

**Episode 722**

**THE  
SKEPTIC  
ZONE  
PODCAST**

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

**7 August 2022**

**Ben Radford  
with his new book  
"America the Fearful"**

**The Book of Tim  
Perpetual Motion #2**

**'Mostly Ghostly'  
Poem by Jim Wilshire**

**TROVE  
Adelaide Tidal Wave  
1976**

**The Skeptic Zone Podcast  
Episode 722 - 7 August 2022**



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Episode 722 - 7 August 2022**



1  
00:00:16,840 --> 00:00:09,190  
welcome to the skeptic zone the podcast

2  
00:00:16,850 --> 00:00:24,070  
[Music]

3  
00:00:28,189 --> 00:00:25,910  
yes it's the skeptic's own podcast

4  
00:00:31,630 --> 00:00:28,199  
episode number

5  
00:00:33,590 --> 00:00:31,640  
722 for the 7th of august

6  
00:00:36,950 --> 00:00:33,600  
2022

7  
00:00:39,270 --> 00:00:36,960  
for all you numerologists out there what

8  
00:00:41,510 --> 00:00:39,280  
is the significance of 22 i have to

9  
00:00:43,750 --> 00:00:41,520  
wonder it's richard saunders here coming

10  
00:00:45,430 --> 00:00:43,760  
to you from sydney australia what's on

11  
00:00:48,389 --> 00:00:45,440  
this week's show i interview my old

12  
00:00:50,150 --> 00:00:48,399  
friend ben radford the skeptical

13  
00:00:52,310 --> 00:00:50,160

investigator from the united states from

14

00:00:54,549 --> 00:00:52,320

albuquerque new mexico

15

00:00:57,029 --> 00:00:54,559

where they shot breaking bad and better

16

00:00:58,549 --> 00:00:57,039

call saul i know because some years ago

17

00:01:01,110 --> 00:00:58,559

when i was visiting ben he took me to

18

00:01:02,709 --> 00:01:01,120

one of the filming locations ben

19

00:01:03,670 --> 00:01:02,719

is going to talk to us about his new

20

00:01:05,109 --> 00:01:03,680

book

21

00:01:06,870 --> 00:01:05,119

america

22

00:01:10,070 --> 00:01:06,880

the fearful

23

00:01:12,149 --> 00:01:10,080

and to quote the blurb from amazon

24

00:01:14,469 --> 00:01:12,159

national panics about crime immigrants

25

00:01:16,390 --> 00:01:14,479

police and societal degradation have

26  
00:01:19,030 --> 00:01:16,400  
been pervasive in the united states of

27  
00:01:21,510 --> 00:01:19,040  
the 21st century many of these fears

28  
00:01:24,630 --> 00:01:21,520  
begin as mere phantom fears but are

29  
00:01:27,350 --> 00:01:24,640  
systematically amplified by social media

30  
00:01:28,950 --> 00:01:27,360  
news media bad actors and even

31  
00:01:30,069 --> 00:01:28,960  
well-intentioned

32  
00:01:32,710 --> 00:01:30,079  
activists

33  
00:01:35,109 --> 00:01:32,720  
ben tells us all about his book and the

34  
00:01:36,630 --> 00:01:35,119  
thinking behind it coming up at the top

35  
00:01:39,590 --> 00:01:36,640  
of the show

36  
00:01:41,109 --> 00:01:39,600  
following that it's part two of the

37  
00:01:43,749 --> 00:01:41,119  
book of tim

38  
00:01:46,469 --> 00:01:43,759

picking up from the week before last

39

00:01:48,069 --> 00:01:46,479

about perpetual motion

40

00:01:50,469 --> 00:01:48,079

and this is a reading from the skeptic

41

00:01:52,230 --> 00:01:50,479

magazine entitled

42

00:01:53,910 --> 00:01:52,240

never-ending story

43

00:01:55,030 --> 00:01:53,920

following that it's another skeptical

44

00:01:57,350 --> 00:01:55,040

poem by

45

00:01:59,990 --> 00:01:57,360

our great mate jim wilshere

46

00:02:02,469 --> 00:02:00,000

jim wilshere who we remember with

47

00:02:04,069 --> 00:02:02,479

tremendous affection this week jim will

48

00:02:07,030 --> 00:02:04,079

read his poem

49

00:02:09,589 --> 00:02:07,040

mostly ghostly and there's a few more

50

00:02:10,949 --> 00:02:09,599

skeptical poems by jim coming up in the

51  
00:02:12,470 --> 00:02:10,959  
coming weeks

52  
00:02:13,990 --> 00:02:12,480  
then to round off the show it's a dive

53  
00:02:16,309 --> 00:02:14,000  
into trove

54  
00:02:18,150 --> 00:02:16,319  
where we look at the day

55  
00:02:19,750 --> 00:02:18,160  
that adelaide the city of adelaide in

56  
00:02:21,190 --> 00:02:19,760  
south australia

57  
00:02:23,350 --> 00:02:21,200  
was

58  
00:02:26,710 --> 00:02:23,360  
miraculously not

59  
00:02:29,750 --> 00:02:26,720  
engulfed by a giant tidal wave and

60  
00:02:30,949 --> 00:02:29,760  
wrecked by an earthquake as predicted at

61  
00:02:32,790 --> 00:02:30,959  
the time

62  
00:02:35,350 --> 00:02:32,800  
by an astrologer

63  
00:02:37,190 --> 00:02:35,360

panic in the streets find out more about

64

00:02:38,630 --> 00:02:37,200

that in the trove segment at the end of

65

00:02:40,070 --> 00:02:38,640

the show

66

00:02:42,630 --> 00:02:40,080

no matter where you are listening to

67

00:02:43,990 --> 00:02:42,640

this around the world and no matter what

68

00:02:47,990 --> 00:02:44,000

time

69

00:02:49,990 --> 00:02:48,000

i even do this myself i might be

70

00:02:52,790 --> 00:02:50,000

re-listening to the show afterwards to

71

00:02:54,150 --> 00:02:52,800

catch up on on the show it's a bit funny

72

00:02:56,309 --> 00:02:54,160

when you're producing the show you don't

73

00:02:58,790 --> 00:02:56,319

always absorb it

74

00:03:01,430 --> 00:02:58,800

and i find myself dozing off do you doze

75

00:03:04,790 --> 00:03:01,440

off do you find yourself dozing off to

76

00:03:06,710 --> 00:03:04,800

podcasts i do is that a good thing or a

77

00:03:09,030 --> 00:03:06,720

bad thing i don't know it's time for me

78

00:03:11,509 --> 00:03:09,040

to run downstairs in that case run

79

00:03:12,949 --> 00:03:11,519

downstairs and have some pumpkin soup

80

00:03:15,670 --> 00:03:12,959

pumpkin soup

81

00:03:19,640 --> 00:03:15,680

with crusty bread and butter while i do

82

00:03:42,470 --> 00:03:19,650

that i hope you enjoy the skeptic zone

83

00:03:44,229 --> 00:03:42,480

[Music]

84

00:03:47,190 --> 00:03:44,239

it's mike it's all it's all smoking

85

00:03:49,870 --> 00:03:47,200

mirrors ben

86

00:03:52,630 --> 00:03:49,880

it's all spoken

87

00:03:55,110 --> 00:03:52,640

[Music]

