

UFO POTPOURRI

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BEAM RIDER

Envision a disc-shaped craft, encased in a plasma sheath, flying at several times the speed of sound in the atmosphere. It glows as it flies through the air, but no sonic boom is heard. People living in nearly every country on Earth have reported seeing vehicles like these. They call the strange craft UFOs, because no agency on Earth has been able to duplicate their flight, at least not yet.

All that may be changing. Professor Leik N. Myrabo of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute is working on the design of a vehicle that fits the description given above.

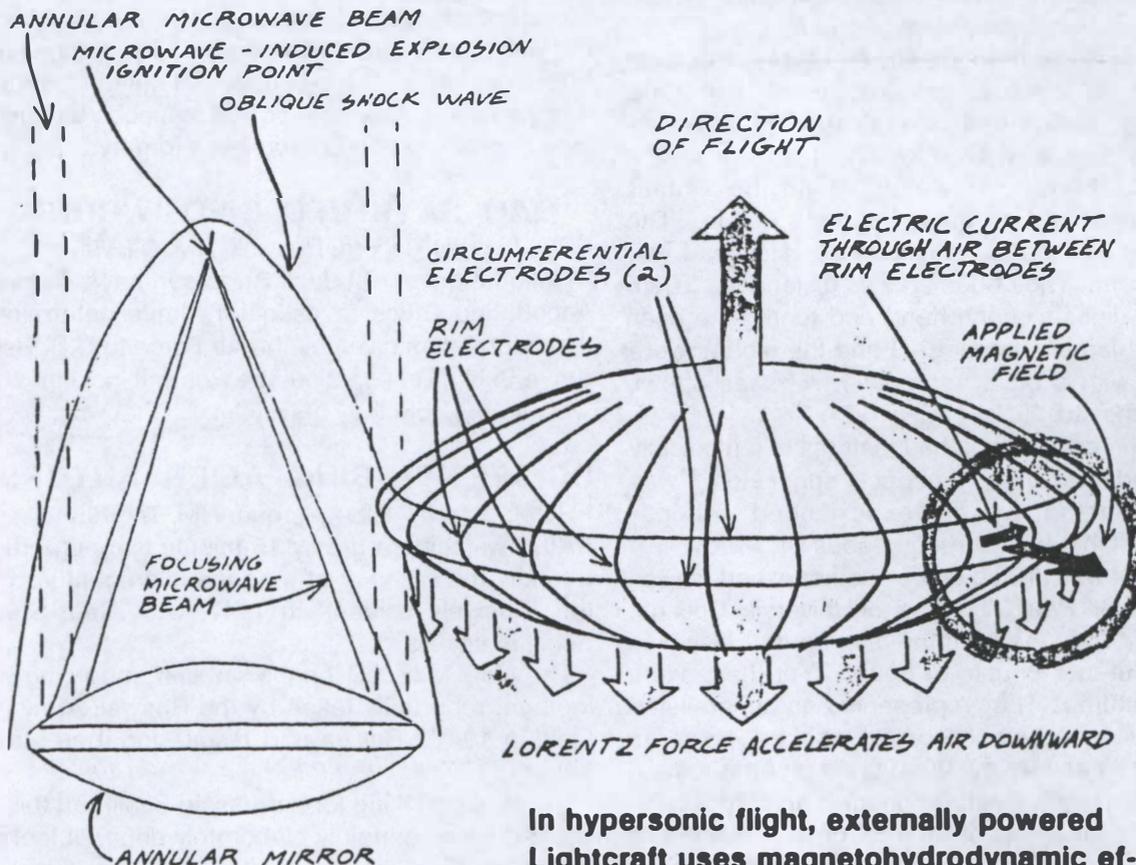
Myrabo's work began with the concept of flying on highways of light, the light coming from heavy-duty ground based lasers. For several years the U.S. Strategic Defense Initiative Organization funded the project. When SDIO dropped funding for the 100 megawatt laser, Myrabo shifted his focus to the use high-powered microwaves.

Myrabo now plans to use microwaves generated from sunlight by a high-flying satellite. The satellite beams a shaft of pulsed microwave energy to the disc-shaped craft where it is collected by a built-in set of rectifying antennas. The antennas convert much of the microwave energy into electrical power and the remainder is focused to points outside the spacecraft.

One of the antennas is used to generate a plasma which interacts with the magnetic fields generated by superconducting magnets in the vehicle, forming a magnetic nozzle that propels the plasma downward to drive the craft forward. The other antenna focuses ahead of the craft to provide an air spike which reduces aerodynamic drag and protects the vehicle from the shock wave.

