

# The REALL News

The official newsletter of the Rational Examination Association of Lincoln Land

*"It's a very dangerous thing to believe in nonsense." — James Randi*

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April 2005

## The Peter Jennings Media Event "UFOs: Seeing is Believing" *Some observations and thoughts* by Martin S. Kottmeyer

The ads promised it would be a two-hour event. Not merely yet another ufo documentary like *Confirmation*.

I didn't expect much personally. These things usually disappoint and frankly, over time, I feel more fondness for the over-the-top schlockumentaries of the Seventies catering to pure belief like "Overlords of the UFO" did. Journalistic balance seems impossible even in principle and all know the subject is too huge to treat anything beyond superficiality in a mere two hours.

I was largely indifferent through most of it, but I never yawned or split my attention with reading as I sometimes do with television news shows. There was one moment near the end that gave me a huge laugh though I know that was idiosyncratic for reasons I'll get into.

I understand that some believers were offended by Roswell being presented as solved. They didn't like abductions having Hopkins balanced by Harvard-types explaining things via sleep paralysis and inappropriate hypnosis. Still, I feel it was geared to believer sensibilities in the main. It was not extreme belief however being targeted, but those with a keen desire for mystery.

As is true with certain news subjects, the editing pares things down to tell a story of heroism. You know the form: paraplegics striving for a fulfilling life instead of wallowing in despair, Olympians overcoming broken bones, women breaking into male bastions. Here, ufo icon J. Allen Hynek emerges as a true scientist who was saddled with bad military directives to 'explain' cases no matter how poorly. Bravely, he eventually broke free to confess to the

world ufos were a mystery.

The segments devoted to the Air Force's involvement in ufo investigation should be very satisfying to believers. The story is well sanitized and tells essentially the one constructed by David Jacobs in the UFO Controversy in America and refined in recent years by Jerry Clark and Michael Swords. The Air Force is compelled to study the phenomenon of the saucers after pilot Kenneth Arnold reports his encounter with speeding objects near Mount Rainier. A veritable hysteria kicked up

in its wake. Initially, investigators come to accept their extraordinary, possibly extraterrestrial, nature.

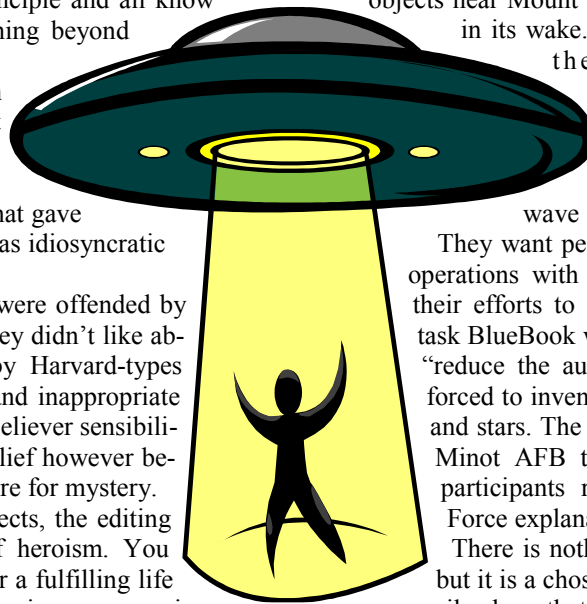
The Pentagon refuses to believe their underlings' Estimate of the Situation. Eventually the scare of the 1952 wave gets the CIA involved and worried.

They want people to stop clogging their intelligence operations with this stuff that may divert them from their efforts to detect Soviet spying in the US. They task BlueBook with ridiculing the subject and trying to "reduce the aura of mystery." To that end they are forced to invent 'imaginative' explanations like ducks and stars. The prize example is a 1968 incident at the Minot AFB that they retell in detail showing the participants reject in no uncertain terms the Air Force explanation.

