

"A surprising proportion of mathematicians are accomplished musicians. Is it because music and mathematics share patterns that are beautiful?"

Martin Gardner
(1914 - 2010)

Phactum

The Newsletter and Propaganda Organ of the
Philadelphia Association for Critical Thinking
July/August 2010

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PhACT Jersey Devil Expedition Unsuccessful: Devil remains at large. South Jersey residents terrorized.

Batsto, New Jersey, May 16, 2010

The PhACT expedition, to rid South Jersey Pine Barrens of the Jersey Devil, led by guide Don Nigroni and paranormal investigator Joe Nickell, failed to capture or even observe the elusive creature feared by many locals. Explanations abound to justify this lack of success. One popular theory is that it being a Sunday, the Devil was in church. We cannot witness unto that claim. PhACT member Bob Clark brought a prodigious supply of soft Philly pretzels to use for bait but it appears those provincial delicacies are ineffective as devil lures. It is rumored that JD is gluten intolerant and more research on the matter is needed. We suggest a government grant to PhACT to resolve this matter.



Joe Nickell interviewing Don Nigroni about local history of the Wharton Tract and the legend of the Jersey Devil
Photo by Gina Cacace

Despite failure in the main purpose of this expedition, the outing of about a dozen PhACT folks was pleasant and educational. We prowled the Pine Barrens, a region rich in history and unique ecological features, and did manage to visit several ghost towns, mostly the remains of 18th and 19th century iron and glass making communities. This area is rich in bog iron and had an abundant

(Continued on page 2)

A Clerihew by Tom Napier

Joe Nickell
Got into a pickle.
To benefit the cause of reason,
He hunted Devils out of season.

(Continued from page 1)

supply of wood. The iron industry thrived here until richer ore was found in western Pennsylvania.

Joe Nickell was disappointed not to observe or interview the Devil (he is real, as we all know) but as he was accompanied by National Geographic photographers Joe did obtain some interesting video footage of the legendary Pine Barrens to be used in a pilot to explore possibilities for an ambitious series of investigative documentary films. We wish him success in this venture, and Joe, like General MacArthur, vowed, "I shall return".

Next time we will have better bait. I suggest that Gina, in a comfortable beach chair by the Carranza Memorial, would be enticing to the Devil. It worked to capture the Mighty King Kong, so why not the Jersey Devil?

For more on the Jersey Devil legend see the article by Don Nigroni on Page 10.



Don Nigroni and Joe Nickell flanked by National Geographic photographers
Photo by Bob Clark



Don Nigroni being video taped as he relates the history of this long abandoned iron smelter.



PhACT President Eric Krieg presenting Joe Nickell with a Jersey Devil tee shirt



A few days after the Devil Hunt, Don Nigroni and Bob Clark were again exploring a section of the Pine Barrens when they came upon this timber rattlesnake devouring some hapless prey.

Potentially, this is one of North America's most dangerous snakes, due to its long fangs, impressive size and high venom yield. Fortunately, this is to some degree offset by its relatively mild disposition. Before striking, they often do a good deal of preliminary rattling and feinting.

Photo by Bob Clark who was reluctant to get close.



Captain Emilio Carranza Rodriguez (1905 - 1928)

In 1928, Captain Emilio Carranza Rodriguez was 22 years old and a hero of Mexican aviation. Charles Lindbergh's transatlantic flight the previous year and a dramatic flight to Mexico City made a powerful impression south of the border. A plane was built, the Mexico-Excelsior (an exact copy of Lindbergh's Spirit of St Louis), and it was announced that Captain Carranza would fly from Mexico City to New York and then back again.



The trip to New York was done in stages and went smoothly. But the return flight was going to be a non-stop, grueling test of endurance. Carranza delayed his departure for three days because of bad weather, and then abruptly flew off

on the evening of July 12, 1928, in a wild thunderstorm.

Carranza only got about 50 miles south before his flight ended tragically in the Pine Barrens of southern New Jersey,



Captain Carranza was flying the 'Mexico-Excelsior' aircraft, a Ryan Brougham Monoplane type B-1 built in San Diego, California by the B. F. Mahoney Aircraft Corporation, and which was essentially identical to the famed 'Spirit of St. Louis'.

a vast stretch of pine trees and sand. His body was discovered the next day by some locals picking blueberries. Carranza had a flashlight in his right hand -- literally in his right hand, as the force of the impact had driven it into his palm. He had apparently been looking for a place to land when he crashed into some trees.

Once a year, at 1:00 P.M. on the Saturday closest to July 12th, Emilio Carranza is honored. American Legion Post 11 drives out to the monument from Cherry Hill, New Jersey, along with representatives from the Mexican consulates in New York City and Philadelphia. There, they hold a ceremony for the Lindbergh of Mexico. For one afternoon Carranza is again a hero, although he might have preferred to be remembered for something other than this. Shortly after his death Captain Carranza was posthumously promoted to General.



Emilio Carranza Crash Monument
Photo by Bob Clark

Letters to the Editor

Editor: Please stop printing as an integral part of Phactum (as opposed to appearing in Letters to the Editor) political opinions such as the Ayn Rand quote in the May/June 2010 issue. They have nothing to do with the mission of PhACT and they do not necessarily represent the opinions of all or a majority of PhACT members.

Howard J. Wilk
Philadelphia, PA

Editor: I need a bit of help, and perhaps a Phactum reader can be of assistance. My American Heritage Dictionary is usually an excellent resource, and it offers a fairly useful chart showing the various eras, periods, end epochs of geology. However, it gets really strange at the point where the Tertiary period becomes the Quaternary period. The chart I have, shows the Pliocene (starting 13MYA) ending 2 million yearS ago. That's fine, but the Pleistocene (glacial) is shown as beginning at 500Kya. what comes between 2Mya and 500Kya? Elsewhere, the Quaternary period is defined as extending from the Pliocene epoch to the present time. This just doesn't make it clear to a fuddling al' putz such as myself! Also, I'd like some help with determining the dates/periods that define the Stone Age, the Bronze Age, and the Iron Age. I have references that set the Iron Age as early as 500 P.C., or as late as the 8th Century. It would be helpful if someone could find me approximate dates for the invention of Bronze, and for the advent of iron working.

Finally, I have numbers that make NO sense when it comes to distinguishing between the "Upper,- "Middle," and -Lower' Paleolithic periods. ! guess the experts just figure that their readers already have all this info, because they rarely specify the dates they mean. Thanks a bunch,
Paul Schlueter, III
Dallas, PA

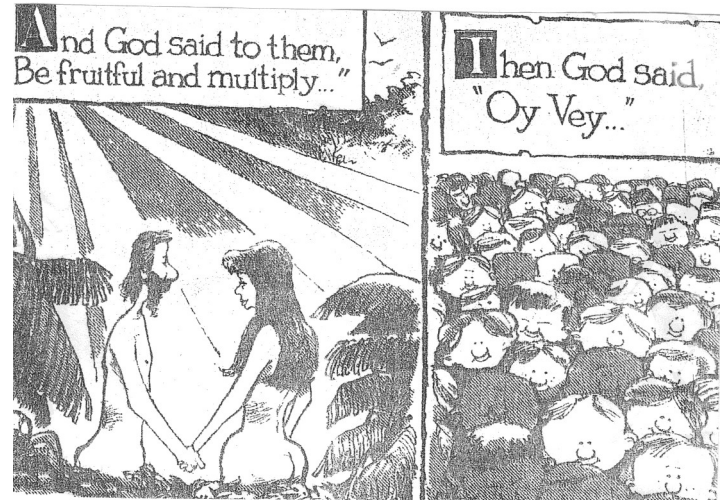
Editor: *Phactum* readers might like to know that *Skeptical Briefs* has published another of my articles. In the June issue I look into the popular belief that we can dispose of nuclear waste by shooting it into the Sun. Using orbital dynamics and some "rocket science" I show that it would take an impossibly huge rocket to send even one ton of waste to the Sun. It turns out that putting a load of waste on a non-return flight to interstellar space would be far easier.

Tom Napier
North Wales, PA

"A groundless rumor often covers a lot of ground."

- Anonymous (4004 BC — Rapture)

Editor: The cartoons you publish in the Phactum are very enjoyable, but the printing is usually too light and the words too small. Sometimes impossible to read. Please have pity on those of us who are old and can't find our glasses. It will really be an improvement.
Anonymous



**Cartoon submitted by Anonymous.
Oy Vey!!**

Editor: I enjoyed Don Nigrone's tie-in between the Jersey Devil and Shakespeare's "The Tempest." Not discussed: Mother Leeds herself was said to be the spawn of the Devil, so what was HER mother up to? Is there any folklore on Granny Leeds? Not much surprise, though, that the Devil would impregnate his own daughter, making a 3/4 devil.

Dave Leiter's article was the most amusing, I'd say. I laughed out loud several times! Still, it was pretty informative. I had been trying to press for a prison program involving using electronics class students to help erect/maintain some windmills on Department of Corrections land, to offset some of the expense of powering the prisons, while also giving those inmates some work training/experience in something likely to be a growth industry (it never got past mid-level management; here in the prison). As for drawbacks to the technology, that thing about slinging ice chunks is both feasible and new to me. As for the auditory effect of sound pulses; yes, a three-blade rotor spinning at 15 -20 RPM will generate pulses at 45-60 Hz, and at that frequency the pulses are prone to carrying some distance fairly well. On the other hand, 60 Hz hum is rather a regular aspect of modern life (the AC in a wall socket cycles at 60 Hz.), so there's a tendency for that, and its whole-multiple frequencies, to show up in audio speakers, and even some non-audio appliances. It's something we've adapted to ignoring pretty well. With multiple windmills, each operating out-of-phase, those pulses will tend to "muddle up," and as distance

from a wind farm increases, the volume would decrease by the "inverse square law" (give or take a bit, due to environmental factors). The most obvious concern might be the ill effects attributed to sub-sonic frequencies, but since those are much lower (below 10-20 Hz), they aren't really part of the picture.

And oh yeah ... I also happen to think that modern windmills are aesthetically pleasing, visually. There is something peaceful and calming about those huge, swooping, rotating blades (you're getting verrrry sleeeepy...)

BTW... the inverse of windmill power, seldom discussed, would seem to be underwater turbines, positioned in various oceanic currents. I half expect somebody to come up with a futuristic oceanic platform resort for sun/water lovers, anchored off-shore, with submerged turbines AND windmills for power, large fenced areas usable as fish farm/sport fisheries, housing facilities both above and below water, etc. For building materials, why not mine that Pacific Garbage Patch, using those acres of floating particles to create an aggregate mix for concrete-like material? It would make a great getaway spot for those wealthy enough to absorb the costs, and in turn, they can get away from the over-crowded rest of the planet!

Paul Schlueter III
Dallas, Pennsylvania

Editor: The "Shoe" comic of 6/4/10 may be amusing to our members. It shows a woman with a "crystal ball" saying, "I have a new service. For an extra 20 dollars..." and then it continues, "I can Skype you into the afterlife." Newfangled gimmick on the same old crap! A link to one of the on-line services for this comic strip, follows, in case one of our readers wants to see the graphics:

<http://www.gocomics.com/shoe/2010/06/04/>

Amy Lowenstein
Yardley, Pennsylvania

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Various Ruminations

Collected/Written by Ray Haupt
(with help from others)

The Delta Bulrush and the Gulf Oil Spill

Dr. Alfred Ernest Schuyler, a botanist at Philadelphia's Academy of Natural Sciences, is proposing that a common plant could prove useful in cleaning up after the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

The delta bulrush, *Schoenoplectus deltarum*, is abundant along the outer edges of delta marshes in Louisiana. Together with other wetlands plants, the delta bulrush helps protect the coast from storm damage, removes some of the silt and pollution coming down the Mississippi River, and provides vital habitat for birds, fish, and shellfish.

Although valuable in these respects, Dr. Schuyler believes this plant may also help in clean-up efforts for the current oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

Research on close relatives of the delta bulrush revealed that these plants are both tolerant of pollution and help in its removal. "Bulrushes are environmental workhorses, effectively used in sewage lagoons to purify water," Dr. Schuyler explains. "Air cavities in the stems transport oxygen



Delta Bulrush
(*Schoenoplectus deltarum*)

to underwater portions of the plants, making the oxygen available to microbes capable of decomposing pollutants in the sewage." Bulrushes can also help underwater microbes detoxify oil.

In addition, these plants may be critical in the recovery of impacted wetlands. "Bulrushes are also more tolerant of oil than many other marsh plants. This suggests that the delta bulrush will persist regardless of the oil and continue to stabilize the marshes in the delta."

The ability of the delta bulrush itself to both tolerate oil and help in its detoxification deserves future study, but in the meantime, this plant should be treated as a useful ally against the spill. Dr. Schuyler recommends harvesting oil-coated plants to just below the oil line. "This will protect waterfowl from the oil and also will allow regrowth from their basal portions," adding that the bulrush seeds can be removed from the harvested plants and put back into the mud.

