

archived as http://www.stealthskater.com/Roswell_01.pdf

more of this subject is at <http://www.stealthskater.com/UFO.htm>

note: because important websites are frequently "here today but gone tomorrow", the following was archived from <http://www.raidersnewsnetwork.com/> June 21, 2007. This is NOT an attempt to divert readers from the aforementioned website. Indeed, the reader should only read this back-up copy if the updated original cannot be found at the original author's site.

On The Road To Roswell 2007

PART 1 -- [On The Road To Roswell 2007: A Discussion With Stanton T. Friedman](#)

PART 2 -- [On The Road To Roswell 2007: A Discussion With Col. Jesse Marcel Jr.](#)

PART 3 -- [On The Road To Roswell 2007: A Discussion With Dennis G. Balthaser](#)

PART 4 -- [On The Road To Roswell 2007: A Discussion With Donald R. Burleson](#)

PART 5 -- [On The Road To Roswell 2007: A Discussion With Nick Pope](#)

PART 6-- [On The Road To Roswell 2007: A Discussion With Adam Gorightly](#)

PART 7 -- [On The Road To Roswell 2007: A Discussion With Dr. Tom Van Flandern](#)

PART 8 -- [On The Road To Roswell 2007: A Discussion With Dr. Bruce Maccabee](#)

PART 9 -- [On The Road To Roswell 2007: A Discussion With Dr. Mike Heiser](#)

Authors, Researchers & Lecturers at this year's 60th Roswell festival include [Dennis Balthaser](#), [Greg Bishop](#), [Donald Burleson, PhD](#), [Stephen Bassett](#), [Richard Dolan](#), [Adam GoRightly](#), [John Greenewald](#), [Paola Harris](#), [Michael S. Heiser PhD](#), [Tom Horn](#), [Dr. Roger Leir](#), [Guy Malone](#), [Nicholas Redfern](#), [John Rhodes](#), [Peter Robbins](#), [Rob Simone](#), and MANY MORE TBA!

Learn more about the 60th Anniversary Roswell Festivals see both websites:

<http://www.roswelluofestival.com>

<http://www.roswellufomuseum.com/festival.htm>

PART ONE -- On The Road To Roswell 2007: A Discussion With Nuclear Physicist Stanton T. Friedman

Editors note: This is the first in a special series of Raiders News Network interviews focusing on the 60th Anniversary of the 1947 Roswell, New Mexico UFO Incident.

RaidersNewsNetwork.com

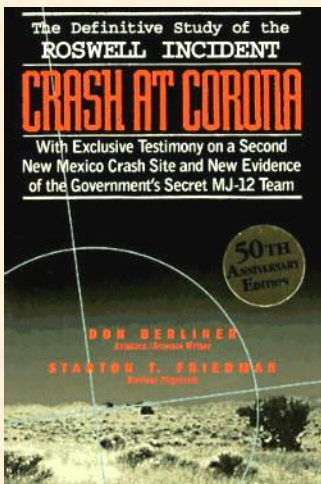
May 20, 2007



HORN: Stanton, Roswell is the pre-eminent story of Ufology. Some say whatever occurred near Roswell, NM in July 1947 will never be known. Others like you disagree on some levels. You and Bill Moore brought this story to light many years ago. This is the most appropriate place to start this series, so please tell us how that happened.

STAN: I first heard of Roswell in the early 1970s from a woman named Lydia Sleppy whose son was a forest ranger in California. He had had a good sighting. My associate (Bobbi Ann Slate Girona, long deceased) and I spoke with him and he suggested we talk to his mother who had had a good sighting near Albuquerque. We did speak to her and after she told us about the sighting, she mentioned that when she had been working at an Albuquerque Radio Station in the late 1940s, she was asked to type the story coming in from a broadcaster at their Roswell affiliate station for a newswire. He dictated how a flying saucer had been recovered and was being sent to Wright Field.

Part way through the story the bell went off on the machine she was using to put the story on the news wire. The FBI instructed her not to continue the transmission. She remembered the names of some of the people and I located several, but came to a dead end. I should stress that New Mexico was a hotbed of classified Research and Development activities, and certainly it was expected that there would be spies and counter intelligence concerns.



In 1978 I was in Baton Rouge, Louisiana at a TV station to do 3 interviews before my lecture "Flying Saucers ARE Real!" that evening at Louisiana State University. I had done two. But the third reporter was nowhere to be found. The station manager was giving me coffee, looking at his watch, and was embarrassed as he knew the person who had brought me to the station and that I had other things to do.

Out of the blue he told me that the person I ought to talk to was Jesse Marcel over in Houma, Louisiana. I asked "Who is he?" He answered "Oh, he handled wreckage of a flying saucer when he was in the military. We are old Ham radio buddies."

The reporter finally showed up and I was busy the rest of the day. Next day from the Airport, I called information and then spoke with Jesse who told me his story. This is described in detail in [Crash at Corona: The Definitive Story of the Roswell Incident](#) by Don Berliner and myself and available from my website at www.stantonfriedman.com.

Jesse didn't have a precise date. I shared the story with Bill Moore (we had known each other in Pittsburgh, years before). I also saw him months later in Minnesota the day after meeting with Vern

and Jean Maltaise of Bemidji, MN who told me a story of their friend Barney Barnett who had come across a crashed saucer and strange bodies in New Mexico.

Bill had a 3rd story (from the "Flying Saucer Review") about an English actor named Hughie Green who heard a story on the radio about a New Mexico crashed saucer when driving from Los Angeles to Philadelphia. He could pin down a date (early July, 1947). Bill went to the Univ. of Minnesota Library and found the stories in newspapers in the periodicals department. These gave us an independent check on Jesse's story and the names of many more people.

By 1980 we had located 62 people. That is when the first Roswell book -- The Roswell Incident by Bill Moore and Charles Berlitz -- was published. Bill and I did 90% of the research. By 1986 we had published several more articles and the total was up to 92. This was all before the internet made searching a lot easier and cheaper. I instigated and was in the "Unsolved Mysteries" NBC TV program about Roswell in 1989. It was well done and was seen by 28 million people.

Many others have joined in -- some of the noisy negativists from their armchairs and, of course, the Government has issued 2 large reports full of misrepresentation and anti-UFO propaganda. I am still checking on some leads... and correcting the false information put out by the noisy negativists.

HORN: In 1984, a Hollywood movie producer named James Shandera investigating the UFO phenomena receives an anonymously mailed package of 35 mm film. It supposedly contains images of a top-secret Government report later named the "Majestic Twelve (or MJ-12) documents." You wind up with these documents. Tell us about that. And do you still believe some of the Majestic 12 documents are genuine?

STAN: I had introduced Jaime to Bill Moore while I was living in California and worked with Jaime and Bill briefly on a fictional movie that didn't get very far in 1980 before I moved from California to New Brunswick, Canada. Jaime and Bill worked closely together, saw each other often, and worked with several insiders. We kept in touch by phone and during my travels.

The film had two identical sets of 8 negatives each. The document was classified TOP SECRET/MAJIC. The title on the first page is "Briefing Document: Operation Majestic 12" Prepared for President Elect Dwight D. Eisenhower, 18 November, 1952. I was notified about its receipt and we cooperated on trying to determine whether the original 2 documents -- the briefing and p.8, a memo from President Truman to Secretary of Defense Forrestal (Sept. 24, 1947) authorizing Operation Majestic 12 -- were genuine.

Another brief Top Secret Restricted document -- a memo, July 14, 1954 from Robert Cutler to General Nathan Twining, one of the MJ-12 members -- was discovered at the National Archives. A very important part of my research dealt with my very surprising finding that Dr. Donald Menzel -- who was an astronomy Professor at Harvard and had written 3 anti-UFO books, and who was listed as an MJ-12 member -- actually led a double life doing highly classified work for decades for the NSA, the CIA, and 30 companies.

My book TOP SECRET/MAJIC gives the whole story and demonstrates that none of the myriad of anti-MJ-12 arguments stand up to careful scrutiny based on my visits to 20 archives and my 14 years of work on classified programs. It also demonstrates that there are a number of phony MJ-12 documents out there as well.

HORN: I talked with Jesse Marcel Jr. not long ago. He has a new book coming out that will be launched at the Roswell festival. He does not buy the Mogul balloon explanation about Roswell. What's your take on this?

STAN: The ridiculous MOGUL explanation put forth by Colonel Richard Weaver simply doesn't stand up to careful review as is noted in Crash at Corona and in several other of my papers. That his specialty is disinformation becomes quite clear. Mogul doesn't cut it. The materials don't match witness descriptions in terms of the characteristics and the quantity. Dr. David Rudiak at his website shows that no Mogul balloon could have landed on the Brazel ranch. Enginer Robert Galganski shows the amount of material is a total mismatch. If it doesn't fit, one must acquit.

HORN: Could the crash test dummies explain reports of alien bodies?

STAN: This attempt to explain the bodies observed by witnesses to the Roswell crashes is certainly one of the silliest of many totally false explanations put forth by Government propagandists in a long history of such nonsense. There are 3 major problems with it:

1. All were dropped in 1953 or later -- a minimum of 6 years after the Roswell crash. Last I heard, nobody had invented time travel. Even for crash test dummies.
2. I met with Colonel Madson who had been in charge of that program. For the tests to be meaningful, he noted that the dummies were 6' tall and weighed 175 pounds to match pilots. There was no way to morph them down to 4 foot tall skinny little guys with 4 fingers and big heads.
3. The Air Force report uses the same map of test drop locations three times. There were no dummy drops near either of the 2 crash sites (Brazel Ranch and Plains of San Agustin.)

HORN: Do you believe the Government is covering up the truth about flying saucers?

STAN: It isn't a question of belief. One needs only to look at the multitude of lies over 60 year period of time as well as the blacked-out UFO documents from the CIA, the whited-out UFO documents from the NSA (156 pages) on which one can only read 1-or-2 sentences

HORN: Why would they do that? What benefit is it to them to cover up the truth about flying saucers?

STAN: I have a paper on my website "The UFO 'Why' Questions" which discusses this in detail. Briefly:

1. All governments would like to determine how the saucers work since they obviously would make great weapons delivery and defense systems. With wreckage, one sets up a highly classified program. The basic rule for security is one can't tell ones friends without telling ones enemies.
2. What if the other guy figures out how they work before we do? We don't want them to know what we know or to know that we know what they know.
3. If an announcement were made, there would be at least 3 major effects. (A)Church attendance would go up as would mental hospital admissions. (B) the stock market would go down. And (C) and the younger generation would push for an Earthling rather than a nationalistic orientation. No government wants that.

4. Certain religious fundamentalists such as the late Jerry Falwell and Pat Robertson have loudly claimed there is no intelligent life outside of Earth and the UFO stuff is the work of the Devil. They would be up the creek without a religious paddle.
5. Some people would say they obviously must be more technologically advanced than we. So soon there will be new methods of energy production, ground and air travel, computers, and communication systems leading to economic chaos.
6. As is noted in the new book Shoot Them Down by Frank Feschino Jr., military pilots in 1952 were instructed to shoot down UFOs if they wouldn't land when instructed to do so. There are indications that the UFOs on occasion returned fire. No government wants to admit it has lost planes to UFOs. In parallel, it took the government more than 50 years to admit that 166 military reconnaissance aircraft crew members had been shot down when tickling Russia or China or North Korea. Families were lied to as noted in the fine 2001 book By Any Means Necessary by William Burrows

HORN: Now let's turn to some technical questions. Doesn't Relativity prevent interstellar travel?

STAN: Of course not. Time slows down as things approach the speed-of-light. This has been demonstrated. At 99.99% of the speed-of-light, it only takes 6 months pilot time to go 37 light-years. I worked on nuclear fusion propulsion systems in 1961. Using the right isotopes of hydrogen and helium, one can eject charged particles having 10 million times as much energy per particle as in a chemical rocket.

HORN: Wouldn't it take too much energy to get to another galaxy?

STAN: Who cares? Andromeda is over 2 million light years away. But within just 55 light-years of Earth, there are about 2000 stars of which roughly 50 are very similar to the Sun. If I need a loaf of bread for dinner, I don't worry about going to that great bakery in Sydney, Australia or even one in Sydney, Nova Scotia. I go to the supermarket 2 miles away. The amount of energy required depends on the details of the trip. One astronomer calculating the required initial launch weight of a rocket able to get a man to the Moon and back was too high by a factor of 300 Million. One thing he neglected was "cosmic freeloading" -- i.e., letting Mother Nature do much of the work as we do on all our deep space flights. Astronomers have very little knowledge of space travel.

HORN: What technique might be used to move around in the atmosphere the way saucers are reported to?

STAN: One of Friedman's laws is that technological progress comes from doing things differently in an unpredictable way. Lasers aren't just better light bulbs. The nuclear fission rockets I helped test almost 40 years ago are not just better chemical rockets. Entirely different physics in both cases. As I noted in my 1968 Congressional testimony, an attractive approach is MagnetoAerodynamics similar to the electromagnetic submarine successfully tested in the mid 1960s by Dr. Stewart Way but replacing seawater (an electrically conducting fluid) with ionized air another one. One technical-report literature search I had done noted 900 references, of which more than 90% were classified. Gets around all the problems of high-speed flight in the atmosphere.

HORN: Here's a big question I'm personally interested in. Where do you think these visitors originate?

STAN: The only UFO case that I know of that provides an answer is the fascinating abduction of Betty and Barney Hill in New Hampshire in September, 1961. Betty described a star map (model) under hypnosis. She drew it as a post hypnotic suggestion by the skilled psychiatrist hypnotist Dr. Benjamin Simon. It is in the first book The Interrupted Journey. A brilliant woman named Marjorie Fish built

25 models of the local galactic neighborhood and was able to determine that the base stars in the map were Zeta-1 and Zeta-2 Reticuli in the Southern sky constellation of Reticulum. They are unique being the closest to each other pair of sun-like stars in our neighborhood. They are only 39.2 light-years from here and only 1/8th of a light-year apart from each other and a billion years older than the Sun. The work is described in detail in the new book due out in late July: Captured! The Betty and Barney Hill UFO Experience by Kathleen Marden (Betty's niece) and myself. We deal with the objections to both the case and the star map work. Not surprisingly, none of the critics accurately described either.

HORN: Can you give us a glimpse of what your "Roswell 2007 Presentation" will cover?

STAN: I will review the many technological changes that have occurred since July, 1947. Then there were no home computers, no Internet, no space travel, no lasers, no supersonic aircraft, no fusion weapons, no microwaves or cell phones etc. Note will be taken of the 4 groups certain to be attracted to the Roswell story: (A) Serious researchers. (B) Nasty noisy negativists. (C) The Government. (the last 2 have taken very strong stands that there can be nothing to UFOs therefore Roswell and MJ-12 can't be real). (D) The enthusiasts who are willing to bear false witness. I will review some of the religious aspects of the Roswell story, deal with the silliest attacks by the government and the debunkers, take note of some reasons for UFOs to be very interested in Southeastern New Mexico in July 1947. Should be fun.

HORN: Thanks for doing this interview, Stan. Please tell people where they can learn more about your research.

STAN: They can view my website at www.stantonfriedman.com or read my books TOP SECRET/MAJIC or Crash at Corona, or Captured or view my DVD "Flying Saucers ARE Real!" or read my monthly columns in *UFO Magazine* and the *MUFON Journal*. My email address is fsphys@rogers.com. They can also write me at POB 958, Houlton, ME 04730-0958

Thanks for asking. -- STF

PART TWO -- On The Road To Roswell 2007: A Discussion With Col. Jesse Marcel Jr.



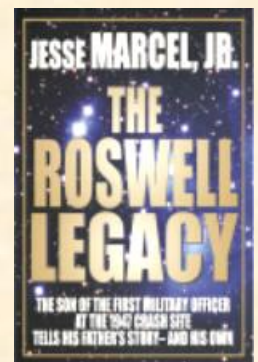
Editors note: This is the second in a special series of Raiders NewsNetwork.com interviews focusing on the 60th Anniversary of the 1947 Roswell, New Mexico UFO Incident. Tom Horn is joined by Col. Jesse Marcel Jr. whose highly anticipated new book The Roswell Legacy is being released at the Roswell Festival this year. Col. Marcel's book claims that the famous UFO event near the city actually occurred including the recovery of an extraterrestrial craft. Col. Marcel's father -- Maj. Jesse Marcel Sr. -- was the lead military investigator into the crash of 1947 and is finally vindicated according to this book.

RaidersNewsNetwork.com

May 22, 2007

HORN: Col. Marcel, it is so good to speak with you again. Thank you for taking time to talk to us about Roswell and your new book. You will be speaking and on some panels at Roswell this year. One question or correction. I note in the past we had the title of your book as Roswell: It Really Happened. But I see it advertised elsewhere now as The Roswell Legacy. Has the book title been changed?

MARCEL: The book has evolved with time. As I was writing it, I realized that Legacy was more appropriate than what really happened. The title of the book is The Roswell Legacy.



HORN: This is the 60th anniversary. Does it feel that long ago to you?

MARCEL: It is hard to believe that 60 years have passed on the calendar. It seems like yesterday to me to use a cliché'.

HORN: As the only man alive who the Government admits handled material from the debris field in 1947 -- material your dad let you and your mother see as he stopped off at home on his way back to the base -- how did that night effect you? It changed the course of UFOlogy and put Roswell and your family on the map.

MARCEL: It was then that I realized that our civilization was not alone certainly in the Galaxy and that we were in fact being visited by others more advanced because they could get here from where ever they come from. I took it to mean that we were being studied from a scientifically-curious race just as we would be curious about other life forms on our planet.

HORN: Col. Blanchard authorized a press release saying the military had recovered a flying disc. I assume he had some facts about what was recovered before he allowed the press release.

MARCEL: Certainly he had been briefed by my dad as to the true nature of the debris and that it represented an artifact from elsewhere which went along with all of the unusual sightings seen in the skies at that time.

HORN: Your father was ordered to load the debris onto a B-29 which was then flown to Wright Field and that is where General Roger Ramey took over. Correct.

MARCEL: He took a small representative portion of the debris for General Ramey's inspection. And I am convinced that he realized that this was too big of a story to be unleashed on the public at that time.

HORN: What happened then?

MARCEL: My dad was told to participate in the cover story. And when he came home he sat my mother and myself down and said in no uncertain terms that we were never to discuss what we had seen. I later recalled him stating that he was part of the cover-up.

HORN: Let me ask something more personal. What was your dad's qualifications to evaluate a crash site?

MARCEL: He was the intelligence officer for the 509th and had training in aircraft accident investigation. In addition, he had gone to radar school so he was familiar with the types of radar targets used on weather balloons etc. He was a natural to have been sent out on the initial investigation of the debris.

HORN: The material your dad brought home. Tell us what you saw.

MARCEL: He had pre-positioned the debris on the kitchen floor so my mother and I could realize the unusual nature of the debris. What we saw was something certainly different from mundane material. I have described the debris itself many times. So I don't know if you want that repeated here.

