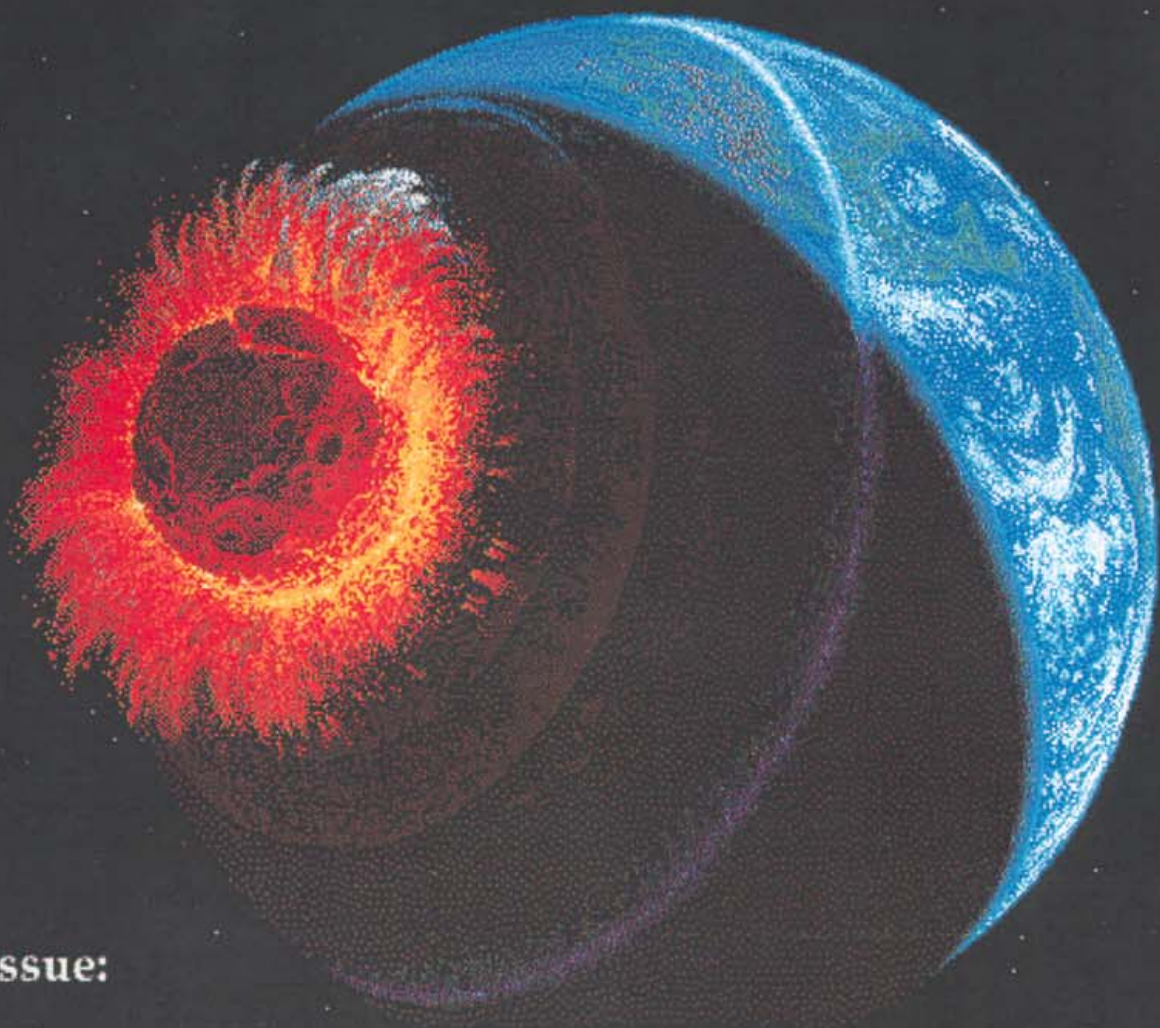


CONTINUUM

The Official Publication of ParaNet Information Services, Inc.



In this issue:

Planetary disaster! Could it happen to us?

**An exclusive interview with Larry Warren and Peter Robbins
on the Bentwaters, England UFO case of 1980.**

A look into the minds of the Heaven's Gate cult

The book of Revelation: Angels or Aliens?

**Did alien technology from Roswell kick-start
the semiconductor industry?**

**Vol. VI Number 3
Spring, 1997**

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From the Publisher's Desk ...

This issue features a transcript of an interview with Peter Robbins and Larry Warren, who appeared on The ParaNet Continuum radio program with Michael Corbin on March 16, 1997. Larry was involved in the famous UFO case in Bentwaters, England in 1980, and their book, *Left at East Gate*, is a thoroughly researched tome with some startling and disturbing revelations.

And speaking of revelations, this issue has part 2 of my continuing series on analysis of the Biblical book of Revelation in terms of a UFO landing. It's fanciful but thought provoking. Let me know what you think.

Our psychological consultants, Greg Wheeler and Scott Scribner, have written another in their continuing series of scholarly articles, this time delving into the tragedy in San Diego with the Heaven's Gate cult. That event did nothing to help the cause of Ufology at a time when more and more people are starting to speak out about their experiences. Along with their article, we've included some examples of the kind of thinking that makes up a cult by printing some of their literature, along with some hopefully obvious disclaimers.

Could an asteroid be the final thing we ever see? Our cover story explores how scientists feel about the possibilities.

Our Sightings column, which usually lists a bunch of recent sightings, this time focuses on just one: the flap over Phoenix on March 13. What do you think happened there? Let us know.

Roswell, of course, continues to be in the news, and the latest controversy involves a book by Philip J. Corso and William J. Birnes regarding Corso's alleged participation in the infusion of alien technology into

U.S. industry, basically kick-starting the electronics era. We found some old documents from Signetics describing the history of the semiconductor industry that may make Corso's observations off-base. But we could be wrong, so let us know what you think!

And of course our other regular features, Random Walk, ParaNet Postings, and Sources & Resources return with some expanded listings.

We're pleased to report that our nationally syndicated radio show is doing well and has added some new affiliates. When Art Bell's Dreamland program moved up an hour, we moved our show to the hour after his. The result was better than we could have hoped for, as it allowed all of our affiliates and several new ones to carry us live! We're still expanding, and are now on for two full hours starting at 10 PM Mountain Time in Denver (on KRRF, "Ralph", at AM-1280). Hope you can tune in, but if not, please look for us on the web, as many of our shows are available via RealAudio on our web site at <http://www.paranet.org/paranet>.

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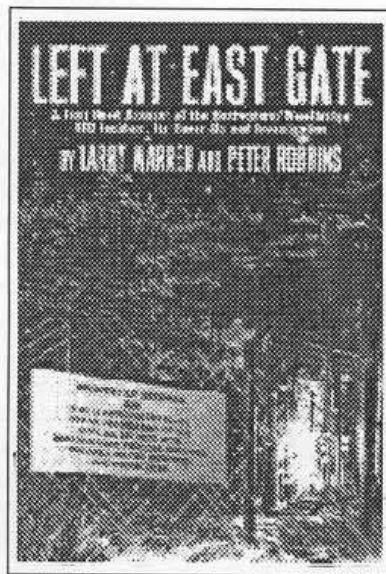
Exclusive interview with Peter Robbins and Larry Warren

This is a transcript of the interview conducted on the air between Michael Corbin and co-authors Peter Robbins and Larry Warren, whose book, *Left at East Gate*, deals with the Bentwaters UFO case. They appeared on The ParaNet Continuum radio program on March 16, 1997 and are also scheduled to appear on the July 19, 1997 show and will be available for a book signing on July 18 and 19th at a lecture that is being hosted by ParaNet. Call (800)836-6381 for tickets or information.

ParaNet: In 1983, Larry Warren became the first honorably discharged military witness to go public about the coverup under his own name. He has lectured on the Bentwaters incident extensively in the U.S. and Japan. His co-author, Peter Robbins, is the Executive Assistant for the Intruders Foundation. He has researched the subject of UFOs for more than 20 years and has lectured extensively. Larry, please set the stage for us and explain exactly what happened at Bentwaters.

Warren: The events in question involve three nights. John Burroughs was involved on the first night and very peripherally on the third night, which is the heart of the book. If there were contact made, it was on the third night. Basically, we're a very strategically important facility - RAF Bentwaters and Woodbridge, which were the same

81st tactical fighter wing in Suffolk, East Anglia in Britain. On Christmas eve, 1980, three security police saw lights go down in the woods. They went out to investigate, thinking it was an aircraft that had crashed. They went into the woods, they had a series of very bizarre events take place. There was a fourth person who joined them who ended up missing for quite a time, so there was a missing person element to this also. It was a very serious series of events - they lost communication with the base, they were found wandering four hours later and claiming to have encountered a triangular shaped object on the



ground that took off at tremendous speed after a series of events happened. The next night these objects returned and did what appeared to be a grid search over the area, according to other witnesses that saw that. On the third night, the objects came back and set down on the ground once again. On the first and third night, trace marks were left. Physical evidence was left. A number of us were called out to the site. Films and photographs were taken of a craft or an object on the ground. I saw it myself. I never saw it fly, per se. There was a solid object on the ground, there was a life form seen

in association with that that was not human. Senior people on the base witnessed this. There were no less than 50-80 personnel involved on that third night. Civilians witnessed a number of aspects of these events as well.

ParaNet: That's quite a story! What do you think really happened out there?

Warren: I hear a lot of theories from people who weren't there, but I think the one thing that all the participants would agree on is that this phenomenon was not from Earth, it was not created by any government on Earth, it wasn't a hallucination, it wasn't a lighthouse, it wasn't a satellite re-entry, I've seen that on the Internet, brilliant theories, but I assure you we didn't go see a satellite on the ground. I've been around this stuff for a long time in public. People want answers - was it real? Well it certainly is. It was not from this realm at all. Whether it's from another planet or not I don't know, and I don't know if the people who debriefed us knew. It was a non-terrestrial event, there was a non-human presence there, and there was technology that they traveled in, apparently, that was not built by any government on this Earth. Everyone from Colonels on down have gone on record saying that at the very minimum that's what it was. After the fact, though, I believe the intelligence community, namely the National Security Agency, meddled with personnel because they didn't want this said. This subject is the biggest secret our government holds. There's no question about it. The difference with Roswell and Bentwaters - this is the best known UFO incident outside this country in America, even though CNN did its highest rated assignment on it in the eighties - a four night report, with a number of witnesses. This is the

one you can take to court, because there's a chain of evidence that any jury would hear and any judge would have to enter into a hearing.

ParaNet: How do you know that some aspects of what you remember might not have been an influence from mind control experiments?

Warren: I can clearly go back to where I stood and remember it clearly. That has not changed.

ParaNet: Let's go to the area. In the book there are numerous references to Suffolk County in the United Kingdom as being the origination point of witchcraft. What is the significance of this in the UFO incident?

Warren: There's no connection other than that it's a side element that's true, making the area more mysterious. There is a lot of witchcraft and the black arts. Some folks practiced it in the middle ages and still do I imagine. There were a lot of ghost stories that were quite wonderful -- for example, there was a German pilot that was shot down and his ghost was seen on Woodbridge field. A lot of those legends went by the wayside after December of 1980.

ParaNet: You have a transcript in the book between you and The Deputy Base Commander, Colonel Halt. What is the import of what took place there? The UFO did something and then this whole incident occurred.

Warren: We were asked to turn the recorder off a number of times. It was all recorded with his permission and published with his knowledge, but it is the most extensive interview he's ever given. What he told us (and he can't admit this publicly) is that we have the largest stockpile of tactical nuclear

weapons in all of NATO secretly housed against all treaties with Britain at these two facilities and not even at Greenham Common, where the anti-nuclear movement suspected they might be - that was a diversion. We had 1 Megaton battlefield-strength nuclear weapons. Halt made an audio tape where he talks of pencil-thin beams of light down to the ground. Not only that, these objects fired these pencil-thin beams of light through the bunkers where the missiles were stored, potentially causing problems with the missiles. We had a tactical team come in from Germany the next day to check out the damage to the arsenal.

ParaNet: This is very reminiscent of the 1975 overflights at Malmstrom AFB in Montana.

Warren: Well it was all the northern tier of SAC bases that had problems like that. The problem here is that our government and the British government, say that something happened, but it was of no defense significance.

ParaNet: I want to go back to the mysterious agency, the NSA. You talk about some dealings with a Jim Greenfield. Who is this?

Warren: Those are the credentials he gave me. The reason this agency approached me is that they knew I had gone public and they wanted to know if I had an axe to grind and did I intend on divulging our nuclear strength at that time. They said they didn't want to know about the rest. At Bentwaters, we were debriefed by the Office of Naval Intelligence - the Navy, not the Air Force - and the Armed Forces Security Services, which is the field arm of the NSA. So we've connected these two agencies and groups. As it progressed, these people wanted me to alter certain parts of the event, keep certain

senior people out of this, because they look at this as loonies.

ParaNet: Do you think there was contact?

Warren: Oh yes. I don't know if there was communication, but there could have been. I mean it was a real phenomenon, there was an intelligence behind it that showed itself and showed its overwhelming ability to outmaneuver anything we have. There's not much of a safety net with this. They're here, they've been here a long time, the government knows it, 'cause little old me knows it.

Robbins: Let's add that one of the main reasons for covering it up is to cover up the fact that we've been covering it up. It means that every president since Harry Truman is an unindicted co-conspirator!

ParaNet: Is there any connection to remote viewing, as suggested by a CNN correspondent?

Robbins: That's purely speculative. He told us a number of things that raised the hair on the back of my neck as far as advanced technology weapons tests and usages of things that we now consider paranormal as future military tactical devices, but because of his level of clearance, he was only able to hint at some of the things he knew of. A lot of it remains open to wonder about.

Warren: I would say that there's no connection. In my mind, this stuff was not remote viewing, lighthouses, Elvis Presley, or anything else. This is a story of survival and life and I think most people can relate to this.

