

CONTINUUM

The Official Quarterly Journal of ParaNet Information Services, Inc.

Exclusive Interview with Alan Hale

The astronomer who, along with Thomas Bopp discovered the comet that bears their names sets the record straight about the alleged "companion" object containing aliens.

A Buddhist's View of Ufology

by Sally Sheridan

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Revelation: Angels or Aliens?

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From the Publisher's Desk ...

This issue features a transcript of an interview with astronomer Alan Hale, co-discoverer of the comet Hale-Bopp, who appeared on The ParaNet Continuum radio program with Michael Corbin on December 8, 1996. With all of the controversy around the comet that was caused by tabloid radio personality Art Bell, we felt it was necessary to go to "the horse's mouth", so to speak, and get the real answer. We took some flak for our common sense views, but it was all made worthwhile Art Bell had to admit that he was duped by hoaxed pictures.

Our psychological consultants, Greg Wheeler and Scott Scribner, have written another in their continuing series of scholarly articles on abduction research, likening abduction research to Schroedinger's cat. Schroedinger was a famous physicist whose wave equation attempts to address the important (to physicists) question: is light a particle or a wave? According to modern theory, it is both. The cat paradox is an thought experiment devised by Schroedinger: say we put a cat in an opaque box containing a sample of some radioactive material and a vial of deadly hydrogen cyanide. It is arranged so that when an atom of the radioactive sample decays, a signal causes a hammer to drop on the vial, releasing the toxic gas and killing the cat. According to common sense, the cat is either dead or alive, but according to quantum theory, the whole system is described by a wave function and the problem is, as long as you don't open the lid of the box to see whether the cat is alive or dead, it is, according to the Schroedinger equation, both alive and dead! In Wheeler and Scribner's article, a similar cat is envisioned to help describe the state of affairs in abduction research: is an abduction narrative a physical event or a dream?

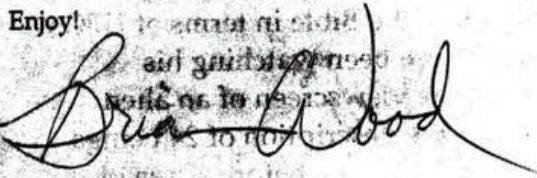
We've also got a couple of articles dealing with religion in this issue: Sally Sheridan, a long time UFO

researcher and Buddhist, describes how her religion treats the idea of life elsewhere; and I have printed excerpts from an unpublished book I wrote a few years ago in which I analyze the book of Revelation, from the Christian Bible, in terms of UFOs. It's a fanciful "what if" kind of story that's not intended to discredit religion, but it does make you think about the possibilities. There have been several books published on the topic of UFOs in the Bible ("The Bible and UFOs", "The Spaceships of Ezekiel"). Maybe it's not so farfetched...

And of course our regular features, Random Walk, ParaNet Postings, and Sources and Resources return. As always, we are constantly improving this magazine. Please write, call or e-mail us and tell us how we're doing. If there's anything you especially want us to cover, either here or on the radio program, don't hesitate to let us know.

Remember, we pay for articles that we accept for publication at the rate of \$10/page (about a penny a word). Articles should be submitted by e-mail to brianmwood@msn.com. If you don't have e-mail capabilities, we can accept articles on IBM-formatted floppy disk, in either MS Word, Lotus AmiPro or ASCII text formats.

Enjoy!


Brian Wood
Editor/Publisher

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Exclusive interview with Astronomer Alan Hale

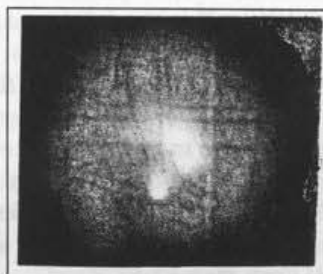
This is a transcript of the interview conducted on the air between Michael Corbin and Alan Hale on The ParaNet Continuum radio program, #139, December 8, 1996.

ParaNet: My guest tonight is a professional astronomer. He got his Ph.D. from New Mexico State University in 1992. Before that, he was an engineer at JPL working on the Deep Space Network. He is the founder and director of the Southwest Institute for Space Research. He and Tom Bopp discovered comet Hale-Bopp on July 23, 1995. It's my pleasure to welcome to the program Alan Hale. Good evening. Tell us about the discovery of comet Hale-Bopp.

Hale: In addition to being a professional astronomer, I observe known comets in the sky as a hobby. I've been doing that ever since I was in high school. That particular evening, there were two comets in the sky I was going out to grab observations of. I finished up with the first one about midnight and I had about an hour before the second one rose above the house, so I had an hour to kill. It was an absolutely gorgeous summer evening here and I thought I would pass the time by looking at some star clusters and other such objects in and around the constellation Sagittarius, which marks the center of the Milky Way galaxy. I turned the telescope toward a star cluster and there was a little fuzzy object in the same field of view.

ParaNet: And that was Hale-Bopp! Let's first get a little education. What is a comet?

Hale: It is a dirty snowball - basically a big mixture of water-ice, carbon monoxide-ice mixed in with interplanetary dust, a few organic compounds and so on. They're leftovers from the days of the planets formation 4.5 billion years ago. They are members of the solar system. Most of them orbit on very elongated orbits, so they spend a very tiny fraction of their time near the sun, and a very long time very far from the sun. The average one is a few miles across.



The comet as seen from Hubble

ParaNet: Is it true that our knowledge of comets is fairly new - that we don't understand all the dynamics of them?

Hale: I wouldn't go so far as to say that. We've known they were members of the solar system for several centuries now, thanks to a guy names Edmund Halley, who I think everybody has heard of. Early in this century, there were several ideas about what comets really were as physical objects. Fred Whipple in 1950 was the one to propose the dirty snowball idea, and that idea was very spectacularly verified by the Jado spacecraft in 1986 when it flew by Halley's comet.

ParaNet: What do you say to the comment that Hale-Bopp is being followed by a companion object?

Hale: Completely absurd. Why should there be alien spacecraft following a comet, which is a

known member of our solar system? For one, I have been following the comet on a very regular basis and I invite anyone who doesn't believe me to go out and look at it for themselves. It's visible to the naked eye right now and there's absolutely no credence to that idea. The person who originally made this report made several gigantic errors and did some very slipshod work.

Just by looking at this person's web page, I believe that he is prone to believing in a lot of outlandish things. His web page is full of charges of government conspiracy, cover-ups, scientists are a bunch of liars, etc. etc., ad nauseam, ad infinitum. So I think he was coming from a rather prejudiced viewpoint.

ParaNet: I think the thing that is getting a lot of people interested is the picture that he puts up that shows what he calls the Saturn-like object, or a companion object. But you have discovered what that is...

Hale: Yes. It's a star. It's a fairly bright star the comet happened to be close to on the night in question. It is very easily provable. What I did when I posted the solution on the Hale-Bopp web page was that I downloaded a copy of the Palomar Digital Sky Survey, which is a sky survey taken at Palomar Observatory in the 1950s - the particular image that I posted was taken in 1954, and if you orient it to match the star field in this photograph and match the stars, you will see that his object was a bright star that was in the field.

ParaNet: Which star was it?

Hale: I don't know the exact number - it was HD12 something something something. It doesn't have a name, just a catalog number.

ParaNet: How many things in astronomy are actually discovered by amateurs?

Hale: Well, let's see. On the average, a dozen or so comets are discovered every year. Most are dinky little things that nobody's very interested in except for scientists who study comets. I would say on the average, 3-4 comets a year are discovered by amateur astronomers.

ParaNet: Wouldn't it seem to you that if there was a conspiracy, it would be a real problem to involve amateurs, who have no agenda. I can't understand why no other amateurs have come forward with additional pictures showing this companion object.

Hale: Well, because there's no companion object there, plain and simple. On any given night there's several thousand amateur and professional astronomers and lay people out looking at this comet.

ParaNet: We also hear that Hale-Bopp is emitting radio signals. Now we know that some planetary bodies do emit radio signals, but according to some of these conspiracy people, this thing is emitting intelligent radio signals.

Hale: Almost every natural object in the universe emits radio waves. Just like they emit light waves. It's all part of the same electromagnetic spectrum. Astronomers have been studying Hale-Bopp in the radio part of the spectrum ever since it was discovered.

ParaNet: Is Hale-Bopp mysterious in any way?

Hale: No. It appears to be intrinsically one of the brightest, and I would say the largest, but we can't really say that because we can't see the nucleus.

ParaNet: How large is Hale-Bopp?

Hale: We don't really know. There was Hubble Space Telescope data taken about a year ago suggesting the nucleus was about 40 km in diameter, which is about 25 miles, but there were so many assumptions made that you have to take them with a grain of salt.

ParaNet: When Hale-Bopp first started flaring up it was near Jupiter right?

Hale: When Tom and I found the comet it was halfway between the orbits of Jupiter and Saturn, there was a predisccovery photograph taken in 1993 in which the comet was identified where the comet was well beyond the orbit of Saturn; it actually had the coma, the dust cloud even then.

ParaNet: Is that unusual?

Hale: Yes, they're usually too dim at that point to be seen. With Hale-Bopp, it's apparently the carbon monoxide that's causing the intense activity level. At that distance, water still stays frozen.

Caller: I heard a rumor that around 3000 years ago, Hale-Bopp might have come around and caused some disruption. Could that be?

Hale: We know from studying the comet's orbit that it was around about 4000 years ago, plus or minus a few centuries. The comet should have been bright enough that the people of that era would have seen it. There might even be records of it in ancient Sumerian or Egyptian writings, but assuming those writings have even survived to the present day, any such appearance would probably be so intertwined with the mythologies of whoever was doing the recording that we'd never be able to extract or decipher

anything meaningful out of those records.

ParaNet: What happened 4000 years ago didn't cause anything physical?

Hale: No other comet has ever caused any physical problems, so there's no reason to believe that this one did.

ParaNet: We also hear that we have top-level astronomers about to go public with something. Have you heard anything at all?

Hale: It's supposed to have been "imminent" for about two weeks now. I have heard a couple of names and institutions batted around. I'm not going to besmirch the reputations of the people who have been named, but I know one of the individuals personally, and I know he would never say anything like this, because it's a false claim anyway.

COMET BRINGS FEAR TO INDIAN RESEARCHER

As scientists watch Hale-Bopp in awe, Robert Morning Sky charts the streaking ball of ice and dust with fear. To Morning Sky, Hale-Bopp may be the legendary "Yellow Star", an ancient sign of "the end of time." Appearing on a Navajo radio program in Gallup, NM called Time Shift, Morning Sky said the "end-of-time" prophecy tells the Hopi tale of an older brother who takes a sacred stone to the rising sun. When he arrives, a great white star signals his return in 7 seasons, at which time people who have done wrong to the Hopis will be destroyed and their land returned. If a season is a year, Morning Sky says the end will come on May 10, 2004, when the Aztecs predicted it. Mayan prophecies say Earth's last days will be Dec. 21, 2012.

Caller: Congratulations Alan. You must be very proud. Thank you for dispelling the wild rumors. I was wondering of the comet will be visible during daylight.

Hale: That's a good question. It probably will not get bright enough to do that, although telescopically somebody might be able to pick it up, and certainly in certain regions of the spectrum like the infrared. On the other hand, if it were to brighten more so than we expect, which is certainly very possible, then it is possible it could brighten enough to be visible during the daytime.

Caller: Is it possible that there would be another comet following that?

Hale: It's possible. We have seen a few instances where a comet has come in and gone around the sun and then a few months or a few years later we see another comet come in on the same orbit, telling us that at the last return perhaps, the comet fragmented. There was a comet seen in the sky about 8 years ago, and then a few months ago another one was seen coming in on the exact same orbit.

