

# UFO Updates

A mailing list for the study of UFO-related phenomena  
'Its All Here In Black & White'

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## Re: Happy Birthday Jerome Clark

From: Don Ledger <[dledger.nul](mailto:dledger.nul)>  
Date: Mon, 01 Dec 2008 01:48:16 -0400  
Archived: Mon, 01 Dec 2008 06:45:02 -0500  
Subject: Re: Happy Birthday Jerome Clark

>From: Jerome Clark <[jkclark.nul](mailto:jkclark.nul)>  
>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>Date: Sat, 29 Nov 2008 09:11:16 -0500  
>Subject: Re: Happy Birthday Jerome Clark

>>From: Don Ledger <[dledger.nul](mailto:dledger.nul)>  
>>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>>Date: Fri, 28 Nov 2008 13:39:05 -0400  
>>Subject: Re: Happy Birthday Jerome Clark

>>>From: Jeff Olson <[jlolson53.nul](mailto:jlolson53.nul)>  
>>>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>>>Date: Thu, 27 Nov 2008 20:13:21 -0600  
>>>Subject: Re: Happy Birthday Jerome Clark

>>>Happy 39th, brother!

>>If Jerry is anything like me he probably spent the day  
>>organizing his pills.

>Hey, Don,

>Actually, I'm in pretty good shape for a guy of my age and  
>habits. My pill consumption consists in its entirety of  
>occasional aspirin and vitamin tablets.

>So far, I feel like... well, 39, except without the beer.

Hi Jerry,

You have been looking after yourself then, unlike myself. I  
might not feel like I'm 39 but my brain thinks that it is.

Don Ledger

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Re: Happy Birthday Jerome Clark

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Location: [ufoupdateslist.com](http://ufoupdateslist.com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 1](#)

## UFO Enthusiasts Call On Obama To Release X-Files

From: **UFO UpDates - Toronto** <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
Date: Mon, 01 Dec 2008 07:01:22 -0500  
Archived: Mon, 01 Dec 2008 07:01:22 -0500  
Subject: UFO Enthusiasts Call On Obama To Release X-Files

Source: The Sunday Telegraph - London, England, UK

<http://tinyurl.com/6my8r7>

30 Nov 2008

UFO Enthusiasts Call On Obama To Release X-Files

UFO enthusiasts are pressing Barack Obama to release classified documents about sightings of alien spacecraft, encouraged by support from within the President-Elect's own White House team.

By Tim Shipman in Washington

Desperate to see the US emulate the British Government and disclose reported "contact" with UFOs, the enthusiasts have written to Mr Obama to ask that his administration comes clean about the contents of America's 'X-Files'.

They believe they have good prospects of success after public statements of support from both John Podesta, who is running Mr Obama's White House transition team, and Bill Richardson, the Governor of New Mexico - a UFO sighting hotspot - who is expected to secure a cabinet post.

In the letter to Mr Obama, the Extraterrestrial Phenomenon Political Action Committee calls on the President-Elect to "end the six-decade truth embargo regarding an extraterrestrial presence engaging the human race".

The group wants the incoming president to insist on a "full briefing from your military services and intelligence agencies regarding what they know" and to open congressional hearings "to take testimony from scores of government witnesses who have already come forward with extraordinary evidence and are prepared to testify under oath."

The campaigners, who resent their common portrayal as nuts and conspiracy theorists, have high hopes of success due to their inside track with Mr Obama.

When he was the White House chief of staff under Bill Clinton, Mr Podesta led a project to declassify 800 million pages of intelligence documents. In a press conference, still available to watch on the YouTube website, Mr Podesta said: "It is time for the government to declassify records that are more than 25 years old and to provide scientists with data that will assist in determining the real nature of this phenomenon."

Gov Richardson, a former presidential candidate and fellow UFO aficionado, has written a forward to a book on the so-called Roswell Incident in New Mexico, where campaigners believe an alien spacecraft crash landed near the town of Roswell in 1947 and that the corpses of humanoid aliens have been kept hidden under lock and key by the government.

He has called for full disclosure by the Pentagon of what really

occurred and reiterated his belief that there had been a "cover-up" during a presidential debate last year.

The campaigners, who want the truth "out there", believe that the British Government's decision to declassify thousands of UFO sighting documents this year has made it untenable for the US to maintain its policy of non-disclosure.

Only last week a US Air Force pilot, Milton Torres, whose testimony was released from the British archives, appeared on US television explaining how he was ordered to shoot down a large UFO over the UK in 1957 and then silenced by military officials, who told him never to speak of the incident.

Stephen Bassett, Executive Director of the Extraterrestrial Phenomenon Political Action Committee, expects to have gathered 40,000 signatures via email and fax by Mr Obama's inauguration day on Jan 20 in support of his calls for openness.

He told The Sunday Telegraph: "The truth embargo is now at the end of the line. The release of documents in Britain and France has put huge pressure on the US. It makes the government here look pretty stupid.

"I think we are seeing the Democrats moving towards disclosure. John Podesta has outed himself as an enthusiast. He thinks the American public can handle the truth. Bill Richardson thinks there was a cover-up."

Mr Bassett also believes that military and intelligence officials have studied the technology of alien spacecraft, material that would help the US develop new energy resources, as Mr Obama wishes, that will lessen US dependency on Middle Eastern oil.

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A mailing list for the study of UFO-related phenomena  
'Its All Here In Black & White'

Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 1](#)

## UFObama

From: **UFO UpDates - Toronto** <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
Date: Mon, 01 Dec 2008 07:05:29 -0500  
Archived: Mon, 01 Dec 2008 07:05:29 -0500  
Subject: UFObama

Source: Phil Plait's Bad Astronomy Blog

<http://blogs.discovermagazine.com/badastronomy/2008/11/30/ufobama/>

November 30th 2008

UFObama

Much of what I have read about and from Obama leads me to think that he is part of the reality-based community (at least in part). That's why I'm not too concerned that UFOs-are-visiting-us proponent (and, evidently, BABloggee) Stephen Bassett wrote an OpEd asking Obama to lift the "truth embargo" about aliens coming to Earth and posing for blurry photos while masquerading as Venus, balloons, the Moon, satellites, military aircraft, atmospheric distortions, and hoaxes.

Now, let me make this as absolutely clear as possible (which will be to no avail, because I have been very clear before, and UFO proponents still manage to completely mangle what I'm saying): if you want me to think that UFOs are not just misidentified mundane objects, then all you have to do - and it really is this simple - is provide me with evidence.

Here, let me make this even clearer:

PROVIDE ME WITH EVIDENCE.

What do I count as evidence? Hard, physical data. Not eyewitness reports (because even the most highly-credentialed person in the world can misidentify something, or not understand what they are seeing, or may suffer from an episode, or decide to lie, or just be simply wrong). Not fuzzy photos. Not fuzzy video.

I want hard, physical data. I want an alien on the White House lawn. I want a piece of metal with clearly non-terrestrial isotope ratios of components, or be composed of some currently non-discovered element. I want some piece of predictive evidence - a map of an alien world that can eventually be verified, or an alien-given advance in physics that can later be verified with the LHC or some other cutting-edge technology. And nothing vague like "a unified field theory exists"; it has to be definite and precise, so that there is no controversy.

Do you think this is too demanding? I have news for you: you're asking me to believe in something that will revolutionize all of human existence. I think demanding some actual evidence for such a thing is not only not too much to ask, but is to be demanded.

Of course, by asking for actual evidence, I'll be called a cynic, a liar, a government stooge, and (my favorite) a debunker (since you can't debunk something that isn't already bunk). I'll also be called closed minded, which is incredibly ironic, since I can be persuaded by evidence of the existence of actual alien visitation, but people like Stephen Bassett cannot be persuaded out of their beliefs by the lack of the same evidence.

If you have this sort of evidence, then by all means let me know. I'll report it here. But in the meantime, I suggest people read Mr. Bassett's demands of President-elect Obama, and keep an open mind yourself on which of us is being more open minded.

Tip o' the tin foil beanie to Fark.

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## Re: UFObama

From: Robert Powell <[rpowell.nul](mailto:rpowell.nul)>  
Date: Mon, 01 Dec 2008 08:26:56 -0600  
Archived: Mon, 01 Dec 2008 12:34:22 -0500  
Subject: Re: UFObama

>Source: Phil Plait's Bad Astronomy Blog

><http://blogs.discovermagazine.com/badastronomy/2008/11/30/ufobama/>

>November 30th 2008

>UFObama

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<snip>

Although some may disagree with my response to Phil Plait, I think most of us would disagree with the tone of his argument regarding Stephen Basset's letter to Obama:

-----

I'm not a supporter of Stephen Basset's letter to president elect Obama because the letter makes a lot of assumptions. But I do support the letter's belief that we have a right to know whatever information exists.

Is there hard evidence out there that says UFOs are alien spaceships? That is not really the issue because, unless someone is hiding it, the evidence does not exist.

It is more of an issue of, let us be willing and open minded enough to obtain the evidence. At the present, no government or scientific body is willing to look for the evidence. Except for SETI, which is willing to look for evidence or accept the possibility of advanced alien civilizations only if it is light years away.

Just the act of looking for evidence, is met with heretical naysayers.

This is my concern with this entire issue. We are not even

willing to look for evidence. It is as if we do not want to entertain the possibility. As Phil Plait stated, "I want an alien on the White House lawn."

If that is the type of evidence that we are awaiting, then we have not done our job as scientists. Scientists are willing to seek out the truth. Scientists are willing to examine theories with data and look for additional data to support or disclaim a hypothesis. But when we no longer are willing to entertain possibilities, we have returned to the time of Galileo when just the act of examining possible evidence brought derision.

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## Blogs

From: Don Ledger <[dledger.nul](mailto:dledger.nul)>  
Date: Mon, 01 Dec 2008 14:25:38 -0400  
Archived: Mon, 01 Dec 2008 17:29:58 -0500  
Subject: Blogs

One of the reasons I don't like blogs is the owner's ability to pump out viewpoints - often skewed with no real rebuttle to the viewpoint.

Paul Kimball sent me a blog today which as far as I can tell has no ready available response mechanism by which one can refute what he has sent out over the internet.

First let me say this, Paul Kimball is a heck of a nice guy, at least in my estimation. On a personal level, which I won't go into here, he has gone out of his way to give a young and fledgling director a leg up through experience and hands on training. He also acted like a proverbial "old hen" to make sure that said fledgling was kept away from possible harmful influences.

In his blog he wrote this paragraph.

"No matter what UFO researchers will tell you, eyewitness testimony is always questionable. Stan Friedman likes to say that people are good observers, but poor interpreters of what they saw, but that's not true - most people aren't good observers, including pilots and police officers and military personnel, the three most oft-cited professions of quality eyewitnesses. There are exceptions, of course, such as the Santa Barbara Channel case of 1953, where you had two groups of very good witnesses seeing the same thing independent of each other, but these kinds of cases are rare."

I can't speak for military witnesses, I can't speak for police officers, but I can speak for pilots. I don't claim that pilots are infallible but I can say that Paul Kimball can't make the above assessment. There is nothing on which to base his statement.

I suspect that Paul references, in his own mind, the babblings of Jim Oberg who also is not a pilot and hasn't got a clue what he's talking about. He normally references Allan Hynek who in turn did not know what he was talking about either and recanted his statement that pilots were poor witnesses after the fact. He also recanted swamp gas and Venus during the Mantell episode. Hynek spent a lot of time sticking his foot in his mouth.

If you want to reference a scientist then reference Dr. Richard Haines who does know what he's talking about. Dr. Haines worked at NASA/Ames for years on pilot studies, cockpit management; see his CV which is readily available. One of the reasons that Dr. Haines, a skeptic in his early years became so involved with UAP was because of his interaction with pilots. He was often seconded to the NTSB to work on airplane crashes. His involvement is too involved to go into here.

But Paul Kimball has no documentation to back up his assertion that pilots are not reliable witnesses. Paul is a film director and has no experience with aviation; he knows nothing about it really. But he's on safe ground there because 99% of those involved in the study of the phenomenon don't know anything about it either. And frankly I getting tired of preaching about it.

I ate, slept and dreamed airplanes since I was a kid and the day I went in to start flight instruction was a real eye-opener. It was totally different than what I had expected. The degree of detail involved in flying airplanes in today's world is incredible. The regulations, the weather knowledge and navigation that you are expected to know is astounding.

I received my AERONAUTICAL INFORMATION CIRCULAR 42/08 from Nav Canada the other day. They come out every three months. There was 57 pages of these Notams [Notice to Airmen], changes to regulations, airspace changes, runway changes, construction, rwy heading changes, de-installations of nav aids and a hundred others. The AICs are used to update the real tome the Airman's Information Manual which affects every pilot in Canada. And this is the hair on a flea's but on the tip of an iceberg. Don't get me started on other papers needed to get you airborne.

When I get pilot reports, I get reports, not like the stuff you see on various websites that start off with, "Well I think it was last Tuesday or last month or it was either 1998 or 1999." The witness goes on to say that this was the most incredible thing that ever happened to them but they can't remember what time it was or even the date half the time.

Pilots have logbooks which they keep. Then there's the aircraft's log and the maintenance log. Example, when the police in Wales say they have no information re the Cardiff case they conveniently ignore the first two.

Pilots know the date time [down to the minute usually] their location, altitude and heading. They know what the winds are, know what balloons look like including the big scientific 300 foot bags hanging in space because they are Notamed and they are looking out for them. They see hundreds if not thousands of things in the sky while they are flying and other than atmospheric physicists are the most knowledgeable about what goes on in that first 20 miles of space. Astronomers for instance know dick but they get a lot of press.

McGaha can't even separate the 10PM diversionary, A-10 flare drop at 25,000 feet or above from the real Phoenix event around 7:30pm. He lumps the two together and makes a blanket statement which effectively nulls his argument. If he can't get those 2 facts straight what good is the rest of his argument?

Pilots spend much of their time identifying threats to their airplanes, outside and inside. They know the damn difference between something really anomalous and some planet or a meteor. Up until about 40 years ago much of the air navigation at night was done using celestial navigation. There were dozens of reports by pilots or a fireball when the meteor went down in Saskatchewan. Fireballs and meteors are not uncommon to pilots flying at night or even during the day. They will report same to get it out there for other pilots flying through that airspace.

They are used to seeing other airplanes flying through their field of vision including military assets.

One of the reasons pilots fly is because they like it. And they like airplanes. They read about them, and learn about other aircraft that fly from the latest models to those still flying from the 1910s onward. Airline pilots fly for a living, often at .89 Mach then on days off go to their local airfield and fly an 75 mph Cub or an ultralite for the pure joy of it. The point I am making is that they involve themselves in all aspects of aviation because they want to know what's flying in their airspace from those 1910s flivers to Stealth aircraft. At my local flying club there is a bulging set of book shelves with aero magazines of all types dating back to the late 1940s.

Pilots screw up on occasion just like every one else, however usually it is headline news around the world whether it's their fault or not. But making blanket unsupportable allegations that they are poor observers because Jim Oberg or Paul Kimball say so is not supportable.

Do your own assessments, don't take their words for it.

Don Ledger

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## Re: Spread The Word!

From: David Rudiak <[drudiak.nul](mailto:drudiak.nul)>  
Date: Mon, 1 Dec 2008 12:44:30 -0800  
Archived: Mon, 01 Dec 2008 17:33:32 -0500  
Subject: Re: Spread The Word!

>From: Robert Hastings <[hastings444.nul](mailto:hastings444.nul)>  
>To: UFO UpDates - Toronto <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>Date: Sun, 30 Nov 2008 12:03:54 -0700  
>Subject: Re: Spread The Word!

>>From: Kelly Freeman <[Khfflsciufu.nul](mailto:Khfflsciufu.nul)>  
>>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>>Date: Sun, 30 Nov 2008 11:07:34 -0500  
>>Subject: Re: Spread The Word!

>>>From: Robert Hastings <[hastings444.nul](mailto:hastings444.nul)>  
>>>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>>>Date: Sat, 29 Nov 2008 13:13:48 -0700  
>>>Subject: Spread The Word!

>>>In summary, nearly 100 U.S. Air Force veterans now openly state  
>>>that UFOs have been monitoring and sometimes interfering with  
>>>our nuclear weapons systems.

>>This is a worrisome aspect of the UFO phenomenon. If the UFOs  
>>can disrupt nuclear weapons systems, can they or would they be  
>>willing to launch them, also?

>If you'll read the book excerpt "Launch in Progress!" you'll  
>find that one of the former Minuteman missile launch officers  
>I've interviewed, David Schuur, has already reported the  
>temporary activation of his missiles by a UFO.

>Moreover, a similar incident reportedly occurred at an ICBM  
>complex in Soviet Ukraine, in October 1982. An ABC-TV transcript  
>relating to that case may be found at:

><http://www.ufoevidence.org/documents/doc459.htm>

>In my opinion, the former incident was probably a demonstration  
>meant to scare the hell out of the missileer's superiors at SAC  
>HQ and the Pentagon; the latter was designed to alarm the Soviet  
>military's top commanders. I do not believe that the intention  
>was to actually launch the missiles, in either case.

>Even though I and some 75% of my ex-USAF missileer sources  
>believe that those piloting the UFOs are attempting to warn us  
>about the dangers of having nukes, it's not out of the question  
>that 'they' are instead attempting to foster nuclear disarmament  
>because they don't want to inherit a radioactive planet when  
>they invade.

It has struck me that a great deal of UFO behavior is geared as  
demonstrations of advanced technical ability, a way of  
delivering a variety of messages to governments and militaries.  
Among the messages is:

1. We are here. Get used to it.
2. We can go anywhere we want and you can't stop us. Get used to it.
3. We can outfly and outmaneuver your best aircraft and missiles. We can selectively knock out their communications and

weapons' systems. You have no defense against us.

4. We can activate and deactivate your nukes at will. We could trigger a nuclear war if we wanted to and you would destroy yourself. We choose not to, but if you want to challenge us, we could.

5. We can literally fly circles around your missiles and knock them out of flight. So even your most potent weapons are useless against us.

6. We could bring down all your power grids if we wanted to and turn your civilization into chaos. We can fry your electronics, stall your vehicles, bring everything to a grinding halt. We could, but we choose not to, as long as you behave yourselves and don't challenge us.

7. We have vast armadas of little ships. Sometimes we like to show them off in case you forget. You call this UFO waves. We also have giant mother ships and some times we like to show these off as well. Do you really think you can challenge us?

8. We can abduct people at will and wipe their memories. We usually return them unharmed, though psychologically traumatized deep in their unconscious, which we can't help. The point is, we do as we want and there is nothing you can do to stop us.

No doubt, others could add to the list. Over and over again, the message is sent that they are here and that we are powerless to stop them. It's a big game of psychological warfare and intimidation. Maybe our militaries get "lucky" now and then and manage to shoot some of them down, but if so, the price has probably been very high in the number of our own aircraft that have been brought down.

I suppose the good news is that we are still here and some respect is shown to us as intelligent, conscious beings. They could have wiped us out a long time ago, if that was their end game. My suspicion, as is others, is that we are instead being monitored and quarantined. UFO activity really picked up when certain technological milestones were reached: flight, missiles, EM communications, and, of course, nuclear weapons. Soon, the mastery of the principles of interstellar space flight? That could be their ultimate concern. Our technology has advanced to the point that in the not-to-distant future we could be a potential threat to them, particularly with our penchant for tribal warfare, as Stan Friedman so often points out. Aggressive, warlike primates with crazy belief systems and armed with nukes and interstellar craft are a very dangerous combination.

So for now, they are keeping us in our place by periodically reminding us of their superiority. They pick and choose where their demonstrations take place. Thus allows for plausible deniability by governments while still slowly acclimating the masses to their presence lest widespread social disintegration take place. Thus a policy of minimal interference and gradual disclosure.

They are biding their time and seeing if we can get our house in order. If we don't, that's our own tough luck. If we do, then the quarantine will slowly be lifted and more direct contact will take place.

Then, of course, I could be wrong about all of this.

David Rudiak

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## Sighting Over Bury St Edmunds Cathedral

From: **Eustaquio Andrea Patounas** <[socex.ufobras.nul](mailto:socex.ufobras.nul)>  
Date: Mon, 1 Dec 2008 18:17:02 -0300  
Archived: Mon, 01 Dec 2008 17:37:51 -0500  
Subject: Sighting Over Bury St Edmunds Cathedral

Source: Bury Free Press - England, UK

<http://tinyurl.com/6ebdtu>

01 December 2008

UFO Sighting Over Bury St Edmunds Cathedral  
By Mark Beaumont

Police confirmed a man reported the sighting.

The man, who did not want to give his name, said he was walking near the cathedral at around 10pm when there was a sudden power cut.

"I looked up at the sky - I was quite frightened. There was a grey thing spinning around and around. About four or five other people were looking up at the sky.

"It went around the cathedral and then disappeared. Then I saw this bright orange ball fly through the sky from Churchgate Street towards the churchyard."

He said a friend had subsequently suggested the sighting might have been something to do with the Christmas fair in the Abbey Gardens and on Angel Hill.

"I'm just puzzled by it all," he said.

A police spokeswoman said: "We did have a report of a large object in the sky for approximately 10 to 12 minutes that looked like a UFO."

She added police had only received one report regarding the sighting.

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## Should UFO Abduction Be Classified Debilitating?

From: **Greg Boone** <[Evolbaby.nul](mailto:Evolbaby.nul)>  
Date: Mon, 1 Dec 2008 16:44:57 EST  
Archived: Mon, 01 Dec 2008 17:38:04 -0500  
Subject: Should UFO Abduction Be Classified Debilitating?

It's a tough one I've had to dance around but after meeting another highly professional person and discovering she's an abductee and seeing how the subject just turned her into a mush I've had to ask myself how many people out there are suffering from this stuff who find it a day to day challenge to maintain themselves.

If they come forward they're called attention whores or crazy so they suffer in silence. If the government does acknowledge it's a problem then mandatory psychiatric medications may come into play and we all should know by now that's like tossing gasoline on a fire.

It's just terrible to see someone you know suffer from this stuff. It eats away at them day after day, disrupts their ability to work or handle personal issues.

Something has to be done about it.

Best,

Greg  
[ufomafia.com/blog](http://ufomafia.com/blog)

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## Don't Hold Breath On Obama Disclosure

From: **Greg Boone** <[Evolbaby.nul](mailto:Evolbaby.nul)>  
Date: Mon, 1 Dec 2008 16:52:17 EST  
Archived: Mon, 01 Dec 2008 18:40:00 -0500  
Subject: Don't Hold Breath On Obama Disclosure

Anyone up on UFO news of the latest can see the Obama Administration as having more pro-UFO people than a Star Trek convention.

However, I say don't hold your breath for any UFO disclosures.

I know, I know, I'm going against the grain but for 20 plus years we've had Presidents touch on the issue in one way or another except Bush I.

They get into office and things go silent.

There's a goooooood reason for it.

Methinks once a guy gets into office his first introduction to leadership is, he ain't leading, he's following directions or it's gonna be a Gort stompin'.

I say this because George W. Bush could not be responsible for all the idiotic decisions done in his presidency. I'll admit he's the Jubilation T. Cornpone of presidents but the Iraq agenda smells of some hidden court/legal agreement to make things right after we helped install Saddam and the other corrupt leaders Britain and the U.S. installed over the past 100 years fouling up those people's lives over there.

I know many ufologists are hoping Obama will get liberal on our butts and blow the lid off the UFO secrecy but there ain't no way the powers that be will allow him to. My bet is that Britain will buck up and show us all what's what just to teach the U.S. a lesson.

Methinks the rumors are true that the U.S. screwed up the UFO issue to such a degree that to disclose means to admit fault and all heck would break loose.

Even a liberal like Obama knows what side his bread is buttered.

Best,

Greg  
[ufomafia.com/blog](http://ufomafia.com/blog)

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## Re: UFObama

From: Frank Warren <[frank-warren.nul](mailto:frank-warren.nul)>  
Date: Tue, 02 Dec 2008 01:23:16 -0800  
Archived: Mon, 01 Dec 2008 18:41:00 -0500  
Subject: Re: UFObama

>From: Robert Powell <[rpowell.nul](mailto:rpowell.nul)>  
>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>Date: Mon, 01 Dec 2008 08:26:56 -0600  
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>>Source: Phil Plait's Bad Astronomy Blog

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>>November 30th 2008

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>willing to look for evidence. It is as if we do not want to  
>entertain the possibility. As Phil Plait stated, "I want an  
>alien on the White House lawn."

>If that is the type of evidence that we are awaiting, then we  
>have not done our job as scientists. Scientists are willing to  
>seek out the truth. Scientists are willing to examine theories  
>with data and look for additional data to support or disclaim a  
>hypothesis. But when we no longer are willing to entertain  
>possibilities, we have returned to the time of Galileo when just  
>the act of examining possible evidence brought derision.

Robert, et al,

As is often the case with Plait and his ilk, his ideology and his tenure as a scientist contrast each other... it's oxymoronic. The same example was made by the two physicists, Cottle and Boebinger who attacked Stan... they wear their ignorance on their shirt sleeve! Some call this behavior "pathological skepticism," I call it "cognitive bias."

Cognitive bias, in this instance is where intelligent people, i.e., scientists allow their personal ideology to override the very essence of science, and then accuse the target of their criticism of "not being scientific!" The irony is laughable!

One common thread among these folks is they haven't done their homework! They criticize the book without reading it! They come to conclusions and never look at the data! Then in the very same breath, they claim Ufology isn't scientific.

In Plait's case, (another common denominator) he melds UFOs and aliens together; he leads the reader to believe the existence of UFOs is in question - it is not, and hasn't been for 60 years! The debate is the origin of UFOs! These are two different arguments that Plait (et al) are nescient of.

The very fact that a small percentage of UFO reports not only have, but continue to defy conventional explanation is the best example of the necessity of scientific methodology. No one need to go further - period!

Finally, not to long ago I penned a piece entitled, Do Extra-Solar Planets Really Exist? It's a satirical look at blind pyrrhonism using extra-solar planets as the vehicle. For those interested it can be found here:

<http://tinyurl.com/6k3d6n>

In it I question the reality of ES planets, as the very methodology of ES planet believers is in dispute by their very own peers. Moreover, it has been only recently that alleged pictures of these mythical planets has come to light, and those are just blurry photographs of pinpoints of light... probably just CGI hoaxed by the ES planet believers, undoubtedly to make a buck on the lecture circuit or to sell books, or get funding, grants etc! :>)))

In that (satirical) vein, if Plait and his ilk want me to think that extra-solar planets are not just misidentified space debris, or some other mundane object then provide me with evidence!

What do I count as evidence? Hard, physical data. Not computer generated images, not fuzzy photos, not fuzzy video. Also, it would be nice if evidence came from an independent party, opposed to extra-solar planet believers.

Cheers,

Frank

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 1](#)

## 'Hunting' UFOs

From: **UFO UpDates - Toronto** <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
Date: Mon, 01 Dec 2008 18:42:00 -0500  
Archived: Mon, 01 Dec 2008 18:42:00 -0500  
Subject: 'Hunting' UFOs

Source: Paul Kimball's Above & Beyond Blog - Halifax,  
Nova Scotia, Canada

<http://redstarfilms.blogspot.com/2008/11/hunting-ufos.html>

Sunday, November 30, 2008

'Hunting' UFOs

History matters. We can learn a great deal from the past, and anyone who thinks otherwise would be well served to keep the famous quote by Santayana in mind: "Those who cannot learn from history are doomed to repeat it."

On the other hand, one can spend too much time looking for answers to present problems in the past. The worst kind of general is the one who assumes that a current war is going to be fought like the last one - millions of men died from 1914 to 1918 because their leaders made assumptions like that.

So, where does that leave the study / investigation of the UFO phenomenon, which seems mired in the past, as UFO researchers continue to debate cases that are decades old? Is there a way to move forward, while at the same time building on the work that has come before?

Maybe, but the first thing that people are going to have to recognize is that the old model of after-the-fact investigation is inherently flawed, and will never lead to real answers. This method is based on eyewitness testimony which, while useful to a point, just doesn't provide enough reliable information upon which one can build a solid, working hypothesis, much less draw an irrefutable conclusion. No matter what UFO researchers will tell you, eyewitness testimony is always questionable. Stan Friedman likes to say that people are good observers, but poor interpreters of what they saw, but that's not true - most people aren't good observers, including pilots and police officers and military personnel, the three most oft-cited professions of quality eyewitnesses. There are exceptions, of course, such as the Santa Barbara Channel case of 1953, where you had two groups of very good witnesses seeing the same thing independent of each other, but these kinds of cases are rare.

What is needed is measurable data. What makes the RB47 case from 1957 so valuable is that you have not only eyewitness testimony, but multiple corroborative radar and electronic monitoring data. It still won't tell you what the UFO involved was, but it makes it impossible for anyone but the most fundamentalist of debunkers to claim with a straight face that there was nothing anomalous about the case that is worth investigation and consideration.

The problem is that UFOs don't appear on command. For sixty years the pattern has pretty much been that a sighting happens, i.e. people see something, and then investigators of varying degrees of competence show up after the fact to talk to them.

Roswell epitomizes this flawed methodology in the worst possible way, given that the investigation didn't actually start until 30 years had passed.

UFO researchers can't rely on the government for their data either.

So where do they get it from?

I would suggest that the serious researcher take their cue from people who investigate ghosts and hauntings. I've worked with some good ones recently, and I'm engaged in investigations myself as we film our ghost investigation series. We're not trained scientists, but we can still gather data by actually going to the allegedly haunted site and setting up cameras and audio recorders and so forth. Upon review of one case we recently investigated, we discovered multiple instances of anomalous audio data that seems to corroborate an eyewitness story we were told, as well as what at the moment appears to be some very interesting video data which we're still analyzing.

A haunted house is a bit easier to cover than UFOs, of course, because it's one specific location, but the same general methodology could be employed in any area that is known to experience UFO sightings. MUFON, for example, could direct its resources towards the equipping of a rapid response field research team that could travel directly to an area in the United States (and perhaps Canada) that is in the midst of a UFO "flap" or "wave". Or it could set up a team in the New Mexico desert for a month or so to monitor the sky for any anomalous events. With alleged alien abductees, surely someone could set up a monitoring system over a prolonged period of time to see if anything really was happening. And so on.

There are plenty of bright people interested in the UFO phenomenon. If they really want to get some answers, however, it's time they re-thought the way that they approached the investigation of the enigma. In short, it's time they stopped fighting the last war, with outdated tactics, and looked to new ways of gathering useful data which may actually yield some answers.

Paul Kimball

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## Re: Spread The Word!

From: Bruce Maccabee <[brumac.nul](mailto:brumac.nul)>  
Date: Mon, 1 Dec 2008 20:39:49 -0500  
Archived: Tue, 02 Dec 2008 04:30:43 -0500  
Subject: Re: Spread The Word!

>From: David Rudiak <[drudiak.nul](mailto:drudiak.nul)>  
>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>Date: Mon, 1 Dec 2008 12:44:30 -0800  
>Subject: Re: Spread The Word!

>>From: Robert Hastings <[hastings444.nul](mailto:hastings444.nul)>  
>>To: UFO UpDates - Toronto <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>>Date: Sun, 30 Nov 2008 12:03:54 -0700  
>>Subject: Re: Spread The Word!

<snip>

>><http://www.ufoevidence.org/documents/doc459.htm>

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 2](#)

## Re: 'Hunting' UFOs

From: Bruce Maccabee <[brumac.nul](mailto:brumac.nul)>  
Date: Mon, 1 Dec 2008 20:55:58 -0500  
Archived: Tue, 02 Dec 2008 04:34:35 -0500  
Subject: Re: 'Hunting' UFOs

>Source: Paul Kimball's Above & Beyond Blog - Halifax,  
Nova Scotia, Canada

><http://redstarfilms.blogspot.com/2008/11/hunting-ufos.html>

>Sunday, November 30, 2008

>'Hunting' UFOs

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>desert for a month or so to monitor the sky for any anomalous  
>events. With alleged alien abductees, surely someone could set  
>up a monitoring system over a prolonged period of time to see if  
>anything really was happening. And so on.

Of course, a well funded, 'equipment heavy' RR team has been the

Grail of ufology for years. There have actually been attempts to create such a team in the past.

I was involved with one such effort in 1992 which was intended to collect data about "Red Bubba" in Gulf Breeze, Florida. I guess about \$50K paid for a van and instrumentation that actually went to Gulf Breeze... but too late!

There was an interesting sighting which, however, was resolved by imagery collected by a 8" diameter, 1600 mm focal length telescope mounted on a low light TV camera. It was an airplane throwing out flares at the western edge of the Eglin AFB reserve.

I suppose one could maintain an RR team for a few tens of 'K', but it would still require plenty of luck to be at a really important sighting.

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## Miller Pulls Plug On Alien Worlds

From: **UFO UpDates - Toronto** <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
Date: Tue, 02 Dec 2008 04:55:08 -0500  
Archived: Tue, 02 Dec 2008 04:55:08 -0500  
Subject: Miller Pulls Plug On Alien Worlds

Source: Alien Worlds Magazine - Altrincham, Cheshire, England, UK

<http://alienworldsmag.com/>

1st December 2008

Announcement

It is with regret that I confirm what will have become obvious to many by now, namely that Alien Worlds magazine will not be published again.

I ran out of money to support the magazine which had been operating at a loss. There followed extended talks with another publishing company with a view to them taking the magazine over but those talks failed. After that, I wrestled with the idea of keeping it going as a download via the internet, but in the end decided against that too. I am sorry for the disappointment the magazine's closure will cause.

The pity of it was that it didn't actually need to make a profit and even a small loss would have been acceptable. I could have kept it going on that basis but the losses endured could not be maintained. Unquestionably, I view my inability to attract any advertising as being the reason for the magazine's closure.

I will also be closing the news service which can be found elsewhere on this site and which has been ongoing in one shape or form for over four years. It is time to move on.

Many, many people were gracious enough to help me with articles, advice, and encouragement. I refrain from naming names in case I inadvertently forget to mention somebody and cause unintended offence but you people have my deepest appreciation and sincerest thanks. Without you, the mag would not have even have got to four excellent issues. Thank you.

Please contact me at [editor.nul](mailto:editor.nul)

This e-mail address is being protected from spam bots, you need JavaScript enabled to view it to claim a refund of outstanding subscriptions. Back issues are still available and any outstanding orders for single issues will be honoured.

Stuart Miller

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## Re: Spread The Word!

From: Stanton T Friedman <[fsphys.nul](mailto:fsphys.nul)>  
Date: Tue, 2 Dec 2008 08:42:48 -0400  
Archived: Tue, 02 Dec 2008 09:11:31 -0500  
Subject: Re: Spread The Word!

>From: Bruce Maccabee <[brumac.nul](mailto:brumac.nul)>  
>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>Date: Mon, 1 Dec 2008 20:39:49 -0500  
>Subject: Re: Spread The Word!

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>>>To: UFO UpDates - Toronto <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>>>Date: Sun, 30 Nov 2008 12:03:54 -0700  
>>>Subject: Re: Spread The Word!

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>>><http://www.ufoevidence.org/documents/doc459.htm>

>>>In my opinion, the former incident was probably a demonstration  
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>TRUFO: object that remains unidentified after extensive  
>investigation

>>Then, of course, I could be wrong about all of this.

Sounds like a good scenario to me. One would expect that an advanced civilization would have learned to live at piece with its neighbors... or they would have been clobbered.

That means not allowing newcomers to join the party until they can demonstrate an ability to do more than provide better methods of killing. Advanced technology can be used for good or for evil. Last year the military budget of the USA was more than half a trillion dollars.

The rest of the world chimed in with another half trillion. But 30,000 children die each day of preventable disease or starvation. I think visitors cannot be blamed for concluding we have a primitive society whose major activity is tribal warfare. We surely haven't demonstrated an ability to harness our capabilities for the betterment of the planet.

Stan Friedman

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## Pining For Mars

From: **UFO UpDates - Toronto** <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
Date: Tue, 02 Dec 2008 09:39:21 -0500  
Archived: Tue, 02 Dec 2008 09:39:21 -0500  
Subject: Pining For Mars

[See original Dec 2004 List-post in Archive at:

<http://tinyurl.com/57wea3>

----- ]

Source: Phil Plait's Bad Astronomy Blog

<http://tinyurl.com/6xdnk9>

December 1st, 2008 6:00 AM

Pining For Mars  
by Phil Plait

Does this NASA photo from the rover Opportunity show a wooden log on Mars?

[image]

Mars panorama showing woody rock

Hard to tell? Then look at the zoomed-in image, and ask again: is this a log (petrified or otherwise) on the surface of the Red Planet?

[image]

Mars Wood zoom 1

Duh. No.

But if you read some websites, you might think it is. So what's going on here?

The quick answer is: this is another in a long line of examples of pareidolia; people seeing familiar things in random or semi-random patterns. In other words, this looks like a log, but it ain't. Remember the Martian Bigfoot? Yeah, this is the same kind of thing.

How do I know? Well, lots of reasons. For one thing, this photo is from 2005. Had any scientist studying Mars seen this and thought it was actually wood, I think they would have said something by now.

Second, there's no evidence at all of any macroscopic plant life on Mars. The vista shown here is a vast range of desert. What are the odds there would be a log smack dab in the way of the the rover as it moves across Mars? Note too that the tracks go right over the object; Opportunity literally ran it over. That means lots of people in the control room on Earth saw this object, yet no one said anything about it being a log. And if you think they're covering it up, then why did they publish the

image in a press release?

Third, look to the right of the "log". There are two rocks that look a lot like it:

[image]

Mars Wood Zoom 3

That image is slightly different from the one I displayed above, with better contrast. See how the rocks are the same color as the "log"? And look at the patterns on the rocks; they're the same too. The linear patterns even line up with those of the longer object! This indicates we're looking at a rock here.

And finally, fourth: I mean, c'mon. A log? On Mars? Sheesh.

Clearly what we're seeing here is another rock, probably different than the flat rocks that are paler, but very similar to the darker ones. It looks like a petrified log, but then we know that many things look like other things. Wasp nests look like Buddha (or the StayPuft Marshmallow Man), and rocks look like Bigfoot (which is like a case of meta-nonsense, given we're talking Bigfoot).

It's certainly an interesting object, since it's long, and all the other rocks are not. I imagine that geologically there's some story behind it. But I really really don't think it involves wood.

But that won't stop the goofballs out there, breathlessly playing this silliness up. One site said this photo was leaked. Yeah, leaked, as a frackin' press release on the NASA site!

Cripes.

Another site goes on about how maybe it's a log and maybe it's not, but who can trust NASA? After all, it's so easy to fake pictures. But they don't make the logical connection that if NASA faked the image, then (again) why did they publish it in a press release but make no mention of the object itself?

It's frustrating that unthinking nonsense like this gets spread so quickly through the web. It's the Ebola of science, and far too many people are far too willing to pass the virus on. It relies heavily on people not understanding science (and skepticism) all that well, and them also not understanding that seeing is not necessarily believing.

So if you see something like this, think about it before sending it on to the next victim. Does the claim really make sense? Is it supported by the data you have, and is there evidence against it? And you can always look to my blog here for more, or to other places like the BAUT forum, where lots of smart and knowledgeable people look into claims just like this one.

It's amazing how much bad thinking is out there in cyberspace. But don't worry. Its bark is a lot worse than its byte.

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## Strange Aerial Object Over Irving Texas

From: 'The Norm' <[xxxxxx.nul](mailto:xxxxxx.nul)>  
Date: Tue, 02 Dec 2008 09:27:31 -0500  
Archived: Tue, 02 Dec 2008 09:47:51 -0500  
Subject: Strange Aerial Object Over Irving Texas

Source: Linda Moulton Howe'a Website

<http://www.earthfiles.com/news.php?ID=1502&category=Environment>

December 2 at the website of Linda Moulton Howe

Strange Aerial Object Over Irving, Texas

-----

Comment:

The enlarged version of Photo #9 provides some detail of the observed unidentified craft. This flying object might be what Dr. Maccabee has referred to as a "TRUFO" (TRue UFO; an object that remains unidentified after extensive investigation) or this craft may be determined to be a Non-TRUFO or IFO (Identified Flying Object).

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 2](#)

## Re: Spread The Word!

From: Steven Kaeser <[steve.nul](mailto:steve.nul)>  
Date: Tue, 2 Dec 2008 11:38:20 -0500  
Archived: Tue, 02 Dec 2008 12:55:34 -0500  
Subject: Re: Spread The Word!

>From: Stanton T Friedman <[fsphys.nul](mailto:fsphys.nul)>  
>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>Date: Tue, 2 Dec 2008 08:42:48 -0400  
>Subject: Re: Spread The Word!

>>From: Bruce Maccabee <[brumac.nul](mailto:brumac.nul)>  
>>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>>Date: Mon, 1 Dec 2008 20:39:49 -0500  
>>Subject: Re: Spread The Word!

>>>From: David Rudiak <[drudiak.nul](mailto:drudiak.nul)>  
>>>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>>>Date: Mon, 1 Dec 2008 12:44:30 -0800  
>>>Subject: Re: Spread The Word!

<snip>

>>>They are biding their time and seeing if we can get our house in  
>>>order. If we don't, that's our own tough luck. If we do, then  
>>>the quarantine will slowly be lifted and more direct contact  
>>>will take place.

>>I have concluded long ago that "they" are running the show re.  
>>TRUFOS (TRue UFOs) of the ET/OI/NHI variety. OI = "other  
>>intelligences" NHI = "non-human intelligences")

>>TRUFO: object that remains unidentified after extensive  
>>investigation

>>>Then, of course, I could be wrong about all of this.

>Sounds like a good scenario to me. One would expect that an  
>advanced civilization would have learned to live at piece with  
>its neighbors... or they would have been clobbered.

>That means not allowing newcomers to join the party until they  
>can demonstrate an ability to do more than provide better  
>methods of killing. Advanced technology can be used for good or  
>for evil. Last year the military budget of the USA was more than  
>half a trillion dollars.

>The rest of the world chimed in with another half trillion. But  
>30,000 children die each day of preventable disease or  
>starvation. I think visitors cannot be blamed for concluding we  
>have a primitive society whose major activity is tribal warfare.  
>We surely haven't demonstrated an ability to harness our  
>capabilities for the betterment of the planet.

I don't find anything incorrect with your scenario, except that  
it makes a lot of assumptions regarding the thought pattern of  
'aliens' and assumes that some factors are universal (and I  
might argue that they are not).

But what really caught my attention were the numbers you  
mentioned in the support of war, which will now pale to the  
amount we have to spend to get the economies of the world  
spinning again. Numbers I'm hearing will top 6 Trillion dollars,  
worldwide, over the next several years, and that doesn't deal  
with most of the promises that Obama made.

Re: Spread The Word!

Do you think the aliens want us to get our economic house in order before they make their presence known the masses? Hell, the US economy has nearly pulled the world markets down due to the greed we've allowed to fester, and if we began serious trade with other worlds they might not want to get involved in such a volatile market structure.

Steve

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 2](#)

## Re: Should UFO Abduction Be Classified

From: **Eleanor White** <[ewraven1.nul](mailto:ewraven1.nul)>  
Date: Tue, 02 Dec 2008 15:38:00 -0500  
Archived: Tue, 02 Dec 2008 16:56:46 -0500  
Subject: Re: Should UFO Abduction Be Classified

>From: Greg Boone <[Evolbaby.nul](mailto:Evolbaby.nul)>  
>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>Date: Mon, 1 Dec 2008 16:44:57 EST  
>Subject: Should UFO Abduction Be Classified Debilitating?

<snip>

>It's just terrible to see someone you know suffer from this  
>stuff. It eats away at them day after day, disrupts their  
>ability to work or handle personal issues.

>Something has to be done about it.

Those of us in the decades-long advanced electronic harassment  
camp feel their pain

And something should be done about EH as well.

Eleanor White

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 2](#)

## Re: Miller Pulls Plug On Alien Worlds

From: **Gerald O'Connell** <[gac.nul](mailto:gac.nul)>  
Date: Tue, 2 Dec 2008 20:46:24 +0000  
Archived: Tue, 02 Dec 2008 16:58:32 -0500  
Subject: Re: Miller Pulls Plug On Alien Worlds

>This e-mail address is being protected from spam bots, you need  
>JavaScript enabled to view it to claim a refund of outstanding  
>subscriptions.

>Stuart Miller

Keep the outstanding subs Stuart, as an offset to your personal losses. I hope others on the List will do the same.

It was a brave effort and a good read.

--  
Gerald O'Connell

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 2](#)

## UFO Hunters Roswell Episode

From: **Stanton T Friedman** <[fsphys.nul](mailto:fsphys.nul)>  
Date: Tue, 2 Dec 2008 17:18:15 -0400  
Archived: Tue, 02 Dec 2008 17:00:38 -0500  
Subject: UFO Hunters Roswell Episode

I have been informed that the UFO Hunters show being shown tomorrow night, Wednesday, December 3, at 10PM Eastern on the US History Channel, will be about The Roswell Incident. I was interviewed for it last July in Roswell and have no idea who else will be in it. It isn't broadcast in Canada.

Stan Friedman

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 3](#)

## Re: Spread The Word!

From: Stanton T Friedman <[fsphys.nul](mailto:fsphys.nul)>  
Date: Tue, 2 Dec 2008 17:59:16 -0400  
Archived: Wed, 03 Dec 2008 06:34:21 -0500  
Subject: Re: Spread The Word!

>From: Steven Kaeser <[steve.nul](mailto:steve.nul)>  
>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>Date: Tue, 2 Dec 2008 11:38:20 -0500  
>Subject: Re: Spread The Word!

>>From: Stanton T Friedman <[fsphys.nul](mailto:fsphys.nul)>  
>>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>>Date: Tue, 2 Dec 2008 08:42:48 -0400  
>>Subject: Re: Spread The Word!

<snip>

>Do you think the aliens want us to get our economic house in  
>order before they make their presence known the masses? Hell,  
>the US economy has nearly pulled the world markets down due to  
>the greed we've allowed to fester, and if we began serious trade  
>with other worlds they might not want to get involved in such a  
>volatile market structure.

Steve,

I make only one assumption about all technological civilizations  
- if anyone is coming here, he is from a technological  
civilization - namely that they are concerned with their own  
survival and security. That means they must keep tabs on the  
primitives in their neighborhood, but only close tabs on those  
showing that they soon will be able to travel and take their  
brand of friendship-hostility in our case - out there.

There were three signs by the end of WW II during which  
Earthlings killed 50 million of their own kind. The signs were  
nuclear weapons, rockets, and electronics (radar).

Clearly within 100 years star travel will be in reach. We would  
certainly bear watching. I think economics would be of much less  
concern. As I note in "Flying Saucers and Science", there are  
many other possible reasons for coming here. Primarily I think  
of quarantine. It is interesting that Southeastern New Mexico  
was the only place on Earth in July, 1947, where all three  
technologies could be studied.

Stan Friedman

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 3](#)

## Re: Should UFO Abduction Be Classified

From: Katharina Wilson <[K.Wilson.nul](mailto:K.Wilson.nul)>  
Date: Tue, 02 Dec 2008 17:29:11 -0600  
Archived: Wed, 03 Dec 2008 06:37:11 -0500  
Subject: Re: Should UFO Abduction Be Classified

>From: Greg Boone <[Evolbaby.nul](mailto:Evolbaby.nul)>  
>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>Date: Mon, 1 Dec 2008 16:44:57 EST  
>Subject: Should UFO Abduction Be Classified Debilitating?

>It's a tough one I've had to dance around but after meeting  
>another highly professional person and discovering she's an  
>abductee and seeing how the subject just turned her into a mush  
>I've had to ask myself how many people out there are suffering  
>from this stuff who find it a day to day challenge to maintain  
>themselves.

<snip>

>It's just terrible to see someone you know suffer from this  
>stuff. It eats away at them day after day, disrupts their  
>ability to work or handle personal issues.

>Something has to be done about it.

Hi Greg:

I can relate to the frustration you are feeling. We both know there are thousands, if not millions of abductees suffering in silence. Those of us who have the strength and/or the ability to speak out should continue to do so. This is the only way we will be able to educate the public as to what is happening on our planet as well as to find others like ourselves and help them cope.

The more we help one another, the more we help ourselves. Help and change will only happen if we stay strong, support each other and when the time is right for each individual, they will have to speak out for themselves. Abductees cannot remain in the proverbial closet just because we are constantly ridiculed by the media, the 'mental health community,' and those who fear the truth so much they can't bear to hear the facts. This mistake has been made before and we can't let it happen again.

If you think it will help her, please pass along the self-help guide at this link.

<http://www.alienjigsaw.com/Articles/PuzzlePieces.htm>

To answer your question: Yes, for some people - I might say many people - UFO Abduction can be debilitating at times. However, most of us do not need psychiatric drugs or psychiatric counselling. We know what's happening. It's going to be the non-abductees and the non-believers who are in for the shock of their lives. And, when this goes down, we'll be the ones counselling \_them\_.

Katharina Wilson  
[www.alienjigsaw.com](http://www.alienjigsaw.com)

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 3](#)

## Re: UFO Hunters Roswell Episode

From: Victor Golubik <[Diverge247.nul](mailto:Diverge247.nul)>  
Date: Wed, 3 Dec 2008 10:12:39 EST  
Archived: Wed, 03 Dec 2008 10:33:57 -0500  
Subject: Re: UFO Hunters Roswell Episode

>From: Stanton T Friedman <[fsphys.nul](mailto:fsphys.nul)>  
>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>Date: Tue, 2 Dec 2008 17:18:15 -0400  
>Subject: UFO Hunters Roswell Episode

>I have been informed that the UFO Hunters show being shown  
>tomorrow night, Wednesday, December 3, at 10PM Eastern on the US  
>History Channel, will be about The Roswell Incident. I was  
>interviewed for it last July in Roswell and have no idea who  
>else will be in it. It isn't broadcast in Canada.

>Stan Friedman

If the program does not quote from the earliest witness  
accounts, then this show does not have much relevance. Please  
keep in mind that even audio-tapes exist where Marcel Sr.  
corrects his son on the shape of the wood-like beams - denying  
that they, in any way, resemble I-beams. Something you will  
never hear Stanton Friedman discuss with gusto.

Nor does Stan accurately quote Marcel's (Sr.) earliest testimony  
in complete form. The broken transcripts I've seen even show  
that audio tapes exist of his first interviews. I implore  
Stanton Friedman to release them rather than have him  
continually promote carefully selected exclusionary-type  
transcripts.

When will a proper interview of Stanton Friedman, concerning  
Roswell, ever take place?

Golubik

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 3](#)

## Re: Strange Aerial Object Over Irving Texas

From: Nick Balaskas <[Nikolaos.nul](mailto:Nikolaos.nul)>  
Date: Wed, 3 Dec 2008 10:53:02 -0500 (Eastern Standard Time)  
Archived: Wed, 03 Dec 2008 12:27:05 -0500  
Subject: Re: Strange Aerial Object Over Irving Texas

>From: 'The Norm' <[xxxxxxx.nul](mailto:xxxxxxx.nul)>  
>To: UFO UpDates - Toronto <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>Date: Tue, 02 Dec 2008 09:27:31 -0500  
>Subject: Strange Aerial Object Over Irving Texas

>Source: Linda Moulton Howe'a Website

><http://www.earthfiles.com/news.php?ID=1502&category=Environment>

>December 2 at the website of Linda Moulton Howe

>Strange Aerial Object Over Irving, Texas

>-----

>Comment:

>The enlarged version of Photo #9 provides some detail of the  
>observed unidentified craft. This flying object might be what Dr.  
>Maccabee has referred to as a "TRUFO" (TRue UFO; an object that  
>remains unidentified after extensive investigation) or this  
>craft may be determined to be a Non-TRUFO or IFO (Identified  
>Flying Object).

Hi Everyone!

From the shape, colours, flight characteristics, etc. of this  
UFO I think we can safely say that it was a helicopter.

On one of my visits to Detroit some years ago, after dinner at  
a restaurant in Greektown my friend and I decided to explore the  
dark deserted part of this city on foot, far from the safety  
around the People Mover (Detroit's elevated train that goes  
around the central downtown core). My friend and I witnessed a  
similar sight in the sky. Although we did not notice any sound  
made by this luminous object in the sky, we eventually came to  
the conclusion it was a police helicopter hovering and slowly  
flying over this part of the Detroit.

Since the date of this UFO sighting over Irving, Texas was very  
recent, it should be much easier to check with the police and  
the local media that operate helicopters to see if they had one  
of their up there in the sky at the time than waste valuable time  
to debate and speculate among ourselves over another UFO that  
was seen over a city but surprising did not have other  
witnesses. Maybe these witnesses knew better...

If past cases are an example, even a very thorough photographic  
analysis of these UFO pictures will raise more questions and  
doubts and the conclusions reached will not convince everyone as  
to what this UFO was insuring that another UFO photographic case  
which could easily and reasonably be explained as an IFO will be  
presented as visual evidence by others in the future as that  
UFOs are real and objects that cannot be explained as something  
of ours.

Out of curiosity, since the start of the 21st century, do we

have any solid photographic evidence for UFOs - objects that cannot be explained after thorough investigation and analysis and not because of insufficient data? I wonder if there is a consensus among ufologists over these pictures or videos - images that we consider to be physical proof for UFOs that we can present to the public and the media with full confidence?

If as I suspect we do not have this important physical proof - would this fact strengthen the argument that UFOs are really a modern religious belief or support the view that UFOs were a thing of the past?

The sobering and obvious conclusion may be that UFOs are indeed "real" and a phenomena certainly worth studying but which all can be explained as something other than extraterrestrial in origin and operated by some alien intelligence (something most of us, including myself want to believe). Such reviews need to be done periodically to insure that ufology does not become a 21st century religion.

Nick Balaskas

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 4](#)

## Re: Strange Aerial Object Over Irving Texas

From: Don Ledger <[dledger.nul](mailto:dledger.nul)>  
Date: Wed, 03 Dec 2008 13:55:15 -0400  
Archived: Thu, 04 Dec 2008 07:15:07 -0500  
Subject: Re: Strange Aerial Object Over Irving Texas

>From: Nick Balaskas <[Nikolaos.nul](mailto:Nikolaos.nul)>  
>To: UFO UpDates - Toronto <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>Date: Wed, 3 Dec 2008 10:53:02 -0500 (Eastern Standard Time)  
>Subject: Re: Strange Aerial Object Over Irving Texas

>>From: 'The Norm' <[xxxxxx.nul](mailto:xxxxxx.nul)>  
>>To: UFO UpDates - Toronto <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>>Date: Tue, 02 Dec 2008 09:27:31 -0500  
>>Subject: Strange Aerial Object Over Irving Texas

>>Source: Linda Moulton Howe'a Website

>><http://www.earthfiles.com/news.php?ID=1502&category=Environment>

>>December 2 at the website of Linda Moulton Howe

>>Strange Aerial Object Over Irving, Texas

>>-----

>>Comment:

>>The enlarged version of Photo #9 provides some detail of the  
>>observed unidentified craft. This flying object might be what Dr.  
>>Maccabee has referred to as a "TRUFO" (TRue UFO; an object that  
>>remains unidentified after extensive investigation) or this  
>>craft may be determined to be a Non-TRUFO or IFO (Identified  
>>Flying Object).

>>From the shape, colours, flight characteristics, etc. of this  
>UFO I think we can safely say that it was a helicopter.

<snip>

>If as I suspect we do not have this important physical proof -  
>would this fact strengthen the argument that UFOs are really a  
>modern religious belief or support the view that UFOs were a  
>thing of the past?

>The sobering and obvious conclusion may be that UFOs are indeed  
>"real" and a phenomena certainly worth studying but which all  
>can be explained as something other than extraterrestrial in  
>origin and operated by some alien intelligence (something most  
>of us, including myself want to believe). Such reviews need to  
>be done periodically to insure that ufology does not become a  
>21st century religion.

Yeah, just what we need... another religion.

This doesn't look like a helicopter to me, more like a blimp.  
But if so the lights are illegal. Two red lights in a pair, and  
blue white lights at one end are out of whack. Not conventional  
nav lights, that's for sure.

Don Ledger

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 4](#)

## Re: Should UFO Abduction Be Classified

From: John Rimmer <[j.rimmer.nul](mailto:j.rimmer.nul)>  
Date: Wed, 03 Dec 2008 18:19:48 +0000  
Archived: Thu, 04 Dec 2008 07:17:02 -0500  
Subject: Re: Should UFO Abduction Be Classified

>From: Katharina Wilson <[K.Wilson.nul](mailto:K.Wilson.nul)>  
>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>Date: Tue, 02 Dec 2008 17:29:11 -0600  
>Subject: Re: Should UFO Abduction Be Classified Debilitating?

>We both know there are thousands, if not millions of abductees  
>suffering in silence.

I'm sorry, but this is nonsense. I certainly believe there is an 'abduction experience' (I wrote a book about it) but whatever causes it (aliens, psychological factors, CIA, boggarts, etc., etc., etc.) how can anybody say there are 'millions' of abductees. Such a claim makes the whole idea of an abduction experience totally meaningless.

--

John Rimmer  
<[j.rimmer.nul](mailto:j.rimmer.nul)>

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including heads of state, mobsters and movie stars sit side by side in their expensive seats to watch them. Then there's hockey, football and soccer; violence softened with the introduction of the pursuit of a puck or a ball. Now there is a sociological phenomenon worth looking into; war imitations with a bit of controlled violence. And then there is politics fought with words and carried out by armies.

Could be that this possible intelligence related to the UFO phenomenon are studying just this sick and lovable quiriness of ours. There is certainly enough to study here on Earth. But then that could be said of any emerging, sustaining or ancient civilization in the Cosmos.

Maybe we are just the latest curiosity.

Don Ledger

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 4](#)

## Re: Strange Aerial Object Over Irving Texas

From: **Franklin Field** <[fields.nul](mailto:fields.nul)>  
Date: Wed, 3 Dec 2008 13:59:56 -0500 (EST)  
Archived: Thu, 04 Dec 2008 07:39:14 -0500  
Subject: Re: Strange Aerial Object Over Irving Texas

>From: Nick Balaskas <[Nikolaos.nul](mailto:Nikolaos.nul)>  
>To: UFO UpDates - Toronto <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>Date: Wed, 3 Dec 2008 10:53:02 -0500 (Eastern Standard Time)  
>Subject: Re: Strange Aerial Object Over Irving Texas

<snip>

>Out of curiosity, since the start of the 21st century, do we  
>have any solid photographic evidence for UFOs - objects that  
>cannot be explained after thorough investigation and analysis  
>and not because of insufficient data? I wonder if there is a  
>consensus among ufologists over these pictures or videos -  
>images that we consider to be physical proof for UFOs that we  
>can present to the public and the media with full confidence?

<snip>

Why do they need to be from the 21st century? We have had the  
proof for decades. Just off the top of my head I remember a few  
photos that J. Allen Hynek presented in his book The UFO  
Experience: A Scientific Enquiry (1972).

The photos were taken of a flying saucer during daylight hours.  
There were many witnesses including two police officers. The  
negatives and the camera were studied extensively. The guy that  
took the photos was investigated and even gave a sworn statement  
under oath.

Further "proof" is not required. There is certainly enough proof  
that our government and scientists should be looking for more  
data. The fact that they are not openly doing so says a lot.

Regards,

Frank

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Re: Strange Aerial Object Over Irving Texas

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 4](#)

## CNN's In Search Of Aliens Series On-Line

From: **Giuliano Marinkovic** <[giuliano.marinkovic.nul](mailto:giuliano.marinkovic.nul)>  
Date: Wed, 3 Dec 2008 19:25:54 +0000 (GMT)  
Archived: Thu, 04 Dec 2008 08:40:00 -0500  
Subject: CNN's In Search Of Aliens Series On-Line

Dear Colleagues,

At the links below you can download the complete CNN series In Search Of Aliens, created by CNN's Space Correspondent Miles O'Brien.

Episode 00  
November 21st 2008

In Search of Aliens - Preview

<http://tinyurl.com/6fzmkm>

In Search of Aliens - Preview (UnCut Version)

<http://tinyurl.com/5pdj72>

In Search of Aliens - Preview - Version 2

<http://tinyurl.com/5zup3m>

---

Episode 01  
November 24th 2008

Alien Believers Among Us

<http://tinyurl.com/5qpnm2>

Alien Believers Among Us (UnCut Version)

<http://tinyurl.com/5v4pt9>

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Episode 02  
November 25th 2008

Roswell Revisited

<http://tinyurl.com/6qtwzo>

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Episode 02b  
November 25th 2008

You Tell - Comments From Viewers

<http://tinyurl.com/6q4fyj>

---

Episode 03  
November 26th 2008

Close Encounters - Alien Abductions

<http://tinyurl.com/625b78>

Episode 04  
December 1st 2008

Calling All Aliens - SETI

<http://tinyurl.com/6neegu>

---

Episode 05  
December 2nd 2008

The Mars Worm

<http://tinyurl.com/5rxbm6>

---

If uncut versions of other episodes become available (portions from studio) I will upload those in the future too.

Best Wishes to everyone,

Giuliano Marinkovic

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## UFO Hunters Roswell Episode

From: Stanton T Friedman <[fsphys.nul](mailto:fsphys.nul)>  
Date: Wed, 3 Dec 2008 20:52:57 -0400  
Archived: Thu, 04 Dec 2008 08:41:00 -0500  
Subject: UFO Hunters Roswell Episode

>From: Victor Golubik <[Diverge247.nul](mailto:Diverge247.nul)>  
>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>Date: Wed, 3 Dec 2008 10:12:39 EST  
>Subject: Re: UFO Hunters Roswell Episode

>>From: Stanton T Friedman <[fsphys.nul](mailto:fsphys.nul)>  
>>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>>Date: Tue, 2 Dec 2008 17:18:15 -0400  
>>Subject: UFO Hunters Roswell Episode

>>I have been informed that the UFO Hunters show being shown  
>>tomorrow night, Wednesday, December 3, at 10PM Eastern on the US  
>>History Channel, will be about The Roswell Incident. I was  
>>interviewed for it last July in Roswell and have no idea who  
>>else will be in it. It isn't broadcast in Canada.

>If the program does not quote from the earliest witness  
>accounts, then this show does not have much relevance. Please  
>keep in mind that even audio-tapes exist where Marcel Sr.  
>corrects his son on the shape of the wood-like beams - denying  
>that they, in any way, resemble I-beams. Something you will  
>never hear Stanton Friedman discuss with gusto.

>Nor does Stan accurately quote Marcel's (Sr.) earliest testimony  
>in complete form. The broken transcripts I've seen even show  
>that audio tapes exist of his first interviews. I implore  
>Stanton Friedman to release them rather than have him  
>continually promote carefully selected exclusionary-type  
>transcripts.

>When will a proper interview of Stanton Friedman, concerning  
>Roswell, ever take place?

Gee, Victor, I wonder how you know that tapes exist of my first  
conversations with Jesse Marcel?

I know no such thing. I called him from the Baton Rouge airport  
after speaking at LSU the night before and while on my way to  
another engagement and did not have a tape recorder with me and  
had no idea I would be talking about Roswell 30 years later.

He is on film in my UFOs ARE Real of which some is in Flying  
Saucers ARE Real and some is in Recollections Of Roswell.

Please provide evidence for your charges... or stop making them.

Stan Friedman

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## COMETA Report On UFOs Results?

From: **Franklin Fields** <[fields.nul](mailto:fields.nul)>  
Date: Wed, 3 Dec 2008 21:01:06 -0500 (EST)  
Archived: Thu, 04 Dec 2008 08:42:00 -0500  
Subject: COMETA Report On UFOs Results?

Does anyone know what became of the French COMETA Report? Have any of its recommendations been completed?

A quick refresh:

The COMETA Report explored the political and religious implications of UFOs. High-ranking French military officers, leading scientists and engineers put the report together in 1999.

The majority of group working on the report were participants in other workshops at the Institute of Advanced Studies for French National Defense. There is no exact equivalent to the group in the United States, but it is similar to the military war colleges.

The Report concluded that the extraterrestrial explanation for UFOs is quite possible and can't be ignored. It looked at many implications including the media and public opinion. It even looked at the problem of disinformation and manipulation by certain groups.

In its conclusion, the COMETA Report claimed that the physical reality of UFOs, under control of intelligent beings, is a very reasonable conclusion, although not proven.

To re-state, the Report pointed out that only one hypothesis takes into account the available data: the hypothesis of extraterrestrial visitors.

In its final recommendations, the COMETA Report stressed the need to:

1. Inform all decision-makers and persons in positions of responsibility.
2. Reinforce the resources for investigation and study at SEPRA (Group that studies Unidentified Aerospace Phenomena).
3. Consider whether UFOs have been detected by agencies engaged in the surveillance of space.
4. Create a strategic committee at the highest state level of the French government to consider the UFO problem.
5. Undertake diplomatic action with other nations, perhaps especially the United States, for cooperation on this most important question.
6. Study the measures that might be necessary in case of emergencies.

The report was initially never intended for public release, and was only given to French President Jacques Chirac and to Prime Minister Lionel Jospin, among other officials. Soon afterward, at the instigation of a journalist, the report was published and made available to the public.

From what I know the French government took the report



seriously. Have they done anything further?

Regards,

Frank

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## Marley Woods White Hair Samples Update

From: CPTR <[webmaster.nul](mailto:webmaster.nul)>  
Date: Wed, 3 Dec 2008 21:27:15 -0600  
Archived: Thu, 04 Dec 2008 08:43:00 -0500  
Subject: Marley Woods White Hair Samples Update

Here is an update of the ongoing research into Marley Woods. It includes preliminary results of the unusual white hair samples taken throughout the months of October and November. Please share this link:

[http://ufophysical.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=65](http://ufophysical.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=65)

Ted Phillips' Center for Physical Trace Research

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Update On Marley Woods' White Hair Samples

On November 21, 2008, the SIU received a report from a microbiologist examining the unusual white hair samples. The examinations and comparisons are preliminary at this point. Nevertheless, the report states: "None of the samples have matched any known laboratory control specimens which include several varieties of domestic dogs."

Again, this is a preliminary examination which will be followed by additional analysis and research into the origins of the unusual white hair. The SIU is taking all necessary measures to photograph the two large white animals observed by witnesses, and to obtain casts of any tracks. All additional sightings, images, and data received will be posted ASAP. Stay Tuned.

<more...>

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Thanks for your support!

Center for Physical Trace Research  
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## UFO Spotters Focus On Outback Skies

From: **Sheryl Gottschall** <[gottscha.nul](mailto:gottscha.nul)>  
Date: Thu, 4 Dec 2008 15:08:35 +1000  
Archived: Thu, 04 Dec 2008 09:45:00 -0500  
Subject: UFO Spotters Focus On Outback Skies

Source: The National - Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

<http://www.thenational.ae/article/20081204/FOREIGN/672545847/1135>

Thursday December 4, 2008

UFO Spotters Focus On Outback Skies  
Phil Mercer Foreign Correspondent

SYDNEY: There has been another UFO sighting in Australia's rugged Northern Territory after a group of farm workers and backpackers reported seeing mysterious lights hovering over an outback cattle property. "We were sitting out on the pergola having a barbecue and we see this light coming towards the house," said Ray Aylett, who runs Muckaty Station north of Tennant Creek. "It wasn't an aircraft and was too low to be a satellite and it kept on coming before it flew away."

"The next night it came back. About a week later another one came towards me down at the front gate blinking orange - red, orange - red. I was waving to it to try to get it to come down to have a yarn to me but they won't come near you."

Sightings of UFOs have been reported across Australia for decades, and have been documented by amateur enthusiasts from a host of groups including the UFO Experience Support Association, Dark Matters Investigations and Cosmic Connection South Australia. Over the years many of these so-called ufologists have flocked to the tiny Northern Territory settlement of Wycliffe Well.

"We're recognised as one of the four hot spots in the world for UFO sightings and they're seen pretty regularly here," said Lew Farkas, a former sailor who manages the local caravan park.

"Over the years I've had quite a few sightings. The most common is lights zipping around the sky doing fancy manoeuvres but when they're close up you actually see the shapes of them. Traditionally they're triangular shapes, metal-type objects with portholes and they change shape. The last six months have been hot for sightings."

There are various theories as to why this barren corner of the Australian continent has such an alleged abundance of UFOs. There is speculation that interplanetary visitors are attracted to the region's "natural energy lines" and its isolation.

Others delve into the murky world of secret military projects to come up with their own explanations.

"I think it's a combination of human experiments and alien-type UFOs watching what we're up to," Mr Farkas said.

The Blue Mountains west of Sydney is another remote area that boasts frequent unexplained activity. For half a century, Rex Gilroy, 65, has gathered a mass of evidence at his home in the town of Katoomba that he said proved that extraterrestrials do exist. "I'm not a fruitcake," he said. "I've seen everything

from mystery lights in the sky to saucer-type craft that hovered over Katoomba late one afternoon a few years ago. I was near a shopping centre and there must have been about 100 other people standing around with their shopping bags looking up in the sky at this blue-glowing craft." Mr Gilroy, who heads the Blue Mountains UFO Research Club, said the object was 30 metres wide.

" I don't think they're out to do any harm," he said. "They've had plenty of time to do it. It seems they are interested in us. I don't believe a lot of the stories we get about beings that are reptilian in greens and blues. They probably have the technology that can propel a craft from one planet to the other in the time it takes us to drive to the supermarket. We're still in the Stone Age by comparison."

But what of the legions of sceptics, who believe that UFOs are fictitious and comic book nonsense? " There are people that don't understand these things but the most vocal critics are the ones that know nothing about the subject of their attack," Mr Gilroy said. "I say they should read some of the more sensible literature on these matters. There are ex-air force personnel who've written books on these strange objects they've seen."

Other Australians claim to had direct contact with alien vessels.

Colin Norris, the director of Australian International UFO Flying Saucer Research, said his encounter with a space ship left him in a coma. "This craft was a round ball with a purple hue around it and it came towards me and then it shot straight into the sky at a great height and sat there," Mr Norris said from his home in Adelaide. "It was then that I got this sharp bolt to my head. It was like someone jabbing me with a hot needle."

UFO investigators believe there has been a massive international coverup of alien sightings. The British and French authorities have begun releasing declassified secret military files on UFOs and the Australian government is doing the same, although so far no documents have revealed that beings from other worlds have visited Earth.

Mr Gilroy is confident the truth will eventually emerge. "There has got to be super-civilisations out there somewhere in the universe that are hundreds of millions of years ahead of us in intelligence," he said.

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Gildas Bourdais

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## Re: Spread The Word!

From: Dick Hall <[dh12.nul](mailto:dh12.nul)>  
Date: Thu, 04 Dec 2008 07:44:50 -0500  
Archived: Thu, 04 Dec 2008 09:47:00 -0500  
Subject: Re: Spread The Word!

>From: Don Ledger <[dledger.nul](mailto:dledger.nul)>  
>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>Date: Wed, 03 Dec 2008 14:29:48 -0400  
>Subject: Re: Spread The Word!

>>From: Stanton T Friedman <[fsphys.nul](mailto:fsphys.nul)>  
>>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>>Date: Wed, 3 Dec 2008 11:27:20 -0400  
>>Subject: Re: Spread The Word!

<snip>

>Humans spent years, and still do, experimenting on animals on  
>this planet. It was/is done dispassionately and with purpose.  
>What's to stop a greater 'intelligence' from doing to the same  
>to us lower life forms. "It's not personal... it's just  
>business." Until this community gets its collective head out of  
>the planet to planet contact slot we won't make any headway at  
>all.

<snip>

>Could be that this possible intelligence related to the UFO  
>phenomenon are studying just this sick and lovable quirkiness of  
>ours? There is certainly enough to study here on Earth. But then  
>that could be said of any emerging, sustaining or ancient  
>civilization in the Cosmos.

>Maybe we are just the latest curiosity.

Some astute philosophical ruminations by Don (says the Old  
Philosopher). I have speculated in the past that our visitors  
might be intergalactic sociologists observing the decline and  
fall of a civilization.

Some of the abduction information suggests interventionism, but  
even there it is ambiguous and could be only the planting of  
monitoring devices so they can track those human 'elk' or  
'turtles' in their wanderings and gather data for their PhD  
theses.

Dick

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## UFO America: First Contact

From: **UFO UpDates - Toronto** <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
Date: Thu, 04 Dec 2008 10:50:00 -0500  
Archived: Thu, 04 Dec 2008 10:50:00 -0500  
Subject: UFO America: First Contact

Source: Jaime Windon's The Blonde Photographer.Com - Washington, DC

<http://tinyurl.com/65n8fu>

December 2, 2008

[Pictures at site]

UFO America: First Contact  
Jaime Windon

Two weeks ago I joined up with a very talented (not to mention fun!) crew filming in DC. They are producing the pilot for a new series called UFO America: First Contact. It's a reality show that investigates UFO sightings, and it's being pitched to the Sci-Fi Channel!

My amazing friend Andrea Chesney invited me to be part of the team while they shot the segment here on Capitol Hill. For a change I was on the other side of the camera, one of the cast - a cameo role if you will - a photographer providing insight and professional opinion on some of the recorded anomalies that were being investigated.

Led by the awesome John d'Auria, we braved freezing temperatures + brisk winds to film outside in front of the Capitol. It was the coldest night ever, but I had a great time and I learned so much! I am truly fascinated by UFO theories/sightings/research and it was very interesting to be in the presence of some of the most renowned researchers in the field. Their passion + enthusiasm for the project was infectious and I can't wait to see the final results!

Here are some of the photos I managed to catch in between my very important acting debut ;)

[Trailer at youtube:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8DA99lyXWTs> ]

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## Mckinnon Given Another Lifeline

From: **UFO UpDates - Toronto** <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
Date: Thu, 04 Dec 2008 10:51:00 -0500  
Archived: Thu, 04 Dec 2008 10:51:00 -0500  
Subject: Mckinnon Given Another Lifeline

Source: Computer Weekly - Sutton, Surrey, England, UK

<http://tinyurl.com/5aomwg>

04 Dec 2008

Hacker Mckinnon Given Yet Another Lifeline Against US Extradition  
by Antony Savvas

Pentagon "UFO hacker" Gary McKinnon has been given yet another chance to beat a US extradition order for his US military hacking.

McKinnon will now be able to see out Christmas in the UK after his lawyer won the right for a High Court judge to review McKinnon's plight on 20 January.

The judge will make a decision on this date as to whether another court should review his case. If a review is necessary, the High Court will hear the case yet again.

McKinnon has admitted to hacking into US military systems between 2001 and 2002, but says he should not be extradited to the US as he was only looking for hidden evidence of UFOs.

The US government says he caused hundreds of thousands of dollars in damage to military computer systems.

It has been a frustrating experience for the US authorities as they indicted him in November 2002, and the UK government approved his extradition in 2006.

McKinnon has been diagnosed with Asperger Syndrome, an autistic spectrum disorder that can lead to obsessive behaviour and poor social interaction.

His condition may be used to fight the extradition.

[Thanks to Greg Boone for the lead]

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## Re: CNN's In Search Of Aliens Series On-Line

From: Robert Powell <[rpowell.nul](mailto:rpowell.nul)>  
Date: Thu, 04 Dec 2008 07:56:30 -0600  
Archived: Thu, 04 Dec 2008 10:52:00 -0500  
Subject: Re: CNN's In Search Of Aliens Series On-Line

>From: Giuliano Marinkovic <[giuliano.marinkovic.nul](mailto:giuliano.marinkovic.nul)>  
>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>Date: Wed, 3 Dec 2008 19:25:54 +0000 (GMT)  
>Subject: CNN's In Search Of Aliens Series On-Line

>Dear Colleagues,

>At the links below you can download the complete CNN series In  
>Search Of Aliens, created by CNN's Space Correspondent Miles  
>O'Brien.

<snip>

Interestingly, CNN is letting go of Miles O'Brien after 16 years  
and consolidating their science and environmental news desks.  
See:

<http://www.boingboing.net/2008/12/03/cnn-closes-spacetech.html>

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## The Universe: Alien Faces

From: John Greenewald <[john.nul](mailto:john.nul)>  
Date: Wed, 3 Dec 2008 12:33:19 -0800  
Archived: Thu, 04 Dec 2008 10:53:00 -0500  
Subject: The Universe: Alien Faces

Hello everyone!

I am so incredibly excited and proud to announce to you all that my episode of the Universe, entitled Alien Faces, will premier this Tuesday night, December 09th at 9:00pm! As the writer and director of the episode, I cannot type into words my enthusiasm about this show going on the air!

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of those who spent the time with me on the phone, helping me understand astrobiology, the theory of evolution, and ultimately assisting me in creating one of the best documentaries I have ever done. Those who took part played an integral role in getting this show done! Some of you receiving this notice were also recently interviewed for my newest show, still in the works for the Discovery Channel. I hope this episode excites you about the one you took part in! J

Motoshi Wakabayashi, my editor for the show, was extraordinary and deserves a special thanks! He saw my vision and ran with it, producing effects and excitement I never expected for the show. Our graphics team and conceptual artists worked tirelessly to create alien planets and creatures beyond our imagination, and in the end, brought them all to life!

To tease you all a bit, The History Channel has posted a promo for this show online, already generating excitement from fans of The Universe.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B1RSZDtm8Zw>

And below, you will find the synopsis for the episode to wet a bit of your appetite! Please, drop me a line and let me know what you think!

---

They soar through the heavens, fly through the oceans and glide along land. But these are not creatures found on a wildlife safari. These are life forms from another planet. Armed with scientific fact and a little imagination, experts come together to take you on an unprecedented journey to the edges of our imagination. Scientists, astrobiologists and astronomers create five lines of extraterrestrial evolution, and explain how creatures on the surface of Earth offer a helping hand to understanding life in The Universe.

Sincerely,

John Greenewald, Jr.

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 4](#)

## Re: 'Hunting' UFOs

From: Viktor Golubik <[Diverge247.nul](mailto:Diverge247.nul)>  
Date: Wed, 3 Dec 2008 11:29:30 EST  
Archived: Thu, 04 Dec 2008 12:32:39 -0500  
Subject: Re: 'Hunting' UFOs

>From: Bruce Maccabee <[brumac.nul](mailto:brumac.nul)>  
>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>Date: Mon, 1 Dec 2008 20:55:58 -0500  
>Subject: Re: 'Hunting' UFOs

>>Source: Paul Kimball's Above & Beyond Blog - Halifax,  
Nova Scotia, Canada

>><http://redstarfilms.blogspot.com/2008/11/hunting-ufos.html>

>>Sunday, November 30, 2008

>>'Hunting' UFOs

<snip>

>I suppose one could maintain an RR team for a few tens of 'K',  
>but it would still require plenty of luck to be at a really  
>important sighting.

This may neglect the fact that instrumentation packs can be flown in to cover ground trace cases - recovering other types of important physical evidence/remains. Competent, local, individuals can be found/trained to operate such equipment and certain types of insurances can cover equipment losses.

I'm already in the process of acquiring such instrumentation - available to anyone willing to pay for shipping fees and a modest consultation fee for instrumentation training.

I'm willing to work with anyone interested in acquiring and storing used instrumentation for this purpose.

This might require cooperation from NUFORC, MUFON, and other private organizations/individuals?

golubik

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## Re: Should UFO Abduction Be Classified

From: **Eleanor White** <[ewraven1.nul](mailto:ewraven1.nul)>  
Date: Wed, 03 Dec 2008 15:37:18 -0500  
Archived: Thu, 04 Dec 2008 12:34:53 -0500  
Subject: Re: Should UFO Abduction Be Classified

>From: Katharina Wilson <[K\\_Wilson.nul](mailto:K_Wilson.nul)>  
>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>Date: Tue, 02 Dec 2008 17:29:11 -0600  
>Subject: Re: Should UFO Abduction Be Classified Debilitating?

<snip>

>The more we help one another, the more we help ourselves. Help  
>and change will only happen if we stay strong, support each  
>other and when the time is right for each individual, they will  
>have to speak out for themselves. Abductees cannot remain in the  
>proverbial closet just because we are constantly ridiculed by  
>the media, the 'mental health community,' ...

Katharina and List -

Here's a "there but for the grace of God go I" item for  
ufologists and abductees to ponder!

Instead of picking on you guys, look what Janssen Pharmaceutical  
did to us - a 'comic book' hit piece! All our very own! It's  
included in the page below, along with some comments to gently  
counter some of the debunking:

<http://www.raven1.net/brainchip.htm>

Eleanor White

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## Re: UFO Spotters Focus On Outback Skies

From: **Franklin Fields** <[fields.nul](mailto:fields.nul)>  
Date: Thu, 4 Dec 2008 10:04:59 -0500 (EST)  
Archived: Thu, 04 Dec 2008 12:39:17 -0500  
Subject: Re: UFO Spotters Focus On Outback Skies

>From: Sheryl Gottschall <[gottscha.nul](mailto:gottscha.nul)>  
>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>Date: Thu, 4 Dec 2008 15:08:35 +1000  
>Subject: UFO Spotters Focus On Outback Skies

>Source: The National - Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

><http://www.thenational.ae/article/20081204/FOREIGN/672545847/1135>

>Thursday December 4, 2008

>UFO Spotters Focus On Outback Skies  
>Phil Mercer Foreign Correspondent

>SYDNEY: There has been another UFO sighting in Australia's  
>rugged Northern Territory after a group of farm workers and  
>backpackers reported seeing mysterious lights hovering over an  
>outback cattle property. "We were sitting out on the pergola  
>having a barbecue and we see this light coming towards the  
>house," said Ray Aylett, who runs Muckaty Station north of  
>Tennant Creek. "It wasn't an aircraft and was too low to be a  
>satellite and it kept on coming before it flew away."  
><Snip>

>UFO investigators believe there has been a massive international  
>coverup of alien sightings. The British and French authorities  
>have begun releasing declassified secret military files on UFOs  
>and the Australian government is doing the same, although so far  
>no documents have revealed that beings from other worlds have  
>visited Earth.

><snip>

This article stated that the Australian government has begun to  
release military files on UFOs. Does anyone know a website where  
the information might be obtained?

Frank

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## Re: COMETA Report On UFOs Results?

From: **Steven Kaeser** <[steve.nul](mailto:steve.nul)>  
Date: Thu, 4 Dec 2008 11:16:38 -0500  
Archived: Thu, 04 Dec 2008 12:40:01 -0500  
Subject: Re: COMETA Report On UFOs Results?

>From: Franklin Fields <[fields.nul](mailto:fields.nul)>  
>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>Date: Wed, 3 Dec 2008 21:01:06 -0500 (EST)  
>Subject: COMETA Report On UFOs Results?

>Does anyone know what became of the French COMETA Report? Have  
>any of its recommendations been completed?

<snip>

Hi Franklin,

The COMETA report was simply never translated into English for publication in the US, but a privately funded translation was contracted by the Fund for UFO Research (or perhaps the UFO Research Coalition, I can't recall) for US researchers and a select list of recipients that were identified as a target audience.

That original magazine publication has pictures that weren't included with the translation and while there was talk of trying to find a US publisher, the Report really wasn't long enough to justify a separate publication and the French owners of the material never came to terms. Since the Fund was involved in the translation and negotiating with the authors, I am surprised that we didn't have the report submitted to French officials to work with. The translation was from the magazine article.

In our negotiations and discussions there was also no talk of any pending reaction from the French government, or actions that were anticipated. I will also mention that there are copies of the English translation available, but I'm not aware of any authorized distribution.

Steve

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## Re: UFO Hunters Roswell Episode

From: Viltor Golubik <[Diverge247.nul](mailto:Diverge247.nul)>  
Date: Thu, 4 Dec 2008 11:49:58 EST  
Archived: Thu, 04 Dec 2008 13:45:00 -0500  
Subject: Re: UFO Hunters Roswell Episode

>From: Stanton T Friedman <[fsphys.nul](mailto:fsphys.nul)>  
>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>Date: Wed, 3 Dec 2008 20:52:57 -0400  
>Subject: Re: UFO Hunters Roswell Episode

>>From: Victor Golubik <[Diverge247.nul](mailto:Diverge247.nul)>  
>>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>>Date: Wed, 3 Dec 2008 10:12:39 EST  
>>Subject: Re: UFO Hunters Roswell Episode

>>>From: Stanton T Friedman <[fsphys.nul](mailto:fsphys.nul)>  
>>>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>>>Date: Tue, 2 Dec 2008 17:18:15 -0400  
>>>Subject: UFO Hunters Roswell Episode

<snip>

>>When will a proper interview of Stanton Friedman, concerning  
>>Roswell, ever take place?

>Gee, Victor, I wonder how you know that tapes exist of my first  
>conversations with Jesse Marcel?

>I know no such thing. I called him from the Baton Rouge airport  
>after speaking at LSU the night before and while on my way to  
>another engagement and did not have a tape recorder with me and  
>had no idea I would be talking about Roswell 30 years later.

>He is on film in my UFOs ARE Real of which some is in Flying  
>Saucers ARE Real and some is in Recollections Of Roswell.

>Please provide evidence for your charges... or stop making them.

Geez Stan...

I see you how you recharacterize my statements. Nothing new,  
apparently?

I didn't say your first but "first interviews." A collective  
reference.

And, it is very early (May, 1979). But, anyone seriously engaged  
in UFO research, traveling around the country, poised to meet  
individuals at lectures, should have a tape recorder handy -  
especially when it involves your greatest passion and when the  
need for demonstrable proof is most prescient. You do have the  
capability to play audio at lectures, right Stan? And, most tape  
players that I know of are recorders too.

The document I'm referring to was provided by you to CUFOS at an  
important Roswell pow wow - where Berliner indicated you were  
holding back some evidence (someone may want to ask Berliner  
what he meant by that). Obviously, if you provided it, it was  
important to do so. I'm sure you make reference to this  
incomplete transcript (audio tape) in your many publications?

It not only shows fast forward markers from a much longer  
taping (that an audio recording does exist), but also excludes



some of Marcel's testimony from the "Roswell Incident" where he qualifies some of his terminology, such as what he means by "bend" or when he says he was actually holding the metal debris in the published photo from Ramey's office. These are very important pieces of evidence, yet you leave them out in a 1990 (date?) meeting - as though you are unaware of them?

Do you then deny that Marcel said he was holding the "actual" Roswell debris in that photo? And, why would a thorough researcher chose one statement of Marcel's over another? Are you now deciding for him at this point?

Someone at CUFOS forwarded these to me and are publicly available for viewing. And, since Stanton asked me, here they are.

The images of this three page document to which I referred

<http://tinyurl.com/64v4vb>

<http://tinyurl.com/5ppvbm>

<http://tinyurl.com/6a4zsl>

Linda G. Corley (Ph.D.) in her book, "For The Sake of My Country", actually trumped you Stan at your greatest passion and acknowledged her recordings with Marcel in May, 1981. They are interesting to read or listen to. I suggest everyone get a copy; Certainly, the most important (relevant) book about Roswell after the publication of the "Roswell Incident (1980)" or "Roswell in Perspective" by Karl T.Pflock.

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## Re: Strange Aerial Object Over Irving Texas

From: **Martin Shough** <[parcellular.nul](mailto:parcellular.nul)>  
Date: Thu, 4 Dec 2008 17:09:55 -0000  
Archived: Thu, 04 Dec 2008 13:46:00 -0500  
Subject: Re: Strange Aerial Object Over Irving Texas

>From: Franklin Field <[fields.nul](mailto:fields.nul)>  
>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>Date: Wed, 3 Dec 2008 13:59:56 -0500 (EST)  
>Subject: Re: Strange Aerial Object Over Irving Texas

>>From: Nick Balaskas <[Nikolaos.nul](mailto:Nikolaos.nul)>  
>>To: UFO UpDates - Toronto <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>>Date: Wed, 3 Dec 2008 10:53:02 -0500 (Eastern Standard Time)  
>>Subject: Re: Strange Aerial Object Over Irving Texas

><snip>

>>Out of curiosity, since the start of the 21st century, do we  
>>have any solid photographic evidence for UFOs - objects that  
>>cannot be explained after thorough investigation and analysis  
>>and not because of insufficient data? I wonder if there is a  
>>consensus among ufologists over these pictures or videos -  
>>images that we consider to be physical proof for UFOs that we  
>>can present to the public and the media with full confidence?

><snip>

>Why do they need to be from the 21st century? We have had the  
>proof for decades. Just off the top of my head I remember a few  
>photos that J. Allen Hynek presented in his book The UFO  
>Experience: A Scientific Enquiry (1972).

>The photos were taken of a flying saucer during daylight hours.  
>There were many witnesses including two police officers. The  
>negatives and the camera were studied extensively. The guy that  
>took the photos was investigated and even gave a sworn  
>statement  
>under oath.

>Further "proof" is not required. There is certainly enough proof  
>that our government and scientists should be looking for more  
>data. The fact that they are not openly doing so says a lot.

Frank

Can you identify this case? The photo section in my copy of Hynek's book (Abelard-Schuman 1972, facing p.52) contains no photograph relating to it. The nearest I can find is the July 1967, Calgary, Alberta case, a pair of "daylight disc" photos, but there were not "many" witnesses, only three, one a teenaged boy, and although two of them did sign sworn affidavits they were not police officers, they were amateur prospectors (there are no police officers among the 60 "daylight disc" witnesses listed by Hynek).

If you are nevertheless advocating this case as "proof", then I have to point out that Hynek himself disagreed with you, specifically saying of this case that it was "\_not\_ shown as photographic proof" but only as an illustration. Moreover he said of all the photos in the book that "they have no final probative value", and of UFO photographs in general that whilst he would be prepared to regard 25 "high probability" cases meeting a list of stringent conditions as amounting to proof for practical purposes, he did not know of 25 such cases and knew only of

"several" cases that "nearly" met those conditions.

Your last paragraph appears to pull back a little from the claim that we do have the "physical proof... that we can present with full confidence", since you then say "there is certainly enough proof that scientists should be looking for more data". Would this not better be characterised as a claim that prima facie evidence gives probable cause to search for physical proof?

Martin Shough

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## Randle On Bad Astronomy And UFOs

From: **UFO UpDates - Toronto** <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
Date: Thu, 04 Dec 2008 13:47:00 -0500  
Archived: Thu, 04 Dec 2008 13:47:00 -0500  
Subject: Randle On Bad Astronomy And UFOs

Source: Kevin Randle's A Different Perspective Blog - Iowa, USA

<http://kevinrandle.blogspot.com/2008/11/bad-astronomy-and-ufos.html>

Friday, November 28, 2008

Bad Astronomy And UFOs  
by Kevin Randle

Here's something that I find incredibly amusing. An expert in one subject being asked an opinion in an related subject and then answering the question with misinformation. You would think that a scientist would want to know the facts before he made a claim that is so easily refuted.

I'm thinking here of Phil Plait and his Bad Astronomy column in which he talked about UFOs just a couple of days ago. He was suggesting that when he lectured, he was often asked if he believed in aliens and flying saucers. His answer was, "Yes and no."

He meant, quite clearly, and he did explain it, that he believed there was life on other planets, mainly those outside the Solar System and that he didn't believe we were being visited. His reasoning? He wrote:

"Amateur astronomers, of course. They are dedicated observers, out every night peering at the sky. If The Truth Is Out There, then amateur astronomers would be reporting far and away the vast majority of UFOs.

But they don't. Why not? Because they understand the sky! [Emphasis in original] They know when a twinkling light is Venus, or a satellite, or a military flare, or a hot air balloon, and so they don't report it.

That, to me, is the killer argument that aliens aren't visiting us. If they were, the amateur astronomers would spot them."

The problem here is that astronomers, both professional and amateur have reported UFOs, and if we add in atmospheric scientists, we increase the pool of those who understand the sky and who have reported UFOs.

Examples you say?

Certainly. The one that springs immediately to mind is Clyde Tombaugh who was credited with discovering the now dwarf planet, Pluto. In 1949, at 10:45, Tombaugh, his wife and his mother-in-law saw something strange in the night sky. The full report is now housed at the J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies in Chicago, and I have held the original report in my hands (and I wonder what that document would bring on eBay?).

Tombaugh wrote, "I happened to be looking at the zenith... when suddenly I spied a geometrical group of faint bluish-green rectangles of light... As the group moved south-southeasterly, the individual rectangles became foreshortened, their space of formation smaller... and their intensity duller, fading from view at about 35 degrees above the horizon... My wife thought she saw a faint connecting glow across the structure."

I'm sure that we're about to hear that Dr. Donald Menzel, the UFO debunker and critic of anyone who suggested that any UFOs are anything other than misidentifications or hoaxes, was able to solve the sighting. He suggested that "a low, thin layer of haze or smoke reflected the lights of a distant house or some other multiple source."

Tombaugh, who saw the objects replied to Menzel, who didn't see them, writing, "I doubt that the phenomenon was any terrestrial reflection, because in that case some similarity to it should have appeared many times... nothing of the kind has ever appeared before or since."

Well, a UFO sighting by one astronomer does not make the complete case, so let's take a look at that paragon of scientific investigation, the Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects now almost universally called the Condon Committee. They, of course, didn't bother with their own research, but quoted from Project Blue Book Report No. 8 dated 31 December 1952.

The Blue Book astronomical consultant (which they don't name but everyone today knows it was Dr. J. Allen Hynek, seen here) interviewed 44 astronomers about their attitudes about UFOs and found, not surprisingly, that most were completely indifferent to UFOs, or at best, mildly interested. Only eight said they were very interested.

The important point here is that five of them, according to Hynek, "made sightings of one sort or another. This is a higher percentage than among the populace at large. Perhaps this is to be expected since astronomers do, after all, watch the skies."

Hynek said that when he told these astronomers that there were some cases that were highly interesting and in which there was no easy solution, their interest was "almost immediately aroused."

This, of course, goes back to the original comment that amateur astronomers don't see flying saucers and if they don't, then there simply can't be anything to them. But here we're talking about the professionals, who confided in Hynek because he was a colleague. Hynek, because of his position with Project Blue Book had some inside knowledge about UFOs and he was taking the whole thing seriously.

Hynek, in his report added another comment that explains part of this perception that astronomers don't see UFOs. Hynek noted, "And certainly another contributing factor to their desire not to talk about these things is their overwhelming fear of publicity. One headline in the nation's papers to the effect that 'Astronomer Sees Flying Saucer' would be enough to brand the astronomer as questionable among his colleagues."

So now we learn that astronomers do see UFOs and they do not report them for fear of professional ridicule. I heard one professional astronomer, in the 1970s, when asked what he thought of Hynek's work reply, "Allen always wanted to discover a new constellation."

What that tells us is that Hynek's interviews of two decades earlier were still true in the 1970s, and we know that it is true today. We still have the professional scientists making pronouncements on the topic without benefit of personal knowledge. They are all too willing to dismiss the topic without bothering to learn the facts because, to do so, they would have to wade through oceans of ill-informed skeptical comment, such as Menzel's dismissal of Tombaugh's sighting.

But let's ask one other question. When does anecdotal testimony become scientific observation? When does the training of the person making those observations suggest some sort of expertise? Does a pilot, military or commercial, with tens of thousands of

hours in the cockpit, who is familiar with what is in the sky, make anecdotal statements or refined scientific commentary?

What about the use of instrumentation? Charles Moore (seen here), the man who claims to have launched the balloon array that explains the Roswell UFO crash has his own, unexplained UFO sighting. On April 24, 1949 Moore and four Navy technicians in New Mexico were tracking a weather balloon using a theodolite that consisted of a 25-power telescope equipped to provide readings on vertical and horizontal bearings. Given his observations as it passed in front of a mountain range, he estimated the UFO was traveling at 18,000 mph, before it disappeared in a sharp climb.

Here was a man who was familiar with the sky, who watched the object through a theodolite so that he could make educated estimates of the object's ability, and who reported this to Project Blue Book. The sighting is labeled as "unidentified."

Menzel, of course, knew that this couldn't be anything extraordinary. According to him he could identify the object. In a conversation with Moore, Menzel said that it was no object at all but a mirage, an atmospheric reflection of the true balloon, making it appear as if there were two objects in the sky instead of one. He was so sure of this that he told Moore about the solution.

Moore, however, describes himself as an atmospheric physicist and considers himself as qualified as Menzel to discuss the dynamics of the atmosphere. And, according to Moore in an interview I conducted on El Paso radio station KTSM, the weather conditions were not right for the creation of mirages that day. Since Moore was on the scene, and since his training qualified him to make judgements about the conditions of the atmosphere, his conclusions are more important than Menzel's wild speculations.

Moore is no fan of the extraterrestrial, as evidenced by some of his statements about the Roswell case and UFOs to various writers, including me. But, his sighting stands as one that should be counted as a scientific observation rather than as mere anecdotal testimony.

I could go on, but what's the point. I have refuted the original idea that astronomers do not see UFOs. I have provided the documentation for this claim, and for those interested in Moore's sighting, it is housed in the Project Blue Book files. Only the names have been removed, but we can, in most cases, put those names back in. In my Project Blue Book - Exposed, I have a listing of all the Blue Book unidentified cases.

So, now that we know that astronomers do see UFOs and some even report them, where do we go? These scientists are familiar with the sky, they understand what is in the sky, but sometimes they see things that are extraordinary and that do not fit into the nice little categories we have created for them. Sometimes, you could say, they see flying saucers.

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 5](#)

## Re: Should UFO Abduction Be Classified

From: Katharina Wilson <[K.Wilson.nul](mailto:K.Wilson.nul)>  
Date: Thu, 04 Dec 2008 16:48:55 -0600  
Archived: Fri, 05 Dec 2008 07:56:39 -0500  
Subject: Re: Should UFO Abduction Be Classified

>From: John Rimmer <[j.rimmer.nul](mailto:j.rimmer.nul)>  
>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>Date: Wed, 03 Dec 2008 18:19:48 +0000  
>Subject: Re: Should UFO Abduction Be Classified Debilitating?

>>From: Katharina Wilson <[K.Wilson.nul](mailto:K.Wilson.nul)>  
>>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>>Date: Tue, 02 Dec 2008 17:29:11 -0600  
>>Subject: Re: Should UFO Abduction Be Classified Debilitating?

>>We both know there are thousands, if not millions of abductees  
>>suffering in silence.

>I'm sorry, but this is nonsense. I certainly believe there is an  
>'abduction experience' (I wrote a book about it) but whatever  
>causes it (aliens, psychological factors, CIA, boggarts, etc.,  
>etc., etc.) how can anybody say there are 'millions' of  
>abductees. Such a claim makes the whole idea of an abduction  
>experience totally meaningless.

We'll ignore the 1992 Roper Poll results (Unusual Personal  
Experiences) since so many people enjoy debunking them...

I do have a question however:

How does the "idea of an abduction experience" become "totally  
meaningless" as the possible number of abductees worldwide  
increases?

From your book cover:

<http://www.gdprice.com/books/03761.htm>

"The Idea of an 'alien abduction' - the kidnapping of a human  
being by non-human entities - is the very stuff of science  
fiction, and yet reports of such abductions are on the increase  
and now constitute a significant area of study for investigators  
of the paranormal."

Another interesting tidbit:

[http://www.grey lodge.org/occultreview/glor\\_006/lamstatement.htm](http://www.grey lodge.org/occultreview/glor_006/lamstatement.htm)

"Rimmer adds that "the UFO abduction as a distinct phenomenon  
exists as a result of the process of hypnotic regression." And  
again: "...to a very great extent the evidence for alien  
abductions stands or falls on the reliability of memories  
recalled through regression, and the techniques of hypnosis  
themselves."

Katharina Wilson

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# UFO Updates

A mailing list for the study of UFO-related phenomena  
'Its All Here In Black & White'

Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 5](#)

## Re: Spread The Word!

From: Stanton T Friedman <[fsphys.nul](mailto:fsphys.nul)>  
Date: Thu, 4 Dec 2008 18:57:20 -0400  
Archived: Fri, 05 Dec 2008 07:57:18 -0500  
Subject: Re: Spread The Word!

>From: Don Ledger <[dledger.nul](mailto:dledger.nul)>  
>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>Date: Wed, 03 Dec 2008 14:29:48 -0400  
>Subject: Re: Spread The Word!

>>From: Stanton T Friedman <[fsphys.nul](mailto:fsphys.nul)>  
>>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>>Date: Wed, 3 Dec 2008 11:27:20 -0400  
>>Subject: Re: Spread The Word!

>>>From: Steven Kaeser <[steve.nul](mailto:steve.nul)>  
>>>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>>>Date: Wed, 3 Dec 2008 07:13:01 -0500  
>>>Subject: Re: Spread The Word!

<snip>

>>Sorry, but my only assumption is that they care about  
>>themselves, not us. Self preservation.

>>I also assume they have learned how to get along with their  
>>technologically powerful neighbors otherwise they would have  
>>been destroyed. So they have to have some sociology not just  
>>technology.

>>I list a bunch of speculative reasons for coming here in Flying  
>>Saucers And Science.

<snip>

>Could be that this possible intelligence related to the UFO  
>phenomenon are studying just this sick and lovable quirkiness of  
>ours. There is certainly enough to study here on Earth. But then  
>that could be said of any emerging, sustaining or ancient  
>civilization in the Cosmos.

>Maybe we are just the latest curiosity.

I would suggest that during any 100 year period there are very few planets in the local neighborhood at our particular stage of development between being stuck on our own planet and being able to bother others.. mainly because it took us so little time to go from being earthbound, to flying, to space travel;From the discovery of the electron to the first nuclear explosion Therefore, I would expect them to be concerned about us. Most would be either way ahead of us or well behind.

Surely there is a difference between those able to visit nearby solar systems and those stuck at home.

Stan Friedman

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 5](#)

## Re: Spread The Word!

From: Stanton T Friedman <[fsphys.nul](mailto:fsphys.nul)>  
Date: Thu, 4 Dec 2008 19:42:37 -0400  
Archived: Fri, 05 Dec 2008 08:05:00 -0500  
Subject: Re: Spread The Word!

>From: Gildas Bourdais <[bourdais.gildas.nul](mailto:bourdais.gildas.nul)>  
>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>Date: Thu, 4 Dec 2008 10:43:49 +0100  
>Subject: Re: Spread The Word!

>>From: Stanton T Friedman <[fsphys.nul](mailto:fsphys.nul)>  
>>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>>Date: Wed, 3 Dec 2008 11:27:20 -0400  
>>Subject: Re: Spread The Word!

>>>From: Steven Kaeser <[steve.nul](mailto:steve.nul)>  
>>>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>>>Date: Wed, 3 Dec 2008 07:13:01 -0500  
>>>Subject: Re: Spread The Word!

<snip>

>>Sorry, but my only assumption is that they care about  
>>themselves, not us. Self preservation.

>>I also assume they have learned how to get along with their  
>>technologically powerful neighbors otherwise they would have  
>>been destroyed. So they have to have some sociology not just  
>>technology.

>>I list a bunch of speculative reasons for coming here in Flying  
>>Saucers And Science.

>Stan and Steve,

>I am going to read, with interest, your list of speculative  
>reasons. Perhaps you have mentioned this, but there is an aspect  
>of the question which seems important: the possibility that we  
>have been, and still are, visited by several different  
>civilizations, which may have different agendas.

