

SUNlite

Shedding some light on UFOlogy and UFOs

Trust a witness in all matters in which neither his self-interest, his passions, his prejudices, nor the love of the marvelous is strongly concerned. When they are involved, require corroborative evidence in exact proportion to the contravention of probability by the thing testified.

- Thomas Huxley

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Wherefore art thou UFOlogy?

The one thing I noticed about UFOlogy is that just about anybody seems to declare themselves an expert on the subject. While the “professionals” argue the classic UFO cases of Roswell, Arnold, Zamora, etc., the rest of UFOlogy seems stuck on “disclosure”, NASA conspiracies, hidden UFO bases, etc. Some of these ideas are just way out there and they are the major reason that UFOlogy is considered a bunch of whacko nut-jobs. UFOlogy’s “science” is being burned down by the masses and nobody appears to be doing anything to prevent it.

I keep receiving e-mails from people who enjoy SUNlite, which is encouraging. I appreciate them. The only exchange that was unpleasant came from Anthony Bragalia. Promises were made that he would expose me and that he might take legal action against me. I am not overly concerned about these “threats” since I don’t feel I have done anything wrong. I really did not see him point out any **major** mistakes in my article but he did raise up some points I had ignored or left out. Therefore, I felt it necessary to, once again, visit the whole Nitinol issue.

To add to this, Bragalia sent another e-mail in mid-August, which promised great revelations. He added that I should not talk about Nitinol because it would make me look foolish after he presents his evidence. I notice that Mr. Bragalia keeps requesting I not write about his articles for various reasons. It is as if he seems concerned about what I might actually say. As expected, when his article appeared, I was unimpressed. You can read all about it on page 12.

Another e-mail I received was from Bruce Maccabee regarding my comment last issue about how NOVA’s UFO program had “shot down” the New Zealand UFOs. To be honest, I was hasty in that comment and Dr. Maccabee makes a good case for his interpretation of this event. Read my correction on page 20.

It seemed like July was a bad month for many people. Not only did Walter Kronkite pass away but so did UFOlogists, John Keel and Richard Hall. I am aware of Keel only through his writings and David Clarke and Magonia did a wonderful job describing his life. I did not know Richard Hall personally but I did see his demeanor in several exchanges on UFO Updates over the years. It was my opinion that he took this UFO business far too serious and could be very callous in his comments towards those who disagreed with him. Perhaps it was all those years of frustration trying to investigate UFOs. Despite my difference of opinion on these matters, I was saddened to see these people pass away. At least they lived full lives and were respected by their fellow UFOlogists.

Another item that caught my eye was how some UFO proponents ask for donations to their web sites and blogs. It is my opinion that this is the equivalent of “begging” for people to pay you in a medium that is designed to be “free” (except for the connection costs). If they feel that their work needs to be compensated for, then they should make their site pay for view or close their site down.

There was also a late submission by a Col-

onel Moulder. Having never heard of him before, I was intrigued by his request. After reading the article, I felt it was necessary to “stop the presses” and squeeze the article into this issue (see pages 18-19).

On a more personal note, I spent some time in Nova Scotia this summer. I got to Shag Harbour way to late to look inside the museum but did get this photograph. When we drove through Barrington, my wife saw the sign for the upcoming UFO “festival”. I was amused to see that the sign stated, “Lighthouses and UFO days” for August 14-15. Were they referring to the Rendlesham Forest event?

The cover is a photograph I recently took of M31 to show the home of the Axthadans. Anyone desiring a copy of the FULL image (which shows the full galaxy and part of the other companion) can e-mail me and receive it free (with stipulations about its reuse).

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Kevin Randle's "Different Perspective" blog amazed me when Randle did not discuss Roswell as a subject for several weeks in a row. Randle's observations about Kenneth Arnold were interesting and his opinions are shaded by his belief that UFOs are alien spaceships. However, I will give him credit for laying his case out and deciding that the case is simply "unknown".

Randle took to task all those mean skeptics who call Dr. Marcel a liar. He pointed out that Dr. Marcel's achievements as a doctor were worthy of notice and they are. Nobody is criticizing Dr. Marcel Jr. for his abilities as a healer and I don't really recall saying he was a "liar". Robert Todd may have made some mean comments about the good doctor but he seems to have had reason since the good doctor apparently chose to use some rather abusive language with him. Before Randle bestows sainthood on Dr. Marcel, we have to remember he is human and he can make mistakes. Additionally, Randle needs to look in the mirror some time. I have seen him refer to Dr. Moore and various military personnel as liars. Like Dr. Marcel, they have contributed to society in their own ways. It appears Randle is just as guilty as those that criticize Marcel with the same epithet.

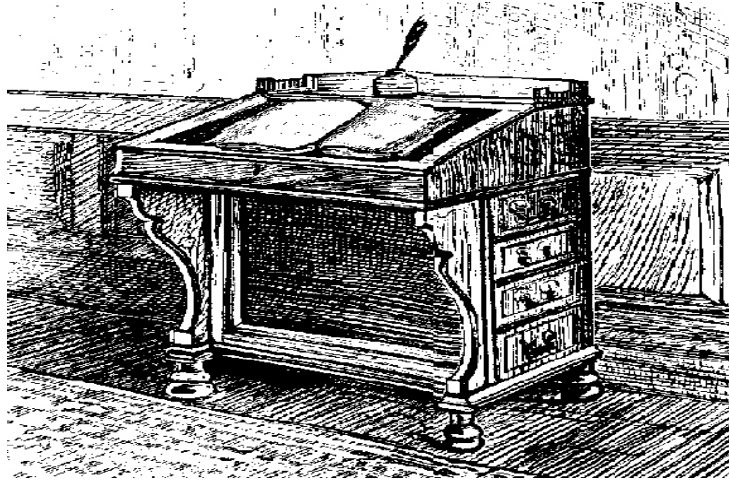
One of the other noteworthy commentaries had to do with his discussion about Abductions at the MUFON symposium. Apparently, Randle suggested some, or a good portion of, abductions can be related to sleep paralysis. The "faithful" interpreted that to mean he stated "all" abductions are due to sleep paralysis. Randle was offended by this. Perhaps Mr. Randle needs to think about this when he states "All" amateur astronomers look through "narrow fields of view" and "fear ridicule". See...that kind of broad brush is used by everybody.

Frank Warren's "UFO Chronicles" just keeps putting up stuff from various authors. It appears that his blog is the UFO community soap box. If you want to see the latest opinions offered, you will probably find it here.

One very interesting commentary was

Who's blogging UFOs?

Hot topics and varied opinions



posted by Robert Salas. Salas was one of the officers who was present during the UFO missile shutdown event. He hit hard at the "disclosure movement" and "Exopolitics". Salas helped create people like Greer and Bassett, whom he criticizes in his piece. Probably the funniest thing he mentioned was Dr. Greer stated he had held an alien baby in his arms at one point! I have always felt Greer was a reality challenged person. This is just another instance that confirms it. Too bad others still believe most everything Greer says.

Salas commentary sparked several individuals to add fuel to the fire on Warren's blog. Jan Aldrich's argument was by far the best and he made it clear what he believes that people are just interested in being entertained by UFO stories and not interested in if they are true or not. It seems that the more exotic they are, the more some people are willing to believe them.

Dr. Michael Salla responded calling the whole thing a case of "gate keeping" by those afraid of the "exopolitics" movement. It is quite amusing that many in UFOlogy use the same kind of argument when it comes to scientists and UFOs. They argue that scientists are close-minded to the ETH and are acting as "gate

keepers". So now, the "nuts and bolts" and "old guard" UFOlogists are blocking the efforts of those willing to accept any crazy story to support their own interpretation of the UFO phenomena.

The "De Void" blog keeps repeating a lot of the same stuff. He decided to promote James Fox's latest UFO docu-

mentary "I know what I saw". Looking at the trailer, I saw a lot of the same video in "Out of the blue". The focus of the movie appears to be the witnesses honesty is not to be questioned and they know they saw alien spaceships flying through the sky. Skeptics do not doubt that witnesses saw something. However, in most cases, it is their interpretation of what they saw that is questioned. Perhaps Fox should title the movie "I know what I believe I saw".

The Bad Astronomer, Phil Plait, Recognized SUNlite. Huzzah!!! It is nice to see skeptics noticing the newsletter. He discussed my article on Astronomers and UFOs. Bob Young has an excellent follow-up article this month on P.14. I added some additional comments based on Kevin Randle's whining about Plait.

The UFO Examiner noticed that the number of UFO reports spiked over the fourth of July weekend. Perhaps it had to do with people going out to see fireworks and that presented them with the myriad of potential objects one normally sees in the night sky. The examiner felt there was something to it and polled some of the MUFON state directors. Surprisingly, several felt it was due to mundane sources seen during fireworks displays. The one major exception had to do with the Pennsylvania director who took it to an extreme and implied these sightings were a "sign/message" being sent by an intelligence that specifically chose the fourth of July as the day for this message to be sent. I wonder if they sent a STAR team to Pennsylvania?

There was also the claim that this has occurred on the fourth of July for the past few years. Why aren't UFOlogists out on the fourth of July recording these events

Who's blogging UFOs? (Cont'd)

if they can be predicted? Inquiring minds want to know.

There was a video of some disc-shaped objects being transported through Dallas on flatbeds with police escort. It is strange for the military (assuming it is the military) to transport a UFO so openly in public. I thought the standard procedure was to put a tarp over it and use small roads. For that matter, why not transport it via aircraft? A more logical explanation is probably something mundane with a circular cover. I saw comments that it was actually from Russia and was several years ago. I did not even bother to check it out because I did not want to waste my time.

One UFO report that amused me happened at 11:10PM on July 19th from Sedona, Arizona. The witnesses provided a videotape of the bright UFO that appeared as a ring-like object with fainter center in the video. Fortunately, the camera was on a tripod/fixed position. As you watch the video clip, the object moves slowly upward and to the right. This is typical diurnal motion for celestial objects. It was clearly out of focus giving the "ring-like" appearance. Based on the description and the daylight image later provided, my guess is it was the planet Jupiter, which was low in the ESE at 11:10PM. The diurnal motion should be a dead give away in my opinion. However, I am not a "certified" MUFON investigator.

Speaking of certified investigators, it appears many were on vacation. The Examiner presented only a few MUFON investigation results. Explanations that were published amounted to:

1. A true unknown for a sighting of lights wandering back and forth across the sky. I am not sure how this is different than just an "unknown". I guess it is UFO speak for "probably an alien spaceship". I think the conclusion is proper because the sighting is almost impossible to explain based on the stories told by the witnesses.. That does not mean they are alien spaceships though.
2. An AT-6 Texan for a photograph taken of some kids playing in the lake. I am

not so certain about this identification. I would think they could pinpoint an AT-6 flying in the area at the time. I did not see any such verification in the report.

3. A Florida triangle video was declared a "true" unknown. To me the video looked like somebody had a kite in the air with some lights. The fact that it returned eight days later might indicate something man-made. I wasn't that impressed but without any evidence to suggest it was a kite, or something else mundane, it can only be listed as "unknown".

Later, the Examiner would reveal all the cases being investigated by the MUFON star teams. To be honest, I am not sure what they were accomplishing. The evidence for these cases appeared weak in their summaries. The only one that might be worth looking into is the multiple witnesses in Arizona (assuming they saw the same event).

It is interesting to note that very few investigations have been mentioned over the past few months that I have been monitoring this blog. Cases are presented but none appear to be investigated. For goodness sake, the research balloons in May and June were obvious but there is no mention of any official MUFON inquiry (at least at this blog). There was also no mention about the investigation regarding the Memphis lights video mentioned last issue. It is as if MUFON really isn't doing their job/hobby/whatever you call it (or at least they aren't reporting it). Is MUFON just collecting these UFO reports and selling UFO products or are they really interested in investigating these cases?

Reality uncovered continues to amaze me. Their "bad shepherd" article was a superb piece of work demonstrating that there are plenty of people out there willing to conduct complex hoaxes. It also demonstrates that UFOlogists, who are not careful, can easily fall into their trap simply because they want to believe the story. Perhaps many UFOlogists should remember that if it sounds too good to be true, it probably isn't. Therefore, they should really try hard to confirm the story

and identity of the individuals involved.

An e-mail from Michael Naisbitt put me on to his blog. His blog gives a lot of examples of UK UFOs that turned out to be "Chinese lanterns". It seems that each time UFO proponents claim they are not "lanterns", that is exactly what they turn out to be.

Dr. David Clarke had another video about the further release of MOD files. As before, it was excellent. It seems that Rendlesham and Cosford were two big items on the list of materials released. It is most interesting that Dr. Clarke's role in releasing the Rendlesham file back in 2001 was identified in these papers. Georgina Bruni wanted everyone to believe that her book was the reason they were released. Now we know the truth.

Jeff Peckman and Alfred Lambremont Webre have gone over the edge in my opinion. According to Webre, NASA is going to bomb the moon with the LCROSS satellite and cause trouble with ET civilizations living there! Webre goes on to list all sorts of testimony that says there is an ET presence on the moon and states the centaur booster stage NASA is going to hit the moon with will create a crater as large as 5 miles across. I am not sure where he got his information but NASA has stated the impact will only create a crater a few meters across. Apparently, Webre is unaware that after the Apollo 12 moon mission, NASA had the third stage of the Saturn V strike the moon. It weighed over twelve tons and the craters created were not very large and there was no alien invasion because of this. There were also the Ranger missions, which crashed into the moon as well! NASA estimates the crater created by the LCROSS mission will be only about 20-25 meters across.

Meanwhile, Jeff Peckman decided that it was interesting to note that NASA would "attack the moon" on October 9th, which was John Lennon's birthday. Talk about your insane reasoning. He also talks about NASA conducting an attack on alien moon bases. Peckman is the originator of the "Extraterrestrial Affairs Commission" ballot initiative in Denver. Will Denver be next on Dr. Plait's list of "Doomed" geographic locations? I hope not. If it makes it on the ballot, I can only

Who's blogging UFOs? (Cont'd)

hope the Denver voters are more intelligent at election time.

More Moon madness occurred when Ronald Nussbeck claimed the LRO imaged an alien tower on the moon! He quotes "scientist" Ron Stewart (no other credentials are presented), who claims that an image of the Apollo 11 landing site did not show the landers descent stage but an alien tower several miles tall! He bases this on the length of the shadow. The sad thing is that several people in the comments section were praising the article for revealing the truth. Yikes!!!!!!

The on-line magazine Symmetry mentioned UFO hunters! Their July issue described the arrival of UFO hunters at Brookhaven labs. This had to do with the alleged Long Island UFO crash in 1992 that was covered up. The authors of the article state there is no way the lab was involved and its fire department log demonstrated this. Of course, UFO hunters felt the log could have been altered or no entry was made to cover-up the event. Sigh.....how predictable.

The Honolulu UFO examiner demonstrates a complete lack of astronomical knowledge! According to "Doctor" Salla (of exopolitics fame and his PhD is in "government"), a UFO went into the sun at the time a crop circle was formed. His evidence is the images from the SOHO satellite. Sure enough there is a dot apparently moving in front of, into, or behind the sun during the time in question. Since the satellite centers its optics on the sun, the stars and planets, which are much further away (for Mercury and Venus possibly closer), pass through the field of view at a predictable rate just like here on earth. On July 10th (the date of the "event"), the sun was between the satellite and the star Delta Geminorum. If one watches the actual SOHO clip for days after the "event", one sees the UFO come out "the other side of the sun" confirming it was a star. Perhaps "Doctor" Salla should take a basic course in astronomy sometime at the local junior college. He may learn something new for once. *(Note: A few days after posting this, somebody pointed out to him it was a star and he corrected his entry.)*

Michael Cohen reveals the location of an alien UFO base! According to Cohen, the base is located at the Tierra del Fuego's Hoste island on the tip of South America. His evidence is flimsy and is based on people claiming to see UFOs descend into the island. There are also unnamed scientific papers that prove there is a hollow space underneath the island. Apparently, this is where the base is located. Maybe Cohen should move to Hoste Island and see for himself. He should take Dr. Greer with him.

In other Cohen news, he reveals that aliens from the planet Axthada (in the Andromeda galaxy!) have been contacting us via probes. Needless to say, I was intrigued. Through various unnamed sources we learn the Axthadans have been "shepherding" the human civilization for thousands of years. In order to get Obama elected they made the economy falter. Cohen adds that he suspects his readers would have a hard time believing all this is true! I was recently criticized for my will to disbelieve. Maybe this is a good example of why I disbelieve much, if not all, of the evidence regarding UFOs. As long as UFO proponents allow this kind of nonsense to be peddled without criticizing it, UFOlogy will always be looked on as a fringe group of nut cases. I am just wondering how long it will be before we read/hear Bill Birnes repeating these stories as facts.

Cohen kept writing about the Axthadans. Sometime in 2013, the Axthadans are supposed to be appearing at a site of their choosing (Stonehenge was suggested). Many dignitaries are supposed to be there. This would include entertainers and politicians. Scientists may be invited but I am not sure who Steven Hawkins is. Maybe Cohen is referring to Stephen Hawking. Cohen also adds there may even be room for one UFOlogist. I wonder if there is room for any UFO skeptics? Cohen would later add in another posting that Axthada will become a household name in ten years. What can I say to all this but "Wow". Every morning I read the funny papers. Now all I have to do is read Cohen's blog for my daily chuckle.

And the beat goes on.....

Whatever happened to...

1. Kal Korff? Kal wrote two books on UFOs that I have read (Roswell and Billy Meier). Both were reasonably written and informative. However, in the past few years, Kal seems to have had a rather interesting past-time. Supposedly, he is involved in some sort of secret anti-terrorism group. He also put up some odd videos about Roswell. To be honest, I am very skeptical about the anti-terrorism story and his videos tend to ramble all over the place. I also don't understand how he rates wearing a US Colonel (or USN Captain's) insignia. I guess I missed that episode. It is my opinion that Kal needs to move onto something else in life. Some of his appearances on "UFO watch cat" just don't look or sound reasonable at all.

2. The Sci-Fi channel's investigation into Kecksburg? Reading the Coalition for Freedom of Information (CFI) web site, I don't see much action. Leslie Kean is everywhere proclaiming Kecksburg the great UFO case that deserves investigation but she has produced nothing. All I have seen is Kean demonstrate that NASA can't find their fragology files, which everybody knew already. All documents on their web site are dated no later than 2003 except for a court document where Kean sued NASA for documents. This is dated 2007 with NASA being ordered to release documents. We have no follow-up on what transpired after that.

Where are the efforts to track down the military units involved? I see no FOIA documents showing which units were activated that night to guard the area, recover the "acorn", and threaten civilians. Either she has had no luck in finding any units activated or she has not bothered to try and find them. I thought Kean was an investigative reporter attempting to pursue various avenues to acquire information. Instead, she looks like a publicity seeker, who is all talk and no action. If this is true, then Kean deserves some congratulations. She has learned the first rule of UFOlogy, which is to talk a good game but do nothing. It makes you look like you are working when you really aren't.

The Roswell corner

Do Carey and Schmitt have the evidence for a spaceship crash?

