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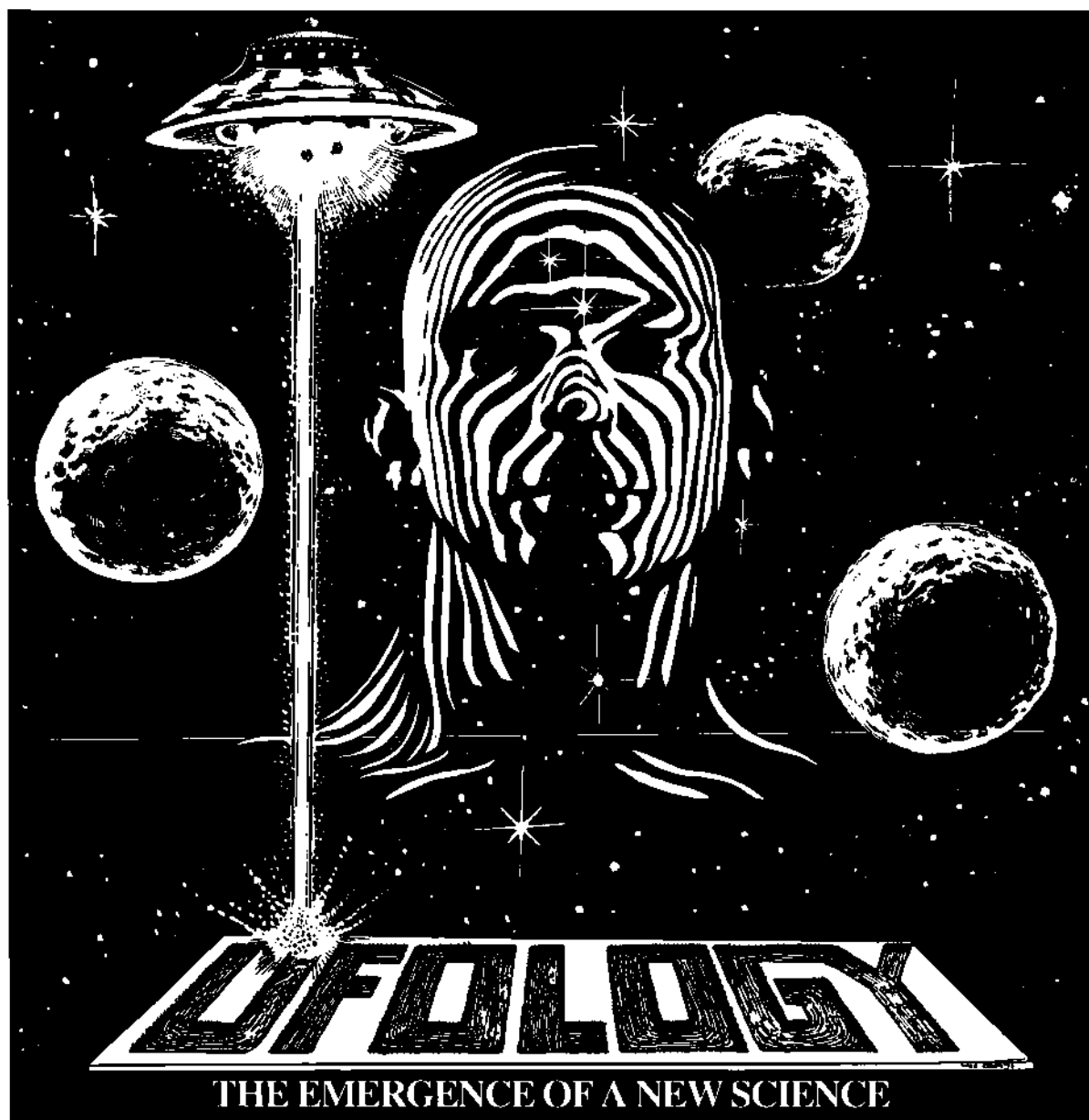
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24th ANNUAL MUFON SYMPOSIUM

Richmond, Virginia, delivers a hot July Fourth weekend complete with fireworks.

By Dennis Stacy/Photographs by Ansen Seale

Richmond, Virginia, was sweltering in more ways than one. Flying up from San Antonio, I'd hoped I might find a weekend respite from the summer heat, but as it turned out the East Coast was gripped by a heat wave of its own. No sweat, as the 1993 MUFON Symposium proved to be a hot ticket, too, with more than 800 paid attendees passing through the crowded auditorium and contributing to a humid July Fourth holiday.

The theme of the gathering, "Ufology: The Emergence of a New Science," resulted in the largest published proceedings to date (304 pp.). Speakers included Budd Hopkins, George Knapp, John Schuessler, Linda Howe, John Mack, Cynthia Hind, Jeff Sainio, Colin Andrews (formerly of England), Illobrand von Ludwiger of Germany, Hoang-Yung Chiang of Taiwan, and Vincente-Juan Ballester Olmos of Spain, among others. Only an extensive paper by Jorge Martin of Puerto Rico arrived too late for inclusion.

As usual, a casual get-together reception was held Friday evening in the Richmond Hyatt Hotel. The symposium proper began the next morning at 9 a.m. with welcoming remarks by Mark E. Blashak, Virginia State Director and Symposium Chairman, who introduced the Master of Ceremonies, Don Lovett, followed by greetings from MUFON's International Director Walter Andrus, Jr.

AFRICAN ABDUCTIONS

The first formal paper was delivered by Cynthia Hind of Harare, Zimbabwe, MUFON Continental Coordinator for Africa. Her talk, titled "Abductions in Africa—Worldwide Similarities," was both informative and humorous; several off-hand remarks aimed at herself had the audience rolling in laughter. At one point the comfortably rotund Ms. Hind wondered "how come none of these creatures ever turn up in my bedroom?"

Cynthia urged that UFO and abduction researchers take into account cultural considerations in their investigations, as she herself is in a most advantageous position to do. Her "clients," so to speak, come from a variety of cultural backgrounds, including tribal African, South African (European) and Islamic, some of which are ignorant of UFO abductions in general and even our own space sciences. "Generally," Cynthia said, "in southern and south-central Africa the masses of people are not aware of UFOs and their occupants. Their reactions are as perhaps those of Westerners confronting a

ghost, not necessarily terrified, or not always so, but certainly wary of what they see."

One on-going case involved a young Islamic woman with two children. "I would be in a dream-like state and I could feel people standing beside me and they would be touching me on the face or kissing my forehead or be busy with my mouth. I'd be screaming, swearing, cursing and fighting, but no sound ever came out, neither could my limbs move. I became too scared to go to sleep and too frightened to remain awake. I left my bedroom light and radio on always."

"I was repeatedly raped. Although I could feel it, I never saw anyone. In desperation I went to some spiritualists who diagnosed my case as being involved with witchcraft and soon after, the raping did stop."

IMPLICATIONS FOR THE FUTURE

Dr. John E. Mack is a professor of psychiatry at the Cambridge Hospital, Harvard Medical School, and a new MUFON Director-at-Large in Psychiatry. His talk was "The UFO Abduction Phenomenon: What Might It Mean for the Human Future?" Dr. Mack is presently at work on a book about abductions, but readers who can't wait are advised to read his complete paper in the Proceedings. In brief, Mack was first introduced to the phenomenon via Budd Hopkins; over the last three years he has met with 71 people who fulfill his criteria of a genuine abduction case. Of these, more than 40 have been hypnotized from one to seven times.

