

High Strangeness, the Interdimensional Hypothesis, and Ultraterrestrials

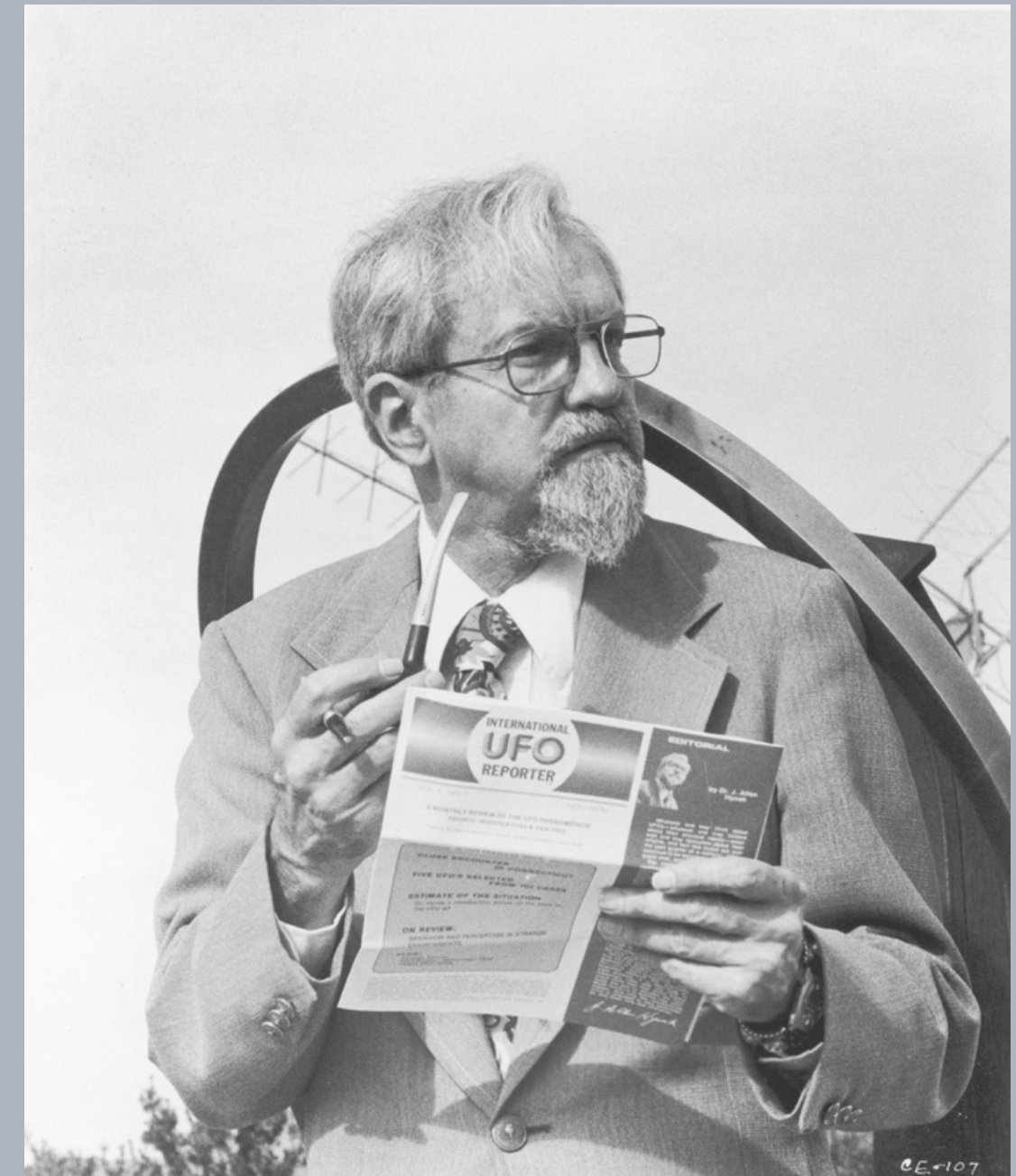
There is a connection between haunted houses, cryptids, poltergeist activity, and UFOs; a unifying hypothesis that seeks to explain why people going through major life changes, while feeling marginalized, seem to experience the most bizarre paranormal activity. This is a video about high strangeness, and the frustrating lack of purpose to the phenomena.