[EDITOR'S NOTE: Jesse Marcel Jr.'s first published recollections of the debris was that they were composed of: "...foil-like stuff, very thin, metallic-like but not metal, and very tough. There was also some structural-like material too -- beams and so on. Also a quantity of black plastic material which looked organic in nature... Imprinted along the edge of some of the beam remnants there were hieroglyphic-type characters. I recently questioned my father about this, and he recalled seeing these characters also and even described them as being a pink or purplish-pink color. Egyptian hieroglyphics would be a close visual description of the characters seen except I don't think there

were any animal figures present as there are in true Egyptian hieroglyphics ..." (Berlitz, Charles and William Moore. The Roswell Incident. New York: Berkley, 1988, pgs 78-80]

HORN: You are a military man, too. Have you ever saw anything that matches those materials?

MARCEL: As a flight surgeon, I was trained myself in aircraft accident investigations. But I have never seen anything that would match the debris.

HORN: What about the theory that this was a Mogul balloon?

MARCEL: A balloon is a balloon and the Mogul balloon had a classified mission. But it used off-the-shelf materials that was not unique.

HORN: Did you ever see the movie "Roswell"? Were you and the other events portrayed accurately in it?

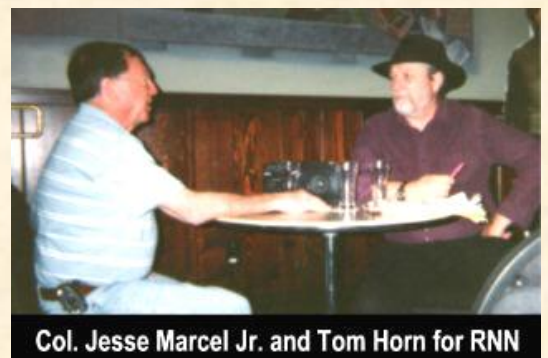
MARCEL: For the most part, it reflected what happened. There was, of course, some "poetic license" in depicting the event.

HORN: Last year in McMinnville, you told me an interesting story about a trip to Washington where you wound up in the dungeons of the Capital building talking to somebody that I believe was later identified as Dick D'Amato (an aide to Sen. Robert Byrd) who wanted to know where the Roswell UFO debris were. Tell us that story.

MARCEL: It was there that I was told that the event was not fiction. I don't know if you want me to go into the story again as I have related it many times. I am sorry that Mr. D'Amato's name came out because -- hopefully -- this would not cause any difficulties for him.

[EDITOR'S NOTE: To this day, Jesse Marcel doesn't know how the participants in DC knew where he would be at that particular time. When he arrived at his motel, there was a message waiting for him on the phone in his room. It was from Dick D'Amato. He wanted to meet with Marcel the following day at 1:00 PM in a certain room at the Capital building. Marcel felt uneasy but agreed to go to the meeting. On arrival, he was ushered into D'Amato's office who got right down to business. He wanted to talk to Marcel about Roswell and he asked if Jess would be more comfortable "in a secure room." When Marcel explained that he wouldn't be saying anything he hadn't said before, D'Amato pressed the idea of the alternate meeting area, explaining, "Well, maybe I want to tell you something you don't already know."

Leaving the office, they proceeded to the secure room where no listening devices existed in an area Jess described as "the dungeons of the Capital building." They sat at a table where Marcel noticed a book about Alien Abductions, UFO technology, and Roswell. D'Amato tapped on the book with his finger and said outright, "This is not fiction." He continued talking for a while and then asked Marcel if he knew where the material recovered from the Roswell ranch was being kept. Jesse found the question curious and said, "No. Don't you?" D'Amato's answer was as enigmatic as the question, so Marcel responded with a inquiry of his own: "If *extraterrestrial* activity is real and you guys know it, when is the Government planning Official Disclosure of what really happened at Roswell?" D'Amato said, "If it was up to me, we'd be doing it now" (as told to



Tom Horn by Jesse Marcel Jr. in a 2006 interview. At that time, Jesse did not use Mr. D'Amato's name)].

HORN: I know that you are a spiritual man. How do you reconcile the idea of intelligent life somewhere else in the universe with your personal faith?

MARCEL: It strengthened my faith in God because His Creation is greater than anyone realized by populating the Universe with many different civilizations.

HORN: A lot of people are saying we are getting close to an official disclosure event from either the U.S. Government or maybe the United Nations concerning some evidence of *extraterrestrial* intelligence. Other people point to the discovery of extra solar planets like Gliese 581 that was found recently that might be able to sustain life. What can you tell us -- or what do you suspect -- with regard to official disclosure?

MARCEL: It just confirms what I already knew. It is only a question of time before a radio signal will be picked up by the SETI team. And that will probably be the catalyst for our Government to make the big announcement.

HORN: Any surprises in this new book?

MARCEL: It confirms the qualifications of my dad and proves he was who he was and that he knew what he was talking about.

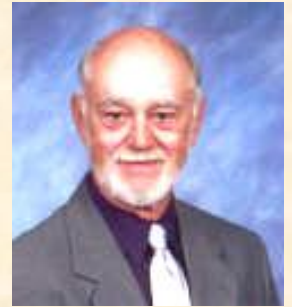
HORN: Where can people get a copy of your new book?

MARCEL: We plan on releasing it at Roswell for the 60th anniversary of the event.

HORN: Thanks Jess for talking to us again. I'll be in Roswell this year and hope to see you again.

PART THREE -- On The Road To Roswell 2007: A Discussion With Dennis G. Balthaser

Editors note: This is the third in a special series of Raiders News Network interviews focusing on the 60th Anniversary of the 1947 Roswell, New Mexico UFO Incident. Tom Horn is joined by Dennis Balthaser -- a certified Mutual UFO Network Field Investigator and full-time independent researcher/investigator to the Roswell Incident, Area-51, and underground bases research. Dennis frequently lectures on these and other topics related to ufology.



RaidersNewsNetwork.com

May 22, 2007

HORN: Dennis, as a young man you would look into the night sky and wonder at the secrets it held. You served 3 years ('59-62) with the United States Army in the 815th Engineering Battalion. And after 33 years in Civil Engineering, you retired from the Texas Department of Transportation and moved to Roswell, New Mexico to pursue your avocation: Ufology. Tell me more about your background and how this current field of interest came to be your life.

BALTHASER: I'm actually into my third career.

36 years in civil engineering work doing quality assurance and quality control of materials used to construct highways and bridges in Texas, traveling to 37 states, Korea once, and South Africa 3 times for 3 months each time to inspect materials. Retired in 1996.

33 years as a country&western musician playing drums in the El Paso, Texas area with many entertainers from Nashville and, most recently, for 20 years as a hobby and the past 11 full time as a Ufologist.

If you add them up that, makes me about 89, I believe!!! Luckily the careers overlapped.

HORN: What is your relationship with the International UFO Museum and Research Center? And why did you stop working with them at some point?

BALTHASER: I was a 70-hour week volunteer with the Museum from 1996 until 1998, involved with relocating the Museum to it's current location and actively involved with the 50th anniversary operations in 1997. I obtained information and displays for the Museum and was on the Board of Directors for a year as the UFO investigator for the Museum. In 1998, I began doing my research as an independent researcher and no longer have any affiliation with the Museum due to the current leadership of the Museum.

HORN: Can you give us any insight as to why the city of Roswell took over the Festival this year?

BALTHASER: Basically the Festival has not been successful the past few years with low attendance and very little community involvement under the leadership of the Museum. So the Mayor decided the city should take it over for the 60th anniversary this year and has the community involved with family oriented activities planned in addition to an outstanding UFOlogy-related schedule.

HORN: A little side note as a special interest to me. Is Merle Haggard coming back?

BALTHASER: Merle is not coming back this year. He had planned on making the Roswell Festival an annual event but problems arose from a previous Festival. This year the Alan Parsons Project will be doing 2 concerts plus other musical groups, with a laser light show at each concert.

HORN: From what I've read over the years, people see you as genuine -- a person who looks for certification and honesty from other Ufologists. Who in your opinion stands out as respected, qualified researchers in the field?

BALTHASER: I am very serious about my research, try to be thorough and factual when possible, and brutally honest. I only work with a very few researchers such as Stanton Friedman, David Rudiak, Frank Warren, and Scott Ramsey whom I respect. Many researchers in this field have tremendous egos and agendas. The aforementioned have proven themselves to be honest, sincere, and trustworthy. A quote I like to use is "Always Telling the Truth Means Never Having to Remember Anything".

HORN: What areas of Ufology interest you personally? And why?

BALTHASER: I have limited my research to 4 areas. The 1947 Roswell Incident, Area-51, Underground Bases, and the Great Pyramids of Giza. I found out long ago if you try to be knowledgeable in all areas of Ufology, you can't be informed as well as concentrating on specific areas.

HORN: So what about Area-51, Dulce, and Underground Bases? Have you found anything that makes you feel anything extraordinary has happened in these areas?

BALTHASER: I found the research on Underground Bases interesting due to my engineering background, being curious as to what type equipment was used, where these facilities were located and for what purpose. We -- as in other countries -- have been forced underground for much of our secretive development due to satellites and the prying eyes of our adversaries.

Dulce remains a mystery to me due to the many rumors about what might be taking place there. However, recently I have begun to think it might be a diversionary location to take attention away from another location.

Area-51 is alive and well as I was there (at the gates, not inside) last May when I did lectures in the nearby town of Rachel, NV. The signs still say the "use of deadly force is authorized". And the "cammo dudes" still protect the entrances in their jeeps and pickup trucks, watching you with binoculars from their vehicles. Area-51 is vitally needed for developing new technology and testing aircraft as it has since 1955 when the CIA opened the base to test the U-2 aircraft. Rumors about 22 levels below ground, S-4, and *alien* and craft stories continue to fascinate us.

The Pyramids of Giza and Underground Bases are some of the most interesting research I've ever done, I think, because they are physical things that one can grasp and try to understand. Perhaps more so than UFOs. There is so much to learn and so little time.

HORN: Any comment on Bob Lazar and his allegations about S-4 (Sector Four) located near Groom Lake, Nevada next to Area-51.?

BALTHASER: I don't believe him because his background (education, employment) can't be verified as correct as he has stated it. He has had some questionable situations in his personal life also that have created problems. Lazar and Lt. Col. Corso (The Day After Roswell) are both individuals I'd like to believe. But the documentation and verification for their claims is not there.

HORN: This year is the 60th anniversary of the Roswell UFO event. At a gut level, what do you believe really happened there in 1947?

BALTHASER: Factually, something happened on a ranch northwest of Roswell in 1947 that is still covered up by the Government and Military 60 years later, even after we've been given 4 excuses by the Air Force during that time. I don't believe it was Russian nor belonging to the United States. Which leaves the question "Whose was it?"

HORN: In January this year, National Geographic broadcast "The Real Roswell" -- a program that you were involved with. Did they get the story right?

BALTHASER: Not even close. It was so biased in its content and conclusion that Stanton Friedman and I both wrote articles sharing our disappointment with the National Geographic channel handling of the show. It was not based on factual information and apparently very little research had been done by them for presenting what was hyped as the "Real information" about Roswell. Typical of many documentaries that are based on ratings and profit rather than factual information.

HORN: What about the ABC-TV special with Peter Jennings a while back?

BALTHASER: Same as the National Geographic show mentioned above with even more promotion for a few minutes of factual information before being turned into just another ratings related biased take on the subject. You must understand that when these documentaries are being filmed, us researchers are expected to share all the knowledge we possess with no reimbursement for our years of research and absolutely no in-put for the editing or final version to be aired.

HORN: There have been some interesting UFO reports recently. The O'Hare Airport Sighting stands out. What other recent reports have you seen worthy of investigation?

BALTHASER: I don't investigate many such cases if they don't fall into the 4 categories I concentrate on. But I do maintain an interest in them such as the O'Hare sighting, the Phoenix lights years ago, Kecksburg, and several others.

HORN: Last month scientists reported the discovery of Gliese 581 -- the most Earth-like planet yet. What do you think about this?

BALTHASER: I'm not surprised with the discovery but continually wonder why scientist insist that any life in the Universe or other planet must mirror Earth or us humans. We humans are very limited in our knowledge. And most can't imagine anything that's not already known to us. I have no doubt that we are NOT the smartest kids on the block in this giant Universe.

HORN: What about research that some say points to artificial structures on Mars and other planets? Are you interested in this kind of related study? And what do you think the world's response would be to disclosure by NASA or the ESA that unnatural formations were found off-planet?

BALTHASER: I have seen no evidence yet that artificial structures have been found on any other planets. Wishful thinking perhaps on the part of those that claim to see it. I'd be happy to see some

with scientific proof and honesty from NASA. Incidentally, NASA stands for "Never A Straight Answer".

HORN: (Laughs) Do you expect "Official Disclosure" during your lifetime?

BALTHASER: Years ago I thought so. But I'm now 65 and doubt that it will happen in my lifetime. However, if what serious researchers and myself do helps make it available for our children or grandchildren, I'll consider it to have been worthwhile for all the frustration and expense over the years. I do think it's that important.

HORN: What will you be doing at Roswell this year? Any lectures you want people to attend?

BALTHASER: I was asked by the Mayor of Roswell to be on the planning committee since last October and have promoted the Festival on 28 websites worldwide and done over 30 radio and other media interviews to promote it thus far. I will be speaking at the Art Museum (adjacent to the Convention Center) at 11am on July 5 doing my lecture entitled "The Roswell Incident: Then and Now". I will also have a vendors table in the convention center during the Festival.

HORN: How can people learn more about your research?

BALTHASER: My award-winning web site is www.truthseekeratroswell.com and I'm associated with the pyramid research at www.gizapyramid.com.

HORN: Thanks for joining us today. Roswell 2007 should be very interesting.

BALTHASER: Hope you and your audience can make it here for the Festival July 5-8, 2007.

PART FOUR -- On The Road To Roswell 2007: A Discussion With Donald R. Burleson

Editors note: This is the fourth in a special series of Raiders News Network interviews focusing on the 60th Anniversary of the 1947 Roswell, New Mexico UFO Incident. Tom Horn is joined by Donald Burleson -- New Mexico State Director of MUFON, the Mutual UFO Network, and author of UFOs and the Murder of Marilyn Monroe.



RaidersNewsNetwork.com

May 24, 2007

HORN: Donald, let me introduce you by pointing back 2 years ago to the anniversary of Marilyn Monroe's death when a Los Angeles County prosecutor who investigated her case said that he wanted a new autopsy done on the Hollywood sex symbol because large doses of barbiturates found in her body may have been administered "by someone else." John Miner, 86, told the *Los Angeles Times* that Monroe's psychologist -- Dr. Ralph Greenson -- had allowed him to listen to secret audiotapes made by the star during one of her therapy sessions just before her death and that a "key revelation of the alleged tapes" was that "Monroe was not depressed." She was in fact anything but suicidal according to Minor -- very happy and actively planning her future. What did Minor believe happened to Monroe? He wasn't exactly saying, but he indicated she had been "suicided" by the CIA. You are the one man who may know the real story behind Marilyn Monroe's death and whether-or-not Miner was right or partly right. But before we get to that, tell us generally how you became interested in the subject of UFOs.

BURLESON: I had a close fly-by UFO sighting myself at the age of five on the night of July 4, 1947. This was "Roswell night". But I was 300 miles east of Roswell at my grandparents' house in Breckenridge, Texas. From that time on, I was fascinated by the whole question of strange objects in the skies.

HORN: What is it like being the New Mexico State Director of MUFON (the Mutual UFO Network)?

BURLESON: It's an exciting position to serve in. I get sighting reports fairly often through the MUFON online Case Management System. I assign them to one or another of our field investigators -- sometimes assign them to myself depending on where the sighting was. The "N" in MUFON stands for "network". And that's really what we are. It's always gratifying to see so many people with common goals working together to try to get at the truth.

HORN: Since you have written a book titled UFOs AND THE MURDER OF MARILYN MONROE, what first suggested to you that the death of Marilyn Monroe was connected to UFO secrecy?

BURLESON: There is a now famous CIA document strongly suggesting that the CIA and other agencies were concerned over secrets imparted to Marilyn by John and Robert Kennedy, including matters related to at least one UFO crash retrieval.



HORN: I haven't read it but I understand Matthew Smith -- who paid a fee to Miner to use the Monroe transcript in his book Marilyn's Last Words: Her Secret Tapes and Mysterious Death -- doesn't believe the Kennedys had

anything to with her death. He believes disenchanted survivors of the Bay of Pigs, the CIA agents had her killed. What is your take on this?

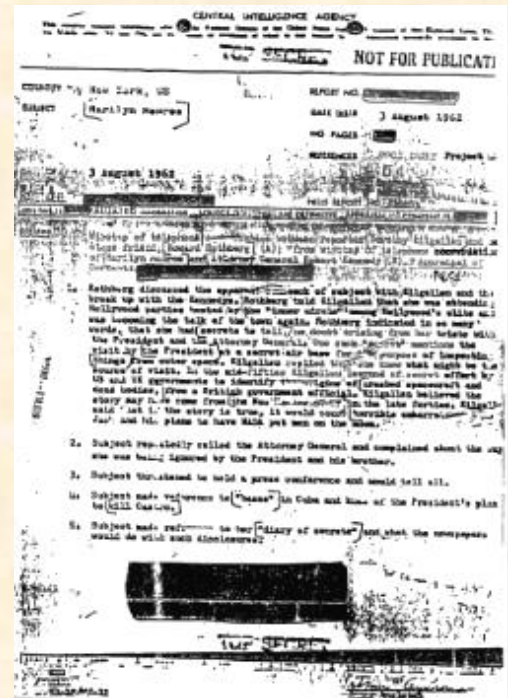
BURLESON: If Matthew Smith thinks the Kennedys didn't have anything to do with her death, he clearly doesn't have all the information I have. Actually Donald Wolfe in his book The Last Days of Marilyn Monroe linked the Kennedys to Marilyn's death. But Wolfe doesn't go the extra step of asking why they would have her killed, or at least without entertaining the same hypotheses that I do. Wolfe reproduces the CIA "Marilyn memo" but says nothing about its references to a UFO crash retrieval. Steve Miner, by the way, whom you mentioned before was right about Marilyn not being suicidally depressed. Her mood was one of defiance mixed with optimism. She was looking at something like 20 different movie scripts because of parts she was being offered and had a million dollars' worth of new contracts sitting on her attorney Mickey Ruden's desk waiting for her to sign. The notion that she was depressed was simply part of the deception.

Anyway, it's clear to me that the Kennedys felt trapped when Marilyn started threatening to hold a news conference and "tell all". There would have been indictments against the President on criminal charges having to do with unauthorized disclosure of classified information. And in the process, the public would have found out a great deal more than the Government was willing to reveal. And by the way, I also have an FBI document that places Bobby Kennedy smack in the middle of things the night Marilyn died of a massive lethal injection of pentobarbital and chloral hydrate. They wanted her dead to shut her up once and for all about what she knew.

