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CROP CIRCLES: The Mystical View

By Vincent Migliore

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CROP CIRCLES: The Mystical View

Vince Migliore

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In April 1991 two leading English researchers on the crop circle phenomenon, George Wingfield and John Haddington, visited California on a lecture tour. On April 14 they appeared for a six-hour presentation co-sponsored by MUFON and Starrion Productions of San Francisco. This report is a summary of their talk with some additional information culled from newsletters and periodicals coming out of England.

The current theories on the mechanism and the meaning of crop circles fall very roughly into two camps, the Natural and the Mystical. The leading hypothesis in the Natural camp is the atmospheric plasma vortex theory advanced by Terence Meaden of TORRO. This postulates that wind currents are manipulated by surrounding hills to create whirling air currents and ionized plasmas that form the patterns. There are numerous aviation safety studies that describe the power and unpredictability of air turbulence. Critics claim, however, that the complexity and precision of the crop pictograms rules out natural causes. They further claim there is a link to the many ancient stone tumuli (ceremonial sites such as Stonehenge) that dot the English countryside. The plasma vortex theorists counter that the phenomenon has been going on for many years and that there may even be some hoaxers who supplement the natural formations.

In their lecture, George Wingfield and John Haddington are quick to dismiss the plasma vortex theory. "Only the most hardened skeptics still cling to that version of events," claimed Wingfield at the start. He went on to list some of the more perplexing find-



So-called "double pictogram" formed on July 27, 1990, between the East and West Kennett Long Barrows, Wiltshire. Photo by George Wingfield from *The Crop Circle Enigma* (Gateway Books, Bath, UK), edited by Ralph Noyes. One of a series of eight color postcards available from the Centre for Crop Circle Studies or Gateway: The Hollies, Wellow, Bath, BA2 8QJ. Does the formation point directly toward or away from Silbury Hill in the distance, Europe's largest prehistoric man-made mound?

ings associated with genuine crop circles, and why he feels they are not hoaxes. These include:

1. The stalks are bent but not broken. They are essentially undamaged.

2. Some impressions are only lightly imprinted, an effect difficult to hoax.

3. There is a fine structure to the laid crop. There are sharp edges, and at times multiple layers in different directions.

4. Many of the shapes are elliptical. Hoaxes would more likely be circles.

5. There are sometimes narrow rings surrounding the circles. These are concentric with the center circle, and are sometimes only a few inches wide. It's impossible to view these rings at ground level without wading through and damaging the crop, yet there are no signs of anyone entering the field.

6. The presence of "grapeshot," numerous small circles adjacent to the main formation.

7. The phenomenon is worldwide.

8. The scope and precision of the large pictograms, often several hundred feet long.

9. Eyewitness accounts of circles appearing as if an invisible force were pressing down the crop.

10. A large number of formations, over 1000 reported in England in 1990 alone (see Table 1).

11. The Operation Blackbird hoax was easily detected as fraudulent.

12. Dowsing evidence. With a high degree of consistency dowsers report the pictograms lie across or along ley lines.

One curious observation is that many pictograms seem to be oriented with their major axis along the tram lines that farmers use to spray their crops. American farmers generally use crop duster aircraft to spray insecticide, but the British use tractors that ride along these tram lines. Wingfield relates a story of how one farmer, determined to outwit the supposed hoaxers, decided not to spray his crops. Despite the lack of tram lines, and much to the frustration of the farmer, his crops experienced a large pictogram shortly thereafter. This is typical of the confounding effect the circles seem to display. Just when one researcher



The first "double pictogram" appeared July 11, 1990 at Alton Barnes, near Adam's Grave, Vale of Pewsey. One hundred and thirty-five meters long, it attracted thousands of curious visitors. Photo by Alick Bartholomew from *Enigma*.

claims the glyphs never cross natural boundaries, there appears a pattern that intersects a hedgerow, stops, then continues on the other side.

With a rapt audience, Wingfield and Haddington didn't go very far in addressing the possibility that the formations are the result of natural processes. Even if hoaxes and wind vortices are ruled out, there may be other natural forces at work. These alternative hypotheses are discussed in some of the many fine books and newsletters from England (see Sources below). Other natural theories for the creation of the crop circles include magnetic anomalies, seismic events, sound waves, electromagnetic radiation, cosmic radiation, some form of in-

teraction with ancient tumuli, chemical reactions from the soil, gas emissions, etc. A menagerie of animals has also been suggested, including pigs, hedgehogs, birds, foxes, even worms. None of these concepts however seems able to explain all, or even most of the odd characteristics of this mystery.

The underlying assumption of the mystical view is that the agriglyphs have symbolic meaning, and are therefore the result of an unknown intelligence. Clearly, the first impression most witnesses have is that there is information in these patterns. The only remaining question then is what do they mean?

With the tremendous increase in the number of formations in 1990, a number of experts in various fields

Table 1. Count of Crop Circle Formations

YEAR	COUNT
1985	17
1986	17
1987	75
1988	110
1989	305
1990	1000+

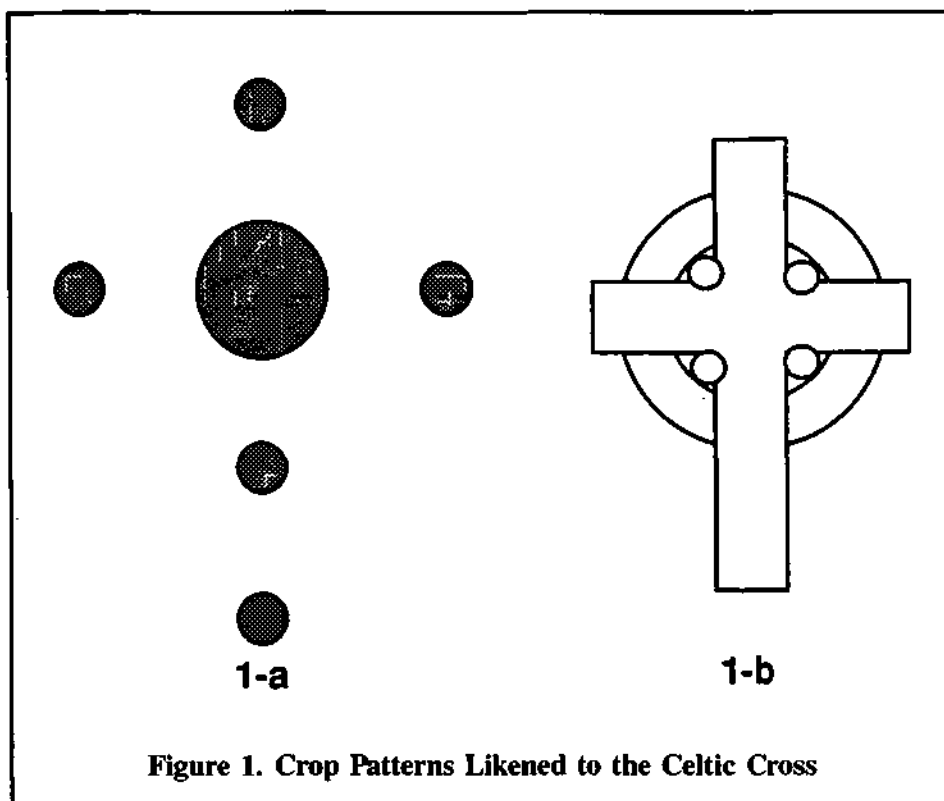


Figure 1. Crop Patterns Likened to the Celtic Cross

have been exposed to and are expounding on the circles. Visitors, including Wingfield and Haddington, infrequently report the presence of "a high-pitched trilling sound," and several have recorded anomalies and malfunctions on electronic devices. Others claim blue and red flashes of light, translucent orange spheres and other optical effects. This suggests there are transients all across the electromagnetic spectrum.

Up to this point there is not much debate on the data collection methods, but what follows is a bit more controversial. Wingfield and Haddington reflect the most popular mystical interpretations, such as those advanced in

The Crop Circle Enigma, edited by Ralph Noyes. This must-read book can be likened to Jacques Vallee's *Passport to Magonia*, which inextricably linked the UFO phenomenon with a long history of folklore and forteen events. In the same manner, the current rage in England is to link the crop circles to the Celtic fairy faith, ancient tumuli, neolithic religions, channeling, dowsing, a variety of present-day supernatural events and of course UFOs.

Celtic Folklore

The Fairy Faith so popular in the British Isles brings to mind the elusive little fairies that paint the flowers, dance

in the moonlight and create mischief in the cottage kitchen. Less well known are the reports of time travel, circles in the grass known as fairy rings, and the offerings of (curiously) wheat cakes from the Good People.

In any case the crop circles began to be linked to some of the rich folklore of the area. The Good People are known by other names, such as leprechauns, the Little People, Gnomes, etc. There was even a recent report of a small man with bright red hair and beard seen perched high in a tree near a crop formation. The red-haired dwarf is found both in Celtic myths and the UFO phenomenon.

As the simple circles evolved, one of the first inferred symbols was the quincunx (Figure 1-a without the bottom circle). This was followed by the long cross (Figure 1-a), and became labeled the Celtic Cross (Figure 1-b). This is just one example of why Wingfield and Haddington feel there is "very distinctly a spiritual connection." If this symbol does in fact correspond to the Celtic Cross, then there is a clear link with age-old beliefs.

Stones & Tumuli

Stonehenge is the most popular of ancient stone ceremonial circles. Quite a large number of these monuments are scattered throughout the British Isles and northern France, but the heaviest concentration is in the south and west of England, exactly where the agriglyphs are found in such abundance. Again, these sites have historical and spiritual significance, and the correlation is seen as significant by some cereologists.

Silbury Hill is an earthen pyramid estimated to be at least 2600 years old, with a rich history of religious and mythical connotations. According to Wingfield, over 40 formations have appeared in the immediate proximity of this artificial mound. Another more recent monument is the White Horse of Uffington, "a symbol of the gateway between the physical and the spiritual worlds." Several pictograms have been found that conspicuously align with Silbury Hill and the White Horse.

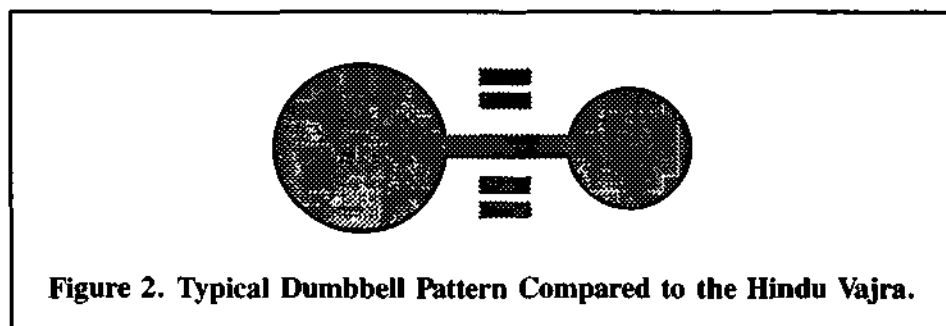


Figure 2. Typical Dumbbell Pattern Compared to the Hindu Vajra.

Though the source is unknown, many people report the presence of an energy inside the ancient tumuli and the present crop circles. Unfortunately, reactions vary widely across the spectrum. Most report a sense of awe, some a feeling of exhilaration. Yet others experience nausea and even blackouts. Pat Delgado (*Crop Circles, the Latest Evidence*) tells how his dog refused to enter the circle, but Wingfield reports on a dog that had no adverse reaction, and actually started *eating* the crop once inside the circle!

Stonehenge has been found to be an ingenious astronomical calendar, and the layout of its stones is remarkably similar to some of the agriglyphs. Whether the modern formations have astronomical significance seems to have less urgency than the idea that there is intelligence behind them.

Religions

The already mentioned Celtic cross is not the only religious symbol seen in the crop circles. The quincunx, for instance, may be associated with the Hindu god Shiva Shakti (destroyer of worlds). A "swastika" formation has also been identified and appears on the cover of *The Crop Circle Enigma*. This of course predates Hitler, and is taken to mean "the totality of universe" according to Wingfield, or in later English simply good luck. Also commonly found are "dumbbell" figures, two circles of slightly different diameters connected by a central shaft (Figure 2). This has been likened to the Hindu "Vajra," a tool used for rituals and initiations. The Vajra symbolizes the unbreakable. For further reading see "The Year of the Vajra" by John Haddington in *Global Link Up*, Autumn 1990.

