

Vic Skeptics December 2017 Crossword

Theme: Frauds, Scams & Hoaxes

By Ken Greatorex

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ACROSS:

- 2. Sending emails purporting to be from reputable companies in order to get individuals to disclose passwords, credit card numbers etc [8]
- 5. A man given to excessive sexual indulgence [6]
- 7. A person falsely claiming to have a special knowledge or skill [9]

- 10. Bernard "Bernie" _____; he was sentenced to 150 years in prison for running the biggest fraudulent scheme in U.S. history. [6]
- 13. Ardour, enthusiasm, fervour [4]
- 14. Cleaver [3]
- 15. Season during which the mating behaviour of male deer is on display [3]
- 16. People who are the selected targets of confidence tricksters [5]
- 18. Oriental fruit [5]
- 20. & 22 across: a racehorse of limited ability for whom the better performed *Bold Personality* was famously substituted in a 1984 race at Eagle Farm in Queensland [4, 6]
- 22. See 20 across
- 26. Effigy burnt on a bonfire on November 5 [3]
- 28. & 29 across: a class of non-violent crime, particularly fraud, as carried out by those engaged in non-manual professions [5, 6]
- 29. See 28 across
- 30. A self-evident truth on which further reason or argument is based [5]
- 31. Unlawfully gaining public money through improper transactions with public officials [5]
- 34. Boredom [5]
- 35. An artificial universal language developed from Esperanto [3]
- 36. Ubiquitous scam which claims that the dietary supplements or drugs being promoted are necessary to do a job that the liver already does [5]
- Clifford _____; he is best known for writing a fake biography of Howard Hughes [6]
- 41. Belief systems [4]
- 43. One of the four states of matter that are observable in everyday life [3]
- 44. Charles _____, an Italian swindler operating in North America in the early 1900s whose name gave rise to a type of fraudulent investment scheme such as that perpetrated by Bernie Madoff [5]
- 46. The _____ Game, or "thimble-and-pea" masquerades as a gambling game, but in fact is a sleight-of-hand confidence trick [5]
- 48. Iron's symbol [2]
- 49. Iron's symbol [2]
- 50. Uri ______; litigious spoon-bender [6]
- 52. Magic stick [4]
- 53. H. Rider Haggard heroine [3]
- 54. Ern ______; fictitious Australian poet invented to hoax the literary

establishment [7]

- 57. Off-centre timing spindle [3]
- 59. To report an outcome in a way which is biased toward placing oneself or one's client in the best possible light [4]
- 60. & 61 across: A collective term to describe alternative medicines which do not satisfy the hype used to promote them [5, 3]
- 61. See 60 across
- 62. Collection of wild animals, maintained for study, conservation, or display to the public [3]
- 64. High volume over-the-counter analgesic brand; marketers were recently fined\$6 million Australian for making unsubstantiated claims [7]
- 66. Three Card _____; a scam depending on sleight-of-hand, a.k.a "Find the Lady" [5]
- 67. To cause someone to become mentally unbalanced [7]
- 68. (Of wine) white [5]
- 71. Victor ______; The Man Who Sold the Eiffel Tower [6]
- 75. Konrad ______; forger of *The Hitler Diaries* [5]
- 77. City on the Arno [8]
- 79. Trickery, deception, subterfuge [9]
- 81. Fraud or swindle (North American slang) [6]
- 83. Relating to legal punishment of offenders [5]
- 84. Thin cylinder [4]
- 85. Uncommon [4]
- 86. Agitate [4]
- 87. Confidence trickster's synonym for "mark" or "sucker" [4]
- 88. Notion [4]
- 89. PT Barnum once passed a manatee off as one of these mythical creatures [7]
- 90. Major British paleontological hoax: _____ Man [8]
- 91. Illegal money-making activities associated with organised crime [7]

DOWN:

- 1. & 20 down: Confidence trickery; also the title of a book by James Randi [4, 4]
- 2. Collective term for Church governorship [7]
- 3. Practical joke, prank, piece of deception [4]
- 4. Scheme [4]
- 6. Trick or deceive [5]
- 8. & 33 down: All Fools Day [5, 5]

- 9. Frank _____; former confidence trickster turned security consultant; subject of the film *Catch Me If You Can* [8]
- 10. Ancient Egyptian concept of truth, balance and justice [4]
- 11. Person in authority in a religious or educational institution [4]
- 12. Opportunistically steal articles of low value [5]
- 17. Statue with a lion's body and a human head [6]
- 19. _____ Fairies; early photographic hoax [10]
- 20. See 1 down
- 21. Personal sense of self-esteem [3]
- 23. Northern Italian centre of industry [5]
- 24. Bumpkin [3]
- 25. Peter _____; evangelist whose "divine" revelations were proven to be sent by radio to an earpiece [6]
- 27. Rain protector [8]
- 32. Competitive groups of players [5]
- 33. See 8 down
- 36. A victim of deception [4]
- 37. Virtually the same as [10]
- 38. Upper leg [5]
- 40. Belle ______; She raised funds by pretending to have overcome a non-existent cancer with "wellness" techniques [6]
- 42. Confidence trickster's stooge or accomplice [5]
- 45. Commercial sales of forgiveness of sin by certain Popes [11]
- 47. Nick ______; rougue trader whose actions brought down his employer, Barings Bank [6]
- 49. Anti-aircraft [4]
- 51. Fraud or swindle, especially relating to gross overpricing [6]
- 53. Fairly large [8]
- 55. Obtain by force, threats, or other unfair means [6]
- 56. Item of value [5]
- 57. In a relaxed or informal way [8]
- 58. Network of wire or thread [4]
- 63. Shakespeare's moneylender [7]
- 65. Self-propelled missile [6]
- 69. One who claims that another has done wrong [7]

- 70. Rock formation that is visible on the surface [7]
- 72. Stiff and self-conscious in expression [7]
- 73. Spirit [3]
- 74. Encourage, enjoin [4]
- 76. Mocked [6]
- 77. Criminal deception for financial gain [5]
- 78. Subtle difference [6]
- 80. Missile consisting of a thin, straight stick with a sharp point and aerodynamic fletching [5]
- 81. Achieve concealment [4]
- 82. Dishonest scheme [4]
- 83. Urgent or emotional request [4]
- 84. Decrease brightness [3]

SOLUTION

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