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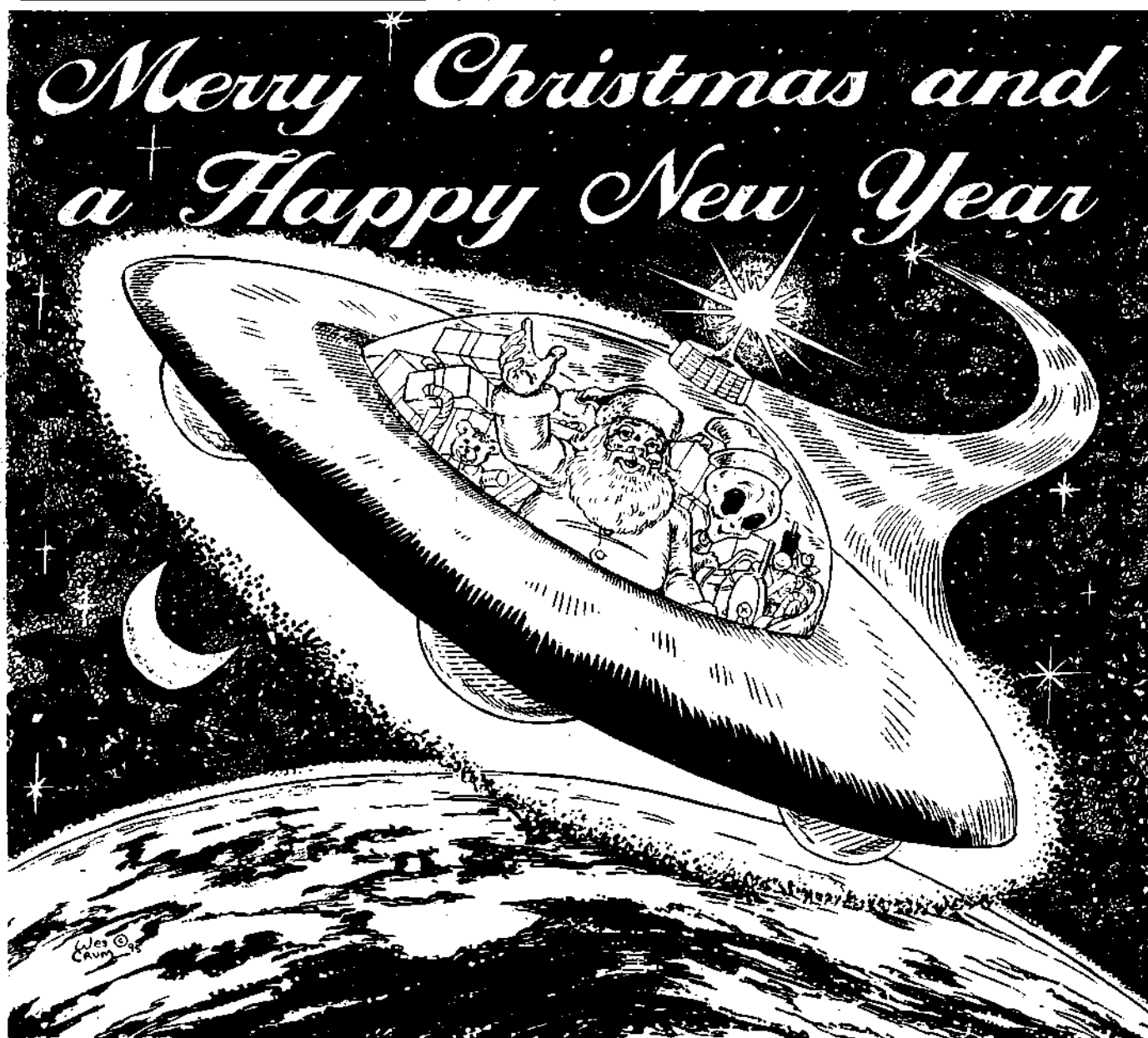
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Possible witnessed abduction & teleportation in Australia

By Bill Chalker and Diane Harrison

An extraordinary and controversial milieu has developed around events that reportedly began late on the evening of Thursday, Oct. 4, 2001, at a Gundiiah property near Tiaro in Queensland, Australia, culminating in the early hours of Friday, Oct. 5, 2001, and then played out in the glare of rapidly escalating media coverage.

Three people were directly involved in these alleged events. Keith Rylance (39), his wife Amy (22), and their business partner, Petra Heller (35), were on their property, which was being developed as "Whispering Winds" winery. Other potential activities were also being developed at the location.

The following account comes from interviews conducted by us with them, along with primary source material such as TV interviews.

Keith told us that he had gone to sleep in the caravan bedroom at about 9:30 p.m. Petra retired to her bedroom in the caravan annex. Amy stayed on a couch watching TV in the caravan annex "lounge room." All of these locations were in close proximity, separated by a window and wall respectively from the lounge room. Petra's room had a door leading to the lounge room, which was left ajar. The door to the bedroom, where Keith was, apparently was open to the lounge room. Amy apparently fell asleep on the couch. A storm was in the area.

Around 11:15 p.m., Petra was reportedly awakened, and when she entered the adjacent lounge was confronted by an extraordinary sight that allegedly quickly overwhelmed her. A rectangular beam of light was being projected through the open window of the caravan lounge room. This light beam appeared to be truncated at the end.

Inside the beam, Petra claims to have seen Amy in a sleep prone position, being carried out head first through the window. Underneath her, also within the beam were the items that had been on the coffee table adjacent to the couch Amy had been on. Before apparently fainting in shock, Petra saw that the beam was coming from a disc-shaped UFO hovering just above the ground a short distance away, near a tree at the rear of the clear section, immediately behind the annex caravan house.

Petra reports she believes she was only in a faint for a very short period of time. Regaining consciousness, she began screaming. Keith reports that he was awakened by the commotion coming from Petra. As he came from the caravan bedroom and stepped down into the lounge room annex, Keith claims he was confronted by the sight of a highly agitated Petra and the contents of

About the authors

Bill Chalker, who lives in Sydney, Australia, is one of Australia's leading UFO researchers. He has written extensively on the subject, and is a contributing editor for the *International UFO Reporter*. His book *The Oz Files: the Australian UFO Story*, was published in 1996.

Diane Harrison is director of Australian UFO Research Network (AUFORN).

the coffee table on the floor in front of the window. He told us that he soon realised that the window screen was torn in both a vertical fashion and along the bottom of the window frame.

Keith indicated that initially he couldn't get any sense out of Petra, who was crying and very agitated, so he rushed outside trying to locate Amy. She was reportedly nowhere to be found. Keith states that when he became less agitated himself he was eventually able to get from Petra an idea of what happened. Keith claims he initially refused to believe what Petra was telling him. He said he rushed outside again, trying to find his wife.

Eventually as the situation became clearer, Keith decided to call the police. Keith called the Tiaro police around 11:40 p.m., reporting that his wife had been abducted and imploring that the police should come out. The manning status at that time caused some delays in the police coming out, but about an hour and a half after the initial call, Senior Constable Robert Maragna from Tiaro and an officer from Maryborough, a larger city to the northeast, arrived at the site.

Initially police thought they might have walked into a situation involving foul play, even perhaps a murder scene, but then the bizarre circumstances of the alleged events came into focus. The two people, Keith and Petra, were claiming that Amy had been abducted by a "spaceship"! The officers were struggling to keep an open mind. They were joined later by Sgt. John Bosnjak, the officer in charge of the Tiaro police.

They confirmed that Keith and Petra appeared to be in an agitated state, and that there was no sign of Amy. The torn screen was examined. A flowering bush, commonly known as "yesterday, today, tomorrow," located immediately outside the left side of window, had indications of possibly being affected by heat or another mechanism along its right side. Oddly, another flowering bush, a hibiscus, located immediately on the right-hand side of the window area, was not affected in the same way. The police took samples for possible later testing.

While the police were at the property, a phone call came through, which was taken by Keith. A woman was calling from Mackay, indicating that she had taken a somewhat

distressed and apparently dehydrated young woman from a BP petrol service station on the northern outskirts of the central Queensland city of Mackay, some 490 miles to the north of the Gundiah-Tiaro area.

The young woman turned out to be Amy Rylance, and the female caller was calling to advise that Amy was apparently all right, and was at the Mackay hospital, where she had been examined by a doctor. Keith handed the phone to Snr. Constable Maragna.

Given these extraordinary circumstances, Mackay police were called in, making a total of three police stations involved in the investigation—Tiaro, on the outskirts of central Queensland; Maryborough, on the coast; and Mackay, some 490 miles to the north of the Gundiah-Tiaro area.

A statement was notarized by the Mackay police, with a Justice Act acknowledgement, that required Amy to acknowledge that what she had stated was true to the best of her knowledge and belief, and that if it is admitted as evidence, that she may be liable to prosecution if she had indicated anything in it that she knew was false.

This statement indicated that she recollected lying on the couch at the Gundiah property. She had no recollection of the events that Petra described, but claimed she then next remembered waking up lying on a bench in a strange rectangular room. Illumination came from the walls and the ceiling. She was alone. She indicated she called out and heard what seemed to be a male voice, asking her to be calm and that everything would be all right and that she would not be harmed.

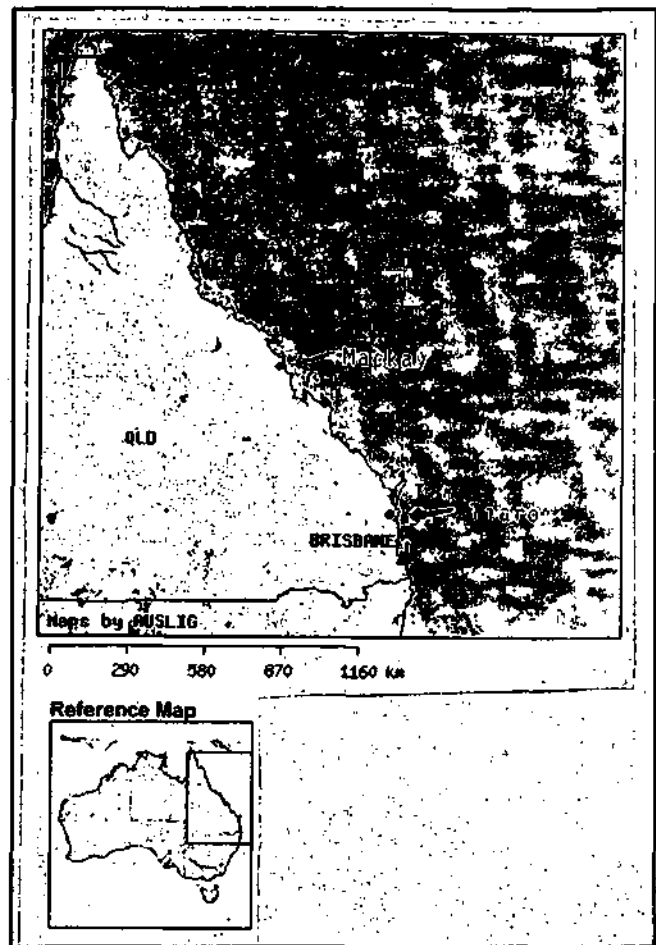
Soon an opening appeared in the wall and "a guy" about 6 feet tall walked into the room. The man appeared to be slender in build, but in perfect proportion, covered head to foot in a full body suit. He had what seemed to be a black covering mask on his face, with a hole for his eyes, nose and mouth. He repeated his calming assurances.

Amy's story includes some intriguing elements, such as her recollection that she was on the "ship" for seven days, but that less than three hours passed in our terms. She also indicated the humanoid described the "ship" as operating on principles that seemed like a description of a whole ship based on a form of total nanotechnology. There were two beings that appeared to be normal human-like "humanoids" in "biological suits" with "gray masks." There were also a few smaller humanoids.

The "guy" told her they were returning her to a place not far from where they took her, because the lights were wrong at the property and it wasn't safe. She then indicates she found herself lying on the bed and falling asleep. The next thing she recollects is that she woke up on the ground with trees around her.

She felt disorientated, could smell the ocean, and indicated she was not sure how long she stumbled through bushland, but seemingly it was for a long time, feeling she wasn't making much progress. She then came out onto a road that looked like a highway and saw a light from a petrol station. She walked into the station, where the staff, seeing her state, tried to offer some assistance.

She accepted some water, as she felt somewhat dehydrated. Initially she was not able to answer identifying questions, and didn't know where she was. She was also



asked if she had been drinking or was on drugs, to which she said no. Amy indicated she felt tired, sore, drained, and lethargic. She asked a woman at the service station to take her to the hospital, as she didn't know where else to go.

The woman and her friend took Amy to the hospital. Later Amy spoke with two police officers and also spoke with her husband Keith from the hospital. She then went to Mackay police station, where she gave the statement of events. Amy also indicated that this sort of thing had never happened to her before, but when she was in the 5th year of school she had seen a large UFO surrounded by smaller objects.

The police arranged to put Amy in a motel pending the arrival of her husband. He and Petra arrived during the day and indicated they spent considerable time with Amy discussing what happened. Extensive notes were apparently made and photographs were taken of a triangular arrangement of marks on her inner right thigh, marks on each heel, and the growing out of her hair which she had dyed earlier in the week.