88

00:03:58,390 --> 00:03:55,120

ben radford all the way from albuquerque

89

00:04:00,309 --> 00:03:58,400

new mexico i'm did enjoy visiting you

90

00:04:02,390 --> 00:04:00,319

about three years back we went hunting

91

00:04:04,869 --> 00:04:02,400

for ufos and we found one which

92

00:04:07,750 --> 00:04:04,879

surprised me we went hunting for great

93

00:04:10,070 --> 00:04:07,760

uh food on route 66 and we found some

94

00:04:12,550 --> 00:04:10,080

which didn't surprise me at all great to

95

00:04:15,270 --> 00:04:12,560

see you my friend yes it's wonderful

96

00:04:17,509 --> 00:04:15,280

seeing you i i enjoyed tuning in to your

97

00:04:19,749 --> 00:04:17,519

uh your occasional snippets and videos

98

00:04:21,509 --> 00:04:19,759

and things online so it's uh it's always

99

00:04:22,629 --> 00:04:21,519

lots of fun and i i guess uh you know

100

00:04:25,110 --> 00:04:22,639

there was a

101  
00:04:26,629 --> 00:04:25,120  
all sorts of uh shenanigans going on and

102  
00:04:29,030 --> 00:04:26,639  
and conferences and stuff i've been

103  
00:04:31,110 --> 00:04:29,040  
swamped with work myself but uh i'm glad

104  
00:04:32,790 --> 00:04:31,120  
it's all point pulling together that's

105  
00:04:35,350 --> 00:04:32,800  
good that's good to hear that's good to

106  
00:04:37,189 --> 00:04:35,360  
hear and um well congratulations on your

107  
00:04:39,670 --> 00:04:37,199  
recent birthday i'm sorry i couldn't uh

108  
00:04:41,350 --> 00:04:39,680  
be there with you in person for people

109  
00:04:43,749 --> 00:04:41,360  
who who uh who couldn't make it in

110  
00:04:46,710 --> 00:04:43,759  
person such as you i did ask for people

111  
00:04:48,950 --> 00:04:46,720  
to send in uh small video clips and

112  
00:04:50,710 --> 00:04:48,960  
yours uh was among the highlights it was

113  
00:04:53,270 --> 00:04:50,720

just beautifully done it was clever as

114

00:04:54,710 --> 00:04:53,280

hell i it was this

115

00:04:57,590 --> 00:04:54,720

and most of the people in the room knew

116

00:04:59,749 --> 00:04:57,600

you yeah many of you knew you personally

117

00:05:01,749 --> 00:04:59,759

and so it was just people were just

118

00:05:03,909 --> 00:05:01,759

giggling left and right so it was uh it

119

00:05:06,150 --> 00:05:03,919

was great having you there virtually if

120

00:05:08,790 --> 00:05:06,160

not in person well to let our listeners

121

00:05:10,950 --> 00:05:08,800

in on the secret uh i sent ben a

122

00:05:12,950 --> 00:05:10,960

birthday greeting video he could they

123

00:05:15,670 --> 00:05:12,960

his friends could play for him

124

00:05:17,430 --> 00:05:15,680

but uh ben you you know according to my

125

00:05:19,189 --> 00:05:17,440

video you sent me to loch ness and there

126

00:05:21,189 --> 00:05:19,199

i was by the sydney opera house looking

127

00:05:23,909 --> 00:05:21,199

for the loch ness monster so i got a big

128

00:05:25,350 --> 00:05:23,919

i got a bit confused along the way

129

00:05:27,350 --> 00:05:25,360

you just had to sort of like yeah so

130

00:05:29,270 --> 00:05:27,360

yeah here we are and it was just it was

131

00:05:31,110 --> 00:05:29,280

just so you just you just had the

132

00:05:33,029 --> 00:05:31,120

straight face you just it was just done

133

00:05:34,469 --> 00:05:33,039

perfectly so it was a lot well done it

134

00:05:36,230 --> 00:05:34,479

was the next best thing to being there

135

00:05:37,909 --> 00:05:36,240

but i'm sorry i missed that now before

136

00:05:38,870 --> 00:05:37,919

we get on to the topic of this interview

137

00:05:42,469 --> 00:05:38,880

which is

138

00:05:44,950 --> 00:05:42,479

yet another ben radford book my goodness

139

00:05:48,629 --> 00:05:44,960

me yet another ben radford book

140

00:05:50,390 --> 00:05:48,639

how is your uh your podcast you do with

141

00:05:52,550 --> 00:05:50,400

the celestia and pascal squaring the

142

00:05:55,350 --> 00:05:52,560

strange how's that traveling it is still

143

00:05:57,990 --> 00:05:55,360

coming along uh nicely in fact we uh we

144

00:06:00,390 --> 00:05:58,000

just passed our fifth year uh we our

145

00:06:02,710 --> 00:06:00,400

first episode was uh honestly entirely

146

00:06:03,670 --> 00:06:02,720

coincidentally on april fool's day april

147

00:06:05,830 --> 00:06:03,680

1st

148

00:06:07,590 --> 00:06:05,840

um again that was

149

00:06:09,909 --> 00:06:07,600

nobody planned it it just happened to be

150

00:06:12,070 --> 00:06:09,919

there we've just finished um

151  
00:06:13,430 --> 00:06:12,080  
five years and uh we're we'll be

152  
00:06:15,029 --> 00:06:13,440  
recording uh

153  
00:06:17,430 --> 00:06:15,039  
another one in fact uh later this

154  
00:06:19,029 --> 00:06:17,440  
evening or my evening your morning or

155  
00:06:20,870 --> 00:06:19,039  
whatever it is so it's uh we're coming

156  
00:06:23,430 --> 00:06:20,880  
along fine that's really good to hear

157  
00:06:26,309 --> 00:06:23,440  
because i love i love the program

158  
00:06:28,950 --> 00:06:26,319  
it uh it never fails to entertain and

159  
00:06:30,469 --> 00:06:28,960  
always an interesting topic and i love

160  
00:06:33,110 --> 00:06:30,479  
the fact how it's developed over the

161  
00:06:35,990 --> 00:06:33,120  
years so congratulations and it's always

162  
00:06:38,070 --> 00:06:36,000  
great to hear pasqual and celestia too

163  
00:06:39,990 --> 00:06:38,080

but however let's get back to the topic

164

00:06:41,590 --> 00:06:40,000

in hand i have not

165

00:06:43,590 --> 00:06:41,600

have not had a chance to read your

166

00:06:45,110 --> 00:06:43,600

latest book although i do enjoy reading

167

00:06:46,870 --> 00:06:45,120

your books i have several on the shelf

168

00:06:49,029 --> 00:06:46,880

here next to me

169

00:06:50,390 --> 00:06:49,039

america is it's called the america the

170

00:06:51,350 --> 00:06:50,400

fearful

171

00:06:54,070 --> 00:06:51,360

yes

172

00:06:55,510 --> 00:06:54,080

strange title ben it's a strange title

173

00:06:59,189 --> 00:06:55,520

it's a strange title it's a strange

174

00:07:01,670 --> 00:06:59,199

topic um the the uh the subtitle is

175

00:07:03,189 --> 00:07:01,680

media and marketing of national panics

176

00:07:05,110 --> 00:07:03,199

the publisher and i went back and forth

177

00:07:07,270 --> 00:07:05,120

on on what to call it and we sort of

178

00:07:09,350 --> 00:07:07,280

ended up settling on that but

179

00:07:11,510 --> 00:07:09,360

it's sort of uh it's a bit odd because

180

00:07:14,390 --> 00:07:11,520

you know as as you know i'm probably

181

00:07:16,469 --> 00:07:14,400

best known for my investigation into

182

00:07:18,629 --> 00:07:16,479

weird things in urban legends and ghosts

183

00:07:21,430 --> 00:07:18,639

and chupacabras and things like that

184

00:07:23,350 --> 00:07:21,440

um but much of what i do in skepticism

185

00:07:25,270 --> 00:07:23,360

is also media literacy

186

00:07:26,309 --> 00:07:25,280

and of course i did the book media myth

187

00:07:28,390 --> 00:07:26,319

makers

188

00:07:30,629 --> 00:07:28,400

some i don't know 20 years or something

189

00:07:32,469 --> 00:07:30,639

ago i think my efforts have always been

190

00:07:34,950 --> 00:07:32,479

sort of bifurcated towards

191

00:07:36,550 --> 00:07:34,960

on one hand i i think it's important and

192

00:07:37,749 --> 00:07:36,560

you know dan lokton and i have talked

193

00:07:38,870 --> 00:07:37,759

about this and you and i have talked

194

00:07:41,749 --> 00:07:38,880

about this

195

00:07:44,230 --> 00:07:41,759

is it it won't do to simply ignore the

196

00:07:45,350 --> 00:07:44,240

so-called mysterious woo-woo paranormal

197

00:07:47,189 --> 00:07:45,360

stuff yeah

198

00:07:48,869 --> 00:07:47,199

right it's it's it won't do to say well

199

00:07:50,469 --> 00:07:48,879

this is all too silly we can't you know

200

00:07:52,150 --> 00:07:50,479

we shouldn't waste our time because

201  
00:07:53,909 --> 00:07:52,160  
people believe these things people spend

202  
00:07:56,469 --> 00:07:53,919  
their time and effort on so

203  
00:07:58,469 --> 00:07:56,479  
so on one hand you know i i'm a very

204  
00:08:00,710 --> 00:07:58,479  
firm believer in yes these these

205  
00:08:02,150 --> 00:08:00,720  
so-called weird mysterious paranormal

206  
00:08:05,189 --> 00:08:02,160  
unexplained mysteries are definitely

207  
00:08:08,150 --> 00:08:05,199  
worthy of investigation at the same time

208  
00:08:11,110 --> 00:08:08,160  
uh not everybody is concerned with

209  
00:08:13,909 --> 00:08:11,120  
with with the psychics and and

210  
00:08:16,790 --> 00:08:13,919  
ghost and chupacabras and uh on another

211  
00:08:18,309 --> 00:08:16,800  
level uh we need to also be focusing on

212  
00:08:19,749 --> 00:08:18,319  
media literacy and critical thinking and

213  
00:08:21,029 --> 00:08:19,759

so that's sort of the

214

00:08:22,790 --> 00:08:21,039

those are the two halves and this is

215

00:08:24,469 --> 00:08:22,800

sort of the my work in the second half

216

00:08:26,469 --> 00:08:24,479

well it's a it's a very good point you

217

00:08:28,150 --> 00:08:26,479

make and it's an old argument it's an

218

00:08:30,550 --> 00:08:28,160

old story there are people who consider

219

00:08:32,790 --> 00:08:30,560

that what you and i

220

00:08:35,909 --> 00:08:32,800

are mainly interested in

221

00:08:37,350 --> 00:08:35,919

is it old hat is it is it old news is it

222

00:08:39,509 --> 00:08:37,360

is it

223

00:08:41,269 --> 00:08:39,519

something from the past are we you know

224

00:08:43,430 --> 00:08:41,279

recycling old stuff

225

00:08:45,509 --> 00:08:43,440

and my answer is no because there are

226

00:08:47,190 --> 00:08:45,519

thousands of people generation after

227

00:08:49,269 --> 00:08:47,200

generation of people who still go to

228

00:08:51,110 --> 00:08:49,279

psychics who still go to clairvoyance

229

00:08:54,630 --> 00:08:51,120

who still believe in

230

00:08:57,509 --> 00:08:54,640

all sorts of what we we call

231

00:08:59,430 --> 00:08:57,519

probably unfairly nonsense i know it to

232

00:09:01,509 --> 00:08:59,440

the people who truly believe sincerely

233

00:09:02,949 --> 00:09:01,519

it's not nonsense it's their reality i

234

00:09:05,190 --> 00:09:02,959

have to understand that

235

00:09:07,190 --> 00:09:05,200

but it's stuff that keeps needing to be

236

00:09:09,350 --> 00:09:07,200

addressed generation after generation

237

00:09:12,230 --> 00:09:09,360

because it's not like we fixed it 10

238

00:09:14,790 --> 00:09:12,240

years ago absolutely no i i could not

239

00:09:16,949 --> 00:09:14,800

agree more and that's uh i think there

240

00:09:19,670 --> 00:09:16,959

was an analogy i think it was all spread

241

00:09:21,430 --> 00:09:19,680

to camp made it uh he talks about

242

00:09:23,590 --> 00:09:21,440

the the work of skepticism is being

243

00:09:25,509 --> 00:09:23,600

analogous to taking out the garbage uh

244

00:09:26,870 --> 00:09:25,519

it needs to be done and if you if you

245

00:09:29,350 --> 00:09:26,880

don't take it out there's just more the

246

00:09:32,070 --> 00:09:29,360

next day yeah so it can be a thankless

247

00:09:34,550 --> 00:09:32,080

task it can be you know ridiculed you

248

00:09:36,389 --> 00:09:34,560

mean skeptics but at the end of the day

249

00:09:38,310 --> 00:09:36,399

i like to think and hope to think that

250

00:09:40,790 --> 00:09:38,320

we're actually making a change in the

251  
00:09:43,269 --> 00:09:40,800  
world somewhere no we are i mean without

252  
00:09:45,430 --> 00:09:43,279  
question we are it's just we

253  
00:09:46,949 --> 00:09:45,440  
can't expect to ride in like

254  
00:09:48,710 --> 00:09:46,959  
the great night on the on the white

255  
00:09:50,630 --> 00:09:48,720  
horse and vanquish our foes it just

256  
00:09:51,829 --> 00:09:50,640  
doesn't work that way but let's get back

257  
00:09:53,110 --> 00:09:51,839  
to the book let's get back to the look

258  
00:09:54,550 --> 00:09:53,120  
what are some of the topics what are

259  
00:09:56,230 --> 00:09:54,560  
some of the topics we keep these

260  
00:09:57,829 --> 00:09:56,240  
wonderful side tracks with ben radford

261  
00:09:59,829 --> 00:09:57,839  
it's i love it but what are some of the

262  
00:10:01,509 --> 00:09:59,839  
topics you do cover in the book so

263  
00:10:03,110 --> 00:10:01,519

there's a couple things that i i

264

00:10:04,710 --> 00:10:03,120

and i should i should preface this by

265

00:10:06,150 --> 00:10:04,720

saying that originally the manuscript

266

00:10:07,430 --> 00:10:06,160

for this book was a quarter of a million

267

00:10:09,670 --> 00:10:07,440

words

268

00:10:11,509 --> 00:10:09,680

um and i had actually written it partly

269

00:10:13,590 --> 00:10:11,519

with uh celestia celeste reward my

270

00:10:14,630 --> 00:10:13,600

co-host and friend uh on scoring the

271

00:10:18,310 --> 00:10:14,640

strange

272

00:10:19,670 --> 00:10:18,320

um and unfortunately just i i took it to

273

00:10:21,190 --> 00:10:19,680

a couple of publishers and they looked

274

00:10:22,310 --> 00:10:21,200

at it and they said we don't publish

275

00:10:23,750 --> 00:10:22,320

phone books

276

00:10:26,550 --> 00:10:23,760

basically

277

00:10:27,829 --> 00:10:26,560

like i'm i'm sure it's lovely ben uh

278

00:10:29,350 --> 00:10:27,839

we're not going to publish a quarter

279

00:10:30,470 --> 00:10:29,360

million words and frankly no one else

280

00:10:32,630 --> 00:10:30,480

will

281

00:10:34,790 --> 00:10:32,640

so i was like oh because i had i had

282

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

spent literally years you know trying to

283

00:10:38,710 --> 00:10:37,040

construct this sort of overarching you

284

00:10:40,870 --> 00:10:38,720

know these themes sort of connecting

285

00:10:42,710 --> 00:10:40,880

these chapters and it sort of

286

00:10:45,030 --> 00:10:42,720

but in the end i had to cut it by

287

00:10:46,790 --> 00:10:45,040

two-thirds um and the result is america

288

00:10:49,269 --> 00:10:46,800

they're fearful and what i tried to do

289

00:10:51,350 --> 00:10:49,279

was sort of keep some of the main uh

290

00:10:53,269 --> 00:10:51,360

some of the main needy

291

00:10:55,590 --> 00:10:53,279

themes uh in critical thinking and

292

00:10:57,350 --> 00:10:55,600

skepticism literacy sort of

293

00:10:58,870 --> 00:10:57,360

running through there hopefully at some

294

00:11:01,509 --> 00:10:58,880

point i'll be able to publish the other

295

00:11:03,829 --> 00:11:01,519

the other two thirds in in follow-up

296

00:11:06,310 --> 00:11:03,839

of some sort so yeah basically the the

297

00:11:08,550 --> 00:11:06,320

the approach is that you know a lot of

298

00:11:10,710 --> 00:11:08,560

what you and i do and i don't know this

299

00:11:12,230 --> 00:11:10,720

is really obvious to to many people

300

00:11:14,470 --> 00:11:12,240

outside of skepticism

301

00:11:16,230 --> 00:11:14,480

but in many cases we are

302

00:11:19,269 --> 00:11:16,240

our role is to

303

00:11:20,630 --> 00:11:19,279

uh help calm people's fears yes again

304

00:11:22,790 --> 00:11:20,640

it's sort of a sort of an odd way of

305

00:11:24,710 --> 00:11:22,800

looking at but it's true and and we've

306

00:11:26,310 --> 00:11:24,720

both seen this and so on on one level

307

00:11:28,150 --> 00:11:26,320

it's as simple as

308

00:11:29,829 --> 00:11:28,160

it's as basic as telling people there

309

00:11:31,829 --> 00:11:29,839

really isn't this boogeyman right there

310

00:11:33,110 --> 00:11:31,839

no there really isn't ghosts you and i

311

00:11:35,350 --> 00:11:33,120

have both dealt with people who believe

312

00:11:37,269 --> 00:11:35,360

they've been cursed absolutely and

313

00:11:39,190 --> 00:11:37,279

people who are genuinely frightened and

314

00:11:40,310 --> 00:11:39,200

they're afraid of magical powers and

315

00:11:41,910 --> 00:11:40,320

they're afraid of spells and they're

316

00:11:44,550 --> 00:11:41,920

afraid of ghosts and things like that

317

00:11:46,550 --> 00:11:44,560

yes yes really yes yeah and and so so on

318

00:11:48,310 --> 00:11:46,560

one level part of our job is telling is

319

00:11:49,990 --> 00:11:48,320

trying to reassure people like this is

320

00:11:52,310 --> 00:11:50,000

you know i know you're afraid of this

321

00:11:53,590 --> 00:11:52,320

and i understand why but you know please

322

00:11:56,310 --> 00:11:53,600

look at it from this point of view and

323

00:11:58,870 --> 00:11:56,320

sort of hope hopefully get way out of it

324

00:12:00,710 --> 00:11:58,880

at the same time there are of course

325

00:12:03,350 --> 00:12:00,720

very real fears again sort of taking

326

00:12:06,629 --> 00:12:03,360

that out of the the paranormal context

327

00:12:08,949 --> 00:12:06,639

and looking at a society-wide fear um

328

00:12:10,710 --> 00:12:08,959

and and so i was looking at that sort of

329

00:12:13,750 --> 00:12:10,720

seeing the different ways in which uh

330

00:12:17,350 --> 00:12:13,760

fears are used uh by different people

331

00:12:19,750 --> 00:12:17,360

entities um you know in in society and

332

00:12:21,990 --> 00:12:19,760

culture so you know one obvious one is

333

00:12:23,670 --> 00:12:22,000

politicians right it's no

334

00:12:26,150 --> 00:12:23,680

it's not a secret you don't need to read

335

00:12:28,310 --> 00:12:26,160

machiavelli to know that politicians use

336

00:12:29,829 --> 00:12:28,320

fear all the time uh and during the time

337

00:12:32,629 --> 00:12:29,839

that i was writing the book or part of

338

00:12:34,230 --> 00:12:32,639

the time uh for example uh one of many

339

00:12:37,190 --> 00:12:34,240

examples one of them was

340

00:12:40,150 --> 00:12:37,200

uh people may remember um donald trump's

341

00:12:42,949 --> 00:12:40,160

uh uh concerns over the migrant caravan

342

00:12:44,949 --> 00:12:42,959

oh yes yes there was you know you know

343

00:12:46,629 --> 00:12:44,959

you know terrifying news stories coming

344

00:12:47,670 --> 00:12:46,639

out of fox news other places talking

345

00:12:49,910 --> 00:12:47,680

about how

346

00:12:51,910 --> 00:12:49,920

uh trump was uh telling people oh my god

347

00:12:53,509 --> 00:12:51,920

there's these there's these mic these

348

00:12:55,030 --> 00:12:53,519

caravan of migrants coming up from

349

00:12:57,269 --> 00:12:55,040

central america

350

00:13:00,150 --> 00:12:57,279

um and coming up primarily uh from

351  
00:13:01,829 --> 00:13:00,160  
honduras and el salvador up to mexico

352  
00:13:03,110 --> 00:13:01,839  
and there was all this drumbeat of like

353  
00:13:04,230 --> 00:13:03,120  
oh my god what are they gonna do once

354  
00:13:05,670 --> 00:13:04,240  
they get here they're gonna bring

355  
00:13:07,829 --> 00:13:05,680  
diseases they're to

356  
00:13:11,110 --> 00:13:07,839  
go in murder sprees raping sprees it was

357  
00:13:12,870 --> 00:13:11,120  
just this transparent effort to demonize

358  
00:13:14,230 --> 00:13:12,880  
uh immigrants and these were immigrants

359  
00:13:15,990 --> 00:13:14,240  
who hadn't even they hadn't even come to

360  
00:13:16,790 --> 00:13:16,000  
america's borders yet

361  
00:13:22,069 --> 00:13:16,800  
yeah

362  
00:13:24,389 --> 00:13:22,079  
uh you know poverty and crime uh in

363  
00:13:26,550 --> 00:13:24,399

their home uh home cities and

364

00:13:29,190 --> 00:13:26,560

countries again primarily el salvador

365

00:13:31,509 --> 00:13:29,200

and honduras and mexico and it was just

366

00:13:33,509 --> 00:13:31,519

interesting to me how these migrants who

367

00:13:35,190 --> 00:13:33,519

were coming here trying to get to the us

368

00:13:38,150 --> 00:13:35,200

for a better life were being

369

00:13:40,389 --> 00:13:38,160

characterized uh as again you know

370

00:13:42,629 --> 00:13:40,399

disease riddled and you know entirely

371

00:13:44,790 --> 00:13:42,639

