

## This Week In Doubtful News

Written by Sharon Hill  
Tuesday, 02 October 2012 09:00

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

Celebrities did their best at being eccentric this week with Simon Cowell "[healing his house](#)" and Ke\$ha [exploring the supernatural](#) in NSFW (not safe for work) ways.

Two stories showed you should look a little closer at dire warnings of shortages. Neither [helium](#) nor [bacon](#) are in short supply, just expensive, right now.

The National Atomic Testing Museum is affiliated with the Smithsonian. This past week they held what appears to be a publicity event about [UFO disclosure](#) . Then, they [invoked the spirit of Carl Sagan](#) .  
No, he would NOT be proud, I'm sure.

Even local historical and parks agencies [endorse pseudoscience](#) for the attention it gets.

You can also promote the paranormal or mysterious for tourism, as Russia appears to be doing. [Yeti, again](#) .

Under the headline, "IT'S FAKE", was the pronouncement by the Vatican newspaper that the papyrus fragment that mentions Jesus' wife was [not real](#) . A giant "OOPS" occurred when no one could confirm that Alberta petroglyphs [were vandalized](#) as reported. I'm still confused over that one.

Terrible tragedies made the news this week. A man kills himself and his family [over paranoia and possibly a fear of the future](#) . And several faith healers are telling followers in the U.K. to [stop taking HIV medicine](#) . Another tragedy, the life of a young pregnant woman cut short, was vindicated as her husband and family were jailed for her [death resulting from an exorcism](#) . And, a faith healer in Japan is executed for [deaths resulting from exorcisms](#)

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This story tells of people who believe they suffer from a [debilitating illness that ruins their lives](#) . But it has no basis in science.

Can we [nudge people in to thinking](#) ? Maybe that has some merit. This fantastic ad is a quite eye-opening nudge that reveals how [psychics might easily obtain your information and fool you](#)

Finally, Ben Goldacre's *Bad Pharma* [is released this week in the U.K](#) . It sounds like a skeptic must-have.

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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.***