HORN: The infamous libido of the Kennedy boys -- as well as in a bigger sense how often other famous men have gotten in trouble over beautiful women -- is nothing new. Why else would foreign and domestic government intelligence agencies spend so much time and money recruiting femme fatales as spies in order to bring us dumb men down, right? But the purported CIA document you have mentioned -- dated August 3, 1962 which surfaced in the early 1990's -- may reveal that Marilyn Monroe was 'suicided' over something even more intimate. Her knowledge of the Roswell UFO crash and the recovery of *alien* bodies -- information she allegedly was told during pillow talk with John F. Kennedy. If you can, tell us what this document actually says and also whether the legitimacy of the document has ever been authenticated.

BURLESON: The CIA "Marilyn memo" in part reads this way:
"...she had secrets to tell, no doubt arising from her trysts [sic] with the President and the Attorney General. One such 'secret' mentions the visit by the President at a secret air base for the purpose of inspecting things from outer space. [Dorothy] Kilgallen replied that she knew what might be the source of visit. In the mid-50s, Kilgallen learned of secret efforts by US and UK governments to identify the origin of crashed spacecraft and dead bodies from a British government official. Kilgallen believed the story may have come from the New Mexico story in the late 40s."

As for authentication of this document, I have in effect been able to bring that about myself because I



manipulated the CIA into authenticating the document themselves. I filed a Freedom of Information Act request with the CIA asking for the release of the transcripts from the wiretaps on Marilyn's phones at the time of her murder. When the CIA refused to release any such transcripts to me (denying that they had them), I immediately filed an appeal, appending the "Marilyn memo" of August 3, 1962 as justification. The CIA accepted the appeal and sent the case up to the Agency Release Panel. Ultimately they still didn't release the wiretap transcripts to me. But their acceptance of the appeal authenticated the document as one of their own since it would have been contrary to Agency policy to accept the appeal if it were not based on a legitimate CIA document.

HORN: Your website says that your book on Marilyn Monroe presents NEW evidence connecting her death with the UFO cover-up. What is this NEW evidence?

BURLESON: My computer enhancements show a "bleed-in" (or optical show-through) on the CIA document involving the name of Brigadier General George Schulgen, who was the chief UFO investigator for the Air Force at the time. Clearly the Schulgen "intelligence collection memorandum" exhibit-document and the "Marilyn memo" had been archived together. This obviously forges a link between Marilyn's death and the whole matter of UFO secrecy.

HORN: We see that you and your wife moved to Roswell, New Mexico from New England in 1996. Was this due to your interest in UFOs?

BURLESON: Yes, mainly. My wife Mollie and I have always loved the state of New Mexico and spent years trying to find a job and move here. But the UFO phenomenon in particular was the draw for us to Roswell itself.

HORN: Have you worked on the Roswell case itself?

BURLESON: Yes, I've worked on the Roswell case in a number of ways. I did much of the original decipherment work on the famous "Ramey memo"; interviewed a number of major Roswell witnesses; and as a mathematician have done trajectory feasibility work to try to determine probable placement of the UFO impact site.

HORN: What other major UFO cases have you worked on?

BURLESON: I've worked on the Lubbock Lights case of 1951 (doing photo enhancement and airspeed estimations); the Levelland, Texas case of 1957 (reopening that case with new witnesses and new evidence); the Great Falls, Montana case of 1950; the Socorro, New Mexico landing case; and a number of other cases including a recent one for which I was the original investigator -- one I call the "Melrose Lights" case involving a close-encounter and lost-time experience that occurred about 100 miles north of Roswell.

HORN: Why do you think the Government continues to keep everything about UFOs secret?

BURLESON: People often ask why the Government keeps up the secrecy routine. My best answer is that at this point, they can't tell us the truth because it's too late. There's too big a bill to pay. They've threatened people; they've killed people (Marilyn is a notable example); they've committed all sorts of illegal acts and deceptions. There isn't a word in the United States Constitution -- or in statutory law for that matter -- about the Government's right to keep everything secret. So they're on very shaky ground legally, and they know it. All they can do now is keep telling the big lie or just keep saying "no comment."

HORN: The field of UFO studies doesn't always get high respect among some scientists and academicians. Why do you think this is the case?

BURLESON: It's mostly peer pressure and professional concerns. If you're a scientist working with federal grant money, you'll lose it if you talk too much about UFOs. If you're an academician interested in UFOs and you're up for tenure, things could get awkward. I got my tenure okay at Eastern New Mexico University. But that was in Roswell!

HORN: What do you see for the future in the field of UFO studies?

BURLESON: I think we will find out large parts of the truth. But not by any official disclosure. We'll dig it all out for ourselves.

HORN: Are you giving a lecture during the Roswell Festival this year? If so, tell us what it's about and when and where people can hear it.

BURLESON: I'm lecturing on the murder of Marilyn Monroe at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, July 5th at the Civic Center in Roswell.

HORN: How else can people find out about your research or get a copy of your book?

BURLESON: The best way is to visit my publisher website at www.blackmesapress.com.

HORN: Donald, thanks for taking time to discuss this research with us during the Raiders News Network "On The Road To Roswell 2007" series.

BURLESON: My pleasure.

PART FIVE -- On The Road To Roswell 2007: A Discussion With Nick Pope

Editors note: This is the fifth in a special series of Raiders News Network interviews focusing on the 60th Anniversary of the 1947 Roswell, New Mexico UFO Incident. Tom Horn is joined by Nick Pope -- former project leader for the British Government's UFO department at the Ministry of Defence. Initially skeptical, Nick's research and investigation into the UFO phenomenon and access to formerly classified government files on the subject soon convinced him that the phenomenon raised important defence and national security issues. Especially when the witnesses were military pilots or where UFOs were tracked on radar.



RaidersNewsNetwork.com

May 24, 2007

HORN: Nick, thanks for joining me today. Earlier this year I emailed you when Britain declared it was going to open its MoD UFO files to the public. Because you had run this department for the British Government, I wanted to know if we should expect anything unusual in these materials. You emailed me back to say that I should not expect a smoking gun, but that there were some devils in the details. What has been the result of the MoD files going public?

POPE: Although a good deal of material is already available at the National Archives and on the MoD website, the rest of the UFO files have yet to be made public. 2 separate things are happening right now. Firstly, 24 Defence Intelligence Staff UFO files are going to be considered for release. These were part of a much larger batch of files (on various subjects) that had been contaminated with asbestos. Originally it was feared they'd have to be destroyed, sparking outrage from historians and leading to various conspiracy theories. At huge cost, the files have now been decontaminated and can be considered for release in the normal way. Numerous ufologists have made Freedom of Information Act requests in relation to these files.

The second thing that's happening is that the MoD has decided to release its entire archive of UFO files, not least because of the increasing burden of responding to FOI requests (the MoD get more FOI requests in relation to UFOs than on any other subject including the war in Iraq). This is a massive job and may take months -- if not years -- as personal details of witnesses have to be removed along with any information that would genuinely compromise national security (e.g., information on the capability of military radar systems).

HORN: When and why was the MoD's UFO Project set up?

POPE: The MoD's UFO project has its roots in a 1950 initiative by the then Chief Scientific Adviser, Sir Henry Tizard. He said that UFO sightings shouldn't be dismissed out of hand without some form of proper scientific study. The MoD then set up a body called the "Flying Saucer Working Party" to look into the phenomenon. It reported its skeptical conclusions (that UFO sightings were attributable to misidentifications, hoaxes or delusions) in 1951 and recommended that no further action be taken.

But there was a series of high-profile UFO sightings in 1952 when UFOs were tracked on radar and seen by military pilots. This forced the RAF and the MoD to think again, and the Department has

been investigating UFO sightings pretty much continuously since then. To date, there have been over 10,000 sightings reported to the MoD.

HORN: What is the MoD's policy on UFOs?

POPE: The policy is to investigate UFO sightings to see whether there's evidence of anything of any defence significance -- i.e. evidence of any threat to the defence of the UK or information that may be of use to us, scientifically or militarily. Having a UFO project in no way implies a corporate belief in *extraterrestrial* visitation. It simply reflects the fact that we keep a watchful eye on our airspace and want to know about anything operating in the United Kingdom's Air Defence Region. Although the British effort was on a much smaller scale, the terms of reference and methodology were virtually identical to that of the United States Air Force study "Project Blue Book".

HORN: MoD also acknowledged that a government UFO unit -- known as S4F (Air) and DI55 -- existed. Tell us about this unit and what they did (or do).

POPE: S4(Air) no longer exists. It was a division that had responsibility for UFO investigations some years ago. Like any bureaucracy, the MoD undergoes frequent reorganisations where divisions are opened, closed, merged, split, or restructured. It's a nightmare! So over the years, all sorts of different areas have had responsibility for UFOs, leading some researchers to wrongly conclude there are many different areas of the MoD all working on the subject. In fact, at any one time, there'll be a division that has the lead for policy and investigations (i.e., where I worked) and a number of other areas on whose specialist skills and expertise the lead division can call.

DI55 is part of the Defence Intelligence Staff. They were one of the specialist branches that I could bring in to assist me with certain aspects of my UFO investigations. Up until a few years ago, I couldn't talk about this aspect of my work at all or even acknowledge the existence of DI55. Recently, however, details have emerged under FOI including some documents relating to my own dealings with them. But as I'm sure you'll understand, this is still an area of my work that I can't discuss in any great detail.

HORN: How were you recruited into the UFO Project?

POPE: I joined the Ministry of Defence in 1985. At the time, the policy was to move people every 2-or-3 years -- either on level transfer or promotion -- so that everybody gained experience in a wide range of different jobs: policy, operations, personnel, finance, etc. I'd done 2-or-3 different jobs and prior to taking up my post on the UFO project, I was working in a division called Secretariat(Air Staff) where I'd been seconded into the Air Force Operations Room in the Joint Operations Centre. I worked there in the run-up to the first Gulf War, during the war itself, and in the aftermath of the conflict.

It was while working there that I was approached and asked whether (after I was released from duties in the Joint Operations Centre) I would like to run the UFO project, which was embedded in another part of Secretariat(Air Staff). I accepted the invitation. So, in a sense, I was "head-hunted".

HORN: Did your views change from the time you started working with MoD until you left the department?

POPE: I knew little about the subject before I joined. And I certainly had no belief in *extraterrestrials*. So while I was open-minded in all my investigations, my start point was broadly skeptical. As I began to read into the archive of previous files and as I began to undertake my own official research and investigation, my views began to change and I became more open to the possibility that some UFOs had more *exotic* explanations.

What impressed me most were cases where UFOs were seen by trained observers such as police officers where they were tracked on radar, where they were seen by pilots, and where there was evidence to suggest that UFOs were performing speeds and manoeuvres way ahead of the capabilities of even our most advanced aircraft.

My position now is that while I can't say what these UFOs are, the phenomenon raises important defence, national security, and flight safety issues. I've seen no proof that these things are *extraterrestrial*. But I don't rule out this possibility.

HORN: What were your procedures/protocols for investigating UFO sightings?

POPE: We used to receive 200-300 reports each year. The methodology of an investigation is fairly standard. Firstly, you interview the witness to obtain as much information as possible about the sighting: date, time and location of the sighting, description of the object, its speed, its height, etc. Then you attempt to correlate the sighting with known aerial activity such as civil flights, military exercises, or weather balloon launches.

We could check with the Royal Greenwich Observatory to see if astronomical phenomena such as meteors or fireballs might explain what was seen. We could check to see whether any UFOs seen visually had been tracked on radar. If we had a photograph or video, we could get various MoD specialists to enhance and analyse the imagery. We could also liaise with staff at the Ballistic Missile Early Warning System at RAF Fylingdales where they have space-tracking radar.

Finally, on various scientific and technical issues, we could liaise with the Defence Intelligence Staff although -- as I've said previously -- this is an area of my work that I can't discuss in any detail.

HORN: What did you conclude about the majority of your investigations?

POPE: I concluded that sightings could be categorised as follows. Around 80% could be explained as misidentifications of something mundane such as aircraft lights, weather balloons, satellites, meteors, etc. In approximately 15% of cases, there was insufficient information to make a firm assessment. That left around 5% of sightings that seemed to defy any conventional explanation. But while we could say with reasonable certainty what these 5% weren't, we couldn't say what they were. They were -- by definition -- unknown, unexplained, or whatever word you care to use.

HORN: The Flying Saucer Working Party was set up in October 1950 by Ministry of Defence Chief Scientific Adviser Sir Henry Tizard. Was this a reaction to the 1947 Roswell incident or something else?

POPE: It wasn't a reaction to the Roswell incident but to increasing numbers of UFO sightings in the UK and elsewhere. And to the associated media coverage. As a scientist, Tizard knew that any assessment of UFOs not based on investigation was assumption and guesswork and therefore meaningless. He didn't have any firm view on the phenomenon. But he knew that UFOs were being reported in considerable numbers, and he wanted to know what they were.

HORN: Britain's most sensational UFO case occurred in December 1980 in Rendlesham Forest between RAF Bentwaters and RAF Woodbridge. Tell us about that.

POPE: This is the UK's most famous UFO incident and it's sometimes referred to as "Britain's Roswell". Over a series of nights in December 1980, UFOs were seen by dozens of United States Air Force personnel at Bentwaters and Woodbridge -- two RAF bases operated by the Americans.

On the first night, the UFO landed in Rendlesham Forest (which lies between the 2 bases) and one of the witnesses got close enough to touch it. Sketches from the USAF witness statements clearly show a craft with strange markings on its hull which have been likened to Egyptian hieroglyphs. The UFO returned on another night and was seen by more witnesses including the Deputy Base Commander, Lieutenant Colonel Charles Halt. At one point the UFO illuminated the spot where Halt and his team were standing and at another time the UFO was directly over Woodbridge, firing beams of light down at the base. Subsequently, radiation readings were taken at the location where the UFO had been seen on the first night. They peaked in three indentations found where the craft had apparently landed. The MoD's Defence Intelligence Staff assessed that the radiation levels were significantly higher than background levels.

Subsequently it emerged that a radar operator at RAF Watton had tracked an object briefly over the base. I re-opened the investigation into this case but was unable to determine what happened. It remains unexplained.

HORN: On November 1, 2006 you were involved with a Channel Five documentary "The British UFO Mystery". The programme focused on a wave of UFO sightings that occurred on 30 and 31 March 1993 -- The Cosford Incident -- where many of the witnesses were police officers and military personnel. What did you conclude about this case?

POPE: We had a wave of UFO sightings over the UK for a period of about 6 hours. Many of the witnesses included police officers and military personnel. At one point the UFO flew over RAF Cosford and RAF Shawbury. Witnesses described a vast triangular-shaped craft capable of moving from a virtual hover to speeds of well over a thousand miles an hour in seconds. I led the investigation at the time and even my Head of Division (who was extremely skeptical about UFOs) was intrigued by this case. We even briefed the Assistant Chief of the Air Staff -- one of the UK's most senior RAF officers.

Channel Five's recent investigative documentary exposed the case to over a million viewers on primetime terrestrial TV and led to over 30 new witnesses coming forward. The production company had obtained the MoD case file on the incident (which ran to over 100 pages of documentation) under the Freedom of Information Act and asked me to front the programme, talking viewers through the case and the MoD investigation. As a result of the interest generated by the programme, the MoD made the file available on its website. The file includes my skeptical Head of Division's briefing to the Assistant Chief of the Air Staff which states *"In summary, there would seem to be some evidence on this occasion that an unidentified object (or objects) of unknown origin was operating over the UK"*. This is as close as the MoD will ever get to saying that there's more to UFOs than misidentifications or hoaxes.

HORN: What were some of the other interesting UFO cases you investigated?

POPE: It's difficult to single out interesting cases unless they're on the scale of something like Rendlesham Forest or the Cosford Incident. Also, it's difficult for me to talk about cases the MoD hasn't yet released. I can't anticipate what the Department will release and what they may withhold, so you'll have to await the release of the files.

But in general terms, I can say that other interesting cases included some radar/visual cases where UFOs were seen close to military bases. And some interesting sightings by civil and military pilots -- including a few near-misses -- where collisions were only narrowly avoided. Both the MoD and our Civil Aviation Authority has information on several such cases. And whatever one's beliefs about UFOs, the flight safety implications should be of concern to everyone. When the MoD released

Project Condign last year (a highly classified study that had its roots in discussions I had with the Defence Intelligence Staff in 1993), some of the most interesting recommendations related to this point.

One read *"No attempt should be made to out-manoeuve a UAP during interception"*. Another recommendation states *"At higher altitudes, although UAP appear to be benign to civil air-traffic, pilots should be advised not to manoeuvre other than to place the object astern if possible"*. UAP was the abbreviated form of Unidentified Aerial Phenomena -- a term we decided to use instead of UFO as it sounded more scientific.

HORN: Why did you leave the MoD's UFO department?

POPE: After having done the job for 3 years, I was promoted and moved to another post at a higher grade. There's certainly no truth to the rumor that I was moved because I was getting too close to the truth, as some conspiracy theorists allege. After I left, I took up a financial policy post, before moving to a security-related job.

HORN: Yet you still work in a different capacity at the Ministry of Defence, correct?

POPE: No. I resigned last year and left the MoD at the end of October. I'd greatly enjoyed my 21-year career, but decided it was time to seek fresh challenges. I have a number of business interests and I now have more time to pursue these.

HORN: I once asked Stanton Friedman a similar question I'd like to ask you. How do you respond to allegations that you're involved in a cover-up or that you're a disinformation agent?

POPE: How can I respond? You can't prove a negative. The rumor isn't true. But if people believe this sort of thing, they won't believe my denial or the MoD's confirmation of my departure. I can't win. It does amaze me, though, how many people genuinely seem to believe this. I get asked it a lot and see the theory discussed frequently on various websites and discussion lists. The bottom line is that I worked for the Government for 21 years for the very people who many conspiracy theorists believe are covering up the truth about UFOs. To them, the government are the bad guys, so I'm the bad guy who's part of the conspiracy.

HORN: Your investigations ultimately led to other unexplained phenomena. What do you make of so-called alien abductions?

POPE: While none of these other subjects were in the UFO project's terms of reference, they inevitably ended up on my desk because there was nowhere else to send them. I've probably looked into around 100 cases of alien abduction. Some of these cases were reported to me at the MoD. But most people contacted me after I'd written a book on the subject called The Uninvited. Some skeptics say these people are attention seekers after their 15 minutes of fame. But this clearly isn't true. Out of the 100-or-so abductees I've been involved with, maybe half-a-dozen are interested in engaging with the media or the UFO community. Most aren't interested.

Other people suggest these people are delusional. But again, this theory doesn't stand up to scrutiny. The few scientists who have looked at this phenomenon have found no signs of psychopathology in the abductees, and evidence (in terms of increased heart-rate and perspiration) that they genuinely believe they've had these experiences. The use of regression hypnosis in some of these cases clouds the issue. The scientific community generally doesn't accept the validity of the technique in recovering suppressed memories. And indeed, many believe it can distort memories or even create

false ones. But regression hypnosis isn't used in all abduction cases, so we can't say False Memory Syndrome is the answer. Something's going on with these people. But the truthful answer is that we don't know what's happening.

HORN: Crop circles?