deviant and in mass murders and what was

372

00:13:47,670 --> 00:13:44,800

interesting was that was as soon as that

373

00:13:50,150 --> 00:13:47,680

theme and that that motif um wasn't

374

00:13:52,550 --> 00:13:50,160

useful trump abandoned it just like on a

375

00:13:54,310 --> 00:13:52,560

dime suddenly fox news wasn't talking

376

00:13:56,069 --> 00:13:54,320

about it trump wasn't talking about it

377

00:13:57,430 --> 00:13:56,079

was no longer useful and again there are

378

00:13:58,870 --> 00:13:57,440

many many examples but that's sort of

379

00:14:00,230 --> 00:13:58,880

one of the more more and more higher

380

00:14:02,470 --> 00:14:00,240

profile ones

381

00:14:03,910 --> 00:14:02,480

um and this is so good there's there's

382

00:14:06,069 --> 00:14:03,920

politicians and

383

00:14:08,710 --> 00:14:06,079

on the level for for example advertisers

384

00:14:11,269 --> 00:14:08,720

right advertisers uh often use fear they

385

00:14:13,189 --> 00:14:11,279

use fear you know uh is your is your

386

00:14:14,550 --> 00:14:13,199

breath fresh enough are you are you

387

00:14:19,829 --> 00:14:14,560

handsome enough

388

00:14:21,189 --> 00:14:19,839

you know there's always there's all

389

00:14:22,949 --> 00:14:21,199

these different uh

390

00:14:25,110 --> 00:14:22,959

all these different people and and

391

00:14:26,870 --> 00:14:25,120

entities and corporations who

392

00:14:28,310 --> 00:14:26,880

it's not always obvious and sometimes

393

00:14:30,150 --> 00:14:28,320

it's sort of subtle but they're all

394

00:14:32,150 --> 00:14:30,160

trying to nudge us one way the other

395

00:14:34,069 --> 00:14:32,160

often times using fear

396

00:14:36,069 --> 00:14:34,079

and then the other approach that i bring

397

00:14:38,230 --> 00:14:36,079

to is of course folklore as you know i'm

398

00:14:40,550 --> 00:14:38,240

a folklorist and i study yes

399

00:14:43,189 --> 00:14:40,560

urban legends and rumors and and things

400

00:14:46,230 --> 00:14:43,199

like that and and so in trying and

401  
00:14:48,629 --> 00:14:46,240  
trying to frame these fears i would i

402  
00:14:50,069 --> 00:14:48,639  
begin the book by talking about folklore

403  
00:14:51,670 --> 00:14:50,079  
and fairy tales

404  
00:14:54,389 --> 00:14:51,680  
and it's easy to sort of think of fairy

405  
00:14:56,389 --> 00:14:54,399  
tales as being um you know dusty old

406  
00:14:58,389 --> 00:14:56,399  
legends about you know prince charming

407  
00:15:00,550 --> 00:14:58,399  
and and uh and snow white

408  
00:15:02,629 --> 00:15:00,560  
uh from hundreds of years ago but in

409  
00:15:04,710 --> 00:15:02,639  
fact fairy tales are very much with us

410  
00:15:07,110 --> 00:15:04,720  
they pervade our discourse they pervade

411  
00:15:09,110 --> 00:15:07,120  
our ideas they prevent our metaphors uh

412  
00:15:10,710 --> 00:15:09,120  
one thing about about fairy tales is it

413  
00:15:12,949 --> 00:15:10,720

they're binary right there's there's a

414

00:15:15,670 --> 00:15:12,959

hero and there's a villain yes the big

415

00:15:17,750 --> 00:15:15,680

bad wolf is the big bad wolf there's no

416

00:15:20,389 --> 00:15:17,760

two ways about it right it's not the

417

00:15:23,430 --> 00:15:20,399

ambiguously bad wolf it's not the you

418

00:15:24,949 --> 00:15:23,440

know the misunderstood wolf

419

00:15:27,269 --> 00:15:24,959

the little red riding hood sort of

420

00:15:29,509 --> 00:15:27,279

purplish but you know but no that's

421

00:15:31,670 --> 00:15:29,519

that's part of it and so and so

422

00:15:33,670 --> 00:15:31,680

you know so we grow up with these fairy

423

00:15:36,230 --> 00:15:33,680

tales these these sort of sort of

424

00:15:37,430 --> 00:15:36,240

compact narrative stories that are very

425

00:15:39,670 --> 00:15:37,440

simple to understand they're easy to

426

00:15:42,150 --> 00:15:39,680

understand there's a goodbye there's the

427

00:15:44,389 --> 00:15:42,160

bad guys uh everything is nice what is

428

00:15:46,310 --> 00:15:44,399

good and evil is evil yes yeah it's all

429

00:15:48,230 --> 00:15:46,320

it's all tidied up you know at the end

430

00:15:50,710 --> 00:15:48,240

of the story uh and and of course we see

431

00:15:53,189 --> 00:15:50,720

this also on on television films right

432

00:15:55,910 --> 00:15:53,199

we see we see an hour-long television

433

00:15:58,150 --> 00:15:55,920

show well the the plot is introduced uh

434

00:15:59,670 --> 00:15:58,160

early on there's the conflict and then

435

00:16:01,590 --> 00:15:59,680

by the end of the show

436

00:16:03,189 --> 00:16:01,600

not always but often times

437

00:16:05,110 --> 00:16:03,199

there's a conclusion and you know tune

438

00:16:06,710 --> 00:16:05,120

in next time for another one but sort of

439

00:16:08,150 --> 00:16:06,720

to go back to the hero the heroes and

440

00:16:09,110 --> 00:16:08,160

the villains one thing that happens of

441

00:16:11,189 --> 00:16:09,120

course

442

00:16:13,590 --> 00:16:11,199

is that in in real life when we when we

443

00:16:15,670 --> 00:16:13,600

sort of use these stories to model what

444

00:16:17,509 --> 00:16:15,680

we're thinking about in real life and

445

00:16:19,829 --> 00:16:17,519

the things that we're seeing in the news

446

00:16:22,069 --> 00:16:19,839

again we go it goes back to good and bad

447

00:16:23,749 --> 00:16:22,079

and and heroes and villains and who is

448

00:16:25,590 --> 00:16:23,759

typically cast as the villain in these

449

00:16:28,310 --> 00:16:25,600

stories it's immigrants it's the bad

450

00:16:30,629 --> 00:16:28,320

people it's uh it's people who are

451  
00:16:32,550 --> 00:16:30,639  
deviant or marked as deviant um right

452  
00:16:34,470 --> 00:16:32,560  
and they're sort of and so this is why

453  
00:16:35,910 --> 00:16:34,480  
in my book i don't go too deep into it

454  
00:16:37,189 --> 00:16:35,920  
because i think it's in some ways it's

455  
00:16:39,189 --> 00:16:37,199  
kind of obvious and i don't want to

456  
00:16:41,670 --> 00:16:39,199  
patronize people but but there's a very

457  
00:16:44,389 --> 00:16:41,680  
real element of the boogeyman

458  
00:16:46,550 --> 00:16:44,399  
in these stories and you know the media

459  
00:16:49,030 --> 00:16:46,560  
very much play up the role of of

460  
00:16:50,790 --> 00:16:49,040  
a boogeyman uh in in what we call

461  
00:16:52,870 --> 00:16:50,800  
marketing the national panics that's

462  
00:16:54,389 --> 00:16:52,880  
interesting because i mean yes the media

463  
00:16:55,829 --> 00:16:54,399

will do this because

464

00:16:57,590 --> 00:16:55,839

i mean a lot of the media i've dealt

465

00:16:58,949 --> 00:16:57,600

with here in this country are looking

466

00:17:00,949 --> 00:16:58,959

for a simple

467

00:17:03,990 --> 00:17:00,959

narrative to tell people

468

00:17:07,110 --> 00:17:04,000

and the simplest narrative of all is

469

00:17:08,949 --> 00:17:07,120

person x or group x is bad

470

00:17:11,510 --> 00:17:08,959

yes and this is what we're trying to do

471

00:17:12,789 --> 00:17:11,520

about it or look as as you say this

472

00:17:14,870 --> 00:17:12,799

caravan

473

00:17:16,710 --> 00:17:14,880

i remember that at the time and then and

474

00:17:19,029 --> 00:17:16,720

i do remember the news sort of just

475

00:17:20,549 --> 00:17:19,039

peeted out about it but it was um i

476

00:17:21,990 --> 00:17:20,559

could see how that

477

00:17:24,630 --> 00:17:22,000

could have been taken advantage of

478

00:17:27,350 --> 00:17:24,640

because it's great unknown hordes of

479

00:17:28,950 --> 00:17:27,360

people heading our way you know call to

480

00:17:31,190 --> 00:17:28,960

action sort of thing

481

00:17:33,270 --> 00:17:31,200

absolutely and on squaring the strange

482

00:17:35,029 --> 00:17:33,280

uh i think it was late last year we did

483

00:17:37,270 --> 00:17:35,039

it we did a three or four part episode

484

00:17:39,750 --> 00:17:37,280

on moral panics uh if people are

485

00:17:42,870 --> 00:17:39,760

interested um and we sort of go into it

486

00:17:45,110 --> 00:17:42,880

more depth there but one thing i i i saw

487

00:17:47,110 --> 00:17:45,120

over and over again was these boogeymen

488

00:17:49,990 --> 00:17:47,120

uh these people being cast

489

00:17:53,029 --> 00:17:50,000

as boogeymen just in in case after case

490

00:17:54,150 --> 00:17:53,039

after case and oftentimes in parallel

491

00:17:56,390 --> 00:17:54,160

with that

492

00:17:58,470 --> 00:17:56,400

there was this sort of constant drumbeat

493

00:17:59,750 --> 00:17:58,480

of negativity yes but basically in a

494

00:18:01,830 --> 00:17:59,760

nutshell

495

00:18:03,750 --> 00:18:01,840

and i talk i talk about this to some

496

00:18:05,510 --> 00:18:03,760

extent in my book media myth makers

497

00:18:06,870 --> 00:18:05,520

which you mentioned earlier but of

498

00:18:08,549 --> 00:18:06,880

course you know

499

00:18:10,070 --> 00:18:08,559

if you look you know if you look at the

500

00:18:11,750 --> 00:18:10,080

ways in which

501  
00:18:13,270 --> 00:18:11,760  
people understand the world and the

502  
00:18:15,110 --> 00:18:13,280  
information we get

503  
00:18:17,430 --> 00:18:15,120  
much of it is from is from the news

504  
00:18:19,190 --> 00:18:17,440  
media and then and then not just news

505  
00:18:20,870 --> 00:18:19,200  
but then social media which is which

506  
00:18:23,510 --> 00:18:20,880  
filters the news media and in each of

507  
00:18:24,630 --> 00:18:23,520  
those cases you have the you have a

508  
00:18:26,870 --> 00:18:24,640  
selection

509  
00:18:29,590 --> 00:18:26,880  
towards the negative the disastrous the

510  
00:18:32,549 --> 00:18:29,600  
catastrophic right and so it's not that

511  
00:18:34,470 --> 00:18:32,559  
good news never makes the news but it

512  
00:18:35,350 --> 00:18:34,480  
it rarely uh it's got to be super good

513  
00:18:38,470 --> 00:18:35,360

news

514

00:18:40,549 --> 00:18:38,480

it'll be 40 minutes of negativity and

515

00:18:42,390 --> 00:18:40,559

mass murders and disasters and then

516

00:18:44,470 --> 00:18:42,400

there'll be like here's 20 seconds of

517

00:18:46,150 --> 00:18:44,480

something good that happened isn't that

518

00:18:48,150 --> 00:18:46,160

normally the funny

519

00:18:50,310 --> 00:18:48,160

fuzzy story at the end of the bulletin

520

00:18:52,549 --> 00:18:50,320

yeah and finally before we go this

521

00:18:54,789 --> 00:18:52,559

little dog was caught up a tree chasing

522

00:18:55,510 --> 00:18:54,799

a cat but the local you know

523

00:18:57,669 --> 00:18:55,520

or

524

00:18:59,190 --> 00:18:57,679

what we get here i know you you've heard

525

00:19:01,190 --> 00:18:59,200

this before it always makes you laugh we

526

00:19:04,150 --> 00:19:01,200

get the story well what oh it's the end

527

00:19:06,150 --> 00:19:04,160

of the news well only in america here's

528

00:19:08,150 --> 00:19:06,160

this guy or whatever

529

00:19:10,630 --> 00:19:08,160

right you just had 40 minutes of florida

530

00:19:14,070 --> 00:19:10,640

man and now you have all in america did

531

00:19:18,470 --> 00:19:16,150

i don't know what your equivalent would

532

00:19:20,390 --> 00:19:18,480

be where you are they might say only in

533

00:19:21,430 --> 00:19:20,400

canada or only in florida

534

00:19:23,830 --> 00:19:21,440

yeah yeah

535

00:19:26,390 --> 00:19:23,840

well but what's interesting is is so

536

00:19:29,270 --> 00:19:26,400

again each of these levels there is a

537

00:19:30,950 --> 00:19:29,280

selection bias or a confirmation bias to

538

00:19:32,230 --> 00:19:30,960

use a psychological term

539

00:19:33,430 --> 00:19:32,240

for the negative

540

00:19:36,070 --> 00:19:33,440

and so

541

00:19:37,669 --> 00:19:36,080

and it's in again it's it's sort of

542

00:19:39,669 --> 00:19:37,679

obvious but i think i think it's worth

543

00:19:41,909 --> 00:19:39,679

pointing out that the news media could

544

00:19:43,830 --> 00:19:41,919

report on anything in the world and just

545

00:19:45,750 --> 00:19:43,840

by their nature and this they're not

546

00:19:47,110 --> 00:19:45,760

they're not intending to focus on the

547

00:19:48,710 --> 00:19:47,120

negative but just

548

00:19:50,150 --> 00:19:48,720

the nature of what is newsworthy is

549

00:19:52,310 --> 00:19:50,160

often something bad

550

00:19:54,470 --> 00:19:52,320

it's a war it's a disaster it's a flood

551

00:19:57,190 --> 00:19:54,480

it's a it's a it's a mass murder and so

552

00:19:59,190 --> 00:19:57,200

the news media selectively choose

553

00:20:02,710 --> 00:19:59,200

some of the most dangerous threatening

554

00:20:05,190 --> 00:20:02,720

you know fear panic panic infused things

555

00:20:07,270 --> 00:20:05,200

and then when when social media gets a

556

00:20:10,230 --> 00:20:07,280

hold of it when it's put on on twitter

557

00:20:12,789 --> 00:20:10,240

and instagram and facebook that further

558

00:20:15,430 --> 00:20:12,799

focuses and distills that into even more

559

00:20:17,350 --> 00:20:15,440

frightening stories and things like that

560

00:20:19,110 --> 00:20:17,360

and then also think about the the

561

00:20:21,510 --> 00:20:19,120

psychology right so

562

00:20:23,590 --> 00:20:21,520

most people we remember

563

00:20:24,870 --> 00:20:23,600

um the insults much better than remember

564

00:20:27,590 --> 00:20:24,880

the compliments

565

00:20:29,750 --> 00:20:27,600

right we we can hear we can go all week

566

00:20:31,830 --> 00:20:29,760

and we can hear a dozen people say oh

567

00:20:33,909 --> 00:20:31,840

you did a great show i love your work

568

00:20:34,710 --> 00:20:33,919

this and that you have one person that

569

00:20:37,110 --> 00:20:34,720

says

570

00:20:39,190 --> 00:20:37,120

you know you really screwed that up yeah

571

00:20:41,270 --> 00:20:39,200

that's the one it's human nature isn't

572

00:20:43,430 --> 00:20:41,280

it yeah i mean we do pick up on these

573

00:20:44,710 --> 00:20:43,440

things because maybe it affects us more

574

00:20:47,909 --> 00:20:44,720

more deeply

575

00:20:49,909 --> 00:20:47,919

absolutely right these are some of the

576

00:20:51,750 --> 00:20:49,919

themes that you do cover in your book

577

00:20:54,070 --> 00:20:51,760

yeah and so again there's there's lots

578

00:20:56,230 --> 00:20:54,080

of i go into the the legends i go into

579

00:20:59,430 --> 00:20:56,240

uh the the some of the narratives i go

580

00:21:01,909 --> 00:20:59,440

into the ways in which fear is monetized

581

00:21:03,430 --> 00:21:01,919

um and then i sort of wrap up with sort

582

00:21:04,310 --> 00:21:03,440

of what are the consequences right i

583

00:21:06,310 --> 00:21:04,320

mean

584

00:21:08,710 --> 00:21:06,320

i and others can point out the different

585

00:21:11,430 --> 00:21:08,720

ways in which fear is used but there are

586

00:21:13,909 --> 00:21:11,440

very real consequences to this and

587

00:21:16,710 --> 00:21:13,919

one of the first steps that i argue

588

00:21:19,270 --> 00:21:16,720

is just to identify it just to recognize

589

00:21:21,669 --> 00:21:19,280

how fear is marketed uh to people and

590

00:21:23,110 --> 00:21:21,679

again i the the topic is america but

591

00:21:25,190 --> 00:21:23,120

this actually applies

592

00:21:27,510 --> 00:21:25,200

generally i mean much of this applies in

593

00:21:29,590 --> 00:21:27,520

australia and belgium anywhere else one

594

00:21:31,110 --> 00:21:29,600

of the themes here is that look we have

595

00:21:33,190 --> 00:21:31,120

finite resources we have finite

596

00:21:35,029 --> 00:21:33,200

attention spans our politicians have

597

00:21:37,190 --> 00:21:35,039

finite attention spans

598

00:21:39,350 --> 00:21:37,200

and there are so many

599

00:21:41,669 --> 00:21:39,360

so many things that are vying for our

600

00:21:43,510 --> 00:21:41,679

our attention in in some cases you know

601  
00:21:45,190 --> 00:21:43,520  
pushing our fear buttons

602  
00:21:46,870 --> 00:21:45,200  
and that's why it's important to

603  
00:21:48,149 --> 00:21:46,880  
determine which of these theories are

604  
00:21:50,630 --> 00:21:48,159  
more credible which ones are more

605  
00:21:53,270 --> 00:21:50,640  
serious than others our daily diet of

606  
00:21:54,870 --> 00:21:53,280  
social media and news media may hand us

607  
00:21:57,190 --> 00:21:54,880  
five or six things to be afraid of you

608  
00:22:00,070 --> 00:21:57,200  
know wildfires climate change uh

609  
00:22:02,070 --> 00:22:00,080  
economic take your pick and you know

610  
00:22:04,070 --> 00:22:02,080  
covet vaccinations right and so you have

611  
00:22:06,470 --> 00:22:04,080  
fear of covet then you also have on the

612  
00:22:08,549 --> 00:22:06,480  
other side people who who are promoting

613  
00:22:10,149 --> 00:22:08,559

fear of the vaccination so you you can't

614

00:22:13,029 --> 00:22:10,159

win right

615

00:22:15,110 --> 00:22:13,039

every which way you turn right so so

616

00:22:17,510 --> 00:22:15,120

what i would argue is that the really

617

00:22:19,510 --> 00:22:17,520

the best prism uh through which to view

618

00:22:22,149 --> 00:22:19,520

this is you know critical thinking and

619

00:22:24,310 --> 00:22:22,159

skepticism and recognizing that not

620

00:22:25,590 --> 00:22:24,320

everything that we are urged to fear uh

621

00:22:27,190 --> 00:22:25,600

we should fear

622

00:22:28,870 --> 00:22:27,200

well i fear not reading your book i want

623

00:22:31,270 --> 00:22:28,880

to get my hands on a copy of your book

624

00:22:32,630 --> 00:22:31,280

as soon as i can ben what should i do

625

00:22:35,430 --> 00:22:32,640

what should our listeners do to make

626  
00:22:36,789 --> 00:22:35,440  
sure they secure a copy of america the

627  
00:22:38,710 --> 00:22:36,799  
fearful

628  
00:22:41,270 --> 00:22:38,720  
well thank you i i always encourage

629  
00:22:42,070 --> 00:22:41,280  
people whenever possible to shop local

630  
00:22:44,310 --> 00:22:42,080  
um

631  
00:22:46,310 --> 00:22:44,320  
if people can patronize their local

632  
00:22:48,549 --> 00:22:46,320  
bookstore not everybody can do that i

633  
00:22:49,750 --> 00:22:48,559  
understand that other than that it's

634  
00:22:51,430 --> 00:22:49,760  
available

635  
00:22:53,350 --> 00:22:51,440  
in all the mainstream markets it is a

636  
00:22:55,669 --> 00:22:53,360  
mainstream publisher this is mcfarland

637  
00:22:57,590 --> 00:22:55,679  
uh books who i've published with before

638  
00:22:59,830 --> 00:22:57,600

uh so yeah check it out check it out

639

00:23:01,590 --> 00:22:59,840

folks i will add a link to that

640

00:23:03,990 --> 00:23:01,600

publisher in this week's show notes and

641

00:23:05,669 --> 00:23:04,000

i'll add a link to your site too ben and

642

00:23:07,669 --> 00:23:05,679

just for our listeners benefit where can

643

00:23:10,070 --> 00:23:07,679

people go to find out more about you

644

00:23:11,510 --> 00:23:10,080

more about me wow i i get tired of

645

00:23:13,029 --> 00:23:11,520

talking about myself but i will

646

00:23:14,230 --> 00:23:13,039

persevere

647

00:23:16,549 --> 00:23:14,240

um

648

00:23:20,310 --> 00:23:16,559

yes you can find me on the facebook's you

649

00:23:22,710 --> 00:23:20,320

can find me on twitter at bt radford and

650

00:23:25,270 --> 00:23:22,720

also on squaring the strange uh the

651  
00:23:27,830 --> 00:23:25,280  
podcast and uh now and then i are i

652  
00:23:29,190 --> 00:23:27,840  
write articles uh in skeptical inquire

653  
00:23:30,789 --> 00:23:29,200  
magazine

654  
00:23:33,750 --> 00:23:30,799  
excellent ben radford always good to

655  
00:23:36,470 --> 00:23:33,760  
catch up with you let's do it in person

656  
00:23:39,890 --> 00:23:36,480  
when next we possibly can absolutely

657  
00:23:50,470 --> 00:23:39,900  
love to thank you

658  
00:23:53,190 --> 00:23:50,480  
[Music]

