

William Greenwell, of Shermanbury, and his family saw an object in the sky to the south east of their Shermanbury Place home on Monday night.

The object gave a kaleidoscope effect, "with colours of a brilliance I have never seen before - reds, greens, blues and a central whiteness that was almost too bright to watch," he said.

"It sounds ridiculous I know. I'm not a crank or anything and I'm quite prepared to accept that there's a rational explanation, but this is what I saw."

That same night, Paul Quick, of Hampers Lane, Storrington, spied a glowing ball "one and a half times the size of a bus" land on the Downs.

"It was the shape of a rugby ball on its side and was quite bright, but not dazzling."

Mr Quick's family saw the object land on the Downs before it slithered down the side of the hill and disappeared.

But Hove Police, who were alerted by the Quicks, said the object was the planet Venus.

World News

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[W 1]*****

Source: Voice of Russia (Radio)

Date: 5th November 1997

A Russian scholar says our solar system has 2 Earth's

A Russian scholar says our solar system has 2 Earth's. He says a planet whose mass and dimensions that equal those of our home planet is located behind the Sun, on the other side of the solar system. It never shows up because it takes it and the earth exactly the same time to orbit the Sun. Nonetheless, it can be seen if a space satellite with a telescope aboard is launched towards Mars or Venus.

[W 2]*****

Source: The Electronic Telegraph

Publish Date: Tuesday 11th November 1997

Bandai rings the changes

By Michael Fitzpatrick

The people who brought us Tamagotchi are about to launch a similar key-ring alien that will metamorphoses every time it's near a mobile phone user.

Designed like the Tamagotchi to bring out our motherly instincts with demands for air and food, the Wave UFO will also transform its LCD features when a mobile phone goes off within one metre of it.

The new cyber alien-pet will be the next big thing, says Bandai. It expects it to outsell the once massively popular Tamagotchi. With the virtual pet boom in Japan now in decline, Bandai decided its next move would be to cash in on the Japanese obsession with mobile phones. They are so cheap and plentiful in Japan that at one point they were coming free with every hamburger.

Japan watcher Izumi Okamoto says: "Riding alongside the required Tamagotchi in every schoolgirl's bag is a mobile and a Pocket Bell pager. It didn't take long for Japan's largest toy company put two and two together." In another bid to fill the vacuum left by the drop in Tamagotchi sales, Bandai has a scored hit in Japan with Angel Scope fortune telling machines.

Children punch in personal details on the key-ring-size toy and up come predictions from Japan's best-known fortune-teller.

[W 3]*****

Source: Sky News

Date: Sunday 16th November 1997

Safety board in spotlight of TWA probe after FBI bows out

With the FBI's withdrawal from the investigation into the explosion of TWA Flight 800, the hunt for terrorists and saboteurs has given way to a study of frayed wires and a vapor-filled fuel tank.

The National Transportation Safety Board begins public hearings Dec. 8, but spokesman Peter Goelz said no one should expect an answer to the most important question "what caused the explosion " any time soon.

The loved ones of 230 people killed when the Boeing 747 was ripped apart on July 17, 1996, are wondering if they will ever know.

"Maybe this will be like the Kennedy assassination, where there are some people out there that think there was a second gunman. But you have to rely on the people who have conducted this investigation and have faith in the job the FBI has done," said Richard Bergman of Los Angeles.

His best friend, Eugene Silverman and Silverman's wife and two daughters died in the explosion. James Kallstrom, an FBI assistant director who headed the criminal investigation, sent a letter this week to the families of victims of the disaster to announce the agency was suspending its probe.

He said the investigation "has found absolutely no evidence to cause us to believe that the TWA Flight 800 tragedy was the result of a criminal act."

So barring some new evidence, one of the biggest criminal investigations in the nation's history has concluded with the finding that no crime was committed.

"It is very disappointing that another government agency is reporting they do not know what caused this. We are looking forward to the day that some agency does know what caused it," TWA spokesman Mark Abels said.

On Thursday, NTSB Chairman James Hall told a congressional committee that he hoped a probable cause could be identified by the end of next year. Goelz said the agency will continue to draw upon the FBI's expertise.

Bernard Loeb, the NTSB's director of aviation safety, said investigators continue to dig into several theories on how enough electrical energy might have entered the center fuel tank to touch off a blast.

Loeb said the agency is concentrating on the fuel measuring rods, the fuel pumps, static electricity and chafed wiring.

"None are more important or more likely than the other," Loeb said.