According to Chris Rutkowski's blog, he received a call from Grant Cameron, who told him that Carey and Schmitt had a piece of crashed spaceship debris. According to Chris, "This could be it!" Hmmmm....haven't we heard this story before? Why would I read it in a blog through a second hand source? Why wasn't there a press conference to reveal this magnificent find? Is this another case of Carey and Schmitt exaggerating their case to somebody who is willing to believe them? Are they describing the stuff I mentioned last issue that was part of the SCI-FI dig? Inquiring minds want to know.

After reading the last chapter of the new version of "Witness to Roswell", I can see where these stories come from. Carey and Schmitt repeat all sorts of stories about potential pieces of debris that don't pan out. My guess is they were doing it again with somebody "promising" to produce another fragment of "memory metal". Cameron simply swallowed the hook of another empty promise.

After several weeks, I saw no other news about this event. I could find no media reports or test results published. My guess is this will also end up in the "Whatever happened to..." column soon. Could this be it? I don't think so Chris.

Anthony Bragalia indicated that I misrepresented the fireman story in the first issue of SUNlite.

Mr. Bragalia, told me the fireman had been interviewed by Phil Klass and Klass had footnoted it. I corrected him that it was actually Karl Pflock. I guess that all Roswell debunkers look alike. Bragalia made it a point that everyone seemed to know the identity of the man. However, since the name was anonymous in Bragalia/Randle's revelations, I could not verify which fireman it was (Pflock interviewed several). According

to Bragalia, Pflock only asked this gentleman about the department responding to fires outside of town and Pflock was not interested in anything else. I found this odd because it was Pflock's original intention to add to the body of knowledge about Roswell and he had felt there was validity to the claim of a crashed spaceship. In his Roswell in Perspective, Pflock even suggested that the UFO crashed because it ran into a project MOGUL balloon flight! Therefore, I find it most interesting that the fireman chose not to tell Pflock his story in 1993 (when that interview happened). This was before Pflock took on the role of Roswell debunker!

Bragalia's attitude about my idea the story could have been generated through contamination, indicated he felt this was extremely unlikely. The tall tales of Frank Kaufmann, Glenn Deninis, Gerald Anderson, Jim Ragsdale suggests this is not something to be disregarded. If Bragalia, Carey, Schmitt, and Randle want to keep believing that witnesses to Roswell are telling them the truth and are not lies or exaggerations, that is their right. However, who is to say if the witness is not lying or exaggerating? Frank Kaufmann fooled people for over a decade even though there was plenty of circumstantial evidence to suggest he was lying! It wasn't until the absolute physical evidence appeared that Randle and others had to accept the fact they had been snookered. Perhaps Bragalia and Randle should heed Kevin Randle's own words,

Isn't time for us to stop embracing every tale we are told that appeals to us simply because it appeals to us? (see link above)

These words have to do with Randle's discussion about exopolitics back in 2005 but they apply to Roswell as well. The story needs to be verified and not merely accepted because that is what is desired. Using Frankie Rowe to verify the story is just not acceptable since her story had been out in the media for over decade before the fireman started telling his version. Some photographs or a personal journal from 1947 might do it. Oh yeah, that's right, nobody in Roswell had a camera to record this incredibly complex operation or the debris that Bill

Brazel supposedly had for many years. Additionally, nobody ever kept a private journal, wrote private letters, complained to any politicians, or anything similar that could have recorded these strange events in Roswell that summer.

Life Photographer taken out to the desert to photograph crashed "meteor" but sees.....nothing!

The photographer told Anthony Bragalia it was all about Roswell. However, further investigation revealed that the story was probably something else. See page 6-8 for a discussion about the Life magazine story that was never published.

The UFO Iconclasts web site declared there is no evidence for Roswell!

Actually, they meant there is no physical evidence. I guess they have not talked to the various Roswell investigators who suggest they have pieces of the craft or those that have seen vague shapes and words in the Fort Worth photographs. The only evidence that remains are the stories told by various individuals, who, after decades of silence, suddenly remembered that something extraordinary happened in Roswell that summer.

Another organization knows the truth?

Anthony Bragalia once again wrote an article full of speculation that now implicates the RAND organization as having in depth knowledge about UFOs and the crash at Roswell. Citing various documents and rumors, he paints a convincing picture to those just reading what he wrote. I have no intention to spend more time demolishing a lot of what he wrote but there are a few key points he left out of his article:

1. The Lipp document from the Project Sign report states that any visits from outer space would be "very improbable" and that the actions of the UFOs observed in 1947-48 were inconsistent with craft that would be used for space travel.
2. The request for the study of UFOs by

The Roswell corner (cont'd)

RAND written in October 1948, clearly states that it is believed that these craft are most likely from a foreign nation and not from outer space.

3. Why would RAND and the USAF bother studying UFO reports if they already knew what they were based on the recovered debris from Roswell? The USAF was wasting a lot of man power and money on something that would be worthless in the long run.

The bottom line is what Bragalia proposes is that several major groups knew something about the UFO crash at Roswell by examining the debris. While all this is going on, Generals high in the chain of command are asking what the Air Force knows about these UFOs that are being reported. Apparently, high-ranking Generals and Senators were not allowed to know the truth about UFOs.

Missing progress report goes public

While I was finalizing this issue, Anthony Bragalia sent me a new e-mail claiming he had received the missing second progress report via FOIA. He suggested I seriously rethink my position on Roswell because the report reveals something truly "astounding". He also added that I should stop writing about Nitinol in SUNlite because it will just make me look foolish.

Mr. Bragalia's request resulted in the actual document being posted on line in the USAF FOIA reading room! Apparently, the USAF posted it in order to prevent a flood of further requests for the same document. I am sure the reader is going to be really interested in reading the report. It is very technical and I had a hard time following some of it. My Naval nuclear propulsion training had a "materials" class that explained some of this but not enough to recall readily. I had to review quite a bit to get up to speed. What I learned from reading it was that Bragalia's claims, once again, appear to be overinflated.

~~CASE~~ Life magazine photographer and the Roswell incident ~~CLOSED!~~

Before I start this article, I want it to be known that Anthony Bragalia implored me not to write about this story unless I contacted Karin Grant through him so she could answer any questions I had. He added that he would "let the nation know" if I did not. I am not sure what he thinks he can accomplish with such threats. I had no desire to contact a 90-year old woman through a secondary person. Therefore, I throw caution to the wind and proceed to write this article under the threat of "the nation knowing". Before that happens, I want to thank Dave Thomas and Christopher Allan for their assistance. I also give a nod to Bragalia for his reluctant help.

Anthony Bragalia "stunned" the UFO world again revealing he had another story, which helps confirm the greatest secret never kept. This new tale involves Life magazine photographer, Allan Grant. Grant and his wife told Bragalia an amazing story about Allan being involved with the Roswell incident in 1947. The basic story, as described by Bragalia, is:

1. Grant received a phone call from Life's editor in New York with orders to head out to New Mexico and cover a "meteor crash".
2. He was flown to Albuquerque from Los Angeles, where he met Major Charles Phillips.
3. Phillips flew Grant to a dirt airstrip somewhere in New Mexico. Supposedly, it was near Roswell.
4. He was handed a loaded pistol for self defense. Phillips told Grant that he was ordered to do this.
5. They went off into the desert in a jeep looking for the meteorite but found nothing.

Bragalia adds that Grant felt it was part of the cover-up. By allowing him to look for a crashed "meteorite" and finding nothing, the government could say nothing was found. The problem in that line of thinking is that Grant's story was never published in Life. To make it work the military would have to force Life to publish the story.

Mr. Bragalia would later state that there were notes by Mrs. or Mr. Grant that sup-

ported the story as well as a photograph with the date of July 1947 on the back. Anybody could write on the back of a photograph at any time and notes made in 1997 are not the same as notes made in 1947. This is not to say the Grant's "back-dated" the photograph or notes on purpose. They may have been going through their photos years later and put the date there as they remembered it. The notes could be recollections they put down on paper much later than 1947. Neither item was presented as evidence so it is difficult to tell.

Meanwhile, Bragalia's search discovered that Major Charles Phillips did exist. According to Bragalia, in August 1947, Phillips became the first "official USAF UFO researcher" and he teamed up with Dr. Lincoln La Paz to investigate the "green fireball" phenomenon.

When I read this, I wondered to myself if Grant might be talking about another UFO case. In the first week of February, 1949, the USAF went into an "all out" large scale search for meteorite fragments from a "green fireball". They searched the area east of Roswell as far as Texas. This is also the time period that Bill Rickett is documented as being involved with La Paz's work. Major Phillips was also present.

Christopher Allan suggested this scenario on the UFO Iconclasts web site comments section, which touched off a rather hostile barrage by Bragalia. He seemed amazed that Allan would question the integrity of Grant and his wife. The idea that it could anything but Roswell was an impossibility because Grant was adamant about it.

Not to shy away from Bragalia's tirade, Allen then corrected a Bragalia error, where he stated Phillips became the first official USAF UFO investigator in 1947. Allan stated that Phillips did not become involved in the Green Fireball investigation until late 1948. Major Phillips was actually the liaison officer between the AAF and the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) at Kirtland in the late 1940s. The CAP had been employed by La Paz when he was looking for meteorite fragments in previous years. It would be no great surprise to have Phillips and

the CAP help out with the Green Fireball investigation in late 1948. There was no documentation presented that Phillips was involved in UFO investigations in August, 1947 and I could not find anything in any of my sources to suggest this. Not surprisingly, Bragalia did not list the exact source of his claim.

The photograph of Phillips and Grant standing in front of their aircraft is in Bragalia's original article. Both Phillips (assuming it is Major Phillips) and Grant are wearing some rather heavy weather gear. Unless they were flying very high, it seems unlikely they would need such equipment for July. Also, the side of the plane has writing on it. "...T IN THE..AAF" appears to be the first line. The second line looks like, "D THE.....ORY". Perhaps the full text was "Grant in the AAF, Read the story". This implies it was a publicity photograph of some kind. It seems odd that Grant would have been picked up for such a mission in a plane that had a slogan on the side.

Later, some pictures surfaced on the Above Top Secret forum showing Grant with a jeep and the New Mexico desert area he searched. In order to figure out the provenance of these images, I e-mailed Bragalia stating that I assumed he was the poster and asked if these were images from the Roswell search by Grant. He responded rather indignantly, stating I always assume too much and that he never posted on the Above Top Secret board. In a second e-mail exchange, he stated the images were lifted from Allan Grant's web site, which he pointed me towards with the comment about my research being poor. I had somehow missed the link to Allan Grant's Roswell web site. I moved onward once I assured myself the pictures were authentic.

If you follow the link, you will see Grant with a jeep, wearing a jacket. Once again, we have to wonder about the use of a jacket in July. The landscape photograph provided some critical information. In the distance is a remarkable peak that stood out. I e-mailed Dave Thomas, who lives in New Mexico and inquired about it. He told me it was Shiprock, a volcanic plug located in the four corners area in the northwest area of the state! When he checked with other people on his mailing list, Dave received the same identifica-

tion. Didn't Grant know he was flown to the northwest instead of Roswell which was to the southeast? The identification of the search area had me looking to see if there was a meteorite search in northwest New Mexico some time around July 1947.

A cursory search of the newspaper archive revealed that Dr. Lincoln La Paz led a search over several weeks in the Shiprock area for a meteorite in November 1947! If this is the story told by Grant, then it might explain some things. There are a lot of similarities. The location being the biggest one. The La Cruces Sun-News of November 5th, reported that the CAP was used, which would involve Major Phillips. Some of the newspaper articles also mentioned jeeps with radios installed. The photo of Grant with a jeep shows what appears to be a radio in the back. Because it was November, there would have been a greater need for the jacket we see Grant wearing in the photographs. Finally, no meteorite was ever found in all the searches conducted. You have to wonder if these are just coincidences or possibly the solution to the story.

The search was slow to start because the Navajo Indians did not want to help with the search. It became a minor story but was circulated by the news wires nationally. The human interest aspect with the Indians might have caught the editor's eye and prompted him to call Grant to get some pictures for LIFE.

Grant photographed the Spruce Goose flight on November 2, 1947, which places him in the Los Angeles area at that time. The stories on the news wires did not start until November 4th. It seemed likely that he could finish his assignment with the Spruce Goose and then be sent to New Mexico. Because the search was to start on the 7th of November, the editor would have wanted Grant to get to New Mexico quickly, explaining the urgency of the trip.

I attempted to see what I could discover by contacting the New Mexico CAP. They did not have records that went that far back. However, the answer was revealed after a more thorough review of all the New Mexico newspapers from the time period. On the following page you will

Awed Indians Refuse Aid To Scientists Seeking Meteorite

SHIPROCK, N. M., Nov. 5 (U.P.) —Scientists looking for the landing place of a meteorite which flashed over New Mexico last Thursday got no cooperation today from the Navajo Indians.

The Indians, who live in the area where the meteorite was believed to have fallen, took a different view of the occasion.

Ceremonial drums were beating on the Navajo reservation near their ancient gods to explain what the great streak in the heavens meant.

To Push Search

Dr. Lincoln La Paz of the University of New Mexico planned to lead one party to Shiprock mountain Friday in search of fragments of the meteor. Radio-equipped cars and jeeps will go along into the isolated country.

The meteorite was sighted over a wide area last Thursday, and calculations of La Paz and Dr. H. H. Nininger, of the American Meteorite museum at Winslow, Ariz., showed it fell somewhere south and west of the mountain resembling a ship.

La Paz said the Indians believed the meteorite was a "spirit" descending onto the reservation.

Circulated United Press story that appeared on page 16 of the Morning Avalanche of Lubbock, Texas on November 6, 1947.

see the article of interest that appeared in the Albuquerque Journal of November 7, 1947. Under the sub heading "Photographer goes too", you will read the following statement:

"Life magazine is sending Photographer Allen Grant who will arrive in Albuquerque today and will be flown to Shiprock in a CAP plane." (Albuquerque Journal November 7, 1947 p. 15)

Based on this, we now know that Grant was involved in an actual unsuccessful meteorite hunt near Shiprock, N.M. in November 1947. The events of that weekend are strikingly similar to the story he told and matches the area he states he photographed in July 1947. As far as I am concerned, the case is closed unless real proof is presented showing the Roswell version is true. It seems that Grant just confused the dates and places. Hmmm... didn't I read something similar in the 1997 Roswell report that Grant and Bragalia publicly criticized? Oh...the irony.

Elaborate U. Expedition Combing Shiprock Area In Search for Meteor

Amid the most elaborate preparations since the U.S. Army set out to track down the wily Geronimo, the University of New Mexico readied a scientific expedition Thursday to seek a large meteor that fell in the Shiprock area exactly a week ago.

A motorcade of about 60 scientists, students, Civil Air Patrol members and military personnel make up the expedition.

Its equipment will include airplanes, a 2½-ton mobile radio unit that will maintain constant contact with Kirtland field here; jeeps, walkie-talkies and even a Geiger counter to measure radioactivity, if any, of the meteor.

An advance party of about 20, led by Dr. Lincoln LaPaz, director of the University's Institute of Meteorites, left at midnight Thursday to invade the heart of the remote and rugged Navajo Reservation in the Four Corners area.

Course Is Plotted

Information from witnesses has enabled University scientists to plot the meteor's probable downward course and establish an approximate "fix" on its landing place in an area embracing 40 square miles. This area is near Shiprock—1800-foot pinnacle of rock that rises sheer out of the arid plain in the Navajo reservation near the corners of New Mexico, Arizona, Utah and Colorado.

Accompanying Dr. LaPaz Thursday night were Walter Haas and Frank Lane of the mathematics department; Paul Reiter, anthropology department, and Victor Regener of the physics department who is taking along the Geiger counter.

Take Interpreters

The group also is taking along several interpreters, including a full-blooded Navajo student, in the hope of coaxing some information out of the reservation Indians, some of whom undoubtedly

Continued From Page One

ly witnessed the arrival of the flaming outer-terrestrial visitor.

To date however, the superstitious Navajos have refused to discuss the meteor or even look at an artist's picturization of the event, apparently believing it to have been the manifestation of an Evil Spirit.

If the Navajos remain silent, expedition members hope the Ute Indians of southeastern Utah may be less reluctant to talk about the meteor.

Photographer Goes, Too

Military members of the party are interested in "any possible rocket aspects" of the meteor.

Life Magazine is sending Photographer Allen Grant who will arrive in Albuquerque today and will be flown to Shiprock in a CAP plane.

Another flier who will join the search today is Boyd Wettlaufer, Canadian war ace who has had long experience in aerial reconnaissance.

Dr. LaPaz doesn't hold any high hopes of immediate success in finding the meteor which he estimated weighed between five and 50 pounds. Comparing it to an almost identical fall in April, 1916, near Treysa, Germany, LaPaz pointed out that it took nearly a year to discover that meteor which fell in a densely-populated area and was seen by hundreds of persons.

Albuquerque Journal newspaper reports

Above: November 7, 1947 Pages 1 and 15

The section about Allan Grant is highlighted.

To the right: November 8, 1947 Pages 1 and 5

NOTE: Coverage pretty much ends here for the Albuquerque Journal but other media reports indicated an unsuccessful search with promises to search again the following weekend.

Meteorite Hunt Is Narrowed To 5-Mile Circle

The following story of the meteor hunt in the lonely Four Corners area, where Colorado, Utah, Arizona and New Mexico meet, was received in Albuquerque Friday night by the Civil Air Patrol radio at Kirtland Field from the CAP mobile unit which is co-ordinating CAP radio cars and trucks in the hunt. The Kirtland station transmitted the information to The Journal.

VIA CAP RADIO FROM SHIPROCK—Nov. 7 — Word was received at Shiprock—headquarters of the elaborate hunt for the meteorite which blazed across Arizona and New Mexico skies Oct. 30—that the possible landing place of the Visitor from outer

Continued on Page Five

Continued from Page One

space had been narrowed down to a five mile circle.

Civil Air Patrol radio equipped cars and jeeps which accompanied an expedition from the University of New Mexico, headed by Dr. Lincoln LaPaz, flashed word of the narrowing of the search to the CAP Mobile unit here.

It was predicted that the exact landing spot, and fragments of the meteor would be located Saturday or Sunday by the 60 or more searchers.

Navajo Students Aid

Members of the expedition said Navajo students from the University, who had been included in the searching party, had succeeded in breaking down the superstitious reticence of their Reservation tribesmen who had looked upon the fiery meteorite as a visitation by an evil spirit and had refused to talk about it to white searchers, or even to look at a painted picture of a meteorite fall.

Save for an occasional Navajo, a wandering Ute, or plodding prospector, the scene of the fall in the Four Corners area is as bleak and desolate today as it was when the Spaniards came out of Mexico nearly four centuries ago, seeking fabled cities of gold.

Search by Air

Word that the weather today would be slightly warmer was welcomed by the searchers, who reported, however, that sunny skies had aided in the search today, and had permitted air reconnaissance.

While the University group was most interested in the discovery of the meteorite, the CAP also welcomed the opportunity to try out its ground search unit under actual field conditions.

The CAP Mobile Unit, consisting of a gasoline operated generator, and a radio sending and-receiving set is based here, and keeps in constant contact with the radio equipped cars and jeeps.

In turn, the mobile unit passes on information of the search, to the CAP station at Kirtland Field.

Among the CAP officers at the scene are Capt. J. Featherston, communications officer for the group, and Capt. Emerson Goff. The CAP will remain with the searchers until Sunday night, if the meteorite has not been found before then.