For more on this see: <http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2010/06/100628112111.htm>

Gambling notes

I can not say that I have seen much attention by skeptics on the matter of gambling, but there should be. Here are a few news snippets and some links to illustrate the problems.



♥ Ex-tax collector gambled taxpayer money

Playing the high-limit slot machines a tax collector in Jenkintown, a small town near Philadelphia, lost \$181,599

from Sept. 14, 2007, through December 2009, according to the play usage recorded on his Player Card. That card shows that he visited the casino 180 times during that time period.

http://www.phillyburbs.com/news/local/the_intelligencer/the_intelligencer_news_details/article/27/2010/may/28/police-ex-tax-collector-gambled-taxpayer-money.html

♥ **New casinos increase need for counseling** - Currently in Iowa, there are 77 prevention specialists and counselors dedicated to the prevention, education and treatment of problem gambling for 3 million citizens in 99 counties. With no federal funding streams for gambling programs, it is essential to appropriately fund problem gambling programs at the state level

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20100620/OPINION04/6200314/-1/NEWS04/New-casinos-increase-need-for-counseling>

♥ **Why Gambling Has Gone Bust In New Jersey** - "At some point," says Creighton University economist Ernie Goss, who has studied the industry, "they're going to cannibalize each other."

<http://www.newsweek.com/2010/06/06/why-gambling-has-gone-bust-in-new-jersey.html>

♥ **Gambling Not Only Addiction Risk for Power Players** - The ability of poker players to stay at the table for hours on end is aided in many cases by the use of drugs, according to researchers.

<http://www.jointogether.org/news/research/summaries/2010/gambling-not-only-addiction.html>

♥ **Trapped in the 'fraud triangle** - Conference warns of gambling's woes - Recovering alcoholics and drug addicts are highly susceptible to becoming problem gamblers, said Robert Gagnon, a UCFS counselor and clinician. "There's often a personality type that goes with (problem gambling)," he said.

<http://www.norwichbulletin.com/casinos/x1417296140/Trapped-in-the-fraud-triangle-Conference-warns-of-gambling-s-woes>

♥ **Atlantic City Casino Gambling Revenue Drops Again In May** - Atlantic City casinos were hoping that after a strong April, they were on their way back from a devastating couple of years. That optimism was short-lived, as May revenue numbers showed a decrease once again. It was not the way the casinos expected to head into the summer months.

http://www.casinogamblingweb.com/gambling-news/casino-gambling/Atlantic_city_casino_gambling_revenue_drops_again_in_may_55240.html

♥ **Can't win for losing** - gambling addiction shines a light on the lack of any effective strategies to stop Pennsylvania slots patrons from becoming compulsive gamblers.

<http://www.philly.com/philly/>

[opinion/20100608_Editorial__Can_t_win_for_losing.html](http://www.philly.com/philly/opinion/20100608_Editorial__Can_t_win_for_losing.html)

♥ **Lawmakers ought to protect problem gamblers** - 'Shouldn't a casino be held liable for enabling a player's financial demise, whether on his own dime or through embezzlement or theft?' asks Monica Yant Kinney a Philadelphia Inquirer Columnist.

http://www.philly.com/inquirer/Local/20100602_Monica_Yant_Kinney_Lawmakers_ought_to_protect_problem_gamblers.html#axzz0pinrFQk0

SSE - Dedicated to the study of topics beyond the conventional boundaries of science.

In June I attended the annual conference of the Society for Scientific Exploration (SSE) in Boulder, Colorado. This was a pleasant and well run three day affair, filled with "scientific" lectures, almost an "information" overload.

A pleasant affair for sure, and I am very pleased that I attended since the reputation of the SSE is a bit tarnished and besmirched in many, if not most, skeptical and critical thinking circles. So, at the invitation and urging of Dave Leiter, a long time PhACT associate, a self described "skeptic of skeptics" and an official of the SSE, I did attend that event to judge for myself.

**12-dimensional
Systematized Logistical
Karmic Baloney Detector**

Let me assure Phactum readers that the general conception of SSE veracity is depressingly on target. I was hopeful that my preconceived notions were wrong, that I would be able to transcend my prior prejudice to discover a new treasure trove of knowledge, creativity, and enlightenment. That was not to be.

Speakers were, in large part, highly credentialed faculty or retired faculty of well known universities. The remainder appeared knowledgeable in their field and all were reasonably capable speakers. In three days of lectures there were but two that appeared to have that attribute, well



PhACT Council Elections

At the September 2010 meeting, on Saturday, September 18, 2010 PhACT will have elections to the PhACT Council. Only dues paying members may vote in this proceeding, which will be mercifully short in duration. Only nominations, and voting. No speeches. And the band will not play Hail to the Chief.

beloved by science minded critical thinkers, of not appealing to paranormal phenomena and to eschew dependence upon fatuous violations of basic principles of physics, more often than not a rhapsodic interpretation of the Second Law of Thermodynamics or some anomalous deviation of that law, explained and possibly understood only by the speaker.

I confess that I did not understand much of what the physicists had to say, and I daresay that other laymen were in a similar position. Furthermore, it is doubtful that other physicists in the lecture hall understood the speakers contorted speculations. That puts them in a bind. How might an attendee at a conference appear knowledgeable in an intellectual arena built on extrapolations of fantasy anomalous notions of contradiction of the laws of physics? Perhaps the only way is to devise an equally preposterous proposition to counter-baffle other attendees, thus assuming a learned position.

The Psi section was much easier to negotiate for a layman. Claims of bending steel bars by mental force alone abounded. One wonders if a steel bender could even credibly bend a strand of spaghetti by psycho-kinetic energy alone. I think not.

There was discussion of the mainly defunct P.E.A.R. project whereby random number generators can be affected and controlled by merely thinking a desired outcome. Millions of dollars have been spent on this project. I hope it was entirely private funding, that no tax money was squandered on this project.

One speaker discussed "military grade" remote viewers who were able to describe the passage ways, built by aliens, deep within "domes" on Mars. On Mars, for heaven's sake! But who am I to contradict or be skeptical? I have not been to Mars. Another speaker discussed remote healing, and still another discussed a hands-on therapy that in a video looked disturbingly like faith healing.

This conference certainly was interesting; interesting in the same manner that a Kent Hovind lecture is interesting. Hovind, now in jail for acting upon his anomalous notions of tax reporting, is surely a very capable speaker and highly knowledgeable in his view of the subject matter of Young Earth Creationism. Unfortunately Dr. Hovind's grasp and presentation of science is skewed by formidable religious fervor. I am not sure what propels SSE "scientists", but as in the case of Dr. Dino it does not appear to be rigorous research free of fantasy and delusional thinking.

I will belabor this no further. There is no point in doing so. Real scientists are so much more interesting.

The Greatest Tips on Earth

The New York Post, July 5, 2010 had a story by author Brian Moore about the 200th birthday of P.T. Barnum.

The first few lines of the story:

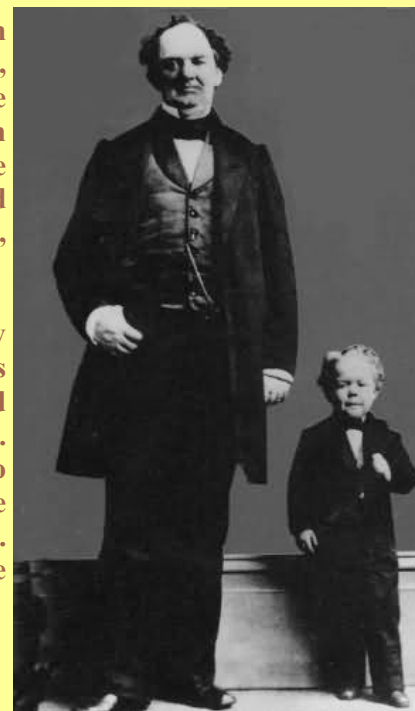
P.T. Barnum built an empire on fraud.

The 19th-century showbiz impresario, whose 200th birthday is today, exhibited the tail

end of a fish stitched to the body of a monkey, calling it the "Feejee Mermaid." It was a smash.

Phineas Taylor Barnum (July 5, 1810 – April 12, 1891) is shown here with General Tom Thumb the stage name of Charles Sherwood Stratton (January 4, 1838 – July 15, 1883).

Stratton was very popular in Barnum's circus world and became quite wealthy. When Barnum got into financial difficulty he was saved by Stratton. They eventually became business partners.



If you recall some months ago, Phactum (February 2010) had a story of the Fiji Mermaid that can be seen at the Zwaanendael Museum in Lewes, Delaware. It is well worth visiting. See the NY Post story here: http://www.nypost.com/p/news/business/jobs/the_greatest_tips_on_earth_QwIFFz4QkGwivI1DkF6UkK#ixzz0sqF197L5

And speaking of Bridgeport

I was in Bridgeport, Connecticut just a few days after P.T. Barnum's 200th birthday and by happenstance learned that the P.T. Barnum Museum was in that town. So, naturally, I went to visit but was disappointed to learn that the museum was closed because of damage caused by a tornado a few weeks earlier, a rare event in Connecticut.

Just a few blocks away from the Barnum Museum, one can find the University of Bridgeport's College of Chiropractic, the College of Naturopathic Medicine, and the Acupuncture Institute.

NASA: Warm, Fuzzy, and Feels So Good

Charles Bolden is a retired United States Marines Major General and a former NASA astronaut. Bolden is currently chief administrator of NASA.

Not long after announcing major cutbacks and subsequent layoffs of scientists and engineers involved in American space exploration, Bolden, in an interview made

the following statement:

"I am here in the region; it's sort of the first anniversary of President Barak Obama's visit to Cairo and his speech there when he gave what has now become known as Obama's Cairo initiative, where he announced that he wanted this to be the new beginning of the relationship between the United States and the Muslim world. When I became the NASA administrator -- or before I became the NASA administrator -- he charged me with three things. One was he wanted me to help re-inspire children to want to get into science and math, he wanted me to expand our international relationships, and third, and perhaps foremost, he wanted me to find a way to reach out to the Muslim world and engage much more with dominantly Muslim nations to help them feel good about their historic contribution to science ... and math and engineering."

This statement was not widely reported in the main stream media although it had been mentioned on Fox news, CNN, the New York Post, and a few other major news outlets. The story however is beginning to gain some traction and may be found in some considerable detail in the Los Angeles Times blogsite which provides a link to the interview.

<http://latimesblogs.latimes.com/washington/2010/07/nasa-muslim-world-charles-bolden.html>

Rather galling is the fact that this interview was conducted on the Al Jazeera news network even before members of Congress were privy to knowledge of the interview or of this stunning new direction of NASA.

So now it appears, according to Bolden, that the foremost priority of NASA is to encourage Muslim nations to feel

good about themselves and their historical contributions to science.

Personally, I find NASA to be inspiring and I would hope that others do as well, but I question the motivations stated by Bolden. I had always understood NASA to be a science organization dedicated to aviation and space research, not a social engineering institution, and certainly not a social engineering institution whose major commitment is to make other nations feel good about themselves.

Something is rather odd in this scenario.

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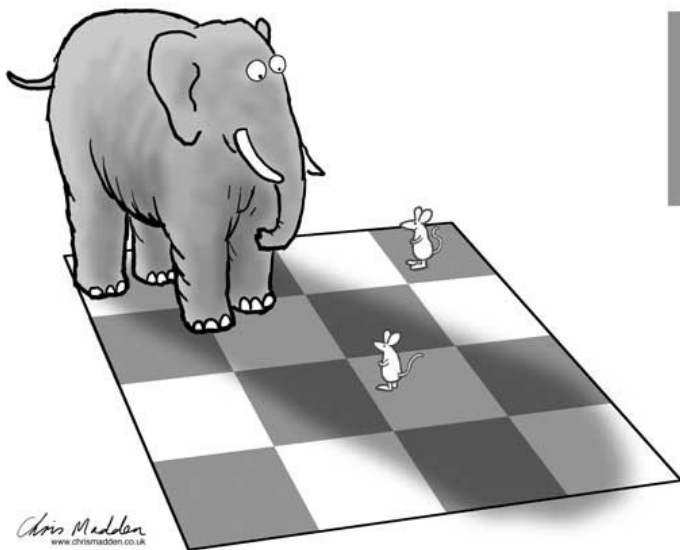
Cartoon by Gruhn
gruhn@webdonuts.com
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Help!!!!

The PhACT council would like to apply for 501c3 (formal nonprofit status) to help us attract a funding base, to allow deduction of contributions, and continue to host excellent speakers and programs. Our members represent a diverse array of talents and abilities. We would appreciate hearing from any member who could assist us in applying for 501c3 status. If you can lend a hand with this please contact our president, Eric Krieg, at EricKrieg@verizon.net

We can also use your help in other ways such as being an event organizer to help present programming and other tasks that arise for small organizations. As always we are eager to get your input in letters and articles for Phactum. Please, take time to write and send letters and articles to Ray Haupt at phactpublicity@aol.com



Things are not always as they seem.

