

SUNlite

Shedding some light on UFOlogy and UFOs



I am frequently written to saying, "How could I search for extraterrestrial intelligence and disbelieve we are being visited?" I don't see any contradiction at all. It is a wonderful prospect but requires the most severe and rigorous standards of evidence.

Carl Sagan-Kidnapped by UFOs

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UFOlogy run amok!

Since last issue, UFOlogy seems to have gone nuts. The festering wound that is abduction research suffered a serious blow, MUFON seems to be on the edge of splintering, and a classic UFO case is teetering on the edge of being exposed as a hoax.

Abduction research had been on shaky ground with the Emma Woods-David Jacobs controversy. It basically has become a public smear campaign on both sides. However, Woods seems to have the high ground. Meanwhile, Budd Hopkins ex-wife posted a long article that exposed him as a very gullible individual. Some have claimed this is a case of a woman scorned but few seem to be disputing the details she described.

The MUFON empire seems to be in revolt. It started when James Carrion exposed the details about his resignation. This followed with accusations that Clifford Clift, the new international director of MUFON, was cleaning house and firing state directors he did not like. Clift responded with an explanation of why certain state directors resigned or were fired. There was also a petition circulated to change MUFON's board of directors. Will this result in a splintering of MUFON or will cooler heads prevail? Stay tuned....

The recent Rendlesham revelations seems to have become quite the news. Penniston's little notebook is beginning to look like a UFO "horn of plenty", where it continues to spew forth material just when you thought it was all exhausted. I guess it is easy to add more pages to a book that has never been presented for examination. The whole case has taken

on a circus atmosphere and I am curious as to how many people are really buying all of this. To me it looks like more people doubt Penniston and Burroughs after their little show in Woodbridge. Of course, it inspired another commentary on the case by me in this issue.

Another case that is on the down slide seems to be the Trindade UFO case. Brazil UFO Magazine deserves the credit for finding Barauna's nephew and revealing that Barauna told him it was a hoax. Donald Menzel once described this case as, "A hoax notorious in UFO annals..." Could he have been right?

Over the past few issues, I have been discussing the Malmstrom UFO case and Robert Hastings desire to file a lawsuit against James Carlson. Carlson seemed perfectly willing to go to court but Hastings has yet to follow through on his threat. Tim Hebert's expertise on missile systems seems to have been noticed but mostly ignored. His blog, "Did it really happen?", should be a regular visit by those who want to look at the other side of the coin on the Malmstrom missile shutdown question. Just because I like "beating a dead horse", I wrote an article about trying to identify the real facts.

An e-mail was forwarded to me which originally came from Mark Easter of MUFON. He stated that SONY pictures was going to pay \$25/second of UFO videos that are "unexplained" so they could use it for promoting their upcoming "Battle of Los Angeles" movie. Shortly after this e-mail, a video of a UFO over Jerusalem went viral on Youtube. Many suspected a hoax and several people showed how

Cover: Kentaro Mori sent me some pictures of Trindade Island. I used a technique I describe in this issue to electronically create a "double exposure" image and "burned in" the UFO so it was darker than the sky.

Left: I think MUFON should change their logo to the new MUFON empire logo I have designed.

it could be done. Talk about your coincidences.....

Matt Graeber informs me he is pretty much done with writing articles. Apparently his health does not permit any more submissions. That is too bad. I have placed his final article on Exopolitics in this issue. I also added a brief piece he sent me about changing the name of UFOs to PAIs.

I have been informed that the National Geographic channel will be presenting a program on Area 51 this spring. It promises to be something more than recording videos from some mountain dozens of miles away through a telescope. I look forward to it. I will probably will review it in SUNlite 3-3.

The rest of the UFO merry-go-round continues to spin with nobody getting the gold ring. Maybe next year.....

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The new year hardly started and UFOlogists were acknowledging the great accomplishments of 2010. Rick Phillips gave us the top 10 events and trends of 2010.

10. Apparently, orb/ufo calling is considered something that is reliable. Despite this ability, nobody is able to call them for scientific study. It is one of those great UFO mysteries.

9. Then we have the "compelling evidence" claim, which includes the Mig-21 chase video (see page 5). It demonstrates a lack of any critical thinking and blind acceptance of questionable evidence.

8. It is not unusual for the main stream media (MSM) to jump on the bandwagon of a UFO case. They promote UFO cases when they become news of interest. After a few days, when nothing important is revealed, they drop the story. This has been happening since 1947 and 2010 was no different.

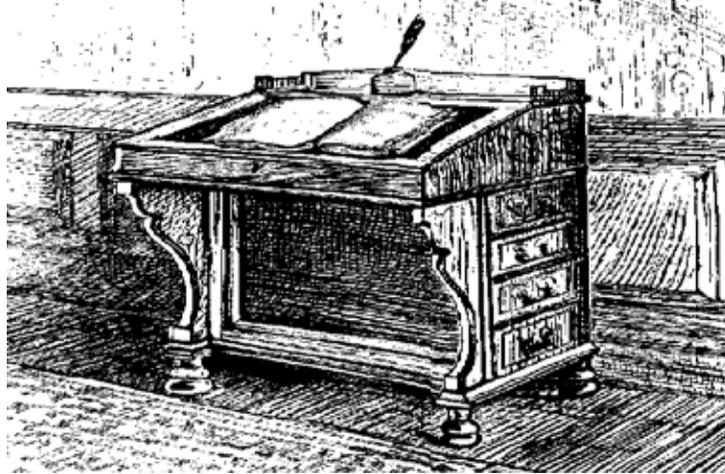
7. Despite publishing/broadcasting all these UFO reports, the MSM is being accused of being "reluctant" to discuss UFOs. Duh....maybe the more earthly concerns of those watching the news are more important than the concerns of a small percentage of the population in their own pet belief system (if you doubt me, look at the results of the Denver initiative 300 to see how important UFOs are to the general population). I guess they are ignoring bigfoot, fairies, the Loch Ness monster, the moon hoax, illuminati, and the other various conspiracies and exotic claims that exist in the world. If UFOlogy chose to do some serious work on the subject, the MSM might not ignore or laugh at the subject.

6. The instant somebody brings up the ridiculous claims of chemtrails and "fake planes", I start questioning their sanity. There is absolutely no scientific evidence for them and the video he shows of a plane displaying one wing is just a normal plane with its second wing in shadow.

5. Redfern's Final events book is just a book.

Who's blogging UFOs?

Hot topics and varied opinions



4. If UFO videos are "too good to believe" that they are real, then they probably are fake. There are a lot of hoaxers out there and with computer technology, it is not hard to do. See the recent Jerusalem video fiasco.

3. One of the examples of "blue ring phenomena" presented was the Centreville, Virginia blue UFO video. This turned out to be a remote controlled plane with blue LEDs.

2. The UFOs and Nukes press conference has been shown to contain testimony that is suspect. Of course, there is no sense in questioning the testimony when you want to believe it so bad that you blindly accept it as factual.

1. The Fulham prediction of October 13th really did not produce the event predicted. A balloon release in NY and the Golden Nights in Texas are perfectly acceptable explanations for those events. Where are all the others that were supposed to have happened?

Tim Hebert wrote several articles on what he thinks happened at Malmstrom in his "Did it really happen". Spurred on by the writings of Robert Hastings, Hebert has been taking apart

the little "fortress" Hastings and Salas have constructed piece by piece. His work is so thorough and convincing that Hastings has taken time to address it and Alfred Lehmborg has seen it fit that he argue with Hebert on who is correct.

Robert Hastings made a post about Dr. Clarke's recent commentary on his blog (mentioned last month).

Complaining that Dr. Clarke never gets his facts right, Hastings then ignores the facts recently outlined by Tim Hebert. When Hebert commented on the Hastings entry in the UFO chronicles blog (run by Frank Warren), Hastings/Warren chose not to respond. In this entry, and another posting at the UFO magazine blog, Hastings FINALLY decided to acknowledge that Walt Figel has stated recently that there was no UFO involve-

ment at Echo flight and he doubts UFO involvement at Oscar flight. This is interesting because roughly a year ago, Mr. Hastings had implied that James Carlson was lying when Carlson stated that Figel had said this. Hastings also implied that Figel was a coward because of his "change of position". However, this is no "change of position" because Figel states that he had told Hastings and Salas this all along. Figel even gave them Colonel Dick Evans' name to contact concerning the Oscar flight shutdown (the implication was Evans would say there was no Oscar shutdown). Apparently, Salas and Hastings did not mention these statements by Figel and his reference to Col. Evans. Doesn't this make Hastings and Salas guilty of committing lies of omission?

Robert Salas suggested that UFOlogy is winning the war on disclosure!

He points to his recent UFO and Nukes press conference as a pivotal moment and that facts support his case. The problem with this argument is that he does not have any real facts. He only has unsubstantiated claims that he thinks are facts.

The Argentine AF is supposedly going to research UFOs. Why do I suspect the AAF is going to conclude what everybody else has concluded? That being UFOs can

Who's blogging UFOs? (Cont'd)

not be seriously studied and the best one can do is explain most of the cases. Others will never be explained for a variety of reasons. If the Argentine Air Force wants to waste that kind of money, more power to them. I am sure the people of Argentina will eventually have a problem with it as more government funds are thrown into the black hole of UFO research and less on the populace. I am sure the Generals will also feel the pinch as they funnel their resources into this project.

Somebody (it appears to be Joe Facenda) has no idea what a meteor looks like. A video on Youtube called "stargazing live" had an astronomer outside at night. A meteor (probably around magnitude 0 or so) appeared in the background. The person from this web page declares it was extremely bright and should have produced a large impact crater. When I see these kinds of statements, I just shake my head. This looked and behaved exactly like a meteor and it was too small to have made any impact! It seems that some UFOlogists have little knowledge about celestial objects. Calling it an "orb" is a joke.

Billy Cox declared that the media is ignoring the scientific data regarding UFOs. His prize is the Stephenville MUFON report. What Cox fails to understand is that this is NOT a scientific report and the data was interpreted by UFO proponents looking for UFOs. I did not see this report being submitted to a scientific journal or being evaluated by qualified personnel outside the UFO field. It was also never subject to review for potential errors by experts. That is what makes a report scientific. Lastly, the report ignored/downplayed the potential for misperception by the witnesses. If science and the media (outside of Billy Cox's highly biased view) really investigated the events at Stephenville, they would discover that the report (which I HAVE read) is not the "holy grail" that Billy Cox states it is. Sometimes, I wonder if he actually reads anything critically or is he just parroting UFO dogma being fed to him by UFO organizations.

Michael Salla made a lot out of not much when he described the events at the Global Competitiveness Forum in Saudia Arabia. Under the misleading title

of "learning from outer space", people like Stanton Friedman and Nick Pope were able to sell the idea that UFOs can teach us something. Dr. Michio Kaku was also present and it would be interesting to hear his take on such pronouncements that aliens are visiting earth. Does he really believe that UFOs are actual alien spaceships or does he have a different opinion? To be honest, I am not sure what UFO reports can teach us other than people can misperceive things and people like Stanton Friedman can make money off of them. It certainly is not going to cause "disclosure" to happen.

Then we have the case of a MUFON investigator seeing an alien being during an investigation. However, despite being equipped for an investigation, their camera failed to get a picture of the UFOs or the alien. Isn't that always the case? Call me skeptical of the claim but it made the MUFON journal. I wonder why this earth shattering revelation didn't appear in more august publications.

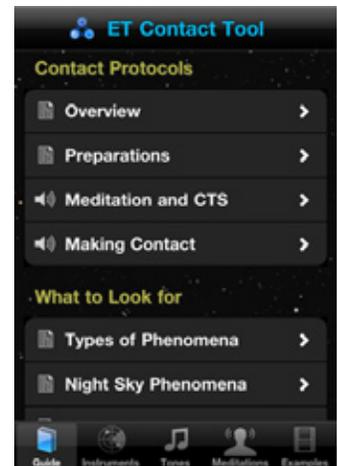
Bad UFOs summarized all the details regarding the recent Jerusalem UFO hoax. I thought of documenting how it was exposed but that would have taken away from the hard work of others. Plenty of very talented individuals in various forums completely debunked these videos. In less than two weeks, the videos were only being supported by those not willing to examine the evidence. This is another case of "If it looks too good to be true, it probably isn't".

Bad UFOs also reported that Peter Gerstein is threatening to jump off a mountain in Arizona on December 21, 2012. Supposedly a portal will open and allow him to jump into another dimension or something. For goodness sakes, didn't anyone learn from Heaven's Gate? If he does jump (and I hope he does not), I hope that he does not have any followers, who jump with him.

Jeff Peckman is running for mayor in Denver! Yes, the man who brought the city of Denver, the ET commission and "Safety through peace" initiative is hoping to lead the city of Denver. I wonder if he hopes more people will visit his web

site and purchase his useless Metatron technology? You have to give Peckman credit. He is a great pitchman and will do anything to get people to buy his bunk.

I had to laugh when somebody pointed out the CSETI I-phone App. Stephen Greer/CSETI are giving Jeff Peckman a run for his money. They found a new way to cash in on the gullible. For \$6.99, you can get your own ET contact tool. With your I-phone you can learn how to call UFOs to you by simply thinking/meditating about them. The "Instruments" tab has a "magnetometer" associated with it! Apparently, they are using the digital compass feature on the I-phone. I wonder if it pegs high when you point it north?



