

Martian Alive!

On April 1, 1987, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation aired an episode of its religious affairs program Man Alive, hosted by Roy Bonisteel. The episode featured artist and writer Budd Hopkins discussing his investigations of UFO abductees, filmed at Bonisteel's home outside of Toronto. Hopkins presented his findings to several individuals besides the CBC crew, including John Musgrave, a psychologist and other notable UFO personages. Terence Dickinson was also part of the program, although he was only featured briefly at the beginning.

Hopkins' presentation was directly tied in with the publication of his most recent book: Intruders, which details his investigations into abductees, as follow-up to his earlier work: Missing Time. Intruders deals with the strange multiple abductions uncovered by Budd in his sessions with "Kathie", a woman living somewhere in the American Northeast. Budd describes his hypnosis sessions with her and her friends, family and neighbors, giving large amounts of tape transcripts to illustrate the cases. His investigations appear to have uncovered an experimentation by aliens upon humans, representing what could be called longitudinal studies of the human biological system. Budd observes that he has researched an equal amount of male and female abductees, and claims that he has evidence to suggest that aliens are doing genetic experiments. This is supported by hypnotic regressions of abductees in which the subjects were taken on board spacecraft and given various physiological tests. Women appear to have had ova removed, and men seem to recall intercourse with alien females - "rape" to use the term hesitantly noted by Budd in his descriptions of the events. At least one woman claims a later encounter during which she was allowed to see and touch her "child", which was a hybrid alien/human. Hopkins postulates that there are many, many such accounts, from people with a mixture of backgrounds. He describes a "blind" study, funded by the Fund For UFO Research, in which several abductees were given a psychological examination by an uninformed psychologist. They had no psychopathology, other than what was described as a "mild paranoia", and the analogy was made between these individuals and rape victims, people who had undergone some severe trauma. Indeed, if these people really did undergo such remarkable abductions, then they would certainly have been traumatized.

Okay, okay, but what proof is there of any of this? None whatsoever, apart from the odd bowl-shaped marks on the legs of some abductees, and the consistency of their stories. Other than that, the skeptics will have a field day with the TV show and the book. Apart from the question of proof is the lack of an explanation for such experiments and abductions, if they are really occurring. Hopkins suggests that the aliens may lack certain emotions such as love, compassion, sympathy, etc., and may be trying to breed these emotions into their race. This still is not satisfying, however. Why would such emotions be necessary in a race that presumably has achieved technological superiority without them? Emotions appear to be a hindrance in human thinking, rather than something that enhances logical deductions. Of course, we see that Mr. Spock occasionally uses his human traits to complement his Vulcan mental capacity, so that in some cases it might appear that an injection of human thinking is necessary for getting an overall picture of things, even from an objective standpoint.

What I would propose, however, is the opposite. I think that Hopkins is perhaps too kind in his appreciation of the human characteristics. Some sociobiologists have shown that, unfortunately, humans today are still ruled by primitive instincts and urges, which dictate our motivations for war, violence, pleasure-seeking and sexual desires. Despite our advancing technology, the human capacity to utilize this advanced knowledge is still lacking. This explains why war is being fought using high-tech weaponry, and also why society in general advocates violence, irresponsibility and unethical practices. Indeed, both Oppenheimer and Einstein complained that humans were not ready for nuclear weapons, on an emotional basis. In short, humans are still in general functioning with very primitive emotions, lacking the responsibility, foresight and understanding of their actions. Humans are illogical.

Therefore, it could be that instead of wishing to breed this kind of undesirable mentality into their race, it is more likely that they would instead be trying to breed it out of our race. Remember that earlier contactees and abductees have often recalled comments by aliens to the effect that they are warning or encouraging us to change our bad habits (like war, violence, etc.). If their methods of gently trying to change us have not succeeded, then the next obvious step would be more direct manipulation. In other words, if Hopkins' abduction research does represent the discovery of alien experimentation upon humans, it is likely that such experimentation is designed to alter us for the better, not them.

