

NEW

• **The Skeptic Research Center (SRC)** releases highly-readable single-topic analyses of original polling and survey data collected by our team of researchers. Fund our studies and provide feedback: <https://www.skeptic.com/research-center/become-involved/>

WHAT ELSE ARE WE DOING?:

• In the last 10 years, videos on **Skeptic’s YouTube Channel** have had more than 7.25 million views—almost 175 years of total watch time. [youtube.com/skepticmagazine](https://www.youtube.com/skepticmagazine)

• In the past 10 years the **2000 plus webpages on skeptic.com** have generated tens of millions of visitors and pages viewed.

• **Skeptic Magazine App:** Read SKEPTIC on your iPhone, iPad, and your computer. Synchronize your library across multiple devices. Version 6.4 of the iOS app has an enhanced reading experience and a read aloud feature so you can listen to articles on the go! Search for SKEPTIC MAGAZINE in the App Store or visit [skeptic.com/magazine/app](https://www.skeptic.com/magazine/app).

• **Popular Columns:** SKEPTIC columnists **Dr. Carol Tavris**, the Gadfly, and **Harriet Hall M.D.** continue to produce some of the most sought-after analyses on a variety of topics related to medicine, psychology, and the mind.

• **Junior Skeptic** editor and illustrator Daniel Loxton continues to turn out a thoroughly researched and beautifully illustrated section in our magazine for students and young adults, along with award-winning children’s books that teach principles of science, skepticism, and critical thinking. Selected issues of Jr skeptic are available for download at [shop.skeptic.com/jrs](https://www.shop.skeptic.com/jrs).

• Under the direction of myself and Art Director Pat Linse we continue to publish **SKEPTIC magazine**, now in its 27th year of publication and available in every bookstore in North America, as well as digitally on all platforms. [skeptic.com/magazine/](https://www.skeptic.com/magazine/)

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• **Media interviews** on national TV, radio and articles in national print: Opinion Editorials, Commentaries, and Reviews. • **University and college lectures** • Top rated **TED lectures** by Michael Shermer

• **Media Outreach:** Our resources and archives have become a staple of television writers. I have met many screenwriters who subscribe to SKEPTIC magazine and turn to Skeptic.com for facts and ideas so that television shows are more accurate and skeptical when it comes to paranormal and supernatural claims. **Seth MacFarlane**, creator of *Family Guy*, the *Ted* films, and many other Hollywood projects such as the *Cosmos* reboot, is a regular reader of SKEPTIC and it shows in his skeptical characters. **Brannon Braga**, Executive Producer of *Cosmos* and several *Star Trek* films and television series, is also a subscriber to SKEPTIC and reader of my books, and that too is apparent in his embrace of science and skepticism.

• **Educational Booklets:** In addition to our popular *Baloney Detection Kit*, *How to Debate a Creationist* and *A Skeptic’s Guide to Global Climate Change*, we offer **free download of short tracts** on Alternative Medicine, Top 10 Strangest Beliefs; Conspiracy Theories; Ghosts; Psychic Reading in 10 Easy Lessons; Alternative Medicine; Top 10 Myths of

Terrorism; and Cryptozoology. Go to: [skeptic.com/free-download](https://www.skeptic.com/free-download)

• **Facebook.** Pages for “Junior Skeptic,” Michael Shermer, “Skeptic,” Skepticity and Skeptrack reach hundreds of thousands of people with breaking news: [facebook.com/skeptic.magazine](https://www.facebook.com/skeptic.magazine)

• **Twitter:** Michael Shermer and Daniel Loxton are on Twitter—the fastest, most responsive platform for skeptical updates: [twitter.com/michaelshermer](https://twitter.com/michaelshermer) and [twitter.com/daniel\\_loxton](https://twitter.com/daniel_loxton).

