

# Casey Lartigue

## Too Good to Be False: Memorandum 46 and Other Race-based Urban Legends



Memorandum 46—allegedly revealing a sinister government plot to undermine black leadership in the U.S. and to sow discord with Africans abroad—recently gained renewed prominence on black talk radio. Casey Lartigue will discuss the history of and question the veracity of the anti-black version of Memorandum 46, and examine why black activists, politicians, and talk show hosts have been so eager to believe that the Carter administration concocted such a plot. Lartigue will also examine other race-based urban legends.

Casey Lartigue is a former policy analyst with Cato's Center for Educational Freedom. His research expertise includes school choice, teacher quality and minority education. His writings have been published in USA Today, Ed. magazine published at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, Education Week, the New York Post, the Washington Times, Asian Week and the Washington Post. Before joining the Center, he worked as a staff writer at Cato. He has spoken at the National Press Club, Harvard Law School, the Harvard Graduate School of Education, been a guest on the Rush Limbaugh Show, and testified before Congress on school choice in the nation's capital. Prior to joining Cato, Lartigue taught English and worked as a language examiner in Taiwan and South Korea. He was also research and communications manager at Fight For Children (a DC education and health care fundraiser), recently founded a Virginia non-profit (National Urban Agenda), and now operates his own consulting company, The Lartigue Group. Lartigue received a bachelor's degree from the Harvard University Extension School and a master's degree from the Harvard Graduate School of Education. Until recently he hosted the Casey Lartigue talk show on XM Radio.

**2 - 4 pm**  
**Saturday, Sept 8, 2007**  
Bethesda Library  
7400 Arlington Road  
Bethesda, Maryland

FREE admission – Everyone welcome, members and non-members

For more information, call the 24-hour NCAS Skeptic Line recording at 301-587-3827.  
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## On the Origins of Life and the Universe

### *Creationism Got You Down? Here's An Antidote*

Two 2006 Nobel Prize winners addressed the fundamental questions pondered by many through the ages: the origins of life and the universe. The event, "On the Origins of Life and the Universe: An Afternoon with 2006 Nobel Laureates Craig Mello and John Mather," was sponsored by the John W. Kluge Center and the Science, Business and Technology Division of the Library of Congress, and the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS).

This event took place on June 26, 2007 but it is available as one of the many Webcasts available at the Library of Congress website. I viewed it that way and it is definitely worthwhile.

Available at: <http://www.loc.gov/today/cyberlc/index.php> 

## Skepticism (Of Sorts) Comes To The Sci-Fi Channel: *Mind Control With Derren Brown*

### *A Review and Commentary*


*Mind Control* is a very entertaining show. It shows a variety of vignettes of different kinds of tricks. (Derren describes his craft as a mixture of magic, suggestion, psychology, misdirection, and showmanship.)

Many of his tricks involve spontaneous interactions with people he encounters on a city street (London and New York). He tells them, to the dollar, how much money they have on them (without holding anything of theirs), when they are lying, what motions

they are thinking of making (before they make them). My personal favorite is when he tricks cashiers at a dog racetrack into paying off on losing bets.

Half of these (the ones that take place in Britain) are recycled from his British *Mind Control* program. All the New York ones are new.

He uses a blend of many techniques to achieve his effects and carefully says so several times on every show. He does not claim any psychic powers. Sometimes he shows some of the techniques he uses or even instructs others to achieve his effects, but **no paranormal claims!**

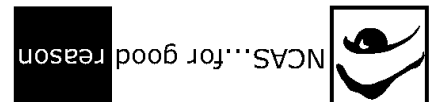
A performer who achieves near miracles yet suggests only the normal arsenal of techniques available to magicians and specifically denies psychic powers?! That is a step in the right direction for the Sci-Fi Channel. It's a great show, check it out! 

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