Her hair had apparently started to show her former color, suggestive that some considerable time had passed for her, apparently indicative of rather more than a few hours. Body hair had allegedly also become somewhat more pronounced than would otherwise would be apparent for the short time involved.

A copy of the *Australian UFOlogist* magazine was

purchased from a news agent, and Keith, Petra, and Amy started to learn more about UFOs. Keith contacted the Australian UFO Research Network (AUFORN) office number mentioned in the magazine. Diane Harrison took the call on Friday, Oct. 5, 2001, at 3:20 p.m., and for the next hour or so listened to the story that Keith and Amy told. Petra was apparently sleeping at the time.

Given the nature of the story, its complexity, and the fact it apparently featured the alleged use of "solid light," Diane decided to bring Bill Chalker into the investigation, making contact with him during the evening of Friday, Oct. 5. Paradoxically, Bill was scheduled to talk at a Brisbane UFO conference on Oct. 13, and his topics included "solid light" cases and the application of science to alien abduction cases.

Bill put a call through to them at the motel, securing permission to record the conversation. Once again, Petra was not available to talk about her part in the alleged events. Keith went into considerable detail about the events, referring often to the notes they had apparently been compiling during the day. The details described covered the events Petra had witnessed, what Keith had experienced, and what Amy told them had happened to her during her experience.

Finally, Bill spoke with Amy, focusing mainly on the events before and after the claimed onboard experiences, because Keith had already gone into considerable detail about the latter. Bill discussed with Amy her general responses, her physical state, and her current state of thought on her experiences. Keith seemed to want to control how both the media and investigators would get involved.

His desire to contact the media promptly drew from both Diane and Bill the suggestion that he should think very carefully about the possible ramifications of doing so. Keith seemed to feel that it was important to get the story out, as it would come out anyway, and this way he could control the way it did. He was also trying to restrict the way the investigators could or should look into their experience. He claimed they didn't need to prove the experience. While he didn't directly witness the experiences, he believed both Amy and Petra.

Given the possible nature of the event, and that irrespective of the ultimate resolution of the affair, it seemed destined to be a big story, we decided to undertake an investigation. We had been given an indication from Keith that the three would wait for the investigators to come to Mackay, as the claimants were in no apparent hurry to return to Gundiah. They gave permission for us to visit the property on the way. Bill arrived in the Brisbane area on Tuesday afternoon, Oct. 9.

We then travelled to Gundiah, arriving at the Whispering Winds winery property just after 10 p.m. Because of the lateness of the hour, we got the witnesses' permission to stay there overnight and to conduct whatever investigation we needed to do. Keith had arranged for a neighbor to regularly check on the two pets left behind, namely a parrot and a kelpie dog. He indicated to us that it would be okay to let the dog off for a run, but warned us it was very friendly and inclined to jump all over people.

We let the dog off at some point and observed its behavior. At one point it did jump up on the window where the damaged screen was located. This gave some support to the possibility that at least some, if not all, of the damage, could have been caused by the dog. Some of the damage on closer inspection seemed suggestive of possible dog damage.

Our inspection of the plant damage also suggested possible prosaic causes, such as heat stress. A plant at the front of the house had similar damage, and a healthy flowering bush of the same species that was at the window examined by us at Mount Basset lawn cemetery has similar damage. A gardener there we spoke to indicated that the species often had random or more extensive damage of a heat stress nature from hot sunlight. The prosaic possibilities for both the screen and the plant damage are only suggestive at this point, and further investigation is required.

Scientists report successful teleportation experiment

LONDON — Physicists in Denmark have made two samples of trillions of atoms interact at a distance in an experiment which may bring "Star Trek"-style teleportation and rapid quantum computing closer to reality.

Eugene Polzik and his colleagues at the University of Aarhus are not about to beam anyone up to the Starship Enterprise, but their research reported in the science journal *Nature* makes the idea of instantly transporting an object from one place to another less far fetched.

It involves quantum entanglement—a mysterious concept of entwining two or more particles without physical contact. Albert Einstein once described it as "spooky action at a distance."

Entangled states are needed for quantum computing and teleportation. Scientists have entangled states of a few atoms in earlier experiments, but Polzik and his team have done it with very large numbers and using laser light. "It is the first result where two macroscopic material objects have been entangled," Polzik explained in a telephone interview.

"We have produced entanglement at a distance which means you and I can share entangled objects which is important for quantum communication, including quantum teleportation."

In 1998, what has been described as the first teleportation experiment was done when scientists at the California Institute of Technology teleported a beam of light across a laboratory bench. Ignacio Cirac, a physicist at the University of Innsbruck in Austria, said the achievement of Polzik and his team could lead to real-life quantum communication systems, teleportation, and quantum computers.

We undertook extensive investigations at the property and the area. Police were very helpful. Our investigation generated many issues and questions, which we feel need resolution in order to assist interpretations of these events.

Further extensive investigations were undertaken in Mackay, focusing in particular in the area where Amy was returned. These included attempts to reconstruct the circumstances of her return. The BP petrol service station staff were spoken with, and a surveillance video tape that may contain Amy's visit there was provided to us by the station owner. This part of our investigation also generated many issues and questions that need resolution if we are to approach any measure of certainty about the real nature of the events.

Keith indicated to us he would be available when we got to Mackay, but it was clear on the first day of our investigations there that this wasn't probably going to be the case. When we contacted the motel where they had been the night before, their third motel in Mackay, we learned they had apparently already checked out that morning. We left messages on their phone, but didn't hear from Keith until early on the afternoon of our second day, as we were leaving Mackay.

In his mobile call, Keith apologized for not being available, but said they had relocated to an unspecified location after having fled the area. The primary reason for this, Keith indicated, was that they had a kind of "men-in-black" experience—a pursuit of their vehicle by a high-powered dark brown 4-wheel truck. The nature of this event apparently frightened Keith, Amy, and Petra, prompting Keith to attempt to lose the vehicle and eventually leave the area.

We have heard from Keith again, and remain hopeful that the witnesses will get into more direct contact with us.

This affair is both extraordinary and controversial. Many have rushed to judgement, but given it's complex and evolving dynamics, caution and patience is necessary. We have many issues and questions we would like to try to resolve. Further contact with the Rylances and Petra Heller may help this process.

The case is far from closed and requires an objective, open minded investigation. Only time will give us the possibility of resolution and certainty about this intriguing, but controversial, affair.

Teleportation event a part of several UFO cases

By Dwight Connelly

Teleportation cases, while infrequent, are certainly not unknown in the field of ufology. Strictly speaking, the Australian case described in this issue is not a teleportation case, since the abductee was allegedly observed floating from the dwelling, rather than disappearing from one location and reappearing in another. In other words, in a true teleportation case an abductee, entity, or object would have to dematerialize, not merely be transported.

However, teleportation, a term apparently coined by Charles Fort seventy years ago in his book *Lo*, has traditionally referred to ufological events in which the abductee or object has been picked up at one location and dropped off at another.

Thus the 1975 Travis Walton case would be considered perhaps the best known and best documented "teleportation" case, but there is also an element of teleportation in the well-documented 1993 Kelly Cahill case in Australia, as reported in her book *Encounter* (1996). The 1965 extensively-researched case involving Debbie Jordon and Kathy Mitchell, investigated by Budd Hopkins and reported in the books *Intruders* and *Abducted*, had an element of teleportation when the car driven by 16-year-old Kathy was reportedly lifted from the highway, taken into a UFO, and eventually deposited on a church parking lot.

Other teleportation cases, usually less known and less well documented, have been reported for many years. Those wanting a full book of such cases might try to find a copy of parapsychologist Dr. Nandor Fodor's *Mind Over Space* (1962), even though he did not cover the modern UFO abductee cases. In *Exobiology: A Research Guide* (1978), Dr. Martin H. Sable cited 53 references to UFO-related teleportations. In a foreword to the Sable book, Dr. J. Allen Hynek said, "These new empirical observations and phenomena no longer can be summarily dismissed."

Indeed there are several modern cases, most of which have not been thoroughly investigated.

In May of 1968, for example, Dr. Geraldo Vidal, a well-known Buenos Aires attorney, and his wife were reportedly driving between Chascomus and Buenos Aires, Argentina, and friends were traveling ahead of them in another car. The passengers in the two vehicles lost touch with each other at Maipu, and the other couple backtracked to see if they could locate the Vidals, fearing they had experienced car trouble.

According to Dr. Vidal's account of the incident, the Vidals had encountered a strange fog, and were unable to account for the next 48 hours. When they regained consciousness they were still inside their car (a Peugeot 403), which was parked. They experienced pains in their necks, but otherwise appeared unhurt. The surface of the car, however, was burned, as with a blowtorch, but operated per-

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fectly. Their watches had stopped. After inquiry, they discovered they were no longer in Argentina, but in Mexico, 4,000 miles from where they had encountered the fog.

The Vidals flew back to Argentina, where Mrs. Vidal was taken to a private clinic for treatment of a nervous disorder. She died the following year, a victim of leukemia. No hypnosis was done on either of the Vidals. On the same night the Vidals disappeared, a man (identity unknown) was reportedly treated at the Maipu Hospital after exposure to "a strange fog" on the same road traveled by the Vidals.

On May 31, 1974, in what was then known as Rhodesia, Peter, 24, and his wife Frances, 21, experienced the sighting of two UFOs, observed a strange individual alongside the road, experienced effects on their auto's lighting system, felt extreme cold inside their auto, and lost control of their auto as they traveled from Salisbury, Rhodesia, to their home in Durban, South Africa. Frances fell asleep, and Peter said he began to feel hypnotized.

When they arrived at Beit Bridge on the South African border, they were surprised to discover they had gotten there an hour earlier than expected, and Peter said he had no recollection of seeing the sun until they arrived. They had traveled 180 miles in an hour and 45 minutes, averaging 100 m.p.h.

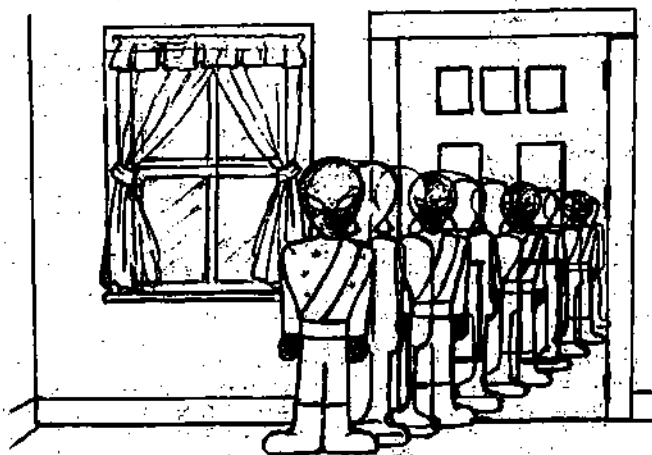
In addition, when they refueled their auto it took only half a gallon of gasoline, which meant they got 360 miles to the gallon. However, the odometer of their Peugeot had registered only ten miles instead of the 180 miles traveled. (There are several other aspects of this case, which was investigated by Carl Van Vlieden, MUFON representative for South Africa. A more detailed look at the case by Joe Brill and Dwight Connelly appeared in the March 1975 issue of *Skylook*, the original name for the *MUFON UFO Journal*.)

Another case involving loss of control of a vehicle allegedly occurred on Jan. 6, 1976, near Stanford, KY. Three women, Mrs. Mona Stafford, Louise Smith, and Elaine Thomas, drove out of Stanford, KY, toward what they thought might be a crashed aircraft, but encountered a saucer-shaped object that shined a bright light onto their car.

Suddenly, Louise, who was driving, realized she was no longer in control of the car. The speedometer showed a speed of 85 mph, but Louise said she did not have her foot on the accelerator. "It felt like we were crossing those grooves they have in the highway to slow you down before you reach a stop sign," said Mona. They quickly found themselves in Hustonville. "It was like something had picked us up in Stanford and set us down in Hustonville," said Mona.

In addition to a period of missing time, Louise and Elaine had burns on the backs of their necks. Upon arriving home they contacted neighbors to show them the burns and to tell them what had happened. The neighbors suggested they separate and draw pictures of what they had seen. The women reportedly experienced physiological and psychological problems following the incident.

A well-documented case involving both human and



A series of images sketched by Betty Andreasson Luca illustrates the appearance of a type of teleportation of entities described in this case.

entity teleportation is described by Raymond Fowler in *The Andreasson Affair* (1979), the story of Mrs. Betty Andreasson Luca. Rather than smoothly moving through the wall of the home, the entities seemed to be projected in a series of images (see drawing above).

A case considered fictional by mainline ufologists is reported in *The Philadelphia Experiment* (1979), by William Moore and Charles Berlitz. In this 1943 incident the U.S. Navy supposedly experimented in the attempted shielding of a ship from either magnetic mines or possible radar waves. The experiment supposedly teleported a ship and some of the sailors, injuring or killing them. Moore later suggested that teleportation was probably not involved.

A poorly-documented case reportedly occurred in 1968 or 1969, involving Sr. Marcilo Ferraz and his wife, who were driving south from San Paulo, Brazil. Like the Vidals, the couple reportedly encountered a "white cloud" near the Uruguay border, passed out, and awakened in Mexico. Both reportedly experienced traumatic shock, and the husband allegedly consulted a doctor a few weeks later, and was told he had a brain tumor. Shortly after this, he reportedly shot himself.