659  
00:23:54,789 --> 00:23:53,200  
hi i'm ben radford co-host of squaring

660  
00:23:57,350 --> 00:23:54,799  
strange podcast

661  
00:23:59,430 --> 00:23:57,360  
in these trying times as we help each

662  
00:24:01,430 --> 00:23:59,440  
other out to hold on to hope we want you

663  
00:24:03,350 --> 00:24:01,440

to know that we're here for you hey hey

664

00:24:04,789 --> 00:24:03,360

what are you going on about

665

00:24:07,830 --> 00:24:04,799

who's interrupting my heartfelt

666

00:24:09,909 --> 00:24:07,840

promotional copy it's me celestia ward

667

00:24:12,870 --> 00:24:09,919

your co-host

668

00:24:14,390 --> 00:24:12,880

really in these trying times that's the

669

00:24:15,750 --> 00:24:14,400

best you can do

670

00:24:17,669 --> 00:24:15,760

well i'm just doing what everyone else

671

00:24:18,710 --> 00:24:17,679

is doing i thought

672

00:24:20,310 --> 00:24:18,720

that's

673

00:24:22,390 --> 00:24:20,320

not what we do

674

00:24:26,470 --> 00:24:22,400

oh for crying out loud who else is here

675

00:24:29,190 --> 00:24:26,480

pasqual romero your other co-host hey

676

00:24:30,789 --> 00:24:29,200

we don't do what everybody else does ben

677

00:24:33,350 --> 00:24:30,799

that's kind of our thing at squaring the

678

00:24:35,110 --> 00:24:33,360

strange yeah we try to approach things a

679

00:24:37,350 --> 00:24:35,120

little differently than your standard

680

00:24:39,750 --> 00:24:37,360

skeptical talky talk show

681

00:24:42,070 --> 00:24:39,760

we do our own thing bringing science

682

00:24:43,750 --> 00:24:42,080

critical thinking and skepticism to bear

683

00:24:45,269 --> 00:24:43,760

on issues of the day

684

00:24:46,470 --> 00:24:45,279

we've got a professional skeptical

685

00:24:48,149 --> 00:24:46,480

author ben

686

00:24:50,870 --> 00:24:48,159

who has decades of experience

687

00:24:53,510 --> 00:24:50,880

researching topics for a dozen books and

688

00:24:55,350 --> 00:24:53,520

thousands of articles and a cartoonist

689

00:24:57,029 --> 00:24:55,360

skeptic celestia who knows her stuff

690

00:24:59,110 --> 00:24:57,039

when it comes to facial weirdness and

691

00:25:01,590 --> 00:24:59,120

the psychology of perception and a

692

00:25:03,750 --> 00:25:01,600

badass heavy metal rock star and tech

693

00:25:05,750 --> 00:25:03,760

engineer pasquale who brings knowledge

694

00:25:06,870 --> 00:25:05,760

of all things audio plus a bunch of neck

695

00:25:08,710 --> 00:25:06,880

tattoos

696

00:25:10,870 --> 00:25:08,720

squaring the strange explores topics

697

00:25:13,830 --> 00:25:10,880

both mysterious and mundane through a

698

00:25:15,590 --> 00:25:13,840

critical lens monsters panics media

699

00:25:17,990 --> 00:25:15,600

literacy

700

00:25:20,549 --> 00:25:18,000

okay forget the whole trying times promo

701  
00:25:21,830 --> 00:25:20,559  
idea but we have chupacabras and clown

702  
00:25:28,800 --> 00:25:21,840  
panics right

703  
00:25:28,810 --> 00:25:32,149  
[Music]

704  
00:25:35,610 --> 00:25:33,510  
and now

705  
00:25:38,310 --> 00:25:35,620  
a reading from the book of tim

706  
00:25:41,140 --> 00:25:38,320  
[Music]

707  
00:25:47,430 --> 00:25:41,150  
with tim mendez

708  
00:25:50,070 --> 00:25:47,440  
[Music]

709  
00:25:52,310 --> 00:25:50,080  
hi my name is tim menden i'm executive

710  
00:25:53,990 --> 00:25:52,320  
officer of australian skeptics inc and

711  
00:25:55,269 --> 00:25:54,000  
i'm the editor of our magazine the

712  
00:25:57,990 --> 00:25:55,279  
skeptic

713  
00:26:01,029 --> 00:25:58,000

today i will be continuing an article on

714

00:26:02,630 --> 00:26:01,039

perpetual motion that we began last week

715

00:26:06,710 --> 00:26:02,640

now this is from the skeptic magazine

716

00:26:07,750 --> 00:26:06,720

september 2016 which is volume 36 number

717

00:26:09,430 --> 00:26:07,760

three

718

00:26:11,269 --> 00:26:09,440

and you can download this issue of the

719

00:26:13,390 --> 00:26:11,279

magazine as you can most other issues

720

00:26:15,029 --> 00:26:13,400

from our website

721

00:26:16,950 --> 00:26:15,039

skeptics.com.au

722

00:26:18,070 --> 00:26:16,960

and it's free except for the four most

723

00:26:20,549 --> 00:26:18,080

recent ones which you will have to

724

00:26:21,990 --> 00:26:20,559

subscribe to

725

00:26:23,990 --> 00:26:22,000

now we're looking at perpetual motion

726

00:26:25,669 --> 00:26:24,000

the first half last week looked at a lot

727

00:26:27,430 --> 00:26:25,679

of the physics it was pretty heavy

728

00:26:29,830 --> 00:26:27,440

behind perpetual motion the sort of

729

00:26:30,870 --> 00:26:29,840

things it is and how it works what can't

730

00:26:32,470 --> 00:26:30,880

work

731

00:26:33,909 --> 00:26:32,480

and now we're looking at the more

732

00:26:35,510 --> 00:26:33,919

practical side if you like the history

733

00:26:36,950 --> 00:26:35,520

of perpetual motion

734

00:26:38,630 --> 00:26:36,960

and this is an article written by

735

00:26:41,190 --> 00:26:38,640

anthony garrett a former member of

736

00:26:42,870 --> 00:26:41,200

australian skeptics inc sydney committee

737

00:26:47,029 --> 00:26:42,880

originally written in

738

00:26:48,950 --> 00:26:47,039

1987 and was reprinted in 2016.

