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UFO UpDates Mailing List

'Electrically Induced Hallucinations'- Persinger!

From: Chris Rutkowski <rutkows@cc.UManitoba.CA>
Date: Wed, 8 Jan 1997 10:18:48 -0600 (CST)
Fwd Date: Thu, 09 Jan 1997 13:15:49 -0500
Subject: 'Electrically Induced Hallucinations'- Persinger!

> From: missionquest@seanet.com
> To: Multiple recipients of list <emf-l@mail.llion.org>
> Subject: Electrically Induced Hallucinations

> The Discovery channel aired a show probing possible explanations of "alien abductions," over one million Americans claim to have been abducted. An interview of over fifty abductees found that each had some sort of electrical accident, then strange things began to occur, abductions being only the latest. They all exhibited signs of electrical sensitivity. A woman in the UK was interviewed who had been reporting strange occurrences including alien abduction. An electrical accident and her electrical sensitivity was noted, as well as her neighborhood's electrical transformer station, radio and cell towers.
> A neurobiologist was shown researching the influence of electromagnetic fields on the brain. Using a helmet that can generate specific fields, patterns and intensities he noted that people reported specific experiences with particular fields such as; feeling the presence of a person while alone in a room, traveling through tunnels, white light, being suspended in mid air, all commonly reported in abduction cases. All the people knew they were being tested and ascribed the test to account for their experiences,
> but he noted that if a person has such experiences at home they will interpret it differently than in a lab and will search for its meaning from their cultural filters. He also noted that the appearance of aliens distinctly changes from country to country, suggesting a cultural influence to how we interpret these bioelectrical disturbances.
> I'm interested in following this lead, might you recommend any reports?

Yes. Don't bother.

Persinger's "magic helmet" is an interesting device and he has received a great deal of attention over the past few years. While some people (certainly not all) using his helmet report vague sensations and odd mild hallucinations, their experiences are greatly different from the complex narratives and reports of abductees and contactees. Persinger's suggestion that people in a "natural" environment would interpret such sensations as alien encounters is greatly unsatisfying.

First, where would such magnetic fields come from in nature?
Second, if such fields occur in nature, why do they always induce alien-specific hallucinations?
Third, how does one make the jump from "odd colors" and "a presence in the room" to "the alien spoke to me as it inserted a probe into my genitals"?

Persinger's theory originally was called the Tectonic Strain Theory (TST) of UFOs because he was adamant that all UFO sightings, reports and experiences could be explained as related to weak seismic events deep underground. The events would generate energy which would be the

source for such hallucinations. However, the methodology used to associate UFO phenomena and earthquakes was shown to be flawed (although Persinger ignores or denies this). Besides, the intensity of energy from such sources would be much less than radiated energy from other sources, such as computers and television sets, in which case there would be a greater preponderance of abduction reports than is even claimed now.

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