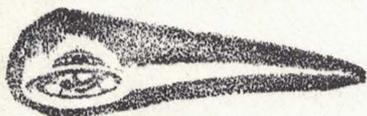


Saucer Album

* THE MAGAZINE OF PHOTOS-FACTS-FEATURES CONCERNING THE UFO *

EDITOR: ALLEN GREENFIELD
MANAGING EDITOR: RICKY HILBERG

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY
FALL, 1963
VOLUME 1 - NUMBER 2



WAS IT ONLY A METEOR ?

THE BRITISH CRATER MYSTERY

JUL 25 1963



LONDON—British soldiers use mine detector to seek whole truth about hole in potato patch near village of Charlton, Wiltshire.
AP Wirephoto via Cable

AUG 29 1963
STORM BAFFLES

Straw Falls From Skies On Britons

DARTFORD, England (AP) — Straw fell for an hour from clouds over this part of Kent today, baffling one and all.

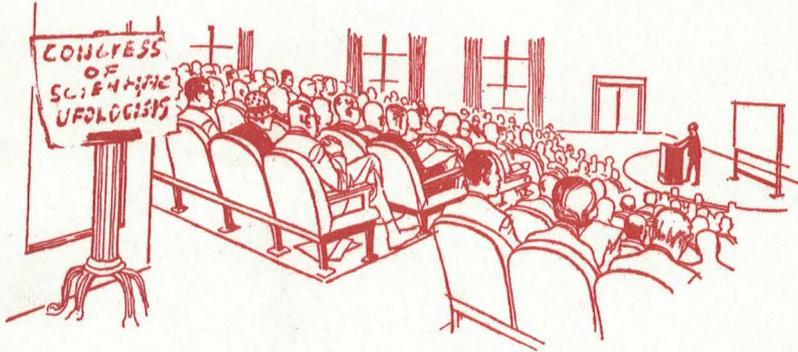
Joyce Hyams, wife of a farmer on the outskirts of the community, said:

"I was hanging out some washing when I felt straw falling all over me. I looked up and the sky seemed full of it."

The strawfall quickly spread to the city and soon local residents were busy with brooms and pitchforks removing it from streets and lawns. The weird phenomenon stopped as suddenly as it had begun.

"We are baffled," said a police spokesman. "There was far too much of it for it to have been dropped from an airplane."

"We are mystified," said a spokesman for the government meteorological office. "We cannot explain the storm at all. It was certainly not what we forecast for this morning — cloudy and scattered rain showers."



THINKING OUT LOUD

EDITORIAL

By Allen Greenfield,
Editor

Next June, if all goes well, a major event will occur in ufology, that all of us should take an

interest in and fully support. The event will be the first congress of scientific ufologists, to be held in Cleveland, Ohio. The congress will be invitational, but will have open sessions with the public and press cordially invited. All readers of Saucer Album should make every effort to attend these sessions. Subsequent issues will contain details of the forthcoming congress.

The coming months will be filled with preparation for the congress. The newly formed Congress Planning Committee, consisting of Saucer Album's managing editor, several celebrated ufo investigators, and yours truly, will be holding a series of cross-country conferences to determine the full potential of the congress, and bring these potentials to realization.

But the success or failure of any event depends largely on the support it receives. No matter how well planned the congress is, it cannot succeed if it is not well-attended. We therefore emphatically urge that you, our readers, make every effort to attend this historic event.

Saucers, Space & Science Magazine, edited by Mr. Gene Duplantier, is well known to all ufologists. Published in Canada, it is popular and well read by U.S. and Canadian ufo investigators alike. For further information, write the editor at 17 Shetland Street, Willowdale, Ontario, Canada.

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write The managing editor

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Scan Mystery Sky Object



—States-Item photo.

'WHATSIT' RESEMBLES BOOMERANG

A mysterious, undulating streamer floating high above the business section had New Orleanians craning their necks at noon today.

There was no immediate explanation of the origin or nature of the phenomenon.

It appeared to be a broad strip of some flimsy, silk-thin material which furled and unfurled in the light air beneath a cumulus cloud which an hour later dumped a heavy shower on the central business area.

Forecaster E. L. Hill of the U.S. Weather Bureau Office said he watched the mysterious stuff from the bureau's 14th floor offices at the Federal Building, and saw

both the large streamer and two smaller pieces. The latter two, he said, fell a few blocks away.

