

Episode 716

THE
**SKEPTIC
ZONE**
PODCAST

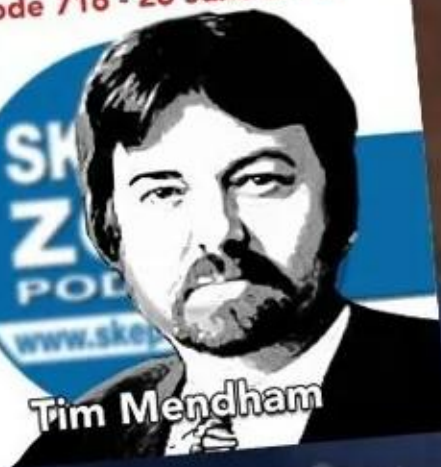
26 June 2022

www.skepticzone.tv

The Skeptic Zone Podcast
Episode 716 - 26 June 2022



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Irrational Australia

Anti-Vaxxers
Lose Again

The Book of Tim
With Tim Mendham
- James Ussher -

TROVE
Odd Ball Stories

1
00:00:09,190 --> 00:00:06,550

[Music]

2
00:00:16,830 --> 00:00:09,200

welcome to the skeptic zone the podcast

3
00:00:25,029 --> 00:00:23,189

[Music]

4
00:00:29,669 --> 00:00:25,039

yes it's the skeptic zone podcast

5
00:00:32,470 --> 00:00:29,679

episode number 716 for the 26th of june

6
00:00:34,790 --> 00:00:32,480

2022 richard saunders coming to you this

7
00:00:36,069 --> 00:00:34,800

week once again from the beautiful state

8
00:00:38,069 --> 00:00:36,079

of oregon

9
00:00:40,470 --> 00:00:38,079

here in the pacific northwest of the

10
00:00:41,670 --> 00:00:40,480

united states always on the lookout for

11
00:00:44,709 --> 00:00:41,680

bigfoot

12
00:00:46,229 --> 00:00:44,719

but only finding very nice local beers i

13
00:00:47,910 --> 00:00:46,239

must say

14

00:00:49,029 --> 00:00:47,920

i'm not a bigfoot hunter i'm a beer

15

00:00:51,510 --> 00:00:49,039

hunter

16

00:00:53,750 --> 00:00:51,520

coming up on this week's show

17

00:00:56,950 --> 00:00:53,760

i read a piece i wrote for

18

00:01:00,310 --> 00:00:56,960

a group in peru all about the irrational

19

00:01:02,470 --> 00:01:00,320

beliefs in australia and included

20

00:01:05,830 --> 00:01:02,480

in this week's show notes is a link for

21

00:01:08,630 --> 00:01:05,840

the original spanish version of the item

22

00:01:11,750 --> 00:01:08,640

i'm about to read so i wrote this

23

00:01:13,910 --> 00:01:11,760

with people from south america in mind

24

00:01:15,990 --> 00:01:13,920

talking about irrational beliefs in

25

00:01:17,429 --> 00:01:16,000

australia but i sort of figure people

26

00:01:18,789 --> 00:01:17,439

around the world might find this

27

00:01:20,870 --> 00:01:18,799

interesting

28

00:01:23,749 --> 00:01:20,880

following that it's the book of tim with

29

00:01:26,789 --> 00:01:23,759

tim mendom this week tim mendom looks at

30

00:01:29,109 --> 00:01:26,799

the life and times of james usher now

31

00:01:32,069 --> 00:01:29,119

james usher was the cleric who sort of

32

00:01:33,510 --> 00:01:32,079

calculated using biblical references

33

00:01:35,910 --> 00:01:33,520

timelines and

34

00:01:37,590 --> 00:01:35,920

family trees that sort of thing

35

00:01:39,710 --> 00:01:37,600

what he considered to be the age of the

36

00:01:43,670 --> 00:01:39,720

earth which dated back to something like

37

00:01:45,429 --> 00:01:43,680

404 000 i mean bc in that area

38

00:01:47,429 --> 00:01:45,439

and he

39

00:01:49,030 --> 00:01:47,439

is still being used today as a reference

40

00:01:51,190 --> 00:01:49,040

by creationists

41

00:01:53,270 --> 00:01:51,200

this is a very interesting article

42

00:01:55,990 --> 00:01:53,280

written by martin bridgstock all about

43

00:01:57,990 --> 00:01:56,000

how usher came to his conclusions

44

00:02:00,550 --> 00:01:58,000

and his impact on

45

00:02:02,870 --> 00:02:00,560

creationist thought very interesting

46

00:02:04,870 --> 00:02:02,880

those of you who follow the creationism

47

00:02:07,109 --> 00:02:04,880

debate which isn't as big as it used to

48

00:02:09,669 --> 00:02:07,119

be in australia at least i think you'll

49

00:02:10,949 --> 00:02:09,679

find this item about james usher very

50

00:02:12,390 --> 00:02:10,959

interesting

51
00:02:13,990 --> 00:02:12,400
then to round off the show it's once

52
00:02:16,150 --> 00:02:14,000
more back to the digital archives at

53
00:02:17,750 --> 00:02:16,160
trove looking at the sunday mail from

54
00:02:18,949 --> 00:02:17,760
brisbane the camera times the daily

55
00:02:21,750 --> 00:02:18,959
telegraph

56
00:02:23,110 --> 00:02:21,760
dating from the 1930s all the way to the

57
00:02:25,910 --> 00:02:23,120
1990s

58
00:02:28,309 --> 00:02:25,920
oddball stories strange stories about

59
00:02:29,990 --> 00:02:28,319
the paranormal and the supernatural just

60
00:02:31,030 --> 00:02:30,000
things i couldn't quite define any other

61
00:02:32,229 --> 00:02:31,040
way but

62
00:02:34,390 --> 00:02:32,239
oddball

63
00:02:36,390 --> 00:02:34,400

stay tuned at the end of the show for

64

00:02:37,910 --> 00:02:36,400

more announcements from me

65

00:02:40,869 --> 00:02:37,920

but now it's time for me to run

66

00:02:41,990 --> 00:02:40,879

downstairs and have some leftover nachos

67

00:02:43,670 --> 00:02:42,000

mmm

68

00:02:46,390 --> 00:02:43,680

nachos with a bit of

69

00:02:48,070 --> 00:02:46,400

a bit of jalapenos yum okay well i do

70

00:02:59,460 --> 00:02:48,080

that i hope you enjoy

71

00:03:16,070 --> 00:03:13,910

[Music]