[W 4]*****

Source: BBC News
Date: 14th November 1997

How Mars Hotted Up for Life

French scientists have proposed a new theory to support the idea that life once evolved on the planet Mars. They say that thick clouds of carbon dioxide ice acted as a blanket over the planet, keeping the surface warm enough for liquid water to flow there. Their theory is published in the journal 'Science'. This report from Andrew Luck-Baker of our Science staff.

People sometimes call Mars the 'Red planet' - but nearly four billion years ago, it was the 'White planet'. The Martian surface was hidden beneath thick white clouds. Below there were erupting volcanoes, oceans, lakes and rivers. This is the portrait of ancient Mars painted by scientists at the Pierre and Marie Curie University in Paris. It's a world away from the dead, rust-coloured desert shown in the pictures recently beamed back to us by the now defunct Pathfinder mission. That space probe, together with previous studies of the Martian landscape and rocks, provided a convincing body of evidence that water once flowed on the planet - according to Dr Francois Forget.

"Everyone agrees that more than 3.8 billion years ago, the climate on Mars was much warmer than it is today. And this is suprising because at that time, the Sun was about 25 percent less bright than it is today, so it's not obvious how you explain why Mars was warmer back then."

Today Mars is far too cold for water to exist as a liquid. That's partly because the planet has an extremely thin atmosphere. But 3.8 billion years ago, Martian volcanoes had created a dense atmosphere containing a lot of carbon dioxide. According to the French scientists' calculations, the subzero temperatures in the Martian skies would have caused some of the carbon dioxide to form small snowflakes, creating a planet-wide blanket of cloud. Clouds like these would have had a very strong greenhouse effect, trapping the incoming warmth of the Sun between them and the Martian surface. Francois Forget says conditions would have warm enough for water to flow.

"In our (computer) model we can easily reach temperatures higher than the freezing point of water. Hopefully the observations of the spacecraft Mars Global Surveyor (now orbiting the planet) will help us estimate what the climate conditions were in more detail. I think the global average temperature was slightly below zero degrees Celsius, but of course it would be higher or lower depending on the latitude, seasons and time of day. That means that, because there was liquid water there over a long period of time, it's likely conditions were suitable for life".

These findings will fire the enthusiasm of other scientists hoping to detect signs of life today in planetary systems around other stars. If the French team is right, the conditions suitable for the origin and evolution of life will extend much further from a star than previously thought. There could be many more planets in the Universe than astronomers had expected, comfortable enough to be homes for extraterrestrial organisms.

[W 5]*****

Source: Pentagon statement
Date: 1st October 1997
From: Adrian Haynes <adrianh@dircon.co.uk>

USAF future testing of an Airborne Laser

KIRTLAND AIR FORCE BASE, N.M. (AFNS) -- Pentagon officials announced Oct. 1 approval of the Air Force's environmental planning connected with future testing of an Airborne Laser.

That approval, in the form of a "Record of Decision," is the last step in the Air Force's Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Airborne Laser. It clears the way for the Air Force to house and test its YAL-1A Attack Laser, a laser-carrying Boeing 747 aircraft, during the Program Definition and Risk Reduction Phase.

Under that phase, the prototype aircraft, currently under development, will be based at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif. There, the aircraft will complete its integration of the weapon system and undergo ground and flight testing. Also in this risk reduction phase, the aircraft will use the U.S. Army's White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico for short-range diagnostic testing of the laser under low- and high-powers.

This phase will end with the YAL-1A Attack Laser conducting expanded-area testing on the Western Test Range. This is an area off the California coast in the Pacific Ocean, operated by Vandenberg AFB and Point Mugu Naval Air Warfare Center. There, the aircraft will complete long-range testing of the weapons-class laser, under low- and high-power conditions. Included will be a test that will show how well the YAL-1A Attack Laser can destroy a theater ballistic missile shortly after being launched.

The YAL-1A Attack Laser has been characterized as a revolutionary step forward in defensive systems. The aircraft will carry a chemical oxygen iodine laser capable of destroying Scud-like missiles shortly after being launched from hundreds of miles away. In battle, the aircraft would be over friendly territory, flying at an altitude of around 40,000 feet, looking toward enemy airspace. It would detect an enemy theater ballistic missile shortly after launched as it clears any clouds. The YAL-1A would then lock on to the target and use its chemical laser to destroy it.