739

00:26:50,230 --> 00:26:48,960

it's called the neverending story so

740

00:26:53,430 --> 00:26:50,240

here's part two

741

00:26:55,269 --> 00:26:53,440

the history of perpetual notion

742

00:26:56,710 --> 00:26:55,279

and as anthony says with the scientific

743

00:26:58,630 --> 00:26:56,720

theory behind us

744

00:27:00,310 --> 00:26:58,640

which you can hear last week we can now

745

00:27:02,950 --> 00:27:00,320

look at the entertaining history of the

746

00:27:04,630 --> 00:27:02,960

perpetual motion machine

747

00:27:06,710 --> 00:27:04,640

and much of the following that anthony

748

00:27:09,430 --> 00:27:06,720

uses is adapted from a book by arthur

749

00:27:11,510 --> 00:27:09,440

orwood hume called perpetual motion the

750

00:27:13,430 --> 00:27:11,520

history of an obsession

751  
00:27:15,269 --> 00:27:13,440  
nowadays with the laws of thermodynamics

752  
00:27:17,350 --> 00:27:15,279  
taken largely for granted it is

753  
00:27:19,669 --> 00:27:17,360  
difficult to imagine a time when energy

754  
00:27:21,350 --> 00:27:19,679  
conservation was not established and the

755  
00:27:23,590 --> 00:27:21,360  
equivalence of the various forms of

756  
00:27:25,029 --> 00:27:23,600  
energy particularly heat was fiercely

757  
00:27:26,789 --> 00:27:25,039  
debated

758  
00:27:28,630 --> 00:27:26,799  
yet such was the situation up to the

759  
00:27:31,190 --> 00:27:28,640  
middle of the last century and we're

760  
00:27:33,269 --> 00:27:31,200  
talking 1800s here and we owe it to the

761  
00:27:35,990 --> 00:27:33,279  
early proponents of perpetual motion to

762  
00:27:37,750 --> 00:27:36,000  
judge them by their own time

763  
00:27:40,070 --> 00:27:37,760

a sanskrit manuscript from the first

764

00:27:41,029 --> 00:27:40,080

half of the fifth century refers to a

765

00:27:43,909 --> 00:27:41,039

wheel

766

00:27:45,909 --> 00:27:43,919

free to rotate about a horizontal axis

767

00:27:48,630 --> 00:27:45,919

with sealed holes half filled with

768

00:27:50,149 --> 00:27:48,640

mercury drilled radially in from its

769

00:27:51,669 --> 00:27:50,159

circumference

770

00:27:53,430 --> 00:27:51,679

once started the hole was supposed to

771

00:27:55,269 --> 00:27:53,440

maintain its rotation

772

00:27:57,830 --> 00:27:55,279

presumably its inventor believed the

773

00:27:59,669 --> 00:27:57,840

extra moment arising when the mercury on

774

00:28:00,470 --> 00:27:59,679

the descending side of the wheel moved

775

00:28:03,029 --> 00:28:00,480

into

776

00:28:06,310 --> 00:28:03,039

centripetal force from the inner end of

777

00:28:08,310 --> 00:28:06,320

its container to the circumferential end

778

00:28:09,430 --> 00:28:08,320

provides sufficient impetus to keep the

779

00:28:11,190 --> 00:28:09,440

thing going

780

00:28:13,590 --> 00:28:11,200

this is the earliest known coherent

781

00:28:15,269 --> 00:28:13,600

suggestion for perpetual motion

782

00:28:18,310 --> 00:28:15,279

in reality it is not a machine of the

783

00:28:19,990 --> 00:28:18,320

first kind and fails because of friction

784

00:28:21,669 --> 00:28:20,000

to be of the second kind

785

00:28:24,230 --> 00:28:21,679

nevertheless this machine is an

786

00:28:26,070 --> 00:28:24,240

unwitting prototype of many proposed in

787

00:28:27,830 --> 00:28:26,080

18th century europe

788

00:28:29,590 --> 00:28:27,840

in which weights attached to the

789

00:28:32,070 --> 00:28:29,600

circumference of the wheel are arranged

790

00:28:34,549 --> 00:28:32,080

to dispose themselves farther from the

791

00:28:36,149 --> 00:28:34,559

axis on the descending side of the wheel

792

00:28:37,750 --> 00:28:36,159

than the ascending

793

00:28:38,870 --> 00:28:37,760

you picture this like a wheel in which

794

00:28:40,549 --> 00:28:38,880

things on

795

00:28:42,710 --> 00:28:40,559

on the downward slide

796

00:28:44,870 --> 00:28:42,720

stick out further than on the upward

797

00:28:46,389 --> 00:28:44,880

turn where they sort of sit alongside

798

00:28:48,710 --> 00:28:46,399

the wheel

799

00:28:50,870 --> 00:28:48,720

some of these were marvelously intricate

800

00:28:52,549 --> 00:28:50,880

and the marquee of worcester who is

801  
00:28:55,430 --> 00:28:52,559  
believed to have constructed the first

802  
00:28:59,669 --> 00:28:55,440  
practical steam engine proposed several

803  
00:29:01,350 --> 00:28:59,679  
and claimed success for one in 1655

804  
00:29:04,710 --> 00:29:01,360  
these were predated by the italian

805  
00:29:06,950 --> 00:29:04,720  
philosopher zamara who in 1518 proposed

806  
00:29:09,990 --> 00:29:06,960  
a mechanical link between a windmill and

807  
00:29:11,750 --> 00:29:10,000  
a set of bellows aimed at the windmill

808  
00:29:13,590 --> 00:29:11,760  
perpetual motion machines

809  
00:29:16,230 --> 00:29:13,600  
invariably involve a conversion of

810  
00:29:17,830 --> 00:29:16,240  
energy from one mode to another in an

811  
00:29:19,350 --> 00:29:17,840  
attempt to beat one of the laws of

812  
00:29:21,909 --> 00:29:19,360  
thermodynamics

813  
00:29:23,909 --> 00:29:21,919

and it is usual to find that one mode is

814

00:29:25,029 --> 00:29:23,919

traditional such as the wind operating

815

00:29:27,029 --> 00:29:25,039

the windmill

816

00:29:28,870 --> 00:29:27,039

and is then augmented by a proposed

817

00:29:31,029 --> 00:29:28,880

backlink of the modes completing a

818

00:29:33,510 --> 00:29:31,039

closed loop of energy

819

00:29:35,990 --> 00:29:33,520

an electric motor powered by a generator

820

00:29:38,070 --> 00:29:36,000

is also linked back mechanically to it

821

00:29:39,590 --> 00:29:38,080

is another example

822

00:29:41,990 --> 00:29:39,600

a measure of the respectability of

823

00:29:44,310 --> 00:29:42,000

perpetual motion at this time was that

824

00:29:46,549 --> 00:29:44,320

as great a genius as leonardo da vinci

825

00:29:49,350 --> 00:29:46,559

who was zamara's contemporary produced

826  
00:29:50,950 --> 00:29:49,360  
sketches for six designs of machines

827  
00:29:53,750 --> 00:29:50,960  
by far the most common proposals

828  
00:29:55,590 --> 00:29:53,760  
concerned self-propelling water wheels

829  
00:29:57,190 --> 00:29:55,600  
the water mill was in widespread use

830  
00:29:59,590 --> 00:29:57,200  
throughout europe and what was more

831  
00:30:01,669 --> 00:29:59,600  
natural than to harness its power to

832  
00:30:04,070 --> 00:30:01,679  
raise the water once more

833  
00:30:06,230 --> 00:30:04,080  
ash's visual pun exemplifies this

834  
00:30:07,669 --> 00:30:06,240  
concept water going down and then up

835  
00:30:09,750 --> 00:30:07,679  
again and down and up again in a

836  
00:30:12,630 --> 00:30:09,760  
never-ending loop

837  
00:30:15,350 --> 00:30:12,640  
the appropriately named robert flood

838  
00:30:18,149 --> 00:30:15,360

1574-1637

839

00:30:21,029 --> 00:30:18,159

and george bochler of nuremberg were two

840

00:30:23,669 --> 00:30:21,039

leading visionaries of this kind

841

00:30:25,590 --> 00:30:23,679

it mattered little that bishop wilkins

842

00:30:28,710 --> 00:30:25,600

tested a similar scheme of his own in

843

00:30:29,990 --> 00:30:28,720

1648 and became skeptical as a result of

844

00:30:31,909 --> 00:30:30,000

its failure

845

00:30:32,950 --> 00:30:31,919

perpetual motion was in the air of the

846

00:30:35,750 --> 00:30:32,960

times

847

00:30:36,870 --> 00:30:35,760

from the 1720s onwards proposals were

848

00:30:39,029 --> 00:30:36,880

rife

849

00:30:41,350 --> 00:30:39,039

it is assuredly no coincidence that the

850

00:30:43,990 --> 00:30:41,360

idea was only laid to rest once the

851  
00:30:46,470 --> 00:30:44,000  
industrial revolution was consolidated

852  
00:30:48,630 --> 00:30:46,480  
when testing and failure became a matter

853  
00:30:50,549 --> 00:30:48,640  
of routine

854  
00:30:52,549 --> 00:30:50,559  
the harnessing of electromagnetism led

855  
00:30:55,430 --> 00:30:52,559  
to a new series of proposals in the last

856  
00:30:56,950 --> 00:30:55,440  
century all essentially coupling motions

857  
00:30:58,789 --> 00:30:56,960  
to generators

858  
00:31:01,750 --> 00:30:58,799  
in fact the earliest coherent magnetic

859  
00:31:04,630 --> 00:31:01,760  
proposal goes as far back as 1570 when

860  
00:31:06,549 --> 00:31:04,640  
the jesuit priest tysonieris

861  
00:31:09,190 --> 00:31:06,559  
proposed that an iron ball would roll

862  
00:31:10,789 --> 00:31:09,200  
down a ramp under gravity and be drawn

863  
00:31:13,190 --> 00:31:10,799

back to its starting point along a

864

00:31:15,269 --> 00:31:13,200

second ramp by a magnet

865

00:31:17,509 --> 00:31:15,279

in the 18th century a london clockmaker

866

00:31:19,830 --> 00:31:17,519

james cox constructed the first clock to

867

00:31:21,110 --> 00:31:19,840

be powered by changes in atmosphere

868

00:31:23,430 --> 00:31:21,120

pressure

869

00:31:24,310 --> 00:31:23,440

such clocks are only as perpetual as the

870

00:31:26,149 --> 00:31:24,320

weather

871

00:31:27,110 --> 00:31:26,159

ultimately powered by the heat of the

872

00:31:29,269 --> 00:31:27,120

sun

873

00:31:31,430 --> 00:31:29,279

be that as it may cox's device was

874

00:31:33,190 --> 00:31:31,440

ingenious in design and attracted

875

00:31:35,350 --> 00:31:33,200

favorable comment

876

00:31:37,269 --> 00:31:35,360

a natural corollary to the failure of

877

00:31:39,590 --> 00:31:37,279

perpetual motion machines before the

878

00:31:41,830 --> 00:31:39,600

idea of energy conservation came to

879

00:31:44,950 --> 00:31:41,840

permeate the general consciousness was

880

00:31:46,710 --> 00:31:44,960

exploitation and fraud

881

00:31:49,110 --> 00:31:46,720

ep willis of connecticut charged

882

00:31:51,830 --> 00:31:49,120

admission to view an asymmetrical wheel

883

00:31:53,509 --> 00:31:51,840

machine which he set up in new haven and

884

00:31:55,430 --> 00:31:53,519

subsequently in new york

885

00:31:57,350 --> 00:31:55,440

it was maintained in a glass case it was

886

00:31:59,669 --> 00:31:57,360

actually powered by compressed air

887

00:32:00,950 --> 00:31:59,679

passed up a strut and over one of the

888

00:32:02,789 --> 00:32:00,960

geared wheels

889

00:32:04,950 --> 00:32:02,799

willis was an exploiter rather than a

890

00:32:07,350 --> 00:32:04,960

fraudster who challenged visitors to

891

00:32:09,669 --> 00:32:07,360

state how the machine could run other

892

00:32:11,669 --> 00:32:09,679

than by perpetual motion

893

00:32:14,630 --> 00:32:11,679

no such constraints attached to charles

894

00:32:17,909 --> 00:32:14,640

red heifer who set up a machine in 1812

895

00:32:20,070 --> 00:32:17,919

in philadelphia which ran unceasingly

896

00:32:21,029 --> 00:32:20,080

needless to say viewing was not free of

897

00:32:23,110 --> 00:32:21,039

charge

898

00:32:25,029 --> 00:32:23,120

a team of experts sent to examine it in

899

00:32:27,430 --> 00:32:25,039

connection with redhoff's application

900

00:32:29,190 --> 00:32:27,440

for funding detected that the where on

901  
00:32:30,070 --> 00:32:29,200  
two connected gears was on the wrong

902  
00:32:31,750 --> 00:32:30,080  
side

903  
00:32:33,029 --> 00:32:31,760  
and were satisfied that fraud was

904  
00:32:35,430 --> 00:32:33,039  
involved

905  
00:32:37,430 --> 00:32:35,440  
they didn't detect its nature but

906  
00:32:39,430 --> 00:32:37,440  
instead reproduced the fraud by building

907  
00:32:42,310 --> 00:32:39,440  
a similar machine with concealed

908  
00:32:44,149 --> 00:32:42,320  
clockwork and a winder disguised as an

909  
00:32:46,149 --> 00:32:44,159  
ornamental knob

910  
00:32:48,149 --> 00:32:46,159  
red heifer privately offered its owner

911  
00:32:49,669 --> 00:32:48,159  
sellers a large sum not to reveal his

912  
00:32:52,630 --> 00:32:49,679  
secret

913  
00:32:54,549 --> 00:32:52,640

instead sellers denounced red heifer

914

00:32:56,310 --> 00:32:54,559

worst was to come in new york

915

00:32:57,350 --> 00:32:56,320

where red heifer constructed a further

916

00:32:59,350 --> 00:32:57,360

machine

917

00:33:01,590 --> 00:32:59,360

the submarine pioneer robert fulton

918

00:33:04,070 --> 00:33:01,600

recognized its uneven speed during one

919

00:33:05,350 --> 00:33:04,080

cycle as characteristic of a crank

920

00:33:07,990 --> 00:33:05,360

appropriately

921

00:33:09,990 --> 00:33:08,000

denounced it on the spot and dismantled

922

00:33:13,269 --> 00:33:10,000

a suspicious looking support strut to

923

00:33:16,470 --> 00:33:13,279

reveal a catgut belted drive run by a

924

00:33:17,830 --> 00:33:16,480

man turning a wheel of eccentric shape

925

00:33:19,990 --> 00:33:17,840

even more appropriately that's the wheel

926  
00:33:21,909 --> 00:33:20,000  
was eccentric shape not the man running

927  
00:33:23,669 --> 00:33:21,919  
in a nearby room

928  
00:33:25,750 --> 00:33:23,679  
the crowd which had paid five dollars a

929  
00:33:27,669 --> 00:33:25,760  
man a large sum in those days

930  
00:33:29,830 --> 00:33:27,679  
ladies were free for some reason

931  
00:33:30,789 --> 00:33:29,840  
demolished the remainder and red heifer

932  
00:33:32,950 --> 00:33:30,799  
fled

933  
00:33:35,830 --> 00:33:32,960  
but the finest fraud was perpetrated by

934  
00:33:38,710 --> 00:33:35,840  
john keeley again of philadelphia

935  
00:33:41,110 --> 00:33:38,720  
in 1875 he unveiled a complicated

936  
00:33:43,029 --> 00:33:41,120  
variant on the steam engine in which he

937  
00:33:45,110 --> 00:33:43,039  
would blow into a nozzle for half a

938  
00:33:46,389 --> 00:33:45,120

minute and then pour five gallons of

939

00:33:48,549 --> 00:33:46,399

water into it

940

00:33:50,549 --> 00:33:48,559

after a whiz-bang show of manipulating

941

00:33:52,470 --> 00:33:50,559

various valves and taps he would then

942

00:33:55,110 --> 00:33:52,480

announce the apparatus was charged with

943

00:33:57,430 --> 00:33:55,120

a mysterious vapor at a pressure of 10

944

00:33:59,029 --> 00:33:57,440

000 pounds per square inch

945

00:34:00,950 --> 00:33:59,039

keeley claimed the power source was the

946

00:34:03,110 --> 00:34:00,960

disintegration of water

947

00:34:06,310 --> 00:34:03,120

latter-day enthusiasts preferred like

948

00:34:08,710 --> 00:34:06,320

keeley to tap new forms of energy rather

949

00:34:11,109 --> 00:34:08,720

than deny its conservation

950

00:34:13,909 --> 00:34:11,119

this is theoretically possible but it is

951  
00:34:15,589 --> 00:34:13,919  
extremely unlikely that new exploitable

952  
00:34:17,589 --> 00:34:15,599  
forms will be found

953  
00:34:19,669 --> 00:34:17,599  
and even so it would still not provide

954  
00:34:21,909 --> 00:34:19,679  
something for nothing

955  
00:34:24,149 --> 00:34:21,919  
the main reason for keeley's success he

956  
00:34:26,389 --> 00:34:24,159  
raised over a million dollars

957  
00:34:27,750 --> 00:34:26,399  
to set up the keeley motor company with

958  
00:34:29,990 --> 00:34:27,760  
showmanship

959  
00:34:32,710 --> 00:34:30,000  
keeley was an imposing figure with an

960  
00:34:35,030 --> 00:34:32,720  
air of honesty about him he was fond of

961  
00:34:38,149 --> 00:34:35,040  
baffling the uninitiated with phrases

962  
00:34:39,109 --> 00:34:38,159  
such as hydropneumatic pulsating vacuum

963  
00:34:41,430 --> 00:34:39,119

engine

964

00:34:43,510 --> 00:34:41,440

sympathetic equilibrium

965

00:34:46,790 --> 00:34:43,520

etheric disintegration

966

00:34:48,710 --> 00:34:46,800

and quadruple negative harmonics

967

00:34:51,270 --> 00:34:48,720

such pseudo-scientific terms are often

968

00:34:53,190 --> 00:34:51,280

used by today's charlatans

969

00:34:55,109 --> 00:34:53,200

plus south shores

970

00:34:56,869 --> 00:34:55,119

the more things change the more they

971

00:34:58,790 --> 00:34:56,879

stay the same

972

00:35:00,950 --> 00:34:58,800

with the initiated he was far more

973

00:35:02,710 --> 00:35:00,960

guarded and pains were taken to ensure

974

00:35:05,270 --> 00:35:02,720

no man of science was permitted to

975

00:35:07,750 --> 00:35:05,280

examine the machine too closely

976

00:35:09,750 --> 00:35:07,760

in the 1880s tequila motor company

977

00:35:12,950 --> 00:35:09,760

discouraged by his failure to produce a

978

00:35:14,870 --> 00:35:12,960

commercial motor cut off his funding

979

00:35:17,589 --> 00:35:14,880

he found an alternative source in a

980

00:35:18,870 --> 00:35:17,599

wealthy widow mrs moore who had faith in

981

00:35:20,870 --> 00:35:18,880

his ideas

982

00:35:23,349 --> 00:35:20,880

and promptly unveiled a new one

983

00:35:26,069 --> 00:35:23,359

vibrating energy in the ether which

984

00:35:27,510 --> 00:35:26,079

underlay the disintegration of water

985

00:35:29,750 --> 00:35:27,520

the motor company sued him for a

986

00:35:31,750 --> 00:35:29,760

reimbursement but he claimed his latest

987

00:35:34,710 --> 00:35:31,760

idea was unrelated to those he had

988

00:35:36,069 --> 00:35:34,720

uncovered under his iges and refused to

989

00:35:38,310 --> 00:35:36,079

pay

990

00:35:40,790 --> 00:35:38,320

after a spell in prison he succeeded in

991

00:35:42,710 --> 00:35:40,800

satisfying the court of this

992

00:35:44,230 --> 00:35:42,720

keeley was forced to tread warily when

993

00:35:46,710 --> 00:35:44,240

his benefactors attempted to have

994

00:35:47,829 --> 00:35:46,720

leading scientific figures validate his

995

00:35:48,790 --> 00:35:47,839

device

996

00:35:52,150 --> 00:35:48,800

tesla

997

00:35:54,790 --> 00:35:52,160

and madison declined but a visit in 1895

998

00:35:56,710 --> 00:35:54,800

led the engineers involved to suspect

999

00:35:58,710 --> 00:35:56,720

compressed air sources

1000

00:36:00,950 --> 00:35:58,720

they were right after keeley's death

1001

00:36:02,950 --> 00:36:00,960

three years later the son of one of his

1002

00:36:05,349 --> 00:36:02,960

backers promptly rented the house and

1003

00:36:07,910 --> 00:36:05,359

found it was comprehensively wired to a

1004

00:36:09,750 --> 00:36:07,920

three-ton air tank in the basement

1005

00:36:12,150 --> 00:36:09,760

the first patent on a perpetual motion

1006

00:36:13,990 --> 00:36:12,160

machine proposal was granted in britain

1007

00:36:15,910 --> 00:36:14,000

in 1635

1008

00:36:17,349 --> 00:36:15,920

only 12 years after painting was

1009

00:36:20,470 --> 00:36:17,359

introduced

1010

00:36:22,550 --> 00:36:20,480

by 1775 though the parisian academy of

1011

00:36:25,349 --> 00:36:22,560

science was sufficiently disillusioned

1012

00:36:26,550 --> 00:36:25,359

to refuse to accept schemes

1013

00:36:28,790 --> 00:36:26,560

since this was long before the

1014

00:36:30,390 --> 00:36:28,800

establishment of energy conservation the

1015

00:36:32,870 --> 00:36:30,400

gentleman of paris can only have been

1016

00:36:35,270 --> 00:36:32,880

motivated by the repeated failure of all

1017

00:36:37,910 --> 00:36:35,280

such devices in practice

1018

00:36:39,990 --> 00:36:37,920

the u.s patent office decreed nearly 100

1019

00:36:41,990 --> 00:36:40,000

years later that a working model be

1020

00:36:43,510 --> 00:36:42,000

submitted within one year of the initial

1021

00:36:45,589 --> 00:36:43,520

application

1022

00:36:48,310 --> 00:36:45,599

but enthusiasts still gummed up the

1023

00:36:50,550 --> 00:36:48,320

works with unimplemented proposals and

1024

00:36:52,630 --> 00:36:50,560

finally in 1911 a working model was

1025

00:36:54,710 --> 00:36:52,640

demanded from the start

1026

00:36:58,310 --> 00:36:54,720

this rule was challenged in the courts

1027

00:37:02,150 --> 00:36:58,320

and in 1979 inventor howard johnston

1028

00:37:03,829 --> 00:37:02,160

finally won u.s patent number 4151431

1029

00:37:05,990 --> 00:37:03,839

on his proposal

1030

00:37:07,910 --> 00:37:06,000

nevertheless it is hardly accurate to

1031

00:37:11,030 --> 00:37:07,920

suggest that the world waits with baited

1032

00:37:12,390 --> 00:37:11,040

breath for a working model

1033

00:37:15,510 --> 00:37:12,400

the story of perpetual motion

1034

00:37:17,589 --> 00:37:15,520

exemplifies the entire human endeavor an

1035

00:37:20,230 --> 00:37:17,599

upward crawl to enlightenment with

1036

00:37:23,270 --> 00:37:20,240

theory and practice advancing side by

1037

00:37:25,829 --> 00:37:23,280

side momentous discoveries by pioneers

1038

00:37:28,310 --> 00:37:25,839

which ultimately become the bedrock upon

1039

00:37:30,230 --> 00:37:28,320

which the next advances are built and

1040

00:37:32,950 --> 00:37:30,240

ever the charlatans seeking to exploit

1041

00:37:35,030 --> 00:37:32,960

ignorance for their own gain

1042

00:37:37,190 --> 00:37:35,040

anthony says i have chosen to present

1043

00:37:38,790 --> 00:37:37,200

the whole business as a case history

1044

00:37:41,030 --> 00:37:38,800

rather than a warning

1045

00:37:42,470 --> 00:37:41,040

but if any lesson is to be drawn it is

1046

00:37:44,710 --> 00:37:42,480

that the best insurance against

1047

00:37:46,870 --> 00:37:44,720

charlatanism is a scientifically

1048

00:37:49,349 --> 00:37:46,880

educated public

1049

00:37:51,829 --> 00:37:49,359

in the mid-1980s a los angeles jury

1050

00:37:54,870 --> 00:37:51,839

acquitted a perpetual motion inventor of

1051  
00:37:57,829 --> 00:37:54,880  
fraudulently raising up to 685 thousand

1052  
00:37:59,990 --> 00:37:57,839  
dollars u.s from the gullible because

1053  
00:38:02,390 --> 00:38:00,000  
the attorney later found they believed

1054  
00:38:04,470 --> 00:38:02,400  
perpetual motion and energy creation

1055  
00:38:06,550 --> 00:38:04,480  
were possible

1056  
00:38:07,160 --> 00:38:06,560  
the sooner that could no longer happen

1057  
00:38:09,510 --> 00:38:07,170  
the better

1058  
00:38:11,910 --> 00:38:09,520  
[Music]