But this speculation (and that is all this has been, only speculation) has only been an exercise to show that the interpretation of Hopkins' research can go in many different directions. John Musgrave, for example, has now admitted to being an abductee himself, though he is convinced that abduction experiences are only a new class of dreams, representing some psychological quirk as yet undefined by behaviourists. The possibility that abduction experiences are only dreams has many valid points. For example, "Kathie" recalled several occasions under hypnosis when she appeared to be abducted when other people were around, yet no one else had any experience. She seemed to remember being "floated" out of her bed, car, or chair at various times, much similar to the experiences described by people having out-of-body experiences. Could abductions be involuntary OOBE's? Psychologists in general believe OOBE's are particular kinds of dreams, unrelated to the Shirley Maclaine OOBE episodes in which the persons seems to travel beyond time and space. (The Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal has rather conservative views on OOBE's. They do not believe that anyone's soul can travel out of their body, apart from their belief that the soul itself does not exist.) Even if OOBE's are psychological rather than psychic phenomena, it is still possible that UFO abductions could be specific types of OOBE's.

All of this is pretty strange stuff. On the one hand, we have many abductees' stories to account for, but no physical proof. We have rather fantastic explanations for their experiences, but also rather dull explanations involving dreams and odd mental processes. Hopkins himself cautions his readers throughout his book that the statements and conclusions he advances are quite extraordinary, and that they are difficult to accept. I find this to be an understatement. Individuals such as Philip Klass and Robert Sheaffer will be lucky to avoid heart palpitations from reading the material.

And further to the speculations that aliens might be breeding logic into humans, there is one remaining question: Why would they bother?

[Editor's note: Martians Alive! was submitted by Conrad Fort.]

Further comments by the editor: Fort fails to point out that the physical evidence found by investigators does tend to also support abductees' claims. However, the proof required for any absolute persuasive evidence is still forthcoming. We can hope that these issues will be explored further in both the pro- and antiUFO literature over the next several years.

The comments by Steve George about Roy Bauer's evaluations (later in this issue) are quite valid and point out many of the problems faced by investigators of UFO incidents. Bauer could have merely left the case as unexplained, but chose to offer some alternatives. Besides, the inclusion of such speculations does lead to comments on the part of the readers, contemplating the consequences of the witness' account.

The Swamp Gas Journal is published by UFORUM. Editor: Chris Rutkowski, Editorial consultant: Myra Banman.

Box 1918, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R3C 3R2

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COMMUNION

by Whitley Strieber

Morrow; 299 pages; \$17.95



They're here. Creatures from Out There, UFOs are invading the nation's bookstores. Moreover, these accounts of aliens are not sci-fi; they are on non-fiction shelves, and one has even climbed up the best-seller list. In 1985, according to Novelist Whitley Strieber (*The Wolfen*), small creatures with "fierce, limitless eyes" abducted him from his cottage in upstate New York and subjected him to painful prods and probes. Through hypnosis, Strieber later recalled more than a dozen similar occurrences. Credibility is dissipated when he remembers "being terrified as a little boy by an appearance of Mr. Peanut" and evaporates when he speaks of tarot cards and the riddle of the sphinx. Strieber lobbies for understanding between humans and aliens: "two universes spinning each other together ... the old weaver of reality rethreading creation's loom." The last time anyone dispensed such advice was on *The Twilight Zone*, where it belonged. ■

LoCs: Ritchie Benedict, Hilary Evans, Stanton Friedman, Robert Boyd

Loc: Steve George, Winnipeg:

... Persinger seems like a man far more concerned with the neatness of his theory than with its truthfulness. This is no way to advance knowledge. By ignoring criticisms like your own (and supposedly others) he only weakens the fragile legs his theory stands on, worse he weakens his own reputation. Any scientist (person) seeking truth should be willing to consider criticisms and alternatives. Only when all possibilities have been disproved can the truth, however unlikely, be discerned. This is one reason many ufologists (and others of that ilk) face ridicule from the general public and the scientific community: they jump to conclusions when other, simpler solutions are at hand...

