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Surrey Investigation Group into Aerial Phenomena

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THE DARK NIGHT OF THE UFOLOGIST

Every so often, there comes even to the most dedicated seeker after ufological truth, the unhappy suspicion that it is all a waste of time, that nothing will ever be established and even the most evidential accounts will always be discounted by the powers that control our world. It is then, however, that the need arises for a look back over some of the most convincing reports from the past, to reassure him that the question of the existence and activities of UFOs is real and relevant. This issue of *Pegasus* contains some material of value in that respect.

The point at which reassurance is most powerful is precisely that at which the evidence presented is denied and repudiated by the national authorities concerned. Examining the often ridiculous statements put forward to explain events which clearly demand a paranormal recognition, one can see the desperation which engenders this defensive attitude. "It cannot be possible because it MUST NOT be possible" is the mind set of authority. The absurdity of the attempts to rebut indisputable evidence is the measure of the panic below the surface, of the fear that that which must not be made known may be revealed.

One day things may be different. One day the truth of the existence and relevance of the UFO phenomenon will be revealed - which may not be altogether what we expect or desire. Could there be a good reason for covering it up? We can only speculate.

G.M.

UFOS: THE PHYSICAL EVIDENCE --OVERWHELMING -- BUT AS ELUSIVE AS EVER

Michael Jordan, *Journal of Alternative Realities*, Volume 10, Issue 1, 2002

Any scientific study of the UFO enigma seems inevitably to result in frustrating ambiguity and contradiction. Really worthwhile UFO reports are frequently characterized by high strangeness, evasiveness, resistance to scholarly investigation and a seemingly unavoidable, bewildering array of conclusions. Writer K. Phillips, in an essay on *The Psycho-Sociology of Ufology*, notes that, in addition to this elusiveness, "it can be shown that the UFO phenomenon has a religious, historic and folkloric dimension, the implications of which are only just beginning to be appreciated by those who are willing to sift the evidence.... moreover, by inspection of the tens of thousands of reports from all over the world, it would seem that, paradoxically, while the UFO phenomenon gives every indication of being impossibly remote from us, at the same time it displays facets that indicate that it is intimately close."

We may well ask the question: why is it, if UFOs leave real, quantitative physical evidence, as many cases seem to indicate, that there is still little understanding of their physical qualities? One explanation is that the irregularities and seeming inconsistencies of these many reports have not come under the scrutiny of cross-disciplinary study until relatively recent times. Of course, any such study is beset by the differences in the way that physical and social scientists tend to view the application of scientific methods in their respective fields. The special nature of the UFO subject raises subtle and often unique problems that members of either group might see in differing perspectives.

So, does this mean that our hunt for explanations and solutions ends in smoke? Hardly -- as we shall see. Where possible, the separation of physical evidence into defined categories, followed by interdisciplinary examination, slowly but inexorably yields a degree of clarity to our still murky understanding of what it is we are dealing with, or more correctly, is dealing with us. After many years of bitter experience we know that, as far as this subject is concerned, recorded data of an event, even from an official source, is simply not acceptable. An accumulation of such evidence has had little impact on the sceptics. Again, a large part of the problem is brought about by the only filters and hurdles acceptable in the eyes of orthodox science. In order to be convinced of the reality of a phenomenon, science requires that it should be capable of reproduction and prediction in a laboratory. We all know that there are many aspects of our world that cannot be understood within accepted terms of reference.

In this context, UFO historian Richard M. Dolan, in his monumental *UFOs and the National Security State*, writes, "Not only must we ask what constitutes proof, but who is authorized to deem it so. This is not so easy to determine. Certainly, an acknowledgment of aliens would have to come from a major spokesperson of official culture -- the President, perhaps. The matter is more political than scientific. UFO evidence derived from a grass-roots level can never survive its inevitable conflict with official culture (fifty years of failure have borne this out). An acknowledgment of the reality of the UFO phenomenon will only occur when the official culture deems it worthwhile or necessary to make it. Don't hold your breath. As a result, the easiest thing to do with UFO evidence is to ignore it, which is what most people do."

It would appear that the best prospect for achieving a meaningful evaluation of relevant hypotheses is likely to come from the examination of physical evidence. Setting out with this objective in mind, a review panel composed of nine scientists of diverse expertise and interests convened a four-day workshop in New York, from 30 September to 3 October 1997. More on this undertaking later but, for now, let's look at the categories of physical evidence that were presented to these scientists by UFO investigators. The evidence was associated with particular UFO reports and included: photographic evidence; luminosity estimates; radar evidence; interference with both automobile and aircraft functioning; apparent gravitational or inertial effects; ground traces; injuries to vegetation; physiological effects on witnesses; and analysis of debris. An American space-science textbook in use at the Air Academy up to 1970, listing classification systems common to UFOs, included: electro-magnetic effects; radiation; ground disturbances; sound; vibration; smell; debris; inhibition of voluntary motion by observers; the sighting of creatures or beings.

One can only wonder why the category of 'debris' was left out of the material presented to the 1997 panel. According to Timothy Good in *Beyond Top Secret*, Canadian government official and engineer Wilbert Smith admitted that a number of fragments from UFOs had been recovered and analysed by his research group, including one that had been shot from a UFO near Washington DC in July 1952. Smith reported that "A glowing chunk flew off and the pilot saw it glowing all the way to the ground. He radioed his report and a ground party hurried to the scene. The thing was still glowing when they found it an hour later. The entire piece weighed about a pound [454 grams]. The segment that was loaned to me was about one third of that. It had been sawn off.... There was iron rust... the thing was in reality a matrix of magnesium orthosilicate. The matrix had great numbers -- thousands -- of 15-micron spheres scattered through it." Smith was asked if he had returned the piece to the US Air Force when he had

completed his analysis. "Not the Air Force. Much higher than that," he replied. "The Central Intelligence Agency?" asked the interviewers. "I'm sorry gentlemen, but I don't care to go beyond that point," Smith said.

