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The Unexplained

HILLARY CLINTON'S CAMPAIGN CHAIRMAN CAN'T STOP TALKING ABOUT ALIENS

John Podesta won't give up on getting explanations for the unexplained.

BY ABIGAIL TRACY | JUNE 3, 2016 9:25 AM



From The Washington Post/Getty Images.

The truth is out there, and Clinton campaign chairman **John Podesta** won't rest until everyone knows it. At Vox Media's Code Conference on Thursday, the unapologetic believer in extraterrestrial life yet again argued that it is time the government opened up all of its files on U.F.O.s to the public.

"Politicians in governments tend to think that it's not a career-enhancer" to talk about aliens, Podesta acknowledged during an onstage interview with **Ezra Klein**, [Recode reports](#). But the former chief of staff to **Bill Clinton** remains adamant that the government should open up its books on U.F.O.s—or, more accurately, unidentified aerial phenomena (U.A.P.s). "Rather than being embarrassed and ashamed about it . . . I say let's open it up to the public," Podesta said.

This is nothing new for Podesta, who has a long history of fighting for the disclosure of government information on the topic and is well-known for his preoccupation with the unexplained. Podesta told Klein he was involved in a Freedom of Information Act case pushing for the declassification of files on an unexplained plane crash in 1969 after he left the White House. When he stepped down as an advisor to President **Barack Obama**, Podesta [tweeted](#), "Finally, my biggest failure of 2014: Once again not securing the #disclosure of the U.F.O. files. #thetruthisstilloutthere"—invoking the famous tagline from *The X-Files*. (Of course, he watched the show.) According to *The New York Times*, the political aide took his Mulder and Scully fandom to a whole new level during the Clinton presidency by heading an *X-Files* fan club and a 50th-birthday party themed after the popular show.

While some politicians would keep a conspiracy theorist at arm's length, it seems Podesta

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unexplained crash near Roswell, New Mexico, further fueled the rumors, *The New York Times* [reports](#).

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Clinton's penchant for the supernatural made news again in March, after Clinton **discussed** alien life on *Jimmy Kimmel Live!*. Then, in April in an **interview** with *The Breakfast Club*, she said, "There's enough stories out there that I don't think everybody is just sitting in their kitchen making them up." FiveThirtyEight **reports** the former secretary of state has pledged to release government files on U.A.P.s, short of any national-security concerns.

While it might seem highly unusual for a presidential candidate and her campaign chair to openly discuss aliens, it clearly is not outside the realm of possibility. Publicizing her fascination with the unexplained could be a bid, perhaps, to entice a certain subset of swing voters that might otherwise go for Trump. But this is one conspiracy theory that seems to have a far more ordinary (and nerdy) explanation.

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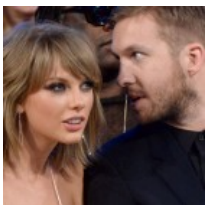
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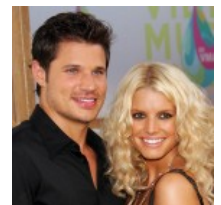
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