

THE

BENT SPOON

A glowing orb is positioned in the center of the dark sky, directly below the word 'SPOON'. Below the orb is a dark silhouette of a forest of evergreen trees. The entire scene is set against a black background.

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS

THE BENT SPOON

In the landscape of paranormal media, there are traditionally two unique, yet separate, brands. One geared toward the believers, and the other more skeptical in nature. The problem is that the true believers rarely, if ever, embrace a skeptical attitude or ask tough questions of their community; instead preferring to surround themselves with like-minded individuals that reinforce their own belief systems. And the skeptics, likewise, promote science and critical thinking largely to those already open to it, or who are active participants in the skeptical community. This results in an echo chamber effect, wherein the same ideas are bounced back and forth, guru-student relationships are inadvertently created, and neither side ends up learning much about the other.

Enter: The Bent Spoon.

The Bent Spoon is a skeptical magazine for the true believer. Within its pages you will find Q&A between those with opposing viewpoints, interviews with leading investigators and thinkers, as well as articles which will not only provide in-depth analysis, but also be critical of both believers and skeptics alike. Along with reviews, comic strips, and other lighter fare, The Bent Spoon hopes to foster an attitude of outreach, forming a middle ground where believers and skeptics can come together and have a conversation about the issues and questions we've all given thought to.

The Bent Spoon. Where extraordinary claims meet ordinary explanations.



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TOP TEN SIGNS THAT YOU MAY HAVE BEEN ABDUCTED BY ALIENS

- 1) Have had unexplainable missing or lost time of one hour or more.
- 2) Have been paralyzed in bed with a being in your room.
- 3) Have seen balls of light or flashes of light in your home or other locations
- 4) Have a memory of flying through the air which could not be a dream, or many dreams involving flying.
- 5) Have seen beams of light outside your home, or come into your room through a window.
- 6) Have had many dreams of UFOs, beams of light, or alien beings.

7) Have awoken in the middle of the night startled.

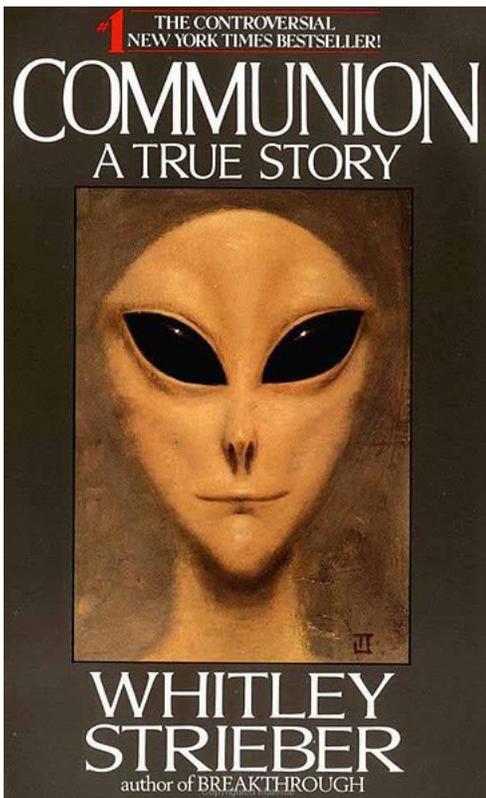
8) Have seen someone with you become paralyzed, motionless, or frozen in time, especially someone you sleep with.

9) Have seen a hooded figure in or near your home, especially next to your bed.

10) Have to sleep against the wall or must sleep with your bed against a wall.

Alien encounters have been the product of many movies, television series,

comic books, magazines, novels, etc. Though most of these tales are that of the science fiction genre, there are a lot of people who claim to have had authentic alien encounters and abductions. In 1961 Betty and Barney Hill were able to make it into the spot light as the first popular American alien abduction case. They were even able to make some money when they released their bestselling book titled *The Interrupted Journey*. Also one can't help but think of the bestselling book from 1988 *Communion: A True Story* by novelist Whitley Strieber when



talking about alien abduction stories. Though there are many holes and major red flags in both stories (which may be covered in future articles) I am not suggesting that everyone who has claimed to have had an alien abduction case is either trying to profit off of it by writing a book or is even making it up, I am just going to discuss a possible explanation that I feel holds more credibility than ET's. A fun little factoid for people interested in UFOlogy, alien abduction is strictly a 20th century phenomena. There have been claims of supernatural abductions by fairies, demons and angels for centuries and though many UFOlogists are trying to link these tales from the past with early alien abductions, I personally can't see the connection.

After a quick Google search I was able to make a list of the "Top 10 signs that you may have been abducted by aliens." Symptoms shared by many folks who claim to have experienced this phenomenon. From what I can gather these experiences are far from pleasant, when memories are recalled they include rape, being tortured, having painful experiments done, even

women have claimed to have their unborn children taken from them. Most of this is done while their body is paralyzed and unable to make a sound, however they claim to be aware of everything going on. These experiences can be frightening, no one disputes that, however there is a rational explanation of what is happening. When someone goes into REM (rapid eye movement) sleep and starts to dream, the body becomes paralyzed. The reason for the paralysis is to keep us safe in case we start to act out our dreams and possibly injure ourselves. But once in a while we can wake up while we are still paralyzed and in the dreaming state. When this happens the effects can be terrifying. Psychologist Susan Clancy says "We can find ourselves hallucinating sights, sounds, and bodily sensations. They seem real but they're actually the product of our imagination."

Sadly this valuable information isn't



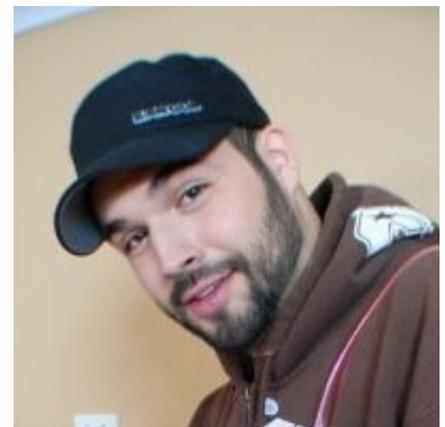
enough to convince some abductees. Some who truly believe that they have been abducted, mostly dismiss the possibility because the experience was "too real" to be a dream and others tend to get a bit defensive, as if they are being called liars – which is not the case. Often I am told "you were not there, I know I was not dreaming," or "well maybe if this happened to you, you would understand." Well fortunately I can relate to every one of these abductees, because I myself have woken up many times paralyzed only to find little men

standing at my bedside. I suffer from chronic sleep paralysis. I know how real and how scary these experiences can be. I have personally experienced every single symptom in the "top 10 symptoms of being abducted by aliens," notice they mostly all have one thing in common – they involve being asleep.

Earlier I said I couldn't see how UFOlogists try to link early supernatural abduction stories that involved demons, fairies and other mythological creatures to the modern day alien abductions. However there is a common factor, the experiences usually happened when the person was asleep. Early reports never spoke about the advanced technology seen on space crafts and very rarely were there stories of a flying space craft.

Every culture experiences sleep paralysis and it is equally as scary worldwide. In Asia it is believed that a ghost is holding down a person called "Amuku Be" or the "Khyaak" which is a ghost that resides under the staircase of the residence. In Arabic cultures they call this phenomenon "Kaboos" which is a creature or ghost that sits on peoples chest. In Greece some still attribute sleep paralysis to works of demons or the devil. In African-American cultures it is said that "the witch is riding you." In American cultures we call sleep paralysis night terrors, old hag syndrome, shadow people and my favorite alien abductions.

-Bobby Nelson



IN THE NEWS



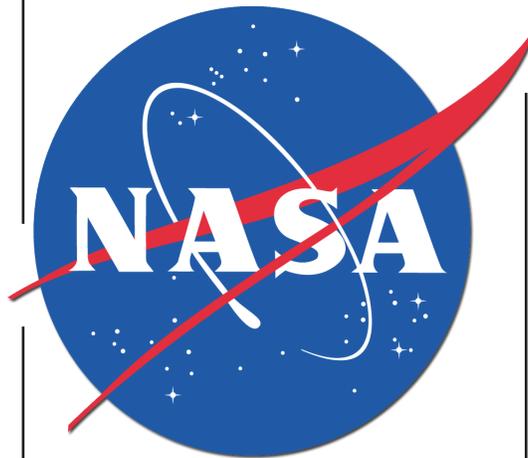
NASA Warns of Alien Attack because of Global Warming?

I love the in the news section because it is amazing to see how journalists can distort topics. My good friend Nichole sent me an article title “Aliens Could Attack Earth to End Global Warming, NASA Frets.” The media seems to be having a field day with this story. In this joint study titled “Would Contact with Extraterrestrials Benefit or Harm Humanity? A Scenario Analysis,” between Penn State and the NASA Planetary Division it is suggested that “extraterrestrial environmentalists” may take forceful action on planet earth exterminating humans for our part in global warming.

According to the study, it is saying that ET’s “could attack and kill us, enslave us, or potentially even eat us. ETI could attack us out of selfishness or out of a more altruistic desire to protect the galaxy from us. We might be a threat

to the galaxy just as we are a threat to our home planet.”

“Humanity may just now be entering the period in which its rapid civilizational expansion could be detected by an



ETI because our expansion is changing the composition of Earth’s atmosphere (e.g. via greenhouse gas emissions), which therefore changes the spectral signature of Earth,” the study added.

The thing that I find humorous about this whole thing is that most news articles reporting this story fail to mention cer-

tain things in the study sentences like “While it is difficult to estimate the likelihood of this scenario, it should at a minimum give us pause as we evaluate our expansive tendencies.” Or “While humanity has not yet observed any extraterrestrial intelligence (ETI), contact with ETI remains possible.”

Also it is probably important to note, I have found no reference to this study on www.nasa.gov.

A UFOlogist Caught in Lies

Paranormal/UFO author, Philip Imbrogno, who claims to hold a Ph. D in theoretical chemistry from M.I.T. has been found to be a liar and fraud. As a matter of fact his website claimed that:

“Imbrogno holds undergraduate and graduate degrees in physics, astronomy and chemistry from the University of Texas and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. In 2010 he was awarded a Ph.D. in theoretical chemistry from MIT. He is a staff member of the McCarthy Observatory in New Milford, Connecticut, and is a founder and former director of the Astronomical Society Of Greenwich, and former director of the Bowman Observatory.” Lance Moody became skeptical of the educational claims of Imbrogno because of a specific photo. A photo of Imbrogno wearing a MIT T-shirt...why is that weird? Well it isn't, it was actually because of a NY Times article referencing the shirt that made Moody check out his background. The part of the article read:

“If any readers are anticipating that he showed up in a gas mask with tin foil on his head,

I'm sorry to disappoint you; he was dressed in a reddish M.I.T. T-shirt and a baseball cap.” Moody claims “Man, he is sell-



ing MIT pretty hard!” Moody said that this was enough to make Imbrogno look desperate. With a quick search on www.degreeverify.com, Moody checked to see if Philip J. Imbrogno received any type of degree from M.I.T...search results came back negative.

Moody went further by contacting M.I.T. in which he received this response: (image, next page) Moody also had a telephone conversation with the offices at M.I.T. which again confirmed

that there has never been a student with the last name “Imbrogno” attending classes at M.I.T. Imbrogno was currently in the process of co-authoring a book with paranormal researcher Rosemary Ellen Guiley titled *The Vengeful Djinn: Unveiling the Hidden Agenda of Genies* however the website now has a notice from Guiley that reads: “Philip J. Imbrogno, co-author of *The Vengeful Djinn*, has informed me that he is withdrawing from the paranormal and will no longer be involved in research, including the *Djinn*. I have ended my research and writing collaboration with him. I am of course continuing my own research and writing in all areas of the paranormal, including the *Djinn*, in which I have been engaged through my career.”

Moody didn't stop at contact M.I.T. he went as far as contact Imbrogno himself. Moody claims that Imbrogno gave 3 incompatible responses. From Moody's blog he writes: “EXCUSE 1: Other people had mistakenly made the MIT claims not him.

In an email to me, Imbrogno said:

“I don’t know why you are after me. There have been multiple mistakes in my background listed, I don’t know how but things happen.”

EXCUSE 2: He used a second legal name when registered at school.

From his email:

In any event I register at school with a different name than I write with.

