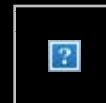


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Black's Update on Whitley Strieber

From: Glenn Joyner <infohead@airmail.net>
Date: Thu, 22 Apr 1999 15:10:00 -0500
Fwd Date: Thu, 22 Apr 1999 17:50:49 -0400
Subject: Black's Update on Whitley Strieber

Jerry Black recently made an offer to Whitley Strieber. He got no response. Jerry has asked that this update be sent to the list. Thanks, GJ

Update On Whitley Strieber

On January 4, 1999, I placed an extensive 4 1/2 month review of the various books of Whitley Strieber [which concerned his encounters with "The Visitors"] on the internet. This review included his latest book, "Confirmation."

In this report, I offered Mr. Strieber and his wife, Anne, the opportunity to take a properly sponsored polygraph test. I had agreed to not only bring the polygraph expert to them at their home in San Antonio, Texas, but to pay for all the expenses incurred for both polygraph tests, transportation and other related expenses. I stated in this report that Mr. Whitley Strieber would need to respond by February 4, 30-days from the time it appeared on the internet.

When nothing was heard from Mr. Whitley Strieber within this 30-day period, I decided to also 'priority-mail' a copy of this report directly to his address to ensure that he received the report. This report was mailed to Mr. Strieber on January 18, and he should have received it on January 20.

As of writing this report on April 10, 1999, I have not received any reply from Mr. Strieber concerning any willingness to take this third-party sponsored polygraph test. As I have stated earlier, all of Mr. Strieber's previous polygraph tests that he mentions in his books were either self-sponsored or given by people who had an interest in his passing these tests.

I was trying to give Mr. Strieber the opportunity -if indeed his account is a factual one- to take a properly sponsored polygraph test which would go a long way in helping to support his claims of encounters with the visitors.

My fairness and objectivity in giving these tests certainly cannot be questioned. As of this date, I have offered polygraph tests in four separate UFO-related cases. In two of those cases, the Travis Walton abduction and the Casey County, Kentucky Incident, those participants agreed to take the tests and all parties passed the polygraph examinations that I administered to them. In the Liberty, Kentucky abduction, the participants were Mona Stafford, Elaine Thomas and Louise Smith. The test was administered by Mr. James Young who, at that time, was the

president of The Polygraph Association of Kentucky. Likewise, more recently, Travis Walton, Mike Rogers and Allen Dallas all agreed to take polygraph tests that were offered to them, and all three passed. In the early 90's, I offered a polygraph test -on two different occasions- to Ed Walters. On both occasions, Mr. Walters has done just what Whitley Strieber has done by not acknowledging my offer for a properly sponsored polygraph test.

Inasmuch as Mr. Strieber and his wife Anne have refused to respond to my request for the polygraph test -and lacking any evidence whatsoever to support his numerous claims of encounters with visitors, it is my opinion that Mr. Whitley Strieber has perpetrated a massive hoax on not only the UFO community, but against the American people.

For someone with the writing skills of Mr. Strieber to perpetrate a hoax of this magnitude is certainly unforgivable. Because of Mr. Strieber's experience as a well known science-fiction writer, he has the ability to make his words more realistic, more interesting and more believable.

Whitley Strieber has been called a 'contactee' by Art Bell, because of his alleged encounters with the visitors during the middle and late 80's. The contactee, because of his numerous experiences, affords the UFO researcher an opportunity to set-up motion detection equipment, cameras, tape recorders and other instruments to try and document the incident on audiotape or film. There is even the hope that staying overnight at the alleged contactees home may result in a personal experience with the alleged visitors. I am personally unaware of any case with Mr. Strieber where any UFO researchers were able to obtain any documentation or evidence to confirm the alleged encounters with these visitors.

The reasons that no information is obtainable from any of these contactees varies from case to case. In some instances, the alleged contactee -while allowing the equipment to be placed in his home for long periods of time- claims that the encounters stopped because, in his opinion, the visitors [or extraterrestrial beings] knew that the equipment was there. In other cases, the subject would not allow investigators to set up equipment - for one reason or another. In the case of Mr. Strieber, he kept investigators at odds because of his belief that investigators were harassing him. Whatever the reason may be, the end result is the same: the UFO community has not been able to obtain any useful information from alleged contactees even though these people claim to have repeat experiences night after night, sometimes for months on end.

It is my opinion that Whitley Strieber kept investigators at odds because he was not having any real experiences, and realized that if he were to allow investigators to stay at his cabin on a repeat basis to set up the proper equipment to detect these alleged visitors, there would be no results and his hoax on the UFO community would be revealed.