Good writes that, according to information supplied to science journalists, NASA may be in possession of physical evidence relating to extraterrestrial materials. In 1974 a Polish biophysicist and engineer contracted to NASA was a member of an international team of English, French and Italian scientists which was given some odd metallic and plastic-like material, supposedly originating from the Soviet Union, to analyse. During analysis using an electronic microscope the team found small pyramid structures in the nanometre range (i.e. one thousand-millionth of a metre), showing a kind of super-reflectivity. They found alloys that could only have been made in conditions of weightlessness. Other tests showed traces of unusual Kapton and Kevlar-type synthetics. This was in the early 1950s and those materials had not existed at that time. The melting point of the metal samples was above 2,000 degrees centigrade, and tests using helium, neon and ruby lasers had no effect. The foil seemed to possess a 'memory', like current memory metals, but to a factor of 1,000 or better. (Several witnesses of the Roswell crash described a metal with similar qualities.)

So much for alleged debris. Rather than looking at UFO cases highlighting individual categories of physical evidence, let us instead move on to look at three of the best-documented and researched events, each involving not one, but a number of physical effects. Let's begin with one of ufology's classic cases, that of 52-year-old mechanic and quartz prospector Stefan Michalak, who, just after noon on 19 May 1967, saw two cigar-shaped objects, glowing red and flying at high speed above the wilderness of Falcon Lake in Manitoba. The objects became more disc-shaped as they came closer when, suddenly, one stopped in mid-air before departing towards the west, while the other landed behind some bushes at a distance of about 160 feet [50 metres] from Michalak. Assuming it to be an experimental American aircraft, he estimated it to be about 35 feet [10 metres] in diameter and about 12 feet [3.5 metres] high. He observed the object through welding goggles for a period of about half an hour, noting a smell of sulphur. He then decided to approach closer and at 60 feet [18 metres] distance heard the muffled sound of voices and the sounds of a motor and a rush of air. He first called out in English but, when there was no response, Michalak, who was multilingual, tried Russian, German, Italian, French and Ukrainian -- without any success. He decided to look inside the craft. In his own words: "The inside was a maze of lights. Direct beams running in horizontal and diagonal paths and a series of flashing lights, it seemed to me, were working in a random fashion, with no particular order or sequence. I took note of the thickness of the walls of the

craft. They were about 20 inches [50 centimetres] at the cross-section." Suddenly the opening was sealed by three panels, so Michalak began to examine the craft's exterior.

He noticed no welding joints, and that the surface was highly polished, like glass. When he touched the surface with his glove, he found that the rubber coating melted. Suddenly the craft changed position slightly and a blast of hot air struck his chest, setting his shirt and vest alight and causing severe pain. He tore these off and the object began to ascend in a rush of air, leaving a 15-foot [4.5-metre] -diameter circle on the ground. Michalak felt dizzy and vomited for a number of days and lost 20 pounds [9 kilos] over the next few weeks. Admitted to a hospital in Winnipeg, he was treated for minor burns to his face and severe burns to his chest. His hands swelled considerably and he experienced intense headaches and rashes. Tests by the Whiteshell Nuclear Research Establishment showed no radiation above the background level.

For several days after the incident Michalak was unable to eat, his blood lymphocyte count was down from 25 to 16 per cent, and he continued to feel weak, dizzy and nauseous. Timothy Good, reviewing the case in *Above Top Secret*, writes that "A haematologist's report indicated that Michalak's blood had 'some atypical lymphoid cells in the marrow plus a moderate increase in the number of plasma cells'." Altogether Michalak was examined by a total of 27 doctors, most from official sources including the departments of Health and Social Welfare and National Defense. They were unable to offer a full explanation for the cause of his symptoms.

An investigator for the Department of Health and Social Welfare found a small contaminated area at the landing site, no larger than 100 square inches [25 centimetres square], that gave a significant level of radium 226. On 30 June Michalak, searching with another person, found the landing-site complete with the outline of the landed object and the remains of his shirt. When the Royal Canadian Air Force searched the site on 28 July to collect samples, their representative described 'a very evident circle'. They also found a high level of radiation in some samples, considering the site to be 'a possible health hazard.'

In March 1983 GEPAN, France's equivalent of NASA, submitted a 66-page report put together by a committee of seven scientists on a UFO landing near the village of Trans-en-Provence on 8 January 1981. This proved over time to rank as one of the most convincing physical-evidence cases ever studied. Not only were physical traces collected by the gendarmerie within 24 hours, but several government laboratories were involved in their examination.

Farmer Renato Nicolai saw a flying object making a whistling sound descend rapidly to land in his yard. Shortly afterwards the object rose to

tree height, emitting a whistling sound, and headed in a north-easterly direction. Nicolai, who was close to the site, saw four small openings on the underside of the object, which had been on the ground for some ten seconds. He examined the landing spot and noticed a 6-foot [1.8-metre] -diameter circular imprint, with several abrasion areas prominent in the circle. He noted that the object was metallic-grey in colour, had a thick band around it and had a diameter of 8 feet [2.4 metres] and a height of 6 feet [1.8 metres].

The gendarmerie in Draguignan took photographs and samples on the morning of 9 January. The French National Centre for Space Research was immediately alerted and the samples delivered to GEPAN, while samples of vegetation from the landing area and surroundings were sent to the National Institute for Agronomical Research. It is important to know that, as the taking of samples is naturally critical to any study. In this case GEPAN had been able to provide law-enforcement officers with detailed instructions for the gathering of samples, which were then divided amongst several French laboratories for double-blind study. Their tests included physico-chemical analysis, electron diffraction, mass spectrometry by ion bombardment, and biochemical analysis of vegetable samples.

The summary of these analyses confirmed that strong mechanical pressure had been applied to the soil by a heavy weight, causing erosion, striation and heating (not exceeding 66 degrees centigrade), and chlorophyll pigment in the leaf samples was weakened from 30 to 50 per cent. Importantly, the GEPAN result stated that attempts to duplicate these changes were unsuccessful. A strange result of the analysis of alfalfa leaves at the landing site prompted INRA to report: "From an anatomical and physiological viewpoint, they had all the characteristics of leaves of an advanced age -- old leaves! And that doesn't resemble anything that we know on our planet."

