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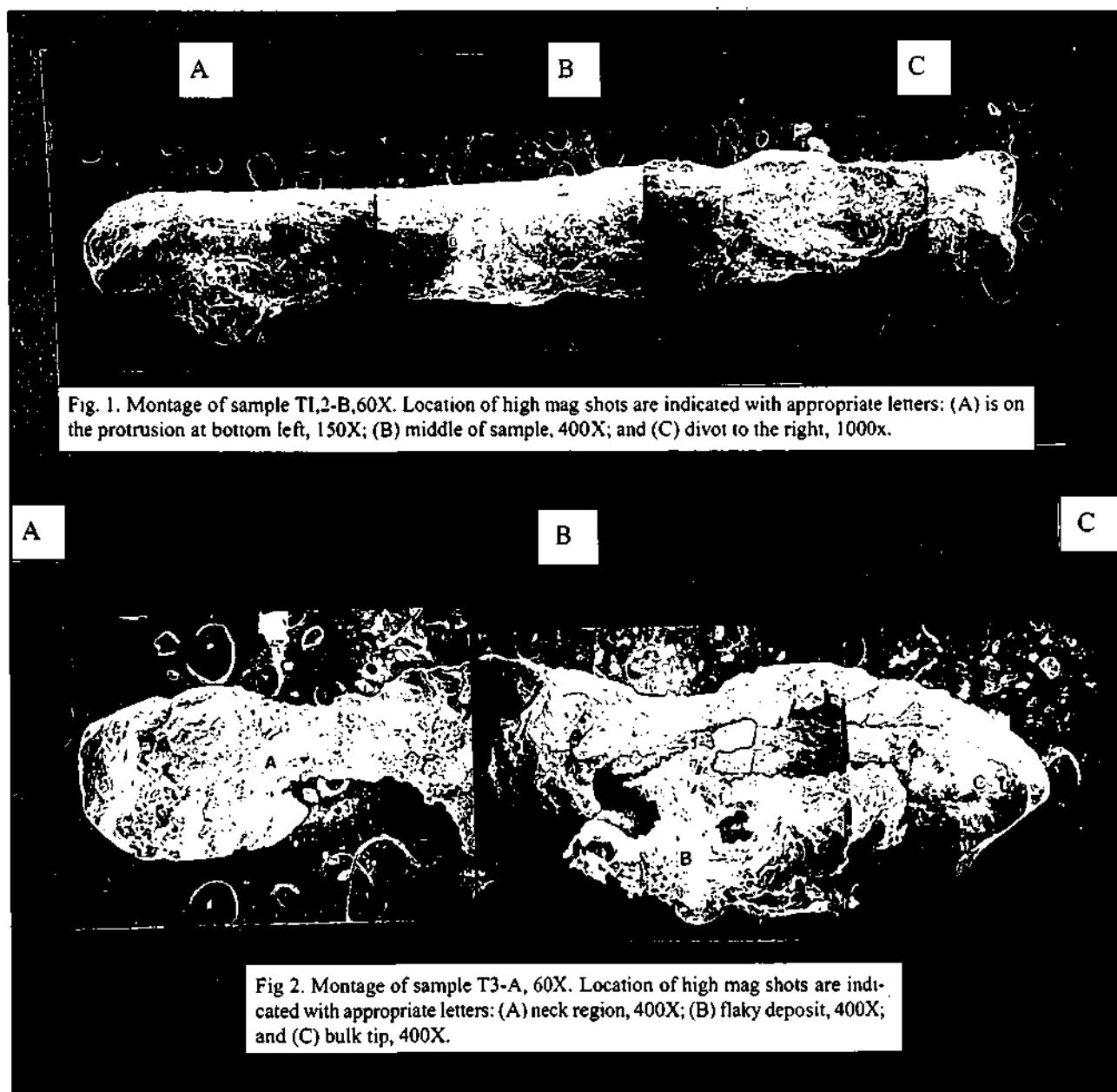
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Alien implants

A 1998 update

By Dr. Roger K. Leir

On August 19, 1995, a historic surgery took place in Camarillo, California. A surgical team was assembled that performed the first in a series of surgeries for removal of alleged alien implants. To date, seven such surgeries have been performed.

These surgeries sought to answer several questions: Do such implants actually exist? If they do, can they successfully be removed without destroying them or causing harm to the patient? In addition, if this can be accomplished, what would be found and what function do the implants have?

These are only a few of the questions raised. Many rumors pertaining to implants float through the field of ufology like a storm floating through the sky. I researched the literature only to find a sparse amount of material that would help my cause. Some attempts to remove objects had been made previously, and the net result was dismal failure.

One successful attempt resulted in an object that was examined by an eminent scientist, Dr. David Pritchard, at a well known university in the eastern United States. After careful examination he declared the object to be made of earthly material and therefore delegated it to the land of ordinary objects.

Dismal failure?

There were other stories describing the removal of objects that were stated to have disappeared, turned to powder, or just magically vaporized. Were our efforts to result in the same dismal failure as the others? Only time and effort would produce an answer to these questions.

My association with my partner, Derrel Sims led to the formation of a new organization: The Fund For Interactive Research in Space Technology, (F.I.R.S.T.). This group would set up the rules pertaining to how these surgeries were to be performed and establish criteria and protocols that would ultimately gain the respect of scientific organizations such as the National Institute for Discovery Science (N.I.D.S.). We knew that it would not be enough to just successfully remove suspected alien implants, but it would also be necessary to have them analyzed by qualified institutions who would report their findings on a letterhead that contained the researcher's name and signature.

The first surgeries consisted of two candidates,

one female and one male. They were both subjects of the alien abduction phenomenon with objects in their bodies that appeared on x-ray examination. These first surgeries resulted in the extraction of three objects, two from the toe of the female patient and one from the hand of the male.

On X-rays the three objects appeared to be metallic. When they were removed from the body, all the objects were covered with a dark gray shiny membrane. Attempts to open this cocoon were surprisingly fraught with failure. They resisted the cutting of a sharp, new, surgical blade. This was not what I expected to find, nor did my colleague, the general surgeon who performed the procedure on the patient's hand.

Unable to cut object

The shock of not being able to cut through an ordinary piece of biological tissue was only one of the many surprises that became apparent with the first surgeries. Others included the violent reaction of the patient to having the objects touched, especially with the use of both a hypnoanesthesia along with a compound local. In addition, the patients reported to our psychologist that both individuals suffered pain one week prior to the surgical event, and when they were interviewed post-surgically, they independently reported "a new found feeling of freedom." Both Derrel and I queried the psychologist. We asked her opinion about this remark, inquiring whether this was actually the release of surgical apprehension. Her answer was a definitive NO.

These first surgeries also provided us with pathological reports that initially appeared very strange. Specifically, a large amount of nerve proprioceptors were found in the surrounding tissues. No medical or anatomical literature was located that would support the normalcy of this finding. The total apparent lack of an inflammatory response also raised the eyebrows of numerous pathologists who were consulted. These findings have been the subject of numerous professional and amateur debates.

Personal attacks

I personally was attacked on the internet numerous times by armchair scientists who have nothing better to do. The remarks usually boil down to: "It could be this or it could be that, but is definitely not what is reported." My answer to these individuals is always the same: "Please show me in the medical or pathological literature where there are similar findings!"

The metallurgical findings in the first two cases have also produced results that have required continuing research. The findings of Los Alamos National Labs and New Mexico Tech offered the following: one object contained a core made of the hardest iron carbide known that was magnetic. The core was covered with



Dr. Roger K. Leir



The T-shaped object removed from the toe. It has been placed on a gauze.

a complex cladding of eleven different elements. In addition, the complementary component contained a carbon core that was soft and magnetoconductive.

Review of the electron-microphotographs shows several distinct and interesting features of this T complex. The extreme left end of the horizontal portion appears to have the shape of a barb, something like a fish-hook. The opposite end is rounded like a bullet. The very bottom central surface shows an indentation that offers the exact shape so that the vertical portion will fit into this cavity in a most precise manner. In addition some of the more magnified sections demonstrate remaining white portions of the membrane as it is seen attached to the metal. Also, one of the more interesting features is an ultramagnified portion of the vertical rod which demonstrates a **band of crystals** that completely circles a portion of the object.

Independent scientific review has convinced some of our scientific consultants that this object has been manufactured, with purpose and precision. If we look at the simplest portions of this structure, we can make a comparison to one of mankind's most simple

antique structures. I remember in my childhood of taking a copper coil, a battery, earphones, a small crystal and some wire and being able to receive a radio program. Yes, the simplest of constructed devices was the crystal set. Is it possible that there are structures that could perform numerous complex functions using such technology as the superatom and neutrinos? This is exactly what one of our consulting engineers, Bob Beckwith, has theorized.

On May 18, 1996, the surgical team again became active. This time there were three surgical candidates, two female and one male. The male had what appeared to be a metallic foreign body in his left lower jaw that was demonstrable in an X-ray. The two females demonstrated a small radio-opaque object in each leg. They also had small skin defects which had become apparent the morning following an alleged abduction. It was decided to not only remove the deeper visible objects, but also to excise the entire portion of the skin defects.

One of the procedures was performed only with hypnoanesthesia because the patient was massively allergic to all forms of local anesthesia. Derrel worked

with the patient several days prior to the actual surgery to prepare her for the anesthesia. When the day of the surgery finally came about, our general surgeon was amazed that he could perform the procedure without additional help from chemical agents.

These surgeries resulted in the recovery of one small metallic triangular object covered with a dark grey shiny membrane, and two small greyish-white balls, about the size of a BB. The two small balls were identical to an object that was removed by one of our dermatological consultants who worked with me on a previous case. There was also a skin lesion present in this case which was tentatively diagnosed as Calcifying Epithelioma.

The dermatologist believed the little greyish-white ball to be an ordinary calcium deposit. He was amazed to find that the material analysis showed a multitude of combined elements never before seen attached to a skin pedicle. In addition, the clinical history for this type of skin lesion was completely backward to that of the textbook clinical history.