• **Skepticism 101 or The Skeptical Studies Curriculum Resource Center** is a comprehensive, free repository of resources for teaching students how to think skeptically. This Center contains an ever-growing selection of books, reading lists, course syllabi, in-class exercises, PowerPoint presentations, student projects, papers, and videos that you may download and use in your own classes. [skeptic.com/skepticism-101](https://www.skeptic.com/skepticism-101)

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THE ART OF SKEPTIC MAGAZINE

By Pat Linse

I discovered the skeptical movement in 1984, after reading a delightful *L.A. Times* article that explained the physics behind firewalking. As a graphic arts professional I immediately volunteered my services to skeptics groups, but I didn’t get that many assignments. By the time I met with Michael Shermer in late 1991 to talk about creating SKEPTIC I had 7 years of bottled up enthusiasm ready to dedicate to the project.

The SKEPTICS SOCIETY in its early years was largely a volunteer organization. JR SKEPTIC author/illustrator Daniel Loxton also started by donating art work. So the creation of many these illustrations represents dedication and devotion to the cause.

This flyer is an abbreviated version of a longer article that was published in our 100th issue of SKEPTIC, and also on our webpage. These versions include some of JR SKEPTIC author/illustrator Daniel Loxton’s wonderful art, and my sage graphic art advice for nonprofit groups: **<http://bit.ly/art-of-the-skeptic>**



1996—**Carl Sagan Tribute** This Skeptic magazine cover portrait honors Sagan’s “candle in the dark” metaphor for science and rationality.

A Note from Michael Shermer

*Executive Director of Your Skeptics Society*

IT IS TIME AGAIN TO SUPPORT YOUR SKEPTICS SOCIETY

2020 was arguably one of the most dramatic years in recent history. The Covid-19 pandemic, the shutdown of the economy, mass unemployment, and the November election fueled conspiracy theories, alternative medicine, pseudoscience, and quackery of all forms, keeping us busier than usual trying to stay up with what the best science advises us to do while at the same time debunking the proliferation of unscientific claims, such as that 5G causes Covid-19, that SARS-CoV-2 was invented by Bill Gates, that Big Pharma created a pandemic in order to sell us drugs and vaccines, that the virus was a Chinese bio-weapon, that very few people actually died of Covid-19, and more.

The support you provided us in 2019 enabled us to do all this and more in 2020. In addition our magazine reached its 100th issue. Please celebrate with us and enjoy a look back at the art from SKEPTIC magazine by our Art Director Pat Linse. We are very proud of what we have been able to achieve and we hope you agree and will continue to support our efforts in promoting science, skepticism, and critical thinking.

Thanks to your continuing support we are looking forward to 2021 and are pleased to report on what we have been doing with your donations the past year. PLEASE MAKE A DONATION WITH THE DONATION CARD INCLUDED HERE OR AT: **[www.skeptic.com/donate](https://www.skeptic.com/donate)**

THANKS TO YOUR SUPPORT OUR SCIENCE SALON PODCAST HAS GROWN TREMENDOUSLY

Our popular Science Salon podcast is now approaching 200,000 downloads per episode and many millions over all. We have carved out a niche for ourselves as the go-to source for in-depth conversations with leading scientists, scholars, and thinkers. Our guests in 2020 included Neil deGrasse Tyson, Brian Greene, Neil Shubin, Bart Ehrman, Ann Druyan, Matt Ridley, Stuart Russell, Maria Konnikova, Gerald Posner, Sarah Scoles, William Perry, Debra Soh, Stuart Ritchie, Leonard Mlodinow, Joseph Henrich, Marta Zaraska, Katherine Steward, Christof Koch, Hugo Mercier, Richard Dawkins, and many more.

Your donations have allowed us to put together a more professional studio, and with your support we can continue to increase the quality of the podcast recording.