>When we talk of alien visitors, the first question should be:  
>which ones?

>Perhaps some are just passing, but some others may know us for  
>a very long time. Who knows? Some may even be in conflict.

>Seen that way, the game becomes much more complex.

You are right. An analogous situation may be that of the Meso  
Americans being visited by "aliens" from across the ocean in the  
couple of hundred years after 1492. People speaking different  
languages and with different objectives.. conversion, theft,  
curiosity, etc etc.

My paper "The UFO Why Questions" at my website at:

<http://www.stantonfriedman.com>

lists about 17 reasons. Certainly not all inclusive.

Stan Friedman

Re: Spread The Word!

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 5](#)

## Re: UFO Hunters Roswell Episode

From: Stanton T Friedman <[fsphys.nul](mailto:fsphys.nul)>  
Date: Thu, 4 Dec 2008 20:17:36 -0400  
Archived: Fri, 05 Dec 2008 08:08:38 -0500  
Subject: Re: UFO Hunters Roswell Episode

>From: Viltor Golubik <[Diverge247.nul](mailto:Diverge247.nul)>  
>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>Date: Thu, 4 Dec 2008 11:49:58 EST  
>Subject: Re: UFO Hunters Roswell Episode

>>From: Stanton T Friedman <[fsphys.nul](mailto:fsphys.nul)>  
>>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>>Date: Wed, 3 Dec 2008 20:52:57 -0400  
>>Subject: Re: UFO Hunters Roswell Episode

>>>From: Victor Golubik <[Diverge247.nul](mailto:Diverge247.nul)>  
>>>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>>>Date: Wed, 3 Dec 2008 10:12:39 EST  
>>>Subject: Re: UFO Hunters Roswell Episode

<snip>

>>>When will a proper interview of Stanton Friedman, concerning  
>>>Roswell, ever take place?

>>Gee, Victor, I wonder how you know that tapes exist of my first  
>>conversations with Jesse Marcel?

>>I know no such thing. I called him from the Baton Rouge airport  
>>after speaking at LSU the night before and while on my way to  
>>another engagement and did not have a tape recorder with me and  
>>had no idea I would be talking about Roswell 30 years later.

>>He is on film in my UFOs ARE Real of which some is in Flying  
>>Saucers ARE Real and some is in Recollections Of Roswell.

>>Please provide evidence for your charges... or stop making them.

>Geez Stan...

>I see you how you recharacterize my statements. Nothing new,  
>apparently?

>I didn't say your first but "first interviews." A collective  
>reference.

>And, it is very early (May, 1979). But, anyone seriously engaged  
>in UFO research, traveling around the country, poised to meet  
>individuals at lectures, should have a tape recorder handy -  
>especially when it involves your greatest passion and when the  
>need for demonstrable proof is most prescient. You do have the  
>capability to play audio at lectures, right Stan? And, most tape  
>players that I know of are recorders too.

>The document I'm referring to was provided by you to CUFOS at an  
>important Roswell pow wow - where Berliner indicated you were  
>holding back some evidence (someone may want to ask Berliner  
>what he meant by that). Obviously, if you provided it, it was  
>important to do so. I'm sure you make reference to this  
>incomplete transcript (audio tape) in your many publications?

>It not only shows fast forward markers from a much longer  
>taping (that an audio recording does exist), but also excludes  
>some of Marcel's testimony from the "Roswell Incident" where he

>qualifies some of his terminology, such as what he means by  
>"bend" or when he says he was actually holding the metal debris  
  
>Do you then deny that Marcel said he was holding the "actual"  
>Roswell debris in that photo? And, why would a thorough  
>researcher chose one statement of Marcel's over another? Are you  
>now deciding for him at this point?

>Someone at CUFOS forwarded these to me and are publicly  
>available for viewing. And, since Stanton asked me, here they  
>are.

>The images of this three page document to which I referred

><http://tinyurl.com/64v4vb>

><http://tinyurl.com/5ppvbm>

><http://tinyurl.com/6a4zsl>

>Linda G. Corley (Ph.D.) in her book, For The Sake Of My Country,  
>actually trumped you Stan at your greatest passion and  
>acknowledged her recordings with Marcel in May, 1981. They are  
>interesting to read or listen to. I suggest everyone get a copy;  
>Certainly, the most important (relevant) book about Roswell  
>after the publication of the Roswell Incident (1980) or  
>Roswell in Perspective by Karl T.Pflock.

Victor,

Your pettiness is showing through.

The pages you provided are transcripts made by 'Group One'  
people from sound recordings made by our film crew - not me -  
when we interviewed Jesse Marcel in Houma in 1979 for UFOs Are  
Real.

I mentioned that movie in my responses.

Obviously I had spoken with Jesse before that.

They are the property of Group One. I didn't record the material  
nor transcribe it, nor does it belong to me. I do have available  
a DVD version of UFOs ARE Real as listed on my website. It is 93  
minutes long and costs only \$20. including postage from me at  
POB 958, Houlton, ME 04730-0958.

Has lots of other goodies including interviews with Dr.Bruce  
Maccabee, Dr. Richard Haines, Dr. James Harder, Dr. Mitchell from  
OSU, Betty Hill, Marjorie Fish, Travis Walton, Mike Rogers, etc.

Enjoy.

Stan Friedman

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 5](#)

## Re: Strange Aerial Object Over Irving Texas

From: Brad Sparks <[RB47x.nul](mailto:RB47x.nul)>  
Date: Thu, 4 Dec 2008 19:25:54 EST  
Archived: Fri, 05 Dec 2008 09:10:00 -0500  
Subject: Re: Strange Aerial Object Over Irving Texas

>From: Nick Balaskas <[Nikolaos.nul](mailto:Nikolaos.nul)>  
>To: UFO UpDates - Toronto <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>Date: Wed, 3 Dec 2008 10:53:02 -0500 (Eastern Standard Time)  
>Subject: Re: Strange Aerial Object Over Irving Texas

<snip>

>Out of curiosity, since the start of the 21st century, do we  
>have any solid photographic evidence for UFOs - objects that  
>cannot be explained after thorough investigation and analysis  
>and not because of insufficient data? I wonder if there is a  
>consensus among ufologists over these pictures or videos -  
>images that we consider to be physical proof for UFOs that we  
>can present to the public and the media with full confidence?

<snip>

"Proof" for "the public and the media" is a political  
argument, not a scientific argument. We need scientific evidence  
in order to distinguish UFO from IFO. Photos so not speak for  
themselves and contain no useful scientific data without date,  
time, location, and direction which only witnesses can provide,  
which makes UFO photos only as good as the witnesses.

In order to provide enough detail to weed out IFOs, the object  
or light in a photo must be at least a Full Moon (1/2 degree) in  
angular size, as a rough rule of thumb.

But a UFO must be very close to a witness to be that large,  
large enough to tell it's not an IFO. For typical average UFO's  
of about 30 feet (10 meters) in size, the distance must be less  
than about a 1/2 mile or 1 kilometer to get at least a Full Moon  
angular size and enough detail for scientific analysis. This is  
close to Close Encounter distance (roughly 500 meters).

Essentially, one cannot get enough detail in a UFO photo unless  
it is taken in a Close Encounter. Most Daylight Discs and  
Nocturnal Lights are too far away. Since there are very few  
Close Encounters and even fewer Close Encounter UFO photographs,  
this explains why we have so few "good" UFO photo cases. Most  
are Insufficient Data.

Digital cameras and videos usually have less resolution than  
film cameras, so they do not help.

Hynek warned against trusting single-witness UFO cases, except  
in exceptional and fully justified instances. A single-witness  
UFO photo case is shaky at best. Since most "UFO" photos are  
taken by single witnesses, they are automatically suspect.

A good example of a Daylight Disc multiply photographed by or in  
the presence of multiple witnesses is the Trent case from  
McMinnville, Oregon, in 1950. This case has been subjected to 40  
years of exhaustive scientific investigation beginning with the  
Colorado Project in 1967. Bruce Maccabee and I have carried out  
extensive studies in the decades since.

Skeptic astronomer William K. Hartmann in the Condon Report  
concluded that the McMinnville case was one of the few cases



that meet all the scientific criteria for a genuine "metallic" UFO "tens of meters in diameter."

Hartmann (CR Bantam ed. p. 407):

"This is one of the few UFO reports in which all factors investigated, geometric, psychological and physical appear to be consistent with the assertion that an extraordinary flying object, silvery, metallic, disk-shaped, tens of meters in diameter, and evidently artificial, flew within sight of two witnesses. It cannot be said that the evidence positively rules out a fabrication, although there are some physical factors such of the accuracy of certain photometric measures of the original negatives which argue against a fabrication."

The witnesses estimated the distance to the UFO as about 1/4 mile so it just fits within the 1/2-mile distance rule of thumb. The camera data show that the UFO image was about 1.46 and 1.67 degrees in diameter the two photos, or about 3 times the Full Moon (and in agreement with witness data), which again meets the minimum criterion of at least Full Moon angular size. At the estimated distance this makes the UFO about 30 feet or more in size, in good agreement with witness estimates of about 24-28 feet in size.

An exception must be made for the cinetheodolite triangulation case at Holloman AFB White Sands missile range in 1950, where the use of a precision Askania missile-tracking photographic instrument as well as multiple witnesses and triangulation from a separate theodolite put this in an entirely different class of case. Obviously there is no possibility of hoax, the film was taken in the course of a military test project in front of numerous witnesses.

My current summary of the case from my Blue Book Unknowns catalog states:

April 27, 1950. Holloman AFB, Alamogordo, New Mexico. While preparing for an MX-776A Shrike air-to-ground missile test Charles Riggs and other members of USAF contractor Land-Air, Inc., Askania theodolite crews saw, tracked, filmed 4 high flying objects on a cinetheodolite at station P-10 and a theodolite at station M-7. Triangulation resulted in 30 ft size and 150,000 ft altitude for the "high speed" objects located between Holloman AFB and Tularosa Peak. Angular size 1/50 (0.25=B0 equivalent in theodolite)

Brad Sparks

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 5](#)

## Re: Strange Aerial Object Over Irving Texas

From: **Franklin Fields, Esq.** <[fields.nul](mailto:fields.nul)>  
Date: Thu, 4 Dec 2008 21:57:07 -0500 (EST)  
Archived: Fri, 05 Dec 2008 09:11:00 -0500  
Subject: Re: Strange Aerial Object Over Irving Texas

>From: Martin Shough <[parcellular.nul](mailto:parcellular.nul)>  
>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>Date: Thu, 4 Dec 2008 17:09:55 -0000  
>Subject: Re: Strange Aerial Object Over Irving Texas

>>From: Franklin Field <[fields.nul](mailto:fields.nul)>  
>>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>>Date: Wed, 3 Dec 2008 13:59:56 -0500 (EST)  
>>Subject: Re: Strange Aerial Object Over Irving Texas

>>>From: Nick Balaskas <[Nikolaos.nul](mailto:Nikolaos.nul)>  
>>>To: UFO UpDates - Toronto <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>>>Date: Wed, 3 Dec 2008 10:53:02 -0500 (Eastern Standard Time)  
>>>Subject: Re: Strange Aerial Object Over Irving Texas

>><snip>

>>>Out of curiosity, since the start of the 21st century, do we  
>>>have any solid photographic evidence for UFOs - objects that  
>>>cannot be explained after thorough investigation and analysis  
>>>and not because of insufficient data? I wonder if there is a  
>>>consensus among ufologists over these pictures or videos -  
>>>images that we consider to be physical proof for UFOs that we  
>>>can present to the public and the media with full confidence?

>><snip>

>>Why do they need to be from the 21st century? We have had the  
>>proof for decades. Just off the top of my head I remember a few  
>>photos that J. Allen Hynek presented in his book The UFO  
>>Experience: A Scientific Enquiry (1972).

>>The photos were taken of a flying saucer during daylight hours.  
>>There were many witnesses including two police officers. The  
>>negatives and the camera were studied extensively. The guy that  
>>took the photos was investigated and even gave a sworn  
>>statement under oath.

>>Further "proof" is not required. There is certainly enough proof  
>>that our government and scientists should be looking for more  
>>data. The fact that they are not openly doing so says a lot.

>Frank

>Can you identify this case? The photo section in my copy of  
>Hynek's book (Abelard-Schuman 1972, facing p.52) contains no  
>photograph relating to it. The nearest I can find is the July  
>1967, Calgary, Alberta case, a pair of "daylight disc" photos,  
>but there were not "many" witnesses, only three, one a teenaged  
>boy, and although two of them did sign sworn affidavits they  
>were not police officers, they were amateur prospectors (there  
>are no police officers among the 60 "daylight disc" witnesses  
>listed by Hynek).

Martin,

I did say my post was off the top of my head. However, I hunted  
down the book and the photos are in the photo section following

p. 52. I was referring to photos number 4 and 5. The photos were captured by Mr. Warren Smith and were taken 10 to 15 minutes apart. Hynek said he personally investigated the original negatives and the camera. You are correct about the police officers they were witnesses to the "MIT" case covered from p. 45 to p. 51. Thank you, I stand corrected. The memory error does not change my opinion of the photos.

Hynek said that the "the results of the test leave no doubt that real images exist on the color photographs =85 to mount a hoax=85would have required monumental motivation=85" He further stated that he flew over the area and verified that it would have been very difficult to perpetrate a hoax since the terrain was rough and hilly brush country.

The fact that Smith's affidavits were made under the stringent provisions of the Canada Evidence Act further supports the case. There were two credible adults and a teenage boy that gained nothing from providing the photos.

Hynek also said he could find nothing to discredit the photos and that the probability the photos were genuine was "very high".

>If you are nevertheless advocating this case as "proof", then I  
>have to point out that Hynek himself disagreed with you,  
>specifically saying of this case that it was "\_not\_ shown as  
>photographic proof" but only as an illustration. Moreover he said  
>of all the photos in the book that "they have no final probative  
>value", and of UFO photographs in general that whilst he would be  
>prepared to regard 25 "high probability" cases meeting a list of  
>stringent conditions as amounting to proof for practical  
>purposes, he did not know of 25 such cases and knew only of  
>"several" cases that "nearly" met those conditions.

Yes, I am strongly advocating that this case is proof. To be more precise the proof that could be legally presented at trial (allowed by a judge) which is intended to convince the jury of alleged facts material to the case. In this instance the proof relevant to convince the public of the case for UFOs.

Other proof of this nature can include oral testimony of witnesses, including experts on technical matters, documents, public records (from FOIA), objects, photographs and depositions. It also includes so-called "circumstantial evidence" which is intended to create belief by showing surrounding circumstances, which logically lead to a conclusion of fact.

Rarely in any case will there be a "smoking gun". Most criminals are found guilty with pieces of information that individually would not convict them but when looked at with all the other bits of proof is sufficient. Mr. Smith's testimony is very powerful without the photos. But given the photos it becomes almost a "smoking gun".

Consider the following simple example to see how powerful witness testimony can be and how it effects the outcome of a case. In a case with no exhibits or any other evidence, three people testify they saw the defendant shoot the victim. That would be an open and shut case. The defense could offer other evidence to refute the testimony but in the absence of a rebuttal the defendant, in this example, would be found guilty and executed (in the U.S.).

If those same three people stand up and say they saw a UFO and then provide photos to support their claim what is the response?

One would need to read Hynek's whole book to get his full meaning. But I will say that he did put the photos forward as proof. Granted not as conclusive proof individually but proof in the sense that when looked at as a whole would have probative value.

His standards were very stringent, even more restrictive than the U.S. Federal Rules of Evidence would require. He was applying a scientific standard that would meet the unreasonable requirements of his peers. Those same scientists that often refuse to even look at the evidence.

>Your last paragraph appears to pull back a little from the claim

>that we do have the "physical proof... that we can present with  
>full confidence", since you then say "there is certainly enough  
>proof that scientists should be looking for more data". Would  
>this not better be characterised as a claim that prima facie  
>evidence gives probable cause to search for physical proof?

I would not say that I pulled back. The evidence that I have examined brings me to the point where I can say that I am convinced "beyond a reasonable doubt". The photos we discussed are part of that evidence. For those that are not convinced there is sufficient evidence or probable cause to look further.

My understanding of prima facie is that the case is "on its face" sufficient meaning that the evidence before trial is sufficient to prove the case unless there is substantial contradictory evidence.

Anyway, given the possible worst case scenarios, it is foolish for our scientists and governments not to search further because there is enough proof even for the village idiot to have reason to inquire further.

Yours,

Frank

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 5](#)

## Re: COMETA Report On UFOs Results?

From: **Franklin Fields** <[fields.nul](mailto:fields.nul)>  
Date: Thu, 4 Dec 2008 23:04:12 -0500 (EST)  
Archived: Fri, 05 Dec 2008 09:12:00 -0500  
Subject: Re: COMETA Report On UFOs Results?

>From: Steven Kaeser <[steve.nul](mailto:steve.nul)>  
>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>Date: Thu, 4 Dec 2008 11:16:38 -0500  
>Subject: Re: COMETA Report On UFOs Results?

>>From: Franklin Fields <[fields.nul](mailto:fields.nul)>  
>>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>>Date: Wed, 3 Dec 2008 21:01:06 -0500 (EST)  
>>Subject: COMETA Report On UFOs Results?

>>Does anyone know what became of the French COMETA Report? Have  
>>any of its recommendations been completed?

><snip>

>Hi Franklin,

>The COMETA report was simply never translated into English for  
>publication in the US, but a privately funded translation was  
>contracted by the Fund for UFO Research (or perhaps the UFO  
>Research Coalition, I can't recall) for US researchers and a  
>select list of recipients that were identified as a target  
>audience.

>That original magazine publication has pictures that weren't  
>included with the translation and while there was talk of trying  
>to find a US publisher, the Report really wasn't long enough to  
>justify a separate publication and the French owners of the  
>material never came to terms. Since the Fund was involved in the  
>translation and negotiating with the authors, I am surprised  
>that we didn't have the report submitted to French officials to  
>work with. The translation was from the magazine article.

>In our negotiations and discussions there was also no talk of  
>any pending reaction from the French government, or actions that  
>were anticipated. I will also mention that there are copies of  
>the English translation available, but I'm not aware of any  
>authorized distribution.

Thanks for the response Steve. I have a copy of the English  
translation and you are correct pictures were not included.

My interpretation of the report is that the people who put it  
together were stressing that actions should be taken.

Given that the group was influential and provided the  
information to the highest levels of the French government, one  
would think something would have been done.

Maybe Gildas Bourdais can shed some light?

Regards,

Frank

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# UFO Updates

A mailing list for the study of UFO-related phenomena  
'Its All Here In Black & White'

Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 5](#)

## Re: UFO Hunters Roswell Episode

From: Gildas Bourdais <[bourdais.gildas.nul](mailto:bourdais.gildas.nul)>  
Date: Fri, 5 Dec 2008 11:04:14 +0100  
Archived: Fri, 05 Dec 2008 10:15:00 -0500  
Subject: Re: UFO Hunters Roswell Episode

>From: Viltor Golubik <[Diverge247.nul](mailto:Diverge247.nul)>  
>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>Date: Thu, 4 Dec 2008 11:49:58 EST  
>Subject: Re: UFO Hunters Roswell Episode

>>From: Stanton T Friedman <[fsphys.nul](mailto:fsphys.nul)>  
>>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>>Date: Wed, 3 Dec 2008 20:52:57 -0400  
>>Subject: Re: UFO Hunters Roswell Episode

>>>From: Victor Golubik <[Diverge247.nul](mailto:Diverge247.nul)>  
>>>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>>>Date: Wed, 3 Dec 2008 10:12:39 EST  
>>>Subject: Re: UFO Hunters Roswell Episode

>>>>From: Stanton T Friedman <[fsphys.nul](mailto:fsphys.nul)>  
>>>>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>>>>Date: Tue, 2 Dec 2008 17:18:15 -0400  
>>>>Subject: UFO Hunters Roswell Episode

><snip>

>>>When will a proper interview of Stanton Friedman, concerning  
>>>Roswell, ever take place?

>>Gee, Victor, I wonder how you know that tapes exist of my first  
>>conversations with Jesse Marcel?

>>I know no such thing. I called him from the Baton Rouge airport  
>>after speaking at LSU the night before and while on my way to  
>>another engagement and did not have a tape recorder with me and  
>>had no idea I would be talking about Roswell 30 years later.

>>He is on film in my UFOs ARE Real of which some is in Flying  
>>Saucers ARE Real and some is in Recollections Of Roswell.

>>Please provide evidence for your charges... or stop making them.

>Geez Stan...

>I see you how you recharacterize my statements. Nothing new,  
>apparently?

<snip>

>Linda G. Corley (Ph.D.) in her book, "For The Sake of My  
>Country", actually trumped you Stan at your greatest passion and  
>acknowledged her recordings with Marcel in May, 1981. They are  
>interesting to read or listen to. I suggest everyone get a copy;  
>Certainly, the most important (relevant) book about Roswell  
>after the publication of the "Roswell Incident (1980)" or  
>"Roswell in Perspective" by Karl T.Pflock.

Viktor,

I have that book of Linda Corley. Yes, it's important, but there  
are many others. Recent books. Like the ones of Dr Marcel Jr, of  
Kevin Randle, of Tom Carey and Donald Schmitt, last year. Lots  
of new and interesting information in them, Viktor!

BTW, I heard that you may have some valuable information, not released yet, about Roswell. Like on a doctor of the base. But I don't remember who told me.

When are you going to share that with us, Viktor ?

Gildas Bourdais

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 5](#)

## Re: COMETA Report On UFOs Results?

From: **Gildas Bourdais** <[bourdais.gildas.nul](mailto:bourdais.gildas.nul)>  
Date: Fri, 5 Dec 2008 10:42:25 +0100  
Archived: Fri, 05 Dec 2008 10:16:00 -0500  
Subject: Re: COMETA Report On UFOs Results?

>From: Steven Kaeser <[steve.nul](mailto:steve.nul)>  
>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>Date: Thu, 4 Dec 2008 11:16:38 -0500  
>Subject: Re: COMETA Report On UFOs Results?

>>From: Franklin Fields <[fields.nul](mailto:fields.nul)>  
>>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>>Date: Wed, 3 Dec 2008 21:01:06 -0500 (EST)  
>>Subject: COMETA Report On UFOs Results?

>>Does anyone know what became of the French COMETA Report? Have  
>>any of its recommendations been completed?

><snip>

>Hi Franklin,

>The COMETA report was simply never translated into English for  
>publication in the US, but a privately funded translation was  
>contracted by the Fund for UFO Research (or perhaps the UFO  
>Research Coalition, I can't recall) for US researchers and a  
>select list of recipients that were identified as a target  
>audience.

>That original magazine publication has pictures that weren't  
>included with the translation and while there was talk of trying  
>to find a US publisher, the Report really wasn't long enough to  
>justify a separate publication and the French owners of the  
>material never came to terms. Since the Fund was involved in the  
>translation and negotiating with the authors, I am surprised  
>that we didn't have the report submitted to French officials to  
>work with. The translation was from the magazine article.

It was not an article. It was a full special issue of the  
magazine, 90 pages in large format. It has been published again  
in 2003, in book form, with 222 pages of text plus 12 pages of  
pictures, by Editions du Rocher. It is also available in  
paperback, published by Editions J'Ai Lu.

I have been told that it has, indeed, drawn attention, but  
rather discreetly, in the French air force and in the aerospace  
industry. In my opinion, it has been probably influential in the  
decision to reopen the French study group, GEIPAN, in 2005. In  
fact, they have put the Cometa Report on their web site, in  
spite of protestations by French skeptics!

Gildas Bourdais

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 5](#)

## The Extraordinary Witness

From: **UFO UpDates - Toronto** <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
Date: Fri, 05 Dec 2008 10:17:00 -0500  
Archived: Fri, 05 Dec 2008 10:17:00 -0500  
Subject: The Extraordinary Witness

Source: Robert Barrow's Not Your Grandfather's UFO Blog

<http://robert-barrow.blogspot.com/2008/12/extraordinary-witness.html>

Monday, December 1, 2008

The Extraordinary Witness  
Robert Barrow

Second thoughts. We all have them. First impressions can be invaluable, but those gnawing doubts after the fact, well...

As recently as last week, I suggested that learning more about UFOs might conceivably provide us with a monumental insight into numerous areas of science. Truly, I do believe that. However, despite myself I could be wrong. Seriously wrong, deadly in error. What if? What if the new Congress did hold more hearings about the UFO issue? What if the old Congress had conducted multiple hearings in secrecy about the enigma?

And what if a careful examination of the facts forced leaders on the Hill to realize that, yes, the UFO phenomenon is real, there's intelligence involved and...and...no matter how frightening the implications, there's not a darned thing this or any other country can do about it? Would Congress or the military ever admit that "somebody" enters and leaves our existence at will, doing whatever it or they want? As we've painfully learned in recent weeks, we're often in no position to know what's on the minds in Congress, but I think anybody even casually familiar with UFO history realizes that, uh huh, UFOs actually do seem to come and go with prejudice.

Perhaps Congress could get away with publicly interviewing a few people who claim close encounters or even car trouble in the presence of strange lights swooping out of the sky. Congressional committee members could routinely say thank you for your testimony and have a nice day and we'll look into this, blah, blah, blah.

Yet - there's another potential for Congress to deal with, something to make them sit up and listen and to be concerned about and maybe a little more than afraid: The extraordinary witness. The extraordinary witnesses.

First off, I don't know her, but shouldn't a Pulitzer be awarded to Natalie Chambers? After all, it was she who wrote an article for the Associated Press back in October of 2001 about one new witness - and apparently more - who quite possibly watched the descent and landing of the actual UFO involved in the alleged abduction and examination of fishermen Charles Hickson and Calvin Parker on the shores of the Pascagoula River in 1973. Frankly, I've encountered my share of news reporters over the years whose editors won't - yes, won't - let them mention UFOs for a variety of reasons (generally because of ignorance, not conspiracies), so this time around I was stunned.

Chambers' report is not new to this writer, for I've mentioned it on previous occasions. But I find this an opportune time for rehash because, yes, a new Congress will soon take its place in Washington, and, by George, Chambers' article might be just the place to start as we strive for a new UFO investigation. Make no mistake: At some level(s) the U.S. government couldn't possibly NOT be concerned about ufological intrusions into our lives - and, that said, now we need to get Congress into the arena in order to get the public and scientific community involved. This is monumental stuff, and we want the truth.

When I joined the membership of the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena - NICAP - in 1964, the organization remained hot on the trail of every reliable UFO report it encountered, perfectly content that UFOs were probably vehicles from outer space under intelligent control in our atmosphere. However, in those early years there was absolutely no room for credible thought in those instances when witnesses reported somebody inside the things making an exit. UFOs, yes, maybe remotely controlled. But alien entities? Well, let's see the evidence for that...NICAP never denied the possibility, but the proof was essential.

That all changed, however, once the Barney and Betty Hill story went credibly public and Marjorie Fish unveiled the "Hill star map," showing, apparently with an uncomfortable degree of precision, where the Hill UFO occupants may have originated from- based upon a star map Betty Hill recalled seeing, while under hypnosis later on. At last, the time had come when NICAP was forced to reconsider the occupant reports, and years later when an alarming artist's depiction of the 1961 Hill UFO "aliens" received top billing in the pages of NICAP's journal, The UFO Investigator, jaws dropped and history was made.

When impressive UFO activity began appearing in waves during the mid-sixties and into the early seventies, UFO occupant reports joined the mix. The integrity of some reports could easily be dismissed, but nobody was prepared for the Pascagoula, Mississippi incident of October 11, 1973. Barney and Betty Hill's 1961 UFO experience didn't surface publicly for years because of a "missing time" aspect which only materialized after extensive hypnotic recall administered by psychiatrist Dr. Benjamin Simon. However, within hours after Hickson and Parker's alleged abduction the two were brought to the local sheriff's office, where, gripped by fear and apprehension, they told their story of a strange object that appeared while they were fishing. Bizarre, almost robot-like entities proceeded to take the men inside, where they were reportedly physically examined before being released.

You can read all about the Pascagoula (otherwise known as the Hickson-Parker) incident at NICAP.org, via the on-site search engine, so there's no need for me to recount the whole affair when others have done so in far more detail. For me, the Pascagoula case was just one more incredible event possibly related to the UFO phenomenon, but years later something happened that impressed me even more - and it was all due to Natalie Chambers' article. It could have been 50 words or 150,000 words, as far as I'm concerned, but if the information is true, it's one of the most important newspaper articles ever written.

Charles Hickson, Calvin Parker, the UFO and its strange occupants were not alone on that October, 1973 evening, Chambers wrote 28 years later. There were witnesses, and not only the witnesses we're already familiar with who claimed to have seen lights in the sky that night. Add to the credibility mix a U.S. Navy chief petty officer, long retired by 2001, and two of his crew mates. Mike Cataldo of Florida not only told his story to Chambers, but openly offered the names of his crew mates, both of whom he had lost track of by then: Ted Peralta and Mack Hanna.

While on active duty, Cataldo and his friends were driving on U.S. 90, on their way to Ocean Springs. Peralta was driving, Hanna sat in front and Cataldo sat in back. Quoting from Chamber's AP article:

"We saw a very strange object in the horizon going from northwest across Highway 90. It was going pretty fast. It went down into a wood area and into the marsh. It hovered over the

treeline, I guess, maybe a minute. We actually pulled off the road and watched it. We said, 'My God, what is that,' Cataldo said."

According to Cataldo, the thing looked like a large tambourine with lights flashing on it, the size of an airliner. They soon had a second sighting before reaching their destination.

The next day, Cataldo made an official report to the executive officer on his submarine and also notified Keesler Air Force Base. Keesler never called back and Cataldo's executive officer and other crew members "thought we were just lunatics, just whacked out."

Hickson and Parker were deeply affected by their experience and, as Charles Hickson told Chambers about his younger fishing companion, "He's not the same man as before. It just ruined him."

Cataldo states he tried years later to locate his two former shipmates, but was unsuccessful.

Well, I know who can find them: Congress. Faced with the enormous implications of the Pascagoula incident - that our airspace and ground space have been invaded at will by a source unknown, a source that abducted and had its way with two U.S. citizens - Congress has every reason to act, to demand the truth. Congress must do now what it failed to do previously: Call Cataldo in for his expert testimony as a former Naval officer, and locate Hanna and Peralta for theirs, each of the three apparently a man of integrity during his affiliation with the U.S. Navy - each, every one, an extraordinary witness.

The fly in the ointment is Congress itself. What can ultimately be said if you bring these men in and they collectively tell a story pointing to our hopelessness in handling the UFO issue? Congress would be far more at ease bringing in witnesses who attest to "The Miracle at Fatima" because they could ascribe that to a religious experience and leave that subject hanging in the air for interpretation by a variety of sources. But the Pascagoula case? It wasn't a miracle and there were no religious overtones. Clearly, it was horrible, spectacular and potentially well-witnessed from the adjoining highway.

And let's not forget the audio tape. When Hickson and Parker were questioned at the sheriff's office just hours after their encounter, a hidden tape recorder caught the men's conversation while the sheriff left them alone for a few minutes. The recording, since released publicly, wasn't in very good shape, but thanks to the technological efforts of researcher Wendy Connors who achieved remarkable clarity over the original audio, the two frightened men are heard to be clearly upset, with Parker almost in a panic. Sheriff Glenn Ryder, who questioned the men that night, even admitted (again quoting from Chambers' article), "Calvin Parker was just hysterical. He was having fits. I took them in a patrol car to the sheriff's office."

Reasons why the UFO issue craves sobriety and congressional exploration are reflected adequately enough by the Pascagoula incident, in my opinion. Can we learn a great deal by unleashing our best scientists on the UFO mystery? I continue to believe so.

In any case, to keep the implications of this profound enigma from the public or to ignore its very existence, as Congress as a whole seems more than willing to do, is just wrong, dangerously wrong. This government must take UFO incidents seriously, and Congress, publicly, must respect and listen intently to the extraordinary witness. There are so many of them out there.

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## UFO Over Cathedral Causes Power Cuts

From: **UFO UpDates - Toronto** <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
Date: Fri, 05 Dec 2008 17:34:15 -0500  
Archived: Fri, 05 Dec 2008 17:34:15 -0500  
Subject: UFO Over Cathedral Causes Power Cuts

Source: All News Web - Sydney, Australia

<http://www.allnewsweb.com/page111166.php>

05-12-2008

UFO Over Cathedral Causes Power Cuts In UK Historic Town

Last Saturday night a slightly luminous grey UFO was reported to police in the historic town of Edmunds St Bury in the United Kingdom. The UFO was seen spinning and hovering over the St Edmundsbury Cathedral by a townsman. Now it has emerged that the UFO was also seen by a staff member of the Cathedral. Sarah Friswell, the Cathedrals visitor officer, noted that the topic of the mysterious craft had come up in a staff meeting and one of the staff members confessed to also witnessing the rather clear UFO of a very 'Classical' appearance.

More interestingly the sighting was accompanied by unusual power cuts, confirmed by the Cathedral administration, that could not be explained by the local electricity provider. Many have claimed that such sightings are in fact pranks by hobbyists involving RC flying models, yet the power cut seems to somewhat disprove this theory as it is unlikely any hobbyist could pull such a feat off.

Also interesting is the historic significance of the town Edmund St Bury. The town is said to be the place where the idea of the Magna Carta was born and hence a birthplace of modern democracy. The town is also the burial place of a number of ancient Saxon Kings and was once regarded as a place of miracles. Overall Edmunds St Bury in the county of Suffolk, just outside London, is regarded as one of the UK's great historic towns.

All this begs the question, are visitors from space interested in our history and going on tours of places of historical significance? After all this is not the first sighting in this area in recent months. The more pessimistic amongst ufologists have a far more worrying theory: The aliens might be documenting our history prior to putting into action a plan that will either end it altogether or change in forever.

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## Re: COMETA Report On UFOs Results?

From: **Steven Kaeser** <[steve.nul](mailto:steve.nul)>  
Date: Fri, 5 Dec 2008 10:21:10 -0500  
Archived: Fri, 05 Dec 2008 17:37:21 -0500  
Subject: Re: COMETA Report On UFOs Results?

>From: Franklin Fields <[fields.nul](mailto:fields.nul)>  
>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>Date: Thu, 4 Dec 2008 23:04:12 -0500 (EST)  
>Subject: Re: COMETA Report On UFOs Results?

>>From: Steven Kaeser <[steve.nul](mailto:steve.nul)>  
>>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>>Date: Thu, 4 Dec 2008 11:16:38 -0500  
>>Subject: Re: COMETA Report On UFOs Results?

>>>From: Franklin Fields <[fields.nul](mailto:fields.nul)>  
>>>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>>>Date: Wed, 3 Dec 2008 21:01:06 -0500 (EST)  
>>>Subject: COMETA Report On UFOs Results?

>>>Does anyone know what became of the French COMETA Report? Have  
>>>any of its recommendations been completed?

<snip>

>Thanks for the response Steve. I have a copy of the English  
>translation and you are correct pictures were not included.

>My interpretation of the report is that the people who put it  
>together were stressing that actions should be taken.

>Given that the group was influential and provided the  
>information to the highest levels of the French government, one  
>would think something would have been done.

Franklin,

I assume you've done a few searches for information, but I'll  
post the following from Wikipedia:

-----

COMETA was a high-level French UFO study organisation from the late 1990s, composed of high-ranking officers and officials, some having held command posts in the armed forces and aerospace industry. The name "COMETA" in English stands for "Committee for in-depth studies." The study was carried out over several years by an independent group of mostly former "auditors" at the Institute of Advanced Studies for National Defence, or IHEDN, a high-level French military think-tank, and by various other experts.

The group was responsible for the 'COMETA Report' (1999) on UFOs and their possible implications for defence in France. The report concluded that about 5% of the UFO cases they studied were utterly inexplicable and the best hypothesis to explain them was the extraterrestrial hypothesis (ETH). The authors also accused the United States government of engaging in a massive cover-up of the evidence.

The 'COMETA Report' was not solicited by the French government, although before its public release, it was first sent to French President Jacques Chirac and to Prime Minister Lionel Jospin. Immediately afterward, a French weekly news and leisure magazine

called VSD referred to it as an "official report", though technically this wasn't the case since COMETA was the work of a private, non-profit, ufological study group. Skeptic Claude Maug=E9 wrote about this: "By letter dated 23 February General Bastien, of the Special Staff of the President of the Republic, wrote: 'To answer your question, this =91report=92 compiled by members of an association organised under the law of 1901 (ruling most non-commercial private associations in France) did not respond to any official request and does not have any special status'." [1].

The report drew largely on the research of GEPAN / SEPRA, a section of the French space agency CNES, unique in being the only official French government-sponsored organisation to investigate UFOs. [2]. The birth of GEPAN / SEPRA in the mid-1970s was in large part due to the intense wave of high strangeness UFO sightings in France in 1954. [3]

An English version of COMETA Report can be found here:

<http://www.ufoevidence.org/topics/Cometa.htm>

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Now Gildas and others on that side of the big pond will be able to shed more light on the report, but while this appears to have been presented (unsolicited) to French Government Officials, and I don't recall any specific calls for action. However, it certainly spoke to the anomalous nature of historical reports and the lack of a solid mundane explanation, which most of us would hope could spark some interest. Unfortunately, war and economic issues seem to take up the time of most world leaders these days.

Steve

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 5](#)

## Re: COMETA Report On UFOs Results?

From: **Maynard Gelinas** <[maynard.nul](mailto:maynard.nul)>  
Date: Fri, 5 Dec 2008 10:32:31 -0500 (EST)  
Archived: Fri, 05 Dec 2008 17:40:28 -0500  
Subject: Re: COMETA Report On UFOs Results?

>From: Gildas Bourdais <[bourdais.gildas.nul](mailto:bourdais.gildas.nul)>  
>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>Date: Fri, 5 Dec 2008 10:42:25 +0100  
>Subject: Re: COMETA Report On UFOs Results?

>It was not an article. It was a full special issue of the  
>magazine, 90 pages in large format. It has been published again  
>in 2003, in book form, with 222 pages of text plus 12 pages of  
>pictures, by Editions du Rocher. It is also available in  
>paperback, published by Editions J'Ai Lu.

I very much want one, especially for the photos. Amazon, of course, does not sell it but will sell me any number of poorly written speculative books that use COMETA as a tag name. I want the actual report.

Any suggestions on how an American can import that paperback English translation edition by J'Ai Lu?

-M

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## Re: Should UFO Abduction Be Classified

From: Greg Sandow <[greg.nul](mailto:greg.nul)>  
Date: Fri, 5 Dec 2008 11:08:56 -0500  
Archived: Fri, 05 Dec 2008 17:44:15 -0500  
Subject: Re: Should UFO Abduction Be Classified

>From: Katharina Wilson <[K\\_Wilson.nul](mailto:K_Wilson.nul)>  
>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>Date: Thu, 04 Dec 2008 16:48:55 -0600  
>Subject: Re: Should UFO Abduction Be Classified Debilitating?

<snip>

>Another interesting tidbit:

>[http://www.greylodge.org/occultreview/glor\\_006/lamstatement.htm](http://www.greylodge.org/occultreview/glor_006/lamstatement.htm)

>"Rimmer adds that "the UFO abduction as a distinct phenomenon  
>exists as a result of the process of hypnotic regression." And  
>again: "...to a very great extent the evidence for alien  
>abductions stands or falls on the reliability of memories  
>recalled through regression, and the techniques of hypnosis  
>themselves."

Not this again! John - if he has any thorough knowledge of  
abductees and the abduction literature - should know that what  
he's saying isn't true.

This point has nothing to do with any debate about what the  
abduction experience really is. But it's a long established fact  
that quite a large number of abductees have abduction memories  
independent of hypnosis, memories that aren't buried, and don't  
have to be recalled by any special means, whether that's  
hypnosis or anything else. Eddie Bullard has documented this in  
very careful studies, to cite only one source.

In the days when I was studying abductions, I met many abductees  
with conscious memories. I hope John Velez comments, because  
he's one of them. He's always been very careful to distinguish  
between what he actually remembers, and what emerged under  
hypnosis (and I remember him being very suspicious of any  
supposed memories that hypnosis brought out). It would be  
possible to make a case for the reality of abductions without  
using hypnotic memories at all.

Greg Sandow

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# UFO Updates

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 5](#)

## Re: Strange Aerial Object Over Irving Texas

From: Carol Maltby <[carolmaltby.nul](mailto:carolmaltby.nul)>  
Date: Fri, 5 Dec 2008 11:57:56 -0500  
Archived: Fri, 05 Dec 2008 18:45:00 -0500  
Subject: Re: Strange Aerial Object Over Irving Texas

>From: Brad Sparks <[RB47x.nul](mailto:RB47x.nul)>  
>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>Date: Thu, 4 Dec 2008 19:25:54 EST  
>Subject: Re: Strange Aerial Object Over Irving Texas

>"Proof" for "the public and the media" is a political  
>argument, not a scientific argument. We need scientific evidence  
>in order to distinguish UFO from IFO. Photos so not speak for  
>themselves and contain no useful scientific data without date,  
>time, location, and direction which only witnesses can provide,  
>which makes UFO photos only as good as the witnesses.

>In order to provide enough detail to weed out IFOs, the object  
>or light in a photo must be at least a Full Moon (1/2 degree) in  
>angular size, as a rough rule of thumb.

>But a UFO must be very close to a witness to be that large,  
>large enough to tell it's not an IFO. For typical average UFO's  
>of about 30 feet (10 meters) in size, the distance must be less  
>than about a 1/2 mile or 1 kilometer to get at least a Full Moon  
>angular size and enough detail for scientific analysis. This is  
>close to Close Encounter distance (roughly 500 meters).

>Essentially, one cannot get enough detail in a UFO photo unless  
>it is taken in a Close Encounter. Most Daylight Discs and  
>Nocturnal Lights are too far away. Since there are very few  
>Close Encounters and even fewer Close Encounter UFO photographs,  
>this explains why we have so few "good" UFO photo cases. Most  
>are Insufficient Data.

>Digital cameras and videos usually have less resolution than  
>film cameras, so they do not help.

Thanks for the specific numbers. Is there anywhere online where  
someone has put a page together, illustrating this? And if not,  
why not? The question of why just such itty bitty blobs of light  
is one that seems to come up all the time with photos of  
possible UFOs, and causes a lot of frustration on all sides.

It could be taken somewhere like an airport, where size and  
distance of sample targets can more easily measured for  
accuracy, and there is a wide open space for seeing quite a  
distance. Ideally you'd find a common plane or vehicle with a  
30 foot measurement on one axis (where's that figure from?), and  
use that at varying distances for the target.

It would need both day and night pictures taken using the sort  
of cellphones, cameras (both film and digital), and camcorders  
that the average person would have available at a moment's  
notice. Each sequence would need to be the same for each medium,  
to show how they vary. Might be good to give notice to the  
local police so it doesn't look like you're casing the joint.

Carol

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 5](#)

## Re: Strange Aerial Object Over Irving Texas

From: Robert Powell <[rpowell.nul](mailto:rpowell.nul)>  
Date: Fri, 05 Dec 2008 11:24:22 -0600  
Archived: Fri, 05 Dec 2008 18:46:00 -0500  
Subject: Re: Strange Aerial Object Over Irving Texas

>From: Brad Sparks <[RB47x.nul](mailto:RB47x.nul)>  
>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>Date: Thu, 4 Dec 2008 19:25:54 EST  
>Subject: Re: Strange Aerial Object Over Irving Texas

<snip>

Brad,

You mentioned that digital cameras usually do not have the resolution of film cameras. My understanding is that any digital camera with a 6meg CCD or larger is equatable to film. Most cameras today are now in the 8meg-10meg range.

Robert

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 5](#)

## Re: UFO Abduction Be Classified Debilitating?

From: John Rimmer <[j.rimmer.nul](mailto:j.rimmer.nul)>  
Date: Fri, 05 Dec 2008 17:40:10 +0000  
Archived: Fri, 05 Dec 2008 18:47:00 -0500  
Subject: Re: UFO Abduction Be Classified Debilitating?

>From: Katharina Wilson <[K\\_Wilson.nul](mailto:K_Wilson.nul)>  
>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>Date: Thu, 04 Dec 2008 16:48:55 -0600  
>Subject: Re: Should UFO Abduction Be Classified Debilitating?

>>From: John Rimmer <[j.rimmer.nul](mailto:j.rimmer.nul)>  
>>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>>Date: Wed, 03 Dec 2008 18:19:48 +0000  
>>Subject: Re: Should UFO Abduction Be Classified Debilitating?

>>>From: Katharina Wilson <[K\\_Wilson.nul](mailto:K_Wilson.nul)>  
>>>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>>>Date: Tue, 02 Dec 2008 17:29:11 -0600  
>>>Subject: Re: Should UFO Abduction Be Classified Debilitating?

>>>We both know there are thousands, if not millions of abductees  
>>>suffering in silence.

>>I'm sorry, but this is nonsense. I certainly believe there is an  
>>'abduction experience' (I wrote a book about it) but whatever  
>>causes it (aliens, psychological factors, CIA, boggarts, etc.,  
>>etc., etc.) how can anybody say there are 'millions' of  
>>abductees. Such a claim makes the whole idea of an abduction  
>>experience totally meaningless.

>We'll ignore the 1992 Roper Poll results (Unusual Personal  
>Experiences) since so many people enjoy debunking them...

I agree, we should ignore it.

>I do have a question however:

>How does the "idea of an abduction experience" become "totally  
>meaningless" as the possible number of abductees worldwide  
>increases?

Because the idea becomes so diluted that it is difficult to  
discern what people are describing as an 'abduction experience'.  
Is every one of those "thousands if not millions" of  
experiencers reporting similar things, or are the experiences so  
varied that they have no common features?

And, more to the point, where did this remarkable figure come  
from, if we have already ruled the Roper Poll out of  
consideration?

>From your book cover:

><http://www.gdprice.com/books/03761.htm>

>"The Idea of an 'alien abduction' - the kidnapping of a human  
>being by non-human entities - is the very stuff of science  
>fiction, and yet reports of such abductions are on the increase  
>and now constitute a significant area of study for investigators  
>of the paranormal."

And what's your problem with that? "A significant area of study"  
is not the same as "thosands if not millions".

>Another interesting tidbit:

>[http://www.greyloodge.org/occultreview/glor\\_006/lamstatement.htm](http://www.greyloodge.org/occultreview/glor_006/lamstatement.htm)

>"Rimmer adds that "the UFO abduction as a distinct phenomenon  
>exists as a result of the process of hypnotic regression." And  
>again: "...to a very great extent the evidence for alien  
>abductions stands or falls on the reliability of memories  
>recalled through regression, and the techniques of hypnosis  
>themselves."

Yes.

--

John Rimmer  
<[j.rimmer.nul](mailto:j.rimmer.nul)>

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## Re: Should UFO Abduction Be Classified

From: Eleanor White <[ewraven1.nul](mailto:ewraven1.nul)>  
Date: Fri, 05 Dec 2008 15:58:27 -0500  
Archived: Fri, 05 Dec 2008 18:48:00 -0500  
Subject: Re: Should UFO Abduction Be Classified

>From: Katharina Wilson <[K\\_Wilson.nul](mailto:K_Wilson.nul)>  
>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>Date: Thu, 04 Dec 2008 16:48:55 -0600  
>Subject: Re: Should UFO Abduction Be Classified Debilitating?

<snip>

>We'll ignore the 1992 Roper Poll results (Unusual Personal  
>Experiences) since so many people enjoy debunking them...

>I do have a question however:

>How does the "idea of an abduction experience" become "totally  
>meaningless" as the possible number of abductees worldwide  
>increases?

Yes - how does a large number of abductees make the abduction  
experience "totally meaningless?"

Eleanor White

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 6](#)

## Re: Strange Aerial Object Over Irving Texas

From: **Martin Shough** <[parcellular.nul](mailto:parcellular.nul)>  
Date: Fri, 5 Dec 2008 23:17:15 -0000  
Archived: Sat, 06 Dec 2008 08:24:30 -0500  
Subject: Re: Strange Aerial Object Over Irving Texas

>From: Franklin Fields, Esq. <[fields.nul](mailto:fields.nul)>  
>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>Date: Thu, 4 Dec 2008 21:57:07 -0500 (EST)  
>Subject: Re: Strange Aerial Object Over Irving Texas

>>From: Martin Shough <[parcellular.nul](mailto:parcellular.nul)>  
>>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>>Date: Thu, 4 Dec 2008 17:09:55 -0000  
>>Subject: Re: Strange Aerial Object Over Irving Texas

>>>From: Franklin Field <[fields.nul](mailto:fields.nul)>  
>>>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>>>Date: Wed, 3 Dec 2008 13:59:56 -0500 (EST)  
>>>Subject: Re: Strange Aerial Object Over Irving Texas

>>>>From: Nick Balaskas <[Nikolaos.nul](mailto:Nikolaos.nul)>  
>>>>To: UFO UpDates - Toronto <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>>>>Date: Wed, 3 Dec 2008 10:53:02 -0500 (Eastern Standard Time)  
>>>>Subject: Re: Strange Aerial Object Over Irving Texas

>>>><snip>

>>>>>Out of curiosity, since the start of the 21st century, do we  
>>>>>have any solid photographic evidence for UFOs - objects that  
>>>>>cannot be explained after thorough investigation and analysis  
>>>>>and not because of insufficient data? I wonder if there is a  
>>>>>consensus among ufologists over these pictures or videos -  
>>>>>images that we consider to be physical proof for UFOs that we  
>>>>>can present to the public and the media with full confidence?

>>>><snip>

>>>>>Why do they need to be from the 21st century? We have had the  
>>>>>proof for decades. Just off the top of my head I remember a  
>>>>>few photos that J. Allen Hynek presented in his book The UFO  
>>>>>Experience: A Scientific Enquiry (1972).

>>>>>The photos were taken of a flying saucer during daylight  
>>>>>hours.

>>>>>There were many witnesses including two police officers. The  
>>>>>negatives and the camera were studied extensively. The guy  
>>>>>that took the photos was investigated and even gave a sworn  
>>>>>statement under oath.

>>>>>Further "proof" is not required. There is certainly enough proof  
>>>>>that our government and scientists should be looking for more  
>>>>>data. The fact that they are not openly doing so says a lot.

>>Frank

>>Can you identify this case? The photo section in my copy of  
>>Hynek's book (Abelard-Schuman 1972, facing p.52) contains no  
>>photograph relating to it. The nearest I can find is the July  
>>1967, Calgary, Alberta case, a pair of "daylight disc" photos,  
>>but there were not "many" witnesses, only three, one a teenaged  
>>boy, and although two of them did sign sworn affidavits they  
>>were not police officers, they were amateur prospectors (there

>>are no police officers among the 60 "daylight disc" witnesses  
>>listed by Hynek).

>Martin,

>I did say my post was off the top of my head. However, I hunted  
>down the book and the photos are in the photo section following  
>p. 52. I was referring to photos number 4 and 5. The photos  
>were captured by Mr. Warren Smith and were taken 10 to 15  
>minutes apart.

Hi Frank

Actually, Smith said 10 - 15 seconds apart, not 10 - 15 minutes,  
but anyway that is the case I guessed you meant.

>Hynek said he personally investigated the original  
>negatives and the camera.

Yes, we know that. Can you explain why you think this makes the  
photos especially significant?

>You are correct about the police  
>officers they were witnesses to the "MIT" case covered from p.  
>45 to p. 51. Thank you, I stand corrected. The memory error  
>does not change my opinion of the photos.

I don't think anyone would believe that you regarded the number  
and credentials of the witnesses in this case ("many" including  
"police officers") as insignificant when you wrote about them in  
your original post. We were clearly intended to think that these  
were relevant factors, leading to your conclusion that 'further  
"proof" is not required', else why bother to mention them?

Yet now a reduction in witness numbers from "many" to two adults  
and a boy, and a change in witness status from "police officer"  
to "amateur prospector" is not of the slightest interest to you.  
I realise that you are adhering to the standards of the court  
room, not to those of science, yet an inconsistency of this  
sort, exposed on the stand, would enable opposing counsel to  
reduce your witness to an absurdity.

>Hynek said that the "the results of the test leave no doubt  
>that  
>real images exist on the color photographs .

That means there is a photochemical image on the emulsion  
rather than something scratched or drawn or stuck on the film,  
and could be said of almost every fake UFO photograph ever  
produced, as you must know.

>to mount a  
>hoax.would have required monumental motivation."

This is may or may not be so, but it is one individual's  
opinion. There is no measurable SI unit of "monumentalness", and  
counsel's objection that your witness had no expertise in either  
clinical or experimental motivational analysis, or behavioural  
science generally, and was not qualified to offer an expert  
opinion, would no doubt be upheld by the bench.

>He further  
>stated that he flew over the area and verified that it would  
>have been very difficult to perpetrate a hoax since the terrain  
>was rough and hilly brush country.

Yes, he said that. How difficult is "very difficult"? Have  
"difficult" hoaxes never been carried out? How far from the  
photographer's location in this "hilly brush country" would it  
have been necessary for the hoaxer(s) to move in order to toss  
the object that was photographed? How far from the camera would  
the object have to be if it were a) a large flying saucer, b) a  
frisbee? One can't begin even to put upper or lower limits on  
the answers to such questions without knowing the angular size.  
What is the angular scale of the negative images? Does counsel  
for the defence know? Without even knowing how far away a  
frisbee would need to be, what is your evidence that getting to  
the place necessary to throw it would be significantly more  
difficult than getting to the place from which the photos were  
taken? Where are the detailed topographical maps of the area,  
the exact location fixed by matching the treeline, the proof

that getting a teenaged lad (say) from point A to Point B with a frisbee would have been "monumentally difficult" ? How can Hynek know this from havinbg "flown over the area"? I put it to you that even Hynek, the nearest thing to an on-the-spot investigator, gives us no hint that he privately performed any such analysis. You may say that he surely must have done, but even if we concede that possibility it casts a discouraging light on the fact that Hynek himself nevertheless concludes, in print, that he is unable to prove the photos were not of a frisbee.

>The fact that Smith's affidavits were made under the stringent provisions of the Canada Evidence Act further supports the case.  
>There were two credible adults and a teenage boy that gained nothing from providing the photos.

Again the defence is appealing to witness credibility. Originally you offered a sort of quasi-objective indicator of this in the form of social/professional status - they were "police officers". I think you were correct, then, to suppose that this fact would have carried weight with a jury. However, it has been established on the stand that this claim was inaccurate and I think the jury's opinion will reflect this fact also.

>Hynek also said he could find nothing to discredit the photos and that the probability the photos were genuine was "very high".

It is a principle often invoked by ufologists that "absence of evidence is not evidence of absence". The fact that one investigator did not find positive evidence of a fake does not mean that such evidence did not exist. There have been many photos taken about which it could be said that there is no proof that they are not genuine. There are many photos about which the same was said, until evidence to discredit them was unearthed later by other investigators. What factors can be adduced in this case to prove that it is in a qualitatively different category?

>>If you are nevertheless advocating this case as "proof", then I >>have to point out that Hynek himself disagreed with you, >>specifically saying of this case that it was "not shown as >>photographic proof" but only as an illustration. Moreover he said >>of all the photos in the book that "they have no final probativ >>value", and of UFO photographs in general that whilst he would be >>prepared to regard 25 "high probability" cases meeting a list >>of stringent conditions as amounting to proof for practical >>purposes, he did not know of 25 such cases and knew only of >>"several" cases that "nearly" met those conditions.

>Yes, I am strongly advocating that this case is proof.

Then you are claiming far more for it than did the investigator on whose opinions you are, in every other respect, hanging your case.

>To be >more precise the proof that could be legally presented at trial >(allowed by a judge) which is intended to convince the jury of >alleged facts material to the case.

You may believe you could win such a case. Are you correct? I would like to see proof of that claim. And then I would question what had been gained.

>In this instance the proof >relevant to convince the public of the case for UFOs.

Who is "the public"? Who selects this "jury"? You?

If polls are to be believed something like half of potential US jurors is already convinced that UFOs are alien spaceships. Since this is equivalent to having half the members of the jury in a capital trial believing in the principle of justifiable murder, I think the prosecution might wish to exclude these jurors in voir dire as having views prejudicial to a fair trial. In conscience you will agree - and there is no point in preaching to the converted anyway.

But there will be some of the unconvinced remainder who are

motivated by prejudices that could be helpful to the prosecution ("debunkers", "scoffers" etc), so you will naturally move to have these excluded too.

Who remains? The truly open-minded (possibly a rarer breed than any of us fondly imagine). Some of them will be open-minded because their brains are falling out and/or because they couldn't give a damn. Are these your target? Is it your ambition to make case law on the basis of being able to manipulate a jury reduced to inanity? No, of course not. You conscientiously desire a favourable verdict from the last group of the unconvinced - the equally conscientious, knowledgeable and rigorous but fair-minded sceptics.

And I am afraid that a jury of these people, presented with the Calgary photos and the information made available by Hynek, would decline to reach a verdict or would offer an open verdict (perhaps "not proven" in Scotland). They would explain that they found insufficient data, and the case would fall into that large gray basket whose contents Nick was explicitly excluding in his original question.

>Other proof of this nature can include oral testimony of  
>witnesses, including experts on technical matters, documents,  
>public records (from FOIA), objects, photographs and  
>depositions. It also includes so-called "circumstantial  
>evidence" which is intended to create belief by showing  
>surrounding circumstances, which logically lead to a conclusion  
>of fact.

>Rarely in any case will there be a "smoking gun". Most criminals  
>are found guilty with pieces of information that individually  
>would not convict them but when looked at with all the other  
>bits of proof is sufficient. Mr. Smith's testimony is very  
>powerful without the photos. But given the photos it becomes  
>almost a "smoking gun".

>Consider the following simple example to see how powerful  
>witness testimony can be and how it effects the outcome of a  
>case. In a case with no exhibits or any other evidence, three  
>people testify they saw the defendant shoot the victim. That  
>would be an open and shut case. The defense could offer other  
>evidence to refute the testimony but in the absence of a  
>rebuttal the defendant, in this example, would be found guilty  
>and executed (in the U.S.).

Every legal system on earth has to make peace with the fact that it is fallible and that it has convicted innocent people of capital crimes on the basis of powerful evidence. It would certainly be an interesting "control" to find out whether Warren Smith and his associates would have signed affidavits had the consequence of untruth been death.

>If those same three people stand up and say they saw a UFO and  
>then provide photos to support their claim what is the  
>response?

This is an argument that every ufologist has encountered during some stage of their education and has thought very impressive at the time. But it just isn't relevant scientifically.

>One would need to read Hynek's whole book to get his full  
>meaning.

Well one can tell you that one has read it inside out and upside down a number of times and studied parts of it in very great detail for specific purposes. I'm well aware of his full meaning. But what has this to do with the claim that after the Calgary photographs "there is no need of further proof"?

>But I will say that he did put the photos forward as  
>proof. Granted not as conclusive proof individually but proof in  
>the sense that when looked at as a whole would have probative  
>value.

I repeat, Hynek states in the book you citing as your authority that the photos have no probative value. He expressly cautions that a photograph is just another kind of "report". As has been said by Bruce, Dick and others on this forum many times, a photograph is in general worth no more than the credibility of the photographer and should be treated only as an illustration

of what the witness is reporting. There are certainly a few cases where a great deal of latent information can be extracted - especially multiple photo sequences - and some of these cases are genuinely intriguing, having been subject to tremendous amounts of analysis. I am not aware that this is the case with your Calgary photos. And the fact remains, that all of those much-more-deeply analysed cases remain - without exception - vigorously debated pro and con, and there is no certainty at all that any one of them could produce a favourable verdict in a scientific court.

Hynek was well aware that this was also the case in 1972, and said as much. Yes he had a personal opinion based on the evidence "looked at as a whole", and he realised that you could apply an intuitive statistical argument to a large enough sample of "probables" and derive a subjective "proof". But again, I repeat, he told you that in his opinion where photos are concerned there was no sufficient sample and no such proof. You can re-interpret him how you wish, but it will not look good in court when his own words are produced. Another expert testimony will appear to have been undermined, and in then end you will have to justify and fulfill your own definition of proof by taking responsibility for your own evidence and analysis.

>His standards were very stringent, even more restrictive than  
>the U.S. Federal Rules of Evidence would require. He was  
>applying a scientific standard that would meet the unreasonable  
>requirements of his peers. Those same scientists that often  
>refuse to even look at the evidence.

I dispute that Hynek's standards in this case (as reported and as cited - naturally there may be documentation elsewhere, published or unpublished, that neither of us is aware of) were "very stringent". From his book I know almost nothing useful about the photographs or the circumstances, and nothing that Hynek says gives me confidence that he gathered the sort of information which I think the above-discussed sceptical scientific jury would decide that they needed to know.

>>Your last paragraph appears to pull back a little from the claim  
>>that we do have the "physical proof... that we can present with  
>>full confidence", since you then say "there is certainly enough  
>>proof that scientists should be looking for more data". Would  
>>this not better be characterised as a claim that prima facie  
>>evidence gives probable cause to search for physical proof?

>I would not say that I pulled back. The evidence that I have  
>examined brings me to the point where I can say that I am  
>convinced "beyond a reasonable doubt". The photos we discussed  
>are part of that evidence.

I'm sure that you could convince the court beyond a reasonable doubt that you have been conscientiously convinced by what you have read. Unfortunately it is not your personal conviction which is being taken to court here, but other points of fact.

>For those that are not convinced there is sufficient  
>evidence or probable cause to look further.

That is what I just suggested might be a better characterisation of your position. I'm glad we agree.

>My understanding of prima facie is that the case is "on its  
>face" sufficient meaning that the evidence before trial is  
>sufficient to prove the case unless there is substantial  
>contradictory evidence.

I would say that the use of a legal model of evidence is not helpful to us in a scientific context. My understanding is that prima facie actually means "first appearance", which implies the general expectation of subsequent and more nearly truth-like appearances (possibly even a kernel of actual truth) to come. Scientifically this must only mean that there is reasonable cause to search for more and better evidence for a new truth, not that there exists a presumption in favour of the new truth before trial. To the extent that any court procedure is structured so as to presume a case proven before trial, then to the same extent it is an anti-scientific procedure.

The law balances the burden of proof against the presumption of innocence. The fact that the "burden of proof" rests with the



proponents of novelty in science means that the "presumption of innocence" corresponds to the presumption that nothing extraordinary happened. This is why the presumption in favour of the ordinary (often this is cognate with economy) is such a highly regarded principle; to adopt a presumption in favour of the extraordinary in a scientific "court" would be equivalent to a presumption of guilt. Not to be contemplated.

A legalistic point of view distorts the value of evidence and leads to calls for lobbying, special pleading, positive discrimination or affirmative action that have no place in science and belong in politics.

>Anyway, given the possible worst case scenarios, it is foolish  
>for our scientists and governments not to search further because  
>there is enough proof even for the village idiot to have reason  
>to inquire further.

Perhaps implying that your target jurors are fools and idiots in your summation is not calculated to win their sympathy.

Martin Shough

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# UFO Updates

A mailing list for the study of UFO-related phenomena  
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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 6](#)

## Re: COMETA Report On UFOs Results?

From: **Stanton T Friedman** <[fsphys.nul](mailto:fsphys.nul)>  
Date: Fri, 5 Dec 2008 21:41:29 -0400  
Archived: Sat, 06 Dec 2008 08:27:05 -0500  
Subject: Re: COMETA Report On UFOs Results?

>From: Maynard Gelinas <[maynard.nul](mailto:maynard.nul)>  
>To: UFO UpDates - Toronto <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>Date: Fri, 5 Dec 2008 10:32:31 -0500 (EST)  
>Subject: Re: COMETA Report On UFOs Results?

>>From: Gildas Bourdais <[bourdais.gildas.nul](mailto:bourdais.gildas.nul)>  
>>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>>Date: Fri, 5 Dec 2008 10:42:25 +0100  
>>Subject: Re: COMETA Report On UFOs Results?

>>It was not an article. It was a full special issue of the  
>>magazine, 90 pages in large format. It has been published again  
>>in 2003, in book form, with 222 pages of text plus 12 pages of  
>>pictures, by Editions du Rocher. It is also available in  
>>paperback, published by Editions J'Ai Lu.

>I very much want one, especially for the photos. Amazon, of  
>course, does not sell it but will sell me any number of poorly  
>written speculative books that use COMETA as a tag name. I want  
>the actual report.

>Any suggestions on how an American can import that paperback  
>English translation edition by J'Ai Lu?

I still have a few copies of the 8.5 x 11 English Translation for  
\$10.US including shipping from me at:

POB 958,  
Houlton, ME  
04730-0958  
USA

Stan Friedman

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 6](#)

## Re: UFO Abduction Be Classified Debilitating?

From: Rick Nielsen <[nilthchi.nul](mailto:nilthchi.nul)>  
Date: Fri, 5 Dec 2008 18:58:29 -0800 (PST)  
Archived: Sat, 06 Dec 2008 08:29:32 -0500  
Subject: Re: UFO Abduction Be Classified Debilitating?

>From: John Rimmer <[j.rimmer.nul](mailto:j.rimmer.nul)>  
>Date: Fri, 05 Dec 2008 17:40:10 +0000  
>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>Subject: Re: UFO Abduction Be Classified Debilitating?

>>From: Katharina Wilson <[K.Wilson.nul](mailto:K.Wilson.nul)>  
>>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>>Date: Thu, 04 Dec 2008 16:48:55 -0600  
>>Subject: Re: Should UFO Abduction Be Classified Debilitating?

<snip>

>>I do have a question however:

>>How does the "idea of an abduction experience" become "totally  
>>meaningless" as the possible number of abductees worldwide  
>>increases?

>Because the idea becomes so diluted that it is difficult to  
>discern what people are describing as an 'abduction experience'.  
>Is every one of those "thousands if not millions" of  
>experiencers reporting similar things, or are the experiences so  
>varied that they have no common features?

<snip>

I believe I'm feeling frustrations familiar to John. Although  
I=A2m not seeing sinister signs or signals from Katharina or  
others involved in this topic of alien abduction.

I'm attempting to list alien abductions in an easily accessible  
and free spreadsheet format that anyone can use to number crunch  
by category to their heart's desires. Some of you might remember  
my previous posts on this topic.

However, I=A2m having some problems. There is a problem with  
consistency among the reports, as John has said. Also, the big  
researchers and published writers in this field haven't been  
sharing their data, anonymized or otherwise, for whatever  
reasons, including copyright and privacy concerns, or other  
issues.

Both of these, 1) the lack of consistency in available reports  
and 2) no access to consistent reports from other researchers,  
contribute to a slowed process of gathering, listing and  
categorizing the reports, and any subsequent objective analysis.

I believe only more cooperation will solve these problems.

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 6](#)

## Re: Strange Aerial Object Over Irving Texas

From: Nick Balaskas <[nikolaos.nul](mailto:nikolaos.nul)>  
Date: Fri, 05 Dec 2008 23:38:38 -0500  
Archived: Sat, 06 Dec 2008 08:37:06 -0500  
Subject: Re: Strange Aerial Object Over Irving Texas

>From: Franklin Fields, Esq. <[fields.nul](mailto:fields.nul)>  
>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>Date: Thu, 4 Dec 2008 21:57:07 -0500 (EST)  
>Subject: Re: Strange Aerial Object Over Irving Texas

>>From: Martin Shough <[parcellular.nul](mailto:parcellular.nul)>  
>>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>>Date: Thu, 4 Dec 2008 17:09:55 -0000  
>>Subject: Re: Strange Aerial Object Over Irving Texas

<snip>

>>Can you identify this case? The photo section in my copy of  
>>Hynek's book (Abelard-Schuman 1972, facing p.52) contains no  
>>photograph relating to it. The nearest I can find is the July  
>>1967, Calgary, Alberta case, a pair of "daylight disc" photos,  
>>but there were not "many" witnesses, only three, one a teenaged  
>>boy, and although two of them did sign sworn affidavits they  
>>were not police officers, they were amateur prospectors (there  
>>are no police officers among the 60 "daylight disc" witnesses  
>>listed by Hynek).

>I did say my post was off the top of my head. However, I hunted  
>down the book and the photos are in the photo section following  
>p. 52. I was referring to photos number 4 and 5. The photos were  
>captured by Mr. Warren Smith and were taken 10 to 15 minutes  
>apart. Hynek said he personally investigated the original  
>negatives and the camera. You are correct about the police  
>officers they were witnesses to the "MIT" case covered from p.  
>45 to p. 51. Thank you, I stand corrected. The memory error does  
>not change my opinion of the photos.

I too hunted down Hynek's 1972 book and found the two pictures  
of this flat domeless "Frisbee"-like daylight disc in the UFO  
photographs section following page 150 in my Ballantine Books  
edition.

>Hynek said that the "the results of the test leave no doubt that  
>real images exist on the color photographs...to mount a  
>hoax...would have required monumental motivation..." He further  
>stated that he flew over the area and verified that it would  
>have been very difficult to perpetrate a hoax since the terrain  
>was rough and hilly brush country.

The assumptions Hynek makes are reasonable ones assuming that  
this daylight disc is large and not really the size of a  
"Frisbee" which can easily be flown in such rough and hilly  
brush country.

>The fact that Smith's affidavits were made under the stringent  
>provisions of the Canada Evidence Act further supports the case.  
>There were two credible adults and a teenage boy that gained  
>nothing from providing the photos.

The fact that a teenage boy was involved further strengthens the  
case that this daylight disc was indeed a "Frisbee".

>Hynek also said he could find nothing to discredit the photos  
>and that the probability the photos were genuine was "very

>high".

I do not disagree with Hynek that these two photos were genuine (i.e. not tampered with) but they could still be a hoax.

If you had a camera and witnessed a similar daylight disc that amazed you for 10 to 15 minutes, would you just take only two pictures? You will notice that the position of the clouds relative to the trees in the foreground of both pictures are the same suggesting that these pictures were taken only seconds apart. If this is shown to be the case (did Hynek check the original negatives to see if other pictures were taken before, inbetween or after these two pictures?), then this daylight disc UFO should be classified as an IFO since the rapid change in the orientation of this daylight disc in flight would be much more consistent with a "Frisbee" than with a large aerial craft (with or without human or ET occupants).

>>If you are nevertheless advocating this case as "proof", then I >>have to point out that Hynek himself disagreed with you, >>specifically saying of this case that it was "\_not\_" shown as >>photographic proof" but only as an illustration. Moreover he said >>of all the photos in the book that "they have no final probative >>value", and of UFO photographs in general that whilst he would be >>prepared to regard 25 "high probability" cases meeting a list of >>stringent conditions as amounting to proof for practical >>purposes, he did not know of 25 such cases and knew only of >>"several" cases that "nearly" met those conditions.

>Yes, I am strongly advocating that this case is proof. To be >more precise the proof that could be legally presented at trial >(allowed by a judge) which is intended to convince the jury of >alleged facts material to the case. In this instance the proof >relevant to convince the public of the case for UFOs.

<snip>

Scientific truth is not established through legal means or the consensus of the majority of scientists.

If ufologists ever tried to prove that UFOs were "real" only through the visual evidence we have collected over the past half century or more simply on the basis that we could not then conclusively identify or explain the images captured on film or video, then we would fail to convince any jury, even if we included the daylight disc pictures in Hynek's book which you believe is proof enough.

Maybe I am wrong but I doubt we have even a couple of pictures that the majority ufologists agree are very compelling evidence, if not proof, that UFOs are "real", artificial and not made by us. If Hynek was still with us over 3 decades later, I think he would have a few "high probability" examples but not anything even close to visual proof of UFOs.

Nick Balaskas

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## Re: Strange Aerial Object Over Irving Texas

From: **Bruce Maccabee** <[brumac.nul](mailto:brumac.nul)>  
Date: Fri, 5 Dec 2008 23:59:10 -0500  
Archived: Sat, 06 Dec 2008 09:40:00 -0500  
Subject: Re: Strange Aerial Object Over Irving Texas

>From: Robert Powell <[rpowell.nul](mailto:rpowell.nul)>  
>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>Date: Fri, 05 Dec 2008 11:24:22 -0600  
>Subject: Re: Strange Aerial Object Over Irving Texas

>>From: Brad Sparks <[RB47x.nul](mailto:RB47x.nul)>  
>>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>>Date: Thu, 4 Dec 2008 19:25:54 EST  
>>Subject: Re: Strange Aerial Object Over Irving Texas

<snip>

>Brad,

>You mentioned that digital cameras usually do not have the  
>resolution of film cameras. My understanding is that any digital  
>camera with a 6meg CCD or larger is equatable to film. Most  
>cameras today are now in the 8meg-10meg range.

Consider the 35 mm slide photograph as the "gold standard" for comparison. The area of the photo is 35 mm by 23 mm. A mm is 1000 microns. Thus the area is about 800 million square microns. The size of a resolution element or "pixel" of photo film depends upon the size of the film grain. For typical film this is 10 microns or larger. For fine grained film it could be 5 microns.

If we compare to 10 micron grain size, the pixel area is about 10 by 10 = 100 square microns. Thus the total picture area in "pixels" is 800000000/100 = 8 Megapixels.

For fine grained film (5 microns) the number of megapixels would be 4 times greater (each pixel area is 1/4 of the 10 micron size).

Obviously large format cameras such as the Hasselblad will have much larger numbers of equivalent 10 or 5 micron pixels.

If the combination of film grain and poor focus reduces the resolution size to, say, 20 microns, then the number of pixels in the 35 mm slide would be about 2 million (1/4 of the 8 million).

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 6](#)

## Re: Should UFO Abduction Be Classified

From: John Velez <[jvelez49.nul](mailto:jvelez49.nul)>  
Date: Sat, 6 Dec 2008 00:43:07 -0500  
Archived: Sat, 06 Dec 2008 09:41:00 -0500  
Subject: Re: Should UFO Abduction Be Classified

>From: Greg Sandow <[greg.nul](mailto:greg.nul)>  
>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>Date: Fri, 5 Dec 2008 11:08:56 -0500  
>Subject: Re: Should UFO Abduction Be Classified Debilitating?

>>From: Katharina Wilson <[K\\_Wilson.nul](mailto:K_Wilson.nul)>  
>>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>>Date: Thu, 04 Dec 2008 16:48:55 -0600  
>>Subject: Re: Should UFO Abduction Be Classified Debilitating?

><snip>

>>Another interesting tidbit:

>>[http://www.grey lodge.org/occultreview/glor\\_006/lamstatement.htm](http://www.grey lodge.org/occultreview/glor_006/lamstatement.htm)

>>"Rimmer adds that "the UFO abduction as a distinct phenomenon  
>>exists as a result of the process of hypnotic regression." And  
>>again: "...to a very great extent the evidence for alien  
>>abductions stands or falls on the reliability of memories  
>>recalled through regression, and the techniques of hypnosis  
>>themselves."

Hi Greg, Kat, ALL,

Greg responds:

>Not this again! John (Rimmer) - if he has any thorough knowledge of  
>abductees and the abduction literature - should know that what  
>he's saying isn't true.

>This point has nothing to do with any debate about what the  
>abduction experience really is. But it's a long established fact  
>that quite a large number of abductees have abduction memories  
>independent of hypnosis, memories that aren't buried, and don't  
>have to be recalled by any special means, whether that's  
>hypnosis or anything else. Eddie Bullard has documented this in  
>very careful studies, to cite only one source.

Greg, John Rimmer has always shown a preference for being  
intentionally obtuse - as a baiting tactic. Especially so in  
winter, when it's cold and bleak in the UK and poor Johnny is  
stuck indoors - bored as Hell. Or when he's simply in the mood  
for a brannigan with some poor unsuspecting ufologist. I suspect  
Mr. Rimmer has nothing better to do at the moment than to troll  
for ufologists using the 'same old chum' he always deploys.

To be perfectly candid, I reacted to reading his comments with  
the same facts/thoughts you expressed, Greg. The only difference  
between me and you is; I didn't bite down on his hook. Not  
withstanding the necessity of your response, for the sake of  
balance and simply to set the record straight, but I find that,  
generally speaking, John's comments on the subject of UFO/alien  
abduction are easily ignored. Frankly I wouldn't dignify any of  
it with a response. He's heard all this a thousand times. But I  
am glad that you responded and kept the record straight.  
Respect.

Truth be told, John Rimmer knows better. He's very familiar with the point you made because he's heard it repeatedly over the years. This isn't the first time John has spouted off with his 'all abduction accounts stem from hypnosis' proclamation. It isn't the first time he's heard that many abductees have carried around (sometimes life-long) conscious memories of the events. John simply chooses to ignore it ALL in favor of his own theories/conclusions. Mr. Rimmer appears to be a man too 'determined in his purpose' to be easily deterred by bothersome facts.

I wouldn't wish it on most people, but I do hope John has a real close-up and personal encounter with a UFO. I'll bet even money he'll soil his Huggies on the spot! Guys like John are blissfully confident that they have a pretty good handle on things. [Little] do they know! Must be the British educational system that seems to crank out dogmatic, closed-minded, stuffed shirts like Ford Model T's back in the 20's.

>In the days when I was studying abductions, I met many abductees >with conscious memories. I hope John Velez comments, because >he's one of them. He's always been very careful to distinguish >between what he actually remembers, and what emerged under >hypnosis (and I remember him being very suspicious of any >supposed memories that hypnosis brought out). It would be >possible to make a case for the reality of abductions without >using hypnotic memories at all.

See, now that's way too much information for John. He simply isn't capable of processing it, Greg. He doesn't possess the requisite cognitive filters or intellectual honesty. I'm afraid you're just wasting his time with the facts.

I just wanted to add that; my answer to the question posed in this thread re: Should UFO Abduction Be Classified Debilitating?, is a resounding, NO!

I'm here to testify that my emotional and psychological equilibrium is humming along like a Mazda engine. If anything, the experiences have served to ground me even deeper in my own identity. It kind of placed me in a position to have to consciously 'reclaim' myself. I honestly believe I am stronger, better for it all. That speaks volumes not about me personally, but for the inherent strength and resiliency of the human psyche.

I'm here to tell you that it's possible to survive 'alien contact' intact and no worse for the wear. With a little help from our friends, nothing is insurmountable.

Speaking of friends...

Ever since I moved two years ago, I do miss your occasional company and always steady friendship, Greg. Next time I blow into the city I'll call in advance to see if we can connect. Lunch? Maybe that cool little Sushi joint on 9th Ave.? Call or write, dude. ;)

Warmest regards,

John

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 6](#)

## Re: Should UFO Abduction Be Classified

From: John Rimmer <[j.rimmer.nul](mailto:j.rimmer.nul)>  
Date: Sat, 06 Dec 2008 08:18:16 +0000  
Archived: Sat, 06 Dec 2008 09:42:00 -0500  
Subject: Re: Should UFO Abduction Be Classified

>From: Greg Sandow <[greg.nul](mailto:greg.nul)>  
>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>Date: Fri, 5 Dec 2008 11:08:56 -0500  
>Subject: Re: Should UFO Abduction Be Classified Debilitating?

<snip>

>>Another interesting tidbit:

>>[http://www.greyloodge.org/occultreview/glor\\_006/lamstatement.htm](http://www.greyloodge.org/occultreview/glor_006/lamstatement.htm)

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>>recalled through regression, and the techniques of hypnosis  
>>themselves."

>Not this again! John - if he has any thorough knowledge of  
>abductees and the abduction literature - should know that what  
>he's saying isn't true.

>This point has nothing to do with any debate about what the  
>abduction experience really is. But it's a long established fact  
>that quite a large number of abductees have abduction memories  
>independent of hypnosis, memories that aren't buried, and don't  
>have to be recalled by any special means, whether that's  
>hypnosis or anything else. Eddie Bullard has documented this in  
>very careful studies, to cite only one source.

I am well aware of that fact, and I pointed out in my book (oh,  
so long ago) that many UFO abductions were recalled without  
hypnosis: please note I used such phrases as "to a very great  
extent" rather than "all".

I still think that the UFO abduction experience exists "as a  
distinct phenomenon" through the use of hypnosis. Indeed, when  
my book came out (1984) the full impact of hypnotically-recalled  
UFO abduction accounts had not yet been felt.

If hypnosis had not been introduced into abduction investigation  
the phenomenon as it exists today would probably be totally  
different.

--

John Rimmer  
<[j.rimmer.nul](mailto:j.rimmer.nul)>

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## How To Survive An Alien Invasion

From: Nick Pope <[nick.nul](mailto:nick.nul)>  
Date: Sat, 6 Dec 2008 14:28:49 +0100 (CET)  
Archived: Sat, 06 Dec 2008 09:43:00 -0500  
Subject: How To Survive An Alien Invasion

As a response to the speculation on the Spread The Word thread, here's my (occasionally tongue in cheek) take on all this, as featured in the December issue of Total Film magazine:

<http://www.totalfilm.com/features/how-to-survive-an-alien-invasion>

Best wishes,

Nick Pope

<http://www.nickpope.net>

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## Re: Should UFO Abduction Be Classified

From: **Jerome Clark** <[jkclark.nul](mailto:jkclark.nul)>  
Date: Sat, 6 Dec 2008 09:06:41 -0500  
Archived: Sat, 06 Dec 2008 12:29:40 -0500  
Subject: Re: Should UFO Abduction Be Classified

>From: Greg Sandow <[greg.nul](mailto:greg.nul)>  
>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>Date: Fri, 5 Dec 2008 11:08:56 -0500  
>Subject: Re: Should UFO Abduction Be Classified Debilitating?

>>From: Katharina Wilson <[K.Wilson.nul](mailto:K.Wilson.nul)>  
>>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>>Date: Thu, 04 Dec 2008 16:48:55 -0600  
>>Subject: Re: Should UFO Abduction Be Classified Debilitating?

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>This point has nothing to do with any debate about what the  
>abduction experience really is. But it's a long established fact  
>that quite a large number of abductees have abduction memories  
>independent of hypnosis, memories that aren't buried, and don't  
>have to be recalled by any special means, whether that's  
>hypnosis or anything else. Eddie Bullard has documented this in  
>very careful studies, to cite only one source.

Greg,

I suspect, in common with John Velez, that John Rimmer dropped  
this stale potato into the stew simply because he was bored one  
day.

It's the sort of assertion that somebody who knows nothing about  
the abduction phenomenon\* - except, of course, that it doesn't  
amount to anything threatening to the all-encompassing, all-  
explaining conventional wisdom of the early 21st Century - would  
pronounce. Most likely, the motive in such cases is a desire to  
receive approving pats on the back from fellow convention-  
guardians who will congratulate him on how rational he is.

John, whom I've known a long time, knows better.

Jerry Clark

\*Whatever its ultimate cause or causes. I, too, have  
reservations about ET theories.

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 6](#)

## Re: Should UFO Abduction Be Classified

From: **Jerome Clark** <[jkclark.nul](mailto:jkclark.nul)>  
Date: Sat, 6 Dec 2008 09:10:15 -0500  
Archived: Sat, 06 Dec 2008 12:31:36 -0500  
Subject: Re: Should UFO Abduction Be Classified

>From: John Rimmer <[j.rimmer.nul](mailto:j.rimmer.nul)>  
>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>Date: Sat, 06 Dec 2008 08:18:16 +0000  
>Subject: Re: Should UFO Abduction Be Classified Debilitating?

>>From: Greg Sandow <[greg.nul](mailto:greg.nul)>  
>>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>>Date: Fri, 5 Dec 2008 11:08:56 -0500  
>>Subject: Re: Should UFO Abduction Be Classified Debilitating?

>I still think that the UFO abduction experience exists "as a  
>distinct phenomenon" through the use of hypnosis. Indeed, when  
>my book came out (1984) the full impact of hypnotically-recalled  
>UFO abduction accounts had not yet been felt.

>If hypnosis had not been introduced into abduction investigation  
>the phenomenon as it exists today would probably be totally  
>different.

Okay, John, that's an interesting idea. And a testable claim.

Your evidence?

Jerry Clark

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## Re: Strange Aerial Object Over Irving Texas

From: William Treurniet <[wtreurniet.nul](mailto:wtreurniet.nul)>  
Date: Sat, 6 Dec 2008 10:55:04 -0500  
Archived: Sat, 06 Dec 2008 12:34:15 -0500  
Subject: Re: Strange Aerial Object Over Irving Texas

>From: Nick Balaskas <[nikolaos.nul](mailto:nikolaos.nul)>  
>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>Date: Fri, 05 Dec 2008 23:38:38 -0500  
>Subject: Re: Strange Aerial Object Over Irving Texas

><snip>

>Maybe I am wrong but I doubt we have even a couple of pictures  
>that the majority ufologists agree are very compelling evidence,  
>if not proof, that UFOs are "real", artificial and not made by  
>us. If Hynek was still with us over 3 decades later, I think he  
>would have a few "high probability" examples but not anything  
>even close to visual proof of UFOs.

It seems obvious that any scientific evidence is always subject to human judgment of some kind. For example, the tracks in a cloud chamber are interpreted in the context of a theory which is always subject to revision. Similarly, a photo of a UFO has to be interpreted in the context of a "theory" about what is going on. So a single photo of anything can never by itself offer more than "high probability" support for any given interpretation.

It's probably fair to say that most of us rarely take a strong position on any scientific issue based on a single piece of evidence. In a Bayesian sense, we continually adjust the prior probability that a particular position is true as we successively evaluate evidence from multiple sources. The resulting big picture offers a more stable interpretation than any single photograph about what's going on.

I'm curious if anyone can describe a scenario in which a single photograph of a UFO would provide conclusive proof of someone's interpretation of it. I suggest that that is an ideal we can never reach. Rather, we can assign probabilities to each individual photo in order to evaluate the cumulative record of photographic evidence.

William

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## Re: Strange Aerial Object Over Irving Texas

From: Nick Balaskas <[nikolaos.nul](mailto:nikolaos.nul)>  
Date: Sat, 06 Dec 2008 11:11:06 -0500  
Archived: Sat, 06 Dec 2008 13:35:00 -0500  
Subject: Re: Strange Aerial Object Over Irving Texas

>From: Bruce Maccabee <[brumac.nul](mailto:brumac.nul)>  
>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>Date: Fri, 5 Dec 2008 23:59:10 -0500  
>Subject: Re: Strange Aerial Object Over Irving Texas

>>From: Robert Powell <[rpowell.nul](mailto:rpowell.nul)>  
>>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>>Date: Fri, 05 Dec 2008 11:24:22 -0600  
>>Subject: Re: Strange Aerial Object Over Irving Texas

>>>From: Brad Sparks <[RB47x.nul](mailto:RB47x.nul)>  
>>>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>>>Date: Thu, 4 Dec 2008 19:25:54 EST  
>>>Subject: Re: Strange Aerial Object Over Irving Texas

<snip>

>>You mentioned that digital cameras usually do not have the  
>>resolution of film cameras. My understanding is that any digital  
>>camera with a 6meg CCD or larger is equatable to film. Most  
>>cameras today are now in the 8meg-10meg range.

>Consider the 35 mm slide photograph as the "gold standard" for  
>comparison. The area of the photo is 35 mm by 23 mm. A mm is  
>1000 microns. Thus the area is about 800 million square microns.  
>The size of a resolution element or "pixel" of photo film  
>depends upon the size of the film grain. For typical film this  
>is 10 microns or larger. For fine grained film it could be 5  
>microns.

>If we compare to 10 micron grain size, the pixel area is about  
>10 by 10 = 100 square microns. Thus the total picture area in  
>"pixels" is 800000000/100 = 8 Megapixels.

>For fine grained film (5 microns) the number of megapixels would  
>be 4 times greater (each pixel area is 1/4 of the 10 micron  
>size).

>Obviously large format cameras such as the Hasselblad will have  
>much larger numbers of equivalent 10 or 5 micron pixels.

>If the combination of film grain and poor focus reduces the  
>resolution size to, say, 20 microns, then the number of pixels  
>in the 35 mm slide would be about 2 million (1/4 of the 8  
>million).

We shouldn't overlook that the resolution of an image of an  
object such as a UFO in a picture captured with a film or  
digital camera does not depend on the film grain size or pixel  
density alone.

One such other factor is the camera lense itself. If one were to  
compare the resolution of an image of a UFO taken with any  
simple pocket camera the same UFO taken with the same camera but  
attached to a long focal length lens (zoom or telephoto lens;  
telescope, etc.) the difference would be very apparent.

If for example the image of a UFO taken with a simple camera has  
a width of 1000 pixels, the same UFO taken with the same camera

but attached to a zoom lens will produce an image that would be larger with a width of, lets say, 3000 pixels (depending on the focal length of the the lens used). As you can see this would result in an increase in the resolution by a factor of 3, even with the same film or digital camera.

This is one reason why the increase in the number of pictures of "UFOs" submitted by those who obtained them using low resolution cell phone cameras (often with dirty lenses) does not help us much in identifying just what these UFOs really were much less use these pictures as further visual evidence that UFOs are real and unknown aerial craft flying thorough our skies.

Nick Balaskas

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## Re: How To Survive An Alien Invasion

From: Nick Balaskas <[nikolaos.nul](mailto:nikolaos.nul)>  
Date: Sat, 06 Dec 2008 11:30:38 -0500  
Archived: Sat, 06 Dec 2008 13:36:00 -0500  
Subject: Re: How To Survive An Alien Invasion

>From: Nick Pope <[nick.nul](mailto:nick.nul)>  
>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>Date: Sat, 6 Dec 2008 14:28:49 +0100 (CET)  
>Subject: How To Survive An Alien Invasion

>As a response to the speculation on the Spread The Word thread,  
>here's my (occasionally tongue in cheek) take on all this, as  
>featured in the December issue of Total Film magazine:

><http://www.totalfilm.com/features/how-to-survive-an-alien-invasion>

<snip>

Hi Nick Pope, Everyone!

Here is a copy of York University's Dr. Robert Haynes' paper on terraforming Mars and the ethical implications should we, as an invading species, were to discover indigenous life there:

<http://www.users.globalnet.co.uk/~mfogg/haynes.htm>

Prof. Haynes passed away 10 years ago this month. He was a distinguished scientist (eg. past President of the Royal Society of Canada) best known as the co-discoverer of DNA repair. He is better known to me and other space scientists on his research on how to terraform rocky planets within the "habitable zone" of stars for quick colonization by humans.

Could it be that the "terraforming" of Earth by some ET species is already in progress (eg. the mysterious "red rain" in India) and that all indigenous species on this world, including man, are now threatened? If the answer is yes, then we must begin preparations to defend against these microbe-size alien invaders now.

[http://www.world-science.net/exclusives/080908\\_redrain.htm](http://www.world-science.net/exclusives/080908_redrain.htm)

Reality can be more disturbing than fiction, including movies.

Nick Balaskas

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## Reagan And UFOs

From: Diana Cammack <[cammack.nul](mailto:cammack.nul)>  
Date: Sat, 6 Dec 2008 16:44:00 -0000  
Archived: Sat, 06 Dec 2008 13:37:00 -0500  
Subject: Reagan And UFOs

[http://www.mercurynews.com/movies/ci\\_11149532](http://www.mercurynews.com/movies/ci_11149532)

In a review of the old 'The Day the Earth Stood Still',  
journalist J. Hoberman wrote:

'... "The Day the Earth Stood Still" does allow for a more hard-nosed reading, with Gort's capacity for mayhem embodying the doctrine of mutually assured destruction. But most of the movie's fans have extrapolated an internationalist message - including at least one United States president.

According to Lou Cannon, one of Ronald Reagan's biographers, Reagan was so stirred by the notion that extraterrestrial invasion would trump national differences that he floated the scenario upon meeting Mikhail Gorbachev at Geneva in 1985. This departure from script flummoxed Reagan's staff - not to mention the Soviet general secretary.

Cannon writes that, well acquainted with what he called the president's interest in "little green men," Colin L. Powell, at the time the national security adviser, was convinced that the proposal had been inspired by The Day The Earth Stood Still."

Reagan revisited the idea later in a speech at the United Nations: "I occasionally think how quickly our differences worldwide would vanish if we were facing an alien threat from outside this world."

This line may not apply to the remake, which, to judge from its trailer, is more concerned ...'

I was aware that Reagan had made a UN speech, but what more is known about his interaction with Gorbachev and the Russian response?

Diana

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## Re: UFO Over Cathedral Causes Power Cuts

From: Joe McGonagle <[joe.mcgonagle.nul](mailto:joe.mcgonagle.nul)>  
Date: Sat, 06 Dec 2008 17:19:43 +0000  
Archived: Sat, 06 Dec 2008 13:38:00 -0500  
Subject: Re: UFO Over Cathedral Causes Power Cuts

I found the references to Edmunds St. Bury in the article at:

<http://www.allnewsweb.com/page111166.php>

highly amusing - the town is normally referred to as Bury St. Edmunds, though officially it is called St. Edmundsbury according to:

<http://www.suffolkchurches.co.uk/buryintro.htm>

I found another (very similar) article on a local newspaper web site at:

<http://tinyurl.com/6ebdtu>

(Bury Free Press)

Cheers,

Joe

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## Weird Or What?

From: **UFO UpDates - Toronto** <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
Date: Sat, 06 Dec 2008 15:37:38 -0500  
Archived: Sat, 06 Dec 2008 15:37:38 -0500  
Subject: Weird Or What?

Source: The Guardian - London England, UK

<http://tinyurl.com/4xmtsz>

Tuesday October 14 2008

Weird... Or What?

Why do people have paranormal experiences? A team of researchers has been trying to find out  
by Rosie Waterhouse

Why do people believe they have been abducted by aliens?

That is the question arch sceptic and professor of psychology Chris French set out to answer in a research project that began five years ago.

Now, in a unique UK-based study to be published this month, French has come up with an intriguing explanation. Alien abductees, or "experiencers" as he describes them, have a different psychological profile to people who do not claim to have had these experiences, the research shows.

Experiencers have higher levels of paranormal belief, paranormal experience, self-reported psychic ability and fantasy proneness, more vivid imaginations, a greater tendency to hallucinate and more self-reported incidences of sleep paralysis.

Search for explanations

Sleep paralysis is a scientifically accepted condition. It usually happens between sleeping and waking, when the sufferer experiences a terrifying feeling of being paralysed, unable to move or speak, while an unidentifiable horror lurks in the dark. Several of the experiencers in the study had suffered sleep paralysis and in searching for an explanation concluded they had had a close encounter, French says. "If you have had a really vivid experience like that and you can't make any sense of it, and you come across an article or a book or a documentary that says you may well have been abducted by aliens, it gives you an explanation, and it also means you're not crazy.

"So we can see why some people may go for that and may then, as a consequence, end up going for hypnotic regression, already with the idea in their head that they have been abducted by aliens - and, surprise, surprise, what kind of memory then appears to surface? It's being taken on board a spaceship."

Six of the experiencers had undergone hypnotic regression, which French believes can implant false memories. The research also found the abductees showed higher levels of dissociativity (a tendency to switch off or have altered states of consciousness, such as out of body experiences and missing time episodes) and absorption (an ability to lose themselves in some activity such as watching a movie or reading a novel).

## Weird Or What?

French, who is head of the anomalistic psychology research unit at Goldsmiths College, University of London, led a team of researchers who studied 19 experiencers and a control group, matched for gender and age. In each group, there were eight men and 11 women, aged between their early 20s and early 70s.

The experiencer category included anyone who claimed to have had extraterrestrial contact. These included UFO sightings; direct contact with a variety of alien life forms as well as telepathic communication with aliens; six reported believing that the aliens had implanted some device in their bodies; one believed that his terrestrial parents were not his real parents (his real parents being extraterrestrials); two reported finding marks on their bodies caused by the aliens; and three reported that aliens had removed fetuses from them or caused them to have miscarriages.

The participants completed seven questionnaires and were interviewed by researchers.

The article, called Psychological Aspects of the Alien Abduction Experience, is published in the neuroscience journal Cortex. Its publication is a vindication of French's field of research, anomalistic psychology, which he defines as "the psychology of weird experiences that people have and the beliefs that are associated with them", and which he has pursued for more than 20 years. He also edits a semi-satirical publication, the Skeptic Magazine.

"I'm very used to defending my interest in this because, even now, I get the impression from certain colleagues that it's not quite a respectable thing to be interested in, even though you may have the word sceptic tattooed across your forehead.

"The truth is, looking at the opinion polls [see below], most people do believe in the paranormal and a sizeable minority claim to have direct personal experience. This can mean one of two things, either that paranormal forces really exist, and if that is the case, scientists should accept that and get on and study it in the same way we study and try to understand anything else. Or it's telling us something really interesting about human psychology. Either way, I think it's worth taking these kinds of beliefs seriously.

"One possibility is that people really are being abducted by aliens and taken on board space ships and being probed in interesting ways. I'm not convinced that the ET [extraterrestrial] hypothesis is true. So the challenge for the psychologist is to try to explain what is going on. I think the most plausible explanation is these are false memories."

### A-level option

The profile of French's field of research is about to be raised still further following a decision by one of the biggest examination boards in the UK, the AQA, to introduce the study of anomalistic psychology as an option in the curriculum for its psychology A-level from September next year.

French, who is writing a chapter on the subject for one of the board's psychology textbooks, is delighted his rather niche specialism will reach a wider audience in schools. "I'm very excited about it," he says. "The reason I like teaching this topic is the material is a great hook to get people interested.

"Whether they are believers or sceptics, most people find these claims of aliens and ghosts and strange powers interesting. Once you've got the interest, it raises all kinds of issues about the nature of evidence and what should we accept as convincing evidence, and about using it as a tool for critical thinking more generally".

Is French going to be turning out a generation of disbelieving sceptics? "To be properly sceptical you have to be open to the possibility you might be wrong, and willing to be persuaded by evidence. Scepticism is not about dismissing claims before you look at the evidence. It's about saying, show me the evidence."

### Close encounters

In a recent lecture, French cited figures from an opinion poll

of a representative sample of 1,000 British adults. The figures in square brackets indicate those reporting direct personal experience of the phenomenon in question:

- 64% believe that some people have powers that cannot be explained by science [16%]
- 63% believe in God [14%]
- 52% believe in life after death [11%]
- 49% believe in ghosts [13%]
- 49% believe in precognitive dreams [19%]
- 49% believe in heaven (only 28% believe in hell) [2%, 2%]
- 47% believe in thought reading [14%]
- 41% believe in communication with the dead [9%]
- 34% believe in psychokinesis [4%]
- 26% believe in angels [ 3%]
- 25% believe in reincarnation [-]

[Thanks to 'The Norm' for the lead]

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## Professor Christopher French

From: **UFO UpDates - Toronto** <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
Date: Sat, 06 Dec 2008 15:42:43 -0500  
Archived: Sat, 06 Dec 2008 15:42:43 -0500  
Subject: Professor Christopher French

Source: Goldsmiths, University Of London, England, UK

<http://www.goldsmiths.ac.uk/psychology/staff/french.php>

December 6, 2008

Department of Psychology

Professor Christopher French BA PhD CPsychol FBPsS FRSA

Psychology of paranormal beliefs and of ostensibly paranormal experiences, cognition and emotion

Position: Professor of Psychology  
Co-ordinator, Anomalistic Psychology Research Unit  
Postgraduate Exams and Regulations Officer  
MSc CCN Programme Monitoring Committee

Office: Room 311 Whitehead Building, Psychology Department, Goldsmiths, University of London, New Cross, SE14 6NW  
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E-mail: [c.french.nul](mailto:c.french.nul)

My current research focuses on two main areas. The first is the psychology of paranormal beliefs and of ostensibly paranormal experiences. Although a large proportion of the population believes in the paranormal, the evidence presented to support paranormal claims is generally not very convincing in scientific terms. It would appear that on most (and perhaps all) occasions when individuals claim to have directly experienced the paranormal, plausible non-paranormal alternative explanations can be found. These alternative accounts often rely on the imperfections in human information-processing studied by cognitive psychologists, such as those related to memory, perception, and judgement. The psychology of deception and self-deception is also of relevance in this area. I often appear on the television and radio offering a sceptical perspective on a variety of paranormal claims. I have recently set up the Anomalistic Psychology Research Unit within the Department to act as a focus for research in this area. You can find out more about the Unit's activities by checking out the website at <http://www.goldsmiths.ac.uk/apru/>

My second major area of research is the relationship between cognition and emotion, particularly the effects of anxiety on a range of psychological processes including attention, implicit and explicit memory, the interpretation of ambiguous stimuli, and the use of imagery. This research examines the ways in which anxiety can bias information processing, in particular the processing of threat-related stimuli. I have been funded by both the ESRC and the MRC for research in this area.

In total I have authored or co-authored around one hundred articles and chapters on these and other topics, and I have co-edited three books. Recent Publications include In refereed

journals

In press

French, C. C., Haque, U., Bunton-Stasyshyn, R., & Davis, R. The =93Haunt=94 Project: An attempt to build a =93haunted=94 room by manipulating complex electromagnetic fields and infrasound. *Cortex*.

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Thompson, T., Keogh, E., French, C. C., & Davis, R. Anxiety sensitivity and pain: Generalisability across noxious stimuli. *Pain*, 123, 187-196.

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2004 Keogh, E., Bond, F. W., French, C.C., Richards, A., & Davis, R. E. (2004). Test anxiety, susceptibility to distraction and examination performance. *Anxiety, Stress & Coping*, 17, 241-252.

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2001 French, C.C. (2001). Dying to know the truth: visions of a dying brain, or just false memories? [Invited Commentary] *Lancet*, 15 December 2001, 358(9298), 2010-2011.

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In Press

French, C.C. (in press) Parapsychology in the new millennium: Reflections of a (relatively) moderate skeptic. In Coly, L. (ed.). *A New Millennium in Parapsychology*. New York: Parapsychology Foundation.

2007 French, C. C., & Santomauro, J. (2007). Something wicked this way comes: Causes and interpretations of sleep paralysis. In S. Della Sala (ed.). *Tall Tales About the Mind and Brain: Separating Fact from Fiction*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Pp. 380-398.

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2000 French, C.C., & Colman, A. M. (eds.) (2000). *Psychologiah kognitivit* (Emma Braverman, trans.). Holon, Israel: Ach. Pp. 168. (Hebrew translation of French & Colman, 1995; ISBN: 965-267-183-5) Conference and other presentations

2007 French, C. C. (2007). Anomalistic psychology and critical thinking. Presentation to the 13th Congress of the European Council of Skeptical Organisations, =93The Assault on Science: Constructing a Response=94, Dublin, 7-9 September 2007.

French, C. C. (2007). Why do we believe in strange things? Invited presentation to the Royal Society of Edinburgh



Conference =93Tall Tales About Mind and Brain=94, Edinburgh, 5-7 September 2007.

French, C. C. (2007). Seven years of weird science at Goldsmiths: An overview of the work of the Anomalistic Psychology Research Unit. Invited presentation to the 31st International Conference of the Society for Psychical Research, Cardiff University, 31 August =96 2 September 2007.

French, C. C. (2007). The psychology of anomalous experiences. Invited presentation to the London and Home Counties Branch of the British Psychological Society, London, 28 February 2007.

