



The Arizona Skeptic

A Journal Promoting Critical Thinking

January 1990 Edition

PREDICTIONS 1990

Last year the Phoenix Skeptics compiled a list of 51 predictions for the year 1989. As of this writing (28 December 1989) we have had 34 confirmed hits, which gives us a accuracy percentage of .666. Among our successful predictions: Elvis has not gone public with the story of how he faked his own death, Joan Collins has her own cosmetics line and Romania's Government did fall. In confirmation of our boldest prediction, Jesus, did not return to the earth, the rapture did not occur and the world did not end.

In the spirit of skepticism, we do have to note some of our failures. We did not predict the San Francisco earthquake (though we note seer Joan Quigley was in San Francisco during the Quake). We did not predict the death of the Ayatollah Khomeini, the demise of Jim Wright or the fall of the Warsaw Pact. We feel pleased, however, that no other prognosticators made those predictions.

Our predictions were made at the 2 December 1989 meeting of the Phoenix Skeptics. While a formal disclaimer might be in order here, we cannot, in good faith, recommend someone consult a "real" psychic before choosing to act upon our predictions.

- 1) Phoenix will not get a Major League Baseball franchise during the expansion meetings.
- 2) Political unrest will continue in China.
- 3) Maggie Thatcher will not end the year as Prime Minister of the UK.
- 4) Chinese leader Deng Xiaopeng will die before year's end.
- 5) Cory Aquino will face yet another coup attempt in the Phillipines.
- 6) Mikhail Gorbachev will be removed from office in 1990.
- 7) The United States inflation rate will go beyond 5%.
- 8) Pope John-Paul II will kiss a runway, quite possibly in the Soviet Union.
- 9) An attempt to kill President George Bush

will be made if he makes a trip to Columbia for a drug summit.

10) Several prominent show business stars will pass away. (Contenders: Jimmy Stewart, George Burns and Ronald Reagan.)

11) Jesus will postpone his return to earth again this year. (As Sam Kinison notes, given the way we sent him off last time, why would he want to return?)

12) The United States will enter a recession in 1990.

13) Charles Keating will update his passport and get a new address in 1990.

14) The cold fusion controversy will continue, with Japanese discoveries adding to the whole problem.

15) Inflation and economic hard times continue in Latin America.

16) US combat troops will see action in Columbia.

17) Jim Bakker will create a Penitentiary Pentecostal Ministry and again come into the national limelight.

18) Dramatic advances in the cure for cancer will be made in 1990.

19) A high government official will die in office.

20) Zsa-Zsa Gabor will again face legal trouble.

21) Serious advances will be made in identifying and isolating the different types of quarks.

22) General Noriega will remain in power despite attempts to oust him.

23) Killer Bees will be found in Arizona.

24) Fire Ants make news in Arizona.

25) Evan Meacham will taste defeat in 1990. (Any normal person would find it humiliating, but Ev will bounce back.)

26) Several anti-abortion candidates for national office will be defeated because of their stand on that issue.

27) Wedding bells for Jane Fonda.

28) Dan Quayle will realize the Cold War is over.

29) Someone in the nation's First Family will be hospitalized in 1990.

30) More stories of UFO visits will come from the USSR.

31) A famine will cause a leadership crisis in

the USSR.

32) Gorbachev becomes Born Again! (Either Christian or Marxist.)

33) 1990 will be Jimmy Swaggart's comeback year.

34) A powerful earthquake will shake Los Angeles.

35) Another devastating hurricane will lash the eastern seaboard.

36) Scandal will link Tammy Bakker and Jerry Falwell.

37) 1990 will bring a cooler summer to Phoenix.

38) Paul and Jan Crouch will raise millions, ostensibly for the benefit of the poor.

39) A currently unknown recording artist will have a Billboard #1 hit in 1990.

40) The American southwest will face a drought.

41) Mike Tyson will have a new manager in 1990.

42) Lebanon will have a new president in 1990.

43) The IRA will attempt to kidnap or kill one of Queen Elizabeth's grandchildren.

44) The US will normalize relations with Iran.

45) There will be a move to change the US national anthem. (Leading candidate: America the Beautiful.)

46) More US hostages will be taken in Lebanon.

47) Worldwide, acts of terrorism will decrease, especially as related to the Middle East.

48) Gorbachev will be Time's Man of the Year.

49) The Nobel Committee will not award a Peace Prize in 1990.

50) Despite the best efforts of the NRA, limitations on gun ownership will be signed into law in 1990 and will be upheld in court challenges.