72

00:03:18,869 --> 00:03:16,080

recently i was asked to write a story

73

00:03:21,190 --> 00:03:18,879

report for the peruvian

74

00:03:22,070 --> 00:03:21,200

rationalists humanists

75

00:03:23,190 --> 00:03:22,080

or

76

00:03:26,949 --> 00:03:23,200

hura

77

00:03:28,869 --> 00:03:26,959

peru h.u.r.a peru

78

00:03:30,229 --> 00:03:28,879

and so i sat down

79

00:03:32,390 --> 00:03:30,239

and had a thought and came up with

80

00:03:34,470 --> 00:03:32,400

something about the uh

81

00:03:36,070 --> 00:03:34,480

the state of the paranormal or the

82

00:03:38,789 --> 00:03:36,080

irrational

83

00:03:41,030 --> 00:03:38,799

beliefs in australia

84

00:03:43,509 --> 00:03:41,040

and this has been published it was

85

00:03:47,190 --> 00:03:43,519

published on saturday the 9th of may

86

00:03:48,149 --> 00:03:47,200

at neo skeptics and i will link to this

87

00:03:50,390 --> 00:03:48,159

site

88

00:03:51,990 --> 00:03:50,400

in this week's show notes

89

00:03:53,990 --> 00:03:52,000

and the important thing is it's been

90

00:03:55,670 --> 00:03:54,000

published in spanish

91

00:03:58,149 --> 00:03:55,680

i wrote it in english

92

00:03:59,509 --> 00:03:58,159

it's been translated so spanish speaking

93

00:04:01,589 --> 00:03:59,519

people

94

00:04:04,309 --> 00:04:01,599

especially in south america

95

00:04:06,789 --> 00:04:04,319

can read what i have to say

96

00:04:08,630 --> 00:04:06,799

about the paranormal here in australia

97

00:04:10,229 --> 00:04:08,640

so i thought i would read it out here on

98

00:04:13,270 --> 00:04:10,239

the skeptic zone

99

00:04:16,069 --> 00:04:13,280

and i will add a link in this week's

100

00:04:17,349 --> 00:04:16,079

show notes to the peruvian rationalists

101
00:04:19,030 --> 00:04:17,359
and humanists

102
00:04:20,390 --> 00:04:19,040
and a link to

103
00:04:27,510 --> 00:04:20,400
the item

104
00:04:32,950 --> 00:04:31,270
why is it that far away places invoke a

105
00:04:34,150 --> 00:04:32,960
certain amount of

106
00:04:36,070 --> 00:04:34,160
mystery

107
00:04:38,629 --> 00:04:36,080
growing up in australia i remember

108
00:04:41,030 --> 00:04:38,639
hearing of places in south america and

109
00:04:42,469 --> 00:04:41,040
thinking what a strange and wonderful

110
00:04:45,350 --> 00:04:42,479
land it must be

111
00:04:47,749 --> 00:04:45,360
full of mystery and adventure and

112
00:04:50,150 --> 00:04:47,759
unexplainable phenomena

113
00:04:52,550 --> 00:04:50,160

maybe even supernatural events or

114

00:04:55,350 --> 00:04:52,560

strange animals unknown to science

115

00:04:58,230 --> 00:04:55,360

not forgetting the reports of ufos

116

00:05:01,430 --> 00:04:58,240

together with the truly awe-inspiring

117

00:05:04,629 --> 00:05:01,440

nazca lines of peru

118

00:05:07,990 --> 00:05:04,639

were they really made by ancient aliens

119

00:05:10,790 --> 00:05:08,000

i wonder if people in south america when

120

00:05:13,830 --> 00:05:10,800

they think of australia also imagine a

121

00:05:14,710 --> 00:05:13,840

land full of mystery and strange animals

122

00:05:15,590 --> 00:05:14,720

well

123

00:05:18,070 --> 00:05:15,600

yes

124

00:05:20,310 --> 00:05:18,080

australia does seem to have more than

125

00:05:21,430 --> 00:05:20,320

enough of its fair share of strange

126

00:05:23,110 --> 00:05:21,440

animals

127

00:05:25,270 --> 00:05:23,120

but they are very real

128

00:05:28,070 --> 00:05:25,280

it's an interesting fact that our famous

129

00:05:29,749 --> 00:05:28,080

duck billed platypus an animal so

130

00:05:32,310 --> 00:05:29,759

strange it was once thought to be a

131

00:05:34,230 --> 00:05:32,320

practical joke something stitched

132

00:05:37,430 --> 00:05:34,240

together from odds and ends

133

00:05:40,710 --> 00:05:37,440

has fossil ancestors that can be found

134

00:05:42,469 --> 00:05:40,720

in south america yes our lands were once

135

00:05:45,430 --> 00:05:42,479

joined some

136

00:05:47,830 --> 00:05:45,440

60 million years ago

137

00:05:51,270 --> 00:05:47,840

but is australia

138

00:05:53,510 --> 00:05:51,280

truly a land of mystery and wonders

139

00:05:54,950 --> 00:05:53,520

well i can only say

140

00:05:56,950 --> 00:05:54,960

yes it is

141

00:05:58,629 --> 00:05:56,960

we are the land of the oldest living

142

00:06:00,150 --> 00:05:58,639

culture in the world that of the

143

00:06:02,950 --> 00:06:00,160

indigenous peoples

144

00:06:05,670 --> 00:06:02,960

and have natural wonders from the coast

145

00:06:07,830 --> 00:06:05,680

to the desert and great modern cities to

146

00:06:08,870 --> 00:06:07,840

rival any in the world

147

00:06:10,710 --> 00:06:08,880

however

148

00:06:13,430 --> 00:06:10,720

like many other countries

149

00:06:14,710 --> 00:06:13,440

australia too has no end of

150

00:06:16,070 --> 00:06:14,720

paranormal

151
00:06:19,430 --> 00:06:16,080
supernatural

152
00:06:22,070 --> 00:06:19,440
and pseudoscientific claims

153
00:06:24,230 --> 00:06:22,080
let's start with those animals you might

154
00:06:27,430 --> 00:06:24,240
think that we here in australia would

155
00:06:30,070 --> 00:06:27,440
have no need to invent strange animals

156
00:06:31,590 --> 00:06:30,080
apart from the duck bill the platypus we

157
00:06:35,029 --> 00:06:31,600
have the kangaroo

158
00:06:36,550 --> 00:06:35,039
the koala no end of venomous spiders and

159
00:06:39,029 --> 00:06:36,560
snakes

160
00:06:40,710 --> 00:06:39,039
but somehow for many people all those

161
00:06:41,510 --> 00:06:40,720
are not enough

162
00:06:45,830 --> 00:06:41,520
so

163
00:06:49,110 --> 00:06:45,840

bigfoot

164

00:06:51,510 --> 00:06:49,120

known here as the yaoi a strange

165

00:06:52,950 --> 00:06:51,520

ape-like beast that like its north

166

00:06:55,270 --> 00:06:52,960

american cousin

167

00:06:56,870 --> 00:06:55,280

has yet to be proven to exist but that

168

00:06:59,270 --> 00:06:56,880

doesn't stop many people over the

169

00:07:01,270 --> 00:06:59,280

decades reporting that they have not

170

00:07:02,629 --> 00:07:01,280

only seen it

171

00:07:05,589 --> 00:07:02,639

but sometimes

172

00:07:07,189 --> 00:07:05,599

have even made plastic casts of its

173

00:07:10,150 --> 00:07:07,199

footprints

174

00:07:11,670 --> 00:07:10,160

can it be that we are jealous of north

175

00:07:14,790 --> 00:07:11,680

america

176
00:07:17,430 --> 00:07:14,800
maybe but unknown animals or cryptids

177
00:07:20,309 --> 00:07:17,440
are reported all over the world so

178
00:07:22,070 --> 00:07:20,319
in that sense australia is nothing

179
00:07:24,070 --> 00:07:22,080
special

180
00:07:26,469 --> 00:07:24,080
and thinking of animals in the

181
00:07:29,270 --> 00:07:26,479
countryside reminds me of one of the

182
00:07:32,230 --> 00:07:29,280
oldest and most beloved of what we might

183
00:07:33,430 --> 00:07:32,240
call irrational phenomena in australia

184
00:07:36,469 --> 00:07:33,440
that being

185
00:07:38,309 --> 00:07:36,479
water divining or water dowsing

186
00:07:41,029 --> 00:07:38,319
the belief that people can find hidden

187
00:07:43,350 --> 00:07:41,039
underground water with rods or twigs

188
00:07:46,070 --> 00:07:43,360

dates back thousands of years long

189

00:07:47,350 --> 00:07:46,080

before european farmers arrived in

190

00:07:48,390 --> 00:07:47,360

australia

191

00:07:51,430 --> 00:07:48,400

but

192

00:07:54,150 --> 00:07:51,440

as much of the country is dry and even

193

00:07:56,309 --> 00:07:54,160

the green areas can suffer from droughts

194

00:07:58,469 --> 00:07:56,319

it is not at all surprising that this

195

00:07:59,990 --> 00:07:58,479

practice has been part of life in the

196

00:08:01,589 --> 00:08:00,000

regional areas

197

00:08:03,909 --> 00:08:01,599

for hundreds of years

198

00:08:06,070 --> 00:08:03,919

it is also the claim that has been

199

00:08:08,550 --> 00:08:06,080

tested more than any other

200

00:08:12,070 --> 00:08:08,560

by the australian skeptics

201
00:08:14,950 --> 00:08:12,080
even the late james the amazing randy

202
00:08:18,710 --> 00:08:14,960
made a special trip to australia in 1980

203
00:08:19,909 --> 00:08:18,720
to conduct a large-scale test of local

204
00:08:21,589 --> 00:08:19,919
diviners

205
00:08:24,230 --> 00:08:21,599
luckily for us

206
00:08:27,350 --> 00:08:24,240
the event was filmed for tv

207
00:08:29,909 --> 00:08:27,360
and is now available on youtube it is a

208
00:08:32,790 --> 00:08:29,919
classic example of not only james randy

209
00:08:35,190 --> 00:08:32,800
in action but a lesson in investigation

210
00:08:36,709 --> 00:08:35,200
for the rest of us of course any trip to

211
00:08:39,589 --> 00:08:36,719
the countryside gives you the

212
00:08:41,829 --> 00:08:39,599
opportunity to gaze up at the night sky

213
00:08:44,550 --> 00:08:41,839

and see the same stars as you would do

214

00:08:45,509 --> 00:08:44,560

in south america but while you enjoy the

215

00:08:47,430 --> 00:08:45,519

view

216

00:08:50,550 --> 00:08:47,440

keep an eye out for alien spaceships

217

00:08:53,190 --> 00:08:50,560

that are reported flying about our skies

218

00:08:55,190 --> 00:08:53,200

do you know that some claim there is a

219

00:08:57,350 --> 00:08:55,200

secret underground base in the middle of

220

00:09:00,550 --> 00:08:57,360

australia where the u.s government

221

00:09:03,110 --> 00:09:00,560

conducts experiments on alien robots

222

00:09:04,949 --> 00:09:03,120

we also have ufo organizations for those

223

00:09:07,829 --> 00:09:04,959

wishing to connect with like-minded

224

00:09:09,030 --> 00:09:07,839

people and swap stories of close

225

00:09:10,949 --> 00:09:09,040

encounters

226

00:09:12,790 --> 00:09:10,959

other aspects of irrational thinking

227

00:09:15,750 --> 00:09:12,800

that is part of

228

00:09:17,990 --> 00:09:15,760

life in australia are the many

229

00:09:21,829 --> 00:09:18,000

many types of alternative medicine on

230

00:09:23,430 --> 00:09:21,839

offer we have homeopaths iridologists

231

00:09:25,750 --> 00:09:23,440

acupuncturists

232

00:09:29,430 --> 00:09:25,760

even some vets do this

233

00:09:31,750 --> 00:09:29,440

and people using strange devices

234

00:09:33,030 --> 00:09:31,760

that use energy vibrations and

235

00:09:35,190 --> 00:09:33,040

frequencies

236

00:09:37,190 --> 00:09:35,200

homeopathy for example can be found on

237

00:09:40,150 --> 00:09:37,200

the shelves of most pharmacies together

238

00:09:42,710 --> 00:09:40,160

with other unproven therapies again it

239

00:09:45,509 --> 00:09:42,720

seems that australia is nothing special

240

00:09:49,030 --> 00:09:45,519

as these so-called healing modalities

241

00:09:51,990 --> 00:09:49,040

are common in many parts of the world

242

00:09:53,030 --> 00:09:52,000

ghosts are everywhere we have haunted

243

00:09:55,829 --> 00:09:53,040

houses

244

00:09:58,710 --> 00:09:55,839

in fact more than one house lays claim

245

00:10:01,910 --> 00:09:58,720

to being australia's most haunted

246

00:10:04,389 --> 00:10:01,920

strange apparitions seen in graveyards

247

00:10:07,350 --> 00:10:04,399

and things that go bump in the night

248

00:10:09,750 --> 00:10:07,360

feel like an adventure

249

00:10:11,670 --> 00:10:09,760

then join a team of ghost hunters as

250

00:10:13,350 --> 00:10:11,680

they use their night vision cameras and

251
00:10:16,470 --> 00:10:13,360
audio gear

252
00:10:18,310 --> 00:10:16,480
in the hopes of capturing a real spirit

253
00:10:20,949 --> 00:10:18,320
some years ago i visited a local

254
00:10:24,389 --> 00:10:20,959
graveyard in sydney with a paranormal

255
00:10:27,190 --> 00:10:24,399
investigation team as they tried to find

256
00:10:30,069 --> 00:10:27,200
the spirits of the long dead

257
00:10:31,670 --> 00:10:30,079
and speaking of the dead do you feel

258
00:10:32,949 --> 00:10:31,680
like you want to talk with your dead

259
00:10:35,030 --> 00:10:32,959
grandmother

260
00:10:37,509 --> 00:10:35,040
australia has mediums psychics and

261
00:10:39,829 --> 00:10:37,519
others claiming paranormal powers that

262
00:10:41,350 --> 00:10:39,839
are very happy to help you contact those

263
00:10:43,829 --> 00:10:41,360

in the afterlife

264

00:10:45,269 --> 00:10:43,839

morning tv shows feature readings of

265

00:10:48,790 --> 00:10:45,279

audience members

266

00:10:50,389 --> 00:10:48,800

magazines carry advice and insights from

267

00:10:53,910 --> 00:10:50,399

the other side

268

00:10:54,870 --> 00:10:53,920

and live stage shows of talking to the

269

00:10:57,670 --> 00:10:54,880

dead

270

00:11:00,310 --> 00:10:57,680

are a feature of clubs

271

00:11:02,870 --> 00:11:00,320

paranormal and pseudoscientific beliefs

272

00:11:04,710 --> 00:11:02,880

irrational thoughts and behaviors such

273

00:11:06,870 --> 00:11:04,720

as the ones i've mentioned

274

00:11:09,750 --> 00:11:06,880

are as common in australia as they might

275

00:11:12,150 --> 00:11:09,760

be in other countries around the world

276

00:11:13,269 --> 00:11:12,160

but we are often compared to the usa in

277

00:11:15,590 --> 00:11:13,279

the uk

278

00:11:16,790 --> 00:11:15,600

and to be honest we are similar in many

279

00:11:18,710 --> 00:11:16,800

respects

280

00:11:21,110 --> 00:11:18,720

i would find just as many psychics

281

00:11:24,550 --> 00:11:21,120

mystics tarot card readers in those

282

00:11:25,350 --> 00:11:24,560

countries as in australia

283

00:11:28,389 --> 00:11:25,360

where

284

00:11:29,509 --> 00:11:28,399

australia differs from many other parts

285

00:11:33,190 --> 00:11:29,519

of the world

286

00:11:35,910 --> 00:11:33,200

is when it comes to religious claims

287

00:11:38,150 --> 00:11:35,920

such as miracles be sure

288

00:11:39,750 --> 00:11:38,160

we do have such claims

289

00:11:42,710 --> 00:11:39,760

but they are rare

290

00:11:45,030 --> 00:11:42,720

religion as a whole has never been the

291

00:11:46,949 --> 00:11:45,040

social movement in australia that we see

292

00:11:49,750 --> 00:11:46,959

in other parts of the world

293

00:11:52,069 --> 00:11:49,760

a key example is that in australia

294

00:11:54,629 --> 00:11:52,079

someone running for political office

295

00:11:57,110 --> 00:11:54,639

even the prime minister does not have to

296

00:11:58,949 --> 00:11:57,120

mention god god's

297

00:12:01,990 --> 00:11:58,959

faith and such like

298

00:12:05,110 --> 00:12:02,000

he or she can have no religion

299

00:12:07,030 --> 00:12:05,120

and largely no one cares

300

00:12:09,670 --> 00:12:07,040

could you imagine this happening in some

301
00:12:12,470 --> 00:12:09,680
other parts of the world it is often

302
00:12:15,269 --> 00:12:12,480
said that no one in the usa for example

303
00:12:19,350 --> 00:12:15,279
could ever hope to be elected if they

304
00:12:20,710 --> 00:12:19,360
were an atheist or even agnostic

305
00:12:24,550 --> 00:12:20,720
australia

306
00:12:26,389 --> 00:12:24,560
is a far away land of wonder and mystery

307
00:12:29,269 --> 00:12:26,399
we have so much wonder and mystery that

308
00:12:32,629 --> 00:12:29,279
we really don't need to invent any more

309
00:12:35,030 --> 00:12:32,639
but that is what humans do regardless

310
00:12:37,990 --> 00:12:35,040
yes we have more than enough irrational

311
00:12:41,269 --> 00:12:38,000
beliefs in this country but we also have

312
00:12:43,269 --> 00:12:41,279
a strong skeptical community headed up

313
00:12:46,230 --> 00:12:43,279

by australian skeptics

314

00:12:49,030 --> 00:12:46,240

the great tug of war between reason

315

00:12:50,790 --> 00:12:49,040

and unreason continues in the far away

316

00:12:53,590 --> 00:12:50,800

land of kangaroos

317

00:12:55,870 --> 00:12:53,600

and maybe just maybe

318

00:13:00,230 --> 00:12:55,880

the odd yowie or two

319

00:13:04,470 --> 00:13:02,550

and once again you can read that report

320

00:13:06,629 --> 00:13:04,480

in spanish

321

00:13:08,629 --> 00:13:06,639

and i hope my south american listeners

322

00:13:10,710 --> 00:13:08,639

will head to this page

323

00:13:13,030 --> 00:13:10,720

and it's the peruvian

324

00:13:15,110 --> 00:13:13,040

rationalist humanists

325

00:13:17,829 --> 00:13:15,120

and i will link to that page so you can

326

00:13:31,590 --> 00:13:17,839

enjoy that in spanish in this week's

327

00:13:37,990 --> 00:13:34,790

[Music]

