

# SUN LITE

SHEDDING SOME LIGHT ON UFOLOGY AND UFOS



I THINK THAT IT IS MUCH MORE LIKELY THAT THE REPORTS OF FLYING SAUCERS ARE THE RESULT OF THE KNOWN IRRATIONAL CHARACTERISTICS OF TERRESTRIAL INTELIGENCE RATHER THAN THE UNKNOWN RATIONAL EFFORTS OF EXTRATERRESTRIAL INTELIGENCE.

- DR. RICHARD FEYNMAN

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# Filling a void

Tim Printy

## SUN's bastard child?

When Phil Klass stopped publishing his Skeptics UFO Newsletter in 2003, something disappeared from the skeptical community. The last issue, titled "SUN-set", was his farewell and he passed away in 2005. I had a chance to communicate with Phil over his later years and I am sorry I missed him in his prime. I always enjoyed his friendly exchanges and interesting humor. This newsletter is a tribute to his efforts and will attempt to fill the void left after his passing.

My interest in UFOs began in 1997 during the Hale-Bopp UFO nonsense. As I read more I guess I became obsessed with how ridiculous some of the UFO claims were. This was also about the same time the Arizona UFOs and the 50th Roswell anniversary occurred. I became interested in each and discovered that most of what was being described in the media was not as accurate as it should be. This led me to create my web site dedicated to my opinions about UFOs. I added to it as I learned more about each UFO case and developed my opinions about UFOlogy and UFOlogists. Today, I add to the site occasionally but not often enough. I wanted to move in another direction.

I originally thought of a Blog but that

would be just another entry in the mass of Blogs that already exist. I don't have the time to enter something once a week. Therefore, I decided to step in with this newsletter and call it SUNLite. It is a lighter version of SUN simply because Phil is no longer with us and I intend it to be a bit different. However, I do expect to see this follow in Phil's legacy of presenting skeptical information and opinions about UFO news.

It is my desire to make this a newsletter for skeptical examination of UFO cases as well as skeptical opinions. I am more than willing to entertain articles written from "the other side of the aisle" on a case by case basis. I have read some that have been interesting to say the least. However, in keeping with the newsletters format, I expect that the articles be written objectively without a need for conspiracy theories and wild claims being displayed as facts. Feel free to do that in some UFO publication.

While SUN was a mass mailing of a photocopied newsletter, I think today's modern internet can get past the idea of clogging up the post office with a lot of wasted paper. The electronic age makes it easy to create a newsletter and put it into pdf

format. The document can then be made available for downloading. If one copy or a million copies get downloaded, I really do not care.

I want to thank the authors for their work in this issue. If no author is listed, then it is my own opinion and writing. If you disagree with an article, the e-mails to the editor is a place to comment. Opinions are always welcome but keep it clean and constructive. I request emails be short and to the point. I retain the right to "shorten" lengthy diatribes. I also don't care about how you feel about me personally. Personal attacks are not welcome and refrain from name-calling/profanity. It is a sign of a limited vocabulary.

I hope everyone enjoys the first issue and I hope to receive more contributions in the future. Deadline for article submissions is two weeks before "publishing" date, which is the first day of the month the issue begins. The next issue will be posted on July 1, which means the submission deadline is June 15th.

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# The Phil Klass Almost Nobody Knew

Gary P. Posner

I assume that most readers of this newsletter know that Philip J. Klass, who died in 2005 at age 85, was widely considered the world's premier UFO skeptic. Not only did he write a cutting-edge newsletter from December 1989 to the summer of 2003 (76 issues, of which I copy-edited many), but of his six UFO-related books, UFOs Explained (1974) is still considered by many as the best ever in the field.

In his heyday, Klass, who lived in Washington, D.C., was a contemporary of Senator Bob Dole. Like Klass, Dole had a razor-sharp sense of humor that had a tendency to rub many the wrong way, and a penchant for occasionally doing so intentionally. Yet upon his retirement from the Senate, I read, for the first time, that of all 100 Senators, Dole was consistently voted (I think by the lower-echelon employees such as the cooks, doormen, etc., but I don't recall for certain) the most courteous and likeable of the lot.

Klass was not merely likeable, but lovable the way another contemporary of his, Howard Cosell, was lovable (and perhaps a bit like Rush Limbaugh): you either loved him, or you hated him. And like Bob Dole, despite an often abrasive public persona, Klass extended courtesies above and beyond and not just to his friends and like-minded UFO skeptics.

Shortly after I met him, Klass began to often send me photocopies of his extensive correspondences with UFOlogists and the like. One of the very first was a four-page letter written in 1976 to Paul McCarthy, a young man who had recently completed his doctoral thesis on Dr. James McDonald's UFO-related career and had just sent a copy to Phil. After praising some parts and quibbling with others, in the middle of page 4, Klass expressed disappointment at the suggestion, in the thesis's Introduction, that he had been "as uncooperative as [Dr. James] Harder who refused to meet with you. And you also hint that I held back information from you, when you wrote (p. xiii): 'As it was, I think I acquired only the tip of the iceberg.'"

Now for the Klass that almost nobody

knew. Phil continued, "The reader could hardly guess that I put you up in my apartment for several days (as well as supplying many of your meals, as I recall), that I pulled out any file that you requested, and gave you permission to make Xerox copies of essentially everything you requested. Further, that you were alone in my apartment for several days [while I was at work] and could go through my complete files."

Two more paragraphs followed, in which Klass corrected the record (though too late for McCarthy's readers) regarding a related matter. Yet despite being stung by an ungrateful hornet, Klass concluded, "But aside from this, as far as I have read [so far], I compliment you for a very penetrating work which, on the whole, maintains a semblance of balance far better than should be expected from an author with a strong bias on a very controversial subject."

Talk about class. Not enough knew it, but Klass had it.

## The Last will and testament of Philip J. Klass

To UFOlogists who publicly criticize me...or who even think unkind thoughts about me in private, I do hereby leave and bequeath THE UFO CURSE: No matter how long you live, you will never know any more about UFOs than you know today. You will never know any more about what UFOs really are, or where they come from. You will never know any more about what the U.S. Government really knows about UFOs than you know today. As you lie on your own death-bed you will be as mystified about UFOs as you are today. And you will remember this curse.

(Philip J. Klass - SUN #72)



***The idea of wondrous spaceships from a distant civilization really is a fairy story that is tailored to the adult mentality--a fairy story in which anyone can become a first hand participant simply by keeping an alert eye peeled toward the skies. The myth of extraterrestrial visitors will persist--this book notwithstanding--if only because there are so many natural and man-made "UFOs" to be seen, and because so many people want to believe.*** (UFOs Explained p. 360)

# Who's blogging UFOs?

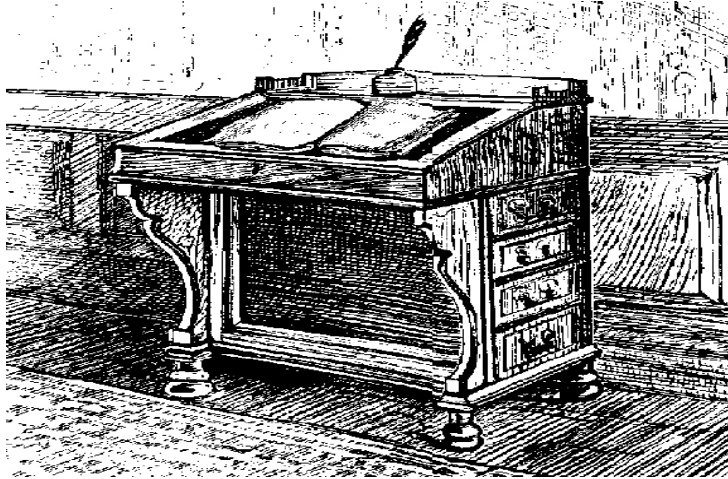
## Hot topics and varied opinions

Blogs are quite the rage over the internet. It seems like anybody who wants to voice his or her opinion has one. I have attempted one blog as an astronomy journal with AOL for a few years. It was my way of documenting my observations and astrophotography efforts. When AOL stopped their service, I decided I did not want to run a journal or blog anymore since I really did not have a lot of time to devote to the matter. Therefore, for those that run blogs on a very regular basis, I have a respect for their devotion. With that being said, let's take a look what has been happening on the blog front over the last few months.