Another "cloud" case involved a single witness, an 11-year-old girl, Graciela del Lourdes, who lived in a suburb of Cordoba, Argentina. As she looked out the front door of her home on Aug. 4, 1968, a "white mist" appeared on the front path and gradually came toward her, she said. "I could no longer see the other houses, and I couldn't move or call out to Mummy," she explained. Then she allegedly found herself on the crowded Plaza Espana in Cordoba. She reported feeling "intense cold." No other details are available.

A 1968 case with few details involves a newly-married couple who had stopped their Volkswagen in the state of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, for a rest. They were reportedly suddenly overcome with drowsiness. When they regained consciousness they found themselves and their

VW in Mexico, apparently a favorite dropping off point for teleported people and objects.

Another case involves Sr. Dolor Roque, who on April 20, 1969, was allegedly riding his horse near Itaucu, Brazil, on his way to a pharmacy when he saw "some lights" and lost consciousness.

When he awakened he found himself, without his horse, on some rocks on the bank of the River Paranaiba at Itumbiara, 250 miles by road (or 150 miles in a straight path) from Itaucu. He reportedly took a bus back home, where he found a worried family and his horse.

Another case allegedly occurred in the early morning hours of Jan. 5, 1975. According to the newspaper *La Razon*, 28-year-old Carlos Alberto Diaz claimed to have been blinded by a light, was "unable to move a muscle," and "something like a strong wind raised me up through the air" into "a spherical chamber not provided with any furniture, and whose walls seemed to be made of translucent plastic material."

Diaz reported that three small humanoids climbed on him and began taking samples of his hair by painlessly pulling it from his head. He passed out, and found himself in Buenos Aires, 300 miles away, and it was now daylight. His watch had stopped at 3:30 a.m. With him was a newspaper he had bought in Bahia Blanca, as well as a duffel bag containing his work clothes.

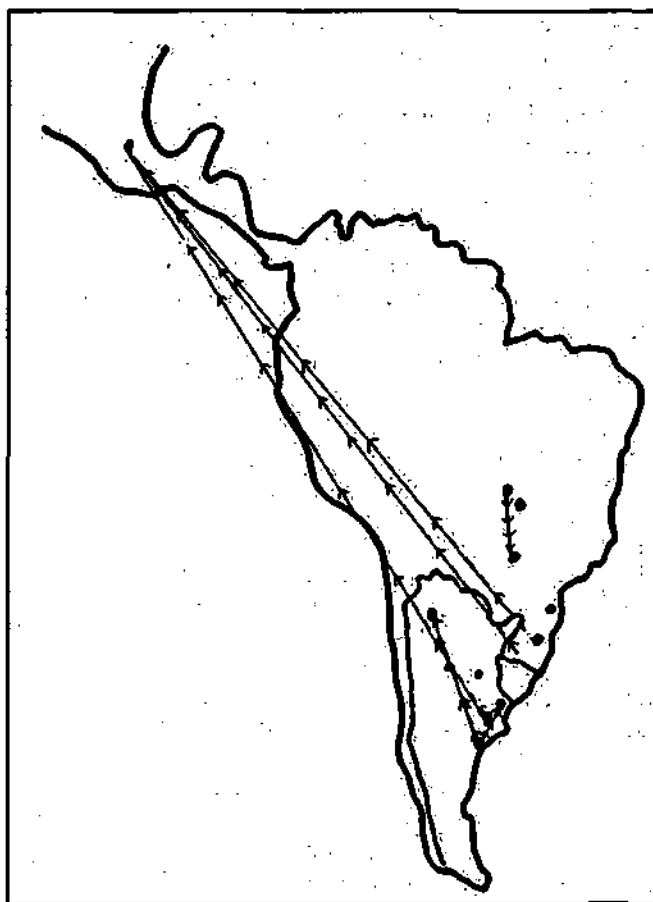
In the early hours of Sept. 23, 1978, two participants in the South American Rally, Carlos Acevedo and Miguel Angel Moya, suddenly noticed a bright light behind their Citroen GS 1220, just west of Salina de Piedra, Argentina. Thinking it was another car about to overtake them, despite the fact they were traveling 60 mph, Carlos pulled slightly to the right.

Suddenly the car was filled with light, and seemed out of control, moving about six feet off the ground and continuing to climb. Moya reports he was "seeing everything like through a yellow fog, as if I were at a distance, someplace else. I couldn't hear anything. I looked at Carlos and I saw him rigid. Suddenly the light engulfed everything and I couldn't see anything, not even my hands."

The witnesses then seemed to lose all concept of time, then felt a bump and noticed the car was back on the road. The yellow light lost some of its intensity.

Acevedo reported, "The light left the interior of the car, and I observed that to the west something like a cone of yellow light was disappearing, but it didn't end at that point, it was cut off. It was about 4 or 5 meters (12 to 15 feet) at the base, 2 or 3 at the cusp, and 6 meters, maybe 7, in height. The base lighted the surrounding area, although I couldn't tell what it was illuminating; in other words, you couldn't see through it. A few seconds later the light retracted itself; it just went up like a curtain, from bottom to top, and the only thing that was left in view was a white/yellowish light, oval in shape, that continued its west heading until it disappeared in the distance."

Acevedo and Moya were stunned, but decided to resume their journey. After traveling for 15 minutes they arrived at Pedro Luro in the province of Buenos Aires, but the trip from Carmen de Patagones to Pedro Luro had taken about an hour longer than it should have. In



addition, the car's odometer indicated that the car had traveled 71 km (42 miles) less than the distance between the two cities, indicating teleportation of the vehicle.

But in contrast, they discovered that their reserve gasoline tank was completely empty, despite being filled with 40 liters of gas in the city of Viedma. Additional details may be found in an article by Guillermo C. Roncoroni in the October, 1979, issue of the *MUFON UFO Journal*.

In another Argentine case, this one on July 16, 1972, Messrs. Brunelli and Prochietto were reportedly traveling from Arroyito to Cordoba, but could not remember traveling a 50-mile section of the highway, and the trip was reduced by nearly 40 minutes, again suggesting teleportation, but no missing time.

Still another case with few details and no investigation allegedly occurred in Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, in 1968. Two young men were reportedly in a Jeep when they ran into white fog near Porto Alegre. They passed out, and when they awakened they found themselves in Mexico.

A final case, also with spotty detail, allegedly involved two individuals (names unknown) traveling on the President Dutra Motorway in Brazil, who were allegedly transported to an unnamed town in the U.S. near the Mexican border, according to the Jan. 15, 1969, issue of the newspaper *Diario de Noticias* in Rio de Janeiro. The auto in which they were riding "bore marks made by the hooks of the transporting vehicle." (While this seems unlikely, the use of hooks in snagging victims has been reported elsewhere in Brazil by reliable investigators.)

Another possible witness surfaces in Pascagoula case

By Kenny Young

On October 21, 2001, Natalie Chambers reported in an Associated Press article that a new witness to a legendary 1973 UFO incident has recently surfaced. His name is Mike Cataldo, a retired Navy chief petty officer.

I was interested in more general details of this account, and specifically the reference to "a report" Cataldo made with a supervisor. I conducted a Yahoo People Search for Mike Cataldo and found his telephone listed for his residence at Marker Rd. in Rotonda West, FL.

Cataldo came to the phone and was surprised at my call, stating that I was the first person to ever contact him about this UFO sighting from 1973. He explained that he had been in touch with Associated Press reporter Natalie Chambers, but only after calling a Pascagoula, MS, newspaper. When calling the newspaper, he asked to talk with an old-timer employee at the paper, someone who might remember the Hickson/Parker abduction. Cataldo said that when he talked with Natalie Chambers, she made reference to the book *UFO in Pascagoula*. Being unaware of this book, Cataldo was shocked, saying, "You gotta be kidding me!"

He went on to excitedly relate the story as it happened back in 1973. "The story is very true," he assured while recounting the event. "We (Cataldo, Ted Peralta, and Mack Hanna) left the shipyard and rode in Ted's Volkswagen to Hwy. 90, traveling west towards Biloxi, MS. It was not even dusk yet.

"When we first saw this thing through the windshield we thought it was a shooting star, going from right to left, but then it came down into a marshy, tree-lined area and hovered there for about 30-seconds. It was spinning and had blinking lights on the top of it all around its edge in a circle. These were blinking lights arranged on it just like you would tape lights to the side of a cake pan."

Cataldo affirmed that there was a definite structure to be seen, not just blinking lights. "This thing was like a whitish-gray colored sailor hat, or a tambourine, and it was less than half a mile away and looked as big as any big American airliner I've ever seen. And then it just shot away, almost like it was just suddenly gone."

Cataldo said that shortly after the sighting he parted company with Ted Peralta and Mack Hanna and changed cars. Then while enroute to Ocean Springs as darkness was setting in, he saw the same object a second time at about the same distance away, watching it for another 45 seconds to one minute before it again shot off as before.

Mike Cataldo said that there were other motorists in the area during each episode, and that some of them had slowed down to look at the UFO. "We were the only ones on the road to stop and look at it though," he said.

During this time, Cataldo said he never knew anything about the Hickson/Parker claim. He went home, telling his wife about it. Cataldo humorously recalled how his wife said he was hyperventilating with excitement. He

The Pascagoula case revisited

Editor's Note: For those too young to recall the Pascagoula case, the following summary is provided. I met with Hickson, and was impressed with his account, as were all of the investigators.

On Oct. 12, 1973, during a UFO wave, Charles Hickson and Calvin Parker were fishing from a pier at the Shaupe shipyard in Pascagoula, MS, at about 7 p.m. A buzzing noise caused them to turn around, and they observed an oval-shaped object with a blue light and two windows. It was about eight feet high and about two feet above the ground. A hatch door opened, and three entities floated out.

Using crab-like pincers, they floated Hickson and Parker into the UFO. Parker had apparently fainted. Inside, the object was brightly lighted with no apparent source for the light. Hickson reported that he was scanned by a large "eye" as he lay suspended in the air. With feet dragging the ground, he was returned to the pier. Parker seemed in a trance.

After regaining their composure, Hickson and Parker reported the incident to Keesler Air Force Base, only to be told to report it to civilian authorities. Then they went to the nearby *Mississippi Press Register*, but it was closed, so they went to the Jackson County Sheriff's Office. After telling their story, they were placed in a vacant room and secretly tape recorded. Their conversation indicated no attempt at hoaxing.

James Harder and J. Allen Hynek investigated, and indicated they believed the two were telling the truth about the incident. Hickson later passed a lie detector test. Parker had a nervous breakdown.

There were at least two other reports of UFOs in the general vicinity of the sighting that evening, including a report by Parole Officer Raymond Broadus, Pascagoula City Councilman E.P. Sigalas, and an unidentified woman. In another report, Larry Booth of Pascagoula said he observed an object—first stationary, then slowly moving—with red lights turning in a clockwise motion.

went on to liken the anxiety and strangeness of the situation to a large snake sighting he had years earlier in 1963. "Some things you see in your lifetime that you just don't ever forget," he said.

The next day he returned to the site with Ted and Mack, and they parked their car at the shipyard area, talking about the sighting from the previous day. They discussed what should be done about it, and if they should report what they saw. Cataldo said that he felt the sighting should be reported, and he approached a man by the name of Nick, his division officer.

He then approached the executive commander, Lt. Commander Heath, and gave him a verbal report on the sighting. He said that to his knowledge, Heath did not prepare a written report concerning what was told to him. "Not one of them took me seriously," he complained, "and

I never heard another thing about it. Nobody ever asked about it again. "I never knew of the Hickson/Parker abduction until days later. It happened on Thursday, and it was not until the following Sunday that I saw the headline in the morning paper about two men taken aboard a flying saucer. I'm telling you I about died."

The next morning, Oct. 15, Cataldo said that he talked the situation over with his wife and again decided that it would be important to report the UFO sighting. At that time he placed a phone call to an assistant public relations officer at Keesler AFB. The female taking his call took the information, but Cataldo said that once again nothing resulted from his report.

"I have never talked to the fella involved, Charles Hickson, and I've never discussed this case or met with them at all. I never knew them, and I never saw anything and had no involvement with what they said," Cataldo assured, "and I've never seen a UFO since then, not at all. Not even before then."

"Was it real? You're damn right it was real. I can't say anything about what they did or were involved in. I don't even know if what I saw matches what they saw, but I know what I saw and where I was at. But where we saw the thing going across the sky through our windshield is basically the area where Hickson and Parker said they were taken aboard. The time frame of our sighting might have been around 6:00, but I can't recall for certain."

Cataldo said that two weeks after the sighting he left for California on temporary duty. While there, he saw Hickson on the Dick Cavett television show. "I just couldn't believe it; here I was seeing this guy," he said.

Mike Cataldo explained that he has not seen Ted Peralta for 21 years, but thinks he could possibly be in the San Diego, CA, area. Likewise he has not seen Mack Hanna for about 23 or more years, and suspects that he could be located in either Kentucky or Logan, WV. In the intervening years, Cataldo said that he has frequently told his family (wife, two sons and relatives) about the sighting.

