

Q: Could creatures with infrared vision - like the alien in the movie Predator - see better than us? P R Gruzalski, Ashtead, Surrey

While the Predator gave Arnold Schwarzenegger a hard time in the film, he would have been stuffed, vision wise, in real life. The human eye is sensitive to visible light 'which has a shorter wavelength than infrared and therefore a higher resolution, enabling us to see smaller objects in more detail.

Arnie blinded him once by lighting a fire, demonstrating another flaw - we see by reflected light while infrared is emitted by an object, dependent on its temperature. If what you're looking for is the same temperature as its surroundings it becomes invisible.

Finally, your infrared alien would need a deep head and huge eye lenses to bring the longer wavelengths into focus unless they weren't refractive lenses like human's but something lobster-like - thousands of square tubes with smooth inner walls to reflect the light to the retina.

A more interesting challenger might be Gamma Man, able to use the shorter wavelengths of ultraviolet and beyond to see in incredible detail. The drawbacks there would be that X-rays and gamma rays are harmful to tissue, and very little gets through the atmosphere, so he'd need to be made of very strange tissue, and bring his own gamma torch with him.

Q: When we see pictures taken on the moon's surface. why are there no stars in the sky?

Dave Plumber, Ruislip, London

Perhaps the most telling evidence that the moon landings weren't faked in a Los Angeles backlot is the distinctly black sky we see above Buzz Aldrin in the images from the lunar surface. What Hollywood movie producer could have resisted the temptation of adding a background of brilliant stars in contrast to a bleak moon set?

Incidentally, all but four Apollo 11 surface photos are of Aldrin because in their excitement the moonwalkers forgot to use their one Hasselblad 70mm camera to take more pictures of his colleague Neil Armstrong.

The moon has no atmosphere to limit the light coming down to its surface, so in theory there should be brilliant views of even the furthest stars. But the moonwalks all occurred during the lunar day. The glare of the unfiltered sun is considerable, so that all astronauts' moonsuits

were fitted with visors. The glare tended to mask the stars, and this 'washout' effect was made worse by reflected light from dust covering the lunar surface.

In fact the lunar module's descent engines swept away all of the very finest surface dust, leaving larger more jagged particles that were even better at reflecting light. As a result, from orbit, lunar landing sites would appear distinctively brighter than surrounding areas.

If an astronaut looked away from the sun into the darkest part of the sky they could make out stars - but capturing images of stars requires long camera exposure times. and the lunar photos were taken with exposure times too short to register them.

Still, the view during the lunar night, or from the dark side of the moon, will always be awe- inspiring, and it has been suggested that a large observatory should be set up on the dark side in the next century.

[W 3]*****

From: Gary Val Tenuta (USA) - CodeUFO@aol.com
Date sent: Thursday 20th August 1998

Close Encounter with the Black Triangle

In response to the article about Stephen Tunstall's sighting of the Triangle UFO over West Midland, 18th July 1998, [Issue 93 uk.ufo.nw] I can share my own sighting of a similar craft here in the state of Washington, USA, in 1993. I will also include a dramatic report of a

similar craft seen by an acquaintance of mine. The two reports are as follows:

CLOSE ENCOUNTER with the BLACK TRIANGLE UFO The following is a true and accurate account of my own "close encounter" in Seattle Washington which occurred in 1993. I believe it was in the month of November.

It was a Sunday night about 9:30. I often have occasion to be driving north about this time of evening on Sundays and I usually take the freeway. This time, however, I knew the freeway, northbound, was jammed up due to an accident. So I had taken an alternate route which eventually led me to what I think was East Marginal Way, right next to the main Boeing Aircraft plant.

I noticed three red lights low in the sky ahead of me. They were moving in unison, very slowly across my field of vision from east to west. At first I thought they must be the lights of a low flying plane, perhaps about to land. Then I thought, no, they must be helicopters because a plane, even if it was landing, wouldn't be moving that slowly. The trouble was, I couldn't actually see the craft or crafts that the lights were attached to. They were, maybe, a half mile ahead of me, about 30 degrees to my right. Normally, I wouldn't have really paid much attention to this at all because I've been making this Sunday night drive past Boeing (although via the freeway) for the last twelve years. In all that time I've seen plenty of airplanes and helicopters flying low in this area. But something was different this time. It took me a minute to realize what it was. It was the fact that the lights weren't blinking. I thought that was odd. It seemed to me that every airplane or helicopter I've ever seen flying at night had blinking lights. I squinted my eyes as I drove toward the lights, trying to see just what I was actually looking at. Although I was now only about two blocks away from being directly under the flight path of these lights, I still could not make out what they were attached to. However, from their slow, steady movement, in unison, I was pretty sure all three of them were attached to a single object rather than being independent of each other. By the time I was directly below their flight path, they were about to reach the airspace over Boeing Field to my left. I was now convinced it was a single, low-flying craft of somekind and I knew there was something very odd here. I pulled my car off to the side of the road and rolled down the window to get a better look.