THE BIOLOGICAL FINDINGS

Of the seven procedures performed, three were metallic objects covered with a dense, gray, non-fibrous membrane that could not be opened with a surgical blade. Analysis of the membrane demonstrated it was composed of a protein coagulum, Hemosiderin granules, and keratin. These are all natural substances found in the body. Research of the literature demonstrated this combination of natural body substances has never been seen before.

The surrounding soft tissue was microscopically devoid of any type of inflammatory or rejection process, either fresh or resolved. The tissues contained nerve proprioceptors, which are never found in the anatomical location that the specimens were surgically excised from, which was in the deep tissues next to the bone.

Three of the procedures resulted in the recovery of three BB sized, small greyish-white balls. These balls were firmly attached to the underside of a soft tissue lesion involving the skin. The pathological analysis of the soft tissue specimens demonstrated either no inflammatory response or some infiltrate of cells, which were small in number and usually seen with this skin abnormality. The one outstanding and unusual factor was that in two of the three cases the pathologists reported solar Elastosis, meaning that the dermal layer of the skin had been severely exposed to ultraviolet radiation.

I found this rather shocking, as neither surgical candidate admitted to a history of overexposure to sunlight. Both were typical family type individuals who

did not spend time gardening or lying on the beach. Another question I had to consider was that if the entire extremity was exposed to excessive ultraviolet, then why was only one small 4 to 5 mm portion of the skin involved. The microscopic analysis showed the areas to be well demarcated, proving that the radiation did not exceed the boundaries of the skin lesion itself. In both cases the lesion mimicked the traditional scoop mark type defect found on alleged abductees.

The specimens fluoresce

The aforementioned six surgical specimens had another commonality: they all fluoresced under ultraviolet black light. We do not fully understand the meaning of this at the present time, but some of our researchers are working on the cause of the fluorescence and how it is related to this phenomenon in general.

The seventh surgical case resulted in the excision of a glass or crystal-like object. Early light and diffraction microscopy has shown that the surface of the object is crazed and marked in a fashion that would indicate it is neither glass nor crystal. There was no soft tissue removed with this surgery; therefore there are no biological findings to report.

THE METALLURGICAL DATA

I must hasten to point out that, at this date, the process of evaluation is ongoing. We have found that scientific acceptance is based on large amounts of scientific raw data which may be interpreted differently depending on the background of the individual scientist.

The first metallurgical results came from the analysis performed by Los Alamos National Laboratories. These tests were done on the samples removed during the first two surgeries, as well as the little greyish-white ball removed from the neck and shoulder area of the third case. They have been designated the (T) group, e.g., T-1, T-2, etc. The first test performed is called Laser Induced Breakdown Spectroscopy (LIBS).

LIBS was used to determine the elemental composition of the samples. The samples were small rod-like materials 1-2 mm in diameter and less than one cm in length. Because of the small size of the sample surfaces when observed under a microscope, it was decided that LIBS was a suitable method to determine elemental composition because of its micro-sampling ability and relatively nondestructive analysis capabilities. Under microscopic examination, some of the samples appeared to be metallic, and all but one sample (T-4) were observed to have areas of visually different appearance.

The method of analysis is as follows: LIBS is an elemental analysis technique in which powerful la-



Metallic object below jaw.

ser pulses are focused on the sample to generate a hot micro-plasma (10,000 degrees K). Because the laser beam can be focused to a small area, this method has microsampling capabilities. The microplasma vaporizes a small amount of the sample (less than 50 nanograms), and excites the resulting atoms to emit light. The light is then collected, spectrally dispersed, and the resulting spectrum is recorded to determine the elemental composition. Because each element has a unique spectral signature, the elements can be identified by analysis of the spectrum. The intensity of the emission lines can be used to determine the concentrations of elements if the sample has uniform composition.

The following is the result of this elemental analysis:

(Al=aluminum, Ba=barium, Ca=calcium, Cu=copper, Fe=iron, Mg=magnesium, Mn=manganese, Na=sodium, Ni=nickel, Pb=lead, Si=silicon, Ti=tin, Zn=zinc)

T-1 Scaled Portion: Al, Ca, Fe, Ba, Cu, Mg, Mn, Na, Ni, Pb, and Zn.
Black Portion Ca, Cu, Fe, Al, Ba, Mn, Na, Ni

| | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------------|
| T-2 Black Portion | Ca, Cu, Fe Al, Ba, Mg, Mn, Na, Ni |
| Brown Portion | Ca, Fe, Ba, Cu, Mg, Mn, Na, Ni, Si |
| T-3 Black Portion | Ca, Cu, Fe, Ba, Mn, Na |
| White Portion | Al, Ca, Cu, Fe, Ba, Mg, Mn, Na, Si |
| Rust Portion | Ca, Cu, Fe, Ba, Mn, Na |
| T-4 Black Portion | Ca, Cu, Fe, Al, Ba, Mn, Na, Ni |
| T-6 Brown Portion | Al, Ca, Cu, Ti, Mg, Na, Si, Zn |
| White Portion | Al, Ca, Cu, Fe, Mg, Mn, Na, Si, Zn |
| Beads on White | Ca, Cu, Fe, Al |

Under microscopic examination, some of the samples appeared visually to have areas of different color. These areas were analyzed separately. Different elemental compositions were found for the different areas, as listed above. The area indicated as scaled was a larger diameter than the main rod. This area appeared glassy-like and scaled.

The report and summary included the follow-

ing recommendations:

"Additional tests not performed by us [Los Alamos National Laboratories] may indicate some unusual properties. These tests should include X-ray crystallographic and metallographic analysis to elucidate the sample structure (grain boundary structure, unusual metal phases, preferential grain growth)."

Recommendations requested

When these results were received we immediately contacted N.I.D.S. and asked their recommendations. It was decided that further testing should be performed. We were informed their board would make a decision as to who should perform the next set of tests. It took several weeks before we heard from N.I.D.S. again. They informed us that another world class laboratory had been chosen for the next batch of testing. This laboratory was New Mexico Tech. We received this information in a letter from N.I.D.S. which stated the following:

"One purpose for N.I.D.S.' involvement was to establish some appropriate standards for initial testing of materials samples. A number of experts were consulted to determine what non-destructive tests were appropriate at this stage of the investigation. The battery of tests for structural, chemical and electromagnetic analysis recommended and conducted include:

- Density immersion technique in toluene

- Mechanical properties analysis including hardness and elastic modulus

- X-ray energy-dispersive spectroscopy

- Scanning electron microscopy

- X-ray diffraction pattern analysis

- Electro/magnetic properties analysis

- All analysis was double blinded

We all waited with bated breath for the results from New Mexico Tech laboratory. In a telephone conversation with John Alexander, who was directing the research at N.I.D.S., I learned there was a problem pertaining to reporting the results of the extensive examination performed by New Mexico Tech. It seems the contract signed by them did not include the terminology which would allow them to render an opinion pertaining to the test results. John told me they were working on the problem and it would be resolved soon. At that point I really began to understand the politics involved in scientific testing.

Results released

Finally, in September of 1996, the results were released to me from N.I.D.S. They had resolved their problems with the laboratory and faxed me the letter of opinion containing the results. On the top, in large black letters, it said New Mexico Tech Letter of Opinion (Samples T1, 2 and T3). (See appendix)

The more I read, the more confused I became.

I wondered what had happened to the other samples which Los Alamos had done. It took a phone call to N.I.D.S. and a conversation with John Alexander to clarify the matter. New Mexico Tech had not used the same coding system which Los Alamos had used. Instead they had subdivided the samples into A and B portions. In addition the sample designated T-6 was not sent to the second laboratory at all.

The letter of opinion contained two major statements. First, they indicated that the T-3 sample contained 11 different elements. Sample T1-2, contained an iron core. The tests also indicated that iron and phosphorus were major constituents of the cladding material surrounding the iron core.

The second statement had to do with a comparison to meteorites. They thought this was the most likely material for these fragments to have come from. On the other hand there was a problem with the nickel-iron ratio. It seems that most meteorites contain between 6 and 10 percent nickel. They also stated that no meteorites contain less than five percent nickel and to resolve this discrepancy they deduced that these specimens could be just fragments of meteorites. I was astounded by this revelation and knew I had to do something to help clarify the issue. Both Derrel and I were certain that our patients did not step on a meteorite or hit one with the back of their hand.

A call to the lab

I called the lab and talked with the individual who wrote the report. I told him I was going to tell him something that he might find shocking. With that warning, I said that the samples were obtained from the human body through a surgical procedure.

As a result of that, the metallurgist rendered an additional opinion which would ultimately prove to have little merit. The final letter of opinion contained an additional general statement responding to the fact that I'd said these samples were obtained from the human body. It stated that an iron-silver mixture imbedded into the body could cause a calcification reaction. It also stated that medicine and dentistry have used ceramic materials for many years.

Unfortunately, the metallurgist's biological opinions did not hold water. In actual fact, no ceramic materials at all are used today because of the tremendous inflammatory reaction which occurs when they are instilled into the body. There were many biological findings which the author of the report did not know about our cases. One was the complete lack of any inflammatory reaction. Also he did not know that the specimens were covered by a strange, gray, dense biological membrane. Last of all, there was no evidence of a portal of entry.

In summary, the metallurgical analysis has il-

lustrated the following points:

The T-shaped object is composed of two small metallic rods. The horizontal portion contains an iron core which is harder than the finest carbide steel. This rod is magnetic. The iron core is covered by a complex layer of elements which forms a cladding. One portion of this cladding has a crystalline band which circles the rod. When viewing this rod, as seen in the electronmicrophotograph, it appears to be structured. One end is in the shape of a barb, while the opposite end is flat. In the center is a small depression. The shape of this depression conforms exactly to the shape of one end of the vertical rod. The vertical rod contains a similar cladding, but the core is composed of carbon instead of iron, and it is magnetoconductive, not magnetic.

Objects have a purpose

It would seem these are structured objects which serve a purpose. This purpose has not been determined yet. We hope that further study will provide answers regarding function. There have been numerous individuals who have expressed interest in studying or postulating the function of these objects. One such person who has been working with us is Robert Beckwith, an electrical engineer. He has put forth a theory of how these objects might work, and is working on a book which will include his findings about them.