There is nothing indefensibly inaccurate in all this, but it is a chosen view. Another documentarian could as easily show that the Air Force didn't need to be tasked with the mission to ridicule and demystify such a dizzy subject. It invited sarcasm what with the Shaver mystery, Ray Palmer's magazine, hollow-earth belief, the crash/retrieval yarns of Dimmick & Scully, the Flatwoods Monster, Kelly-Hopkinsville, Adamski and his copycats, and on & on. The Air Force had plenty of reasons for getting out of the flying saucer business. They were annoyed with people like Keyhoe and his NICAP friends wanting to nit-pick their work and blab to the world any flaws they thought they found.

Blue Book was understaffed, as the show correctly states, IF one wanted a proper scientific operation. But the core mis-

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## Purpose

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

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

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

The REALL News is its official newsletter.

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## From the Chairman

Wally Hartshorn

**T**ime flies like an arrow! (Fruit flies like a banana.) It's April already. Anyone get fooled on April 1? Anyone fool anyone else?

Well, some people are getting fooled, and not just on April Fools Day. Crop circles are back! Actually, they never went away. There are still over 200 crop circles per year being reported. In 2004, about one-third of them were found in England, while fewer than 10% of them were found in the U.S. That's an odd distribution, don't you think?

Recently, the National Geographic Channel aired a program about crop circles, showing how hoaxers create at least some of them (or, more likely, all of them). They also talk to those who believe that crop circles are either a natural phenomenon or a message from aliens or a source of cosmic knowledge or... well, you can imagine.

But you don't have to imagine, because we'll be showing the video at our April meeting!

We're still wanting to get someone to speak about evolution and creationism at a future meeting.

Also, we'll probably have our annual picnic in June, in place of our June meeting (when the library will be unavailable). Be sure to check future issues of the newsletter for details.

Until then, come to the April meeting, learn a bit more about crop circles, then stick around to chat about current events! See you there!

## Big News!

REALL board member and former chairman Bob Ladendorf has accepted a position as Chief Operating Officer of CSI-COP's Center for Inquiry West! This means Bob has moved to Los Angeles, which will make attending future REALL meetings, uh, difficult. Good luck, Bob! We'll miss you! ♡

## A Nod to Our Patrons

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(“UFOs” continued from page 1)

sion was threat assessment and you only had to sift and glance through the reports to see the ufos didn’t represent any obvious danger. The funding was appropriate to that task. After having enough of the jokes of colleagues and the hassles of dealing with the kooks, they were itching for a face-saving excuse to get out since it was clear after a decade that no invasion was afoot despite the feverish musings of the believers. Thus they engineered the creation of the Condon study. Hynek’s push for a concerted scientific investigation beyond the Condon study had its manic side. In a notorious article for Playboy, he expressed fears that Russians were going to find the secrets of the ufo mystery before America. We now know their efforts achieved results with no practical difference from BlueBook. And time has shown BlueBook was more right than Keyhole and his fellow ufo believers on the issue of threat. The Landing, The Invasion, never happened as they loudly predicted.

The choice to leave out such matters is defensible. It takes more time and viewers would tune out. They didn’t say anything false. It’s a stylistic decision. And the choice changes the emotional tone. It’s a choice like the one to be film noir or Technicolor. The producer must decide which emotions he wants to evoke.

There are numerous interesting aesthetic choices in play in the Jennings event. When it comes time to give a visual image of the Arnold report, we don’t get an attempt to accurately reconstruct his report—too comical, since the line of discs waved like a kite tail and flipped. Nor do we see the drawing he gave for the Air Force, or the cover of *The Flying Saucers As I Saw It*. No. It is a cover of *FATE* magazine giving an artist’s conception of the case. Though the drawing is inaccurate, having the word *FATE* in bold type above it has the right poetic force.

Another choice I noticed was a technique of showing the sighters and victims with blank backgrounds. Their heads float and slowly rotate as they gave descriptions. Their voices fade in and out and blend together forming a collective description. There are no names, not even pseudonyms, nor the slightest clue of geographic setting—a further distancing from the crude journalistic fundamentals of who, what, when, where. The effect is curiously like the filming of a chorus, but in prose, with the words of awe delivering the atmosphere of

wonder.

