

**Lunar Astronaut Still Deluded and Spaced-Out, The State of Homequackery, Yet More on Homeopathy, What's Sauce for the Goose..., Help Wanted, Another Superstitious Horror, "The One": Episode 4, More Sniffex, The USPTO Again, and In Closing...**



**Ed Mitchell produces evidence**

I first refer you to [tinyurl.com/594kgk](http://tinyurl.com/594kgk) , where you'll read Phil Plait's overly-kind but honest reference to the latest nonsense to come from former astronaut Edgar Mitchell, one of the only twelve persons ever to actually walk on the Moon – that we know of, that is. Mitchell is now insisting that he's privy to firm evidence that UFO-nauts exist, and that the truth has been – you guessed it! – suppressed by those People in Charge.

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## LUNAR ASTRONAUT STILL DELUDED AND SPACED-OUT



### Ed Mitchell produces evidence

I first refer you to [tinyurl.com/594kgk](http://tinyurl.com/594kgk) , where you'll read Phil Plait's overly-kind but honest referen

Agreed, Mitchell is an all-time American hero, but as I reminded Phil, he's also been one of the major pu

Mitchell, to this day, still believes in Geller despite the exposés that have led most former believers to re

See Ed Mitchell at [tinyurl.com/5gdesu](http://tinyurl.com/5gdesu) expounding on his latest fantasy. Of course, this attractive f

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## THE STATE OF HOMEQUACKERY

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As we all know, every scientific test of homeopathy has failed to support its very silly premise: that a sub

After the latest report on the 40% fall in prescriptions for homeopathy, I searched the UK Daily Mail's we

July 25, 2008: "40 per cent [fall in homeopathic](#) prescriptions"

June 17, 2008: "Professors [offer £1/5,000 to](#) first person to prove homeopathy works"

January 30, 2008: "Homeopathic [treatments](#) flounder as NHS trusts cancel contracts"

December 7, 2007: "Homeopathy is [putting](#) people's lives at risk, warns top scientist"

November 26, 2007: "The [case for a ban](#) against homeopathy"

May 1, 2007: "Homeopathy is [worse than](#) witchcraft"

July 23, 2006: "TV's [Nadine Turner](#) helped me deal with my miscarriage"

July 14, 2006: "Don't rely on [homeopathy](#) to beat malaria, doctors warn"

May 23, 2006: "Homeopathy is [poor](#), says expert"

May 4, 2006: "Asthmatic [children treated](#) with homeopathy"

August 26, 2005: "Homeopathy [can't](#) be more than a placebo"

June 20, 2005: "In focus: [Queen kept healthy](#) by homeopathy"

April 12, 2005: "Homeopathy: [Unofficial](#) Toshi!"

September 5, 2003: "Your [guide to homeopathy](#)"

June 17, 2003: "Homeopathy [can't](#) help for asthmatic children"

June 13, 2003: "Homeopathy [can't](#) be alternative"

June 13, 2003: "'Proof' [that homeopathy](#) works"

June 13, 2003: "Homeopathy [works!](#)"

November 19, 2002: "Proof [that homeopathy](#) doesn't work"

January 9, 2002: "[Homeopathy: Can it cure?](#)"

December 11, 2000: "[Homeopathy](#)"

We'd do well to examine these articles, to have points at hand to argue the matter. This series of Royce's

This is the 21st century; it's time to abandon wishful thinking and embrace a quality, despite the pain & t

I may soon become heavily involved in a large-scale test of homeopathy, one which has been in negotia

John also has an excellent addition to this contribution. We can still enjoy some relief while bemoaning t



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**YET MORE ON HOMEOPATHY...**



## Simon Singh

At

[tinyurl.com/6rft5o](http://tinyurl.com/6rft5o)

you'll find an interesting article by Simon Singh about the 200

I'll give you a few personal comments from one who was there all the way through. First, the Benveniste

When the Nature team – for the first time – Maddox of Negative Magazine, Watts, Stewart of the UN, Nations

I sincerely believe that – at first – Jacques Benveniste was genuinely unaware that such poor techniques

We believe that experimental data have been uncritically assessed and their imperfections inadequately

But that was only a more polite way of saying:

**SWIFT July 31, 2008**

Written by James Randi  
Thursday, 31 July 2008 16:18

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We suspect that some experimental data have been improperly arrived at, and their imperfections not re

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## **WHAT'S SAUCE FOR THE GOOSE...**

UK reader Russell Jones writes:

In recent months, the UK government introduced laws affecting clairvoyants, palm-readers, fortune-teller

It occurs to me that there is no more evidence for religious powers than for clairvoyant ones. The Church

Perhaps the Randi Foundation would have the resources to prosecute such a law suit. Otherwise, I'll ke

Russell, we handled this [randi.org/forums/backview/197/1/#i5](http://randi.org/forums/backview/197/1/#i5) , but it could stand another ~~All the miracles~~

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## **HELP WANTED**

We've received this inquiry:

My name is Johnathan Woodward. I am a university student/amateur documentary maker from Minneap

Readers can contact Mr [j.Woodward@hotmail.com](mailto:j.Woodward@hotmail.com)

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## ANOTHER SUPERSTITIOUS HORROR

Reader Francisco Garcia writes:

I found this article – [tinyurl.com/6j7tbs](http://tinyurl.com/6j7tbs) – and thought that you, and the readers of SWIFT, might be

My first reaction (literally, my first reaction. You'd expect some level of shock to be someone's first reaction.

