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UFO UpDates Mailing List

Re: Peter Brookesmith on Tectonic Strain Theory

From: **Peregrine Mendoza** <101653.2205@CompuServe.COM>
Date: 14 Feb 97 07:41:28 EST
Fwd Date: Fri, 14 Feb 1997 10:53:49 -0500
Subject: Re: Peter Brookesmith on Tectonic Strain Theory

From the Duke of Mendoza, greetings.

[This note I thought I had mailed to Feral Errol for posting, but apparently I had buried it somewhere else instead. It is the "separate post" mentioned in mine of 971202 responding to Jan. What with everyone talking at once anyway it will only add a little to the prevailing confusion so what the hell.--PB]

> From: Chris Rutkowski (rutkows@cc.umanitoba.ca)
> Date: 11 Feb 97 09:34:04 EST
> Fwd Date: Tue, 11 Feb 1997 10:21:50 -0500
> Subject: Re: Peter Brookesmith on Tectonic Strain Theory

> If you're talking about Devereux's pendulum-dowsing efforts

I think I can smell the smoke and steam from New York State from here. What is this rubbish? Why should I, or anyone, take what you say seriously when you misrepresent like this?

I've known Paul since 1981. I've never heard him mention dowsing, "energy lines" and earthlights in the same breath without approaching a condition of apoplexy. Have you actually maintained *any* contact with what he's been doing in the last two decades? This makes me wonder if you have read anything by Persinger since his original tract, obviously. Or have you just ignored it? Or what? What is this crap?

Deep breath. Briefly, pending an answer to the above, I note:

> or Brady's plasmas
> inside rock core samples or Derr's ball lightning, they hardly have
> *anything* to do with supporting Persinger's TST.

Not what you said in your admirably balanced:
UFOs as Natural Phenomena.

In: Evans, H. & Spencer, J., eds. UFOS 1947-1987: THE 40-YEAR SEARCH FOR AN EXPLANATION. London: Fortean Tomes, 1987. pp. 273-279.
although this was, of course, 10 years ago.

But I also observe that of the four articles cited in support of your many works on the TST, three are by the amazing Steuart Campbell, who having once proclaimed all UFOs ball lightning now thinks all UFOs are mirages and (I have his communications to prove it) puts words into mouths, or wordprocessors, that have said precisely the opposite. You really want friends like this?

> It is *possible* that EM effects *may* be responsible for some
> aspects of UFO-related cases. However, this has not been
> demonstrated.

If Persinger's UFO data was flawed, start again. Meanwhile there is plenty of evidence that quakes generate weird light effects. Light was a form of EM radiation, last time I looked. If quakes make lights, why should less dramatic wriggles in the Earth not do the same? The only question is whether "unexplained" UFO reports and tectonically-generated lights can be linked. It strikes me as unlikely in the extreme that some natural lights would not be reported as UFOs and remain in the unsolved tray - and there they will stay as long as ufologists pretend natural lights don't exist or are somehow "obviously" separate from UFOs.

> Perhaps with some solid research efforts and a thorough examination
> of the data and methodology, the TST *might* be refinable to a point
> where it can be acceptable as a viable theory. But not yet.

Putting aside my good intentions or poor judgement, I am NOT supporting Persinger's TST per se, to the letter: I *am* saying it is a good idea worth testing, even if it means starting again with different data, which I gather has been done. And it is no good whingeing about "known mechanisms", still less saying long-since-irrelevant things about PD and pendulums, until the correlations between geophysical events and lights are in place. On that, some "solid research" is forthcoming. We may end up with something that's not the TST, but then Lavoisier didn't get to oxygen without the phlogiston theory to kick around. Nor did old Albert get to relativity without the ether.

As for picking apart, at this stage, the differences between ball lightning, ELs, quake lights and the rest: I am strangely reminded of the two, three or was it four? apparently distinct viruses that were once bitterly competing for title of HIV - and when polymerase chain reaction came along they turned out to be all the same thing. There are lots of other lessons, too, in that little saga for everybody.

best wishes
Mendoza of the Mountains
Duke of Christmas Past

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