

FREAKY LINKS



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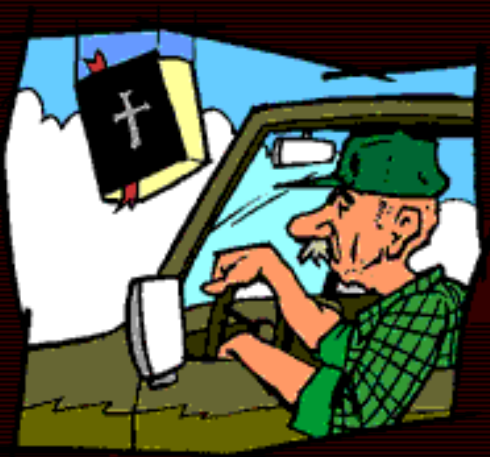
Bible Thumping

Las Vegas Nevada - Ben Blalock is convinced that God showed his wrath on a lonely stretch of road last week. Ben was driving southbound on Hwy. 55 on August 22nd when a bible fell out of the sky and crashed into his windshield.



Bible smashes windshield but saves a soul

"I was driving back from my brothers in Indian Springs. It was late afternoon, around 5 o'clock and then suddenly, wham, this thing smashes into the windshield. It broke clear through the glass and scared the hell out of me. I hit the brakes



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and pulled off the road and it was then that I realized what it was."

Ben displayed the bible to me and it's a common King James version, bound in leather. It's is relatively new with a copyright date of 1984. Ben said that it had to come from the sky since no other part of the car was damaged except for the windshield and there was no other cars on the road at the time.

Flipping through the book there is one passage underlined in red ink. It's Numbers 14:17 which states, "Now may the Lord's strength be displayed, just as you have declared."

Ben said he had not underlined anything in the bible and had considered throwing it away, but felt he should keep it.

Checking with the Las Vegas airport reveals that the area in which the incident occurred is not under any flight paths. The Indian Springs Airforce base is nearby but an Airforce spokesperson there said no planes where in that area on the time specified. Also nearby is the mysterious 'area 51' But Ben thinks it was a higher authority than the Airforce that caused the bible to appear.

"I think it's the Lord trying to tell me something." Ben says. " I deal blackjack at (a local casino) and maybe God wants me to get back on track with my education. I was planning on being a doctor but it just didn't work out Maybe I should go back to school."

Luckily for Ben his insurance company replaced the windshield, chalking the collision up to "road debris" and not "an act of God".

July 17th, 2000

Freakylinks reader Matt raised some interesting questions. Here's the e-mail he sent me.

Not to be a hard ass or something, I would like to say that there is no proof of validity to this story.

The photograph taken was taken, not out in the middle of nowhere, but rather in a parking lot of



Ben Blalock

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some sort (note the tire reflection in the window). The bible, would seem as if it was replaced in the window, as it is not centered. Additionally, there is the ponderance of, "What the hell is the white stuff all over the car?" Last I checked, even bibles didn't make powder. Also, the bible doesn't fit just right, and if the story is true, it hit a little soft for falling from heaven.

My thought is that he did something stupid, broke his windshield, this story fit, so he figured he could get a free windshield out of it. And somehow, the story spread, and you caught wind.

Matt

sources

-interview with Ben Blalock, August 28th, 1999

-phone interview with Indian Springs Airforce Base Staff Sergeant William Standrews, August 28th, 1999

photo courtesy Las Vegas Auto Insurance

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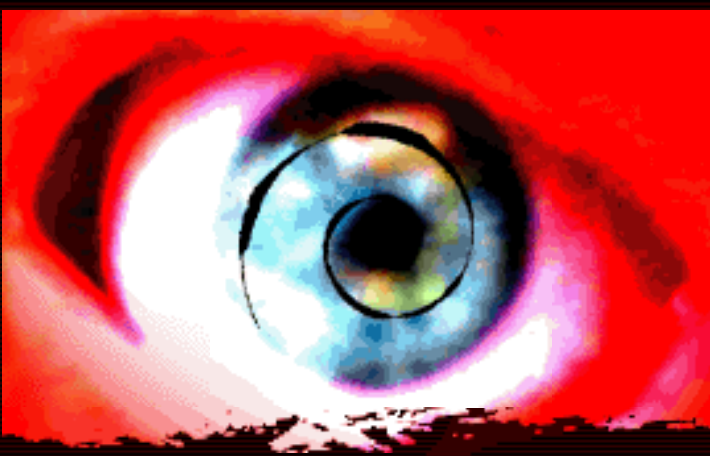
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Bring Me the Head of Gunter Mahlberg

It's funny how little pieces of a puzzle come together to form a bigger picture. Small drips and drabs of information come to you and you just file 'em away, waiting for the right moment to use them. And when a sudden revelation comes to you, you have to snap at the chance and move on it quick....

...which is my esoteric way of trying to explain why Jason and I drove all night to the Six Gun Shoot 'Em Up In The Sky Theme Park (try saying that 3 times fast) in Carbondale Tennessee.

What drove me here (other than Jason's mad dash up the interstate) was the cryptic comments left in the e-mails of Gunter Mahlberg and his henchman Daniel McArthur that I [posted on my site](#) last month.. McArthur has mentioned that he was in Tennessee looking for an Indian head that had supposedly been lost in a medical school museum fire of 1866. I was hoping to get a leg up (pun intended) on Gunter so I thought I would try to find the object first. There wasn't much to go on but I was hoping to get lucky and fed the pertinent words into [google.com](#) (my favorite search engine) I got back 1,430 hits. Sigh....I started



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- [The Osceola Problem](#)
- [Fort Moultrie website](#)
- [Osceola Myths](#)

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wading through the search engine hits on days when I had a free second and I finally stumbled across what they were looking for when I found [this page](#) Could Gunter be searching for the Seminole Indian war chief Osceola's severed head?

The story goes that after Chief Osceola died in 1838 his head was cut off from his body and secretly stolen by a Doctor named Frederick Weedon. Most people assumed that the head was later lost in a New York medical school fire of 1866 but that was never proven since remains were never found. One publication claims that the head was cursed and that although it caused the fire, it wasn't consumed by it and instead continues to bring misery upon whoever owns it.

I thought that if the stories were true then it certainly sounded like an object ole' Gunter would be interested in. And the simple fact that Gunter was after it made me want to get to the bottom of the 130 year old mystery. But how could I find it before the evil little mini-me got to it first and claimed it for his own?

The e-mails had mentioned a man named Keppler who had had the head until the 1930's in Franklin Tennessee. Lan used a internet phone directory database to see if there were any Keppler's left in Franklin. Her search turned up another case of information overload since there were over 800 Keppler's in Franklin and the surrounding area.

