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November 2020

## The Collective Submitted Works from Honors 2030

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### Recommended Citation

Wilson, Rob; Beagrie, Odette; Bell, Sophia; chaudhry, neeha; Christman, Allison; Farese, Zahrak; Fuller, Olivia; Grothen, Kathryn; Hruskocy, Meghan; Landolt, Cullen; Langley, Maddesyn; Matt, Sarah Jane; McKlin, Samantha; Moore, Hunter; and Wootten, Maxwell R., "The Collective Submitted Works from Honors 2030" (2020). *Undergraduate Research Symposium*. 43.

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## **The Work of Dr. Rob Wilson's Class**

Students in the Honors 2030, Inquiries in the Social and Behavioral Sciences course each participated in the URS 2020 as their final project for the course. Dr. Wilson worked with each student as a faculty mentor to create, draft, edit, approve and publish each of the final posters and papers submitted to the 2020 URS for the course.

### *Course Description*

Honors 2030-001

Inquiries in the Social and Behavioral Sciences

Spring 2020

Conspiracy Theories: Who Do You Believe?

From the JFK assassination, the attack on 9/11, to the mysterious Area 51, some of the world's greatest mysteries have eluded us. Join us this semester as this class attempts to uncover the truth to some of the world's biggest conspiracy theories. This course is designed to stretch your critical thinking skills on topics such as the Freemasons, the New World Order and many other conspiracy stories that could be true. Fear and corruption have contributed to many conspiracy ideas and with the rise of the internet, anyone can be a conspiracy theorist. Are these people crazy, or are they really onto something big? Come and decide for yourself.

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# The London 7/7 Attacks: A Government Push for Support for the Iraq War?

## Introduction

- July 7<sup>th</sup>, 2005 London was hit by a group of four suicide bombers.
- They bombed three different tube lines and one bus.
- They detonated the bombs simultaneously, causing 56 deaths and 784 injuries.
- Britain was also amid the war in Iraq but was losing support from the British public.

## Sources

- "Seeing isn't Believing", Mark Honisgbaum, The Guardian.
- "10 Anomalies and Conspiracies Surrounding The 7/7 London Bombing", Marcus Lowth, Listverse.
- "Conspiracy 7/7 Bombings", N.A., abc.
- "Unmasking the mysterious 7/7 Conspiracy Theorist", Mike Rudin, BBC.



MI5 & MI6 had bombers on their radar.

Odette Beagrie: (Mentor: Rob Wilson, Ph.D.)



Evidence of bomb explosion from under train.

## Research Findings

- 7:40 am train the bombers supposedly took was cancelled that day.
- Bombers paid for seven-day parking at Luton station.
- Bought round trip train tickets.
- CCTV footage was lost at key parts of bombers' route.
- Training exercise for that specific attack and at those places was ongoing that day.
- Withholding of evidence of the bombings to the British public.
- Eye-witness accounts state that bombs exploded from under train.
- Everything was obliterated, but police were able to find passports of bombers at the scene.

## Conclusion

- The government specifically chose these four Muslim bombers as ideal patsies.
- It allowed for the government to use them as a propaganda tool to garner more support for the war.
- With the attack being on British soil by these people, it could fuel a retaliation led by the British public against Iraq.
- Therefore, achieving the government's goal of greater support for the war from the public.



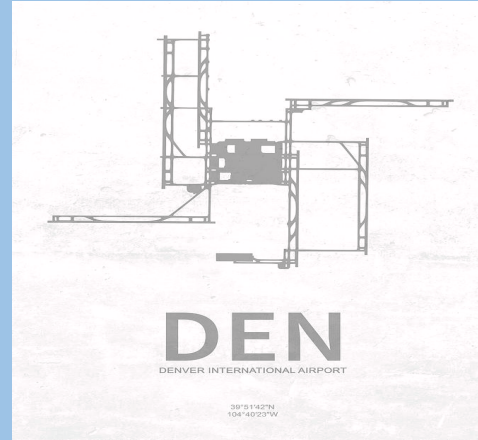
CCTV footage supposedly photoshopped to show bombers.

## The Denver International Airport: Hub of Flight or Hub of Fear?

By Sophie Bell (Mentor: Rob Wilson Ph.D.)

### Introduction

- Suspicion lies with many different occurrences around the airport
- Has been linked to plans of many known conspiracies such as the Illuminati and the Reptilian Elite
- Those that run the airport enjoy the ideas and use them to promote the airport



The structure of the runway that is said to resemble a swastika

### Conclusion

- The many occurrences seem suspicious, but explanations are valid
- Could be a way for airport to cover up while gaining visitors, but theories are constantly encouraged making it seem genuine in its fun

### References

Bailey, Cameron, *How D.I.A. 's Murals Feed Conspiracy Theorist*  
Butzer, Stephanie, *A dive into the most popular, wildest conspiracies surrounding the Denver International Airport*  
Romano, Andrea, *Doomsday Bunkers, Illuminati, and the Apocalypse: 5 Wild Conspiracy Theories About Denver International Airport (Video)*  
Sylte, Allison, *Let's talk about 25 years of DIA conspiracy theories*  
Wenzel, John, *How DIA capitalizes on the conspiracy theories to get millions of dollars in free publicity.*

### Research Findings

- A horse statue known as “Blucifer” is considered evil due to its appearance, but many argue it was the artist’s personal decisions
- The runway looks like a swastika, is said to be for efficiency
- The murals are graphic with scenes of war, but the artist said they are meant to promote peace
- Underground tunnels are said to house the Reptilian Elite or aliens, but the airport says they are meant to transport luggage



The statue known as “Blucifer” with its glowing eyes



The most disturbing mural in the halls of the airport



# Benazir Bhutto: The Ambiguous Death of Pakistan's Daughter

Neeha Chaudhry: (Advisor: Rob Wilson Ph.D.)

## Research Findings

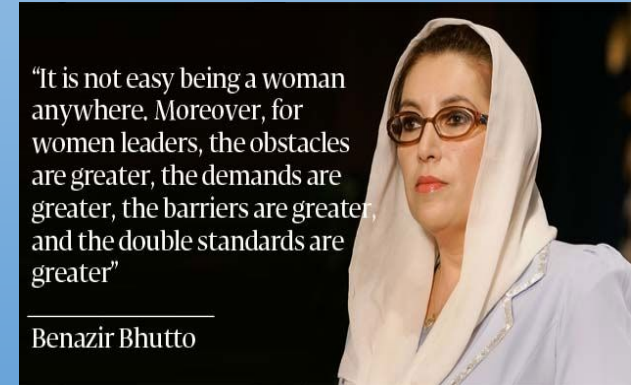
- Bhutto's death is till date a mystery even after 15 year old Bilal was labeled as the suicide bomber responsible for her death.
- Bhutto's son believes that Bhutto's rival Parvez Musharraf was responsible for her death.
- Since he was directly responsible for her security it puts him in the list of suspects, both the deputy officer and district officer were missing off duty.
- She was disliked by the Al-Qaida as all her ideas and movements were against the jihad.
- Her relations with Bush were also very good which was unacceptable by Al-Qaida. In 1998 Bhutto also
- Her husband Asif Ali Zardari has also been a part of the suspect list. He gained all political power after Bhutto's death and the relations between both husband and wife were not healthy.



Bhutto supporting her political party for upcoming elections in 2007

## Introduction

- Benazir Bhutto was the first woman to lead a Muslim majority state at the young age of 36 in 1998.
- Bhutto came from a family of highly influential politicians. She carried on her fathers legacy.
- Upon returning back to her country after exile Bhutto there was an attack on Bhutto in October, however she survived through it.
- Bhutto was on the road of getting re-elected as the Prime Minister of Pakistan for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time in 2007 before she was assassinated.
- On December 27<sup>th</sup> 2007, Bhutto lost her life at a rally promoting her political party in a bomb blast.
- Her assassination still raises questions as there has been no specific person who's been charged with her murder.



"It is not easy being a woman anywhere. Moreover, for women leaders, the obstacles are greater, the demands are greater, the barriers are greater, and the double standards are greater"

Benazir Bhutto

Bhutto was an avid women's right supporter in a patriotic society

## Methods of Research

- Articles
  - *Unanswered Questions about Bhutto's Assassination*
  - *Benazir Bhutto : How Pakistan covered up killing*
  - *Benazir Bhutto – The Prodigal Daughter*

## Conclusion

- A massive amount of the Pakistani population refuse to believe that Bhutto's murder was caused by a suicide bomber.
- There are various evidences which were either wiped out or are still missing, thus creating loopholes in the case.
- Bhutto has been a remarkable woman and a beacon of hope for the women of Pakistan.
- Whoever was responsible for her death may have killed Bhutto, but her ideas still remain.



Bhutto's death caused a massive unrest in Pakistan while millions mourned her.

# The Sinking of the Titanic: A Tragedy Disguised for Gain

Allison Christman, Advisor Rob Wilson Ph.D., Honors College

## Introduction

- Official story states that the Titanic hit an iceberg and sank.
- The ship had several mishaps before the collision including a coal fire and a close collision call with another ship.
- Theory that the Titanic and the Olympic ships were switched.
- J. P Morgan possibly had malicious intent behind the switch.
- A possible insurance scam is rumored.
- Morgan potentially has a plot to kill his enemies.



The Titanic next to the Olympic.

