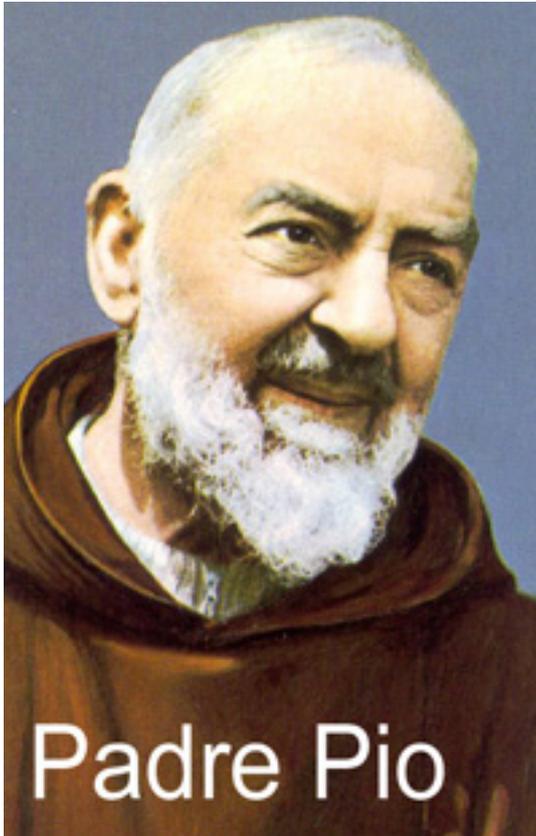


Breaking News, Easy Solution, Another Wrist-Slap, Just Another Cold Reader, A Happy Convert, Explanation, Prophet/Profit Manual, Musical Advice, Rebuttal, That Old Null Hypothesis Problem, Steern's Demise Again Denied, Who & Why?, That Health Anchor, Desiré?, and In Closing...



The corpse of Padre Pio, the Italian monk from the Capuchin order who was said to have regularly exhibited stigmata – wounds on his hands, feet and side like those of Jesus Christ during his crucifixion – and who was made a saint by Pope John Paul II, has been exhumed on the 40th anniversary of his death. Some seven million people visit his tomb every year. Those wounds reputedly bled frequently throughout his adult life. He was exhumed in order to be put on public display at the end of April. We're told that the remains will be "prepared by experts before being placed in a glass coffin." I certainly hope so.

The body was in "fair" condition, a Church statement said, and "his nails looked as if they had just undergone a manicure." The statement also said that the body "has been conserved well," and "we could clearly make out the beard," except that

The top part of the skull is partly skeletal but the chin is perfect and the rest of the body is well preserved.

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BREAKING NEWS



The corpse of Padre Pio, the Italian monk from the Capuchin order, was said to have miraculously survived the 49 hours of his death. Some have claimed that his body was in "fair" condition, a Church statement said, and "his nails looked as if they had just under

The top part of the skull is partly skeletal but the chin is perfect and the rest of the body is well preserved

His followers and friends claim that Padre Pio performed hundreds of healings and other miracles during

It's claimed that Padre Pio could predict future events, had the power of "bilocation" – being seen in two

The BBC press release from Rome, perhaps simply choosing to get it wrong and thus creating yet another

Critics have claimed that he was a fraud who may have used acid to create the stigmata wounds on his

Written by James Randi
Thursday, 06 March 2008 16:34

The Center for Science in the Public Interest, a FEDERAL AGENCY, finally took some action against Air

Not quite, Arnold. The [Center for Science in the Public Interest](http://www.cspipr.org)'s [CSPI] Federal Agency non-profit – just as the

It's been nine years now, \$100 million in Airborne, this product that the government approved by the CSPI's

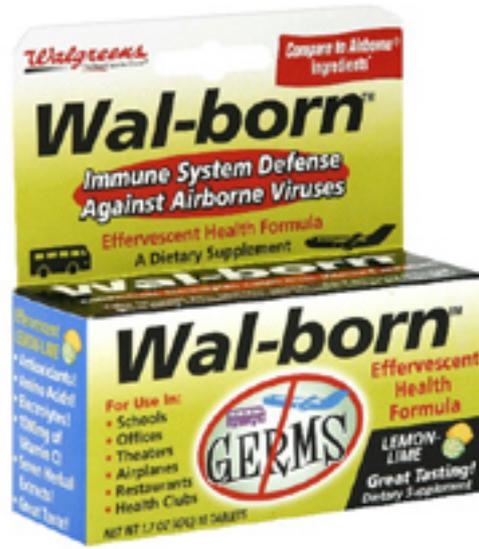
There was no credible evidence that Airborne could prevent colds or protect the user from germs in the

Again, folks, the formula for getting rich in America is this simple:

1. Originate a useless product.
2. Lie about it.
3. Falsely advertise it
4. Sell it.
5. Wait a few years until the FTC, FDA, or the FCC catch up with you, then pay the miniscule fine, and



Fake #1



Fake #2

If you have an organization already in place, like Walgreen's Pharmacy has, skip step #1, above, copy the

In another few years, maybe these agencies will have a moment to look at another useless product, “He

JUST ANOTHER COLD READER



I've been referred to a [series of "readings"](#) – actually carefully selected clips, excerpts “Kim & Kris,” and

Re the first video, Williams has “contacted” a spirit at the request of the two women, Kim and Kris. She s

Whoever this woman is, she’s a real chatterbox.

