

This Week In Doubtful News

Written by Sharon Hill
Tuesday, 18 September 2012 00:00

Here is a rundown of the top stories in pseudoscience and anomalies news from the past week courtesy of [Doubtful News](#) .

The major theme this week turned out to be things in sky and space - identified and unidentified.

The International Space Station seems to be a magnet for people looking for weird things in space. YouTubers enjoy making videos with spooky music to ramp up the mystery of [anomalies they see floating around the craft](#) . But mysterious, they are NOT.

Launch of the Juno missiles caused some concern over a wide area as people called local authorities to [ask what that strange sky trail was](#) .

This Brazilian UFO was [identified as a remote-controlled flying shark](#) .

A UFO research group does it's job right by pointing out a UFO sighting in the U.K. was [really a lighted quadcopter](#) .

Once in a while there really is a [pi in the sky](#) .

Iran's president stokes a conspiracy about the [U.S. busting his clouds](#) .

In superstitions around the world, China is a bit nervous about their politics as they see [portents of doom appear](#) .

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Car sales are anticipated to dip next year [due to fear of '13'](#) .

Capitalizing on that old superstition and ignorance of mental illness, [exorcism is hot in Poland](#) .

Speaking of odd religious-themed practices, Scientologists have [offered to do their unfounded form of detox on Agent Orange victims](#) in Vietnam.

In psychic news, [one is sued for fraud](#) while another [claims success in finding missing dogs](#) .

Did you know there is a psychic crime fighting network? Too bad [they can't claim success](#) .

Alternative treatments continues to chalk up some major black marks. First, [a man with diabetes seeks help from anonymous "living beings"](#) . Now, he's not one of them.

An irresponsible media report calls it news that [a man chose to use mushroom extract while undergoing conventional treatment for cancer](#) . He credits the mushrooms for his recovery.

A large study of acupuncture made it to all the major outlets this week. What did not make news was [how seriously flawed and misinterpreted it was](#) .

One study this week has placebos, nocebos AND subliminal influences [all in one package](#) .

Many pseudoscientific ideas will fool the public into thinking they are legitimate by using ploys

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that sound sciencey. [Just add "neuro-"](#) in front of things (and show a picture of a brain) and people believe it.

Dowers pulled a whopper this week by [using Einstein to promote their World Dowsing Summit](#)

Finally, check out this newly launched way to crowd sources claim-checking, [TruthMarket](#) .

An expert take on skeptical news is available weekly on a new video cast and website called [Virtual Skeptics](#)

. We talk about the latest events that occurred that week. Check it out and tell us what you think.

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Sharon Hill runs Doubtful News, a unique feed of news stories about the paranormal, pseudoscience, the weird and the unexplained with questioning commentary.