Beyond the effects of the phenomenon on soil and plants, scientists are left to consider the impact on human witnesses. In the case of Stefan Michalak we looked at the dramatic physiological effects that he suffered as a direct result of his close encounter. Our final case, which Jacques Vallée described as "the best-authenticated close encounter incident in continental Europe", includes not only hard traces, botanical data and physiological data, but also detailed descriptions of beings associated with the UFO. It came to be known as 'The Valensole Case'. Not only is it one of the most thoroughly investigated close encounters on record, but examination by French government agencies began on the day of the event.

During early morning of 1 July 1965 Maurice Masse, a French lavender farmer, was working in his field in the village of Valensole, near the lower Alps, when he suddenly noticed an object that had landed in his lavender field. At first glance from a distance, he thought that it was a

helicopter or some sort of experimental prototype but, as he approached closer to the object, he saw that it was oval-shaped and rested on six curved legs and some type of central pivot. Through an opening in the craft he thought that he could see two back-to-back seats. Suddenly he saw two beings, less than 4 feet [1.2 metres] tall, wearing grey-blue-green suits but without any type of breathing devices. One of them pointed a small tube at the farmer, which immediately paralyzed him. Although lying on the ground, he remained fully conscious, noting that, as they looked at him with what he later described as 'concerned expressions', they made strange gurgling sounds from deep within their throats as they communicated with one another. Masse saw that the two beings had large hairless heads, smooth white skin, large eyes that slanted away, pointed chins and small mouths without lips. After their brief dialogue, they entered the craft through a sliding panel and the object took off, leaving a deep crater and an area of moisture that later became as hard as concrete.

After about 20 minutes Masse was able to move his arms and legs, but four days after the incident he collapsed and his sleep pattern was dramatically altered for several months. Rather than his usual five- or six-hour sleep break he was sleeping for periods of twelve hours or more, and his wife and father noted distinct behavioural changes. Masse was a former Resistance fighter, an astute farmer and regarded as 'absolutely trustworthy' by police investigators. Lieutenant-Colonel Valnet, Maître Chautard, leading the gendarmerie and the Mayor of Valensole, in fact everyone who investigated the case, concluded that Maurice Masse was telling the truth.

Investigators found that the ground where the craft had landed was soaked with moisture, although no rain had fallen. Geometrically-spaced indentations covered the area and the plants were affected by the proximity of the phenomenon, appearing to decay in direct proportion to their distance from the central column of the craft. The calcium content of the soil at the landing site was found to be much higher than in samples taken from other areas in the field.

Famous UFO writer and researcher Dr Jacques Vallée, returning to the scene of the incident in 1979 and meeting with Maurice Masse and two of his close friends, makes a number of interesting observations. He notes that Masse was reluctant to give all the details of his experience to investigators as well as to his own family at the time, including the fact that he believed that some type of silent communication took place between himself and the beings. From the beginning he wanted to minimise the impact of the experience -- not wanting publicity, amongst other reasons. Like many experiencers of this phenomenon, he had changed in many ways as a result of the experience, including the belief that some form of contact, once established, continued in subtle forms. Vallée concludes:

"Throughout these discussions with Mr Masse I had the feeling that I was in the presence of a very intelligent man, capable of deep emotions and rational thought. He is also quite humble: he has declined to appear on a television documentary with a nationally known journalist.... I had brought with me a photograph of similar traces left after another case. Mr Masse looked at me with a mixture of amazement and relief that someone else was aware of these particular marks. He told us that he sometimes found them in his field; that's how he knows that 'they' have come back. He always erases the traces immediately."

As promised, let us now return to the 1997 workshop, with a panel of nine scientists reviewing purported physical evidence associated with UFO reports and funded by Mr Laurance S Rockefeller. Unfortunately, the panel was extremely limited by the time allocation of just three days. Compare this with, for example, the two-year-long Colorado Project that was supported by both the Air Force and the Central Intelligence Agency. Chairperson Professor Peter Sturrock quite rightly points out in his report, with respect to the limiting time allocation: "It would certainly be highly unreasonable to expect such a panel to solve in only a few days a problem that has remained unsolved for fifty years."

Time was only one of the limitations that the panel faced that would hinder their progress in reviewing evidence in this whole area. UFO research teams have long been familiar with these difficulties. For example, with respect to photographic evidence, the panel noted: "photographic evidence can contribute to a better understanding of the UFO phenomenon.... it is highly desirable that the photographic evidence be accompanied by strong witness testimony, but it is very difficult to meet these requirements (as in the case of remotely-operated scientific monitoring stations) because of the unpredictable nature of UFO events." Again, on the subject of radar records, "the panel concludes from these presentations that the analysis of radar records requires the service of radar experts. The panel also notes that information from military radar can be obtained only with the cooperation of military authorities, and that most military authorities do not offer this cooperation." Surprise, surprise!

On the subject of cases involving vehicle interference, the panel found "these reports to be intriguing. In order to contribute to the analysis of such cases, however, scientists would wish to have available evidence of a variety of types, certainly including narrative accounts, but also involving more concrete information such as radar records, tape recordings, etc." One can only ask the obvious question, as these records exist in enormous quantities: why were they not made available?

As a final example of the difficulties inherent in marrying UFO events to the requirements of orthodox science, we note the panel's report on one of the better-documented cases involving a helicopter of the US

Army Reserve en route to Cleveland, Ohio, at 11.00pm on 18 August 1973. The four-man helicopter crew were returning from Columbus at approximately 10.00 pm on a clear, calm night with 15-mile [24-km] visibility. The helicopter was cruising at 90 knots at an altitude of 2,500 feet [760 metres]. Suddenly the crew saw a single, steady red light, which appeared to be pacing the helicopter. The light continued its approach and the commander took over the controls from his co-pilot and put the helicopter into a powerful descent of approximately 500 feet per minute. He made contact with Mansfield control tower but, after initial radio contact, the radios malfunctioned on both VHF and UHF. When the red light increased its intensity and appeared to be on a collision course at a speed estimated to be above 600 knots, the commander increased the rate of descent to 2,000 feet per minute.