## Research Findings

- Crew members were reported quitting just days before the voyage.
- Pictures of the Titanic show it with 14 portholes, but by the time of its voyage other pictures show it having 16, just like the Olympic. Rumors of the switch fluttered around the ship crew.
- Roughly 1,500 passengers died from the crash.
- Aesthetic differences in the sister ships' class A decks point to the fact that the Titanic was the ship that crashed.
- The insurance money that the White Star Line would have received for the crash would have only been two-thirds of the ships actual worth.
- John Jacob Astor, Isidor Straus and Benjamin Guggenheim, all three of Morgan's so-called enemies were killed in the crash.

## Conclusion

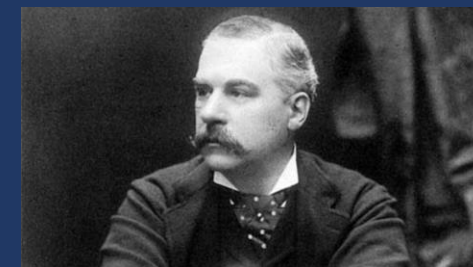
- The identification number for the Titanic was found on many pieces of debris from the wreckage.
- J. P Morgan cancelled his trip on the Titanic last minute claiming to be sick.
- *Times* Magazine reported seeing Morgan with his mistress on April 14, 1912, the day the ship sank.
- Proportionality bias leads society to believe that the cause must match the outcome.
- The damage done by this tragedy is massive, making many believe that there was malicious intent behind the collision.
- Divers estimate that in roughly 30 years, the wreckage will be completely disintegrated, leaving an unsolved mystery behind.

## Methodology

Theunredacted, "The Ship That Never" Sank, <https://theunredacted.com/titanic>  
 Carl Simon, "The Craziest Titanic Conspiracy Theories Explained", <https://www.history.com/news/titanic-sinking-conspiracy>  
 History.com Editors, N.A. "Titanic."  
[www.history.com/topics/early-20th-century-us/titanic](http://www.history.com/topics/early-20th-century-us/titanic)



The official story of the iceberg collision



J.P Morgan, financier of the Titanic.



# Cancer: Is the U.S Government Hiding A Cure?

By: Zahrak Farese (Advisor: Rob Wilson Ph.D.)

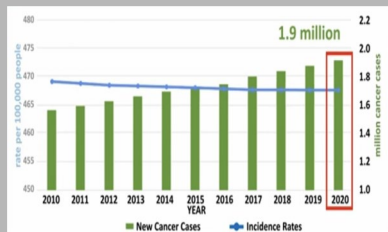
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## Introduction:

- Cancer is the given name to a collection of related diseases.
- Big Pharma has a cure for cancer and is suppressing it so that they can maintain a profit.
- The FDA is using its power to shut down any forms of alternative competing medicine that would be more effective and cheaper than the established forms of medicine.
- The CIA did create cancer, so they can keep people under control.
- Chemotherapy kills patients faster than no treatment.
- Chemotherapy is causing people to get in debt or suffering from pain because they can not afford to pay for it.
- Delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) can kill cancer, but the mainstream media, government, and pharma industry are working together to suppress it, and punish dissenters.

## Methodology:

Benjamin Ross. "Chromium, Cancer, and the CIA." *Dissent Magazine*.  
Keaton Patti, et al. "Rebunking Conspiracy Theories: Medicine and Disease."  
*McSweeney's Internet Tendency*  
Max Roser, and Hannah Ritchie. "Cancer." *Our World in Data*.  
Mike Rothschild. "Cancer Conspiracy Theories That'll Make You Mad."  
"What Is Cancer?" *National Cancer Institute*.



Cancer deaths are increasing every year



Hair loss is the result of chemotherapy and radiation treatment

## Research Findings:

- In all types of cancer, some of the body's cells begin to divide without stopping and spread into surrounding tissues.
- Cancer is a genetic disease that is caused by changes to genes that control the way our cells function, especially how they grow and divide.
- THC slows or inhibits growth in cancer cells.
- The Global Burden of Disease estimates that 9.56 million people died prematurely as a result of cancer in 2017.
- Every sixth death in the world is due to cancer.

## Conclusion:

- If there was an actual Big Pharma conspiracy to conceal a cure for cancer that it would take about 3.2 years for it to get exposed.
- The FDA had a selfish agenda and was indeed fighting against these alternatives.
- Marijuana has a proven pain-relief effect, increase the appetite of people with cancer, or those going through chemotherapy. THC slows or inhibits growth in cancer cells.
- Chemotherapy can be ineffective or even useless with some cancers, and is extremely expensive.
- If the CIA is hiding the cure everyone else should be hiding it too.



Cancer patients can not afford cancer treatment

Zahrak Farese

## **Is There A Hidden Cure For Cancer?**

Cancer is the name given to a collection of related diseases. In all types of cancer, some of the body's cells begin to divide without stopping and spread into surrounding tissues. Cancer is a genetic disease that is caused by changes to genes that control the way our cells function, especially how they grow and divide.<sup>1</sup> The Global Burden of Disease estimates that 9.56 million people died prematurely as a result of cancer in 2017. Every sixth death in the world is due to cancer.<sup>2</sup>

Basically conspiracy theories are a way to try and make sense of the world that in that moment doesn't particularly make sense.<sup>3</sup> This paper talks about the different conspiracy theories that authorities or people who have more power are hiding the cure for cancer. Big Pharma, the FDA, and the people in power (the government) are hiding the cure for cancer and let almost ten million people die from cancer annually. Finding a cure for cancer is so important because cancer is one of the world's largest health problems.<sup>4</sup>

The Big Pharma conspiracy theory is a group of conspiracy theories which claim that the medical community in general and pharmaceutical companies in particular, especially large corporations, operate for sinister purposes and against the public good, and that they allegedly

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<sup>1</sup> N.A. No author, "*What Is Cancer?*", <https://www.cancer.gov/about-cancer/understanding/what-is-cancer>

<sup>2</sup> Hannah Ritchie & Max Roser, *Cancer*, <https://ourworldindata.org/cancer>

<sup>3</sup> N.A. No author, "*What Is Cancer?*", <https://www.cancer.gov/about-cancer/understanding/what-is-cancer>

<sup>4</sup> Hannah Ritchie & Max Roser, *Cancer*, <https://ourworldindata.org/cancer>

cause and worsen a wide range of diseases.<sup>5</sup> The idea that big pharma has a cure for cancer and is suppressing it so that they can maintain a profit is believed by as much as 27% of the American public according to a 2005 survey. In 2016, David Robert Grimes, an Irish science writer with professional training in physics and cancer biology, published a research paper elaborating about the mathematical non-viability of conspiracy theories in general.<sup>6</sup> He specifically showed that if there was an actual Big Pharma conspiracy to conceal a cure for cancer that it would take about 3.2 years for it to get exposed due to the sheer number of people required to keep it secret.<sup>7</sup>

The argument is that pharmaceutical companies are slowing down research for a comprehensive cure for cancer by developing high-profit, single-purpose treatments rather than focusing on a supposed cure-all for all cancers. Money is important but if it comes to losing people's life then the last thing to think about should be money. Big Pharma are humans at the end and if they are hiding the cure, they should think about what if a member of their family gets cancer. They are killing a huge amount of people just for their benefit.

Big Pharma often gets villainized, however, regarding preventing a cancer cure, another industry is truly to blame: Big Wig. Aside from drag queens and bald people unaware of hats, most wigs are purchased by chemotherapy patients dealing with the side effect of hair loss. A cure for cancer would get rid of all non-recreational chemotherapy users, meaning big losses for Big Wig.<sup>8</sup> With the world's wig-dependent economy, any sort of cure is not likely to see the

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<sup>5</sup> N.A. No author, "*Big Pharma Conspiracy Theory*", [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Big\\_Pharma\\_conspiracy\\_theory](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Big_Pharma_conspiracy_theory)

<sup>6</sup> Robert Blaskiewicz, "*The Big Pharma conspiracy theory.*", 259.

<sup>7</sup> N.A. No author, "*Big Pharma Conspiracy Theory*", [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Big\\_Pharma\\_conspiracy\\_theory](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Big_Pharma_conspiracy_theory)

<sup>8</sup> Keaton Patti, et al, "*Rebunking Conspiracy Theories: Medicine and Disease*", [www.mcsweeneys.net/articles/medicine-and-disease](http://www.mcsweeneys.net/articles/medicine-and-disease)

light of day. Most of the world's leading cancer scientists are in the hairy pocket of Big Wig.<sup>9</sup> All the money they are getting from the chemotherapy is not enough. Big Wig is a company who sells wigs since they know that patients who are suffering from cancer will lose their hair and need a wig to put it on when they go out or for some patients it just makes them feel better to see hair on their head. Hair loss is one of the side effects of chemotherapy. Big Pharma is also taking advantage of cancer side effects.

The FDA,<sup>10</sup> The Food and Drug Administration is using its power to shut down any forms of alternative competing medicine that would be more effective and cheaper than the established forms of medicine. The FDA is either ignoring them or outright actively trying to shut them down and stop people from using them.<sup>11</sup> The FDA has power over the entire world, not just the United States. The FDA had a selfish agenda and was indeed fighting against these alternatives.<sup>12</sup> The FDA should care about people's lives and help them to cure from cancer. By ignoring the cure, they are causing a mistrust between patients and their doctors. Instead of the FDA hiding the cure, they should be looking for one. Also they should be looking for a way to make people live longer and not kill them.

No natural compound has been put forth more often as a cure for cancer than marijuana. Globally, marijuana is the most commonly used illicit drug. Classified as a Schedule one

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<sup>9</sup> Keaton Patti, et al, "*Rebunking Conspiracy Theories: Medicine and Disease*", [www.mcsweeneys.net/articles/medicine-and-disease](http://www.mcsweeneys.net/articles/medicine-and-disease)

<sup>10</sup> The FDA is an agency of the United States Department of Health and Human services that regulates and supervises, among other things, medications and medical treatments has a primarily profit-driven agenda.

