



[PSYCHIC VIBRATIONS ROBERT SHEAFFER

Sheaffer's "Psychic Vibrations" column has appeared in the SKEPTICAL INQUIRER for nearly forty years; its highlights have now been published as a book (Create Space, 2011). Sheaffer blogs at www.BadUFOs.com, and his website is www.debunker.com.

Scientist Photographs Plastic Alien at Area 51

Boyd Bushman of Tucson, Arizona, was a retired senior scientist for Lockheed Martin whose career spanned over forty years. He held several patents. Shortly before he passed away on August 7, 2014, he made a video that is being called a "deathbed confession" relating his alleged experiences with Area 51, UFOs, aliens, and anti-gravity.

The video of Bushman's UFO claims had been played well over a million times on YouTube before it was removed because of copyright infringement claims (the claim was likely spurious). The thirty-two-minute video turned up a few other places on YouTube but was also removed. You can see highlights of the video on this page: <http://goo.gl/9OP04m> (probably a good idea, as the thirty-two-minute version was very tedious).

The website of the famous late-night paranormal talkmeister Art Bell proclaimed "Dying Senior Scientist Reveals Insider Truth About Area 51, Aliens, UFO's and Anti-Gravity" (<http://goo.gl/U50jl>). Bushman's principal claims, as summarized by YouTube commenter Nuno Reis (comments since removed, along with the video), are:

Some UFOs and Aliens are stationed at the base.

He explains that from space there is a special flight path to Area 51.

With their advanced technology they can travel much faster than light. The aliens who control these ships come from a planet 68



Boyd Bushman in the YouTube video.

light years from Earth. (And, they make the journey of 68 light years in about 45 minutes!!)

The aliens who are working at the base are about 1.5 meters long and up to 230 years old.

They have five fingers, which are 30 percent longer than ours, and five toes, which are stuck together.

They have three ribs on each side and three vertebral columns.

The aliens communicate through telepathy.

Finally, Bushman reveals that Area 51 is working together with the Russians and the Chinese and their research is mainly focused to anti-gravity.

Bushman also claims that in 1947 a U.S. Air Force pilot shot down a flying saucer over New Mexico, killing several aliens. The military, of course, recovered the craft. Most interesting are all the photos, supposedly of UFOs and aliens that he claims his

friend took at Area 51 using a camera he provided. In fact, Bushman claimed that his camera was given to the aliens, who obligingly took photos out the window during a UFO trip, then returned his camera (although it's doubtful that the aliens, traveling so much faster than light, could actually see anything). Weirdest of all is a "spirit photo" that supposedly shows the ghost of a dead alien.

However, as soon as Bushman's video was posted on the popular UFO site The Black Vault, others began submitting photos and even a video of seemingly identical aliens—albeit plastic ones.

YouTube user John Hutchison (JonnOfMars) posted a video showing a toy alien he purchased several years back (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2FPQL9qoZ9I>). Hutchison was involved with some of Bushman's

earlier videos, so this “coincidence” cries out for explanation.

However, not everyone was willing to accept that Bushman’s close encounter was of the plastic kind. Perhaps the plastic aliens are amazingly accurate representations of the real ones? Some have even suggested that the toy alien could be intended as a step toward “disclosure” of real aliens: “Who knows how and to whom these things are revealed?” Standing Occam’s razor on its head, some people are insisting that unless skeptics can specify the alien doll’s exact manufacturer and information about when and where it was sold, then we should presume Bushman’s photos show a real alien.

Bushman’s involvement with Lockheed Martin has, of course, again raised the old canard that Ben Rich, former director of the Lockheed Skunk Works (developers of highly classified secret aircraft) supposedly said in at least one of his lectures that “We already have the means to travel among the stars, but these technologies are locked up in black projects, and it would take an act of God to ever get them out to benefit humanity. . . . Anything you can imagine, we already know how to do.” This quote, however, has never been authenticated.

Aviation historian Peter Merlin has the full story in his article in Tim Printy’s *Sunlite* E-zine (Volume 5, number 6, p. 17). In brief, it seems that Rich liked to make jokes about ETs in his lectures to entertain his audiences, such as “The Skunk Works has been assigned the task of getting E.T. back home.” Anyone taking such comments seriously has completely misunderstood their context.

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Dr. James E. McDonald (1920–1971) was a noted atmospheric scientist at the University of Arizona in Tucson, but today he is best known for his tireless advocacy of UFOs. More controversial than most UFO advocates, McDonald’s methods were confrontational, and he did not get along well even with many who shared his beliefs

about UFOs, such as J. Allen Hynek and Jacques Vallee. McDonald came under intense scrutiny and criticism from arch UFO skeptic Philip J. Klass (1919–2005), who not only criticized inconsistencies in McDonald’s statements but also accused him of misusing funds from his Office of Naval Research science contracts to conduct his UFO research (the criticism turned out to be correct—McDonald quite deliberately blurred the line between “atmospheric science” and “UFO research”). This has led to irresponsible suggestions that Klass somehow “hounded” McDonald to his tragic suicide. As we will see below, McDonald’s suicide didn’t have anything to do with Klass or UFOs.

indeed concerned over McDonald’s minimal contact with someone (whose name is redacted) known to have involvement with Soviet intelligence (see pages 6–9). They apparently concluded that it did not mean much but were interested to check up anyway. During the Cold War it was not at all unusual for Soviet “diplomats” or scientists in the U.S. to make contact with leading American scientists and engineers to potentially learn as much as they could about the latest developments in U.S. science and technology. Philip J. Klass was approached by such individuals, and this is reflected in Klass’s own FBI files.