What is High Strangeness?

High strangeness was defined as, "a quality of being peculiar, bizarre, utterly absurd", by J.

Allen Hynek as a quantifying factor of credibility in sightings of unidentified flying objects. Hynek was a member of the Air Force funded University of Colorado's Condon Committee, which examined what is now called unidentified aerial phenomenon, from Project Blue Book, the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena, and the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization, between 1966 and 1968.



Source:

Daugherty, Greg. "Meet J. Allen Hynek, the Astronomer Who First Classified UFO 'Close Encounters'." History.com, A&E Television Networks, 19 Nov. 2018, <https://www.history.com/news/j-allen-hynek-ufos-project-blue-book>.

The quality of high strangeness has been retroactively applied to the works of other authors, most notably John A. Keel, who investigated the Mothman sightings, and events that occurred at Skinwalker Ranch, that were documented by Ryan T. Skinner.



Source:

"Ryan Skinner." IMDb, IMDb.com, <https://www.imdb.com/name/nm10936833/>.



High Strangeness In and Around Point Pleasant, West Virginia & Men in Black

Keel documented the most celebrated case of high strangeness in his 1975 book, Visitors from Space. He investigated sightings of a strange creature that would become known as the Mothman, UFOs, and men in black, in Point Pleasant, West Virginia, in 1966 and 1967. The 2002 film, *The Mothman Prophecies*, focused on this creature. What was left out of the film are classic elements of high strangeness, including UFO sightings, and men in black.