# THE ART OF SKEPTIC MAGAZINE



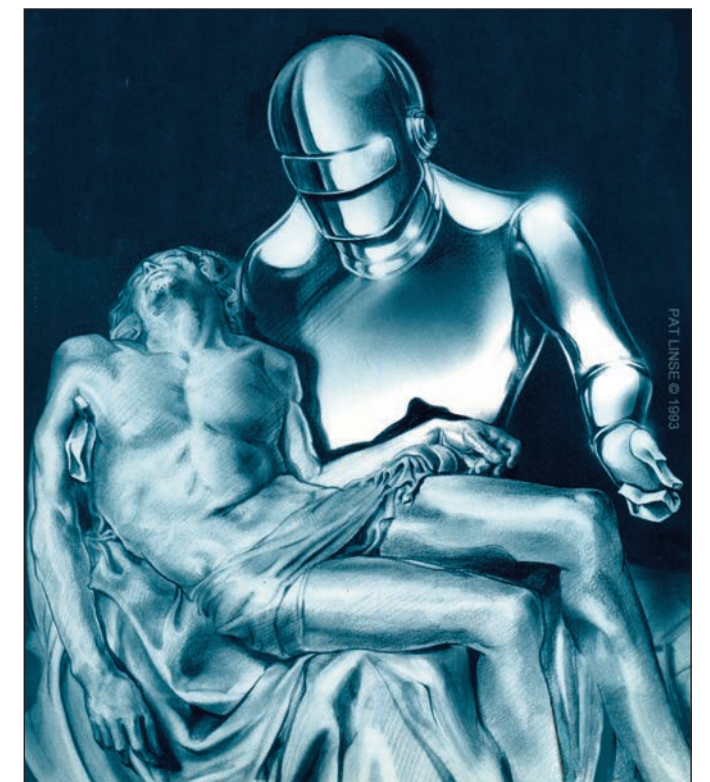
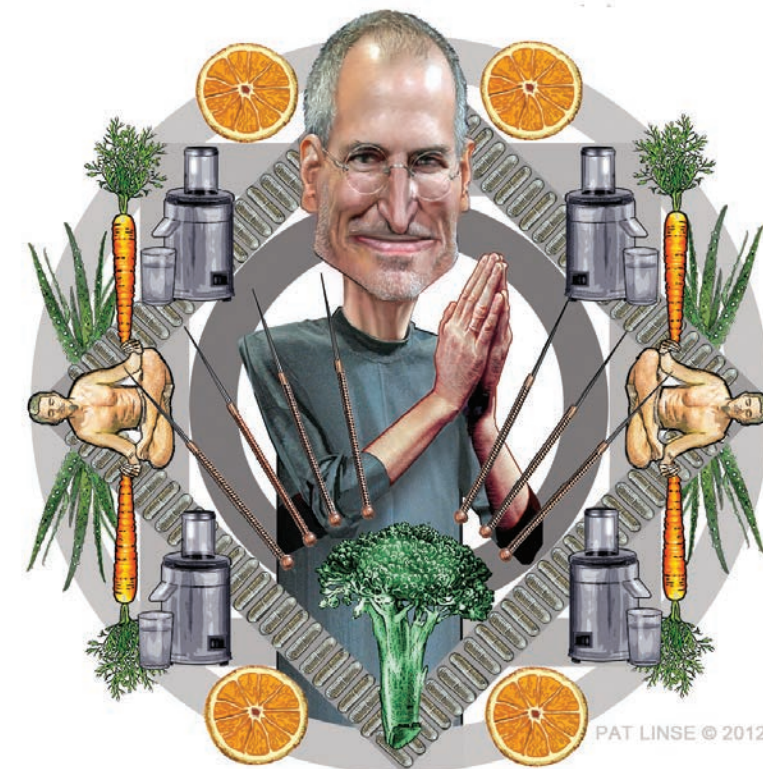
**COVER ART** From upper left to right. • 1992—Our first cover honored **Isaac Asimov**. Six different photos were used as reference for the portrait—one with the best hair, one with the best smile, the best lighting, etc. Black Prismacolor pencil on canvas-textured illustration board. • 2018 **Mother Nature**. For an article asking “Did morality evolve naturally?” Greco-Roman statuary was used as a reference for the Goddess look. Colored pencil and Photoshop. • 1999—**Stephen Jay Gould**. I shot the photo for this portrait at the historic Mount Wilson Observatory. The interior of the telescopic dome actually was filled with glowing red light. Pencil, paint, and Photoshop. • 2015 The cover of a special issue about the co-discoverer of evolutionary theory **Alfred Russel Wallace**. The colors represent the filtered light under a tropical canopy. A Wallace flying frog (*Rhacophorus nigropalmatus*) sits on his shoulder. Pencil and Photoshop.