### Kevin Randle's "Different Perspective" blog continues to ramble on

**about Roswell.** I will comment on that issue in the Roswell corner. One of Kevin's other great issues has to do with commentary by Phil Plait, the bad astronomer. Because Phil seems to miss how the UFOlogist mind thinks, he gets easily misunderstood. Phil made the statement that if UFOs were so common more astronomers would report them. Reading this, Randle began to list astronomers who have reported UFOs, as I knew he would. He even made the statement that "many" of these UFO reports are alien spacecraft! Phil actually meant (and he explained this in his comments section of his blog) was that if UFOs were a real phenomena, then astronomers would report them more frequently than the general public. It is always interesting how UFOlogists go after scientists who question the UFO phenomena. Phil's contributions to science and spreading it to the general public are well known and should be commended. It does not give Phil a "free pass" when it comes to factual errors but Randle needs to understand what Plait is talking about before he comments. Especially when he makes the claim that "many" of these UFO reports by amateur astronomers ARE alien spaceships!

### Frank Warren's "UFO Chronicles" is



**quite the collection.** Frank definitely has his finger on the pulse of modern UFOlogy. His site takes just about any story and puts it on the site even if it can not be confirmed. Frank even has a UFO news ticker on the blog as well as a host of guest writers. The biggest news recently is that Robert Bigelow gave all sorts of money to MUFON in order to prove the reality of UFOs. MUFON is supposed to provide training for a special group of investigators, who will deploy rapidly to any UFO event. I have to wonder what they will accomplish when they get there? Most people can tell their story via email or live chat via webcam. Unless there was physical evidence to gather, the team will be just replicating the work at a higher cost! Bigelow promises scientific assistance to analyze any space samples that can be found. Hmmm.....I have heard this story before. Wasn't it called the Condon study? Nahhh.....they used real scientists and not amateurs pretending to be scientific.

**Billy Cox is a writer for the Sarasota, Florida Herald tribune and runs the "De Void" blog from their paper's website.** Cox, like most UFO writers, only gives one point of view. He has his own personal crusade on his blog for people to call the USAF and wonder why an unknown object was flying around the

"Western white house" without a transponder during the Stephenville UFO event. I think if somebody did their homework, they would discover that this is not as unusual as claimed. The research conducted by MUFON was inadequate with the radar data they had presented and was poorly analyzed.

Cox is a UFO promoter and not much of an investigative reporter. He appears to just blindly repeat everything he reads about UFOs without even thinking.

**Magonia's blog has risen from the ashes.** I am glad to see the Pelican is out flying again. I look forward to his wisdom. There are plenty of good book reviews and links to various commentaries here. It is well worth a visit.

### Kentaro Mori's "Forget-mori" blog looks at a lot of paranormal stories with a focus on UFOs.

Probably the most interesting thing he placed on his blog was a eerie video with music showing a classic "flying triangle" over Santiago, Chile on December 10, 2008. Kentaro looked further and stated the lights had appeared in years past about the same time. It did not take long for him to figure out the triangle of lights was a formation of aircraft with lights. The aircraft were part of the Chilean Air Force aviation school and they were training for the graduation ceremony, which happened at night. The video looked very similar to what witnesses described in the 1997 Arizona UFO event.

### The Bad Astronomer, Phil Plait keeps talking mostly about scientific events and discoveries.

His few posts about UFOs recently mostly had to do with media coverage of a video clip that looked a lot like Venus. There was also a brief mention of the Morristown UFO hoax (discussed later in this issue).

**The Other side of the truth by Paul Kimball.** Paul retired from the UFO field but he does post some clips from his documentaries he created. I miss Paul because he was pretty level-head-

# Who's blogging UFOs? (Cont'd)

ed in his entries. He wasn't a skeptic but he was definitely not a blind believer.

**UFOFU is a blog in french by several UFO proponents.** Kentaro Mori posted an interesting link for 21 March 2009. On that date, somebody named Odin57 posted an article about the Rex Heflin photographs. Using a pole, fishing line, and a small model, he took some convincing photographs with the same type of camera and film. I examined the scanned image he posted on his website that was 5466X4314 pixels and could not see any evidence of the fishing line. Small details were visible on the model but the line was not. Perhaps I missed it but it definitely is an eye opener. It demonstrates how easy it might be to fool people with a simple photograph done right. It also means that just because there are no signs of a hoax, does not mean it can not be a hoax.

**Ufology Research is Chris Rutkowski's blog.** Chris is an amateur astronomer but has an opposite opinion about UFOs that I do. I like Chris's efforts but I thought he pulled a sleight of hand in his blog when he went after Phil Plait's commentary about astronomers and UFOs. To demonstrate that amateur astronomers would miss UFOs, he describes talking to an astronomer friend of his that does astrophotography. According to Chris, this guy is pretty experienced but he does not spend much time looking at the sky since he allows his computer to do most of the work. It is implied that all amateur astronomers are just like this guy, who is extremely experienced. The problem is, a majority of amateurs are NOT like this gentleman. Every new moon period, amateur astronomers gather somewhere to observe the sky in groups. Sometimes groups of a half-dozen or so and sometimes in the hundreds. Have any UFOs that have a significant size and shape (not just "nocturnal lights") been observed by these large star party gatherings? What about small group get togethers? What about star parties that occur in the cities for the general public? Then there are those dedicated meteor observers who monitor the sky visually for dozens of hours each month. I have never read about any of them seeing these often re-

ported massive UFOs hovering or passing over their observing sites. I agree with Phil that if "true" UFOs were being seen in the numbers reported, amateur astronomers would definitely report more of them and they could not miss something that was hundreds of feet across hovering over their observing site at low altitude. Chris's effort to cherry pick one amateur who uses a computer controlled telescope to take pictures was not being accurate of how many amateur astronomers conduct their hobby.

**Dr. David Clarke has a blog now.** Clarke is one of Britain's best UFO historians. His latest blog entries have to do with release of MOD files. They are extremely interesting. His video on Youtube was an outstanding summary of what was there. Of course, there are no "smoking guns" but what else is new. I found the story about the Tornado pilots who reported being overtaken by a UFO they thought was a US stealth aircraft the most interesting. It was debris from a re-entering soviet rocket booster. Just another replay of Zond IV from the Condon study but this time, we had "expert" observers (pilots) making the same mistakes!

**Skepticblog is a collection of commentaries from the Skeptologists.** They cover just about everything and not just UFOs. Phil Plait is one of the authors. However, Brian Dunning, who is the producer of the skeptoid podcasts is now, according to Stanton Friedman, in the running for "Top UFO debunker". Apparently, Brian stated the evidence for the Betty and Barney Hill story was not very good for proving an alien abduction occurred. Friedman basically stated "Buy my book to learn the truth about the event" instead of presenting the key elements that prove the case. The problem is that there is no good evidence to prove there was an actual alien abduction of the Hills. This was Dunning's point, which Friedman obviously missed. I like Dunning's comment about evidence, *As I often say, you can stack cowpies as high as you want, they won't turn into a bar of gold. Good evidence is composed of good evidence, not lots of bad evidence.* UFOlogists need to remember this.

**SWIFT is the James Randi Education**

**Foundation's (JREF) Blog.** Not much in the way of UFO cases here. However, there was an interesting blog entry on one UFO video. The interesting part about the entry was the video clip on how to construct a solar powered balloon with some garbage bags and scotch tape. From a distance, it probably would look pretty odd and there would be no evidence of the UFOs presence when it simply disappeared. After all, who would equate some old garbage bags lying on the ground with some UFO reports in the area?

**The Anomalist is an interesting Blog and there are plenty of UFO stories here.** My favorite was a link from another blog The UFO Examiner. He reports that MUFON received a report of an actual UFO landing in Texas! The witness and his wife made some interesting observations. To them it looked like the UFO was the shape of a livestock feeder. That is, until it opened up and three "men" walked out into the field. The UFO left a few minutes later. It did not appear the "men" got back into the craft but, instead, they appeared to have walked towards a rest stop near the highway. Maybe the toilet on the ship was clogged or they had a strong desire for a pepsi, coke, or maybe a snickers bar. And people wonder why I am so skeptical about UFOs.....

**Reality uncovered is something that is worth noting.** Here one can read numerous well-written articles about UFOs. The recurring theme in the articles is what they call the "core story". That "core story", according to their blog, is defined as:

*...at its most basic level is about the "reality" of alien contact. The reality behind the Core Story however, is very different. The Core Story was created by a small group of people, intent on perpetuating a belief in the alien contact myth in order to achieve their own, distinctly human, objectives.*

You need to go to their site to read more about it. It is far too complex to summarize in a paragraph.

**These are just a sample of blogs available.** I apologize if I missed yours but there is only so much space available.

**And the beat goes on.....**

# The Roswell corner

## New Fireman witness

Roswell investigators and authors continue to look for more story tellers to make it seem like everybody in town knew about the greatest secret ever kept. Now we are told that an aging old fireman “proves” that Frankie Rowe’s story is true! After all the other pretenders that have turned up over the years, it is nice to hear about another “reliable” and “credible” witness. He is so credible that his name is to remain secret so skeptics and debunkers won’t bother him with difficult questions. Call me skeptical but this sounds a lot like Randle/Bragalia are trying to avoid anybody talking to the guy and getting a completely different story. This “proves” nothing since Rowe’s story has been public for over a decade. Ignoring the possibility that his testimony is tainted by what has been in the media over the years is ignoring the lessons of past discredited witnesses. Randle also wrote that Kaufmann’s story was true because of all the other supporting testimony. How did that work out?

