

BIOSTEMS RESEARCH INSTITUTE

[...]

25 February 1997

CONFIDENTIAL

Prof. Michael Shermer  
SKEPTICS SOCIETY  
2761 N. Marengo Avenue  
Altadena, CA 91104

Dear Mike,

Despite my best efforts to leave the Al Seckel issue off the record with you, events continue to conspire against it. I have just spent a whole day as a participant at a UCSD [??] (see enclosed) which was attended by people from Cal Tech (not Seckel). During [??] I was told the following. That you continue to state a number of things about Seckel and my relationship with him [??] Seckel never had leukemia and that (b) that Seckel embezzled thousands of dollars from the Southern California Skeptics Society, an organization he chaired for a number of years.

I want to give you the opportunity to respond. I can state categorically and for the nth time (a) Seckel had leukemia and that he is now in remission, (b) Seckel could not possibly have embezzled Southern California Skeptics funds, as there was there was never that kind of money involved, and that I covered a lot of expenses out of my own pocket. I had an informal audit made, provided to CSICOP, showing the income and outgo in fairly minute detail. There is no way that "thousands of dollars" could have been extracted from these figures without showing up as a sore thumb.

I suspect that all this kind of stuff is still being fed to you by one individual, and you may still be falling for it. If this is the case, it is doing you, Seckel, and me a lot of unjustifiable harm, which could sink your whole excellent enterprise. If this is indeed the situation, and I hope that I have received incorrect information, I cannot allow it to go on another minute and will to take steps to stop it for your sake as well as mine. It is in the contested nature of the death of Ch Foster as anything more that [??] kept alive by a small coterie of the [??]. As the [??] and editor of SKEPTIC, I would expect better of you. If all of this is [??] I apologize in advance.

Sincerely,  
Elie A. Shneour