



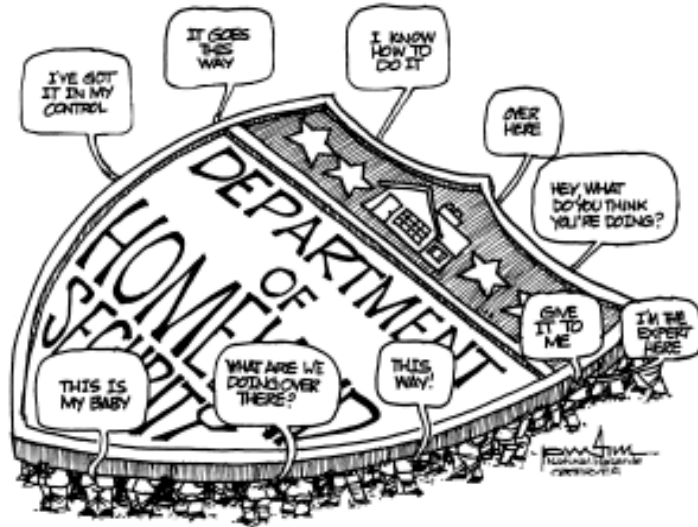
# Cincinnati Skeptic

*Newsletter of The Association for Rational Thought*

**Vol. 12 No. 5**

**April/May 2003**

*Even in China, with its age-old traditions, no one says “Get me to a herbalist” after a car crash.*  
— David Eisenberg, MD, Newsweek (2 Dec. 2003)



“Congress Creates Department of Homeland Security”  
©Natural Hazards Observer (January 2003)

## *February Meeting*

**A Report on the Skeptics Convention at the James Randi Educational Foundation in Ft. Lauderdale, FL; 28 February - 2 March**  
Attended and Reported by  
**Roy Auerbach and Rick Prairie**

### **Overview**

The meeting extended from Friday night to Sunday afternoon. The total number of attendees was about 260 of whom women comprised about 25-30%. There was a strong membership component from the JREF forum, an online community run from the Randi site ([www.randi.org](http://www.randi.org)). As one of the members noted there were hardly any African-Americans at the meeting. It was great to be at a meeting where I was surrounded by people of like mind, very rare. The meeting was interrupted by the announcement of the shuttle disaster, necessitating changes in the program and shortening a couple of talks. Nighttime sessions were typically more entertainment

(Cont. Pg 5)

## *March Meeting*

### **Daylight Disk: The Otis T. Carr Story**

Lance Moody, a longtime member of ART, has been researching the history of Otis T. Carr and his creation of a flying disk powered by “free energy.” He presented his findings using sound, images, interviews, and rare photographs of the inventor, his associates, the machines and their financial backers.

Daylight Disk is a term used by those who study UFOs and refers to an encounter with or photograph of a flying saucer during daylight. These events are quite rare. Almost all of them have been proven to be mistaken identifications or hoaxes. However, the Daylight Disk of this story was a flying saucer that was visible and touchable.

The story involves three areas of interest for skeptics: UFO beliefs, free energy, and mysticism. It begins in 1904 with the birth of Otis T. Carr in Elkins, West Virginia. Not much about his early life is known and what little is known is partly conjecture. He had thirteen brothers and sisters, apparently left public school around the age of thirteen, and had a talent for drawing. Lance commented on the blueprint-type drawings he has seen; they were quite professional-looking.

Carr briefly attended the Ohio School of Commercial Art in Cleveland around 1923 and later  
(Cont. Pg 12)

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**From the  
Un-Easy Chair..****Requiescat in pace.**

The Pioneer 10 spacecraft has sent its last signal to Earth. Its nuclear furnace has grown cold. Launched in 1972 on a two-year mission, the tiny 570-pound spacecraft was 30 years and 7.6 billion miles from home when it sent its last faint transmission on 22 Jan 2003. The first spacecraft to venture beyond Mars, Pioneer 10 negotiated the unknown hazard of the asteroid belt to send back the first close-up images of Jupiter. It charted the currents of the solar wind to the very edge of interstellar space, while suffering the usual infirmities of old age: its mechanical limbs arthritic; its senses dimmed by the battering of radiation and micro meteoroids; circuits shut down to conserve energy. Its last assignment was to find the heliopause, where the solar wind is offset by the galactic wind, but in April 1997 it was passed by a younger, faster Voyager spacecraft. It was recalled to active duty by NASA's Deep Space Network as part a communications study in support of a future interstellar probe. No matter, Pioneer 10 was expendable.

— *What's New* by Robert L. Park (Friday, 7 Mar 03) Washington, DC

This spaceship is small. At 570 pounds it weighs less than a third of the smallest car on the road, the Honda Insight, a two seater gas-electric model. You think 7.6 billion miles is a long way from home. But since a light year is 5.88 trillion miles the spacecraft has gone only 1/774<sup>th</sup> or 0.13 percent of a light year. It will take Pioneer Ten 23 thousand years to travel one light year. The nearest star or solar system is 3.5 light years distant. At its speed Pioneer 10 will take 81 thousand years to reach the Proxima Centauri solar system. It gives you quite a new perspective on the *Starship Enterprise*. I do hope the younger Voyager spacecraft is a lot faster.

— Wolf Roder

**Science Panelists Are Picked for Ideology Rather Than Expertise.**

Ideology is also trumping science at CDC's National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health. One of its study sections weighs the scientific merits of competing grant proposals on workplace injuries and decides which get funded. Since its inception, members have been appointed by NIH scientists based on scientific expertise. Not anymore. Having rejected those nominees, scientists say, HHS staffers asked them which presidential candidate they voted for in 2000 and what they think of stem-cell research and abortion — issues with no relevance to the sections work.

Give HHS credit. Apparently annoyed at what pesky scientists discovered about workplace injuries and other contentious issues, "They seem to have decided that they have to prevent the 'wrong' research from getting done in the first place," one academic says.

— *Wall Street Journal* (6 Dec. 2002)



## Too Many Books.... Too Little Time....

*The Barmaid's Brain and other strange tales from science*

by Jay Ingram

(New York: W. H. Freeman and Company, 1998)

A fun book and a light read. It presents some twenty amusing but also serious discussions of scientific issues which have caught the attention of the author. Ingram is no scientist, but a journalist and TV and radio narrator. His expertise is on the *Discovery Channel* and as a writer of children's science books. It is all good fun, and well worth a couple of evenings.

It is a diverse collection, and thus difficult to characterize. Generally the stories are far from the main stream of science, but discuss problems often simply overlooked because we are so familiar with them. Such is the question: "Why do we laugh" which includes issues of how come we have so many facial muscles which make it possible, do other animals laugh, why are we sometimes forced to laugh, but can not make ourselves laugh be tickling ourselves. And of course, why do babies like to be tickled. Why do moths and other insects fly towards and into the light, is another question of everyday observation but little understood science.