1059  
00:38:13,349 --> 00:38:11,920  
and that's part two of this article on

1060  
00:38:15,270 --> 00:38:13,359  
perpetual motion

1061  
00:38:17,589 --> 00:38:15,280  
reprinted from the skeptic magazine

1062  
00:38:19,510 --> 00:38:17,599  
september 2016

1063  
00:38:21,349 --> 00:38:19,520

volume 36 number three and you can

1064

00:38:23,190 --> 00:38:21,359

download that from our website and it's

1065

00:38:25,510 --> 00:38:23,200

good to point out at this stage that

1066

00:38:27,829 --> 00:38:25,520

this article came out in 1987 and

1067

00:38:29,190 --> 00:38:27,839

reprinted in 2016

1068

00:38:30,710 --> 00:38:29,200

and we have a challenge going for a

1069

00:38:32,150 --> 00:38:30,720

hundred thousand dollars for anyone who

1070

00:38:33,990 --> 00:38:32,160

can prove a paranormal or

1071

00:38:35,990 --> 00:38:34,000

pseudoscientific skill

1072

00:38:37,430 --> 00:38:36,000

and we still get claims for perpetual

1073

00:38:40,230 --> 00:38:37,440

motion machines

1074

00:38:42,150 --> 00:38:40,240

or above unity machines or free energy

1075

00:38:44,310 --> 00:38:42,160

machines and most of them still run on

1076

00:38:48,230 --> 00:38:44,320

the same principles that anthony

1077

00:38:49,829 --> 00:38:48,240

described created in the 1500s 1600s

1078

00:38:51,510 --> 00:38:49,839

and yet people still believe them and

1079

00:38:53,589 --> 00:38:51,520

they still believe they can avoid the

1080

00:38:55,990 --> 00:38:53,599

laws of thermodynamics

1081

00:38:57,670 --> 00:38:56,000

and the conservation of energy

1082

00:38:59,430 --> 00:38:57,680

and it's sometimes quite sad to see

1083

00:39:00,950 --> 00:38:59,440

people investing their money

1084

00:39:02,470 --> 00:39:00,960

lots of money

1085

00:39:05,109 --> 00:39:02,480

trying to create these machines

1086

00:39:07,030 --> 00:39:05,119

sincerely most of them who really

1087

00:39:08,790 --> 00:39:07,040

believe they can do it

1088

00:39:10,550 --> 00:39:08,800

one after the other after the other and

1089

00:39:12,790 --> 00:39:10,560

we have to point out to them

1090

00:39:14,310 --> 00:39:12,800

we'd love to see it in practice

1091

00:39:17,349 --> 00:39:14,320

but it's highly unlikely that it will

1092

00:39:18,310 --> 00:39:17,359

work as you've described it

1093

00:39:19,910 --> 00:39:18,320

so you can read that issue of the

1094

00:39:21,109 --> 00:39:19,920

magazine as i say you can download it

1095

00:39:23,030 --> 00:39:21,119

for free from our website

1096

00:39:24,710 --> 00:39:23,040

skeptics.com.edu

1097

00:39:26,829 --> 00:39:24,720

along with virtually every other issue

1098

00:39:28,870 --> 00:39:26,839

of the magazine dating back to

1099

00:39:31,030 --> 00:39:28,880

1981 so we have a long history of

1100

00:39:35,530 --> 00:39:31,040

skeptic magazines here

1101  
00:39:35,540 --> 00:39:44,310

[Music]

1102  
00:39:48,470 --> 00:39:46,310  
mostly ghostly

1103  
00:39:51,829 --> 00:39:48,480  
there's something lurking in the shadows

1104  
00:39:54,470 --> 00:39:51,839  
hey are you a ghost a soul departed or

1105  
00:39:55,589 --> 00:39:54,480  
maybe you're an angel looking for a host

1106  
00:39:58,630 --> 00:39:55,599  
this time

1107  
00:40:01,430 --> 00:39:58,640  
there was an answer when windows started

1108  
00:40:02,630 --> 00:40:01,440  
to rattle the table rose then crashed to

1109  
00:40:04,710 --> 00:40:02,640  
the floor

1110  
00:40:07,030 --> 00:40:04,720  
and we were set for battle

1111  
00:40:10,550 --> 00:40:07,040  
the cameras were as the ghost appeared

1112  
00:40:13,109 --> 00:40:10,560  
in the cold air there with bony fingers

1113  
00:40:16,069 --> 00:40:13,119

bold knuckles craggy face and

1114

00:40:19,990 --> 00:40:16,079

straggly hair eyes set back deep in

1115

00:40:22,950 --> 00:40:20,000

their sockets staring stark raving mad

1116

00:40:25,430 --> 00:40:22,960

would this be a clash of violent wills

1117

00:40:27,829 --> 00:40:25,440

could this be really bad

1118

00:40:30,069 --> 00:40:27,839

never had i seen such a visual trick as

1119

00:40:32,470 --> 00:40:30,079

this site i saw before me if it was a

1120

00:40:35,030 --> 00:40:32,480

trick with smoke and mirrors but nothing

1121

00:40:37,349 --> 00:40:35,040

did assure me just a realistic sight of

1122

00:40:40,470 --> 00:40:37,359

an unrealistic thing a ghost from the

1123

00:40:43,030 --> 00:40:40,480

dead and i tried to think what i'd eaten

1124

00:40:45,829 --> 00:40:43,040

that put chemicals in my head

1125

00:40:48,470 --> 00:40:45,839

it spoke in a feeble scratchy voice and

1126

00:40:50,870 --> 00:40:48,480

i hardly heard a word my heart pounding

1127

00:40:53,430 --> 00:40:50,880

beyond my choice was all i really heard

1128

00:40:55,829 --> 00:40:53,440

and the table started trembling and it

1129

00:40:57,510 --> 00:40:55,839

danced across the floor as the ghost

1130

00:40:59,910 --> 00:40:57,520

looked straight at me

1131

00:41:03,670 --> 00:40:59,920

so he could see what i was for

1132

00:41:06,550 --> 00:41:03,680

find my corpse find my dead body his

1133

00:41:09,190 --> 00:41:06,560

word scratch the air and i looked into

1134

00:41:10,309 --> 00:41:09,200

his eyes where i got trapped inside his

1135

00:41:12,710 --> 00:41:10,319

stair

1136

00:41:15,750 --> 00:41:12,720

i'm asking for help from you an

1137

00:41:17,430 --> 00:41:15,760

unbeliever he wheezed you must help me

1138

00:41:20,230 --> 00:41:17,440

find my body

1139

00:41:22,550 --> 00:41:20,240

and i felt my body squeezed

1140

00:41:25,349 --> 00:41:22,560

could this really be a disconnected

1141

00:41:27,670 --> 00:41:25,359

spirit from beyond the reel i tried to

1142

00:41:30,390 --> 00:41:27,680

convince myself that i couldn't see or

1143

00:41:34,150 --> 00:41:30,400

hear or feel but it was as though i

1144

00:41:37,510 --> 00:41:34,160

could see into his brain and he mine and

1145

00:41:39,510 --> 00:41:37,520

the cold concept sent cold shivers

1146

00:41:41,750 --> 00:41:39,520

up and down my spine

1147

00:41:44,710 --> 00:41:41,760

his look bored its way to the back of my

1148

00:41:47,670 --> 00:41:44,720

skull through my eyes and i saw his

1149

00:41:49,030 --> 00:41:47,680

naked soul stripped of life of truth and

1150

00:41:50,950 --> 00:41:49,040

of lies

1151

00:41:53,990 --> 00:41:50,960

then his tenuous grip on my world

1152

00:41:56,069 --> 00:41:54,000

started to slowly loosen hold and the

1153

00:41:58,550 --> 00:41:56,079

room was sucked of light

1154

00:42:00,270 --> 00:41:58,560

and without the light was cold

1155

00:42:03,589 --> 00:42:00,280

this glorious apparition was

1156

00:42:05,829 --> 00:42:03,599

disintegrating fading with his hope

1157

00:42:08,309 --> 00:42:05,839

going back to the world between worlds

1158

00:42:10,230 --> 00:42:08,319

sliding down the slope disappearing as

1159

00:42:13,109 --> 00:42:10,240

he had appeared

1160

00:42:15,190 --> 00:42:13,119

and vanishing from my mind

1161

00:42:16,870 --> 00:42:15,200

until a strange

1162

00:42:27,730 --> 00:42:16,880

uneasy feeling

1163

00:42:27,740 --> 00:42:37,589

[Music]

1164

00:42:43,030 --> 00:42:39,270

now it's time once again to look into

1165

00:42:44,790 --> 00:42:43,040

those digital delights at trove at

1166

00:42:46,790 --> 00:42:44,800

dot gov dot trove.nla.gov u

1167

00:42:48,230 --> 00:42:46,800

your online resource from the australian

1168

00:42:49,990 --> 00:42:48,240

government in the national library of

1169

00:42:52,309 --> 00:42:50,000

australia full

1170

00:42:54,150 --> 00:42:52,319

of digitized newspapers articles

1171

00:42:56,390 --> 00:42:54,160

gazettes journals

1172

00:42:58,630 --> 00:42:56,400

reports periodicals

1173

00:42:59,670 --> 00:42:58,640

probably old menus from somewhere or

1174

00:43:02,150 --> 00:42:59,680

other

1175

00:43:04,230 --> 00:43:02,160

dating back decades decades and even

1176

00:43:05,990 --> 00:43:04,240

centuries and we've had a lot of fun

1177

00:43:07,109 --> 00:43:06,000

looking up all sorts of paranormal

1178

00:43:09,430 --> 00:43:07,119

goodies

1179

00:43:12,309 --> 00:43:09,440

as reported in the pages of newspapers

1180

00:43:13,349 --> 00:43:12,319

here and overseas in the past couple of

1181

00:43:15,270 --> 00:43:13,359

years

1182

00:43:16,630 --> 00:43:15,280

and as i like to say you'll never know

1183

00:43:18,470 --> 00:43:16,640

what you'll find

1184

00:43:20,710 --> 00:43:18,480

and quite often when i'm researching one

1185

00:43:22,950 --> 00:43:20,720

topic i come across interesting things

1186

00:43:25,030 --> 00:43:22,960

to do with another topic

1187

00:43:27,510 --> 00:43:25,040

and i've discovered something that

1188

00:43:28,950 --> 00:43:27,520

happened in the mid-1970s i was not

1189

00:43:31,190 --> 00:43:28,960

aware about

1190

00:43:33,480 --> 00:43:31,200

and this is to do with a prediction of a

1191

00:43:36,309 --> 00:43:33,490

disaster

1192

00:43:37,829 --> 00:43:36,319

[Music]

1193

00:43:39,430 --> 00:43:37,839

and so we turned to the pages of the

1194

00:43:41,190 --> 00:43:39,440

canberra times

1195

00:43:42,710 --> 00:43:41,200

and i think most of what i'm going to

1196

00:43:45,990 --> 00:43:42,720

talk about today comes from the camera

1197

00:43:48,550 --> 00:43:46,000

times this is dated the 1st of january

1198

00:43:51,270 --> 00:43:48,560

1976.

