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### UpDate: Nick Pope's Weird World - August 2000

From: Georgina Bruni <[georgina@easynet.co.uk](mailto:georgina@easynet.co.uk)>  
Date: Tue, 08 Aug 2000 07:25:46 +0100  
Fwd Date: Tue, 08 Aug 2000 08:11:20 -0400  
Subject: UpDate: Nick Pope's Weird World - August 2000

Weird World by Nick Pope  
[www.hotgossip.co.uk](http://www.hotgossip.co.uk)

Welcome to the August column, and the usual mix of news, views and gossip from the weird and wonderful world of UFOs, alien abductions, paranormal phenomena and anything else that grabs my attention.

#### Summer Conference

For those of you who check this column at the beginning of each month, you have time to book tickets for what promises to be the hottest conference of the Summer. The Unusual Experiences Conference is being held on Sunday 6 August between 9.30 am and 6pm, at Marlborough College in Wiltshire.

The literature promises lectures on UFOs, ghosts, anomalous lights, Near Death Experiences, ancient sites, crop circles and synchronicities. A massive twenty speakers are scheduled to appear, including Robert Bauval, Lucy Pringle, Michael Roll and Peter Sorenson. Tickets are £10 in advance or £12.50 on the door.

Further details can be obtained by checking out:

[www.paradigmshift.com/flyer.html](http://www.paradigmshift.com/flyer.html)

or by telephoning the organisers on 01672 861435/539124. Enjoy yourselves.

#### Turin Shroud

Lynn Picknett and Clive Prince are the formidable writing team behind controversial titles The Templar Revelation and The Stargate Conspiracy. Now, in a long overdue move, the first book they wrote together has been published in paperback. Turin Shroud is the story of, well, you've guessed it, the Turin Shroud. But prepare to be shocked and amazed by what you read. You'll join the authors on what was an extraordinary journey of discovery, where they undertake an investigation worthy of any great detective. The book suggests that the Turin Shroud was faked by none other than Leonardo da Vinci, but I won't tell you how, or even more sensationally, why. You'll have to read it yourselves. Well-researched, gripping, irreverent and heretical, this book comes highly recommended. It costs £6.99 and is published by Corgi Books.

## Turkey Conference

I know I said I'd write an account of the conference I attended in Istanbul, but I'll be writing this up for the next edition of UFO Magazine.

## Lesbian And Gay Abductees

Randle, Estes and Cone have caused much debate over their sensational claim that 50% of abductees are lesbians and gay men. An outrageous claim designed to generate some publicity for their book, or a genuine attempt to kick-start a debate on an important new finding? There are numerous views, but this issue has certainly got people talking, and indeed an e-mail from Randle and Estes prompted a rare online offering from Budd Hopkins, no less. I've discussed this with both Budd Hopkins and with John Mack, in the margins of the conference we attended in Istanbul on 23-25 June.

My view, for what it's worth, is this: while 50% seems a totally outrageous claim (and at odds with my own research and investigations), I have noticed a slightly higher proportion of lesbians and gay men among the abductees than chance alone would suggest. So while there are unanswered questions about the methodology used by Randle and his colleagues, their claim does strike me as something worthy of a closer look.

Now, it's way too early to say what - if anything - this might mean. Science doesn't yet understand homosexuality, and is undecided as to whether it's caused by genetic or cultural factors, or a mixture of both. So if we don't understand homosexuality, we can't hope to understand why it might be (slightly) more prevalent among abductees than among the population as a whole.

One idea that might occur to those abduction researchers who believe the alien agenda involves the removal of genetic samples to create human/alien hybrids is that it has something to do with genetics. Given that lesbians and gay men are less likely to have children, are the abductors attempting to utilise genes that are less likely to be passed on to the general human population?

These are dangerous waters, both because of the prejudices that exist against homosexuals, and because of the ways in which abductees can be ridiculed by debunkers and certain sections of the media. But this is a potentially significant piece of the puzzle, and is something about which we'll doubtless be hearing more over the next few months.

## Books Books Books

The Watkins Books Summer catalogue is out now, and is packed with new titles on various esoteric subjects. Mysteries, the paranormal and self-development all feature strongly, so check out [www.watkinsbooks.com](http://www.watkinsbooks.com) for details of numerous interesting books.

## Desmond Leslie And George Adamski

A regular reader of this column asked me to say something about Desmond Leslie's appearance at the UFO Conference held in San Marino on 3/4 June, with specific reference to whether he still stood by the testimony of the contactee George Adamski. The answer to that is that he most definitely does. Now, that's not to say that Adamski couldn't be - as Leslie put it - "silly". But as he said, we all are, sometimes. Does that mean that Adamski exaggerated a bit? Maybe. But Desmond ended his powerful and witty speech by making the following statement: "George Adamski was an honest man". I'm not sure I can add much to this.

Although I wrote a brief summary of Adamski's story (and those of most of the other better-known contactees) in chapter 2 of *The Uninvited*, the best way to assess the story is by reading *Flying Saucers Have Landed*, the book that Desmond Leslie and George Adamski co-authored.

Additionally, try Adamski's two subsequent books, Inside The Spaceships and Flying Saucers Farewell. And if you can get a copy, the very rare George Adamski: The Untold Story by Lou Zinsstag and Timothy Good is well worth reading.

All I can tell you is this: I very much enjoyed meeting Desmond Leslie and chatting to him at length over various meals during our stay in San Marino. He's a charming and intelligent man, who came across as entirely sincere. He knew Adamski very well and spent a phenomenal amount of time investigating the man and his claims - claims he stands by nearly fifty years after they were first published. Adamski died in 1965 and few of those who now write about him ever met the man, so to my mind the view of Desmond Leslie must count for a lot.

But at the end of the day, it can't be proved either way. Only George Adamski knew for sure, and he took his secrets to the grave.

Nick Pope  
London  
August 2000

Nick Pope's three books, Open Skies, Closed Minds, The Uninvited and Operation Thunder Child are available from all good bookshops and from the usual Internet book sites. His UK publishers are Simon & Schuster. In America, The Overlook Press publish his books in hardback while the paperbacks are produced by Dell Publishing.

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