We also predict that our hit rate will be higher in 1990 than that of any "real" psychic. We also predict that we will miss as many major issues as we hit, as will other "real" psychics. Finally, we predict our predictions will have about as much validity as those of any other seers.

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Some Failures of Organized Skepticism

By Jim Lippard

Skeptics, like believers, are human. As such, they are subject to human failings. Psychological factors which contribute to one's being a believer (see Lippard 1988c) can also contribute to one's being a skeptic. Skeptical arguments, like those of believers, are sometimes emotional, illogical, or otherwise fraught with error.

The sort of error most commonly made by skeptics is going beyond the bounds of rational argument or beyond the available evidence in order to maintain a particular skeptical viewpoint. This includes failing to draw obvious conclusions from evidence and failure to obtain available evidence.

When conducting a skeptical investigation, it is not uncommon to find what appears to be a solution with only a modicum of effort. With the application of a little more effort, however, such solutions may quickly fall apart. I discovered this first hand in my investigation of the psychic detective claims of Scottsdale astrologer/psychic Jonathan Chris (Lippard 1988b). Chris claimed to have worked for the Tempe Police Department on the Christy Fornoff murder case in 1985. To check this claim, I did the obvious thing and contacted Lieutenant Steve Graheling, head of investigations for the TPD. Graheling told me that no psychics were used in the case. I might have stopped the investigation right there and simply concluded that Jonathan Chris was lying in his literature. But I would have been wrong. Further queries enabled me to discover that in fact, Tempe Police Sergeant Mike Palmer, the chief investigator on the Fornoff case, had consulted with Chris after all.

Something similar occurred in James Randi's investigation of psychic detective Dorothy Allison. Allison claimed to have given the name "Williams" to the Atlanta Police Department regarding the Atlanta child murders, for which Wayne Williams was eventually convicted. Randi (1982-83) reports that, according to the APD's Sergeant Gundlach, Allison "had given them some 42 possible names for the murderer(s) but not the correct one." But when Marcello Truzzi (Hoebens with Truzzi 1985) checked with two Atlanta police officers whose names were

given to him by Allison as witnesses, one of them did recall her having mentioned the name "Williams" (among others). Apparently the moral here is not to accept the word of police spokesmen regarding psychic detectives without independent corroborating evidence.

Another, more serious, example of not going far enough in a skeptical investigation may be found in the "News and Comment" section of the Spring 1980 *Skeptical Inquirer* in a brief article by Elie Shneour. Shneour's article was regarding a report in the October 23, 1979 issue of the tabloid *Star* regarding an experiment by "Professor Elizabeth Rauscher, a physicist of the Nuclear Division" at the Lawrence Radiation Laboratory (now the Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory) at the University of California at Berkeley. This experiment involved faith healer Olga Worrall successfully controlling the growth of bacteria.

According to Shneour, not only did no such experiments ever take place at the Lawrence Berkeley Lab (LBL), but there was no such person on the research staff or faculty or with any connection to the lab by the name of Elizabeth Rauscher. He stated that he obtained this information by contacting former colleagues at Berkeley. However, as I discovered while researching Mesa hypnotist Frank Baranowski's claim that a physicist named Elizabeth Rauscher was doing ghost research (Lippard 1988a), Shneour's second claim is false.

Rauscher was indeed on the staff at LBL at the time she conducted the experiment with Olga Worrall and bacteria (results published as Rauscher & Rubik 1979). Further, as she told me in a telephone conversation, she had written a letter of correction to the *Skeptical Inquirer* at the time, but it was never printed (Rauscher 1988). On the other hand, the work was not conducted at LBL, so Shneour was right about that part. But his failure to find Rauscher's existence and connection with the Lab is evidence of extremely poor research. All he needed to do to verify these facts was to examine a copy of what was then the most recent edition (14th, 1979) of *American Men and Women of Science: Physical and Biological Sciences*--Rauscher is listed there along with her affiliations. (For the record, Rauscher, who is active in parapsychology, indicates that she hasn't done "ghost research.")

Another case is CSICOP's handling of the "Mars effect" affair. In this case, a challenge to French "cosmobiologist" Michel Gauquelin resulted in the verification of his claim that correlations he found between the position of Mars and sports ability were not the result of factors such as births tending to occur at particular times of day. (For all the gory details of this mess, see Curry 1982 and Kammann 1982. Cherfas 1981 gives a brief summary.)