Continued on Page Fifteen

When I wrote the article last issue poking a big hole in the Nitinol balloon, I knew it would draw a response. As expected, I received an e-mail from Anthony Bragalia about a week after the issue was posted. I will not reproduce what he wrote but needless to say he was not happy about the article. In order to help set the record straight, I felt it necessary to itemize Bragalia's major complaints and list my responses with possible corrections.

History

Anthony Bragalia complains that I accused him of not understanding the history of shape material alloys and Nitinol. He responded that he has amassed quite a collection of materials on the subject. The reason I stated this was because his article made all sorts of claims that disagreed with what is known about Titanium alloys and Nitinol. Additionally, I did not see anything in the articles that indicated any research beyond what was readily available on the internet. Did Bragalia manage to read the documents identified by Bruce Hutchinson on Titanium Alloys by the RAND corporation/Battelle institute in the Library of Congress? Did he give us any source (other than his interviews) that was not available online? Meanwhile, what he did present was very sketchy and, in several cases, appeared to misrepresent the source material. Neglecting the established history and documentation to make wild guesses about Roswell demonstrates he seemed to be ignoring what is known in favor of what he wanted to believe. His accusations are directed at the engineers and scientists, who through their own hard work, created Nitinol. Bragalia is implying they are all frauds but never really provides one solid document, that can be verified, which directly states that Nitinol was developed because of Roswell.

Something borrowed....???

Mr. Bragalia also took offense that I indirectly accused him of taking some, or all, of his material from the SUNRISE web site. It was my intention to point out that the author of the SUNRISE web site was not mentioned. Either the SUNRISE author is taking his information from Bragalia or vice-versa. SUNRISE stated they contacted Schmitt and Carey first

Deflating the rest of the Nitinol balloon

with information about Nitinol. According to SUNRISE, six months later, Bragalia contacted him. It is my observation that there was an exchange of information. Based on this, it was my opinion that Bragalia should have at least mentioned the contributions of the web site (which is in the public domain) for assisting him in his efforts. Giving no recognition to the web site and its author implied that Bragalia either did all the work himself and this author contributed nothing (as well as took Bragalia's work for his own) or Bragalia was **possibly** taking credit for some/all of his work. As I said in the first article, the reader can judge for themselves Bragalia's curious omission.

Documentation

In my original article I stated that Bragalia did not list any of these "newly discovered" official documents other than the progress report. Bragalia then responded that he did list them in the book, "Witness to Roswell", and also mentioned the Wang report in part 3 of the article series. This is true and I concede that in the series of articles he finally got around to mentioning the Wang document in part 3.

That being said, there are numerous occasions where Bragalia could have documented where he got his information but did not. In part 1 of the series, he talked about the Wang document in vague terms such that the reader had no idea where he got the information. Waiting until the third part of the series to mention this document seemed like an afterthought. Listing the Wang report when it was first mentioned is important because this was where he claimed that it mentioned the "missing" progress report. The reader could not understand the context under which the report was mentioned. Completely missing in that revelation was Wang's actual statement in this document that the phase diagram in the report was very limited and did not cover the Nitinol region. This is the only information that was available at the time regarding what was actually in the progress report and it was completely omitted by Bragalia. This phase diagram is the linchpin in his whole argument about these "missing"

progress reports. If Wang's report is accurate, and there is no reason to suspect it isn't, then the whole argument of Bragalia's collapses like a house of cards.

The Center of attention

Brigalia also seemed very upset that I ignored the all important testimony of Elroy Center. I did this because the testimony of Center was second hand from an unnamed source to another author. This author's work was not cited or quoted (which is no surprise), so we really did not know much about what was really said. I felt it was best to let this kind of testimony fall on its own shaky foundation. To me, anything second hand is dubious at best. If there is no source listed to be checked, it is twice as dubious.

Since Bragalia felt it was important for me to address Center's "testimony", I decided to pull the thread on this loose string and see where it led. It did not take long for me to locate the document by Dr. Irena Scott and William Jones titled "THE OHIO UFO CRASH CONNECTION AND OTHER STORIES". This article sounds very much like the story recounted by Bragalia. Since Bragalia did not list his source, I had to assume this is it. The funny thing about this article is that Bragalia's version does not appear to quite agree with it.

While it is true the article states that Center had some interest in UFOs, the rest seems to have been distorted by Bragalia. According to this article, Center's job was to decipher the writing on the parts he was given. Why Center, a chemical engineer, would be asked to decipher something is an interesting question. Wouldn't that be the job of a cryptographer or linguist (like SG-1's Dr. Daniel Jackson!)? Anyway, Bragalia states this information came from "a close professional associate" (on-line article version) or "a close friend" (Witness to Roswell version) of Center's, who heard it in June of 1960. Strangely, Jones and Scott state the person was actually a high school student at the time. He was dating Center's daughter in 1958 when he heard this story (the student graduated from high school in June of 1960, which is where the date confusion appears to be). The person never worked with Center in a professional capacity as best I can tell and he never appears to have been that close to Center himself. Not surprisingly, Center's daughter and wife do not even recall ever hearing this story (Mr. Bragalia

informs me that he has since interviewed some family members and they tell a different story). If Center was going to tell this classified information to a strange teenage boy, who Center probably had little knowledge about, why wouldn't he tell his wife, whom he trusted? Again, these are things omitted by Bragalia in his article. Is there a different version of this story floating about? If so, doesn't that suggest the story is not very accurate? If not, it seems to indicate that Bragalia got his facts wrong about this story. This is why listing sources is important.

Criss-Cross

Another item Bragalia noticed was that I ignored the connections of Dr. Cross with UFOs. Cross worked with Battelle institute, which did the study found in Bluebook Special report no. 14. There seems to be evidence that Cross was involved in this report. However, Bragalia never mentions that this report states there was no physical evidence to examine. If Cross knew there was evidence to an alien spaceship crash, why wouldn't he mention it in this prize report about UFOs?

To create a link to Nitinol, Bragalia associates Cross with Eastwood, who co-authored the missing progress report. Bragalia states Cross coauthored some unknown paper(s) with Eastwood. One document I found on the internet was a 1948 Battelle report about Aluminum alloys. This indicates that Cross's association with one of the authors of the missing progress report is no great link. Being a metallurgist, he probably co-wrote many papers with other scientists at the Battelle institute studying various alloys. Finding a link to Eastwood, Fawn, or Craighead would not be hard. I am surprised that Bragalia did not find more links than just to Eastwood.

Oh yes, in Bragalia's long-winded linking of Cross to just about everything UFO-logical he gave a direct quote by Alvin Moore about Cross examining a fragment from a UFO. As common in Bragalia's article, there is no footnote or source cited even though his use of parenthesis indicates a direct quote. Therefore, I pulled on the loose string and stumbled across a note from Todd Zechel who wrote the same thing. However, the words were not Moore's but Zechel's. This is another case of where a footnote can place a state-

ment in the proper context. In this case it was a second hand statement and not a primary quote as presented.

Then we have the idea that Cross was feeding the Office of Naval Research (ONR) information on Titanium so they could create Nitinol. The evidence for this claim is an UNCLASSIFIED December 1948 document written by Cross about Titanium Alloys. In December 1948 (and 1949), the ONR held a symposium on Titanium studies. The purpose of these symposia was to collect and share information about the progress in Titanium research (See inset on the next page). The paper really had nothing to do with Titanium-Nickel and if this is the "smoking gun" for Cross "feeding" the ONR, then it is very weak.

To summarize, we have no real facts that demonstrates Cross thought UFOs were alien spaceships. No real documents are presented that shows Cross worked on an actual alien spaceship or was purposefully feeding information to the US Navy so they could create Nitinol. Bragalia's conclusion about Cross and his efforts with developing Nitinol is nothing more than some extremely fragile links that crumble under careful examination.

What a tangled web....

One of Bragalia's errors that stood out for me in the first article was his obvious omission of Uri Geller's name from the title of one of his sources. In our exchange, he told me that he knew skeptics would respond negatively to Geller's name, which is why he did this. This is funny because it means he was not only worried about a skeptic's response but all the article's readers! It is one thing to make a mistake in listing your source (wrong date, wrong publisher, misspelled title, etc). That can be forgiven as a personal error. In this case, Bragalia did not list the name of Uri Geller from the title of his source and any mention of his name in his writings.

Fame, fortune, or....neither?

In my original article, I stated Bragalia was using this effort to elevate his position as a Roswell researcher. Bragalia responded that he had been providing information to researchers for years and only recently started exposing himself publicly because of his job. He also men-

tioned he opted out of several appearances and his photograph appearing in the "Witness to Roswell" book.

As humble as this all sounds, it still does not explain why he went public with this "discovery" with such a limited amount of information as well as the highly speculative interpretation of the documents in question. His claim directly questions the integrity of the engineers and scientists who studied and developed Titanium alloys and Nitinol. It was my opinion that he may have been motivated to publish his "findings" for personal reasons and possibly to meet the deadline associated with the re-release of the "Witness to Roswell" book. If Bragalia states he was not motivated in any way other than to present the "truth", then he appears to have had a funny way of doing it.

If Bragalia really felt he was pursuing the truth he could have presented it in a different forum like a scientific or engineering journal, where he could question the history of Nitinol with some people who know something about the subject. My guess is it would have been rejected for many of the reasons I listed in my critique. One can easily publish anything on the internet (this newsletter for instance) and it apparently does not require much to get your work published in a Carey/Schmitt book as long as it supports the crashed spaceship scenario.

Interviews and "original" research

Mr. Bragalia eventually went on to denigrate me for never conducting interviews or "original research". He made it clear that his occupation was all about conducting interviews with people and that he was very thorough in his Roswell research. He is correct that I have a limited experience interviewing people **about UFOs** but I don't think that makes that much of a difference when it comes to examining what others have written. As for Bragalia's claim about no "original research" of my own, it is his opinion and he is entitled to it. However, if you look at everything I have ever written in this newsletter and on my web site, I can't recall ever taking credit for other's work/discoveries. If I did, it was unintentional. It is just common courtesy and good writing to mention other's contributions/efforts. I also make it an effort to accurately record what people have written/said and where the information was found. Noth-

ing is vague or hard to follow. People can get to the sources via links or looking at the sourced book/article. I have even sent individuals scans of the pages of these books/articles so they can verify what I wrote was accurate!

The objective of my web site and this newsletter is to present an opinion and point of view that is "the other side of the coin". I want my readers to inquire and ask the difficult questions about these claims and not just blindly accept what I, or others, have written.

The will to disbelieve

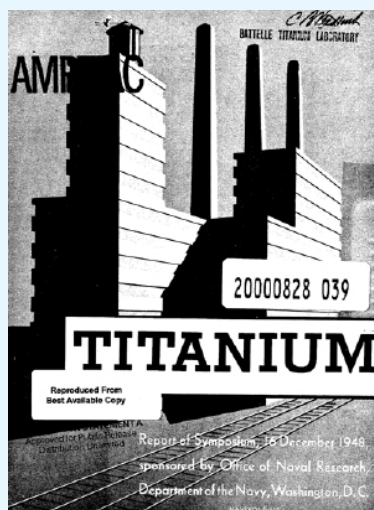
Bragalia really did not seem to understand what my major problem about his article was. It is the responsibility of the author to make sure his evidence is fully displayed to the reader so they can make an informed decision about the validity of the claim being made. Withholding critical information that you are aware of is intellectually dishonest.

One of the most ironic things I got from Bragalia in our e-mail exchange was his comment that I had "the will to disbelieve". It is my opinion that is basically what skepticism is all about. You suspend belief in something until it can be shown to be true or, at least, very likely. Mr. Bragalia has yet to demonstrate his claims are true or even likely. The conclusions he has drawn are based on very fragile speculation with no real facts to suggest an alien spaceship was involved. As it stands now, there is absolutely no reason to change the history of Titanium and Titanium-Nickel alloy research.

A last minute update

Just prior to closing this issue out, Mr. Bragalia sent me a rather interesting e-mail stating the infamous "missing" second progress report was going to make me change the way I look at Roswell. Thanks to the USAF (as well as Billy Cox) and the power of the internet, I was able to now read this vitally important document that reveals the true secrets about Nitinol and the Roswell spaceship crash. As I read the document, I kept wondering, "Where's the beef?" This story is best told in another article, which can be found on the next page.

The 1948 Titanium Symposium and Dr. Howard Cross



The cover of the 1948 Symposium report from the on-line document listed below.

One of Anthony Bragalia's major claims about Dr. Cross is that he was feeding the Office of Naval Research (ONR) important information about Titanium so they could develop Nitinol. This claim is based on his "discovery" that Cross authored a document called "Titanium alloys", which was "fed" to the ONR. This is pretty much all Bragalia states about this document but inquiring minds might want to know just a wee bit more.

The source for this claim is the 1948 ONR symposium held in Washington D.C. on December 16, 1948. One must remember that most symposia are free-flowing type academic conferences where public discussions about various papers are conducted. This is what the ONR desired and it was so successful they repeated it the following year. The objective was for the ONR to gather all the key industries and researchers together to discuss the progress of Titanium research and directions they should be heading. Howard Cross's paper is just one of seventeen papers discussed.

Cross's paper on Titanium Alloys never mentions anything significant about the alloying of Titanium with Nickel, which brings into question that this was an effort to feed information about Nitinol or anything else having to do with Roswell "memory metal" to the ONR. Drawing this conclusion is ridiculous when examining the context in which the paper was submitted. However, this symposium brings up some other papers that deserve mentioning in regards to Titanium and Titanium-Nickel research.

In Bragalia's original article, he attempted

to link the production and study of Titanium with the Roswell incident. However, this symposium revealed that the study of Titanium by the USAF and the USN was already a priority in mid-1947. Air Material Command stated that as early as March of 1947, they were studying Titanium. Their effort involved a three-prong approach involving the Battelle institute, Ohio State University, and Material labs. The US Navy's Bureau of Aeronautics also began studying Titanium about the same time. The Army stated they had begun work on Titanium in 1946. This is all prior to July of 1947, which indicates trying to link the interest and production of Titanium with Roswell is wrong.

Perhaps the symposium's most interesting paper in regards to Nitinol had to do with the Bureau of Mines. Bragalia never mentions this document because of its repercussions concerning his whole theory about Nitinol. The document is Paper #5, Fabrication of Titanium and investigations of Titanium-Nickel alloys in the Bureau of Mine laboratories. Why was the Bureau of mines investigating Titanium-Nickel? Did they know about Nitinol too? Even more amazing is the paper has a **TENATIVE PHASE DIAGRAM** for Titanium-Nickel up to about 41% Nickel. Didn't Bragalia state that the first phase diagram for Titanium-Nickel occurred in the missing second progress report from 1949 (Which only went up to 11.5% Nickel)? There are even micrographs of the various combinations of Titanium-Nickel alloys studied. I guess the Bureau of Mines had access to the alien debris as well as Battelle.

While this may sound new, it isn't. Dr. Wang documented this in his technical report. He did not list this particular paper but the authors wrote another paper a few months later, which was cited in his discussion about the history of Titanium-Nickel alloys.

What this demonstrates is that Titanium alloys were being studied by large groups and the missing progress reports are not the "smoking guns" they are being presented as. Suggesting that these progress reports hide important Roswell revelations is wishful thinking.

*As an interesting side note, the document covering the symposium **was never classified and was available to the public in March of 1949 for 65 cents!***

Nitinol Poker: Where any card is wild

...sometimes nothin' can be a real cool hand. – Paul Newman as Luke in "Cool Hand Luke".

I used to love playing poker when I was in the Navy. It was a friendly gathering in the chief's quarters, where the dealer got to call the game. One of the games I disliked was called "Follow the queen". The card after the last queen dealt upward in seven card stud was considered wild. The wild card shifted as each queen was exposed. A great hand could become worthless with the appearance of a queen. The game was not played often but when it was, there were many groans from the table. It seems that I am playing this game again with Nitinol because the value of the "cards" keep changing.

In mid-August, Anthony Bragalia emailed me announcing that he had received the "missing" second progress report via FOIA. He boasted that I needed to rethink my Roswell position because what he discovered in this document was "nothing short of astounding". My response was that unless the document showed an alien spaceship crashed at Roswell, I would not be impressed.

Since Bragalia stated the progress report had been sent to him via FOIA, I figured it might now be in the USAF FOIA reading room. Sure enough, the USAF had posted it there at <http://www.foia.af.mil/shared/media/document/AFD-090731-057.pdf>. I was very interested in seeing what Bragalia claimed was "nothing short of astounding" and had "confirmed his findings".

Bragalia in his original article stated the following about the progress report:

This is because if it does contain "phase diagrams" for the alloying of Nickel and Titanium- it will confirm the work on memory metal. It would strongly suggest that shape-recovery alloys were precisely what Battelle was attempting to create for the military in the time period directly after the Roswell crash (my emphasis).¹

Now Bragalia also wrote that it would include how to alloy Titanium to high pu-

rity levels. That would not be surprising but any mention of Roswell or trying to create a Shape Memory Alloy (SMA) because of Roswell would be.

Meanwhile, I had stated the following about what I thought the report would include:

Bruce Hutchinson found two reports by the Battelle institute concerning Titanium and Titanium based alloys listed in the Library of Congress on-line catalog....They probably cover the same information as the two "missing" progress reports. Progress report #1, which according to Bragalia, is the study of the Roswell UFO metal itself, is probably just an earlier study of Titanium based alloys. Since the contract appears to be about studying Titanium based alloys, there is no reason to suspect it was to create a shape memory alloy (SMA).²

So which version best describes the content of the second progress report?

The title reads that it is the Second progress report covering the period September 1 to October 31, 1949 on research and development of Titanium Alloys. I see nothing that describes "Second progress report in an effort to duplicate alien metals recovered at Roswell" or "Second progress report on how to create a shape memory alloy". Most important to note is the entire document is not even classified "Confidential"! Instead there is a "limited" stamp, which is an extremely low classification that requires no significant security precautions.

Looking at Eastwood's cover letter of 11 November 1949, we read a summary of the contents:

1. *A description of the alloy development work done during the bimonthly period September 1 to October 31, 1949.*
2. *The progress made during the same period on the development of refractories for holding molten titanium.*
3. *Further work on the vacuum-fusion technique for determining oxygen in titanium.³*

There is no specific mention of shape memory alloys or attempts to develop

them! There is a section on Titanium-Nickel but it is not very informative. The phase diagram is just as Wang described. As previously stated, Nitinol requires a much higher concentration of Nickel. Therefore, this phase diagram would be almost worthless for creating Nitinol. The Bureau of Mines phase diagram was far more extensive. Out of the 80 pages in the file, less than one page of written material is devoted to Titanium-Nickel. Three other pages show micrographs, a table, and the infamous "**Tentative diagram**" for Ti-Ni. I think the one statement that stood out for me, when reading the report was that "...the data do not justify further investigation of binary titanium-germanium or titanium-nickel alloys."⁴ The limited discussion of Titanium-Nickel and this statement indicates there was no great interest in developing this alloy and they apparently had no clue about its SMA potential.

I forwarded the document to others and we tried to look for some connection of importance that would make us rethink our position on Roswell. We could not find anything significant. If Bragalia saw something truly amazing, it was well hidden.