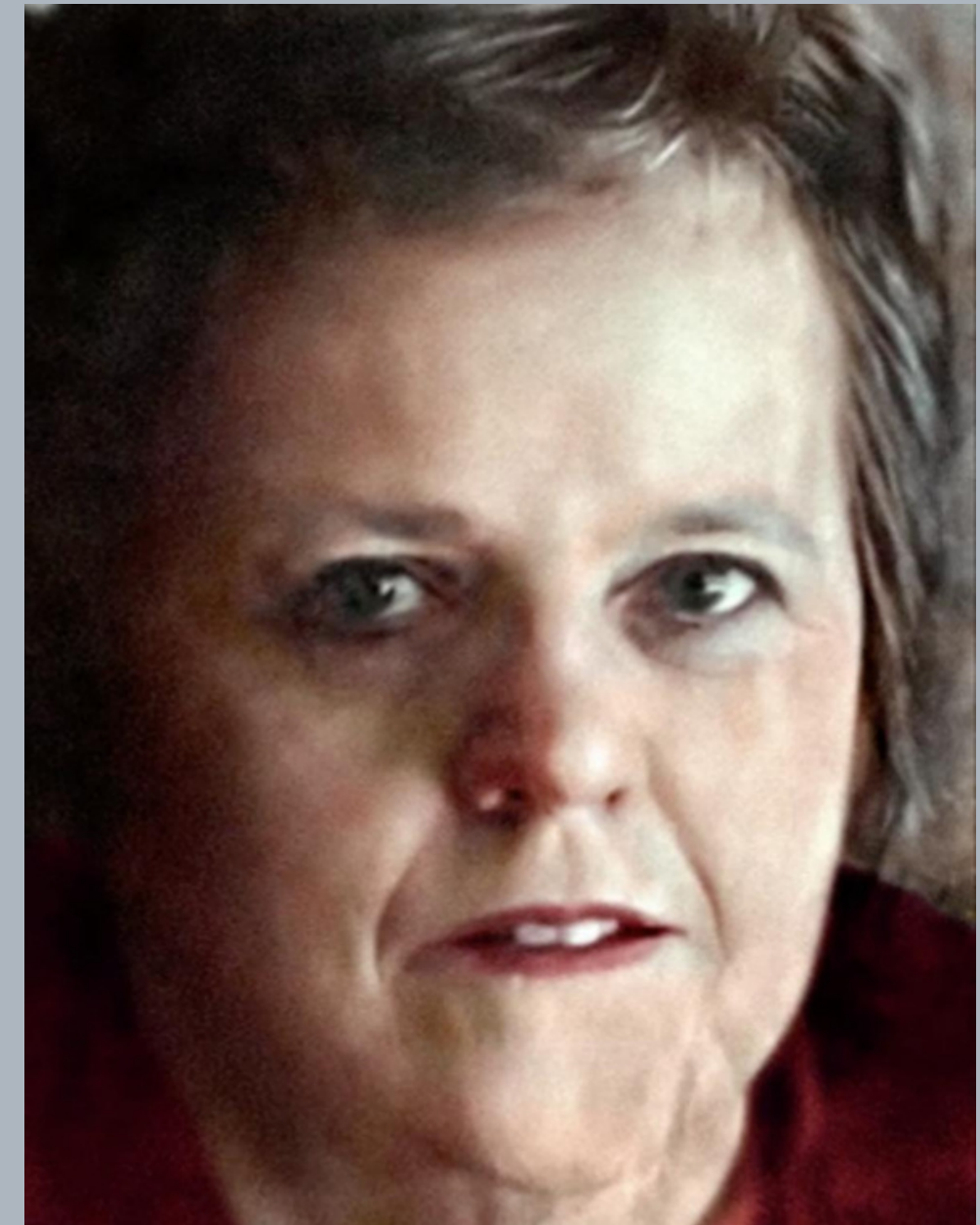


Source:

"John Keel." TheMothMan Wikia, https://themothman.fandom.com/wiki/John_Keel.

In his October, 1967 article, “UFO ‘Agents of Terror’”, Keel introduced the concept of men in black to readers of Saga magazine. In Nicholas Redfern’s 2011 book, The Real Men in Black, he documents how men in black antagonize UFO witnesses. He illustrates how encounters with these men aren’t just unnerving, but can be very peculiar as well. These men are often reported to be decades behind in fashion, and drive older model cars that are usually black. They claim to be attached to the government in some way. Their identities can’t be confirmed, however, because their credentials show nonsensical names with no vowels. Their behavior is odd, and sometimes even perceived as almost robotic. To add to the confusion, they don’t always seem to comprehend the uses for everyday household items.

In the Mothman case, men in black frequently harassed local newspaper reporter Mary Hyre, because she continued to publish accounts of citizens encountering the creature.



Source:

"Mary Hyre." IMDb, IMDb.com, <https://m.imdb.com/name/nm11730127/>.

The film took creative liberties by identifying the Mothman as a being known as Indrid Cold.

This figure, however, was an alleged extraterrestrial encountered by Woodrow Derenberger, on November 2, 1966, on Interstate 77, in Parkersburg, West Virginia. The two cities are approximately fifty miles from one another. Derenberger would later work with Harold W. Hubbard to write the 1971 book, Visitors From Lanulos, to document his alleged contacts with the extraterrestrial.



Source:

"Visit Woodrow Derenberger's Memorial Page on We Remember." Woodrow Derenberger (1916-1990) | Obituary, <https://www.weremember.com/woodrow-derenberger/4r0i/memories>.

The background features a large, solid gray hexagon centered on the page. To the left of the hexagon, there are several overlapping, wavy, light gray lines that create a sense of depth and movement, resembling a stylized landscape or a series of ripples. The overall color palette is monochromatic, consisting of various shades of gray and white.

The Interdimensional Hypothesis of UFOs and Extraterrestrials

Keel admitted in the 1984 publication, *The Info Journal*, by the International Fortean Organization, that he had resigned himself to an interdimensional hypothesis well before his involvement in the infamous Mothman case. He noted the overlap of UFOs and psychic phenomena, and that people interpreted the crafts, any accompanying creatures, and so-called governmental agents through their own beliefs. He abandoned notions that UFOs were from other planetary systems, and believed that they weren't even permanent constructs of what we would classify as matter.

