

# The REALL News

The official newsletter of the Rational Examination Association of Lincoln Land

“It’s a very dangerous thing to believe in nonsense.” — James Randi

Volume 10, Number 9

September 2002

## Signs, Signs, Everywhere There’s Signs

by Bob Ladendorf

New hit movie *Signs* is a flawed gem. Actually, a badly flawed gem. Director/screenwriter M. Night Shyamalan (pronounced *Sha-ma-lon*), who has made two previous paranormal films, the popular *The Sixth Sense* and the less successful *Unbreakable*, has made a film about corn crop circles appearing on a Pennsylvania farm. The film gives the viewer a feeling of creeping dread reminiscent of some 1950s horror movies where much of the action is implied off screen and through sounds.

While Shyamalan begins well, and the movie progresses nicely, *Signs* becomes sillier in the last half and ends up in a conventional cop-out ending that dilutes its impact.

With a Hitchcockian soundtrack over the beginning credits, the film immediately primes the viewer for a mystery — assuming you don’t already know that from the trailers. As a skeptic, I know that most, if not all, crop circles have been explained in the past decade as man-made. Joe Nickell, the top-notch CSICOP investigator, told the *Chicago Sun-Times*, “You would have thought that at some point the phenomenon would peter out, that it would cease. But it’s taken on a life of its own.”

In fact, there are two other documentaries coming out about the crop circle phenomena, according to the *Sun-Times*. The newspaper also indicates that the International Crop Circle Database has cataloged some 2,000 crop circles, including some going back to the 1950s. Just before the premiere of *Signs*, a crop circle was discovered in Naperville near Chicago.

As a long-time science fiction fan, I’m certainly willing to suspend my disbelief and accept the film’s premise that crop circles are made by outer space aliens. The relatively simple plot shows, sometimes excruciatingly slowly, how a doubting widower/priest/farmer, Graham Hess (played by Mel Gibson), and his two children, Bo (Abby Breslin) and his asthmatic son,

Morgan (Rory Culkin), and his brother, Merrill (Joaquin Phoenix), deal with the appearance of a crop circle and subsequent suspicious events.

Shyamalan wastes no time in showing the appearance of the intricate crop circle, and he demonstrates a sure director’s hand at building up suspense with noises (Is that the wind or an alien leaping quickly?). He builds on the anticipation to the point that you just know something is going to happen — but you jump anyway. Soon, we catch a brief glimpse at a green leg disappearing in the corn at night as caught by Graham’s flashlight, then a shadowy figure on a house at night (Is that the pesky neighbor/prankster ... or something else?). Crop circles appear all over India (Shyamalan’s birth place, although he grew up in Philadelphia) and elsewhere, followed by hovering space ships seen on TV. (In fact, the director uses TV to convey the development of worldwide news about the appearances of this phenomena.)

As the family copes with surviving on the farm in light of speculation that the end of the world is near, the expected begins to appear. (Don’t read further if you have yet to see the film

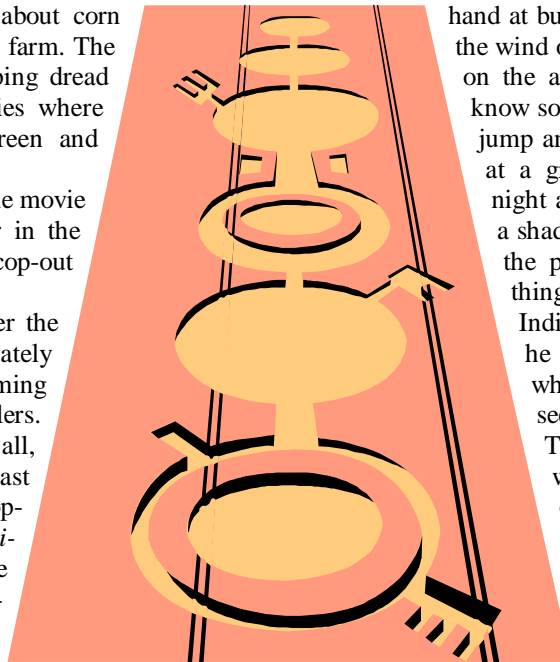
and want to be surprised.)

During this slow exposition of the plot, the meaning of the crop circles becomes clear. They are a sign of a landing site for the alien ships to land and invade Earth. During this time, Graham agonizes over his faith in God, which he appeared to lose following the death of his wife in a bizarre traffic accident that is revealed in segments throughout the movie. Graham tells Merrill that there are only two kinds of people — those who believe things happen for a reason (e.g., the expected alien invasion) — and those who don’t.