Aside from hypnosis, Mack also employs a form of breathing therapy, Holotropic Breathwork, acquired from Stanislav Grof, a Czech-born psychoanalyst. "The breathwork approach," Mack explained, "uses deep, rapid breathing and evocative music to create a non-ordinary state of consciousness that provides access to what Grof calls the holotropic or transpersonal world. In this state we are able to have experiences and perceive entities or beings that are not considered part of consensus reality. If stated in terms of the unconscious, this is like having Jungian ideas of the mythic or collective unconscious become real, experienced as actual in the world itself."

Mack said that there are "three classes of information involved in abduction phenomenology and some of this information cannot be apprehended within the epistemological and ontological structures that we have developed within the Western world-view. The phenomenon simply will not stay within the boundaries of those structures. First are a class of relatively familiar phenomena that we believe we can study



Dr. John E. Mack

empirically; these include things like UFOs and their photographs, missing time and persons, cuts, scars or scoop-marks, beams of blue light and so on.

"Second are things that seem sort of like technology, if you stretch its definition. These are capacities we can conceive of, but cannot now enact, although a hundred thousand years from now we might be able to. For example, people are taken through doors and walls, changed apparently into some sort of new energy form that allows them to pass through solid objects. Finally, there is a whole other class of phenomena which we have no way to understand within the Western world-view. The aliens can appear, for example, in animal forms or UFOs can look like helicopters. People have powerful past-life experiences. Many abductees experience themselves as having a double identity, both alien and human.

"My own view," said Mack, "is that we have to take all of the phenomena, as they come, even if we have no place for them in our world view. I talked with Thomas Kuhn, who wrote the classic book, *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*, about how scientific paradigms change. He said, 'Just observe. Drop all your categories as best you can. Put them aside and just collect raw information. Don't worry about words like happening or didn't happen, exists or doesn't exist, inside and outside, real or unreal, internal or

external. Put all that aside and just collect information.'"

For the abductees themselves, Mack identified both traumatic and transformational sequelae that take place over time. The first type of trauma is the abduction itself — being taken, powerless, against one's will. Trauma type two is a form of social isolation. "Abductees are reluctant to tell anybody about their experiences." Type three trauma is the reaction that "this just can't be!" The abduction experience simply shatters the individual's previous assumptions about the nature of reality.

"The transformational aspect of the abduction phenomenon is more complex and includes a deep spiritual dimension: over time, many abductees experience the healing of many kinds of physical and emotional distress. Sometimes an extraordinarily profound, powerful, loving relationship between the alien beings and the abductee occurs, and the experiencers may feel that the aliens have been their spirit guardians since birth if not through many centuries. The aliens may be experienced as intermediaries, beings that are closer to some kind of spiritual source, world soul or anima mundi."

"My overall impression is that the abduction phenomenon, which is occurring in the context of the growing threat to the earth's living systems, constitutes a joining of two (or more) species for some sort of evolutionary purpose . . . It is possible that our systematic destruction of the earth has not gone unnoticed at a 'broader' or 'higher' level of intelligence and that these intrusions, as some abductees have said, represent some sort of correction, adjustment or evolution for all of the species involved."

GERMAN ABDUCTIONS

Illobrand von Ludwiger of Germany is the director for the Mutual UFO Network — Central European Section (MUFON — CES), a limited membership organization composed almost entirely of scientists and engineers, although public laypersons may be accepted for membership beginning later this Fall or Winter. Von Ludwiger first reviewed the current status of UFO research in Germany, which is thinly-scattered and rarely addressed, except in contemptuous terms, by both the popular and scientific press and other media. However, a slight breakthrough in public relations may have occurred on May 23 of this year when a 45-minute documentary on UFO abductions, by award-winning producer Christian Bauer, appeared on ZDF, the nation's second largest TV station. Several new abductees have since come forward to join the more than 20 cases already under different degrees of investigation by MUFON — CES.

Seventeen of these cases are covered in detail in von Ludwiger's lengthy paper, along with the analyses of several photographs and at least one video. Of course there are some similarities between German abduction accounts and American ones, but there are some striking

differences, too. For one thing, German abductees on the whole seem much less inclined in general to undergo psychological analysis and regressive hypnosis than their American counterparts, although some of the latter has been undertaken.

To stress the dissimilarities, one need look no further than the case of chemistry student Rolf Kaster, who was bicycling in the Ruhr district of Germany in late August or early September 1986, when he encountered a UFO and its occupants, and experienced a lengthy period of missing time which left him terribly tired. As the memories came rushing back, Kaster recalled seeing some sort of animal rising above the bushes alongside the bicycle path. He dismounted about 30 feet away; the figure turned out to be a giant female — 10 to 12 feet tall — dressed in a jumpsuit with a subdued metal sheen. She was very slender, with long limbs and a relatively small body and head. Von Ludwiger said the face was fair-skinned with European features that could even be called attractive. She spoke in a German dialect Kaster had difficulty understanding and said she was from the constellation Lupus, the same home as the notorious "UMMO" visitors.

The female led him to a clearing where a cloud hovered a couple of hundred feet overhead, from which three small circular areas of rain fell. A long chain came down from the cloud, the giant hoisted Kaster on her shoulders and they were raised up into the interior of a craft about 300 feet in diameter. Inside were other skinny giants, both male and female, all nude. An aquarium on wheels rolled out, inside of which was a grayish-green creature that looked like three funnels placed one atop another with short tentacles underneath. Kaster felt like he was in telepathic communication with the "funnel creature."

Later, a helmet was placed on Kaster's head (he was told it was connected to a computer) and he was asked to play a sort of 3-dimensional checker game — an intelligence test? It also turned out that he could draw information from the computer. Kaster asked a number of technical questions to which he received answers, and which he hopes to patent. While regressive hypnosis is indicated, von Ludwiger indicated that Kaster would prefer to establish his credibility on the basis of his patents. He admitted that some aspects of his story were patently absurd, such as how he entered the UFO, but said "Believe me, if I wanted to, I could invent a really good, interesting UFO story, full of thrills and excitement."

INJURED DRIVER

In the afternoon, John Schuessler, MUFON's Deputy Director for Administration, spoke about the Eddie Doyle Webb case. (His Proceedings paper was co-authored by attorney Edward F. O'Herin, who had aided John in the original investigation while the two were living in Missouri.) During the famous October 1973 UFO



Uncle Juan Ballester Olmos

flap, Eddie Webb had been a truck driver based in Cape Girardeau, Missouri. He and his wife (she was just rousing from sleep) were driving on Interstate 55 at about 6:30 a.m., when they encountered a literally blinding UFO.

Webb first became aware of the UFO when he saw some unusual lights in his rear-view mirror. Looking over his shoulder, he could see that they were attached to a silver, top-shaped object approaching the rear of his trailer; it appeared to be about 6 to 8 feet thick and approximately 30 feet across. Webb barely had time for a good glimpse, before light and heat exploded in front of his face, temporarily blinding him and forcing him to pull the truck to a complete stop.

What made the Webb case interesting was not only the physical traces involved (his glasses appear to have been partially melted) and the medical injuries, but because it was one of the first times a "UFO" was subsequently hauled into court, the latter occurring when Webb filed a workman's compensation claim with the Travelers Insurance Co. Travelers, not unexpectedly, argued that there was no objective evidence for the existence of UFOs. The Referee overhearing the case allowed it to go forward to trial, but the case was ultimately settled out of court before that could happen, apparently because the insurance company did not want the embarrassing publicity of being associated with a UFO trial.