French, C. C. (2007). Near-death experiences: Glimpses of the afterlife or visions of a dying brain? Invited presentation at =93Entrances and Exits: The art and science of birth and death=94, Theatre Royal, Winchester, 9-11 March 2007.

2006 French, C.C. (2006) Memory for anomalous experiences. Invited presentation to the Bial Foundation=92s 6th Symposium "Behind and Beyond the Brain", Porto, Portugal, 29 March to 1 April 2006.

French, C.C., Santomauro, J., Fox, R., Hamilton, V., & Thalbourne, M. (2006) Psychological and parapsychological aspects of the alien contact experience. Bial Foundation=92s 6th Symposium "Behind and Beyond the Brain", Porto, Portugal, 29 March to 1 April 2006.

French, C.C. (2006) Invited participant in chaired discussion with Rupert Sheldrake, Peter Fenwick and Deborah Delaney ("Is there any evidence that the mind extends beyond the brain?") at the British Association for the Advancement of Science Festival of Science, University of East Anglia (subsequently broadcast on Radio 4=92s "Material World" programme), 5 September 2006.

French, C.C. (2006) Memory for anomalous experiences. Presentation to Eyewitness Workshop, Stirling University, 19 September 2006.

French, C.C. (2006). Paranormal experiences and memory for anomalous events. Invited presentation to Skepsis Congres, Hogeschool Domstad te Utrecht, Netherlands, 28 October 2006.

French, C. C. (2006). Has Rupert Sheldrake proven the existence of telepathy? Invited presentation to the Ethical Society, Conway Hall, London, 5 November 2006.

2005 Blagrove, M., French, C.C., & Jones, G. (2005). Probabilistic reasoning, affirmative bias and belief in precognitive dreams. 22nd Annual Conference of the International Association for the Study of Dreams. Berkeley, California, 24-28 June 2005.

French, C.C. (2005) Invited participant in chaired discussion with Rupert Sheldrake on the paranormal at Cheltenham Festival of Science, 8-12 June 2005.

French, C.C. (2005) The psychology of superstition. Invited presentation at the British Association for the Advancement of Science Festival, Dublin, 8 September 2005.

French, C.C. (2005) Weird science: The psychology of anomalous experience. Invited presentation, British Psychological Society Edinburgh Lectures, 8 November 2005.

French, C.C., Hague, U., Davis, R. E., Bunton-Stasyshyn, R., Kim, S., & Bejanyan, K. (2005) The "Haunt" Project: Can we build a "haunted" room? European Skeptics Congress, Brussels, Belgium, 13-16 October 2005.

French, C.C., Santomauro, J., Fox, R., Hamilton, V., & Thalbourne, M. (2005) Psychological and parapsychological aspects of the alien contact experience. Invited presentation, Conference on Developing Perspectives on Anomalous Experience, Liverpool, 4 June 2005.

French, C.C., Wright, D., & Ost, J. (2005) Ten years on from the BPS report. Invited presentation to the British False Memory Society Annual General Meeting, London, 23 April 2005.

Ivtzan, I., & French, C.C. (2005) Exploring territory of no-

boundary: RNG-meditation experiment. Ninth Annual Conference of the Consciousness and Experiential Psychology Section of the British Psychological Society: Reconstructing Consciousness, Mind and Being. St Anne=92s College, Oxford University, 16-18 September 2005.

Wilson, K., & French, C.C. (2005) The relationship between the creation of false memories and belief in the paranormal. PsyPAG 20th Anniversary Conference, University of Exeter, 23-25 August 2005.

2004 French, C.C. (2004) Weird science at Goldsmiths: The psychology of anomalous experiences, Inaugural lecture, Goldsmiths College, 13 January 2004.

French, C.C. (2004) The psychology of anomalous experiences: Seeing shouldn't always be believing. Invited presentation to the Irish Skeptics, Dublin, 2 June 2004.

French, C.C. (2004) The psychology of paranormal belief and experience. Invited presentation to the Scottish Society for Psychical Research, Glasgow, 2 September 2004.

French, C.C. (2004) The state of British scepticism. Invited presentation to the Fifth World Skeptics Congress, in Abano Terme, Italy, 8-10 October 2004.

French, C.C. (2004) Weird science: The psychology of anomalous experience. Invited presentation, British Psychological Society London Lectures, Kensington Town Hall, 6 December 2004.

French, C.C., & Wilson, K. (2004) The psychology of self-deception. Invited presentation to the Fifth World Skeptics Congress, in Abano Terme, Italy, 8-10 October 2004.

Ivtzan, I., & French, C.C. (2004). Testing the validity of Tarot cards: Can we distinguish between a real and a control reading? 47th Annual Convention of the Parapsychological Association, 5-8 August 2004.

Keogh, E., Bond, F. W., French, C.C., Richards, A., & Davis, R. E. (2004). Test anxious worry, distraction and examination performance. 25th Stress and Anxiety Research Society Annual Conference, Amsterdam, July 2004.

Wilson, K., & French, C.C. (2004). Memory conformity and paranormal belief. 47th Annual Convention of the Parapsychological Association, 5-8 August 2004.

2003 French, C.C. (2003). Incredible memories: The relevance of reports of anomalous experiences to false memory research. Presented at one-day scientific conference "Remembering Trauma: Current Theory, Research & Practice", Royal Society of Medicine, London, 4 September 2003.

French, C.C. (2003). Invited Keynote Address on "Anomalistic Psychology". 11th European Congress of the European Council of Skeptical Organisations, Kings College London, 5-7 September 2003.

French, C.C. (2003). Invited discussant at a symposium on "Science at the fringe" at the British Association for the Advancement of Science Annual Conference, Salford University, 10 September 2003.

French, C.C. (2003). Invited contributor to interactive science event "The truth is out there" at the Science Museum=92s Dana Centre, London, 9 December 2003.

Savva, L., & French, C.C. (2003). An investigation into precognitive dreaming. David Mandell: The man who paints the future? Annual Conference of the Society for Psychical Research, Manchester Metropolitan University, 5-7 September 2003.

2002 French, C.C. (2002). Fantastic memories: How reliable are reports of anomalous events? Seminar presented by the Institute for Cultural Research, "Memory Matters", School of Oriental and African Studies, London, 16-17 February 2002.

French, C.C. (2002). Dying to know the truth. Contribution to panel discussion: "Near-death experiences: Beyond the dying

brain?" Edinburgh Science Festival, 14 April 2002.

French, C.C., Rose, N. J., & Blackmore, S. J. (2002). Paranormal belief and interpretations of sleep paralysis. 45th Annual Convention of the Parapsychological Association, Paris, 5-9 August.

Richards, A., French, C.C., Zanelli, J., Calder, A., & Young, A.W. (2002). Interpretation and context effects associated with anxiety. British Psychological Society Cognitive Section Conference, University of Kent, Canterbury, 9-11 September.

Savva, L., & French, C.C. (2002). Is there time-reversed interference in Stroop-based tasks? 45th Annual Convention of the Parapsychological Association, Paris, 5-9 August.

Savva, L., & French, C.C. (2002). Use of a complex psi-mediated timing task. 26th International Conference of the Society for Psychical Research, Manchester, 30 August - 1st September.

2001 Crawley, S., French, C.C., & Yesson, S. (2001). Evidence for transliminality from a subliminal =91ESP card-guessing task=92. British Psychological Society Centenary Annual Conference, Glasgow, 28-31 March 2001. (Abstract published in Proceedings of the British Psychological Society, 9(2), 173).

French, C.C. (2001). The psychology of alien abduction. Invited keynote presentation to the British Psychological Society=92s Annual PsyPAG Conference, Sheffield University, 23-25 July 2001.

French, C.C. (2001). Paranormal perception? A critical evaluation. Seminar presented by the Institute for Cultural Research, "Seeing how to see: A close look at perception", Royal Society of Medicine, London, 17-18 February 2001.

French, C.C., O=92Donnell, H., & Williams, L. (2001). Hypnotic susceptibility, paranormal belief and reports of =91crystal power=92. British Psychological Society Centenary Annual Conference, Glasgow, 28-31 March 2001. (Abstract published in Proceedings of the British Psychological Society, 9(2), 186).

Holden, K. J., & French, C.C. (2001). Psychological needs and belief in psychics and astrologers. European Congress of Psychology, The Barbican Centre, London, 1-6 July 2001.

Savva, L., & French, C.C. (2001). Evolution and psi: Investigating the presentiment effect as an adapted behaviour. Society for Psychical Research 25th International Conference, Clare College, Cambridge, 14-16 September 2001.

2000 French, C.C. (2000). Past and modern versions of scepticism. Perrott-Warrick Conference on Rational Perspectives on the Paranormal. Trinity College, Cambridge, 3-5 April 2000.

Holden, K., & French, C.C. (2000). Why do people believe in psychics? Psychology Postgraduate Affairs Group Annual Conference, Glasgow University, 18 July 2000. (Abstract published in Proceedings of the British Psychological Society, 9(2), 106-107).

Hunt, C., Keogh, E., & French C. C. (2000). Investigating the fear of anxiety in children (poster). British Psychological Society Developmental Section Annual Conference, University of Bristol, 17 September 2000.

Hunt, C., Keogh, E., & French C. C. (2000). Dimensions of anxiety sensitivity in children. Psychology Postgraduate Affairs Group Annual Conference, Glasgow University, 18 July 2000. (Abstract published in Proceedings of the British Psychological Society, 9(2), 107).

Inoue, A., French, C.C., Pring, L., & Corr, P. J. (2000). Individual differences in affective modulation of the startle reflex and the emotional Stroop task: Integrating biological and cognitive accounts of anxiety (poster). Annual Scientific Meeting of the British Psychophysiological Society, Imperial College, London. Other Publications

2006 Wright, D., Ost, J., & French, C.C. (2006). Recovered and false memories. *The Psychologist*, 19(6), 352-355.

2004 French, C.C. (2004). The mosaic of memory. The Skeptic, 17(1), 12-17.

French, C. (2004). Bible codes and flying saucers. The Times T2, 6-7.

2002 Hughes, C., & French, C. (2002). Medicine and magic [editorial]. Student BMJ, 10, 132-133.

2001 French, C.C. (2001) Why I study anomalistic psychology. The Psychologist, 14(7), 356-357. [Reprinted in The Skeptical Intelligencer, 4, 2-5.]

French, C.C. (2001). Weird science at Goldsmiths. The Skeptic, 14(1), 7-8.

French, C.C., & Holden, K. (eds.) (2001). Weird science at Goldsmiths [Special issue]. The Skeptic.

2000 French, C.C. (2000) The media and the paranormal: A sceptic=92s view. Magonia, 70, 9-13. (Winner of the second essay competition in memory of Roger Sandell; reprinted in The Skeptic, 13(3 & 4), 35-40). Recent grants include

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN MEMORY FOR PSYCHIC READINGS AND PARANORMAL BELIEF =A332324 (subject to revision in light of any increase in academic pay scales) from the Perrott-Warrick Committee to fund one-year junior lectureship to relieve me of teaching and administrative duties for one year and to work collaboratively on the above project.

CLINICIANS=92 BELIEFS ABOUT CHILDHOOD ABUSE, MEMORY AND HYPNOSIS =A39200 from the Odin Trust. Application submitted jointly with Dr James Ost, Dr Lorraine Hope, Mr Simon Easton (Portsmouth) and Dr Daniel Wright (Sussex). Dr Ost named as Principal Applicant. Awarded April 2006.

AN INVESTIGATION OF DOWSING =A31472 from the Society for Psychical Research. Application submitted jointly with Dr Elaine Beattie. Awarded August 2006.

French, C. Psychological and parapsychological investigations of alleged alien abductees: Phase 1. Bial Foundation. =8036000 (=A323.5K approx). (Nov. 2002).

Haque, U. HAUNT. Sciart. =A314,985. (French, C. as scientific adviser).

Allan, K., French, C. & Gabbert, F. On the relationship between reality monitoring and belief in parapsychological phenomena: Neurophysiological studies. Bial Foundation. =8045,080 (=A328K approx). (Nov. 2004).

[Thanks to 'The Norm' for the lead]

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# UFO Updates

A mailing list for the study of UFO-related phenomena  
'Its All Here In Black & White'

Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 6](#)

## Re: Should UFO Abduction Be Classified

From: **Greg Sandow** <[greg.nul](mailto:greg.nul)>  
Date: Sat, 6 Dec 2008 15:08:10 -0500  
Archived: Sat, 06 Dec 2008 15:59:17 -0500  
Subject: Re: Should UFO Abduction Be Classified

>From: John Rimmer <[j.rimmer.nul](mailto:j.rimmer.nul)>  
>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>Date: Sat, 06 Dec 2008 08:18:16 +0000  
>Subject: Re: Should UFO Abduction Be Classified Debilitating?

>I am well aware of that fact, and I pointed out in my book (oh,  
>so long ago) that many UFO abductions were recalled without  
>hypnosis: please note I used such phrases as "to a very great  
>extent" rather than "all".

Vague. How great an extent? One often-quoted figure for non-hypnotic recall is 25% of abductees. And I love your use of words. By writing "to a very great extent," you're able imply that the non-hypnotic recall occurs only in a very few cases - without having to plainly state the actual number.

And why are you quoting from your 1984 book when a lot of research has been done since then, bringing us a lot of new data?

>If hypnosis had not been introduced into abduction investigation  
>the phenomenon as it exists today would probably be totally  
>different.

Maybe you'd believe the abductions were real!

Again I smile at your use of words. First "probably," which allows you simultaneously to hedge your claim, and to suggest that it's very likely true. And then "totally," which gives the claim (whose likelihood you've amplified) an all-encompassing reach.

A truly impartial scholar would, I think, have been more modest:

"If hypnosis had not been introduced into abduction investigation the phenomenon as it exists today might possibly be different."

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 6](#)

## Re: Strange Aerial Object Over Irving Texas

From: **Bruce Maccabee** <[brumac.nul](mailto:brumac.nul)>  
Date: Sat, 6 Dec 2008 15:25:04 -0500  
Archived: Sat, 06 Dec 2008 16:24:08 -0500  
Subject: Re: Strange Aerial Object Over Irving Texas

>From: William Treurniet <[wtreurniet.nul](mailto:wtreurniet.nul)>  
>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>Date: Sat, 6 Dec 2008 10:55:04 -0500  
>Subject: Re: Strange Aerial Object Over Irving Texas

>>From: Nick Balaskas <[nikolaos.nul](mailto:nikolaos.nul)>  
>>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>>Date: Fri, 05 Dec 2008 23:38:38 -0500  
>>Subject: Re: Strange Aerial Object Over Irving Texas

><snip>

>>Maybe I am wrong but I doubt we have even a couple of pictures  
>>that the majority ufologists agree are very compelling evidence,  
>>if not proof, that UFOs are "real", artificial and not made by  
>>us. If Hynek was still with us over 3 decades later, I think he  
>>would have a few "high probability" examples but not anything  
>>even close to visual proof of UFOs.

>It seems obvious that any scientific evidence is always subject  
>to human judgment of some kind. For example, the tracks in a  
>cloud chamber are interpreted in the context of a theory which  
>is always subject to revision. Similarly, a photo of a UFO has to  
>be interpreted in the context of a "theory" about what is going  
>on. So a single photo of anything can never by itself offer more  
>than "high probability" support for any given interpretation.

>It's probably fair to say that most of us rarely take a strong  
>position on any scientific issue based on a single piece of  
>evidence. In a Bayesian sense, we continually adjust the prior  
>probability that a particular position is true as we  
>successively evaluate evidence from multiple sources. The  
>resulting big picture offers a more stable interpretation than  
>any single photograph about what's going on.

>I'm curious if anyone can describe a scenario in which a single  
>photograph of a UFO would provide conclusive proof of someone's  
>interpretation of it. I suggest that that is an ideal we can  
>never reach. Rather, we can assign probabilities to each  
>individual photo in order to evaluate the cumulative record of  
>photographic evidence.

After many years I realized (many years ago) that A UFO, A Photo  
Does Not Make.

Rather, the best a photo can do is act as an aide to the  
witness' recollection, assuming it is true. What it can do that  
is bad (relative to proving TRUFOS exist) is contain evidence  
that contradicts the story of the sighting or, worse yet,  
contain evidence that proves a hoax (if it shows a supporting  
string or something like that).

To answer the "curiosity" expressed above, I would say no photo  
by itself in the absence of a "context" or history would ever  
prove anything other than that the photo exists. There must be a  
background, a history for every photo. This history is of  
perhaps greater importance than the photo itself for determining  
the validity of the sighting \_claims\_ which produced the photo

It is true that in "normal" science one often interprets data in terms of a theory, such as the cloud chamber tracks mentioned above. Sometimes phenomena occur for which there appears to be no theory. IN this case one must look for "negative proof," that is, one tries to prove that the phenomenon is not some already known phenomenon, perhaps masquerading as something truly new. This requires theorizing and real scientific procedure. One imagines a "Candidate Explanatory Phenomenon" (CEP) and then studies all the characteristics of that CEP and compares with the reported characteristics of the unknown. IF the CEP match all of the characteristics of the unknown then one may assume there has been identification. If only a few or none of the characteristics match, then one may try another CEP and repeat the testing procedure (comparing characteristics of the known with those of the known). This can get very complicated and may result in a "hung jury," but we have to try anyway. A key precept in this procedure is

Whereas an unknown might be able to (seemingly) violate known physics, a CEP cannot violate known physics. (If it did, then it would be like explaining one unknown with another unknown.)

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 7](#)

## Councillor Watched Six UFOs Over North Wales

From: **UFO UpDates - Toronto** <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
Date: Sun, 07 Dec 2008 08:26:27 -0500  
Archived: Sun, 07 Dec 2008 08:26:27 -0500  
Subject: Councillor Watched Six UFOs Over North Wales

Source: The Daily Post - Wrexham, North Wales, UK

<http://tinyurl.com/6q2b28>

Dec 5 2008

Councillor: 'I Watched Six UFOs Over North Wales'  
by Carl Butler, Daily Post

A SHOTTON man is baffled after witnessing SIX UFOs in one night.

Town councillor William Barton saw the strange spectacle in the town's skies last Friday evening at about 7.44pm.

He rushed to grab his binoculars and called on neighbours to show them the phenomenon.

Coun Barton, of Mill View, said: "They seemed to come from the Ewloe area and float towards Shotton. There were about six of them and they appeared and then vanished for a while.

"They were bowl-shaped, orange blobs, with a glow of light around them."

Coun Barton says the objects appeared to be flying higher than 1,500ft, which means they would have been breaking air traffic regulations.

The councillor is keeping an open mind on the origins of the UFOs.

He said: "If this has been a prank, it is very irresponsible, it could have caused a terrible aircraft accident.

I thought these objects may have been created by a glider towing fireworks, but there was no smoke.

It is very alarming to think what they could be."

A spokesman for Air Traffic Control at Liverpool John Lennon Airport said: "Nothing out of the ordinary was seen at this time."

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 7](#)

## Re: Should UFO Abduction Be Classified

From: John Rimmer <[j.rimmer.nul](mailto:j.rimmer.nul)>  
Date: Sat, 06 Dec 2008 22:27:56 +0000  
Archived: Sun, 07 Dec 2008 08:30:57 -0500  
Subject: Re: Should UFO Abduction Be Classified

>From: John Velez <[jvelez49.nul](mailto:jvelez49.nul)>  
>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>Date: Sat, 6 Dec 2008 00:43:07 -0500  
>Subject: Re: Should UFO Abduction Be Classified Debilitating?

>I find that, generally speaking, John's comments on the subject of  
>UFO/alien abduction are easily ignored.

So easy that it takes you 60 lines to ignore me!

>Greg, John Rimmer has always shown a preference for being  
>intentionally obtuse - as a baiting tactic. Especially so in  
>winter, when it's cold and bleak in the UK and poor Johnny is  
>stuck indoors - bored as Hell. Or when he's simply in the mood  
>for a brannigan with some poor unsuspecting ufologist. I suspect  
>Mr. Rimmer has nothing better to do at the moment than to troll  
>for ufologists using the 'same old chum' he always deploys.

It is quite nippy here at the moment, but not as bad as in  
Minnesota, I'm sure. At least we can get out of doors without  
having to dig through ten-foot snowdrifts. (pace, Jerry)

>To be perfectly candid, I reacted to reading his comments with  
>the same facts/thoughts you expressed, Greg. The only difference  
>between me and you is; I didn't bite down on his hook. Not  
>withstanding the necessity of your response, for the sake of  
>balance and simply to set the record straight, but I find that,  
>generally speaking, John's comments on the subject of UFO/alien  
>abduction are easily ignored. Frankly I wouldn't dignify any of  
>it with a response. He's heard all this a thousand times. But I  
>am glad that you responded and kept the record straight.  
>Respect.

>Truth be told, John Rimmer knows better. He's very familiar with  
>the point you made because he's heard it repeatedly over the  
>years. This isn't the first time John has spouted off with his  
>'all abduction accounts stem from hypnosis' proclamation. It  
>isn't the first time he's heard that many abductees have carried  
>around (sometimes life-long) conscious memories of the events.  
>John simply chooses to ignore it ALL in favor of his own  
>theories/conclusions. Mr. Rimmer appears to be a man too  
>'determined in his purpose' to be easily deterred by bothersome  
>facts.

You're quite right, this isn't the first time I've "spouted off  
with [my] 'all abduction accounts stem from hypnosis'  
proclamation", because I have never said that, which you would  
know if you had taken the trouble to actually read anything I  
have written. But obviously it's easy just to "spout off" with  
what you think I should have written to conform to your  
expectations.

>I wouldn't wish it on most people, but I do hope John has a  
>real close-up and personal encounter with a UFO. I'll bet  
>even money he'll soil his Huggies on the spot! Guys like  
>John are blissfully confident that they have a pretty good  
>handle on things. [Little] do they know! Must be the British  
>educational system that seems to crank out dogmatic, closed-  
>minded, stuffed shirts like Ford Model T's back in the 20's.

So, you're an expert on the British educational system, already!  
Remarkable.

--  
John Rimmer  
<[j.rimmer.nul](mailto:j.rimmer.nul)>

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 7](#)

## Re: Should UFO Abduction Be Classified

From: John Rimmer <[j.rimmer.nul](mailto:j.rimmer.nul)>  
Date: Sat, 06 Dec 2008 22:34:08 +0000  
Archived: Sun, 07 Dec 2008 08:32:58 -0500  
Subject: Re: Should UFO Abduction Be Classified

>From: Jerome Clark <[jkclark.nul](mailto:jkclark.nul)>  
>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>Date: Sat, 6 Dec 2008 09:06:41 -0500  
>Subject: Re: Should UFO Abduction Be Classified Debilitating?

>I suspect, in common with John Velez, that John Rimmer dropped  
>this stale potato into the stew simply because he was bored one  
>day.

>It's the sort of assertion that somebody who knows nothing about  
>the abduction phenomenon - except, of course, that it doesn't  
>amount to anything threatening to the all-encompassing, all-  
>explaining conventional wisdom of the early 21st Century - would  
>pronounce. Most likely, the motive in such cases is a desire to  
>receive approving pats on the back from fellow convention-  
>guardians who will congratulate him on how rational he is.

>John, whom I've known a long time, knows better.

And you, Jerry, know better than to imply suggest that I think  
all abduction accounts come from hypnotic regression. Or is it,  
as John Velez suggests, that the cold weather's getting to you,  
too?

I don't actually know what the "all-encompassing, all-explaining  
conventional wisdom of the early 21st Century" is, let alone  
what may or may not be threatening to it. I used to think that  
it was the conventional wisdom that the American government  
didn't go around nationalising the car industry, but there you  
are, what do I know?

--

John Rimmer  
<[j.rimmer.nul](mailto:j.rimmer.nul)>

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 7](#)

## Re: Should UFO Abduction Be Classified

From: John Rimmer <[j.rimmer.nul](mailto:j.rimmer.nul)>  
Date: Sat, 06 Dec 2008 22:39:03 +0000  
Archived: Sun, 07 Dec 2008 08:48:14 -0500  
Subject: Re: Should UFO Abduction Be Classified

>From: Greg Sandow <[greg.nul](mailto:greg.nul)>  
>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>Date: Sat, 6 Dec 2008 15:08:10 -0500  
>Subject: Re: Should UFO Abduction Be Classified Debilitating?

>>From: John Rimmer <[j.rimmer.nul](mailto:j.rimmer.nul)>  
>>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>>Date: Sat, 06 Dec 2008 08:18:16 +0000  
>>Subject: Re: Should UFO Abduction Be Classified Debilitating?

>>I am well aware of that fact, and I pointed out in my book (oh,  
>>so long ago) that many UFO abductions were recalled without  
>>hypnosis: please note I used such phrases as "to a very great  
>>extent" rather than "all".

>Vague. How great an extent? One often-quoted figure for non-  
>hypnotic recall is 25% of abductees. And I love your use of  
>words. By writing "to a very great extent," you're able imply  
>that the non-hypnotic recall occurs only in a very few cases -  
>without having to plainly state the actual number.

Really, as low as that? I would have thought it was somewhat  
higher.

>And why are you quoting from your 1984 book when a lot of  
>research has been done since then, bringing us a lot of new  
>data?

Because it was a review of my 1984 book which was being quoted  
in the argument.

>>If hypnosis had not been introduced into abduction investigation  
>>the phenomenon as it exists today would probably be totally  
>>different.

>Maybe you'd believe the abductions were real!

>Again I smile at your use of words. First "probably," which  
>allows you simultaneously to hedge your claim, and to suggest  
>that it's very likely true. And then "totally," which gives the  
>claim (whose likelihood you've amplified) an all-encompassing  
>reach.

It's called 'not being dogmatic'. You should try it sometime.

>A truly impartial scholar would, I think, have been more modest:

>"If hypnosis had not been introduced into abduction  
>investigation the phenomenon as it exists today might possibly  
>be different."

If you say so.

--

John Rimmer  
<[j.rimmer.nul](mailto:j.rimmer.nul)>

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 7](#)

## Re: Strange Aerial Object Over Irving Texas

From: **Franklin Fields** <[fields.nul](mailto:fields.nul)>  
Date: Sat, 6 Dec 2008 20:09:41 -0500 (EST)  
Archived: Sun, 07 Dec 2008 09:50:00 -0500  
Subject: Re: Strange Aerial Object Over Irving Texas

>From: Martin Shough <[parcellular.nul](mailto:parcellular.nul)>  
>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>Date: Fri, 5 Dec 2008 23:17:15 -0000  
>Subject: Re: Strange Aerial Object Over Irving Texas

>>From: Franklin Fields, Esq. <[fields.nul](mailto:fields.nul)>  
>>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>>Date: Thu, 4 Dec 2008 21:57:07 -0500 (EST)  
>>Subject: Re: Strange Aerial Object Over Irving Texas

<snip>

Martin,

I acknowledged the "off the top of my head" memory error and you keep bringing it up.

I am not going to address each of your points individually because some of them are off-topic, dogmatic, and uniformed. My original point was that "we have had the proof for decades". I stand by that remark.

I tried to give you the benefit of the doubt when you incorrectly used legal terms like "prima facie" and "probable cause" as well as others. Maybe the UK has a different definition but your usage of the terms is obviously wrong under the U.S. legal system.

You said, "I would say that the use of a legal model of evidence is not helpful to us in a scientific context." I must disagree. From your comments you are not familiar with the legal model.

Our court system's history is connected to the very development of civilizations and is fixed in the wider context of our society. Among jurists and historians it is seen as a fundamental requirement for orderly social structure and the resolution of disputed issues.

As has been the case for thousands of years, people today look to the legal system to resolve disputes. It is not a political process. The question of UFOs is no different than many of the other matters that have come before our courts. Therefore it is appropriate to use legal methods to evaluate UFO information.

Legal rulings are derived by the use of legal methodology that is actually a complex and intricate science. Our courts arrive at judgments using essentially a scientific process.

You stated:

"I'm sure that you could convince the court beyond a reasonable doubt that you have been conscientiously convinced by what you have read. Unfortunately it is not your personal conviction which is being taken to court here, but other points of fact."

The photo and the eyewitness are what is relevant, not how convinced I am.

To get the photos admitted into evidence it must be subject to a

test for foundation and authenticity. The testimony of witnesses such as Mr. Smith would be used. Such evidence is examined for bias, for interest and for the human capacity to exaggerate or mislead, among other things. Often the Judge will hold a hearing away from the jury to decide if a photo would even get tested in the Courtroom.

My point was that these photos and the corresponding witness testimonies are proof. Solid proof that would stand up in a trial but apparently not solid enough for you.

Okay you are right and I am wrong, you are big and I am small. You win!!!

I hope you're happy now.

Yours truly,

Frank

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 7](#)

## Re: Reagan And UFOs

From: Stanton T Friedman <[fsphys.nul](mailto:fsphys.nul)>  
Date: Sat, 6 Dec 2008 21:22:32 -0400  
Archived: Sun, 07 Dec 2008 09:51:00 -0500  
Subject: Re: Reagan And UFOs

>From: Diana Cammack <[cammack.nul](mailto:cammack.nul)>  
>To: UFO UpDates - Toronto <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>Date: Sat, 6 Dec 2008 16:44:00 -0000  
>Subject: Reagan And UFOs

>[http://www.mercurynews.com/movies/ci\\_11149532](http://www.mercurynews.com/movies/ci_11149532)

>In a review of the old 'The Day the Earth Stood Still',  
>journalist J. Hoberman wrote:

>'... "The Day the Earth Stood Still" does allow for a more hard-  
>nosed reading, with Gort's capacity for mayhem embodying the  
>doctrine of mutually assured destruction. But most of the  
>movie's fans have extrapolated an internationalist message -  
>including at least one United States president.

>According to Lou Cannon, one of Ronald Reagan's biographers,  
>Reagan was so stirred by the notion that extraterrestrial  
>invasion would trump national differences that he floated the  
>scenario upon meeting Mikhail Gorbachev at Geneva in 1985. This  
>departure from script flummoxed Reagan's staff - not to mention  
>the Soviet general secretary.

>Cannon writes that, well acquainted with what he called the  
>president's interest in "little green men," Colin L. Powell, at  
>the time the national security adviser, was convinced that the  
>proposal had been inspired by The Day The Earth Stood Still."

>Reagan revisited the idea later in a speech at the United  
>Nations: "I occasionally think how quickly our differences  
>worldwide would vanish if we were facing an alien threat from  
>outside this world."

>This line may not apply to the remake, which, to judge from its  
>trailer, is more concerned ...'

>I was aware that Reagan had made a UN speech, but what more is  
>known about his interaction with Gorbachev and the Russian  
>response?

Diana

There were three other occasions when Reagan made similar  
comments: at a High School in Fieldston, MD, a Conference in  
Chicago, and to Shevardnaze in the Oval Office. He also had a  
sighting with several others while on the Governor of California  
Airplane flown by a pilot with 30,000 hours of flying time.

Gorbachev said he agre.

Stan Friedman

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## Re: Strange Aerial Object Over Irving Texas

From: Michael Tarbell <[mtarbell.nul](mailto:mtarbell.nul)>  
Date: Sat, 06 Dec 2008 20:51:58 -0700  
Archived: Sun, 07 Dec 2008 09:52:00 -0500  
Subject: Re: Strange Aerial Object Over Irving Texas

>From: Bruce Maccabee <[brumac.nul](mailto:brumac.nul)>  
>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>Date: Sat, 6 Dec 2008 15:25:04 -0500  
>Subject: Re: Strange Aerial Object Over Irving Texas

<snip>

>Whereas an unknown might be able to (seemingly) violate known  
>physics, a CEP cannot violate known physics. (If it did, then it  
>would be like explaining one unknown with another unknown.)

Hi Bruce,

While this clearly makes sense, one then wonders what actually constitutes a TRUFO. If all CEPs must be consistent with known physics, and if TRUFOS arise strictly as a result of the absence of any viable CEP, then "genuine" TRUFOS must be inconsistent with known physics.

But this seems overly stringent. One can imagine, say, an extraterrestrial craft landing on the White House lawn without any overt violation of the known laws of physics.

Nevertheless, such a strict criterion - and I am in favor of such - would be well suited to setting priorities for further investigation (exploring new physics, if nothing else), with the recognition that it may throw out some babies with the bathwater.

Regards

Mike

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## Re: Strange Aerial Object Over Irving Texas

From: Brad Sparks <[RB47x.nul](mailto:RB47x.nul)>  
Date: Sat, 6 Dec 2008 23:03:58 EST  
Archived: Sun, 07 Dec 2008 09:53:00 -0500  
Subject: Re: Strange Aerial Object Over Irving Texas

>From: Bruce Maccabee <[brumac.nul](mailto:brumac.nul)>  
>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>Date: Fri, 5 Dec 2008 23:59:10 -0500  
>Subject: Re: Strange Aerial Object Over Irving Texas

>>From: Robert Powell <[rpowell.nul](mailto:rpowell.nul)>  
>>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>>Date: Fri, 05 Dec 2008 11:24:22 -0600  
>>Subject: Re: Strange Aerial Object Over Irving Texas

>>>From: Brad Sparks <[RB47x.nul](mailto:RB47x.nul)>  
>>>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>>>Date: Thu, 4 Dec 2008 19:25:54 EST  
>>>Subject: Re: Strange Aerial Object Over Irving Texas

<snip>

>>Brad,

>>You mentioned that digital cameras usually do not have the  
>>resolution of film cameras. My understanding is that any digital  
>>camera with a 6meg CCD or larger is equatable to film. Most  
>>cameras today are now in the 8meg-10meg range.

>Consider the 35 mm slide photograph as the "gold standard" for  
>comparison. The area of the photo is 35 mm by 23 mm. A mm is  
>1000 microns. Thus the area is about 800 million square microns.  
>The size of a resolution element or "pixel" of photo film  
>depends upon the size of the film grain. For typical film this  
>is 10 microns or larger. For fine grained film it could be 5  
>microns.

>If we compare to 10 micron grain size, the pixel area is about  
>10 by 10 = 100 square microns. Thus the total picture area in  
>"pixels" is 800000000/100 = 8 Megapixels.

>For fine grained film (5 microns) the number of megapixels would  
>be 4 times greater (each pixel area is 1/4 of the 10 micron  
>size).

>Obviously large format cameras such as the Hasselblad will have  
>much larger numbers of equivalent 10 or 5 micron pixels.

>If the combination of film grain and poor focus reduces the  
>resolution size to, say, 20 microns, then the number of pixels  
>in the 35 mm slide would be about 2 million (1/4 of the 8  
>million).

Thanks Bruce for saving me the trouble of calculation. Let me  
add a further translation: For fine-grained film a 35 mm slide  
film photograph is equivalent of about a 32 megapixel digital  
image.

How many people have 32 megapixel digital cameras? Anyone? How  
many people have 8 megapixel digital cameras? Not that many  
compared to lesser resolution cameras and cell phone cameras.  
That's one reason why have so few good UFO photos, aside from  
the fact I pointed out that one essentially needs a Close  
Encounter to get close enough to get a UFO photo good enough to

tell an IFO from a UFO.

I also must point out that the single most important piece of data from a camera besides the sighting data is the Focal Length, and the aperture setting is probably the least important yet is reported more often than the Focal Length (FL). With an original negative and the FL figure one can calculate angular dimensions on a photo. Without the FL it is all but impossible to do so. It is extremely important for IFO screening to have the FL of the camera and it is likewise extremely important for analysis of a real UFO, as this defines the angular size of the object.

For example, if the round white light is less than 1/2 degree or more than 1/2 degree in angular then we know it is not the Moon. If we have reliable distance data for a UFO then the angular size gives us its actual size in feet or meters.

The crucial role of the Focal Length makes digital cameras a serious detriment to scientific study because in many cases it is difficult to determine the true effective FL from the screwball tricks and gimmicks employed by the manufacturers. In many digital cameras much of the light uselessly falls outside the small area of the image sensor and is lost, and this effect is roughly estimated with a "crop factor" which cannot be relied upon (the manufacturer usually does not explain exactly how it is defined or measured). Then there is the Zoom Factor which introduces another confusing variable.

Optical Zoom is just like zoom on a film camera and for UFO photos it must be known exactly or the photos will be all but useless for scientific study. But Digital Zoom is a fraud by the camera manufacturers and should never be used at any time under any circumstances! Digital Zoom throws away much of the image falling on the image sensor and selects a small portion to electronically enlarge to fool you into thinking it is like Optical Zoom, but in fact you lose most of the resolution. It is like having an 8 megapixel camera where the Digital Zoom selects a 1 megapixel portion of the image and enlarges it (or whatever the exact image area reduction factor that occurs). In that case you have lost the 8-megapixel resolution! You might as well throw away your 8-megapixel camera and go back to your 1-megapixel.

In some cases the digital camera manufacturer data are so confusing they cannot be relied upon for scientific study. In most cases I would say the manufacturer data and the EXIF or EXIF-type data on the image file cannot be relied upon for the true FL and the camera has to be tested. It is easy to test a digital camera for its Effective Focal Length. Just photograph the Moon with the same settings, the Moon can serve as an angular ruler whose exact dimensions in degrees or minutes of arc can be looked up for the time and date of the test.

What is the equivalent of "original negatives" in a digital camera that has no film? The next best thing is the full image file with EXIF data embedded. But there are many pitfalls with that, as I started to outline above. The time-date stamp is only as accurate as any calibration made by the camera owner and as originally set at the manufacturing plant (which may not have been accurate or which may drift or get reset erroneously). The time-date clock on the camera should be checked as soon as possible against an accurate time standard and the difference (if any) recorded.

To sum up, digital cameras are troublesome for scientific analysis of possible UFO images, making it very difficult to properly analyze and screen digital photos for IFO's. This means very few digital camera images of real UFO's will be pinpointed among the billions of pictures that are taken and the subset of many thousands of unidentified images in that total set.

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## Re: Strange Aerial Object Over Irving Texas

From: Jim Deardorff <[deardorj.nul](mailto:deardorj.nul)>  
Date: Sat, 06 Dec 2008 20:24:52 -0800  
Archived: Sun, 07 Dec 2008 10:55:00 -0500  
Subject: Re: Strange Aerial Object Over Irving Texas

>From: Bruce Maccabee <[brumac.nul](mailto:brumac.nul)>  
>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>Date: Sat, 6 Dec 2008 15:25:04 -0500  
>Subject: Re: Strange Aerial Object Over Irving Texas

<snip>

>It is true that in "normal" science one often interprets data in  
>terms of a theory, such as the cloud chamber tracks mentioned  
>above. Sometimes phenomena occur for which there appears to be  
>no theory. IN this case one must look for "negative proof," that  
>is, one tries to prove that the phenomenon is not some already  
>known phenomenon, perhaps masquerading as something truly new.  
>This requires theorizing and real scientific procedure. One  
>imagines a "Candidate Explanatory Phenomenon" (CEP) and then  
>studies all the characteristics of that CEP and compares with  
>the reported characteristics of the unknown. IF the CEP match  
>all of the characteristics of the unknown then one may assume  
>there has been identification. If only a few or none of the  
>characteristics match, then one may try another CEP and repeat  
>the testing procedure (comparing characteristics of the known  
>with those of the known). This can get very complicated and may  
>result in a "hung jury," but we have to try anyway. A key  
>precept in this procedure is

>Whereas an unknown might be able to (seemingly) violate known  
>physics, a CEP cannot violate known physics. (If it did, then it  
>would be like explaining one unknown with another unknown.)

Bruce,

I would amend the above to read, "a CEP should not violate  
physics known to the maker of the TRUFO." I.e., there's alot  
concerning future science we can't be certain about.

Jim

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 7](#)

## Re: Should UFO Abduction Be Classified

From: Jerome Clark <[jkclark.nul](mailto:jkclark.nul)>  
Date: Sun, 7 Dec 2008 10:07:16 -0500  
Archived: Sun, 07 Dec 2008 10:56:00 -0500  
Subject: Re: Should UFO Abduction Be Classified

>From: John Rimmer <[j.rimmer.nul](mailto:j.rimmer.nul)>  
>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>Date: Sat, 06 Dec 2008 22:34:08 +0000  
>Subject: Re: Should UFO Abduction Be Classified Debilitating?

>>From: Jerome Clark <[jkclark.nul](mailto:jkclark.nul)>  
>>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>>Date: Sat, 6 Dec 2008 09:06:41 -0500  
>>Subject: Re: Should UFO Abduction Be Classified Debilitating?

>>I suspect, in common with John Velez, that John Rimmer dropped  
>>this stale potato into the stew simply because he was bored one  
>>day.

>>It's the sort of assertion that somebody who knows nothing about  
>>the abduction phenomenon - except, of course, that it doesn't  
>>amount to anything threatening to the all-encompassing, all-  
>>explaining conventional wisdom of the early 21st Century - would  
>>pronounce. Most likely, the motive in such cases is a desire to  
>>receive approving pats on the back from fellow convention-  
>>guardians who will congratulate him on how rational he is.

>>John, whom I've known a long time, knows better.

>And you, Jerry, know better than to imply suggest that I think  
>all abduction accounts come from hypnotic regression. Or is it,  
>as John Velez suggests, that the cold weather's getting to you,  
>too?

John,

Please read my words above. In case you missed them, they read:

"John... knows better." And I was right. Next time, perhaps more  
artful construction of a sentence - and we're all guilty of  
inartful expression from time to time - would alleviate  
unnecessary prose.

Now, to the question (ignored here but raised in a separate  
posting of mine) concerning the evidence for the proposition you  
offer - that UFO abductions appear as they do because of the use  
of hypnosis, and would be different without such use - where's  
your answer?

I don't ask this confrontationally, by the way. I am genuinely  
curious.

Jerry Clark

P.S. It is cold in Minnesota (13 degrees F./ 10.5 C. at the  
moment), and thanks for your concern.

Jerry Clark

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# UFO Updates

A mailing list for the study of UFO-related phenomena  
'Its All Here In Black & White'

Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 7](#)

## Re: Should UFO Abduction Be Classified

From: **Jerome Clark** <[jkclark.nul](mailto:jkclark.nul)>  
Date: Sun, 7 Dec 2008 10:53:44 -0500  
Archived: Sun, 07 Dec 2008 11:07:40 -0500  
Subject: Re: Should UFO Abduction Be Classified

>From: John Rimmer <[j.rimmer.nul](mailto:j.rimmer.nul)>  
>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>Date: Sat, 06 Dec 2008 22:34:08 +0000  
>Subject: Re: Should UFO Abduction Be Classified Debilitating?

>>From: Jerome Clark <[jkclark.nul](mailto:jkclark.nul)>  
>>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>>Date: Sat, 6 Dec 2008 09:06:41 -0500  
>>Subject: Re: Should UFO Abduction Be Classified Debilitating?

>>It's the sort of assertion that somebody who knows nothing about  
>>the abduction phenomenon - except, of course, that it doesn't  
>>amount to anything threatening to the all-encompassing, all-  
>>explaining conventional wisdom of the early 21st Century - would  
>>pronounce. Most likely, the motive in such cases is a desire to  
>>receive approving pats on the back from fellow convention-  
>>guardians who will congratulate him on how rational he is....

>I don't actually know what the "all-encompassing, all-explaining  
>conventional wisdom of the early 21st Century" is, let alone  
>what may or may not be threatening to it. I used to think that  
>it was the conventional wisdom that the American government  
>didn't go around nationalising the car industry, but there you  
>are, what do I know?

Sorry, I missed this last paragraph the first time around.

I think the meaning is clear enough: the notion, which  
underlies the entire debunking project, that all allegedly  
extraordinary phenomena and experiences must fall to  
conventional explanations based on existing knowledge or slight  
extrapolations therefrom.

Jerry Clark

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# UFO Updates

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'Its All Here In Black & White'

Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 7](#)

## Re: Reagan And UFOs

From: Dick Hall <[dh12.nul](mailto:dh12.nul)>  
Date: Sun, 07 Dec 2008 11:08:58 -0500  
Archived: Sun, 07 Dec 2008 11:24:07 -0500  
Subject: Re: Reagan And UFOs

>From: Stanton T Friedman <[fsphys.nul](mailto:fsphys.nul)>  
>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>Date: Sat, 6 Dec 2008 21:22:32 -0400  
>Subject: Re: Reagan And UFOs

>>From: Diana Cammack <[cammack.nul](mailto:cammack.nul)>  
>>To: UFO UpDates - Toronto <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>>Date: Sat, 6 Dec 2008 16:44:00 -0000  
>>Subject: Reagan And UFOs

>>[http://www.mercurynews.com/movies/ci\\_11149532](http://www.mercurynews.com/movies/ci_11149532)

>>In a review of the old 'The Day the Earth Stood Still',  
>>journalist J. Hoberman wrote:

>>'... "The Day the Earth Stood Still" does allow for a more hard-  
>>nosed reading, with Gort's capacity for mayhem embodying the  
>>doctrine of mutually assured destruction. But most of the  
>>movie's fans have extrapolated an internationalist message -  
>>including at least one United States president.

>>According to Lou Cannon, one of Ronald Reagan's biographers,  
>>Reagan was so stirred by the notion that extraterrestrial  
>>invasion would trump national differences that he floated the  
>>scenario upon meeting Mikhail Gorbachev at Geneva in 1985. This  
>>departure from script flummoxed Reagan's staff - not to mention  
>>the Soviet general secretary.

>>Cannon writes that, well acquainted with what he called the  
>>president's interest in "little green men," Colin L. Powell, at  
>>the time the national security adviser, was convinced that the  
>>proposal had been inspired by The Day The Earth Stood Still."

>>Reagan revisited the idea later in a speech at the United  
>>Nations: "I occasionally think how quickly our differences  
>>worldwide would vanish if we were facing an alien threat from  
>>outside this world."

<snip>

>There were three other occasions when Reagan made similar  
>comments: at a High School in Fieldston, MD, a Conference in  
>Chicago, and to Shevardnaze in the Oval Office. He also had a  
>sighting with several others while on the Governor of California  
>Airplane flown by a pilot with 30,000 hours of flying time.

<snip>

Stan,

I hvae lived in Maryland for decades, and never heard of a city  
or town by the name of "Fieldston" [or Fieldstone]. A Google  
search came up empty as did a zip code search. Missouri,  
perhaps?

Dick

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# UFO Updates

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 8](#)

## Re: Reagan And UFOs

From: Nick Balaskas <[nikolaos.nul](mailto:nikolaos.nul)>  
Date: Sun, 07 Dec 2008 11:17:12 -0500  
Archived: Mon, 08 Dec 2008 07:45:05 -0500  
Subject: Re: Reagan And UFOs

>From: Stanton T Friedman <[fsphys.nul](mailto:fsphys.nul)>  
>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>Date: Sat, 6 Dec 2008 21:22:32 -0400  
>Subject: Re: Reagan And UFOs

>>From: Diana Cammack <[cammack.nul](mailto:cammack.nul)>  
>>To: UFO UpDates - Toronto <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>>Date: Sat, 6 Dec 2008 16:44:00 -0000  
>>Subject: Reagan And UFOs

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>>Reagan revisited the idea later in a speech at the United  
>>Nations: "I occasionally think how quickly our differences  
>>worldwide would vanish if we were facing an alien threat from  
>>outside this world."

>>This line may not apply to the remake, which, to judge from its  
>>trailer, is more concerned ...'

>>I was aware that Reagan had made a UN speech, but what more is  
>>known about his interaction with Gorbachev and the Russian  
>>response?

<snip>

>There were three other occasions when Reagan made similar  
>comments: at a High School in Fieldston, MD, a Conference in  
>Chicago, and to Shevardnaze in the Oval Office. He also had a  
>sighting with several others while on the Governor of California  
>Airplane flown by a pilot with 30,000 hours of flying time.

>Gorbachev said he agre[ed].

Hi Everyone!

For the sake of accuracy let me expand a little on these other

lesser known times that Reagan brought up this theme in public.

The high school in Maryland was Fallston (not Fieldston, N.Y.). On Dec. 4, 1985 Reagan in his speech at the school said: "...how easy it his task and mine might be in these meetings that we held if suddenly there was a threat to this world from some other species from another planet outside in the universe. We'd forget all the little local differences that we have between our countries...".

The meeting in Chicago was at the Palmer House Hotel on May 4, 1988 (a little over half a year after Reagan spoke on the same theme before the General Assembly at the United Nations). This time Reagan was quoted as saying "I've often wondered, what if all of us in the world discovered that we were threatened by an outer...a power from outer space, from another planet."

Is this theme commomn among the world's political and military leaders, both past and present? Yes. Although much more private, General George Marshall, U.S. Secretary of Defense (previously held by James Forrestal who committed "suicide" allegedly because he knew too much about the alien threat) and Canada's more outspoken Paul Hellyer, past Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence (and let us not forget U.S. Army's General Douglas MacArthur who is remoured to have established the still secret 'Interplanetary Phenomenon Unit') have all expressed similar statements in public.

Years ago I made one of many personal visit to the National Archives in Ottawa where I asked to see and copy the minutes of the Cabinet meeting for April 5, 1966 where the subject of unidentified flying objects was discussed and to get an audio copy of Prime Minister Pearson's 1957 Nobel Peace Prize speech where he too made reference a threat to the world by Martians! The previous Prime Minister even authorized the creation of Canada's own Area-51 in Alberta so that the occupants of the two pre-Sputnik satellites that entered Earth orbit in 1954 could land and later leave without being shot at - which was the policy at the time whenever UFOs intruded in Canadian and U.S. airspace.

The fact that Canada had a public interest in UFOs is further shown by the the 'Ottawa Interplanetary Society' memo I found in an earlier visit to the University of Ottawa archives. This memo (which had a hand drawn logo of a flying saucer on it!) listed some of our top scientists and engineers as members (see URL below for details).

[http://www.presidentialufo.com/ottawa\\_interplanetary.htm](http://www.presidentialufo.com/ottawa_interplanetary.htm)

In a private letter dated February 23, 1959, Wilbert B. Smith of Project Magnet wrote: "For your information EVERY nation on this planet has been officially informed of the existence of the space craft and their occupants from elsewhere...".

Many people regard the book by the late Col. Corso to be pure fiction but I have a picture of Corso's boss, General Trudeau, taken in the 1950s when he came to Avro Canada where we were secretly involved in reverse engineering of a flying saucer thanks to ET technology kept at the Pentagon. What is not readily known is that much of this ET hardware was sent here from the U.S. for analysis and testing. In a letter dated June 14, 1977 (well before Corso's book came out), a close personal friend of wrote: "...I recall that he [Smith] once told me that there was a TOP SECRET room in the Pentagon which housed UFO data and a collection of UFO fragments which he personally handled."

In summary, Reagan and others were simply expressing what he and previous presidents (eg. Nixon and the alien bodies he showed to his buddy Jackie Gleason who was very much interested in UFOs) as well as other world leaders already knew about the alien threat from space. Science fact is always stranger than science fiction, including Hollywood movies about the alien threat.

Nick Balaskas

Re: Reagan And UFOs

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 8](#)

## Re: Should UFO Abduction Be Classified

From: John Rimmer <[j.rimmer.nul](mailto:j.rimmer.nul)>  
Date: Sun, 07 Dec 2008 16:53:40 +0000  
Archived: Mon, 08 Dec 2008 07:48:09 -0500  
Subject: Re: Should UFO Abduction Be Classified

>From: Jerome Clark <[jkclark.nul](mailto:jkclark.nul)>  
>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>Date: Sun, 7 Dec 2008 10:07:16 -0500  
>Subject: Re: Should UFO Abduction Be Classified Debilitating?

>>From: John Rimmer <[j.rimmer.nul](mailto:j.rimmer.nul)>  
>>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>>Date: Sat, 06 Dec 2008 22:34:08 +0000  
>>Subject: Re: Should UFO Abduction Be Classified Debilitating?

>>>From: Jerome Clark <[jkclark.nul](mailto:jkclark.nul)>  
>>>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>>>Date: Sat, 6 Dec 2008 09:06:41 -0500  
>>>Subject: Re: Should UFO Abduction Be Classified Debilitating?

>>>I suspect, in common with John Velez, that John Rimmer dropped  
>>>this stale potato into the stew simply because he was bored one  
>>>day.

>>>It's the sort of assertion that somebody who knows nothing about  
>>>the abduction phenomenon - except, of course, that it doesn't  
>>>amount to anything threatening to the all-encompassing, all-  
>>>explaining conventional wisdom of the early 21st Century - would  
>>>pronounce. Most likely, the motive in such cases is a desire to  
>>>receive approving pats on the back from fellow convention-  
>>>guardians who will congratulate him on how rational he is.

>>>John, whom I've known a long time, knows better.

>>And you, Jerry, know better than to imply suggest that I think  
>>all abduction accounts come from hypnotic regression. Or is it,  
>>as John Velez suggests, that the cold weather's getting to you,  
>>too?

>John,

>Please read my words above. In case you missed them, they read:

>"John... knows better." And I was right. Next time, perhaps more  
>artful construction of a sentence - and we're all guilty of  
>inartful expression from time to time - would alleviate  
>unnecessary prose.

So what exactly are you asserting? That I do know better, but  
I am making the assertion (that all abduction experiences are  
the result of hypnotic regression) in order to receive approving  
pats on the back from fellow convention-guardians?

Or that I do know better but am making the assertion in order to  
drop a "stale potato into the stew simply because he was bored  
one day"?

>Now, to the question (ignored here but raised in a separate  
>posting of mine) concerning the evidence for the proposition you  
>offer - that UFO abductions appear as they do because of the use  
>of hypnosis, and would be different without such use - where's  
>your answer?

>I don't ask this confrontationally, by the way. I am genuinely

>curious.

Jerry, it's often asserted (quite wrongly in my view) on this side of the Pond that Americans "don't do irony". Your last sentence proves just how wrong this claim is.

>P.S. It is cold in Minnesota (13 degrees F./ 10.5 C. at the >moment), and thanks for your concern.

Stay warm, and drop another potato into the stew (and surely that should be -10.5 C? In the true spirit of English compromise, we tend to use Celsius for very low temperatures, so that freezing point is 0 degrees, a nice round figure, and Farenheit for high temperatures, so the hottest summer day is getting up to 100 degrees, another nice round figure!).

--

John Rimmer  
<[j.rimmer.nul](mailto:j.rimmer.nul)>

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 8](#)

## Re: Should UFO Abduction Be Classified

From: Greg Boone <[Evolbaby.nul](mailto:Evolbaby.nul)>  
Date: Sun, 7 Dec 2008 12:21:26 EST  
Archived: Mon, 08 Dec 2008 07:50:08 -0500  
Subject: Re: Should UFO Abduction Be Classified

>From: John Velez <[jvelez49.nul](mailto:jvelez49.nul)>  
>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>Date: Sat, 6 Dec 2008 00:43:07 -0500  
>Subject: Re: Should UFO Abduction Be Classified Debilitating?

>>From: Greg Sandow <[greg.nul](mailto:greg.nul)>  
>>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>>Date: Fri, 5 Dec 2008 11:08:56 -0500  
>>Subject: Re: Should UFO Abduction Be Classified Debilitating?

>>>From: Katharina Wilson <[K\\_Wilson.nul](mailto:K_Wilson.nul)>  
>>>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>>>Date: Thu, 04 Dec 2008 16:48:55 -0600  
>>>Subject: Re: Should UFO Abduction Be Classified Debilitating?

<snip>

>>In the days when I was studying abductions, I met many abductees  
>>with conscious memories. I hope John Velez comments, because  
>>he's one of them. He's always been very careful to distinguish  
>>between what he actually remembers, and what emerged under  
>>hypnosis (and I remember him being very suspicious of any  
>>supposed memories that hypnosis brought out). It would be  
>>possible to make a case for the reality of abductions without  
>>using hypnotic memories at all.

<snip>

>I just wanted to add that; my answer to the question posed in  
>this thread re: Should UFO Abduction Be Classified  
>Debilitating?, is a resounding, NO!

>I'm here to testify that my emotional and psychological  
>equilibrium is humming along like a Mazda engine. If anything,  
>the experiences have served to ground me even deeper in my own  
>identity. It kind of placed me in a position to have to  
>consciously 'reclaim' myself. I honestly believe I am stronger,  
>better for it all. That speaks volumes not about me personally,  
>but for the inherent strength and resiliency of the human  
>psyche.

>I'm here to tell you that it's possible to survive 'alien  
>contact' intact and no worse for the wear. With a little help  
>from our friends, nothing is insurmountable.

<snip>

>Warmest regards,

>John

Okay it's taken me a while to respond to you John Velez  
regarding your response to my initial question of this thread.

I must state that your response is one of the most important  
statements, observation, and declaration in UFO history. You've  
not only answered my question but I must state here and now I  
agree with you 100%.

I can't go into too much detail but let's say for now what you've validated has validation in others, lots of others I've talked to. I don't venture into this explanation or offshoot of UFO abductions because we have so many hard headed scientist types in UFOlogy who can't comprehend other theories than the ETH.

It has to be the ETH or we're all nuts or idiots or something.

It's taken me 22 years on the trail of one area or manifestation of UFO abductions and your statement corroborates others' statements as they now reflect back on their experiences.

We need to talk with more abductees, actually we all need to put away our prejudices and just listen to them when they're willing to talk. This aspect of UFOlogy has just leapt to another level of magnitude that I'm quite sure the majority of people in the world would be thrilled to learn about, however, it's too steep an educational curve at present. UFOlogy, as I've mentioned before calls upon one to be knowledgeable of all the physical sciences, the humanities, pop culture and then some. Qualifying and quantifying the mind, the spirit, are the key points here.

In other words, might other advanced life forms have their own religious beliefs? Might they have other techniques to handling problems of the spirit far more effective than our own? During first contact, or any contact, might not new cultures exchange that information not as violently as we do but in other ways?

We engage in religious conversion through basic assimilation of a culture via simple persuasion of example or by violent force. More technically advanced species might do it in other ways that may seem detrimental at first but later found to be a more efficient way of delivering the 'word'.

I'm going to stop here because there's much more I've studied on this and you John Velez, once again because of your courage and forthrightness have given another bright spot to contactees and abductees everywhere.

Stay tuned, this is gonna be some big fun!

Best,

Greg  
ufomafia.com/blog

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 8](#)

## Re: Should UFO Abduction Be Classified

From: Don Ledger <[dledger.nul](mailto:dledger.nul)>  
Date: Sun, 07 Dec 2008 13:29:05 -0400  
Archived: Mon, 08 Dec 2008 07:54:59 -0500  
Subject: Re: Should UFO Abduction Be Classified

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>your answer?

>I don't ask this confrontationally, by the way. I am genuinely  
>curious.

Hi Jerry and John,

Re the hypnosis induces the abduction scenario. This is sort of  
a 'chicken or the egg' situation. But in most cases the  
abduction stories begin before they get involved in hypno-  
therapy, if indeed they do resort to that.



Let's go to another element of the abduction phenomenon; children. I have two cases involving a 4 year-old and a 4 and a half year-old with disturbing relationships to the phenomenon.

One is now 17 years old [the other almost 16] and when I recently asked how this person was coping with the bug-eyed pictures often seen on commercials, TV and in the movies this witness's response was, "I've learned to live in denial."

Frankly I was shocked because I'd assumed that my question would have been met by confusion and asked what I was talking about. Instead I got an answer which suggested to me that this was at the front of the witnesses consciousness.

Travis Walton has used denial as a defence as well, and says "It works for me." [CBC radio about 12 years ago.]

Once we get clear of the idea that these instances occur when the abductee goes to sleep the thread of it becomes more disturbing.

A recent paper on this phenomenon by the usual psychologist suggests that that these people are fantasy prone when in fact everyone is fantasy prone.

I can't help but think that there is a bias going into these so-called studies that skews the arguments from the git-go.

Don Ledger

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# UFO Updates

A mailing list for the study of UFO-related phenomena  
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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 8](#)

## Re: UFO Hunters Roswell Episode

From: Victor Golubik <[Diverge247.nul](mailto:Diverge247.nul)>  
Date: Sun, 7 Dec 2008 12:55:52 EST  
Archived: Mon, 08 Dec 2008 08:55:00 -0500  
Subject: Re: UFO Hunters Roswell Episode

>From: Stanton T Friedman <[fsphys.nul](mailto:fsphys.nul)>  
>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>Date: Thu, 4 Dec 2008 20:17:36 -0400  
>Subject: Re: UFO Hunters Roswell Episode

>>From: Viltor Golubik <[Diverge247.nul](mailto:Diverge247.nul)>  
>>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>>Date: Thu, 4 Dec 2008 11:49:58 EST  
>>Subject: Re: UFO Hunters Roswell Episode

>>>From: Stanton T Friedman <[fsphys.nul](mailto:fsphys.nul)>  
>>>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>>>Date: Wed, 3 Dec 2008 20:52:57 -0400  
>>>Subject: Re: UFO Hunters Roswell Episode

>>>>From: Victor Golubik <[Diverge247.nul](mailto:Diverge247.nul)>  
>>>>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>>>>Date: Wed, 3 Dec 2008 10:12:39 EST  
>>>>Subject: Re: UFO Hunters Roswell Episode

><snip>

>>>>When will a proper interview of Stanton Friedman, concerning  
>>>>Roswell, ever take place?

>>>>Gee, Victor, I wonder how you know that tapes exist of my first  
>>>>conversations with Jesse Marcel?

>>>>I know no such thing. I called him from the Baton Rouge airport  
>>>>after speaking at LSU the night before and while on my way to  
>>>>another engagement and did not have a tape recorder with me and  
>>>>had no idea I would be talking about Roswell 30 years later.

>>>>He is on film in my UFOs ARE Real of which some is in Flying  
>>>>Saucers ARE Real and some is in Recollections Of Roswell.

>>>>Please provide evidence for your charges... or stop making them.

>>Geez Stan...

>>I see you how you recharacterize my statements. Nothing new,  
>>apparently?

>>I didn't say your first but "first interviews." A collective  
>>reference.

>>And, it is very early (May, 1979). But, anyone seriously engaged  
>>in UFO research, traveling around the country, poised to meet  
>>individuals at lectures, should have a tape recorder handy -  
>>especially when it involves your greatest passion and when the  
>>need for demonstrable proof is most prescient. You do have the  
>>capability to play audio at lectures, right Stan? And, most tape  
>>players that I know of are recorders too.

>>The document I'm referring to was provided by you to CUFOS at an  
>>important Roswell pow wow - where Berliner indicated you were  
>>holding back some evidence (someone may want to ask Berliner  
>>what he meant by that). Obviously, if you provided it, it was  
>>important to do so. I'm sure you make reference to this

>>incomplete transcript (audio tape) in your many publications?

>>It not only shows fast forward markers from a much longer  
>>taping (that an audio recording does exist), but also excludes  
>>some of Marcel's testimony from the "Roswell Incident" where he  
>>qualifies some of his terminology, such as what he means by  
>>"bend" or when he says he was actually holding the metal debris

>>Do you then deny that Marcel said he was holding the "actual"  
>>Roswell debris in that photo? And, why would a thorough  
>>researcher chose one statement of Marcel's over another? Are you  
>>now deciding for him at this point?

>>Someone at CUFOS forwarded these to me and are publicly  
>>available for viewing. And, since Stanton asked me, here they  
>>are.

>>The images of this three page document to which I referred

>><http://tinyurl.com/64v4vb>

>><http://tinyurl.com/5ppvbm>

>><http://tinyurl.com/6a4zsl>

>>Linda G. Corley (Ph.D.) in her book, For The Sake Of My Country,  
>>actually trumped you Stan at your greatest passion and  
>>acknowledged her recordings with Marcel in May, 1981. They are  
>>interesting to read or listen to. I suggest everyone get a copy;  
>>Certainly, the most important (relevant) book about Roswell  
>>after the publication of the Roswell Incident (1980) or  
>>Roswell in Perspective by Karl T.Pflock.

>Victor,

>Your pettiness is showing through.

>The pages you provided are transcripts made by 'Group One'  
>people from sound recordings made by our film crew - not me -  
>when we interviewed Jesse Marcel in Houma in 1979 for UFOs Are  
>Real.

>I mentioned that movie in my responses.

>Obviously I had spoken with Jesse before that.

>They are the property of Group One. I didn't record the material  
>nor transcribe it, nor does it belong to me. I do have available  
>a DVD version of UFOs ARE Real as listed on my website. It is 93  
>minutes long and costs only \$20. including postage from me at  
>POB 958, Houlton, ME 04730-0958.

>Has lots of other goodies including interviews with Dr.Bruce  
>Maccabee, Dr. Richard Haines, Dr. James Harder, Dr. Mitchell from  
>OSU, Betty Hill, Marjorie Fish, Travis Walton, Mike Rogers, etc.

Nice try Stan but you are listed as a writer on that show and  
that is a redacted version of the complete interview provided by  
you. So, are you are telling us that you didn't produce that  
written transcript? That you did not retain a complete taped  
interview as a writer on the show? That you had no editorial  
control? No influence on the direction of your prime witness?

Also, you didn't answer my questions concerning Marcell's  
admission that he was actual holding the debris in the published  
photo? Did he say that to you as it is clearly written down in  
the "Roswell Incident?"

Or, are you saying instead that he was grossly mistaken in his  
visual and personal recall from just a few days previous to it's  
publication?

golubik

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 8](#)

## Re: Strange Aerial Object Over Irving Texas

From: Bruce Maccabee <[brumac.nul](mailto:brumac.nul)>  
Date: Sun, 7 Dec 2008 14:49:35 -0500  
Archived: Mon, 08 Dec 2008 08:57:00 -0500  
Subject: Re: Strange Aerial Object Over Irving Texas

>From: Michael Tarbell <[mtarbell.nul](mailto:mtarbell.nul)>  
>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>Date: Sat, 06 Dec 2008 20:51:58 -0700  
>Subject: Re: Strange Aerial Object Over Irving Texas

>>From: Bruce Maccabee <[brumac.nul](mailto:brumac.nul)>  
>>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>>Date: Sat, 6 Dec 2008 15:25:04 -0500  
>>Subject: Re: Strange Aerial Object Over Irving Texas

<snip>

>>Whereas an unknown might be able to (seemingly) violate known  
>>physics, a CEP cannot violate known physics. (If it did, then it  
>>would be like explaining one unknown with another unknown.)

>Hi Bruce,

>While this clearly makes sense, one then wonders what actually  
>constitutes a TRUFO. If all CEPs must be consistent with known  
>physics, and if TRUFOS arise strictly as a result of the absence  
>of any viable CEP, then "genuine" TRUFOS must be inconsistent  
>with known physics.

>But this seems overly stringent. One can imagine, say, an  
>extraterrestrial craft landing on the White House lawn without  
>any overt violation of the known laws of physics.

>Nevertheless, such a strict criterion - and I am in favor of  
>such - would be well suited to setting priorities for further  
>investigation (exploring new physics, if nothing else), with the  
>recognition that it may throw out some babies with the  
>bathwater.

It is true that if a TRUFO were to satisfy one or more CEP by  
appearing as a mundane object then one would not know whether it  
is a TRUFO or not.

But so what: we need to find clear violations of something in  
order to know that something new has happened or been reported.  
So, if a craft resembling a UA passenger jet lands at the  
airport, no one is going to suspect anything new. It would not  
be classified as a TRUFO. On the other hand, if it just suddenly  
appears on the runway, with no radar or visual observation  
beforehand, one might well expect that something bizarre has  
happened. And if a grey skinned crew with large eyes, thin  
bodies, etc. exit by floating out the the plane, we would  
suddenly know that something "new has happened." Suddenly the  
initially suppose UA passenger jet is a TRUFO.

I don't think we'll have to worry much about throwing the baby  
out with the bathwater. The objects that we classify as TRUFOS  
hardly ever, if ever, look like something made by mankind.

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 8](#)

## Re: Strange Aerial Object Over Irving Texas

From: Bruce Maccabee <[brumac.nul](mailto:brumac.nul)>  
Date: Sun, 7 Dec 2008 15:14:34 -0500  
Archived: Mon, 08 Dec 2008 08:58:00 -0500  
Subject: Re: Strange Aerial Object Over Irving Texas

>From: Jim Deardorff <[deardorj.nul](mailto:deardorj.nul)>  
>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>Date: Sat, 06 Dec 2008 20:24:52 -0800  
>Subject: Re: Strange Aerial Object Over Irving Texas

>>From: Bruce Maccabee <[brumac.nul](mailto:brumac.nul)>  
>>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>>Date: Sat, 6 Dec 2008 15:25:04 -0500  
>>Subject: Re: Strange Aerial Object Over Irving Texas

<snip>

>One  
>imagines a "Candidate Explanatory Phenomenon" (CEP) and then  
>studies all the characteristics of that CEP and compares with  
>the reported characteristics of the unknown. IF the CEP match  
>all of the characteristics of the unknown then one may assume  
>there has been identification. If only a few or none of the  
>characteristics match, then one may try another CEP and repeat  
>the testing procedure (comparing characteristics of the known  
>with those of the known). This can get very complicated and may  
>result in a "hung jury," but we have to try anyway. A key  
>precept in this procedure is

>Whereas an unknown might be able to (seemingly) violate known  
>physics, a CEP cannot violate known physics. (If it did, then it  
>would be like explaining one unknown with another unknown.)

>Bruce,

>I would amend the above to read, "a CEP should not violate  
>physics known to the maker of the TRUFO." I.e., there's alot  
>concerning future science we can't be certain about.

Well, yes, I'm sure it wouldn't violate physics as known by a  
race of beings "more educated" than are we, but the point I am  
making is that we aren't certain that an object is a TRUFO  
unless it does something "unphysical" by our standards. What  
this "unphysical" characteristic might be sudden appearance or  
disappearance of non-aerodynamic shape despite high speed, etc.,  
and "unphysics1" includes disgorging non-human creatures.

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## Life In A Vacuum

From: **UFO UpDates - Toronto** <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
Date: Mon, 08 Dec 2008 09:00:26 -0500  
Archived: Mon, 08 Dec 2008 09:00:26 -0500  
Subject: Life In A Vacuum

Source: Billy Cox's Blog De Void - Sarasota, Florida, USA

<http://tinyurl.com/66vjoy>

Saturday, December 6, 2008

Life In A Vacuum  
By Billy Cox

The public spat between the Mary Brogan Museum of Art & Science and the director of the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory in Tallahassee apparently has a happy ending. Following a letters-to-the-editor smackdown (De Void 11/14/08) about what does and doesn't constitute legitimate science, Mag Lab director Dr. Greg Boebinger has accepted an invitation by Museum executive director, Chucha Barber, to join the Museum's exhibits committee.

"We had an honest disagreement," says Boebinger, who had blasted the Museum's decision to host a Roswell UFO exhibit as an exercise in pseudoscience. "But we are allies on so many broader issues."

With shrill religious zealots constantly challenging science textbooks, no doubt that's true. But Boebinger is sticking by his guns on the original point of contention: "I'm happy to be on record stating that there's no physical evidence with which we can work to make UFOs a real science."

In Boebinger's universe, more than half a century's worth of radar returns on UFOs can all be discarded as weather balloons, hoaxes, Venus, or whatever. Which gives him a convenient pass to ignore current events.

Not only was Boebinger unfamiliar with the Mutual UFO Network's lengthy analysis of the January 8 Stephenville Incident, in which voluminous civilian radar records corroborated eyewitness accounts on the ground, he didn't even want to hear about it. Boebinger cut short De Void's attempts to summarize the findings, which included hot pursuit by jet fighters.

"I'm really not interested in getting into debates over specifics like these. I'm a busy man," he says, "and I don't have time to figure out whether one palm reader is better than another. I don't see it as my job to debunk every single claim."

Smearing an entire category of data as pseudoscience without addressing the details evokes the insecurities of the 17th-century authorities who refused to look through Galileo's telescope. In fact, this sort of breezy arrogance can produce the unintended consequences of driving rational people into the rocky shoals of fringe sirens who at least have a conversational command of the evidence.

Before his life was cut short at age 53 in 2000, Terence McKenna was anathema to many UFO researchers because of his assertions

that the most reliable way to communicate with extraterrestrials was via hallucinogenic drugs. Spookysmart and lyrically gifted, McKenna has since attained immortality on the Internet:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PkcK99hyYwK>

and his words are frequently sampled at rave marathons. As the 21st century unfolds, scientists like Boebinger continue to edify McKenna's arguments.

UFOs, McKenna said, "empower us to see science for the shell game that it is, to see the past 400 years of western culture for the pathetic narrowing of the spectrum of allowable phenomena that it is, to the point where people think that if you can't bang on something with a hammer, it isn't real." He wondered "how much we would understand about electricity if our method of studying it was to stand on top of high hills and wait to be struck by lightning. It seems to me that's the position we're in vis-a-vis UFOs."

As modern science continues to shirk its obligations of true skepticism, that vacuum is being filled with aggressive insults to its conventions. And as Terence McKenna proves - with apologies to Geico's Neanderthals - it's so easy even a dead man can do it.

[Thanks to Stan Friedman]

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## Re: Reagan And UFOs

From: **Steven Kaeser** <[steve.nul](mailto:steve.nul)>  
Date: Sun, 7 Dec 2008 13:06:59 -0500  
Archived: Mon, 08 Dec 2008 10:10:00 -0500  
Subject: Re: Reagan And UFOs

>From: Dick Hall <[dh12.nul](mailto:dh12.nul)>  
>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>Date: Sun, 07 Dec 2008 11:08:58 -0500  
>Subject: Re: Reagan And UFOs

>>From: Stanton T Friedman <[fsphys.nul](mailto:fsphys.nul)>  
>>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>>Date: Sat, 6 Dec 2008 21:22:32 -0400  
>>Subject: Re: Reagan And UFOs

<snip>

>Stan,

>I have lived in Maryland for decades, and never heard of a city  
>or town by the name of "Fieldston" [or Fieldstone]. A Google  
>search came up empty as did a zip code search. Missouri,  
>perhaps?

I found another reference to Reagan's High School mention of  
UFOs and it appears the name of the Town or High School is  
misspelled:

[www.theforbiddenknowledge.com/hardtruth/ronald\\_reagan\\_ufo.htm](http://www.theforbiddenknowledge.com/hardtruth/ronald_reagan_ufo.htm)

"The President first disclosed his recurrent thoughts about "an  
alien threat" during a December 4, 1985, speech at the Fallston  
High School in Maryland, where he spoke about his first summit  
with General Secretary Gorbachev in Geneva. According to a White  
House transcript, Reagan remarked that during his 5-hour private  
discussions with Gorbachev, he told [Gorbachev] to think, "how  
easy his task and mine might be in these meetings that we held  
if suddenly there was a threat to this world from some other  
species from another planet outside in the universe. We'd forget  
all the little local differences that we have between our  
countries..."

Fallson High School is northwest of Baltimore,

<http://www.hcps.org/Schools/High/Fallston.aspx>

Reagan had an interest in UFOs, as can be seen by his reactions  
and comments (to the surprise of his staff at times). But  
there's no real evidence that he was made aware of information  
that had been withheld on the subject, and his comments could  
have simply been honest opinions based on his experiences and  
sighting. One can only imagine that the "need to know" questions  
was more strictly enforced after Carter's release of stealth  
information during his Administration, although I know that some  
would disagree and speculate that the President would get full  
disclosure after the swearing in. That, of course, depends on  
what is meant by "full disclosure" and its relationship to "need  
to know".

Steve

Re: Reagan And UFOs

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## Re: Should UFO Abduction Be Classified

From: Jerome Clark <[jkclark.nul](mailto:jkclark.nul)>  
Date: Mon, 8 Dec 2008 09:22:33 -0500  
Archived: Mon, 08 Dec 2008 16:01:23 -0500  
Subject: Re: Should UFO Abduction Be Classified

>From: John Rimmer <[j.rimmer.nul](mailto:j.rimmer.nul)>  
>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>Date: Sun, 07 Dec 2008 16:53:40 +0000  
>Subject: Re: Should UFO Abduction Be Classified Debilitating?

>>From: Jerome Clark <[jkclark.nul](mailto:jkclark.nul)>  
>>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>>Date: Sun, 7 Dec 2008 10:07:16 -0500  
>>Subject: Re: Should UFO Abduction Be Classified Debilitating?

>>>From: John Rimmer <[j.rimmer.nul](mailto:j.rimmer.nul)>  
>>>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>>>Date: Sat, 06 Dec 2008 22:34:08 +0000  
>>>Subject: Re: Should UFO Abduction Be Classified Debilitating?

>>>>From: Jerome Clark <[jkclark.nul](mailto:jkclark.nul)>  
>>>>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>>>>Date: Sat, 6 Dec 2008 09:06:41 -0500  
>>>>Subject: Re: Should UFO Abduction Be Classified Debilitating?  
>>>>And you, Jerry, know better than to imply suggest that I think  
>>>>all abduction accounts come from hypnotic regression. Or is it,  
>>>>as John Velez suggests, that the cold weather's getting to you,  
>>>>too?

>>Please read my words above. In case you missed them, they read:

>>"John... knows better." And I was right. Next time, perhaps more  
>>artful construction of a sentence - and we're all guilty of  
>>inartful expression from time to time - would alleviate  
>>unnecessary prose.

>>So what exactly are you asserting? That I do know better, but  
>>I am making the assertion (that all abduction experiences are  
>>the result of hypnotic regression) in order to receive approving  
>>pats on the back from fellow convention-guardians?

>>Or that I do know better but am making the assertion in order to  
>>drop a "stale potato into the stew simply because he was bored  
>>one day"?

Sigh. All of this rhetorical air expelled (and the rest clipped  
from this post so as not to test Listfolk patience) in order not  
to answer a simple question. To wit, third time around:

Why do you believe, and on what specific evidence, that  
hypnotically derived testimony has - presumably misleadingly -  
shaped notions of how the abduction phenomenon is perceived by  
experients and understood by others?

I guess my genuine curiosity - on a subject, incidentally, on  
which I have thoughts of my own and which, at least in my  
opinion, bears discussing - will go unsatisfied.

Jerry Clark

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 8](#)

## Re: Reagan And UFOs

From: **Diana Cammack** <[cammack.nul](mailto:cammack.nul)>  
Date: Mon, 8 Dec 2008 15:30:00 -0000  
Archived: Mon, 08 Dec 2008 16:04:37 -0500  
Subject: Re: Reagan And UFOs

Reagan telling Gorbochev that their tasks would be easier if they were facing a threat from the outside is hardly earthshattering (pardon the pun). It is unlikely that 'this departure from [the] script [would flummox] Reagan's staff - not to mention the Soviet general secretary'.

He either said something more startling or both leaders' staff were less 'flummoxed' than reported...

Diana

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 8](#)

## Re: Should UFO Abduction Be Classified

From: William Treurniet <[wtreurniet.nul](mailto:wtreurniet.nul)>  
Date: Mon, 8 Dec 2008 10:38:48 -0500  
Archived: Mon, 08 Dec 2008 16:07:09 -0500  
Subject: Re: Should UFO Abduction Be Classified

>From: Greg Boone <[Evolbaby.nul](mailto:Evolbaby.nul)>  
>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>Date: Sun, 7 Dec 2008 12:21:26 EST  
>Subject: Re: Should UFO Abduction Be Classified Debilitating?

>In other words, might other advanced life forms have their own  
>religious beliefs? Might they have other techniques to handling  
>problems of the spirit far more effective than our own? During  
>first contact, or any contact, might not new cultures exchange  
>that information not as violently as we do but in other ways?

I'm reminded of the following comment made by Wilbert Smith in  
one of his letters.

"Furthermore, we have mistakenly drawn a heavy veil between our  
spiritual world and our physical world, and there are even many  
to whom the spiritual world is something vague to be mentioned  
only on Sunday. I understand from the people from elsewhere that  
such is not generally the case with them. For many of them there  
is no real veil between the physical and the spiritual, and  
communication and participation between the two is quite the  
normal thing."

If the visitors do not separate "religious" experience from the  
physical like we do, the question regarding religious beliefs  
may be meaningless to them.

Regards,

William

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# UFO Updates

A mailing list for the study of UFO-related phenomena  
'Its All Here In Black & White'

Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 8](#)

## Re: UFO Hunters Roswell Episode

From: Stanton T Friedman <[fsphys.nul](mailto:fsphys.nul)>  
Date: Mon, 8 Dec 2008 14:09:56 -0400  
Archived: Mon, 08 Dec 2008 16:11:38 -0500  
Subject: Re: UFO Hunters Roswell Episode

>From: Victor Golubik <[Diverge247.nul](mailto:Diverge247.nul)>  
>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>Date: Sun, 7 Dec 2008 12:55:52 EST  
>Subject: UFO Hunters Roswell Episode

>>From: Stanton T Friedman <[fsphys.nul](mailto:fsphys.nul)>  
>>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>>Date: Thu, 4 Dec 2008 20:17:36 -0400  
>>Subject: Re: UFO Hunters Roswell Episode

<snip>

>>Victor,

>>Your pettiness is showing through.

>>The pages you provided are transcripts made by 'Group One'  
>>people from sound recordings made by our film crew - not me -  
>>when we interviewed Jesse Marcel in Houma in 1979 for UFOs Are  
>>Real.

>>I mentioned that movie in my responses.

>>Obviously I had spoken with Jesse before that.

>>They are the property of Group One. I didn't record the material  
>>nor transcribe it, nor does it belong to me. I do have available  
>>a DVD version of UFOs ARE Real as listed on my website. It is 93  
>>minutes long and costs only \$20. including postage from me at  
>>POB 958, Houlton, ME 04730-0958.

>>Has lots of other goodies including interviews with Dr. Bruce  
>>Maccabee, Dr. Richard Haines, Dr. James Harder, Dr. Mitchell from  
>>OSU, Betty Hill, Marjorie Fish, Travis Walton, Mike Rogers, etc.

>Nice try Stan but you are listed as a writer on that show and  
>that is a redacted version of the complete interview provided by  
>you. So, are you are telling us that you didn't produce that  
>written transcript? That you did not retain a complete taped  
>interview as a writer on the show? That you had no editorial  
>control? No influence on the direction of your prime witness?

>Also, you didn't answer my questions concerning Marcell's  
>admission that he was actual holding the debris in the published  
>photo? Did he say that to you as it is clearly written down in  
>the "Roswell Incident?"

>Or, are you saying instead that he was grossly mistaken in his  
>visual and personal recall from just a few days previous to it's  
>publication?

Victor,

I am telling you that I wrote many questions to be used in the  
interviews done by the Director. I had a great deal to do with  
selecting people to be interviewed, arranging transportation,  
even driving rental cars and hauling film equipment cases. The  
director didn't have a driver's license nor a credit card.

The oral and film recordings were periodically shipped back for processing. The film company of course did the transcribing. We were gone for weeks and put on a lot of miles from coast to coast. I didn't handle that material. I did not have a complete taped interview. Far more film and tape was shot than was used. I didn't do any of the editing either. Of course I had no editorial control. I tried to keep the Billy Meier stuff out, for example, unsuccessfully.

The only thing I see in the Roswell Incident that might be relevant is a line in a caption, page 35 of the paperback, from Marcel. I didn't write the book and didn't pass on the line from any conversation with Marcel. Bill Moore and I did most of the research. Berlitz wrote the book. There was no connection between the book and the movie. You can't ask Charles Berlitz. Perhaps you can try Bill Moore.

Remember UFOs Are Real was not a home movie. It was a Hollywood documentary.

Stan Friedman

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## So Long And Thanks For All The Grays

From: **UFO UpDates - Toronto** <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
Date: Mon, 08 Dec 2008 17:15:00 -0500  
Archived: Mon, 08 Dec 2008 17:15:00 -0500  
Subject: So Long And Thanks For All The Grays

Source: Daniel Brenton.Com - Sandy, Utah, USA

December 7, 2008

<http://tinyurl.com/5lowfm>

Alien Worlds Magazine - So Long, And Thanks For All The Grays  
by Daniel Brenton

As Nick Redfern noted over at UFO Mystic, this truly is a sad moment for the UFO community. Stuart Miller, creator and editor of Alien Worlds Magazine, has announced that he has had to close down the publication.

I am pleased to have had the opportunity to be in Stuart's "stable" of writers.

Getting that opportunity was surprisingly painless. Shortly after I started blogging, Stuart picked up my first UFO article, UFOs - An Unreasonable Argument, for his news list, which was called UFO Review at the time. I thanked him for doing this, and as time went on he would carry just about any relevant post I had to offer.

After I decided it was time to move on from blogging about UFOs, I proposed a parody column to Stuart for his new magazine, sight unseen, based only on the warm reviews it was receiving. My column, The Round Files, had a rather brief run (issues three and four), and my third installment was in issue five, which won't be appearing, unfortunately.

My proposal, which consisted of a few explanatory paragraphs and a sample column, was accepted almost immediately. Stuart actually solicited and reviewed suggestions for layout, and took great care to make sure we understood each other. It would be difficult to imagine a better relationship with an editor.

The deciding factor in my mind for working with Stuart was his sense of humor. The UFO subject, as fascinating as it can be, is a dismally humorless one, and just glancing through an edition of an ezine of his from a couple of years back (also known as UFO Review) it was delightfully obvious Stuart was able to think about the subject seriously and laugh at it at the same time.

Those of you who read earlier installments of The Round Files when I published them here or on my (long retired) blog High Oddness, will probably remember that I was going after a very dry, subdued approach, something Stuart noted was unusual in American writers. Alien Worlds Magazine Issue 3

One thing that really jumps out at me from the experience of the column itself is that there were people who didn't get that these were parodies. I had a couple of emails from folks trying to track down the book I invented for my debut column, Listen Pal, Your Flight Never Happened - The Really, Really Secret Mission of Apollo 18, and I had to disappoint them. I was poking

fun at William Rutledge's Apollo 20 nonsense, and at least some of the audience didn't pick up on that.

I let them down gently, though I found it a bit amusing. Depending how you count them, there were something like 20 gags in that article, and yet there were people who took it seriously. For my last submission I included a footnote that makes it perfectly clear what these articles were, but... well... no one will be reading that.

(No, I'm not publishing it here. Ain't gonna happen.)

It would be easy to write these people off as dense, but I think it's more complex than that. It may be a case of people who 'live' in the subject matter getting 'tunnel-visioned' on what they expect and missing everything else. A bit sad, actually.

It was fun doing The Round Files, and maybe some time in the future given the right opportunity I will return to them.

Stuart - I hope you're reading this: thank you for the opportunity of seeing my work in print in that stunning magazine of yours, and I wish the best to you and all your future endeavors. I truly do.

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## SDI #465 Twenty Questions

From: **Alfred Lehmborg** <[alienview.nul](mailto:alienview.nul)>  
Date: Mon, 8 Dec 2008 15:15:52 -0600  
Archived: Mon, 08 Dec 2008 17:16:00 -0500  
Subject: SDI #465 Twenty Questions

SDI #465 Twenty Questions

20 Questions \_especially\_ well addressed by Dave Furlotte, Stuart Miller, Chris Rutkowski... as chopped and channeled by the paranormal stylings of Errol Bruce-Knapp in a manner as reasoned as it is reasonable and as reasoning as it is... raison d'etre...

1. How does one "prove" the existence of something where no proof is accepted?
2. How much has humanity grown with its technology, and how much has it \_matured\_?
3. Why have our plethora of media recording devices not settled the UFO issue?
4. Can our technology be depended upon to faithfully determine fact from fiction? Does that determination change the thing determined in the same fashion an electron is changed as a result of mere observation re the state of same?
5. How much of George Orwell's \_1984\_ has actually been realized?
6. How can the existence of UFOs be validated given the existence of too \_much\_ evidence of UFOs, \_bogus\_ evidence effortlessly invalidated but casting aspersions on the rest?
7. Is there a mechanism employed to invalidate UFOs in the manner just described?
8. Is the planet Venus a viable candidate for the UFO/police helicopter (crew of three) incident over Birmingham in England last month?
9. Do radio controlled model airplanes fly circles around perplexed police helicopters as Nick Pope takes pains to walk the "safe path"... "worked up" even as his cautious interests are "justifiably" piqued?
10. Where is the multi-spectrum video of same suggested in use by Errol and Stuart?
11. Who is the "eagle-eye UFO sleuth" breaking the story out from staid official channels?
12. Is there a sea change to the approach and manner of world ufological reportage, in general, lately?
13. \_Does\_ a "professionally trained" observer remotely trump an untrained one? Will they \_both\_ make the same kind of "hysterical mistakes"?
14. Can it be possible to be "sick" of the plight of the "UFO Hacker," Gary McKinnon? Is McKinnon a man who should be rewarded for revealing gross security lapses in government computers as regards a security infrastructure and apparatus \_allegedly\_ overhauled and hardened at the cost of billions in the wake of

9/11? Is McKinnon persecuted instead by the threat of decades in prison on the whim of the entirely discredited Alberto Gonzalez and George W. Bush? Sick, is it remotely appropriate to say so?

15. Has Great Britain deferred entirely to a "big brother" touting that they are "only here to help" with regard to that threat of terrorism?

16. What is Kevin Spacey doing now and how does it touch upon the subject of UFOs and ancillaries in a film presently being shot in New Mexico?

17. What are the quantifiable differences between skeptibunkies and consistent skeptics?

18. Did Phil Klass have any moral justification beyond back-shooting his opponents from their lettered positions or driving them to suicide?

19. How does Stuart Miller exactly mirror Dave Furlotte from earlier in the program?

20. Crashed Saucers in the UK further mirroring Dave Furlotte?

Zounds, but only 30 minutes remain in this short program... Stuart Miller continues with discussion as regards what "sticks" about Nick Pope et al, then Chris Rutkowski regales with a report on his new book about gingham tea cozies... gotcha! Just seeing if you were paying attention. Seriously it's a cited book about UFOs as a true global phenomenon! Then, with as much 'balance' as has yet been mastered, actually Phil Klass was further 'remembered'.

Too, J. Allen Hynek slept here! Lots of intriguing and astonishing stuff to make you go hmmm, yea and verily. Stuff hard to discount when it is so soberly reported by a person with the stature of Mr. Rutkowski.

Ufological sensibilities remaining to be empowered are the listener's own! Listen or know the ubiquitous toad, fellow motes and travelers!

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[alienview.nul](http://alienview.nul)

[www.AlienView.net](http://www.AlienView.net)

AVG Blog -- <http://alienviewgroup.blogspot.com/>

U F O M a g a z i n e -- [www.ufomag.com](http://www.ufomag.com)

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## Re: Strange Aerial Object Over Irving Texas

From: **Martin Shough** <[parcellular.nul](mailto:parcellular.nul)>  
Date: Mon, 8 Dec 2008 19:50:20 -0000  
Archived: Mon, 08 Dec 2008 17:17:00 -0500  
Subject: Re: Strange Aerial Object Over Irving Texas

>From: Franklin Fields <[fields.nul](mailto:fields.nul)>  
>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>Date: Sat, 6 Dec 2008 20:09:41 -0500 (EST)  
>Subject: Re: Strange Aerial Object Over Irving Texas

>>From: Martin Shough <[parcellular.nul](mailto:parcellular.nul)>  
>>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>>Date: Fri, 5 Dec 2008 23:17:15 -0000  
>>Subject: Re: Strange Aerial Object Over Irving Texas

>>>From: Franklin Fields, Esq. <[fields.nul](mailto:fields.nul)>  
>>>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>>>Date: Thu, 4 Dec 2008 21:57:07 -0500 (EST)  
>>>Subject: Re: Strange Aerial Object Over Irving Texas

><snip>

>Martin,

>I acknowledged the "off the top of my head" memory error and  
>you keep bringing it up.

Hi Frank

No, I brought up those multiple errors once only.\* In my second post I responded to something that you brought up - namely, your mysterious insistence that the actual facts of the case were irrelevant to your claim that it constituted "photographic proof . . . that can be presented with full confidence". It would hardly have been possible to object to this without at least alluding to those "facts", which had been relevant enough when you thought they were more impressive, but which apparently became incidental.

What is the point of any of this if we don't care what is true and what isn't?

[\* I did mention another new material error in my second post, which you committed in your reply even after having got the book in front of you. Perhaps you are confusing these different errors.]

>I am not going to address each of your points individually

Ah, yes, the "I could refute your arguments with childish ease if I chose to but you are beneath my notice" ploy. Does it go over well in court?

>because some of them are off-topic, dogmatic, and uninformed.

And here's one of those amusing irregular verb conjugations: "I assert; you insist; he dogmatizes".

>My original point was that "we have had the proof for decades".  
>I stand by that remark.

You can stand by the remark by all means, but the specimen evidence you offered in support of it was clearly not up to the job. Why persist in affecting a lofty indifference to the actual

nature of the evidence?

If you had said, "I clearly chose a poor example, here's a superior one" or better still, "these are my suggestions for a list of 25 high-probability photo cases which Hynek lamented did not exist" then we would not be having this conversation at all, but a more interesting and possibly more productive one.

I do understand, of course, that this is all my fault!

>I tried to give you the benefit of the doubt when you  
>incorrectly used legal terms like "prima facie" and "probable  
>cause" as well as others.

I'm sorry but you are mistaken. You will find that you yourself used the term "probable cause" in precisely the same sense as I did in my original post. And "prima facie" has indeed meant "first appearance" ever since Latin was invented, and both legally and informally means what is "apparently" true pending the possible discovery of contrary evidence (at trial or otherwise).

I will try to explain why I think the confusion exists.

Your claim had been (least we forget) that to convince the unconvinced there was "no need for any more proof" than was already exemplified by old photographic cases like Calgary, Alberta, Aug 1964. Given the obvious shortcomings of that example (which you have not attempted to dispute) and the fact, conceded even by your expert witness (Hynek), that most cases were as poor or poorer and that his desideratum of 25 high-probability cases constituting a quasi-proof did not exist (there being only "a few" that were "nearly" of requisite quality), I asked if it might be proper to interpret your claim as meaning not that there existed a solid photographic proof in the sense inquired about by Nick, but rather that:

>>. . . prima facie evidence gives probable cause to search  
>>for physical proof

Now you appeared to rather elaborately disagree with me, but ended up defining the the nature and function of existing "proof" as follows:

>For those that are not convinced, there is sufficient  
>evidence or probable cause to look further.

Which as anyone can see is pretty much the interpretation I suggested. What will confuse people is that in your terms a reasonable belief or suspicion (evidence giving probable cause to examine further) can itself be called a proof.

The problem is that no one except a lawyer could understand a level of evidence which justifies curiosity, but which does not in itself convince, as being a "proof". For most non-lawyers (such as scientists) a proof is what may or may not ensue after one has become persuaded to examine for it, and then not until a consensus emerges that it has survived all reasonable criticism.

You are working with a technical professional definition of "proof" which is associated with bringing evidence to trial, i.e. the "prima facie" case which is presented to the court must bear a "burden of proof" to be admissible. And before you accuse me of uninformed off-topic dogmatism again, allow me to quote you:

>To be precise the proof that could be legally presented at  
>trial  
>(allowed by a judge) which is intended to convince the jury of  
>alleged facts material to the case. In this instance the proof  
>relevant to convince the public of the case for UFOs.

You are very clearly saying to us that there is ample "proof" in this legal sense, sufficient to bring a prima facie case to trial.

And we understand that. But the various proofs you may offer during the course of making or building your case do not in themselves constitute a proof of the case. If they did, of course, then no one bringing a case to court would ever lose.



They very frequently do lose, even though they submit admissible proofs, because the point at which their prima facie case ends is the point at which opposing counsel's counter-case begins, and where that case ends is where the jury starts to deliberate. Or in scientific terms, the testing of a theory only begins seriously with the presentation of what you characterise as "proofs".

<snip>

>Our court system's history is connected to the very development of civilizations and is fixed in the wider context of our >society. Among jurists and historians it is seen as a >fundamental requirement for orderly social structure and the >resolution of disputed issues.

Among scientists I suppose it is seen as "the court system". The law cannot solve scientific problems. Science solves scientific problems. A court can bring in science and scientists for expert opinion in order to help solve legal problems (such as which science a corporation or government can economically or electorally justify acknowledging or ignoring) and preserve "the orderly social structure" etc, but it is not for lay juries to decide questions of scientific fact. Period.

>As has been the case for thousands of years, people today look >to the legal system to resolve disputes.

Not scientific disputes, they don't. If they do they are wrongheaded. If they try they will fail. If as a result of failure they seek to rigidify science to the formalities of adversarial law or any other principles save testability and economy they will make fools of themselves and Soviet-style victims of us. Call that dogmatic if you will.

>It is not a political process.

Yes, it is. You talk about "convincing the public". If that means anything other than allowing informed scientific opinion to formulate itself in its own way and in its own good time, then it is politics.

I imagine your ideal would be to put on some sort of show trial, a Condon Committee with lawyers, in the expectation that if you could carry a verdict of "UFOs are real" this will then stand as the "official scientific truth", bound into ancient leather volumes as a case precedent to which future disputants must defer. But surely we all know that's a fantasy.

Scientists aren't obliged to respect any precedents, no matter who writes them. Indeed they are obliged by tradition and methodological principle to disrespect them.

You may say that you aren't interested in convincing scientists directly, that when you say "the public" you mean the civil government, so that they can put pressure on scientists and/or the military via legislation or more official Hearings and Committees or some other circus. But then this is indeed naked politics, and even so there's no getting around the fact that the expert advisors and consultants to whom the civil government will resort in assessing its response to your campaign are sceptical independent scientists, not sympathetic ufologists. How could it be otherwise? The jury you have to win over is still the same one and you play by their rules, not yours.

>The question of UFOs is no different than many of the >other matters that have come before our courts. Therefore it is >appropriate to use legal methods to evaluate UFO information.

Not for scientific purposes, it isn't. The public might use legal methods to evaluate/control its own legal, political or social response to UFO information of scientific value brought into court, but scientists will decide what information is of scientific value, not the court. The court will decide other values..

>Legal rulings are derived by the use of legal methodology that >is actually a complex and intricate science. Our courts arrive >at judgments using essentially a scientific process.

In a sense this is true. The dialectical resolution of issues in

a court procedure can look something like a process of scientific argument, and might involve quite a lot of actual science.

But assembling your proofs into a prima facie case for trial is not "a court arriving at judgment". It is your partial presentation with a view to pressing your construction of events on a jury. The process of judgment is what begins after you have presented your prima facie proofs, when they have been exposed to critical examination and contrary evidence, and after both parties have tried to explain to the jury (of scientists) how all the surviving proofs add up to one interpretation or another. This is the process which your Calgary photo case - and any like it - will fail, for the specific reasons I enumerated (among others)

>To get the photos admitted into evidence it must be subject to  
>a test for foundation and authenticity. The testimony of  
>witnesses such as Mr. Smith would be used. Such evidence is  
>examined for bias, for interest and for the human capacity to  
>exaggerate or mislead, among other things. Often the Judge  
>will hold a hearing away from the jury to decide if a photo  
>would even get tested in the Courtroom.

>My point was that these photos and the corresponding witness  
>testimonies are proof.

Yes, we've got that. Admissible as proofs of a prima facie case that a judge might very likely allow to get to court. So...?

>Solid proof that would stand up in a trial but apparently not  
>solid enough for you.

Ah, you see there's the little side-slip from "proof" to "solid proof", by which you evidently mean proof that would carry a favourable jury verdict on your larger case (that "these are photos of a large alien machine [or analogue]"). But your prima facie proofs could not carry that case for any scientifically curious jury, for the straightforward reasons already explained. This is what you apparently cannot grasp.

You may argue that the witnesses' characters would stand up, in the sense that prima facie evidence of honesty (affidavits, good character perhaps) could not be disproved. You may argue that the photos would stand up, because opposing counsel would concede that they are genuine photographs of something in the air. But your case amounts to more than the sum of these proofs:

It is that they generate a larger proof - that a "real flying saucer", beyond reasonable doubt (or whatever standard one wishes to adopt) flew over these Calgary woods. And that is the case a scientific jury could not accept as proven - for the reasons I adduced already, and more - because hoaxers have been known to be extremely plausible, and hoaxes have often involved genuine photographs of real objects in the air.

Protesting that they can't prove the witnesses to be lying is completely futile. It is not sufficient for you to say that opposing counsel is unable to prove that it is a frisbee. They don't have to. You have to prove that it isn't.

I've explained why I think that you don't have the evidence to do that. I await your rebuttal with interest. If you can't deal with my few simple questions how are you going to deal with the much more focused and specific ones of a scientific jury?

You need much stronger and better documented photo evidence to prove a scientifically robust case for "flying saucers" than any in Hynek's book. Does it exist?

>Okay you are right and I am wrong, you are big and I am small.  
>You win!!! >I hope you're happy now.

No, Frank, I'm not at all happy. You have no idea how depressing it is to see you resort to that. If I felt equally petty I might suggest that perhaps this fact will, in turn, please you. Let's hope not.

Martin Shough

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 9](#)

## Re: Should UFO Abduction Be Classified

From: John Rimmer <[j.rimmer.nul](mailto:j.rimmer.nul)>  
Date: Mon, 08 Dec 2008 21:42:25 +0000  
Archived: Tue, 09 Dec 2008 07:00:46 -0500  
Subject: Re: Should UFO Abduction Be Classified

>From: Jerome Clark <[jkclark.nul](mailto:jkclark.nul)>  
>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>Date: Mon, 8 Dec 2008 09:22:33 -0500  
>Subject: Re: Should UFO Abduction Be Classified Debilitating?

>Sigh. All of this rhetorical air expelled (and the rest clipped  
>from this post so as not to test Listfolk patience) in order not  
>to answer a simple question. To wit, third time around:

>Why do you believe, and on what specific evidence, that  
>hypnotically derived testimony has - presumably misleadingly -  
>shaped notions of how the abduction phenomenon is perceived by  
>experients and understood by others?

>I guess my genuine curiosity - on a subject, incidentally, on  
>which I have thoughts of my own and which, at least in my  
>opinion, bears discussing - will go unsatisfied.

OK, sigh. I don't 'believe' it, I was offering it as a suggestion. I don't have chapter and verse evidence, just a feeling that it was only after abduction research became dominated by hypnotic regression that we seemed to move towards the 'standardised' grey image. I know there are examples of non-grey 'regressed' reports, and many grey 'remebered' reports, but I don't think there were many grey 'remembered' reports much before hypnotic regression became established as an investigatory tool.

--

John Rimmer  
<[j.rimmer.nul](mailto:j.rimmer.nul)>

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 9](#)

## Re: Should UFO Abduction Be Classified

From: Katharina Wilson <[K.Wilson.nul](mailto:K.Wilson.nul)>  
Date: Mon, 08 Dec 2008 15:57:50 -0600  
Archived: Tue, 09 Dec 2008 07:01:25 -0500  
Subject: Re: Should UFO Abduction Be Classified

>From: Greg Sandow <[greg.nul](mailto:greg.nul)>  
>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>Date: Fri, 5 Dec 2008 11:08:56 -0500  
>Subject: Re: Should UFO Abduction Be Classified Debilitating?

>>From: Katharina Wilson <[K.Wilson.nul](mailto:K.Wilson.nul)>  
>>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>>Date: Thu, 04 Dec 2008 16:48:55 -0600  
>>Subject: Re: Should UFO Abduction Be Classified Debilitating?