The conflict marches to its conclusion as we ponder if the family can survive, whether Earth will be taken over by aliens, and whether Graham will regain his faith. By this time, the movie begins to unravel.

Why do they stay in the house when danger looms nearby? Other than a visit by one cop, nobody is called again to look for

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## Purpose

The Rational Examination Association of Lincoln Land is a non-profit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) educational and scientific organization. It is dedicated to the development of rational thinking and the application of the scientific method toward claims of the paranormal and fringe-science phenomena.

REALL shall conduct research, convene meetings, publish a newsletter, and disseminate information to its members and the general public. Its primary geographic region of coverage is central Illinois.

REALL subscribes to the premise that the scientific method is the most reliable and self-correcting system for obtaining knowledge about the world and universe. REALL does not reject paranormal claims on *a priori* grounds, but rather is committed to objective, though critical, inquiry.

The REALL News is its official newsletter.

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## REALL Contacts

REALL Hotline.....	217-726-5354
Chairman, David Bloomberg .....	chairman@reall.org
Editor, Wally Hartshorn .....	editor@reall.org
Web Site .....	www.reall.org

## From the Chairman David Bloomberg

I've been talking about it for a couple months, but the time is finally here – Professor Karen Bartelt will be coming to talk to us about the Intelligent Design movement, some history, some deceptions, and the like on Tuesday, September 3, at our usual meeting place in the Lincoln Library (that would be the public library, not the presidential library that isn't built yet – just in case anybody is confused).

Her talk will be on "The Evolution of Intelligent Design":

Starting in the 1980s, the case was put forth for "intelligent design" as an alternative to naturalistic processes such as evolution. Since that time, the ID proponents have focused their attention on the general public, and to this day have not published a peer-reviewed paper that supports intelligent design. This presentation will address some of the main arguments proposed by ID, and the evolution of these arguments in the last 20 years. Among those topics will be some of the tactics used by the "Big Four" of the ID movement, and the responses from the scientific community.

Professor Bartelt has been a resident of Central Illinois for 16 years, and an active participant in the evolution/creation controversy for much of that time. She has BS, MS, and PhD degrees in chemistry, and is a Professor of Chemistry at Eureka College, where she also teaches courses in earth science, science and critical thinking, and creation/evolution. She has also written several articles for this newsletter.

As I have noted in previous columns, a few months back we had a meeting in which we discussed how we could fight against the local creationists, and this meeting is one of those ways. I fully expect a number of them (probably including the Lincoln Land Community College math teacher bunch) to show

(*"Chairman"* continued on page 7)

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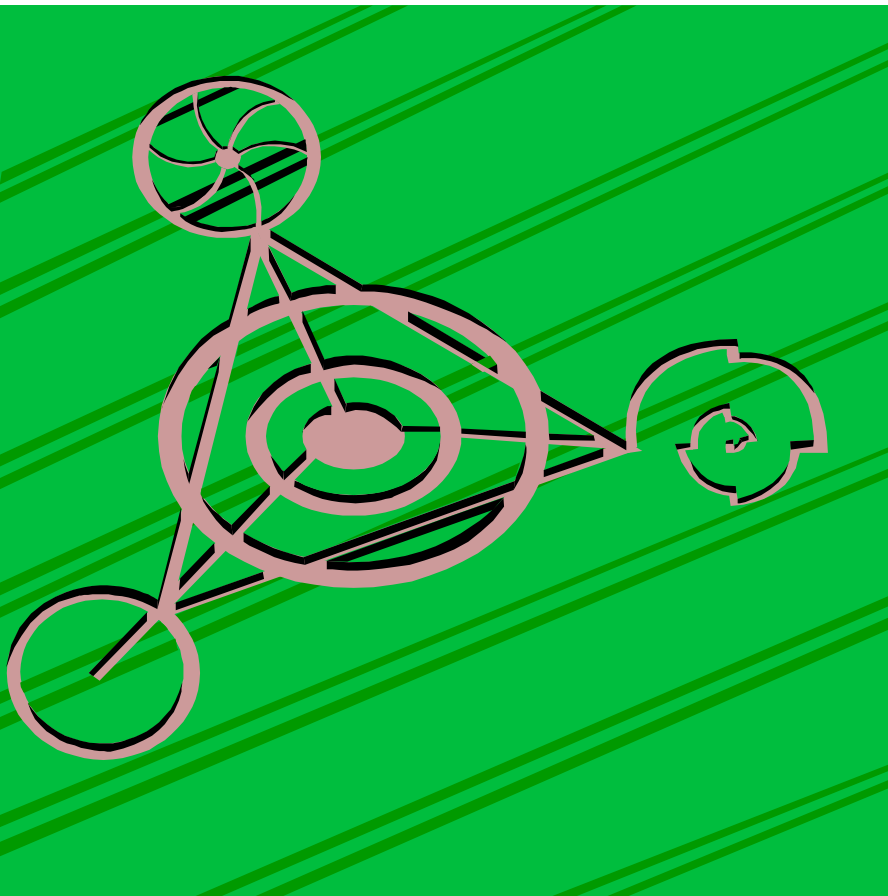
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creatures in the corn. Where’s the military? Nobody seems to lift a finger to fight the invaders? Do aliens only land where corn is grown? What if the aliens decided to attack in the spring or winter? Why does Graham see the creature in the corn, then do little about it?