Bragalia reveals his hand

Bragalia quickly published his analysis of the report on the UFO Iconclasts blog. What kind of poker hand did Bragalia show that was truly astounding?

As typical in his writings, Mr. Bragalia seems to overstate his case by misrepresenting the content/importance of documents. For instance, he refers to references of the second progress report as "buried footnotes". They are listed in the section with all the other footnotes using the same font and type. If they are "buried", then **ALL** of the footnotes are "buried". The document is rarely referenced simply because the information is outdated. In 1949, it was the latest data available but by 1958, it was old news. Dr. Wang only referenced it in 1972 because he was talking about Titanium-Nickel history!

Another apparently exaggerated claim by Bragalia is that this report talks about the "first ever efforts" to create "advanced" Titanium alloys. I am not sure how he

qualifies "advanced" but these efforts to alloy Titanium were not new. The Titanium Symposium of 1948 demonstrated others were just as interested in creating "advanced" alloys:

1. Paper number 2 discussed the work by Air Material Command on Titanium-Chromium alloys
2. Paper number 5 by the Bureau of Mines described Titanium alloys with emphasis on Titanium-Nickel.
3. Paper number 12 by PR Mallory and co. for the US Navy had information on many Titanium alloys.
4. Paper number 14 by Westinghouse research labs had more data about Titanium alloys
5. Paper number 15 by the Navy Research Laboratory described alloying processes/equipment being used

These papers indicated many groups knew that Titanium was unique and they were trying to create new alloys for use in aerospace/aeronautical/maritime applications and not to create SMAs.

Mr. Bragalia also takes note that it was important for the Titanium to be of high purity levels to create Nitinol and other shape memory alloys (SMAs). The truth was that there was an extensive effort to reach high purity levels in Titanium for **all** alloys (See paper number 4 from the Titanium symposium). Low purity Titanium could adversely affect the alloy being created. Any desire to increase the purity of the Titanium had more to do with creating the best alloy possible and not specifically to create an SMA like Nitinol.

Follow the queen

Bragalia's introduces another wild card by mentioning the alloy Titanium-Zirconium (paper #12 from the 1948 symposium also describes this alloy). It is also a SMA and this indicates, according to Bragalia, Battelle was interested in SMAs. What Bragalia omits from his revelation is the comment from the report on page 80 that Zirconium was determined to be "ineffective" as an alloying agent. Like Ti-Ni, it appears that Battelle did not know about its SMA potential.

In order to keep the SMA card wild, Bragalia makes another extravagant claim:

On Page 95 the document reveals a technical chart showing first-ever research in such areas as "Elongation," and "Minimum Bend Radius" of various advanced Titanium alloys. This indicates that they were closely examining elasticity, malleability and tensile strengths of newly created, high-purity Titanium alloys, including Nickel-Titanium, required to make Nitinol.⁵

The term "elongation" and "minimum bend radius" is nothing new for discussing metallic properties. Read the Titanium symposium reports and you will see the same measurements/terms used there. All of these are standard tests and terms used for examining/describing any alloy or metal. They are not tests specifically to look for SMA characteristics.

The "First" report is still missing?

We are now reminded about the all important first progress report:

No reference whatsoever to what must surely exist- a First Progress Report- is made in this 1949 Battelle Second Progress Report for Wright. What does the First Progress Report contain? Why is there no reference to it in the literature- or even within the FOIA-obtained Second Progress Report? Without a title, date or the authors' names, it is proving very difficult to locate this First Report.⁶

Apparently, Bragalia ignored the reference to a previous "bi-monthly" report on page 65. In all likelihood, this is the "missing" first progress report that he claims was a study of the actual alien metallic debris. The second progress report table of contents states the report starts at page 60 and ends with page 120. This indicates the first 59 pages are, more than likely, the first progress report!

Back to Center

As noted in the previous article, the linking of Dr. Elroy Center to Roswell was tentative through a second hand source. Bragalia now claims that this story is confirmed because Center coauthored a paper in this report titled, Analytical methods for Titanium-based alloys. We

know that Center worked for Battelle and he was a chemist. It is no great surprise that he would have written a document of this nature for a report on Titanium alloys. Stating this paper confirms the second hand story about Center reading characters on pieces of alien spaceship debris is some very twisted logic. The only thing it is evidence of is that Center was performing in a capacity that fit his job description.

A handful of nothin'

Contrary to the claims made, this report is no great revelation. For those interested in examining the evidence critically, they will discover this second progress report is (to quote George Kennedy's character, Dragline, from "Cool hand Luke") *"a handful of nothin'"* when it comes to Roswell.

Notes and references

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Do amateur astronomers see UFOs?

Bob Young

Recently pro-saucer writer/lecturer Stan Friedman and others have been discussing whether amateur astronomers, who presumably are more familiar with the sky than average folks, see UFOs. Lots of anecdotal statements, claims and guesses have been kicked around, but is there any statistical data?

Well, yes there is. But, curiously like much of organized UFOlogy's statistics it seems to have remained a closely guarded secret. I have always found this somewhat odd. Could it be because this information might contain an "inconvenient truth"?

Much has been made of a 1976-7 survey of 2611 members of the professional American Astronomical Society, conducted by Peter D. Sturrock, an astrophysicist at Stanford University. The survey was not an official AAS project but Sturrock, a member, had sought the group's permission.

The 1977 press release issued by Stanford and approved by Sturrock announcing the results elicited sensational headlines in major publications. The New York Times (March 17) said, "Further Study of U.F.O.'s Endorsed in a Study." The Christian Science Monitor (April 27) screamed, "Probe UFO Riddle, Say Astronomers."

While 48% of the members didn't even bother to answer the survey, apparently demonstrating the importance they gave to the subject, two percent reported sightings, including some that they were later able to identify.

The two-page questionnaire with its eleven multiple-choice questions and responses was critically dissected by the late Phillip J. Klass (UFOs - The Public Deceived, Prometheus Books, 1983, pp. 57-63).

What is little-known is that a parallel survey was also done of amateur astronomers who were members of the Astronomical League, the national federation of astronomy clubs and individuals; the International Occultation Timing Association (IOTA), and the Association of Lunar and Planetary observers (ALPO). The lat-

ter are two specialty groups of experienced observers who conduct scientific studies of the sky.

I was present at the League's 1976 Council Meeting when Gert Herb, representing the Chicago-based J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies, proposed the survey. ALPO and IOTA meetings, held at the same time, also approved their participation.

Herb chose amateurs for his study because, he believed, they are familiar with the appearance of the nighttime sky and, he believed, are more readily able to identify unusual phenomena which often mystify the public. Also, he reasoned, amateurs often seek unhindered views of the sky in less populated observing locations and they have optical equipment suitable for resolving short-lived aerial phenomena.

The CUFOS volunteer reasoned that professionals are at a disadvantage because most work from the confines of an observatory, using equipment which is bulky, unwieldy and limited in field of view. This argument has been used by many ufologists to minimize the relevance of the experience of professional astronomers because very few have reported seeing UFOs. The same claim is lately being heard from some ufologists because few amateurs report UFOs.

I was president of the Astronomical League two years later. When we didn't hear anything about the amateur survey results, I urged the editor of our newsletter, Gary Becker, to publish an article, which he prepared from the writings of Gert Herb (The Reflector, Vol. 28, No. 4, Astronomical League, August 1979).

I was concerned about the skill level of the witnesses. The League members surveyed included any member of upwards of two hundred clubs including rank beginners, even children, as well as long-time experienced sky watchers. It is a fair assumption, though, that most were more familiar with the night and daytime sky than the average person.

The ALPO and IOTA members were much more experienced, including many who had observed the sky for decades. I wrote to Herb, in care of the CUFOS office, explaining my concerns in order to see if it were possible to separate those surveyed into League and non-League responders. I wondered how the latter would stack up against the professionals in the AAS survey. I was informed that my letter would be forwarded to Mr. Herb the next time he came into the Center's office. I never received a reply.

A multiple-choice questionnaire was mailed to 8,343 amateurs from the three groups, eliciting 1,912 respondents, a 23 % response rate. Because of mailing difficulties, a follow-up was done to the experienced cohort, resulting in a 57 % response, 290 out of 505 from the mailing and follow-up. There was no follow-up done for the League, I was told this was due to the expense. Why three quarters did not even respond to the survey is hard to gauge but some of this may have been because of an out of date mailing list, a problem which I know existed with the League's club lists. All responses were consolidated into a single group assuming an unspecified average skill level.

The question, "Have you ever observed an object which resisted your most exhaustive efforts at identification?", elicited a response from 1805 people. 427 answered "yes" and five more described events which they were unable to explain, but did not call UFO sightings.

The sighting rate for responders was 23.9%. Within this group a category of high strangeness was listed. These were point sources or extended objects in abrupt discontinuous motion, or close enough to leave no doubt in the mind of the witness about their unconventional nature. 8.2% recounted observations in this "high strangeness" category.

The corresponding rates for all of the amateur astronomers polled in the three organizations were 5.2% "yes" and 1.8% "high strangeness".

*(Editor note: **These last two values are based on the total number of potential respondents.** Gert Herb felt these values were most accurate because he felt that only "sighters" would tend to answer the survey*

and those that did not respond probably were less likely to have a UFO sighting. It is interesting to note that Stanton Friedman ignored this final value of 5.2% presented by Herb in his article and chose to emphasize the intermediate 23.9% number in his recent "scientific" book on UFOs. Is this a case of "Don't bother me with the facts..." or is it "What the public doesn't know...?"

Most sightings reported involved nocturnal lights and unresolved shapes which could have been identified given sufficient opportunity. In many of these cases the witnesses reported they were NOT convinced of the anomalous nature of their sightings. Some were more problematic, such as featureless globes of light in continuous erratic motion, compact symmetrical clouds in rapid motion and clouds which discharge maneuvering luminous objects. There were reports which could be suggestive of technology. None were investigated beyond the witness report.

A June 1978 Gallup Poll established a sighting rate among the American public polled as 9%. Thus, a comparison of (lifetime) UFO sighting rates among the public, amateur astronomers, and professional astronomers reported during this 1976-78 time frame showed:

Public (June 1978 Gallup)	9%
Amateur Astronomers from all the organizations surveyed. (August 1979 reflector)	5%
Professional Astronomers 1976-77 survey (Klass).	2%

So, what can we conclude? Most obvious is that the more familiar one is with the sky, the fewer UFOs one sees. In addition, we must consider that amateur astronomers have almost certainly observed the sky a lot more than the average person. This supports the conclusion that long experience observing the sky does not turn up more unknowns, as it would if it were only a matter of how often we look up.

Its time that we drop the silly notion promoted by believers that those most familiar with the sky and with reasons to look never do so, and that is the reason they see fewer UFOs.

An example of Alien technology?

Bob's article reminded me of one of the cases by an amateur astronomer that Gert Herb selected as an example of "alien technology" in the [Reflector](#) article:

Charlotte, North Carolina 10:55PM

EST November 8, 1968: *Observing conditions are generally deteriorating with increasing haze and upper air currents. While observing within the constellation of Aquarius, I caught sight of what at first appeared to be a meteor, because movement was immediately apparent. The object was observed to be foreign in nature, primarily circular, but with slightly fluted leading edges on two sides, giving the appearance of a tailless stingray. The object was large, encompassing at least 3/4 of a degree, and was of a silvery-greenish hue approximately -2 in visual magnitude. No accurate impression of altitude could be determined. Immediately following the sighting, the initial position was marked at 165 degrees azimuth. The object proceeded slowly in a southwesterly direction and was followed in 10X60 binoculars for a period of 45 seconds until it disappeared from view just west of Beta Ceti, at a position of 195 degrees azimuth. Detail within the object could not accurately be described. There were streaked variations in the lighting indicating the possibility of some markings. The object did not make any sound.¹*

When I first read this report, I thought it might be a lighted balloon. However, I changed my opinion after reading about an event that happened in early 2007. On February 19th of that year, several astronomers in Australia reported seeing a glowing sphere-shaped cloud moving across the sky. It was a Briz-M rocket booster that had exploded in orbit. The video shot by Gordon Garrard, looked a lot like the report filed above. This gave me the idea that it could be something that was in orbit.

The problem with the orbital object theory was that the object was traveling towards the southwest. This implied a retrograde orbit and limited the number of potential sources. I contacted James Smith for his input on the subject. I was looking at the Pioneer 9 space probe launched earlier that day but James pretty much figured it was a non-starter but did notice another rocket launched a few days earlier from

Vandenberg AFB.

On November 6, 1968, the USAF launched a KH-8 satellite in an orbit that had an inclination of 106 degrees. This is a retrograde orbit and, most important, the KH-8 had a rocket engine attached. This was an engine that could be restarted in order to maintain orbit. The KH (Keyhole) satellites were spy satellites that flew in low earth orbit. As a result, they suffered from atmospheric drag. The engine was designed to boost the satellite's orbit periodically as it began to lose altitude. The satellite eventually re-entered on November 20th after completing its mission.

Sadly, James and I discovered that the two line elements available put the satellite over Russia for the time in question. The satellite did pass over the eastern US twelve hours earlier based on this data. I suppose it is possible that atmospheric drag could have affected the orbit of the satellite. James also found a rocket body that passed in a similar retrograde orbit a few hours after the event in question. However, unless the rocket body exploded, it would not be visible since the sun was well below the horizon. This is why the KH-8 had so much appeal. The rocket engine, if it was ignited, would provide a source of illumination that would appear for a short period and then wink out just like the description given.

I wish I could say the case was solved but it is not. To me, the observation is too similar to the fuel dumps and orbital rocket explosions seen and photographed by others to be ignored. Still, just because I have not been able to identify the cause, does not mean we are talking about an exotic craft being seen. It still might have been a lighted balloon or something else. I think Herb's statement that it was an example of Alien Technology and that the craft's internal details were seen is too great a leap. It is best to just consider it "unidentified"for now.

Notes and references

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Astronomers and UFOs backlash

Because of last month's article about Astronomers and UFOs, Phil Plait decided to add some comments on his blog. As a result, UFOlogists started pouting about Plait again! In some cases, they repeated the "myths" about astronomers and UFOs that I had already pointed out. Leading the charge was Kevin Randle. As expected, he claimed astronomers looked through narrow fields of view and they feared ridicule! Randle then suggested that Plait should inform himself about UFO "facts". Shouldn't Randle acquaint himself about real facts surrounding amateur astronomers as well?

Mr. Randle's gross errors are typical of how UFOlogists keep treating astronomers and how they execute their hobby/profession. Had he even bothered to read my article last month, he might have at least received a small education. He made the accusation that astronomers do not normally use binoculars. I guess all the telescope companies should stop selling them to astronomers (I have four different types of binoculars including 11X80s). Has he even talked to the North American Meteor Network (NAMN), International Meteor Organization (IMO), or the American Meteorological Society? All have plenty of observers watching the skies for meteors with the good old mark I eyeball! Has Mr. Randle ever been to a major star party to see what amateur astronomers do? In my opinion Mr. Randle has demonstrated he is not really interested in presenting facts about amateur astronomers. He seems more interested in perpetuating UFO "myths" about amateur astronomers.

Last month I mentioned the point about Star Parties busting the "narrow field of view" myth. Star parties are gatherings of amateur astronomers in dark sky locations that have been occurring in large numbers for the past twenty to thirty years. In August of 2009, there were ten major star party events across the county over a ten day period. Each one of these probably had anywhere between 50 and several hundred amateurs out observing under the night sky. If I were to check ev-

ery astronomy club, I would wager that a majority, if not all, had local club events organized around the new moon. This probably had a collection of a dozen or so amateurs if the weather was clear. This happens every month during the summer, spring, and fall. Only southern states tend to have large parties or extensive turnouts during the new moon periods in the winter months. This large collection of observers practically eliminates any possibility that a UFO or any unusual "craft" will pass their observing site unnoticed. I have never heard of one sighting of any unidentified craft that defied explanation occurring at ANY of these events. Based on the vast number of sightings that exist, isn't it likely that just one would be observed at a star party over the past thirty years?

In order to back up his claims of astronomers seeing actual alien spaceships, Kevin Randle restated the decades old UFO sighting by Clyde Tombaugh. He goes on to state that Menzel ignored the observations of Tombaugh to present his explanation. Apparently, Randle never read Menzel's book, The world of flying saucers. In that book, Menzel quoted Tombaugh as stating that what he saw that night was not a "craft" but faint shapes/lights that faded in intensity. Tombaugh added that he felt the more probable answer was probably some sort of natural optical phenomenon. Even if it were not an optical illusion of some kind, Tombaugh never stated he saw physical craft/spaceships. He just reported seeing something he had never seen before or since. Randle, like so many other UFOlogists, has converted Tombaugh's observations of something vague and unknown as some sort of physical craft from space or elsewhere.

Randle and others have criticized Dr. Plait with all sorts of nonsense. They want Dr. Plait to inform himself with UFO "facts". The problem is, there are no "facts" to speak of. All we know is what the observers report. We do not even know if what the observers report is even accurate. That being said, it is most interesting

that these UFOlogists ignore the statistical data that comes from reports of truly puzzling UFO cases.

1. Duration is on the order of a few minutes
2. Brilliance indicates something brighter than most stars.
3. Angular size indicates something on the order of full moon size or larger.

Even if they were looking through their "narrow field of view" telescope when one of these strange unidentified "craft" appear, these amateur astronomers would have to be oblivious to everything around them to miss it. For those who think otherwise, I suggest they try bringing a white pen light to a star party some time. It will not be ignored and the response will be somewhat hostile if the light is not turned off immediately.

It is important to note that amateur astronomers are doing the one thing UFOlogists/UFO organizations do not do. They monitor the sky for unusual events and are conducting actual research. Because they don't report UFOs in any significant numbers or describe seeing any of these marvelous craft others are reporting, it bothers the UFO community. In order to explain this, they misrepresents what amateur astronomers do and keep repeating it over and over so the uninformed will agree with them.



I often use this video camera during meteor showers or clear nights I chose to run it. It can record stars and meteors down to magnitude +3. To date, I have yet to record any "UFOs" (aerial objects I can't identify). I do record satellites, satellite glints, Iridium flares, the ISS, airplanes, night birds, bats, bugs, moths, etc. Other amateur astronomers have more advanced cameras that run constantly. Some have recorded unidentified lights (which could be glints off satellites) but none (that I am aware of) report recording any unidentified craft.

Stanton Friedman has been hyping the same UFO claims for decades. It is almost as if he ran out of things to talk about and now just repeats himself. Even in his new book on Betty and Barney Hill (*Kidnapped*), he restates some of what he wrote in his other release about Scientists and UFOs (*Flying saucers and science*). The section about debunkers and skeptics is pretty much what you would expect.

As always, Mr. Friedman trots out his usual rules about Debunkers and Skeptics:

1. *Don't bother me with the facts; my mind is made up.*
2. *What the public doesn't know, I am not going to tell them.*
3. *If one can't attack the data, attack the people. It is much easier.*
4. *Do your research by proclamation rather than investigation. No one will know the difference.¹*

Over the years, I have seen skeptics and debunkers actually do what Mr. Friedman states here. However, these usually are a minority and I have observed that UFO proponents are often far more guilty of doing this. It is ironic that Stanton Friedman is also an offender.