With a collision seeming imminent, the light suddenly decelerated and hovered in front of the helicopter. The crew reported seeing a cigar-shaped grey metallic object that filled the entire windshield. It had a red light at the nose, a white light at the tail and a distinctive green beam that shone from its underside. This light swung over the helicopter bathing the cockpit in green light. There was no noise or turbulence from the object. Suddenly the object made a 40-degree course change and left. While the object was still visible, the crew noted that the altimeter read 3,500 feet with a climb-rate of 1,000 feet per minute, despite the fact that the main power control was in the full down position. The commander raised the controls and the helicopter climbed nearly another 300 feet before positive control was regained. Radio contact was then immediately resumed. In other words, the helicopter ascended from 1,800 feet to 3,800 feet even though its controls were set to descend.

The Mansfield helicopter case involved not only the testimony of the helicopter crew but that of five ground witnesses, plus related evidence from an airline pilot who, before the event, reported unidentified traffic and a strong blue-green light source. The panel's comment: "The panel finds reports of this type quite interesting, but without the existence of any solid physical evidence (such as analysis of the magnetic compass might have provided) it is difficult for a panel composed of physical scientists to draw any conclusions." The panel also found it curious that the commander did not know where to report such an extraordinary event. Yet again we see how another strong case with impeccable witnesses can be dismissed by some scientists because they will always find some filter through which it will not fit.

Despite the enormous limitations imposed by the brevity of its meeting time, Professor Sturrock and his panel of scientists were introduced to enough evidence to induce them to make a number of recommendations and suggestions in their Summary Report which are of

extreme importance to UFO research. Some of these suggestions are: that the UFO problem is not simple and should receive more attention, with an emphasis on physical evidence; that regular contact between UFO investigators and the scientific community would be helpful, as also would institutional support; and that the possibility of health risks associated with UFO events should not be ignored.

The panel was greatly impressed by the work of GEPAN, and there is no doubt that the best prospects for real advance in our understanding of the UFO problem would be the creation of similar projects in other countries. The most important change that could be made by scientists is to become curious. In view of the fact that modern UFO reports began in 1947, in view of the emergence of clear patterns in UFO reports, and in view of great public interest, it is remarkable that some members of the scientific community have exhibited so little curiosity in the past.

It is likely that more scientists at universities would take an interest in the problem if they felt that their activities would receive the same recognition and level of support as their more conventional research. Moreover, students would become better informed if there were occasional lectures or seminars on this subject. Investigators could help this process by developing resource material for such seminars.

The UFO problem is very complex and it is impossible to predict what might emerge from research into this area. But the same is true of any real and exciting area of scientific research. As the panel remarked, "Whenever there are unexplained observations, there is the possibility that scientists will learn something new by studying those observations." What is learned may bear no relation to the concepts that were entertained when the research was undertaken. We venture to hope that more scientists will take an interest in this curious subject so that there will be more progress in the future. There could hardly be less. In conclusion, one can only applaud the panel's recommendations, but also wonder how they could be so unaware of the fact that many scientists, mostly connected to secret programmes, have indeed been closely involved with the UFO phenomenon since early July 1947.

Source: <http://www.ufoevidence.org/documents/doc485.htm>

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UK MOD BS

A study by the Ministry of Defence [MOD] in the United Kingdom has just emerged and concludes there is no substance whatsoever to the UFO reports of the past 60 years – all natural phenomena.

Based upon early returns from researchers in the UK who are reviewing the 1996-2000 UFO “study” by the UK Ministry of Defence, it has every appearance of being an attempt by the UK to create a Condon Report*-type propaganda effort to counter the gathering momentum for disclosure developing at that time. When they were finished, they realized what an embarrassing piece of crap they had created, and buried it. It came to light because outside researchers, some of whom were no fans of the extraterrestrial hypothesis, requested its release under the UK’s equivalent to the US Freedom of Information Act.

If you like irony and think the comparison to the Condon Report is accurate, you will appreciate the name of the UK MOD report – “Project Condign.” To add to that irony, the definition of “condign” is “adequate, deserved.” In fact, the name is so ridiculous it is tempting to think the whole thing is a UK Government joke. There is also the possibility that the public report is a cover for a more comprehensive, classified report. This has been done before.

As regards media coverage, the contrast between the recently-disgorged UK MOD UFO report and the 2000 French COMETA report is notable. The COMETA Report raised important points as to the validity of UFO phenomena and challenged the US to act.

The US press wanted nothing to do with the COMETA Report, made no effort to translate it, and wouldn’t cover it when it was translated and presented. The exception was freelance journalist Leslie Kean – to her everlasting credit.

The UK MOD report has been all over the US media – Reuters, *New York Times*, Drudge, MSNBC, CNN, FNN, and many smaller papers.

That the American press went from being a formidable force for understanding the world and challenging questionable government policy circa 1970-75 to a pathetic collection of overpaid useful idiots is one of the saddest and most dangerous political realities of the 20th Century.

*The Condon Report was headed by Prof. Edward U. Condon and based at the University of Colorado (a black mark the U of C will eventually have to account for) and was released in 1968. It was an awful study but passable as propaganda. For an excellent summary of the Condon Report’s history see the following article by W. Todd Zechel:

Source: **Paradigm Research Group** www.paradigmclock.com



“Let me through – I’m a sceptic”

PENTAGON HACKER SAYS HE WAS HUNTING UFOS

To the United States he is a seriously dangerous man who put the nation's security at risk by committing "the biggest military-computer hack of all time".

But Briton Gary McKinnon says he is just an ordinary computer nerd who wanted to find out whether aliens and UFOs exist.

During his two-year quest McKinnon broke into computers at the Pentagon, NASA and the Johnson Space Centre as well as systems used by the US Army, Navy and Air Force.

US officials say he caused \$US 700,000-worth of damage and even crippled vital defence systems shortly after the September 11 attacks.

The unemployed computer programmer is now battling extradition to the United States, where, if found guilty, he faces up to 70 years in jail and fines of up to \$US1.75 million. His lawyer fears he could even be sent to Guantanamo Bay.

It's all a far cry from how he first got into hacking: watching a film about a teenage boy who breaks into a military central computer and almost starts World War Three.