## News Alert: Kevin Randle calls Professor Charles Moore a liar with bad information.

The idea that Professor Charles Moore has lied and deceived everyone has become part of Roswell mania. Kevin Randle, among others, has jumped onto the bandwagon to produce items that make it appear that Moore has gone out of his way to fabricate data and information. Randle recently attempted to call Moore a liar by stating he invented numbers for the range of the SCR-584 radar at White Sands in 1947. Well, Randle had gotten all his facts about this wrong. Did he get corrected by the throng of idolizing well-wishers on his blog? Amazingly, nobody said a word and, instead, they apparently accepted what he wrote as factual. I finally had to step in and point out that his accusation about the number being “invented” was completely false. Randle would later state that he had accepted the information from a “rabid believer”

without any fact checking. I can hazard a guess to his source but we will just let that person enjoy the fact that Randle threw him under the bus. Didn’t that happen before?

## Patrick Saunders: Roswell hero or Roswell joker?

Kevin Randle continues to peddle more Roswell stories in his blog. Another effort I noticed involved painting Patrick Saunders as a Roswell hero. Saunders had written some little cryptic notes in various Roswell books before he died. Randle had acquired one of these books about ten years ago. He discovered that in the flyleaf of The truth about the UFO crash at Roswell, Saunders had written that this was the truth and he hadn’t told anybody. Most of this book was based on the lies of Frank Kaufmann, Jim Ragsdale, and Glenn Dennis. How could this be the “truth”?

In Randle’s newest revelation, he produced a copy of UFO Crash at Roswell with the hand written note to his daughter state “You were there”. Who is “you”? Is he addressing his daughter? If so, how could she be there? The key to this mystery appears to be at the bottom of the page where he listed page numbers where his name was mentioned. The note is apparently a joke and he wanted everyone to see where he was mentioned. In this context it appears to be a little humor involved and indicates the other statement in The truth about the UFO crash at Roswell was probably also a joke. When you think about it, if he really wanted to tell the “truth”, wouldn’t he have just left us a book/document/diary outlining everything that would be released after he died? Instead, Roswell aficionados scan every fragment and innuendo as if they were the holy grail. Is this anything new? It has been over 60 years and we are still waiting for one piece of verifiable evidence that can demonstrate the “crash” really happened as claimed.

## Repeat after me.....

Moving on, I noticed something in Randle’s blog as well as the other various commentaries about the greatest secret ever kept. Roswell proponents like to re-

peat the same lines over and over again like a religious mantra. For instance, I have seen Randle keep repeating over and over that flight number four was “canceled” and that it is “mythical”. Christopher Allen correctly pointed out to him that even if flight number four was “canceled”, Crary’s journal mentions a “cluster of balloons” was eventually launched on the fourth of June, 1947. One can call this “Flight no. 4” without being wrong since it was sent up with a sonobouy to test reception. Randle’s exercise is just a way to reinforce the idea that there were no balloons trains launched that were never found, which would eliminate MOGUL as the source of the Foster Ranch debris.

Proponents continue this little charade with the ML-307 radar reflectors used by the NYU team. They attempt to tell everybody that the flight did not have ML-307s because Crary’s entry does not mention them. Again, Allen has correctly noted that the journal was not an accurate/official record of what was being flown. The team had used the reflectors on flight no. 2 only two months prior so the possibility exists they were attached. It is not unreasonable to suggest that this flight, even it were not an official NYU flight, might include the reflectors to see how well they performed in conjunction with the radar at Alamogordo. The repetition exercise performed by proponents is used to reinforce the idea that ML-307s could not have been attached to the “cluster of balloons”.

David Rudiak has also taken great effort to repeat the same idea over and over that Moore’s calculations were incorrect and then produced what he believes is the correct path of the flight that day. What is missed in all of this is that Moore’s effort was trying to show how the flight **could have made it to the ranch**. Rudiak is trying to **imply** that Moore’s flight **could NEVER have reached the ranch**. This is another exercise to eliminate the June 4th flight as a source of the materials described by Brazel. Despite Rudiak’s protestations, there remains a possibility that the flight could have made it to the ranch. Rudiak’s work has been effective. I have seen several proponents parrot that the flight **COULD NEVER** have made it to the ranch based on what he has written.

You won’t read on any of the proponents

# The Roswell corner (Cont'd)

web sites or blogs that there is the possibility this "cluster of balloons" could have had ML-307s attached and might have made it to Foster Ranch. To suggest it is possible is...well...sacrilegious.

## UFO Truthseeker gets his FACTS wrong but takes skeptics to task anyway.

Dave Thomas, the president of the New Mexicans for Science and Reason (NMSR), has written numerous skeptical articles about Roswell. One of the most significant was his 1995 article for the *Skeptical Inquirer* describing project MOGUL. Recently, UFO truthseeker Dennis Balthasar discovered this article next to another in the "X" *Chronicle Newspaper*. Apparently, Balthasar never read either article before and he decided to go after Thomas. However, the first article had come from Robert Carroll's *Skeptic* dictionary website and had not been written by Thomas at all. Therefore, Balthasar had got a FACT wrong (the author of the article) before he even started his diatribe about skeptics getting FACTS wrong.

The "Truthseeker" starts off his rebuttal by defining what a FACT is. FACTS are things that actually exist or are known to have happened. Balthasar's argument is that skeptics never get their FACTS right before writing about Roswell. He found some points that, in some cases were erroneous (i.e. Dee Proctor being listed as a girl) or were out of date (One of the town's UFO museums has now closed). However, Balthasar seemed to "pad" the amount of errors he could list by mentioning that Carroll did not spell "Mac" Brazel's nickname correctly! It is interesting to note that the recent *Roswell dig diaries* (Doleman, Schmitt and Carey) and *Roswell Encyclopedia* (Randle) spelled it as "Mack". Even more amusing is that Balthasar spelled it as "Mack" in his August 1st, 2003 editorial on his website! If the UFOlogists are going to spell it wrong, I can't see why it is important to note that a skeptic misspelled it. Maybe there is a double standard in UFOlogy when it comes to misspelling nicknames. To feel this was important enough to

mention demonstrates Balthasar is trying really hard to paint a certain picture.

When Balthasar did attack the points raised by Thomas he repeated two of the standard mantra lines already discussed:

1. Flight number 4 was canceled
2. David Rudiak has demonstrated that the balloons launched on 4 June could never have made it to the ranch.

As I have stated previously, neither of these statements are exactly accurate, which means he got his FACTS about this wrong as well.

The "Truthseeker" then spent time trying to point out that there is no MOGUL debris in the photographs other than weather balloons and radar reflector. To Balthasar, this apparently meant the debris could not have come from a project MOGUL balloon train. Balthasar can't get his FACTS regarding this right either. It is well known that Marcel stated that the media did not see all the debris and complained a great more debris was still on the plane! Additionally, Balthasar wonders what is in an unopened box in the photographs? Maybe, just maybe, it might just contain some of those parts from the MOGUL balloon train.

Balthasar also gets some more FACTS wrong when he repeats the standard Roswell crashed spaceship time line. According to him, the only time the 14th of June recovery date was mentioned was in the Roswell Daily Record interview. He missed the Frank Joyce teletypes where Wilcox stated Brazel had found it three weeks ago. He also had not read the Fort Worth newspaper, where Jesse Marcel Sr is quoted repeating the same time period. Balthasar choice of FACTS seems highly selective.

Another mistake was the "Truthseeker's" conviction that Mac Brazel came into town on the 6th of July with debris in hand. Apparently, he ignored the teletypes presented by Frank Joyce where it stated he came in on the 7th and that nobody had seen the debris. There was

also the comments made in the Fort Worth paper and Roswell Daily Dispatch, which also described his arrival on the 7th. Jesse Marcel Sr. even stated in *The Roswell Incident* that Brazel had come in on a Monday! As for the debris that supposedly came into town with him, nobody seems to report seeing that debris in any of the articles from 1947. Bill Brazel even stated in 1997 that his father did not bring any material into town. Even though it is part of the accepted story that he brought the debris into town does not make it a FACT.

In an unrelated argument he twists FACTS around when he states the Soviets did not start any nuclear testing until 1949 in order to make it sound like project MOGUL was not needed to detect Soviet explosions in 1947! 1949 is when the Soviets performed their first successful nuclear explosion but not when they began their nuclear program. The US was quite aware that the Soviets could construct a bomb and they did not want to be unaware of it's development. MOGUL was one of the programs under development in 1947 to detect such an explosion. It would be stupid to develop such a program after they already executed a test.

