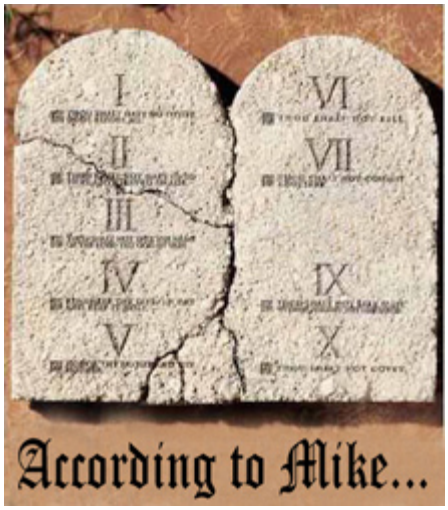
Lying Ain't a Sin!, Unnoticed Amid the Laughter, More Mitchell, A Delicious Hoax, A Request, Ban on Oxygen Bars Circumvented, From Cananda, Verbatim Editorial, Data Input Requested, 2008 Scholarship Awards, The Enchanted Islands, Signs of Progress, In Closing...



We've heard from reader Chris Wayne in Brisbane, Australia, who tipped us to this next item.

The Australian Christian Church [ACC] is a group of Pentecostal Churches formerly known as the Assemblies of God in Australia. It was formed in 1937 and adopted the new name in 2007. It currently consists of more than 1,120 churches with over 215,000 constituents, making it the largest Pentecostal movement in Australia.

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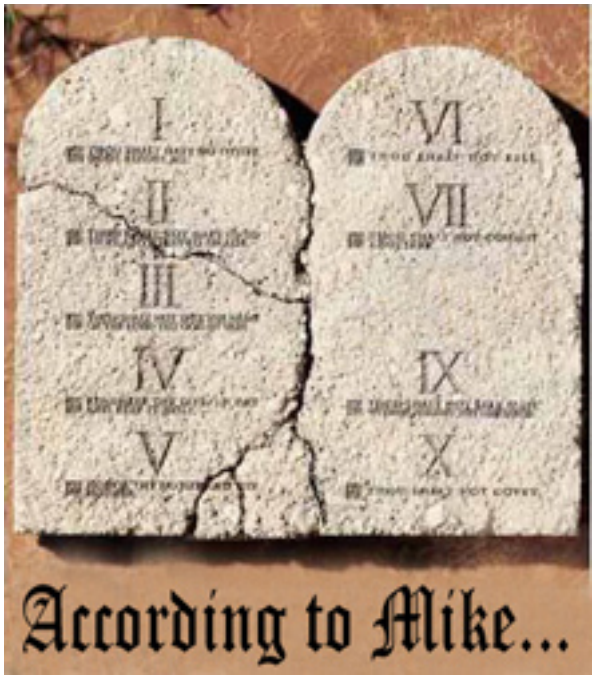
LYING AIN'T A SIN!



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The Australian Christian Church [ACC] is a group of Pentecostal Churches formerly known as the Asser

When I heard some recent news about the religious cult, Mike, it seemed to me that he's pretty much in the same place, yo

Hey, I might really be onto something here! Inspired and invigorated by what I'd found, I looked over tha

But to get back to Mike. As part of his charade, he would perform a demonstration for us with the wand of the device

Guglielmucci Jr., we're told, is now is seeking "professional help." From a priest, no doubt.

UNNOTICED AMID THE LAUGHTER

Re-examining the ridiculous ADE 651 "Advanced Detection Equipment" – from which he adapted the

Unlike Trace Detectors that require the supply of sample to be tested, the ADE 651™ does not require supplies

Now, consider: If you were to hold the device in your hand, nothing would

One more example of how silly and devious these people can get:

By programming the detection cards to specifically target a particular substance, through the proprietary

Okay. This suggests that if we were to design a test of the powers of the wonderful ADE 561™ we migh