Well sometimes searching for the Freaky ain't as glamorous as I would like and this is a great example. What did I do? Simple; I just started calling every one of those Keppler's and asking them if they knew anything about a Indian head. It wasn't pretty but if I wanted to get anywhere on this case, it had to be done. Luckily Lan has one of those free internet phone systems installed so I didn't go broke getting hung up on. On days when I didn't have anything else better to do I would sit down with the Keppler list and start dialing. Trust me, it got boring real fast.

Somewhere around call number 560 or so I got lucky. One good ole' boy named Samuel said his Uncle Ted may have had something like that but he hadn't seen it in 20 years. As luck (or the curse?) would have it, Ted had dropped dead of a heart attack around 1980. The last place Sam had seen this head o' fun was at the cheesy Wild West theme park his Uncle had worked at but it had been closed since 1984. "If the bugs haven't got to it, it's probably still sitting there," Sam told me and hung up.

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What's left of the Six Gun Theme Park, Carbondale Tennessee

Well that was all the encouragement I needed so I loaded up the Freakmobile, grabbed Jason, and hit the road Monday night. By Tuesday we were up in the scenic Smokey Mountains and after a few dead ends we found the entrance to the theme park. Problem was, we weren't the only ones there. A couple of vehicles sat right next to the fake saloon where the head was suppose to be. I had Jason stand look out and I headed in to find the head before the cleaning crew or whoever they were found it first.



That weasel, Gunter Mahlberg

Problem was, it wasn't a cleaning crew, it was Gunter Mahlberg. That little bastard had beaten me to the punch somehow and was one step ahead of me. I saw the head all right, I saw it sitting in a glass jar right next to Gunter as he forked over cash for it. Well Gunter didn't really scare me but the big guys around him did. There was no way I was getting anything out of there. Deciding discretion was the better part of valor I sneaked the hell out of there and Jason and I beat a hasty retreat.



The missing head of Chief Osceola?

So that's how it ends. No happy ending, no "young webmaster finds out the truth." The truth is probably sitting in the trunk of Gunter's car as he motorvates down the highway. I only hope the curse gives him a flat tire on the way home.

sources

"Does Osceola Rest in Peace?" from Strange Universe Magazine Vol. 2 Issue 12 1989

Fort Moultrie website: <http://www.nps.gov/fosu/sb/osceola/>

Phone Interview with Sam Keppler, Oct. 2nd, 2000

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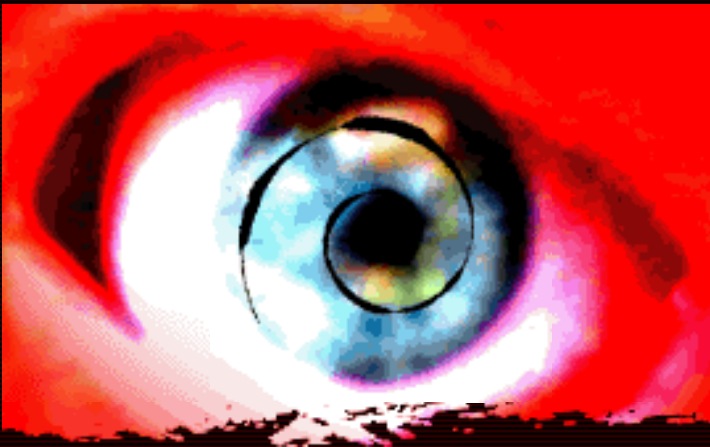
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Frog In Your Throat

Just in time for Christmas, I got e-mailed this lovely scanned Polaroid. The message with it says it all.

-Begin e-mail

Derek,

After I found your website I knew you would appreciate this story. I swear to God it's true

Last summer I got drunk with some friends out by our lake where we live. Don't laugh, cause you think we're losers. The town I live in is tiny and there isn't any place to go to party. We were all drinking vodka and I can't drink it straight so I was mixing it with orange juice. After a while I





ran out of juice and still wanted more so I thought I'd just mix in a little of the pond water with the stuff. I know it was dumb to do but it wasn't like the lake was polluted plus I thought that the vodka would kill any bad bacteria in the water. Sorta how you see on TV when a cowboy pours whiskey over a bullet wound?

Anyway we all

got real drunk and most of us passed out around the bank of the lake. In the morning when I woke up I felt terrible but just thought it was from drinking so much. I slept it off on Sunday and felt better and went to school the next day.

A couple of weeks went by and I started getting stomach aches real bad. One day it got so bad I stayed home from school. Well I just got sicker and sicker and then I got that feeling like you have when you know you're going to throw up. I rushed into the bathroom and stuck my head over the toilet just in time. I felt these chunks coming out of my mouth but I didn't realize what they were until I looked in the toilet bowl and saw the frogs! They were all alive but moved real slow. I know they weren't in there before I threw up and the only thing I can think of is that somehow I got some tadpole eggs mixed in with that pond water I was drinking and swallowed them. I decided to take a picture of it so I could prove it later.

I swear I'm not making this up. Please don't e-mail me back since my mother can get into my e-mail.

Buddy

-end e-mail

I'm not even going to touch this one with a ten foot pole. - Derek



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- [Words for Vomit](#)
- [Rubber Vomit](#)

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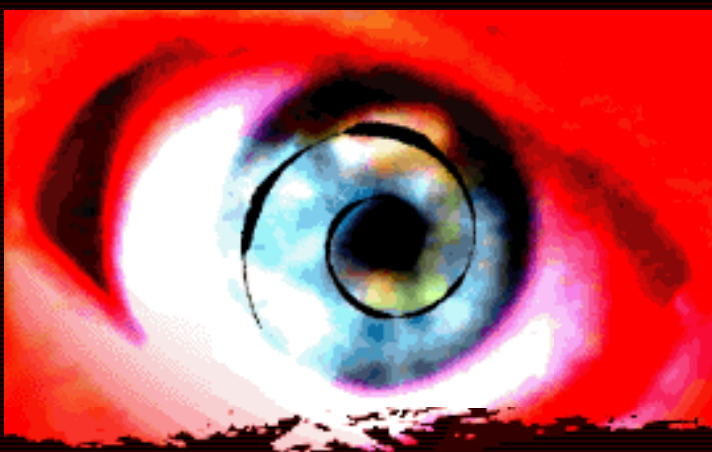
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Gravity Goes Gonzo

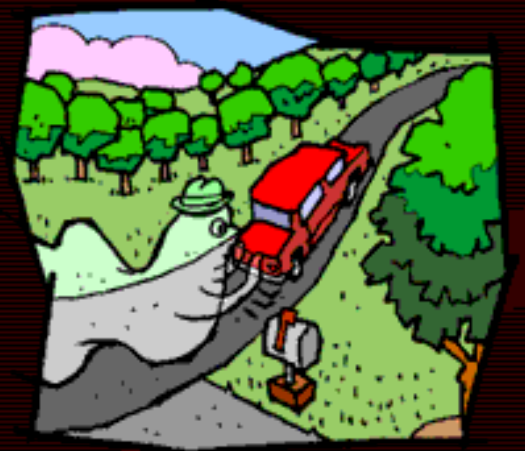
Lake Wales Florida- This small town may not be the center of attention anymore but when Florida was first trying to gain fame as a tourist destination, Lake Wales and it's Spook Hill played a major role as a Sunshine state attraction.