ParaNet: We got something off the JPL web site that calls Hale-Bopp the "Twin Eyes". What's the story behind that?

Hale: Apparently there were a couple of individuals here in New Mexico who one night took a picture on a CCD camera which showed a second bright condensation close to the main condensation of the comet. There are no other reports of this type of thing. Those who have examined it more closely than I have believe it was a glitch in their CCD camera, which is by no means unprecedented. That kind of stuff happens all the time. It could even

have been a cosmic ray hit. Cosmic rays can hit the CCD chip and cause star-like images to appear.

ParaNet: Last year, comet Hyakutake was emitting a high level of X-rays which was supposedly unusual.

Hale: Yes. It was the first to be detected emitting X-rays. However now that scientists know what to look for, they've gone back and examined old satellite data and found similar X-ray emission on other comets.

ParaNet: Do you know what could cause that?

Hale: No. We really don't what mechanism could cause that. There was some speculation that it could have been reflection of X-ray emission from the sun, but that's been discarded. It's probably related to the ionization process that's going on within the comet. We haven't discovered X-ray emission from Hale-Bopp yet, but it's still pretty far out - beyond the orbit of Mars.

ParaNet honored by comments of Alan Hale.

ParaNet was honored to have the discoverer of Hale-Bopp on our radio program in December. Hale made the following written comments for us prior to appearing on the show:

"I *seriously* doubt that any reputable astronomer - notice that no names have been given out yet - will report any kind of object near the comet, and if there were something unusual going on, a forum like the Art Bell show - which is where all this garbage is being discussed - is the *last* place a reputable scientist would go."

Caller: I moved to Boise from the Bay area, and on the key CBS affiliates they play a program called Stardate, which gets information from Lamont-Dougherty University, which I think is a pretty prestigious outfit. They had mentioned that there's a second part - that part of the comet has broken up, and I think Mr. Hale might want to check it out. When you take a picture of an object now, that star should not be there.

Hale: Art Bell has said that he has pictures showing that the "companion" object has moved with the comet.

ParaNet: Well, until those photographs are able to be published and studied, we have *nothing*. This is the problem with that whole claim. We're dealing with information that was gathered "telepathically" and remote viewed and there have been mysterious unnamed scientists...

Caller: I've watched with interest the controversy. What I'm wondering is this. The comet must be throwing off a big vapor trail. Could this be causing a refractory effect, making stars behind it looking larger than normal?

Hale: No. The coma is made of dust, and generally this dims the light behind it. In this case the coma is not real dense, so it isn't a big effect, but it's there anyway.

Caller: Congratulations. You've earned yourself a place in immortality and astronomical history. I've been observing the comet. The December Sky and Telescope magazine suggested that this comet might not put on the spectacular show that we're expecting.

Hale: That article was written a couple of months ago because of

magazine lead times. What happened was that the comet brightened in July and then dimmed slightly in September. This led to a couple of articles like what you're seeing. Since that time, it has brightened normally and on track. It is very low in the western sky.

ParaNet: Caller, what kind of equipment are you using and have you noticed anything unusual?

Caller: I'm using an SCT 8" Celestron and some Schmitz camera work. It has had a lot of outgassing performance, but I've seen no "companion" objects.

ParaNet: Have any of these BS stories caused you personal anguish?

Hale: I find it rather amusing and appalling that these stories are being believed as much as they are. It's almost as if people are talking about the imminent return of Santa Claus!

ParaNet: People are fascinated by aerial bodies that seem to be unusual. I'm amused that in the 20th century we're even having this kind of a conversation!

Hale: 500 years ago, people didn't know what these things were. It was natural for people to connect the event with things that were going on on the Earth. But that was 500 years ago. Today we know these things are members of the solar system and what they're made of, and there's no excuse for that anymore.

ParaNet: I'm surprised that people don't know more about science!

Hale: We actually have a phrase for that - it's called science literacy, and I really could not agree with you more. There's an absolutely

appalling lack of science literacy in our society today and this is just one example. This whole business of a Saturn-like object around Hale-Bopp is a perfect example of the lack of science literacy in our society today. There's no excuse for it!

ParaNet: Could a comet hit Earth?

Hale: Yes! It has happened in the past and will happen in the future. We know there are other objects out there that could hit us too. We detect NEOs (near Earth objects) all the time. Just last May, an asteroid about 400 meters across passed just beyond the orbit of the moon.

Caller: I have been listening to the Art Bell show and I'm not very impressed with Strieber and his nonexistent grey people, but I picked up one interesting bit of information. They said that the government has been doing remote viewing for about 30 years. Is there any truth to this?

ParaNet: There has been government involvement in remote viewing, but they dropped the program, they claim, after spending millions in research on it. I think that remote viewing as applied in this thing with the comet is just a bunch of disinformation and smoke and mirrors. And I think Alan Hale would agree.

Hale: I would. And I'd go a step further and say that there's nothing to remote viewing. If someone wants to claim otherwise, well, extraordinary claims require extraordinary evidence.

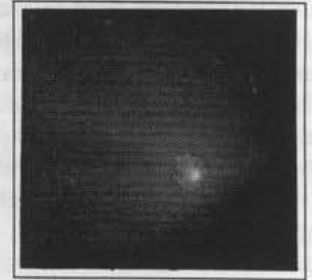
ParaNet: How can people view Hale-Bopp?

Hale: Right now, go outside the city so you have a dark sky, and about an hour and 15 minutes after sunset look due west and maybe 10-15

degrees above the horizon and then use a pair of binoculars. It looks like a fuzzy star.

ParaNet: Thank you for appearing on the program.

Hale: Thank you.



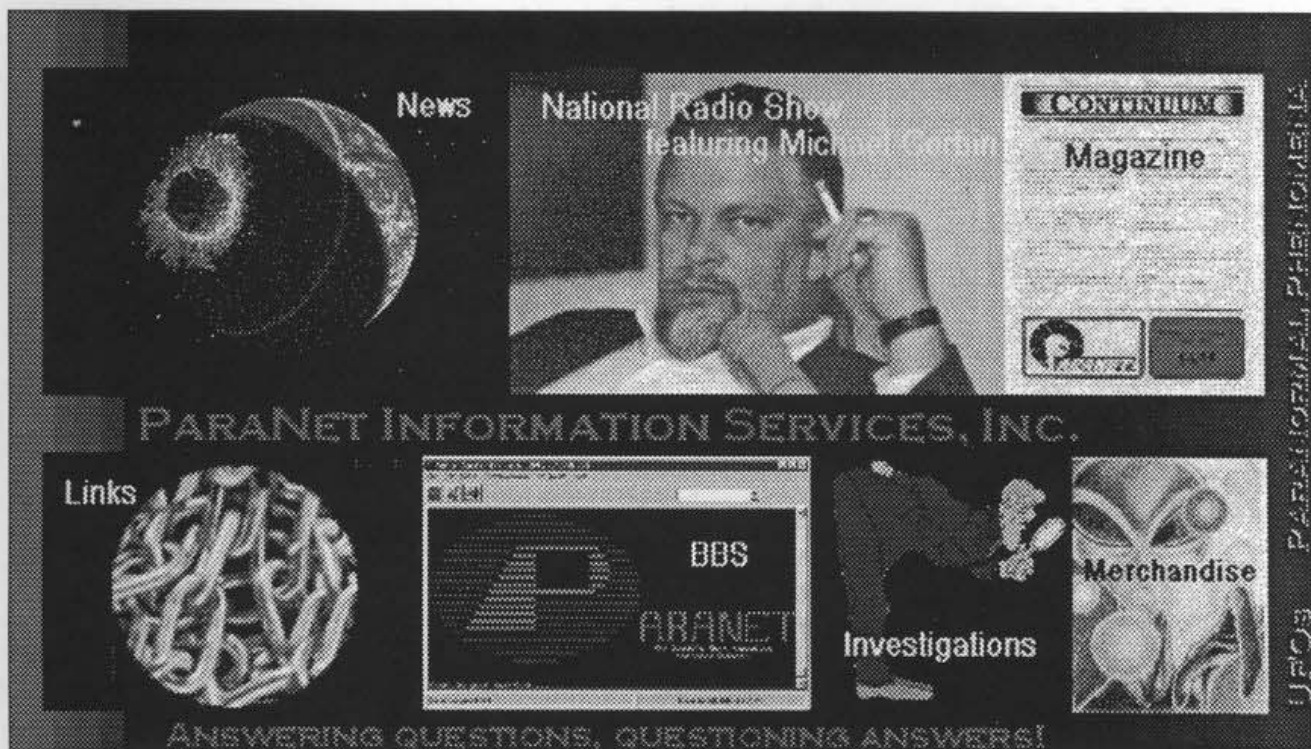
Hale-Bopp News

From Matt Crenson, AP - Hale-Bopp is close enough now that even without a telescope, early risers can see it hovering on the eastern horizon just before dawn. By April, it should be prominent just after sunset on the northwestern horizon.

"It will be a beautiful and splendid object," said Michael Mumma, an astronomer at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, MD.

From The Sun-Sentinel, Knight Ridder Tribune - Hale-Bopp won't make a return visit until 4360 A.D. See an interactive comet graphic and take a comet quiz at <http://www.sun-sentinel.com/news/comet.htm>.

In ancient times, comets were called "hairy stars" because of their fuzzy appearance. The "Coma" (Latin for hair) is an atmosphere of ejected gas and dust around the nucleus. Hale-Bopp's is about 1.5 million miles wide.



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National Radio Show
featuring Michael Gordin

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UFO PARANORMAL PHENOMENA

ANSWERING QUESTIONS, QUESTIONING ANSWERS!

Here's a glimpse of the ParaNet homepage on the World Wide Web (<http://www.paranet.org/paranet/>). We are in the process of uploading all of our 150+ radio shows to the web in RealAudio format. If you're a member of ParaNet, all you have to do to listen to a show is go to our "shows" page and click the show number you want. After you enter your login and password, the RealAudio player starts playing the show. You need a multimedia-equipped PC (i.e., soundcard and speakers), and you need the RealAudio 3.0 Player, which is downloadable free from www.realaudio.com.

Members get free access to all the files, pictures, and RealAudio archives that ParaNet is famous for. But you can get a taste by visiting our "Guests" page, and you can have 3 hours of RealAudio access for only \$1.50! Yes, \$1.50. Go to our "Order Form" page and enter your name and address, then select RealAudio Session, and click "Calculate Total". When the table appears showing your cost, press the "Order Through Secure Server" button. You'll be whisked off to our secure credit card processor, which allows you to enter your card number on a secure connection. Within 5 minutes after your card number is authorized, your login and password will be enabled on our server and you'll be able to listen to shows. It only takes a few minutes for the whole process to work! Pretty amazing!

Members also have access to our BBS, at (303) 861-8680. This is the original ParaNet BBS system, tied into many other nodes all over the world, and it houses additional archives of files in many areas - UFOs, the paranormal, PSI, abductions, metaphysics, religion, science, space and more. If you're not already a member, join today! See the order form elsewhere in this issue.

A Buddhist's View of Ufology

by
Sally Sheridan

Over the years I have read many thought-provoking books and articles concerning the Christian view of UFOs. Their authors have raised many important questions. However, they are primarily concerned with the ways in which UFOs either confirm or challenge Christian thought and doctrine. It occurred to me that it might be appropriate to explore the same problem from another viewpoint. As both a Buddhist and a former UFO investigator, perhaps I can attempt to explain how a Buddhist might view the problems and questions raised by UFOs.