Frank Warren's UFO chronicles posted one of his frequent "UFO experiences". The witness suggested it was a potential meteorite but also described it as "tube-like". Well, in this case, the "I know what I saw" witness should have listened to his instincts. The American Meteor Society (AMS) has over 200 fireball reports in their database from all over the north-eastern US at the same time. This is another case of a bright meteor generating a UFO report. The claim of "I know what I saw" should actually be "I know what I think I saw". Skeptics don't usually question if a witness saw something. It is the interpretation by the witness and UFOlogists that are questioned.

Paul Kimball has posted his Best Evidence video on line. It is worth watching if you want to see what UFOlogy considers their "best cases" list.

The Roswell Corner

Glenn Dennis and Walter Haut

Kevin Randle wrote in his blog about his early interviews with Glenn Dennis. Randle confirmed that it was Walter Haut, who directed him towards Dennis. It seems that Haut was quite instrumental in presenting various individuals with dubious stories. According to Randle, Haut stated that the testimony of Kaufmann was highly accurate. In both cases, it seems that Haut was responsible for introducing questionable individuals into the Roswell tale. Why would somebody, who knew so much about what happened, be willing to introduce individuals with stories that were highly questionable and, apparently, false? Was he motivated to promote the spaceship cover-up scenario in order to conceal something else that he did not want everyone to know?

Jerome Clark not a Roswell fan?

Jerome Clark's letter to James Moseley regarding Roswell was published in the January Issue of Saucer Smear. There, Clark made the following statement about Roswell:

Let me clarify my argument for those who haven't read the piece. I wrote that however compelling or puzzling it may appear to be, however inadequate critics' counter-arguments may be shown to be, simple testimony can not establish the authenticity of something so extraordinary as an extraterrestrial crash. Even if the event itself were still covered in official secrecy, it would have all kinds of unconceivable ramifications in post-1947 history. Since even decades later no such ramifications are apparent, we can infer that the recovery of an ET vehicle at Roswell is unlikely even if it remains unclear exactly what did happen there.

There was more verbiage about "believers" and "non-believers" but this was the bottom line on the subject. It seems to me that Clark is stating that there is little to no evidence that an alien spaceship

crashed at Roswell. He is not taking sides on the issue and wants to appear to sit on the fence post on this. However, his statement that there was no indication of an ET crash, implies that it was a non-event. Isn't that what skeptics have been saying all along?

"Outing" Roswell scientists

In another lengthy Bragalia piece he suggests that he is going to expose any scientist who was involved with studying crashed material from the Roswell saucer. Highlighted by two unverifiable stories told by scientists, who are currently active, Bragalia makes his case that exotic materials are/were being examined/tested at Lawrence Berkeley labs. Of course, none of these stories can be verified and Bragalia produces no names. This sort of brings into question his integrity when he states he plans on exposing all these scientists who are keeping things secret. Why not start with these two? What makes them so special that they deserve a free pass?

Where are the bodies?

Anthony Bragalia announced to me his latest news that he now knows where the alien bodies/live aliens are located. In his e-mail announcement he declared the Kent Jeffrey was a weak researcher and his work was of questionable quality. That is his opinion but I really can not give credibility to researchers, who put significant weight on hearsay testimony. This kind of thing usually does not stand up in court so I am not sure why it would stand up in actual research. Of course, this is Roswell, where suspect testimony is always welcome as long as it tells us that ET crashed at Roswell. The bottom line is that the bodies are located at the Dugway proving grounds in Utah. Over the years, we have been told they were located at Wright-Patterson, Area 51, Edwards AFB, Dulce, etc. Where next.....the White house basement?

The debris field

One of the most popular stories that get circulated about Roswell is the idea that the debris field at the Foster Ranch was this immense area that was littered with hundreds (if not thousands) of small pieces/fragments of metallic

material. This is based on the early tellings of the story in the late 1970s by Jesse Marcel and interpreted by film makers and UFOlogists. However, what was the story in 1947? Mack Brazel stated in his Roswell Daily Record interview that the material was "scattered" over an area of about 200 yards. Jesse Marcel told the Fort Worth Telegram in 1947 that they found a few more patches of material when looking about the ranch. These are the only descriptions we have of what the debris field looked like. There are no photographs of the debris field so these early statements are the best we have. Even in the 1970s, Marcel used the term "scattered" when describing the debris field. The term "scattered" indicates material spread out unevenly and not densely packed. Any attempt to suggest the debris field was anything more than that is ignoring these statements in favor of a pre-determined conclusion.

Below: Three versions of the debris field. The top is based on parts of a MOGUL balloon train deposited on a field (Discovery Times - The best evidence - Roswell). The second comes from "UFOs are real" in the 1970s. The last is the debris field as visualized in the Showtime movie "Roswell" based on "UFO crash at Roswell".



In SUNlite 2-3, I mentioned that Billy Cox had put a video on his blog that was a fake. This video continues to make its way onto various UFO web sites and blogs as good evidence of an attempted UFO intercept by a MIG-21. This article will hopefully set the record straight.

THE SOURCE OF THE UFO VIDEO



The source of the video is from a television program called "The secret KGB UFO files" and was broadcast in 1998. There are several clips of aircraft and UFOs that are actually shown to be hoaxes.

The first video shows a cockpit view of a fighter jet (that is identified as a MIG-21) pursuing a cylinder-type UFO, which breaks away at the end of the clip (see image below - arrow indicates UFO being pursued). If this video is accurate, this should be excellent evidence for UFOs being pursued by Russian aircraft.



But all is not as it appears

Over the past few years, several discussion groups noted some serious problems with the video. The most glaring issue has to do with pilot's ejection seat. This is claimed to be a MIG-21 video. However, the seat shown is not the type used in a MIG-21. In this image, one can see the MIG-21 at left. Note the missing handles from the top of the seat. The actual ejection seat shown in the clip is called an ACES-II (seen at right) and is used in USAF jets. The most likely source

The MIG-21 UFO video hoax



is an F-15. This was noted by many in the various groups. One has to wonder the provenance of the video if it isn't a MIG-21. Is it possible this was an F-15 pursuit of a UFO?

The answer was provided when I found a video debunking the clips showing jets with UFOs in the KGB files program. An individual by the signature of Asyrix007 posted a youtube video on December 12, 2007. According to the person producing this clip, the actual video was taken from



a 1989 program called "Russian Top Gun". I obtained a copy and found the exact clips that were "modified" to show UFOs. The cloud patterns are the same but missing is the cylindrical UFO. The actual footage is from an F-15 intercepting a TU-20/95 Russian bear aircraft. One

can see the aircraft in the image below (marked by arrow). One has to question the expertise of "former USA DIA agent



H" and "former Soviet Intelligence Officer Col. V.M.S." How could they not notice the jet ejection seat problem among other things? Were the producers of the program in on the hoax or were they just fooled by the person, who supplied the footage.

It is not just this one video clip that was "modified" to show a UFO. Another clip from the film showed an F-16 flying through the clouds with a UFO flying alongside it. This same footage is found in the Russian top gun video with the UFO missing. Compare the upper image from the Russian top gun video with the lower image from the KGB files (UFO marked by arrow)!



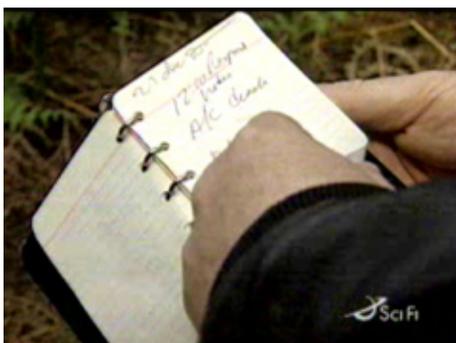
These video clips have become standard postings in many UFO blogs and web sites no matter how many groups have debunked them.

Viewer beware!

Last issue's article by Peter Merlin demonstrated that producers of these types of programs sometimes attempt to deceive the viewer in order to show things as they want them. In this case, they knowingly or unknowingly perpetrated a hoax on the audience. Like most (if not all) UFO videos, close scrutiny usually reveals the source or a hoax. As I am often fond of saying about any UFO video/photographs, "If it seems too good to be true, it probably isn't."

Rendlesham's holy relics and prophets

On December 28th, a special presentation occurred at the Woodbridge community hall, which featured Nick Pope, John Burroughs, Jim Penniston, Larry Warren, Peter Robbins and Linda Moulton Howe. This special "gathering" was a stage for Jim Penniston and John Burroughs to present their latest version of what happened back in 1980 and turn the case in a new direction. What they presented seems to have cast serious doubt on their credibility and has turned the Rendlesham case into a circus with both Burroughs/Penniston playing the role of the clowns jumping out of the small car.



The magic notebook

Since Penniston started officially speaking to interviewers, he has made mention of his notebook, which contained information relating to the events that happened that fateful morning in 1980. When he used the pseudonym of James Archer, the notebook was never mentioned. Even after it was mentioned, it was not presented for viewing. It was not until the Sci-Fi channel's 2003 expose' on the Rendlesham case, where some of the pages were presented for all to see.

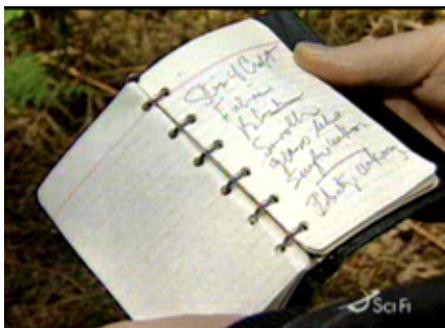
Ian Ridpath points out that the pages seen on the program present a puzzling mystery. The page describing the beginning of the incident gives the date of 27 December and the time of 12:20 am. The page showing the end of the event states it was at 2:45 am. This is in complete disagreement with the statements made shortly after the incident by Penniston, Cabansag, Burroughs, Buran, and Chandler. Those that gave dates and times

stated the event started around 0300 on the 26th of December. Even Halt's memo states the events occurred at 0300. Therefore, there is something wrong with the notebook. Why is Penniston's notebook in disagreement with this information?

Even more confusing is what Penniston said was written in the notebook to A.J.S. Rayl of Omni magazine.

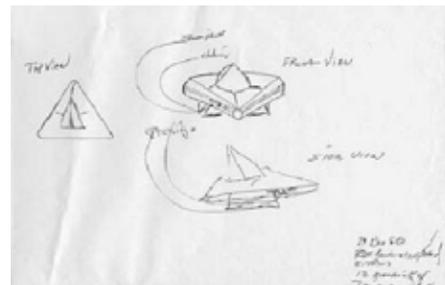
Triangular in shape. The top portion is producing mainly white light, which encompasses most of the upper section of the craft. A small amount of white light peers out the bottom. At the left side center is a bluish light, and on the other side, red. The lights seem to be molded as part of the exterior of the structure, smooth, slowly fading into the rest of the outside of the structure, gradually molding into the fabric of the craft.'

Ridpath points out that the notebook seen in the Sci-Fi channel program (as well as "I know what I saw" and "Britain's Roswell") does not contain this statement. Instead of extensive notes, most of what appeared were scribblings that appeared to have been written in haste. Completely missing is what Penniston states was in the book at the time of the Rayl interview.



To add to this problem, Ian Ridpath states that John Burroughs told him two years ago that Penniston had no time to write into a notebook that night. How was James Penniston able to write in the book under such conditions? Is it possible these notes were written years later after he started telling his story about examining a craft? The notebook itself uses binding rings so the pages can be added and removed with ease.

Another interesting point brought up by Ridpath has to do with a drawing made



Penniston's sketch that appeared in 1997. Penniston stated in Leslie Kean's book that it was the drawing he presented to AFOSI agents. How did the drawing survive if AFOSI had it and Penniston's actual statement? From James Easton's UFOworld web site (no longer available).

by Penniston of the craft. This drawing has been circulating for over a decade and was dated either 27 or 29 December 1980. The paper is different from the notebook's paper. Was this a sketch Penniston made days after the event and why is it significantly different than the one he had made in his original statement?

While Ian makes note that the military time is not used (i.e. 0020), I can understand Penniston using civilian notation especially if it is not an official document. However, Ridpath is correct in that these times and dates are wrong. When he asked Penniston in the Rendlesham forum about the inconsistency in the dates, Penniston told him that the dates and times are correct.

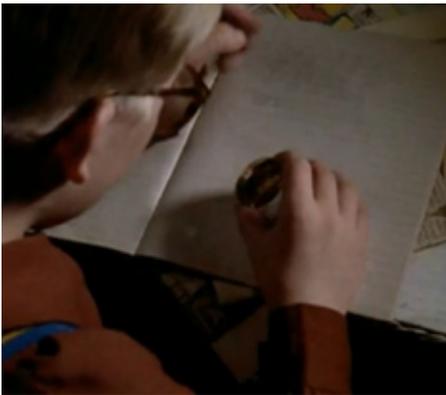
Finally, we have the recent testimony of Colonel Conrad, the base commanding officer. He actually talked to Penniston shortly after the events of that night. Penniston did not present the notebook. According to Colonel Conrad, the drawings he saw were not of a triangular object and appeared consistent with the sketch made in his statement.