POPE: Some of the small, single circles (and that's where the phenomenon started) may be attributable to some form of meteorological phenomenon such as a whirlwind or wind vortex. As for the more complex ones -- the so-called "pictograms" -- there's no doubt in my mind that most of them are made by people. I've seen it done. Some of the people involved in this are highly skilled and motivated, plan the formations meticulously well in advance, and split the work between several people. Some people call them hoaxers. But many of the people involved see themselves as conceptual artists. Do I completely rule out a more exotic explanation? No. In my line of work, I tried never to rule anything out altogether and always tried to keep an open mind.

HORN: Ghosts?

POPE: People associate ghosts with old houses, churches, or pubs. But in my experience, there are just as many reports of ghosts on military bases as anywhere else. I've received numerous such reports -- often from the MoD Police officers or guards who have to patrol these areas at night. Now these are pretty tough guys as you can imagine. But some of them have been really spooked by what they've seen. All the classic signs are present in many of these cases: unexplained cold spots, guard dogs growling with their hackles rising at certain locations.

And actual ghosts seen at sights where people have been killed. Ghosts have even been seen in MoD Main Building itself where the modern headquarters is built on the site of the much older Whitehall Palace. The remains of Henry VIII's wine cellar are perfectly preserved in the basement. And there are some areas of the building where guards don't like to patrol alone at night. Perhaps the oddest report I received was an animal ghost story. During the Second World War, Wing Commander Guy Gibson (who led the famous Damn Busters raid) had a dog that was knocked down by a car and killed, shortly before the raid. The ghost of this dog has been seen several times at RAF Scampton.

HORN: You've written extensively about your work with MoD. Is this not a problem since you signed the Official Secrets Act?

POPE: I signed the Official Secrets Act on my first day in the MoD and even though I've left, it binds me for life. But it doesn't preclude writing or speaking about my work. Politicians invariably keep diaries and write memoirs, and military officers often write accounts of their careers. There's no bar on this sort of activity provided you follow various rules and procedures -- the most obvious one being the absolute prohibition on revealing any classified information.

HORN: Your books include Open Skies, Closed Minds, The Uninvited, Operation Thunder Child, and Operation Lightning Strike. Anything else you are working on?

POPE: Researching and writing a book typically takes me between 6 months and a year. While I intend to write further books (both non-fiction and fiction) at some stage, the pressure of other commitments means that I simply don't have time for this at the moment. I have numerous media commitments (mainly television work) and various private business interests to look after. These are my priorities at present.

HORN: This is the 60th anniversary of the Roswell UFO incident. What is your opinion about what happened there in 1947?

POPE: Clearly something crashed. But in my experience, if UFO sightings aren't solved quickly, they're unlikely to be solved at all. With that in mind, 60 years on -- with most of the direct participants dead -- the chances are we'll never be certain what happened at Roswell. Unless some 'smoking gun' emerges that's beyond dispute, I suspect the events will remain a mystery.

HORN: How do you think ufology can best use the 60th anniversary of Roswell to promote the subject?

POPE: To keep the subject in the public eye and generate as much serious, mainstream media coverage as possible. Spin-off benefits from this should include encouraging more people to report their UFO sightings and bringing new people to the subject. But fascinating though Roswell is, ufology should look forward as well as back. Promoting ufology should involve not just the old cases but recent ones such as the sighting of a UFO over O'Hare airport or the sighting by the pilot who saw a UFO in the vicinity of the Channel Islands. It should also focus on the release of UFO files by the British and French governments.

Finally, ufology might also consider how it could best engage with the scientific community and, in particular, engage in constructive dialogue with those involved in SETI research.

HORN: Will you be in Roswell this July?

POPE: I have no current plans to come to Roswell this July. But I'll probably be doing some media interviews here in the UK to tie in with the anniversary.

HORN: Thank you for taking time to do this interview.

PART SIX -- On The Road To Roswell 2007: A Discussion With Adam Gorightly

Editors note: This is the sixth in a special series of Raiders News Network interviews focusing on the 60th Anniversary of the 1947 Roswell, New Mexico UFO Incident. Tom Horn is joined by Adam Gorightly -- a self-described "crackpot historian" and author of The Shadow Over Santa Susana: Black Magic, Mind Control and "The Manson Family" Mythos. Adam will be speaking at the Roswell UFO Festival this year.

HORN: Adam, thank you for doing this interview. I received some of your as-yet unpublished and astonishing research material which is scheduled to be discussed at the Roswell Festival this year. I am anxious to hear what you have to say on these subjects, but first let me ask you why you are billed as a "crackpot historian"?

GORIGHTLY: My approach to researching and writing about such subjects as conspiracy politics, the paranormal, and high weirdness has always been one where a large dose of humor is an integral part of the process. And so calling myself a "crackpot historian" was just my way of having fun and not taking myself too seriously, as oftentimes when people look into these subjects they lose their perspective and get so wrapped up with UFO research, or conspiracy research, and their own pet theory--whatever that may be -- that they forget to step back now and then and take in the larger picture. That Life is an adventure that's meant to be fun above all. I also have a penchant for writing about strange and interesting people who inhabit the marginal fringe -- "crackpots" for want of a better term. But of course, some would also call me a crackpot. So there you have it. I take what I do seriously. But not so serious that I'm not willing to poke fun at myself as well.



HORN: I have quoted John Keel and the idea of a "superspectrum" for years. Recently I said to Art Bell on "Coast-to-Coast AM" that I could not discount as pure hallucinations the accounts of people who reported seeing UFOs and *aliens* as a result of hallucinogenic drugs. I said this because I assume there may be methods -- even unintentional -- for opening **dimensional** doorways to the unknown. Then I read the material you sent me and was surprised at some of your similar findings. Please explain for the audience what the "superspectrum" is.

GORIGHTLY: The **Superspectrum theory** is related to what are known as "UFO windows" -- or "UFO hotspots" -- where UFOs and other weird sightings occur. And it's within these "UFO windows" that a Superspectrum exists according to Keel's theory.

A common description of UFO's is that they often change colors, which suggested to Keel that UFO's are some form of **energy** traveling through our visible light spectrum. The Superspectrum Theory contends that UFOs exist at frequencies beyond visible light. But that they can also adjust their frequency and descend into the electromagnetic spectrum just as you can turn the dial of your radio up-and-down the scale of radio frequencies. So when a UFO frequency nears that of visible light, it will first appear as a purplish blob. As it moves further down the scale, it changes to blue, and then to blue-ish green and so on, finally to white. This is how many UFO sightings unfold.

So according to Keel's theory, UFOs are energies of a different frequency. Like tuning a radio, you pick up and amplify only the signal coming in at a certain point (or frequency) of the electromagnetic spectrum. Your eyes are also receivers tuned to very specific wavelengths as your brain is also a receiver.

Paranormal investigators often use infrared detection systems which reveal otherwise invisible activity. **Altered states** -- such as those produced by ritual magick or the use of mind-altering drugs -- are other possible methods of seeing into the Superspectrum which is akin to someone using infrared goggles at night to see what the naked eye cannot.

This, in essence, is what psychics claim to do. They have simply fine tuned this ability to pick up these waves and frequencies that "normal" people can't see. And once these waves or frequencies are filtered through a person's consciousness and belief system, then what comes out on the other end of perception may be an angel if someone is religiously inclined, or *alien* beings in flying saucers, or whatever we view them to be through the filters of our belief systems.

So, in essence, these entities appear to be temporary **manipulations of energy**. Keel likes to use the word "transmogrifications" to describe them. A transmogrification is reminiscent of what the Native Americans called a "shapeshifter" or what the Tibetans call "tulpas". Entities that can change shape and form. And this is how I view the UFO phenomenon -- as an intelligence that can take on many shapes and wear many masks.

HORN: Years ago, scientist Vic Tandy was experimenting with infrasound frequency below the range of human hearing and he caused what appeared to be an *alien* "gray" or ghost to come out of the darkness after him. His thesis "Ghosts in the Machine" was published in the *Journal of the Society for Psychical Research*. He was a scientist and a skeptic who believed all of this was just in his head -- a trick of frequencies and eyeball resonations.

But I've wondered over the years if he had simply stumbled onto a novel way -- like possibly the use of hallucinogenic drugs -- to peer into something he couldn't understand or maybe couldn't accept. Have you considered his research as supportive of the superspectrum?

GORIGHTLY: I'm not familiar with the work of Vic Tandy. However, his experiences as you described them seem to fall in line with my theory. That sometimes -- whether witting or unwittingly -- we are able to lift the veil and see what's always there, that which is concealed by our waking trance. As Gurdieff suggested, we are all just walking zombies lost in a trance of our own creation, many times completely unaware of what's going on all around right under our nose, that which we can only "see" when we open ourselves up ("take the blinders off", have you).

Children, of course, are known for seeing things that grownups can't see and having imaginary friends and such. Perhaps they are really seeing into other dimensions or another aspect of reality -- what Castaneda termed a "separate reality". But then as children grow older into adulthood, the curtain is drawn and closed to these "imaginary realms" as we become more conditioned by society as our maps of reality became more clearly defined.

However, consensus reality in my mind is just another blinder placed over our consciousness, taking us away and distancing us from who we should truly be -- creators of our own realities.

HORN: There are also documented cases of electromagnetic effects in conjunction with paranormal phenomena. Often in movies like "Poltergeist", we see electrical appliances and light fixtures reacting to the presence of *ghostly* apparitions. The same has been reported in some *alien* and UFO reports. Do you have a theory about this?

GORIGHTLY: Well, the whole phenomenon seems tied to the Earth's electromagnetic field. UFO windows are perhaps where there is some weakness or aberration in the magnetic field, which allows access to flying saucers and creatures and strange phenomena. And at the same time, these weak spots in the magnetic field presumably cause electronic equipment to "go batty".

Now, I know psychically-gifted people who are always having problems with electronic equipment as their own "auric fields" (or human energy) seems to affect electronic equipment. And so it could be theorized that certain humans are really the cause of these weird electromagnetic affects by the energy they give off.

Or it could be a combination of human vibes coupled with weak spots in the magnetic field of the Planet in addition to strange entities appearing in these UFO hotspots that make electronic equipment fail or go screwy. A cumulative affect, have you, of different energies competing with each other. Like at sunset with the winds come down off the mountains into the valley and complete with each other, causing erratic winds that swirl and change directions until the Sun goes down and the diurnal shift is complete. Perhaps that's what's happening with all these energies facing off with each other.

How's that for a long winded answer? I'm just thinking out loud...In other words, I have no idea.

HORN: Without giving up too much of your Roswell presentation, tell us about occultist **Aleister Crowley** and his efforts to open a magic portal into another dimension.

GORIGHTLY: In 1918, Crowley performed a magical ritual called the "Amalantrah Working". To this end, he presumably created a magickal portal to allow entrance to ultradimensional entities. And in particular, an otherworldly being named "Lam" who looks strikingly similar to the *grey alien* on the cover of Whitley Strieber's Communion.

HORN: Do you really think Crowley succeeded in open this magickal portal? If so, why?

GORIGHTLY: I certainly suspect that Crowley affected great change on some level. Now whether he opened a magick portal to another dimensions, I can't say for sure. Whatever the case, he was indeed an agent of planetary brain change. Although not widely recognized today -- or during the time he lived, for that matter -- Crowley has had a profound effect on society and culture although most people have no idea who he is. Or if they hear his name, they are just aware of this spurious legend that surrounds Crowley as a child sacrificing Satanist.

Hell, maybe he was. And maybe he was one of the great religious teachers in the history of the Planet. Or the consummate con man. Or all of the above. Crowley is hard to pin down as to what exactly his motives were and what he actually accomplished. I think it's entirely possible that he may have indeed opened a "stargate" or magickal portal. But frankly, I don't know anything for sure. [StealthSkater note: "Crowley is mentioned in some of the Montauk Project" and "Philadelphia Experiment" books.]

HORN: Nearly 3 decades after the Amalantrah Working, Crowley students Jack Parsons (rocket scientist and cofounder of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory) and his pal L. Ron Hubbard (Church of Scientology founder) conducted a second ritual -- the "Babylon Working"-- in an attempt to reopen the gateway created by Crowley. But these guys were not seeking audience with Lam. They wanted the spirit of Babylon -- the archetypal divine feminine -- to pass through the portal and to incarnate itself within a human being. Many adepts of Enochian magic and Ordo Templi Orientis believe they succeeded and that she -- the whore of Babylon -- walks the Earth today. You have any thoughts on this?

GORIGHTLY: You know, quite honestly, I have no idea. I've never dabbled in ritual magick. And I really don't keep up to speed with what's going on in the OTO/Thelema scene. I know there are people who claim such things. That the whore of Babylon has been reincarnated. Or that Lam has been contacted in recent years. But I don't really know one way or the other if there is any reality to any of these claims.

Even if the whore of Babylon came and sat on my lap or if Lam blew in my ear, I still wouldn't know what to think or believe. Was it my imagination? Were these entities something I conjured -- that are actually just forms of energy I have shaped to meet my own expectations? Are they demons, are they angels, are they just a waking dream? The real question I think is "What is real?" and how much of a player are we in creating our own reality. Pretty big players, I suspect. [StealthSkater note: "creating our own reality" reminds me of "*monsters from the ID[consciousness]*" -- the central theme in the 50s' sci-fi classic "Forbidden Planet"]

HORN: On June 17, 1952, Jack Parsons blew himself up. Do you think there was more to his death than the official story?

GORIGHTLY: Yes, I do. One of the more popular "crackpot" theories suggests that Parsons was performing a magickal ritual to create a "homunculus" -- a living being -- and it literally blew up in his face. Other theories hint at murder, that Parsons was an expert with explosives and could never have blown himself up in the manner that he did.

I have a friend who has looked into Parsons' death and he thinks it has something to do with the testimony Parsons' provided at high profile trial in Los Angeles during the 1940s. At the trial in question, Parsons was called in as an expert witness on explosives. It was his testimony that blew the whistle on a criminal organization with deep connections to the LAPD. Anyway, my friend thinks it was Parsons' testimony that led to his ultimate undoing.

There's also an online manuscript entitled "Jack Parsons and the Curious Origins of the American Space Program" which, in veiled language, suggests that the late televangelist Dr. Gene Scott was involved in Parsons' murder. These are just some of the theories that I've stumbled upon during the course of my research.

HORN: What about men like George Adamski and George Van Tassel? What do you make of their stories of *alien* interaction?

GORIGHTLY: "Serious" UFO researchers write off Adamski as a hoaxer and probably fit Van Tassel into that same box. But that's too easy an explanation to me -- that they were making up their encounters with the space brothers out of whole cloth. Particularly Van Tassel who if you listen to in old interviews comes across as a sincere sounding fellow -- a no-nonsense kind of guy.

As I point out in my lecture, Adamski and Van Tassel displayed many aspect of ritual magic in their approach to contact with the space brothers. Van Tassel in particular who used channeling to contact ETs -- as well as George Hunt Williamson -- who devised something similar to an Ouija board to channel the ETs messages. Like the spiritism movement of the turn of the century, the UFO Contactees were a mix of sincere believers along with opportunistic hoaxers. And sometimes it's hard to separate the true believers from the hucksters.

Whatever the case, I feel that some of the Contactees had legitimate experiences. Which is not to say that they necessarily contacted *beings* from another planet. Or at least not physical beings who came to Earth in "nuts and bolt" craft. My theory suggests that the beings contacted by these early UFO witnesses are akin to what Jacques Vallee talked about in Passport to Magonia -- that the phenomena takes on many shapes and forms. From the angels of the Bible to elves and fairies of Celtic lore to the miracle at Fatima to the modern era of UFOs. It's all the same thing. Just filtered through our consciousness and colored by our belief systems.

HORN: I gave a radio interview years ago on UFOs and the possibility of a Sirius Cult in the U.S. Government and Military. I hadn't thought about that lately but then noticed some interesting tidbits in the info you sent me. Care to talk about that in this forum?

GORIGHTLY: That's a line of inquiry I don't delve into to deeply during the course of my Roswell lecture, though I do mention it in passing. In particular the rumor that there was a Sirius Cult with military connections that performed rituals at Mt. Palomar -- a theory that comes courtesy of the late conspiracy researcher James Shelby Downard. What did you discover in this area?

HORN: Before he died tragically during the 1999 Burning Man Festival, Jim Keith wrote about this UFO/Sirius occult connection in his Saucers of the Illuminati. The "Sorcery, Sex, Assassination, and the Science of Symbolism" work by Downard which argued that a Sirius cult exists at the highest levels of U.S. military intelligence and that the Palomar Observatory is used for its rituals, which are performed in telescopically-focused light from the Dog Star. I believe David Ovason's book The Secret Architecture of our Nation's Capitol and some like it have tied Freemasonry to an occult Sirius/Lucifer representation.

But let me move on this another question for you. From 1948-1958, Dr. Andrija Puharich ran the Round Table Foundation doing research into the human mind, telepathy -- that sort of thing. At one point his research allegedly came in contact with nine intelligences -- "The Nine". What can you tell us about this and why would it be important to ufology?

GORIGHTLY: Well, Puharich's research connects to so many things I talk about in my lecture. There's a lot of common threads that run through what he was doing with the Round Table Group that parallels the early UFO Contactee Movement in terms of channeling ETs--going as far back as 1948 and predating the halcyon days of the Contactees.

What Purharich was involved with forms a bridge -- from old school to new school Contactees -- as he continued this work for many decades, combining several novel methods to establish contact with "The Other". Some of these early experiments included Amanita Muscaria -- a mushroom containing strange powers of divination as documented in his book The Sacred Mushroom.

Although many remember psychic superstar Uri Geller as someone who spent his time performing apparent parlor tricks -- bending spoons and stopping clocks -- Geller had a number of strange encounters with apparently otherworldly denizens during the period he was working closely with Puharich. Geller also claimed contact with "The Nine", which was the basis for a research group known as "Lab Nine" that included many cutting-edge scientists, as well as the likes of Star Trek creator Gene Roddenberry, who at one time wrote a script based on "The Nine" which he had planned to produce.

So you can see the impact that Puharich and his group had on popular consciousness.

HORN: Before we get too far away from Crowley and his *alien*-looking "Lam", you have some interesting thoughts about Crowley's "Book of the Law" and the messenger Aiwass.

GORIGHTLY: Yes. Although Lam seems to be getting a fair amount of pub these days in certain circles of UFO research, Aiwass certainly deserves his props. Aiwass was another otherworldly *entity* that Crowley made contact with many years prior to Lam. And it was Aiwass who dictated the infamous "Book of the Law" -- the bible of Crowley's religion, Thelema. UFO researcher Allen Greenfield contends that the "Book of the Law" is actually a coded book with instructions on how to contact these otherworldly beings. And that certain magic adepts have indeed decoded the book and now use it for just this purpose.

HORN: This is the 60th anniversary of the Roswell UFO incident. I've talked to Jesse Marcel and Stanton Friedman on several occasions. And both of them believe there really was something unusual that occurred there in 1947. What do you believe?