# CELEBRATING 100 ISSUES

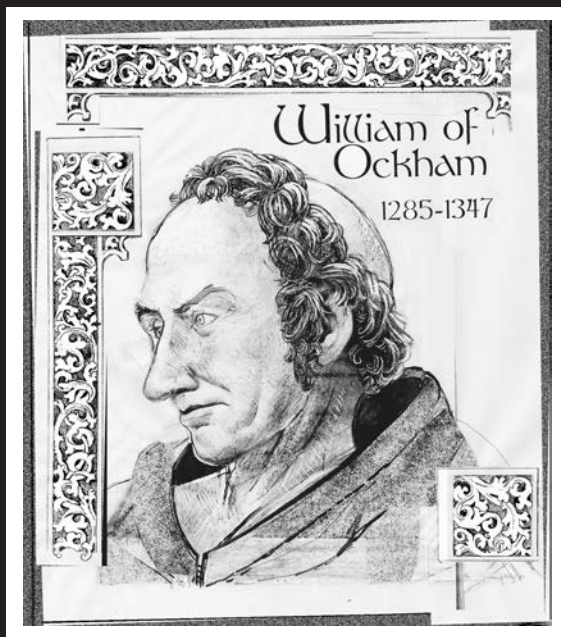
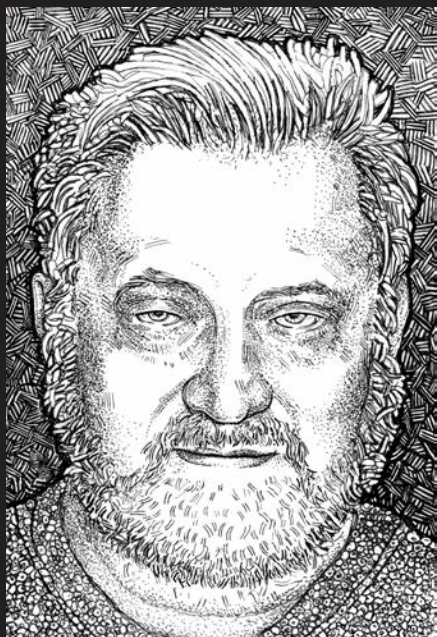


**MORE COVER ART** From upper left to right. • 2011—**Frank Paul**, the unassuming engineer who invented the modern look of flying saucers. Pencil and Photoshop. • 2020—Giving **The Devil** his due. The Fonz and Danny from *Grease* notwithstanding, this is exactly what the Devil looks like. Pencil and Photoshop. • 2012—**Steve Jobs** tragically focused on alternative health care methods (represented here by a mandala composition) to treat his pancreatic cancer. Orange, green and gray are an unusual color combination, but I think this works well. The Prussian blue of the shirt is the key. Pencil, collage and Photoshop. • 1993—A surrealistic juxtaposition of **science fiction imagery** (the robot Gort from the 1951 film *The Day the Earth Stood Still*) and Michelangelo’s famous *Pietà* symbolizes how popular culture often addresses the same fears and longings as classical culture and religion. Prismacolor pencil and airbrushed acrylic.