>Another interesting tidbit:

> [http://www.greyloodge.org/occultreview/glor\\_006/lamstatement.htm](http://www.greyloodge.org/occultreview/glor_006/lamstatement.htm)

>>"Rimmer adds that "the UFO abduction as a distinct phenomenon  
>>exists as a result of the process of hypnotic regression." And  
>again: "...to a very great extent the evidence for alien  
>>abductions stands or falls on the reliability of memories  
>>recalled through regression, and the techniques of hypnosis  
>>themselves."

>Not this again! John - if he has any thorough knowledge of  
>abductees and the abduction literature - should know that what  
>he's saying isn't true.

>This point has nothing to do with any debate about what the  
>abduction experience really is. But it's a long established fact  
>that quite a large number of abductees have abduction memories  
>independent of hypnosis, memories that aren't buried, and don't  
>have to be recalled by any special means, whether that's  
>hypnosis or anything else. Eddie Bullard has documented this in  
>very careful studies, to cite only one source.

>In the days when I was studying abductions, I met many abductees  
>with conscious memories. I hope John Velez comments, because  
>he's one of them. He's always been very careful to distinguish  
>between what he actually remembers, and what emerged under  
>hypnosis (and I remember him being very suspicious of any  
>supposed memories that hypnosis brought out). It would be  
>possible to make a case for the reality of abductions without  
>using hypnotic memories at all.

Greg, Jerome, Don, Eleanor, Greg, John.....

I wanted to thank you for your thoughtful responses on this thread.

I'm not sure if you or the other Listers are aware of it or not,  
but I too, have taken great care in making sure researchers and  
the public have a way to differentiate between what I remembered  
under hypnosis and what I remembered consciously; prior to  
hypnosis and over the past twenty years since I underwent  
hypnosis.

I published my journals that I had started keeping long before I  
underwent any hypnosis and I published the transcripts of my  
hypnosis sessions in my Alien Jigsaw Researcher's Supplement.

I have also published the names of all of the psychological and  
physiological testing that I have undergone as it relates to my

case as an abductee. I have been evaluated and tested by two psychologists, one of whom specialized in forensic psychology.

I suppose I am lucky. How many people, abductees or non-abductees, on this List can say they have the backing of two psychologists and several physicians who can vouch for the fact that they are not only physically healthy, but mentally stable and do not suffer from FMS, FPP and all of the other hogwash excuses given for 'alien abduction?'

Present company excluded, the debunking and the negativity concerning the subject of abductions is simply over the top. If you don't believe in them, why post anything about them?

Thanks Greg Boone for letting me know that you thought my response to your original post was,

"...very meaningful and I think you've done a great service to contactees/abductees."

However, early on, Kathy Kasten sent me the following after I posted what I considered to be a thoughtful and helpful response to Boone's original post:

>Your response makes you sound angry and ready to  
>extract revenge on everyone who isn't "on your side."

>Good thing I reached a different state of mind after  
>reflecting on some strange events in my life. I think  
>I am happier than you and I am not seeking revenge  
>on people who haven't gone through what I have. KK

Of course my post didn't come across as "angry" and I have not chosen "a side." Actually, I didn't realize we were in a 'happiness competition.' As I responded:

"I'm just resolute. There's a difference between being frustrated as Greg and I were talking about and being angry."

People like Kasten and Rimmer simply want to make noise by attacking others so people won't forget about them. They constantly misconstrue what people say, especially abductees, because they want attention and the only way they think they can get it is by publicly attacking others. Well, you're not going to get any more attention (or energy) from me. I'll take the advice of so many others on this list: I'll ignore you both.

I won't be able to post to this thread or others like it anymore. This is taking me away from my real work: helping abductees and educating the public. John Velez likes to stay in his 'cone of silence', (which I completely understand) - I'll be at my Web site working hard.

-- Happy Holidays --

Katharina Wilson  
[www.alienjigsaw.com](http://www.alienjigsaw.com)

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 9](#)

## FOIA Docs On UFOs Buzzing Nuclear Installations

From: **Maynard Gelinas** <[maynard.nul](mailto:maynard.nul)>  
Date: Mon, 8 Dec 2008 17:26:55 -0500 (EST)  
Archived: Tue, 09 Dec 2008 07:16:10 -0500  
Subject: FOIA Docs On UFOs Buzzing Nuclear Installations

When I was a child in the late 1970s Budd Hopkins published a book titled Intruders that focused on FIOA documents he had obtained showing instances of UFOs buzzing nuclear installations. I've read of other examples of this at various UFO websites and on this Llist. What I've never seen are copies of the actual documents.

What happened to them? What happened to all those CIA documents Woolsey released in the 1990s? Is there an online repository for government documents once made public and then re-sealed? If not, why not? All it takes is a scanner and a bit of disk space these days.

Links to images of original raw documents most welcome. I'm particularly interested in documents covering instances of objects buzzing nuclear and other military installations. Books about those documents I'm much less interested in.

Thanks for any suggestions.

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## Re: So Long And Thanks For All The Grays

From: Alfred Lehmborg <[alienview.nul](mailto:alienview.nul)>  
Date: Mon, 8 Dec 2008 17:34:49 -0600  
Archived: Tue, 09 Dec 2008 07:21:40 -0500  
Subject: Re: So Long And Thanks For All The Grays

>Source: Daniel Brenton.Com - Sandy, Utah, USA

>December 7, 2008

><http://tinyurl.com/5lowfm>

>Alien Worlds Magazine - So Long, And Thanks For All The Grays  
>by Daniel Brenton

>As Nick Redfern noted over at UFO Mystic, this truly is a sad  
>moment for the UFO community. Stuart Miller, creator and editor  
>of Alien Worlds Magazine, has announced that he has had to close  
>down the publication.

That is indeed regrettable.

>I am pleased to have had the opportunity to be in Stuart's  
>"stable" of writers.

It was an honor even to be nominated, I'm sure.

>Getting that opportunity was surprisingly painless. Shortly  
>after I started blogging, Stuart picked up my first UFO article,  
>UFOs - An Unreasonable Argument, for his news list, which was  
>called UFO Review at the time. I thanked him for doing this, and  
>as time went on he would carry just about any relevant post I  
>had to offer.

Very true. Anyone with an 'offering' was included. Rich Reynolds  
springs to mind.

>After I decided it was time to move on from blogging about UFOs,  
UFOs are rather easily tidied up, to be sure!

>I proposed a parody column to Stuart for his new magazine, sight  
>unseen, based only on the warm reviews it was receiving. My  
>column, The Round Files, had a rather brief run (issues three  
>and four), and my third installment was in issue five, which  
>won't be appearing, unfortunately.

Woe and alas.

>My proposal, which consisted of a few explanatory paragraphs and  
>a sample column, was accepted almost immediately. Stuart  
>actually solicited and reviewed suggestions for layout, and took  
>great care to make sure we understood each other. It would be  
>difficult to imagine a better relationship with an editor.

Stuart Miller has always been the very portrait of charm,  
gentility and grace.

>The deciding factor in my mind for working with Stuart was his  
>sense of humor.

That is important! Too, I know how you must have strained  
over the decision to write for Stuart when you had all those  
other irons in the fire, eh. Stuart was indeed lucky to catch  
you at a fallow.

>The UFO subject, as fascinating as it can be, is  
>a dismally humorless one,

True, true... but you know what can be a real knee walking side  
splitting hoot? The gaping unknown unexamined by the  
purposefully ignorant persons too rewarded to move from where  
they are, but so moved, still, to smirk and sneer at those  
trying to move past them. There's your laugh \_fest\_. <ROFL> eh?

>and just glancing through an edition  
>of an ezine of his from a couple of years back (also known as  
>UFO Review) it was delightfully obvious Stuart was able to think  
>about the subject seriously and laugh at it at the same time.

That's our Stuart! Laughing through his tears!

>Those of you who read earlier installments of The Round Files  
>when I published them here or on my (long retired)

Twenty or thirty minutes now, anyway, you old ufological \_Don\_,  
you.

>blog, High  
>Oddness, will probably remember that I was going after a very  
>dry, subdued approach, something Stuart noted was unusual in  
>American writers. Alien Worlds Magazine Issue 3

You \_were\_ decidedly sour to the taste and not 'al dente'.

>One thing that really jumps out at me from the experience of the  
>column itself is that there were people who didn't get that  
>these were parodies.

Ah yes... persons willing to suspend their disbelief and go  
along with you for the purposes of hearing you out?

>I had a couple of emails from folks trying  
>to track down the book I invented for my debut column, Listen  
>Pal, Your Flight Never Happened - The Really, Really Secret  
>Mission of Apollo 18, and I had to disappoint them. I was poking  
>fun at William Rutledge's Apollo 20 nonsense, and at least  
>some of the audience didn't pick up on that.

Try as one might, a certain clarity \_can\_ be elusive, nes't ce  
pas?

>I let them down gently, though I found it a bit amusing.

Did you "let them down gently," now? Or did you come on your  
blog to wax publically as regards your amusement at their  
expense, \_if\_ just a bit of same. I suspect the back of your  
hand would have been taken more honestly.

>Depending how you count them, there were something like 20 gags  
>in that article, and yet there were people who took it  
>seriously.

No chance then that it was your dry tone convincing the innocent  
reader that you were to be taken seriously? That old 'clarity'  
turnip, again, eh? You know, you can even suggest the  
consumption of children and still perceive the parody - and the  
lesson - as Swift demonstrated a couple of centuries ago. I  
guess you fall a little short of Swift...

>For my last submission I included a footnote that  
>makes it perfectly clear what these articles were, but...  
>well... no one will be reading that.

>(No, I'm not publishing it here. Ain't gonna happen.)

I suppose you should be thanked in advance.

>It would be easy to write these people off as dense, but I think  
>it's more complex than that.

Oh yeah... me too.

>It may be a case of people who  
>'live' in the subject matter getting 'tunnel-visioned' on what  
>they expect and missing everything else. A bit sad, actually.

Yes - what morons your paying readers! What a collection of food wasters and oxygen thieves! What a clutch of sappy mouth breathers to be pitied and then publically judged and otherwise pilloried. At least they were able to have you among them for awhile... a pearl cast to swine.

>It was fun doing The Round Files, and maybe some time in the >future given the right opportunity I will return to them.

I'm counting the moment myself!

>Stuart - I hope you're reading this: thank you for the >opportunity of seeing my work in print in that stunning magazine >of yours, and I wish the best to you and all your future >endeavors. I truly do.

What a convincingly charming sounding sentiment as decidedly heart felt as it was well explicated.

[alienview.nul](http://alienview.nul)  
[www.AlienView.net](http://www.AlienView.net)  
AVG Blog -- <http://alienviewgroup.blogspot.com/>  
U F O M a g a z i n e -- [www.ufomag.com](http://www.ufomag.com)

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## Re: Reagan And UFOs

From: **Sergey Shpakovsky** <[sergejsh.nul](mailto:sergejsh.nul)>  
Date: Mon, 8 Dec 2008 19:02:55 -0800 (PST)  
Archived: Tue, 09 Dec 2008 08:25:00 -0500  
Subject: Re: Reagan And UFOs

>From: Diana Cammack <[cammack.nul](mailto:cammack.nul)>  
>To: UFO UpDates - Toronto <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>Date: Sat, 6 Dec 2008 16:44:00 -0000  
>Subject: Re: Reagan And UFOs

<snip>

>Reagan revisited the idea later in a speech at the United Nations: "I occasionally think how quickly our differences worldwide would vanish if we were facing an alien threat from outside this world."

>This line may not apply to the remake, which, to judge from its trailer, is more concerned ...'

>I was aware that Reagan had made a UN speech, but what more is known about his interaction with Gorbachev and the Russian response?

I have found very interesting parallel, which maybe connected with that Reagan's speech:

"Some one remarked that the best way to unite all the nations on this globe would be an attack from some other planet. In the face of such an alien enemy, people would respond with a sense of their unity of interest and purpose."

It was said in... 1917 by John Dewey. Source:

<http://www.hourofthetime.com/john.htm>

More about him you can find at Wikipedia.

But from words "Some one remarked" it is also clear that this was not his idea.

Sergey

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## March Of UFO Spotters Continues

From: **Greg Boone** <[Evolbaby.nul](mailto:Evolbaby.nul)>  
Date: Tue, 9 Dec 2008 01:58:54 EST  
Archived: Tue, 09 Dec 2008 08:26:00 -0500  
Subject: March Of UFO Spotters Continues

<http://tinyurl.com/5gnryf>

I've said it before and I'll say it again, before the U.S. ever comes close to any form of disclosure about UFOs we'll get that disclosure from the United Kingdom first.

I've just got this itching feeling that the UFO problem began and ends with some of the people who were there at ground zero of the UFO enigma.

I don't think there's a cover up about UFOs or the ETH. I think there's a cover up about a screw up.

Best,

Greg  
[ufomafia.com/blog](http://ufomafia.com/blog)

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## Re: Should UFO Abduction Be Classified

From: **Jerome Clark** <[jkclark.nul](mailto:jkclark.nul)>  
Date: Tue, 9 Dec 2008 08:24:33 -0500  
Archived: Tue, 09 Dec 2008 09:58:42 -0500  
Subject: Re: Should UFO Abduction Be Classified

>From: John Rimmer <[j.rimmer.nul](mailto:j.rimmer.nul)>  
>Date: Mon, 08 Dec 2008 21:42:25 +0000  
>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>Subject: Re: Should UFO Abduction Be Classified Debilitating?

>>From: Jerome Clark <[jkclark.nul](mailto:jkclark.nul)>  
>>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>>Date: Mon, 8 Dec 2008 09:22:33 -0500  
>>Subject: Re: Should UFO Abduction Be Classified Debilitating?

>>Sigh. All of this rhetorical air expelled (and the rest clipped  
>>from this post so as not to test Listfolk patience) in order not  
>>to answer a simple question. To wit, third time around:

>>Why do you believe, and on what specific evidence, that  
>>hypnotically derived testimony has - presumably misleadingly -  
>>shaped notions of how the abduction phenomenon is perceived by  
>>experients and understood by others?

>>I guess my genuine curiosity - on a subject, incidentally, on  
>>which I have thoughts of my own and which, at least in my  
>>opinion, bears discussing - will go unsatisfied.

>OK, sigh. I don't 'believe' it, I was offering it as a  
>suggestion. I don't have chapter and verse evidence, just a  
>feeling that it was only after abduction research became  
>dominated by hypnotic regression that we seemed to move towards  
>the 'standardised' grey image. I know there are examples of non-  
>grey 'regressed' reports, and many grey 'remebered' reports, but  
>I don't think there were many grey 'remembered' reports much  
>before hypnotic regression became established as an  
>investigatory tool.

Okay, that wasn't so hard, was it?

Actually, I think this is a reasonable point which has occurred  
to me, too. It surely merits inquiry on the part of someone with  
more energy than a cold Minnesota winter affords me personally.

Jerry Clark

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## Re: Should UFO Abduction Be Classified

From: John Rimmer <[j.rimmer.nul](mailto:j.rimmer.nul)>  
Date: Tue, 09 Dec 2008 14:16:27 +0000  
Archived: Tue, 09 Dec 2008 10:00:56 -0500  
Subject: Re: Should UFO Abduction Be Classified

>From: Katharina Wilson <[K\\_Wilson.nul](mailto:K_Wilson.nul)>  
>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>Date: Mon, 08 Dec 2008 15:57:50 -0600  
>Subject: Re: Should UFO Abduction Be Classified Debilitating?

>Present company excluded, the debunking and the negativity  
>concerning the subject of abductions is simply over the top. If  
>you don't believe in them, why post anything about them?

Katharina, even if you don't 'believe' in abductions as actual  
physical events you can still accept that abduction reports  
constitute reports of real experiences. Jerry explains this very  
well in an article in last month's Fortean Times.

--

John Rimmer  
<[j.rimmer.nul](mailto:j.rimmer.nul)>

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## Re: SDI #465 Twenty Questions

From: Chris A. Rutkowski <[myuforeport.nul](mailto:myuforeport.nul)>  
Date: Tue, 9 Dec 2008 10:01:34 -0600  
Archived: Tue, 09 Dec 2008 11:56:22 -0500  
Subject: Re: SDI #465 Twenty Questions

Alfred 'Big Al' Lehmborg has posed 20 questions for ufologists, so here are my responses, for what they're worth.

>SDI #465 Twenty Questions

>20 Questions \_especially\_ well addressed by Dave Furlotte, >Stuart Miller, Chris Rutkowski... as chopped and channeled by >the paranormal stylings of Errol Bruce-Knapp in a manner as >reasoned as it is reasonable and as reasoning as it is... raison >d'etre...

>1. How does one "prove" the existence of something where no >proof is accepted?

I addressed the question of "Evidence" in my latest book. Here's an excerpt:

"What constitutes evidence? To answer this broad question, let's look at a specific example that we encounter when considering UFOs: What evidence is there that aliens are visiting Earth?"

The answer, which will surprise some people, is that there is plenty of evidence. However, the evidence may not be incontrovertible, and it may not be convincing. Eyewitness testimony by witnesses of unusual aerial craft is evidence that something real is occurring. Plane-spotters stationed on Pacific islands during World War II were put there specifically to report their sightings of enemy aircraft to the American Navy. Their eyewitness testimonies were used to plot Japanese activity and thus help the Americans understand troop movements. They were, in effect, reporting unidentified flying objects, which were later resolved and explained as military aircraft=85

I once asked a physicist colleague with whom I worked, what he felt would constitute proof to him that aliens were visiting Earth. He replied that only a sample of an alien artifact with a different radioisotope ratio than terrestrial object would constitute proof. Anything manufactured elsewhere in our galaxy would be made of materials with slightly different traces of radioactive atoms than anything from Earth. Arch-skeptic Philip Klass used to complain that abductees and contactees never emerged from a flying saucer with as much as a towel or an ashtray from the Mars Hilton. In effect, we need something that's not from around here to demonstrate that aliens have visited Earth. However, I would charge that even if such an item was found or recovered from a purported UFO landing, it would still be suspect."

>2. How much has humanity grown with its technology, and how much >has it \_matured\_?

Not enough. (c.f. Darfur, Mumbai, Kandahar, Baghdad, etc.)

>3. Why have our plethora of media recording devices not settled >the UFO issue?

Because cellphone camera photos of distant lights are not proof of anything. (See above.)

>4. Can our technology be depended upon to faithfully determine  
>fact from fiction? Does that determination change the thing  
>determined in the same fashion an electron is changed as a  
>result of mere observation re the state of same?

No. Technology by itself does not determine facts. Only interpretation and analyses can do that. As for the second part, I don't know.

Just remember, reality isn't only an illusion=85 it just seems that way.

>5. How much of George Orwell's \_1984\_ has actually been  
>realized?

Manipulation of society by media. Check. Allegiance and faith in power-driven government. Check.

>6. How can the existence of UFOs be validated given the  
>existence of too \_much\_ evidence of UFOs, \_bogus\_ evidence  
>effortlessly invalidated but casting aspersions on the rest?

That's a good question.

>7. Is there a mechanism employed to invalidate UFOs in the  
>manner just described?

The possibility that disinformation campaigns are in place to cause doubt about UFOs has been discussed a number of times. I wrote about this in my paper: "AINT: Alien Incompetency Theory." My question in rebuttal is, "Which government and military agency is competent enough to launch and operate such an organized, wide-ranging campaign?" The same government that brought us Watergate, Contragate, the Iraq War, FEMA response to Katrina and other messes? The same government that allowed worldwide recession to occur? The same government that can't get my tax refund processed correctly despite voluminous documentation on my part?

>8. Is the planet Venus a viable candidate for the UFO/police  
>helicopter (crew of three) incident over Birmingham in England  
>last month?

I'll leave this one for the Brits to determine.

>9. Do radio controlled model airplanes fly circles around  
>perplexed police helicopters as Nick Pope takes pains to walk  
>the "safe path"... "worked up" even as his cautious interests  
>are "justifiably" piqued?

I'm not sure, but I do think I have received some "UFO photos" this past year that show mini-copters and planes in flight. I'm buying one for my son this Christmas, and I can't wait for us to test it out over a populated area!

>10. Where is the multi-spectrum video of same suggested in use  
>by Errol and Stuart?

Dunno.

>11. Who is the "eagle-eye UFO sleuth" breaking the story out  
>from staid official channels?

Not me. I'm badly myopic.

>12. Is there a sea change to the approach and manner of world  
>ufological reportage, in general, lately?

Yes. People are now reporting UFOs almost entirely to a handful of websites, with little chance of detailed onsite investigation. As I note in my book, UFO investigation is dead.

>13. \_Does\_ a "professionally trained" observer remotely trump an  
>untrained one? Will they \_both\_ make the same kind of  
>"hysterical mistakes"?

Both observers have inherent biases in their interpretations, so in some ways, neither is better than the other. But I still lean towards pilots and air traffic control operators whose jobs involve intense scrutiny of objects in the sky. Amateur

astronomers to a slightly lesser extent. All of these professions report significant UFO sightings and have a better idea of what's in the sky compared with the general population. Most UFO videos and photos I get these days are from the average consumer who apparently have never noticed planets and stars before.

>14. Can it be possible to be "sick" of the plight of the "UFO Hacker," Gary McKinnon? Is McKinnon a man who should be rewarded for revealing gross security lapses in government computers as regards a security infrastructure and apparatus allegedly overhauled and hardened at the cost of billions in the wake of 9/11? Is McKinnon persecuted instead by the threat of decades in prison on the whim of the entirely discredited Alberto Gonzalez and George W. Bush? Sick, is it remotely appropriate to say so?

I haven't been following the case thoroughly. I just ask Grant Cameron what's new, occasionally.

>15. Has Great Britain deferred entirely to a "big brother" >touting that they are "only here to help" with regard to that >threat of terrorism?

Sorry, I'm apolitical. As a Canadian, I've been living with a "Big Brother" for a long time.

>16. What is Kevin Spacey doing now and how does it touch upon >the subject of UFOs and ancillaries in a film presently being >shot in New Mexico?

Does his name "Spacey" have anything to do with it?

>17. What are the quantifiable differences between skeptibunkies >and consistent skeptics?

Well, I've been called a skeptic, but I'm not a debunker. However, sceptics like Phil Plait have called me too much of a "believer." I'm so confused=85

>18. Did Phil Klass have any moral justification beyond back->shooting his opponents from their lettered positions or driving >them to suicide?

Morally, no. But within his belief system, he was simply trying to uphold the tenets of his faith in Science (with a capital S). People who adhere strongly to a particular faith take morally-questionable actions all the time. Doesn't this make it "right?"

>19. How does Stuart Miller exactly mirror Dave Furlotte from >earlier in the program?

>20. Crashed Saucers in the UK further mirroring Dave Furlotte? >Stuart Miller continues with discussion as regards what "sticks" >about Nick Pope et al, then Chris Rutkowski regales with a >report on his new book about gingham tea cozies... gotcha! Just >seeing if you were paying attention.

Exactly! I prefer trivets to tea cozies, anyway!

>Seriously it's a cited book about UFOs as a true global >phenomenon! Then, with as much 'balance' as has yet been >mastered, actually Phil Klass was further 'remembered'.

Yes. UFOs from the four corners of the Earth. (I have an odd-looking globe on my pedestal.)

>Too, J. Allen Hynek slept here! Lots of intriguing and >astonishing stuff to make you go hmmm, yea and verily. Stuff >hard to discount when it is so soberly reported by a person with >the stature of Mr. Rutkowski.

I am indeed occasionally sober.

Thank you, kind Alfred!

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'Its All Here In Black & White'

Location: [ufoupdateslist.com](http://ufoupdateslist.com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 10](#)

## Two Triangular UFOs Pass Over Southwestern PA

From: **UFO UpDates - Toronto** <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
Date: Wed, 10 Dec 2008 07:09:06 -0500  
Archived: Wed, 10 Dec 2008 07:09:06 -0500  
Subject: Two Triangular UFOs Pass Over Southwestern PA

Source: InCahoots-TV - Chicago, Illinois

<http://tinyurl.com/5povec>

December 8, 2008

Two Triangular UFOs Pass Over Southwestern PA

by Roger Marsh

JEANNETTE, PA - Two slow-moving and silent triangular UFOs passed over this town recently - coming out of the southwest - as one resident stood and watched in awe. The vehicle housed red and green lights along its border and a bright white light at the center. Similar reports of this shape and lighting are being reported in other parts of the country as well.

Jeannette is a town of about 10,000 residents in southwestern, Pennsylvania, about 35 miles southeast of Pittsburgh, in Westmoreland County.

The 53-year-old man was walking his dog after dark on November 21, 2008, and noticed the first object coming toward him - and soon after - realized there was a second object that was an exact duplicate of the first object. The first UFO suddenly stopped in mid-air, seemingly while the second object caught up.

In his own words, the witness made this statement:

"I saw something really strange in the sky tonight that I simply cannot explain. I was taking Sadie (my dog) out for a walk, and was in the alley behind our house. I saw a bunch of lights in the sky coming out of the southwest. It was a cluster of lights, and was moving incredibly slow. As it got closer, I noticed that there were many red and green lights that formed a rather large diamond, with a single white light in the center. I was totally amazed at how slow this thing was moving.

"As it passed overhead (not directly, but off to my right) I pulled my tussle cap away from my ears and listened very intently, but this thing made no sound whatsoever. The kicker is that coming from the same direction was another object that was exactly like this one, and was following in the same flight path.

"I took the dog up the walk that goes by the side of our house leading to the front yard. The first object was moving to the northeast and I could still see it through the branches of a tree across the street, but now it appeared to be standing still! It was almost as if it were waiting for the second object to catch up. I went in to take Eddie out, (my other dog), and in the 30 seconds or so it took to swap out leashes and get Eddie out the door, both objects were gone."

The silent, triangular-shaped vehicle is now commonly reported across the United States and worldwide. Witness accounts vary on

the size and lighting. During the first seven days in December 2008 - just a few weeks after this sighting - the Mutual UFO Network reported triangular-shaped sightings in eight states. The Jeannette resident filed a report with ufologist Stan Gordon of Greensburg.

[Thanks to 'The Norm' for the lead]

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## UFO Close Encounter

From: **UFO UpDates - Toronto** <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
Date: Wed, 10 Dec 2008 07:13:47 -0500  
Archived: Wed, 10 Dec 2008 07:13:47 -0500  
Subject: UFO Close Encounter

Source: The Hartlepool Mail - England, UK

<http://tinyurl.com/5kytcc>

09 December 2008

UFO Close Encounter

A UFO expert hopes to convince sceptics the truth really is out there.

Paranormal enthusiast Richard D Hall will stage a show featuring footage of flying saucers and video interviews with witnesses said to have had close encounters with visitors from other planets.

He said he is holding the presentation, his first in Hartlepool, to spread the word about UFOs he believes are being covered up by the American and UK governments.

Richard, 41, who writes a weekly UFO column in the Mail, said: "The aim of the show is about trying to convince people by presenting the most compelling evidence there is. I don't believe the mainstream national media report these subjects fully, especially information from witnesses and I am trying to redress the balance.

"I believe the presentation will convince all but the most ardent of sceptics."

Richard added the presentation will explain how UFOs fly and include a video claiming to show an alien said to have been smuggled out of a secret US base in the mid 1990s.

He will also hold a question and answer session with the audience.

Last year the qualified electrical engineer and IT consultant, from Sunnyside, near Gateshead, launched the website [richplanet.net](http://richplanet.net) to increase public awareness.

He has also appeared on a number of radio shows all over the UK and recorded a six-part TV series screened on Sky channel Edge Media TV.

"The more digging you do the more believable the whole thing becomes," he added.

Aliens and UFOs takes place at Hartlepool Town Hall Theatre, Raby Road, on Wednesday, December 17, at 7.30pm.

Tickets, priced =A38 adults and =A37 concessions, are available from Hartlepool Tourist Information Centre, Church Square, or call the box office on (01429) 890000.

[Thanks to Frank Fields for the lead]



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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 10](#)

## Re: UFO Hunters Roswell Episode

From: Victor Golubik <[Diverge247.nul](mailto:Diverge247.nul)>  
Date: Wed, 10 Dec 2008 00:35:19 EST  
Archived: Wed, 10 Dec 2008 07:16:18 -0500  
Subject: Re: UFO Hunters Roswell Episode

>From: Stanton T Friedman <[fsphys.nul](mailto:fsphys.nul)>  
>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>Date: Mon, 8 Dec 2008 14:09:56 -0400  
>Subject: Re: UFO Hunters Roswell Episode

>>From: Victor Golubik <[Diverge247.nul](mailto:Diverge247.nul)>  
>>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>>Date: Sun, 7 Dec 2008 12:55:52 EST  
>>Subject: UFO Hunters Roswell Episode

<snip>

>Victor,

>I am telling you that I wrote many questions to be used in the  
>interviews done by the Director. I had a great deal to do with  
>selecting people to be interviewed, arranging transportation,  
>even driving rental cars and hauling film equipment cases. The  
>director didn't have a driver's license nor a credit card.

>The oral and film recordings were periodically shipped back for  
>processing. The film company of course did the transcribing. We  
>were gone for weeks and put on a lot of miles from coast to  
>coast. I didn't handle that material. I did not have a complete  
>taped interview. Far more film and tape was shot than was used.  
>I didn't do any of the editing either. Of course I had no  
>editorial control. I tried to keep the Billy Meier stuff out,  
>for example, unsuccessfully.

>The only thing I see in the Roswell Incident that might be  
>relevant is a line in a caption, page 35 of the paperback, from  
>Marcel. I didn't write the book and didn't pass on the line from  
>any conversation with Marcel. Bill Moore and I did most of the  
>research. Berlitz wrote the book. There was no connection  
>between the book and the movie. You can't ask Charles Berlitz.  
>Perhaps you can try Bill Moore.

>Remember UFOs Are Real was not a home movie. It was a Hollywood  
>documentary.

>Stan Friedman

Again you did not answer my questions...

There's a lot of connection between the book and the movie  
"concerning" Marcel... that is the topic. That transcript was  
provided by you. It is redacted from a much longer interview as  
shown. The other point is that you had editorial control when  
you provided that truncated transcript to CUFOS.

It is equally preposterous to think you have no recorded full  
interviews with Marcel (many) nor wanted any. How could you make  
claims for Roswell in any form without them?

Marcel, himself, states quite plainly on audio tape (curiously  
but uncoincidentally not your recordings) that his own son was  
mistaken in claiming that those sticks were I-Beams and that he  
was holding up the actual debris (Roswell Incident). Newton says

that there was a Major dancing around in Ramey's office insisting these were not remains of a balloon. These are not irrelevant facts but highly corroborative of each other.

In your reluctance to answer questions, I must assume you do not disagree with Marcel's confession in having held up the actual debris in the Ramey photo - how could anyone ignore a detail like that during an early investigation with only one witness? It is a very important key element... a highly visible attribute that if properly reported upon would have dramatically reformulated the chain of events. This is a blatantly overlooked defect in as much as hard questions of this witness were never asked nor were points properly clarified. And now, when we extract some useful information, I'm to believe it was simply overlooked (repeatedly!) when it's the first thing noticeable to ANY skilled investigator!

Your willingness to ignore these questions (how many times over the years?) shows prolonged deception, incompetence, or self-delusion. Take your pick. I guess your gray basket is not so gray after all...

golubik

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## More Kritikal Thinking

From: **UFO UpDates - Toronto** <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
Date: Wed, 10 Dec 2008 07:29:11 -0500  
Archived: Wed, 10 Dec 2008 07:29:11 -0500  
Subject: More Kritikal Thinking

Source: Skeptic Blog - Altadena, California

<http://skepticblog.org/2008/12/04/stanton-friedman-doesnt-like-me/>

Dec 04 2008

Stanton Friedman Doesn't Like Me  
by Brian Dunning

A reader wrote me on Facebook that he was listening to the "Paranormal Podcast", another of the usual promoters of nonsense inexplicably allowed to remain in the Science & Medicine section of iTunes. The guest was Stanton Friedman, the principal author of the Roswell, Travis Walton, and Betty & Barney Hill UFO mythologies. Anyway, at 25 minutes into the episode (#56, but don't bother listening as it's only a 15 second blurb), Stanton mentioned that he "came across a piece on the Internet" the other day that got "40 flat-out false claims" about the Betty and Barney Hill story, and added with a condescending chortle that he "couldn't believe it". It was the online transcript of my Skeptoid episode on that story.

The Paranormal Podcast host, Jim Harold, acknowledged that he had heard of Skeptoid. Of course you have Jim, because it's kicking your ass in iTunes, probably much to your dismay.

Stanton was probably predisposed to have a problem with me. I've called him "an obsessed UFO wacko", which I think is accurate. I grew up watching Stanton Friedman; he's on just about every TV documentary about UFOs, and of course he wrote the most significant books inventing the most popular UFO stories. I used to listen to him in awe: The TV always said "nuclear physicist" under his name, so of course, anything he said had to be true. (I didn't know that his real career, in fact his only career since 1970, was writing UFO books. I guess the TV producers feel that calling him a nuclear physicist gives him more credibility than calling a spade a spade and saying "Obsessed UFO Wacko".)

I browsed through the transcript looking for 40 factual errors. This is a daunting task, because there aren't more than 20 or 25 points made that you could call factual claims. Most of them either came from or are corroborated by Stanton Friedman's own books. The facts of the case aren't really in question, it's the interpretation of the facts that are. Betty Hill spent two years writing a UFO story and sharing it with her husband, and then when asked about that story under hypnosis, Barney Hill was able to rattle it off pretty much as she wrote it. I say "Duh," Stanton Friedman cries "Proof that aliens abducted them!"

If I thought he might care (which I don't presume to), I would love to challenge Stanton to list even just 25 of the "40 flat-out false claims" I made, keeping in mind that virtually all the statements of fact I made are corroborated by his books. Not interpretations or innuendos, but statements of facts. Not that it's a 40 minute drive from Ashland to Portsmouth, not a 45 minute drive, but substantive errors. He argues that I distorted

the facts (my "false claims") in order to discredit his fiction. This is an easy argument to make when you have an unchallenged platform on a podcast. An intelligent opponent would point out that the significant facts are not disputed, and that it's the interpretation of the facts that makes all the difference.

He won't accept this challenge, of course, mainly because he's a successful author busy with book tours and UFO conventions, and I'm just one of many farts in the breeze of reason. Reason doesn't pay, and since he's more concerned with his bank account than with reason, he's right to ignore piss-ant blogs like this. But it won't be long before The Skeptologists are on his ass, and he'll find that condescending chortles only take him so far.

Anyone can take a mundane newspaper headline and expand it into a dramatic fictional UFO abduction tale. If it's done well, it will be gobbled up by an uncritical public. It's those of us who caution against the folly of pseudoscience and faith in the supernatural who have the hard job.

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 10](#)

## Re: UFO Close Encounter

From: Dick Hall <[dh12.nul](mailto:dh12.nul)>  
Date: Wed, 10 Dec 2008 08:06:29 -0500  
Archived: Wed, 10 Dec 2008 14:18:10 -0500  
Subject: Re: UFO Close Encounter

UFO UpDates - Toronto wrote:

>Source: The Hartlepool Mail - England, UK

><http://tinyurl.com/5kytcc>

>09 December 2008

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>A UFO expert hopes to convince sceptics the truth really is out  
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>Paranormal enthusiast Richard D Hall will stage a show featuring  
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>He said he is holding the presentation, his first in Hartlepool,  
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>by the American and UK governments.

>Richard, 41, who writes a weekly UFO column in the Mail, said:  
>"The aim of the show is about trying to convince people by  
>presenting the most compelling evidence there is. I don't  
>believe the mainstream national media report these subjects  
>fully, especially information from witnesses and I am trying to  
>redress the balance.

<snip>

Not to be confused with Richard H. Hall, science enthusiast. The sudden appearance on the scene of this Richard Hall is almost enough to make me paranoid (or 'paranoider' as the case may be). Richard D. sounds like a totally gullible, uncritical sort, though I have no way of evaluating the accuracy of the reporting.

I am not now, nor have I ever been a Brit. My ancestors did emigrate to the U.S. from England in the dim distant past, and were instrumental in founding the state of Maryland. Quakers we were, and active in promoting freedom of religion. Unfortunately, we also engaged in the tobacco trade and had slaves, but we also supported abolition of slavery eventually. We do endeavor to get things straight.

Proud to be an American (now).

Richard Harris Hall (Dick)

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## Story On UFO Watcher Raised Disturbing Questions

From: Terry Colvin <[fortean1.nul](mailto:fortean1.nul)>  
Date: Wed, 10 Dec 2008 08:56:32 -0500 (EST)  
Archived: Wed, 10 Dec 2008 14:24:08 -0500  
Subject: Story On UFO Watcher Raised Disturbing Questions

Source: The Daily Gazette - Schenectady, New York, USA

<http://tinyurl.com/6yqrxe>

Sunday, July 20, 2008

Op-ed Column: Story On UFO Watcher Raised Some Disturbing Questions  
Peter Huston

July 10th's Gazette reported on James G. Bouck, Jr., local UFO enthusiast. Although I've never met Bouck, 10 to 15 years ago, during my "hard-core skeptic" phase, the UFO scene interested me greatly.

During that time, I wrote two books dealing in part with ufology, served as officer and newsletter contributor to the local skeptics group, and contributed to national media, including an article on UFO abductions for "Hustler" magazine. ("More anal probes!" they demanded.)

I attended local and national conventions of UFO believers, and even interviewed the late Betty Hill, a charming yet eccentric woman and the world's first UFO abductee to be taken seriously, as well as our most prominent local abductee, a sincere man with a history of mental illness and homelessness who considered his alleged UFO experiences a mark of distinction.

Although burn-out eventually struck, it was a long, strange run.

Mostly harmless

Today, I find UFO enthusiasts "mostly harmless." Like many such things, however, there's a depressing, ugly, icky undercurrent in the field if one looks deeply.

Without question, I do not believe UFO sightings are evidence, much less proof, in any way of alien visitation. Instead I believe ufology is a movement fueled by a network of enthusiastic people who share ideas and reports, reports gathered with widely-varying degrees of professionalism and care, and then interpreted to fit pre-conceived views and a desire to believe they are unveiling great cosmic mysteries.

After 60 years plus of frenzied effort, ufologists still have not assembled enough evidence of anything to obtain a decent government grant, prepare a satisfying exhibit in a reputable museum or provide a single, solid chapter in a legitimate school science textbook.

If one explores the history of modern UFO belief, there's an evolution and shifting of claims rather than consistency. For instance, although most ufologists agree that modern UFO sightings began in 1947 when a small plane pilot witnessed "flying disks," the concern of the time was if they were of Soviet or renegade Nazi origin. Ideas of space aliens pilots came years later.

But today's ufology involves much more than lights in the sky.



Although the original proposition, occasional odd sightings in the sky hint at something of extraordinary importance, still remains unproven, ufology's enthusiastic network has produced (equally unproven) claims of alien abductions, crashed saucers, crop circles, cattle mutilations, government conspiracies and more. The claims grow, the proof still eludes.

Don't get me wrong. Generally speaking, I don't dislike ufologists. Even if at times their logic is a bit convoluted and the standards of evidence slipshod, they consider themselves serious amateur scientists. A surprising number are accomplished amateur astronomers.

But there is a hard, ugly edge within ufology.

My last real contact with organized ufology was spring 2000. Discovery channel filmmakers, wishing to hear my opinions, paid my way to attend a UFO convention in the Bronx. Aspects left me deeply concerned and disturbed.

First, much programming involved reports by "UFO abduction survivors," their therapists, UFO abduction support group organizers and abduction investigators.

Abduction claims often involve hypnosis or other memory-altering techniques. There are some truly frightening people, licensed and unlicensed, practicing psychotherapy. They often do serious damage to fragile humans.

Convincing people they are UFO abductees is harmful and increases social isolation. After all, how many really take a self-proclaimed UFO abductee seriously? Aside from Betty Hill, who was delightful, the ones I've met have been sad people.

Bud Hopkins, prominent UFO investigator, author and artist by training, announced his latest "discovery." People, he announced, should be alert to hidden signs of UFO abduction in themselves. They should also, he said, be alert to signs in their children. He sold a videotape describing the signs.

Parents should not hand their children to amateur psychotherapists to treat unproven conditions such as abduction trauma from space aliens, yet, depressingly, some actually do.

Alien implants

Also praised was the work of Roger Leir, a podiatrist who surgically removes what he claims are "alien implants" from patients.

Remember, when someone wishes to cut you open with a scalpel to find something he deeply wishes to find, that no reputable person in his profession feels is really there, get a second opinion. Yet some people obviously don't.

Ufology can get scary and weird if you dig deeply.

In conclusion, the Gazette article was balanced. Having never met Mr. Bouck, I cannot criticize him personally. The fact that he admits to having proved nothing after years of work, indicates to me that he is probably doing his UFO investigations more rationally and thoroughly than many.

Yet ufology, after 60 years, still resembles an odd, quasi-religious social movement rather than a scientific endeavor. And although ufologists are "mostly harmless," "mostly harmless" implies occasionally harmful.

Terry W. Colvin  
Ladphrao (Bangkok), Thailand  
Pran Buri (Hua Hin), Thailand

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 11](#)

## Re:UFO Close Encounter

From: Don Ledger <[dledger.nul](mailto:dledger.nul)>  
Date: Wed, 10 Dec 2008 16:20:02 -0400  
Archived: Thu, 11 Dec 2008 06:25:30 -0500  
Subject: Re:UFO Close Encounter

UFO UpDates - Toronto wrote:

>From: Dick Hall <[dh12.nul](mailto:dh12.nul)>  
>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
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>Richard D. sounds like a totally gullible, uncritical sort,  
>though I have no way of evaluating the accuracy of the  
>reporting.

>I am not now, nor have I ever been a Brit. My ancestors did  
>emigrate to the U.S. from England in the dim distant past, and  
>were instrumental in founding the state of Maryland. Quakers we  
>were, and active in promoting freedom of religion.  
>Unfortunately, we also engaged in the tobacco trade and had  
>slaves, but we also supported abolition of slavery eventually.  
>We do endeavor to get things straight.

>Proud to be an American (now).

>Richard Harris Hall (Dick)

I donno, Dick. It seems to me you are trying to get away with an  
alternate viewpoint under an assumed name, even if it's the same

one. Clever though. Who would ever suspect you?

Don Ledger

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 11](#)

## Re: Strange Aerial Object Over Irving Texas

From: Brad Sparks <[RB47x.nul](mailto:RB47x.nul)>  
Date: Wed, 10 Dec 2008 20:10:29 EST  
Archived: Thu, 11 Dec 2008 06:25:07 -0500  
Subject: Re: Strange Aerial Object Over Irving Texas

>From: Bruce Maccabee <[brumac.nul](mailto:brumac.nul)>  
>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>Date: Sun, 7 Dec 2008 14:49:35 -0500  
>Subject: Re: Strange Aerial Object Over Irving Texas

>>From: Michael Tarbell <[mtarbell.nul](mailto:mtarbell.nul)>  
>>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>>Date: Sat, 06 Dec 2008 20:51:58 -0700  
>>Subject: Re: Strange Aerial Object Over Irving Texas

>>>From: Bruce Maccabee <[brumac.nul](mailto:brumac.nul)>  
>>>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>>>Date: Sat, 6 Dec 2008 15:25:04 -0500  
>>>Subject: Re: Strange Aerial Object Over Irving Texas

<snip>

>>>Whereas an unknown might be able to (seemingly) violate known  
>>>physics, a CEP cannot violate known physics. (If it did, then it  
>>>would be like explaining one unknown with another unknown.)

>>Hi Bruce,

>>While this clearly makes sense, one then wonders what actually  
>>constitutes a TRUFO. If all CEPs must be consistent with known  
>>physics, and if TRUFOS arise strictly as a result of the absence  
>>of any viable CEP, then "genuine" TRUFOS must be inconsistent  
>>with known physics.

>>But this seems overly stringent. One can imagine, say, an  
>>extraterrestrial craft landing on the White House lawn without  
>>any overt violation of the known laws of physics.

>>Nevertheless, such a strict criterion - and I am in favor of  
>>such - would be well suited to setting priorities for further  
>>investigation (exploring new physics, if nothing else), with the  
>>recognition that it may throw out some babies with the  
>>bathwater.

>It is true that if a TRUFO were to satisfy one or more CEP by  
>appearing as a mundane object then one would not know whether it  
>is a TRUFO or not.

>But so what: we need to find clear violations of something in  
>order to know that something new has happened or been reported.  
>So, if a craft resembling a UA passenger jet lands at the  
>airport, no one is going to suspect anything new. It would not  
>be classified as a TRUFO. On the other hand, if it just suddenly  
>appears on teh runway, with no radar or visual observation  
>beforehand, one might well expect that something bizarre has  
>happened. And if a grey skinned crew with large eyes, thin  
>bodies, etc. exit by floating out the the plane, we would  
>suddenly know that something "new has happened." Suddently the  
>initially suppose UA passenger jet is a TRUFO.

>I don't think we'll have to worry much about throwing the baby  
>out with the bathwater. The objects that we classify as TRUFOS  
>hardly ever, if ever, look like something made by mankind.

We are veering off into abstract philosophy here and losing sight of real cases and basic definitions. In Hynek's definition of a genuine UFO (or Unexplained UFO or UFO Unknowns as I dislike the frivolous sounding "TRUFO" name) it is a sighting that remains unexplained by scientific analysis. The object or light does not have to "violate the laws of physics."

An object that displays unconventional shape or appearance or performs unconventional motions that cannot be explained will of course be an Unexplained UFO.

But a perfectly conventional-shaped object or light could be in "the wrong place at the wrong time" and not be identifiable as a known manmade object, and hence must be classified as a genuine UFO Unknown. It would have Low Strangeness ("strangeness" is an evaluation of the degree of unexplainability of a case). It would in general not be as good a case as an object that had unconventional shape or performed unconventional maneuvers.

For example, someone could sight a balloon-like object crossing the sky in a steady balloon-like fashion. If a rundown of weather-balloon launchings determined there were no weather balloon launches in the area at the right time (and weather balloons don't last very long before they burst so they can't just cross a continent and be seen anywhere for days and days after launch) then this might be classified as a real UFO with Very Low Strangeness. It would not be a very good "UFO" case.

An example of such an observation might be the famous Nicholas Roerich sighting of Aug 5, 1926, in the Central Asia. What they all saw was very much like a weather balloon crossing the sky, and at one point changing course (a weather balloon as it rises will often change direction when it reaches an altitude where the wind direction changes). This might be a Very Low Strangeness UFO, because after all who else was out there launching balloons in the middle of a vast nowhere land? (Well, there was another expedition a few miles away that might have been launching weather balloons as it turns out.)

The Mantell case is another. A 70-foot Skyhook balloon, Flight B, launched by General Mills in Minnesota on Jan 6, 1948, was tracked heading south then southeast. It was seen by numerous observers from Illinois to Tennessee heading on a steady SE course with an average speed of about 27 mph due to a steady wind at altitude of that velocity. We know exactly where it was located and when.

At the time of the Godman Field, Kentucky, and Mantell F-51 sightings, the Skyhook was at about 80,000 feet and located southwest of Nashville, headed SE and about 140 miles away from Godman Field. It could not possibly have been seen with the naked eye from that 140-mile distance and could not possibly have incited numerous telephone reports from witnesses in Northern Kentucky which reached Godman Tower. Yet what Godman Tower personnel including base commander Col Hix saw was clearly a Skyhook-balloon-shaped object. The Skyhook would have had to be about 3 miles away to match the angular size estimated by Col Hix when it was at its closest. Mantell and his men could not have spent some 20 minutes at 300 mph chasing this balloon if it had only been 3 miles away. They would have reached it in about 36 seconds.

If the Skyhook had been that close to Godman Field then it could not have been seen by numerous witnesses of the balloon in and around Nashville at the same time. The maximum distance a 70-foot object can be seen is about 45 miles. It's the equivalent of seeing a 5-foot wide car on the highway from 3 miles. Try it sometime. It's tough to see and you have to have been tracking a car from a much closer distance and watch it gradually increase in distance till it disappears. The distance to Nashville was about 125 miles and places south of Nashville such as Columbia about 165 miles away saw the Skyhook balloon which could not possibly have been near Godman.

We can postulate a Skyhook balloon that maneuvered at high speed from place to place over long distances, that suddenly deviated from its 700-mile-long SE track from Illinois just to go up north and bother people around Godman then dart back southward to resume its exact same SE course as if nothing had happened -- and with not one of numerous witnesses including pilots who flew up to see it and amateur astronomers ever reporting the

Skyhook balloon abruptly darting northward for 140 miles and coming back 140 miles again. The Skyhook balloon would have had to use UFO-like powered flight to accomplish this!

Thus, Mantell case must be categorized as at least a Low Strangeness UFO, even though its physical appearance resembled a Skyhook balloon, because it was physically impossible for the only Skyhook balloon to have been seen.

Another peculiar case is the Falconbridge Canadian Forces radar base incident of Nov 11, 1975. Base personnel sighted an object white and round with "craters" as viewed in binoculars, thus looking like the Full Moon. It was one of 3 unidentified objects tracked on radar and sighted visually as separate objects. The Moon was on the other side of the earth that morning. It was also only a half moon, about 57% illuminated, not a full circle.

The object was tracked on radar ascending to 72,000 feet just like a large research balloon might have done. So it looked like one IFO (the Full Moon) and behaved like another IFO (like a large Skyhook-type balloon). The one object still might be explained as a Skyhook-type balloon as no one seems to have checked. Until this is done, it is not a very good "UFO" case (there are other reasons as well, pro and con).

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# UFO Updates

A mailing list for the study of UFO-related phenomena  
'Its All Here In Black & White'

Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 11](#)

## Re: UFO Hunters Roswell Episode

From: **Gildas Bourdais** <[bourdais.gildas.nul](mailto:bourdais.gildas.nul)>  
Date: Thu, 11 Dec 2008 09:50:30 +0100  
Archived: Thu, 11 Dec 2008 06:27:43 -0500  
Subject: Re: UFO Hunters Roswell Episode

>From: Victor Golubik <[Diverge247.nul](mailto:Diverge247.nul)>  
>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>Date: Wed, 10 Dec 2008 00:35:19 EST  
>Subject: Re: UFO Hunters Roswell Episode

>>From: Stanton T Friedman <[fsphys.nul](mailto:fsphys.nul)>  
>>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>>Date: Mon, 8 Dec 2008 14:09:56 -0400  
>>Subject: Re: UFO Hunters Roswell Episode

<snip>

>Your willingness to ignore these questions (how many times over  
>the years?) shows prolonged deception, incompetence, or self-  
>delusion. Take your pick. I guess your gray basket is not so  
>gray after all...

Mr Golubik should know that the balloon story is baloney. To see that, you only need to buy a balsa wood stick. But he prefers to go into yet another labyrinth of bitter critiques, this time against Stan Friedman.

Stan, you don't have to answer that.

Gildas Bourdais

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 11](#)

## Re: UFO Close Encounter

From: **John Rimmer** <[j.rimmer.nul](mailto:j.rimmer.nul)>  
Date: Thu, 11 Dec 2008 00:15:05 +0000  
Archived: Thu, 11 Dec 2008 06:30:40 -0500  
Subject: Re: UFO Close Encounter

>From: Dick Hall <[dh12.nul](mailto:dh12.nul)>  
>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>Date: Wed, 10 Dec 2008 08:06:29 -0500  
>Subject: Re: UFO Close Encounter

>UFO UpDates - Toronto wrote:

>>Source: The Hartlepool Mail - England, UK

>><http://tinyurl.com/5kytcc>

>>09 December 2008

>>UFO Close Encounter

>>A UFO expert hopes to convince sceptics the truth really is out  
>>there.

>>Paranormal enthusiast Richard D Hall will stage a show featuring  
>>footage of flying saucers and video interviews with witnesses  
>>said to have had close encounters with visitors from other  
>>planets.

>>He said he is holding the presentation, his first in Hartlepool,  
>>to spread the word about UFOs he believes are being covered up  
>>by the American and UK governments.

The thing you have to remember about Hartlepool is that in the  
early nineteenth century its inhabitants found a monkey that had  
been washed up from a shipwreck off the coast, and hanged it as  
a French spy.

A few years ago they elected a man dressed in a monkey suit as  
their mayor -although by all accounts since then he has done a  
pretty good job in the post and they re-elected him for a second  
term

--

John Rimmer  
<[j.rimmer.nul](mailto:j.rimmer.nul)>

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 11](#)

## Itemised Abductions

From: **UFO UpDates - Toronto** <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
Date: Thu, 11 Dec 2008 07:30:00 -0500  
Archived: Thu, 11 Dec 2008 07:30:00 -0500  
Subject: Itemised Abductions

Source: The Philadelphia Weekly - Pennsylvania, USA

<http://www.philadelphiaweekly.com/articles/18037/cover-story>

December 9, 2008

### Itemized Abductions

Local Ufologists tell us why they believe.  
by Steven Wells

UFO sightings in the Philadelphia metro area are up by more than 700 percent this year. We've seen UFOs over Geno's on South Ninth Street, mysterious octopi-shaped objects over a Mexican restaurant in Bucks County and strange spotted lights hovering over Bruce Springsteen at the Obama concert on the Parkway.

Over the summer, I paid more visits to Philly and its suburbs than any other city in the country. Boomerang-shaped UFOs, rhomboids, fireballs, UFOs that spew a silvery metallic substance that changes the chemical makeup of privet bushes and poisons robins=96you name it, we saw it.

It's Bob Gardner's job to investigate such activity. Gardner's an official field investigator with the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON), "the world's largest civilian UFO scientific research organization." This summer Gardner helped organize an official MUFON UFO awareness day at Germ Books in Fishtown. About 50 people turned up to hear a presentation from his friend Chris, an alien/ UFO/paranormal investigator, who runs the million-hits-a-month website, [AlienstheTruth.com](http://AlienstheTruth.com).

Chris Augustin is a walking X-File. He's a weird magnet. Strange shit happens to him all the time. He says he's been abducted from his car by aliens, has ESP and is pretty sure he has an alien tracking device implanted in his right leg.

"I've been doing this type of research for about 12 years now," he says, "covering UFOs, crop circles, the paranormal."

Bespectacled, neatly bearded and of earnest demeanor, Augustin lives in a South Philly rowhome with a couple of super cute pugs called Max and Frankie, two cats and his fiancée, Jennifer Lisacek, who thinks all this alien stuff is nonsense.

When Augustin and I get into his car to drive to Gardner's house, he notices my double take at his "NOBAMA" bumper sticker and laughs. He says he's a "liberal libertarian Republican." He also believes there might be a shadow government that no president has ever been told about, and that this "black government" might've been retro-engineering captured extraterrestrial technology since at least the 1950s.

He says all of this matter-of-factly, careful to preface everything with "might" and "could" and "maybe."

"I used to be a fanatic," says Augustin. "I used to be that guy at parties, you know, '91I believe in UFOs, I believe in government conspiracies, blah blah blah.' Very intense."

Of course it lost him girlfriends. But now, at 27, he's mellowed and is in a great relationship. He told fiancée Jennifer his core beliefs on their first date. "'91She said, '91You're shitting me, right?'" But it didn't faze her.

Augustin holds down a well-paid computer job (his colleagues think the UFO stuff is interesting) and is happy biding his time until the "disclosure," when the wheels finally come off the great UFO cover-up and we find out Augustin, Gardner and their fellow Philadelphian UFOlogists were right all along.

Bob Gardner lives at the end of a Northeast Philly cul-de-sac where-when the weather's warm-working-class families gather in the street, chatting and yelling, the kids running about, adults keeping an eye on strangers.

"NRA," "McCain 08" and "THIS IS AMERICA. PLEASE SPEAK ENGLISH," read the bumper stickers on the Ford Explorer SUV parked in Bob Gardner's driveway.

Gardner welcomes us into his house. He's slightly built, balding, shaved-headed and Lennon-bespectacled. Like Augustin, he sports a goatee and has both ears pierced. The house buzzes with energy: Kids yell for attention. A teenage couple is entwined on the couch. Toys litter the floor. Gardner ushers us into the basement.

On one wall there's a map of the Philadelphia area dotted with pins representing UFO sightings and encounters of the first and second kind. The back wall is taken up with a bar crammed with antique Eagles merchandise. There are a couple of fullish ashtrays.

Lying on a table is a notebook the color of dried blood with the words "COVEN OF THE 13 MOONS CLASS PLANNER" written on the cover in black ink, and there's a witch's altar.

Gardner used to be a Catholic. Now he's a Wiccan high priest. His four-member coven holds their ceremonies in his backyard.

The altar consists of a table covered with a moon-and-stars tablecloth on which sit a clutter of candles, rune pebbles, goblets, incense burners and other assorted occultish tchotchkes. Above the altar a Native American dreamcatcher hangs beneath an ornate mirror that's adorned with fairy lights and tiny dragon gargoyles.

Gardner is 41, has five kids and one granddaughter and works part-time as a guest services supervisor at the Linc. He got into UFO research "to stop from going totally nuts" when he had to take time off from a previous job due to a back injury, "even though people think I'm nuts now," he says.

They do?

"Yeah, because there's just ignorant, uneducated people that are narrow-minded and just go with the flow. The normal society says: Oh, there's no such thing as little green men. Well, guess what? They're going to be ignorant, they're going to be insulting, they're going to say you're crazy.

"The same thing when I have rituals in my backyard. People, neighbors-I gotta couple of idiots around, couple of assholes that yell insults. '91Don't sacrifice my dog,' and shit like that."

"It's pure ignorance is what it is," says Augustin.

Some of the skepticism may be because Philly has never really been a big UFO town. But this summer, says Gardner, "things went kinda crazy." Philadelphia had what UFOlogists call "a flap."

In 2007 there were only five sightings in Philadelphia. In June, July and August 2008, says Gardner, there were 47 sightings in the Philly metro area alone.

"From January through August there were 153 cases in

Pennsylvania," says Gardner. "And 63 of those were in July, which was the single most sightings in any one month in any state. By comparison, California had 32."

By way of comparison, during the same period there were only seven sightings in all of New Jersey. In Delaware there was just one.

"It started January, up by the Oxford Valley Mall, by the old Don Pablos site. Someone said they saw an octopus-shaped object in the sky. And then after that it kinda died out a little bit. And then, come the end of June, that's when everything hit."

Gardner shows us the map. Most of the pins are clustered in Levittown and Langhorne.

"And right here," says Gardner, pointing at Levittown, "there's actually been contact made with particles coming out of the UFO-silvery flakes coming down and landing on the trees. And preliminary results right now are showing there's a change in the chemical makeup of the branches of the trees."

The UFO hung around for 40 minutes, he says, then sucked the flakes back up. And the next morning a robin that'd been living in the privet bush for "three months prior to the incident" was found dead.

"The husband took the robin out to the woods and some animals got it," says Gardner. " But we were able to get the wings and we did send them off to get tested."

The wings came back "normal," says Gardner, but some privet bush leaves showed "signs of mutation" and "contact with heat and radiation."

That's far from the strangest incident.

"On July 18," Gardner says, "my wife was at a stoplight just around here and she looked up and saw this object in the sky. It looked like a Tie fighter from Star Wars."

On Aug. 23 a man in Oxford Valley thought he heard squirrels on his roof. When he went outside to look, he reported seeing "a super bright strobing light" hovering under a plane.

Another spotter in Southwest Philly saw a white light traveling across the sky that disappeared in a flash of red.

A man in Doylestown reported "six crafts joined together."

The UFO sightings continue to flood in.

When Gardner took on the role of MUFON field investigator in March, he wasn't expecting all this. He was told he might deal with five or six cases a year.

"I'm already up to 92," he says. "And that's just the ones I'm dealing with. There's a woman in Doylestown who's had another 30 cases. So that's some 120 cases."

He's only able to investigate a fraction of the reports he receives by email. Sometimes people leave false contact details, presumably, he says, "because they're scared of the Men in Black." Other times they never call him back.

Gardner thinks the recent surge in sightings may be partly due to the fact that on Nov. 24 the Discovery channel aired a documentary about Philly's summer UFO flap. This sends more people out into the street looking for UFOs, which creates more sightings, which generates more media coverage. And so on.

So the increase in sightings in the skies of Philadelphia doesn't necessarily mean there are more UFOs up there. But then again, it doesn't mean there aren't.

At the monthly Philadelphia UFO meet-up group meeting at Germ Books in Fishtown, Augustin is showing photos from his 2001 trip to Area 51-an Air Force base in Nevada that many UFOlogists believe is at the heart of a UFO cover-up conspiracy.

He then shows us the ultrasound he had taken after waking one

morning in 2002 to find a strange triangular bruise (and, later, puncture marks) on his right leg.

"I contacted a podiatrist I met through my site. I told him, 'I think I might have had an abduction experience.'"

The scan revealed, says Augustin, that the tendon in his leg had been severed and a piece removed, all without pain or inflammation. And there was a strange "black mass" behind the tendon that Augustin believes is an implant. Now he's reluctant to have the mass removed.

"It's the only concrete evidence I have that I did experience something."

And, says Augustin, surgeons who remove implants have a habit of "losing" them.

"I'm not a big conspiracy nut,' as they say, but it's safer where it is.'"

Augustin—who's also a keen ghost hunter, a model train collector, a horror movie buff, an animal rights activist and an enthusiastic player of the online strategy game World of Warcraft—says whenever his interest in UFOlogy wanes, "something happens."

Something like his "lost time" experience.

Stopped at a red light in New Jersey, Augustin noticed an old '70s pickup truck behind him, just as a track from the Queen of the Damned soundtrack started on his CD player. The light turns green, Augustin starts making a turn=85

The next instant, says Augustin, the pickup truck is in front of him, the music has finished and he's still making his turn—meaning three minutes and 40 seconds just disappeared from his life. Even weirder, given that the truck is only 700 yards ahead, more time seems to have passed in the car than outside of it.

At a previous meet-up, says Augustin, a UFOlogist started agitating for an armed attack on the White House. Tonight's contributions are less incendiary but no less interesting. One woman is insistent that the aliens love us. Another discourses at length about Old Testament morality. Another about Vatican corruption and another about ESP. One man takes me aside and shows me photos from his vacation in China. Not because they tell us anything about UFOs, but because he thinks I might be interested.

A theme, though, does emerge.

One of the most common sounds at this meeting (along with the knowing chuckle) is the disbelieving snort. The phrases "weather balloon" and "rational explanation," for instance, are rarely uttered without an accompanying snort.

Philly's UFOlogists use the snort as often as John McCain uses air quotes, and for the same reason: to express skepticism. They're very skeptical. It's what they're skeptical about—pretty much the "official" version of almost everything—that makes them UFOlogists.

Most people here believe the government (or elements of the government) are involved in a huge conspiracy to keep certain knowledge of extra-terrestrial life away from the general population. When I ask the group how this is possible, given how inept U.S. governments have been at covering up known conspiracies—like the Gulf of Tonkin incident, Watergate and Saddam Hussein's weapons of mass destruction—Augustin speculates that those exposes might be decoys to detract us from the big UFO cover-up.

"I think there's a great deal of misinformation and disinformation being deliberately put out there" he says. "Sure, WMD is a big deal. But we're talking about a 60-year cover-up here."

Augustin has his doubts about the JFK assassination, Pearl Harbor and 9/11. And he isn't entirely dismissive of the idea

that aliens created the human race in the first place.

There are those in Philly's diverse and colorful UFO community with whom conversations about UFOs and life on other planets sides easily into the poetry of faith and metaphysics. There are others who claim to apply scientific rigor to every sighting or alleged abduction and speak dismissively of a fringe of "crackpots" who give UFOlogy a bad name.

But to the outsider-those who don't believe that human beings are being regularly taken aboard spaceships to help breed a human/alien hybrid super-race, and that there probably isn't a vast and incredibly efficient conspiracy to keep this and other aspects of human/alien interaction secret-the line between the two groups can seem blurred.

Some members of the Philly UFO meet-up groups say they've been repeatedly abducted by aliens. "Carmen Garcia" is 65. She's a former legal secretary who lives in South Philly, within earshot of the sports stadia. She asked PW not to use her real name.

Garcia has had 28 "sessions" with David Jacobs, an associate professor of history at Temple University who's also director of the International Center of Abduction Research-an organization that unapologetically promotes alien abduction as scientific fact.

Garcia moved to Philadelphia from Puerto Rico with her parents when she was 5.

"I heard my mother say, =91Frank, the things that were happening to us in the islands, they're happening here.'"

The "things" were incidents that ranged from the merely odd to the terrifying.

"My parents disappeared one night. I woke up and looked over at their bed and they were gone. My sister was screaming. We were petrified."

Garcia and her sister ran out into the yard where they were comforted by neighbors. Then her parents appeared in the doorway "as if nothing had happened. I thought, =91Who are they?' They seemed, calm, sedate. That wasn't like them."

Garcia claims she's had many such strange experiences in her 60 years in Philadelphia. When she was 16, she says, she awoke to find one of her breasts hanging from her body by sticky threads. She "pushed it back" and it healed in place, leaving no evidence it had ever been removed.

As an adult she awoke to find herself floating in the air "above Seventh and Packer, dressed only in my nightgown at 2 or 3 in the morning." She floated to the ground. "I felt someone behind me-and then I woke up in bed."

Garcia has also experienced mysterious bruising and "lost time." She's seen and has been touched by what she claims are extraterrestrial beings. She's been led into a spacecraft by two aliens who held her down, told her not to be afraid and then carried out a procedure that caused her excruciating pain. When she awoke, she says, she had "pain in my abdomen and bruises like finger marks on both of my arms. I thought, =91Oh my God. That wasn't a dream. That really happened.'"

"They're creating a different species of humans and themselves because their species is deteriorating," says Garcia. "They've shown me babies and small children.

"This one time they brought me aboard this craft and showed me a mother and a child. =91Oh my God,' I said. =91This is one of my babies.' =91No,' she said. =91This is our baby.' The baby had blue eyes. I have blue eyes."

Garcia remembers a Sunday afternoon when a mysteriously quiet black helicopter hovered about 25 feet over her house, and says she's seen many UFOs in the Philadelphia skies, once when she was driving to the airport to pick up her son.

"He's a non-believer," says Garcia. "He thinks I make it all up."

I meet 38-year-old Colleen Carey near her Northern Liberties home-just three blocks from one of Garcia's many claimed UFO sightings. On her MySpace page Carey describes herself as "a teeny weeny bleached blonde."

She's walking her pit bull and has to scold it and pull it back when it engages in a vigorous barking standoff with a dog behind some metal fencing. Carey says she once had a dog shot by the police, and her current dog killed another dog, which is why she had to move from Bucks County-the epicenter of this year's local UFO flap.

Carey apologizes for the mess of comics, magazines, books and papers that litter her living room floor. She was up last night, she says, looking for a page from "a bible from outer space."

But, she says, "I'm an alien princess and I don't have to tidy up, right?"

In an animated, wide-ranging interview, Carey claims to have produced many alien/human children "over many lifetimes." She says she's the "great whore" from the Book of Revelations and that her son is the Antichrist who's come to take Jesus down from the cross (where he was nailed by the cannibal "Nazis" who rule the human race) and so end his suffering.

She shows me photos of herself, taken at Christmas, and points to figures in the background-her alien babies. Carey says she's the recipient of frequent alien "transmissions," and sees UFOs "every night." She says she was taken into a spacecraft "three days ago" to have her eggs removed. "I have a chip in my face," she adds, inviting me to touch a bump in the bridge of her nose.

Carey believes she's been a voluntary part of the alien/human-breeding scheme for at least as long as there have been human beings in North America.

"I think Oriental people are my babies," she says. And then she hesitates. "But that sounds so bizarre. That's really taking it too far. That's too big a claim."

Steven Wells is a freelance writer based in Philadelphia. He writes "In Extremis" for philadelphiaweekly.com, is a columnist for guardian.co.uk and frequently covers local subcultures for PW.

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# UFO Updates

A mailing list for the study of UFO-related phenomena  
'Its All Here In Black & White'

Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 11](#)

## Plait's Bad Astronomical Observation

From: **UFO UpDates - Toronto** <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
Date: Thu, 11 Dec 2008 07:31:00 -0500  
Archived: Thu, 11 Dec 2008 07:31:00 -0500  
Subject: Plait's Bad Astronomical Observation

Source: Chris Rutkowski's UFORUM Blog - Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

<http://uforum.blogspot.com/>

Wednesday, December 10, 2008

UFO Debunker Strikes Again  
Chris Rutkowski

I've been slagged by Phil Plait. Again.

Phil has been receiving some heat about a statement he made recently, to the effect that since astronomers don't report seeing UFOs, UFOs don't exist.

Several people have taken him to task on this, including Stan Friedman, who listed several cases of astronomers' UFO reports. In rebuttal, Phil went after Stan again and then mentioned another critic of his writings, namely me.

Curiously, Phil quoted something I wrote to UFO Updates six years ago, noting that many amateur astronomers have reported UFOs but that most amateurs don't pay much attention to objects in the sky that aren't things of astronomical interest. In fact, many amateurs sit in warm-up rooms and do their observing remotely, looking at small areas of the sky on computer screens. Some are outside, but use their computers to find galaxies and nebulae automatically without looking skyward all that much.

Now, it is true that many amateurs spend nights outside comet hunting, star hopping and doing real astronomy, and in the course of these actions might see something that was a bit odd. But to report such an object would not be something most would do. In fact, astronomers like Phil would be one really good reason not to report them.

Despite this, we know from a few surveys that astronomers, both amateur and professional, do see and report UFOs, the percentage of which is variable. If they reported the same as the general population, about 10% would see them. The surveys that have been conducted have them a bit lower than this, and we could speculate on why that would be so. Nevertheless, the percentage of astronomers and amateur astronomers who have seen UFOs is significant, and not just "a handful" as Phil Plait notes.

Phil then makes an extraordinary statement that really takes the cake. He notes:

"...the majority of UFO reports would be made by amateur astronomers if these were in fact alien spaceships. I don't care if you can find a handful of reports from astronomers. This shows conclusively that the majority of UFOs reported are not flying saucers, but misidentified mundane objects."

<http://skepticroblog.org/2008/12/10/ufonies/>

Where does one start to show the fallacies of this? Let's try.

First of all, no serious ufologist believes that the majority of reported UFOs are flying saucers. Neither Stan nor I nor anyone else involved in serious research has ever held that contention. In fact, we provide evidence to show that most reported UFOs are either misidentifications or have insufficient evidence for a conclusion. It's nice to see that Phil has arrived at the same view as we have, only 40 or 50 years behind.

Second, does Phil mean that amateur astronomers are the only people watching the skies? If an alien spaceship was to approach Earth and be visible in the night sky as a brilliant non-starlike object, would only amateur astronomers notice?

If he means that amateur astronomers, with their advanced CCDs, would spot an approaching UFO before the general public and immediately realize its alien origin, and then report it publicly, that's likely an implausible scenario too.

This also assumes that all unexplainable UFOs are alien spacecraft, something I and many others do not contend. It also assumes that alien spacecraft would necessarily be recognizable by us and that an alien anthropologist would allow us to see him (or it) easily.

(pause)

I just called a friend of mine who is an avid amateur astronomer. He goes to the famous Texas Star Party regularly, images distant galaxies and nebulae and spends a lot of time and money on his hobby. I even have fantastic photos of things like the Dumbbell Nebula and M-13 on my desktop, courtesy of his work.

I asked him about Phil's view that astronomers watch the sky intently and would notice UFOs more than the general population. His reply, in no uncertain terms: "No."

He said, "I go out every second night or so, set up my scope and equipment, spend two hours getting it ready for use, take a CCD shot to align what I want, then click on my mouse and walk away as the computer does the rest. Occasionally, I'll sit back in my lawn chair and gaze at the Milky Way. Sometimes, I'll go to the house and pour me a rye and Coke. When the exposure is done, I'll set it for another object and do it all over again."

That's a dedicated amateur astronomer, one who produces photos you see in astronomy magazines and textbooks. I asked him, "Would you notice a UFO in the sky if it was visible?"

He replied, "Hell, it could be right behind me and I would never see it."

Not to be accused of over-generalizing, I will note that this is one individual I am talking about. I know some amateurs, like the legendary Jack Newton, had a more rigid and formal nightly schedule, but he's an exception, too. I would think that most amateur astronomers would fall somewhere between the two. And, if they have been indoctrinated with the skeptical view that UFOs don't exist and that anyone who sees a UFO is to be ridiculed, they won't be interested in much else than taking the best possible image of M-31 rather than being curious about the luminous object that seems to be hanging low in the sky opposite their selected target.

Phil concludes:

"What Rutkowski said sounds true enough, unless you know better (or someone who does know better tells you). That's one part of what makes it so hard to be an activist skeptic. We rely on reality, which means we have to play by the rules. The same is not true for antiscientists, who are free to make up anything they want."

Strange... that's what ufologists say about debunkers.

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## Re: Plait's Bad Astronomical Observation

From: **Martin Shough** <[parcellular.nul](mailto:parcellular.nul)>  
Date: Thu, 11 Dec 2008 13:11:02 -0000  
Archived: Thu, 11 Dec 2008 08:27:04 -0500  
Subject: Re: Plait's Bad Astronomical Observation

>Source: Chris Rutkowski's UFORUM Blog - Winnipeg, Manitoba,  
>Canada

><http://uforum.blogspot.com/>

>Wednesday, December 10, 2008

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>Chris Rutkowsk

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<snip>

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>"...the majority of UFO reports would be made by amateur  
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>shows conclusively that the majority of UFOs reported are not  
>flying saucers, but misidentified mundane objects."

><http://skepticroblog.org/2008/12/10/ufonies/>

>Where does one start to show the fallacies of this? Let's try.

Can anyone compare the percentage of ball lightning observations  
by astronomers in the literature? I don't recall the breakdown  
but I suspect it would be a very small proportion.

I did come across one remark from an amateur astronomer who saw a  
possible kugelblitz:

" ...I call it ball lightning for lack of a better description.  
I recall telling a local astronomer that I'd seen ball lightning  
and she looked at me like she wondered what drugs I'd been  
using!"

<http://tinyurl.com/648wtw>

Martin Shough

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## Re: More Kritikal Thinking

From: Alfred Lehmborg <[alienview.nul](mailto:alienview.nul)>  
Date: Thu, 11 Dec 2008 10:28:46 -0500  
Archived: Thu, 11 Dec 2008 10:41:00 -0500  
Subject: Re: More Kritikal Thinking

>Source: Skeptic Blog - Altadena, California

><http://skepticroblog.org/2008/12/04/stanton-friedman-doesnt-like-me/>

>Dec 04 2008

>Stanton Friedman Doesn't Like Me  
>by Brian Dunning

>A reader wrote me on Facebook that he was listening to the  
>"Paranormal Podcast", another of the usual promoters of nonsense  
>inexplicably allowed to remain in the Science & Medicine section  
>of iTunes.

Just what we need, another fulsomely ignorant Christ-figure to storm in and purge the derelict "temple" of its inconvenient infidels - another 'scientastic' plumber to snake its own prolapsed reductionist drain. Another example of the "noisome negativist" laughing up his damp sleeve at that which he allows himself no capacity to to accept, no aptitude to understand, no ability to incorporate, and no skill to recognize what's spit in his eye, eh?

>The guest was Stanton Friedman, the principal author  
>of the Roswell, Travis Walton, and Betty & Barney Hill UFO  
>mythologies.

Dont'cha just love the "science" of the intractable mind?

>Anyway, at 25 minutes into the episode (#56, but  
>don't bother listening as it's only a 15 second blurb)

Wrong - I just listened to the whole thing effortlessly.

>Stanton  
>mentioned that he "came across a piece on the Internet" the  
>other day that got "40 flat-out false claims" about the Betty  
>and Barney Hill story, and added with a condescending chortle  
>that he "couldn't believe it". It was the online transcript of  
>my Skeptoid episode on that story.

Mr. Dumbing should pray to his Cartesian Gods that he doesn't have to justify each of those 40 items point for point to Mr. Friedman in debate.

>The Paranormal Podcast host, Jim Harold, acknowledged that he  
>had heard of Skeptoid. Of course you have Jim, because it's  
>kicking your ass in iTunes, probably much to your dismay.

Ooooo - and a proud little martinet, too!

>Stanton was probably predisposed to have a problem with me. I've  
>called him "an obsessed UFO wacko", which I think is accurate.

Well now. How declaratively proposed, but isn't this what can be attempted by the scurrilous when that scurrilous can't attack the data so as to cast aspersion on the data reporter? I think it is. Tsk.

>grew up watching Stanton Friedman; he's on just about every TV  
>documentary about UFOs, and of course he wrote the most  
>significant books inventing the most popular UFO stories. I used  
>to listen to him in awe: The TV always said "nuclear physicist"  
>under his name, so of course, anything he said had to be true.

You know! I'm suddenly reminded of the sawed off snaggle-tooth  
antagonist in the Incredibles!

>(I didn't know that his real career, in fact his only career  
>since 1970, was writing UFO books. I guess the TV producers feel  
>that calling him a nuclear physicist gives him more credibility  
>than calling a spade a spade and saying "Obsessed UFO Wacko".)

What a maroon. When the space program imploded in the sixties  
talented men lost their careers. A contemporary of Friedman, my  
father was one of these.

Friedman saw the handwriting on the wall and early involved  
himself with a life project that is intelligent, progressive,  
and brave - as far reaching as any future and a whip to such as  
Mr. Dumbing. Obsessed UFO Wacko"? What you can't "get" you mock,  
I suppose. It remains Friedman is a scientist and Mr. Dumbing is  
the pretense of one.

>I browsed through the transcript looking for 40 factual errors.  
>This is a daunting task, because there aren't more than 20 or 25  
>points made that you could call factual claims. Most of them  
>either came from or are corroborated by Stanton Friedman's own  
>books. The facts of the case aren't really in question, it's the  
>interpretation of the facts that are. Betty Hill spent two years  
>writing a UFO story and sharing it with her husband, and then  
>when asked about that story under hypnosis, Barney Hill was able  
>to rattle it off pretty much as she wrote it. I say "Duh,"  
>Stanton Friedman cries "Proof that aliens abducted them!"

"Proof that aliens abducted them!" You know... I just can't  
imagine Friedman making a statement as goofy as that, and would  
challenge Mr. Dumbing to produce citation for it.

>If I thought he might care (which I don't presume to), I would  
>love to challenge Stanton to list even just 25 of the "40 flat-  
>out false claims" I made, keeping in mind that virtually all the  
>statements of fact I made are corroborated by his books.

Well now. That's abundantly reasonable! Astonished with this  
seeming return to rationality I must pause to collect myself.  
What would be the result of Mr. Friedman providing said "25,"  
one wonders! Would Mr. Dumbing melt and whither like the wicked  
witch of the north? Would he start an STF fan club? Would he  
swill a much needed cup of shut the f-k up, for awile?

>Not interpretations or innuendos, but statements of facts.

How about stuff facilitated by the very real ignorance of Mr.  
Dumbing? A portrait of emotional stability and Solomon-like  
fairness like Mr. Dumbing... his airy stature must surly allow  
for that.

>Not that  
>it's a 40 minute drive from Ashland to Portsmouth, not a 45  
>minute drive, but substantive errors.

Already Mr. Dumbing starts to weasel and the wager has not even  
been made!

>He argues that I distorted  
>the facts (my "false claims") in order to discredit his fiction.

We all must understand that Mr. Dumbing, a paragon of  
transparent rationality, flawless cognition, and infinite  
experience... a scientist's scientist actually, is entirely  
incapable of a "false claim."

>This is an easy argument to make when you have an unchallenged  
>platform on a podcast.

I suspect challenges can be made and even accepted on a similar  
podcast or the same one, Friedman has a long history of  
accepting challenges and walking away victorious, and Mr.  
Dumbing might get what he wishes for.

>An intelligent opponent would point out  
>that the significant facts are not disputed, and that it's the  
>interpretation of the facts that makes all the difference.

Dance weasel dance, yet I suspect "pop" goes the weasel.

>He won't accept this challenge, of course, mainly because he's a  
>successful author busy with book tours and UFO conventions, and  
>I'm just one of many farts in the breeze of reason.

Some of the preceding was correct.

>Reason doesn't pay,

...Exsqueeze me? <ROFL> Seriously, unclench.

>and since he's more concerned with his bank account  
>than with reason, he's right to ignore piss-ant blogs like this.

Some of the preceding was correct.

>But it won't be long before The Skeptologists are on his ass,  
>and he'll find that condescending chortles only take him so far.

Right, we'll try to revive one of the eviscerated corpses of the  
"Skeptologists" to see if any are further up to coveting  
Friedman's "ass."

>Anyone can take a mundane newspaper headline and expand it into  
>a dramatic fictional UFO abduction tale.

...Anyone can spout earnest sounding declarations and predisposed  
proclamations about that which they know absolutely nothing.

>If it's done well, it  
>will be gobbled up by an uncritical public.

How is Mr. Dumbing doing, then?

>It's those of us who  
>caution against the folly of pseudoscience and faith in the  
>supernatural who have the hard job.

Oh and Mr. Dumbing should be thanked so much for all his  
ardent sacrifice and busy fussiness really! ["condescending  
chortle"]

One can only laugh out loud or look down at one's dinner plate  
in embarrassed silence, eh?

Waiter!

[alienview.nul](http://alienview.nul)

[www.AlienView.net](http://www.AlienView.net)

AVG Blog -- <http://alienviewgroup.blogspot.com/>

U F O M a g a z i n e -- [www.ufomag.com](http://www.ufomag.com)

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## Re: Itemised Abductions

From: Dick Hall <[dh12.nul](mailto:dh12.nul)>  
Date: Thu, 11 Dec 2008 10:30:22 -0500  
Archived: Thu, 11 Dec 2008 10:43:23 -0500  
Subject: Re: Itemised Abductions

>Source: The Philadelphia Weekly - Pennsylvania, USA

><http://www.philadelphiaweekly.com/articles/18037/cover-story>

>December 9, 2008

>Itemized Abductions

>Local Ufologists tell us why they believe.  
>by Steven Wells

<snip>

>It's Bob Gardner's job to investigate such activity. Gardner's  
>an official field investigator with the Mutual UFO Network  
>(MUFON), "the world's largest civilian UFO scientific research  
>organization." This summer Gardner helped organize an official  
>MUFON UFO awareness day at Germ Books in Fishtown. About 50  
>people turned up to hear a presentation from his friend Chris,  
>an alien/ UFO/paranormal investigator, who runs the million-  
>hits-a-month website, AlienstheTruth.com.

>Chris Augustin is a walking X-File. He's a weird magnet. Strange  
>shit happens to him all the time. He says he's been abducted  
>from his car by aliens, has ESP and is pretty sure he has an  
>alien tracking device implanted in his right leg.

<snip>

Anyone who thinks these dingbats don't thoroughly contaminate  
the subject and make it difficult for sane people to become  
involved has their head firmly implanted up their posterior.

Dick

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## Re: Itemised Abductions

From: **Alfred Lehmborg** <[alienview.nul](mailto:alienview.nul)>  
Date: Thu, 11 Dec 2008 11:12:25 -0600  
Archived: Thu, 11 Dec 2008 17:49:26 -0500  
Subject: Re: Itemised Abductions

>From: Dick Hall <[dh12.nul](mailto:dh12.nul)>  
>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>Date: Thu, 11 Dec 2008 10:30:22 -0500  
>Subject: Re: Itemised Abductions

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><snip>

>Anyone who thinks these dingbats don't thoroughly contaminate  
>the subject and make it difficult for sane people to become  
>involved has their head firmly implanted up their posterior.

Call me an ass-hat. I maintain that if most of these individuals  
had forthcoming governments, institutions, and agencies  
chartered to provide for the informed consent of its citizenry  
the subject would then be a lot less contaminated. What you  
decry is what's sucked in on the information vacuum facilitated  
by a corrupt status quo. You condemn the health of the fish when  
they must swim in the quality of the water provided.

[alienview.nul](mailto:alienview.nul)

[www.AlienView.net](http://www.AlienView.net)

AVG Blog -- <http://alienviewgroup.blogspot.com/>

U F O M a g a z i n e -- [www.ufomag.com](http://www.ufomag.com)

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## Was Pilot First Known Casualty Of A UFO?

From: **UFO UpDates - Toronto** <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
Date: Thu, 11 Dec 2008 17:58:39 -0500  
Archived: Thu, 11 Dec 2008 17:58:39 -0500  
Subject: Was Pilot First Known Casualty Of A UFO?

Source: The McDowell News - Marion, North Carolina

<http://tinyurl.com/569os7>

December 10, 2008

Was Pilot First Known Casualty Of A UFO?  
By Mike Conley | The McDowell News

Published:

In July 1947, amateur pilot Kenneth Arnold made the first widely reported sighting of a UFO in the United States. His sighting of nine strange objects flying in formation over Mount Rainer in Washington state sparked what became the modern UFO phenomenon.

And less than a year later, an Air Force captain would become what many consider to be the first known casualty of a UFO.

On the afternoon of Jan. 7, 1948, tower operators at Godman Airfield, which was the airstrip for Fort Knox, Ky., got some reports about a weird object seen flying over nearby Maysville, Ky. Several witnesses said it was a metallic, circular object about 250 to 300 feet in diameter and shaped like a parachute. The tower operators looked out their window and could see it for themselves, according to a Web site.

At about the same time, four F-51 planes returning from Georgia were approaching the airfield. Capt. Thomas Mantell Jr. led the planes. The tower operators asked Mantell if he and his group could fly closer to the object and check it out. Mantell volunteered to fly towards the object. He radioed the tower back and said it was metallic and very large. He also estimated the object's speed to be the same as his, which was about 180 miles per hour.

Mantell kept after the object and two other pilots, 1st Lt. Albert Clemmons and 2nd Lt. B.A. Hammond joined him in the pursuit. The weird object kept flying higher in the sky. The pilots continued to climb higher so they could get a better look at it but only one of their planes had oxygen equipment available. That equipment was necessary for flying at altitudes higher than 20,000 feet.

After following Mantell to about 22,000 feet, Hammond and Clemmons decided to break off the chase. They radioed Mantell to let him know what they were doing but they got no response. Mantell's plane continued to climb higher, according to a Web site.

Just a few minutes later, a man named William C. Mayes was at his rural home outside Franklin, Ky. He heard a strange sound and went outside his house to see a plane circling overhead a few times. The plane then went into a nosedive. It crashed in the front yard of a nearby farm. Mantell had been killed in the crash.

The Air Force was immediately worried about what had happened. One of their best pilots was dead and a UFO might have killed him. Some investigators thought that the object was a craft from another world and it was responsible for shooting down Mantell. Other government officials claimed the object was really the planet Venus and Mantell had blacked out after climbing too high without oxygen.

In those days, the government often dismissed UFO reports by saying that people were actually seeing Venus and didn't know the difference. But this object moved and disappeared from view after a period of time. Planets don't do that.

A few years later, Capt. Edward J. Ruppelt took over Project Blue Book, the Air Force's official investigation into the UFO phenomenon. He decided to reopen the Mantell case. Ruppelt concluded that the object sounded a lot like a Skyhook balloon, which was a top secret Navy project for high altitude testing. But Ruppelt could not determine from which base the balloon was launched.

Meanwhile, wild rumors had circulated about what had happened to Mantell. Some investigators said his body was missing from the plane and had never been recovered. Others whispered that the body was full of strange wounds and marks and that there was damage to the plane not caused by the crash. These people believed that aliens had shot down Mantell's plane.

For decades, government officials and UFO investigators alike wondered what exactly had happened to Mantell and his plane. It was an enduring mystery. But in the 1990s, researchers found that a Skyhook balloon had been launched in Minnesota just two days prior to the encounter on Jan. 7, 1948. After studying wind and weather patterns at the time, they concluded that the Skyhook balloon would have been in the area of Godman Airfield on that day. They determined that Mantell's plane crashed because he suffered from a lack of oxygen at such a high altitude.

But others are not so sure. Some UFO investigators point out that similar objects were spotted shortly afterwards by people in Clinton, N.C. and Circleville, Ohio. Those objects could not all be Skyhook balloons, they say.

Contact Mike Conley at 652-3313, ext. 3422  
or e-mail [nconley.nul](mailto:nconley.nul)

[Thanks to Frank Fields for the lead]

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## Re: Plait's Bad Astronomical Observation

From: Don Ledger <[dledger.nul](mailto:dledger.nul)>  
Date: Thu, 11 Dec 2008 13:51:31 -0400  
Archived: Thu, 11 Dec 2008 17:58:39 -0500  
Subject: Re: Plait's Bad Astronomical Observation

>From: Martin Shough <[parcellular.nul](mailto:parcellular.nul)>  
>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>Date: Thu, 11 Dec 2008 13:11:02 -0000  
>Subject: Re: Plait's Bad Astronomical Observation

>>Source: Chris Rutkowski's UFORUM Blog - Winnipeg, Manitoba,  
>>Canada

>><http://uforum.blogspot.com/>

>>Wednesday, December 10, 2008

>>UFO Debunker Strikes Again  
>>Chris Rutkowski

>>I've been slagged by Phil Plait. Again.

><snip>

>>Phil then makes an extraordinary statement that really takes  
>>the cake. He notes:

>>"...the majority of UFO reports would be made by amateur  
>>astronomers if these were in fact alien spaceships. I don't care  
>>if you can find a handful of reports from astronomers. This  
>>shows conclusively that the majority of UFOs reported are not  
>>flying saucers, but misidentified mundane objects."

>><http://skepticroblog.org/2008/12/10/ufonies/>

>>Where does one start to show the fallacies of this? Let's try.

>>Can anyone compare the percentage of ball lightning observations  
>>by astronomers in the literature? I don't recall the breakdown  
>>but I suspect it would be a very small proportion.

>>I did come across one remark from an amateur astronomer who saw a  
>>possible kugelblitz:

>>" ...I call it ball lightning for lack of a better description.  
>>I recall telling a local astronomer that I'd seen ball lightning  
>>and she looked at me like she wondered what drugs I'd been  
>>using!"

>><http://tinyurl.com/648wtw>

Hi Martin,

Seems to me that more and more ball lightning is being accepted as a real, fact-based phenomenon by the anything-but-a-unexplained-UFO, bury-your-head-in-the-sand crowd when in reality it has yet to be definitively explained or proved. Yet despite having much less provenance than the UFO phenomenon it is used to explain it away. This is a curious glitch in the scientific mind set re one phenomenon being explained away by a lesser studied phenomenon. Some might call this a quirk, I call it grasping at straws.



There is a curious parallel in the abduction phenomenon with some claiming this is a new age version of a history of folklore involving elves and faireys, trolls and leprechauns, angels or demons and heavenly hosts that have been plaguing mankind since the dawn of history.

Perhaps both phenomenon suffer the same mis-identification that todays science might explain as:

(1) What was once ball lightning is now more aptly named a UAP in the more conventional sense.

(2) What was once the host of demons and trolls or fairies etc. might be more comfortably explained as the more modern concept of alien abduction.

Don Ledger

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'Its All Here In Black & White'

Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 11](#)

## Re: Itemised Abductions

From: Don Ledger <[dledger.nul](mailto:dledger.nul)>  
Date: Thu, 11 Dec 2008 13:57:48 -0400  
Archived: Thu, 11 Dec 2008 18:07:10 -0500  
Subject: Re: Itemised Abductions

>From: Dick Hall <[dh12.nul](mailto:dh12.nul)>  
>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>Date: Thu, 11 Dec 2008 10:30:22 -0500  
>Subject: Re: Itemised Abductions

>>Source: The Philadelphia Weekly - Pennsylvania, USA

>><http://www.philadelphiaweekly.com/articles/18037/cover-story>

>>December 9, 2008

>>Itemized Abductions

>>Local Ufologists tell us why they believe.  
>>by Steven Wells

><snip>

>>It's Bob Gardner's job to investigate such activity. Gardner's  
>>an official field investigator with the Mutual UFO Network  
>>(MUFON), "the world's largest civilian UFO scientific research  
>>organization." This summer Gardner helped organize an official  
>>MUFON UFO awareness day at Germ Books in Fishtown. About 50  
>>people turned up to hear a presentation from his friend Chris,  
>>an alien/ UFO/paranormal investigator, who runs the million-  
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>>Chris Augustin is a walking X-File. He's a weird magnet. Strange  
>>shit happens to him all the time. He says he's been abducted  
>>from his car by aliens, has ESP and is pretty sure he has an  
>>>alien tracking device implanted in his right leg.

><snip>

>Anyone who thinks these dingbats don't thoroughly contaminate  
>the subject and make it difficult for sane people to become  
>involved has their head firmly implanted up their posterior.

Yeah the guy should have some sort of tracking device attached  
to him to make sure he doesn't wander too far from home and  
keeping him away from the rest of us.

Don Ledger

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 11](#)

## 6 Signs That Aliens Might Exist

From: **Franklin Fields**, <[fields.nul](mailto:fields.nul)>  
Date: Thu, 11 Dec 2008 17:11:45 -0500 (EST)  
Archived: Thu, 11 Dec 2008 19:10:00 -0500  
Subject: 6 Signs That Aliens Might Exist

MSNBC says science suggests we may not be alone... that aliens might exist. The 6 signs are:

- 1) With so many stars, alien life is probable
- 2) Water worlds abound in our solar system
- 3) Life evolved 'quickly' on Earth
- 4) Life thrives in extreme environments
- 5) E.T. might be calling from afar
- 6) Some see evidence that 'aliens' have visited

More information at:

<http://tinyurl.com/5a7jy5>

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 11](#)

## Re: Plait's Bad Astronomical Observation

From: **Jerome Clark** <[jkclark.nul](mailto:jkclark.nul)>  
Date: Thu, 11 Dec 2008 17:12:05 -0500  
Archived: Thu, 11 Dec 2008 19:11:00 -0500  
Subject: Re: Plait's Bad Astronomical Observation

>From: Don Ledger <[dledger.nul](mailto:dledger.nul)>  
>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>Date: Thu, 11 Dec 2008 13:51:31 -0400  
>Subject: Re: Plait's Bad Astronomical Observation

>>From: Martin Shough <[parcellular.nul](mailto:parcellular.nul)>  
>>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>>Date: Thu, 11 Dec 2008 13:11:02 -0000  
>>Subject: Re: Plait's Bad Astronomical Observation

>There is a curious parallel in the abduction phenomenon with  
>some claiming this is a new age version of a history of folklore  
>involving elves and fairies, trolls and leprechauns, angels or  
>demons and heavenly hosts that have been plaguing mankind since  
>the dawn of history.

[snipped]

>(2) What was once the host of demons and trolls or fairies etc.  
>might be more comfortably explained as the more modern concept  
>of alien abduction.

I don't think so, Don. The two traditions/experiential phenomena  
may be broadly related in some epistemological sense, but in  
their details and manifestations one is not to be confused with  
the other (or others).

You might read my essay Experience Anomalies in the recent  
Fortean Times (#243) for an argument which attempts to lay out  
an explanatory framework linking abductions, fairy beliefs, and  
other strange otherworldly encounters which may not be what they  
seem.

Cordially,

Jerry Clark

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## Re: Itemised Abductions

From: **Franklin Fields** <[fields.nul](mailto:fields.nul)>  
Date: Thu, 11 Dec 2008 20:36:55 -0500 (EST)  
Archived: Fri, 12 Dec 2008 06:45:40 -0500  
Subject: Re: Itemised Abductions

>From: Alfred Lehmborg <[alienview.nul](mailto:alienview.nul)>  
>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>Date: Thu, 11 Dec 2008 11:12:25 -0600  
>Subject: Re: Itemised Abductions

>>From: Dick Hall <[dh12.nul](mailto:dh12.nul)>  
>>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>>Date: Thu, 11 Dec 2008 10:30:22 -0500  
>>Subject: Re: Itemised Abductions

>>>Source: The Philadelphia Weekly - Pennsylvania, USA

>>><http://www.philadelphiaweekly.com/articles/18037/cover-story>

>>>December 9, 2008

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>>>Local Ufologists tell us why they believe.  
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>>>It's Bob Gardner's job to investigate such activity. Gardner's  
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>>>Chris Augustin is a walking X-File. He's a weird magnet. Strange  
>>>shit happens to him all the time. He says he's been abducted  
>>>from his car by aliens, has ESP and is pretty sure he has an  
>>>alien tracking device implanted in his right leg.

>><snip>

>>>Anyone who thinks these dingbats don't thoroughly contaminate  
>>>the subject and make it difficult for sane people to become  
>>>involved has their head firmly implanted up their posterior.

>Call me an ass-hat. I maintain that if most of these individuals  
>had forthcoming governments, institutions, and agencies  
>chartered to provide for the informed consent of its citizenry  
>the subject would then be a lot less contaminated. What you  
>decry is what's sucked in on the information vacuum facilitated  
>by a corrupt status quo. You condemn the health of the fish when  
>they must swim in the quality of the water provided.

Alfred you are not an "ass-hat". That was a very astute  
observation and explication!

Yours,

Frank

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 12](#)

## Re: 6 Signs That Aliens Might Exist

From: Gre Boone <[Evolbaby.nul](mailto:Evolbaby.nul)>  
Date: Thu, 11 Dec 2008 22:11:31 EST  
Archived: Fri, 12 Dec 2008 06:48:47 -0500  
Subject: Re: 6 Signs That Aliens Might Exist

>From: Franklin Fields, <[fields.nul](mailto:fields.nul)>  
>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>Date: Thu, 11 Dec 2008 17:11:45 -0500 (EST)  
>Subject: 6 Signs That Aliens Might Exist

>MSNBC says science suggests we may not be alone... that aliens  
>might exist. The 6 signs are:

- >1) With so many stars, alien life is probable
- >2) Water worlds abound in our solar system
- >3) Life evolved 'quickly' on Earth
- >4) Life thrives in extreme environments
- >5) E.T. might be calling from afar
- >6) Some see evidence that 'aliens' have visited

Boone's 6 signs that aliens do exist:

- 1 - Because mainstream scientists balk at the idea
- 2 - Because our government won't address the issue
- 3 - Because mainstream religious groups avoid it
- 4 - Because if little kids say it's true, it's gotta be so
- 5 - Hollywood doesn't lie
- 6 - Everyone knows Star Wars is fake and that Star Trek is real

(pardon ol' Alcy for that one )

Best,

Greg  
[ufomafia.com/blog](http://ufomafia.com/blog)

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## Does Vallee Believe Spheres Are Earthly?

From: **Gord Heath** <[gordheath.nul](mailto:gordheath.nul)>  
Date: Thu, 11 Dec 2008 23:16:48 -0800  
Archived: Fri, 12 Dec 2008 06:53:03 -0500  
Subject: Does Vallee Believe Spheres Are Earthly?

Does Vallee Believe That Spheres Are Probes Of Earthly Origin?

I have briefly been engaged in an exchange at a website and it has come to my attention that Jaques Vallee, apparently believes that the silvery spheres, observed hovering, and zipping through the air are probes manufactured by someone here on earth to assist in our earthly defence. Does anyone know anymore about this and what brought this seemingly straight-laced scientist to this bizarre conclusion?

Here is the quote:

Dr. Bob: Throughout your book, Revelations, you note that you have knowledge that the American government has created UFO-like craft as a type of monitoring device. Could you elaborate on these craft? What do they look like and ...?

Dr. Jacques Vallee: I think this is again, something that most ufologists have trouble believing. That anybody who follows for example, Aviation Week or Defense, Electronics or any of the high-tech magazines will actually see photographs of those things. I mean, some of them are, I'm sure some of them are classified. But many of them are not, for example, there are small spheres about one meter, you know, 3 or 4 feet in diameter, that can hover, they can move in any direction, almost silently or in some cases silently. They are used as ranging devices. For example, if you are going to fire a missile over a certain area in a battlefield, you need to know the exact direction and range of the target. And you're not in direct view of the target at that point, these devices will carry lasers and ranging devices that will identify the target for you and guide the missile. Those things have been, you know, technically achievable certainly for the last ten years. These can be used for reconnaissance, they could carry a camera. They're essentially platforms, remotely piloted platforms, that can, that are highly maneuverable.

And here is the web link:

<http://www.21stcenturyradio.com/ForbiddenScience.htm>

I am just a little floored by this contention as I have personally witnessed such craft and there is nothing I know of aviation physics to explain the flight characteristics of what I observed.

Cheers,

Gord Heath  
UFOBC

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 12](#)

## A Broadcast To The Stars

From: **UFO UpDates - Toronto** <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
Date: Fri, 12 Dec 2008 07:05:45 -0500  
Archived: Fri, 12 Dec 2008 07:05:45 -0500  
Subject: A Broadcast To The Stars

Source: The New York Times - New York, USA

<http://tinyurl.com/63yty7>

December 11, 2008

One Alien To Another: A Broadcast To The Stars  
By Dennis Overbye

Klaatu barada nikto, indeed.

Seeking the ultimate red carpet, or perhaps a chance to get a good word in for humanity to whoever might be Out There watching, the makers of the new movie The Day The Earth Stood Still have arranged for it to be beamed into space on Friday, on the same day the movie opens here on planet Earth.

The movie, starring Keanu Reeves as the alien Klaatu, who comes to warn mankind to change its warlike ways or be destroyed, is of course a remake of the 1951 classic starring Michael Rennie. No official translation of them exists, but the words "Klaatu barada nikto" were sufficient in the original movie to save the Earth, or at least postpone its day of judgment from Klaatu's robot enforcer Gort. And they have been a touchstone of science fiction and alien sociology ever since.

So what better words to broadcast to the stars?

The movie will be broadcast in real time, starting at noon on Friday, by Deep Space Communications Network, a Florida company that has beamed whale songs and the Craigslist Web site, among other things, into space in the three years of its existence. According to its Web site, the company will transmit a five-minute signal into space for anyone for \$299.

In this case, Jim Lewis, Deep Space's director, said the company had to satisfy 20th Century Fox, the film's producers, that the transmission could not be intercepted and pirated on Earth or in the air. The movie will be beamed in the direction of Alpha Centauri, a triple star system about four light-years from here. That means it will take four years for it to get to Alpha Centauri. (There is plenty of time to get popcorn, whoever you are.)

The reviews will take longer to come back, if they ever do, and we could hope they are kinder than Klaatu's.

As an interstellar broadcast, the movie at least beats a Doritos commercial, which was broadcast into space by a set of European radar stations in June in the most recent high-profile space transmission. Whether it lives up artistically to the Beatles song Across The Universe, which NASA sent off in February as part of the agency's 50th anniversary, remains to be seen.

The biologist and writer Lewis Thomas once suggested that if we were going to send anything to the stars, we send Bach. It would be bragging, he admitted, but we are allowed to put our best

foot forward.

Television and radar signals have been leaking from the Earth out into space for most of a century, creating a bubble of football games, the Vietnam and Iraq wars, political conventions, quiz shows and Howdy Doody that is more than 100 light-years in diameter and growing.

That outpouring is one reason astronomers should not be perturbed about sending movies or commercials into space, said Seth Shostak, an astronomer at the SETI Institute in Mountain View, Calif., which is engaged, among other things, in searching for extraterrestrial signals.

We've already advertised our presence.

Dr. Shostak, who was a consultant for the new movie, is chairman of a committee of the International Academy of Astronautics devoted to SETI.