Balthasar's motto appears to be always to tell the truth so you don't have to remember anything. Maybe Balthasar should start looking some information up and not relying upon memory to write articles. Many of the items that Balthasar considers to be FACTS are not. It may be a FACT that somebody stated something. However, it does not make what they state is true. They are just stories that are blindly accepted as FACTS.

Dave Thomas has his own commentary about this on the NMSR website. He mirrors my comments here and adds that Stanton Friedman, who verified all the FACTS in Balthasar's piece, failed to conduct an adequate review. Thomas notes, "*Sadly, things like this happen all too often in the world of UFOlogy.*"



## The Big Sur UFO lives again!

The Big Sur UFO case appeared to be exposed long ago as a case of misinterpretation and/or exaggeration when Kingston George had written his article for The Skeptical Inquirer in 1993. Needless to say, no good UFO story can ever be explained, especially by a “debunker”. Therefore, Robert Hastings was able to resurrect the case by writing an article for The International UFO reporter. In the article, Hastings pretty much rehashes the same stuff that has been known about the case for years. A few minor points were raised to make it appear that this is news and to indicate the case is not explained. Hastings also spent some of his article space implying Kingston George, Phil Klass, and Kendrick Frazier are government stooges. He also decided that he was going to state that George’s article was flawed. How flawed was it? Well, Hastings big argument is that George misinterpreted what Bob Jacobs wrote concerning lasers and the term sub-orbital. Other than these red herrings, there was nothing wrong with George’s recollections about “Buzzing Bee”.

While discussing the Big Sur case on the Bad Astronomy and Universe Today (BAUT), Hastings made an appearance in order to “educate” everyone in the forum. The problem with this approach was that

many in the forum are skeptics and desire some substance to the claim. What followed was an example of how well Hastings could defend his work.

Among the things I wondered about was how well he researched his article. I began to suggest possible projects that might have produced an event that Jacobs might have seen interfere with an Atlas launch other than an alien spaceship. He seemed ignorant of these projects even existing, which meant he had not researched it. I then asked if he had any supporting documentation to confirm Jacobs story and if he examined certain records to see if there is evidence there. He did provide me copies of letters between Jacobs and Mansmann but nothing else. His answers to most questions were evasive or non-responsive. At first I thought he needed more time and I privately discussed this with another member that we were probably overloading him with too many questions. Hastings proved me wrong when he began to post several irrelevant sections from his book.

The BAUT forum is unique in that it expects its participants to answer questions (“I don’t know” is satisfactory) and defend claims made. The moderators di-

rected him to stop posting excerpts from his book and defend his claims. To me, it appeared that Hastings was unable or unwilling to defend his research. When he posted another irrelevant excerpt from his book, he was banned from the forum for spamming his book.

Prior to being banned, I had made an offer to him that if he could demonstrate that George was lying about the events he described for “buzzing bee”, I would gladly remove the article from my web site and post a new web page about how George had falsely written his article. I also suggested that if he could not show George was lying that he should post an article on his web site stating that there was nothing incorrect about George’s recollections. Hastings refused to take me up on the offer.

Kingston George has since published another article about the Big Sur UFO for The Skeptical Inquirer. While refraining from the kind of personal innuendo and attacks employed by Hastings, George addressed most of the arguments that Hastings had presented. Hastings now promises a rebuttal which exposes the “distortions” and “falsehoods” of George and CSI. Yawn....I have seen this before and I doubt this rebuttal will be any better.

### The Arizona UFOs - Twelve years later

The Arizona UFO story has continued to mystify witnesses and the media. Most people, except diehard believers, accept the videos taken at 10PM are of flares dropped over the Barry Goldwater test range. However, I have seen people claim that it was done on purpose to take attention away from the 8-9PM fly over by a V-shaped formation of lights over the state of Arizona. This conspiracy theory is interesting and assumes people would have been videotaping the southern horizon that night at the exact few minutes the flares were dropped. I guess this means the videographers were part of the conspiracy! The will to believe just about anything blinds people from the obvious.

My website describes the likely answer to

the 8 PM event as a formation of jet aircraft flying high over Arizona about 300-400 mph. It is often ignored. Witness Mike Fortson once told me I was wrong because he and others knew the object was flying low and not at high altitude! This claim is based on seat of the pants estimates and no hard data. In fact, his report was key in establishing the fact they were at high altitude! Fortson is also one of those claiming that the flare drop at 10PM was done on purpose. After reading this, I have arrived at the conclusion that the witnesses and investigators will not accept the aircraft formation explanation no matter what evidence is presented. If I were to publish the names of the pilots of the aircraft, they would simply state these guys were flying over in order to hide the presence of the real V-shaped object the witnesses claim they saw that night.

The evidence has always been there but

nobody wants the real answer. A mystery is easier to believe than to actually perform some analysis.





# Jesse Marcel- The Evolution of a Roswell Witness

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**Bruce Hutchinson**

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*Of course, the main period in Jesse's life we are interested in is the second week of July, 1947. When he was sent out to meet Mac Brazel in Roswell, he obviously had no way of knowing that his name would be forever etched in the annals of UFO history. But as important as that week would later prove to be for Jesse, it is certain elements of his biography he later related to UFO investigators that have become so interesting.*

When Jesse Marcel Sr. was interviewed about his recovery of the "crashed flying disk" by Bill Moore (who co-authored "The Roswell Incident") and then by Bob Pratt (who was at the time a reporter for the National Enquirer), he was also asked about his personal accomplishments and his wartime experiences. Questions like these are common—not only to provide a background of the interviewee, but to establish his credibility.

Jesse's bio, as he told it, was pretty impressive: Well educated with a degree in Physics, a certified, decorated war hero who shot down 5 enemy planes, a former personal aide to General Hap Arnold, a pilot (with 3000 hours behind the stick)... Jesse was indeed a "highly credible" witness. Moore and Charles Berlitz, co-authors of "The Roswell Incident", naturally treated Marcel as a hero in the first book to be published about the case.

However, over the next fifteen years, Jesse's testimony gradually became one of the more curious facets of the Roswell Saga. On one hand, he and his story were, in some sense, revered, as it was his account of the recovery of debris he described as "not of this world" that first put the Roswell Incident on the UFO map. His credibility at the time was not questioned, but as other witnesses stepped forward with their far more exciting versions of events, it became clear that for many of the Storytellers, Jesse Marcel's tale was starting to lose its luster.

There was Glenn Dennis, and his story of a request for child-sized coffins, a red-headed Captain and what "the Nurse" saw. Next

there was Jim Ragsdale's story of his tryst in the desert with Trudy Truelove that led to his discovery of the crashed saucer, several aliens, and massive recovery teams. These two became the focus of the book "UFO Crash at Roswell" (Randle/Schmitt). Then special agent Frank Kaufmann became the primary witness in "The Truth About the UFO Crash at Roswell" (Randle/Schmitt), because of his heroic tale of tracking the UFO by Radar, seeing the ship "explode" on the radar screen, and his role in the recovery of the ship and its alien crew. And, of course, we have Gerald Anderson's memories as a 6 year old finding a saucer and its alien crew and the third-hand tales of Barney Barnett providing most the excitement in "Crash at Corona" (Friedman).

In all of these books, Marcel's story was not only relegated to the "back bench", but many of his descriptions of events and the debris were flatly contradicted by others. Even more interesting is that the Storytellers all clearly preferred the other versions over Marcel's:

- Marcel's clearly described wooden "members" became metal beams, then "Metal I-Beams". (*"...but it didn't look like metal. It looked more like wood." --Pratt Interview*)
- Marcel's observation that it was clear that the craft must have "exploded in the air" because there were no signs on the ground of any impact, has now been supplanted by a "huge gouge" made by the craft as it crashed. (*"One thing I did notice – nothing actually hit the ground bounced on the ground. It was something that must have exploded above ground and fell." --Pratt Interview*)
- Jesse related that he and Sheridan Cavitt picked up what they could fit into their vehicles, and claimed that they left behind a lot more. What they brought back was the debris that was sent to Ft. Worth to be inspected by General Ramey. However, he never mentioned any kind of massive, High

Security effort to recover what they left behind, nor did he mention any additional "plane loads" of debris flown out of the base-- all of which are now accepted by the Storytellers as "facts". As the Group Intelligence Officer, these are activities that he would have been very aware of.

- Marcel's early assertions that the pictures of him taken in General Ramey's office showed the real debris that he brought in, were ignored in favor of the claims made by other witnesses that the real wreckage was switched out as part of the cover-up conspiracy. *"UFOs Are Real" -- Television Documentary, 1981*
- Marcel never mentioned any aliens-- dead or alive. Not at the crash site OR on the base. Yet the Storytellers, based on accounts from others, are all in agreement that bodies were recovered, autopsied on base, and eventually shipped to .... somewhere else.
- Jesse never mentioned or gave any hint that the base was under any kind of unusual security alert. But the prevailing story, as related by other witnesses, is that the entire base was under locked-down Very Highest Security.

