THE MUDDLE OF TRUTH

With the recent airing overseas of the canceled FOX TV show, THE MOMENT OF TRUTH, some people may have been mislead into believing that some shocking new revelation about the famous logging crew UFO case has come to light. Quite the contrary. Now that the airing of the show ends the "gag clause" in my contract (with its one million dollar penalty) I am free to reveal that MOMENT OF TRUTH has used testing methods that the producers were informed from the beginning were long ago completely discredited by every polygraph expert, lie detector school, and polygraph professional association in existence. I'll quote here specific condemnations of the show's methods by four of the world's most highly respected polygraph experts who agree that ***"…the polygraph aspect of the show has no validity whatsoever".*** I will reveal other blatant deceptions the show has committed. And I will provide details of how, after the show, I underwent two of the most rigorous new polygraph tests available anywhere in the world.

I should have seen it coming. I should have known better. But there were unique circumstances. The company where I had worked for almost a decade announced a corporate headquarters decision to downsize by permanently terminating the fifty most recently hired workers, regardless of their performance. My hire date put me on that list. I came home that same day to receive a phone call inviting me to be a "contestant" on a show I'd never seen that offered the possibility of winning up to $100,000. An opportunity to solve my layoff problem? I was wary. I began taping our negotiations. I watched an episode. I knew the examiner was their man, with every incentive to keep his employers from having to pay out big prize money. I wrote e-mails to a few of my friends about my apprehensions. I wrestled with doubt. I learned the show specialized in setting "contestants" up for dramatically devastating revelations. Still, all I had to do was answer 25 questions truthfully, what could be easier than that? Impossible, I later learned. In all the show's years almost NO contestants had ever won the top prize. But I didn't know that yet, so I asked, does the examiner use modern accepted methodology? I was assured he did. This was as far from true as you can get. The producer telling me this untruth may have believed it simply because the higher ups said so. Or they all, producers and network, may have been deceived by the examiner, who, with his training, absolutely had to know his methods were bogus. We went back and forth. I sent them my refusal. They came back and were very persuasive and said they were planning on responding to criticisms by making sure more prizes would be awarded. I so very foolishly yielded to the temptation. Even after arriving for taping I learned such disappointing details and got such bad vibes that I announced I was going home, but my objections were again negotiated away. I found out a major portion of episodes already taped never aired because the "contestants" withdrew and walked out.

But now I felt trapped into something I suspected was rigged from the ground up. My confidence in the examiner (essential for proper testing) was destroyed when he lied to

me. He said he knew Arizona Department of Public Safety polygraph examiner Cy Gilson, who previously tested the crew, and was using the same method and equipment he did. His ancient polygraph machine was obviously NOT the state of the art computer assisted equipment Cy Gilson used. The final nail was learning that he only goes through the questions once. WHAT???!!! Item #5 of The American Polygraph Association's STANDARDS AND PRINCIPALS OF PRACTICE that I quoted in my 1996 book (which I had loaned the producer) specifically prohibits rendering an examiner's conclusion on the basis of a single run of the list. Modern method requires three separate runs through the questions, sometimes four. Without these comparison charts there is no way to discern deception from random fluctuations in the subject's responses. Modern methods limit relevant questions to three or four per test. The show's examiner was doing over FIFTY questions!! Even more damning, the examiner had the option to PICK the 25 questions to be used in the show, further removing objective comparison.

Earlier a fake segment pretending to be my test was filmed with an actor in place of the examiner while my arm with the sensors attached rested comfortably on a table as per proper procedure. Later their actual "test" required me to hold my arm perfectly still while balancing it on a narrow one inch wide steel chair arm for the entire 50+ questions, a very long time, and excruciating. This causes stress in their subjects unrelated to deception. Also the test was done, as per his instructions, without my shoes, with my eyes closed, with a panel of at least six strangers staring at me. This sort of distraction has never been a part of any test I had ever heard of. Every test I know of consisted of the examiner and the subject alone in a room without interruptions.