The weapon system includes a modified Boeing 747 freighter aircraft, a weapon's class laser, laser-fuel storage tanks, and a low-power laser that can acquire and track a target and then direct the primary laser on to that target. Also included is a laser-beam control system and a beam director (a telescope enclosed in a turret at the front of the aircraft) that will focus the laser's energy on a target. Associated with all this are computerized controls, communications, intelligence and related systems needed to manage and control the YAL-1A Attack Laser.

Predicated on successfully completing this phase, a second airborne laser will be built and undergo a series of operational performance testing. Beyond that will come the production phase in which five additional aircraft are projected.

During this environmental process, the Air Force examined six locations and conducted hearings with the general public. In a process that took more than two years, officials determined that there would be a minor socioeconomic benefit and no significant adverse environmental impacts. The Air Force will continue to consult with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service and further evaluate migratory patterns of various marine mammal and animal species.

The Airborne Laser Program Office, a unit of the Space and Missile Systems Center at Los Angeles AFB Calif., is managing the program here.

[W 6]

Source: SETI web site

URL: <http://www.bigscience.com/setiathome.html#experience>

SETI@home

SETI@home is a grand experiment to harness the spare power of hundreds of thousands of Internet-connected computers in the Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence (SETI.) When the experiment launches in Spring 1998, computer users from all over the world will be able to participate in a major scientific experiment. Each participant has the slight but captivating possibility that his or her computer will detect the faint murmur of a civilization beyond Earth.

What is SETI@home

The SETI@home program is a special kind of screensaver. Like other screensavers it starts up when you leave your computer unattended and shuts down as soon as you return to work. What it does in the interim is what makes it unique. While you are getting coffee, or having lunch or sleeping, your computer will be helping the Search for Extra- Terrestrial Intelligence by analysing data specially captured by the world's largest radio telescope. While the SETI@home program is running you will be able to choose from three main "visualizations" of the experiment. Science Mode in which the analysis taking place on the local machine is shown in real time, the significance of each result is explained, and the process is illustrated to a level understandable by high school science students. Sky Progress Mode which shows how the entire experiment is covering the sky, and summarizes at a glance all the potentially interesting results found so far. The background for this visualization will usually be an accurate image of the bright stars in that region of the sky, but participants may choose more abstract representations as well. Earth Progress Mode focuses on the people participating in the experiment. A spinning globe of the earth will be shown with a highlight for every individual or organization who is currently participating. The total number of computers involved will be displayed in real time, and participants who have been involved the longest, or have analysed the most data will be featured. SETI@home will be accompanied by a Web site showing the current status of the search, providing various educational material and links on SETI, astrobiology, and astronomy, and hosting the download of the client software.

SETI background

Current SETI research consists primarily of radio astronomers searching for narrow-bandwidth radio signals (radio waves are able to penetrate interstellar dust clouds, and narrow-bandwidth signals are not found in nature). There are a handful of such projects. Some are focusing on particular nearby stars, others are scanning

star-dense parts of the sky. The SETI Institute 's Project Phoenix is the best known of these projects. All the SETI projects use special-purpose signal analysis hardware, typically Fast Fourier Transform (FFT) machines with millions of frequency channels. This analysis, though impressive, barely skims the surface of what is possible. Real-time searches can only check a small number of bandwidths, frequency drift rates and pulse periodicities.

The Science behind SETI@home

SETI@home is real science. The data is from the Arecibo radio telescope in Puerto Rico, the largest and most sensitive radio telescope in the world. By the time 50,000 PCs are involved, the scope of the search will rival all current SETI projects. SETI@home may indeed detect a signal that would otherwise be missed. The project has three major components: Data collection. SETI@home is working with SERENDIP, a SETI project based at UC Berkeley. SERENDIP has ongoing time at the Arecibo radio telescope. SERENDIP has designed a PC-based system that will extract a limited frequency band of their signal, sample it, and write it in real time to a digital tape. These tapes will be mailed to a file server in the U.S. Data analysis. SERENDIP has developed a program for SETI@home that searches for strong signals at 4,000,000 different combinations of frequency, bandwidth, and chirp (the drift in frequency with time) illustrated here. The diversity and sensitivity of this analysis exceeds anything that can be done in real time. Distributed computation. Big Science has developed software that divides the radio telescope data into chunks, distributes these chunks to clients, and collects the results. It also manages the distribution of architecture-specific versions of the analysis code, and takes care of various security concerns. A data-flow diagram illustrates the entire process.