WHAT BUDDHISM TELLS US ABOUT THE EXISTENCE OF OTHER BEINGS

First, the possibility of intelligent life elsewhere in the universe is an idea taken for granted by Buddhists. Like Christians, Buddhists have formulaic prayers and parts of prayers. The standard ending for a Buddhist prayer is a dedication of the accumulated merit to the benefit of all sentient beings everywhere in the cosmos.

Buddhist cosmology, which is very complex and varies somewhat between the different traditions, includes many other worlds and even other universes. It also recognizes other realms which are not the world as we know it, yet are not other planets. So possibly, as Jacques Vallee has said, they (the UFO beings) are not us, but they are not from another planet, either.

Second, it is assumed that all sentient beings are subject to certain things. They experience suffering. They are subject to the cycle of birth

and death if they have physical bodies. Even if they don't have physical bodies they will still be subject to a cycle, or what we would call a life-span.

Third, they are responsible for their individual and collective actions. This is what is called Karma. This tells us that their actions, like our own, can range from good to bad. Therefore, we cannot assume that their motives and actions are necessarily either for our good or for our detriment. In other words, they are neither angels nor demons.

In 1981, the Dalai Lama of Tibet, perhaps the foremost spokesperson for Buddhism alive today, lectured at Harvard University and was asked to compare Darwin's theory of evolution to the Buddhist view of human origins. The question and his answer are as follows:

Question: The theory of evolution describes development of higher forms of life out of lower forms, such as humans out of the animals, whereas Buddhism depicts cyclic existence as going up and down in cycles. Can your Holiness reconcile these two views?

Answer: The explanation of evolution and the Buddhist explanation that our own series of rebirths are indefinite in terms of type have different contexts. Evolution has to do with the development of this particular world whereas the indefiniteness of birth is concerned with one person's birth in many possible worlds. Thus, the point of the controversy does not come in here. However, one problem is found in different explanations of how this world system first formed. In Vasubandhu's Treasury of Knowledge¹, it is explained that when beings first formed in this world system, their lifespan was "immeasurable" and that their bodies were like that of a deity,

something like a spiritual body, it not being necessary for them to partake of coarse food—their sustenance was the food of meditative stabilization. Also, there were not any males and females. But then, gradually, things got worse and worse; the average lifespan became shorter and shorter, and it will continue shortening down to a minimum of ten years. Thus, it is quite complicated to put this together with Darwin's theory of evolution. So, how can we make a compromise? Frankly, I do not know. Perhaps, we are again to poke some fun at Vasubandhu! Still, it may be possible that there are two levels happening at once. Some of you may be interested in an account of a mystery:

In Tibet, there were several occurrences of children of gods even in this generation. Among my parents' generation, there was a person in the Hor area of Northern Tibet called Ga-gya-dam-nga, who was known to be a child of a god. His mother slept with a god of her area and gave birth to him. He himself was a very powerful and clever bandit; no one could get the better of him. This story illustrates how there can be a relationship between a human and a non-human. So, perhaps the best compromise is to say that there is one level of being undergoing the type of process that Vasubandhu describes—proceeding downwards—and there are other types of beings on the same planet that are evolving in the same manner described by Darwin.

In our own indigenous history, the Tibetan race is said to have come from a male monkey who mated with a female ogress. Perhaps, from the viewpoint of the mother, this is like Vasubandhu's theory and from

the viewpoint of the father, like Darwin's theory!²

The Dalai Lama's proposal of two evolutionary tracks proceeding on this planet at the same time may remind us of the idea proposed by some that the greys are on a downhill evolutionary slope and are trying to save themselves by mixing biologically with us. Of course, that still doesn't tell us who they are or where they come from.

WHAT BUDDHISM TELLS US ABOUT OUR INTERACTIONS WITH OTHER BEINGS

Buddhism teaches much about human interactions. In the UFO field there is a great amount of print and discussion that boils down to expectations. The alien beings are alternately believed to be space brothers, monsters, traveling doctors, geologists, ecologists, philosophy teachers and various other characterizations. We base our guesses about their intentions upon whichever characterization we have assigned them. This is a very natural attempt on our part to understand that with which we are dealing. But Buddhism tells us to resist the urge to make quick and final judgments because it limits our range of responses and can destroy possible relationships. My experience as a UFO investigator also tells me this because we just can't know their character or intentions based on the contradictory information we now have. To purposely delay making judgments is extremely difficult. It goes against our instincts. However, that is the very thing I think we must do as individuals and as UFO investigators.

WHAT BUDDHISM TELLS US ABOUT ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

The Dalai Lama convened a group of cognitive scientists for a week in

India in the Fall of 1987. The topic was "Mind and Sciences; Dialogues between Buddhism and the Cognitive Sciences."³ At this conference His Holiness was asked the following:

Question: Can computers ever advance to the point of being regarded as sentient beings?

His answer: "We cannot reject the possibility that at some point a computer might be a suitable basis (for sentient beings choosing to reincarnate in them)."

Many reports of UFO beings seem to be describing robots. I believe that if this is true, they are robots which are likely to be advanced to the point of being regarded as sentient beings and, as such, are subject to a life cycle and Karma, as stated above.

The word sentient deserves some examination here. It is an interesting word having three meanings. It derives from the Latin word "sentire", having feelings. It also means having the ability to think. When I asked a meditation instructor at a Tibetan Buddhist Center in Colorado what "sentient" means in the context of Tibetan Buddhism he said it meant "having consciousness."

Some researchers have postulated that the UFO beings who move in unison may be clones. But are clones capable of individual thought? We have an example of human clones right here on Earth: identical twins. Identical twins are made from the same cell and, therefore, technically clones. Yet, while alike in many ways, they are definitely capable of individual thought and action. As much as they are alike, they are still individuals and, as such, are capable of making different

choices. The key word here is 'capable'. We are all capable of overcoming our bad habits, for example, but whether we actually do it is another question.

CONCLUSIONS

Buddhism seems to tell us that the UFO beings, if they indeed are beings and not our own mental projections, are sentient, i.e. thinking and feeling, conscious beings. One might ask to which UFO beings am I referring, since there seem to be several. Some say many, species of UFO beings. I am referring to all of them. Whatever they are, they are all sentient beings. I will here remind the reader that this is a Buddhist's view not the Buddhist view.

I don't know if we can work with them as Whitley Strieber says.⁴ I don't know if we can defend ourselves against them as Ann Druffel says.⁵ But hatred and thoughts of violence directed toward them are a cure worse than the problem. And that is THE Buddhist view.

NOTES

1. As of 1988, available only in Tibetan, Sanskrit and French.
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Sally Sheridan is a long time researcher, as well as a member of and contributor to ParaNet.

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<p>AG-09</p>	<p>AG-10</p>	<p>AG-11</p>	<p>AG-12 FACE to FACE</p>



AG-13



AG-14



AG-15



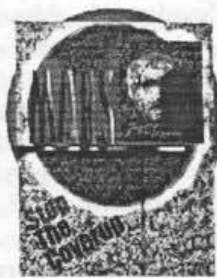
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AG-17



AG-18



AG-19



AG-20



AG-21



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Budd Hopkins' Mystery Cat

by Gregory Wheeler, Ph.D.
and Scott Scribner, M.A.

Let's face it. The great UFO abduction phenomenon remains as elusive today as ever, in spite of Budd Hopkin's witnesses. If Einstein thought Schroedinger's cat was a bundle of contradictions, we can be forgiven for inventing Budd Hopkin's Cat. We think it would resemble the feline *poseur* described by the English poet T. S. Eliot, some sixty years ago:

Macavity, Macavity, there's
no one like Macavity,

He's broken every human
law, he breaks the law of gravity.

His powers of levitation
would make a fakir stare,

And when you reach the
scene of the crime— Macavity's not
there!

You may seek him in the
basement, you may look up in the
air—

But I tell you once and once
again, Macavity's not there!

The fate of Hopkin's Cat is less precarious than Schroedinger's, but its identity is no more resolved than the quantum upon which the life of Schroedinger's cat depends. Is the quantum a particle or a wave? Does an alien abduction narrative describe a physical event or a dream?

Just as Nature abhors a vacuum, the human mind abhors uncertainty, and the UFO abduction scenario is a bit too enigmatic. Like John Mack (1994), who uses the term "Experiencers" to describe "UFO abductees", one might conclude that there is a singular experience or event underlying an alien abduction narrative. In particular,

these Experiencers and their supporters have made the judgment that alien abductions are "real events" and that the Experiencers have been contacted by "real entities." In the famous quantum analogy above, choosing a wave or a particle deals life or death to Schroedinger's cat. But regardless of the location of UFO abduction "evidence," Macavity lives on, somewhere.

Do the Experiencers report (or even choose) their own experiences? How well do UFO researchers evaluate the narratives and the subjects who present them? We believe that the relationship between these two groups may be more symbiotic than either has realized or acknowledged. Because we believe that good science means keeping open both the "wave" and the "particle" versions of the abduction phenomenon, we respectfully choose to refer to "UFO abductees" by the more epistemologically neutral term Narrators. We do not know how a Narrator's personal experience is transformed into an AAbN. We cannot rule out the possible contribution of numerous factors in the process.

When we question the usefulness of physical explanations (what we call "forensics" below) in the AAbN process, we are not minimizing or discounting their potential importance. Each occurrence must be considered on its own terms. Specific narratives have accompanied personal transformations throughout history. Narratives involving God, Buddha, Mary, Jesus, the Prophet Mohammed, Joseph Smith, and many others have altered whole societies. Histories of great civilizations have changed profoundly as a result of narratives attributed to visions. While such visions did not necessarily leave

incontrovertible physical evidence (they "did no work" or had no effect that could be measured by any scientific theory, technology, or engineering method), they changed the way we think (Jaki, 1978).

Many commentators and researchers in the field of Ufology contend that the intensity of the AAbNs demands a blind leap of acceptance of alien visitation. In their opinion, such reports have only one intelligible explanation: that the individual was literally picked up and transported to a space vehicle and experimented upon. We think this is a bit concrete. In our previous articles, we have asserted that, taken alone, narratives of personal experiences have never been accepted as objectively real, either by standards of "common sense" or scientific proof (Sagan, 1995). We're not satisfied with reductionist views in which narrative "evidence" alone forces the observer into only one available explanatory system. Evidence is, after all, based on someone else's idea of reality, and depends on being preserved for others to investigate.

We have observed that clinical practitioners (like Mack) frequently give great weight to factors like sincerity and emotional intensity. But unless some substantial corroborating evidence accompanies a report of an unusual personal experiences, most observers treat such reports in one of five ways:

1. The report is disregarded, albeit with some nervousness;
2. The report is received positively as religious or metaphysical in nature, such as a prophecy;
3. The report is received positively in non-religious or scientific terms, as a report of a real event occurring objectively, or as an expression of

creativity, or a form of artistic inspiration;

4. The report is in negative religious terms, as a manifestation of evil forces;

5. The report is judged in negative non-religious terms, such as mental illness.

Such an array of reactions is inevitable. By their very nature, unstructured personal experiences cannot be effectively evaluated by methods of physical science. They do not constitute verifiable or replicable data that could be applied to nullify or validate any hypothesis. At the same time, unusual experiences possess emotional power that can radically transform consciousness and behavior. But whenever we find individuals who are defining themselves by experiences they consider special to them, we must place the uniqueness of their reports in their own social and historical context.

Still, most such experiences fall within previously known categories (Vallee, Lewis, Sagan). In fact, many different types of unusual narratives (for example, alleged past lives, near-death experiences, ritual/Satanic trauma) are remarkably alike in their structure and development (Grof & Grof, 1990; Spanos, 1996). Every view of subjective and objective reality competes for a place in the cosmology of our day.