01001000011011110110
00010111100000111111

At the December 28th conference, Jim Penniston revealed that he had



The original sketch that accompanied Penniston's statement from 1980. Penniston contends this was produced by AFOSI agents and his drawing at the top of the page is the correct one he drew after the incident. From James Easton's UFOworld web site (no longer available).



Coding/decoding binary is not much more difficult than using a Little Orphan Annie decoder ring. Be sure to drink your Ovaltine!

received a download of information into his brain that night when he touched the craft. It was all ones and zeros according to him and he did not understand it. On the 27th, he chose to write down all of these ones and zeros into his notebook. Twenty-four hours had elapsed and, amazingly, Penniston was still able to reproduce the information easily in his magic notebook.

For thirty years, Penniston was relatively quiet about this code in the notebook and barely mentions binary code in a 1994 hypnosis session. If he knew back then it was binary, why didn't he produce the data at that moment? In Leslie Kean's book, he never mentioned it at all even though he showed some of the pages in his notebook. Instead, he miraculously produces the code on the 30th anniversary of the incident. Was it because he finally figured out how to transfer the message he wanted to say into binary code by using a converter or a simple conversion table of ASCII to binary?

In the Sci-Fi Channel's "UFO invasion at Rendlesham", Penniston gives a reasonable showing of the contents of his notebook. Several times, you get to see various pages. Watching the video and looking at all the frames, I counted ten pages (one additional page was partially visible). Sometimes, you can see pages beyond the ones he is showing. Some are blank and some have bits of writing on them. In the film, "I know what I saw", we saw an additional two more pages that were not shown in the Sci-Fi channel program. None of these pages or partial pages that were visible showed any strings of binary numbers.

I am not sure why Penniston doesn't make copies of all the pages in his note-

book and then present them as evidence. Instead, he hides the book from public scrutiny as if he wants to add/subtract information from it.

Even more confusing is that there are two different interpretations of the data in these pages. According to the History Channel's "Ancient Aliens" program, the code gave longitude and latitude of

52deg 09' 42.532"N

13deg 13' 12.69"W²

This is a location west of the country of Island. The program stated this was where the island of "Hy Brasil" existed. Like Atlantis, it disappeared and the people who lived there were of an advanced race. It is interesting to note that there is no scientific evidence whatsoever of a land mass existing in this location. Hy Brasil is nothing more than a myth but the "Ancient Aliens" crowd tried to sell it as something that existed.

Meanwhile, Linda Moulton Howe's Earthfiles web site says the coordinates read:

52.0942532 deg N

1.3131269W³

According to Howe and Penniston, these coordinates are for downtown Woodbridge. However, they use EAST longitude when the code is for WEST longitude. The coordinates above are for a location near Banbury, England.

There problems with the interpretation has to do with the problems with the actual binary code. The individual who created it, did not know a decimal point had its own binary value. So, Howe's interpreters simply put a decimal point where they felt it was necessary. Who is to say it isn't 5.20942532 deg N or 131.31269 west?

Additionally, in the code as deciphered by Howe's experts (two scientists that have strong ties to crop circle research meaning they are not unbiased in how they interpret the data), certain strings of numbers are ignored. Every character is represented by a string of eight zeros and ones in a binary code (this is called 8-bit ASCII). On page one, twenty-one values are neglected (implying these are the



This message from an advanced society is basically stating "You are here"? I drank all that Ovaltine for a crummy commercial?

older 7-bit ASCII values). On page two, three more values are simply dropped. The researchers are simply picking and choosing what they want the message to state.

Howe attempts to explain all of this as an effort to find what numbers and letters actually fit into their desired interpretation. As a result, they are simply picking strings that make sense. That is not that big a deal until you start making significant leaps of logic like inserting the decimal points where they desired and changing a west longitude into an east longitude.

Assuming their interpretation is correct, what does it mean? If you enter the coordinates given by Howe's experts into Google earth, you arrive at an interesting location.



This message seems to be saying "You are here". Does this mean this message is promoting Penniston/Burroughs or the town of Woodbridge as humanity's best/last/only hope? Is Jim Penniston the equivalent of Luke Skywalker or a prophet as suggested by the History channel program? To me the message is nothing more than a promotional gimmick

dreamed up by Penniston and, possibly, a few others. They were not even original in choosing their coordinates. All they did was select the town of Woodbridge on Google Earth and copy the latitude and longitude (and then incorrectly by using west vice east). Why not give the location of the presumed landing site? Maybe it was because Penniston and Burroughs wanted to change it...again.

Switching sites

Back in 2003, for the Sci-Fi channel, James Penniston chose to revise the location of the landing site. The accepted site had been on the eastern edge of the forest but Penniston put it closer to the base such that the lighthouse was invisible from view. This new site convinced Vince Thurkettle that the lighthouse could not have been seen from this location. However, it completely disagreed with the statements made in 1980 and where Halt had gone to examine the landing site, which Penniston and others had identified on the morning of the 26th.

In 2010, Penniston chose to revise the location again. This time he puts it south of the accepted location on the eastern side of the forest. This still makes it difficult to see the lighthouse, which is important for Penniston and Burroughs and their present story. Both Penniston and Burroughs claimed to have examined the site in daylight (Penniston even made plaster casts of the impressions) back in 1980. Burroughs supposedly was present the second night with Halt when the crash site was examined by his investigative team. One has to wonder why they have to keep changing where the landing site was located and why Colonel Halt's location is completely different than theirs?



In 2003, Penniston confidently told Vince Thurkettle that this is where he saw the craft in the woods. Now he says it is someplace else. Are we supposed to believe he is being honest this time?

Was Halt's investigation a different landing site or just a hoax?

The real Rendlesham cover-up

Reviewing the Rendlesham-incident forum, I notice that Fred Buran has spoken up. His opinion about that night was made clear when he wrote a comment on the page that is titled, "Justice for the 81st security police". Buran bluntly wrote:

The real justice would be to thoroughly debunk this non-event.⁴

His comments were not very well received by Penniston and Burroughs. Penniston's comments were most interesting as he indicated that the statements that were supposedly made by him were manufactured by the Air Force Office of Special Investigations (AFOSI). This is a new approach by Penniston since his original statements to investigators never mentioned this. However he did state:

John and I decided that we could not tell them everything that had happened. It was too fantastic. Arriving at the Lieutenant's office we just told him that we had seen some lights in the woods and found impressions on the ground. We felt it best to leave it at that.⁵

In his interview with Rayl, he added that AFOSI did interview him but sometime after he returned from a six day authorized break:

After the debriefing, Airman Burroughs and I were put on authorized break for six days, so we drove home to Ipswich...After that incident (the night Halt went out), however, I was directed to report to OSI [Office of Special Investigations] at 0900 in the morning. I met with a couple of agents, whom I had known because they had an office on the base. They debriefed me for about an hour and a half about the incident. It was an oral debriefing where I basically just told them what had happened, and they seemed quite content with the information that I provided them at the time. They seemed to have no problem with the fact that I had seen a craft. And, of course, there was no evidence, hard evidence, or so they thought. I did not tell them at this point that I had approached the craft, touched the craft,

but I did tell them about the photos I had taken. But all this was, in their minds, I think, another unconfirmed UFO sighting, though the term 'UFO' was not used -- by them or me. I think they felt assured at this point that containment was going to be maintained and that there was not going to be a problem. Damage control was at a minimum, and I think they felt that at that point they had met their objective.⁶

Under hypnosis, Penniston states he was given "truth serum" by agents and that memory had been suppressed somehow. He has now modified this story:

On the morning of the 29th of December, AFOSI building, meeting with two American Agents, more likely Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA), and/or National Security Agency (NSA), Penniston writes a four page written statement to the agents. He dates it and signs the document. Agents then give Penniston a typed statement, which is generic, and is limited on details. For example, observation of a metallic craft, and not getting within 50 yards of it. Penniston is instructed by the Agents that an official investigation is underway, and he is to tell all who asks, the cover story that was provided to him. He reads it several times and then agrees to do so. Penniston, Burroughs, Cabanzak, are debriefed at the Deputy Base Commanders office, Colonel Halt. Statements written and then drawings made. Penniston, Burroughs and Cabanzak are taken into Wing Commanders Office with Base and Deputy Base Commanders present. The NSA account is briefed to the officers. The Wing Commander, thanks the Security Policemen for the report, and asks no questions. all direct witnesses are briefed to treat all discussion about Rendlesham as Top Secret.⁷

It is interesting that he states this happened on the 29th but told Rayl they went on a six-day break on the morning of the 26th! Was he asked to come in or is this a case of getting his dates wrong?

Looking at the five statements as a whole, in conjunction with the testimony of Colonel Conrad, we find a story of confusion about lights in the woods but no craft. Buran's recent statements to Ian Ridpath indicate that Penniston was never told to alter his statement or lie about what happened. It also indicated Buran's state-

ment is an accurate representation of what transpired. His statement in January 1981 confirms the statements of the others. What Penniston is attempting to do is rewrite history in order to cover-up the fact that he has not been accurate when retelling what transpired that night.

If the AFOSI really was interested in tampering with the statements, as Penniston has indicated, it seems they did an awful job of it. Why didn't they simply make Penniston's statement agree with Burroughs and Cabansag's, which stated they chased the lighthouse. The fact that Penniston's statement does not include the lighthouse chase shows that, even at this early date, Penniston did not want it revealed that he was fooled by the lighthouse.

Sgt Penniston reported getting near the "object" and then all of a sudden said they had gone past it and were looking at a massive beacon that was in the same general direction as the other lights. I asked him, through Sgt Coffey, if he would have been mistaken, to which Penniston replied that had I seen the other lights I would know the difference. Sgt Penniston seemed somewhat agitated at this point.

Lt. Buran's statement confirms the comments made in Penniston's. When he suggested it may have been the lighthouse that caused them to go out into the woods, he states Penniston became agitated. All of this indicates that this was Penniston's actual statement and not something "planted" as part of a cover-up, which is Penniston's present position.

Motivation

It is not that difficult to speculate why the details regarding Penniston's and Burroughs' experience seem to have shifted over the last three decades. One can only assume that after stepping into the public eye, they want to avoid the embarrassment of having to reveal what they have told is not exactly truthful or accurate. When their 1980 statements became public knowledge over a decade ago, there has been a lot of damage control trying to explain why they stated what they did. The excuse manufactured by Penniston and Burroughs that they did not tell the whole story to investigators at the time just does not ring true looking at the statements. It is the shifting details that make it appear that Penniston/Burroughs are not being truthful today.

Burroughs and Penniston also claim they want "justice" for the 81st security police at Bentwaters in 1980. They blame the chain of command but give Colonel Halt

a pass even though he was part of that chain and should have taken care of it right away. Are they really out for justice for the entire unit, which does not seem to be affected, or just in it for their own personal interests? Penniston complains that he suffers from post-traumatic stress from the incident. Burroughs and Larry Warren also claim medical problems associated with the incident. If they were really interested in justice, they should file a lawsuit. I am sure there are hundreds of lawyers out there that would take up a case if it had actual merit. Failure to take this approach indicates they do not think their case is that good. As a result, they have resorted to stirring up UFO proponents for sympathy since they will believe just about anything they say.

On their Facebook page, John Burroughs states the time for debate is over and now it is time for things that matter. When asked questions on the Rendlesham Incident forum, Burroughs simply quotes Albert Einstein/Winston Churchill or criticizes those who question his story. Is John Burroughs going to add psychiatric problems to his list of ailments he suffered from the Rendlesham event?

Revelations to come???

Penniston has promised to have the notebook tested by experts. Unless it is somebody independent of UFOlogy, I would not consider it adequate. I seriously doubt that Penniston will allow the book to be tested under controlled conditions, where the result may come up negative. A good magician never allows his tricks to be closely studied.

Jim Penniston also states that he has more pages of binary code. Perhaps it will appear on another television program, where it will reveal the longitude and latitude for the base latrine.

The Rendlesham Ruse

Penniston, Warren, Burroughs, Halt, et al, will continue to claim aliens/future beings/whatever were in the woods that night. Like Roswell, they are too far in the quagmire to exit gracefully. Either they admit they have exaggerated/misrepresented what happened or they simply keep fooling themselves and others to save face. They know that they can

always claim there is a cover-up (even when there isn't one) to convince those willing to believe it.

I have read that the incident was called RendleSHAM at one point. In her section in "UFOs that never were" (coauthored with Andy Roberts and David Clarke), Jenny Randles called it RendleSHAME. Others have referred to it as RendleSCAM. I think the latter name is probably the most appropriate based on the recent actions of the principle witnesses.

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Who can you trust?

A recent article by Carol Rainey paints a less than favorable light on the abduction research of Budd Hopkins and David Jacobs. I have never been a big fan of abduction research since there has never been any verifiable evidence produced showing they are actually happening. In my opinion, most of these incidents are due to medical/psychological issues. The research into abductions is based on questionable methodology and ethics by those conducting it. While medical professionals tread carefully when dealing with an individual's psychological state, these amateurs appear to run roughshod. As Phil Klass' book is titled, it is a "dangerous game".

