

INEXPLICATA

INEXPLICATA

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DEPARTMENTS AND COLUMNS

<i>Dr. Rafael Lara's Mexico Watch</i>	
<i>Ex Libris (book reviews)</i>	34

ARTICLES AND FEATURES

Enough About the Chupacabras Already! <i>by Magdalena del Amo-Freixedo</i>	1
UFOs Also Kill Cows That Aren't Mutilated <i>by Luis Burgos</i>	9
Fireballs Over Puerto Rico: UFOs or Military Devices? <i>by Lucy Guzmán de Pla</i>	11
Mexico: Terror in the Northeast <i>by Ing. Marco A. Reynoso</i>	18
The Prostitution of Paranormal Journalism <i>by Manuel Carballal</i>	26

"res inexplicata volans"

Magdalena del Amo-Freixedo shares a common characteristic with Indiana Jones: "adventure" is their middle name. From the rain forests of Puerto Rico to the foothills of the Pyrenees, Ms. del Amo-Freixedo, International UFO editor for Spain's prestigious ENIGMAS magazine, stops at nothing in her quest for answers to paranormal mysteries. INEXPLICATA is pleased to showcase her work in these pages.

Enough About the Chupacabras Already!

by Magdalena del Amo-Freixedo

Publication in February of this year [1997] of a considerable article in this magazine [ENIGMAS] on the activities of the Chupacabras opened a motherlode of reports in a variety of media, including some newspapers having nationwide circulation.

Without going much further, this past September 16th, Diario 16 published a news item that read this: "Portugal. A number of animals have been slain by a chupacabras. Some twenty sheep were attached and 9 of them were slaughtered by a mysterious chupacabras in the village of Touloues in la Beira Baja, a region bordering Spain. All of the animals appeared with a single puncture mark on the right side of their throats, with their capillaries sectioned, and completely drained of blood..."

We found Fernando Soares Espinheiro in his farm at Monte Fidalgo, not far from the village of Touloues. He very kindly retold the story of what had happened to his flock and even showed us some photographs in which the strange wounds are visible. Some of the sheep had been eaten by predators, but the strange puncture marks on the neck were clearly evident. The animals were partially or totally exsanguinated. Those which survived despite their wounds had lost considerable amounts of blood and were very weak; they were kept isolated in an open paddock and no longer went out to the pastures.

We asked Espinheiro about the cause of these killings, and these were his words on the matter: "I don't know what it could be, but I don't think it was a wolf, as the biologist Sarmiento explained. In the first place, there are no wolves in this part of the country. There have never been wolves. In fact, sheep sleep in the field without shepherds or watchdogs. On the other hand, I understand this is not how wolves operate. Wolves tear at the flesh and eat it. Whatever this thing is, it only sucks blood. It leaves the meat intact."

INEXPLICATA

We had originally thought about skipping this cases since it had already received considerable coverage in a number of media outlets, including this magazine. However, certain items of information expressed in a nationwide specialized publication, as well as some conclusions considered definitive, contrasted diametrically with our own data on the subject and our conclusions. This leads us to discuss the subject without any wish to engage in polemics.

In the first place, we are making reference to the words of the employees at Monte Fidalgo. In hard-to-understand Portuguese, which is an arduous task despite one's knowledge of it, the workers never referred to a wolf as the cause of the deaths. "This is nothing I'd ever seen before. This thing's a critter that wasn't around these parts before...The critter makes a hole in their necks and sucks their blood through it. It leaves the meat alone. When the vet came and opened the animal where the hole was, the meat looked like hamburger...this is one strange critter." These were the words of Domingo Nogueira. Another employee added that the holes appeared to have been made by a kind of hole puncher.

Domingo Afonso Cayado, another of the affected cattle owners, found two of his sheep dead. Many hours had already elapsed and the kind of wound could not be seen: vultures, which are abundant in this part of the country, left little more than skin and bones, Domingo's farm is separated from Monte Fidalgo by an unpaved road. His dead animals appeared close to Espinheiro's farm. Domingo's opinion on the facts was much more conservative, having held the rank of corporal in the Guardia Civil for many years. His military background keeps him from considering any explanation which escape ordinary logic. "This is not a wolf zone. However, that doesn't mean that a hungry one can't turn up now and then. Furthermore, what else could it be? It can't be a chupacabras because there have never been chupacabras in this part of the world, nor any of those weird animals you find in the Americas." His thought process caused us to smile and we could not help but tell him: "There aren't any over there either, at least not officially." I am making this digression to clarify that contrary to what certain media outlets reported, Chupacabras activity in the Caribbean and in other Latin American locations is ongoing. However, there is complete and utter censorship on the subject in Mexico. The subject was silenced within twenty-four hours and no further reports were issued.

A few days ago we received a letter from Ing. Marco A. Reynoso of the Fundación Cosmos in Monterrey, Mexico, which contained the following comments: "...the Chupacabras presents a latent danger to human beings. The result of autopsies performed by the

"res inexplicata volans"

Fundación's doctors show that the perforations in the thorax become progressively deeper until they strike the heart, destroying it along with other vital organs such as the liver and the lungs. Blood, and even some organs, on occasion, are completely extracted through puncture holes ranging from 1 to 1.5 centimeters...in 70% of the cases, there have been UFO sightings that very same night or on previous nights, but we have still been unable to find a direct relationship between both phenomena."

Censorship in Puerto Rico does not operate to such extremes. In spite of this, some television channels were threatened with the loss of their broadcasting licenses due to "alarming the population unnecessarily." The results of blood and genetic analyses made on a Chupacabras hair sample is alarming. The report reads: "The results of the analysis lead us to infer that given the inability to match the sample's characteristics with those of any known organism, the organism from which it emanated could be the product of highly sophisticated genetic manipulation, an organism that is alien to our environment, or perhaps an animal species hitherto unknown to mankind. Other preliminary analyses of subclassifications and genetic material are inconclusive, but the results obtained to date indicate that the sample studied originates from an organism unknown to modern science."

A Portuguese television channel presented a report comparing the incidents with those that had transpired in America. The possibility that the Chupacabras had crossed the Atlantic Ocean versus the handiwork of some conventional animal alarmed cattlemen in this and other parts of Portugal. Due to this, following the lead of other countries that had experienced similar problems, the Chamber of Agriculture wished to establish that the sheep deaths had been caused by a wolf. The Chamber's representative, Alvaro Lopes, said so publicly over the local Gazeta do Interior newspaper while criticizing the yellow journalism of the report issued by television. In spite of this, we know that Lopes was mystified by the wounds on the dead cattle and professed not knowing what manner of animal could have inflicted them. This comment was made to a person who for obvious reasons must remain anonymous. Sarmento, on the other hand, stated that a wolf was to blame, but not an ordinary wolf -- rather, one having extraordinary intelligence and experience. What is most intriguing of these deaths are the puncture marks found on the throat. Some people offer ridiculous solutions in their urge to unravel the mystery. On September 10th, the local Povo da Beira newspaper published the following news item: "Toothless Wolf Kills Nine Sheep--Mystery Unraveled in la Raia. In Toloues, Indanha-a-Nova, people were frightened by the mysterious deaths of sheep with puncture marks on their throats...veterinarians were at first

INEXPLICATA

puzzled because it transpired in the region in which sheep were afflicted with minuscule wounds still large enough to cause their deaths. In the end, the mysterious slayer of 28 wolves, allegedly the Chupacabras, was nothing more than an aging wolf that came down from the hills in search of food. The results of the study undertaken by biologists and veterinarians led to the conclusion that the culprit was an elderly wolf with a single fang." Such a conclusion strikes us as irresponsible, particularly with the knowledge of how the Chupacabras has behaved in other countries. The Puerto Rican Chupacabras, for instance, produces a sort of elongated proboscis from its mouth -- a rigid tongue -- with which it makes the incisions. This detail was of double interest to us. Besides, a few days earlier, Madrid's El Mundo had also published a news item with similar details: "One hundred sheep turn up dead in Vizcaya with puncture marks on their necks. Cattlemen believe that the culprit is a psychopath accompanied by an animal having a single fang."

We decided to pay the location a visit, making our first stop at Valle de Las Encartaciones in the county of Balmaseda. In all honesty, given the delicate sociopolitical situation that exists in said community, our hopes of finding something worthwhile were slim. However, we must highlight the kindness with which we were welcomed as well as the quality of the information we were given. We were allowed to inspect police files, see the affidavits with the copies of dead animal photographs, and we were also given the phone numbers and addresses of the affected parties.

With regard to the wounds on the dead animals, policeman Fernando Gardiazábal, who had been in charge of handling the complaints filed by the affected parties, told us that the wounds did not appear to have been caused by a wolf or wolves. The detail of the pointed instrument as the cause of the wounds again emerges, as we can see by one person's testimony. "Several animals had some bones and vertebrae shattered by some prodding tool that was stuck into their necks." José Luis Ribacoba also lost some sheep recently, telling us with a certain degree of astonishment: "The wounds, aside from being very strange, keep the animals from healing from them. I don't know what's the matter. Years ago, a wolf would show up and start killing. It would even tear off a few kilos of flesh from a heifer or a horse's hindquarters. Upon finding these animals, they were usually very weak, but we'd cut the skin, heal them with a medication called permanganate and a concoction made of wolfsbane, and the wound would heal immediately in spite of its severity and the animal would continue living as happy as anything. However, these modern wounds are much smaller and won't heal."