Robbins: The amount of corroborating physical evidence that back up the reality of what Larry witnessed are on the record and that includes extraordinary

results to the soil analysis of the area where this happened, not to mention Larry's Air Force and civilian medical records.

Caller: As far as acceptance of the UFO phenomenon, it's been dated clear back to Biblical times, but it's so hard for people to accept. Why?

Robbins: I think it conflicts in so many ways with so much of the Judeo-Christian traditions we've been brought up with. Most of us would rather not surrender the mythologies that were imparted to us as children. It shatters too much of day-to-day reality and I think it may just be locked in there for a lot of people.

Caller: There's even references in the Bible to it [alien visitation]. Like in Revelation, where they're talking about tending to other flocks. The straight odds are, like for every star we can see there's a hundred we can't, the odds are that there are other planets like Earth. It's just so hard for people to accept.

Robbins: Well I think that's particular human arraogance that's been passed down from generation to generation. Many of us would have to readjust whose image we were made in!

Caller2: What did the creatures look like and did they tamper with the nuclear weapons?

Warren: I don't know what they were, but they were translucent and had big eyes. That's why some people said they were projections. Command people have said the pencil beams of light did tamper with the weapons. I don't know what the purpose is.

ParaNet: Larry, what are the physical problems you've had?

Warren: Anyone that was in close proximity to these things has had problems. These things left very high levels of radiation in the area. I had flash burns to the retinas of my eyes and high white blood cell count showing exposure to a radioactive element. I feel fine now. I hope this book will help others who have been brutalized by the situation and the ramifications of going forward on this sort of stuff.

Robbins: We've put our heart into this for 10 years and I think it will stand up to the test of time.

1947: EIGHT SAUCERS LAND IN IDAHO

Here's an actual AP news story from 1947:

Spokane, Wash., July 5 - (AP) - Eight flying saucers were reported today to have made a landing on a mountainside near St. Maries, Idaho in full view of 10 persons.

Mrs. Walter Johnson of suburban Dishman said the saucers came down in timber there Thursday evening (July 3, 1947) but had not been reported until she returned to her home in Dishman today.

The saucers were seen to fall near Butler's Bay on the St. Joe River six miles (9 kilometers) west of St. Maries, where Mrs. Johnson was visiting her parents.

She said they came into view at an extreme speed, traveling from the south to the north. Suddenly, they slowed, she said, and then "fluttered like leaves to the ground."

"The mysterious part was that we couldn't see them after the landing," said Mrs. Johnson. "We could see them flutter down into the timber, yet we couldn't see that they did anything to the trees."

BLIMP TRIGGERS NEAR-PANIC AS THE AUSTRALIAN UFO FLAP CONTINUES

When a blimp advertising Whitman's Chocolates flew over Sydney and its suburbs earlier this week, it triggered a cascade of phone calls to Australia's National 24-Hour Hotline. According to hotline director Ross Dowe, his office received thousands of calls, the most ever for one night.

The blimp incident followed a month of strange sightings over the Australian states of Victoria and Queensland.

On Monday, June 2, 1997, at 7:30 p.m., witnesses in the Taylor Lakes area near Melbourne "reported sighting a cloud-like illumination stopping and then moving again towards the western sky, followed by six orange illuminations."

On Tuesday, June 3, 1997, at 5 p.m., people from Melbourne to Keilor Downs, Victoria (Vic.) reported seeing "a flouro (flourescent) white, upside-down banana-shaped illumination 'moving towards the northwest sky.'"

On Wednesday, June 11, 1997, at 9 p.m., a UFO was reported in Lindissar, on the island of Tasmania off Australia's southern coast. A resident spotted "a bright orange-yellow tubed or line-shaped object."

The following night, Thursday, June 12, 1997, at 6:55 p.m. people at Picnic Point on Queensland's "Sunshine Coast," sighted "a lime-green line with a golden football-shaped illumination halfway up the line."

(Many thanks to Ross Dowe of Australia's National 24-Hour UFO Hotline for these recent sightings.) [From UFO ROUNdUP by Joseph Trainor, Vol. 2, Nr. 26. Used with permission]

Just Do It: THE LEAP INTO HYPERFAITH.

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

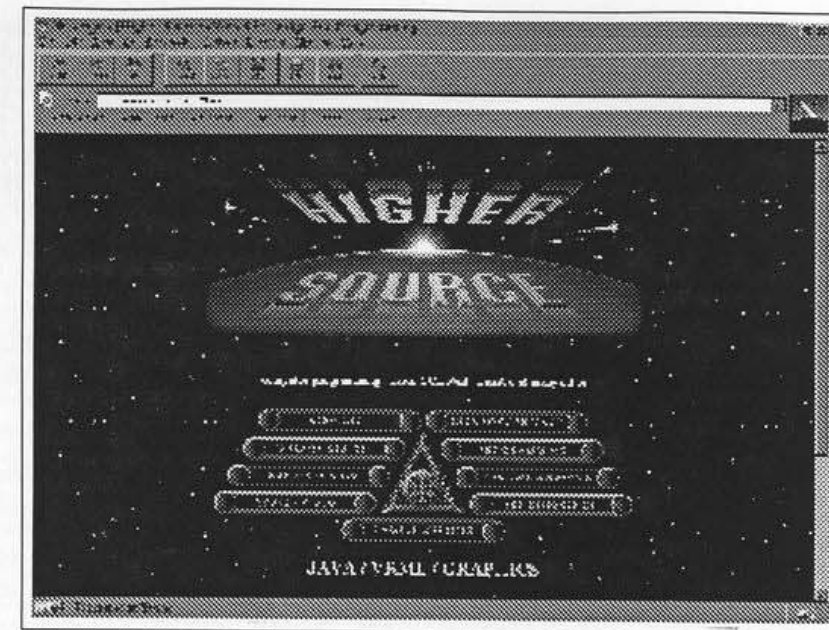
"Do not get drunk on wine," Paul the Apostle warned the church at Ephesus, "but be filled with the Spirit." Perhaps St. Paul's suggestion should have included an advisory about mixing wine and spirits at the same time. Like most men of action, Marshall Herff Applewhite probably wouldn't have read the label anyway.

The self-initiated transport of "Bo" Applewhite and his flock of 38 by way of Heaven's Gate to a waiting Alien Mother Ship gives us a big clue about the power of strongly held beliefs. In just the same varied and volatile ways as people react to strong drink, the "Heaven's Gaters" decided to "go for it" and not miss their chance at "reaching for the stars." No wonder their method leaves every Doubting Thomas scratching his head, wondering "How could anyone do that?"

To begin to answer that question, and to see its relevance to Ufology, we must take a closer look at the phenomena of belief, belief systems and faith.

One fateful moment at the foot of the avatar can awaken certainty of belief, leading to amazing feats of power and bravery. The worst case of blues can suddenly dissolve into an ocean of euphoria. The believer stands before the lion unafraid, and holds the sword high against the scourge of infidels. The new convert leaves home, never to return.

It's no stretch to suppose that this igniting of belief can yeild up its own spectrum of the affected, from "social believers" to true beliefaholics. While many will



The web site managed by the Heaven's gate Cult.

benefit, the most extreme responders pose a social predicament. When a belief system like Heavens Gate slams into the side of a house and kills dozens of human beings, we must consider the event at least as important to society as a vehicular manslaughter by a drunk driver.

The deaths of the Heaven's Gate group in Rancho Santa Fe, California seem to us victims of a terrible accident at the intersection of Action and Faith. Forget some weak little "self-preservation" instinct. These folks stomped all over it with an unstoppable power to take poison and die. The sheer brazen fearlessness of it, the commitment and, dare we say, bravery, should not distract us. While some may be led to view their deaths as a kind of martyrdom, in the same way Christians now look at their ancestors in the Roman Coliseum, we contend something less romantic was going on. Belief, as Polanyi says, may vary from "an unshakable certitude down to a mere lingering trace

of suspicion."(1962) Beliefs about the world seem to have been the earliest response of intelligence, and early mythologies, or systematized belief systems, appear to have developed to explain the complex and varied experiences of human individuals and communities. This cultural function shows an organic, adaptive process that gives coherence to experience and fosters personal and social development across time. So how can faith become maladaptive?

By a curious irony of logic, adaptive behaviors are defined as leading to the physical preservation of the species, if not the individual. Since castration (or celibacy) and suicide, on the face of it, appear to lead in the opposite direction, we are forced to suppose that Applewhite's belief system was maladaptive.

Applewhite believed and taught that he was possessed (not just temporarily abducted) by an alien personality. We must take his own observation seriously, if only according to the common-sense principle: "he might have been

crazy, but he wasn't stupid." By all accounts, neither were the Gaters. We propose that a known psychological mechanism goes a long way toward explaining this seeming contradiction. Applewhites resilient alien possession experience demonstrates a phenomenon which may have directly contributed to the Heaven's Gate deaths--the strange but powerful ability of the mind to split off functional, but not quite human, versions of itself. These versions are not recognized as mental clones, but are seen as alien minds.

These mind copies have sometimes been called the alter ego, the Shadow, or a "split personality." We prefer Robert Jay Liftons concept, doubling. (1986)

We first see evidence of this doubling process in the consciousness of Marshall Applewhite in the early 1970s, a psychotic break and reformulation. The L.A. Times (March 28, 1997) reported that, when confronted about sexual behavior unacceptable to his college, Applewhite literally fell apart. We might suppose that, freed from the conflicts inherent in a whole mind, the reified version of Applewhite soon set out to replicate itself by deliberate manipulation of his followers. This is not a neutral process, but an aggressive and all-consuming quest.

The split off self is hopelessly narcissistic, and for those seeking it, powerfully charismatic. It lacks true empathy, and projects absolute assurance. It feeds on its follower's need for ultimate acceptance. Its goal: to replicate other minds in its own image. Its methods are sometimes harsh and sometimes subtle, but the outcome depends more on the receptive believer than on the recruiter. Neediness, great emptiness, a loss of purpose, trauma, all "blank out" the higher

mental functions long enough for the formation of a cloned double. We know this process often occurs in the course of a single exposure event. Thus do normal, needy people become transformed into believers who never come home again.

It is this state of induced mental blankness that ought to give caution to those who submit to hypnosis in the hope of coping with intimations of alien abduction. The process of doubling is rapid and powerful, but we do not believe possible, when a conscious mind and vigilant insight are on duty. We have discussed this in prior articles.

Applewhite followed ancient traditions in his method of death. If he had lived in Egypt several millennia before Christ, he would have had his body embalmed and enshrouded, readied for his journey to meet the gods, and all his retinue would still need to be killed to accompany him. But in these days, he also required everyone to have five bucks if stopped for vagrancy (in effect to pay the ferryman to cross the river Styx, which was the belief about a dark area in Earths perspective of the Milky Way galaxy) and sneakers for extensive walking (and to outrun Cerberus, the three-headed monster at the "gate"). Applewhite was intelligent enough to agree with C.S. Lewis that "Hell's" Gate also doubled as Heaven's!

Applewhite's faith then only needed a trigger, a rumor in this case promulgated by Remote Viewers (RVs) like Dr. Courtney Brown via the Art Bell show, to see his chance coming. The only train out of Dodge City in his lifetime was heading his way. Time for men and women of action to jump aboard. But to board this train, a person has to have a pure heart. Doubts, wavering, shaking in one's

boots, that's all out. Of course, no human being can act unhesitatingly if troubled by feelings. Like guns likely to lead to a shoot-out, it was necessary to hang up those feelings at the barroom door before taking a drink. This neat trick is the sine qua non of doubling.

Support for a split between the human, flawed, feeling, sexual, whole self, and the pure, satisfied and spiritual self may have started 2400 years ago in Greece. Some opposed it, such as the Ionian scientists Democritus and Anaximander, who held to the understandability of the external world and to a theory of its ordinairiness and observability. To the best of our knowledge, these men or their contemporaries were the first to propose that both rocks and living beings were made of material composed of atoms, an unseen but substantial thing. Anaximander languished in prison for believing the Moon and Sun to be physical objects instead of gods. Aristarchus of Samos, who first wrote of the earth as a planet around the sun, suffered as a heretic. The true religion was one of separation of spirit and flesh.

Of course, the atomist position did not take hold until 2200 years or so later. The Ionians probably could not have foreseen a day when their methodological breakthroughs of their day would prevail to such an extent in ours that materialist psychologists might debate whether brains have minds at all!

In this materialist context, spiritual thirst abounds. The spiritual world is separated from materiality, and spirituality from base emotions like hunger, sexual desire, and anger. The pure human can no longer be human. Perhaps the Christians incarnation is the only exception to this view, seeing the Christ as fully human and fully godlike. It is

significant that such a being could not adapt to the world, however. Or rather, the world could not adapt to him. At any rate, prior victims of a dominant belief system didn't need to take their own lives, because a unitary theocratic establishment was very happy to dispatch the heretic.

Preaching at the doorstep of the official gods, a captive in this corruptible flesh could find ready liberation, after varying periods of purifying scourges while in prison. Christian martyrs knew that their "spirits are one with His Spirit" and that their sacrifice of earthly flesh would be rewarded. They spoke of casting off the flesh as a weak vessel, and being given a new body, an "incorruptible" body.

To our scientific minds, this is not a body at all (something "real") but just an idea. To be incorruptible, such a body must arise outside the container of this universe, ruled by the blind god called Entropy, whose rule leads energy-matter systems toward disorder and dissipation until every single particle lies dead.

We kind of hope we're wrong, frankly. But our current science and powers of observation tell us earth is just a little planet around a nice, average sun--a fellow traveler with the other suns in our nice little galaxy, bound at breakneck speed for The Great Attractor. We are part of a profoundly complex, but material existence.

Although modern people strive to understand the mind and body as a unit--a cause and consequence of consciousness, not to be seen as unbreached divisions--their tools are flawed. Such are the scientists who have probed Democritus' atom to its core, split it and split it again, finding a increasingly strange, colored and charmed universe. It is for good reason that quarks have

earned their names. In the quantum world, there is room for doubt about the final nature of matter, and of consciousness, but quantum physics merely replaces the comfort of certainty with being comfortable tolerating uncertainty, for which the keystone is fear.