"I had seen the film 'War Games' and I do remember clearly thinking at the time, that's amazing – a great big military computer system and a young, spotty teenager," the softly-spoken 39-year-old said in an interview.

A decade later McKinnon, armed with information gleaned from the book *The Hacker's Handbook*, began his snooping.

During 2000-01, from his home in Hornsey, north London, and using a computer with just a limited (56K) dial-up modem, he turned his sights on the American government and military.

"My main thing was wanting to find out about UFOs and suppressed technology," he said, insisting that his intention was not to cause damage. "I wanted to ... find out stuff the government wouldn't tell you about."

He said it was easy, despite being only a rank amateur. Using the hacking name "Solo", he discovered that many US top-security systems were using an insecure Microsoft Windows program and had no password protection at all.

"So I got commercially-available off-the-shelf software and used it to scan large military networks ... anything I thought might have possible links to UFO information," he said.

He said he came across a group called the "Disclosure Project", which had expert testimonies from senior figures who said that technology obtained from extraterrestrials did exist.

One NASA scientist had reported that the Johnson Space Centre had a facility where UFOs were airbrushed out of high-resolution satellite images. So, he hacked in.

"I saw what I'm convinced was some kind of satellite or spacecraft but it was manufactured by no means I have ever seen before – there were no rivets, no seams, it was like one flawless piece of material. And that was above the Earth."

However, his probing came to an end in March 2002, when British police arrested him.

"I was completely obsessed. I was completely addicted. It was like a huge game but I was getting very paranoid," he said.

McKinnon's own story might sound like the plot of a movie, but the charges he faces are deadly serious. He argues he is being made a scapegoat by the US authorities to deter other would-be hackers rather than address their own security flaws.

"I'm already being treated as a terrorist," he said. "I appear in an official American Army pamphlet ... in a guide to combating terrorism in the 21st century."

The next stage of his legal battle takes place on 10 May. But he hints that, whatever happens, he has a lot more to tell.

"I can't talk about a lot of stuff that I found. It's just not the right time," he said with a smile.

Source: *Sydney Morning Herald* (online edition)

UK Gary McKinnon Hacker Case

PRG [Paradigm Research Group] has been following the case of computer hacker Gary McKinnon, who is facing extradition to the United States for violating national security by hacking into government computers and seeking information regarding UFOs and government cover-ups. Recently he gave a fairly impressive account of himself in an interview for the BBC. See: http://news.bbc.co.uk/nolavconsole/ukfs_news/hi/newsid_497000/newsid_4979700/bb_rm_4979716.stm

After some consideration PRG executive director Stephen Bassett, has contacted Mr. McKinnon's solicitor, Karen Todner, and offered his services *pro bono* as an expert witness and consultant to counsel as regards the political, economic, scientific and technological implications of the extraterrestrial presence and the US Government-imposed truth embargo. Further, he has offered to make available PRG's massive database of media, research and activist contacts to assist in the preparation of Mr. McKinnon's defence.

Mr. McKinnon has broken the law and should be punished. However, there is a real possibility the enormous pressure currently being exerted on the truth embargo may prompt the United States Government to overreact by seeking to punish Mr. McKinnon to an excessive degree. If asked, PRG will assist to help prevent this from happening.

Source: **Paradigm Research Group** www.paradigmclock.com

MYSTERIOUS RED CELLS MIGHT BE ALIENS

By Jebediah Reed



Scientists have yet to identify these unusual red particles. As bizarre as it may seem, the sample jars brimming with cloudy, reddish rainwater in Godfrey Louis's laboratory in southern India may hold, well, aliens.

In April Louis, a solid-state physicist at Mahatma Gandhi University, published a paper in the prestigious peer-reviewed journal *Astrophysics and Space Science* in which he hypothesizes that the samples

– water taken from the mysterious blood-coloured showers that fell sporadically across Louis's home state of Kerala in the summer of 2001 -- contain microbes from outer space.

Specifically, Louis has isolated strange, thick-walled, red-tinted cell-like structures about 10 microns in size. Stranger still, dozens of his experiments suggest that the particles may lack DNA yet still reproduce plentifully, even in water superheated to nearly 600 degrees Fahrenheit. (The known upper limit for life in water is about 250 degrees Fahrenheit.)

So, how to explain them? Louis speculates that the particles could be extraterrestrial bacteria adapted to the harsh conditions of space and that the microbes hitched a ride on a comet or meteorite that later broke apart in the upper atmosphere and mixed with rain clouds above India.

If his theory proves correct, the cells would be the first confirmed evidence of alien life and, as such, could yield tantalizing new clues to the origins of life on Earth.

Last winter Louis sent some of his samples to astronomer Chandra Wickramasinghe and his colleagues at Cardiff University in Wales, who are now attempting to replicate his experiments; Wickramasinghe expects to publish his initial findings later this year.

Meanwhile, more down-to-earth theories abound. One Indian Government investigation conducted in 2001 lays the blame for what some have called the "blood rains" on algae.

Other theories have implicated fungal spores, red dust swept up from the Arabian Peninsula, even a fine mist of blood cells produced by a meteor striking a high-flying flock of bats.

Louis and his colleagues dismiss all these theories, pointing to the fact that both algae and fungus possess DNA and that blood cells have thin walls and die quickly when exposed to water and air.

More important, they argue, blood cells don't replicate. "We've already got some stunning pictures -- transmission electron micrographs -- of these cells sliced in the middle," Wickramasinghe says. "We see them budding, with little daughter cells inside the big cells."

Louis's theory holds special appeal for Wickramasinghe. A quarter of a century ago he co-authored the modern theory of panspermia, which posits that bacteria-riddled space rocks seeded life on Earth.

"If it's true that life was introduced by comets four billion years ago," the astronomer says, "one would expect that microorganisms are still injected into our environment from time to time. This could be one of those events."

The next significant step, explains University of Sheffield microbiologist Milton Wainwright, who is part of another British team

now studying Louis's samples, is to confirm whether the cells truly lack DNA. So far, one preliminary DNA test has come back positive.