As to our question of what, in his opinion, was the cause of these

"res inexplicata volans"

deaths, he replied: "I don't know. It's very strange, of course, something we'd never seen before, but I have no idea what it is...and the Ertzaintza [*Basque police force--Ed.*] still hasn't told me anything. They say that they're investigating, but I'm not sure if they're just saying so to put us at ease or if they're really doing something."

Ricardo Fernández, another resident of Balmaseda, has been left practically sheepless. Thirty of his animals have turned up dead of the same mysterious circumstances in a single night near the Angostura region. He believes the culprit is a feral dog with a killer instinct. "People abandon their dogs when they go on vacation and the dogs take to the wilderness, becoming feral."

Manuel Trasviña and Felix Diego have also seen their flocks decrease over the past months.

The regions of Espaldaseca, Urbaliza, Ilso, Angostura, Antuñano and Tromosamos are a few of the scenarios in which the strange sheep deaths occurred. Farther south, the sylvan peace of the Urbasa mountain ranges was interrupted by the sudden appearance of a mysterious killer beast. José Vedayo, a cattleman from Olazagutía, found one his foals dead: the animal presented wounds both on the throat and on its shanks. We decided to visit this mountainous area, which we had only seen in films.

A local cattleman told us that there had never been any wolves in the area. "Sheep have always slept in the open and nothing has ever happened." Ana María Ormazábal and her sons Roberto and Juan María Olazarán were of the same opinion. However, they are certain that wolves are involved, not because they are native to the region but because someone released them there. "The area in which they operate is clearly defined. Someone must've released the wolves there because if they'd come from somewhere else there would be a trace, which isn't the case here. Someone must've released them here." What is most curious is that these wolves slay their victims, drink their blood and leave their meat intact. Roberto claims having seen in the darkness two impressive sets of eyes not far from the flock. For this reason, he has no doubt that wolves are involved, but what if another "impossible" creature were the culprit? Whatever it is, this entity has caused a great effect upon the region. "The animals," Ana María told us, "don't act like they did before. They come home at nightfall because they're afraid. Before, they would sleep in the wilderness and range very far away. They're also giving less milk than before."

Juan María managed to get permission to form a posse and exterminate any wolves that come into the area. A tough job, since they are forbidden to use shotguns. They can only arm themselves

INEXPLICATA

with clubs.

Miranda de Arga and Falces are two other locations in which dead animals have been found. Jose Luis Izu's herd suffered 27 losses in three separate occasions during 1994. We spoke to him and he gave us the details: "Sheep would turn up dead with one or two wounds on their necks. It did suck blood out of some but only killed the others by biting their throats. It's an animal with a killer instinct." In spite of not having experienced any wolf attacks before he is certain that a wolf was responsible for his losses. We asked him to justify his certainty and asked him if a wild dog or other creature could be involved. These were his words: "The animal that killed the sheep was very smart, much more so than any wild dog. It attacked only when it knew there was no one around, when the cattlemen had gone away. It was also very elusive. If we noticed it was there and went after it, it would flee without us even being able to see it...had it been a dog we would have caught it without any problem, as we had in the past." He replied the following when asked if he had seen the wolf or "thing" that killed his animals: "Once at around 8:30 at night I noticed the sheep were scared. I went and called them and they scattered to the sides. There was some kind of black shape in the middle which I couldn't see very well due to the nightfall. At first I thought it was a black sheep that had been left behind. I called it and went toward it--whatever it was ran off at top speed, jumping over the crags in a way that no dog would be able to do."

This is a highly interesting detail. In both Puerto Rico and Mexico, many witnesses claimed having seen "a shape", a "shadowy form," or "an image" during the attacks -- something that was both seen and not seen, and vanished at high speed. When José Luis told us his case, we found it familiar. Although he hadn't seen anything, he figured it was a wolf. After all, what else could it have been? "We think the people from Forestry Services released a pair of wolves equipped with microchips to control them. They probably released them to see if they could live without attacking the flocks, and if that was successful, they would release more of them. The fact is that after the attacks, a number of helicopters which must have belonged to the Guardia Civil flew over the Peralta mountain range. They were almost surely controlling them and took them away."

While all of this is happening today, it isn't the first time that cattlemen in this region have faced a similar problem. In 1986, the herds of Aragon's Cinco Villas area endured the attacks of a dangerous assailant. The Diario de Navarra reported: "The strange animal attacking sheep in Navarra's Ribera Alta is apparently very

"res inexplicata volans"

large, agile and runs at high speed. No one has been able to identify it, which is the reason why speculation as to its nature is ongoing."

As in other cases we have looked into, there are ready-made opinions. Some believe that wolves are involved; others insist upon feral dogs. Some witnesses claim that a large cat is involved. The manager of Grupo Lanar, Enrique Malo, stated that it is "a smart, quick animal that does not attack humans". It was also speculated that the cause of the animal deaths could be a pair of pumas with their cubs. The rumor was based upon the discovery of some very large prints, some of them the size of a human hand, next to the smaller ones. According to declarations made by Grupo Lanar's manager on the behavior patterns of these animals, "the puma is an animal who smells things five kilometers away. It doesn't attack cattle when humans are near. It normally enters and exits the way it came with extraordinary speed, managing to clear fences two meters tall in a single jump."

Something that calls the attention of local residents is the wide sphere of operation of the creature. It leads them to believe that the father is possibly in one area and the mother and her cubs in another. Nor can they explain the provenance of these pumas. However, popular imagination is so fertile that an explanation to the mystery was soon found. According to some, the animals were escapees from a circus which had visited the town of Fraga. Others believe the culprit to be "the German", a very strange man who trains hunting dogs at his farm in Carbonera. Someone claims having seen puma cubs there during a fire on this property. However, when interrogated by the Guardia Civil on the matter, "the German" refused having owned any such animals. Some friends of ours visited "the German" in recent days and found him to be a very normal person and not in the least bit weird.

The problem was solved shortly after: neither feral dogs nor "the German"'s pumas were involved. An enormous 52 kilogram wolf was shot to death by elements of the Guardia Civil participating in a posse organized by the locals of Biota. The "terrible beast" was displayed in the town square. The news item in Diario de Navarra is a gem and reminds us of those children's stories in which the Big Bad Wolf plays the heavy: "Once in the town square, it was hung by its rear legs. Its outstretched body made it seem larger. A puddle of blood could be seen gathering beneath its head on the ground. It aroused the curiosity of all the townspeople and many others came from all around Cinco Villas to witness the display."

Quite correctly, Biota's veterinarian, Fernando Labena, wondered if that particular wolf could have been the cause of all the carnage in the area in spite of its size and weight. "It's a large

INEXPLICATA

wolf, but my personal opinion is that it is not the only cause of the problem." In fact, it wasn't. The problem continues unabated without anyone knowing who is behind these killings. Popular rumor and fantasy get the better of people, who are always looking for an known enemy to fight. However, when talking to them face-to-face, they are aware that something else may be at play here. "Something's been dumped here that wasn't around before," said an experienced farmer. Many of them now speak in terms of "that critter" when retelling their hapless stories.

In summarizing the characteristics of this elusive predator, we could say the following:

- It acts at night when farm animals are alone.
- It kills for sport, leaving flesh intact and only sucking blood.
- It is very agile and fast. No one has seen it clearly. It can run and jump at high speeds.
- It has a wide radius of operations. It may strike at locations distant from each other in a single night.
- It leaves one or two holes in the animal's neck.
- Tissue surrounding the puncture (under the skin) appears to have been ground.
- Wounds seem to have been inflicted by a punching tool or awl.
- Dead animals are completely or partially exsanguinated.
- Wounded animals heal with difficulty and many of them die.
- They have been heard to make strange growls.
- It is speculated that the animal has only one tooth.

In spite of all the bears, the wolves, the feral dogs and a menagerie of other predators as a cause of the deaths, there is always an unexplained angle, which is the one that interests us. This part remains in the unexplained file today as it did yesterday. To conclude that the strange deaths are the work of humans who conduct secret experiments in tropical jungles and in the Iberian mountains seems a paltry explanation to us. To believe that this is the definitive solution shows a certain lack of panoramic vision and of the ability to fit certain pieces of the puzzle which can only be put into their places by moving backward in time and analyzing similar events which took place in distant ages. The cattle farmers of today, just like those of an earlier age, are exposed to having the "evil beast", which is perhaps interdimensional, continue to act with impunity in the face of human impotence.

The following article comes from our friend and colleague Dr. Carlos Iurchuk's "El Dragón Invisible" (The Invisible Dragon) and is written by Luis Burgos, an Argentinean UFO writer and

investigator.

UFOs Also Kill Cows That Aren't Mutilated

by Luis Burgos

Introduction

One of the greatest enigmas of the UFO phenomenon began in the early 1970's when a number of states in the U.S. produced hundreds of reports on strange cattle deaths by mutilation -- their organs removed and their blood extracted. From that point on, the "cattle mutilation enigma" spread in a less virulent form to some Central American and Caribbean countries such as Puerto Rico, and with isolated episodes manifesting themselves in the Southern Cone, particularly in Brazil and Argentina.

With the passing of time, the hypothesis that cattle mutilations were in fact experiments by the U.S. Air Force, employing black, silent helicopters for purposes of bacteriological warfare against beef cattle, sheep and even horses, began to gain strength.

But just as the subject began to "retreat statistically" from the archives of ufologists, similar stories began to emerge with the presence of Puerto Rico's "Moca Vampire" and today's mysterious "Chupacabras", which has made startling appearances in the USA, Puerto Rico, Venezuela and perhaps even Brazil. All of these enigmas have a single point in common: the sightings of nocturnal lights in the vicinity of the events. In other words, UFO sightings.