Project Status

SETI@home was conceived in 1995. The project is a collaborative effort of several astronomers and computer scientists. It is funded by donations and corporate sponsorships. Prototype versions of the software were developed during 1996, including the distributed computation mechanism, the signal analysis program, and the screensaver graphics. The project has been endorsed by the scientific community, including the Planetary Society, the SETI Institute and its president Frank Drake. A paper on SETI@home appeared at the 5th International Conference in Bioastronomy in July 1996. We plan to begin technical testing of data analysis and distributed computation at the end of 1997, and to launch the experiment in the 2nd quarter of 1998. The current focus of efforts is fundraising. To launch the project successfully we need approximately \$200,000 and solid promotional relationships.

Personnel

The founding members of the SETI@home team are: Dan Werthimer, Chief Scientist. Dan is Principal Investigator of the Project SERENDIP at UC Berkeley. He has been actively involved in SETI observations for 17 years, and is the designer of the SERENDIP data collection hardware. David Gedye, Project Director. David is Vice President of Engineering for Virtual University International. He has ten years experience designing and building multi-user environments, most recently as Director of Online Games for Starwave Corporation. David P. Anderson, Technical Director. David is Chief Technical Officer at Tunes Network Inc. He has published about 60 papers in distributed systems and other areas of Computer Science. Woodruff T. Sullivan III, Project Scientist. Woody is a Professor of Astronomy at the University of Washington, and has been an active member of the academic SETI community for more than 20 years. The following members of The SETI Institute form the SETI@home advisory panel: Jill Tarter Tom Pierson Kent Cullers John Dreher

Acknowledgements

Jeff Cobb from the SERENDIP team did a great job writing and testing initial versions of the client analysis code. Many thanks to Craig Kassnoff, who participated in the project's formative discussions and made key introductions. Thanks also to Starwave, who sponsored the scientific feasibility study. Ralph Derrickson has supported the project from its inception, and given much needed business advice.

Recent News & How you can help

September '97. More than 35,000 people have joined the SETI@home

mailing list, many after seeing Dan Werthimer discuss the project on the Discovery Channel. More than 1500 people have offered programming and design help in response to a request on this web site. If you were one of them, and have not received a reply, we apologize sincerely. We've been overwhelmed by the response and are not yet ready to use volunteers effectively. Also this month -- the first magnetic tape of test data from Arecibo was returned to Berkeley. This will be used to test the analysis algorithms, and get an initial sense of the terrestrial interference characteristics. August '97. Dan Werthimer was interviewed on NPR's All Things Considered. Other stories this month included one by PC World. The SETI@home mailing list grew to 10,000 people. Senior members of the SETI Institute accepted invitations to sit on our advisory board. June '97. The SETI@home web site was established, and David Gedye was interviewed by the New York Times.

We recently used this part of the web site to call for volunteers with skills in programming, graphic design, and science education. The response was overwhelming, and we already have more volunteers (at least 1500 of them) than we can respond to on an individual basis. If you have volunteered but have not heard back, please bear with us. As of September 1997, the crucial issue for the SETI@home project is funding. If you represent an organization that would consider becoming a sponsor of the SETI@home project, or you are a successful fundraiser and would like to help the project, please send email to the Project Director David Gedye. If you would like to help us test the first version of SETI@home (currently scheduled for late 1997), or you would simply like to be on our mailing list, please enter your full email address and

Letters
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From: Jorgen Westman <jorgen@romelix.se>

Real estate on the Moon

Hi! Jorgen from WUFOC here.

Can you remember where a person was able to buy a piece of real-estate on the Moon? This was up some months ago...

Kind regards, Jorgen Westman.

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uk.ufo.nw says: The below letter refers to an advertisement taken from numerous national UK newspapers which we thought would interest readers. It appeared in the last e-zine {84}.

From: Name withheld

the Name a Star article

I had your UFO Network Newsletter forwarded to me and read with interest the Name a Star article. Not, you will understand, because I have an interest in having a star named after me, but because I work very close to the response address. For your information 3 Humber Road London NW2 is a residential address and is certainly not part of the Millenium Business Centre. This does not, of course, mean that the offer is not legitimate, however I will not personally be subscribing!

From: Brian Straight <brians@mdbs.com>

Wall Street Journal article.

Today's Wall Street Journal (Friday 7th November 97) has a front page article called "Maoists for Martians: Here, UFOs Make for Serious Science."

Quite an intersting article--unfortunately, I don't have time to type it all. If you know someone who subscribes to the electronic edition, you might be able to get the text.

uk.ufo.nw says: If anyone has the article we would certainly like a

copy for the e-zine.