But what is by far the worst example of skeptical failure I have come across is a description of a March 18, 1988 debate between creationist Duane Gish of the Institute for Creation Research (ICR) and Ian Plimer, associate professor of geology at Newcastle University. The description of this debate which appeared in an article in the *Australian Skeptics'* publication *The Skeptic*, by Steve Roberts of the Canberra Skeptics and Skeptic editor Tim Mendham (Roberts & Mendham 1988) was filled with serious misrepresentations. I discovered this by viewing a videotape of the debate, which took place at the Clancy Theatre of the University of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia.

In the debate, Gish trotted out his standard anti-evolutionary arguments, and Plimer responded in extremely poor form with an unrelenting series of ad hominem attacks and a criticism of the worldwide flood theory. Plimer's behavior was so rude that the audience began shouting at him.

The first misrepresentation in the Roberts and Mendham (henceforth R&M) article involved Plimer's claim that Michael Denton, author of the book *Evolution: A Theory in Crisis*, had recanted his attack on evolution. Gish responded to this claim in his rebuttal, stating (as I have transcribed it from the videotape): "Dr. Denton did not deny or go back on anything he put in this book. This is what he did say: that if he were going to write a book on this subject that he'd take a different approach. The evidence that he discussed in here he said is subjective. ...But from the perspective now in genetic research he believes that possibly it's possible to objectively establish that [sic] if evolution is possible or not. And certainly from his present state of knowledge he believes it can be objectively proven that it's impossible." In R&M's description of this exchange, they state that Gish said Denton's remarks were that "if he were to rewrite [his book] he would take a

different approach altogether, and that evolution was possibly now a provable reality given recent advances in technology." (p. 12) This misrepresentation was repeated in the July/August 1988 issue of the Creation/Evolution Newsletter (Anonymous 1988b).

Further misrepresentations are found in R&M's summary of Gish's presentation. They write that "Dr. Gish did make some truly remarkable admissions with respect to the body of beliefs held by creationists including himself, such as [1] that the universe is not necessarily very young, [2] that belief in the Biblical story of Noah and the Flood was suddenly optional and uncommon, [3] that the fossil record really is genuine and does not contain monkeys or human remains at an early era, [4] that data written and published by him was false and known by him to be false but had not been corrected, [5] that creation research institutes can do whatever they like with money acquired by them, [6] that there was a choice of various theories or creation including non-Christian ones. None of these revised policies were volunteered; they all came out under questioning." (p. 13, numbers added)

The quoted summary is full of errors. Gish's comments regarding points 1 and 6 were in response to questions from the audience. His comments regarding 2, 4, and 5 were in response to remarks made by Plimer in the debate. I am unable to ascertain what Gish said that R&M interpreted as point 3. Points 1, 4, and 6 are more-or-less true but slightly misleading, and points 2 and 5 are gross distortions.

1. In response to a question regarding the age of the universe and light from stars more than 10,000 light years away, Gish stated that he thought God created the light on its way to us but that this was not deception (because Gish interprets the book of Genesis to mean that God is telling us this "fact"). When the questioner asked about the recently-observed supernova which took place over 100,000 years ago, Gish stated that α 1(if) that were established he would accept an old age for the universe.

2. Earlier in R&M's article Gish is quoted as admitting that "nobody really believed all that stuff about Noah and the Flood," (p. 12) which they describe so as to make it appear that Gish is denying belief in the biblical flood story. However, they have quoted Gish

incorrectly and out-of-context. What Gish actually said (from the videotape) was: "Now, all of this funny stuff about Noah and the Ark and the Flood and all that, that's just a caricature. I don't know of any creation scientist who believes what [Plimer] says." He was responding to Plimer's claims about the number of animals that would have had to be on the Ark, the rate of continental drift, and so on, which he considered to be a caricature of creationist views about the flood.

3. As indicated above, I was unable to find any such admissions by Gish in the debate.

4. Plimer pointed out a number of errors (he called them "lies") in Gish's Have You Been Brainwashed? pamphlet, including the assertion that there are no Pre-Cambrian fossils. Gish responded that the pamphlet was 17 years old and that his statement was in accordance with the scientific views of the time. Plimer replied that he had just purchased a copy of the pamphlet outside the lecture hall.

5. Plimer noted the disappearance of a large quantity of money from the Australian Creation Science Foundation (CSF), implying that someone in the organization had absconded with the funds. Gish replied that the money had been invested and a dishonest person in the investment firm, not one of the creationists, had absconded with the funds.