Myrabo will use an air-breathing magnetohydrodynamic (MHD) engine to drive the vehicle from Mach 1 to Mach 25.

Myrabo can be reached at the Rensselaer Dept. of Mechanical Engineering in Troy, NY 12180.



In hypersonic flight, externally powered Lightcraft uses magnetohydrodynamic effect to accelerate air past its hull.

Focused microwaves shape shockwaves ahead of the ship to act as an inlet spike

ALIEN AUTOPSY PUZZLES SCIENTISTS

FROM: London Observer Service, Thousand Oaks, CA STAR, 7/26/95

It is either the "science story of the century" or the "greatest hoax since Piltdown Man." Either way, television footage of the dissection of two aliens is expected to stir considerable controversy.

The film was allegedly made in the wake of the "Roswell incident," an event famed among ufologists who believe extraterrestrials were found after a flying saucer crashed at Roswell, NM in 1947.

It now "transpires" that a film was made of their autopsies and a copy kept by the cameraman, without the U.S. Air Force's knowledge.

Advance screenings of the dissections were given to leading United Kingdom scientists. None believe they watched real aliens being cut up, but equally, none could spot how the film was faked.

For example, the film's stock number suggests it was made in 1927, 1947, or 1967, providing some corroboration for the claims made.

"It was very hard to know what to make of it," said paleontologist Chris Stringer, of London's Natural History Museum. "The figures certainly looked human like, but equally were not human."

In his report of the film, Dr. C. M. Milroy, senior lecturer in forensic pathology at Sheffield University, states that "overall the appearances were those of a white adolescent female with a humanoid body. However, there no breast development and no pubic hair was visible. The head was disproportionately large. No head hair was present. The abdomen was distended. There were six digits to each hand and foot. The eyes appeared larger than normal and the globes were covered with a black material which was shown being removed.

"While the examination had features of a medically conducted examination, aspects suggested it was not conducted by an experienced autopsy pathologist, but by a surgeon," adds Dr. Milroy.

This point was picked up by another expert viewer, anatomist Dr. Paul O'Higgins, of University College, London. "To judge from the film, the autopsy was carried out in a couple of hours. Yet these were alien creatures. They represented an unparalleled opportunity to science. We are expected to believe we casually cut them up in an afternoon. I would have taken weeks to do such an autopsy.

Similarly, all shots of internal organs are out of focus and there were no signs of injuries to account

for the aliens' deaths.

Most suspicious of all, says Dr. O'Higgins, is the startlingly human-like qualities of the aliens. "They look like ET. I would think the chances than an alien would look so like us would be astronomically remote.

"Yes, it had six fingers and a very large head, but both conditions affect humans with chromosomal abnormalities. But just how the makers could have got two such similar corpses I do not know."

The film's owner is convinced of its authenticity. "I bought the footage from an old cameraman who had worked for the army, air force and special forces," said Ray Santilli, who runs his own company, Merlin Productions, based in London. "My impression is that the cameraman is genuine. He is an ordinary person who never made much money in his life, has been married to the same woman for over 50 years and seems as stable as you could wish."

John Purdey, the producer of the Channel 4 film, who has been given access to the footage, is more cautious. "Either we have the most sensational of scientific stories or have been handed the greatest fake since Piltdown Man," an advanced hominid postulated from fossil bones found in England in 1912, but later revealed as a hoax. "The film stock, the lack of umbilical cord marks and the strange half-human nature of the creatures, all suggest we are dealing with real aliens -- or that someone has gone to extraordinary efforts to create a forgery."

GAO SAYS UFO INFO 'WRONG'

FROM: Daily Record, Roswell, NM, 6/13/95

National columnist Jack Anderson says General Accounting Office investigators have determined that information given by the Air Force to U.S. Rep. Steve Schiff, R-NM, about the Roswell Incident was "very wrong," but they may not call it that way.

SCHIFF PROBING ALIEN AUTOPSY

FROM: Journal, Albuquerque, NM, 7/19/95

After watching a grainy 15-minute film purporting to show the autopsy of a space alien captured in the "Roswell Incident" in 1947, U.S. Rep. Steve Schiff is unsure.

The New Mexico Republican isn't endorsing the footage, reportedly taken by the Roswell Army Air Field in 1947. But he isn't dismissing it as bunk, either.

"There is one thing for sure," said Schiff. "If this is a hoax, it was certainly elaborately done. It looked real to me."