"There were also a few fragments, about the size of your hand," Hill said. "One of the pieces appeared to land on Canal st. at about Loyola. The other fell in back of the Charity Hospital complex. This piece dropped on the edge of a roof and 'crawled off.'"

The U.S. Naval Air Station sent up planes to have a look at the stuff, but had no immediate report. The Federal Aviation Agency flight control office said it had no idea what the streamer might be.

NEW ORLEANS STATES-ITEM

VOL. 86—NO. 230

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 1963

PRICE 5c

Did Bomb or Saucer Put Hole in a British Potato Patch?

The small townlet of Charlton, England (population 423) was suddenly placed on the map during July, 1963, when a strange 8 foot wide crater appeared in a potato patch on the farm of Mr. Roy Blanchard.

Two members of parliament demanded an investigation. An army bomb disposal unit appeared on the scene on July 24th, stating that they were tackling the crater as a "normal bomb disposal job."

Speculation zipped around the country. Some thought it was a meteor, while others speculated that it might have been the result of a World War Two Bomb, which deteriorated for twenty years before finally going off. Still others, including Blanchard, the owner of the farm, thought it was the imprint of a landed "flying saucer."

Hundreds of curious sightseers began to appear in the area around the farm. Among them was a man claiming to be an Australian Scientist. He claimed that the crater was made by a spaceship from the planet Uranus. However, a check with local scientific circles showed that they had no knowledge of the man.

On July 26th it was announced that the Army unit, which had been digging at the site, claimed to have found a meteor of tennis ball size. Maj. H.P. Quartrough, speaking on behalf of the Army unit, stated "Our interest in the incident is at an end."

Despite the apparent explanation, sightseers continued to peer into the roped-off crater. Why? Several points do not fit the meteor explanation.

First, there was the fact that in a neighboring barley field, a fifty-foot circle of barley had been beaten down, coinciding with the appearance of the crater.

Also coinciding with the advent of the crater was the fact that one of Mr. Blanchard's cows began to shed it's skin, as if it were burned. Could this have been caused by the meteor? Probably not without killing the cow. It was also noted that both barley and potatoes were missing from Mr. Blanchard's field, apparently unaccountably.

What does Blanchard think? "As far as I'm concerned", he said, "something strange landed in those fields. And when it took off again, some of my potatoes and barley went with it."

In the last issue of Saucer Album, we discussed the censorship of information related to unidentified flying objects by the United States Air Force. Could the British Army have a similar policy? Is it possible that the "meteor" was a hoax? Even if this is not true, how do we explain the vanished vegetables, burned livestock, etc. in the context of the meteor theory?

GRAVITY MACHINE CALLED POSSIBLE

Other Civilizations May Use Them, Scientist Thinks

By WALTER SULLIVAN

Civilization in other parts of the universe may be using gravity machines instead of sunlight as their chief source of power.

This has been proposed by Dr. Freeman J. Dyson, British-born theoretical physicist at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, N. J.

Apart from nuclear energy, all the power that drives our civilization, be it in coal, oil or water power, came originally from sunlight.

Dr. Dyson believes that some civilization may be in orbit around pairs of dim stars known as white dwarfs. The light radiated by these stars would be a thousandfold less than that of the sun, but their gravitational energy would be a hundredfold more. White dwarfs are small but extremely dense stars. One cubic foot of such a star is thought to weigh more than 900 tons.

It is this great density that makes a pair of white dwarfs ideal for gravity machines. Dr. Dyson illustrates the working of such a machine in terms of a civilization on a planet in orbit around twin stars. Such stars invariably orbit one another like fast waltzers.

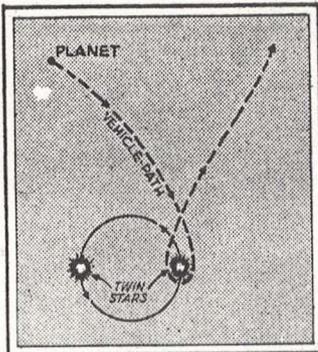
If a civilization fired a vehicle so that it passed around one of these stars as it was approaching, the vehicle would be gripped by the star's gravity and swung around, returning it toward the planet's orbit with far more energy than it had to begin with.