328

00:13:40,470 --> 00:13:38,000

hi this is susan gerbic from gsow that's

329

00:13:42,790 --> 00:13:40,480

guerrilla skepticism on wikipedia i want

330

00:13:45,269 --> 00:13:42,800

to thank everyone who via the skeptic

331

00:13:47,910 --> 00:13:45,279

zone podcast has contacted me to become

332

00:13:50,629 --> 00:13:47,920

an editor on wikipedia together we have

333

00:13:53,110 --> 00:13:50,639

worked on or created over 1200 wikipedia

334

00:13:55,189 --> 00:13:53,120

pages countless thousands of people all

335

00:13:58,389 --> 00:13:55,199

over the world access those pages each

336

00:13:59,509 --> 00:13:58,399

day in fact we're over 52 million page

337

00:14:01,829 --> 00:13:59,519

views

338

00:14:03,350 --> 00:14:01,839

like many listeners i also give back to

339

00:14:05,350 --> 00:14:03,360

the skeptic zone via monthly

340

00:14:06,790 --> 00:14:05,360

micropayments and i want to encourage

341

00:14:08,870 --> 00:14:06,800

you to do the same

342

00:14:10,790 --> 00:14:08,880

is the information and entertainment you

343

00:14:13,110 --> 00:14:10,800

get each week from the show worth five

344

00:14:13,829 --> 00:14:13,120

or ten dollars a month i sure think it

345

00:14:16,870 --> 00:14:13,839

is

346

00:14:19,189 --> 00:14:16,880

follow the link at skepticzone

347

00:14:21,700 --> 00:14:19,199

and show your practical support thank

348

00:14:35,430 --> 00:14:21,710

you

349

00:14:36,790 --> 00:14:35,440

[Music]

350

00:14:38,930 --> 00:14:36,800

and now

351

00:14:41,670 --> 00:14:38,940

a reading from the book of tim

352

00:14:50,310 --> 00:14:41,680

[Music]

353

00:14:55,350 --> 00:14:53,110

hi my name is tim mendem i'm executive

354

00:14:57,430 --> 00:14:55,360

officer for australian skeptics inc and

355

00:14:58,629 --> 00:14:57,440

i'm the editor of our magazine the

356

00:15:00,230 --> 00:14:58,639

skeptic

357

00:15:03,590 --> 00:15:00,240

and today i'll be reading an article

358

00:15:07,350 --> 00:15:03,600

from the september 2018 issue of the

359

00:15:08,870 --> 00:15:07,360

magazine which is volume 38 number three

360

00:15:12,949 --> 00:15:08,880

you can download the whole issue for

361

00:15:14,550 --> 00:15:12,959

free from our website skeptics.com

362

00:15:18,069 --> 00:15:14,560

this particular article is called the

363

00:15:19,670 --> 00:15:18,079

man who dated the world and got it wrong

364

00:15:21,990 --> 00:15:19,680

it's written by martin bridgstock who is

365

00:15:23,269 --> 00:15:22,000

a life member of australian skeptics

366

00:15:25,910 --> 00:15:23,279

and it's about

367

00:15:28,629 --> 00:15:25,920

someone who is a patron if you like or a

368

00:15:30,389 --> 00:15:28,639

patron saint of young earth creationists

369

00:15:31,430 --> 00:15:30,399

and more will be revealed as we go

370

00:15:36,069 --> 00:15:31,440

through it

371

00:15:39,829 --> 00:15:37,670

now martin starts off his article by

372

00:15:43,030 --> 00:15:39,839

saying when my mother passed away she

373

00:15:44,790 --> 00:15:43,040

left me an old bible published in 1899.