There are some people, he acknowledges, who might worry that broadcasting The Day The Earth Stood Still could be inimical to our interests. He added, "I think that if these people are truly worried about such things, they might best begin by shutting down the radar at the local airport."

[Thanks to 'The Norm' for the lead]

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 12](#)

## Deputies Investigate UFOs Near Jeffrey Lake

From: **UFO UpDates - Toronto** <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
Date: Fri, 12 Dec 2008 08:10:00 -0500  
Archived: Fri, 12 Dec 2008 08:10:00 -0500  
Subject: Deputies Investigate UFOs Near Jeffrey Lake

Source: The North Platte Bulletin - Nebraska, USA

<http://tinyurl.com/5sgouu>

12/11/2008

Deputies Investigate UFOs Near Jeffrey Lake  
by Frank Graham - North Platte Bulletin

Two deputies investigated the sighting of unidentified flying objects in the sky south of Brady Nov. 21, according to Lincoln County Sheriff Jerome Kramer.

Although both deputies and the man who called to report the lights dancing in the sky observed them for more than 15 minutes, they could offer no explanation about what they were.

"One deputy, who has an extensive amount of military experience and has witnessed a lot of military maneuvers first hand, said he'd never seen anything like them," Kramer said. "They could not explain what they were."

A man who lives near Jeffrey Lake reported the lights in the sky to the 911 Center about 7:30 Nov. 21, according to an LCSO report. A dispatcher reported the call to on-duty deputies, who responded to the call.

Kramer said both deputies observed the lights first hand.

"The report says they first observed a blue light with a red tail fall out of the sky toward a field," Kramer said. "It stayed stationary for a short time then disappeared."

Kramer said the deputies observed lights that appeared to hover then take off in one direction or another. He said the deputies reported that they never saw more than three lights together at one time and that there was no sound coming from them.

Kramer said the deputies reported that the lights were "too fast to be helicopters and too agile to be jet aircraft."

The lights were reported to be blue and white, according to Kramer.

The deputies also reported that one of the lights would occasionally drop directly down toward the earth and then suddenly rise up again into the sky.

The deputies observed the lights in the southern sky for about 15 minutes before they suddenly darted off and disappeared.

Kramer said one deputy managed to get a picture of the lights shot with a digital camera through his night vision goggles but that the pictures didn't offer much evidence as they were too grainy and the lights appeared so small.

## Deputies Investigate UFOs Near Jeffrey Lake

The man who reported the lights said he often watched military helicopters on maneuvers in the canyons during the summer but said it was nothing like the lights Nov. 21.

Others at Lake Maloney also reported seeing the unidentified lights in the eastern sky.

Dispatchers checked with Denver International Airport, which covers radar for this area, but they said the radar only monitored activity at 14,000 feet and above.

The deputies reported the lights were much lower than that in the sky.

Mike Sharkey, manager of the North Platte Regional Airport, said the dispatchers called him at home to see if he could shed any light on the mysterious lights but he said that Lee Bird Field has no radar and could offer no further information.

A spokesman for the National Weather Service office in North Platte said their radar rarely picks up any aircraft or UFOs. He said no one noticed anything unusual on their radar Nov. 21.

Kramer said he too could offer no explanation for the mysterious lights.

UFOs sighted over area for more than 53 years

Only one in 450 UFO sightings are ever reported, according to the National UFO Reporting Center in Seattle Wash.

On any particular evening in the United States there are around 1,000 sightings of UFOs around the USA, including 100 close encounters with objects, 80 encounters with humanoids, and 15 reported abductions.

In the U.S. there are now living around one million people who believe they have seen saucer occupants, and over 150,000 who believe they have been abducted.

There have been 252 UFO sightings reported in Nebraska, according to NUFORC.

NUFORC was founded in 1974 by noted UFO investigator Robert J. Gribble. The Center's primary function over the past two decades has been to receive, record, and to the greatest degree possible, corroborate and document reports from individuals who have been witness to unusual, possibly UFO-related events.

The center operates a telephone hotline that has operated almost continuously since 1974 and has processed more than 10,000 calls. Reports can also be filed on the center's website.

The U.S. government took an interest in UFOs from 1947 to 1967 and the U.S. Air Force used its substantial base network to take reports and write them up in standardized formats. During this period there were also substantial report libraries accumulated by the private NICAP and AFPRO organizations in the United States, the researcher Jacques Vallee, and other private organizations in Canada, Europe and Australia.

The official Condon Study of 1969 ended the U.S. government program of taking reports. Researchers at the private CUFOS group managed to acquire the final government-sponsored report database on mainframe data tapes.

It is from this data and other reports that we can report West Central Nebraska area UFO sightings:

- McPherson County - In April 1916 and again in August 1917, a flying disk was observed and reported by residents.
- North Platte, Aug. 23, 1955 - A woman reported that she had a close encounter with an unidentified craft and its occupants.
- Rural West Central Nebraska, Jan. 1, 1953 - A woman told her child, who was only 4-years old the night the incident happened, that they were traveling by car when a light came from the sky and lit up the area so bright that she could see every blade of grass if it were daylight. She told her daughter that the car



stopped and they just sat there. She said she didn't know how long but that the light left and she started the car again and drove them home. She remembered the incident and all the details at age 82.

- North Platte, April 25, 1964 - A meteor-like object was reported by numerous people. It was later determined to be an actual meteor.

- North Platte, June 17, 1978 - Numerous witnesses reported an object hovering in the sky for more than one hour at approximately 11 p.m. The witnesses made numerous police reports about the encounter.

- North Platte, Aug. 25, 1979 - Two friends were star gazing at 10:30 p.m. when one suddenly saw an object flying through the northern Milky Way. He reported it was nearly 60,000 feet in altitude and traveling due south. He said the object was dark with jagged edges and appeared to be the size of three football fields. Two other similarly shaped objects were traveling in a split formation behind the lead craft and four more followed those, the report said. All were traveling extremely fast. They bolted from the far northern view of the Milky to the south under 10 seconds. The friend pointed them out to his buddy who then saw them too. The report said they could distinguish them as separate because they could see the stars between objects.

- North Platte, July 17, 1980 - Two people who were attending a party at the skating rink were walking home a little after 10 p.m. and looked up about 30 degrees at the corner of Custer Avenue and West 13th Street. They reported spotting several rock-shaped objects with jagged edges flying across the sky. The objects went north to south and passed overhead silently, the report said. The pair watched the objects for about eight seconds until they vanished into a puffy white cloud. The report said one of the boys went home and told his parents what he saw but they were not the least but interested because they were watching Ronald Reagan giving his acceptance speech for nomination of the Republican Party for President that Thursday evening, which also happened to be the boy's fathers birth date. He said he highly doubted anyone believed his story because he was only fourteen years old when it happened.

- North Platte, Oct. 19, 1981 - Objects were tracked by radar and sighted visually. Three multi-colored discs were observed by five witnesses.

- Sutherland, Nov. 15, 1983 - A Lincoln County Sheriff's Deputy was on patrol in the Sutherland area when he found some kids drinking beer. As the kids were dumping the beer at the deputy's direction, one of them yelled, "Hey, what is that?" The deputy reported he looked toward the northwest and observed a craft floating above the ground. He reported the dark metallic craft was about 2,000 feet above the ground and about 1,200 feet away from him. He said the craft was moving slowly toward the south. The deputy reported the craft had rows of square objects that looked like windows but were dark. The deputy watched the craft move to the south and over the Village of Sutherland. He reported he called another deputy in the Wallace area and asked him to start heading north and see if he could catch it. Just then, the deputy said, three circles at the rear of the craft flashed a bright white and the craft sped up in the direction of the Gerald Gentleman Power Plant then veered to the southeast. The second deputy then reported he could see the craft and estimated it was going about 400 miles per hour towards Dickens. The craft was reported to be as long as a C5 Galaxy aircraft and twice as wide. He observed it for an estimated 15 minutes. He said he and the teens all felt the hair on their arms and legs stand up when they saw it.

- Maxwell, Nov. 15, 1984 - The man who reported this UFO said he was driving east down Hwy. 30 toward Maxwell taking a friend home at 6 p.m. on a cold, misty, rainy day. He said he did not like driving on that road as the trains on the track perpendicular to the road often had their front lights on bright. The man said he saw a light that he first thought was a train but quickly realized it was twice as high as it should have been. He said he and his friend went silent as they got closer and observed the light was coming from a football shaped craft floating above the railroad tracks. The light was on the front of the craft was pointing straight ahead and there was

another he said he could not see at first pointing directly down onto the tracks. It also had several small colored lights at different areas on it. They stopped the car and got out, walking towards the craft as it approached. The passenger got back in the car and yelled for the driver to get in and drive off. But the driver stayed outside and observed the craft as it passed. He said there was no sound coming from the craft and it just glided over the tracks. They watched as it passed by and disappeared from sight into the mist. The man reported that he and his friend never could make sense of what they saw. He said the sighting took about five minutes but after dropping his friend off and driving back home, he learned he had been gone six hours. They reported the sighting to the Nebraska State Patrol.

- Gothenburg, July 15, 1996 - A man reported that he saw a red round flashing light similar to a taillight on an old car cross the night sky from the west horizon to the east horizon five to 10 times faster than any jet he had ever seen. He said it went from horizon to horizon in about 30 to 45 seconds and made absolutely no sound. The object was observed at 11:30 p.m. The same object was reportedly reported to a Denver radio station.

- Cozad, Sept. 18, 1998 - A licensed practical nurse reported a triangular shaped object, whose margins were unspecific, at 1:45 a.m. The night was clear and the star field exceptionally sharp. The trajectory was from north to south and there were no visible lights. "I am a trained observer by profession," the nurse wrote in the report.

- Ogallala, July 22, 2000 - Three friends reported an enormous craft with multi-illuminated panels giving off shapes and colors "unlike anything they had ever seen." They reported it rose on the western horizon and traveled to the eastern horizon. They observed it for about 25 minutes.

- Mullen, Nov. 19, 2002 - A couple reported that they observed brilliant lights moving at incredible speeds and doing strange maneuvers for four nights in a row. They reported that they got scared and observed the lights appearing to follow them until they reached town then shoot straight up into the sky about 11 p.m. They observed them for several hours one night and even videotaped the event.

- North Platte, Oct. 17, 2003 - A woman reported that he observed an aircraft apparently chasing a formation of yellowish and orange lights quite a bit bigger than the aircraft. The eastbound formation of lights accelerated and left the aircraft far behind, according to the woman. She observed the chase for about three minutes, she reported.

- Sutherland, July 26, 2004 - A man was cutting cross-country from Tryon and was on his way to Sutherland at 11:40 p.m. when he observed a needle nosed, triangular-shaped object in the sky. It appeared to be hovering halfway between Sutherland and Hershey. It soon began moving to the south very slowly. "I would say the object was about 300 yards long and 100 wide at the triangular front end. I continued to the south until I came onto the two-mile road north of Sutherland and turned to the east. I stopped and got out to get a better look. I heard a low-pitched hum, which seemed to be coming from the object which was heading south towards I-80 and Hwy. 30. It seemed to be moving about 3-5 miles per hour at about 1,000-foot altitude or so. It seemed to me it was about a mile or two away to the east. I watched this object for several minutes until it disappeared to the south and the lights of the rest area on I-80 interfered. I came on home and reported what I saw." He reported that he observed the craft for 25 minutes.

- Hershey, Dec. 3, 2004 - A man was driving on Hwy. 30 when he noticed lights in the sky just south of the highway and east of Hershey. It appeared to be a rectangle that spun slowly counter clockwise and took about 10 seconds to make a complete revolution. It was drifting west. Suddenly, the rotation stopped and the craft began moving directly to the north. "At this point I had pulled off to the side of the road and got out of my truck. The lights were shaped in a Trapezoid formation with a spot light in the center that would come on intermittently. What ever this craft was it did not make the sounds that a helicopter makes. The only thing I heard was a low continued whooshing sound heavy on the osh part. I stood there for about four

minutes watching this object light up the country side with a bright white circle until it was about a mile or so north then the craft shot straight up and out of site. The whole time I watched this craft it was about 700 feet above the ground and I also saw the normal passenger jet aircraft in the sky but they were traveling at their normal altitudes - 20,000 feet or so."

- North Platte, June 29, 2007 - A man reported that as he walked toward his pickup truck, he looked up in the sky and saw three very bright lights moving in a triangular shape at 11:30 p.m. He reported the triangle moved to the north slowly. He said he then observed a fast moving plane fly under the lighted triangle. The UFO then shot straight up and disappeared, the man reported.

- Hershey, Nov. 2, 2007 - A man reported that he was walking to his truck when he looked into the sky and noticed an airplane flying from west to east. He said then he noticed a very bright light in the sky further "toward Zenith" from the plane. He said he quickly checked the Constellations to orient himself. He reported the light four times the size of Venus. He observed it for about 20 seconds when its intensity began dissipating. He said he could see a round ball in the center of the light. He said he went back into his house, saw it was 10:34 p.m. and filed his report.

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# UFO Updates

A mailing list for the study of UFO-related phenomena  
'Its All Here In Black & White'

Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 12](#)

## Skeptologists Attack Ufologists

From: **UFO UpDates - Toronto** <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
Date: Fri, 12 Dec 2008 08:11:00 -0500  
Archived: Fri, 12 Dec 2008 08:11:00 -0500  
Subject: Skeptologists Attack Ufologists

Source: The Daily Grail - Plano, Texas, USA

<http://dailygrail.com/news/skeptologists-attack-ufologists>

December 12th, 2008

Skeptologists Attack Ufologists  
by Greg Taylor

\* Cynics and Skeptics

The skeptical superstar team pushing for their own (spectacularly ugly-named) reality TV series - 'The Skeptologists' - have gone out of their way this week to pick on ufology, in particular two researchers: Stanton Friedman and Chris Rutkowski (or maybe they just don't like Canadian residents?). [Trent UFO] 'Skeptoid' host Brian Dunning rushed into battle with his post "Stanton Friedman Doesn't Like Me". As Dunning points out in his own post though, Stan's probably got good reason not to like him, considering Dunning has previously labeled Stan (and continues to) "an obsessed UFO wacko."

Now, ufology has plenty of problems - there's no real 'group authority', and plenty of hucksters and deluded people. I'm not criticising them here, because basically they're hucksters and deluded people... whom most people can see right through. Skeptics on the other hand, take on a heavy burden in giving themselves that name - it means they're imposing themselves as guardians or gatekeepers to science and the collective body of human knowledge. As such, when they fail to uphold fairness, and fail to understand something when criticising it, they deserve every bit of blowback that they get. And let's be clear about this - Dunning's post is an ugly piece of personal vindictiveness. Beyond his name-calling, there's pettiness (in saying his podcast is 'kicking the ass' of the Paranormal Podcast) and innuendo (Stan is apparently more "concerned with his bank account than with reason"). I also find it amusing that Dunning tries to talk up how much Stan is earning from ufology (not much actually) in contrast to the fact that "reason doesn't pay" - while posting alongside Michael Shermer and Phil Plait!

Beyond that though, Dunning's main point was regarding his investigation of the Betty and Barney Hill case - in particular, Stanton Friedman's assertion that there were "40 flat-out false claims" made by Dunning in debunking the case. I'm not sure whether the number mentioned was hyperbole on Stan's part, but as we'll see below, there is no doubt that Dunning made some major errors (or got creative in his writing). I don't agree with Stan on a lot of things, including some parts of the Hill case, but he does know the material having dedicated much of his life to studying it. Challenging him on the evidence is no trivial matter - as Phil Klass once found out to his financial detriment. (I'll post Stan's response to Dunning's original investigation at the end of this update.)

A few days after Dunning's post, Phil 'Bad Astronomy' Plait

jumped on the bandwagon in a post titled "Ufonies". In it, Phil Plait takes ufologist Chris Rutkowski to task for bad logic regarding the case of amateur astronomers and UFO sightings. I've got a lot of time for Phil's everyday postings on his blog - he does a great job in educating people regarding science and astronomy. But every time he discusses the topic of UFOs, he seems to put on a sneer and enter debunking mode - and unfortunately for him, he is really, \*really\* bad at it. And it makes him look petty and ignorant.

In this case, he brings up Chris Rutkowski's argument against his claims - but it's a post from 2002 regarding the facts in Phil Plait's first book, *Bad Astronomy* - Chris did not contact Phil about his recent article which has received much criticism. Furthermore, Phil is quick to assume that Chris "doesn't know a lot of amateur astronomers" and doesn't understand the subject. This is perhaps Phil's intellectual ego stepping in - "don't argue on the topic I know best" - but it's a real lesson in why you should learn about a subject before posting about it (especially when doing so with a sneer). Because Chris Rutkowski has spent many years heavily involved with the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada - he was President of one of the local chapters, and is a prior recipient of the RASC's 'Simon Newcomb Award' for science writing and education. In fact, Chris has a Bachelor of Science degree specializing in astronomy, and a Master of Education degree specializing in science education. He's known as one of the more 'skeptical' ufologists in the field, but is well-respected nonetheless.

Chris has now responded on his own blog to Phil Plait's attack on him (ironically, Chris writes about astronomers and UFOs in his new book, *A World of UFOs*):

"Curiously, Phil quoted something I wrote to *UFO Updates* six year ago, noting that many amateur astronomers have reported UFOs but that most amateurs don't pay much attention to objects in the sky that aren't things of astronomical interest. In fact, many amateurs sit in warm-up rooms and do their observing remotely, looking at small areas of the sky on computer screens. Some are outside, but use their computers to find galaxies and nebulae automatically without looking skyward all that much.

Now, it is true that many amateurs spend nights outside comet hunting, star hopping and doing real astronomy, and in the course of these actions might see something that was a bit odd. But to report such an object would not be something most would do. In fact, astronomers like Phil would be one really good reason not to report them.

Despite this, we know from a few surveys that astronomers, both amateur and professional, do see and report UFOs, the percentage of which is variable. If they reported the same as the general population, about 10% would see them. The surveys that have been conducted have them a bit lower than this, and we could speculate on why that would be so. Nevertheless, the percentage of astronomers and amateur astronomers who have seen UFOs is significant, and not just "a handful" as Phil Plait notes."

Chris also points out that contrary to Phil's view - and that of most 'skeptics' - ufology is not made up simply of "true believers" who think UFOs are extraterrestrial spaceships:

"First of all, no serious ufologist believes that the majority of reported UFOs are flying saucers. Neither Stan nor I nor anyone else involved in serious research has ever held that contention. In fact, we provide evidence to show that most reported UFOs are either misidentifications or have insufficient evidence for a conclusion. It's nice to see that Phil has arrived at the same view as we have, only 40 or 50 years behind.

It's a good point from Chris - the 'skeptics' have their straw man and they are happy to bash it good without looking at the entire topic in a scientific manner. Why not blog instead about this year's Channel Islands UFO investigation? It's too often about shooting fish in a pond for the skeptics - identify some whackos, generalise to the whole field, and write it off without letting science do its thing. Good for stroking your intellectual ego, not so great for investigating a topic objectively...

One final note: in response to a critical comment I left below his blog posting, Phil noted that "I have researched this, and the overwhelming majority of pilot reports are objects like meteors and Venus. Even the report that started the craze =97 Kenneth Arnold in 1947 =97 is now understood to have most likely been a fireball breaking up." I don't know what Phil's source for this is - the only mention I've heard about the Arnold sighting being a fireball breaking up is Phil Klass's debunking effort more than a decade ago, which didn't get much attention (for very good reasons). I certainly haven't heard that this sighting is "now understood" to have been a fireball - sources please Mr Bad Astronomy!!

Returning to Brian Dunning and Stan Friedman to finish, as promised below I've posted Stan's response to the Dunning debunking:

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#### Misrepresentations about the Hills

"I am sure that everybody who has been following the US election campaign is well aware that much of what has shown up on the internet simply wasn't true. Clearly some was intentionally posted to deceive. It has also been true that much that has been written about UFOs has been false. A fine example of ignorance or intentional deception appeared in a "skeptical" piece by Brian Dunning which appeared as Skeptoid No. 124 on October 21, 2008. It was sent to me by a guy who occasionally sends nasty comments after I appear on Coast to Coast... the title is "Betty and Barney Hill: The Original UFO Abduction". It can be found on Skeptoid.com.

It is truly a splendid textbook example of propaganda and misrepresentation. BD does get the date right, Sept. 19, 1961, but very little else. "Near the resort of Indian Head they stopped their car in the middle of Rte. 3 to observe a strange light moving through in the night sky. The next thing they knew, they were about 35 miles further along on their trip and several hours had elapsed". Talk about omissions. There was more than one stop. The large object (hardly a light) was within a few hundred feet. Barney observed it through binoculars from outside the car. He observed a double row of windows through which he could see about 10 individuals, red lights on fins on the outside, etc This was conscious recall and was described to NICAP Investigator Walter Webb during a six hour interview on October 21 1961. No hypnosis was involved.

"Then Betty began having nightmares two weeks later; in her nightmares she described being taken aboard an alien spacecraft and having medical experiments performed. As a result of these nightmares, Betty and Barney decided to undergo hypnosis." This is absurd. Barney had developed hypertension, bleeding ulcers, was unable to sleep. He was in therapy . The original thought, that these symptoms were related to his having moved to NH leaving his sons, was dispelled by the therapist. At one session he noted that he and Betty had been searching for the location where they had seen the UFO. Then he was referred to Psychiatrist Dr. Benjamin Simon, an early expert in treatment of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder using medical hypnotic regression with amnesia induced after each session.

BD States "Innumerable books and movies were made about the Betty and Barney Hill abduction... you almost never hear a critical treatment of their story". He mentions none of the books . I know of three (Ref. 1, 2, 3) and one movie, NBC=92s 1975 "The UFO Incident" starring James Earl Jones and Estelle Parsons. There have been loads of very critical treatments, for example, by Carl Sagan in the bestselling "Cosmos"(Ref.4) and in an article in Parade magazine (Ref.5). BD goes on "Much of the Hill story is said to be based on these separate hypnosis sessions.. In fact that turns out not to be case at all..It is important to note that that it was more than two years after the incident that the Hills underwent hypnosis. During those two years Betty was writing and rewriting her accounts of her dreams. All of the significant details you may have heard about the Hills medical experiments came from her two years of writing". This is a total lie. There was no writing and rewriting as can be seen by reading what she wrote, for example, in "Captured!" and the comparative analysis between the dreams and the hypnosis material.

She did dream of a star-map, but it was on a roller like maps at school and was not 3D. BD has the gall to claim "Betty probably told the story to Barney over and over again until his ears fell off over a period of two years before they ever had any hypnosis". I have no idea what the source is for this nonsense. Nor for this ridiculous comment "When they first saw the light, Betty said she thought it was a spacecraft. Barney always said he thought it was an airplane". Without hypnosis they described seeing it close-up near their car with a double row of windows and barely moving and without any noise. This is an airplane?

Dunning then notes that Betty=92s written description of the beings in her nightmare was different from Barney=92s under hypnosis But when reliving the moments together their descriptions of events matched.. "After Betty Hill heard these sessions suddenly her hypnosis accounts began to describe the same kind of character". The simple fact of the matter is that Betty and Barney were each hypnotized separately and amnesia was induced after each separate session so they could not talk with each other about what came out under hypnosis .Betty could not have heard any of these sessions until Dr. Simon finally played the tapes for them.

Dunning then tries to relate the characters described in the hypnosis session to aliens who appeared 12 days prior to Barney=92s first hypnosis session in February 1964 to an experience on the Outer Limits TV program called The Bellerose Shield. As a matter of fact, they do not match. Dunning admits "The Hills stated they did not watch it". As with most of Dunning=92s claims, no basis is given for claiming they did. It should be noted that nowhere does Dunning bother to note that Betty was a social worker and a supervisor in the Welfare Department of the State of New Hampshire. Of course he doesn=92t mention that Barney was on the governor=92s Civil Rights Commission. Nor does he give Dr. Simon=92s name or background such as that he ran a 3000 bed hospital for shell shock war veterans and that he was featured in an army film "Let There be Light" about his successful treatment of these veterans, using hypnosis in the same fashion he used with Betty and Barney to recover missing memories..

Dunning claims "Betty had commonly spoken of UFOs even before 1961, including one story she often told of her sister=92s own close encounter in 1957." Again no source is given. The fact is that her sister=92s daughter, Kathleen Marden, co-author of "Captured!" has stated this is false. Betty mentioned it once to Barney and he didn=92t believe in UFOs and that was the end of that.

Dunning then gives this strange summary "So here=92s what we have so far: A woman who clearly had an obsession with UFOs [no evidence whatsoever] saw a light in the sky that her husband described as an airplane [when it was farther away].She then spent two years writing an elaborate story [totally false] and no doubt telling it and retelling it to her husband [totally false]. Later under hypnosis Barney was asked about the events described in Betty=92s story, and surprise, surprise he retold the story she already told him a hundred times [totally false] and added a dash from the Outer Limits"

Dunning mentions radar sightings included in the Blue Book file and dismisses them naturally excluding some important data such as the supposed weather balloons having a very low radar profile. He tries to throw out measurements made on Betty=92s dress by unnamed "crop circle enthusiasts" but ignores the important work done by analytical chemist Phyllis Budinger, employed by a major company for 35 years. He claims that anything found on the dress was the result of its being in the closet for 40 years. Phyllis actually had a very similar dress (her wedding dress) kept for that long and not having any of the same stuff. on it.

Dunning is equally cavalier in trying to toss out the star map work done by Marjorie Fish. Surprisingly he mentions her by name, then totally misrepresents what she did . He says she read a book [Of course he doesn=92t mention that it was John Fuller=92s "Interrupted Journey" and that she visited Betty to get more data] "It=92s seven or 8 random dots connected by lines". More nonsense, there are 15 dots. The lines make sense: nearest star to nearest star. "She then took beads and string and converted

her living room into a 3 dimensional version of the galaxy based on the 1969 Gliese star catalog". The fact of the matter is she built 26 different 3D models of the local galactic neighborhood, out 55 light years, at most, from the sun. The biggest model was a 3foot cube.. hardly living room size, and was used as a teaching tool by Dr. Walter Mitchell, Chairman of the Astronomy Department at the Ohio State University. He and Marjorie and Betty are all in the movie"UFOs Are Real" (Ref. 6) The galaxy is about 100,000 light years across. Most of the work was done before the Gliese catalog was published. Nobody doing what she did before the Gliese was published could have identified the stars because the correct distance data had not been available.. Of course he says Zeta Reticuli when there are 2 stars, Zeta 1 and Zeta 2 Reticuli.(The constellation is Reticulum). He makes no note of the facts that they are the closest to each other pair of sun-like stars in the neighborhood (1/8th of a ly apart), and a billion years older than the sun and 39.3 light years from Earth and that all the pattern stars are sun-like though only 5% of those in the neighborhood are, and that all the sun-like stars in the 3D volume represented by her models are part of the pattern and that they are all in a plane. He claims that anybody could have made a crude drawing using the Gliese data.. not published until 8 years after the event!! He makes claims about Carl Sagan and other astronomers=92 comments, but neglecting to say they don=92t stand up to careful review such as provided by Astronomy writer Terence Dickinson (Ref. 7 and 8)

He concludes this mockery of journalism and science: "The Betty and Barney Hill abduction story has every indication of being merely an inventive tale from the mind of a lifelong UFO Fanatic. It is unsupported by any useful evidence and is perfectly consistent with the purely natural explanation."

I have been unable to find any biographical data about Dunning though there is a well known flautist with the same name. His piece (There are many other false claims besides those noted above) stands as a monument to laziness, misrepresentation, bias and ignorance. It is almost pure baloney, an inventive tale from the mind of an anti-UFO fanatic. No, I have no idea why he and other debunkers are so determined to ignore the UFO evidence."

Stan Friedman

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## Re: Itemised Abductions

From: Alfred Lehmborg <[alienview.nul](mailto:alienview.nul)>  
Date: Fri, 12 Dec 2008 07:18:39 -0600  
Archived: Fri, 12 Dec 2008 08:35:08 -0500  
Subject: Re: Itemised Abductions

>From: Franklin Fields <[fields.nul](mailto:fields.nul)>  
>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>Date: Thu, 11 Dec 2008 20:36:55 -0500 (EST)  
>Subject: Re: Itemised Abductions

>>From: Alfred Lehmborg <[alienview.nul](mailto:alienview.nul)>  
>>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>>Date: Thu, 11 Dec 2008 11:12:25 -0600  
>>Subject: Re: Itemised Abductions

>>>From: Dick Hall <[dh12.nul](mailto:dh12.nul)>  
>>>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>>>Date: Thu, 11 Dec 2008 10:30:22 -0500  
>>>Subject: Re: Itemised Abductions

>>>>Source: The Philadelphia Weekly - Pennsylvania, USA

>>>><http://www.philadelphiaweekly.com/articles/18037/cover-story>

>>>>December 9, 2008

>>>>Itemized Abductions

>>>>Local Ufologists tell us why they believe.  
>>>>by Steven Wells

>>>><snip>

>>>>It's Bob Gardner's job to investigate such activity. Gardner's  
>>>>an official field investigator with the Mutual UFO Network  
>>>>(MUFON), "the world's largest civilian UFO scientific research  
>>>>organization." This summer Gardner helped organize an official  
>>>>MUFON UFO awareness day at Germ Books in Fishtown. About 50  
>>>>people turned up to hear a presentation from his friend Chris,  
>>>>an alien/ UFO/paranormal investigator, who runs the million-  
>>>>hits-a-month website, AlienstheTruth.com.

<snip>

>>>Anyone who thinks these dingbats don't thoroughly contaminate  
>>>the subject and make it difficult for sane people to become  
>>>involved has their head firmly implanted up their posterior.

>>Call me an ass-hat. I maintain that if most of these individuals  
>>had forthcoming governments, institutions, and agencies  
>>chartered to provide for the informed consent of its citizenry  
>>the subject would then be a lot less contaminated. What you  
>>decry is what's sucked in on the information vacuum facilitated  
>>by a corrupt status quo. You condemn the health of the fish when  
>>they must swim in the quality of the water provided.

>Alfred you are not an "ass-hat". That was a very astute  
>observation and explication!

That's what Errol pays me the six figure salary for, Mr. Fields,  
<g>but thanks for the note.

I can empathize with the esteemed Mr. Hall, no end and with all  
respect. I just think he could look a little further upstream

for the source of the pollution, is all. There's been a jealously hijacked mainstream dumping all manner of toxic effluvia into the watershed for decades, eh?

Too, I suspect that this duplicitous mainstream is all too aware of the truth of the matter as it concerns us, and that it encourages, facilitates, or manufactures the Hall upsetting contamination out of whole cloth to wrongly confute a ufological reality at base inconvenient to them for all the obvious, if inexcusable, reasons.

Thanks again, Sir.

[alienview.nul](mailto:alienview.nul)

[www.AlienView.net](http://www.AlienView.net)

AVG Blog -- <http://alienviewgroup.blogspot.com/>

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 12](#)

## Re: Does Vallee Believe Spheres Are Earthly?

From: **Franklin Fields** <[fields.nul](mailto:fields.nul)>  
Date: Fri, 12 Dec 2008 09:27:21 -0500 (EST)  
Archived: Fri, 12 Dec 2008 09:34:59 -0500  
Subject: Re: Does Vallee Believe Spheres Are Earthly?

>From: Gord Heath <[gordheath.nul](mailto:gordheath.nul)>  
>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>Date: Thu, 11 Dec 2008 23:16:48 -0800  
>Subject: Does Vallee Believe Spheres Are Earthly?

>Does Vallee Believe That Spheres Are Probes Of Earthly Origin?

>I have briefly been engaged in an exchange at a website and it  
>has come to my attention that Jaques Vallee, apparently believes  
>that the silvery spheres, observed hovering, and zipping through  
>the air are probes manufactured by someone here on earth to  
>assist in our earthly defence. Does anyone know anymore about  
>this and what brought this seemingly straight-laced scientist  
>to this bizarre conclusion?

>Here is the quote:

>Dr. Bob: Throughout your book, Revelations, you note that you  
>have knowledge that the American government has created UFO-like  
>craft as a type of monitoring device. Could you elaborate on  
>these craft? What do they look like and ...?

>Dr. Jacques Vallee: I think this is again, something that most  
>ufologists have trouble believing. That anybody who follows for  
>example, Aviation Week or Defense, Electronics or any of the  
>high-tech magazines will actually see photographs of those  
>things. I mean, some of them are, I'm sure some of them are  
>classified. But many of them are not, for example, there are  
>small spheres about one meter, you know, 3 or 4 feet in  
>diameter, that can hover, they can move in any direction, almost  
>silently or in some cases silently. They are used as ranging  
>devices. For example, if you are going to fire a missile over a  
>certain area in a battlefield, you need to know the exact  
>direction and range of the target. And you're not in direct view  
>of the target at that point, these devices will carry lasers and  
>ranging devices that will identify the target for you and guide  
>the missile. Those things have been, you know, technically  
>achievable certainly for the last ten years. These can be used  
>for reconnaissance, they could carry a camera. They're  
>essentially platforms, remotely piloted platforms, that can,  
>that are highly maneuverable.

Mr. Heath,

These devices have been seen for many decades. If the military  
has them now they most assuredly did not have them in the 1940's  
or 1950's.

I got out of the military about 6 years ago. I had a top-secret  
clearance and worked within the Army's senior Air and Missile  
Defense command. My unit had worldwide responsibility for Air  
and Missile Defense (for the U.S. Army).

During the 20 years that I served, the U.S. military had nothing  
close to the type of technology Vallee described and I served  
within the 10-year window he is describing.

I maintain contact with friends who are currently serving and

none have mentioned any new devices. Of course they could be classified now and "compartmentalized" while I was serving. However, Vallee says "But many of them are not [classified], for example, there are small spheres ... "

But even if they were classified they would have been used and therefore I would have seen them flying around Iraq or in training areas, like White Sands Missile Range (where I often participated in operations). Also, this type of technology would have been discussed during the year I was studying at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, but was not.

The military does have unmanned aircraft systems that can be used for ranging devices but are most often used for surveillance and reconnaissance missions.

Surveillance imagery from synthetic aperture radar, video cameras and a forward-looking infrared (FLIR) can be distributed in real-time both to the front line soldier and to the operational commander or worldwide in real-time via satellite communication links.

The problem is that these unmanned aircraft use conventional avionics and are much larger than the objects we are discussing.

An example, would be the MQ-9 Reaper which has "an operational ceiling of 50,000ft, a maximum internal payload of 800lb and external payload over 3,000lb. It can carry up to four Hellfire II anti-armor missiles and two laser-guided bombs (GBU-12 or EGBU-12) and 500lb GBU-38 JDAM (joint direct attack munition). In May 2008, a USAF Reaper successfully test dropped four Raytheon GBU-49 Enhanced Paveway II 500lb bombs, which have laser and GPS guidance."

Regards,

Frank

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 12](#)

## Re: Plait's Bad Astronomical Observation

From: **Martin Shough** <[parcellular.nul](mailto:parcellular.nul)>  
Date: Fri, 12 Dec 2008 15:07:04 -0000  
Archived: Fri, 12 Dec 2008 10:59:46 -0500  
Subject: Re: Plait's Bad Astronomical Observation

>From: Don Ledger <[dledger.nul](mailto:dledger.nul)>  
>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>Date: Thu, 11 Dec 2008 13:51:31 -0400  
>Subject: Re: Plait's Bad Astronomical Observation

>>From: Martin Shough <[parcellular.nul](mailto:parcellular.nul)>  
>>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>>Date: Thu, 11 Dec 2008 13:11:02 -0000  
>>Subject: Re: Plait's Bad Astronomical Observation

>>Can anyone compare the percentage of ball lightning  
>>observations  
>>by astronomers in the literature? I don't recall the breakdown  
>>but I suspect it would be a very small proportion.

>>I did come across one remark from an amateur astronomer  
>>who saw a possible kugelblitz:

>>" ...I call it ball lightning for lack of a better description.  
>>I recall telling a local astronomer that I'd seen ball  
>>lightning and she looked at me like she wondered what  
>>drugs I'd been using!"

>><http://tinyurl.com/648wtw>

>Hi Martin,

>Seems to me that more and more ball lightning is being accepted  
>as a real, fact-based phenomenon by the anything-but-a-  
>unexplained-UFO, bury-your-head-in-the-sand crowd when in  
>reality it has yet to be definitively explained or proved.

I tend to agree, Don. I've banged this drum before a number of  
times. I don't think people are very clear about why or on what  
terms they accept the existence of BL, and a bit of  
self-examination on this point would encourage a healthier  
attitude to UFO reports in general.

>Yet despite  
>having much less provenance than the UFO phenomenon it is used  
>to explain it away. This is a curious glitch in the scientific  
>mind set re one phenomenon being explained away by a lesser  
>studied phenomenon. Some might call this a quirk, I call it  
>grasping at straws.

I think it's partly a question of the relative distinctness of  
that class of observations called BL, relative to the spread of  
all strange things seen in the sky and called UFOs (which is at  
least in part a semantic issue) and partly a question of where  
the theoretical models of BL lie on the explanatory spectrum -  
i.e., adjacent to and interlocked with a variety of imperfectly  
understood plasma phenomena in the atmosphere, from St Elmo's  
fire to lightning to sprites, elves etc.

This group of related phenomena is anchored in common experience  
by the fact that everyone sees thunderstorms and it's strung  
together by the basic and highly intuitive concept of the earth-  
atmosphere system as an electrical circuit, so a place for  
something like BL in there seems quite satisfying in principle

even if exact mechanisms remain unknown. BL is close to an explanatory comfort zone.

An interesting related case is the "electric earth" perspective which sees terrestrial atmospheric electricity as connected via auroral and solar flare phenomena to charge flows that connect the solar system - this is still much more controversial than the isolationist conventional view which tends to treat the earth as a closed system, occasionally invaded by extraneous factors. Here we have a point of view which is also somewhat close to an explanatory comfort zone, but the connections are bit more tenuous, the need for it a bit less simple to justify, so that even though it's still physically quite conservative and intuitive, and claims observational support, the idea seems to be on the crank fringe.

When it comes to ETH applied to other phenomena in the sky, its connections with an explanatory comfort zone are longer, less direct. We can infer on very conservative grounds that physics and chemistry are the same pretty much everywhere and the prospects for biochemistry are probably good in many places; from this we can make the step of a reasonable inference that ET intelligences may well be out there; and from there it is only a somewhat speculative step to the inference that they might well be able to get here. But this is a more tenuous ladder of inference than the one that goes from atmospheric electricity to BL reports, and so the explanatory framework does not give such strong support to the observations as is the case with BL.

Even so, if ETH was a clearer fit to the observations then ETH-dominated ufology might seem more attractive to scientists, but it isn't so clear. Extracting a fairly well-defined class of ET observations analogous to BL from the huge and varied population of all UFOs reported isn't necessarily easy in the first place, and the predictions of ETH are not themselves clear enough to offer much predictive guidance. (Essentially anything might be ET related, and there is even an arguable point of view that the more tractable and comprehensible a set of observations seems to be in terms of our rational expectations then the less likely it is to have any truly alien component).

I think this whole area of "how to" theorise about UFOs is really difficult and needs thoroughly sweeping out and rationalising, which would probably take years of focused collective effort by a bunch of brains far smarter than ours (or mine, to speak for myself). The problem is attracting a critical number of this calibre of thinker to an ambiguous and conflicted problem in the first place, which is the ever-present Catch 22 we face. IMO the only hope is determined and implacable adherence to conservatism and scepticism (not debunkerism) in ufology. If Hynek's "new empirical phenomena" are really there in the mix they will continue (presumably) to be seen, and the records of them that we curate will be the more valuable when science one day does work out exactly how to deal with them.

>There is a curious parallel in the abduction phenomenon with  
>some claiming this is a new age version of a history of folklore  
>involving elves and faeries, trolls and leprechauns, angels or  
>demons and heavenly hosts that have been plaguing mankind since  
>the dawn of history.

Let's not forget that the folkloric (re)interpretation of the UFO mythos (to use that term not pejoratively but non-judgmentally) predates the idea of an "abduction phenomenon". The parallels were identified in detail in the 1960s and early 70s, mainly by John Michel and Jacques Vallee, from different points of view, neither of which was an attempt to "explain away" the phenomena. Especially from Vallee's point of view, I think, this was seen as a reciprocal re-illumination of each hitherto-separate field from the perspective of the other, leading (perhaps) to a resolution in terms of some completely new idea not derived directly from the belief systems of either.

Best

Martin

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 12](#)

## Re: Itemised Abductions

From: Eleanor White <[ewraven1.nul](mailto:ewraven1.nul)>  
Date: Fri, 12 Dec 2008 15:33:48 -0500  
Archived: Fri, 12 Dec 2008 15:52:09 -0500  
Subject: Re: Itemised Abductions

>From: Franklin Fields <[fields.nul](mailto:fields.nul)>  
>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>Date: Thu, 11 Dec 2008 20:36:55 -0500 (EST)  
>Subject: Re: Itemised Abductions

<snip>

>>Call me an ass-hat. I maintain that if most of these individuals  
>>had forthcoming governments, institutions, and agencies  
>>chartered to provide for the informed consent of its citizenry  
>>the subject would then be a lot less contaminated. What you  
>>decry is what's sucked in on the information vacuum facilitated  
>>by a corrupt status quo. You condemn the health of the fish when  
>>they must swim in the quality of the water provided.

>Alfred you are not an "ass-hat". That was a very astute  
>observation and explication!

Alfred Lehmberg for president in 2012!

Eleanor White

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 13](#)

## Re: Strange Aerial Object Over Irving Texas

From: Brad Sparks <[RB47x.nul](mailto:RB47x.nul)>  
Date: Fri, 12 Dec 2008 18:39:38 EST  
Archived: Sat, 13 Dec 2008 06:38:41 -0500  
Subject: Re: Strange Aerial Object Over Irving Texas

>From: Bruce Maccabee <[brumac.nul](mailto:brumac.nul)>  
>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>Date: Sun, 7 Dec 2008 14:49:35 -0500  
>Subject: Re: Strange Aerial Object Over Irving Texas

>>From: Michael Tarbell <[mtarbell.nul](mailto:mtarbell.nul)>  
>>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>>Date: Sat, 06 Dec 2008 20:51:58 -0700  
>>Subject: Re: Strange Aerial Object Over Irving Texas

>>>From: Bruce Maccabee <[brumac.nul](mailto:brumac.nul)>  
>>>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>>>Date: Sat, 6 Dec 2008 15:25:04 -0500  
>>>Subject: Re: Strange Aerial Object Over Irving Texas

<snip>

>>>Whereas an unknown might be able to (seemingly) violate known  
>>>physics, a CEP cannot violate known physics. (If it did, then it  
>>>would be like explaining one unknown with another unknown.)

>>Hi Bruce,

>>While this clearly makes sense, one then wonders what actually  
>>constitutes a TRUFO. If all CEPs must be consistent with known  
>>physics, and if TRUFOS arise strictly as a result of the absence  
>>of any viable CEP, then "genuine" TRUFOS must be inconsistent  
>>with known physics.

>>But this seems overly stringent. One can imagine, say, an  
>>extraterrestrial craft landing on the White House lawn without  
>>any overt violation of the known laws of physics.

>>Nevertheless, such a strict criterion - and I am in favor of  
>>such - would be well suited to setting priorities for further  
>>investigation (exploring new physics, if nothing else), with the  
>>recognition that it may throw out some babies with the  
>>bathwater.

>It is true that if a TRUFO were to satisfy one or more CEP by  
>appearing as a mundane object then one would not know whether it  
>is a TRUFO or not.

>But so what: we need to find clear violations of something in  
>order to know that something new has happened or been reported.  
>So, if a craft resembling a UA passenger jet lands at the  
>airport, no one is going to suspect anything new. It would not  
>be classified as a TRUFO. On the other hand, if it just suddenly  
>appears on teh runway, with no radar or visual observation  
>beforehand, one might well expect that something bizarre has  
>happened. And if a grey skinned crew with large eyes, thin  
>bodies, etc. exit by floating out the the plane, we would  
>suddenly know that something "new has happened." Suddently the  
>initially suppose UA passenger jet is a TRUFO.

>I don't think we'll have to worry much about throwing the baby  
>out with the bathwater. The objects that we classify as TRUFOS  
>hardly ever, if ever, look like something made by mankind.

We are veering off into abstract philosophy here and losing sight of real cases and basic definitions. In Hynek's definition of a genuine UFO (or Unexplained UFO or UFO Unknowns as I dislike the frivolous sounding "TRUFO" name) it is a sighting that remains unexplained by scientific analysis. The object or light does not have to "violate the laws of physics."

An object that displays unconventional shape or appearance or performs unconventional motions that cannot be explained will of course be an Unexplained UFO.

But a perfectly conventional-shaped object or light could be in "the wrong place at the wrong time" and not be identifiable as a known manmade object, and hence must be classified as a genuine UFO Unknown. It would have Low Strangeness ("strangeness" is an evaluation of the degree of unexplainability of a case). It would in general not be as good a case as an object that had unconventional shape or performed unconventional maneuvers.

For example, someone could sight a balloon-like object crossing the sky in a steady balloon-like fashion. If a rundown of weather-balloon launchings determined there were no weather balloon launches in the area at the right time (and weather balloons don't last very long before they burst so they can't just cross a continent and be seen anywhere for days and days after launch) then this might be classified as a real UFO with Very Low Strangeness. It would not be a very good "UFO" case.

An example of such an observation might be the famous Nicholas Roerich sighting of Aug 5, 1926, in the Central Asia. What they all saw was very much like a weather balloon crossing the sky, and at one point changing course (a weather balloon as it rises will often change direction when it reaches an altitude where the wind direction changes). This might be a Very Low Strangeness UFO, because after all who else was out there launching balloons in the middle of a vast nowhere land? (Well, there was another expedition a few miles away that might have been launching weather balloons as it turns out.)

The Mantell case is another. A 70-foot Skyhook balloon, Flight B, launched by General Mills in Minnesota on Jan 6, 1948, was tracked heading south then southeast. It was seen by numerous observers from Illinois to Tennessee heading on a steady SE course with an average speed of about 27 mph due to a steady wind at altitude of that velocity. We know exactly where it was located and when.

At the time of the Godman Field, Kentucky, and Mantell F-51 sightings, the Skyhook was at about 80,000 feet and located southwest of Nashville, headed SE and about 140 miles away from Godman Field. It could not possibly have been seen with the naked eye from that 140-mile distance and could not possibly have incited numerous telephone reports from witnesses in Northern Kentucky which reached Godman Tower.

Yet what Godman Tower personnel including base commander Col Hix saw was clearly a Skyhook-balloon-shaped object. But the Skyhook would have had to be only about 3 miles away to match the angular size estimated by Col Hix when it was at its closest (1/2 Full Moon). Mantell and his men could not possibly have spent some 20 minutes at 300 mph chasing this balloon if it had only been 3 miles away. They would have reached it in about 36 seconds, not minutes.

If the Skyhook had been that close to Godman Field, 3 miles, then it could not have been seen by numerous witnesses of the actual balloon in and around Nashville at the same time. The maximum distance a 70-foot object like the Skyhook can be seen is about 45 miles. It's the equivalent of seeing a 5-foot wide car on the highway from 3 miles. Try it sometime. It's tough to see and you have to have been tracking a car from a much closer distance and watched it gradually increase in distance till it disappeared. But to see a Skyhook near Nashville all the way from Godman would be like trying to see a 5-foot wide car on a highway from about 10 miles away - it can't be done.

I have tried this experiment many times on long straight lengths of road and from airliners taking off and landing where you can see cars on the road from above on a road pattern that looks like a map, so the distances are easily determined from a map. About 3 miles is the maximum distance the five-foot width of a

car can be seen with the naked eye and this is the equivalent of a Skyhook balloon at about 45 miles. Can't be seen from 140 miles.

The distance from a balloon, hypothetically three miles south of Godman, to Nashville is about 125 miles and witnesses in places south of Nashville such as Columbia about 165 miles away from that spot also saw the Skyhook balloon at the same time, thus the balloon could not possibly have been near Godman.

One thing is for certain: An IFO cannot violate the laws of physics. The laws of physics, including physiological optics, prove conclusively that a seventy-foot Skyhook balloon south of Nashville cannot be seen by the human eye. (The only other possibility, that the Skyhook was bright enough to be seen even though too small to resolve, by virtue of reflected sunlight, is also disproven by calculations and observations which show that the maximum distance would have been about 40 miles, or less. The translucent plastic is not a mirror reflector and only part of the gas bag would be illuminated.)

This is a scientifically testable conclusion: Find a comparable 70-foot object that is visible to the human eye from 140 miles!

We can postulate a Skyhook balloon that maneuvered at high speed from place to place over long distances, that suddenly deviated from its 700-mile-long SE track from Illinois to Tennessee just to go up north and bother people in Northern Kentucky around Godman Field then dart back southward to resume its exact same SE course as if nothing had happened - and with not one of numerous witnesses including pilots who flew up to see the Skyhook balloon around Nashville and amateur astronomers in the same area ever reporting they saw the Skyhook balloon abruptly darting northward for 140 miles and coming back 140 miles again.

The Skyhook balloon would have had to use UFO-like powered flight to accomplish this! An IFO with UFO powers is a UFO!

Thus, Mantell case must be categorized as at least a Low Strangeness UFO, even though its physical appearance resembled a Skyhook balloon, because it was physically impossible for the only Skyhook balloon in the area to have been seen.

Another peculiar case is the Falconbridge Canadian Forces radar base incident of Nov 11, 1975. Base personnel sighted an object white and round with "craters" as viewed in binoculars, thus looking like the Full Moon. It was one of 3 unidentified objects tracked on radar and sighted visually as separate objects. The Moon was on the other side of the earth that morning. It was also only a half moon, about 57% illuminated, not a full circle.

The object was tracked on radar ascending to 72,000 feet just like a large research balloon might have done. So it looked like one IFO (the Full Moon) and behaved like another IFO (like a large Skyhook-type balloon). The one object still might be explained as a Skyhook-type balloon as no one seems to have checked. Until this is done, it is not a very good "UFO" case (there are other reasons as well, pro and con) but it is still, marginally, a "UFO."

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 13](#)

## Re: Plait's Bad Astronomical Observation

From: Michael Tarbell <[mtarbell.nul](mailto:mtarbell.nul)>  
Date: Fri, 12 Dec 2008 16:55:30 -0700  
Archived: Sat, 13 Dec 2008 07:00:33 -0500  
Subject: Re: Plait's Bad Astronomical Observation

>From: Martin Shough <[parcellular.nul](mailto:parcellular.nul)>  
>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>Date: Fri, 12 Dec 2008 15:07:04 -0000  
>Subject: Re: Plait's Bad Astronomical Observation

<snip>

>Even so, if ETH was a clearer fit to the observations then ETH-  
>dominated ufology might seem more attractive to scientists, but  
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>offer much predictive guidance. (Essentially anything might be  
>ET related, and there is even an arguable point of view that the  
>more tractable and comprehensible a set of observations seems to  
>be in terms of our rational expectations then the less likely

Hi Martin,

Your latter point is under-appreciated in general. Assuming that it is ET-related, many aspects of the UFO phenomenon have an underlying anthropomorphic quality that make it seem not quite 'alien', but rather an almost straightforward extension of our own technologies and aspirations.

This could be the result of a selection effect, i.e., there may actually be a wide spectrum of 'alien-ness' in ET manifestations, but we are only adapted/instrumented to perceive a narrow component of it. Alternatively, the cosmic evolutionary and technological playing field may be more level than we suppose.

>I think this whole area of "how to" theorise about UFOs is  
>really difficult and needs thoroughly sweeping out and  
>rationalising, which would probably take years of focused  
>collective effort by a bunch of brains far smarter than ours (or  
>mine, to speak for myself).

That would narrow the field considerably.

>The problem is attracting a critical  
>number of this calibre of thinker to an ambiguous and conflicted  
>problem in the first place, which is the ever-present Catch 22  
>we face. IMO the only hope is determined and implacable  
>adherence to conservatism and scepticism (not debunkerim) in  
>ufology. If Hynek's "new empirical phenomena" are really there  
>in the mix they will continue (presumably) to be seen, and the  
>records of them that we curate will be the more valuable when  
>science one day does work out exactly how to deal with them.

It seems odd that scientists would need to agonize over "how to deal with" this phenomenon, in spite of its ET trappings. Did scientists suddenly flee their laboratories when experiments suggested that particle energies were quantized, and that indeed, there may be no continuum at all? Surely that is a vastly more revolutionary concept than the existence and possible visitation of ETs.

Of course, quantum effects can be reproduced in the laboratory, which is not (as yet) true of UFO phenomena. Nonetheless, this undercurrent of discomfort and embarrassment with regard to UFOs is effectively crippling any substantive inquiry, to the extent that it has not even entered what might be called a 'laboratory' phase.

Some of this discomfort is certainly warranted. I would be first to concede that the topic tends to attract, and indeed actually generates, some rather colorful personalities, whose collective noise far outweighs any actual signal.

Nevertheless, I would not discount that some of this discomfort derives from something more akin to simple, even primeval, fear. I expect that most scientists would scoff at this suggestion, and perhaps sincerely so at the conscious level, but I'm not at all sure how calmly they (or myself) would deal with the explicit, unambiguous discovery of a superior alien intelligence in our immediate proximity. Indeed, fear is probably the principal factor behind the fascination with UFOs held by the general public.

Regards-

Mike

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 14](#)

## Abduction Question

From: **Greg Boone** <[Evolbaby.nul](mailto:Evolbaby.nul)>  
Date: Sat, 13 Dec 2008 19:05:53 EST  
Archived: Sun, 14 Dec 2008 09:15:57 -0500  
Subject: Abduction Question

Hello list,

Anyone have any data on how many abductions involving non-humans are associated with UFOs and how many are not?

I'm trying to make sure I classify abductions in the right category. We often call them UFO Abductions and in some cases I've run across no UFO was observed.

We also call them Alien Abductions in reference to Space Aliens, however it's a bit foggy in some cases where no reference to coming from space is presented just assumed.

The techniques and technology to perform the types of abductions we're used to reading and hearing about seem light years ahead as in some cases the apparent ability to phase through solid objects is recalled. Being 'taken to another place' is mentioned too.

Just want to make sure a critter is called a critter round these parts.

Best,

Greg  
[ufomafia.com/blog](http://ufomafia.com/blog)

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# UFO Updates

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 14](#)

## Re: Plait's Bad Astronomical Observation

From: Don Ledger <[dledger.nul](mailto:dledger.nul)>  
Date: Sun, 14 Dec 2008 02:50:20 -0400  
Archived: Sun, 14 Dec 2008 09:17:40 -0500  
Subject: Re: Plait's Bad Astronomical Observation

>From: Jerome Clark <[jkclark.nul](mailto:jkclark.nul)>  
>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>Date: Thu, 11 Dec 2008 17:12:05 -0500  
>Subject: Re: Plait's Bad Astronomical Observation

>>From: Don Ledger <[dledger.nul](mailto:dledger.nul)>  
>>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>>Date: Thu, 11 Dec 2008 13:51:31 -0400  
>>Subject: Re: Plait's Bad Astronomical Observation

>>>From: Martin Shough <[parcellular.nul](mailto:parcellular.nul)>  
>>>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>>>Date: Thu, 11 Dec 2008 13:11:02 -0000  
>>>Subject: Re: Plait's Bad Astronomical Observation

>>There is a curious parallel in the abduction phenomenon with  
>>some claiming this is a new age version of a history of folklore  
>>involving elves and fairies, trolls and leprechauns, angels or  
>>demons and heavenly hosts that have been plaguing mankind since  
>>the dawn of history.

<snip>

>>(2) What was once the host of demons and trolls or fairies etc.  
>>might be more comfortably explained as the more modern concept  
>>of alien abduction.

>I don't think so, Don. The two traditions/experiential phenomena  
>may be broadly related in some epistemological sense, but in  
>their details and manifestations one is not to be confused with  
>the other (or others).

>You might read my essay Experience Anomalies in the recent  
>Fortean Times (#243) for an argument which attempts to lay out  
>an explanatory framework linking abductions, fairy beliefs, and  
>other strange otherworldly encounters which may not be what they  
>seem.

Hi Jerry,

Been away.

Have you got a URL to Fortean Times #243 or can I get a copy of  
your article off-List?

Don Ledger

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## The Day The Brain Stood Still

From: Terry Colvin <[fortean1.nul](mailto:fortean1.nul)>  
Date: Sun, 14 Dec 2008 19:20:23 +0700 (GMT+07:00)  
Archived: Sun, 14 Dec 2008 10:53:57 -0500  
Subject: The Day The Brain Stood Still

Originally written & posted to the Skeptics List by Dave Palmer

Contains spoilers

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The Day the Brain Stood Still

Well, I just had to get it over with, so I went to see The Day The Earth Stood Still.

If you fobbed this film off as one of those summer blockbuster put-yer-brain-on-hold FX extravaganzas, it might not be so bad. But to release it during the time of year normally reserved for the Quality Films is just insulting. It's not so much that the inevitable reworking of the original story is bad per se, it's that they then went and ladled a big steaming helping of stupid over it.

How stupid? Try just the first 10 minutes of the film:

Hot MILF astrobiologist Helen Benson (Jennifer Connelly) is abducted from her home by a bunch of MiB in black cars with flashing lights. She keeps asking what the deal is, and they keep telling her that they will "explain en route." But en route, when she finally puts her foot down and demands to know what's going on, the head MiB admits, "I don't know." Soon, she's herded together with a bunch of other scientists somewhere new New Jersey, and they're told that NASA has discovered an object in space that's heading right towards Earth. The scientists have been assembled to "deal with the aftermath." Somebody asks when the thing is going to hit, and they're told that it's in little over an hour, smack dab in Manhattan.

Now, the object is said to be going 30,000,000 meters/sec, or about 10% of light speed. And they also say that it was discovered "just beyond the orbit of Jupiter." Leaving aside the question of how they detected something as small as the thing turns out to be that far away, we'll just note that at .1c, an object can get from Jupiter to Earth in about 5 hours, so the government managed to assemble this huge operation and collect several dozen scattered civilians all within about 4 hours.

But wait, here's the stupid part.

After the briefing, the scientists are put in helicopters and sent... wait for this... well, as a side note, on the way, one of the scientists finally says what should have been obvious from the start, that an object going that fast is going to pretty much sterilize the planet, so the whole exercise is futile, there won't BE any "aftermath." Nonetheless, the choppers continue on to their destination... yup: Manhattan. They're taking all their oh-so-valuable scientists right into the blast zone, where they would have been vaporized even if the thing was going at normal meteor speeds.

Of course it doesn't hit, it stops at the last second and touches down gently in Central Park, then disgorges Keanu Reeves covered in whale blubber (hey, I am not making this stuff up.

Honest), who is then promptly shot for no good reason. He doesn't even get the chance to pull a suspicious device from his pocket as Michael Rennie's Klaatu did.

After that, it's pretty much one mindless situation after another. In another scene, Benson is in the woods having a bad parenting moment with her whiny, disobedient kid as Klaatu looks on. Oh, and as they're being chased by military helicopters. Suddenly, a commando on a rope zips down from one of the choppers and snatches Benson (no fool he) and zips back upstairs. Then the other helicopters prepare to open up on Klaatu with Gatling guns and missiles... while the kid is standing not two meters away. Well, in fairness to the military guys, the kid was pretty annoying.

The big difference between the original and this remake is that the original was made at a time when intelligence was briefly fashionable. Michael Rennie's Klaatu was a genuinely intelligent being, and never felt it necessary to shake his fist or make threats. Reeves is almost constantly flatly intoning such lines as "if I told you, it would terrify you," and "you should let me go." One half expects him to drone "You see? You see? Your stupid minds! Stupid! Stupid!" The one person in the film who seems to act like he's got more than a room-temperature IQ, John Cleese as an unspecified variety of scientist, is onscreen for maybe two minutes.

As far as the main plot device, the new film trades one conceit for another. In the original, Klaatu comes to Earth because vastly superior alien races seem to be terrified of man's puny atomic bombs and chemical rockets (that was actually a fairly popular SF theme of the time). In the new one, they've traded that for the eco-freak notion that humans are capable of sterilizing the entire planet for all time. Klaatu explains that there are very few planets in the galaxy capable of supporting complex life, and so the galactic federation is considering getting rid of the planet's chief vermin - humans - so that cute fluffy bunnies can thrive instead. To that end, they plan to release swarms of nanobots that will consume everything - organic and inorganic - in their path. Just a guess, but I'd imagine that that plan would hurt the planet more than humans ever could.

A lot of the plot makes no sense in retrospect. When Klaatu is first seized by the government, he asks to address the UN, but Kathy Bates' battle-ax Secretary of Defense, obviously a republican, just snarls and shakes her fist. If she had a moustache, she would have twirled it. But after Klaatu escapes, he arranges to meet with another one of his kind, who has been on the Earth observing for about 70 years (hey wait, how did he arrange the meeting? Shh, quiet!). This other guy gives Klaatu the final report that humans aren't worth saving. So what had he intended to tell the UN? "Sit tight, guys, I'm gonna holla to my peeps and decide whether to pop a cap in your ass or not?"

But ultimately, Klaatu begins to discover that humans have neat stuff, too, like Bach and MILFy astrobiologists. So, apparently not grasping the concept that individuals can be good, while collective society is a ravening beast (something even the Old Testament God knew), he decides to pull the plug on the extermination and then just leave, trusting Benson's promise that "we'll change." Oh, and he got a sweet deal on the Brooklyn Bridge, too.

Of course, there's an unspecified problem with shutting down the extermination, and Klaatu says there will be "grave consequences for your civilization." That problem appears to be that all power gets disabled (as in the eponymous event of the original) when Klaatu leaves. We have to assume that this shutdown is permanent, or at least long-lasting, or he wouldn't have made the warning. But consider: how likely is it that having all of industrial civilization snatched away is going to help humans change and play nice? I guess if nothing else, it will prevent them from destroying the planet for awhile, they'd be too busy killing each other with knives and rocks.

And nobody ever says "Klaatu barada nikto," so screw 'em.

Dave Palmer

-----

Terry W. Colvin  
Ladphrao (Bangkok), Thailand  
Pran Buri (Hua Hin), Thailand

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## Re: Plait's Bad Astronomical Observation

From: Carol Maltby <[carolmaltby.nul](mailto:carolmaltby.nul)>  
Date: Sun, 14 Dec 2008 12:12:10 -0500  
Archived: Sun, 14 Dec 2008 12:34:54 -0500  
Subject: Re: Plait's Bad Astronomical Observation

>From: Jerome Clark <[jkclark.nul](mailto:jkclark.nul)>  
>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>Date: Thu, 11 Dec 2008 17:12:05 -0500  
>Subject: Re: Plait's Bad Astronomical Observation

>You might read my essay Experience Anomalies in the recent  
>Fortean Times (#243) for an argument which attempts to lay out  
>an explanatory framework linking abductions, fairy beliefs, and  
>other strange otherworldly encounters which may not be what they  
>seem.

Jerry, there's no sign of it on the Fortean Times website. For those of us who may not have access to a hard copy, could you give a summary?

Carol

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## Re: Plait's Bad Astronomical Observation

From: **Martin Shough** <[parcellular.nul](mailto:parcellular.nul)>  
Date: Sun, 14 Dec 2008 18:42:59 -0000  
Archived: Sun, 14 Dec 2008 13:56:07 -0500  
Subject: Re: Plait's Bad Astronomical Observation

>From: Michael Tarbell <[mtarbell.nul](mailto:mtarbell.nul)>  
>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>Date: Fri, 12 Dec 2008 16:55:30 -0700  
>Subject: Re: Plait's Bad Astronomical Observation

>>From: Martin Shough <[parcellular.nul](mailto:parcellular.nul)>  
>>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>>Date: Fri, 12 Dec 2008 15:07:04 -0000  
>>Subject: Re: Plait's Bad Astronomical Observation

><snip>

>>Even so, if ETH was a clearer fit to the observations then ETH-  
>>dominated ufology might seem more attractive to scientists, but  
>>it isn't so clear. Extracting a fairly well-defined class of ET  
>>observations analogous to BL from the huge and varied  
>>population of all UFOs reported isn't necessarily easy in the  
>>first place, and the predictions of ETH are not themselves clear  
>>enough to offer much predictive guidance. (Essentially anything  
>>\_might\_ be ET related, and there is even an arguable point of  
>>view that the more tractable and comprehensible a set of  
>>observations seems to be in terms of our rational expectations  
>>then the \_less\_ likely

>Hi Martin,

>Your latter point is under-appreciated in general. Assuming that  
>it is ET-related, many aspects of the UFO phenomenon have an  
>underlying anthropomorphic quality that make it seem not quite  
>'alien', but rather an almost straightforward extension of our  
>own technologies and aspirations.

Hi Mike

I agree with this impression. It's something that's intrigued me  
too for about 40 years.

>This could be the result of a selection effect, i.e., there may  
>actually be a wide spectrum of 'alien-ness' in ET  
>manifestations, but we are only adapted/instrumented to  
>perceive a narrow component of it.

Good point. It connects with a point I've made myself, most  
recently in the abortive Betty Hill starmap thread. The idea  
that there is a spectrum of alien-ness to which we are largely  
blind outside a narrow window suggests the possibility that  
interacting with ET is not just passive objective observation,  
but that what we "see" is an appearance generated in this  
interaction by processes that are outwith both our conscious  
control and our understanding. Perhaps the process exploits the  
contents of our psyches to build emulations that have meaning  
for us. It might be spontaneous, perhaps demanded by something  
analogous to limited bandwidth, or it might also be actively  
engineered.

The problem then is distinguishing the properties of these  
hypothetical \_meaningful\_ or exogenous psychical artefacts that  
are truly anomalous from a background of endogenous psychical  
artefacts that are trivial. Would it be possible to detect them?

Interesting to think about what unique signature, if any, such experiences might carry and where one might look for them

>Alternatively, the cosmic evolutionary  
>and technological playing field may be more level than we  
>suppose.

This seems less likely to me. I would intuitively expect it to be a more tilted landscape than we can imagine. There is nothing level about our human technological playing field which so far slopes from primitive flint-knappers to the LHC (and continues to steepen). I suppose one could argue for cosmic levelness on the basis that a Principle of Mediocrity applies, so that our average technological state is probably the cosmic average. But we can't define meaningful averages when there is an open-ended expansion. Maybe we will discover in some future that technical progress is self-limiting, but that's speculative and we can't begin to guess where the limit might lie (at least, not this side of the ultimate cosmic limit, which would be retro-engineering the cosmos itself). So I think the idea of levelness is difficult to defend given the cosmic spacetimescale.

<snip>

>>The problem is attracting a critical  
>>number of this calibre of thinker to an ambiguous and  
>>conflicted  
>>problem in the first place, which is the ever-present Catch 22  
>>we face. IMO the only hope is determined and implacable  
>>adherence to conservatism and scepticism (not debunkerim) in  
>>ufology. If Hynek's "new empirical phenomena" are really there  
>>in the mix they will continue (presumably) to be seen, and the  
>>records of them that we curate will be the more valuable when  
>>science one day does work out exactly how to deal with them.

>It seems odd that scientists would need to agonize over "how to  
>deal with" this phenomenon, in spite of its ET trappings. Did  
>scientists suddenly flee their laboratories when experiments  
>suggested that particle energies were quantized, and that  
>indeed, there may be no continuum at all? Surely that is a  
>vastly more revolutionary concept than the existence and  
>possible visitation of ETs.

I was probably unclear. I didn't mean to suggest that scientists were having trouble agonizing over the possibility of ET visitation. I meant that getting ETH (or to some extent any novel theory) into a tractable, testable form in the first place is the fundamental difficulty that needs to be worked out. Even if there are only endogenous psychosocial filters in the link between human perception and ET, defining (from the whole population of UFO/UAP reports of all kinds) the set of observations that needs explaining is very difficult. The range of phenomena is huge, patterns are only ever approximate and fleeting, rarely recurrent. We have trouble identifying a distinct subset with constant obviously-ET class properties and having at the same time strong instrumental/physical and/or multiple witness evidence.\* And if there are exogenous control factors affecting the phenomenology then the problem becomes mind-boggling.

[\*Arguably there is an inverse relationship here: We have at one end an abduction subset that is phenomenologically quite well-defined and ET-suggestive, but which seems poor in such types of evidence (is this fair?). At the other end we have a UAP subset which is phenomenologically quite well-defined (merging into BL) and tends to suggest unexplained natural phenomena, which seems relatively rich in such evidence (i.e., strange evasive lights, sometimes radar reflecting/emitting). There is a tertiary peak in the middle due to the bulk of ambiguous unknowns that is neither so strongly defined nor so strongly evidenced, and not so strongly polarised in indicating either UAP or ET.]

But specifically as regards the quantum theory, I don't think the situations are at all comparable really.

In the first place, there was indeed no "sudden flight" from the implications of the quantum paradigm, but since discontinuity did not come in suddenly (ironically!) this does not (I suggest) help us to calibrate how scientists "ought" to respond in the UFO case.



The cavity radiation problem had been bugging physicists for a long while when Planck proposed his new radiation law to solve it in about 1900-1901. And this did not lead even to a decisive acceptance of discontinuity in the radiation field for about 10-15 years. He himself resisted this interpretation- which was Einstein's contribution in 1905- and he was far from alone. In 1910 Planck wrote a letter to Nernst on the eve of the upcoming Solvay Conference lamenting that it was hardly worthwhile since "scarcely half" of the physicists attending were at that time even interested in the problems of the quantum beyond its limited application to the blackbody problem. It wasn't until 1911-12 that the balance really tipped with a majority coming to accept the need for fundamental conceptual reform, and it wasn't until Millikan's experiments in 1916(?) that Lenard's qualitative demonstration of the photoelectric effect (which Einstein had argued from) was actually carefully proved. Then of course via Bohr's atomic model with its theory of stationary states and all of the ensuing quantummania about uncertainty and the rest, the meaning and implications of this took many more years to evolve.

So the "vastly revolutionary" nature of the change from classical theory took some time to be realised. In hind-sight it looks like physics faced with a sudden deep crevasse, but this tends I think to give an unrealistic impression of what most physicists actually thought they were doing at the time.

(BTW have you read T. S. Kuhn's 'Black Body Theory and the Quantum Discontinuity 1894-1912', OUP 1978? It very thoroughly deconstructs the history of this period and I heartily recommend it.)

In the second place the development of the discontinuity paradigm was indeed greatly "agonized over", even though the problems that were involved here were, whilst phenomenally difficult, very clearly defined mathematically and physically (I think this is what you yourself concede in your closing paragraphs) unlike the problem of how to deal scientifically with the possibility that there is a rump of really anomalous UFO reports. That isn't to say that UFO reports can't be dealt with scientifically, but that at the moment it genuinely is not clear to most open-minded sceptical scientists how that is to be done profitably, and it doesn't seem urgent or vital enough to them (compared to things like a post-quantum revolution and the current TOE quests) to spend time working it out.

Let's acknowledge that although we have been hearing Jeremiads for half a century about how cataclysm may ensue if science irresponsibly ignores possible aliens, the fact is that nothing cataclysmic has happened. In fact nothing at all that anyone could get their teeth into has really happened except that people continue just the same to see a host of strange things, that are hard even to classify in a botanical way, let alone in a physical way, and so our cries for urgent attention don't reach scientists' ears as loudly as they leave our lips..

Back in 1900 the problem, the importance of finding a solution, and the certainty that a new solution must exist were all much clearer. Once the problems in radiation theory were exposed there was literally no latitude at all. The relation  $e = h * \nu$  was invented by Planck, but nature forced the invention on him. It wasn't as if there was a pick'n'mix of vaguely equivalent theories that all might have done a similar job of explaining a conceptual puzzle and that Planck's just had the edge; there was only one clear quantitative answer to a clear quantitative problem (howsoever odd it seemed), and mathematical physics could never have progressed at all with any alternative theory. If Planck hadn't got it, physics would have had to wait until somebody else did. When ufology is lucky enough to make its problems that well-defined, that's when we can start really justifiably - after some years - to lament science's inability to provide an equally well-defined response.

At present the revolutionariness of ETH vis a vis other theories does not really come into the scientific equation IMO. The "professional sceptics" and those who the media go to for their soundbytes do talk about it, but this is mainly because the media and public (and ufologists) ask about it. For their own part, I think scientists do so more to illustrate and justify after the fact, in terms that people can relate to, why they are

not vitally interested in UFO reports. I don't think that (with a few blinkered exceptions) this is because they think ET visitation is impossible, or because they are in "fear" of the idea of alien proximity (though a few might be). Fundamentally I think it really is because the data are a mess and because the history of the subject really is discouraging to them.

As I'm sure we both know (but as many cynics doubt) it really is possible to hold this following position honorably: To grant that ETH (or some analogue) is viable in principle, whilst finding it difficult or impossible to see how to frame it as a testable proposition in terms of such a bewildering and contaminated database of very varied anecdotes. Conscientious progress is very hard. If we doubt that, we only have to look at the history of our subject - a 60-year history of tantalising, half-glimpsed possibilities, failed proofs, conjectures and frustrations. We can't blame other people for all of it. A lot of it is just inherent to the subject - for one reason and/or another.

Bests

Martin

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## Re: Plait's Bad Astronomical Observation

From: Don Ledger <[dledger.nul](mailto:dledger.nul)>  
Date: Sun, 14 Dec 2008 14:52:59 -0400  
Archived: Sun, 14 Dec 2008 14:16:15 -0500  
Subject: Re: Plait's Bad Astronomical Observation

>From: Martin Shough <[parcellular.nul](mailto:parcellular.nul)>  
>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>Date: Fri, 12 Dec 2008 15:07:04 -0000  
>Subject: Re: Plait's Bad Astronomical Observation

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>>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>>Date: Thu, 11 Dec 2008 13:51:31 -0400  
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<snip>

>>There is a curious parallel in the abduction phenomenon with  
>>some claiming this is a new age version of a history of folklore  
>>involving elves and faireys, trolls and leprechauns, angels or  
>>demons and heavenly hosts that have been plaguing mankind since  
>>the dawn of history.

>Let's not forget that the folkloric (re)interpretation of the  
>UFO mythos (to use that term not pejoratively but non-  
>judgmentally) predates the idea of an "abduction phenomenon".  
>The parallels were identified in detail in the 1960s and early  
>70s, mainly by John Michel and Jacques Vallee, from different  
>points of view, neither of which was an attempt to "explain  
>away" the phenomena. Especially from Vallee's point of view, I  
>think, this was seen as a reciprocal re-illumination of each  
>hitherto-separate field from the perspective of the other,  
>leading (perhaps) to a resolution in terms of some completely  
>new idea not derived directly from the belief systems of either.

We are generally on the same page, Martin. I don't have any  
research to point to. And I admit it's a kneejerk response on my  
part to make the leap from leprechauns [to pick on one]to the  
abductors. I wonder too if in another one hundred years or so  
if there won't be another lifeform phenomenon seemingly  
interacting with humans. There is a parallel again with the UFO  
phenomenon where the objects are interpreted using the knowledge  
of that day's technology. Our technology is changing rapidly in  
the aerospace field as will our aircraft and their engines over  
the next 20 years, though I don't foresee much beyond air-  
breathers and reaction engines for aircraft specifically.

Ball lightning is a curious effect or phenomenon that has been  
reported for many years, many quite detailed. Some seemed to  
have the ability to follow people and if memory serves some have  
been burned by them. If one has one of those helium ballons  
floating around in a room and someone walks by it the negative  
pressure behind the human body as it moves forward creates a  
suction [crated but air moving in to fill the negative pressure  
area similar to drafting experienced with small autos being  
sucked along by large transport trucks. Pure physics.

Mike Persinger has reproduced tiny lights in his experiments to  
produce stress generated lights as it is claimed are often found  
around tectonic/plate activity.

I do have difficulty with the the UFO phenomenon as mythos  
probably because I involve myself almost exclusivly with pilot

encounters wduring flight. Oxford's Concise describes: 1 literary a myth; a body of myths. 2 a narrative theme or pattern. Mythos suggests to me something which was reported in history but does not enjoy popularity today such as trolls and dragons, for instance.

Pilots often see these UAP as a threat which seems to suggest something substantive rather than a collection of anecdotal stories hanging in or zipping through the sky.

Pilots see airspace infractions, possible conflicts between two or more hardbodies in the sky with death and mayhem to follow. One pilot told me, that at the rate the (phenomenon) was coming at him it cused him to react defensively. He threw himself back through the curtain to the cockpit and to the cabin floor [DC-3]. He fully expected to see himself falling to his death with bits and pieces of burning wreckage and other bodies falling with him. (MUFON 2008 International UFO Symposium Proceedings)

BTW, I've been meaning to ask you,; how much time was given to exploring Ray Bowyer's sudden urge to get his Islander on the ground when confronted with his sighting? He seemed generally upset with what he was seeing. I've run into this before. Paradigm shift?

Best,

Don Ledger

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# UFO Updates

A mailing list for the study of UFO-related phenomena  
'Its All Here In Black & White'

Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 14](#)

## Re: The Day The Brain Stood Still

From: **Stanton T Friedman** <[fsphys.nul](mailto:fsphys.nul)>  
Date: Sun, 14 Dec 2008 15:19:04 -0400  
Archived: Sun, 14 Dec 2008 14:29:41 -0500  
Subject: Re: The Day The Brain Stood Still

>From: Terry Colvin <[fortean1.nul](mailto:fortean1.nul)>  
>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>Date: Sun, 14 Dec 2008 19:20:23 +0700 (GMT+07:00)  
>Subject: The Day The Brain Stood Still

>Originally written & posted to the Skeptics List by Dave Palmer

>Contains spoilers

>-----

>The Day the Brain Stood Still

>Well, I just had to get it over with, so I went to see The Day  
>The Earth Stood Still.

>  
>If you fobbed this film off as one of those summer blockbuster  
>put-ye-er-brain-on-hold FX extravaganzas, it might not be so bad.  
>But to release it during the time of year normally reserved for  
>the Quality Films is just insulting. It's not so much that the  
>inevitable reworking of the original story is bad per se, it's  
>that they then went and ladled a big steaming helping of stupid  
>over it.

>How stupid? Try just the first 10 minutes of the film:

<snip>

Don't forget that the scientific consultant on this film was Dr.  
Seth Shostak of the SETI Institute. He has never given any  
indication of knowing anything about UFOs.

Stan Friedman  
Fredericton,  
New Brunswick,  
Canada

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 15](#)

## Re: Plait's Bad Astronomical Observation

From: **Martin Shough** <[parcellular.nul](mailto:parcellular.nul)>  
Date: Sun, 14 Dec 2008 20:34:03 -0000  
Archived: Mon, 15 Dec 2008 09:22:12 -0500  
Subject: Re: Plait's Bad Astronomical Observation

>From: Don Ledger <[dledger.nul](mailto:dledger.nul)>  
>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>Date: Sun, 14 Dec 2008 14:52:59 -0400  
>Subject: Re: Plait's Bad Astronomical Observation

>>From: Martin Shough <[parcellular.nul](mailto:parcellular.nul)>  
>>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>>Date: Fri, 12 Dec 2008 15:07:04 -0000  
>>Subject: Re: Plait's Bad Astronomical Observation

>>>From: Don Ledger <[dledger.nul](mailto:dledger.nul)>  
>>>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>>>Date: Thu, 11 Dec 2008 13:51:31 -0400  
>>>Subject: Re: Plait's Bad Astronomical Observation

><snip>

>>>There is a curious parallel in the abduction phenomenon with  
>>>some claiming this is a new age version of a history of folklore  
>>>involving elves and faireys, trolls and leprechauns, angels or  
>>>demons and heavenly hosts that have been plaguing mankind since  
>>>the dawn of history.

>>Let's not forget that the folkloric (re)interpretation of the  
>>UFO mythos (to use that term not pejoratively but non-  
>>judgmentally) predates the idea of an "abduction phenomenon".  
>>The parallels were identified in detail in the 1960s and early  
>>70s, mainly by John Michel and Jacques Vallee, from different  
>>points of view, neither of which was an attempt to "explain  
>>away" the phenomena. Especially from Vallee's point of view, I  
>>think, this was seen as a reciprocal re-illumination of each  
>>hitherto-separate field from the perspective of the other,  
>>leading (perhaps) to a resolution in terms of some completely  
>>new idea not derived directly from the belief systems of  
>>either.

>We are generally on the same page, Martin. I don't have any  
>research to point to. And I admit it's a kneejerk response on my  
>part to make the leap from leprechauns [to pick on one]to the  
>abductors. I wonder too if in another one hundred years or so  
>if there won't be another lifeform phenomenon seemingly  
>interacting with humans. There is a parallel again with the UFO  
>phenomenon where the objects are interpreted using the  
>knowledge of that day's technology.

Hi Don

Yes, this picks up on the idea that Mike mentioned. Something certainly is being interpreted through the filter of contemporary technology. Again the recognition of this dates back to the 1960s and to commentary on historical reports (such as the airship waves) by people like Vallee, Michel (Aime Michel in this case) and others in FSR and elsewhere. Ancient sources described ships and swords in the sky. These became mysteryu airships, and even phantom airplanes, then ghost rockets, and flying saucers, and now we see something similar happening during the last decade or two with saucers morphing into those giant triangles.

What does it all mean? I'm not entirely sure - well that admission won't astonish anyone! Does it mean something as simple as that witnesses through history are all seeing the same mechanical ET thing but tending to misperceive, misreport and/or misrecord it in familiar terms? Back in the day one would have said that the "real" underlying phenomenon was saucers, and then one scoured historical manuscripts for descriptions of same so that an underlying continuity could be proven. So when some ancient chronicle said people saw shields and spears in the sky, this slotted neatly into our preconceptions and we reinterpreted this through our contemporary filter as saucers and motherships, not suspecting that we might be engaging in the same chauvinism that we were ready to ascribe to our ancestors.

We once thought our saucers were the baseline reality to which the UFOs of all other ages should be referred. Today, I think, it's fair to say that those were days of lost innocence and the true complexity of the phenomena - both in our own time and throughout history - is inescapable. Is it all due to a changing social reflection of some constant underlying mechanical aeriform? Or is it a distorting historical hall of mirrors where we see everywhere reflections of reflections, no one of which is itself the undistorted original, all of which are representations of something else that we do not see at all?

According to the psychosocialists, that something that we don't see is not in the mirrors of the sky or of history but is in the last place we think to look - down at ourselves, standing there in the middle of it all. I don't wholly buy that because of strongly suggestive modern evidence of at least some unknown physical phenomena and because of subtle latent connections across these very different historical contexts that are hard to spot and strike me as being hard to explain in purely psychological terms. Still, whatever any underlying connecting thread of anomalous reality there may be it's hard to conclude that the psychosocial overlay is significant and arguably constitutes 90% (say) of what it is that we experience.

<snip>

>I do have difficulty with the the UFO phenomenon as mythos  
>probably because I involve myself almost exclusively with pilot  
>encounters wduring flight. Oxford's Concise describes: 1  
>literary a myth; a body of myths. 2 a narrative theme or  
>pattern. Mythos suggests to me something which was reported in  
>history but does not enjoy popularity today such as trolls and  
>dragons, for instance.

I think that about covers it - recurrent narrative patterns of stories that human beings tell one another about their experiences, which appear in the culture as a mixture of stimuli some of which are coming in externally (or laterally one might say) from immediate sense experience, some of which are coming in by transmission of ideas from others (vertically).

>Pilots often see these UAP as a threat which seems to suggest  
>something substantive rather than a collection of anecdotal  
>stories hanging in or zipping through the sky.

I think pilots are very sensible to be concerned about unpredictable aerial phenomena they can't identify. Some of them are clearly potentially dangerous, and just not knowing is itself potentially dangerous.

>Pilots see airspace infractions, possible conflicts between two  
>or more hardbodies in the sky with death and mayhem to follow.  
>One pilot told me, that at the rate the (phenomenon) was coming  
>at him it cused him to react defensively. He threw himself back  
>through the curtain to the cockpit and to the cabin floor [DC-  
>3]. He fully expected to see himself falling to his death with  
>bits and pieces of burning wreckage and other bodies falling  
>with him. (MUFON 2008 International UFO Symposium Proceedings)

I appreciate that. But surely a pilot might have this response if, say, a fireball meteor was apparently streaking towards him, or some weird ball-lightning plasma materialised in front of the nose? Strength of reaction can't really be used to callibrate whether an experience is scientifically anomalous, can it? For that we need to look at a lot of report detail and scientific small print. And I grant that there are enough cases where pilots have calmly reported very strange daylight aeriforms in



detail to keep my curiosity alive about what is going on.

>BTW, I've been meaning to ask you,; how much time was given to  
>exploring Ray Bowyer's sudden urge to get his Islander on the  
>ground when confronted with his sighting? He seemed generally  
>upset with what he was seeing. I've run into this before.  
>Paradigm shift?

Actually, not much time was given to Ray's emotional reaction to be honest, although it was discussed. He did have one. I think it's fair to say that he was somewhat alarmed by what they saw, enough to consider the safety of his passengers. He admitted that he thought about heading closer to the objects but had second thoughts. There is some indication on the radar plot that he did actually deviate his flight track a few degrees towards the objects. He doesn't actually remember doing this deliberately, though, and suggests that the deviation may have occurred when he rotated the aircraft slightly so that the windscreen divider didn't obstruct his vision. To be candid, I am not sure about that rationalisation, partly because of an unexplained discrepancy of a few minutes in the logged landing time. I'm sure you can appreciate better than I can how a pilot might be concerned that no one be encouraged to misinterpret any action, intention or even transient thought, as potentially irresponsible. But I wouldn't say that he had a "sudden urge" to land, so much as that he had reached the point where he needed to make a decision to come down, or deviate and go around, and he decided to come down.

Best

Martin

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 15](#)

## Re: Abduction Question

From: Rick Nielsen <[nilthchi.nul](mailto:nilthchi.nul)>  
Date: Sun, 14 Dec 2008 15:18:47 -0800 (PST)  
Archived: Mon, 15 Dec 2008 09:40:20 -0500  
Subject: Re: Abduction Question

>From: Greg Boone <[Evolbaby.nul](mailto:Evolbaby.nul)>  
>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>Date: Sat, 13 Dec 2008 19:05:53 EST  
>Subject: Abduction Question

>Anyone have any data on how many abductions involving non-humans  
>are associated with UFOs and how many are not?

>I'm trying to make sure I classify abductions in the right  
>category. We often call them UFO Abductions and in some cases  
>I've run across no UFO was observed.

>We also call them Alien Abductions in reference to Space Aliens,  
>however it's a bit foggy in some cases where no reference to  
>coming from space is presented just assumed.

>The techniques and technology to perform the types of abductions  
>we're used to reading and hearing about seem light years ahead  
>as in some cases the apparent ability to phase through solid  
>objects is recalled. Being 'taken to another place' is mentioned  
>too.

>Just want to make sure a critter is called a critter round these  
>parts.

Good question Greg!

I've only been able to access a few dozen 'alien abduction'  
accounts so far. But I'll happily share some preliminary  
insights.

'Non-human abductions' seems a better way of describing them  
than 'alien abductions'. So far, the abductors are not  
consistently of one type of being or another. Although the being  
referred to as "grey" - small, grey-skinned, and big-headed,  
with large, black eyes - seems to be the most common. Most of  
these 'non-human abductors' could be more aptly classified as  
'evil spirits', 'demons', 'imps', etc. Many of the accounts  
seriously creep me out! And that might be the main motive of the  
abductors - to immobilize and confuse the victim through fear.  
But that's another theory.

More than half of those I've studied have no reference to UFO's,  
if we define UFOs as unidentified flying objects. But the  
majority of accounts do refer to odd lights, and various degrees  
of blue light predominates. A minority of these I've studied  
refer to victims being in a UFO for any part of the abduction.

Obviously my small number of cases is not a large enough sample,  
from which to draw credible conclusions. These insights I've  
shared only represent the small sample to which I've had access.  
Until those who have bigger data sets begin to share, those are  
the numbers I have to work with.

I would welcome hearing from others on this List, (like Mr.  
Velez and Ms. Wilson), who have more experience than I do.

I hope this helps you Greg!

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## Re: Plait's Bad Astronomical Observation

From: **Martin Shough** <[parcellular.nul](mailto:parcellular.nul)>  
Date: Mon, 15 Dec 2008 16:14:51 -0000  
Archived: Mon, 15 Dec 2008 14:31:10 -0500  
Subject: Re: Plait's Bad Astronomical Observation

>From: Martin Shough <[parcellular.nul](mailto:parcellular.nul)>  
>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>Date: Sun, 14 Dec 2008 20:34:03 -0000  
>Subject: Re: Plait's Bad Astronomical Observation

Sorry, I missed a crucial negative out of a sentence which inverted my meaning. I'm sure it was obvious from the context, but for the avoidance of doubt I should have said

" ... whatever underlying connecting thread of anomalous reality there may be it's hard not to conclude that the psychosocial overlay is significant and arguably constitutes 90% (say) of what it is that we experience."

Martin Shough

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## UFO Investigator Discusses 2004 Tinley Park Event

From: **UFO UpDates - Toronto** <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
Date: Mon, 15 Dec 2008 14:34:45 -0500  
Archived: Mon, 15 Dec 2008 14:34:45 -0500  
Subject: UFO Investigator Discusses 2004 Tinley Park Event

Source: The Forest Park Review - Oak Park, Illinois, USA

<http://tinyurl.com/67yc32>

12/9/2008

UFO Investigator Discusses 2004 Tinley Park Event

By Josh Adams  
Editor

It was during the 1950s that Ed Kojder was drawn into the growing discussion of whether life on Earth was unique. Flying saucers, UFO sightings and other phenomena have been reported by millions of people across the globe, and for Kojder, it's tough to ignore those numbers.

"Definitely," Kojder, a Forest Park retiree, said of the possibilities. "Because millions of people can't be wrong."

More than 20 believers and skeptics gathered at the Forest Park Public Library recently to hear one of the state's leading experts on unidentified flying objects, or UFOs. Sam Maranto is the president of Illinois Mutual UFO Network, a chapter of the country's largest organization devoted to understanding what it is that people may be seeing in the sky. Maranto was in Forest Park on Nov. 25 to discuss sightings in the Chicago area.

"We're not alone," Maranto said. "We were never alone."

The UFO investigator focused his presentation on a pair of 2004 sightings just south of the village in Tinley Park. On Aug. 21 and Oct. 31 of that year, dozens of witnesses reported seeing a triangulation of white lights in the night sky. Video footage and photographs of the event came pouring in, and news media in the area reported on the sighting.

A cable television program featured on the History Channel, UFO Hunters, recently leaned on Maranto's information to produce an episode titled "Invasion Illinois."

"This sighting didn't just begin here," Maranto said of the 2004 event. "It took place for a couple days around the world."

According to Maranto, and included in the television show's account, similar incidents were reported on Aug. 19 in St. Paul, Minn., where the lights were observed for more than six hours. People in Texas, Canada and Australia also reported seeing a triangular light pattern shortly before or after witnesses in Tinley Park made headlines.

Chris Lison, a Berwyn resident, counts himself among the believers that there are objects in sky that are not being piloted by anyone here. He does not believe, however, that aliens from another galaxy are behind it all. Lison said he suspects that at some point in the future, humans will master

time travel and the unexplained objects we're seeing today may be a product of the future.

He decided to attend the discussion, his first on the subject, after spotting a sign outside the library during his daily commute. Lison said Maranto's presentation was "fantastic."

According to Maranto, the possible explanations for UFOs-aliens and time travel included-are limitless because both space and time are infinite. There is so much that we don't know about the universe, he said.

Audience members milled about afterward and debated the merits of Maranto's presentation. One woman, responding to a more skeptical audience member, said, "I don't believe in the Bible. How can you believe in the Bible and not believe this?"

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## 'Independence Day' Movie Trivia

From: Greg Boone <[Evolbaby.nul](mailto:Evolbaby.nul)>  
Date: Mon, 15 Dec 2008 17:06:39 EST  
Archived: Tue, 16 Dec 2008 06:35:54 -0500  
Subject: 'Independence Day' Movie Trivia

I'm sitting here watching the special features version of the blockbuster sci fi flick Independence Day.

I'm listening to the commentary by Dean Devlin and Roland Emmerich the writer, producer, and director and they mention that the U.S. military were going to support the film by supplying extras, materiel, etc. but their only request was that they remove references to Area 51.

Now that raises an eyebrow or two!

Best,

Greg  
[ufomafia.com/blog](http://ufomafia.com/blog)

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## Eric Morris Passes

From: Loren Coleman <[lcoleman.nul](mailto:lcoleman.nul)>  
Date: Tue, 16 Dec 2008 07:25:03 -0500  
Archived: Tue, 16 Dec 2008 07:57:35 -0500  
Subject: Eric Morris Passes

-----

Tim Matthews  
December 13th 2008

It is with great sadness that I must tell you about the death last week of Eric Morris, who many of you will know as a prominent Ufologist on the scene over the last 25 years.

Eric died in Gibraltar last week and was discovered by his wife, Linda. Initial reports suggest a ruptured spleen as the cause of death.

Eric Morris was a colourful figure on Britain's UFO scene and first began his involvement with the quest back in the 1970s whilst serving in the Royal Navy (he joined in 1970). Eric served as a combat medic in the Falkland Islands conflict of 1982 tending the injured on board ship as well as in the field. After 15 years service he left to follow a long career in nursing, a profession he enjoyed and which he continued to follow after leaving England for Gibraltar in early 2008. Not content to work the long hours his chosen profession required, he studied hard, and was awarded a specialist Nursing Degree in 2000. He worked as a Supervisor and Team Leader in a number of Cheshire hospitals and nursing homes as a result.

One of his passions was Ufology and he attended numerous events, appeared on TV programmes and wrote articles for a number of X-Files spin-off publications in the 1990s.

I first met him in 1996 at the Staffordshire UFO Conference in Rugeley. At the time, his British UFO Studies Centre, run from Winsford then Northwich, was well-known on the scene and Eric knew all the major players. He would drive hundreds of miles to investigate a case.

Initially, he focussed on claims of Close Encounters and 'alien abductions' but became very skeptical about these in later years. We hit it off from the start and we regularly travelled to Conferences, meetings and events. Eric acted as a sort of 'security man' for me on occasions, his boxing abilities being of use on more than one occasion in 1998-1999!

From the mid 1990s onwards Eric, myself and up to a dozen others regularly visited Wiltshire during the Summer to investigate crop circles and associated phenomena. In 1998, we staked out the UK Headquarters of the CDCN near RAF Rudloe Manor and subsequently located the government's new emergency bolt hole at a nearby quarry, much to the interest of Channel 4 news and the chagrin of their full-time reporters. Who said Ufological investigations can't be fun?!

In 2004 Eric appeared in a TV documentary made by Jon Lundberg titled "The Mythologist" that investigated his early dealings with Henry Azadehdel, aka Armen Victorian, whom he met on a number of occasions in the late 1980s.

From 2000, I was lucky to work with Eric organising a number of small but successful Paranormal Conferences in Runcorn that



raised hundreds of pounds for the Cat's Protection League. This was Eric's other main passion, evidenced by a houseful of rescued cats that ruled the roost! This part of his life was little-known to UFO enthusiasts but he donated thousands to Cat's Protection over the years.

Eric was a caring man, despite his somewhat brusque deportment and non-nonsense 'in public' attitude. He was a very kind man and was always extremely generous with presents for my daughters Alexandra and Freya. With this in mind, Eric also nursed our good friend David Kelly, another BUFOSC member, at the time of his death from cancer in 2000.

Similarly little known was Eric's passion for the music of Jimmy Hendrix and The Who. He was a huge fan of Britain's 1960s trend-setting rock band and went to see them in concert every time they played within driving or flying distance! He was known to members of the band and the band's fan club and collected a great deal of rare merchandise and memorabilia over the years.

More recently, whilst organising his long-planned emigration to Gibraltar, a place he came to know and love during his Navy days and which he visited on many occasions subsequently, Eric started to re-investigate some older UFO cases he'd been involved in including the Rendlesham Forest ferrago. He came to some interesting conclusions about possible hoaxing in relation to this and it is to be hoped that we can recover this material for subsequent publication.

Eric maintained his passion for Ufology until the end. He will be greatly missed by those of us who were privileged to know him.

I understand that Eric's body will be flown from Gibraltar to Winsford where a funeral will be held as soon as arrangements have been made. If you're interested in attending, please feel free to contact me at 07515 151597.

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## Re: UFO Hunters Roswell Episode

From: Victor Golubik <[Diverge247.nul](mailto:Diverge247.nul)>  
Date: Tue, 16 Dec 2008 03:37:31 EST  
Archived: Tue, 16 Dec 2008 08:11:29 -0500  
Subject: Re: UFO Hunters Roswell Episode

>From: Gildas Bourdais <[bourdais.gildas.nul](mailto:bourdais.gildas.nul)>  
>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>Date: Thu, 11 Dec 2008 09:50:30 +0100  
>Subject: Re: UFO Hunters Roswell Episode

>>From: Victor Golubik <[Diverge247.nul](mailto:Diverge247.nul)>  
>>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>>Date: Wed, 10 Dec 2008 00:35:19 EST  
>>Subject: Re: UFO Hunters Roswell Episode

>>>From: Stanton T Friedman <[fsphys.nul](mailto:fsphys.nul)>  
>>>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>>>Date: Mon, 8 Dec 2008 14:09:56 -0400  
>>>Subject: Re: UFO Hunters Roswell Episode

><snip>

>>Your willingness to ignore these questions (how many times over  
>>the years?) shows prolonged deception, incompetence, or self-  
>>delusion. Take your pick. I guess your gray basket is not so  
>>gray after all...

>Mr Golubik should know that the balloon story is baloney. To see  
>that, you only need to buy a balsa wood stick. But he prefers to  
>go into yet another labyrinth of bitter critiques, this time  
>against Stan Friedman.

>Stan, you don't have to answer that.

There is nothing complicated about Roswell if we merely have the  
confidence to quote the witnesses accounts and not some Soup de  
Jour concoction fitting the overpriced and lurid menu items.

It's unfortunate that many of the witnesses themselves used the  
term "balsa wood" in their descriptions of the debris - a  
curious fact not widely reported... still :)

golubik

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 16](#)

## New Edition Of FOTOCAT Project Blog

From: **Vicente-Juan Ballester Olmos** <[ballesterolmos.nul](mailto:ballesterolmos.nul)>  
Date: Tue, 16 Dec 2008 09:29:56 +0000 (GMT)  
Archived: Tue, 16 Dec 2008 08:14:19 -0500  
Subject: New Edition Of FOTOCAT Project Blog

Dear UFO colleagues:

A new edition of the FOTOCAT Project blog is available at:

<http://fotocat.blogspot.com/>

With a catalogue approaching the 9,300 figure, the current update covers, among others, the following topics:

- The development of France FOTOCAT, an initiative assisted by the French magazine UFOMania.
- Martin Shough, appointed English language editor.
- First book produced by the FOTOCAT Project, published in English by UPIAR publishing house (Italy).
- Beam of light photographed in Spain (plus online study in Spanish). The documentation includes four comparative video clips.
- New book on abductions released in Spain.
- Two examples of video footage, with corresponding research articles online (in Spanish) documenting sightings solved as Jupiter & 4 Jovian satellites, and planet Venus.

I trust you enjoy the reading.

Sincerely,

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# UFO Updates

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 16](#)

## Bad Astronomy - Part III

From: **UFO UpDates - Toronto** <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
Date: Tue, 16 Dec 2008 08:31:19 -0500  
Archived: Tue, 16 Dec 2008 08:31:19 -0500  
Subject: Bad Astronomy - Part III

Source: Kevin Randle's A Different Perspective Blog

<http://kevinrandle.blogspot.com/2008/12/bad-astronomy-part-iii.html>

Friday, December 12, 2008

Bad Astronomy Part III  
By Kevin Randle

Good ole Phil Plait of Bad Astronomy fame has been heard from again. It seems he is annoyed that we, in the UFO community, haven't caved to his wise logic which tells him that UFOs are not extraterrestrial spaceships because amateur astronomers don't report them as such.

Remember his original comments about this?

"Amateur astronomers, of course. They are dedicated observers, out every night peering at the sky. If The Truth Is Out There, then amateur astronomers would be reporting far and away the vast majority of UFOs. But they don't. Why not? Because they understand the sky! [Emphasis in original] They know when a twinkling light is Venus, or a satellite, or a military flare, or a hot air balloon, and so they don't report it.

That, to me, is the killer argument that aliens aren't visiting us. If they were, the amateur astronomers would spot them."

I argued that amateurs do report UFOs. As I mentioned in a response to a posting in the original articles, in a survey of 1800 amateur astronomers, something like 25% of them, or just over 400, had, in fact seen a UFO which, Plait is quick to point out is not the same as a flying saucer. UFO simply means they have seen something they can't explain but that it is not necessarily an alien ship. Flying saucer is, well, an alien ship.

I'm tempted to say, Well, duh. We've known that for 50 years. We know that people can't identify bright planets on cold nights, or are fooled by the landing lights of airplanes, or strange atmospheric conditions and extraordinarily bright meteors and a host of other things.

But then we reach a core of sightings, many by professionals, college-educated scientists, or police officers, or military and civilian pilots that aren't easily explained. As I've said before, the higher the level of education and the longer the object was in sight, the less likely it'll be identified in the mundane. And when you have a daylight sighting of a disk-shaped object no more than a hundred feet away, then many of the explanations fail.

I believed we had disposed of the nonsense that amateur astronomers don't see UFOs but Plait countered this argument,

writing, "The problem is, this doesn't show me wrong. It misses the point entirely, which is the majority of UFO reports would be made by amateur astronomers if these were in fact alien spaceships. I don't care if you can find a handful of reports from astronomers. This shows conclusively that the majority of UFOs reported are not flying saucers, but misidentified mundane objects."

This strikes me as a fairly arrogant statement. It changes the conditions of the argument by adding a new element, not that amateurs don't report UFOs but that they don't report flying saucers. And he says that he doesn't care if we can find a handful of reports from astronomers. Well, didn't he say that astronomers don't report these things and now when that is shown to be inaccurate, he says he doesn't care. He wants reports of spacecraft and not reports of UFOs.

And he suggested that amateur astronomers would make the majority of those sightings because they are (a) familiar with the sky so what they report won't be mundane and (b) they are looking into the sky more than anyone else...

Except, of course, pilots, who spend a great deal of time looking at the sky, both during daylight hours and at night. Wouldn't you expect a large number of reports from pilots? And of those, wouldn't most of them be of mundane objects that are misidentified rather than of alien ships? And finally, what do we do with that core of sightings in which a structured craft that resembles nothing built on Earth and that maneuvers outside the capabilities of a craft manufactured on Earth?

In fact, the Air Force, which investigated UFOs (and flying saucer) reports for 22 years was most interested in the sightings by pilots, especially military pilots. Their reasoning was the same as Plait's, except they applied it to pilots. Pilots would be familiar with the sky and since they spend much of their flight time looking at the sky, they would report spaceships, as opposed to UFOs, at a higher rate than the rest of the population, including amateur astronomers. Or so the Air Force would argue, from it's logical position.