GORIGHTLY: My guess is that it was some sort of Government disinfo campaign -- using the alien crash scenario -- to cover up some type of government black ops. But that's speculation as admittedly I never looked too deeply into the Roswell affair.

HORN: When and where can people hear your lecture in Roswell this year?

GORIGHTLY: On July 8 at 11:30am, I'll be speaking at the Roswell Museum and Art Center. I hear it's a great state of the art facility with good audio-visual equipment. Which will be important as I have a pretty involved PowerPoint I'll be showing to compliment my presentation. So come on out and say hi.

HORN: Thanks for discussing.

PART SEVEN -- On The Road To Roswell 2007: A Discussion With Dr. Tom Van Flandern

Editors note: This is the seventh in a special series of Raiders News Network interviews focusing on the 60th Anniversary of the 1947 Roswell, New Mexico UFO Incident. Tom Horn is joined by Dr. Tom Van Flandern, Ph.D. degree in Astronomy, specializing in celestial mechanics (the theory of orbits), from Yale University in 1969. He spent 21 years (1963-1983) at the U.S. Naval Observatory in Washington, D.C. where he became the Chief of the Celestial Mechanics Branch of the Nautical Almanac Office. During the past decade, Tom has been a Research Associate at the Univ. of Maryland Physics Department in College Park, MD and a consultant to the Army Research Laboratory in Adelphi, MD working on improving the accuracy of the Global Positioning System (GPS).

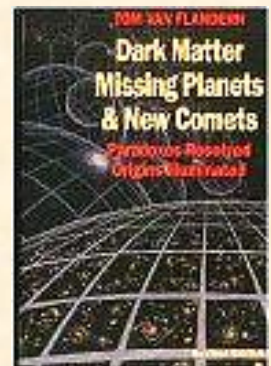


HORN: Dr. Van Flandern, it is a privilege to speak with you today. We have been conducting this special series of articles in the lead up to the 60th anniversary of the Roswell UFO incident. Your research covers a wide spectrum including areas we might associate with Roswell. Before we get to that, please describe your organization "Meta Research" (<http://metaresearch.org>). What does it do and why does it exist?

VAN FLANDERN: In the 1970s, astronomy funding from universities and industry became centralized under NASA and NSF (National Science Foundation) control. In the 1980s, funds became limited, so certain theories were "adopted" and research into alternatives was cut off. By the 1990s, it became evident that decision was a huge setback to the advancement of Science. Meta Research was founded in 1991 under a 7-member Board to look into puzzles and anomalies in the field of Astronomy and try to find the best models to explain all the new data pouring in. As contrasted with simply force-fitting the data and existing models into each other.

Peter Lipton recently described this change in the behavior of science with an archery analogy. Suppose one archer draws a bull's eye on a barn and shoots an arrow into it while another archer shoots his arrow first and draws the bull's eye around where it struck the barn. The end result appears to be the same. But we properly give more archery credit to the first archer than to the second. Yet modern Science has migrated into imitating the second archer by modifying theories and reinterpreting data as needed to maintain the adopted theories already in place. Meta Research's goal is to reverse that trend by developing theories that fit the data without need of modification or reinterpretation. At least for the field of Astronomy. We have had some modest success in that effort.

HORN: In 1999, you published a book that challenged some of the standard models of gravitation and General Relativity. What caused you to write this book and has it been repudiated or supported by recent advances in our understanding of Physics?



VAN FLANDERN: The book you reference is Dark Matter, Missing Planets and New Comets published by North Atlantic Books. It is now in its second edition and fifth printing as more-and-more people discover the major iconoclastic work of the past 15 years in the field of Astronomy. It proposes a revolutionary new vision of the origin and nature of everything from humans to the whole Universe. Our solar system in particular will never seem the same after seeing it in this new light.

The book describes models deduced from first principles or basic facts rather than theories induced from observations. It reports many predictions so the new models can be tested and judged. To date, the prediction success rate for all models combined has been over 90% despite very long odds against success either by chance or if the standard models now in vogue were correct. I'm sure we will be discussing some of those models in this interview, although time constraints may allow us to only scratch the surface of what's new in the Universe.

HORN: *The American Spectator*, *Salon Magazine*, and others have quoted you regarding challenges to Einstein's theory of Relativity. Others have said Einstein cheated by adjusting arguments around the values he wanted. Do you think that is true? And in what ways if any do you believe Relativity is incorrect?

VAN FLANDERN: Einstein was a bright and humble physicist whom I admire for many reasons. But especially for his willingness to admit his own mistakes. I have tried to emulate that practice which requires that the individual not get too attached to his/her own ideas, then continually exposes them to new possibilities of falsification and welcomes such falsifications when they happen as opportunities to learn new things about the world around us.

Regarding the relativity of motion, both Lorentz (1904) and Einstein (1905) published competing theories a year apart. Today, we would conclude that the truth lies somewhere between the 2 theories. Apparently, neither Lorentz's universal aether (the hypothetical space-filling, light-carrying medium) or Einstein's total absence of aether is correct. In 1920, Einstein conceded the need for some kind of aether to carry light waves. Then Lorentz conceded that Einstein's approach was perhaps simpler than his own. Today's relativity of motion is much more like that of Lorentz than Einstein. But Lorentz is still given little credit for this.

Einstein also gave us "General Relativity" which was a new theory of gravity. From the earliest days, this theory had 2 different physical interpretations for the same math. One was called the "field interpretation" in which gravity is a traditional force but is modified by the presence of a "potential field" (equivalent to a localized "aether"). The other is called the "geometric interpretation" in which gravity is not a force but a "curvature of space-time". Only this latter interpretation is currently being taught in schools. But the geometric approach cannot explain either the mechanism that initiates motion in bodies at rest or the latest findings about the propagation speed of gravitational force. Whereas the field interpretation can explain both.

So the criticisms I have levied are about variations of Einstein's model adopted by modern relativists. For example, these post-Einstein relativists have used the geometric interpretation to predict exotic phenomena such as "black holes" and "string theory". Yet Einstein himself not only denied the physical possibility of such mathematical oddities, but he wrote a paper in 1939 proving that such things could also not exist in his theory.

However, modern relativists have found that invoking Einstein's name and donning his mantle opens doors to funding and getting published. My position is that Einstein was right in more ways than he was given credit for. But modern relativists have introduced new concepts and interpretations in Einstein's name that the great physicist would never have approved. In my opinion and that of a few colleagues, Einstein's field interpretation was right and modern relativists claiming Einstein's authority and using the geometric interpretation have strayed from the cause-and-effect spirit of true Physics.

HORN: I want to discuss the planet Mars and the possibility of artificial structures there. First, what have all the space program's new discoveries taught us about the origin and evolution of the Solar System?

VAN FLANDERN: The current mainstream theory is that the Sun, its planets, their moons, the asteroids, and the comets all originated as condensations from a primeval cloud of gas and dust that was compressed by a nearby supernova explosion 4.6 billion years ago. This formation process took about 5 million years to complete. And the theory indicates that not much of significance has happened to our solar system since then. But this theory leaves many unanswered questions such as how the Solar System acquired its rotational energy. Most of that "angular momentum" is in the planets even though most of the mass is in the Sun.

The best model to address all those unanswered questions is the "fission model". In it, as the forming Sun in the primeval cloud contracts from gravity, it spins up. The spin first flattens the Sun, then elongates it into a football shape. When the spin is fast enough, the two ends of the football break off forming a pair of twin planets and slowing the Sun's spin.

But the Sun continues to contract and the process continues through several cycles of spin-up, overspin, and fissioning planets. The same contracting, spin-up, fissioning process happens to the rapidly cooling planets which periodically reach overspin and fission their own satellites. Three of our smaller "planets" were originally satellites of larger planets: Mercury escaped from Venus; Mars escaped from now-exploded "Planet V"; and Pluto escaped from Neptune.

HORN: What evidence is there that any planet exploded?

VAN FLANDERN: There is evidence all over the Solar System. Tens of thousands of asteroids orbit the Sun in the gap between Mars and Jupiter. Probably at least as many of these apparent fragments orbit beyond Neptune. These orbits show "explosion signatures" -- patterns similar to those found in orbits of fragments from Earth satellites that exploded in orbit around the Earth. Comet orbits have similar characteristics unique to an explosion origin.

The distribution of surface blackening on major satellites is consistent with an explosion blast wave spreading through the Solar System. Chemical compositions of asteroids, comets, and meteorites are consistent with their once being part of a planet-sized body. The assumption of an explosion origin yielded the best predictions of meteor storms. Some mass extinction events on Earth are consistent with global bombardment as would follow a planet explosion etc. My book Dark Matter, Missing Planets and New Comets lists 100 such lines of evidence and cites where each is documented.

HORN: What are some examples of genuine predictions made by the Exploded Planet Hypothesis (or EPH)?

VAN FLANDERN: Here is a list of 10 major predictions that have now been validated but for which the results were unknown at the time the predictions were made:

1. That asteroids and comets should be identical types of bodies except for asteroids losing most of their volatiles because of long-term solar heating.
2. That these asteroids and comets would have “numerous and commonplace” satellites of their own.
3. That the water in meteorites would be salt water rather than pristine water.
4. That high-resolution views of irregular asteroids would show numerous boulders and roll marks from the tidal decay of satellite orbits.
5. That predictions of meteor storms would be possible if one assumes the meteors escape from orbit around a comet nucleus instead of by ejection from the nucleus.
6. That most asteroid orbits will have a lower limit to eccentricity that increases to either side of the explosion distance from the Sun.
7. That “new” comets will all appear to come from a similar great distance, arriving on orbits with period equal to the time since the most recent explosion: 3.2 million years.
8. That the velocity with which comets appear to “split” at various distances from the Sun will be consistent with the escape velocity of objects previously orbiting the comet’s nucleus.
9. That very slowly rotating moons will get blackened by the blast wave on only one side, and those with tilted rotation axes will get blackened on only one pole.
10. That the first sample return from a comet would show evidence of minerals found typically on planets in the inner solar system -- not just minerals that can form in a very cold environment in space far from the Sun.

HORN: How about prediction failures? Even widely accepted theories can have those also.

VAN FLANDERN: The EPH has made many more predictions for which the results are not yet in. But to date, none of its predictions have been wrong -- even when they were contrary to expectations of the many mainstream models the EPH would replace.

HORN: What are the latest astronomical discoveries that bear on the Exploded Planet Hypothesis?

VAN FLANDERN: The 2 most recent missions were Deep Impact smashing a probe into a comet in July 2005 and Stardust returning a dust sample from a comet to Earth in the spring of 2006. The former mission showed that comets are very similar to asteroids inside and out. And the latter mission showed that comets were formed in a hot environment rather than a cold one. Both of these favor a planetary explosion origin for comets over the traditional idea of “leftovers” from the coldest parts of the primeval solar nebula.

HORN: Astronomers have been finding planets around other stars. Is there any evidence of extrasolar planets exploding?

VAN FLANDERN: There is. Classical novae are usually thought to be explosions of invisible companions of visible stars. We now have cause to suspect that the invisible companions are planets rather than dwarf stars.

HORN: What effect would there be on Earth if a planet in our solar system explodes?

VAN FLANDERN: The K/T boundary in geology is found all over the Earth and dates from 65 million years ago. Its features include an iridium layer, microdiamonds, meteorites, shocked quartz, and carbon ash; at least 16 major impacts globally; mass extinction of 70% of all species; inland seas drained; numerous "hot zones" of radioactivity; an extended period of unparalleled global volcanism; atmospheric and ocean compositional changes; and a single global fire.

These are the kinds of things expected after a distant planetary explosion. They are more than the single-asteroid-impact-in-the-Yucatan theory can explain, although that is still the leading mainstream theory at present.

HORN: What would cause a planet to explode?

VAN FLANDERN: We have 3 known mechanisms. The simplest is changes of state in a planet's core which can cause explosions or implosions. But we now think that "gravitons" -- the carriers of gravitational force -- are the most probable cause of both planetary and stellar explosions whenever something collapses the body's core because the heat deposited by graviton impacts would be trapped by such a collapse and would continue to build up until the body exploded.

HORN: What is the connection between the Exploded Planet Hypothesis and Mars?

VAN FLANDERN: Mars shows the scars from close proximity to 2 explosions. One was of its parent "Planet V" when Mars was still a moon. This was probably the same event that produced the K/T boundary on Earth and saturated one side of Mars with craters while leaving the other side flat and smooth. It also tilted the pole of Mars, tore away much of its atmosphere, and left certain radioactive isotopes that can originate only in a violent explosion.

After that first event, Mars and another moon of Planet V were left orbiting each other as they orbited the Sun. The other moon -- a "water world much like Jupiter's moon Europa" -- apparently exploded 3.2 million years ago, producing an unprecedented flood on one side of Mars. This violent history of Mars is the subject of a dramatic 5-minute video on our web site at <http://metaresearch.org>.

HORN: On your website, there is also a page where high-resolution spacecraft photos of Mars appear to show artificial structures. Tell us about these.

VAN FLANDERN: The biggest surprise of the space program to date has been the finding of several categories of anomalies on the surface of Mars that -- if seen on Earth -- would certainly be attributed to human activity. These include an abundance of special shapes not normally found in Nature such as closed triangles and pyramids; vehicle-like tracks and trails across otherwise featureless desert terrain; mostly underground networks of huge "glassy tubes" apparently extending for hundreds of miles, visible in places where the surface is cracked, and seeming to connect interesting surface places; odd patterns and symbols; and an

abundance of large-scale “artistic” imagery such as the 5 known faces on Mars and some geoglyphs reminiscent of those on the plains of Nazca in Peru.

HORN: What stands out to you the most as special shapes on Mars that do not normally arise in Nature?

VAN FLANDERN: Closed triangles with sharp vertices and straight sides are not normally seen in Nature. 3, 4, and 5-sided pyramids are also rare. Yet many of these are found on Mars, but not on any other planet or moon yet examined in similar detail. On the Elysium plains of Mars, there may be an entire field of pyramid-shaped objects laid out in linear arrays.

HORN: I've also read about signs of present-day vegetation on Mars.

VAN FLANDERN: Yes, we see objects that look very much like vegetation and trees in a few special places. The “trees” have a central trunk-like shape with large, medium, and small branch-like appendages extending radially outward. And they cast shadows on the ground indicating a height of at least 50 meters. In at least some places, these objects change appearance with the seasons in patterns similar to terrestrial vegetation. One color photo showed a predominately green coloration in the warmer months. The Martian atmosphere is supposed to be too thin and cold for vegetation. But on Earth, we have special places such as “hot springs” where warm liquid water can bubble up from underground and support vegetation in an otherwise hostile environment.

HORN: Describe the objects on Mars you called “glassy tubes”.

VAN FLANDERN: From an examination of hundreds of these objects, we know that they are tube-like shapes typically 50-100 meters in diameter. White bands wrap around the tube about every ten meters along its entire length. The material between bands is translucent and we can faintly see the white bands on the underside through the tube. When direct sunlight is available, it reflects from the tube in a mirror-like way instead of just scattering the light. Where a boulder has damaged a tube, we often see a collapsed tube section where broken white bands lie flat on the surface and sharp, spine-like portions of broken bands jut out from an intact-but-torn tube section.



Tubes are visible mainly in fissures or where a flood has eroded away the topsoil. In some places, they can be traced underground in infrared images that can detect such things if they are not too far below the surface. Some tubes cross one another (one above, one below) in perpendicular intersections while others have junctions where one tube becomes two or vice versa. In a few places, many tubes come together in patterns suggestive of “terminals” for train stations.

HORN: What else is seen that might be of special interest?

VAN FLANDERN: In certain places on Mars -- especially near the location of the former equator of the planet -- we see “artistic imagery”. Sometimes in abundance, although not always with distinct

clarity. Moreover, the shapes seen are not random but depict familiar terrestrial images in organized groupings.

For example, in one region of Mars named “Cydonia”, we see an apparent mosaic scene showing impressions of sky, land, and water with animal shapes organized in appropriate sections of the mosaic. Amphibious creatures are in the water area, animals on the land area, and aviary creatures in the air area. However, millions of years of dust storms and erosion have left many of the images more impressionistic than life-like. Had the images been as distinct as the words I must use to describe them, the shock waves from this discovery would have already traveled around the World.

HORN: What distinguishes the many artistic faces and other familiar shapes on Mars from faces and shapes seen in clouds and natural landscapes here on Earth?

VAN FLANDERN: It is possible to see even very detailed shapes in random, noisy backgrounds. But some of the Martian shapes appear against flat, featureless backgrounds. The context and relationship appropriateness is additional evidence these are not products of geology or random processes. But the most compelling proof -- to a scientist at least -- is the fulfillment of what we call "a priori" predictions.

For example, if you are dealt a 13-card hand and get all 13 spades, you might wonder if that was an accident or the result of a fixed deck because the odds against that happening by chance are 635-billion-to-one. Yet every specific randomized deal of 13 unique cards had the same odds against happening by chance. So unlikely events -- like unlikely card hands -- can and do happen by chance. Yet if I predicted that on the next deal that your hand would contain 13 spades -- and it did -- you could be sure at odds of 635-billion-to-one that was not a lucky guess but the result of a controlled process. That's how the a priori principle works -- through the power of predictions.



When the Viking spacecraft saw an apparent face on Mars in the Cydonia region, that was interesting but could easily have been a “trick of light and shadow”. So scientists formulated tests to tell whether the object was natural (a product of geology and illusion) or artificial (a product of intelligences). The first 8 such tests initially gave a split decision: 5-to-3 in favor of artificiality. Two of those tests were based on the fact that the Cydonia face-object cannot be seen from the ground but must be viewed from above (for example, from an orbiting space station). So if artificial, it would logically be built on the equator of Mars and built upright. But the Cydonia face was far from the equator (latitude 41 degrees north) and was tilted from upright by an angle of about 35 degrees. Those statistics favored a natural origin.

Then in 1996 we took a look at the pole shift of Mars to see where the face-like object was before the pole shift. The answer was exactly on the old equator and upright to within 2 degrees! The odds against that happening by chance were roughly 1000-to-one. So if the builders were active before the cataclysm that tipped the pole of Mars (the explosion of the other moon 3.2 million years ago), then both these tests indicated an artificial origin. By the end of that year, all 8 tests favored an artificial origin over a natural one.

As compelling as this conclusion was to any mind open to either possibility, it still needed conformation. So in 1997, the Society for Planetary SETI Research (SPSR) -- an association of about 30 independent scientists -- sent a few representatives to NASA to request priority imaging of the Cydonia face-like object by the high-resolution camera on the newly-arrived Mars Global Surveyor spacecraft. SPSR then set down criteria for distinguishing artificial from natural well before any results were known.

In brief, if and only if the object was artificial, the impression of a humanoid eye, nose, and mouth in the original images should be supplemented by secondary facial features in any detailed new image. These specifically included an eyebrow over the eye socket; an iris inside the eye socket; nostrils at the large end of a tapered nose; and evidence of lips in the mouth feature. Specifics were set down for the qualifying size, shape, location, and orientation of these features on the mesa. Moreover, the test required that no qualifying features appear in the background so that our minds could form apparent facial features from randomness as our minds are prone to do.