Recently, in February of this year, Mr. Whitley Strieber appeared on an NBC UFO special entitled "Confirmation," which was named after his latest book. From his appearance on this program, we can certainly assume that he has changed his mind about UFO abductees from his earlier position that he had taken from the writing of his books "Communion" and "Transformation." It appears that Mr. Strieber's opinions changed depending upon which way the financial winds are blowing.

Mr. Whitley Strieber claims on the UFO/NBC special that he had investigated over 200 cases of alleged abduction encounters. If he had been reincarnated over 10-times, Whitley Strieber could not have investigated over 200 cases of alien abduction. Most researchers recognize that abduction claims take months to research and investigate, and in some cases [as with the Casey County, Kentucky case], it took years to investigate. In the NBC special, we see Mr. Strieber walking with alleged abductee Jesse Long. Strieber goes on to say that the Long case is one of the better cases he had investigated. Mr. Long has claimed that he had been abducted on many occasions, and has fathered at least nine hybrid alien children.

I will now illustrate how dramatically Whitley Strieber has changed his opinion about alien abductees from what you saw in the NBC TV special "Confirmation," and the way he felt back in

the late 80's and early 90's concerning UFO abduction cases. On Sept. 21, 1988, Strieber was due to appear on a show "People Are Talking," appearing on KPIX Channel 5 in San Francisco. When Strieber realized that there was to be another gentleman appearing on the show from the CSICOP organization, he was irate. Karen Stevens, the producer of the show, tried to calm him down and explain to him that everything had been cleared with his publisher and publicist in accordance with the instructions they had given her, and there was no problem with having the SCICOP member on the show with him. Nevertheless, Strieber was still irate. He thought 'this person will say I'm crazy, that I'm nuts. I will not appear on this show...'

To make a long story short, Mr. Strieber eventually did appear on the show with this gentleman, but refused to talk about or promote his book, Transformation, which was the reason he was there to begin with.

I would like everyone to pay very close attention to this next statement: Whitley Strieber charged that the host of the show was bound to misrepresent his experience by saying they were 'alien visitors,' which he never -at that time- claimed to know if these visitors were extraterrestrial. Whitley Strieber went on to say: "Those people who claim alien encounters are just as crazy as CSICOP."

For those who feel that Mr. Strieber was incorrectly quoted because this information comes from a third party, I would like to refer you to Mr. Strieber's Communion Letter, from the Spring Issue, Vol. 3, No. 1 [1991]. Whitley Strieber states [quote]: "The so-called UFOlogist are probably the cruelest, nastiest and craziest people I have ever encountered. Their interpretation of 'The Visitor' experience is rubbish from the beginning to end. The "abduction reports" they generate are not real, they are artifacts of hypnosis and cultural conditioning.

I would now like to address some of the comments I have made concerning Mr. Whitley Strieber. I cannot believe the arrogant, egotistical attitude by Mr. Strieber in not wanting to appear on the television show in 1988 with the CSICOP member. Most abductees and UFO investigators understand that when they go public, they are subject to criticism. The majority of television and radio talk shows want to have a participant from both sides of the argument. For Mr. Whitley Strieber to expect that he should be the only one on the show and not want to talk about his book if he's not, is totally unacceptable.

To show that Mr. Whitley Strieber has not changed that attitude since 1988, about six-months ago he was heard on a radio talk show [hosted by a lady]. About 40-minutes into the program, Mr. Strieber was asked by the host of the show if he had evidence to support his numerous claims of encounters with "The Visitors." Immediately, Mr. Strieber replied: "I sense hostility," and he walked off the show.

So we can see that Mr. Strieber's arrogant, egotistical attitude continues to this day.

For those people who have written Mr. Strieber during the past 12 or 13-years to praise him for his books concerning his encounters with "The Visitors," and especially to those people who have wrote Mr. Strieber concerning abductions they have felt that they have had, I would like to just remind you that through 1988 through 1991 [and who knows how much longer], Mr. Strieber has professed to 'not believe' in alien abductions, and as I pointed out before that he stated in his own journal, the abductions reports are 'not real, but the artifacts of cultural conditioning.'

It is my opinion that to this day, Mr. Strieber does not believe anyone has ever had an abduction experience, even though on December 12, 1998, Mr. Whitley Strieber announced: "I am making at this point a fundamental change in what I have said for years. I have always held in question whether or not The Visitors are real. That is over for me. They are real, and until proven otherwise, I think that we should assume they are aliens."