1199

00:43:52,470 --> 00:43:51,280

where was i on the 1st of january 1976

1200

00:43:54,630 --> 00:43:52,480

probably

1201  
00:43:58,950 --> 00:43:54,640  
in a caravan

1202  
00:44:01,829 --> 00:43:58,960  
because that's what my family did

1203  
00:44:04,150 --> 00:44:01,839  
in the uh in the mid 70s

1204  
00:44:05,190 --> 00:44:04,160  
anyway the story says prediction of

1205  
00:44:06,309 --> 00:44:05,200  
quake

1206  
00:44:08,150 --> 00:44:06,319  
causes

1207  
00:44:11,109 --> 00:44:08,160  
rumblings

1208  
00:44:13,109 --> 00:44:11,119  
adelaide wednesday a prediction that

1209  
00:44:16,470 --> 00:44:13,119  
adelaide would be struck by an

1210  
00:44:19,510 --> 00:44:16,480  
earthquake and tidal wave on january 19

1211  
00:44:22,630 --> 00:44:19,520  
is causing rumblings in the city

1212  
00:44:25,349 --> 00:44:22,640  
mr john nash of maryland's who made the

1213  
00:44:28,309 --> 00:44:25,359

prediction some weeks ago has received

1214

00:44:29,910 --> 00:44:28,319

telephone calls threatening his life

1215

00:44:32,470 --> 00:44:29,920

if anything happens

1216

00:44:33,349 --> 00:44:32,480

i don't care what people think of me he

1217

00:44:36,390 --> 00:44:33,359

said

1218

00:44:38,230 --> 00:44:36,400

a former queenslander mr nash is leaving

1219

00:44:40,870 --> 00:44:38,240

adelaide in two days with his wife and

1220

00:44:43,270 --> 00:44:40,880

two children and is heading for western

1221

00:44:44,230 --> 00:44:43,280

australia referring to his prediction he

1222

00:44:46,390 --> 00:44:44,240

said

1223

00:44:48,870 --> 00:44:46,400

i was gardening one day when a flash

1224

00:44:53,270 --> 00:44:48,880

came to me warning of an earthquake and

1225

00:44:56,390 --> 00:44:53,280

tidal wave clergymen have had calls from

1226  
00:45:00,150 --> 00:44:56,400  
apprehensive parishioners father mercier

1227  
00:45:02,390 --> 00:45:00,160  
of brooklyn park preached a sermon to

1228  
00:45:04,390 --> 00:45:02,400  
allay people's fears

1229  
00:45:07,190 --> 00:45:04,400  
central methodist mission superintendent

1230  
00:45:10,150 --> 00:45:07,200  
the reverend keith seaman said the

1231  
00:45:11,750 --> 00:45:10,160  
forecast was causing unnecessary

1232  
00:45:14,150 --> 00:45:11,760  
anxiety

1233  
00:45:16,950 --> 00:45:14,160  
one enterprising used car firm has

1234  
00:45:19,589 --> 00:45:16,960  
advertised quote earthquake clearance

1235  
00:45:22,150 --> 00:45:19,599  
sale prices are crumbling buy your

1236  
00:45:24,230 --> 00:45:22,160  
escape machine early

1237  
00:45:26,710 --> 00:45:24,240  
and again we turn to the canberra times

1238  
00:45:28,550 --> 00:45:26,720

dated the 12th of january so

1239

00:45:30,470 --> 00:45:28,560

almost two weeks later

1240

00:45:34,230 --> 00:45:30,480

1976

1241

00:45:36,710 --> 00:45:34,240

adelaide worry on prediction of quake

1242

00:45:38,630 --> 00:45:36,720

adelaide sunday a prediction that

1243

00:45:41,670 --> 00:45:38,640

adelaide would be devastated by an

1244

00:45:44,069 --> 00:45:41,680

earthquake and tidal wave on january 19

1245

00:45:45,829 --> 00:45:44,079

has stirred up a storm of controversy

1246

00:45:46,790 --> 00:45:45,839

the prediction was made by a former

1247

00:45:49,910 --> 00:45:46,800

adelaide

1248

00:45:51,990 --> 00:45:49,920

quote clairvoyant and quote mr john nash

1249

00:45:54,630 --> 00:45:52,000

now living in western australia since

1250

00:45:57,109 --> 00:45:54,640

his prediction at least three adelaide

1251  
00:45:59,190 --> 00:45:57,119  
families have sold their houses

1252  
00:46:01,510 --> 00:45:59,200  
and left the state

1253  
00:46:05,030 --> 00:46:01,520  
prediction ridiculous

1254  
00:46:06,950 --> 00:46:05,040  
a roman catholic priest of brooklyn park

1255  
00:46:09,430 --> 00:46:06,960  
described the predictions as quote

1256  
00:46:11,910 --> 00:46:09,440  
ridiculous end quote and said they were

1257  
00:46:15,670 --> 00:46:11,920  
causing his parishioners anxiety the

1258  
00:46:17,829 --> 00:46:15,680  
adelaide seismologist dr d j sutton said

1259  
00:46:21,270 --> 00:46:17,839  
there was no scientific evidence to

1260  
00:46:22,710 --> 00:46:21,280  
support mr nash's prediction he'd missed

1261  
00:46:23,910 --> 00:46:22,720  
it as

1262  
00:46:25,750 --> 00:46:23,920  
poppycock

1263  
00:46:28,470 --> 00:46:25,760

to allow people's fears particularly

1264

00:46:30,630 --> 00:46:28,480

those of migrants the premier of south

1265

00:46:33,349 --> 00:46:30,640

australia mr dunstan said he would be

1266

00:46:36,470 --> 00:46:33,359

spending january 19 on the beach at

1267

00:46:38,470 --> 00:46:36,480

glenelg despite all the assurances given

1268

00:46:40,710 --> 00:46:38,480

some people are arranging to be out of

1269

00:46:42,150 --> 00:46:40,720

the city on that day

1270

00:46:44,230 --> 00:46:42,160

now isn't it interesting that the

1271

00:46:47,510 --> 00:46:44,240

reports so far

1272

00:46:50,230 --> 00:46:47,520

defer or refer to religious people

1273

00:46:52,230 --> 00:46:50,240

to uh for comment or to allay people's

1274

00:46:54,870 --> 00:46:52,240

fears and only

1275

00:46:57,589 --> 00:46:54,880

so far one scientist

1276

00:46:59,190 --> 00:46:57,599

and oddly enough the next entry we have

1277

00:47:01,430 --> 00:46:59,200

is from the

1278

00:47:05,190 --> 00:47:01,440

papua new guinea post courier

1279

00:47:07,990 --> 00:47:05,200

dated the 14th of january 1976

1280

00:47:10,710 --> 00:47:08,000

a king knut for a day

1281

00:47:12,950 --> 00:47:10,720

adelaide australian associated press the

1282

00:47:15,990 --> 00:47:12,960

south australian premier mr dunstan is

1283

00:47:18,790 --> 00:47:16,000

planning to do a king canute on a day an

1284

00:47:21,030 --> 00:47:18,800

astrologer here predicted this city of

1285

00:47:23,109 --> 00:47:21,040

more than 800 000 people would be

1286

00:47:26,870 --> 00:47:23,119

devastated by an earthquake and a huge

1287

00:47:29,430 --> 00:47:26,880

tidal wave mr dunstan told newsmen today

1288

00:47:32,390 --> 00:47:29,440

he would stand on the city's grinnell

1289

00:47:35,349 --> 00:47:32,400

beach on january 19 the day adelaide

1290

00:47:37,910 --> 00:47:35,359

house painter and self-styled seer mr

1291

00:47:38,870 --> 00:47:37,920

john nash forecast the disaster would

1292

00:47:41,349 --> 00:47:38,880

occur

1293

00:47:43,829 --> 00:47:41,359

mr nash's prediction received wide

1294

00:47:46,309 --> 00:47:43,839

publicity here a lot of people have been

1295

00:47:48,870 --> 00:47:46,319

frightened by this ridiculous prediction

1296

00:47:51,030 --> 00:47:48,880

mr dunstan said the leader of the

1297

00:47:54,069 --> 00:47:51,040

state's liberal party opposition

1298

00:47:56,470 --> 00:47:54,079

dr david tonkin later criticized mr

1299

00:47:59,190 --> 00:47:56,480

dunstan's plan describing it as a

1300

00:48:02,230 --> 00:47:59,200

publicity stunt the whole thing has been

1301  
00:48:03,030 --> 00:48:02,240  
blown up out of all proportion mr tonkin

1302  
00:48:04,870 --> 00:48:03,040  
said

1303  
00:48:07,430 --> 00:48:04,880  
now in the camera times on the 15th of

1304  
00:48:09,829 --> 00:48:07,440  
january 1976 a very

1305  
00:48:11,109 --> 00:48:09,839  
uh lengthy article about this whole

1306  
00:48:14,390 --> 00:48:11,119  
affair

1307  
00:48:15,670 --> 00:48:14,400  
under the title wicked city awaits its

1308  
00:48:18,390 --> 00:48:15,680  
doom

1309  
00:48:20,549 --> 00:48:18,400  
so i'll read some of this it says from

1310  
00:48:23,430 --> 00:48:20,559  
our south australian correspondent

1311  
00:48:26,470 --> 00:48:23,440  
this may well be the last report i shall

1312  
00:48:28,710 --> 00:48:26,480  
ever file from the athens of the south

1313  
00:48:32,309 --> 00:48:28,720

soothsayers have predicted that next

1314

00:48:34,790 --> 00:48:32,319

monday january 19 this fair city of 800

1315

00:48:37,270 --> 00:48:34,800

000 souls will be destroyed by an

1316

00:48:39,430 --> 00:48:37,280

earthquake and accompanying tidal waves

1317

00:48:40,790 --> 00:48:39,440

all south australia is talking about the

1318

00:48:42,790 --> 00:48:40,800

doom to come

1319

00:48:45,910 --> 00:48:42,800

some people think it will be a judgment

1320

00:48:48,710 --> 00:48:45,920

for decaying moral standards which they

1321

00:48:51,270 --> 00:48:48,720

consider has turned our athens into

1322

00:48:54,230 --> 00:48:51,280

something of a gamora these past 10

1323

00:48:57,109 --> 00:48:54,240

years first of all the former premier mr

1324

00:48:59,109 --> 00:48:57,119

hall abandoned six o'clock closing

1325

00:49:00,829 --> 00:48:59,119

now that incidentally means

1326

00:49:03,910 --> 00:49:00,839

when the public bars

1327

00:49:06,950 --> 00:49:03,920

were closed every evening

1328

00:49:08,950 --> 00:49:06,960

his attorney general mr milhouse

1329

00:49:11,990 --> 00:49:08,960

legalized abortion

1330

00:49:14,829 --> 00:49:12,000

then the wicked mr dunstan took over the

1331

00:49:17,910 --> 00:49:14,839

government and gave us things like state

1332

00:49:18,710 --> 00:49:17,920

lottery a public holiday on adelaide cup

1333

00:49:21,270 --> 00:49:18,720

day

1334

00:49:23,670 --> 00:49:21,280

and nude bathing beach legalized

1335

00:49:25,190 --> 00:49:23,680

homosexual practices amongst consenting

1336

00:49:27,510 --> 00:49:25,200

adults in private

1337

00:49:30,470 --> 00:49:27,520

relaxed censorship laws and lots of

1338

00:49:32,390 --> 00:49:30,480

other debauching new practices now the

1339

00:49:34,950 --> 00:49:32,400

story goes on talking more or less about

1340

00:49:37,670 --> 00:49:34,960

the premiere of the day mr dunstan but

1341

00:49:39,589 --> 00:49:37,680

later on it says flashes

1342

00:49:43,589 --> 00:49:39,599

many people have had the sort of flashes

1343

00:49:46,069 --> 00:49:43,599

mr nash talks about says dr dylan i have

1344

00:49:47,990 --> 00:49:46,079

had flashes myself i have had dreams of

1345

00:49:50,870 --> 00:49:48,000

personal disaster which did not come

1346

00:49:53,270 --> 00:49:50,880

true i have had premonitions of danger

1347

00:49:55,589 --> 00:49:53,280

which did not happen i simply dismiss

1348

00:49:57,430 --> 00:49:55,599

such fleeting thoughts or flashes as

1349

00:50:00,549 --> 00:49:57,440

meaningless well

1350

00:50:03,510 --> 00:50:00,559

it may be all right for the likes of dr

1351

00:50:06,309 --> 00:50:03,520

dellen with his clever ways to make fun

1352

00:50:09,990 --> 00:50:06,319

of us simple people but those of us who

1353

00:50:12,630 --> 00:50:10,000

plan to spend next monday at mount lofty

1354

00:50:15,109 --> 00:50:12,640

well may have the last laugh on him of

1355

00:50:17,990 --> 00:50:15,119

course the thing that has really upset a

1356

00:50:21,349 --> 00:50:18,000

lot of mr nash's disciples is the

1357

00:50:22,230 --> 00:50:21,359

behavior of the churches and of church

1358

00:50:24,309 --> 00:50:22,240

men

1359

00:50:27,589 --> 00:50:24,319

you would think they would be all in

1360

00:50:30,390 --> 00:50:27,599

favor of a return to an apocalyptic era

1361

00:50:31,829 --> 00:50:30,400

of revelation and of evil people

1362

00:50:34,630 --> 00:50:31,839

suffering some sort of divine

1363

00:50:37,190 --> 00:50:34,640

retribution not a bit of it not in our

1364

00:50:39,430 --> 00:50:37,200

athens anyway take the roman catholic

1365

00:50:42,230 --> 00:50:39,440

parish priest at brooklyn park a

1366

00:50:45,190 --> 00:50:42,240

reverend father a moster as an example

1367

00:50:47,510 --> 00:50:45,200

he sides shamelessly with mr dunson and

1368

00:50:49,349 --> 00:50:47,520

the academics he says many of his

1369

00:50:51,829 --> 00:50:49,359

parishioners are migrant people of

1370

00:50:54,390 --> 00:50:51,839

limited education some are unfamiliar

1371

00:50:57,030 --> 00:50:54,400

with english and some of his italian

1372

00:50:59,030 --> 00:50:57,040

flock in particular are really worried

1373

00:51:01,990 --> 00:50:59,040

about what's likely to happen

1374

00:51:03,990 --> 00:51:02,000

but all that father muster can do for

1375

00:51:07,030 --> 00:51:04,000

them is to tell them

1376

00:51:09,430 --> 00:51:07,040

what you have been told is lies nonsense

1377

00:51:11,270 --> 00:51:09,440

the anglican and methodists are adopting

1378

00:51:13,750 --> 00:51:11,280

the same sort of attitude

1379

00:51:15,270 --> 00:51:13,760

and there's more to that page there but

1380

00:51:16,710 --> 00:51:15,280

if you go to this week's show notes you

1381

00:51:18,549 --> 00:51:16,720

can find the

1382

00:51:20,790 --> 00:51:18,559

the reference to this

1383

00:51:23,030 --> 00:51:20,800

particular item

1384

00:51:25,190 --> 00:51:23,040

and interestingly enough

1385

00:51:27,750 --> 00:51:25,200

directly underneath on the page is

1386

00:51:29,670 --> 00:51:27,760

another story earthquakes not uncommon

1387

00:51:32,309 --> 00:51:29,680

in australia

1388

00:51:34,150 --> 00:51:32,319

and uh it talks about the fact that

1389

00:51:37,910 --> 00:51:34,160

yes australia does have earthquakes

1390

00:51:39,190 --> 00:51:37,920

probably earthquakes every every day

1391

00:51:42,069 --> 00:51:39,200

tiny ones

1392

00:51:44,870 --> 00:51:42,079

and occasionally ones you can feel

1393

00:51:46,710 --> 00:51:44,880

they're very rare but they do happen

1394

00:51:50,069 --> 00:51:46,720

now we come to the camera times of

1395

00:51:53,589 --> 00:51:50,079

saturday the 17th of january 1976.

1396

00:51:55,430 --> 00:51:53,599

astrologer backs disaster

1397

00:51:57,990 --> 00:51:55,440

sydney friday one of australia's

1398

00:51:59,270 --> 00:51:58,000

best-known astrologers mr richard

1399

00:52:02,790 --> 00:51:59,280

sterling

1400

00:52:04,549 --> 00:52:02,800

predicted today a quote disaster in

1401  
00:52:07,670 --> 00:52:04,559  
quote for south australia in the coming

1402  
00:52:11,190 --> 00:52:07,680  
week possibly on monday or tuesday as

1403  
00:52:13,910 --> 00:52:11,200  
the adelaide doomsday exodus

1404  
00:52:16,950 --> 00:52:13,920  
continued his prediction supports that

1405  
00:52:19,270 --> 00:52:16,960  
of house painter and self-styled seer mr

1406  
00:52:21,190 --> 00:52:19,280  
john nash who forecasts that adelaide

1407  
00:52:23,430 --> 00:52:21,200  
would be devastated by an earthquake and

1408  
00:52:25,670 --> 00:52:23,440  
tidal wave on monday

1409  
00:52:28,069 --> 00:52:25,680  
mr nash has since moved to western

1410  
00:52:29,990 --> 00:52:28,079  
australia leaving growing fears among

1411  
00:52:31,910 --> 00:52:30,000  
sections of the city's migrant

1412  
00:52:34,470 --> 00:52:31,920  
population hundreds of people are

1413  
00:52:37,510 --> 00:52:34,480

reported to have taken to the hills or

1414

00:52:40,390 --> 00:52:37,520

left the area altogether in case

1415

00:52:42,870 --> 00:52:40,400

disaster strikes in sydney mr sterling

1416

00:52:45,430 --> 00:52:42,880

said it was possible that some sort of

1417

00:52:49,270 --> 00:52:45,440

natural disaster would occur in the

1418

00:52:50,870 --> 00:52:49,280

south australian area between january 17

1419

00:52:53,990 --> 00:52:50,880

and 24th

1420

00:52:57,190 --> 00:52:54,000

the worst days were january 19 and 20.

1421

00:52:59,910 --> 00:52:57,200

next monday and tuesday mr sterling

1422

00:53:02,069 --> 00:52:59,920

said he did not know if there would be

1423

00:53:04,710 --> 00:53:02,079

an earthquake in adelaide on monday but

1424

00:53:08,069 --> 00:53:04,720

described the similarity of his

1425

00:53:09,430 --> 00:53:08,079

prediction with that of mr nash's as

1426  
00:53:12,790 --> 00:53:09,440  
strange

1427  
00:53:15,430 --> 00:53:12,800  
and a bit eerie he said he based his

1428  
00:53:16,549 --> 00:53:15,440  
forecast on the study of planetary

1429  
00:53:19,030 --> 00:53:16,559  
movements

1430  
00:53:22,470 --> 00:53:19,040  
and the reported behavior of

1431  
00:53:24,710 --> 00:53:22,480  
snails in adelaide they are said to be

1432  
00:53:27,589 --> 00:53:24,720  
leaving ground level and crawling up

1433  
00:53:29,750 --> 00:53:27,599  
into the roofs of houses mr sterling

1434  
00:53:31,829 --> 00:53:29,760  
said he had not published his prediction

1435  
00:53:34,630 --> 00:53:31,839  
until now because he did not want to

1436  
00:53:36,710 --> 00:53:34,640  
alarm people the story goes on adelaide

1437  
00:53:38,950 --> 00:53:36,720  
friday dozens of families packed their

1438  
00:53:41,349 --> 00:53:38,960

belongings today and headed for the

1439

00:53:43,990 --> 00:53:41,359

hills behind the south australian

1440

00:53:46,710 --> 00:53:44,000

capital hundreds of others have already

1441

00:53:48,870 --> 00:53:46,720

fled some as far afield as sydney and

1442

00:53:51,510 --> 00:53:48,880

melbourne the fleeing citizens are

1443

00:53:54,950 --> 00:53:51,520

mainly migrants from mediterranean

1444

00:53:56,790 --> 00:53:54,960

countries in an attempt to stop panic

1445

00:53:58,870 --> 00:53:56,800

the premiere of south australia mr

1446

00:54:01,670 --> 00:53:58,880

dunstan has announced he will stand on

1447

00:54:04,390 --> 00:54:01,680

gleneld beach on monday to demonstrate

1448

00:54:06,870 --> 00:54:04,400

that he believes the prophecy is

1449

00:54:09,670 --> 00:54:06,880

unfounded pleased by religious leaders

1450

00:54:12,069 --> 00:54:09,680

in numerous ethnic communities to remain

1451  
00:54:15,349 --> 00:54:12,079  
calm have been ignored even special

1452  
00:54:17,270 --> 00:54:15,359  
blessings on the homes of greeks in and

1453  
00:54:20,710 --> 00:54:17,280  
around the city offered by greek

1454  
00:54:22,950 --> 00:54:20,720  
orthodox priests have had little effect

1455  
00:54:25,510 --> 00:54:22,960  
the operations center at adelaide police

1456  
00:54:26,470 --> 00:54:25,520  
headquarters has been inundated with

1457  
00:54:28,230 --> 00:54:26,480  
calls

1458  
00:54:30,950 --> 00:54:28,240  
a lot of people are taking this

1459  
00:54:33,750 --> 00:54:30,960  
seriously a senior police officer said

1460  
00:54:34,549 --> 00:54:33,760  
today frankly we do not believe it will

1461  
00:54:37,750 --> 00:54:34,559  
happen

1462  
00:54:39,510 --> 00:54:37,760  
and now we come to the first report

1463  
00:54:42,950 --> 00:54:39,520

after the

1464

00:54:44,950 --> 00:54:42,960

time of the earthquake or the day

1465

00:54:46,789 --> 00:54:44,960

predicted by the seer

1466

00:54:49,270 --> 00:54:46,799

and this comes to us from tuesday the

1467

00:54:50,390 --> 00:54:49,280

20th of january 1976 in the canberra

1468

00:54:51,510 --> 00:54:50,400

times

1469

00:54:53,030 --> 00:54:51,520

seer

1470

00:54:55,750 --> 00:54:53,040

still waiting

1471

00:54:58,069 --> 00:54:55,760

melbourne monday the man who predicted

1472

00:55:00,470 --> 00:54:58,079

the earthquake 40 year old house painter

1473

00:55:03,109 --> 00:55:00,480

mr john nash said tonight he still

1474

00:55:06,069 --> 00:55:03,119

believed adelaide would be destroyed

1475

00:55:08,150 --> 00:55:06,079

one saw the vision at noon but that does

1476

00:55:11,270 --> 00:55:08,160

not mean that the earthquake was going

1477

00:55:13,829 --> 00:55:11,280

to happen at that time he said it was

1478

00:55:15,829 --> 00:55:13,839

possible the catastrophe would happen by

1479

00:55:18,710 --> 00:55:15,839

midnight tonight or

1480

00:55:20,710 --> 00:55:18,720

possibly tomorrow mr nash said his wife

1481

00:55:23,349 --> 00:55:20,720

and two children have rented a home in a

1482

00:55:26,549 --> 00:55:23,359

melbourne suburb he is unemployed and

1483

00:55:30,230 --> 00:55:26,559

said it's hard for a person like me to

1484

00:55:32,870 --> 00:55:30,240

get a job asked if he would eventually

1485

00:55:35,910 --> 00:55:32,880

return to adelaide he said there won't

1486

00:55:37,430 --> 00:55:35,920

be any adelaide to go back to attempts

1487

00:55:39,510 --> 00:55:37,440

might be made on his life or his

1488

00:55:42,069 --> 00:55:39,520

families whether the disaster struck

1489

00:55:44,870 --> 00:55:42,079

adelaide or not he said the people who

1490

00:55:48,470 --> 00:55:44,880

have sold everything have threatened me

1491

00:55:50,789 --> 00:55:48,480

if the disaster does not occur he said

1492

00:55:51,910 --> 00:55:50,799

if it does happen people will say i

1493

00:55:53,589 --> 00:55:51,920

caused it

1494

00:55:57,190 --> 00:55:53,599

and finally we come to the canberra

1495

00:55:59,829 --> 00:55:57,200

times dated the 20th of january tuesday

1496

00:56:01,510 --> 00:55:59,839

the 20th of january 1976.