Speedup of Space Ships

It would be almost as though the vehicle had been hit by a gigantic tennis racket; it would acquire a part of the star's gravitational energy. The vehicle could then be recovered in a manner that exploited its new increment of energy.

Furthermore, Dr. Dyson, says, this method could be used to impart almost incredible accelerations to space vehicles with extremely delicate payloads, including human passengers. Whereas the maximum acceleration experienced by astronauts on take-off, so far, has been about eight g's, this method would make possible accelerations of 10,000 g's.

A g is roughly equal to the force of gravity at the earth's surface. The gravitational attraction between two objects, as defined by Newton, is directly proportional to the product of their masses and inversely proportional to the square of their distance apart. On earth this is sufficient to accelerate an ob-



The New York Times June 9, 1963

A 'GRAVITY MACHINE': Object fired from a planet toward twin stars so as to circle the approaching one would be sent back with far more energy than initially.

ject in a vacuum at a rate of 32 feet a second in each second.

"It may be imagined," Dr. Dyson wrote recently, "that a highly developed technological species might use white-dwarf binaries scattered around the galaxy as relay stations for heavy long-distance freight transportation."

The galaxy to which he referred is the Milky Way star system of which the sun is a part. Some believe there are highly advanced civilizations scattered throughout the galaxy.

Dr. Dyson's proposal is set forth in an anthology of articles on the search for intelligent life elsewhere, entitled "Interstellar Communication." It was edited by Dr. Alastair G. W. Cameron of the Institute for Space Studies of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and was published by W. A. Benjamin, Inc.

Four years ago Dr. Dyson proposed that a highly advanced civilization should be able to redistribute the material of which planets are made to form a shell completely enclosing its parent sun. His reasoning was that such a vast engineering effort would be enforced by population pressures.

High Orbital Velocity

The pace at which our own technology is developing has persuaded Dr. Dyson and many others that other civilizations, if they exist, must have reached levels beyond our imagination. In terms of the life expectancy of a solar system, the lifetime of our technology to date has been but an instant.

Gravity machines would not be limited to white dwarfs, although larger stars, like the sun, would be less efficient as energy sources. Although, in general, twin-stars systems are common, no one to date is known to have seen a pair of white dwarfs, possibly because such stars are dim and comparatively few are visible.

A peculiarity of twin white dwarfs would be the high speeds at which they would circle one another. These could be at rates as high as once every

100 seconds. Dr. Dyson also discussed the possibility that there are pairs of neutron stars in similar orbits. Such stars have been postulated on theoretical grounds, consisting entirely of neutrons, would be even denser than the white dwarfs.

Such stars, Dr. Dyson says, might orbit one another at a rate of 200 times a second. In this state they would lose their gravitational energy in less than two seconds, crashing and releasing a "gravitational flash" of "unimaginable intensity" at a frequency of some 200 cycles.

In fact, it would be so powerful, he believes, that "the death cry of a binary neutron star" should be detectable on earth if it occurred anywhere within the nearest 10,000,000 galaxies.

Each excursion of a gravity machine would steal a small amount of gravitational energy from the star system, causing twin stars to come closer and closer together until it was no longer possible to send vehicles between them. Such activity, it is suspected, may produce gravity waves that should be detectable at great distances.

Wednesday, May 8, 1963

MYSTERY OBJECT FALLS IN INDIANA

NORTH VERNON, Ind., May 8 (AP)—The U.S. Air Force and state police have a 500-pound, unidentified fallen object on their hands.

The cylindrical object, 18 to 24 inches in diameter and 6 to 7 feet long and painted red and white, dropped by parachute in a remote section northwest of North Vernon.

On it were devices that appeared to be meters, but there was no numbering or lettering to give a clue to its origin.

5 Russian Cosmonauts Believed Killed in Space

NEW YORK (AP)—As many as five or more cosmonauts have died in manned Russian space failures, a newspaper reported Friday. The paper attributed reports of the fatalities to high congressional and space authorities.

The reports in the New York Journal-American came as a federal space agency official told a congressional subcommittee there have been Soviet failures, but refused to divulge any further information.

Four of the reported cosmonaut fatalities were during the 14 months before Yuri Gagarin was successfully orbited on April 12, 1961.