Ultraterrestrial Intelligences

The interdimensional hypothesis postulates that high strangeness occurs only to challenge someone's notions of reality. In his 1970 book, Operation Trojan Horse, Keel proposed that ultraterrestrial beings are more likely the cause of high strangeness. These beings are believed to be from another reality, and are beyond the realms of human experiences.

Keel expanded his perception on these intelligences in his 1975 book, The Eighth Tower. He wrote that he believed them to be incorporeal, and residing in the “super spectrum”, just above the electromagnetic spectrum.

Another proponent of the interdimensional hypothesis was Jacques Vallée, who wrote about them in his 1975 book, The Edge of Reality, and his 1979 book, Messengers of Deception. He writes that ultraterrestrials don't have physical forms, and can manipulate space, time, and human consciousness.



Sources:

"Jacques Vallée." MUBI, <https://mubi.com/cast/jacques-vallee>.

Keel, Vallée, and other researchers, such as Salvador Freixedo, Aimé Michel, and Jon-Erik Beckjord, believe these non-human intelligences are perceived by humans as any form of extraterrestrial, religious apparitions, or cryptids. They may also have a hand in causing psychic phenomena, as well as poltergeist activity.

Keel wrote that when ultraterrestrials, who seem to have a juvenile sense of humor, manipulate human consciousness to encounter seemingly physical crafts or cryptids, the environment may actually change. A sulphuric smell or what seems to be microwave radiation can sometimes seem to accompany them. This sulphuric smell is a staple in many sasquatch encounters, but also can occur in extraterrestrial encounters, such as the Flatwoods Monster that was reported in Flatwoods, West Virginia, since September 12, 1952.



Who's the Target of High Strangeness?

The background features a large, solid grey diamond shape on the left side, tilted at an angle. The rest of the background is filled with a pattern of thin, wavy, light grey lines that create a sense of movement and depth. The overall color palette is monochromatic, consisting of various shades of grey and white.

Liminality and Transition

It's almost a cliché that poltergeist activity is associated with the presence of a young lady going through the liminal period of puberty. Objects unpredictably and repetitively seem to move about the home on their own, residents are disturbed by strange knocking noises, and items in the home may break. Yet, these occurrences seem to follow a person, unlike typical haunted house tales. As early as the publication of Haunted People, by Hereward Carrington and Nandor Fodor, in 1951, the connection between changes in life and poltergeist activity were noted. But, there are a few cases where poltergeist activity is related to the cryptid known as sasquatch.

What can qualify poltergeist activity as high strangeness is when it begins to have similarities to sasquatch encounters. In some poltergeist cases, stones seem to be thrown at the home. This is called lithobolia, after Richard Chamberlaine's 1698 horror booklet of the same name, which documents an extreme case where, in 1682, at George Walton's tavern in New Castle, New Hampshire, hundreds of stones fell on the building. In a similar incident, in 1924, a group of gold miners on Mt. St. Helens, Washington, were tormented by what they called "a demon ape", who allegedly threw rocks at their cabin.

Another cliché in parapsychology is that, when a home is undergoing renovations, paranormal activity seems to occur. During renovations, the home is indeed in a liminal state.



Marginality

Marginality is the state of being marginalized, which can mean a place located on the border or edge of a town, or a person being isolated from their community or culture. In George P. Hansen's book, The Trickster and the Paranormal, it's evident that marginalized persons, such as minorities, those in the LGBT community, disabled persons, persons suffering from persistent mental illness, persons with addictions, those living in poverty, and those with criminal backgrounds have a higher probability of being susceptible to high strangeness.



Sources:

George Hansen - Guest Profile - Transformationtalkradio.com. <https://www.transformationtalkradio.com/guest/george-hansen,4850.html>.

High strangeness is also most likely to occur in and around marginalized lands, such as abandoned pastures, mines, commercial buildings, and cemeteries. As examples, it's well known that, five miles from Point Pleasant, there was an abandoned munitions factory, and in the Skinwalker Ranch case, the pastureland had been abandoned for a short time before the Sherman family purchased it.