There are a number of questions in history the author tries to settle, or at least to discuss intelligently. He takes up the question of the Vinland Map owned by Yale University. This map, showing the ancient Vinland of the Vikings, was not known until 1965. It has definitely been shown by chemistry that the paper dates from 1440, i.e. before Columbus, but nevertheless many scholars consider it a modern forgery on ancient paper. Another question, was there a female Pope Joan? Was the 1691-92 outbreak of witchcraft in Salem caused by ergot poisoning from contaminated bread? Could Archimedes really have set Roman ships afire by focusing mirrors in 213 BCE Syracuse? Did medieval monks in June 1178 really observe a asteroid impact on the Moon? The author brings to bear what is known on the issue even if the question has to be left open.

Two ideas of very dubious scientific worth are taken up. One is known as the aquatic ape theory, the

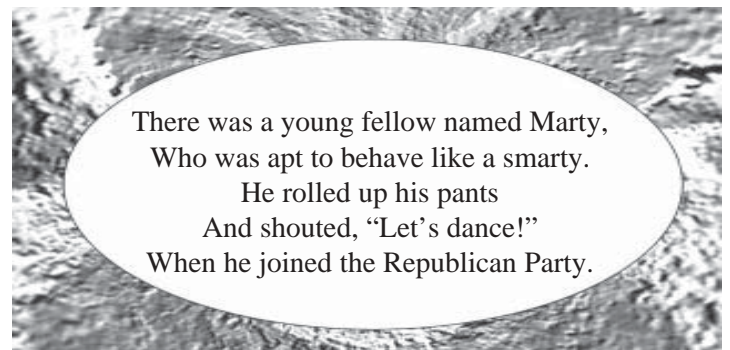
idea that our simian ancestors evolved for a time as a near shore dwelling aquatic animal, somewhat like an otter. Proponents of such a transitional phase in human evolution use it to explain our loss of fur, our widespread fat tissue under the skin, many other human features, and most of all our development of upright walking in the buoyancy of chest deep water. The problem with the theory is that absolutely no evidence for it has come from archaeology. It's fun to read though.

A second idea he takes up are the "morphogenetic fields" and the "theory of formative causation" of Rupert Sheldrake. The general idea is that if enough people, or monkeys, or rats, learn to do a thing — all others in the world will suddenly, quasi-miraculously learn how to do them as well. Ingram has met Sheldrake in person on a TV experiment. He comments dryly: "My brief encounters with Rupert Sheldrake left me with the impression that he is at his best when devising theories, not following them up." (p. 64)

The author introduces us to the *perpetuum mobile*, the machine which will run forever and produce more energy than it takes to turn over. Here Ingram takes the opportunity to explain the second law of thermodynamics, "energy will not run uphill," and the scams and schemes of charlatans under the new label, "zero point energy." Also, why the patent office will not consider applications for such without a working model, and the political hot water they got into. The author leaves no doubt in this case that these machines will not work.

The most endearing story in the book, however, is the everlasting struggle between the ant lion and the ant, a duel not likely to make it into the World of Disney or Star Wars. Neither can I find the ant lion in my encyclopedia, but Webster's Unabridged Dictionary has it. And, if you don't know what an ant lion is, and you have never seen one, then you really must read this book.

— Wolf Roder



There was a young fellow named Marty,  
Who was apt to behave like a smarty.  
He rolled up his pants  
And shouted, "Let's dance!"  
When he joined the Republican Party.

*Storm Watchers: The Turbulent History of Weather  
Prediction from Franklin's Kite to El Niño*

by John D. Cox

(New York: John Wiley & Sons, 2002)

Prediction of the weather goes back to before the invention of writing or of the first maps. Our prehistoric ancestors presumably were concerned with being prepared for good hunting weather or against destructive storms. Equally ancient is the division between those who would forecast the weather from examining the clouds to the west, and those who relied on prophets who could read the minds of the gods.

Modern understanding of the weather began with the science of Isaac Newton and the enlightenment. Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790) was the first to explain lightening as electricity, and describe the influence of the Gulf Stream on the winds and hence on ships' courses. He also made good money publishing a farmers' Almanac, with weather advice taken from thin air. Cox takes us through the development of weather forecasting by introducing the great researchers chapter by chapter. He begins with the first systematic taxonomy of clouds, examines the early simple synoptic weather maps, and ends with long range forecasts. Cox gives us an engrossing history of the interaction between science, government bureaucracy, and popular understanding.

To the modern scientific mind, the weather is completely controlled by the laws of physics. In fact, meteorology may be defined as the physics of the atmosphere. These laws are known, and have been known since the nineteenth century. Yet, this knowledge could not be translated into accurately predictable weather phenomena. Modern weather forecasting relies on reading existing conditions, mainly to the west, and projecting these five to seven days forward. We all know this is not a precise science. To project existing weather from one place to another requires communicating the conditions there to the weatherman here. Forecasting had to await the invention of rapid communication, so that modern weather services did not begin until the 1880's with the systematization of overland telegraphy.

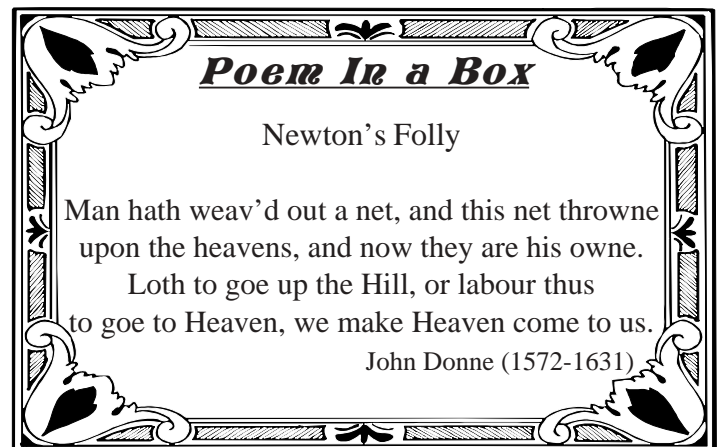
The development of weather science as a whole depended on the invention of better communication technology, improved instruments for measuring conditions, and the spread of a dense net of observers. Even then, the calculation of the myriad variables involved at the thousands of weather stations, had to

await the coming of the digital computer. Numerical forecasting models are an invention of the post war period.

Earlier weather prediction relied on the synoptic map on which daily weather over a large area was entered as symbols. Forecasting itself was more an art than a science, and acquired over many years of experience and climbing the civil service ladder. Cox explicates the constant and recurring conflicts between practitioners set in their ways and work, and the scientists who brought in new ideas and methods. Gradually the improved instruments, satellite measurements, doppler radar, and computer calculations made their inroads. Gradually useful forecasts were extended from three to seven days.

Ten to twelve days are considered the limits of forecasting by present methods. Beyond two weeks in the future weather here does not yet exist anywhere else on earth. This limits projection of existing conditions from one place to another. The search for new models to predict the coming season six months hence has given us the El Niño/Southern Oscillation forecasts. The Newtonian dream of a precise clockwork universe, however, has been proved in error. Weather research has shown that small, not measurable, differences in initial conditions may result in radically different weather outcomes days, rather than weeks hence. Physics has finally been shown as far from the precise, predictable knowledge expected in the nineteenth century.

— Wolf Roder



## *Skeptics Convention from page 1...*

with a fair dose of magic. Throughout the meeting there was a lot of banter about the million dollar prize and fun between the key players are JREF.