The Journal-American said tracking stations, working with and for NASA, reported this collated record of Russian space efforts:

Cosmonaut Serenty Shibirin, launched into space February, 1959. Never heard of again after 28 minutes when the signals went dead.

Cosmonaut Piotr Dolgov, launched Oct. 11, 1960. Signals heard for 30 minutes, then lost. Cosmonaut Vassilievitch Zowodovsky, launched April, 1961. Signals lost almost immediately.

Two persons — one may have been female according to European intelligence reports — were launched together in the same capsule, May 17, 1961. Launching signals heard, and conversation monitored for a few minutes then silence.

THE ONE I NEVER SAW

By Allen Greenfield

I guess over the course of years every ufo investigator comes into contact with unusual experiences; sometimes explainable, at other times not. I, for one, have been admittedly hesitant to mention any of the several unusual events that I have observed. In the first place, I don't have much evidence to shed a great deal of light on any of these occurrences. For another, I don't want my readers to mistakenly believe that I've "gone contactee."

But now I have decided to discuss these events as best I can. I'm not trying to prove any of them; certainly none are unbelievable in light of the many far more fantastic events that have been reported within the realm of ufological investigations. I can only present them in good faith; I do not claim that any of these events are ufo sightings, nor do I claim that they have a special value of any sort. I'll report it straight, you decide their worth.

Spider Web

As many ufologists do, I have the habit of going out early in the evenings of the warm months, during the hours when the earth is dark while the sky is still light, in order to "skywatch" for ufos. This practice is a 'hold-over' from the time several years ago when various ufo groups attempted to set vast "sighter-networks" into operation. The plan was a flop each time it was tried, but some ufologists got into the 'habit' of "skywatch", myself included.

But on one such occasion, several years ago (exact date unknown), I got the fright of my life. When I went out, at about 6:00 P.M. during late autumn, I got that uncomfortable feeling that everyone knows; that disturbing feeling of "eyes on the back of your neck." As I write this - late at night - I have that feeling again, but this is, of course, only power of suggestion -- I hope!

Anyway, I had this feeling, so I was a little jumpy in the first place. I started my observations looking at the early evening stars. Nothing took place, and so, after about an hour, I decided to give up, as usual. Taking a quick sweep of the now dark sky, I caught, out of the corner of my eye, a view of what I can only describe as a "black area" about 5 feet around, perched on the edge of the roof, defined by the glow of a neighbors spotlight.

Panic! It was unreasoning, unscientific, cowardly, et cetera. But nevertheless Allen Greenfield was gone, moving as fast as his now wobbling knees would allow. Back in my office, I cooled off. It was rather obvious to me that I had seen some sort of shadow, and that, coupled with the "eyes" feeling, had produced the 'black area'. So, fully armed (kitchen knife), well equipped (movie camera - unloaded, as I later discovered, spotlight, binoculars), nerves steadied (I hoped), I returned to the scene of the 'sighting'.

There it was, still outlined, although not what you could call sharply defined; it was like looking at something through heat waves, such as you see on highways on hot days. Extended from the 'area' was a glistening gossamer-like substance; a single strand of a spider web - or angel hair.

I was still scared, but I was calm enough to stand my ground - so long as it didn't move. I thought to myself that if this was the reaction people would have if the ufos, peaceful or otherwise, were to land, well, we were in trouble. Of course, as a ufologist I hear stories of ufo kidnappings, etc., much more often than the average person, so I'd be more likely to get scared than John Q.

I stood there for a few minutes, gaping. The object did nothing, and I did nothing to make it do anything. Had I been with other people, I am certain my reaction would most likely been far different - as of that time I have been an opponent of one man observation teams. A person seeing an object he can't identify while by himself feels awfully alone and unsure.

So I stood and looked. By this time I was certain of one thing; this was no illusion. After awhile I decided it wasn't going to do anything more. I don't know why I didn't have the presence of mind to call someone else to see the 5 foot circle of 'whatsit' ...but, as it must be obvious to you by now, my mind wasn't working too well that night. The occultist buffs might say that the object "had the whammy - the evil eye" on me. I wish I could say that was what it was, but it wasn't....I was just plain scared.

I left, deciding to check and see if it was still there the next day. When I checked, whatever it was ----- wasn't. You figure it out.