6. In response to a question from an audience member regarding which version of creationism should be taught in schools, Gish said that none should. Instead, the creationist evidence against evolution should be presented. Which particular creationist story you believe is a matter of faith, not science.

Surprisingly, the ICR's account of this debate (Anonymous 1988a) is far more accurate than the Australian Skeptics' version, as well as being more charitable to the opposing side (e.g., the ICR account does not mention Plimer's invitation that Gish electrocute himself on bare wires to demonstrate that electricity is "mere" theory).

Conclusion

These examples clearly show that the fact that a skeptic makes an argument does not make it a good one. Skeptics need to be careful in their investigations and in their public comments. It is my hope that this article will be taken as a cautionary note and help prevent future occurrences of such

errors as I have described.

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Jim Lippard, the founder and former executive director of the Phoenix Skeptics, is a graduate student in philosophy at the University of Arizona. He is not responsible for any typographical errors in this article, as there were none in it when he sent it to the editor. [Note: this is obviously a test of whether or not you believe everything told to

you by a skeptic! -ed.]

Further misrepresentations are found in R&M's summary of Gish's presentation. They write that "Dr. Gish did make some truly remarkable admissions with respect to the body of beliefs held by creationists including himself, such as [1] that the universe is not necessarily very young, [2] that belief in the Biblical story of Noah and the Flood was suddenly optional and uncommon, [3] that the fossil record really is genuine and does not contain monkeys or human remains.

Seeing is Believing?

by **Michael A. Stackpole**

So very often, as skeptics, our initial reaction to hearing a story of the paranormal is one of the following: we believe the raconteur is either lying, or hopelessly mistaken in what they believe they witnessed. Almost as if it is an ironclad tenet of some unspoken faith we do not give the possibility that they are not mistaken or lying a second thought. This knee-jerk reaction, while oh so tempting in many cases, serves no constructive purpose.

This is especially true if the paranormal experience happens to you.

On a recent trip to Las Vegas three friends and I participated in an impromptu experiment in psychokinetics (PK). Jill Lucas and Dave Wylie of Chicago and Paul Lidberg and myself of Phoenix were waiting in the Tropicana Casino for another friend to join us for dinner. Having nothing better to do with our time, we each ponied up two bits, purchased a silver dollar and decided to make a fortune.

We selected one of the huge style slot machines in the Casino - this one happened to be located at the foot of an up escalator. Jill put the coin in the slot and prepared to pull the lever while Paul, Dave and I positioned ourselves with our hands over the wheels, left, right and center respectively. As Jill started the wheels spinning, the three of us started to hum in a harmonic convergence sort of way.

The wheels stopped and two coins fell into the tray. Struck by the obvious success of this method, we agreed to keep playing until we lost a spin. One of the coins went back into the slot and the wheels spun again. Our humming grew a bit in volume and *Bang* five coins deposited themselves in the slot. We

were on a roll.

Our third coin went into the slot and, by this time, a small group of people had stopped to watch these crazy people humming and winning money. The wheels spun and we hummed in unison. The song wasn't pretty, but it worked and a seventeen coin fortune spilled into the tray. We all laughed and cheered, prompting more people to stop and watch.

The fourth coin only produced two in its wake, and the fifth coin lost, so we decided to quit. I split the money evenly between us and came up with one odd coin. I polled our group as to what we should do with it, and Paul suggested playing it on the Wheel of Fortune not fifteen feet behind us. Bearing the coin like a holy relic, I led my friends and our considerable entourage (up to 15 people at least) over to the wheel.

The Wheel of Fortune is a wall-mounted wheel set with nails. As it spins a tongue of wood at the 12 o'clock position slows it and when the wheel stops, the tongue rests into a slot that corresponds to the winning bet. The odds varied, but the Tropicana slot was a 40-to-1 longshot, so I slapped the coin down on it. The croupier wanted to know if we wanted to place any other bets, but we were adamant – the Tropicana and \$1 was it.

We stood there with our right hands hovering above the coin. All four of us joined our voices in a hum of such intensity that it could be heard above the click-clack of the Wheel spinning round and round. All eyes watched the Wheel and, as it slowed, I located the Tropicana slot. 3 o'clock, 4 o'clock, the Tropicana slot cruised toward the bottom of the circle. 5 o'clock, 6 and 7, it started the slow climb up toward where our fortune would be made. \$40 for a lousy \$1 bet. 8 and 9, the Wheel slowed appreciably. I glanced at Dave and he at me, then we concentrated again on the Wheel.