The problem with this is that he

uses the name he writes with for everything else. It’s the name his phone is listed under and the name he uses at his teaching job. It doesn’t make sense that he would have chosen another name JUST for the purpose of going to school. Is it even legal to have two legal names? I don’t know. And the reason he gave me for this was strange:

“I respect your work, however the name I write with is different than the name I use to register for reasons of people in the UFO field trying to track me down.”

EXCUSE 3: He made stuff up about his background in order to

confuse UFO stalkers.

This excuse came in a later email after I had told him that I actually had found interviews in which he himself claimed the MIT degrees (which destroys excuse number 1).

“I really have no recollection of saying that if I did It was most likely to secure my privacy...I will often give misleading information about myself to secure my privacy. Once again you will just be going around in circles. I have NEVER given information out when dealing with UFOs and the paranormal that I can be traced back too because of stalkers. As far as you know I could have a degree in Engineering!. Its because of nut cases that I protect myself and personal information.”

Since this information has surfaced about Philip Imbrogno lying about his credentials, he has since disappeared, almost like he has been...abducted...gasp!!!



More Siberian hoaxing

Alleged film depicting a glowing craft and it's extraterrestrial passengers. A truly amazing sight that could only be overshadowed by... a house.

This event comes only months after the alleged extraterrestrial corpse discovered (created) by two teenagers, Timur Hilall and Kirill Vlasov, in which they

Radford, to be made of chicken skin and bread.



This is a classic example of a poorly executed hoax. The camera control in this, and many other, videos demonstrates that the UFO was added after the fact. Otherwise, I would think, the camera would have been centered on the craft and it's occupants.

Preceding the release of this clip, there were reports of a "huge pink and blue glowing object" and "an enormous explosion was then heard over a wide area"

The local authorities have no statement regarding the reports. As usual, this spells COVERUP!

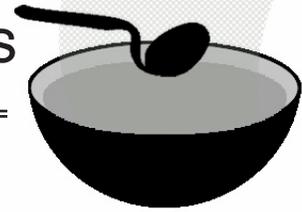
staged the viral youtube video, finding the body of a dead alien. Later confessed, as predicted by skeptical journalist Benjamin

-Nicholas Callis



SOUPERNATURAL

BY JASON KORBUS



The Flying Saucer Myth

Flying Saucers. The very mention of the phrase immediately brings to mind images of alien spacecraft; darting through the sky over a metropolitan city at impossible speeds, or perhaps hovering over a cornfield in the rural midwest. No matter what you picture the vessel doing, when you hear “flying saucer,” it is the shape that immediately comes to mind. But what does it say about the belief that aliens are visiting our planet if the very idea of the saucer shaped craft was but a mere error in translation by the mass media?

The modern age of UFOlogy can easily be traced back to the afternoon of June 24th 1947 when Kenneth Arnold, the owner of a fire control supply company, was flying his private plane near Mount Rainier, Washington on a business trip. As he approached, he witnessed what he described as a series of

bright lights, similar to sunlight reflecting off a mirror, emanating from nine circular objects about 20-25 miles to his left. The objects, some of which had convex shapes and at least one more crescent



shaped, were smaller than a DC-4 airplane (which he also saw in the area at the time) but traveling at speeds that exceeded 1,700 mph. He said the objects flew “as if they were linked together,” weaving from side to side “like the tail of a Chinese kite.” Most integral to further developments in UFOlogical lore,

Arnold told a reporter for the East Oregonian newspaper in Pendleton that they “flew like a saucer would if you skipped it across the water.”

The day following the interview, though Arnold never used the word “saucer” to describe how the objects looked, but only how they flew, “saucer” was exactly the word being used to illustrate their appearance. Wire services across the country picked up on the story and, doing little to no fact checking, the nation was swamped with the report of Arnold’s “flying saucer.”

Soon, people across the country were phoning their local news services are reporting that they too had seen “flying saucers” over their homes and across town.

Much like the children’s game, “Telephone,” a word or phrase is passed along from person to person until, finally,

what the last player says they heard bears little resemblance to what they first player said. In the case of the Kenneth Arnold sighting, crescent shaped objects that moved like saucers skipping across water became discs which became flying saucers.

Arnold himself even sketched out a few pictures of what he saw that afternoon. In an image that appeared in a book Arnold wrote with Fate Magazine publisher Ray Palmer, the object looks much more similar to Batman's boomerang than they do to a small plate you can place your teacup on. Still, the hysteria was on. And within just over a week's time, the most famous "flying saucer" crash in history happened near Mac Brazel's ranch in Roswell, NM.

So what can we infer from this information? Well, we first must acknowledge how powerful the major media is in shaping people's opinions and expectations. Though Arnold never witnessed a "flying saucer" at all, the nation's newspapers put the imagery in people's heads and they then began to see exactly what they were told to see. Well, either that or the aliens changed the shape of all their crafts immediately after Arnold's story broke and came back.

But if you believe that these supposedly highly advanced space beings redesigned their transport vessels simply to conform to a reporter's error, then I can only assume you don't find facts relevant to this discussion. I'm sorry, but if that's the case, then I can't help you.

UFOlogy is big business nowadays. There are books, magazines, and television shows all based on the idea that the saucer men are here. Folks shell out their hard earned money to attend conferences and hear the stories of abductees, and to be in attendance for the wild speculations of so-called experts. Roswell has transformed itself into Ground Zero for UFO experiences, and people flock to Area 51 sure that somewhere inside a dusty old hangar are the remains of an alien spaceship.

Yes, "The Truth is Out There," but unfortunately for the true believers, the facts are not with them.

FURTHER READING:

"Fads & Fallacies in the Name of Science" (Gardner pp. 55-56)

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kenneth_Arnold_UFO_sighting

<http://www.skeptdic.com/saucers.html>

http://www.csicop.org/show/truth_is_they_never_were_saucers/

the "Batarang"





STANTON FRIEDMAN

THE FLYING SAUCER PHYSICIST



Army Finds 'Flying Saucer'
General Believes It Is Radar Weather Gadget
Kulbace Says
Matter Picked
Up on Ranch

SUNSET HERALD
EDITION

EV

TBS: You have accused skeptics of having preexisting bias without looking at the facts, In a field like UFOlogy, evidence like photos and videos can easily be faked and anecdotal or witness testimony has no concise method of filtering out lies, exaggeration, misidentification, or misperception. What constitutes as valid, scientific evidence then?

SF: I am surprised that whoever made up the questions has done so little review of all that I have written and spoken as many are answered in great detail.

My focus has always been on the large scale scientific studies where professionals have spent an enormous amount of time and energy reviewing the evidence . The 29 page first chapter of my 2008 book "Flying Saucers and Science", and the great majority of my more than 700 lectures focus on thalf dozen large scale scientific studies. I check my audiences and fewer than 2% have read any. Scintists are supposed to start from evidence. Not make false claims about what data is or isn't available. For example, Project Blue Book Special Report 14 is the largest study ever done for the USAF.It has data on 3201 cases, categorizations, quality evaluations, cross comparisons between Unknowns and Knowns and more than 200 charts,tables, graphs and maps. No sighting could be listed as an UNKNOWN unless all 4 final evaluators agreed. Any 2 could list a case as aircraft, balloon, etc.Cross comparisons between the UNKNOWNNS and knowns showed that the probability that the UNKNOWNNS were just missed knowns was less than 1%. Those cases for which there was

not enough information were listed as insufficient Information. They were 9.3% of the cases. The UNKNOWNNS were 21.5% The study was done by the Battelle Memorial Institute in Ohio. The press release that went out had this lie from the Secretary of the Air Force"I feel certain that even the unknown 3% could have been identified as conventional phenomena or illusions if more complete observational data had been available". These were 2 flat out lies. ..I think repeated in your questions. I also focused on"The UFO Experience" by Dr. J. Allen Hynek, "The UFO Evidence" by Richard Hall, The Condon Report (30% UNKNOWNNS) and the Congressional Hearings of July 29, 1968 which included testimony from 12 scientists. The best paper is by Dr. James McDonald, Professor of Physics at the U. of Arizona. He had talked to 500 witnesses. His 41 outstanding cases were presented in his 71 page paper..They included multiplewitness radar visual cases, sightings by pilots, meteorologists, astronomers.etc

I gather you are not aware of the 4000+ physical trace cases evaluated by Ted Phillips from 80 Countries? Or the detailed scientific evaluation of UFO photographs published by scientists such as Optical Physicist Dr. Bruce Maccabee. By the way I am a skeptic. My focus is on the false claims by debunkers who apply 4 basic rules: A.Don't bother me with the facts, my mind is made up.B What the public doesn't know, I won't tell them. C. If I can't attack the data ,I will attack the people. D I will do my research by proclamation, investigation is too much trouble

You are very fond of groups such

as the Mutual UFO Network or MUFON but call groups like the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence or SETI a cult, why?

MUFON is an organization.(“Fond of“ is a strange comment) SETI is a field of study. Yes, I have spoken at more of MUFON's 42 annual Symposia than anybody else. MUFON puts out a rgeular monthly journal. The practitioners of SETI have consistently avoided dealing with the papers presented at MUFON symposia, with books and other publications by scientists. SETH Shotak admitted after hearing my lecture that he hadn't read any of the 5 scientific studies I discussed in detail. I have read many books by him and other SETI practitioners. There is an entire 24 page chapter on the Cult of SETI in "Flying Saucers and Science." Cults have charismatic leadership, strong dogma, resistance to outside ideas and a greatly expanded notion of their own importance.Sounds like SETI to me.

You feel that SETI is not doing proper science because you say they are not investigating. How does one go about investigating UFOs while implementing the scientific method regarding the alien nature of UFOs and then go about testing that hypothesis?

The SETI community makes a host of silly assumptions, provides no evidence anybody is sending signals using ancient by galactic standards radio techniques. They assume no visits here, no interstellar travel, no colonization, migration or terraforming and that radio is the ultimate technique. They foolishly assume there is no national

security aspect of alien visitation and they somehow have insight into the behavior of aliens. I say they are not looking at the data.. not that they are not investigating. Science is a method of problem solving. I will take on any SETI follower. None of their objections to alien visitation stand up to scrutiny

Many UFO sightings are inevitably classified as unknown/unsolved simply because there is not enough information to make a conclusion. From your perspective, what criteria does a sighting have to meet to be considered legitimate? How do you determine whether the testimony is accurate after the fact?

ties are both savvy enough to pull off such a major conspiracy while also being inept enough to allow an average citizen to uncover their secrets?

Having worked under security for 14 years and having visited 20 document archives (some many times), I don't talk about conspiracy. I show at my lectures heavily redacted CIA UFO documents (Blacked out except for 8 words, for example) and heavily whited out NSA UFO documents (all but one sentence per page). I know how the system works and that there are literally tons of classified documents to which we don't have access. Freedom of Information was used

that an Extraterrestrial, who apparently has traveled many light years to get here, would look so much like us?

Kind of a silly question. We have no idea what fraction of the beings out there are anthropomorphic or not. The omes coming here generally seem to be; just as DNA is very similar for different species. Perhaps the ammonia breathers go to Jupiter. Have you noticed many living things on this planet that have 3 legs or 3 eyes or ears? There seem to be certain features that make sense.. like having the head at the top of the body so that one can spot one's enemies.

“I am surprised that whoever made up the questions has done so little review of all that I have written and spoken as many are answered in great detail.”

The basis assumption here is false. Sightings cannot be listed as UNKNOWN if there isn't enough evidence to rule out conventional explanations. This is hogwash even if repeated over and over. In courts we have developed techniques for evaluation of evidence and testimony. The debunkers will accept eyewitness testimony if a conventional explanation is found, but not if one isn't found. This is bias not science.

You state that you have proven that the NSA and the CIA are withholding UFO data, and you were able to uncover this fact. Can you explain how these enti-

after a court action brought forth the existence of such documents. There is a 26 page chapter on The Cosmic Watergate in FSS. Try reading it. The Eisenhower Library has more than 250,000 pages of classified material. He left office in 1961. I have proven these and many other agencies hold loads of classified material. I have never claimed the black ink or white out has been removed.

There seems to be a tendency of people to create things in our own image. Truly, human beings have anthropomorphized everything from God to monsters throughout our history. With that being said, what are the odds

Recently, astrophysicist Stephen Hawking suggested that extraterrestrials are almost certain to exist. However humans should not be seeking them out, instead we should be doing all it that we can to avoid any contact. How do you feel about this?