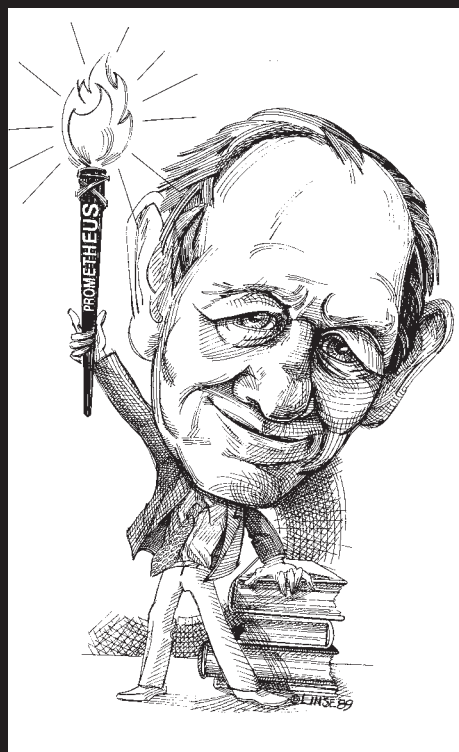
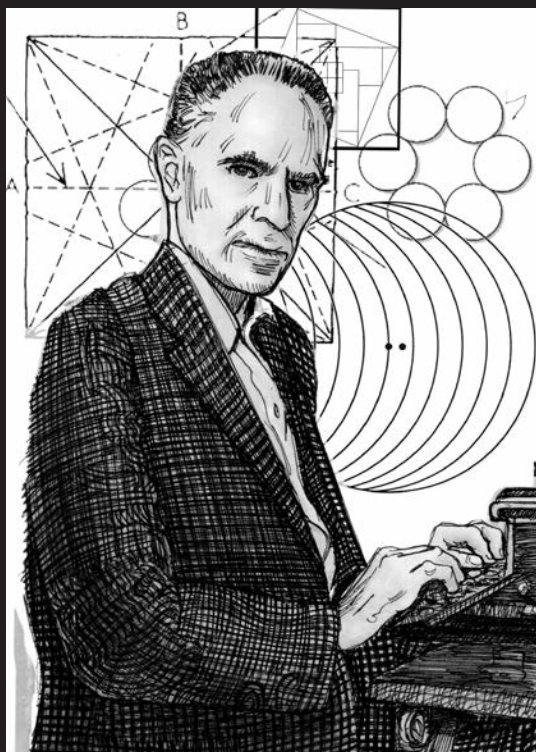


# CELEBRATING 100 ISSUES



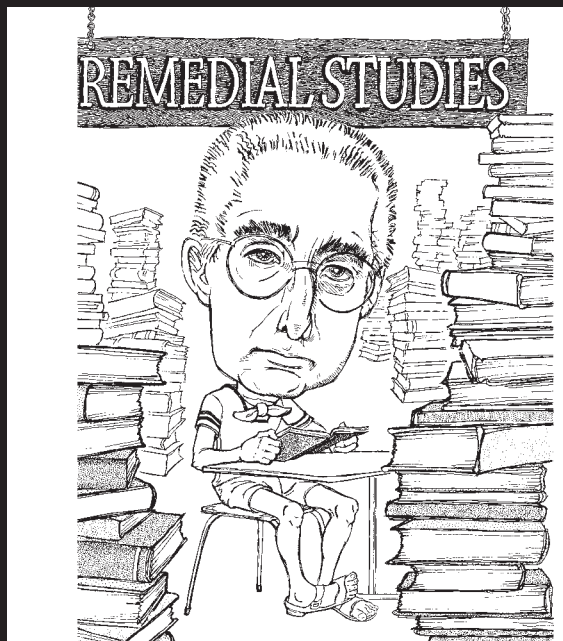
**IT'S ALWAYS A PLEASURE TO DO A PORTRAIT HONORING A SKEPTICAL ACTIVIST** Top left to right:

- 2009—**Norman Jay Levitt**, mathematician, known for his relentless defense of science, especially against academic postmodernists. Ink and stipple on paper.
- 2003—**William of Ockham**, from an article on the use and misuse of Ockham's razor. I converted a Medieval pen sketch to a Hans Holbein style drawing. Pencil, photocopy.
- 1995—philosopher **David Hume's** essay *Of Miracles* laid the foundation for the skeptical axiom "Extraordinary claims require extraordinary evidence." Drafting pen.
- 2014—Puzzle and math wizard **Martin Gardener**, authored many *Scientific American* columns on those topics, and was one of the founders of the U.S. skeptical movement. Pencil and felt tip pen.
- 1989—A drafting pen ink sketch of **Paul Kurtz** for a Pasadena, CA, lecture. He helped found the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal, CSICOP (now CSI), and other Skeptical/Humanist related organizations.