### **Friday Night Talks and Magic**

*Opening by Randi* – Randi opened the meeting mostly with recognizing people in the audience who had helped set up the meeting or were speaking. He mentioned *The Pale Blue Dot* of Carl Sagan and mourned the loss of many of the leading lights of the skeptical movement, Stephen Jay Gould, Isaac Asimov, and Carl Sagan.

*Jamie Ian Swiss* – Swiss was the magician for the show. He discussed his past and the great influence that Randi had on him. He performed some good magic tricks and some fake magic tricks as well. He declared himself an “honest liar.” As he said: “After all, if you thought this stuff was real, you wouldn’t be an audience, you’d be a congregation.”

*Jerry Andrus* – Jerry is a magician’s magician. He did a couple of nice tricks with a yellow ball and a picture with a yellow ball on it switching interchangeably between them. After 15 minutes of talking to us, he took off his glasses and showed us that they were empty! He read naturalistic spiritual poetry with titles like: “Disk of Dawn,” “Beyond Wonder,” “Canyons,” and “I’m 85.” They were very spiritual in their appreciation of the world and our effect on it. He showed amazing optical illusions done in physical objects. He had two large threaded nuts that looked to be welded together. They looked like solid objects. He put his arm through both nuts in a way that wasn’t possible with his arm contorting in a way not physically possible. After the meeting and throughout the show he demonstrated optical illusion effects that were new to me. Many of them relied on inverting rectangular objects accompanied with motion.

*Jack Horheimer, the star hustler* – The evening ended with a very interesting discussion of Cleopatra, comets, and coins. He pointed out that Antares and Mars are in the sky in the same area, both red, and of about equal magnitude. By August 27<sup>th</sup>, Mars will be the brightest its been in 65,000 years, brighter than any other objects in the sky other than the moon or Venus. In classical antiquity comets were used as commemorations of special events. Until then countries had displayed gods on their coins. It was Cleopatra who

convinced Julius Caesar to put his own likeness on a coin. This was a break with tradition and represented his godhood. In 44 BC a comet was used to commemorate the deity of Octavian. This was illustrated by a coin Jack had showing this Emperor on one side and the comet on the other. Later in 12 BC a comet “foretold” the death of Agrippa, the Roman admiral who won the battle of Bactria between Octavian’s and Antony’s troops. The comet was part of the celestial celebration as Octavian honored the death of his admiral.

### **Saturday Events**

*Michael Shermer* – Shermer gave the keynote address. He spoke about his new book that he is currently formulating. This is the third and last in the trilogy *Why People Believe in Weird Things, How People Believe* and this book to be titled *Why We Are Moral*. He described the books’ themes as:

- Moral Naturalism
- An Evolved Moral Sense
- The Nature of Morality
- Provisional Morality
- Provisional Justice
- Ennobling Evolutionary Ethics

What follows are some brief notes from these sections.

#### Moral Naturalism

- Secular and scientific approach to the study of morality
- God is irrelevant to the theory
- Moral principles in human culture are results of the laws of nature

The God argument: As CS Lewis would define it, a miracle is an “interference” with nature by supernatural forces. There are none. There is no supernatural, only the natural we can’t explain. Shermer used the Harris cartoon *It’s a miracle*, which appears in the middle of an equation on a blackboard to describe how people who believe in intelligent design are acting. The “God argument” claims Good and Evil are determinations of the supernatural. To Shermer this is the myth of pure evil and pure good. They are treated as metaphysical entities. When one is bad, one is taking on the attribute of the metaphysical pure evil. Darwin struggled with this. There is an Aristotelian emphasis on pure archetypal spirit of animals and people. How then could you have evolution?

Calling someone evil does not help understanding. It simply imbues a person with a supernatural

attribute. For instance, to say that Hitler was an evil man. What does that tell us? In fact, in the last 10,000 years, we have produced some 10,000 gods and 10,000 religions. What is the probability that anyone of them such as the Judeo-Christian tradition is correct?

### Evolved Moral Sense

There is a moral sense – Feeling “good” for the group, feeling “bad” about your actions. The feeling is an evolved moral sense. This is often expressed in the golden rule, “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you”. The first record of this thought is by Hesiod around 800 BC but it is also found in Confucius, the Bible and dozens of other more modern authors. The key attribute is *cooperation*. There are many universals in morals, all expressed by most cultures as, moral behavior, moral feelings, and moral control.

We feel hungry, feel horny, feel jealous, and fall in love. These things happen. We don’t think them, we feel them. This is a built in as evolutionary response. We can go to the why level, why do we feel hungry, but the response is a feeling. The same is true for feeling good and bad. Why do we feel moral? Is this pure altruism? Take the example of tipping for a service. Tipping represents an example of an evolved moral sense. You can be in a far away city, in a restaurant you will likely never visit again. The reaction is typically to tip the waitron. Is this altruistic? Do I do it for the waitron or so I feel good? The latter is the evolved moral sense.

How did this sense develop? At the beginning human communities were small. The ideal size for the last 100,000 years has been around 150 individuals. Suppose you are a liar in such a community. You are not likely to deceive the community for long. It pays not to be a liar. Gossip is how we keep track of social relations in the community. Shermer gave many cases of such sized communities and speculated that 150 is also about the number of social relations that most people are comfortable with (politicians are an obvious exception).

As our societies evolved from the 150 person groups to the larger communities of today, we have seen a social evolution of the moral altruistic principle. Starting 5,000-10,000 years ago, we have seen steady improvement in our behavior. Shermer had some bar charts showing that on a per capita basis, we have seen less deaths by violence over the centuries starting with hunter gatherers. He claimed that the culture of the US and Europe has the lowest violent death rate of any

recorded. If you use the old and new testaments as a guide you can see the decrease in violence over time from roughly 1500 BC to two hundred AD. What role for religion? Shermer considers religion as the necessary step that led to the first advance in morality that allowed the larger group structures to exist.

### Provisional Morality and Provisional Justice

Moral principles are provisional. They apply to most people, most cultures, in most circumstances, most of the time. Moral principles fall somewhere between being absolute and relative. We adapt moral principles to fit the situation and culture but with limits on the relativity. An example might be adultery. Studies have shown that both men and women have moral objections to adultery but their strongest reaction may be to different behavior.

- Men hate to have their wives in a physical encounter with another man.
- Women hate to have their man love another woman.

Such dicta represent stereotypical responses. Cultural interpretations of situations lead to a difference in the provisional justice associated with the morality or adultery. American laws are much clearer on the male position.

What makes an act moral or immoral? Sticking to adultery, Commandment #7 says, “Thou shalt not commit adultery.” What if God hadn’t pronounced #7, would adultery be moral or immoral? Morality and justice (as well as science sometimes) can be fuzzy. According to a joke: If commandment #7 didn’t exist, the question wouldn’t be whether you do or don’t do adultery, but with whom you’d do.

In the present we find ourselves in a long debate about when life begins. We make efforts to define the start of life to remove fuzziness from morality. At 23 weeks no EEG signal is sensed from a fetus but by the 28<sup>th</sup> week there is, does that answer the question? At the other end of life, we have sharp definitions of death. Yet, there is a great deal of fuzziness about how we moralize the causes of death: from natural, to DNR, to manslaughter, and to various grades of felony death.