Except this argument, for either amateur astronomers or pilots is based, not on evidence, but on an assumption of evidence. Plait argues that if some UFOs are alien spaceships, then amateur astronomers would be reporting them. The Air Force argues it would be pilots... and neither uses any facts to back up the premise.

We can point to amateur astronomers who have seen something that could be classified as an alien spaceship based on the eyewitness description of it. And, there are hundreds of reports from pilots, including fighter pilots, who have given chase to objects that would be classified as alien spaceships based on the eyewitness descriptions of them.

Oh, yes, I forgot. Plait won't accept eyewitness testimony... he wants physical evidence that he can hold in his hand and that is available for independent testing. He doesn't want cases where the craft interacted with the environment, was tracked on radar, multiple witness cases, or photographs and movie, as opposed to video.

So now we move into his latest, well, I was going to say rant, but that really isn't fair. It is a somewhat reasoned response that, to me, lacks a single, obscure point of logic. He wrote:

"Friedman is no fan of me, either. A few years ago I wrote an article for Sky and Telescope magazine about UFOs, basically making the same claim I made here last week:

<http://skepticblog.org/2008/11/26/abducted-by-logic/>

if all these UFO sightings we hear about were real, the majority of them would be seen by amateur astronomers.

Friedman took exception to that (shocker, I know). In his internet newsletter

[www.virtuallystrange.net/ufo/updates/2004/apr/m28-013.shtm](http://www.virtuallystrange.net/ufo/updates/2004/apr/m28-013.shtm)

subscription required), he said: "Plait among other gems says about Amateur [sic] astronomers [sic] 'Logically, they should be reporting most of the UFOs'. This is logic?"

Um, yeah, Mr. Friedman, it is. Maybe you should acquaint yourself with it. Note that this is all he said, just dismissing my point without actually saying anything about it. I know, it's hard to believe that someone with such stature in the UFO community would make a claim with no evidence, and dismiss a claim that does have evidence!"

Far be it for me to defend Stan Friedman here, but I don't really get the logic of Plait's statement either. I have seen him offer nothing in the way of evidence that amateur astronomers don't make flying saucer reports (as opposed to UFO reports). Stan certainly could have offered some evidence as well, as I attempted to do in the last couple of postings. We all should be arguing from the evidence at hand, not from what we believe that evidence to be.

As a single example, I offered some of that evidence, including a very good sighting made by an atmospheric physicist using instrumentation... yes, I know it was only eyewitness testimony, but was using instrumentation, it was multiple witness, and it suggests that this claim about amateur astronomers is absurd.

But having taken care of Stan Friedman, which seems to be a logical argument to me, given that Friedman offered no evidence to support his claim, Plait goes after Chris Rutkowski. He wrote:

"Mr. Friedman has company, too. I got an email from a reader named Chris Rutkowski, who also posted his thoughts to an internet newsletter [which, of course, I'm doing here though I think of this as a blog rather than a newsletter].

<http://www.hyper.net/ufo/vs/m05-017.html>

He does Friedman one better (just barely) by actually addressing my claims about amateur astronomers, but blows it when it comes to logic. Rutkowski basically says that amateurs do in fact report UFOs, and so I am wrong."

And then he gets nasty, which sort of surprises me because so much of his stuff seems to be reasoned. He wrote:

"I have said this, over and over, very clearly, but the "UFOologists" can't seem to understand it. And then they accuse me of being closed-minded. That part slays me. They cannot imagine that aliens aren't visiting us, and every light in the sky is a spaceship, and I'm the one who has a closed mind."

And, yes, we know that the majority of UFOs can be identified in the mundane. We all have said the same thing. We also say that there is some very persuasive evidence that some UFOs are alien spaceships. What's so hard to understand here? We get it, and I haven't, as far as I know, labeled anyone with a derogatory title in this little dust up.

In fact, I'll add a note here, once again and that is a bias against reporting a flying saucer. Does he really think that an amateur astronomer who reported a flying saucer would be trusted in any other observations? Didn't J. Allen Hynek, in his survey of professional astronomers, learn that none of them wanted to admit to seeing anything unusual based on their perception of how their peers would react? In other words, there is a self-policing that keeps the amateurs from offering the descriptions that Plait would want... but then he would reject them all as eyewitness testimony anyway and not be impressed.

I'll let Rutkowski respond to this and I believe that Plait will be surprised at Rutkowski's credentials as an amateur astronomer himself. I will just add this because Chris Rutkowski was involved with the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada and was even the president of one of the chapters. He has also received the RASC's Simon Newcomb Award for science writing and

education. So, his words do carry some weight when speaking about amateur astronomers and what they see and what they report. I suspect that Plait didn't know this about Rutkowski.

My point here is that Plait rejects, without evidence the idea that amateur astronomers see flying saucers and used his assumption to prove that there are no flying saucers. (Isn't this a circular argument?) He believes that amateur astronomers should report flying saucers at a larger number than the general population if there is anything to this alien visitation, but overlooks the number of reports of flying saucers by all categories of pilots. And rejects sightings of flying saucers by professional astronomers for some reason that I don't understand... except, of course, that they are eyewitness testimony.

Since he is unaware of those reports, then they simply don't exist. My point is that they do exist, and therefore, you can't use that as evidence that there is no alien visitation. And yes, before we go on, I understand that this interpretation, that these amateur astronomers see flying saucers, could be in error... I'm merely saying that there is a body of eyewitness testimony that proves the theory, that they don't see flying saucers, wrong. Believe or don't believe, but you can't dismiss the phenomenon with this argument. You need something grounded in reality.

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## Re: UFO Hunters Roswell Episode

From: **Steven Kaeser** <[steve.nul](mailto:steve.nul)>  
Date: Tue, 16 Dec 2008 08:24:34 -0500  
Archived: Tue, 16 Dec 2008 09:41:35 -0500  
Subject: Re: UFO Hunters Roswell Episode

>From: Victor Golubik <[Diverge247.nul](mailto:Diverge247.nul)>  
>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>Date: Tue, 16 Dec 2008 03:37:31 EST  
>Subject: Re: UFO Hunters Roswell Episode

<snip>

>There is nothing complicated about Roswell if we merely have the  
>confidence to quote the witnesses accounts and not some Soup de  
>Jour concoction fitting the overpriced and lurid menu items.

>It's unfortunate that many of the witnesses themselves used the  
>term "balsa wood" in their descriptions of the debris - a  
>curious fact not widely reported... still :)

Victor,

The fact that people will describe objects using terms they are familiar with is nothing new, and I believe that the descriptions you refer to were in reference to the weight, and had nothing to do with tensile strength nor other physical attributes. Indeed, you probably have to take each response in context with the question and full answer, but everyone tends to cherry pick their information to prove their theories.

While this back and forth is interesting in respects, we're seeing little more than posturing and I doubt that any new information is really being put forward here.

Steve

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## More Amateur Astronomers & UFOs

From: **UFO UpDates - Toronto** <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
Date: Tue, 16 Dec 2008 10:21:21 -0500  
Archived: Tue, 16 Dec 2008 10:21:21 -0500  
Subject: More Amateur Astronomers & UFOs

Source: The Daily Grail - Plano, Texas, USA

<http://dailygrail.com/taxonomy/term/1>

December 16th, 2008

Amateur Astronomers And UFOs (Yes Again!)  
by Greg Taylor

I posted last week about attacks by 'Skeptologists' Brian Dunning and Phil Plait on ufologists Stanton Friedman and Chris Rutkowski respectively. Plait's complaint against Rutkowski concerned Chris's criticisms of the Bad Astronomer's thoughts about astronomers and UFOs (notably, the apparent lack of sightings reported by amateur astronomers).

In seeking more information about this topic, I came across an article from 1981 which contains actual data regarding the percentage of amateur astronomers who have sighted UFOs. Rather ironically, the article is written by... Chris Rutkowski! I'm reproducing a large part of the article below as it's quite interesting and very topical to the question of amateur astronomers and UFO sightings:

-----

In his book, *The Promise Of Space*, Arthur C. Clarke makes a statement to the effect that amateur astronomers have not reported seeing UFOs. An amateur astronomer named Gert Herb read this and decided to determine if the statement was indeed true. The effort was encouraged by the fact that in January of 1977, Peter Sturrock published his report of a survey of professional astronomers on the subject of UFO's. Now known as the Sturrock Report (published as the Stanford University Institute for Plasma Research Report Number 681), it received a 52% response rate from 2,611 astronomers surveyed. Only 20% of the respondents thought that UFO's were not worthy of scientific attention. However, this included a bias whereby individuals who were strongly opposed to the notion of UFO's would be inclined to not respond to the survey. (It is obvious, though, that some strongly opponent individuals might be impelled to respond with their negative opinion.) A startling 4=BD% of the respondents indicated that they had seen UFOs.

... Mr. Herb sent a questionnaire to 8,526 amateurs in the Astronomical League, the Association of Lunar and Planetary Observers (ALPO) and the International Occultation Timing Association (IOTA). The AAVSO was also asked to participate, but it declined. A total of only 1,805 individuals responded to the survey. Of that group, 67% felt that UFO's "certainly, probably or possibly exist". Asked whether they had ever seen an object which they could not identify, despite their efforts to do so, 427 of the 1,805 answered to the affirmative. That is 23.7% of the responding group, and 5.2% of the entire sample polled.

Mr. Herb also asked the amateurs about their observing

experience, in terms of whether they kept a regular observing log, followed a structured observing program, worked in conjunction with a group like IOTA or ALPO, and their length of active amateur observing. On this basis, he selected 261 "senior" amateurs whom he felt possessed higher-than-average abilities. These were considered as being most familiar with objects in the night sky. Of the 261 selected, 74 had seen objects which "resisted most exhaustive efforts of identification."

While most sightings were of point - or slightly-extended sources, 24 were of objects observed "at short enough distance as to leave no doubt in the observer's mind that something strange was reported." Sixty-six were observed through a telescope, and forty objects were observed through binoculars.

Again, a certain bias is evident. Amateurs who had seen a UFO were more likely to have returned the questionnaire, having more motivation. As is usual in surveys of this nature, peer pressure might have served to suppress many sightings, so that these results therefore reflect only the reported sightings, rather than the actual number of sightings made.

... But UFOs are not extraterrestrial spacecraft, as many people assume. They are merely unidentified objects, and nothing can realistically be said beyond that. No one is able to identify everything he or she sees. This writer has two reports of UFOs from members of the RASC Winnipeg Centre on record, and neither suggest anything resembling an interstellar spaceship. They are just unidentified, and it is even possible that with enough information, they could be explained as mundane objects. Just as easily, however, they can remain unidentified.

The Sturrock and Herb reports show that both professional and amateur astronomers have seen UFOs, bearing out the statement often quoted that all kinds of people have seen UFOs. A large percentage of both groups believe that UFOs deserve attention from the scientific community. This writer also shares that belief. If "UFOs do not exist", then a very unusual sociological mechanism is at work, affecting large numbers of people by causing them to report UFOs. This would indicate that a study of this phenomenon is definitely warranted. If "UFOs do exist", then they deserve serious study in that regard as well. Note that this has no bearing whatsoever on the question of extraterrestrial life. Although ET life may or may not be involved, UFOs are, at present, a terrestrial human problem.

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As I mentioned previously, in a further irony, Chris also has a new book out in which he discusses this very topic (is Phil Plait doing some viral marketing on his behalf?!):

A World Of UFOs (Amazon US and UK).

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Friedman on the Skeptologists  
Posted December 15th, 2008 by Greg Taylor

\* Alien Nation

As a follow-up to my story on Friday, "Skeptologists Attack UFOlogists": in that article I published Stanton Friedman's response to 'skeptologist' Brian Dunning's original criticism of the Betty and Barney Hill story. Stan has since sent me a quick response to Dunning's subsequent 'hit piece' on him personally ("Stanton Friedman Doesn't Like Me") - I've reprinted Stan's email below in its entirety with his permission.

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Brian Dunning Running For Top UFO Debunker

Debunker Brian Dunning must be congratulated for adhering so closely to the basic rules for debunking: A. What the public doesn't know, I won't tell them. B. Don't bother me with the facts, my mind is made up. C. If one can't attack the data, attack the people. D. Do one's research by proclamation, investigation is too much trouble.

He demonstrated these in his off the wall attack on Skeptoid on the Betty and Barney Hill case about which I have written a detailed critique. Then he reacted like a spoiled brat caught with his hand in the cookie charge by insulting me after hearing on a radio station that I had said his piece was loaded with false claims. He said Friedman was "the principal Author of the Roswell, Travis Walton, and Betty and Barney Hill UFO mythologies". I haven't written any mythologies and certainly didn't write a book about Travis Walton. More: "he wrote the most significant books inventing the most popular stories". Wow, I am impressed. He must be jealous of my being a nuclear physicist... "in fact his only career since 1970, was writing UFO books". I must be a very slow writer. My first book, Crash At Corona, co-authored with Don Berliner, was published in 1992. My second book TOP SECRET/MAJIC was published in 1997. Captured! The Betty And Barney Hill UFO Experience, co- authored with Kathleen Marden, Betty's niece, was published in 2007. My most recent book Flying Saucers and Science was published in June, 2008. He quite obviously hadn't read Captured! and I seriously doubt if he has read any of the others either. He thinks TV producers should "call a spade a spade and call me an 'Obsessed UFO Wacko'". He then makes the out of this world claim that his claims in his skeptical piece "are corroborated by Stanton Friedman's own books." This is hogwash to the 4th power.

He says "the facts of the case aren't really in question [so why didn't he get them right?], it's the interpretation of the facts that are. Betty Hill spent two years writing a UFO story and sharing it with her husband, and then when asked about that story under hypnosis, Barney Hill was able to rattle it off pretty much as she wrote it". This is a total and complete lie as he and anybody else would know if he had read Captured!. I can only wonder what the source for this completely wrong claim was.

Dunning calls me "...a successful author busy with book tours and UFO conventions". Fact is I have never done a book tour. I have spoken at over 600 colleges and 100 professional groups.

After 1970 and prior to Crash At Corona, I was involved in a lot of professional activities. I worked on the commissioning of the Pt. Lepreau nuclear generating station. I measured radon levels in houses and wells in the Fredericton area. I did a study for the Canadian Electrical Association on "The Recovery And Utilization Of Waste Heat From Power-Plants"(visiting a number of facilities) and another for them on "The Use Of Electron Beams To Treat Flue Gas". I did a study "Future Technology Scenarios For New Brunswick for the Province, and other studies on food irradiation, and seed stimulation. I gave professional papers at meetings of the European Society for Nuclear methods in Agriculture in Piacenza, Italy, and Warsaw, Poland, among others.

So it is clear Brian Dunning is a skilled liar, not a skeptic. He deserves "Debunker Of The Year" award. And he should apologize to his readers and me for gross misrepresentation.

Stan Friedman

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 16](#)

## Re: Plait's Bad Astronomical Observation

From: **Cathy Reason** <[CathyM.nul](mailto:CathyM.nul)>  
Date: Tue, 16 Dec 2008 15:50:12 -0000  
Archived: Tue, 16 Dec 2008 22:34:00 -0500  
Subject: Re: Plait's Bad Astronomical Observation

>From: Martin Shough <[parcellular.nul](mailto:parcellular.nul)>  
>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>Date: Mon, 15 Dec 2008 16:14:51 -0000  
>Subject: Re: Plait's Bad Astronomical Observation

>" ... whatever underlying connecting thread of anomalous  
>reality there may be it's hard \_not\_ to conclude that the  
>psychosocial overlay is significant and arguably constitutes 90%  
>(say) of what it is that we experience."

But what does this mean, exactly? At one extreme, one can argue that everything we experience is psychological in nature, since experience is by definition psychological. This is tautological and surely not very useful.

On the other hand, research on perception over the last twenty-five years or so, indicates that perception is pretty much hardwired into the brain and relatively unaffected by psychosocial factors.

I agree that there is clearly a very large psychosocial component to the UFO phenomenon, but this is mainly to be found in the individual and cultural reactions to the phenomenon, and in the interpretations and narratives constructed to explain it, rather than in the experience itself.

One can also argue that the very notion of a "psychosocial" explanation is itself a product of contemporary cultural chauvenism, perhaps more so even than the ETH itself, since it is certainly far more deeply embedded in our culture than the ETH ever was. The difficulty with such "psychosocial" explanations, in my opinion, is that it's invariably extremely difficult to pin down what they are supposed to claim, how they are supposed to work, and what they are supposed to explain. Rather they seem to be a way of obscuring the problem behind a lot of fashionable-sounding jargon.

Cathy

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 16](#)

## Re: UFO Hunters Roswell Episode

From: **Stanton T Friedman** <[fsphys.nul](mailto:fsphys.nul)>  
Date: Tue, 16 Dec 2008 12:23:41 -0400  
Archived: Tue, 16 Dec 2008 22:35:01 -0500  
Subject: Re: UFO Hunters Roswell Episode

>From: Victor Golubik <[Diverge247.nul](mailto:Diverge247.nul)>  
>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>Date: Tue, 16 Dec 2008 03:37:31 EST  
>Subject: Re: UFO Hunters Roswell Episode

>>From: Gildas Bourdais <[bourdais.gildas.nul](mailto:bourdais.gildas.nul)>  
>>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>>Date: Thu, 11 Dec 2008 09:50:30 +0100  
>>Subject: Re: UFO Hunters Roswell Episode

>>>From: Victor Golubik <[Diverge247.nul](mailto:Diverge247.nul)>  
>>>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>>>Date: Wed, 10 Dec 2008 00:35:19 EST  
>>>Subject: Re: UFO Hunters Roswell Episode

<snip>

>>>Your willingness to ignore these questions (how many times over  
>>>the years?) shows prolonged deception, incompetence, or self-  
>>>delusion. Take your pick. I guess your gray basket is not so  
>>>gray after all...

>>Mr Golubik should know that the balloon story is baloney. To see  
>>that, you only need to buy a balsa wood stick. But he prefers to  
>>go into yet another labyrinth of bitter critiques, this time  
>>against Stan Friedman.

>>Stan, you don't have to answer that.

>There is nothing complicated about Roswell if we merely have the  
>confidence to quote the witnesses accounts and not some Soup de  
>Jour concoction fitting the overpriced and lurid menu items.

>It's unfortunate that many of the witnesses themselves used the  
>term "balsa wood" in their descriptions of the debris - a  
>curious fact not widely reported... still :)

It was a normal language back then to say heavy as lead and  
light as balsa. It was widely reported. Yes, check out witness  
testimony as on Recollections Of Roswell, or in The Roswell  
Legacy by Dr. Jesse Marcel and Linda Marcel.

Stan Friedman

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 16](#)

## Re: More Amateur Astronomers & UFOs

From: Chris Rutkowski <[rutkows.nul](mailto:rutkows.nul)>  
Date: Tue, 16 Dec 2008 16:35:19 -0600  
Archived: Tue, 16 Dec 2008 22:46:22 -0500  
Subject: Re: More Amateur Astronomers & UFOs

>Source: The Daily Grail - Plano, Texas, USA

><http://dailygrail.com/taxonomy/term/1>

>December 16th, 2008

>Amateur Astronomers And UFOs (Yes Again!)  
>by Greg Taylor

>I posted last week about attacks by 'Skeptologists' Brian  
>Dunning and Phil Plait on ufologists Stanton Friedman and Chris  
>Rutkowski respectively. Plait's complaint against Rutkowski  
>concerned Chris's criticisms of the Bad Astronomer's thoughts  
>about astronomers and UFOs (notably, the apparent lack of  
>sightings reported by amateur astronomers).

>In seeking more information about this topic, I came across an  
>article from 1981 which contains actual data regarding the  
>percentage of amateur astronomers who have sighted UFOs. Rather  
>ironically, the article is written by... Chris Rutkowski! I'm  
>reproducing a large part of the article below as it's quite  
>interesting and very topical to the question of amateur  
>astronomers and UFO sightings:

By golly! That Rutkowski fellow is practically everywhere these days!

Imagine an article written by him on this very subject more than 25 years ago! In an astronomical publication, no less!

>In his book, The Promise of Space, Arthur C. Clarke makes a  
>statement to the effect that amateur astronomers have not  
>reported seeing UFOs.

Sounds similar, doesn't it? Clarke, of course, also dismissed the notion of UFOs offhand without reviewing case data.

>An amateur astronomer named Gert Herb read this and decided to  
>determine if the statement was indeed true. The effort was  
>encouraged by the fact that in January of 1977, Peter Sturrock  
>published his report of a survey of professional astronomers on  
>the subject of UFO=92s. Now known as the Sturrock Report  
>(published as the Stanford University Institute for Plasma  
>Research Report Number 681), it received a 52% response rate  
>from 2,611 astronomers surveyed. Only 20% of the respondents  
>thought that UFO=92s were not worthy of scientific attention.  
>However, this included a bias whereby individuals who were  
>strongly opposed to the notion of UFO=92s would be inclined to  
>not respond to the survey. (It is obvious, though, that some  
>strongly opponent individuals might be impelled to respond with  
>their negative opinion.) A startling 4=BD% of the respondents  
>indicated that they had seen UFOs.

So let's say about 50 professional astronomers who responded said they had seen UFOs. And as for amateurs:

>... Mr. Herb sent a questionnaire to 8,526 amateurs in the  
>Astronomical League, the Association of Lunar and Planetary  
>Observers (ALPO) and the International Occultation Timing

>Association (IOTA). The AAVSO was also asked to participate, but  
>it declined. A total of only 1,805 individuals responded to the  
>survey. Of that group, 67% felt that UFO=92s "certainly, probably  
>or possibly exist". Asked whether they had ever seen an object  
>which they could not identify, despite their efforts to do so,  
>427 of the 1,805 answered to the affirmative. That is 23.7% of  
>the responding group, and 5.2% of the entire sample polled.

About 400 or so amateurs had seen UFOs? Not bad. But here's the  
good part:

>Mr. Herb also asked the amateurs about their observing  
>experience, in terms of whether they kept a regular observing  
>log, followed a structured observing program, worked in  
>conjunction with a group like IOTA or ALPO, and their length of  
>active amateur observing. On this basis, he selected 261  
>"senior" amateurs whom he felt possessed higher-than-average  
>abilities. These were considered as being most familiar with  
>objects in the night sky. Of the 261 selected, 74 had seen  
>objects which "resisted most exhaustive efforts of  
>identification."

In other words, these objects were not stars, planets or other  
identifiable conventional or astronomical objects, as judged by  
people more familiar with the night sky than most other  
skywatchers.

>The Sturrock and Herb reports show that both professional and  
>amateur astronomers have seen UFOs, bearing out the statement  
>often quoted that all kinds of people have seen UFOs. A large  
>percentage of both groups believe that UFOs deserve attention  
>from the scientific community. This writer also shares that  
>belief. If "UFOs do not exist", then a very unusual  
>sociological mechanism is at work, affecting large numbers of  
>people by causing them to report UFOs. This would indicate that  
>a study of this phenomenon is definitely warranted. If "UFOs do  
>exist", then they deserve serious study in that regard as well.  
>Note that this has no bearing whatsoever on the question of  
>extraterrestrial life. Although ET life may or may not be  
>involved, UFOs are, at present, a terrestrial human problem.

... and therefore should be studied by science, but without a  
bias that such objects do not exist, and with a thorough reading  
of the research literature!

>As I mentioned previously, in a further irony, Chris also has a  
>new book out in which he discusses this very topic (is Phil  
>Plait doing some viral marketing on his behalf?!): A World of  
>UFOs (Amazon US and UK).

Viral marketing for my new book... I like it.

Wait a minute, are you saying I should thank Phil? Send him a  
Christmas Card?

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# UFO Updates

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 17](#)

## Re: UFO Hunters Roswell Episode

From: Gildas Bourdais <[bourdais.gildas.nul](mailto:bourdais.gildas.nul)>  
Date: Wed, 17 Dec 2008 10:31:05 +0100  
Archived: Wed, 17 Dec 2008 07:09:28 -0500  
Subject: Re: UFO Hunters Roswell Episode

>From: Victor Golubik <[Diverge247.nul](mailto:Diverge247.nul)>  
>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>Date: Tue, 16 Dec 2008 03:37:31 EST  
>Subject: Re: UFO Hunters Roswell Episode

>>From: Gildas Bourdais <[bourdais.gildas.nul](mailto:bourdais.gildas.nul)>  
>>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>>Date: Thu, 11 Dec 2008 09:50:30 +0100  
>>Subject: Re: UFO Hunters Roswell Episode

>>>From: Victor Golubik <[Diverge247.nul](mailto:Diverge247.nul)>  
>>>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>>>Date: Wed, 10 Dec 2008 00:35:19 EST  
>>>Subject: Re: UFO Hunters Roswell Episode

<snip>

>>>Your willingness to ignore these questions (how many times over  
>>>the years?) shows prolonged deception, incompetence, or self-  
>>>delusion. Take your pick. I guess your gray basket is not so  
>>>gray after all...

>>Mr Golubik should know that the balloon story is baloney. To see  
>>that, you only need to buy a balsa wood stick. But he prefers to  
>>go into yet another labyrinth of bitter critiques, this time  
>>against Stan Friedman.

>>Stan, you don't have to answer that.

>There is nothing complicated about Roswell if we merely have the  
>confidence to quote the witnesses accounts and not some Soup de  
>Jour concoction fitting the overpriced and lurid menu items.

>It's unfortunate that many of the witnesses themselves used the  
>term "balsa wood" in their descriptions of the debris - a  
>curious fact not widely reported... still :)

Viktor,

The few of them who used the term also said that it was not  
balsa wood.

Gildas Bourdais

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## 'The Stunning Irish Triangle UFO Video'

From: **UFO UpDates - Toronto** <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
Date: Wed, 17 Dec 2008 09:44:32 -0500  
Archived: Wed, 17 Dec 2008 09:44:32 -0500  
Subject: 'The Stunning Irish Triangle UFO Video'

Source: Real UFOs.Net

<http://www.realufos.net/2008/10/irish-triangle-ufo-video.html>

Tuesday, October 07, 2008

The Stunning Irish Triangle UFO Video

This is the apparent Irish triangle UFO I recently posted about. The footage was seen at the Irish UFO Conference and was recorded by senior Garda [Police] pilot and witnessed by a Fianna Fail [Irish] politician. If its a CGI its well done, if anyone knows anymore about the footage please reply to this post.

...10.35pm on August 3 near Dunboyne was also played and replayed to over 70 delegates who attended the fifth Irish International UFO conference in Carrick-on-Shannon.

<more>

[Thanks to 'The Norm' for the lead]

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 17](#)

## Woman Claims Abducted By Aliens In North Platte

From: **UFO UpDates - Toronto** <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
Date: Wed, 17 Dec 2008 09:51:15 -0500  
Archived: Wed, 17 Dec 2008 09:51:15 -0500  
Subject: Woman Claims Abducted By Aliens In North Platte

Source: The North Platte Bulletin - Nebraska, USA

<http://tinyurl.com/5rkvcw>

12/10/2008

Woman Claims Abducted By Aliens In North Platte  
by Frank Graham  
North Platte Bulletin

In 1989, at a UFO and UFO abduction conference in Laramie Wyo, a woman reported that she had been abducted by a UFO from their farm in North Platte.

The woman, named Joyce Updike, said the abduction occurred after a UFO landed in her family's farmyard in 1959 and again in 1967 but that she had no memory of it until she went under regressive hypnosis.

Updike told the audience that Dr. Leo Sprinkle of New Mexico hypnotized her and that's when she remembered the abductions.

Updike said in 1967 a UFO landed in their farmyard. She said that for years all she remembered was light filling the house and the farmyard. She said she locked the house and went to bed. She said she awoke during the night with all her clothes on and on top of the bedcovers in the heat of August. She said she wondered about that night until her hypnosis when she learned she had been abducted by aliens.

Updike claimed the hypnosis revealed the 1967 abduction was her second.

The first, Updike said, was in 1959 when she drove her little red Rambler station wagon to one of their pastures. She said it was there she met two space people. She said she was embarrassed because she was barefooted and, in 1959, women were not supposed to leave their houses like that. She said she also was wearing an apron, another no-no.

Updike said the encounters changed her profoundly and she realized people thought she started acting a little "goofy", but never understood why until the hypnosis.

Updike recounted that the space people were peaceful. She said they wore "space suit like" outfits, thick soled shoes and one of the men held two metal rods that he was aimed at her while the other climbed over a nearby wire fence and walked to a landed object, partly hidden by a hill.

Updike said she then found herself inside the object on top of an examining table, two men of average height and well built stood next to her, another man wearing a three piece loose fitting "surgical" outfit with a hood and a smoke colored visor over the eyes, stood by a circular, glass covered instrument panel, and he also wore gauntlet gloves with pointed pincer type clamps. This man approached her, raised her right arm by the

elbow, "at this point all conscious recall ended".

Updike said that she learned that under any circumstances, she could no longer trust time and that the space people had a "plan".

Ruth Montgomery, a former syndicated newspaper columnist turned paranormal writer, chronicled Updike's story in her book, *Aliens Among Us*.

Updike's story was excerpted from the proceedings of the Rocky Mountain Conference in Laramie, Wyo., 1983.

[Thanks to Greg Boone for the lead]

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## Re: Plait's Bad Astronomical Observation

From: **Martin Shough** <[parcellular.nul](mailto:parcellular.nul)>  
Date: Wed, 17 Dec 2008 12:24:36 -0000  
Archived: Wed, 17 Dec 2008 09:53:24 -0500  
Subject: Re: Plait's Bad Astronomical Observation

>From: Cathy Reason <[CathyM.nul](mailto:CathyM.nul)>  
>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>Date: Tue, 16 Dec 2008 15:50:12 -0000  
>Subject: Re: Plait's Bad Astronomical Observation

>>From: Martin Shough <[parcellular.nul](mailto:parcellular.nul)>  
>>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>>Date: Mon, 15 Dec 2008 16:14:51 -0000  
>>Subject: Re: Plait's Bad Astronomical Observation

>>" ... whatever underlying connecting thread of anomalous  
>>reality there may be it's hard not to conclude that the  
>>psychosocial overlay is significant and arguably constitutes  
>>90%  
>>(say) of what it is that we experience."

>But what does this mean, exactly?

Hi Cathy

As I said, "I'm not sure what it means". I said that historical facts suggest that imagery in the reported experiences appears to be coupled with technological imagery that we also find in the contemporary culture, but that I "don't wholly buy" the standard psychosocial hypothesis (PSH).

The PSH has two usual forms. The strong form is that there are no new empirical phenomena to be discovered (no radical UNKNOWNS) and that all of the strangeness (by which I mean the bizarrerie as well as the technical meaning of strangeness in Hynek's sense) comes from human error and imagination imposing cultural imagery. The weak form is that there may be some poorly understood natural phenomena (maybe like ball lightning or earthquake lights) underlying some reports that are technically strange (Hynek sense), so that there are some radical UNKNOWNS but these are distorted by an overlay of non-physical bizarrerie that comes from human error and imagination imposing cultural imagery.

I have never yet been seriously tempted by strong PSH. I have some sympathy with weak PSH. But I wish to reserve my position with respect to a third possibility: That it may be part of the physical essence of an unknown phenomenon itself (which could in principle be alien and/or intelligent and/or natural or artificial) that the imagery that we identify after the fact as cultural imagery is somehow reinforced in (if not born in) the interaction between 'it' and the human who experiences it - i.e. the causal direction may involve a feedback loop.

I'm open to this because of two facts (both of which are unfortunately difficult to justify without huge and detailed expositions):

1) a strong dose of bizarrerie appears to be radical in the UNKNOWN category, not just superficial. If it was just superficial then I might be comfortable with the weak form of PSH, but in my judgment it isn't as easy as it should be (if weak PSH were true) to separate the bizarre and the merely technically strange. And

2) historically speaking, some of the underlying constants that remain when one has tried to isolate an essence below the contemporary cultural imagery seem to me to be very hard to understand as having psychological significance, and from the point of view of PSH their survival mystifies me (this is especially notable IMO when you look along the punctuated continuum of entity encounters that includes fairies and what we used to call UFO occupants, latterly transformed into little grey abductors).

>At one extreme, one can argue  
>that everything we experience is psychological in nature, since  
>experience is by definition psychological. This is tautological  
>and surely not very useful.

Obviously not useful as a conclusion, no. But worth remembering as a premise

>On the other hand, research on perception over the last  
>twenty-five years or so, indicates that perception is pretty  
>much hardwired into the brain and relatively unaffected by  
>psychosocial factors.

I'm not sure what "relatively unaffected" means, but presumably it might mean "somewhat affected". I agree that PSH proponents can often claim too much for the effect of perceptual set in the real world. A good recent example of this is provided by the summer spate of Thai lantern (fire balloon) sightings across the UK and elsewhere. There was a quick tendency to say "Look how easily people are deceived and see these clusters of lights as attached to unbelievable UFOs, and look how often they perceive them as giant triangles because that's what modern UFO lore tells them to expect". But as I pointed out a number of times on another list (without attracting either serious interest or rebuttal) these reports actually demonstrated time and time again that the underlying perceptual information tended to be preserved remarkably well, even though witnesses typically expressed amazement and wonder and believed they were seeing something truly alien.

>I agree that there is clearly a very large psychosocial  
>component to the UFO phenomenon, but this is mainly to be found  
>in the individual and cultural reactions to the phenomenon, and  
>in the interpretations and narratives constructed to explain it,  
>rather than in the experience itself.

Well, yes, this separation and polarisation of factors might be what we conventionally expect. This is exactly why I don't find PSH wholly convincing, because what appear superficially to be psychosocial factors do appear to be innate to the experience itself in cases that are hard to explain. This puzzlingly anthropomorphic component is what Mike Tarbell originally referred to the other day.

>One can also argue that the very notion of a "psychosocial"  
>explanation is itself a product of contemporary cultural  
>chauvenism, perhaps more so even than the ETH itself, since it  
>is certainly far more deeply embedded in our culture than the  
>ETH ever was. The difficulty with such "psychosocial"  
>explanations, in my opinion, is that it's invariably extremely  
>difficult to pin down what they are supposed to claim, how they  
>are supposed to work, and what they are supposed to explain.  
>Rather they seem to be a way of obscuring the problem behind a  
>lot of fashionable-sounding jargon.

I agree that PSH enjoys what we might call "a better class" of cultural endorsement and reward. It is also its own reward, and this is a very real factor in why it can be persuasive - the fact is that the great majority of reports are explainable conventionally, thus by making conventional explanation your goal you are hitching your wagon to a rising star and having your expectations continually reinforced puts you in a comfort zone. "Believers" occupy a very different kind of comfort zone. By contrast, to stay on the razor edge of uncertainty is extremely uncomfortable and enjoys almost no reward at all.

I also agree that on the whole PSH is not very rigorously worked out and, as I said, fails in its strong form. In its weak form it does not very comfortably account for some of the UNKNOWNNS which seem to have just too bizarre a character. The same things

might be said of ETH of course. The separator usually resorted to here is "economy", but this too is problematic IMO.

Martin

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## The Living Dead

From: **UFO UpDates - Toronto** <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
Date: Wed, 17 Dec 2008 10:08:53 -0500  
Archived: Wed, 17 Dec 2008 10:08:53 -0500  
Subject: The Living Dead

Source: The Sunday Times - London, England, UK

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/faith/article5324234.ece>

December 14, 2008

The Living Dead

The afterlife has long been an article of religious faith. And now scientists are finally putting the idea to the test

by Bryan Appleyard

You are dying. Twenty seconds ago your heart and breathing stopped and your pupils became fixed and dilated. Your brain cells are in a state of panic, trying every trick they know to get hold of oxygen and glucose. An electroencephalogram (EEG) would show no electrical activity in your cortex, the thin outer layer of your brain. You have flatlined.

As usual, a young, inexperienced doctor is first on the scene. They're fitter and faster. There's only time to confirm you're not breathing before starting 30 chest compressions followed by two breaths into your mouth. A cart arrives with a defibrillator, the electric-shock machine, as do a few older, less fit doctors. The machine is not, sadly, one of the sexy, telegenic ones with paddles and George Clooney shouting "Clear!" With this machine the electrodes are stuck to your chest. The paddle variety caused too many shocks to the staff, so they've been dropped by the NHS. You are shocked. Nothing. A blood sample is taken and rushed for instant analysis. You're given repeated injections of adrenaline and, depending on your exact condition, atropine, amiodarine and magnesium. Still nothing. The doctors and nurses work furiously for, say, 10 minutes if you're an old lady with pneumonia or half an hour or more if you're a young man who's fallen into a cold pond. Nothing. Finally, a watching consultant officially announces that you no longer exist. It's over. The confusing babble known as "your life" has ended. Or has it?

You see, the weird thing is that you may have flatlined, be "clinically dead", but you've been watching the whole thing from the ceiling. As soon as your heart stopped, you just drifted out of your body and found you could float anywhere. You feel incredibly well, bathed in bright light, suffused with a deep sense of peace and knowing that, at last, it all makes sense. Some of your dead relatives are here and, behind you, there is a tunnel from which the light floods down. Perhaps you can see Jesus at the far end of it, or Muhammad or Krishna. The chaos at your bedside is interesting, amusing even, but trivial. Death, you now know with absolutely certainty, is an illusion.

You're having a near-death experience (NDE). They happen all the time. They may happen to everybody, however they die. Remarkably similar experiences have been reported throughout history in all cultures. Obviously, most are lost to us, because being near

death is usually the immediate prelude to being dead. But precisely because high-tech hospital resuscitations are so effective - around 15% of cardiac-arrest victims are revived - we can now regularly hear news apparently from beyond the grave. And it sounds like very good news indeed. You don't really die and you feel great. What could be nicer?

NDEs are so common, so vivid and so life-transforming - survivors frequently become more compassionate, religious and serene as a result of what they experience - that scientists, philosophers, priests, psychologists and cultists all want a piece of the action. Their problem is that the human mind is unreachable. We can't see what's going on in there. Even if we could rush cardiac-arrest patients into an MRI scanner, we'd only see lights in the brain. We wouldn't know what they meant. But now NDEs are to be scientifically investigated in a US and UK study involving 25 hospitals. This is co-ordinated by Dr Sam Parnia at Southampton University and is designed to find 1,500 survivors of cardiac arrests - "clinical death" - who tell such stories.

"I see no reason why a priest should tell us about death when we have all this technology available," says Dr Parnia. "Death is a biological process and there's no reason why we shouldn't study it through medicine."

Getting a scientific handle on this phenomenon is fiendishly difficult. Dead people don't report back, and it is very hard to assess the status of survivor accounts - are they merely hallucinations occurring before the crisis or just after? Perhaps they are no more than the brain's way of soothing your path to extinction.

Cardiac arrests are a good place to start because they provide a clear-cut moment when the dying process begins and when, clinically speaking, you may be said to be dead. "It might in fact be better," says Dr Parnia, "to say that experiences after cardiac arrests are actual death experiences rather than near-death experiences."

Arrests also happen a lot in hospitals, so the experimental conditions are reasonably controllable. But details like bright lights, tunnels and feelings of peace cannot be pinned down experimentally. One aspect of near-death experiences, however, can be: the out-of-body experience (OBE), seeing yourself and your surroundings from outside. When you are looking down from the ceiling, what, exactly, do you see? Many survivors report with remarkable accuracy what went on when they should, in theory, be utterly unconscious. This seems to be hard, testable evidence.

There are thousands of reports of OBEs but the two most famous cases are Pam Reynolds and Maria's Tennis Shoe. Reynolds, an American singer, watched and later reported on with remarkable accuracy the top of her own skull being removed by surgeons before she moved into a bright glowing realm. But it was Reynolds's account of the surgical implements used and the words spoken in the theatre that make the case so intriguing.

Maria, meanwhile, underwent cardiac arrest in 1977. She floated out of her body, drifted round the hospital and noticed a tennis shoe on a window sill. It was later found to be exactly where she said it was. The shoe was said to be invisible from the ground and not in any location where Maria could have seen it. Such stories suggest that OBEs should be scientifically verifiable.

Parnia's study is aimed solely at OBEs in cases of cardiac arrest. It uses a technique known as "hidden target". In the participating hospitals he is placing pictures on high shelves so that they will be invisible both to patients and staff. But anybody floating near the ceiling would see them. A substantial number of accurate reports of the pictures would seem to establish the reality of OBEs. There are numerous problems with this. Parnia's study does not have enough money to put laptops on the shelves generating random pictures to ensure that cheating is impossible. Furthermore, previous hidden-target experiments by, among others, Parnia himself and Dr Penny Sartori at Morrision Hospital in Swansea have failed to produce a single positive result. In fairness, this may be because the last thing that a floating dying person, with Jesus behind him

and his body being pounded in front of him, will notice is some odd picture left on a shelf. This leaves believers in OBEs with an evidential mountain to climb.

There are plenty of sceptics who will pounce on negative results or even positive ones with any signs of ambiguity. Dr Peter Fenwick, a neuro-psychiatrist who has overseen Parnia and Sartori's work, admits that whatever the outcome, there will still be "wriggle room" for sceptics.

"People can say they could have cheated, but if we have 50 or 60 of these cases where people leave their bodies and some see the pictures and some do not, then it looks like from the phenomenology that this does occur," he says.

Hidden targets are the best key science has for unlocking the true nature of NDEs. If Parnia comes up with positive results, then even the most hardened sceptics will have to pay attention. They will force a serious rethinking of all current ideas about the brain and the mind.

"This is definitely a legitimate scientific inquiry," says Chris French, professor of psychology at Goldsmiths College, London, and co-editor of The Skeptic magazine. "Refereed proposals of this kind have my full support. There's no doubt that people have these experiences, and there is something of great psychological interest to be explained here."

French's position is important. He specialises in paranormal beliefs and experiences. In some cases his position is that of outright scepticism. For example, people started reporting alien-abduction scenarios - flying saucers, anal probes - in large numbers only after a single case, that of Betty and Barney Hill, was publicised in Look magazine in 1966. This was clearly a kind of mental virus, made more virulent by the fact that most of the accounts were retrieved under hypnosis. But NDEs were widely reported even before they became known to a mass audience through Raymond Moody's 1975 book Life after Life. And hypnosis has not been involved in retrieving the accounts. The consistency and clarity of these reports across cultures and time zones convince French that, even if NDEs may not prove the afterlife, they do cast light on the human mind.

"There is a core experience that is essentially the same across cultures. Christians don't see Hindu gods and Hindus don't see Jesus, so there is some kind of cultural overlay, but we are dealing with people attempting to put an ineffable experience into words. There's a common core that has as its basis the fact that we all have very similar brains, so when things go awry we are likely to have similar experiences."

And, as in all things, it is the human mind that is at the heart of the matter. If we can float out of our bodies, then the mind is separable from, and, perhaps not dependent on, the brain. Twelve years after Tom Wolfe famously announced in Forbes magazine that, as a result of developments in neuroscience, "Your soul just died," it may be time to say: "No, it didn't."

But is such a thing as a separable mind possible or even conceivable? The answer is yes. In explaining why, it will be necessary to plunge into philosophy and quantum mechanics. Bear with me: it will be as painless as a cardiac arrest and much more interesting. And at the end of it, you might just believe you are immortal.

The world, on the face of it, is made of two ingredients: thoughts and things. A brick, for example, is, on the one hand, a fact in the world and, on the other, a combination of all my feelings about bricks in general and this brick in particular. This is generally regarded as a very odd state of affairs. My thoughts and feelings are as real to me as the brick, but they don't seem to be made of the same stuff. Indeed, they don't seem to be made of any stuff. The belief that they aren't, that the world is made of two different substances - bricks and thoughts of bricks - is called dualism. Dualism is the default human conviction, embraced by religions, philosophies and, in fact, by everybody in their lives - if we didn't embrace some degree of it, we'd be constantly worried about crashing our cars into other people's thoughts. Dualism means that the mind and the brain are not made of the same things and therefore in theory, they can be separated, as in NDEs.

Much of modern science can be seen as an attempt to disprove dualism. In the strictly scientific world view there is only one stuff out of which bricks and brains are constructed. My thoughts and feelings are just what the brain does. The brain gives us thoughts to provide the illusion of control. It's largely an illusion that the mind has any effect on the world. We're all imprisoned in the chains of cause and effect that started with the big bang. But in spite of numerous claims, this remains a statement of faith. Neuroscientists may be able to show what happens in the brain when we think or when we exercise "free will", but this cannot be shown to be proof that dualism is wrong. "Look," they say, "we've proved it. It's just neurons firing sparks at each other." Well, no. Those electrical patterns are not thought itself; they may be no more than symptoms of thought. For all our technology, nobody has yet seen a thought, nobody has shown how matter becomes mind. How it does remains one of the most profound questions any human ever asks himself.

Enter quantum mechanics. This started as the study of very small things - subatomic particles. It is the most effective scientific idea ever - it powers your computer, TV, anything dependent on electronics. So we know it's true enough to work, but it's also weird enough to defy belief. Everything about the discoveries in this area turned out to be in defiance of reason. Crucially, two things were discovered. First, particles can continue to be connected to each other even though separated by long distances - billions of light years, even: a phenomenon known as non-locality. This is, in our big world, impossible. Second, quantum theory showed that the mind can affect the world. If, for example, you say that light is made of particles, then, obligingly, light will be particles. If you say it is waves, then it will be waves. The questions we ask of nature determine the answers it gives. Anybody who claims to understand why these things should be is lying.

Henry Stapp must come close. He is a distinguished physicist at the University of California at Berkeley. He is convinced that quantum mechanics applies to large as well as small things. The world as a whole is just as weird as the inner workings of the atom. The truth of the world and ourselves is that the whole thing is a chaotic swirl of energy and particles. But we don't see it, because we make our own reality, our own truth, by only asking certain questions. The brick is a product of our mind; to all-seeing, non-human eyes, it is just a swirl of almost nothing.

"The observer," Stapp tells me, "is brought into quantum dynamics in an essential way not only as a passive observer but as an active part of the dynamics. He makes certain choices not specified by the physical dynamics which seem to come from the psychologically described realm rather than the physically described realm.

"So what happens when a person dies? Does this psychological part just fade away? That's what most would think. On the other hand, there are these experiments done by physicians in connection with NDEs which seem to be evidence that brain death or total brain inactivity does not totally put out the psychological aspect. The relationship between the brain and the psychic experience is not as simple as one might have expected."

On top of that, quantum non-locality could mean the mind is capable of being non-local to the brain, of floating to the ceiling of the room. It can become, as Stapp puts it, "unglued". His words "certain choices not specified by the physical dynamics" are world-changing. This idea would, if widely accepted, end the reign of scientific materialism, replacing it with a new dualism. It would mean the universe is not a "causally closed" system, locked down since the big bang, as mainstream science has always insisted it is, but open to freedom of choice by the autonomous, floating, matter-altering mind. We would have regained our souls.

Positive results from Parnia's survey might foreshadow the soul's return. The effects would be seismic. First, you'd have to accustom yourself to the idea that your mind is not just the little man inside your skull - he really is out there in the world. Second, you'd have to accept that a lot of the things that now seem like products of charlatans and grifters -

telepathy, spiritualism, even psychokinesis - will suddenly seem much more credible. Thirdly, you need not anticipate instant oblivion on death but a series of very weird and very illuminating experiences.

This would be a revolution, but it would also be a return to the past. Until the rise of secular materialism over the past 200 years, humans always lived with the conviction that the world was made of far more than brick-stuff, and they also lived with a lively sense of the presence of the dead.

But a bucket of iced water is necessary at this point. Few scientists think any of this is going to happen. Believers in a new dualism - or, indeed, believers that there is anything more to NDEs than a psychologically interesting hallucination - are still in a small minority. The problem is that all the evidence remains anecdotal, and even the most impressive stories, like Reynolds's, tend to look less convincing on closer examination. "There are many claims of this kind," writes the prominent psychologist Susan Blackmore, "but in my long decades of research into NDEs I never met any convincing evidence that they are true."

Sceptics like Blackmore and Chris French may welcome the Parnia study, but others are less tolerant. Attacks have been launched by hard sceptics against all of the most ambitious claims for NDEs. In The Skeptic magazine, Jason Braithwaite of Birmingham University wrote a withering deconstruction of one of the most headline-generating scientific publications claiming survival of the mind after death, a Dutch paper in 2001 calling for a new science of consciousness as a result of findings from NDEs. "Van Lommel et al provided no evidence at all that the mind or consciousness is separate from brain processes," Braithwaite concludes. "Their findings are entirely consistent with contemporary neuroscience and are in line with the general dying-brain account of NDE. It appears that the position of the survivalist is still one based on faith."

That, in a nutshell, is the mainstream position. What Braithwaite means by the "dying-brain account" is simply that NDEs are just what happen when the brain starts shutting down; they may, indeed, be an evolved mechanism to console the psyche by distracting it from the unimaginable and intolerable prospect of its own extinction. They may not even happen when the patient is flatlining but when he is slipping into or out of that state. As with dreams, it is often hard to say when they actually happen. Or, even if NDEs do happen during flatlining, this may be due to deep brain activity undetected by an EEG, which only measures activity on the surface of the brain. Recent evidence from a Cambridge team who used MRI scans to watch the brains of patients in a deep coma, or "persistent vegetative state", suggests deep brain activity may, indeed, make patients remarkably aware of their surroundings. In other words, the clinically dead may not be quite as dead as we think.

Furthermore, NDE-type experiences may not be such unusual events. Fighter pilots sometimes experience G-Loc - G-force-induced loss of consciousness. This produces high alertness and clarity of thought, pleasurable "dreamlets", OBE-type floating sensations and sights of family and friends, all very NDE. And, at University College London, the neuroscientist Henrik Ehrsson recently induced OBEs in people by a clever arrangement of head-mounted video displays. In fact, Susan Blackmore argues that we have OBEs all the time. Think about your last holiday. Picture a scene from that holiday. Many will see that scene as if from outside themselves - they will be a character in the picture, as they are in OBEs reported in NDE narratives. It's just what our brains do, say the sceptics: they secrete mind in all its fabulous variations and with all its incorrigible delusions. There's nothing there to get all weird about. The soul is not a soul, the brick is a brick and the brain is just a 1.3kg bag of water, fat and carbohydrates, subtly organised to provide us with the illusions of freedom and thought.

But there are, as Peter Fenwick puts it, enough "straws in the wind" to make one wonder. However fierce the sceptical onslaught, fascination at the NDE phenomenon is not likely to be diminished. Survivors are often fundamentally transformed by it, convinced they have been in contact with another world. This has led to NDEs being seized upon as evidence of the truth of religion. Elisabeth K=Fcbler-Ross, a psychiatrist and counsellor



of the dying, popularised this idea, and her conviction that the bright lights of the NDE were precisely what they seemed to be: a revelation of a divine plan. "In this light," she wrote, "you will experience for the first time what man could have been. In this presence, which many people compare with Christ or God, with love or light, you will come to know that all your life on Earth was nothing but a school that you had to go through in order to learn special lessons."

NDEs have fired the imaginations of the religious. But they also fire the imaginations of the investigators. Everybody with an interest in this area has been inspired by a personal experience of a confrontation with death and by the startling vividness and transformative powers of the NDE. Whatever it is, it means something.

The hard sceptics will say that this is all nonsense, that whatever happens in your head when Clooney shouts "Clear!" is just another delusion generated by the material workings of that 1.3kg bag. However, in the present state of our knowledge, this is crude and premature. We should not only wait for the results of Parnia's experiment, we should also consider the deep weirdness of the world revealed by Stapp and quantum theory. Hard materialism is just one more philosophical position, and the authentic sceptical reaction is not a derisive snort but a humble acceptance that there are more things in heaven and Earth than are dreamt of in any of our philosophies.

[Thanks to 'The Norm' for the lead]

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 17](#)

## Re: 'The Stunning Irish Triangle UFO Video'

From: **Martin Shough** <[parcellular.nul](mailto:parcellular.nul)>  
Date: Wed, 17 Dec 2008 15:02:28 -0000  
Archived: Wed, 17 Dec 2008 10:12:52 -0500  
Subject: Re: 'The Stunning Irish Triangle UFO Video'

>Source: Real UFOs.Net

><http://www.realufos.net/2008/10/irish-triangle-ufo-video.html>

>Tuesday, October 07, 2008

>The Stunning Irish Triangle UFO Video

>This is the apparent Irish triangle UFO I recently posted  
>about.

>The footage was seen at the Irish UFO Conference and was  
>recorded by senior Garda [Police] pilot and witnessed by a  
>Fianna Fail [Irish] politician. If its a CGI its well done, if  
>anyone knows anymore about the footage please reply to this  
>post.

>...10.35pm on August 3 near Dunboyne was also played and  
>replayed to over 70 delegates who attended the fifth Irish  
>International UFO conference in Carrick-on-Shannon.

This is nothing to do with any Irish sighting. It is an American  
fake, produced as an entry for a fun "man made UFO" competition.  
See:

<http://tinyurl.com/3zt25c>

MS

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## Re: UFO Hunters Roswell Episode

From: Victor Golubik <[Diverge247.nul](mailto:Diverge247.nul)>  
Date: Wed, 17 Dec 2008 10:01:49 EST  
Archived: Wed, 17 Dec 2008 11:15:00 -0500  
Subject: Re: UFO Hunters Roswell Episode

>From: Steven Kaeser <[steve.nul](mailto:steve.nul)>  
>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>Date: Tue, 16 Dec 2008 08:24:34 -0500  
>Subject: Re: UFO Hunters Roswell Episode

>>From: Victor Golubik <[Diverge247.nul](mailto:Diverge247.nul)>  
>>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>>Date: Tue, 16 Dec 2008 03:37:31 EST  
>>Subject: Re: UFO Hunters Roswell Episode

><snip>

>>There is nothing complicated about Roswell if we merely have the  
>>confidence to quote the witnesses accounts and not some Soup de  
>>Jour concoction fitting the overpriced and lurid menu items.

>>It's unfortunate that many of the witnesses themselves used the  
>>term "balsa wood" in their descriptions of the debris - a  
>>curious fact not widely reported... still :)

>Victor,

>The fact that people will describe objects using terms they are  
>familiar with is nothing new, and I believe that the  
>descriptions you refer to were in reference to the weight, and  
>had nothing to do with tensile strength nor other physical  
>attributes. Indeed, you probably have to take each response in  
>context with the question and full answer, but everyone tends to  
>cherry pick their information to prove their theories.

>While this back and forth is interesting in respects, we're  
>seeing little more than posturing and I doubt that any new  
>information is really being put forward here.

>Steve

Thanks for proving my point, that even today so called followers  
of the Roswell story line can't get their information lined up  
based upon relevance. The whole reason for my point here is  
\_not\_ to be cherry picking the witness testimony.

If Marcel said he was holding up the actual debris and we can  
inspect it's configuration and attributes, we can easily conclude  
that the case is much more straightforward than convoluted.  
There is no labyrinth! There is no "Twelve Angry Men" Scenario  
with Roswell."

If expansive (rare!) Mogul Balloons were not raining down in  
the same area of the country and/or their material attributes  
were remarkably dissimilar with the described debris we would  
have a much better case. Therefore, it is pure comedy to think  
we can circumvent these problems by exalting certain portions  
of witnesses testimony beyond reason or absent their very own  
words. In every instance their 'entire' testimony has to be  
present - again my point not yours!

The Roswell Incident is the most relevant book simply because it  
is least afflicted with the Cherry picking process. Again, my  
point not yours!

I investigated Roswell, talked with the witnesses, lived there, and have no monetary motive. I have much more to lose than gain by my insinuations. I also provided a document to prove my claims here. And, I have not changed my opinion on the case since the end of my investigation.

How any one of scientific caliber can exemplify Roswell to the world as one of the best cases is further proof of the ongoing lie - that they continue to reverberate with the falsification process itself, ignore their scientific duties, and walk a fine line with confabulation (mildly put) for the sake of short term monetary gain.

Roswell is much more about the investigation process than a 'real' UFO case. It is actually a textbook example of almost every investigative faux pas and witness malady. Therein lies its value.

golubik

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## Dark Energy Stifling Growth In Universe

From: **Greg Boone** <[Evolbaby.nul](mailto:Evolbaby.nul)>  
Date: Wed, 17 Dec 2008 02:59:20 EST  
Archived: Wed, 17 Dec 2008 11:16:00 -0500  
Subject: Dark Energy Stifling Growth In Universe

[http://www.nasa.gov/home/hqnews/2008/dec/HO\\_08329\\_DARK\\_ENERGY.html](http://www.nasa.gov/home/hqnews/2008/dec/HO_08329_DARK_ENERGY.html)

Doh!

So we're getting closer to why we don't know everything.

Physicists are still working on the Theory of Everything and maybe they should work on the Reality of Nothing.

Maybe instead of trying to know everything we should strive for ultimate ignorance because the bass ackwards way this universe works in regard to we humans, if we strive for ignorance we'll end up at the front door of ultimate knowledge.

Anhow, hats off to NASA for whittling down the mysteries of Dark Energy. It shows more of why we need to endorse the space program and get back to being a nation of explorers through education and not manipulation. I remember those days of the space program when everyone and their brother was involved. I remember my mom working on the Apollo programs and I even won several science fairs. NASA and JPL were always around to egg people on. It was a great time for learning and add to that Sesame Street premiered! Gotta love those 60's!

Best,

Greg  
[ufomafia.com/blog](http://ufomafia.com/blog)

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## Re: The Living Dead

From: **Martin Shough** <[parcellular.nul](mailto:parcellular.nul)>  
Date: Wed, 17 Dec 2008 15:28:51 -0000  
Archived: Wed, 17 Dec 2008 11:17:00 -0500  
Subject: Re: The Living Dead

>Source: The Sunday Times - London, England, UK

><http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/faith/article5324234.ece>

>December 14, 2008

>The Living Dead

>The afterlife has long been an article of religious faith. And  
>now scientists are finally putting the idea to the test

>by Bryan Appleyard

<snip>

>That, in a nutshell, is the mainstream position. What  
>Braithwaite means by the "dying-brain account" is simply that  
>NDEs are just what happen when the brain starts shutting down;  
>they may, indeed, be an evolved mechanism to console the psyche  
>by distracting it from the unimaginable and intolerable prospect  
>of its own extinction.

I wonder exactly how a gene coding for a mechanism that is only  
triggered by imminent death is supposed to acquire Darwinian  
survival value?

An interesting article, though.

Martin Shough

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## Re: The Living Dead

From: Sean Jones <[Sean.Jones.nul](mailto:Sean.Jones.nul)>  
Date: Wed, 17 Dec 2008 15:28:57 +0000  
Archived: Wed, 17 Dec 2008 11:19:29 -0500  
Subject: Re: The Living Dead

>Source: The Sunday Times - London, England, UK

><http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/faith/article5324234.ece>

>December 14, 2008

>The Living Dead

>The afterlife has long been an article of religious faith. And  
>now scientists are finally putting the idea to the test

>by Bryan Appleyard

<snip>

Fascinating, well thought out article.

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## The Hour Is Late

From: **UFO UpDates - Toronto** <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
Date: Wed, 17 Dec 2008 12:20:00 -0500  
Archived: Wed, 17 Dec 2008 12:20:00 -0500  
Subject: The Hour Is Late

Source: Whitley Strieber's Unknown Country.Com - San Antonio,  
Texas, USA

<http://www.unknowncountry.com/journal/?id=349>

Friday December 12th, 2008

The Hour Is Late  
by Whitley Strieber

It is late here, midnight passing. December has come again, and for the past few months I have been enduring the same demonic nights that I experience every year at this time, as my spirit relives the hard pilgrimage that led to the night of December 26, 1985.

The feelings are so complex, the fears so deep and the love, too, so deep, that sometimes, even after all these years, the whole emotional avalanche of having the visitors emerge into my life threatens to drown me.

It was not all bad, not by any means, and that what makes my present condition so hard. I have lost loves, great loves, towering loves, left behind me a life and experiences that are somewhere close to the pinnacle what can happen to a living man.

I know that what I did is considered nothing - the foolish bagatelles of a pitiful man with a deranged imagination, or even a frank liar - but it was all real, and there was far more of it than I have ever said, and I am so lonely now that it is a physical agony, and yet, along with the loneliness there is also a fear that is greater than my blood, greater than my soul, I would think, that breaks me on its wheel in these lonely hours in the early winter, every year.

I have lived most of my life, and over its course been given a great blessing, to see truly and accurately to a land beyond death, and see its sacred population, and even gain friends there.

But what did it mean? Is there really an afterlife, or was it a trick to force me into the state of question in which I now live? Am I standing before a door, or, like Tantalus, doomed to forever seek a meal I will never consume in the form of answers I will never receive.

I am deeply, profoundly angry at the way I have been treated by the world. I brought one of the premiere human experiences to the surface and my reward has been a mock Science Fiction Hugo, and to become a star of the television show Southpark as the victim of a 'rectal probe' - the character skillfully changed, of course, so that I could not sue or claim theft of my story.

It hurts to get raped and it humiliates beyond what you may be able to believe. Indeed, it humiliated me so much that it took me twenty years to tell my own wife the frank truth of it.



Seeing myself mocked week after week on television, and not just on Southpark, God knows, and knowing that I was telling the truth and they were tormenting me because they believed otherwise, was a horrible thing.

I have been hounded also by official sources. Right before my last nonfiction book Confirmation was published, Parade Magazine suddenly printed a false story that I was a temporal lobe epileptic and had given a large contribution to the Epilepsy Foundation.

This story had been placed there to destroy my credibility, and it worked. Sales of my books were already plummeting because of Southpark and other tormentors. I got Parade to publish a retraction, but the damage was done.

So I have known all these years that there were dark forces involved in this, forces that want to keep mankind weak and confused, and never let him out.

Now, in this late hour at the age of sixty three, I feel an extraordinary bitterness. What a waste, all that knowledge and relationship! But I was driven broke with my courageous wife to a life far away in Texas. Since then the people who bought the house haven't noticed a thing, but is was not for the house that the visitors came, it was for me.

What a rich trove of knowledge is being wasted by denying their reality, and not just what I have to offer. I'm only a small part of a great movement that will, in the end, affect human life and human meaning more profoundly than anything else that has happened across the whole reach of history.

And we pretend it isn't even happening.

The visitors told me that we came out of a race of lemurs, which explains out our love of bright objects. For millions of years longer than we have had civilization, we reached for the fruits in the trees, and our material culture is the result. Show a human being a jewel or a bright automobile, and he feels the same lust and the same delight that our ancient forebears felt when they saw a bright, ripe berry.

We live in a civilization that uses fuel to make fire, and fire to change the chemistry of thousands of materials, and make object. In other words, we have a material culture based on fire.

But the visitors do not. They gather their energy in other ways and their culture has other aims. These have to do with the only thing of any real value, which is the soul - what the Master of the Key called "conscious energy."

This, not cars and boats and diamonds, is what this universe - and the life of man, too - is all about.

The Romans had steam-powered toys, but the idea of using engines never crossed their minds. Go to Rome now, and see the result of their failure to grasp their own true needs.

We are in the same position now, but with a huge difference. Be it dark or light, dangerous or glorious, or all of the above, something extraordinary is beckoning to us out of the night, toward a future that we are refusing to embrace.

If we do not embrace it, our future is absolutely clear. To see it, all you need to do is walk the bare bones of the old Roman Forum.

Oh, well, it is late here. I'm tired and feeling beaten to death. I must give up the ghost, its been a long day.

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## Wheel In The Sky Wows Local Residents

From: **UFO UpDates - Toronto** <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
Date: Wed, 17 Dec 2008 12:21:00 -0500  
Archived: Wed, 17 Dec 2008 12:21:00 -0500  
Subject: Wheel In The Sky Wows Local Residents

Source: The Daily Comet - Thibodaux, Louisiana

<http://tinyurl.com/6yt44>  
[http://www.dailycomet.com/article/20081216/ARTICLES/812169924?Title=3DWheel = in\\_the\\_sky\\_wows\\_local\\_residents](http://www.dailycomet.com/article/20081216/ARTICLES/812169924?Title=3DWheel_in_the_sky_wows_local_residents)

Tuesday, December 16, 2008

Wheel In The Sky Wows Local Residents

[Image]

Nikki Buskey  
Staff Writer

HOUMA =97 Some people saw Jesus. Others blamed UFOs.

Harkening to the popular Journey song, a wheel in the sky appeared over Terrebonne and Lafourche parishes early Saturday morning, a seemingly perfect hole punched through the sheet of clouds blanketing the sky.

Locals who phoned and e-mailed the Daily Comet and The Courier this weekend about the strange cloud formation did agree on one thing: "It was the weirdest thing I've ever seen," said Raceland resident Sandra Ledet, who shared some spectacular photos with the Daily Comet.

Shawn O'Neil, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Slidell, identified the phenomenon as a hole-punch cloud.

"They don't occur all that often, and they are usually caused when an aircraft intersects altocumulus or cirrocumulus clouds," he said.

Altocumulus are high-altitude clouds, usually white or gray in color, that occur in sheets or patches. Cirrocumulus also are high-altitude clouds made up of supercooled liquid water droplets and ice crystals.

An airplane passing through a mixed cloud layer while ascending or descending could disrupt the delicate coexistence between the ice crystals and the supercooled liquid water droplets, causing a hole to be punched in the sky like many residents saw Saturday, according to the National Weather Service.

Small-scale atmospheric movements, both up and down, caused by the jet stream, could cause a similar phenomenon.

Some seemed doubtful, when the phenomenon was explained to them, that something like a jet could cause the mystical "hole in the sky" they saw Saturday.

"My daughter called me and she said, =91Mom, look at the sky,' and I went back in, got my camera, and started snapping," Ledet said. "It completely circled my house and then disappeared. It

was too big, too round and too low to be caused by a jet."

Annette Klingman of Houma said her husband called her and told her that there was a "strange thing outside," and she should get her camera.

"I was in my pajamas, and I went outside and wondered what I was supposed to be looking for," she said. "But then my son saw it, and it was so huge. It was awesome. It was beautiful. I've never seen anything like it."

Nikki Buskey can be reached at 857-2205 or [nicole.buskey.nul](mailto:nicole.buskey.nul)

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# UFO Updates

A mailing list for the study of UFO-related phenomena  
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Location: [ufoupdateslist.com](http://ufoupdateslist.com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 17](#)

## Dropa And Their Stone Discs Revisited

From: **UFO UpDates - Toronto** <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
Date: Wed, 17 Dec 2008 12:22:00 -0500  
Archived: Wed, 17 Dec 2008 12:22:00 -0500  
Subject: Dropa And Their Stone Discs Revisited

Source: Philip Coppens' Website - Brummen, Netherlands

[http://www.philipcoppens.com/baian\\_kara\\_ula\\_upd.html](http://www.philipcoppens.com/baian_kara_ula_upd.html)

December 11, 2008

[Images at site]

The Dropa Tribe And Their Stone Discs Revisited

More than a decade ago, Hartwig Hausdorf reignited the debate as to whether aliens had crashlanded in the remote Chinese mountain range of Baian-Kara-Ula. Over the past decade, several elements of the story have been confirmed.

by Philip Coppens

In the mid-1990s, German author and tour guide Hartwig Hausdorf reignited the debate as to whether aliens had crash-landed in their craft in the remote mountainous region of Baian-Kara-Ula, in China's Qinhai Province. Over the past decade or so, several elements of the story have been confirmed.

The alleged crash-landed in 1947 - though the crash, if there was one, occurred not in 1947 or thereabouts but several thousand years ago.

At the core of the story is that in 1937-1938, an expedition led by Chi Pu Tei, an archaeologist with the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Peking (Beijing), was trying to find shelter in the Kunlun-Kette mountain chain. The team members entered a cave and found inscriptions on the walls. At the back of the cave they found several tombs, aligned in a row, containing strange-looking skeletons, each measuring 1.0 metre 20 centimetres in length and having an abnormally large skull. Buried with the skeletons were unusual stone discs, 716 in all, about 30 cm wide and 1.0 cm deep with a hole in the centre, each bearing strange hieroglyphs. Were these Stone Age long-playing records?

The story goes that the Chinese Academy of Sciences tried to ban the publication of these findings, but eventually the story of the Dropa (or Dzopa) tribe and their stone discs was released - though never confirmed.

There are several aspects to this story: the strange skeletons; the discovery of a little-known tribe of dwarf-like beings; the nature and whereabouts of the discs; and the decipherment of the inscriptions.

The script was apparently only deciphered and the passages translated in the early 1960s by a team led by Professor Tsum Um Nui of the Peking Academy of Prehistory. He claimed that they describe the crash of an extraterrestrial spacecraft 12,000 years ago. Here are a few lines from the translation: "The Dropa came out of the clouds in their aeroplanes. Before sunrise, our men, women and children hid in the caves ten times. When they

finally understood the sign language of the Dropa, they realised the newcomers had peaceful intentions...=94

As for the discs, it has been pointed out that stone discs are a known ingredient of Chinese culture and are called "Bi=94 discs. Although their origin is unknown, these Bi discs have been dated to as far back as 10,000 BCE - thus largely coinciding with the time-frame of the alleged crash.

Bi discs were normally made from jade or other precious materials and were regarded as status symbols. In the aftermath of war, the losers were required to hand over their discs as a sign of submission. Furthermore, it is known that the discs were used in burials. In aristocratic burials, the discs were normally placed above the head, below the feet and on the chest of the deceased. Interestingly, Bi discs were often considered to be "the Ear of Heaven=94, and sometimes the hole in the disc was placed in front of the mouth so that the dead could speak to their ancestors.

The story that stone discs with hieroglyphs were found in a tomb is therefore not only plausible but likely - considering, too, that Bi discs often carried inscriptions.

In 1974, a tourist, Austrian engineer Ernst Wegerer, saw and photographed several discs in the Banpo Museum in Xian, in Shensi Province. But this begs the question of whether these discs, which are similar in description to those reportedly discovered in Baian-Kara-Ula, were "just=94 Bi discs or actual examples of the ones found in the mountain cave during the 1937=9638 expedition.

Many people incorrectly believe that the story of the Dropa tribe was first aired in a 1978 book titled *Sungods in Exile*, edited by David Agamon. This book details the 1947 expedition of the English scientist Dr Karyl Robin- Evans, who supposedly reached the Baian-Kara-Ula mountains and made contact with the Dropa. According to the book, the tribe comprised several hundred members, all dwarfish in appearance and four feet (1.22 metres) tall on average. Dr Robin-Evans stayed there for half a year, learned the Dropa's language and was introduced to the history and traditions of the dwarfish beings, who told him that their ancestors had come from Sirius, of all places.

It is now known that the book was l a rgely science fiction dressed up as non-fiction, but many people had already decided that the Dropa story was bogus - especially those who erroneously) argue that the book was the first to mention the "ridiculous=94 story.

It would seem that *Sungods in Exile* either was meant to cash in on stories about the Dropa that were in circulation for a few years before it was published, or - if you like a conspiratorial explanation - was meant to discredit the story. Why? Perhaps it was merely because China was a communist nation and any interest in things Chinese was o fficially discouraged at the time by western governments.

But it was definitely not a hoax - at least not one executed in 1978. The Berlin-based historian Dr J=F6rg Dendl has been able to trace the first mention of the Dropa story to 1962, when a monthly magazine for vegetarians, *Das vegetarische Universum* ( " T h e Vegetarian Universe=94), published an article titled "UFOs in Prehistory?=94 in its July edition. Dr Dendl has so far not been able to find the original Chinese or Japanese source, but it is clear that the story is much older than 1978.

Furthermore, the story reported in *Sungods in Exile* of an expedition coming across dwarfish people in the Baian-Kara-Ula region has nonfictional counterparts. Dr Dendl found a 1933 clipping about a Chinese confrontation with dwarflike beings. Though some might argue that the location was in "Tibet=94, at that time Baian-Kara-Ula was mistakenly labelled as being part of Tibet. The article relates how a woman, only 1 m 20 cm tall, was seen being escorted by Chinese soldiers and that she and her group were being held as slaves. There was also a statement that they were cannibals, but this might merely have been an excuse to cover for their inhumane treatment.

Most importantly, the existence of the Dropa - or a tribe like them - has been confirmed. In November 1995, the Associated Press

(AP) stated that some 120 "dwarfish beings=94 had been discovered in Sichuan Province, in a so-called "Village of the Dwarfs=94. (Some sceptics cast doubt on the AP account, though it is easily verifiable. In fact, on 9 November 1995, the German publication *Bild* ran a report titled "Das Dorf der Zwerge =96 Umweltgifte schuld?=94 ["The Village of the Dwarfs =96 environmental pollution to blame?=94] about the discovery.) The tallest adult in this village was three foot 10 inches (1.0 m 15 cm) tall; the smallest was two foot one inch (63.5 cm).

The location of the village is only a few hundred kilometres from the Baian-Kara-Ula mountain range. However, despite China's becoming more open, this entire area including the village remains off limits to foreigners.

Hartwig Hausdorf, who has been on the track of the Dropa since at least the early 1990s, ponders whether in recent years the Dropa's descendants might have abandoned the mountains and settled in the nearby lowlands - where they were "discovered=94 in 1995.

According to a report in *Bild* on 27 January 1997, a Chinese ethnologist claimed that the tribe's dwarfism was due to a high concentration of mercury in the soil, which had poisoned their drinking water for several generations. The claim did not go unchallenged, however. Dr Norbert Felgenhauer of the Munich Institute for Toxicology argued that this theory is nonsense. He stated that such poisoning would result in immediate death, not stunted growth, and introduced as evidence the case of the Japanese town of Minamata, where in the 1960s many inhabitants died from mercury poisoning. He also noted that mercury was unable to change human DNA and hence could not be held responsible for causing an hereditary trait - one that was clearly apparent in this tribe.

#### Deciphering the Discs

So, we know that the existence of stone discs is possible, if not likely, and that, if the 1933 report is correct, there were dwarfish people living in that region. The question, then, is this: is the decipherment of the script correct? If it is, then it does not necessarily prove that alien beings crash-landed in China, but at the very least it shows that these "genetically bizarre=94 beings believed they were descendants of aliens.

According to the story, in 1962 a team of five scientists from the Peking Academy of Prehistory, led by Professor Tsum Um Nui, managed to decipher the inscriptions. Despite the claims made in the translation, the scientists eventually published their findings. Professor Um Nui then apparently was forced (or he decided) to abandon his position, after which he returned to his native Japan where he died shortly afterwards. Though little is known about what happened next, Hausdorf underlines that, in 1966, the Cultural Revolution began - and, as with all such revolutions, much was lost forever.

There is no verification of the 1962 translation as such, though it should be pointed out that there is no evidence in the camp that argues it's all a hoax to suggest that the 1962 story and the translation are invented. So far, the best the detractors have been able to argue is that the story is improbable (of course!) and that no one has ever been able to decipher a stand-alone language, let alone an extraterrestrial language. That is true. But nowhere does the account say, and no one has ever argued, that this was a "unique language=94.

The only claim in this connection is that in 1937=9638, when the discs were discovered, their inscriptions could not be read immediately. Only in 1962 did a team of specialists succeed in this task. For all we know, the language in which the script was written had not yet been deciphered in 1937, or no one had paid sufficient attention to the inscriptions, or only in 1962 was someone able to identify the language in which the inscriptions were written.

But note the year: 1962. This is the year that the earliest known reference to the story appeared - found by Dr Dendl in a German magazine - and it would suggest that something happened in 1962 that made a Chinese or Japanese source report on it.

The translation of the discs might be precisely such an event:

Professor Um Nui publishes his translation, the media pick it up and create a controversy; he decides to retire and return to Japan, while the media outside of China also report on it, ending up in the German magazine "The Vegetarian Universe"=94. If the story was invented, it means that it was invented (or misreported) in 1962.

The 1978 Sungods in Exile hoax is now clearly nothing more than a footnote in the story, largely responsible for popularising the entire saga but definitely not for creating or inventing it out of thin air.

The 1962 article also discusses some technical details of the discs, underlining the potential factual nature of the story. It notes that the discs were composed of cobalt, iron and nickel - the only metals to produce a magnetic field. Nickel is found largely in Canada and Central Africa, but in recent years it has been found in China, in the general area where the discs were located.

For Hausdorf, this is a further indication that the story is factual, for this find post-dates the discovery of the discs - and the 1962 article. In short, what in 1962 was unlikely and improbable has now been confirmed.

#### A New Expedition

Baian-Kara-Ula remains one of China's most remote regions. Its mountains reach as high as 5,000 metres and descend to 2,000 metres. Despite the altitude, summers can be pleasantly warm in this region.

It is now said that a new expedition is being prepared and will soon be under way. It is apparently largely an initiative of Chinese media empires, its main sponsor being the China Daily newspaper. If the participants are able to get their act together, it might not be another decade before this story takes yet another twist.

This article was published in NEXUS Magazine, vol. 15, no. 6 (October-November 2008).

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 17](#)

## Re: The Living Dead

From: Don Ledger <[dledger.nul](mailto:dledger.nul)>  
Date: Wed, 17 Dec 2008 13:11:03 -0400  
Archived: Wed, 17 Dec 2008 14:46:50 -0500  
Subject: Re: The Living Dead

>From: Martin Shough <[parcellular.nul](mailto:parcellular.nul)>  
>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>Date: Wed, 17 Dec 2008 15:28:51 -0000  
>Subject: Re: The Living Dead

>>Source: The Sunday Times - London, England, UK

>><http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/comment/faith/article5324234.ece>

>>December 14, 2008

>>The Living Dead

>>The afterlife has long been an article of religious faith. And  
>>now scientists are finally putting the idea to the test

>>by Bryan Appleyard

><snip>

>>That, in a nutshell, is the mainstream position. What  
>>Braithwaite means by the "dying-brain account" is simply that  
>>NDEs are just what happen when the brain starts shutting down;  
>>they may, indeed, be an evolved mechanism to console the psyche  
>>by distracting it from the unimaginable and intolerable prospect  
>>of its own extinction.

>I wonder exactly how a gene coding for a mechanism that is only  
>triggered by imminent death is supposed to acquire Darwinian  
>survival value?

>An interesting article, though.

Hi Martin,

There was a fairly well done documentary done on NDEs about 10 years ago. In this case doctors were interviewed about the 6 or seven cases covered. These were typical of what the Times Online article was about.

The case which impressed me the most was of a woman in her 40s having died on the operating table. The doctor-a heart surgeon-was telling the story. After being revived after some twenty minutes or so she told the doctor, while in recovery, of what she had experienced. This involved seeing events occurring in other places in the hospital, the off loading of meat by a specified delivery vehicle at the other end of this large hospital, an accident on a freeway nearby with a fair amount of detail including the name on the truck, its color, and other events she could not possibly have known about.

Since the surgeon had heard this type of story many times from his patients during his career he decided to check out everything she had told him and it was all borne out. The reason he chose to investigate this particular case was that the woman had been totally blind since birth.

The heart surgeon was of the opinion that there was something

Re: The Living Dead

occurring at a quantum level that was little understood.

Don Ledger

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## Re: The Living Dead

From: **Greg Taylor** <[greg.nul](mailto:greg.nul)>  
Date: Thu, 18 Dec 2008 08:23:25 +1000  
Archived: Thu, 18 Dec 2008 07:56:40 -0500  
Subject: Re: The Living Dead

>From: Martin Shough <[parcellular.nul](mailto:parcellular.nul)>  
>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>Date: Wed, 17 Dec 2008 15:28:51 -0000  
>Subject: Re: The Living Dead

>I wonder exactly how a gene coding for a mechanism that is only  
>triggered by imminent death is supposed to acquire Darwinian  
>survival value?

Come on now Martin, it's quite obvious that this survival  
mechanism ensures the psyche doesn't disintegrate just in case  
the dying person is so strong and full of vigor that they revive  
long enough to roll in the hay one more time, thus propagating  
their impressive genetic stock into the next generation,  
awaiting yet another near-death-recovery-sex moment.

Ahh, evolutionary theory, is there anything you can't explain! ;)

Kind regards,

Greg

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## Re: The Living Dead

From: Michael Tarbell <[mtarbell.nul](mailto:mtarbell.nul)>  
Date: Wed, 17 Dec 2008 15:47:33 -0700  
Archived: Thu, 18 Dec 2008 07:58:17 -0500  
Subject: Re: The Living Dead

>From: Don Ledger <[dledger.nul](mailto:dledger.nul)>  
>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>Date: Wed, 17 Dec 2008 13:11:03 -0400  
>Subject: Re: The Living Dead

<snip>

>The case which impressed me the most was of a woman in her 40s  
>having died on the operating table. The doctor-a heart surgeon-  
> was telling the story. After being revived after some twenty  
>minutes or so she told the doctor, while in recovery, of what  
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>his patients during his career he decided to check out  
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>he chose to investigate this particular case was that the woman  
>had been totally blind since birth.

>The heart surgeon was of the opinion that there was something  
>occurring at a quantum level that was little understood.

Hi Don,

Another matter that must have been little understood is how this  
woman was able to specify the color of the truck if she had been  
totally blind since birth!

Regards,

Mike

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## Re: The Living Dead

From: Michael Tarbell <[mtarbell.nul](mailto:mtarbell.nul)>  
Date: Wed, 17 Dec 2008 17:16:37 -0700  
Archived: Thu, 18 Dec 2008 08:03:50 -0500  
Subject: Re: The Living Dead

>>From: Don Ledger <[dledger.nul](mailto:dledger.nul)>  
>>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>>Date: Wed, 17 Dec 2008 13:11:03 -0400  
>>Subject: Re: The Living Dead

><snip>

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>>occurring at a quantum level that was little understood.

>Another matter that must have been little understood is how  
>this woman was able to specify the color of the truck if she  
>had been totally blind since birth!

Perhaps I was hasty with my debunker-ism. In principle she could  
have equated it to the color of some other object that she  
observed in her vision-enabled state. Since I didn't see the  
documentary you're referring to, I should probably just clam up.

Take care,

Mike

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## Marley Woods Update - 12-18-08

From: **UFO UpDates - Toronto** <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
Date: Thu, 18 Dec 2008 08:11:44 -0500  
Archived: Thu, 18 Dec 2008 08:11:44 -0500  
Subject: Marley Woods Update - 12-18-08

Source: Ted Phillips' Center for Physical Trace Research -  
Saint Peters, Missouri, USA

[http://ufophysical.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=66](http://ufophysical.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=66)

December 18, 2008

Marley Woods Update

On December 12th, Tom and Ted arrived at Marley to install a new CCD imaging system. The installation was completed by the morning of the 14th and is operational from sunset to sunrise 7 nights a week.

[Light Mass in a low brightness display]

December Reports

12/12/08 - 2045 Site 1 - Light Mass visible for 1 hr, 20 min - video

Tom, Ted and property owner were on the observatory deck when a faint light was seen south toward Site 3. It quickly brightened and enlarged, faded and repeated the display of intense white light. It did this as we watched and obtained several minutes of video. After more than 15 minutes it had not moved, Tom and Ted left the deck with camera equipment and started driving toward the location of the light mass. There are no roads into the area where the huge light appeared to be on the ground. We drove behind its location and to the east and west while talking by cell with the property owner. It was still very visible from the observatory but we could not see it. We drove to Site 3 and could see nothing. We moved south of the location to a high hill and the property owner called again to say he could see our vehicle lights to the west of the mass yet we still couldn't see it. It was seen for one hour and twenty minutes.

[Images, video & more reports at site]

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## Re: The Living Dead

From: Carol Maltby <[carolmaltby.nul](mailto:carolmaltby.nul)>  
Date: Wed, 17 Dec 2008 22:11:27 -0500  
Archived: Thu, 18 Dec 2008 09:15:00 -0500  
Subject: Re: The Living Dead

>From: Don Ledger <[dledger.nul](mailto:dledger.nul)>  
>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>Date: Wed, 17 Dec 2008 13:11:03 -0400  
>Subject: Re: The Living Dead

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>he chose to investigate this particular case was that the woman  
>had been totally blind since birth.

>The heart surgeon was of the opinion that there was something  
>occurring at a quantum level that was little understood.

A woman totally blind from birth reading written words, and  
knowing how to identify a color?

I'd want to have some idea of what the known recorded distance  
limit of a Near Death Experiencer's perception of things  
happening away from their body was, with this one. It may have  
been that a sighted person at the accident site was having a  
strong emotional or traumatic spike, broadcasting their own  
visual identification, and the NDE woman was psychically picking  
up that person's identification of the truck.

Having a transformative experience with a loved one's death left  
me with no doubts that we are more than just our bodies. But it  
doesn't mean it wouldn't matter to me that two different kinds  
of non-local psychic phenomena might be muddled together in this  
instance.

Similarly, in a UFO context, it may be that some accounts of psi  
contact experiences may not be correctly ascribed to their  
actual sources. Sometimes in order to unravel a thick tangle you  
have to pull on strands that don't necessarily seem to be  
directly connected, in order to get others to loosen.

Carol

Re: The Living Dead

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'Its All Here In Black & White'

Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 18](#)

## Re: UFO Hunters Roswell Episode

From: Gildas Bourdais <[bourdais.gildas.nul](mailto:bourdais.gildas.nul)>  
Date: Thu, 18 Dec 2008 10:13:25 +0100  
Archived: Thu, 18 Dec 2008 09:16:00 -0500  
Subject: Re: UFO Hunters Roswell Episode

>From: Victor Golubik <[Diverge247.nul](mailto:Diverge247.nul)>  
>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>Date: Wed, 17 Dec 2008 10:01:49 EST  
>Subject: Re: UFO Hunters Roswell Episode

>>From: Steven Kaeser <[steve.nul](mailto:steve.nul)>  
>>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>>Date: Tue, 16 Dec 2008 08:24:34 -0500  
>>Subject: Re: UFO Hunters Roswell Episode

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>>>Date: Tue, 16 Dec 2008 03:37:31 EST  
>>>Subject: Re: UFO Hunters Roswell Episode

>><snip>

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>world as one of the best cases is further proof of the ongoing  
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>line with confabulation (mildly put) for the sake of short term  
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Gildas Bourdais

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 18](#)

## Re: The Living Dead

From: **Steven Kaeser** <[steve.nul](mailto:steve.nul)>  
Date: Thu, 18 Dec 2008 08:39:23 -0500  
Archived: Thu, 18 Dec 2008 09:17:00 -0500  
Subject: Re: The Living Dead

>From: Michael Tarbell <[mtarbell.nul](mailto:mtarbell.nul)>  
>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>Date: Wed, 17 Dec 2008 15:47:33 -0700  
>Subject: Re: The Living Dead

<snip>

>Another matter that must have been little understood is how this  
>woman was able to specify the color of the truck if she had been  
>totally blind since birth!

Hi Mike,

I believe that current research has shown that the eye is wired to a number of areas in the brain, and some of them are unconscious sections where the stimulation evokes something other than something visual sensations. This was the result of head injury studies in which a person who was completely blind in one eye following an accident was still able to sense simple flashcards somehow, and research led to an examination of the way the nerves are wired and also into the areas of the brain that were stimulated when they were shown.

Steve

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 18](#)

## Re: Plait's Bad Astronomical Observation

From: **Cathy Reason** <[CathyM.nul](mailto:CathyM.nul)>  
Date: Thu, 18 Dec 2008 15:07:58 -0000  
Archived: Thu, 18 Dec 2008 11:16:19 -0500  
Subject: Re: Plait's Bad Astronomical Observation

>From: Martin Shough <[parcellular.nul](mailto:parcellular.nul)>  
>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>Date: Wed, 17 Dec 2008 12:24:36 -0000  
>Subject: Re: Plait's Bad Astronomical Observation

>>From: Cathy Reason <[CathyM.nul](mailto:CathyM.nul)>  
>>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>>Date: Tue, 16 Dec 2008 15:50:12 -0000  
>>Subject: Re: Plait's Bad Astronomical Observation

>The PSH has two usual forms. The strong form is that there are  
>no new empirical phenomena to be discovered (no radical  
>UNKNOWNNS) and that all of the strangeness (by which I mean  
>the bizarrerie as well as the technical meaning of strangeness  
>in Hynek's sense) comes from human error and imagination  
>imposing cultural imagery. The weak form is that there may be  
>some poorly understood natural phenomena (maybe like ball  
>lightning or earthquake lights) underlying some reports that are  
>technically strange (Hynek sense), so that there are some  
>radical UNKNOWNNS but these are distorted by an overlay of non-  
>physical bizarrerie that comes from human error and imagination  
>imposing cultural imagery.

Hi Martin

This is the sort of classification I find intensely frustrating,  
because it seems to exclude what is to me one of the most  
interesting questions one should ask of the PSH: Are the "human  
error and imagination" which it posits consistent with what we  
know about how perception actually works, or not? In other  
words, does the PSH posit radical unknowns which are themselves  
psychological in nature?

<snip>

>>On the other hand, research on perception over the last  
>>twenty-five years or so, indicates that perception is pretty  
>>much hardwired into the brain and relatively unaffected by  
>>psychosocial factors.

>I'm not sure what "relatively unaffected" means,

Relatively unaffected compared to the psychological paradigm of  
the 1960s, when perception was construed much more in  
psychological terms, rather than biological terms as it is now.  
At that time, the dominant view regarded perception almost as a  
creative process, an active process of psychological  
construction.

Modern researchers regard this view as arising from an  
experimental artifact. The experimental stimuli of the time, for  
example, were invariably contrived, unrealistic, and lacking in  
detail - hence the assumption of the time that stimuli were not  
adequate to determine perception.

>but presumably it might mean "somewhat affected".

Indirectly, perhaps. Errors in perception are usually due to unusual features in the stimulus array, but these may in themselves give rise to erroneous interpretations of what is perceived.

>I agree that PSH proponents  
>can often claim too much for the effect of perceptual set in the  
>real world. A good recent example of this is provided by the  
>summer spate of Thai lantern (fire balloon) sightings across the  
>UK and elsewhere. There was a quick tendency to say "Look how  
>easily people are deceived and see these clusters of lights as  
>attached to unbelievable UFOs, and look how often they perceive  
>them as giant triangles because that's what modern UFO lore  
>tells them to expect". But as I pointed out a number of times on  
>another list (without attracting either serious interest or  
>rebuttal) these reports actually demonstrated time and time  
>again that the underlying perceptual information tended to be  
>preserved remarkably well, even though witnesses typically  
>expressed amazement and wonder and believed they were seeing  
>something truly alien.

Exactly so, this is indeed just what is predicted by modern theories of perception.

I feel as though I'm flogging a dead horse whenever I say this, but part of the problem here is that our culture just does not have a tradition of thinking scientifically about psychosocial questions. Ideas that have been scientifically moribund for decades tend to rattle around the Humanities indefinitely, presumably because they resonate in some way with rationalist ideology. Psychoanalysis is one example, and cognitive (constructivist) psychology appears to be another.

>I agree that PSH enjoys what we might call "a better class" of  
>cultural endorsement and reward. It is also its own reward, and  
>this is a very real factor in why it can be persuasive - the  
>fact is that the great majority of reports are explainable  
>conventionally, thus by making conventional explanation your  
>goal you are hitching your wagon to a rising star and having  
>your expectations continually reinforced puts you in a comfort  
>zone. "Believers" occupy a very different kind of comfort zone.  
>By contrast, to stay on the razor edge of uncertainty is  
>extremely uncomforatble and enjoys almost no reward at all.

Come on, it's not that bad! Staying on the razor edge of uncertainty enjoys one reward - the knowledge that it's the only way ultimately of getting at the truth of the matter.

>I also agree that on the whole PSH is not very rigorously worked  
>out and, as I said, fails in its strong form. In its weak form  
>it does not very comfortably account for some of the UNKNOWNNS  
>which seem to have just too bizarre a character. The same things  
>might be said of ETH of course. The separator usually resorted  
>to here is "economy", but this too is problematic IMO.

It does seem to be very common to hear people conflating economy with parsimony.

Cathy

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## Re: UFO Hunters Roswell Episode

From: Alfred Lehmborg <[alienview.nul](mailto:alienview.nul)>  
Date: Thu, 18 Dec 2008 09:16:54 -0600  
Archived: Thu, 18 Dec 2008 11:18:00 -0500  
Subject: Re: UFO Hunters Roswell Episode

>From: Gildas Bourdais <[bourdais.gildas.nul](mailto:bourdais.gildas.nul)>  
>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>Date: Thu, 18 Dec 2008 10:13:25 +0100  
>Subject: Re: UFO Hunters Roswell Episode

>>From: Victor Golubik <[Diverge247.nul](mailto:Diverge247.nul)>  
>>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>>Date: Wed, 17 Dec 2008 10:01:49 EST  
>>Subject: Re: UFO Hunters Roswell Episode

>>>From: Steven Kaeser <[steve.nul](mailto:steve.nul)>  
>>>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>>>Date: Tue, 16 Dec 2008 08:24:34 -0500  
>>>Subject: Re: UFO Hunters Roswell Episode

>>>>From: Victor Golubik <[Diverge247.nul](mailto:Diverge247.nul)>  
>>>>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>>>>Date: Tue, 16 Dec 2008 03:37:31 EST  
>>>>Subject: Re: UFO Hunters Roswell Episode

>>>><snip>

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>years on Roswell, and keeps promoting the impossible balloon  
>story of the Air Force: balsa woods sticks, I tell you! So, we  
>can return the compliment. He is a textbook exemple of vain and  
>confusing polemics.

Reductionism, Victor's friend, supports the view he must  
pretend. It 'explains' what he can't know, provides for faith  
in science shown - allaying anxious thoughts contrived  
facilitating fear denied.

[alienview.nul](mailto:alienview.nul)  
[www.AlienView.net](http://www.AlienView.net)

Re: UFO Hunters Roswell Episode

AVG Blog -- <http://alienviewgroup.blogspot.com/>  
U F O M a g a z i n e -- [www.ufomag.com](http://www.ufomag.com)

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## Re: The Living Dead

From: **Martin Shough** <[parcellular.nul](mailto:parcellular.nul)>  
Date: Thu, 18 Dec 2008 15:17:56 -0000  
Archived: Thu, 18 Dec 2008 11:19:00 -0500  
Subject: Re: The Living Dead

>From: Greg Taylor <[greg.nul](mailto:greg.nul)>  
>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>Date: Thu, 18 Dec 2008 08:23:25 +1000  
>Subject: Re: The Living Dead

>>From: Martin Shough <[parcellular.nul](mailto:parcellular.nul)>  
>>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>>Date: Wed, 17 Dec 2008 15:28:51 -0000  
>>Subject: Re: The Living Dead

>>I wonder exactly how a gene coding for a mechanism that is only  
>>triggered by imminent death is supposed to acquire Darwinian  
>>survival value?

>Come on now Martin, it's quite obvious that this survival  
>mechanism ensures the psyche doesn't disintegrate just in case  
>the dying person is so strong and full of vigor that they revive  
>long enough to roll in the hay one more time, thus propagating  
>their impressive genetic stock into the next generation,  
>awaiting yet another near-death-recovery-sex moment.

That would resolve an old conundrum: The world ends both with a  
bang (so to speak) and with a whimper. ;-)

MS

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## Re: The Living Dead

From: Don Ledger <[dledger.nul](mailto:dledger.nul)>  
Date: Thu, 18 Dec 2008 11:44:57 -0400  
Archived: Thu, 18 Dec 2008 11:20:37 -0500  
Subject: Re: The Living Dead

>From: Michael Tarbell <[mtarbell.nul](mailto:mtarbell.nul)>  
>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>Date: Wed, 17 Dec 2008 15:47:33 -0700  
>Subject: Re: The Living Dead

>>From: Don Ledger <[dledger.nul](mailto:dledger.nul)>  
>>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>>Date: Wed, 17 Dec 2008 13:11:03 -0400  
>>Subject: Re: The Living Dead

><snip>

>>The case which impressed me the most was of a woman in her 40s  
>>having died on the operating table. The doctor-a heart surgeon-  
>>was telling the story. After being revived after some twenty  
>>minutes or so she told the doctor, while in recovery, of what  
>>she had experienced. This involved seeing events occurring in  
>>other places in the hospital, the off loading of meat by a  
>>specified delivery vehicle at the other end of this large  
>>hospital, an accident on a freeway nearby with a fair amount of  
>>detail including the name on the truck, its color, and other  
>>events she could not possibly have known about.

>>Since the surgeon had heard this type of story many times from  
>>his patients during his career he decided to check out  
>>everything she had told him and it was all borne out. The reason  
>>he chose to investigate this particular case was that the woman  
>>had been totally blind since birth.

>>The heart surgeon was of the opinion that there was something  
>>occurring at a quantum level that was little understood.

>Another matter that must have been little understood is how this  
>woman was able to specify the color of the truck if she had been  
>totally blind since birth!

Hi Mike,

This was one of the reasons why the surgeon was so taken with the woman's experience. Not only the colour of the truck but the name on the truck and many other details. A blind person that has never had sight has a 'perception' of common objects different from the sighted. Since she had never seen a truck, how would she know what a truck was. Could she translate her 'seeing' a certain flower to having perhaps touched that type of flower and know that it was a flower. That didn't come up if I recall, but you see where I'm coming from.

Again this was a documentary I saw some 10 years ago [maybe more] and I can only recall just that one case which was more significant than the others; and even that is getting dim.

Best,

Don Ledger

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## Re: The Living Dead

From: Michael Tarbell <[mtarbell.nul](mailto:mtarbell.nul)>  
Date: Thu, 18 Dec 2008 09:00:22 -0700  
Archived: Thu, 18 Dec 2008 12:25:00 -0500  
Subject: Re: The Living Dead

>From: Steven Kaeser <[steve.nul](mailto:steve.nul)>  
>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>Date: Thu, 18 Dec 2008 08:39:23 -0500  
>Subject: Re: The Living Dead

>>From: Michael Tarbell <[mtarbell.nul](mailto:mtarbell.nul)>  
>>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>>Date: Wed, 17 Dec 2008 15:47:33 -0700  
>>Subject: Re: The Living Dead

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>in one eye following an accident was still able to sense simple  
>flashcards somehow, and research led to an examination of the  
>way the nerves are wired and also into the areas of the brain  
>that were stimulated when they were shown.

Hi Steve,

This still wouldn't explain how she could identify a color,  
having never experienced them before. However, as you may by now  
have noted, I followed the above comment with an almost  
immediate backpedal, conceding that she could have referenced  
other objects to specify color, i.e., "the truck was the same  
color as the rug in the hospital lobby", or some such.

As Carol Maltby has since commented, there is the additional  
troublesome claim that she identified the name on the truck.  
However, the same kind of explanation potentially applies, i.e.,  
she didn't actually read the name, but was able to describe  
the shape of the characters from memory, allowing others to  
deduce the name.

Mike

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## Blind Abductees?

From: Don Ledger <[dledger.nul](mailto:dledger.nul)>  
Date: Thu, 18 Dec 2008 14:11:10 -0400  
Archived: Thu, 18 Dec 2008 15:24:10 -0500  
Subject: Blind Abductees?

Here is a question for Katherina or Cathy or John Velez; do any of you have cases where blind people have reported being abducted? If so were they able to perceive their abductors and or surroundings?

Don Ledger

[This discussion has come up on the List before - a search for Research Query: Abductees- Any Blind at the Archive will pop the thread --ebk]

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## Re: Plait's Bad Astronomical Observation

From: Michael Tarbell <[mtarbell.nul](mailto:mtarbell.nul)>  
Date: Thu, 18 Dec 2008 12:16:25 -0700  
Archived: Thu, 18 Dec 2008 15:27:21 -0500  
Subject: Re: Plait's Bad Astronomical Observation

>From: Martin Shough <[parcellular.nul](mailto:parcellular.nul)>  
>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>Date: Sun, 14 Dec 2008 18:42:59 -0000  
>Subject: Re: Plait's Bad Astronomical Observation

>>From: Michael Tarbell <[mtarbell.nul](mailto:mtarbell.nul)>  
>>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>>Date: Fri, 12 Dec 2008 16:55:30 -0700  
>>Subject: Re: Plait's Bad Astronomical Observation

>>>From: Martin Shough <[parcellular.nul](mailto:parcellular.nul)>  
>>>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>>>Date: Fri, 12 Dec 2008 15:07:04 -0000  
>>>Subject: Re: Plait's Bad Astronomical Observation

Pardon the delayed response. I have continued to follow the thread, including your interesting exchange with Cathy Reason. I nominate you to revise the utterly disconnected subject line.

>>Your latter point is under-appreciated in general. Assuming that >>it is ET-related, many aspects of the UFO phenomenon have an >>underlying anthropomorphic quality that make it seem not quite >>'alien', but rather an almost straightforward extension of our >>own technologies and aspirations.

>I agree with this impression. It's something that's intrigued me >too for about 40 years.

Having thus dated yourself, I should reciprocate. My own interest in the phenomenon as a whole (using a threshold of actually reading books on the subject) spans roughly that same interval. I did not give much thought to the more subtle issues addressed here until relatively recently.

>>This could be the result of a selection effect, i.e., there may >>actually be a wide spectrum of 'alien-ness' in ET >>manifestations, but we are only adapted/instrumented to >>perceive a narrow component of it.

>Good point. It connects with a point I've made myself, most >recently in the abortive Betty Hill starmap thread. The idea >that there is a spectrum of alien-ness to which we are largely >blind outside a narrow window suggests the possibility that >interacting with ET is not just passive objective observation, >but that what we "see" is an appearance generated in this >interaction by processes that are outwith both our conscious >control and our understanding. Perhaps the process exploits the >contents of our psyches to build emulations that have meaning >for us. It might be spontaneous, perhaps demanded by something >analogous to limited bandwidth, or it might also be actively >engineered.

Agreed, but I tread carefully on this slippery slope. If indeed we are blind to most of this ET spectrum, my presumption is that the problem is strictly on our end, and not the result of any active manipulation, at least not at the psychic level (i.e., aside from physical camouflage). If these manifestations are effectively scripted hallucinations, then our entire perceptual/empirical framework is called into question. Not

ready to go there (yet).

Even if we suppose that these apparitions represent some kind of 'handshake' between disparate 'modems', doesn't it seem to be taking an absurdly long time (some thousands of years, if we allow the accounts of flying shields, etc.)? Moreover, so far as I can tell, it doesn't seem to be progressing towards anything, but rather remains dangling at roughly constant range beyond arm's length.

>>Alternatively, the cosmic evolutionary  
>>and technological playing field may be more level than we  
>>suppose.

>This seems less likely to me. I would intuitively expect it to  
>be a more tilted landscape than we can imagine. There is nothing  
>level about our human technological playing field which so far  
>slopes from primitive flint-knappers to the LHC (and continues  
>to steepen). I suppose one could argue for cosmic levelness on  
>the basis that a Principle of Mediocrity applies, so that our  
>average technological state is probably the cosmic average. But  
>we can't define meaningful averages when there is an open-ended  
>expansion. Maybe we will discover in some future that technical  
>progress is self-limiting, but that's speculative and we can't  
>begin to guess where the limit might lie (at least, not this  
>side of the ultimate cosmic limit, which would be retro-  
>engineering the cosmos itself ). So I think the idea of  
>levelness is difficult to defend given the cosmic  
>spacetimescale.