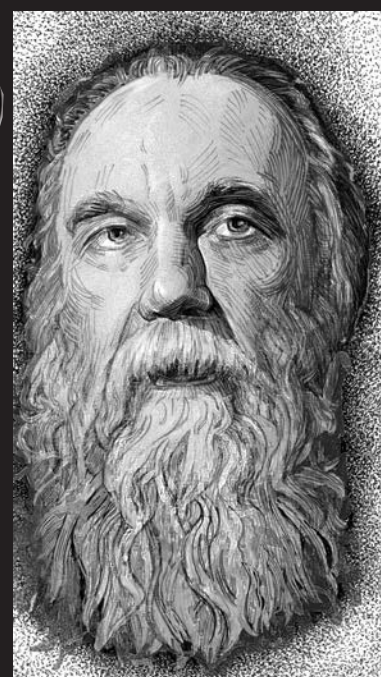
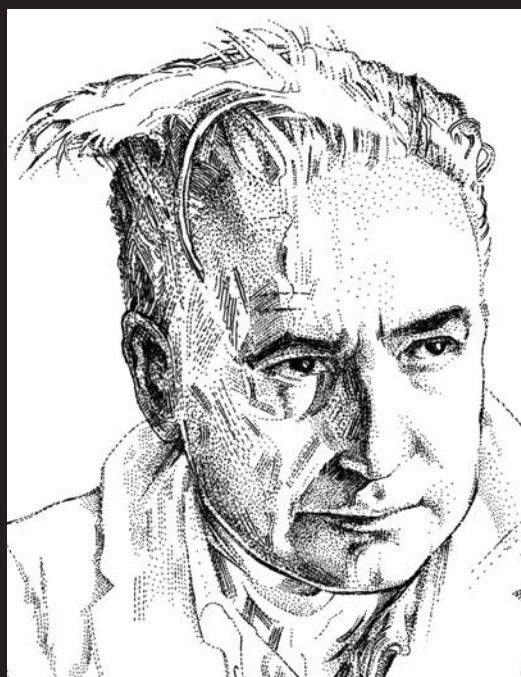
# THE ART OF SKEPTIC MAGAZINE



**Depicting the “Opposition”** My first instruction to an illustrator as art director of *SKEPTIC* magazine is “Please do not do a snake oil salesman.” Not only is it a terrible cliché, it is rarely an accurate representation of the individual who holds the beliefs we may be criticizing. Many supporters of non-scientific ideas are quite sincere.


Above left to right • 2013—Conservative spokesperson **Ben Stein** appeared in a documentary that claimed academics conspire to “expel” those who support intelligent design. We suggest more education, not less. Drafting pen. • 2013—**Walter Mercado**—flamboyant Puerto Rican astrologer. Felt tip pen, pencil and Photoshop. • 2004—The brilliant science fiction and gothic horror storyteller H.P. Lovecraft originated the idea that in the distant past, space aliens descended to earth and were mistaken for gods. Swiss author **Erich von Däniken** picked up this idea and popularized it as nonfiction. Pencil and Photoshop.

Bottom, left to right • 1994—**Wilhelm Reich** “discovered” Orgone Energy which he promoted as a cure-all for everything from a lagging libido to drought. He sported an unusual hair style which he believed served as a kind of antenna to direct the orgone. Drafting pen. • 2009—A **psychic** demonstrates a manipulative questioning technique used to draw information from a client without them realizing it. Pencil on vellum paper. • 2015 **Aleksandr Dugin**, mystical high priest of Russian fascism, also known as “Putin’s Rasputin,” who wants to bring about the end of the world. Pencil, white paint and ink on vellum paper.



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