The Tropicana slot flashed past the 10 o'clock position, and moved toward the zenith that would make us rich. 11 came and went, and my heart started pounding faster and faster, as if soaking off the energy in the Wheel in a metaphysical attempt to stop its progress. The tongue clicked into the Tropicana slot at the barest of crawls, then looked as if it would pop back out again – my heart was in my throat.

It didn't.
It *stayed*.

Humming like fools, we hit a 40-to-1 shot!

The cheers and laughter came from more than just the four of us! Our disciples likewise greeted our success with applause and chuckles. Despite the croupier's entreaties to let him try to win the money back, we took our winnings and walked away from the table. No one followed us and, I am sure, we walked off into another one of those apocryphal Las Vegas stories that no one will believe – but everyone will secretly wish would happen to them.

On my honor as a skeptic, the incident happened exactly as reported above. I should add that we did blow another \$5 in odd coins on a roulette bet, but we retired with \$14.25 for our 25¢ investment – enough to buy some beer and a good dinner. Because there had been an eclipse that day, we christened ourselves the Eclipse Circle and Dave figured out that in 5 minutes we'd made a 5600% return on our investment. That's decent enough to interest even Ivan Boesky.

What do I believe happened? I honestly cannot say I am certain. I think the slot payoff was actually within normal limits for Las Vegas. The machine is located at a bottleneck in the Casino, so having it be a bit looser than the other slots would make sense. I have no problem with that part of the experience.

The Wheel of Fortune, on the other hand, is something else. Three solutions suggest themselves. The first passes the test of Occam's Razor very easily: we got lucky. As the saying goes: Even a blind squirrel finds an acorn once in a while. Lady Luck or coincidence smiled and we walked away winners.

The second solution is equally attractive. Here we had a group of 4 young people having great fun within sight of the croupier. We had a following, and they came with us to the Wheel of Fortune. We were on a hot streak. The Casino, realizing they would recoup any losses incurred by other humming fools, could have let us win. While this means the game was rigged in some way – and that would be roundly denied by all sorts of gambling officials in Las Vegas – the chance of a fix cannot be totally discounted either.

The last explanation is that, somehow, we did actually manipulate the Wheel through the power of our minds. Recall that the four

of us were backed up by 15 or more people watching us and hoping we would win. Sure, no lights dimmed and no one's watch stopped, but I know I was feeling lots of hopes and wishes as the Tropicana began its slow climb to 12 o'clock. Dave has suggested that it never had enough momentum to get all the way up there. Did we give it a push?

I don't know. As an experiment, the conditions are utterly unreproducible so its validity is all shot to hell. Any one of those above explanations works for me, and I must admit the second strikes me as fitting my feelings for Las Vegas in general. I must also note that by modern parapsychological standards, we must not have been using psychic powers because we were able to enrich ourselves – and all psychics know that is not possible, powers cannot be used that way, which is why none of them go to Las Vegas to make themselves a fortune.

True, \$14.25 is hardly a fortune. Also true, the experience was far from normal. Still, it did happen. Anyone telling me that it did not happen that way, or that I am mistaken, will earn my ire because, in short, I will be called a liar. For someone to show, with math or statistics, that what we did was not that unusual, or for someone to bring forward a Tropicana employee who can verify that the Wheel was fixed, that would constitute a whole other level of proof that could easily explain away what seems to be a very mystifying experience.

Not everyone we deal with will look at a simple answer to explain things. This is not because they are stupid, it is because they do not have reason to question what they believe to be the truth. Condescension and ridicule of their beliefs will only alienate them, and turn them from using their minds to ferret out the truth in similar situations.

Besides, there may come a time when we discover that solution #3 was indeed the right answer.

Until then, I apologize to any and all skeptics who run across believers who saw four psychics use their power to break the bank at the Tropicana. Will wonders never cease?



Editorial Blathering

It's been nearly a year since we had a newsletter out and you might have been wondering why you'd not heard from us in so long. Contrary to the fears of some, the Phoenix Skeptics had not collapsed. Ron Harvey, the previous editor of this newsletter, became increasingly involved in work that took him out of Phoenix for extended periods of time. He made the decision he would not continue editing the newsletter, but his schedule prevented an easy transition. By the time Ron was back in Phoenix on anything approaching a consistent schedule, summer had rolled around and I was hopping in and out of town during the convention season.

By autumn we'd decided to produce the Newsletter in a small format (of which this is a double-sized example) and a larger size which will include all those articles **you** are going to write for us. (Barring that, Lippard and I will have to prattle on at you about all sorts of things, or we'll reprint articles from other newsletters.) Judy Sawyer will be editing our larger journal.