Rainey described Hopkins' participation in some very questionable cases that have all the earmarks of hoaxes. Budd Hopkins responded by labeling his ex-wife "a debunker". He knows if you call somebody a "debunker", the UFO faithful will automatically dislike them and support him.

Meanwhile, the Emma Woods debacle (also mentioned in the Rainey article) has forced David Jacobs to go on the attack. This "battle" has gotten quite nasty. Even Alfred Lehmborg has been critical of Jacobs, which is a bad sign for any UFO researcher.

Rainey also made references to a person who worked closely with Budd Hopkins. That person was Leslie Kean, who has received a lot of press recently for her book about UFOs. This is the same Leslie Kean, who willingly accepted the Kecksburg story told by Stan Gordon instead of the scientific work done in 1965 that demonstrated the fireball was not a crashing spaceship. It is also the same person who, by her own admission, did not bother to check the articles in her book for accuracy. Based on what Rainey states, Kean seemed excited about becoming involved in high profile abduction cases. Apparently, her ambition blinded her from seeing the obvious that they were lying. If she can not tell the difference between a hoax and the real thing, what does that say for the rest of her research?



Twitch the Cat 1982-2011

Died January 12, 2011 from cancer.

Who was "Twitch"? A few of you may remember a prolific poster to the Usenet UFO and Skeptic groups (see Google Groups) back in the '90s who used the nom-d'internet 'twitch'. This nym was taken from the name of his beloved cat Twitch, who graciously allowed his human pets to live in his house, so long as they kept him well fed with tuna.

'Twitch' (the poster) was both highly regarded by Skeptics, and reviled by UFO advocates, due to his well researched and presented arguments, especially on the subject of the Roswell Incident. The nym 'twitch' can still invoke a hostile reaction from some UFO advocates, even after a 10 year absence.

Thus Twitch arguably became the most famous cat in UFO-ology.

'Twitch' (the poster) is doing well, though he is completely retired from the UFO field.

Editor note: "Twitch" was someone who I had personal communication with many years ago when I first started my journey into UFO skepticism. Twitch was very encouraging and answered all my e-mails and questions. As the years passed, I stopped seeing his comments and assumed he had moved on to bigger and better things. Over the past few years, I have seen opinions of him made by internet posters. Some seem to have some rather venomous things to say about Twitch. You would think he was Hannibal Lecter. Ahh....the life of the skeptic. Apparently he was only liked by family, fellow skeptics, and his pet cat. Thanks to Bruce Hutchinson for the Obit.

UFO is a truly idiotic acronym...I like PAI

Matt Graeber

Is an Unidentified Flying Object an alien vehicle, an unusual cloud formation, or a swarm of insects on the wing?

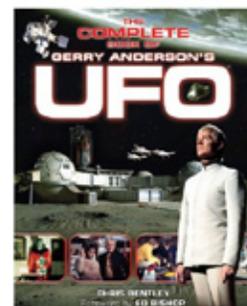
First of all while the aerial whatever may be 'UNIDENTIFIED', that is often only for a very limited period of time and usually prolonged by individuals who fail to accept fact and common sense solutions over fantasy, exaggeration and error.

FLYING is not what the aerial whatever reportedly do while aloft. They do not fly in accordance to our one hundred and seven year understanding of lift and thrust. Moreover, the reported combinations of aerial dynamics and characteristics are not mysterious when compared to red balloons, debris in wind streams and kites fluttering to earth when the winds subside, etc.

OBJECT is a very misleading word for it implies that something physical is present and observed when in fact, the aerial imagery perceived might be caused by light, shadow, reflection, atmospheric or, a host of misidentifications. (Is a cloud an object or a vapor?)

So, what I propose is an all new acronym, it is 'P.A.I.' or, Perceived Aerial Imagery. In this way the door is left wide open to objective analysis. However, it may not be as romantic, sci-fi like, mysterious, other worldly and exciting as UFOs (or even UAPs). P.A.I.'s will attract a much smaller audience of enthusiasts and aficionados. While I feel acronyms like our consensus-based understanding of 'U.F.O.' will keep them a safe-distance from the fringe crowds of contemporary saucerdom.

Editor note: As much as I agree with this, I can not see the term UFO disappearing. Would SHADO really have wasted their time chasing PAIs?



The Malmstrom missile shutdown has come down to a lot of bickering back and forth about the “facts” of the case. Apparently, there seems to be confusion about what a fact is. One would think somebody who is interested in research and telling the truth could get the term correct.

Definition

The word “fact” has several definitions but the one that is applicable here is the one that states, “an event **KNOWN** to have happened or something **KNOWN** to have existed.” I highlighted the key word for emphasis. For something to become KNOWN to have happened or existed, it has to be established through proof.

Salas’ and Hastings’ “facts”

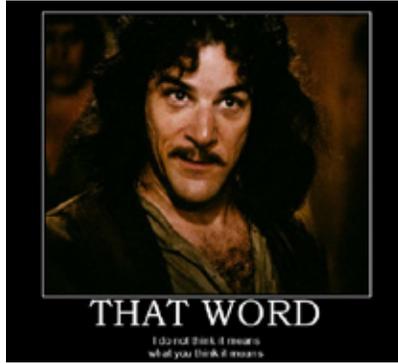
Robert Salas and Robert Hastings both say that the FACTS support their case. So what are their claims?

1. Oscar flight had a missile shutdown caused by a UFO on March 24th, 1967.
2. Echo flight had a shutdown caused by a UFO on March 16, 1967.

What FACTS (events KNOWN to have occurred) support these claims? Well, it is hard to say but Robert Hastings recently listed what he thought were the most important items that support the claims at the UFO magazine blog.

1. Fredrick Meiwald confirms that Salas is correct in that a UFO caused a missile shutdown at Oscar flight.
2. Bob Jamison stated he retargeted the Oscar flight missiles after the shutdown only after the UFOs had left the area
3. Technician Hank Barlow states that Echo flight was shutdown by UFOs.
4. Dwyne Arneson states he had read a classified message about a UFO that was floating over a flight that caused all the missiles to shutdown.
5. Robert Kaminski, an engineer for Boeing, stated they could not find a cause for Echo flight’s shutdown, the

Faded whopper: Fact, fake, or just broken memories



investigation was terminated, and that he heard it was caused by UFOs.

6. Raymond Fowler has inside information that confirms UFOs had shutdown missiles in 1967.

Are these really facts as the term is defined? We have statements that something happened but how does one establish them as being known to have occurred exactly as described?

Raymond Fowler’s 1967 notes

Out of all of Hastings’ claimed “facts”, Fowler’s notes are the only ones from the time period. He worked for Sylvania and heard rumors about UFOs and the missile shutdown. His notes state the following:

1. Reports by a Sylvania employee the week of 20 March 1967 stating that UFOs were sighted visually and by radar, jets were sent to intercept, security alert teams were activated, and Echo flight had a missile shutdown due to “equipment abnormalities”.
2. Conversation with a Boeing employee revealed that the event was classified and a “hot potato”.
3. A civilian employee was within a few feet of a UFO at Malmstrom AFB.
4. In early April, there was a lot of “chatter” about Echo flight and that UFO reports were being made and tracked by radar.
5. A UFO was seen hovering over mis-

sile sites.

6. Alpha flight was reported to have been shut down as well but he had no date for the shutdown. A security team had seen a UFO and radar tracked it.
7. “John Q” wrote up his version of the events after he left the USAF. He states that the events happened in 1966 while he was stationed at Malmstrom but gives no flight number. The statement sounds like the story told about Echo flight in the unit histories including all ten missiles shutting down. “John Q” heard that UFOs were reported but not confirmed. He did not see any UFOs himself.

These notes pretty much confirm what was known about Echo flight at the time. The reference to Alpha flight could have been due to the partial shutdown in December 1966. The stories about UFOs and radar were similar to the stories that appeared in the Great Falls Leader on March 25th, 1967. It listed several sightings that described UFOs seen by airmen and security teams that were possibly tracked by FAA radar. These seem to be the same “numerous reports” described by Chase in his investigation report.

The documented history

We do have documents/reports from the time period describing what happened. They tell a slightly different story than the one highlighted by Hastings’ and Salas’ witness testimonies. According to these documents:

1. There was a shutdown of 10 LFs at Echo flight on March 16, 1967.
2. Rumors of UFOs were investigated and found to be disproven.
3. Nothing was reported on radar by the 801st radar squadron on 16 March.
4. Investigation at Malmstrom, the Boeing Seattle plant, and the Ogden Air Material area determined that the cause of the missile shutdown was an electronic noise pulse into the logic coupler.

5. The exact source of the noise pulse was never identified despite extensive experimentation, financial expenditure, and man-hours being used over the following months to locate it. However, the documents indicate there was no reason to suspect it was created by a UFO.
6. The only other mention of a missile shutdown occurred on 19 December 1966 at Alpha flight. In that case only three LFs were lost.
7. On the night of the 24/25th of March 1967, a UFO was reported to have landed at Belt, Montana. There were other sighting reports made by airmen between 0230 and 0340 on the morning of the 25th. There was mention of the UFOs being tracked by FAA radar.
8. Lt. Col. Chase stated on 3 July 1967 that no equipment malfunctions or abnormalities in equipment occurred during the time period that UFOs were reported.

These points/facts are based on documents/histories that were written in 1967 and 1968 and not based on what people think they recall happened thirty years later. One must consider these documents to be as reliable as they can be. Even though there are claims by Airman Gamble that the statement about UFO rumors was rewritten by higher authority, there is no mention of them anywhere else in the record and Gamble had no first hand knowledge that they caused the shutdown.

Facts usually are consistent

When mentioning facts, they usually do not change with the wind and contradict each other. Robert Salas' story has not been consistent since he began telling it over a decade ago. In an effort to

make it easy to see his changes, I present the table below to show how the "facts" keep shifting. How reliable can this story be if the prime witness can't get the simple facts of when, where, and who right?

How do Salas' and Hastings' "facts" measure up?

The first thing to consider is that the only documents Salas and Hastings present from 1967 are Raymond Fowler's notes. All the official documents are mostly ignored unless it supports their position.

The rest of the stories that supposedly confirm each other are based on decades old memories. Memories are known to be influenced easily by others and are not considered to be exactly 100% reliable. A perfect example is Salas' story. He has switched where he was located, who he was with, and when it happened several times. Additionally, the details have changed with each retelling. Therefore, it is hard to consider these memories reliable. Are these witnesses lying? Maybe... or maybe not. Under the influence of personal beliefs and prompting by Hastings/Salas, they remember things that may or may not have occurred. It is called "false memories" and there is a great deal of information about this in published research papers.

With that said, how accurate are the testimonies used by Hastings and Salas?

1. Meiwald was at Oscar flight but he did not directly confirm Salas' full missile shutdown tale. Back in 1996, Salas reported to Raymond Fowler that Meiwald told him he recalled only four missiles shutting down and something about a security patrol having a close encounter with a UFO that caused these men to never stand security duty again. No evidence has ever been provided to substantiate

this claim. In his statement to the disclosure project, Salas claimed that Meiwald said it was seven or eight missiles. In his tape recorded phone interview, Salas started by priming Meiwald with his story and only stated that "some" of the missiles shut down. Neither man ever stated that all the missiles shut down as Salas tends to imply repeatedly. In his October 1, 1996 letter to Salas, Meiwald described the incident about the security patrol but added, that while Salas' information was interesting, he had slightly different memories. He did not elaborate on the differences. When James Carlson contacted Meiwald, he became evasive and said he did not remember the incident very well. He was not even sure that UFOs were involved. It seems that Meiwald's memories are not as compelling as Salas and Hastings claim.

2. To the best of my knowledge, Bob Jamison did not mention Oscar flight in his earliest interviews. Hastings told the Bad Astronomy forum that he interviewed him twice. Once in 1992 and then again in 2004. It was after the 2004 interview that Hastings convinced Salas to change the date and time of day for his Oscar flight shutdown. Jamison stated that it was a flight near Lewiston (with the implication it is Oscar but Echo is in the same area) and he had heard about the Belt sighting while waiting to go out to the missile site. The basic story was that he was involved in restart of a flight and that UFOs were being reported. With the exception of the Belt sighting, this could easily have been Echo flight. Considering we are talking about 30+ year-old memories, it is not that much of a stretch for him to have merged the events into one night. The Belt sighting story was published in the January 1997 MUFON journal along with Sa-

Year (approx)	Flight	date	Time of day	Missiles shutdown	Phone call about/to Echo
pre-1995	unknown	March 1967	AM	Most-All	No
1995-1996	Echo	March 16	AM	All	No
1996-2000	November	March 16	pre-dawn	>5, 6-8	Yes
2000-2005	Oscar	March 16	pre-dawn	7-8, All	Yes
2006-2010	Oscar	March 24	Evening	"nearly all", All	Yes

las' first published version of events. Did Jamison read the article (either via Hastings or some other source) before talking to Hastings in 2004? If he did, how much of a role might it have played in creating a memory of the Belt incident being the date of the shutdown? The remaining part of the Jamison story about briefings and security precautions about UFOs can not be verified. It may just be a case of "gilding the lily" by Jamison to make the story sound better.