Now, this is an effective ~~ask~~ actually who the “woman” is, by ~~both~~ stating that (a) she th ~~William~~

You know, in life, my Mom was very shy, withdrawn, and quiet! I’m so happy to know that now she’s in H

Notice: Edward’s guess ~~100%~~ the spirit was wrong, but this woman ~~so great~~ wanted – – this t

...because he's telling me there were questions about his death.

This is a gimmick also of the same in cold reading by a just married high the high spirits and the other

Readers may wish to view some of the other videos on this site, to further look into the "cold reading" me

A HAPPY CONVERT

Mr. Sam Opuku, an applicant for the JREF prize, had the chance to ponder further on the matter, on the

In Pursuit of the James Randi Educational Foundation Million Dollar Challenge

Many who profess psychic or other powers say they've felt that they were "special" since childhood. I al

Although I'd looked into many different "metaphysical" things before I started after the JREF Challenge,

I don't remember exactly how I became aware of the challenge, things that I saw which had not ever eas

- JREF was unreasonable about the test to make sure it failed
- JREF was being deceitful in some way or rude to discourage valid claimants and only allowed sure fail
- "Other people" didn't know what they were doing (of course I would...)

...and so the list goes on. I thought of more excuses than I can list in anything less than an encyclopedi

No matter what the reasons were, I committed myself to overcome all roadblocks and either succeed or

Once I'd decided to pursue the prize I set about investigation and research into the challenge itself. I jo

I was prepared for rudeness, to be ignored, to be deceived, or even insulted but Jeff was exactly the op

Despite this information, by now I not only wanted to answer the challenge for the money and fame, but

Not to be stopped in the action I'd committed to, I decided I would pursue the challenge through affiliates.

I mulled over all the strange questions I found through the whole process:

- If JREF was so unreasonable how could it be filled with professionalism and reasonable people?
- If my claim was so valid why did my criteria have to be so specific? (Maybe I was the one who was being unreasonable?)
- If it was that easy to come up with a claim and JREF couldn't be blamed, why was the Challenge unannounced?
- Why didn't any of the professional psychics seek the easy money?

...and on and on and on...

One easy answer to all the questions and more: I was wrong.

A very tough pill to swallow. Once I fully admitted it to myself, I devoted the same determination I used to win the challenge to making amends.

If I was someone else looking at what I did, I would have been amused. The JREF Challenge has helped me see the error of my ways.

To the Amazing James Randi, Jeff Wagg, and all of JREF –

Thank you.

Sam, you're one of the many reasons that we're in business. We read this with great satisfaction, indeed with a great deal of interest.

EXPLANATION

The irrepressible Avital Pilpel again clarifies a point for us, one that I'd assumed everyone understood:

I have an explanation as to why it is the "Zionists" who are now in control of everything according to the media.

A Zionist is someone who believes the Jews should return to Palestine and establish a Jewish state there.

For the paranoid anti-Semites, it is precisely these differences between Zionism and Judaism that make them so dangerous.

And Avital leaves us with this:

Have you heard the Catholic Church just came out with a new diet communion wafer? It's called, "I Can't

I think he's just joshing...

PROPHET/PROFIT MANUAL

Reader Darren McBride provides this interesting set of instructions:

I blew it last night! My 19-year-old college age daughter casually mentioned that both Nostradamus and

I'm sure you've probably heard that the History Channel has a new strategy, the blog of the discussion
ent2012.com/historychannel.html

www.randi.org/encyclopedia/Nostradamus.html . As for Nostradamus predicting the end of the world in

So below is my attempt www.randi.org/encyclopedia/Nostradamus.html to discuss how to maximize your odds of survival. Since you're a prophet, it's not clear how

A Survival Guide for Prophets.

1. Always be vague in your prophecies. Avoid specific names, places, and dates. Practice substituting in
2. Write your prophecies in verse or poetic language. This increases the mysticism associated with your
3. If possible, prophesize in a foreign language. Better yet, use a dead language such as Latin or ancient
4. Use large quantities of words and paper. Never prophesize in a succinct way. Always use more word
5. It can be helpful to misuse or redefine common words to mean something else. This allows you and y
6. If you can get away with it, "predict" something that has either already happened, or is likely to happen
7. Believe what you say. Confidence is the key to success, whether it's for a prophet or a cold reader. C

8. Always mention that prophecy is not a perfect science, and that there are going to be a few misses from time to time.
 9. Always give the impression you know more than you are saying. The more mystical and mysterious you sound, the better.
 10. If criticized, make sure to claim that your critics have "closed minds." Point out that they don't know what they're talking about.
 11. If you can, get celebrities or politicians to endorse your predictions. Use them aggressively to support your claims.
-

MUSICAL ADVICE

No comment needed: www.youtube.com/watch?v=RFO6ZhUW38w

REBUTTAL

Here's a response I sent to four presumptions written by a Mr. Martin Albl (?) and published in a recent issue of the magazine "New Scientist".

