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[Mothership](#) -> [UFO](#) -> [Updates](#) -> [1997](#) -> [Jun](#) -> Here

## UFO UpDates Mailing List

### Hey, UFO kids, what time is it?

From: Don Allen <dona@totcon.com>  
Date: Tue, 24 Jun 1997 21:58:34 -0400  
Fwd Date: Wed, 25 Jun 1997 13:14:51 -0400  
Subject: Hey, UFO kids, what time is it?

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/examiner/article.cgi?year=3Dhot&day=3D24&article=3Dmorse.dtl>

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Tuesday, June 24, 1997=20  
=A9 1996 San Francisco Examiner=20  
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Hey, UFO kids, what time is it?

By Rob Morse  
EXAMINER COLUMNIST

THE PRESS loves anniversary stories. They're much easier to plan than=20  
stories about things happening for the first time.=20

Usually we do anniversary stories about events that were front-page news=20  
when they happened, like Pearl Harbor. Right now, the media are in paroxysms=  
=20  
of anniversary journalism about an event that most Americans didn't notice=  
=20  
at the time.=20

It may not even have taken place, although it made the front page of the=20  
Tuesday, July 8, 1947, edition of the Roswell (N.M.) Daily Record. "RAAF=20  
(Roswell Army Air Field) Captures Flying Saucer in Roswell Region," said the=  
=20  
paper, one of the few that took the report seriously.=20

Joseph Stalin later waved that issue of the Roswell Daily Record, demanding=  
=20  
to know what the United States was going to do with its captured flying=20  
saucer, according to Col. Philip Corso, author of "The Day after Roswell."=  
=20

The book also claims that the silicon chip and Apple Computer's innovations=  
=20  
were borrowed from technology found on the spacecraft. And Apple accuses=20  
Microsoft of ripping them off.=20

The book is advertised as "firmly grounded in fact," and has a forward by=20  
Sen. Strom Thurmond, in understandable English with a lot about communism=20  
but nothing about UFOs.=20

How did Stalin get a copy of the small-town American paper? Well, if you=20  
have any sense of the history of American paranoia, communist spies were=20  
everywhere. They were the space aliens of their time, kids.=20

Your parents had conspiracy theories, too.=20

Historian Richard Hofstadter called it America's "paranoid style of=20  
politics," and UFOs definitely are political. Where else could politicians=  
=20  
come from?=20

If you ask most young people, and a lot of not-so-young people, what=20  
happened in 1947, they'd say "Roswell."=20

Me, I'd say, "My first birthday party." I don't remember anything about=20  
1947, so I looked it up in the anniversaries section of the World Almanac, a=  
=20  
great source- book for the anniversary beat.=20

Here are just a few things we're not celebrating in the media because=20  
they've lost their luster, while UFOs shine brighter in the skies over=20  
America.=20

Fifty years ago, President Harry Truman asked Congress for \$400 million in=  
=20  
aid to Greece and Turkey for defense against communist aggression. Nowadays=  
=20  
\$400 million couldn't build a ballpark, but this "Truman Doctrine" staved=20  
off the Soviets.=20

Secretary of State George C. Marshall proposed a plan for European recovery=  
=20  
from World War II. Called the Marshall Plan, it's the reason European=20  
countries are arguing about the Eurodollar instead of rubles.=20

Chuck Yeager broke the sound barrier in an X-1 Rocket, a fast-flying object=  
=20  
over the desert that would have been forgotten but for "The Right Stuff."=20

Princess Elizabeth of England and Lt. Philip Mountbatten were married in=20  
1947, leading to the creation of Britain's most important industry, the=20  
Royals.=20

Reddi Whip was invented in 1947.=20

If 1947 was a red-letter year in paranoia at the time, it wasn't because of=  
=20  
Roswell, but because the House Un-American Activities Committee began its=20  
investigations, blacklisting 10 Hollywood writers.=20

Other writers quickly learned to stay away from social issues and start=20  
writing dialogue for robots and snatched bodies, the latter being a big=20  
metaphor for communist infiltration. Nowadays, you just get snatched, no=20  
Marx about it.=20

It's natural that we don't make a big whoop about the 50th anniversary of=20  
any of those things, but before you start surfing the UFO sites on the=20  
Internet, consider a couple of other things that happened in 1947.=20

On July 26 of that year, President Truman united the army, navy and air=20  
force into one military establishment and founded the Central Intelligence=  
=20  
Agency.=20

Coincidence?=20

That was just weeks after the UFO and the dead aliens were found in the=20  
desert near Roswell, to be carried away, covered up and later converted to=  
=20  
peaceful uses on tabloid TV shows.=20

In 1947, most American families didn't have TV sets, but those that didn't=  
=20  
soon had nagging kids. It was the year TV addiction began.=20

Sure, I'm one of those who went on to "The Twilight Zone." But Rod Serling's=  
=20  
tales about UFOs were always homilies about human nature. Most science=20  
fiction was like that, before it was presented as fact on news shows' "alien=  
=20  
autopsy" segments.=20

Now UFOs don't teach us anything, except that half the people in America=20  
have some need to believe in them. Who knows why? They're a poor substitute=

=20  
for religion. They're easily mixed up with streetlights and don't even make=  
=20  
guest appearances on tortillas.=20

Their occupants are unsexy space Bambis, yet always seem to be poking around=  
=20  
at human sexual organs like urologists, according to UFOlogists. Aliens=20  
always abduct people humans wouldn't invite home to dinner.=20

If you want to mark the anniversary of any invasion that took place in 1947,=  
=20  
you'd do better to consider another small, mysterious humanlike creature=20  
with a huge head who was found in the vast wasteland.=20

The year 1947 was when "The Howdy Doody Show" first aired. Sure, Howdy Doody=  
=20  
was just a faked model, and sure you could see the strings, but he carried=  
=20  
America's kids away, and they've never returned.=20

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