Located next to the Spook Hill Elementary School, this gravity defying hill sits ready and waiting for any passerby to give it a try. A nearby sign explains it all:

"Many years ago an Indian village on Lake Wales was plagued by raids of a huge gator. The Chief, a great warrior, killed the gator in a battle that created a small lake. The chief was buried on the north side. Pioneer mail riders first discovered their horses laboring down hill, thus naming it "Spook Hill." When the road was paved, cars coasted up hill. Is this the gator seeking revenge, or the chief still trying to protect his land?"

To see it in action you're invited to drive up to a white line painted across the road, put your car in neutral, and let it roll backwards.



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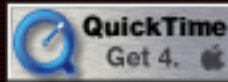
- [Gravity](#)
- [Oregon Vortex](#)
- [Spook Hill](#)

Is it real? Well I was initially disappointed when I saw the hill. There isn't much of an incline and it seems dwarfed by another hill that the road goes up. Our test car did seem to roll uphill when we gave it a try and the effect of going uphill is heightened if you put your face down on the pavement and kinda squint.



[Click here to see the movie](#) (159k).

(movie not working for you? you probably need to [download the QuickTime software](#))



Spook Hill is but one of many such gravity defying attractions located across the states. There's the Mystery Spot in Santa Cruz Ca., Gravity Hill in Salt lake City UT, Mystery Hill in Blowing Rock N.C. and even a Confusion Hill in Piercy Ca. All of them give various theories concerning why gravity is not behaving like it should.

Perhaps the granddaddy of them all and the best gravity defying for your money is the Oregon Vortex near Gold Hill Or. The theory exposed forth here is that an incredibly dense object from outerspace impacted earth on the spot thousands of years ago and is now buried under the side of the mountain. The weight of the object bends gravity waves toward it, causing the phenomenon.

Spook Hill is located in Lake Wales Florida approx. 1 hour from I-4 off Hwy. 27

sources

-information taken by personal experience

---new information added July 10th 1999-----

Near San Antonio is a railroad crossing where local lore has a school bus being hit by a train, killing all children aboard. Efforts to document that this accident occurred has not been successful. It has been reported the accident happened during the 1920's, the 30's, the 40's and the 50's. Nevertheless, here's the mystery:

Approach the train crossing in your vehicle. Turn vehicle off. It proceeds to roll up the slight upgrade, over the tracks and to safety on the other side of the crossing. Legend has it the spirits of the children push the vehicle, making sure it clears the track. One crusty ex Texas Ranger conducted an experiment where he washed the back of his van, wiping it clean to make sure all latent prints were eliminated. He then sprinkled an abundant supply of talcum powder on the back of the van. He got into the vehicle and it began to move forward over the tracks. The Texas Ranger got out,

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walked to the back of the van and found a clearly defined set of finger prints in the talcum powder. He had no explanation other than he knew he had cleaned his vehicle.

Would spirits leave finger prints?

source

-information taken by e-mailed report

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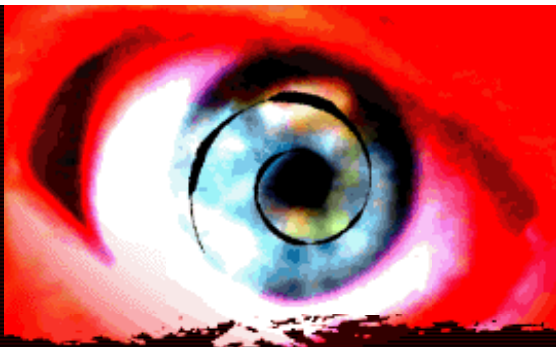
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The Hollow Earth

Mole People...

The very phrase conjures up a mental image of John Agar fighting off guys in bad makeup in some god awful B movie. But lurking behind this facade of Hollywood cheese may be just a little slice of the paranormal truth. Are there creatures living underneath New York City?

It's already been established that people live beneath the streets of Manhattan. In 1994 Jennifer Toth wrote a book entitled [The Mole People](#). This factual account documented multiple cases of homeless people living in the subterranean tunnels beneath the city. These sad cases prove that life can be sustained under the city. But is there something or someone else hidden beneath the surface? I went to New York determined to find out.



Getting into the tunnels beneath New York is easy. Figuring out where you are is the hard part. And don't forget those homeless people. The words "noble" and "salt of the earth" ain't in their vocabulary. They're more familiar with words like, "gimme that camera" and "I'm gonna kick your ass." Luckily Jason was along for the ride and helped deter the rowdier elements from getting too nasty. After everyone was acquainted it became obvious to me that these underground dwellers lifestyle is miles removed from the ones that us "above grounders" have. The



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- [NYC Subway](#)
- [National Geographic looks at New York's Underground](#)
- [Abandoned Subway Stations](#)

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homeless group I met make a living stealing whatever they can from those that live above them. In their own way they look down at us. Forced to live underground has changed them. It has reshaped them into a separate culture. They have their own language, their own societies, and even their own ghost stories. The biggest of which seems to be that there was something bad going down near tunnel 14. Something so bad that the locals stay as far away from it as they can.

Sure you could dismiss these claims as wild imaginings of homeless people who have been spending too much time underground. But this isn't the only time that the area around tunnel 14 has had some weirdness attached to it. The first case was way back in 1869 when a crazy industrialist / inventor named Christian Symmes got the idea that what New York City needed was a subway system. Since high tech was about 100 years away he decided



to make it work with compressed air. Amazingly this idea of pneumatic driven

subway cars was approved by the city and Symmes started work on the first leg of his system in the spring of 1870. The area below tunnel 14 was chosen as the first section to be worked on. At first results were encouraging and Symmes' progress reports are full of optimism for the project that would "make New York a world class city for the 20th century." But work was stopped in the fall of that year when some kind of accident occurred in the first pneumatic tube being worked on. Reports from the time are sketchy, and only describe it as an "industrial accident" which injured several workers. The event shook up Christian Symmes so much that he ordered work to be

stopped and told his investors that he refused to continue building the tube.