In the face of our modern fears, some have characterized the Heaven's Gate action as at least a stand, however misguided (Taylor, 1997). They indicated that Applewhite was a man of conviction. By that same reasoning, so are the Hutus who believe the world will be a better place without Tutsis. We have heard this refrain before. Christian Crusaders, Spanish Conquistadors, Ottoman Turks, German Nazis, and Cambodia's Khmer Rouge preceded him.

One of the most perplexing things about the Heaven's Gate deaths is the apparent fact that the were voluntary. We suggest that they were not so, and that they parallel the historical examples of mass death above by another critical factor: their religious goal.

Applewhite combined a long tradition of martyrdom with the historically new awareness that Earth exists in a cosmic context. We may be way out on the Sagittarian arm of the Milky Way, but not so far out in the country as to escape the notice of alien anthropologists. Some contend that they¶ have been with us and tinkering for a long time. Others that they¶ are just getting really interested with our newfound ability for planetary self-annihilation. Applewhite clearly didn't care much about the concept of First Contact Science--the methods a planet-bound culture has for dealing with, and integrating with, a star-faring people. By his definition, ETs are spiritual beings, here to liberate us from our

filth--higher beings with whom the goal is to merge.

We contend the goal is to stand up and to look the phenomenon in the eye. Let us be clear. The method Applewhite used for merging was not death. That was merely the tool of the method. Faith like this has the rigidity of a skeleton. It supports the flesh of behaviors which others cannot comprehend, and reproduces a double of faith. The double relies on revelation, not observation. A doubled leader has doubled followers. When the vision runs its course and becomes desperation, it seeks tools to cut through the "veil of tears," and quickly, so that the nature of truth will be fully revealed.

Some have said that the Applewhite affair does not relate to Ufology. We contend that it most certainly does. The Heavens Gaters are the extreme believers in the UFO camp. They do not see the issue of alien life forms as a matter for study and reflection, but as doorways to salvation. One wonders if, in the final analysis, there is any difference in this camp between the diviners of Mary in tree trunks and tortillas, and narrators of the great adventures in space ships and transdimensional vehicles. They are prophets, and their revelations calls for a response: faith unto death. If not literal death, then certainly the death of the modern worldview.

This year marks the fiftieth anniversary of the beginning of modern Ufology, which started with Ken Arnold's "saucer" sighting and was soon followed by the irrepressible rumors of the Roswell-Corona "crashes". Applewhite exemplifies an important branch on the Ufological tree, the "inspired contactee" branch. Where belief rules, where faith in revelation is the tool, and

interpretation is a private matter of "the chosen one", guided self-sacrifice is always a risk. In the case of the Gaters, it was suicide of the body. For the rest of this camp, its suicide of the mind.

We admit that political agendas can destroy true science. But we still believe that the systematic observations of science yield truth over time. The pedants content that these statements are mere "presuppositions." We agree. But this type of belief system offers a major advantage over others. It is open at the top and bottom. New information can enter and change belief. It is public and open to all. Everyone can freely enter and leave. It demands nothing but mental integrity and discipline. It places the highest value on experience and mind, and does not reject any experience just because it is unusual. Rather, contradiction is fuel for the engine of real scientific discovery, and paradox is the spice of discovery.

That is why, at this 50th. anniversary of Ufology, we also acknowledge that our own efforts to unravel these mysteries reside in every form of observation. While the Mars Sojourner breaks new ground (if all goes well) and the Surveyor prepares to search even more closely for surface anomalies, while Project Cassini gets ready to launch, we may yet find our answers in the atmosphere of Earth. Every kind of observation is necessary to the purpose we set before us: establishing First Contact with a certainty not requiring belief. As we have stated before, Ufology must not be a project that depends on revelation from an inside source, a prophet or narrator of contact stories, but on the same science that JPL uses to explore the outer planets. We need solid data, methods, and openness, not belief and not prophets of the truth.

When the scientific criteria have been met, and we conclude that we are not alone, the real work of faith begins.

What Applewhite has taught us is that the human race will need immense faith in our own value to survive First Contact.

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Greg Wheeler, Ph.D.



Scott Scribner, M.A.

Examples of Heaven's Gate Members' Thinking

From Internet Newsgroup Posting

Presented unedited....

From: rep@heavensgate.com (Rep)
 Newsgroups: alt.conspiracy
 Subject: TIME TO DIE FOR GOD? OR ARMAGEDDON -- WHICH SIDE ARE YOU ON?
 Date: Fri, 20 Sep 1996 03:30:02 GMT

We are at the end of an Age, or the end of another civilization. As was prophesied, this is the "judgment time" for all living creatures on or related to this planet -- in other words, the time when "where we find ourselves," as a result of our accumulated choices during our time here, determines our Judgment.

The choices of many will find them in a "mind set" that would see the above statements as "cultish," radical, and doomsdayish, to say the least, while others have chosen to seek mental nourishment that would have them suspect "Truth" in these statements. With little awareness of it, all of us at this time are finding ourselves aligning with others of common mind. This commonness becomes our mental preoccupation. Though subconscious, it takes the form of our determination or judgment of what is RIGHT or GOOD, or who is

superior, or has been suppressed or wronged. Some are also preoccupied with racial supremacy, which religious concept is truly God's, and who presently represents the real "Satan."

There is a simple evolutionary procedure which applies to those who might leave or graduate from the human kingdom and enter the Evolutionary Kingdom Level Above Human (the Kingdom of Heaven or Kingdom of God). Periodically, the Kingdom Level Above Human sends one of its members "down" into the human kingdom (to incarnate into a human body) -- one who has

previously been taken through that evolutionary transition -- to offer the knowledge to those who have been "picked" as possible recipients of that graduation information.

This Representative of that Next Kingdom literally takes those candidates through their weaning from the human world -- assisting them in the actual separation or breaking of ties to their humanness, and helping them "graft" to Him as the Representative of that Next Level. Their final separation is the willful separation from their human body, when they have changed enough to identify as the spirit/mind/soul, ready to put on a biological body belonging to the Kingdom of Heaven. (This entering into their "glorified" or heavenly body takes place aboard a Next Level spacecraft, above the Earth's surface.)

Taken from poster for recruitment meeting

UFOs, SPACE ALIENS, AND THEIR FINAL FLIGHT FOR EARTH'S SPOILS

All reproducing space aliens - including mammalian - use Earth's humans simply for their own interests (and have been for thousands of years).

-They intentionally keep humans falsely "programmed" - "in the dark" - primarily through corrupt religious concepts, and secondarily, through reproductive and "humanitarian" concerns.

-They support these preoccupations by transmitting images and thoughts into Earth's atmosphere

-These "Luciferians" abduct humans for genetic experimentation, "rob" healthy human specimens for their own next "suit of clothes," and induct humans into their service.

In spite of these facts, there is a true Kingdom of "God" - a truly Evolutionary Kingdom Level Above Human, above all mammalian or any other reproductive species. It is a many-membered Kingdom that exists

in the literal Heavens, with its own unique biological "containers" or bodies, and modes of travel - spacecrafts of "UFOs." It is, in fact, more physically real than the world of the space aliens or humans. This Kingdom Level created the physical world, as we know it, as a "holographic classroom," and the human-mammalian kingdom as a stepping stone. That hologram is about to be "rebooted" - canceled and restarted - for its usefulness and serviceability as a classroom has come to an end.

- All religions were designed as "prep" for this day, but the "adversary forces" have corrupted them.

- Two thousand years ago, an Older Member in the real "Kingdom of Heaven," left behind His Next Level (non-mammalian) Body and incarnated into a "picked" and "prepped" human body at approx. its 29th year. He brought with Him the souls that His Father's Kingdom had nurtured in the past, in order that He might help them incarnate and change over their bodies. That formula for being born into the Evolutionary Level Above Human requires the shedding of all human-mammalian behavior, such as all forms of sexuality; ties to family, human relationships, and possessions; addictions of all types; habits; and self-concerns.

- That formula was brought again in 1975/76 by two Older Members from that same Kingdom (who incarnated when the bodies, that were "picked" and "prepped" for them, were in their early 40's). They took the names "Bo and Peep" and later, "Te and Do." They put out a "call" for the crew - the souls who came with them - and helped them incarnate (take over their bodies), while in isolation (separated from the world) for approx. 18 years.

- The "Older Member" of the two (Te) left His human female body in 1985, returned to the physical Kingdom of "God" to re-enter His body in that next Evolutionary Level (from whence He still serves this project). This finds them once again, in the same relationship with the crew - and each other - that they were in 2-- years ago (the

"Father," His Son Jesus, and their disciples).

-That "birthing" or incarnating procedure requires "midwifing" - personal tutoring - by an Older Member from that Kingdom who is incarnate in the human kingdom. When a soul - one brought here by the Next Level - incarnates, it must take control of a body (one that was "prepped" for it) to the degree that it ceases to perform as a human, sufficiently to establish and sustain a well-founded loyalty to the Next Level through that Older Member. It is that loyalty and personal relationship with that Older Member that motivates those behavioral changes and makes that "newborn" viable.

-A very accelerated "classroom" (for incarnating), is now being offered for the third and last time in this civilization, by those representatives from the 1975/76 "yield" to the remainder of the souls that have been saved from a previous time by the Next Level. In other words, the first crew is gathering the remainder of their crew - holding meetings as of January '94 - before exiting.

-If this "strikes a chord" in you, you have received a "chip" (of recognition) from the Next Level - though the hard work of "changeover" can only be done by your unending effort under the supervision of the reps here now.

-The two representatives who came in the early 1970's, and their crew (student reps), all came and will leave in spacecrafts or "clouds of light" - the same way the representatives left 2000 years ago.

ParaNet cautions its readers that the above are presented unedited as examples of cult-like thinking. If you are approached by someone who says things like this, be very aware that it could represent a cult such as Heaven's Gate.

Sightings

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).

This issue, we've decided to reproduce NUFORC's summary of the UFO event over Phoenix, Arizona that occurred March 13, 1997.

National UFO Reporting Center News Release

UFO Events Over Arizona March 13, 1997

The following is a preliminary summary of perhaps the most dramatic UFO sighting that has been reported to the National UFO Reporting Center over the last 2-3 years.

Please note that this report is the result of some of the first data received by NUFORC, and is subject to revision depending on subsequent reports and data that may be received in the future. Also, this summary has been composed before receipt of any written reports from the witnesses to the events. From experience, the staff of NUFORC knows that written reports almost invariably will cause preliminary findings to be amended or discarded. However, every attempt has been made here to make this summary as accurate a rendition as possible of those facts which seem to be the most reliable, and which were reported by more than one observer.

NOTE: This summary of events concludes with an account of allegations that the object(s) over Arizona that night were "intercepted" by two U. S. Air Force F-15c fighter aircraft from Luke AFB. However, despite the fact that there is some mild corroboration for this claim of military activities, other elements of this report are not able to be documented by the NUFORC staff at the time of this report.

The first call received over the UFO Hotline (206-722-3000) was from a former police officer, who called to report that he and his family had just witnessed a bizarre cluster of red lights moving very rapidly across the night sky in the vicinity of Paulden, Arizona, (approximately 30 miles north of Prescott, AZ) at about 8:16 p.m. (local time) on Thursday night, March 13, 1997.

The man who called, a rational, sober-minded and eloquent sounding person, described having witnessed with his family a very strange cluster of distinctly red-orange lights, which consisted of 4-5 red lights "in the lead," followed by a single light which appeared to be "standing back from the others." The lights in the lead gave the impression of being in a "V" formation, somewhat like a wedge or boomerang in shape.

That was the first of many dozen calls that were received over the subsequent two days. Subsequent calls then started pouring in to the Hotline from locations to the south of Paulden, AZ. The next calls received were from the vicinities of Prescott and Prescott Valley, approximately 50 miles north of Phoenix. Several individuals called from that vicinity to recount that approximately 8:17 p.m., they witnessed 4 or 5 very bright white lights pass overhead. Several of the observers reported that the object

appeared to be triangular in shape, with a somewhat complex grouping of lights along its sides.

One of the observers in Prescott reported that the orientation of the distinctly white lights appeared to change while she and her family were observing the object. However, the lights formed a distinctly triangular pattern in the sky.

Another observer was standing outside with his wife and sons in Prescott Valley, when they noticed a cluster of lights to in the west-northwest of their position. The lights formed a triangular pattern, but all of them appeared to be red, with the exception of the light at the nose of the object, which was distinctly white. The object, or objects, which had been observed for approximately 2-3 minutes with binoculars, then passed directly overhead the observers, they were seen to "bank to the right," and they then disappeared in the night sky to the southeast of Prescott Valley.

Even though the night was very quiet, none of the observers described above heard any sound emanate from the object. All of them emphasized that the object "glided" through the sky, and made absolutely no noise whatsoever. All of the observers volunteered during their telephoned reports that they had strained their ears, trying to hear some sound from the object, but none was heard, which contributed to the eerie nature of the sighting.

The next sighting was reported from Dewey, AZ, located approximately 10 miles to the south of Prescott. Five adults and youth were driving north on Highway 69 to an appointment in Prescott, when they witnessed a very large cluster of lights, which formed a "V" shape in the sky. The driver pulled off the

road into a grocery store parking lot, and all the occupants got out of their car in order to get a better look at the object. By this time, the object was directly above them, where it appeared to hover for several minutes.

The member of this group who called the Hotline reported that the object was so large that, if he clenched his fist and held it at arms length, he could not cover the size of the object with his fist!

In addition, he reported that based on his flying experience, he estimated that the object was not over 1,000 feet above the ground. He emphasized that there was absolutely no sound emanating from the object; it was absolutely silent, and it was moving at a very slow pace, considerably slower for example than a light aircraft would have been seen to move at that (assumed) altitude.