3. Hank Barlow's testimony had more to do with him showing up at Echo flight and hearing a story told to him by an unnamed guards that saw a UFO and stated that it caused the shutdown. Nothing can be verified and his story is suspect. Tim Hebert's recent blog entry referred to him as Robert Hastings' "swiss cheese factor".
4. According to the Disclosure project, Dwyne Arnesson stated he was part of the 20th air division at Malmstrom. However, the 20th air division was not stationed at Malmstrom. This was changed to the 28th air division in his affidavit for the UFOs and nukes press conference. His statement to the disclosure project states that he read a message that stated a UFO was hovering over a missile silo and that both the oncoming and off going crews saw the UFO that shut down all the missiles. However, neither Figel or Carlson reported seeing a UFO after relief and Don Crawford, from the on-coming crew, did not mention one either.
5. Robert Kaminski was not present at Echo flight the day of the shutdown. Kaminski reported that no final report was ever made, he was told it was a shutdown due to UFOs, and they were ordered to stop investigating the case. He would add that the LCF crew was suspected as being the cause. The actual report that was written eliminated the LCF crew as a cause. Bernard Nalty's history on USAF ballistic missile programs (1967-68) states that the cause was found through testing and that it was an electronic noise pulse. It references the SAC history, which indi-

cates that some form of final report was made. These documents indicate that Kaminski's recollections are flawed. It is important to note that Kaminski is the author of a book called "Lying Wonders". It is hard to tell what this book is about by its description but it seems to mix Christianity and UFOs. Kaminski makes no mention of Oscar flight.

6. Fowler's inside information only mentions two flights. The first was Echo flight and the second was Alpha flight. Alpha flight had three LFs shutdown on 19 December 1966. There were rumors of UFOs being near the missile sites but no rumor that they caused the shutdown. He notes that there was a lot of "chatter" between the sites about Echo flight. However, despite claims by Salas that the rumor about Oscar flight was wide spread on base, this "chatter" never mentioned it. All Fowler's notes do is confirm what was stated in the documented history and newspapers at the time. They certainly do not confirm Salas' version of events. Instead, they imply it did not happen.

As one can see, the stories are not as rock solid as Hastings wants everyone to believe. It is important to note that only two really support Salas' version of UFOs shutting down Oscar flight. The others only verify the Echo flight shutdown with a suggestion that UFOs were involved but no documentation to back up that claim. Can we really call any of these statements FACTS or are they just unsubstantiated stories that are being presented as factual?

WANTED: Real facts not claims

Recently, Robert Hastings stated that James Carlson would eventually become an "unflattering footnote" in history when all the facts about Malmstrom's missiles shutdown are revealed. With this one statement, he admits that the facts are not currently on his side. His "pie in the sky" promise of "upcoming disclosure" is a "hook" that has been repeated for over five decades by UFOlogists. They are no closer to disclosure or unraveling the UFO mystery in 2011 than they were in 1951.

The bottom line is that Hastings and Salas have no real facts to support their claims. All they have are unverifiable memories that have been "cherry picked" out of the hundreds (if not thousands) of people who were stationed at these locations but did not see anything or knew that UFOs had nothing to do with Echo flight's shutdown. The Oscar flight shutdown hardly has any support at all!

In order to explain all of this, Hastings and Salas have come up with UFOlogy's ready made excuse. There is a government conspiracy that has ordered all these people not to reveal UFO involvement at Malmstrom and to never mention Oscar flight's shutdown. This same excuse allows them to ignore all the contemporary documentation. They can say that Oscar flight was "wiped clean" of the historical record and it was forbidden to mention Oscar flight's shutdown in any message traffic. Lastly, it can be implied that the mention of UFO involvement was deliberately downplayed/removed from the record. In order to maintain this charade, the USAF/US government spent millions (perhaps billions) out of their limited budget pretending to pursue the source of the noise pulse even though they already knew it before they started.

Blowing smoke

When choosing between the two version of events, one has to look at the available information. On one hand, there is the documented historical record, which is the closest thing we have to real facts. On the other hand, there is the shifting UFO version of events that Hastings and Salas present that can not be verified except through decades old memories of a few individuals. When faced with these two versions, it is far more likely that the documented history is correct. Unless Hastings and Salas can demonstrate using actual official documentation from 1967 that their version of events is correct, they will be the ones who appear to be an "unflattering footnote" in history.

Comets and UFOs

Before they became understood as astronomical objects, comets were considered to be a sign of something good or bad happening. Their sudden appearance in the sky upset the natural order of things. It was not any surprise that people would consider them an omen. In today's highly informed society, it seems unlikely that comets could create any excitement of this kind but they still do.



Wormwood

The book of Revelations describes a star called "Wormwood" that brings great calamity to earth. Many have interpreted this to a comet or meteor impacting the earth. Some of the more fanatical individuals have turned into any news about a comet as the possibility that "Wormwood" is here.

Comets come of age

After it was understood that comets were not omens sent to predict kings or calamities, comets lost their luster. Science began to examine them as part of the solar system. However, the concern shifted that they could pose a threat towards the planet Earth. Any comet that passed close to the earth was given great concern in the press. This was probably highlighted most by the 1910 apparition of Halley's comet. Since the earth was going to pass through the tail on May 19th, there was concern about what it would do to the earth's atmosphere. It was suggested that the comets tail had poisonous gases present, which would contaminate the atmosphere of the earth. For the most part, the press of the day did not allow hysteria to take hold and paid more attention to the scientific point of view regarding the passage of the comet. The day came and went and

everyone survived.

Kohoutek

My first experience with comets was comet Kohoutek in 1973-4. I had just become seriously involved with astronomy and was excited about this new comet that was supposed to be very bright in the beginning of January 1974. Because of the comet's discovery and announcement many months prior to it becoming visible, there was a great deal of excitement generated by various groups that claimed it was going to bring calamity to earth. Pamphlets were circulated stating the comet would be as big/bright as the full moon (Astronomers did not predict such a peak magnitude). However, it was the story of one man that caught my attention at the time.



According to then Wisconsin Lawyer, Edward Ben Elson, the comet was a spaceship.

A beautiful black angel encapsulated in a glow of pure light came to me and told me that I was appointed to captain the intergalactic spaceship. Kohoutek that was to save the 144,000 from the apocalypse that the comet's tail would bring.... The body of the comet Kohoutek is hollow and will provide an intergalactic spaceship for 144,000 of the earth's population. The UFO's (unidentified flying objects) being seen all over the place of our globe are the vanguard of the coming spaceship comet, and are picking and choosing 143,000 of the 144,000 in be saved. I have been chosen by the angel to pick the remaining 1,000. On December 24th, 1973, the comet Kohoutek will hover above McFarland, Wisconsin, an astral escalator will descend and 144,000 persons will climb

aboard. On December 25th, 1973, the tail of the comet — estimated to be 50-million to 100-million miles in length — which is made up of hydrogen and carbon, will come into contact with our atmosphere and explode into a shower of petroleum oil that will cover the face of the globe.¹

Elson stated the "angel" also brought 10 bushel baskets out of his UFO and placed them in his basement. Inside the baskets were small people in suspended animation.

Even at the age of 14, I was skeptical of this story and concluded the man was crazy. Still, it exemplified how some people approached the idea of comets in our modern age. Kohoutek was a flop as far as the general public goes. I saw the comet several times but it did not live up to its billing. Elson's spaceship never appeared.



Comet Halley returns.

In 1986, Comet Halley returned. It was not a favorable apparition for the comet and it was downplayed by many astronomers. Still it got some publicity and there were those who attempted to capitalize:

Merchants of the occult, mystics and crackpots and psychics and pseudo-scientists, are twisting scripture and distorting established fact to read into the return of the comet some dire prediction for mankind.

With the world's eyes focused on the night sky for these ensuing months, anticipate other cosmic dancers flitting across the radar screens of the human mind.

Already I have more than enough letters from credible people convinced that some "visitors from space" are coming much closer to home than Halley's.²

Nobody bothered to declare that Halley's

comet was a spaceship or that a UFO was associated with it. However, Halley was an old friend and it would be difficult for even the most fanatical individual to declare a spaceship was associated with the comet (even though the movie *Lifeforce* did use this idea as its premise).

Comets with no UFOs



In the late 1980s into the mid 1990s, several comets were discovered and visible to astronomers. However, none generated a lot of press. Shoemaker-Levy 9 had nothing to do with the earth when it struck Jupiter, so there was no need to involve UFOs. In 1996, Comet Hyakutake passed very close to earth but there was only a month or two between discovery and its grand display. As a result, unless they were knowledgeable about astronomy, UFO charlatans/hoaxers were caught off guard. However, in late 1996, Comet Hale-Bopp was approaching the inner solar system and had been discovered over a year before. There was plenty of time to create a UFO story with this comet, which was going to be prominent in the sky. All it took was an ambitious individual with the right equipment to stir up the UFO faithful.



Comet Hale-Bopp and the Saturn-like object UFO

On November 14, 1996, an "amateur astronomer" by the name of Chuck Shramek published an image on the internet that showed the comet with a star-like object nearby. This object had a spike through it and was referred to as "the saturn-like object" (SLO). Chuck declared it a companion of the comet and announced his "discovery" on the Art Bell show.

Shramek had appeared on the American On-Line astronomy board prior to his "discovery". I recall seeing at least one message by him (under the name of FORBSCI), where he posted an image of the comet and declared there was nothing unusual near the comet as if he were looking for something.

Response by the astronomical community was almost immediate. Brain Sipe, who ran the web site www.halebopp.com (now a dead site), devoted several pages showing how the object was just the 8th magnitude star SAO 141894. The "spike" was easily explained as a diffraction effect associated with the telescope. Based on Shramek's response to Sipe, I would not be surprised that he introduced this effect on purpose.

Shramek had a web site devoted to all sorts of conspiracies and quotes of fringe writers like Hoagland and Stitchin. His desire to run straight to Art Bell with his "discovery" demonstrated a desire to ignore astronomical protocols for discoveries of this kind. Despite his public denials, I suspect he probably knew it was a star all along.

What followed were several attempts to verify the SLO's presence. At least one involved creating a hoax image from an actual observatory photograph and then promoting them as proof. Others involved taking images and processing them in a way to make it appear the comet had two nuclei. Some even claimed to have been able to "remotely view" the spaceship near the comet! All the images were easily explainable but the idea about a spaceship/UFO being close to Comet Hale-Bopp was created.

This all came to a tragic conclusion when, in late March 1997, the "Heaven's Gate" cult committed suicide so they could leave their bodies and "ascend" to the UFO trailing the comet. After this tragedy, Shramek made a public statement, where he denied ever mentioning the object was a UFO or spaceship (even though he implied it frequently and did not discourage people from stating it). He denied any responsibility associated with the suicides (as did Art Bell). Until his death in 2000, Shramek continued to claim that there was a companion with the comet and that NASA was covering it up. Exactly

what did he consider this companion to be if not a spaceship/UFO?



More comets - more UFOs

As the internet exploded, it was easy for various individuals to claim imaging UFOs near comets. When Comet Holmes burst into brilliance, amateur astronomers around the world photographed it. Because it was so bright, short exposure times allowed for pinpoint images of the stars around it. John Lenard Watson and "gridkeeper" produced a video on the Youtube showing the comet's nucleus and an "unknown space object" for November 29, 2007. Like Shramek's SLO, the object was probably a star and there was little reason to believe it was a UFO/"unknown space object".

Comets and UFO hysteria

The appearance of a bright comet can create a lot of publicity. Any individual can "cash in" on that publicity and report a UFO or something anomalous in an image they took. Others have discovered that one can link it to various religious texts as a sign of things to come. One can only assume that if a bright comet appears before 2012, there will be plenty of UFOs, Mayan prophecies, and religious proclamations to appear with it. Remain skeptical of such claims and check the bona fide astronomical sources like the International Astronomical Union (IAU) or Sky and Telescope to see if any claims of anomalous objects are valid.

Notes and references

1. Dorgan, Mike. "Who will Elson save from the path of destruction." [Capital Times](#). November 24, 1973. P. 13
2. Harvey, Paul. "Halley's comet draws mystics, psychics, and crackpots." [The Sequin-Gazette-Enterprise](#) December 5, 1985. Page 15A.

In SUNlite 2-5, I mentioned the revelations of Emilla Bittencourt stating that Almiro Barauna had hoaxed the Trindade island UFO photographs using two spoons together to create his UFO model. In early February, Brazil UFO magazine presented more revelations on the case that might shed new light on the subject of the photographs.

Fact or fraud?

In my opinion, this case has always had one of two possibilities. Either it was a hoax or the real thing. Some have suggested a mirage or airplane seen under unusual conditions but, to me, these possibilities seemed almost as unlikely as an alien spaceship. This left me in the position that Barauna either photographed an actual spaceship or created a fake photograph.