Cataldo said that aside from this present call, he has not been contacted by anyone regarding this, except for his discussion with reporter Natalie Chambers. He said that he has not seen the newspaper article, and would like to read it. He also said that he received a message from a friend telling him that Paul Harvey mentioned the story on his radio program recently, and wishes he could have heard it.

I thanked Mike Cataldo for talking with me and told him that I would be happy to e-mail him the text of the newspaper article by Chambers. Although it is a disappointment to know that his claims were probably not documented in a written report by his supervisor, further interviews with Hanna and Peralta would still be valuable to provide some verification of this alleged sighting.

A Yahoo People Search was conducted for their names in the specified locations, resulting in many returns, and as of this writing some of the names have already been contacted, but thus far with no success in finding the right individuals.

MUFON FORUM



Karl Pflock responds to review

Dear Dwight:

Many thanks for your very fair and lengthy review of my book *Roswell: Inconvenient Facts and the Will to Believe* (Journal, October 2001), which to my pleasant surprise is in its second printing. If I may, I'd like to address briefly for Journal readers' consideration certain points that you raised.

First, you wrote that you find it hard to believe officers like Col. Blanchard and Maj. Marcel could have been "fooled by pieces of a Mogul balloon array" into thinking they had pieces of a spacecraft from another world. So do I. But there's no doubt they thought the stuff they had was from a flying saucer. How do we explain this?

In July 1947 "flying saucer" wasn't synonymous with "spaceship from another planet." Virtually everyone in and out of government who took UFOs seriously during the summer of 1947 and for some time thereafter was thinking in terms of advanced or at least unusual but very earthly technology, quite possibly some German supergadgets captured and exploited by the Soviets. So peculiar assemblies of odd stuff of the sort flown by Charles Moore and his New York University team for Project Mogul certainly qualified as possible saucer stuff.

Today's ufologists and UFO enthusiasts all too often make the grave error of viewing the past through modern lenses, interpreting key elements of historical cases in terms of today's knowledge, theories, and generally accepted "norms," rather than in the context of the periods in which they occurred. This has been done in spades with respect to Roswell.

Second, you doubt that the famous Roswell Army Air Field "We've got one!" press release was issued because RAAF commander Col. William Blanchard was a "loose cannon," noting that if my "version is accurate, we should worry a great deal about this nation's military." As you certainly know from your Air Force experience, Dwight, "loose cannon" doesn't necessarily mean "bad officer." In my days in uniform and later as a senior congressional staffer and Pentagon official, I got to know and know of several high-ranking military men who could easily be considered and often were loose cannons.

The great majority were inspiring leaders, first rate in their military specialties, etc.—but headstrong and all too inclined to shoot from the hip, following the beat of their different drummers. I need only name just a few famed American military men to drive home the point: LeMay (Blanchard's "rabbi"), Patton, Grant (who didn't have Blanchard's good fortune in high-ranking patrons), Puller, Butler, Halsey—outstanding military leaders all, and all major pains in the rear ends of their civilian and military superiors.

Third, you say the photos taken in Brig. Gen. Ramey's

(Continued on Page 19)

Part II

Wormholes, Heaven and the God Hypothesis

By Dr. Barry Downing

(Continued from November Journal)

When I left the Hyatt-Regency after Orange County MUFON International Symposium 2001 on the Monday after the conference, I happened to take a shuttle to the John Wayne Airport with a long time MUFON member who told me that when she talks about UFOs with others, she advises them not to see them as either angels or demons. I did not ask her what she meant by this advice. In one sense it is good advice.

We seem to be a long way from really understanding the UFO phenomenon; from a scientific point of view it would be unwise to get "locked in" on any one explanation at this point.

But at the same time, if she means, "We need to understand that the UFO aliens are not, and cannot be, either demons or angels," this I believe is a mistake, because we certainly do not know at this point they are not angels or demons, or both, and much more. It would not be scientific to say to a student, "I want you to add two plus two for me, but four is not an acceptable answer."

As I have spent time with MUFON members, I have sensed among many a reluctance to face the clear religious implications of the UFO phenomenon. Persons who have been in MUFON for a long time may feel betrayed by the aliens themselves.

We started out chasing ETs. The extraterrestrial hypothesis seemed so clear and exciting, and it was good to be a "true believer" (in the scientific sense, of course), as opposed to those who supported the government lie, seeing UFOs as mistaken natural phenomena or the result of a lot of unmet Jungian psychological and religious needs. Checking out stories of radar contacts, indentations in the ground, and physical side effects of close encounters such as body burns, all pointed to a physical UFO reality.

But then came the abduction cases. And the betrayal began. The Betty Andreasson Luca case illustrates the betrayal well, and Raymond Fowler and his researchers led Betty through a hypnotic review of her abduction, which began like your average abduction—a back yard UFO landing, other family members seeing the UFO and being "turned off," entities floating through a door, and Betty going off and beginning the "interview" process.

And then the religious material enters the story—Betty



Dr. Barry Downing

About the author

Dr. Barry Downing recently retired after serving for 34 years as pastor of Northminster Presbyterian Church in Endwell, NY. He earned the B.A. in Physics from Hartwick College, the B.D. from Princeton Theological Seminary, and the Ph.D. from the University of Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1966, specializing in the relationship between natural science and Christian theology.

He is the author of the ground-breaking book *The Bible and Flying Saucers* (1968, reprinted in 1970, 1973, 1974, 1989, and 1997), as well as numerous articles in *Skylook*, the *MUFON UFO Journal*, and elsewhere. Dr. Downing has been a speaker at several MUFON symposiums, and is currently on the national board of directors for the Fund for UFO Research (FUFOR). He has been a consultant in theology for MUFON since 1972.

talking about Jesus, a phoenix shows up—the whole scene becomes religious and scientifically messy.¹

Your average MUFON scientific researchers feel betrayed; they started out looking for ETs, but have landed in a huge religious drama. However, I believe it is here MUFON needs to be.

Let us imagine this. An aircraft with its pilot is flying over a large island, populated by natives who believe they are the only intelligent beings in the universe. There have been reports of aircraft in the sky, but the reports have not been believed.

On this island an independent organization called MUFON is formed, which investigates UFO reports. One day, the aircraft crashes, killing the pilot. The tribal leaders put the crashed aircraft and pilot in hiding, and turn them over to their best paid scientists for study, all of whom are sworn to secrecy. In the meantime, the MUFON group keeps trying to uncover the UFO mystery. It knows the government knows what is going on, and is probably spending millions, maybe billions, on UFO research. MUFON members ask themselves, why should we bother?

Here is my reason why we should bother. Suppose that the aliens have power we cannot begin to imagine. Suppose that when the UFO crashes, and the alien pilot "dies," his mind simply leaves his body and goes to a new body. Whitley Strieber has said that the aliens seem to be able to change bodies the way we would change clothes: "I think that they must normally exist in some other state of being and that they use bodies to enter our reality as we use scuba gear to penetrate the depths of the sea."²

In fact, perhaps the whole UFO crash was staged to give the natives a technological boost, as well as to make it clear to the natives they were not alone in the universe. (It has always seemed strange to me that a UFO might fly safely all the way from Andromeda, only to run out of gas over Roswell, NM, right next to an Air Force base—a little too much good luck for us; bad luck for advanced aliens.)

But now think of this. As we think of the UFO, the body of the pilot, and the mind of the pilot, which of the

three is of primary importance? Surely, the mind of the pilot.

If our government has crashed UFOs and dead alien bodies, MUFON cannot compete with the government research in this area, the area of the physical. But the alien mind, any more than our mind, is not physical.

MUFON may be in a better position than our government to study the alien mind, provided that we suppose that modern UFO abduction stories are a window to the alien mind. For MUFON has members who say in public they believe UFOs are real, and that abductions can happen. The government has said clearly, "UFOs are not there; we do not even want to hear your story."

People come to us with their abduction stories. It may well be that people like Budd Hopkins, David Jacobs, John Mack, Ann Druffel, and others know more about abductions than our government. Keep in mind that our government UFO project has to be super secret—need to know basis only. But we can deal with all issues openly.

Religion and the scientific method

I know there are some MUFON members who are troubled by the religious dimension to the UFO phenomenon, and the way I have handled this dimension. I believe the appropriate way for MUFON to handle the religious issue is scientifically: look at the evidence and form hypotheses.

One possible description of the UFO reality might be this: UFOs and its humanoid alien associates may come from a single reality or multiple realities; it seems to be an intelligent form of energy which can materialize and dematerialize at will, as well as change shape, both the craft and the humanoids. There is a good possibility this reality is spatially interdimensional.

This reality can interact with, and even control, both our conscious and unconscious minds, influencing our dreams, or putting our minds in an altered state of consciousness. It seems likely that many of the world's religions have been caused by interaction with the UFO reality. In the past such a reality would have been called spiritual. Thus the "God Hypothesis" is a plausible hypothesis, based on the evidence, and our latest scientific understanding of the universe. The God Hypothesis would argue that UFOs are a divine manifestation—this is the reality that created and guides life on earth, and perhaps even created the universe.

The extraterrestrial hypothesis is still plausible, but needs to be expanded. We need something like "A Pretty Darn Big ET Hypothesis." One explanation of the religious dimension might be what we could call the "ETs Playing God" hypothesis. This theory would be that ETs are not God, but they are so powerful they can trick us into thinking they are God, which causes the religious response of Betty Andreasson Luca, Whitley Strieber, or many of the "experiencers" reported by John Mack.

Thus exploring the biblical material, we might say that the "pillar of cloud and fire" of the Exodus was a UFO, controlled by aliens, who were "playing God" with the Jews, setting them free from slavery in Egypt, and leading them into the wilderness, which served as a labora-

tory away from all human life, to give them religious conditioning in the manner of behaviorist B.F. Skinner.

Thus we end up in the strange state of finding that the "miracles" of traditional religion, like the parting of the Red Sea, could be true, but the theology drawn from them is not. As I said to a loud gasp at a dinner table at the MUFON International Symposium 2001, "We are now in a strange position in relation to the Bible. We are in a position where we might find out everything in the Bible is true, except the part about God."

In some ways the "ETs Playing God Hypothesis" is not far from the Christian Fundamentalist argument that UFOs are demonic, except that if you are consistent in this argument, then you have to argue that both Moses and Jesus were tools of a demonic God, and in fact the religious leaders of his day accused Jesus of being in league with the prince of demons. (Matthew 9:34)

I do not believe this is true—the demonic faith is not my "faith"—but from a scientific point of view, this is possible. And in the biblical religion, there are conflicting spiritual forces, God and the devil. It is possible that in 500 years we humans might have the power to part the Red Sea, or raise Jesus from the dead. That would make us god-like, but not God, as Eric Davis understands.

But here is where I think we are. Many UFO abduction cases make it clear that the alien reality, whatever it is, is capable of religious revelation. Although Budd Hopkins does not take this point of view, his book *Witnessed: The True Story of the Brooklyn Bridge UFO Abductions* makes clear what power the aliens have to control our minds, without us even knowing it.

That being the case, the religious revelations recorded by John Mack must be taken seriously. Mack says that many of the revelations of his experiencers happen in an altered state of consciousness, which Davis would say relativity theory predicts. Mack explores the spiritual experiences of shamans such as Peixoto, Trueblood and Mutwa.

Part of biblical tradition

Altered states of consciousness are very much part of the biblical tradition, whether it be the divine revelation to Abraham while he was in a deep sleep (Genesis 15:12), or a strange spiritual power coming on 70 Jewish elders in the presence of the UFO of the Exodus (Numbers 11:16), or the same power coming on early Christians, causing them to speak in strange languages (Acts 2:1-4). Key religious leaders in the Bible such as Moses, Elijah, and Jesus seemed to have paranormal powers, which fits Mack's profile of shamans.

The Islamic faith derives from the biblical tradition, since Muhammad lived about 600 years after Jesus, but Muhammad at an early age "had an experience of a visitation by two figures (later identified as angels) who opened his chest and stirred their hands inside."³ More such experiences happened in his life, and led to the Islamic faith. For better or worse, all transcendent experiences, reported religious experiences, need to be examined as part of our UFO data. After careful examination, some of this data may be considered valid; other data will be discarded.

Needless to say, this is a daunting task. Furthermore, in the past we have not recruited MUFON members who have specialized in this kind of analysis. We have tended to recruit consultants more from the hard sciences—engineering, physics, astronomy, chemistry, and medicine. These sciences would be helpful if we had a crashed UFO and some dead alien bodies to examine. I believe MUFON has to reevaluate its priorities, both in light of the way the UFO reality is manifesting itself to us, and in light of what we can do, perhaps better than the government can do.

I believe the God Hypothesis is where we are. The alternative, ETs Playing God, is also possible, which in its most basic sense is a demonic theory. The situation has a lot of “ambiguity,” which as I have argued elsewhere is the nature of what I call “God’s Faith Game.”⁴

If it is true that understanding the alien mind is the most important task for UFO research, then MUFON is in a very important position in human culture. While our government is gathering up all the “hardware,” the “software” is kind of right there for us to take.