On the social level, the visionary quest (for example, the search for the Holy Grail) is a constant in history. In our own day, this quest, often including the transforming encounter with the Other, recapitulates every form known in the past and embellishes them with details that are unique to our time. A narrative about an encounter with space beings is a modern possibility only in its technological

details--cosmologies before Newton always included narratives about heavenly beings (Thompson, 1994).

We cannot discount the importance of cosmological advances in influencing our collective symbols, thus suggesting that this kind of transformation of consciousness may be a natural next step in the evolution of both individuals and the species as a whole. Furthermore, we wish to explore the possibility that AAbNs are more critical as prophecy than as mere reports of physical occurrences.

But while keeping these preferred models in mind, we have tried to separate the problem of states of mind and consciousness from the project of First Contact Science, which seeks to establish a consensus about the existence of and contact with extraterrestrial intelligence that is physically verifiable ("where we live"). Models of Consciousness and FCS intersect where the problems of knowing WHAT has happened is addressed scientifically. States of mind may be part of the data underlying a challenge to the null hypothesis of FCS, but methods remain to be developed to generate data that can be verifiable and replicable.

Even using advanced MRI or PET technologies, mental states themselves are not observable, just a few of their physical correlates. For example, Dr. Daniel Schacter of Harvard University has developed a PET scan technique which may eventually distinguish between memories based on actual experiences and those not linked to external events, or "false memories" (7/2/96, *The New York Times*). Theoretically, at least, a person claiming an actual close encounter of the fourth kind can be tested later. The recalled experience that is not a false memory will be stored

and activated differently than a fabricated memory. But until this is reliably established, we separate the fields with regard to nullifying a scientific assumption.

How then do we evaluate the pervasive, powerful and persistent AAbN appropriately in our era?

AAbNs IN THE FIELD OF DREAMS.

We have explored many avenues in our search for Macavity. Along the way, we have found more than ample explanation for the vast majority of AAbN cases of which we are aware. We wish to present this list of options for your consideration, as a convenient place to start drawing your own conclusions about the great AAbN phenomenon. It is not complete, nor is it exhaustive in detail--such would clearly exceed the limit of an article format. But it provides clear direction that there are many viable tools left unused, and that until such methods are systematically employed, Macavity will stay "not there."

No one has produced the proof sufficient to invalidate the Null Hypotheses of FCS (see the previous issue of *Continuum*). What methods are available for collecting such data? We believe that there are many approaches that offer provocative models for AAbNs. These might be globally classified into two categories: *FORENSICS* and "FOG". The former term refers to those "hard" physicalist approaches that would be used by law enforcement to evaluate the details of an alleged event. Such evidence is ephemeral, forever being "lost" or "stolen", and today none is known to exist. The latter term offers explanation based on the "fog of consciousness" (Koestler, 1990): nonphysical yet real events that nonetheless can

have profound personal and social consequences. The list below deals primarily with this latter field.

Ken Wilbur (1996) has proposed that a dozen major models are in current use in the study of human consciousness, and we believe that some of these could generate useful hypotheses for studying AAbNs. We present Wilbur's twelve categories below, with our comments on how these theories might apply to the analysis of AAbNs. We set out this rather long list for instructive purposes. These are the methods so casually dismissed by the literalists as inadequate to the data of AAbNs. But we contend such is not the case. As we review this list, we see the work of analyzing these experiences using these tools has only begun.

1) COGNITIVE SCIENCE proposes that consciousness arises from "functional schemas" rooted in an "emergent-connectionist" view of brain structure. This is a highly abstract conceptual model, but it has the scientific advantage of being associated with neurophysiology. Using such a framework, it might be proposed that AAbNs reflect new properties of perception emerging within consciousness. It remains to be explored whether they imply awareness of alien entities or over-interpretation of experiences arising within this "new" level of perception. SUMMARY: AAbNs ARE THE EPIPHENOMENA OF EVOLVING PERCEPTUAL ABILITIES. THEIR ADAPTIVE VALUE REMAINS TO BE SEEN.

2) INTROSPECTIONISM emphasizes intentionality and the analysis of "immediate awareness and lived experience". This voids abstraction and rejects scientific detachment in favor of the role of human participation and continuity with Nature. For scientific

purposes, this approach is better labeled as phenomenological psychology. We have seen few Narrators of AAbNs able to watch themselves watch due to the apparent power of the experience. SUMMARY: AAbNs HAVE NO "EXPLANATION" - THEY ARE JUST LIVED EXPERIENCES, PART OF "THROWN-NESS" OR "THE GIVEN" OF BEING HUMAN.

3) NEUROPSYCHOLOGY views all awareness as "anchored" in organic structures and processes. More physicalist than (1). It is exemplified by the work of Dr. Michael Persinger, who finds that identifiable deformations of consciousness occur due to cortical dysfunction, particularly in the temporal lobe. Other theories propose that movements within the Earth create electrical fields that cause experiences resembling the AAbNs, or that other sources of such fields have the same effect. SUMMARY: AAbNs ARE HALLUCINATIONS CAUSED BY NEUROCHEMICAL OR ELECTRICAL DISTURBANCES.

4) INDIVIDUAL PSYCHOTHERAPY emphasizes treatment of "distressing symptoms and emotional problems". Except in approaches such as strict behaviorism, which is avowedly materialistic, this includes a model of human personality as a goal-seeking entity. The self-transformational sagas of Whitley Strieber and others fall into this category, as well as much of the work of John Carpenter and Budd Hopkins. However, it is likely that their conclusions about the lack of evidence of psychopathology overlook the weakness of such measures for detecting many conditions, including dissociative identity disorder, borderline personality, sociopathic personality, or other patterns which are not distinctly pathological. SUMMARY: AAbNs ARE

EXPRESSIONS OF TRAUMA. IT IS MORE IMPORTANT TO EMPATHIZE WITH NARRATORS THAN TO ARGUE ABOUT REALITY.

5) SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY interprets human action in terms of, or imposed by, social interactions. To this category, we would append SOCIAL COGNITION (which studies the role of narratives) and SOCIOLOGY. The work of Roy Baumeister and Daniel O'Keefe are excellent examples. Other socially-based theories include the study of urban legends (e.g. Chupacabras), and the influence of the media on narrative behavior. The desire for unusual stories can involve entertainment motives (boredom, anomie). Conspiracy theories can arise from the conjunction of personality styles and social trends. Persons and groups with political and religious motives add more ingredients, and so on. Then there are social movements that set up self-referential "peer" groups who iteratively reinforce a shared worldview (this is called "the agreement to agree"). Past life regressions and satanic ritual abuse claims may be examples of these behaviors. SUMMARY: AAbNs OCCUR WHEN A PERSON'S NEED TO FEEL SPECIAL IS MET BY MEMBERSHIP IN A SHARED BELIEF SYSTEM.

6) CLINICAL PSYCHIATRY is the medical wing of (4) and emphasizes chemical management of behavior. Mack brings the authority of this group to the table, but little of their skepticism. We must rule out identifiable disruptions of consciousness due to subictal seizure, drugs and alcohol, sleep disorders, transient psychoticism, and other causes. SUMMARY: AAbNs ARE DELUSIONS ROOTED IN PSYCHOPATHOLOGY. THEY CAN BE MANAGED WITH MEDICATION.

7) **DEVELOPMENTAL PSYCHOLOGY** studies the "unfolding" of human awareness through its evolving psychological "architectures". Alvin Lawson's birth trauma imagery studies fall in this group. This means that the source of AAbNs could be within. **SUMMARY: AAbNs ARE THE RE-EXPERIENCING OF ONE'S OWN BIRTH OR OTHER TRAUMAS IN EARLY LIFE.**

8) **PSYCHOSOMATIC MEDICINE** looks at the interaction of mental activities and physical well-being. Also referred to as behavioral medicine or health psychology. Herbert Benson is a key researcher in this area. This category does not seem UFO related.

9) **NONORDINARY STATES OF CONSCIOUSNESS** emphasize anomalies of awareness, even to the extent of creating them artificially. Charles Tart, John Lilly, and Terence McKenna are well known in this area. At this point in the list (and below), we have serious reservations about how the critical faculties can be compromised by the methods these researchers propose. If we drug or disable the very instrument that developed to make our understanding of reality possible (our minds), how can we have confidence that any result has validity or meaning? **SUMMARY: AAbNs ARE THE PERCEPTIONS OF AN ALTERNATE REALITY IN THE MIND. THEIR IMPLICATIONS FOR OUR NORMAL REALITY ARE VARIOUS OR UNKNOWN.**

10) **EASTERN AND CONTEMPLATIVE TRADITIONS** provide historical and cultural, documenting a long history of such occurrences. Thompson's comprehensive review of alien themes in Hinduism, and Wink's application of archetypal psychology to the Bible bring

valuable insights to two of the most significant collections of narratives in history. **SUMMARY: AAbNs ARE VISITS BY THE SAME SPIRITUAL BEINGS THAT HAVE INTERACTED WITH HUMANS THROUGHOUT HISTORY. THEY MAY OR MAY NOT BE FROM OTHER PHYSICAL PLACES IN THE COSMOS.**

11) **QUANTUM CONSCIOUSNESS** is highly speculative and even dubious, constituting a "god of the gaps" approach to science. See Skeptical Inquirer article. (Stenger, 1997). Fritjof Capra and Deepak Chopra have pioneered this field. **SUMMARY: AAbNs REFLECT THE "BREAKING IN" OF REALITIES FROM OTHER DIMENSIONS OF OUR UNIVERSE.**

12) **SUBTLE ENERGIES RESEARCH** is historically and conceptually related to (10) but as dubious as (11) when it comes to science. Norman Shealy and Caroline Myss are current popular representatives. **SUMMARY: ALIENS ARE BEINGS THAT EXIST AT HIGHER LEVELS OF VIBRATION THAN PRESENT SCIENCE UNDERSTANDS.**

Each of Wilbur's categories constitute a worldview in its own right; each imposes assumptions on the data and sets rules for what is "real". But what has Wilbur left out?

How about:

13) **CRIMINAL ACTIVITY and FRAUD** - certainly a possibility in controversial cases. **SUMMARY: NARRATORS ARE EITHER HOAXERS OR DUPES.**

14) **ECONOMIC MOTIVES** for fabricating stories, including deliberate falsification ("lying") and purposive hoaxes. **SUMMARY: AAbNs ARE TOLD FOR FINANCIAL GAIN (BOOKS, TV).**

15) **RESEARCH PSYCHOLOGY** as represented by the pioneering work of the late Nicholas Spanos (we can hear the murmuring already: was a UFO sighted around the time his plane went down??). **SUMMARY: AAbNs ARE SOCIAL BEHAVIORS ARISING FROM THE INTERACTION OF THE HUMAN NEED FOR ATTENTION AND OUR SPECIFIC CULTURAL SITUATION.**

16) **SOUL PSYCHOLOGIES** of James Hillman and Robert Sardello concerning the role of fears in changing consciousness. **SUMMARY: AAbNs CONTAIN SYMBOLS REFLECTING THE SPIRITUAL CRISIS OF MODERNITY: MAN ALONE, CUT OFF FROM NATURE AND THEREFORE HIS TRUE SELF.**

17) **PSYCHOANALYSIS** - Freud has not left us and these practitioners have active ideas about alien abduction accounts. **SUMMARY: AAbNs REFLECT INTRAPSYCHIC CONFLICTS ROOTED IN THE NERVOUS SYSTEM. THEY ARE A NEW KIND OF DREAM.**

18) **MODERN METAPHYSICAL SYSTEMS** such as that of Daniel Leviton in "The Imagination of Pentecost." He expands Rudolf Steiner's ideas about "beings" or forces which introduce images and ideas to humanity "before we are ready". **SUMMARY: AAbNs ARE THE HUMAN FUTURE INTERPENETRATING THE PRESENT, THUS APPEARING TO US AS ADVANCED BEINGS OR HIGHER CONSCIOUSNESS.**

We haven't even started talking about forensic investigation! So much has already been written in that area, without conclusion.