We have been asked many times to speculate as to function. I feel it is safe to put forth theories, but these must be looked at scientifically and either proved or disproved. One such theory pertains to their ability to act as a tracking device or transponder. This would enable someone or something to find their subject anywhere on the globe. Another possibility is that they may act as behavior controlling devices. We know that abductees seem to have compulsive behaviors. I believe a more plausible purpose might be a device for monitoring certain pollution levels or even genetic changes in the body. This may be similar to the way we monitor our astronauts in space. Only more time, effort and study will answer these questions.

MUFON group at Pine Bush

Stephen Tzikas, MUFON research specialist (VA), has an article in the Spring 1998 (May 1) issue of *Alternate Perceptions* concerning an investigation into the Pine Bush, NY, sightings and other anomalies, headed by Virginia State Director Rick Altristain. Other team members were Bruce Cornet, George Filer, John Love, Steve Tzikas, Dennis Hawley, Bruce Tilden, James Durfee, James Bouck, Dick Sitts, and Robert Long. (This issue is available from White Buffalo Books, P.O. Box 9972, Memphis, TN 38190 for \$5.00)

Vatican theologian says UFOs are real

Reported by Richard Boylan

Monsignor Corrado Balducci, a Vatican theologian insider close to the Pope, has gone on national Italian television five times in recent months to proclaim that extraterrestrial contact is a real phenomenon.

The prelate announced that the Vatican is receiving much information about extraterrestrials and their contacts with humans from its Nuncios (embassies) in various countries, such as Mexico, Chile and Venezuela. Monsignor Balducci said that he is on a Vatican commission looking into extraterrestrial encounters, and how to cope with the emerging general realization of extraterrestrial contact.

Balducci provided the Catholic Church's analysis of extraterrestrials, emphasizing that extraterrestrial encounters "are NOT demonic, they are NOT due to psychological impairment, they are NOT a case of entity attachment, but these encounters deserve to be studied carefully."

Since Monsignor Balducci is a Vatican expert exorcist, and since the Catholic Church has historically demonized many new phenomena that were poorly understood, his proclaiming the Vatican's non-censure of these encounters is all the more remarkable.

Balducci revealed to a visiting American clinical professional from the Academy of Clinical Close Encounter Therapists, that the Vatican is closely following this phenomenon. Parallel information from MJ-12 scientist Dr. Michael Wolf suggests that the Vatican is concerned that it will have a major doctrinal updating situation on its hands when extraterrestrial contact becomes authoritatively announced by world governments over the next several years.

UFO summary from Finland

By Ilkka Serra

MUFON Representative for Finland

The UFO Research of Finland gathered 150 sighting stories that ranged from the 1940's to the end of 1997. Only 8 % remained unexplained. Two thirds of the cases referred to the 1990's.

A total of 62 cases took place in 1997 and 4 cases (6%) remained unexplained. The unexplained cases were daylight discs. So it was an average year, with no UFO waves.

The media interest was also average. Five new UFO books were published in Finnish. There were 372 newspaper stories and 163 magazine stories that year, and there were 83 radio or TV programs referring to UFOs.

A comparison of abduction reports

By Thomas E. Bullard

The holy grail of UFO research is objective evidence. A chance to rap the hull and hear it ring, to see the President shaking hands with an alien before news cameras and not just on a tabloid cover, to lay bodies and exotic wreckage before scientists, or at least to confound skeptics with photographs and radar returns too reliable to question—these are sweet fixtures of the ufologist's daydreams.

All too often the promise proves a mirage, and the evidence evaporates when investigators draw too near, but the direction is the right one to follow. Abduction reports teeter on a precarious brink between the objective and the fantastic. Of course they are surreal, incredible, we might as well say impossible; yet many honest people claim the experience, and sometimes multiple witnesses affirm it.

These reports have tantalized us with a lively gossip of objective intimations—implants, body marks, missing fetuses, ground traces, instances of people absent during an abduction or returned to find themselves locked out of the house. We've heard these claims and waited for the documentation, the proof in hand—and still we wait. The direct evidence remains suspect. It has proved only its own bashfulness, hiding from close inspection and never more substantial than a rumor.

The case for consistencies

Behind the front lines, researchers have built a less persuasive but more accessible case around consistencies in the reports themselves. The similarities of abduction stories stood out plain to see as soon as ufologists had two cases to compare. Successive comparisons have reaffirmed this first impression. From two cases to hundreds, and onward to thousands, the same content and sequence of events recur from one report to another throughout a burgeoning database. The sense that these similarities tell an important truth about the phenomenon has grown into an article of faith.

If direct or physical evidence proves scarce, elusive, or ambiguous, this indirect evidence looms large as a sure clue that something strange is going on. Liars typically fail to keep their lying straight, fantasizers trim their stories to suit personal needs, even borrowers from media accounts take creative liberties in the retelling. By contrast, abductees are an odd lot. Rather than the heroes of their own adventures, they are the victims, subject to an impersonal series of events whether they like it or not—and usually they don't.

They report these events with the fugitive uncertainty of pawns in a game too vast to observe in its wholeness and too obscure to understand with their limited ration of facts. Some very intriguing X factor holds these stories together. Little wonder then that ufologists ask how so many people can tell a similar story unless they share a similar experience?

Followers of the ongoing dispute between Dan Wright and Stuart Appelle in the *MUFON UFO Journal* [1,2,3,4] have learned that the road from consistency to conclusion has more wrong turns and dead ends than straightaways. Similarities in stories cannot prove aliens. The pitfalls of probability, a lack of controls, uncertainties in the data, and a multiplicity of possible causes gang up to undermine the appearance of consistency and any implication of objective events. Having been impressed with the similarities and an advocate of their importance, I have another two cents to add to the controversy, based on two studies of my own.

The first study

The first study, completed in 1987, compares sequence of events and content from abduction reports available in the literature up to 1985 [5]. Of nearly 300 cases, the most valuable are 103 that offer both extensive information and reliable investigation. A second study from 1995 draws on a survey of 13 abduction investigators, who answered an extensive list of questions about the content of their personal collections of reports and based their responses on an overall sample of some 1700 cases [6].

Whether comparing reports within the 1987 study or responses from the 1995 survey, the same general conclusions apply—abduction reports bear extensive similarities to one another no matter who investigates, how abductees recall the encounter, in what year or what country the story originates.

Enough differences creep in to suggest that nationality, media, or cultural concerns shape the story to some extent, but most of these apparent influences seem to nibble around the edges and leave the core story untouched. Any explanation for abductions must still reckon with an impressive lineup of likenesses.

With two studies on hand, a new dimension in comparison becomes possible—how do the findings from reports in the literature stack up against the responses from 13 seasoned investigators? The table accompanying this article shows 67 content features from abduction stories and the percentage of reports containing those features.

The challenge

Comparison by percentages is meaningless unless it deals with similar features in a similar way, and therein lies a challenge. The survey respondents

| Feature | 1987 | 1995 | Wr. |
|---|-------|------|------|
| Circumstances | | | |
| Abduction lasts 1-2 hours | 36% | 43% | |
| First abduction experience occurs after age 35 | 19 | 14 | |
| Abductee taken from bedroom | 23 | 57 | 90+* |
| Capture | | | |
| Restlessness, anxiety, premonition that something strange will happen | 32 | 32 | 36 |
| UFO appears | 60 | 45 | 62 |
| Beam of light appears (in window, from UFO, or draws abductee upward) | 36/40 | 32 | 48 |
| Drone, buzz, hum or musical sound | 29 | 32 | 30 |
| Vacuum effect, stillness, silence, absence of traffic | 21 | 24 | 15 |
| Behaviors inappropriate to the situation, involuntary acts | 23 | 23 | 25 |
| Paralysis, heaviness, creeping lethargy | 50 | 55 | 47 |
| Missing time, loss of memory | 88 | 44 | 90+* |
| Full consciousness of abduction maintained | 8 | 7 | <10* |
| Floating or sensation like floating | 37/51 | 37 | 61 |
| Sudden entry into craft or momentary memory loss while entering the craft | 48 | 48 | |
| Examination | 70 | 68 | 79 |
| Beings touch abductee's body or use handheld instruments | 40 | 42 | 64 |
| Beings probe abductee's body with instruments | 33 | 30 | 67 |
| Beings take blood samples or remove samples of other bodily materials | 28 | 31 | 28 |
| Beings perform a reproductive examination, remove genital materials | 24 | 24 | 44 |
| Object implanted into (or removed from) abductee, close attention to head | 17/42 | 45 | 37 |
| Conference | 46 | 38 | 32 |
| Beings show abductee images of cataclysm | 17 | 19 | 15 |
| Assignment of task or mission | 28 | 26 | 23 |
| Warning against some human activity (e.g., environmental destruction) | 23 | 29 | 10 |
| Prophecy of future events or coming catastrophe | 19 | 19 | 23 |
| Tour of Ship | 13 | 28 | 13 |
| Journey or otherworld journey | 27 | 24 | 19 |
| Theophany (spiritual experience or participation in ritual) | 9 | 9 | |
| Return | | | |
| Beings say farewell or impart final message | 23 | 20 | 30 |
| Beings promise to return or find the abductee again | 18/27 | 28 | 25 |
| Abductee sad or reluctant to leave, feels sense of rapture | 17/25 | 28 | 23 |
| Aftermath | | | |
| Eyes irritated, watering, burning | 18 | 18 | 3 |
| Dehydration, unusual thirst | 11 | 20 | 3 |
| Dizziness, headache, problems with motility, balance, coordination | 15 | 17 | 13 |
| Cuts, scars, punctures | 10 | 37 | 40 |
| Vague anxieties, fear of specific situations (e.g. doctor's office) | 15 | 31 | 30 |
| Nightmares, sleep disturbance | 34 | 36 | 32 |
| Encounters with Men in Black | 15 | 14 | 2 |
| ESP develops, psychic or paranormal experiences increase | 18/42 | 39 | 27 |
| Changes in interests, habits, personality, lifestyle | 19 | 28 | |
| Additional abductions, UFO sightings, entity encounters | 55 | 62 | 90+* |