But it will not be easy to take. John Mack has argued that to know the alien mind is really to want to know the sacred.⁵ And as I have said of the God of the Bible, this God wants to keep space between us and him, between us and the alien mind. That is what I call “The Rock of Ages Principle.”⁶

When God landed on Mt. Sinai, the people of Israel were under strict orders not to come near the mountain. The mountain was sacred, holy, because God was there. “You shall set limits for the people all around, saying, ‘Be careful not to go up the mountain or to touch the edge of it. Any who touch the mountain shall be put to death.’” (Exodus 19:12)

What are we doing if we are trying to study the alien mind? Are we also trying to study the mind of God? How careful do we have to be? Are there parts of our scientific mentality that are dangerous now? Is our scientific instinct to “put the alien mind in a cage” and study it dangerous? How do we come near the mountain of the alien mind without getting killed? And the biblical view is, if you do not understand the alien mind, you will die. (That is why religion matters, and why a major MUFON effort to understand the alien mind may matter a lot.)

Imagine this. There is a cage full of rats. The cage has a black plastic cover on it. Every day, food comes down a chute into the cage. The rats have a debate about where they came from, where their food comes from. One group argues that God created them, and God creates their food, and puts it into the chute. The other group says that everything just evolves over a period of time.

One day there is a tear in the black plastic cover on the cage. Some of the rats (members of MUFON) look through the tear, and see a humanoid putting their food in the chute. Things are different now, and neither religious leaders nor scientific leaders will be happy about these differences.

What do I think is the alien purpose now, how do I read the alien mind at this time? The August 13, 2001, edition

of *USA Today* carried a Nick Anderson cartoon. In the cartoon, a dark horse was running wildly away from its rider. Chasing it was a man holding an empty bridle. On the back of the man was the word “Ethics,” with words like “cloning,” “stem cells,” “etc” floating beside the man. On the side of the wild horse was written the word “Science.”

I do not think we need any revelation from aliens to tell us human culture is in deep trouble. The cartoon explains the problem well. Science has given us great power over nature, but science has in effect told us we have just “evolved,” we have no created purpose. We are just accidental bastards in an uncaring universe. And in a scientific culture in which religion has become a strange joke, the ethics that religion has traditionally taught have also become a joke. (For details, watch modern films and television.)

If there is a unified alien purpose, I believe that purpose is to bring us back to what John Mack calls Source, what I call God, back to believing there is a spiritual reality that is more primary than our physical reality. If we do not see ourselves as spiritual beings with bodies, perhaps we cannot exercise an ethic to control our science.

This is a more radical goal than the one I put forth in my article, “Exodus as a Paradigm of UFO Strategy.”⁷ I believe the aliens want to take us back to God without landing on the White House lawn. It is possible that a few thousand abductions a year will eventually achieve that goal.

But at the same time, I think the aliens would be willing to use any justified power to achieve their goal. According to the Bible, this power included killing all the first-born males in Egypt. That is how God “put the final squeeze” on Pharaoh.

If the aliens decide to put the squeeze on the United States government, that is where MUFON might have a role. If UFOs started making open daylight appearances, then the squeeze would be on the public media. If the media did not publish what was obvious, they would lose credibility. If they did publish news of open sightings, then our government would lose credibility.

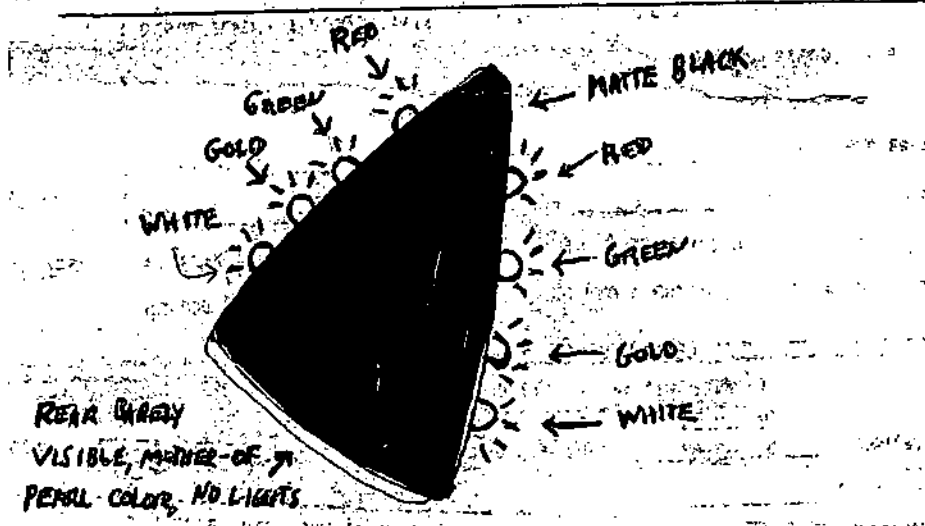
As the media published news of open sightings, panic would begin. There would be space age panic, “The ETs are going to land and take over,” with books like David Jacob’s *The Threat* fueling the panic, and there would be the religious fundamentalist panic: “UFOs are demons. Armageddon is here.”

MUFON could be a calm voice—well, sort of calm—saying, “We do not believe the UFOs plan to land and take over. We believe they just want us to admit they are real.” If I am right, just setting Stanton Friedman’s message “Flying Saucers Are Real” loose in human culture might be enough to save human culture.

As I have said before, however, there is a lot of ambiguity. But that is where the God Hypothesis has taken me up to this point. I believe reading the alien mind is MUFON’s most important scientific challenge. Time will tell how good we are at our science.

(Endnotes on next page)

DRAW A SIMPLE SKETCH OF THE OBJECT. (Label any lights, colors, protrusions)



Drawing by Joseph Trainor
(MUFON UFO Sighting Questionnaire.)

Witness reports triangle with multiple lights

Investigated by Dr. Stephen Hero
FIT MN MUFON

Joseph F. Trainor, 51, a journalist and college graduate, had just gotten off the Duluth, MN, Transit Authority bus at the corner of Piedmont Ave. and W. Seventh St. at 5:20 p.m. on Dec. 12, 2000. He reports:

"It was dark, but there was still a glimmer of blue dusk at the summit of Spirit Mountain, on the western edge of the city. As I crossed Piedmont Ave. I looked downhill to my left and saw that the full moon had just risen. It was about 10 degrees above the eastern horizon, over Lake Superior and Park Point. It was very cold, about zero degrees Fahrenheit, and the sky was completely clear."

He continues, "As I passed the Lakeside Ice Co. building, I saw what I thought was a Christmas decoration through the pine trees, an arch of multicolored lights. After walking about 100 feet west on West Seventh, I saw the object more clearly.

"It was a black triangle, with its apex pointed upward at a one o'clock angle, and the 'base' at the bottom. The object was in mid-air, an estimated 35 degrees above the southwestern horizon. It was the size of my thumbnail at arm's length. The color was matte black, a shade darker than the surrounding night sky. The object had no discernible motion, and there was no sound.

"The sides of the triangle were slightly rounded," says Trainor, "giving it the look of a bulky arrowhead. Also there were three sets, or arrays, of four lights each on either side of the triangle. There were no lights at the bottom. Twelve lights in all on either side. In descending order, the lights in each array were red, green, gold, and white."

The witness says he stopped at the corner of W. Seventh and 22nd Ave. West and observed the object for five minutes. "It was hard to judge distance," he explains, "but my guess is that the object was a few miles away,

possibly over the Spirit Valley area in the West Duluth section of the city. I was alone on the street. There was intermittent traffic on Piedmont Ave. a block behind me.

"I walked to my own home, went inside, and grabbed a small camera. I wasn't sure the object itself would show, but I knew the steady multicolored lights would. However, when I reached the front porch again the object was gone."

Trainor says this is the third UFO he has seen. The first was in Seekonk, MA, in August of 1963, and the second was near Kingston, Ontario, Canada, in August of 1995. "But this is the first triangular UFO I have seen," he adds.

Downing...

(Continued from previous page)

ENDNOTES

¹Raymond E. Fowler, *The Andreasson Affair* (Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall, 1979).

²Whitley Strieber, *Transformation: The Breakthrough* (New York: Beech Tree Books, 1988); p. 40.

³John Bowker, ed., "Muhammad ibn Abd Allah," *Oxford Concise Dictionary of World Religions* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000), p. 389.

⁴On ambiguity and faith see Downing, *op. cit.*, 2001, p. 107-108; also see Barry Downing, "Faith, Theory and UFOs," *MUFON 1981 UFO Symposium*, pp. 35-42.

⁵John E. Mack, "Witnessing: Abductees as Sacred Truth Tellers," *MUFON 2001 International UFO Symposium*, pp. 148-153.

⁶Barry Downing, "The Rock of Ages Principle," *MUFON UFO Journal*, May 1990, pp. 10-12.

⁷Barry Downing, "Exodus as a Paradigm of UFO Strategy," *MUFON UFO Journal*, October 1994, pp. 8-11.



Filer's Files

By George A. Filer
Director, MUFON Eastern Region

Unless otherwise noted, these reports represent raw data which has not been verified by official investigations.

Entity reported in Turkey

AMASYA — The Scientific Research Project of Turkey UFO reports that on July 23, 2001, an alien life form was observed in a 4th floor apartment at 9:30 p.m. on a hot evening. The creature's height was about three feet. He had very big jet black eyes, slanting up. The entity was observed for two seconds. His color was gray like smoke. The witness was breast-feeding her 5-month-old baby when she turned her head and saw the entity in front of the balcony door four floors up.

Suddenly he disappeared. His head was oval-shaped and bald, and looked like it was formed of bones only. The witness called her husband, who did not see the entity. They kept the story secret until they learned others had seen UFOs the same night. Thanks to TUVPO liastar-0005@coopresources.net (Jeffrey M. Foss)



George Filer

New York flying triangle

NEW YORK CITY — The witness reports, "It was a chrome-like color, as big as a one story building, maybe about 250-500 feet in the air, and it glowed reddish black and left a whitish trail when it left on Oct. 15, 2001, at 2 p.m. During this event, the object changed colors three of four times, from a reddish black to a very dark red. It sounded like a whistle at first, but became silent and came on again. It was similar to Morse Code.

"I saw at least a dozen lights on it that were various colors. I was talking on my cell phone at the time to my wife, telling her about this, and it was coming in kind of fuzzy. Then I heard a noise coming from my cell phone, (Maybe a transmission) and then it went dead a couple of seconds later. The noises I heard from the phone could have been a language, but I could not understand a word of it. After my phone went dead, the UFO left a few seconds later."

Hungarian pilot videos disc-shaped object

BUDAPEST — Jeff Rense has received a spectacular video of a silver disk-shaped object. On Sept. 29, 2001, the pilot reports that a strange craft was flying to his left

side and then moved very fast past him in the clouds, as can be seen in the video. "To my left I saw a bright metal aircraft that was the shape of a perfect disk," says the pilot. "I was careful to film the object, not to try and chase it since I could not match its speed. As I was flying a reconnaissance aircraft, I got the idea to film it, and used our equipment."

The pilot considers the video he made to be his property and not the Hungarian government's, as he was flying the plane while not on duty and was transporting it as a favor to save the government money. He has now hired an attorney and wants the video to be released to the public. He hopes the release of a few frames will make this happen. These spectacular photos can be seen at <http://www.rense.com/general15/pilotufo.htm>. Thanks to Jeff Rense.

Note: This appears to be a verified disc-shaped UFO of 25 to 30 feet in diameter. These have been filmed by numerous air forces of the world and have speeds greater than most jet fighter aircraft.

Possible Los Alamos connection to crash

James Parsons writes in the *Star Beacon*, "Comes now a story out of Roswell and Los Alamos which may explain the three flights made from Roswell Army Air Field to Los Alamos on July 9, 1947, a few days after the crash. This story is from Carol Syska, former director of the UFO Museum at Roswell during 1999 and most of 2000. Carol was a group secretary and division budget director at Los Alamos for almost 30 years.

"One day at Los Alamos, she read that a report containing information about UFOs was available in the Lab library. This sounded interesting to Carol, so she ordered the report. She read this booklet, *Project Blue Book*, which contained some comments about wreckage from a crashed vehicle being sent for testing to Los Alamos.

"At the time (1962), Carol worked at the Lab with the NonDestructive Test Group (NDT). Her boss, a senior scientist, was head of NDT and had been with the Lab since the beginning of the Manhattan Project. If testing had been done on crash debris [whether from Roswell or elsewhere], Carol's boss would know about the tests.

"Carol went to the man's office and showed the report to him. She asked, 'Is this true?' Carol's boss, in a business-like manner, replied, 'What is the level of your security clearance?' Carol said, 'Sir, you know as well as I do what it is.' (Carol told me that at the time she held a Q clearance. A Q clearance is a very high National Security clearance.)

"Carol's boss, after a pause, said, 'Well, do you have the need to know?' Carol said, 'Guess not,' and moved to the door. Carol's boss said, 'Just a minute.' After another pause, he added, 'I would advise you to read everything you ever see about this subject.'" Thanks to James Parsons, Nov. *Star Beacon*, full story at http://earthstar.tripod.com/TSB_dir/LosAlamos.html

NASA's Mars spacecraft circling Red Planet

JPL — The Odyssey Spacecraft has started taking

dips into the Martian atmosphere to get into position to map our neighboring planet. The craft is aerobraking, passing within 100 miles of the surface and hoping to detect the atmosphere of Mars. The Odyssey will move lower to about 60 miles from the surface by January and is expected to maintain a 2 1/2-hour circular orbit when the aerobraking is complete.

