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Location: [Mothership](#) -> [UFO](#) -> [Updates](#) -> [1998](#) -> [Oct](#) -> **Re: Failure Of The 'Science' Of Obergian Debunking**

UFO UpDates Mailing List

Re: Failure Of The 'Science' Of Obergian Debunking

From: Ed Stewart <ufoindex@jps.net>
Date: Sat, 10 Oct 1998 13:28:52 -0700
Fwd Date: Sat, 10 Oct 1998 21:26:06 -0400
Subject: Re: Failure Of The 'Science' Of Obergian Debunking

>From: Scott Ribordy <sdr@ns.net>
>To: UFO UpDates - Toronto <updates@globalserve.net>
>Subject: Re: Failure Of The 'Science' Of Obergian Debunking
>Date: Thu, 08 Oct 1998 02:29:16 GMT

>>Date: Mon, 05 Oct 1998 16:33:09 -0700
>>From: Ed Stewart <ufoindex@jps.net>
>>To: UFO UpDates - Toronto <updates@globalserve.net>
>>Subject: Re: Failure Of The 'Science' Of Obergian Debunking

>With your obvious interest in the health and well-being of
>ufology, I have to ask; What, in your opinion, should be done?

>I would be interested in reading your (and the List's, of
>course) thoughts on this.

The following short essay was written as an editorial in JUST CAUSE, #32, June 1992 by its editor, Barry Greenwood.

"Recently several persons have expressed their dissatisfaction to us about UFO research. 'It seems like everyone has their own ideas about what UFOs are and it is all very confusing,' said one. 'There is so much controversy that it is difficult for an outsider to tell fact from fiction,' said another. 'The politics of UFO research seems to be incredibly bizarre,' added a third.

The fact is that there are new people taking an interest in UFOs who are not familiar with the rather convoluted history many of us have lived with for decades. And it is a chore for one to comprehend not only the phenomenon but the people in it. The best sources of information tend not to be easily available anymore and costs have risen to a point where some UFO books make one decide whether having it is worth a week of meatloaf for supper or a weekend of the Three Stooges on TV instead of going to a ball game.

It is beyond the scope of this commentary to launch into a primer on the UFO field. However a few suggestions can be made without involving a reference work or quoting a prominent person with a history of UFO interest.

1) There is no such thing as a 'UFO EXPERT.' If one says he/she is, doubt it. If someone says he/she is, doubt it. How can one be a UFO expert if they do not know what UFOs are, who's in them, where they come from, or why they are here? If they do claim to know any one or all of these things, they are either careless for not being able to offer proof of their

extraordinary statements, preaching from a religious viewpoint instead of a scientific one in choosing to 'believe' rather than considering information on its merits, or just plain lying for personal gain, self-gratification; etc. Judge UFO information by how logical and sensible it is, not by who says it. Don't be so overwhelmed by emphasis on one's credentials or affiliations that you accept their statements at face value, without question. Often a close examination of information from a supposed authority reveals that it is no more credible than your Aunt Hortense's speculations on Relativity Theory (unless your Aunt Hortense has done a lot of reading!). Flawed information from self-appointed authorities become ingrained in many individual minds from sheer force of personality, personality that shields their failings behind a facade of intellectual superiority.

2) Carve your own niche. If you decide to pursue an interest in UFO research, make sure you learn much about the world around you first. Handled properly, a UFO interest can motivate self-education in astronomy, meteorology, psychology and a host of other areas. Unlike what some pundits have said in the past, being into UFOs doesn't always send people off onto wrong pathways. In fact it probably generates as many people who become channelled into serious, hard-knowledge fields as it does ding-a-lings. Ideally, a society that is increasingly inclined to one-dimensional thinking and stereotyping will recognize that being interested in space mysteries does not always equate with eccentricity and instability. It is up to you how others will eventually perceive it.

3) You are not a 'little person.' You come into the UFO subject with a great deal of enthusiasm. You desire to contribute to the resolution of a long-standing mystery. Confronting you are prolific authors, 'Whirling-Dervish' investigators, high-intensity personalities and groupie-like hangers-on, all from the high and low end of the likeability scale. Trying to fathom all of this seems impossible and you question whether you can after all contribute anything in such a marketplace of obscure and fantastic information.

Remember that they all started the same way, from a complete lack of knowledge of the UFO phenomenon. You have to build your background slowly, patiently. You must regard yourself as being as good as anyone else in pursuing UFOs. As previously stated, there are no experts so don't idol-worship Ufologists. Respect them if they are honest and truth-seeking and follow such an ideal yourself. Hold untruthy, chicanery, exaggeration, pretentiousness, pomposity and greed in great disregard and express such in a way that will discourage others from wanting to pursue those negative attributes. Then you know you will be an important contributor to improving our knowledge.

Welcome to the UFO field!"

Barry Greenwood

Barry Greenwood is the co-author with Larry Fawcett of "Clear Intent", which has been re-issued and available as "The UFO Cover-Up" at your local bookstores. Some of the basis for the evidence discussed in the book was uncovered by the research efforts of many people including Robert Todd, an independent researcher who has been an associate of Barry Greenwood for many years.

Ed Stewart

Ed Stewart ufoindex@jps.net | So Man, who here seems principal alone,
There Is Something | Perhaps acts second to some sphere unknown.
Going On! ,>'?'<, | Touches some wheel, or verges to some goal,
Salvador Freixedo (0 0) | 'Tis but a part we see, and not a whole.
-----oo00-(_)--00oo----- Alexander Pope, Essay on Man -----

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