The authors of the Roswell books in the '90s clearly preferred these new, more exciting tales over Marcel's. So without explicitly saying that Marcel's story and descriptions were suspect, they simply related, then ignored many of the details of his story, thus relegating Jesse to more of a historical footnote than a pivotal witness.

## **Jesse Marcel's Military Records**

In 1995, not long after publication of the Randle/Schmitt book "The Truth about the UFO Crash at Roswell", another researcher—Robert Todd—successfully acquired Jesse Marcel's military records via a Freedom Of Information Act re-

quest, and suddenly the appellation of "a highly credible witness" was brought into question. Many began to ask; If Jesse was inclined to embellish the reality of his wartime "heroics" and his education, was he equally cavalier with his story of the "flying disk"?

Marcel's records showed that contrary to the background he gave to the early researchers, he was not and never had been a pilot, nor was he a college graduate, and he never served as an aide to General Hap Arnold. He did receive two Air Medals, but not five, and they were not awarded for shooting down enemy airplanes-- there is no indication that he shot down even one. In the eyes of many, Marcel's tale of the Flying Disk that was "not of this world" started to look a little suspect.

Meanwhile, disaster was falling on all of the most coveted Roswell witnesses. Gerry Anderson was caught fabricating documents and a diary, and lying about the "archaeologist"... Jim Ragsdale, whose stories were suspiciously increasing in dramatic content with each retelling, abruptly changed the location of his crash site some 70 miles away... The diary of Barney Barnett's wife showed conclusively that he was nowhere near the Plains of San Agustin during that critical week... Glenn Dennis's mysterious nurse apparently never existed, and many of his details were found to be misplaced memories from other times.

Then finally, Frank Kaufmann's widow allowed researchers access to his papers after his death. These papers convincingly showed that Frank had forged the documentation he had shown to the storytellers, and that he was nothing more than an accomplished fabricator of his role in the Roswell Saga.

The Storytellers now found themselves without all of their best Witnesses. Huge holes had been ripped from their published stories, and it became clear that a renewed effort was required to try and resurrect the Saga from certain ruin.

### **Re-enter Major Jesse Marcel.**

With the loss of their most exciting witnesses, long time crash advocates and Roswell researchers like Kevin Randle

became desperate for a new headliner. So despite the obvious problems dealing with Marcel's discredited stories of his military service, and because they apparently have no one better, they have gone back to the witness that started the whole saga. Today, Jesse is once again being promoted as a Key Witness.

However, this resurrection effort continues to ignore the very real problems that have plagued Marcel's testimony since 1989. There are still these enormous discrepancies between Marcel's comparatively sedate tale, and the far more exciting stories of massive clean up operations, a huge gouge, alien bodies, a base locked down on high security alert, plane-loads (or truck-loads) of alien ship debris, specialists being flown in from Washington DC, Colorado, California... all of which have to be addressed by anyone who seriously wants to try and understand Roswell.

### **Jesse's War:**

So if Jesse's tale of his war-time exploits and education got a little "enhancement" 35 years later, just what is the reality of his time in service?

His service records indicate the Jesse fought the war well, but not exceptionally well. Every indication is that Jesse performed his wartime duties competently and was not shy about taking some risks--while in the Pacific Theater, he was promoted twice, and awarded two Air Medals and the Bronze Star. The records make absolutely no mention of him taking over a gun and shooting down a plane (let alone five planes!). Nor is there any mention what-so-ever of him as a pilot--which, considering the branch of service he was in, would be a decidedly noteworthy item. Gen. Ramey even noted in an evaluation of Marcel that his lack of pilot credentials would hurt his chances of advancement in the Air Force.

The common criticism voiced in his Efficiency Evaluations for '43-'45 was that he lacked in leadership and was deficient in his "personal appearance". However, praises for his abilities as an Intelligence Officer, his attention to detail and his work ethic, overshadowed those shortcomings. His rating officers were all in

agreement that Jesse was of value to the military, recommending that the Army Air Force retain his services and advance him in rank and duties. It is worth noting here that none of his wartime efficiency reports gave him an overall rating as "exceptional" or "superior".

His post-war Efficiency Ratings through 1948 followed the same pattern-- lacking in leadership, personal appearance and initiative, but skilled in his job with a good work ethic. He received written commendations for his work during "Operation Crossroads" and recommendations for advancement. Interestingly, in two Efficiency Reports completed during his time with the 509th, Jesse was ranked last or second-to-last by the report author (Col. Blanchard was one) when asked to compare him to the other officers in his command.

It wasn't until his period with SAC that deficiencies in personal appearance stopped appearing in the reports-- apparently it had been explained to him just how important it was to be "squared away" when you worked at the Pentagon.

Overall, Jesse's record with the Army (and the post-split Air Force) could be rated as Good to Very Good, but not Superior. He was never in trouble, did his job well, and generally pleased his superiors, but showed little in the way of Leadership abilities. The Army thought enough of him that he was not let go during the post war demobilization that saw a huge proportion of the troops sent home, and until his mother's illness intervened, he seemed to be well on his way to a comfortable career as a military bureaucrat.

### **Today:**

Ever since Marcel's military records were acquired, there have been periodic "discussions" between crash advocates and skeptics over the validity and the importance of what Marcel said in those interviews. A tape of Bill Moore's interview has never surfaced, and neither has any from Stanton Friedman's sessions. However, Bob Pratt did give copy of his interview tape to Karl Pflock, who published a transcription. It is from this transcription, and the quotes Moore published in "The Roswell Incident", that we get Jesse's

enhanced version of how he fought the war.

As I write this (February 2009), there is a renewed battle being waged on the Internet and in a book by Jesse Marcel Jr., to again try to resurrect Maj. Marcel's Credibility from the disaster wrought by the reality of his military records. Tactics such as excusing his grandiose tales as "résumé building", or "kill the messenger" (in this case, Bob Todd), and "please cut him some slack" are being used to try and elevate Jesse's story from the quagmire his fanciful exaggerations created.

At the same time, The Storytellers seem loathe to give up the exciting stories of alien bodies, high security alerts and the plane loads of debris that their now discredited witnesses had brought to the Saga. As a result, the argument over Jesse's credibility continues to ignore the huge gulf between his version of The Incident, and the versions that The Storytellers are actually selling.

*Thanks to Bruce Hutchinson for sharing this article with everyone. You can find it at the new website, the Aerial Anomalies Research Exchange. It looks like it is website worth watching for new and informative articles about researching UFOs.*

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***The Roswell Incident has emerged as a myth of such power and allure that it is no longer in anybody's best interests to seek - or admit - the truth. The town of Roswell profits from increased tourism. The supposed Roswell 'witnesses' get their two hours of fame, and immortality in the history books. The Roswell 'investigators' garner the adulation of their peers (assuming they have any), and the royalties from book and movie deals. The UFO 'organizations' enjoy a new respectability they otherwise haven't been able to achieve after nearly fifty years of worthless 'research'... Is it any wonder the truth has been lost in this hodgepodge of vested interests? -***

Robert Todd

Kowflop Quarterly December 8, 1995.

## THE GREATEST SECRET NEVER KEPT

It has always been part of UFOlogy's belief that the proof of alien visitation existed and the government was concealing this great secret. By the 1970s, it had become commonly accepted that the government was concealing all sorts of secrets. So when the Roswell story broke, it was not unexpected that part of the story would include a cabal that would go to enormous lengths to cover-up what transpired. For some reason, their ability to silence people failed when it came to Jesse Marcel.

Jesse Marcel stated that he first heard about it when he got a phone call from the sheriff's office. One would think if there had been a crashed spaceship found prior to this and base activity significantly increased, Jesse would have known because of his position. Instead, he reports that Colonel Blanchard sent only Sheridan Cavitt and himself out to the ranch. What he discovered there was so secret that Jesse stopped by his home on the way back so his wife and son could examine it. He did not seem to be concerned for security until a day later, when he would then tell his son not to talk about it. Jesse would later add that he never received direction about how secret the event really was but he knew he was not supposed to talk about it.

This is the way things were for thirty years. Most people in the world knew nothing about a crashed spaceship recovery. Even Presidents were kept in the dark about it. Meanwhile, the people in Roswell were scared into silence by the gestapo-like tactics employed by the Military Police of Roswell Army Air Field under the command of Major Edwin Easley. Easley, according to the story told today, ensured that nobody was going to talk by selecting brutish MPs that could intimidate children and their parents as well as the men in town. By threatening their families, they assured nobody was ever going to talk. Major Edwin Easley's diabolical actions ensured the greatest secret ever kept would not be revealed by anybody who was there.