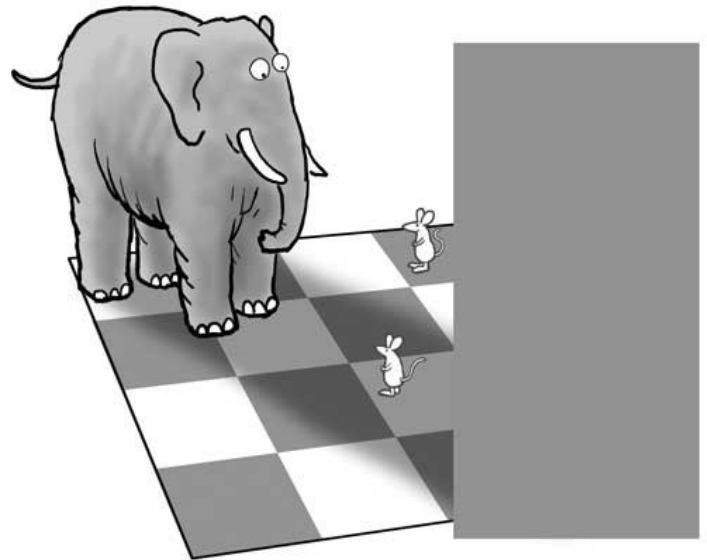
UK cartoonist Chris Madden created this clever optical illusion illustrating how we can sometimes be misled by our senses.

Optical Illusion - The Shadow on a Checker Board

In this image the two squares with the mice on them are exactly the same shade of gray, believe it or not.

You can see proof of this by looking at the image below, where a rectangle in the same shade of gray has been placed above the image.

If you're not convinced by the image below (Some people think that there's something suspicious about the gray rectangle) you can test the effect by printing out the image to the left, then cutting out the strip at the top right, which is the same shade of gray as the two squares. Place the strip over both squares and you'll see that they are a perfect match.



There's nothing special about these two squares by the way. What's happening is that when you look at the picture your brain looks at it the same way that it would look at a real checker board in the real world - and in the real world your brain compensates for the effects of shadows. Your brain knows that the square in the elephant's shadow is really a white square that's darkened by the shadow, so it lightens it up when it constructs the image.

Chris Madden's website is:

<http://www.chrismadden.co.uk>

The Vance Larner Diary

By Don Nigroni

It was neither beast, nor man, nor spirit, but a hellish brew of all three.

James F. McCloy and Ray Miller, Jr. in the *Phantom of the Pines* (1998) wrote about an alleged October 1790 diary entry by a Vance Larner concerning a strange encounter he purportedly had with a weird creature in what today is the Brendan T. Byrne State Forest, formerly known as the Lebanon State Forest, in the New Jersey Pine Barrens.

However, in their bibliography they merely listed the source as: Larner, Vance. Diary. But the source for another diary listed on the same page was noted as being a photocopy from the Gloucester County Historical Society. The earliest published report of this peculiar diary entry that I could find was in an April 18, 1976 article in *The New York Times* by Fred Cicetti entitled *A 'Monster' Of Our Own*. However, that article also failed to state where the document was located.

The passage in question reads:

It was neither beast, nor man, nor spirit, but a hellish brew of all three. It was beside a pond when I came upon it. I stopped and did not move. Nay, I could not move. It was dashing its tail to and fro in the pond and rubbing its horns against a tree trunk. It was as large as a moose with leather wings. It had cloven hooves as big around as an oak's trunk. After it was through with the tree, it yielded an awful scream as if it were a pained man, and then flew across the pond until I could see it no more.

Unfortunately, this excerpt does not provide an explicit,

full description of all of the body parts of the creature but then it was presumably not intended as a report to others but merely as a reminder to Larner. Also, since the passage does note that the monster was a mixture of beast and man and since the parts mentioned are those of various beasts, presumably the parts not detailed were those of a man.



Illustration from an April 18, 1976 article in *The New York Times*.

Today we would not refer to an antlered creature as being horned. We now differentiate antlers from horns with the former, unlike the latter, being periodically shed. However, *An American Dictionary of the English Language* (1828) by Noah Webster indicates that the rack on a moose might at that time be referred to as either horns or antlers. And since the moose-sized creature was reportedly rubbing its so-called horns against a tree trunk in October, it might seem reasonable to suppose that Larner witnessed a grunting bull moose doing a tree rake during the rut.

According to *Moose: Giant of the Northern Forest* (1998) by Bill Silliker, Jr., a bull moose will grunt and rake a tree with his antlers to attract cows during the mating season, which reaches its peak from near the end of September to early October. Today, one could search long and hard in the South Jersey Pine Barrens and find nary a moose but, according to Richard T. T. Forman in *Pine Barrens: Ecosystem and Landscape* (1998), moose might once have inhabited the Pinelands before becoming extinct there like wolves, bears

and cougars.

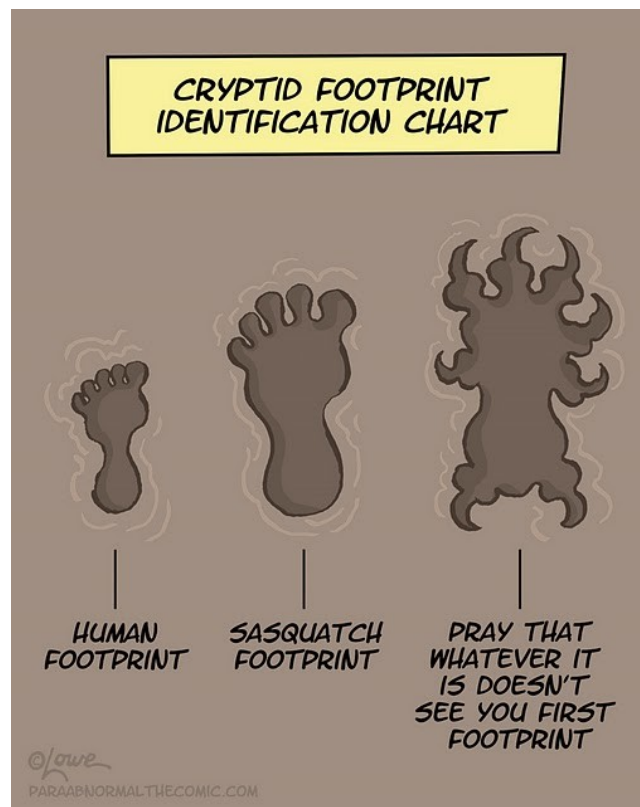
If the Vance Larner Diary is authentic then we might well be able to trace the Jersey Devil Legend back to this reported 1790 encounter which might have been due to a gross misinterpretation of seeing a grunting bull moose doing a tree rake during the rutting season. A gross misinterpretation because moose have very short tails, no human traits and can't fly! Nonetheless, his already wild yarn might then have become even more distorted and elaborated upon during its oral transmission until we eventually have the stories told by Hannah Butler and Mr. B. about the Leeds's devil in that same vicinity. Those accounts were reported by W. F. Mayer in his May 1859 *Atlantic Monthly* article *In the Pines* describing his trip to this area in the fall of 1858 (see my May 2008 and May 2010 *Phactum* articles).

If the Vance Larner Diary is authentic and the alleged encounter was due to a moose or a hallucination or if the document is a late 18th or early 19th century hoax then we might feel that we had solved the mystery of the origin of the Jersey Devil Legend. But if the diary is inauthentic and was produced after May 1859 then surely we can't trace the

inception of the tale back to this manuscript, perhaps because the document is really a late 20th century hoax. Hence, the origin of this eerie legend might then remain shrouded in mystery. Of course, yet another possibility is that we could trace the tale back to this authentic diary entry and the reported incident was uncanny. If this was the first encounter with the monster then we might think that this event explained how the legend began. But even if we were unsure as to whether it was the first sighting ever, we would anyway be able to say that a gruesome monster had been haunting the South Jersey Pine Barrens since at least 1790 and might still be out there today!

Don Nigroni received a BS in economics in 1971 from St. Joseph's University and a MA in philosophy from Notre Dame in 1973. He retired in 2007 after working for 32 years as an economist with the US Bureau of Labor Statistics. He now spends much more time hiking, mountain biking, kayaking and bird watching.

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Suicide in Modern America

by Paul Schlueter III

Suicide is the deliberate act of bringing about one's own death . As I intend to show, the reasons for carrying out such an act can be simple, or very complex. For the most part, modern American society disapproves of suicide, regardless of the reason. In fact, Pennsylvania state law defines suicide (or its attempt) as a felony, and any person who is found to have taken part in a suicide might also be held guilty as an accomplice or conspirator in the commission of a felony leading to death (a 2nd Degree Homicide, bearing the mandatory automatic penalty of Life without possibility of parole). Though it is sometimes thought to be an act prohibited by the Bible, suicide is NOT specifically listed as a sin, nor specifically prohibited. However, it is in all successful cases an irreversible act, often extremely disturbing to friends and relatives of the deceased. While I hold that the topic of suicide should be open for reasoned discussion, one's own death should never be contemplated lightly, and the likelihood of family and/or official intervention efforts would suggest that discussions of actual suicidal impulses should be restricted to one's very closest intimates, and/or to medical treatment professionals.

"Suicide is Painless" - The famous theme of the sit-com "M*A*S*H" is best known as an instrumental, but in the original movie it was performed as a song, complete with lyrics, which accompany the intended suicide of the dentist called "Painless," who believed himself to be impotent, and therefore wished for his life to end. The movie attempt failed, while the Doctor simultaneously discovered that he was in fact still virile. This example could well be used to define the first reason for suicide; "Life is no longer worth living." As the movie outcome suggests, such a feeling is quite likely to pass with a relatively minor change of circumstance, or when a conclusion is revealed to have been erroneous.

"I Can't Take It Anymore" - The next reason for suicide may best be described as an expression of extreme frustration or despair. You might think that such circumstances would only

build up slowly, over an extended period of time, yet it is possible for emotional humans to experience a rapid succession of circumstances which seem to overwhelm them. It is arguably the rapid build-up form that is most likely to be poorly considered. On the other hand, if a person has had a lot of time to build up frustration or despair, and becomes firmly determined to end their own life to escape intolerable circumstances, there's little short of a straight jacket and a rubber room that anyone can do to intercede. I would suggest that our society should begin to re-evaluate whether or not to sanction suicide in the case of firm determination, where circumstances are intolerable to the person; to deny one such an avenue of escape (particularly when the circumstances cannot be changed) would seem to be a cruelty, and I cannot see any inherent reason to prolong the misery of someone in such straights.

"Impending Death" - Another reason a person may wish to end life at a time of their own choosing is to beat an impending, but otherwise certain, death. Particularly when the impending death is reasonably expected to be accompanied by great pain and suffering, or severe emotional trauma (such as shame, grief, etc.), the taking of one's own life would seem to be a choice between a minutely shorter lifespan, or the needless experience of great suffering for the sake of a short term of extended life. This is obviously NOT a decision that should be made FOR another person, but if someone wishes to avoid misery, what gives society the right to deny them that option?

"Self-Punishment" - Some persons may choose suicide as a form of punishing themselves for deeds they believe to be sufficiently wrongful. This may often be the case when



“The real reason for not committing suicide is because you always know how swell life gets again after the hell is over.”

**Ernest Hemingway (American novelist and short-story writer, 1899-1961,
Won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1954.
Committed suicide in 1961.)**

someone commits a murder-suicide; by imposing the death penalty upon themselves, they may feel that they are expunging some portion of their own guilt (or escaping some measure of the punishment they expect at the hands of others). Society does not seem to hold much truck with such self-punishment when it isn't successful; only rarely does a murderer who attempted suicide afterwards receive punishment that is any lighter, though the very act of a (serious) suicide attempt should indicate some measure of remorse like no other act available. Also, some persons have committed suicide, rather than face trial/punishment for acts they may or may not have actually committed; much like flight from prosecution, suicide to avoid trial/punishment is generally interpreted as "an admission of guilt," when in fact it may perfectly well represent the hopeless conclusion that one is likely to be wrongly convicted/punished for something they haven't done! It is a curious aspect of the human character that we do not accept a person's self-punishment the same way that we would accept civic punishment (or better still, our own personal vengeance) for the act of wrongdoing. We object to being denied our pound of flesh, and more so when the one we believe to be guilty denies us this. The re-evaluation of such instinctive, emotional responses is one reason I believe society needs to openly discuss its views on suicide, and carefully, rationally determine when it should or should not be tolerated.

"Following a Loved One" - This reason most likely depends on the belief that there is some spiritual existence after death, where presumably one's recently-deceased loved ones may be rejoined. In rational terms, there is no evidence that any aspect of personality survives the death of the body, so from a purely rational perspective there is no place to which one might follow their loved one. This reason should not be confused with the inability to tolerate the grief or loneliness of life without the loved one, in which case it is continued misery which the survivor hopes to escape. However, there may be some degree of acceptability that would attach to a suicide-of-honor, in which the survivor chooses to end their own life as an act of recognition toward the memory of someone recently deceased. An example might be when a devoted servant or subordinate elects to end their life-of-service with such an ultimate act of self-subordination. This might seem improbable to the typical self-centered American

psyche, but in cultures where the ethic of personal service is particularly strong, it may well be considered a normal, even honorable, form of expressing grief.

