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## UFO UpDates Mailing List

### Complex Nature [Devereux is back]

From: [DevereuxP@aol.com](mailto:DevereuxP@aol.com)

Date: Thu, 5 Jun 1997 12:58:28 -0400 (EDT)

Fwd Date: Thu, 05 Jun 1997 18:45:16 -0400

Subject: Complex Nature [Devereux is back]

Dear List,

I've been away in remote parts for a month, and otherwise engaged for additional weeks, so I've been off line as far as the List is concerned. Consequently, I have had the pleasure (I suppose you could call it) of ploughing through a zillion List postings. It's worth doing every so often. Seeing a long period like that in rapid sequence made me marvel anew at (a) some of the impressive knowledge and forensic skills possessed by some List members, and (b) the depressing intellectual desert inhabited by numerous other members. With such a dichotomy, effectively two worlds not meeting, I saw with new force why ufology as it is presently invented just isn't going anywhere (although I know the closely circumscribed gossip and new fads and events that rise and fall create the illusion with some people that it is). Unless the paradigms that imprison it are flung open, ufology it is just a series of closed systems, belief systems in the main, it seems to me. Perhaps human nature is too complex for such a shift to occur.

Anyhow, I see that some List colleagues, Jerry Cohen and others, were kind enough to respond to some of my points made a couple of months ago. To be polite, may I assure them I will reply to what they say (albeit selectively because of this long hiatus) in future postings as my schedule permits.

But I have to mention here that of all the myriad items and threads on the List, it was the cosmic snowballs that blew me away the most... It made me grateful that I am only championing earth lights! I could just imagine the roasting my recently waterlogged friend, Chris Rutowski, would have given me if I had come on this List proposing snowballs from outer space...!

Wild nature is clearly more complex than we think. Truly. In the way that not all thunderstorms produce ball lightning, and not all earthquakes produce earthquake lights, I guess not all flooding produces light phenomena, as Chris noted in the recent Manitoba flooding horrors he had to endure (glad you made it through OK, Chris). I guess if other was the case, we could predict earthquakes and we wouldn't get caught out by floodwater! I know Chris wishes nature were simpler, and more clockwork in its predictability. He vents his frustration about this on the likes of Persinger and me. But it is not: nature, human and wild, is \*the most complex system we can know of\*. It is that complexity that constantly surprises us, allows endless creativity, consciousness and life itself - and presents a vista of discovery that goes on for ever. I feel we should celebrate that fact, and be more open to its implications.

Paul

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