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## UFO UpDates Mailing List

### Re: 'UFO Sphere/Orb' over Brooklyn, NY

From: **Brian Straight** <brians@mdbs.com>  
Date: Wed, 11 Feb 1998 09:14:37 -0500  
Fwd Date: Wed, 11 Feb 1998 23:38:14 -0500  
Subject: Re: 'UFO Sphere/Orb' over Brooklyn, NY

>Date: Tue, 10 Feb 1998 06:59:45 -0500 (EST)  
>To: UFO UpDates - Toronto <updates@globalserve.net>  
>From: Steve Neeley <stneeley@mail.bright.net>  
>Subject: Re: UFO UpDate: Re: 'UFO Sphere/Orb' over Brooklyn, NY

> Skeptical disinformation is not the same as  
> scientific proof.

> Steve

Well said, Steve. The big problem with UFOlogy is the question of just what constitutes scientific proof. Essentially, we are dealing with a nonreproducible phenomenon which occasionally leaves highly ambiguous physical traces.

Photography and videography are, alas, in this digital age, unreliable, and are likely to promote much controversial heat, but little light. Radar and other 'independent' verification technologies are also subject to known anomalies which render them inadequate for pure scientific verification. Outside of the physical investigations we conduct (checking weather, flight trajectories, astronomical and meteorological phenomena, etc.), the most critical information we receive is (obviously) the testimony of eyewitnesses. And unfortunately, this can only be at best anecdotal. The character, experience, and psychological makeup of such witnesses therefore becomes of critical importance.

My own feeling is that the best any of us can do is to investigate reports thoroughly and make up our minds as to the veracity of the witness. Thus, any corroborating evidence (or, indeed, evidence to the contrary) must be viewed strictly within the context of the witnesses character, competence, and experience. Such a methodology cannot, in the strictest sense, be called scientific, but UFOlogists are continually breaking new ground in philosophy, psychology, and science. Any 'answers' undoubtedly lie in the diligent application of methodologies from all three.

Brian

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