Not All Are Mutilated

The purpose of this article is to enhance the statistics of "effects upon animals", cows in particular, but placing distance between itself and the "historically famous mutilations" which of themselves already form a monumental database and are the subject of independent analyses. I am specifically referring to **animal deaths produced by the passing of a UFO**. While such events are not numerous, they nonetheless represent a new aspect.

The Events

Correa, Province of Sante Fe (Argentina).

In October 1968, thirty-two UFO landing marks appear on a field owned by the Damiani brothers in Correa, Santa Fe province. The marks appeared after a fly-by of lights over the area which constituted Argentina's "first massive landing". Witnesses later

INEXPLICATA

found the body of a calf whose bones had been shattered precisely in the area of the landing marks.

Alegrete, Brazil

Toward late October, 1970, on a fine sunny afternoon, Pedro Machado, 66, and his son Eurípides, 23, who were looking after the cattle in a farm on Alegrete's First District were stunned to observe a calf moving in a direction parallel to the ground at a height of one meter over the ground. The animal then began moving up into the air "as if absorbed by an invisible force."

It vanished out of the witnesses' sight some 3 to 4 minutes later. The remains of the calf were never found. Both indirect protagonists of this event were well thought-of in their community.

Estación Gil, Province of Buenos Aires (Argentina)

In the early morning hours of September 20, 1971, young Octavio D'Annunzio was heading toward his home in Estación Gil, Coronel Dorrego prospect, in the Province of Buenos Aires, when an unidentified flying object flew over the region at high speed, allowing many local residents to see it. The UFO's approach causes significant symptoms upon D'Annunzio. When military personnel investigates the events, they discover the presence of high levels of radiation, to the extent that film appeared clouded and a number of cows died in a standing position, with their tongues chewed. Carrion birds did not approach the area. This case contains details that are very important to UFO research.

Atalaya, Province of Buenos Aires (Argentina)

In late 1985, when I had the opportunity to investigate the spectacular events at Atalaya with my team from the FAO (Argentine Ufological Foundation), which set the world record in UFO landings, leaving 150 landing marks in a single field, we were able to witness the maneuvers of 4 UFOs over 45 minutes while they performed a veritable air show. A few days later, a *completely burned and desiccated* cow appeared at a site that had already been surveyed by a number of members. The animal did not appear to have been mutilated, but rather having been exposed to a great thermal source. Unfortunately, we had no way of transferring the carcass to a suitable place for study.

Refuco, Chile

At 9:00 p.m. on August 2, 1988, Luis Viveros and his wife Rosa Angulo, along with their 6-year-old son Rodrigo, witnessed "a red light that descended from the sky. The night was stormy although it was not raining, and thunder could be heard in the distance. Suddenly, a powerful detonation caused all the windows in their house to shatter. Frightened, the Viveros opted to head for a neighboring farm. The following morning, when Rosa went to check

"res inexplicata volans"

on the cows, she noticed that the wire fence has been downed, the trees were broken and that her house had become uneven due to disruptions in the terrain. But the most perplexing discovery had to do with two of their cows: one of them was dead, as if frozen, and the other was alive but rigid, also giving the impression of being frozen, for which reason it was necessary to slaughter it. UFOs were seen over the region that evening at La Unión, close to Osorno. Reports from the Argentine Patagonia were also received.

Victoria, Province of Entre Rios (Argentina)

During the media-reported events in Victoria, province of Entre Rios, which started in 1991, some ufologists noticed the presence of field animals which had died in strange ways, including a number of cows. These events were associated with the UFO sightings made in the area.

Realicó, Province of La Pampa (Argentina)

A strange phenomenon took place in Realicó, province of La Pampa, beginning at 10 p.m. on the stormy night of Sunday, August 7, 1994. During the course of almost three hours, dozens of cows and horses ran around as if "frightened" by something. 60 millimeters of rain fell during the night and a powerful thunderclap rent the air while a strange buzzing sound made itself noticed. On the following day, ranchers faced a horrifying scene: a number of cows and horses had torn through barbed wire fences and died due to the injuries received during their mad stampede. The causes of the incident were never ascertained, but a number of local residents insisted on having seen a "flying light" over the fields.

San Manuel, Province of Buenos Aires

Shortly after the incident in the Pampas, in 1994, we have word of a smaller case having similar characteristics when the residents of San Manuel became aware that animals had suddenly become spooked after the passage of a UFO, with serious consequences for some of the bovines.

Lucy Guzmán de Pla, Director of Compuserve's Puerto Rico Forum, is one of the few women involved in UFO/paranormal research on that island. Her experience includes field investigation of UFO reports and abductee testimony. Ms. Guzmán de Pla joins *INEXPLICATA* as a Contributing Editor.

Fireballs Over Puerto Rico: UFOs or Military Devices?

by *Lucy Guzmán de Pla*

Late 1997 and early 1998 represented a period of considerable activity in Puerto Rico: The U.S. Navy was conducting maneuvers as

INEXPLICATA

a prelude to operations in the Middle East, while floating missiles washed up on the beaches of Loíza, Yabucoa and Humacao. If tests were being conducted 200 miles off shore, why would these missiles wash up on beaches? An armed forces communique distributed to the media simply stated that the missiles were harmless and that "currents" had caused them to drift toward the island.

Simultaneously, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) was preparing its Coquí II Project and the launching of 11 rockets from February 12 to April 9th from the former U.S. military base at Camp Tortuguero. This project was met with strong opposition by the *Comité Contra los Experimentos Ambientales*, the mayor and municipal assembly of Vega Baja, and other ecological, civic and religious organizations protesting the absence of information on the project. They were fearful of a repeat of the events which transpired in 1992, as well as of the fact that the boosters would release into the atmosphere a chemical compound known as "bromo-trifluoro-methane", whose use is forbidden by international treaties due to its devastating effect upon the ozone layer.

NASA assured local residents, protesters and environmentalists that there was nothing to fear. However, a NASA official acknowledged that bromo-trifluoro-methane had indeed been used in 1992, but insisted that this time, aluminum trimethylol (TMA) would be employed, stating: "The reason for which we have chosen TMA is precisely because it has not been recognized as a harmful chemical."

The project's goal was the evaluation of the electrical properties and turbulence of the upper atmosphere. Five of the twelve rockets launched five kilograms of TMA into the atmosphere while the remaining six contained instrumentation necessary to carry out the project.

According to Mr. Maximo Cerame Vivas, scientific advisor to the Economic Development Administration, TMA would oxidize and turn luminous once in space, enabling it to be visible from the ground and that scientists would determine the impact of atmospheric turbulence upon communication satellites in orbit. After 20 minutes had elapsed, the TMA would break down into carbon dioxide, water vapor, aluminum oxide and other substances in the upper atmosphere without having any harmful effects on the lower atmosphere or on Earth itself.

There were also reports of mysterious fireballs on the island during this same time period. One of these cases was that of Mr.

"res inexplicata volans"

Antonio (Tony) Sánchez, who experienced a possible CE2K with evidence. The case produced secondary effects on witnesses, researchers and also produced electrical effects in the Sánchez home. The event's characteristics led me to dig a little deeper into the case and share it with you, our faithful readers.

The Sánchez Family's Experience

It all started on Sunday, March 22, 1998. Mr. Sánchez's family was enjoying a peaceful domestic day in his home in San Juan, Puerto Rico's Ocean Park neighborhood. Suddenly, at around 11:30 P.M., Mr. Sánchez, along with his wife, son and dog, heard a loud sound which lasted "approximately 5 minutes." They gave it little significance, until another even louder sound split the air 5 minutes later, originating from the Sanchez's backyard. Mrs. Jose Trudel, Sánchez's wife, began screaming; the two-year old child cried and the family dog hid and refused to emerge. Heading towards the gate that led to the back yard, Mr. Sánchez went to find the source of the noise, since his wife claimed having seen a flash of light in originating in the same area.

Upon reaching the gate, Sánchez was startled to see a ball of fire measuring some 3 feet in diameter--deep red in color--which gave off rays or sparks from its middle. He was unable to see through the brightness, which was accompanied by a sort of steam similar to highly-illuminated water vapor. According to Sánchez testimony, the ball resembled a slowly-descending sphere that remained suspended in the air for some 8 seconds before suddenly disappearing, leaving nothing behind but what appeared to be water vapor.

Shortly after, red and white lights made themselves visible on the home's walls. The lights rose gradually [*sic*] but the family was unable to ascertain its provenance. A few minutes later, the Sánchez's heard the sound of a low flying aircraft. By the sound, the elder Sánchez thought it sounded like a military airplane, stating that his ability at distinguishing aircraft noises came from having worked at the local international airport.

On Monday, March 23, Sánchez noticed strange dark marks on the screen of his T.V. set, also noticing that whenever came close to the gate leading to the backyard, a strange itch would invade his body; dizziness would soon follow, along with a pressure on his chest. The entire area seemed bathed in heat.

Beginning to worry, he decided to place a call to the F.B.I.. An agent flatly told them that "they" had nothing to do with such matters and advised him to contact the local police headquarters. Sánchez had little luck there, either. A police officer

INEXPLICATA

(identified as Agent Quiñones) advised him to place a call to Channel 11. In doing so, Sánchez managed to speak to reporter Susan Soltero, who agreed to visit his home along with reporter Margarita Aponte and a cameraman. Soltero conducted an interview, produced a video for Channel 11's news broadcast, and advised Mr. Sánchez to contact Dr. Andrew Alvarez, an anthropologist and freelance UFO researcher. On Tuesday, March 24, both men managed to speak about the matter and agreed on an appointment for Friday, March 27.