The idea of a cosmic intellectual 'levelness' is certainly difficult to defend under the simplest assumptions. I have previously speculated that, in light of other one-time transitions in cosmic history (e.g., the decoupling of matter and radiation), the emergence of advanced intelligence may itself be more recent than we suppose, in spite of the fact that the physical 'ingredients' (if such are required), and indeed living organisms, have been extant for eons.

As well, intelligence itself may be asymptotic (above and beyond technological self-limitation). The presence of an intellectual asymptote (i.e., 'max IQ') seems a little bizarre, but perhaps no more so than, say, the speed of light.

On the other hand, the simplest assumptions lead inexorably to the Fermi paradox, whose compelling resolution I have yet to encounter.

<snip>

>(BTW have you read T. S. Kuhn's 'Black Body Theory and the Quantum Discontinuity 1894-1912', OUP 1978? It very thoroughly deconstructs the history of this period and I heartily recommend it.)

Another of his works, for which he is probably more well known, was heartily recommended to me some 30 years ago, and I have yet to pick it up. I am notoriously derelict in this respect. I hope to read them both eventually.

>In the second place the development of the discontinuity paradigm was indeed greatly "agonized over", even though the problems that were involved here were, whilst phenomenally difficult, very clearly defined mathematically and physically (I think this is what you yourself concede in your closing paragraphs) unlike the problem of how to deal scientifically with the possibility that there is a rump of really anomalous UFO reports. That isn't to say that UFO reports can't be dealt with scientifically, but that at the moment it genuinely is not clear to most open-minded sceptical scientists how that is to be done profitably, and it doesn't seem urgent or vital enough to them (compared to things like a post-quantum revolution and the current TOE quests) to spend time working it out.

Quite so. As I commented previously, UFO research has no substantive 'laboratory' component, aside from (perhaps) the passive collection of data by sensor systems devoted to other phenomena entirely. It likewise has no little or no theoretical foundation, in the sense of results derivable from postulates, or producing testable predictions.

It would seem that, despite a lot of science being performed in its pursuit, it is inappropriate to classify ufology itself as a science per se. I have tried to find an analog among other human pursuits, but have yet to come up with a good one. At the risk of sounding dismissive, about the closest thing I can think of is some kind of murder-mystery club, whose members dutifully swarm to each new crime scene, perform detailed forensics and analyses, but in those cases where a crime was actually committed, are never able to actually identify a suspect, much less apprehend anyone.

<snip>

>As I'm sure we both know (but as many cynics doubt) it really is  
>possible to hold this following position honorably: To grant  
>that ETH (or some analogue) is viable in principle, whilst  
>finding it difficult or impossible to see how to frame it as a  
>testable proposition in terms of such a bewildering and  
>contaminated database of very varied anecdotes. Conscientious  
>progress is very hard. If we doubt that, we only have to look at  
>the history of our subject - a 60-year history of tantalising,  
>half-glimpsed possibilities, failed proofs, conjectures and  
>frustrations. We can't blame other people for all of it. A lot  
>of it is just inherent to the subject - for one reason and/or  
>another.

(BTW, have you seen the Warner Bros. series, "The Adventures of Road-Runner & Wile E. Coyote"? It very thoroughly deconstructs the history of this period and I heartily recommend it.) :)

Mike

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# UFO Updates

A mailing list for the study of UFO-related phenomena  
'Its All Here In Black & White'

Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 18](#)

## Re: The Living Dead

From: Carol Maltby <[carolmaltby.nul](mailto:carolmaltby.nul)>  
Date: Thu, 18 Dec 2008 14:54:53 -0500  
Archived: Thu, 18 Dec 2008 15:32:41 -0500  
Subject: Re: The Living Dead

>From: Michael Tarbell <[mtarbell.nul](mailto:mtarbell.nul)>  
>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>Date: Thu, 18 Dec 2008 09:00:22 -0700  
>Subject: Re: The Living Dead

>This still wouldn't explain how she could identify a color,  
>having never experienced them before. However, as you may by now  
>have noted, I followed the above comment with an almost  
>immediate backpedal, conceding that she could have referenced  
>other objects to specify color, i.e., "the truck was the same  
>color as the rug in the hospital lobby", or some such.

>As Carol Maltby has since commented, there is the additional  
>troublesome claim that she identified the name on the truck.  
>However, the same kind of explanation potentially applies, i.e.,  
>she didn't actually read the name, but was able to describe  
>the shape of the characters from memory, allowing others to  
>deduce the name.

It's been an enormous challenge to develop character recognition software that recognize even a limited range of disparate typefaces. Someone blind from birth would not have developed the filter to distinguish figure from ground on a two-dimensional image - the positive and negative spaces that make up the significant information that is to be conveyed as written communication. That's even before making the decision about whether the dark and light patterns making up "WASH ME," "Crumb's Trucking Inc.," 876 8th Avenue 2B," "How's my driving?" or "DOT 689992114" are the most significant identifiers to report.

But given that this anecdote is probably at best third hand, I'd say that it's more likely that we lost some of the crucial information somewhere along the way in Don's remembering of a film editor's construction of a surgeon's anecdotal recollection. When an anecdote sounds too good to be true, always attempt to determine how many hands it may have gone through in the telling.

Carol

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'Its All Here In Black & White'

Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 18](#)

## Re: Blind Abductees?

From: John Velez <[jvelez49.nul](mailto:jvelez49.nul)>  
Date: Thu, 18 Dec 2008 16:33:48 -0500  
Archived: Thu, 18 Dec 2008 17:14:44 -0500  
Subject: Re: Blind Abductees?

>From: Don Ledger <[dledger.nul](mailto:dledger.nul)>  
>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>Date: Thu, 18 Dec 2008 14:11:10 -0400  
>Subject: Re: Blind Abductees?

>Here is a question for Katherina or Cathy or John Velez; do any  
>of you have cases where blind people have reported being  
>abducted? If so were they able to perceive their abductors and  
>or surroundings?

>Don Ledger

>[This discussion has come up on the List before - a search for

>Research Query: Abductees- Any Blind

>at the Archive will pop the thread --ebk]

Hi Don, Errol, Katharina, Cathy, All,

You're one of my favorite people, Don. Among the few with the ability to 'safely' drag me out of my cave in mid-winter with any hope of eliciting a response. <grin>

Errol has pointed everyone to the original thread. Having been 'semi-retired' from u-fool-ogy for the last eight years, I have not added (much) to my knowledge or database regarding abductee statistics. I can only respond as I did in the original thread; I have not come across -any- cases involving blind abductees. Although my knowledge of Budd Hopkins' cases stops in 1999, there were no cases of blind individuals in his archive up to that point. He, or others, 'may have' encountered such cases since then, but I do not have any knowledge of it.

Curious you should ask this question in light of the recent thread on NDE's which referenced the blind woman who was able to describe all that she had 'seen' while clinically dead.

Budd was always very careful to distinguish between OOBE's (out of body experiences,) and what we were reporting which was, OOHE's (out of house experiences.) One of the key differences in the (narrative) reports is, there is no 'body' in the bed when an abductee reports floating around near the ceiling in their own room.

Wish I could be more helpful, Don. For what it's worth, the response I gave you is based on knowledge of several hundreds of cases. You might want to fire off a note to Dave Jacobs and pose the question to him. I'd be curious to know myself if he has any cases of blind abductees among his files.

My warmest regards and best wishes for a peaceful holiday season.

peace,

John

Re: Blind Abductees?

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 18](#)

## Re: The Living Dead

From: Michael Tarbell <[mtarbell.nul](mailto:mtarbell.nul)>  
Date: Thu, 18 Dec 2008 14:47:24 -0700  
Archived: Thu, 18 Dec 2008 17:18:11 -0500  
Subject: Re: The Living Dead

>From: Carol Maltby <[carolmaltby.nul](mailto:carolmaltby.nul)>  
>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>Date: Thu, 18 Dec 2008 14:54:53 -0500  
>Subject: Re: The Living Dead

>>From: Michael Tarbell <[mtarbell.nul](mailto:mtarbell.nul)>  
>>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>>Date: Thu, 18 Dec 2008 09:00:22 -0700  
>>Subject: Re: The Living Dead

>>As Carol Maltby has since commented, there is the additional  
>>troublesome claim that she identified the name on the truck.  
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>dimensional image - the positive and negative spaces that make  
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>communication. That's even before making the decision about  
>whether the dark and light patterns making up "WASH ME,"  
>"Crumb's Trucking Inc.," 876 8th Avenue 2B," "How's my  
>driving?" or "DOT 689992114" are the most significant  
>identifiers to report.

Agreed. I didn't necessarily consider my suggestion compelling,  
but it does provide a loophole in principle. One could be  
persuaded that such a brief and extraordinary event in this  
woman's life (i.e., having sight for the first time, not to  
mention floating about the premises) might be etched in her  
memory with quite exquisite, even photographic, detail. This,  
along with a succinct name like "UPS" in big block letters, and  
you have at least the sliver of plausibility that she could  
convey a description of this image that sighted people would  
recognize.

Mike

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 19](#)

## Call For Speakers

From: James Carrion <[jcarrion.nul](mailto:jcarrion.nul)>  
Date: Thu, 18 Dec 2008 20:10:49 -0700  
Archived: Fri, 19 Dec 2008 06:43:52 -0500  
Subject: Call For Speakers

MUFON's 2009 Annual UFO Symposium is being held August 6 - 9, 2009 in Denver, Colorado where MUFON will be celebrating its 40th anniversary. We are currently looking for speakers for this event. Each speaker must prepare a 15-20 page paper that is included in the MUFON Symposium Proceedings and there are strict deadlines for submission.

If you are available and would like to be considered as a speaker, please email me at

[jcarrion.nul](mailto:jcarrion.nul)

with a two paragraph synopsis of your presentation. Speakers will be selected by January 7, 2009.

Best wishes,

James Carrion  
MUFON International Director

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 19](#)

## I Saw Yellow UFO

From: Sheryl Gottschall <[gottscha.nul](mailto:gottscha.nul)>  
Date: Fri, 19 Dec 2008 13:22:56 +1000  
Archived: Fri, 19 Dec 2008 06:44:05 -0500  
Subject: I Saw Yellow UFO

Source: Central Coast Sun Weekly - Erina, New South Wales, Australia

<http://tinyurl.com/3htw77>

18 December, 2008

I Saw Yellow UFO

The Central Coast's reputation as a UFO hot spot gained momentum on Saturday night when a Kariong man reported seeing a glowing yellowish-orange orb rise into the sky and move southwards.

Tim Behan, who is in his late 30s, said he saw the object from his veranda, which has a good view over Gosford, at about 10.40pm.

He was phoning a friend in Melbourne at the time and his attention focused on the unknown object.

Mr Behan, a Sydney television station master controller, discounted the chance that the object could have been an aircraft because its light was not blinking.

Instead, he said, the object emitted a consistent bright glow as it changed direction and headed south.

"My perception was that it was a relatively small point of light, by far the brightest object in the sky, and I watched it for about 30 seconds before it went from view," he said.

"I immediately rang a colleague to tell him what I'd seen and he said it could have been a Blackhawk helicopter which had been doing exercises around Gosford that day.

"But a helicopter would have had blinking lights this one didn't," he said.

"When I first noticed this object it was going up then it changed direction."

Mr Behan said he phoned Gosford police to ask if there had been any similar sightings but there was none.

"At times I watch satellites and space stations go across the sky but this wasn't a satellite."

The secretary of the UFO and Paranormal Research Society of Australia, which recently held a conference in Gosford, Dominic McNamara, said he had not received any similar reports.

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 19](#)

## Re: UFO Hunters Roswell Episode

From: Victor Golubik <[Diverge247.nul](mailto:Diverge247.nul)>  
Date: Fri, 19 Dec 2008 00:38:21 EST  
Archived: Fri, 19 Dec 2008 06:50:03 -0500  
Subject: Re: UFO Hunters Roswell Episode

>From: Gildas Bourdais <[bourdais.gildas.nul](mailto:bourdais.gildas.nul)>  
>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>Date: Thu, 18 Dec 2008 10:13:25 +0100  
>Subject: Re: UFO Hunters Roswell Episode

>>From: Victor Golubik <[Diverge247.nul](mailto:Diverge247.nul)>  
>>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>>Date: Wed, 17 Dec 2008 10:01:49 EST  
>>Subject: Re: UFO Hunters Roswell Episode

>>>From: Steven Kaeser <[steve.nul](mailto:steve.nul)>  
>>>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>>>Date: Tue, 16 Dec 2008 08:24:34 -0500  
>>>Subject: Re: UFO Hunters Roswell Episode

>>>>From: Victor Golubik <[Diverge247.nul](mailto:Diverge247.nul)>  
>>>>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>>>>Date: Tue, 16 Dec 2008 03:37:31 EST  
>>>>Subject: Re: UFO Hunters Roswell Episode

>>>><snip>

>>>>>There is nothing complicated about Roswell if we merely have the  
>>>>>confidence to quote the witnesses accounts and not some Soup de  
>>>>>Jour concoction fitting the overpriced and lurid menu items.

>>>>>It's unfortunate that many of the witnesses themselves used the  
>>>>>term "balsa wood" in their descriptions of the debris - a  
>>>>>curious fact not widely reported... still :)

>><snip>

>>How any one of scientific caliber can exemplify Roswell to the  
>>world as one of the best cases is further proof of the ongoing  
>>lie - that they continue to reverberate with the falsification  
>>process itself, ignore their scientific duties, and walk a fine  
>>line with confabulation (mildly put) for the sake of short term  
>>monetary gain.

>>Roswell is much more about the investigation process than a  
>>'real' UFO case. It is actually a textbook example of almost  
>>every investigative faux pas and witness malady. Therein lies  
>>its value.

>Mr Golubik goes on insulting the research done over thirty  
>years on Roswell, and keeps promoting the impossible balloon  
>story of the Air Force: balsa woods sticks, I tell you! So, we  
>can return the compliment. He is a textbook exemple of vain and  
>confusing polemics.

>Gildas Bourdais

Translated this becomes: "Don't bother me with the facts my mind  
is already made up."

This may also demonstrate how difficult it is to turn around  
when you're going down hill really fast. But, there is hope! If  
you invest in one of those light weight, sturdy, balsa wood  
Hummers you may just stand a chance...

30 Years sounds absolutely impressive! So, please, don't let me get in your way. I have no doubts now that this is proof enough... for some.

golubik

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 19](#)

## Re: Blind Abductees?

From: Don Ledger <[dledger.nul](mailto:dledger.nul)>  
Date: Fri, 19 Dec 2008 01:50:32 -0400  
Archived: Fri, 19 Dec 2008 06:53:21 -0500  
Subject: Re: Blind Abductees?

>From: John Velez <[jvelez49.nul](mailto:jvelez49.nul)>  
>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>Date: Thu, 18 Dec 2008 16:33:48 -0500  
>Subject: Re: Blind Abductees?

>>From: Don Ledger <[dledger.nul](mailto:dledger.nul)>  
>>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>>Date: Thu, 18 Dec 2008 14:11:10 -0400  
>>Subject: Re: Blind Abductees?

>>Here is a question for Katherina or Cathy or John Velez; do any  
>>of you have cases where blind people have reported being  
>>abducted? If so were they able to perceive their abductors and  
>>or surroundings?

>>[This discussion has come up on the List before - a search for  
>>Research Query: Abductees- Any Blind

>>at the Archive will pop the thread --ebk]

>Hi Don, Errol, Katharina, Cathy, All,

>You're one of my favorite people, Don. Among the few with the  
>ability to 'safely' drag me out of my cave in mid-winter with  
>any hope of eliciting a response. <grin>

>Errol has pointed everyone to the original thread. Having been  
>'semi-retired' from u-fool-ogy for the last eight years, I have  
>not added (much) to my knowledge or database regarding abductee  
>statistics. I can only respond as I did in the original thread;  
>I have not come across -any- cases involving blind abductees.  
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>there were no cases of blind individuals in his archive up to  
>that point. He, or others, 'may have' encountered such cases  
>since then, but I do not have any knowledge of it.

>Curious you should ask this question in light of the recent  
>thread on NDE's which referenced the blind woman who was able to  
>describe all that she had 'seen' while clinically dead.

>Budd was always very careful to distinguish between OOBIE's (out  
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>Wish I could be more helpful, Don. For what it's worth, the  
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>cases. You might want to fire off a note to Dave Jacobs and  
>pose the question to him. I'd be curious to know myself if he  
>has any cases of blind abductees among his files.

>My warmest regards and best wishes for a peaceful holiday  
>season.

Hi John,



Sorry to have disturbed your hibernation, but you need to be poked every once in awhile otherwise you stiffen up.

Actually it was me who posted the bit about the blind woman and and NDE. It was a documentary I saw many years ago. She was one of the cases.

Anyway I threw the blind abductee question out there thinking I was being original when it seems I was Donny-come-lately.

I will ask Dave Jacobs. I once asked him if psychologists or psychiatrists had ever come to him claiming they had been abducted. He said, "Lots."

Great hearing from you John. You have a great Christmas.

Best regards,

Don

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## Ariel School Zimbabwe CE3

From: **UFO UpDates - Toronto** <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
Date: Fri, 19 Dec 2008 07:05:52 -0500  
Archived: Fri, 19 Dec 2008 07:05:52 -0500  
Subject: Ariel School Zimbabwe CE3

Source: - The InterNet Archive - San Francisco, California, USA

<http://www.archive.org/details/ArielSchoolZimbabweCe3>

No posting date

Ariel School Zimbabwe CE3: September 16, 1994

[Video]

Undoubtedly, the most impressive case by the number of witnesses and the quality of observation.

Today, these children are adults and maintain all their versions of events.

Background:

It was at Ruwa, Zimbabwe lies Ariel school, located 20 km from the capital Harare. As usual, September 16, 1994, children playing in the schoolyard while teachers take advantage of the break to hold a council in the meeting room. The game of children is interrupted when a "flying saucer" arises near the area recreation land for strange humanoids.

Students rush in the room meeting to warn adults. Colin Mackie, the director of the institution, reflects the lack of interest in the faculty: "we were in full reunion. No teacher saw or whatever. Some students took to party colleagues for their report this strange presence. But we do not care. I started to take the case to seriously when parents came to see me and inspect the scene of the incident. " No fewer than 62 students aged 8 to 12 years observing the "flying saucer" and two " extraterrestrials, "whose descriptions overlap. "This was not a human. I do not know what it was, but he had a big head and big black eyes and wore a combination black, "recalls one student.

In 1994, Harvard Professor of Psychiatry John E. Mack, M.D. traveled to Zimbabwe with research associate Dominique Callimanopulos to study one of the most extraordinary sightings of a UFO in recent times. At the Ariel School in Ruwa, Zimbabwe, sixty-two children between the ages of eight and twelve reported seeing a UFO and "strange beings" during morning recess.

These interviews constitute one of the most impressive UFO sighting and alien encounter cases in recent history, and serve as an exemplary demonstration of the interviewing skills and sensitivity John Mack exercised when working with people reporting extraordinary experiences.

[Thanks to 'The Norm' for the lead]

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# UFO Updates

A mailing list for the study of UFO-related phenomena  
'Its All Here In Black & White'

Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 19](#)

## Re: The Living Dead

From: Don Ledger <[dledger.nul](mailto:dledger.nul)>  
Date: Fri, 19 Dec 2008 04:46:25 -0400  
Archived: Fri, 19 Dec 2008 07:55:00 -0500  
Subject: Re: The Living Dead

>From: Carol Maltby <[carolmaltby.nul](mailto:carolmaltby.nul)>  
>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>Date: Wed, 17 Dec 2008 22:11:27 -0500  
>Subject: Re: The Living Dead

>>From: Don Ledger <[dledger.nul](mailto:dledger.nul)>  
>>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>>Date: Wed, 17 Dec 2008 13:11:03 -0400  
>>Subject: Re: The Living Dead

>>There was a fairly well done documentary done on NDEs about 10  
>>years ago. In this case doctors were interviewed about the 6 or  
>>seven cases covered. These were typical of what the Times Online  
>>article was about.

>>The case which impressed me the most was of a woman in her 40s  
>>having died on the operating table. The doctor-a heart surgeon-  
>>was telling the story. After being revived after some twenty  
>>minutes or so she told the doctor, while in recovery, of what  
>>she had experienced. This involved seeing events occurring in  
>>other places in the hospital, the off loading of meat by a  
>>specified delivery vehicle at the other end of this large  
>>hospital, an accident on a freeway nearby with a fair amount of  
>>detail including the name on the truck, its color, and other  
>>events she could not possibly have known about.

>>Since the surgeon had heard this type of story many times from  
>>his patients during his career he decided to check out  
>>everything she had told him and it was all borne out. The reason  
>>he chose to investigate this particular case was that the woman  
>>had been totally blind since birth.

>>The heart surgeon was of the opinion that there was something  
>>occurring at a quantum level that was little understood.

>A woman totally blind from birth reading written words, and  
>knowing how to identify a color?

>I'd want to have some idea of what the known recorded distance  
>limit of a Near Death Experiencer's perception of things  
>happening away from their body was, with this one. It may have  
>been that a sighted person at the accident site was having a  
>strong emotional or traumatic spike, broadcasting their own  
>visual identification, and the NDE woman was psychically picking  
>up that person's identification of the truck.

>Having a transformative experience with a loved one's death left  
>me with no doubts that we are more than just our bodies. But it  
>doesn't mean it wouldn't matter to me that two different kinds  
>of non-local psychic phenomena might be muddled together in this  
>instance.

>Similarly, in a UFO context, it may be that some accounts of psi  
>contact experiences may not be correctly ascribed to their  
>actual sources. Sometimes in order to unravel a thick tangle you  
>have to pull on strands that don't necessarily seem to be  
>directly connected, in order to get others to loosen.

Anything seems to go these days, Carol. But even 'if' there is

something to the psi factor and such impressions could be relayed to a blind person who has never had sight, I'm not sure I could understand just what interpretive mechanism could be at work that could instantly translate the sighted transmitter's information into a brain that has no frame of reference other than touch or smell.

Don Ledger

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 20](#)

## Mystery Lights Over UK Midlands

From: **UFO UpDates - Toronto** <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
Date: Sat, 20 Dec 2008 08:49:17 -0500  
Archived: Sat, 20 Dec 2008 08:49:17 -0500  
Subject: Mystery Lights Over UK Midlands

Source: Yahoo News UK

<http://tinyurl.com/8s7498>

19 December 2008

Mystery Lights Over The Midlands  
SkyNews

A "spectacular" display of dozens of UFOs has been reported in the skies over the West Midlands. Skip related content

Eyewitnesses told Sky News that up to 70 bright circular objects could be seen near Halesowen.

Stunned residents watched in disbelief, convinced they were viewing an extra-terrestrial spectacle.

Each object was encircled with lights and had lights in the middle, according to witness Steven Randall who lives in Halesowen with his wife and three children.

He said: "This was incredible and so spectacular. The lights seem to climb into the sky to the north of us, just before 8pm last night.

"A neighbour had shouted for us to come and look. There were so many objects. From a distance they looked like bubbles rising in a fizzy drink.

"Then they came towards us and flew right over the top. Some were so close they were almost touching and were only a hundred feet or so above us.

"The objects were absolutely silent and travelling at probably twice the speed of a normal aircraft.

"They were all circular and had 13 to 15 lights around the rim. Each had lights in the centre which were flashing on and off. They went south at a terrific speed."

Birmingham International airport is to the east of the sightings, but according to Mr Randall, the flight path comes nowhere near the houses.

"Aircraft are not allowed to fly over this area. We regularly see air traffic in the distance and I can assure you that this was something very different," he said.

Air traffic control at Birmingham International airport had nothing on their radar to suggest anything out of the ordinary.

A Ministry of Defence spokesman said that independent experts have concluded there are straightforward explanations behind alleged UFO reports, such as aircraft lights or natural

phenomena.

Reports of UFOs were examined by the MoD solely to establish whether UK airspace may have been compromised by hostile or unauthorised military activity.

If required, sighting reports are examined with the assistance of the Department's air defence experts. Unless there is evidence of a potential threat, no further work is undertaken to identify the nature of each sighting reported.

The MoD has no other interest or role regarding UFO matters and does not consider questions regarding the existence or otherwise of extraterrestrial life-forms.

Eyewitness Steve Randall believes defence officials will be very interested when they see the video.

[Thanks to Greg Boone for the lead]

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 20](#)

## Re: Plait's Bad Astronomical Observation

From: Bruce Maccabee <[brumac.nul](mailto:brumac.nul)>  
Date: Fri, 19 Dec 2008 13:41:24 -0500  
Archived: Sat, 20 Dec 2008 08:59:44 -0500  
Subject: Re: Plait's Bad Astronomical Observation

>From: Cathy Reason <[CathyM.nul](mailto:CathyM.nul)>  
>To: <[UFOupdates.nul](mailto:UFOupdates.nul)>  
>Date: Thu, 18 Dec 2008 15:07:58 -0000  
>Subject: Re: Plait's Bad Astronomical Observation

>>From: Martin Shough <[parcellular.nul](mailto:parcellular.nul)>  
>>To: <[UFOupdates.nul](mailto:UFOupdates.nul)>  
>>Date: Wed, 17 Dec 2008 12:24:36 -0000  
>>Subject: Re: Plait's Bad Astronomical Observation

<snip>

>>I agree that PSH proponents  
>>can often claim too much for the effect of perceptual set in the  
>>real world. A good recent example of this is provided by the  
>>summer spate of Thai lantern (fire balloon) sightings across the  
>>UK and elsewhere. There was a quick tendency to say "Look how  
>>easily people are deceived and see these clusters of lights as  
>>attached to unbelievable UFOs, and look how often they perceive  
>>them as giant triangles because that's what modern UFO lore  
>>tells them to expect". But as I pointed out a number of times on  
>>another list (without attracting either serious interest or  
>>rebuttal) these reports actually demonstrated time and time  
>>again that the underlying perceptual information tended to be  
>>preserved remarkably well, even though witnesses typically  
>>expressed amazement and wonder and believed they were seeing  
>>something truly alien.

>Exactly so, this is indeed just what is predicted by modern  
>theories of perception.

The problem for the ufologist (and crime investigators, etc) is to separate out the observation from the interpretation. If someone says an object flew "like a skipping saucer" then the interpretation is that the object was shaped like a saucer when, in fact, it was not (e.g., Kenneth Arnold sighting).

I recall years ago there were sightings of "UFOs" from the countries along the western coast of South America (Chile, etc.). These were nighttime sightings by hundreds of people of strange glowing "objects" high in the sky in the hour or so after sunset. The UFOs had strange shapes, appeared to move rapidly, sometimes changed shape and faded out. Considering that there were many reports with rather detailed descriptions, few (if any) doubted that something had been seen. Jim Oberg was able to correlate the sightings with rocket launches in the FSU (Former Soviet Union). He observed that the descriptions of the phenomena, when separated from the UFO interpretation, agreed with descriptions of "staging" of rocket launches and associated fuel dumps as illuminated by sunlight coming over the limb of the earth (i.e., high altitudes still in sunlight even if the ground isn't). Oberg used his identification as evidence of how "poor" the witness reports were and how "unscientific" were the witnesses and investigators who claimed these "objects" were UFOs. However, I pointed out that he was able to make a positive identification because of the accuracy of the descriptions. In other words, his ability to identify confirmed the accuracy of the observers.



The accuracy of observations (separated from interpretations) allows most sightings to be explained. Skeptics cannot extrapolate the this level of accuracy to the sightings which are not explained. Instead, it is as if they argue in reverse: if the sighting is explainable (the explanation appears reasonable or convincing to most investigators) the witness was accurate , but if the sighting can't be explained the witness(es) is was not accurate (or did not supply complete information).

Note, by the way, that you can't always determine whether or not a particular explanation is correct, but you can determine whether or not a particular sighting is (to you) convincing. If a particular explanation is convincing to most or all investigators, then it may as well be accepted.

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 20](#)

## Re: Blind Abductees?

From: John Velez <[jvelez49.nul](mailto:jvelez49.nul)>  
Date: Fri, 19 Dec 2008 18:02:34 -0500  
Archived: Sat, 20 Dec 2008 08:59:44 -0500  
Subject: Re: Blind Abductees?

>From: Don Ledger <[dledger.nul](mailto:dledger.nul)>  
>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>Date: Fri, 19 Dec 2008 01:50:32 -0400  
>Subject: Re: Blind Abductees?

>>From: John Velez <[jvelez49.nul](mailto:jvelez49.nul)>  
>>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>>Date: Thu, 18 Dec 2008 16:33:48 -0500  
>>Subject: Re: Blind Abductees?

>>>From: Don Ledger <[dledger.nul](mailto:dledger.nul)>  
>>>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>>>Date: Thu, 18 Dec 2008 14:11:10 -0400  
>>>Subject: Re: Blind Abductees?

>>>Here is a question for Katherina or Cathy or John Velez; do any  
>>>of you have cases where blind people have reported being  
>>>abducted? If so were they able to perceive their abductors and  
>>>or surroundings?

>>>[This discussion has come up on the List before - a search for  
>>>Research Query: Abductees- Any Blind

>>>at the Archive will pop the thread --ebk]

>>You're one of my favorite people, Don. Among the few with the  
>>ability to 'safely' drag me out of my cave in mid-winter with  
>>any hope of eliciting a response. <grin>

>>Errol has pointed everyone to the original thread.

<snip>

>I will ask Dave Jacobs. I once asked him if psychologists or  
>psychiatrists had ever come to him claiming they had been  
>abducted. He said, "Lots."

Hi Don,

Budd too! The subject came up one time when I was with Budd and  
John Mack. John revealed that he too had worked with  
psychiatrist(s) who were reporting they were being abducted.

I actually met one of the psychologists that Budd had worked  
with as an 'abduction case'. He is as 'normal, conventional' a  
gentleman as one could hope to meet. There were also a couple of  
high-ranking military people along with a couple of well-known  
Hollywood faces. Abduction knows no cultural, political or  
status-based restrictions.

It seems to be a fairly democratic equal-opportunity  
phenomenon in terms of the backgrounds of victims/subjects that  
are selected.

Best,

John

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 20](#)

## Testing Mars Face For Artificiality

From: **UFO UpDates - Toronto** <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
Date: Sat, 20 Dec 2008 09:21:42 -0500  
Archived: Sat, 20 Dec 2008 09:21:42 -0500  
Subject: Testing Mars Face For Artificiality

Source: About Seti.Com - Carlsbad, New Mexico, USA

<http://www.aboutseti.com/blog/face-on-mars>

Wednesday, December 17, 2008

The Face On Mars: Testing For Artificiality  
by Mac Tonnies

You're looking at a partial high-resolution image of the notorious Face on Mars, universally "debunked" by mainstream media outlets due in no small part to the baseless pronouncements of a single pseudoscientific pundit.

I suspect many readers will agree that the highlighted feature at least resembles a humanoid eye, down to the well-defined elliptical structure surrounding the central protruding "pupil." But how do we go about testing the notion that the Face on Mars boasts an anatomically accurate "eye"? After all, aren't we merely seeing what we want to see?

In this case, no.

Long before the Mars Global Surveyor spacecraft returned provocative images of the Cydonia Mensae region of Mars, the presence of secondary facial characteristics had been predicted by proponents of what became known as the Artificiality Hypothesis. It seemed likely that the Face, if the work of intelligence, would betray traces of anthropomorphic detail when imaged by better cameras. (The "eye" was only barely visible in the best of the early Viking photos from the 1970s; certainly little or nothing about its shape or structure could be inferred.) So when the first overhead images of the Face became available, the presence of a seemingly well-preserved "eye" became apparent vindication for proponents of artificiality on Mars. After all, it had been predicted by a testable hypothesis. Other "secondary" features were noted as well: lip-like structures that defined a broad, parted "mouth," candidate "nostrils" and others.

While none of these features proved that the Face was the work of extraterrestrial intelligence - let alone the subject of a far-reaching NASA cover-up - they pointed to the possibility that the Face (and perhaps other anomalies in its vicinity) were more than the "tricks of light" as maintained by NASA's public relations personnel. (To date, NASA has yet to conduct a scientific investigation that would bear out its contention that the features in Cydonia are wholly natural - an undertaking that might reasonably include the expertise of archaeologists familiar with the role of remote sensing in detecting potential sites here on Earth.)

And so we remain inoculated to the presence of the truly mysterious. The recent "Martian" found in a 2004 rover image has garnered surprisingly intense (if generally dismissive) attention from both independent bloggers and a condescending

mainstream media. Meanwhile, the enigmas in Cydonia go conspicuously unremarked, dismissed as the stuff of wishful thinking or the stalwart dreams of conspiracy-mongers.

But this doesn't have to continue - unless, of course, we let it. As I write, NASA's Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter and the European Space Agency's Mars Express spacecraft circle the Red Planet. Both wield stunning instruments that could easily be trained at Cydonia, regardless of what ultimately awaits us there. Noisy "conspiracy" claims aside, the presence of possible archaeological sites on Mars is scientifically testable - but in order to arrive at a meaningful conclusion we must cast away a host of entrenched preconceptions, regardless how attractive they might seem to an academic community weaned on the certainty that humans have always occupied a central role in the history of our solar system. (To be sure, the very presence of a human-looking visage on Mars smacks of the pervasive "will to believe" that's infected so many astronomical inquiries throughout history, from the casual certainty of a geocentric cosmos to the illusory "canals" of Percival Lowell.)

The Face on Mars is not dead. We can continue parroting the "answers" offered by self-proclaimed skeptics or we can proceed with objectivity, caution and the knowledge that reality is seldom as abiding as we'd prefer.

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 20](#)

## Re: Mystery Lights Over UK Midlands

From: Nick Pope <[nick.nul](mailto:nick.nul)>  
Date: Sat, 20 Dec 2008 15:24:56 +0100 (CET)  
Archived: Sat, 20 Dec 2008 10:25:00 -0500  
Subject: Re: Mystery Lights Over UK Midlands

>Source: Yahoo News UK

><http://tinyurl.com/8s7498>

>19 December 2008

>Mystery Lights Over The Midlands  
>SkyNews

>A "spectacular" display of dozens of UFOs has been reported in  
>the skies over the West Midlands. Skip related content

>Eyewitnesses told Sky News that up to 70 bright circular objects  
>could be seen near Halesowen.

<snip>

I discussed this on BBC Radio 5 Live yesterday.

More Chinese lanterns, I'm afraid.

They were launched at a school carol service:

<http://tinyurl.com/3uwjfs>

The witnesses accept this explanation.

Best wishes,

Nick Pope  
<http://www.nickpope.net>

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## Re: Mystery Lights Over UK Midlands

From: Sean Jones <[Sean.Jones.nul](mailto:Sean.Jones.nul)>  
Date: Sat, 20 Dec 2008 18:57:51 +0000  
Archived: Sun, 21 Dec 2008 12:00:08 -0500  
Subject: Re: Mystery Lights Over UK Midlands

>From: Nick Pope <[nick.nul](mailto:nick.nul)>  
>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>Date: Sat, 20 Dec 2008 15:24:56 +0100 (CET)  
>Subject: Re: Mystery Lights Over UK Midlands

>>Source: Yahoo News UK

>><http://tinyurl.com/8s7498>

>>19 December 2008

>>Mystery Lights Over The Midlands  
>>SkyNews

><snip>

>I discussed this on BBC Radio 5 Live yesterday.

>More Chinese lanterns, I'm afraid.

>They were launched at a school carol service:

><http://tinyurl.com/3uwjfs>

>The witnesses accept this explanation.

I actually live in Halesowen, so was surprised to hear about this. <g>

However a quick ask around of a few local people, soon revealed to me about the Chinese lanterns, and was going to confirm this and post here. Looks like Nick beat me to it <g>

All the best

Sean

--

In an infinite universe infinitely anything is possible.

<http://www.tedric.demon.co.uk/>

Sean Jones

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 21](#)

## Experiencers A John Mack Doc

From: **UFO UpDates - Toronto** <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
Date: Sun, 21 Dec 2008 13:04:28 -0500  
Archived: Sun, 21 Dec 2008 13:04:28 -0500  
Subject: Experiencers A John Mack Doc

Source: Alien Ufo Paranormal.Alien Casebook.Com

<http://tinyurl.com/712cwm>

No posting date

[A YouTube five-parter linked at page]

Experiencers

A Stephane Allix documentary about Dr. John Mack's work with experimenter's that have had alien encounters

You will never see a set of videos so compelling in regard to the experiences of those who have had contact with aliens.

Skeptical or not, it is well worth watching this documentary on the work of the controversial Harvard psychiatrist, Dr. John E. Mack, who treated hundreds of patients who claimed to have been abducted by extraterrestrials.

Investigative journalist Stephane Allix draws on interviews he conducted with Dr Mack who caused a stir when he said that the "Experiencers" who gave independent accounts of abduction in the US and elsewhere were "of sound mind, sincere and extremely disturbed by their experiences".

Dr Mack found consistency in their descriptions of aliens and "a robust kind of truth" to them. Allix interviewed Dr Mack in the year before his death in late 2004.

He shows footage of Dr Mack's mid-1990s visit to a school near Harare, Zimbabwe, where 60 primary students told how two small figures emerged from two UFOs that hovered over the playground and "came out as if floating (or) hopping towards us".

Allix spoke to others about their experience.

Though one woman says she felt safe and "surrounded by love", another was angered when she realized that the "small grey beings" that had come for her since she was a child, were now about to take her two young sons too.

She had become aware of the abductions at 19 and decided that "no matter where I went they could find me and nobody could help me".

Dr. John E. Mack, was an American psychiatrist, Professor at the Harvard University School of Medicine and Pulitzer Prize winner.

This documentary 'Experiencers' features various people who have had experiences with extraterrestrial intelligence through abductions and contacts. Dr. John Mack has done an enormous amount of work in the field of extraterrestrials and psychology.

This set of videos I feel is the most valuable evidence in

regard to alien abuduction and other alien contact that you'll  
ever view. You will meet real people as they tell their stories.

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 21](#)

## Re: Blind Abductees?

From: Katharina Wilson <[K.Wilson.nul](mailto:K.Wilson.nul)>  
Date: Sun, 21 Dec 2008 11:47:11 -0600  
Archived: Sun, 21 Dec 2008 13:26:34 -0500  
Subject: Re: Blind Abductees?

>From: Don Ledger <[dledger.nul](mailto:dledger.nul)>  
>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>Date: Thu, 18 Dec 2008 14:11:10 -0400  
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>[This discussion has come up on the List before - a search for

>Research Query: Abductees- Any Blind  
>at the Archive will pop the thread --ebk]

Hello - this has been an interesting thread. To answer Don's original question; I only know of one case that was mentioned to me by the late Dr. Karla Turner. You may be able to find out more about this particular blind abductee by contacting her husband via her Memorial Web site at:

[www.karlaturner.org](http://www.karlaturner.org)

Her books are available there to read for free, and she may have mentioned this case in her last book.

You might also try Eve Lorgen at her site at:

[www.alienlovebite.com](http://www.alienlovebite.com)

~Happy Holidays ~

Katharina Wilson  
[www.alienjigsaw.com](http://www.alienjigsaw.com)

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Re: Blind Abductees?

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# UFO Updates

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 21](#)

## 'Hobbit' Fossils Represent A New Species

From: **UFO UpDates - Toronto** <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
Date: Sun, 21 Dec 2008 13:27:19 -0500  
Archived: Sun, 21 Dec 2008 13:27:19 -0500  
Subject: 'Hobbit' Fossils Represent A New Species

Source: Science Daily - Rockville, Maryland, USA

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/12/081217124418.htm>

Dec. 19, 2008

'Hobbit' Fossils Represent A New Species, Concludes Anthropologist

ScienceDaily -- University of Minnesota anthropology professor Kieran McNulty (along with colleague Karen Baab of Stony Brook University in New York) has made an important contribution toward solving one of the greatest paleoanthropological mysteries in recent history - that fossilized skeletons resembling a mythical "hobbit" creature represent an entirely new species in humanity's evolutionary chain.

Discovered on the Indonesian island of Flores in 2003, controversy has surrounded the fossilized hominid skeletons of the so-called "hobbit people", or Homo floresiensis ever since. Experts are still debating whether the 18,000-year-old remains merely belong to a diminutive population of modern-day humans (with one individual exhibiting "microcephaly", an abnormally small head) or represent a previously unrecognized branch in humanity's family tree.

Using 3D modeling methods, McNulty and his fellow researchers compared the cranial features of this real-life "hobbit" to those of a simulated fossil human (of similar stature) to determine whether or not such a species was distinct from modern humans.

"[Homo floresiensis] is the most exciting discovery in probably the last 50 years", said McNulty. "The specimens have skulls that resemble something that died a million years earlier, and other body parts reminiscent of our three-million-year-old human ancestors, yet they lived until very recently - contemporaries with modern humans."

Comparing the simulation to the original Flores skull discovered in 2003, McNulty and Baab were able to demonstrate conclusively that the original "hobbit" skull fits the expectations for a small fossil hominin species and not a modern human. Their study was published online this month in the Journal of Human Evolution.

The cranial structure of the fossilized skull, says the study, clearly places it in humanity's genus Homo, even though it would be smaller in both body and brain size than any other member. The results of the study suggest that the theorized "hobbit" species may have undergone a process of size reduction after branching off from Homo erectus (one of modern day humanity's distant ancestors) or even something more primitive.

"We have shown with this study that the process of size reduction applied to fossil hominins accounts for many features seen in the fossil skull from Flores", McNulty said. "It becomes

much more difficult, therefore, to defend the hypothesis that the preserved skull is a modern human who simply suffered from an extremely rare disorder.

Public interest in the discovery, analysis and implications of Flores "hobbits" has been high ever since 2003, inspiring several television specials (including a recent episode of "NOVA" entitled "Alien From Earth") and other media attention.

While the debate over Homo floresiensis will continue, McNulty believes this comprehensive analysis of the relationship between size and shape in human evolution is a critical step toward eventually understanding the place of the Flores "hobbits" in human evolutionary history.

"I think the majority of researchers favor recognizing this as a new species", McNulty said about the categorization of Homo floresiensis. "The evidence is becoming overwhelming, and this study helps confirm that view."

Journal reference:

1. Karen L. Baab and Kieran P. McNulty. Size, shape, and asymmetry in fossil hominins: The status of the LB1 cranium based on 3D morphometric analyses. Journal of Human Evolution, 2008; (in press) DOI: 10.1016/j.jhevol.2008.08.011:

<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jhevol.2008.08.011>

Adapted from materials provided by University of Minnesota:

<http://www.umn.edu/>

[Thanks to 'The Norm' for the lead]

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 21](#)

## The Will To Dis-Believe

From: **UFO UpDates - Toronto** <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
Date: Sun, 21 Dec 2008 13:28:06 -0500  
Archived: Sun, 21 Dec 2008 13:28:06 -0500  
Subject: The Will To Dis-Believe

Source: Dean Radin's Entangled Minds Blog

<http://deanradin.blogspot.com/2008/12/will-to-disbelieve.html>

Friday, December 19, 2008

The Will To Dis-Believe

The Los Angeles Times carried an article recently by Chris Woolston, entitled "Holiday Hokum? The lowdown on 5 supposedly healthy gifts.":

<http://tinyurl.com/7u2pez>

One of those gifts was Intentional Chocolate, which readers of this blog know that I was involved in testing:

<http://deanradin.blogspot.com/2008/12/www.intentionalchocolate.com>

That experiment employed a randomized, placebo-controlled double-blind protocol, which is the gold-standard in medical testing, to see whether chocolate exposed to the good intentions of advanced meditators would make a difference in the mood of people who ate that chocolate, as compared to the same chocolate not exposed to such intentions. The study:

<http://www.deanradin.com/papers/chocolate.pdf>

a pilot test involving 62 participants, showed that it did indeed make a statistically significant difference.

I admit that I was surprised at the outcome of this test, but data are what they are. The whole purpose of conducting an experiment is to ask questions about how the world works, regardless of our prejudices. And the strength of empiricism is that data always trumps preconceived ideas. If this weren't so, then we'd all still be living in damp caves eating grubs for dinner.

I published the results of this experiment in Explore: The Journal of Science and Healing:

[http://www.elsevier.com/wps/find/homepage.cws\\_home](http://www.elsevier.com/wps/find/homepage.cws_home)

a peer-reviewed medical journal from Elsevier, one of the world's top publishers of scientific journals. Explore focuses on complementary and alternative medicine, therapy, practices and theories.

The LA Times journalist apparently didn't know or care about any of this. Instead he took the cynical party line:

"It would take far more than a small study in an obscure journal to convince Richard P. Sloan, a professor of behavioral medicine at Columbia University Medical Center in New York City. 'There's

nothing in the way that we understand the universe that would explain how a group of people could influence the well-being of others by blessing their chocolate,' he says. 'Besides, he adds, if chocolate could be blessed, it could also be cursed.' Think about that before you bite into your chocolate Santa."

Sloan is well known for his negative opinions about alternative medicine. The problem is that Sloan's opinion on this matter displays a tendency unfortunately common among some scientists - he can only believe something if he already knows how to explain it. This attitude is unfortunate because cognitive and perceptual psychology has clearly shown that the old saying, "I'll believe it when it see it," is actually backwards. The saying should be, "I'll see it when I believe it," because we are all biased not to see if we don't believe, or at least have a reason to believe based on theory or prior experience.

Scientists have to continually strive to counter this kneejerk tendency to disbelieve, otherwise existing knowledge quickly collapses into dogma. Unfortunately, existing knowledge almost always congeals into comfortable habits, which is what led physicist Max Planck to lament that despite the scientific ideal, in reality knowledge advances by funerals, and not by the appearance of new evidence or theories.

But besides dismissing results of an empirical test, Sloan's remark (assuming he is quoted correctly) might betray an underlying reason why he'd rather avoid the whole topic. It is quite true that if intention can influence something positively, then it undoubtedly can also influence something negatively. And that is indeed a scary thought. But does that mean it isn't true? Do some scientists strongly resist these ideas because they don't like the implications?

To be fair, this was a pilot test, and long-held beliefs probably shouldn't change based on a pilot test. But this is not the only such experiment indicating that intention influences the physical world; there are many others (I refer readers to my books for details). There are two ways to respond to surprising outcomes of pilot tests. One way is to say, hmmm, that's curious, let's try it again. The other way is to say, that can't possibly be true because the universe doesn't allow for such things.

In another article reporting an experiment studying mental influence of a distant person's nervous system, I responded to Sloan's failure of imagination as follows:

"Sloan and Ramakrishnan have asserted that 'Nothing in our contemporary scientific views of the universe or consciousness can account for how the 'healing intentions' or prayers of distant intercessors could possibly influence the [physiology] of patients even nearby let alone at a great distance.' Is it really true that nothing in science suggests the presence of connections between apparently isolated objects? Quantum entanglement, a far from common sense effect predicted by quantum theory and later demonstrated as fact in the laboratory, shows that under certain conditions, elementary particles that were once connected appear to remain connected after they separate, regardless of distance in space or time. If this property is truly as fundamental as it appears to be, then in principle everything in the universe might be entangled."

And from that arises the concept of entangled minds and matter, which I need not go into here.

[Thanks to 'The Norm' for the lead]

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 21](#)

## Re: Blind Abductees?

From: Don Ledger <[dledger.nul](mailto:dledger.nul)>  
Date: Sun, 21 Dec 2008 15:01:41 -0400  
Archived: Sun, 21 Dec 2008 14:30:00 -0500  
Subject: Re: Blind Abductees?

>From: John Velez <[jvelez49.nul](mailto:jvelez49.nul)>  
>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>Date: Fri, 19 Dec 2008 18:02:34 -0500  
>Subject: Re: Blind Abductees?

>>From: Don Ledger <[dledger.nul](mailto:dledger.nul)>  
>>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>>Date: Fri, 19 Dec 2008 01:50:32 -0400  
>>Subject: Re: Blind Abductees?

>>>From: John Velez <[jvelez49.nul](mailto:jvelez49.nul)>  
>>>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>>>Date: Thu, 18 Dec 2008 16:33:48 -0500  
>>>Subject: Re: Blind Abductees?

<snip>

>>I will ask Dave Jacobs. I once asked him if psychologists or  
>>psychiatrists had ever come to him claiming they had been  
>>abducted. He said, "Lots".

>Budd too! The subject came up one time when I was with Budd and  
>John Mack. John revealed that he too had worked with  
>psychiatrist(s) who were reporting they were being abducted.

>I actually met one of the psychologists that Budd had worked  
>with as an 'abduction case'. He is as 'normal, conventional' a  
>gentleman as one could hope to meet. There were also a couple of  
>high-ranking military people along with a couple of well-known  
>Hollywood faces. Abduction knows no cultural, political or  
>status-based restrictions.

>It seems to be a fairly democratic equal-opportunity  
>phenomenon in terms of the backgrounds of victims/subjects that  
>are selected.

Hi John,

I was in San Jose in July speaking at the MUFON conference as  
was Leslie Kean and Budd was doing a workshop there. The hotel  
provided light complimentary meals to the speakers. It seems  
Budd and I shared the same eating timetable. On three occasions  
we snacked together and what would start out as a 15 minute  
interlude, extended for an hour and a half. We talked about  
psychiatrists and psychologists after I'd mentioned Dave Jacob's  
remark to me. And he went into some details about their  
encounters.

One conversation we had was about the abduction/suicide of a 19  
year old in a case I had.

NOTE: I do not contend that this person committed suicide  
because of abduction experiences. The suicide occurred about 11  
months after the most apparent abduction. The subject was gay  
but and openly, though not overtly, gay. He marched in gay pride  
parades and was well known and liked in his community. His being  
gay did not seem to be a problem but we can never know the inner  
thoughts of the abductee subject.

The abductee's parents are convinced that the suicide was a result of abduction. Further exploration of this case was shut down due to their being devastated by the event. The father in on a pacemaker and in very poor health.

The whole family had/has missing time events in their background with the son and daughter having the greater memory of something happening though in one particular event they all recollect missing time during a camping trip. The father is somewhat fearful of the topic and I suspect he is the former generation in that family who has had experiences.

I checked with both Dave Jacobs and Budd. Dave did not have a suicide case but Budd said he had a couple [suspected] if memory serves.

As for my limited encounters with abduction cases, even they were across that small demographic. Females and males, house wife, artist, small business owner, powerful politician, school teacher, homicide detective, worker in in seafood processing plant and a Major-Canadian army.

I don't profess to have any real experience with abductees other than documenting the cases.

Best,

Don Ledger

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 24](#)

## 'Tis The Season

From: **UFO UpDates - Toronto** <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
Date: Wed, 24 Dec 2008 12:32:56 -0500  
Archived: Wed, 24 Dec 2008 12:32:56 -0500  
Subject: 'Tis The Season

This Christmas season seems to have arrived with contributors enjoying their real lives and the lack of the strangeness that intrigues us here on UFO UpDates.

Rather than post some of the stupidity that passes for 'UFO info' and the very fringe items, the List is taking a watchful breather.

Should any 'breaking' UFO news occur over the next few days it will be posted.

We await the re-start of List-traffic with a degree of anticipation and the hope that the down-time is well spent...

Bobbi and I trust that you and yours have a joyous and peaceful Christmas.

ebk

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 26](#)

## Aguada Puerto Rico UFO/ET Encounters

From: Nelson Rivera <[nelsoncr24.nul](mailto:nelsoncr24.nul)>  
Date: Wed, 24 Dec 2008 22:10:58 -0800 (PST)  
Archived: Fri, 26 Dec 2008 09:46:50 -0500  
Subject: Aguada Puerto Rico UFO/ET Encounters

[Several drawings and location pictures accompanied this submission and can be seen, along with the report from a female witness, below, at John Hayes' UFO Info site:

<http://www.ufoinfo.com/news/puertoricoencounters.shtml>

--ebk]

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UFO And Extraterrestrial Eyewitness Report

[From a female witness]

Submitted herein is this UFO sighting/alien encounter story which occurred here in Aguada, Puerto Rico (a U.S.territory). This alien encounter and subsequent abduction was reported to several UFO/extraterrestrial investigator websites. However, it was so frightening that it reminded me of the "Amityville Horror" story. We had to abandon our house to move away from that rainforest after we bought it in August 2005. And recently sold the house because no investigator came to help us. We moved to another house away from the beach and that rainforest, and recently sold the house. The following 11 paragraphs were reported, however, included after that are additional occurrences that were not reported to any other websites before and which occurred after May 1, 2006.

On November 10, 2005, at approximately 3:00am, my daughter and I heard a weird humming sound like a hurricane wind going by the house. The sound was so strange that penetrated our ears. When my daughter and I looked outside, we observed what appeared to be a disc-shaped object moving westward towards the rear of the house where an enormous rainforest and a huge antenna are located and which leads all the way to the Atlantic Ocean. The disc was silver in color with a row of windows around it and had a greenish haze or aura covering the craft. All the windows appeared to be a darker greenish color. The craft appeared to be descending as though it was about to land somewhere behind the house. We lived in Brooklyn, New York near Kennedy Airport for over 20 years and the airplanes flew low over my house 24 hours a day. I know what we have seen and the sound it made were something very unusual, something we've never heard or seen before. After that, my daughter and I heard the same sound at least twice a week. I used to go to sleep at 3:00am watching (Novelas) Spanish soap operas.

On Friday, April 28, 2006, at approximately 3:00am, I heard again the same sound going by my house. At about 10 or 15 minutes later I heard my dog (Dora) barking continuously in the backyard. When I went to investigate by turning on the backyard light (the light in the house was off) and by looking through my dining room window, I observed my dog lying on her back with her 4 legs up apparently unconscious. The dog was chained to a metal pole next to the back fence which separates my property with the rainforest in the back. I called her name, "Dora, Dora, what's wrong Dora?", but she did not respond. When I lifted my eyes and looked at the back fence, which is about 25 feet from where I

was standing, I observed two creatures (extraterrestrials) standing close to and behind the chain-link fence looking at me. One of the aliens was about 3 feet from the dog and the other alien was about 5 feet away from the other alien. They were about 3 and a half feet tall with a large oval head and big black slanted eyes. They had pale grayish skin and a barely visible slit for a mouth and two little holes for a nose. They also had very skinny arms and they seem not to have any clothes on. Their legs were not showing because under the fence there was a cinder-block wall about one and a half feet high. I could only see them from the waist up. The aliens were staring at me and I was staring at them. I think that they were communicating with me telepathically because they were reading my mind when I said mentally, "I'm going to wake up my husband, Nelson," I left the window and walked through the hallway leading to the bedrooms. On the way to wake up my husband, they detoured me to the other bedroom to wake up my daughter instead. I woke up my daughter (17 year old at the time) and both of us went to the dining room window where we observed the creatures still standing in the same place. Again, they stared at us and we stared straight into their large black eyes for a while. My daughter said to me, "Mommy, I'm going back to bed because I'm scared, then I won't be able to sleep." I then followed my daughter to the bedroom because she was afraid to go by herself. Approximately 10 minutes later I returned to the dining room window, the aliens were still there in the same location. While staring straight into their big black eyes, the one closest to the dog was telling me in my mind to open the door leading to the backyard. I said in my mind, "I'm not going to open the door." He demanded telepathically, "You're going to open the door." I then felt myself moving towards the door and was getting drowsy.

I don't remember what happened after that, I woke up in my bed. I asked my daughter if she had seen the same thing in case I was imagining things. She described the incident and the creatures the same way and manner I described them. We then told my husband who slept in a separate bedroom facing the backyard. He slept there because my daughter was afraid to sleep by herself so I had to sleep with her. My husband stated that he did hear the dog barking wildly at about 3:00am. He said that he looked out the bedroom window, without getting off the bed, since the bed was against the window. He saw the dog barking towards the rainforest in the back, but thought that she was barking at a cat. He stated that he did not look at the fence or the rainforest and was so sleepy that he immediately went back to sleep. Please be advised that behind the back fence, where the aliens were, is an enormous rainforest that leads all the way to the Atlantic Ocean, where a huge antenna is located and is pitch black at night. I later found out that the antenna and the land where it sits are federal property owned and the area is fenced in.

What concerns me the most is that my husband informed me that he discovered the back door opened when he got up at about 8:00 in the morning, but did not know what happened. My daughter informed me that she opened her eyes about 5:00 in the morning and did not find me next to her in bed. She thought I was in the bathroom or somewhere around the house and went back to sleep. The dog did not want to eat or drink anything for days and was lying down apparently sick.

On Monday, May 1, 2006, at about 12:50am, while sitting in the living room and while talking on the phone, I saw a bright light, like an enormous light bulb, moving through the woods (the rainforest). I informed my husband and we immediately closed all the louver windows in the kitchen and dining room. I became hysterical and began to cry because I thought that they were after me and my husband had to calm me down.

At approximately 2:00am, the same night, I heard the same sound again over the house. Seconds later, while lying in bed, my husband and I heard a loud crashing noise like something hitting the flat concrete roof and shook the house like if something had landed there. We were afraid, but did not call the police for fear of being ridiculed and not come to investigate. It was such a terrifying experience that we didn't even considered to go outside and check it out. Instead the three of us huddled in one bed.

I feel relieved to know that I was not the only one seeing those

alien beings. My 17 year old daughter saw them too. Otherwise I, myself, would think that I was hallucinating and imagining things. Could it be possible that I did open the backyard door and was abducted by the aliens? I don't know, my husband found the back door opened early in the morning. In addition, I have dotted puncture marks on my left hand which is circular and had a slight burning pain which diminished as time went by since April 28, 2006. Although faded it is still visible, especially when observed in person, after almost 2 and a half years. Please see enclosed pictures and drawings.

We moved from New York City and bought that house in August 2005 when my husband retired as an Assistant Deputy Warden after working for 20 years for the New York City Department of Correction (Riker's Island jail complex) and after getting a heart attack. I am a serious woman who doesn't like to lie. I never thought that we would go through something like that. But what my daughter and I saw and what my husband and I heard is the truth. Never in my life did I believe in UFOs or aliens. I never cared, seen, read or even heard anything about how they look like until we witnessed the unexplained here on the island. We moved to another house that we own in Aguada which is pretty far from the beach and that rainforest. And my daughter was so traumatized that we sent her to live with my sister in Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania. Since we sold that house now we're planning to sell the other one to return to the U.S. mainland because I fear they're after me.

Several days after our encounter with the alien beings, on May 9, 2006, at approximately 1:00pm, we went to see Mr. Luis A. Echevarria, the mayor of Aguada. We were informed that he was not at City Hall, but attending a meeting in San Juan. We instead notified Mr. Martin Concepcion, who works for Puerto Rico's Civil Defense Agency in Aguada, and handed him a written copy of the incident. He stated that he will investigate, will put a request to the Municipal Police to patrol the area and will make a copy for the mayor. He also stated that he will get back to us, but he never did.

On May 11, 2006, at approximately 11:00am, we went to the channel 5 television network located in the city of Mayaguez. At the television network, we were interviewed by a young man who stated that here in Puerto Rico people are superstitious or when they report that they saw a UFO/extraterrestrial it is later dismissed as a hoax. My husband and I were so upset, we told him that we are "Nuyoricans" therefore not superstitious and just because someone lied, doesn't mean that we are liars.

We even sent emails to several Puerto Rican UFO investigative organizations, but they didn't email us back. We did not know who to turn to since we were not getting help from anyone here on the island. So my husband and I started sending emails to the U.S. mainland to see whether someone or some organization would help us. We are not seeking publicity but the truth.

Please note the following other incidents which were not reported to anyone before:

On June 5, 2006, at approximately 3:00am, after watching television, I proceeded to the kitchen to get a glass of milk before going to bed. As I walked through the living room on my way to the bedroom, I observed an alien peeping through the glass-pane window on the main entrance door. Outside that door is a balcony and obviously, he was standing on top of a patio chair next to the door, because being a short creature, he shouldn't reach the high window on the door. This one really scared me a lot because he looked older, meaner and had a mark on his forehead. The two aliens I saw behind the fence in my backyard looked like little kids with a serene look on their face. But not this one, he had a sinister evil look on his face. I hurried to my husband's bedroom, woke him up and he grabbed a machete in case it was an intruder, and proceeded out to the balcony, but no one was around. Could this alien be their leader?

On October 22, 2006, at approximately 11:00pm there was a 3 hour blackout in the town of Aguada (which is located in the northwest corner of the island). At approximately 1200am, I awoke my husband so he could hear a weird humming sound coming from behind the house in the rainforest. The whole backyard surrounding was pitch black when we went out with flashlights to

listen closely. I called my sister on the cellphone so she could hear the weird sound coming from the woods, but suddenly we got frightened and hurried back inside the house.

On February 25, 2007, at approximately 4:00am, I was in my bedroom which faced the front of the house. I looked through the window and observed a disc-shaped craft, similar to the one my daughter and I saw previously, hovering motionless about 40 meters from the house and about 40 meters from the ground. The craft was about 30 feet in diameter. It was so low and so close that I was able to observe curious extraterrestrials watching me and the house through viewing ports surrounding the craft. They were silhouetting through the bright greenish blue background and appeared very inquisitive looking out the windows and passing a long rod to one another. My immediate reaction at the moment was that it may have been a telescope or some other device. Unlike the others I've seen and heard, this craft was hovering silently. The whole event probably lasted about a minute. I ran to my husband bedroom and woke him up. He immediately grabbed the camcorder next to his bed. Unfortunately by the time we got to the window, the UFO was nowhere in sight.

On May 21, 2007, at approximately 1:00am my daughter, Barbie, was on her cellphone in the living room by herself talking to her friends in New York. The lights in the living room were off except for a dim light on a table lamp. Suddenly she heard the humming sound again and a greenish blue light flashing through all the windows. The light flashed in sequence starting from the front windows to the back windows. It looked like something had flown low by heading towards the back of the house. My daughter screamed and ran to the bedroom where she was shaking in fear. It may have been nothing, but it showed that she was traumatized after what she had seen on November 10, 2005 and April 28, 2006.

My 21 year old son, Jonathan, came to visit us from New York. On June 2, 2007, at approximately 2:00am, Jonathan explained that while in his bedroom, which is located downstairs, a very bright beam of green light shone through the window and through the glass-pane door lighting up the whole bedroom for a few seconds. He was so frightened that after the light vanished he hysterically ran upstairs in his pajamas to inform us. He refused to sleep in that bedroom again.

On August 14, 2007, early in the morning, we noticed that our dog, Dora, was gone. We do not know if she had come loose and ran away. We do have a high fence that goes around our property and the dog was kept chained overnight, so I don't see how that's possible. We looked all over our neighborhood, we asked our neighbors if they had seen her and we even searched throughout the town of Aguada, but to no avail. I do not know if it had something to do with those aliens, but after what happened to me and my family in that house, anything for me is possible.

In this house where we live now, on November 3, 2007, at approximately 2:00am, while in bed before I fell asleep, I saw a small blueish green neon light, about the size of a penny, coming from the window, moving through the bedroom in the dark and I was being paralyzed while looking at it. Suddenly my bed was being surrounded with those creatures. Obviously, I was made unconscious because when I opened my eyes I found myself naked in a different cold room and lying face-up on very cold "stainless steel" platform. This platform seem to be floating on the air without legs or anything supporting it. It was narrow enough that each arm hanged on each side. Still feeling paralyzed but conscious they commenced injecting me with a long needle or something. I begged them with my thoughts, to please not to do it, but they ignored me. I also felt that they put something metallic, like a round suction cup about 5 inches in diameter, on the right side of my abdomen. It felt like my flesh was being stretched and my inside was being sucked out like a powerful vacuum. I was in excruciating pain when they did that, but I was unable to scream or move. About 5 or 6 creatures surrounded the platform, one being taller than the others and the rest were the short grays I previously saw in my backyard. This time they were not communicating telepathically among themselves because I heard a weird incoherent mumbling sound coming from them. However, I didn't see their mouths move. I remember calling them "marcianos" (Martians), they revealed telepathically, in Spanish, that they don't like being called Martians, but preferred to be called creatures. When I got up



the next morning, I still had pain on the right side of my abdomen, but no mark was visible. Since my daughter doesn't sleep with me anymore because she now lives in Pennsylvania, I now sleep with my husband. He keeps telling me to wake him up when it happens, but I could not move or speak. Many times he stays awake late at night in bed, but nothing happens so he falls asleep. I do, however, feel or have a sense when they're around.

It is important to be noted here that I've had ovarian cancer, and have had several operations to remove parts of my intestine. I also received several operations for breast cancer. I flew occasionally to New York City to see my private doctors since here on the island private doctors are reluctant to accept Blue Cross and Blue Shield or GHI which I got from my husband retirement. I was informed by my doctors in New York that the cancer had returned and that I urgently needed another operation. I used to be in constant stomach pain and noticed blood in my stool and urine when I went to the bathroom. It was not the first time, the cancer has recurred before and they operated me after each recurrences. But after the encounter with those creatures on April 28, 2006, I returned to New York, several tests were performed and no cancer was detected. The pain and the bleeding had stopped. I truly feel that those creatures had cured me. What is my opinion of the creatures? They could be benevolent and compassionate creatures, but I'm afraid of them. They do not have my permission to do with my body whatever they please. Although I believe they had cured me, I am not their guinea pig.

I have something in my right lower back that has been bugging me for a long time. It moves when I touch it and I know it was not there before. I saw on the History Channel the program called UFO Hunter when Mr. Bill Birnes took a man who was abducted by a UFO to Dr. Roger Leir. The man had an alien implant in his leg. When Dr. Leir put a powerful magnet where the man had the implant, to our amazement, the object inside his flesh moved towards the magnet and the skin bulged. Like that man, I don't have an entry wound or a scar where the object is. That prompted me and my husband to do the same experiment. Unfortunately, we do not have a powerful magnet like the one used by Dr. Leir. The mark on my left hand and the object on my back have been noticed by me since my encounter with those aliens on April 28, 2006.

We recently learned that here in Puerto Rico this type of phenomenon occurs all over the island, especially in El Yunque rainforest where people get lost for days and come back with incredible stories. El Yunque is the only tropical rainforest in the United States National Forest System. Could there be an extraterrestrial base in the El Yunque rainforest? Could there be an extraterrestrial base in the woods behind my property or somewhere in the Atlantic Ocean? Since the town of Aguada is situated in the northwest corner of the island, could that be a route for UFOs to fly towards the Bermuda Triangle? My daughter and I did hear a weird humming sound very often and very close to the house. The craft we observed on November 10, 2005 appeared to be descending as though it was about to land somewhere behind my house. Let me reiterate, we lived in Brooklyn, New York near Kennedy Airport for over 20 years and the airplanes flew low over my house 24 hours a day. I know what we have seen and the sound it made were something very unusual, something we've never heard or seen before.

I have tried to write a thorough and detailed story to focus attention on what my family and I went through in that house and to demonstrate our reason for moving and for subsequently selling the house. What happened to me and my family was no hoax, it was a terrifying experience. To prove this, I am willing to submit to a polygraph test, go under hypnosis, be under oath or whatever. I sincerely say thank you for reading this long written story and hope for your understanding.

Maria M. Rivera  
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## 'Hobbit' Info From NOVA

From: **UFO UpDates - Toronto** <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
Date: Fri, 26 Dec 2008 09:57:35 -0500  
Archived: Fri, 26 Dec 2008 09:57:35 -0500  
Subject: 'Hobbit' Info From NOVA

Source: NOVA - PBS, Boston, Massachusetts, USA

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/sciencenow/3209/01.html>

April 2005

[Video, images and interview at site]

Little People Of Flores

The remains of three-foot-tall humans are discovered on a remote Indonesian island.

[Thanks to 'The Norm' for the lead]

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 26](#)

## The Brain's Subconscious Visual Sense

From: **UFO UpDates - Toronto** <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
Date: Fri, 26 Dec 2008 10:04:45 -0500  
Archived: Fri, 26 Dec 2008 10:04:45 -0500  
Subject: The Brain's Subconscious Visual Sense

The lead to the article below came from 'The Norm', who included this in his e-mail:

"Perhaps this article has some relevance to abductees recalling details of their traumatic experience under hypnosis.

People who are allegedly abducted and have their conscious memories of the event blocked out by their alien abductors (via chemical agents or something else) might later be able to retrieve relevant information about the abduction experience (under hypnosis) that had been subconsciously processed (via bio-evolutionary "primitive" neural mechanisms) during the abduction episode. This is pure conjecture. "

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Source: The New York Times - New York, USA

[http://www.nytimes.com/2008/12/23/health/23blin.html?\\_r=3D2](http://www.nytimes.com/2008/12/23/health/23blin.html?_r=3D2)

December 22, 2008

[Several links in article

Blind, Yet Seeing: The Brain's Subconscious Visual Sense

By Benedict Carey  
Published: December 22, 2008

The man, a doctor left blind by two successive strokes, refused to take part in the experiment. He could not see anything, he said, and had no interest in navigating an obstacle course - a cluttered hallway - for the benefit of science. Why bother?

When he finally tried it, though, something remarkable happened. He zigzagged down the hall, sidestepping a garbage can, a tripod, a stack of paper and several boxes as if he could see everything clearly. A researcher shadowed him in case he stumbled.

"You just had to see it to believe it," said Beatrice de Gelder, a neuroscientist at Harvard and Tilburg University in the Netherlands, who with an international team of brain researchers reported on the patient on Monday in the journal *Current Biology*. A video is online at:

[www.beatricedegelder.com/books.html](http://www.beatricedegelder.com/books.html)

The study, which included extensive brain imaging, is the most dramatic demonstration to date of so-called blindsight, the native ability to sense things using the brain's primitive, subcortical - and entirely subconscious - visual system.

Scientists have previously reported cases of blindsight in people with partial damage to their visual lobes. The new report

is the first to show it in a person whose visual lobes - one in each hemisphere, under the skull at the back of the head - were completely destroyed. The finding suggests that people with similar injuries may be able to recover some crude visual sense with practice.

"It's a very rigorously done report and the first demonstration of this in someone with apparent total absence of a striate cortex, the visual processing region," said Dr. Richard Held, an emeritus professor of cognitive and brain science at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, who with Ernst Poppel and Douglas Frost wrote the first published account of blindsight in a person, in 1973.

The man in the new study, an African living in Switzerland at the time, suffered the two strokes in his 50s, weeks apart, and was profoundly blind by any of the usual measures. Unlike people suffering from eye injuries, or congenital blindness in which the visual system develops abnormally, his brain was otherwise healthy, as were his eyes, so he had the necessary tools to process subconscious vision. What he lacked were the circuits that cobble together a clear, conscious picture.

The research team took brain scans and magnetic resonance images to see the damage, finding no evidence of visual activity in the cortex. They also found no evidence that the patient was navigating by echolocation, the way that bats do. Both the patient, T. N., and the researcher shadowing him walked the course in silence.

The man himself was as dumbfounded as anyone that he was able to navigate the obstacle course.

"The more educated people are," Dr. de Gelder said, "in my experience, the less likely they are to believe they have these resources that they are not aware of to avoid obstacles. And this was a very educated person."

Scientists have long known that the brain digests what comes through the eyes using two sets of circuits. Cells in the retina project not only to the visual cortex - the destroyed regions in this man - but also to subcortical areas, which in T. N. were intact. These include the superior colliculus, which is crucial in eye movements and may have other sensory functions; and, probably, circuits running through the amygdala, which registers emotion.

In an earlier experiment, one of the authors of the new paper, Dr. Alan Pegna of Geneva University Hospitals, found that the same African doctor had emotional blindsight. When presented with images of fearful faces, he cringed subconsciously in the same way that almost everyone does, even though he could not consciously see the faces. The subcortical, primitive visual system apparently registers not only solid objects but also strong social signals.

Dr. Held, the M.I.T. neuroscientist, said that in lower mammals these midbrain systems appeared to play a much larger role in perception. In a study of rats published in the journal *Science* last Friday, researchers demonstrated that cells deep in the brain were in fact specialized to register certain qualities of the environment.

They include place cells, which fire when an animal passes a certain landmark, and head-direction cells, which track which way the face is pointing. But the new study also found strong evidence of what the scientists, from the Norwegian University of Science and Technology in Trondheim, called "border cells," which fire when an animal is close to a wall or boundary of some kind.

All of these types of neurons, which exist in some form in humans, may too have assisted T. N. in his navigation of the obstacle course.

In time, and with practice, people with brain injuries may learn to lean more heavily on such subconscious or semiconscious systems, and perhaps even begin to construct some conscious vision from them.

"It's not clear how sharp it would be," Dr. Held said. "Probably

a vague, low-resolution spatial sense. But it might allow them to move around more independently."

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## Exeter - The East Coast Roswell - Part I

From: **UFO UpDates - Toronto** <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
Date: Fri, 26 Dec 2008 11:10:09 -0500  
Archived: Fri, 26 Dec 2008 11:10:09 -0500  
Subject: Exeter - The East Coast Roswell - Part I

Source: Seacoast Online - Exeter, New Hampshire, USA

<http://www.seacoastonline.com/articles/20081219-LIFE-812190321>

December 19, 2008

Exeter - The East Coast Roswell - Part I

Why have so many people come forward with stories in this small New Hampshire town? Part one of a story on glowing orbs, UFOs and other unexplained phenomena in Exeter.

By Dean Merchant  
[features.nul](#)

"It was duskish. I saw a ball of bright white light with golden-yellowish edges about 20 feet above my head," recalled Andrew Ulery of his encounter with a glowing orb on Park Street, when he was a freshman in high school. "It was following me for about a full minute, until I reached the bridge that crosses the railroad." (Visitors to Exeter have reported observing a pyramid of lights above this section of the railroad tracks.)

Ulery, the black-bearded manager of the Loaf and Ladle, who is seldom separated from a sporty cap, said the "ball of lightning" was about the size of a basketball and he remembered "being glad I didn't scuff my feet - that lightning thing."

As Ulery reached the bridge, the object "just took off" and he recalled a "surreal feeling" and being mesmerized by it.

Other Balls Of Light

A ball of bright light hung suspended in the air just outside the window of a Phillips Exeter Academy house/dormitory. Two young mothers - spouses of academy instructors, each with little children at the time - watched in surprise as the glowing object, about the size of a soccer ball, traveled down Tan Lane, over the rooftop of an academy building and disappeared from sight.

According to one of the women, a former teacher who has requested anonymity, the event was in the late 1960s around the time when there was much talk of probes being sent out from UFOs.

Another Exeter academician, one of the town's "super moms" and a member of the Exonian family, related an incident dating to when she resided on Tan Lane. Her children and their friends, who "were always outside playing and traveled about in a pack everywhere together," burst through the door "agoggle." They breathlessly spewed out a description of a UFO they saw descend onto the academy grounds. "I was non-judgemental as I listened," she said, recalling that one of her sons, now 28, was 9 years old at the time.

Peter Geremia of Rye, UFO researcher and MUFON (Mutual UFO Network) director emeritus, said while such ball of light reports are not common, they do occur. He cited two examples, one of a man driving south on Route 93 from Concord, who was followed by a ball of light that moved in front of his windshield for two or three seconds before it disappeared.

The other incident, this in Eliot, Maine, involved a couple who watched a ball of light descend onto their property boundary and with precision follow along two legs of their four-acre property line before disappearing, leaving them with no recall of its departure.

It is not uncommon, according to Geremia, for people to report seeing such an apparition and have no recollection as to how it left. "They just do not know," he said.

#### Dancing Lights - Mysterious Flashes

The aforementioned retired school teacher also recalled a three-night period when mysterious lights appeared in the evening sky above the PEA football stadium. She said each night a number of Exonians, herself included, sojourned across the fields to observe the "dancing lights."

Mysterious flashes in Exeter's night skies are part of the area phenomena. UFO Roundup's Internet site, in 1997, recorded two reports of a mysterious blindingly bright blue flash that lighted the sky over the town. Both sightings were in the same vicinity, one seen in November, the other in December. The cases were investigated by MUFON NH, according to Geremia.

#### UFOs

In addition to the glowing orb, Andrew Ulery has also seen two UFO crafts. One was a large triangular UFO, which came over the ancient chestnut trees at the head of the PEA pathway and traveled over his head at the High Street/Portsmouth Avenue intersection. The craft "came low and slow" and "veered" toward the former Globe store where it disappeared from sight. People in other cars saw it too, he said.

Ulery's other sighting was with his dad, on Route 150 near Great Meadows, not far from where the original 1965 "incident" occurred. He described this craft as cigar-shaped.

A cigar-shaped UFO was also sighted in Exeter in July 2005, by a man referred to only as "David" by Exeter News-Letter's Adam Dolge. According to Dolge's account, "David" was a retired Navy chief petty officer, a former flight engineer with more than 10,000 hours of flight experience. At about 3 p.m. on July 20, David went out to mow his lawn and there in the sky was a silver cigar-shaped object, roughly the size of two aircraft carriers. David watched as the UFO changed color to an orange-red, before stretching to twice its original size and disappearing.

A woman from East Kingston told the Exeter News-Letter she saw the same object on July 25. She said it was pill-shaped with dark spots and was in the air for about 30 seconds before mimicking the expansion mode observed by David and disappearing.

According to Kathy Marden, alien abduction researcher and co-author of Captured, the generalized Exeter geographical quadrant is an historically active area for UFO sightings. Marden's aunt, the late Betty Hill, believed there was a UFO window in this vicinity.

Marden said her aunt sighted UFOs on nearby Sanborn Hill and Giles Road in East Kingston. She said there have been many sightings in Brentwood and toward the Fremont town line. A couple also sighted a UFO off Court Street in Exeter, not far from PEA, she said.

During the 1970s, Exeter experienced its second UFO "flap," jargon for a period of UFO sightings. It was within this time frame that the Exeter teacher left downtown Exeter one evening and headed along the Newmarket Road toward home. Following the Squamscott River, she had almost reached the narrow railroad trestle bridge near the town forest when between the trestle and the river loomed a large UFO, about the distance of two football



fields away. She described it as "very big and very bright with a round bottom," and said it was "both exciting and scary." She rushed home and retrieved her husband, but when they returned to the location the craft was gone.

#### Politicians And UFOs

During the presidential primary season Congressman Dennis Kucinich stopped for a nosh at the Blue Moon Market and Green Earth Caf=E9, related manager Meadow Ulery. Kucinich, who personally experienced a close encounter, is well aware of Exeter's fame as a UFO window.

In her newest book, Shirley MacLaine described Kucinich's encounter (which occurred at her home) with a "gigantic triangular craft, silent, and observing him." She wrote that Kucinich found the experience "extremely moving" and that "he felt a connection in his heart and heard directions in his mind."

The late Tim Russert questioned Kucinich about his UFO sighting. Kucinich confirmed the account and flipped back, -=A6I'm also going to move my campaign office to Roswell, N.M., and another one in Exeter, N.H."

At a town meeting in Exeter's old Town Hall, former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani fielded a question from a young boy, who asked, "If something's living on another planet and it's bad and it comes over here, what would you do?" Giuliani responded, "Of all the things that can happen in this world, we'll be prepared for that, yes we will. We'll be prepared for anything that happens."

#### An Exeter UFO Window?

It's raining. Andrew Ulery, who said he was a friend of the late Norman Muscarello, the catalyst of "The Incident at Exeter," opens his new umbrella ...; new to Ulery since Barack Obama left it during a snow storm on a visit to the Loaf and Ladle. Ulery steps out into the misty night. A short walk down street sits the old Town Hall where Giuliani strode upon the hardwood floor proclaiming if they come, we will be ready. Beneath him is the space formerly occupied by the Exeter Police Department, where four decades ago Officer Reginald "Scratch" Toland lighted a cigarette for a distraught Muscarello, who was excitedly telling him they had already arrived.

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# UFO Updates

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## The East Coast Roswell - Part II

From: **UFO UpDates - Toronto** <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
Date: Fri, 26 Dec 2008 11:14:10 -0500  
Archived: Fri, 26 Dec 2008 11:14:10 -0500  
Subject: The East Coast Roswell - Part II

Source: Seacoast Online - Exter, New Hampshire, USA

<http://www.seacoastonline.com/articles/20081226-LIFE-812260325>

December 26, 2008

Exeter - The East Coast Roswell - Part II

Some believe there has been a continually utilized UFO window in the Exeter quadrant since the town's founding with a renewed interest and resurgence of "visitors" to the area.

By Dean Merchant  
[features.nul](#)

Editor's note: This is part two of a story on UFOs in Exeter. Part one, "Exeter =97 The East Coast Roswell," ran Friday, Dec. 19 and can be found online at [www.seacoastonline.com](http://www.seacoastonline.com).

The Exeter quadrangle (NW/4 Exeter 15') has long been a geographic location of extraordinary interest to researching ufologists and those who take UFO safaris about its hinterlands. But early colonial documentation reveals that Exeter's first English arrivals, the Rev. John Wheelwright and his band of antinomians, came with pre-existing notions of UFOs.

Stratham's Pete Wiggin is a man born to his mission. The passionate historian's DNA follows a direct line from Captain Thomas Wiggin, first settler at Sandy Point, and New Hampshire's first governor.

Wiggin scours early colonial wills and land deeds to carefully reconstruct and chronicle historical events of Exeter and its environs. He has discovered rare and important snippets in obscure tomes that constantly enrich the Squamscott River communities' heritage.

While researching Gov. John Winthrop's journal, Wiggin learned that on Sept. 7, 1639, his (Wiggin's) Puritan ancestor, Captain Tom, was chastised by authorities for helping the Rev. Wheelwright (the two had arrived together in 1630 on Winthrop's fleet) and his followers establish themselves at Exeter. The troop had been booted out of Mass Bay by their less-liberal-minded kin. These new arrivals at the head of the river had no precognition of Exeter's future fame in ufology, but as Wiggin discovered, they arrived with an awareness of UFO occurrences, possible alien abductions and strange happenings.

Wiggin read in Winthrop's journal, "In this year (1639) one James Everell, a sober, discreet man, and two others, saw a great light in the night at Muddy River. When it stood still, it flamed up, and was about three yards square; when it ran it was contracted into the figure of a swine: it ran as swift as an arrow towards Charlton, and so up and down about two or three hours. They were come down in their lighter about a mile, and, when it was over, they found themselves carried quite back

against the tide to the place they came from. Diverse other credible persons saw the same light, after, about the same place."

The antinomians' tenure was brief; most soon departed for Wells, Maine. Over time the community grew into a stronghold for rebels and served as the revolutionary capital of New Hampshire. In the late 1700s, John Phillips begifted the town with an academy and today Exonians hold a vast portion of undeveloped land in the quadrant, running to the Great Meadows, the site of "The incident at Exeter."

#### Silent Craft

Rita Podalsky resides just outside Kensington center, in the middle of the Exeter quadrant and also in close proximity to Great Meadows. It was in the heavily wooded area near her home that the preschool teacher had a close encounter with Unidentified Flying Objects 31 years ago.

Podalsky reflected, "My daughter was seven at the time. The family was watching TV in the bedroom and the drapes were open to the big picture window." Podalsky and her husband noticed lights coming through the trees. The couple ran through the house and out the front door to the yard. "It looked like a big car with two bright headlights coming low and over the tops of the trees," said Podalsky. In actuality, the beams were from dual crafts, which Podalsky said were "slow and silent." They passed just over the rooftop and disappeared over the Kensington Church.

Podalsky's husband served in "Nam," she said, and he suggested that the Air Force had developed such silent craft, and that they must be helicopters from Pease Air Force Base. But Podalsky never accepted that explanation because of the closeness and complete silence. "They made no noise at all," she emphasized.

Kathy Marden, co-author of "Captured," related that a woman in South Hampton, which borders Kensington, reported a very low-flying craft, that landed in a field behind her house. According to Marden, the incident was reported in the newspaper and afterwards an Air Force officer arrived at the woman's home. He told her she had not seen a UFO, but a helicopter. The woman asked him, "Have you ever seen a silent helicopter?"

#### UFO Occupants

Marden also told of an incident that crossed her radar screen involving a youth group from Newton (which borders South Hampton). The teens saw a UFO in a field, said Marden, and watched "little beings" in the field, seemingly collecting soil samples.

According to a source in Exeter, a group of blueberry pickers also observed a little being in the Epping Woods, across from the Star Speedway. The source, an Exeter engineer descended from an illustrious founding family (who stressed "for God's sake, don't use my name"), said the incident occurred before the highway was put in, when it was all woods.

"Blueberry pickers had gone into the woods and saw one of these creatures, about 3 feet tall, with alien features." The engineer said it was General Store-cracker barrel talk at the time, and a hot-button topic.

The engineer also told of the experiences of an Exeter High Street pillar of society, who around 1978, on more than one occasion, saw a round UFO hovering outside an upper story window. The woman, who lived a short distance from the PEA walking trails (and curiously close to the domed, PEA Grainger Astrological Observatory), could see the occupants inside the UFO, said the engineer. She became concerned after seeing the craft a number of times, but was ridiculed when she shared her experience. She vowed she would never speak of it again.

With his molecules almost at a boil, the engineer bubbled out, "Do you know what she said they looked like?" After a pause, he sighed, "She said they did not really look that much different from us."

#### UFO Safaris

Nighttime UFO safaris have been particularly popular in the Exeter area quadrant, especially during UFO flaps.

Robert E. Cahill, in his book "New England's Visitors from Outer Space," told of such a safari that he and two pals took with the late Betty Hill in Kingston (her parents and sister had homes in Kingston). The group first went to a railroad junction and adjacent power lines where Hill said saucers frequently stopped.

Hill then took them to a "secret airfield" which was a turned over farm field, secluded by "high trees and bushes." After six hours and a few beers, the men ended their unproductive vigil.

Les Cooper, a retired social studies teacher, perennially popular with his students, and a dedicated collector of Exeter ephemia, resides in a family homestead tucked behind Exeter Hospital. The scholarly gentleman said his mother and stepfather, who enjoyed taking UFO safaris about the Exeter quadrant, were on more than one occasion successful in their quest. Cooper said that many people saw UFOs at the time. He added that at the height of the UFO fervor, a woman from Hampton took people on guided tours in search of UFOs.

The precedent for nighttime UFO safaris had been set by the "Incident at Exeter," when for weeks dozens of cars took nightly excursions to the notorious field. The owner of the land was forced to block off his property with wire and post "Keep Out" signs against the curiosity seekers, who littered the roadside with beer cans and cigarettes.

It may be an advantageous time for UFO enthusiasts who hope for a sighting. Just two weeks ago, a young woman was on her way to work at 3:30 a.m. to put on the coffee for sleepy commuters. She drove an extra loop to allow time to listen to her favorite music. She was startled out of her solitude when a UFO passed above her at the junction of Ash Swamp Road and Route 88. The early morning store opener requested anonymity to avoid potential teasing from her jocular morning patrons.

The bio-region of UFO interest encompasses lonely roads that wind through and past such places as Shaws Hill, Giles Hill, Hog Hill Swamp, Bugsmouth Hill, Wild Pasture Lane, Trundle Bed Lane and Stumpfield Road.

The heart of the region is bisected by Drinkwater Road. On the side opposite Great Meadows ("Incident") is another large swamp of marsh and mire known as The Cove. Two electrical power lines penetrate the interior of each swamp. The Cove is bounded to the east by Route 88, a vicinity of many UFO sightings.

Are these isolated power lines used by UFOs to draw off energy? According to the aforementioned engineer, a craft was seen by a number of people, hovering above high tension lines in the Pine Road area of Brentwood in the 1960s. Projecting from the UFO, he said, was a silver tube line that ran right down to the electrical lines.

Why A Renewed UFO Interest In Exeter?

It might be concluded that there has been a continually utilized UFO window in the Exeter quadrant since the town's founding. There are factors that may be leading to the renewed interest and resurgence of "visitors" to the area.

A revived Portsmouth Naval Shipyard with a new generation of nuclear submarines, and a second reactor at Seabrook Station looming in John McCain's planned nuclear renaissance, combined with a world in turmoil, follows an historic pattern of such events that seem to magnetize the interest and concern of UFO occupants.

Are they once again being drawn to Exeter?

[Thanks to Greg Boone for the lead]

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# UFO Updates

A mailing list for the study of UFO-related phenomena  
'Its All Here In Black & White'

Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 26](#)

## Slowed By A Pain In The Neck

From: **UFO UpDates - Toronto** <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
Date: Fri, 26 Dec 2008 11:22:20 -0500  
Archived: Fri, 26 Dec 2008 11:22:20 -0500  
Subject: Slowed By A Pain In The Neck

Source: Billy Cox's Blog De Void - Sarasota, Florida, USA

<http://tinyurl.com/9sqyww>

Thursday, December 25, 2008

Slowed By A Pain In The Neck  
By Billy Cox

You have to use your fingers to pry apart your cracked lips and force the plastic bit between your teeth, after which you wriggle your neck into the headrest so the radtech can snap the restraining mask into place. The mask is a snug custom fit of plastic mesh, a 3-D grid-pattern of your head and shoulders in a cyborg profile. Eight crisp clicks and you're good to go.

It gets chilly in the tube so they wrap you in blankets before they ease the slab into the ovoid radiation chamber. There's not much to look at inside, really, just a grainy thin line of emerald light suspended in the concave ceiling. The background noise is largely atmospheric, like the drone of a vacuum cleaner in another room.

The radiation springs into action on a one-two one-two cadence evoking a mildly amplified set of rusty scissors or maybe a junkyard percussion instrument crafted for a cut-rate sweat lodge initiation ritual. It makes 20-some rotations around your head for six minutes and then, boom, that's it - they pull you from the oven and you're done 'til tomorrow.

They don't measure radiation dosage in rads or roentgens or rem around here; these days, they call it centigrade. The experts have decided it'll take 200 centigrades each day for six weeks to blast king hell out of whatever cervical lymph node cancer cells may have eluded the surgeon's knife. The crud doesn't appear to have spread. But the docs don't know the primary source. So they're calling this an insurance policy.

The insurance policy is fortified by weekly injections of monoclonal antibodies, a cocktail called Erbitux, which supposedly lacks the toxicity of traditional chemotherapies. In terms of pain, the combination is like Silicon Valley meets Torquemada - sophisticated and painless on the front end; on the back end, just another wrung-out rat in a cage, willing to confess and convert.

The throat cavity begins to ulcerate almost immediately, and halfway through the Erbitux, the oncologist is so disgusted and horrified he suspends treatment. His patient's face looks like John 'The Elephant Man' Merrick, only purple, like it should be wrestled into a canvas sack, clubbed into submission and hustled off to a Midway barker's tent. Nightly efforts with a soft-bristled toothbrush generate a vile broth, and the gullet is so scorched it could cough blood and fire and burn half of Tokyo.

And oh - constipation. The other night, in a mind-blowing scene

that re-wrote the books on proportion, something the size and density of a human kneebone materialized in the basin. Had I not been too busy weeping and groaning, I would've alerted the FBI to having discovered the remains of Jimmy Hoffa.

Hello? Is this microphone working? Don't leave yet, folks, Jerry Seinfeld's on deck. OK, look. This isn't an entirely gratuitous rant because De Void has received several e-mails wondering if I've finally wimped out on UFOs like everybody else. The answer is no. Not yet. There are merely distractions.

In fact, the timing of being sidelined couldn't be worse, because De Void had planned to go to Israel this week and file live reports on International Orgasm Day, a world-peace experiment being sponsored by the Raelian UFO movement. You remember those guys - in 2002, they held a press conference to announce they'd cloned a human being, but they never produced the kid.

Anyhow, according to:

<http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-3642845,00.html>

International Orgasm Day got canceled at the last minute in Tel Aviv because the sex-venue owner was getting too many threats. Maybe he'll play it safe next year and get into weapons production.

There's not much to add at this point. Except the obvious: Merry Christmas.

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 27](#)

## Re: Blind Abductees?

From: John Velez <[jvelez49.nul](mailto:jvelez49.nul)>  
Date: Sat, 27 Dec 2008 05:39:49 -0500  
Archived: Sat, 27 Dec 2008 09:14:24 -0500  
Subject: Re: Blind Abductees?

>From: Don Ledger <[dledger.nul](mailto:dledger.nul)>  
>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>Date: Sun, 21 Dec 2008 15:01:41 -0400  
>Subject: Re: Blind Abductees?

>>From: John Velez <[jvelez49.nul](mailto:jvelez49.nul)>  
>>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>>Date: Fri, 19 Dec 2008 18:02:34 -0500  
>>Subject: Re: Blind Abductees?

>>>From: Don Ledger <[dledger.nul](mailto:dledger.nul)>  
>>>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>>>Date: Fri, 19 Dec 2008 01:50:32 -0400  
>>>Subject: Re: Blind Abductees?

>>>>From: John Velez <[jvelez49.nul](mailto:jvelez49.nul)>  
>>>>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>>>>Date: Thu, 18 Dec 2008 16:33:48 -0500  
>>>>Subject: Re: Blind Abductees?

><snip>

>>>I will ask Dave Jacobs. I once asked him if psychologists or  
>>>psychiatrists had ever come to him claiming they had been  
>>>abducted. He said, "Lots".

>>Budd too! The subject came up one time when I was with Budd and  
>>John Mack. John revealed that he too had worked with  
>>psychiatrist(s) who were reporting they were being abducted.

>>I actually met one of the psychologists that Budd had worked  
>>with as an 'abduction case'. He is as 'normal, conventional' a  
>>gentleman as one could hope to meet. There were also a couple of  
>>high-ranking military people along with a couple of well-known  
>>Hollywood faces. Abduction knows no cultural, political or  
>>status-based restrictions.

>>It seems to be a fairly democratic equal-opportunity  
>>phenomenon in terms of the backgrounds of victims/subjects that  
>>are selected.

>Hi John,

>I was in San Jose in July speaking at the MUFON conference as  
>was Leslie Kean and Budd was doing a workshop there. The hotel  
>provided light complimentary meals to the speakers. It seems  
>Budd and I shared the same eating timetable. On three occasions  
>we snacked together and what would start out as a 15 minute  
>interlude, extended for an hour and a half. We talked about  
>psychiatrists and psychologists after I'd mentioned Dave Jacob's  
>remark to me. And he went into some details about their  
>encounters.

Hi Don,

I strongly suspect that the average reader has a tendency to  
imbue the reports of 'high-profile' individuals with a little  
more credibility than say, that of a housewife or a musician.



Maybe I'm being a little obtuse about it, but my belief is; regardless of a person's occupation or social status, the same gravitas should be applied to all new testimony/reports. This is why it's such a shame that there are not enough interested, competent, individuals actively vetting the reports and the individuals who are making them. Academia has really dropped the ball with UFO and abduction reports.

I don't think such that some abduction reports are more 'credible' than others somehow by virtue of the witness's occupation. Shouldn't matter if it's a general or a house painter making the report. All should be greeted with as much attention. Most people have no clue how very important and urgent a subject this is - for all mankind.

"This ain't no disco, this ain't no foolin' around!"  
-- Talking Heads

>One conversation we had was about the abduction/suicide of a 19  
>year old in a case I had.

The self-inflicted death of one so young, regardless of the cause(s), is always heart piercing news. My condolences go out to the family and loved ones. They are the ones who will have to carry that very heavy stone all the way to their own graves. I watched my parents suffer the loss of my 16 year-old brother to cancer. It's just unnatural for a parent to bury a child. It takes a huge toll on the survivors.

>NOTE: I do not contend that this person committed suicide  
>because of abduction experiences. The suicide occurred about 11  
>months after the most apparent abduction. The subject was gay  
>but and openly, though not overtly, gay. He marched in gay pride  
>parades and was well known and liked in his community. His being  
>gay did not seem to be a problem but we can never know the inner  
>thoughts of the abductee subject.

It may have been a contributing factor, Don. We'll never know will we? Sad.

>The abductee's parents are convinced that the suicide was a  
>result of abduction. Further exploration of this case was shut  
>down due to their being devastated by the event. The father in  
>on a pacemaker and in very poor health.

>The whole family had/has missing time events in their background  
>with the son and daughter having the greater memory of something  
>happening though in one particular event they all recollect  
>missing time during a camping trip. The father is somewhat  
>fearful of the topic and I suspect he is the former generation  
>in that family who has had experiences.

Is there a real (as in; inquisitive) scientist in the house? It boggles the mind that at the very least, the new religion of psychiatry has not assigned a few priests to look into an experiential phenomenon that is being reported by so many and on a global scale.

Shame on academia! You should all rot in Hell for ignoring the needs of so many of your fellow creatures. Of what practical value is science if it does not at the very least serve the emergent needs of the human community?

I did what I could for a long time, Don. Gave it about 10 years of my life and I'm sure it was a contributing factor to the problems in my marriage at the time. I'm out of this business for honest, human reasons. The very personal price I paid just to make a contribution, was stiff.

This abduction business calls for a small army of trained investigators. From ALL disciplines. The few guys that are actively looking into it today is simply not enough. Dealing with the sheer number of reports is a Herculean task. Like trying to empty the ocean with a teaspoon.

>I checked with both Dave Jacobs and Budd. Dave did not have a  
>suicide case but Budd said he had a couple [suspected] if  
>memory serves.

I think it's safe to assume that there may be several unreported

Re: Blind Abductees?

cases of suicide with an abduction component. It's just always so difficult to assign blame to contributing factors after the fact. No 'witness' left to elucidate for us!

>As for my limited encounters with abduction cases, even they >were across that small demographic. Females and males, house >wife, artist, small business owner, powerful politician, school >teacher, homicide detective, worker in in seafood processing >plant and a Major-Canadian army.

Gay, straight, rich, poor, black, white, doesn't matter, what ever is happening, it is happening to us all. Abductees represent as honest a cross-section of humanity as one could find.

>I don't profess to have any real experience with abductees other >than documenting the cases.

That's tons more than any others are doing. And thank you for doing it! Wish there were more of your caliber involved.

Happy New Year to you and your wife. Hope the electricians are back and you guys are safe back home again.

Warmest regards,

John

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# UFO Updates

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 27](#)

## Symbols Of An Alien Sky Parts 1 & 2

From: **UFO UpDates - Toronto** <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
Date: Sat, 27 Dec 2008 12:30:17 -0500  
Archived: Sat, 27 Dec 2008 12:30:17 -0500  
Subject: Symbols Of An Alien Sky Parts 1 & 2

The following are thoughtful, well researched, crafted and thought provoking - of definite interest to those of us who have the slightest inkling that 'they' have been with us for millennia.

Discussion is encouraged here, on the List,

ebk

-----

Source: Thunderbolts.Info - Portland, Oregon, USA

[http://www.thunderbolts.info/mmarchives/081210\\_sas1.htm](http://www.thunderbolts.info/mmarchives/081210_sas1.htm)

[http://www.thunderbolts.info/featured\\_media.htm#sas2](http://www.thunderbolts.info/featured_media.htm#sas2)

December 10th & 24th, 2008

[Video at both pages]

Symbols Of An Alien Sky Parts 1 & 2  
by The Thunderbolts Project

Summary:

These videos are two ten-minute introductions to a three-hour video production presently in development. Other segments, well underway, will follow. Here, the underlying themes are:

- \* Memories of planetary upheaval in ancient astronomies
- \* Monumental civilization: commemorating a prior "age of gods and wonders"
- \* Why did the first astronomers identify the greatest gods as planets towering over the world?
- \* Archetypal memories of Doomsday
- \* Other archetypes: golden age, primeval sun, mother goddess, warrior-hero, chaos monster
- \* Most common form of the chaos monster: the cosmic serpent or dragon

The videos are in rough cut, and modifications will be more than likely in coming months, as other segments are completed. The principles stated are far-reaching, but they are not speculations, just facts that are too rarely acknowledged.

One reason for publishing the video in rough-cut form is that, if any statement of fact is exaggerated, or in any way inaccurate, we will want to correct the statement before

releasing the first hour. Responses will be carefully reviewed.

David Talbott

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## Re: Blind Abductees?

From: John Rimmer <[j.rimmer.nul](mailto:j.rimmer.nul)>  
Date: Sat, 27 Dec 2008 17:02:54 +0000  
Archived: Sat, 27 Dec 2008 13:11:17 -0500  
Subject: Re: Blind Abductees?

>From: John Velez <[jvelez49.nul](mailto:jvelez49.nul)>  
>Date: Sat, 27 Dec 2008 05:39:49 -0500  
>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>Subject: Re: Blind Abductees

>>From: Don Ledger <[dledger.nul](mailto:dledger.nul)>  
>>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>>Date: Sun, 21 Dec 2008 15:01:41 -0400  
>>Subject: Re: Blind Abductees?.ca>  
>>>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>>>Date: Fri, 19 Dec 2008 01:50:32 -0400  
>>>Subject: Re: Blind Abductees?

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reports of 'high-profile' individuals with even more credibility  
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military people [and] well-known Hollywood faces". Is that too  
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--

John Rimmer  
<[j.rimmer.nul](mailto:j.rimmer.nul)>

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## Re: Blind Abductees?

From: Jerome Clark <[jkclark.nul](mailto:jkclark.nul)>  
Date: Sat, 27 Dec 2008 12:34:40 -0500  
Archived: Sat, 27 Dec 2008 13:57:13 -0500  
Subject: Re: Blind Abductees?

>From: John Rimmer <[j.rimmer.nul](mailto:j.rimmer.nul)>  
>Date: Sat, 27 Dec 2008 17:02:54 +0000  
>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>Subject: Re: Blind Abductees?

>>From: John Velez <[jvelez49.nul](mailto:jvelez49.nul)>  
>>Date: Sat, 27 Dec 2008 05:39:49 -0500  
>>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>>Subject: Re: Blind Abductees

>>>From: Don Ledger <[dledger.nul](mailto:dledger.nul)>  
>>>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>>>Date: Sun, 21 Dec 2008 15:01:41 -0400  
>>>Subject: Re: Blind Abductees?.ca>

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>reports of 'high-profile' individuals with even more credibility  
>if they were allowed to know the names of these "high-ranking  
>military people [and] well-known Hollywood faces". Is that too  
>much to ask? Probably.

No doubt. I think I know at least some of the names to which John  
Velez alludes, and I believe that the psychosocial formula can be  
expressed thus:

Those names and "abduction experiences" in the same sentence  
= career-killer.

Perhaps we can hope that one day ridicule will be no more  
associated with UFO-abduction reports than with near-death  
experiences, the latter now accepted as genuine even if their  
ultimate meaning remains unclear. It would probably help to  
concede at the outset that there is a real anomaly, which resists  
facile efforts at explanation, in evidence.

When abduction experiences are acknowledged in the same way as  
NDEs - in other words, as difficult to account-for phenomena it  
is possible for sane and sincere persons to encounter - then it  
should be possible to discuss them openly and to engage in  
constructive discussion and debate about their causes and

Re: Blind Abductees?

significance. The model scientific paper so far remains Stuart Appelle's "The Abduction Experience: A Critical Evaluation of Theory and Evidence," JUFOS 6, 1995/1996.

Jerry Clark

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## Re: Blind Abductees?

From: **Eleanor White** <[ewraven1.nul](mailto:ewraven1.nul)>  
Date: Sat, 27 Dec 2008 15:00:25 -0500  
Archived: Sat, 27 Dec 2008 15:19:48 -0500  
Subject: Re: Blind Abductees?

