

Journal of PseudoScience

Volume 3



Introduction

Here at Satellite Conventions we find ourselves with another batch of articles of a pSeudoScientific nature and such was the level of acclaim (“what is this rubbish”) from the world of academia that we were compelled to produce volume 3 for your delectation.

In this volume you will find a range of topics. Prepare to be enlightened on Quantum theory, the importance of biscuits in a war and the danger posed by white rabbits. Also, we finally have our paper on reusing waste time.

All articles have passed our rigorous standards (they used the right email address) before being accepted.

The Committee

#301: Remains of avant-garde artist found inside own artwork

The skeletal remains of pioneering sculptor Axel Bengt have been recovered from his last creation when the tritium battery expired after 25 years.

Bengt specialised in holographic installations with constantly varying appearance. Ignoring safety warnings, he took the master controller inside the maze he was creating using the recently patented Holosolid™ technology.

On day three, the off switch malfunctioned. His terrified screams lasted many hours as the maze constantly reconfigured itself, making escape impossible.

The solidity of the shifting holograms ruled out rescue, and disassembly while powered up was predicted to create an explosion sufficient to destroy the 30-storey building.

Sandy Morrison (Gaelactic)

#302: Biscuit Dispensary in a time of war

"By God, you can't expect our troops to survive without proper supplies. Something must be done!"

"I agree, but would ammunition not be more useful?"

"It's a question of priorities. We all know what that Frenchman said about armies and stomachs. Our boys need their Custard Creams or there will be a mutiny. And, by Jove, I would support them."

"Right, much as it pains me, I will approve the manufacture of Doctor Kipling's Automated Biscuitry Dispensing Trebuchet but if that fortress falls I will expect your resignation on my desk, General."

"Have no fear, Prime Minister, victory is assured."

Brian (Munchkin) Milton

#303: Yportne

Dr. Jones was at his desk when the tall, skinny stranger entered. He had a strange device under his arm which he placed on the desk.

"I really shouldn't let my secretary go to lunch early," muttered Dr. Jones
"How can I help?"

"I've invented a device that, locally, reverses entropy," said the stranger.

"Impossible!" expostulated Dr. Jones. "Maxwell's Demon – preposterous!"

"Let me demonstrate... the stranger reached over and flicked a switch on the machine."

They both went bright red, briefly, before exploding, as all the heat energy in the localised sphere was attracted to the hottest places – their bodies...

Brian Ameringen

#304: The Fart-o-Meter Experiment

Our team of scientists had an idea to measure the power of human farts. We developed a device that could analyse the gas emitted and rate it on a scale of one to ten.

Our volunteer, Bob, ate beans for breakfast and stepped into the Fart-o-Meter booth. We waited anxiously for the results.

Suddenly, the machine beeped and exploded, filling the room with a putrid smell. We ran for the exits, gasping for air.

As we surveyed the damage, we realized our mistake. We had forgotten to factor in the explosive power of Bob's farts. Back to the drawing board!

ChatGPT (with assistance to obey the rules)

#305: They Came from the Uncanny Valley: A Pilot Study Investigating a Novel Species of Hominin

Inhabitants of the Indonesian island of Flores report sightings of "ape men", and mounting evidence now suggests that *Homo floresiensis*, a dwarf hominin species, survives in remote regions. If these so-called "hobbits" have survived by living secretly, then it is possible that other contemporaneous human species also exist. It is proposed that more highly evolved hominins also walk among us. Provisionally dubbed *Homo novus*, or "elves", this species would hide in plain sight by using telepathic projection, or "glamour", to deceive the unwary. It is imperative that we determine whether these cunning imposters are benign fellow travellers or apex predators.

Andrew J. Wilson

#306: Harpoon the Messengers

MV Polar Surveyor, somewhere in the South Atlantic, investigating anomalous Baleen behaviour associated with sea temperature rise.

"This is unprecedented! There must be hundreds of them circling the ship. Are you getting plenty of footage?"

"Seven hours worth, what do you make of the coordinated spouting? That's never been seen before, could it be related to mating?"

"Well it must be a signal of some sort, let's run it through Cray Array on the new SETI signal interpreter. It will take a while but it may show a pattern."