Some of the crop circle patterns require a moderate stretch of the imagination in order to equate them with the more traditional symbols referred to here. Wingfield cautions however that these are "mystical symbols, not intellectual symbols - they speak to us through the subconscious." Some of the patterns, he reports, are also known to the Navajo Indians, and can be seen in Indian sand paintings.

Ancient stone sites, symbols from a variety of antique faiths, and the general atmosphere that something supernatural is occurring all lead to the conclusion that this is a religious phenomenon. There is an undercurrent that this mystery is not just an awakening, but a re-awakening. "Many people are coming to visit," Haddington notes. "They don't know why they come, but they know they absolutely have to be there."

Channeling

Channeling is one of those tools that tends to obscure or clarify your comprehension of crop circles, depending on your faith. And faith it seems, plays a primary role here, as we delve deeper into the occult sciences. Any psychologist will tell you that you will see and perceive what you want to see, what you are motivated to see, and what your mental makeup tells you is possible. My mission here is to relate what Wingfield and Haddington report, and what's written in the literature. With that caveat, let's move on.

Wingfield and other researchers have used channelers to gain information on the circles. One claimed they are being made by "The Shining Ones," a group of angelic sages that built Silbury Hill 4500 years ago. They disappeared in the Neolithic period, when man began to lose his spiritual connection with the earth, and are returning now to help in the upcoming transition. For further reference see "Cairns and Crop Circles" by Michael Poynder, *Kindred Spirit* magazine, Vol. 2, No. 1, Winter 1990. Another feels the crop circles are the result of an exercise of the collective consciousness of mankind. The collective consciousness is a concept that all of mankind, or all living organisms, share a common mental connection, a theory championed by noted psychiatrist Carl Jung.

Other psychics have been successful with predicting the date and time of future circles. At least partially successful anyway, as one predicted the place, but the timing was off by a few weeks. Several have predicted an increase in the complexity of the pic-

tograms in 1991, and we'll have to wait to see if that proves to be true. Reports that the phenomenon is continuing in 1991 have now been received. There are also psychic suggestions that the small "grapeshot" circles found near many larger formations may represent astronomical constellations.

Dowsing

Dowsing is another of those disciplines that is held suspect by those who worship the god of Western Science. Nevertheless, dowsing plays a major role in crop circle geomancy. Wingfield, Haddington and just about all the newsletters out of England refer frequently to dowsable ley lines. Stonehenge and many of the tumuli have strong dowsable lines, and many of the pictograms reportedly have dowsable lines along the major and minor axis.

Haddington reports that the ley lines "seem to be increasing in energy, almost like there's a global network, like a nervous system" is responsible. Gaia, the living Earth, and Ceres, the goddess of corn are also linked to the crop circles. Some dowsers claim there is another dimension to the glyphs, that they can measure a force above the ground for many feet into the air above the pattern in the cereal.

Present Day Events

The crop circles are now appearing in other countries. Many New Age disciples feel the pictograms are just one more manifestation of a global, spiritual change that is evolving all over the world, with links to such seemingly diverse events as the falling of the Berlin wall, the environmental movement, and the popularity of vegetarianism.

Another of the mysteries presently occurring is the appearance of the Blessed Virgin Mary (BVM) in a little hamlet in central Yugoslavia, the town of Medjugorje. With remarkable parallels to the BVM appearances at Fatima, several children have been receiving messages urging prayer and fasting. One Roman Catholic nun, a

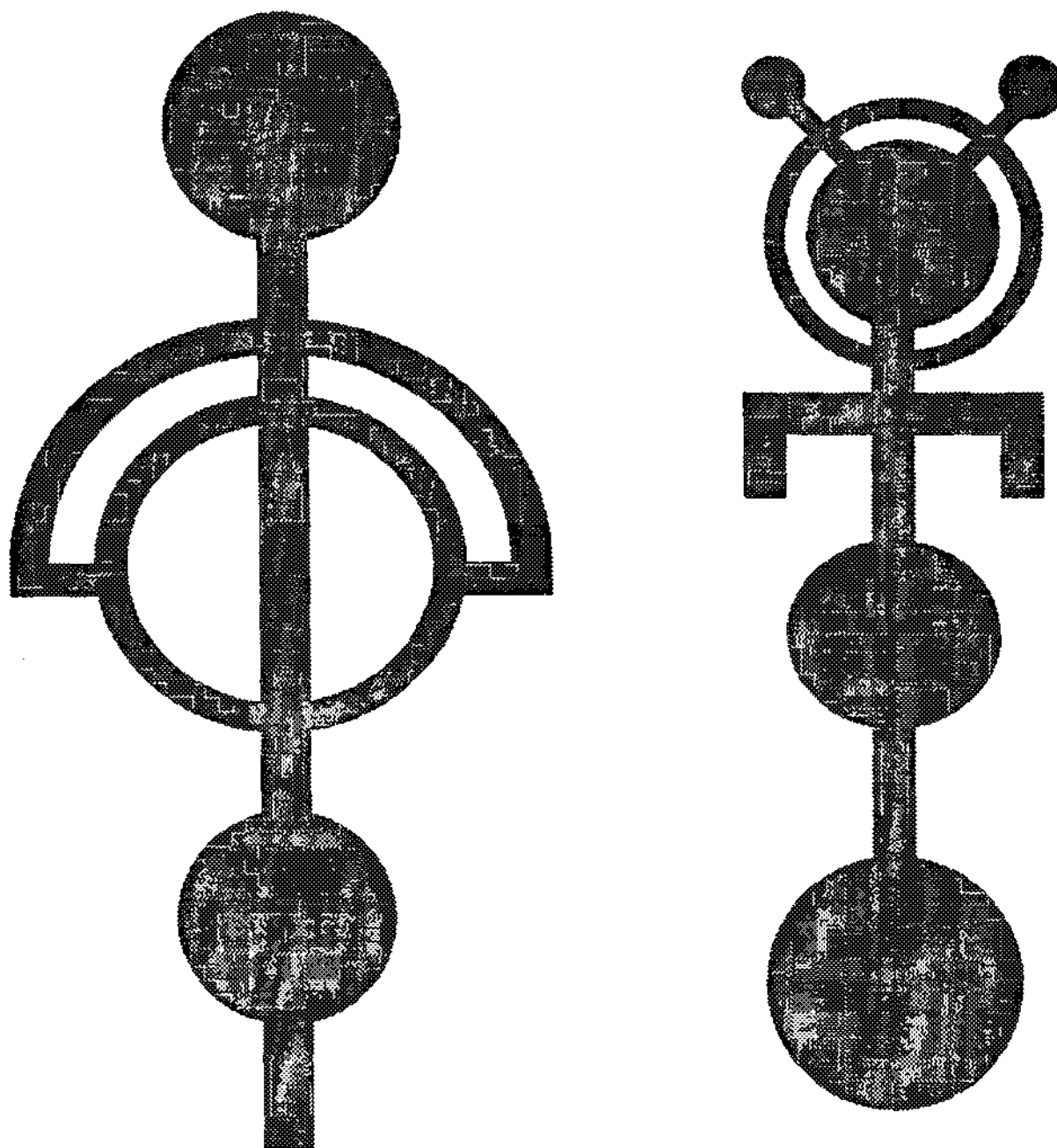


Figure 3. Left: 1990 pictogram near Lancing, Sussex, *The Cerealogist*, No. 3, Spring 1991. Right: drawing from unidentified photograph from Haddington display. (Not to scale.)

Sister Mary Michael, has studied both the events at Medjugorje and the crop circles. She feels the markings are something evil. Most other researchers disagree.

One of the Medjugorje predictions is that the BVM will leave a permanent mark on the earth on June 6, 1991. One particularly symbolic pictogram (con-

taining many linked patterns) appeared on April 6, 1990. Haddington suggests this pictogram may be a precursor for the June 1991 event.

Likewise, there are a series of holes in the earth appearing in Switzerland. The holes may be related to crop circles, as there are no footprints around, yet many cubic yards of soil are

removed without a trace of disturbance to the surrounding ground. There is no spilled dirt, and the evacuations occur unseen in the middle of the night.

UFOs

The favored refrain among mystical-minded researchers is that UFOs are

responsible for the crop circles, or more broadly, the same force responsible for crop circles is behind UFO experiences. There are a variety of eye-witness accounts of red glowing orbs, blue flashes of light, large translucent orange spheres and silvery metallic globes sited in the fields. There is a record of a Mr. Bryce Bond in the Spring 1991 *Cerealogist* of how he was in a field when he felt paralyzed, then received a communication: "Be at peace. We mean no harm. You are standing in the middle of our craft. We are not of your dimension."

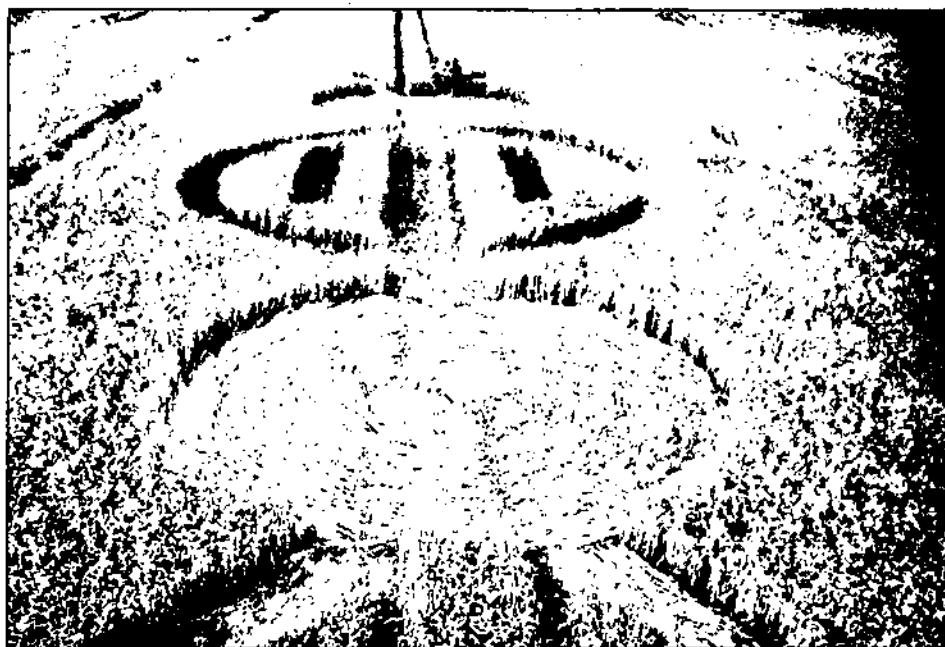
Wingfield and Haddington tell of how one night they were standing watch for crop circles. It was about 3:00 a.m., and there were 12 people in the group, including a psychic. They heard a high-pitched "trilling sound." The sound seemed difficult to localize, but at one point appeared to be just outside of the crop formation they were standing in. Haddington felt there was "a presence" in the area. The psychic woman pleaded "If you can hear us, stop." The trilling noise immediately stopped, then resumed again. Another witness, viewing from a point some distance away, claims he saw a UFO above the group at the time of the noise, but those in the group saw nothing unusual. Haddington meanwhile witnessed a most strange event when looking into the night - several hundred black rods seemed to be dancing among the stalks. Others in the group confirm this account.

Another witness, Ron Jones, also experienced the trilling noise. One night he heard the sound in his home. He was immediately transported to a field, where he saw a whirl of lights. Then, just as quickly, he found himself back in his own bed. All of these experiences smack of the UFO phenomenon, including reports of high strangeness.

George Wingfield advises us to keep an open mind. He hints that certain pictograms may actually be drawings of entities, such as those from the Celtic myths. Figure 3 shows two examples.

Conclusion

During the question-and-answer period after the lecture George



The above formation appeared at Barn Field, Cheesefoot Head, near Winchester, Wiltshire, on August 11, 1990. Photo by Busty Taylor, again from *Enigma* and the postcard series.

Wingfield was asked what he thought the significance was of these crop circles. He responded that they may signal the next stage in the evolution of man. He urged those present to come to England and visit the circles. "It's an experience that cannot be described in words." You must participate.