These and many more questions keep piling up. Now the family members board themselves up from the inside, reminding me of *Night of the Living Dead*, and await an attack. The aliens have a hard time getting in and appear to have no personal weapons. Why is that? They finally push their way in, and the family retreats to the basement.

After some scary moments there, the boy appears to be dying because they forgot his asthma inhaler. At some point, the aliens appear to be withdrawing (who knows why). The family emerges slowing from the basement after listening to the radio. As Graham rolls the TV out of the closet where Merrill had been watching it so as not to scare the kids, he catches a glimpse of a large dark figure reflected in the TV. An excellent scary moment that Shyamalan



draws out well. As Graham slowly turns around, the big green man is holding Morgan.

Remembering his wife’s last, quizzical words, “Tell Merrill to swing hard,” Graham tells Merrill (a former minor league star who hit lots of home runs and struck out more) to get the baseball bat on the wall and “swing hard.” Merrill then batters the hell out of the alien.

At this point, I’m wondering: Here are these aliens that supposedly were reading minds, flying onto roofs of houses, constructing elaborate crop circles, and traveling in space ships that appear to be able to cloak themselves, yet this alien stands there like a catatonic schizophrenic and gets beaten to death. It was as easy a time as Robert DeNiro had as Al Capone in the movie *Untouchables* when he taught a valuable lesson to his underlings by swinging hard at the head of a traitor.

To top it off, Graham regains his faith and puts on his priest’s collar for the first time since his wife’s death. The earthlings win (for no apparent reason), the family is restored, and things apparently happen for a reason.

I just wonder who produced the crop circle in the movie.

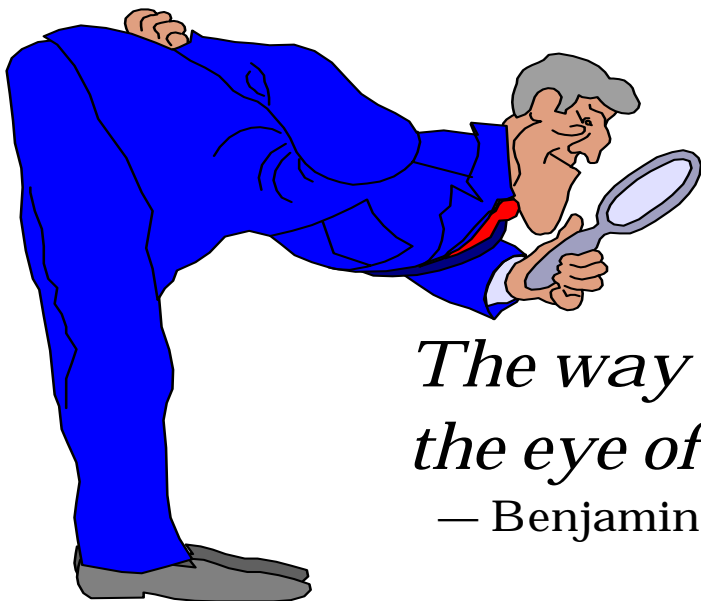
Shyamalan is a fine director, but he needs to tidy up his stories. His best is yet to come.

## References

The Circles that keep cropping up. 2002. *Chicago Sun-Times*, August 4.

Out of this World. 2002. *Newsweek*, August 5.