The refusal ruined Symmes and his life deteriorated soon thereafter. At first he began suffering from an acute case of claustrophobia and moved to Kansas to live with a sister. His mental health was further questioned when, in 1873, he founded the "Hollow Earther" society in Topeka. Symmes claimed that there lived underground a society of subhumans. "A Darwinian offshoot (of man) that evolved in total darkness," was how he put it. Symmes found few converts among the farmers of the area and his society consisted of himself and a local farm boy who came by to deliver food. In 1874 he wrote the self published pamphlet "Secrets of the Hollow Earth" in which he claimed that these "ferocious and cannibalistic creatures of the inner earth" existed under New York City. It was in this pamphlet that he spoke of the incident beneath the city.

And in the depths below, in the bowels of the unforgiving city. I was attacked by something hideous and subhuman. A primal being never before seen by human eyes.

Symmes claims were ignored by mainstream media and scientists. After his sister's death he was admitted to the Topeka Mental Asylum where he died a pauper in 1878.

So was Symmes telling the truth of what he encountered in the depths of New York underground or were these creatures just delusions of his deteriorating mind? Jason and I made our way into the deepest part of the tunnels to discover the truth. What did we find? Check out the quicktime below.



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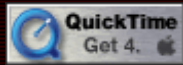
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The gang goes down under.
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Now before you quake in fear and cancel your tickets to the World Series, think about this. The homeless people knew I was looking for something freaky. And they must have heard the stories about evil creatures in the depths since they were the ones that warned me away from tunnel 14 in the first place. Now compound that with the fact that their lifestyle of choice appears to be grand larceny. They may have thought I was going to expose their schemes to the police. I only saw a few stolen items but what if there was a larger cache hidden deeper in the tunnels? What if the appearance of these creatures was just a set up to scare away your friendly local paranormal spook hunter?



This theory of homeless bums in bad makeup and wax teeth makes perfect sense and neatly ties up any improbability of mole people living under New York City. But my thoughts keep coming back to poor old Christian Symmes. Before the accident he was a respectable businessman. Afterwards his life descended into the madness of zealotry. What happened in that tunnel back in 1870? What is really going on in there now? One things for sure, after the reception I got this time, I'm not going back for a second look.

sources

The New York Register newspaper, selected back issues 1869 - 1870

The Topeka Tribune newspaper, Obituary column, May 10th, 1878

"Secrets of the Hollow Earth" Christian Symmes, self-published, from the archives of the Special Editions office, New York Public Library

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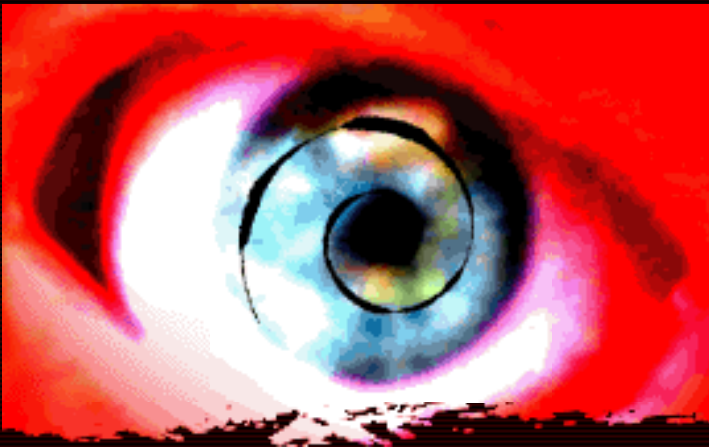
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Hot Tamale

Mexico City Mexico - Anita Lopez knocked on the door to her mother's house on the morning of June 12th. Getting no answer she used her key to open the back door. Once inside she became alarmed when she smelled smoke. Calling her mothers name she rushed into the small living room of the apartment and began screaming when she spied what was left of Mrs. Maria Lopez's burnt body laying on the floor near the TV. She managed to call the police and then fled the apartment complex to await them outside.



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ash and cinders. Even more amazing was the fact that most of the room was unburned. The chair she had been sitting in was partially burnt, the carpet underneath her was damaged and the wall nearest the body had scorch marks but the TV only 3 feet away was undamaged.

Medical coroner Nick Sousiata at first thought that the victim had been murdered and burnt elsewhere and then taken back to the apartment. He dismissed this however when no other evidence was uncovered. Anita Lopez told police that her 73 year old mother had no enemies she knew of . There was also no evidence of robbery in the home. Suicide was also ruled out since there was no evidence of gasoline or other flammables. Maria Lopez did smoke cigarettes and this lead to the final cause of death being ruled as self-accidental. According to authorities, Maria Lopez had fell asleep while smoking a cigarette and caught herself on fire.

But did she? Anita Lopez stated that her mother never smoked in the house because she didn't like the way it made the house smell. Further supporting the argument



was the fact that no ashtray was found near the body. Not satisfied with the verdict handed down by the coroner reporter Martha Gonzales of the local tabloid paper "The Voice" had heard about spontaneous human combustion and called Michael Bardum in Leeds England to see if this accident fit the parameters of a SHC event. Bardum had

Police and paramedics were stunned when they saw the body. With the exception of part of the head, a foot and one arm, the body had been reduced to

- [Spontaneous Human Combustion](#)
- [bbq.com](#)
- [Fire Safety Tips](#)

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recently been on the Mexican TV show "Unexplainable" where he had briefly discussed the subject.

Bardum heard the evidence from Gonzales and asked for copies of the police photos to be sent to him via e-mail. He called Martha back on June 21st and told her that much of the evidence did support a SHC event. Gonzales reported this information to the coroner who declined to comment or change his verdict.



Some of the facts which support the theory that Maria Lopez died of Spontaneous Human Combustion are:

A high intensity heat source which reduced

most of her body to ashes. To reduce human bones to ashes in a crematorium requires a flame of over 950 C. But even with that amount of heat bones remain and have to be pounded by iron balls to reduce them to ash. In normal fires, flames 'dance' over the top layers of skin but do not penetrate which produces charring but not a complete burning. A small area of the hallway wall outside the room had been stripped of plaster. This, the fire-fighters said, is indicative of a intense flash fire which dries out plaster and makes it lose it's bonding. Such an intense heat is uncommon in house fires and is very uncommon to put itself out.

The fact that much of the room was undamaged by the fire. SHC's often have the fire damage regulated to the body and a small area surrounding it. Indeed the rubber tires of a nearby exercise bike was untouched and the TV only a few feet away still worked when tested. Even more puzzling is the fact that one shoe was singed but unburnt and the hair on the deceased woman's head was partially unburned. Both of these items have a much lower kindling rate than human bone.

The lack of ventilation in the room. Crematoriums require large fans to keep giving the fire a fresh oxygen source. Maria Lopez's apartment had no open windows and the door was closed and locked. Such an intense fire should have quickly used up the available oxygen in the small room and that alone would have extinguished itself.