Recently, Stanton Friedman wrote this in his UFO Magazine column:

Dateline misrepresented the facts about the Phoenix Lights observed at about 8:30PM by thousands of people on March 13, 1997, failing to distinguish between the huge boomeranged shaped, low flying silent object which took minutes to pass overhead. It blotted out the sky. They kept showing the bright light flares seen at 10 PM and many miles away from the area. The flares certainly did not blot out the stars over a wide area while falling. Dr. Michael Shermer came up with the group of high-flying airplanes to explain the case. Leave it to Shermer. He is a skilled presenter with a good sense of humor who knows nothing about UFOs and refuses to do any investigation--as opposed to proclamation.²

What Friedman has done here is repeat what he knows about the case from popular literature and not from careful inves-

Flying saucer fiziks



tigation. Had Stanton did a bit of number crunching from the **original** reports available at the NUFORC database, he would have discovered that a significant number of the reports described individual lights. Only a few mentioned a dark object behind the lights (about 25-30% of the reports by my count) but these eyewitnesses got most of the press time. Missed or ignored by UFO proponents was the testimony of Mitch Stanley, an amateur astronomer who observed the lights in his telescope and saw they were a formation of aircraft. Testimony found in other NUFORC reports (about 40-50%) also indirectly indicated high flying aircraft. They either indicated varying/shifting formations, mentioned they could see the stars between the lights, or mentioned each light was individual or composed of two lights! Most important is that the one known video of the event showed independent motion between the lights indicating no structured object was there. This is what is actually known about the case.

Even one of the primary "dark object" witnesses described what one would expect from aircraft flying in front of the moon:

As the craft passed thru the light of the moon, the color of the moon changed to dingy yellow, and we could see horizontal "waves" as it passed. These waves were similar to gasoline fumes if one to

take the lid off of a gas can, and look at the reflection of the fumes.³

He would later interpret this to mean that the UFO turned translucent as it passed in front of the moon so he could not see its shape.

Friedman is either unaware of all this information (research by proclamation), is not telling his readers the rest of the story (what the public does not know), or is ignoring the information (don't bother me with the facts). By employing one of these tactics, he then employs his "attack the people" argument where he claims that Shermer didn't do any research. The truly skilled promoter is actually Stanton Friedman.

Shermer probably did not do the research directly but relied on the work performed by Tony Ortega, which appeared in "e-skeptic". Additionally, Shermer may have also read my web page on the subject. Shermer felt the explanation appeared to match many of the report's descriptions. He did not investigate directly but he was well enough informed to offer a valid explanation. By laughing off this explanation, Friedman and other UFOlogists have been able to convince themselves that something truly extraordinary happened that night. Friedman would rather accept the proclamations made by various enthusiasts than actually look at the data.

Friedman's suggestion that "skeptics and debunkers" are the only one's violating the rules he lists, is just plain wrong. When one looks at a lot of what Mr. Friedman has written, it becomes apparent that his own little glass house has a lot of broken windows.

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A Diet of Worms: What is Nick Pope trying to hide?

by COL. ARNOLD MOULDER

Late of The Green Jackets, and Author of UP WHITEHALL WITH HAT AND GUN, BIRDS OF COVENT GARDEN, & c.

In 1996, Simon & Schuster published *Open Skies, Closed Minds* by British Civil Service clerk Nick Pope. The book's unique selling point was that between 1991 and 1994 Pope had been the Ministry of Defence (MoD)'s front man for UFO reports and enquiries coming to the MoD from the public—a post known as Sec(AS)2a. A smart publicist dubbed him "Britain's Fox Mulder", and Pope himself maintained that his job was "equivalent" to holding the rank of captain in the army. (Later he promoted himself to lieutenant colonel, having floated up a pen-pushing grade before he left the Civil Service in 2006.)

To those of a beady disposition, this wasn't a good start: a quick phone call to the Army's press desk in Horse Guards revealed what his claim actually meant. Pope was then at C1 grade (the lowliest management grade in the Service) earning about half a captain's pay but, should he need to stay at a military base in the line of duty, he was entitled to a captain's standard of accommodation. As far as anyone can tell Pope has probably never had a staff of more than one person, which compares not terribly well with the responsibility of a captain in charge of 100 or so men, or the 500-odd soldiers under a half-colonel commanding an infantry battalion. There is other evidence that even in 1991 Pope was promoting himself in more ways than one (see illustration below).

Nowadays Pope calls himself the "former head of the MoD's UFO project", which is also a trifle inflated. Pope's job description shows that he was supposed to spend maybe a day a week dealing with UFOs, sending out all those boilerplate letters saying that UFOs had never been a defence threat and that the Ministry didn't investigate sightings. Any in-depth investigation Pope did was on his own time; rumour has it that much of this research was conducted at dining tables, in the company of some of the nation's least reliable ufologists. To no one's great surprise, his book (written with a 'ghost', one



M.J. Trow, a crime novelist and scribe of popular history books) revealed nothing new about any UFO case known to man. But it did over-egg such long-solved cases as Thomas Mantell's fatal chase in 1948 as still unexplained—a line Pope maintained when interviewed on the BBC's flagship *Newsnight* programme in 1991. The book also described his Damascene "conversion" from skeptic to believer as a result of the "evidence" that something not of this Earth overflowed western Europe on 30/31 March 1993. This was the spectacular re-entry of the disintegrating Tsyklon 22586U booster from a Russian rocket that had earlier launched the radio satellite Cosmos 2238.

Despite the deconstruction of this event by various parties, Pope has resolutely defended its supposed strangeness ever since. He doesn't deny the Cosmos re-entry, but insists that other "low-level" sightings such as that from RAF Shawbury are evidence of alien intrusion and, by implication, of MoD incompetence in both defending the realm and knowing what's what in UK airspace in general. And so, equally resolutely, he has ignored the evidence that the Shawbury sighting occurred about 90 minutes later and was probably of nothing more alien than a police helicopter blasting its 3-million-candle-power Night Sun spotlight at a stolen car. (See <http://uk-ufo.org/con-dign/secfilcosf1.htm> and David Clarke, "Secret Files", *Fortean Times* 199 (2005), for the full skinny.)

Since then it's been downhill all the way. Early in 2009 Pope popped up in one of the tabloids that love to treat him as an expert to "reveal" that the RAF had stand-

ing orders to shoot down UFOs, and that on occasion they had actually opened fire "but failed to bring them down". (See www.thesun.co.uk/sol/homepage/news/ufos/article2171863.ece)

Anyone with half an ounce of military wherewithal knows this is barking rubbish. No one in his right mind shoots at an unknown target, whether ship, army formation, squatting squaddie, or aircraft, and certainly not in peacetime. True, in training young recruits I have seen a section on night patrol unloose quite a lot of firepower at a twisted, fallen tree-trunk because it didn't respond to their challenges, but they learned quickly from the combination of the Riot Act, steely logic, and florid language that came their way; but they were recruits and it was bloody dark on Salisbury Plain that night.

Pope retreated from his published words in the face of a barrage of common sense and testimony from former fast-mover pilots, but not from pretending to know more secrets than we lesser mortals, or from covering his embarrassment in fig-leaves of waffle. As he wrote to ufologist Martin Shough: "There were no UFO-specific Rules of Engagement. I can't go into many details here, because this is classified, but in general terms the point I was trying to make was that there were (and still are) certain circumstances where the use of lethal force would be authorised."

Yes, of course there are, but they don't include trying to take out something you haven't identified, that's not being actively hostile, and that hasn't responded to internationally-recognized invitations to piss off like a good chap.

Meanwhile, back at the book

Of a piece with this chronic tic of embellishment, Pope has on various occasions strongly hinted that *Open Skies, Closed Minds* tells us more than the MoD would like the public to know about UFOs. In an interview in *International UFO Reporter* (Fall 1996), for instance, he says

that "There was a faction that certainly didn't want the book to appear. I submitted the text [for vetting, as he was obliged to under the terms of his contract] [and] the manuscript was returned with a short letter... It said... that my manuscript was 'completely unacceptable to MoD and quite beyond any suitable amendment.'"

One interpretation of this comment is that the MoD thought the general drift of Pope's book and its conclusions were, not to put too fine a point on it, a pile of crap—quite apart from its being entirely at odds with the Ministry's official stance on UFOs. Perhaps too they didn't relish the idea that the public might suspect the MoD had a twit on the payroll. We don't know what the original manuscript said, or how Pope may have modified it in the light of comments from above. Unfortunately we may never know, as Section 41 of the UK's Freedom of Information Act prohibits disclosure of "information provided in confidence", which would include just this kind of call-and-response dialogue. The crack in this armour is Pope's own public dissemination of some of this discussion, so someone ought to try getting it released.

Regardless or otherwise of what the mandarins thought, Pope's bull duly saw the light of day. It would be of some interest to know what people at the MoD thought of his slim volume, and of comments he made disputing the MoD line, in articles and interviews promoting the book. We might learn of the higher echelons' panic that their cover-up would be in shreds, or that their incompetence in defending the realm was irredeemably exposed, or that they had pickled aliens in a bunker at Nansuke in Cornwall. Or, we might find out precisely why none of these things is true, and why they thought Pope a fool and a nuisance. Having sight of these reactions could, in theory, support Pope's general case, or they could comprehensively undermine it.

Dr David Clarke, the British folklorist who with others was instrumental in prising the Condign Report on UFOs out of the MoD, seems to have had similar thoughts, and has been patiently trying to extract any pertinent paperwork from the MoD for about two years. The MoD decided not to release anything, citing various provisions of the FOIA.

UNCLASSIFIED

ENCLOSURE
101
NUMBER

D/DI55/108/15
24 April 1996

Section 40 Sec (AS) 2a

- RECENT MEDIA APPEARANCES AND INTERVIEWS

Section 40 1. In recent weeks I have noted a number of television interviews and several media articles concerning UAPs where [redacted] has been described as a "Senior MOD Official". He seems to have accepted the title willingly! Section 40

2. This is of course not a matter for the intelligence services, although I was surprised since I understand he is still employed by the MOD. However, I believe that he has written a book on his experiences in the MOD. Although we have agreed to the release of old UAP reports whose distribution lists include DI 55 I am concerned that he may include material on DI 55, our primary role or even mention names. The latter would be most regrettable since it could lead to targeting of DIS officers.

3. In the normal course of events I believe books by MOD employees have to receive a security release. I have not seen the book and am not aware of any requests for security approval. I would be most grateful if you could tell me what the current status is.

4. I believe that we need to approach this matter VERY delicately. I am not attempting to ban a book I have not read. I believe it will be based on supposition and technical ignorance. My only concern is the identification of DIS officers and ill-informed speculation on our role. The truth seldom sells books!



Wing Commander
DI 55c
OWOB [redacted]

As it happens, some material may be released if the subject of them gives his consent. Dr Clarke naturally enquired of Mr Pope if he would agree to their release. Pope responded initially (March 2009) to the effect that he thought the FOIA wouldn't allow it. Later he said he would have to consult with the [MoD's] Director-General of Information; by the end of July, Pope was saying that he was "not content" for the material to be released, and had added Article 8 of the Human Rights Act—the right to privacy—to the bulwarks of his revetment.

Article 8 of the HRA is a favourite resort of celebrities who delight in self-publicity, but then turn to the law when the press starts probing too deeply into their "private" affairs. Will we see Nick Pope soon on Celebrity Big Brother? It seems ironic that someone who's described himself as a "media tart" for a dozen years has invoked privacy legislation to keep his reputation within the MoD under wraps for all eternity.

Buried in there is some evidence that Pope has been working behind the scenes to prevent release of these papers. A rather naughty conclusion is that Pope has—or thinks he has—something to hide. If he has, then it seems not unreasonable to speculate that the documents may not support his various long-iterated lines on the MoD's response to UFOs. If he has nothing to hide, one wonders why he resists their release and why the number of legal reasons he cites has been growing by moonlight.

That he is resisting release is beyond doubt. So we have the rather delicious spectacle of a former MoD clerk, once well inside the military-UFO loop and with a habit of accusing the Ministry of neglecting the alien threat, assiduously orchestrating a cover-up of information regarding the greatest challenge to human civilization in history. Or something like that.

Fooling voters to waste tax payer's money

Jeff Peckman has to be one of the best snake oil salesmen in UFOlogy. His effort to create an "ET affairs commission" for the city of Denver has got to be a stroke of genius. If Peckman can get the 4000 signatures, it will be on the ballot in November. With low voter turnout it is possible this could get approved.

Peckman's web site quotes the standard disclosure project nonsense and then asks for money in various ways. In one instance, Peckman mentions to his readers that they too can write for "Examiner.com" but they should reference his name/ id number so he can get \$50. In another instance, he pleads for donations. Lastly, he offers some form of show for \$10 but does not say what and when this show is going to happen. All of it is clever ways for Peckman to get your hard earned cash for his personal use.

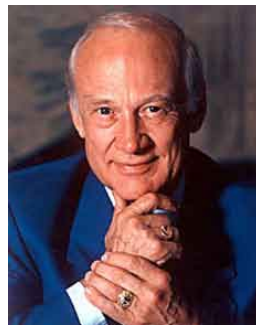
But wait.....there is more!! On his web site, he has a link to something called the "Metatron cosmic peace program". Now this sounded interesting and I followed the link. There I was informed that "electro-pollution" is a serious problem and I needed to fix it by downloading some very specific programs that will help me reduce my stress levels. Two of the programs cost a reasonable amount of cash (\$69 and \$89) and they assure me they will establish a stress-free zone of 10 or 18 feet around my computer. I wonder if it stops my boss from coming into the bubble with last minute changes? Anyway, they also offer a "free" download. This is called "The Metatron Cosmic Peace program". This program creates a "vortex" and takes energy from the metatron global peace grid and radiates it from your computer outward. The idea is that the more computers that use this software, the more it will create a peaceful earth. Hmmm....I thought you had to be a Jedi to access the force. Maybe it is just another version of "spyware".

Peckman's little scam needs to be shut down. I hope the people of Denver are a lot more intelligent than this.

Still waiting for disclosure

Michael Cohen once again is talking about France and UFO disclosure. A July blog entry had an anonymous individual stating that France had been given money by the US to keep their mouths shut. Yes, France has always been a US puppet state. Didn't "W" have trouble getting France to back his efforts in Iraq? Why didn't he just buy them off like Obama did with UFOs? Additionally, the source stated it was supposed to happen on June 12th, which brought up a series of events that proved the cover-up.

Apparently, the source's computer internet service was very slow around the 12th of June, which implies that somebody was trying to thwart his efforts in UFO disclosure. He adds that several others had similar problems. Additionally, various files were being deleted associated with UFOs and others were being altered. Hmmm.....I recall the James Randi Education Foundation forum having some slow response about this time as well. Maybe the government doesn't want skeptics talking about disclosure either or it is possible that there were some server maintenance being performed about that time.



Say it isn't so Buzz!

Conspiracy blogs lit up when Buzz Aldrin made the comment on CSPAN that we should go to Mars and look at a "monolith" on the moon of Phobos. Gee Buzz, where did you get the crazy idea it was something artificially constructed? Now you have every conspiracy nut proclaim this is a prelude to "full government disclosure". I can only shake my head and wonder what he was thinking when he said this. Now if he says he overstated his case, the conspiracy theorists will say he was told to shut up by the government.

A Correction to last issue!

In my "UFOs on the tube" section of last issue, I made a remark that the Nova television program, *UFOs: Are we alone*, "pretty much shot down" the New Zealand UFO case of 1978. This prompted Dr. Bruce Maccabee to question me on why I concluded this. Over several e-mails, we went back and forth with me stating the program appeared to be very convincing. He responded that he did not have the video anymore and it was not readily available. He apparently forgot about the program's content or never saw it.

To get to the point of the matter, I admit my knowledge on the case was pretty much limited to what the NOVA program presented (as well as briefly reading the writings of Klass/Sheaffer). In my opinion, when compared to the program I was reviewing, the NOVA program clearly had addressed the case in prosaic terms. However, because of Dr. Maccabee's questions, I decided to look at what he had written on the subject. This is something I probably should have done in the first place and I admit the error. Therefore, I seem to have "overstated" that the case had been "shot down".

Dr. Maccabee's argument for some of the contacts and lights being other than anomalous propagation and unidentified lights is worth reading and can be compelling. However, one can not conclusively state that the contacts were not anomalous propagation and misinterpreted lights because this is just too many variables involved. I am sure Dr. Maccabee will argue with me but I gave him my reasons (the appearance/disappearance of lights/contacts like ghosts being a major point) for why I am not convinced these "lights" were operating under "intelligent control". To quote the NOVA program, *"It is impossible to prove conclusively what the New Zealand UFOs were..."*

I was obviously hasty in using the term "shot down" and revise to it as not being completely explained and that some of the events for that particular case remain "unidentified" based on the information available.

TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY UFOLOGY - PART II

Matt Graeber

In the second edition of Tim Printy's popular online "SUNlite" newsletter, I offered my thoughts in an article on 21st Century UFOlogy and I had absolutely no idea how many similar thoughts I had to those of researcher Peter Brookesmith who resides on the other side of the Atlantic.

Anyway, within that second edition, Tim also published an article I had originally written for, and submitted to FATE magazine on "Light Pillars" it was obviously not quite their cup of tea (so much for objectivity!?) That piece was about the marvelous researches of Mr. Wim Van Utrecht of Belgium. Wim's approach to the enigma is typical of the new thinking and computerized investigative techniques one might find useful with their own 21st Century-style UFO investigations and researching.

However, I also feel Wim's approach may be somewhat restrictive and limited in allowing for the human side of the UFO experience beyond the possibly being a misperception and misinterpretation of some type. I believe, based on my thirty-six years of experience with the reports, field investigations and witness interviews that some seemingly unidentifiable reports may actually be quite unique productions of a poorly understood phenomenon which I have come to call "MINISAUCER" experiences. Unlike Wim's excellent investigative photos, weather data analyses and marvelous computer generated star charts. I shall speak only in terms of generalities and speculation, while depending upon case studies as examples of the "Minisaunder" experiences. Then, I shall leave the question of my proposal's merit(s) and investigative value to "SUNlite's" readers.

My point with this piece is to illustrate we UFOlogists should be aware of unknown 'down-to-earth' possibilities for the emergence of some reports which are uniquely subjective in nature, yet, appear to be chock ful'O unidentified UFO strangeness too! Thus, making it possible for me to say, a search for the purely physical and causal impetus for all UFO reports may

be short-sighted and quite possibly 50 to 75% incomplete.

Moreover, we may be missing the point concerning the impact the UFO experience has upon some of the observer(s) by assigning their experience to an external agent of some kind (Be that a misidentification or, believed to be a genuine flying saucer sighting by the proponent investigators.) By exploring the exceptional uniqueness of some UFO observations and the observers, we are exploring the distinct possibility the human side of their experience is just as wondrous as the generally accepted notions of E.T. visitations, while being far less critical and judgmental than a skeptical point of view on the matter (e.g., flukes of the human eye an other misinterpretations of one kind or another.) I think we should talk up to witnesses not, down at them! Removing the splendor and wonder of their experience from the planet's surface or, demolishing it with known human frailty examples may be detrimental to them. So, the question immediately arises, is it time for an attitude adjustment on our part? After all, the UFO experiences is theirs. We are just behind the curve and are biased investigators of these fleeting phantom of the skies. Additionally, what should we be looking for as indicators of such events?