Bob Ladendorf is a free-lance writer and co-founder of REALL. ♡



*The way to see by faith is to shut the eye of reason.*

— Benjamin Franklin, Poor Richard's Almanac

## REALLity Check

by David Bloomberg

Last month we focused solely on articles in *U.S. News & World Report*. This month, we do have others to look at, but that magazine once again is a major focus. Last time it was because of their cover stories on evolution. This time, the cover stories are about hoaxes – and boy, do they cover a wide range!

### Mystery Map

Before they even got to the special issue on hoaxes, the August 12 issue of *U.S. News & World Report* addressed one in a small article about “the Vinland map.” The article seems to contradict itself a bit, but is overall a good one. In short, the Vinland map surfaced in the 1950s and it was supposed to be a map proving that the Vikings had beaten Columbus to America.

The contradictory part is that the article begins, “If the Vinland map is a fraud, it is a devilishly clever one.” But then the article goes on to say that while carbon dating of the parchment puts it in the correct time period of the early 1400s, spectroscopy found that the ink was made after 1923. Whoops! So while the forger may have been clever enough to get some old parchment, he was not clever enough to similarly get old ink. I don’t think that’s “devilishly clever,” but maybe that’s just me. Also, there doesn’t seem to be any doubt about “If the Vinland map is a fraud...” Unless the Vikings could not only travel across the ocean but also through time, it’s pretty clear they did not provide the supposedly medieval drawing.

But that was merely an appetizer for the hoaxes to come in this magazine.

### Sylvia Browne and other Hoaxes

The August 26 issue featured 20 specific hoaxes from over the years, and also discussed others in the introduction and in associated pieces like an article about James Randi. Frankly, I think there were other areas they could have hit, and the author even mentioned Sylvia Browne prominently in his introduction. But with a major news magazine doing a cover feature like this, I guess I can’t complain too much.

Still, the author mentions 9/11 hoaxes and Browne, yet doesn’t put the two together. (Readers will recall a number of post-9/11 “psychics” claiming credit, and Browne was foremost among them, including a pop-up ad on her site that talked about her supposedly correct previous predictions – which were actually wrong – and also advertising a special cruise you could take with her as another way to give her money.) The author does note that Browne’s “reading” of him was full of generalities, safe predictions, and comforting messages. While she did

not convince him of her powers, the author says he didn’t feel ripped off either (though he does note he might have felt different if he had paid her usual \$700 fee for a private phone reading – and she is booked until 2005 for those!). But he, like so many other writers before him, says she makes people feel good.

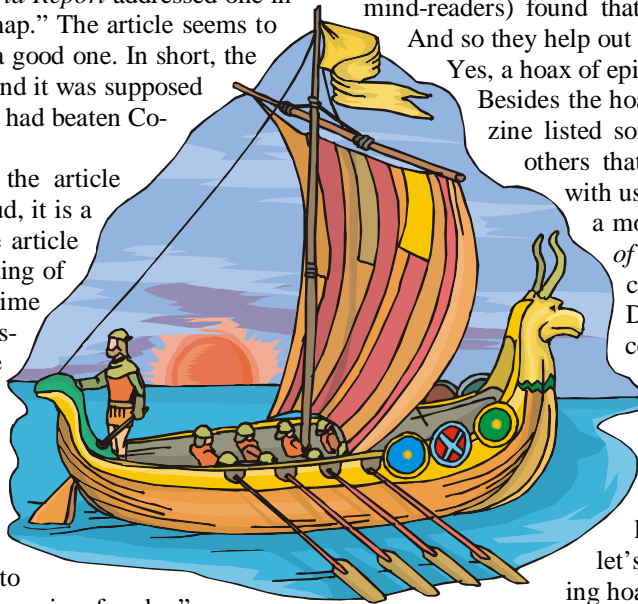
Do you have any idea how sick I am of hearing that line? Yes, I guess you probably do.

On the plus side, he uses that line to move into the point that the first step in constructing a hoax is to find a need, and fill it. Browne (along with the host of other dead-talkers and mind-readers) found that need – making people feel good.

And so they help out by making people give them money.

Yes, a hoax of epic proportions.

Besides the hoaxes I will discuss below, the magazine listed some that we’ve covered before, and others that don’t have any direct connection with us. The former includes accusations of a moon landing hoax and *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*, both of which I covered in reprints of “Straight Dope” online columns dealing with conspiracies back in 2000. In the latter group are hoaxes such as the Allies convincing the Nazis they would not be landing in Normandy for D-Day and William Henry Harrison’s remaking of his own life to put on a show for voters. Now let’s take a look at some of the remaining hoaxes.



