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Mystery Brown Substance Strikes Penn. Home

From: rudy alfano <rudy.alfano@cyberia.com>
Date: Thu, 22 Jan 1998 22:33:11 -0800

York Daily Record January 21, 1998 - York, Pennsylvania

WHATS MY SLIME?

Vandalism, airplane sewage and aliens have all been offered as explanations for the mystery goo covering a Paradise Township home.

By Teresa Ann Boeckel Daily Record Staff

Special Agents Mulder and Scully might be stopping by York County this week to open a new X-File.

A mysterious brown substance apparently fell from the sky Sunday afternoon on Rose Snell's property in Paradise Township.

It splattered the house, the roof, the windows, the barn, the stone driveway, the trees.

Police can't figure out what it is. Neither can anyone else. Its the color of mud, but it isn't grainy like mud.

An insurance adjuster has ordered tests on the substance. "It's mystifying," Snell kept saying as she walked around her house in Paradise Township. "There was not one side of the house that was missed."

The mystery began as Snell arrived home after 7:30 p.m. Sunday. She noticed the brown splotches on her side door as she entered the house. Great, she thought, I bet those boys were having a mud battle.

Her 18-year old son, Marc, had been hanging out with several of his friends during the day.

She was prepared to have a few words with him when he walked in the door. But his comment took her by surprise.

"What's going on here?" Marc asked.

Marc said he arrived home about 6p.m. He, too, noticed the brown splotches on the door.

One of his friends saw similar splotches on Marc's car.

Marc tried to wash them off his windshield with washer fluid. They were hard to remove.

He said "Mom, its like a paste or wax on there," Snell said.

They called Northern York County Regional Police.

An officer arrived. He shined a flashlight on the side of the house.

Thats when they realized the brown splotches covered everything on her property.

"It's everywhere" Snell said.

The officer checked a neighbors home. No dots. No splatters.

At first, Snell and the police suspected vandalism.
Police studied the splotches. It didn't look like someone had had hurled the brown substance all over the place.
"It appears as though it came from the sky," Northern Regional Police Lt. Mark Bentzel said.
The next suspicion: sewage from an airplane passing overhead.
That's not likely, said Arlene Salac, a spokeswoman for the eastern region of the Federal Aviation Administration.
Airplane pilots cannot push a button to discharge sewage in midair, she said. Only a leak in the bathroom would allow sewage to seep out.
When that happens, the sewage freezes because of the cold air at high altitudes. Then when the airplane starts to drop, the ice starts to melt and chunks of ice fall to earth.
That ice is usually blue or green from the special chemicals used in restrooms of airplanes, Salac said.
"To me, it doesn't sound like it came from an airplane," she said.
Harrisburg International Airport did not have any reports of airplanes with restroom leaks.
Neither did York Airport in Jackson Township.
Some military planes passed over the area Sunday, but many of them do not have restrooms for domestic flights, said Joe Dias, an air traffic manager at Fort Indiantown Gap.
"We're not that sophisticated," he joked.
Even if it were waste from a plane, it probably wouldn't have made such a direct hit, said Rich Fuess, the operations manager for York Aviation Inc.
"It sounds like UFO waste to me," he said.
So the brown mysterious substance continues to baffle many, including Snell's insurance agent.
"Our adjuster was just out this morning and can't determine what this substance is," said Brenda Test, an associate agent of Roberts Insurance Agency.
"We've never had any reports of anything like this," she said.
Test said the adjuster has called a company to take samples of the brown stuff and have it analyzed.
In some spots, the brown substance has stained the house.
Snell thinks there may be only one pair that might be able to solve this mystery.
"I think we should call Scully and Mulder," she said.
The truth is out there.

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PO Box 30303, Las Vegas, NV 89173 Glenn Campbell, Webmaster & Moderator

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