In 1992, two years after Webb died, the St. Louis *Post-Dispatch* revisited the case, concluding that the UFO part of his story was a hoax. What had "really happened," the article said, was that Webb and his wife had gotten into an argument and she had thrust a lighted road flare in his face!

"It is important to learn from cases such as this one," said Schuessler, "and to use that new knowledge to improve on all future cases. There are three key considerations. One, lawyers need to use the accumulated wealth of UFO data to establish precedent-setting cases, not allowing big insurance companies to win by settling out of court, or by denigrating the character of the victim just because he or she was involved with a UFO close encounter.

"Secondly, medical data needs to be collected and utilized by caring medical professionals to help UFO victims just as they would any other accident victims. Finally, trained investigators should not settle for tongue-in-cheek newspaper articles written by uncaring journalists purely for shock value. Seldom are such articles based on properly prepared evidence or scientific facts."

SPANISH AIR FORCE FILES

Vincente-Juan Ballester Olmos joined MUFON in 1974 as a research specialist in landing traces and in 1979 became MUFON's representative for Spain. Since 1984, he has been engaged in a diplomatic odyssey to induce the Spanish Air Force to declassify its UFO files. That project began bearing fruit in October of last year, when the Ministry of Defense began making such files available at the Library of the Air General Headquarters in Madrid.

Ironically, at about the same time that our own Air Force was getting out of the UFO business, the Spanish Air Force was just getting in, thanks to a local UFO flap in late 1968. On December 5, almost a year to the day before the American Air Force would announce the closure of Project Blue Book, the Spanish Air Ministry Press office sent a note to newspapers asking citizens to report UFO sightings to their nearest Air Force base or authority. On December 26, a confidential internal memo, Circular Number 9266-CT, was issued over the signature of General Luis Navarro, Chief, Air Force Staff, outlining the procedures subsequent investigations would take.

Periodically, the Air Ministry would issue a press release explaining this or that case as an astronomical or manmade event, as in the case of a widely-witnessed rocket launch from a French submarine in July of 1983. But in 1975, another wave of UFO sightings struck Spain. A year later, a journalist was given 12 case files from the Air Ministry's records; these were subsequently rushed into print in a sensational book which embarrassed the military authorities by leaving the impression that it was an official statement. Olmos pointed out that

such a reaction should not be seen as unusual, since Franco had just died and Spain was in a delicate transition stage from authoritarianism towards democracy. But the damage was done; instead of making more of their UFO files publicly available, the Air Force and military retreated into its customary shell.

In June of 1984, Olmos wrote the first of his many letters to the Minister of Defense, arguing that "free access to administrative files of historical value is an asset to any democracy." It took a year for a reply to arrive and by that time Spain had a new socialist government. Still, the Air Force declined, preferring to keep their UFO files classified.

In 1988, Ballester Olmos was joined in his efforts to review the Spanish military cases by colleague Joan Plana. Two years later, said Olmos, "in May of 1990, I changed my strategy. From letter writing I moved to the close encounter approach. I made many visits to the Air Force General Headquarters Building in Madrid, meeting with the Public Relations Office, Air Safety Section, and others."

After Olmos established his sincerity, the wheels of bureaucracy began slowly to turn. Eventually, steps were put in place whereby the Air Force agreed to release 55 files, later changed to 66. Their last actual investigation was said to have taken place in 1980, and in 1988 they supposedly stopped filing cases. "It is premature to disclose our findings at this point," said Olmos, "so as not to jeopardize the progress under way. However, I would like to stress that the historical declassification of the Spanish air military UFO archives has two distinctive features. First, it was inspired and instigated by the direct, silent and painstaking efforts of a member of the ufological community. Behind-the-scenes prudent but hard work, dialogue, correspondence and so forth with officers of the Air Force's Staff gave shape to a convincing process which was based on reasonable, logical, down-to-earth and non-egotistical grounds. The final achievement of the goal, of course, would not have been possible without the open-mindedness of the military and the Chief of the Air Force Staff. I don't see any reason why this approach cannot be successfully applied to other countries as well."

VIDEO ANALYSIS

At the Albuquerque Symposium a year ago, MUFON photoanalyst Jeffrey Sainio predicted that the popularity of video camcorders would prove a boon to UFO photoanalysis. His prediction has already come true: the majority of UFO pictures now submitted for analysis are in video format. Video tape has considerable advantages and disadvantages over still, or negative, film, and these pluses and drawbacks were the subject of Sainio's presentation. Unfortunately, where print and pictures are concerned, a thousand words of the former aren't necessarily worth one of the latter. To best appreciate Jeff's talk you had to be there in person to see



Left to right: Vicente-Juan Ballester Olmos; Hoang-Yung Chiang; Rolf-Dieter Klein; Illobrand von Ludwiger; George Knapp and Linda M. Howe.

the many video examples in color; to next best appreciate it, you should pick up a copy of the Proceedings, with its many black and white examples, as there was no videotaping of this year's speeches.

The most obvious drawback is a lack of resolution: compared to print film, even the best home video looks "grainy" by comparison. On the other hand, video adds both a time and audio dimension to the experience almost totally absent from still photographs taken with 35mm cameras. In the same vein, while not impossible, a convincing UFO video hoax would be considerably more difficult to perpetrate than, say, a simple double-exposure on the still film side. Also, video tape can be copied fairly faithfully, whereas copies based on negative film tend to lose clarity with each generation. Another advantage according to Sainio: you can do the duping at home and not have to worry about curious film counter clerks asking you embarrassing questions.

But as with still-frame photography, there are a number of actions the individual photographer can take to insure a maximum amount of data is preserved for future analysis. For one thing, said Sainio, "keep talking. Describe what you're doing while you're filming with the zoom lens, what the object is doing, what colors you see with the naked eye, and so on. Try to include reference points, be the latter streetlights or stars, and don't worry if something else intervenes in the frame. There's a tendency to try to get an unobstructed view of the UFO, but in fact more information about the object can

be obtained if it is allowed to pass behind or in front of known reference points, such as tree branches and telephone lines."

Most modern camcorders are autofocus, typically employing an infrared beam of light. Aiming the camcorder up into the dark night sky only confuses the on-board computer chip and makes it zoom in and out as it tries to find the appropriate distance (and object) at which to focus. If possible, said Sainio, set autofocus at "infinity" and leave it there, "unless the UFO shows up in the viewfinder as a bright overexposed dot." And, unless your batteries are extremely weak, keep filming! Time considerations are extremely important in terms of the final analysis. While the latter can never absolutely establish or confirm that what was filmed was indeed a true UFO, it can conceivably eliminate any number of ordinary or mundane considerations, such as satellites, meteors and airplanes. But for this to happen, the photographic record needs to be as complete and detailed as humanly possible. If you have the presence of mind, keep filming and talking, and put your camcorder through its paces. Zoom in and out, and run through the manual shutter exposure settings if your camera has them. Rotate your camera from horizontal to vertical so as to eliminate or identify any electronic artifacts occasioned when filming a bright object against a dark background. If you don't have a tripod handy, steady the camera on something solid as best you can, for example, the roof of a car.