Now Mr. Strieber embraces all those who had abduction experiences, where in the past, he has always criticized you or said you were crazy. But let's not be misled. Mr. Whitley

Strieber's change of heart is not because he now believes your experiences, it's because it is financially productive for him to go with the alien abduction scenario, which is where the money is in UFO research and UFO books.

It is my opinion that Mr. Strieber, to this day, has never had a UFO experience, has never had any meetings with 'The Visitors,' and more importantly, does not believe in alien abductions.

For those hundreds of people out there who truly feel they've had abduction experiences, they know that when they go public, they will be facing ridicule. They know when they appear on radio or TV shows that there will be someone sitting across from them who is going to question everything they have to say. But when they go public with the abduction scenario, they do so with that understanding. They take the criticism and keep responding that their experience was a very real experience. The reason why Mr. Whitley Strieber gets so upset and walks off a radio or TV show when challenged by statements or people on the same program, is because he is embarrassed. He cannot feel the feeling that true abductees feel. That feeling of being alone and not being able to prove their situation, of being in awe of the experience they have had... of wanting people to believe and understand. Mr. Strieber, because he has never had a true experience with visitors or extraterrestrial beings, does not have that feeling. So the only feeling he can put out there is a feeling of embarrassment. And when a person gets embarrassed they get upset, they don't want to talk, they don't want to speak to anyone. That's another indication that Mr. Whitley Strieber's claims of alien contact are not true.

I would like to refer you to Mr. Strieber's own website, concerning information placed there recently regarding the February 17th special on NBC entitled "Confirmation." Mr. Strieber has made it a point to let everyone know that it was 'his' UFO special. He has also repeatedly stated that this was the 'first UFO special' on the three major networks in 20-years. While that was not a major point, it is certainly an incorrect point. In the last 20-years, there have been eight to ten UFO specials on the three major networks - ABC, NBC and CBS. The most recent one I recall was "Intruders," which was named after Budd Hopkins' book [I believe on the same NBC network]. So why Mr. Whitley Strieber continues to say that this is the first UFO special in 20-years on any of the three major networks, I do not know.

Further, I feel that Mr. Whitley Strieber thinks that because the networks came to him to do this special, which was named after his latest book [to which he also was one of the executive producers], that this helps to validate his experiences and all the books he had written during the past twelve years. That is certainly an untrue statement, as everyone should know, the networks are concerned with a known name, and how well that known name will sell their program. They have no interest in whether Mr. Whitley Strieber's story is a true story or an untrue story.

It is, in reality, the interest of the general public in the subject of UFOs that makes the networks interested in producing these UFO specials.

Most UFO researchers, except for some of the bigger names that appear on national TV, are certainly aware that it is not the investigator which causes people to listen, it is the UFO subject itself. A few months after I had appeared on a local radio talk show hosted by Alan Browning, I received a call from him around midnight. It turns out that Alan and his wife Sue were on vacation, and another gentleman was doing their show. The show was an open-forum show, and was not receiving any calls. Alan asked me if I would, at that late time of the evening, mind doing the last 3-hours of the show talking about UFOs, to help this young gentleman out. After the first 15-minutes on the show, we went to a commercial. The young gentleman came back on the phone and excitedly said: "All the lines are lit! All the lines are lit! I really appreciate this, you've saved the show!"

I replied to the gentleman that I hadn't saved the show, but rather, UFO subject is what saved the show.

Most of my friends and UFO researchers who watched the

Confirmation program on the NBC network, did not feel that it was a very good show over-all. In fact, for the first ninety minutes, many of my friends and UFO researchers commented that it was 'same old, same old.' The only thing that seemed to impress my friends was the final half-hour of the sighting in northern Ohio of many police officers concerning a UFO sighted for over 6-hours. There were tape recordings of communication between the dispatchers and police officers on this program. Kenny Young, the gentleman who did the investigation of the case, does a tremendous job in UFO research. So for the most part, most of my friends were not impressed with the UFO special Confirmation. I thought the dramatization of the alleged implant was totally unnecessary, but of course I have to take into account that Mr. Whitley Strieber was the executive producer. The shots of Mr. Strieber, looking through the window as the operation was performed, was certainly inappropriate dramatization.

Mr. Strieber's statement on the confirmation special about investigating 200 abduction cases and also the comments in his journal on his website about being a UFO investigator are totally ludicrous. Mr. Strieber would not know how to investigate a UFO case, period.