... Your published report of the incident at Lorette was the first UFO sighting and subsequent investigation I have seen, and I found it fascinating. The only thing that bothered me were the conclusions. The initial offering of two possible conclusions ... seemed sensible ... But Roy Bauer's further comments stretch things a little bit. He offers three subsequent conclusions: 1. The sighting was the result of some "as yet unexplained mental phenomenon..." Presumably Roy means: "It only happened in his head," i.e. M was taking drugs, M was drunk, M was suffering from paranoid delusions, or M convinced himself that his lie was truth. Any of the above seems more likely than what Roy offers next. [it was a secret military craft] [But even this is] preferable to Roy's final offering. 3. The object was "... a form of intelligent life which has the ability to become visible in our space and also can manipulate the mind and memories of an observer to produce a non-threatening object." Now, while I admit this may be the premise for a pretty good smash bang ufoskiffy thriller, I can't accept it as the reason behind the sighting in Lorette. Not, at least, before possibilities 1 and 2 have been thoroughly disproved, especially number 1. It's too easy to make theories that seem to fit the facts. Look what Persinger has managed to do. Then again, Roy may have been joking, or exercising his imagination in order to point out one of the weaknesses of ufology. Which was it? ... I'm not trying to be nasty with the above comments; I'm surprised that the sighting report actually got me thinking so much...

Zines Received

Ufologia #15 Dec. 1983; #16 Dec. 1984 (Italy)
CAUS Bulletin #7 March, 1987; Just Cause #11 March, 1987 (Fawcett/Greenwood)
Center Investigators' Quarterly #14 April 1986; #15 July 1986; #16 October 1986;
#17 January 1987; #18 April 1987 (CUFOS)
Cambridge UFO Research Group #24 April 1986; #25 August 1986; #26 Dec. 1986 (Wheeler)
International UFO Reporter V.11 #1, #2, #3, #4, #5, #6, all 1986 (CUFOS)
UFO Newsclipping Service #208 November 1986 (Farish)
UFO Potpourri #306-312 (Schuessler)
UFO Belgium #2, 1986 (Broux)
UFO Rivista di Informazione Ufologica V.1, #1, July 1986 (Italy)
AFU Newsletter #28 1985 [ceased]
MUFON Newsletter #34 Sept. 1986; #36 Nov. 1986; #37 Dec. 1986; #38 Jan. 1987;
#39 Feb. 1987 (Massachusetts)
Musgrave Mailing #557-616 (John)

SF Fanzines Received

Space Wastrel V.4 #3 June 1986; V.4#4 Sept. 1986
Stroon #0 (Rune #75; V.12 #1) Nov.1986
I'm Not Boring You Am I? #5 (Runte)
Got It, Thanks! #1 Fe. 1987 (Steve George)
Novoid #2 1986
Neology V.11 #2,3,4,5 1986; V.11 #6 1987
Minicon 22 Progress Report 2
Elotter #6 August 1986
Speculative Fiction Society of Manitoba News Journal V.2 #4; #5 1986
Neogenesis: Club Virus Newsletter V.1 #1 870226

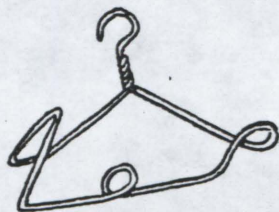
This gubblick contains many non-sklarkish English flutzpahs, but the overall pluggandisp can be glorked from context.

David Citino

TO KENNETH ARNOLD, PILOT, WHO REPORTED THE FIRST FLYING SAUCERS, JUNE 24, 1947

Even more frightening than blob and slime, fluorescences of malevolent heavens showering down upon our sleeping daughters, goggle-eyed mantis-men bent on ravaging our mothers and wives to preserve their vile sticky seed, even more than disintegrator rays, beams that transfer velocity and mass, wish and have, mind-melds and hyper-drives, sentience of famished vegetables, fascist computers, desolations between each galaxy and each muon, more than the sea's every kraken, weedy *whats* creeping up the beach toward damp-suited teenage lovers writhing their names in sand, love pooling between them, more than ancient aguey terrors steaming from chasms between mind and flesh, craven witches with mother's face horny for our heart's blood, spell, curse and cloven hooves, every hurt we can see dark do us, more even than all we can imagine: what we are.