"Martyrdom" - When one chooses to lay their life down in an act of warfare, civil disobedience, terrorism, religious fanaticism, etc., it is considered a martyr's death. This is held by some cultures to be the highest form of dedication to ethics or to a particular principle. Martyrdom is distinguished from heroism by its inherent focus on doing one's own will (whereas heroism is a selfless act for someone else's specific benefit). Many martyrs use their own death to cause the

"Suicide vs. Accidental Death"

Suicide definitively requires the deliberate intention of causing your own death. This excludes from discussion self-inflicted accidental deaths, such as accidental overdoses, accidental vehicular deaths, accidental industrial deaths, accidental drownings, etc. It is usually the role of the Coroner to determine the cause of death and manner of death (particularly in cases where there is no disease factor). For various reasons, it may occur that a Coroner will declare an accidental death to be a suicide, which can offend and outrage surviving family members. If such a misattribution occurs, a private attorney may be employed to challenge the Coroner's findings; specific jurisdictions may have deadlines for the filing of such challenges, so prompt attention is recommended.

deaths of others, whom they consider to be enemies or unworthy persons, and as such martyrs are socially one of the most dangerous suicidal personality types. Yet, when a martyr successfully kills a number of enemy combatants in a clear-cut case of mutual combat, the martyr's own side often praises him, even as his enemies vilify him. A Japanese kamikaze pilot who crashed his plane into an American warship was an entirely different sort of person than the 9/11 airliner hijackers who attacked civilian targets. A rational society might wish to provide opportunity for the former, while simultaneously minimizing the opportunity for the latter.

"An Act of Vengeance/Punishment Against Others" - While this may not exactly sound very rational, there have undeniably been incidents where someone has committed suicide to cause others emotional distress. It is perhaps most frequently the recourse of emotional adolescents and spurned lovers, who each might feel that they are engaged in a competition of causing hurt; having experienced some hurt, they feel that killing themselves will cause greater hurt to the other. Think of the phrase, uttered while pulling the trigger, "I'll show THEM..." The best thing that I can think of to say about such a suicide is that it at least removes one party from the conflict. Alternatively, if one can successfully commit suicide in such a manner that the opponent is the one held accountable for the death (far-fetched fiction plot: the wife poisons herself in such a way that it appears that her philandering husband poisoned her to get her out of the way), it is remotely possible that someone else might have to pay the consequences.

"To Avoid Obligation" - Arguably the form of suicide that

most resembles cowardice, an avoidance suicide could be used to escape financial debt, criminal or civil liability, moral/ethical expectations, or practically any other obligation. In the sense that such an actor is unavailable for chastisement, it is the most certain way of skipping out on one's debts. On the other hand, the debts go unpaid, so the burden of absorbing them falls on the original creditor, or upon the deceased's civil estate, or upon some segment of society. In some cultures, the obligation passes to the deceased's family (involuntarily, as often as not), which would only seem to worsen the ethical quality of the act,

"A Manipulative Gesture" - This form of applying pressure on someone else to do one's will would seem to be fairly useless if the suicide succeeds. As such, it tends to be most frequently used by persons who don't intend to succeed; their goal is to instill the fear of grief into the other party, yet to survive to enjoy the benefit of bending the other party's actions to one's own will. On the other hand, in a situation where the actor's death passes some ethical burden on to the other party, it would be what you might consider the ultimate form of expressing your demand. Unfortunately, someone irrational enough to think that their attempted suicide is a good way to influence others is also probably irrational enough to select a manner of suicide that winds up being

more fatal than intended! It could also be fatal enough to kill the other party (far-fetched soap opera plot: driving into a bridge abutment in an attempt to force your passenger to agree to some wish of yours).

"To Foil the Designs of an Enemy" - This is the opposite of the situation listed above: if someone is enforcing their will upon you, and making you (or may soon make you) do something against your wishes, killing yourself is one rather certain way of ensuring that your corpse won't carry out the abhorred act. For a soldier facing torturous interrogation, suicide might ensure that you won't reveal secrets (thus, the "suicide pill" of spy thriller fame). Less rational would be the suicide of a person who felt themselves tempted to sin by the influences of demons (or the Devil himself), who killed himself before succumbing to the demonic influence. The obvious problem with this "solution" to one's dilemma is that, while your EXPERIENCE of the situation ends, you simultaneously deny yourself any possibility of overcoming the problem and moving past the situation.

"The Cry For Help" - This one really staggers me; I mean, what's wrong with literally crying for help? It would seem to be more of an attempt to force another to give help they'd otherwise withhold (see "A Manipulative Gesture"). A recent

Suicide Deaths, U.S., 2000 Source: National Institute for Mental Health

Suicide was the 11th leading cause of death in the United States.

It was the 8th leading cause of death for males, and 19th leading cause of death for females.

The total number of suicide deaths was 29,350.

The 2000 age-adjusted rate was 10.6/100,000, or 0.01%.

1.2% of total deaths were from suicide. By contrast, 29.6% were from diseases of the heart, 23% were from malignant neoplasms (cancer), and 7% from cerebrovascular disease (stroke), the three leading causes.

Suicide outnumbered homicides (16,765) by 5 to 3.

There were twice as many deaths due to suicide than deaths due to HIV/AIDS (14,478).

Suicide by firearms was the most common method for both men and women, accounting for 57% of all suicides.

More men than women die by suicide.

The gender ratio is 4:1.

73% of all suicide deaths are white males.

80% of all firearm suicide deaths are white males.

Among the highest rates (when categorized by gender and race) are suicide deaths for white men over 85, who had a rate of 59/100,000.

Suicide was the 3rd leading cause of death among young people 15 to 24 years of age, following unintentional injuries and homicide. The rate was 10.4/100,000, or .01%.

The suicide rate among children ages 10-14 was 1.5/100,000, or 300 deaths among 19,895,072 children in this age group. The gender ratio for this age

group was 4:1 (males: females).

The suicide rate among adolescents aged 15-19 was 8.2/100,000, or 1,621 deaths among 19,882,596 adolescents in this age group. The gender ratio for this age group was 5:1 (males: females).

Among young people 20 to 24 years of age the suicide rate was 12.8/100,000, or 2,373 deaths among 18,484,615 people in this age group. The gender ratio for this age group was 7:1 (males: females).

Attempted Suicides

No annual national data on all attempted suicides are available

Other research indicates that:

There are an estimated 8-25 attempted suicides to one completion; the ratio is higher in women and youth and lower in men and the elderly

More women than men report a history of attempted suicide, with a gender ratio of 3:1

example in the tabloids was the "attempted suicide" of Alexa Ray Joel, daughter of singer Billy Joel and supermodel Christie Brinkley, by swallowing a bottle of homeopathic sleeping pills. OK, "allegedly..." Was she REALLY desperate enough to kill herself over some issue in her presumably pampered life, or did she know full good and well that there was no medicine in her medicine, so she could swallow a truckload safely if she so wished? Certainly, a loving parent would respond to such an "attempt" with appropriate concern and intervention (after the fits of laughter subsided...), but can you see the aspect of manipulation here, or am I the only one? Perhaps a better example of a true "cry for help" is in the interpretation of others; do we consider our lover's insistence on continuing to smoke, drink, and overeat to be the loved one's "subconscious cry for help," thus entitling us to intervene in their otherwise pleasurable vices? While it could certainly be said that certain vices are tantamount to slow suicide (and, with the advent of Obamacare, there may be increasing governmental pressure to care for one's own health better), I'm one of the last people from whom you should seek support for intervening in another's personal lifestyle choices to that particular degree. My favorite scene in "Animal House" (well, ONE of my favorite scenes ...) was when the Dean told Flounder that "Fat, drunk, and stupid is no way to go through life," whereupon Flounder promptly blew chunks

all over Dean Wormer and his desk .. there are just some things in life that a man needs to be allowed to do!

"Suicide is the punctuation mark at the end of many artistic careers"

Kurt Vonnegut, Jr. (American Writer, 1922-2007)

Sophomoric humor aside, suicide is an extremely complex issue, and as seen above, certain aspects of suicide might be matters that should fall under an individual's personal right to control his own life (and death), and perhaps even be viewed as ethically acceptable, or even socially honorable. I think that lumping the entire matter under a single term, and applying to the entire matter an extreme legal prohibition, is irresponsible social policy. I believe that, in a so-called "Free Society" citizens can and should freely discuss such issues in the public forum, and their rational will should be reflected by the Legislature, entitling individuals to make certain free choices for themselves, while protecting the foolish and the emotional from rash mistakes. In short, I think there's likely to be a more reasonable middle ground on the topic of suicide in modern America.

Paul Schlueter III is serving Life in Prison in NE Pennsylvania. His supporters have recently created a website about him. www.jaybird.org

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A short list of celebrity suicides

Prince Alfred of Edinburgh (1899), member of the British Royal Family, shot himself

Korechika Anami, Japanese War Minister, 1945, seppuku

Clara Blandick - actress (Auntie Em in The Wizard of Oz), 1962 --- sleeping pills, with a plastic bag tied over her head. She was 81-years-old and suffering from crippling arthritis.

Hart Crane - poet. 1932 --- suicide by drowning. On a steamship, he bid his fellow passengers farewell and jumped overboard.

Joseph Goebbels - Nazi politician, 1945 --- with his wife, poisoned their five children, then committed suicide at Hitler's Berlin bunker.

Hermann Goering - Nazi politician. 1946 -- poisoned himself hours before he was to have been executed.

Jim Jones - leader of a religious cult known as the Peoples Temple, 1978 --- killed himself after watching more than 900 of his followers die from the ingestion of Kool-Ade laced with cyanide.

Jesse William Lazear - US physician 1900 --- voluntarily infected with & died of yellow fever as part of Walter Reed's research.

Meriwether Lewis, U.S. explorer with William Clark, 1809, gunshot. There is some debate as to whether his death was a suicide

Kiyoko Matsumoto - 19 year old student, 1933 --- suicide by jumping into the thousand foot crater of a volcano on the island of Oshima, Japan. This act started a bizarre fashion in Japan and in the ensuing months three hundred children did the same

thing.

Claudius Drusus Germanicus Nero - Roman emperor, 68 AD --- suicide by stabbing himself with a sword.

Sylvia Plath - poet, 1963 --- suicide by inhaling gas from her oven.

Vincent Willem van Gogh - painter, 1890 -- - shot himself; he died two days later.

Horace Wells - pioneered the use of anesthesia in the 1840s, 1848 --- arrested for spraying two women with sulfuric acid; he anaesthetized himself with chloroform and slashed open his thigh with a razor.

Virginia Woolf (Adeline Virginia Stephens Woolf) - writer, 1941 -- committed suicide by drowning.

Gig Young (Byron Elsworth Barr) - actor, 1978 --- shot and killed his wife of 3 weeks, Kim Schmidt, then shot himself.

Gambling and the Law®:

Compulsive Gamblers Lose Again, In Court

By Professor I Nelson Rose

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**"If it wasn't for bad luck, I wouldn't have no luck at all."
"Born Under A Bad Sign" by Booker T. Jones & William Bell**

When a compulsive gambler sues a casino, the legal question usually comes down to one issue: Does the gambling operator owe a duty to protect the gambler from himself?

The answer is – No.

Operators may owe a duty to the state. But at least in Indiana, a casino owes no duty to a compulsive gambler, even if the gambler's name is on the casino's list of players it is required to exclude.

In an unusual coincidence, three different courts issued opinions on this same question during the first three months of 2003. All three decisions were as strong as they could possibly be, in favour of the casinos.

The facts of cases involving compulsive gamblers are often tragic. Sometimes, however, what is a tragedy to the individuals involved looks more like a dark comedy to outsiders.

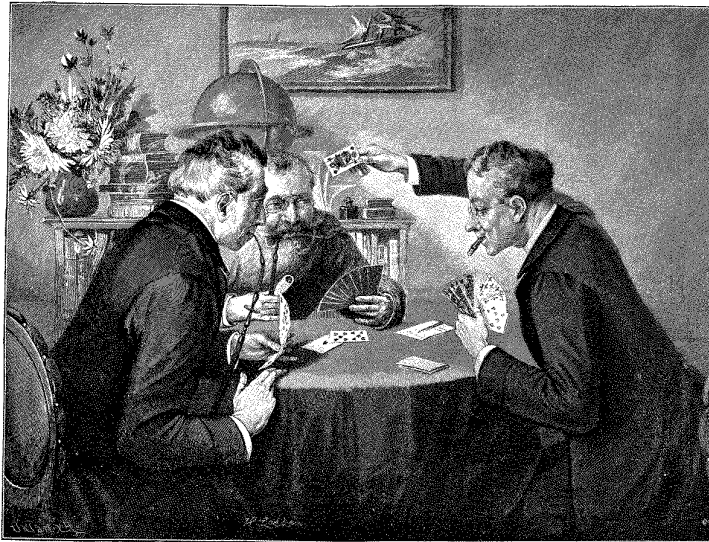
Take the case of Mark Merrill. His suit is the most important, because it went all the way up to the federal Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals, the Court below the U.S. Supreme Court.