<sup>11</sup> N.A. No author, *FDA Conspiracy Theories, and Attitudes towards Cancer*, [http://warp.povusers.org/grrr/fda\\_and\\_cancer.html](http://warp.povusers.org/grrr/fda_and_cancer.html)

<sup>12</sup> N.A. No author, *FDA Conspiracy Theories, and Attitudes towards Cancer*, [http://warp.povusers.org/grrr/fda\\_and\\_cancer.html](http://warp.povusers.org/grrr/fda_and_cancer.html)

controlled substance, marijuana is a mood-altering drug that affects almost every organ in the body.<sup>13</sup> Scores of alternative medicine websites insist research has proven delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) can kill cancer, but the mainstream media, government, and pharma industry are working together to suppress it, and punish dissenters.<sup>14</sup> Marijuana has a proven pain-relief effect, and has also been known to increase the appetite of people with cancer, or those going through chemo. Research shows THC slows or inhibits growth in cancer cells.<sup>15</sup> It is known that smoking marijuana is bad for health but if it can reduce cancer cells why just ignore it and stop people from dying from this disease. Almost every family in the world has someone that is suffering or died from cancer. Preventing people from dying and suffering should be a nationwide goal. If marijuana is dangerous, then cancer is more dangerous and lethal. Big Pharma is stopping people from using marijuana as a drug because it affects their whole body. If marijuana is used for a medical purpose to reduce cancer cells and to relieve their pain then it should be permitted. But marijuana is way cheaper than chemotherapy which it affects their business of gaining as much money as they can. Chemotherapy is causing people to get in debt or suffering from pain because they can not afford to pay for it.

Chemotherapy kills patients faster than no treatment. Chemotherapy and radiation are meant to kill cancer with cellular poisons, and as such, can have extremely harsh side effects.<sup>16</sup> Chemo can be ineffective or even useless with some cancers, and is extremely expensive. The

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<sup>13</sup> Kathleen Davis, *"Marijuana (Cannabis): Facts, Effects, and Hazards"*, [www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/246392#what-is-marijuana](http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/246392#what-is-marijuana).

<sup>14</sup> Mike Rothschild, *"Cancer Conspiracy Theories That'll Make You Mad."*, [www.ranker.com/list/cancer-conspiracies/mike-rothschild](http://www.ranker.com/list/cancer-conspiracies/mike-rothschild).

<sup>15</sup> Kathleen Davis, *"Marijuana (Cannabis): Facts, Effects, and Hazards"*, [www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/246392#what-is-marijuana](http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/articles/246392#what-is-marijuana).

<sup>16</sup> Mike Rothschild, *"Cancer Conspiracy Theories That'll Make You Mad."*, [www.ranker.com/list/cancer-conspiracies/mike-rothschild](http://www.ranker.com/list/cancer-conspiracies/mike-rothschild).



medical establishment gives chemotherapy to cancer patients knowing it doesn't work just to get their money and kill them. Chemo kills more than 90% of patients and is only effective 2 to 3 percent of the time.<sup>17</sup> Chemo has never been cured with other cancers and may not work as well. In some cases, patients are diagnosed too late for treatments to work and the treatment simply isn't worth the pain and expense. Doctors are just giving people chemo to benefit financially. Patients will then suffer and struggle with the pain to try to avoid paying these large amounts of payments. Most people think that chemo cures cancer which is not true because chemo may make the patient feel better for some days but also it is like a poison. Once a patient takes chemo it makes him sick at first and then it makes him feel better. If chemotherapy is not worth the money nor the pain then doctors are recommending it to kill their patients faster and earn a good amount of money. Money is always the main goal all the people who are hiding the truth are looking for but they do not know that they lost their humanity as a human.

The Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) is also hiding the cure for cancer. The CIA is the Central Intelligence Agency is a civilian foreign intelligence service of the federal government of the United States, tasked with gathering, processing, and analyzing national security information from around the world, primarily through the use of human intelligence.<sup>18</sup> The CIA has control over the United States so if they are hiding the cure everyone else should be hiding it too.<sup>19</sup> The CIA did create cancer, so they can keep people under control. The CIA wants to have power over the people and they want patients to give up to this disease. They want people to think that there

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<sup>17</sup> Mike Rothschild, "*Cancer Conspiracy Theories That'll Make You Mad.*", [www.ranker.com/list/cancer-conspiracies/mike-rothschild](http://www.ranker.com/list/cancer-conspiracies/mike-rothschild).

<sup>18</sup> N.A. No author, "*Central Intelligence Agency*", <https://www.cia.gov/index.html>

<sup>19</sup> Benjamin Ross, "*Chromium, Cancer, and the CIA.*", [www.dissentmagazine.org/online\\_articles/chromium-cancer-and-the-cia](http://www.dissentmagazine.org/online_articles/chromium-cancer-and-the-cia).

is always something that they can not control and higher than them. Patients are going with whatever their doctors are saying and recommending for them. If the patients' doctors are a member of the Big Pharma then they are screwed and involved in their lies.

Conspiracy theories may be a way to reassure oneself that there is an order to our lives, that calamity and disaster are not meaningless or random<sup>20</sup>. This in turn enables people to identify an enemy to fight. When patients and their loved ones are forced to accept a serious disease, they often experience powerlessness, especially when no cure is available. After all, cancer researchers are humans. Humans cannot keep important secrets. Cancer cures cannot be suppressed, not even for one month. Many cancers already have high survival rates but perhaps the most compelling reason why the "hidden cure" conspiracy is false is that there simply could never be one single cure for cancer, because cancer is not one thing. Under the umbrella of "cancer" are hundreds of related diseases that vary substantially in their causes and underlying mechanisms.<sup>21</sup> And even the same type of cancer can "evolve" in unique ways among individuals, requiring different treatment regimens for different patients.

However, the idea that holding back a cure would result in more profit than presenting one is not considered a very strong argument. This manifestation also largely ignores the fact that cancer is not a single disease but instead many and that large strides have been made in the fight against it. Cancer is scary, and few of our lives have been untouched by its devastating reach. But just because the medical establishment hasn't yet found a blockbuster cure for all cancer doesn't mean that they're hiding it from us. While the "hidden cure" conspiracy is absolutely

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<sup>20</sup> Robert Blaskiewicz, "*The Big Pharma conspiracy theory.*", 261.

<sup>21</sup> Quora, "*Some Think Big Pharma Is Suppressing A Cure For Cancer. Here's Why That Could Never Happen.*", <https://www.forbes.com/sites/quora/2018/09/10/some-think-big-pharma-is-suppressing-a-cure-for-cancer-heres-why-that-could-never-happen/#792ac4d8419c>

false, it's worth asking if the current approaches for funding cancer research and drug development are the best ways to find effective and affordable cures for both common and rare forms of cancer.

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# Pearl Harbor: A Day the Government Betrayed America

UMSL

Olivia Fuller (Advisor: Rob Wilson Ph.D.)

## Introduction

- Pearl Harbor is a naval base stationed in Oahu, Hawaii
- December 7, 1941 - Japan bombed Pearl Harbor
- Roughly 2,403 American soldiers and 68 civilians died
- Pearl Harbor led to America joining WWII
- Conspiracy theorist question Roosevelt's intentions
- Conspiracy theorists question Roosevelt's involvement leading up to the attack on Pearl Harbor

## Methodology

- Connor. "The Tragic Miscommunications That Led to the Bombing of Pearl Harbor."
- Dallek, Robert. "Pearl Harbor and the 'Back Door to War' Theory." *Encyclopædia Britannica*.
- "How Roosevelt Attacked Japan at Pearl Harbor." National Archives and Records Administration.
- "Pearl Harbor (Article) | World War II." Khan Academy.



Franklin D. Roosevelt, leader of governmental deceit

## Conclusion

- Conspiracy theorists believe Roosevelt possessed intelligence prior to the bombing
- Secrecy and deceit within the government created a perfect opportunity for conspiracy theories to arise
- Governmental leadership and security are questioned due to the conspiracy theories formed about the bombing of Pearl Harbor
- The attack on Pearl Harbor left America exposed and vulnerable
- The 14-Part Message is a key factor leading up to the attack on Pearl Harbor
- Conspiracy theorists claim Pearl Harbor permitted Roosevelt an entryway into WWII
- Conspiracy theories about Pearl Harbor stem from miscommunication within the government

## Research Findings

- Conspiracy theorists believe Roosevelt received warnings prior to the bombing of Pearl Harbor
- Dead cables resulted in limited communication
- Inefficient communication also occurred throughout bureaucracy procedures
- The 14-Part Message, a failed peace agreement between Japan and the United States, led to the bombing of Pearl Harbor
- Conspiracy theorists believe Roosevelt intentionally placed embargos on Japan to create disorder and frustration
- The Back Door to War Theory, states Roosevelt used Pearl Harbor as an entryway into WWII.



Pearl Harbor vulnerable and exposed before the attack



The bombing of Pearl Harbor, a repercussion of limited communication

# Nibiru Cataclysm: An Oncoming Apocalypse of Cosmic Proportions

By: Kathryn Grothen (Advisor: Rob Wilson Ph.D.)