1497

00:56:04,549 --> 00:56:01,520

the disaster day

1498

00:56:07,349 --> 00:56:04,559

that did not happen adelaide monday the

1499

00:56:09,589 --> 00:56:07,359

adelaide earthquake and tidal wave scare

1500

00:56:11,910 --> 00:56:09,599

culminated today in the greatest

1501  
00:56:14,710 --> 00:56:11,920  
non-event of the new year

1502  
00:56:15,710 --> 00:56:14,720  
the weather remained fine and mild the

1503  
00:56:18,870 --> 00:56:15,720  
local

1504  
00:56:21,510 --> 00:56:18,880  
seismologists could not detect even the

1505  
00:56:23,829 --> 00:56:21,520  
mildest earth tremor anywhere

1506  
00:56:27,109 --> 00:56:23,839  
and not even a pigeon dropping seemed to

1507  
00:56:29,150 --> 00:56:27,119  
have been dislodged from city buildings

1508  
00:56:31,190 --> 00:56:29,160  
it was the hardly surprising

1509  
00:56:33,589 --> 00:56:31,200  
anti-climatic to several weeks of

1510  
00:56:36,390 --> 00:56:33,599  
rumors based on the predictions of a

1511  
00:56:38,150 --> 00:56:36,400  
obscure house painter named john nash

1512  
00:56:40,630 --> 00:56:38,160  
who played the part of an amateur

1513  
00:56:42,789 --> 00:56:40,640

clairvoyant in his spare time

1514

00:56:45,910 --> 00:56:42,799

he said last november that adelaide

1515

00:56:49,430 --> 00:56:45,920

would be destroyed and inundated by the

1516

00:56:51,750 --> 00:56:49,440

sea late in the morning of january 19.

1517

00:56:54,470 --> 00:56:51,760

most adelaide citizens went about their

1518

00:56:56,950 --> 00:56:54,480

business as usual today several thousand

1519

00:56:59,270 --> 00:56:56,960

entered into the fun of the thing and

1520

00:57:01,750 --> 00:56:59,280

held earthquake parties on sunday night

1521

00:57:05,030 --> 00:57:01,760

or went to a gay celebration at the

1522

00:57:06,069 --> 00:57:05,040

metropolitan beach of glenelg early

1523

00:57:08,230 --> 00:57:06,079

today

1524

00:57:10,230 --> 00:57:08,240

staggered leaders

1525

00:57:13,030 --> 00:57:10,240

but what staggered most community

1526  
00:57:14,630 --> 00:57:13,040  
leaders was the credulity of large

1527  
00:57:16,630 --> 00:57:14,640  
numbers of citizens

1528  
00:57:18,390 --> 00:57:16,640  
more than 100 people from adelaide for

1529  
00:57:21,349 --> 00:57:18,400  
example checked in at the barmera

1530  
00:57:23,990 --> 00:57:21,359  
caravan park on the river murray on

1531  
00:57:27,670 --> 00:57:24,000  
sunday night the park manager said they

1532  
00:57:29,750 --> 00:57:27,680  
seemed mostly of mediterranean origin

1533  
00:57:32,950 --> 00:57:29,760  
most had piles of personal possessions

1534  
00:57:35,589 --> 00:57:32,960  
with them and some brought cats dogs and

1535  
00:57:38,349 --> 00:57:35,599  
birds in cages many adelaide shops and

1536  
00:57:41,510 --> 00:57:38,359  
factories also reported even higher

1537  
00:57:45,109 --> 00:57:41,520  
absenteeism than usual on a monday some

1538  
00:57:47,990 --> 00:57:45,119

of the absentees may merely have been

1539

00:57:49,270 --> 00:57:48,000

taking advantage of a new excuse for

1540

00:57:52,470 --> 00:57:49,280

malingering

1541

00:57:54,390 --> 00:57:52,480

but some were undoubtedly

1542

00:57:56,950 --> 00:57:54,400

genuine in their fear

1543

00:57:59,109 --> 00:57:56,960

one man apologized to his boss the

1544

00:58:01,430 --> 00:57:59,119

manager of a swimming pool construction

1545

00:58:04,150 --> 00:58:01,440

firm for being away from work but

1546

00:58:06,150 --> 00:58:04,160

explained that his wife was terrified

1547

00:58:08,870 --> 00:58:06,160

and would not allow him to leave her

1548

00:58:11,109 --> 00:58:08,880

today by contrast the earthquake rumors

1549

00:58:13,910 --> 00:58:11,119

produced plenty of good fun

1550

00:58:15,589 --> 00:58:13,920

six employees of the mlc insurance

1551  
00:58:18,710 --> 00:58:15,599  
company arrived at work this morning

1552  
00:58:20,309 --> 00:58:18,720  
wearing flippers and goggles and

1553  
00:58:22,950 --> 00:58:20,319  
carrying snorkels

1554  
00:58:25,829 --> 00:58:22,960  
massage parlors advertised tidal wave

1555  
00:58:28,789 --> 00:58:25,839  
specials and urged prospective clients

1556  
00:58:31,270 --> 00:58:28,799  
to come in and enjoy yourself before

1557  
00:58:33,750 --> 00:58:31,280  
it's too late and later on in the story

1558  
00:58:35,910 --> 00:58:33,760  
it says not fault of media flinders

1559  
00:58:39,349 --> 00:58:35,920  
university senior lecturer in psychology

1560  
00:58:40,630 --> 00:58:39,359  
dr david gibbs summed it all up in these

1561  
00:58:42,870 --> 00:58:40,640  
words

1562  
00:58:44,710 --> 00:58:42,880  
any panic over the earthquake prediction

1563  
00:58:46,950 --> 00:58:44,720

reflected people's anxiety about

1564

00:58:49,349 --> 00:58:46,960

uncertainty of life and their ability to

1565

00:58:51,510 --> 00:58:49,359

cope many people still do not understand

1566

00:58:54,150 --> 00:58:51,520

how natural disasters happen

1567

00:58:55,990 --> 00:58:54,160

so if someone prophesies a disaster in

1568

00:58:58,390 --> 00:58:56,000

specific terms

1569

00:59:01,500 --> 00:58:58,400

giving times and dates and the media

1570

00:59:07,030 --> 00:59:01,510

pick it up they will react accordingly

1571

00:59:09,510 --> 00:59:07,040

[Music]

1572

00:59:12,789 --> 00:59:09,520

so there you are the tale of a failed

1573

00:59:15,270 --> 00:59:12,799

prophecy for adelaide in 1976

1574

00:59:17,109 --> 00:59:15,280

and what um i find particularly

1575

00:59:18,710 --> 00:59:17,119

interesting is all the attention the

1576

00:59:20,470 --> 00:59:18,720

story got

1577

00:59:23,270 --> 00:59:20,480

and apparently thousands of people were

1578

00:59:24,470 --> 00:59:23,280

very worried just because somebody

1579

00:59:27,430 --> 00:59:24,480

had a dream

1580

00:59:29,030 --> 00:59:27,440

or a flash or a feeling or made it up

1581

00:59:30,950 --> 00:59:29,040

that the city would be suffering an

1582

00:59:32,950 --> 00:59:30,960

earthquake and tidal wave

1583

00:59:34,870 --> 00:59:32,960

i don't know what ever happened to john

1584

00:59:36,710 --> 00:59:34,880

nash after that

1585

00:59:39,750 --> 00:59:36,720

but just harking back to the earlier

1586

00:59:43,990 --> 00:59:39,760

report i read dated the 17th of january

1587

00:59:45,750 --> 00:59:44,000

1976 where the astrologer richard

1588

00:59:47,510 --> 00:59:45,760

sterling

1589

00:59:49,750 --> 00:59:47,520

backed the

1590

00:59:50,870 --> 00:59:49,760

prediction of disaster richard sterling

1591

00:59:53,349 --> 00:59:50,880

was a

1592

00:59:55,829 --> 00:59:53,359

prominent media astrologer of the day i

1593

00:59:57,589 --> 00:59:55,839

remember he had a regular column

1594

00:59:59,349 --> 00:59:57,599

in some publications including the

1595

01:00:02,789 --> 00:59:59,359

australian women's weekly

1596

01:00:06,470 --> 01:00:02,799

and maybe his predictions might be

1597

01:00:07,990 --> 01:00:06,480

the subject of a future trope segment i

1598

01:00:09,910 --> 01:00:08,000

have no recollection of this story

1599

01:00:12,069 --> 01:00:09,920

whatsoever i was a bit young at the time

1600

01:00:13,430 --> 01:00:12,079

so something like this probably wouldn't

1601  
01:00:17,430 --> 01:00:13,440  
have

1602  
01:00:19,430 --> 01:00:17,440  
i was too busy watching the goodies and

1603  
01:00:21,270 --> 01:00:19,440  
doctor who i think

1604  
01:00:23,030 --> 01:00:21,280  
and don't forget that you too can find

1605  
01:00:25,829 --> 01:00:23,040  
out all sorts of interesting things

1606  
01:00:28,030 --> 01:00:25,839  
about disasters that did not happen

1607  
01:00:30,710 --> 01:00:28,040  
in the pages of trove at

1608  
01:00:34,820 --> 01:00:30,720  
trove.nla.gov dot eu because you'll

1609  
01:00:53,510 --> 01:00:34,830  
never know what you might find

1610  
01:00:56,950 --> 01:00:55,030  
thank you for listening to the skeptic

1611  
01:00:59,510 --> 01:00:56,960  
zone this week and thank you ben radford

1612  
01:01:02,150 --> 01:00:59,520  
always good to catch up with you ben

1613  
01:01:04,430 --> 01:01:02,160

now if you go to skepticzone.tv the

1614

01:01:06,630 --> 01:01:04,440

webpage for the skeptic zone

1615

01:01:09,349 --> 01:01:06,640

skepticzone.tv you will find at the end

1616

01:01:12,470 --> 01:01:09,359

of this week's show notes a link

1617

01:01:14,309 --> 01:01:12,480

to some videos by australian skeptics or

1618

01:01:16,309 --> 01:01:14,319

i should say featuring australian

1619

01:01:18,230 --> 01:01:16,319

skeptics actually they are by australian

1620

01:01:19,270 --> 01:01:18,240

skeptics and or featuring australian

1621

01:01:22,309 --> 01:01:19,280

skeptics

1622

01:01:23,589 --> 01:01:22,319

over the decades where we've put various

1623

01:01:24,670 --> 01:01:23,599

paranormal

1624

01:01:27,990 --> 01:01:24,680

and

1625

01:01:30,390 --> 01:01:28,000

pseudoscientific claims to the test

1626

01:01:32,630 --> 01:01:30,400

you can see various water divining

1627

01:01:35,109 --> 01:01:32,640

documentaries listed there including

1628

01:01:37,829 --> 01:01:35,119

james randy in australia

1629

01:01:40,150 --> 01:01:37,839

some very old investigations regarding

1630

01:01:42,309 --> 01:01:40,160

magical water polarizers

1631

01:01:44,230 --> 01:01:42,319

and a very strange one indeed from

1632

01:01:46,549 --> 01:01:44,240

almost 20 years ago

1633

01:01:49,829 --> 01:01:46,559

where the claim was that

1634

01:01:53,589 --> 01:01:49,839

someone could hypnotize stem cells to

1635

01:01:54,470 --> 01:01:53,599

increase the breast size in women

1636

01:01:57,029 --> 01:01:54,480

yeah

1637

01:01:59,190 --> 01:01:57,039

that's all there have a look the link is

1638

01:02:00,789 --> 01:01:59,200

on this week's show notes

1639

01:02:02,069 --> 01:02:00,799

thank you to those people who continue

1640

01:02:03,829 --> 01:02:02,079

to support the skeptic zone at

1641

01:02:05,589 --> 01:02:03,839

skepticzone.tv

1642

01:02:08,069 --> 01:02:05,599

well we've just been talking about the

1643

01:02:09,829 --> 01:02:08,079

uh the show notes if you go there and

1644

01:02:12,750 --> 01:02:09,839

click the link

1645

01:02:14,710 --> 01:02:12,760

the patreon and or paypal link the

1646

01:02:16,390 --> 01:02:14,720

subscription link

1647

01:02:19,190 --> 01:02:16,400

you can uh help

1648

01:02:22,549 --> 01:02:19,200

keep the show afloat if it was a boat if

1649

01:02:24,789 --> 01:02:22,559

it was a boat you would keep it afloat

1650

01:02:25,510 --> 01:02:24,799

and the way this show keeps afloat is by

1651  
01:02:28,309 --> 01:02:25,520  
the

1652  
01:02:29,510 --> 01:02:28,319  
generous donations and subscriptions by

1653  
01:02:31,270 --> 01:02:29,520  
listeners

1654  
01:02:35,910 --> 01:02:31,280  
just like you

1655  
01:02:37,750 --> 01:02:35,920  
and if it is you thank you you

1656  
01:02:39,510 --> 01:02:37,760  
coming up on next week's show i speak to

1657  
01:02:43,029 --> 01:02:39,520  
author john guy

1658  
01:02:46,549 --> 01:02:43,039  
about his new book called think straight

1659  
01:02:49,190 --> 01:02:46,559  
an owner's manual for the mind promises

1660  
01:02:51,430 --> 01:02:49,200  
to be an interesting interview

1661  
01:02:53,589 --> 01:02:51,440  
also on next week's show i hope we have

1662  
01:02:56,309 --> 01:02:53,599  
the australian skeptics news segment

1663  
01:02:58,230 --> 01:02:56,319

written by tim bendum and read by adrian

1664

01:02:59,190 --> 01:02:58,240

hill there you are adrian there's your

1665

01:03:00,710 --> 01:02:59,200

cue

1666

01:03:03,270 --> 01:03:00,720

get ready

1667

01:03:04,870 --> 01:03:03,280

and i will be reading a report i wrote

1668

01:03:07,109 --> 01:03:04,880

for the skeptic magazine here in

1669

01:03:10,309 --> 01:03:07,119

australia about the uh

1670

01:03:13,750 --> 01:03:10,319

recent well some months ago recent mind

1671

01:03:15,589 --> 01:03:13,760

body wallet festival here in sydney

1672

01:03:16,390 --> 01:03:15,599

oh can't get enough of the mind body

1673

01:03:18,390 --> 01:03:16,400

wallet

1674

01:03:19,670 --> 01:03:18,400

but it does promise to be a very full

1675

01:03:22,069 --> 01:03:19,680

week for me

1676

01:03:24,950 --> 01:03:22,079

i'll be uh participating

1677

01:03:27,270 --> 01:03:24,960

in a new feature film i've

1678

01:03:29,109 --> 01:03:27,280

scored some work i've scored some work

1679

01:03:31,029 --> 01:03:29,119

working on a new feature film

1680

01:03:32,950 --> 01:03:31,039

and maybe down the track i can tell you

1681

01:03:34,470 --> 01:03:32,960

more about that oh and for those people

1682

01:03:36,390 --> 01:03:34,480

who were interested

1683

01:03:38,390 --> 01:03:36,400

who maybe heard ross

1684

01:03:40,950 --> 01:03:38,400

blotcher commenting on the fact that i

1685

01:03:43,510 --> 01:03:40,960

appear in the latest thor movie i went

1686

01:03:44,390 --> 01:03:43,520

to see the movie and indeed i am in the

1687

01:03:47,109 --> 01:03:44,400

movie

1688

01:03:49,510 --> 01:03:47,119

you can see me for all of one second i

1689

01:03:51,109 --> 01:03:49,520

think briefly you know in one of the

1690

01:03:53,829 --> 01:03:51,119

scenes

1691

01:03:56,710 --> 01:03:53,839

um blink and you'll miss it however

1692

01:03:58,470 --> 01:03:56,720

without any spoilers i play a sort of a

1693

01:03:59,589 --> 01:03:58,480

greek god

1694

01:04:01,349 --> 01:03:59,599

briefly

1695

01:04:03,990 --> 01:04:01,359

what a lot of fun that was

1696

01:04:05,190 --> 01:04:04,000

and a big um a big shout out to thor if

1697

01:04:07,510 --> 01:04:05,200

you're listening

1698

01:04:09,589 --> 01:04:07,520

but for this week this is richard

1699

01:04:15,270 --> 01:04:09,599

saunders signing off from sydney

1700

01:04:18,470 --> 01:04:17,029

you've been listening to the skeptic

1701

01:04:19,910 --> 01:04:18,480

zone podcast

1702

01:04:23,029 --> 01:04:19,920

please visit our website at

1703

01:04:28,710 --> 01:04:26,150

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1704

01:04:30,870 --> 01:04:28,720

the back catalog of episodes going back

1705

01:04:32,870 --> 01:04:30,880

to 2008

1706

01:04:35,589 --> 01:04:32,880

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1707

01:04:37,750 --> 01:04:35,599

on twitter at skepticzone

1708

01:04:41,109 --> 01:04:37,760

visit our facebook page or leave a

1709

01:04:44,390 --> 01:04:41,119

review on itunes you can also support

1710

01:04:46,630 --> 01:04:44,400

the skeptic zone via patreon or paypal

1711

01:04:48,470 --> 01:04:46,640

the skeptic zone podcast is an

1712

01:04:50,309 --> 01:04:48,480

independent production

1713

01:04:52,630 --> 01:04:50,319

the views and opinions expressed on the

1714

01:04:55,109 --> 01:04:52,640

skeptic zone are not necessarily those

1715

01:04:56,780 --> 01:04:55,119

of australian skeptics or any other