Whether you are mystical-minded or grounded in academic science, the crop circles prove to be an ongoing enigma. Since the circles are repeating, have measurable electromagnetic and visual anomalies, and seem to contain a symbolic message, this mystery may be a fertile field (pardon the pun) to investigate. For those interested, I recommend the following sources, as well as the excellent bibliography compiled by Michael Chorost, and listed in the April 1991 issue of the *MUFON UFO Journal*.

The Cerealogist, 20 Paul Street, Frome, Somerset, BA11 1DX, England.

The Journal of Meteorology, T. Meaden, 52 Frome Road, Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire BA15 1LD, England.

The Circular, 58 Kings Road, West End, Woking, Surrey GU24 9LW, England.

The Crop Watcher, 3 Selbourne Court,

Tavistock Close, Romsey, Hampshire SO51 7TY, England.

Kindred Spirit, Foxhole, Dartington, Totnes, Devon TR9 6EB, England.

Global Link Up, 51 Northwick Business Centre, Blockley, Gls, GL56 9RF, England.

The Crop Circle Enigma, edited by Ralph Noyes, Gateway Books, UK.

Crop Circles, the Latest Evidence, Pat Delgado and Colin Andrews, Bloomsbury Publishing, UK.

North American Institute of Crop Circle Research, 649 Silverstone Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3T 2V8, Canada.

Opposite: How to measure a Circle, reprinted with permission from *The Circular*, Volume 2, Number 1, the quarterly journal of the Centre for Crop Circle Studies, Bob Kingsley editor. Original diagram by professional surveyor Peter Baillie.

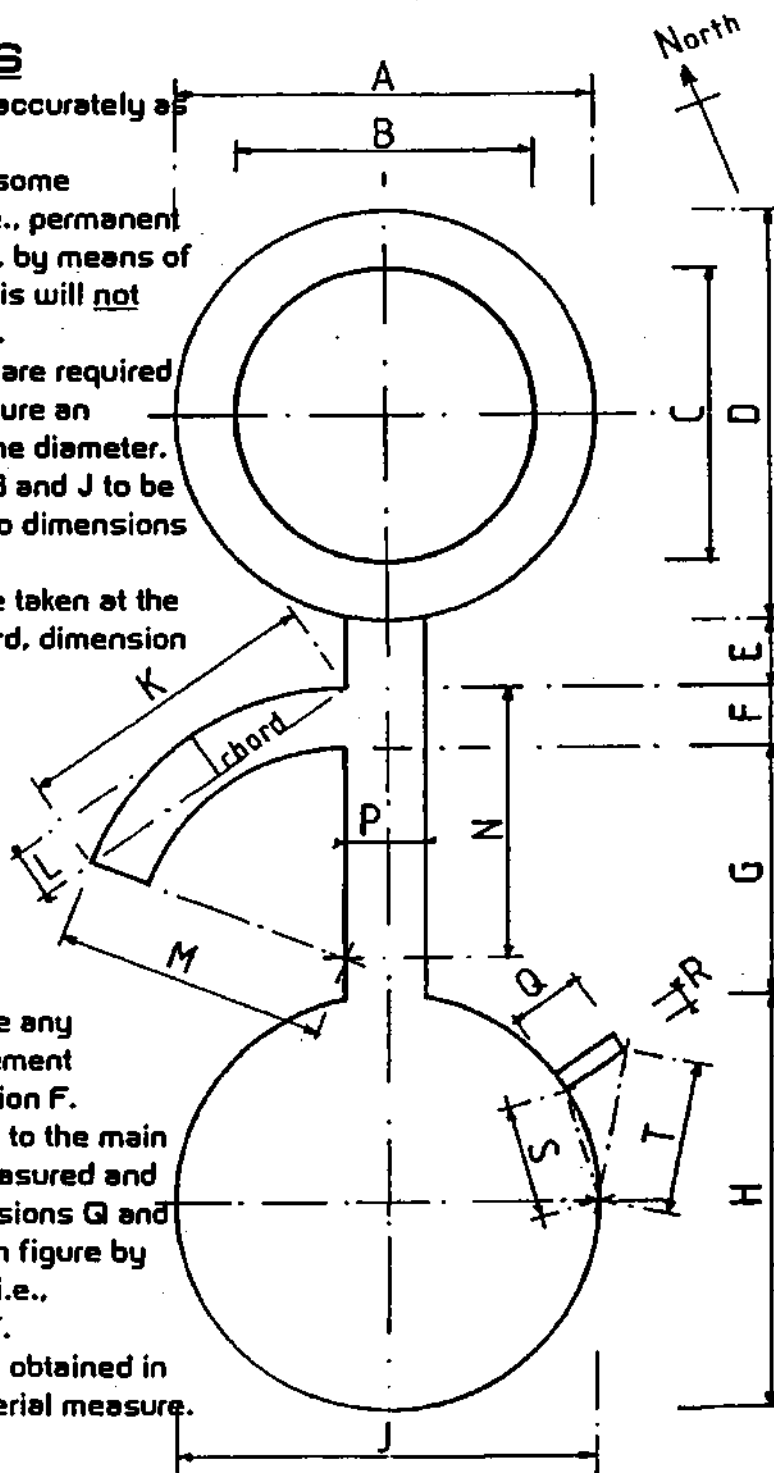


CENTRE FOR CROP CIRCLE STUDIES

GENERAL NOTES

1. Locate the north as accurately as possible.
2. Relate the figure to some immovable object i.e., permanent fence, large tree etc. by means of two dimensions. [This will not always be possible].
3. Two measurements are required at each circle to ensure an accurate record of the diameter. i.e., dimensions A, B and J to be approx 90 degrees to dimensions C, D and H.
4. Dimension L is to be taken at the mid point of the chord, dimension K.

5. Dimension N may be any convenient measurement greater than dimension F.
6. Any other offshoots to the main figure should be measured and recorded i.e., dimensions G and R also relate to main figure by two measurements i.e., dimensions S and T.
7. Dimensions may be obtained in either Metric or Imperial measure.



An Indication of Data Required from
Members Investigating Crop Circles

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F-CLASS STARS AS EVOLUTION DRIVERS

By Erich A. Aggen, Jr.

A frequent *Journal* contributor, Aggen is a State Section Director who lives in Kansas City.

Astronomers and astrophysicists have estimated the number of advanced technological civilizations in our galaxy at between one million to 10 million inhabited worlds. Most scientists have assumed that G-class stars like our own sun offer the best possibilities for the evolution of life and intelligence. This assumption may be in error, however, if researchers such as K.A. Ehricke, F.J. Dyson, F.D. Drake, I.S. Shklovsky and Su-Shu Huang are correct. According to these scientists different classes of stars can act as "accelerators" or "brakes" on the evolution of planetary life. G-class stars may not be the most effective "incubators" of life; other classes of stars may provide more optimal conditions.¹

Solar radiation appears to play a major role in affecting those factors which drive evolution. The evolution of life is dependent on the rate of favorable mutational changes and radical "leaps" in development triggered by solar radiation and specific environmental factors. This interaction is readily evident on our own planet. The rate of mutation has been more rapid on the land and slower and more predictable in the oceans. Sea life has been more insulated from solar radiation and less subject to environmental upheavals. As a result, although sea-based Cetacean intelligence is theoretically equal to our own, the development of manipulative organs and technology has given man the ability to dominate all other forms of life on Earth.

A higher rate of mutation may result when life in its early stages is subjected to highly energetic solar radiation. This in turn would speed up evolution and hasten the emergence of higher forms of life. The radiation-rich environments of planets in F-class star systems would encourage mutations and "drive" evolu-

tion. Scientific studies have shown that an increase in the amount of "hard" radiation reaching the Earth's surface would increase the incidence of mutation from about 0.1% at present to over 50%!

Our sun and most of the stars in the outer rim of our galaxy are so-called "Population I" stars - young blue stars rich in the heavier elements and metals. These stars have a greater chance of possessing life-bearing planets than the older, mainly red "Population II" stars located in the nucleus of the galaxy. Population I stars in the F5 to K5 range (6600-3900° K) offer the best prospects for life. F-class stars have stable lifetimes of 4 to 6 billion years compared to 11 to 17 billion years for G-class stars. F-class stars are hotter in temperature and slightly larger than G-class stars. On Earth, higher surface temperatures have been shown to accelerate metabolic processes and the rate of mutation. Warmer oceans, for example, tend to maximize the effects of mutation on water-based organisms. On F-class planets the amount of high-energy solar radiation reaching the surface would also increase the probability of climatic change - another driver of evolution. Intelligent life may evolve faster on such planets as compared to planets in the cooler, G, K and M-class star systems.²

Intelligent life evolving on a planet in an F-class star system would inevitably be forced to develop interstellar travel or face the prospect of being destroyed when their star swelled into a Giant. It would be necessary for F-class civilizations to improvise star-flight capability earlier (or faster) than G, K or M-class civilizations in order to insure their survival. If this hypothesis is correct, a large number of star-faring alien races may come from F-class star systems.

Life may have a much better chance of gaining a "foothold" in F-class star systems than in a

system such as ours. F-class stars have a much larger habitability zone or "ecosphere" than G, K or M-class stars. If our sun suddenly became an F-class star the "temperate" life zone that Earth occupies would be shifted farther out to the gas giants such as Jupiter and Saturn and the inner planets would become too hot to sustain life. If the size and distance relation of the planets in our system is typical, planets within the ecosphere of an F-class star could be somewhat larger than the "terrestrial" planets such as Earth. They might resemble planets such as Jupiter and Saturn with their huge gaseous atmospheres boiled off leaving solid rocky cores; they would be about 30% to 260% more massive than Earth. Conversely, if the size and distance constraints of our system are not typical, such planets would have to be at the proper distance from their sun and no more than 30% larger or 14% smaller than Earth to maintain the optimum conditions for life.^{3,4}

There are 130 to 200 billion stars in our galaxy; of this number about 18% are F-class stars and 14% are G-class stars. If we eliminate the three out of four F-class stars thought to be white dwarfs or giants, we are left with a potential galactic population of 6 to 9 billion F-class stars that may possess promising planetary systems. If we further reduce this number by considering only those F-class stars in the most favorable spectral sub-classes (F5 - F9), we arrive at an estimate of 3.4 to 5.2 billion F-class star systems that may harbor life in various stages of evolution. In addition, many or most F-class star systems may contain more than one inhabitable planet because of their larger ecospheres. The existence of more than one inhabited planet in such a system would provide a powerful incentive for the early development of spaceflight technology and interplanetary travel. By most conservative estimates, the number of ad-

vanced alien civilizations in these systems could range from several hundred thousand to several million.⁵

One of the major arguments against finding intelligent life in F-class star systems is the short lifetime of F-class stars. This criticism is based on the relatively long lifetimes of G-class stars like our own sun. Some scientists contend that stars must remain stable on the "Main Sequence" for longer than four to six billion years for sentient life to evolve from primitive multicellular organisms. This assertion, however, is based on the evolutionary history of our own planet and the statistical observation of much less than 1% of galactic stars; the solitary example of Earth may not be typical for the rest of the galaxy. There are no valid scientific reasons why life cannot evolve and progress to an advanced technological stage in less than four billion years.^{6,7}

In conclusion, we can extrapolate that life-bearing planets in F-class star systems will most likely have less diverse forms of life than planets in G-class systems owing to the relatively high amounts of solar radiation reaching the surface. Only the fittest forms of life would survive on planets of F-class stars. Such lifeforms, intelligent and otherwise, would probably be very resistant to various types of energetic radiation, high levels of atmospheric ionization and changing environmental conditions. The hotter environments and higher surface gravities possible on planets within the ecospheres of F-class stars would tend to produce smaller lifeforms with higher metabolic rates, tougher and more leathery (or lizard-like) skins and eyes adapted to the more intense blue light spectrum produced by F-class stars.

Intelligent life located on planets within the inner ecospheres of F-class stars may be adapted to dry, desert-like surface conditions. Faced with such harsh environments, an intelligent species might elect to live most of the time in underground dwellings rather than stay on the surface. Eventually, however, all advanced forms of life on F-class planets may be forced to move underground as their sun enters the in-

To survive, the inhabitants of these systems would have to abandon their home planets and migrate to planets farther out in their solar systems, or travel to other stars in search of a new home.

itial stages of expansion into a Giant. Although this period of stellar expansion would take several million years, the detrimental effects on planetary environments would be felt much earlier. To survive, the inhabitants of these systems would have to abandon their home planets and migrate to planets farther out in their solar systems (if they exist), or travel to other stars in search of a new home.