UMSL

## Introduction:

- Conspiracy theory holds that Nibiru/Planet X will hit or pass Earth in the near future
- Collision or passage will cause devastating effects on Earth
- Theory proposed by Nancy Lieder in 1995
- Lieder believes herself to be an “emissary” for an alien race known as the Zetans who told her of Nibiru
- Theory also connected to Sumerian mythology by author Zacharia Sitchin
- Proponents of theory claim NASA and the U.S. government withholds information about Nibiru to prevent mass panic

## Methodology:

- “2012 and Counting: A NASA Scientist Answers the Top 20 Questions About 2012” by David Morrison
- Annunaki.org
- *Suspicious Minds: Why We Believe Conspiracy Theories* by Rob Brotherton
- Zetataalk.com



Nancy Lieder, founder of ZetaTalk.com, in 2013

## Research Findings:

- Dates for the cataclysm have been proposed by Lieder and others
- All of these dates have proven to be false
- Sitchin claims Nibiru is home to an alien race called the Annunaki
- Annunaki are said to have created humans
- Annunaki neglect to warn humans of oncoming Planet X because of humanity’s failings
- Previous passes by Nibiru linked to biblical events
- Passage or collision with Nibiru said by Lieder to cause magnetic pole shift on Earth
- Shift will allegedly cause extreme weather on Earth
- Examples of this extreme weather include innumerable tornadoes and titanic ocean whirlpools
- Effects caused by Planet X will cause humanity’s extinction
- Proponents of theory claim there is scientific evidence for the cataclysm
- Scientists in many fields claim the evidence put forth by proponents of Nibiru is ignorant or false

## Conclusion:

- Scientific evidence does not support Nibiru
- Distrust of authority likely influences the beliefs of Planet X proponents
- Proponents distrust NASA and U.S. government
- No scientific evidence will change proponents’ beliefs and any supporting evidence is clung to (confirmation bias)
- Global warming’s effects on Earth must have an equally huge reason behind them (proportion distortion)
- The untruth of the Nibiru theory must continue to be spoken by scientists and the scientifically informed
- Theories like these distract from solving global problems such as global warming



Nibiru is said to pass or hit Earth causing catastrophic effects



The Annunaki, Sumerian “gods” and creators of humanity

Katie Grothen

## **Nibiru Cataclysm: An Oncoming Apocalypse of Cosmic Proportions**

The end of times is a common theme in religion and myth throughout history, from the Christian Bible's Book of Revelations to Ragnarök from Norse mythology. While most of these prophecies of the apocalypse were put forth thousands of years ago, a more recent proposal for the how the world will end is the Nibiru Cataclysm conspiracy theory. This theory holds that a planet called Nibiru, or Planet X, will at some point closely pass by or collide with Earth; regardless of whether the planet makes impact, theorists say it will wreak havoc upon the Earth and spell the end for humanity. <sup>1</sup> This paper covers the background of this theory in detail, evidence supporting the theory, and counterevidence to the theory. This paper also explores the reasoning behind why the proponents of the Nibiru theory hold the theory to be true despite the evidence to the contrary. To conclude, this paper discusses the importance of debunking this specific conspiracy theory so that the population can properly address global problems, such as global warming.

### **Background**

The Nibiru Cataclysm theory has been around for quite some time. A woman named Nancy Lieder first proposed the theory in 1995. <sup>2</sup> Some believe Lieder to be an "emissary" for an alien race known as the Zetans, and these Zetans allegedly gave Lieder the information regarding Planet X. <sup>3</sup> The Zetans communicate their message through abducting humans and implanting

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<sup>1</sup> "Zeta Talk: Planet X," <http://www.zetatalk.com/science/s58.htm> (accessed 11 April 2020).

<sup>2</sup> "Nancy Lieder's Bio," <http://zetatalk.com/nancybio.htm> (accessed 11 April 2020).

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

communication devices into their brains through which they communicate important information to their “contactees,” such as information about the Nibiru Cataclysm.<sup>4</sup> Lieder founded the website ZetaTalk, which she uses to document the information that the Zetans communicate to her, the same year that she proposed the oncoming Nibiru Cataclysm.<sup>5</sup> Leading up to 1997 and the period of time when the comet Hale-Bopp was going to be most visible to the naked eye from Earth, Lieder stated that the Zetans had told her that the comet was merely a distraction from the upcoming arrival of Planet X and did not exist, though this was proven to be false.<sup>6</sup> Lieder first predicted that Nibiru would pass close to Earth in May 2003 and have devastating effects.<sup>7</sup> May 2003 came and went with no cataclysm and no Planet X.<sup>8</sup> Lieder then claimed that the original date that she proposed for the cataclysm was actually a false date put forth in order to prevent the governments of the world from taking advantage of a fearful populace in the lead-up to the oncoming devastation; therefore, Lieder and the Zetans refuse to give any true dates for Nibiru’s arrival.<sup>9</sup> Naturally, people other than Lieder have proposed dates for the Cataclysm; these dates include the end of the Mayan Calendar on December 21, 2012 and sometime in the year 2017.<sup>10</sup> As of yet, none of these dates have come to fruition.

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<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> “Welcome to ZetaTalk,” <http://www.zetatalc.com/index.htm> (accessed 11 April 2020).

<sup>6</sup> “Hale-Bopp,” <http://www.zetatalc.com/halebopp/hb000001.htm> (accessed 11 April 2020).

<sup>7</sup> “Zeta Talk: Planet X,” <http://www.zetatalc.com/science/s58.htm> (accessed 11 April 2020).

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> “Zeta Talk: White Lie,” <http://www.zetatalc.com/index/psdate2.htm> (accessed 11 April 2020).

<sup>10</sup> P. Mackie and F. Sim, “Fake New, Facts, and Nibiru,” *Public Health* 153 (December 2017): A1.



Author Zecharia Sitchin has also linked Planet X to Sumerian mythology.<sup>11</sup> This linkage has been accepted by Lieder and other Planet X theorists, though Sitchin denied any linkage of his theory to Lieder's until his death in 2010.<sup>12</sup> In his book, *The Twelfth Planet* (1976), Sitchin claimed to have translated ancient Sumerian religious texts.<sup>13</sup> Sitchin claimed these texts told of a 12<sup>th</sup> planet in the solar system called Nibiru, which completes its orbit around the sun every 3,600 years.<sup>14</sup> Nibiru would be the 12<sup>th</sup> planet in the solar system, given that the Sumerians supposedly counted the moon, the sun, and Pluto all as planets in addition to the other eight.<sup>15</sup> Sitchin claimed that Nibiru is the home of an ancient race of beings called the Annunaki, who came to Earth over 400,000 years ago to extract resources from the planet and, while they were on Earth, created humankind.<sup>16</sup> These "gods," upset with the inadequacies of the human race, decided not to warn their creation of their impending doom when Nibiru's orbit brings it past Earth once again.<sup>17</sup> Sitchin has also linked Nibiru's previous passes to biblical disasters, such as the Great Flood.<sup>18</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> "Zeta: Talk: Sitchin," <http://www.zetatalk.com/poleshft/p51.htm> (accessed 11 April 2020). ; Vishal Thakur, "What Is Nibiru?" <https://www.scienceabc.com/nature/universe/what-is-nibiru.html> (accessed 11 April 2020).

<sup>12</sup> Ibid.

<sup>13</sup> David Morrison, "2012 and Counting: A NASA Scientist Answers the Top 20 Questions About 2012," *Skeptic* 15 (2009): 48.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid.

<sup>15</sup> Janice Friedman, "The Nibiru Cataclysm, The Anunnaki And Planet X," <https://www.ancient-code.com/nibiru-cataclysm-anunnaki-planet-x/> (accessed 11 April 2020).

<sup>16</sup> "Nibiru," <https://www.annunaki.org/nibiru/> (accessed 11 April 2020).

<sup>17</sup> "Nibiru," <https://www.annunaki.org/nibiru/> (accessed 11 April 2020).

<sup>18</sup> Ibid.



## Evidence and Effects

Proponents of the Planet X Theory assert that there is strong evidence that supports their claim. For example, proponents of the theory assert that NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) themselves discovered Planet X in 1983.<sup>19</sup> In 1983, NASA was using the IRAS (Infrared Astronomy Satellite) to study space and found numerous infrared emitting sources, one of which theorists claim to be Nibiru.<sup>20</sup> Even more compelling, in 2016, Caltech astronomer Mike Brown and astrophysicist Konstantin Batygin discovered evidence of a large planet past Neptune, with Brown saying he was 50-60% sure that such a planet did exist.<sup>21</sup> In 2001, a study found that, early in Earth's history, something did collide with the Earth, leading to the creation of the moon and lending credence to the claim that Planet X has collided with Earth before.<sup>22</sup> Planet X theorists also find it suspicious that NASA has a planetary defense system set in place in an attempt to protect Earth from collisions with near-Earth objects, given that NASA claims that the passage of Planet X is an impossibility.<sup>23</sup> Lastly, proponents of this theory claim that there is legitimate photographic evidence of Nibiru.<sup>24</sup> Nibiru Cataclysm theorists assert that

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<sup>19</sup> "Zeta Talk: Planet X," <http://www.zetatalk.com/science/s58.htm> (accessed 11 April 2020).

<sup>20</sup> David Morrison, "2012 and Counting: A NASA Scientist Answers the Top 20 Questions About 2012," *Skeptic* 15 (2009): 49.

<sup>21</sup> Amina Khan, "Astronomers' Findings Point to a Ninth Planet, and it's Not Pluto," *Los Angeles Times*, 20 January 2016, <https://www.latimes.com/science/sciencenow/la-sci-sn-planet-nine-20160120-story.html> (accessed 11 April 2020).

<sup>22</sup> Christine Djonis, "Planet X- Is There Scientific Evidence?" <https://www.ancient-origins.net/news-science-space/planet-x-there-scientific-evidence-005768> (accessed 11 April 2020).

