 00:36:19,760

next number is ten six and ten some

917

00:36:23,109 --> 00:36:20,640

people out there

918

00:36:24,950 --> 00:36:23,119

already have one i've given them over

919

00:36:27,190 --> 00:36:24,960

the years maybe they're playing along

920

00:36:29,349 --> 00:36:27,200

6 10 the last number coming up here we

921

00:36:32,790 --> 00:36:29,359

go

922

00:36:36,310 --> 00:36:32,800

oops nine

923

00:36:40,069 --> 00:36:36,320

there we go today's winning numbers