In the final analysis, the hypothetical inhabitants of certain F-class star systems may closely resemble the ubiquitous "gray aliens" described in ufological literature, i.e., small beings with reptilian-like skin and large, black insect-like eyes. It is also interesting to note the unusual number of cases in which the "grays" and other aliens have

stated or inferred that they come from a dying sun or solar system.

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Calendar of UFO Conferences for 1991

- June 27, 28 & 29 — 12th Rocky Mountain Conference on UFO Investigations - University of Wyoming, Laramie, WY
- July 5, 6 & 7 — MUFON 1991 International UFO Symposium - Hyatt Regency O'Hare Hotel at O'Hare International Airport near Chicago, Illinois
- August 16, 17 & 18 — Sixth International UFO Congress - Central Library Theater, Sheffield, South Yorkshire, England
- August 23-25 — Disney World's UFO/ET & Abduction Congress - The Grosvenor Resort, Disney World, Orlando, Florida
- September 7 & 8 — The UFO Mystery - Sebel Townhouse Hotel, Elizabeth Bay, Sydney, Australia
- September 13 & 14 — 28th Annual National UFO Conference - Holiday Inn, Cleveland/Airport, Cleveland, Ohio
- September 29 — New Hampshire MUFON UFO Conference - Yokens Convention Center, Portsmouth, New Hampshire
- October 3-6 — International UFO Congress - Sponsored by European UFO Network, Belgium
- October 12 & 13 — The UFO Experience - Holiday Inn, North Haven, Connecticut
- October 12 & 13 — Fourth Symposium on Ufology and Exobiology - Sao Paulo, Brazil
- October 19 — Show-Me UFO Conference III - Holiday Inn Airport-West, Bridgeton, Missouri. Near St. Louis Airport

Looking Back

Bob Gribble

June 1951 ■ About 10:37 a.m. on the 15th, several French Air Force jets encountered a UFO over Orange, France. Flying a Vampire jet on the training flight were Lieutenants Prio Jrence and Raymond Gallibert who were in constant radio communication with the tower at Orange Field. In an interview, Lt. Prio declared: "We were flying in an absolutely cloudless sky when right over Orange we perceived an object of bright metallic appearance at an altitude of between 1600 and 1700 feet. The object was circular and appeared to be of aluminum and was perfectly motionless. Naturally interested, we made toward it, the disc 'see-sawed' for a moment and then took off at a rapidly increasing speed. We chased it as far as Aspes-sur-Buech without being able to catch up, the climbing speed of our Vampire being inadequate. After we had pursued it for six minutes, the object disappeared, still climbing at a speed of about 600 miles per hour." (Source: *UFOs: A History 1951*)

1966 ■ State Police and Air Force intelligence officers joined forces in probing the story of a New Bedford, Massachusetts motorist who said his car was "buzzed" at treetop level by a UFO on the 11th. The episode occurred at 3:45 a.m. in suburban Westport. "An object whose illumination seemed to vary between an amber-green and a bluish-yellow, came up from behind and I gradually became aware of it hovering over my car," Ronald Petit said. "Then it moved ahead and I could see it quite clearly. I slowed my car and the object appeared to stop. I drove to within about 100 feet, stopped, got out and took a close look." Petit said he stared at the "thing" for at least two minutes before leaping back into the safety of his car. "When I slammed the door," he said, "the glowing object

tilted to an approximate 45-degree angle and went straight up until it disappeared." (Source: *Flying Saucer Review* — Sept.-Oct. 1966)

■ Mrs. Gordon M. Avery, of Mt. Sunapee, New Hampshire, said she saw a white-oval-shaped object about 4 a.m. on the 16th while investigating the source of a brilliant light illuminating her living room. To the east, she saw the craft apparently hovering a few feet above the utility wires. As she watched, a jagged extension protruded from the object and seemed to touch the wires. It had no apparent physical effect. After about five minutes, the rod retracted and the craft began moving northeast, accelerating and disappearing over a mountain at high speed. (Source: *The UFO Investigator* — Oct.-Nov. 1966)

■ Julian Sandoval, an Apollo Space Project engineer, a pilot and former Air Force navigator, spotted a large UFO over Placitas, New Mexico — about 18 miles north of Albuquerque — about 3:45 p.m. on the 23rd, and watched it for about an hour and a half. Sandoval said the craft appeared to be stationary at about 12,000 feet, was about 300 feet long, that its main body had a blunt end and was "incandescent" like a regular light bulb. "It's like nothing we have," Sandoval said. The object finally disappeared in a northeasterly direction after making a vertical climb and increasing its speed to about six Machs (six times the speed of sound). Sandoval had logged 7000 hours of flying time, was employed by North American Aviation and was in charge of electrical power and environmental control with the Apollo Project. (Source: *The Christian Science Monitor* — 7/11/66; also *Aliens From Space*)

■ Richmond, Virginia Police Officer William L. Stevens, Jr., was on patrol

about 3:30 a.m. on the 24th, when he noticed some lights hanging low in the sky. He approached to investigate and observed a light-colored, dirigible-shaped craft with a string of alternating yellow and white lights around the edge. When he tried to get close, the object started moving away, stopping until he caught up, then moving again. Stevens was soon chasing the craft at more than 100 miles per hour along the Richmond-Henrico Turnpike. The UFO kept ahead of him, following every twist and turn of the road. "I trailed it across the Chickahominy River into Hanover County about six miles," Stevens said. "Out in Hanover it kind of stopped for a little bit, then went into a high speed vertical climb. It didn't just disappear all of a sudden, it climbed out of sight." The pursuit had lasted about 15 minutes. (Source: *Mysteries of the Skies; The News Leader* — Richmond, VA — 7/21/66)

■ Peter Rasmussen was standing watch aboard a ship some 800 miles southwest of Hawaii about 3:40 a.m. on the 26th, when he noticed an unusual light on the starboard quarter. After watching it for about 10 minutes, it flared up very bright and started moving toward the ship. It stopped and hovered directly above the ship. The light soon became a huge disc-shaped object ("bigger than the 465-foot ship") which hovered silently over the ship for several minutes. Rasmussen described the craft as having a solid center — possibly metal — with a pulsating white light. "The outer rim or halo seemed to be some sort of force field. It was semi-transparent, as I could see stars through it." Three other long-time seamen, including the ship's captain, also saw the object. They estimated the height above the ship to be around 10,000 feet and the diameter of the craft (the solid portion) to be about 600 to

700 feet. After hovering over the ship for about 10 minutes it went straight up at a high rate of speed and soon disappeared. (Source: *The Press Democrat* — Santa Rosa, CA — 10/28/66)

1971 ■ An elderly woman living at Hudson's Beach, Waluku, Auckland, New Zealand, described an experience she had about the first week in June: "I live alone and I was having a cup of tea between 2 a.m. and 3 a.m. The tide comes to my gate and this morning it was in, but not right up. I drew my curtain a little to peep out and I saw what I took to be three men chatting on the beach. I thought it must be some chaps cleaning fish. Then I said to myself 'not at 3 a.m.' Outside the gate is a pine tree and through the big branch of the pine shone a very bright red light which hovered slightly. The figures seemed to be shrouded in a grey mist. A little later a silver strip appeared on the water and appeared to light the way back for the men to get on the red ball. As I watched, the silver strip disappeared and the red ball moved off ..." (Source: *The Truth* — Auckland, New Zealand — 6/15/71)

1976 ■ Mrs. Nancy Shuken and Mrs. Zelda Segall saw what they described as a "dirigible-shaped object" that appeared to hover over Segall's home in Palm Springs, California, about 9:30 p.m. on the ninth. "We were in Zelda's backyard when we looked up and saw it," Mrs. Shuken said. "It was huge and bright." Mrs. Segall said she rushed to find her camera, but when she tried to take a picture of the object, the flash refused to work. "What was really strange," she added, "was that when I took a picture of something else, the darn thing worked. But when I tried taking a picture of the object, nothing." Both women said the camera flash was not the only electrical device that wouldn't operate while the object was "hovering" over the house. The telephone, radio and television also went on the blink. The house lights, however, presented no problem. "What was even stranger," Mrs. Segall said, "was after we saw the thing disappear, all this equipment worked. I'll tell you,

we were scared out of our wits." At least six other residents reported seeing the object. (Source: *The Desert Sun* — Palm Springs, CA — 6/12/76)

■ On the 13th, Manual Gomez, a rancher in Dulce, New Mexico, reported that he discovered one of his cows mutilated in the middle of a pasture — with several organs removed "with a sharp instrument." Gomez returned the following day with State Police and a county livestock inspector, only to find additional parts of the animal apparently also surgically removed. A subsequent investigation of the area reportedly revealed triangular tracks in a tripod pattern near the carcass which, according to a scientific consultant, had radiation levels twice the normal background level. No other tracks, including human footprints or tire tracks, could be identified. The State Police also discovered a "sticky substance," yellow in color, on some plants in the immediate area near the tripod tracks, adding that some of the plants appeared to be scorched and dying. Wild predators would not approach the remains of the cow for at least 72 hours after the discovery. A calf the cow had been nursing was also missing. On the same evening the cow was discovered, a UFO was reported over Dulce. (Source: *Signal & Saugus Enterprise* — Newhall, CA — 7/19/76)

■ An enormous UFO — the height of a three-story building — seen hovering over the Canary Islands on the 22nd left scientists, military authorities and dozens of other witnesses completely dumbfounded. Two of the witnesses, a respected medical doctor and his driver, saw within the globe-shaped transparent object two "extremely tall" figures with "large, bright eyes" — and ran from the object in terror. And three astronomers watched in stunned amazement as the "giant, brilliant sphere with a swirling center" streaked directly toward their observatory. At about 10:30 p.m. the physician, Dr. Francisco Julio Padron, was being driven to Galdar, a town on the northwest coast of Grand Canary Island. As the car rounded a curve, the

strange sphere was seen some 60 yards off the road. "It was very large, about the size of a three-story building, and as perfectly round as if drawn by a compass," Dr. Padron said. "It was of a grayish-blue color, but transparent — we could see the stars right through it. It was suspended a few feet above the ground."

"There were two figures toward the center of the sphere. They were well over six feet tall. They were either dressed in brilliant red or red in color. Their faces were flesh colored and human in appearance. I could not see any ears because they wore a kind of clothlike helmet or turban on their heads. Their head gave off a glow, like a halo or aura. They had pointed, wing-like appendages on the end of their arms that they moved slowly like hands. They seemed intent on some sort of control panel. Suddenly the car radio went dead and we felt a terrible coldness. The object began to lift off — and seemed to be growing steadily larger as it rose." Shocked and frightened by what they'd seen, they brought the car to a screeching halt — and sought refuge in the nearby farmhouse of Paco Rodriguez.

Just before Dr. Padron and the driver knocked at his front door, Rodriguez recalled that his TV set suddenly and mysteriously went dead. When the farmer let the men in, they all rushed to the window. "We could see the object clearly — a bright bluish sphere with two red objects inside that looked like human forms. I dived to the floor, covered my head with my arms and yelled to my wife to do the same. We stayed there until the doctor told us it had gone away." The driver, Francisco Esteves, declared: "I also saw the two figures. I could see that they had very bright, large eyes. I can swear that this was something out of this world. My nerves are shattered — I'll never forget this as long as I live."

Another witness was architectural draftsman Domingo Alamo, who was in a friend's house on a mountain near Galdar. Their wives, coming in from outside, explained there was something "very strange in the sky. We ran to the roof and were astonished to see a

perfectly round, transparent sphere in the center of which was a sort of bent, long shape of a bright red color," Alamo said. "It was stationary, about the height of the church spires nearby. It seemed to expand gradually, always in a perfect circle. We had it in view for about 30 minutes, while it seemed to recede until there was just a huge, white circle in the sky."

Dr. Francisco Sanchez, director of the Astrophysical Observatory on Monte Izana, Canary Islands, said that several scientists at the observatory saw the object with their naked eyes, but were unable to track it with their telescopes. "It was below the line of sight of our telescope," he explained.