374

00:15:47,030 --> 00:15:44,800

the interesting feature is that it has a

375

00:15:49,430 --> 00:15:47,040

chronology of the world in the margins

376
00:15:52,870 --> 00:15:49,440
for example we are told that god created

377
00:15:55,430 --> 00:15:52,880
the world in 4004 bc that noah's flood

378
00:15:57,430 --> 00:15:55,440
began in 2349 bc

379
00:15:59,749 --> 00:15:57,440
and that mooses parted the red sea in

380
00:16:01,829 --> 00:15:59,759
1491 bc

381
00:16:03,990 --> 00:16:01,839
there is evidence of a kind

382
00:16:06,310 --> 00:16:04,000
backing these numbers there is also a

383
00:16:08,389 --> 00:16:06,320
massive scholarly work carried out by

384
00:16:10,550 --> 00:16:08,399
one of the sharpest minds of his day in

385
00:16:12,550 --> 00:16:10,560
this article i want to understand this

386
00:16:14,389 --> 00:16:12,560
man's thinking in how he came to his

387
00:16:16,629 --> 00:16:14,399
conclusions

388
00:16:20,069 --> 00:16:16,639

james usher and that's usher with two

389

00:16:22,470 --> 00:16:20,079

s's by the way 1581-1656

390

00:16:24,710 --> 00:16:22,480

was born into an irish protestant family

391

00:16:26,870 --> 00:16:24,720

for his whole life he was both a devout

392

00:16:29,110 --> 00:16:26,880

anglican clergyman and a first-rate

393

00:16:30,550 --> 00:16:29,120

scholar eventually becoming archbishop

394

00:16:32,470 --> 00:16:30,560

of amar

395

00:16:34,629 --> 00:16:32,480

anglicans in ireland were in a strange

396

00:16:36,949 --> 00:16:34,639

position the london government strongly

397

00:16:39,110 --> 00:16:36,959

disapproved of roman catholicism and

398

00:16:41,509 --> 00:16:39,120

supported the church of ireland however

399

00:16:43,590 --> 00:16:41,519

most irish the vast majority clung to

400

00:16:45,430 --> 00:16:43,600

their traditional faith and hated the

401

00:16:46,949 --> 00:16:45,440

protestant heresy

402

00:16:48,949 --> 00:16:46,959

usher became heavily involved in

403

00:16:50,790 --> 00:16:48,959

catholic protestant disputes

404

00:16:52,710 --> 00:16:50,800

he wrote long times of biblical and

405

00:16:54,790 --> 00:16:52,720

historical analysis

406

00:16:56,150 --> 00:16:54,800

his total collected works run to 17

407

00:16:58,389 --> 00:16:56,160

volumes

408

00:17:00,389 --> 00:16:58,399

in addition usher took part in debates

409

00:17:01,749 --> 00:17:00,399

with catholic opponents

410

00:17:05,429 --> 00:17:01,759

perhaps his most sensational

411

00:17:07,909 --> 00:17:05,439

confrontation took place in 1625

412

00:17:11,429 --> 00:17:07,919

at the northamptonshire home of lord

413

00:17:13,510 --> 00:17:11,439

john and lady elizabeth mordent

414

00:17:15,669 --> 00:17:13,520

the mordants had a problem

415

00:17:17,750 --> 00:17:15,679

lord john was a catholic while lady

416

00:17:19,829 --> 00:17:17,760

elizabeth was a protestant

417

00:17:21,270 --> 00:17:19,839

they both took their religion seriously

418

00:17:23,590 --> 00:17:21,280

the couple finally agreed that each

419

00:17:25,429 --> 00:17:23,600

would appoint a champion to argue for

420

00:17:28,069 --> 00:17:25,439

them in a debate

421

00:17:31,190 --> 00:17:28,079

one of them would then convert

422

00:17:33,350 --> 00:17:31,200

lady morden chose usher as her champion

423

00:17:35,430 --> 00:17:33,360

lord john chose a well-known jesuit who

424

00:17:37,990 --> 00:17:35,440

went by the name of beaumont

425

00:17:39,350 --> 00:17:38,000

though his real name was rookwood he may

426
00:17:41,590 --> 00:17:39,360
have changed it because he was the

427
00:17:43,110 --> 00:17:41,600
brother of one of the gunpowder plotters

428
00:17:44,630 --> 00:17:43,120
that's the one who was included guy

429
00:17:46,789 --> 00:17:44,640
fawkes

430
00:17:49,190 --> 00:17:46,799
martin says that i have taken part in

431
00:17:51,029 --> 00:17:49,200
debates against fanatical opponents so i

432
00:17:53,190 --> 00:17:51,039
know that it is astonishingly difficult

433
00:17:55,830 --> 00:17:53,200
to secure a clear win

434
00:17:58,830 --> 00:17:55,840
in this debate usher went first

435
00:18:01,270 --> 00:17:58,840
he spoke for a total of three

436
00:18:03,270 --> 00:18:01,280
days outlining his thesis that the

437
00:18:05,350 --> 00:18:03,280
current catholic church was not at all

438
00:18:06,789 --> 00:18:05,360

like the original christian church and

439

00:18:08,630 --> 00:18:06,799

that the church of england was a far

440

00:18:09,909 --> 00:18:08,640

better claimant to be the true church of

441

00:18:12,789 --> 00:18:09,919

god

442

00:18:15,590 --> 00:18:12,799

as his argument rolled remorselessly on

443

00:18:17,990 --> 00:18:15,600

beaumont became more and more distressed

444

00:18:20,230 --> 00:18:18,000

finally on the fourth day it was

445

00:18:21,430 --> 00:18:20,240

beaumont's turn to speak and nobody

446

00:18:23,510 --> 00:18:21,440

could find him

447

00:18:25,029 --> 00:18:23,520

then a note was discovered apologizing

448

00:18:27,750 --> 00:18:25,039

and saying that he had forgotten all his

449

00:18:29,510 --> 00:18:27,760

arguments he had run away

450

00:18:31,510 --> 00:18:29,520

lord john morton kept his word and

451

00:18:33,270 --> 00:18:31,520

converted to anglicanism

452

00:18:35,430 --> 00:18:33,280

much later he became one of the few

453

00:18:37,350 --> 00:18:35,440

aristocrats to side with parliament

454

00:18:39,430 --> 00:18:37,360

early in the civil war

455

00:18:40,230 --> 00:18:39,440

lady morton never forgot what usher had

456

00:18:43,350 --> 00:18:40,240

done

457

00:18:45,029 --> 00:18:43,360

and her gratitude later saved his life

458

00:18:46,230 --> 00:18:45,039

now what links all this to the age of

459

00:18:48,950 --> 00:18:46,240

the earth

460

00:18:50,870 --> 00:18:48,960

usher spent 18 years studying the early

461

00:18:52,549 --> 00:18:50,880

writings of the church

462

00:18:54,070 --> 00:18:52,559

in these early days the proponents of

463

00:18:56,150 --> 00:18:54,080

christianity were taunted by

464

00:18:58,710 --> 00:18:56,160

non-christians who argue that the new

465

00:19:00,549 --> 00:18:58,720

faith had no roots in history

466

00:19:02,150 --> 00:19:00,559

the christian answer was to appropriate

467

00:19:03,909 --> 00:19:02,160

the jewish holy book

468

00:19:06,549 --> 00:19:03,919

and to incorporate it into the christian

469

00:19:08,470 --> 00:19:06,559

bible calling it the old testament

470

00:19:10,470 --> 00:19:08,480

this gave christianity a history going

471

00:19:11,990 --> 00:19:10,480

back literally to the creation of the

472

00:19:14,710 --> 00:19:12,000

world

473

00:19:16,630 --> 00:19:14,720

it also suggested tantalisingly that the

474

00:19:18,549 --> 00:19:16,640

creation could be dated

475

00:19:20,310 --> 00:19:18,559

in the old testament there are long

476

00:19:22,390 --> 00:19:20,320

strings of begats

477

00:19:23,909 --> 00:19:22,400

along with the ages of the begattas

478

00:19:25,110 --> 00:19:23,919

chronicling thousands of years of

479

00:19:26,789 --> 00:19:25,120

history

480

00:19:27,750 --> 00:19:26,799

usher set to work on this problem of

481

00:19:29,350 --> 00:19:27,760

dating

482

00:19:31,669 --> 00:19:29,360

he had to make sure that his evidence

483

00:19:33,430 --> 00:19:31,679

was as reliable as possible so he

484

00:19:35,510 --> 00:19:33,440

scrupulously compared

485

00:19:37,990 --> 00:19:35,520

various translations of the bible

486

00:19:39,029 --> 00:19:38,000

including hebrew samaritan and greek

487

00:19:41,110 --> 00:19:39,039

versions

488

00:19:43,029 --> 00:19:41,120

he could work in all these languages he

489

00:19:45,110 --> 00:19:43,039

heard of a chaldean translation

490

00:19:46,710 --> 00:19:45,120

somewhere in the middle east and sent an

491

00:19:49,110 --> 00:19:46,720

agent to acquire it

492

00:19:51,510 --> 00:19:49,120

while the agent was working asha studied

493

00:19:54,230 --> 00:19:51,520

chaldean so that he was ready to examine

494

00:19:56,070 --> 00:19:54,240

it after years of work usher concluded

495

00:19:58,549 --> 00:19:56,080

that the hebrew version was most

496

00:20:00,070 --> 00:19:58,559

reliable so he used that

497

00:20:02,710 --> 00:20:00,080

usher spent years working on his

498

00:20:04,390 --> 00:20:02,720

chronology and looked like failing

499

00:20:06,789 --> 00:20:04,400

using the lists of begats in the old

500

00:20:08,710 --> 00:20:06,799

testament and the ages of the fathers he

501
00:20:09,830 --> 00:20:08,720
compiled a chronology several thousand

502
00:20:12,070 --> 00:20:09,840
years long

503
00:20:14,230 --> 00:20:12,080
beginning with adam and ending up among

504
00:20:15,750 --> 00:20:14,240
the later old testament prophets but

505
00:20:17,350 --> 00:20:15,760
without a fixed point

506
00:20:20,710 --> 00:20:17,360
he needed to anchor this floating

507
00:20:23,110 --> 00:20:20,720
chronology in historical time

508
00:20:24,390 --> 00:20:23,120
it was here that usher made his crucial

509
00:20:26,230 --> 00:20:24,400
breakthrough

510
00:20:27,350 --> 00:20:26,240
he noticed what had eluded other

511
00:20:29,430 --> 00:20:27,360
scholars

512
00:20:30,789 --> 00:20:29,440
in the second book of kings he saw an

513
00:20:34,630 --> 00:20:30,799

incident which occurred during the

514

00:20:37,510 --> 00:20:34,640

captivity of israel in babylon quote and

515

00:20:40,390 --> 00:20:37,520

it came to pass in the 7th and 30th year

516

00:20:43,510 --> 00:20:40,400

of the captivity of jehoiachin king of

517

00:20:46,549 --> 00:20:43,520

judah in the 12th month on the 7th and

518

00:20:48,549 --> 00:20:46,559

20th day of the month that evil meredith

519

00:20:50,950 --> 00:20:48,559

king of babylon in the year that he

520

00:20:52,149 --> 00:20:50,960

began to reign did lift up the head of

521

00:20:54,789 --> 00:20:52,159

zhao king

522

00:20:58,230 --> 00:20:54,799

king of judah out of prison that's the

523

00:21:00,789 --> 00:20:58,240

second book of kings 25 27.