Agreed, Francisco. Stupidity, superstition, and ignorance lead to different degrees of misbehavior, but it's

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### “THE ONE”: EPISODE 4

At [tinyurl.com/5lsfqr](http://tinyurl.com/5lsfqr) we have a YouTube contribution by William Brougham, one of

William found significance in the fact that Shé had looked directly at him, that – in his words – she

...was recognizing me from the audience... I did find that amazing.

Apparently he didn't realize that the audience members that would be sitting there would be able to give him a hand in V

He handled well her guess that he was a “gifted healer”, even though he had to pretend to have no idea what she

Our tireless and fearless Robert Matic of Melbourne, Australia, reports again, this time on episode 4:

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The penultimate episode of [The One](#) has been watched by a record 72% of the population

### Test 1 – Medical Diagnoses

The judges were asked whether psychics might possibly be able to diagnose medical conditions with the

Random people from the streets were stopped and given a medical reading.

For the most part, the conditions predicted by the psychics were general and vague, with “pains on the

The test continued in the studio with five audience members with five different medical conditions being

Meanwhile, none of the four remaining psychics noticed that one of the audience members was an amputee

The favorable editing of “The One” is becoming more evident with each passing week. Each of the four

### Test 2 – Matching a piece of luggage with a passenger

A group of twenty people disembarked an aircraft. The psychics were to match each of four pieces of luggage

One of the psychics said that she had become overly confident, and her failure was merely her spirit guide

Surprisingly, host Andrew Daddo went in to bat for the skeptics, challenging Stacey to come up with a

### Test 3 – Read a celebrity from behind a screen

In an attempt to give the psychics a helping hand in the final test of the week, the producers unwittingly

When the screen was white, the psychics back-tracked and changed course and when the screen turned

A paraphrased example from the show:

You have two kids (Big green light, loud siren)

You're on TV (No light, no siren)

No, hang on, I'm wrong. You're a sports hero (Big green light, loud siren)

You play cricket (Trying to develop previous hit, but no light, no siren)

Or tennis (Still trying, but no light, no siren)

You have a daughter (Going back to develop the previous hit on “kids,” big green light, loud siren)

She likes dancing (Developing hit on “daughter”, big green light, loud siren)

Replace “Big green light, loud siren” with “subtle visual or audible clue” and you have psychic readings of

Elimination: The Reiki practitioner – even though he was “2008 Australian Psychic of the Year” – was vo

And, the upcoming finding-a-body test will provide – I’m sure – an endless series of unprovable hints, po

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## MORE SNIFFEX

Mark B. Lindberg, one of [the Sniffex 5 team](#) (see [under plea to guilty](#) at Tulsa, Oklahoma, to criminal con

See [tinyurl.com/639puy](http://tinyurl.com/639puy) for a rather good summary of this farce. Note that [we've](#) [crite](#)

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## THE USPTO AGAIN

At [tinyurl.com/6bch5n](http://tinyurl.com/6bch5n) you'll find an article about the US Patent & Trademark Office

The US Patent and Trademark Office is a convenient whipping boy for problems with the patent system.

May I ask, *who else?* The USPTO is the *only* whipping

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Perhaps shaken by the negative publicity generated from that case [on software patents] and others, the

Well, I haven't noticed any general improvement. The Office still appears to have poorly-informed exami

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## IN CLOSING....



Please note that The Skeptic Society – under Dr. Michael Shermer – will handle the topic “Origins” author  
[crackle.com/search/Mr.%20Deity](http://crackle.com/search/Mr.%20Deity)

There is arguably no hotter topic in culture than science and religion, and so much of the debate turns on

We have assembled some of the world's greatest minds to discuss some of the world's greatest question

Go to [www.skeptic.com](http://www.skeptic.com) to get further information, or to register online. Not to be miss

The “huge joke” I referred to last week was happily reported by some of the readers of PhotoSleuth for the cons

(To “twig” to a fact or to an event means – in cony and confidence-man jargon – to become aware of it,

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As for my much-challenged use of the label last week on the word “elites” – in the sentence

The riches enjoy the position of unaccountability...?

No, I think “the rich” would be proper, just as “the elite” – rather than “the elites” – would be correct...

Finally, as if it hasn't been a silly enough week, reader SWIFT Steve Steppe gives us this: from the UK T

Go to [tinyurl.com/65gpf7](http://tinyurl.com/65gpf7) for the whole story...

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Randi". The signature is stylized with a large, looping initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.