INSTRUMENTED DETECTION

As we well know, photography (defined by the emission and capture of excited photons) isn't the only way the UFO phenomenon can be detected, traced and analyzed. Wesley Ellison, a MUFON staff specialist in instrumentation, presented several alternative methods of detection and analysis. From this reviewer's perspective there were only two drawbacks: most of us do have a camera of some sort on hand or in the immediate vicinity, as opposed to the electronic devices Ellison proposed, and secondly, UFOs don't ordinarily wait around to be technically scrutinized in the field; the overwhelming number of UFO sightings are extremely fleeting (and unexpected) in duration. Flaps like the one in Gulf Breeze are rare.

Film is a passive means of detection; the active means of detection preferred by Ellison would be something along the lines of Laser Imaging Radar, or LIDAR, a technology first developed for the military which is filtering down to the scientific community. A LIDAR system consists of a high-powered pulsed laser beam scanned in both the horizontal and vertical axis. When the beam strikes an object infrared light is reflected back to the source where it is scanned and analyzed by a computer, giving distance, speed and a real-time video image of the object. Ellison demonstrated a modestly-priced LIDAR he designed and assembled from surplus market electronics, but with a range of only 40 meters. A system with a range of five miles could be easily engineered as well, without too much in the way of additional costs.

Commercial magnetometers, which detect the intensity and direction of magnetic fields, are still fairly expensive, said Ellison, but the possible information that could be obtained might be worth the high cost. The reading could be converted into an analog signal by computer and compared with the signal of other known and unknown phenomena once a reliable database was established.

Again, such instrumentation could best be employed in an area of repeat sightings. A cruder, but much less expensive form of magnetic field detection could be achieved by a fluxgate compass connected to an alarm circuit, a deviation in the existing magnetic field setting off the alarm. Attached to a stable platform, the same device could also sound in the case of physical vibration.

Another form of military trickle-down technology is the "Night Vision Scope," which also employs infrared light in order to see heat sources at night. Coupled with a small Helium Neon laser which emits light in the red range, one could readily determine whether a phenomenon were a solid object or not. A similar sort of analysis could be carried out by means of a Starlight intensifier coupled to a laser. The former can amplify starlight on an order of 30 to 70 thousand times its intensity, unfortunately at a current cost of about \$5000.

Finally, there are both subsonic and ultrasonic sound detectors. Again, with the appropriate database or catalog, UFO sounds could be compared with other known sounds. "If UFOs are in our physical world, we can detect and analyze them," concluded Ellison. "The technology is now available to us, and it's time we put it to work."

INVISIBILITY AND UFOs

Saturday evening's keynote speech by Budd Hopkins was not an update of the Cortile Case, as some may have anticipated, but an examination of reported invisibility in association with UFOs. He did concentrate on a single case, however, that involving four members of a pseudonymous Australian family, Sam and Jenny "Washburn" and their two sons. Hopkins came across the case in the Fall of 1992 while on a lecture tour in Australia. In Brisbane, he was approached in person by Sam and Jenny who told him that five days prior they and one of their sons, now 20, had all suffered nosebleeds from the same nostril.

"For most of his 42 years," said Hopkins, "Sam has suffered from events which suggested classic abduction experiences. He was filled with a recurring and nearly unbearable fear which had begun in childhood when he lived on a farm." One 14-year-old event in particular stood out, although at first Hopkins couldn't make the connection. Jenny handed Budd four red-tinted photographs and asked him if he had ever seen anything like them. Aside from their red tinge, they were unremarkable; they showed trees on a beach and an empty expanse of sand, but little else. "The thing about these pictures," explained Jenny, "is that we're supposed to be in them, and we're not."

On the day in question, Sam and Jenny had taken their two children to the beach in the pictures, a favorite playground called the esplanade, in Wynnum, near Greater Brisbane. Everyone felt uneasy about the visit, and in fact the family never returned to the esplanade. "I felt lost," said Sam. "Everything seemed in slow motion. I felt like I wasn't there."

Under hypnosis, Jenny revealed a standard UFO abduction. Sam had the camera and she was posing with the two boys, when she felt "something big up over us," and then the sensation of rising into the air. She could see Sam standing on the beach, camera still raised to his face. Inside, they were approached by small figures. The boys were taken away, and Jenny was subjected to gynecological procedures. Later, all three descended in a brilliant beam of light. Sam was still in the same position, after what felt like an hour.

Under hypnosis, Sam himself remembered seeing two small silver balls about the size of a softball hovering about the beach. Jenny and the boys start to rise in the air and disappear inside an area of brilliance described as "bigger, much bigger" than a car. Sam remembers encountering the smaller balls in his

early childhood. "They belong to that other thing," he said.

"Don't ask me about the physics behind it," said Hopkins, "but apparently for the better part of an hour all four members of the Washburn family, along with the abducting UFO, were rendered invisible to everyone else on the beach. The only conclusion I can draw from this remarkable event, and the four photographs, is that another 'impossible' aspect of the UFO abduction phenomenon has now forced itself into the canon of the possible."

UFOs OVER CHINA

Sunday morning's first talk was delivered by Hoang-Yung Chiang of Taipei, Taiwan, and concerned the status of UFO research and reports in mainland China. Mr. Chiang is chairman of the UFO Research Association of Taiwan, a MUFON Consultant in Biotechnology and our Foreign Representative in Taiwan.

Although the present methodology employed by Chinese ufologists is not up to Western standards, Mr. Chiang said that some progress is in sight. In the last 20 years or so, some 7500 UFO cases have been collected and catalogued, 1500 of which date back to historical times. As expected with such a large population, China has a few records of its own. On July 24, 1981, for example, a spiral-shaped UFO was witnessed by as many as a million people, although only a single set of photographs of the event has surfaced to date. The *Journal of UFO Research*, a Chinese newsstand magazine, routinely sells 350,000 copies monthly. Reports of at least two rumored UFO crashes and an abduction or two are currently under investigation by Mr. Chiang and his mainland colleagues.

PUERTO RICO

Apparently there has been a good deal of UFO activity over the island of Puerto Rico in recent years, according to Jorge Martin, editor of *Enigma* and the local MUFON State Director. Unfortunately, Mr. Martin's lengthy paper arrived too late for inclusion in the Proceedings. I was unable to attend his talk as I was in the Board of Directors meeting; however, I understand that Mr. Martin had several striking UFO photographs from the recent flap. Members who weren't able to attend in person can probably read much of the same material in an article Mr. Martin contributed to Timothy Good's latest collection of essays, *Alien Update*.

CROP CIRCLES

I was also unable to attend Colin Andrews's crop circle update, although judging from his published paper in the Proceedings, it was heavily illustrated with slides of last year's circles and drew on some 200 eyewitness reports in the computerized files of his organization,

Circles Phenomenon Research International, now based in Brandford, Connecticut.

It goes without saying that human hoaxing and other activities have greatly complicated the crop circle picture in recent years. For example, the so-called Silbury "necklace" formation pictured in Colin's paper on page 171 and again on page 180 of the Proceedings forms the centerpiece confession of Jim Schnabel's recently published *Round in Circles*. One of Mr. Andrews's historical cases—that of William Loozey on October 4, 1871—is also a well-known hoax, perpetrated by English physicist "David Langford" a few years back in a book titled, if memory serves, *An Account of an Encounter With Denizens of Another World*, which pretended to be an original Victorian manuscript. Langford has publicly admitted as much, and even successfully sued American author Whitley Strieber when his creative property turned up, uncredited, in the latter's novel, *Majestic*.