Merrill's problem is not only that he is a compulsive gambler. He also robbed banks.

He blamed the bank-robbing on Donald Trump.

Merrill claimed that he entered a mental health clinic in 1996, and that his rehab counselor made an oral contract with Trump's Gary, Indiana, casino, to keep Merrill out. Unfortunately, the rehab counselor said, under oath, that there was no such oral contract.

Since breach of contract would not work, Merrill switched to claims of fraud, constructive fraud, strict liability, intentional and reckless disregard of others' safety, negligence, and breach of the implied covenant of good faith and fair dealing. This is all based on the casino letting Merrill remain on the riverboat after he wrote and asked that his name be added to the casino's Eviction List.



My guess is that Merrill would have had a hard time convincing a jury that the casino somehow caused him to rob banks. We will never know, because the trial judge threw out his complaint.

The Court of Appeals agreed that there was no reason to let the case go to trial. Even if Merrill proved every fact he was alleging, the casino would not be liable, because it owed him no duty of care.

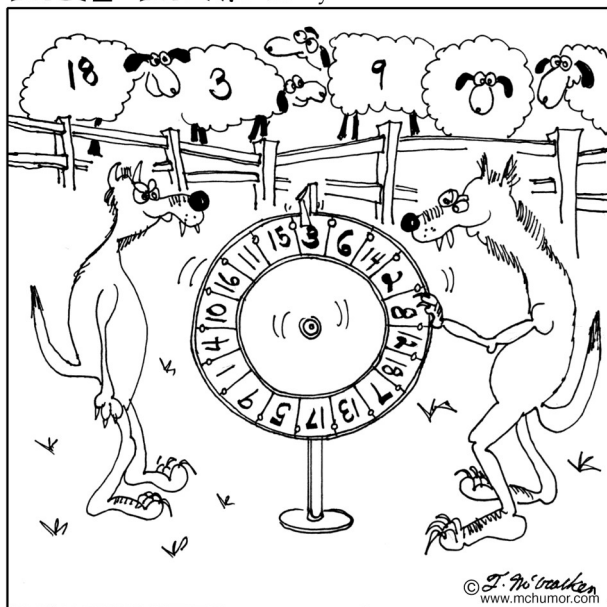
An old maxim states, "For every wrong, there is a remedy." That may be true.

But it does not say that, "For every harm, there is a remedy." Sometimes bad things happen. But another person is not liable for damages suffered by a victim unless he has somehow "wronged" that victim. If you trip while walking and reading this article, you will have been injured, but I do not owe you a duty to warn you not to walk while reading.

Merrill tried to show that Trump owed him a duty because Indiana regulations require casino to maintain an Eviction List and to prohibit entry to those on the list. Merrill's problem was first a matter of timing, since the regulation was not implemented until 2000. More importantly, the Court found that Indiana casinos have an obligation to follow the regulations or be fined. There is no

indication that the State Legislature or the Gaming Commission intended that breaking the regulation would allow the casino to be sued.

MCHUMOR.com by T. McCracken



Unnatural Selection.

Cartoon by T. McCracken
<http://www.mchumor.com/>
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This is a common problem in the law. Legislatures often pass statutes to regulate or even criminalize behaviour, but say nothing about whether they intend to create private causes of action. In the case of casino gambling, the courts usually find that the silence of the Legislature was intentional. When the State enacts hundreds of laws and rules and does not say that breaking one of those regulations means the casino can be sued, then the State did not intend that the casino could be sued.

In Indiana, the courts had extra help with deciding whether a casino owed a duty to a compulsive gambler. There were already many cases dealing with the duty owed by a tavern. If a bartender serves a patron alcohol, the tavern can be liable to a person run over by the drunk patron. But a patron who injures himself while driving drunk cannot recover from the tavern. Since Indiana law says a bar owes no duty to protect a drunk from himself, compulsive gamblers should not receive greater protection.

The other two cases had similar facts and identical rulings. Ms. Johnnie Brown sued Argosy, alleging the riverboat was negligent in failing to bar her husband from its casino, despite his “routine and substantial monetary losses.” She claimed this caused her financial, physical and emotional harm.

Judge Sarah Evans Barker ruled, “Ms. Brown bases her claim for relief on a legal duty that Indiana does not recognize. There is no set of facts which would entitle Ms. Brown to relief based on this theory.”

David Williams, the last case, is the saddest. Once an auditor with the Indiana Department of Revenue, Williams went from a frugal man who clipped grocery coupons, to a compulsive gambler who lost everything. Even craps was too slow for him, so he switched to slots. He was institutionalized after contemplating suicide.

The casino, Aztar, sent him a “Cease Admissions” letter, saying Williams would have to present “medical/psychological information which demonstrates that your patronage of our facility poses no threat to your safety and/or well-being” before it would let him in.

Williams snuck in anyway. What makes his case unusual is his use of his “Fun Card.” This was probably the first lawsuit where a compulsive gambler had access to a casino’s internal player-tracking records. Williams wanted to show that the casino knew exactly where and when he was gambling, when they were supposed to keep him out.

Once again the Judge had no sympathy. Besides being bound by the higher Court’s decision in *Merrill*, U.S. District Judge John Tinder wrote:

Whether this case is viewed as a claim for just compensation... or an effort to hit the jackpot in litigation that he couldn’t achieve on the river boat casino... through this lawsuit and a plethora of federal and state law theories, Williams seeks a determination that the gambling industry owed him a duty to protect him from himself. Despite his counsel’s creative efforts, and regardless of Williams’ sympathetic plight, neither federal nor Indiana law provides him any refuge or reward.

The Indiana Legislators have the power to overrule the courts. But should they? Are suits by compulsive gamblers like the obese plaintiff who tried to sue McDonalds? Or are casinos taking advantage of people who are mentally ill?

Professor I Nelson Rose is recognized as one of the world’s leading authorities on gambling law. His website is WWW.GAMBLINGANDTHELAW.COM

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Baccarat is a game whereby the croupier gathers in money with a flexible sculling oar, then rakes it home. If I could have borrowed his oar I would have stayed.

~ Mark Twain

Caught in the Act of Manipulating: The Rise and Fall of a Cult and Its Leaders

A book review by Jim Bergin, M.A., Gentle Wind Project Cult former member

“The lady doth protest too much, methinks.” - William Shakespeare

Here they go again – “*Caught in the Act of Helping: How a government official destroyed 23 years of effort aimed at producing revolutionary, new stress relief technology*” by Mary Miller (aka Moe Miller, Claudia Panuthos, Mary Elizabeth Carreiro, etc. of Gentle Wind Project (GWP): aka GW Retreat, Brothers & Sisters of the Spirit World, Family Systems Research Group, FSRG-1 Ching Systems, and on and on) is a sadly predictable diatribe whose only redeeming value is as a pitiful example of cult post-apocalyptic strategy, whereby cult leaders display typical delusions of persecution and distorted reality when they are exposed and “caught in the act of manipulating.”

These delusory responses, as expressed in Miller’s book, arise due to the inevitable conflicts the cult has with reality. When cults, such as GWP, are exposed by former followers, as well as prosecuted by the justice system, the group and leaders must devise strategies to recreate their prevarications. Typically, these self-induced perceptions are ones of being surrounded by “peril” whereby the proclaimed enemy seeks to destroy the cult’s and its hapless followers’ path to “save the planet.” The cult, as usual, attempts to evade all blame, deflecting it to the outside world, as cited on every page of Miller’s missive.

In Miller’s duplicitous fantasy, where anyone with critical views of the cult, and those who don’t perform like Miller’s cult followers, are defamed, GWP and its leaders, the Miller “family” (Tubby, Moe, and the other females living with them), are portrayed as the “poor” victims who only want “to save the world,” but are thwarted when their deceptive dealings are exposed by multiple legal difficulties: one

recklessly initiated by the cult leaders themselves; the other by government legal authorities responding to complaints from victims of GWP. Miller blames the first “assault” on a married couple, Jim Bergin and Judy Garvey (using pseudonyms “Bernie” and “Grady” in her book) – two former GWP Cult followers and one time so-called GWP Board members (now conveniently cast as having some sort of fictional “catastrophic mental illness,” according to the dissembling author) – and several international cult watchers and well known cult educators (including Rick Ross, Steve Hassan, and others) who posted Bergin and Garvey’s exposes of seventeen years as GWP followers on their own

websites. (In the real world Bergin, Garvey, and the others were defendants, over several years, in federal and state courts, from frivolous lawsuits unwisely concocted against them by the Millers and their GWP Cult). Bergin and Garvey were assisted in their successful landmark defense – which in the book Miller fantasizes as a conspiracy – by Jerrol Crouter, Esq., the Berkman Center for Internet & Society at Harvard University (see *Gentle Wind Case Summary* <http://cyber.law.harvard.edu/node/1322>), and experts with a specialty in cults, Dr. Arthur Dole and Dr. Cathleen Mann.

GWP’s second set of legal problems – about which the author vainly attempts to transform the Millers from snake oil hustlers to victims throughout tedious pages of indefensible libelous misrepresentations, in the reviewer’s opinion – came from Maine’s Assistant Attorney General, Carolyn Silsby, Esq., with whom the Millers and GWP subsequently signed a Consent Decree on August 14, 2006 pleading to lesser charges of deceptive practices and misuse of funds, and were summarily told to pack up GWP’s bags of expensive “healing” hockey pucks and obtuse laminated computer-designed cards, return all funds illegally obtained,

The Healing Hockey Puck



“It is a truism that almost any sect, cult, or religion will legislate its creed into law if it acquires the political power to do so.” -

Robert A. Heinlein (American science-fiction Writer, 1907-1988)

and leave the state.

Unfortunately, the obsessive disinformation, that continues for 451 pages, doesn't end there: Bergin and Garvey are defamed by Miller as somehow able to influence not only Maine's Attorney General, but national and international media; Federal Judge Gene Carter, who ruled against the Millers in their frivolous federal lawsuit against Bergin and Garvey; Governor John Baldacci; cult recovery experts worldwide; and former GWP followers. Miller's irrational conspiracy theory goes on *ad nauseum* maligning anyone outside her convoluted interpretation of reality. The Millers even condemn their own high priced attorneys. Top government officials are accused of surreptitiously sleeping with each other; Federal Judge Carter is said to be influenced by Maine's Governor Baldacci, and it only gets worse for those who take the plunge into this circular narcissistic rant. Miller goes so far as to misappropriate the work of Dr. Robert Jay Lifton – Distinguished Professor Emeritus, CUNY, Harvard Medical School, contributor to *Cultic*

Studies Review, and past keynote speaker at the International Cultic Studies Association Conference – on GWP's behalf. Anyone familiar with Lifton's work on brainwashing might find this humorous, if it wasn't so embarrassingly outrageous and an insult to Lifton.

Many will have sympathy for those long-term followers still trapped in this *Alice in Wonderland* GWP-hole. Now morphed back in business under yet another name, this time in Massachusetts, the Millers are up to the usual old scams (see www.life-insights.com). Mary "Moe" Miller might be seen sporting a new "research" Volvo Cross Country, and John "Tubby" Miller with now-limited success, reportedly attempting his same lurid "energy work" tricks on a former generous female follower/benefactor, and – if history repeats itself – on others (see *Wind of Changes*, www.windofchanges.org).

In sum, this book is a spurious and malevolent attempt to rewrite reality and obfuscate this group's illegal activities in the eyes of the Millers' unwitting followers. Researchers into cult behavior and delusions, and legal authorities needing a better understanding of how these groups function, would find this poorly edited trumped-up *apologia pro vita sua* vanity publication a repetitive and obsessed example of a typical cult strategy to reframe perception, but hardly worthy of the time or price tag.

Jim Bergen lives in Blue Hill, Maine and is a former member of this cult. This review can also be read at: <http://www.cultnews.com/?p=2405>

Editors Note: This book can be purchased at: <http://www.life-insights.com/products.html>. Cost is \$29.95 but you also get a free healing instrument worth \$50!!! Such a deal. We recommend that you do not purchase this book. Save your money .. or donate to the PhACT High School Science Fair Fund.

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Case Study of Healing Hockey Puck Therapy

Before Therapy



After Therapy



The best method for preventing destructive cult involvement is preventative education. If students and the public at large are more aware of destructive groups beforehand they may better understand and resist their recruitment efforts. - Rick Ross, cult expert

Martin Gardner and the Paranormal: An Appreciation and Critique

By George P. Hansen

Martin Gardner died on May 22, 2010. There will be many articles and tributes to him in the coming weeks and months, but probably few will be from proponents of the paranormal. Gardner generally was not liked by them, and the feeling was mutual.

He had a real dislike for some researchers, including J.B. Rhine and Russell Targ (as well as some members of Targ's family). Nor was he able to maintain friendly relations with moderate skeptic Marcello Truzzi. Gardner was a "hard-line" debunker, and his writings were frequently laced with invective, sarcasm, and ridicule—a style less suited for scholarly journals but more for zines such as *Saucer Smear* (Gardner was a non-subscriber to *Smear*, and an occasional contributor).