<sup>23</sup> "Planetary Defense," <https://www.nasa.gov/planetarydefense/faq> (accessed 11 April 2020).

<sup>24</sup> David Morrison, "2012 and Counting: A NASA Scientist Answers the Top 20 Questions About 2012," *Skeptic* 15 (2009): 49.

NASA is aware of the existence of Planet X and its upcoming passage or collision with Earth and, despite the evidence, denies it to prevent mass panic.<sup>25</sup>

Lieder claims that the main effect that the passage or collision of Nibiru will have on Earth is a physical pole shift of the North and South Poles, as well as a stop in planetary rotation for several days due to the magnetic attraction between Earth and Nibiru.<sup>26</sup> According to Lieder, this will cause severe weather changes, including innumerable tornadoes and massive whirlpools capable of taking down ships in the oceans.<sup>27</sup> Eventually, these unprecedented natural disasters will lead to the end of the human race.<sup>28</sup> Nibiru theorists also assert that as Nibiru draws closer, natural disasters will become more and more frequent.<sup>29</sup> They point to the growing frequency in severe weather, such as hurricanes, as proof that Planet X is closing in.<sup>30</sup>

### Counterevidence

Scientists in various fields vehemently dispute the claims made by Planet X theorists. For example, while theorists claim that Nibiru was detected by the IRAS in 1983, NASA scientist David Morrison asserts that none of the objects found by IRAS in 1983 were found to be planets; Morrison also states that of the “mystery objects” that were found, all except one were confirmed to be galaxies and the other was a cloud of “infrared cirrus.”<sup>31</sup> Brown and Batygin’s description

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<sup>25</sup> “Nibiru,” <https://www.annunaki.org/nibiru/> (accessed 11 April 2020).

<sup>26</sup> “Pole Shift Date of May 27, 2003,” <http://www.zetatalc.com/index/psdate1.htm> (accessed 11 April 2020).

<sup>27</sup> Ibid.

<sup>28</sup> Vishal Thakur, “What Is Nibiru?” <https://www.scienceabc.com/nature/universe/what-is-nibiru.html> (accessed 11 April 2020).

<sup>29</sup> “Effects of Nibiru Wreaking Havoc on Planet Earth,” <https://armageddonbroadcastnetwork.tv/news/celestial-signs/effects-of-nibiru-wreaking-havoc-on-planet-earth> (accessed 11 April 2020).

<sup>30</sup> Ibid.

<sup>31</sup> David Morrison, “2012 and Counting: A NASA Scientist Answers the Top 20 Questions About 2012,” *Skeptic* 15 (2009): 49.

of the planet they discovered (Planet Nine) also does not fit the theory's description of Nibiru, given that the orbit of Planet Nine is estimated to be between 10,000 and 20,000 years per revolution around the sun, instead of the 3,600 suggested by theorists; furthermore, its orbit does not bring it anywhere near Earth, and, in fact, Planet Nine orbits at least 6.667 times farther from the sun than Neptune.<sup>32</sup> The theory that the object that hit Earth in the past forming the moon was Nibiru has been debunked in a 2016 study, which analyzed material collected from the moon; this analysis shows that while the Earth was hit by a planet in its early history, it is very likely that the collision was so violent that the two planets were meshed together, and that the other planet did not survive the collision.<sup>33</sup> Morrison also rebuts the claim that the establishment of a planetary defense system means that NASA must be preparing for Nibiru's passage or collision. Morrison asserts that Earth has been hit in the past by near-Earth objects, such as the meteor which hit Earth 65 million years ago leading to the extinction of the dinosaurs, so having a planetary defense system is not suspicious but very prudent.<sup>34</sup> Morrison also claims that any photographic evidence of Planet X is lens flare caused by the sun, photoshop, or misidentified objects.<sup>35</sup> Finally, according to Morrison, a sudden physical shift of the Earth's poles, as

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<sup>32</sup> Amina Khan, "Astronomers' Findings Point to a Ninth Planet, and it's Not Pluto," Los Angeles Times, 20 January 2016, <https://www.latimes.com/science/sciencenow/la-sci-sn-planet-nine-20160120-story.html> (accessed 11 April 2020).

<sup>33</sup> John Wenz, "Scientists Find Strong Evidence That the Earth Was Hit Head-on by a Mars-Sized Planet," <https://www.popularmechanics.com/space/a19143/earth-moon-theia-collision/> (accessed 11 April 2020).

<sup>34</sup> David Morrison, "2012 and Counting: A NASA Scientist Answers the Top 20 Questions About 2012," *Skeptic* 15 (2009): 52.

<sup>35</sup> David Morrison, "2012 and Counting: A NASA Scientist Answers the Top 20 Questions About 2012," *Skeptic* 15 (2009): 49-50.

suggested by Lieder, is scientifically impossible, and the weather changes supposedly caused by the oncoming pole shift are actually a result of global warming.<sup>36</sup>

## Conclusion

It is clear that the more logical argument comes from the opponents of the theory when weighing both sides of the argument. Looking past the outlandishness of some of the claims, some of the evidence for the Nibiru theory seems to hold up at first glance, like the discovery of the ninth planet by astronomers or the fact that the impact of another planet on Earth created the moon; however, when looking deeper at the evidence, it becomes obvious that scientific studies done on these topics do not support these claims. The question then becomes why do people like Lieder, Sitchin, and others still believe that there is a rogue planet destined to hit Earth and destroy civilization, and why does it matter if they do? Perhaps the belief in the Planet X Cataclysm theory and theories like it boils down to a general distrust of those in authority. Distrust of authority, particularly the government, can sometimes be for good reason, such as in the case of Operation Northwoods.<sup>37</sup> When the government does not have a great track record in telling the truth to its citizens, it makes sense that those citizens would therefore be wary of believing anything they say. In this case, the distrusted authority is NASA; while it is primarily a scientific entity, they are still an organization of the United States Government, which has lied to and harmed its own citizens in the past. Distrust of NASA in general is not a new phenomenon either; many people believe that NASA and the U.S. government staged the Apollo moon

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<sup>36</sup> David Morrison, "2012 and Counting: A NASA Scientist Answers the Top 20 Questions About 2012," *Skeptic* 15 (2009): 51.

<sup>37</sup> Rob Brotherton, *Suspicious Minds: Why We Believe Conspiracy Theories* (London: Bloomsbury Sigma, 2016), 66-67.; Operation Northwoods was a proposal by U.S. military chiefs in which it was proposed that the U.S. government stage terrorist attacks on U.S. citizens and place the blame on Cuba to justify a war with them in the 1960s.

landings in the 1960s to get an edge over the Soviets during the Cold War.<sup>38</sup> There is also the issue of confirmation bias, in that once someone decides that Planet X is real and it is going to annihilate the Earth, it is going to be incredibly difficult to sway that person regardless of the validity of the evidence of the other side.<sup>39</sup> Any contradictory evidence can be explained away as the lies of a manipulative government, and any evidence that confirms the belief in Nibiru is clung onto like a lifeline. The concept of “proportion distortion” likely plays a role in the prevalence of the Planet X theory as well, given that the issues of global warming (e.g. severe weather, rising oceans) seem momentarily huge, and therefore there must be an equally huge explanation.<sup>40</sup> Saying that the reason behind these disasters is because people use too much gasoline or cut down too many trees does not seem to match the devastating effects, but the oncoming collision of an entire planet might be more believable. It is important that, regardless of the obstacles, scientists and the scientifically knowledgeable continue to speak the truth regarding Nibiru. Dismissing the proponents of this theory, of which there are quite a few, as “crazy” allows a portion of the population to distract the rest from taking action on real issues, such as global warming. Getting the entire population on board for saving the planet is vital to actually doing just that, instead of just talking about it.

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<sup>38</sup> Rob Brotherton, *Suspicious Minds: Why We Believe Conspiracy Theories* (London: Bloomsbury Sigma, 2016), 196-197.

<sup>39</sup> Rob Brotherton, *Suspicious Minds: Why We Believe Conspiracy Theories* (London: Bloomsbury Sigma, 2016), 238-239.

<sup>40</sup> Rob Brotherton, *Suspicious Minds: Why We Believe Conspiracy Theories* (London: Bloomsbury Sigma, 2016), 218-219.; The concept of proportion distortion says that, by human nature, people feel that a hugely impactful event must logically have equally huge reasons behind it.

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Wenz, John. “Scientists Find Strong Evidence That the Earth Was Hit Head-on by a Mars-Sized Planet.” <https://www.popularmechanics.com/space/a19143/earth-moon-theia-collision/> (accessed 11 April 2020).

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# Israel's Animal Spies: A Glimpse into the Accusations

Meghan Hruskocy (Advisor: Rob Wilson Ph.D.)

## Introduction

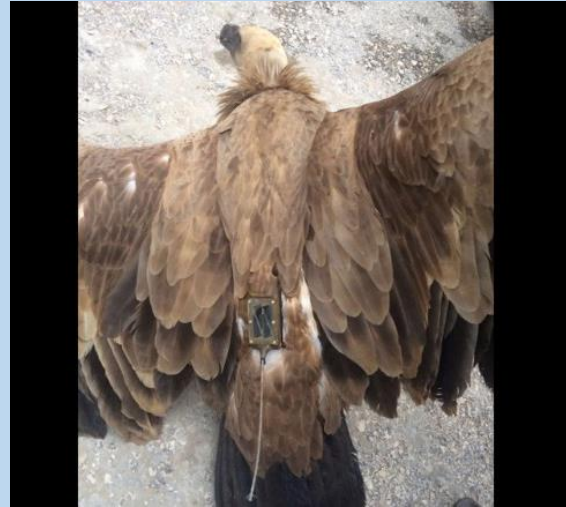
- Animals can be trained to perform tricks and service tasks, including military jobs
- There are high tensions and suspicions in the Middle East.
- Is it possible that Israel is using animals to spy on other countries?