I discussed Hawking's foolishness in one of my monthly columns. Aliens are already coming here and they haven't destroyed us.. yet. He also suggested they would have sent a message first.. like Columbus notified the natives of his impending visit!

You have made the claim before, that it is possible some type of

galactic federation may have put earth on some sort of a quarantine list. If life in space exists, why would they quarantine our planet?

They would want to quarantine us because we are a primitive society whose major activity is tribal warfare. We killed 50 million earthlings during World War 2 and destroyed 1700 cities. We are NOT nice people. We have huge

no fly zone. In 1952 we sent jets up to chase away UFOs seen by eye and on radar. Described in detail in "Shoot Them Down" by Frank Feschino. Obviously the president of the USA doesn't speak for 7 Billion Earthlings.. has trouble sometimes speaking for 310 million Americans. Any civilization capable of flying at will over earth would know there are many different radar systems on the ground and in the sky and many different defense



supplies of nuclear weapons. Our first H bomb in 1952 produced a 3 mile wide fireball and released the energy of 10 million tons of TNT. I can't imagine successful societies out there wanting us out there. Can you?

Here is the one million dollar question. If aliens are out there and are making trips to earth, why not make themselves know, for example land on the lawn of the White House?

Again a foolish question which I discuss in FSS. The obvious answers are the White House is in a

aircraft and military groups which would all like to get their hand on the saucers in order to eventually use them for military purposes. Our Stealth program cost \$10 Billion. in secret.

Are you open to the idea that you're wrong and if so, what would it take for you to realize this?

I have done 4 debates. Obviously I am willing to put my conclusions out there. I have had only 11 hecklers in over 700 lectures and 2 were drunk. But remember my conclusions are derived from a detailed

intensive review of evidence. The UFO debunkers unfortunately are unwilling to examine that evidence. Look at the references in their books.

We were all a little put off by Mr. Friedman's arrogance in this interview. He apparently didn't grasp the concept of the interview. So much so, that he felt it completely unnecessary to answer most of the questions. This left us a bit confused not to mention annoyed. Jason Korbus actually took some time to send Mr. Friedman an email...here is the correspondence that took place.

----- Original Message -----

From: Jason Korbus

To: Stanton Friedman

Sent: Saturday, August 27, 2011 5:27 AM

Subject: I'm worried about you...

Dearest Stanton,

I recently saw an interview you gave to The Bent Spoon, a free monthly magazine I contribute to, as well as heard about an "Ask Me Anything" online forum you participated in on Reddit. Well, imagine my shock when you took each available opportunity to say that questions were "silly," that the questioners themselves had "done little research," and repeatedly told people to go buy your books to find out answers. Stanton, are you unaware of how interviews work? Surely you know that interviews are a way to talk about your ideas and discuss evidence

for your claims so that people who are interested can find out more about what you do. Instead, you treated people like they were idiots and came across like an egomaniacal prick. I can think of only a couple of times where someone acted in such a wholly unprofessional manner; but Courtney Love was probably high and Mike Tyson has just always been an asshole. What is your excuse? I checked the index of "Flying Saucers and Science" and could find no reference to any enormous stick that seems to be up your ass, so maybe you can at least confirm or deny its existence. After all, I did look for the answer in your book first!

Stanny, I care about you, so I'm going to be honest. Lately you have been coming across like a UFO obsessed, conspiratorial minded whack job. Your attitude lately has put a lot of people off, including me. And I speak as someone who has copies of your books and, at least in the past, has been an admirer of your work. But your continued insistence or insinuations that UNKNOWNNS = Alien spacecraft, anecdotal evidence = undisputed facts, and that SETI is just "a cult," leaves much to be desired. Also, your continued infatuation with Dr. Bruce Maccabee (isn't he the guy who "validated" the photos from Gulf Breeze and the Lawton Triangle hoax?) is slightly disturbing since he is so often taken in by deceptions and bunk. Anyone can be wrong from time to time, but these were photographs a lot of children could spot as fakes! Has he come across any photographs he hasn't thrown his support behind?

Stan, I am simply stunned. I've been

reading about you online; is it true you don't have a PhD? Is it true you haven't worked as a Nuclear Physicist since the 70s? If so, why are you considered any kind of expert on UFOs? Really, how can anyone be an expert when, by their very definition, these things are "unexplained"? You seem to be just guessing like so many others are, but the problem is you don't have the evidence to back up your conclusions.

While I've written this email with good intentions, I doubt it will give you much pause. You'll probably just write me off as a "debunker" and go on your merry way. That seems to be the narrative you play over and over in your head when you do interviews or speak with others who *GASP* disagree with you. But I do sincerely hope you'll take a moment to examine your attitude and make a few positive adjustments.

Thank you, Stanton. I appreciate your time.

Sincerely Yours,

Jason Korbus

On Aug 27, 2011, at 7:50 PM, "Stanton T. Friedman" <fsphys@rogers.com> wrote:

Jason:

At least we agree on something. I didn't like Reddit or Bent Spoon either. I know quite a bit about interviews having done many hundred. Normally questions are asked by hosts who have done some thinking about them, respect their guests and don't lap up any nonsense they see on the internet. I prefer comments based on evidence as opposed to being based on procla-

mations many totally unsupported, but put forth on the internet. I have known Bruce Maccabee for roughly 40 years and find him very careful and scientific. Have met Ed Walters as well. Have you provided substantive evidence Bruce has been taken in?

for the record here is a definition of an anecdote: a brief story of an interesting amusing or biographical Incident. The "stories" that convince me are anything but. Look at Jim McDonald's congressional testimony, at Alan Hynek's "The UFO Experience" Ted Phillips physical trace cases, the 30% of the cases investigated during the Condon study that they couldn't identify. Many UNKNOWNNS are clearly manufactured objects behaving in ways which we cannot duplicate and therefor originate elsewhere. That doesn't tell us where, why, how etc. Just not made on Earth..I wonder if you and your cohorts have actually looked at those studies, those cases,

I have never under any circumstances told anybody I had a PhD and have consistently made a point of correcting people who call me Dr. including Larry King on air in 1994 and an MSNC interviewer within the past 2 weeks and many others. Do you have some basis for claiming I haven't done any nuclear work since 1970? For your information I moved to Canada in 1980 and since that time worked on the Commissioning of the Pt. Lepreau nuclear generating station, did studies on Food irradiation, seed stimulation with radiation, the use of electron beams for treatment of flue gas, made many measurements of radon levels in homes in the area, gave papers at 2 different Meetings of the European Society for Nuclear Methods in Ag-

riculture, authored a large study on waste heat recovery and utilization at powerplants. I also did a study for the province of NB "Future Technology Scenarios for NB" if I am still a member of the American Nuclear Society, the American Physical Society, the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics. I provided testimony at a hearing sponsored by the Atomic Energy Control Board. Do you have some facts to back up those internet based false claims??

I have gone into considerable detail about why I call SETI (You know in those books I am not supposed to mention) a cult and have won a debate with Seth Shostak on Coast to Coast radio. It takes many years of careful attention to detail concerning a huge amount of data to become an expert. I don't think you or most of the questioners have spent enough time or energy or know enough science to qualify. Because something is said on the internet doesn't make it true.

Stan Friedman
Stan:

While I appreciate your response, you seem to have largely missed the point. It is your attitude that is turning people off. When you decide to go on the internet and participate in an "Ask Me Anything" forum, don't be surprised when the people actually do ask you anything...including questions you may have already given answers to in your books.

Likewise, don't grant interviews to a magazine that bills itself as a "Skeptical Magazine for the True Believer" and then be upset when the questions aren't what you would

prefer.

Remember, regardless of how popular you may be in the UFOlogy circles, most people really don't know who you are. They see you on Reddit announcing yourself as a flying saucer physicist and an expert on UFO phenomena, and yes...they're going to ask you questions because they want to know what you think. Then, if they're interested, they'll go buy your books! What you don't do is effectively tell people, "I'm not here to give you answers, just go buy my book!" That cannot be a difficult concept to grasp. But when you treat people like idiots, they aren't going to care what you have to say. Maybe it is best if you just stay off the internet altogether.

I am glad you cleared up some of the questions I had about your academic credentials and recent work experience. If you re-read my last email, you'll see those were questions and not accusations of fraud. I asked you if what I had read was true. I felt I should ask you instead of taking the word of the internet. I'll await your apology.

As far as the trace cases, Unknowns, Maccabee, SETI, etc we will probably just have to agree to disagree. Please understand that I'm not against the idea that Aliens have visited us. I'm just not convinced by the evidence put forth. I'm not convinced by blurry photographs, conflicting eyewitness testimony, anecdotes of adventures aboard saucers, and the like. I understand that some of these things may convince you, and I'm fine with that. But I think you underestimate the attitude some skeptical folks may

take when they point out errors in your logic.

You're right, many people (including me and who you refer to as my cohorts) are not experts. Neither are the rest of the vast majority who read your books. That is why we ask questions. That's also why we read the books of experts who disagree with you. To decide for ourselves who has the more convincing argument based on the evidence. We don't decide based on a Coast to Coast debate or just go by what Stanton Friedman says.

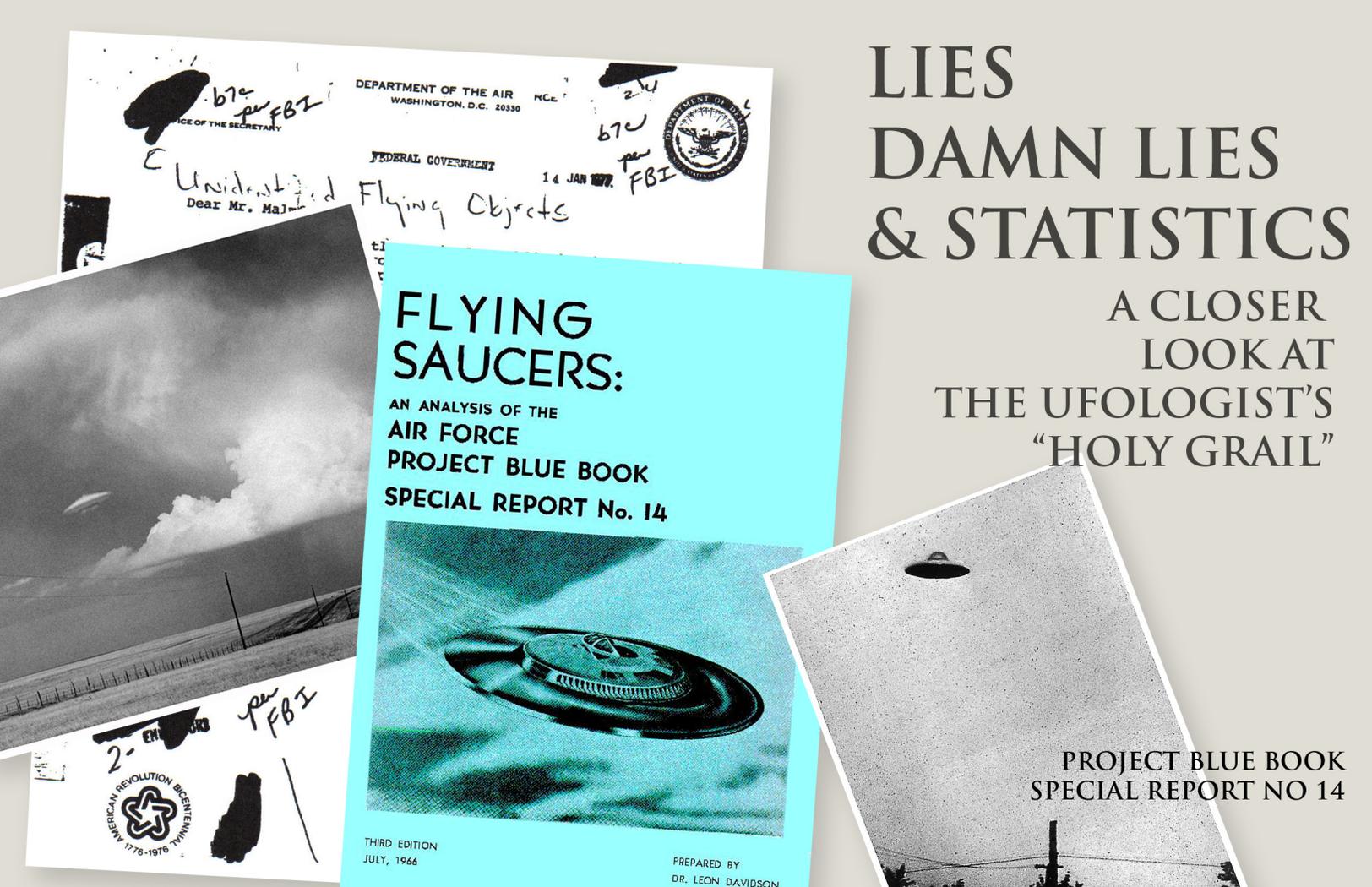
Stanton, I hope this email finds you well. I also hope to chat again with you in the future. Have a terrific weekend!