OUR OWN VIEW OF MACAVITY.

There are even more points of view on the AAbN phenomenon that we have discussed in our prior articles, or have yet to discuss. Given all this explanatory power, one wonders at the superficial dismissal of all such methods when Macavity is still missing. Without a cat, the case cannot be closed. But we like a view that we believe well suits both the evidence and our experience—namely, the AAbN as *cosmological prophecy*.

Only in the 20th century has our universe really expanded. As Timothy Ferris has commented, this can be attributed entirely to one new tool: the large aperture telescope (Ferris, 1980). It was not until 1924 that Harlow Shapley placed the sun at the edge of the Milky Way Galaxy, and Edwin Hubble found beyond the edge of the Milky Way a vast new horizon, filled with other galaxies.

Consequently, we can argue that it was not until 1924 that the Solar system no longer occupied the center stage of any scientific cosmology. Only a few years later, H. G. Wells orchestrated the first alien invasion scenario as part of a deliberate Halloween radio hoax, and was stunned when the audience believed the program. We think these events are linked. The loss of purpose and centrality which has accompanied the discoveries of 20th Century scientific cosmology has left the earth mythologically lost in space.

We are no longer certain of anything, except our own precarious existence on a planet incomparably beautiful among all the planets we know. At the same time, since we are enclosed in the back yard of our solar system like children too young to travel on their own, why wouldn't we find questions and perhaps deep terror at what lies beyond the fence?

Under these conditions, we believe the evolution of human consciousness provides tools to see our way. One such tool may be the capacity for prophetic vision. Such vision predicts our inevitable contact with sentient beings as we step further and further toward the edges of our solar system. We have tossed a message over the fence in our Voyagers, and explorers doubtless will follow. AAbNs give us a whole spectrum of First Contact scenarios with which to contend. From mentor Pleiadeans to sinister insectoids, AAbNs suggest we must cope with diversity in the galactic garden of sentience—beyond what SciFi visionaries even *can* imagine.

AAbNs are not neutral about their own meaning. They convey to the children of Earth that unless they stop wrecking their own back yard, they will never grow up and leave it. The harshest messages prophecy that it is already too late and that only a little time is left before the "hybrids" remove the scourge of monkey beings forever from the blue marble.

The AAbNs scenarios are part of a new cosmology forming under our feet. Astronomy is revealing other planets, and exobiology has perhaps found evidence of other life, albeit primitive and fossilized. In this context, First Contact Science seeks to prepare firmer ground, to go beyond prophetic vision and reactions to prophecy. It seeks to prepare for the physical event whose certainty lies in the future, but whose possibility drives present dreams. When the two converge, the publicly visible and unmistakable contact with extraterrestrial sentience will have already occurred.

Until then, Macavity gives us a merry chase, and cause to wonder.

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Scientists Close in on Black Holes

Aviation Week & Space Technology reports that a team of scientists at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics has found the "event horizon" of a black hole - the borderline at which nothing can escape - not even light. The team, Ramesh Narayan, Jeffrey McClintock and Michael Garcia, reported their findings to the American Astronomical Society (AAS). Their evidence binary stars in which one is passing material to the other. The key data came from a joint Japanese-American Advanced Spacecraft for Cosmology Astrophysics. "The new thing we're seeing is that [black holes] really do collapse; there's this event horizon," Garcia said. He added, though, that "we need a lot more than this to convince a die-hard skeptic."

Classified Recon Photo Printed in The Washington Times.

A top-secret CIA report leaked to the Times includes a satellite photograph of the Russian aircraft carrier Varyag being dismantled in the Ukraine shipyards. The photo was supposedly taken by a KH-11 U.S. spy satellite, according to John Pike, of the Federation of American Scientists. The organization has exposed other U.S. secret information in the past. The FAS has posted the Times photo on its web site at <http://www/fas.org/irp/imint/kh-12.htm>.



Sightings

December, 1996

These listings, provided by the National UFO Reporting Center, are proof that UFOs continue to be reported at a good clip, despite not being reported by the media. NUFORC is run by Peter Davenport. His address is P.O. Box 45623, Seattle, WA 98145. Peter was a guest on ParaNet's radio show on September 24, 1995 (#76).



<i>Date / Time</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Description</i>
12/1/96 19:38	Kansas City, MO	Two adults witness a big ball of light streak FAST across downtown K.C., fly SSW. White front, bluish middle, red aft. Trail left.
12/1/96 23:30	Wrightwood Mtn., CA	Young man sees bright red, round light in dist. Obj. descends, fades. Suddenly ascends, grows bright, moves off. No smoke or sound.
12/2/96 19:00	Sumner, IL	Mother, 2 daughters, rept. 2x large white lights in sky, surrounded by multiple white and blue, smaller lights.
12/3/96 4:00	North Bend, WA	Woman sees 3x very rapid pulses of light that fill the house and surrounding area. Gold, then blue, then distinctly green. No thunder.
12/5/96 5:30	Brooksville, FL	Man standing outdoors waiting to see Space Shuttle sees 2 white lights at high alt. flying at very high speed overhead. Unusual sight.
12/5/96 22:00	Seattle, WA	Man looking W over Pug. Sound from high-rise apt. sees large "flattened oval of red/orange light" arch across sky in perfect arc.
12/10/96 19:55	Pensacola, FL	3x adult males driving S on Hwy. 98 witness large, bright yellow obj. hovering. Obj. begins to expell other objs.! Complex sighting.
12/11/96 17:15	Birmingham, AL	Pastor repts. seeing a "bright ball of fire w/ speed of a falling star" streak W to E. Slows, stops, turns 180 deg., shoots to NW.
12/12/96 2:06	I-10, Marker 174, NM	Truck driver & other trucks see 2x bright white lights, which split apart. 1 ascends vert., other paces truck, streaks. Many CB repts.
12/13/96 21:00	Detroit, MI	Mother driving w/ 3 children sees several craft in triangular pattern, which split suddenly. They pursue objs., "catch" 2x. Scared!
12/14/96 17:15	Vashon Island, WA	Young man witnesses a "green gaseous" obj. streak across the northwest sky going from N to S. Very bizarre sight.
12/14/96 18:08	W. Covina, CA	Father, 2 sons, neighbor witness gray disc pass directly overhead, pause, move off, and hover. Moved EXTREMELY fast. Not a plane.

12/14/96 20:20 Issaquah, WA	3x adults witness a "long, narrow disc w/ very bright, cream-colored light" over Tiger Mtn. Draws close to woman, pursues her.
12/16/96 20:10 Everett, WA	Boeing empl. sees peculiar green streak in E sky. Headed S at VERY high speed. Streak narrower than kitchen match at arm's length.
12/16/96 21:00 Stevens Pass, WA	2x skiers see orange disc, then 2 others moving rapidly across sky. 1 of discs suddenly streaks off, then streaks back to formation.
12/17/96 1:15 Morton, WA	Man witnesses a large "pool of green light" streak across sky. Size of moon. Covered approx. 80 degrees arc in 4-5 seconds. Strange.
12/17/96 2:30 Redmond, WA	Woman awakened by high-pitch buzzing. Goes outside and sees large, very bright, circular disc w/ flat top hovering nearby. Frightened.
12/17/96 6:14 Hansville, WA	Woman witnesses a blue-green ball of fire, 1/2 dia. of full moon, streak from E to W and intersect the N horizon in almost level flt..
12/17/96 6:15 Tigard, OR	Man sees bright silver-white light in NNW sky descending at 45-60 deg. angle. Very fast, very bright.
12/17/96 6:15 Bellingham, WA	Man calls to relay reports heard on police radio regarding green & blue object streaking across sky at 0615 hrs..
12/17/96 6:15 Seattle, WA	Young man sees "yellow tinged fireball with neon green tail" streak from E to W in N sky. Tail was curving down, and oddly green.
12/17/96 6:15 Comox Bay, BC	Woman repts. multiple witnesses saw & heard blue/green that passed over WA & BC. Distinct explosion heard nearby.
12/17/96 6:20 Seattle, WA	Seattle METRO bus driver on Hwy. I-5 sees blue-green obj. streaking E to W just above buildings in Seattle. Thought it was close.
12/17/96 6:20 Portland, OR	Multnomah Co. off. at traffic light sees obj. STREAK from W to E in SW sky. 2 min. later, sees identical event, same trajectory.
12/18/96 4:45 Salinas, CA	Man awakens, turns on TV. Sees 3x prominent green lights in triangular formation through blinds. Outside, sees other strange lights.
12/19/96 22:45 Seattle, WA	Man repts. black, round obj. passing from S to N below solid clouds in W sky. No lights, silent, smaller than moon. Aircraft landing S.
12/21/96 Poulsbo, WA	Young man repts. that a young woman had encountered a small, brightly lighted, "flat" obj. on a rural road. Obj. zipped off in woods.
12/22/96 1:45 Reno, NV	Young man sees a very bright "ball of blue light" out his window. It looked like a "single bubble of light, w/ 3-dimensional depth."
12/26/96 22:40 Fontana, CA	Woman & brother witness 3x peculiar hovering lights. One of the lights extinguished, other two moved slowly behind nearby trees.

The Book of Revelation: Angels or Aliens?

by Brian Wood

First in a series

The following excerpts are from an unpublished book that I wrote a few years ago. I spent about a year studying the Bible, the Koran and other religious works throughout history with an eye toward making sense of them in terms of UFO landings rather than visions.

Cosmology and Religious Thought

The Revelation of St. John the Divine! For centuries, the mere mention of this, the last book of the Christian Bible, has conjured up images of multicolored horses riding clouds, dragons and beasts inflicting untold suffering on the inhabitants of the Earth, and Jesus Christ leading a war-torn world into a new age. Who hasn't heard of the mark of the beast, or antichrist, represented in Revelation by the number 666, and attempted to make it fit one of the current world leaders? It's time to see these images in the light provided by 2000 years of scientific progress. In this book, the chaotic visions described by John are interpreted as images shown to John on the viewscreen of an alien spaceship rather than the inspired word of God.

Several others have attempted to link some biblical stories,

particularly those in Exodus, Daniel and Ezekiel, to ancient astronauts (see Chapter 20). No one has attempted the same with Revelation, perhaps because the story is so unusual. But it is crying to be examined in light of modern scientific knowledge. The hypothesis put forth in this book may seem incredible, but is really not as incredible as the traditional one - that God told a man nearly 2000 years ago how the world was going to end; that thousands of people, including dead people, were going to go shooting through the air toward heaven; and that Jesus would come down riding a cloud and proclaiming himself leader of a world now decimated by billions of rotting dead, in the midst of dried up rivers and oceans, with the smoldering remains of Earth's cities blotting out the sun and moon.

Theologians debated for years whether Revelation even belonged in the Bible. The style, called apocalyptic, is different from most other books in the Bible, even those regarded as apocalyptic. The exact authorship is unknown, although most biblical scholars attribute the work to John the apostle, and the time frame to the late first century A.D. There have been as many different interpretations as there are people on the planet, but nearly all interpreters have assumed that the visions were truly God-given.

What if they weren't God-given visions? If the definition of a vision is the witnessing of an event that is unexplainable by the technology of the time, it can be caused by dreams, intense faith, drugs and actual physical phenomena. This book will focus only on the possibility that the latter is what occurred. It should be pretty obvious that a person of John's era would be easily fooled by a technology much greater than his.