He added that he could see a small, private aircraft in the vicinity of the object overhead, and that the aircraft appeared to be heading in the direction of the Prescott airport. More about this aircraft is described below in the description of the alleged interception of the strange object by F-15s farther to the south. One particularly noteworthy aspect of this observers report is that he had called both Prescott Airport, and Luke AFB to report the sighting. The female operator at Luke AFB volunteered to him that their switchboard had been deluged with reports about the strange object. Later statements from Luke AFB alleged that they had received no calls about the object.

The next calls to arrive were from Chino Valley, Tempe, Glendale, Phoenix, Kingman, and Tucson. Many people called from those areas, far too many to describe in detail. One of the most interesting

reports, however, was from a young man, who identified himself as an "amateur astronomer," who resides in west Phoenix. His description of the object, which he saw to the west of his home, appeared to be a cluster of solid, unblinking lights, which moved in an unwavering procession from the north to south. He could discern, he thought, that each of the individual lights in fact was two smaller lights. Also, he reported that he observed two aircraft in the vicinity of the object, one of which appeared to turn away from the object to the west, and the other which turned to the east.

Another interesting report was submitted by a young mother, who stood outside her home, located in Phoenix approximately 1 mile south of Camel Back Mountain, and watched the object with her children for 5 minutes. She reported that the object was directly overhead her house, and that it was larger than her clenched fist when held at arms length! The object appeared to have lights along its sides, such that the lights gave the viewers on the ground the impression of a "boomerang" or "arrowhead" shape.

After approximately 5 minutes, the object began to move slowly to the south. However, before the object disappeared from sight to the south, it appeared to "fire" out to the front of it a red beam of "laser light" for an instant. Then, as it moved slowly to the south, the lights of the front and sides of the object seemed to dim and fade from sight. There were no lights visible on the aft end of the craft as it moved away from the observers. The object just disappeared from sight in the southern sky.

The object was next seen in Tucson, where a man watched the formation of lights for what he estimates to be 15 minutes from 8:45

to after 9:00 p.m., he estimates. He reported to us that the lights had come from the northwestern sky, maneuvered overhead for 5-10 minutes, and then moved off to the south in "nose to tail" formation, disappearing from sight as they moved over the mountains.

The last location to report was Kingman, AZ, where a young man, enroute to Los Angeles, called from a phone booth to report having seen a large and bizarre cluster of lights moving slowly in the northern sky.

Summary

What the object was is still unexplained, but there are some things that can be ruled out, based on the reports that have been submitted to us so far :

Aircraft - The object could not have been any type of conventional aircraft, since 1) it was witnessed by many people to hover silently, and 2) because it apparently covered the distance between Paulden and Prescott, AZ - not less than 30 miles - in approximately 1-2 minutes. Also, the lights seen on it were not consistent with any type of strobe lights, or navigation lights on any type of known aircraft, either private or commercial.

Balloon - The object moved too fast to be a balloon.

Hale-Bopp Comet - The object moved over large portions of the sky in very short periods of time. This is not consistent with a comet, which is virtually stationary, relative to other heavenly bodies. Hence, the object remains unexplained and extremely bizarre--at the time of this writing.

Now, with regard to the alleged intercept of the object by USAF F-15c fighters, allegedly launched

out of Luke AFB on the night of the sighting

Hours after the bulk of the reports had been received at the Hotline headquarters, we received a lengthy telephone call from one or more parties, who claimed to have been personal witness to a "scramble" of F-15c fighters, which allegedly had intercepted the object over downtown Phoenix, photographed the object with gun cameras, and returned to Luke AFB. The sources went on to describe how the base had been "closed down," how the pilots of the fighters had succeeded in approaching to within 1 mile of the object, how their targeting radar had been "neutralized" by the objects, etc. Moreover, they provided copious details about the incident, citing precise times, the names and ranks of pilots, contents of radio conversations with the pilots while they were in the air, and many other aspects of the events of that night.

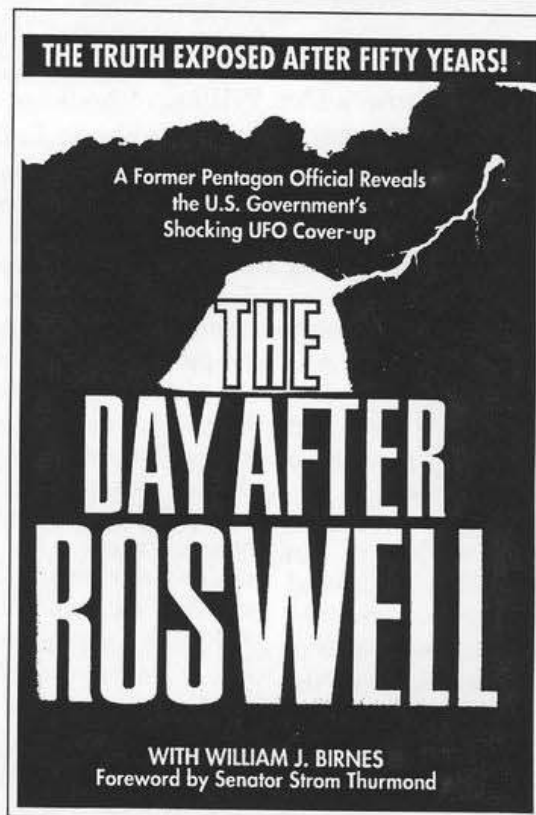
Unfortunately, our staff is unable to corroborate any of the claims, despite the fact that the sources of the information sounded very convincing and very sincere

Conclusion

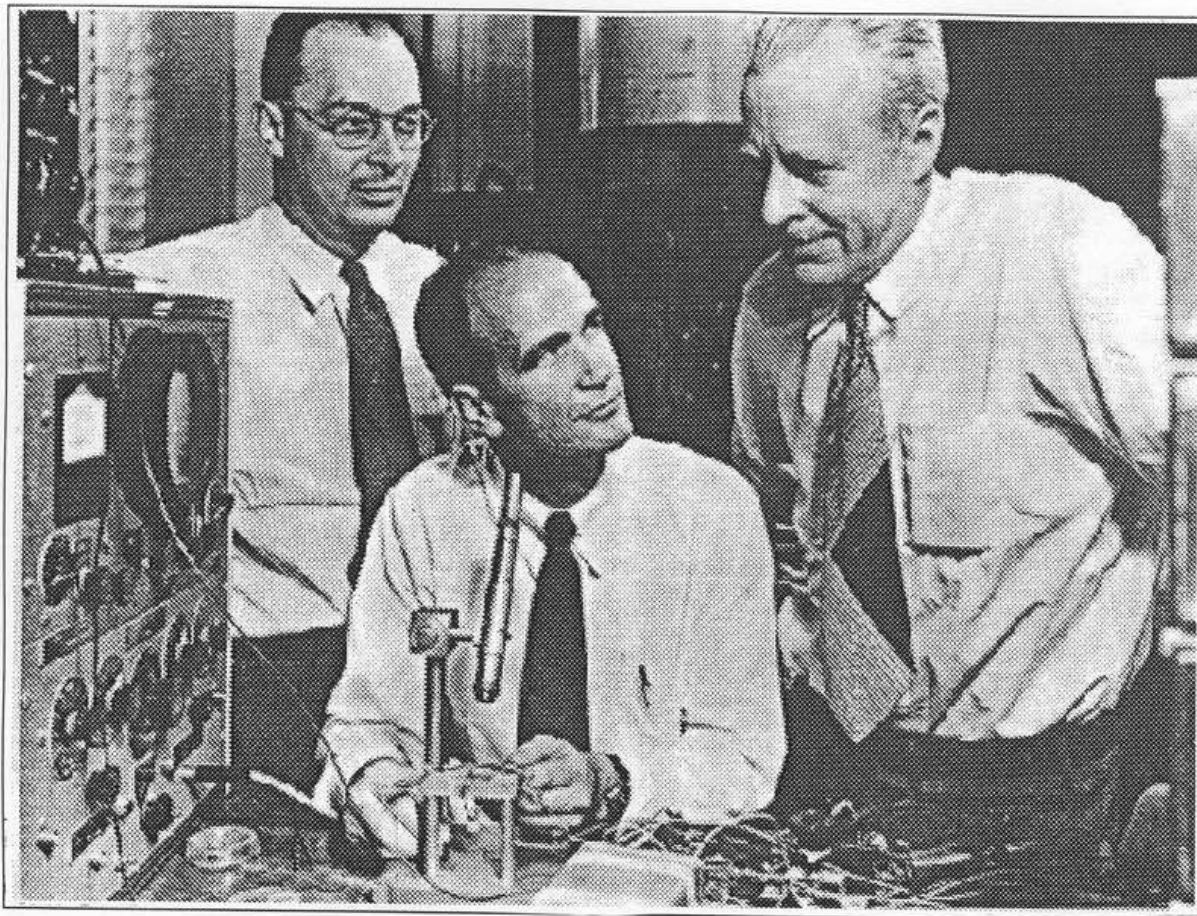
Perhaps the report of an intercept is accurate, but NUFORC cannot even document the fact that F-15s are stationed at Luke AFB, and no one can be found who can confirm that any military aircraft took off from Luke on the night of March 13.

This leaves us with the following question. Why did multiple parties telephone the UFO Hotline during the wee hours of Friday morning to provide us with volumes of technical information, none of which seems to bear up to scrutiny? Information regarding these events will be updated as quickly as we receive more data.

Philip J. Corso, Lt. Col. US Army, retired, announces in a new book, *The Day After Roswell*, that the U.S. semiconductor industry was kick-started by analysis of wreckage from the crash of an extraterrestrial spacecraft in Roswell, NM in 1947. ParaNet dug up some old information on the invention of the transistor, from a Signetics publication called "Circuit News", published in 1978, which proves that the development of semiconductors and specifically the transistor was well on its way by 1947. The press release announcing the invention of the transistor, though dated almost exactly a year after Roswell, is predated by log entries in William Shockley's notebook from 1939 in which he discusses the principles of a transistor. Portions of the Signetics document are reproduced here. Decide for yourself if Corso is off-base.



Philip J. Corso's book. See Senator Strom Thurmond's press release, elsewhere in this issue.



Nobel Prize winners Drs. William Shockley (seated), John Bardeen (left) and Walter Brattain are shown at Bell Telephone Labs with apparatus used in their first investigations that led to the invention of the transistor.

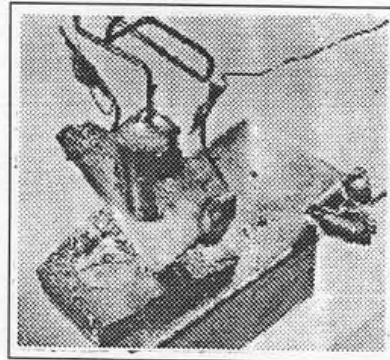
"An amazingly simple device, capable of performing efficiently nearly all the functions of an ordinary vacuum tube, was demonstrated for the first time yesterday at Bell Telephone Laboratories where it was invented.

"Known as the Transistor, the device works on an entirely new physical principle discovered by the Laboratories in the course of fundamental research into the electrical properties of solids. Although the device is still in the laboratory stage, Bell scientists and engineers expect it may have far-reaching significance in electronics and electrical communication."

So began the press release dated Thursday, July 1, 1948, from Bell Telephone Laboratories that made the point-contact transistor first known to the general public six months after its invention. While the disclosure generated considerable excitement both among those intimately associated with the Bell Labs research effort and those involved in the overall field of communications, few could have predicted that midsummer day 30 years ago that the event would launch a worldwide semiconductor industry, lead to the invention of the microwatt junction transistor that ushered in the transistor era, and herald the age of microelectronics and the computer.

While research into the electrical properties of semiconductors had accelerated by 1925, the road that directly led to the realization of a solid-state amplifier began in 1946

immediately after World War II, with the formation of a solid-state research group at Bell Labs. That group included, among others, William Shockley, Walter Brattain and John Bardeen, who in 1956 would share the Nobel Prize in Physics for their research on semiconductors and the discovery of the transistor effect. Of



The first transistor, c.1948

the three, only Bardeen had had no introduction to semiconductors until he arrived at the Murray Hill, NJ, Laboratories late in 1945. Born in 1908 in Madison, WI, where his father was a professor at the University of Wisconsin, he received B.S. and M.S. degrees from Wisconsin in 1928 and 1929, respectively, then worked as a geophysicist with the Gulf Research and Development Corp. for about three years. He enrolled at Princeton, where he studied solid state physics and received a Ph.D. in 1936. After post-doctorate research at Harvard, he taught physics at the University of Minnesota until 1941 when he went on leave to join the Naval Ordnance Laboratory.

The above is reprinted from Circuit News, published by Signetics Corporation, which is one of the semiconductor industry's leading manufacturers. Although it clearly shows that the official announcement of the invention of the transistor didn't occur until a year after the Roswell incident, there is little reason to believe that the birth of the semiconductor industry was aided by crash debris from Roswell. The electronics industry was already well along in its use of vacuum tubes, and the same principles apply to transistors (rectification, amplification, and so on). It is an affront to all the hardworking scientists, engineers and technicians who built upon these discoveries to create the semiconductor revolution to say that the work couldn't have been done in such a short time without the guidance provided by alien technology. So much progress had been made by 1947 that it didn't require alien intervention to perfect the devices that were already being studied.

It is a truism that if one were to take today's integrated circuits (say, an Intel Pentium Pro microprocessor) back in time, even as recently as 1947, the people of the day would

be mystified at the technology. An alien "integrated circuit" would likely have been even more removed from a modern microprocessor. Although they might marvel at the stuff, the fact is that the infrastructure (i.e., thin film microelectronics fabrication facilities, etc.) to build such devices simply would not, and could not have existed. In fact, even the microscopes of the day would have been of insufficient power to study the structure of the devices. The best the men of that era could have gleaned from such wreckage is "hmmm, guess in 50 years we might be able to make this stuff smaller." By the time Corso allegedly evaluated the stuff, in the 1960s, transistors were well along in their development and integrated circuits were not far behind.