"Life as we know it must contain DNA, or it's not life," he says. "But even if this organism proves to be an anomaly, the absence of DNA wouldn't necessarily mean it's extraterrestrial."

Louis and Wickramasinghe are planning further experiments to test the cells for specific carbon isotopes. If the results fall outside the norms for life on Earth, it would be powerful new evidence for Louis's idea, of which even Louis himself remains skeptical.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2006/TECH/science/06/02/red.rain/index.html>



“So, madam, how often do you see this little green man?”

THREE NEW PLANETS FOUND AROUND SUN-LIKE STAR

by Ker Than, SPACE.com

Three medium-sized planets of roughly the same mass as Neptune have been discovered around a nearby sun-like star, scientists announced today.

The planets were discovered around HD69830, a star slightly less massive than the sun located 41 light years away in the constellation Puppis (the Stern), using the ultra-precise HARPS spectrograph on the European Southern Observatory's 3.6-meter La Silla telescope in Chile.

The finding, detailed in the 18 May issue of the journal *Nature*, marks a first for astronomers because previously-discovered multi-planet solar systems besides our own contain at least one giant, Jupiter-sized planet.

"For the first time we have discovered a planetary system composed of several Neptune-mass planets," said study-team member Christophe Lovis of the Geneva Observatory in Switzerland.

The setup is similar to our own solar system in many ways: the outermost planet is located just within the star's habitable zone, where temperatures are moderate enough for liquid water to form, and the system also contains an asteroid belt.

The newly-discovered planets have masses of about 10, 12 and 18 times that of Earth and they zip around the star in rapid orbits of about 9, 32 and 197 days respectively.

Based on their distances from the star, two inner worlds nearest the star are rocky planets similar to Mercury, the scientists suspect. The outermost planet is thought to have a solid core of rock and ice and is shrouded by a thick gas envelope.

Recent observations by NASA's Spitzer Space Telescope last year revealed that HD69830 also hosts an asteroid belt, making it the only other sun-like star known to have one.

When the asteroid belt was found, it was suspected that there might be an unseen planet that was shepherding the asteroids; it now seems that there is more than one shepherd. The researchers think the asteroid belt could lie between the two outermost planets or beyond the third planet.

The planets have not been photographed. They were found using the Doppler, or "wobble," technique, in which astronomers infer the presence of a planet by measuring the gravitational influence it exerts on its

parent star. This technique was used to find most of the more than 180 planets so far discovered.

In the early years of planet hunting, the wobble technique was sensitive enough to spot only large, massive planets because they produce more significant stellar wobbles. However, the technique has since been refined to the point where lower-mass planets can now be detected.

Kentucky Coal Train Collision With UFO Disc

From Peter Davenport – Director, National UFO Reporting Center

PAINTSVILLE -- At exactly 02.47 a.m. on 14 January 2002, while working a coal train en route from Russell, Kentucky to Shelbiana, Kentucky, our trailing unit and first two cars were severely damaged as we struck an unknown floating or hovering object. I know it was 02.47 because my watch froze, and to this day shows that time. Along with my watch the entire electrical systems on both locomotives went haywire. Approaching a bend near milepost 42 in an area referred to as the Wild Kingdom, for the many different types of animals spotted there, my conductor and I saw lights coming from around the way. This ordinarily means another train is coming and will pass on the other track. The outlay of the area is this: the river, 1 track, 2 tracks and a straight-up mountainside, carved out for the laying of these tracks. I killed our lights so as not to blind the oncoming crew. As we rounded the corner our onboard computer began to flash in and out, the speed recorder went nuts, and both locomotives died. Alarm bells began to ring, and that's when we saw the objects. Apparently scanning the river for something. At least three objects had several "search" lights trained there, the first object hovered about 10 to 12 feet above the track.

It was metallic silver in colour with multiple coloured lights near the bottom and in the middle. There were no windows or openings of any kind that we could see. It was 18 to 20 feet in length and probably 10 feet high. With both engines dead as we rounded the corner we made little noise, and the first object did not respond in time; I estimate that we hit the object at 30 mph with 16,000 trailing tons behind us. It clipped the top of our lead unit then skipped back slicing a chunk out of our trailing unit and first two coal cars. The other objects vanished.

Our emergency brakes had initiated due to the loss of power and we stopped approximately a mile and a half to two miles after impact. Our power restored after we were stopped and we notified our dispatcher, located in Jacksonville, Florida of what had happened. We were told to inspect the cars to see if they'd hold the rail and try to limp into milepost 60, which used to be the Paintsville yard but is no longer in full operation. We checked everything out and the cab of the rear locomotive was demolished and smoking, the second two cars looked as if they had been hit with a giant hammer, but looked like they'd hold the rail.



Aerial View of Paintsville, KY Railroad Yard

We pulled into Paintsville yard at approximately 5.15 am. The huge overhead lights lining the yard were noticeably dark and the only lights came from what we assumed were railroad officials' vehicles parked near the end of the track. We pulled to a stop and began unloading our grips off the wounded train. We could hear what sounded like an army of workers immediately tending to our train. Vehicle doors slamming, guys running by in weird outfits and lights glaring from all directions; the one thing missing was railroad officials.

A guy named Ferguson shook my hand and asked me to follow him into the old yard office. We did, and once inside they -- and by *they* I mean I have no idea who these people were -- began to ask us hundreds of questions, they then told us that for our own protection we'd be medically tested before we could leave. I asked repeatedly to talk to my road foreman or trainmaster, and not only were these requests denied but they confiscated my conductor's cellphone. Hours later we were led outside the old yard office and the strange things continued to happen, the two

locomotives and two cars were removed from the rest of the train we had brought in and my only guess was parked four tracks over, under a huge tent-like structure buzzing with activity. We were led off the property and told that, due to national security, our silence on this matter would be appreciated.

We were then put in a railroad vehicle and taken to Martin, Kentucky, where we went through questioning again with railroad officials and were then drug-tested. After all of this we were sent on to Shelbiana, where we took rest for 8 hours and worked another train back to Russell. Working back we passed by Paintsville: no sign of the engines, cars, tent, people -- nothing.