"The astronomers reported it had the form of a huge sphere and was very brilliant. It was definitely not a planet, a balloon or smoke. I have no scientific explanation for it." Dr. Fernando Bello, one of three astronomers at the observatory that night remembered, "All of us saw the UFO — a giant, brilliant sphere with a swirling center shaped like a snail. It seemed to be headed straight toward the observatory! The object continued to approach until it paused for just a moment, made an abrupt 90-degree right turn and took off like a streak of light. We had it under observation for three to five minutes." (Source: *National Enquirer* — 9/28/76)

circle, burned circle, ring, etc.), circle diameters, direction of swirl, crop type, associated UFO sightings, and whether samples were taken and tests performed. Dates range from March to October 1990; locations span the continent, from Pennsylvania to British Columbia, with a preponderance in the American Midwest and in Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Diameters range from 1.7m (Warsaw, Indiana) to 38m (Odessa, Missouri). Samples and tests are noted but the results are not specified. Hopefully, future reports will have more to say on that score.

Unfortunately, the first data set's mode of organization is not followed consistently. For example, a formation in Leola, SD, which consisted of four separate elements (a "reverse question mark" and three rectangles) is listed as only one element. This probably happened because the table was set up to record only circle diameters and ring widths. Thus it couldn't accommodate any other kind of element, such as rectangles or partial arcs. For example, a formation in Northside, Saskatchewan, is described as a circle with four spokes and two rings, with another circle 125m away, yet the data set lists just the two rings.

It appears that the numerical-tabular format created more headaches for Rutkowski and his colleagues than it solved, because it assumed more uniformity than was the case, and used an awkward mode of representation. The circles are diverse and spatially complex objects which resist simple numerical representation. It would seem more sensible to tabulate them *visually*, in annotated diagrams. This would lead one to record formations on a case-by-case basis, creating new data categories as appropriate, rather than trying to define all of the relevant data categories in advance. One can envision scanning formations into a Hypercard database and annotating the dimensions, with fields for location, date and so forth. Colin Andrews has made a start in this direction with his computerized visual catalogue, which should be reproduced as an appendix to my article in the proceedings of the 1991 MUFON conference in Chicago.

The UFO Press

North American Crop Circles and Related Physical Traces in 1990
By Chris Rutkowski et al.

Released February 1991 by the North American Institute
for Crop Circle Research. 40 pp.

Reviewed by Michael Chorost

Chris Rutkowski and his seven colleagues have produced the kind of report cereologists ache to see: a tabular list of 1990 crop circles in North America, with an analysis of the data. Their report is the first of its kind, since previous studies have limited themselves either to photographic documentation or to promoting one theory over another. As the first collection of locations, dates, dimensions, and other data produced on either side of the Atlantic, this study has great value.

Its authors, however, were beset by considerable problems, which are inevitably passed on to the reader. One was the problem of cobbling together usable data from diverse sources of varying completeness and reliability. Another was the challenge of deciding how to organize it, since no one knows which data structure will best bring buried truths to the surface. Still another was the sheer unprecedented nature of what they were doing, since there were no successful analyses to emulate, no

failed analyses to learn from. In such a situation, unorganized tables of numbers take on an aspect of terror. They can be sorted in infinite ways, yet only a few are likely to lead to the truth. One might walk across Antarctica blindfolded with greater confidence.

This terror may help account for why no one has published and attempted to analyze tables of data, even though the circles have been the focus of sustained public attention for at least four years. Rutkowski and his colleagues, then, are to be commended for the ambition and bravery of this first attempt.

The report's raw data are presented twice, in two different forms: by element, and by formation. In the first set of raw data, the authors list each element of a formation separately, so that, for example, a group of ten circles found in Warsaw, Indiana, is listed as ten separate elements. The elements are recorded in a dense table of 86 "unusual ground markings" (UGMs) listed by date, location, type (flattened

Following leads like this, we can develop more flexible and productive ways to represent our knowledge.

The other set of raw data is the more immediately useful one, because it lists whole formations, not elements. It lists 45 formations by date, location and brief verbal description. About 30 are English-style crop circles; the rest are circular burns, areas of flattened and burned crops, areas of missing vegetation, holes, etchings in dry soil, and patches of stunted growth (probably fairy rings, which are natural phenomena). Since no one knows whether and how these diverse phenomena are separable, Rutkowski et al reasonably chose to lump them all together.

The reliability of the documentation is obviously uneven. Some formations have been well documented by the authors themselves, such as a 3.6m dia. circle surrounded by a 7.5m dia. ring in Tweedsmuir, Saskatchewan, and an elliptical formation measuring 7.8 by 7.6m in Petersfield, Manitoba. Others are reported on little more than hearsay. For example, one item reads merely, "It was claimed that a crop circle was discovered near this town" and lists the source as a TV station. This is no fault of the authors, who clearly decided that it was better to risk reporting rumor than to leave out potential truth. Since sources are listed, it is usually possible for the reader to decide how much weight to give each report.

The two sets of data are listed in the back of the report. In the front, Rutkowski et al attempt a basic analysis of the data. They present five tables breaking the data down in different ways: circle type versus country, circle type versus direction of swirl, circle type versus crop, country versus crop, and country versus direction of swirl. Perhaps the most interesting result is that grass elements predominated over wheat elements in the U.S. (46 grass elements vs. two wheat ones), but the reverse held in Canada: 16 wheat elements vs. four grass ones. Other interesting results are that concentric rings almost always formed in wheat (nine in wheat vs. one

in grass) and that burned and flattened circles almost always happened in grass (nine in grass vs. one in wheat.) One could guess that grass is more susceptible to burning than wheat. One must view these findings with caution, however, because of the incompleteness of the data, the distortions introduced by counting elements rather than formations, and the low total numbers involved. They may make more (or less) sense when compared to English data, if and when the latter become available, and in the light of future findings.

Rutkowski is appropriately cautious, writing, "There was no evident trend in any characteristic of the UGMs." This might even seem overcautious, in light of the numbers cited above, but he clearly has the problematic nature of the data uppermost in mind.

Some minimal conclusions can be drawn, however. For example, it seems evident that grass crop circles happen much more often in the U.S. than in England. This is easily explained by the fact that England is so intensively cultivated that there is very little tall grassland left. However, it is more difficult to explain why so few grass circles were reported in Canada, a country with abundant grassland, relative to the United States. Perhaps there are fewer people in Canada to discover circles in grassland far from population centers.

In addition, the authors note that the peculiar effects reported in English crop circles, such as strange noises and flashes of light, have not been noticed in North American formations. Nor do they exhibit the same level of complexity seen in England (ringed and spoked circles seems to be the maximum). Thus, as a sort of negative conclusion, it remains unclear whether the 45 cases listed belong to one phenomenon or several, and whether the 30 crop circles within that set are truly identifiable with the English version of the phenomenon.

In an intelligent and cautious discussion, Rutkowski analyzes the debate about the cause of the circles. He breaks the theories down into four types: extraterrestrials, wind phenomena, hoaxes and "other." The first three are certainly the best-known. "Other" sub-

sumes less popular theories, such as military activity and mating hedgehogs. However, there are more categories than Rutkowski notes. Some people in the CCCS (Centre for Crop Circle Studies) subscribe to the theory that "earth energies" create the crop circles. Richard Andrews, a professional dowser, is perhaps the best-known of these theorists. It is certainly not clear (to me, anyhow) what "earth energies" are, nor how they could create the complex forms we have seen, though Rupert Sheldrake's theory of morphogenetic fields and James Lovelock's "Gaia" theory of planetary intelligence have both been invoked as explanatory factors. In addition, there are significant splits within the theoretical camps: for example, Terence Meaden has accepted that the more complex formations are meteorological in nature, while his followers Paul Fuller and Jenny Randles still think most or all of them must be hoaxes, with only the simpler formations being "genuine."

Rutkowski's main point is that no theory adequately explains the phenomenon. So far, the data support none of them: "Statistical studies conducted on the data ... suggest [no] particular unifying explanation." He notes that only four of the 45 formations have UFO sightings associated with them, and a perusal of the data shows that none of the sightings are clearly of "nuts and bolts" spacecraft: two sightings were of glowing lights, the other two go unspecified. Glowing lights fit in just as well with meteorological theories, which presuppose hot, glowing plasma vortices, as with ET theories. And yet meteorological theories themselves can explain very little: "Is Britain's change in weather so incredibly dramatic that hundreds of circles can form in 1990, compared with only a handful a decade ago?"

Rutkowski notes that many factors complicate each theory: winds do cause crop damage, yet crop circles do resemble classic "saucer nests"; many crop circles have been considered genuine despite their great complexity, yet there have been notorious hoaxes; crop circles may be an effort at communication, yet nobody understands them.

And there are, in addition to crop circles, many other kinds of anomalous ground markings. Do they have the same basic cause, or are they caused by entirely unrelated phenomena? No one knows.

As George Wingfield astutely writes in *The Crop Circle Enigma*, the "exotic" theories tend to fall into two classes: those involving earth mysteries, like earth-energy theories, and those invoking sky mysteries, like alien-intelligence theories. The English lean toward earth mysteries, whereas Americans tend to favor sky mysteries. At the risk of oversimplifying, one might suggest that the English tend to look to the earth which contains their past, whereas Americans, a spacefaring race, look up to a sky which may hold their future. Perhaps Canadians, being of the New World, yet still Commonwealth citizens, fall somewhere in between.

Certainly the Canadians have shown considerable good sense in this landmark report. It has significant shortcomings, as I have noted, but they are counter-balanced by the pioneering nature of the work. Bigger and better reports should follow from both sides of the Atlantic, but this one sets the pace.

Available for U.S. \$3.00 from NAICCR, 649 Silverstone Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3T 2V8, or UFOROM, P.O. Box 1918, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R3C 3R2. Authors: Chris Rutkowski (text), Grant Cameron, Roy Bauer, Jeff Harland, Gordon Matthews, Walter Nilsson, Vladimir Simosko and Guy Westcott (research associates).

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In Others' Words ...

Lucius Farish

The UFO abduction research of Toronto hypnotherapist Dr. David Gotlib is discussed in the April 16 issue of NATIONAL ENQUIRER. Dr. Gotlib says that such experiences are not imaginary and should be taken seriously by health professionals.

Was the "whatever-it-was" which crashed at Roswell, NM in 1947 really just a Japanese "Fu-Go" balloon of World War II vintage? That's the subject of OMNI's "Antimatter/UFO Update" column in the May issue. The foremost proponent of this theory is John Keel, but others who have investigated the Roswell case dismiss Keel's claims. "Alien implants" is the topic under discussion in the June issue of OMNI.

Recent paperbacks of interest include reprints of NIGHT SIEGE by Hynek, Imbrogno & Pratt (Ballantine Books) and THE GULF BREEZE SIGHTINGS by Ed & Frances Walters (Avon Books), as well as an original paperback by Martin Caidin, GHOSTS OF THE AIR (Bantam Books). Caidin's book covers all types of aerial mysteries, including some material on UFOs. Forthcoming paperbacks include UFO CRASH AT ROSWELL by Kevin Randle & Don Schmitt (July; Avon Books) and a reprint of Raymond Fowler's THE WATCHERS (August; Bantam Books).

A new book by Bill Hamilton is always welcome and his latest one, COSMIC TOP SECRET, is now available from Inner Light Publications — P.O. Box 753 (CS) - New Brunswick, NJ 08903. The price for this 144-page softcover is \$12.95. As the title suggests, the book deals with all of the reports, rumors and wild speculations concerning crashed/retrieved UFOs, Bob Lazar, Area 51, secret government pacts with alien forces, etc. Bill Hamilton would probably be the first to admit that he doesn't believe

everything he presents in his writings, but he does make it available, so that readers may decide for themselves. If you want a good summary of the more intriguing topics being discussed in UFO research today, COSMIC TOP SECRET is a good place to begin.

The two most recent books by Zecharia Sitchin, THE LOST REALMS and GENESIS REVISITED, are now available in hardcover editions from Bear & Company - P.O. Drawer 2860 - Santa Fe, NM 87504-2860. THE LOST REALMS is \$19.95 and GENESIS REVISITED is \$21.95. All five books by Sitchin should be required reading and Bear & Company plan to publish or reprint all of them in hardcover.

A new videotape, UFO ... ABDUCTION, dealing with the William J. Herrmann case from South Carolina, is now available from Genesis III Publishing - Box 25962 - Munds Park, AZ 86017. The price is \$43.95 for the 100-minute tape which gives a detailed account of Herrmann's UFO experiences, as well as corroborating evidence from other witnesses. Herrmann's photos of UFOs are examined, as well as photos taken by others in the same area. You'll find much of interest in this examination of one of the earlier abduction cases.