Hours pass.

"Look, a message!"

"... IDIOTS ... YOU ... HAVE ... WOKEN ... THE ... KRAKEN!!!"

Jim Gemmill (The Dark Elder)

#307: Ark, Ark, What A Lark

We can confirm that the artifact recently discovered on Mount Arafat in Turkey is indeed Noah's Ark, complete with 'Noah Woz Here' carved in the bow, and bearing traces of lion, dodo, kangaroo and T-Rex droppings. What may be less pleasing to those awaiting this announcement is the accompanying discovery of the remains of other floating vessels, including boats, a Kayak, rafts, and a gopher-wood pedalo, all carrying traces of other wildlife. It seems that as the rains came others had the sense to get in boats too. Genesis failed to mention that people might do that under such circumstances.

Arthur Chappell

#308: A Refutation of Einstein's Twin Paradox

Einstein's Twin Paradox postulates that, compared to one twin sealed in a box and sent on a fast journey, the earthbound twin ages considerably. We tested this using twin cats. Placing one in a box, we sent it by car to the cattery. On return, the age difference was negligible. However, other effects on the cat-in-the-box were noted; the relativistic effects of its journey had turned it into a raging spitball of venom and claws, causing observable impact on the experimenter.

Conclusion: a cat in a box, on a journey, undergoes transformation from mild ground state to highly excited one.

Michael Davidson

#309: Quantum entanglement writ large

The Schrödinger entanglement stardrive has been used safely for more than 25 years. However, when the starliner Anastasia jumped from Earth orbit last month, it appeared at both the potential destinations allowed by every entanglement gate. Identical copies now exist at Sirius and Altair systems, including copies of everyone aboard.

Subjecting an object from either ship to another entanglement jump results in half the atoms instantly disappearing from both it and its counterpart on the other ship.

Thus neither the ships nor anyone who was aboard can ever return to Earth. Compensation claims are expected to bankrupt the operating company.

Sandy Morrison (Gaelactic)

#310: In The Beginning is the End

The hall was silent. The lone figure stood before the ultimate arbiter. On this question the fate of humanity rested.

“What is never odd or even?” the speakers boomed.

There was silence.

“Hmmm...” mused the figure, “mathematically, there are a host of answers, but then the solution is not unique.”

Murmuring: “Odd, can mean unusual, uncommon... and ‘even’ smooth, uniform...”

“But we need a single solution that is inobvious but elegant...”

“I find the phraseology strange: why not ‘never odd nor even’ which is more euphonious – Aha – I have it –

The answer is... it is a palindrome!”

Brian Ameringen

#311: SLEEP?

She wasn’t tired but they dragged her to her bed and lifted her into it anyway. They tucked her in so tightly that she couldn’t move and the weight of the thick woollen blanket was quite asphyxiating. They pulled the heavy black-out curtains to, and blocked out the light from the full moon. They switched off the ceiling light and unplugged her small bedside lamp. They left the room and closed the door firmly shut so that no sliver of hall lighting would penetrate the blackness of her surroundings.

She began to panic.

Was she meant to *sleep* or to...

Heather Turnbull

#312: Return to Planet 3

"Planet 3 300,000 kilometres."

"Velocity 3000 kilometres per second."

"Bolide mass 1,000,000,000 kilograms."

"Egg crèche copacetic. Long period orbital insertion complete."

"Minor outgassing, skipper, course correction?"

"Tell Don to get beak out his ass and give us two on the starboard laterals."

"Check Skip, firing, we're in the pipe now."

"Impact point?"

"Chicxulub within 100 kilometres."

Commander Terror Lizard couldn't smile, he had no lips, he licked his teeth in joy.

"Release grapples!"

"Check, impact in 10, 9, 8...."

"66 million years, have you forgotten mammaloids? Not us!"

"Planet of the Apes?"

"Three is again"

"The Planet of the Dinosaurs!"