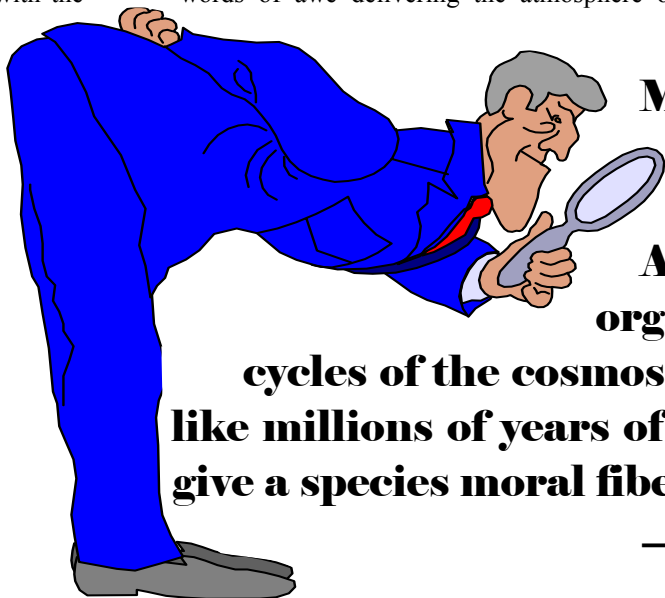
Drawings from abductions drifted in a rhythm of black eyes and victimizing. I normally would have laughed when the sketch of the guy laying on a table with the sperm-stealing machine strapped to his crotch floats into view, but it all goes by as in a reverie; not standing still to be scrutinized. In its way, it is far more effective and achieves a reverent tone that could hardly exist if you had Jennings sitting next to the guy interrogating him in the way he would feel obliged to do with tobacco executives or state department spokesmen. There’ll be no more insensitive probing of these folks. They’ve already suffered enough. We are only asked to wonder.

My feeling is that Roswell is presented as solved because it ultimately makes clear the government does keep secrets. This is something journalists always love to show and establishes that Peter Jennings is no fool in wanting to do an exploration of the ufo mystery. Similarly, the Phoenix Lights case is shown as probably solved. The military was dropping flares, says one skeptic, and it does look like that in the film they show. Apart from these two, there is little exploration of alternatives to extraterrestrials being involved. More naturalistic explanations—stars, ducks—are only mentioned in passing as ‘imaginative.’

When the Harvard experts talk about sleep paralysis, there is an abstract quality to it since the testimony we heard by the victims seems virtually unconnected. They don’t deal with the point about the consistency of accounts asserted by Hopkins. When Jennings introduces the segment he warns that while the stories may be unbelievable, experts can show they are normal. With only the material presented, the viewer can hardly accept abductions are explained.

We get the SETI folks as frustrated. They believe in extraterrestrials, but they want recorded contact even if the voices were sent millennia ago. They can’t do anything with ufo reports. They can’t hold anything up and say this proves it. What is testimony outside of a court of law? They serve as unwilling skeptics, but they don’t do much damage. They don’t cross-examine anybody. We don’t see them in the process of solving cases naturalistically. They seem pig-headed because we only see the final opinion and one other argument. That ar-

(“UFOs” continued on page 5)



**Most species do their own evolving,  
making it up as they go along,  
which is the way Nature intended.  
And this is all very natural and  
organic and in tune with mysterious  
cycles of the cosmos, which believes that there’s nothing  
like millions of years of really frustrating trial and error to  
give a species moral fiber and, in some cases, backbone.**

**— Terry Pratchett, *Reaper Man***

## Review: *The Ancestor's Tale*, by Richard Dawkins

Reviewed by Clark Olson

This is a large book about the ancestry of humans, journeying backward in time to the origin of life, in sort of a reversal of the usual tree of life, going from twigs to root rather than vice versa. Along the journey the author discusses various biological topics relevant to the ancestors he encounters.

