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STS-75 UFO Video

From: Rick Goldsmith <rgoldsm@synapse.net>
Date: Tue, 02 May 2000 00:56:54 -0400
Fwd Date: Tue, 02 May 2000 02:12:05 -0400
Subject: STS-75 UFO Video

Several things struck me while I watched the STS-75 video on the last TV UFO special ("Real Evidence" or some such) narrated by Johnathan Frakes.

The objects floating about did not really appear to react to or interact in any way with the tether even though the voice-over would lead one to believe the contrary. I had the impression of small particles floating about in the foreground with the tether far behind. The foreground objects are actually too small to see but are reflecting light and completely out of focus, as I would suspect the tether was the object of interest. Think of dust motes you see floating in the air when bright sunlight shines through a crack in a curtain... and squint.

The fact that the largest object appears to pass behind the tether is just a trick of the light. The tether is glowing brightly, as the fuzzy smear of light from the foreground speck passes in front, it is obscured by the brighter object in the background only to reappear on the other side after passing through that crucial line of sight between the camera and the tether. I have observed similiar effects with my quickcam. Somewhat mediocre analogy: If you hold a match up to an intense light you don't see the flame so much as the bright light behind it. The foreground object can actually appear to pass behind the background object. Believe it or not!

Finally, the pulsing or strobing observed in the large foreground smear may be due to a flashing indicator light on the camera (batt. low ?) face or a similiar device on the shuttle console.

A somewhat unrelated note: How the young gentleman at the end of this particular clip managed to relate it to the Dzopa disks of China, all in one breath, just floored me. No connection whatsoever in my mind, even if they were saucers buzzing about the tether. This isn't a rock show. Points awarded for accuracy and clear concise reasoning, not hype and pitch. It's bad enough that the editing and cutting done in these productions tend to throw out the meat and keep the fluff to give the show the spin they're looking for. This results in expert's commentary being left to sound ambiguous with a quick snip, I'm sure.

Sorry for the rant but this type of thing has been burning my butt as of late. The majority of the footage on the show was pretty blase and treated in much the same manner. Perhaps the title had me expecting too much.

There was one highlight to the show. Bruce Maccabee's hair is once more grown past his ears and fast approaching his shoulders, just like a respectable haircut should. 'had me worried :)

Cheers,
Rick Goldsmith

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