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## UFO UpDates Mailing List

### Re: British Astronomer: Belief In UFOs 'Damaging'

From: **Jim Mortellaro** <[Jsmortell@aol.com](mailto:Jsmortell@aol.com)>  
Date: Sat, 18 Sep 1999 20:58:29 EDT  
Fwd Date: Sun, 19 Sep 1999 08:29:15 -0400  
Subject: Re: British Astronomer: Belief In UFOs 'Damaging'

>Date: Fri, 17 Sep 1999 17:31:36 -0600  
>To: UFO UpDates - Toronto <[updates@globalserve.net](mailto:updates@globalserve.net)>  
>From: Don Allen <[dona@amigo.net](mailto:dona@amigo.net)>  
>Subject: Re: British Astronomer: Belief In UFOs 'Damaging'

>>From: Jenny Randles <[nufon@currantbun.com](mailto:nufon@currantbun.com)>  
>>To: <[updates@globalserve.net](mailto:updates@globalserve.net)>  
>>Subject: Re: British Astronomer: Belief In UFOs 'Damaging'  
>>Date: Thu, 16 Sep 1999 20:58:16 +0100

><snippage>

>G'day Ms Randles,

M'am...

>>I wanted to advise that I did a radio programme in Sheffield  
>>with Dr Mitton today. She was charming, well informed and  
>>objective.

It'd be a really neat start for such a charming and objective person to avoid tearing down every single sighting and every single witness to a sighting, every UFO researcher and every perceived abductee by claiming that all of that which they've perceived can be explained by natural, man made phenomena. What do you think Ms. Randles?

>>The press stories have not done her justice. I  
>>believe she will be a very useful ally to British Ufology. Yes,  
>>she is a sceptic but she is far from a debunker, has read the  
>>evidence, understands it better than many ufologists I know and  
>>is someone worth keeping on side. She tells me she is free of  
>>research committments and is thus willing to take the big risk  
>>she perceives it to be to her career to talk about UFOs in  
>>public.

With all due respect to you and to Dr. Mitton, there is no risk whatever in making statements such as the one repeated below and mentioned above. Is there? No risk. Nope! None.

>>Its a start and I think we should cultivate rather than  
>>pooh pooh this scientist.

Perhaps she should not pooh pooh the witnesses and researchers. I would suggest that the start be on the side of Dr. Mitton. For a certainty, this was a bad start for her. Not a good way to make friends and influence us goofy crazies. No way at all. Are there no prisons? Are there no workhouses?

>She might well be charming and well informed but then, there's  
>the matter of this section in the press release that Stig  
>posted:

>---

>"Since then interest in UFOs had grown to become a worldwide  
>obsession, said Dr Mitton. But she is convinced every sighting  
>can be explained by natural or man-made phenomena."

>---

>I would not call her entirely "objective". Can she even tell the  
>difference between geese and pelicans?

Well, that part's OK, Don. After all, she wasn't there. Or was she? Conspiracy or Coincidence? You decide!

>I think it's great that a credentialed scientist jumps into the  
>fray. Let her roll her up sleeves, stow away her pre-conceived  
>notions and get to work.

Jim Mortellaro

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