Sánchez's Neighbor Suffers Physical Effects

Luis Carrido, Sánchez's next door neighbor, was curious about the events and decided to investigate. When he showed up, Sánchez was on the phone, so Carrido decided to enter the backyard on his own, where he spent approximately 15 minutes. He entered then entered the house and told Sánchez that he was leaving since he was feeling dizzy and fatigued.

Two hours later, Carrido was taken to San Pablo hospital in the town of Bayamon, complaining of fever, an itching sensation throughout his body, dizziness, general discomfort and red blotches all over his skin. The blotches felt like air bubbles inside his skin, and were hard to the touch. He was placed on an I.V. by a physician and subsequent tests performed could find nothing wrong with him.

Carrido received a telephone call while in the hospital: an alleged "secret agent" asked him to refrain from making any comments on the case and what had transpired there. Even more curious was the fact that Sánchez also received a similar call with a the same indication. Even more curious is the fact that the attending physician at San Pablo hospital also received a phone call (according to Sánchez), and that he was replaced by "a very strange doctor" who followed up on Carrido's progress.

Tuesday, March 24th: Carrido was surprised at the change in care givers. A "very strange" doctor entered the room, did not utter a word at the patient, gave orders for a medication to be injected into the IV, and promptly left.

Wednesday, March 25th: Carrido was told that he "had to leave the hospital". The patient explains that the "strange doctor" must have put some kind of antidote into the IV, since all his symptoms had vanished.

A few days later, Carrido returned to the hospital to request a copy of his medical record and the names of the attending physicians. He was told that patient records were erased every two

"res inexplicata volans"

days from the computer and that his request could not be met.

The EPA Investigates

At the request of Dr. Andrew Alvarez, a team from the Environmental Protection Agency visited the Sánchez home twice. During their initial visit, says Sánchez, they turned up wearing what appeared to be space suits. They unloaded their equipment, which consisted of: two Geiger counters, one with a wide area sensor, the other with a narrow area sensor; two Hand-held flame ionization detectors; one photo ionization air monitor. All of them wore EPA badges on their outfits.

The team headed for the backyard and concentrated their investigation on the site where the fireball had first been seen. They consulted among themselves, took soil samples, interviewed both Sánchez and Carrido, and when they were done, they took off their uniforms, threw them in a bag and gave it to Sánchez to dispose of, advising him that:

1. No radiation had been found on the site.
2. No abnormal contamination had been detected.
3. That there was something strange there, but they had no idea what it was.
4. He should avoid going into the backyard for the time being.

After approximately a week and a half, Sánchez still did not have a reply from them and decided to call them in hopes of getting one. The phone call resulted in a second visit.

The day that the EPA team returned, Drs. Andrew Alvarez and Edwin Velázquez--who investigated the Sánchez case--happened to be present at the residence. A special agent also visited the house and proceeded to interview the EPA team and the scientist accompanying them, after which he left. The EPA team then told Sánchez that he would have the results of their research "within a week and a half." As of June 1998, Sánchez still does not know what occurred in his own backyard and if his family can once again make use of their property without fear of any hidden hazards, or if the fireball may cause secondary effects upon them down the line.

Drs. Alvarez and Velázquez Research the Case

When Alvarez and Velázquez reached the Sánchez home, reporter Margarita Aponte was also on the scene. The latter wanted to interview them, but they were unable to contribute much since their own efforts had not yet begun and they still knew very

INEXPLICATA

little. They unloaded their equipment, spoke to witnesses, and visited the site of the curious events.

They found no traces of:

1. Radiation
2. Gention-wave [sic] anomalies
3. Electromagnetic field anomalies

They obtained samples of:

1. Soil
2. A metal fragment
3. An oily substance

Photographs taken:

1. A television set that presented electromagnetic anomalies. Slides were taken of the T.V. set while it was off.
2. Even while off, the T.V. set presented spots which increased and diminished in size and had a silvery, spherical appearance.
3. The site in which the events took place.

Remarks:

1. Surrounding leaves presented small nests or spiderwebs "apparently" made by small insects. This did not draw their attention.
2. The surrounding foliage appeared withered and had experienced changes in color.
3. Fungi were growing on the plants.
4. An oily substance was found on the leaves.
5. The family dog, which had formerly enjoyed going to the backyard, refused to approach the area.
6. T.V. set presented spots which increased and diminished in size and had a silvery, spherical appearance
7. After 4 days, the leaves of the surrounding plants became elongated.

Provisional Results Based on the Evidence

1. The slide photos taken of the T.V., to the researcher's surprise, presented what appeared to be perfect, highly detailed human silhouettes. Sánchez claims one of them resembles "an indian."
2. The strange oily substance was taken to Masa Laboratories in Bayamón where it was analyzed by one Dr. Colón. The test shows that it is a NASA "patented" oil for use in aeronautical devices.

Note: The oil sample was sent to another laboratory and results are still being expected. The slides are still expecting analysis and the investigation is ongoing.

"res inexplicata volans"

The Researchers Suffer Physical Effects

Friday, March 27: while Alvarez and Velázquez conducted their field research, they were stricken by an overpowering itchiness. This led them to finish their work and interview one final witness before leaving.

Saturday, March 28: Alvarez still felt the itchy sensation and was also debilitated.

Sunday, March 29: Alvarez became aware of something strange on his skin.

Monday, March 30: Three welts appeared on Alvarez's back and thighs, resembling boils. Concerned by this, the researcher phoned both Velázquez and Sánchez to see if they had experienced any symptoms. They had not.

When the researchers returned to the Sánchez home, Channel 11 reporter Susan Soltero was on hand to conduct a follow-up report. She interviewed Alvarez and videotaped the boils on his body.

While the researchers were on site, a putative "Secret Service Agent" calling himself Mr. Smith phoned Sánchez. Speaking in perfect English and in an authoritative tone, he ordered Sánchez to remain quiet and to stop all media exposure, since "they" were already in control of the situation. Sánchez expressed the fear that the situation might be of an otherworldly nature; the "agent" told him not to worry, since "nothing" existed outside this world. When a phone call was placed to the phone number given by the alleged agent, they discovered it belonged to a Federal Government Agency located in the Bronx, New York. The agency appears to have no connection whatsoever to the Secret Service and of course, there was no Mr. Smith working there.

Other Witnesses to the Incident:

1. Luisa de la Torre -- saw the same fireball at the same place, date and time.
2. Tita Mercado -- while visiting some friends in Ocean Park, she became aware of luminous spheres that appeared to be burning with fire. She claims that the spheres had points and seem to originate from the Barrio Obrero district, flying over their heads and into the sea, hovering above the reefs from one side to another, changing places two or three times.
3. Anonymous Friend of Tita Mercado -- A friend of Ms. Mercado whose name is being kept confidential told her that the night before the event he noticed a van with enormous floodlights aimed at the water on the road that comes from Canóvanas and links up with the 65th Infantry Highway. Allegedly, the van operators pulled Ms. Mercado's friend over, advised him to remain silent

INEXPLICATA

about what he had seen, and made a tape recording of his voice before letting him go.

4. Mrs. Garcia -- claims to live in the Ocean Park area and says that the balls of light are quite common. At night, she says, she has seen beautiful lights that change colors, acquire saucer-shapes, appear to have floodlights, fly along the beaches and enter and exit the sea.

Similar Cases on the Island During this Period

1. Federico Alvarez (no relation), President of the UFOSCIPR Organization (a local group devoted to UFO research) reported that on the evening of February 22, 1998, cases similar to the Sánchez event were reported in the town of Jayuya's Monte Puntita. He investigated the case and took soil samples which were sent to a lab. The lab results show that the soil was contaminated with lithium and titanium. Giant ferns had been split in half and a path of burnt vegetation could be clearly seen.

2. Dr. Andrew Alvarez was reminded of May 5, 1997 case in which some witnesses saw a fireball descend. A fire erupted on the mountainside. Alvarez investigated the case but found no evidence whatsoever.

3. On January 12, 1998, the Noti-Uno radio station reported that fifteen people had seen a fireball hovering over Americo Miranda Avenue and Barrio Obrero for about 45 minutes, before it disappeared toward the Fort Buchanan area. The news media later reported that a weather balloon had crashed. However, the weather bureau had nothing to say in this regard.

4. On January 12, 1998, Marina Molina Maldonado phoned "Noti-Uno" to say that in the early morning hours, residents of Arecibo's Barrio Candelaria had witnessed the passage of an enormous blue fireball which caused power failures, triggered alarm systems and even caused clocks to tremble [*sic*]. Mrs. Molina, her teenaged sons and several neighbors witnessed the unidentified flying object, indicating that the object "resembled the sun". However, an environmental group from that city indicated that it was probably a military experiment which could cause harm to the Tortugueros Nature Preserve.

Conclusion

The Sánchez case remains open, since no clear explanation for the events at this location has been reached.

Dr. Alvarez tends to believe, despite the lack of solid evidence on which to base his conclusion, that what happened at the Sánchez

"res inexplicata volans"

home was apparently terrestrial in origin and may be linked to U.S. Navy operations being conducted off the Puerto Rican coast during that time period.

Ing. Marco A. Reynoso B. is the president of FUNDACION COSMOS A.C. and a MUFON State Director for Nuevo Leon, Mexico. His research has included such controversial areas as the Zone of Silence and the "Birdmen" seen in the Monterrey area. We welcome Ing. Reynoso to INEXPLICATA with his first contribution, this time on the subject of the Chupacabras.

