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UFO UpDates Mailing List

Re: First 'Grey' Report?

From: Mark Cashman <mcashman@ix.netcom.com>
Date: Fri, 14 May 1999 13:44:19 -0400
Fwd Date: Sat, 15 May 1999 01:34:07 -0400
Subject: Re: First 'Grey' Report?

>Date: Thu, 13 May 1999 22:45:47 +0100
>To: UFO UpDates - Toronto <updates@globalserve.net>
>From: John Rimmer <magonia@magonia.demon.co.uk>
>Subject: Re: First 'Grey' Report?

John expresses difficulties with John Velez' desire to restrict focus to abductions where the witness reports full consciousness during all portions of the abduction event. He rightly raises the Puddy event as problematic for many abduction cases, but I believe is unfair to John Velez, who is simply trying to reduce the potential for noise level in the study of abductions as real events.

There are a number of ways to explain the Puddy case, and to the best of my knowledge none of them have been explored (in the experimental, scientific sense).

One is to explain it as a physical / mental disorder such as temporal lobe epilepsy - which would lead to a negative conclusion in regard to her entire set of reported experiences.

There are some obvious relationships between medical symptoms which seem common between abductees / high strangeness witnesses and epilepsy patients (or, one should say, persons with traumatic brain injury). An excellent survey of these symptoms can be found at

<http://www.ellenwhite.org/headinjury.htm>

They include:

"the following complaints: headaches, vertigo and dizziness, nervousness, irritability, impaired memory, inability to concentrate, excessive fatigue, difficulty with sleep... Other attributes include a sense of ill health and a reduction in the capacity to earn a livelihood."

These symptoms, which are present in various high-strangeness witnesses (usually after the event), can still be suggestive in two ways -

- 1) They are the cause of the report.
- 2) They are the result of the events described (i.e. "paralysis" by ray, etc. causes temporary or permanent brain malfunction or damage)

With regard to (1), we read:

"In 1888 Hughlings Jackson reported fifty cases of epilepsy that manifested an aura or dreamy state, including some rather extreme examples of automatism. These happened to a physician who was a patient of Jackson's. In one of his experiences he was traveling on a commuter train and was to get off at the fourth station. He remembered passing the second station, but the next thing he knew he was standing on the door steps of his house, fumbling for his door key. He had left the train at the correct station, turned in his ticket at the gate, walked half a mile, and crossed streets to his house - none of which he recalled. It had been an automatic behavior for which he was amnesic. (64) Interestingly, another of Jackson's patients referred to his seizure experiences as "visions." Sleepwalkers may open doors and climb stairs safely but not remember their actions; it is an automatism."

This, of course, might be the classic "missing time" experience. It can also explain the absence of the abductee in some missing time events, since automatism would allow them to leave and return.

One might suggest that it would be interesting to hypnotize persons known to have TLE who have had some exposure to abduction information, to see, as in a previous but flawed experiment, the degree to which abduction accounts are produced and the similarity of those to the patterns described by Bullard and alluded to by Jacobs.

Catelepsy and automatism is also interesting in regard to (2), since one of the persistent mysteries of CE-III reports have been the reports where the witness is paralysed by a ray and yet does not fall. The suggestion is that this ray causes an interference with brain function that is in some way similar to epilepsy. The reason this is attractive is that we would prefer (for reasons of simplicity) not to have to attribute to the occupants any special knowledge of human brain structure.

It is much more likely that a variety of creatures in different evolutions will use electrically mediated nervous systems than that such creatures will have similar brain structures, so a weapon which would cause the effect described without such knowledge is inherently more plausible than that which does require it (i.e. for non-humans to have a weapon which paralyses because of the nature of the human brain as an electrical system rather than one which must operate on a specific brain center by design, seems more probable, since the second would require a complex of experiments by the non-humans on human brains prior to the development of such a weapon - nevertheless, of course, we cannot a priori rule out that such experiments have occurred.)

On the pro-abduction-reality side of a relationship between TLE and abductions is:

"In 1933 Penfield discovered that when he electrically stimulated certain groups of nerve cells in the temporal lobe, the patient would "relive" - as in a moving picture or a "flashback" - what had been experienced in one way or another earlier in life. In other words, the temporal lobe system records all the experiences that a particular person has had; and even if it is beyond the direct recall of the individual (forgotten), it is still recorded and can be brought back to consciousness by artificial electrical stimulation or by an electrical discharge in the brain during an epileptic seizure."

In other words, if a witness had a TLE effect as a result of an event in a real abduction experience, or exposure to some weapon used by the occupants, it is possible for a later seizure to "replay" the actual events at a later date. Again, something similar to this has been reported occasionally in the UFO literature.

Another pattern of interest which should be looked for in the abduction data is:

"Lennox has pointed out that seizures lasting several hours might occur once or twice a year; and that the more frequent the seizures are, the more likely that they will be of short duration. (79) Partial complex seizures usually last from only a

few seconds to several minutes, but may also last hours and, rarely, days."

In other words, if abductions are related to TLE, then those reporting most frequent abductions will show the shortest amount of missing time for each (on average). Again, this is a study which has not been done.

Interestingly, "There are numerous causes for epilepsy, including hereditary predisposition, birth injury, postnatal head injury, meningitis and other infections, tumor, metabolic abnormality, vascular disease, and intoxication. The most common type of epilepsy is temporal lobe epilepsy, and the most common cause for this is head injury."