524

00:21:03,110 --> 00:21:00,799

usher knew that evil meredith was the

525

00:21:05,350 --> 00:21:03,120

son of king nebuchadnezzar

526
00:21:07,669 --> 00:21:05,360
in his encyclopedia greeting he had come

527
00:21:09,190 --> 00:21:07,679
across a list of kings and their dates

528
00:21:13,669 --> 00:21:09,200
compiled by the mathematician and

529
00:21:14,789 --> 00:21:13,679
scientist ptolemy in the 1st century ce

530
00:21:16,789 --> 00:21:14,799
this included the date of

531
00:21:19,750 --> 00:21:16,799
nebuchadnezzar's death

532
00:21:21,590 --> 00:21:19,760
asset took ptolemy's date and converted

533
00:21:23,750 --> 00:21:21,600
it into a modern calendar

534
00:21:25,350 --> 00:21:23,760
concluding that nebuchadnezzar had died

535
00:21:27,270 --> 00:21:25,360
in 562

536
00:21:28,870 --> 00:21:27,280
bc

537
00:21:31,590 --> 00:21:28,880
that gave his chronology a fixed point

538
00:21:33,270 --> 00:21:31,600

in time working back through his list

539

00:21:35,230 --> 00:21:33,280

usher computed that the world had been

540

00:21:37,990 --> 00:21:35,240

created

541

00:21:39,350 --> 00:21:38,000

3442 years before the death of

542

00:21:42,789 --> 00:21:39,360

nebuchadnezzar

543

00:21:44,710 --> 00:21:42,799

adding the two numbers gave 4004 bc as

544

00:21:46,149 --> 00:21:44,720

the date of creation which is nicely

545

00:21:48,310 --> 00:21:46,159

neat isn't it

546

00:21:50,149 --> 00:21:48,320

usher wasn't finished though

547

00:21:52,070 --> 00:21:50,159

he noted that there was ripe fruit in

548

00:21:53,669 --> 00:21:52,080

the garden of eden

549

00:21:55,510 --> 00:21:53,679

clearly this meant that

550

00:21:57,830 --> 00:21:55,520

creation took place in the northern

551
00:22:00,470 --> 00:21:57,840
autumn and symmetry suggested that this

552
00:22:01,990 --> 00:22:00,480
would be during the autumn solstice but

553
00:22:05,029 --> 00:22:02,000
usher also noted a strange

554
00:22:07,590 --> 00:22:05,039
characteristic of a verse in genesis it

555
00:22:09,029 --> 00:22:07,600
ran and the evening and the morning were

556
00:22:10,789 --> 00:22:09,039
the first day

557
00:22:12,310 --> 00:22:10,799
genesis 1 5

558
00:22:14,070 --> 00:22:12,320
i should noted that morning usually

559
00:22:15,590 --> 00:22:14,080
comes before the evening

560
00:22:17,270 --> 00:22:15,600
so this had to mean that the earth was

561
00:22:18,950 --> 00:22:17,280
created the evening before the first

562
00:22:20,870 --> 00:22:18,960
full day

563
00:22:22,070 --> 00:22:20,880

symmetry suggested that the time was 6

564

00:22:24,070 --> 00:22:22,080

pm

565

00:22:26,070 --> 00:22:24,080

so after all his labors asha

566

00:22:29,029 --> 00:22:26,080

triumphantly concluded that the world

567

00:22:33,270 --> 00:22:29,039

had been created at six pm on saturday

568

00:22:35,669 --> 00:22:33,280

october 27 4004 bc

569

00:22:37,430 --> 00:22:35,679

armed with his conclusions usher set out

570

00:22:39,830 --> 00:22:37,440

to do what no scholar could possibly

571

00:22:42,230 --> 00:22:39,840

have done before him he set out to write

572

00:22:43,510 --> 00:22:42,240

a history of the world with correct

573

00:22:44,710 --> 00:22:43,520

dates

574

00:22:47,029 --> 00:22:44,720

however

575

00:22:49,029 --> 00:22:47,039

events now turned against him he

576

00:22:50,870 --> 00:22:49,039

traveled to england and became chaplain

577

00:22:52,350 --> 00:22:50,880

to king charles the first

578

00:22:55,750 --> 00:22:52,360

the civil war

579

00:22:56,950 --> 00:22:55,760

1642-51 ensued and usher lost his

580

00:22:58,549 --> 00:22:56,960

position

581

00:23:00,470 --> 00:22:58,559

his papers were scattered while he

582

00:23:02,310 --> 00:23:00,480

avoided the war and his king was

583

00:23:03,669 --> 00:23:02,320

defeated and he was left essentially

584

00:23:05,669 --> 00:23:03,679

destitute

585

00:23:08,149 --> 00:23:05,679

further the cromwell government was not

586

00:23:11,190 --> 00:23:08,159

well disposed to the king's ex-chaplain

587

00:23:13,430 --> 00:23:11,200

and was considering action against him

588

00:23:14,390 --> 00:23:13,440

luckily a past good deed came back to

589

00:23:16,390 --> 00:23:14,400

help him

590

00:23:18,870 --> 00:23:16,400

lady elizabeth mordent was now the

591

00:23:20,710 --> 00:23:18,880

dowager lady peterborough her late

592

00:23:22,549 --> 00:23:20,720

husband's support for parliament gave

593

00:23:24,549 --> 00:23:22,559

her great prestige

594

00:23:27,990 --> 00:23:24,559

she sheltered usher in her london

595

00:23:29,990 --> 00:23:28,000

residence and he avoided prosecution

596

00:23:33,110 --> 00:23:30,000

visitors to the house remember him as a

597

00:23:35,669 --> 00:23:33,120

tall courteous kindly person he was now

598

00:23:37,830 --> 00:23:35,679

an old man driven by his desire to write

599

00:23:39,750 --> 00:23:37,840

his great history of the world so each

600

00:23:42,390 --> 00:23:39,760

day he would find a welded place in the

601
00:23:45,110 --> 00:23:42,400
house set up his table and papers and

602
00:23:47,029 --> 00:23:45,120
write while engaged on his task

603
00:23:49,029 --> 00:23:47,039
usher saw from the roof of lady

604
00:23:50,950 --> 00:23:49,039
peterborough's house the execution of

605
00:23:53,430 --> 00:23:50,960
charles the first

606
00:23:55,590 --> 00:23:53,440
the event shook him deeply but he was

607
00:23:57,590 --> 00:23:55,600
able to continue with his great task

608
00:24:00,149 --> 00:23:57,600
what did eventually stop him was age and

609
00:24:02,230 --> 00:24:00,159
infirmity he completed the second volume

610
00:24:05,110 --> 00:24:02,240
of his history taking the reader up to

611
00:24:07,430 --> 00:24:05,120
70 ce the year when the romans stormed

612
00:24:09,190 --> 00:24:07,440
the jewish temple in jerusalem but he

613
00:24:11,430 --> 00:24:09,200

had to stop there

614

00:24:12,950 --> 00:24:11,440

he died in 1656

615

00:24:14,390 --> 00:24:12,960

and the second volume was published

616

00:24:16,549 --> 00:24:14,400

posthumously

617

00:24:17,669 --> 00:24:16,559

after usher's death he was widely

618

00:24:19,510 --> 00:24:17,679

praised

619

00:24:21,029 --> 00:24:19,520

even his opponents paid tribute to his

620

00:24:22,230 --> 00:24:21,039

personal kindness and profound

621

00:24:23,909 --> 00:24:22,240

scholarship

622

00:24:25,269 --> 00:24:23,919

oliver cromwell organised the state

623

00:24:28,070 --> 00:24:25,279

funeral

624

00:24:30,470 --> 00:24:28,080

usher was buried in westminster abbey

625

00:24:33,029 --> 00:24:30,480

what ensured usher's fame however was

626
00:24:35,510 --> 00:24:33,039
when thomas guy a successful publisher

627
00:24:38,390 --> 00:24:35,520
who also endowed guys hospital used the

628
00:24:40,549 --> 00:24:38,400
chronology in an edition of the bible

629
00:24:42,549 --> 00:24:40,559
the use of the dates was common until

630
00:24:45,350 --> 00:24:42,559
the end of the 19th century which is

631
00:24:47,269 --> 00:24:45,360
when martin's bible was published of

632
00:24:50,310 --> 00:24:47,279
course usher's dating system was

633
00:24:52,470 --> 00:24:50,320
hideously ludicrously wrong

634
00:24:54,710 --> 00:24:52,480
the earth is actually more than 700 000

635
00:24:56,950 --> 00:24:54,720
times older than usher's estimate and

636
00:24:59,669 --> 00:24:56,960
yet at the time usher's chronology was

637
00:25:01,909 --> 00:24:59,679
not regarded as strange or eccentric

638
00:25:03,750 --> 00:25:01,919

other scholars such as sir walter rally

639

00:25:06,310 --> 00:25:03,760

and oxford vice chancellor john

640

00:25:08,230 --> 00:25:06,320

lightfoot also made estimates and their

641

00:25:10,789 --> 00:25:08,240

figures were similar to ushers

642

00:25:12,470 --> 00:25:10,799

how could such a keen well-informed mind

643

00:25:13,830 --> 00:25:12,480

be so terribly wrong

644

00:25:15,510 --> 00:25:13,840

the short answer is that there was no

645

00:25:17,990 --> 00:25:15,520

adequate way of dating the past back

646

00:25:19,590 --> 00:25:18,000

then it cannot be observed directly all

647

00:25:21,990 --> 00:25:19,600

we can do is look at what is currently

648

00:25:23,909 --> 00:25:22,000

observable and make deductions

649

00:25:26,470 --> 00:25:23,919

like many people usher accepted the

650

00:25:28,230 --> 00:25:26,480

bible as a reliable source of knowledge

651
00:25:30,789 --> 00:25:28,240
and so all his learning and reasoning

652
00:25:32,710 --> 00:25:30,799
led him into a useless dead end

653
00:25:35,110 --> 00:25:32,720
usher was not an obscurantist like the

654
00:25:37,190 --> 00:25:35,120
modern creation scientist he simply had

655
00:25:38,950 --> 00:25:37,200
no other source of information it should

656
00:25:40,710 --> 00:25:38,960
be clear that usher was quite different

657
00:25:42,950 --> 00:25:40,720
from the evolution deniers who regard

658
00:25:44,950 --> 00:25:42,960
him as some sort of patron saint by the

659
00:25:46,549 --> 00:25:44,960
standards of his day he was a highly

660
00:25:48,470 --> 00:25:46,559
regarded scholar

661
00:25:50,310 --> 00:25:48,480
he took care with his evidence and

662
00:25:51,590 --> 00:25:50,320
worked hard to make sure it was the best

663
00:25:53,269 --> 00:25:51,600

available

664

00:25:54,950 --> 00:25:53,279

some of his findings such as the dating

665

00:25:56,710 --> 00:25:54,960

of nebuchadnezzar's death

666

00:25:59,590 --> 00:25:56,720

and his judgment that the hebrew bible

667

00:26:00,870 --> 00:25:59,600

was the most reliable still stand today

668

00:26:02,630 --> 00:26:00,880

on the other hand

669

00:26:04,390 --> 00:26:02,640

new ways of thinking about the past soon

670

00:26:06,710 --> 00:26:04,400

began to appear

671

00:26:08,310 --> 00:26:06,720

within a few decades of usher's death

672

00:26:10,950 --> 00:26:08,320

observers were starting to think quite

673

00:26:14,630 --> 00:26:10,960

differently about the age of the earth

674

00:26:16,710 --> 00:26:14,640

edward lewd 1660 1709

675

00:26:18,630 --> 00:26:16,720

was a welsh scientist he noted that

676
00:26:20,789 --> 00:26:18,640
rocks occasionally fell from the sides

677
00:26:22,870 --> 00:26:20,799
of lambertus pass

678
00:26:24,710 --> 00:26:22,880
in north wales and came to rest on the

679
00:26:26,789 --> 00:26:24,720
valley floor

680
00:26:28,870 --> 00:26:26,799
loot heard from the locals that such

681
00:26:30,070 --> 00:26:28,880
falls only happened two or three times

682
00:26:32,310 --> 00:26:30,080
in a lifetime

683
00:26:33,750 --> 00:26:32,320
and so he counted boulders and estimated

684
00:26:35,350 --> 00:26:33,760
that the earth was perhaps two hundred

685
00:26:36,549 --> 00:26:35,360
thousand to three hundred thousand years

686
00:26:39,110 --> 00:26:36,559
old

687
00:26:42,789 --> 00:26:39,120
a little later the kant debuff

688
00:26:44,950 --> 00:26:42,799

1707 1788 performed experiments on the

689

00:26:46,070 --> 00:26:44,960

cooling of hot metal balls of various

690

00:26:48,230 --> 00:26:46,080

sizes

691

00:26:50,630 --> 00:26:48,240

he tried to extrapolate to the earth

692

00:26:53,430 --> 00:26:50,640

allowing for the insulation effect of

693

00:26:56,789 --> 00:26:53,440

its crust and atmosphere ending with an

694

00:26:58,789 --> 00:26:56,799

age of 74 832 years

695

00:27:00,950 --> 00:26:58,799

the theological outcry made him keep

696

00:27:03,430 --> 00:27:00,960

secret his personal estimate

697

00:27:06,870 --> 00:27:03,440

of about 10 million years

698

00:27:08,710 --> 00:27:06,880

now both lude and buffa we're wrong

699

00:27:10,149 --> 00:27:08,720

but we can begin to see the emergence of

700

00:27:13,269 --> 00:27:10,159

people thinking about the age of the

701
00:27:15,269 --> 00:27:13,279
earth in a recognizably scientific way

702
00:27:17,029 --> 00:27:15,279
better estimates would follow converging

703
00:27:19,990 --> 00:27:17,039
on the current estimate of an earth

704
00:27:22,630 --> 00:27:20,000
which is 4.6 billion years old in a

705
00:27:24,710 --> 00:27:22,640
universe perhaps three times that age

706
00:27:26,470 --> 00:27:24,720
instead of really killing usher a

707
00:27:28,070 --> 00:27:26,480
charitable reaction is to regard him as

708
00:27:30,950 --> 00:27:28,080
a man of his day

709
00:27:33,080 --> 00:27:30,960
an estimable scholar and apparently a

710
00:27:37,430 --> 00:27:33,090
good man

711
00:27:38,870 --> 00:27:37,440
[Music]

712
00:27:42,710 --> 00:27:38,880
that article is from the skeptic

713
00:27:44,470 --> 00:27:42,720

september 2018 which is volume 38 number

714

00:27:46,549 --> 00:27:44,480

three and as i said you can download

715

00:27:48,470 --> 00:27:46,559

that copy of the magazine for free from

716

00:27:50,549 --> 00:27:48,480

our website and while you're there you

717

00:27:52,470 --> 00:27:50,559

might subscribe to the magazine as well

718

00:27:55,380 --> 00:27:52,480

because the four most recent issues you

719

00:28:17,909 --> 00:27:55,390

can't download for free

720

00:28:21,750 --> 00:28:19,909

hi this is brian dunning

721

00:28:23,909 --> 00:28:21,760

as part of national science week in

722

00:28:26,310 --> 00:28:23,919

australia canberra skeptics will be

723

00:28:29,350 --> 00:28:26,320

hosting a free screening of my latest

724

00:28:32,950 --> 00:28:29,360

documentary science friction this will

725

00:28:36,630 --> 00:28:32,960

be on sunday the 14th of august at 1pm

726

00:28:37,710 --> 00:28:36,640

king o'malley's pub 131 city walk in

727

00:28:41,110 --> 00:28:37,720

canberra

728

00:28:44,950 --> 00:28:42,870

so what is it all about well you know

729

00:28:47,269 --> 00:28:44,960

those tv documentaries you see and the

730

00:28:49,750 --> 00:28:47,279

science experts they feature did you

731

00:28:52,789 --> 00:28:49,760

know that producers often edit them out

732

00:28:55,029 --> 00:28:52,799

of context and twist their words to make

733

00:28:58,549 --> 00:28:55,039

it seem like they promoted some pop

734

00:29:01,669 --> 00:28:58,559

sensationalism instead of the real facts

735

00:29:03,190 --> 00:29:01,679

science friction exposes this practice

736

00:29:04,630 --> 00:29:03,200

and gives the scientists a chance to

737

00:29:07,430 --> 00:29:04,640

clear the record

738

00:29:13,909 --> 00:29:07,440

you will be shocked to see how the media

739

00:29:19,750 --> 00:29:17,430

that's sunday the 14th of august at 1pm

740

00:29:21,350 --> 00:29:19,760

at king o'malley's pub

741

00:29:26,070 --> 00:29:21,360

for further information about this free

742

00:29:30,870 --> 00:29:28,310

thank you and i hope you all raise a

743

00:29:33,590 --> 00:29:30,880

glass to help promote science and

744

00:29:41,710 --> 00:29:33,600

truth-telling in the media i know i

745

00:29:48,110 --> 00:29:46,630

[Music]

746

00:29:57,269 --> 00:29:48,120

do

747

00:30:01,789 --> 00:29:59,269

now it's time once again to dive into

748

00:30:03,990 --> 00:30:01,799

those pages at trove at

749

00:30:05,350 --> 00:30:04,000

trove.nla.gov.edu the online resource

750

00:30:07,430 --> 00:30:05,360

from the australian government and the

751
00:30:09,750 --> 00:30:07,440
national library of australia and what a

752
00:30:11,269 --> 00:30:09,760
resource it is digitized newspapers

753
00:30:13,430 --> 00:30:11,279
gazettes journals

754
00:30:16,310 --> 00:30:13,440
all sorts of things going back many many

755
00:30:17,750 --> 00:30:16,320
many decades indeed into the past

756
00:30:19,510 --> 00:30:17,760
centuries

757
00:30:21,990 --> 00:30:19,520
as long as you can go back here in

758
00:30:25,350 --> 00:30:22,000
australia with the newspaper

759
00:30:29,669 --> 00:30:27,510
and in keeping with our general theme of

760
00:30:31,510 --> 00:30:29,679
looking up paranormal supernatural and

761
00:30:34,549 --> 00:30:31,520
related subjects

762
00:30:36,389 --> 00:30:34,559
i just ran a general search and look for

763
00:30:39,110 --> 00:30:36,399

maybe the odd side

764

00:30:42,230 --> 00:30:39,120

maybe they're all odd the stranger side

765

00:30:45,830 --> 00:30:42,240

when it comes to the paranormal

766

00:30:49,110 --> 00:30:45,840

[Music]