An American edition of CIRCULAR EVIDENCE by Pat Delgado & Colin Andrews is now available from Phanes Press - P.O. Box 6114 - Grand Rapids, MI 49516. A softcover version is available at \$14.95; the hardcover is \$30.00. Phanes Press apparently plans to publish more "circles" literature and to make available British periodicals on the subject, such as THE CEREALOGIST. You may also contact them at (800) 678-0392.

Letters to the Editor ...

Dear Editor:

We are writing in response to Dr. Maccabee's article in the November 1990 issue of the *MUFON Journal*. Since we are mentioned in the article, we believe that we are entitled to have our response published under your 50% rule. Since our work on the Walters' case was taken out of context by Maccabee, we feel it is necessary to provide the context for the edification of your readers.

Last July, we were asked by MUFON to take the lead in the investigation of the reopening of the Walters' case after the UFO model was found in the attic of the Walters' previous residence and a young man, Tommy Smith, made allegations which cast doubt on the authenticity of the case. Prior to that time, we had accepted the authenticity of the case based upon the representations of the previous investigators, who were known to us. We would not have bought six copies of Walters' book for friends and relatives had we entertained serious doubt about the case. Despite our admitted positive bias, we believe that we have been successful in maintaining our objectivity in our work with the case and have followed the evidence to logical conclusions.

After weeks of frustrating effort, we arrived at the conclusion that the Walters' photos were probably faked, which was reported to MUFON by telephone on September 9, 1990. Although there is considerable evidence to doubt the credibility of the case, one of the deciding factors for us was our analysis of photos 14 and 19. Using information provided by Walters and the data provided by Maccabee, the "reflections" in photos 14 and 19 were shown to be physical impossibilities, i.e. the reflections were not flat on the surface as one would expect, but were elevated as if reflecting off of a raised ramp. With photos 14 and 19 shown to be probable fakes, the other photos which depict images of the same models should be considered to be highly suspect. At that time we consulted with three PhD-level Photo Analysts and

a Master's level Analytical Physicist who agreed with our analysis and conclusions. Dr. Maccabee apparently also agrees with our work, which prompted him to "reanalyze" photo 19. We accept this as his repudiation of his earlier analysis and of Walters' description of the alleged event.

Careful reading of Maccabee's new analysis and Walters' account of the event show that there are major discrepancies between the two which makes them mutually exclusive. If Maccabee's new scenario is "possible" as he claims, then Walters' account is impossible and Dr. Maccabee is "hoist on his own petard." He has effectively impugned his own witness. Additionally, Maccabee has failed to address the very similar "reflection" of photo 14. His "possibility" for photo 19 can not apply to photo 14 since the reflective surfaces and other aspects were much different.

Maccabee goes on for several pages in his analysis to conclude that the height of the camera above the road of 4.1 feet agrees "perfectly" with his computations, although heights of 3.5 to 5 feet would be reasonable. If you put Walters in his Ford 150 XLT truck, which is "very high off the ground," you will find a camera elevation of 5.4 (+/- 0.2) feet which is outside of the reasonable limits and by itself negates Maccabee's new analysis. A comparison of a photo re-enactment of Walters taking the "shot" and the geography of the scene confirm the above.

It is unfortunate that Maccabee did not carry his analysis somewhat farther and compute the comparative reflection intensities within the 125-foot-long reflection which he claims is "possible." Had he done so, and then compared the expected variations to those obtained by densitometer measurements of the photographs, he should have concluded that his "possibility" is actually impossible.

We regret the space limitation which precludes us from providing more detail and other evidence which we have gathered regarding this case. Permit us, however, to provide a brief partial listing.

1. Two professional voice stress analyses have been done of the tape recording of the June 15, 1990 telephone conversation in which Tommy Smith made allegations about the Walters' photos being hoaxed. The taped material was well suited to the analyses which indicated that Tommy was telling the truth. Allegations by Tommy include that he saw two UFO models in the Walters' home, that he saw Walters photographing UFO models, that Walters had tried to enlist Tommy's help in conducting the hoax, that Walters and/or Hank Boland were responsible for the "Believer Bill" and the "Jane" photos, that Hank Boland and Walters' wife and son participated in the hoax, and that Walters had described to him how some of the photos were faked. In an interview with us, Tommy reaffirmed the above and further related, among other things, that Walters had told him of hoaxing UFOs using hot air balloons when Walters lived in Costa Rica.

2. Tommy had discussed much of the above with his family back in 1988, which is confirmed by the law partners of Tom Smith Sr. and the Gulf Breeze Chief of Police. The description which Tommy provided of Walters' UFO models at that time fit the model which was found in the attic of Walters' old home.

3. Three of the four lie detector tests that Walters claims to have passed were self-sponsored (i.e. paid for by Walters with no third party supervision) and should be regarded accordingly with skepticism. The fourth, a voice stress analysis, was done by MUFON without Walters' knowledge or consent. The examiner on this test states "The way the interviews were done and the type of information discussed does not give the examiner the verbal material necessary to be able to say if these individuals are being completely truthful with the interviewer." Additionally, Walters failed to keep the appointment for a MUFON sponsored polygraph test and has adamantly refused to take any sponsored tests ever since.

4. The model found in the attic is made of styrofoam plates with the center section made from one of

Walters' house plans. On page 28 of Walters' book he described the UFO as having "horizontal lines going around the main body." The model has 14 horizontal lines drawn around its main body which are not shown in Walters' drawings or photos. Evidence of responsibility for the model points to Walters, in that he knew of the horizontal lines, had access to his house plans and access to the home until the Menzers moved in during November 1989. Proof has not emerged that anyone else possessed these three requisites. Continuing arguments about which house plan was used, etc., are interesting, but ancillary to the primary focus.

5. Mark Curtis of WEAR-TV conducted a demonstration to show the feasibility of faking photo 19 with double exposure photography which was based upon Tommy Smith's information. Many people believe that he was successful despite a lengthy letter to the editor from Maccabee attempting to debunk it. Basically, Maccabee tried to show that photo 19 was not duplicated exactly while ignoring the fact that feasibility was amply shown.

6. Interviews with the young people who had attended parties in the Walters' home and others tend to confirm our conclusions.

7. Long before the alleged onset of Walters' UFO photography on November 11, 1987, Walters told Mr. and Mrs. Peter Neumann of Gulf Breeze that he had used double-exposure photography to amuse the young people who attended functions and parties in his home.

There is much more, including amplification and documentation, for which we do not now have the space, but intend to include in our final report.

— Carol and Rex Salisbury
Navarre Beach, FL

Dear Editor:

Thank you for your very fair - indeed, generous - review of *The Crop Circle Enigma* in your March issue. You rightly draw attention to two omissions: apart from George Wingfield's

article the book says little about a possible UFO connection"; and we were virtually silent about what might be happening, physiologically, to the crops. Perhaps I may comment.

When we went to press last August (a bare 100 days after setting up the Centre for Crop Circle Studies) the only material available on crop effects was the information which had been published by a holistic medicine firm in Stroud. Although Pat Delgado and Colin Andrews saw fit to reproduce this material in *Crop Circles: The Latest Evidence* - reviewed by Jerold R. Johnson in your March issue - I advised my publisher that we should not make use of it ourselves. I share Jerold R. Johnson's view that it falls far short of meeting acceptable scientific standards. It has also been used as the basis for wildly speculative claims about the supposedly deleterious or beneficial effect of the disturbed crops on human consumers. There is at present no shred of acceptable evidence for this, one way or the other.

CCCS is in no doubt, however, that we need to find out whether physiological changes in the crop do in fact take place when circles form. One of the research panels we have set up is devoting itself entirely to this question, using carefully controlled samples and working with scientifically qualified institutions. As soon as we have properly founded results we shall publish them.

The "UFO connection" ... ? At present CCCS can't go further than to say that luminous and audible phenomena occurring in the low atmosphere have not infrequently been associated with the formation of crop circles. And there have been other oddities of the kind familiar to ufologists over the past 40 years. Reports are accumulating; they are being carefully assessed. But there is a long way to go before we can be sure of having more than a very interesting and suggestive (though somewhat patchy) correlation. At present CCCS has no wish to plunge into the murky debate about what UFOs may or may not be! But I suspect that we shall have a worthwhile contribution to make to ufology when our

researches have been carried further. Findings will be published as soon as we feel reasonably confident about our evidence.

— Ralph Noyes
Hon. Secretary, CCCS

We certainly appreciate your restraint in regard to the rather dubious evidence submitted by the Stroud laboratory to the effect that the crystalline energy structure, or somesuch, of the plants inside a forming crop circle is somewhat altered when compared to outside controls. Even so, what we were looking for in the review, and we may not have been crystal clear ourselves, was a background into the status of agricultural techniques and developments in the UK as a whole, and how, if at all, same might conceivably impact, influence or interact with whatever it is that is obviously forming the crop circle formations, human hoaxing aside. In other words, it takes two to tango. In the case of the circles we have an apparent "artist," along with a preferred medium or canvas, which is the targeted cereal crops themselves. I would simply have liked to have seen the latter issue addressed, out of my own personal curiosity, in somewhat greater depth.

Similarly, the UFO "connection." We didn't mean to imply that nuts'n' bolts (or other) UFOs might be involved in the actual creation of the circles, but only to suggest, in light of past "saucer nests" and similar physical circular traces, that some interesting parallel phenomenology may or may not exist and be subsequently shared by the two phenomena.

*At the same time, we appreciate the immense labor and commitment that goes into the creation of any book, let alone one with the scope and overall quality of *The Crop Circle Enigma*.*

— D. Stacy

Dear Editor:

In reference to the recent Donald Schmitt and Kevin Randle article ("What Happened in Ramey's office?")

in the April *Journal*, I called General DuBose the other day to see how he liked the interview I did with him (January 1991). He stated that he was quite pleased, had read it several times and saw no flaws. "You've got it right, that's the way it was ..." were his exact words. He wanted to know what the reaction was. I told him it had been very positive, except for Schmitt and Randle (S/R). I told him they were claiming an earlier interview they did was more accurate. I told the general that I felt the earlier interviews were rambling recollections.

"Well that's exactly right. It was when you showed me the pictures that I was able to recall just what had happened," DuBose said. He then added, "You know they tried to hypnotize me but I told them that I can't be hypnotized. But they tried for two hours with some doctor who kept saying that he could hypnotize anybody. I went along with it, but they never hypnotized me." I told the general I had seen an interview that S/R claim was done with the general under hypnosis. "That's bullshit! I can't be hypnotized. I know it for fact. After WW II I was in the Hypnosis Center at Walter Reed Army Hospital and they tried for several days, under various conditions, and it just doesn't work on me."

This is typical of why there is a difference between the results of S/R's work and that of Bill Moore's and mine. Their interviews are so ambiguous they must interpret what the subject said after the fact. This technique leads to hypothesizing, which in just a few short paragraphs turns into fact. The prime example of this is the mythical flight of July 6, 1947. S/R say that DuBose told them of this flight. But when the facts were gone over, when he reviewed the pictures and refreshed his memory on the dates, he had this to say: "There was no damn flight on the 6th; 'Butch' Blanchard would never have sent anything on to higher headquarters before his intelligence officer had come back with his report. To even suggest that Blanchard would act on the word of some rancher is a bunch of crap. I knew Blanchard well."

Schmitt and Randle claim that I didn't

bother to interview former Warrant Officer Irving Newton. That's absolutely ridiculous. I even refer to my recent interview with Newton in the DuBose interview. I also indicate some of what had changed in Newton's story. Even the general rejected it. But they have to build up Newton; he's their star witness. He's the only witness from Fort Worth who hasn't repudiated their conclusions.

S/R threw away testimony from Jesse Marcel because they can't make it fit their scenario. There are, on record, four distinct and separate interviews with Marcel. He never wavered from his position that it was the real debris in the pictures. He even signed an affidavit testifying to the validity of his statements for the publisher of *The Roswell Incident*. What confuses S/R is the second half of his statement that the debris had been switched for other pictures. But Marcel never said he saw it switched; he was ordered back to Roswell. It was a logical assumption in light of the cover story that Gen. Ramey was pushing on the press. It just happened to be wrong.