The truth may never be known as Anita had her mother's remains buried and the coroner considers the case closed.

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sources

-'Mother Is Killed By a Fire From Within" The Voice newsmagazine, Mexico City Mexico, Martha Gonzales reporter; June 23rd 1999

-phone interview with Martha Gonzales, July 10th, 1999

photo courtesy of The Voice newsmagazine and the Mexico City Police Department

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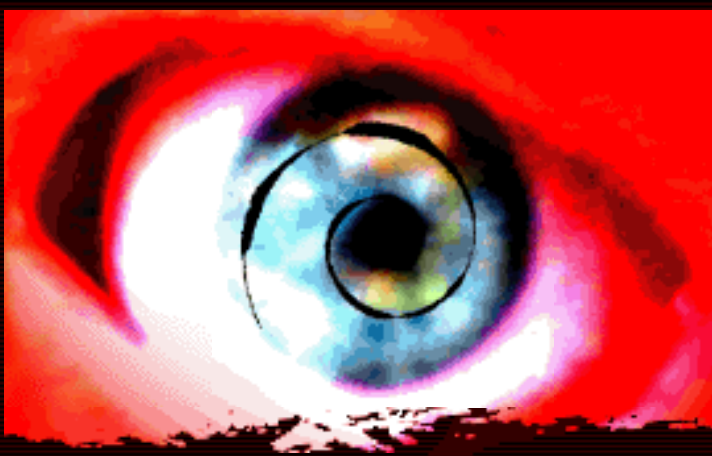
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SCIENCE STUMPERS

Look At All The Pretty Colors Around My Head

Casadega Florida - This small town in central Florida bills itself as having more mediums and psychics in its population than any other town in America. It was founded upon the advice of a spirit known as Seneca who told George Colby that "A Congress of Spirits have selected Florida for the establishment of a great spiritualist center. You have been chosen to lead in it's creation." That was in 1875 and since then the small town has flourished and is enjoying life today as tourist attraction and center of metaphysical learning.



This young lady exhibits a healthy

Among the residents of the town is Adrian Velope, 58, who moved to Casadega in 1984 from Chicago where she had worked as a medium with her now deceased sister. Upon arriving in the town and discovering an abundance of mediums, she decided to branch out into aura photography.

Aura or Kirlian photography was invented by Semyon Kirlian a handyman from the Ukraine in 1939. Semyon was repairing a hospital diathermy machine when he noticed a electrical spark pass from his fingertip onto the electrode pad. Interested, he placed



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- [What is an Aura?](#)

aura according to Velope

photographic paper onto the pad and recreated the spark.

When he developed the photograph he was amazed to see that his hand had been outlined by a field of electrical energy.

Other photographers refined the process, and help create the belief that the photographs show the aura or energy field of the item being photographed. Since the object to be photographed has to be in contact with the electrode pad, the most popular items to be filmed were hands, arms and the leaves of plants. Indeed leaves which had been recently pulled from a plant exhibit a ghostly energy field which shows where they were torn away from the main stem. The different colors exhibited in aura photographs also lead to significance being applied to them. Red would mean that the subject was angry. Blue would be indicative of a calm state and so on. Over time many different interpretations of the color scheme arose.

Velope has bought several Kirlian cameras over the years as minor modifications came along. The downside with all of them was that the object being photographed had to be in contact with the electrical pad. This lead her to begin investigating the possibilities of building a larger size pad or even a way to leave the pad out altogether. In 1997 she developed the first Kirlian camera that allowed free standing objects or an entire human body to be photographed. She calls this camera the Velope-Kirlian and has established a center for Aura photography in her residence in Casadega.

The Velope-Kirlian appears to be a standard 35 mm camera with a curious electronic attachment where the flash would be. This attachment has a cable which leads to a gray metal plate that stands vertically. This plate is approx. 7 feet in height and 4 feet wide. Persons wanting a full body photograph are placed in front of the metal plate which is plugged into a standard electrical outlet. The images are taken on regular film which Velope can process in her own darkroom.

Velope was hesitant to tell me how the process works. "As far as I know I'm the only one to come up with this and I



The faint ghost aura of this woman's missing arm is visible

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don't want it stolen from me. Basically the plate takes the place of the electrical sensor on the old style Kirlians and allows a field of energy to encompass the object being photographed. This energy field interacts with the aura and tweaks it up the spectrum. The camera has been modified so it can photograph the aura as it appears."



This man has both legs amputated below the knee. His dependence on artificial legs has caused his ghost auras to disappear

Velope showed me some examples of her work and I was surprised at how vivid the auras appear. She pointed to one picture of a woman. "This lady had her right arm amputated several years before I photographed her but you can still see the faint aura of the arm and hand which was left behind."

Velope believes that these "ghost auras" are what allow some amputees to keep experiencing feelings from the missing arm or leg long after it has been removed. "Sometimes people will even be able to

make a fist with a hand that's not there any more." Velope told me. "I bet that if you took a aura photograph of them, you would see that the ghost aura was still there and trying to do what the brain was telling it to."

Velope has no plans to share her invention with the rest of the world beyond selling photographs to interested parties that visit her studio. "If I started making a big to do about it, I'd have the idea stolen from me." states Velope, "And I've still got some ideas with it that I want to try."

sources

interview with Adrian Velope, April 10th, 1999

"Casadega, Spiritual Town", brochure published by the Casadega City Council, no copyright given

-"Kirlian Photography" Strange Facts of the Unknown World published in 1978 by Register Press

photos courtesy of Adrian Velope

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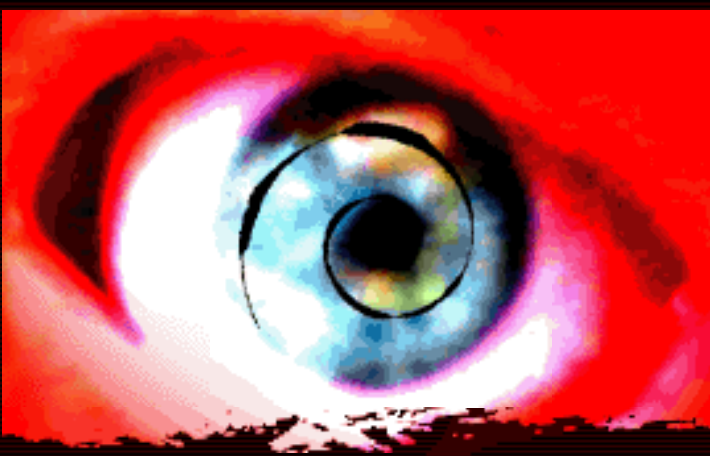
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SCIENCE STUMPERS

Of Quartz I Love You Baby!



Skullduggery: "The Husband" as it appeared in 1976

Researchers are calling it "the husband."