## Sources

- *The Times of Israel*, CNN, additional local or international news websites



A shark's GPS tracking device on its dorsal fin.



One of the captured and accused griffon vultures; notice its implanted tracking device.

## Research Findings

### The animals

- squirrels (2007), sharks (2010), griffon vultures (2011, 2016), dolphin (2015)

### The evidence

- cameras, GPS trackers, tags and leg bands

### The claim

- controlling animals via trackers to obtain information on programs/personnel or undermine other countries' successes
- supported by police and officials

### The counter

- remote control not scientifically supported
- trackers for conservation research, can look more threatening than reality

## Conclusion

- There are many claims by many countries accusing Israel of animal espionage.
- Despite the equipment being capable of recording and transmitting information, the transmissions are not beneficial for obtaining intelligence.
- It is *possible*. (Could so many people simply be paranoid?)
- It is unlikely to be more than a theory.



Dolphin wearing tracking equipment and camera, both often very bulky.

# HAARP: The Weather Machine that Caused Katrina?

Cullen Landolt (Advisor: Rob Wilson, Ph.D.)

## Introduction

- HAARP: High Frequency Active Auroral Research Program
- Research facility in Gakona, Alaska
- Official goal: “studying the properties and behavior of the ionosphere”
- Accused of weaponizing weather and engineering Hurricane Katrina



The HAARP facility as of September 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

## Sources

- *Angels Don't Play This Harp*, by Dr. Nick Begich.
- *Chemtrails, Haarp, and the Full Spectrum Dominance of Planet Earth*, by Elana Freeland and Jacob Covey.
- CBC News
- Popular Science
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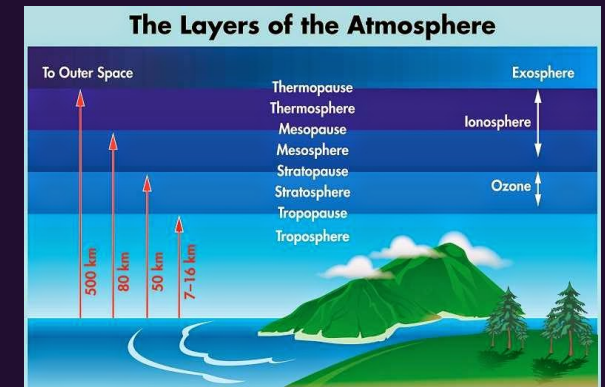
Dr. Bernard Eastlund, whose scientific research fuels conspiracy theories surrounding the HAARP facility.

## Research Findings

- Weather warfare has been practiced in the U.S. (Project Seal and Operation Popeye).
- The U.S. used ‘cloud seeding’ over Oregon’s Hood River, creating disastrous snowstorms in the area.
- Dr. Bernard Eastlund filed a patent with ARCO in 1987, outlining revolutionary concepts in weather modification.
- Eastlund left ARCO, citing suspicious business practices. ARCO was soon bought out by a company specializing in military ‘dark’ projects (E-Systems).
- Theorists claim that E-Systems utilized Eastlund’s work in the development of HAARP.
- Leaked document TM-195 confirms those theories.
- HAARP’s funding peaked at 49.3 million dollars in 2005 (the same year as Hurricane Katrina).
- HAARP possesses incredible power – enough to create an artificial aurora borealis in 2004.
- In 2015, the military gave control of the facility to the University of Fairbanks, Alaska.

## Conclusions

- The United States government has demonstrated an eagerness to experiment with weather modification.
- Dr. Eastlund’s theories were pursued in the development of HAARP.
- High-ranking military officials hoped that the research facility could be used as a weather weapon.
- Hurricane Katrina, however, could not have been created by HAARP or any similar facility.
- Dr. Eastlund’s weather modification theories cannot yet be realized, as they require levels of power found only in the forces of nature.
- If HAARP can alter the weather, it cannot do so on the scale that many conspiracy theorists suggest.
- Weather modification remains a highly theoretical science.



In the layers of the atmosphere, weather formation occurs only in the stratosphere and the troposphere.



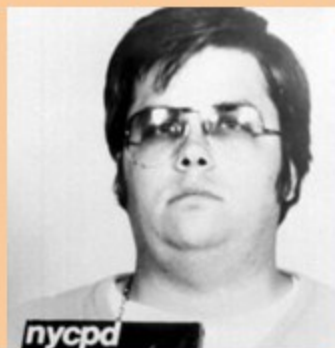
# John Lennon's Death: Mark David Chapman and the CIA

Maddesyn Langley: (Advisor: Rob Wilson Ph.D., Honors College)

UMSL

## Introduction

- John Lennon is remembered for his musical talents and political activism.
- Lennon had much influence on the American public; this was a threat to the U.S. government.
- The government tried to have Lennon deported on the basis of a drug charge.
- Lennon was assassinated on December 8, 1980 by Mark David Chapman.
- Chapman was a devout Christian that spent much of his time working for the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA).
- Some believe the CIA uses the YMCA to recruit individuals to complete tasks for them.
- Some argue Chapman was recruited and then trained by the CIA to kill Lennon.
- Some also propose the CIA used mind control to train Chapman.



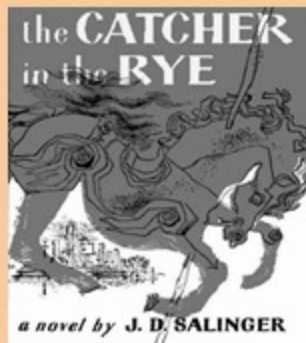
Mark David Chapman plead guilty to shooting and killing John Lennon.

## Research Findings

- Lennon made reports stating the U.S. government/CIA was watching him.
- Chapman, an anti-communist, requested to be sent to the Soviet Union to complete work for the YMCA.
- Chapman's request was rejected, and he was instead sent to Beirut, Lebanon.
- Beirut, Lebanon was home to a major CIA base and was rumored to be an assassination training camp.
- All documents on Chapman's involvement with the YMCA cannot be traced.
- Chapman lived in Hawaii prior to killing Lennon, which was also rumored to have an assassination training camp.
- Mark David Chapman willingly gave himself over to the police.
- Lieutenant O'Connor stated that Chapman appeared "programmed" at the scene of the murder.

## Conclusion

- Chapman was likely living with mental illness.
- Psychiatrists believed Chapman had schizophrenia.
- Psychiatrists also argued Chapman was confused about his own identity.
- Chapman did not approve of Lennon's religious comments; this made Lennon a target.
- There has been little to no evidence linking the CIA to the YMCA.
- There are no factual links between the Reagan administration and the assassination of Lennon.
- Using mind control as a way to dictate someone's decisions has little scientific evidence.



Chapman saw himself as the protagonist in the novel, *The Catcher of the Rye*.



John Lennon and his wife, Yoko Ono, advocating against war in Vietnam.

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# Mystery Mutilation: The Case for Alien Involvement in Cattle Killings

By Sarah Jane Matt (Advisor: Rob Wilson Ph.D.)



## Introduction

- Over 10,000 cases of cattle mutilation reported in the US since 1967
- Cattle found dead missing eyes, ears, tongues, genitals, or other parts
- Cuts appear surgical in nature
- No blood in the body or on the ground
- No tracks anywhere around the body

## Methodology

- "Not One Drop of Blood": Cattle Mysteriously Mutilated in Oregon," Anna King
- "Recent Cattle Mutilations Bring Memories of 1970's Attacks," Amy Bickel
- "The Dark Connection Between UFOs and Gristly Mutilations," Colin Bertram



Cattle found crumpled and bloodless, body parts cut out with surgical precision



Reports of strange lights in the sky prior to finding the mutilated bodies

## Research Findings

- In one case, vet says cuts were made by a laser; some wounds expertly cauterized
- Area around body devoid of tracks despite being found in muddy or dusty areas
- Many ranchers believe bodies were dropped from the sky to achieve this
- Some also claim to have seen mysterious helicopters circling the area, confirmed by FBI as flying without a flight plan or ID
- Air Force operation Project Grudge allegedly investigated UFO involvement in mutilation of Sergeant Jonathan Lovette
- Lovette's comrade claims to have seen UFO snatching Lovette from the desert three days before his body was found

## Conclusion

- Killers have ability to wield tools, perform precise surgery, and leave the body without tracks or evidence of a struggle in the dust
- Helicopters and Project Grudge suggest government knowledge of causes
- Killers' motives unknown—difficult to see what human beings would stand to gain from such unusual mutilations
- Killers have medical knowledge and seek after particular parts for mysterious reasons
- The culprits may be aliens, and the government may be investigating the killings in secret



40 mutilated cows found along Highway 81 in the 1970's alone

## Mystery Mutilation: The Case for Alien Involvement in Unsolved Cattle Mutilations

It is late July, 2019. An Oregon rancher at Silvie's Valley Ranch drives out in the early morning to check on his cattle. When he arrives, he finds five bulls dead on the ground. This in itself, while tragic, is no unusual occurrence; the result of an animal attack, most likely. However, upon closer inspection, the bulls are found to be missing only their tongues and genitals, and the removal of these items has been performed with perfect, surgical precision. Even stranger, the area is entirely bloodless, and not a single track can be seen around them in the dust.<sup>1</sup> Animal attack is no longer a suitable explanation. Authorities are contacted and find no leads. The cause behind the killing and mutilation of these five cows is a mystery—and they are added to the count of thousands of eerily similar unsolved cases that have occurred in the US. In every case, authorities were unable to explain the phenomenon, leaving farmers to ponder the causes on their own. This essay will examine the facts and the speculations about these unexplained cattle mutilations. Theories abound regarding possible culprits, including secret government organizations, and possibly the most popular accusation: aliens. While at first glance the consideration of extraterrestrial involvement may seem like a frivolous inclusion, with such mysterious circumstances and lack of explanation on any side this theory is as valid as any other—and perhaps the most impactful if proven true.