MINISAUCERS

Despite the popular belief UFO sightings are either misidentifications of one kind or another or, space ships from other worlds, there may be other types of UFO experiences which have eluded investigators and researchers over the years. These too, need to be examined as another form of 'real' experience.

As some of SUNlite's readers may already know, I hypothetically discussed a variety of UFO experience I called "Dynamic Display " (D.D.) in the UK's Magonia Journal No. 78 (June 2002) and No.82 (August 2003) editions.

However, this time, I would like to discuss and speculate on yet another variety of

UFO experience which I stumbled upon while investigating reports and interviewing eye-witnesses while I was the director of the now defunct, Philadelphia-based UFO Report and Information Center (UFORIC) during the late 1970's. Like D.D. events (which we will discuss in part three of this 21st Century UFOlogy series.) This topic is quite dated, but, largely unknown to many serious researchers. So, I have resurrected this data from my dusty old X-Files for "SUNlite." I have done so because I feel explorations of the type you are about to embark upon should be a part of 21st Century UFOlogy.

ON THE INDOOR OBSERVATION OF (AND INTERACTION WITH) MINIATURE UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS a.k.a. "MINISAUCERS" or, Dual Process of Perception events.

Naturally, the idea of UFOs operating within the confines of a commercial building or, residence surely exceeds the strangeness of the more traditional UFO sightings and close encounter reports. But, such reports do exist and deserve equal attention from the UFO research community. For the most part, Minisaunder are thought to be Alien Monitoring Devices which are utilized to locate and precondition individuals the aliens wish to abduct. In some of the reports, these tiny spheres or globs of light appear to flit about the victim's premises - while other accounts indicate they merely hover before the astonished witnesses' eyes.

But, beyond performing these aerial antics and assumed functions, there are even reports of Minisaunder (or some sort of small hovering lights) creating cracks or tears in the atmosphere through which alien creatures enter our dimensional plane, Eeek! Although, it is not very frequently mentioned Minisaunder behave somewhat like the tiny "Foo fighters" (small gobs of light) which had been reported to have haunted allied and axis pilots during World War II. More recently, they have apparently been reported by pilots in South America.

Though military investigators had at-

tempted and failed to establish what the Foo-Fighters (From, the French Feu = fire) actually were. A similar failing occurred when military teams of investigators sought to discover the launch sites of the so-called “mystery or, ghost rockets” which were spotted coursing through the skies above Scandinavian countries just after hostilities had ended in the European Theater. Actually, it was these strange aerial objects that heralded the onset of the modern-day UFO era. The famous Kenneth Arnold sighting of nine gleaming disks over Mt. Rainier in 1947 was the incident which gave us the popular term “Flying Saucer”, because Mr. Arnold’s description of how the disk-shaped objects appeared to fly to a newspaper reporter: (like flat stones or small table saucers thrown and skimming across a pond’s surface. caught the imagination of the American public.

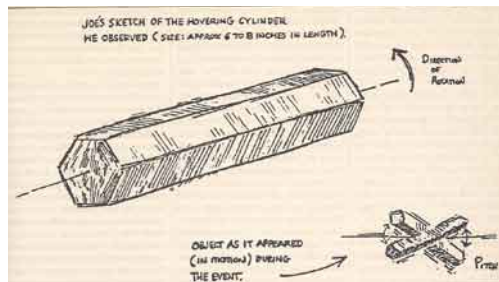
MINISAUCER CASE STUDY NO.1

“Close encounter within a university office”

This report involves the experience of a young man (age 23) who was a working college student at the University of Pennsylvania. At the time of his Minisaucer experience he was aware of my interest in the UFO enigma but knew absolutely nothing of the direction of my researches. He (Joe Delaney) is very bright, reliable and was also my younger brother’s closest friend at the time of his encounter with a Minisaucer.

Joe worked nights at the university and, because of travel, work and study time over-laps, he frequently catnapped on his late night lunch breaks. It was while Joe was awakening from such a snooze that he became aware of a dark fluttering object near the ceiling at one corner of the room.

Joe didn’t move at first, he just eyeballed the thing thinking it was probably a bat! But, this seemed to be improbable to Joe, since he was lying across folding chairs in a windowless cubicle at a secluded section of the building. Joe thought, perhaps someone may have placed the bat there as a practical joke or, it might have entered the room through an unsecured ventilation shaft.



But, Joe’s continued scrutiny of the object revealed the thing wasn’t a bat at all - Rather, it was a black cylindrical object about six to eight inches in length and about an inch and a half in diameter. It was sort of floating in the air - silently wobbling in a gentle rocking motion. Joe noticed the object had a hexagonal shape which reminded him of an antique rifle’s barrel.

Joe abruptly sat up, and with the same body motion he hurled the jacket (with which he had covered himself) at the thing near the ceiling. But, Joe’s hurried inspection of the crumpled jacket lying on the floor revealed the object hadn’t been trapped within it, even though, Joe felt certain he had caught the thing.

COMMENTS

We have here (in Joe’s report) a classic UFO sighting in miniature. For, most certainly, the object’s unconventional configuration, its oscillatory/rocking motion and noiseless aerial performance are consistent with its being an enigmatic UFO. In fact, were it not for the drastic reduction in its apparent size and its pronounced confinement within an office cubicle, there would be no telling how large, fantastically aerobatic, or distant Joe might have thought the strange object to have been.

So, it seems we have very little by which we might distinguish this Minisaucer report from that of a larger scale variety of UFO observations if it were not for its obvious confinement and size. One wonders, could it possibly be Minisaucer experiences like Joe’s might be mistaken for a large scaled object sighting if the Minisaucer observation had occurred outdoors or, if it had been spotted through a window, an open door, or from within an automobile?

If we should attempt to voice an argument against this possibility, based on

the fact Joe was sleeping just before he awoke and observed the Minisaucer, we are also obliged to remember several legendary UFO incidents may have been staged under similar, if not precisely the same circumstances. (e.g., The late psychiatrist, Dr. Benjamin Simon, felt Betty and Barney Hill’s UFO experience may have involved a “dream absorption” episode of some kind. While “Dr.X” the miraculously cured saucer witness French UFOlogist Aime’ Michel frequently discusses in his writings, also awoke to discover a pair of identical UFOs flying towards his home. In fact, the UFOs merged in mid-air and became one object!)

Additionally, there is always the problem of the witnesses estimate of the UFO’s size, distance and altitude being quite questionable; UFO investigators frequently attempt to assist the witnesses by asking them to compare their recollection of the object(s) they had observed to that of some hand-held item viewed at arms length. But this technique is believed to be rather crude and ineffective (as an aspirin tablet held between the thumb and forefinger and viewed at arms length will completely block out the disk of a full moon) So, it seems, unless the UFO passes in front of something which can be later measured (in both size and distance from a definite observation point) it is very difficult to estimate the size, speed and altitude of a UFO with the unaided human eye.

MINISAUCER CASE STUDY NO.2

“An interactive close encounter”

Mr. Greene is a thirty-five-year-old businessman who after sleeping for slightly over seven hours, gradually awakens to a brilliantly-sunlit bedroom, when he suddenly realizes “a big black spot” is clinging to the ceiling almost directly over his head (approx. distance six feet above Mr. Greene’s bed.)

At first, the witness reacts as if “the thing” is a large spider and he continues to lie in bed, perfectly motionless, while anxiously eyeballing the creature more intently - at this point in the experience, Mr. Greene is not only wide awake, but he is also extremely apprehensive about the situation he finds himself to be in.

However, since Mr. Greene detects no appendages on the Object, and because it hasn't moved at all, it slowly becomes obvious to him "the thing" isn't a spider but, rather, a convex contoured oddity which closely resembles a cherry-filled chocolate cordial, with the exception being, this object's surface seems to be of a lack-luster matte black finish.

At this point, Mr. Greene's fears quickly diminished about the object possibly being a dangerous arachnid, and for reasons which he could not explain, he found himself pondering the thought that "the thing" might move... and as fantastic as it may sound, at the very instant Mr. Greene thought the spot might move, it actually did move!

Then, as he thought it should stop moving, it glided to a halt. Now, it is important to note, Mr. Greene stressed these movements occurred in precise synchronicity with his thoughts, they did not appear to occur so much as a split second afterward. (i.e., as if reacting to a mental command.)

Completely astonished, and somewhat amused by this turn of events, the witness thought "vanish" and accordingly, the Minisaurer seemed to collapse into a minute central point and completely disappeared - in much the same way an image on a TV screen does when the set is turned off.

Then, Mr. Greene desperately tried to think the Minisaurer back. However his efforts were in vain and the mysterious object was gone forever.

INVESTIGATIVE NOTES:

When questioned about the possibility the black object may have cast a shadow on the sunlit bedroom ceiling, Mr. Greene couldn't recall seeing one, while the speed of the object's movements were estimated to have been in the range of one to three miles per hour (although estimated distances of only six to eighteen inches were thought to have been traversed during the strange event.)

Additionally, the Minisaurer's movements appeared to be intelligently-guided and very smoothly executed upon the textured ceiling surface. Mr. Greene also reports the Minisaurer looked solid, although he said, it may have been hollow, it was sharply contrasted against the white (textured) ceiling of his bedroom.

The observation lasted for an estimated 40 to 60 seconds and the witness said four distinct movements occurred during the strange incident (the first being a movement to the left, a right, another to the left, and then the disappearance phase.)

COMMENTS:

As I've already pointed out (in Joe Delaney's case) if this UFO sighting event had taken place out of doors and was reported to investigating UFOlogists, I believe there would be little doubt the preliminary findings of their inquiry into the matter would suggest that not only was this "a good sighting report" but, that "a process of selection and telepathic communion" may have taken place between the observer and the UFO. These are all merely investigative assumptions on the part of the UFOlogist(s) which tend to bolster one another and slant their findings in a biased manner.

Both the assumed telepathic

communion and the Minisaurer's curious disappearance characteristics have been reported by equally astonished UFO observers from around the world. Moreover, numerous pilots who were pursuing or, attempting to elude UFO(s) have said the object(s) seemed to know what maneuver they were about to execute, and the UFO(s) simply mimicked their actions or countered them accordingly. Thus, the UFO(s) are believed to be intelligently guided and to display capabilities thought to be attributable to volition combined with the aerial antics of fantastic maneuverability. (e.g., Hard angle turns, sudden stops and starts and blurring speeds which should produce sonic reports but, often do not.)

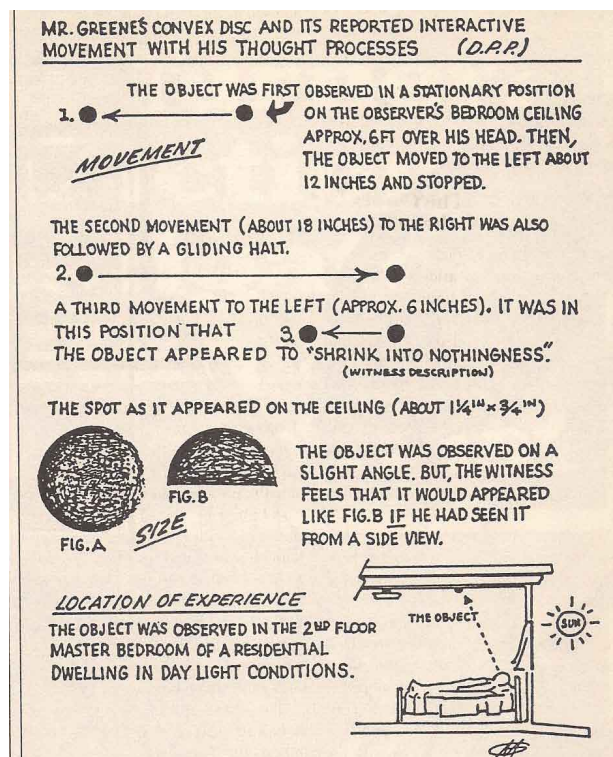
So, perhaps such UFO(s) haven't any mass because they are psychically produced imagery appearing against a real world background. Not an assumed physics defying anti-gravitational alien spacecraft. Minisaurer sighting reports would not be "unknowns" in the traditional sense of the word, and they would be spectacular, mysterious and "unique" to the observer(s).

Obviously, Minisaurer phenomena is equally shocking and perplexing to its unsuspecting observers as are the larger scale variety of UFO observations and encounters. They often leave the witnesses somewhat bewildered and slightly off-balance concerning what just happened to them. Simply because, Minisaurer phenomena differs very little in its overall complexity, strangeness and appearance to that of the far more commonly reported larger unidentified flying objects which also rock, wobble, glide, disappear and silently hover.

MINISAURER CASE STUDY No. 3

"A close encounter in the park"

I came across this Minisaurer sighting, when I was invited to participate in an UFO sighting report interview at the home of a MUFON section director/researcher George Morgan (a pseudonym) in Southeastern Pennsylvania. The case didn't involve a commonly reported UFO observation purse, but did involve a man's encounter with a (White disk of light) said to be about the size of a 25 cent piece when viewed at arms length. Curiously,



the disk of light wasn't observed in the sky but, rather upon the ground under a thin coating of snow which is commonly referred to as an "Onion Skin" layering.

When I arrived at Mr. Morgan's home I was greeted by his wife (Linda) and a young psychologist who had a practice in N/E Philadelphia. His name was Stan Brewster (also pseudonym) and had an interest in UFO reports. We briefly exchanged a bit of small talk and coffee was served in the recreation room of the house where we all awaited the arrival of the Minisaucer witness.

After 15 or, 20 minutes had elapsed, the door bell rang and a young man came into the room escorted by George's wife. The young man whom we'll call (Erik - age 23) sat down and rather nervously started to tell us this unusual story. Apparently, he had been jogging in a park near his home several nights before, and noticed a small disk of white light shining upon the ground about 6 to 8 feet in front of him.

The light moved along directly ahead of Erik and seemed to move at a speed which matched his own pace. When Erik stopped to take a better look at the disk of light, so did the light halt. For some unexplained reason, Erik suddenly suspected the light was caused by a rifle's telescopic laser beam and he feared someone was about to shoot at him.

However, his quick search for a trace source to the light failed to indicate that the disk was laser beam related at all. (i.e., The disk hadn't a beam extending to or, from it, and Erik felt that such a beam would have been clearly visible as it passed through the light snow gently falling at the time) But, as moments passed and the light remained stationary, Erik started to run again and as he did the light disk moved along just ahead of him as it had done previously. As Erik slowed his pace so did the spot of light slow down, then as he increased his speed the disk did so accordingly.

What makes this unusual affair even stranger is the disk was quite luminous and appeared to be not coming from above the ground but, from beneath the newly fallen (onion skin) layering of snow covering it. Erik jogged on a nightly basis

when weather permitted, he was well acquainted with the park's network of asphalt walkways and the park's lighting stanchions which served to illuminate the paths.

He was quite certain the disk of light was not a reflection off his belt buckle, jacket's metallic snaps or zipper. Nor did he think it was a reflection off his wrist watch crystal. Moreover, because he was moving in and out of street lamp illuminated areas of the park there were several points during the occurrence where Erik was running in complete darkness, yet, the disk remained bright and moved along directly in front of him.

No longer fearing the light was a laser beam projecting from a rifle, Erik walked and stopped moving entirely as he became amused by the light and even more puzzled by its antics. There wasn't any obvious ambient light connected with his observation of the small luminous disk which lasted about ten minutes and terminated just as Erik came to the end of his usual jogging routine in the park.

Erik excitedly told his wife about his experience when he arrived home that evening, she suggested he might report the incident to someone. They had recently read a feature story in a local newspaper about MUFON's investigative efforts in the area, so they decided to call George Morgan about Erik's encounter with the strange disk of light.

The interview lasted a little over one hour and many questions were asked of Erik, most pertained to the sighting particulars (time, distance he had run, location, etc.) When that portion of the interview was fairly well exhausted, we decided to ask Erik his opinion and impressions of the incident. The result of that inquiry was quite fascinating and seemed to put an entirely different spin on the matter.

Erik seemed to be quite bright, was very articulate and appeared to be aware of both the UFO phenomenon and the abduction lore as well. He didn't push the idea that he'd actually encountered a UFO or, something which was emitted and directed his way by a UFO (although

I got the impression he assumed the disk of light was UFO related) or, at least, the result of a Paranormal experience of some kind.

Erik was clean shaven, his hair was well-groomed and he wore military fatigue trousers, a brightly colored shirt and fatigue jacket of the camouflage variety. He also wore military issue boots which were well-polished and black in color. Though no one asked, I did not think Erik came to the interview directly from a military reserve meeting, the garb seemed to be of his own choosing. I make this assumption because Erik's hair was not cut very short and he hadn't carried or worn a fatigue cap into the Morgan's household.

Moreover, since I was invited to attend the interview as a guest, I did not feel it was my place to question Erik on things related to his, or his wife's occupation or educational background. I felt to do so was the responsibility of the MUFON investigator and his psychologist colleague (I later learned Erik's written report to MUFON had answered all those questions) But, I did feel free to explore Erik's impressions and feelings about the incident, and even explored a little about his family situation and any other unusual experiences he may have had in the past.

I learned during the course of the interview Erik had been married for a couple of years and had a small child which both he and his wife adored. He expressed the thought his mother also loved the baby very much, and she was a wonderful grandmother who watched the child while both Erik and his wife pursued their careers.

Erik expressed the thought his mother was as devoted to her grandchild as Erik's grandmother had been to him. He said his grandmother was a very close and dear friend who had passed away about six months earlier. Erik felt her passing was a great loss and something which he had yet to come to grips with. Erik's eyes filled with tears as he spoke of his grandmother whom he affectionately called "Bubby", which is a Jewish term of endearment as well as a nickname.

For Erik, the loss of "Bubby" was both deeply felt and profoundly personal. Erik

grew up with his Bubby as a guiding force of love and direction in his life. Bubby was both a grandmother and a friend who played a central role in his life (indeed a loving, guiding role he had hoped his child would be nurtured by too). I asked Erik to tell us a bit more about Bubby, and he complied with the story about her putting an end to his childhood fear of sleeping in the dark by placing a small night light in his bedroom.

The small single-bulb light was accentuated by small metallic disks which slowly rotated and reflected off the bedroom's walls and ceiling. Bubby would then tell Erik bedtime stories and/or sing silly songs until her grandson drifted off to sleep. Erik said his Bubby was always playing tricks on him and he would play tricks on her too. He said he missed the "Tricks and surprises" he and Bubby had shared. I asked Erik if the disk of light in the snow could have been another of Bubby's tricks? A long silence filled the room, Erik never responded. I then asked Erik "If this might be the sort of trick Bubby might play on him?" In a soft whisper he replied, "Yes."

Both Stan the psychologist and George the UFO researcher felt we had probably resolved the issue, and may even have helped out Erik a bit, despite the fact he hadn't actually seen a UFO. But, I learned Erik had called George a bit later requesting another interview (albeit, this time without my being present.) Erik said "I don't want the goblin man there!" Apparently, Erik had completely misunderstood my comments and thought I was offering him a ghost story sort of explanation for his encounter with the disk of light.