Thank you,
Jason



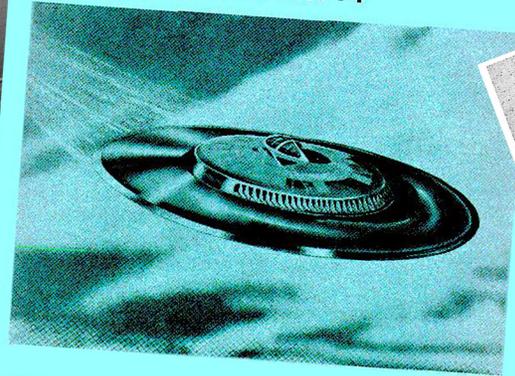
LIES DAMN LIES & STATISTICS

A CLOSER
LOOK AT
THE UFOLOGIST'S
"HOLY GRAIL"



FLYING SAUCERS:

AN ANALYSIS OF THE
AIR FORCE
PROJECT BLUE BOOK
SPECIAL REPORT No. 14



THIRD EDITION
JULY, 1966

PREPARED BY
DR. LEON DAVIDSON

PROJECT BLUE BOOK
SPECIAL REPORT NO 14

UFOlogy can be considered a fuzzy term. In one aspect, it could refer to the study of the abstract concept of UFOs as a cultural phenomenon. More commonly, it describes the study of an unsupported claim, that unidentified flying objects are (occasionally) alien space craft. The larger figures of this field would argue that this is not, in fact, an unsupported claim, endorsed by mountains of collected data. And their numbers DO seem impressive. In the case of Project Blue Book, a study conducted by the USAF from 1952 -1970, a staggering 22% of the 3200 cases were deemed "unknown". but are these numbers substantial? Project Blue

Book and more specifically, Project Blue Book special report 14 are frequently cited as solid evidence for the existence of alien spacecraft, yet mainstream science is not convinced. Are scientists simply not looking at the evidence or are the proponents of UFOlogy cherry-picking evidence?

In December of 1951, US air force captain Edward J Ruppelt, the first director of Blue Book, met with members of the Battelle Memorial institute, A Columbus, Ohio based think-tank, in an effort to make the study "more scientific". The Battelle

group evaluated over two thousand reports and classified them into four categories: Doubtful, Poor, Good, and Excellent based on the following factors:

1. The experience of the observer deduced from his occupation, age, and training
2. The consistency among the separate portions of the description of the sighting
3. the general quality and completeness of the report
4. Consideration of the observer's fact-reporting ability and attitude, as disclosed by his manner of describing the sight-

ing.

the resulting figures of the mentioned categories are:

Doubtful produced 13% unknowns

Poor- 16.6% unknown

Good-24.8%

Excellent- 33.3%

These are very provocative results and they didnt go un-

The Battelle group didnt seem to think so, as written in the report: "...the danger lies in the possibility of forgetting the subjectivity of the data at the time that conclusions are drawn from the analysis. It must be emphasized, again and again, that the conclusions contained in this report are based NOT on facts, but on what many observers thought and estimated the true facts to be."

This seems a little strange coming from the "holy grail" of

is concluded to be extremely small, since the most complete and reliable reports from the present data, when isolated and studied, conclusively failed to reveal even a rough model, and since the data as a whole failed to reveal any marked patterns or trends.

Therefore, ON THE BASIS OF THIS EVALUATION OF THE INFORMATION, IT IS CONSIDERED TO BE HIGHLY IMPROBABLE THAT ANY OF THE REPORTS OF UNIDEN-

forgetting the subjectivity of the data at the time that conclusions are drawn from the analysis. It must be emphasized, again and again, that any conclusions contained in this report are based NOT on facts, but on what many observers thought and estimated the true facts to be.

Altogether, the data for this study consisted of approximately 4,000 reports of sightings of unidentified aerial objects. The majority were received through military channels or in the form of observer-completed questionnaires; a few were accepted in the form of direct letters from unquestionably reliable sources. Sightings made between June, 1947, and December, 1952, were considered for this study. Sightings alleged to have occurred prior to 1947 were not considered, since they were not reported to official sources until after public interest in "flying saucers" had been stimulated by the popular press.

noticed by flying saucer proponents, such as Stanton Friedman. In many of his lectures and interviews, he claims that if only the "debunkers" (skeptics) actually read special report 14, they would have the evidence they ask for. But does this study support the extraterrestrial hypothesis?

ufologists. More so from the study's conclusion:

"It is emphasized that there was a complete lack of any valid evidence consisting of physical matter in any case of a reported unidentified aerial object.

Thus, the probability that any of the UNKNOWNs considered in this study are "flying saucers:

TIFIED AERIAL OBJECTS EXAMINED IN THIS STUDY REPRESENT observations of technological developments outside the range of present day scientific knowledge."

When all is said and done, you have a very subjective report on what could be, at best, described as UNKNOWN occurrences. This is to say, if it is possible

to determine who is a reliable witness in the event of a UFO sighting, but how is one more adept at such a thing than others? Are there certain professions or personal characteristics that mitigate or even eliminate the tendencies of misinterpretation, exaggeration, or false memory? It's the UFOlogist that makes the leap, connecting UNKNOWN with alien space craft, being that there is no supportive evidence of such a connection. The only mystery left here is how anyone could make such an

In an effort to establish a standard "flying saucer model" the group reevaluated the 434 best unknowns and produced a sort of top 12 list. Included in this list are such cases as:

While a few of the other cases did, in fact, appear to be more saucer-like in nature, in one way or another, each case failed to meet the standards of the report. As mentioned in the introduction, the data was very subjec-

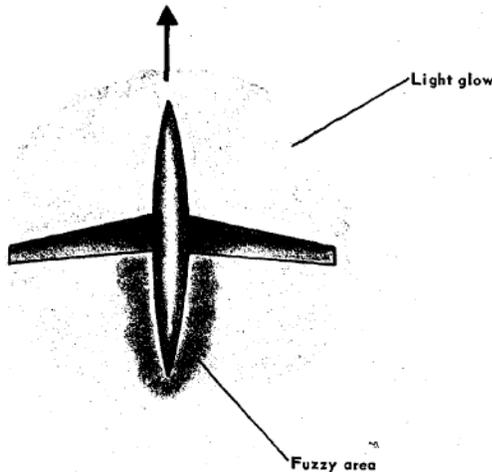
usually being twisted to bolster a weak argument. And in the case of Flying saucers, remember that extraordinary claims require extraordinary evidence, and a few figures from a half-century old report does not extraordinary evidence make.

-NICHOLAS CALLIS

References:

<http://www.ufocasebook.com/pdf/specialreport14.pdf>

The objects were shaped like conventional aircraft. The unaccountable feature of the objects was that each had a red glow surrounding it and was glowing itself, although it was a cloudless night.



assumption based on the information contained in Blue book special report 14. Surprisingly enough, the report speculated on this phenomenon as well:

Could it be that UFOlogists are being taken in by a handful of the more exciting cases and running with them or is there more merit to the UNKNOWN cases than the report give credit?

tive and it is unknown in each case how much time may have elapsed before the accounts of each event were written down and submitted to the study, not to mention the fact that this entire report is based only on anecdotal evidence. A hard pill to swallow for any rational mind.

So, remember not to be taken in by impressive sounding statistics, because they are



Nicholas Callis is the co-founder of the Bent Spoon and also the cover illustrator. you can find his personal blog at:

<http://shadow-doubt.blogspot.com/>

Author,
Publisher of UFO magazine,
and Star of the History Channel's UFO Hunters

BILL BIRNES



TBS:First of all can you talk about what sparked your interest in the UFO phenomenon?

I HAD SEEN A UFO OVER OUR BUILDING ALL THE WAY BACK IN 1955 IN NEW YORK CITY AND HAD BEEN EXCITED BY THE 1952 UFO INVASION OVER WASHINGTON DC. BUT IT WAS MEETING LT. COL. PHILIP CORSO BACK IN 1995 THAT REIGNITED MY INTEREST IN UFOS.

I know you publish UFO magazine, how did that come about?

AFTER THE DAY AFTER ROSWELL WAS PUBLISHED IN 1997 I WAS INTERVIEWED BY UFO MAGAZINE. THE INTERVIEW TOOK PLACE AT THE OFFICES OF THE MOTION PICTURE COMPANY THAT HAD PURCHASED PHILIP CORSO'S LIFE STORY RIGHTS. THE THEN OWNERS OF UFO MAGAZINE SAID THEY WERE SEEKING INVESTMENT AND ASKED ME IF I COULD BROACH THE INVESTMENT POSSIBILITY TO THE MOTION PICTURE COMPANY. I DID, AND THE COMPANY BOUGHT OUT THE OWNERS OF UFO MAGAZINE, NAMED ME PUBLISHER, AND PUT US ALL ON THE MANAGEMENT BOARD. EIGHT YEARS LATER, THE MOVIE COMPANY WANTED TO GET OUT OF THE MAGAZINE PUBLISHING BUSINESS AND GAVE ME THE LICENSE TO KEEP PUBLISHING THE MAGAZINE WITH MY WIFE, NANCY, AS THE EDITOR. AND THAT'S HOW WE GOT TO PUBLISH UFO MAGAZINE.

I know you believe aliens have been breeding with humans creating some type of hybrid that live among earth. What evidence do you have to support this hypothesis?

THERE IS ABUNDANT ANECDOTAL WITNESS EVIDENCE OF ABDUCTEES BEING SHOWN CHILDREN THAT THE GRAYS SAY ARE HUMAN ALIEN HYBRIDS. ON TOP OF THE WITNESS STORIES, THERE IS THE GREAT STORY OF THE STARCHILD, A SKELETON DISCOVERED IN NORTHERN MEXICO EARLY IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY, WHICH HAS SINCE BEEN TESTED AND FOUND TO CONTAIN NON HUMAN DNA EVEN

THOUGH IT RESEMBLES A HUMAN BEING IN MANY RESPECTS.

There is no doubt that people see things in the sky that they cannot identify. When does something go from unidentified flying object to alien space craft?

WHEN THERE ARE NOT ONLY GOOD VERIFIABLE PHOTOGRAPHS OF IT BUT ALSO PHYSICAL TRACE EVIDENCE OF AN ANOMALOUS PRESENCE THAT CAN'T OTHERWISE BE EXPLAINED.

Anyone is susceptible to being fooled. Do you feel you were fooled by the Morristown Hoax of 2009?

NO, BECAUSE WE REPORTED ON THE VIDEO CLIP THAT THE HANOVER TOWNSHIP POLICE SAID THAT THE LIGHTS WERE BALLOONS AND NOT A CRAFT. ALSO, I SAID THAT, LOOKING AT THE VIDEO AND ONLY THE VIDEO, I COULD NOT MAKE OUT WHAT THE OBJECTS WERE AND WERE THEREFORE, BY DEFINITION, UNIDENTIFIABLE EVEN THOUGH THE POLICE SAID THEY WERE BALLOONS. WE REPORTED THAT THE THREE MAIN WITNESSES, ONE OF WHOM WAS A PILOT AND THE OTHER THE TOWNSHIP HEALTH OFFICER, BOTH SAID THESE WERE NOT BALLOONS. THIS WAS THEIR OPINION, NOT MINE. MOREOVER, ON THE VIDEO, I ACTUALLY SAID THAT WE HAD TO TAKE THE VIDEO FROM THE WITNESSES BACK TO OUR OWN PHOTO ANALYST'S LAB TO ANALYZE THE VIDEO TO SEE WHAT IT WAS BEFORE MAKING ANY DEFINITIVE STATEMENTS. THAT'S RIGHT ON THE VIDEO. HOWEVER, THE HOAXERS FOOLED THE MEDIA INTO THINKING THAT I WAS TRICKED BY ALLEGING THAT TO REPORTERS. THE REPORTERS WERE QUICK TO REPEAT THOSE ALLEGATIONS EVEN THOUGH THEY WEREN'T TRUE. SO THE REAL HOAX WAS PERPETRATED ON THE MEDIA AND THE MEDIA SIMPLY SAID THAT THE HOAX WAS PERPETRATED ON ME AND THE SHOW.