Hearsay

In SUNlite 2-5, I pointed out that Bittencourt revelations were second hand. The same thing can be said for the new information. Alexandre de Carvalho Borges interviewed Barauna's nephew, Marcelo Ribero, who is an experienced photographer himself. Mr. Ribero stated that Barauna told him, and some members of the family, that it was all a hoax. A. J. Gevaerd announced this on UFO Updates on February 4th. Mr. Gevaerd and Borges, who are supporters of the case, chose to have it published at the Brazilian UFO magazine's web site. As a skeptic, I applaud their candor.

As I stated in SUNlite 2-5, because of this being a second hand account, I feel a need to be skeptical. However, I still want to see if the claims have merit.

Ribero's version

Mr. Ribero states that on the day of the "event", Barauna had no film in his camera when the UFO appeared. He ran down to get film. By the time he returned, the UFO was gone. So, he covertly took pictures of the island and claimed he had photographed the UFO. The story is then told that Barauna developed the negatives and presented them to the crew. Those that examined the freshly developed negatives thought they saw a UFO present. Ribero states that there was

New doubts about the Trindade Island UFO photographs

nothing on the negatives but the island and the witnesses saw what they wanted to see. Perhaps, Barauna helped them by pointing out some cloud or vague mark on the negative as the UFO. In any case, some individuals claimed they saw the UFO on the negative. Barauna and his friends were dropped off at the next port of call before the ship returned to home port. This allowed Barauna to proceed by bus to his home and then create the hoax image using the photographs he took of the island.

The trick

Mr. Ribero stated that Barauna used the same bus tokens he had created for his UFO hoax article. He explained that Barauna created a double exposure in order to ensure the film grain would be the same. How this was done is not entirely explained but I can guess based on some clues that Ribero mentioned.



Marcelo stated Barauna took a picture of the chips against the night sky at his home and then took a photograph of the island photograph using the same

negative. To do this, he probably used a copy stand, where one can align the camera and lighting precisely so one can not tell the photograph is a reproduction of a print. This is the only way I can see how he could have made the double exposure described. Ribero gave an example of a friend who had rephotographed a picture in a similar manner. When the interviewer asked if Barauna had taken a photograph of the chips with the island photograph, he responded that this wasn't the case because it was a double exposure. I assume he interpreted that the interviewer asked if he had taken pictures of the tokens in front of the island picture. Creating the double exposure that would fool people would have taken some techniques unique to the darkroom.

Spoon play

Many people besides myself played around with spoons to create a UFO model when the Bittencourt interview became news. However, Marcelo Ribero stated this method was a lie. It is hard to say who he is calling a liar in this interview. At one point he refers to her as a liar and at another point, he says that Barauna had lied to her as a joke. It is probably something lost in translation. At the time, I felt there was a reasonable resemblance of two spoons together with the UFO shape. I also mentioned that I could not see how it would work by taking photographs of the spoons in front of a refrigerator.

The real UFO?

What about the original UFO sighting that Barauna did not photograph? That still needs to be explained. Based on how most UFO reports have prosaic explanations, it is probable that those who reported a UFO probably saw something that may have been misperceived. Ribero suggests it was a cloud or it might have been a weather balloon. Whatever it was, it seems to have generated some excitement at the time but only for a brief period of time and only for a few of the crew.

When I wrote my Trindade web page in 2004, it was my opinion that Barauna took the photographs at the time of the sighting or just before it. This would have required for his friends to have played a part in the hoax by pointing out the UFO to generate witnesses. Ribero's revelations indicate that they were ignorant of the photographs being hoaxed. It is possible that after seeing the photographs, they might have shifted their description of the object in order to agree with the photographs. One thing is certain, if Marcelo Ribero's story is true, they did not see the UFO in the Barauna photographs.

The double exposure

One of the items I first thought of when I saw the photographs was that it could be a double exposure. However, when it was pointed out that the UFO was darker than the sky background, it seemed that the it eliminated

this technique. As a result, I created the "internal mask" theory to potentially explain a method used to create the photographs at the time of the sighting, which would include a dark UFO image on the negative.

However, I did not consider one important factor when dismissing the double exposure technique. It is important to note that everyone is examining the prints from the negatives and not the negatives themselves. Any skilled darkroom technician knows how to "burn" in sections of a print, which allows certain portions to be darker than they were on the negative. I tried to demonstrate this in the experiment to the right.

It would be interesting to see if the negatives show the same density that the prints do. Ribeiro made note of the fact that Barauna's skill in the lab was critical for creating this hoax. It seems possible that Barauna might have been able to figure out how to make the UFO appear dark on the negatives as well (possibly by rephotographing the print with the UFO burned-in). We are told that the negatives were examined but did this actually happen?

Kentaro Mori suggested that references to an analysis of the negatives may have come from Barauna himself when discussing the photographs. There was at least one comment in the media that there was no analysis. If this was the case, then only the prints, which can be modified to create a hoax, have ever been examined closely

Case not really closed

As I stated in SUNlite 2-5, I doubt this, or any other evidence, will close this case. It would take something far more monumental to change the minds of any supporters. Some have already come out and stated there is no way it could be a hoax and that Ribeiro is mistaken. In my opinion, this new information will continue to fuel the debate and create more doubt in the minds of skeptics. However, I think I can speak for supporters and skeptics alike when I praise Brazilian UFO magazine's openness in presenting this new information on such a controversial UFO case.

Double exposure and burn in

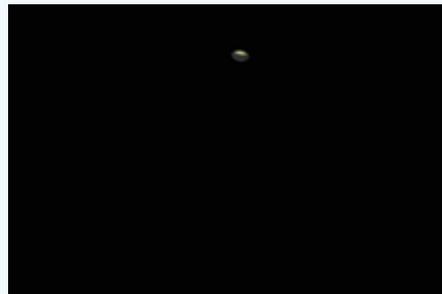
In an effort to demonstrate how a double exposure could be used to create a Trindade type photograph, I used a few features in Photoshop that mimic the techniques that can be used in a photographic darkroom. Once the double exposure was created, I only used the brightness tool and magic wand to select a specific area of the image.



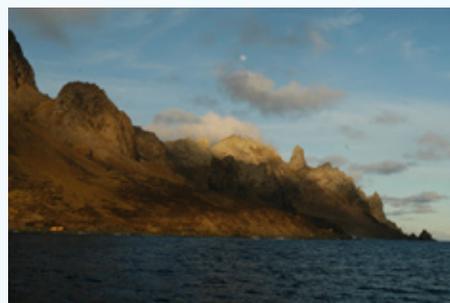
I use some measuring spoons that I could use to create a reasonable replica of the Trindade UFO..



I then took a photograph of the UFO model with a dark background. I had to darken some of the areas to ensure a complete black background. Barauna probably would have had more experience at doing this sort of thing.



Lucky for me, Kentaro Mori provided me with some nice color photographs of Trindade Island that I could use to create my double exposure.



I merged the two images using Photoshop and a technique that mimics double exposures. This would represent what the print from the negative would look like.



When printing the image, Barauna would adjust the exposure to make the print appear lighter. This would be the resultant print.



In order to make the UFO appear darker than the sky, Barauna would then use the technique of "burning in" the UFO. This technique, in the hands of a professional, can make light areas of a negative appear dark. Barauna, by Ribeiro's claim, used his darkroom skill to create the hoax implying this technique. I selected only the model in the picture and darkened it.



This little exercise shows how a UFO could appear dark in a print from a double exposure negative. It was not meant to create a perfect hoax image but to demonstrate the technique, which would not be "alien" to Barauna's darkroom expertise.

Exopolitics

Matthew Graeber



This will be a quick read about a very nonsensical UFO subject. It is a skeptical and common sense look at the backdoor approach at legitimizing UFOlogy and elevating UFOlogists to the social rank of true scientists and, of course, funding their hobby with tax-payer dollars too! It is an opinion piece and Matt Graeber is solely responsible for its content.

ANOTHER UFO CONSPIRACY?

As with the many past attempts to persuade normal folks UFOlogy is a serious science or true protoscience. We now have a new 'UFological Term' to add to the growing maze of UFOLogical jargon. The 'Exopolitics' devotees have an active lobby in Washington, D.C pushing the delusional idea that a viable solution to the problem of discovering a clean, efficient energy source may be found in Exopolitics; thereby, possibly ending the ominous threat of Global Warming! Wow, that's even more miraculous than the 'Roswell Memory Metal' which one well-known blogger told me might restore my sight.... that is, if I could first have a friend locate a piece and place it in my hand. Anyway, could Global Warming be successfully addressed with the utilization of highly advanced alien technologies? The Exopolitics experts say the government must 'Disclose' all it already knows about ET technology from the many historic saucer crashes it has recovered and the contacts with alien creatures too. Now comes word that Exopolitics expert Stephen Bassett has informed Florida journalist Billy Cox that for a measeley quarter

million dollars the lid can be completely blown off the UFO cover-up! This may not prove that alien space ships or aliens exist. Somehow, I strongly suspect this is just a teaser price. Besides, with all the alleged government leaks talked about in UFO books and hinted at by UFO experts for decades, we probably would have eventually found out for free!

PROBLEMS IN UFORIA!

It seems IF there were such a simple solution to the Global Warming problem there would be little need for the rush to Cap and Trade legislation, wind turbine farms, battery-powered automobiles and we could all continue to burn our old light bulbs. But, alas, it is not quite that simple. There are many things in the way of such monumental progress fo humanity! 1.No one has ever proven that UFOs as alien space ships exist. 2. No one has ever presented incontrovertible evidence an alien space ship has crashed or landed on this planet. 3. The UFO proponents arguments are based entirely upon anecdotal testimony, rumors and misidentifications of various kind. Besides all the above, 4. There remains the problem of all the heavy investments in so-called Green Technology development. The investors surely would not want to see their hopes, schemes and dreams dashed by alien technology and a bunch of saucer buffs running around in D.C. Then of course, 5. There is the rather sticky political problem of a 'cover up' to protect the investors while the current administration goes down in flames at election time for holding out on America and the World. Or, 6.

Would conventional politics raise its ugly head and toss the many investors under the bus?

UFOLOGICAL EARMARKS

But, Exopolitics does not seek recognition for its humanitarian virtues alone. Like all human political movements it seeks something more for its promoters to take back to their UFO constituency - such as recognition as a true science, taxpayer funding for Exopolitical researches and the elevation of its proponents into the social, political and scientific fabric of America and the world. UFOlogy might end up being taught in schools and colleges This would be a total shift away from Western sciences and the unchecked embrace of a myth! It may even be the ultimate perversion of truth for A CENSUS-BASED, media-hyped, ruse.

Exopolitics is an absolute hoax in my opinion. Nothing more than another foolish attempt at rectifying the many past saucer flubs of the faithful as they stretch the truth for the acceptance of the status quo after six-decades of effort (i.e., failed pursuits by countless UFO hobbyists masquerading as serious researchers). I could have written a very long and detailed expose' on all this nonsense but there are better things to do with my time, like walking the dog. Exopolitical devotees seem to write exceptionally long-winded declarations but a closer read reveals a great deal of double-talk and fork-tongued mumbo-jumbo. It is fun to watch these UFOlogists'Attempt to tag all the bases' as they scamper about on the playing field with the big boys of politics. I'll leave you with a simple one sentence quote extracted from a 2009 newspaper article titled "New York Times article boosts ET/UFO disclosure". (Also read exopolitics@exopolitics.com for more of the same).

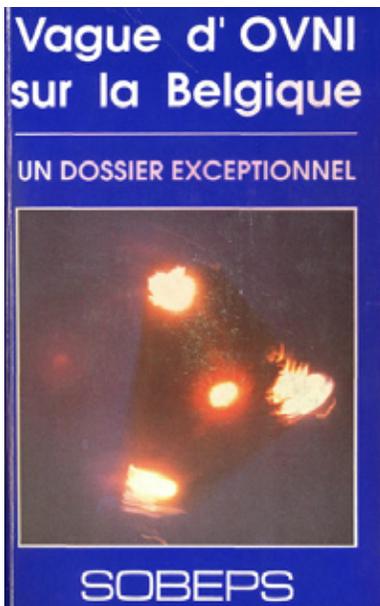
These struggles by Exopolitics to define itself and make room for its unfettered 'out of the box' research are the birth pangs, not the death knells of Exopolitics.

Yep, there is nothing quite like 'truly' objective journalism - but, they could have mentioned a little something about the Exopolitics discussion on life possibly being discovered on Mars!

Editor: I edited Roger's piece for syntax that was lost in translation.

The UFO is photographed

This picture was taken by P. M (20 years old) on April 4 or April 7, 1990. He doesn't remember exactly the date and wanted to remain anonymous. His girlfriend was outdoors with the dog. After 9:30PM she saw something strange in the sky and called PM. He observed in the sky a quasi-motionless object in the southwest at an elevation of 45°. He determined the shape was triangular but not much of it was visible. At each corner was a circular white light and in the centre there was a twinkling light that was white or red. The witness stated that the object seemed to be far away and high in the sky. It must have been tilted because the base was visible. It seemed bigger than a tourist plane, 5 cm at arm length. PM located his camera inside and then took two photographs which were the last two images on the roll of slide film he had loaded in the camera. The second slide was taken immediately before the UFO disappeared slowly in the direction of Petit-Rechain and hidden by the houses. The second slide, exposed with the same setting as the first, showed nothing and was thrown in the garbage, which is odd.