I opened the car door and stepped out. Craning my neck to see the craft as it passed slowly directly over head (estimated altitude, less than 500 feet), I could see it was a gigantic flying black triangle! There is no other way to describe it because that's precisely what it was; a huge, black, flying triangle; not just "sort of" triangular shaped, like one of those wedge-winged jets or something. It was just one big three-sided, cookie-cutter-straight-edged, black, geometric shape; a triangle with one large, round unblinking red light at each of its three corners flat up against the underside of the craft. There was a high, gray cloud cover that evening, subtly lit by the Seattle city lights in the distance. Against this gray ceiling I could see the object like a huge, dense black silhouette.

I stood there almost not believing what I knew I was seeing. I actually said to myself, "Ok. What, exactly, are you seeing? You're going to want to remember every detail of this! Just the facts, now. What, exactly, do you see?" I made a mental inventory. "Black triangle. Red light on each corner, flat up against the underside of the craft. They don't blink. It looks like it's about seventy-five to a hundred feet above one of the main Boeing hangars. It's moving very slowly. Maybe five miles per hour. It's heading west. It must be about the size of a football field." Suddenly I realized, as I stood there in the dark on this quiet empty street, the object didn't make a sound! Maybe more than anything else, that's what made the whole thing so eerie. Something that huge, that close, moving through the air at a snail's pace should be making some kind of a sound! A hum! A rumble! Anything! But, no. It just moved across the sky like something out of a Steven Spielberg movie with the volume turned off. I looked up and down the street to see if anyone else was witnessing this silent event, but the street was dark and empty in both directions. I looked up again at the mysterious thing now blending into the dark horizon. I watched it until I couldn't see it anymore and then it was over. I got back into my car and closed the door. The window was still open and I took another look. Nothing was there but the gray night sky, softly aglow from the distant city lights. It was as if nothing had happened. I sat there for a minute and lit a cigarette. Then I turned the car on and took one more look, knowing

it wouldn't be there, but still wanting to remember where it had been. All the way home I just kept asking myself, "What the hell was that?"

Whatever it was, it was my one and only close encounter. I waited all my life to see a UFO and, as it turned out, it was nothing like I always imagined it would be. I wanted to see a "flying saucer"! You know, one of those shiney, disk-shaped things that everybody else sees. But, no. I had to see a flying black triangle! Then again, it was probably just a weather balloon. A weather kite? Swamp gas. Yeah, that's it. Triangular swamp gas.

uk.ufo.nw says: Gary also sent us the below very interesting report.

[W 4]*****

From: Gary Val Tenuta (USA) - CodeUFO@aol.com
Date sent: Thursday 20th August 1998

An encounter with a Black Triangle UFO

The following is an account of an encounter with the Black Triangle UFO as told to me by a young man I'll call Greg:

Greg is a mountain climber here in the Pacific Northwest. One day, about 1981, he was climbing at a place I believe he called Lion Rock in Washington State. When he reached the plateau, he looked up and saw a dark triangle shaped object he estimated to be several thousand feet in the sky. On his second visit to that same plateau he saw the object again. And again it was positioned very high in the sky.

On his third trip to Lion Rock, he was climbing with a friend (I'll call him Bill) who happened to be a Lockheed flight engineer. When they reached the top, Greg was telling Bill about the triangular object. As he was pointing to the sky to show his partner where he'd seen the object, the same object appeared! Bill of course did not know the size of the object but guessed its altitude must have been about 20,000 feet. As they stood there looking at the object they noticed it appeared to be getting larger. In a moment they realized it was in a freefall heading straight for them! They dove for the bushes and the object, which now could be quite clearly seen to be a craft, came to an abrupt stop about 150 feet above the ground and about 150 feet away from them.

Greg got out his field glasses to get a really good look at the surface of the craft. He said it really wasn't black but, rather, a very dark amber-hued brown. There was no indication of seams or rivets that he could see. It had the appearance of being a single molded piece. He estimates its size was about equal to a football field. He detected what he thought seemed to be windows along one side and a glow of light coming through them from within the craft. As in my own sighting, the craft had been totally silent all this time. But that was about to change.