Source: www.rense.com

DVD Reviews – Secrets of UFOs

Secrets of UFOs is a new set of DVDs recently released in the US by Grizzly Adams Family Entertainment. Lasting approximately 50 minutes each and being compatible with UK DVD players, they are available to the UK for around £7 each (postage included) from retailers including: <http://www.dvdstars.com>. Telephone (Canada): 001 647-477-2600. This price makes a welcome change from other UFO related DVDs which are often priced at up to £30. The four DVDs in the series are reviewed below by SIGAP members.

DVD One - FIELDS OF MYSTERY: Are Crop Circles the Language of Aliens?

On the one hand, for those who don't know a great deal about Crop Circles or who only believe what they read in the papers, this professionally-produced American DVD provides a good deal of evidence that they are more than hoaxes; on the other hand, tying these formations in with UFOs is controversial. But then, so are both subjects, and the best thing is to watch the DVD and make up your own mind.

It starts with the current crop of Crop Circles -- or formations -- which began in the late 1970s, showing some stunning designs from the crop fields in England, and features talks by several of the people who have been studying the phenomenon from the

beginning -- Colin Andrews, Michael Glickman, Lucy Pringle, etc. They state that UFOs were often sighted either over the crop circles or seen in the vicinity before or after their formation, and balls of light (BOLs), often connected with UFOs, are actually shown having been filmed in the cornfields. The point is then made: are these formations created by extraterrestrials, and are they trying to communicate something to the human race?

Or are they hoaxes?

The DVD agrees that some are -- but wonders how the world could have been taken in, back in 1991, by two elderly pensioners who made the front pages of the papers by insisting that they had made all the formations to that date [*some 7,000 by 2005 -- Ed.*] How, it asks, did they create not only several a night in the English countryside, but also those which have appeared worldwide over the decades, many not just in crops but in other mediums such as ice, snow and trees. Explanations other than hoaxes for the formations are then also put up -- and promptly knocked down!

So, can some of these intricate formations be 'genuine' ?

Nancy Talbot of the BLT Laboratories in the US, which has been studying the phenomenon for many years, demonstrates that wheat stalks from inside the crop circles often show softened and extended nodes, with minute soot-covered holes blown from the inside, possibly by microwaves -- something which, at the present time, cannot be recreated on earth.

But, is there any indication that they are intended to be messages from an alien culture?

Nick Kollestrom, an eminent mathematician, shows that many theorems, unknown in present-day mathematics, have been discovered in the more intricate of the crop formations. And the DVD ends with more mathematics. In 2001 an unusual rectangular formation appeared -- as usual overnight -- in the field next to the Radio Telescope in Chilbolton, Wiltshire. It was in binary code and was felt, by many crop 'experts', to have been a reply to the 1974 message sent out to the stars from the Arecibo Observatory in Mexico, also in binary code.

You might think that if aliens are clever enough to do advanced geometry, they should be clever enough to learn a little basic English, but who can tell?

However, in my opinion one excerpt from the DVD is worth the whole price. It is part of a film I was lucky enough to view a couple of days after it was shot by Colin Andrews' colleague back in 1996 and clearly shows a couple of helicopters trying to hustle their van out of a wheatfield not far from Salisbury Plain, which contained a

newly discovered formation. Far across the field a small but bright ball of light (BOL) appears. One of the helicopters breaks away, comes up to the BOL and manoeuvres around it while the other helicopter remains, still trying to drive the van and its occupants away. Then the BOL streaks away and both helicopters follow it.

So there, on the screen, is proof that something is bothering the defence forces: Crop Circles, BOLs, UFOs or what? **Sonya Porter.**

DVD Two - KECKSBURG UFO CRASH: What Really Happened at Kecksburg?

This film's main virtue is that it contains interesting eyewitness testimony (particularly that of William Bulebush and Jim Romansky) on the sighting of the craft that is claimed to have come down near Kecksburg, Penn. in December 1965. Their statements are interwoven with commentary by experts, among which Dr William Cassidy's is of particular interest, and Dr Richard Hames's explanation of the alleged cover-up program also adds relevant context. Some of the accompanying dramatisations appear somewhat unnecessary (such as a soldier insisting to would-be providers of witness statements that they had seen nothing, also a scene where a witness is seen retracting her statement) -- these could have been covered by simple narration. Sgt Clifford Stone's attempt to link the event to Soviet activities, and the suggestion that the crashed vehicle could have been the USSR's *Venus* probe, seem to have been treated a little too seriously, although they certainly deserved a mention (but could have been dismissed somewhat more explicitly).

A minor detail is that Pennsylvania is mis-spelt as *Pennsylvainia* on the map showing where the incident occurred. **TP.**

DVD Three - ROSWELL UFO CRASH: What Really Happened at Roswell

Roswell is one of the most significant UFO events of which we have details, basically because the US government was unprepared for it. It is therefore especially important that any published accounts of the happenings there should be complete and accurate, which cannot be said of this DVD, which was obviously compiled some years ago.

It takes no account, for instance, of the revised description of the debris recovered, which the US authorities decided could finally be described as an anti-Russian device, the Cold War being then over. Additionally, much is made of the alleged autopsy on the fabricated mannikins, which was long ago shown to be faked. (I still have the slides the perpetrators sent me for review at the time, which this DVD reproduces.)

I am afraid it is merely a clumsy compilation of often misleading and frequently irrelevant clips, which no ufologist should spend time viewing or recommend. **G.M.**

DVD Four - AREA 51 Base

According to the US Government, Area 51 does not exist. But what shall we call all these buildings and hangars in the Nevada desert tin the dry Groom Lake? Bob Lazar, scientist describes the area in detail as he actually worked on the spaceships. Groom Lake suddenly vanished from all the maps, so why is the US Govt. keeping it quiet? What's happening at Area 51? Are they working on secret projects or launching spaceships?

Witnesses say there have been many saucers seen on this territory. The security is top level, pursuing inquisitive people by military helicopter or cars and forcing them to leave the place. The airspace around the base is also restricted. If a pilot straying into this does not react quickly, his aircraft may be shot down.