AREA 51

Another matter of some controversy surrounds the claims of physicist Bob Lazar, who says he was hired to help reverse engineer a flying saucer propulsion system at Area S-4, south of Area 51, or Dreamland. And who better to address the topic, "Area 51, Bob Lazar and Disinformation—A Re-evaluation," than TV reporter and producer George Knapp? After all, it was Knapp who first brought Lazar to widespread attention in 1989, when he anchored the news on KLAS-TV, Las Vegas, the local CBS affiliate. Knapp left KLAS in 1991 to accept a position as Senior Vice-President with the Altamira Communications Group. In March of this year, he traveled to the former Soviet Union, hoping to unlock the KGB's UFO files.

So many wild rumors surround Lazar personally and Dreamland in general, said Knapp, that he has given up trying to keep track of them. "By the same token, stories of UFOs at Area 51 didn't begin with Lazar, and they don't end with him. "Members of the Groom family, for instance, for whom the mountains are named and who lived in the region for most of this century, say the story of alien craft at Area 51 dates back to the 1950s and was common knowledge among their neighbors in Lincoln County."

In fact, Lazar is but the most notorious—because the most public—witness to weird goings-on at Dreamland and environs. Many more are mentioned in Knapp's paper by name; because it's so atypical, we'll consider here only the case of Dr. Dan Crain, "a prominent biologist who worked with the Las Vegas Planetarium Society, the Young Astronaut Program, and was a frequent lecturer at Southern Nevada's community college." Knapp said he began receiving unsolicited letters from co-workers and ex-girlfriends of Crain's, all implying that he was involved with alien research. "When confronted with this information, Crain freaked. He agreed to meet with me and to hand over copies of

"Too many people, living in too many places, over too many years are telling us the same thing. For anyone to 'plant' all this information, for whatever purpose, simply doesn't add up."

documents which he had apparently taken as a safety precaution, documents which would prove his involvement in research on alien tissue samples. But he never showed up. In fact, he dropped out of all of his civic associations and disappeared. I've learned that he is now working at a Las Vegas hotel as a security guard, which is a strange career move for a biologist."

Are the stories told by Crain and the others merely an attempt to disguise black budget projects underway at Area 51? "This pattern of testimony simply doesn't fit our concept of a disinformation campaign," said Knapp. "Too many people, living in too many places, over too many years are telling us the same thing. For anyone to 'plant' all this information, for whatever purpose, simply doesn't add up."

What about Bob Lazar? "Criticisms of Lazar's story are many, and many are deserved," Knapp admitted. "He is lackadaisical about documentation, indifferent to whether anyone believes him, uncooperative (especially with anyone associated with ufology), and seemingly has little interest in helping anyone to prove his story. There are many gaps, many things that don't make sense, but too much of what he does say does make sense to merely dismiss it."

Ideally, Knapp would like to see the same sort of cooperative effort go into Area 51 research as has been concentrated on, say, the Roswell incident. "We need to work together on this, cut out some of the infighting and rivalries, and find out what's really going on."

ALABAMA MUTILATIONS

Beginning in October of 1992 and culminating in March of this year, a series of 32 cattle cuttings occurred near Fyffe and Albertville, in northeastern Alabama, reported Linda Moulton Howe, the author of *An Alien Harvest*. In her slide and video-illustrated talk Ms. Howe also noted reports of helicopters flying in extremely inclement weather, chopper *sounds* heard in a clear sky, and at least two reports of large disk-shaped objects. In addition, a university laboratory confirmed that the substance found on one dead cow's face was an unidentified inorganic compound. Denver pathologist and hematologist Dr. John Altshuler also confirmed that another cow's udder had been cut with a sharp instrument; six tissue samples from another calf had been cut with high heat. A press conference held by the Fyffe, Alabama Police department on April 7, 1993, was attended by approximately 45 reporters from three states. CNN also provided coverage of the mutilations. Aside from her Proceedings pa-

per, Ms. Howe is also at work on a new book, to be titled *Glimpses of Other Realities*.

Next year's MUFON Symposium promises more heat and Southern hospitality. It will be held in Austin, Texas, on July 8, 9 and 10. Watch the Journal for additional details as to specific time, location and speakers. In the meantime, Mark and Lisa Blashak and the other volunteers of Virginia MUFON are to be congratulated on a most successful 24th annual symposium.

The published Proceedings, "Ufology: The Emergence of a New Science," are available from MUFON for \$20 plus \$1.50 postage and handling.



Colin Andrews/Photo by Dennis Stacy

UNITED NATIONS VIDEO

On October 2, 1992, a UFO presentation was made at the United Nations in an effort to reopen Decision GA 33/426. The two-hour VHS video tape includes Mohammad A. Ramadan, Stanton T. Friedman, John F. Schuessler and Robert H. Blechman. Tapes of this monumental UN presentation may be purchased by Postal Money Orders, personal check made payable through a U.S. bank or U.S. cash for \$19.95 plus \$2 for p.&h. to MUFON, 103 Oldtowne Rd., Seguin, TX 78155-4099, U.S.A.

WHITLEY STRIEBER BREAKS HIS SILENCE

The author of Communion speaks out on his treatment — by the Visitors and the UFO community.

By Sean Casteel

In the summer of 1990, after nearly three years of both public and private struggle with the media, the UFO community, and what he called "The Visitors," Whitley Strieber announced the closing down of The Communion Foundation and withdrew completely from the public discussion of UFOs and his own abduction experiences. The year before, it was rumoured that he was barred from the set of his own movie based on *Communion*, and there were other reported incidents of public anger as well. What was bugging Whitley Strieber? Was the abduction experience itself driving him over the edge?

Back then, Strieber often said that he very much wanted to arrive at an understanding of the abduction experience that viewed the business in a positive light. When he spoke to me in a recent phone interview, he said, "Well, I had to, because if I hadn't thought that in the beginning, I certainly would have blown my brains out. There's no question about that at all. And if I had not made myself find something about my experiences that could be made into a positive thing, I couldn't have lived. It would have meant that I was living in hell, and there was no escape from it."

Strieber said there was no way to simply stop the experience, no magic button to turn it off with. And the UFO researchers were no help.

"The social structure that surrounds it," Strieber said, "by which I mean the UFO community, insure that the people in it will never get the advantage of having legitimate science look into it and see what's really happening. Meaning that it's, in effect, incurable. And totally misunderstood."

Strieber claimed that the prejudice surrounding the subject is intolerable.

"Having had this experience," Strieber said, "and declared yourself as having had it means that you will spend the rest of your life being discriminated against just like a black in the South in 1925. I am just as discriminated against. My civil rights and my personal rights are as consistently abused as if I didn't have them. I'm treated like a madman was treated in the 18th century, or like a disenfranchised individual in the 19th or 20th century."

"My son, for example," Strieber continued, "was so discriminated against in the school he went to by the teachers and the administration, even though he's an honor student, that we finally had to move him to another school where they don't realize who I am. The discrimination I experience is really just across the board. From the literary community, where I used to be a mem-

ber—now I'm not even welcome at the meetings. My life has been threatened half a dozen times since I wrote *Communion*. My family has been threatened. Things have been sabotaged. Oil was poured down our wells up in our little country house.

"We had to finally move from our cabin to another house because the cabin had become the focus of things like — we'd wake up in the morning and find a man just standing out in the road with a rifle in his hands. Not doing anything but just standing out there. That kind of threat was constant. But appeals I've made to writer's organizations have gone completely unanswered. No one cares. I will say that when there's been police involvement, it's all been very professional."