In the journey he is mainly interested in relating us to living relatives near and far. However, he does spend some time on the various hominid ancestors back several million years and discusses such issues as rapid evolution and cultural evolution, including his pet topic of memes (cultural ideas). Our first 'concestor', as he calls it, is the ancestor of humans on one side and chimps/bonobos on the other. The second concestor is the ancestor of us/chimps/bonobos on one side and the gorilla on the other. This process takes 40 steps back to the origin of life. Of course, the steps get farther and farther apart as one goes backward in time. Since he restricts the discussion mainly to living organisms, the inclusion of extinct groups probably would have made the pathway a lot more complicated.

This general approach of going back in time is interesting and helpful in understanding evolution, but does not provide a balanced look at evolution of all of life on earth, down to the order or family level. This is because, as he gets to concestors of a large incoming group such as the plants, he does not have the space to cover the evolution of all the organisms involved such as the red algae, familiar green plants and some other obscure plants. If he had started his journey with the petunia plant, the pathway would have looked different. Of course, the exact placement of each concestor over time is not always known precisely.

However, there have been a surprising number of discoveries over recent years of previously unknown organisms, which greatly help to clarify the general framework of the tree. In fact, he thinks that even more relationships will change or be more clarified in the near future. This all seems strange since zoologists and botanists have been at work for more than 200 years. But with modern technology more and more remote habitats, such as the deep sea, have been investigated.

The other main feature of the book are the stories of various biological issues interwoven with the main sequence. These stories are titled as the story of a specific organism, such as the "Tale of the Brine Shrimp". Brine shrimps swim upside down, so this fact prompts him to digress on body orientation and how

it might relate to evolution. However, in some cases the discussion may wander around quite a bit, such as when he talks about human races in the 'grasshoppers tale'! The story is that there is a pair of grasshopper species which are closely related, and in fact interbreed under experimental conditions, but do not in nature because they have different courting 'songs'. He compares this situation with human races with various cultural isolating factors such as caste, religion, language etc, along with geographic isolation. Therefore he does believe in the existence of human races, an idea which is very controversial among scientists these days because of the social implications which may arise.

There are over 50 of these tales so it is impossible to discuss them all. A brief rundown of the scientific topics include natural selection; sexual selection- especially as related to humans; speciation- including ring species; convergent evolution; extinction; genetics; plate tectonics and geographic dispersion; symbiosis; symmetry- body plans; embryology, and development of larva; sexual reproduction vs asexual reproduction; origin of life; evolution of cave dwelling organisms. More philosophical topics are taken up also but hard to summarize here. He sprinkled his discussions with comments on creationism and ID.

One feature I found a bit annoying were a few political comments about American and other leaders. Even though I agreed with the sentiments I don't think this was the kind of book where these should be expressed.

In general, I found this a clear and interesting book, which should be helpful to understand evolution and various recent topics in biology. The book could be used as a reference book but only after reading it through and locating the topics interesting to the reader. Although there were a few difficult topics such as cladistics, most readers with some biology should find it accessible. However, the lay reader should realize that some of his discussions are speculative. It was hard to find explanations for some figures and two diagrams on the early branching of life were confusing and contained information which was not explained in the text.

*Richard Dawkins 2004. The Ancestor's Tale. A Pilgrimage to the Dawn of Evolution. Houghton-Mifflin, 673p (614 of text) \$28*



(“UFOs” continued from page 3)

gument is that space is big and the problems of traveling here in a single lifetime should not be underestimated. And next is where I got my big laugh. They bring in fellow named Michio Kaku and he pronounces there is a loophole.

## Wormholes

He demonstrates a familiar trick question about the shortest distance between two points. You immediately know it is a straight line. Then Kaku folds the paper and the two points lay on top of each other. We then get a graphic showing two distant galaxies. A line appears and the space is bent over so one galaxy lies flat on top of the other. Aliens are going to put a bend, half-a-million light years long, in intergalactic space and fold galaxies one on top of the other?

My immediate reaction was how this is chutzpah in the ultimate degree. After the documentary, my mind lingered over this for the sheer audacity and insane grandeur. Think about this. You’re going to move galaxies just to bring ufos to cruise Minot, North Dakota and strap accu-jacks on the members of the primitives of One Million B.C.?