(1) Since life is nothing but the result of chance genetic mutations, there can be no ultimate purpose to life.

This statement assumes that there is an "ultimate purpose to life," which implies/requires an agency that created life.

(2) Since humans did evolve from other life forms, there is no essential difference between humans and other life forms.

#2 is simply wrong; there are *essential* differences between humans and other life forms. For example, the difference between a human and a giraffe is not just in size, but in the structure of the brain, the heart, and the lungs. The difference between a human and a giraffe is not just in size, but in the structure of the brain, the heart, and the lungs.

(3) Our sense of right and wrong (ethics) is nothing but the chance evolution of certain ideas that helped

This is also wrong; ethics are largely common-sense actions and attitudes, arrived at through experimen

(4) Although we might have the illusion of free will, our life choices are really nothing but the predetermin

This points out the illusion of free will, a function which is only operable in low-level decisions – “I will try

Next set of false presumptions, please...?

THAT OLD NULL HYPOTHESIS PROBLEM

From reader Rob Davison:

I saw today these two [articles on the Science Daily website](#), one was heartening, the other was rather di

To quote from the article:

Psychologists at Harvard University have developed a new method to study extrasensory perception tha

I understand from the article that the basis of this study is that the brain reacts differently when shown a

SWIFT March 7, 2008

Written by James Randi
Thursday, 06 March 2008 16:34

Rob, the “null hypothesis” does indeed prohibit the existence of most things that a judge is trying to prove.

In any case, testing for ESP is not at all difficult, and I would be very edified to see a massive set of experiments.

STEORN'S DEMISE AGAIN DENIED

Reader Niall Morrissey [follows up on Bob Park's report #15](#) here with an announcement re the Steorn group.

I'm not sure where Bob Park gets his information from, but I can't find any reference in the Irish news to

Their website is still up [but no proof of anything](#), but at the same time, Park's announcement is a bit of a

I've kicked off some enquiries with friends in the locale (now I'm living in Paris I can't just hop on a bike

WHO & WHY?



So just who is this man, and what is he doing? And why? Next week, I'll give you the statement made ab

THAT HEALTH ANCHOR

Reader Greg Stokley objected to a naïve – if not simply fraudulent – report featured on TV station WKYC

I got a reply back already; not from the reporter, Monica Robins, but from one of the main anchormen, T

Dear Ms. Robins:

Considering your position as a Health Anchor, I'm shocked that you would put out such a ludicrous rep

Your attempt to make homeopathy look like some kind of legitimate medical practice is outrageous. To

Example 1:

Quote: "Homeopathy is a therapy based on the concept that disease can be treated with drugs, in small

Comment: "Small doses?" Try "NO DOSES!" The diluting process of homeopathy dilutes the alleged act

Example 2:

Quote: "Albert is still being treated with modern medicine, but says his doctors are amazed at his recove

Comment: Gee wiz... Did you even try to talk directly to this patient/victim's MDs to see what they REAL

And so, on and on goes the total lack of accuracy and attempt to do any critical investigation on your pa

This report comes across as nothing more than a complete attempt to promote the fraud and quackery

I feel you owe it to your viewers to do a follow-up article on this subject in which you let actual MDs pres

Following are a couple of websites that explain, in far more accuracy that you did, what homeopathy is

[James Randi Encyclopedia of Claims, Frauds, and Hoaxes of the Occult and Supernatural](#) and
csicop.org/si/9709/park.html



Tim White

and here is anchorman Tim White's reply:

Not my fight, Greg, but you're going to have to do better than cite James Randi and CSICOP as grounds

The story was not intended to be a debate about alternative medicine; it was a story about the occasion

If you are going to lambaste Ms. Robins' reporting, your will need to offer far more than indignity and a c

Tim White

I told you it would be good for some laughs. Did you realize your website is a "cultural" site? And to think

Well.... I'm aware of the medical community's skepticism of acupuncture, but I don't recall any MDs ever

Oh well, I tried. Maybe I'll have a little more success next time.

DESIRÉ?

While I'm hardly going to [read about anyone's voluntary choice of gender](#), I know a [Desiré Dubouche](#) [William](#)
[net](#)

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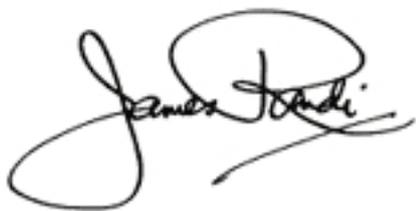
IN CLOSING...

AN APPEAL

Since the Pear Cable people welched on their agreement to supply a pair of their Pear Anjou (?) cables

Registration for TAM6 continues apace. We're going to be auctioning off – again – a tour of the fabulous

To quote the late Billy DeWolf, "Busy, busy, busy..."

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James Randi". The signature is stylized with large loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.