Erik's Minisaucer or, D.P.P. experience and his rejection of a psychological impetus for the event is entirely consistent with many UFO witnesses and researcher's bias against a psychological inquiry, analysis and finding on any given UFO incident. I think the fear is that to attribute an encounter to anything other than a purely physical occurrence is felt to imply something is wrong with the observer. When in fact, it may be the exact opposite which is correct! Just as D.D. and D.P.P. UFO/Paranormal encounters (which we shall further discuss in part three of this series) may not be random occurrences and without personal significance

to the observer(s). They may even be of some therapeutic benefit in their 'hidden' meaning.

Would it be wrong to consider the 'possibility' Erik's tricky and playful disk of light was actually a 'beneficial display' and perhaps part of his psyche's own healing process regarding his great loss and deeply felt sorrow. Was he symbolically and subconsciously shown the way through life would still be illuminated by Bubby's enduring love and guidance? Or, is such thinking just a bunch of romantic, psychological mumbo-jumbo? I'll ask my readers to decide for themselves.

In any case, one thing seems to be clear. Had Erik's small disc of light been observed and reported to be coursing through the sky, instead of moving beneath a thin layering of snow, it would have been entirely reasonable to suspect his sighting was a reliable observation of a UFO, reported by young man who was being toyed with by alien intelligences. In fact, some UFOlogists might have even suspected Erik had 'unwittingly' been in psychical communion with UFO operators during his experience.

POSSIBLE CLUES ON ERIK'S MINISAU-CER ENCOUNTER

SUNlite readers may recall my earlier mention of two articles I wrote for the Magonia Journal back in 2002 and 2003 on Dynamic Display. However, I had also mentioned perhaps, Joe Delaney was dreaming of something (like the cylindrical object) which appeared to be fluttering in the corner of the room. If this assumption is correct, I'll cautiously extend that speculation to include both Joe's and Mr. Greene's Minisaucer sightings were a 'mixture' of subconsciously generated dream imagery and the conscious perception of real world elements (e.g., the room and its furnishings as a backdrop) upon which the vivid and active dream imagery was played out! Moreover, it may be that since both encounters were onset in the process of awakening to this "Dual Process of Perception (D.P.P.) as it was unfolding before their astonished eyes, both observers (Joe Delaney and Mr. Greene) felt confident their perceptions were that of an entirely physical (real-world) event.

Sleep researcher Professor Nathan Kleitman of Chicago University, demonstrated that there were many REM (rapid eye movement) periods each night producing dreams. The later the REM period started, the longer the dreams were.

Additionally, according to the professor, his laboratory researches indicate that during the REM phases of slumber the electroencephalograph (EEG) records brain wave patterns which are remarkably similar to those which are produced when the subject is fully awake. So, a sleep state which looks (on the EEG) like consciousness during REM dreaming phases appears to be far more similar to waking state brain wave activity than those produced during non-REM slumber periods.

But, beyond the above, there exists many other factors regarding the characteristics of my hypothetical D.P.P. experiences which must be considered as possible 'indicators' of this unusual mixture (or, overlapping) of subconscious and conscious perceptual functioning. These include "a pronounced sense of presence" within the individual's immediate environment, which permits them to not only see the Minisaucer, but also its performance (e.g., An evasive or, protective course of action to take in response to its presence and probable intent).

INSTINCTUAL REACTION:

In both of the indoor cases we have examined, the observer(s) appear to have first reacted to their perception of the Mini-saucer from a purely instinctual (self-preservation) point of view. Joe Delaney remained perfectly motionless while lying on the folding chairs and carefully scrutinized "the bat" as it hovered ominously above him.

So too, Mr. Greene froze at the sight of the "large spider" on the ceiling, and it was only after a process of rational evaluation concerning each object's identity had been reached, the witnesses primary fears subsided and the tone of the experience changed entirely. This is even true of Erik's fears of a sniper being present in the park. Fears gave way to a form of playfulness.

Curiously, it may be both Joe and Mr.

Greene were momentarily "paralyzed" during the onset of their Minisaucer experience and were totally unaware of it.

Dr. David Hufford, sleep researcher at the Hershey Medical Center in Hershey, Pa, has written a marvelous book on the tradition of a peculiar kind of nightmare known as "Old Hag Assaults" in which paralysis, difficulty in breathing and a frightful sense of presence all play a part. In his book "The Terror That Comes In The Night" Dr. Hufford informs us that some of the subjects he's worked with during his study didn't realize they were paralyzed during the nightmare because they had mistakenly 'assumed' they were simply too scared to move.

Of course, over the years, since the onset of the modern-day era of UFO encounters, witnesses have reported being paralyzed (or, partially paralyzed) during their sighting event. In some instances, the paralysis seems to be limited to an arm, a leg, or both legs - and some UFOlogists believe the reported paralytic symptoms are not indicative of a true paralysis simply, because the witnesses do not tend to lose their balance and fall down during their UFO experience as is often the case with true paralysis.

Are these Minisaucer encounters related to the large type UFO events? Can we assert with any degree of confidence Minisauces are similar to the foo-fighter encounters of yesteryear or, today's little globs of light which seem to herald the onset of an abduction experience? No, we cannot make such quantum leap of assumption regarding Minisaucer events! That doesn't mean we should dismiss the possible phenomenon simply, because we cannot weigh or measure it in a laboratory. It seems if we can gather enough information on experiences of this type, we may be able to establish a reasonable and acceptable estimate of the situation on its emergence, frequency and how we might feel about its potential significance as a down-to-earth "real" human experience which may have a larger scale counterpart. If reliable empirical data is to be established, we should search for it while interviewing witnesses!

However, just as we cannot hold a glass of love or, pour out a cupful of hate, we know these things are 'real' and have a

definite impact on our lives and shape world history. We cannot learn anything about a care giver's empathy and dedication to others by taking a sample of their tissue. These things are 'Personality traits' and evidence of human characteristics we call sympathy, compassion and charity.

If Minisauces are dream imagery which have autonomously appeared in our witnesses' "real" waking world, it seems reasonable to suspect some of the larger saucers may also hail from man's inner space (his subconscious mind) as well. Additionally, such a curiously mixed mental functioning may be the producer of many other paranormal events too.

I shall leave you with this miniature UFO case from Lograno, Spain. It reportedly occurred in 1972 and was sent to me by researcher Win Van Utrecht of Antwerp, Belgium. The story had appeared in a popular illustrated comic book publication in Europe (but is said to be a completely non-fictional account) So, the colorful illustrations are captioned in French. Wim was also kind enough translate the illustrated comic book panels for those of you who, like me, never had high school or college courses in the French language.

I wish to also mention Dargaud of France, which has offices in several European countries and Canada. Dargaud, the largest illustrated comic book distributor in the world is the source of this report, I deeply appreciate reproducing one of their fine illustrated UFO stories within this essay. Now to the Lograno Minisaucer case. (See inset on next page)

As suggested above. Minisaucer events appear to be every bit as strange and mysterious as the larger scale UFO experiences, with the exception being, they appear to be much smaller and the experience often occurs indoors. However, the witnesses are just as awe struck, just as perplexed by the event, and just as excited and serious about his or her reported experience as any other UFO observer might be. But, beyond the obvious 'strangeness' of the experience, a distinct possibility exists that UFOlogists of both the skeptics camp, as well as, the many E.T.V.H. proponents might realize both D.D. and D.P.P experiences may represent

some 'unknown percentage' of reported UFO experiences which might be classified quite differently than common or, prosaic misidentifications or, assumed E.T. visitations.

Yes, with D.D. events the witnesses probably have made an error in their interpretation of what they had observed. But, that is not the end of the story - and they should not be ridiculed, shown to be poor observers or considered embellishers of fact regarding their experience(s) which are 'real' enough in symbolic content and subjective meaningfulness. While D.P.P. may represent a type of combined mental mechanics previously not considered as a causal factor in the sighting(s) at all.

So, perhaps the methodologies of inquiry employed by proponents and skeptics during the twentieth century should be revised to include these types of all-too-human UFO events. We cannot simply classify them as prosaic misidentifications or, assumed alien visitations simply because, the witnesses may be accurately reporting a 'real life' experience with something they call UFOs since there is presently no other acronym or, term to accurately describe them. Presenting Minisaucer observer(s) as 'unique' individuals who had a truly bizarre, but 'real' experience. Skeptics might adopt the same successful tactic the saucer experts use to promote their beliefs and exploit the entertainment media with throngs of celebrities of paranormal/UFO encounters. It would be an opportunity to offer something new, unheard of, exciting and mysterious to the pop-culture enthusiasts.

I am eager to learn of other such experiences which "SUNlite" readers may wish to share. The above essay is offered as opinion and speculation piece, not factual scientific data.

Of course, it may be that less vivid Minisaucer productions might produce imagery which when viewed in the walking state appears to allow stars in the background to be seen right through the object, or the object may appear to pass through a line of trees, etc. Thus, the widely accepted notion of a UFO being able to occupy the same space and time with another physical object may be a very fanciful leap of illogic?

"L'ETAT EN ESPAGNE, A
 L'OSMON, DANS LA NUIT
 DU 21 AU 22 JUIN 1942,
 J'AI EN, UN JEUNE SEIN,
 NABISSE, ETAT DANS
 SA CHAMBRE, ET LIGANT
 AU UT A SON CHERBI
 LA SECO FORMONNAT
 EN DOIRPINE, C'EST
 UN POU MUSICAL
 APRES LA FIN DES EMS-
 BUCHE J'AI EN NEU-
 GEA D'ETENDRE SON
 PORTE ET POUSSANT
 SEA ARRIERE, J'AI EN
 ENVIRON PEUX HEURES
 DU MATIN.

GOUDAN, L'ÉCLAIRAGE
SEMBLA AUGMENTER
D'INTENSITÉ. LE JEUNE
HOMME REPOSANT SON
VISE, CONTRAINT AVEC
SURPRISE QUE CET AC-
CROUSSEMENT DE LUMIÈ-
RE PROVENAIT DE
L'EXTÉRIEUR...

SA SURPRISE SE TRANSFORMA EN RIREUX, LORSQU'IL VIT LES NOTES TANTO DE LA RÈGLE DE SA CHAMBRE S'OUVRIR LENTEMENT. POUR LUISE ÉCHAPPA À L'OBJET LUMINEUX QU'AVANÇAIT EN SILENCE.

L'OBJET VINT EN LIGNE
DROITE, NOUS AU CENTRE
DE LA BALLE ET S'ARRETA
S. LES DEUXIÈMES ETATENT
DE L'OBJET PE SOUS QUIN
ZIÈMES DE LONG SUR
UNE TENDANCE
DE DIAMÈTRE SA FORME
ETAIT OVALE ET DES
CONTOURS DURESSANT
ANIMÉS D'UNE VIBRATION
INFINE ET ÉTATENT
RAPIDE SA SURFACE
INTENSIFIAIT L'UNIFORME
ETAIT ÉCLAIRANT NUE
ET DONNAIT L'IMPRESSION
D'ÊTRE MÉTALLIQUE

TERREUR. FAE CETTE PRÉSENCE DONT L'ÉTRANGÈRE LUI SEMBLAIT MENAÇANTE, JAVIER SE REFUSAIT INSTINCTIVEMENT SOUS LES COUVERTES.

A CE MOMENT, L'OBISQ, QUI SE TENAIT A PEU PRÈS DE LA HAUTEUR DU PUNCHER, PERÇANT BRUSQUEMENT À LA VERTICALE, ET S'IMMOBILISAIT À UNE QUARANTINE DE CENTIMÈTRES DU SOL.

LE SON LI, JAVIER N'OSAIT QUITTER L'OBJET DES YEUX, CRAINANT UNE AGRESSION...

QU'EST-CE QUE CELA PEUT BIEN ÊTRE ? UN JOUET TÉLÉGUIDÉ ? UNE PARCE ?... MAIS AUCUN GARÇON NE POURRAIT SE MOUVRE ET ÊTRE IMMOBILISÉ DANS L'AIR D'UNE FAÇON AUSSI PRÉCISE, AUSSI PARFAITE !...

CONSTATANT ÉGALEMENT QUE, DEPUIS L'ARRIVÉE DE CET OBJET, LE POSTE À TRANSISTOR ÉMETTAIT DES SONS ÉTRANGERS, ALORS, JOUER, BUT ALORS L'IDÉE D'ENREGISTRER CES BRUITS SUR LE MAGNÉTOPHONE QUI ÉTAIT PLACÉ À PROXIMITÉ DE SON LIT.

APRÈS AVOIR MIS LE MAGNÉ-
PHONE EN MARCHÉ, LE JEUNE
HOMME VIT L'ÉNIGMATIQUE
OBJET DESCENDRE ENCORE
PLUS PRES DU SOL, ET S'IM-
MOBILISER À NOUVEAU, PUIS
IL VIT POINDRE À SA SURFACE
QUELQUE CHOSE ÉVOQUANT
UNE ANTENNE QUI S'ALLON-
GEAIT LENTEMENT, PROGRES-
SIVEMENT, EN DIRECTION DU
POSTE DE RADIO...

C'ETAIT EN FAIT UN RAYON DE LUMIERE AU TORCE PARFAITEMENT NET ET RECTILIGNE, D'ASPECT POIDS, PONT L'INTENSITE LUMINEUSE ETAIT IDENTIQUE A CELLE DE L'OEIL.

L'EXTÉRIEUR DU RAYON ATTEIGNIT LE POSTE DE RAPID ET LE FT OSCILLER PUIS, PROCEDENT A LA MANIERE D'UNE COONE D'ESCARBOUT, LE RAYON SE RETRACTA DE QUELQUES CENTIMETRES ET REPRIIT SA LENTE PROGRESSION POUR TOUCHER, A NOUVEAU LE TRANSMISSION QUI SE MIT A OSCILLER UNE SECONDE FOIS SOUS L'IMPACT LEGER..

APRES CELA, SE RETRAIANT JUSQU'À LA MOITIÉ DE SA LONGUEUR, LE RAYON S'ALLONGE ET MONTRE LE VEAU ALLANT EXPLODER CETTE FOIS LE MANSION-POUR-POUR POSÉ SUR LA CHAISE.

... PLUS TOUJOURS AVEC LENTEUR,
ÉTRANGE SAVON SE DESKORSA
COMPLÈTEMENT POUR DISSIPATER
FINALEMENT DANS L'OBJET C'ÉLUI-
C) REMONTA ENSUITE À SA HAU-
TEUR INITIALE ET APRÈS UN NOU-
VEAU ARRÊT IL REPARUT COMME IL
ÉTAIT ARRIVÉ, FRANÇAISANT LA
FENÊTRE EN LIÈGE DROITE.

« ET TANDIS QUE S'ESTOMPAIENT
LES SIGNAUX ÉMIS PAR LE TRAN-
SMISSEUR, LE JEUNE GÉNARALISTE
VIT UNE DERNIÈRE FOIS L'OBJET
MYSTÉRIEUX QUI SE TROUVAIT
DANS LA NUIT AVANT DE DISPA-
RAÎTRE DÉFINITIVEMENT. DE SON
PASSAGE, IL NE RESTE QUE LE
SEUL TÉMOIGNAGE DE JANVIER...
ET UNE SONDRE MAGNÉTIQUE
REPRODUIRANT DES SONS ÉTRAN-
GEMENT AGISS... »

[Translation]

1. Almost the totality of the sightings we recounted so far, concerned objects of respectable dimensions. Yet, there exist several eye-witness testimonies mentioning objects of which the size does not exceed several tens of centimeters. Sometimes, these are merely balls of light, like the “foofighters” which have been seen escorting airplanes during the last war, but there are also objects of a reduced size with a solid aspect. Naturally, the appearance of a UFO, no matter what size it has, always constitutes a remarkable phenomenon. But their apparition is even more amazing when it happens at your place, in your own home!...

2. ... It was in Spain, at Logrono, in the night of June 21-22, 1972. Javier, a young seminarian, was in his room, reading in bed. On his pedestal cupboard, the radio was playing softly, creating a musical background... After the broadcast had stopped, Javier neglected to turn off the radio and continued to read. It was approximately two in the morning...

3. ... All of a sudden, the lighting seemed to increase in intensity... The young man put down his book and noticed to his surprise that this increase in light came from outside...

4. Surprise transformed into fear when he watched the windows of his room slowly opening... to form a go between for a luminous object that moved in silence!...

5. The object moved in a straight line to exactly the centre of the room and stopped. Its dimensions were about 50 cm in width and 30 cm in diameter. Its shape was ovoid and its outline seemed to be animated with a continuous and extremely rapid vibration. Its surface was intensely lighted and absolutely naked and gave the appearance of being metallic.

6. Terrified by this presence, the strangeness of which seemed menacing, Javier instinctively hid under the blanket.

7. At that moment, the object, which was two metres above the wooden floor, descended vertically at high speed and immobilized at about forty centimeters from the ground.

8. From his bed, Javier didn't dare to leave the object out of sight, fearing for an act of aggression...

"What on Earth could that be?... A radio controlled gadget?... A joke?... But no gadget can move like that and immobilize itself in the air in such a precise and perfect manner!..."

9. Noticing that, since the arrival of the object, the transistor had been emitting strange, high-pitched sounds, Javier got the idea to record these noises on the tape-recorder that was placed close to his bed.

10. After having started the tape-recorder, the young man saw the enigmatic object descend even further and immobilize again. Then he spotted something coming from its surface, something that reminded him of an antenna that slowly grew longer and progressively went in the direction of the radio...

11. ... It was in fact a ray of light, perfectly shaped, clear and straight, that looked solid and the intensity of which was identical to that of the object.

12. The extremity of the ray reached the radio and made it oscillate. Then, acting "like snail feelers do" the ray retracted a few centimeters and regained its slow progressive movement to touch the transistor again which oscillated a second time due to the light impact...

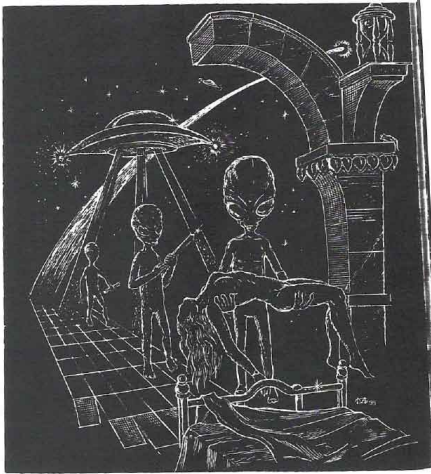
13. After that, retracting to about half of its length, the ray got longer again, this time to explore the tape-recorder that was on the chair.

14. ...Then, always slowly, the strange beam retracted completely to finally disappear into the object. The latter ascended to its initial height and, after a new stop, it left the way it had entered, crossing the window in a straight line.

15. ...And while the signals emitted by the transistor radio went dead, the young seminarian watched the mysterious object for the last time as it climbed in the night before finally disappearing... leaving only Javier's testimony and a magnetic tape reproducing strange high-pitched sounds as witnesses to its visit.

Sex and Saucers

by Matt Graeber



UFOs, like Bigfoot, the Loch Ness monster and the Easter Bunny myths are great examples of a mass-shared delusion, which compels me to write this brief article. However, I nevertheless, like chocolate bunnies and even tolerate friends who actually believe in undiscovered monsters in the wild. I have learned to tolerate them almost as much as I've learned to endure the rants of self-proclaimed UFO experts who are obviously obsessed or, wily charlatans. However, I also feel a twinge of obligation to the young, the gullible and the unsuspecting of our society who watch cable TV programs on strange abduction stories, saucer crashes and sixty-two year old government cover ups.