Easley's and the governments reach apparently did not extend into Louisiana. There, Jesse Marcel Sr. told all of his friends about how he helped recover a crashed UFO back in 1947. Apparently, he either forgot his security oath or felt that nobody was going to harm him or his family. The greatest secret ever kept was going to be revealed through casual conversation with friends who could spread the word to anyone they met. This is how the Roswell story broke and the rest is history.

The special group designated for keeping the greatest secret apparently became complacent. Otherwise, they would have been paying close attention to Jesse Marcel. The secret could have been kept had they simply jetted down to Louisiana and forced Jesse to keep quiet the instant he began to tell his story to friends who did not need to know. Instead, the greatest secret ever kept was allowed to appear in print without even a hint of concern. It was almost as if nobody really cared.

As the years passed, a parade of witnesses appeared to talk about the events of that July. Easley's stranglehold on the town of Roswell had been released. The cabal, who dropped the ball by not eliminating the threat Marcel posed, now had to go into damage control. They would plant information in the archives that others could find indicating a more mundane solution. They would secretly encourage or pay individuals to hide the greatest secret never kept. The greatest secret never kept would be allowed to appear as nothing more than a balloon project run by a bunch of idiot college boys, who would later try and claim they were the cause of the Roswell debris.

The greatest secret never kept can now be told thanks to Jesse Marcel Sr. In 1947, he was just a bumbling Major, who goofed. By the 1970s, while others cowered, Jesse stood tall and told the real story about Roswell. Today, he is almost like a demi-god, who is incapable of fault. The shrine in Roswell is a testament to Jesse Marcel's courage in exposing "the greatest secret never kept".

# Big surprise: The ISS causes UFO reports

The National UFO reporting center (NUFORC) reports for Mid-March 2009 had several interesting reports that appear to be sightings of the ISS. On the 17th there were two sightings, one in Chicago and one in Ohio. Another sighting in Utah on the 14th also appears to be an ISS pass. There were several in California that appeared to be the ISS as well but their times did not quite match. However, other than the times, their descriptions appear to match a bright ISS pass in their sky that night.

One of the witnesses stated the "UFO" was so bright it was hard to look at and that it accelerated so fast they had a hard to maintain their binoculars on it (The ISS moves about a degree a second, which means it only takes 5-10 seconds to pass through a typical binoculars field of view). The witness, who stated that he had seen numerous craft like this over the years, appears to have been confusing satellites for UFOs.

Another witness proclaimed they looked up the ISS to see if that was what they saw. Apparently, they did not look at "Heaven's -above" because it listed a pass at the same time they described.

In one of the potential ISS pass observations in California, the witnesses seemed distressed over what they saw and desired answers. They stated they even called 911! One can only hope that Peter called them back and help them recover from the anxiety.

The ISS can reach Venus brightness or greater when it makes a favorable pass in the sky. I have seen it through thin clouds at night and it appeared to illuminate the clouds like it was in them. The effect can be eerie. What also is fascinating is seeing it disappear into the earth's shadow. The station basically "disappears". One needs to seriously consider the ISS as a progenitor of UFO reports. I recommend the "Heavens-above" website to check out ISS events.

## Whatever happened to...

### 1. The Trindade research project?

In 2003, Brad Sparks described the work of his "Trindade Research Project" on UFO Updates. It was meant to analyze the case again and verify it was not a hoax. This would silence the "debunkers" once and for all. Maybe it is still an on going investigation but the lack of any substantial report indicates that nothing conclusive has been discovered after six years. Sounds like another one of those projects that is not going anywhere fast. Where have I heard that story before?

### 2. The independent study of the "Ramey memo"?

In 2002, Kevin Randle and James Houran wrote an article in the International UFO Reporter about the "Ramey memo". They stated the next step would to have three independent laboratories investigate the document that General Ramey holds in his hand. Surely, somebody who was interested in the truth would donate the money to have the project completed. The lack of any further news on this front indicates UFOlogy does not want such a study to occur. Is it any wonder why Roswell remains a "mystery" to UFOlogists?

## Another UFO "chase"

Going through Peter Davenport's National UFO Reporting Center (NUFORC) website, I stumbled across an interesting UFO report. Back on November 28, 2008 a gentleman in Pennsylvania was going to pickup his girlfriend from work. Around 7PM, he noticed two lights in the sky that were not normally there and, by his estimate, were only a few hundred feet off the ground. He decided it would be interesting to see what they were.

The little trip took longer than he thought. He drove roughly 25 miles from Jefferson Hills to Washington before he lost sight of the two objects. He was convinced they were not stars because of their brilliance.

The solution was very easy for this. Peter Davenport wrote that he suspects the lights were Venus and Jupiter. I don't think there is any doubt about it. He drove in a southwest direction, which is the direction where the two planets were located. Venus and Jupiter set before 8PM, which explains the disappearance of the two UFOs when they got to Washington. The mystery is solved.

This is just another example in the long history of people who claimed to have chased or were followed by bright planets. This gentleman was not stupid. He was just curious about what he had seen in the night sky. Too bad he did not check an astronomy web site like Spaceweather or call an amateur astronomy club for a better answer.



**Venus, Jupiter and the moon on December 2, 2008**

# Bill Birnes and Peter Davenport taken in by UFO hoax

In early March, I read Peter Davenport's highlights about a sighting in New Jersey last January, which included videos. When I examined the video on Davenport's website, I was unimpressed. It appeared to look like radio tower lighting. I could not say what it was but it certainly did not look exotic or unearthly. I shrugged and thought it not worthy of noticing. It was just some lights in the sky. That is until I saw the eskeptic newsletter posted on April 1.

The story was about Joe Rudy and Chris Russo, who came forward and explained that they were the source of the UFO report. Their objective appeared to be to test the UFOlogists, who would investigate the case and to document the response of witnesses and the media. They took road flares, tied them to helium balloons, and launched them from an isolated wooded area. It appears the police department figured out the prank and told the media that they were balloons with flares attached. This was apparently ignored by some UFOlogists. Russo and Rudy supplied videos of their hoax to various websites (including the one I saw on the NUFORC website) and even claim that their video was shown at an Illinois MUFON symposium. They stepped over the line, when they decided to go on television as eyewitnesses. It biased the experiment, which they should have only observed and recorded.

When UFO Hunters came into town, Bill Birnes canvassed the witnesses and made quite a production of the story. According to the "special report" they found the flare explanation "implausible". Additionally, Birnes was trying to demonstrate that the triangle of lights in the video was actually a huge triangular craft with lights near or on the edges. There also was a hint of some sort of video analysis. The rest of their "report" was not available but I think it was a tease for one of their upcoming shows.

The response by UFOlogists in their blogs was what I would expect. Many were indignant about the "experiment".

The "Daily Grail" implied that all hoaxers were "creative jackasses". DeVoid's Billy Cox complained about the media's coverage, Bill Birnes, and the hoaxers. It was the news report that the hoaxers would be prosecuted for "disorderly conduct" that brought the greatest cheers from UFO proponents. To the proponents it made the hoaxers look stupid. These are the same proponents who would proclaim a UFO event could not be a hoax because nobody has come forward to claim credit. Rudy and Russo made some errors in their experiment and their video about their hoax appeared to anger the authorities as well as UFOlogists.

Kevin Randle tried to spin the story by stating the witnesses were accurate in what they reported. I think he was being selective because several of the witnesses (not Rudy and Russo) made some rather interesting claims. For instance, witness Ogden told a newspaper the lights moved against the wind and could not be flares on balloons. Some witnesses made observations that really indicated they were flares but this did not explain why Peter Davenport and Bill Birnes were supporting this case. Weren't they aware of these reports?

Randle also made mention of an analysis by MUFON that indicated it was a hoax. Roger Marsh, the UFO examiner, stated the same thing. When I found the report, I noticed that it was dated January 8th! The funny thing about this is that nobody seemed to talk about this wonderful report until the hoax was revealed. Peter Davenport had the event listed in his headlines on the NUFORC website the day the hoax was revealed with no indication that it was probably a hoax. Bill Birnes seemed just as oblivious to the report. Marsh never discussed the report after it had been released even though he did list the sightings in his January UFO sightings report. It seems that nobody knew the report existed in early January. If they did, they were not telling everyone because the hoaxers were still launching their balloons in the weeks after producing more reports.

According to Russo and Rudy, they had their video shown at an Illinois MUFON symposium. This was probably the one held on February 21 at Harper college but details about that event are limited.