UNITED KINGDOM UFO NETWORK

STATEMENT

uk.ufo.nw statement: The articles or text appearing within these pages are not necessarily the views or opinions of United Kingdom UFO Network.

REPORTS

Please forward all reports to: ufo@holodeck.demon.co.uk

WWW

Visit us on the World Wide Web at
<http://www.holodeck.demon.co.uk/>

BACK ISSUES & FILES

For information on receiving back issues and other files send mail with REQUEST INFO in the subject area to: ufo@holodeck.demon.co.uk

IRC - (INTERNET RELAY CHAT)

The meetings take place at 11pm (2300hrs) each and every Saturday night. Times will vary depending on your location in the world. If you would like to know the time in your part of the world send a mail to:

ufo@holodeck.demon.co.uk

In the subject section put: IRC TIME INFO

In the message of your mail please put:

- a) Your Country
- b) Your location
- c) Nearest major City

Connecting to our weekly UFO meetings on the IRC (internet relay chat) is now easier than ever.

If you are using at least one of the following web browsers:

- Netscape 3 ++
- MS Internet Explorer 4 ++

Simply visit one of the below url's (world wide web) addresses. When the 'ultrachat' page has loaded you will see a large grey filled box somewhere on the screen. It may then take a few more seconds for the java script to load and run.

The grey area will then turn white and you will be asked to enter a nickname. Your own name or a nickname will suffice here.

Once you press return you will be presented with various bits of information scrolling up the screen. After a few seconds you will be connected to the uk.ufo.nw #UFO channel.

Down the right hand side of the screen you will see a list of the people currently on channel. At the bottom of the screen is where you type your messages. The large upper left section of the screen is where you read and follow the proceedings of the meetings.

Don't be shy. We are all a friendly bunch. Give it a go. You'll soon get the hang of it. We'll be happy to offer any assistance that you may need.

- <http://www.holodeck.demon.co.uk/ultrachat.html>
- <http://www.maygale.org/07/eyesonly>
- <http://www.geocities/Area51/Cavern/2646>
- <http://www.tedric.demon.co.uk/ultrachat.htm>
- <http://www.ultranet.org/webchat/ufo.html>
- <http://web.ukonline.co.uk/colin.light/ultrachat.htm>
- <http://web.ukonline.co.uk/phil.light>
- <http://www.ufo.grid9.net/ufo.html>
- <http://www.us.ultranet.org/webchat/ufo.html>
- <http://www.no.ultranet.org/webchat/ufo.html>
- <http://crowman.demon.co.uk/ultrachat.html>

If you are using one of the dedicated IRC programs such as the excellent MIRC available free from: <http://www.mirc.co.uk/index.html> enter one of the below irc server addresses into your program. The nearer the server to your location the faster the connection. If one

fails then try another.

London.UK.EU.UltraNET.Org
Belgrade.YU.EU.UltraNet.org
Kalemegdan.YU.EU.UltraNet.org
Singidunum.YU.EU.UltraNet.org
Bor.YU.EU.UltraNet.org
Zemun.YU.EU.UltraNet.org
Gloucester.UK.EU.UltraNET.Org
Uppsala.SE.EU.UltraNET.Org
Johnson-City.TN.US.UltraNet.Org
Haifa.IL.AS.UltraNET.Org
Mons.BE.EU.ultraNET.Org
Neuilly.FR.EU.UltraNET.Org
Hofors.SE.EU.UltraNET.Org
Bergen.NO.EU.UltraNET.Org

Once you are connected to a server join channel:
#UFO

The uk.ufo.nw #UFO channel is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
Visit the channel at any time. There is usually someone there to
talk to.

For those of you needing help connecting to our IRC meetings send
your questions to:

ufo-irc-advice@crowman.demon.co.uk

If you want to be a little more adventurous and perhaps use one
of the dedicated IRC programs such as the excellent MIRC visit
the below urls for advice:

<http://www.crowman.demon.co.uk/ultranet.htm>
<http://web.ukonline.co.uk/phil.light/irchelp.htm>

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The UK.UFO.NW free fortnightly e-zine covering UFO reports and
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In the main body of the mail put:

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note: in place of fn put your first name.
in place of ln put your last name.

For example:

subscribe ufo John Smith

A confirm mail will then be sent to you which you need to reply to
within 48 hours to be put on the e-zine mailing list.

If you have problems you may also subscribe by sending mail to:

ufo@holodeck.demon.co.uk

In the subject section of your mail type: SUBSCRIBE

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