Despite the lack of a newsletter, we have not been inactive. We have had our meetings (the first Saturday of each month at 12:30 pm at Jerry's on Rural between McDowell and the Riverbottom in Tempe). Those of you who missed the revelation of the CIA's psychic commandos holding KBG out-of-body-going agents at bay really missed something.

Back during the summer the East Valley supplement to the Arizona Republic carried an article on the Skeptics. On October 13th, a Friday, I appeared on the Barry Young show on KFYT (910 am) to discuss superstitions. That show, which Barry did from beneath a ladder, ended with me breaking a mirror. (There was a minor bit of bad luck involved – glass went everywhere!)

I also became involved in writing a piece that was included as a special appendix to the Committee for the Scientific Examination of Religion's **Satanism In America** report. The report puts in perspective the whole Satanism Phenomena, including exposés of some of the right's more vocal leaders. The report makes for good reading and as soon as the third printing is complete, details of cost and how to get a copy will be released.

I also just finished editing an anthology of skeptical articles for David Alexander's Centerline Press. The anthology includes

articles culled from all the newsletters put out by local skeptical groups. The Phoenix Skeptics contributed seven articles: three each from Jim Lippard and me and one by Ted Karren.

So, where are we going from here? Well, we need to recover from a disk crash that trashed our mailing list. The one from which we are currently working was cobbled together from an old list and some meeting sign-up sheets. If you know anyone who has not heard from us, please have them get in touch. We're running on the honor system here: if they say they were a member, we'll put them on the list.

For the next couple of months we'll not be worrying about membership dues. We've still got a limited amount of operating capital from last year (not putting out newsletters saves lots of money!). We'll be seeing, as we get publications in print, what it costs for us to maintain the group. Eventually that little box at the bottom of this page will be checked off, but when it is, we'll tell you what the dues are. (We don't anticipate a rise above the \$10 a year we've charged in the past, but printing and postage combined with a more frequent schedule might force a slight increase.)

What can you do?

Our crying need, right now, is for articles, book reviews and spotters. The first two items are fairly self-explanatory. Articles don't have to be as in depth as a Lippard OPUS. Footnotes and sources are fine, but an article can be nothing more than your description of having attending an event you think is of interest to other Skeptics.

Book reviews are likewise welcome on all sorts of subjects. Articles about skeptical books are constantly welcome, but a look into

some whackoid stuff is welcome, too. Think of as doing intelligence work like James Bond. As Jim's article in this issue points out, it's important to point out the errors in a work fairly so as not to alienate the great unwashed out there.

Spotters are just folks willing to keep their eyes and ears open for articles in the paper or magazines of interest to the skeptics. We're especially interested in articles about local paranormal practitioners. If we can we'll get those people in to speak at a meeting. (Face it, having us buy them lunch beats your paying \$25.00 to hear them talk.) If you do attend a seminar/performance by someone, let us know about it. If we're going to try to bring some reason around and shed some light on the truth, we've got to find the darkness.

We very much need articles that confirm our predictions for 1990. We want to better that .666 hit rate this year.

Clippings, articles and reviews can all be sent to the address listed below. If we don't get your help, as I threatened before, Jim and I will be forced to inundate you with more articles. (By the way, articles critical of our ideas are more than welcome. We'll take critical thinking any way we can get it.)

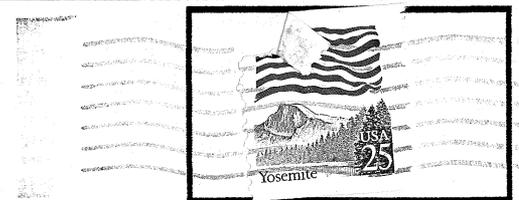
Anyway, just when the forces of weird thought it was safe to reenter the Valley, we're back. 1990 is going to be lots of fun.

*****Our February Meeting*****

Dr. Hans Sebald of ASU will be speaking to us on Witchcraft on 2 February 90. The meeting will take place at Jerry's on Rural between McDowell and the river bottom in Tempe. The meeting begins at 6:00 pm. Come hungry, we eat first and listen later.

Phoenix Skeptics
Box 62792 Phoenix, AZ
85082-2792

Contact:
Michael Stackpole
(602) 231-8624



Jim Lippard
3301 E. Navajo Place
Tucson, AZ 85719

If an X appears in this box, it's time for you to pay dues.