Could wormholes possibly be cheaper than interstellar space-ships? Assuming wormholes are even possible—I thought quantum physics said “no” a while back—I would think them incredibly dangerous and impractical. Not just to hypothetical travelers, but in an environmental sense. Is it safe to bend light-years of space? Isn’t it using one unknown to justify another? It all just begs so many questions.

It is also pretty irrelevant since the problem isn’t simply

whether aliens could get here. It’s how aliens make ufos any less of a mystery. Most ufo cases make no sense if you try to find rational motives for them. Surveillance could be done more efficiently by more discreet devices. It’s hinky that the aliens involved all agree to secrecy and noncontact but not to the level of agreeing to leaving off lights and using crafts easily distinguishable by human culture. There are all those unnecessary right-angle turns; all those aliens going through walls; all those aliens giving predictions of upcoming cataclysms that never pan out. There are those big eyes that if they were round wouldn’t fit the skull. The list of problems goes on and on.

Well, that’s just me. It’s easy to get me to laugh. I have read notes by believers that think Kaku was the best part, too, but they meant it reverently! That seemed cruel. If believers are going to embrace wormholes as their loophole for believing ufos should be taken seriously, they are in for a rude reaction. My bet is those SETI people probably laughed their asses off at the idea as quickly as I did. What is harder to intuit is if the producer was also laughing or if he seriously didn’t know better.

In the final analysis, I think there are grounds to praise Jennings’ event as a nice bit of cinematic art. It is quite innovative in some of its devices and aesthetics. The choice to use two hours to define the ufo conflict as one between those who would “reduce the aura of mystery”—the Robertson’s Panel phrase, deftly chosen—and the millions who want mystery above all else, is a definite shift in focus from documentaries in the past. In the past, the issue would have been “Are ufos alien?” Here the message is “Ufos are a Mystery.”

Is this something to be applauded? I’ll only say, I didn’t. But I’ll probably end up getting the DVD anyways. ☹

## Letter to the Editor

I would like to thank Clark Olsen for his report on John Mark Henry’s talk on ID. I’ve been involved with the evolution “controversy” for nearly 30 years now, and other than a couple of new wrinkles it sounded pretty typical. But in one very important respect ID is very different from any previous creationist tactic. ID claims to be a scientific theory, and so we can deal with it as such. No question ID can explain lots of biological examples, although there are plenty of examples of poor or stupid design out there. Why are plants green? Any sixth grade solar engineer will tell you that a black pigment, a “nigerophyll”, would capture more solar energy. So by reflecting or transmitting all that green light, plants are being very inefficient and wasteful, which is poor design.

ID can explain just about anything, but you may ask in what sense is ID a successful explanation for biological adaptations. This is the big problem for such water proof explanations; beyond offering an indisputable explanation, ID is useless. So biologists, such as myself, don’t teach about ID because it’s wrong, we don’t teach about ID because it is useless scientifically. Guys like JMH don’t know or understand this because they don’t do science.

Ask them for an example of how ID is used as a scientific theory to conduct research? Can they make any testable predictions from any of the examples they present? Ask them if we

find examples of poor design, where say humans could do better, have we refuted ID? It’s the panda’s thumb again. Pandas lack a thumb and yet must grasp bamboo shoot to strip off the leaves, and so grasp the shoot using a 5 digit paw pressed against an enlarged wrist bone. Thumbs work better, and that’s why your cat hasn’t taken over. They can’t work a can opener. This was Stephen J. Gould’s main point, the proof of evolution is not in the well adapted organisms, the proof is in the contraptions, adaptations forced upon organisms by virtue of the constraints of history. Ask if they have any examples of how ID theory, in contrast to evolution, has furthered our understanding of biology, medicine, or agriculture? How does ID explain disease organisms? Were disease organisms intelligently designed to sicken and kill humans? Do you judge the intelligence of the design from the host’s or the parasite’s perspective?

The general public does not grasp this distinction either, which is why such explanations can have wide appeal and be wholly rejected by science.

