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UFO UpDates Mailing List

Re: Paper on Gulf Breeze

From: Jean van Gemert <jeanvg@dds.nl>
Date: Thu, 18 Sep 1997 14:57:47 +0200 (MET DST)
Fwd Date: Thu, 18 Sep 1997 09:52:23 -0400
Subject: Re: Paper on Gulf Breeze

At 12:46 AM 9/18/97 -0400, you wrote:
>From: nick@emailme.at.address.below (Nick Humphries)
>To: UFO UpDates - Toronto <updates@globalserve.net>
>Subject: Re: UFO UpDate: Re: MUFON Journal Muses
>Date: Wed, 17 Sep 1997 17:29:04 GMT

[I said, to provide some context:]
>> The bottom line is that if Barbara really had any proof we would
>> have heard about it by now, in the course of 8 years. You might
>> want to try and replace your rabidly opinionated "gut feelings"
>> with a more proper foundation for your claims.

[Nick then said:]
>Ignoring the flame... The statement that if there was "really
>had any proof we would have heard about it by now, in the
>course of 8 years" on Gulf Breeze or ANY case is an ill-founded
>one.

>This is silly - if scientists worked this way, many would give
>up before accomplishing any major discovery.

You're completely misreading, as usual. My comment relates only to Ms. Becker having any alleged "proof" (hence my "if Barbara really had any proof"), not to any other negative evidence that in principle could still turn up. You've succeeded in debunking something I didn't write, essentially. Congratulations.

>It is also illogical - Jean's argument is that no case could be
>solved because, if any solution was possible, it would have
>been found already.

I didn't assert this, read my comment again. This time with your eyes open please.

>Finally, suggesting that if a case hasn't been solved after a
>small period of time, then it is unsolvable stifles any debate
>and stunts any possible further growth in the subject.

I neither claimed this too, but it's worth a comment. "Solved" is in the eyes of the beholder; Bruce Maccabee, for instance, would consider "solved" the issue re Ed allegedly hoaxing the famous shots he's known for, in Walters' favor. He too would see "solved" the issue of existence/non-existence of strange objects occupying Gulf Breeze airspace. While to other people it's quite conceivable that damning evidence could still be forthcoming, so they don't share Maccabee's opinion, even if there's no evidence such proof would eventually pop up.

I personally find the latter quite unreasonable. It's like

saying "let's not use our knowledge, which seems reliable enough, to draw any conclusions, because evidence could turn up overnight which might negate that same knowledge in the future." What if it never turns up? You'd be waiting and waiting... But I think you get the point.

Science, Logic, and the UFO Debate:
<http://www.primenet.com/~bdzeiler/index.html>

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