Terror in the Northeast

by Ing. Marco A. Reynoso

A few months ago (February 1996), we began hearing about a mysterious being that attacked sheep, goats, pigeons, chickens and horses, draining them of their blood. This reminded me of the infamous cattle mutilations that occurred several years ago, particularly in Texas, U.S.A., the locality of Matamoros, Mexico, and the island of Puerto Rico. But these new mutilations presented a different pattern altogether, since the old mutilations appeared to affect beef and dairy cattle exclusively and involved the removal of eyes, tongue and genitals, with the only common factor between them being the total absence of blood.

On Tuesday, February 27, 1996, during a meeting of the Fundación Cosmos A.C., one of the members, Javier Alonso, mentioned that a family friend had just arrived in Monterrey from the town of Carmen, municipality of Gremes, in the state of Tamaulipas. The friend informed them of a number of events that were transpiring in the vicinity of Carmen, such as attacks upon animals and several UFO sightings to which he himself had been a witness. The next day, we interviewed Mr. Juan Salaz, who discussed the events that have the towns of El Barretal, Las Conchitas and Las Crucitas in a state of unrest (all of this within a 10 kilometer perimeter) due to the multiple attacks by the Chupacabras. By sheer coincidence, UFOs have been sighted prior to the attacks.

One of Mr. Salaz's narrations is noteworthy: a dance that was taking place near a river bed had to be suspended by a tremendous noise produced by a disk that flew by at low altitude. Salaz himself has witnessed 2 UFO events and knows of a Chupacabras witness who'd described it as an ape-like being that walks on two legs, bent forward, with three claws and three toes on its feet, covered in brown fur and having large red eyes. A smell akin to burned wood seemed to issue from it. In the light of such an

INEXPLICATA

interesting case, and with the latest attack having occurred less than a week earlier, we made ready to visit the region.

On Friday, March 2, 1996, a research team composed of Jose Cabriales, Leopoldo Zambrano, Javier Alonso, Miguel Mosqueda, David Marcos and this author, reached Carmen at around midnight.

We were welcomed at the home of Javier Alonso's uncle, who offered us lodging. The following day we visited R. Juan Salaz, who took us to the home of Gregorio Grimaldo, the owner of a dog accused of having perpetrated at least three attacks upon sheep and having sucked their blood. Gregorio--known as "Don Goyo"--was forced to pay for the sheep, since their owner claimed the dog had developed a taste for blood from the chickens sacrificed by its owner to sell at his butcher shop. After the second event, Don Goyo was also asked to make restitution. We were able to tell that the dog was by no means fierce and appeared to be quiet and very tame. The accusations visited upon Don Goyo were highly illogical, not only given the dog's demeanor, but in light of the fact that it would be unable to drink the sheep's blood, since each sheep holds approximately a liter and half of blood. Between the first and second attacks, with a total of 37 slain sheep, this would amount to 55 liters of blood. We also felt the accusation was childish in considering that a dog's bite would rend the skin and that blood gushing from such a wound would have poured to the ground. However, these animals only betrayed three orifices of 1 cm. in diameter each, which cannot be dog bites and which show no blood traces whatsoever, neither within the carcass nor on the skin.

Don Goyo, who challenged the accusations, ordered an autopsy performed on 19 sheep, which was recorded on videotape. This autopsy was performed by a specialized butcher in the presence of the state judicial police, and we were able to see the holes in animals' hides. Some of them present only two puncture marks with a diameter of between 1 to 1.5 cm. and are located on the spinal region, not presenting the tear marks that would be made by a dog or any other known predator. When the hide was removed, enormous holes with missing muscle tissue and broken bone became evident. The injuries went deep into the thoracic cavity, which upon being opened showed missing organs --the kidney on some occasions -- which would have inflicted severe trauma on the animal. Most shocking of all is the utter absence of blood.

One of these attacks took place in the early morning hours of February 17, 1996 at the Martha R. Gómez Secondary School #5, located in El Barretal, Tamps.. We visited this location to verify and collect possible evidence. The school was empty when we arrived and were able to inspect the premises calmly. We noticed scratch marks on the walls of a classroom being used as a holding

"res inexplicata volans"

pen. The glazing on the windows betrayed three fingered marks near where the creature entered the room, and its possible escape trajectory presented a very clear three-toed mark left in mud, much larger than a human hand. This reinforces our belief that a dog could not have been the cause of the attacks, since dogs have five toes and their paws are much smaller than a human hand. When the school caretaker arrived, he remarked that the autopsy report had been made by an institute in Ciudad Victoria, Tamps., which claimed that a pack of dogs had attacked the sheep penned inside the classroom. Only one of the sheep survived and it had a scratch on its head that left the skull exposed.

We then visited the home of Mr. Leonel Reina, who lost 18 sheep during the first attack on February 13, 1996. This attack presents the same pattern as the first ones, except that a cow and its calf, as well as a pig in a nearby pen, remained unharmed. Mr. Reina has a German Shepherd dog which did not bark on that night--it left paw prints of its mad rush to escape the site which disappear abruptly upon reaching a barbed wire fence and do not resume on the other side. Mr. Reyna showed us newspapers dated 2.28.96, showing an exsanguinated dead mare in Hidalgo, Tamps.. According to Mr. Reina, the attacks upon animals began in Soto La Marina, Tamps. and moved on to Abasolo, Tamps. We began to project a trajectory that might continue on to Linares, Nuevo León. As we ended the interview, he told us that exactly 7 days before (Sunday, 2 Feb '96), a UFO had landed in a communal property known as Nuevo Centro de Población Dolores in Abasolo, Tamps., setting fire to a swamp. We immediately took to the road again in order to drive the extra 70 kilometers to the destination.

Arriving at 3:00 p.m., we asked for the site at a food store and were told how to reach it and given the name of a witness, Prof. Guillermo Serna, who along with his family retold the events they had experienced. The family spoke all at once, obviously excited at recalling the experience and reliving it as they did so. The Abasolo Case started at 4:00 in the morning a few nights earlier, when one of the professor's daughter's Marlen Serna, was unable to sleep and went to sit on one of the chairs in the small restaurant adjacent to the house. She suddenly noticed a light through the window and was surprised to see a small red sphere measuring some 40 cm. in diameter which floated noiselessly. The object drifted away and around the corner of the house, where it was noticed by one of Marlen's brothers. On February 23, 1996, at around 10:00 p.m., dogs began to bark furiously and the family went outside to see what was going on. They were surprised to see a dome-shaped, reddish-orange object measuring some 5 meters in diameter (16.4 ft) hovering above a copse some 50 meters away from the house. A small being, approximately 1 meter tall, emerged from the craft, bouncing around in a comic manner as it floated around. This

INEXPLICATA

thrilled the younger children, who believed it was the character known as "Alpha" from the "Power Rangers" due to its great similarity. The drawing of the creature shows it producing a blue light from a belt-like device. At this point, the professor's wife, Luisa Saldierna de Serna, interrupted to say that the light-emitting being was similar to one she had seen in a video shown by Jaime Maussan in connection to the experiences of Mrs. Shara Cuevas of Metepec, state of Mexico, whom I would have the pleasure of meeting a year later during the 1st International UFO Congress held in Mexico City in August, 1995. This is an extremely important fact, since it corroborates the debated morphology of this video.

Continuing with her story, Irasema informed us that the sighting lasted over 20 minutes until the creature returned into the craft which rose skyward to meet with another similar artifact, both of which disappeared toward a nearby swamp. Upon seeing this, the family made the decision to follow both artifacts in their van, but not before informing the rural police, which also sent a car in pursuit of the objects. They reached a ranch from which they were able to witness a brilliant light issuing from a dense thicket. Aside from the intense orange-red color, an enormous plume of purplish-grey smoke rose into the sky, filling the air with a smell described as "burning cardboard". Upon seeing this, the professor returned told his family that he would venture into the thicket alone, which connected to an enormous swamp of tule plants. There he met a ranch hand who had been looking at the vehicles since their arrival. At that very same moment, they noticed that the rural police had arrived at the other side of the swamp and both men withdrew immediately, just in time to see two humanoid creatures floating over the tule plants: one of them, some 2 meters tall, accompanied by the smaller one reminiscent of "Alpha". The professor and the ranch hand witnessed their maneuvers for a long time, finally tiring since the creatures showed no intention of stopping their activities any time soon. The ranch hand remained and the professor returned to his family.

On the following day, February 24, 1996, the professor returned to the site, where he could see that all of the tule plants had been burned from above, forming three large circles with a promontory of tule plants whose tips had merely been singed. [...]

A whitish-purple foam filled the centers of some of the circles, and the professor was able to find a three-toed, 30 cm. footprint among the ashes. This left us petrified, since we thought it might represent a link between the sightings and the "Chupacabras" attacks. When we checked Serna's drawing and the video we had seen at El Barretal, the prints turned out to be similar in shape but not in size: the Barretal one was smaller. Could it have belonged

"res inexplicata volans"

to a larger beast who was roaming the area at the time and also witnessed the object's descent? Or could it have been a passenger aboard the craft? Were the "crewmen" perhaps looking for it? These are mere speculations. The truth will not be known until research has progressed further.

After being told the story, we were impatient to be taken to the scene of the events, for which Professor Serna had to sacrifice attending a religious service with his family. He took us to the location of his CE3K and showed us the site where the vehicle and the occupants had been, as well as where the footprint -- now blown away by the wind, unfortunately,--- had been found. The experience of witnessing the enormous burned circles was indescribable: one measured 40 meters, the other 30 meters, and a smaller one some 20 meters, with all the tule plants burned from top to bottom, trees and palm trees with their boughs singed.