### Enabling Evolutionary Ethics

One of the great arguments for religious morality is the sense of our principles being greater than each of us; a system of absolute rules binding on any individual. We don’t need this. Humankind has inherited a set of

paleolithic ethics, which we have tweaked and modified over time. This transcends us and our heritage. As a race, we are both empiricist and transcendentalist, a little of both. We need to replace god with our own transcendent nature with our heritage as evolutionary beings. Our morality belongs to the species.

*Dan Garvin – Adventures in Scientology* Dan Garvin spent 25 years in the Scientology movement before finding his way out again. In September 1976, he took a trip across the US to join the Sea Organization just after his 19<sup>th</sup> birthday. The Sea Org is an elite group inside Scientology that carries out projects and actions for the religion.

What is Scientology? At the lowest level, it is a form of pop psychology, which uses an e-meter to measure conductivity changes representing emotional reaction. As the novice is led by others through expensive courses, he or she is exposed to a series of questions and patterns meant to evoke deep seated reactions as measured by the e-meter. These represent *engrams* embedded in our psyche by traumatic experiences when we grew up. As these are discovered they are cleared. The purpose of this exercise is to produce clears. This can turn into a never-ending process. Ultimately, the religion is about how we are super beings called Thetans. We are trapped in our bodies and this existence by boredom followed by forgetting who we are or perhaps by being trapped by an evil force. The perfectly clear Thetans can exist without bodies. When one dies, he can create his own universe, or enter a new body and remember his past life. This fantasy like story is relatively harmless compared to the church, which is a mind control cult. Dan told us a lot about living within the religion.

According to L. Ron Hubbard “There is only one technology and that is the standard technology” Hubbard was an absolute dictator. Whatever he said was the standard technology and was law. Hubbard was not always consistent. He claimed Jesus was a good guy. But there also exists a highly confidential document saying that Jesus was a pedophile and similar accusations. Scientologists believe that the world is under attack and was nearly destroyed by evil forces and that they are the only ones who can save us. Psychology, psychologists, and the World Bank practice black dianetics. These are ultimate villains. Sea Org is one of the internal organizations doing the good work of scientology. When Dan started at Sea Org, he was paid \$5/week.

Twenty five years later, he was paid \$45/week. Living is communal unless married, when you will be allowed a small room. You may get three weeks vacation a year but no money. Since the world is near annihilation, going on vacation is slacking off in the worst way. When you are not working, you are supposed to be studying the works of L. Ron Hubbard. It is forbidden to communicate with the outside world or find other sources of information. Sea Org members will know little of the world they live in even though they may live side by side with it. They are forbidden to use the internet. Normal church members have a Scientology version of “Net Nanny” preventing them from going to forbidden sites. This is especially true of sites critical to Scientology or sites exposing the ultimate secrets.

Sea Org members do get respect. When they are on a mission, they have “ethics powers” and are feared by all others in the organization. They are allowed to do whatever they want, lie, cheat, steal, as long as they increase the membership and power of Scientology. The organization has been known to declare individuals in or out of the church as “fair game.” This meant that you could do anything to these people including kill them according to the church. While the church has publicly disavowed this policy Dan says it still goes on.

Why did he leave after 25 years in Sea Org? To be useful to Scientology, he became an electrician. Later he was demoted to a driver. While waiting in his truck, he would listen to the radio and began wondering. After a period of doubt, he finally asked the church to leave. He signed many agreements not to reveal anything about the organization. He left respectfully in fear of otherwise being considered fair game.

*Phil Plaitt – Bad Astronomy and Planet “X”* Phil is a professional astronomer. He was extremely funny in his presentation. Planet X High Points:

- Unknown or Untold of Planet
- Elliptical 3600 year orbit
- It is Inbound. Due in May 2003 (Duck!)
- Populated by alien Annunaki (sometimes called Zetans!)
- Annunaki dig our chicks
- Phil is a NASA/government disinformation agent

Who would believe this? There is always someone to believe.

Cast of Characters:

*Immanuel Velikovsky* – Originally a psychologist, he

started off much of the nonsense. He believed that Venus bopped around the solar system before settling into a near circular orbit.

*Zecharia Sitchin* – He converted Velikovskian theory from Venus to Nibiru, the 12<sup>th</sup> planet. He based this partly on an ancient Sumerian seal.

*Nancy Lieder* – She is the current leader of the movement. She can communicate telepathically with the Zetans. These are the same aliens that abducted Betty and Barney Hill. She claims that the Hale-Bopp comet didn't exist.

*Mark Hazlewood* – He is a former Nancy follower who now is in a big spat with her. He claims that planet X is a brown dwarf.

*James McCarrey* – He claims to be a former faculty member of Cornell. He actually taught a semester in physics and math. He claims that comets are not dirty snowballs. Comets are drawing in matter. He uses warmed over Velikovsky.

*Duane White/Robert Sepehr* – These are wannabes. Sepehr did a video for Nancy Lieder. Duane calls himself “Captain Nibiru.”

#### What is the evidence?

- Ancient Sumerian writing
- Our sun is acting up
- There are more earthquakes
- Images of planet X
- Pole shift

*Ancient Sumerian writing* - The ancient Sumerian writing is the seal mentioned above. It is called the Berlin seal and shows a “solar system”. In the background of the picture is something looking like a star like object surrounded by 12 or 13 dots he called the planets. This is a totally unsupported interpretation of the picture.

*Our sun is acting up* – There is no evidence of increased sun spot activity or increased flares.

*There are more earthquakes* – There is no evidence of increased earthquake activity.

*Images of planet X* – Lieder's group rented a small telescope for a couple of nights. Phil showed the pictures they took. The spots they claimed represented planet X were classic detector noise.

*Pole shift* - “The south shall rise again”. The earth will flip over on its axis. There seems to be some confusion here between magnetic spin flip and actual physical flip. This is ludicrous.

“Life is complex. It has a real part and an imaginary part.”

If a planetary period is 3600 years, the major axis of the orbit is 470 AU or some 70 billion kilometers or 7.5 light years. If is going to hit in May (3 months from now), it should be 1.7AU distant. This is closer than Jupiter. *Where is it?* It should be brighter than Venus. Why don't we see it? These groups have various theories. It is a brown dwarf! Or it's also very far away. Some claim it will travel 1 billion miles in two days (1% of the speed of light). That's certainly enough energy to flip the earth and not even notice! The kinetic energy is the equivalent of the total output of the sun for 13,000 years.

#### *Chip Denham – Latest in Homeopathy*

Jacques Benveniste has come back with Digital Biology. He made his original splash in 1989 with his paper in *Nature* on the homeopathy of certain biological actions. He hypothesized that the biological activity left a memory in the water. A review by the editor of *Nature*, a fraud investigator, and James Randi refuted this work.

In 1997, he sent out a notice that he had another breakthrough and had captured homeopathic digital signatures. He is preparing a paper for *Nature* on “Ligands so dilute that no molecules remained, but still retained the biological activity that can be destroyed by magnetic fields...” The digital pictures can be captured at 22 kHz and can be played back restoring the image in the water, restoring the homeopathic property. He called this “informed water.” You can see a video of the experiment at <[www.digibio.com](http://www.digibio.com)> His company is called DigiBio.