767

00:30:51,990 --> 00:30:49,120

and our first random return comes from

768

00:30:56,070 --> 00:30:52,000

the sunday mail brisbane queensland

769

00:30:59,509 --> 00:30:56,080

dated the 17th of december 1937

770

00:31:02,149 --> 00:30:59,519

ghost ordered off the streets

771

00:31:05,029 --> 00:31:02,159

the ghost of the late sir arthur conan

772

00:31:07,509 --> 00:31:05,039

doyle has been ordered by a new york

773

00:31:09,750 --> 00:31:07,519

judge to stop parading through the

774

00:31:10,870 --> 00:31:09,760

streets on the grounds that he

775

00:31:13,430 --> 00:31:10,880

or it

776
00:31:15,590 --> 00:31:13,440
was blocking the footpaths and parading

777
00:31:18,470 --> 00:31:15,600
without a permit the ruling was

778
00:31:19,909 --> 00:31:18,480
delivered to mrs elizabeth o'hare a tall

779
00:31:22,789 --> 00:31:19,919
white-haired woman

780
00:31:24,789 --> 00:31:22,799
who explained that she was the personal

781
00:31:25,909 --> 00:31:24,799
representative of sir arthur conan

782
00:31:26,950 --> 00:31:25,919
doyle's

783
00:31:28,470 --> 00:31:26,960
ghost

784
00:31:31,909 --> 00:31:28,480
on earth

785
00:31:33,789 --> 00:31:31,919
mrs o'hare known amongst the occult as

786
00:31:35,590 --> 00:31:33,799
elizabeth the

787
00:31:38,230 --> 00:31:35,600
transcriber

788
00:31:41,269 --> 00:31:38,240

was taken to court after she had marched

789

00:31:44,710 --> 00:31:41,279

down fifth avenue with a huge banner

790

00:31:48,070 --> 00:31:44,720

challenging mr joseph dunninger

791

00:31:50,149 --> 00:31:48,080

a noted spook debunker to debate with

792

00:31:53,269 --> 00:31:50,159

sir arthur's ghost on the question of

793

00:31:55,110 --> 00:31:53,279

whether spirits of the dead can return

794

00:31:57,350 --> 00:31:55,120

to the earth

795

00:32:00,230 --> 00:31:57,360

mr dunninger had offered two thousand

796

00:32:03,509 --> 00:32:00,240

pounds to anyone who could produce a ten

797

00:32:07,110 --> 00:32:03,519

word code which he said sir arthur conan

798

00:32:08,870 --> 00:32:07,120

doyle gave him before he died mrs o'hare

799

00:32:11,990 --> 00:32:08,880

answered with her challenge

800

00:32:14,549 --> 00:32:12,000

she disclaimed personal responsibility

801
00:32:17,190 --> 00:32:14,559
for the parade it was conan doyle's

802
00:32:19,430 --> 00:32:17,200
spirit she said i had no choice in the

803
00:32:22,230 --> 00:32:19,440
matter the judge

804
00:32:25,350 --> 00:32:22,240
rubbed his chin and said he had no

805
00:32:27,350 --> 00:32:25,360
desire to set himself up as a judge of

806
00:32:29,269 --> 00:32:27,360
the supernatural

807
00:32:32,149 --> 00:32:29,279
there is a great deal about psychic

808
00:32:34,149 --> 00:32:32,159
matters that i do not know he pointed

809
00:32:37,269 --> 00:32:34,159
out you bet there is

810
00:32:40,549 --> 00:32:37,279
chimed in mrs o'hare i mean

811
00:32:44,070 --> 00:32:40,559
said the judge flushing slightly that i

812
00:32:46,710 --> 00:32:44,080
don't know much about ghosts i know

813
00:32:50,230 --> 00:32:46,720

about the lore however and i would

814

00:32:53,430 --> 00:32:50,240

advise you to stop parading and handing

815

00:32:56,710 --> 00:32:53,440

out pamphlets when told that she would

816

00:32:59,590 --> 00:32:56,720

go to jail if she offended again mrs

817

00:33:00,710 --> 00:32:59,600

o'hare sighed and promised to obey the

818

00:33:03,750 --> 00:33:00,720

law

819

00:33:06,549 --> 00:33:03,760

later she told reporters that she gave

820

00:33:08,630 --> 00:33:06,559

the undertaking on the advice of

821

00:33:11,110 --> 00:33:08,640

abraham lincoln

822

00:33:13,269 --> 00:33:11,120

who was with me in the courtroom

823

00:33:15,350 --> 00:33:13,279

advising me right along

824

00:33:16,269 --> 00:33:15,360

she then added that lincoln's spirit

825

00:33:18,310 --> 00:33:16,279

would be

826

00:33:21,509 --> 00:33:18,320

reincarnated soon

827

00:33:22,789 --> 00:33:21,519

so there you go all the way back in 1937

828

00:33:25,190 --> 00:33:22,799

that would have been

829

00:33:27,509 --> 00:33:25,200

an interesting day in court

830

00:33:29,269 --> 00:33:27,519

and now what what other random craziness

831

00:33:33,590 --> 00:33:29,279

can we find from the canberra times

832

00:33:35,830 --> 00:33:33,600

dated the 2nd of march 1991 so

833

00:33:39,430 --> 00:33:35,840

leaping forward many decades

834

00:33:40,180 --> 00:33:39,440

and this is from michelin busico in san

835

00:33:41,430 --> 00:33:40,190

francisco

836

00:33:44,389 --> 00:33:41,440

[Music]

837

00:33:46,149 --> 00:33:44,399

kidnap victims of ets tell all under

838

00:33:47,430 --> 00:33:46,159

hypnosis

839

00:33:50,789 --> 00:33:47,440

they're out there

840

00:33:53,350 --> 00:33:50,799

removing brains taking women's eggs

841

00:33:55,830 --> 00:33:53,360

creating a hybrid race

842

00:33:58,389 --> 00:33:55,840

tiny creatures with giant heads

843

00:34:00,630 --> 00:33:58,399

giant creatures with tiny heads

844

00:34:01,669 --> 00:34:00,640

creatures with heads like honeydew

845

00:34:03,669 --> 00:34:01,679

melons

846

00:34:05,750 --> 00:34:03,679

they've all been there sneaking through

847

00:34:08,149 --> 00:34:05,760

the sky in spacecraft

848

00:34:11,750 --> 00:34:08,159

vacuuming up earthlings poking and

849

00:34:13,510 --> 00:34:11,760

probing us in unspeakable ways or so

850

00:34:16,310 --> 00:34:13,520

we've been told

851
00:34:18,069 --> 00:34:16,320
they're aliens extraterrestrials the

852
00:34:20,310 --> 00:34:18,079
little green men

853
00:34:23,750 --> 00:34:20,320
and they've been getting away with it

854
00:34:25,909 --> 00:34:23,760
for eons because we poor humans

855
00:34:28,389 --> 00:34:25,919
don't remember the encounters

856
00:34:29,909 --> 00:34:28,399
either the memories are so horrible we

857
00:34:32,829 --> 00:34:29,919
repress them

858
00:34:37,589 --> 00:34:32,839
or the tricky extraterrestrials make us

859
00:34:40,869 --> 00:34:37,599
forget but we've been evolving too

860
00:34:44,230 --> 00:34:40,879
now ufologists like psychologist edith

861
00:34:46,869 --> 00:34:44,240
fiora have a way to make us remember

862
00:34:48,550 --> 00:34:46,879
hypnotize abductees

863
00:34:49,829 --> 00:34:48,560

and they talk

864

00:34:52,230 --> 00:34:49,839

actually

865

00:34:55,430 --> 00:34:52,240

they talk their heads off going on for

866

00:34:58,550 --> 00:34:55,440

hours in a single session telling of

867

00:34:59,510 --> 00:34:58,560

cruising alien ships et's taking them on

868

00:35:03,270 --> 00:34:59,520

board

869

00:35:05,589 --> 00:35:03,280

and not all the experiences are bad

870

00:35:08,310 --> 00:35:05,599

san francisco bay area abductees have

871

00:35:10,230 --> 00:35:08,320

told fiora about aliens

872

00:35:11,109 --> 00:35:10,240

curing ailments

873

00:35:14,630 --> 00:35:11,119

from

874

00:35:16,870 --> 00:35:14,640

yeast infections to cancer

875

00:35:20,390 --> 00:35:16,880

fiora herself remembered

876
00:35:22,150 --> 00:35:20,400
under hypnosis being abducted in 1980.