From: Southern Humanities Review
v. 19 #4 Autumn 1985 p. 323

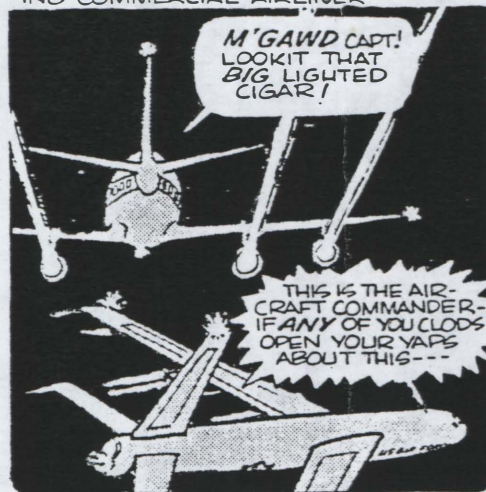


URI GELLER'S COAT HANGER

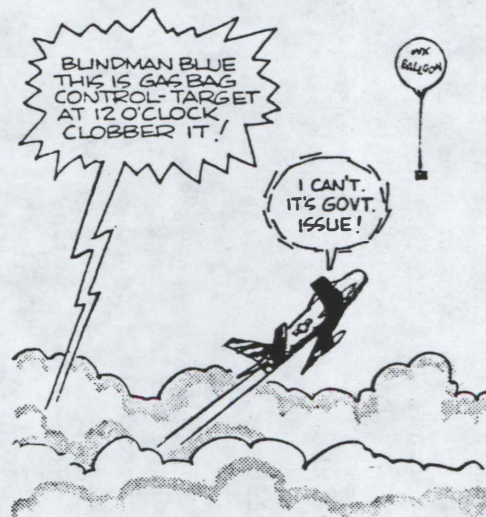
Bob Stevens'

"There I was..."

ONE INCIDENT INVOLVED AN F-52 ON A NIGHT REFUELING MISSION WHICH MISTAKENLY TRIED TO HOOK UP TO A PASSING COMMERCIAL AIRLINER—



YOURS TRULY WAS SCRAMBLED TWICE FOR UFOs ...

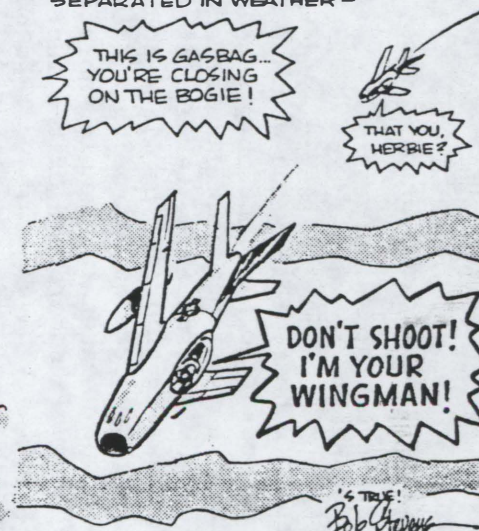


AT THE RISK OF STEPPING ON A FEW "PROJECT BLUEBOOK" TOES, WE'RE GOING TO TAKE UP THE SUBJECT OF UFOs (UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS) A RASH OF SIGHTINGS BROKE OUT IN THE EARLY '50s & REACHED EPIDEMIC PROPORTIONS WHEN THE GROUND OBSERVER CORPS WAS IN FULL CRY BY THE '60s.

F-86Ds SCRAMBLED AT WRIGHT-PAT FOR NIGHT INTERCEPT OF, SAY, THE MOON WOULD BECOME "TARGETS" TO KEEP THE GROUND OBSERVERS HAPPY.