When the spacecraft images were returned to Earth in April 1998, every prediction was fulfilled. This was like predicting a deal of 13 spades in advance except that the combined odds against this happening by chance at Cydonia were 1000-billion-billion-to-one. That left no doubt in the minds of scientists familiar with the a priori principle that the Cydonia Face had to be an artificial structure.

HORN: Can you give another example of ruling out a natural origin for some of these artistic features?

VAN FLANDERN: Yes. One of the animal shapes elsewhere on Mars resembled a puma. But it wasn't detailed enough to be persuasive and the edge of the spacecraft photograph left the hindquarters cut off and unseen. So the scientist who found the image -- J.P. Levasseur -- predicted that the image was artificial if and only if the missing hindquarters completed an animal hind-section and legs and contained a puma-like tail extending from the right place on the hindquarters. Anything else from an unlimited number of possibilities would indicate a natural origin.

A few years later, the spacecraft (by request) took another image that included the hindquarters area and showed the completion of an animal hindquarters and hind legs and a marvelous tail of the right proportions extending from just the right place.

HORN: So what is the connection between possible artifacts on Mars and the Exploded Planet Hypothesis we were discussing earlier?

VAN FLANDERN: The explosion of the "water-world" body Mars was orbiting until 3.2 million years ago produced the most recent pole shift on Mars that moved the Cydonia Face from the equator to its present location, tilting it by 35 degrees. This tells us that the builders of these amazing surface features predated the explosion. And that their civilization was probably terminated by that explosion.

Moreover, we see no evidence of a primary civilization on Mars, making the exploded water world the most likely location for that civilization. Indeed, that speculation makes sense on several levels. For example, if we project our own civilization ahead a few thousand years, trips to our Moon will by then be routine for tourists.

The first thing such tourists will wish to do is board an orbiting space station to get a close-up overview of the entire Moon. It will then be a natural step for the many activities on the lunar surface -- telescopes, mining operations, laboratories, communication centers, and all manner of commercial operations -- to attract tourists and tourist dollars by building surface exhibits that can be seen from the orbiting space station.

So we can reasonably project that the future of our Moon will be not unlike what we are seeing today on Mars -- surface exhibits that can be best viewed from an orbiting space station. However, if that was the function of the artistic Mars images, that would imply Mars was the civilization's moon and not its home world. And the latter was lost by explosion 3.2 million years ago -- a date that is reliably determined from the orbital period of new comet orbits.

HORN: What is the significance of that connection for us here on Earth?

VAN FLANDERN: We are deep into the area of speculation now. However, it seems unlikely to be coincidence that the geoglyphs on Mars are so humanoid and terrestrial in appearance rather than alien. And it seems also unlikely to be coincidence that the builder's civilization on their home world ended about the same time as the dating of the earliest humanoid fossil on Earth -- the "Lucy" find in Africa. Both are dated to 3.2 million years ago.

So it seems that one civilization was ending about the same time that another was beginning. When these findings are tied in with the most ancient "sacred" writings from cultures everywhere on Earth, the mind is compelled to wonder if those stories are perhaps preserving knowledge of human origins elsewhere in the Solar System and of a species transfer to Earth in an effort to survive the cataclysm. Answering such questions may in the end turn out to be the most important knowledge for our species to acquire in our future as solar system explorers. More important even than the Copernican revolution when we learned that Earth was not the center of the Universe.

HORN: We will need to do a part two at some point to focus more on the question of origins. Some of this sounds almost like a "Star Trek" episode where *extraterrestrial* civilizations need to escape their doomed planet in order to find a new home elsewhere. Yet doesn't modern Physics still hold that nothing can travel faster than light (186,000 miles per second)? So that touring the Galaxy in a human lifetime (as in "Star Trek") is impossible. Is that theory still valid?

VAN FLANDERN: No, it is not. The geometric interpretation of Einstein's General Relativity theory appeared to require that the speed-of-light was an absolute upper speed limit. However, evidence has gone against the geometric interpretation in favor of the field interpretation favored by Einstein, Dirac, and Feynman to mention just a few of the great physicists of the 20th century who weighed in on the matter.

In the field interpretation, gravity is a classical force that propagates from a source mass to a target body. For example, the force of the Sun's gravity holds Earth in orbit. All 6 modern experiments that attempt to measure the speed of gravitational force propagation show that it must greatly exceed the speed-of-light. From that, we can now be sure that the speed-of-light is not a limiting speed in the Universe. So once our technology discovers "gravitons" and masters controlling them, we will not only be able to listen in on any Galactic conversations that may be occurring but we will also be able to travel about the Galaxy within human life-spans.

HORN: Have scientists observed phenomenon propagating faster than light?

VAN FLANDERN: Yes. The strongest of the 6 experiments places a lower limit to the speed-of-gravity of 20 billion times faster than the speed-of-light. It also follows that the speed of electric (Coulomb) force is faster than light. And might be as fast as the speed of gravity. Light waves (sometimes confusingly called “electromagnetic waves”) and gravitational waves (which have no more to do with gravity than light has to do with electricity) travel at the speed-of-light.

HORN: Is gravity a "push" or a "pull"? And what does this tell us about the origin and nature of gravity?

VAN FLANDERN: Traditionally, we have always thought of gravity as something within the Earth and all masses that pull us and other things toward themselves. But we now have a new understanding of the nature and origin of gravity that is quite different. We think the visible Universe is filled with innumerable, super-fast “gravitons” traveling in all directions -- individually so tiny that they can usually fly through the atoms composing the entire Earth without hitting anything solid. But a small fraction of them does hit solid matter and gets scattered or absorbed.

For us standing here on Earth’s surface, we are not held down by anything from the Earth but by a "graviton wind" from space pushing us downward. That wind arrives from all directions. But the Earth blocks a small part of the wind trying to reach us from below. So more gravitons strike us from above than from below, and we feel a net push downward. This is known as the theory of “pushing gravity”. It predicts 5 new properties of gravity. And so far, these predictions are in good accord with all observations and experiments. "Pushing Gravity" is also the subject of a 20-author book by that title published in 2002.

HORN: How fast does gravity propagate?

VAN FLANDERN: The experimental lower limit for the speed-of-gravity is 20 billion times faster than light. Light takes 8.3 minutes to travel the 93 million miles from the Sun to Earth. But a graviton would make the same trip in under 25 nanoseconds (billionths of a second). Light takes about 30,000 years to travel from the center of our Galaxy to our location. But a graviton would make that trip in under a minute. Light from the most distant galaxies we can see takes billions of years to get here. But gravitons would take less than one year.

HORN: Are these new ideas speculative? Or are they now published and accepted?

VAN FLANDERN: “Accepted” is always a slow process. Physicist Max Planck once said “*Science progresses one funeral at a time*”. That adage remains just as true today. The best new ideas can accomplish in the short term is to expose themselves to peer review and the toughest arguments opponents can muster. If they survive that, get published, and silence the critics, the rest is just a matter of time for the word to spread and the resistance to die out.

The gravity papers were first published in 1996. Then more aggressively in 1999 in *Physics Letters A*. A few challenge papers appeared, and all were rebutted. Then in 2002, I was joined by a senior physicist -- the late J.P. Vigi er (in whose honor 4 international symposiums have been held). We jointly published a comprehensive, 38-page paper in “Foundations of Physics” setting out the full story including every challenge raised and

how it is answered. There has been no further scientific criticism since that review paper appeared.

HORN: What are the practical implications of faster-than-light travel for SETI (Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence) and interstellar communications?

VAN FLANDERN: Assuming gravitons exist and propagate billions of times faster than light, no advanced civilization in the Galaxy would be using radio waves to communicate because it takes too long (longer than normal life-spans). So under those assumptions, our SETI program is a waste of time. Only when we can listen in to graviton signals will we start to hear the Galactic conversations that may be going on and achieve direct communication with any stellar neighbors we might have.

HORN: What about the implications for UFOs and interstellar travel?

VAN FLANDERN: The same principles apply. To get around the Galaxy, one would need to use graviton propulsion systems. That is still far enough ahead of our civilization's progress that it would appear "magical" to us. *Extraterrestrials* and their vehicles could come-and-go without attracting our attention if they chose to do so. Many UFO reports don't register on my personal plausibility meter because they envision vehicles that are barely more advanced than the most modern human flying craft and are so klutzy that they are frequently rumored to crash.

HORN: The Roswell Incident. What do you think happened there in 1947?

VAN FLANDERN: I have never personally investigated that incident. But from the reports on both sides of the controversy I have seen, I think criticisms of the classified Mogul balloon explanation have seemed insubstantial, being based more on a distrust of government sources than on verifiable facts.

HORN: Will you be in Roswell this July? If so, will you be making a public appearance?

VAN FLANDERN: No. The charter of my sponsoring organization (Meta Research) covers everything from "40 km and up". So UFOs usually remain a bit out of my field as a professional astronomer. But occasionally they do come within it.

I did investigate the reported anomalous object photographed by the Russian Phobos 2 spacecraft. And I investigated the alleged UFO sightings over Mexico during the 1991 total solar eclipse because I was there for the eclipse. Neither of those incidents turned out to involve genuine UFOs. Regrettably, the UFO field -- always in need of support and supporters -- is not as eager to publish explanations of famous cases as it is to publish unexplained aerial phenomena, which in turn hurts the field's credibility with serious-but-open-minded scientists.

HORN: There is so much more I could ask you, which will have to wait for that Part-Two if we do it. Please tell people where they can learn more about you and your research.

VAN FLANDERN: Visit our web site at <http://metaresearch.org> for extensive samples of our research and articles. My book Dark Matter, Missing Planets and New Comets gives a nice overview of our Meta Science from the Solar System to the whole Universe including why the Big Bang theory is wrong and the best bet to replace it.

For the latest developments, our quarterly publication -- the *Meta Research Bulletin* -- has just gone electronic and open source to begin its 16th year as the publication with the best track record for successful predictions in the field of Astronomy. We also offer a number of CDs with presentation materials and technical details about “Gravity”, “The Evolving Mars Story”, and “A Short Tour of the Universe”. See our web site store for more information about these items and a few books we recommend.

HORN: Thank you for taking time to be part of the special Road to

PART EIGHT -- On The Road To Roswell 2007: A Discussion With Dr. Bruce Maccabee

Editors note: This is the eighth in a special series of Raiders News Network interviews focusing on the 60th Anniversary of the 1947 Roswell, New Mexico UFO Incident. Tom Horn is joined by Dr. Bruce Maccabee -- an optical physicist employed by the U.S. Navy and a leading UFO researcher. Dr. Maccabee is also listed in "Who's Who in Technology Today" and "American Men and Women of Science". He is a noted UFO investigator specializing in technical analysis and photoanalysis of UFO cases.



HORN: Dr. Maccabee, thank you for taking time to do this interview. I understand you received your B.S. in Physics at Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Worcester, Mass.. And then your M.S. in 1967 and Ph.D. in Physics in 1970 at The American University in Washington, DC. Please correct me if I have these facts wrong.

MACCABEE: That is correct.

HORN: You had a long career at the Naval Surface Warfare Center. You've worked on optical data processing, underwater sound, lasers, and the Strategic Defense Initiative and Ballistic Missile Defense using high-power lasers and most recently on technologies related to homeland security and defeating IEDs. I'm curious how you became interested in the study of UFOs.

MACCABEE: Like most kids of the '50s, I was intrigued by the early space movies like "the Day the Earth Stood Still", "War of the Worlds", "It Came from Outer Space", etc.. But I never assumed they had any basis in reality. I probably paid little or no attention to the very few sightings reported in the local (Rutland, Vermont) newspaper until perhaps 1958-or-so when I read Capt. Edward Ruppelt's book Report on Unidentified Flying Objects (published in 1955). I presume I was intrigued by what he wrote. But there was nothing I could do about it so I promptly "forgot" it.

About 9-or-10 years later when I was more interested in the subject, I recalled that I had read it years before. I found the book and reread it and realized that he was close to saying they were real and from Outer Space. In 1966 or 67 while studying for my physics degree at The American University in Washington DC, I read UFOs Serious Business by Frank Edwards and later went to a lecture by NICAP representatives at the University (Hall and Berliner?). Of course, I was aware of the newspaper stories of sightings (1965, 1966 UFO flap). So when the NICAP guys said help was needed at headquarters and I knew that headquarters was only a few miles away in DC, I decided to visit and see what they had.

NICAP (National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena, which officially died in about 1980 but has been resurrected recently on the web "under new management") was an internationally known organization mentioned in numerous UFO books. So I expected to see a large office with lots of secretaries and scientists and analytical equipment and so on. Instead, I arrived at a section of an old broken-down row house (long since replaced by modern buildings) close to Dupont Circle near the middle of Washington. There was a dingy stairway leading up to the second floor with a door that opened into a small apartment. There were books and magazines galore and filing cabinets that held NICAP's "family jewels" -- the thousands of sighting reports accumulated over the previous twenty years.

But there were no scientists, no analytical equipment, and only one old but very intelligent secretary (Isabel Davis). Donald Keyhoe -- who had directed the organization for about 10 years before I arrived -- was not there although his desk was. I never met him at the NICAP office, although I did several years later at a UFO conference. Dick Hall, Don Berliner, Gordon Lore, Ted Bloecher -- all NICAP luminaries were not there.

Isabel was running the whole day-to-day operation. She asked me to help by opening and answering letters. Knowing that I was at American University working on a Ph.D. in Physics, she asked me to write a document that she could type in small print and then send to the hundreds or thousands of people who were asking for information. Very often a letter would request "*please send all your information on flying saucers.*" Clearly people had little idea of just how much information there was. A standing joke was that the proper response to this request was, please send a truck.

Anyway, I wrote this document that was what we would now call a FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) sheet. (Many years later, when NICAP was closing, I found a copy of that document in the files. It had been retyped in small print so that it fitted on one side of a sheet of paper, so I know it was used.) Then I was invited to become a member of the local NICAP subcommittee (NICAP's local investigative activities were carried out throughout the nation by small local groups of interested people). Being a member of the subcommittee opened up the possibility of going with the committee members on an actual investigation.

I well remember the first case. It was a report of green lights passing over Tuckerman Lane -- a road just west of what is now the beltway around Washington DC. I have been told by other people who became interested in the subject that they carried out investigations and found nothing but trivial explanations for the sighting reports they investigated. This turned them off to the subject and they lost interest.

It was different for me. This first case was a simple but strange sighting -- a basic "night light" type by a lady who had good credibility (teacher). We rode with her in her car along the road where this happened (Tuckerman Lane) and could see no normal reason for why green lights would have been seen passing over the road as she drove. She didn't want any publicity. We ended up classifying it as an unknown. (In the years since, there have been reports of green lights traveling through the sky in the DC area and other places around the World.)

The next case -- which occurred in the early 1970s -- was even more strange. A multiple witness sighting in the Shenandoah Valley of a rocket shaped object hovering stationary over a mountain. Another early 1970s' case consisted of 2 incidents that involved several teenagers in Passapatanzy Virginia, oddly enough, not far from where I have worked for the last 10 years. That case was published in the NICAP Bulletin as the "Case of the Virginia Giant." The 2 events involved a UFO landing, a creature which came out of the craft holding a glowing ball in its hand (this preceded by several years a better-known sighting report from Pennsylvania of a creature holding a glowing ball), an animal reaction (dog ran away and didn't return for more than a day) a car that stopped when a UFO was hovering over it, that car's radio that stopped working and needed repair, TV interference, and multiple witnesses. There may also have been an abduction, although at the time abduction was the furthest thing from the minds of the several investigators of that case.

So anyway, my initial foray into the subject -- which included reading books, reading the Condon Report, and investigating cases -- got me thoroughly interested in the subject.

After the publication of the Condon study in early 1969, there was a general feeling in the press that everything had been explained and UFOs had "gone away." At NICAP headquarters we knew that wasn't true. But there wasn't much we could do about it. Then in August 1973, it was "We're BAACCKKKK!" as police officers and others began reporting sightings in the southeast and moving over the succeeding weeks into the Midwest. (This flap included humanoid sightings and includes 2 well publicized incidents -- the Hickson/Parker abduction in Pascagoula, Mississippi and the Coyne/helicopter case in Mansfield, Ohio.)

Because the Fall, 1973 flap regenerated interest in the UFO subject, I wrote up a report on the Shenandoah Valley sighting that I had thoroughly investigated and sent it to *Science Magazine*. It was returned in about 2 weeks with the comment by Editor Philip Abelson that I should consider publication elsewhere because they already had lots of articles to publish. Of course, I would have been willing to wait. But I got the point: "Get Lost!" (A shortened version was eventually published by NICAP.)

More importantly, at about this time Stanton Friedman alerted me to the importance of the statistical study known as Project Blue Book Special Report #14 (SR14). I managed to obtain NICAP's original copy of that document and I began a re-evaluation of the statistics (see below). I then decided to study the one case that William Hartmann (the Condon Study photoanalyst) claimed was probably real (McMinnville; see discussion below). I initially assumed that he had made a mistake somewhere. But at least there was real physics (optics) involved in analyzing the photos. So I learned how to do the type of analysis that Hartmann had done, studied the arguments of the skeptics (Klass, Sheaffer), managed to get the original negatives (because of a suggestion by Philip Klass!) ... and it was uphill from then on!

I should point out that while investigating, I was also reading and doing historical research during the years following 1973. I was one of the first to study the Blue Book files released to the Archives in 1975 and was the first to obtain the FBI file on flying discs. I guess you could say that by the middle of 1970s, I was off and running and never looked back.

HORN: Among your published papers was a reanalysis of the statistics and results of the famed Battelle Memorial Institute Project Blue Book Special Report No. 14, which included 3200 Air Force cases through the mid 1950s. What was your conclusion? [StealthSkater note: I was offered a job by Battelle in 1985 to work at a Wright-Patterson AFB lab that was trying to optimize the F-100 jet engine used in the F-14 and F-18. I actually saw the lab as well as visited Battelles Columbus, Ohio headquarters.]

MACCABEE: This document proved to me that there was strong statistical evidence that at least some UFOs were not explainable as mundane phenomena or, in the vernacular, it showed that "UFOs are real" even though the official Air Force press release (in 1955) had tried to convince everyone that the study showed nothing of significance.

The scientists and Air Force personnel who compiled this report studied each sighting carefully and assigned it to one of 3 groups: Known ('K') if it could be identified with at least reasonable certainty; Unknown ('U') if it definitely could not be identified; and Insufficient Information ('II') if there was not enough information for a decision of K or U.

The study used chi-squared tests to compare the statistical distributions of several sighting characteristics of the K and U sightings under the assumption that if the U sightings were merely unrecognized K sightings, the distributions should match. The characteristics tested included various "values" of color, number, duration, shape, speed, and light brightness.

The chi-squared tests showed less than 1% probability of a match for all characteristics except brightness, for which the probability was less than 5%. Combining the characteristics, the probability of a match is much less than 1%. I revised the statistical calculations and came up with a similar result. The most unique and interesting statistical result involved the comparison between the percentages of K, U, and II sightings and the credibility of the observer and the quality (self-consistency, completeness) of his report.