While the causes of the cattle mutilations are shrouded in mystery, the facts are clearly documented, and must be examined before fingers are pointed at any suspected party. With over

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<sup>1</sup> King, Anna. “‘Not One Drop Of Blood’: Cattle Mysteriously Mutilated in Oregon.” <https://www.npr.org/2019/10/08/767283820/not-one-drop-of-blood-cattle-mysteriously-mutilated-in-oregon> (accessed 16 April 2020).

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10,000 cases reported in the US since 1967, there is plenty of precedent to study.<sup>2</sup> In the 1970's alone, nearly 40 cows were found along Highway 81 in incredibly similar and equally baffling conditions.<sup>3</sup> While the specific details may vary slightly case by case, the basic scenario is almost always the same. The cow is found dead in the morning, stripped of certain body parts in an extremely deliberate manner. Udders, genitals, and tongues are the most frequently targeted parts, but it is also common to find cows missing eyes, ears, lips, tails, and other specific bits and pieces. Natural causes and attacks by wild animals can be immediately ruled out, due to the increasingly unusual facts: each missing piece seems to have been removed with surgical precision using a sharp object.<sup>4</sup> While it is unknown what tools were used for this process, this evidence seems to suggest that the act was performed by a human—or at least a being with the ability to precisely wield tools.

Not only does evidence point to the use of tools, these implements in some cases seem to be highly specific. Many bodies show odd circular wounds cut or burned into their foreheads with an unknown implement. In a 1975 case, a calf's eye was perfectly removed, and the optic nerve was cauterized—time and thought was put into the eye's removal, and the cauterization implies that the culprit was equipped with medical knowledge and specific tools for the task. In another case where the eye was removed, a veterinarian noted that the eyelashes and eyelid had also been taken, and reported that the cuts were made with a laser.<sup>5</sup> To add to the mystery, the sites where the animals are found are often bloodless, the bodies drained of blood and the ground

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<sup>2</sup> Bickel, Amy. "Recent Cattle Mutilations Bring Memories of 1970s Attacks." [https://www.capitalpress.com/ag\\_sectors/livestock/recent-cattle-mutilations-bring-memories-of-s-attacks/article\\_9c7a8b05-2b95-5e13-a8ca-db189ea9aef6.html](https://www.capitalpress.com/ag_sectors/livestock/recent-cattle-mutilations-bring-memories-of-s-attacks/article_9c7a8b05-2b95-5e13-a8ca-db189ea9aef6.html) (accessed 16 April 2020).

<sup>3</sup> IBID

<sup>4</sup> McDonald, Scott. "Some Believe Aliens or 'North Vietnamese Army' Caused Mysterious Cattle Deaths in Oregon." <https://www.newsweek.com/some-believe-aliens-north-vietnamese-army-caused-mysterious-cattle-deaths-oregon-1459824> (accessed 16 April 2020).

<sup>5</sup> Bickel, Amy. "Recent Cattle Mutilations Bring Memories of 1970s Attacks."



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clean as ever. The ground itself is another wonder. Despite finding the cows in muddy or dusty areas, no tracks or footprints are found around the bodies. Andie Davies, one of the many farmers who has lost livestock to the mystery killers, expressed her bafflement on the blank ground, pointing out that in the dusty Oregon landscape, “everything you do leaves tracks.”<sup>6</sup> Mike Durand, another rancher who claims to have lost several cows over the years to acts of mutilation, seconds this point. One of his slaughtered cows was found at the edge of a river, where he says the ground was “all fresh mud, and there were no tracks at all.”<sup>7</sup> Whatever tools the mutilators use to commit the act, they are able to make a clean getaway, leaving no trace of their presence. No matter what caused these eerie scenes, ranchers agree that the situation is dangerous; on some ranches after the cattle were found, staff were told to bear arms and stay in pairs at all times.<sup>8</sup> Whether spoken or unspoken, there is an obvious concern: what would happen if the perpetrators of these acts got hold of a human target?

While for most people, the thought of a human subjected to this form of mutilation is just a terrifying “what if,” many people firmly believe that it has already happened. While several different incidents have been reported over the years, the most prominent of these cases is that of Air Force sergeant Jonathan Lovette. After going missing in the desert, his corpse was discovered ten miles from where he had gone missing, fully nude and graphically mutilated. Similar to the cases regarding cattle, his tongue, eyes, and other less modest parts were removed, reportedly with a high level of surgical skill.<sup>9</sup> Though he had been missing for three days, his

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<sup>6</sup> King, Anna. “‘Not One Drop Of Blood’: Cattle Mysteriously Mutilated in Oregon.”

<sup>7</sup> N.A. “Alien Cattle Mutilation.” <https://video.nationalgeographic.com/tv/00000144-2f39-df5d-abd4-ff7dae690000> (accessed 16 April 2020).

<sup>8</sup> NPR: King, Anna. “‘Not One Drop Of Blood’: Cattle Mysteriously Mutilated in Oregon.”

<sup>9</sup> Bertram, Colin. “The Dark Connection Between UFOs and Grisly Mutilations.” <https://www.history.com/news/ufos-aliens-animal-human-mutilation-lovette-cunningham> (accessed 16 April 2020).



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body was reported to only have been exposed to the desert for one or two days, leaving no clues as to where he could have been for the omitted third day. Allegedly, the body was also noticeably well-preserved given the amount of time it had been dead—a symptom reportedly shared by many of the slaughtered cattle.<sup>10</sup> The noted similarities between Lovette’s case and the cases of the mutilated cattle leave theorists searching for answers; however, shocking as his story may be, the government report regarding it is shrouded in mystery. The report was supposedly made by an Air Force organization called Project Grudge, and theorists refer to the report itself as “Project Grudge Report 13.” However, according to the U.S. government, Report 13 does not exist. The only knowledge about the report comes from two men who claim to have read and analyzed the document.<sup>11</sup> Their separate accounts corroborate each other quite closely, but the 600-page document has still never seen the light of day. To some theorists, this begs the question of whether other cases of human victims have been hushed-up by the government.

The idea that the government may not be sharing all it knows about the topic of either human or cattle mutilation sparks thoughts of a wider conspiracy in many minds. Secret government involvement is a go-to conspiracy theory for many unusual events such as these, and cattle mutilations have caught the attention of numerous conspiracy thinkers. In many of the cattle cases, the killings coincided with reports of mysterious helicopters flying low in the sky. When the FBI investigated these claims, they reported that there were indeed unknown helicopters in the area around the time of the killing, with no flight plan and no identification.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>10</sup> Swancer, Brent. “Bizarre Cases of Mysterious Human Mutilations and Strange Deaths.” <https://mysteriousuniverse.org/2017/06/bizarre-cases-of-mysterious-deaths-and-human-mutilations/> (accessed 16 April 2020).

<sup>11</sup> Bertram, Colin. “The Dark Connection Between UFOs and Grisly Mutilations.” The two men in question are conspiracy theorist William Cooper and former Green Beret captain William English. Both separately assert that they were tasked with analyzing Report 13.

<sup>12</sup> Bickel, Amy. “Recent Cattle Mutilations Bring Memories of 1970s Attacks.”

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To some, this indicates government involvement in the situation. Chris O'Brien, author of a book on the subject titled *Stalking the Herd*, theorizes that the helicopters could be a sign of “environmental monitoring” by a shadowy arm of the government.<sup>13</sup> Whether the government is the perpetrator, the investigator, or simply a silent witness of the events varies from theorist to theorist. O'Brien sees little reason why they would choose to kill these cattle, though, outside of perhaps some form of population control or extreme disease-prevention measures. However, the same lack of obvious reason behind the attacks applies to any of the possible suspects. The nonsensical nature of the mutilations is a part of what makes them so baffling. It is difficult to see how anyone could benefit from disfiguring cattle in such a way, leading some to propose more supernatural theories—including extraterrestrial visitation.

Bridging the gap between mutilated cattle and aliens may seem like a leap of faith to some skeptics, but to many ranchers, visitors from beyond are deemed the most likely culprit. Ranchers whose cattle have been victimized are often quite confident in their belief that the acts were committed by alien beings. Mike Durand asserts that his slaughtered cattle were taken up by aliens into their spacecraft, mutilated while on board, and then dropped back into the field where they would later be found.<sup>14</sup> One alien believer suggested that the ranchers search for a hollow in the ground under the corpse, indicating that the cow was dropped “from a great height.”<sup>15</sup> These claims are not made without basis in fact; the mutilations often coincide with other strange circumstances that are attributed to alien sightings. Many farmers report seeing strange lights in the sky around the time of the killing. Durand is again quite positive on this point; he states that each time one of his cows has been targeted, there has been a sighting

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<sup>13</sup> Bickel, Amy. “Recent Cattle Mutilations Bring Memories of 1970s Attacks.”

<sup>14</sup> N.A. “Alien Cattle Mutilation.”

<sup>15</sup> King, Anna. “‘Not One Drop Of Blood’: Cattle Mysteriously Mutilated in Oregon.”