Not only does Strieber feel like an outsider from the so-called "straight world" of non-believers, he also feels very much set apart from the UFO community, much to his own displeasure. "I think that if I wasn't such an enemy of that community," Strieber said, "in such an adversary relationship with that community, so afflicted by so much lying and so much confusion, my experiences could be very useful in illuminating the problem. What I actually have done with *Communion* is I have elevated and increased people's ability to handle this experience tremendously all over the world. You should see some of the thousands and thousands of letters we get. Nearly a thousand letters a month from people who have been enriched by the book and whose encounter experiences are richer because of what they read in that book. The rest of the UFO community has never accomplished anything like that. And I feel that I should be treated with, first of all, more respect, and second, taken more seriously by the community. Instead of playing those stupid mind-games they played with me. I think it's awful, just awful. The community must learn to respond to me in a more meaningful and sensible way as a group.

"I don't expect a continuity of reaction," Strieber went on. "There should be a lot of diversity. But it shouldn't be based on lies, innuendo, rumors, and in many cases, purposely incorrect misinterpretations of what I say. Most specifically to characterize it as black or white. Whitley Strieber believes the aliens are good, and Budd Hopkins believes they're evil."

"That kind of thing is so moronic. Both of us are struggling with this and having a tremendous amount of difficulty in different ways. We don't have the same take on it. But he's struggling just as much as I am. And I've seen him just as misinterpreted as I've been. This is

"If there aren't demons out there, there might as well be, because these guys are indistinguishable from demons. Indistinguishable. To see them, to look into their eyes, is to be less — forever."

the most complex experience that anyone has ever had. It is shaded with dozens of different layers of meaning. To try to make it into something black or white and to divide people according to this false black or white issue about whether the so-called aliens are good or bad is to fail even to begin to see what's going on."

Strieber said he was only recently recovering from a long and deep depression that had lasted from mid-1989 to the middle of last year.

"I was so deeply depressed," he said, "that nothing, no drug that the psychiatrist tried on me, nothing would get me out of it. I was almost inert. Then I had a Visitor encounter, which was as usual unspeakably terrifying. You know, encountering them in a slightly dreamlike state for three seconds or three minutes is bad enough. But when you are face to face with them alone and it's not a dream and you're wide awake and you're wearing your clothes and you see them the way they really look, you cannot imagine how terrible it is.

"I've come away from this experience convinced of one thing: if there aren't demons out there, there might as well be. Because these guys are indistinguishable from demons. Indistinguishable. To see them, to look into their eyes, is to be less. Forever. It hurts you, it takes from you, forever. Because then you know that that exists. And that makes you less."

Strieber does admit that the experiences of Betty Luca of *The Andreasson Affair* and *The Watchers* still leave the door open for hope.

"The number of us who are so spiritually superb as Betty Luca," Strieber said, "who can really make this encounter experience fly, is tiny. That's why Betty was such an inspiration to me. When I was at the depths of my depression, one of the things I did was read Betty's interviews and listen to her tapes, just to hear the sound of her voice when she was talking. I would look at the drawings she sent me. And it helped me a lot. Betty's experiences are the thing you grab onto when you're sinking."

Strieber has recently released his latest horror novel, an imaginative chase novel called *The Forbidden Zone* that seems ready made for movie special effects and has the great villain speaking those immortal words first spoken by the Visitors in *Communion*, "We have the right to do this." He has recently finished the screen play for last year's *Unholy Fire*, which will be directed by George Romero.

So, for good or evil, the Visitors continue to trouble Strieber. Discrimination, social isolation, debilitating depression, even death-threats against himself and his



Whitley Strieber/Photo by Dennis Stacy

family, have not broken Strieber, however, who continues to fight the good fight for an honest and dignified understanding of the alien abduction experience that he shares with a waiting multitude of wounded and wondering fellow sufferers.

Sean Casteel is a freelance reporter for a weekly arts and entertainment newspaper in Ventura, California.

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INITIAL RESULTS FROM THE UFO REPORT DATABASE

On occasion popular perception of UFO sightings conflicts with the available data.

By T. David Spencer

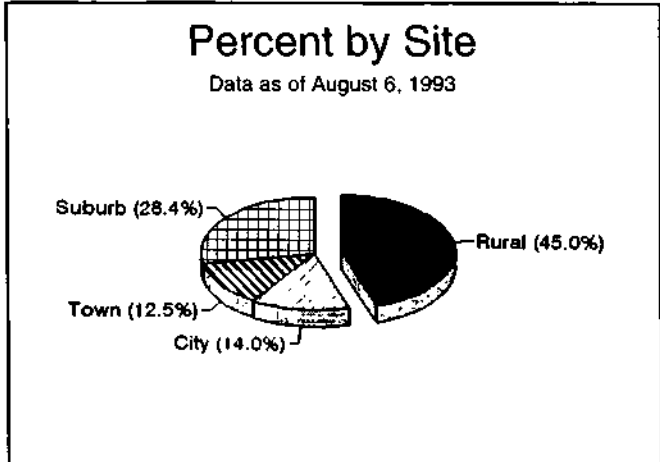
When I first took over the excellent work of Dan Wright and Forest Crawford to initiate an electronic database for MUFON's case reports, I was a bit naive regarding the amount of work required to catch up with the past case reports. Still, progress is being made, and I have additionally been keeping current with the cases received from Jerold R. Johnson, our Deputy Director of Investigations. Starting with 145, the quantity of reports in the database is now pushing 300.

Although there are many more past cases to be included than have been entered, the amount of entered data thus far allows a limited number of observations which are thought to be of interest, and I will try to provide these in installments over time.

SIGHTING LOCATIONS

When Siskel and Ebert, a popular movie critic team on television, reviewed "Fire in the Sky," I noted their comment that UFO incidents always seem to happen to people in the countryside, not to city folk.