When the sightings were placed into "quality" groups Poor, Doubtful, Good, and Excellent (a large fraction of Excellent were military reports), the report showed higher percentages of Unknowns in the Excellent and Good groups than in the Doubtful and Poor groups. This is not what one would expect if UFO sightings were all mundane phenomena because if that were true, the analysts would be more likely to make correct identifications from the better quality sighting reports than from the low quality reports and so the percentages of U and II cases would be lower in the group of high quality reports.

Of course, the Air Force did not even mention this important statistical result that the better the quality of the sighting the more likely it was to be unexplainable. Another important contribution to the study of UFOs is the brief discussion of the Rogue River Sighting (Case 10 of SR14). I had never heard of that before. But its presence in SR14 alerted me to its existence and so I searched for it in the Blue Book microfilm file. Eventually I found it and after analyzing it, I concluded that it is one of the most convincing reports of the early years. I have an in-depth discussion of this case at my web site: <http://brumac.8k.com/Rogue/RogueRiver.html>. The published analysis of SR14 is at <http://brumac.8k.com/SSUFOs>. This is a downloadable PowerPoint presentation.

HORN: The McMinnville 8th Annual UFO Festival finished up a couple weeks ago, which has grown to be second only to the Roswell festival in the United States as I understand it. The festival started in 2000 -- the 50th anniversary of the Trent UFO sighting near McMinnville, Oregon when McMinnville began hosting a UFO fest in memory of the Trents and their experience.

The story goes that Evelyn Trent was feeding rabbits on the farm when suddenly an object appeared overhead. She yelled for her husband Paul who "came-a-runnin'" with his Kodak Roamer camera in hand. Paul was able to get 2 photographs of the large, metallic-disc hovering silently northeast of the farm just before sunset. Photoanalyst William Hartmann (for the Condon Report) felt the pictures were consistent with the assertion that an "extraordinary flying object" flew within sight of 2 witnesses. The National Investigations Committee On Aerial Phenomena went on to study the photos, eventually listing them as "... one of the top cases demonstrating very strong evidence for the existence for unknown structured objects in our atmosphere." The Air Force couldn't find a better explanation. Neither could the University of Colorado. And researchers afterward concluded that the Trent sighting and its physical evidence was one of the best records ever made for a true UFO event. The story was placed on the Top Ten Best Evidence List and I believe it has remained there for the last 40 years. Tell me about your research analysis and what you believe about the Trent UFO pictures.

MACCABEE: Although the history of the sighting itself is simple to describe, the history of the investigation and analysis requires pages and pages. My extensive report on the McMinnville investigation - which includes analysis and discussions that took place over a period of about 25 years -- is at <http://brumac.8k.com/trent1.html>, <http://brumac.8k.com/trent1b.html> and <http://brumac.8k.com/trent2.html>. The "bottom line" is that there is no information that clearly points to a hoax. This is important because it was either a hoax or the real thing. There is no half-way point or "insufficient information" to arrive at a conclusion.



Years ago I realized that "a photo a UFO does not make." The best that a photo can do is act as an aide to the witness' recollection. It cannot by itself prove the sighting was real because virtually any photo could be faked, given the necessary desire, photographic skill, knowledge, economic resources and ability to create a reasonable sighting story and stick to it. The worst it can do is contain clear evidence of a hoax (e.g., strings, supports, etc.)

In the Trent case, the photos clearly show an unidentifiable object which has been variously "identified" as a garbage can lid, a Frisby, a pie pan, a hand-made model, or a truck mirror (at least pelicans play no role in this sighting [inside joke - see below]). However, there has been no particular mundane object that has been positively identified as explaining the image. The photos themselves provide no clear evidence of a hoax. (shadow arguments notwithstanding; see my web site). That means the investigation must center on the witnesses.

The witnesses have been "tracked" from the time the sighting in 1950 until they died in the middle 1990's. Over this whole period of time and despite the repeated "harassment" by investigator types (such as me), they maintained their simple story that they saw the object passing by and photographed it. So far as I and other investigators could tell, they were basic farmers who had no time or any good reason for creating any flying saucer hoax. Perhaps the newspaper photographer Bill Powell who first published the photos put it best when he said that he examined the photos every which way (after retrieving them from behind the sofa at the Trent's house) and couldn't figure out how they had faked them. So he published them because in his opinion, the Trents were (paraphrase) incapable of thinking of such a thing as a flying saucer hoax. And that has been the opinion of numerous investigators (including myself) in the years since.

HORN: Another paper you authored was a reanalysis of the results of the Condon Committee UFO study from 1969, which I referred to in my last question. Do you think Edward Condon lied about the results?

MACCABEE: I don't recall writing an analysis of the Condon Report (Dr. Peter Sturrock of Stanford University did publish an analysis.) However, I think Condon made an effort to cover up any significance of the work done by "his" investigators. In particular, Condon tried to confuse the reader in his discussion of the McMinnville case. According to Condon, an experienced photoanalyst (Everett Merritt) claimed that the Trent photos were worthless for photogrammetric analysis. This type of analysis involves angles between images, sighting lines, and directions. (Actually, he was wrong; but that's beside this point.) Condon knew that Hartmann's conclusion that the Trent photos could be real was based on photometric analysis which involves the relative brightnesses of images, not the directions or angles. Thus anyone reading only Condon's summary and conclusions at the beginning of the report would not know the photogrammetric criticism by Merritt had nothing to do with Hartmann's conclusion.

HORN: Of course before the Trent sighting, American businessman Kenneth Arnold claimed to have witnessed nine elliptical-shaped objects moving over Mount Rainier in Washington, June 24, 1947. Have you studied his case and if so, what were your findings?

MACCABEE: I have what may be the largest and most complete analysis to be found anywhere at my web site see <http://brumac.8k.com/KARNOLD/KARNOLD.html>. It is the first publicized sighting and deserves extensive critical analysis because Arnold had no reason to hoax such a sighting

and he made "measurements" during the sighting which indicate that the objects were not mirages, or fast moving clouds or motes in his eye, or nearby jet aircraft or reflections from his airplane window, or low-flying meteors, or high-flying geese or pelicans (yes, pelicans). The bottom line is that the Arnold case remains unexplained.

HORN: What about some of the other old case files such as the Gemini 11 [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gemini_11] astronaut photos. What do you make of these and are there other astronaut and military photos you have found to be substantial?

MACCABEE: Again, there is a discussion of this case at my web site: http://www.brumac.8k.com/Gemini_11/GEMINI_11.html

There is no doubt that they saw and photographed something that has not been identified. There is a suggestion that it might have been an object ejected earlier by the spacecraft. But this is only a guess. Owen K Garriot photographed a red object seen by the Skylab 3 astronauts in 1973. Of course, there have been many allegations by people who study videos and photos taken during other spaceflights. Very often the claims made are based on faulty analysis. There may have been some UFOs seen and photographed or videotaped by astronauts. But it would be hard to prove.



HORN: You were the first to obtain the secret "flying disc file" of the FBI, what I believe you have called "the REAL X-Files". For those not familiar, tell us how you did that and why it is significant.

MACCABEE: I was told by Mrs. Trent in 1975 that "FBI men" came to her house and investigated her sighting soon after the photos were published. In 1976 I wrote to the FBI to ask if they had a file on Paul Trent. As an aside, I asked them to also send any UFO documents they might have. I didn't expect to get anything because Capt. Edward Ruppelt wrote in The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects that (so far as he knew!) the FBI never took an interest in flying saucer sightings.

I was therefore surprised to receive a phone call from an FBI agent about 6 months later who told me that there were 1,600 pages (approximately) of material in a file on flying saucers. He subsequently sent me a selection of the best of the documents. And I wrote articles about them that appeared in the journals of all 3 major UFO groups (NICAP, CUFOs - Center for UFO Studies, and APRO - Aerial Phenomena Research Organization).

The documents showed that starting in early July, 1947, the FBI acted as a "black hole" with information from the Air Force going in and nothing coming out (until my FOIPA request was answered). J. Edgar Hoover's director of the FBI stated in letters to people requesting information in the 1960's that the FBI had never investigated UFOs. He lied. The FBI interviewed witnesses in 1947 at the request of the Air Force. In later years, the FBI (and the CIA) collected documents from the AF but did no further investigations. By order of Congress, the Headquarters of the FBI could destroy no records. So all these documents were available when I made by FOIPA request.

The FBI had the only documents that provide us with the high level secret opinion of Air Force intelligence officials in late 1952. The opinion was that several percent of the sightings could not be explained and that at least some sightings might be of "interplanetary vehicles." This opinion was never stated publicly. The whole story is in my book THE UFO FBI CONNECTION. Used copies are available at Amazon and other places. Some of the most

important documents are from 1952. They are discussed in my history of 1952 at <http://brumac.8k.com/1952YEAROFUFO/1952YEAROFUFO.html> .

As for my original request for information on the Trents, it was officially denied. But unofficially, the agent who handled my request said that he had made a search and found no FBI record on the Trents. He then pointed out that any Trent investigation would have been carried out by a local office. The local office may have found nothing of official interest to the FBI since the FBI had stopped investigating sightings several years before 1950. If that was the case, the local office would not have sent a report to headquarters. Then the agent pointed out that the local offices generally destroyed unneeded records every 5 years. So I never did find out whether or not the FBI visited the Trents.

HORN: You've collected other documents from government agencies including the CIA, the U.S. Air Force, the U.S. Army, and so on. What are the most important of these documents in your opinion.

MACCABEE: To some extent, I guess they are all important because they show a tendency of the Government to assign at least some importance to sightings of strange things in the sky. The UFO FBI CONNECTION combines files from the FBI, Air Force Intelligence, and the CIA to show that the Government has had -- for 50 years or more -- essentially conclusive evidence (even without Roswell or other supposed crashes) that "UFOs are real" and some may well be "interplanetary craft."

HORN: On the heels of the 1947 Roswell UFO Incident, green balls of light and saucer-shaped objects began appearing in the sky near areas where Top-Secret nuclear weapon research was being carried out. This was happening repeatedly and the U.S. Military was increasingly concerned. Eventually something called "Project Twinkle" was set up in hopes of figuring out what was going on. Did you look into this case?

MACCABEE: I did indeed study the "green fireball" sightings and the Project Twinkle report. Again, there is a discussion of this at my web site. The first green fireball sightings were in December, 1948 in the Southwestern areas near government laboratories where nuclear research was being carried out (Los Alamos, Sandia, Albuquerque area, etc.) A famous meteoricist (person who studies meteors), Dr. Lincoln La Paz analyzed many sightings and even had his own sighting. These fireballs were characterized by their green color and by the fact that they appeared to travel in flat trajectories, mostly in a southerly direction.

So many of these events occurred in 1949 and 1950 that eventually in the Spring of 1950, the Air Force set up Project Twinkle to get photographic evidence of these objects. For more information and to see how Project Twinkle proved UFOs were real and covered up the proof, see <http://www.brumac.8k.com/WhiteSandsProof/WhiteSandsProof.html> .

HORN: The 60th anniversary of the Roswell incident is in a few weeks. I've talked with Jesse Marcel Jr. and Stanton Friedman. They both believe something extraordinary actually happened outside town in 1947. What do you believe?

MACCABEE: I have never thought that Maj. Jesse Marcel (the intelligence officer at the base who retrieved the material found on the Foster Ranch by rancher Brazel) could not identify plastic or rubber or balsa wood sticks which were used in the construction of balloons (Mogul or otherwise). When Sheridan Cavitt (the counter-intelligence officer who accompanied Marcel) finally "talked", he claimed that he immediately recognized the debris as balloon material. If so, why didn't he tell Marcel and Brazel?

For this and other reasons Cavitt's testimony is valid evidence against the balloon/Mogul explanations. I have an analysis of his testimony at my web site: <http://www.brumac.8k.com/Roswell/CavittEmptor.html> .

HORN: You've been on the who's who of television shows on this subject -- Unsolved Mysteries, A Current Affair, Encounters, Sightings, CNN, Fox News, Nightline, and the rest. Have you found serious investigative journalism into the subject of UFOs?

MACCABEE: These and other shows I have been on generally treat the subject as entertainment. Very often the shows try to present a "balanced" viewpoint which means that for every UFO-positive statement there has to be a UFO-negative statement. This is consistent with "Maccabee's First Rule for Debunkers": any explanation is better than none. The result is that explanations which are illogical, make no sense, or are simply stupid get "equal play."

The recent O'Hare Airport sighting is an example of this. It was suggested that the people saw airport lights reflected from clouds. The object was described as a greyish circular thing, darker than the clouds above it, completely inconsistent with being lights on clouds which would appear brighter than clouds (and there still was skylight at 4:30 PM in November, 2006, so how could one see ground lights reflected from the clouds anyway?).

HORN: But what do you personally make of the O'Hare Airport sightings?

MACCABEE: Certainly seems like a good solid report. Fortunately the Press did not pick up on it immediately. This gave the UFO investigators time to obtain testimony without the pressure from publicity. Then reporter Hilkevitch did a very credible job of reporting. The story in the Chicago paper garnered more worldwide response, we are told, than any other newspaper story at the time. The sighting occurred in November, 2006 -- almost exactly 20 years after the famous Japan Airlines sighting over Alaska. This sighting is reported in detail at my web site: <http://brumac.8k.com/JAL1628/JL1628.html> .

HORN: What about the Chinese video from last August?

MACCABEE: This video has what I call "fingerprints of a hoax." See <http://www.brumac.8k.com/ChineseUFO/ChinaAug2006.html>. This is comparable to a video made almost exactly 10 years before, from Mexico City in Aug. 1997. See <http://www.brumac.8k.com/MexCityAug697/MexCtySmearAnal ysis.html>

HORN: If you had to list the top 5 best UFO cases in terms of analytical evidence, which ones would they be?

MACCABEE: It is always difficult to pick the best of something like UFO sightings because there are so many. Therefore I concentrate on cases I have studied. Certainly at or near the top would be the New Zealand (December 31, 1978) sightings from a freighter aircraft is certainly way up there. It is the only civilian UFO sighting (as far as I know) that includes multiple witnesses, radar, both ground and air, tape recordings made on the airplane and at the ground radar, and a professional 16 mm color movie that shows most of the strange lights/objects they saw.

The White Sands movie case would be another if we had the film. Of course there is McMinnville. One can also consider the August 1980 police car damage case in Warren, Minnesota reported by Officer Val Johnson (a case that Philip J. Klass couldn't explain). Then

there is the Iranian Jet case (see <http://brumac.8k.com/IranJetCase> and download the Microsoft WORD document).

HORN: Are you working on anything new? Papers, books, film?

MACCABEE: I am thinking about a new book, but haven't actually started writing anything yet.

HORN: Will you be at the Roswell festival this year? If so, where can people hear you?

MACCABEE: I will be at the Museum's "Roswalein Experience" speaking Thursday and Saturday. I will present the 60 year history of UFOs.... well, what little of it one can present in 45 minutes and also a discussion of photo analysis.

HORN: I understand you are also an accomplished pianist. What style of music do you play?

MACCABEE: I play classical and popular but not "far out" jazz. While a teenager, I also learned to play the church organ. I am presently playing for 2 churches each Sunday. I have also played electronic organs, but it has been many years since I have had a B-3 to play. I have a CD that includes 12 original compositions spanning the time from 1986-to-2006 and a version of the Bumble Boogie which includes the "Flight of the Bumblebee" as an introduction. The "Flight of the Bumble Boogie" is accompanied by my son on drums and my daughter on bass. I have done solo restaurant and party gigs for the past ten years or so and have played with the "Band for All Seasons" -- a big band in the Washington, DC area.

HORN: Where can people learn more about you and read your materials?

MACCABEE: At my web site. There are many cases and analyses that haven't been mentioned here, such as my thumb in the eye of the skeptics entitled "Prosaic Explanations: the Failure of UFO Skepticism." There is also the Legacy of 1952 -- an in-depth history of that year. One time I "tangled" with Ashtar (You Don't Mess with Ashtar); not a pretty sight! And for out of the box thinkers there are two "papers" -- one on the future (The Future, ugh!) and another on reverse engineering the Universe (Search for the Intellecton). Both are thought provokers.

HORN: I'll have to check those out. Thanks, Dr. Maccabee for being part of the Road to Roswell series.

PART NINE -- On The Road To Roswell 2007: A Discussion With Dr. Mike Heiser

Editors note: This is the ninth in a special series of Raiders News Network interviews focusing on the 60th Anniversary of the 1947 Roswell, New Mexico UFO Incident. Tom Horn is joined by Dr. Mike Heiser, Ph.D. in Hebrew Bible and Semitic Languages from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Before attending the UW-Madison, Mike earned an M.A. in Ancient History from the University of Pennsylvania (major fields: Ancient Israel and Egyptology). Mike's other academic interests include paranormal and occult religions and western esotericism. He is particularly interested in how these worldviews and traditions have historically drawn on biblical and ancient Near-Eastern material and in turn influenced biblical interpretation on the popular level. He has become well known through numerous radio appearances for his critiques of "parababble" and inside-the-box religious thinking. He is best known to popular audiences for his paranormal thriller The Façade which intertwines many of his interests.



HORN: Dr. Heiser, thank you for doing this interview and for providing us with this exclusive peek at first time ever, state-of-the-art scientific linguistic testing that has been applied to controversial UFO documentary evidence. I believe what you have done and the forensic evidence you will be presenting at Roswell is indisputably of historic value. Before we get to that, please tell us how you got involved in UFO research.

HEISER: I've always been interested in UFOs, even as a kid. I only became seriously involved -- doing real research -- in 1997, shortly after listening to the USAF's third attempt to explain the Roswell incident. Colonel Haines, the AF representative, gave frankly ridiculous answers to some very obvious questions. Which made me think that the AF really wanted to perpetuate belief in the *alien* explanation of Roswell. And I wondered why.

HORN: Why are you still involved in UFO research as an academic?

HEISER: I do it for a couple of reasons. One, I'm a believer that scholars should serve the public interest. Too many scholars ignore this subject and the people whose worldview revolves around it. They claim they're too busy or it's not important. I can't think of anything much more potentially paradigm-shifting than the question of whether there is *extraterrestrial* life. The question takes you into religion, politics, physics, metaphysics, etc.

Second, I want to minister to those whose experience has caused them to feel abandoned by their church or synagogue because their spiritual leadership isn't intellectually equipped to help them or fears real interaction with the supernatural.

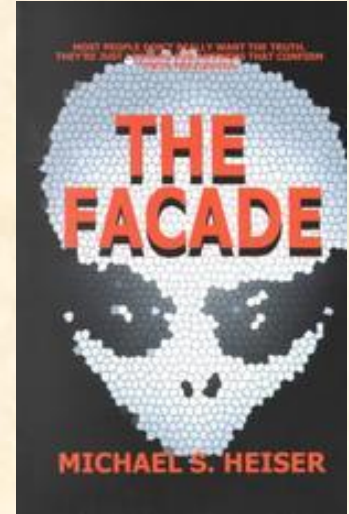
Third, I want to correct error-riddled teachings on the part of researchers whose attitude isn't antagonistic, but whose work is seriously flawed. I don't think it's right -- given my training -- to just let people be deceived. I also think I need to stand up and call the bluff of people who rape the biblical text (and other texts) in an effort to prop up an anti-God, anti-theistic worldview.