Why didn't MUFON's Illinois state director Sam Maranto know about the MUFON report stating it was a hoax? This is probably because Maranto is a big supporter of the Tinley park videos which look remarkably similar to the Morristown, N. J. videos. Is it possible that Tinley park was a hoax as well? There have been many UFO cases in the past that look like the Morristown UFO videos. There are the Carteret, N. J. UFOs of 2001 and quite a few videos shot at Gulf Breeze during the Ed Walters nonsense. Do you think MUFON might conclude these were probably hoaxes as well? I doubt it. MUFON is not going to remove them from their lists of top UFO cases.

To be honest, I think the present crop of UFO investigators are more gullible because of the Internet and the media. Back in the 1960s, if this experiment were conducted, Davenport and Birnes would never have been so easily duped. Today, when witnesses rapidly appear on television and the lure of documenting a "great UFO case" appears, a UFO investigator is hard pressed to suggest a solution. They do not want to be branded a "debunker" or doubting "highly credible" witnesses. They are more than likely to exaggerate the claims by the witnesses, declare the lights are connected to some sort of "massive triangular shaped craft", label it as a classic case, and place themselves in the forefront so as to be the "go to guy" when the media talks about the case. This is exactly what Bill Birnes appeared to do. This attitude has been displayed in almost every UFO case that has received significant media attention in the past twenty years and it is no surprise that at least one UFO "investigator" would fall for a hoax.

Rudy and Russo pretty much duplicated the efforts of the past (Ex: Time Magazine April 8, 1966). They demonstrated that some UFOlogists can still be blinded by relying heavily on what witnesses believe and not taking a critical look at the actual reports, which can give an indication of the source as long as the exaggerations are ignored. I only wish that Rudy and Russo would have waited to see it appear as another the prize case on a UFO Hunters episode. Now it probably will end on the cutting room floor and Birnes will declare he knew it was a hoax all along!

## Just the facts

Recently, I have seen numerous UFOlogists state the word "fact" when it comes to UFO events. Statements like, "debunkers never address all the facts of a case" or "skeptics ignore this fact about UFOs" are stated as if these particulars are indisputable. The problem is, I don't think many UFO proponents even understand what a fact truly is.

A fact is something that every reasonably intelligent person can agree upon and not dispute. For instance, we can say it is a fact that Kevin Randle and Don Schmitt **wrote** in their book, The truth about the UFO crash at Roswell, that Kevin Randle handled a piece of debris that was picked up at the crash site and it seemed to be exotic in nature. However, it is not a fact that it was a piece of alien debris. Just because it is a fact that somebody claims something happen does not make it a fact that it actually did!

In the case of Randle's exotic pumice, it was only mentioned once that it existed. This piece of debris could be considered evidence for an alien spaceship crash. Unfortunately, it seems to have vanished the way Frank Kaufmann's claims vanished after he died and was exposed for being a hoaxer. We don't even know if Randle even handled the debris as claimed. We only know that he says he did.

Proof is when the evidence is used to establish facts. Again, in the example of Kevin Randle's exotic pumice, had Randle taken the material for testing, he would be taking a step to establish proof for his claim. If the testing revealed something truly alien in nature, then it would be very good evidence to establish proof, which would result in establishing a fact. It is unfortunate for Roswell proponents that such claims usually fall flat and prove nothing.

Many in UFOlogy have confused the meaning of facts, evidence, and proof. For most UFO reports/stories, the anecdotal testimony of witnesses is considered evidence. However, all it does is establish that witness X **states** they saw Y. This the only thing that everyone can agree upon. That is a fact.

## The Illusionists

Matthew Graeber



The sixty-two year old, continuously running, dog and pony show (commonly known as the UFO enigma), has managed to captivate the imaginations of the young, the gullible and the unsuspecting here in the America (which as you know) is the land of science fiction and fantasy. But, the infestation of the myth has even spread abroad.

The credit for this show's success goes to the tireless and over-zealous antics of the GRAND ILLUSIONISTS who never once produced a real dog or a single pony in the center ring of the UFO controversy. (Hmmm come to think of it, they haven't produced a saucer, saucer fragment or, an alien creature either.)

Instead of offering their imaginary performing dogs treats and dangling a tasty carrot in front of some invisible pony's nose, it's the saucer buffs whom were endlessly led around the rings of expectation, anticipation, mystery and illusion-induced awe for decades

With the assistance of the media (which used to be dedicated to journalism) and the ratings hungry TV cable channels, the illusionists have dazzled audiences around the world with sensational stories of gleaming scout ship visitations, crashed saucers in the desert and government cover ups of the alien presence amongst us. This is ALL SMOKE AND MIRRORS, the very trappings of magic shows

- with the exception being, real illusionists' do not particularly care if you know they are playing a trick of hand, eye and perception on you - Whereas, the UFO experts very survival is dependant upon his or her self-appointed status in UFOlogy NOT being identified for what it truly is.

So, when two New Jersey men launched a number of helium-filled balloons with burning road flares attached to them, and there were follow up press reports of UFO investigators being on the scene - this too, is simply part of the grand illusion - and shows that some people (like the hoaxers, who posted their 'test' of the UFOlogists on the internet), actually know the illusionists are in fact, UFOLOGISTS and that they will readily take the hoax bait (hook, line and saucer) when in fact, there never was a saucer involved in the illusion at all.

This is known as "Turn About is Fair Play" in most other instances - but the UFO experts will feign being angry, befuddled and bewildered at just what these men were trying to prove. They have written long-winded excuses, blamed others and skirted issues, even to the point of turning on the very media that helped make them appear to be serious adult researchers and scientific-types. Need I say more?

On the up side of this sad story, UFOlogy is destined NOT to produce much of a big bang or, quantum leap of science as anticipated. Rather, it will simply sputter and fizzle-out much like a spent road flare - Now, that the dreaded W.W.W. is exposing the illusionists, the so-called UFO enigma and the media mechanics of the myth. All this, thanks to the fine efforts of two men from New Jersey who proved a point (beyond a shadow of a doubt) for the benefit of the common man and common sense.... Illusionists are not always recognizable at first glance.

The two hoaxers have recently been sentenced to fifty hours of community service for their pranks... The release of the balloons was believed a threat to low-flying aircraft in the Morristown area.

## E-mails to the editor

Note: these are not real email's since this is the first issue. However, they are the type of emails I have received in the past and emails that I might expect from some individuals in the UFO field. Contact the editor at tprinty@comcast.net. All emails are subject to publishing unless specifically requested by the authors.

### Debunker!

*Your take on Roswell is all wrong. I should know because I was in the Army for two years. I learned all about cover-ups while I was a Corporal. I believe a spaceship crashed at Roswell.*

—Rabid believer

### They weren't flares!

*I can't believe you accept that cock and bull story about flares being the source for the 10 PM videos over Phoenix. I have seen the videos hundreds of times and flares don't look like that*

—Lost in Phoenix

### Missing time

*I have been abducted numerous times and they put a buzzer in my head. I even took pictures of their spaceships. Do you want to read my book?*

—Florida Funster

### CSI Lover!

*I can't believe you think that Kingston George is being honest when he wrote that article about Big Sur. It was so factually flawed. After all he does not know the difference between orbital and sub-orbital.*

—Banned by BAUT



### Exaggeration

*I must have told debunkers a billion times not to exaggerate. Our UFO database has millions of good unsolved UFO stories...er... cases.*

—Angry old UFOlogist

### USAF=liars

*I used to be in the USAF and I know they are all a bunch of liars. They taught me how to lie and I often use that ability to trick debunkers like you into revealing they are just plain stupid.*

—Sky hawk 123

### MJ-12

*You are naive and are ignoring the massive UFO cover-up the government has created since Roswell. The MJ-12 documents prove it. Come to my lecture and find out. P.S. Bring money!*

—Washed up scientist

### Project Mogul.....pffffffttt

*You demonstrate your ignorance about Roswell. I have been researching the case since the beginning and there is no doubt that there is a grand conspiracy. I have personally selected the testimony that is pertinent and published it. Ignore whatever else these people said. Just focus on the part where they talk about alien bodies.*

*As for Project Mogul, flight #4 was canceled and any balloons launched by the Mogul team could NEVER have made it to the Foster ranch. It was physically impossible. There was a "no-fly" zone over the Foster ranch, which is why only UFOs could crash there.*

—Myth maker

### Lack of respect

*I saw a UFO once and it was not venus, swamp gas, or a weather balloon. I know what I saw and it was immense and really close. I think I even experienced some missing time. The whole event lasted hours. When I left, the UFO was still there, just hovering. The best part about the whole thing was our team won that night. I can't believe that the thousands of people who were there missed it!*

—UFO "experiercer"

## What has 60 years of UFO research accomplished?

*Unless we develop drastically new ideas and methodologies for the study of the baffling UFO cases and the human context in which they occur, we will watch the next thirty years of UFO report gathering simply mirror the futility and frustration of the last thirty years.* (Allan Hendry, UFO Investigator's handbook, p. 285)

It is interesting that we are now just past that thirty year mark Allan Hendry had commented about in his book. As he predicted, UFOlogy's process is the same and no advancements have been made. UFOlogists collect UFO reports and conclude that UFOs must be some form of craft under "intelligent control". Although they never state "who" is controlling these "craft", there is always the implication that they are alien spaceships. What has UFOlogy done to demonstrate this is true?