Even if you grant the possibility that alien technology was shown to industry, as Corso alleges, I maintain that it would have been of limited usefulness. Could it have given us direction? Perhaps, but the direction that was needed was in the building of an infrastructure capable of making incredibly small transistors. It took many years of experimentation and evolution of the processing capabilities of our best laboratories (Hewlett Packard, where I work, among them) to figure out how to make such small parts. Corso has said that our technology is 250 years ahead of where it would be if we had been left on our own. I simply don't agree.

As an engineer for the last 25 years who has grown up with the semiconductor industry, I have not seen any inkling of an indication that anything I or others have designed is a result of anything but good old-fashioned human ingenuity. To say otherwise is simply not fair, and reeks of the non-use of Occam's razor.

— Brian Wood, Editor

Senator Strom Thurmond Releases Strongly Worded Statement Regarding the Foreword For Corso's Book.

On June 5, 1997, Senator Strom Thurmond's office released the following press release: "Senator Strom Thurmond (R-SC) today made the following statement concerning the foreword which appears in a book by Lt. Col. Philip Corso being released by Pocket Books: 'I am deeply disturbed that the foreword which appears in 'The Day After Roswell' by Philip Corso was originally, and expressly, written for a book which was supposed to be entitled 'I Walk With Giants' and recounted the wartime activities and recollections of a retired Army officer. I did not, and would not, pen the foreword to a book about, or containing, a suggestion that the success of the United States in the Cold War is attributable to the technology found on a crashed UFO. I do not believe in UFOs, do not believe that the United States is in possession of such a vehicle, and do not believe that there has been any government cover-up of a UFO crash. The outline of 'I Walk With Giants' provided to me by Mr. Corso indicated he was writing a book of his recollections and observations on topics such as World War II, the Korean War, the Vietnamese Conflict, intelligence, espionage, and counter-espionage operations. There was absolutely no mention, suggestion, or indication that any of the chapters and subjects listed with Unidentified Flying Objects and government conspiracies to cover-up the existence of such a space vehicle.' Philip Corso worked on Senator Thurmond's staff from March 1, 1963 to December 31, 1964; and from February 5, 1973 to July 24, 1974."

Sources & Resources

Sources and Resources" is published in each issue of CONTINUUM as a free public service to the UFO community. If you would like contact information for your publication or organization to appear here, send details to:

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Loveland, CO 80537

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(312) 271-3611

Founded by the late Dr. J. Allen Hynek, "the Galileo of Ufology", CUFOS is committed to the scientific study of UFOs and related phenomena. Associate membership, which includes a subscription to the bimonthly *International UFO Reporter*, is available for a \$25 annual contribution.

Citizens Against UFO Secrecy (CAUS)
P.O. Box 218
Coventry, CT 06238

CAUS is dedicated to uncovering existing documentation about government involvement in UFO research, and actively pursues such documentation through Freedom of Information Act lawsuits against government agencies. A newsletter entitled *Just Cause* is published quarterly. Write for further information.

Journal of Scientific Exploration
P.O. Box 5848
Stanford, CA 94309-5848
Attention: Marsha Sims, Executive Editor
(415)593-8581
Fax: (415) 595-4466

The Society for Scientific Exploration and its Journal of Scientific Exploration provide a professional forum for discussion of anomalies and other topics ignored by today's mainstream science.

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170 Future Way
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Fate magazine covers a wide range of paranormal events and phenomena, including Ufology and psychic phenomena. It is available by subscription for \$21.50 per year in the U.S.; add \$8.00 a year postage for Canadian and foreign subscriptions.

UFO Research Australia (UFORA)
P.O. Box 2435
Cairns, QLD 4870, Australia

UFORA publishes a wide range of materials on the UFO phenomenon down under.

UFO Magazine
P.O. Box 1053
Sunland, CA 91041
(818) 951-1250

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.

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

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

<http://www.bufora.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

The Book of Revelation: Angels or Aliens?

by Brian Wood

Second 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. The commentary that follows is meant to stimulate your imagination, not to discredit Christianity. It's one of many possibilities...

In the last instalment, we saw that John had possibly seen the images he is describing on the viewscreen of an alien ship ("before the throne was a sea of glass, like unto crystal").

The Breaking of the Seven Seals

6:1-8 And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, Come and see. And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him:

and he went forth conquering, and to conquer. And when he had opened the second seal, I heard the second beast say, Come and see. And there went out another horse that was red: and power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword. And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld, and lo a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand. And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine. And when he had opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth beast say, Come and see. And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth.

The images of the first four seals are commonly referred to as 'the four horsemen of the apocolypse'. It would be very strange indeed if the images were really those of a white, red, black and pale horse. The pale horse, by the way, was actually a light green. The Greek word is (chloros), from which we derive the word "chlorine."

John's use of horses is consistent with his use of animals in general to represent themes important to him. His world was agrarian in nature, after all. The only things John had in his experience to explain the unexplainable were animals, plants and food. Whatever he saw on that viewscreen reminded him of horsemen. If the objects were military in nature, it is not hard to see white, black and red machines doing what John attributes to horsemen. The light green "horse"

is harder to see. Had he used the term "olive green," a connection would be much easier to make.

The reference to famine, as represented by the black horse and the comment about the prices of wheat and barley, is consistent with the ravages of a terrible catastrophe or war. However, it is very unlikely that aliens would have used these terms. Many books in the Bible contain references to wheat, barley, oil and wine (Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy, Samuel, Kings, Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Hosiah, Joel, Micah, Hagediah, Zechariah, Matthew, Mark, Luke, Hebrews, and James). The olive tree, native to the region, was after all, the lifeblood of the people. Its oil was used for body rubs, lamp fuel, cooking oil and other things. Water purification was nonexistent, so wine was used as the chief drink. Barley and wheat were major crops, providing the bread that was a primary staple. Although alien visitors would not consider these foods significant, John certainly would have. Therefore, when John says that the aliens said not to hurt the oil or wine, and that barley and wheat would be traded at famine prices, John is attempting to describe that something that is precious will be endangered.

The fifth seal depicts an altar of slain souls...

6:9-11 And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held: And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth? And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants also and their

brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled.

No altar has been mentioned yet, so what altar is John referring to - one aboard the ship, or something he sees on the viewscreen? In a later passage (8:1-6), an angel stands next to an altar, so it is probably on the ship. Since John refers to souls, and not to people, he may have simply seen a number of white objects and taken them to be souls. When he says that white robes were given to every one, does he mean he witnessed someone giving out the robes, or that it has already occurred? It is tempting to speculate that the screen switched to an outside view and that he saw an altar that his exiled people had created, beneath which were the dead. However, there is not much to go on here; the description is very weak.

The sixth image is of enormous destructive power...

6:12-17 And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind. And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?

John saw a planet hit by a large celestial object, a comet or asteroid,

that sent dust billowing up into the sky, blocking out the sun and creating a reddish moonrise. The object broke up when it entered the atmosphere, and it probably looked as if thousands of stars were falling. The population took cover wherever they could from the catastrophe. He describes the heavens departing as a scroll when it is rolled together. This brings to mind the all-too-familiar image of a nuclear explosion, with the stem of the mushroom cloud reaching high into the sky. However, mushroom clouds are formed by most explosions because of the scattering effect of upper level winds. We are most familiar with nuclear mushroom clouds because of their immense size. A huge celestial object would also create such a cloud if it were to hit the ground.

What follows next is an interlude - a momentary respite from the catastrophe and the rescue of 144,000 people...

7:1-8 And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads. And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel. Of the tribe of Juda were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Reuben were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Gad were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Aser were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Nephthalim were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Manasses were sealed twelve

thousand. Of the tribe of Simeon were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Levi were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Issachar were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Zabulon were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Joseph were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of Benjamin were sealed twelve thousand.

Seeing a great number of people being rescued by several spacecraft, John makes a bold assumption: that only the tribes of Israel were being rescued. Although John says he heard the number that were sealed, it is not likely that he actually heard such a number. It is too convenient that each tribe had exactly 12,000 people saved. However, John does make an important observation: Whatever problems are being experienced by Earth, evidently the Earthlings are helped through these difficulties by a more advanced civilization. In *Cosmos*, by Cornell astronomer Carl Sagan, Sagan speculates that a certain percentage of technically advanced civilizations end up destroying themselves before they can discover interstellar travel. Since a civilization that has mastered such travel is also more than likely capable of destroying us, it is somewhat reassuring that at least one space-faring civilization has overcome its own self-destructive tendencies and actually has the desire to help us.

The catastrophe (called the tribulation by the church) is believed by many church leaders to be the time of the so-called rapture, which is supposed to be an event in which those who have found Jesus are saved from the Devil's destruction of the Earth. There is a great deal of debate about this, however. Other leaders believe that God's chosen will be selected before the tribulation and still others believe in a post-tribulation rapture. If the analysis presented here is correct, they are all wrong, and the

rescue of the people is just that - the rescue of a large number of people from a world ravaged by cosmic catastrophe.

The reference to sealing a symbol in the foreheads of the children of Israel is a foreshadowing of the mark of the beast which appears in a later chapter. This strongly hints at the custom of the wearing of phylacteries, small cases holding passages from scripture, which were worn on the foreheads by Jewish men when saying their morning prayers.

Next, John sees a large multi-national assembly...

7:9-17 After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb. And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen. And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them. They shall hunger no more, neither thirst any more; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of

waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.

John sees a picture on the viewscreen of a big crowd of people of all nationalities. A seated alien asked John to tell him who the people were and why they were there. He said he didn't know. The alien then explained that these were people who had been through a great ordeal.

John again observes people in white robes. The last time, they were dead souls under an altar. This time they're on the screen, alive, with palm branches in their hands. It is evident why the elder asks John what he sees. It is a pretty odd sight, but there are a few clues to help decipher it. In John's time, such a huge congregation would have met for only one thing - worship. They held palm tree branches to pay homage to God. When John sees such a large congregation, he naturally assumes they are holding palm tree branches, whether they are or not. The fact that this assemblage includes people of obviously different nationalities provides the clue we need to identify the image: the United Nations - hundreds of people of different nationalities, together in one place! It is unlikely that these people were all wearing white robes, despite the rather exact wording indicating so. The Greek word that is translated as "robes" is ("stahlas"), which is a long outer garment, worn as a sign of distinction. The suits worn by the U.N. delegates would certainly fit that description.

The seventh seal involves a peculiar silence...

8:1-5 And when he had opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven about the space of half an hour. And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets. And another angel came and stood at the

altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand. And the angel took the censer, and filled it with fire of the altar, and cast it into the earth: and there were voices, and thunderings, and lightnings, and an earthquake.

Images have been coming fast and furious, and all of a sudden they stop for about a half an hour. Suddenly the "angels" are given trumpets, and golden censers and they start burning incense! This might be how it would look if the viewscreen had malfunctioned and the aliens had started working on the equipment. The trumpets, which are due to blow in the next chapter, would simply have been instruments used in running tests on the equipment to locate the bad parts. A bad component could have been found (still smoking) and tossed to the floor. It's nice to know other civilizations have trouble with their electronics and can't program their VCRs either!

The Seven Trumpets: Cosmic Collision

8:6-13 And the seven angels which had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound. The first angel sounded, and there followed hail and fire mingled with blood, and they were cast upon the earth: and the third part of trees was burnt up, and all green grass was burnt up. And the second angel sounded, and as it were a great mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea: and the third part of the sea became blood;

And the third part of the creatures which were in the sea, and had life, died; and the third part of the ships were destroyed. And the third angel sounded, and there fell a great star from heaven, burning as it were a lamp, and it fell upon the third part of the rivers, and upon the fountains of waters; And the name of the star is called Wormwood: and the third part of the waters became wormwood; and many men died of the waters, because they were made bitter. And the fourth angel sounded, and the third part of the sun was smitten, and the third part of the moon, and the third part of the stars; so as the third part of them was darkened, and the day shone not for a third part of it, and the night likewise. And I beheld, and heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, Woe, woe, woe, to the inhabitants of the earth by reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three angels, which are yet to sound!

Although John attributes the next sequence of events to the blowing of trumpets, a better explanation is that once the viewer was repaired, the same images that were being shown before continued. These are truly disturbing images: meteorites hitting the land and seas; the sky becoming quite dark; the "third" part of trees, grass, sea creatures, ships, rivers, sun moon and stars being destroyed. It is very unlikely that John could have observed exactly a third of anything being destroyed, so the number again has little meaning. But the scope of the disaster is evidently great. John also sees a flying vehicle, perhaps a jet, flying through the sky. He attributes three woes to this angel, to be revealed by the remaining three angels and their trumpets.

9:1-12 And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit. And he opened the bottomless pit; and there

arose a smoke out of the pit, as the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by reason of the smoke of the pit. And there came out of the smoke locusts upon the earth: and unto them was given power, as the scorpions of the earth have power. And it was commanded them that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, neither any green thing, neither any tree; but only those men which have not the seal of God in their foreheads. And to them it was given that they should not kill them, but that they should be tormented five months: and their torment was as the torment of a scorpion, when he striketh a man. And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them. And the shapes of the locusts were like unto horses prepared unto battle; and on their heads were as it were crowns like gold, and their faces were as the faces of men. And they had hair as the hair of women, and their teeth were as the teeth of lions. And they had breastplates, as it were breastplates of iron; and the sound of their wings was as the sound of chariots of many horses running to battle. And they had tails like unto scorpions, and there were stings in their tails: and their power was to hurt men five months. And they had a king over them, which is the angel of the bottomless pit, whose name in the Hebrew tongue is Abaddon, but in the Greek tongue hath his name Apollyon. One woe is past; and, behold, there come two woes more hereafter.