Lastly, if there is an ET reality that can be divorced from demonic entities and that reality has intersected with our own, the public has a right to know about it (at least at the "yes" or "no" level)

and the Church needs to understand how its theology can accommodate it (since it's spent so much time laughing at it or ignoring it).

HORN: What led you to write The Façade?

HEISER: I was kind of burned out after my doctoral exams and wanted to take some time off. I'd always wanted to write a novel. And I thought I could use fiction to put out some items in Biblical theology and religious studies that intersected (or were thought to intersect) with questions related to ET life and the UFO phenomenon. I gave it a whack and the rest is history. I went back to my dissertation, which I finished and earned my Ph.D. in 2004. The Façade has actually been out of print for about a year. But it will be [re-issued](#) at the end of this month.



HORN: What is The Façade about? And what were your goals with the book? What makes The Façade different in your mind from similar novels?

HEISER: The Façade is a supernatural thriller whose plot revolves around 2 questions: (1) If there was a genuine disclosure of an intelligent *extraterrestrial* reality, could the traditional Judeo-Christian worldview survive? (2) What if the *extraterrestrial* presence was actually a physical manifestation of a sinister, supernatural presence?

People need to realize going in that while The Façade is very readable, it isn't lightweight fiction. I sort of used author&doctor Michael Crichton as my model. A compelling story but a plotline driven by heady material. The treatment of the theological issues is neither simplistic, nor predictable. My goal was not to say anything in the book that couldn't stand up under academic scrutiny, although the application of the data is fictional. That's why there's a notification in the book that all the government documents, ancient texts, technologies, etc. are real. My goal was to have all the data points be real. But their connection and the book's characters are fictional. The Façade has a "4.5 stars" rating on Amazon in 50 reviews, so I must be doing something right. [StealthSkater note: actually in The Andromeda Strain, Crichton references many scientific journals that -- while they actually exist in name (e.g., Scientific American) -- don't contain the page or volume numbers he lists. So he fictionalized many of the references (which he didn't need to add in the first place). I always thought such things were taboo and "out of bounds".]

HORN: You often lecture on whether Christianity could handle an ET reality (one of the themes of The Façade). What's your answer to that? Why do you think so many Christians fearful of an ET reality?

HEISER: I'm doing that presentation in Roswell in fact. First, my definition of a real *alien* is a created, biological life form that lives somewhere else than Earth which has to eat, drink, reproduce to maintain its species, etc. and is subject to the physical laws of creation.

The short answer is that there is no theological problem per se with an ET reality. Many lay people think it's a problem because they have a pretty naive view of the Bible. For example, if something isn't in the Bible, it can't be real. Once you point out that things like the known planets of our Solar System and things like microwaves aren't in the Bible, they see that position is pretty silly. Others worry about a real alien because they think it means that Evolution would be proven true. Gary Bates from Answers in Genesis takes that view in his book which I've reviewed on my website for those interested. While many secular people make an ET-evolution connection, it isn't a logically necessary connection.

What I do in the lecture is go through objections like these and unpack them for their flawed assumptions, then go on to positively explain why it is that a real *alien* would not harm biblical theology. That said, if what people think of today as "*aliens*" are demonic (and non-Christian researchers like Jacques Vallee and John Keel have made a good case for that), then we have a problem. But it's not an *alien* problem.

HORN: The Façade also gets into the Roswell event. What do you think happened at Roswell?

HEISER: I think Roswell was basically an "Operation Paperclip" screw-up. That what crashed was a craft that grew out of the U.S. efforts to capitalize on the expertise of "Paperclip" scientists (many of them Nazi party members). The documentary evidence for my view is incomplete and circumstantial. But so is every other view. I think it has more coherence than other views since the evidence is there for a PAPERCLIP-UFO/Roswell overlap, at least to some degree. Nick Redfern's recent book makes the same sort of case although he includes the Japanese side of "Paperclip" in presenting his case.

HORN: What about references in certain government documents to recovered bodies?

HEISER: The view I take in The Façade was that the bodies were probably human. Perhaps mongoloid children. Anyone who looks at the Kaufman drawings of the bodies will note how human they look -- having anatomical elements (like ears and noses) that the *grays* do not. I put that view into the book because it was given to me by a friend who had a friend who worked at Los Alamos. I had no direct evidence for it. When Nick Redfern came out with his book a year-or-so ago, he'd found the evidence for that viewpoint and done a nice job at that. Everyone interested in Roswell should read Nick's book Body Snatchers in the Desert: The Horrible Truth at the Heart of the Roswell Story. The book didn't make him many friends in the UFO community, but it's a good read. I have a [review](#) of it on my website.

HORN: Do you think that all UFO reports concern man-made UFOs?

HEISER: No. I think some defy such explanations. Like objects that explode and then re-assemble in air. [StealthSkater: explode soundlessly and reassemble-or-"morph" into totally different craft; sometimes many from one.] Those might be truly *extraterrestrial*. But I'd want real proof for that. Just because something appears to defy the laws of Physics doesn't mean the right explanation is *extraterrestrial*, though it could be. However, there might be some part of Physics as yet poorly understood that could explain them. Or some sort of intelligence from another plane of reality -- what we might call the "spiritual realm" -- might be behind such things. We just don't know.

HORN: How would you characterize ufology as a whole? What kind of people get involved in the subject and what are their motivations?

HEISER: I've found there are basically 5 kinds of people involved in UFO research and the UFO community at large.

- (1) The "nuts and bolts" scientists. They are dealing with questions of interstellar travel, the possibility of ET life, and propulsion issues. The religious dimensions of the issue are barely on their radar. They typically have already dismissed God because of their faith in Evolution (and their failure to discern the philosophical incoherence of an uncreated or self-created universe). A good number in this category are also politically active for the cause (but should not be confused with #5 below).

- (2) The UFO or abduction experiencer who wants to keep their Judeo-Christian faith but is struggling with that. These are the people who have some experience and have tried in vain to get help from their pastor or other Christian friends to process the experience, to fit it into their faith worldview. They may or may not leave the organized church. But they surely are left on their own to deal with the experience. They rely on alternative sources of information and fellow experiencers to make spiritual sense out of it. They are vulnerable to nonsense like that of Zecharia Sitchin since some see it as the only way to make sense of things from their Bible. They are also vulnerable to redefining their faith in Gnostic terms.
- (3) The UFO or abduction experiencer who rejects the faith afterward and who becomes antagonistic toward the faith. These people often operate out of anger toward the Church and may become openly hostile toward it.
- (4) The people who see the UFO/ET issue as the platform they've wanted for years to vent their hatred toward Christianity and make money while doing it. These are the self-styled pseudo-scholars in the movement (usually with respect to ancient texts that they can't actually translate). This crowd treats those of the Judeo-Christian faith with contempt and ridicule. These are the people whose bluff needs to be publicly called. (NOTE: I don't put Sitchin in this category since he doesn't seem overtly hostile to Christianity or traditional Judaism).
- (5) The "New Agers" who want to use the UFO issue for a religion, for left-wing political purposes, or to become avatars in their own time and mind. They see ET as their saviors in just about every way.

HORN: Do you think that there are intelligent *aliens* and that these *beings* have visited Earth?

HEISER: Right now, no. I don't think we have unrefutable (or even good) evidence for that. Someday we might and it wouldn't bother me, given a disconnect with the demonic world. I think what we think of as the spiritual realm and our earthly realm can both coexist with an "*alien realm*" somewhere off our planet.

HORN: You've become somewhat notorious for your criticisms of Zecharia Sitchin and his ancient astronaut theories. Where does Sitchin go wrong?

HEISER: Basically, it's hard to find something he gets right with respect to biblical and ancient languages. People get upset with me for saying that I am what Sitchin pretends to be -- a scholar of biblical and ancient near-Eastern languages. For people new to me, my [resume](#) is publicly available to prove my point whereas it's next to impossible to find any proof for Sitchin's claimed expertise.

I've actually never been able to find a single piece of evidence he has ever studied any of the ancient languages. He's Jewish, so I'm guessing he can read Hebrew though that's not a given today. But even if he can read the Hebrew text, it proves nothing and really leads one to question how he makes such basic blunders in interpreting the biblical material. What I mean here is that while hundreds of millions of people can read English, that doesn't mean those people can analyze an English text -- biblical or otherwise. How many people do we know who could diagram an English sentence or accurately discuss the grammar of a given sentence? That is what is required for biblical exegesis. Any Israeli 10-year-old can read the Hebrew Bible with relative ease. But can they understand and interpret it with any accuracy at all?

HORN: Can you give examples?

HEISER: Sitchin messes up on interpreting the biblical word *elohim*; the plurals in Genesis 1:26; he confuses the sons of God and the nephilim; and his translations of nephilim as "people of the fiery rockets" is ridiculous. I could go on and on, really. What I tell people who take his word as gospel truth is that it would be easy to make me go away and recant. All they need to do is bring forth ONE line of ONE cuneiform text that says what Sitchin says. Find me any evidence in the tablets translated by experts (not Sitchin, who doesn't know these languages) that says Nibiru is a planet beyond Pluto, that says the Anunnaki live on that planet (or that says the Anunnaki were from ANY planet), that says the Anunnaki built spaceships, or that has Nibiru coming through our solar system every 3600 years.

The simple fact is that he can't, so I'm still here. This is why 6 years ago when Art Bell asked if I'd debate Sitchin on "Coast-to-Coast AM", I said yes on the air and Sitchin has said nothing. For your readers who want to know the truth about what Sitchin says, they can go to [my website devoted to analyzing his claims](#). In the course of analyzing Sitchin's work, readers can also find out what "[nibiru](#)" really does refer to in the cuneiform texts and what's up with the [cylinder seal](#) Sitchin refers to as proof the Sumerians knew of a 12th planet (the Sumerians counted the Sun and Moon as planets). The files were written before I finished my Ph.D. so they're old -- but have never been refuted by Sitchin or his disciples. All they need to do is bring forth data that exist that supports Sitchin. Sounds easy. But it isn't since the data don't exist.

HORN: You have been working on something that's been a secret until now, the full research of which will be discussed in your presentation at Roswell this year.

HEISER: That's true. Last year I decided to do something I've been thinking about since 2005 -- having the Majestic documents tested by a professional linguist who specializes in computational linguistics applied to document authentication or "authorship attribution." I found a specialist willing to do the testing a few months ago and she just completed the round of testing I asked for -- the procedures I could afford.

HORN: What's the difference between what you've had done to the Majestic documents and research others have done on those documents?

HEISER: The Majestic documents have undergone forensic testing of the type that isn't linguistic in its nature. Dr. Robert Wood and his son Ryan -- along with Stanton Friedman -- have put a lot of work into such testing. But the kind of testing they did addresses things like physical dating of the ink, pencil and paper; dating the document by matching the typography of the typewriter, printer, copy machine, or mimeographic machine from which the document came; dating any watermarks on the paper and the chemical composition of paper; comparing known styles for government memoranda and correspondence with the styles of the documents--that sort of thing.



They have supposedly analyzed handwriting styles. But that doesn't do much good since practically all the documents are not handwritten. The only handwriting they really tested were things like comparing signatures on the Majestic documents with signatures of the same person on documents that aren't controversial.

HORN: Don't the Woods and Stanton Friedman say that linguistic testing was done on the Majestic documents?

HEISER: They do. But there's absolutely no evidence for it. I haven't been able to find any report, for instance, on the Woods' Majestic documents [website](#) on such testing. Frankly, when the Woods talk about linguistic testing, what they're referring to is either the handwriting analysis noted before or Stanton Friedman's reminiscence. What I mean by that is that only Stanton Friedman made any attempt to have the Majestic documents tested linguistically and -- as his description makes clear -- no modern forensic computational linguistic work was actually done:

"At the suggestion of attorney Bob Bletchman, I had obtained 27 examples of Hillenkoetter's various writings from the Truman Library. Dr. Wescott reviewed these and the EBD [Eisenhower Briefing Document] and stated in an April 7, 1988, letter to Bob ... 'In my opinion there is no compelling reason to regard any of these communications as fraudulent or to believe that any of them were written by anyone other than Hillenkoetter himself. This statement holds for the controversial presidential briefing memorandum of November 18, 1952, as well as for the letters, both official and personal.'" [1]

The above account contains no information on what Dr. Wescott (now deceased) did with the documents given to him. Several considerations suggest that Dr. Wescott likely did little more than look at the documents, rather than conducting actual tests. First, the development of the field of computational linguistics and the use of computers for natural language processing of necessity followed the development of computers and processing power. In 1988 these research methods were known, but not widely available. Second, Dr. Wescott's areas of expertise included neither authorship attribution research or computer forensic linguistics. Rather, the focus of Dr. Wescott's work was anthropological linguistics [2]. Despite his distinguished academic year, a search of linguistics databases produces no evidence that Dr. Wescott ever did any work in these areas. This is no doubt because his teaching career ended at roughly the time these fields were beginning to blossom.

These observations are significant since having a Ph.D. does not guarantee that one has any knowledge of any given subfield within one's discipline. Usually at the doctoral level your expertise is limited to one area within your field and works its way out into your dissertation. For example, what would a podiatrist know about heart surgery? A cardiologist about neuro-medicine? A defense attorney about patent law? A microbiologist about frogs?

The answer to all those would be "very little". Enough to perhaps converse with other non-specialists; but not nearly enough to be considered competent by specialists. The point is that a doctoral degree in linguistics hardly guarantees any sort of expertise in a specific sub-discipline of linguistics. Especially one that dovetailed with computer science. Dr. Wescott got his Ph.D. in 1948. Perhaps he'd used a computer by 1988. But even that isn't a given. His academic record gives no indication that he was either proficient in the use of computers or involved in applying computers to language processing and authorship attribution. Consequently, he would be disqualified from having anything meaningful to contribute to any discussion of computational methods of authorship attribution.

It should also be noted that Dr. Wescott's assessment of his "analysis" lacks conviction. At best, his amateur opinion in this sub-discipline of linguistics offers the conclusion that he had no basis to draw an actual conclusion. As UFO researcher Paul Kimball points out, Wescott himself made it clear that he had given no conclusive answer or endorsement to authenticity of the Majestic documents. In a letter to the International UFO Reporter, Wescott wrote: "I have no strong conviction favoring either rather polarized position in the matter ... I wrote that I thought its [the

Eisenhower Briefing document] fraudulence [was] unproved ... I could equally well have maintained that its authenticity is unproved ... inconclusiveness seems to me to be of its essence.” [3]

This is all that is offered in terms of linguistic testing by the Woods or Friedman. The thoroughness and care with which Friedman and the Woods have addressed other forensic issues is sorely lacking with respect to modern methods of linguistic analysis, specifically designed to determine (or rule out the possibility) of authorship of documents. The absence of demonstrable testing data in any form of publication puts the burden of proof on these and other researchers to prove they have indeed subjected the Majestic documents to linguistic analysis. That's why what I've had done is important and can be a significant contribution to ufology.

HORN: How do linguists test documents for authorship identification?

HEISER: This question is answered in some detail in the preliminary report on the tests I had conducted on the Majestic documents that will be available later this month. To summarize here, the linguist who did the testing used a computational method she pioneered beginning with her own doctoral work in linguistics and continuing into her professional career. Broadly speaking, her method is stylometry which is quantitative and computational method that analyzes a range of language features (e.g., word length, phrase length, sentence length, vocabulary frequency, distribution of words of different lengths, function word frequency, and even punctuation patterns).

One more thing. It's important that people understand that these methods only work when a document has a specific named author on it. Documents that have no author named were not tested and could not be in the same way. There are tests that can target documents that bear no name such as stylometric computational comparisons with forgeries to see if the "no author name" document was written by the same forger. But those methods are expensive. Hopefully as people purchase the first report, I can raise the necessary funds to continue the testing in ways like this.

HORN: Who did the document testing and what are his/her credentials?

HEISER: Dr. Carol Chaski did the testing. Dr. Chaski is the founder of [The Institute for Linguistic Evidence \(ILE\)](#) -- a research organization that validates reliable document authentication techniques and provides assistance to investigators and attorneys in criminal and civil trials whenever the authorship of any document is questioned or suspicious. Dr. Chaski and her ILE associates are the only forensic linguists in the United States who have won government funding for forensic-linguistic research. Dr. Chaski has pioneered her own computational document authentication software (ALIAS) and is the president of [ALIAS Technology, LLC](#). She is a member of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences (Engineering Sciences Section), the Linguistic Society of America, The Association of Computing Machinery, the International Association of Forensic Linguistics and the Law and Society Association. She regularly presents her research at national and international conferences and publishes in academic peer reviewed journals and books. Dr. Chaski earned her Ph.D. in linguistics from Brown University.

HORN: I know that the results of your research are going to be unveiled at the Roswell festival. But can you say anything at this point about results?

HEISER: All I can really say right now is that the results aren't a clean sweep for either side. Some of the Majestic documents are authentic in that they really were authored by the person whose name they bear. Others could not have been written by the person whose name they bear, and so they are best judged as forgeries.

HORN: Again, without revealing too much, what are the implications of this testing for UFO research and the Majestic documents?

HEISER: Dr. Chaski's work in authorship attribution has held up in numerous court cases and has been thoroughly peer-reviewed. Her CV has specific examples in this regard. That said, if her tests say a document is written by the person whose name it bears, there's better than a 90% chance it was. Same with the opposite. Those documents that her tests say were not authored by the person named on the document ought to be considered forgeries and should not be used as evidence in any discussion of the UFO phenomenon.

HORN: Well, Mike, anybody with a sincere interest in the study of UFOlogy is going to be glued to your presentation at Roswell. To know with statistical probability which of the Majestic documents are authentic and the ones that are not will not only be historic, but will also help researchers follow the correct rabbit hole to greater future discovery. My workshop is just before your keynote lecture and we will be dismissing it a few minutes early so that people can get next door and be part of this amazing disclosure. I'm sure it will be THE buzz for some time to come. Thank you for taking time to do this interview.

[1] See http://www.v-j-enterprises.com/mj12_update2.html#bottom accessed June 6, 2007.

[2] See http://www.utc.edu/Research/SunTrustChair/chair_previous_wescott_index.html accessed June 6, 2007.

[3] International UFO Reporter, vol. 13, no. 4, July / August 1988, p. 19. Cited by Paul Kimball, "MJ-12 – The Wescott 'Analysis' Red Herring," The Other Side of the Truth, July 14, 2005 accessed at http://redstarfilms.blogspot.com/2005_07_01_archive.html on June 6, 2007.

if on the Internet, press <BACK> on your browser to return to the previous page (or go to www.stealthskater.com)

else if accessing these files from the CD in a MS-Word session, simply <CLOSE> this file's window-session; the previous window-session should still remain 'active'