Ball Park Incident

It was during the summer of 1962. Hundreds of baseball devotees had turned out to watch a not-very-interesting game between Atlanta and Toronto. Since Atlanta was losing rather badly, no one was really concentrating on the field. Someone glanced up at the sky. Then everybody was looking. I happened to be at that game and I also looked up. I have a sneaking suspicion even some of the players on the field secreted a glance. I was pretty excited. There, after all my waiting - my first look at a ufo! It was a circular object with a glowing beam. It circled the field for several minutes, disappeared, then reappeared to repeat the cycle several minutes later. If it was a real ufo, I theorized, it might be attracted to the strong stadium lights.

But there was an "if" in my mind. In the first place, the object did not look like what you would expect a ufo to look like. To be sure, it was unusual, but it did not fit the "standard" ufo pattern. Then again, there was the slightest suspicion of a motor noise, heard faintly above the crowd. There were a lot of comments thrown around among the group of people I was with, but nobody mentioned the possibility of a flying saucer, ufo, or somesuch. Now, although I'd never seen a ufo, I have followed the phenomena closely. Usually, when someone sees a ufo, he calls it just that. There was considerable doubt in my mind, so I just chalked this one up as "insufficient evidence for evaluation".

A few months later, Mr. _____ of radio station _____ telephoned me a similar report. I didn't connect the two at first, but as investigations were conducted, I remembered my experience at the Baseball Stadium. I also recalled noted research Frank Edwards' ufo report. The night after his sighting, a plane with a special gadget for advertising went up with a message reading something like "Hello Frank Edwards", or some similar 'cute' message of questionable humor. Mr. Edwards noted that, while the "real" ufo was called 'saucer' by many who saw it, no one was fooled by the subsequent hoax.

Then I got word from the above mentioned man, who hosts a well-known local radio program, that the thing as described in the report he gave me might have been an advertising plane. Further investigation confirmed this.

In theory, this also explained the ball park incident. But there was - and still is - some room for doubt. Firstly, the second incident was not definitely proven to be a mis-identified plane, although the evidence pointed this way. Second, it could be argued that the two incidents, though seemingly similar, were totally unrelated. I don't think so. I think that both incidents can be attributed to the advertising plane. Others may disagree, but from now on, if I receive any reports of this nature, I'm going to check for these optically-tricky advertising planes as my first point of reference.

Fireflies

John Glenn and other astronauts who've seen the so-called "space fireflies" haven't got anything on me. As a matter of fact, I've seen 'em too. Not spots before the eyes, but real, honest-to-goodness fireflies....and I didn't even have to leave the ground to see them.

It started with a phone call during the spring of 1962. A friend of mine who, incidentally, doesn't believe in ufos, gave me a ring to calmly tell me that "hundreds of little specks" were flying over the area. I went outside, looked in the direction he indicated, and there they were. Specks, specks, and still more specks. High in the sky. Somebody suggested that it was a fire; the particles floating into the air. A quick check with the local press disclosed "no fire".

The friend who called me in the first place called again to tell me that the local weather bureau offered the explanation "it's a plane." Yeah, it's a plane.....that looks like hundreds of particles moving around in all directions. I understand that a few angry comments passed between the inquirer and the weather bureau official before they hung up.

When night fell, the sparkling whatsits disappeared. Later, my original informant phoned again to offer his solution. "They were high-flying fireflies". I hung up. So they were (A) a fire, or (B) an airplane, or (C) high-flying fireflies. Oh well, this doesn't really fall under the category of 'ufo' and therefore I'm not duty bound to investigate further. Such things fall under the rather all-encompassing title of "Fortean Phenomena". I let the whole thing drop.

Booms

Here is the most mysterious phenomena of all. Before describing it, let me state that I live a good distance from any industrial area that might produce such a phenomena.

I'm a nightbird. I'm probably as alert at 3:00 A.M. as you are at 3:00 P.M. At about the quietest period of the day - between 2 - 4 A.M., there occurs a strange muffled booming sound almost every night. It usually comes more than once each night, though I haven't been able to determine any set pattern of any kind.