New data is intended to map the distribution of minerals and chemicals across the surface and provide daily Martian weather reports. It also will seek out frozen deposits of water that might help determine if life ever existed on the Red Planet.

Wisconsin flying triangle

OZAUKEE—Grafton County: Mark J. was taking out the garbage at 8:30 p.m. on Oct. 31, 2001, and says, "I saw a flying dark triangular shape with a giant white light in the middle of the UFO traveling pretty fast." In addition, on the bottom left corner there were two smaller lights. Mark says, "It was raining, and when I stared at it, I could see the rain coming off the back end of it. I have never seen anything like it." Thanks to Jenny Hoppe jenny@ufowisconsin.com.

Arizona flying triangle

PHOENIX—I was sitting outside of the shop I work at on Oct. 19, 2001, and was having a smoke about 8:45 p.m., watching the sky, which was hazy but clear enough to see stars. There was a light layer of clouds coming from the west out of California. I suddenly caught a glimpse of something flying over my head.

"I looked up to see a group of three reddish/orange, somewhat bright yet fuzzy looking lights flying at what seemed to be couple of hundred feet above my head, but completely silent. It traveled at a very fast speed from east to west across the sky towards Luke Air Force Base. This took a total of about 6 to 8 seconds. Just as it was passing over the top of the roof of the house, my receptionist looked out the door and said, 'What's that?' I was describing it to her and all of a sudden a boomerang-shaped cloud traveling the same direction was moving across the sky at an extremely fast speed too. The other clouds that were in the sky never changed; they were in the same place as they were when the event started." Thanks to Peter Davenport www.ufocenter.com

Washington flying triangle

BUCKLEY—According to the witness, two slow-moving flying triangle-shaped objects with blue, white, and red lights, with very bright strobes in unison, along with bigger white lights at 3 points, were spotted on Oct. 24, 2001. The two craft were headed south, slightly above a low broken cloud cover at 8:05 p.m.. The craft were about one mile apart, with one trailing back about 60 degrees east of the other.

As their strobes flashed, a faint outline appeared to reveal a solid triangle, rather than a conventional wing. Their altitude was about 1500 feet. There were distinct bright red, blue, and white lights in line on the trailing edge

of both craft. There were no red or green strobes in conventional positions on the craft, and no landing lights or a similar typical arrangement apparent. The witness states, "This was not at all the typical type of light arrangement, as I'm accustomed to light airplane traffic, commercial traffic to and from SeaTac, and military traffic to McCord Air Force Base. I'm not familiar with this light arrangement, and there was no engine noise. Commercial flight from SeaTac at 2020 hours with takeoff lights and conventional configuration of lights flew over just west of my house, well above the other objects, with engine noise very clear." Thanks to Peter Davenport www.ufocenter.com

Trucker "misplaces" 300 miles in Wyoming

EVANSTON—A trucker driving through Wyoming observed an oblong green glassy object starting at 11 p.m. on Oct. 24, 2001. He reports, "The UFO hovered in front and above our vehicle." The trucker called 911 several times and was given an Air Force number to call. The object stayed nearby until 4 a.m., and he indicates that he misplaced 300 miles of this trip. Later the trucker was buzzed by a helicopter shortly after the last contact.

(NUFORC Note: The witness chooses to remain anonymous, but reported that the sighting was rather dramatic, and that other truckers on the same highway probably were witness to the event. We would welcome other reports from anyone who might have seen something unusual on this date in the Wyoming area.)

Object reportedly stalls car

SKSEBASTOPOL—A couple was driving home on Oct. 27, 2001, when a UFO suddenly popped up above their car. The witnesses report, "Our car began to stall when the craft showed up, and the object was hovering over our car all the way home. It would disappear for a few seconds then hover over our car while we drove down the road that my girlfriend lives on. Once we got to her house at 10 p.m., it popped up, hovering at an angle over her house for around twenty seconds. It was the size of a house. I myself have never believed in flying saucers, but now I believe that I actually have had an encounter with one. Thanks to Peter Davenport NUFORC www.ufocenter.com

West Virginia egg-shaped object over field

SANDYVILLE—The following was reported: "On Oct. 2, 2001, at 6:50 a.m., my sister and nephew were driving out their dirt road, when my nephew spotted a strange object and yelled at my sister to stop the vehicle. It was blimp-like, but a completely smooth object with no ribbing or lines like a blimp.

"It was bright glowing red against the overcast cloudy day. There were black square things on the bottom. There were two barn like doors that were open, and a V-shaped object came out, with six circles on each side of the V. They drove a little farther down the road, and took their eyes off it, and when they looked back, it was gone. A blimp cannot travel that fast!"



The ET-Human Link: We Are The Message, by Dana Redfield, 2001, Hampton Roads Publishing Company, 6x9 soft cover, 279 pages, \$13.95. 800-766-8009 or www.hrpub.com

Reviewed by Katharina Wilson

"We are the message and we are the evidence. It seems almost a conspiracy that investigators would chase the dream of getting their

hands on the nuts and bolts and smoking guns of the UFO, while we, the living evidences of the presence, were gestating in the miracle wombs of change. Abductees are like children....As we toddled, disoriented in a world that ignored us for the dazzle of new technologies, muse-babble was our language. But now we are beginning to find our voices..."

Dana Redfield, an accomplished author of fiction, has written her second work of non-fiction, *The ET-Human Link: We Are The Message*. The quote above is from her new book. Many people will recall her first nonfiction book, *Summoned: Encounters with Alien Intelligence*, during which she tested the waters of a new reality emerging, and for the first time shared some of her encounters with non-human intelligences with the public.

I read Dana's first book of nonfiction, and to me it seems that she has grown spiritually and has become stronger and more resilient than she probably ever thought she could. She has taken the next step in her mission, if we may call it that, and has now gone public with in-depth information about her experiences, her private life, and feelings about her place in the world.

Jenny Randles has written the Foreword for this book, and it is a "must read." Ms. Randles has done a superb job of preparing the reader for his or her journey into Dana Redfield's life. *The ET-Human Link* is a beautifully written book, but like many experiencers' lives, it is a very complex story. It is a story that will ask you to think about our world in the context of what is happening to those of us who have experienced interaction with non-human beings.

Some of the beings with whom Dana has interacted are physical extraterrestrials, some are inter-dimensional, and some appear to be spiritual beings. Dana prefers to call them the Others. This book will also ask you to consider subjects you may not be comfortable with, such as the existence of other dimensions, channeling, and past lives.

I have just used two terms that make a lot of people uncomfortable. I will admit that when I read this book there were parts of it I had a hard time accepting. I have read next to nothing about new age subjects, but many

people who do not believe my experiences will laugh at this because to them, alien abductions are "new age." Today, I am not even certain what that term means any more. Wisely, Jenny Randles writes:

"If you are skeptical, then that is fair enough, provided you are willing to give room to the possibility that your skepticism may be misplaced. If you are a believer, try not to merely accept what you read as being true, but to question other possibilities and consider other meanings. If you have had strange experiences for yourself, then appreciate the courage it takes to reveal them and face the rebukes that will surely follow."

Who among us who has gone public has not had to deal with everything the last sentence implies? Yet, even knowing this from her past experiences, Dana presses forward and tells all.

Dana shares with us information she received before *Summoned* was written, but she felt the information was too fantastic to believe. She wrestled with when and how and why she should share much of the information in this book, and I commend her for her courage. If the information she received from the Others is true, there is a very important message in this book.

Redfield writes, "They summoned, They whisked me up, They made their marks on my hands, triangles cut into my skin to show me the body is a divine link, a temporal home away from Home for my soul who remembers what I the human have forgotten, except as I can translate the signs."

Dana writes about abduction events that we have come to learn occur to most abductees. However, like most abduction cases, there is much more to this story and much more to this person's life than a standard set of events. Dana Redfield was a devout Mormon. She held a "Q" (Top Secret) clearance while working at the Nevada Test Site. She has overcome great difficulties during her life, some that many people would not be able to endure, much less conquer. Because Dana succeeded, she was able to write *The ET-Human Link*. It is a life-story that encompasses the principles of belonging, gathering, and becoming.

There is also philosophy in this book, beautifully written stories within stories, information about the controversial lost continent of Atlantis, a revisit of the Bible, the exploration of human DNA, and soul evolution. Some of these subjects went beyond what my mind readily accepts. However, just as others have asked people to consider the reality of abductions by non-human beings, or that structured alien seeming craft have been seen by millions of people, it is important to consider the reality of Dana Redfield's experiences.

Perhaps the following will give you an example of one of the feelings about this book I am trying to convey:

In 1986, before I read anything about UFOs, much less their occupants, before I knew ufology even existed—before it all—I wrote in my dream journal about something I believed happened to me during my childhood. It kept coming back to me as a recurring dream over a period of 20-plus years. It involved me traveling to another world,

of being with people who wore long white robes, of being in a place that (for some reason) I believed was Atlantis. I could not share my feelings about Atlantis with anyone when I wrote my book because by that time I had put such childhood nonsense aside, but I did publish the experience in my book. To this date, I still have no idea how as a very young child in the 1960s I would have known anything at all about Atlantis.

Here it was again it seemed, out of the blue, in Dana's book *The ET-Human Link*. As she shared her feelings about Atlantis and of another place she used to call Home, I saw this place that has been a part of my memory since my very early childhood. I cannot say if it was really Atlantis, a past life, or some sort of unusual abduction, but how did this become part of Dana Redfield's past as well? I thought this was from my life. Could we really be remembering a similar place in time? A place from our past? Did we have the same abduction?

This brings me to a new idea and term I came across in this book. It is called a "metafractal," a connection between experiences and metaphors and events in a person's life. Could the story of our Home or of this experience be a metafractal of Dana's life and my life? Many abductees have spoken of a place they call Home. What if it is our real home? This book made me wonder if all of us are not from this same place. I wonder if we are not going to go back to this place one day and if we are to help others get there. I wonder...and I wonder.

Perhaps that is what I liked most about this book. It made me wonder again. I haven't done that in a very long time. For the past ten years many other experiencers of this phenomenon and myself have been sharing our knowledge with the public. We have given it to the world and handed it out on the proverbial silver platter. What we received in return was never-ending diatribes from the proud skeptics and the almost insane logic from the debunkers. Some of us have been threatened. All of us have been ridiculed. However, we know that something profound has happened to us, and we know that the truth will prevail.

A couple of years ago I came to a place in my life where I was beginning to think, "I'm nothing but an alien lab rat—why should I believe anything they tell me? What have they done for us? Look at all of the disbelievers there still are in ufology, not to mention the rest of the world. Where has it gotten us except exposed and ridiculed and made vulnerable?"

The ET-Human Link brought me back to my beginning in a way. It reminded me of something I had while I was writing my book. It reminded me of my mission. It reminded me that when one of us gets tired, there is a kindred spirit to pick up the load and to help us fulfill our "duty"—that task we are supposed to perform, and the one that got us into this in the first place. That task is something else you will learn about when you read *The ET-Human Link*. This is probably what the Others intended when Dana was tapped to write this book.

I cannot tell you if past lives or channeling are real or if Atlantis existed. I do not know how to get them on tape

for the skeptics. I don't know how to bring a piece of Atlantis or an extraterrestrial body back for the debunkers to find hiding places for. I can say that I believe Dana Redfield is having contact with extra-terrestrial or inter-dimensional beings. If they sometimes speak to her without showing themselves and we wish to call it channeling, then I guess that is the way they choose to interrelate with her, and channeling is the human term for this type of interrelating.

Dana Redfield is one of many people on this planet who have a special link to these mysterious beings. There has been a special time for each stage of the message. Each part of the message is built upon the previous message and *The ET-Human Link* may well be the next important message in our understanding of these elusive beings.

—Katharina Wilson is the author of *The Alien Jigsaw*, *The Alien Jigsaw Researcher's Supplement*, and a monograph, *Project Open Mind*. <http://www.alienjigsaw.com>



UFO Mysteries: a Reporter Seeks the Truth by Curt Sutherly, Llewellyn Publications, P.O. Box 64383-0383, St. Paul, MN 55164-0383, Dec. 2001, 6x9 softcover, 264 pages, \$12.95.

Reviewed by Dwight Connelly

Sutherly is a very good writer, as one would expect from a professional journalist, but what sets this book

apart is the fact that much of it is tied to his own experiences. While many of the cases are old, much of the information is new, as are the insights provided by Sutherly, a perceptive observer.

The book begins with the Kenneth Arnold sighting in 1947, and most readers will find the background experiences of Arnold new and quite interesting. But it was the 1964 Lonnie Zamora case that got the then 13-year-old Sutherly firmly hooked on ufology.

The UFO cases continued through the 1960s, of course, and the author details those most important to him. He continues with cases from the 1970s, including some interesting incidents involving objects that found their way into bodies of water.

In mid-1989 the author, now firmly grounded in the field, was asked to write a "comprehensive piece" on the validity of the Majestic 12 documents. This led him into an investigation covering not only documents, but also interactions with such key players as Stanton Friedman, William Moore, and Philip Klass. This journalistic effort is quite interesting, and Sutherly seems to have tentatively concluded that the documents could have been part of an effort by some element of the government to discredit, fragment, and confuse ufologists—that is, part of a disinformation campaign.

