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UFO UpDates Mailing List

Re: Mad Max: Beyond the Blunderdome

From: John Heptonstall <Heptonstall@mac-tcm.demon.co.uk>

Date: Fri, 18 Jun 1999 09:35:54 +0100

Fwd Date: Fri, 18 Jun 1999 21:17:54 -0400

Subject: Re: Mad Max: Beyond the Blunderdome

>From: judith jaafar <judithjaafar@compuserve.com>

>To: UFO UpDates - Toronto <updates@globalserve.net>

>Subject: Re: Mad Max: Beyond the Blunderdome

>Date: 18 June 1999 00:35

Hi Judith

I agree with much of your message but feel there's a relatively simple solution that consistently fails (as with the Burns lecture to BUFORA) to be adopted - before allowing a forum to ANY person, ensure that they have reasonable evidence to support their theory.

If you allow anyone to speak about anything without prior vetting and applying some simple rules you end up with the current unacceptable complex of 'theory' and 'conjecture'. I know we are often dealing with 'paranormal' and therefore by definition 'difficult to explain' phenomena but that cannot preclude expecting one to provide explanations based on reasonable scientific or anecdotal evidence.

Socrates, and yes even Reich, had reasonable evidence on which

to base their theories. They (especially Reich) were met with a solid wall of disbelief, not because of lack of evidence but for 'political' reasons. That's often seen in UFOlogy in the form of extreme 'sceptics' who, despite workable evidence, continue to verbally criticise workable theories irrationally (and sometimes through the provision of their own un-workable theories!).

If Margaret Fry can produce a working hypothesis based on all evidence of Berwyn Mountain then that's fine; if she cannot she should accept her failings. Andy's theory appears to fit the evidence, he may ultimately be proved wrong (as may Dave and the Derby's case) but let's not entertain any old theorist who, without workable evidence, decides to contradict another.

Prejudice is another thing, and can be discounted amongst the objective group in favour of workable evidence.

Regards

John.

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