### Freemasons

Lies about Freemasons are similar in many ways to the *Protocols*, though much less believed in today’s world – and it all pretty much stems from one man. Gabriel Jogand-Page, a French journalist (better known as Leo Taxil), wanted to show up the Catholic Church. So after writing a bunch of anti-Catholic articles and magazines, he “repented” and started writing for the Church. He penned a number of books that claimed Freemasons were Satanic and invented entire stories out of whole cloth. Then, three years later, he announced that the whole thing had been a fraud designed to embarrass the Church.

But as is so often the case with hoaxes, they don’t just go away. Evidence points to the aforementioned *Protocols* having been inspired by Taxil’s writings. And today you can still find similar anti-Freemason sentiments in works by Chick Publications (printers of the infamous “Chick Tracts” that are mini-comics showing all sorts of horrible things happening to people if they don’t believe creationism or go out trick-or-treating or the like) and even in Pat Robertson’s 1991 book, *New World Order*.

Rather than exposing the Church, Taxil only ended up feeding the lies that got passed down through the generations.

## Hoax Squared

Another topic that is related to issues we have covered is the supposed autobiography of Benjamin Wilkomirski. We covered him in this column back in the January 1999 as an issue relating to supposed recovered memories.

In brief, Wilkomirski put out a book about a child's inside view of Nazi concentration camps. *Fragments* won numerous awards after its 1995 publication. Unfortunately, the story wasn't real.

It seems that Wilkomirski actually "recovered" these "memories" while trying to discover what he could about his life before being adopted. Even at the time, there was a wealth of information that contradicted those "memories." For example, Wilkomirski is Swiss and was born in 1941 in Biel to an unmarried Protestant woman; he was then adopted by a couple in Zurich. This is quite different than the supposed memories, which date back to 1939, saying he was a Latvian Jew who saw his father beaten to death, and then was imprisoned in two concentration camps for medical experiments (supposedly explaining his lack of a tattoo). Another strange claim, though not covered in the *U.S. News* article, is that Wilkomirski said he'd been circumcised, but both his ex-wife and girlfriend denied it. There are school records showing he attended first grade in Zurich in 1947 and photos showing him there in 1946, but he claims to have moved there after 1948.

Even after all of this, Wilkomirski has not recanted his story, though his book was recalled and there are charges against him for fraud. He did put out a statement saying that he believed his memories and whether he was traumatized in concentration camps or elsewhere, it doesn't really matter. As the article notes, this is "an indication that he still blurs the line between metaphor and truth."

Indeed, this is a problem that all recovered memory stories face. The article could have taken steps to point out that the entire industry is a hoax and a sham. But instead they focused on just this one – a hoax squared.

## Circular Illogic

The best of the 20 hoax articles focused on one that has recently sprung back to life – crop circles. As you can read in Bob Ladendorf's review of *Signs* in this issue of the newsletter, crop circles are in the news again. But unlike the movie, this article points to the truth behind them – hoaxers.

Most of this is stuff we've seen before, though it is frankly amazing that there are still people who believe this particular nonsense. They bring out all the old baloney, such as that some circles are "inexplicable" while others say the plants inside these circles have somehow "changed." What is particularly ironic is a quote from one "cereologist," who says of those who ascribe circles to hoaxers: "Their fear of the unknown and unexplained is such that they're willing to accept anything, no matter how cockeyed it is." I'll have to remember that one. They believe in aliens or parallel universes or whatnot, and skeptics are the ones who accept "cockeyed" explanations. Yeesh.

The ending of this article is amusing, as one cereologist says that however crop circles are created, "I think there is an intelligence behind it." The author points to one of the acknowl-

edged British hoaxers who started it all and says that on that point, he would certainly agree.

## Full of Hot Air

One group you might not have heard of – though I have in my various readings about such nonsense – is the Breatharians. These are people who claim you can live solely on fresh air. No food, no drink. Just air.

As you can imagine, it's a little hard for most people to believe. Indeed, every time somebody has tried to put a Breatharian to the test, it seems something always goes wrong. They fall prey to "polluted air" or they need a hamburger as "medicine." (I wish I were kidding about this – really, I do.)