But the implications of the paranormal debates go far beyond the personalities, foibles, and animosities of those involved in the disputes. Gardner is too important to be dismissed, and the twentieth-century controversy over the reality of psychic phenomena cannot be understood without him.

He dealt with the issues frequently, in depth, and for more than half a century. He was passionate about the topic, and it is not too strong to say that paranormal claims enraged him. In its own way, the paranormal was part of his life, and part of him. His writings, and also his person, merit attention. The emotion that paranormal controversies generates, and the schisms they provoke, are key to understanding the anti-structural nature of the phenomena.

I grew up reading Gardner's *Mathematical Games* column in *Scientific American*, long before I had any interest in the paranormal. His occasional allusions to the paranormal sometimes puzzled me, but I didn't pay much attention to them. After I developed an interest in parapsychology and began reading *The Zetetic*, *Skeptical Inquirer*, and *Zetetic Scholar*, I became familiar with the controversies, and of course, with Gardner's role. His clear, vigorous (even vicious!) prose, was fun to read, if one was not too close to the receiving end. *Newsweek* magazine commented: "Gentle as he is, he is driven almost beyond satire...he wields Ockham's razor like a switchblade."

My own opinion of Gardner is comparatively favorable, considering the views of most paranormal proponents. He

made important contributions to psychical research, especially when he pointed out that parapsychologists needed a knowledge of magic. As I became professionally involved in parapsychology, I found his point to be largely ignored. His writings were a significant influence on my thinking and orientation to psychic claims. When I critiqued the research with Bill Delmore, which was highly regarded within parapsychology, Gardner provided very useful information.

Proponents, as well as debunkers, have almost entirely avoided addressing his religious views (though I've made some attempt). Gardner's struggles over his religious beliefs had a profound impact on his intellectual life. He understood that parapsychology had implications for religion, and he was uncomfortable with them. In fact, he wrote that some parapsychology experiments could be blasphemous, going on to add,

"Let us not tempt God."

My comments above have been brief; they are meant only as an introduction to the more extended analysis included in *The Trickster and the Paranormal*. There I devoted more than 14 pages to Gardner, far more than for any other individual. The section appeared within the chapter on reflexivity, partly to provide a respite from that highly abstract topic and partly because Gardner was an important popularizer of the topic of self-reference. The section, which is critical but also appreciative, is now online.

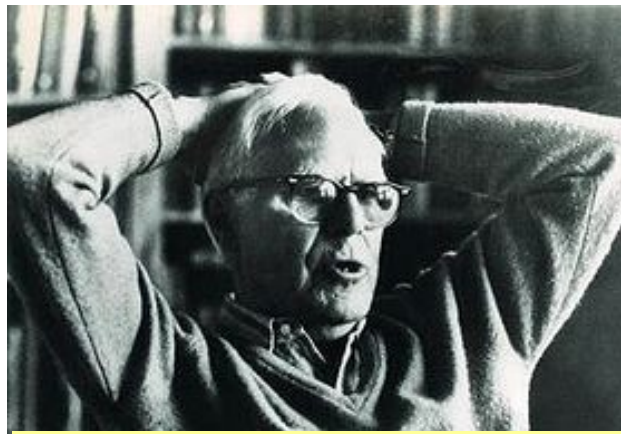
Click here for section on Martin Gardner in *The Trickster and the Paranormal*:

<http://www.tricksterbook.com/ArticlesOnline/MartinGardnerSectionFromTricksterAndTheParanormal.pdf>

George Hanson is a long time member of PhACT and past speaker who is most likely to make an appearance when paranormal topics are discussed. George is author of the book *The Trickster and the Paranormal*, details about which may be found at his website:

<http://www.tricksterbook.com>

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Martin Gardner (1914 - 2010)

ID's Cosmic Cousin

By Tom Napier

A common criticism of the Intelligent Design postulate is that it is entirely negative. ID proponents decry the teaching of evolution but have no coherent theory of their own to replace it. It is hard to justify giving subjects "equal time" when one of the options has zero information content and no explanatory power whatsoever.

ID's older and more blatant form, Creationism, covers far more ground than just the development of species. Creationism has much to say about the formation of the Earth and its subsequent (short) history.

I have no more than a layman's knowledge of evolutionary biology. I did, however, train and work as a physicist and have been a keen amateur astronomer for many years thus I have a reasonable grasp of modern cosmology. Like most skeptics, I'd heard of Biblical verses that suggest that the Earth is flat. I wondered if these were anomalies or whether they represented a consistent Israelite view of the cosmos. If the latter, and if the war against teaching evolution should succeed, ought we to anticipate a movement to have the teaching of modern cosmology banned from high schools?

As a child I was thoroughly indoctrinated in at least the more PC parts of the Bible but I felt disinclined to embark on an extensive program of Biblical research. As it turned out, I didn't need to. Instead I bought a copy of *The Biblical Cosmos versus Modern Cosmology* by David Presutta. (Amazon, around \$23.)

Here I give fair warning. I subscribe to PhACT's policy of being neutral towards religion. My interest is whether a consistent cosmological picture emerges from the Bible. Presutta, on the other hand, has an axe to grind. He describes the Universe as modern research shows it, then contrasts this with the view held by the writers of the Bible. His point is that the huge discrepancy shows that, at least in this area, the writers did not have specially revealed knowledge and that therefore we should not regard them as having been divinely inspired in any respect. Needless to

say, this is a controversial viewpoint.

Presutta's sketch of the Biblical cosmos shows a flat disk with a thin dome of beaten metal arched over it. This dome joins the edge of the Earth all around its rim. The flat and stationary Earth is supported by pillars above a bottomless ocean. The Sun, Moon and stars are small objects attached to the underside of the dome. They slide across it impelled by angels. Having crossed the sky they scurry across its upper side, ready for their next appearance in the East.

Above the dome lies Heaven and even more water. Rain falls through windows in the dome and ultimately drains into the lower abyss. Winds are stored in rooms near the rim of the Earth, to be released as needed. Earthquakes are explained as a shaking of the pillars supporting the Earth.

In the most detailed description, there are six doors in the east and west edges of the dome. The Sun emerges through different doors at different times of the year, thus explaining why it is higher in the sky in the summer than in the winter. (This masterpiece of ingenuity is found in the non-canonical Book of Enoch.) Amazingly, although different authors fill in different details, the overall picture is internally consistent. This cosmological model remained unchanged throughout the 700 year period during which the Old and New

Testaments were written.

Meanwhile, in Greece, Aristotle (384 - 322 BCE) had proposed that the Earth is a sphere. About 230 BCE, Eratosthenes figured out how to measure its size and came up with a number close to the modern value. About the same time, Aristarchus determined that the Sun and Moon are large distant objects. He estimated their sizes and distances from the Earth with considerable accuracy. None of this new knowledge influenced the Biblical writers. Indeed, Christian scholars were still fighting a rear-guard action in favor of a flat earth as late as 550 CE.

I bore quickly when an author expounds at length, as Presutta does, on the nuances of Hebrew and Greek words but I had my share of Aha! moments. Both the book of Genesis and an old ethnic joke make a lot more sense when



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one realizes that, to the Israelites, the light of day didn't come from the Sun. In Genesis the cycling of night and day predates the creation of the Sun, Moon and stars, just as the morning sky lightens before the Sun appears.

(The joke goes roughly as follows, no slur intended. Two rabbis in the Warsaw Ghetto discussed which was the more useful, the Sun or the Moon. They concluded that it was the Moon since it gave light at night. The Sun only appears in the daytime when it is already light.)

There is nothing perverse in the Biblical picture. To the observer the Earth does not appear to move and it does look flat. The sky looks like a dome with small lights moving across it. It takes a certain sophistication of mind to see that a globe spinning in space and orbiting a distant Sun displays the same appearances.

It takes a similar sophistication to see that evolution accounts for the diversity of life on Earth. If we lose the battle to teach evolution, how long will it be before science teachers are compelled to give equal time to a cosmology based on a flat stationary Earth?

Tom Napier has been a stalwart skeptic and member of PhACT for many years and delights in exposing the outlandish claims of pseudo-scientists and charlatans. Tom made his living as a physicist, writer, and scientific consultant. After coming to Pennsylvania he worked mainly in electronic design and management. He is now retired although still doing occasional consulting jobs.

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"I can't wait to meet the new neighbours - I hear they're descendants of the very first settlers..!"

Cartoon by Nick D. Kim, <http://www.lab-initio.com>
Used by permission.

Bogus Science Reviewed

By Tom Napier



Paperback: 373 pages
Publisher: Dover Publications; 2 edition (June 1, 1957)
ISBN-10: 0486203948
ISBN-13: 978-0486203942

Back in 1952 a young author wrote, "Not many books have been written about modern pseudoscientists and their views." The author was Martin Gardner who recently died at the age of 95. He was introducing his book that, renamed "Fads and Fallacies in the Name of Science," became a modern classic. Its publication did more than anything to launch the skeptical movement.

Gardner picked 25 areas of crackpottery and reported in depth on each. Since then there have been many books devoted to a single nutty idea and quite a few that try to cover too much ground too superficially. It is rare to find a book that follows Gardner's plan as closely as does "Bogus Science" by John Grant (2009) (\$12.95). Grant too has set out to discuss a limited number of topics in detail rather than to, "[T]ouch every possible base with infuriating briefness."

Here you will find all the usual suspects, the flat-earthers and the hollow-earthers, the believers in Atlantis, the pyramid prophets and the cryptozoologists. Perpetual motion and anti-gravity have their own long chapters. While there are some references to recent events, this is fundamentally an historical survey. You won't find any Johnny-come-lately cults or psychics. Perhaps they are more likely to sue.

Grant's chapters start in the middle of a page, making it difficult to locate or count them. Their headers are printed in red and all commence, "Some people really believe . . .". As there is a substantial index, and as each right-hand page has a different heading, it is easier to check out specific topics than to read a chapter from beginning to end.

This fascinating but idiosyncratic little book (its footnotes too are printed in red) is the author's third about the fringes of science: it was preceded by "Discarded Science" (2006) and "Corrupted Science" (2007). I must look out for them.

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PHACT CALENDAR

PhACT Events

Dr. David Cattell, Chairman of the Physics Department of Community College of Philadelphia hosts meetings of **PhACT** - at 2:00 PM on the third Saturday of most months at Community College of Philadelphia... Parking is easily available and is free for PhACT attendees at CCP events. Enter the college parking lot on 17th Street which is one way south bound. This meeting site is handicap accessible. **PhACT Meetings are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted.**



Saturday, September 18, 2010 - The PhACT Lecture season begins anew. Stay tuned to this section of Phactum for details in the September edition and check in to our website at PhACT.org

Sunday, July 25, 2010 at 2:00 PM - Film: Jean Renoir: La Grande Illusion (The Grand Illusion) (1937)

At the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

Celebrated director Jean Renoir boasts a diverse body of work. His sensitivity to the human experience and his early consideration of film as a genuine art form define his career. Son of famed Impressionist Pierre-Auguste, Jean Renoir compared film to painting and the director to the artist: "A movie now is a portrait of [the director]. Perhaps there's no help hiding behind the story anymore." Admission: \$8 (\$6 members) after Museum admission; ticket required

Art students from select area schools receive free admission to the Museum and some programs. Call (215) 684-7585 for details.

Tuesday, August 3, 2010 at 7:30PM

Mary Roach | Packing for Mars: The Curious Science of Life in the Void

"One of those rare writers who can tackle the most obscure unpleasantness and distill the data into a hilarious and informative package," according to the San Francisco Chronicle, New York Times

best selling science writer Mary Roach has explored what happens to our bodies after we die (Stiff), what may happen to our souls after we die (Spook), and what happens physiologically behind closed bedroom doors (Bonk). With wit and unflagging curiosity, Packing for Mars examines the science of space travel and the oddities of life in such an inhospitable environment.

Central Library 1901 Vine Street, 19103, 215-686-5322
Cost: FREE. No tickets required. For Info: 215-567-4341.

Thursday, August 5, 2010 at 7:30PM

Pam Jenoff | A Hidden Affair

Philadelphia attorney Pam Jenoff is the internationally best-selling author of the historical romance novels The Kommandant's Girl (a Quill Award nominee) and its follow-up, The Diplomat's Wife, as well as modern espionage mystery Almost Home. A graduate of Cambridge University and the University of Pennsylvania, Jenoff previously worked for the State Department and the Pentagon. Uncovering the convoluted mystery behind a WWII-era wine counterfeiting operation, her new novel A Hidden Affair is both a cunning psychological thriller and complex literary romance. Central Library, 1901 Vine Street, 19103, 215-686-5322
Cost: FREE No tickets required. For Info: 215-567-4341.

Calling All Astronomers! Rittenhouse Astronomical Society

Monthly Meetings! Bring all of your out-of this-world questions!