As for Roswell, one of the key elements in the MJ-12 package, he concludes, "The only thing for certain is that something happened in the desert in 1947: something im-

portant, something requiring military intervention and a heavy mantle of secrecy."

Sutherly also looks at secret development projects, such as the SR-71, as well as recounting his experiences in trying to approach Area 51, the secret base where development and testing are supposedly done—also known as Groom Dry Lake or "Dreamland."

In considering the possibility that some objects identified as UFOs are actually secret U.S. aircraft, Sutherly questions why such aircraft would be tested over heavily-populated areas. He suggests as a possibility that what appear to be unidentified objects in the sky may in some cases be holograms projected by those wanting to deceive and confuse witnesses and ufologists.

This scenario fits into what seems to be one of Sutherly's key conclusions: many UFO cases and events have been staged by elements of the government for their own purposes.

The author also includes an informative chapter on Mars and the various probes to the Red Planet, as well as one on shapeshifting UFOs. In the latter chapter he concludes, "When it comes to the nature of UFOs there is, however, one undeniable truth that stands above all the theories. This truth is that regardless of what we wish to believe, we are still all just guessing. We really do not know what UFOs are, where they come from, or why some of them appear to change shape or indeed do any of the amazing things they have been reported doing."

Perhaps the most interesting chapter is "The Gathering," where Sutherly describes his associations with other ufologists at the 26th Annual National UFO & New Age Conference in Phoenix in 1989.

As anyone who has ever participated actively in such conferences knows, most of the really interesting activities and interactions occur away from the main speaker sessions. At this particular conference were James Moseley, Tim Beckley, Antonio Huneus, Brad Steiger, and others with extensive backgrounds and many stories.

Included in the book is a three-part appendix, and the 18-page Appendix 2 is made up of "A Catalog of Triangular UFO Reports," a nice addition which details such reports from 1989 through 1999. Presumably there will also be an index and additional photos in the regular edition of the book. (My "uncorrected proof" review copy of the book has only 200 pages of the 264 pages that the regular edition is supposed to contain.)

This is an interesting look at some key elements of the UFO field over the past half century by a qualified author, and at \$12.95 is a good buy.



The Encyclopedia of Extraterrestrial Encounters on CD ROM, 2001, UFO Encyclopedia Project, 3540 32nd Ave. N., #114, St. Petersburg, FL 33713, RonaldDStory@aol.com, www.RonaldStory.com, \$9.95

Reviewed by Dwight Connelly

The book version of this "encyclopedia" was reviewed last month. This CD format has what appears to be the

same content, but what sets it aside is the search feature. One can, for example, type in the word "mist" and be led to each appearance of "mist" throughout the very large "encyclopedia."

If one does not care to locate words such as chemist, which has "mist" in it, then one merely clicks a choice of finding only the word "mist." Continuing the search from page to page is fast and simple.

It's too bad all the research-type publications, such as Dick Hall's *The UFO Evidence*, do not have CD versions with the search feature.

At only \$9.95, anyone interested in UFO research who has a computer with a CD ROM drive should have this CD.

MUFON Forum...

(Continued from Page 10)

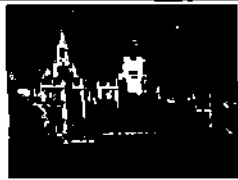
Ft. Worth office do not show any tape on the broken radar targets displayed there. Look again. It's there, plain as day, along the edges of the target panels, folded over the struts and secured to the panels. True, the symbols aren't visible, but then consider the testimony of both former NYU/Mogul team members and witnesses who saw the debris discovered by rancher Mack Brazel: these purplish-pink markings were rather faint. Clearly, the glare of the photographers' flashbulbs washed them out, leaving the tape looking bright white.

Fourth, you assert that "the military actually provided unnecessary publicity to the Mogul project following the 'corrected' press release." Not so. I assume the publicity you refer to was the demonstration of the alleged "study and training" activities of the "Watson Laboratories AMC experimental group for long range radar detection," conducted at Alamogordo Army Air Base on July 9, 1947.

Of course there was no such group. The demonstration was a very clever attempt to capitalize on the worldwide excitement generated by flying saucer sighting reports to provide cover for Mogul, as well as Gen. Ramey's weather-balloon-and-radar-target "explanation" of the night before: "See? The saucers are weather balloons, our weather balloons, and this is what we're using them for." This had the added and all but certainly unintended bonus of significantly deflating serious press interest in saucers. See p. 150 and associated footnotes of my book.

Finally, I come to the formerly classified record, which I am convinced demonstrates beyond any reasonable doubt that Roswell didn't involve the recovery of a crashed saucer and the bodies of its crew. You write that "it would be interesting to know precisely when each of these documents was actually released to researchers." In my chapter 15, wherein I discuss these documents at length, I note the dates they were declassified, most of which are the same as the dates they were released to researchers. Moreover, many of these documents were released well before enactment of the Freedom of Information Act, for example: Lt. Gen. Nathan Twining's famous letter of Sept. 23, 1947 (in which he noted "the lack of physical evidence in the shape of crash recovered exhibits"), re-

(Continued on Page 22)



View from Britain

By Jenny Randles

Reflection on where we are in ufology

Part II: What next?

So where do we go from here? The point of learning lessons is to do something about things that seem wrong and try to do things better. But, of course, you first have to admit that the current methods are not working. I think that ought to be self evident, but I doubt many of you agree; otherwise we would not still be arguing about it.

We would be implementing big changes to the structure and approach of UFOlogy to replace the methods that have patently failed for so long with new ideas that just might work. At least we would if we do not want to still be having the same discussion years from now.

Unfortunately, I fear, some people may actually prefer that. UFOlogy is fun as a mystery. But as a collection of solved mysteries its an ex subject! However, if we are serious about learning lessons and progressing, I have in previous columns suggested some ways we might go.



Jenny Randles

For instance, recall when I discussed the need for far more meaningful conferences than the ones that we have today. UFO conferences are not used as opportunities to further research, but as social gatherings. Whilst I do not deny that the latter are fun and also useful, without the progressive breed of conference, UFOlogy will just continue to stagnate.

Sadly there is precious little sign that this nettle will be grasped.

I also think that we need to reassess what kind of evidence we are seeking. In fact, in some ways, these days hard evidence for UFOs has almost become an irrelevance. It has not been very forthcoming in the past, so people have stopped looking for it. Where today is the flood of cases involving landing traces, physiological effects, car stops, and so on? People seem to have lost interest in reporting or researching these.

Instead we are swamped with dubious videos for TV specials, most of which show useless squiggles of largely explicable light, or we pursue vaguer questions such as the meaning behind abduction stories.

I do not deny that these are part of UFOlogy, but I do wonder about priorities. That, to me, has been one of our greatest mistakes. We are concentrating far too much

effort on having theoretical arguments about phenomena that are unreproducible and unprovable. Whilst I do not suggest there is no place for this kind of exploration, it has overtaken objective research to such a degree that virtually none of the latter is taking place. We need to reconsider our objectives and ask just what it is that we are trying to establish. For whatever we think it is right now, we are not succeeding in doing it, and an admission of that will be the first step on the way towards progression.

There is a fascination with the great unknown that sees us obsessed with the big issues, such as trying to persuade the powers that be to disclose things which in my estimation they cannot do. I believe that they know less than we do about what is going on, and once they have disclosed that reality—if indeed anyone will believe them (and indeed they already have, and most UFOlogists remain distrustful)—then it is pretty much a massive waste of energy to hunt down nonexistent conspiracies. Fun as seeking smoking guns might be, we would be far better employed seeking smoking UFOs.

What we should be doing is returning to basics using the vastly improved technology of the 21st century to aid in our quest. Ghost hunters, for example, have moved with the times. They are not sitting around counting their stories about phantoms or demanding that the Pentagon open up their spook files so as to reveal the truth! Ask yourself why. But you will not like the answer!

Instead, ghost hunters have developed technology to take account of some of the patterns they have found within apparitional data. They have devices that measure changes in the moisture content of a room, alterations in electrostatic fields, and cameras adapted to respond by automatically filming a location where these changes are occurring.

Yet in UFOlogy we are still by comparison very lazy. We sit here waiting for a spaceship to crash or the government to do our job for us by revealing "the truth." In fact the government has way more important things to do these days than fret about UFOs. That is supposed to be our job. After 30 years I reckon it is about time we started doing it.

Larry Hatch develops UFO wave years map

Larry Hatch has put up a new UFO map on the *U* Website: <http://www.larryhatch.net/WAVLAYER.html>. It features an overlay of three separate UFO wave years in the USA (1947, 1957, 1973), layered as separate colored sightings-dots.

Hatch notes, "Each of those waves taken separately seems to favor certain U.S. regions over others. What seems new is that the three years taken together, and excluding all other years, seem to blanket the USA almost completely."

The same map is shown on George Filer's website. <http://www.filersfiles.com/ufo/ufodatabase.htm>, color-enhanced for clarity.



Perceptions

By Stanton T. Friedman

The pseudoscience test

The November 2001, issue of *Scientific American* (p.36) has a column by Dr. Michael Shermer entitled "Buloney Detection." Shermer is the Founding Publisher of *Skeptic* magazine, and is much younger than the old line skepticbunkers to which ufologists have become accustomed, such as Philip Klass. He provides the following rules for testing to see whether claims about unusual phenomena are pseudoscience, or science, and unintentionally provides a means for evaluating debunker views as well: (in summary)

"1. How reliable is the source of the claim? Pseudoscientists often appear quite reliable, but when examined closely, the facts and figures they cite are distorted, taken out of context, or occasionally even fabricated."

"2. Does this source often make similar claims? Pseudoscientists have a habit of going well beyond the facts."

"3. Have the claims been verified by another source? Typically, pseudoscientists make statements that are unverified or verified only by a source within their own belief circle"

"4. How does the claim fit with what we know about how the world operates?

An extraordinary claim must be placed into a larger context to see how it fits."

"5. Has anyone gone out of the way to disprove the claim, or has only supportive evidence been sought? This is the confirmation bias, or the tendency to seek confirmatory evidence and to reject or ignore disconfirmatory evidence."

Here are some claims about UFOs that we can put through Shermer's tests:

A. "The reliable cases are uninteresting and the interesting cases are unreliable. Unfortunately there are no cases that are both reliable and interesting." Dr. Carl Sagan, astronomer, *Other Worlds*, Bantam, 1975, p. 113.

B. "On the basis of this study we believe that no objects such as those popularly described as flying saucers have overflowed the United States. I feel certain that even the unknown 3% could have been explained as conventional phenomena or illusions if more complete observational data had been obtained." Donald A. Quarles, Sec. Of the USAF, Oct. 25, 1955, DOD Press release 1053-55.

C. "All non-explained sightings are from poor observ-



Stanton T. Friedman

Editor's Note

We are happy to welcome Stanton T. Friedman as a regular columnist for the *MUFON UFO Journal*. Stan, one of the top ufologists of the past 50 years, is undoubtedly the best known speaker on the topic in the world. He is the author of *TOP SECRET/MAJIC* and co-author of *Crash at Corona*, as well as numerous articles and documentaries. His BSc and MSc degrees in physics are from the University of Chicago and he worked for 14 years as a nuclear physicist for defense industries.

ers." Dr. Donald Menzel, astronomer, *Physics Today*, June 1976.

D. "Almost every sighting is either a mistake or a hoax. These reports are riddled with hoaxes, and the flying saucer enthusiasts have so many cranks, freaks, and nuts among them that Hynek is constantly running the risk of innocently damaging his reputation by being confused with them." Dr. Isaac Asimov, author, *Fantasy and Science Fiction*, Feb. 1975 p.132.

E. "The unexplained sightings are simply those for which there is too little information to provide a solid factual basis for an explanation" Ben Bova, editor *Analog*, December 1975, p. 172.

These statements by eminent men all have some things in common: a.) None provide any data to substantiate them. b.) None reference any data to substantiate them. c.) All are demonstrably false, as can be easily determined from Tables I and II, the data being taken from *Project Blue Book Special Report No. 14*, (Ref. 1), the largest UFO study ever done for the US Air Force. Quarles was talking about *BBSR 14*, Menzel had a copy, and Sagan, Bova, and Asimov had been given the data.

Table I

Category	#	Percent
Balloon	450	14.0%
Astronomical	817	25.5
Aircraft	642	20.1
Miscellaneous	257	8.0
Psychological ramifications	48	1.5
Insufficient information	298	9.3
UNKNOWN	689	21.5
Totals	3,201	100%

Table II

Quality evaluation of 3,201 UFO sightings, Blue Book Special Report #14

Quality	#	% of total	Unknowns #	% of group
Excellent	308	9.6%	108	35.1%
Good	1,070	33.4	282	26.4
Doubtful	1,298	40.5	203	15.6
Poor	525	16.4	96	18.3
Total	3,201	100%	689	21.5%

Note that the crackpot cases were only 15% of the

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MUFON Forum...