While such fantasy and folklore does have a place in science fiction writing, it crosses the line when it is presented as fact, re-written history and reality. Well... the gauntlet has been tossed to the ground, and I am forced to speak out as the ex-director of a small pro-UFO group which sought the phantoms of the skies for years. Not quite as many years as the larger groups like MUFON and CUFOS, but we did go back to when the defunct NICAP and APRO authorities were the top dogs in saucerdom.

Within a couple of years we had detected absolutely NO TRENDS or meaningful spikes in our database, despite our use of a very detailed six-page computerized spread sheet. Our areas of investigation included three states (Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware.) Moreover, we received reports directly from two

major news paper outlets, several police departments, a total of five military and civilian aircraft facilities and the Franklin Institute's Fels Planetarium. We also investigated reports from the public, interviewed eye-witnesses, maintaining contact with some of them for many years. Unlike some of the major groups, we wanted to know about the observer(s) just as much as what he or she had observed.

Anyway, I guess, without going into a long-winded diatribe on the subject, it suffices to say 'IF' the experts actually knew what the hell they were talking about, they would not be riding one UFO-logical phase after the other these many years. I've been around long enough to recall UFO books which included rains of blood, fish, frogs and slag falling from the skies. They also described UFOs shaped like Christian Crosses and Star's of David. It was believed by the expert's that UFOs would not land, until the reports defied that prediction and little spacemen were seen running about on the ground too. The phases continued. Hollow earth bases became popular, as did the belief in secret NAZI aircraft testing from within the hollow earth facilities. The contactee movement had already blossomed as folks told stories of spaceship rides to the Moon, Mars and Venus. Even nonexistent planets such as Clarion emerged along with a growing number of photos. The saucer celebrities had vaulted from enthusiastic sub-cultural gatherings into mainstream radio and television popularity.

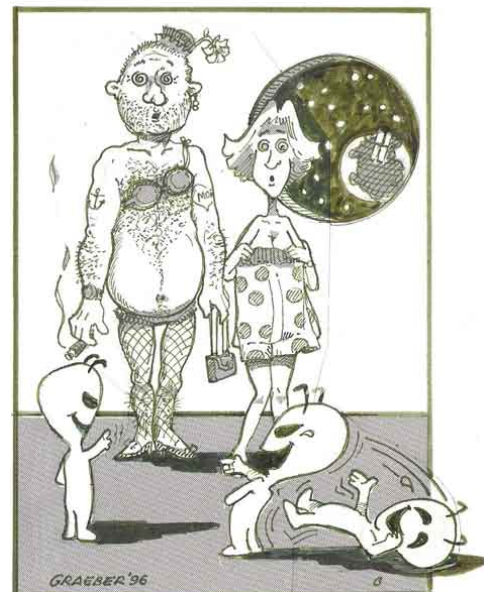
Gone were gals like the lovely Gloria Lee Byrd and her arousing lectures on "Saucers, Science and Sex", along with other earth females who told of sexual liaisons with 'skilled in the bedroom arts' spacemen. UFOs were no longer a 'chump change' crack-pot phenomenon as curiosities like Joe Simonton's pancake breakfast with 'Italian-looking' saucer men-in-black, and Buck Nelson's selling little packets of fur from a Martian dog slipped into extinction. Yes, UFOlogy had become a growing entertainment industry unto itself. Long dead saucer reports were dug up, propped up, presented as 'proof'. 'Smoking gun evidence' of one type or another was presented as well. The abduction stories fired up the imagination of the fantasy prone, and the rat-

ings hungry cable TV production people as well - while self-appointed experts embraced and exploited all the nonsense.

The "Sex and Saucer" stories reappeared with little bulbous-headed men wielding syringes and anal probes of various description (Hmmm, Herr Doktor Freud would have loved it!). Both earth men and women were kidnapped, subjected to abuses and violated. Yet, no missing person reports flooded police departments (Despite the experts knowing exactly who the aliens were uninterested in abducting) as thousands of people were kidnapped repeatedly, and returned to their beds... occasionally wearing a stranger's underwear! Of course, IF the spacemen were so marvelous in bed, why would a spacefem bother to pick up an earthman, possibly suffering from a variety of sexual hang ups, etc? She could have stayed home and spared herself a long trip.

A shocked judge blushed in divorce court as an angry wife told of her unfaithful husband's liaison's with a wanton spacefem. I'm waiting to hear of a divorce case where a pair of tattered pink panties worn by a brawny trucker are presented as 'evidence' of alien abduction, NOT infidelity.

Ahhh yes, if you are around long enough everything comes full-cycle in one form or another. The trick is to read between the lines and make comparisons on these unbridled ill-logical fantasies..



E-mails to the editor

Fan Mail and a theory

Wow I read 29 pages in under an hour. Now I have a puzzler for you. Did you notice how actress Pauley Perrette from TV-NCIS looks just like Eileen Faton (Glenn's nurse) from the article, Who Is the Dummy? Case Closed Roswell. It's very clear that nurse Faton was abducted by aliens, sent through a time warp, and ended up on a hit TV series. Seems like the case for Roswell is still not closed.

Love your SUNlite newsletter, seems like I had to wait two months to read volume 2.

P.S. Tell Matt Graeber he rocks.

—Lucinda

Editor: Matt appreciates the complement. You have to wonder about the time warp idea. After all, it is Roswell and ANYTHING is possible.

Some notes about Robert Todd

Just a word of appreciation for the birth of SUNlite, a much needed skeptical publication on UFOs. I especially appreciated the commemorations of Phil Klass and my friend Robert Todd. I spent many hours on the phone with Bob since the early 1980s. I had long urged him to do a newsletter that eventually resulted in Cowflop Quarterly, something I mailed for Bob with my own Just Cause. Boy did I catch hell from the UFO community for doing that. But Bob had done so much for unveiling government UFO documents it was the least that could be done. He changed the newsletter name to "The Spot Report" because he feared he was damaging my reputation by having me mail what Jerry Clark once thought was such a scatologically-named publication. The fact is that I never complained about it, having seen military veteran's publications with even more so-called scatological headers, and I told Bob not to bother changing it. I think he felt he made his points after about 7 issues and did not do any more.

SUNlite was the first time I saw Bob's picture anywhere.

—Barry Greenwood

Editor: I am grateful for the comments from Mr. Greenwood. I am glad that "The Roswell files" web site has all of Robert Todd's newsletters available on-line. They are worth the read and people should take the time to look at them.

UFO proponents vs Skeptics

I find that I do have to agree with him (Matt Graeber), in that the skeptical community did indeed drop the ball in regards to popular, mainstream, ufology. To the point where the other side of the debate has been able to introduce its own negative meanings to the words 'skeptic' and 'debunker' into the everyday lexicon.

Admittedly, it was always going to be an uphill battle for skepticism to prevail. Those ufologists who proclaim that the saucers have landed, the government has conspired, and those contactees who let us know that our space brothers love and care for us, have one thing that the skeptic will never have - an easy to digest message that answers the question "What are these UFOs". And that answer is exciting since it taps into our fantasies and fears, our hopes and dreams. In reality it is completely false, since at best the only honest answer is one along the lines of "At this point in time, it is still unidentified."

So how then, can a 21st century skeptic compete against a movement that has in part mastered flim-flamery and religious ideology? This is a slippery slope to walk. Personally, I would suggest that skeptics avoid being baited into refuting any 'pro'-ufologist's top 20 supposedly 'irrefutable' cases.

The hardline believer is going to claim victory no matter what. Rather than being picked apart by your 'ignorance' of trivial details, which do little more than give your opponent the facade of 'knowledge', perhaps it is better to discuss some of the stranger ufo cases, or divert the discussion toward getting the believer to explain in his own words why it is so important for people to believe. Certainly do not get bogged down in a war of words when you're fighting on the ground your opponent has chosen...

—Michael

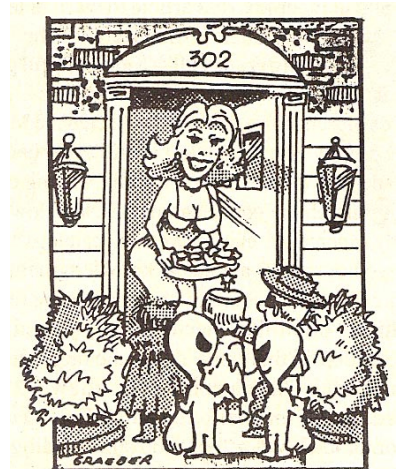
Editor: I had to edit this down to get to the main point of Michael's e-mail. To be honest, I dislike the idea of Skeptics "battling" UFOlogists or "us against them". I



try and view it as two opposing opinions about the same problem for which there is no solution...yet. Too often proponents ignore critical information and it is my desire to make sure everyone gets the rest of the story. I have no interest in swaying those who want to believe in UFOs. They will always draw their conclusion based on emotion. I am more interested in providing the information to those willing to make a more objective evaluation of the evidence.

Matt Graeber responds

I just wanted to take a moment to thank Lucinda and Michael for their very kind and thoughtful comments about my articles in SUNlite. I also wanted to say to Barry Greenwood that Bob Todd always spoke very fondly of you. I am happy to know you liked the piece I penned about Phil Klass and Bob in SUNlite. Perhaps, one day, I will have the opportunity to write about Karl Pflock? He too, was a UFOlogical legend in his own time, a good friend and a wonderful person. I miss these friends very much.



"SEE, I TOLD YOU THIS IS A GREAT WAY TO LOOK 'EM OVER BEFORE WE ABDUCT THEM."

UFO Mystery solved!

Skeptics and Debunkers distraught over news

Mr. Ivan Michael Wright has announced that the UFO mystery has been solved and that some UFOs are proven to be alien spaceships. Author of many UFO books and lectures about using science to study UFOs, Mr. Wright chose to skip scientific protocols and peer review to make his announcement on his blog, "A divergent viewpoint". *"I thought it was important to let the world know"*, said Mr. Wright, who compares himself with Galileo. *"For some reason, people aren't listening to me outside the UFO community,"* I.M. professed. *"All the evidence is there and the darned scientists are not looking at it because the mean debunkers and USAF are preventing them from doing so."*

Asked for comment, the USAF spokesperson, Lt. Nobody answered, *"We don't do that job anymore. Here is a fact sheet to show you what we discovered when we were doing it over forty years ago."* When asked what he thought of Mr. Wright's claim, the officer simply stated, *"He should present his evidence to scientists. We are not interested in this anymore."*

When this astounding new information was presented to astronomer, Dr. Ben Allen Dish, he wondered, *"Why haven't I read this in any scientific journal?"* Dr. B. A. Dish, who is the director of the Mount Randile observatory, explained his telescopes are conducting sky surveys every night for asteroids that could collide with earth. He reports that they have recorded some that are only about fifty feet across. They have yet to see any of these alien spaceships approach the earth. Meanwhile, Dr. Stephen Edward Ti, an astronomer studying radio signals for possible signs of alien life elsewhere in the universe, stated his network of radio receivers have yet to hear any radio signals from these spaceships. *"Maybe we are tuned to the wrong frequencies,"* Dr. Ti remarked.

When asked how the aliens crossed the immense void of space to come to earth, Mr. I.M. Wright responded that his colleague, Mr. Kant B. Rong, had shown how easy it was to travel in space and in between the stars in just a short period of

time. When reached for comment, Kant said, *"The rocket scientists are all wrong. It does not take that much energy to approach the speed of light and it won't take long for the crew to get to the nearest star."* Asked if he will be the next head of NASA, Mr. Rong responded that the scientific community thinks his ideas will not work. He feels that inside politics are preventing the secrets about UFOs and space travel from being revealed. Kant is hoping that newly elected President will expose the truth about UFOs and then he may get that job at NASA.

Dr. Cesare Simplicio, Chairmen of the world UFO investigation committee, applauded Mr. Wright's announcement. *"It is about time we broke the cabal of scientists who are preventing the truth from getting out,"* he declared. *"I know for a fact that amateur and professional astronomers refuse to report that they are seeing alien spaceships fly through our skies on a daily basis. They say they never see anything but the truth is they are working with the USAF to hide the truth."*

When local amateur astronomer, Deborah Uncker, was asked to comment, she reacted, *"I am not sure what Dr. Simplicio is talking about. We have local sky watches twice a week at various locations for schools and the public. Nobody has ever reported such a thing."* Deb added that the most unusual thing she ever saw was a fuel dump by a booster rocket. Ms. Uncker encouraged everyone to come out to their next skywatch, weather permitting. Her e-mail address is debUncker@starz.comet so people can get details of when and where.

A decade ago, Dr. Peter Sturrock held a UFO presentation for a panel of scientists to see what they thought of the evidence. Mr. Wright and Mr. Rong did not attend but several UFO proponent scientists were present. According to Dr. Sturrock's book on the subject, the panel did not find any of the evidence compelling enough to conclude that aliens were visiting the earth. Has the evidence for aliens improved that much in just over a

decade? Dr. Don Worddance is a professor of physics emeritus for the university of Denver. While he did not serve on the panel, he has read the materials presented and basically agreed with the panel's conclusion. About Mr. Wright's statement, Dr. Worddance commented, *"If there is new evidence, I suggest Mr. Wright present it in the proper forums for scientific debate. I would love to see the information presented properly so all could examine his data and determine if his conclusions are accurate."*

Mr. John "Skip" Teck, is a science writer for a local magazine. Mr. Teck explained, *"Mr. Wright states people refuse to look at his data,"* Mr. Teck explained. *"I have and I just don't see how he could draw such a conclusion based on the available evidence. There are no UFO cases that have been positively 'identified' as alien in nature."* When asked about the comparison to Galileo, Skip laughed, *"I am not sure what kind of telescope Mr. Wright is looking through but it is more like a Kaleidoscope. If you turn the tube, what you see will change."*

To this, Mr. Wright responded that Mr. Teck and all the others were just ignorant individuals who do not want to examine the evidence with an open mind. *"The evidence is overwhelming,"* declared Wright. *"Only people with a preconceived idea about the universe are going to state the evidence we have collected is not enough."*

Ivan stated he had interviewed hundreds of witnesses to these events over the years and many saw aliens and craft that could not be of this earth. *"They have no reason to lie to me or exaggerate,"* stated Wright. He also added that he was very good at identifying people who do try to lie to him. *"I can always tell when they are lying or exaggerating. I don't think anybody could fool me,"* Mr. Wright proclaimed.

The characters in this article are fictitious and any resemblance to persons living or dead is purely coincidental

UFOs on the tube

Roswell fragment tested

I was going through my "on demand" menu one night and I stumbled across a selection titled "paranormal TV". I rolled my eyes but browsed through and saw a section marked "investigations". Again, I gave a heavy sigh, and selected this to see "Roswell spacecraft". I prepared myself for disappointment as I began to watch the 14 minute program.

The voice of the program was none other than Amanda Tapping of "Stargate" fame. I figured she was just following in Johnathan Frakes footsteps. The actual show was titled, "Proof positive: Evidence of the paranormal" and the first person we get to see is the UFO foot doctor, Roger Leir. He had in his possession a fragment from the Roswell UFO crash. When they showed the fragment, I recognized it! It was the same fragment that was "analyzed" back in 1997 and presented at the Roswell festival. Leir began making all sorts of claims and he was backed up by various individuals of dubious technical expertise. Jesse Marcel Jr. stated the fragment had some of the same characteristics he recalled from the debris he saw. Those characteristics seemed to be "color" and that it was "fractured". Marcel Jr. would later state he was an expert on the subject and felt it was unusual based on the way it looked.

According to the show, UFO investigator Jim Fuering got the piece some time ago from an anonymous gentleman who was stationed at Roswell in 1947. He gave it to his brother, Bob, who was a Commercial chemist. Bob declared that it was not a common material and it was "very unusual". Jim Fuering died of cancer in 2002. Before he passed away, the piece was supposedly tested by Dr. Russell Vernon Clark at the University of California at San Diego. These results were presented in 1997 at the Roswell festival with "Dr. Clark" and Paul Davids. The results came under scrutiny by several individuals and nothing was ever heard about the debris again.

Fast forward to 2001, when Leir and his associates planned on having a live press

conference showing the test results. They also planned on presenting it on the internet. When it came close to the day of the press conference, Leir received a phone call from the producer and told him the web site was down and there would be no press conference. Leir states that the producer had been taken for an eleven hour drive around San Francisco with two 'unnamed individuals' with 'proper credentials' who threatened the producer.

"Proof positive" deserves a thumbs up because this is where most UFO programs stop. Claims of a conspiracy and all sorts of nonsense are then presented. Instead, they had the material tested by a real expert, Dr. Kevin McKeegan at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). McKeegan is a geochemist at the department of Earth and Space sciences. After testing, he stated the piece of silicon was *"virtually identical to any piece of industrial silicon one might buy from a semiconductor manufacturer"*! Hooray for some science done by real scientists. This is why Leir and others never send their alien implants to real laboratories to be analyzed. It is easier to get some technician to do the work and then dress it up as something scientific.

Leir was not convinced. He claims people are mysteriously dying when they come in contact with the fragment, implying somebody is knocking them off. Leir is more confident in the 1997 test results made by "Dr. Vernon Clark", who, it turns out, never was employed by the University of California at San Diego. His credentials are suspect and he could not be found to be interviewed for the show. I can understand why Leir wants to trust the first results because it confirms his beliefs. However, it just demonstrates he is not being scientific.

Checking up on "Proof positive", I discovered it was, of all things, a Sci-Fi channel show that I must have missed a few years ago. It only had a one-year run. Perhaps debunking paranormal events was not something the Sci-Fi channel wanted. This particular show gets my thumbs up but I am not sure Dr. Leir agrees.

Book Reviews

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

Encounters at Indianhead - Karl Pflock and Peter Brookesmith ed.

If you want to learn about the Hill case, this is the book to buy. The book is written by nine different authors and each has his own opinion on the matter. This makes for a good debate and very interesting read. The reader is exposed to ALL points of view so he/she can be informed. It does not matter if you are a skeptic or proponent, I highly recommend it.

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

The interrupted journey - John G. Fuller

This book is pretty good and should be read if you want to learn about the Hill case as it was originally told. There are flaws and errors that were overlooked but it still has merit. If you want to start your Betty and Barney Hill adventure, this book is a good point to begin.

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

Captured! The Betty and Barney Hill experience: The true story of the world's first documented alien abduction - Stanton Friedman and Kathleen Marden.

Marden is the niece of Betty Hill and can not be considered an unbiased observer. Friedman, who believes in aliens visiting earth, is no better. One would think if it was as easy to go to the stars as Friedman suggests, he would be the head of NASA. There are just too many problems with this book to point out in this space. An aerial picture of the abduction site is shown but no precise location is given. The dress analysis made references to tests by a group that did not appear to be an unbiased scientific organization (with links to crop circle studies). The Fish map is discussed but only old arguments are mentioned. There is no discussion about recent data which could address the questions about it. Friedman even has a chapter about mean old debunkers! Is any of this new? Don't waste your time.