Join The Rittenhouse Astronomical Society the second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the Fels Planetarium at the Franklin Institute. The society offers all persons an opportunity to participate in the activities of an astronomical group at the laymen's level. They aim to spread knowledge, awareness and enjoyment of astronomy and astronomical issues. It is a popular science club that keeps its members up-to-date on the latest developments. No experience is necessary to attend the FREE meetings. Come with your astronomy questions!

www.rittenhouseastronomicalsociety.org/



SOCRATES CAFE is moderated by: Lewis Mifsud, Ph.D., P.E., a member of PhACT and of The American Academy of Forensic Sciences, at the Springfield Township Public Library (215-836-5300) at 1600 Papermill Mill Road, Wyndmoor, PA. 19038. This philosophical discussions group is free and open to the public. Join us and share your critical thinking, questions and opinions.

The **PhACT Calendar** is open to members and non-members who wish to announce meetings and events of other groups of which they are interested or affiliated. These events should be of some general interest to the Skeptical or Scientific community and should be within a reasonable radius of Philadelphia. Send submissions to the editor at phactpublicity@aol.com. Keep the announcements brief. Space is limited and insertions will be made on a first come-first served basis after the needs of PhACT are accomplished. Phactum does not accept

Friday, August 13, 2010 at 8:00 PM Mensa General Membership Meeting is usually on the 2nd Friday of each month at the Police Administration Building at 750 Race Street in Philadelphia. Contact Pete Stevens at pete.stevens@phila.gov for more information or the Mensa calendar at <http://dvm.us.mensa.org>

Sunday, August 15, 2010 at 2:00 PM - Film: Jean Renoir: The Southerner (1945) At the Philadelphia Museum of Art.
Location: Van Pelt Auditorium, ground floor. \$8 (\$6 members) after Museum admission; ticket required

Celebrated director Jean Renoir boasts a diverse body of work. His sensitivity to the human experience and his early consideration of film as a genuine art form define his career. Son of famed Impressionist Pierre-Auguste, Jean Renoir compared film to painting and the director to the artist: "A movie now is a portrait of [the director]. Perhaps there's no help hiding behind the story anymore." The screening of *The Southerner* includes a talk by François Massonnat, Ph.D. candidate, Department of Romance Languages, University of Pennsylvania.

Admission: \$8 (\$6 members) after Museum admission; ticket required

Art students from select area schools receive free admission to the Museum and some programs. Call (215) 684-7585 for details.

Wednesday September 22, 2010 at 7:30 P.M.

Tim McGrath will discuss his new book (published May 2010) John Barry An American Hero in the Age of Sail.

At Broad Axe Tavern, 901 West Butler Pike, Ambler, PA 19002
Telephone: (215) 643-6300. This event is Free. See the short synopsis of the book on this page.

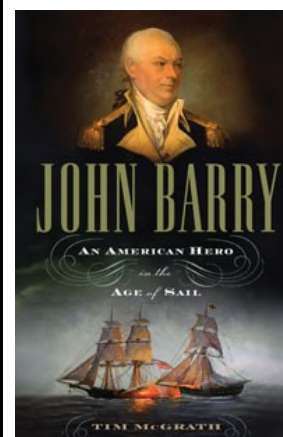
See the American Revolution Round Table of Philadelphia (ARRTOP) website at www.arrrtop.com

Saturday, November 6, 2010 - P.I.R.A (Paranormal Investigators and Research Association) will participate in a one night fund raising event for Fort Mifflin, a historic Revolutionary War site in Philadelphia. All proceeds collected from this event will go directly to Fort Mifflin. For more information, please contact Fort Mifflin by calling 215-685-4167 ask for Lorraine Irby, or you can email her at irby.lorraine@gmail.com

John Barry: An American Hero In The Age Of Sail by Timothy McGrath

**Pub. Date: May 2010, 1st edition Hardcover, 704pp
Publisher: Westholme Publishing
ISBN-13: 9781594161049 ISBN: 1594161046**

The man regarded as "the Father of the American Navy" returns to the quarterdeck in *John Barry: An American Hero in the Age of Sail*, the first comprehensive biography of this legendary officer in generations. Son of a hardscrabble Irish farmer from County Wexford, Barry was sent to sea as a child, arriving in Philadelphia during the restless decade before the American Revolution. Brave and ambitious, he ascended the ratlines to become a successful merchant captain at a young age, commanding the most prestigious ship in the colonies and recording the fastest known day of sail in the century.



Volunteering to fight for the Continental cause, Barry saw his star rise during the War for Independence. As captain of the *Lexington*, *Raleigh*, and *Alliance*, Barry faced down broadsides, mutinies, and even a fleet of icebergs. He captured the first enemy warship taken by a Continental vessel and fought the last battle of the American Revolution. His hard-won victory over two British warships simultaneously garnered him international notoriety, while his skill as a seafarer and cool temper established

Barry as a worthy foe among British captains. Without a ship during the winter of 1776-77, the ever resourceful Barry lead a battery of naval artillery at the battle of Princeton. With peace came a historic voyage to China, where Barry helped open trade with that reclusive empire. In 1794, President Washington named Barry as the first commissioned officer in the new United States Navy. Given the title of commodore, Barry ended his career during America's naval war with France, teaching the ropes to a new generation of officers, most notably Stephen Decatur.

Drawn from primary source documents from around the world, *John Barry: An American Hero in the Age of Sail* by Tim McGrath brings the story of this self-made American back to life in a major new biography.



The College of Physicians of Philadelphia

BIRTHPLACE OF AMERICAN MEDICINESM

**The College of Physicians of Philadelphia
19 South Twenty-Second Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103
(215) 563-3737 x304**

http://www.collphyphil.org/prog_calendar.htm

College of Physician lectures and programs are free. There may be a fee at some receptions.

The College of Physicians is taking a break for the Summer. Lectures and other events will resume in September. The museum remains open year round.

**The Mutter Museum
19 South 22nd Street
Philadelphia, PA, 19103**

Hours of operation: Monday-Friday, 10am-5pm
Saturday & Sunday, 10am-5pm
Closed on Thanksgiving Day, December 25th, and January 1st.

General Admission (Ages 18-64): \$14
Children (Ages 6-17): \$10
Senior Citizens (Age 65+): \$10

Students with valid ID: \$10
Military with valid ID: \$10
Fellows of the College: FREE
Children under 6: FREE



Science on Tap, A Science Café

Science on Tap is a monthly gathering in Philadelphia for anyone who is interested in

getting together with other people to discuss a range of engaging science topics.

Held at National Mechanics, a relaxed, convivial bar in Old City, *Science on Tap* features a brief, informal presentation by a scientist or other expert followed by lively conversation. The goal is to promote enthusiasm for science in a fun, spirited, and accessible way, while also meeting new people. Please come join the conversation! On the **second Monday of each month at 6:00 PM.**

What's On Tap

Monday September 13, 2010

Beauvais Lyons, Director of the Hokes Archive, will talk about "The Association of Creative Zoology"

Join us for a one-of-a-kind presentation combining visual art and performative dialogue. In playing with and even parodying conceptions of the history of life on earth, artist Beauvais Lyons, self-appointed Director of the Hokes Archives, provokes skepticism and critical thinking on the part of audiences of all persuasions, whether proponents of evolution, creationism, or intelligent design. In confusing the boundaries between art and science, and between the imaginary and the real, Lyons challenges the ways that beliefs about the world are formed. Lyons's installation, *The Association for Creative Zoology*, will be on view at the American Philosophical Society's Jefferson Garden at 105 South Fifth Street (near the corner of Fifth and Chestnut) in September. Please check www.apsmuseum.org/lyons for exact dates and hours.

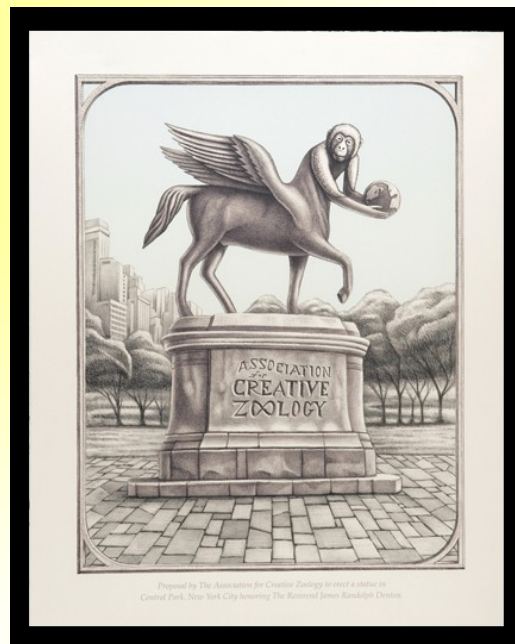
This month's Science on Tap is presented by the APS Museum

National Mechanics 22 South Third St. Philadelphia PA 19106
215-701-4883

Free and Open to the public (age 21+) or minors accompanied by a chaperone 25+. Want to join the Science on Tap mailing list? Contact us at scienceontapphilly@gmail.com and include "subscribe to mailing list" as the subject line

Science for what ails you

The science café movement began in Leeds, England in 1998 when a local pub decided to foment a new kind of barroom brawl—a scientific debate. The idea took off as a unique way to advance public understanding of science. Now, there are locations from Maine to California where, for the price of a beer or a glass of wine or a cup of coffee, anyone can discuss scientific ideas with leading experts in their fields and learn about developments that are changing our lives.



2009-10 Penn Science Café Schedule

The Penn Science Café, the lecture series that hauls science out of the lab and treats it to a night on the town. Free and open to the public, it's an opportunity to pitch questions to leading scientific experts.

6 P.M. @ the MarBar, 40th and Walnut street location, 2nd floor of the Marathon Grill, menu items available for purchase RSVP to Jordan Reese, jreese@upenn.edu or 215-573-6604. RSVP's are encouraged, but we aren't sticklers.

The Penn Science Café is on break for the summer, but programs will resume in September and will be listed here.



1700 West Montgomery Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19121

ph 215-763-6529 www.wagnerfreeinstitute.org

Wagner Free Institute of Science lectures and classes will resume in September. The Museum is open however, and well worth visiting.

The Wagner Free Institute's Library and Archives are located in the building's west wing. Formerly Branch #1 of the Free Library of Philadelphia, the wing was recently restored and is now home to the Albert M. Greenfield Conservation & Research Center. The Center, established in 2005 and formally opened in 2006, provides reference services for visiting researchers and staff.

Reference services are available to students and scientists, as well as scholars of science and technology, intellectual and social history, and the history of science in America. The collection, which ranges in date from the 17th to the early 20th century, comprises monographs and serials, including government documents and publications of many 19th century scientific societies. Also included in the collection are archives, manuscripts, maps, drawings, photographs, teaching charts, and glass slides.

The subjects represented include the natural and physical sciences, education, medicine, archaeology and anthropology, the pseudo-sciences, instrument building and engineering. The archives include the personal and business records of the Institute's founder, William Wagner, and the records of the Institute from its inception. The printed materials collection includes 45,000 volumes of monographs and serials.

Wagner Free Institute publications are available for use in the Library. Publications contain the results of the expeditions and original scientific research performed at the Institute. They consist of three series: Transactions – Volume 1, 1886 through Volume 11, 1927; Bulletins – 1926 through 1958; and Publications – 1927 through the

present.

The Library is a member of the Philadelphia Area Consortium of Special Collections Libraries (PACSCCL) and the Philadelphia Area Center for the History of Science (PACHS). For more information about the Library collections and to search the on-line catalog, please visit the Institute's website at www.wagnerfreeinstitute.org/library. Collections are non-circulating and the stacks are closed. Materials may be used by appointment Tuesday through Friday, 9 AM to 4 PM.

For reference questions or to make arrangements to use the collections, please contact Lynn Dorwaldt, Librarian, at (215) 763-6529 ext. 12 or

library@wagnerfreeinstitute.org



"To the citizens of Philadelphia let them open their stores of wealth, for no other way can money be better bestowed, than in the promotion of education." – William Wagner (1796–1885), philanthropist and founder of the Wagner Free Institute of Science

The Academy of Natural Sciences Center for Environmental Policy "Philadelphia's Window on the Environment"

Center for Environmental Policy
The Academy of Natural Sciences
1900 Benjamin Franklin Parkway, Philadelphia, PA 19103
www.ansp.org/environmental/ | 215-299-1108 | cep@ansp.org

Upcoming Public Events

Tuesday, August 3, 6–9 pm

The Bugs Behind Bug Fest: Exploring the Diversity of Insects

Want to get more out of Bug Fest? Want to learn more about the incredible variety of insects? This class will explore the diversity of insects and related arthropods and examine some of the features that make insects one of the most successful group of animals on earth. You will learn about the major groups of insects to aid recognition in nature with emphasis on local species. Class will be enhanced by the use of many of the 3.5 million specimens housed in the Academy's entomology collection.

Dr. Jon Gelhaus, the Academy's Curator of Entomology, will lead this class. He is an expert on the systematics, biogeography, and ecology of crane flies (Tipuloidea).

\$25/members; \$30/non-members

Space is limited to 20 participants. Call 215-299-1060 to register.