| Feature | 1987 | 1995 | Wr. |
|--|-------|------|-------|
| The Craft | | | |
| UFO is disk, domed or saturn-shaped | 57/77 | 59% | 56% |
| Interior contains examination room | 84 | 86 | 85 |
| Examination room is round, domed, smooth | 84 | 75 | 42/83 |
| Examination room is square, wedge, or pie shaped | 16 | 14 | 6 |
| Lighting is diffuse, indirect, fluorescent | 74 | 67 | 70 |
| Atmosphere is chilly, damp, misty | 64 | 62 | 31 |
| Examination room contains bed, table or recliner | 81 | 82 | 73 |
| Types of Beings | | | |
| Beings are humanoid in form | 76 | 76 | 87 |
| Beings are short gray ("standard") humanoids | 66 | 66 | 61 |
| Beings are short to average height | 77 | 74 | 74 |
| One or more beings taller than average height | 23 | 20 | 26 |
| Nordic beings (tall, blond, graceful, attractive humans) | 14/11 | 10 | 18/14 |
| Hybrids, festuses in a nursery or incubatorium | | 16 | 18 |
| Ordinary humans in the crew | 12 | 16 | 15 |
| Monsters, oddities, robots, apes | 7 | 7 | 19 |
| Descriptions of Beings | | | |
| Humanoid's head is large, pear-shaped with tapered or pointed chin | 69 | 74 | |
| Eyes are large | 83 | 81 | 74 |
| Nose is vestigial (holes, slight protrusion only) | 82/91 | 81 | 35/85 |
| Ears are vestigial (none or holes, small structures at most) | 91 | 84 | 27/97 |
| Mouth is a slit (small, lipless) | 95 | 92 | 61/84 |
| Behaviors of Beings | | | |
| Communicate with abductee by telepathy | 83 | 84 | 76 |
| Control abductee with instructions to forget, coercive reassurances | 45 | 48 | 45 |
| One being is familiar to abductee and more caring than the rest | 43 | 43 | 45 |
| Beings act in a cold and businesslike way toward the abductee | 58 | 62 | 33 |
| Beings are warm and considerate | 15 | 14 | 37 |
| Beings are polite and reassuring (but perhaps manipulative, insincere) | 46 | 48 | 50 |

based their answers on impressionistic reviews of their case files, and I averaged the 13 results together for a final number. This number was indeed final, because I could not check the respondents' files or second-guess their answers.

For the 1987 survey I had more flexibility. I could try to understand how the survey participants read the questions I asked them, then reexamine the 1987 reports in this light and count the appropriate descriptions. For example, a survey question about feelings at the onset of capture or just prior to it asks in how many instances do abductees express a sense of restlessness, anxiety, foreboding, or "something's about to happen." This question combines several possible feelings. A meaningful comparison requires a tally of all these possibilities among the 1987 cases, not just one or two.

Another type of adjustment concerns the sample base to use in calculating the percentages. When questioning respondents about examinations, the ques-

tions ask, "how many examinations" include such-and-such a feature, and since not every report describes an examination, a respondent might well answer in terms of cases with examinations rather than in terms of the entire sample. For the 1987 data, 72 cases include details of the examination, so 72 replaces 103 as the appropriate divisor for calculating percentages related to examination.

The ambiguities

Nine features pose enough ambiguities to allow two reasonable answers. Including marginal cases of light beams raises the percentage from 36 to 40. Instances of flotation or levitation permit a strict construction that omits out-of-body sensations and vehicles lifted off the ground for a total of 37%, or a broad construction that accepts any example of lifting sensations for a total of 51%.

The implant category likewise may honor only

cases where the abductee receives a tiny object (17%), or embrace any probe into the head, interest in that region, and cases of thoughts added or removed (42%).

The development of ESP in abductees after an encounter scores 18%, but enlarging the category to include all paranormal experiences in the wake of abduction boosts the number to 42%. If the beings promise to find the abductee again, or the abductee feels sadness during the return episode, percentages are 18 and 17 respectively; but counting these same elements if they occur at any time during the abduction, the numbers rise to 27% and 25%.

Human or Nordic?

Ambiguous descriptions are especially hard to score. When is an occupant merely human or a Nordic? Questionable cases make the difference between 14% and 11%. Humanoid noses are vestigial in 82% of cases, or 91% if flat noses mean a small or rudimentary structure. Descriptions of the craft swing between 55% and 77% depending on whether the base sample includes all reports describing external appearance, or only those reports specifying a shape rather than just a luminous object.

Ringling up the totals after these adjustments leads to a striking discovery: percentages throughout the two samples converge on corresponding figures, falling quite close (differing by only 10-12%) for 53 out of 66 features. A sizable gap separates the percentages for just seven content features (meaning every feature in the table except circumstances).

Here then is a remarkable finding—not only do sequence and content elements recur from report to report, but most elements of the abduction story repeat with like proportions in two distinctive samples. Four of the seven exceptions appear in the aftermath section, where 1987 falls short of 1995, but this outcome is hardly surprising. In the earlier days of abduction research, investigators often rushed into print without extensive followups, and these oversights most often slighted aftereffects.

Missing time disparity?

A peculiar disparity afflicts the "missing time" feature, with 88% in 1987 and only 44% in 1995. Yet the proportion of full-consciousness cases is almost the same in both samples, leaving doubts about how the survey respondents interpreted this question. The exceptions to the rule actually prove unexceptional after all.

Dan Wright has described the MUFON Abduction Transcription Project and its findings in several publications [1, 7, 8, 9]. This project brings together a sample better standardized than anything I had to work with, and combs the reports in finer detail than I was able to do. As an added bonus, any tallies of story elements he announces are separate from my evaluations

and inevitable biases.

A chance to compare our findings opens the first real opportunity to test for similarities between independent samples. Thanks to his heroic efforts to reconfigure his category definitions and base sizes for compatible docking with mine, the "Wr" column in the table displays percentages based on terms very close to those I used in the 1987 and 1995 samples.

Wright did not track six items from the table and could offer no estimates for them (duration, age of abductee, memory loss at entry, theophany, change of habits, and head shape of humanoids). For four others he could provide only approximations—bedroom capture, missing time, and more than one encounter dominate his sample at a level above 90%, while abductees fully conscious of their experience number less than 10%. He is able to provide figures for 57 features, and of these, 23 fall within 10-15% of the values from both the 1987 and 1995 samples, while an additional 11 meet these standards for either the 1987 or 1995 samples.

Use of instruments

Of the 18 features that differ from both the 1987 and 1995 findings by more than 25%, two concern the use of instruments during examination and leave considerable room for confusion. Warnings and prophecies are also difficult to distinguish. Wright admits that some aftermath aspects were not followed with consistency, possibly a reason why scores for eye irritation, dehydration, and ESP are low.

On the other hand, he found few reports of MIB encounters in his sample. Considerable differences surround descriptions of the examination room and the nose, ears, and mouth of the beings. Using figures from Wright's earlier published account [9] diminishes those differences considerably and brings his findings more closely into line with my own (see the numbers to the right of the slash in the table).

Genuine differences in his sample includes a higher proportion of bedroom captures and repeat abductions than in the previous studies, though his findings follow a trend already apparent between 1987 and 1995—the great hidden mass of reports seems to lie with people taken from their homes rather than from highways or elsewhere. Repeat abductions appear to be the norm rather than the exception. Reproductive aspects of the examination also show a dramatic increase, though greater awareness on the part of abductees and investigators may account for the growth.

A more diversified crew comprises Wright's sample than the others, with slightly more Nordics, robots, and monstrous beings aboard, though the familiar humanoids not only remain dominant but ap-

pear as frequently as ever. Abductees in Wright's sample are considerably less likely to describe the beings as cold and businesslike, and equally more likely to find them warm and friendly than earlier abductees. These evaluations are of course subjective, and should be read in the context of a sample where the abductees are as likely as their predecessors to find the politeness of their captors manipulative and insincere.

So many likenesses among the three samples is notable, especially considering all the opportunities for misconception inherent in the comparison. These samples are quite different in acquisition, and unstandardized in procedure. They were not designed similarly with comparison in mind, and so much similarity points toward a robust consistency in the stories abductees tell.

Caution called for

Even as impressive as these similarities first appear, Stuart Appelle is quite right when he cautions against reading too much into likenesses alone. Significant doubts also overshadow the reliability of the match-ups themselves. Percentages are a crude tool of comparison at best, and shortcomings in the 1995 survey compromise its results from the beginning. The respondents gave only impressionistic estimates from their samples, not close counts. They usually answered in terms of "few," "some," "many," and "most," rather than specific percentages, and I assigned a number representing the middle of the range defined for each of these categories. This procedure clusters the figures around convenient benchmarks when the percentages might more naturally spread across a broader range of possibilities.

I further distorted these hypothetical percentages when I averaged the 13 responses into a single figure. Its "truth" can be understood in positive terms as the natural tendency of the underlying phenomenon, with investigator idiosyncrasies pared away by the averaging process, but a negative understanding is also possible. In unfavorable terms, the same figure misleads when it suggests all investigators agree. In fact the responses of one or more of them scatter some distance from the mean for almost every feature; consequently the 1995 respondents appear more unanimous than they really are. All in all, cumulative error in the 1995 percentages could be considerable.

An honest point

Critics score another honest point when they worry that similarities rest on my decisions. I am responsible for separating like from unlike, interpreting how respondents "really" understood the survey questions, and establishing the terms to calculate percentages, but prone by human weakness to irresponsible choices. My procedures stack the deck in favor of simi-

larities, since the choice belongs to me alone and I can stretch a point in uncertain situations. I can search and re-count from cases in the 1987 database until I arrive at the "right" answer, or try out several possible sample sizes for a particular element until I find the most favorable base for calculating percentages.

Although I believe the current table represents the most accurate accounting of the 1987 reports I have attempted, I must admit the terms are slippery enough for the percentages to change somewhat each time I reevaluate the data. Like a test with several right answers, this search for similarities includes a built-in bias in favor of success. Wright's results gain all the more in value because he does not share my exact biases, though neither did he enter blind into the work—I had to explain what I was looking for before he could interpret his data to be compatible with mine. Just to make a comparison possible meant compromising its objectivity.