J. E. Armstrong  
Prof. of Botany  
Illinois State University

# Terry Schiavo and the Global Consciousness Project

## by Wally Hartshorn

*"It is the peculiar and perpetual error of the human understanding to be more moved and excited by affirmatives than by negatives."* —Francis Bacon

*Confirmation bias refers to a type of selective thinking whereby one tends to notice and to look for what confirms one's beliefs, and to ignore, not look for, or under-value the relevance of what contradicts one's beliefs.*

— Robert Todd Carroll, *The Skeptic's Dictionary*

As I write this, Terry Schiavo is still alive. By the time you read it, it is probably that she will be dead. The struggle over whether to keep her alive has been dominating the news recently. The moral and ethical questions involved in the case are not ones that I can say anything about from a skeptical viewpoint. Rational, scientifically-minded people can disagree on whether she should be kept alive.

However, there is one aspect of the case that caught the attention of the skeptic within me, in part because it seemed to parallel another item that was in the news recently.

The Global Consciousness Project is an ongoing experiment being conducted by Princeton University. The basic idea is that the combined mental processes of everyone on the planet forms a "global consciousness" and that this global consciousness might in some way be detectable.

To attempt to do so, they have created a "black box" that randomly generates zeros and ones. If there are no outside influences, the random pattern of zeros and ones should be just that — random. However, if the global consciousness of the population of the planet effects the random number generator, then the pattern would no longer be random. There might be a "spike" of an increased number of ones, indicating a change in the global consciousness of the planet, such as a major news event.

You might remember that in the original *Star Wars* movie, when the Empire's Death Star destroyed Alderaan, Obi Wan Kenobi noted "a great disturbance in the Force". The Global Consciousness Project is supposedly a bit like that.

For example, when Princess Diana's funeral was held, a "significant" deviation was noted. When the 9/11 terrorist attacks occurred, a significant deviation in the pattern of random numbers was detected. When the Indian Ocean tsunami hit following an earthquake on December 26, 2004, a "trend" in the pattern of random numbers was noted.

In short, when some world-shaking event occurs, it shows up in the pattern of random numbers.

Except when it doesn't.

The U.S. invasion of Iraq began on March 19, 2003. The data showed no sign of it. The space shuttle Columbia broke up on re-entry on February 1, 2003, but had no effect on the random number generators. An earthquake in Turkey on August 17, 1999 killed nearly 4,000 people, but you wouldn't know it from examining the pattern of random numbers.

So what's going on here? Why are these researchers claiming that their random number generators are evidence of a global consciousness? Because they're humans, and humans are very good at seeing connections — even when there is no connection to be seen.

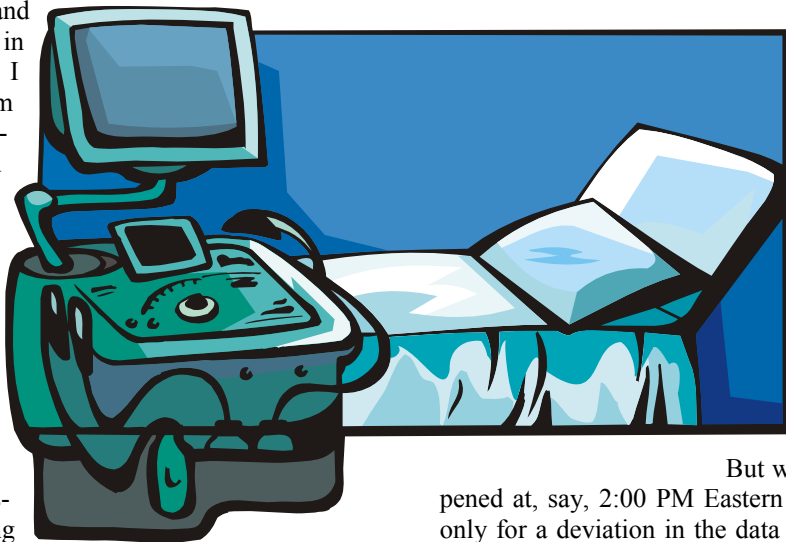
When a presumably important event happens, someone makes a prediction that they will see a corresponding deviation in the data. They then examine the data to see whether that is in fact the case. If they see that the data has deviated from the average, that is deemed significant! If they find that the data has not deviated from the average, well, that's not significant, is it?