A meteorite hit the ground, causing a huge crater. Dust and debris were thrown into the air, darkening it. John offers in this passage an excellent description of helicopters: The clear windows in front resembled the head of a locust, and the frame looked like a bridle. The sun shining through the dust gave a golden hue to everything, making the rotor assembly appear gold-colored. He could see the faces

of men at the controls inside. The rotation of the blades made it seem as if the machines had very fine hair, and the weapons on the sides of the craft looked like a lion's teeth. The underside of the craft was a thick metal. The rotors made a loud sound as they flew. The machines had long narrow tails, with scorpion-like stingers at the end. The amazing clarity of the description of modern helicopters by a man 2000 years ago has been observed by many Bible commentators. However, it is generally taken at face value; no one asks the question *How?* It is truly a remarkable feat, one that seems impossible to attribute to mere gifted insight or futuristic speculation. John had *nothing* in his experience to account for this. It is too simplistic to attribute the vision to God or Jesus. One *has* to ask how this was done. The most logical answer is again that John actually saw pictures of helicopters. Now we hear from the sixth "angel"...

9:13-21 And the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, Saying to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates. And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men. And the number of the army of the horsemen were two hundred thousand thousand: and I heard the number of them. And thus I saw the horses in the vision, and them that sat on them, having breastplates of fire, and of jacinth, and brimstone: and the heads of the horses were as the heads of lions; and out of their mouths issued fire and smoke and brimstone. By these three was the third part of men killed, by the fire, and by the smoke, and by the brimstone, which issued out of their mouths. For their power is in their mouth, and in their

tails: for their tails were like unto serpents, and had heads, and with them they do hurt. And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk: Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.

John heard a voice from loudspeakers, followed by more images of many missiles being fired. John heard that there were 200 million people that lived under the rule of this civilization. There are currently approximately this many people in the United States and also in Russia. Although the temptation is to say that a nuclear war is being waged, this is highly unlikely. Not only has the nuclear threat all but disappeared with the dissolution of the Soviet Union (not to underestimate the magnitude of the problem of deactivating thousands of missiles), but the previous images are clearly of natural, not artificial origin. It is certainly possible that third world countries will get a hold of some nuclear missiles, and that they would have less fear in using them, but a nuclear war of the scale implied by the images in the above passage seems remote. A far more likely interpretation of this is that John is observing the military reaction to a planetwide catastrophe.

Until now, John has been describing impersonal events that he sees on the screen. The next two passages relate his interaction with the aliens in a manner that is very inconsistent with his writing to this point...

10:1-11 And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven, clothed with a cloud: and a rainbow was upon his head, and his face was as it were the sun, and his feet as pillars of fire: And he had in his

hand a little book open: and he set his right foot upon the sea, and his left foot on the earth, And cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roareth: and when he had cried, seven thunders uttered their voices. And when the seven thunders had uttered their voices, I was about to write: and I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Seal up those things which the seven thunders uttered, and write them not. And the angel which I saw stand upon the sea and upon the earth lifted up his hand to heaven, And swore by him that liveth for ever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, that there should be time no longer: But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets. And the voice which I heard from heaven spake unto me again, and said, Go and take the little book which is open in the hand of the angel which standeth upon the sea and upon the earth. And I went unto the angel, and said unto him, Give me the little book. And he said unto me, Take it, and eat it up; and it shall make thy belly bitter, but it shall be in thy mouth sweet as honey. And I took the little book out of the angel's hand, and ate it up; and it was in my mouth sweet as honey: and as soon as I had eaten it, my belly was bitter. And he said unto me, Thou must prophesy again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings.

John sees another ship land near the sea. A cloud surrounds it, and multicolor lights pulsate beneath it. Part of the ship is very bright, and there is an intense light underneath. It also makes lots of noise. At this point, John makes a strange deviation from his style. He says he hears "seven" thunders and is told not to write down what he hears. He is told to take a book from the angel and eat it. The juxtaposition

of the eating of the book and the statement that John must prophesy again is a clue that the book is a tablet, perhaps a memory enhancing pill, so that John will be able to remember what he has seen. Perhaps that is also why he is instructed not to write any of it down - he wouldn't need to refer to notes if his memory is enhanced by the pill.

11:1-14 And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and the angel stood, saying, Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein. But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months. And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth. These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth. And if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed. These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will. And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them. And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and an half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves. And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that

dwelt on the earth. And after three days and an half the Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them. And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them. And the same hour was there a great earthquake, and the tenth part of the city fell, and in the earthquake were slain of men seven thousand: and the remnant were affrighted, and gave glory to the God of heaven. The second woe is past; and, behold, the third woe cometh quickly.

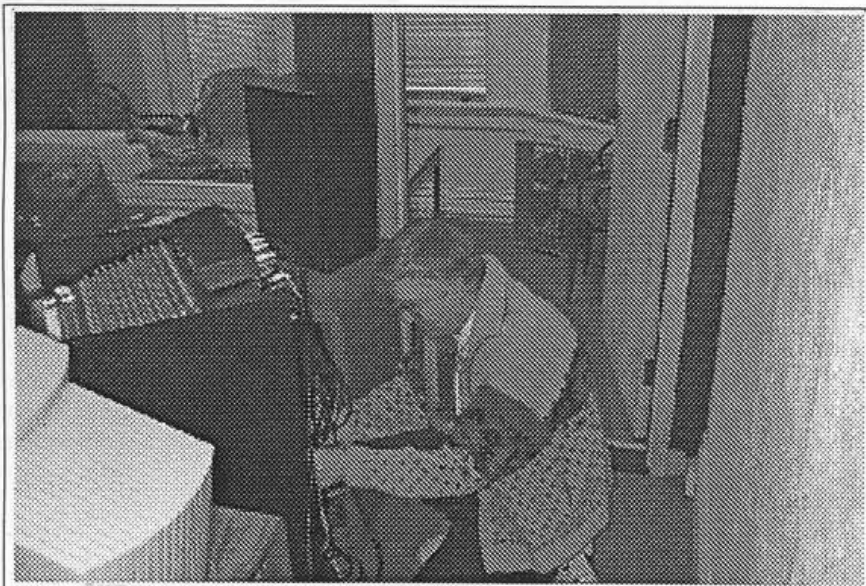
A tantalizing morsel is given at the beginning of this strange passage. If only John would have gone into more detail in describing the "reed like unto a rod!" Exactly how he is to measure the temple with it, or why, is not stated. The context then abruptly changes to the powers of the two witnesses. These witnesses are said to be olive trees and candlesticks. Whatever they really are, they have the power to hurt

anyone with fire who approaches too closely. This sounds like an alien object with defensive capabilities that is left on Earth for the stated time (1260 days). John is made to understand that this device is very powerful. Whether it is or not is academic; the point is that John is convinced that the device can inflict great pain if disturbed. It could be that the aliens are describing a recording device that they plan to leave on Earth for monitoring purposes, just as we left instruments on the moon when the Apollo astronauts landed. Had the moon been inhabited, we might have faced the same problem. Again, this passage is out of place. John has been describing a tremendous cataclysm in Earth's future, and suddenly he changes tense, describing something else entirely. It is probable that he has lumped an event that was to take place in his own time with the other events.

Next, John returns to the final angel and its trumpet...

11:15-19 And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever. And the four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, fell upon their faces, and worshipped God, Saying, We give thee thanks, O LORD God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned. And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth. And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail.

John claims that the seventh angel blew his trumpet, which precipitated worship by the 24 elders of God. This is followed by the opening of the temple of God in heaven. The clue as to what is really happening, however, is in what happens next - the "ark of his testament" was seen. An ark is a container, and testament in this case means "important objects." Remembering that the viewer had malfunctioned earlier, which is what caused the aliens with the trumpets to show up in the first place, the best conclusion is that an equipment bay was opened, exposing some of the circuitry. John says he saw many lights and heard much noise, which would be consistent with this.



Here's Brian Wood, making last minute cable changes in the ParaNet studio control room. Brian is an application engineer at Hewlett Packard and also edits and publishes Continuum, and manages the ParaNet website (www.paranet.org/paranet).

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.

Asteroid impact! Is Earth vulnerable?

by Brian Wood

It could happen here

By Tom Gehrels
Professor, Lunar and Planetary Institute

Are we going to get hit?
The danger is not
worrisome the danger
"Personally, I think
planetary scientists

New worry is asteroid collision

WASHINGTON (AP) — Something else to worry about today: Asteroids. Somewhere in deep space there may be a mountain-sized chunk of rock with Earth's mass on it. No one knows if such an asteroid actually exists or when the collision might come.

This is a real problem and we can do something about it, NASA scientists told a congressional committee on Wednesday. Impact of large near-Earth objects is a very infrequent phenomenon but potentially more destructive than any other threat to life as we know it.

Rather headed an "Interception Workshop" that studied ways of shortening or removing space debris hurtling toward Earth.

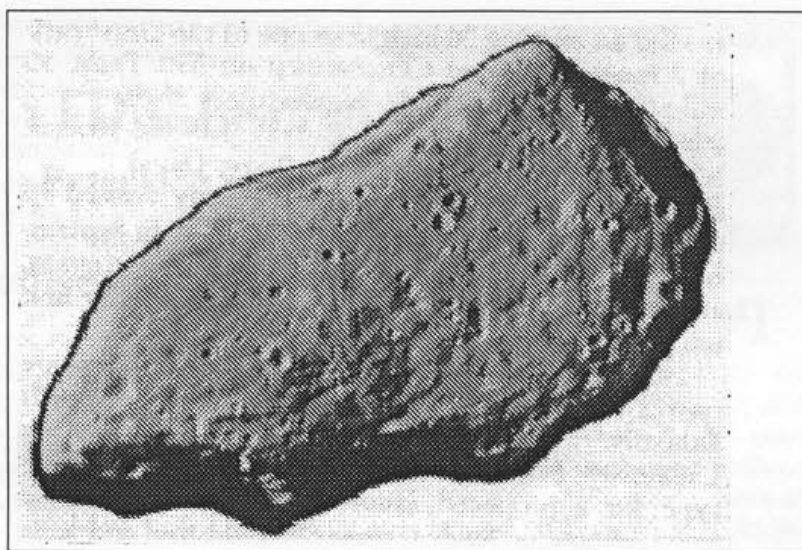
The kinetic energy of a mountain-sized object traveling typically at 20 miles per second is so enormous that it is difficult to comprehend, he said.

A recent witness, David Morrison, acknowledged that "when I think about it, it's not about asteroids."

But he added, "Comparison can be made with other natural hazards and in terms of that, this danger is at least as great as that associated with volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, hurricanes and so on."

But the testimony got a real response from Rep. Edward R. Royce, R-Calif., who expressed reluctance for spending money on a detection and deflection program when his chances of being killed in other catastrophes are far greater.

"I think given an average lifespan my chance of being hit by one of these asteroids or knocked out in any given year is one in a million," Royce said.



The Galileo spacecraft took this picture of 951 Gaspra, an asteroid that's about 12 x 7.5 x 7 miles in size.

[those]." Rep. Edward R. Royce, R-Calif., said he was reluctant to spend federal money on a detection and deflection program with so many other pressing problems to deal with, expressing the government's typical short-sighted attitude on anything that can't be readily seen as an immediate threat.

Astronomer Hale, appearing on the ParaNet radio show said, regarding a comet hitting the Earth, "Yes! It has happened in the past and will happen in the future. Just last May, an asteroid about 400 meters across passed just beyond the orbit of the moon."

According to Tom Gehrels, professor at the Lunar and Planetary Lab at the University of Arizona, asteroids only 0.3 mi in diameter will cause global destruction. The asteroid pictured above is over 7 miles in diameter, so clearly we have some big rocks in our neighborhood that are capable of doing us in. In fact, Gehrels says that there are about 2000 asteroids capable of wiping us out, and that at our current rate of discovery, it

could take 100 years to find them. What's being done? Gehrels reports that project "Spacewatch" was created to increase the discovery rate tenfold. It uses a 36-inch telescope at Kitt Peak, near Tucson. Bigger telescopes are being planned. He suggests landing rocket engines on the asteroid using spacecraft to accelerate or decelerate the asteroid in its orbit. The U of A has produced a book called *Hazards Due to Comets and Asteroids*, if you'd like more information on this.

Of course it all becomes moot if there is no money to do the research. Congress has just proposed another \$700 million cut in NASA's already tight budget, and you can expect more cuts as money becomes scarcer due to the years of mismanagement in the federal government. What can you do? Call your senators and representatives. Join the Planetary Society (65 N. Catalina Ave., Pasadena, CA 91106-2301, 818-793-5100), and be sure to listen to ParaNet's radio show and read this magazine for updates!

Earth has survived just fine for all of human history without a major celestial event like what happened to Jupiter last year, when the Schumaker-Levy 9 asteroid hit the Jovian surface. So what's all the fuss? Well, although the odds are low, it only takes one hit to cause an awful lot of damage. NASA scientist John D. Rather told a congressional committee that "impact of large near-Earth objects is a very infrequent phenomenon but potentially more destructive than any other threat to life as we know it." Another person to testify added that "comparison can be made with other natural hazards and this danger is at least as great as



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.

This issue we present a single post that quotes many references from Randle & Schmidt (R&S), Berlitz and Moore (B&M) and Friedman and Berlitz (F&B).

From: `td@twics-bounce.com` (Troy Dawson)
Subject: Re: CRASHED SAUCER at Roswell?
Date: Fri, 04 Jul 1997 09:50:16 +0900

[Someone posted:]

- > There is no reliable description of
- > the alleged amazing physical
- > properties of the wreckage, and
- > there are no known samples of
- > wreckage from the alleged saucer,
- > while there are photographs and
- > consistent testimony which
- > strongly support the argument
- > that Major Marcel mistook
- > the wreckage of a Mogul balloon
- > for a flying saucer.

What the hell, this is still on my clipboard:

FLEXIBLE, FOIL-LIKE MATERIAL, WITH MEMORY

WILLIAM BRAZEL JR.: (F&B) "One of the pieces looked like] something on the order of tinfoil, except that [it] wouldn't tear.... You could wrinkle it and lay it back down and it immediately resumed its original shape... quite pliable, but you couldn't crease or bend it like ordinary metal. Almost like a plastic, but definitely metallic. Dad once said that the Army had once told him it was not anything made by us."