The slide reaches the media

The slide was shown to some friends and then placed in a drawer, which is

The Petit-Rechain photograph by Roger Paquay

where it stayed until professional press photographer, Guy Mossay, bought the rights to publish the picture. It appeared in the media about two months after being taken. Another journalist, seeing the picture, called SOBEPS. SOBEPS then saw the witness four months after the observation.¹

The witness, who observed and photographed the UFO, could not remember the date and didn't call SOBEPS even though their address was widely distributed by the press. The photographer didn't seem to be interested until the press bought the rights from him and published the image.

The details

The descriptions given by the witness and his girlfriend are contradictory.² The girlfriend called PM to have him see the strange object but then said that she did not look at the object again until after PM took the pictures. By then, the object had disappeared. PM stated the object moved slowly in a northerly direction. The total duration of the observation is said to be five minutes.

The uncertainty on the date is strange. As he said it had been raining all that day it must have been April 4. The sky was not clear, so did visibility allow the object to be seen far away in the sky?

The equipment used was a Praktika B 20, 35 mm camera, using a 55-200 mm lens with a Cokin 1A UV filter. The slide film was a Kodak Ektachrome 200 ASA and the aperture setting was open to its maximum of f4. The focal length used was between 100 and 150 mm.

Since the photographer was using the bulb setting, he had to maintain pressure on the shutter release mechanism for the whole time the picture was taken. The photographer stated the duration of the exposure was 1 to 2 seconds. With such a long exposure time using a hand-held camera, there would have been a vibra-

tion effect introduced from the motion of the camera. This is not the case so the time exposure had to be shorter than 1/2 sec. Using the bulb setting makes it difficult to accurately determine the exposure time. He probably did this by counting one - two; but if you do this rapidly it can be less than a 1/2 sec.

Analysis

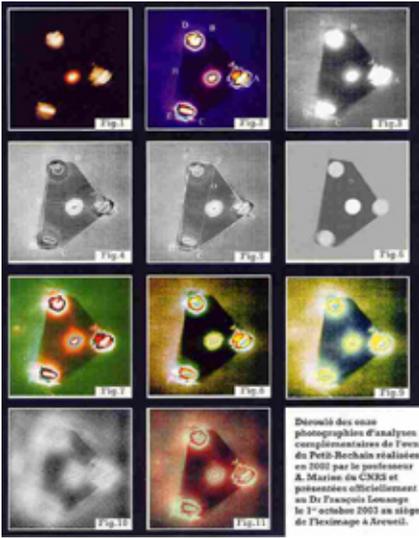
All the analysis was done by scanning and digitization of the slide with a high resolution scanner in different laboratories. This analysis was not on the whole slide but on a square from 2 cm side and ignored the left side of the slide where a red light can be seen. Why wasn't the whole slide scanned?

This scan of the square permits analysis of the different components of colours and to amplify the contrast or the saturation. In the blue component, there appears a triangular shape. It looks like an isosceles triangle with an angle of about 90° at its summit and a rectangular shape on its base. Some areas of the outline are sharp but other areas are fuzzy. This indicates it could have been movement of the craft or movement of the camera. If it was the camera, the whole picture should have been blurred.

The analyst, Pr Marion³, indicates that the fuzzy area is due to a rotation of the craft with an angle value of 5°. This rotation, nevertheless had to transform the circular lights into elliptic lights the same way for the four lights. This is not the case. It seems to indicate independent movement (hypothesis) of the different lights (if there really was a rotation). This is an indication the picture is a hoax.

The study of the saturation (pictures 8, 9, 10, 11 in the analysis by Pr Marion in the image at the upper left of the next page) shows a halo outside the object. The points of the halo are said to indicate a turning move around the craft. The analyst says this halo is due to an electromagnetic process or air ionization. This argument is used to deny an effect created by a hoax.

But when I look at these pictures I didn't see a turning move. I see just the same halo I can obtain using PHOTOSHOP and I push the saturation of the different layers



RVB of the picture I am looking.

But these saturated picture result from multiple numerisations (digitalizations) with the slide rotated from 90, 180, 270° and then to align the different pictures. Professor Marion says this eliminates the noise due to the CCD structure of the scanner. This superposition of four pictures could eventually cause the points of the halo. Moreover the professor Marion says he took in the slide an area of 2 cm square, 2430 x 2430 pixels. Then he resized the area to 1024x1024 pixels. This type of operation may cause details to be lost. So the halo could come from these transformations. We must also remember these conclusions were never edited in scientific peer review.

It is important to note that the picture presented in VOB1 as the entire picture cannot be the entire picture. Indeed if you calculate the ratio of height/ width you find ($7.7/11 = 0.7$). Remember for a slide 24x36 the ratio is $24/36 = 0.6666$ slightly different from 0.7 . Something is missing.

But this does not prove the slide was not double exposed. There are different ways to make double exposures without having to advance the film. I did it regularly when creating multiple exposures of the moon on the same slide with the camera



set at Bulb and a little tinkering of a mask placed in front of the camera.

See the picture at left, which is a scan of neg-

ative film showing a lunar eclipse. You can verify that the presence of 7 moons proves it is a multiple exposure.

Another possibility of multiple exposure is to take a picture on one slide take a picture on another slide, and then superimpose them on an apparatus used to duplicate slides. One can then rephotograph it, resizing to remove the details that would indicate multiple exposure. A picture made this way might not show indications of double/multiple exposure.

The slide apparently doesn't show special effects, video montage or synthesis picture. Nevertheless this slide doesn't prove the object on the picture is an aircraft in the sky or an extraterrestrial craft.

Mister A. MEESEN⁴ mentions that the photographer PM said, "The object seemed greater than an tourist plane, 5 cm at arm length." This indicates that the object must have been an angular size of 5°. This is 10 times the size of the full moon (The angular size of the full moon is 1/2° or 30 arcmin).

The altitude was estimated to be 150 meters. The object appeared to be relatively far away, high in the sky, south west at about 45° in the sky. PM remembers he started with a focal length of 200mm and then must moved the zoom to 150 or 100 mm focal length to include the entire object in the frame.

Mister Meessen, to justify that the picture shows something very different from what the witnesses described presents the hypothesis that the picture had received UV light emitted by the object, this UV would be produced by the propulsion system of the UFO. This introduces a problem of coherence in his argumentations: in the case of Ramillies, professor Meessen says the engine emitted IR light to erase picture. Here, the UFO would be photographed (thus no IR to erase the picture) by emitting a large amount of UV light to show the shape. These arguments or IR or UV effects are pure ad hoc arguments to match his interpretation.

The camera was equipped with a UV sky-light filter (Cokin 1A) to filter out UV light. Moreover the objective of the lens is an apochromatic objective with different groups of lenses to have the same focus

for the different color wavelengths. These lenses are opaque to UV. The emission of UV light is an unverifiable hypothesis and the conclusions concerning a way of theoretical propulsion for the engine are also unverifiable.

In the analysis made by professor Acheroy, edited in VOB 2 (pages 234 to 240) we can read about the transparency of the objective to different wavelength, analysis made in the laboratory of the firm OIP (Optique Industrielle de Précision) in Audenaerde:

The objective with his UV filter is transparent in the visible and the infrared to a wavelength of 2600 nanometers but he is blind to the wavelength below 400 nanometers and above 2600 nanometers. The only lights that can act on the film are between 400 and 2600 nanometers, visible and infrared light.

Consequently the UV with a wavelength below 400 nanometers could not have exposed the film. Also there was no erasing by Herschel effect.

Mister Meessen says the UV between 350 and 400 nanometers could reach the film , in contradiction with the Acheroy report and the analysis of the OIP firm.



My analysis

I decided to analyze this picture on the basis of lens characteristics and measurements of the object on the slide. The measure, given by professor Meessen, is 19 mm on the 24 mm of the slide placed horizontally.⁵ The use of this measure and the angular size of the image and the lens will be the initial point of my analysis.

Since the slide was horizontal, we can calculate the angular field area of the lens for the different focal length of the zoom. The angular field of view of the lens, can

f = focal length in mm	Tga= 24/f	a =field of view of the lens in degrees	Tgb= 19/f	b =angular diameter of the object in degrees	Comparison with the diameter of the moon.
200	0.12	6.843	0.095	5.427	11X
150	0.16	9.09	0.127	7.219	14.5X
100	0.24	13.496	0.19	10.758	21.5X
55	0.436	23.58	.346	19.058	39X

be obtained by dividing the slide dimension, 24 mm, by the focal length. This determined by the value $tg a = 24/f$.

We may also calculate the angular diameter, b, of the object by the formula $tg b = i/f$, with i = height of the image and f the focal length considered. Then we compare the angular diameter "b" of the object with the angular diameter of the moon, 30 arcmin or $\frac{1}{2}^\circ$.

I placed the results in the table above. The last column at right compares the angular size with that of the moon. The minimum size is determined to be 11X the size of the moon. It is unlikely that the witnesses would not have noticed such a large object in the sky. Remember the witnesses had compared the craft with a small tourism plane and say it measured 5 cm at arm length. At arm's length (54cm), means at the distance between the eye and the extremity of the arm, in front of you, with digit curved to mask the object you are observing. As an example, to mask the moon this way, you just need $\frac{1}{2}$ cm. This distance, used by artillerymen, permits approximation of small angles. One cm at arm's length corresponds to an angle of one degree, so 5 cm correspond to five degrees.

If you calculate the angle of view, c, given by the witness, you have $tg c = 5/54 = 0.0926$ and " c " = $5,29^\circ$. This value matches the value of 5.427 with a 200mm focal length but the witness stated he used 100 or 150 mm. This result corresponds to an object over 14 times larger than the moon, which is a large area on the sky. This is not the size of a small tourism plane.

With $tg c = 0.0926$ one can calculate the dimension that the image of the object would have been on the slide for the different focal length. The formula, is "i =

$$0.0926 \times f'' = tg c \times \text{focal length.}$$

The results in this table:

f (mm)	200	150	100	55
i = 0.926 x f (mm)	18.5	13.9	9.26	5.09

You can see immediately that the dimension i = 19 mm is only compatible with the focal length of 200 mm. But the witness said he had used between 150 or 100 mm. In this case the image on the slide had to be smaller as the calculation shows it. The focal length 150, 100 and 55 conduct to a dimension incompatible with what you see on the slide.

The size of the object (o) is unknown. This size is proportional to the distance of the object and is given by the formula: " $o = (tg b) \times d$ ". The witness said the object was at 150 m. The table below shows that, at 150 m the object had to be small, between 19 to 28 m if he really used the focal length 100 or 150 mm. At 500 m with focal length 150 it is the size of a large plane. But at this distance, if it were a plane, he would have heard the noise and a plane would not stay in the same place for five minutes.

How did he estimate the value of 5 cm at arms length? We can think that, as a majority of people, he did not hold an object in his hand at arm length but compared in his mind with length of known size on a ruler. In this case people tend to overestimate this size, as for the moon from

ten to fifty times the real size. If he had overestimated ten times (hypothesis) the image on the slide would only measure 2 mm across.

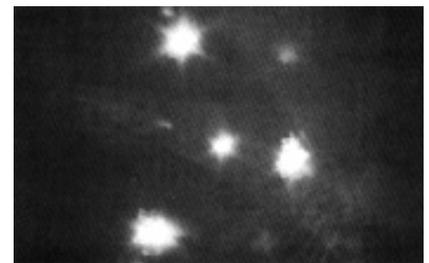
Moreover, if he used 100 or 150 mm focal length, the size of the object on the actual slide (19 mm) is greater than the values calculated using his estimate. This is reason to suspect a hoax.

The white lights can be measured on fig 5 or 6 in the pictures of the Marion analysis⁶ would then had to be 1.25 times the diameter of the moon. This large dimension is very different from the small points of light described by the witnesses.

PM said he had moved the camera slightly when he took the picture. In this case, the four lights would appear moving in the same direction but this is not the case. On the picture you find very complex lines of light and displacement that don't match with each other. The difference between the picture and the description they gave is another argument for fabrication.

CONCLUSIONS

The different analyses conclude that the slide apparently doesn't show any effects produced by double exposure (however, it is possible to do so without leaving traces) or special effects, video montage or synthesis effects. The various analyses cannot exclude effects based on a cardboard triangle suspended by a thin thread, giving the rotation effect seen on the picture. (*Editor note: Wim van Utrecht produced the same effect using this type of arrangement. His resultant image below was published in the Jenny Randles "Danger in the air".*)



F	tg b	o at 150m	o at 300m	o at 500m	o at 750m
200	0.095	14.25	28.5	47.5	71.25
150	0.127	19.05	38.1	63.5	95.25
100	0.19	28.5	57.0	95.0	142.5

The Petit-Rechain picture shows, at the left of the object a weak red light (Why wasn't this element not analyzed by pr Marion). This weak light is evidently a lens flare (a reflection of the red light in the lenses of the telephoto). Indeed, this red light is symmetrical to the red light on the object in regard with the centre of the picture. This indicates that this light in front of the photographer was intense enough to produce a lens flare. But no intense light was described by the witnesses.