Sunday, August 21, 2010 9:30 am – 1:30 pm

Electrofishing Field Study

Join Academy fisheries scientists on an electrofishing study in a local stream. If you're fishing with rod and reel, you'd probably be lucky to catch five fish in an hour. On this trip we could observe and identify several hundred!

Participate in this method of catch and release used by our scientists to study wild fish populations. You may take part in the water with waders or on the bank by netting, caring for captured fish or recording data. Leave with an understanding of local stream ecology, and gain experience in identifying game and non-game fish as well as other aquatic animals. Leave with an understanding of local stream ecology, and gain experience in identifying game and non-game fish as well as other aquatic animals.

The field leader, Paul Overbeck, is a Fisheries Staff Scientist in the Academy's Patrick Center for Environmental Research. He has over 25 years experience in field collection, identification, and analyses of freshwater and marine specimens from throughout the United States.

\$25/members; \$30/non-members

Space is limited to 20 participants. Call 215-299-1060 to register.

Wednesday, September 29, 6:30–8:30 pm at the Academy
Saturday, October 2, 8:30 am–5 pm, field study in the Pine Barrens, N.J. (More details on the field trip will be discussed in class on September 29.)

Beginning Nature Photography

Harness the power of your digital camera to capture amazing nature photographs! This two-part course will examine the basics of nature photography. We will use light, design principles, and natural subjects to create appealing, expressive photographs. The Academy's Doug Wechsler will demonstrate some of the tricks of the trade to help you improve your technique. The course will include one evening session at the Academy and a day-long session in the New Jersey Pine Barrens.

Doug Wechsler is director of VIREO, the Academy's worldwide collection of bird photography. His nature photography has appeared in hundreds of publications including 20 children's books he has authored.

Fee: \$75/members; \$80/nonmembers (one cost for both programs, not sold separately)

Equipment not included; bring your camera, its owner's manual, and extra batteries.

Space is limited to 12 participants. Call 215-299-1060 to register.

Wednesday, October 27, 2010, 6:30-7:30 pm

An Evening with Author Jay Kirk

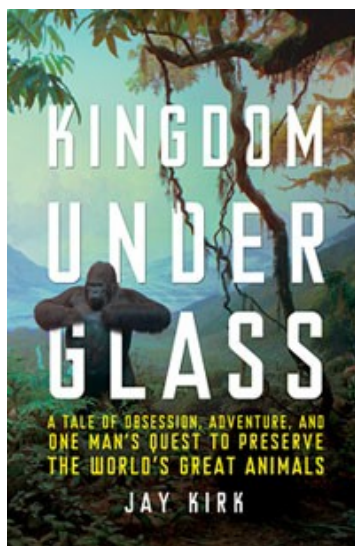
Book signing to follow

Spend an evening with author and Philadelphia resident Jay Kirk as he discusses his newest book, *Kingdom Under Glass: A Tale of Obsession, Adventure, and One Man's Quest to Preserve The World's Great Animals*.

In this epic account of an extraordinary life lived during remarkable times, Kirk follows the adventures of the brooding genius Carl Akeley who revolutionized taxidermy in the late

19th century. Akeley's artistic methods were used in natural history dioramas across the country, including the Academy of Natural Sciences.

Kirk's nonfiction has been published in Harper's, GQ, The New York Times Magazine, and The Nation. His work has been anthologized in Best American Crime Writing 2003 and 2004, and Best American Travel Writing 2009 (edited by Simon Winchester). He is a recipient of a 2005 Pew Fellowship in the Arts and is a MacDowell Fellow. He teaches in the



Creative Writing Program at the University of Pennsylvania.

Starting at 5:30 pm, visitors are invited to view rarely seen specimens and hear the stories behind the Academy's own dioramas. See photos and field sketches from the pioneering Academy explorers who followed in Akeley's footsteps.

Please RSVP to 215-299-1060 or reservations@ansp.org



Laurel Hill Cemetery

3822 Ridge Avenue - Philadelphia, PA 19132.
215-228-8200 <http://www.thelaurehillcemetery.org>

Hours of Operation:

Monday-Friday 8:00am-4:30pm
Saturday-Sunday 9:30am-4:30pm

Closed Major Holidays

Admission to Laurel Hill Cemetery is always free

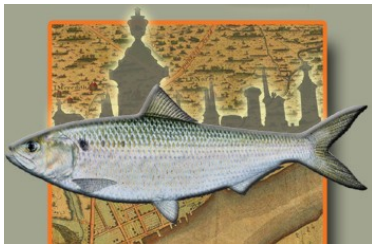
Saturday, July 24, 2010 at 7 PM THE GHOSTS AMONG OUR GRAVES: A Paranormal Investigation of Laurel Hill

Join us for this unique event, as Free Spirit Paranormal Investigators (F.S.P.I.) reveals its findings and sheds light on the history, techniques and equipment of ghost hunting. After hands-on demonstrations, test your own psychic abilities while exploring Laurel Hill Cemetery's 'other side' by the light of the summer moon and raise your 'spirits' with wine and other treats in the Gatehouse.

Advance registration is required. Tickets (\$30/person) can be purchased through the cemetery office (215-228-8200) or on the evening of the event.



Wednesday evening, July 28th at 6:00pm. A Twilight Tour and Toast to Our Famous Fishtowners



Many of the personas synonymous with Philadelphia's Fishtown & Kensington neighborhoods now rest at Laurel Hill Cemetery – names such as Bromley, Cramp, Rotan, Vaughn, and Chandler, as well as other lesser known Fishtowners, but still major figures in Philadelphia history. Join us this summer evening as we tour their gravesites. The program will be led by Ken Milano, a Kensington born historian and genealogical researcher with over twenty years experience in the history of Philadelphia's colonial neighborhoods of Fishtown and Kensington.

Afterwards, join us back at the Cemetery Gatehouse for refreshments. Beer will be generously donated by Fishtown-based business, KD Financial Services. A diverse collection of Fishtown memorabilia will be on display for viewing over a drink or two. And, Ken will also be on hand to sign copies of his books, Remembering Kensington & Fishtown, The History of Penn Treaty Park and The History of the Kensington Soup Society.

The cost is \$20 per person; \$17 for members; and \$15 for students and seniors. Children are free. Call (215)228-8200 to reserve your space, or email us at:

tours@thelaurehillcemetery.org

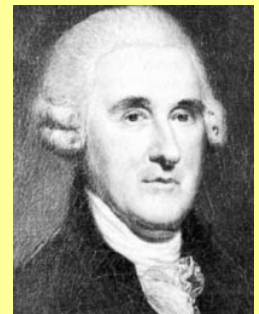
Sunday, September 26th at 2:00 PM - The Worlds of Thomas Jefferson at Laurel Hill

Adopted sons, Signers of The Declaration, Painters, Sculptors, Men of Science, Ladies of Belle Letters, Famous Physicians, Pariahs of Free Press, Purveyors of Fine Wine and, of course, political provokers both friend and foe: recognized by Thomas Jefferson as luminaries in our nation's early "Constellation of Worthies," they all rest peacefully in Laurel Hill Cemetery.

Join Bill Barker - foremost Jefferson scholar and acclaimed portrayer of America's third president - on this historical exploration of the worlds of Thomas Jefferson at Laurel Hill. The tour will be held on Sunday, September 26th at 2:00 PM. The cost is \$15 per person; \$12 for members; \$10 for students and seniors; and children under the age of 12 are free.

Thomas McKean (1737 - 1817) is regarded as one of the Founding Fathers of the United States of America. He is interred at Laurel Hill Cemetery. He was one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. He was a delegate from Delaware.

McKean was a very busy man during the Revolutionary War. He was a delegate to the Stamp Act Congress of 1765, as well as a delegate to both the First Continental Congress and the Second Continental Congress.



In addition to being a signer of the Declaration of Independence, he also signed the first constitution of Delaware, the first constitution of Pennsylvania, the Articles of Confederation and the present U.S. Constitution.

He was the second person to be appointed as temporary President (governor) of Delaware, was elected and served as the second governor of Pennsylvania and was the second President of Congress under the Articles of

**Events and exhibits at
Chemical Heritage Foundation
315 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106**

Tel: 215-925-2222 • Fax: 215-925-1954
<http://www.chemheritage.org>

Events and exhibitions are free and open to the public unless otherwise noted.

**August 6, 2010 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
First Friday at CHF - .**

Mid-century cooking from the Jell-O cookbook. A
tasting and talk about chemistry-influenced food trends.

Ongoing exhibitions

Gallery hours are 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday-Friday.
(Free and open to the public)

Transmutations: Alchemy in Art (exhibit) :
Monday-Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., by appointment only
Call 215-925-2222 to make an appointment.

**The Whole of Nature and the Mirror of Art: Images of
Alchemy (exhibit)**

Du Pont Gallery

Marvels and Ciphers: A Look Inside The Flask
1 March - 10 December 2010



APS Museum Calendar:

**Museum Exhibition
April 17, 2009 - October 17, 2010**
Philosophical Hall
104 South Fifth Street

Philadelphia, PA 19106 Donation Requested: \$1

Dialogues with Darwin, an exhibition drawn from the American Philosophical Society's own Darwin collection—the largest outside of Cambridge, England—celebrates the Darwin's 200th birthday and the sesquicentennial of the publication of his book *On the Origin of Species*.

On view are original letters written by Darwin, manuscripts such as his handwritten title page for *On the Origin of Species*, rare first editions of his work (in many languages), and sumptuously illustrated books by other scientists. The exhibition traces the history of his theory of evolution through natural selection for more than a century, beginning prior to the 1830s, before Darwin jotted down his first thoughts about evolution, and continuing into the 1940s, when his theory was accepted as the basis for all life sciences.

The notion of "dialogue" lies behind all aspects of the exhibition and associated programs. The historical materials explore Darwin's work in relation to other scientists and thinkers: the predecessors, contemporaries, and successors who were in dialogue with his ideas up through the mid-20th century. Contemporary artworks by Eve Andrée Laramée extend the dialogue into the present. Laramée's steampunk aesthetic merges the visual and scientific worlds of Darwin's Victorian era with 21st-century video technology.

You can visit the exhibition in the APS Museum's gallery space in Philadelphia. There you will be invited to use Post-It® Notes to add your comments to the Darwin dialogue. Or view it right on this website and go to Diablogs to follow lively online discussion and add your own thoughts.



Library Hall from 5th Street

The American Philosophical Society Library is a major national center for research in the history of the sciences, medicine, and technology. With its roots extending back to the founding of the Society in 1743, it houses over 350,000 volumes and bound periodicals, eleven million manuscripts, 250,000 images, and thousands of hours of audio tape.

The Library is comprised of four departments: Printed Materials (housing books, periodicals, broadsides, and other printed works), Manuscripts (housing manuscript materials, photographs, and many works of art on paper), Conservation (responsible for the physical preservation and conservation of all library materials), and Technology (managing electronic access to collections, cyber-infrastructure, and digital preservation). Each of the departments contributes to putting up a regular rotation of exhibits based on the Library collection.

Mounted in the entrance hall to the Library, exhibits are open to the public free of charge during regular operating hours.

I support the aims of PhACT and would like to join/rejoin for the next year. The annual membership is \$15 and \$10 for students which includes e-mail delivery of Phactum.

If you wish **US Mail delivery annual membership is \$25.** Checks should be payable to **PhACT.**

Membership dues of \$ _____ enclosed to pay for _____ years of membership.

Donation of \$ _____ enclosed for additional support
Donation of \$ _____ dedicated for High School Science Fair prizes

**Mail checks to:
PhACT
639 W. Ellet Street
Philadelphia, PA 19119**

Name: _____

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The Philadelphia Association for Critical Thinking is grateful for the hospitality extended by Community College of Philadelphia and especially Dr. David Cattell, Chair of the Physics Department, for hosting PhACT and giving us access to such excellent facilities. Part of CCP's mission is to serve Philadelphia as a premiere learning institution and PhACT is pleased to support this goal by having talks on wide ranging, engaging, and educational topics.

Phactum is, in theory, distributed 6 times a year and is the main propaganda organ for the Philadelphia Association for Critical Thinking.

If you are not a supporting member/subscriber we invite you to become one. \$15 for a one year membership to PhACT with email Phactum subscription. \$25 for US Mail subscription. \$10 for students, email only. Donations are welcome.

Send letters of rebuttal, ideas, short essays, poetry, opinion pieces, complaints, and lavish praise to Ray Haupt, Phactum editor, at phactpublicity@aol.com.

PhACT's High School Science Fair Student Prize Funds

Total contributed for 2010 prizes	= \$318.00
2010 Goal	= \$300.00
Excess funds applied to 2011 prizes	= \$103.00
1 contribution in April/May/June	= \$100.00
Total 2011 Prize Fund collected	= \$203.00
2011 Goal	= ????

Please donate. Small contributions are preferred and donations in excess of the 2011 goal will be applied to the 2012 Prize Fund or some other youth science education project not yet determined.

ALL money collected for this project will be used for student prizes. PhACT members and others are invited to participate as judges. Contact Eric Krieg for more information: erickrieg@verizon.net

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Contact the editor, Ray Haupt: phactpublicity@aol.com

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The PhACT website is: www.phact.org