S/R's taped interviews of unqualified statements by witnesses are virtually useless. An interview with a witness to an event over 40 years ago is dishonest when the interviewer withholds photographs or other published data from the period that could assist in his recall. Distribution of these tapes doesn't make them any more valid. Editing them makes them even more questionable. Their interview with Dr. J. Bond Johnson is a classic example of attempting to lead a witness. They didn't attempt to find out what the witness knew; they tried to tell him what they wanted to hear.

I love their suggestion that everyone should look at the pictures and decide for themselves what they show. These are the same pictures that they withheld from Gen. DuBose. I guess the average reader should know more than the military experts who were there. If we carry this concept out we could surely save millions in our judicial system. Think of it: no more need for witness testimony! We could just have juries vote on what they think went on by

looking at pictures. Even coroners could pronounce bodies dead by looking at pictures.

Bill Moore and I are preparing a complete response to Schmitt and Randle to include vital evidence that they, for whatever reason, have chosen to ignore. We will also have a section on what the debris in the pictures might actually be. It was courtesy of Kevin Randle that we saw the photo from the Bettman Archives. But how curious that the copy Kevin sent to Bond Johnson should have a transmission time of 7:59 CST, and the copy that Kevin sent to MUFON has a time of 11:59 CST on it. Now both came from Kevin Randle, but he accused me of getting the time wrong. What gives?

I'll close with a quote from General DuBose. "From now on if anyone asks about what went on, I'm going to tell them that interview is good, it stands ('New Roswell Revelations — A General Speaks Up,' January 1991). If they don't like it, that's too bad."

— Jaime H. Shandera
N. Hollywood, CA

Dear Editor:

I have studied the Corn Circle Phenomenon since 1985, when life in this subject was relatively uncomplicated. At that time I realized that the dowsing I had been doing for the previous 15 years on the Ley Lines, or energy grid associated with ancient megalithic sites, was also part of the Corn Circle Phenomenon.

To start with, the circles, as they were then, took the form of single circles in varying sizes and in groups of two or three. In 1983, the Quintuplet (that is, the large circle with four satellites) first appeared at Cheesefoot Head, near Winchester. In 1986 the first single-ringed circle appeared and in 1988 a two-ringed circle and also three circles grouped together like a triangle. The last configuration of 1988 was a quintuplet with a ring round the satellites, as seen in *Circular Evidence*. The other significant happening in 1988 was that the quintuplets on some sites doubled in size, and the number of circles had reached approximately 100. This was a

quantum leap in the Corn Circle Phenomenon.

Nineteen hundred and eighty-nine saw the number of circles double again, with all the previous circle configurations in evidence, but the final two circles of the season, at Winterbourne Stoke, were of a new type which has not been repeated at the time of going to print. The second configuration was a quartered circle - the photograph by Busty Taylor being the front cover of *The Crop Circle Enigma*, Ralph Noyes editor.

Nineteen hundred and ninety has shown a complete departure from the traditional configurations, producing large pictograms, i.e., circles, triangles, wings, finger and key patterns. The dowsable patterns have also changed very substantially with the widening and amalgamation of lines, which is a new feature evolving in conjunction with the new patterns.

Many people are now showing interest in the subject, and it is very gratifying that my original work on dowsing has now become standard practice for verifying circles. I have proved beyond doubt that all genuine circle configurations have a dowsable print, and that the hoax will not have any relevant print. Although there is no need to fear these sudden manifestations, there is need for caution, however, because the energies present can be very powerful indeed and some people will be affected physically by experiencing headaches and nausea, while others will experience depression or great elation. When any of these symptoms occur, the best antidote is to retreat from the circle configuration immediately and the symptoms will recede within an hour or so. Others, however, will experience none of these effects.

I hope this will begin to show that there is very much more here than we would have appreciated a few years ago, and that quick answers to this wonderful happening will not come early. We are only part way through a very complex weave of experience and reality which will need some of the best minds brought to bear to begin to show the right pathways to tread.

Dowsing is a tool that has created a



Dowser Richard G. Andrews near Cheesefoot Head, Wiltshire.
Photo by Dennis Stacy.

window for us to look through and begin to see some of these pathways. I am optimistic about the future for mankind from the window I have opened. I believe this to be another Renaissance for the human experience. Let us go quietly and steadily forward and bring stability out of chaos, and understand our part in the ecological and metaphysical maze shown in this phenomenon.

— **Richard G. Andrews**
Hampshire, UK

MUFON Amateur Radio Net

80 meters — 3.990 MHz
Saturday, 10 p.m.

40 meters — 7.237 MHz
Saturday, 8 a.m.

10 meters — 28.460 MHz
Thursday, 8 p.m.

10 meters — 28.470 MHz
Sunday, 3 p.m.

All times Eastern Standard
or Daylight

MUFON 1991 INTERNATIONAL UFO SYMPOSIUM

SPEAKING PROGRAM

SATURDAY, JULY 6 — MORNING SESSION —

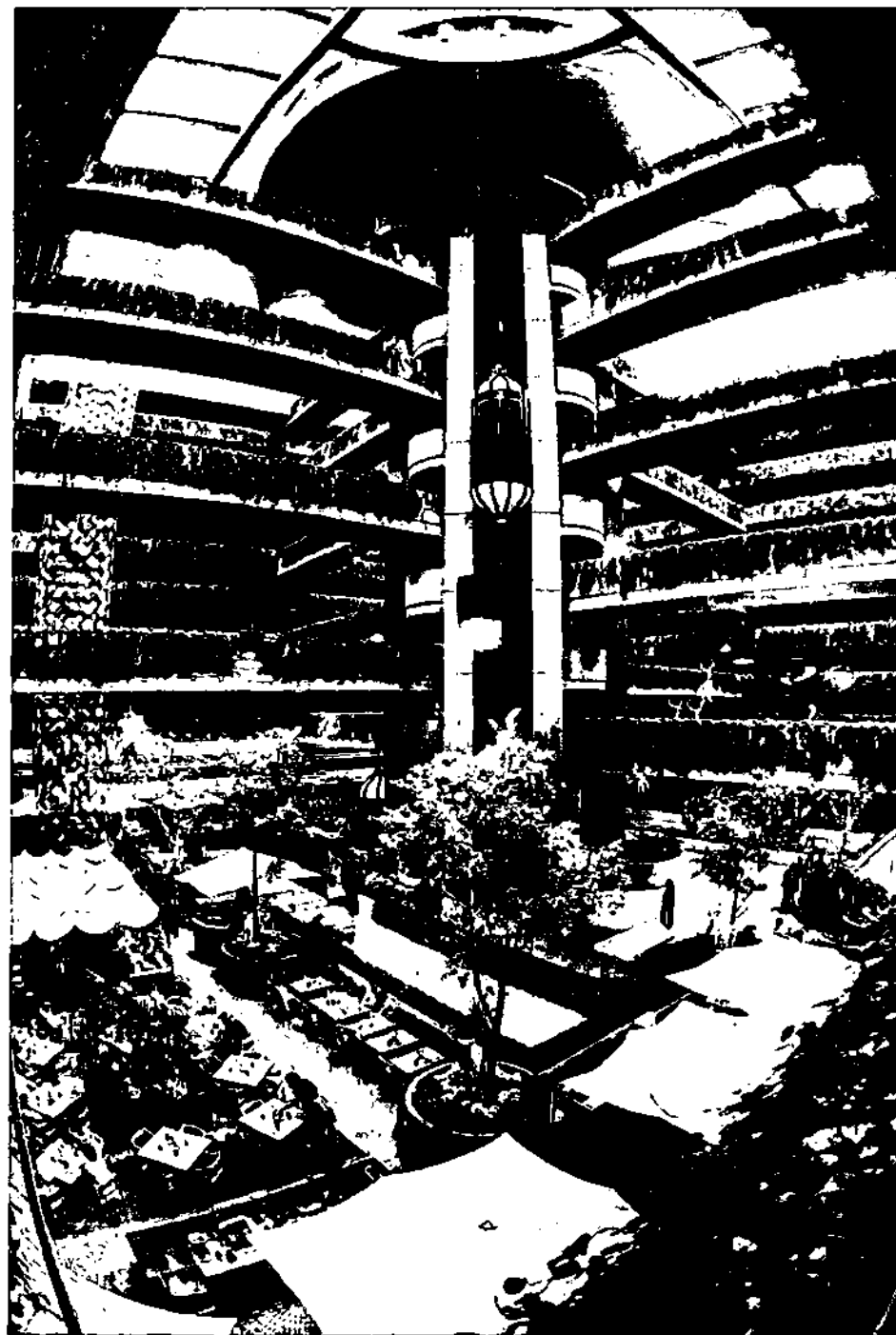
- 9:00 a.m. Welcome to Chicago..... Thomas P. Stults
 Illinois State Director, Downers Grove, IL
- 9:05 a.m. Greetings from the Mutual UFO Network..... Walter H. Andrus, Jr.
 International Director, Seguin, TX
- Introduction, Master of Ceremonies..... Forest Crawford
 Illinois Asst. State Director, Collinsville, IL
- 9:10 a.m. "Crop Circles: Brief History and Overview"..... Dennis Stacy
 Editor, MUFON UFO Journal, San Antonio, TX
- 10:00 a.m. "The 12th Planet - Key to the UFO Enigma"..... Zechariah Sitchin
 Author, New York, NY
- 11:00 a.m. "Modern Biology, Close Encounters, and the ETH"
 Michael D. Swords, Ph.D.
 MUFON Consultant and CUFOS Board Member, Kalamazoo, MI
- 12:00 noon **LUNCH** - (Place of your choice)

— AFTERNOON SESSION —

- 1:30 p.m. "Further Evidence Linking Animal Mutilations and
 Human Abductions to Alien Life Forms"..... Linda Moulton Howe
 Film Producer and Author, Huntingdon Valley, PA
- 2:30 p.m. "Tissue Changes in Unexplained Animal Mutilations"
 John A. Alshuler, M.D., Hematologist, Englewood, CO
- 3:30 p.m. **COFFEE OR COKE BREAK**
- 4:00 p.m. "Has Science Something to do with UFOs?"..... Prof. Jean-Pierre Petit
 CNRS Senior Researcher, Pertuis, France
- 5:00 p.m. **DINNER** - (Place of your choice)
- EVENING SESSION —
- 7:30 p.m. "The Reality of the Abduction Phenomenon"
 John S. Carpenter, M.S.W.
 Clinical Hypnotherapist, Springfield, MO
- 8:00 p.m. "Update on Crashed Saucers in New Mexico"
 Stanton T. Friedman, M.S.
 Nuclear Physicist and Researcher, Fredericton, NB, Canada
- 9:30 p.m. "English Crop Circles"
 Colin Andrews
 Author and Researcher, Andover, Hampshire, England

SUNDAY, JULY 7 — MORNING SESSION —

- 9:00 a.m. "Theses for a Pre-Paradigm Science: Cereology"
 Michael M. Chorost, M.A., Researcher, Durham, NC
- 10:00 a.m. "Government UFO Connections"..... C. B. Scott Jones, Ph.D.
 Researcher, Falls Church, VA
- 11:00 a.m. "What Can We Believe in Abduction Accounts?"
 David M. Jacobs, Ph.D., Author and
 Abduction Researcher, Wyndmoor, PA
- 12:00 noon **LUNCH** (Place of your choice)
- AFTERNOON SESSION —
- 1:30 p.m. "Insights Into the Ancient Astronauts Theory"
 Gene M. Phillips, J.D., President of
 Ancient Astronauts Society, Highland Park, IL
- 2:30 p.m. "Gulf Breeze Without Ed"..... Bruce S. Maccabee, Ph.D.
 Chairman, Fund for UFO Research, Sabillasville, MD
- 3:30 p.m. **COFFEE OR COKE BREAK**
- 4:00 p.m. Question and Answer Panel, Composed of all Speakers
 Forest Crawford, Moderator
- 5:30 p.m. Invitation to MUFON 1992 International UFO Symposium in Albuquerque, NM
 Hosted by New Mexico MUFON.
- 5:35 p.m. Adjournment..... Mrs. Judy Stults
 Chairperson, MUFON 1991 Symposium



Hyatt Regency O'Hare Lobby: Chicago Symposium Site

MESSAGE, Continued

New Officers

Shirley A. Coyne, Michigan State Director, appointed **Elmer V. Bean, III** (Marcellus, MI) to be State Section Director for Van Buren, Allegan and Cass Counties. **John E. Combest** (Spring, TX) is the new State Section Director for Harris County (Houston, TX area). Two new consultants volunteered their expertise this month: **Tom Joldersma**, Ph.D. (Vashon, WA) in Physics, and **Carol A. Ferguson**, Ed.D. (Springfield, MO) in Education. **Joseph V. Zonfrelli**, M.S. (Boulder, CO) became a new Research Specialist in Electronic Engineering.