Skeptics don't doubt the possibility of life evolving somewhere else in the universe,

we don't even say that alien life isn't visiting earth. However there doesn't seem to be any strong evidence to support the existence of aliens or that they indeed have been visiting earth...am I wrong?

THERE IS OVERWHELMING EVIDENCE OF SOMETHING ANOMALOUS THAT HAS BEEN VISITING EARTH. THERE IS HISTORICAL EVIDENCE IN THE FORM OF ANCIENT OR PREHISTORIC STRUCTURES WHOSE ENGINEERING STILL DEFIES EXPLANATION. THERE ARE GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS ATTESTING TO THE EXISTENCE OF AN ANOMALOUS PRESENCE VISITING EARTH. THERE ARE VERY COMPELLING PHOTOGRAPHS, SUCH AS THE PAUL TRENT PHOTOS, THE REX HEFLIN PHOTOS, THE ED WALTERS PHOTOS, THE DR LYNNE KITEI PHOENIX LIGHTS VIDEO, AND PHOTOS FROM BELGIUM THAT SHOW UFOS IN THE SKIES. THEN THERE IS THE STORY OF THE WELL-DOCUMENTED AND PHOTOGRAPHED UFOS OVER WASHINGTON, DC, IN 1952. FINALLY, THERE IS ABUNDANT PHYSICAL TRACE EVIDENCE FROM CASES IN KANSAS, PENNSYLVANIA, NEW HAMPSHIRE, NEW MEXICO, AND THE UK ATTESTING TO THE PRESENCE OF SOMETHING STRANGE.

A lot of UFOlogist talk about something called The Men in Black. What or who are The Men in Black.

THE TERM MEN IN BLACK IS ACTUALLY A TERM OUT OF THE WORLD OF FICTION DESCRIBING MEN IN DARK SUITS WHO SHOW UP TO INTIMIDATE WITNESSES INTO SILENCE AFTER A UFO EVENT. SOME HAVE SAID THESE MEN IN BLACK WORK FOR THE US GOVERNMENT, SOME CLANDESTINE AGENCY WHOSE JOB IT IS TO KEEP THE LID ON UFO SECRETS. OTHERS HAVE SAID THAT THE MEN IN BLACK ARE ACTUALLY EXTRATERRESTRIALS. I THINK THERE ARE INDIVIDUALS WORKING FOR THE GOVERNMENT WHO KEEP A CLOSE WATCH ON UFO STORIES AND TRY TO KEEP THEM FROM BEING VERIFIED IN THE NEWS. AS DICK CHENEY ONCE SAID, IF HE KNEW ANYTHING

ABOUT UFOS, IT WOULD BE CLASSIFIED AND HE COULDN'T TALK ABOUT IT. USING THAT ANALOGY, IF THERE ARE CLASSIFIED ASPECTS TO THE UFO STORY, IT WOULD MAKE PERFECT SENSE FOR A CLANDESTINE AGENCY, SUCH AS THE NSA OR A JOINT NSA/CIA GROUP TO KEEP A CLOSE LID ON UFO STORIES THAT MIGHT LEAK CLASSIFIED INFORMATION.

I know a bunch of UFO enthusiasts believe that the government has covered up and continue to cover up alien visitors and incidents that happened in Roswell. Now why is it that the government could cover up something of this magnitude and can't deliver my mail on time?

FIRST, THE GOVERNMENT DOESN'T DELIVER THE MAIL, AN INDEPENDENT GOVERNMENT AGENCY CALLED THE USPS DOES. SECOND, THINK ABOUT ALL THE COVERT ACTIVITIES YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT. YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT THEM BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT HAS KEPT THEM SECRET. AS ONE OF MY CIA FRIENDS ONCE SAID, THE MOST SUCCESSFUL GOVERNMENT SECRETS ARE COMPLETELY UNKNOWN. THAT'S BECAUSE THEY'VE BEEN KEPT SECRET. ALL OF THIS BEING SAID, THE BEST WAY TO KEEP SOMETHING SECRET, EVEN IF IT'S IN PLAIN SIGHT, IS TO CALL IT SOMETHING ELSE. THAT'S EXACTLY HOW THE GOVERNMENT CAN KEEP UFO EVENTS SECRET. THEY DENY THEY EXIST AND THEN CALL THEM SOMETHING ELSE. PEOPLE BELIEVE THE GOVERNMENT INSTEAD OF BELIEVING THEIR OWN EYES.

Recently UFOlogist Philip Imbrogno was outed as a liar. How do you feel about people like this, who make a name for themselves as a genuine researcher only to be outed as a liar.

IT IS SAD. I THINK THAT THE RESEARCH PHILIP DID WITH J.ALLEN HYNEK ON THE HUDSON VALLEY SIGHTINGS WAS GOOD RESEARCH. WHAT PROMPTED HIM TO CONFLATE HIS OWN BACKGROUND IS A COMPLETE MYSTERY TO ME. SOME-

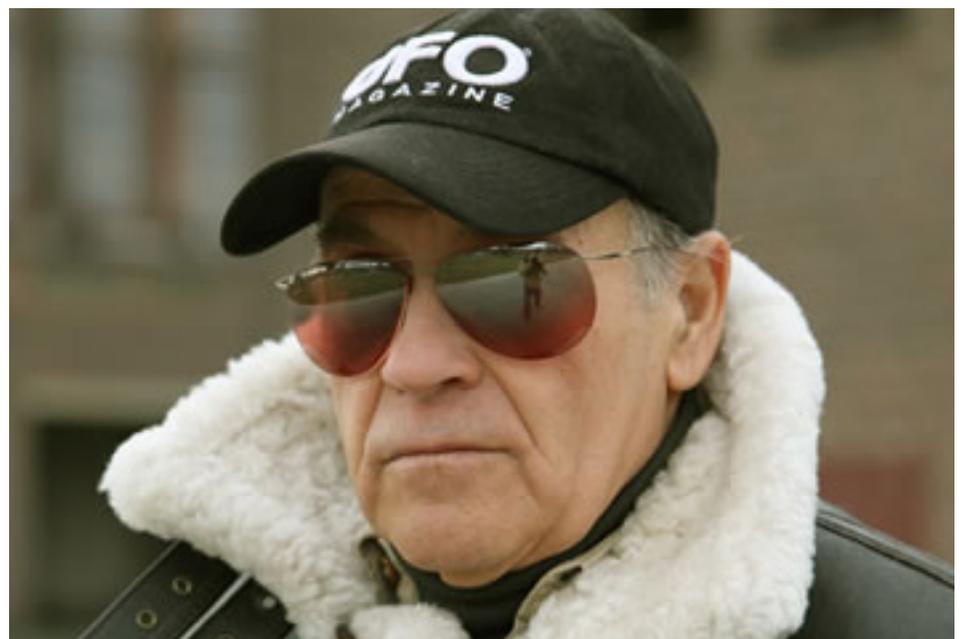
TIMES, PEOPLE WHO FEEL THEY ARE NOT GETTING DUE RECOGNITION TAKE STEPS TO REINVENT THEIR OWN RESUMES AND BACKGROUND AND THIS TAINTS NOT ONLY THEIR OWN REPUTATION, BUT THE REPUTATION OF HONEST RESEARCHERS AS WELL.

Do you believe you could be wrong in your held belief about alien visitors on earth? If so, what would it take to change your mind, to admit aliens have never come to our planet?

PARTLY, IT DEPENDS UPON WHO OR WHAT THE ALIENS ARE. I TEND TO THINK THAT IF ALIENS VISITED OUR PLANET, THEY ARE STILL HERE AND THAT WE, AS A SPECIES, ARE ALIENS AS WELL. I ALSO THINK THAT THE EXISTENCE OF STRANGE FIGURES INSCRIBED ON MAYAN TEMPLES AND ON PYRAMIDS MAY INDICATE THAT THOSE CIVILIZATIONS HAVE BEEN VISITED NOT BY EXTRATERRESTRIALS BUT BY TIME TRAVELERS. THEN THERE IS THE THEORY ABOUT ENTITIES FROM PARALLEL UNIVERSES CROSSING INTO OURS. WHEN I LOOK AT ALL OF THE RESEARCH CONDUCTED BY UFO INVESTIGATORS, I AM CONVINCED THAT SOMETHING IS THERE THAT IS ANOMALOUS EVEN IF NOT ACTUALLY EXTRATERRESTRIAL. MOREOVER, MORE OFTEN THAN NOT, DEBUNKER CLAIMS THAT AN ALIEN PRESENCE HAS BEEN EXPLAINED CONVENTION-

ALLY SIMPLY FALLS FLAT IN THE FACE OF REAL EVIDENCE THAT THE DEBUNKER HAS CONVENIENTLY NOT ADDRESSED. THEREFORE, I THINK THAT, JUST ON THE BASIS OF EVIDENCE ALONE, THERE IS AN OVERWHELMINGLY STRONG CASE FOR THE EXISTENCE OF SOME FORM OF ALIEN VISITATION ON EARTH. UNTIL I SEE SOMETHING INCONTROVERTIBLE TO THE CONTRARY, I HAVE TO GO WITH THE ALIEN VISITATION THEORY.

You can visit Bill's website here:
<http://www.ufomag.com/>





THEY'RE WATCHING US

THE MYSTERIOUS ORIGIN OF THE MEN IN BLACK

One comfortable clear summer night you are sitting outside gazing up at the stars. You are getting lost staring at the countless twinkling lights, when all of a sudden you see something you can't identify zoom through the sky.

Perplexed by the event that just occurred you decide to go home and go to bed. When you wake up in the morning you make a few phone calls to friends and family and explain what you witnessed the night before. When you are asked what you thought, you respond UFO.

All of a sudden a long black, old fashioned car pulls up in front of your house, most likely a Cadillac or a Lincoln and 3 men dressed in black suits emerge out of it. They walk in unison, something appears to be off-putting about them – however you don't really know exactly what it is.

When they arrive at your door they flash their credentials and as far as you can tell their identification seems to be legit, they are some type of government officials. They seem to know much personal information about you; as if they have been watching you for quite some time. They start to threaten and harass you to keep quiet about your UFO experience. They may even try to convince you that your experience didn't really even happen. After what

seems to be an eternity, these 3 individuals draped in black finally leave and you quickly head for the telephone. You call local authorities who put you in contact with the proper authorities and you explain what has just happened. To your surprise, none of the people you name work for the establishment... What frightens you more; you are told that they don't even exist or that they are even dead.

The mysterious Men in Black or MIB seem to be a common tale in the UFO culture. Though no one seems to know who they are, they always seem to show up to make sure people keep quiet about their experience. Though I find it funny that the people that were so terrified of these encounters with the MIB never keep quiet; otherwise we would never hear the story. Much speculation surrounds the MIB. Who or what are they and what are their intentions? Some people believe that the MIB themselves are aliens sent down to earth to cover up extraterrestrial happenings. Others truly believe that the MIB are some secret government agency that monitors the strange, bizarre and extraterrestrial activity on planet earth, much like the 1997 movie starring Tommy Lee Jones and Will Smith... except not as cool. And of course some people think that the MIB are possibly CIA agents

or military personnel, most like working for a branch of the Air Force called The Air Force Office of Special Investigations or AFOSI, as referenced by Bill Moore in his 1993 article "Those Mysterious Men in Black".

Could the MIB be a real secret agency? Or is it just a bunch of nonsense that somehow sparked a life of its own? Well according to John C. Sherwood he helped in developing a hoax in the 1960's with a man named Gray Barker.

First it is important to note that it was Barker who first introduced the Men in Black to the UFO culture in his 1956 book *They Knew Too Much About Flying Saucers*. It is also important to note that though Gray Barker was a writer on UFO phenomena; he mostly disbelieved in the stories and wrote for financial purposes. It is now known that he would print factious stories as if they were fact.

