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UFO UpDates Mailing List

Re: CSICOP Takes Stock of the Media

From: clark@canby.mn.frontiercomm.net
Date: Mon, 01 Sep 1997 08:47:44 PDT
Fwd Date: Mon, 01 Sep 1997 12:21:09 -0400
Subject: Re: CSICOP Takes Stock of the Media

> From updates@globalserve.net Mon Sep 1 02:49:02 1997
> Return-Path: <updates@globalserve.net>

> Date: Sun, 31 Aug 1997 21:12:33 +1000
> To: UFO UpDates - Toronto <updates@globalserve.net>
> From: Dave Everett <deverett@vir.idx.com.au>
> Subject: Re: UFO UpDate: Re: CSICOP Takes Stock of the Media

> >From: clark@canby.mn.frontiercomm.net
> >Date: Sat, 30 Aug 1997 15:18:47 PDT
> >To: updates@globalserve.net
> >Subject: RE: UFO UpDate: CSICOP Takes Stock of the Media

> >> From: RSchatte@aol.com
> >> Date: Sat, 30 Aug 1997 12:21:39 -0400 (EDT)
> >> Subject: CSICOP Takes Stock of the Media
> >> To: updates@globalserve.net

> >> CSICOP Takes Stock of the Media

> >Of course it's a little sad, too. These guys need a life, or
> >at least a hobby. For all their huffing, puffing, and frantic
> >bloviation, they have yet to provide an iota of empirical evidence
> >for their beloved faithf that pro-paranormal or -anomaly opinions
> >have any measurable negative effect on society. At the very worst,
> >such ideas amount to nothing more dangerous than silly folk beliefs.

> It's much more dangerous than that! I lost a huge security contract due to
> an Astrologer! Right now there may be people making decisions using faith,
> myth or superstition that will affect you.

> We can't control every aspect of our lives as long as we live in a society,
> it is imperative that we ensure that decisions made for us are based on
> logic, fact, evidence and truth.

> I was once quite tolerant of peoples faith beliefs, but the incident I
> recounted above made me realise how foolish that tolerance could be.

> Dave Everett.

Dave,

Sorry to hear about your misfortune. Still, it begs the question of how many people have lost their shirts after listening to "legitimate" business and investment advisers. Would you have us silence everybody who gave us bad advice which caused us to "lose control" of "every aspect of our lives"? Ever heard of something called the First Amendment?

In the end, if we are to function as adults, we have to accept responsibility for the decisions we make. There is, after all, a vast amount of skeptical literature on astrology out there. You can't blame the rest of the world for your failure to consult it before making the decision that caused you so much trouble.

The sort of society you seem to be advocating here -- one which eschews tolerance and waits on decisions made for us by arbiters of what pass for "logic, fact, evidence, and truth" (or at least this particular historical moment's concept of same) -- is not one in which most of us would care to live.

Best,

Jerry Clark

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