An investigating team was sent: Wayne Jones – original head of NIH alternative medicine (not a skeptic), John Ives – Walter Reed Hospital, Chip Denham – Statistician, and Hintz – Engineer. Their experiment had the following timeline: July 2001 Initial setup; Pre-Pilot – Team bought their own apparatus from DigiBio. This is an automated test system with a robotic arm for the testing. Pilot – Oct/ Nov 2001, followed by agreement on final protocol. 21 experiments are performed with DigiBio. Test Phase – Nov 2001. After DigiBio leaves, the team runs nine experiments independently.

The investigation discovered that whenever



things didn't go as DigiBio expected, the equipment was considered not working. The team had very clearly stated that they were interested in only an instrumented effect without human intervention. During the study DigiBio insisted that some people were considered enhancers, others were suppressors of the effect. One DigiBio team member, Jamal Aissa, was especially an enhancer. But the team was not interested in the Jamal effect.

The experiments were set up with three conditions. We accepted the results of the experiment as follows:

- DTI signal – the digital homeopathic signal
- Water signal – Normal water signal
- No signal.

When DigiBio was present, there was a strong difference in outcome with the DTI signal. The effect was correlated with Jamal stopping the machine and manually inserting runs. The effect was only observed in those rows. When DigiBio was gone for the test phase, there was no difference in results between all three conditions.

What is the Jamal effect? How did he affect the DTI experiments? He smoked cigarettes. Was there some chemical interaction? There was no clear evidence of fraud. The panel study was not interested in how DigiBio got their effect, only in verifying if an independent group could duplicate the results. They could not. One final note. Benveniste's DigiBio group supplied the digital signals for water and DTI. After they left, Denham looked at the two signals and determined they were identical.

#### *Hal Bidlack – Standards on War on Terrorism*

Hal was all over the meeting. He was moderator for approximately half the time and often acted up to lighten the mood. He carried on a running banter with Andrew Harter, another close associate of Randi's. On one of the evenings, he dressed and impersonated General Alexander Hamilton. He is a Lieutenant Colonel in the air force and has spent many years teaching political science at the Air Force Academy and being involved in government military strategy. (He also was an appropriate bearer of the terrible news of the shuttle Columbia disaster). He is currently Deputy Director of the Air Force Institute for National Security Studies. He talked a little about being involved in a government granting effort to help stabilize Soviet

scientists. Shortly after the collapse of the Soviet Union, we were concerned about the large number of highly trained Soviet scientists who were out of work and who might end up supporting undesirable nations and groups. We therefore set up a grant fund to fund Soviet scientists in Russia. They made a number of unusual proposals. The most unusual was a grant to study of P-waves. These were not supposed to be part of the electromagnetic spectrum and travel faster than the speed of light.

Bidlack is currently involved in trying to set up standards of performance for anti-terrorist equipment. Items such as respirator masks have no standardization. How do you know that a given respirator is effective for the threat you are likely to encounter? Standards require a myriad of considerations.

#### *Bob Carrol – Onward Christian Soldiers*

Bob Carrol taught philosophy for 29 years, he is the founder of the website, *The Skeptics Dictionary*, <[www.skeptdic.com](http://www.skeptdic.com)> He started his talk with this joke: A student comments: (he has): "The bible is not a single book, it is the copulation of many books."

Fundamentalist Christians try to turn back the clock on science. Creation Science was rejected by the courts as religion. More recently, the web seems to have accelerated their attacks as Intelligent Design (ID). ID is not a religious theory, it is also not a scientific theory, it claims to be a philosophical theory. This is the second campaign. Both attacks haven been led by Christians, but the nature of this attack appears more secular. Proponents have argued that you can use ID as a way of teaching critical thinking. Yet it is unlikely that they would be willing to include the theories of Raelians, Zetans, and Scientology as alternatives to practice critical thinking on. ID proponents like to assert that evolution is a "theory in crisis." Bob explained the Discovery Institute as an ID think tank with aggressive goals for ID in schools. The two main ideas of ID have been expressed by Behe and Dembski.

*Behe* – Life is a micro-biological system so complex that removing one component will stop the entire complex from working. Evolution could not create such an intricate intertwined structure? He calls it the argument of irreducible complexity.

*Dembski* – Discussed how biochemical systems are extremely complex. Having such systems come together as life is totally improbable. This is the argument of the improbability of complex design.

The key point is that neither is science. They may be philosophy. These theories don't disprove evolution. Rather they are like the Harris cartoon where in the middle of extensive equations on the blackboard appears the phrase "then a miracle happens." Carrol's advice to skeptics is: "Do not treat ID a science." Don't debate, attend, or ask questions at an ID lecture. Being on the same platform makes them seem comparable.

### *Randi Tirade*

Is pseudoscience worse in the US? The answer is no! There is just more money to be spent on it here. Randi has traveled the world, and still does. He finds quackery is fundamentally the same all over although different cultures have a different flavors of sound, costume and presentation, to their chicanery. "There is not very much new in nonsense."

Randi talked about a couple of old classics. He mentioned the counterfeit detector pen (US patent 5,063,1630). The pen line should be yellow when you mark real US currency. If you see a black line, the currency is questionable. The pen relies on iodine reacting with starch, which is used as sizing in cheap paper. If your counterfeit bill is made of good quality paper it will pass. This test has been used widely and is so crude as to be worthless. Randi's reason for discussing it was to point out that not all patents are reasonable. He claimed that Dunkin Donuts owns the patent for the peanut butter and jelly sandwich and that making toast is patented; but these are highly unlikely to be valid.

Randi also gave us an update on the Quadro detector. This detector was widely sold to law enforcement. It was essentially a dowsing rod for drugs. Tuning was claimed by inserting a picture of the drug in question into the device. Randi discovered the originator has gone to the UK and is selling the device as "The Mole" to detect explosives. Randi offered him the million-dollar prize if the instrument can find *anything*.

After the formal conference on Saturday night, we saw the first two episodes of Penn and Teller's TV series *Bullshit* and an episode of *South Park*; extremely insulting but truthful on John Edwards.

### **Sunday: short talks and concluding issues**

*Andrew Harter – Teaching Critical Thinking.* Andrew is a professional magician and member of the

Randi team. He talked about getting through to teenagers and other young people. Teaching critical thinking to teenagers will affect how they deal with issues for the rest of their lives. He discussed the three myths about teenagers:

#1 They dress funny and have short attention spans

#2 They don't like to read

#3 They're apathetic.

Kids identify with persons like them or people they'd like to be. To reach them, you need to talk about things they relate to. Keep it *real*, keep it funny, and make it lively. To illustrate, he described a situation from the movie "Signs" and ended up freaking himself out.

### *Panel on local skeptics groups*

The emphasis here was how to start a skeptics group. Most of the discussion turned on things we know. Here are some highlights. Where to get members – JREF, Skeptic, and Skeptical Inquirer can provide local mailing lists. Other groups to approach for members are local science fiction societies and magic clubs. A booth at a local science fiction conference or magic convention may recruit members.

Why do people associate with a skeptics group?

- 1) Source of information
- 2) Sense of community
- 3) Doing something, providing a soapbox, reaching out to the community

Andrew Harter uses local groups to arrange pretests for the \$1,000,000 prize. JREF will help a local group perform a first test. This is an event that will interest the media and provide free publicity.