Certainly, studies of Puddy and other abductees for such factors could be rewarding in either implicating or discounting TLE, but to the best of my knowledge such studies have not been done.

Finally, the cautions about TLE interpretations of abductions as raised by Robert J. Durrant

http://www.ipacific.net.au/~pavig/temporallobeepilepsy_456.shtml

must be kept in mind:

"Several other optional interpretations are possible, and I will summarize them here with the understanding that in future articles they will be expanded. First, that most if not all persons who have close encounters with UFO's suffer, among a variety of other physiological effects, disruption of the electrical functions of the brain, including the temporal lobe area. because of the peculiarities of the temporal lobe, "flashbacks" can occur throughout life after the initial triggering event. It is unlikely that monitoring of the electrical pulses of the brain would reveal the irregularities associated with clinical diagnosis of temporal lobe epilepsy. Second, it may be that external means of controlling or communicating with the temporal lobe regions is the means by which the aliens deal with abductees. In addition to the positive communications or signals, the process may well include generation of "noise" both during the communication and, per the remarks above, long after the communications."

It should also be noted:

<http://www.mhsource.com/edu/psytimes/p950927.html>

"Altogether Penfield (Mullan and Penfield 1959) divided the illusions of interpretation into four groups:

- 1) Auditory illusions accompanied by the perception that sounds were louder or clearer, fainter or more distinct, nearer or farther away;
- 2) Visual illusions where things seemed clearer or blurred, nearer or farther away, larger or smaller; fatter or thinner;
- 3) Illusions of recognition where present experience seemed familiar, strange, altered or unreal; and
- 4) Illusions of emotion consisting of feelings of fear, loneliness, sorrow or disgust.

None of these groups of symptoms are unique to epilepsy. Migraine sufferers regularly experience illusions of sound, sight, taste and smell."

And none of them bear much resemblance to UFO or abduction phenomena, either.

Another possible cause for the Puddy event is PTSD, which, in studies among veterans, has been shown to cause the reliving of real events at other times, with complete realism, stimulated by some perception similar to that from the event. PTSD has not been very much studied among high strangeness witnesses, yet it is reasonable to expect that it would be present if these were real events.

There is no question in my mind that there are several fairly distinct categories of "contact" related cases, as already expressed in my classification system of "contact" reports. There is also a fairly smooth continuum between those categories. The major discontinuity arises in the consistency of the entities reported under hypnosis, and the near absence of such entities in the much more varigated CE-III reports, and in the apparent avoidance of entry to the witness homes in CE-IIIs and the entry of such entities into homes in abductions, especially those I class as "burglar" cases.

There are, of course, multiple witness abductions, though as with conventional UFO cases, the viewpoint of the additional witnesses varies. If one is interested in cases which might have become abductions as well as those which are claimed to be abductions, then we definitely have cases where occupants are seen to at least attempt to carry off a human being.

Of course, we have the Walton case and the Andreasson case to name two very famous cases. In the Walton case, the witnesses did not in any way participate in the abduction and thus the case may be considered multiple independent witness. The Allagash abduction is a multiple abduction, and, of course, so is the Hill case.

What is almost more interesting is an event like the Copley Woods case, where there were external witnesses to unusual circumstances (sound, EM effects, and light displays) at the time of the event, a physical trace which persisted for years was found after the event, and medical effects on eyes and skin - all demonstrating a consistency with "conventional" UFO phenomena.

Now, John asks whether we have cases where external witnesses saw someone being carried off into a "nuts and bolts" object by beings. I would answer - yes, though in those cases, to the best of my knowledge, the abduction was typically not successful.

In this connection, of course, one immediately thinks of the Paz case from Venezuela, though this abduction attempt was foiled. A "nuts and bolts" taking is the da Silva case, where the father disappeared during a confrontation with two objects and this was witnessed by his son.

Another interesting case in this regard is the 1969 Brown case from Awanui, New Zealand, where a witness observed two unusual men with an unconscious woman, and physical traces were found the next day.

Ultimately, it is not surprising that John Velez is convinced of the reality of what he has perceived and that he is concerned by the dismissal which seems to exist whenever these events are considered. As I believe I have shown above, even medical explanations can be viewed in two ways, and the studies which would determine if they are causal or caused in regard to the events reported have not been done. Thus we would do well to tread carefully and work with the strongest abduction data to determine if those cases can be explained as caused by non-objective factors. If so, then the more obviously non-physical cases are even more likely to be so explained.

I hope that none of this will be taken as disrespect to those who have had or reported these experiences. Determining the nature of the abduction experience is important, if for no other reason than to end or alleviate the suffering of those with these experiences. Sadly, as careful as many of the researchers in this field have tried to be, however, there is a tremendous amount of contamination and there are many problematic accounts. We must be very very

careful to avoid attributing specific objective reality to some of these events, and we must be especially wary of doing damage to concepts of objective physical reality in attempting to bring these events within the sphere of understanding. If, indeed, these events present new insights into the nature of reality, those insights will have to wait until the serious, objective, and fact-based research required has been undertaken.

Mark Cashman, creator of The Temporal Doorway at
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- Original digital art, writing, music and more -

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