After all, 2000 years ago, the prevailing scientific wisdom explained the universe as a set of concentric spheres, with the Earth at the center and the sun, moon, planets and stars rotating about the Earth, each in its own sphere. This model of the universe, proposed by the Greek philosopher Aristotle in about 340 B.C., was eventually made into a complete theory in the second century A.D. by the astronomer Ptolemy, and was accepted by the Christian church. Almost anyone from our society, were they able to travel back to John's time, would be accepted as a God, or at least as one of His angels, to that civilization. Thus, there is certainly room for speculation that the visions recorded by John were not of God, but of UFO. In this book, all of John's references to God, Jesus and angels will be ignored. This is done as a practical matter, since the goal is to reinterpret his words in a scientific light. It is not an attempt to discredit Christianity.

Revelation contains images of apparent wars and suffering unheard of on this planet until the twentieth century, a fact that has led many to the conclusion that the so-called "end times" are upon us. The evangelists' message is that the end of the world is finally at hand and that Jesus Christ will return to vanquish the antichrist and lead the world into a new age. They argue that the world will suffer the horrible fate described in Revelation and the other prophetic chapters of the Bible, and that only those who have found salvation in Jesus will be saved from the tribulation. The implication is that the people of Earth can do nothing to avert the disasters prophesied by the Biblical seers. They then make a giant leap of logic and assume that the world will really be better off than it is now. Never have the evangelists offered a prediction of

what life would actually be like on Earth during Christ's reign except to say that it will be magnificent.

It's time to step back and consider the ramifications. The Earth will presumably have suffered global ecological damage. Whether the damage was caused by war or by cosmic collision with a celestial object is somewhat irrelevant. Most of the population will have been killed, and there will be immediate need for disposal of the dead. What's left of national governments and institutions will quickly evaporate. Scientific exploration and inquisitiveness will be totally unnecessary, for God will provide for all humanity's needs. Thinking will no longer be needed. Presumably Jesus and God will be able to reshape Earth instantaneously to keep the "saved" humans from dying.

This picture of a post-apocalyptic world is disturbing. The biggest question that has yet to be answered is *why* God would show the apocalyptic cataclysm to mankind at a time when it couldn't possibly be understood. The usual answer is that "God has His reasons, and it is not our place to question Him." This is not an acceptable answer for a person with any inquisitiveness. There is a distinct possibility that the end times will be nothing more than another visitation by aliens; Christ's second coming nothing more than a UFO landing! In a real sense, such an event *would* be the end times - the end of our innocence and the beginning of our membership in the galaxy. There is a very real danger that a large number of people would think that such an event actually marked Christ's return, and that they would attempt to worship such beings and actively try to make the rest of the prophecy come true, even despite alien assurances that it isn't so. If we were warned

of anything in the Bible, it was to not worship false Gods!

Everyone would like to believe that a supreme being exists, that He is watching our every move and that He intervenes when necessary to protect His children. Even given that, there will come a time when His children need to grow up and stand on their own two feet. Many books have been written on Revelation by clergy, but all emphasize the need to do what God wants us to do - as interpreted by the writers, of course. One went so far as to say that since the future has been written, and God saves his children from Satan in the end times, we need do nothing; indeed we *can* do nothing. It is disturbing that so many people may actually believe this.

Throughout our short history on this planet, we have stubbornly held to the view that we are the center of creation. First we were God's chosen few, living on a flat, square planet that was lit during the day by a sun that revolved around us and in which the nighttime sky was lit with the campfires of heaven. Next, we were the center of the universe, but we revolved around the sun. Eventually, we found out that we lived on a smallish planet, one of many orbiting an average star located on the outskirts of one of many galaxies. Many still believe we're God's chosen few. When will we learn? It is, however, possible to believe that some of the stories in the Bible are simply documented evidence of UFOs and not necessarily disavow belief in God. After all, *something* created this universe. All one has to give up by looking at the Bible in this light is the belief that the same God who created the universe also visited this planet 2000 years ago in the flesh. It is time to move on, and for the collective consciousness of this

planet's people to use the lessons of good and evil that are contained in the writings from so long ago (and not just in the Christian Bible) for the betterment of everyone.

Largely because of an understandable vested interest in keeping Christians Christian, most churches don't actively encourage study of other religions of the world. On the opposite side of the coin, we don't allow our public schools to teach it either, for fear of violating the constitutional separation of church and state. This is most unfortunate. There is a difference between teaching the Bible's *message* and its *historical background*. Many of the cultural problems we face today could be solved more easily if all the peoples of the world understood the basis for the fundamental beliefs of the rest of the world. Islam, for example, springs from the visions of a man named Mohammed, whose visits by the angel Gabriel comprise most of the Moslem bible - the Koran. Islam has many wise teachings, as does Christianity. The animosity between Christians and Jews, and between factions of the Catholic church, and between most western religions and Islam, is a travesty! All of these religions preach forgiveness and tolerance. How absurd it is that the people of this planet fight wars over the trivial details of their respective beliefs. The late Gene Roddenberry, creator of the television phenomenon *Star Trek*, got this message through to millions with the Vulcan philosophy of IDIC - Infinite Diversity from Infinite Combinations. Translated, this means taking a positive delight in the differences that make us human, not fighting over them. Before we can communicate effectively with other civilizations in the universe, we must learn to communicate with ourselves.

Inaugural Vision: The Alien

1:9-20 *I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ. I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet, Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea. And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks; And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire; And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters. And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength. And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last: I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death. Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter; The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches:*

and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches

This section is John's attempt to describe where he was and what he was doing when the event unfolded. The isle of Patmos is a small island in the Aegean Sea between Turkey and Greece (see Figure 1), where it is believed that many were sent for practicing Christian belief, perhaps because of the Roman law of *relegatio* (banishment). John hears a loud noise and then turns to see a being standing amongst seven golden candlesticks. It is tempting to describe these as rocket engines, but that doesn't jibe well with modern UFOs, which seldom emit any noise at all. Candlesticks could also be a description of landing legs of the spacecraft. Figure 2 shows an ancient candle holder, which can be seen to hold the sacred number of seven candles. There is little commonality between it and modern flying saucers, but this is not terribly important, given that John sees the number "seven" everywhere.

John next describes the being. In modern times, the "typical" alien is about 3.5-4 feet tall, has a large, mostly bald head with perhaps a trace of white hair, big, black teardrop shaped eyes, a couple of small openings for a nose and ears, and a small slit for a mouth. It also usually has a very sharp chin and a thin neck (See Figure 3). John says the being has white hair, although he doesn't say how thick the hair was, and that the being's eyes are like a flame of fire. It is tempting to describe these as bright, but a closer look reveals that the eyes are like flames, not like fire. The adjectives John could have used, like "bright", "yellow-orange", "white" or "blue", are not used. However, a flame is often represented (today) as a teardrop shape. If John is referring to the shape and not the color, then the description can still fit modern

representations of aliens! John's alien was also girt about the paps with a golden girdle. The term *paps* refers to the breast. John is describing a spacesuit. The alien also had feet like fine brass - boots. It carried something in its right hand that looked like stars. The number of stars is said to be seven, but this is probably not accurate for reasons that have already been discussed. Since stars are small points of bright light, the "stars" could be lights that are being emitted from an alien measuring instrument.

Out of the alien's mouth is said to have come a sharp, two-edged sword. The Greek words that have been translated in this manner could also be translated *a sharp, two-edged object went quickly out of an opening in the Earth of its own accord*. This sounds like a soil sample being retrieved for study aboard the ship, just as the astronauts in the Apollo program did when they gathered moon dirt as one of their first tasks. In any event, it is pretty clear that an actual sword did not come out of the alien's mouth, unless he was really a magician, and was performing a sword swallowing act for John!

The being's countenance was said to be as bright as the sun. John has already said that the being's feet shone "like brass as it burns in a furnace," and that it was clothed in a "golden girdle," so it is clear that the garb was very bright, not unlike the spacesuits of modern astronauts.

As mentioned previously, John next goes into a lengthy diatribe, admonishing the local churches to get their collective act together. This has been skipped here for clarity, as the letters to the churches have no bearing on John's description of the vision. John

continues with more description of what he is seeing...

Vision of Heaven: Into the Ship!

4:1-11 *After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter. And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne. And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald. And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold. And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God. And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind. And the first beast was like a lion, and the second beast like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast was like a flying eagle. And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, LORD God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come. And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever, The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, Thou art*

worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

A door opens in heaven and John is invited to come up. John's use of the term *heaven* for the ship is appropriate for him. He is going up into a shining object unlike anything he has ever seen. He has seen a being that he takes to be an angel. In his mind, he is being invited into heaven. The voice inviting him inside sounds like a trumpet; not a bad description of a voice coming from a loudspeaker. John appears "in the Spirit" immediately, implying that he was transported inside in a manner not unlike the transporter mechanism from the series *Star Trek*. Matter transmission is a staple of science fiction, and could have accounted for this statement. However, John has already said that he saw a door open, so it is more likely that he walked quickly up a ramp into the ship. John next provides a description of the ship from the inside.

John sees a being sitting on a chair. The chair looked like jasper and sardine stone. Jasper is a reddish-yellow or brown rock similar to quartz. Sardine stone, also known as carnelian, is a red rock like quartz, only having the lustre of wax.

The "rainbow round about the throne" is not intended as a description of color - the phrase "like unto an emerald" does that. The rainbow is intended to describe the shape - semicircular. The fact that there are four beasts each having six wings matches nicely the mention of 24 seats ($4 \times 6 = 24$). It is a reasonable conclusion that there were four consoles having six seats each, organized in a semicircle around the central command chair.

One of the most exciting statements is that "before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal." This is clearly a description of a viewscreen. While it is not necessarily made of glass (astronauts capable of interstellar travel have probably developed better viewscreen technology than our glass TV tubes!), it would have looked like glass to John even if it was made of plastic or a similar alien equivalent.

John next attempts to describe the four consoles. Since he could not have known what a navigation console might look like, he used the only terms available to him to describe what he saw. John doesn't say the beasts *were* lions and calves and eagles and men - he says they *were like* a lion, a calf, a flying eagle, and had a face *as* a man. The description of "eyes round about" and within is clearly an attempt to describe electric lights or lighted push-button switches! When John says that the elders "cast their crowns before the throne" and worshipped "him that liveth forever," he could be simply referring to the aliens removing their helmets and setting them down in front of the command chair. Figure 4 shows an artist's conception of the room.

Next, John is amazed at a book that could not be opened...

5:1-14 *And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals. And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof? And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon. And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon. And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not:*

behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof. And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as if it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth. And he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne. And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four and twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints. And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth. And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever. And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever.

The definition of a book 2000 years ago was a collection of scrolls. If John was indeed inside a spacecraft with people much more advanced than he, what he called a book

would have been something else. It could have been the equivalent of our videotape. John describes the 'book' as having writing inside and on the back. Since the book hadn't been opened yet, how did he know there was anything inside? And why nothing on the front? Today's videocassettes would look like a book to people of as short a time as 50 years ago; a book that could not be opened!

There are said to be seven seals. There's the number seven again. This was John's way of relating the content to what was important in his life. When John refers to "loosing the seals," he is attempting to relate his knowledge of how one opens a book. Since this "book" is probably the equivalent of our videotape, it does not need to be opened to fulfill its function.