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recently beforehand of bright white lights in the sky, distinctly different from ordinary airplane lights. The lights persist for a long moment, travelling across the sky, and then simply vanish.<sup>16</sup> He is certain these lights belong to UFOs. Secluded ranchers are not the only ones giving credit to the aliens; among the theories associated with the government lie concerns that the military has knowledge of run-ins with alien beings.

If the analysts of Project Grudge Report 13 are to be believed, the military may have good reason to believe that extraterrestrials are implicated in the mutilation of Sergeant Lovette. In fact, Project Grudge itself was an Air Force program dedicated to the investigation of UFO sightings in the U.S., a predecessor of the better-known Project Blue Book.<sup>17</sup> According to the account of Report 13, Project Grudge was involved in the Lovette case because of the testimony of Major William Cunningham, who accompanied Lovette the day he went missing in the desert and claims to have seen the moment he was taken. Cunningham insisted that he saw Lovette gripped around the legs by a long flexible arm, which pulled him up inside a silver disk in the sky before it rose away into the clouds.<sup>18</sup> He added that as he saw this happening, he attempted to rush to Lovette's rescue, but found himself paralyzed by an unknown power that lifted as soon as the craft rose out of sight.<sup>19</sup> Cunningham was afterward detained on suspicion of foul play, but the military did detect the radar signature of an unknown aircraft moving in the area, which proved impossible to identify.<sup>20</sup> Given the condition in which the body was found, it does not seem probable that Cunningham could have been the perpetrator of the act; therefore, he would have little reason to come up with such an unusual story as a lie. The unidentified aircraft signal

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<sup>16</sup> N.A. "Alien Cattle Mutilation."

<sup>17</sup> Bertram, Colin. "The Dark Connection Between UFOs and Grisly Mutilations."

<sup>18</sup> IBID

<sup>19</sup> Swancer, Brent. "Bizarre Cases of Mysterious Human Mutilations and Strange Deaths."

<sup>20</sup> IBID

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means there was indeed some mysterious craft in the sky that day. Whether it was human or alien in origin, one thing is clear: the situation is bewilderingly strange.

Determining the cause of these mutilations seems like attempting to explain the inexplicable—perhaps this is why the more supernatural explanation feels the most plausible. If the acts were performed by human means, then it stands to reason that human logic would apply to these cases. There would be some level of rationality behind what cows were chosen, which body parts were taken, and why. Yet, the ways in which the cows are mutilated leaves all investigators without any inkling of what the perpetrators could possibly have been attempting to accomplish. No human reason seems attached to the crimes, nor even human means—how could a human killer take out these cows without any signs of a struggle, surgically mutilate them there on the ground without leaving any blood, and then vanish without a trace into the dusty landscape? On the other hand, if the cows were taken by visitors from above, the pieces fall closer into place. By taking the cows up into the sky, then depositing them back on the ground when their work is done, the aliens could easily accomplish these mutilations. While research is silent on whether the cows showed signs of being dropped from the sky, this theory would explain the lack of footprints around the animal. It also provides some explanation for the bloodlessness of the scene; if the mutilation was performed inside a spacecraft and the body replaced after the job was done, the blood would be drained in the spacecraft rather than spilling onto the ground. The strange helicopter sightings fit into this version of the story as well. The alleged involvement of Project Grudge suggests that the military has some knowledge or suspicion of alien involvement in these mutilations, and could be performing their own secret investigations of the scenes of the killings. Of course, if these allegations were proven true, it would be quite a shock to the nation to learn definitively of the existence of aliens—one reason

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the government may choose to keep the knowledge under wraps even if they had proof.

Government obfuscation of data could even be called a contributing factor in why the culprits have never been uncovered.

The case of the five dead bulls at Silvies Valley Ranch was never solved. The killers of the bulls have never been found, just like in every similar case on record. The ranch has offered a reward of \$25,000 for information to help solve the case, but to no avail.<sup>21</sup> Ultimately, without more evidence, the truth of the matter is unknowable. The unsolved cases are left to gather dust in the offices of county sheriffs, and continue to mystify investigators. However, the investigation persists by those who choose to tackle the challenge; conspiracy theorists tirelessly pore over the evidence, trying to piece together the truth. There is always the answer that has been offered by theorists and ranchers alike—to find the culprits, all you must do is stand under the starry sky and look up.

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<sup>21</sup> King, Anna. “‘Not One Drop Of Blood’: Cattle Mysteriously Mutilated in Oregon.”

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## Dinosaurs: Real, Myth, or Dragon? Samantha McKlin Mentor: Rob Wilson, Ph.D.

### Introduction:

- Dinosaurs have been extinct for millions of years
- Fossils are at least 10,000 years old
- Paleontologists explore the idea of reconstructing a whole dinosaur with just a few bones
- Bones in museums are sometimes replicas
- No evidence of dinosaurs until the late 1800s

### Methods:

- History Channel. "Dinosaurs." *History.com*, A&E Television Networks
- "Dinosaur Bones." American Museum of Natural History
- Stromberg, Joseph. *Where Did Dragons Come From?*
- Fake Chinese Fossils. *Fake Chinese Fossils Fossil Forgery From China*



An old photo of a dragon from the 8<sup>th</sup> century drawn by a monk. This photo looks like a Stegosaurus dinosaur we would recognize today



Sue's location is the Field Museum in Chicago Illinois. Sue is the most expensive dinosaur fossil and is the best preserved dinosaur fossil ever found.

### Research Findings:

- Possibility of dinosaurs on Noah's Ark
- Dinosaurs were killed by flood described in *Genesis*
- Dinosaurs were considered dragons
- Dracorex is a dinosaur that is described like a dragon
- Fossilized dinosaur bones are actually dragon bones
- Fake Fossil Factories in China create fossils to sell to museums
- Most fossils are fabricated
- Dinosaurs are such a large part of the museum industry

### Conclusions:

- There was no evidence to prove a flood within the last 6,000 years that prove Noah's Ark
- China has the largest record of dragons in the world
- Before 1842 civilians did not believe in dinosaurs, but they did believe in dragons
- Fake fossils can be bought off Ebay
- There is a large financial gain from Fossil Factories
- It is near impossible to construct a dinosaur with a few bones
- The many conspiracies about dinosaurs will continue to grow



Noah's Ark Attraction in Kentucky showing that dinosaurs could have fit the Ark.



# The Philadelphia Experiment

The Experiment that Never

Happened  
By: Hunter Moore (Advisor: Rob Wilson  
PH.D.)



The *USS Eldridge*, the ship involved

## Introduction

- Involved a US Naval Destroyer, the *Eldridge*
- Conspiracy believed to happen through Einstein's Unified Field Theory
- The *Eldridge* teleported from the Philadelphia port to appear in New York
- Conspiracy came from a single witness

**Evidence for the Conspiracy**

- The experiment has classified information about the experiments other *Project Rainbow*

- The annotated writings of Morris Jessup involving the experiment were published by the Office of Naval Research

## Methodology

- Naval History and Heritage*
- *The Life of Al Bielek*
  - *How the Philadelphia Experiment Worked*

**Evidence Against the Conspiracy**

- There has only been two witnesses
- Sailors aboard the *Eldridge* stated nothing ever happened
- Ship logs note it was never in Philadelphia



Carl M. Allen, the first witness



The Philadelphia Experiment Film, reignited popularity behind the conspiracy

## Conclusion

- Teleportation and time travel supposedly happened
- The two witnesses have never changed their story
- Controversial because of the evidence
- No one knows what

# TWA Flight 800: The Conception and Rejection of The Official Story

UMSL

Maxwell Wootten (Mentor: Rob Wilson Ph.D.)

## Introduction:

- July 17th, 1996 Trans World Airlines Flight 800 exploded twelve minutes after take-off, killing all 230 onboard.
- The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), FBI, and CIA investigated.
- The three initial suspects: a bomb, missile, or mechanical failure.
- The official story claims fuel vapors ignited and then exploded in the center fuel tank.
- The ignition source is unknown.
- Conspiracy theorists reject the official story and think a missile struck the plane.
- Conspiracy theorists claim investigators explained away evidence of a missile.



TWA Flight 800 wreckage reassembled in a hangar in Calverton, NY.

## Methodology:

- *TWA 800: the Crash, the Cover-Up, and the Conspiracy*
- "NTSB Aircraft Accident Report 00-03"
- [www.twa800.com](http://www.twa800.com)

## Research Findings:

- Of the 700 witnesses, over 100 saw something rise into the plane and explode.
- CIA analysts claim witnesses really saw the plane "zoom climb" upwards once the heavy nose broke off from the fuel tank explosion.
- Wreckage tested positive for explosive residues.
- Investigators claim bomb-sniffing dog training left the residues.
- NTSB missile visibility tests proved witnesses could have seen a missile.
- Radar detected debris leaving the plane at Mach 4, faster than the official story can account for.



TWA Flight 800's route from JFK International Airport to the crash site. The boxes identify debris fields.

## Conclusion:

- Many credible experts, including some from the NTSB, believe a missile hit TWA 800.
- Conspiracy theorists say the "zoom climb" does not fit with any evidence.
- Conspiracy theorists do not know who shot the plane, but suspect an accidental strike from the U.S. Navy.
- Conspiracy theorists realize accusing the U.S. Government could turn people away from the cover-up theory.
- Some families of victims find more closure in the missile theory than the official story.
- Conspiracy theorists continue to publish analysis and petition for reinvestigation.



The CIA animation showcasing the "zoom climb" scenario; their explanation of what the witnesses saw.