We were also able to notice that certain plants outside the burned areas had been affected while others had not. The perimeter of the small circles on solid ground had been well delineated and controlled, made not through the use of fire but by means of intense radiation or irradiation from infrared or ultraviolet rays, which is characteristic of this phenomenon. Professor Serna's face was reddened as if he had spent a considerable number of hours at the beach. Unfortunately, we lacked a Geiger counter to verify the existence of radioactive residue provoked by some kind of gamma-ray emission. Serna led us to the far side of the swamp to compare the burned vegetation with the one at the other end, which had been burned by a small aircraft collision long ago, and the tree trunks were normally burned from the bottom to the top.

We returned to the professor's house by nightfall, where he kindly allowed us to remain for the night. We kept a series of watches to see if it was possible to see something in the sky. The first watch ran until 2:00 a.m. and fell to David Marcos, Leopoldo Zambrano and Miguel Mosqueda, while the following one fell to Javier Alonso and myself. Around 3:00 a.m., we entered into the van and in a state between sleep and wakefulness, instinct caused me to turn around and to my right, where I could see a strange whitish light zig-zagging in the night sky. Getting my camcorder going, we woke the others, who were also able to see the event until it vanished into the horizon. After this, a deep, heavy sleep came over us until around 5:00 a.m., when I became aware of a voice telling me that the dogs were barking. I struggled to open my eyelids and noticed dawn was breaking; the sound of barking dogs filled the air, but we were still unable to wake up. Later on, we learned that the professor and Mrs. Serna had gotten out of bed to see a spherical object flying at low altitude, which

INEXPLICATA

apparently bathed our van in orange light. Were we subjected to some kind of scan? Were the researchers researched themselves?

That morning we returned to the site at the swamp to gather water, plant, stone and ash samples for analytical purposes, perhaps through MUFON...During the course of our stay at the swamp, a worker arrived and we asked to speak to the ranch hand who had also witnessed the event. We were told that the man had gone missing that very same night, which alarmed us greatly. The owner of the ranch appeared later, ready to reach the heart of the swamp to investigate the burned circles. We took advantage of the meeting to inquire after the missing worker; the owner replied that we shouldn't concern ourselves with the matter -- he had sent the man to another ranch to carry out other tasks. Relieved to hear that this was the case, we departed, hoping to return and interview the witness. Before leaving, the ranch owner told us that only a few days before our arrival, two military men and a civilian from a government agency had turned to investigate the event, thinking it might have been involved the collision of a drug smuggler's small aircraft. Having confirmed that the event bore no relation whatsoever to the drug trade, the men left.

We left the area, begging the professor to please keep us abreast of any further developments. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the Serna family for their kindness and help.

On Tuesday, April 9, 1996, we received a phone call from Professor Serna in Abasolo. He informed us that on Tuesday, March 5, 1996, two days after our visit to the area, a group of foreigners dressed in special white-and-blue suits, face masks and considerable sophisticated equipment. They made the ranch hand who had witnessed the event lead them to the burned swampland, forced him to take a liquid along with a pill and subjected him to an interrogation. After that, the foreigners entered the swamp to reach the middle of the circles and the domes formed by tule plants. The ranch hand told all of this to the professor, who asked them if the foreigners had been Americans. The ranch hand replied that they weren't, and while he didn't speak any English, he thought that the men seemed like Russians to him. The farm worker indicated that since his experience with the foreigners, a number of strange words and numbers were occupying his mind, which he found highly distressing. Professor Serna advised me of this information in case we were able to divine its significance. We are currently working on it and we hope to return soon, given the case's importance.

On Thursday, March 21, 1996, I received a phone call at home from one of the members of the *Fundación*, telling me that his wife had just heard a local T.V. show that a strange animal attack had

"res inexplicata volans"

occurred in a municipality not far from Monterrey.

I immediately got in touch with Monterrey's Channel Two's news department to request information; reporter Clemente Almariz provided us with the particulars that would lead us to the town of El Faisan in the municipality of Villa Santiago, state of Nuevo Leon, scarcely 30 kilometers from Monterrey. Our group interviewed a number of local women who were highly alarmed by the events, since they had learned of the infamous "Chupacabras" through television programs detailing its exploits in the Caribbean, Miami, Los Angeles and that very same week, San Antonio, Texas. One of the women, a relative of the affected party, told us that very strange sounds had been heard on the night in question, as if something very heavy had fallen from the sky. It was followed by three footsteps and the sound of furiously barking dogs, which caused the family to bolt themselves inside their home. One of the woman's daughters told us that she worked for the Secretaría Federal de Protección al Ambiente (Mexican EPA) and that her supervisor had stated that investigations were currently underway in other cases in Linares, Nuevo Leon and in this very zone itself -- thus confirming the trajectory I had supposed that the attacks would follow.

From there, we visited Mr. Javier Badillo, who was not in at the moment, but whose family very kindly showed us the pen into which the creature had penetrated. The intruder would have found it necessary to move a handle crossbar and a heavy block that held the door shut in order to kill eleven chickens, then go under a wire fence to kill a goose and a duck, leaving alive only one hen with a scratch on its back and a duck with a broken leg. Three-toed scratch-marks were found on the ground and one of the family members told us that another footprint had been found, but rains had washed it away.

We were then shown where the dead animals had been dumped. Their carcasses showed almost no decomposition at all, and were intact: no other predators had touched them. Incisions could be seen along their spine, and they appeared bloodless. No blood was found in the pen, either. We asked to take a chicken carcass with us for autopsy purposes...the family showed us a copy of the autopsy performed by a Monterrey-based institute, indicating that the deaths had been caused by an owl -- something which country folk know only too well not to be true. Our own autopsy showed that the decomposition rate was very slow with barely any noticeable changes in pigmentation; the specimen presented two puncture marks measuring 1 to 1.5 cm. in depth and with a separation of 5 cm. by our caliper. The fangs on dogs, coyotes and apes only have a separation of 1 to 1.5 cm. The trajectory of these wounds went through the heart, destroying vital organs such as liver, lungs,

INEXPLICATA

intestinal area and leaving the animal completely exsanguinated. In short, a very precise and selective attack that affected the vital organs and destroyed the heart -- a tremendous trauma for a small animal.

Cases Involving Families Accosted by the Goatsucker

On the last Saturday of Easter Week, 1995, four families decided to go hunting at a ranch located in Allende, Nuevo Leon. The property was fenced in and the younger members decided to follow a trail in the late afternoon. Their surprise at coming across a gelatinous substance and shredded skin in the middle of the path is readily imaginable. Frightened by the sight, the youngsters turned home, only to find more green slime and shredded skin on the way.

At nightfall, the frightened family bolted itself behind the doors of the ranch house. Something had followed the children home and spent the entire night forcefully scratching the main door. No attempt was made to look at the source of the sounds, much less go outside and investigate. At dawn, one of the adults managed to see a silhouette some 1.20 meters tall outside; the cars in which they had arrived were covered with the same gelatinous, slimy substance.

A subsequent visit to the ranch yielded the discovery of two dead *tlacuaches* in the swimming pool.

None of the family members was willing to discuss the frightening experience; the details were learned from a neighbor who got in touch with the author, and who tried to convince them to discuss the situation. All efforts were in vain.

The Cerro Pajarito, Chihuahua, Case

The case involves the experience of a group of teenagers during the month of December '89/January '90 as they traveled to visit a series of caves located in Cerro Pajarito following the road leading from the Casas Grandes archaeological site to Ciudad Juárez, Chihuahua. The odyssey was retold by Alvaro Villareal: they found along their path two dead, 3 point deer and one doe. The carcasses were not rigid and the eyes had been eaten by ants. Three perforations, spaced at 3 cm., were on their necks forming a triangle. Footprints similar to those of a puma were seen in the area.

When the group entered into one of the caves, they heard squealing sounds and smelled an odor of burned wood; standing on an outcropping 15 meters away was an entity resembling the one described as the "Chupacabras", which advanced toward them. Seized

"res inexplicata volans"

by panic, one of the would-be speleologists drew his pistol and fired an entire clip at the creature, which was impervious to the hail of bullets. The group ran out of the cave, uncertain if the creature was dead or not. They also claim having encountered a thin, metallic green entity standing some 80 cm., which they took to be an "extraterrestrial". Drawings were subsequently made of both creatures.

The Juárez, N.L. Case

55 dead goats and sheep died in a strange manner and were left with only watery blood in their bodies. The owners of the ranch in question held a festivity on April 10, 1996, and one of the owner's sons noticed a figure standing above the house; those inside were able to hear footsteps. Subsequently, 2 roosters, 1 hen and 40 goats at a neighboring farm were slain. An inspection of the premises yielded no evidence, since the incident had occurred long ago.

Hypothesis on the Unknown Biological Entity (UBE):

My personal hypothesis, generated through the observation of the rigid steps indicated by the scientific method, which are observation, experimentation and formulation of a hypothesis, it is possible that the entity is a sentient being using sophisticated organic collection equipment, a pair of flexible, harpoon-type metal probes by means of which it can suck blood and parts of organ tissue, perhaps for use in some kind of genetic experimentation [...]. It could also be a new species of unknown predator produced by some kind of genetic deterioration.