Most Bible commentators assume the slain lamb is Jesus, despite the fact that Jesus referred to as a lamb only once in the rest of the New Testament. In the Tyndale New Testament Commentaries by Leon Morris, the author states "It is striking and unexpected to have such an animal chosen to symbolize Christ." Christ is usually represented as an image of strength, so this usage has perplexed many a biblical interpreter. However, John has already used other animals to refer to other inanimate objects, so he is probably doing it again. A lamb is a baby sheep, and is smaller than some of the other animals represented. It is also white and fluffy and stands on four legs. That this lamb was "as if slain" may simply mean that it had an opening in it that looked like a deep cut to John. This would fit with the thought that the lamb did not appear to be dead. So, the slain lamb could be a small white something with an opening in it. The lamb also has seven eyes and seven horns. Again, the number is

probably not helpful here, but it clearly was not a lamb, nor was it a person. John describes this slain lamb as taking the book from the chosen one - this simply means that one of the crew inserted the "videotape" into the "VCR."

John saw the elders using what he took to be harps. They may have resembled his notion of a harp, but it was not harps the elders were playing. Perhaps the computers in use on the ship resembled harps, and were being played just as we "play" with keyboards to interact with computers of our age.

The concept of vials shows up often in Revelation. A vial is a container with some sort of liquid in it. Although John feels that the vials contain the prayers of saints, they are more likely test tubes for the analysis of the soil, flora and fauna of Earth. They could also be test tubes containing samples of John's bodily fluids. If aliens of 2000 years ago were as interested in taking fluid samples from Earthlings as the current crop seems to be (witness the many books on alien abductions), this doesn't sound too far-fetched. John never explicitly mentions being poked or prodded, but it is still a possibility.

More to come! Please write and tell me your opinions on what you've read! You can reach me at brianmwood@msn.com, or write to Continuum, 710 Grove Ct., Loveland, CO 80537.

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UFO magazine was started in the mid-eighties. It is published bimonthly by Vicki Cooper Ecker and Don Ecker. Subscriptions are \$25/year (\$33 foreign) for 6 issues.

Unsolved Mysteries
NBC Television
Friday at 8 PM ET

Hosted by Robert Stack, this program deals with UFOs and psychic events fairly regularly, but also focuses most of its efforts on missing persons and homicides.

The Paranormal Borderline
UPN Television
Check local listings

Hosted by Jonathan Frakes, it has some of the flavor of Sightings, although it is somewhat more sensationalistic. It might be worth a look.

Sightings
Sci-Fi Channel
Triage Entertainment, Inc.
15260 Ventura Blvd. Suite 700
Sherman Oaks, CA 91403

ParaNet has been involved behind the scenes with Sightings and believes it to be a sincere effort to explore the mysteries of our world. We have high regard for this series and the people involved with it.

Interesting Internet Links:

http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/T_porter/persemf.htm
Persinger mind control article mentioned on 10/6/96 show

<http://www.cs.bgsu.edu/~jzawodn/ufu/misc/enigma.html>
The Psychology of Dreamland by Terry Hansen

<http://www.psytek.com/coa19.html>
Project Bluebeam (mentioned on 11/17/96 show)

<http://www.ensc.sfu.ca/people/SupportStaff/girling/personal/hill>
New ideas regarding the starmap of Betty Hill (mentioned on 12/29/96 show)

<http://www.ifa.hawaii.edu/images/hale-bopp>
Photos of Hale-Bopp that were used in fraudulent claims of "companion" object. (1/19/97 show)

<http://207.179.129.61/index.htm>
Stanton Friedman's Web Page

<http://www.glufon.com>
Global UFO Network (GLUFON)

<http://www.bufoa.org.uk>
British UFO Research Association

<http://www.icon.co.za/~arib>
UFO/Paranormal Phenomenon

<http://www.qtm.net/~geibdan/fra>
memst.html -- UFO Folklore

Random Walk

This is ParaNet's News Column. It's called Random Walk after the mathematical concept in which the direction of each successive move in a sequence of movements is determined entirely at random. In other words, this is a random assortment of interesting news tidbits culled from the World Wide Web, news wires and magazine stories.

Astronomer Debates Finding of First Planet. Astronomers think they've found a planet about half the size of Jupiter orbiting a distant star, 51 Pegasi, but Canadian astronomer David Gray disagrees. He says the first planet found outside the solar system is an illusion caused by regular pulsations of a lone star that mimic the effect of an orbiting planet. Since the original discovery about 16 months ago, astronomers have found evidence of planets around about 10 sunlike stars. NASA administrator Dan Goldin has made one of NASA's primary goals to get pictures of such planets and collect information about their makeup.

Swiss astronomers Michel Mayor and Didier Queloz, who discovered the planet around 51 Pegasi wrote that it's premature to speculate that their discovery may be false.

Shadow over Australia Causes UFO Reports. A large shadow apparently passed over northern Perth in February, according to the UFO hotline based near Melbourne. Five people in the area reported the shadow, which did not appear to be associated with an aircraft. There

were no unusual weather conditions at the time that could have explained the phenomenon according to the WA Bureau of Meteorology.

UFO World Congress Meets in Zurich. Giorgio Bongiovanni, an Italian who claims to be a medium enraptured an audience at this conference in February with the tale that stigmata on his hands were caused by God to underscore the message that alien races have accepted Christ's gospel and are coming to Earth to spread the good news. He showed pictures of a string of V-shaped lights that he claimed was a fleet of UFOs photographed in Russia. Others at the conference were Robert O. Dean, a ponytailed former U.S. army sergeant major turned UFO researchers, and German researcher Michael Hesemann. Also present was Al Bielek, an Atlanta engineer who claims to have participated in the Philadelphia Experiment, supposedly an attempt to make a warship invisible in 1943 that backfired and propelled him and his brother 40 years into the future to Montauk, Long Island. Robert Bauval, a construction engineer who seeks to explain the mysteries of Egypt's pyramids, was also present. He said "We are attempting to link up with a much higher consciousness, a universal consciousness."

ParaNet, as always, cautions its readers that the New Age claims of these people are wild speculation and so far not provable.

NASA Warned to Watch Out for Martian Bugs. NASA should be careful not to contaminate Earth with Martian life which may exist, according to a study released Thursday, March 6 by the National Research Council. It recommends that samples be treated as

potentially hazardous and that they be physically and biologically isolated. If Martian microorganisms were somehow inadvertently introduced into Earth's environment, "the likelihood that they could survive and grow and produce harmful effects is judged to be low."

Famed Astronomer Carl Sagan Dies. Famed astronomer Carl Sagan has died at the age of 62 from pneumonia (complications of the pre-leukemia syndrome he had fought for many years). Mr. Sagan was most noted for his ability to explain astronomical science to the layman while still being highly regarded by his professional colleagues. An outspoken skeptic in the area of UFOs, he originated the phrase "extraordinary claims require extraordinary evidence". Despite his skepticism, UFO believers were well served by his interest in proving, scientifically, the existence of extraterrestrial life. He was routinely teased about his use of the word "billions". His TV miniseries "Cosmos" was very highly thought of, and he won many awards for his writing, which included the novel "Contact" as well as a plethora of nonfiction books. He will be sorely missed.

Nanotechnology Nears Reality. The New York Times reports that Xerox engineers have unveiled plans for what their micro-electromechanical systems will be able to create: self-guiding airplane wings with sensors no thicker than peach fuzz and a paint that repaints itself. It has been speculated that nanotechnology might account for otherwise inexplicable wounds on mutilated cows through the use of microprogrammed robots that know how to create precise cuts and extract blood.



POSTINGS

This column presents selected posts from people who have expressed their opinions on the ParaNet computer network regarding topics from Angels to Zeta Reticuli. You can participate simply by having a computer and modem. Log onto your Internet service provider and access the network via the Usenet newsgroup `alt.paranet.ufo`. Spelling and grammatical errors have not been fixed — these articles are exactly as posted.

From: Sleepy
cbw2c@avery.med.Virginia.EDU>
Subject: Carl Jung's writings on
Ufos
Date: Tue, 4 Mar 1997

Anybody ever read what Jung had to say about the Ufo phenomenon? I picked up the book Flying Saucers, a collection of Jung's writings on the subject currently available at your local Barnes & Noble for \$5.98—what a bargain!

In a nutshell, Western Civilization has become too dependent on science and rationalism and has lost contact with spirituality that, until quite recently in human history, was a large part of everyday existence. He claims that Ufos and alien contacts are exterior projections of parts of the unconscious that aren't being fulfilled by our overly-rational, spiritually bereft culture. His approach 30 years ago was a lot like John Mack's today—SOMETHING

significant is going on, and it warrants serious investigation. Perhaps too much of the discussion of these ngs focuses on EXTERIOR phenomenon but not on INTERIOR phenomenon. Why don't some of you pipe up as to WHY you spend so much energy on this topic? What changes in yourselves are you hoping to achieve? And, more for my own curiosity, how much do you discuss these topics outside the newsgroup?

My answer is that it is a fascinating subject—watching the birth and growth of something that at least can be called a mythology, one that is unique to our own culture while containing strong similarities to other myths worldwide (Joseph Campbell, anyone?) And they say the US has no culture... :) This doesn't mean that I totally denounce the reality of what's going on... I merely question the KIND of reality. Also, you've got to remember that myths always have some root in material objective reality.

From: DRudiak@aol.com (David Rudiak)
Subject: Re: Carl Jung's writings on Ufos
Date: Tue, 04 Mar 1997

You are oversimplifying Jung's position. In his book ["Flying Saucers — A Modern Myth, 1958] and accompanying letters, Jung professed to be neutral on the subject, but said radar/visual cases might indicate UFOs were physically real. However, regardless of their origin or physical reality, people would impose their own mythological beliefs on them. It was the latter aspect which Jung's book addressed.

Also check out Charles Lindbergh's memoirs. Lindbergh recounted a meeting with Jung. To Lindbergh's great surprise, Jung was a

"believer", saying UFOs were physically real, and not a psychological phenomenon. Lindbergh said he told Jung they were a myth, but Jung countered that there was much that Lindbergh, and even head of Air Intelligence, Gen. Samford, didn't know. Lindbergh cited Jung as an example of how even a brilliant chronicler of myths could get swept up in one.

Lindbergh didn't specify the date of this meeting with Jung, but since Samford became head of the National Security Agency in 1956 and was head of Air Intel. prior to this, we can safely assume this meeting took place prior to 1956 and prior to Jung's publication of his book. Jung apparently believed UFOs were physically real and not just a psychological manifestation.

From: billphil@ix.netcom.com
(Badwater Bill)
Subject: Re: LAZAR'S
BACK-ENGINEERING - A
FALLACY
Date: Wed, 05 Mar 1997

A friend of mine just gave me the Lazar tape. What a hoot. I live in Las Vegas and have worked on Nevada Test Site activities for nearly 30 years. I thought the tape was a cartoon. I think that if this guy had any real knowledge of anything substantial and was read-in to any of the real projects, wouldn't he be in jail now for talking about them? For years I have known people here in town who dealt with or peripherally to Lazar. They even had routine spook meetings with John Lear a few years ago. I offered to come to many of those meetings and offer an evaluation of Lazar. You see, I'm a real physicist. In fact I have two M.S. degrees, one in nuclear physics and one in Radiological Sciences from the University of

Washington. My brother knows Lazar and on a few occasions told him I wanted to meet with him in a public forum. Being a real physicist I could simply ask him some trivial questions like write the Maxwell equations or what is a Hamiltonian? Any B.S. level physicist would be able to do that. Or, what were the books you used to study E & M, classical mechanics or optics? Or what's the derivative of $\sin(x)$. The questions wouldn't even have to be technical. Lazar has avoided me like the plague.

