



## Vic Skeptics May 2021

# Strange Notions

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### ACROSS:

1. Citrus fruit whose essential oil is best known as a constituent of Earl Grey tea [8]
4. Social or religious customs prohibiting or restricting particular practices or forbidding association with particular people, places, or things [6]

7. The back of the neck [6]
12. Renown [4]
14. Medieval forerunner of chemistry, concerned in particular with converting base metals into gold or finding a universal elixir for immortality [7]
16. Parasitic insect which lives on the skin of birds and mammals including humans [5]
17. Generic term for diskettes once used for data storage and transfer, particularly in and between personal computers [8]
20. The self [3]
23. Senior university teaching fellow, specially at Oxford or Cambridge [3]
25. & 28 across: Visual or auditory messages that the conscious mind cannot perceive, often inserted into media such as TV or songs. (There is considerable disagreement as to whether it actually works) [10, 11]
28. See 25 across
30. Overcast [6]
32. Gemstone composed of hydrated silica [4]
34. Comparison of the relative sizes of two values expressed as a number [5]
36. Extended period of leisure and recreation [7]
37. Ungulate animal's foot [4]
39. Remain [4]
41. Of crucial importance [3]
42. Of a piece of ground laid with a flat surface of stone or brick [5]
46. Help [6]
49. Alternative name for laptop; a personal computer that lacks some functions to remain lightweight and small. [8]
51. Place of confinement [4]
53. Administrative centre [3]
55. Colour [3]
57. & 58 across: Anthropoid cryptid a.k.a. Sasquatch [3, 4]
58. See 57 across
59. Heavily loaded or weighed down [5]
61. Classical distress code [3]
62. Pseudoscience based on the therapeutic benefits of using essential oils for their smell [12]
65. Semi-precious gemstone exhibiting parallel bands of colour, often black [4]
66. Threesome [4]
67. Limb for walking [3]
68. In \_\_\_\_\_ = "*in place*" [4]

- 71. & 73 across: Heavily promoted and expensive additives to the diet, usually unsupported by an adequate evidence base and which in general can be safely ignored [4, 11]
- 73. See 71 across
- 76. Wander [4]
- 77. Tribe of American Indians, who despite their protestations and a total lack of evidence continue to be cited as the originators of ear-candling [4]
- 78. The study of the celestial bodies in the belief that they have an influence on human affairs [9]
- 79. Members of an artistic genre founded in 1924 including Salvador Dali, René Magritte and Max Ernst [11]

**DOWN:**

- 1. Of Persian origin, an honorific for a holy or wise man [4]
- 2. William \_\_\_\_\_ , Austrian physician, inventor of the "orgone accumulator", a portable cupboard in which a patient would sit in order to build up "orgone energy" [5]
- 3. Light African spear [7]
- 5. Prejudice, partiality, favouritism [4]
- 6. To be in debt [3]
- 8. & 22 down: Cereologists study these artifacts under the misapprehension that they have extra-terrestrial origins [4, 7]
- 9. & 24 down & 33 down: A piece of planetary pareidolia which caused much excitement after its discovery in 1976. Interest has since waned as photographic resolution has improved [4, 2, 4]
- 10. & 44 down: The belief that Jews were not systematically executed in large numbers by Nazis and others [9, 6]
- 11. The use of a device which measures physiological indicators to determine whether a person is lying. Has been demonstrated to be highly unreliable [10]
- 12. & 29 down: Recurring period during which "lunatic" behaviour was thought to be at its peak [4, 4]
- 13. 'Energy highways' in the human body, postulated by acupuncturists but never observed by anatomists [9]
- 15. Himalayan counterpart of 57 across [4]
- 18. Populous Asian nation [5]
- 19. To burn superficially [5]
- 21. Movement of objects using mental power alone [13]
- 22. See 8 down
- 24. See 9 down
- 26. The pseudoscientific idea that our daily lives are governed by biological cycles with periods of 23, 28 and 33 days [10]

27. The greatest "weasel word" in advertising; suggests product efficacy but promises nothing [3]
29. See 12 down
31. & 54 down: Carnivorous koala-esque cryptid [4, 4]
33. See 9 down
35. To assist with the perpetration of a crime [4]
38. Aficionado, enthusiast [3]
40. One of a large group of Semitic people [4]
43. & 72 down: a.k.a. "poppett". A figurine representing an actual person, used to paranormally and remotely inflict harm on that person [6, 4]
44. See 10 down
45. Poem designed to praise or glorify [3]
46. Any of a large group of simple, non-flowering, usually aquatic plants including seaweeds [4]
47. Use of language which normally conveys the opposite meaning, for humour or emphasis [5]
48. To carry something of considerable weight [4]
50. One of a large phylum of animals characterised by an exoskeleton [9]
52. Oleaginous [4]
54. See 31 down
56. Challenge, provoke or goad into action [4]
58. & 75 down: a.k.a. Chinese geomancy; it postulates invisible qi forces that bind the universe, earth, and humanity together, and encourages rearrangement and realignment of structures, furniture, etc to best harmonise with those forces [4, 4]
60. A deer. A female deer [3]
63. Sudden chill and shivering [5]
64. Tradesperson concerned with the fitting and maintenance of pipes, etc [7]
66. Low seat, as featured in a nursery rhyme [6]
67. Latin for "tongue"; often used in in the sense of "language" [6]
69. Prefix meaning "below" [5]
70. Home base for trains, trams, buses etc [5]
72. See 43 down
73. Haze intensified by smoke or other atmospheric pollutants [4]
74. Place, stead; *In \_\_\_\_\_ = In stead* [4]
75. See 58 down

## SOLUTION

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