Suddenly the craft let out an ear piercing screech and took off at an angle right over Greg and Bill. As it did so, the craft emitted a beam of white light which passed directly over them. In a moment the craft was gone.

The result of this encounter was that Greg suffered from blood in his urine for about the next 6 months and Bill suffered from a rash throughout his groin area for about the same period of time.

It is interesting to note that Greg is a devout Christian and never really had an interest in UFOs before his encounters. His father is a Christian minister.

I have never met Bill but Greg tells me the event caused Bill severe psychological repercussions. I don't know what that means in terms of exactly what those repercussions were.

It is also interesting to note that Greg's encounter was nearly a decade earlier than mine.

[W 5]*****

Source: Daily Mail (UK)
Publish date: Friday 14th August 1998

Fossil finds 'point to life on Mars'

Evidence that alien life could be flourishing below the surface of Mars is growing, say scientists.

After discovering traces of rock-eating microbes nearly a mile underneath the floor of the Earth's oceans, they argue that if life can survive in such dark barren conditions then it could also exist beneath the red planet.

The fossils were found in samples from beneath the Indian, Atlantic and Pacific oceans, the American journal Science reports.

Dr Mark Fisk, of Oregon State University, said they were discovered in basalt up to one mile down. The rocks contained all the ingredients for life including carbon, phosphorous, nitrogen and water.

"Under those conditions, microbes could live beneath any rocky planet," he said.

"It would be no problem to have life inside of Mars, or within a moon of Jupiter, or even on a comet containing ice crystals that get warmed up when the comet passes by the sun."

The interior of Mars had all the right chemicals for simple bacterial life, he said. And although Mars is cold, microbes have been found on Earth at very low temperatures.

"The surface of Mars may be too cold to find life unless there is a hot spring bubbling up," said Dr Fisk. "But every planet has a temperature gradient; they get hotter as you go down. Within the next few years, we'll probably find life on Mars. But we may have to dig to find it."

The prospect of life on Mars was raised two years ago after NASA claimed to have found evidence of fossilised bacteria in a meteorite.

[W 6]*****

Source: Deseret News
Publish date: 10th August 1998
From: bernhard.nahrgang@ob.kamp.net (Bernhard Nahrgang)

Robert Bigelow Gives First Interview About UFO

Mystery Man Robert Bigelow Gives First Interview About UFO Pursuits
By Zack Van Eyck Deseret News Staff Writer www.desnews.com 8-10-98

LAS VEGAS, Nev. Two years ago, Terry and Gwen Sherman were trying to unload a 480-acre Uintah County cattle ranch they said was rife with UFO activity and other bizarre occurrences.

Millionaire philanthropist Robert T. Bigelow came to the rescue, buying the ranch and moving in a team of researchers and surveillance equipment.

Bigelow, 54, a Las Vegas native who amassed a fortune in real estate development, had for years funded private research projects on the far fringe of mainstream science.

The Sherman ranch was exactly what he was looking for " a secluded location with a history of phenomenal events where his nonprofit National Institute for Discovery Science could gather extraordinary data.

As a condition of the purchase, however, the Shermans agreed to keep quiet about what they reportedly had witnessed " the mutilated and disappearing cattle, UFOs the size of football fields, circular doorways that appeared in midair and floating balls of light that allegedly incinerated the family dogs.

Bigelow and his staff also dodged media inquiries, saying public knowledge about their observations would be premature and not in keeping with established scientific methods. Even today, two years later, Bigelow will not discuss specific incidents that have occurred on the ranch and the surrounding area.

But the strange airborne activity and unusual animal deaths have

continued, Bigelow confirmed in a lengthy, face-to-face chat with the Deseret News the first interview he has granted to discuss his regional pursuit of aerial phenomena.

"We wouldn't be there just for the weather," he said.

When the impressive team of scientists Bigelow has assembled can say something definitive about what is going on in the skies around Fort Duchesne, Randlett and beyond, they will, Bigelow promised on the NIDS Web site at www.accessnv.com/nids.

"We know so little in terms of what the overall scope of these phenomena is all about that it's just embarrassing to try to make conclusions at this point," Bigelow said.

And it's still too early, he said, to determine whether the curious activity poses any threat to Uinta Basin residents.