But it isn't all humor. As with so many wacky beliefs, this one has its tragedies. In 1999 an Australian woman died from dehydration while apparently trying to live by the Breatharian system. And two Breatharians went to jail in Australia a year earlier for letting an initiate starve to death.

One of the leaders of the movement blames trying to move too quickly for these deaths. Personally, I just blame the beliefs altogether...

## Randi Vs. the Hoaxers

As I mentioned above, a separate article for this feature focuses on James "The Amazing" Randi. It's a good piece, which talks about his debunking of Peter Popoff (see Bob Ladendorf's article in this issue) and Uri Geller.

Randi is quoted as saying, "I go straight to the truth of the matter. A lot of people think this is not an approach that wins me friends. I'm not out to win friends. I can't do it any other way." That says a lot right there – people don't like to have their favorite beliefs debunked, which is why they react in a not-so-friendly manner to Randi (and, frankly, other skeptics).

The article gives about a paragraph to his thoughts on John Edward and similar "psychics," and I wish this was an area they had gone into in more detail. After all, today which is the hoax that is more important, Freemasons or people who claim to talk to the dead? I would have to vote for the latter. But, again, it's always nice to see a positive article about skeptics, especially James Randi.

## The Drug War

OK, I'll address one more *U.S. News* article, and then move on. This one was not in the "hoax" issue and does not directly relate to something you might expect to see in these pages. It discusses drug screening often performed by employers (or would-be employers).

Why am I talking about it here? Because we deal not just with the paranormal, but with fringe science. And it looks from this article (in the August 12 issue) that screening is approaching the fringe.

As more and more people are tested, labs are looking for quicker ways to turn around those tests. The article notes that between 20 and 25 million people are drug-tested annually in the U.S. alone. So labs are using different test to get fast results. Unfortunately, faster does not mean more accurate – indeed, it often means **less**.

The article goes into detail on how the different types of

tests can pick up false positives, but the scariest part is how many people could lose their jobs and have their reputations wrecked by this sort of thing. While I certainly don't want to fly on a plane piloted by somebody who has been taking drugs, nor do I want an innocent pilot to be fired. They need to find a way to do both – which means focusing back on the science and less on the rush.

## Comic Strip Science

The comics don't often appear in these pages – though perhaps many of the concepts we discuss belong there. We had issues with *Dilbert* writer Scott Adams a few years ago, of course, but most of that was due to what he wrote in a "serious" book chapter.

But *B.C.* strip writer Johnny Hart frequently uses his comic as a way to push his fundamentalist Christian beliefs – and, yes, that means attacking evolution.

It is quite ironic to have a comic strip about cavemen attack evolution, but that's what Hart uses. In the most recent example, his August 11 strip features a classroom of ants (another regular feature of his strip). The teacher says, "OK, class, yesterday we took a field trip and search all day for something special... but found nothing! And then, today, we looked for it all day again... and still found nothing! What would that give us, Class?" The child ants answer, "Double ought?" "Two nothings?" "Nothing squared?" She says, "You're starting to get the picture. We'll do it again tomorrow." As class ends, another ant passing in the hall asks what class that was and is told, "Missing Link 101."

Ah, how cute. How amusing. How utterly devoid of any factual information. Yes, if it has to go anywhere in the paper, I suppose "logic" like that belongs in the comics. But frankly, it really shouldn't even be in there.

## Taking a Beating

Longtime readers of this newsletter know that the *Chicago Tribune* has been among the worst offenders when it comes to spreading pseudoscientific claptrap. Well, they were at it again in their "Health and Family" section (August 18). This time, they had an almost full-page article that discusses an Oriental alternative treatment that I'd never even heard of before.

Gua sha therapy involves smearing oil on the skin and then rubbing it with a flat jade stone, a spoon, or some other tool. Supposedly, beating up on the skin this way draws out impurities in the form of a red rash that comes up afterwards. Now most of us would call that "bruising" or "skin irritation." But never underestimate an alternative therapy. To them, it's great – it's a sign of impurities coming out! The body is repairing itself!

Tellingly, one of the practitioners interviewed says it is used to treat problems that generally are pain related. Headaches, early onset of colds, muscle aches, etc. All of these things often take care of themselves or can easily be "cured" by the placebo effect.

As usual for this type of article, there is very little skepticism here. And the all-important ending quotes a doctor (yes, a real doctor) who says he believes in qi (the "life energy" concept on which most oriental medicine is based) and adds, "More

and more physicians, particularly younger doctors, are becoming more open to things we don't understand." What a scary concept – doctors who don't understand the placebo effect and basic science...

