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UFO UpDates Mailing List

Re: The Challenge

From: **Tim Brigham - Devil's Advocate** <devilsad@ksinc.net>
 Date: Tue, 1 Dec 1998 17:17:50 -0600
 Fwd Date: Tue, 01 Dec 1998 23:59:33 -0500
 Subject: Re: The Challenge

An open letter/rant to "abductionologists."

The recent, thought provoking discussion regarding the reason(s) there are so few black/non-white abductees (or at least reports from people in these groups) in the American literature brought me back to square one (which I never really left in the first place, though I perhaps lost sight of it).

To the Hopkin-esque and Jacob-ian folks on the list, I ask:

__Can we be expected to rationally discuss the abduction phenomenon as if it involves hundreds, thousands, or millions of people being physically abducted by non-human beings when we have no proof that any, much less the majority, of these experiences are physically real?__

Here are some snips (ripped roughly and unpolished, but you'll get the idea) from an article printed back in 1995 in the print version of my mag "The Devil's Advocate" -

"With all the talk about the countless acts of abductions of humans performed by so-called alien beings, isn't it about time to begin searching for physical evidence to support these claims? We would like to present some very simple and straightforward methods which could be used to attempt to collect physical evidence of abductions. Before we begin we should make clear our opinion that if attempts to collect physical evidence fail, this would not necessarily prove that abductions are dreams or products of imagination, but instead would discount the theory that abductions are carried out physical entities. Various other theories proposed (Persinger, etc) could not be discounted because of a lack of this type of physical evidence.

It's probable that these types of experiments have been attempted by abductees and investigators in the past. The most likely reason that the results were not published or made public is because nothing was found, and the experimenters felt that this fact would be used to support the claim that the experiences were purely psychological in nature. By proposing that these types of experiments be performed we are in no way attempting to support a particular claim or prove a particular theory, but instead we hope to gather information which may be used to draw objective conclusions regarding the mystery of the abduction phenomenon.

One of the most obvious ways to search for physical evidence would be to use a motion sensitive camera. Devising a crude, but effective motion sensitive camera should not be a challenge to

anyone with even a basic knowledge of electronics. Although we have little knowledge of electronics, we feel we can safely say that even a camcorder attached to a motion sensor, like the kind used on outdoor lights, may be enough to get the job done. The camera could be easily set up so that anything coming near the bed of the abductee would set off the camera. To exclude the possibility of the camera's presence being detected by the eyes of an intruder, it could be easily concealed by hiding it where it would not be obviously visible.

<snip>

The most important factor in this type of an experiment would be the honesty of the abductee. They would have to agree beforehand that any memory of an experience would be reported, even if this experience resulted in no hard physical evidence. If the subject should awaken with a memory of an experience during the previous night, but fail to disclose this because of a lack of physical evidence, the results would be biased and inconclusive. It seems that devising a method in which the abductee could not review the video tape would be the best solution to this problem.

Unlike some other aspects of the UFO phenomenon, the opportunities to look for physical evidence of abductions are clearly present. Before pro-alien abduction researchers start slinging terms like "debunker" at those of us who attempt to remain objective about the phenomenon, perhaps they should attempt a few simple experiments and (gasp!) try to supply some actual evidence to support their conclusions about the extraterrestrial nature of abductions. Until they do, the E.T. theory, like all others, will continue to be just a theory."

Since I first wrote this piece several years ago, I can think of one group who actually claimed that they were going to do exactly what I suggested in this article (it was a local/state chapter of MUFON, actually). Excited as I was, it's been many months and I've heard nothing new regarding the experiment. Was it dropped in the planning stage?

Before you think I've written off every contact case ever reported, hold on now, because even as I become more and more jaded regarding the ufo and abduction phenomena, there are still a few contact cases which continue to intrigue me. Mostly these are cases which don't fit the typical jacob/hopkins' abduction stereotype, but I won't go off into that here. My point is that I still think there have been some (as stan would say, underline the "some" about 10 times) cases of contact which actually involve some sort of nonhuman intelligence, and my mind is still open to such cases. But don't come up to me and tell me you know 2 dozen abductees, or that by expanding the roper poll and inserting the drake equation, you've discovered that 18 quazibillion abductees exist in the galaxy. If that's what you're selling, I'll be over here *as he points to the psychosocial corner* watching for the mothership.

I'm quite sure that this missive will go ignored by the folks who would have us believe in the physical reality of massive numbers of abductions, just as it has in the past, but just in case, here it is. Thoughtful and sane comments/feedback of all types appreciated.

Best,
Tim Brigham

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