877
00:35:24,630 --> 00:35:22,160
the aliens beamed her up from her

878
00:35:26,470 --> 00:35:24,640
bedroom in los gatos california one

879
00:35:27,750 --> 00:35:26,480
night and showed her around their

880
00:35:30,950 --> 00:35:27,760
spaceship

881
00:35:33,829 --> 00:35:30,960
it was just a typical roundish interior

882
00:35:35,910 --> 00:35:33,839
kind of shiny low lights she says

883
00:35:37,270 --> 00:35:35,920
i wasn't frightened at all

884
00:35:39,270 --> 00:35:37,280
but then

885
00:35:41,829 --> 00:35:39,280
she knew what to expect

886
00:35:45,510 --> 00:35:41,839
fiora has compiled 13 case histories of

887
00:35:48,069 --> 00:35:45,520
abductees into a book encounters in

888
00:35:50,150 --> 00:35:48,079

which she also explains how to tell if

889

00:35:51,670 --> 00:35:50,160

you have been taken

890

00:35:54,710 --> 00:35:51,680

indications are

891

00:35:57,910 --> 00:35:54,720

gaps of time you can't account for marks

892

00:36:00,790 --> 00:35:57,920

on your body you can't explain or dreams

893

00:36:04,630 --> 00:36:00,800

about ufos or extraterrestrials

894

00:36:07,349 --> 00:36:04,640

fiora lists 25 other hypnotists who work

895

00:36:10,790 --> 00:36:07,359

with abductees in her book 11 of them

896

00:36:13,270 --> 00:36:10,800

are in the bay area around san francisco

897

00:36:16,230 --> 00:36:13,280

local abductees can call in reports to a

898

00:36:18,310 --> 00:36:16,240

ufo hotline based in

899

00:36:19,990 --> 00:36:18,320

menlo park california

900

00:36:23,030 --> 00:36:20,000

those who've

901
00:36:25,190 --> 00:36:23,040
gone up and those who study them say

902
00:36:26,790 --> 00:36:25,200
abductions follow a pattern

903
00:36:28,230 --> 00:36:26,800
it's night

904
00:36:30,790 --> 00:36:28,240
they're alone

905
00:36:34,710 --> 00:36:30,800
there's a bright light then suddenly

906
00:36:36,470 --> 00:36:34,720
a pack of aliens standard issue ets are

907
00:36:39,430 --> 00:36:36,480
short around

908
00:36:40,630 --> 00:36:39,440
130 centimeters and that's just over

909
00:36:42,230 --> 00:36:40,640
four feet

910
00:36:45,109 --> 00:36:42,240
with big heads

911
00:36:48,150 --> 00:36:45,119
light grey skin no hair slender bodies

912
00:36:51,109 --> 00:36:48,160
and a silver jumpsuit or something of

913
00:36:53,750 --> 00:36:51,119

the sword fiora says virgil staff

914

00:36:55,190 --> 00:36:53,760

chairman of an organization of ufo

915

00:36:57,670 --> 00:36:55,200

watchers said

916

00:37:00,230 --> 00:36:57,680

there's not much known about the feet

917

00:37:01,430 --> 00:37:00,240

witnesses frequently say they couldn't

918

00:37:04,870 --> 00:37:01,440

see feet

919

00:37:07,510 --> 00:37:04,880

the abductee is sucked into a spaceship

920

00:37:10,710 --> 00:37:07,520

the preferred vehicles for the bay area

921

00:37:12,150 --> 00:37:10,720

aliens are sources though some ships

922

00:37:15,349 --> 00:37:12,160

look like

923

00:37:17,750 --> 00:37:15,359

balls of fire staff says then they are

924

00:37:19,349 --> 00:37:17,760

given a physical examination that

925

00:37:23,109 --> 00:37:19,359

requires

926
00:37:25,829 --> 00:37:23,119
many probes fjord said they are examined

927
00:37:27,670 --> 00:37:25,839
in every orifice of their body by a

928
00:37:31,109 --> 00:37:27,680
number of these

929
00:37:34,150 --> 00:37:31,119
aliens staff says things have been quiet

930
00:37:37,109 --> 00:37:34,160
in the bay area lately there were two

931
00:37:40,390 --> 00:37:37,119
reports in november two in december and

932
00:37:43,510 --> 00:37:40,400
one in january but for every abductee we

933
00:37:45,670 --> 00:37:43,520
can learn about he said there are dozens

934
00:37:46,630 --> 00:37:45,680
hundreds maybe thousands we don't know

935
00:37:48,790 --> 00:37:46,640
about

936
00:37:51,030 --> 00:37:48,800
some of the et's have been compassionate

937
00:37:52,390 --> 00:37:51,040
but the typical story is the abductees

938
00:37:54,310 --> 00:37:52,400

are treated like

939

00:37:57,349 --> 00:37:54,320

laboratory animals

940

00:37:58,870 --> 00:37:57,359

diane tay mother of two chinese herb

941

00:38:02,630 --> 00:37:58,880

distributor and

942

00:38:04,390 --> 00:38:02,640

cosmic frequent flyer explains about the

943

00:38:07,109 --> 00:38:04,400

aliens who've been

944

00:38:08,790 --> 00:38:07,119

dropping by for more than 20 years

945

00:38:11,430 --> 00:38:08,800

ever since they've planted something in

946

00:38:13,829 --> 00:38:11,440

her brain she's been able to contact

947

00:38:16,630 --> 00:38:13,839

them whenever she likes they call her

948

00:38:19,670 --> 00:38:16,640

sometimes too with advice or information

949

00:38:21,990 --> 00:38:19,680

about the future in her

950

00:38:25,190 --> 00:38:22,000

most vivid memory

951
00:38:28,710 --> 00:38:25,200
gentle big-headed aliens took her from

952
00:38:32,390 --> 00:38:28,720
her bedroom i remember dark eyes bigger

953
00:38:35,430 --> 00:38:32,400
eyes and more slanted eyes she said

954
00:38:36,630 --> 00:38:35,440
not real crazy like in some pictures

955
00:38:38,630 --> 00:38:36,640
more gentle

956
00:38:39,750 --> 00:38:38,640
they were tall and thin and had bigger

957
00:38:41,990 --> 00:38:39,760
heads

958
00:38:45,349 --> 00:38:42,000
but just slightly

959
00:38:48,470 --> 00:38:45,359
they did not communicate through words

960
00:38:50,630 --> 00:38:48,480
first she found herself in a cold room

961
00:38:53,670 --> 00:38:50,640
with a brilliant blue light that had

962
00:38:55,190 --> 00:38:53,680
something to do with killing bacteria

963
00:38:56,630 --> 00:38:55,200

then came

964

00:38:59,670 --> 00:38:56,640

an examination

965

00:39:01,270 --> 00:38:59,680

they were very interested in taking all

966

00:39:04,550 --> 00:39:01,280

kinds of blood

967

00:39:07,910 --> 00:39:04,560

making analysis and laboratory workups

968

00:39:09,589 --> 00:39:07,920

she said there was a machine over my

969

00:39:11,349 --> 00:39:09,599

head for some time

970

00:39:14,310 --> 00:39:11,359

i felt as though something had been put

971

00:39:15,510 --> 00:39:14,320

into my mind there was something going

972

00:39:18,230 --> 00:39:15,520

on there

973

00:39:21,430 --> 00:39:18,240

they also cut inside things that were

974

00:39:24,790 --> 00:39:21,440

going in through my abdomen and i didn't

975

00:39:27,910 --> 00:39:24,800

have any anesthesia it wasn't such a bad

976

00:39:31,589 --> 00:39:27,920

experience she says afterwards they took

977

00:39:33,670 --> 00:39:31,599

her into a round auditorium with 200

978

00:39:35,270 --> 00:39:33,680

other people a giant screen flashed

979

00:39:38,550 --> 00:39:35,280

picture after picture of scenes from

980

00:39:39,589 --> 00:39:38,560

earth oceans guy smoke stacks people in

981

00:39:41,589 --> 00:39:39,599

hospitals

982

00:39:45,030 --> 00:39:41,599

she became inspired to help people take

983

00:39:48,069 --> 00:39:45,040

care of themselves and to become better

984

00:39:50,870 --> 00:39:48,079

caretakers of the planet after it was

985

00:39:51,910 --> 00:39:50,880

like i had a sense of purpose

986

00:39:53,670 --> 00:39:51,920

she said

987

00:39:56,790 --> 00:39:53,680

like yeah

988

00:39:59,109 --> 00:39:56,800

now i know now what i'm supposed to do

989

00:40:00,470 --> 00:39:59,119

james harder a civil engineering

990

00:40:02,310 --> 00:40:00,480

professor at the university of

991

00:40:04,550 --> 00:40:02,320

california berkeley

992

00:40:07,670 --> 00:40:04,560

says feelings of being on a mission are

993

00:40:10,470 --> 00:40:07,680

a common result of interplanetary chats

994

00:40:13,190 --> 00:40:10,480

alien encounters are his advocacy

995

00:40:16,069 --> 00:40:13,200

he's been collecting data for 30 years

996

00:40:17,589 --> 00:40:16,079

and has interviewed more than 300

997

00:40:21,510 --> 00:40:17,599

abductees

998

00:40:23,349 --> 00:40:21,520

including fiora he says 95 of people who

999

00:40:24,710 --> 00:40:23,359

have been abducted by aliens have no

1000

00:40:26,710 --> 00:40:24,720

idea it happened

1001
00:40:29,510 --> 00:40:26,720
he hypnotizes people to make them

1002
00:40:32,150 --> 00:40:29,520
remember if they fit a certain profile

1003
00:40:35,430 --> 00:40:32,160
active in the peace movement convinced

1004
00:40:36,950 --> 00:40:35,440
ufos are real pursue a spiritual path of

1005
00:40:39,990 --> 00:40:36,960
enlightenment

1006
00:40:43,109 --> 00:40:40,000
and have psychic ability

1007
00:40:45,990 --> 00:40:43,119
ets are interested in us because the

1008
00:40:47,910 --> 00:40:46,000
earth is going through a crisis phase

1009
00:40:51,430 --> 00:40:47,920
that's very interesting to the rest of

1010
00:40:54,150 --> 00:40:51,440
the galaxy god is said i think some are

1011
00:40:56,790 --> 00:40:54,160
trying to guide us to a better way of

1012
00:40:58,630 --> 00:40:56,800
life harder also says skeptics are

1013
00:41:01,270 --> 00:40:58,640

threatened by the idea of something

1014

00:41:04,150 --> 00:41:01,280

smarter than them lurking out there

1015

00:41:05,589 --> 00:41:04,160

philip j class former editor of aviation

1016

00:41:09,030 --> 00:41:05,599

week magazine

1017

00:41:12,230 --> 00:41:09,040

and author of books debunking ufo claims

1018

00:41:13,670 --> 00:41:12,240

also thinks people who believe they were

1019

00:41:16,550 --> 00:41:13,680

abducted

1020

00:41:18,790 --> 00:41:16,560

are responding to hypnotic suggestion he

1021

00:41:20,550 --> 00:41:18,800

suspects many are just looking for a

1022

00:41:22,710 --> 00:41:20,560

little celebrity

1023

00:41:25,349 --> 00:41:22,720

class who has spent 25 years

1024

00:41:28,150 --> 00:41:25,359

investigating ufo claims has a standing

1025

00:41:29,430 --> 00:41:28,160

offer to pay ten thousand dollars u.s

1026

00:41:31,349 --> 00:41:29,440

which is

1027

00:41:32,790 --> 00:41:31,359

at the time twelve thousand seven

1028

00:41:35,589 --> 00:41:32,800

hundred and eighty eight dollars

1029

00:41:37,750 --> 00:41:35,599

australian to any abductee

1030

00:41:40,390 --> 00:41:37,760

provided the federal bureau of

1031

00:41:43,349 --> 00:41:40,400

investigation backs up the story

1032

00:41:45,589 --> 00:41:43,359

no one has come forward so far

1033

00:41:47,349 --> 00:41:45,599

ufo believers accused the fbi and the

1034

00:41:50,470 --> 00:41:47,359

national aeronautics and space

1035

00:41:53,030 --> 00:41:50,480

administration of a massive cover-up

1036

00:41:54,230 --> 00:41:53,040

dating back to the 1940s

1037

00:41:56,470 --> 00:41:54,240

staff said

1038

00:41:59,670 --> 00:41:56,480

it appears the government has won or

1039

00:42:02,550 --> 00:41:59,680

more vehicles in addition to bodies but

1040

00:42:06,069 --> 00:42:02,560

they've locked people up brainwashed

1041

00:42:08,870 --> 00:42:06,079

them and maybe even terminated them so

1042

00:42:09,910 --> 00:42:08,880

we can't be expected to produce hard

1043

00:42:14,069 --> 00:42:09,920

evidence

1044

00:42:17,750 --> 00:42:14,079

and at the bottom it says k-r-d-k-r-d

1045

00:42:20,950 --> 00:42:17,760

not sure what that means but there it is

1046

00:42:22,710 --> 00:42:20,960

and i must say that the fad for talking

1047

00:42:25,910 --> 00:42:22,720

about or reporting

1048

00:42:28,390 --> 00:42:25,920

being abducted by spaceships has um

1049

00:42:31,270 --> 00:42:28,400

largely disappeared

1050

00:42:33,270 --> 00:42:31,280

i do remember in past decades there was

1051

00:42:34,470 --> 00:42:33,280

a lot of talk about it but now

1052

00:42:36,630 --> 00:42:34,480

it's uh

1053

00:42:38,630 --> 00:42:36,640

like ufos themselves really it's more or

1054

00:42:40,470 --> 00:42:38,640

less a relic of the past

1055

00:42:42,630 --> 00:42:40,480

and finally we come to the pages of the

1056

00:42:45,430 --> 00:42:42,640

daily telegraph published in sydney on

1057

00:42:46,870 --> 00:42:45,440

the 21st of october

1058

00:42:48,630 --> 00:42:46,880

1950

1059

00:42:51,589 --> 00:42:48,640

we're skipping about

1060

00:42:53,510 --> 00:42:51,599

all over the 20th century at the moment

1061

00:42:55,910 --> 00:42:53,520

by barry lawrence

1062

00:42:57,430 --> 00:42:55,920

all the world loves dragons

1063

00:42:59,510 --> 00:42:57,440

and bunnies

1064

00:43:02,230 --> 00:42:59,520

and in case it doesn't mention it in the

1065

00:43:04,230 --> 00:43:02,240

story a bunyip is a

1066

00:43:05,829 --> 00:43:04,240

mythical australian

1067

00:43:08,470 --> 00:43:05,839

uh creature

1068

00:43:11,190 --> 00:43:08,480

last week police at we wore

1069

00:43:14,069 --> 00:43:11,200

new south wales announced that a

1070

00:43:15,750 --> 00:43:14,079

swamp monster which alarmed local people

1071

00:43:17,109 --> 00:43:15,760

for six weeks was

1072

00:43:20,150 --> 00:43:17,119

just a bird

1073

00:43:23,109 --> 00:43:20,160

they said it was a bitten a bird which

1074

00:43:25,270 --> 00:43:23,119

makes a hollow bellowing sound while it

1075

00:43:27,510 --> 00:43:25,280

searches for food in the night

1076

00:43:29,829 --> 00:43:27,520

sounds the bird made gave rise to a

1077

00:43:31,670 --> 00:43:29,839

belief that a monster was prowling the

1078

00:43:34,630 --> 00:43:31,680

we wore marshes

1079

00:43:36,710 --> 00:43:34,640

some said that it was a crocodile others

1080

00:43:39,030 --> 00:43:36,720

that it was a bunyip

1081

00:43:42,309 --> 00:43:39,040

women and children stayed home at night

1082

00:43:44,309 --> 00:43:42,319

men patrolled the marshes with rifles

1083

00:43:47,430 --> 00:43:44,319

people reported that they had seen

1084

00:43:48,309 --> 00:43:47,440

tracks which only a crocodile could have

1085

00:43:51,030 --> 00:43:48,319

made

1086

00:43:53,430 --> 00:43:51,040

somebody produced evidence that soldiers