In an article titled "Gray Barker: My Friend the Myth Maker" Sherwood goes into detail about his participation in a hoax about the "Men in Black" called "Blackmen" at that time. Sherwood writes:

"That same year, in creative zeal, I had sent to him a sci-fi piece I wrote about a scientific organization that discovers that UFOs are actually time machines, then encounters a more sinister enemy group of

time-travelers who try to destroy them. The story began with a pseudoscholarly discussion by a fictitious scientist, Dr. Richard H. Pratt, about time travel and UFOs. The rest of it was about Pratt's mysterious encounter with three strange individuals "trapped" in our own time.

Gray urged me to try to make the incident seem real by creating a fictitious organization out of whole cloth. In youthful amorality, I picked up Gray's ball and sent a letter to Ray Palmer's Flying Saucer magazine, which, in early 1969, published verbatim my anonymous announcement of the formation of an organization that identified itself only as the B.I.C.R., supposedly formed by three men whose names were given as William A. Gautier, Thomas Harper, and R. James Kipling (names I concocted using my shelf of books by great fiction writers). Meanwhile, as I prepared for my busy college years, I had disbanded a small but legitimate UFO-investigation group I had led since 1965 and ceased publishing a small "saucer 'zine" I had been sending to associates in thirteen states.

Gray's letter quoted above went on about the reaction to the news in the UFO world about my UFO group's disbandment: "Did you see Saucer Scoop?" he wrote. "They're doing a big deal on you, sug-

gesting you really were hushed by the blackmen. I'll always be glad to print an article by you if you'll tell the real (or made up) story of how these strange forces made you quit. You might as well go out of saucers in the usual syndrome."

I wrote to Gray saying that I would follow up in the form of a rewritten version of the Dr. Pratt/time-travel sci-fi piece I'd already sent him. I said I would make it clear that it was just a story. Here was his response on July 12, 1968: "I think that the sci-fi story you are thinking of, revealing at the end that it's made up, would be a little too negative. Already some readers are accusing us of making up things (which we do occasionally of course). How about an article just making your exiting from research even more mysterious than ever!"

In my youthful naiveté and desire to be published, I didn't challenge the wrongness of this. It took me a few months to put together the revised story, now ready to be published as true. In a letter dated December 7, 1968, Gray coached me: "Try to make it as technical as possible to make it look like a real scientific report. The real scientists who read our 'zine will see the hoax and I hope take it as a joke." My article "Flying Saucers: Time Machines," by "Dr. Richard H. Pratt," was published in the Spring/Summer 1969 issue

of Barker's magazine Saucer News, followed by "The Strange B.I.C.R. Affair" in the Summer 1970 issue." – Published in 1998 in *Skeptical Inquirer* by John C. Sherwood. One of my favorite things Sherwood says in his apologetic article for deceiving people for so long, is that Barker wrote to him saying, "Flying Saucers: Time Machines": "Evidently the fans swallowed this one with a gulp."

Since this time the Men in Black phenomena has progressed into its own sub culture. People all over the world have claimed to have been hushed by these mysterious men. One of the most famous stories I was told to check out involving MIB was called "The Bender Story."

Al K. Bender claimed that he uncovered the truth of the UFO phenomena. He swore that he would publish his discovery in a journal so that the world could know the truth. However one day he was overcome with a dizzy spell and went to go lay down. Out of nowhere Bender noticed "three shadowy figures in the room. All of them were dressed in black clothes". Bender explained that he was told telepathically by these three men not to publish his findings and also to him to close down his organization, International Flying Saucer Bureau. Bender of course agreed. Imagine my delight when I

found out that the famous Bender story is actually the story that Gray Barker printed in *They Knew Too Much About Flying Saucers*. Now I can't say Albert Benders story didn't happen for sure, but I can say that Gray Barker did fabricate or embellish stories to bring about sales for his books.

Another proponent of the Men in Black legend was a man by the name of John Keel; it was actually Keel who started to call the Men in Black MIB. Some even speculate that it was Keel who coined the term Men in Black in 1967, before that the phenomenon was called "blackmen." Keel is most known for his 1975 book, *The Mothman Prophecies*. In this book Keel talks about how the residents of Point Pleasant, WV experienced a wide range of strange occurrences for a period of time. Keel called Point Pleasant a "window" area, a place that was marked by long periods of strange sightings including, UFO's, unidentified creatures such as the Mothman, the collapse of the silver bridge and of course the Men in Black warning people to keep quiet about the things they were witnessing. Keel felt these were all connected somehow.

However I also believe that this "true" tale written about by Keel was also highly embellished to sell the book. Skeptic Brian Dunning host of the popular podcast "Skeptoid" says in

Episode 159 – The Mothman Cometh:

"Although popular accounts on the Internet state that the Mothman made as many as 100 appearances during the year leading up to the Silver Bridge collapse, this appears to be a modern fabrication. In the newspaper archives, I was only able to locate the half dozen or so reports in November 1966. That doesn't mean more didn't happen; it only means I couldn't find any evidence that anyone at the time reported that they did. And those half dozen were not very well corroborated. The first episode, with the gravediggers, was in the town



of Clendenin, 50 miles from Point Pleasant. Another was in Charleston, 45 miles from Point Pleasant. A couple of the reports are merely a dark-clothed man peering in through a window. Some of the reports have the Mothman flying on batwings, some of them have him merely standing around with reflective, animal-like eyes."

Now it does sound like there is a quick mention of what looks to be a slight description of a MIB. But saying a dark-clothed man peering in through a window is anything more than just that is asinine, the leap that the dark clothed man was a MIB, alien hybrid from space covering up ET activity or some type of monster cannot be made.

Now there are always going to be people who will stand by their belief that the MIB are definitely real and that they are a menace not of this world or part of some secret government agency. However I feel that with Sherwood's confession and his letters from Barker that show he was blatantly lying about UFO claims and related phenomena (MIB included) is enough to close the book on this case... hopefully I don't receive a mysterious visit tonight.

-BOBBY NELSON

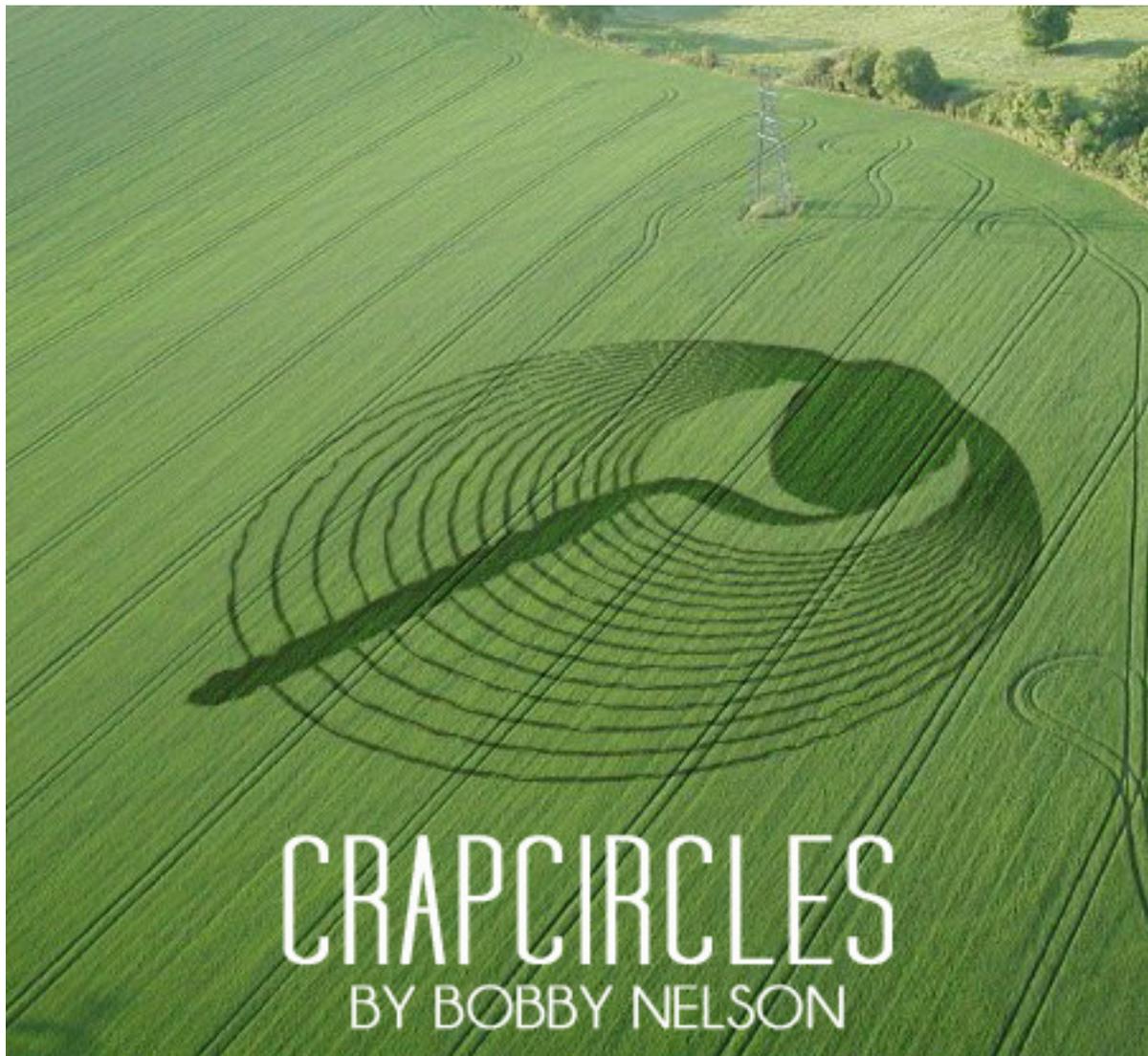
THE BENT SPOON

Here at The Bent Spoon we always appreciate feedback, whether it be criticisms, compliments or suggestions. The Bent Spoon also accepts article submissions but they do not necessarily have to be from a skeptical viewpoint. If you are a true believer and love to write, The Bent Spoon's new section titled "The Open Forum" may just be the place for you. With the intentions of keeping the dialogue open between true believers and skeptics, we feel "The Open Forum" might be the perfect opportunity to do so. It will show the believers viewpoint with at least one skeptical rebuttal.

Please send all inquiries and submissions to
TheBentSpoon@live.com

Thank you.

THE
BENT SPOON



There are many things people attribute to UFO and ET's. Anything from "anomalous" lights in the night sky, things that can't be indentified flying through the sky (remember what the U stands for in UFO), sleep paralysis being misunderstood as alien abductions, forgetfulness and one of my favorite...crop circles.

I have always found the crop circle enigma fascinating, not that I think crop circles are a mystery but more that there are people who actually think aliens with super advanced technology have come to earth to play in our

fields. So when did this phenomenon start?

The enthusiasts love saying that the exact date is unknown as to when this phenomenon started to occur. Many propose that crop circles are a modern day trend (which it is); however through research I did stumble upon people proposing crop circle may have been around much earlier.

Mowing Devil

Printed in Hertfordshire, England, in 1678 there was a pamphlet that told a story of a farmer, a laborer and the devil. The tale told in ancient English

is about a farmer who starts receiving weird circles in his crop after telling a poor mower that he was expecting too much pay for his work. The farmer makes a bit of a snide remark saying that he would rather have the Devil himself mow his oats than pay the price being asked. That night the farmer noticed his crops we ablaze but when he woke up the next morning the oats were perfectly mowed by the devil or some infernal spirit. It was suggested that the crops were mowed so perfect no mortal man would have been able to

achieve the task.

Could this actually be a description and illustration of an early crop circle? Many people in the UFO community with a primary interest in crop circles believe so. They point to this story to show that the crop circle phenomenon is not modern happening. Personally I think that is a bit of a stretch. We have to remember this pamphlet was printed in the 17th century, a time when religious superstitions ran rampant. There are obvious religious implications; it could have possibly been something as simple as “do not even joke about making a deal with the devil.” Notice we see the devil cutting the crops with a scythe; he isn't laying them on the ground. This is an important detail to keep in mind, when crop circles are reported the crops are never cut, they are bent over. However in the year 1880, the prestigious journal *Nature* did have a publication that had the description of a crop circle. Spectroscopist, J. Rand Capron was the scientist the author of the article.

“The storms about this part of Surrey have been lately local and violent, and the effects produced in some instances curious. Visiting a neighbour's farm on Wednesday evening (21st), we

found a field of standing wheat considerably knocked about, not as an entirety, but in patches forming, as viewed from a distance, circular spots.