1. The operator of the device – referred to ahead as “Operator” – must be chosen by ATSC (UK) Ltd. – r
2. The foregoing test must produce positive evidence that the Operator is capable of detecting the chos
3. Next, ten Targets, one of which is to be chosen substantial weight, will be arranged “remote” in the te
4. Should the Operator successfully identify the correct Target five times in the ten trials, the James Ran

simple paper bags

I *have mailed this suggested protocol to* “ATSC (UK) Ltd” *Address provided by reader?* *Ad*

A further caution: “ATSC (UK) Ltd” is provided as the name of the company *in any way* *connected with, or implying that* “Advance Tickets

We await with interest any response that ATSC may care to send…

MORE MITCHELL

On CNN, and in the UK Daily Mail, National Capital Area Skeptics [NCAS] president Scott Snell commen

Apollo 14 astronaut Dr. Edgar Mitchell, the 6th man to walk on the Moon, attracted recent widespread m

Mitchell claimed to have been

...deeply involved in certain committees and certain research programs with very credible scientists and.

Mitchell affirmed that the aliens' physical appearance, as typically portrayed in popular culture, is accura

In that newsletter of NCAS, Scott added a personal comment:

I had the pleasure of meeting Dr. Mitchell back in April 1994 at a church in Rockville, Md. During a break

Yet Mitchell"s intellect and achievements as a military test pilot and lunar module pilot are unquestionab

Mitchell also played an important role in the formation of the Association of Space Explorers during the

Perhaps Mitchell serves also as a reminder that rarely are all the human virtues found in one individual,

I fear that the answer to that question is disappointing. I am afraid that perhaps a kinder version of what it

A DELICIOUS HOAX

Obviously, the “Carlos” hoax – see www.skepdic.com/carlos.html – has inspired others to demonstrate how one ca

By Jerry Hirsch, Los Angeles Times Staff Writer August 22, 2008

Milan's Osteria L'Intrepido restaurant won Wine Spectator magazine's award of excellence this year des

To the magazine's chagrin, the restaurant is a Web-based fiction devised by wine critic and author Robi

To pull off the hoax, Goldstein created a bogus website for the restaurant and submitted an application

The application also included what Goldstein suggests was the key qualification: a $250 entry fee. "I am

In response, Wine Spectator Executive Editor Thomas Matthews listed in a posting on the New York-ba

"a. We called the restaurant multiple times; each time, we reached an answering machine and a messag

"b. Googling the restaurant turned up an actual address and located it on a map of Milan.

"c. The restaurant sent us a link to a website that listed its menu."

Wine Spectator even found discussion about the restaurant from purported diners on the foodie website

He also denied that the award of excellence was designed to generate revenue for the magazine. "This

Matthews said the magazine did not attempt to visit the phony Milan restaurant; it never visits about 200

Getting the award, however, isn't exactly like winning an Olympic medal. This year, nearly 4,500 restaur

That translates to more than $1 million in revenue.

Tom Pirko, a beverage industry consultant who lives in Santa Barbara County's wine country, said the h

"This gets down to what the Wine Spectator is all about. It's not exactly Wine for Dummies; it's more Wi

Restaurants that win the award receive a plaque they can mount for diners to see and a listing as a win

Goldstein said he came up with the idea while doing research for an academic paper about the standar

He contends that people think wine tastes better when they know it is expensive, citing as evidence tas

When he crafted the bogus wine list for Osteria L'Intrepido (Italian for "The Fearless Restaurant") Golds

"While Osteria L'Intrepido may be the first to win an award of excellence for an imaginary restaurant," G

A REQUEST

Reader Nick J. Karean, who deals in Science, Reason & Rationality, asks:

I'd like to make a request that you post this in your next SWIFT. Here's the link to the first article about T

tinyurl.com/68t3f5

Done...