"...a little piece of -- it wasn't tinfoil, it wasn't lead foil -- a piece about the size of my finger. ...The only reason I noticed the tinfoil (I'm gonna call it tinfoil), I picked this stuff up and put it in my chaps pocket. Might be two or three days or a week before I took it out and put it in a cigar box. I happened to notice when I put that piece of foil in that box, and the damn thing just started unfolding and just flattened out. Then I got to playing with it. I'd fold it, crease it, lay it down and it'd unfold. It's kinda weird. I couldn't tear it. The color was in between tinfoil and lead foil, about the [thickness] of lead foil."

(B&M) "There were several bits of metal-like substance, something on the order of tinfoil, except that this stuff wouldn't tear and was actually a bit darker in color than tinfoil -- more like lead foil, except very thin and extremely lightweight. The odd thing about this foil was that you could wrinkle it and lay it back down and it immediately resumed its original shape. It was quite pliable, yet you couldn't crease or bend it like ordinary metal. It was almost more like a plastic of some sort except that it was definitely metallic in nature. I don't know what it was, but I do know that Dad once said that the Army had told him that they had definitely

established it wasn't anything made by us."

(R&S1) "The only reason I noticed the tin foil was that I picked this stuff up and put it in my chaps pocket. Like I said, I had it in here two, three days, and when I took it out and put it in the box and I happened to notice that when I put that piece of foil in the box it started unfolding and flattened out. Then I got to playing with it. I would fold it or crease it and lay it down and watch it. It was kind of weird. The piece I found was a jagged piece. I couldn't tear it. Hell, tin foil or lead foil is easy but I couldn't tear it. I didn't take pliers or anything. I just used my fingers. I didn't try to cut it with my knife. The color was consistent through the pieces I found. It was a dull color [and the same on both sides]. It was about the gauge of lead foil. Thicker than tin foil. It was pliable. Real pliable. I would bend it over and crease it and if you straighten back up, there would be a crinkle in it. Nothing. It would flatten out and it was just as smooth as ever. Not a crinkle or anything in it. [It didn't make a sound.] ...As best as I can remember, it was smooth. I wasn't intrigued with any part of it until I discovered the foil and what it would do. Then I got to looking at the rest of it."

WALT WHITMORE JR. (F&B) "[It was] very much like lead foil in appearance but could not be torn or cut at all. Extremely light in weight."

(B&M) ...He did see some of the wreckage brought into town by the rancher. His description was that it consisted mostly of a very thin but extremely tough metallic foil-like substance. ...He added that the largest piece of material that he saw was about four or five inches square, and that it was very much like lead foil in appearance but

could not be torn or cut at all. It was extremely light in weight.

SGT. ROBERT SMITH: [Robert Smith was a member of the First Air Transport Unit, which operated Douglas C-54 Skymaster four-engine cargo planes out of the Roswell AAF.]

(F&B, interviewed 1991) "All I saw was a little piece of material. You could crumple it up, let it come out. You couldn't crease it. One of our people put it in his pocket. The piece of debris I saw was two to three inches square. It was jagged. When you crumpled it up, it then laid back out. And when it did, it kind of crackled, making a sound like cellophane. It crackled when it was let out. There were no creases. ...The sergeant who had the piece of material said [it was like] the material in the crates."

(Pflock, FUFOR, affidavit 10/10/91) "All I saw was a little piece of material. The piece of debris I saw was two-to-three inches square. It was jagged. When you crumpled it up, it then laid back out; and when it did, it kind of crackled, making a sound like cellophane, and it crackled when it was let out. There were no creases."

(R&S1) [Smith and a couple of the other sergeants discussed the nature of the cargo as they were loading the aircraft.] "We were talking about what was in the crates and so forth and he (another of the NCOs) said, 'oh do you remember the story about the UFO? Or rather the flying saucer.' That was what we called them back then. We thought he was joking, but he let us feel a piece and stuck it back into his pocket. Afterwards we got to talking a little bit more about it and he said he'd been out there helping clean this up. He didn't think taking a little piece like that would matter. It was just a little piece of

metal or foil or whatever it was. Just small enough to be slipped into a pocket. I think he just picked it up for a souvenir. It was foil-like, but it was stiffer than foil that we have now. In fact, being a sheet metal man, it kind of intrigued me, being that you could crumple it and it would flatten back out again without any wrinkles showing up in it. Of course we didn't get to look at it too close because it was supposed to be top secret."

CHARLES SCHMID (VIDEO1)

"There was some material that looked just like tinfoil, but quite strong. You could writh it up in your hand and it would just straighten out, no kinks, no nothing, it would just straighten out by itself."

JIM RAGSDALE (*Allegedly Ragsdale was at the main saucer crash site just before the military arrived*) (R&S2) [describing some of the pieces picked up at the site] "You could take that stuff and wad it up and it would straighten itself out. [One of the pieces] You could bend it in any form, and it would stay. It wouldn't straighten out."

FRANKIE DWYER ROWE (*Frankie Rowe, age 12 in 1947, is the daughter of Roswell fireman, Dan Dwyer, who allegedly was at the main saucer crash site with other members of the fire department and members of the Roswell police department. The foil she saw was allegedly later shown at the Roswell fire station to some of the firemen and herself by a state trooper.*) (R&S2) Frankie Rowe talked of foil that, when crumpled into a ball, would unfold itself with a fluid motion.

(R&S2, Paperback edition, affidavit 11/22/93): "In early July 1947, I was in the fire house waiting for my father to take me home. A State Trooper arrived and displayed a piece of metallic debris that he said he'd picked up on the crash site. It

was a dull gray and about the thickness of aluminum foil. When wadded into a ball, it would unfold itself. The fire fighters were unable to cut or burn it."

(VIDEO2) [Referring to state trooper]

"And he pulled his hand out of his pocket and he had a piece of the material wadded up in his hand in a little tiny ball. When he dropped it on the table it spread out like it was liquid or quicksilver, and there was not one wrinkle in that. I do remember that we all got to touch it, we all got to pick it up. You could bend it, it made no crinkle, no noise. It was very shiny, very silvery color, maybe about a foot square. I have no idea what happened to it."

(Pflock) [As she waited, a state police officer came in and said he wanted to show the firemen something.] "He took his hand out of his pocket and he dropped what he had in his fist on the table. He said it was something he picked up out at the crash site. It looked like quicksilver when it was on the table, but you could wad it up. [It was] a little larger than . . . [his] hand. It had jagged edges" [and it was a dull grayish-silver color.] "You couldn't feel it in your hand. It was so thin that it felt like holding a hair . . . It wasn't anything you'd ever seen before. It flowed like quicksilver when you laid it on the table. [The firemen and the trooper] tried to tear it, cut it and burn it. It wadded up into nothing. The state cop said he'd gotten away with just this one small piece, and he said he didn't know how long he'd be able to keep it, if the military found out."

HELEN DWYER CAHILL (*Older sister of Frankie Rowe. She was married and not living in Roswell in 1947.*) (R&S2, Paperback edition, affidavit 11/22/93): "My sister, Frankie, told me about her experiences sometime in the early 1960s. Frankie told me about sitting

around the table in 1947 and being threatened. My sister also mentioned seeing the material that 'ran like water.'"

M. SGT. LEWIS (BILL) RICKETT [Bill Rickett was a Counter Intelligence Corps officer based in Roswell, part of Jesse Marcel's staff, and an assistant to CICman Sheridan Cavitt. He had an opportunity to examine some of the wreckage recovered from the Foster (Mac Brazel's) Ranch. He escorted Dr Lincoln LaPaz, a meteor expert from the New Mexico Institute of Meteoritics, on a tour of the crash site and the surrounding area in September, 1947, in an attempt to reconstruct the speed and trajectory of the crash object.] (R&S1) Rickett said the foil was dull, like the back side of aluminum foil, and because it didn't reflect the sun, it was hard to see.

(F&B) "[The material] was very strong and very light. You could bend it but couldn't crease it. As far as I know, no one ever figured out what it was made of...."

"...LaPaz wanted to fly over the area, and this was arranged. He found one other spot where he felt this thing had touched down and then taken off again. The sand at this spot had been turned into a glass-like substance. We collected a boxful of samples of this material. As I recall, there were some metal samples here, too, of that same sort of thin foil stuff. LaPaz sent this box off somewhere for study; I don't know or recall where, but I never saw it again. This place was some miles from the other one."

BESSIE BRAZEL SCHREIBER (F&B) "[The material resembled] a sort of aluminum-like foil. ...[There was also] a piece of something made out of the same metallike foil that looked like a pipe sleeve. About four inches across and equally long, with a flange on one end."

(Pflock, FUFOR, USAF, from affidavit, 9/22/93): "...The pieces were small,

the largest I remember measuring about the same as the diameter of a basketball. Most of it was a kind of double-sided material, foil-like on one side and rubber-like on the other. Both sides were grayish-silver in color, the foil more silvery than the rubber. ...The foil-rubber material could not be torn like ordinary aluminum foil can be torn..."

LORRETA PROCTOR: (Pflock, FUFOR, from affidavit 5/5/91): "...Mac' [W. Brazel] said the other material on the property looked like aluminum foil. It was very flexible and wouldn't crush or burn."

(VIDEO1) "He said the stuff that looked kind of like aluminum foil, he said you'd crumple it up and then it would straighten out, it wouldn't stay creased, it would just open out. But he couldn't get any of it off to bring up. He said he couldn't cut it or anything."

(R&S1) "He was telling us about more of the other material that was so lightweight and that was crinkled up and then would fold out."

MARIAN STRICKLAND (friend and neighbor of Mac Brazel) (VIDEO1) "The time that he brought the sample of what he had picked up, he was at the corral. My daughter and two sons and husband were at the corral, and they saw it. My daughter says that it could be crumpled up and straighten right back out."

SALLY STRICKLAND TADOLINI (daughter of Marian Strickland, age 9 in 1947) (Pflock, FUFOR from affidavit 9/27/93): "What Bill showed us was a piece of what I still think as fabric. It was something like aluminum foil, something like satin, something like well-tanned leather in its toughness, yet was not precisely like any one of those materials. While I do not

recall this with certainty, I think the fabric measured about four by eight to ten inches. Its edges, where were smooth, were not exactly parallel, and its shape was roughly trapezoidal. It was about the thickness of a very fine kidskin glove leather and a dull metallic grayish silver, one side slightly darker than the other. I do not remember it having any design or embossing on it. Bill passed it around, and we all felt it. I did a lot of sewing, so the feel made a great impression on me. It felt like no fabric I have touched before or since. It was very silky or satiny, with the same texture on both sides. Yet when I crumpled it in my hands, the feel was like that you notice when you crumple a leather glove in your hand. When it was released, it sprang back into its original shape, quickly flattening out with no wrinkles. I did this several times, as did the others. I remember some of the others stretching it between their hands and "popping" it, but I do not think anyone tried to cut or tear it."

(R&S2) Bill Brazel showed that small piece of foil to others. ... Brazel showed her [Tadolini] the foil, and she has the impression that it was dull in color, maybe gray, and that it was a small piece. Brazel, according to her, balled it up in his hand and then opened his hand, letting it return to its original shape. She thought it was stiff, like aluminum foil, but that it did not seem metallic.

MAJOR ELLIS BOLDRA (Boldra, an engineer, allegedly found samples of the crash debris in a safe in the Roswell AFB engineering department in 1952. Testimony is second hand from son and friends.) (R&S2 description) When crumpled, it [a thin metal sample] quickly returned to its original shape.

JESSE MARCEL JR. (B&M) "The material was foil-like stuff, very thin, metallic-like but not metal, and very tough."

(R&S2) Marcel Jr. described the foil as resembling "lead foil."

(KPFA) "Most of the debris consisted of metal foil. It was kind of like a dull aluminum on each surface."

(Pflock, also FUFOR, affidavit, May 6, 1991) "Most of the debris looked like pieces of an aircraft airframe and its skin. . . . [There was] a thick, foil-like metallic gray substance."

CHARLES B. MOORE (On-scene Mogul Project Head Engineer. Moore never saw the actual crash debris.) (USAF description) [The radar reflectors] were made up of aluminum "foil" or foil-backed paper, balsa wood beams that were coated in an "Elmer's-type glue to enhance their durability...

(B&M, interview 1980) C.B. Moore's description of a Rawin target device, of which he had seen and handled many, was also important in that it strongly reinforced the belief that anyone finding such "flimsy foil and balsa-wood material" would have had great difficulty in confusing it with anything out of the ordinary.

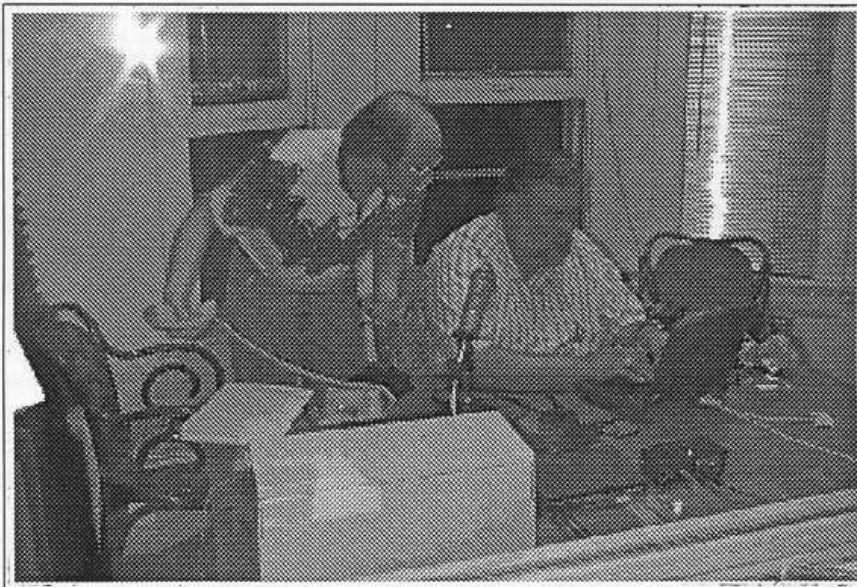
W/O IRVING NEWTON (Newton was the weather officer called in to identify the crash debris at Gen. Ramey's press conference on July 8, 1947. Several people, including Marcel and Ramey's chief of staff Gen. Thomas Dubose, say Newton never saw the real crash debris, which allegedly was swapped with a tattered weather balloon and Rawin foil radar target) (B&M, questioning Newton in July 1979 Interview) Q. But wouldn't the people at Roswell have been able to identify a balloon on their own? A. They certainly should have. It was a regular Rawin sonde. They must

have seen hundreds of them. Q. Can you describe the fabric? Was it easy to tear? A. Certainly. You would have to be careful not to tear it. The metal involved was like an extremely thin Alcoa wrap. It was very flimsy.