Examined more closely, these all presented much the same character, viz., a few standing stalks as a centre, some prostrate stalks with their heads arranged pretty evenly in a direction forming a circle round the centre, and outside these a circular

with strong stems, and I could not trace locally any circumstances accounting for the peculiar forms of the patches in the field, nor indicating whether it was wind or rain, or both combined, which had caused them, beyond the general evidence everywhere of heavy rainfall. They were to me suggestive of some cyclonic wind action, and may perhaps have been noticed elsewhere by some of your readers.”

Again this is something that crop circle enthusiast love to read. Capron didn't seem too interested in the thought that this pattern was intelligently designed let alone designed by some extraterrestrial from outer space, but sought out a perfectly legitimate natural explanation. There are only a few stories about crop circles that exists pre 1970. You would think with all the agriculture throughout the world in a time when farming was a common way to earn a living, there would have been more reports of these crop circles if they were

indeed ET related. Why is it we find next to none?

Well in the 1980's the crop circle phenomenon boomed. The media and tabloid industry couldn't get enough of it. However the hype wouldn't last too long

The Mowing-Devil ; Or, Strange NEWS out of Hartford-shire.

Being a True Relation of a Farmer, who Bargaining with a Poor Mower, about the Cutting down Three Half Acres of Oats; upon the Mower's asking too much, the Farmer swore, That the Devil should Mow it, rather than He: And so it fell out, that that very Night, the Crop of Oats shew'd as if it had been all of a Flame; but next Morning appear'd so neatly Mow'd by the Devil, or some Infernal Spirit, that no Mortal Man was able to do the like. Also, How the said Oats ly now in the Field, and the Owner has not Power to fetch them away.



Licensed, August 22th. 1678.

wall of stalks which had not suffered.

I send a sketch made on the spot, giving an idea of the most perfect of these patches. The soil is a sandy loam upon the greensand, and the crop is vigorous,

because in 1991 two men came forward and explained they were the ones who were responsible for the making of these crop designs. Doug Bower and Dave Chorley were the culprits who started the whole thing. It all started when Bower was on a trip in Australia and he had seen reports of the Tully UFO incident, where people claimed to have witnessed a UFO taking off from a swampy area and leaving behind a circular imprint. When Doug returned home to England he told his friend Dave about what he had heard in Australia, he thought it would be humorous to try and recreate something similar to see what kind of media attention they could attract. The first few attempts were a bust, but in 1981 on Cheesefoot head, a hill in Hampshire, they would have media success. The very next day an article appeared in the local newspaper hypothesizing that aliens had landed in the fields.

This went on for years until there were talks of the government commissioning some kind of investigation into the whole thing. Doug and Dave knew it was time to confess and they did. They did interviews on radio, television and an exclusive for the Today newspaper. They explained how they were able to achieve these amazing designs and even held demonstrations. They also expressed their great pleasure in confusing the so called "experts". For example, one person said that the circles were caused by small tornados

and that would explain why the circles always had a clockwise direction to them. So Doug and Dave would go out and make circles with a counterclockwise direction.

However their confession didn't sway any of the true believers and I highly doubt anything could. Some even suspected that the government put the two men up to this to cover up alien contact. Nevertheless those people can live in their fantasy prone world and keep spewing comments like "no human could make these designs," I suggest anyone with this magical way of thinking to go check out a group called Circle Makers over at www.circlemakers.org and check out their work and then tell me these designs couldn't have been made by humans.

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REVIEWS

CSETI's "ET Contact Tool" iPhone App: A Review

For years people have been seeking an answer to the question, "Are we alone?" Does intelligent life exist outside our galaxy and, if so, how can we make contact with our space brothers and sisters? Well, as it turns out, there's an app for that!

CSETI, the Center for the Study of Extraterrestrial Intelligence, is an organization of sky watchers whose mission is to not only have close encounters with space aliens, but also to understand them and, hopefully, become pals. Their website, located at WWW.CSETI.ORG, explains that they were founded in 1990 by Dr. Steven Greer, a retired emergency physician and meditation instructor, whose mission is to lead governments to disclose "the truth" about UFOs. He is also the author of the iPhone app I am reviewing today.

The "ET Contact Tool," available at the price of \$6.99 in the Apple App Store, features everything a fella could need to make contact with aliens. This includes, of course, official training guides, but also working scientific instruments, tones, meditations, and examples of previous contact events experienced by CSETI members.

So, how do you make contact? According to the training guide, it is important first to find a quiet location, preferably private and away from city lights and noise, that offers an unobstructed view of the night sky. Once you or

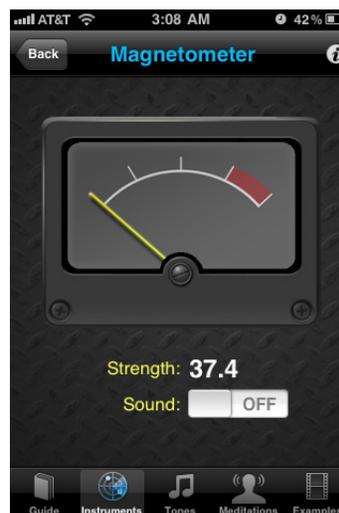
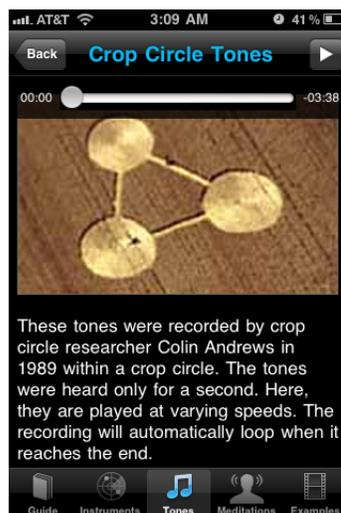
your team are settled, and perhaps have a good pair of binoculars on hand, then the fun can begin.

The first step is to play the provided tones for 5 to 10 minutes. The tones, one of which is claimed to have been recorded inside a crop circle, are available in different speeds and pitches, and are used to give the Aliens a chance to establish your location. The tones can either be played directly through your iPhone speaker, or even amplified through a boom box. According to the instructions in the app, "Ideally, they should also be transmitted over radio frequencies, by putting a walkie-talkie near the iPhone speaker with the transmit button held or taped down." Unless the aliens have the other walkie-talkie, or you just want to provide some weird interference, I'm not sure exactly how this is useful.

Next, it is time to meditate. Luckily, there are guided meditations by Dr. Steven

Greer, and they are considered central to making contact. There are two meditations included in the app, both of which are over 30 minutes long, and must be listened to in their entirety if contact is expected to be made. The important thing, says the app, is not to be an expert at meditation, but to be sincere in your intentions to make peaceful contact. "Experience," it says, "has shown that ET visitors respond very favorable to sincere efforts." I didn't understand this claim since there has never been any convincing proof to show extraterrestrials have made contact with us at all. What experience? What responses?

Dr. Greer has established a technique that he calls CTS, or Coherent Thought Sequencing, which is said to have proven quite effective in making contact with Extraterrestrial Beings. The technique, which sounds almost like a reverse remote viewing, requires you to project an image of yourself and your location to



the Aliens so that they can find you. The sequence of thoughts and images is "used to guide ET craft to your location." Again, a step by step guide is included in the app itself. But since remote viewing has shown time and time again to be a worthless tool to gather information with, it is unlikely it will result in positive communication with space Aliens.

From here on out you are on your own. You may photograph or film your experiences, or simply just enjoy them if they occur. The app does include what it calls "working scientific instruments," specifically a Magnetometer and a compass, for your use in the field. The compass seems to work the same as the built-in iPhone compass does, by using the GPS system, but the Magnetometer is quite ineffective. In fact, it appears to have no idea when you are anywhere near a magnetic field. My own brief testing showed no discernible reaction when I was standing in front of a working television or when the device was placed near a microwave while it was in use. A Trifield Meter that I own and used as a control was able to detect both.

All in all, the "ET Contact Tool" is a fun, but ultimately ineffectual method of contacting aliens. While the different recorded tones can give a few minutes of entertainment, the guided meditations and "Coherent Thought Sequencing" apparently offer no better odds of talking to your space brothers than does living in a trailer park, and the "working scientific instruments" are neither useful or, at least in the case of the magnetometer, actually working. At \$6.99, the "ET Contact Tool" is certainly more expensive than the average iPhone app, and should only be purchased and utilized for entertainment purposes only. It may be good for a few giggles, but it will likely never help you find ET.



LOUIS THEROUX'S WEIRD WEEKENDS: UFO HUNTERS

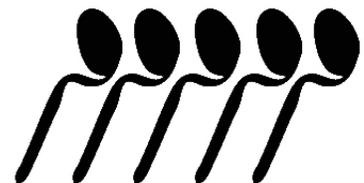
Louis Theroux is a journalist working for the BBC who is most notable for his work as a documentary filmmaker. Among the subjects of his gonzo-style programs have been the Westboro Baptist Church, a special prison full of pedophiles, and even the adult film industry. It's safe to say that if the subculture exists somewhere on the fringe, Louis will infiltrate it.

In the late 90s, the BBC aired a series called "Louis Theroux's Weird Weekends," and in one particular episode Mr. Theroux tagged along with a collection of UFO hunters. Within the first 10 minutes Louis meets a man named Thor Templar. Thor identifies himself as "Lord Commander of the Earth Protectorate," and claims to have killed at least 20 aliens, either through the use of hand-to-hand combat or with "25th Century" psi-weapon technology such as a "Mutilator Gun."

Louis moves on to Colorado where he learns the origin of the animal mutilation hypothesis, gets lessons in identifying various alien subspecies, such as the Greys, Reptoids, and Nordics, as well as comes across a suspected alien mutilated cow!

Throughout the journey, Theroux goes sky-watching with the folks at C-SETI (not to be confused with the actual scientific organization SETI), and even meets Reverend Robert Short of Blue Rose Ministries who, for the price of \$50, "channels" an alien being named Korton. Words cannot do this particular scene justice. You simply must see it.

You may find some of the subjects of Louis's film to be nutty. But his gift lies in being disarming enough to get them to open up and share their thoughts to a video camera. Theroux humanizes these folks in such a way that, no matter how crazy you may think they are, you can't help but leave with affection for them.



Abductology Implodes

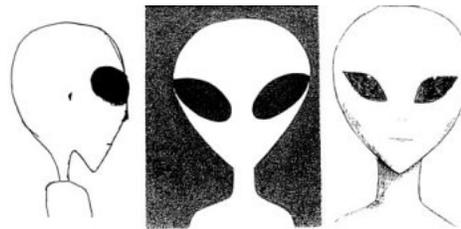
By Robert Sheaffer

If “Abductology” is the study of alleged UFO abductions, then it can be said that not since the sudden demise of Marxist-Leninism has any subject, real or imagined, self-destructed so suddenly and so completely as Abductology has managed to do this past year.

Twenty years ago, Abductology was riding high, led by its Troika of Dr. John Mack, a respected Harvard psychiatrist, Budd Hopkins, artist and amateur hypnotist (who died on August 21, at age eighty), and Dr. David Jacobs, onetime UFO historian turned abduction guru. The earliest reported UFO abductions in the U.S. - Betty and Barney Hill in 1961, and a trickle of others including Travis Walton in 1975 - typically involved going outside to some lonely and deserted spot at night, where one allegedly encountered aliens, and was kidnapped. It was Hopkins who severed completely the connection between UFO sightings and UFO abductions in the early 1980s. No longer was it necessary to be outside in some scary place at night for a UFO abduction to occur: in the new Hopkins-style abductions, the aliens would come right into your bedroom and snatch you up, often passing through solid walls in the process. According to Hopkins, if your kid calls out

“Mommy, there’s a monster under my bed,” the kid just might be right.

So “credible” did Abductology become, not only did CBS-TV produce a 1992 prime time mini-series based on Hopkins’ book *Intruders*, but there was even an “Abduction Study Conference” at MIT in 1992, sponsored by Dr. David Pritchard of the phys-



Alien Discussions
Proceedings of the Abduction Study Conference
held at MIT, Cambridge, MA

Andrea Pritchard, David E. Pritchard, John E. Mack
Pam Kasey, Claudia Yapp: Editors



ics department. So confident were the Abductologists that they were ready for Prime Time, they invited journalists, academics, and even skeptics (I attended for CSICOP). However, they went to extraordinary lengths using “non-disclosure forms” to control how the conference was reported. But if they liked what a writer had to say (such as C.D.B. Bryan in his *Close*

Encounters of the Fourth Kind), then they released him from his obligation to remain silent, and cooperated with him in getting out the “authorized version” of the conference.