BAN ON OXYGEN BARS CIRCUMVENTED

Reader Dan Lewandowski of Wichita Falls, Texas, has discovered that newspapers speak with forked to

The low-life owners of a new business in town make the strong implication that oxygen treatments will a

I talked to city code enforcement about this because an oxygen bar was shut down here a few years ag

tinyurl.com/6qhtwy6

FROM CANADA

Reader Angus Bell, from Montreal, shares this with us:

I'm an author from Scotland. I've always had a bent for the paranormal, believing I grew up in a haunted

I write to you from Montreal – hotbed of Canadian psychics. For the last four years, in the name of rese

I'm sure none of this will be new to you. While I've lost very little money on these endeavors, and have t

The major psychic centre in Montreal is the SSF – Science and Spiritualist Fellowship – run by the "TV-

I think it's time to blow the lid on this nonsense. I'll be honest, some of them are very skilled and convin

I wondered if you'd be interested in taking a trip north of the border and exposing these clowns. Or perh

Thank you for your consideration and keep up the brilliant work.

Angus, you seem to believe that it's a case of my riding into town on Rocinante and waving a wand... I c

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VERBATIM EDITORIAL

In the spirit of public service, we reproduce here an editorial from 24th August in The New York Times. Please, if you are a

There has been an upsurge of measles cases in the United States, mostly because of parents' misguide

Most people have forgotten, but measles was once an uncontrolled scourge that infected three million t

Then the development of effective vaccines and compulsory vaccination of schoolchildren drove the dis

Nearly all of the outbreaks this year were triggered by a mere 17 travelers or foreign visitors who contra

Outbreaks have occurred among home-schooled children who escaped the compulsory school vaccina

Israel, Switzerland, Austria, Italy and Britain are reporting sizable outbreaks of measles among populati

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DATA INPUT REQUESTED

From reader Graham Smith, in Australia:

Student Bianca Kingdon at Western Australia's Curtin University of Technology is doing a research proje

psychestim.Australia/research/students/bk/index.htm

I hope that readers will click in and assist Ms. Kingdon...!

2008 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

The new JREF Scholarship Awards are announced. Three countries are represented, though all four wi

$1,000 to Alan Jern

Alan just finished a Bachelor of Science degree in Computer Science with an overall 4.0 GPA from UCL

$1,500 to Joseph Meyer

Joseph has a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, a Master of Arts in Experimental Psychology and is worki

$2,500 to Tamas Borbely

Tamas is working on a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology at the University of Sussex, UK. The

$5,000 to Pavel Petkov

Pavel is a PhD student in literature at the University of Veliko Turnovo in Bulgaria, with a solid history of

Congratulations and best wishes to these winners. There is no monitoring done on how these funds are

THE ENCHANTED ISLANDS

At tinyurl.com/68h7og you'll see a report on our August 8th – 18th Amaz!ng Adve

I must report that I was very, very, happy with the extreme care extended by the government-trained nat

The ship always anchored well off-shore, so as not to intrude on the isolation of those islands being visit

Jaime jumped onto the rock, and made his way – with great difficulty – around outcroppings of sharp vol

It was what happened next that really got to all of us. One of us commented, "Jaime, that was very dang

I emphasize this small event because I think it is very significant. Jaime really cared about the ecology o

As another small example of why I have confidence in the integrity of this site, I will tell you that I watche

Our Amaz!ng Adventure was just that, and I'm still glowing. We're already planning to return there next y

SIGNS OF PROGRESS

Steve Warshak

Steve Warshak, 42, the founder of Berkeley Premium Nutraceuticals, pitched his company's product as a "Fountain of Youth." Enzyte, which was

Hey, could "AirBorne" – tinyurl.com/58lanb – be next…? This next-to-useless nostrum is advertised as

Also, in Santa Clara County Superior Court, 56-year-old Lola Miller has pleaded guilty to two counts of g

And from reader David Colquhoun, www.dcscience.net/ should be a frequent stop for all you readers, comes this e

The University of Central Lancashire has abandoned, or at least suspended, its "BSc degree" in homeop

Go to dcscience.net/?p=249 to see this item…

IN CLOSING…

My good friend Chip Denman, our official JREF statistician, has graciously accepted to serve as a board

We've just received a sample of the long-awaited and stunning new DVD by Robert Neary and Tyson Sr

It will be noted that I was having a Very Bad Beard Day when I was interviewed for this DVD...