"Should people be fearful of anything from NIDS? Absolutely not. But I think the jury is way, way, way out and a long way from coming back on whether or not we know enough to say that they shouldn't have something to fear from the phenomena," he said, then added somewhat humorously, "We haven't had any of our staff eaten or anybody else that we know of."

Bigelow said the National Institute for Discovery Science needs the help of Uinta Basin ranchers and residents. He asks anyone who discovers an unusual animal death or spots an unidentified object in the sky to call NIDS at 1-888-433-6500. When an animal mutilation is reported, NIDS veterinarians can respond to perform a necropsy.

"It will cost him (a rancher) nothing to try to find out what happened to his animal," Bigelow said.

The recent interview in Las Vegas was an intriguing departure for Bigelow, a confident and articulate self-made man who has kept the lowest of low profiles over the years "prompting some paranormal researchers to suggest he has a hidden agenda or government connections.

Bigelow said he retained a private persona while conducting his own research into the UFO field primarily to protect his sources. But now, with NIDS sponsoring an international essay contest to pique the mainstream science community's interest in the search for extraterrestrial intelligence, the time is right to assume a more public role "even if he doesn't allow his photograph to be taken.

As for the government, Bigelow said his staff has no evidence the government has any interest in the Sherman ranch or similar "hot spots" NIDS has investigated in New Mexico and Colorado.

People shouldn't be worried that he is part of a covert government group, Bigelow said, but instead should ask themselves why the government, politicians, religious institutions, educators, scientists and the media are not taking UFOs and the possible existence of extraterrestrials more seriously.

Bigelow, in fact, said one reason he spends more than a million dollars a year on NIDS research is to do what he feels the government and other institutions should be doing "preparing America and the rest of the world for eventual ET contact. That revelation, if confirmed suddenly and dramatically, Bigelow believes, could have a devastating psychosocial impact on global civilization.

"There are aspects of this phenomena that are going to be disturbing to the average person," he said. "It's more complex, more diverse than I think is commonly recognized.

"We've been exposed to some things that are significantly different than the traditional body of information that you read about or that you watch (on TV, movies), and that increases the dynamics, the scope of what has to be digested."

Bigelow's interest in the paranormal stems from his youth. At the time, Las Vegas was, by comparison, a sleepy little hamlet. There wasn't much for locals to do in the 1950s except drive down the street for an ice cream cone after dinner.

Off on one of those evening cruises, Bigelow's grandparents had a close encounter that not only had a profound impact on them, but " when he was told the story two years later " strongly affected their 10-year-old grandson.

"This ball of light that appeared to be on flames was coming right at them," Bigelow recalled. "They swerved the car off the road in a pretty dramatic way and kind of ducked, waiting for this impact and there was no impact. Instead, it made a 90-degree turn. It came right at them and went vooom " it just went the opposite direction.

"It not only shook them up because they thought they were about to die, but then it gave them something to think about for weeks, months and years after."

Ditto for their grandson.

Bigelow retained his curiosity about that event and other Vegas-area UFO sightings for three decades while building his real estate empire. In 1988, with money to burn, he began an intense, personal quest for an answer to the question: "Are we alone in the universe?"

That led to the formation of NIDS, established in '95 to investigate both aerial phenomena and another of his interests " the survival of consciousness after bodily death.

A year later, word of the Shermans' plight brought Bigelow to the Uinta Basin, where hundreds of UFO sightings have been cataloged by former Roosevelt schoolteacher Joseph "Junior" Hicks, beginning in the early '50s.

NIDS isn't likely to leave the area anytime soon, either " as long as research can be conducted without interference. Bigelow and Colm Kelleher, NIDS' deputy administrator, worry that too much publicity may attract undesirable attention.

"If you had a tailgate, football-stadium kind of atmosphere out there, and everybody's out there with hot dogs and hamburgers, and they're barbecuing and waiting for the UFOs to come down, I don't picture it (continuation of the activity) is going to happen."

[W 7]*****

Source: Inside Denver Rocky Mountain News
Date: August 9, 1998
From: bernhard.nahrgang@ob.kamp.net (Bernhard Nahrgang)

'Area 51' really does exist, but still, nobody's talking

By Thomas Hargrove Scripps Howard News Service

Many people who believe in UFOs also think that "Area 51" -- dried-up Groom Lake in Nevada -- is where the Air Force keeps the flying

saucers it captured.

And maybe an autopsied alien body or two.