>From: John Velez <[jvelez49.nul](mailto:jvelez49.nul)>  
>Date: Sat, 27 Dec 2008 05:39:49 -0500  
>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>Subject: Re: Blind Abductees?

<snip>

>Shame on academia! You should all rot in Hell for ignoring the  
>needs of so many of your fellow creatures. Of what practical  
>value is science if it does not at the very least serve the  
>emergent needs of the human community?

That should be engraved on huge stone monuments set up at the  
entrance way to every one of the planet's universities. (Just  
slightly altered to make it plain their lack of response to UFOs  
and abductions is the reason for the monuments' being there.)

Eleanor White

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## Coast To Coast Year-End UFO Show

From: **Stanton T Friedman** <[fsphys.nul](mailto:fsphys.nul)>  
Date: Sat, 27 Dec 2008 16:01:45 -0400  
Archived: Sat, 27 Dec 2008 15:21:41 -0500  
Subject: Coast To Coast Year-End UFO Show

George Knapp will be hosting a year end UFO show on Coast to Coast Radio Sunday night Dece. 28.

I am scheduled for 11:30PM Pacific time. I believe there will be several half hour segments with different guests.

Stan Friedman

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## Lockheed CEO Knew Of ET Visitors

From: **UFO UpDates - Toronto** <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
Date: Sat, 27 Dec 2008 15:31:05 -0500  
Archived: Sat, 27 Dec 2008 15:31:05 -0500  
Subject: Lockheed CEO Knew Of ET Visitors

Source: The Examiner - Denver, Colorado, USA

<http://tinyurl.com/7zquey>

December 23 2008

CEO Of NASA Contractor Lockheed Knew Of Extraterrestrial UFO Visitors  
by Jeff Peckman

Lockheed Skunk Works former CEO knew the Roswell extraterrestrial UFO influenced designs of Testor model kits for Roswell UFO models, and U.S. top secret aircraft. According to a CNI News report by Colorado resident Michael Lindemann, the design information was derived from forensic illustrations and numerous witness testimonies about the Roswell UFO, provided by William L. 'Bill' McDonald.

In an e-mail, dated July 29, 1999, apparently addressed to Lindemann, McDonald referenced an excerpt of a discussion with Harold Puthoff, founder of the previously highly classified U.S. "remote viewing=94 program. McDonald said:

"Well Hal, you asked for it! Now that legendary Lockheed engineer and chief model kit designer for the Testor Corporation, John Andrews, is dead, I can announce that he personally confirmed the design connection between the Roswell Spacecraft and the Lockheed Martin Unmanned Combat Air Vehicles (UCAVs), spyplanes, Joint Strike Fighters, and Space Shuttles. Andrews was a close personal friend of "Skunk Works" CEO Ben Rich - the hand-picked successor of Skunk Works founder Kelly Johnson and the man famous for the F-117 Nighthawk "Stealth" fighter, its "half-pint" prototype the "HAVE BLUE", and the top-secret F-19 Stealth Interceptor. Before Rich died of cancer, Andrews took my questions to him.

Dr. Ben R. Rich confirmed:

1. There are 2 types of UFOs - the ones we build and ones 'they' build. We learned from both crash retrievals and actual "hand-me-downs." The Government knew and until 1969 took an active hand in the administration of that information. After a 1969 Nixon "purge", administration was handled by an international board of directors in the private sector=85

3. Nearly all "biomorphic" aerospace designs were inspired by the Roswell spacecraft - from Kelly's SR-71 Blackbird onward to today's drones, UCAVs, and aerospace craft=85

7. It was Ben Rich's opinion that the public should not be told [about ufos and extraterrestrials]. He believed they could not handle the truth - ever. Only in the last months of his decline did he begin to feel that the "international corporate board of directors" dealing with the "Subject" could represent a bigger problem to citizens' personal freedoms under the United States Constitution than the presence of off-world visitors themselves.=94

Lindemann added that "Bill McDonald received the above information from Andrews from 1994 until their last phone call near Christmas in 1998.=94 Lindemann also noted "It should also be known that Dr. Ben R. Rich attended a public aerospace designers and engineers conference in 1993 before his illness overwhelmed him in which he stated - in the presence of MUFON Orange County Section Director Jan Harzan and many others that =96 =91We=92 (i.e., the U.S. aerospace community/military industrial complex) had in it's possession the technology to "take us to the stars".

See the complete letter from John Andrews:

[http://www.stealthskater.com/Documents/Andrews\\_03.doc](http://www.stealthskater.com/Documents/Andrews_03.doc)

and the hand written reply from Dr. Ben Rich. Hear more revealing testimony from Disclosure Project whistleblowers. NASA can not deny secrets discovered by UK hacker Gary McKinnon and many astronauts if it expects full funding from the Obama White House administration.

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# UFO Updates

A mailing list for the study of UFO-related phenomena  
'Its All Here In Black & White'

Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 27](#)

## Re: Coast To Coast Year-End UFO Show

From: **Alfred Lehmborg** <[alienview.nul](mailto:alienview.nul)>  
Date: Sat, 27 Dec 2008 17:02:24 -0600  
Archived: Sat, 27 Dec 2008 22:44:42 -0500  
Subject: Re: Coast To Coast Year-End UFO Show

>From: Stanton T Friedman <[fsphys.nul](mailto:fsphys.nul)>  
>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>Date: Sat, 27 Dec 2008 16:01:45 -0400  
>Subject: Coast To Coast Year-End UFO Show

>George Knapp will be hosting a year end UFO show on Coast to  
>Coast Radio Sunday night Dece. 28.

>I am scheduled for 11:30PM Pacific time. I believe there will be  
>several half hour segments with different guests.

George Knapp? I'm in!

[alienview.nul](mailto:alienview.nul)  
[www.AlienView.net](http://www.AlienView.net)  
AVG Blog -- <http://alienviewgroup.blogspot.com/>  
U F O M a g a z i n e -- [www.ufomag.com](http://www.ufomag.com)

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 27](#)

## Re: Blind Abductees?

From: John Rimmer <[j.rimmer.nul](mailto:j.rimmer.nul)>  
Date: Sat, 27 Dec 2008 23:50:34 +0000  
Archived: Sat, 27 Dec 2008 22:46:54 -0500  
Subject: Re: Blind Abductees?

>From: Jerome Clark <[jkclark.nul](mailto:jkclark.nul)>  
>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>Date: Sat, 27 Dec 2008 12:34:40 -0500  
>Subject: Re: Blind Abductees?

>>From: John Rimmer <[j.rimmer.nul](mailto:j.rimmer.nul)>  
>>Date: Sat, 27 Dec 2008 17:02:54 +0000  
>>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>>Subject: Re: Blind Abductees?

>>I strongly suspect that the average reader might imbue the  
>>reports of 'high-profile' individuals with even more credibility  
>>if they were allowed to know the names of these "high-ranking  
>>military people [and] well-known Hollywood faces". Is that too  
>>much to ask? Probably.

>No doubt. I think I know at least some of the names to which John  
>Velez alludes, and I believe that the psychosocial formula can be  
>expressed thus:

>Those names and "abduction experiences" in the same sentence  
>= career-killer.

>Perhaps we can hope that one day ridicule will be no more  
>associated with UFO-abduction reports than with near-death  
>experiences, the latter now accepted as genuine even if their  
>ultimate meaning remains unclear. It would probably help to  
>concede at the outset that there is a real anomaly, which resists  
>facile efforts at explanation, in evidence.

This is worrying, Jerry, I agree with you! The problem is that  
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compare the literature produced by people researching NDEs with  
much of the UFO literature and you will get a very clear  
inducation of why ridicule is associated with UFO accounts.

John Rimmer  
<[j.rimmer.nul](mailto:j.rimmer.nul)>

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 27](#)

## Re: Blind Abductees?

From: Ed Gehrman <[egehrman.nul](mailto:egehrman.nul)>  
Date: Sat, 27 Dec 2008 16:26:25 -0800  
Archived: Sat, 27 Dec 2008 22:50:34 -0500  
Subject: Re: Blind Abductees?

>From: Jerome Clark <[jkclark.nul](mailto:jkclark.nul)>  
>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>Date: Sat, 27 Dec 2008 12:34:40 -0500  
>Subject: Re: Blind Abductees?

>The model scientific paper so far remains Stuart  
>Appelle's "The Abduction Experience: A Critical Evaluation of  
>Theory and Evidence," JUFOS 6, 1995/1996.

List, EBK,

Other interesting research:

David Jacob's research and conclusions are seldom mentioned on Updates during alien abduction discussions. Is there some reason for this? I find his research provocative and intelligent. Below is the FAQ section of his website. Are we all in agreement that his answers are a general outline of the abduction experience?

<http://www.ufoabduction.com/faq1.htm#g2>

What is the International Center for Abduction Research?

This is a fledgling organization devoted to the dissemination of trustworthy information about abductions. The ICAR will provide accurate information to therapists who are interested in abductions, and help cope with the myriad of problems that arise from the use of hypnosis and other memory collection procedures. David M. Jacobs is the Director of the ICAR and there is a small Board.

How is it possible for aliens to get here?

Critics of the UFO and abduction phenomenon often point out the vast distances in space and the enormous amount of time it would take to traverse them. At this point we cannot know the levels of science and technology that ultimately led to the development of a method of transportation to Earth that surmounted what we presently see as insuperable difficulties. The more appropriate question to ask is not, "How did they get here?", but rather, "Are they here?" How they got here is ultimately an engineering question and it cannot yet be answered.

How many people are abductees?

Abduction researchers have been personally contacted by thousands of people who have had experiences that abductees have had before they knew they were involved with the phenomenon. Polls have indicated that there may be hundreds of thousands more. By all measures, the phenomenon seems to be widespread throughout the society. Only a small number of these people have been investigated by researchers.

Who is abducted?

Abductees have two commonalities: They are human, and either their mother, father or both were abductees. The abduction phenomenon appears to cut across all class, educational, geographic, intellectual, economic, racial, ethnic, and political



lines. We have identified no apparent physiological traits which would determine whether a person is an abductee. At the beginning of the abduction phenomenon, probably in the late nineteenth century, the selection process was most likely random. The phenomenon is global.

Are there any typical personality characteristics that abductees have?

From what we can tell, there is nothing "typical" in the personalities of most abductees. They don't seem to view the world any differently than others. However, many abductees who are unaware of their abductions "know" that they are in touch with some sort of "other reality" or "different dimension." Some of them tend to become more involved with New Age material and they consider themselves to be more "spiritual." Once they learn from a competent investigator what the phenomenon is all about, they tend to become less interested in the New Age world and more "grounded" in the reality of their situation.

If this phenomena 'cuts across every class' do we have a ratio of heterosexual to homosexual abduction experiences?

Right now we do not have a ratio for homosexual/heterosexual abduction involvement. I have worked with a number of homosexual men and women. The procedures that they describe are no different than those outlined by heterosexual men and women. Their sexual orientation seems to have no bearing on the focus of the abduction.

Do vasectomies and hysterectomies prevent abductions?

Unfortunately, these procedures do not stop abductions. Women with hysterectomies are still abducted and used as "hosts" for the incubation of hybrid fetuses. The fetuses are contained in what I call extra-uterine gestational units which I discuss in *The Threat*. Men with vasectomies are also still abducted. From what we can tell, sperm is extracted by a needle-like device directly from its area of production rather than from ejaculate.

How many times is someone abducted?

When researchers began to look into the phenomenon, it was assumed that it was a single, adult-onset experience. Now, we realize that it begins in infancy and goes into old age (there are indications that it eventually does stop, but we are not exactly sure when). Most abductees report many events, but the total number of abductions is difficult to discern because most people have little or no memory of the majority of their abductions.

When attention has been paid to the number of experiences an abductee has over a specified period (a few months to a year), abductees have reported as few as less than one per month to as many as fourteen per month (although this is unusual). Most abductees with whom I have worked, report a frequency of a few times a month.

How could it be possible for a UFO to come to the same location that many times, yet not be observed by others or the military?

The abduction phenomenon is a clandestine operation. They take people through walls, windows, and ceilings. During this part of the abduction scenario, the UFOs, the aliens, and the abductees have been rendered "unseeable." This is advanced technology at work. Thus, neighbors, military personnel, and others do not see the events. However, this is a fallible phenomenon. Sometimes "bystanders" do see people being abducted. We are seeing this more and more with Independent Hybrid Activity. Recently one abductee's neighbors asked her why her house was all lit up at night and they wanted to know who the people were walking around outside her house during the illumination. They interpreted it as a "fire" and "firemen" were there. In fact, the abductee inside was involved with abduction activity and the fire and firemen were not there.

What is the annual percentage of abductions out of the U.S.?

This is an easy one to answer because we really don't know the number of abductions in and out of the United States. We do know that about 2 percent (at least) of the American public have had

possible abduction-like experiences, but how many of those are actual abductees has yet to be determined. We also know that thousand of people from around the world have contacted UFO and abduction researchers indicating that they might have had abduction events as well. The United States does not have a corner on the abduction market. One thing is clear: this is a world-wide problem and tremendous numbers of people might be involved with it.

Is there any way of preventing this from happening in the future?

Right now we have not been able to stop abductions. Some researchers have claimed that through thought processes e.g. prayer, negotiation, etc.) abductions have been stopped or aborted. I have to emphasize that I have not been able to verify this. In general, people do not know when they were abducted and if they do remember, the memories tend to be very fragmentary. Thus, when an abduction starts, they may start praying and then remember that the beings turned round and left. What they are actually remembering is the first few seconds of the abduction and the last few seconds. some researchers to claim wrongly that the abductee "stopped" the abduction.

Are hybrids living among us now?

Although one cannot prove a negative, I do not believe that hybrids are walking around with us now. At least, we have very little evidence to suggest that this is the case. When abductees describe hybrids seen in "normal life," they are almost always describing them functioning within an abduction scenario.

Why don't aliens act like scientists say they should?

Skeptics have stated that the abduction phenomenon does not exist because of the alien behavior that abductees report. If they were here, they would not be repeatedly abducting people to get eggs and sperm. They would gestate fetuses in vitro rather than using human hosts.

These arguments are culture-bound notions of how aliens should act and not based on any sense of reality. They have been fashioned into a sort of dogma, which has become a litmus test of "reality." If the abduction phenomenon does not fit that dogma, it does not exist.

We must confront the abduction evidence for what it is. The phenomenon is what it is. All we can do is chronicle what is happening, sort out the aliens' behavior and try to make sense of it. Our culturally determined expectations of how aliens should or should not act are of little consequence in the absence of evidence for their motivations. Investigators must analyze what is happening, not what should be happening. The abduction phenomenon is extremely logical and rational. Everything the aliens do is for a reason. Apparently, repeated abductions, repeated taking of eggs and sperm, and using women as hosts for fetuses are part of their plan.

See this also:

<http://www.ufoabduction.com/straighttalk.htm>

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# UFO Updates

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Location: [ufoupdateslist.com](http://ufoupdateslist.com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 27](#)

## Australian UFO Researcher Retires

From: **UFO UpDates - Toronto** <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
Date: Sat, 27 Dec 2008 22:54:08 -0500  
Archived: Sat, 27 Dec 2008 22:54:08 -0500  
Subject: Australian UFO Researcher Retires

Source: Barry Taylor's - OZ Factor UFO Research Blog

<http://ufoozfactor.blogspot.com/>

Saturday, December 27, 2008

### Australian UFO Researcher Retires

Well known Australian UFO Researcher Keith Basterfield has officially retired from all UFO related activities. Keith is one of the 'Old School' researchers and in my personal opinion was one of the most well respected and caring persons actively researching this subject here in Australia.

Keith began his research in 1968 in the days when Jacques Vallee was promoting the scientific investigation into the subject. Keith has published numerous research papers on the UFO topic, many of these freely available on the Internet.

Keith has now shredded his complete research notes and records on the Alien Abduction studies and personal investigations conducted by him over the years, thus ensuring total confidentiality for the many persons assisting him with his investigations into this serious yet controversial aspect of UFO research topics.

Keith is generously donating his entire UFO book collection to the Adelaide Theosophical Society Library. This Library is open to the public, thus ensuring that his personal UFO reference collection will be available to others for years to come. Keith will also be closing down his South Australian UFO blog site.

On a personal note, I worked with Keith as a colleague during the 1990's especially when I was setting up the original Australian UFO Researchers Network (AUFORN) email group between 1996 - 1998. In 1996 I had witnessed a high activity rate of UFOs and was just connecting to and learning about the Internet. My enquiries revealed that although some Australian UFO researchers and study groups had email addresses, there was no organised communication network between researchers. So over the next 18 months I contacted all available UFO researchers around Australia and actively encouraged them to participate in regular email contact and to share any UFO sighting reports gathered by these groups and researchers. This began to work successfully, especially with the cooperation of Keith Basterfield.

Each month all researchers and UFO groups were asked to forward their monthly UFO reports to Keith in South Australia. Keith would systematically compile these reports by date and state and finally bulk email the monthly report back to all researchers participating in the original AUFORN mailing list. Giving credit to the contributor. This guaranteed we were all kept up to date with UFO activity Australia wide.

The original AUFORN mailing list was not owned by anyone, it was a medium in which all Australian UFO researchers could freely communicate and share information and ideas between one another.

In principle it was an ideal opportunity for advancement.

Brisbane based Robert Frola and his assistant at the time, Diane Harrison (now Mrs Frola) started their own mailing list and with Keith's agreement was called "The Keith Basterfield Network". Using the same list of members as the original AUFORN list, we now had two UFO mailing lists. This of course caused some confusion and internal conflict. It was like dividing a well oiled working machine into two fractured entities. The grab for power was now on. What a great source of information for publication in the "Australian UFOlogist Magazine". Frola being the Editor.

Many healthy debates were learning pains that resulted in the current owners of this network registering the name AUFORN and informed us that they now own the list and no one else could use the name. The original AUFORN list had just been hijacked.

"...so let them sort it out for themselves." The results have been good for some but not so for others. After all, what are we involved in this subject for? Cash, notoriety or knowledge? I suppose it depends upon who you ask.

It has been nice knowing you Keith, enjoy your new endeavours.

[Thanks to 'The Norm' for the lead]

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 28](#)

## Re: Blind Abductees?

From: Jerome Clark <[jkclark.nul](mailto:jkclark.nul)>  
Date: Sat, 27 Dec 2008 23:17:39 -0500  
Archived: Sun, 28 Dec 2008 06:51:20 -0500  
Subject: Re: Blind Abductees?

>From: John Rimmer <[j.rimmer.nul](mailto:j.rimmer.nul)>  
>Date: Sat, 27 Dec 2008 23:50:34 +0000  
>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>Subject: Re: Blind Abductees?

>>From: Jerome Clark <[jkclark.nul](mailto:jkclark.nul)>  
>>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>>Date: Sat, 27 Dec 2008 12:34:40 -0500  
>>Subject: Re: Blind Abductees?

>>>From: John Rimmer <[j.rimmer.nul](mailto:j.rimmer.nul)>  
>>>Date: Sat, 27 Dec 2008 17:02:54 +0000  
>>>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>>>Subject: Re: Blind Abductees?

>>Perhaps we can hope that one day ridicule will be no more  
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>>experiences, the latter now accepted as genuine even if their  
>>ultimate meaning remains unclear. It would probably help to  
>>concede at the outset that there is a real anomaly, which resists  
>>facile efforts at explanation, in evidence.

>This is worrying, Jerry, I agree with you! The problem is that  
>the ridicule is caused largely by the barmy ideas promoted by  
>many in the UFO 'community' itself. You just have to contrast and  
>compare the literature produced by people researching NDEs with  
>much of the UFO literature and you will get a very clear  
>indication of why ridicule is associated with UFO accounts.

Well, John, there's something to that, but there's a whole lot to  
be said for the other side, to wit:

A whole lot of silly stuff has been written about psychic  
phenomena in general and survival issues in particular. When I  
worked at Fate years ago, I'd read the Spiritualist weekly  
Psychic News and chortle at, for example, its goggle-eyed  
advocacy of transparently bogus mediums. On the other hand, I  
understood that fact did not and does not invalidate NDEs and  
their anomalous - possibly, profoundly anomalous - character,  
potentially related to survival questions with which Psychic  
News, if more often than not naively, dealt.

Anybody who wants to - or, to put it another way, has the  
requisite intellectual energy and integrity - can educate him -  
or herself and learn to separate the signal that merits hearing  
from the noise that merely deafens and distracts. That inquirer  
will also understand that an issue that's been relegated to the  
fringes will - hey, here's a shock - attract fringe personalities  
and fringe thinking.

At least the ufologists, including those who allow their  
speculations to race ahead of their evidence, have figured out  
that something very strange is happening in the experiences of  
human beings, and they've had the courage to act on that  
realization. And whether in the end their conclusions about the  
abduction phenomenon's ultimate meaning prove right or wrong (and  
really, none of us can do more than guess where this is going to  
go), it is they who have investigated the reports, documented the  
phenomenology, and collected whatever evidence is available

Re: Blind Abductees?

(alas, not enough to prove anything, prosaic or extraordinary, one way or another). Surely, we all owe them a debt for that. If explorers seldom get the geography exactly right or are seriously in error about some particulars, nobody holds that against them.

It's hard for me to imagine, on the other hand, what we owe those who open and close the discussion with howls of derision focused on rectal probes. Maybe it'll turn out that it was they who harbored the "barmy ideas", though perhaps putting "ideas" into that phrase is an act of excessive generosity.

Jerry Clark

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## PRG Update - December 27, 2008

From: **Stephen Bassett** <[PRG.nul](mailto:PRG.nul)>  
Date: Sat, 27 Dec 2008 14:27:39 -0800  
Archived: Sun, 28 Dec 2008 06:54:34 -0500  
Subject: PRG Update - December 27, 2008

PRG  
Paradigm Research Group

PRG Update - December 27, 2008

Coast to Coast AM w/ George Knapp - Sunday, December 28

[www.coasttocoastam.com](http://www.coasttocoastam.com)

PRG Executive Director, Stephen Bassett, will appear on C2CAM as part of a year-in-review show.

Million Fax on Washington

[www.faxonwashington.org](http://www.faxonwashington.org)

Letters and emails continue to arrive at the President Elect's transition headquarters. If you haven't sent one, there is still plenty of time. PRG will soon post another 30 examples of sent letters and emails (the Transition Headquarters will not release a fax number) on the MFW website. Also, the MFW Facebook group is up to 837 members.

President Obama's Disclosure Team?

The following appointments are the most relevant to Disclosure and to post-Disclosure issues. PRG finds them all appropriate. This is exactly the kind of leader group he would have been expected to pick if Disclosure was imminent.

Transition Lead Chairman - John Podesta  
Secretary of State - Hillary Clinton  
Secretary of Commerce - Bill Richardson  
Secretary of Energy - Steve Chu (Nobel Physicist)  
Science Advisor - John Holdren (Physics PhD.)  
Secretary of Defense - Robert M. Gates  
Security Advisor - General James Jones

With all due respect to 2012. It is looking like 2009 will be the year the world changes in most extraordinary ways.

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Paradigm Research Group  
4938 Hampden Lane, #161, Bethesda, MD 20814  
[PRG.nul](mailto:PRG.nul) 202-215-8344  
[www.paradigmresearchgroup.org](http://www.paradigmresearchgroup.org)

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 28](#)

## Re: Blind Abductees?

From: John Rimmer <[j.rimmer.nul](mailto:j.rimmer.nul)>  
Date: Sun, 28 Dec 2008 14:22:52 +0000  
Archived: Sun, 28 Dec 2008 10:04:05 -0500  
Subject: Re: Blind Abductees?

>From: Jerome Clark <[jkclark.nul](mailto:jkclark.nul)>  
>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>Date: Sat, 27 Dec 2008 23:17:39 -0500  
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>>From: John Rimmer <[j.rimmer.nul](mailto:j.rimmer.nul)>  
>>Date: Sat, 27 Dec 2008 23:50:34 +0000  
>>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>>Subject: Re: Blind Abductees?

>>>From: Jerome Clark <[jkclark.nul](mailto:jkclark.nul)>  
>>>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>>>Date: Sat, 27 Dec 2008 12:34:40 -0500  
>>>Subject: Re: Blind Abductees?

>>>Perhaps we can hope that one day ridicule will be no more  
>>>associated with UFO-abduction reports than with near-death  
>>>experiences, the latter now accepted as genuine even if their  
>>>ultimate meaning remains unclear. It would probably help to  
>>>concede at the outset that there is a real anomaly, which resists  
>>>facile efforts at explanation, in evidence.

>>This is worrying, Jerry, I agree with you! The problem is that  
>>the ridicule is caused largely by the barmy ideas promoted by  
>>many in the UFO 'community' itself. You just have to contrast and  
>>compare the literature produced by people researching NDEs with  
>>much of the UFO literature and you will get a very clear  
>>inducation of why ridicule is associated with UFO accounts.

>Well, John, there's something to that, but there's a whole lot to  
>be said for the other side, to wit:

>A whole lot of silly stuff has been written about psychic  
>phenomena in general and survival issues in particular. When I  
>worked at Fate years ago, I'd read the Spiritualist weekly  
>Psychic News and chortle at, for example, its goggle-eyed  
>advocacy of transparently bogus mediums. On the other hand, I  
>understood that fact did not and does not invalidate NDEs and  
>their anomalous - possibly, profoundly anomalous - character,  
>potentially related to survival questions with which Psychic  
>News, if more often than not naively, dealt.

Very true, Jerry (blimey, there I go again!) but I think the  
signal-to-noise ratio in UFO research is higher than in psychic  
research - which is ironic, as I think there is much more of an  
objective 'signal' in the UFO narrative than I think there is in  
most psychic phenomena.

I suspect that the subject got off to a bad start with the media.  
Although I believe - perhaps more than you do, Jerry - that the  
early contactees are a valid part of the phenomena - they did not  
exactly promote the idea of ufology as being a career-enhancing  
option for scientists.

Much the same, of course, could be said for the early days of  
psychic research - table tapping, ludicrous ectoplasm, dodgy  
photographs, etc. ad nauseam - I think the fact that this could  
be viewed in a semi-religious light made it more possible for  
people to accept the subject is a slightly more personal way.

After all, in the formative years of psychic research as a quasi-scientific discipline almost everybody agreed with its basic thesis: that individual personality survived bodily death.

So, although I accept that much of the media ridicule heaped on ufology is unjustified I still maintain that the UFO world itself bears most of the responsibility for this. And also I think that there is far less ridicule about than you suggest. Over the years we have seen a not inconsiderable corpus or work by scientists. the reason why this has not expanded into a general acceptance of 'ufology' as a subject worthy of much further examination is because most scientists who have looked at the topic have found less to investigate in the reports, than in the people making the reports and the circumstances. Which seems to be getting danerously close to psych-social ufology!

And may I take this opportunity to wish all UpDates readers a very happy and prosperous New Year.

--

John Rimmer  
<[j.rimmer.nul](mailto:j.rimmer.nul)>

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# UFO Updates

A mailing list for the study of UFO-related phenomena  
'Its All Here In Black & White'

Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 28](#)

## Re: Blind Abductees?

From: John Rimmer <[j.rimmer.nul](mailto:j.rimmer.nul)>  
Date: Sun, 28 Dec 2008 14:25:26 +0000  
Archived: Sun, 28 Dec 2008 11:03:23 -0500  
Subject: Re: Blind Abductees?

>From: John Rimmer <[j.rimmer.nul](mailto:j.rimmer.nul)>  
>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>Date: Sun, 28 Dec 2008 14:22:52 +0000  
>Subject: Re: Blind Abductees?

<snip>

>So, although I accept that much of the media ridicule heaped on  
>ufology is unjustified I still maintain that the UFO world itself  
>bears most of the responsibility for this. And also I think that  
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>because most scientists who have looked at the topic have found  
>less to investigate in the reports, than in the people making the  
>reports and the circumstances. Which seems to be getting  
>danerously close to psych-social ufology!

That should of course be "the circumstances under which they  
were made." (I was interrupted by a cup of tea.

--  
John Rimmer  
<[j.rimmer.nul](mailto:j.rimmer.nul)>

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 28](#)

## Re: Blind Abductees?

From: **Martin Shough** <[parcellular.nul](mailto:parcellular.nul)>  
Date: Sun, 28 Dec 2008 16:04:22 -0000  
Archived: Sun, 28 Dec 2008 11:08:11 -0500  
Subject: Re: Blind Abductees?

>From: Ed Gehrman <[egehrman.nul](mailto:egehrman.nul)>  
>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>Date: Sat, 27 Dec 2008 16:26:25 -0800  
>Subject: Re: Blind Abductees?

>>From: Jerome Clark <[jkclark.nul](mailto:jkclark.nul)>  
>>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>>Date: Sat, 27 Dec 2008 12:34:40 -0500  
>>Subject: Re: Blind Abductees?

>>The model scientific paper so far remains Stuart  
>>Appelle's "The Abduction Experience: A Critical Evaluation of  
>>Theory and Evidence," JUFOS 6, 1995/1996.

>List, EBK,

>Other interesting research:

>David Jacob's research and conclusions are seldom mentioned on  
>Updates during alien abduction discussions. Is there some  
>reason  
>for this? I find his research provocative and intelligent.  
>Below  
>is the FAQ section of his website. Are we all in agreement that  
>his answers are a general outline of the abduction experience?

><http://www.ufoabduction.com/faq1.htm#g2>

<snip>

>Who is abducted?

>Abductees have two commonalities: They are human, and either  
>their mother, father or both were abductees.

Do the parents of abductees themselves have parents who have been  
abductees? If not, then at least half and possibly two thirds of  
all known abductees must not have a parent who has been an  
abductee. If parental abducteeism is not a necessary condition of  
becoming an abductee, then it is not a true commonality like  
being human but merely a tendency. This seems reasonable to me,  
but it isn't what Dr Jacobs says here so I wonder if anyone has  
the statistics?

One might try and interpret Dr Jacobs literally by assuming that  
parental abducteeism is truly universal but that it is hidden in  
those cases where an abductee's parents are not known to have  
been abductees. But if parental abducteeism was a necessary  
condition of becoming an abductee, how would anyone get to be an  
abductee in the first place? This is a bit puzzling as it seems  
to imply an indefinite regress. Or, one reaches a historical  
point at which the probability of any abductee being the  
offspring of an abductee is unity because everyone has been  
abducted.

>The abduction phenomenon appears to cut across all class,  
>educational, geographic, intellectual, economic, racial, ethnic,  
>and political lines. We have identified no apparent physiological  
>traits which would determine whether a person is an abductee. At

Re: Blind Abductees?

>the beginningof the abduction phenomenon, probably in the late  
>nineteenth century, the selection process was most likely random.  
>The phenomenon is global.

This is an interesting statement - that the beginning of  
abducteeism is dated to the late 19th century. Can anyone expand  
on it? I wonder what events from what sources are being regarded  
here as continuous with modern abductions?

Martin Shough

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 28](#)

## Re: Blind Abductees?

From: Jerome Clark <[jkclark.nul](mailto:jkclark.nul)>  
Date: Sun, 28 Dec 2008 10:44:11 -0500  
Archived: Sun, 28 Dec 2008 12:26:45 -0500  
Subject: Re: Blind Abductees?

>From: John Rimmer <[j.rimmer.nul](mailto:j.rimmer.nul)>  
>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>Date: Sun, 28 Dec 2008 14:22:52 +0000  
>Subject: Re: Blind Abductees?

>>From: Jerome Clark <[jkclark.nul](mailto:jkclark.nul)>  
>>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>>Date: Sat, 27 Dec 2008 23:17:39 -0500  
>>Subject: Re: Blind Abductees?

>>>From: John Rimmer <[j.rimmer.nul](mailto:j.rimmer.nul)>  
>>>Date: Sat, 27 Dec 2008 23:50:34 +0000  
>>>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>>>Subject: Re: Blind Abductees?

>>>>From: Jerome Clark <[jkclark.nul](mailto:jkclark.nul)>  
>>>>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>>>>Date: Sat, 27 Dec 2008 12:34:40 -0500  
>>>>Subject: Re: Blind Abductees?

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>ufology is unjustified I still maintain that the UFO world itself  
>bears most of the responsibility for this. And also I think that  
>there is far less ridicule about than you suggest.

I doubt, John, that you can get many to agree with that frankly  
astonishing - dare I say disingenuous? - assertion. To the  
contrary, ridicule remains the single most important psychosocial  
fact of the UFO controversy. Magonia itself has contributed its  
fair share, as I, one of the heretics who've suffered their share  
of it at the magazine's hands, can attest.

Barely a day goes by - maybe I ought to remove the qualifying  
adverb - that I don't see or hear UFOs ridiculed. When I meet  
strangers and am introduced as a writer, I've learned not to  
mention that much of my writing is about UFOs. Even somebody as  
prestigious in North American journalism as the late Peter  
Jennings found himself at the receiving end of explosive  
criticism and jeering contempt after he produced a cautiously  
sympathetic ABC News documentary (so cautious, in fact, that many  
ufologist viewers mistook it for yet another debunking exercise).  
As Allen Hynek memorably observed, "Ridicule is not a part of the  
scientific method, and the public should not be taught that it  
is." Society, alas, continues to ignore that sage advice.

In my own experience, I well recall scientists and academics with  
whom we dealt at CUFOs. Few dared to identify themselves openly,  
for fear of ridicule and career consequences. (For example, when  
one academic at a prestigious American university confided his  
interest to an older colleague, the latter urged him to put it  
aside until retirement, and maybe not even then, since that  
interest could be employed retroactively to discredit his social-  
science work even though that work had nothing to do with UFOs.)  
And, I might add, these were not persons who harbored "barmy  
ideas" about contactees.

It should be noted, by the way, that ridicule of UFO reports  
erupted within days of Arnold's sighting, and long before  
contactees became a visible presence. When they came along a few

years later, contactees - though an entirely predictable mystical/religious response, appealing to the appropriate occult-minority subculture, to the larger UFO phenomenon - were seized upon as a convenient club with which to beat the UFO heresy.

>Over the years  
>we have seen a not inconsiderable corpus of work by scientists.  
>the reason why this has not expanded into a general acceptance of  
>'ufology' as a subject worthy of much further examination is  
>because most scientists who have looked at the topic have found  
>less to investigate in the reports, than in the people making the  
>reports and the circumstances.

Why is ufology in scare quotes? And who would those hard-working scientists be? I thought I knew something about that sort of thing, and I have no idea what or whom you mean.

I do know that back in the 1990s, an academic press asked me to review a book-length manuscript submitted for possible publication. It consisted of skeptical papers on UFOs by scientists and other academics, some of them well known. Though nearly all dismissed out of hand the notion that UFOs could be genuinely anomalous in nature, none addressed the hard-core evidence (e.g., radar/visuals, CE2s); nearly all defined UFOs as what clueless, possibly disturbed individuals think they see and, beyond that, what contactees talk about. One paper alleged that cigar-shaped UFOs are phallic symbols hallucinated by sexually repressed individuals. I recommended that the proposed book be rejected. Apparently, so did the other referees, because the book never saw print, its overwhelming scientific authority and focus on "people making the reports and the circumstances" notwithstanding. In retrospect, I wish it had seen print. It'd be fun to be beating up on it about now.

>Which seems to be getting danerously close to psych-social ufology!

After decades I still don't know what "psychosocial ufology" is, or more specifically what is the difference between it and old-fashioned debunking. Is there any? Certainly, the words quoted in the two excerpts above read like the boilerplate rhetoric of any debunking book or article one can think of.

Beyond that, the claim about scientists is simply, demonstrably false. A consistent feature of the UFO controversy is that working scientists (e.g., Hynek, McDonald, Maccabee, Sturrock, to mention only the most prominent) who actually delved into it, who made themselves familiar with the data and who personally investigated the reports, have almost always ended up intrigued and impressed. If you wish to disagree, then you are forced to defend Donald Menzel, who did read UFO literature and did know something (what he did with that knowledge being quite something else), and I look forward, in an admittedly perverse way, to that prospect.

As those who have read it are aware, skeptical writing by scientists generally owes more than anything else to the disbelief tradition (the reflexive belief that all ostensibly anomalous testimony can be traced to error, deceit, or mental disorder), which is why you never read about, for example, the RB-47 case or the Minot AFB radar/visual (or other well-documented, high-evidence incidents) in that literature. You can, however, count on reading about the time the writer saw a light in the sky and it turned out to be something prosaic. The anecdote is related, incidentally, as instructive, whereas elsewhere in the same paper we can also count on being lectured on the inadequacy of anecdotal accounts. "Science is not always what scientists do," one wise observer, himself a well-credentialed astronomer who knew something about the UFO experience, once wrote.

If I were a debunker, I'd be worried about the ignorance of UFOphobic scientists, because from that perspective the ufologists win by default, their evidence granted false authority by the manifest failings of their critics. But if you want to argue that ignorance is strength (or, just as remarkably, that sympathetic scientists openly conduct UFO research without fear of crushing ridicule), I can't stop you. On the other hand, I won't be able to stop myself, either, from ceasing to respect you as a non-barmy colleague.



Re: Blind Abductees?

In sad fact, skeptical scientists have no idea why ufologists - not to mention their colleagues who have bothered to educate themselves - take the subject seriously. If they've read a single book on UFOs, which effort alone puts them in rare company, they can be counted upon to cite nonscientist Philip J. Klass, even as they sputter that it's ufologists who fail to take their cues from scientists.

Well, notwithstanding, Happy New Year to John and all of you,

Jerry Clark

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 29](#)

## Re: Blind Abductees?

From: Jerome Clark <[jkclark.nul](mailto:jkclark.nul)>  
Date: Sun, 28 Dec 2008 12:23:23 -0500  
Archived: Mon, 29 Dec 2008 08:14:11 -0500  
Subject: Re: Blind Abductees?

>From: Jerome Clark <[jkclark.nul](mailto:jkclark.nul)>  
>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>Date: Sun, 28 Dec 2008 10:44:11 -0500  
>Subject: Re: Blind Abductees?

>>From: John Rimmer <[j.rimmer.nul](mailto:j.rimmer.nul)>  
>>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>>Date: Sun, 28 Dec 2008 14:22:52 +0000  
>>Subject: Re: Blind Abductees?

<snip>

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>>there is far less ridicule about than you suggest.

>It should be noted, by the way, that ridicule of UFO reports  
>erupted within days of Arnold's sighting, and long before  
>contactees became a visible presence. When they came along a few  
>years later, contactees - though an entirely predictable  
>mystical/religious response, appealing to the appropriate  
>occult-minority subculture, to the larger UFO phenomenon - were  
>seized upon as a convenient club with which to beat the UFO  
>heresy.

I should also have noted here that ridicule of UFO reports began  
before ufologists were a visible presence.

In other words, notwithstanding John's contrary assertion, it was  
UFO reports, not ufologists, that initiated the ridicule that has  
played such a large role in the discussion ever since. We may  
safely presume, I think, that even if ufologists had never come  
to be, UFO sightings would still inspire howling derision. The  
psychosocial causes of this curious response to a potentially  
threatening Other really deserve close examination.

Jerry Clark

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## BBC Newsnight UFO Feature

From: Nick Pope <[nick.nul](mailto:nick.nul)>  
Date: Mon, 29 Dec 2008 15:03:59 +0100 (CET)  
Archived: Mon, 29 Dec 2008 09:45:47 -0500  
Subject: BBC Newsnight UFO Feature

The BBC News website has reposted the Newsnight UFO feature:

<http://tinyurl.com/29b7w9>

The feature was broadcast on May 13 and includes one of a number of interviews I did to promote the release of the MoD UFO files. It's a lighthearted piece, but it's unusual to see the subject on Newsnight or on the front page of the BBC News website.

Best wishes,

Nick Pope  
<http://www.nickpope.net>

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## Oz Pol 'UFO Related Info Above Top Secret'

From: **UFO UpDates - Toronto** <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
Date: Mon, 29 Dec 2008 11:25:29 -0500  
Archived: Mon, 29 Dec 2008 11:25:29 -0500  
Subject: Oz Pol 'UFO Related Info Above Top Secret'

Source: AllNewsWeb.Com - Sydney, Australia

<http://www.allnewsweb.com/page1241241.php>

28-12-2008

UFO Related Information 'Above Top Secret' Says Australian Political Leader

Australian's are seeing strange things in the skies and sometimes on the ground, from Melbourne to Mullumbimby, from Budgewoi to Bundaberg. UFO sightings have never been more frequent, yet politicians are keeping mysteriously quiet on the topic.

One of these politicians is Malcolm Turnbull, one of the biggest names in Australian politics. Malcolm Turnbull is a member of the Australian Parliament and the Leader of one of Australia's two main political parties, The Liberal Party, the party identified with John Howard, Australia's previous leader. Turnbull served as the minister for the environment under John Howard.

The party is now in opposition, however Turnbull stands a good chance of being Australia's next Prime Minister. Turnbull is also highly associated with the movement calling for Australia to ditch the UK Monarchy. If he does become PM Australia might have a good chance of becoming a republic (in the event Australia's current PM, Mr Kevin Rudd doesn't beat him to it) but don't hold your breath for any UFO related disclosure.

Michael Cohen, of All News Web, happened to chance upon Mr Turnbull and ask him a few questions regarding UFO related topics, probably the first time he was asked anything on the topic by any media outlet. Some of the answers he gave were startling.

On the issue of whether he would disclose what the Government knew about UFO's, alien visitation and contact with humans he was rather evasive and claimed he wasn't sure the Government knew anything and if anyone did know something they weren't telling him or anyone he knows. Then he made the surprise revelation that 'Information on that subject would be above top secret, the highest classification of secrecy'. This was a truly remarkable comment. He then mentioned that 'Australia hasn't had its Roswell yet' to which our reporter replied 'That's not exactly true.'

So there we have it, yet another top ranking politician alluding to a government within a government that might know something about the topic but isn't telling anyone, even elected officials and party heads.

When asked if he believed earth is being visited by Aliens and whether he believed in UFO's he simply reversed the question and asked our reporter if he did. Yet the impression gained was that he knew more than he was prepared to give away.

Reality is that Australia's attitudes towards UFO disclosure are as progressive as the nation's attitudes towards internet censorship: We can expect secrecy for decades. I guess we will never find out why so many UFO sightings down under involve helicopters in tow, spotlights searching for something in sky. We will never find out why the next day no one can even confirm if there were helicopters aloft the night before, what government department they were from or what the heck they were searching the sky for at 2am.

After all, we powerless mere mortals are way too dumb to be trusted with information on questions like 'is there anyone out there?' We would rather leave that to the 'elected' elite that control our lives.

[Thanks to 'The Norm' for the lead]

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## Re: Blind Abductees?

From: Ed Gehrman <[egehrman.nul](mailto:egehrman.nul)>  
Date: Mon, 29 Dec 2008 09:53:55 -0800  
Archived: Mon, 29 Dec 2008 17:19:59 -0500  
Subject: Re: Blind Abductees?

>From: Martin Shough <[parcellular.nul](mailto:parcellular.nul)>  
>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>Date: Sun, 28 Dec 2008 16:04:22 -0000  
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>This is an interesting statement - that the beginning of  
>abducteeism is dated to the late 19th century. Can anyone expand  
>on it? I wonder what events from what sources are being regarded  
>here as continuous with modern abductions?

Hi Martin,

Below is information from Dr. Jacobs's web page:

<http://www.ufoabduction.com/thinking4.htm>

-----

We can now surmise that the abduction phenomenon is extremely  
common. There are probably hundreds of thousands, if not millions  
of abductees in the world. Many researchers think that the  
abduction phenomenon of years ago. They find evidence for it in  
cave paintings, folklore, myth, art, and so forth. Although

whether they existed on earth in ancient times is basically unknowable, recently developed theoretical arguments about the abduction phenomenon have given us a new possibility to more accurately date its origins.

We have very strong evidence that the abduction phenomenon is intergenerational. Budd Hopkins first discovered this in 1981. If a person is an abductee then the possibility that his her mother or father has had abduction experiences is extremely high. Unfortunately, this means that all of the children of an abductee and a non-abductee will be abductees. Because of this, we can, with reasonable assurance, trace the phenomenon backward through the generations. By interviewing family members about their parents' and grandparents' unusual personal experiences, we can date the phenomenon back to the late 1890s and then we lose sight of it. This techniques gives us indications that the abduction phenomenon is most likely around one hundred years old.

But there are other indications as well. Because of the intergenerational quality, the phenomenon spreads, cone-like, nto the population through the generations. If it continues long enough - based on the initial number of people who were selected to be abducted - eventually everyone in America (or the world if the beginning populations was widespread and large enough), will be an abductee. If the phenomenon started in America with, say, one million individuals, how long would it take for everyone to be an abductee? The answer, according to a mathematician who worked it out, is seven generations. Obviously the time would be longer if the initial abductee population was smaller. If the number was substantial, however, it would not take long for it to spread throughout the population.

But, we are not all abductees. Therefore, the abduction phenomenon, as it is presently understood, could not have started in ancient times. Nor could have it started in the sixteenth century, and probably not the seventeenth or eighteenth centuries. If it did start in these periods, a vastly larger percentage of the population, if not everyone, would be abductees. The fact that we are not all abductees automatically means that the abduction phenomenon could not have started very much before the late 19th century.

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 29](#)

## Re: Blind Abductees?

From: Don Ledger <[dledger.nul](mailto:dledger.nul)>  
Date: Mon, 29 Dec 2008 15:36:20 -0400  
Archived: Mon, 29 Dec 2008 16:43:16 -0500  
Subject: Re: Blind Abductees?

>From: Jerome Clark <[jkclark.nul](mailto:jkclark.nul)>  
>To: "UFO UpDates - Toronto" <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>Date: Sun, 28 Dec 2008 12:23:23 -0500  
>Subject: Re: Blind Abductees?

>>From: Jerome Clark <[jkclark.nul](mailto:jkclark.nul)>  
>>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>>Date: Sun, 28 Dec 2008 10:44:11 -0500  
>>Subject: Re: Blind Abductees?

>>>From: John Rimmer <[j.rimmer.nul](mailto:j.rimmer.nul)>  
>>>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>>>Date: Sun, 28 Dec 2008 14:22:52 +0000  
>>>Subject: Re: Blind Abductees?

><snip>

>>>So, although I accept that much of the media ridicule heaped on  
>>>ufology is unjustified I still maintain that the UFO world itself  
>>>bears most of the responsibility for this. And also I think that  
>>>there is far less ridicule about than you suggest.

>>It should be noted, by the way, that ridicule of UFO reports  
>>erupted within days of Arnold's sighting, and long before  
>>contactees became a visible presence. When they came along a few  
>>years later, contactees - though an entirely predictable  
>>mystical/religious response, appealing to the appropriate  
>>occult-minority subculture, to the larger UFO phenomenon - were  
>>seized upon as a convenient club with which to beat the UFO  
>>heresy.

>I should also have noted here that ridicule of UFO reports began  
>before ufologists were a visible presence.

>In other words, notwithstanding John's contrary assertion, it was  
>UFO reports, not ufologists, that initiated the ridicule that has  
>played such a large role in the discussion ever since. We may  
>safely presume, I think, that even if ufologists had never come  
>to be, UFO sightings would still inspire howling derision. The  
>psychosocial causes of this curious response to a potentially  
>threatening Other really deserve close examination.

Jerry and John,

I've always considered the word 'ufologist' a less than accurate  
name to describe what the hard core does. Additionally the hard  
core investigators/researchers get lumped in with every  
wide-eyed, true-believer that comes along.

John noted, "...although I accept that much of the media ridicule  
heaped on ufology is unjustified I still maintain that the UFO  
world itself bears most of the responsibility for this." Although  
I agree with John's statement, I don't know how this can be  
avoided. There's no examination given to new 'ufologists'.  
Usually we judge on our own who we want to accept as sound  
researchers or investigators. Many newbies bring nothing more to  
the plate than a willingness to believe every wacky theory or  
story in vogue. They don't scratch the surface on any case

preferring to believe only in the printed word.

Because of this broad based label those seriously studying the phenomenon suffer the same level of derision heaped on the indiscriminating true believer.

This has been a problem since the early 1950s.

Since this broad-brushed painting of the entire community does not reflect the often detailed research and investigations of the more dedicated, those casting stones have to be careful when they launch them because they are in effect attacking the entire apple tree when they are after just the blight rather than the valuable apple product. Perhaps, for some, this is the intent in the first place, but if not they heap a large load of self defence on those who just want to get on with what they are doing and not waste time defending themselves or their studies.

Don Ledger

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 29](#)

## Re: Ridicule [was: Blind Abductees?]

From: John Rimmer <[j.rimmer.nul](mailto:j.rimmer.nul)>  
Date: Mon, 29 Dec 2008 18:49:28 +0000  
Archived: Mon, 29 Dec 2008 16:45:29 -0500  
Subject: Re: Ridicule [was: Blind Abductees?]

>From: Jerome Clark <[jkclark.nul](mailto:jkclark.nul)>  
>To: "UFO UpDates - Toronto" <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>Date: Sun, 28 Dec 2008 12:23:23 -0500  
>Subject: Re: Blind Abductees?

>I should also have noted here that ridicule of UFO reports began  
>before ufologists were a visible presence.

>In other words, notwithstanding John's contrary assertion, it was  
>UFO reports, not ufologists, that initiated the ridicule that has  
>played such a large role in the discussion ever since. We may  
>safely presume, I think, that even if ufologists had never come  
>to be, UFO sightings would still inspire howling derision. The  
>psychosocial causes of this curious response to a potentially  
>threatening Other really deserve close examination.

So, Jerry, what do you think it was about the actual phenomenon  
in itself which prompted this ridicule?

Do you really not think that, without the circus-like atmosphere  
which has surrounded many UFO reports, the topic would still be  
subjected to 'howling derision'. What evidence do you have to  
support this contention?

I agree that if this can be shown to be the case then indeed it  
would be worthy of psychosocial study.

--

John Rimmer  
<[j.rimmer.nul](mailto:j.rimmer.nul)>

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 30](#)

## Re: Ridicule [was: Blind Abductees?]

From: Jerome Clark <[jkclark.nul](mailto:jkclark.nul)>  
Date: Mon, 29 Dec 2008 16:42:14 -0500  
Archived: Tue, 30 Dec 2008 06:25:38 -0500  
Subject: Re: Ridicule [was: Blind Abductees?]

>From: John Rimmer <[j.rimmer.nul](mailto:j.rimmer.nul)>  
>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>Date: Mon, 29 Dec 2008 18:49:28 +0000  
>Subject: Ridicule [was: Blind Abductees?]

>>From: Jerome Clark <[jkclark.nul](mailto:jkclark.nul)>  
>>To: "UFO UpDates - Toronto" <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>>Date: Sun, 28 Dec 2008 12:23:23 -0500  
>>Subject: Re: Blind Abductees?

>>I should also have noted here that ridicule of UFO reports began  
>>before ufologists were a visible presence.

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>>safely presume, I think, that even if ufologists had never come  
>>to be, UFO sightings would still inspire howling derision. The  
>>psychosocial causes of this curious response to a potentially  
>>threatening Other really deserve close examination.

>So, Jerry, what do you think it was about the actual phenomenon  
>in itself which prompted this ridicule?

The phenomenon first seemed far-fetched and ridiculous - it was being mentioned, for example, in the same breath as sea serpents, which for a long time virtually defined the absurd and outlandish, in very short order after it appeared on the scene in the summer of 1947 - and it was judged to be a passing fad. It wasn't. (By August newspaper pieces were asking, "What were flying saucers?" Really.) What seemed funny grew disturbing when it refused to go away. Not unrelated to this, the ridicule escalated. Ridicule became, and remains, a kind of magical incantation whose purpose is to drive off a frightening and unacceptable unknown. Translated, it means a deafening "Shut up!"

>Do you really not think that, without the circus-like atmosphere  
>which has surrounded many UFO reports, the topic would still be  
>subjected to 'howling derision'. What evidence do you have to  
>support this contention?

There was no "circus-like atmosphere" surrounding UFO reports until the 1950s. There were just sightings, and it was sightings that triggered the ridicule. The "circus-like atmosphere" - by which I presume you mean the infusion of flying saucers into popular culture and occultism - was simply seized upon as an excuse for further ridicule and marginalization. And, obviously, the "circus-like atmosphere" was a consequence of the original marginalization, the refusal of mainstream authority to acknowledge the phenomenon's legitimacy as a subject of disciplined inquiry.

Anybody who wanted to, and few wanted to then and now, could easily have separated the puzzling, credible sightings from the silliness. Even now, it's not that hard. But for those who sought to reduce sightings, however well documented and anomalous, into insignificance, if a "circus-like atmosphere" hadn't come into being, it would have been necessary to invent one. The whole skeptical case would collapse if not for the

Re: Ridicule [was: Blind Abductees?]

crutch of the "circus-like atmosphere."

Jerry Clark

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 30](#)

## Re: Blind Abductees?

From: Jerome Clark <[jkclark.nul](mailto:jkclark.nul)>  
Date: Mon, 29 Dec 2008 17:07:02 -0500  
Archived: Tue, 30 Dec 2008 06:27:43 -0500  
Subject: Re: Blind Abductees?

>From: Don Ledger <[dledger.nul](mailto:dledger.nul)>  
>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>Date: Mon, 29 Dec 2008 15:36:20 -0400  
>Subject: Re: Blind Abductees?

>>From: Jerome Clark <[jkclark.nul](mailto:jkclark.nul)>  
>>To: "UFO UpDates - Toronto" <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>>Date: Sun, 28 Dec 2008 12:23:23 -0500  
>>Subject: Re: Blind Abductees?

>>>From: Jerome Clark <[jkclark.nul](mailto:jkclark.nul)>  
>>>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>>>Date: Sun, 28 Dec 2008 10:44:11 -0500  
>>>Subject: Re: Blind Abductees?

>>>>From: John Rimmer <[j.rimmer.nul](mailto:j.rimmer.nul)>  
>>>>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>>>>Date: Sun, 28 Dec 2008 14:22:52 +0000  
>>>>Subject: Re: Blind Abductees?

>John noted, "..although I accept that much of the media ridicule  
>heaped on ufology is unjustified I still maintain that the UFO  
>world itself bears most of the responsibility for this." Although  
>I agree with John's statement, I don't know how this can be  
>avoided. There's no examination given to new 'ufologists'.  
>Usually we judge on our own who we want to accept as sound  
>researchers or investigators. Many newbies bring nothing more to  
>the plate than a willingness to believe every wacky theory or  
>story in vogue. They don't scratch the surface on any case  
>preferring to believe only in the printed word.

I don't agree, Don, that "the UFO world" - I presume that this is another phrase for the planet's tiny ufology subculture - is responsible for the marginalization of the phenomenon. That's a highly simplistic reading, and the evidence for it seems slight to nonexistent. To begin with, it gives ufologists hugely more power to move science and elite opinion than they in fact possess, or even could possess if ET spacecraft landed on the United Nations building tomorrow afternoon.

Most people are only faintly aware of a "UFO world," even if most people have heard of UFOs. Media and scientific figures who ridicule UFOs, almost without exception, know nothing about ufology, its history, its concerns, its debates, its traditions, its personalities. I doubt that more than a handful of scientist-scoffers could name a single living ufologist, much less recognize such signature phrases as "ETH," "psychosocial ufology," "McMinnville case," and on and on. Undefined by name but socially undesirable, "believers" exist in skeptical polemic as stick figures responsible for a dizzying range of sins, real and imagined, but are there mostly to act as an excuse not to study actual evidence, with which, by the way, scientist-skeptics also happen to be unfamiliar, as often as not proudly so.

Some social scientists have observed that UFOs fall under the category of what's called rejected knowledge, in other words an area judged so illegitimate that one does not have to know anything about it - in fact, to know something about it is to render oneself suspect - to declare its concerns of no interest

Re: Blind Abductees?

to the non-crazy, the non-credulous, and the non-crooked. In that way, in exactly the sense Orwell satirized in his depiction of the totalitarian mind-set, ignorance is strength. The less one knows, the more certainty and authority one commands.

Jerry Clark

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 30](#)

## Re: Blind Abductees?

From: Brad Sparks <[RB47x.nul](mailto:RB47x.nul)>  
Date: Tue, 30 Dec 2008 06:00:55 EST  
Archived: Tue, 30 Dec 2008 06:30:46 -0500  
Subject: Re: Blind Abductees?

>From: Jerome Clark <[jkclark.nul](mailto:jkclark.nul)>  
>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>Date: Sun, 28 Dec 2008 10:44:11 -0500  
>Subject: Re: Blind Abductees?

>>From: John Rimmer <[j.rimmer.nul](mailto:j.rimmer.nul)>  
>>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>>Date: Sun, 28 Dec 2008 14:22:52 +0000  
>>Subject: Re: Blind Abductees?

<snip>

>>Over the years  
>>we have seen a not inconsiderable corpus or work by scientists.  
>>the reason why this has not expanded into a general acceptance of  
>>'ufology' as a subject worthy of much further examination is  
>>because most scientists who have looked at the topic have found  
>>less to investigate in the reports, than in the people making the  
>>reports and the circumstances.

<snip>

>As those who have read it are aware, skeptical writing by  
>scientists generally owes more than anything else to the  
>disbelief tradition (the reflexive belief that all ostensibly  
>anomalous testimony can be traced to error, deceit, or mental  
>disorder), which is why you never read about, for example, the  
>RB-47 case or the Minot AFB radar/visual (or other  
>well-documented, high-evidence incidents) in that literature.  
>You can, however, count on reading about the time the writer saw  
>a light in the sky and it turned out to be something prosaic. The  
>anecdote is related, incidentally, as instructive, whereas  
>elsewhere in the same paper we can also count on being lectured  
>on the inadequacy of anecdotal accounts. "Science is not always  
>what scientists do," one wise observer, himself a  
>well-credentialed astronomer who knew something about the UFO  
>experience, once wrote.

>If I were a debunker, I'd be worried about the ignorance of  
>UFOphobic scientists, because from that perspective the  
>ufologists win by default, their evidence granted false authority  
>by the manifest failings of their critics....

I would like to add a brief observation to this exchange:

Skeptics and debunkers claim that UFO cases are basically anecdotal. UFO researchers retort that the best UFO evidence is not anecdotal. But both sides keep talking about anecdotal cases as if nothing else exists.

I suggest that everyone agree to simply stop talking about anecdotal UFO cases. Only the non-anecdotal cases will have any chance of resolving the UFO controversy so why waste time on anything less, why get bogged down with unsatisfactory evidence such as anecdotal reports?

And if someone asks what kinds of cases are not "anecdotal", well whoever uses the term "anecdotal" must have some idea what it means and we can discuss it. We can come to an agreement on what



Re: Blind Abductees?

kinds of cases should be at the top of the class.

Let's dedicate ourselves to making 2009 the year that we avoid marginal and difficult evidence and instead tackle the best evidence for resolving the UFO problem.

Best wishes for the New Year.

Brad Sparks

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 30](#)

## Re: Blind Abductees?

From: **Martin Shough** <[parcellular.nul](mailto:parcellular.nul)>  
Date: Tue, 30 Dec 2008 13:05:12 -0000  
Archived: Tue, 30 Dec 2008 08:24:06 -0500  
Subject: Re: Blind Abductees?

>From: Ed Gehrman <[egehrman.nul](mailto:egehrman.nul)>  
>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>Date: Mon, 29 Dec 2008 09:53:55 -0800  
>Subject: Re: Blind Abductees?

>>From: Martin Shough <[parcellular.nul](mailto:parcellular.nul)>  
>>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>>Date: Sun, 28 Dec 2008 16:04:22 -0000  
>>Subject: Re: Blind Abductees?

>>>From: Ed Gehrman <[egehrman.nul](mailto:egehrman.nul)>  
>>>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>>>Date: Sat, 27 Dec 2008 16:26:25 -0800  
>>>Subject: Re: Blind Abductees?

>>>Abductees have two commonalities: They are human, and either  
>>>their mother, father or both were abductees.

>>Do the parents of abductees themselves have parents who have been  
>>abductees? If not, then at least half and possibly two thirds of  
>>all known abductees must not have a parent who has been an  
>>abductee. If parental abducteeism is not a necessary condition of  
>>becoming an abductee, then it is not a true commonality like  
>>being human but merely a tendency. This seems reasonable to me,  
>>but it isn't what Dr Jacobs says here so I wonder if anyone has  
>>the statistics?

>>One might try and interpret Dr Jacobs literally by assuming that  
>>parental abducteeism is truly universal but that it is hidden in  
>>those cases where an abductee's parents are not known to have  
>>been abductees. But if parental abducteeism was a necessary  
>>condition of becoming an abductee, how would anyone get to be an  
>>abductee in the first place? This is a bit puzzling as it seems  
>>to imply an indefinite regress. Or, one reaches a historical  
>>point at which the probability of any abductee being the  
>>offspring of an abductee is unity because everyone has been  
>>abducted.

>>>The abduction phenomenon appears to cut across all class,  
>>>educational, geographic, intellectual, economic, racial, ethnic,  
>>>and political lines. We have identified no apparent >physiological  
>>>traits which would determine whether a person is an abductee. At  
>>>the beginning of the abduction phenomenon, probably in the late  
>>>nineteenth century, the selection process was most likely random.  
>>>The phenomenon is global.

>>This is an interesting statement - that the beginning of  
>>abducteeism is dated to the late 19th century. Can anyone  
>>expand  
>>on it? I wonder what events from what sources are being  
>>regarded  
>>here as continuous with modern abductions?

>Hi Martin,

>Below is information from Dr. Jacobs's web page:

><http://www.ufoabduction.com/thinking4.htm>

Thanks for the information, Ed. What I was interested in was whether or not this cultural back-story has to do with interpretation of analogous events in the historical/folkloric documentary record. The answer seems to be that it doesn't have anything to do with that. The dating to the late 19thC when "we lose sight of it" is a limit due to the interviewing of contemporary abductees about what they say they their parents told them about themselves and their own parents (and possibly in some cases what the contemporary abductee was told directly by his or her grandparents), i.e. the limit is the number of generations accessible to the contemporary abductee within his or her living memory.

This is very interesting in its own right, but the question remains of how those late 19thC "abductee" narratives were related, or were not related, to analogous narratives in other parts of the contemporary culture which have come down to us via the folklore record. This seems to be an open question, but the possibility that these family memories take us back to a possible understanding of a common or overlapping origin of these parallel cultural strands has to be considered.

I wonder what those late 19thC abductee narratives would have sounded like had they been told and recorded in the the late 19thC, collected 'in the field' say by folklore researchers, rather than second- or third-hand in the words of the experients' grandchildren?

This seems to me to be a more subtle question than would be assumed in the automatic answers of either the sceptical psychosocial folklorist on the one hand or the convinced "alien abduction" researcher on the other.

Stories retold down the generations via the contemporary abductee may be coloured by what the latter expected to hear, by the nature of the questions they have asked of their relatives, and by the nature of what their relatives thought they would wish to be told, those relatives having themselves been subject to cultural influences of the 20thC that may have coloured the transmitted narratives even before they are retold. By the same token, narratives recorded in the late 19thC would have been subject to the original local cultural contexts of the times and places in which they were originated, interpreted, collected and finally written down.

The modern researcher I suppose argues that his or her field is much more immediate and evidential, concerned with experiences happening to living people, known and identified, and conveying a vivid sense of reality, whereas 19thC narratives are "just fairy stories". But exactly the same things were said by folklore collectors, who found widespread stories of abduction-type narratives in the cultures of rural Scotland, Ireland, Wales, England, Brittany, Germany, Scandinavia, Russia, China, Japan etc, indeed everywhere. They went to many of these places and spoke to living individuals, often named and well known in their communities, and they wrote down what they said, in some cases attempting to record their stories verbatim, and those stories are typically rooted in the everyday world with circumstantial details of place, time, names. People could show the very tree, or field, or rock at the spot where a thing took place. The stories often "strike one with a shock of authenticity". The phrase is not mine but that of a folklorist.

This discovery via actual fieldwork constituted a challenge to the orthodoxy of the new discipline of anthropological folklore in the late 19thC, which had thought it was concerned with antiquities, hand-me-downs, myths of far-off "savages", and had occupied itself with language, symbols, dreams and speculations. The new breed of "psycho-folklorists" exemplified by Andrew Lang, with their cross-over influences from the newly-scientised field of psychical research, was looked down on by "establishment" folklore as misguided, the preserve of gullible cranks who brought the field into academic disrepute. Sound familiar?

The question is this: Is our evidence-based understanding of modern UFO-related abductee narratives qualitatively different, in a way that justifies saying "The imagery in them is the real deal, the Gold Standard by which to measure and 'correct' other analogues in other times and cultures"? If this is so I'd like to know what this qualitatively different evidence consists of. If it is not so, and if (as it appears) the modern abduction

phenomenon, like its folkloric analogues, remains one trapped inside individual experience without the kind of objective evidence that would allow it to escape into the world of consensual reality, then the possibility exists that neither end of this historical spectrum of interpretation is an anchor point. In that case the 21stC 'Greys' and the 19thC 'Gentry' and 'Good People' and their like might all be culturally-mediated outward clothes that are, as it were, stepped into by "the phenomenon" and worn until the local fashion changes.

This point of view invites a phenomenological approach, which seems useful to me because it is a value-free framework for seeking out and understanding what may be robust underlying constant features. All who have an interest in a discrete "abduction phenomenon", from either of what might be called the Rimmerian or the Romulan poles of opinion, might learn something interesting by abjuring interpretation (and confrontation) and focusing on analysing and systematising narrative motifs. Clearly a lot of research has been done since the late 1960s that goes some way towards this sort of thing, and some on this list have discussed statistical analysis of abductee narratives, but I'm not aware of any definitive project that proposes to deconstruct the latter in the sort of long view mentioned here. This may be because abduction research has not been my area of interest. Is there any such work published or underway?

Martin Shough

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# UFO Updates

A mailing list for the study of UFO-related phenomena  
'Its All Here In Black & White'

Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 30](#)

## UFO Videoed During Izatt Interview

From: **UFO UpDates - Toronto** <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
Date: Tue, 30 Dec 2008 11:06:36 -0500  
Archived: Tue, 30 Dec 2008 11:06:36 -0500  
Subject: UFO Videoed During Izatt Interview

Source: Our Strange World

<http://tinyurl.com/7s2htd>

No posting date

UFO Captured During Interview

posted by Dean Terry

A UFO is video-taped in an eyewitness' kitchen window as she is being interviewed by the media.

Dorothy Izatt, the older lady shown in this video, has lived an extraordinary life when it comes to UFO sightings. She has been filming UFOs for over 30 years.

On this occasion Dorothy's daughter was being interviewed, and later, while going back over the footage, a strange light in the sky can be seen behind her.

[For those not familiar with Dorothy Izatt, see:

<http://www.ufobc.ca/Supernatural/StrangePhotos/dimension.htm>

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 30](#)

## Re: Blind Abductees?

From: Don Ledger <[dledger.nul](mailto:dledger.nul)>  
Date: Tue, 30 Dec 2008 13:10:22 -0400  
Archived: Tue, 30 Dec 2008 12:51:43 -0500  
Subject: Re: Blind Abductees?

>From: Jerome Clark <[jkclark.nul](mailto:jkclark.nul)>  
>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>Date: Mon, 29 Dec 2008 17:07:02 -0500  
>Subject: Re: Blind Abductees?

>>From: Don Ledger <[dledger.nul](mailto:dledger.nul)>  
>>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>>Date: Mon, 29 Dec 2008 15:36:20 -0400  
>>Subject: Re: Blind Abductees?

<snip>

>>John noted, "..although I accept that much of the media ridicule  
>>heaped on ufology is unjustified I still maintain that the UFO  
>>world itself bears most of the responsibility for this." Although  
>>I agree with John's statement, I don't know how this can be  
>>avoided. There's no examination given to new 'ufologists'.  
>>Usually we judge on our own who we want to accept as sound  
>>researchers or investigators. Many newbies bring nothing more to  
>>the plate than a willingness to believe every wacky theory or  
>>story in vogue. They don't scratch the surface on any case  
>>preferring to believe only in the printed word.

>I don't agree, Don, that "the UFO world" - I presume that this is  
>another phrase for the planet's tiny ufology subculture - is  
>responsible for the marginalization of the phenomenon. That's a  
>highly simplistic reading, and the evidence for it seems slight  
>to nonexistent. To begin with, it gives ufologists hugely more  
>power to move science and elite opinion than they in fact possess,  
>or even could possess if ET spacecraft landed on the United  
>Nations building tomorrow afternoon.

>Most people are only faintly aware of a "UFO world," even if most  
>people have heard of UFOs.

I should not have lumped all of John's statement in there. I  
don't think we are to blame either-at least not those who have  
been exploring this phenomenon for decades.

To my mind this is the problem, Jerry. We, the so-called  
hardcore research and investigative side are lumped in with the  
larger fringe element. All you have to do is look at the dozens  
of newspaper articles these days to see who gets the grease then  
gets ridiculed in the same article. If any of us came to the  
defence of some witness with some background information, even  
though we might not agree with the witnesses take on the  
sighting, we are still tarred with the same brush.

But the hardcore element of this phenomenon does attract  
scientific interest, usually through association with past  
acquaintances who see their colleagues get 'sucked' into the black  
hole of this field because of the background we have explored or  
because of the quality of the witnesses and their qualifications.

The media doesn't see this side, however, and those who read/view  
the media get an entirely different impression of how things  
work. As an example of how things get off the rails; Stan  
Friedman forwarded an email to me from a Flight Attendant who  
worked in the Maritimes in 1977. She now lives in Texas. She had

a sighting in that year while returning home one night past the marshy end of a lake.

I returned on that email offering little help. She thanked us for getting back to her so promptly then went on to say a mountie friend told her to not talk about it-probably for her own sake rather than any RCMP embargo.

At the end of the first email she noted, "..my first husband knows the great Paul Hellyer...I have watched the You tube videos of Paul's speeches, and Dr Steven Greer!!"

That was the extent of her research. We, for the most part, are not visible and these two birds are. And we suffer at the hands of the 'scientific community'-as if they were a block or something-because of the likes of Greer and Hellyer.

>Media and scientific figures who  
>ridicule UFOs, almost without exception, know nothing about  
>ufology, its history, its concerns, its debates, its traditions,  
>its personalities. I doubt that more than a handful of scientist-  
>scuffers could name a single living ufologist, much less  
>recognize such signature phrases as "ETH," "psychosocial  
>ufology," "McMinnville case," and on and on. Undefined by name  
>but socially undesirable, "believers" exist in skeptical polemic  
>as stick figures responsible for a dizzying range of sins, real  
>and imagined, but are there mostly to act as an excuse not to  
>study actual evidence, with which, by the way, scientist-skeptics  
>also happen to be unfamiliar, as often as not proudly so.

>Some social scientists have observed that UFOs fall under the  
>category of what's called rejected knowledge, in other words an  
>area judged so illegitimate that one does not have to know  
>anything about it - in fact, to know something about it is to  
>render oneself suspect - to declare its concerns of no interest  
>to the non-crazy, the non-credulous, and the non-crooked. In that  
>way, in exactly the sense Orwell satirized in his depiction of  
>the totalitarian mind-set, ignorance is strength. The less one  
>knows, the more certainty and authority one commands.

And it is easy to ignore the phenomenon because there is no perceived penalties for doing so. For this reason I think NARCAP's mission is very important. Neither the governments nor the public can ignore a phenomenon that might impugn air safety - private, commercial or military.

Don Ledger

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 30](#)

## Re: Lockheed CEO Knew Of ET Visitors

From: **Martin Shough** <[parcellular.nul](mailto:parcellular.nul)>  
Date: Tue, 30 Dec 2008 19:51:38 -0000  
Archived: Tue, 30 Dec 2008 16:46:31 -0500  
Subject: Re: Lockheed CEO Knew Of ET Visitors

>Source: The Examiner - Denver, Colorado, USA

><http://tinyurl.com/7zquey>

>December 23 2008

>CEO Of NASA Contractor Lockheed Knew Of Extraterrestrial UFO  
>Visitors  
>by Jeff Peckman

>Lockheed Skunk Works former CEO knew the Roswell extraterrestrial  
>UFO influenced designs of Testor model kits for Roswell UFO  
>models, and U.S. top secret aircraft. According to a CNI News  
>report by Colorado resident Michael Lindemann, the design  
>information was derived from forensic illustrations and  
>numerous witness testimonies about the Roswell UFO,  
>provided by William L.'Bill' McDonald.

>In an e-mail, dated July 29, 1999, apparently addressed to  
>Lindemann, McDonald referenced an excerpt of a discussion with  
>Harold Puthoff, founder of the previously highly classified  
>U.S. "remote viewing" program. McDonald said:

<snip>

Let's get this straight: According to journalist Jeff Peckman, a man called Michael Lindemann was "apparently" the addressee of a copy of an email from William McDonald to Hal Puthoff in which McDonald claimed that he had been told by one John Andrews that he, Andrews, had been told by Skunk Works CEO Ben Rich on his deathbed that many Lockheed designs were influenced by "the Roswell spacecraft". This is quite a chain of Chinese whispers.

>Dr. Ben R. Rich confirmed:

>1. There are 2 types of UFOs - the ones we build and ones  
>'they' build. We learned from both crash retrievals and actual  
>"hand-me-downs." The Government knew and until 1969  
>took an active hand in the administration of that information.  
>After a 1969 Nixon "purge", administration was handled by  
>an international board of directors in the private sector.

>3. Nearly all "biomorphic" aerospace designs were inspired by  
>the Roswell spacecraft - from Kelly's SR-71 Blackbird  
>onward to today's drones, UCAVs, and aerospace craft.

The SR-71 was a huge and very noisy high-altitude jet plane weighing some 65,000lb empty and powered by a pair of massively powerful turbojets, designed to a USAF requirement for a successor to the U2. Some new technology for that role, to be sure. But can anyone say what it is about the SR-71 that would connect it with a Roswell UFO supposedly made of balsa-like struts and foil?

Peckman, apparently quoting Lindemann quoting McDonald quoting Andrews citing Rich, says here that the SR-71 was a "biomorphic" design influenced by Roswell. I'd love somebody to explain what this is supposed to mean. Biomorphic design as the name suggests relates to materials, sensors, control systems and



the like - usually in robotics - that are derived from applying principles found by studying by animals in nature. What does this have to do with the SR-71, or with Roswell? Anyone know?

>7. It was Ben Rich's opinion that the public should not be told >[about ufos and extraterrestrials]. He believed they could not >handle the truth - ever. Only in the last months of his decline >did he begin to feel that the "international corporate board of >directors" dealing with the "Subject" could represent a bigger >problem to citizens' personal freedoms under the United States >Constitution than the presence of off-world visitors >themselves."

>Lindemann added that "Bill McDonald received the above >information from Andrews from 1994 until their last phone call >near Christmas in 1998." Lindemann also noted "It should also >be known that Dr. Ben R. Rich attended a public aerospace designers >and engineers conference in 1993 before his illness overwhelmed >him in which he stated - in the presence of MUFON Orange County >Section Director Jan Harzan and many others that - 'We' (i.e., >the U.S. aerospace community/military industrial complex) had >in it's possession the technology to "take us to the stars".

Can anyone quote the 1993 conference presentation by Rich accurately and place the origin of this claimed remark in context? I have often heard space exploration enthusiasts claim (correctly) that we have the technology to send a vehicle to another star today if we had the will to do so. How can we be confident that Rich said anything more than this? And even if he did mean more than this - say, that black technology advances suggested to him that star travel could be done more easily or more efficiently than white world scientists might think - what is the evidence that he was implying any connection to Roswell?

>See the complete letter from John Andrews:

>[http://www.stealthskater.com/Documents/Andrews\\_03.doc](http://www.stealthskater.com/Documents/Andrews_03.doc)

>and the hand written reply from Dr. Ben Rich.

The "complete letter" from Andrews (also a handwritten note of only about 10 sentences) does not contain any information leading us to conclude that its addressee, Rich, knew anything about reverse engineering of a Roswell spacecraft. On the contrary it contains tentative questions about whether or not Rich shares Andrews' "tendency to believe" that some UFOs are possibly ET . The short reply from Ben Rich himself does not say anything about Roswell or UFO engineering either. He replies tersely that, yes, he too believes ET UFOs do exist but advises Andrews to "be cautious" because of "kooks and charlatans".

Looking for context on the original site

<http://www.alienufoart.com/KennethArnold.htm>

as recommended at the above URL isn't helpful. There we find the two letters presented along with a third page as "three letters . . . part of a great body of correspondence that went on between USAF scientist Dr. Robert I. Sarbacher, Dr. Ben R. Rich, and Mr. John Andrews", but the third letter is actually a page from Kenneth Arnold's well-known 1947 article describing his seminal sighting.

>Hear more revealing >testimony from Disclosure Project whistleblowers. NASA can not >deny secrets discovered by UK hacker Gary McKinnon and many >astronauts if it expects full funding from the Obama White >House administration.

What secrets were discovered by Gary McKinnon?

Martin Shough

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 31](#)

## Re: Blind Abductees?

From: Ed Gehrman <[egehrman.nul](mailto:egehrman.nul)>  
Date: Tue, 30 Dec 2008 15:20:39 -0800  
Archived: Wed, 31 Dec 2008 07:19:08 -0500  
Subject: Re: Blind Abductees?

>From: Martin Shough <[parcellular.nul](mailto:parcellular.nul)>  
>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>Date: Tue, 30 Dec 2008 13:05:12 -0000  
>Subject: Re: Blind Abductees?

>>From: Ed Gehrman <[egehrman.nul](mailto:egehrman.nul)>  
>>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>>Date: Mon, 29 Dec 2008 09:53:55 -0800  
>>Subject: Re: Blind Abductees?

>Thanks for the information, Ed. What I was interested in was  
>whether or not this cultural back-story has to do with  
>interpretation of analogous events in the historical/folkloric  
>documentary record. The answer seems to be that it doesn't have  
>anything to do with that.

Hi Martin,

I agree.

>The dating to the late 19thC when "we  
>lose sight of it" is a limit due to the interviewing of  
>contemporary abductees about what they say they their parents  
>told them about themselves and their own parents (and possibly in  
>some cases what the contemporary abductee was told directly by  
>his or her grandparents), i.e. the limit is the number of  
>generations accessible to the contemporary abductee within his or  
>her living memory.

Yes, Jacobs is using the information he has been able to gather  
to make a guess at how far back the abduction phenomena might  
reach. An educated guess.

>This is very interesting in its own right, but the question  
>remains of how those late 19thC "abductee" narratives were  
>related, or were not related, to analogous narratives in other  
>parts of the contemporary culture which have come down to us via  
>the folklore record.

Which "analogous narratives in other parts of the contemporary  
culture" are you referring to? Like this:

[http://www.surlalunefairytales.com/boardarchives/2001/mar2001/relation\\_fairies\\_ufos.html](http://www.surlalunefairytales.com/boardarchives/2001/mar2001/relation_fairies_ufos.html)

or like this?

<http://www.pitt.edu/~dash/abduct.html>

>This seems to be an open question, but the  
>possibility that these family memories take us back to a possible  
>understanding of a common or overlapping origin of these parallel  
>cultural strands has to be considered.

Yes.

>I wonder what those late 19thC abductee narratives would have  
>sounded like had they been told and recorded in the the late  
>19thC, collected 'in the field' say by folklore researchers,  
>rather than second- or third-hand in the words of the experients'

>grandchildren?

I think Jacobs might expect them to sound very similar to the thousands of abduction tales he already recorded, only more common.

Isn't Snow White an abduction story?

>This seems to me to be a more subtle question than would be  
>assumed in the automatic answers of either the sceptical  
>psychosocial folklorist on the one hand or the convinced "alien  
>abduction" researcher on the other.

Maybe so but I'm convinced that abductions happen. I believe Betty Hill. She submitted to and passed a polygraph. I'm also convinced that the Hickson-Parker abduction is true.

<http://www.cohenufo.org/accuproof.html>

All I know is that these two cases aren't fairytales.

>Stories retold down the generations via the contemporary abductee  
>may be coloured by what the latter expected to hear, by the  
>nature of the questions they have asked of their relatives, and  
>by the nature of what their relatives thought they would wish to  
>be told, those relatives having themselves been subject to  
>cultural influences of the 20thC that may have coloured the  
>transmitted narratives even before they are retold. By the same  
>token, narratives recorded in the late 19thC would have been  
>subject to the original local cultural contexts of the times and  
>places in which they were originated, interpreted, collected and  
>finally written down.

And what would they say:

"I was picked up and carted off to a mystical place and then returned." Blame it on the pomegranate seeds.

>The modern researcher I suppose argues that his or her field is  
>much more immediate and evidential, concerned with experiences  
>happening to living people, known and identified, and conveying a  
>vivid sense of reality, whereas 19th C narratives are "just fairy  
>stories". But exactly the same things were said by folklore  
>collectors, who found widespread stories of abduction-type  
>narratives in the cultures of rural Scotland, Ireland, Wales,  
>England, Brittany, Germany, Scandinavia, Russia, China, Japan  
>etc, indeed everywhere. They went to many of these places and  
>spoke to living individuals, often named and well known in their  
>communities, and they wrote down what they said, in some cases  
>attempting to record their stories verbatim, and those stories  
>are typically rooted in the everyday world with circumstantial  
>details of place, time, names. People could show the very tree,  
>or field, or rock at the spot where a thing took place. The  
>stories often "strike one with a shock of authenticity". The  
>phrase is not mine but that of a folklorist.

Maybe authenticity comes from telling the truth?

>This discovery via actual fieldwork constituted a challenge to  
>the orthodoxy of the new discipline of anthropological folklore  
>in the late 19thC, which had thought it was concerned with  
>antiquities, hand-me-downs, myths of far-off "savages", and had  
>occupied itself with language, symbols, dreams and speculations.  
>The new breed of "psycho-folklorists" exemplified by Andrew Lang,  
>with their cross-over influences from the newly-scientised field  
>of psychical research, was looked down on by "establishment"  
>folklore as misguided, the preserve of gullible cranks who  
>brought the field into academic disrepute. Sound familiar?

Yes it does.

>The question is this: Is our evidence-based understanding of  
>modern UFO-related abductee narratives qualitatively different,  
>in a way that justifies saying "The imagery in them is the real  
>deal, the Gold Standard by which to measure and 'correct' other  
>analogues in other times and cultures"?

I don't know if there's an answer to that question. Why do you find it important if you're not convinced by the thousands of similar testimonies collected by Dr. Jacobs and his colleagues that essentially follow the Hills', and Hickson's & Parker's

honest recollections?

>If this is so I'd like to  
>know what this qualitatively different evidence consists of. If  
>it is not so, and if (as it appears) the modern abduction  
>phenomenon, like its folkloric analogues, remains one trapped  
>inside individual experience without the kind of objective  
>evidence that would allow it to escape into the world of  
>consensual reality, then the possibility exists that neither  
>end of this historical spectrum of interpretation is an anchor  
>point. In that case the 21stC 'Greys' and the 19thC 'Gentry' and  
>'Good People' and their like might all be culturally-mediated  
>outward clothes that are, as it were, stepped into by "the  
>phenomenon" and worn until the local fashion changes.

I don't think so.

>This point of view invites a phenomenological approach, which  
>seems useful to me because it is a value-free framework for  
>seeking out and understanding what may be robust underlying  
>constant features. All who have an interest in a discrete  
>"abduction phenomenon", from either of what might be called the  
>Rimmerian or the Romulan poles of opinion, might learn something  
>interesting by abjuring interpretation (and confrontation) and  
>focusing on analysing and systematising narrative motifs.

It doesn't have to be so complicated.

>Clearly  
>a lot of research has been done since the late 1960s that goes  
>some way towards this sort of thing, and some on this list have  
>discussed statistical analysis of abductee narratives, but I'm  
>not aware of any definitive project that proposes to deconstruct  
>the latter in the sort of long view mentioned here. This may be  
>because abduction research has not been my area of interest. Is  
>there any such work published or underway?

Privacy prevents this type of research. Don't you remember the  
uproar caused by the release of files several years ago and  
discussed at length here?

Ed

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 31](#)

## Re: Blind Abductees?

From: John Rimmer <[j.rimmer.nul](mailto:j.rimmer.nul)>  
Date: Tue, 30 Dec 2008 23:23:06 +0000  
Archived: Wed, 31 Dec 2008 07:27:26 -0500  
Subject: Re: Blind Abductees?

>From: Jerome Clark <[jkclark.nul](mailto:jkclark.nul)>  
>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>Date: Mon, 29 Dec 2008 17:07:02 -0500  
>Subject: Re: Blind Abductees?

>Some social scientists have observed that UFOs fall under the  
>category of what's called rejected knowledge, in other words an  
>area judged so illegitimate that one does not have to know  
>anything about it - in fact, to know something about it is to  
>render oneself suspect - to declare its concerns of no interest  
>to the non-crazy, the non-credulous, and the non-crooked. In that  
>way, in exactly the sense Orwell satirized in his depiction of  
>the totalitarian mind-set, ignorance is strength. The less one  
>knows, the more certainty and authority one commands.

This article by John Harney on the new Magonia website may be of  
interest in the context of this debate:

<http://tinyurl.com/7pr84p>

Could I just mention that although Magonia magazine will be  
closing down with the next issue (no. 99) it will maintain some  
sort of web presence in the form of an archive of article from  
magonia and MUF0B at:

<http://magonia.haaan.com>

I hope that over time this will archive most material from the  
magazines with the exception of particulalry ephemeral items

I shall be trying my hand at one of those blog thingmajigs over  
at:

<http://pelicanist.blogspot.com/>

--

John Rimmer  
<[j.rimmer.nul](mailto:j.rimmer.nul)>

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 31](#)

## Re: Blind Abductees?

From: Rick Nielsen <[nilthchi.nul](mailto:nilthchi.nul)>  
Date: Tue, 30 Dec 2008 17:50:14 -0800 (PST)  
Archived: Wed, 31 Dec 2008 07:27:26 -0500  
Subject: Re: Blind Abductees?

>From: Brad Sparks <[RB47x.nul](mailto:RB47x.nul)>  
>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>Date: Tue, 30 Dec 2008 06:00:55 EST  
>Subject: Re: Blind Abductees?

<snip>

>I would like to add a brief observation to this exchange:

<snip>

>I suggest that everyone agree to simply stop talking about  
>anecdotal UFO cases. Only the non-anecdotal cases will have any  
>chance of resolving the UFO controversy so why waste time on  
>anything less, why get bogged down with unsatisfactory evidence  
>such as anecdotal reports?

<snip>

>Let's dedicate ourselves to making 2009 the year that we avoid  
>marginal and difficult evidence and instead tackle the best  
>evidence for resolving the UFO problem.

>Best wishes for the New Year.

Thanks Brad! Happy New Year to you, and to all those on this List  
as well!

Every evidence except anecdotal as accurate? A nice thought. An  
interesting idea. It reminds me of my first posts to this List  
asking for evidence of CE III's, IV's, and V's.

For the most part anecdotal evidence emphasized by "regressive  
hypnosis" has produced the conventional wisdom in this area of  
study. That is, that the ETH is the theory of choice; that this  
"alien" abduction activity appears to have been occurring along  
familial lines throughout human history; that there appears to be  
nothing to be done about it.

In this I believe we agree: physical evidence is preferred to  
reinforce anecdotal evidence, even though it includes scars,  
implants, dress stains, hair samples, and so forth.

But resolving that anecdotal is not considered and physical is  
the one and only implies a premise that the primaries will  
cooperate and comply at least unintentionally.

For the most part, sadly, this has not happened.

Since this hasn't happened often and doesn't appear likely, do we  
throw out the majority of accounts? Do we keep only the cases we  
like? If so, isn't that "liking" less objective and more  
subjective? Are we really studying something if we reject data or  
limit the data we get?

I suggest we continue accepting all the data we can get, but  
categorize it so those after us can study it as they want. They  
can then choose the anecdotal cases, or the physical trace cases,



Re: Blind Abductees?

or any combination of cases.

Maybe our focus can be to ensure each case is the least arbitrary it can be. I'd choose that as a resolution!

Maybe we can encourage the researchers who have the most data, to share it with us, as anonymized as they would like, so we can draw our own conclusions. I'd also choose that resolution!

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://UFOUpdatesList.Com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 31](#)

## Re: Anecdotal Cases [was: Blind Abductees?]

From: Michael Tarbell <[mtarbell.nul](mailto:mtarbell.nul)>  
Date: Tue, 30 Dec 2008 21:01:52 -0700  
Archived: Wed, 31 Dec 2008 07:29:17 -0500  
Subject: Re: Anecdotal Cases [was: Blind Abductees?]

>From: Brad Sparks <[RB47x.nul](mailto:RB47x.nul)>  
>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>Date: Tue, 30 Dec 2008 06:00:55 EST  
>Subject: Re: Blind Abductees?

<snip>

>I suggest that everyone agree to simply stop talking about  
>anecdotal UFO cases. Only the non-anecdotal cases will have any  
>chance of resolving the UFO controversy so why waste time on  
>anything less, why get bogged down with unsatisfactory evidence  
>such as anecdotal reports?

Brad,

This is a well-motivated suggestion, but it is probably futile to propose that everyone stop talking about anecdotal cases in such a come-one-come-all venue. However, given finite resources, I agree that it is silly to investigate such cases, to the extent that it is even possible to do so. The utility of even tabulating them is questionable.

>And if someone asks what kinds of cases are not "anecdotal", well  
>whoever uses the term "anecdotal" must have some idea what it  
>means and we can discuss it. We can come to an agreement on what  
>kinds of cases should be at the top of the class.

In the simplest terms, can we not consider a case to be non-anecdotal if it includes at least some objective physical evidence, above and beyond witness(es) testimony?

The ensuing question of what constitutes objective physical evidence is not trivial, but it need not be answered definitively. There would seem to be plenty of categories of such evidence whose inclusion would not be in dispute (e.g., actual 'debris' or artifacts, radar or other sensor data, film imagery, thermal effects, EM interference, etc.), all of which are already represented, at least ostensibly, in the existing set of cases.

Mike

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Location: [UFOUpdatesList.Com](http://ufoupdateslist.com) > [2008](#) > [Dec](#) > [Dec 31](#)

## Re: Lockheed CEO Knew Of ET Visitors

From: Dick Hall <[dh12.nul](mailto:dh12.nul)>  
Date: Wed, 31 Dec 2008 10:35:27 -0500  
Archived: Wed, 31 Dec 2008 11:16:56 -0500  
Subject: Re: Lockheed CEO Knew Of ET Visitors

>From: Martin Shough <[parcellular.nul](mailto:parcellular.nul)>  
>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>Date: Tue, 30 Dec 2008 19:51:38 -0000  
>Subject: Re: Lockheed CEO Knew Of ET Visitors

>>Source: The Examiner - Denver, Colorado, USA

>><http://tinyurl.com/7zquey>

>>December 23 2008

>>CEO Of NASA Contractor Lockheed Knew Of Extraterrestrial UFO  
>>Visitors  
>>by Jeff Peckman

>>Lockheed Skunk Works former CEO knew the Roswell extraterrestrial  
>>UFO influenced designs of Testor model kits for Roswell UFO  
>>models, and U.S. top secret aircraft. According to a CNI News  
>>report by Colorado resident Michael Lindemann, the design  
>>information was derived from forensic illustrations and  
>>numerous witness testimonies about the Roswell UFO,  
>>provided by William L. 'Bill' McDonald.

>>In an e-mail, dated July 29, 1999, apparently addressed to  
>>Lindemann, McDonald referenced an excerpt of a discussion with  
>>Harold Puthoff, founder of the previously highly classified  
>>U.S. "remote viewing" program. McDonald said:

><snip>

>Let's get this straight: According to journalist Jeff Peckman, a  
>man called Michael Lindemann was "apparently" the addressee of a  
>copy of an email from William McDonald to Hal Puthoff in which  
>McDonald claimed that he had been told by one John Andrews that  
>he, Andrews, had been told by Skunk Works CEO Ben Rich on his  
>deathbed that many Lockheed designs were influenced by "the  
>Roswell spacecraft". This is quite a chain of Chinese whispers.

<snip>

Without bothering to repeat the whole thread, I agree with  
Martin on this. The story immediately struck me as a hodge-podge  
of insinuation, innuendo, and speculation.

Kelly Johnson had a spectacular UFO sighting, and he and other  
prominent aviators and aerospace personnel were (are) well aware  
of UFOs, and possibly influenced in their design work by them. No  
surprise there.

Let's not sink to new lows in sloppy reasoning and careless  
reporting for 2009.

Dick

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## Re: Blind Abductees?

From: Jerome Clark <[jkclark.nul](mailto:jkclark.nul)>  
Date: Wed, 31 Dec 2008 09:45:46 -0500  
Archived: Wed, 31 Dec 2008 11:19:13 -0500  
Subject: Re: Blind Abductees?

>From: John Rimmer <[j.rimmer.nul](mailto:j.rimmer.nul)>  
>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>Date: Tue, 30 Dec 2008 23:23:06 +0000  
>Subject: Re: Blind Abductees?

>>From: Jerome Clark <[jkclark.nul](mailto:jkclark.nul)>  
>>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>>Date: Mon, 29 Dec 2008 17:07:02 -0500  
>>Subject: Re: Blind Abductees?

>I shall be trying my hand at one of those blog thingmajigs over  
>at:

><http://pelicanist.blogspot.com/>

Magonia's passing stills a distinctive voice on the UFO scene. Though I rarely agreed with it and often found myself at the receiving end of its ongoing effort to render the UFO phenomenon safely and wholesomely psychosocial, it will be missed. Not often a ufology periodical is so identified with a particular approach that the mere mention of the title immediately calls to mind a particular theoretical/rhetorical/ideological approach.

I am pleased to see via the above URL that "pelicanist", a word I invented, will remain in the language. Maybe it will survive me and be in use long after I'm gone and forgotten. Unfortunately, I imagine that the practice of pelicanism itself will continue. At least now, though, it has a name.

Jerry Clark

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## Re: Blind Abductees?

From: Don Ledger <[dledger.nul](mailto:dledger.nul)>  
Date: Wed, 31 Dec 2008 12:16:05 -0400  
Archived: Wed, 31 Dec 2008 11:34:20 -0500  
Subject: Re: Blind Abductees?

>From: Rick Nielsen <[nilthchi.nul](mailto:nilthchi.nul)>  
>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>Date: Tue, 30 Dec 2008 17:50:14 -0800 (PST)  
>Subject: Re: Blind Abductees?

>>From: Brad Sparks <[RB47x.nul](mailto:RB47x.nul)>  
>>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>>Date: Tue, 30 Dec 2008 06:00:55 EST  
>>Subject: Re: Blind Abductees?

<snip>

>I suggest we continue accepting all the data we can get, but  
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>Maybe our focus can be to ensure each case is the least arbitrary  
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>Maybe we can encourage the researchers who have the most data, to  
>share it with us, as anonymized as they would like, so we can  
>draw our own conclusions. I'd also choose that resolution!

When you say no anecdotal then you are pretty much excluding  
visual sightings. Since visual impressions have been the basis of  
science for many hundreds of years I'd suggest that throwing all  
of these out in favor of cases based on trace evidence or radar  
evidence is throwing the baby out with the bathwater.

No radar contact/signature in today's world doesn't mean beans  
anymore. As a matter of fact if I saw a present day sighting  
report with radar contact I'd pretty much put it down as  
something conventional when you consider the fact that the air  
forces and homebuilt aircraft community fly aircraft that don't  
return a signal.

But I agree with tossing a large portion of cases with little  
detail to support the sighting. Many don't even report a date let  
alone a time frame for instance.

Careful consideration would have to be given to just what the  
anecdotal evidence was before tossing cases and who was providing  
that evidence.

Don Ledger

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## Re: Lockheed CEO Knew Of ET Visitors

From: **Alfred Lehmborg** <[alienview.nul](mailto:alienview.nul)>  
Date: Wed, 31 Dec 2008 11:06:45 -0600  
Archived: Wed, 31 Dec 2008 13:45:19 -0500  
Subject: Re: Lockheed CEO Knew Of ET Visitors

>From: Dick Hall <[dh12.nul](mailto:dh12.nul)>  
>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>Date: Wed, 31 Dec 2008 10:35:27 -0500  
>Subject: Re: Lockheed CEO Knew Of ET Visitors

>Let's not sink to new lows in sloppy reasoning and careless  
>reporting for 2009.

Certainly not "new ones," by any means, but let's get the  
"reporting," forthright and meaningful, first. I'll make my  
\_own\_ call what's sloppy and careless... and what ever the  
quality of \_my\_ unimpressed assessment of same I'll refrain from  
over-limited reductionist proclamation or viciously caustic  
ridicule in its regard. I'm not accusing you Sir, to be clear.

Still, let's put a little more of \_that\_ into 2009. We agree  
there are \_infinite\_ possibilities, for sure, and the more we  
stoke the fire of illuminating them the more of them seem newly  
revealed. The bigger bonfire \_does\_ reveal the larger darkness.  
So?

Perhaps that's where "faith" in something is required if, of  
needs, a faith \_individually\_ defined.

Be that as it may. The fault ain't with the "woos," as I've very  
tediously pointed out for years: it's the mal-active "official  
information void" provoking the \_vacuum\_ sucking all that in, in  
the first place. You criticize the toothpaste where the brush  
has no bristles. I indict bristle, brush and paste for 60 years  
of ufological inaction, degradation of official authority, and  
solidification of social infidelity, not the humanity utilizing  
these bad tools.

[alienview.nul](mailto:alienview.nul)  
[www.AlienView.net](http://www.AlienView.net)  
AVG Blog -- <http://alienviewgroup.blogspot.com/>  
U F O M a g a z i n e -- [www.ufomag.com](http://www.ufomag.com)

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## Re: Lockheed CEO Knew Of ET Visitors

From: Don Ledger <[dledger.nul](mailto:dledger.nul)>  
Date: Wed, 31 Dec 2008 14:00:09 -0400  
Archived: Wed, 31 Dec 2008 13:47:21 -0500  
Subject: Re: Lockheed CEO Knew Of ET Visitors

>From: Dick Hall <[dh12.nul](mailto:dh12.nul)>  
>To: [ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)  
>Date: Wed, 31 Dec 2008 10:35:27 -0500  
>Subject: Re: Lockheed CEO Knew Of ET Visitors

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>>To: <[ufoupdates.nul](mailto:ufoupdates.nul)>  
>>Date: Tue, 30 Dec 2008 19:51:38 -0000  
>>Subject: Re: Lockheed CEO Knew Of ET Visitors

>>>Source: The Examiner - Denver, Colorado, USA

>>><http://tinyurl.com/7zquey>

>>>December 23 2008

<snip>

>Without borthering to repeat the whole thread, I agree with  
>Martin on this. The story immediately struck me as a hodge-podge  
>of insinuation, innuendo, and speculation.

>Kelly Johnson had a spectacular UFO sighting, and he and other  
>prominent aviators and aerospace personnel were (are) well aware  
>of UFOs, and possibly influenced in their design work by them. No  
>surprise there.

>Let's not sink to new lows in sloppy reasoning and careless  
>reporting for 2009.

Wind tunnel testing probably had more to do with the developement  
of the second incarnation, the SR-71, than did the knowledge of  
UFO profiles or any death bed confessions.

There's an old adage in aviation; If you have enough power, you  
can make a barn door fly. It doesn't take much power to make a  
barn door fly as a matter of fact. Your typical barn door will  
fly at 60 miles per hour.

A 4X8 foot sheet of half inch plywood will fly at 35 miles per  
hour and tear loose from the ropes securing it to the roof rack  
on a '69 Meteor. I've proved that.

A specific mission - very important - lots of power, titanium  
sheathing and fooling the transonic range was the secret to the  
SR-71's success. Almost as soon as it got airborne the Blackbird  
had to be refueled. It leaked fuel like a sieve until its skin  
was heated up and its engines burned off about 2/3rds of the rest  
taking off.

As for copying the UFO reported profiles of the day AVRO showed  
how unsuccessful this machine would be using conventional power  
and without computer guided control. The same craft today would  
be more successful due to the latter. The former [engine] would  
restrict the craft's ability to achieve any aeronatical advantage  
over the leading edge aircraft of today.

The engine of choice is still conventional thrust achieved

through prop technology, jet [including RAM and SCRAM] technology. To get real speed you need the latter but you limit your maneuverability to straight line flight in Mach numbers. The SR-71 was fast but not 'fighter' maneuverable.

We know there were other attempts by various aero-companies to emulate the flight characteristics exhibited by these unidentified flying objects but they came to naught though some conspiracy theorists will claim they were relegated to underground activities and are responsible for many of the sightings of the present day. But still the air forces continue to spend countless billions on exotic technology, trying to get away from conventional power sources and flight characteristics, despite already having them hidden away.

Martin is being polite with his "...chain of Chinese whispers." Over here we have another term involving the words horse and fertilizer.

Having first been tipped off by Brad Sparks to the case, Paul Kimball has moved the Kelly Johnson sighting onto the documentary stage with his 10 Best documentary which includes the case.

Don Ledger

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## Re: Symbols Of An Alien Sky Parts 1 & 2

From: Katharina Wilson <[K.Wilson.nul](mailto:K.Wilson.nul)>  
Date: Wed, 31 Dec 2008 12:25:00 -0600  
Archived: Wed, 31 Dec 2008 13:49:02 -0500  
Subject: Re: Symbols Of An Alien Sky Parts 1 & 2

>The following are thoughtful, well researched, crafted and  
>thought provoking - of definite interest to those of us who  
>have the slightest inkling that 'they' have been with us  
>for millennia.

>Discussion is encouraged here, on the List,

>ebk

>-----

>Source: Thunderbolts.Info - Portland, Oregon, USA

>[http://www.thunderbolts.info/mmarchives/081210\\_sas1.htm](http://www.thunderbolts.info/mmarchives/081210_sas1.htm)

>[http://www.thunderbolts.info/featured\\_media.htm#sas2](http://www.thunderbolts.info/featured_media.htm#sas2)

>December 10th & 24th, 2008

I found these two film clips very interesting and I'm looking forward to seeing the complete presentation. This, perhaps, may have more to do with the question of how long these or similar Beings really have been visiting and/or abducting people (as has been discussed in the "Blind Abductees" thread).

I agree with Errol, this seems to suggest that "they" have been with us for millennia and that over time, Earthlings kept a record of what they saw in the 'heavens' the best way they knew how to; through art, ancient writings and 'religious teachings.'

The 'modern day' abduction phenomenon may be occurring again because of some future cataclysmic event on our horizon. Perhaps these Beings are knowledgeable of some type of cyclic event during which the Earth is destroyed and they are 'harvesting' our DNA in order to repopulate the planet after enough time has elapsed for life to once again 'evolve,' although this would not be evolution as defined by science.

There's no telling how many times the Earth has been through these types of cataclysmic events, only to be 'reseeded' with DNA from various sources. Maybe this is also what the Hybrid Breeding Program is all about.

Just some thoughts. I hope everyone will view these two video clips that Errol posted.

~ Happy New Year ~

Katharina Wilson  
[www.alienjigsaw.com](http://www.alienjigsaw.com)

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