Stalin had an intense interest in UFOs, and Russia has been taking photographs from space. In 1988 they took a photo showing spaceships taking off. According to David Adair, who went in the hangar and discovered huge working areas including a 10-storey building, and who actually saw and touched the spaceship, the technology was so unique that it can't be from our planet.

Abductees claim that US Military have been taking part in their abduction and they describe the same area, hangars and underground facilities. The aliens they have seen are from the Zeta-Reticuli constellation.

Everything is obvious. The US Government and aliens are working together on secret projects creating either some kind of weapon or producing spaceships which will help to disguise themselves and which they will use if any kind of nuclear war breaks out. Keeping it secret means that there won't be any questions to answer and the population will be kept isolated from unnecessary information.

I found this DVD both disturbing and absorbing and although it contains no new revelations about the operation of Area 51 at this bargain price I would consider buying a second copy to lend to my most sceptical friends. **N.W.**

Area 51: This footage I found very interesting. Most likely the tip of the iceberg to what is really being kept from us, especially the ET involvement? I wonder who really is governing the world!? **J.W.**



LETTERS

Members who wish to express any opinions, ideas or comments are invited to write to Pegasus at the address on page two. We reserve the right to edit any submission. Ed.

NEWS IN BRIEF/ SIGHTINGS ROUNDUP

UFO 'crashes' into KZN (Kwa-Zulu Natal, South Africa)

Sea 20/05/2006 Port Shepstone -- The National Sea Rescue Institute (NSRI) is monitoring a mysterious situation on the KZN south coast. "Numerous" eye-witnesses reported an unidentified flying object crashing into the sea on Saturday. NSRI Shelley Beach station commander Eddie Noyons said eye-witnesses had reported an unidentified object -- possibly an aircraft -- crashing into the sea behind the breaker line off-shore of the Port Shepstone High School. Police, rescue craft and a fixed-wing aircraft were alerted to the scene to investigate. Noyons said: "Following a full-scale search of the area covering 12 square nautical miles nothing has been found. There are no reports of activity in the area that may be related to this incident and there are no aircraft reported overdue or missing."

He said numerous eye-witnesses -- including teachers and pupils attending a sports event at the high school, bystanders and local fishermen -- were convinced they had seen an aircraft go into the water. They said they saw smoke and described "water exploding". Some also reported seeing flames. Noyons said: "Some reported seeing something, an unidentified object,

splash into the sea causing a ripple effect of waves." Noyons said it was being presumed that weather activity in the area at the time might have given the impression of something falling into the sea. "We will continue to monitor the situation, which remains a mystery," he said.

Source:

http://www.news24.com/News24/South_Africa/News/0,,2-7-1442_1936528,00.html

SETI (Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence) scientist Margaret Turnbull has compiled a 'shortlist' of five nearby stars -- whittled down from about 19,000 possible candidates -- which, she says, are the most likely nearby "candidates" for being home to ET. These are the stars upon which, she says, we should be concentrating our research.

These stars had to fulfil certain criteria to go on the shortlist: a "candidate" must be long-lived (so that life has had time to develop) and give out just the right amount of heat and light; it must also have planets, at least one of which must be in the "habitable zone" -- orbiting far enough away from its sun not to boil, but not so far that it freezes. In our solar system only one planet -- Earth -- falls into this habitable zone. Elsewhere in the galaxy there were only a few possible candidates.

Dr Turnbull's front-runner as a possible home for our ET neighbours is a rather nondescript star called Beta CVn, a sun-like star about 150 trillion miles away in the Canes Venatici constellation. It can just about be glimpsed with the naked eye. Number 2 on the list is HD10307, which is almost identical to our sun. Others on the list include 51 Pegasus, a star already known to have planets orbiting it, 18 Sco, another twin of our sun, and HD211415, which is a little cooler than the others.

These are the stars upon which SETI's telescopes will now be focused, and they are being subjected to a detailed radio search across all frequencies. [Abridged from a recent *Daily Mail* article.]

BROTHER, IT'S HOT OUT THERE! The assertion that the Anunnaki came from a planet (Nibiru) whose orbit extends far out in our solar system has repeatedly led to the question: How could life exist so far away from the Sun, where it is extremely cold and everything freezes?

My answer has been that we need not go that far out to freeze to death, just rising above Earth's surface would do the trick. It is the planet's atmosphere that retains the warmth, be it

warmth obtained from the Sun *or from an internal source of heat*. The crucial issue for the Anunnaki, I explained, was to prevent the loss of Nibiru's atmosphere; they sought to do that with a shield of gold particles, and they came here to obtain the gold.

Now comes news that made headlines worldwide: WATER GEYSERS ON SATURN MOON HINT LIFE POSSIBILITY.

The exciting news came from a report in the journal *Science* (10 March 2006), in which NASA revealed that its Cassini spacecraft discovered that Saturn's fourth moon, Enceladus, spouts water geysers — "which hints at pockets of **liquid water** under the surface." For that the temperature below the surface must be above freezing. In fact, even the moon's above-surface temperature turned out to be 100 degrees warmer than what had been expected!

While planets generate internal heat from radioactive materials in their cores, the Saturn moon, it is now theorized, may be warmed by magnetic reactions as it orbits Saturn. One way or another, the astounding discovery corroborates scientifically the information that I have reported based on Sumerian writings: Yes, even that far away from the Sun, it can be hot enough for water to flow and life to emerge! **Z. Sitchin**, March 2006

"Grays" Novel Coming From Whitley Strieber in Autumn -

- Whitley writes: "In August I will publish a work of fiction about the grays, which is intended to bring them to life as people, and to reveal what it is like to be with them. It is also my hope that the methods of communication that I demonstrate in the novel will prove useful to people who are in contact and having difficulty experiencing a rich and consistent relationship with them...The grays are communicating with us through large-scale cultural artefacts like books and movies, and small ones like the close encounter in the night. It's up to us to respond to these communications in appropriate ways, as the brilliant creatures that we are, with care, maturity and an open mind."

Source: <http://www.unknowncountry.com/news/?id=5335>

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*The views expressed in Pegasus are those of the articles' authors
and are not necessarily those of the editor, or of SIGAP.*

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