If procedural problems are not serious enough, the inherent ambiguities of the data further entangle the outcome. Most data in abduction reports are verbal and therefore potentially misleading. Verbal descriptions that seem to describe a standard humanoid may clash with an illustration the abductee provides, demonstrating how imperfect a verbal image can be. The lines between categories are often too fine to see; as may happen in attempts to divide humans from Nordics or prophecies from warnings. Expectation may slant the comparison toward similarity where a less expectant evaluator might find only false appearances or no resemblances at all.

Systematic errors

A host of systematic errors threatens abduction reports before comparison even begins. Sample bias attaches to abductees as closely as a shadow, since the very act of reporting sets them apart as a self-selected group, contaminated in some degree with abduction ideas and having a vested interest in acceptance of their claims.

Investigators also bring familiarity and personal opinions to their task, and even with 13 investigators in the survey and 50 in the 1987 sample, they all share an exposure to the abduction literature that might carry over to standardize reports through confabulation with subjects or editing of the case reports. Wright and I are both guilty of knowing what a "right" abduction story looks like, and abduction ideas now circulate so prominently in popular culture that they are familiar to everyone possessed of more awareness than a garden slug. The pristine claimant died years ago in a flood of media exposure.

Discovering that abduction reports tell a recurrent story amounts to a halfway stop on a longer jour-

ney. Similarities narrow down the plausible explanations by undercutting notions of hoaxes or personal fantasies, since creative and idiosyncratic tendencies ought to send the story spiraling into new and unfamiliar directions from narrator to narrator and from telling to telling.

For a similar reason, abductions differ from folk narratives circulating by word of mouth. What folklorists know about urban legends makes clear that the variation process sets to work on belief narratives to generate rapid, inventive modifications, while long, fantastic, loosely constructed narratives like abduction reports should be all the more vulnerable to alteration. Their stability contradicts an identity as folk narratives.

Cultural influence?

This same stability calls into question explanations of the reports as products of cultural influence, such as science fiction movies and literature or folk beliefs about fairy kidnap and shamanic initiation. Any fair treatment of these potential influences must recognize that movies and literature, folklore and mythology contain an abundance of ideas, some that are analogous to abduction motifs and many that are not. If cultural elements are truly influential, they should appear in a variety that reflects their natural abundance to some extent and not cleave to the limited selection abduction reports actually show.

The discovery that those similarities maintain similar proportions from sample to sample marks yet another milestone. Such a discovery raises a further barrier to personal fantasy and cultural influence, since the reports seem even more at odds with the natural behavior of tale-tellers and their tales. Any solution for abductions must reckon with the testimony of the proportions. So far, so good. The persistent similarity of abduction reports qualifies them as interesting anomalies, but then leaves us hanging, uncertain what the anomalies mean.

Similarities explained?

Several reasons may account for the similarities of these three samples:

1) Abduction reports recount objective events in which different people undergo a similar experience. In this sense abductees report alien kidnappers largely single-minded in their purposes.

2) The reports describe genuine experiences, but not alien encounter events. The Old Hag phenomenon described by David Hufford [10] includes a recurrent phenomenology of sensations and images, but the Old Hag that enters the bedroom and oppresses the witness is probably not literal but a cultural overlay, a form prescribed by Newfoundland tradition to give meaning to an unsettling and widespread, probably universal, experience associated with sleep paralysis.

Near-death experiences may owe their consistencies to shared characteristics of the dying brain. One possible explanation for abduction, then, is an intersubjective experience, a pageant of the mind, but similar in its characteristics from one experient to another.

3) The similarities are real, but only on paper, and originate as impositions from investigators or culture. No single explanation may suffice to explain abductions, but combinations of cultural influences and investigators unwittingly leading a subject to say what they want to hear stir up a potent brew for error. Recovered memories of sexual abuse and satanic ritual abuse caution that sincere people can describe and believe elaborate events that never happened. False memories emerge with alarming ease from susceptible subjects and spread their poison to others, until many testimonies borrowed from well-publicized antecedents and helped along by believing therapists create an illusion of consistency in reports of fictitious events.

While abduction reports seem better and more subtly integrated than these accounts of abuse, the difference is one of degree rather than of kind, and any case for genuine abductions must show them distinct from the scope of consistency possible in the false memory syndrome. The elements in the table are vulnerable to repetition because few of them are rare or obscure. Most of the elements are familiar from popular accounts, meaning that claimants have reason to associate these motifs with abduction and incorporate them into their story, consciously or unconsciously, with spurious similarities the consequence.

4) Consistency is illusory; its appearance is merely an artifact of the reporting, investigation, and comparison processes. A long series of potentially homogenizing influences handle the abduction story between its origin and the comparison presented here. The abductee's expectations and internalized cultural influences, the investigator's biases and suggestions, the report's verbal approximations and distortions, the comparative study's methodological shortcomings and uncertainties—these matters conspire to smooth out the genuine differences and press forward a facade of illegitimate likeness.

Would similarities be consistent?

Would a fourth sample of reports bear out these similarities? Would evaluation by a disinterested third party arrive at similar percentages? Would even a new look at the old data lead to the same results? A softness underlies the data and their treatment at every step, and the whole enterprise sinks into doubts.

In all fairness I should say that I made no heroic effort to jawbone the 1987 data to fit the 1995 results, or scramble for match-ups at any cost. Yes, I gave the benefit of the doubt to findings that favored

similarity, especially where the element was less a straightforward description and more a matter of interpretation, but the fact remains that those similarities inhere in the data. The results could range from 0 to 100% and yet they failed to tear off in all directions. If the proportions were not rather close from sample to sample, no amount of data manipulation—and only wholesale cheating—could make up the difference. I may be guilty of self-deception or naivete, but I didn't cheat.

Intriguing questions

Even if the proportions are only approximately similar, they still raise intriguing questions. The similarities apply to samples that differ in several revealing ways. One difference worth noting is the variable number of bedroom intrusions through the three samples. The circumstances differ, the content remains the same—a discovery that leaves explanations of abduction as a sleep-related phenomenon in jeopardy.

Another significant no-show is any apparent growth in reports of the popularized story elements (possibly excepting the reproductive examination). If media publicity supplies fantasizers and hoaxers with their raw material, they should pick up the most familiar elements for their yarns, and elements like paralysis, examination, and standard gray humanoids should increase over time at the expense of less popular alternatives. This expectation has failed to materialize.

The closeness of these proportions continues to surprise me. It seems altogether too good to be true. I watched the numbers pop out of the calculator with a growing sense of bemusement, knowing as I did the inexactitudes of the 1995 figures, and still welcome any explanation in terms of procedural error that anyone may offer.

More comparisons needed

Of course comparisons of this sort need to be extended and repeated if they are to have more than a superficial significance, and even if valid, this sort of evidence is not even in the same ballpark with a genuine artifact or a videotape of aliens caught in the act—two types of evidence that should not be at all out of the question if the phenomenon is in fact physical. For now, the numbers tease us with the question of what lies behind them, profundities or slip-ups? For now, we have no answers, only cause for wonder.

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Rowell Museum plans to expand

Roswell, NM -- With an anticipated 1998 visitor attendance of 310,000 and an increase in interest by motorcoach companies, the International UFO Museum and Research Center is facing a coveted business problem: the present facility on Main Street will be too small to adequately serve expected crowds in the very near future.

The Museum has thus announced an ambitious 5-year expansion program, a vision recently fueled by the donation of an archive collection of UFO materials estimated to be worth \$250,000. The collections were donated by George Fawcett and Bob Sabo.

"We want to become the clearinghouse for information—not just the place that information is gathered, but to go to the next level by technically compiling, studying and distributing to the public this information," stated Deon Crosby, Museum director. The Museum Board of Directors evidently sees this as a tangible goal. They just signed an agreement to purchase 25 acres of property within the Buena Vida Subdivision on Hwy 70 west of Roswell.

"It will take several years to raise \$7.5 million dollars, the estimated amount required to begin the first phase," Crosby says. "But we believe in our people, and we believe in this organization." The management of the UFO Museum is working with several grant writers and plans are underway to begin a major fundraising program. Crosby says that leading computer companies will be contacted in an effort to foster partnerships that will provide the museum with the latest state-of-the-art equipment. The plan calls for three phases.

The International UFO Museum is open 7 days a week. Admission to the museum is free.

Ufology profile

Pascagoula's Charlie Hickson still interested in UFOs

By J. R. Gillis, Mississippi Asst. State Director

When you think of abductions, three cases stand above the rest, Barney/Betty Hill in 1961, Charles Hickson/Calvin Parker in 1973, and Travis Walton in 1975. What follows is Charlie Hickson's frank views not only on abductions but the entire UFO phenomenon since October 1973. The interview was conducted by Don Hirth, Mississippi State Section Director, and myself.

J. R.: Are you still working?

CH: No, I am retired now, but I still do some part-time work.

DON: Do you and Calvin still keep in touch?

CH: I still see Calvin every now and then.

J. R.: In 1983, you and William Mendez wrote *UFO Contact at Pascagoula*. Do you have plans for another book?

CH: As a matter of fact, yes. I am working on a new book. It has no title right now and I hope to have it ready sometimes in 1998. That's all I will say for now.

J. R.: Do you believe there is a government coverup, especially the Roswell incident of 1947?

CH: Yes.

J. R.: If the truth about UFOs were released to the public, what effect would that have on the public?

CH: Well, in this day and time I don't think it would have as much of an effect as it would, say, twenty years ago. I think today that people have more knowledge of UFOs and abductions than before.

J. R.: Has anyone from the military or the government ever told you not to speak about your experiences?

CH: Nobody from the military or government has told me not to talk. In fact, it seems they have encouraged me to speak. I might add, and I could be wrong, but over the years high-ranking military officers have come to my house. They encouraged me to speak about my encounter. They claimed to be retired. Perhaps they were. I just don't know.

DON: Do you think our government is slowly preparing mankind for contact with the aliens?

CH: I believe they are. I honestly believe that.

DON: In what way?

CH: Well, like I said a minute ago, I think the military and government people want me to talk. I don't believe they stop any abductee from talking. They want the public to know what may be out there.

J. R.: Why do you think Gulf Breeze, Florida,



Charles Hickson (left) and J.R. Gillis (right) at UFO Awareness Day at Biloxi, MS, 1996.

has been such a hot spot for UFO reports since Ed Walters released his UFO photos and story in 1987?