"Even with the most precise tools to be found in current technology, there is no way we could create a likeness so precise," said Coleman Figgis, the head of the privately

In April of 1968, the last of fifteen archaeological expeditions to visit the Mayan ruins at Lubaatun, Belize turned up what has been classified as and "ancient" crystal skull. Found about twenty feet below where the famous Mitchell-Hedges skull was found in 1924 and bearing a similar technique of being carved "against the grain" of the quartz crystal, this skull is apparently that of a "male" just as the Mitchell-Hedges skull was determined to be female.



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funded archaeological dig that unearthed the crystal cranium. "The only plausible way that it could have been made, to the best of our knowledge, would have been to have been slowly eroded or dissolved with some as of yet unknown solvent. When I say slowly, I mean about three hundred years."

The skull, unlike its Mitchell-Hedges counterpart, was found without a mandible. The previously well-known artifact was found with a detachable jawbone, escalating claims of an unnatural origin.

"This new skull is not without its unique curiosities. This one is more precise in detail, accurate within one hundredth of a centimeter of a real skull. The level of stylization and artistic license is far less. There are dozens of these things that are made with some kind of impressive craftsmanship, but they don't actually look like a real skull. This one does! It's as if someone turned an actual male skull into quartz. Electron microscopy now reveals the handiwork of metal tools, but the question still remains, how could human hands have carved this artifact without shattering it?"

Spiritualists and parapsychologists theorize that the skull has more to offer than aesthetic precision.

"It's a lens," says well known spiritualist Brad Bluhnor. "Shining light through it reveals messages that were intended to be retrieved from the skull. Also, it vibrates in reaction to sounds being played into it. Psychometric tests reveal these changes in the skull, which was meticulously crafted through some lost art, as a time capsule. The skull is here to teach us about the people who made it and possibly about ourselves." Approximately forty known "ancient" (1000 years or older) crystal skulls are known to exist in the world, most of which coming from Mexico and South



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America. They pose a challenge and a conundrum to scientists and spiritualists alike.

Editor's Note: The "Husband," as it is still known, now resides in the private collection of Shoshanna Dyan in Israel.

[sources](#)

"New Crystal Skull Discovered in Belize," Strange Facts of the Unknown World, Published in 1978 by Register Press

Photo courtesy of Strange Facts of the Unknown World

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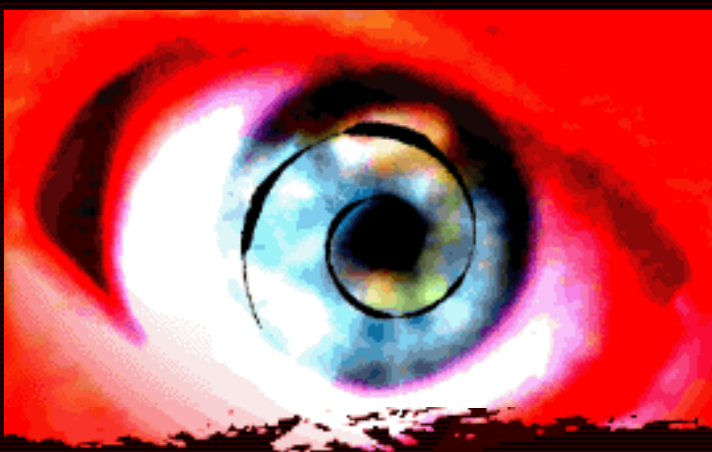
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SCIENCE STUMPERS

The Alabama Dream Stealer

Marion Alabama - Joe Waters had been tossing and turning in bed for over a week. At first he thought it was related to moving to Marion from his former home in Anniston but after 10 days of restless sleep he finally resorted to over the counter sleeping pills.

"They didn't help," says Waters. "I still was only getting like an hour or two every night. I kept waking up in the middle of the night feeling like I had to do something but I had no idea what. I even went on-line and looked at a lot of sleep disorder websites but didn't find any information that fit with what I was experiencing. Finally out of frustration I left paper and pen on my night stand because one site said that anxiety could be causing my lack of sleep and this anxiety could be making itself known to me by my dreams. If I could write my dreams down then maybe I could figure out what was making me not sleep."

Over the period of several days Waters wrote down what information he could gleam from his dreams. Curiously enough, they all related to his new back yard and digging. Finally he took a shovel out into the yard and began to dig.

"I just did it for the hell of it," says Waters. "I didn't expect to actually dig up something!"

But he did uncover a wooden statue in the exact place his dreams told him to dig. Mystified, Waters took the statue to local Judson College where History Professor Carol Samson examined it.



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Joe Water's recreates the moment he found the statue

"The statue appears to be from the early Meso-American period but doesn't match up to anything we know about the early inhabitants of this area." states Dr. Samson. "Archeological excavations done in the 1970's around here uncovered worked stone and some crude tools but nothing as fanciful as this statue. The wood has oxidized and turned into almost a calcified stone. That normally takes at 600 to 800 years to occur naturally. Of course I can't

say for sure unless we get a carbon date done but it at least dates back to the pre-Columbian time period."

Waters seems not particularly interested in having the statue dated. "The first Sunday I had the statue I stayed up all night cleaning it," Joe told me.. I finally fell to sleep at dawn and slept so soundly I missed work. That afternoon I took it to the college and that night I had the same sleep problems again. I got it back from Samson two days later and it hasn't left my sight again. I don't know what it is and I don't care. If it helps me sleep then it's staying with me and that's the end of it. It's not leaving me again. I found it on my property and under the laws of Alabama that makes it mine. They can find a statue of their own, this one is mine."

Water's brother-in-law, Robert Peterson has noticed a change in Joe's behavior and thinks it's related to the statue. "Joe's never been the most hospitable man in the world but he's always been nice to me and was close to his sister, Tracy," says Robert. "Since this statue thing he's stopped coming over to our house for Sunday dinner and he hardly ever talks to us anymore."

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Tracy Peterson puts it more bluntly. "That statue is like his whole reason for existence now. He's stopped going to work. He doesn't go out. Hell, he hardly even bathes or changes his clothes. He's losing his mind. I love my brother but its like he's an entirely different person now."