Cryptozoology

The strange creatures mentioned in incidents of high strangeness could be considered cryptids, or creatures whose existence isn't recognized by scientific consensus. The most well-known of these proposed creatures is sasquatch, but also include the Jersey Devil, chupacabra, and the Mothman. In Joshua Cutchin and Timothy Renner's 2020 book, Where the Footprints End, the authors document cases of sasquatch that are in the phenomena of high strangeness.



Sources:

Cutchin, Joshua, and Timothy Renner. "Where the Footprints End: High Strangeness and the Bigfoot Phenomenon." Amazon, Dark Holler Arts, 2020, <https://www.amazon.com/Where-Footprints-End-Strangeness-Phenomenon/dp/B08QRB3HR3>.

The background features a large, solid gray hexagon centered on the right side. To the left of the hexagon, there are several overlapping, wavy, light gray lines that create a sense of motion and depth. The overall color palette is light and airy, with various shades of gray and white.

Duration of High Strangeness

High strangeness seems to have a limited period of experience. The phenomena that occurred in and around Point Pleasant, West Virginia lasted almost a year.

In his 2013 book, Skinwalker Ranch, Ryan T. Skinner documents the high strangeness that occurred at a 512-acre ranch in Ballard, Utah, during the time that the Sherman family lived there. Some of the phenomena included poltergeist phenomena, UFO and ball of light sightings, a “bigfoot-like creature”, crop circles, cattle mutilation, a large wolf-like creature with piercing red eyes that seemed to be unaffected by bullets, and much more. The phenomena started when the Sherman family moved to the ranch in 1994, and seemingly ended after Robert Bigelow, founder of Bigelow Aerospace, a space technology startup company, bought the land in 1996.



What's the Point of Ultraterrestrials causing High
Strangeness?

Proponents of high strangeness caused by ultraterrestrial consciousnesses believe that the whole point of high strangeness is to control the behavior of those who are involved in it, by upsetting their consensus of reality. It upsets trust in governing bodies, and causes a person to lose or question their faith. It's proposed this is all to make the person investigate the phenomena itself, with less biases.

The background features a large, solid grey hexagon centered on the right side. To the left of the hexagon, there are several overlapping, semi-transparent geometric shapes in shades of light blue and grey, creating a layered effect. Faint, wavy white lines sweep across the background from the left towards the right, adding a sense of motion and depth.

Investigating High Strangeness

Throughout their miniseries, Hellier, Greg and Dana Newkirk continued to express frustration when researching high strangeness. They documented the elusive nature of the phenomena, but noted that synchronicities, or meaningful coincidences, were a theme for those involving themselves in the phenomena.



Sources:

Hider, Julia. "There's A Traveling Museum of Paranormal Activity and It's Based out of Covington." Cincinnati Refined, <https://cincinnati-refined.com/travel/gallery/greg-newkirk-and-dana-matthews-operate-traveling-museum-of-the-paranormal-and-the-occult-covington-kentucky>.



Three-toed Footprints

During the first season of Hellier, there was more focus on three-toed footprints. They seem to connect to more obscure cryptids. For example, the Boggy Creek Monster of Fouke, Arkansas, a bigfoot-type monster, is said to leave three-toed footprints, as well as the three-toed dodu of the Cameroon forest, the Ohio Grassman, Bigfoot species from Louisiana and East Texas, the South Carolina Lizard Man of Scape Ore Swamp, the White River Monster of northeast Arkansas, and others.

The background features a large, solid grey hexagon centered on the right side. To the left of the hexagon, there are several overlapping, wavy, light grey lines that create a sense of depth and movement. The overall color palette is monochromatic, consisting of various shades of grey and white.

It Depends Who's Looking

In his 1990 book, Perspectives, John Spencer argues that descriptions of ultraterrestrials conform somewhat to what a witness expects to see. He continues by saying that experiences will fill in the gaps of the ultraterrestrial with cultural references, to make sense of it, even though there's always something very off about the appearance of whatever they're encountering.

The background features a large, solid grey triangle on the left side, pointing towards the top-left. The rest of the background is filled with a complex pattern of thin, light grey wavy lines that create a sense of motion and depth. The overall color palette is monochromatic, consisting of various shades of grey and white.

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