### *Other suggestions -*

- Cultivate a local radio reporter so that roughly every week you are sending them an item they may find interesting to put on the air. Radio is always looking for items to fill time.
- In discussions, encourage the fact that everyone is skeptical about something.
- Set up a Borders discussion group.

### *Carlos Alvarez*

Carlos was billed as the mystery guest. He plays a mystic channeler with the right outfit, expressions, and

with constant attention from photographers. In a classic Randi maneuver, he was introduced in Australia with collusion from Australia's "60 Minutes." Within the first two days of his news splash, he had been on 18 TV shows. After one week, he filled the Sydney concert hall. His helpers obtained three orders, each for \$20,000, to receive a crystal from Atlantis. No orders were filled and no money changed hands. Carlos is still performing including in Beijing. He seems to consider it a kind of theater.

### James Underdown

James is the head of the Center for Inquiry (CFI) West. He investigated simultaneously the shows of James Van Praagh and John Edwards. The Van Praagh show taped July and August 2002 and was then cancelled. He tried to determine what these two were doing? Were they doing hot reads, using audience mikes, doing advance research, or planting spies in the audience. As a test, he loudly told fake stories while waiting for the show. They didn't make it into the performance. He considered the possibility the applications for tickets served as a hot reading source. He eventually concluded the readings were so inept that hot information was out of the question. He did discover there was a tremendous amount of editing. Most of the actual reads didn't make it into the broadcast, while some of Edward's sessions made it into five separate shows. John Edwards prompts his audience in a document they send a couple of weeks before the show to recollect events from their past. This no doubt, widens the chances of getting a hit. Van Praagh has a very restrictive confidentiality clause. Every so often, he would go for the home run. That is, he would claim a very specific detailed piece of knowledge. The odds of being correct are low. Bad calls end on the cutting room floor. If the team ever hit, it will look miraculous.

### Moira Benjamin – JREF Forum

Moira represented the online forum that helped to sponsor the meeting. There were some interesting statistics. The forum was started in July of 2001. By November there were 1400 users. By now, there are some 3300 members. Today there have been some 137,000 posts and there have been as many as 190 users on line simultaneously. Randi has posted 10 times over the whole history. Most of the action comes from a few members. The top 25 posters have made 50% of the posts. The next 25 posters have made 25% of the posts. The single most prolific poster is "Jedi Knight" who sounds like a non-skeptic.

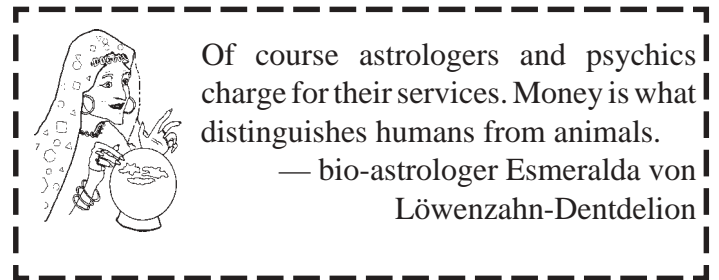
### Greg Winslow -Penta Water

There has been for sale on the market a product called Penta Water. It claims to have formed a special structure to water making it more easily used by living things. A case of the water costs about \$100. To test the hypothesis, Greg did a carefully controlled double blind experiment on mung beans to see if the Penta Water made any difference. He measured germination time, germination number and growth rate. In none of those did he see any difference between the Penta water and ordinary water.

### Taner Edis-Exorcising All the Ghosts

Tanner's thesis is that skeptics should focus not only on weird "natural" happenings, but also take on all superstitions, religion included. Bigfoot, homeopathy, alien spaceships are not supernatural, but merely unproven. His challenge was to take on the big ghost in the universe – God. Even though there may be very good reasons for not taking on organized religion, skeptics should challenge its anthropomorphic view of the world. Paranormal beliefs are not arbitrary; they are fundamentally religious, invoking agents, spirits that act upon matter. Intelligent design appeals to an extra-scientific creator. It is based on analogy to our own creative faculties, which are Darwinian in mechanism.

To deny the paranormal is to deny miracles. Skepticism supports a naturalistic view of the world. It does not strictly require denying gods, but it leans toward exorcizing all ghosts, both psi and those of religion.



Of course astrologers and psychics charge for their services. Money is what distinguishes humans from animals.

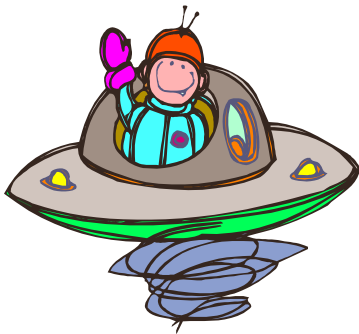
— bio-astrologer Esmeralda von Löwenzahn-Dentdelion

Recently we came across the rates charged by Ms. Patricia Mischell, our own home grown and famous psychic, preacher, clairvoyant, and communicator with the spirit world. Her basic one hour charge is \$ 710 (seven hundred and ten dollars) for a private reading. She says "the longer the session, the less expensive it is per minute," but you can buy three twenty minute segments for a mere \$ 705. Arithmetic is not one of Ms. Mischell's major achievements. She charges \$ 95 per question by mail, and \$ 185 per 15 minute reading by telephone only.

It seems a minute of Ms. Mischell's wisdom will cost you \$ 12.33. And for \$ 15, the cost of your membership in ART with six original answers from Esmeralda, you would buy exactly one minute and 22 seconds of Ms. Mischell's time. I think six words of wisdom from our own Esmeralda are worth at least as much. — editor

## Daylight Disk From Page 1.....

became a member of a group artists in New York City. He almost certainly was engaged as a hotel clerk by 1925 and after he moved to Baltimore, he also worked as a room clerk at the Southern Hotel between 1942 and 1955. His thirty years of experience as a hotel clerk possibly ended due to his drinking. Around this time he wrote *Dimensions of Mystery: A Message for the Twentieth Century*, a book length collection of his poetry, allegorical stories, and a report on the discovery

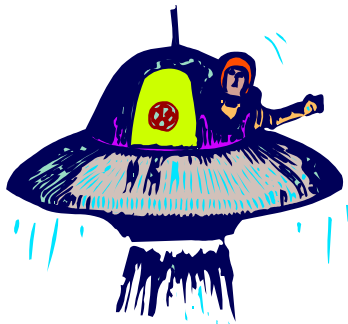


of "free energy." Free Energy refers to energy generated without input or with less energy input than is created. It clearly contradicts the first law of thermodynamics, ie. it can't happen.

Sometime between 1955 and 1957 Otis T. Carr created

OTC Enterprises with the purpose of developing inventions using free energy. This was a favorable time for such an endeavor because reported UFO sightings beginning in 1947 had prepared the public for new technologies. On 4 October 1957, the world entered the space age when the Soviet Union launched *Sputnik* the first manmade satellite to circle the Earth. Also by this time a UFO movement had become established. Bryant and Helen Reeve's book *Flying Saucer Pilgrimage*, which described the encounters of people with ET's was popular reading for UFO enthusiasts.