*Spanish journalist and police consultant **Manuel Carballal** needs no introduction. The boldest of Spain's "3rd generation" of paranormal researchers, Carballal work has earned the wrath of his peers and elders in the UFO/paranormal field. The following article "The Prostitution of Paranormal Journalism" caused such a stir in Spain that certain researchers were taken to the emergency room complaining of chest pains. See for yourselves.*

The Prostitution of Paranormal Journalism

by Manuel Carballal

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When a young person, with the charming naiveté of youth, approaches the world of the unexplained, he or she does so with the same impeccable candor with which certain boys or girls dream

INEXPLICATA

of being nurses, firemen or missionaries "when they grow up." They avidly consume their weekly allowances on esoteric magazines and books on ufology--usually second-hand, since allowances aren't usually enough for new items, unless of course, it is the latest book by Benitez, Ribera, Del Oso or another "luminary" of the paranormal world. Such books are read in a single shot, snatching valuable sleep and study time from the math exam for which we ought to be preparing rather than mainlining the life and works of Allan Kardec or the adventures of the Ummites on Earth.

Before you know it, you've blown your allowance on *Año Cero*, *Enigmas* or *Mas Alla* (in my time it was *Karma-7*, *Universo Secreto* or *Mundo Desconocido*) rather than having spent it on going to discos, movies, booze or even a little bit of pot, like most "normal" teenagers would do. That sweet gullibility, which ranges between mythomania and curiosity, makes us thrill to the latest exploits of the most popular ufologist, who successfully avoids military strictures to uncover a new official report on UFO activity; or perhaps the latest lab experiment that a daring parapsychologist has set up to study the increase of telepathic messages during sleep, or even the entrancing odyssey of the clever researcher who has managed to infiltrate the ranks of a Satanic sect to uncover the secrets of the "Dark Side"...

As absurd as it may seem, some teenagers mythologize paranormal researchers to the extent of replacing photos on their school binders, or worse yet, the posters on their walls, with the photos of some astroarchaeologist standing by the Great Pyramid or beside the Faces of Belmez rather than the likeness of Sylvester Stallone or the latest Spice Girls concert (it would have been AC/DC in my time). Paranormal researchers represent, to these youths, not mere mortals who try to seek answers to some scientific enigma, but rather, a genetic hybrid of Indiana Jones and Fox Mulder, whose honesty is of course unquestionable. A vain presumption...

We were all young and to a lesser or greater extent, went through that sweet mythomaniac phase. I still remember, in those days when my weekly allowance wasn't great enough to buy a tape recorder, holding a flashlight between my teeth to take notes, under the bedcovers, while I listened to paranormal radio shows like Antonio José Ales "Media Noche", Enrique de Vicente's "En el Filo de la Navaja", or Miguel Blanco's "Espacio en Blanco" (my parents--as any parents would--disapproved of my skipping sleep to listen to "esoteric foolishness"). I still have those school notebooks filled with hurried notes of the extraordinary revelations made by the guests to those now legendary broadcasts, before their words faded into the Hertzian waves. The same happened with TV. I did not own a VCR when I sat mesmerized by Dr. Jimenez del Oso's "Puerta de Misterio" every Sunday. Today, with the perspective of

"res inexplicata volans"

years, I feel silly when looking through those notebooks, frantically filled with scrawled reproductions of the graphical reconstructions featured in Dr. Del Oso's program/

How was it possible for my schoolteachers to be ignorant of the earth-shaking revelations on history, the beyond or extraterrestrial life that I heard on those programs, or read in specialized magazines? Thank God for Antonio Ribera, Antonio Jose Ales, Enrique de Vicente, Prof. Darbó, etc., who like some legion of Crusaders of the "Truth" challenged the system to rescue us from our ignorance, and the manipulation of the powers that be...

Conferences and seminars would come later. For a 16 to 18 year old student, collecting the 5000 peseta admission to a parapsychological convention, or the monthly installments for the Advanced Parapsychology Courses offered by the Instituto de Ciencias Parasicologicas Hispano Americano (at the time led by Prof. Darbó), or Dr. Rovatti's Practical Hypnosis courses, represented a heroic task, but well worth it. During those conferences, where I had the privilege of listening in person to these demigods of paranormal knowledge, I thought that I had a chance of finding answers to great mysteries. If I was lucky, I might also stand a chance at getting an autograph from one of those Heroes of the Mysterious, perhaps a dedicated copy of their latest book. Even today, 15 years later, the majority of teenaged paranormal fans flock to conventions in the naive belief that the Truth they seek will be found there. As if someone could indeed offer that Truth, much less contain it in a slideshow...they still request autographs as if they stood before the Spanish soccer team or the Rolling Stones. Of course, a scrawled signature from Butrageño or "Lips" Jagger is a fetish as worthy as that of any paranormal researcher.

But the years go by and one becomes more critical, discovering that the "perfect cases" aren't all that perfect after all...that the Easter Island moais aren't as tall or as heavy as Von Daniken claimed, and that not all Martians are Aukkians, as Sesma insisted...that not all psychic recordings are the voices of discarnate spirits, that not all UFOs are alien spaceships, that not all Satanic sects eat babies raw. What is most terrible is that one ends up knowing these sainted personalities--once known only through radio or magazine photos--in person, only to learn that they are regular people, with virtues and defects, with good qualities and sins, like anyone else.

It is then that the idealistic, mythomaniacal teenager discovers that the commercial magazines of the esoteric are just that: commercial magazines which as such, must yield a profit or disappear, which was the ultimate fate of *Telepsiquia*,

INEXPLICATA

Paraciencia, Espacio y Tiempo or *Mundo Desconocido*. Radio shows must generate profits (or at least not create losses) for their networks. Conventions must generate funds to defray expenses and pay for the "reputations" of the lecturers...just as in any other professional field.

One feels tempted by disillusionment. Shouldn't the legendary seekers of mysteries, those paladins of the Truth, be a kind of altruistic missionaries of a paranormal priesthood, working solely out of love for their fellow man? The question answers itself upon realizing that the commercialization of mysteries is the same that occurs in any other field of Western civilization. Is medicine not the most beautiful profession in the universe? Isn't it also true that famous surgeons amass fortunes? Isn't it also true that a pauper afflicted by an eye disease is doomed to blindness due to a lack of funds with which to pay for surgery? Does this mean that medicine is only for those who can pay? Is it legal to condemn our physician as charlatans for not practicing the world's most important profession for free? The answer is no, of course.

In a consumer society, it's logical for a professional to charge fees for his time and effort. It is logical to have a physician charge for his/her work, much in the same way that a parapsychologist or clairvoyant does. But, what happens if the doctor prescribes pharmaceutical for which he receives a kickback? What if the surgeon exaggerates his diagnostic to charge an astoundingly large amount of money? What if the hospital tests new drugs on its patients? What if the pharmaceutical company fosters a given disease in order to market its vaccine?

Unfortunately, very much the same occurs in politics, the military/industrial complex, the world of finance...or in the world of the esoteric.

One day, the callow youth discovers that some of his myths no longer search for the truth (perhaps they did so at one time) with their books, broadcasts or conferences. Their goal is now much more prosaic and immediate: pay the bills at the end of the month. Because even ufologists, occultists and parapsychologists use electricity and water in their homes. The rent and the groceries cannot be swapped for a dissertation on the Stones of Ica or the Loch Ness Monster...even the most noted occultists need cash. This isn't a bad thing, its only inevitable. And one day one gets to meet Antonio José Ales, the fantastic radio announcer with the deep voice and measured tones, who granted us so many nights of fantasy and magic. Between drinks, the legendary author of the S.E.R. radio network's "UFO alerts" confesses that he doesn't believe in UFOs, the Other World or in ghosts...nor in anything else he professes. The disenchantment becomes contagious upon

"res inexplicata volans"

discovering that all those fantastic nocturnal stories once believed to be authentic cases were just that--fantastic stories. At least to their author, who justified it all by saying: "at my age, I'm not going to become a sportscaster, and this stuff pays my bills." Who can honestly reproach this attitude?

Let's take this one step further. What if the newscaster not only does his job--the unveiling of mysteries--but also provokes them, much like the doctor who fosters symptoms rather than healing them? I'll explain. In my opinion, it is proper for a researcher or popularizer to live off his work (or try to do so!). But the task of the honest researcher is to solve mysteries rather than create them. It is quite permissible for Alés to charge--like any other professional broadcaster--for his ubiquitous UFO Alerts. But is it legal to knowingly foster the belief in (fraudulent) paranormal events at the Linares Palace just to publish reports on them? Of course, I feel it to be quite proper for Prof. Darbó to receive the well-deserved monies he has coming to him for his books, programs or his magazine (Karma-7), but is it proper to knowingly promote the belief in myths that he does not believe in, such as the "smurf" captured in the forests outside Gerona? I don't know.

I will take this exercise further still: it is understandably logical for a means of mass communication to report on all manner of investigations, theories and conjectures, but is it ethical to have a specialized medium foster a deliberate opinion on a subject for the financial gain of third parties?

Here's an example. Over the past 3 months (April, May, and June 1998), Año Cero magazine has devoted 2 covers and 3 main reports to Egypt. What merits this sudden interest on the mysteries of the Pharaohs? Has some important development taken place in the land of the Pyramids that merits the monopolization of the contents of Enrique de Vicente's magazine? Upon reading the articles, all of them signed by Manuel José Delgado, one is surprised to recognize the very same text and photos that the self-proclaimed "greatest pyramidologist in Europe" (sic) had already published in other magazines, such as ENIGMAS or MAS ALLA, or--as some Egyptologists (holding actual degrees) have suggested--had already plagiarized [...].