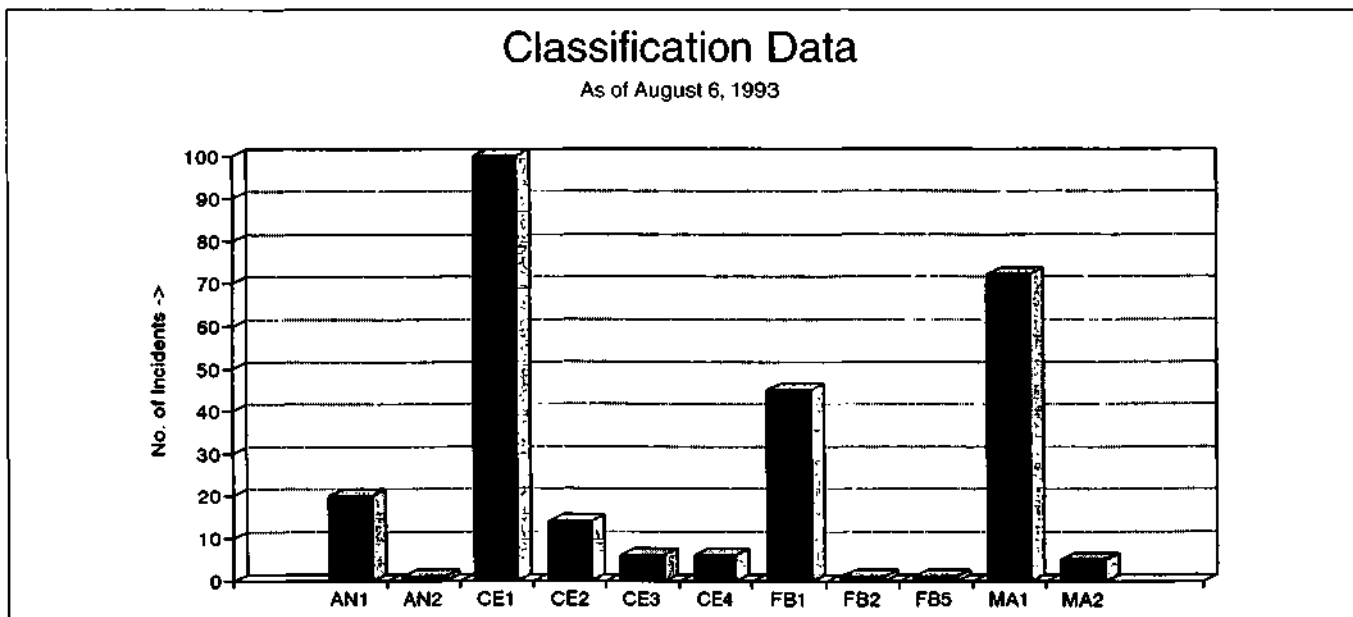
As illustrated in the first pie chart, more than half (55%) of our reports are sightings in or near towns and cities. But further examination of the data reveals that the number of "close encounter" incidents — that is, within 500 feet or less from the witness — in cities, towns, and suburbs (74 cases) is notably more than those in "rural" areas (52 cases). As I have sorted the data, "rural" means "not designated as within city,



town, or suburb," and includes sea, lake, wood, prairie, farmland, mountain, and tundra.

The only type of sighting in our database which has a greater number in rural areas is the "anomaly." In the database, an anomaly is a ghostly light, "angel hair," indications of a landing site, or one of any number of different peculiarities which the witness and the investigator both believe could be related to UFOs even though a UFO object has not been seen. A total of 21 anomalous events are recorded in the database, 16 of which were witnessed in rural areas.

We cannot claim that the quantities of reports we get from each area represent the proportions of obser-



variations by area, but the UFO report data suggests the possibility that the UFO phenomena—whether or not observed or reported—may occur equally as often in cities, towns, and suburbs as in rural areas.

CLASSIFICATIONS

When the improvements to classifications proposed by Johnson in his article "Widening the Net" (*MUFON UFO Journal*, March 1993) are included in the database, the results are as illustrated in the "Classification Data" chart. The category types are AN (for "anomaly"), CE (for "close encounter"), FB (for "fly-by") and MA (for "maneuver"). The FB and MA types represent "distant encounters," and they constitute 45.8% of the current database. Johnson gave a detailed description of each category in his article.

The proportion of incidents by category type is:

- AN (anomaly) = 7.7%.
- CE (close encounter) = 46.5%.
- FB (fly-by) = 17.3%.
- MA (maneuver) = 28.5%.

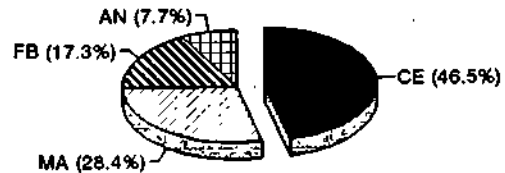
Although it has long been assumed that distant encounters like FB and MA represent the majority of sightings, the number of fly-by and maneuver reports (124) vs. the number of CE (close encounter) reports (126) does not support this supposition.

What does this mean? While we could conclude that there are equal numbers of observations of fly-bys and maneuvers collectively, when compared with close encounters, it's also likely that we've been careful not to include cases which could be the result of natural or man-made phenomena, such as bolides, stars, planets, satellites, supersonic aircraft, etc. If this is true, it helps assure that the database is conservative, as I think it should be. On the other hand, the finding may simply mean that a lot of cases are not interesting enough for investigators to devote their energy to them, a thorough report normally requiring many hours of the investigator's time to complete. It would be unfortunate to receive significantly fewer reports than known events, but if it means we get more or better reports of complex (and more interesting) cases, so much the better.

The MUFON processing of a report provides several formal reviews (by the corresponding State Section Director, State Director, Regional Director, and the Deputy Director of Investigations) before it is entered into the database. This means the entered report should be of fairly high caliber. For my money, I would rather have a small quantity of good reports than a large number of poor or highly questionable ones. Good statistics cannot be obtained from garbage information and it is very difficult to weed out bad data after the fact.

Percent by Type

Data as of August 6, 1993

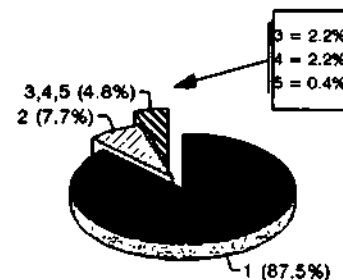


From the "Classification Data" chart, it is readily apparent that the majority of reports are identified (subclassified) with a "1" (AN1, CE1, FB1, and MA1). As illustrated in Johnson's article, a "1" represents a simple sighting; a "2" indicates there are physical effects or evidence associated with the sighting; a "3" represents cases in which live entities are observed; a "4" regards interaction with entities (such as CE-4 abductions), and a "5" identifies events resulting in lasting injury or death. For example, an AN3 category (an anomaly involving the observation of entities) could relate to a ghostly apparition, an FB3 or MA3 indicates the observer saw entities onboard a distant UFO, and a CE3 represents an encounter within five-hundred feet of the witness in which beings were involved but no abduction or injury occurred.

The "1" identifier accounts for 87.5% of the database (237 records), while a "2" was given to 7.7% of the reports, a "3" to 2.2%, a "4" to 2.2%, and a "5" to 0.4% (one occurrence).

Percent by Identifier

Data as of August 6, 1993



The conclusion that simple, uneventful sightings are typical of UFO-related events should be obvious and expected.

FUTURE STUDIES

I plan to continue providing information from the database, and I welcome suggestions, with the understanding that whether or not an analysis is performed will depend on the reasonableness and "popularity" of the request. No witness name will be reported unless there is a need and the witness has given written consent. Also, the requester should not expect a personal reply.

Send requests to: David Spencer, 6700 Woodcrest, Austin, TX 78759.

ORTK PICKETS WHITE HOUSE FENCE

WASHINGTON, DC — On July 5, the Monday following the Richmond MUFON Symposium, more than 50 supporters of Operation Right to Know marched in

front of the Clinton White House carrying banners that said "UFOs are real and the government knows it." The demonstration was the second consecutive one mounted in the nation's capital by ORTK and followed an earlier protest outside the offices of the *Washington Post*. Subsequent walks were scheduled for Grand Rapids, MI, on August 14 and Long Island, NY, on the 21st. "Ridicule was not a problem," said Ed Komarek, co-founder with Mike Jamieson of ORTK. "The Spirit of the marchers was high and the extent of media coverage was outstanding." (See photo below.)

The Associated Press picked up the story, as did Ted Turner's Cable News Network (CNN). Some 71 media organizations carried items about the march, including the Rush Limbaugh Show, although ORTK awarded Limbaugh the society's second annual Golden Trash Award for irresponsible public reporting regarding the UFO subject. Write 1801 Clydesdale NW, Suite 501, Washington, DC, 20009 for further details.