The booms are generally rather low, and might go unnoticed. I don't know how I first came to notice them; I don't think they've ever been noticeable. At any rate, they are noticeable to me now, because I am alerted to hear them. I don't know what they could be, certainly not the unmistakable 'boom' caused by sonic booms, explosions, or the like. They are a unique, wee-hours noise. What are they? You tell me.

And so ends my strange tale. As I said, none of these events are earth-shattering in scope, or revealing in the content. But you must admit, it's all pretty strange. As a matter of fact, as the British might say, "Highly irregular."

N O T A L E G E N D

By Allen Greenfield

Early in the last century a Russian Trapper called a certain thickly-wooded mountain in Northern California "Chas-tcha" -- "A thicket" in Russian. The name of the mountain has not changed much- it is now called Mt. Shasta, a corruption of the original Russian.

Mt. Shasta! The name strikes a magic cord in the minds of even the most conservative of ufo investigators. Since its discovery, and before, if we are to believe the stories of the local indians, Mt. Shasta has been a location for the strangest of events; the unusual, the weird, the unexplainable.

The indian legends cannot be accurately traced, and therefore are not discussed in this article. But the settlers in the area can attest that, up until the most recent of years, strange occurrences have taken place in the area around Mt. Shasta. It is noteworthy to mention, in fact, that the famed Arnold incident took place over a sister mountain to Shasta, Mt. Rainier.

The 14,000 foot peak was the subject of a book, "A Dweller of Two Planets", published in 1884. Although this book was undoubtedly largely fancy, its backdrop could have some basis in fact. The book discusses the strange people who live on the mountain. When this area was first settled by the Spanish, the Shasta people were considered indians. But despite their aloofness, the Shastites were soon known to be white men, dressing in "long white togas." This is recorded fact. This indicates that the dwellers are not, as some have maintained, just another California "Quack cult." They were here before the European, and yet are not indians.

Ignition trouble is often associated with ufos. This is reported to be in connection with elector-magnetic (E-M) effects associated with ufo propulsion. It is noteworthy to mention that similar effects have been noted in connection with cars approaching Mt. Shasta. Even before electrification, in the middle 1800's, mysterious flashes were noted on the brush-covered slopes of Mt. Shasta. These often occurred in clear weather, virtually ruling out natural electrical effects.

Richard Cohen, in an article in "Nexus", February, 1955, states "People living in that part (near Shasta) of California also claim that strange cattle, unlike anything ever seen in America, have emerged from the woods, but before going very far along the highways and byways, these animals would be frightened by some invisible signal, and would abruptly turn around and run back toward the places from which they came."

In 1931, a forest fire swept over the Mt. Shasta area. A mysterious fog suddenly covered the mountain, completely stopping the fire's advance. The demarcation line of where the fire stopped is still discernable. It is abrupt, drawing a perfect circle around the central zone. On the lower side of the circle, you can see younger trees that have grown up since 1931. On the upper side are taller, thicker, and obviously far older trees, which were protected by the mystery fog.

A. Tomas records two notable incidents of ufo sightings near the Mount. "In the late twenties golfers in Northern California watched a silver, wingless air ship going noiselessly over the mountain tops. It was unlike any plane or dirigible of the times. In October, 1956, David Williamson observed 14 lights over Mt. Shasta making unusual sky maneuvers. Then one descended from the sky, right on top of Mt. Shasta."

A scientist, Professor E.L. Larkin, of Mt. Lowe Observatory, gave further evidence of a technologically advanced race on Mt. Shasta. Testing his telescope, he suddenly saw, in his own words, "A marvelous work of carved marble, an onyx rivaling in architectural splendor the magnificence of the temples of Yucatan" on the side of Mt. Shasta.

Other fabulous stories have been connected with Mt. Shasta. There can be little doubt, in fact, that there is something out of the usual to be found there. What? Is the question.

Even if the rumors that the Shastaites, who - or what - ever they were or are, have disappeared, an expedition to this mountain must be organized as soon as possible. If the Shastaites are gone, they must surely have left some artifacts. If they are gone, the longer we wait, the less we will find. Time, as anyone can tell you, takes its inevitable toll.

It's time for us to visit Mt. Shasta and find out what this thing is all about. Is Mt. Shasta riddled with tunnels? Is it a "saucer den"? Or is it something we have not even thought of?

I'm ready to go - it's time we stop calling ourselves investigators if we don't start investigating. Who's going with me?



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