CH: First of all, let me say this. I don't believe Ed Walters' story. I just don't believe it happened. Ed Walters knows my views on this. But I don't know. Everybody was so interested in UFOs and they thought Gulf Breeze might be a hot spot. I don't know about the other pictures people have of UFOs in Gulf Breeze. But the people that I've talked with there have not been taking pictures of UFOs.

DON: Many other people since 1987 also have video and pictures of UFOs over Gulf Breeze, but you say they are not UFOs?

CH: That is what I am saying, not in Gulf Breeze. No!

J. R.: Some researchers say UFOs are extraterrestrial. Others say they could be time travelers from our own future. A popular theory is that they come from another dimension or a parallel universe. Which theory do you favor?

CH: I believe the aliens I've had contact with are from another world, not another dimension or parallel universe. I also believe the other theories, but the aliens that Calvin and I encountered are from another world somewhere out there.

DON: Many people have written best-selling books about their abduction experiences. Do you think some of these accounts are fiction and are only being published for financial gain?

CH: Yes, we do have some of this. It only hurts what we are trying to do. For example, look at the book by Whitley Strieber, *Communion*. Being a writer already, his book sales were down and he wrote an abduction story. It was a best seller. I heard him speak in

Washington, D.C., in 1987. I believe that was the year. He and Phil Klass came close to blows. I heard Strieber tell Klass he made a million dollars from the book and laughed all the way to the bank. There are others, but this is the only one that I can think of right now.

J. R.: In a newspaper interview in August of 1982 you revealed that the aliens have been in touch with you over the years. You said a strange "power" would be released all over the world. This would change the attitudes of people about each other, and it would stop this planet's self-destructive course. This even would set the stage for the aliens to come among us. Why do you believe these events never happened?

CH: If you recall, some of these events did happen. Not long after that we no longer were faced with the threat of the Soviet Union. The world is different than it was in 1982. There is more peace on earth now than in 1982.

DON: Have you received any other messages from the aliens that you wish to discuss?

CH: Yes, but I am not prepared to talk about them at this time.

J. R.: At our local MUFON meeting in September, 1996, you said you believe that the aliens will appear in force before the year 2,000. By force, do you mean a military-type operation?

CH: No, I don't believe it is going to be a takeover of Earth. If this was the case they could have done this years ago. The reason I think they will come in force is to show the entire world that they do exist.

DON: Based on your own experience, do you consider the aliens our friends or foes?

CH: I believe they are our friends. I don't think they mean us any harm. This is not to say that some aliens may not have another agenda. I have read about these things happening to many people around the world. I know that there are living beings on the craft that look almost like us.

J. R.: Several years ago a Roper poll suggested that 3 to 4 million Americans may have been abducted. When you consider that over 90% of UFO reports can be explained, do you feel this figure is too high?

CH: I can't be sure that this many people just in America have been abducted. Now don't get me wrong. I have great respect for Budd Hopkins and the work he is doing, and Budd is my friend. However, I don't believe that that many people have been abducted.

DON: Since the 1980's most abductions now occur in the bedroom instead of on a lonely road and so forth. Why the change?

CH: This is something I have never thought about actually.

J. R.: Most researchers agree that abductions

The Pascagoula Case

What Jerome Clark calls "the second most famous UFO abduction case" took place sometime after dark on Oct. 11, 1973, in Pascagoula, MS. Charles Hickson, 42, and Calvin Parker, 19, were fishing on the west bank of the Pascagoula River. They reported the following:

A buzzing sound attracted Hickson, and when he turned around he saw a bluish light, then an object which floated above the ground. It opened up and "three things" came out of it. Hickson was floated into the object by two of the beings, where he was examined by a large "eye." Parker recalls almost nothing after seeing the object; he apparently passed in and out of consciousness, but recalls being on the craft. Hickson and Parker were returned to the spot where they had been fishing. Hickson had not seen Parker while aboard the object, and he does not know if the object moved while he was aboard.

Both men were badly shaken by the incident, discussed whether to report it, and decided to call Keesler AFB, which told them they did not handle UFO reports. They finally ended up at the sheriff's office. The local law enforcement authorities did not immediately believe them, so Hickson and Parker asked to take lie detector tests. Sheriff Diamond placed the men in a room where they could be observed and tape recorded without their knowing it. Listening to Hickson and Parker emotionally question each other and their own sanity, Diamond concluded they were not involved in a hoax. Two other witnesses were located who reported sighting an object at approximately the same time. The next day Hickson and Parker were interviewed at Keesler AFB. Soon investigators such as James Harder and J. Allen Hynek were in Pascagoula. All seemed to believe Hickson and Parker were telling the truth as they saw it.

The author is Assistant State Director for Mississippi.

may start at an early age. However, with the repeater problem we have some people say they have been abducted 50 times or more. What are your thoughts on this?

CH: I know I was abducted as a child, and it has also happened to me several times since then. It is not up to me to say if it happens to everyone. Some of them may have been abducted that many times, but I am not saying this is true in every case.

J. R.: After your 1973 encounter, did you consider reporting other encounters to the military, the media, or a UFO group?

CH: I've kept the other encounters to myself.

I might have brought them up while on speaking engagements, but I would have to check my notes. I will say I just don't know what good it would do if I would have reported my other encounters. Don't get me wrong, I believe in MUFON and have many friends in MUFON.

DON: What advice would you offer an abductee on how to cope with their abduction?

CH: I'll be honest. I didn't know if I could live with it or not. I will tell you this. It got so bad at times I thought of killing myself. After much soul searching, I came to realize they had to contact me for a reason. I believe they contacted me to let the world know something or be there when it happens. I just don't know, but they didn't come here just to look at me. Perhaps I have a purpose or destiny. I got to the point where I could block it out of my mind and get on with my life. You can't keep it on your mind all the time. If you do you can't survive. So I have learned to block it out ever now and then. The key of being able to cope has been the support of my wife and family. They have stuck by me all these years and believe in me. Some of them have been with me during an encounter. They know what I am going through. After my abduction I still had to get on with my life and support my family, regardless of what had happened to me. I had some people that wanted to make a movie and turn this into something big. I could have made a million dollars, but I couldn't do it. Again, the key for me has been the support of my family.

J. R.: How did your abduction affect your religious beliefs? For example, some abductees speak about reincarnation, and did you believe in it before your abduction?

CH: Well, let me put it this way. I am a Baptist. I grew up a hard shell Baptist in Jones County on a farm. We believed you would go to either Heaven or Hell. But now, I believe in God because I am a Christian, and God in all his glory made not only this planet but everything else. There is a God behind all of this, and it strengthens my belief in Him, just knowing He made other worlds with life on them. So meeting someone from another world only made my faith stronger. The only thing I can say about reincarnation is that it is just something I strongly believe in. I can't say why; I don't know. However, I think I have lived many times before and I will live many times again. Then at some point I will be worthy to stand in the presence of my maker to be judged.

DON: At our last MUFON meeting you said you later could recall under hypnosis seeing other beings behind a window observing you that looked human. What year was the hypnosis, and could you de-

scribe how the other aliens looked?

CH: The craft that picked Calvin and me up in 1973 sent two robots to carry us in the craft. I did recall years later, under hypnosis, that there were human looking aliens looking at me through a window. They were living beings just like us. Perhaps they sent robots to take us into the craft because maybe they can't live in our atmosphere, or maybe they are afraid of getting a disease. You see, the world they live on is free of disease and war. Can you imagine a world like that? I think I would like to live there, wouldn't you? They looked just like a human being. I don't recall what year the regression was. I have done so many things since 1973 that I would have to check my notes to be sure. But there is one thing I wish to say. It made my experience easier to live with once I knew there were living beings on the craft.

J. R.: Many abductees say the aliens put an implant somewhere on them to keep track of them. Have you ever thought you might have an implant?

CH: At times I wonder if I do, but I just don't know. I do believe they know every move I make. They know what I am doing right now. So they must have some way of keeping track of me.

J. R.: Do you have any physical evidence to suggest you may have an implant?

CH: Well, the only thing I can say is doctors did find something behind my right eyeball. The doctor doesn't know if it is malignant or what it is. However, the doctor did tell me that it is some kind of a little something with a point on it. I don't know if they can get it out or not. It could just be a mole, but when it first showed up on an X-ray years ago, the first thing I thought is, it could be an implant.

DON: If you had it to do over again, knowing what you and your family went through, would you have reported your abduction?

CH: This is a question I have asked myself many times. I don't know. I look at it two ways. If it hadn't of happened, my family wouldn't have went through some of the ordeals they went through. I am talking about people coming to our house all the time to talk to me, and being away from my family on speaking engagements. On the other hand, if I had it to do over again I just don't believe I could keep it to myself. (DON is Donald Hirth, S.S.D. in Mississippi).

Editor's note: *UFO Contact at Pascagoula* is available from Hickson for \$14.95 plus \$3.00 postage. His VHS tape, "In Contact," is available for \$29.95 plus \$3.00 postage. His address is 2024 Carol Drive, Gautier, MS 39553.

CURRENT CASES

By T. David Spencer,
MUFON Deputy Director, Investigations

LOG # 980302SE, CE-1, 2/27/98, Ocean Grove, NJ at 13:35 hours EST, 18:35GMT, for 10 seconds. Index = 12.6%

I received this from Eastern Director George Filer, who, along with Bruce Cornet, investigated.

"I had taken my dog for a walk in a park," he begins. "I sat down on a marble bench ... looking at the Great Auditorium, built in 1896." The witness saw the object sail "over the top of the Auditorium, clearing the three vented cupolas on the east facade at an altitude of between 100 and 150 feet." It moved at "between 50 and 60 m.p.h....like watching a car on a highway," and it was out of sight in a few seconds.

The object—a spherical shape six-to eight-feet in diameter—was a dull, reflectionless metallic gray, "with some rust-colored spots." It resembled a Roman-like helmet, or an observatory, or a "Jules Verne-like" diving helmet, with a protruding ridge encircling about one third of its top. On its side, about halfway from the top, was a curved, fish-like fin.