When the "false" verdict was announced the studio audience started booing. The host, Mark Walberg, turned to them and asked, "How many still believe he is telling the truth?" The audience erupted in cheering, long and loud. He asked how many disbelieved and only a few scattered calls came from the back. THEY CUT THIS OUT. Two years ago, I wrote to one of the producers and said, "They could edit that out or cut the volume but that would be deceptive, wouldn't it?" My prediction was right. They also rearranged the reaction shots of my family, even re-using some, moving them from AFTER the verdict to BEFORE, creating another false perception.

By the way, fellow crewman Ken Petersen was also on the show and was paid for passing his test question about witnessing the incident. So of course that too was edited out.

The United States GAO (Government Accounting Office) discovered that the method upon which MOT's based their method (and further degraded) yielded up to 80% false positives (truth tellers judged to be liars). This method is illegal in some states to the point of revoking the license of anyone using it. The MOT examiner commits most of the 13 activities of UNETHICAL EXAMINERS listed on the American Association of Police Polygraph Examiners website.

Cleve Backster is one of the pioneers in polygraph research and development and is recognized as one of the top experts in the world. Techniques currently widely used in polygraph bear his name. He has administered hundreds of polygraph training courses and advanced seminars to law enforcement personnel at the municipal, state, and federal levels. Backster has been an interrogation instructor for the U.S. Army Counterintelligence Corps, an interrogation specialist with the CIA and has been a guest instructor at Fort Gordon, the U.S. Department of Defense Polygraph School, the Canadian Police College Polygraph Examiner School, and the FBI Academy. He has held numerous high ranking posts in polygraph professional associations, and has testified as an expert witness before the U.S. Congress in 1964 and 1974. Backster Associates said, "…Moment of Truth uses a technique in polygraph that was discarded years ago."

Arizona State Police polygraph examiner, Cy Gilson, who tested the entire woods crew, said "...there can be NO validity to the test results in such a procedure. The pseudo examiner is a whore and the show's producers is the pimp."

Dr David Raskin has authored hundreds of papers on polygraph as well as the preeminent textbooks on polygraph. As a court recognized expert he has testified in cases such as the Howard Hughes will, Jeffrey (Fatal Vision) McDonald, serial killer Ted Bundy, the DeLorean affair and the McMartin preschool case. Raskin has testified before British Parliament, the Israeli Kineset, and four times before the Judiciary Committee of the U.S. Senate with regard to Watergate and Iran/Contra. Dr. David Raskin said, "...I have always thought those TV programs are a disgrace. They trick people into participating and then use unprofessional and inaccurate methods merely for the purpose of entertaining their audiences. Any polygraph examiner who participates in such charades should not be allowed to practice. I have been asked to be the principal in such shows and have always refused. It is unfortunate that they lured you into being abused by them. I agree with the criticisms of Mr. Martin."

R. Michael Martin, President of Global Polygraph Network, and court-certified polygraph expert, created a website, THE TRUTH ABOUT THE MOMENT OF TRUTH (www.polytest.org/momenttruth.html) back in 2004 when the show first aired in the U.S., after, he says, ***"FOX TV has intentionally blocked us from publishing this information on their public internet forum…"*** His site gives reasons ***"…the polygraph aspect of the show has no validity whatsoever." "This test format will NOT determine truth or deception."*** And in conclusion, ***"Due to the vague, subjective, futuristic nature, and sheer volume, of relevant questions asked on The Moment of Truth, there can be little more than chance accuracy in determining truth or deception to these questions. In other words, they could simply flip a coin and achieve the same accuracy levels."***

I came home after MOT and sought out the most rigorous new testing I could find. Polygraph is admissible in court in New Mexico and so is highly regulated by state law. I

chose the firm with the highest recommendations, one that does work for the New Mexico State Prison, the Albuquerque Police Dept., even the United States Marshal's Service. They applied the most refined and validated modern methods using state-of-the-art computer assisted, five-trace equipment with digital readout. I passed two tests flawlessly with "...a finding of: TRUTHFUL TO THE ABOVE RELEVANT QUESTIONS." Full details in my newly updated edition of FIRE IN THE SKY.