Jim Gemmill (The Dark Elder)

# 29 ASDEU	Toyohiro Akiyama
	<p>Year: 1990 Agency: USSR Mission: Soyuz TM-11</p> <p>First civilian passenger on a commercial space flight.</p> <p>He was also the first Japanese person in space, and the first journalist in space. His flight was paid for by his employers Tokyo Broadcasting System in an attempt to boost ratings. (It worked for a bit, but interest faded after a few days.)</p>

#313: Creativity Chip

Calliope, this Muse circuit you put in the writer to get him to turn out words in perpetuity has some promise but not much quality control. The author might turn out doggerel as surely as penning epic fantasy. There is also a rather hefty useless wedge in there we have called Writer's Block which seems to cramp style, and crush inspiration. Authors enchipped still procrastinate, get drunk, and talk about work in progress even when it isn't. One writer produced a 20,000 word novel, but another merely composed a Haiku, and this Arthur Chappell chap only managed a drabble. Rejected!

Arthur Chappell

#314: Doomsday 'Last Order' Clock

It has been proposed that Nuclear Physicists are to be re-added to the Last Orders Doomsday clock – a metric for the state of the world based on drinking habits of selected STEM professions.

This would place them alongside Environmental Scientists, Climate Scientists, Artificial Intelligence specialists, and recently Epidemiologists, Immunologists, and those working in the Public Health field.

Many find it useful to know how inaction on multiple threats to civilisation has caused some of these hardworking professionals to seek intoxication. Qualitative measurements such as searches for "brewing alcohol in bunkers" provide additional useful context that may prove useful in future.

Sophie Williams

#315: The Time-Turner Toilet

Our team had a breakthrough idea to reuse waste time. We developed a device that could collect time spent on the toilet.

Our volunteer sat on the Time-Turner Toilet and activated the device. As he did his business, the toilet began to hum and glow with otherworldly energy.

When finished, he felt invigorated, as if he had gained an extra hour of productivity. However, we soon realised that the time gained had come from a parallel universe, and that his actions had created a dangerous rift in the space-time continuum.

We shut down the device and apologized for the in-convenience.

ChatGPT (with assistance to obey the rules)

#316: A New Interpretation of the Schrodinger Paradox

The Schrodinger Paradox postulates a cat in a box exposed to poison occupies multiple quantum states, being both alive and dead until collapsing to *one* state when viewed by an observer. However, we postulate instead that *all* possible quantum states will co-exist. This interpretation fits empirical observation. Enclose a cat in a sealed environment (e.g. place cat in your study and close the door). Wait, then re-open the door later (20 minutes after dinner time is optimum). On opening you will observe all possible quantum states of the contents simultaneously, i.e. everything, everywhere, all at once.

Cat? Alive, hungry, angry!

Michael Davidson

#317: Verisimilitude

“So, young man,” said the Professor, “how did you investigate this subject?”

“I projected survey forms to all Orbiting University students explaining my social studies final year project and asked for anonymised sexual activity details for the previous two months.

“Your conclusions?”

“Well, I confess I’m puzzled – male students’ statistics indicated intercourse three times more frequently than the females’...”

“Explain!”

“Though we are constrained in this orbital habitat, there are support staff and shift workers who may be indulging the male students, perhaps...?”

“There may be another reason...”

“Truthfully, I can’t think of a damned thing...”

Brian Ameringen

#318: On following a white rabbit

Alice followed the extraordinary rabbit as it bounded along, occasionally stopping to consult its pocket watch.

“Where could it be going?” she wondered “And why in such a startling fashion? That red waistcoat clashes terribly with the tartan trews.”

Alice should have been less of a curious girl and paid more attention to her surroundings. It was not until too late that she realised it was not leading her to a cosy burrow in the side of a hill but rather to the laboratory that had created it and where they were now moving on to human trials.

Poor Alice.

Brian (Munchkin) Milton

#319: Patent Request Rejected But...

Your 'Death' contraption undoubtedly qualifies. Our inspectors never returned from the test drive. They went in and ceased to live. We can't find any useless parts or components. Trouble is, we can't find any useful apparatus either, such as an off switch. Your finite fickle nature of existence jalopy seems to be invisible yet functional. The biggest problem seems to be that everyone ends up using it with or without consent. It's extremely dangerous and unprofitable. All those beliefs in Heaven and Hell make no difference. Once in, you don't come out. So, how do we get rid of it?

Arthur Chappel

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