LOG # 980301SE, CE-1, 1/28/98, E. Sebago, ME at 18:00 hours EST, 23:00GMT, for 4 minutes. Index = 24.7% Investigator: Pamella Loffredo

A 17-year-old witness and her younger brother were driving home to Standish, southward, and were near Sebago Lake when her brother spotted something strange in the sky. "Is that an airplane?" he asked. In front of them, diagonally to the right, was something strange, indeed. She pulled off the road, keeping the motor running and headlights and hazard lights on.

About 100 feet off the ground ("three telephone poles high"), hanging and silently swinging back and forth in midair, were five lights. Four of them were amber-colored and triangular shaped. They defined the corners of a large ("warehouse" size) diamond configuration—a skewed rectangle.

The fifth was a large, red, flashing, octagon-shaped light in the middle. The fifth light also appeared to be at one edge at some point, suggesting it was hanging below the surface plane of the other lights. Surrounding the diamond shape was a grayish, fog-like aura, shaped like an elongated octagon.

The witness was stunned, but not afraid. "My insides were tingling, and I felt 'lost in time.'" The two left the car to get a better look at the swaying object. In

about three minutes, all lights suddenly turned off—the object's and the car's—at the same time. The object had moved, but it had not completely left; its lights came back on as it crossed a street some distance away. The car lights, too, came back on.

They got back into the car to continue their trip homeward. She could not get the car to go over 45 miles per hour and could not keep it from swerving. In about three minutes, her brother shouted, "Holy s--t! It's following us!" In the mirror, she could see a flashing red light coming upon them. It streaked over the car and away, out of sight.

LOG # 980104SE, CE-5, 1995, Wedowee, AL at 19:00 hours local time, for 30 minutes. Index = 24.5% Investigator: Walter T. Sheets

While riding in a van from LaGrange, GA, to Anniston, AL, to join another group for a bingo game, several church members were dreading their drive by a poultry plant that always had a rank odor. As they passed by the plant, which was on a rise about 1,000 feet off the right side of the road, they noticed a light on top of the building and were curious why a light would be placed there.

A friend of the main witness said it was "not a light, but some flying thing!" As if in response, the light swung down and headed toward them. "Here it comes!" she exclaimed.

The flying "light bulb" followed their van as low as 12 feet over the road, normally 150 feet away, but sometimes moving within 50 feet. It was dishpan size at arm's length. Two of the riders thought they could make out a shadowy humanoid shape in the middle that was moving around inside, like an embryo in a womb. The group being frightened by the oddity, and the driver increased his speed and drove through an underpass.

After emerging on the other side, they found the light was still with them. Some passengers fruitlessly tried to duck and hide. Just before their road intersected with I-20, the light "took off up into the sky at a steep angle, trailing a tail or a streak [after-image?], and it kept going until it looked like a star, then 'clicked' off."

They completed their journey, bingo game, and returned home without further incident. The next day, the main witness and her friend both complained of hurting, tearing eyes and "dark circles down to her cheeks." The main witness claims her eyes were both brown before the incident, but she now has one blue and one green. She also suffered from migraine headaches for two or three weeks afterward. She said a doctor "could not understand what had happened [to her]."



Kecksburg The Untold Story, VHS video format, 92 minutes, produced and narrated by Stan Gordon. \$29.95 + \$5.95 shipping & handling. Call 1-888-836-8439.

Reviewed by Dwight Connelly

Stan Gordon has been bird-dogging the Kecksburg event for nearly 33 years—since he was 16 years old—and hasn't finished yet. I first met Stan when he contributed articles to *Skylook* (the forerunner to the *Journal*) when I was editor, and am well aware of his reputation as a reliable researcher.

Whether Kecksburg is another Roswell depends on who you ask. As articles in the *MUFON UFO Journal* (September and October of 1989, and February of 1991) and other media have pointed out, **something** fell from the sky and landed in the woods near Kecksburg, PA, on Dec. 9, 1965. Gordon feels it had to be either a man-made device with some guidance control capability or an extraterrestrial spacecraft.

While witnesses were hard to find in 1965, Gordon has located several in the intervening years, thanks in part to publicity from NBC's "Unsolved Mysteries," which featured Kecksburg in a 1990 show, but mostly through the type of persistence that other researchers would do well to emulate. Many of these witnesses are in this video, giving viewers the opportunity to "hear it from the horse's mouth."

Randy Overly and Bill Bulebush, for example, provide a description of the object not long before it crashed, agreeing that it was going too slowly for a meteor and that it changed direction before gliding into the woods. Numerous other witnesses, such as newspaper reporters Bob Gatty and Ernie Hoffman, describe the presence of a significant number of military personnel and vehicles.

Eyewitnesses from the crash scene, such as volunteer fireman James Romansky, describe an object approximately 8-12 feet in diameter and 10-15 feet long featuring "geometrical designs like Egyptian hieroglyphics." Romansky added that he and the other four members of his search team observed that the object was acorn-shaped, had no visible seams, had no door, had no windows or portholes, and was made of metal. The front was embedded into the ground. He adds that two men in overcoats came to the site and ordered the volunteer firemen away.

Dr. William Everett tells a story related to him by a colleague concerning a teenager who had been brought in by military personnel because his eyes had been

strangely burned somewhere in Pennsylvania.

Additional witnesses report seeing the object being moved. Jerry Betters says he saw a copper colored acorn-shaped object with hieroglyphics on the back of a flatbed Army truck, while another witness reports what appears to be the same object, this time covered with a tarpaulin, whisked from the area by an Army flatbed traveling at a high rate of speed.

The object is then traced to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, where a witness known only as Myron describes delivering special bricks to a hangar, peeking inside, and seeing an acorn-shaped object with a cloth like a parachute draped over the top. A ladder was placed against it. For years, this is as far as Myron went with his story. In this video, however, he says he is now willing to tell the whole story for the first time, because he is getting old and might not be around much longer. The "whole story," according to Myron, is that he also saw what appeared to be a small body under a "sterile pad." Sticking out from that pad was a left arm, brown and lizard-like, and a hand with three fingers.

Even with this latest "startling new revelation" (I'm quoting the publicity sheet), there remained the question of whether the crash involved a Soviet satellite, Cosmos 96. This Soviet satellite apparently came down at 3:18 a.m. that same day in north-central Canada, according to the U.S. Space Command. If this is accurate, however, it could not have been the object which crashed at Kecksburg at 4:47 p.m. Likewise, speculation that the Soviet satellite somehow struck and damaged the Kecksburg object, causing it to crash, also lacks the necessary coordination in timing.

Clifford Stone and another former military officer claim they have seen official documentation that indicated the object had entered the Earth's atmosphere, and that it was not Soviet.

Researcher Linda Moulton Howe has told Gordon that one of her contacts, a former CIA operative, says the object was an extraterrestrial satellite that fell from orbit and crashed.

Gordon provides background material from time to time in the video, but it was just not possible to include all the interesting and significant events that his research has uncovered, including those noted in his *Journal* articles. Including updated copies of these articles with the video would provide helpful information for those not completely familiar with this case. Making the video longer is not the answer. But cutting portions of some of the interviews would have improved the overall production while providing time for additional background information.

Even though this video is not everything we would like it to be, it does make a significant contribution to the field of ufology. Too bad we don't have witness videos this good for **all** the important cases.

READER'S CLASSIFIEDS

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If you are an alien on this planet, I would be honoured to be granted an opportunity to communicate with you. Any topic welcome. I do not intend to use such contacts for profit or publicity. Rober Ash, #401, 5-12 Hirosemachi, Aoba-Ku, 980-0873 Sendai, Japan.

IT, a 100 yard long craft touched the hood of her car, hovering, and shot up into the atmosphere, never making a sound. For a brief typewritten description of this and other unrecorded craft displays of the 1970's, send \$5.00 to Samuel Adams, Box 605, Calhoun City, MS 38916.

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The NIGHT SKY

Walter N. Webb

July 1998

Bright Planets (Evening Sky):

Mercury is visible at twilight in the first half of July. This nearest planet to the Sun can be found low in the WNW after sunset. Use binoculars to help locate the dim orange object.

Jupiter (magnitude -2.7), in Pisces, now rises in the E about 11 p.m. in midmonth. The giant world lies near the gibbous Moon on July 14. It begins to retrograde eastward in the heavens on the 18th.

Bright Planets (Morning Sky):

Venus (-3.9) can be seen low in the ENE, rising around 3:30 a.m. in mid-July. On the 2nd the gleaming planet shines 4 degrees above the orange star Aldebaran, and it is near the crescent Moon on the 21st.

Mars (1.6), in Gemini, reappears at dawn late in July, rising at that time shortly before 4 a.m. in the ENE. Venus, to its upper left, closes to within 3 degrees of the dimmer red planet by month's end.

Jupiter advances across the SE sky to a point high in the S at dawn.

Saturn (0.2), moving from Pisces into Cetus, rises in the E about 12:30 a.m. in mid-month. By dawn the ringed world is visible in the ESE. The quarter Moon lies 2 degrees below the planet soon after moonrise on July 17.

"Face on Mars":

Under a revised policy by NASA to image certain features of public interest, the Mars Global Surveyor recently photographed the so-called "Face on Mars" with a resolution more than ten times better than the best image of the feature from Viking Orbiter. Although the viewing and lighting angles weren't exactly the same as Viking's, the face nevertheless appeared to be a heavily eroded natural mesa instead of the intelligently carved monument claimed by some devoted followers.

The shadow contrast in the fuzzy Viking images had seemed to show the eyes, nose, and toothed mouth of a face.

Later, MGS camera operators in their lab reversed the contrast in the new image to simulate the lighting in the Viking picture. Results reconfirmed the natural origin of the feature.

Meteor Shower:

The South Delta Aquarids can be watched near maximum on the morning of July 28 in a moonless sky. At that time southern observers may see about 20 meteors per hour, with a slightly lower count from northern latitudes. The July Aquarids are relatively slow, yellowish meteors with long paths emanating from the S.