This is certainly dramatized by the fact that he took his own polygraph test himself, which is not acceptable within the UFO community as being a valid test. So any claims Mr. Strieber may make as far as being a UFO investigator, I find totally ridiculous.

Ironically, there are remarkable similarities between the Ed Walters/Gulf Breeze case and the Whitley Strieber case. Most objective and scientific investigators have correctly concluded that the Ed Walters/Gulf Breeze case is a hoax. Only a few steadfast MUFON investigators in Gulf Breeze and Bruce Maccabbee feel there is any validity to that case. With that in mind, I would like to mention some similarities between the two gentlemen concerning their claims of UFO abduction.

a.) Both Ed Walters and Whitley Strieber have tried to use other people's experiences to validate their own cases. I cannot say enough times that each case is evaluated on its own merits. No case can be evaluated based upon a sighting by another person at different times or locations. It is not acceptable in true scientific UFO research.

b.) Both gentlemen have used deceitful wording or statements to imply to their readers that their case is valid. Mr. Ed Walters stopped a PSE report [voice-stress analysis] in mid-sentence to make it appear that he passed when he did not. One incident with Mr. Whitley Strieber involves 'knocks on the roof' to which he implied they had to be extraterrestrial [which they do not have to be].

c.) Ed Walters and Mr. Whitley Strieber both sponsored and took their own polygraph tests with no third-party involved. Both attempted to use these invalid polygraph tests to validate their alleged experiences.

d.) Both gentlemen then refused my [and in the case of Ed Walters, other people's] request to take a properly-sponsored third-party polygraph test.

e.) Both gentlemen have shown embarrassment when confronted in the public, on the radio and TV about their alleged experiences, even to the point of hostility. Mr. Ed Walters, while being challenged by Phillip Klass on the Oprah Winfrey show, became upset when Mr. Klass said he Walters was abducted. Ed Walters then said on national TV: "I never said I was abducted." Yet in his book on the Gulf Breeze sightings, which had been out for a long period of time, Mr. Ed Walters wrote that he had been abducted, and ironically enough wrote a book later concerning the numerous other abductions that had occurred to him during that time. Mr. Whitley Strieber has become embarrassed and irate on radio and TV shows whether because of having someone appearing on the program with him or because of a very simple question about his experiences, so he has shown hostility and embarrassment on many different occasions.

Finally, the biggest similarity between the Mr. Ed Walters' case and Mr. Whitley Strieber's claims of UFO experiences is, in my

firm opinion after more than 4 years of research on the Ed Walters/Gulf Breeze sightings, and more than a 4 month review of Mr. Whitley Strieber's books, I have concluded -without question- that both gentlemen have perpetrated a massive hoax on the UFO community and the American People.

In the next year, Mr. Strieber may get the opportunity to appear on another UFO special. A few months ago I was talking with a television producer who was thinking about doing a program on UFO hoaxes. Because of the recent program on the FOX network concerning UFO hoaxes, this gentleman said he would have to hold off on starting his production for the special on UFO hoaxes. The name of the program was going to be 'Strange Phenomenon's Biggest Hoaxes.' I had informed him at that time about the Ed Walters' case and, more recently, about the Whitley Strieber case. He seemed excited and interested in both cases, because they were both well-known national figures. So it looks like, Mr. Whitley Strieber, down the road sometime you may be given the opportunity to appear on this special and defend your case, as will Ed Walters. He has not yet started to work on the pilot, but when he does, he said he will let me know. This may take between 12 and 18-months, and of course he is very excited and hoping the program will be accepted.

In closing, Mr. Whitley Strieber, you have complained in the past how the American media does not review your books. I will promise you this: I will continue to review each and every book that you write concerning the UFO phenomena. I will place that report on the internet as I have done with my previous reports. It is my sincere hope that someday you will stop writing these books about UFOs.

Finally, Mr. Strieber, you would have the American public believe that you have changed your writing over the past decade from fiction to non-fiction, sharing with them your numerous experiences with "The Visitors." However, in reality, we know that you have continued your illustrious career to this day as strictly a science-fiction writer.

A NOTE ABOUT JERRY BLACK

Mr. Jerry Black has been researching and investigating UFOs in a scientific and objective manner for the past 39 years. He spent four and a half years re-investigating the Ed Walters/Gulf Breeze case, with experienced investigators Rex Salisbury, Barbara Becker, and Zan Overall.

Mr. Black invites your comments on the above. He can be reached at the following address and phone number:

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