

## Poltergeist

Written by Phil Plait  
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What's dumber? Robbing a house, or [getting caught because a ghost wouldn't let you leave](#) ?

I'm guessing it's that second part. Even dumber, when the family returned to their home, they found the would-be robber suffering dehydration (more on that on [The Star Online](#) ). Or maybe he was already on the brink of it when he robbed the house, which is why he thought it was haunted. Beats me.

Of course, we hear ghost stories all the time. As I (and lots of others, of course) have long been saying, there is no credible evidence of ghosts. None. Zip. Like with UFOs, if you want to convince me of this, I want **real** evidence. Not a blurry photo, or video of a spider crawling on a surveillance camera.

*Evidence.*

Of course, it would also help [if people like David Klinghoffer didn't apologize for belief in the supernatural](#) . His opinion piece in the L.A. Times has some good points, but is way too credulous of the possibility of the paranormal. He dismissed brain-related effects explaining the belief in paranormal as too much like "just-so stories", and being unfalsifiable. Mr Klinghoffer, if you read this: there have been tests that show this effect to occur. Magnetic effects to the temporal lobe can induce all sorts of paranormal-like feelings. While this is not a sufficient explanation, it certainly is far more than a just-so story.

Anyway, I know stories like the one about the goofball burglar will continue on forever. As a rational person, I know that we will never be an *entirely* rational species. My hope is that we can *minimize* our irrationality... especially when it comes to our voters, our politicians, our editors, our writers, and anyone else in positions of power or the ability to communicate.

*Tip o' the ectoplasmic residue to [Massimo Pigliucci](#) .*