But wait! Just because the event happened at, say, 2:00 PM Eastern Time, that's no reason to look only for a deviation in the data at 2:00 PM Eastern Time. Perhaps the deviation didn't occur until an hour later — that's significant! Or perhaps the deviation didn't occur until the next day — that also is significant! Or perhaps the deviation occurred very gradually over the course of several days — that too is significant!

But if you're limiting yourself to looking for deviations at or after the time of the event, you'll miss some of the best ones. That's right! If the deviation occurred **before the time of the event**, that's very significant! That indicates that our global consciousness knew that something was going to happen and was effecting the random number generators in advance!

Are you only looking for a jump in the numbers? Foolish skeptic! You can double your chances by also looking for a big **drop** in the numbers!

What sort of events are considered candidates for effecting the global consciousness? Well, some are obvious things — big events in the news, such as earthquakes, terrorist attacks, wars, and so forth. Other events are a bit less expected, such as New Year's, something called the "Group Mind Meditation", the full moon appearing in Taurus (predicted, apparently, by a channeled Buddha — seriously), World Earth Healing Day (I missed that one), and the casting of a binding spell placed on Osama Bin Laden by a group of Wiccans and pagans (yes, I'm



serious). I get the impression that perhaps these researchers are, let's say, a bit more accepting of paranormal beliefs than I am.

In any case, it seems apparent that the (rather generously interpreted) "hits" are considered indicative of a "global consciousness", while the "misses" are, well, just misses. They're considered puzzling, perhaps, but certainly not considered evidence of the **nonexistence** of a global consciousness.

Which brings me back to the Terry Schiavo case.

You might have seen some of the video of Ms. Schiavo apparently reacting to outside stimuli. She is shown smiling when her face is touched, her eyes are shown tracking an object moving in front of her, and so on. It's quite compelling footage and certainly gives many reason to believe that Ms. Schiavo is not, in fact, in the persistent vegetative state claimed by her husband and her doctors.

What you might not have realized, however, is that the video clips shown so widely and totaling about 4½ minutes are excerpts from about 4½ **hours** of video.

If you watch the unedited footage, you will see her **not** smiling when her face is touched, smiling when her face is **not** touched, not smiling when her face is not touched, and (finally) smiling when her face is touched. In short, her reactions seem to have no connection to the stimuli.

Similarly, when she is told to close her eyes, she might do so many minutes later. And when she is told to do something else, she might continue to close her eyes. This is all taken as evidence that she is responding to instructions. Whether she does the action immediately, whether she does the action minutes later, whether she continues to do the action long after she has been told to do something else — it's all counted as a "hit", confirmation that she is aware of her surroundings.

In short, it's a clear example of confirmation bias. When she reacts, it is considered evidence that she is aware. When she doesn't react, or when she acts without a stimulus, it is considered unimportant.

I want to emphasize that my point is not that Ms. Schiavo should be allowed to die. My point is simply that it is a mistake to give more weight to the evidence indicating she has some awareness than to the much more voluminous evidence that she truly is in a persistent vegetative state.