JASON KELLAHIN (Kellahin was an Associated Press reporter in Albuquerque in 1947 and was ordered to Roswell to interview rancher Mac Brazel following the release of the Army Air Force press release about the capture of a flying disc. On his way to Roswell, he claims to have taken a detour to Brazel's ranch, interviewed Brazel, and seen balloon debris. For various reasons, including impossible time restraints, there is good reason to doubt that he ever made it there.) (Pflock, affidavit 9/20/93) "There was quite a lot of debris on the site — pieces of silver colored fabric, perhaps aluminized cloth. Some of the pieces had sticks attached to them. I thought they might be the remains of a high-altitude balloon package, but I did not see anything, pieces of rubber or the like, that

looked like it could have been part of the balloon itself. The way the material was distributed, it looked as though whatever it was from came apart as it moved along through the air.

"RELUCTANT" (Pflock) "Most of what I found was white, linen-like cloth with reflective tinfoil attached to one side. . . . Most of the pieces were no larger than four or five inches on a side, although I found one or two about the size of a sheet of typing paper . . . One of the larger pieces of foiled cloth, measuring about 8 by 12 inches, had writing on the cloth side. Someone had used a pencil to do some figuring, arithmetic. There were no words, only numbers. I did not see any writing or marking on any of the other debris. I collected some of the foiled cloth material, including the piece with the writing on it, and a few of the sticks, filled a large, 9 by 12, envelope with it . . . I still have the material I collected on the ranch site in July 1947 . . . in a safe and secure place."



A scene from the ParaNet control room looking into the on-air booth. Here, Producer Greg Barman asks host Michael Corbin a question. ParaNet continues to grow across the country, with many new affiliates!

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.

Area 51 moves? The June issue of Popular Mechanics reports that Area 51 has been abandoned and its operations moved to a secret base in eastern Utah. The Utah base, known as Area 6413, purportedly is also a secret base that conducts guarded testing. However, Associated Press reports that residents of Rachel, Nevada say that activity is still going on at nearby Area 51.

New object found at solar system's edge. A new kind of object orbiting the outer limits of the solar system in a wildly eccentric path threatens to disrupt the well-ordered vision of our local universe, according to astronomers at Harvard and the University of Hawaii. Known as 1996TL66, the 300-mile-diameter body appears to swing well out of the bounds of the previously known solar system. The findings appear in the journal Nature. The research suggests that a huge "swarm" of such objects may buzz around like bees at the fringes of the solar system. Co-author David Jewett said "the point is, we have no idea what is in the outer solar system."

National Declassification Center proposed. Aviation Week and Space Technology reports that Sen. Jesse Helms (R-N.C.) and Rep.

Larry Combest (R-Tex.) have joined forces with Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan (D-N.Y.) and Rep. Lee Hamilton (D-Ind.) to introduce bills aimed at curbing government secrecy. They would require all classified documents to bear the name of the official who ordered them classified, as well as the justification. A standard classification period of 10 years would be established, after which information would remain secret only if the head of the agency that classified it certified that its release would cause demonstrable harm to national security. The NDC would be established to take the wraps off of old info. Hamilton said U.S. government storage facilities currently hold 1.5 billion pages of classified documents that are over 25 years old.

Hubble Space Telescope finds Mars sometimes like Earth. Recent Hubble images of Mars taken near its aphelion - when Mars is farthest from the Sun - indicate a view like ones seen from the ground on Earth. The dust has been swept away and the planet is covered by white water ice clouds that - viewed from Mars' surface - contrast brilliantly with dark blue skies.

Pentagon shows new aircraft designs including saucer-shape. Pentagon officials have shown six new-aircraft concepts to international military and aviation industry audiences, according to Aviation Week. About half use thrust vectoring and are tailless to produce lighter weight, structural simplicity and natural stealthiness. One, a saucer shaped craft is said to offer "the most maneuverable unmanned combat aerial vehicle (UCAV) if combined with vectored thrust for maximum lateral agility." It adds that "a weapon could be pointed by simply rotating the aircraft without altering course."

**UFO NEWS FROM VOL. 2,
Number 26 OF UFO ROUNDUP,
by Joseph Trainor (used with
permission)**

USAF SAYS ROSWELL ALIENS WERE ONLY "TEST DUMMIES"

On Tuesday, June 24, 1997, the 50th anniversary of the Kenneth Arnold "flying saucer" sighting, the U.S. Air Force released a new report on the Roswell incident.

In its 231-page document, "The Roswell Report—Case Closed," the Air Force stated that it had "found no evidence whatsoever of flying saucers, space aliens or sinister government coverups."

The new report is "a followup to a 1,000-page 1994 study" which claimed that "debris found in 1947 came from the crash of an Air Force (Project Mogul) balloon that was monitoring the atmosphere for evidence of Soviet nuclear tests."

"The Tuesday report was designed to answer...what Air Force Secretary Sheila Widnall called 'a complete and open explanation.' It said that as many as 67 life-sized dummies were dropped over New Mexico by high-altitude balloons between 1954 and 1959 to measure the impact of parachute falls on pilots."

"The report suggested (Roswell) witnesses confused memories of the 1947 crash with the 1950s dummies." (See USA Today for June 25, 1997, page 3A.)

GIANT V-SHAPED UFO SEEN NEAR LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

While U.S. Air Force officials were busily debunking the 1947 Roswell case, several UFO incidents took place in the southwestern United States. The first of these took place at 9:30 p.m. on Monday, June 23, 1997, near Las Vegas, Nevada.

Spring, 1997

According to the AP report, Las Vegas Metro Police received "quite a few calls" from residents, who reported a giant wedge-shaped or V-shaped UFO northwest of the city, near Area 51.

"A police dispatcher who declined to give her name said she and other family members spotted the mysterious object hovering in the sky about 9:30 p.m."

"It was like a pyramid or a V-shaped wedge, with pulsating yellow lights,' the dispatcher told the Associated Press. "It split up; then it came back together. 'We got quite a few calls on it. From all reports, it was something similar to what was seen over Phoenix'" on March 13, 1997.

"It looked like they took the lights of a football field and put them way up in the sky,' said the dispatcher's neice, who also requested anonymity. The woman said she has never witnessed such a display in the 37 years she has lived in Las Vegas. She said her husband and three children witnessed the lights, as well. 'They were these huge round lights, like they were in formation,' she said, 'They were in a wide V-shape and they broke up and disappeared.'" (See the Las Vegas Review-Journal for June 24, 1997. Many thanks to Jared Anderson and Errol Bruce-Knapp for forwarding the AP story.)

DAYLIGHT DISC TOUCHES DOWN ON AN ARIZONA MOUNTAIN

On Monday, June 23, 1997, Arizona ufologist Tom King and his brother, Rob, were driving back to Phoenix from Tucson, when Tom suddenly spotted a glimmer in the Sierra Estrella mountains, just west of Bapchule (population 380).

"I saw a strange object on the side of a mountain peak," Tom reported. "I

pointed this out to my brother Rob, and we watched it for ten minutes. It seemed to pulse, and after viewing it for some time, we ruled out a car next to the peak, or someone holding up a large mirror reflecting the sun. What we saw was a metal object. The mountain was over 20 miles (32 kilometers) away from our position."

"After 10 minutes of watching it...the object suddenly vanished, only to reappear one minute later on another part of the mountain," he reported. "It moved over four miles in one minute...At this point we were kicking ourselves in the ass for not bringing a videocamera to work."

"We lost sight of it as another mountain blocked our view for 10 minutes...As the (first) mountain came back into view again, the object was gone. I realized we were looking at the Estrella Mountains...part of the Gila River Indian Reservation."

On March 13, 1997, Tom videotaped several glowing orange-sphere UFOs as they hovered above the Sierra Estrella range, which, he adds, "have been a hot spot for seeing UFOs for the past three years."

"Now these damn Hockey Pucks (UFOs) have us climbing mountains, looking for them," Tom commented. "What's next?" (Editor's Comment: The late Al Jolson said it best, Tom. "You ain't seen nothin' yet, folks!")

UFO SIGHTINGS ARE ON THE RISE IN COLORADO

UFO sightings are on the upswing in Colorado's San Luis Valley, with much activity taking place in Chaffee County.

On Monday, June 9, 1997, at 4:50 p.m., rancher Jim Roberts and his

son, Jeff, spied a silvery disc "moving into a thunderhead cloud" near tiny Howard, Colorado (population 55). The men snapped a photo of the UFO. "The picture shows a slight outline of what may be a disc. It's hard to tell."

Four hours later, at 8:50 p.m., the Roberts men took a second photo of "a yellowish-white globe hovering over the treeline and foothills to the northwest. Moving zigzag at times and hovering. Still (photo) shows a bright white globe about half the size of the full moon. Globe is real clear with the outside edge being a little fuzzy. No structure visible. It doesn't appear to be too distant. Only a crescent moon was out on this night."

The following afternoon, June 10, 1997, a "bright silver object (was) spotted in a westerly direction, moving west about 40 miles per hour." Again the Roberts men snapped a photo. "The still shows a small white cigar. No structure (visible)."

On Friday, June 20, 1997, at 11:15 a.m., Jim and Jeff Roberts walked out of a restaurant in nearby Salida, Colorado (population 4,870) and "while walking to their car saw a very bright reflective silver disc-shaped object hovering and then banking and taking off at a high rate of speed to the west. They were able to get four other people in the restaurant (owned by ufologist Tim Edwards) to view it."

They also described a black band around it. They saw no dome. It was hovering and banking for about 20 seconds when viewed right in front of The Boot (a terrain feature of Methodist Mountain just south of Salida that resembles a boot--J.T.) at 9,200 feet elevation. This is only two and a half miles (5 kilometers) south of Salida. The object was near a power line."

Jim and Jeff Roberts spotted their first UFO in Howard on February 20. In April, when Jeff returned to his home in Ankeny, Iowa, he and seven other witnesses spotted a hovering UFO. Tim Edwards remarks, "These guys have been like magnets lately for UFOs." (Many thanks to Tim Edwards for this report.)

LARGE UFO DESCENDS NEAR PALMDALE, CALIFORNIA

At 1 a.m. on Tuesday, June 24, 1997, Anne S. was driving home from a council meeting in Simi Valley on California Highway 14, about 20 miles (32 kilometers) north of Los Angeles.

As she neared the ridgeline near Acton, she "noticed on my left a large object that was streaking to earth, much like you would expect a falling star--but this was VERY large. Also, I noticed two streams of fire out the back side."

"The sky was fairly bright last night, and although the object was dark (black, it was silhouetted against the lighter night sky), it appeared to be of an unusual shape, like a crescent or simply not symmetrical. My impression is that it was a meteor, because it was irregularly shaped and there were no lights visible. There was no green color; the object was black and the fire sparks were light yellow to orange...I had clear view for about 10 seconds and it was very low as it passed over the hills. In fact, I was surprised when it cleared them."

"The trajectory was towards Elizabeth Lake, or to the north and west of where I was. It was coming down very rapidly, not like an object falling, but possibly like a meteor or an aircraft with some speed behind it. The object

disappeared behind the hills to my left (northwest)." (Many thanks to Steve Wilson Sr. for forwarding this story.)

UFOs BUZZ SEASIDE HOTEL IN CANCUN, MEXICO

On Sunday, June 15, 1997, at 9:30 p.m., Cathy C. was relaxing at her hotel suite in the resort city of Cancun, Mexico with her son, Matthew, and a fellow American, Richard H. Cancun is in the state of Quintana Roo, on the eastern tip of the Yucatan Peninsula, 1,200 kilometers (750 miles) east of Mexico City.

"Rick and I were on the balcony skywatching when something flew in front of us," Cathy reported. "My response was 'What the hell was that!?' I jumped up and ran to the edge and never took my eyes off it."

Cathy's suite was on the 5th floor of the hotel, facing the Atlantic Ocean. "It seemed to almost 'buzz' the hotel one time, as if the say, 'Look at me!' It flew in a straight line and then veered off and went straight up...As for size, I would equate it with a small military jet," and the shape "seemed to be triangular, no colored lights, just a softly glowing sphere that appeared to be in the middle section. It moved very quickly and very aerobically."

The UFO was soon joined by three others. "We all saw the four," she reported, "My son and I stayed out watching for over three hours, and yet it felt like minutes. We had no idea we were out there that long. At times, 'they' appeared playful, as if they wanted us to watch the show. At one point they flew straight down. The distance, according to Matt, was several hundred yards...As for speed, at times they were up in the stars and seconds

later, they were down in the clouds, still not ever any noise."

At one point, they witnessed "what appeared to be a falling star, but it was one of the objects followed by a stream of fire. Then both disappeared for a few seconds and then would reappear in another area close by. That happened three times."

"Also...the objects would appear to fly out into the outer atmosphere, as they would fly up and disappear, and then reappear shortly...We strongly feel that it wanted to be seen or did not care if it was seen...Time seemed to stand still. It was amazing! We will never forget that night." (Email Interview)

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