Moon Phases:

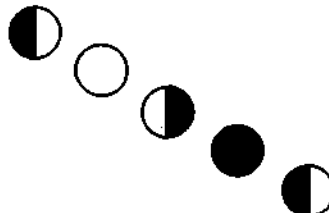
First quarter--July 1

Full moon--July 9

Last quarter--July 16

New moon--July 23

First quarter--July 31



The Stars:

The Summer Triangle has ascended high in the SE after dark, while below it already appears the vanguard of the autumn heavens—the Great Square of Pegasus, Aquarius, and Capricornus.

The July sky offers some excellent telescopic sights for those backyard observers with such instruments. Among the most notable are the Hercules globular star cluster (on the W side of the "Keystone"), the Ring and Dumbbell Nebulae in Lyra and Vulpecula, respectively, and a host of nebulae and star clusters in the Milky Way region of Sagittarius, including the Lagoon and Trifid Nebulae. Consult the appropriate star atlases in order to find these deep-sky objects.

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Director's Message...

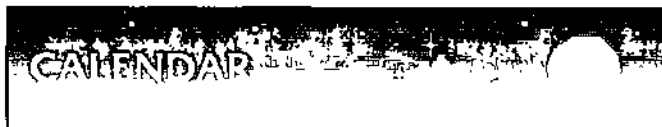
(continued from page 24)

A former member who has allowed his/her subscription to expire for over one year will qualify as a new member in this plan. Here is your opportunity to invite people who attend local meetings, your friends, and relatives to join MUFON at no cost to you, whereby you will benefit by receiving a free lapel pin.

FOREIGN MEMBERSHIP/SUBSCRIPTION PRICE TO BE INCREASED

Based upon the "Membership Journal Survey" recently conducted, it was the consensus of the vast number of members responding that the foreign membership/subscription rate should be increased to \$35, consistent with the larger postage charges for mailing to foreign countries. Most magazines charge this differential rate to foreign subscribers. MUFON was basically subsidizing a portion of the postage.

This is an advance notice that the \$35 rate will become effective immediately for new members and to all others upon their renewal date. The subscription/renewal forms are being revised accordingly.



June 18-21 - The 19th Rocky Mountain UFO Conference, University of Wyoming, Laramie, WY. For registration, call (307) 766-3914 or 1-800-488-7801, Ext. 2

June 26, 27 & 28 - MUFON 1998 International UFO Symposium, Renaissance Denver Hotel, Denver, Colorado. Hotel reservation and registration information is published in this issue of the *Journal*. (Director's Message)

July 3-5 - Roswell Days, Roswell, NM. For more information, contact International UFO Museum & Research Center, PO Box 2221, Roswell, NM 88202 or call (505) 625-9495.

August 1-8 - 2nd Annual "Summer Seminars - Man's Place in the Cosmos" in Laughlin, Nevada. For information, phone (303) 543-9943 or FAX (303) 543-8667.

August 16-20 - First Israel International Congress on UFO Studies in Jerusalem, Israel. For information, please FAX to: 972-3-6384455 or mail to: P.O.B. 935, Tel-Aviv 61092, Israel.

October 3 - 3rd Annual UFO/Alien Abduction Presentation featuring John Carpenter at Holiday Convention Center, Eau Claire, Wisconsin. For information, call (715) 833-4639

October 9-11 - Space Coast UFO Conference at Cocoa Beach Oceanfront Hilton in Cocoa Beach, Florida. For information, call (850) 438-8888, fax (850) 438-1801, or write Project Awareness, PO Box 730, Gulf Breeze, FL 32562

October 10-11 - The 11th Annual UFO Experience Conference at the Holiday Inn, North Haven, Connecticut. For information, write to: Omega Communications, PO Box 2051, Cheshire, CT 06410-5051 or call (203) 272-2151.

MUFON FORUM

Letters to Mufon UFO Journal

Dear Mr. Connelly,

Ha! I got a kick out of Bruce Maccabee's comments in the second paragraph of his "Mexico City Video" article in the April *MUFON UFO Journal*. When he first watched the Aug. 6, '97 Mexico City video, Dr. Maccabee said, "What immediately popped into my mind was a 'vision' of a 1950's movie portrayal of flying saucers—the movie with rotating saucers that crash into the U.S. Capital building (Invaders from Space?!)"

As a film fan and collector, I can tell you that film is the 1956 B-movie classic *Earth vs. the Flying Saucers*, with stop-motion animation effects by the legendary Ray Harryhausen. In addition to demolishing the Capital building, Harryhausen's saucers knock down the Washington Monument, crash into the Potomac River, and generally wreak havoc all over Washington D.C. This movie is a little gem.

An interesting tidbit to those that study UFOs is that the opening credits of the film state the movie is based upon *Flying Saucers From Outer Space* by Maj. Donald E. Keyhoe. It seems the rights to Keyhoe's 1953 book were sold by the publisher, and Maj. Keyhoe spent much time and effort protesting the use of his name in the film's credits. He tried in vain to have his name removed. I can sympathize with Maj. Keyhoe. His serious research was turned into this wild entertainment vehicle. Nevertheless, as a 10-year-old boy sitting in the dark depths of the Jefferson Theatre, the spectacle on that big screen about blew me away!

Dale Pequinot

Dear Mr. Connelly,

This is a note in appreciation of how interesting and informative the *MUFON UFO Journal* has become lately. It is like a dark cloud has been lifted from this aspect of MUFON.

In the latest, May, issue the article by Beverly Trout about the weird "ultralight" UFO event was well worth reading to keep in mind the high strangeness aspects of the UFO phenomenon. Your article on recent conferences was quite informative. The article on hypnosis by Anthony Constantino was very enlightening, and the consistency of the stories of the Allagash Abductions attests to his expertise. The articles on the Face were nicely reported, and the lack of sarcasm and ridicule therein was refreshing to see. The Lonnie Zamora article was also good reading. The article by Joe Lewels was great, and it was good also to get Dave Jacobs' rebuttal in the same issue.

Keep up the good work. I feel like I'm finally getting my money's worth, and more, out of the *Journal* subscription.

Jim Deardorff

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Walter Andrus

News from around the Network

NEW OFFICERS

Mark D. Gilley, M.A. (Memphis) is replacing **Ross L. Fox** (Chattanooga) as State Director for Tennessee. **James R. Hodge**, M.S. (Paris) was appointed Assistant State Director for Tennessee. **Dana M. Schmidt**, J.D. (Rochester), State Director for New York, selected two Assistant State Directors: **James G. Bouck, Jr.** (Schenectady) and **Larry Clark** (Averill Park). **Scott Voight** (Elizabethtown), Kentucky State Director, designated **Jodie E. Turner, Sr.** (Franklin) State Section director for Simpson, Allen and Warren counties. **Richard M. McVannel**, M.A. (Boyne City), Michigan State Director, appointed **Robert A. Wagel**, M.A. (Dowagiac) State Section Director for Cass, Berrien and Van Buren counties.

NEW CONSULTANTS

The two following gentlemen became Consultants in Law: **Robert C. Van Auken**, J.D. (Fayetteville, AR) and **Mark V. Fleisig**, J.D. (Cumberland, RJ).

PROMOTIONS TO FIELD INVESTIGATOR

Congratulations to the following three gentlemen who passed the Field Investigator's Examination this month: **Richard A. Sitts**, B.S. (Ballston Spa, NY); **Bruce W. Gladden** (Orlando, FL); and **Rolland L. "Pete" Clark**, B.A. (Aurora, CO).

MUFON 1998 SYMPOSIUM

The MUFON 1998 International UFO Symposium will be held June 26, 27 and 28, 1998, at the beautiful Renaissance Denver Hotel in Denver, CO. The theme for this year's Symposium is uniquely titled "Closing the Great Divide Between Science and Ufology." The Symposium speaking agenda was published in the May issue of the Journal.

Reservations for rooms at the Renaissance Denver Hotel, 3801 Quebec Street, Denver, CO 80207 may be made by calling (303) 399-7500, 800/HOTELS-1 or FAX (303) 321-1783. Prices per night are single, \$89; double, \$89; triple, \$99; and quad, \$99. Please advise the hotel that you are attending the MUFON UFO Symposium to obtain these special rates. The cut-off date for these rates is June 11, so make your reservations at the hotel promptly. Early symposium registration before June 10 is \$75 per person, or \$85 per person after June 10 and at the door. Tickets for individual sessions will be \$20 (three sessions on Saturday, June 27, and two sessions on Sunday, June

28). The cost for the delicious buffet on Friday evening from 6-9 p.m. is \$25 per person, which includes a Star Party by advance registration only. An advance registration application form was enclosed with the April issue of the *Journal*.

The charge for vendor tables will be \$70 for the first table and \$50 for each additional table, with a limit of six to each vendor for the entire symposium. Please contact **Rolland L. "Pete" Clark** at 341 Lansing Street, Aurora, CO 80010 for table reservations. Checks should be made payable to MUFON Colorado 1998 Symposium.

In addition to the above events, the State/Provincial Director's Annual Meeting will be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday, June 26. Assistant State Directors are also invited to attend. If the State or Provincial Director will be unable to attend, he/she should designate someone to represent their state or province, preferably a State Section Director. Workshops are being scheduled for June 25 & 26 for early arrivals.

Videotaping and audiotaping or the use of flash cameras will not be permitted in the auditorium. Orders for video and audiotapes will be taken at the Symposium by the contractor. Copies of the *MUFON 1998 International UFO Symposium Proceedings* will be available for sale at the symposium.

We look forward to meeting many of you in "The Mile High City."

CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILIES

Hal Starr (Sonora, Mexico), former State Director for Arizona, reported to the Great Producer on March 27, 1998. **David S. Christensen**, husband of **Marge Christensen** (Tucson, AZ), who was a former State Director for Massachusetts, died April 27, 1998. The last Chief of Project Blue Book, **Hector J. Quintanilla, Jr.**, Lt. Col. USAF (ret.) died in San Antonio, Texas on May 18, 1998 at the age of 75.

AWARD FOR SECURING NEW MEMBERS

Numerous MUFON members shared their interest in the *MUFON UFO JOURNAL* by purchasing Christmas gift subscriptions for friends and relatives. We are extending this idea with a new concept to increase our overall membership. Any current MUFON member will be awarded a lapel pin if they solicit two new members by completing the enclosed form (page 22 or a copy thereof) and attaching a thirty dollar check for each new member.

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