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### NASA Footage At Leeds Conference - Not What It

From: **Tim Matthews** <[matthews@zetnet.co.uk](mailto:matthews@zetnet.co.uk)>  
 Date: Sun, 19 Sep 1999 11:10:55 +0100  
 Fwd Date: Sun, 19 Sep 1999 09:54:02 -0400  
 Subject: NASA Footage At Leeds Conference - Not What It

Dear All,

At Day 1 of yesterday's UFO Magazine (UK) Conference Graham Birdsall showed some NASA TV footage that he'd obtained after sending his colleague Russ Callaghan on a mission to meet 'a source' in Canada.

Later, Birdsall claimed that he had 'smoking gun' evidence that would embarrass NASA and prove, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that we are not alone and that 'craft' are regularly captured on Shuttle cameras.

Perhaps one of the reasons Graham and co. needed to look to Canada is that Britain's #1 researcher of NASA footage, and satellite communications expert, has been working with me for over two years in our own investigation into claims surrounding NASA footage and the supposed 'cover-up' it's involved in.

From the 10-15 minute sample of footage shown yesterday several things are clear;

1 - The objects seen by the cameras are a variety of space debris and dust particles. (We're not convinced that they are ice crystals.)

2 - When the booster rockets on the Shuttle fire, particles around it are obviously dislodged. This fact has not, to my knowledge, been mentioned by the supporters of the NASA conspiracy theory...

3 - The proponents of the conspiracy theory appear to be unaware that the Shuttle cameras are often out of focus, that objects much nearer to the cameras can seem further away and that because low-light filters are sometimes used debris and dust passing by looks brighter than it usually would. Not to mention the sunlight that glints and reflects off the debris.....

4 - Graham Birdsall claims that his 'Canadian' source has 'hundreds of hours' of footage. This is not particularly unusual; John Locker, a top UK Satellite Communications Expert - has similar hours of material including all the relevant STS-82 footage.

5 - In fact, John was contacted some months ago by a man called Don who we suspect might be Graham Birdsall's 'secret' source of information - or associated with him in some way. We have in our possession a message from Don in which he requests a deal whereby John would give him the STS-82 footage with audio (that he presented at my 1997 Conference - months before anyone else!) and would get "UFOs, The Best Evidence Ever on Tape"...in return. Some swap!

6 - Graham Birdsall reportedly claimed on Friday night that NASA TV was 'off-line'. Yesterday he tried to bolster this claim and, in front of the 500 attenders to his 18th International UFO Conference, made a variety of similarly misleading claims about the footage. For a start NASA TV has not been 'taken off-line'. John gets the feed, as do others. This is covered in detail by John in issue 1 of our magazine, 'BEYOND', in an article on NASA TV where we challenge the claims of the NASA conspiracy theorists and especially Dr. Jack Kasher, who, by virtue of his position within MUFON, can hardly be seen as an independent source in terms of STS footage research.

7 - Graham Birdsall is going, apparently, to go to the world's press with this 'smoking gun' footage. He's going to hold a major press conference!

I suggest that he thinks again in light of these conclusions and the underwhelming nature of the footage available. I also suggest that Ufologists find out more about the cameras used on the missions...

I noted with great interest yesterday that Tim Good also found the footage to be unimpressive... Those who believe that this footage is 'evidence that we are not alone' can only do so on the basis that they believe what they are told and do not have the information to come to a sensible conclusion about it

8 - Don, the North American contact, wrote thus (with grammatical and spelling errors included):

"John, I put in an order for a one hour worth of NASA video tape concerning the STS-82 event. I ordered it from Gale Frehre of NASA's video department. The time and date that I asked for was February 18, 1997, 0615 GMT to 0715 GMT. When I received the tape in the mail I noticed that they only sent me 20 minutes of footage and it was labeled as orbit 104. When I viewed it on my VCR they were indeed doing a EVA and then returned to the airlock but I did not hear any conversation out of the ordinary. I don't believe they included enough footage or the EVA I was watching was not the one we are all interested in. I am sure they engaged in more than one EVA. They may have purposely sent me the wrong EVA?

Gale Frehre told me that NASA did not downlink that part I am looking for. But I know that is a lie because you have seen and heard it and so have others. Also she says that what everybody is all excited about is a few buttons on the wall (she had a defiant attitude).

THERE IS A MAN OVER HERE LIVING IN NEBRASKA WHO RECORDED IT. HIS SON WHO IS IN COLLEGE TOOK THE TAPE TO COLLEGE TO LET THE PROFESSOR VIEW IT. THE PROFESSOR, HARRY JORDAN, WHO IS A FRIEND OF DR. JACK KASHER WHO ANALYZED THE STS-48 [?] FOOTAGE FOR ME. JORDAN VIEWED IT WITH MUCH INTEREST AND THEN RETURNED IT TO THE STUDENT, WHEN HARRY LATER DOWN THE ROAD TRIED TO RE-BORROW IT IN ORDER TO MAKE A TAPE, THE FATHER BALKED BECAUSE HE WAS GETTING SPOOKED ON HOW SERIOUS IT ALL WAS GETTING AND REFUSED TO LET HARRY JORDAN REBORROW IT.

I would be more than happy and willing to be that person to handle and receive that tape from you to get the word out over here. I would make sure that you would get full credit of being the source of the tape. I could check the prices for transatlantic shipment and pay for the cost of the copy and perhaps a copy of that enhancement if you wish to include that. On 28th July 1907 on National Fox TV there was a special UFO program called "UFOs, the best evendience Ever on Tape."

80% OF THE NASA FOOTAGE SHOWN WAS MINE AND I SENT THAT TO THE PRODUCERS KIVIAT PRODUCTIONS WITH ONE STIPULATION AND THAT WAS THAT I WOULD GET SCROLL-UP CREDIT AT THE END OF THE SHOW FOR THE FOOTAGE THAT I SENT THEM. THEY AGREED. BUT VIEWING THE CREDIT SHOWED THEY LIED AND DID NOT GIVE ME CREDIT.

Oh well. But anyway if you want this footage to be seen in the US I can di it. My NASA UFO FOOTAGES have been seen on many National UFO shows in the US. Also when I send you a money order for the cost of the STS-82 tape I can include for you a copy of the recent program "UFOs, The Best Ever Evidence On

Tape" and will include at the beginning THE NEVER BEFORE SEEN  
APOLLO 16 SAUCER 16MM FOOTAGE FROM NEAR THE MOON.

The Best,

Don."

If this is the same man, and he seems to have the right connections, then why all the cloak and dagger nonsense that Birdsall was putting out yesterday? None of the footage warrants the "Canadian source" having his face obscured in the UFO Magazine (UK) presentation and being given the code-name 'LILLE'.

This is all quite ridiculous and my only conclusion is that Graham suspects that this kind of drama will help sell his message to the gullible. After all, the Cracoe Fell UFO was 'undeniable evidence' that we were not alone - before Andy Roberts proved this it was a reflection off some rocks. This was Quest International's first big case, and one that they hammed up to both press and public....

If Graham holds a Press Conference using the material shown yesterday I will ensure that every press agency, newspaper and outlet is presented with the actual facts of the case.

This kind of stunt, where the UFO community is bombarded with claims of 'smoking guns' and 'incredible proof' have been part and parcel of 90's Ufology. It has done Ufology irreparable damage and encouraged people to believe in a variety of myths - including "alien space wars" captured on NASA Shuttle cameras!

Unless the footage is presented in context the public will be misled.

Tim Matthews, Editor, BEYOND magazine.

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