In 1958 Otis T. Carr was introduced to radio listeners in an interview on the *Long John Nebel Show* broadcast from station WOR in New York. Lance played us a recording of parts of this interview. For a start Carr announced that OTC Enterprises would manufacture a flight capable circular foil spacecraft, which would be offered for sale at twenty million dollars. He explained that his confidence and knowledge for building such a machine resulted from



actually seeing three electrified saucers and through his consultations with the eminent scientist, Nikola Tesla.

Carr claimed his association with Tesla began about 1925 when a hotel visitor asked him to fetch a bag of unsalted peanuts for feeding pigeons. This first meeting with the scientist led to talks on how to obtain Free Energy. Carr also described a visit he made with Tesla to the Museum of Natural History in New York. Tesla told him to study the Cape York Meteorite and to learn a message from it. Carr reported he was able to obtain harmonic sounds from the iron meteorite using a hammer and he drew certain electromagnetic patterns from that.

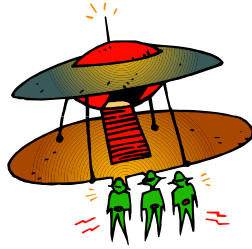
Carr remained a popular guest on the *Long John Show*; he also spoke to business groups and school audiences and went on a cross-country lecture tour to UFO audiences. He would explain how his invention, the Utron Accumulator would generate Free Energy, due in part to the geometry of joining two cones to form a square. Carr had his detractors. Long John himself doubted Carr's claims. One Lester Del Rey challenged his assertion to have produced working models by asking why there had been no public demonstration. Carr's explained how he and his associates had observed the models working and that was enough.

Because Carr's ideas involved metaphysical aspects;-- such as the importance of rock doves, generally called pigeons in the story about Tesla,-- he obtained some support from mystical groups. He obtained considerable financial investments from the business community. His brochures show a modern industrial plant, hangars, and flight test areas. In fact, he owned none of these things. He also sold plans for building a model OTC-X1. He obtained several hundreds of thousands of dollars from his many contributors. Lance was able to interview one such financial angel, Eugene Carini, who contributed \$10,000 in order to obtain distributor rights for New England. This man still believes that Carr's ideas had validity.



In 1959 Carr obtained a patent for a flying saucer ride at Frontier City, an amusement park in Oklahoma

City. Eventually he contracted with Aircraftmen Inc. to build a prototype of OTC-X1 according to Carr's specifications and design. After a few delays a demonstration was scheduled for three o'clock on 19 April 1959. On the day the sponsors and contributors were shown the prototype and given a briefing on the upcoming demonstration. At the appointed time the Major Wayne S. Aho, a close Carr associate, had to announce that a problem had developed with the OTC-X1. The launch was canceled, never to be rescheduled. Carr himself had been hospitalized before the scheduled demonstration and thus had not been able to attend the event. Outraged investors reported Carr to the SEC. Carr and the Major were indicted and eventually convicted of selling stock in OTC Enterprises illegally. Each spent six months in jail. Carr never regained his status as visionary and inventor despite trying to keep the dream alive. He died in Pittsburgh in 1982. — reported by Bob Streifthau



### A Disorderly Universe:

For centuries scientists put on blinders, ignoring quirky and unpredictable phenomena in order to ferret out a tenuous sense of order in nature. This is the triumph of science, but it made us deny that chaos lurks everywhere. Ed Lorenz not only opened our eyes to the ever-present chaos in nature but also found its governing principles. He crowned twentieth century meteorology with a discovery that irreversibly changed our view of the world.

— Stanley David Getzelman, *Weatherwise* (1994)



### A Puzzle for Thinkers...

**From an eleventh grade proficiency test.**

You and your friend have decided to divide a 15 inch diameter pizza equally. But your friend hates to eat any crust. Being a gentleman and rather enjoying to chew on crust you agree she may cut a circle without crust from the center of the pizza. What diameter should her piece have so that you each have equal amounts?

### Solution to the cycle city.

Cars: - a quarter of the million people drive 30 km/day equals 7.5 million km/day, which consume one l per 12 km or a total of 625,000 l of gas, each of which produces 2.4 kg of CO<sub>2</sub> for a total of 1.5 million kg.

Bicycles: - The same quarter million people cycle 30 km/day taking them 2 hours each, for a total of 500,000 hours using 18 l of air per minute or 540 million l of air. Multiply by .2 oxygen, by .2 used, by .84 produced CO<sub>2</sub> giving 18,144,000 l weighing 1.97/1000 kg or 35,744 kg total.

City: - Since the CO<sub>2</sub> produced by the cars is 42 times the CO<sub>2</sub> produced by the cyclists, it would take a city of 42 million cyclists to produce as much as the cars. At that we have neglected the fact that car people need to breathe too.

### Science Book Club Selections and Schedule Dates for 2003

H held the 4th Sunday of each month at 2:30 pm in Room 3A at the downtown Library except where noted:

**Apr 27** - *What Remains to Be Discovered* - by John Maddox

**May 20** - (Tuesday before Memorial Day weekend) - *Why Is Sex Fun?* - by Jared Diamond

**June 22** - *Dawn of Human Culture* - by Richard Klein

**July 27** - *The Blank Slate* - by Stephen Pinker

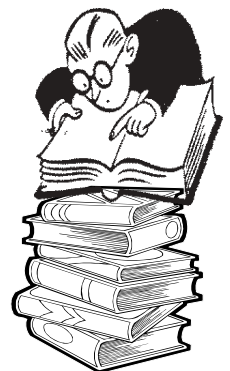
**Aug 24** - *The Universe in a Nutshell* - by Stephen Hawking

**Sept 28** - *Acquiring Genomes* - by Lynn Margulis

**Oct 26** - *Pale Blue Dot* - by Carl Sagan

**Nov 23** - *The Future of Life* - by E. O. Wilson

**Dec 21** (3rd Sunday, before Xmas) - *Significant Others* - by Craig Stanford





## *Details of Upcoming Events..*



## *ART BUSINESS*



### *Eighth Meeting of the 2002-2003 Season!*

*Date and Day: Sat. Apr. 12, 2003*

**Time:** 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM -- program  
12:15PM - 2:00 PM Lunch (The Dubliner.)

**Speaker:** Ron Decker

**Topic:** Tarotism: Traducers of Traditions.



Occultist theories of the Tarot deck routinely place it in ancient or medieval times and credit it with doctrines from Egyptian priests, Jewish cabalists, Rosicrucians, Sufis, Gypsies, Templars and/or certain heretics. Their traditions, in relation to the Tarot, are largely irrelevant, incongruous and anachronistic -- as Ron will indicate in his presentation.

### *Ninth of the 2002-2003 Season!*

*Date and Day: Sat. May. 10, 2003*

**Time:** 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM -- program  
12:15PM - 2:00 PM Lunch (The Dubliner)

**Speaker:** Rick Davis

**Topic:** A skeptical look at acupuncture. What works and what does not work, and is there any theory at all to explain it other than the placebo effect.



### *Tenth of the 2002-2003 Season!*

*Date and Day: FRIDAY. Jun. 13, 2003*

**Time:** Evening Dinner & Fun

**Topic:** It's Friday the 13th! We shall bash superstition at the Dubliner, with broken mirrors, open umbrellas, spilled salt, black cats, and walking under ladders.