That conference, however, did not unfold as smoothly as its organizers planned. Many academics, even those inclined toward UFO or paranormal belief, objected mightily to the loose “methods” of the Troika. In one of Budd Hopkins’ talks, he described a survey he did of children showing them pictures of unusual things to see which ones they were familiar with, to determine if they might have been abducted. He was met by an avalanche of objections: you didn’t normalize, you didn’t validate, etc. In other words, his survey was worthless. Chastened, Hopkins said something like “I’m sorry, I’m just an artist and I don’t understand all that technical stuff. I thank you guys. That’s why we invited you here, to help us.” Not long afterward, Mack was speaking and described some sort of test or survey he was doing with his subjects. He ran into similar objections. I was waiting for Mack to say, “I’m sorry, I’m just a Professor of Psychiatry at Harvard University, and I don’t understand all that technical stuff.” But he did not.

So what has brought down Abductology? In a deadly one-two punch, a woman who was one of Jacobs' subjects is publicly accusing him of unprofessional conduct, and has recordings to back up her account. This was followed by Hopkins' ex-wife spilling the beans about his gullibility and even intellectual dishonesty.

For some time now, the matter has been simmering of a woman who uses the alias "Emma Woods." She was a hypnotic



subject of David Jacobs from 2004 to 2007, all of which took place over the telephone. She has written, and circulated widely within UFOlogy, long and detailed accounts of her complaint against Jacobs. Assuming she can document all of her charges, Jacobs appears in a sorry light, indeed. She accuses Jacobs of telling her, during hypnosis sessions, that she suffers from Multiple Personality Disorder (MPD). Such a diagnosis should only be made by a medical professional, not by a historian. She also accuses him of "planting" false memories in her of evil aliens abducting her,

raping her, and even trying to kill her. She says she felt sick every time she saw the ocean because she "remembered" a supposed alien hybrid holding her head under water. In 2006 Jacobs wrote to her in an email, "I am in a rather severe crisis with the aliens. I will be talking to them tonight about my future and what they will or will not do to me." The alien hybrids were using another woman's Instant Messenger to communicate with Jacobs (but of course the woman

did not type the messages, the hybrids did). Apparently Jacobs reached an understanding with the aliens: he would agree to check their on-line messages frequently, and they agreed not to abduct him and implant a tracking chip. Problem solved. "Emma Woods" is now considering legal action against Temple University, Jacobs' employer. (Jacobs has no training in medicine or hypnosis - he is a historian.) Her website is at <http://www.ufoalienabductee.com/>. On his website (<http://www.ufoabduction.com/>), Jacobs has a response to what he calls the "defamation campaign" against

him. Referring to "Emma" as "Alice," Jacobs says that she appears to suffer from "Borderline Personality Disorder" (again, a diagnosis only a medical professional should make), and that she has been experiencing an "emotional breakdown."

The second punch, one I was not at all expecting, comes from Carol Rainey, the ex-wife of the late Budd Hopkins. Upon reading "Emma's" account, she jumped into the fray: "the trusting and vulnerable patient delivered up to Jacobs his hoped-for narrative of predatory hybrids among us— exactly what he ordered for the book he was writing. However, it's anything but a typical abductee's experience: violent sexual encounters with a human/alien hybrid; a request by the good Doctor (Ph.D. in history, non-medical) to send him her panties, unwashed, so they could be tested for alien sperm; and a proposal that she wear a chastity belt with nails across the vaginal opening, which he'd locate for her from (in Jacobs words) "a sex shop that specialized in bondage/dominance, a place that I frequented quite often." " An experienced documentary filmmaker in the medical field, Rainey soon realized that "what Hopkins and Jacobs claim as 'the powerful evidence' for alien abductions and hybrids among us is based primarily on the powerful, hypnotic repetition of their own proclamations—and the public's gullibility in believing whatever unfounded theories these star paranormal investiga-

tors punt down the field.” She became increasingly skeptical of one of Hopkins’ star abductees, James Mortellaro. “Several things about this case were making me increasingly uneasy. It wasn’t just the pills and the pistol [that Mortellaro always kept in his boot]. Or the fact that none of Jim’s claims had been checked or verified. Among his more mundane statements, Jim Mortellaro had earlier told Budd that he had two Ph.D.s (Really? That’s impressive, the skeptical wife thinks from behind the camera. From which universities?) and that he’d been “the Marketing Director for Hitachi” before retiring early. (Really? Was that Regional, National or International Marketing Director?)”. But Budd wasn’t curious. Later, Hopkins received several phone messages from individuals who called to confirm key portions of Mortellaro’s story. Hopkins may have been fooled by them but Rainey wasn’t: “I’ve spent twenty-plus years in post-production suites, with the editor or the mixer altering voices up, down, and sideways,” she told her husband. “It’s certainly not rocket science and Jim knows electronics. Listen, that’s his syntax, that’s the way he says ‘very concerned’ and drops his ‘gs’ on certain words.” But instead of becoming suspicious of his “abductee,” Hopkins became angry with his wife. Rainey assisted her husband in the editing of his book on the famous abduction story of Linda “Cortile”: “It was highly dra-

matic, paced like a thriller— full of otherworldly treachery, forbidden love, UFOs over Manhattan, twenty-two witnesses, a heroine whose red blood cells were immortal, lusty and dangerous Secret Service agents, a Prince from afar, gifts of many fur coats, chases on foot, more forbidden love, an X-rayed alien implant, Linda’s abduction into a spacecraft accompanied by an important world leader, her abduction into a spacecraft with other members of Budd’s abductee support group, and her abduction into a spacecraft accompanied by a famous Mafia don. Then, later, as the story continued to unfold (long after the book’s publication), Linda’s presence in the lobby of the World Trade Center when the planes hit and her bloody, barefoot escape over shards of glass. Although...not all of those events reported above by Linda Cortile had been selected by Budd for inclusion in the book. I knew about them, but they weren’t in the book.” The fact that the book was titled *The Brooklyn Bridge Abductions* did nothing to enhance its credibility! This story already produced a huge stink in UFOlogy during the 1990s when some UFOlogists tried to independently confirm some of Linda’s wild tales, and came up with absolutely nothing (“Levitated Linda,” Spring, 1993; reprinted in the new book *Psychic Vibrations*). Worse yet, Hopkins “continued to tout the major significance of the case long after he knew that

Linda had lied to him on multiple occasions,” according to Rainey.

Another thing we learn from Rainey is that Leslie Kean, the author of the best-selling book *UFOs: Generals, Pilots, and Government Officials Go On the Record* was “Budd’s new protege, advisor, and all-round organizer” (see my review of her book in the *Skeptical Inquirer*, March/April 2011. The review is titled “‘Unexplained’ Cases—Only If You Ignore All Explanations,” because many of the supposedly “unexplained” cases in the book have had explanations published, which she completely ignores.). Kean wrote that she had been with Budd Hopkins “almost continuously” in the hospital for three weeks, until his death. Now we begin to understand why Kean is so impervious to any facts that contradict her published position: she likely learned this modus operandi from Hopkins, who always ignored criticisms and difficulties. Rainey notes, “In our house, the words “debunkers” and “skeptics” were used very much in the way that devout Christians use the words “unbelievers” and “the unsaved.” “

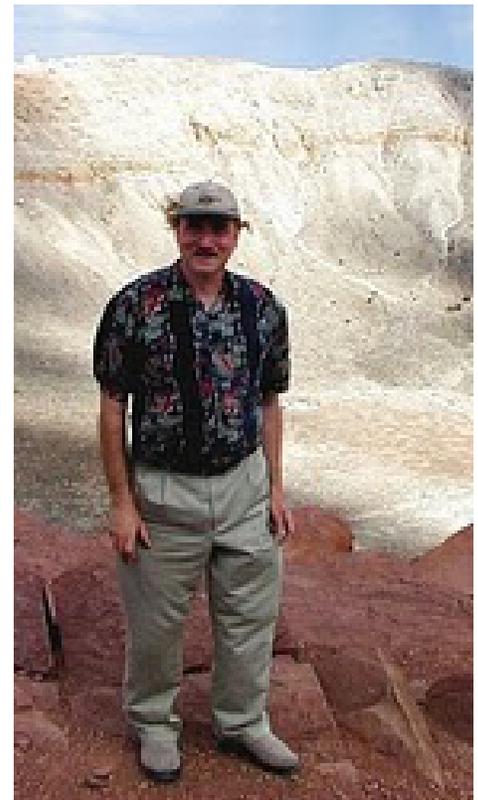
“The two best-known abduction investigators, Budd Hopkins and David Jacobs, work almost exclusively alone (separately, although with extensive telephone exchanges), without supervision (and are unwilling to accept any), and without any training in medicine or psy-

chiatry or neurology. A bit of comparative religion, anthropology, and folklore under the belt wouldn't hurt, either, in dealing with these difficult-to-interpret human experiences. They're not required to get authorization for their experimentation on human beings from an Institutional Review Board (IRB), a clearance that's required of every legitimate institutional researcher in the country. It's peer review of a proposed study using human subjects, it's strict, and researchers are required to report back to the IRB with their findings. None of this applies to UFO researchers." Carol Rainey's long and revealing article is at http://www.paratopia.net/paratopia_magazine/mag_preview_final.pdf. Her website is at <http://www.carolrainey.com/home.html>.

In hindsight, this outcome was inevitable. As anyone who ever tried to have a rational conversation with either Hopkins or Jacobs can attest, the two men are extraordinarily smug, self-righteous, even pig-headed. They are correct, you are wrong, and probably stupid as well: it's as simple as that. (I never got a chance to chat with Mack, apart from a quick "hello, how are you?" in passing. The circles he moved in were far too rarefied for me to enter.) In their own circles, each is a god, more or less, and one doesn't question god-like beings. There's truth in the old Biblical saying, "pride goeth before a fall." When someone smugly thinks he is invariably

correct no matter how foolish his pronouncements (somehow Sylvia Browne comes to mind), sooner or later the Foolish Factor will grow so large that even many of his sycophants won't be able to ignore it.

Wither Abductology? John Mack was struck by a car and killed in 2004. Budd Hopkins died recently, his legacy permanently compromised by the shocking exposé of his knavery and foolishness by his ex-wife and former collaborator. As for David Jacobs, if there were a contest for "stupidest and most humiliating statements," he would be a strong contender. No doubt UFO abduction claims will trickle on for a while, and some UFOlogists such as Barbara Lamb continue to supposedly "recover" repressed memories of UFO abductions using hypnosis. But it's clear that Abductology, as practiced by the Troika in its heyday, is now considered even by many pro-UFOlogists to be an embarrassing chapter in the history of UFOs that should be forgotten as quickly as possible.



Robert is an author, a free-lance writer, and skeptical investigator of all manner of bogus claims. In real life, He has been working as a data communications engineer in the Silicon Valley. He has also been a fellow of CSICOP - the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal - since 1977. He has been a regular contributor and columnist for their magazine, *The Skeptical Inquirer*, since its second issue of publication (Spring/Summer, 1977). And also been a member of Mensa for over ten years.

You can find him online at:

<http://www.sheaffer.org/>
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PAREIDOLIA OF THE MONTH



Pareidolia of the month goes to the Csrefko family in Bekasmegyer, Budapest. After spending a fortune remodeling their bathroom with a new bath, tiles and shower, the family quickly abandoned using their new

restroom. After only

taking one first shower, Andrea Csrefko, 47, fled from the bathroom when she saw the head of Satan in one of the tiles.

“I was naked coming out of the shower and I could suddenly see his eyes staring into me. I just screamed and ran,” she said.

Husband Laszlo, 52, explained: “We can’t clean it off and it wasn’t there when we put the tiles up. It just appeared overnight and noth-

ing can move it.”

Well of course you can’t remove it; it’s a pattern in the tile! If it scares you that much, go buy another tile square of the same style and REPLACE IT...It doesn’t even look like Satan... it looks more like the weird character Valentine in the movie *Mirrors*.



Thank you for reading this months issue of The Bent Spoon. I predict we will return next month covering psychic phenomena.

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