Peter Sturrock thought the evidence had improved because he invited some scientists to examine the best evidence gathered in the first fifty years of UFOlogy. To his dismay, Sturrock discovered that the scientists were not overly impressed by the presentations or the data. The panel actually wrote that there still was no evidence of anything extraordinary in these reports and suggested other possibilities. Among their critique were comments about current investigations suffering from low standards of research. They also noted that investigators needed to be more willing to evaluate rival hypothesis objectively. While Sturrock trumpeted the fact that the panel felt that Condon may have been hasty when he stated that science will learn nothing from the study of UFOs. It was a hollow victory at best. The panel agreed with Condon that nothing has been learned from studying UFOs, which is the biggest issue here.

The past thirty years of UFOlogy has been wasted chasing grand conspiracies. These are essentially the same conspiracies that were being chased in the first thirty years by UFO groups! Has new and reliable evidence surfaced that clearly demonstrates that a conspiracy exists? So far, the answer is no. I am sure UFOlogists might disagree with me here and point to some vague statement, produce blacked out documents, or even mention MJ-12.

None of these prove anything other than the government is concerned about secrets that may or may not have anything to do with covering up the truth about UFOs.

UFOlogy has also spent time chasing various crashes of alien spaceships. Despite many stories from various locations, not once has a scrap of any of these craft survived to be examined. That is unless you believe the government conspiracy angle. In that case, anything is possible. You can create something out of nothing. All it takes is for a bright meteor to appear in the sky and have a few people state it was a spaceship that was immediately whisked away by the US military. It is interesting that this is the only endeavor that the US government seems to be good at performing. They hide everything and not one government document that has surfaced to date demonstrates that anything exotic has ever been recovered. Still, the stories keep coming in and are readily accepted by UFOlogists

Even if no scraps of material have ever been recovered, UFOlogists trumpet they have thousands of cases of "trace evidence" from UFO landings. Too bad most of these "traces" are analyzed by amateurs and not by any scientific organizations setup for the study of such samples. The lack of any scientific results says a lot about the "trace" evidence. There may be some anomalies in the soil but they, like most UFO reports, are not completely inexplicable.

Then there are the abduction stories, which can be explained as sleep disorders. When the PBS program NOVA asked for any abduction evidence back in 1990s, UFOlogists took a pass. They could have presented implants or other items they claim proves their case. Instead, they appeared to fear having their evidence tested.

This brings us to the various UFO "coin collectors", who collect UFO reports as if they were precious artifacts. The major problem with all these cases is they really do not mean much. Sure, some are really interesting and may not be satisfactorily explainable. However, that does not

mean the reports are accurate or, in some cases, even happened. There is always room to question each case.

What does UFOlogy expect to do in the future? I have read MUFON has gotten a lot of money to create special teams to go to a UFO event and gather evidence. I am not certain what this will accomplish since there are no cases to date that seem to have produced such evidence. I personally think the money will be wasted and nothing will be accomplished. It was also my impression that MUFON already had specially trained groups in each state and they certainly can reach an area within hours of news of a UFO crash or landing. Why would another team of "experts" be necessary? Does this mean the present organization and investigator "training" is completely worthless?

What they should do with the money is establish all sky video coverage the same way amateur astronomers are doing with meteors. Remember, UFOs are stated to be solid craft which are, in some cases, immense in size. To increase resolution, multiple cameras (vice one with wide angle lens) can be used with lenses that only cover a selected section of the sky. If done properly, the whole sky will still be covered. Video recordings with low light cameras from several locations could produce actual data that can be analyzed by everyone! The cost would not be too significant and three stations a few miles apart per major city would be a start. Additionally, they can be made mobile so focus can be put on areas of increased UFO activity. Even if no UFOs are recorded, one can use the videos to determine the source of UFO reports from that area. Of course, that means they would be used to debunk UFO sightings. I don't think UFOlogists would be interested in that kind of research.

As Hendry noted, UFOlogy needs to fix itself. Attacking the problem the same old way, will get you the same old results. This is exactly what UFOlogists continue to do in their quest for evidence. Does UFOlogy really have the wisdom to produce real data for scientists or are they just interested in perpetuating a mystery? Is it easier to sell books, fill convention halls, and appear on Larry King than it is to gather data that can be quantified and measured? The world wonders.....



# UFOs on the tube

## UFO Hunters:

The History channel really needs to be taken to task here. I am not sure who Bill Birnes knows there but this is really an awful show. I even think a few UFOlogists probably shake their heads watching the shows. To be honest, I can only take the show in small spurts and I occasionally miss some of each show. The remote is far too tempting and I almost want to watch "Family guy" repeats instead. However, curiosity keeps me coming back to see what ridiculous thing they will say or do next.

The show seems to take pride in performing "Scientific experiments" which are experiments in name but not very scientific in nature. Some great examples are:

1. The attempt to simulate the Arizona UFO videos by using maritime safety flares shot over a harbor. Not only are the flares different, they are at different altitudes. If they really wanted to conduct a test, why didn't they simply observe the Barry Goldwater test range for a few weeks with video cameras from a distance of about 50 miles? It was a rigged experiment designed to get the desired result.
2. They tested a piece of suspect Roswell debris somebody found at one of the many spaceship "crash sites". It was tested in a lab and determined to be nothing more than plastic. In order to make it sound like there was something special found, they point out that this type of plastic was not available in 1947. Of course, they ignored the simple fact that something picked up off the ground does not have to be from the 1947 time frame. It could have been dropped there in 1997 or even 2008!
3. They tested the blood of two potential abductees and found similar blood chemistry results. No blind experiments were done to see if other people who have not been abducted also had the same traces in their chemistry. The doctor seemed to take a neutral position and drew

no conclusions. I am sure he was briefed not to say anything that could be used by "debunkers".

Further ridiculous experiments were conducted but these stood out. One can only take so much uncritical thinking before your mind glazes over.

The antics of Bill Birnes demonstrates that he has to be the most gullible and ridiculous UFO investigator ever. In the abduction episode, an ex-marine, who served for only a few years, recounts all of his episodes of seeing UFOs and declares they could not be aircraft because he is an expert! Bill Birnes repeats this nonsense by declaring this guy a trained observer. The last time I checked, the Marines train their guys to take beaches and conduct assaults. They receive no training in observing stars, satellites, balloons, planes, etc. Assuming he was an enlisted man, this guy was, at best, a corporal, during his service. Corporals are to be respected but their experience is limited. To call this guy a "trained" observer was a gross exaggeration. To me the story sounded too much like Ed Walters except he did not have the skill to take hoax photographs like Mr. Ed.

Even more astounding were the claims made by Bill Birnes in the flying triangles episode. He openly boasted that he had documentation that an Army Officer had time traveled into the future twenty years! Not a single person questioned him or his claim. Can anyone take this guy seriously?

The whole show is not investigative journalism and can not be considered "history" unless it is about twisting history. In my opinion, each show should have the following ending.



## Book Reviews

### Buy it! (No UFO library should do without it)

Allan Hendry - The UFO Investigators handbook.

Without a doubt, this book is at the top of my list for buying. I have two copies in my library simply because the first became so worn out. I scanned that one into a pdf document and can now access it at any time. I can find very little to fault in this book and I think it should be required reading for anybody wanting to investigate UFOs. It is honest about the pitfalls of UFO sightings and is a guide for many possible sources of UFO events. It is no longer in print but you can find it in used book stores. I am also aware that some libraries have it.

### Borrow it. (Worth checking out of library or borrowing from a friend)

Don Schmitt and Kevin Randle - UFO Crash at Roswell.

I bet you figured I would bin this one. No, I think it is an important document for the Roswell saga. Flawed as it is, it also has some very important statements by witnesses before contamination had become a serious issue. While these interviews were being gathered, few people outside of UFOlogy knew what Roswell was about and the town was not aware of the financial rewards.

### Bin it! (Not worth the paper it is written upon - send to recycle bin)

Philip Corso and William Birnes -The day after Roswell.

The book is full of wild stories about how Corso used the Roswell debris to change the course of human history by examining the debris from the crashed saucer at Roswell. Thanks to Corso, modern electronics and all other technologies were created because of him.

Corso is a modern day "Walter Mitty". I can never understand why ex-military officers need to inflate their resumes and tell wild stories. Too many John Wayne movies, I guess..



An Iridium flare makes a brief appearance in the night sky. Iridium flares can generate UFO reports