The description made by the witnesses differs from what can be seen on the picture. He took one picture, didn't remember the date, didn't call SOBEPS, and remained anonymous. The photographer didn't even seem to be interested until the press photographer bought the rights to publish it.

While the witness indicates the object was a small object, the image on the film shows something large. The analysis of the dimensions of the object on the picture clearly shows that they are incompatible with the witness' reports if he used the focal length of 100 to 150 mm.

This behavior doesn't agree with an observation of an exotic object. The more likely conclusion is in favor of a fake made to illustrate the observation of a plane or to match with the description of the "Triangular UFO" found in the media for the previous four months. This conclusion is more rational than the description of an unknown object staying motionless in the sky for five minutes while turning on itself asymmetrically.

It is very curious that, in a such a highly populated area, with people looking for UFOs, nobody else reported seeing this large object at low altitude. Only the photographer could explain what is really on his picture but his desire to remain anonymous will prevent any further resolution on the issue.

Notes and References

1. The picture of Petit Rechain can be found at <http://www.ufoevidence.org/topics/belgium.htm>
2. VOB2 p 229à 231

3. Pr MARION: , CNRS : professor at the university Paris South , Retired.This professor, a believer, is the same who says the "Turin shroud" is 2000 years old (This result was never edited in a peer review) in contradiction with the dating made by three different laboratories by the method of Carbon 14 dating that place the Turin shroud between the years 1260-1390. The dating by C14 is the best dating that can be done and cannot be refused.
4. "Analyse et implication physique des photos de la vague belge » in Infore-space N°100, pages 5-40, February 2001, by A Meessen , professor at the Louvain University in Belgium, retired. On the web site : <http://www.meessen.net/Ameessen/> you can find the different pictures of the analysis. But the explanations are in French language.
5. VOB2 page 222 ; VOB 1 p 413-à418 ; VOB 2, p221-à248
6. The pictures of the analysis by professor Marion , if not joined, may be found on <http://adelmon.free.fr/vaguebelge/Rechain.html>

Editor note: Allan Hendry once wrote the following about UFO photographs:

I noted earlier in examining the conclusions of the 1,307 UFO reports that hoaxes did not figure at all into the scheme of things--rather misperceptions of some existing stimulus were responsible. This situation is not the case, however, when it comes to cases involving photographs, where a significant population of deliberate fraud exists. The failure of photographs to serve as impersonal proof of the existence of UFOs up to now lay largely in the ease of fabricating fake photos of small models that couldn't be distinguished from the real thing. (UFO Handbook P.240).

There were hundreds of UFO reports describing these huge triangular shaped craft over Belgium but this was the only photograph showing one. The lack of any other clear photographs suggests the triangular objects were more about misperception than observations of real exotic craft. This, in addition to the provenance of this photograph, indicate it was probably a hoax.

Fighting the hydra

The second labor of Hercules had him fight the nine-headed hydra of Lerna. If somebody was lucky enough to cut off one of the heads, two more would pop out of the headless neck! Even more difficult for Hercules was the last head was immortal and indestructible. One can compare this labor with the efforts of skeptics/debunkers/naysayers/disbelievers (pick your label but I will use the acronym SDNDs) when discussing UFOlogy's "best cases".

Dr. Menzel mentioned this in his discussion about "UFOs: A modern myth":

UFOlogists never tire. And as I shoot down each of their prize exhibits, they cry, "Here's another," and wave their fantastic claims as proof of their unyielding position.¹

Apparently, Dr. Condon was interested in taking on some UFOlogical writings in his report. Dr. Roy Craig warned him against it because:

If one proved six of ten arguments wrong, the opposition merely would drop those arguments and substitute six new ones, leaving us where we started. The situation was similar to pursuing Dr. James McDonald's "twenty best UFO cases," which he told various groups of people were worthy of detailed scientific investigation. As soon as the investigator showed several of the twenty have no merit, those were simply dropped from the list and replaced with different cases.²

Can skeptics explain "every" case? I doubt it is possible to the satisfaction of UFO proponents. Even when cases are thought to be explained, UFOlogists find a way to "resurrect" them. In the Hydra that is UFOlogy, it seems all the heads are considered indestructible.

Notes and references

1. Sagan, Carl, and Thornton Page, eds. UFO's: A Scientific Debate. New York: Barnes & Nobles, 1972. P. 131
2. Craig, Roy. UFOs: An Insider's View of the Official Quest for Evidence. Denton: University of North Texas Press, 1995.p.212

This issue, I want to do a follow-up on SUNlite 2-5's IFO university article on meteors. I did not address certain issues that came up in a recent discussion about how meteors appear to behave.

Meteors can move "upward"

I missed mentioning this important point when I mentioned it in IFO University. I have read far too many UFO reports of fireballs, where the witness states "it could not be a meteor because it rose in the sky". This is a mistake by the observer and a mistake by UFOlogists/investigators for not making it clear that meteors can go in any direction or angle in the sky. To quote Allan Hendry:

A common misconception about meteors appears to be that they have to travel downward to the earth and in an arc.... One of the most repeated comments offered me was that "the IFO couldn't be a meteor because it was traveling horizontally," parallel to the earth's horizon, "instead of dropping." Actually, since we are only viewing an apparent trajectory along our line of vision, any meteor can appear to adopt ANY direction and angle including upward, and it need not move in a curving path.

As one can see in this image I grabbed from my meteor videos, it is not unusual to see meteors move upward relative to the horizon of the observer. I only include one but I have many examples.



Meteors that rise in altitude!

Not only can meteors appear to rise upward and not fall, they can also actually increase in altitude. Earth grazing meteors skip off the Earth's atmosphere. They come in at a shallow angle, reach a low point and then exit the atmosphere. A good example of this is the August 10, 1972 daylight fireball. Research showed it reached a low point of about 58km and then rose in altitude as it exited the atmosphere. However, this fireball is not an isolated case. There are probably a good number of earth-grazing meteors seen

IFO University: Fireball/meteors follow-up and Comets

every year. They are just not as well documented as the August 1972 fireball.

Comets

Comets rarely produce UFO reports because they usually are not bright enough to be seen by the casual observer. However, occasionally a bright comet does appear and witnesses have no idea what they are looking at because it is not announced in the local press. Comets do not move the way some people expect. Some believe a comet will move rapidly across the sky but the only motion that can be perceived for most of the night is that of the earth's rotation. The changing position of the comet usually can only be seen from night to night similar to the moon's position can be seen to shift from night to night. As a result, a comet will set in the west and rise in the east just like most celestial objects.



In 2006, a comet was discovered that had the potential for being a fantastic sight but it was not favorable for northern hemisphere observers unless you knew where and when to look. Comet Mcknaught became quite the southern hemisphere spectacle in late January and February of 2007 but it was briefly visible with the naked eye for Northern Hemisphere observers in early January 2007. I personally made several trips out to the local lake in order to obtain some very interesting photographs in bright twilight of the comet (the photograph above was taken with a 600mm lens and is only 1/2 second long). It was as bright as Venus and I was able to locate it before sunset on one occasion. Apparently, this individual noticed the comet but was not aware of what they were seeing. This observation was listed as being 40 minutes

long, which is pretty close to how long it would have been visible:

I was walking my dog and saw the object high in the sky leaving a short contrail in its wake. At first, I thought this was a high altitude aircraft which I often see and paid it no mind. As I got closer to home I noticed that it was pretty big even though it was very high up and seemed to be traveling west. At that moment my son was pulling into the driveway exclaiming, "What the hell is that!" I told him I thought it was a high altitude aircraft and he disagreed. He said "Dad, really take a look at it! That's no plane!" I told him to run inside and get my binoculars and when he returned with them, the object was farther away and nearing the treeline. We observed this object, which he was right, was no plane, traveling high and appearing to be burning up in the atmosphere. It was cylindrical in shape and was bright orange and yellow and leaving a smoke trail behind it. It also seemed incredibly large in size considering that it was so high up. We couldn't make out any windows or control surfaces such as wings and such, but it was very high and far downrange when we finally looked at it with binoculars. large object entering our atmosphere and Also at the time I looked at it with binoculars it seemed to have changed from traveling like a missile, to traveling on its side and like a bar and at an angle so contrails were forming from both its ends. Very cool looking and extremely odd to see at that time of day. The sun wasn't exactly setting yet and it was pretty much still daylight outside. The sun really brightened up the contrails in the sky too.

Comets can generate UFO reports BUT it has to be under the right conditions. This October, there is a comet (by the name of Elenin) that will be visible to keen-eyed observers just before dawn. It might generate a UFO report or two.

Notes and references

1. Hendry, Allan. The UFO Investigators Handbook. London: Sphere Books Ltd. 1980. p. 42-3
2. Davenport, Peter. National UFO Center UFO Reports Database. Available WWW: <http://www.nuforc.org/webreports/060/S60768.html>

UFOs on the tube

AncientAliens-AlienMessengers History channel 12/30/2010

This was probably the most anticipated program of this series because of the hype it received from Jim Penniston and John Burroughs. I had watched the previous episodes and was so disappointed in it, I felt it was not worthy of discussion. At least Bill Birnes wasn't in this program but there were others that were excellent substitutes.

The show started right off with setting the stage for the Rendlesham event. However, there were some factual errors in it. According to the show, military radar detected the UFO right after midnight. There are no records to confirm this but this is reported as if it was 100% accurate. The show went further when it states that Penniston wrote about the encounter in his "report". In reality, Penniston never wrote a report but he did file a witness statement which told a completely different story than the one he tells today. The latest revelation by Penniston is that when he touched the craft, he received a download of information into his head full of ones and zeros. When he took his hand away, the UFO then took off. The show then gives the set up for the rest of the program by telling us that Penniston kept this "download" secret for thirty years and now the truth can be revealed.

The program then moves on to some really exotic stuff. We are told that various famous religious individuals in the past received guidance from aliens. Not only are famous people like Moses and Abraham implied to have gotten guidance from ET, others were as well. Joan of Arc, Johannes Brahms, and mathematics genius Srinivasa Ramanujan were all implied to have been influenced by aliens in their dreams.

Why are aliens influencing earthlings? According to all the talking heads in the show, ET is out there trying to place us on the right path with the implication that aliens are overseeing our civilization. I was surprised that the show did not imply we were created by these Aliens.

Then the program mentioned that there

were good and bad ETs. The Trojan War was an example of when ETs go to war and use humans as their pawns. Phillip Coppens stated the story of Abraham and Isaac was because two different groups of ETs were telling Abraham conflicting information!

As a setup for the finale, the show mentioned that not everyone listens to these dream messages from ET. Just like in the movie "Close Encounters of the third kind", these people never make the "psychic connection" with the message. Lucky for us, Jim Penniston is the 2010 version of Roy Neary.

After Penniston went home, he kept thinking about the "download" he received. After a day of thinking about it, Penniston was able to accurately record everything into his magic notebook. The show states there were six pages of these ones and zeros (other sources state it was 12-14 pages). These numbers turned out to be a binary code that had a great revelation for mankind. Nick Ciske decoded this information to read a longitude and latitude for something that is important for the advancement of mankind. The location given is for Hy Brasil, a mythical island west of Ireland. The inhabitants of this island were supposed to be highly advanced like Atlantis. The approximate location has been available in various books and web sites for all to see. While Ciske is on record as stating it was unlikely to create the code, it is not mentioned is that anybody can convert a message to binary using a computer or a conversion table.

The show's main point was that ancient astronauts have helped mankind throughout the ages by giving messages to all the great leaders and thinkers over the years. They interpreted these messages as gifts from god/gods. I get the impression that we are now supposed to treat Jim Penniston as something of a "chosen one". Is Jim Penniston the next "savior" of mankind or is he just another in a long line of self-proclaimed prophets looking for public attention? For anybody gullible enough to eat this stuff, the show may be worth watching. For more skeptical minds, don't waste your time.

Book Reviews

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

The UFO book - Jerome Clark

This book is basically a poor man's version of his lengthy and expensive UFO encyclopedia. I disagree with many of his conclusions about UFO cases but it does provide a lot of good information and plenty of sources for follow-up. The major drawback is that certain major cases were missing. Despite this limitation, it is worth purchasing for any UFO library.

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

UFO: The complete sightings - Peter Brookesmith

This book is entertaining and fairly complete in covering all the major UFO sightings over the centuries. However, the coverage is very brief and does not offer a lot of extra information. For a primer, it is OK but as a resource, there are far better books out there.

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

Scientific UFOlogy - Kevin Randle

This book starts off attempting to establish how UFO cases can be scientifically examined. Randle's approach should be commended but after wanting to be scientific, he ignores a lot of scientific work in order to present his interpretation of various UFO events. A prime example is how he interprets the Zond IV incident. Instead of suggesting that the witnesses who reported seeing a rocket with windows misperceived Zond IV, he suggests they saw an actual UFO instead, which appeared at the same time as Zond IV. There are multiple cases of re-entering debris that produces the kind of reports in Zond IV and Randle simply ignored them. Randle should have used this book as a platform on how to scientifically attack the UFO problem. Instead, it is more of the usual UFOlogical approach of listing a bunch of UFO mysteries and then complaining that science does not take notice. Physician, heal thyself.