What is the reason, then, behind the promotion of these Egyptian enigmas? Did Delgado perhaps manage to fool De Vicente into plagiarizing his own texts and paying him again for them? No. The unfortunate answer can be found in page 35 of issue 95 and page 63 of issue 94. All this display of information (disinformation, I would say), aimed at promoting an esoteric, mysterious and pro-extraterrestrial image of Egypt, is in fact an excellent marketing

INEXPLICATA

operation. It is an effort to promote the image of Manuel Delgado and create expectations among AÑO CERO readers while fostering an interest in Egypt -- all of this aimed at selling a "voyage of initiation" to the land of the pyramids. When questioning Bidón Travel, which brokers this lucrative exploit, Ms. Noemí will inform us how led by the hand of Manuel Delgado, for only 211.000 pesetas a person (more, if you want full board on the trip), we can unravel the mysteries of Egypt and engage in "meditation activities, attraction of energy and the cleansing of chakras" (sic). I wonder how someone who portrays himself as a "scientific egyptologist" can clean chakras and capture subtle energies in the pyramids?

The work of Manuel José Delgado and his questionable theories about Egypt would merit an entire report. A consummate traveler with considerable experience in Egypt, he has authored a number of informative videos about the Great Pyramid which I recommend to all readers, as I only up to recently recommended the reading of his works, having devoured them myself with complete fascination. It was a traumatic deception to discover the disheartening tendency toward deception and falsification by the author. Needless to say, nocturnal access to the Great Pyramid, the alleged underground passages, etc. which he offers in his trips as the result of his political connections, is in fact within anyone's reach. It is sufficient to pay the same bribes to watchmen or archaeological inspectors that Delgado and many other organizers of similar journeys have paid. However, no one can challenge the merit of his self education in the contrarian view of Egyptian mysteries, despite his attempts to pass himself off as an Egyptologist or a professor of Egyptology.

In 1996 alone, over 120 persons travelled in journeys organized by Manuel José Delgado. With an extra charge of 40,000 pesetas over the individual price of each ticket charged by the travel agency per passenger, and supposing that only 100 people paid their ticket in full, this provides a benefit of 4 million pesetas in black money for Delgado and his assistants. Add to this the "travel fund" (an additional ten to 20,000 pesetas) that each traveler would contribute once in Cairo (ostensibly for tips) for press reports, videos and conferences to be developed by Delgado after his stay in Egypt.

While a museum of archaeology, a university or a travel agency may promote trips to Egypt for purposes of tourism or education, Delgado's journeys include "initiation experiences," "activation of the human chakras in the Egyptian telluric chakras," "past life regressions" (by sheer coincidence, everyone has lived in Ancient Egypt in a past life). On two occasions I had the opportunity to witness some of these shameful spectacles that I shall refrain

"res inexplicata volans"

from detailing out of common decency. Of course, everyone's free to live out their own fantasies, imagining incarnations in the Egypt of the pharaohs while crawling around the Chamber of Chaos under the Great Pyramid, undergoing mystical enlightenment within the sarcophagus in the King's Chamber, or look after the hygiene of their chakras on Elephantine Island. However, the conscious promotion of this type of fantasy might, in my humble opinion, bring about all manner of psychic disorders in a slightly unbalanced mind. Unfortunately, a fair share of the people who flock to the "initiatory/esoteric/pharaonic" trips offered by Manuel José Delgado could easily fit into that category: no one in his/her right mind would pay 40, 50 or 60,000 pesetas over the actual cost of the tourist fare to have their chakras cleansed or to grovel on the floor to soak-in earth energies. Of course, a bout of hysteria at the top of the Valley of the Kings under the supervision of a fanatic of the esoteric, upon recalling that one is the reincarnation of Tutankhamen is apparently no more dangerous than the hysterical attacks of any football fan during playoff season...however, we all know the extent of fan behavior in football...

The worst is that in the world of the paranormal, so filled as it is with unknowns and lore, is the most fertile terrain for all manner of psychopathies to grow. Myths such as that of the pharaohs reincarnated in each traveller to Egypt, or the ghosts of Linares Palace dictating endless speeches (worthy of Fidel Castro) in suspicious spirit recordings, represent serious dangers. A moderately rational mind, of course, will not allow itself to be influenced by these fantasies -- will probably not be seduced by these trips to Egypt, nor by commercial cassettes on the Linares spirit recordings--but what happens if a non-rational mind consumes these products? What occurs if the listener is manic-depressive? Or a mystic? Or even a visionary similar to the adepts of California's Heaven's Gate, or the Waco Davidians or the French Solar Templars?

In my modest opinion, researchers, and more importantly, the diffuser of paranormal phenomena, must be completely, totally and absolutely unimpeachable. Under no circumstances must he or she promote myths and much less frauds, sheltering him/herself under the right of freedom of information. There are so many real mysteries, or at least so many that haven't been proven to be outright lies, that it is not necessary to promote lies. I think that the diffusion of these subjects in a professional manner is proper (although almost impossible), which is why extreme caution in this process becomes necessary.

Let us remember that disingenuous youngster enamored of the world of mystery. After years of voracious reading he will begin to take

INEXPLICATA

his first steps in the field, writing brief news articles that he shyly submits to one esoteric magazine or another. Who isn't pleased to see ones work reflected in a mass media publication? Who hasn't felt that ego-tickling sensation upon seeing one's by-line and photograph illustrating the article, to show off to neighborhood friends? Maybe he'll even get paid a few coins with which to replenish the funds invested in bus fare, room and board, or the reels of photos and tapes employed in his humble research efforts. The full-color reports will come later, along with the radio and T.V. interviews and the naive missionary activity on behalf of mysteries he considers to be of vital importance to mankind. Later still he will hold his first lectures, where dozens of eyes shall look on as they hang on to his every word, and perhaps other devotees of mystery--younger or more passionate than himself--will buff his ego by requesting autographs or asking to take a photo with him. Unless he is constantly keeping his emotions in check, he will discover someday that his personal importance has detracted from the relevance of matters he considered fundamental: the beyond, the universe, or the mind, which led him into research, have now given way to money and fame which can lead him to issue statements (the more dogmatic and sensational the better) on extraterrestrials, reincarnation, or the cleansing of chakras in Egypt.

Sadder still is the fact that once inside that vicious circle he may be absorbed by a generalized hypocrisy which turns the most famous or experienced researchers of the unknown into "sacred cows". Ultimately, questioning the editors of specialized magazines or the producers of radio shows on the esoteric may land us on "black lists". We will then no longer be able to publish in said magazines, we will no longer be invited to those radio shows (as will surely be my fate after this article). But is it really worthwhile to prostitute our conscience in order to publish an article or hold a lecture? Is it really worth promoting things we know to be untrue just to outshine other researchers and gain the upper hand? Can we look into the eyes of those teenagers who believe in what we write and say, if we do not believe in it ourselves? I think not.

For this reason, after feeling tempted to publish this meditation under a pseudonym, knowing the trouble I'll get into with some "sacred cows", I think that doing so would be to fall into the same trap I'm railing against. My name is Manuel Carballal and I, of course, have also been tempted by self-importance and the commercialization of mysteries. I only hope that some day, if my ego or my ambition lead me into temptation, I hope that another youthful and naive researcher will be able to denounce the situation as I do now, with the best of intentions in mind. It not only has to do with a marketable product, but with the fact that

"res inexplicata volans"

our very words form public opinion and may serve to condition the belief of persons who truly believe in what we say. We ought to behave as friends of Plato, but we should be even friendlier with the Truth.

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Ex Libris

A Random Sampling of Hispanic Ufology in Print

El OVNI de Las Lomas

by Carlos A. Guzmán Rojas and Victor A. Quezada Gómez.
Mexico: 1998, CIFEAC/CONAIPO. e-mail address:
conaipo@yahoo.com. 90 pages. Paperback.

CIFEAC is one of Mexico's numerous UFO research organizations and its director, Carlos Guzmán, has emerged as a tenacious researcher and a meticulous author. Victor Quezada, in turn, is the director of a rather more recent organization known as Colegio Nacional de Investigación Paranormal (National College of Paranormal Research) or CONAIPO. The first work published by these two organizations in tandem is an interesting little book called *El OVNI de Las Lomas (The Las Lomas UFO)*, which reflects upon the firestorm of controversy created by the August 1997 video of a UFO vanishing behind a condominium in a pricey residential neighborhood of Mexico City. Interestingly enough, the video, which was first featured on UFO entrepreneur Jaime Maussán's *Tercer Milenio* television broadcast, became another of many sensational "shots heard round the world" fired by this Mexican P.T. Barnum.

Guzmán diligently interviews witnesses, shopkeepers and other individuals in the Las Lomas area, filling his book with photographs and diagrams of the area and the trajectory followed by the putative vehicle. Perhaps the best item in the book is the transcription of the conversation held by the two teenage "cameramen" who took the amazing image--17 lines of dialogue subjected to an "Audio-Lexico-Emotive Analysis" by the researcher. The author apologizes for the coarseness of the teenagers' language and proceeds:

- Line 1: I've got it! (EMOTION--Expresses what he has focused upon).
Line 2: What a riot! (ASTONISHMENT--A common expression among teens to determine that something is happening)
Line 3: This thing rocks! (EMOTION--Expression which indicates witnessing something that draws one's attention.
Line 4: No shit, man--you're shitting me. (INCRECULITY--tells his companion something is unusual)
Line 5: I'm seeing it perfectly (SECURITY--Awareness that something is indeed being seen.

And so forth. While the 90-pager often bogs down with

"res inexplicata volans"

unnecessary details like the foregoing, Guzmán ultimate point is the most valid one: Videos taken in third world countries have hitherto been considered "untampered" due to the lack of technology available in said countries to perform computerized sleight-of-the-hand. If the Las Lomas UFO is indeed a clever video fabrication, it indicates that images of UFO's on video--considered tamper-proof--can now be manipulated with ease by equipment available anywhere in the world. This thing does rock.

INEXPLICATA gives El OVNI de Las Lomas ★ ★ ★

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