## Polly Want Her Own Psychic

Also in the *Tribune*, but on a happier note, are columnist John Kass' thoughts on "The Pet Psychic" (August 21).

Kass begins by saying he loves his job, but there is one he'd rather have – pet psychic. After all, he missed out on the televangelist fad, and this job is even safer because none of his clients could testify against him for the scam, since they are all animals.

He is, of course, talking about the show on the Animal Planet network, *The Pet Psychic*. This wonderful person counsels animals and their owners by reading the animal's mind. After detailing one recent episode, Kass goes on to note that tapes are available for \$20 each and seminars are \$55 a visit. He notes that it certainly is a lucrative way to make a living (though not quite so lucrative as Sylvia Browne's \$700 phone readings mentioned earlier – give the pet psychic time).

And the pet psychic – Sonya Fitzpatrick, incidentally – even does the whole John Edward thing by talking to dead animals, too. Sheesh, if there is anything easier than a scam in which you pretend to talk to dead people, it's got to be talking to dead animals. One example Kass gives deals with a woman whose dog was hit by a truck. She wants to know if he was having fun when he died. The answer, of course, is "yes." Ah, well, we all feel much better now.

Especially Ms. Fitzpatrick. I wonder if the editors of *U.S. News & World Report* considered her for their "hoax" articles. And why on Earth didn't they include her?

## Medical Media Frenzy

Going back a few months (June 7), I found an article also from the *Tribune* that was quite interesting and I had forgotten to mention here in the past couple columns (it was in their news section, which is almost always better at getting the facts straight than the features sections that so often have the alternative medicine articles and the like). The most interesting facet of this was that it commented on the media itself, and on things that skeptics have been saying for years.

The article discusses a report dealing with publicity from medical studies that have not even been published in scientific journals. In particular, the media tends to cover new "discoveries" much more than they should, raising the hopes of people and then ultimately dashing those hopes when small studies don't pan out to larger results.

The debate over what should and should not be published by the media is carried into this article, with some saying every result should be brought out because the public has a right to know while others say that scientists are allowed to be wrong, as long as they play by the rules. And really, just because a small study finds some result, that doesn't make them "wrong" – it just means larger studies are necessary.

The *Tribune* even took the additional step of writing an editorial about the subject three days later. They wondered who

(*"REALity Check"* continued on page 7)

# Peter, Peter Popoff Healer

by Bob Ladendorf

They're back! Yes, Peter Popoff, disgraced faith healer, and his collaborator/wife, Elizabeth, are back on the air trolling for dollars.

On a cable infomercial, Popoff promoted the Peter Popoff World Outreach Ministry, pleading for viewers to order his book, *Prosperity Thinking: God's Dynamic Forces That Bring Riches to YOU!* and get his new free, tiny vial of "Miracle Spring Water." Intercut were scenes from his revival show where he lays hands on the afflicted, allegedly curing all sorts of medical problems (wink! wink!) and, oddly, supposedly freeing a woman's jailed son. Also intercut were scenes of Elizabeth reading "testimonials" of the cures from viewers healed by the water or by Popoff through the TV.

Of course, all this is old wine in new bottles. Popoff, if you remember, was exposed by James Randi on *The Tonight Show Starring Johnny Carson* in 1986. Randi and friends found out that Elizabeth was transmitting information to Peter, who wore a hidden earpiece camouflaged as a hearing aid (very strange for a man who could supposedly cure all manners of illness). Randi said, "I explained how Popoff had sent Reeford Sherrill (his 'front man'), Volmer Thrane, and his wife, Elizabeth, into the audience in advance, equipped with transmitters to gather and broadcast the needed data backstage to the reverend." (Randi, 142) During the show, she would prompt him again on the problems claimed by certain people in the audience. It then looked like he knew a person's name and affliction as if given the information by God!

During one part of the revival section of the new show, Popoff gets worked up and touches the foreheads of afflicted persons, who usually fall backwards into the arms of one of Popoff's lieutenants. Popoff even appeared to run short of

"volunteers" because one woman appeared twice – once near the beginning of the tape dancing around when Popoff told her that he just got her son out of jail and once near the end when she was instantly "cured" of headache and arthritic knee problems! Gone! Using Miracle Spring Water! Gone!