*Keep your eyes on the mail....  
more details to come....*

### **Further Future for Next Year:**

Gene Kritsky on any of a number of topics — his recent research on some of Darwin's papers as they relate to design; mythologies found in the history of beekeeping; teaching evolution in Islamic countries. (This will not happen until the next year)

Mary Pacinda on the challenges of editing science textbooks for secondary level curricula in the face of "Idiotic Design" issues and proficiency testing.

### **Tentative slate of officers for the coming year:**

**President** -- Roy Auerbach

**Vice President** -- Rick Davis

**Publicity** -- Bryan Sellers

**Newsletter** -- Wolf Roder

**Treasurer** -- Rick Prairie

**Webmaster** -- David Wall

**Program Committee** -- Roy Auerbach, Brad Bonham,  
Rick Davis, Lance Moody, Gary Weiss.

**Meeting Organizer** - Randy Weaver

**Recruitment Committee Chair and Membership  
Secretary** – Brad Bonham

**Investigations Officer** -- Lance Moody

**Media Coordinator** -- Bob and Diane Streifthau

**Recording Secretary** – Bryan Sellers

**This is the slate tentatively proposed at the March meeting. Additional and alternative nominations are wanted and welcome at the April 12 meeting. Elections on 10 May.**

### **Things aren't always as they appear:**

A man named Smith was flying from San Francisco to LA. Unexpectedly the plane stopped in Sacramento along the way. The flight attendant explained that there would be a delay, and if the passengers wanted to get off the aircraft, the plane would "reboard" in about 30 minutes. Everybody got off the plane except one gentleman who was blind. Smith had noticed him as he walked by and could tell the blind was used to flying because his Seeing Eye dog lay quietly underneath the seats in front of him throughout the entire flight. Mr. Smith could also tell he had flown this very flight before because the pilot approached him, and calling him by name, saying "Keith, we're in Sacramento for almost an hour. Would you like to get off and stretch your legs?" Keith replied, "No thanks, but maybe the dog would like to stretch his legs".

Now, Picture this: All the people in the gate area came to a complete standstill when they looked up and saw the pilot walk off the plane with a Seeing Eye dog! The pilot was even wearing sunglasses. People scattered. They not only tried to change planes, but they were trying to change airlines!

— reported by Charles Hughes

**The Association for Rational Thought** is an independent, nonprofit, scientific and educational organization. We share the ideas and philosophies of CSICOP, the Skeptics Society, and JREF.

**CSICOP**: the *Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal* publishes the *Skeptical Inquirer*, a journal of investigations of paranormal claims. P.O. Box 703, Amherst, NY 14226-0703, phone: 800-634-1610, fax: 716-636-1733, www.scicop.org

**The Skeptics Society**, publishes *The Skeptic Magazine*. PO Box 338, Altadena, CA 91001; phone: 626-794-3119; fax 626-794-1300; skepticismag@aol.com and www.skeptic.com,.

**JREF**: the James Randi Educational Foundation publishes the *Swift Newsletter*. 201 SE Davie Blvd. Fort Lauderdale, FL 33316-1815. phone: (954) 467-1112, fax: (954)467-1660, www.randi.org

**A.R.T.** meets on the second Saturday of each month September through June, 10:00 AM and publishes *Cincinnati Skeptic* bi-monthly. A.R.T. meetings are open to the public. A.R.T. also maintains a database of information on paranormal claims for local new media to consult and investigates local paranormal claims. A.R.T. was founded by Cincinnati area skeptics in 1991. Annual dues are \$15.00 and include a subscription to the *Cincinnati Skeptic*.

For more information call: President Roy Auerbach (513) 731-2774 or Rick Davis (513) 474-3087 or visit our website.

**Address Changes & Corrections, Membership Questions:** Brad Bonham (513) 761-5613 (bonham@compuserve.)

**Mailing Label Information:** "00/00/00 Member": You are a member in good standing; your membership will expire on the date on the label. "Lapsed": (*highlighted*)- your membership has expired. Please send your dues as soon as possible.

**Yes!** — I want to support the important work of **The Association for Rational Thought** and receive *Cincinnati Skeptic* and meeting notices. I have enclosed funds for:

New Member

Renewing Member

Contribution

Gift membership for/by:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Work: \_\_\_\_\_ Home: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

***We have kept dues low and will continue to do so in spite of rising costs. However, if you are able to, your additional contributions are very much appreciated. Please give generously, if possible. Thank you very much!***

**I would like to make a contribution in addition to my dues to further the important work of the Association:**

Contribution Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Dues: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Total Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Make your check payable to the **Association for Rational Thought** and mail to A.R.T., P.O. Box 12896, Cincinnati OH 45212. *Contributions are not at present tax deductible, but we are working on it.*

Request subjects for future meetings

Please do *not* include my name and address in mailing lists exchanged with other groups.

### ***Skepticism and ART on the Electronic Media***



For the latest in skeptical news via e-mail, join SANE, the Skeptical Area Network Effort. You will find cheerful, rational messages from CSICOP, James "The Amazing" Randi, your fellow local skeptics and ART in your e-mail box every week. This is our means of staying in touch between issues of the *Cincinnati Skeptic*.

Be sure to check out our skeptical website at <http://www.cincinnati-skeptics.org> --- It contains: our BLURBS on various subjects; lots of nifty links to skeptical thinking around the world; the information for joining SANE; the basic definition of who we are, what we do, and our bylaws. In addition, you'll find such things as how to get to our meetings; other ways to reach us; and how to send sample copies of the newsletter to potential members.

—David Wall, Web Site Manager

**Web:** <http://www.cincinnati-skeptics.org>

**E-mail:** [darkon@one.net](mailto:darkon@one.net)



Association for Rational Thought  
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### What is a skeptic?

Modern skepticism is a response to the torrent of paranormal and pseudoscientific claims that pervade our lives. The stories of ghosts, flying saucers, miracle cures, lake monsters and many other fringe beliefs often go unchallenged. Skeptics provide the challenge.

While many of us are not scientists, we embrace the scientific method as mankind's best invention for seeking knowledge. Skeptics are not cynics. We don't simply reject every unusual idea. We do know extraordinary claims demand extraordinary evidence. We insist on the evidence.

Cincinnati Skeptics, The Association for Rational Thought, meet to discuss such claims. We debate the merits; we skewer dogmatism. We have fun.

The truth is out there. And skeptics are looking for it.

## Preview Of Coming Attractions....

*Eight Meeting of the 2002-2003 Season!*      *Date and Day: Sat. Apr. 12, 2003*

**Time:** 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM -- program -->12:15PM - 2:00 PM Lunch (usual place.)

(See Page 14 for details)

*Ninth Meeting of the 2002-2003 Season!*      *Date and Day: Sat. May. 10, 2003*

**Time:** 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM -- program -->12:15PM - 2:00 PM Lunch (usual place.)

(See Page 14 for details)

*Tenth Meeting of the 2002-2003 Season!*      *Date and Day: FRIDAY . June 13, 2003*

**Time: *Friday Evening for Dinner and Fun!!!***

*Watch your mail for further details!*

***Join US!***