Peterson claims the anti-social behavior is the result of his sleeping disorder and is not related to the statue. "They just don't understand what I was going through with this thing. My whole life was sliding down hill cause I couldn't sleep. Now that I got the statue everything is better. I've missed some days at work but it ain't serious. As soon as I get rested everything will turn back to normal. They'll see."

sources

Interview with Joe Waters February 14th and 15th 2000

Interview with Robert and Tracy Peterson February 14th, 2000

Interview with Dr. Carol Samson February 15th, 2000

picture by Derek Barnes

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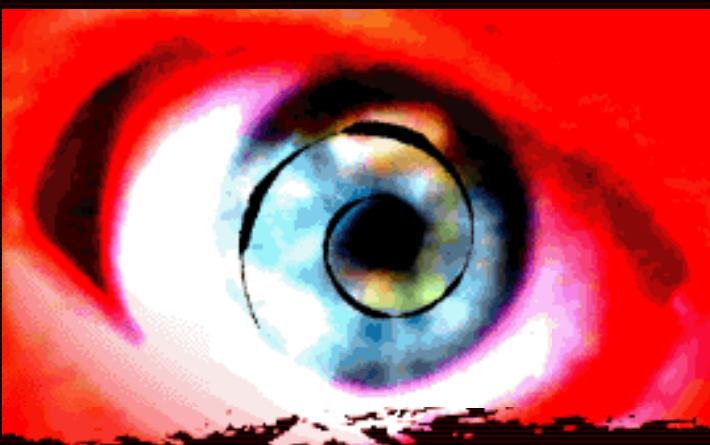
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The Mother-In-Law

Jasper Georgia - Cort Mandell swears that bad luck follows him around. Born with the umbilical cord wrapped around his neck, he was almost declared dead until a nurse dunked his head underwater as a last resort. When he was 12 the car he was riding in blew a tire and flipped. Cort was thrown from the car and found himself laying in the path of an oncoming semi-truck.

"He managed to stop that truck an foot away from my face," says Cort. "To this day I can tell you exactly how many treads the front tire had on it."

But Cort now says that everything bad that happened to him as a child was just a precursor to getting married.

"Me and Beth both lost our virginity to each other. Trouble was in addition to losing her maidenhood she gained my kid. I was forced into marrying her when I was 18. Since



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Cort Mandell's ass and the mother-in-law birthmark

my
Mom
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money, we had to live with her parents. I soon realized that was a mistake. Beth's mother, Lou-Anne was the most evil creature I had ever seen. I saw her beat Beth's cat half to death because it crapped on the carpet. Beth just stood there in the corner and didn't say a word to her."

Cort was given a job by his father-in-law at his casket manufacturing factory. His mother-in-law kept the books for the business so even going to work was no escape for him.

"Talbot (Beth's father) wasn't a bad guy but he had been hen-picked all his life and it was very clear who ran the factory. Lou-Anne would walk out onto the factory floor where her husband was and yell at him about spending too much money on wood or hiring too many guys and Talbot would just stand there and take it. I saw a picture of him when he played high school basketball and it said he was 5' 10" tall. When I met him he had been married to Lou-Anne for 20 years and I swear he wasn't but 5' 5" or 5' 6" at the most. Lou-Anne took the height right off of that man with her hate."

It wasn't long before Lou-Anne had turned her hate toward Cort. He suffered the abuse because in spite of the circumstances he was growing to love Beth and wanted to see his child into the world and raise a family. He was also trying to save money so he and his wife could move out from the in-laws.

"I put up with that witch cause I didn't have any choice. I was saving a little bit every week but Lou-Anne knew down to the last penny how much money I had and she would make sure I paid my share of the groceries or helped on the mortgage. I thought things might get better when my kid, Sam was born but Lou-Anne all but ignored it. Finally I had enough saved up to move out and I broke the news to Lou-Anne and Talbot over supper one night. Talbot didn't



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say anything except nod his head but Lou-Anne looked at me like I was a delivery boy who had brought her the wrong kind of casket nails."

Needless to say Lou-Anne was against the idea of Beth and Cort moving out.

"She said I didn't have a lick of sense in my body. That there was no way I was going to take her only child away from her and put her in some run down slum of a building just cause my pride was too big to accept the Godly charity that

Talbot and herself was kind enough to give me. That I was crazy if I thought she would let me take her grandchild to a shack so he could live in his own filth and get bit by a rat in the middle of the night. I admit I snapped that night and told her off good. I shouted back at her about every hate filled thing she had done to me over the last 13 months and when I was finished with my list I started in on her for Beth and Talbot's sake. When I stopped I thought maybe I had yelled some sense in her head cause she just said that if I felt that strongly about it then maybe something could be worked out. Maybe the casket factory could give me and Beth a small loan so we could get something nice. I'll never forget that when I thanked her for that she looked at me and said, 'You'll get what you need, Cort.' Man, I should have knowed then that she wasn't beat, not by a long shot."

Cort finished out the week at the plant and when he got his paycheck he went as always to deposit some of it at the bank. Once there he was told that his account had been closed by his mother-in-law. The bank's manager was apologetic but Cort sensed that Lou-Anne had brow beat him into doing it so he withheld his anger until he got home and confronted her.

"When I got home I saw the brand new sofa and chairs in the living room and I knew what she had spent the money on. Talbot wasn't home, I guess he knew what was up and decided it would be safer to spend an extra hour down at



A Modern Succubus?

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the bar. Lou-Anne refused to even stop making dinner as I yelled at her about it. She just kept saying that it was for the best and that I could learn to love it there. Just like Beth and Talbot loved it. Beth was sitting at the kitchen table with Sam but she wouldn't say a word back to her mother. It was just like I was her cat and was getting what was due to me for doing my business on the carpet."

But Cort grew angrier and angrier and decided that this was the final straw. He told Beth they were leaving right now and they'd use what money he had from his last paycheck to live on until they found something.

"Lou-Anne just laughed at me," says Cort. "She said I was a bigger fool than her husband if I thought her daughter was going to leave home to tramp around with me. I called her every dirty name I could think off and grabbed my clothes and packed a suitcase. I dragged Beth into our room and begged her to come with me but she just kept shaking her head and saying that I should do what Lou-Anne wanted. That it was for the best. Finally I just gave up and walked away from her. Lou-Anne was putting dinner on the table like nothing had happened and she had even set a plate down at my chair. Well I grabbed that tablecloth and yanked everything down onto the floor and told Lou-Anne that I hoped I would never see her ugly face again. Lou-Anne just looked down at all the broken plates and spilt food and just started laughing. Then as I was leaving she spanked me once on my butt, like I was a naughty child. She said 'Oh Cort you'll never forget me. And she was right cause I got the worst bruise on my ass where she had hit me and when it had cleared up I looked in the mirror and saw that I had a new birthmark in the shape of her face.'"

These days Cort makes a living by selling boiled peanuts alongside the road near Jasper Georgia. He has never heard from his wife, child or Lou-Anne since that night he left 3 years ago.

