
From: Lawrence Krauss <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Thursday, December 14, 2017 10:00 PM
To: Peter Aldhous
Cc: Lawrence Krauss
Subject: Item 4/your query

I don't have that info.. I think she called me at the time, and I have no idea when it was, but it was some time.. some months maybe, after the conference. In any case, I don't see why that is important or relevant at this point. It is obvious from Robin's report that the episode she was referring to is the same one you were referring to.. same conference.. same location.. and her report demonstrates that the actual events differ from those reported in your item..

In all the cases where external validation was possible the claims you listed have been shown to not be factual and the facts don't validate the thesis of your investigation. There is no history or trend here, and organizations are not trying to gloss over or ignore accusations. I know that you have devoted time to this, but as someone with science background you know that research doesn't always produce results that meet initial expectations but can still be useful. Perhaps there is a useful story out there about how frequently false allegations do occur in certain communities, how institutions get caught up with having to deal with and investigate them, often negatively impacting on the rights of the accused, and how the media can get sucked in to enabling this.

Right now I am really trying to work hard to do good things. Just had a Skype session with students in Bangladesh who are interested in science. It is important to help them. I really want to get on with the work I do that is useful.

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On Dec 14, 2017, at 12:39 PM, Peter Aldhous <[REDACTED]> wrote:

I had a long chat with Robin yesterday. The one thing she wasn't able to provide was more information about the blog post -- which we were not aware of. Obviously, if we can locate a post that was not disclosed to us previously, that's important.

Did Robin happen to send you a link, or provide any more details about it that would help us find it? And can you remember when Robin told you about this?

I guess the ideal situation would be if Robin had emailed you at the time and sent a link to the post, outlining her concerns about its veracity. Are you able to look through your archives and see if you have that?

On 12/13/17 12:28 PM, Lawrence Krauss wrote:

Please confirm receipt. Thanks.

LMK

On Dec 13, 2017, at 12:58 AM, Lawrence Krauss <mailto:[REDACTED]> wrote:

FYI: Today, as my head cleared and I could relax a bit, I reviewed your original email to me and it hit me that item 4 might relate to an episode that Robin Cornwell had alerted me to some years ago. At the time Robin was Exec. Director of the Richard Dawkins Foundation, and was with me and some others from the Foundation when a young woman from a conference I was speaking at (which I knew was in the midwest but had forgotten was in Iowa) and asked to join our table at a bar. She, (the young woman) invited me to go to a hot tub and I declined. Robin then called me sometime later, very upset, to say that this individual had written a blog accusing me of harassment, distorting the episode, and letting me know she was an eyewitness if I ever needed one. I never looked at the student's blog, and forgot about it. I remembered Robin's call then today so I thought about your email. I contacted Robin earlier this evening. Here is my email to her attaching your original description, and her response, which she has given me permission to send to you..

LMK

Begin forwarded message:

From: Lawrence Krauss <[REDACTED]>

Subject: buzzfeed allegation

Date: December 12, 2017 at 10:49:25 PM MST

To: robin cornwell <[REDACTED]>

Robin:

Here is the allegation from buzzfeed which I remembered today seemed to fit to a false blog story which you had related to me and warned me about based on our experience at a conference in Iowa when you were exec. director of the Dawkins Foundation. I would greatly appreciate it if you could write to me about your eyewitness experience at that event.

Thanks very much for your attention in this matter.

Lawrence

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Incident 4:

*

You met a student from another university, an atheist activist, in March 2008 at the American Atheists Convention in Minneapolis. She wanted to expand the atheist group she ran at the midwestern university she was attending, and hoped to convince you to come and speak. You initially seemed enthusiastic. =/span>

*

During the convention, attendees including you and Richard Dawkins went for dinner with the student and volunteers for Dawkins' foundation.

*

Afterwards, the student invited you to join the volunteers for a drink.

*

You asked her to come meet you in your hotel room. She was wary of your intentions, and so brought a male friend with her. Opening the door to find them both there, you informed her you had decided not to go.

*

You met this student again at the American Atheists convention in Des Moines, Iowa, in April 2011.

*

You pulled over a chair for her in the bar, and then started running your hand up her leg under the table.

*

She tried to shift her body away from you, and you persisted in putting your hand on her leg. She crossed her legs, and you kept trying. Then she turned her entire body away.

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Begin forwarded message:

From: **robin cornwell**

Subject: **Oy!**

Date: **December 12, 2017 at 11:09:50 PM MST**

To: **Lawrence Krauss** <mailto: >

Dear Lawrence,

You are correct, I remember the incident at the bar with the student organizer very well. I was the one responsible for persuading you to come to Iowa for the conference - but had promised I would buy you a scotch if you agreed to be part of the program. We met at the bar at the hotel and Michael and Suzy from RDF joined us at first. Slowly some other people drifted in and joined us - one of them was the head of the Secular Student Alliance - and then a couple of students associated with that organization joined our table. I think they were delighted to get the opportunity to meet you. The woman you mention, she sat across from you and was very chatty with you - very friendly. She was trying to convince you to come up to go to the hot tub and you replied that you did not pack any swim trunks, and she replied that you didn't need any - a towel would be just fine.

I had the sense you were a little uncomfortable and both trying to be nice but also trying to change the topic. At one point, you leaned over and asked me "Is she hitting on me?" I replied that indeed she was from my perspective. Then a few minutes later you said she was rubbing her leg against yours. By then you were obviously not comfortable - and she continued to invite you to the hot tub. You continued to decline - and it was by that time becoming annoying. She finally realized that you were not about to go with her, so she left (the other students had left by then as well). After she left you said again how she was rubbing up against you with her feet - and you jokingly (or maybe half-jokingly) said to me something along the lines of keeping you safe from her during the conference.

It might have been a year later - I saw a post by that student organizer who had hit on you at the bar and she had written that you had been the one who was hitting on her and tried to turn it into you being offensive. I alerted you to her accusation, and while nothing came of it at that time, I had said that if you needed a witness to that evening I would certainly step up as her accusations were completely false. I personally think she was offended that you declined her offer to go to the hot-tub.

I think the reason why that evening stands out so well in my mind is that her flirting with you was so blatant and you were so uncomfortable with the situation. If there is a need, you can provide the person from Buzzfeed with my contact information. This week is extremely busy with all day meetings the rest of the week, but I will make the time to clarify the truth.

Please give my best to Nancy and enjoy your trip to Peru.

cheers
Robin

[REDACTED]

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-Origins Project 10 Year Celebration-
Be a part of something 10 years in the making!
April 5-9th 2018 – Visit for more info <<https://www.origins10year.com/>>

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