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leased in 1969 as an appendix to the Condon report; Maj. Gen. L. C. Craigie's directive of Dec. 30, 1947, establishing Project Sign (tasking the project to determine whether flying saucers were a national security threat and, if so, what they were and where they were from), also released in 1969 as a Condon report appendix; Project Sign's February 1949 final report ("No definite and conclusive evidence is yet available that would prove or disprove the existence of these unidentified objects.... It is unlikely that positive proof of their existence will be obtained without examination of the remains of crashed objects"), declassified in 1961; Project Blue Book Special Report 14 of May 5, 1955 ("...there has been a complete lack of any valid evidence of physical matter in any case"), released in 1956; and the report of the CIA's Robertson Panel of January 1953 (the panel neither was shown/told of nor discussed physical evidence), released in 1958 and 1969. See pp. 184-193 and appendix I of my book.

—Karl T. Pflock, MUFON NM State Section Director (Bernalillo & Sandoval Cos.), Placitas, New Mexico

Pflock on Corso

In my book *Roswell: Inconvenient Facts and the Will to Believe* and in a 1997 MUFON UFO Journal review of the late Lt. Col. Philip Corso's *The Day After Roswell* (TDAR), I exposed the fact that Corso had pulled a bait and switch on Sen. Thurmond (R-SC).

Corso, who had worked for Thurmond for two brief periods in the 1960s and '70s, had given the senator an outline of his memoirs, grandly entitled *I Walked With Giants (My Career in Military Intelligence)*, asking him to pen a foreword for the book. The senator did, and much to his chagrin, his brief, plain-vanilla comments—laudatory of Corso, but containing nothing specific about the book itself—found their way into the first printing of *The Day After Roswell*.

When I saw the senator's name and foreword in the

Friedman...

(Continued from previous page)

total; the hoaxes fewer than 8%; that the greater the reliability, the more likely the case was unexplainable by the professionals at Battelle Memorial Institute who did the study; that by definition UNKNOWNs were not cases for which there was insufficient information; that the UNKNOWNs were 21.5% of the total, not 3%. Obviously no attempt was made to obtain disconfirmatory evidence.

Backup comes only from claims from their circles. These extraordinary claims clearly do not fit in the larger world dependent upon data and evidence. Hence they are all, by Shermer's definitions, PSEUDOSCIENCE, or, more simply, Baloney.

Ref. 1. *Project Blue Book Special Report No. 14*, 250 pages, 1955, BMI, 240 Charts, tables, graphs, and maps. \$25. Including S and H, UFORI, POB 958, Houlton, ME 04730-0958

bound galleys of TDAR I was sent by Simon & Schuster, Corso's publisher, I contacted his office. Thurmond's staff was stunned, and in short order, the senator contacted S&S, told them what had happened, and demanded that his foreword and name be removed from further printings of the book and not be used in any way to further promote it. The embarrassed publisher quickly complied.

The Oct.-Nov. 2001 *UFO magazine* (U.S.) carries a fatuous attempt to rehabilitate Corso and, by implication, *UFO's* publisher, William J. Birnes, who coauthored TDAR with Corso: "Honor Restored: The 'De-Pflocked' Facts About Philip Corso," by Don Ecker, the 'zine's director of research. Ecker recently posted the text of this gem on UpDates, conveniently not including the illustrations.

The most important of these is a Simon & Schuster release form signed by Senator Thurmond, allegedly giving his permission for Corso's publisher to use his foreword in TDAR. The form as reproduced in *UFO* has the words "Roswell Book" typed in the blank left in the boilerplate text of the form for a book title, with the other blanks, for "undersigned" and "author," left, well, blank.

I made a copy of Ecker's piece available to Senator Thurmond's chief of staff, and a few days ago I received in return copies of several very interesting items. One of these is the release form in the senator's office file, on which ALL the blanks in text are, well, blank. No "undersigned," no "author," but, most important, no book title, not even the generic "Roswell Book."

This clearly is the same form reproduced in *UFO*, as the senator's signature and date of signing match—but it is as it was when the original left the senator's office, BEFORE someone (gee, wonder who?) typed in "Roswell Book." Hmmm...

Along with this revealing document, I received the complete outline for *I Walked With Giants*, wherein nary a word about UFOs or Roswell (incident or town) is found. A perusal of this outline and a reading of the senator's foreword leave no doubt in any reasonable mind that the latter was intended for the outlined proposed memoir, not the ufoological (NOT a typo) dream to which it was appropriated.

Other than the inclusion of many of the non-UFO-connected tall tales and pulp-fiction prose that appeared in and animated TDAR, the only resemblance between the proposed book and what finally saw print is Corso's Walter Mittyish ego strutting across the pages.

Also included in the package were the senator's June 5, 1997, press release about the matter (Right Foreword, Wrong Book"), and his June 11, 1997, letter to Simon & Schuster Deputy General Counsel Eric Raymond, demanding the removal of his misappropriated foreword from TDAR.

I will not engage in further debate on this matter, but will be glad to provide copies of any or all of these documents to anyone who's interested enough to cover the cost of copying and mailing. Those who'd like the full details of the Right Foreword, Wrong Book Caper will find them in Chapter 16 of my book.

—Karl Pflock

The NIGHT SKY

Walter N. Webb

January 2002

Bright Planets (Evening Sky):

Mercury is at a point farthest from the Sun on Jan. 11. For at least the first half of the month, the dim orange planet can be detected low in the WSW after sunset. Use binoculars to help locate it. On the 15th the planet is about 10 degrees to the lower right of the crescent Moon.

Mars (magnitude 0.9), in Pisces, lies in the SSW at dusk and sets in the W about 10 p.m. The lunar crescent is below the reddish planet on Jan. 18.

Jupiter (-2.7), retrograding in Gemini, reaches a point opposite the Sun on New Year's Day. At that time it rises in the NE around sunset, moving westward in the southern half of the sky during the night. A bright gibbous Moon hangs below the giant planet on the 26th.

Saturn (-0.1), retrograding near the star Aldebaran and the Hyades in Taurus, stands high in the ESE at twilight. It then advances westward during the night. In a small telescope the giant's ring system is tilted at a 26-degree angle, with its S face exposed to our view. On Jan. 24, at dusk, the gibbous Moon forms a nice triangle with Saturn and Aldebaran.

Bright Planets (Morning Sky):

Jupiter sets in the NW around sunrise.

Saturn sets in the WNW about 4 AM in midmonth.

Moon Phases:

Last quarter--Jan. 5

New moon--Jan. 13

First quarter--Jan. 21

Full moon--Jan. 28

The Stars:

The Great Hunter Orion brightens the southern sky of winter. Look for an hourglass-shaped stick figure whose shoulders, head, belt, sword, and legs are clearly marked by stars. As the constellation faces the observer, the ruddy star Betelgeuse (rhymes with "beetlejuice," one of several pronunciations) positions the warrior's right shoulder while blue-white Rigel indicates his left leg. The trio of stars in a row forming the belt is particularly noticeable. And below the belt can be seen the wispy Great Nebula of Orion, introduced last month.

To Orion's right lies the brightest (nocturnal) star Sirius in Canis Major the Big Dog. To the hunter's left, the fiery orange eye of Taurus the Bull, Aldebaran, glares at Orion. The face of the bull is outlined by the V-shaped cluster called the Hyades, while the Pleiades cluster or "Seven

Sisters" represents a spear wound in the bull's shoulder.

The Hyades, by the way, comprises a moving association of stars drifting together through space, eventually converging toward a point east of Betelgeuse. Aldebaran, however, is not a member of the group, being more than twice as close to us than the Hyades. The orange star merely lies in front of the cluster from our viewpoint.

The Big Dipper comes into better view in the NE, now balanced on the end of its handle.

CALENDAR

April 12-14, 2002, 14th Annual Ozark UFO Conference. Inn of the Ozarks, Eureka Springs, AR

May 11, 2002, Roswell International Museum, Roswell, NM. George Filer, author of the "Filer Report," will discuss the 1978 McGuire AFB, Fort Dix, NJ, "Roswell."

June 8, 2002, Roswell International Museum, Roswell, NM. Bill Hamilton, executive director of Skywatch International, will talk about EBEs and underground bases.

July 5-7, 2002, MUFON International Symposium, Hyatt Regency Rochester Hotel, Rochester, NY.

Annual Ozark UFO Conference back at the Inn of the Ozarks April 12-14

The 14th Annual Ozark UFO Conference is set for April 12-14, 2002, back at the Inn of the Ozarks Conference Center, Eureka Springs, AR. The site had to be changed last year, due to a fire which destroyed the Inn of the Ozarks Conference Center.

Speakers scheduled thus far include the regulars—Linda Howe, Wendelle Stevens, and Antonio Huneus—as well as several others.

Conference organizer and longtime ufologist Lou Farish explains, "We're supposed to have Nancy Talbott back, if she is willing to fly. I've also asked Bob Reid to give an update on Gulf Breeze, and Rob Riggs will be speaking on some of the East Texas phenomena discussed in his book *In the Big Thicket*." Others to be announced.

William Cooper killed

William Milton Cooper, 58, a militia leader who came onto the UFO scene about 15 years ago, was killed Nov. 6 in a shootout with lawmen in which a deputy was wounded. He is the author of *Behold a Pale Horse*.

Notice, Notice, Notice

MUFON membership/subscription increase

As announced last month, effective Jan. 1, 2002, the MUFON Membership/MUFON UFO Journal Subscription dues will increase to \$35/year U.S. and \$40/year outside of the U.S. Extend your subscription now to avoid the increase.

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

By John Schuessler
MUFON International Director

Holiday Greetings

The MUFON Board of Directors, *MUFON UFO Journal* staff, and the staff of the headquarters office in Colorado take this opportunity to extend our best wishes to all of our members worldwide during the holiday season. We wish you happiness, friendship, freedom, security, and hope for a better future. We are thankful for this American democracy and pray that this just government will be victorious. God bless America.

Journal Production Schedule

Delivery of the *MUFON UFO Journal* has been somewhat erratic since the horrible events of 9-11 and the days that followed, so we are recapping the production schedule so you may be clear on what we are trying to do.

Dwight Connelly, our dedicated and hard-working editor, prepares the next month's *Journal* for production around the 18th of the current month and sends it to B-W Graphics in Versailles, MO.

The membership database is closed out in parallel with the delivery of the edited *Journal* text. Therefore, new and renewal subscriptions must be received at the Headquarters office by the last day of the month in order to be in the membership database for the next *Journal* issue.

The B-W Graphics team goes to work immediately to set the issue up for publication, printing, folding and stapling. The next step consists of preparing the issue for the mailing process, and that includes labeling, sorting, packaging and delivery to the U.S. Post Office in Stover, MO.

Mailing generally occurs about the middle of the month (i.e. the November issue was mailed on Nov. 15th). Unless a subscriber pays extra to have the *Journal* mailed via first class mail in an envelope, all *Journals* go by second-class mail.

Before 9-11, this was a simple and efficient process. Since that date, the *Journal* reaches some U.S. subscribers in about five days, but it may take up to three weeks in some parts of the country, and we have no control over that.

Subscribers residing outside of the United States are finding it may take 60-80 days to get their *Journals*. We do hope that mail deliveries will improve as the world gets back to some semblance of normalcy.



John Schuessler

Position Announcements

Vincent H. Uhlenkott, State Director for Southern California, has announced his retirement from the position effective Dec. 31, 2001. Vince's service to MUFON dates back to 1974. He has served as Field Investigator, State Section Director, and State Director. Even in his retirement he will continue to serve MUFON as a Field Investigator. Thank you Vince.

Vincent Uhlenkott selected **Georgeanne Cifarelli** as the new State Director for Southern California. Georgeanne has been serving as Assistant State Director for Southern California and is a MUFON Field Investigator.

Wayne G. Gracey, JD, has accepted the position of State Director for Pennsylvania. Wayne is a MUFON Consultant in Law, State Section Director, and Field Investigator.

William E. Jones, State Director for Ohio, assigned **Kenny Young** as State Section Director for Hamilton, Clermont, and Brown counties in Ohio. Although Kenny lives across the river in the state of Kentucky, he has graciously agreed to serve as SSD in Ohio as well.

Ed Burke has accepted the position of Assistant State Director for Colorado. Ed has been serving as Field Investigator and State Section Director.

Landon Young will replace **Ed Burke** as State Section Director for El Paso, Lincoln, Kit Carson, Cheyenne, Teller, and Fremont counties in Colorado.

Jim Bouck, State Director for New York, has named **Jim Karol** as State Section Director for Oneida and Herkimer counties in New York.

Jim C. Hickman of Elk City, OK, has been named Research Specialist-Media Operations. We welcome Jim to the MUFON team.

Texas State Section Director **Anthony Allotta** has named **Alfred Schuette** as Assistant State Section Director for Bexar County.

Co-State Directors **Elaine Douglass** and **Ron Regehr** assigned **Jack M. Oldroyd** as State Section Director for Sevier County.

MUFON 2001 Proceedings available

The *MUFON 2001 International UFO Proceedings*, featuring Symposium papers by Dr. Robert Wood, Stanton Friedman, Dr. Eric Davis, Daniel Sheehan, Steven Greer, Dr. Barry Downing, Budd Hopkins, Ryan Wood, Dr. John Mack, Bob Pratt, Dr. Roger Leir, and Ann Druffel is available from MUFON, P.O. Box 369, Morrison, CO 80465-0369. The 8x11 216-page softback book is \$25.00 plus \$2.50 postage & handling.