"I read a comic book when I was a kid," Cort says while he pours more peanuts into the boiling water. "You know one of those 'educational' comic books they give you in school. Anyway, in the story there was these evil women called Sirens who drove men crazy with their singing. Men would kill themselves when these women sang this magical song to them. Maybe Lou-Anne was like one of those Sirens. She just had a more direct approach to ruining men's lives. When I didn't follow her rules she left a little mark to remember her by."

sources

interview with Cort Mandell, November 5th, 1999

photo #1 (Cort's ass) by Derek Barnes

photo #2 (Lou-Anne) courtesy of Cort Mandell

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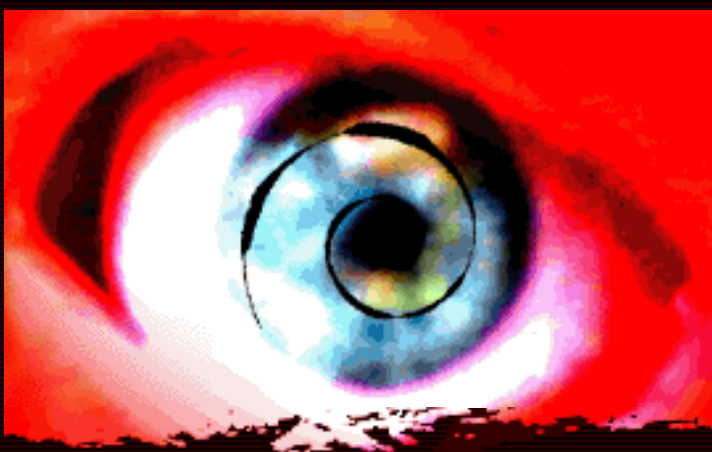
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The Pool Guy's Gonna Get Some Overtime on This One!

Orlando Florida - Samantha Gray, 46, has a rather unique problem. For the last two years, her tidy, above-ground pool has fallen victim to a malady nobody seems to be able to explain. Gray, who's husband Mike (52) characterizes her as "anal-retentive," has been unable to keep her swimming pool clean. It's not algae or falling leaves, but a substance science seems unable to explain.



Is this a bacterial pool of death?

Periodically, a thick, waxy film forms over small portions of her pool's surface. Occasionally, Gray will wake up to find her entire pool covered with the film up to an inch thick. "It's like candle wax or crayons," she says.

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"I've tried everything to get rid of this mess. The only thing that seems to work is waiting for it to collect in big chunks and pulling the chunks off in large pieces." She says.

Paulson Pools, who sold the pool to the house's previous resident (previous resident not available for comment due to being dead) said that they've had problems with the pump on this particular model, but no problems involving a thick, waxy film. "I talked to those pool people," says Gray wearily, "... But it's really not their fault. I'm sure there's nothing about the pool itself that would make something like this happen. It's just awful because Mike and I just never want to swim in it!"

As a



desperate measure, Gray contacted her local branch of the environmental protection agency. They were unable to help, but Frank Marpuccio (29), a field representative from "Greenpeace" was happy to stop by and see if he could help her nail down at least the cause of this anomaly. "I'm finishing up my masters in ecology, and this seemed to be a prime suspect for some kind of industrial pollution." Said Marpuccio. "I took a sample of the substance down to our lab, and analyzed it eight different ways till Sunday. There were typical traces of Algae, Muriatic Acid, Chlorine, and normal hard-water deposits that one would expect to find in a swimming pool. The sludge was mostly amorphous and waxy, with what might have been beeswax or a similar compound throughout. Also found in it were traces of sand and what appeared to be burned fragments of a fibrous substance like hair. I could find none of the standard pollutants one would look for in industrial waste, like heavy metals, mercury, ammonia, or any distillation of petroleum. No carcinogens like asbestos or anything like that. What's more, none of her neighbors with swimming pools seemed to suffer from similar problems, and her yard appeared to be completely free of the same substance. I keep in touch with the Grays, but I have very little hope of finding out exactly what this 'mystery substance' really is."

Because the Grays have lost hope of solving this mystery, they have decided to get rid of the pool. "We never really



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used it anyway. Our kids would take a dip sometimes, but not really and they're all moved out of the house now anyway. That thing's such a pain to clean, I don't know why we even bother." says Samantha.

Editor's note: Just after the New Year, the Gray's gave in and tore down their pool. No trace of the substance was found beneath the above-ground pool, and there has been no recurrence of the anomaly.

sources

Interviews with Samantha Gray and Mike Gray, December 27, 1998

Interview with Frank Marpuccio, December 28, 1998

Photo by Derek Barnes

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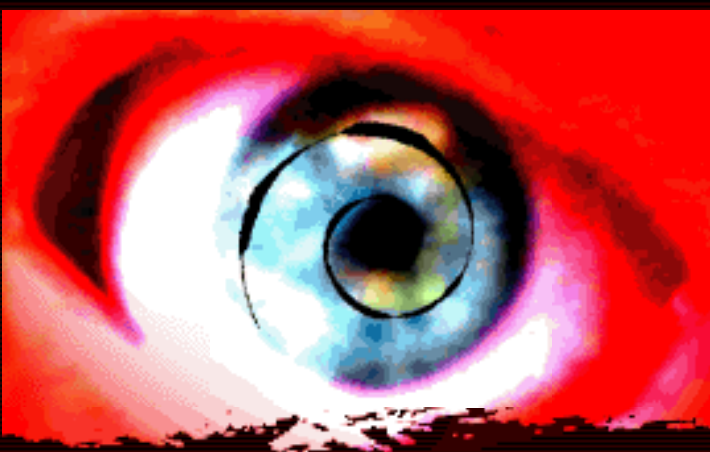
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Welcome to Pelican Heaven



Flying Fish Need Not Apply: The Chicago Fish Fall

Chicago - Workers at "Collision World," a small auto body shop outside Chicago, were distracted from their jobs on August 10, 1999 by a repeated banging noise on the tin roof of their old building. When John Posne (24), stepped outside, he noticed something was very, very wrong.

"It was raining pretty hard that day, but there were fish all over, like someone had just spread them everywhere," said Posne.

Like "frog falls," "fish falls" are a fairly well documented phenomena, though they remain unexplained. Unlike

frog falls, the fish that generally are found to fall from the sky are normal sized (weighing up to three pounds). Explanations range from slightly implausible (they are falling from some kind of aircraft) to unlikely (they are



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swept up by gale-force winds and blown hundreds of miles to a rainstorm) to the absurd (they are pulled out of the water by some alien force).

In the case of the Chicago Auto Body Shop, nobody inside the shop personally saw the fish fall. They believed to have heard them hit their roof (and indeed there were fish on the roof), but all evidence was circumstantial.

"Okay, let's say this is fake. Who would do this? Why?" asked painting technician Mike Sion. "This has to be real, otherwise it's the most expensive waste of time I ever heard of." sources

"The Chicago Fish Fall," Esoterica magazine, September 1999, Volume 15 issue 145.

Photo Courtesy of Esoterica Magazine



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