... ANOTHER TIME OUR FLIGHT BECAME SEPARATED IN WEATHER—



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Skeptical Inquirer V. 8 #4 1984 p. 384

Further Elaborations

I just received a computerized notice from Time/Life Books Inc., that they are retaining some of my slides for their use, presumably in their forthcoming volume of The UFO Phenomenon. I had sent them 14 examples of physical trace photos, among them Val Johnson's car, Langenburg, etc. Of these, the ones they will apparently be using include two photos of the Rossburn rings, featuring Brian James (APRO) and Gary Lanham (UFOSIS), that I took while we were out at the site in 1977. Unfortunately, the package sent back to me made no mention of remuneration or credit for the use of the photos. Philip Klass et al are very critical of the Time/Life series, and from what I've seen in the way of promos for the set of ten books, they may be justified. The text appears to be written in a very "Gee, whiz" style, not especially objective, and plays up the "mysterious" nature of the topics. Should be an interesting series to add to any collection, though.

Two freelance writers for OMNI have interviewed me about the TST over the past year, though nothing has appeared as of the August, 1987, issue. Hey, Paul, Jerry what's up?

The Regina Leader-Post ran an entire two-page feature about UFOs in Saskatchewan in June of this year, quoting myself, Stan Friedman and Tim Tokayk at length. George Bentley of the Leader-Post did the article, which was well-written and failed to misquote us as is usually expected of newspaper reporters.

Speaking of Stanton Friedman, he will once again be returning to Winnipeg in the winter (really, Stan, the snow does melt), this time in January of 1988, for a public lecture or two. He's been digging up some really strange stuff relating to the MJ-12 documents. I find the fact that some of the really "hot" stuff came anonymously in a brown envelope a bit on the suspicious side, though the documents themselves appear to have elements of officialdom to them. Grant Cameron has been doing some interesting research on the documents, though, which might have some important ramifications. He took a good look at the list of MJ-12 names, and did background checks on them. Not surprisingly, he found that all were experts in fields related to electromagnetism, and that there were substantial connections to each other and to people such as Wilbur Smith. All the names knew each other quite well, and had meetings with each other. In other words, if the documents are a hoax, someone went to a lot of trouble to make them look authentic. Barry Greenwood, however, finds that the documents have the earmarks of a definite hoax, including sloppy "sanitation". Is this another CSIOCP prank?

On June 24, 1987, at the University of Manitoba, Brian James, Roy Bauer, Guy Westcott, Grant Cameron and myself held a public seminar/news conference to mark the 40th anniversary of the Arnold sighting. Guy, Grant and myself gave presentations to the full house, which included a TV news crew. Although they filmed the entire 2-hour event, none of their efforts was aired "because we didn't get any good visuals of UFOs". Aren't media amazing sometimes? Often? Usually? Always?

On September 3, 1987, Myra Banman, myself and most of the Manitoba astronomical community will be attending a dinner reception to honour Ian Shelton, the discoverer of Supernova 1987A. As he is a native Winnipegger, various other dignitaries will no doubt attend as well. Two months before he discovered the supernova, Ian, Myra and I were at a meeting of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, Winnipeg Centre, which featured a rather long-winded Saganlike talk by a representative of the Manitoba Planetarium. We had gotten slightly bored by the proceedings, and began to talk amongst ourselves, Ian shaking his head from time to time at some of what was being said (he worked at the Planetarium for a while). Myra and I joked with Ian about his returning to Chile and doing some "real" astronomy, like discovering a supernova or something. Just goes to show, doesn't it?

More than one writer has commented recently about the increase in interest about UFOs but the lack of sightings. It's true; numbers of sightings have dropped off dramatically over the past decade. UFOs are just "old hat". The media aren't interested anymore, and people are so blasé about aliens and space affairs, that there is no wonder that the topic receives such little concern. "Oh, that", a witness conceivably says, "that's just a UFO."

Finally, I will be teaching a course this fall at the University, slightly off-topic with UFOs. Titled: Science Fiction; a Grokker's Guide, I will try and explain that there is more to SF than just Star Trek.

August, 1987