1087

00:43:55,750 --> 00:43:53,440

had released baby crocodiles in the

1088

00:43:58,790 --> 00:43:55,760

district some years ago

1089

00:44:02,150 --> 00:43:58,800

after six weeks of excitement the news

1090

00:44:04,550 --> 00:44:02,160

that the monster was a harmless bird

1091

00:44:05,430 --> 00:44:04,560

seemed rather disappointing

1092

00:44:07,109 --> 00:44:05,440

four

1093

00:44:11,109 --> 00:44:07,119

let's face it

1094

00:44:13,589 --> 00:44:11,119

everybody loves a monster since the dawn

1095

00:44:15,270 --> 00:44:13,599

of human reasoning the night men the

1096

00:44:18,470 --> 00:44:15,280

unknown have been

1097

00:44:21,990 --> 00:44:18,480

peopled with ghosts and wraiths

1098

00:44:25,829 --> 00:44:22,000

sinister goblins and terrifying monsters

1099

00:44:28,390 --> 00:44:25,839

we are parting with them reluctantly

1100

00:44:30,390 --> 00:44:28,400

in ireland where the celtic twilight

1101

00:44:32,630 --> 00:44:30,400

still lingers they have their

1102

00:44:35,430 --> 00:44:32,640

leprechauns and banshees

1103

00:44:37,910 --> 00:44:35,440

water horses and water balls in the

1104

00:44:42,230 --> 00:44:37,920

scottish western isles folks still

1105

00:44:44,390 --> 00:44:42,240

believe in seal men and seal women

1106

00:44:46,150 --> 00:44:44,400

in the north of england they talk of the

1107

00:44:48,550 --> 00:44:46,160

lambton worm

1108

00:44:51,030 --> 00:44:48,560

which can stretch seven times around a

1109

00:44:53,349 --> 00:44:51,040

hill and eat all the sheep for miles

1110

00:44:56,710 --> 00:44:53,359

around throughout west and central

1111

00:44:58,790 --> 00:44:56,720

europa belief in vampires and werewolves

1112

00:45:02,230 --> 00:44:58,800

human beings who magically turn into

1113

00:45:03,190 --> 00:45:02,240

wolves persists strongly norwegians

1114

00:45:05,349 --> 00:45:03,200

still

1115

00:45:08,309 --> 00:45:05,359

beware the kraken

1116

00:45:09,510 --> 00:45:08,319

a frightful sea monster when they go

1117

00:45:12,470 --> 00:45:09,520

fishing

1118

00:45:15,030 --> 00:45:12,480

canadians occasionally see

1119

00:45:17,829 --> 00:45:15,040

a sheep come serpent monster which they

1120

00:45:19,270 --> 00:45:17,839

call the ogopogo mediterranean people

1121

00:45:23,349 --> 00:45:19,280

still believe in

1122

00:45:26,470 --> 00:45:23,359

dejans ghoulis satas sirens

1123

00:45:29,270 --> 00:45:26,480

hard-headed scots dowlings refused to

1124

00:45:31,589 --> 00:45:29,280

allow their tourist attracting loch ness

1125

00:45:34,390 --> 00:45:31,599

monster to be debunked

1126
00:45:36,069 --> 00:45:34,400
and australia youngest nation of all

1127
00:45:37,910 --> 00:45:36,079
stays in the picture

1128
00:45:40,230 --> 00:45:37,920
with the bunyip

1129
00:45:43,589 --> 00:45:40,240
civilized people from all over the world

1130
00:45:46,069 --> 00:45:43,599
love frankenstein and dracula films and

1131
00:45:48,309 --> 00:45:46,079
like to read about lost valleys where

1132
00:45:50,950 --> 00:45:48,319
prehistoric monsters still live

1133
00:45:52,950 --> 00:45:50,960
fantastic monsters troop through fiction

1134
00:45:55,990 --> 00:45:52,960
and comic strips

1135
00:45:59,750 --> 00:45:56,000
most of the old-time monsters or dragons

1136
00:46:01,349 --> 00:45:59,760
have a beautiful and chaste maiden

1137
00:46:04,470 --> 00:46:01,359
enthrall

1138
00:46:07,349 --> 00:46:04,480

waiting to be rescued by a knight errant

1139

00:46:09,109 --> 00:46:07,359

with a sharp lance or magic spell said

1140

00:46:13,270 --> 00:46:09,119

george and the dragon is a classic

1141

00:46:15,430 --> 00:46:13,280

example and the we wore monster had

1142

00:46:17,910 --> 00:46:15,440

something in common with it the women

1143

00:46:20,550 --> 00:46:17,920

and children menaced by the monster

1144

00:46:22,790 --> 00:46:20,560

stayed at home while the men armed with

1145

00:46:25,910 --> 00:46:22,800

rifles instead of lancers

1146

00:46:28,870 --> 00:46:25,920

and ingenious crocodile traps instead of

1147

00:46:29,990 --> 00:46:28,880

the old-time magic and cantrips word

1148

00:46:32,309 --> 00:46:30,000

spells

1149

00:46:35,190 --> 00:46:32,319

sailed forth to do battle

1150

00:46:37,510 --> 00:46:35,200

this week professor w m o'neill

1151

00:46:40,870 --> 00:46:37,520

professor of psychology at sydney

1152

00:46:43,990 --> 00:46:40,880

university told us his opinion

1153

00:46:45,670 --> 00:46:44,000

about why everybody loves a monster it

1154

00:46:48,069 --> 00:46:45,680

is the simple mental process of

1155

00:46:50,870 --> 00:46:48,079

projecting our fears and baser impulses

1156

00:46:53,190 --> 00:46:50,880

on to something outside ourselves said

1157

00:46:55,910 --> 00:46:53,200

professor o'neill we like monsters

1158

00:46:59,030 --> 00:46:55,920

because they are uglier than we are more

1159

00:47:02,230 --> 00:46:59,040

vicious more secretly menacing

1160

00:47:05,510 --> 00:47:02,240

more antisocial we personify them as

1161

00:47:08,230 --> 00:47:05,520

animals animal-like or be steel because

1162

00:47:11,270 --> 00:47:08,240

their repulsiveness is a crystallization

1163

00:47:14,069 --> 00:47:11,280

of those submerged instincts in us which

1164

00:47:17,109 --> 00:47:14,079

we are taught to regard as uncivilized

1165

00:47:21,270 --> 00:47:17,119

or animal for example the professor said

1166

00:47:24,309 --> 00:47:21,280

we project our baser instincts onto

1167

00:47:27,910 --> 00:47:24,319

animals when we give them names like

1168

00:47:30,549 --> 00:47:27,920

dingo rat and snake in the grass

1169

00:47:33,510 --> 00:47:30,559

to people whose characteristics we

1170

00:47:34,390 --> 00:47:33,520

dislike the modern expression wolf he

1171

00:47:36,309 --> 00:47:34,400

said

1172

00:47:38,710 --> 00:47:36,319

as applies to a man who lusts

1173

00:47:42,309 --> 00:47:38,720

indiscriminately after women is a good

1174

00:47:45,589 --> 00:47:42,319

example of bestial personification the

1175

00:47:48,870 --> 00:47:45,599

human wolf of today is a recognizable

1176

00:47:51,510 --> 00:47:48,880

survival of the goat-legged stayer of

1177

00:47:52,870 --> 00:47:51,520

the ancients in other respects professor

1178

00:47:55,910 --> 00:47:52,880

o'neill added

1179

00:47:58,390 --> 00:47:55,920

present-day monsters and bunips were

1180

00:48:01,589 --> 00:47:58,400

survivals of the dragons ogres and

1181

00:48:03,510 --> 00:48:01,599

monstrous myths of our ancient folklore

1182

00:48:04,950 --> 00:48:03,520

i asked the professor why nobody

1183

00:48:08,710 --> 00:48:04,960

believed in

1184

00:48:10,630 --> 00:48:08,720

good fairies anymore but so many still

1185

00:48:13,190 --> 00:48:10,640

like to believe in monsters the

1186

00:48:15,990 --> 00:48:13,200

equivalent of bad fairies

1187

00:48:18,870 --> 00:48:16,000

in the first place he said monsters

1188

00:48:22,150 --> 00:48:18,880

dragons ogres and such like represent

1189

00:48:23,829 --> 00:48:22,160

evil in folklore and the nice fairies

1190

00:48:26,390 --> 00:48:23,839

represent good

1191

00:48:28,950 --> 00:48:26,400

later on as the myths and fairy tales

1192

00:48:32,069 --> 00:48:28,960

pass through the sieve of general public

1193

00:48:35,670 --> 00:48:32,079

education this simple symbolism was

1194

00:48:38,150 --> 00:48:35,680

modified and prevailing optimism or

1195

00:48:39,910 --> 00:48:38,160

pessimism determined the balance of

1196

00:48:42,630 --> 00:48:39,920

power between the good

1197

00:48:45,270 --> 00:48:42,640

and the bad myths it may be a reflection

1198

00:48:48,069 --> 00:48:45,280

on the times that we live in that only

1199

00:48:50,710 --> 00:48:48,079

the monster symbol of pessimism persists

1200

00:48:52,870 --> 00:48:50,720

in our fancy we don't like having our

1201

00:48:55,349 --> 00:48:52,880

monsters debunked

1202

00:48:57,910 --> 00:48:55,359

when they fade inevitably into myth and

1203

00:49:01,030 --> 00:48:57,920

legend we obstinately retain them in

1204

00:49:03,030 --> 00:49:01,040

folklore and fairy tale pandamime and

1205

00:49:06,309 --> 00:49:03,040

carnival the

1206

00:49:08,470 --> 00:49:06,319

wee war crocodile will return

1207

00:49:11,670 --> 00:49:08,480

he will show up as a bunion in the back

1208

00:49:12,710 --> 00:49:11,680

blocks or as a sea monster at a coastal

1209

00:49:14,390 --> 00:49:12,720

resort

1210

00:49:18,880 --> 00:49:14,400

you can't keep

1211

00:49:22,150 --> 00:49:20,309

[Music]

1212

00:49:24,150 --> 00:49:22,160

now that is a very interesting article

1213

00:49:26,309 --> 00:49:24,160

from 1950

1214

00:49:29,270 --> 00:49:26,319

because we still see the same sort of

1215

00:49:31,589 --> 00:49:29,280

thing going on today

1216

00:49:33,670 --> 00:49:31,599

we might think of the

1217

00:49:35,750 --> 00:49:33,680

various times here

1218

00:49:37,349 --> 00:49:35,760

in the hidden land of sydney up into the

1219

00:49:39,670 --> 00:49:37,359

mountains and people

1220

00:49:43,190 --> 00:49:39,680

over the years reports saying panthers

1221

00:49:45,750 --> 00:49:43,200

or cougars or lions and things like that

1222

00:49:48,549 --> 00:49:45,760

and these creatures of course are never

1223

00:49:50,790 --> 00:49:48,559

brought forward or any uh evidence of

1224

00:49:53,880 --> 00:49:50,800

their existence still

1225

00:49:55,030 --> 00:49:53,890

people swear they see them

1226
00:49:56,790 --> 00:49:55,040

[Music]

1227
00:49:59,030 --> 00:49:56,800
so there we go a few

1228
00:49:59,910 --> 00:49:59,040
interesting little

1229
00:50:02,870 --> 00:49:59,920
odd

1230
00:50:04,230 --> 00:50:02,880
eclectic bits and pieces of news

1231
00:50:06,069 --> 00:50:04,240
connected with the paranormal the

1232
00:50:08,230 --> 00:50:06,079
supernatural the strange

1233
00:50:10,069 --> 00:50:08,240
over the decades

1234
00:50:13,510 --> 00:50:10,079
and don't forget you too can spend a

1235
00:50:15,829 --> 00:50:13,520
happy hour or two sifting through

1236
00:50:18,470 --> 00:50:15,839
the many thousands upon thousands of

1237
00:50:19,750 --> 00:50:18,480
reports magazines journals

1238
00:50:24,630 --> 00:50:19,760

so on

1239

00:50:31,050 --> 00:50:27,430

and you never know what monsters you

1240

00:50:31,060 --> 00:50:48,950

[Music]

1241

00:50:51,910 --> 00:50:50,549

thank you for listening to the skeptic's

1242

00:50:53,670 --> 00:50:51,920

own podcast and thank you to those

1243

00:50:56,309 --> 00:50:53,680

people who continue to support the show

1244

00:50:58,470 --> 00:50:56,319

at skepticzone.tv

1245

00:51:00,790 --> 00:50:58,480

either by patreon or paypal or

1246

00:51:04,150 --> 00:51:00,800

occasionally the once-off very generous

1247

00:51:06,230 --> 00:51:04,160

gift and thank you very much to

1248

00:51:09,109 --> 00:51:06,240

an unknown

1249

00:51:10,870 --> 00:51:09,119

unknown benefactor you know who you are

1250

00:51:12,790 --> 00:51:10,880

thank you very much

1251
00:51:14,390 --> 00:51:12,800
well i wonder how your week has been

1252
00:51:16,150 --> 00:51:14,400
going so far

1253
00:51:17,510 --> 00:51:16,160
lots of running around

1254
00:51:20,230 --> 00:51:17,520
lots of

1255
00:51:22,950 --> 00:51:20,240
dividing your time between work and

1256
00:51:25,190 --> 00:51:22,960
whatever you have to do well i certainly

1257
00:51:26,950 --> 00:51:25,200
hope the skeptic zone gives you maybe a

1258
00:51:29,190 --> 00:51:26,960
pause during the daytime or do you

1259
00:51:31,030 --> 00:51:29,200
listen to it while you're busy running

1260
00:51:33,109 --> 00:51:31,040
around doing other things

1261
00:51:35,430 --> 00:51:33,119
maybe you're in the garden

1262
00:51:36,549 --> 00:51:35,440
maybe there's a nice red rose in the

1263
00:51:38,230 --> 00:51:36,559

garden

1264

00:51:39,829 --> 00:51:38,240

people do all sorts of things listening

1265

00:51:41,990 --> 00:51:39,839

to the skeptic zone

1266

00:51:44,230 --> 00:51:42,000

if you're on a long drive i hope the

1267

00:51:45,750 --> 00:51:44,240

show keeps you entertained

1268

00:51:47,270 --> 00:51:45,760

keeps you going to get to your

1269

00:51:49,190 --> 00:51:47,280

destination

1270

00:51:50,870 --> 00:51:49,200

whatever you're doing

1271

00:51:53,349 --> 00:51:50,880

i thank you very much for listening but

1272

00:51:56,309 --> 00:51:53,359

for this week this is richard saunders

1273

00:52:03,430 --> 00:51:56,319

signing off from the beautiful state of

1274

00:52:06,710 --> 00:52:05,270

you've been listening to the skeptic

1275

00:52:08,069 --> 00:52:06,720

zone podcast

1276

00:52:11,270 --> 00:52:08,079

please visit our website at

1277

00:52:16,870 --> 00:52:14,390

for show notes contacts and to access

1278

00:52:19,109 --> 00:52:16,880

the back catalog of episodes going back

1279

00:52:21,030 --> 00:52:19,119

to 2008

1280

00:52:23,750 --> 00:52:21,040

you can follow the skeptic zone podcast

1281

00:52:25,910 --> 00:52:23,760

on twitter at skepticzone

1282

00:52:28,230 --> 00:52:25,920

visit our facebook page or leave a

1283

00:52:30,309 --> 00:52:28,240

review on itunes

1284

00:52:33,510 --> 00:52:30,319

you can also support the skeptic zone

1285

00:52:36,870 --> 00:52:33,520

via patreon or paypal the skeptic zone

1286

00:52:38,470 --> 00:52:36,880

podcast is an independent production the

1287

00:52:40,790 --> 00:52:38,480

views and opinions expressed on the

1288

00:52:43,349 --> 00:52:40,800

skeptic zone are not necessarily those

1289

00:52:45,050 --> 00:52:43,359

of australian skeptics or any other

1290

00:53:16,790 --> 00:52:45,060

skeptical organization

1291

00:53:22,230 --> 00:53:19,670

harder also says skeptics are threatened

1292

00:53:25,750 --> 00:53:22,240

by the idea of something smarter than