State and Provincial Director's Meeting

On Friday, July 5, 1991, the annual State/Provincial Director's Meeting will be conducted starting at 10 a.m. and continue until 4 or 5 p.m. All Assistant State Directors are invited to attend. If a State or Provincial Director is unable to attend, he/she may designate a person to represent him/her, preferably a State Section Director.

The four Regional Directors will preside at the meeting with **George Coyne** as the moderator.

No Video or Audio Taping Permitted

No video or audio tape recording will be permitted within the confines of the lecture auditorium during the speeches on July 6 and 7. Tapes will be available for purchase after the Symposium from Illinois MUFON, the host organization. Still cameras without flash are acceptable.

MUFONET-BBS Network
Electronic Bulletin Board
8-N-1 300-14,400 Baud
901-785-4943

The Night Sky

Walter N. Webb

July 1991

Bright Planets: (Evening Sky)

The unusual planet parade continues in the early evening western sky. Mercury joins the original trio low in the WNW, while Saturn rises in the opposite sky (ESE).

- July 9 & 10 Venus, Mars & the star Regulus form a compact group in a field 3° across. Venus less than 1° below Regulus.
- July 13 Lunar crescent between and below Venus, Mars, Jupiter and Mercury.
- July 14 Crescent Moon below Venus while Mars and Regulus only 2/3° apart and Jupiter/Mercury only 1/3° to 1/10° apart (depending upon your location in the U.S.).
- Mid-July At dusk view all five naked-eye planets at the same time (plus the other three planets telescopically). Four are in the west. From right to left, they are Jupiter, Mercury, Mars and Venus. Saturn rises in the ESE about 8:45.
- July 16 Venus (magnitude -4.5) at maximum brilliancy. Shows a crescent phase in a telescope.
- July 21 Venus 4° below Mars.
- July 25 Mercury 1.7° below Regulus.
- July 26 Saturn (0.1), in Capricornus, is opposite the Sun, rising at sunset and remaining visible all night. The ringed planet also is near the full moon.

Bright Planets: (Morning Sky)

Saturn is low in the SW at dawn.

Total Solar Eclipse:

On July 11 the nearest new moon of the year and its alignment with the Sun create North America's longest total eclipse of the Sun (nearly seven minutes) this century and the longest one worldwide until the year 2132. As the Moon crosses the face of the Sun, the tip of our satellite's shadow cone sweeps across Hawaii (the Big Island), southern Baja California, mainland Mexico, Central America, Colombia and Brazil. Persons within this narrow zone (up to 160 miles wide) will experience varying durations of totality, reaching maximum in Baja and western mainland Mexico. At Kailua Kona, Hawaii, partial phases begin at 6:31 AM. The eclipse is total from 7:28 to 7:32. Partial eclipse ends at 8:37.

Meanwhile, all of the U.S. except Alaska and the northern half of New England will see a partial eclipse, weather permitting. The closer one is to the path of totality, the more the Sun is obscured. Percentages and local times of maximum eclipse follow for some sample cities: Atlanta, 28% at 3:32 PM; Chicago, 13% at 2:16; Denver, 37% at 12:51; Honolulu, 96% at 7:30 AM; Houston, 60% at 2:18; Miami, 44% at 3:50; New York, 2% at 3:35; San Diego, 74% at 11:30; Seattle, 20% at 11:23; Tucson, 72% at 12:44; Washington, 7% at 3:34.

Warning! While it is perfectly safe to view the totally eclipsed Sun with the naked eye, do not look at any part of the partially covered Sun! Permanent eye damage can result from even short exposures to our star's visible, infrared or ultraviolet rays. Instead, project the Sun's image through a telescope or binocular eyepiece, or through a 1/16-inch hole in a card, onto a white sur-

NIGHT SKY, Continued

face. Although there are a number of safe direct-viewing filters, I always hesitate to recommend them to large audiences or readerships due to the possibility of improper handling, especially by children.

Meteor Shower:

Although the July Aquarid meteors achieve maximum on the morning of the 29th, a bright gibbous Moon will interfere and reduce the normal count (about 20 per hour). Some members of this shower can be seen from mid-July to mid-August, emanating from low in the southern sky.

Moon Phases:

Last quarter — July 4

New moon — July 11

First quarter — July 18

Full moon — July 26



Nearest Moon of 1991

The Stars:

At the end of evening twilight the summer patterns hover around the meridian in the south — Summer Triangle, Hercules, Ophiuchus, Sagittarius and Scorpius. In the north Draco curves between the Big and Little Dipper. In the west the stars of spring approach the horizon, while in the east the autumn constellations already have begun to appear.

MUFON 1991 INTERNATIONAL UFO SYMPOSIUM PROCEEDINGS

"UFOs: The Big Picture" proceedings will be available by mail after July 15, 1991 for \$20 plus \$1.50 for postage and handling.

Please send check, money order or cash to:
MUFON, 103 Oldtowne Rd., Seguin, TX 78155-4099.
 (Foreign orders must be International Postal Money Order, cash or a check made payable to a U.S. Bank with electronic routing code on the bottom of the check.)

MESSAGE, Continued

theme for the MUFON 1991 International UFO Symposium to be held July 5, 6 and 7 at the Hyatt Regency O'Hare Hotel at O'Hare International Airport near Chicago. A complete agenda of events and the speaking program is published in this issue of the *Journal*. A flyer advertising the symposium and an advance registration form were enclosed in the April 1991 edition of the *Journal* for the convenience of people planning to attend.

Special rates at the Hyatt Regency O'Hare Hotel have been contracted at \$68 per night for single or double occupancy, triple occupancy \$78 or four

people at \$88. Hotel reservations may be made by calling (708) 696-1234 or toll free (800) 228-9000 and advising the desk that you are attending the MUFON 1991 UFO Symposium. The Auditorium will seat 1500 people so we will have adequate room for everyone planning to attend. Six hundred rooms have been reserved at the Hyatt Regency O'Hare.

Reservations for the symposium are now being taken. The special advanced price for all five sessions is \$45 before June 1, 1991 or \$50 thereafter and at the door. Individual sessions are \$10 each. College students may secure ad-

mission to all five sessions for \$40 if they present their I.D. cards. A reception with hor d'oeuvres will be held Friday evening, July 5th at 6 p.m. for \$5 with a cash bar. Reservations for the reception will be honored till July 5, 1991. Your tickets and reservation packet will be held at the symposium registration desk for your arrival. Advance reservations may be made by writing to: **Paul Fisher, 3952 North Sheridan Road, Chicago, IL 60613** and enclosing a check made payable to "MUFON 1991 UFO Symposium."

A contract has been signed with American Airlines to be the official carrier for the symposium which also includes American Eagle flights to Chicago from the contiguous 48 states, Hawaii, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. To obtain American's *Meeting Saver Fare Discounts* call toll free 1-800-433-1790 to the Meeting Services Desk and give the Star File #S-0171K6 for the 1991 MUFON International Symposium. Your International Director is looking forward to meeting many of our new members in person for the first time and renewing old friendships with everyone else in Chicago.

National UFO Information Week

The Seventh National UFO Information Week has been scheduled for August 10-18, 1991. This will be an ideal opportunity for State and State Section groups to set up photo exhibits, displays, booths for receiving UFO sighting reports from the public and closed circuit TV showing of UFO documentaries, etc., in shopping malls and libraries. Advance planning is required in order to reserve space in these facilities and to construct the exhibits and displays. MUFON endorses this program as a Public Education project in order to take advantage of the resurging interest in UFOs by the public, printed media, radio and television. **Stan Gordon**, State Director for Pennsylvania, is again planning for a large exhibit at a shopping mall in Greensburg, PA, as he has done in past years.

Continued on page 22

Director's Message

Walt Andrus

Re-Opening the Ed Walters Case

A few days prior to the MUFON 1990 International UFO Symposium in Pensacola, Florida, two spectacular announcements occurred that impacted seriously upon the credibility of the Ed Walters case in Gulf Breeze. First, a paper plate UFO model was found in the attic above the garage in the Walters' former home by the present owner. And second, a young man named **Tommy Smith** telephoned the Gulf Breeze Mayor, **Ed Gray**, and the Police Chief, **Jerry Brown**, telling them in a recorded call that he was a participant in hoaxing UFO photos with Ed Walters and others. Tommy claimed that Ed had told him how each of the photographs was produced at the time when they were being made. **Mark Curtis** of WEAR-TV in Pensacola and **Craig Meyers**, a reporter for the *Pensacola News-Journal* newspaper, were present during the telephone call to the mayor.

This disturbing news prompted the Mutual UFO Network to officially reopen the Ed Walters case in order to investigate the validity of Tommy Smith's claims and to determine if the model was the object photographed by Ed. **Rex** and **Carol Salisbury** had been selected by **Dan Wright** to receive the 1989-90 award for the most outstanding UFO investigation or investigations. Recognizing the honor bestowed upon them and the fact that Rex was not part of the initial investigation team, **Charles D. Flannigan**, the lead investigator and Florida State Director, recommended to Walt Andrus that Rex Salisbury spearhead the reopening of the case. Your International Director concurred with Mr. Flannigan. At a private meeting on July 5, 1990, Mr. Salisbury accepted this responsibility with one stipulation. He would accept the assignment only if Walt Andrus would be willing to accept the disclosure based upon Rex's in-

vestigation that the Ed Walters case could be a hoax. Walt Andrus replied in the affirmative, because he had issued a press statement that MUFON had reopened the case based upon the incredible claims being made.

It was the consensus and agreement by these three gentlemen that the reopened investigation was to be confidential until a final report was prepared and released. As of this writing, Rex Salisbury has promised to complete his investigation and submit a final report to MUFON. Several months ago he provided a "question and answer" format of his findings to both the *Pensacola News-Journal* and the *Gulf Breeze Sentinel* for publication without advising Charles Flannigan or Walt Andrus beforehand. This act was in direct contradiction to the conditions under which he accepted the assignment.

Mr. Salisbury has now written "A Letter to the Editor" elaborating upon his personal viewpoints of the case reopening. I must make it clear that Rex still has not submitted his final report to MUFON with the documented evidence substantiating the assertions made in his letter. His letter is being published, as he requested, in this issue of the *MUFON UFO Journal* for the perusal of our readers. We hope that he will produce and submit a final report in the near future.

In the event that Mr. Salisbury fails to submit a final report, a second investigation team under the leadership of **Gary Watson**, the Chief Investigator for Pensacola MUFON, was authorized and assigned the same task and will submit the results of their reopening of the Ed Walters case. Each of these reports may be very revealing and even contradictory. Stay tuned to what has developed into a very controversial subject in Ufology, both pro and con. Like any other UFO sighting, the authenticity of the Ed and Frances Walters' experience

must rest upon the documented facts, not hearsay and rumors by "armchair Ufologists."

1990-91 Award

The annual MUFON award plaque for the most outstanding contribution to Ufology for 1990-91 will be presented at the MUFON 1991 International UFO Symposium in Chicago, Illinois, on July 6, 1991. The actual contribution or work is not restricted to the calendar year of 1990-91, but may include significant accomplishments during the past five years. In addition to presenting to plaque to the recipient, the Fund for UFO Research will provide a \$500 cash award in memory of **Isabel Davis** as in previous years. A special runner-up cash award of \$500 will be presented by the Mutual UFO Network in memory of Dr. **Dan C. Overlade**.

Four candidates have been nominated for this prestigious award. In alphabetical order, they are **Charles D. Flannigan**, Florida State Director; **Robert J. Gribble**, Western Regional Director; **Howard J. Hoffman**, Fund for UFO Research and **Dan Wright**, Deputy Director, Investigations. A ballot was enclosed with the May 1991 issue of the *Journal* so all members and subscribers may vote for their choice from the candidates nominated. This is your opportunity to not only recognize the fine work of these gentlemen, but to express your personal thanks to the person you feel has contributed significantly to the progress of Ufology. All ballots must be received in Seguin, Texas by June 26, 1991, so adequate time is available to engrave the plaque.

1991 MUFON Symposium

"UFOs: The Big Picture" is the

Continued on page 23