Others think the military base is the testing grounds for America's most secret military machines, everything from the F-117 Stealth fighter to electro-magnetic pulse weapons that would make Buck Rogers nervous.

What is certain is that there is something in that moonscape property north of Las Vegas. Officially designated the "Nellis Air Force Bombing and Gunnery Range," the federally protected territory covers an area equal to Rhode Island and Connecticut.

What also is certain is that 1,851 federal civilian workers are employed in mostly well-compensated jobs at several ultra-high-security facilities in and near the range, according to a Scripps Howard News Service analysis of U.S. Office of Personnel Management payroll records.

"This really is one of the last big secret military bases in the United States," said Jeff Moag, a National Security News Service researcher in Washington. "It used to be that the Air Force tried to pretend that Area 51 didn't exist at all."

The Air Force last year conceded the existence of the base when it released a publication that suggested experimental Cold War-era aircraft could have been mistaken for flying saucers.

Whatever they do in the Nellis Bombing Range continues under the Clinton administration.

Payroll records show the Department of Energy, which controls the nation's stockpile of nuclear bombs, employs 32 people in Mercury, Nev., the only town inside the bombing range.

But non-government military observers for several years have said they think that hundreds, or thousands, of military and civilian workers who are employed in the desert facilities take daily flights from Las Vegas airfields into the base. The computer records appear to confirm this.

The Department of Energy officially employs 448 people in the Las Vegas area, even though there are no known federal projects in the city that could justify such employment. The Air Force has 1,068 civilian employees there, some of whom certainly work at Nellis Air Force Base.

But more suspect are the 166 civilian employees of the departments of Defense and Army, the 156 Environmental Protection Agency workers, the 10 Federal Emergency Management Agency employees and at least two representatives of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff. Some of these people work in classified operations at the bombing range.

The payroll for all of the civilian workers in the area totaled 80.6 million dollars.

[W 8]*****

Source: Computer Active
Publish date: August 1998

Visitors from outer space

Scientists at Stanford University in Connecticut have confirmed what us mere mortals have known all along - that talk of UFOs is nothing to be scoffed at.

The independent scientific study, the first of its kind for nearly 30 years, came up with some interesting conclusions. The review, organised by Peter Sturrock, professor of applied physics, and backed by the Society for Scientific Exploration, admitted that some UFO sightings had such compelling physical evidence as to warrant further investigation.

"It may be valuable to carefully evaluate UFO reports to extract information about unusual phenomena currently unknown to science," says the panel, and that to be credible to the scientific community, "such evaluations must take place with a spirit of objectivity and a willingness to evaluate rival hypothesis."

The physical evidence spoken of includes radio, photographic, radar and soil evidence. Although many of the reported sightings can be explained away by being put down to natural phenomena or ascribed to secret military activity, some deserved further looking into.

However, the panel stopped short of actually confirming the existence of UFOs.

A FEARFUL SYMMETRY

A TRUE STORY OF ALIEN INTRUSION INTO HUMAN LIVES

By D. Lynne Bishop

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Lynne Bishop's home page

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CHAPTER 14

Winter had set in with a vengeance, and fighting freezing rain, snow, and sleet had exhausted my husband and me. Very few days, much less nights, had been clear of the interminable gray clouds, and on January 25, I felt as leaden as the skies had been. My spirits lifted by that evening, when several stars peered through the overcast, and the clouds drifted apart to reveal a clean, clear sky. We snuggled under the many blankets on the bed, feeling cocooned by the enveloping warmth--and peacefully drifted off to sleep. The tape recorder lay on the bedside table, ready to catch any sound.

Just a few minutes before 1:00 A.M., I awoke and glanced at the bedside clock. I rolled over onto my left side, seeking a comfortable position. My foot slipped off the edge of the bed, and with an inward laugh, I thought, "Oops, better get my foot back on the bed." Immediately upon the heels of that thought, I realized I was paralyzed and my sense of hearing had disappeared. My familiar world faded, as I sensed several "presences" standing near the bed, at my waist level. These creatures moved the covers off me, but not without difficulty. In surprise, I noticed they had trouble manipulating the blankets, as if not used to having to lift that type of impediment. An ironic laugh flashed through my mind, as I thought, "They must have sent the class on a field trip, and the teacher didn't come with them to show them how it's done." After some initial tugging back and forth, I finally "slid" toward the waiting creatures. The residual fear from my last encounter came to the fore, as I thought to my husband--hoping he would know, somehow-- "In case I don't come back, I love you."

-[continued in part3]-

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