At one point during his direct plea to the TV viewer, he became incoherent when he said this:

"You need to get out of that rut! You need to get the Egypt out of you! And, get out of Egypt! But God will get you out before you get the Egypt out of you!. Get my book! Get my Miracle Spring Water!"

Get lost, Peter!

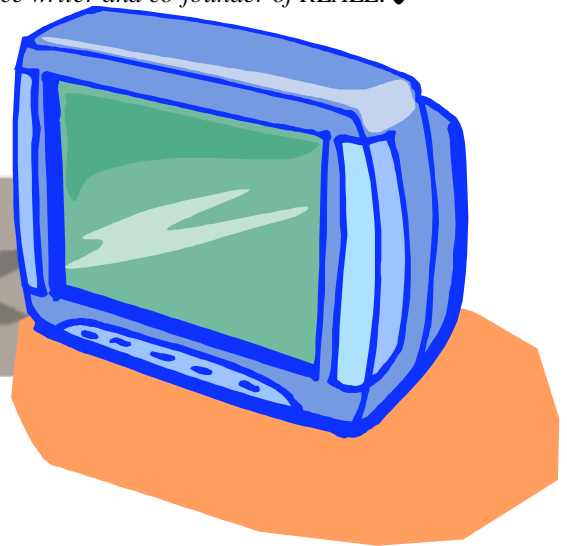
If you're really interested, you can call his toll-free number at (888) 772-9371, or go online to [peterpopoff.org](http://peterpopoff.org). I did neither.

Maybe REALL should check out the "Miracle Spring Water." After all, one dab'll do ya!

## Reference

Randi, James. *The Faith Healers*. 1989. Buffalo, N.Y.: Prometheus Books.

*Bob Ladendorf, a sometimes curmudgeon, is a freelance writer and co-founder of REALL. ♡*



(*"REALity Check"* continued from page 6)

is to blame for the screaming headlines and often contradictory information, and what can we do about it? They blame the medical community and say it won't get better. They also blame the media and drug companies as well.

Of course, no newspaper wants to be scooped. What if they really *do* find the cure for cancer? Do you think the *Tribune* wants to sit back and study the results while the *Sun-Times* runs it on the front page? Of course not.

So even though they ran this good story discussing the problems and admitted that the media plays a role in the problem, you can bet they – and other media outlets – will continue with the very same actions that were the subject of this article. ♡

(*"Chairman"* continued from page 2)

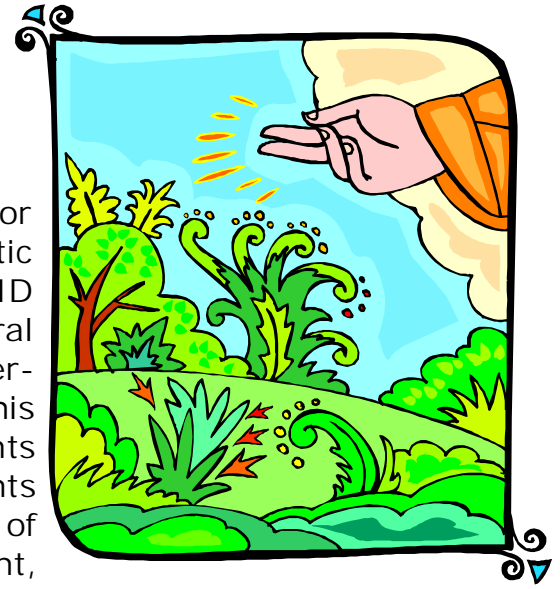
up to argue with professor Bartelt, so be sure to come and show your support. We don't want the creationists outnumbering us at our own meeting!

I think this is a very important topic, and we want to show the public that creationists should not be the ones leading the discussion! ♡

## Our Next Meeting

*The Evolution of Intelligent Design*  
*Presented by Prof. Karen Bartelt*

Starting in the 1980s, the case was put forth for "intelligent design" as an alternative to naturalistic processes such as evolution. Since that time, the ID proponents have focused their attention on the general public, and to this day have not published a peer-reviewed paper that supports intelligent design. This presentation will address some of the main arguments proposed by ID, and the evolution of these arguments in the last 20 years. Among those topics will be some of the tactics used by the "Big Four" of the ID movement, and the responses from the scientific community.



Springfield, Illinois

Lincoln Library (7th & Capitol)

Tuesday, September 4, 7:00 PM

Free and Open  
to the Public

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Rational Examination Association  
of Lincoln Land (REALL)  
P.O. Box 20302  
Springfield IL 62708