I felt his video to be laughable and a violation to me as a self respecting scientist. Everyone who knows squat about nuclear energy knows that the energy released in fission/fusion reactions is from changes in binding energy. A small amount can be released somewhat uniformly by alpha emission. But, antimatter particles don't come zinging out of the nucleus in any of the nuclear reactions we use to power this planet or in the sun. Antimatter is generally formed in the pair production reactions of gamma rays interacting in the strong nuclear field of the atom. It has nothing to do with generating energy from the nucleus.

In the video he goes on and on about curving space. It takes our entire sun to deviate space a couple of minutes of arc so we can see stars behind it. Where is he going to get that much mass to cause that kind of warp. Hell, a neutron star is what's required. And then, the warp would only be local to the neutron star. He talks about amplifying gravity waves. How? How do you even build a device to interact with gravity in any other way than attractive? There are no Negative gravity charges like in electricity. Gravity is always attractive. He also says if you jump up in the air, you cancel gravity. Me thinks that gravity still exists in

this room even when me jumps into the air. In fact I just did it and all of the books on my desk stayed right there. Hmmm.

The biggest hoot is the map of Baghdad and his interpretation of the radial kill zone from a nuclear device. I laughed like hell at that one. He says our devices are 1% efficient. How would he know the burn efficiency of a fission or a fusion device? His little reactor was a laugh too. Looks like a little accelerator hitting a target. What's so high-tech about that? If the proton feed tube were metal would it really work? Would you be able to deflect the protons with a magnetic field? How would the proton energy be controlled? You don't just put protons in a tube and expect them not to hit the walls. Does he think they might just flow like water in a pipe?

This guy doesn't act like any physicist I know, or even would want to know. If he really had degrees, I think he could have produced evidence of that by now. He's had almost 10 years. If the CIA kill-filed all my transcripts in all of the Universities I'd been to, I would simply go and get one of my old professors to stand up and vouch for me on camera. I've been out of graduate school for almost 30 years and can still find both of my theses in the libraries and on my home bookshelf. Where is Lazar's thesis? I have certified transcripts in my files too. I have photographs with professors etc.

I don't want to end up in a law suit with the guy so I'm not going to categorically refute him or his credentials. I have no desire to fight him in the courts although my brother-in-law and my father-in-law are lawyers here and they work cheap for me. I'm simply stating what my own personal feelings are about the guy, and I

could be wrong. But, I make the following speculations from my own frame of reference:

1. The guy probably met Teller once, but so did I. In fact I've been in meetings with Teller and the old coot wouldn't recognize me from anyone else at this point. So, Teller himself probably can't remember him.

2. He talks like a friend of mine who always wanted to know quantum physics but never put in the time to learn it. He makes wild comments and accusations about gravity, probability etc. And, he's just talking out of his you know what. My friend is a technician who works on electronic communication equipment for EG&G, has a "Q" clearance and is dumber than a stump when it comes to physics. But, he BSes almost all the people around him with his projecting personality and he knows some of the buzz-words.

3. I would guess that this guy Lazar never had a clearance and they had to baby sit him if he ever did even go to Groom Lake. Why did he only get about \$950 and was never called on again? He was no full-time employee or he'd have had paychecks that went on for awhile. He talks about being escorted. When ever I had a "Red" badger with me, I had to go to the restroom with him in certain areas on the NTS. Uncleared people need to be escorted at ALL times in various areas. That makes sense as to why the security guard was always with him. As far as security going to his house. Hell, they investigate everyone who has applied for a clearance. And, if you are a bit funny, they dig in like a tick on a dog because you become interesting to them. Ill bet Lazar became very interesting to them. He's interesting to us!

4. I think the likelihood is that Lazar is a two-year electronics tech who applied for a job with EG&G. Or, something like that. Its no secret that EG&G had some contracts at 51 and they might have actually taken Lazar out there a few times as an on-call tech. Just what Lazar needed to beef up his story. There's just enough knowledge about the area for Lazar to cook up a good story and try to get movie rights or sell a book. Just my guess.

5. Lastly I would like to say that I saw George Knapp's "Proof" documentary. It was another cartoon. George is a journalist not a scientist. I watched that blurb from the test site with other nuclear physicists. We all laughed like hell at what George calls "Proof." Its obvious that George knows little about scientific method too. He should leave the elements of proof up to technically educated people. If Id have submitted a "Proof" like his to my seventh grade math teacher Id have been laughed out of the room.

For the last few years I wanted to see proof of Lazar's credentials and I wanted to meet him in public. The bigger the audience the better. But, I had never seen his tape until today. I have no desire to do any of that now. I have all the data I need to formulate my opinion by just by watching the tape. When I first started watching the tape I began taking notes concerning what I felt were inconsistencies and blatant mistakes. I made so many notes, it would have taken me all day to stop and start the tape while I wrote things down. I have convinced myself of his technical level and I really have been wondering about him for a long time.

Actually, its a good story. I hope he gets it cranked up into a movie or something that makes him some money. I don't think there's

anything wrong with that. Look at how much of the stuff on TV we watch and it says, "This is a true story." That just makes the story that much more interesting I think!

From: Alfred Lehmborg
<Lehmborg@snowhill.com>
Subject: Apology to MW #100
Date: Sat, 01 Mar 1997

So your mind is more than made up? Your convictions hard as stone? Your philosophy all laid out? All your demons driven prone? All *important* questions answered? All the *evils* outlined plainly? All the *angels* in _your_ outfield? Does the liberal pule inanely?

Do UFOs infest weak minds? Is that field all a lie? Think Doug and Dave are heroes, Stomping circles out of sight?

Are some folks just superior? Are some others doomed to die? Are you yourself all blameless? Do your eyes avoid the sky?

Think gay men are unnatural? Gay women soon to fry? Dismissed from white, elitist heavens When they "sluff this coil", and die?

Do you tithe your church for Sundays brunch? Are you driving great big cars? Do you light your home on Christmas eve Like exploding nova stars?

Think the "playing field" is level? Think "bootstraps" are _the_ answer? Think welfare is unnatural, But a corporate doles not cancer?

You think the fifties were a heaven, To which we are returning? Think "God" should rule in government -Thinking that wont _cause_ more burning?

Did Jewish genocide ne`re occur, Occurring, they encouraged what they got? Are you thinking _hemp_ is all about Just growing\smoking pot?

If yes stains just one answer. . . And you'll chance a change in crew, Then best get straight, take stock wise up! And use an Alien View!

Want some truth to all the falsehood? Want to cop to REAL biz? No thing, and I mean NOTHING. . . Is a way you _think_ it is!

It's a construction, a model, a mold we force reality into so we can feel *good* about our day. It means something because, individually, we _make_ it mean something. But it is only a best, perhaps not best educated, guess at an interpretation of how we have told _ourselves_, instructed _ourselves_, . . . convinced _ourselves_ that *the way things are* are the way *things* are.

Government is real. Our loves are real. Our hates are real, and it _wouldn't_ all just disappear with the first asteroid, or the first whim of the man. Nonsense.

And that _is_ nonsense because perception, condition, and situation are different for wildly divergent people all over the world. . . eight or eighty, blind, crippled or crazy. . . walking, crawling, and stinking sociopath or sociophile. Over my shoulder yawns the multiverse! What now brown cow? Is it more than blind luck that you are where you are? Its _not_ what you think. For some, surviving the asteroid is a step up.

Cozy America. . .there are horrors out there you might be liable for - consider the production of your child's soccer ball, or those long fat bananas mom buys down at the

store. . . and these are a couple of the most (seemingly) innocent (Both of the preceding are real horror stories) Cathy Lee Gifford knows what I'm talking about.

Once we think we have the deadlock nut on something, we are loath to let it go. We fight for our convictions out of some weird pride of authorship, or ownership -- made whole cloth out of centrist convenience. Some of those convictions are seen as dead right, others as dead wrong. We end up on one side, or another. Soon, we are entrenched in a destructive belief system out of sheer momentum. This is how Christians bury Moslems in swine offal when they fight Bosnian wars (It happened). This is how homosexuals are beaten until they die (It's happening). Do they bring it on themselves? Do they?

All this dissolves upon a search for the un-stretched mechanics of why conditions are as they are the alien view. When the chips fall as they may, and we all cop to *it*, *it* improves real fast. . . even if it means the, ah. . . *best* having to give up the *best* champagne just for a while! Even if you have to be a little ashamed -- just for a while. . . cop to personal responsibility!

Example: the rough numbers say the ratio is seven to one -- working honest poor at or just above the poverty line, to clear profit millionaires, in these United States. Imagine a, lets go nuts, \$25,000 annual boost in that working poor woman's hand for her trouble. 25 x 7 is \$175,000. . . or, the clear profit millionaire only clears \$825,000 the next year, of course, he recoups his loss, plus, in the hotter economy, "but what the hell. . ." he now reasons, ". . . a bird in the hand. . ." This is how he treats people who build his house, keep him warm heat his water. . .

Nothing is the way we fallible humans think it is. This is why we have to detach, move back see proverbial forests for proverbial trees; be able to reevaluate positions in the light of new evidence. . . and grow. Admitting that you are wrong (when you admit it) is, still, a step up. This is where we will find our salvation -- in tolerance, hard (at first) uncomfortable truth, and its incandescent light.

From: Grant Robert Cameron
<gcameron@cc.umanitoba.ca>
Subject: Special Prosecutor for James Oberg?
Date: Sat, 01 Mar 1997

Over the past number of years a lot has been written about a crash of an object at Kecksburg, Penns. on Dec.9,1965, and the movement of the recovered object to WPAFB.

In the Sept.1993 issue of Omni Mr. James Oberg "hinted" that the cause of the crash was the Soviet Cosmos-96 probe. Following my disclosure that Dr. Eric Walker, former President of Penn. State University, and former high ranking government official involved with the UFO situation from the start, had rushed to the Kecksburg crash site- Mr. Oberg again hinted that Walker presence was indicative of the crash of Cosmos-96.

However during the internet debate, related to Mr. Oberg's theory, Mr. Oberg chose to remain silent, except to send me a personal E-mail questioning why I would trust Soviet statements on Cosmos-96. Mr. Oberg chose to leave the defence of his position to TRW physicist Dr. Michael Hofmeister, who unfortunately was ill prepared to defend Mr. Oberg's theory. Dr. Hofmeister finally admitted that he had never even

read Mr. Oberg Omni article outlining the theory.

James Oberg has always been described as an expert on the Soviet Space Program, and as a hard-line UFO skeptic. He has been very vocal about the accuracy of his information. "I've been waiting," James Oberg once said, "for an ufonut to describe a factual error or checkable counter-example to stuff I've been publishing since about, oh, 1974 or so on UFOs, and so far no luck..."

Because of these things many chose to accept Oberg Cosmos-96 theory without checking. Because of Mr. Oberg outspoken confidence in his facts concerning UFOs, it seemed strange that Mr. Oberg chose to stay out of the defence of his pet theory relating to the Kecksburg crash, leaving it for others not as smart as himself to defend.

In preparation for a paper on the Kecksburg crash, I came across a number of new pieces of information. Among those was an item that might explain why Mr. Oberg has been so silent about his Cosmos-96 theory so proudly displayed to the world in 1993. The quote is from David Templeton's special investigation into the Kecksburg crash called "The Uninvited" and written up in the Pittsburgh Press newspaper June 19,1991. The quote speaks for itself;

"Oberg reviewed orbital coordinates for the probe that the Pittsburgh Press obtained from the Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Md. Although Cosmos-96's orbit crossed the Northeastern United States, he said the tracking coordinates prove that it could not have come down in Kecksburg at 4:46 p.m. - the hour the fireball was seen there... 'Cosmos-96 is not guilty,' Oberg concluded."

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