In fact, it appears that McDonald’s minimal contact with Soviet interests

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Now, thanks to researcher John Greenwald Jr., the FBI’s files on McDonald released to Greenwald are now available on Greenwald’s online repository of declassified government documents, The Black Vault (<http://goo.gl/sQP9iY>).

Interestingly, we see the FBI expressing little interest and no concern over McDonald’s involvement with UFO claims. Remember, these FBI papers were secret at the time they were written, and nobody expected them to someday be released. If a government UFO cover-up existed, we’d expect to find statements like “He’s getting too close to learning our secrets, we must stop him.”

However, we see that the FBI was



Dr. James E. McDonald

wikipedia

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involved UFO research via the United Nations! As we read on p. 26,

[redacted; obviously an FBI source at the University of Arizona] said that he has no doubt whatsoever of the subject's loyalty to this country. He said he feels certain the subject's contact with the Soviet representative at the UN Secretariat in mid-1968 in connection with the subject's "UFO studies" was completely innocuous. . . . At this point it does not appear that an interview of Professor MCDONALD would be productive and could possibly result in embarrassment to the Bureau.

In all likelihood, McDonald was simply asking the Soviets for any UFO information they might have, a perfectly innocent and reasonable query. The FBI seemed inclined to drop the matter, except for one concern. As we read on p. 10:

It appears that Professor MC DONALD's letter to [redacted1: probably the Soviet representative at the UN] (contents of which are not known) might have been in itself an innocuous, sincere contact on the part of Professor MC DONALD; however, in view of his background and [redacted2] long time leadership in "New Left" activities in the Tucson area, it is quite probable that Professor MC DONALD would be highly susceptible to an approach made by a Soviet intelligence, particularly concerning a research done in his field, of atmospheric physics.

It is virtually certain that "[redacted2]" originally read "his wife's." About six months after McDonald's suicide, UFO author and researcher Jacques

Vallee wrote in his diary, now published as *Forbidden Science* (Vol II, pp. 110–111):

Mike Jaffe reached Betsy McDonald in Tucson; they had coffee together and compared their life stories. The truth is that it wasn't because of his eyes that Jim McDonald had been put in the hospital. His first suicide attempt had left him blind, and there was nothing the doctors could do about it. Instead he was hospitalized for psychiatric treatment, to try and prevent a new phase of depression...

The note he left for Betsy said he was sorry he hadn't found her at home when he came to pick up the money. He left instructions to gather the rest of the cash and dispose of the gun. Jim killed himself out of frustration and love. His wife had gone headlong into politics. She belonged to a radical leftist group, not unlike the Venceremos at Stanford. *They gave out weapons to Black revolutionaries* [emphasis added].

This was the height of the Vietnam War, and while most anti-war protests were peaceful and perfectly legal, at least some groups were bent on fomenting violence and revolution. And these groups were being watched very closely by the FBI.

Another obvious reference to Betsy McDonald is on p. 31 of the FBI file:

In October 1968, [redacted: obviously Betsy McDonald] reportedly attended the SDS National Convention in Boulder, Colorado, and was overheard telling a group in Tucson upon her return that she favored violence, if necessary, to achieve the goals of the SDS.

Quoting a redacted source from the U of A, an FBI paper from May 26, 1969, states (p. 11):

he recently received information that Professor JAMES E. MC DONALD is "disenchanted" with [redacted, probably "his wife's"] constant "New Left" activities and they plan to separate.

On p. 23, the redactor slipped a bit, and left "Subject's wife" in the text:

Applicant-type investigation of subject in 1962, favorable re loyalty, character, and reputation. Subject's wife is active in Students for a Democratic Society and peace movement. Subject is disenchanted with [redacted: probably "his wife's"] "New Left" activities and separation planned.

Vallee's diary entry (referenced above) concluded:

Jim plunged into his research: UFOs, effects of supersonic transports on the atmosphere, the possible destruction of the ozone layer. . . . He did it out of despair, with no humor, no ability to distance himself from what he was studying. Jim had even researched his own case very scientifically, as he did everything: He had gathered detailed statistics about suicide.

Other papers hint at other problems the FBI had with McDonald (p. 44–63). Apparently he had signed a petition in 1961 of the Fair Play for Cuba Committee (soon to be made notorious by one of its zealots, Lee Harvey Oswald), protesting the U.S. "hostility" to Cuba, and calling for an end to the trade embargo (p. 67). McDonald was also involved with the ACLU, which the FBI apparently considered a subversive organization. Worse yet, he had been a public critic of the Air Force as far back as 1959, concerning its placement of intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) sites near Tucson. He claimed this placed civilian populations in unnecessary danger in the event of war.

One thing that was not found in the McDonald FBI files: any reference whatsoever to Philip J. Klass. ■