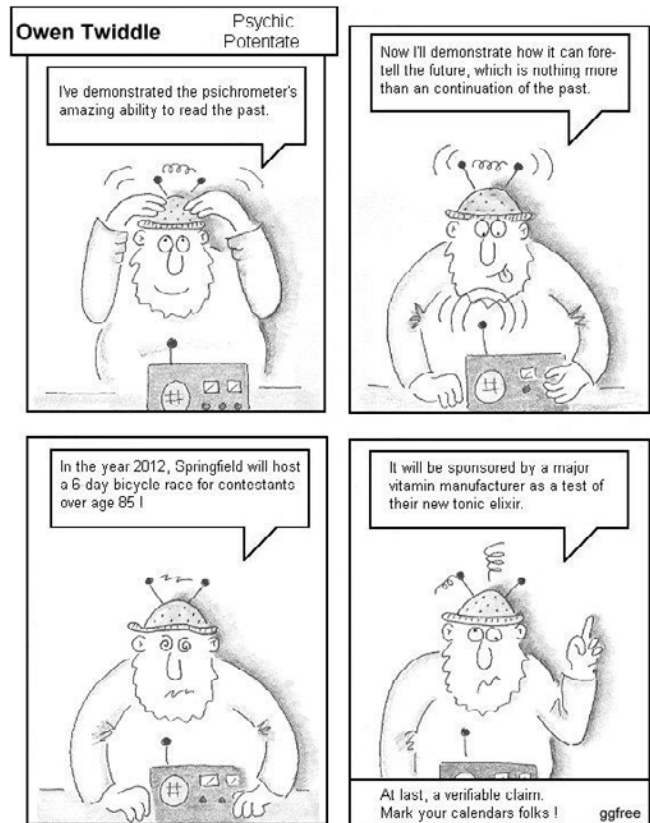
One **can** still conclude, on the basis of moral, ethical, religious, or legal considerations, that she should be kept alive. However, such a conclusion should be reached with a full realization of what a critical examination of the science tells us. ♡

## Newspaper Gleanings by Clark Olson

The *New York Times* (NYT) of 3-19-2005 has an article about religious objections to a couple of IMAX movies shown at science museums around the country. Because IMAX movies are shown only at a limited number of sites these pressures have a chilling effect on the kind of movies produced. The movies mentioned were "Cosmic Voyage" and "Volcanoes", which include references to the Big Bang, origin of life and evolution. This is another area then where religious fundamentalists are imposing their anti-science attitudes on education and understanding of the earth and cosmos.

In the 3-22-2005 NYT Science Times section there is a report on an Ultra-orthodox rabbi in Israel who has written a number of books on reconciling scripture with natural history, and who apparently generally accepts science. Recently posters signed by a number of other rabbis were put up denouncing him. The controversy has reached America. A rabbi here said "These same scientists who tell you with such clarity what happened 65 million years ago- ask them what the weather will be like in New York in two weeks time." Oh well you can't please everyone! Fortunately, the article reported that other rabbis disagreed with the ones who put up the posters.

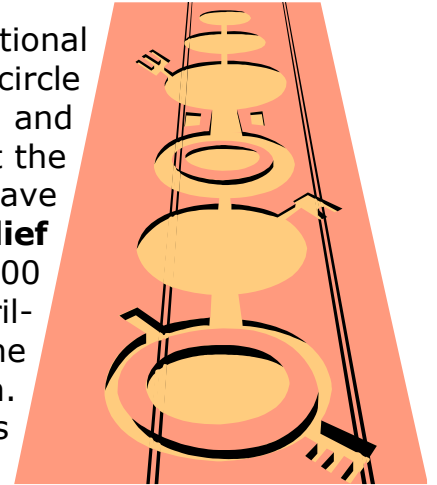
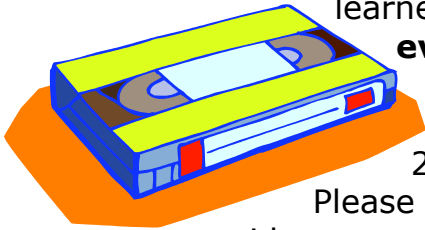
Articles on evolution/creationism, along with letters in response have been showing up in big city newspapers. My daughter has sent me a couple of clippings from the Roanoke Times (Virginia) that show it's happening in a medium size city like ours also. ♡



# Our Next Meeting

## Crop Circles

This program, recently shown on the National Geographic Channel, discusses the crop circle phenomenon and examines both the hoaxers and the believers. What's that you say? You thought the crop circle fad was over with? You should have learned by now that **no paranormal belief ever dies**. Ever! There were over 200 crop circles reported in 2004. April-August are the peak months, so the 2005 crop should be appearing soon. Please join us to view and discuss this video presentation.



Springfield, Illinois  
Lincoln Library (7th & Capitol)  
Tuesday, April 5, 7:00 PM

Free and Open  
to the Public

[www.reall.org](http://www.reall.org)

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