The UFO PRESS

DEMONS, DOCTORS AND ALIENS INFO Occasional Paper No. 2

Author: James Pontolillo
The International Fortean Organization
P.O. Box 367, Arlington VA 22210
Soft Cover (8 1/2" x 11"), March 1993.
22 Pages, \$10.00

Reviewed by Robert H. Coddington

James Pontolillo was most recently book review editor and contributing author for *The INFO Journal*, the membership organ of the International Fortean organization, a small but dedicated group bent on "...furthering the work of [the late] Charles Fort in discovering, enjoying, exploring and publicizing phenomena that appear to contradict the laws of nature." Fort's legacy lies in his books, lightly impudent compendia of reported strange and seemingly impossible occurrences he gleaned largely from newspapers worldwide around the turn of the century.

A redeeming characteristic of most Fortians is a refusal to take themselves seriously. As did Fort himself, they find reported anomalies fascinating and sometimes amusing but perhaps from fear that fascination may breed gullibility they lean strongly to disbelief in those reports. The annual Fortfest meeting is a funfest rife with fanciful speculation about such improbabilities as sea monsters, fish or other strange objects falling from the skies, spontaneous human combustion...and yes, UFOs and their alleged victims. Yet there also is a serious interest in determining if there are germs of truth underlying such improbabilities.

It's clear in *Demons, Doctors and Aliens* that Pontolillo is serious. It's also clear early on that he gives no credence to the alleged reality of UFO abductions, reports of which he asserts are exclusive to the West, arise solely from psychological "screen" memories or hypnotically induced pseudomemories and confabulations, and are fueled by irresponsible popularization of such claims in the media. (Cynthia Hind, for one, would be surprised, having accumulated reports of abductions in South Africa — conscious-memory reports made by natives with zero exposure to popular western media.) His conclusions are aptly summarized in an ad for this "Occasional Paper" in the February 1993 *INFO Journal*: "There is not a shred of evidence for alien abductions. The abductee 'testimony' is a modern version of the same ignorance, bigotry, fantasy and sexual neuroticism that resulted in the witch trials and burnings. The experiences are the same, the 'evidence' is the same, and the sexuality is the same — even the questions and answers are the same."

Pontolillo brings to this brief paper considerable erudition and extensive research. Its reference bibliography lists over 120 sources! But one's erudition and scholarship don't guarantee immunity to subjectively tainted conclusions. To reach his, Pontolillo briefly reviews the evolution of classical myth and folklore from ancient Sumerian legends telling of "...godlike entities from other star systems coming down to interbreed" with humans, to Genesis' familiar "sons of God" mating with daughters of men, to myths of "wee people" and fairy-human interbreeding, to the demonic connotation given by the early Church to supposed nonhuman interlopers. He sees in the heavily sexual/gynecological content of today's UFO abduction reports nothing more substantive than a modern expression of a quirk universally inherent to the human psyche that has spawned legendary tales of couplings, consensual or forced, of mortals with nonhuman entities down through history.

To this point his postulate may be tenable. Perhaps there indeed is an archetypal aspect of Jung's collective unconscious giving rise to an underlying commonality among perceptual but unreal abduction experiences in both folklore and the present. Presuming the historical lore to be nothing more than imaginary, delusional and fictional, it follows for Pontolillo that today's reports, arising as he asserts from the same dark recesses of the universal human psyche, are equally delusional and fictitious.

Of course, this presumption-based conclusion automatically discourages examination of alternate possibilities, however remote. For one: Pontolillo notwithstanding, we cannot say with certainty there is not some underlying ageless and real *nonhuman* agency buried in the welter of folklore common to all cultures; perhaps even one capable of inducing incredible misperceptions (such as "abduction-oriented subversion myths"), for inconceivable motives, in the minds of human victims.

To extrapolate his premise more specifically, Pontolillo imparts an added spin to his postulated psychological profile by couching our continuing history of abduction myths in a context of misogyny. Perhaps some will be startled by his fervent assertion that "The unifying thematic element and *raison d'être* of all abduction cycle phenomena, whether of the angelic, demonic, elfin, human (white slavery) or extraterrestrial variety, is a pathological hatred, contempt and fear of Woman as a self-defined individual."

To exemplify this purported pathological hatred at work, Pontolillo dwells in some depth and graphic detail on the most sordid gynecological aspects of the persecution and torture, by Church, state and society, of accused female witches from the fifteenth century to the notorious Salem witch trials. These, he contends, were a particularly onerous derivative of his postulated "misogynistic myth" and were the precursor of today's obses-

With this the author would drag the already controversial UFO subject into the rancorous socio-moral schism over abortion that is troubling our society today.

sion with UFO abduction lore. However, as his own discourse confirms, the inquisition, torture and even deaths of the accused witches were perpetrated by human tormentors, more or less publicly, mainly for the witches' suspected crime of presumably consensual intercourse with nonhuman (and therefore demonic) entities. For most readers it will be a far stretch to view this as socio-psychologically or culturally equivalent to today's reported covert abductions and physiological violations of unwilling victims by nonhuman entities.

To fit his anti-woman-culture thesis to modern accounts, Pontolillo insists that "...the majority of those who have claimed to have undergone an abduction by aliens are women." He adds, "...[though] no reliable statistics have been compiled... a survey of the literature...warrant[s] this conclusion." Is this accurate?

Lacking detailed statistics from Hopkins, Fiore, Jacobs, Mack, et al. it's interesting to look first at those reported abductions that have gained broad notoriety over the years: Betty and Barney Hill, Betty Andreasson-Luca, Charles Hickson and Calvin Parker, Antonio Villas-Boas, Travis Walton, Herb Schirmer, Whitley Strieber, and most recently Hopkins's "Kathie Davis" and "Linda Cortile." Here we find men have the edge by seven to four.

Thumbing next through several popular books on the subject for a cursory view of gender balance among abductees in the literature, one finds that Budd Hopkins's *Missing Time*, besides mentioning several of the noted abductees above, discusses at varying lengths alleged abductions of eleven males and seven females; Edith Fiore's *Encounters* discusses seven females and six males; and in Appendix B of *Secret Life* David Jacobs names 22 females and 17 males — female preponderant by only 54%. Overall, this literature scarcely is overwhelmingly gender-slanted toward women, at least in numbers, as Pontolillo implies.

To further support this alleged gender prevalence, Pontolillo asserts: "The amount of time and effort devoted to documenting abductee claims also falls disproportionately towards those accounts given by women." Checking this, we find that *Missing Time* devotes on the order of just over 50 pages to details of abductions of females, but over 100 pages to those of abducted males. *Encounters* averages just over 16 pages for each female, but nearly 18 pages per male. In *Secret Life* one female abductee's extended experiences reach a cumulative 31 pages; apart from this exception, Jacobs averaged about six-and-a-half pages each to other females' accounts, and five each to those for males. These,

too, fall short of immoderate bias toward women.

Pressing his premise still further, Pontolillo says of the Hills' bellwether abduction case: "...Betty's remembrances generated an inordinate amount of interest while those of her husband were only mentioned as an afterthought." It's true that Betty's account is the more richly detailed one, but it's inaccurate to say Barney Hill's was shortchanged. John Fuller's *The Interrupted Journey*, the definitive treatment of the scenario revealed by the Hills' respective hypnosis sessions, contains a nominal 60 pages of literal dialog between Betty and psychiatrist Benjamin Simon, but devotes over a hundred pages to Barney's dialog. Scarcely just a passing afterthought!

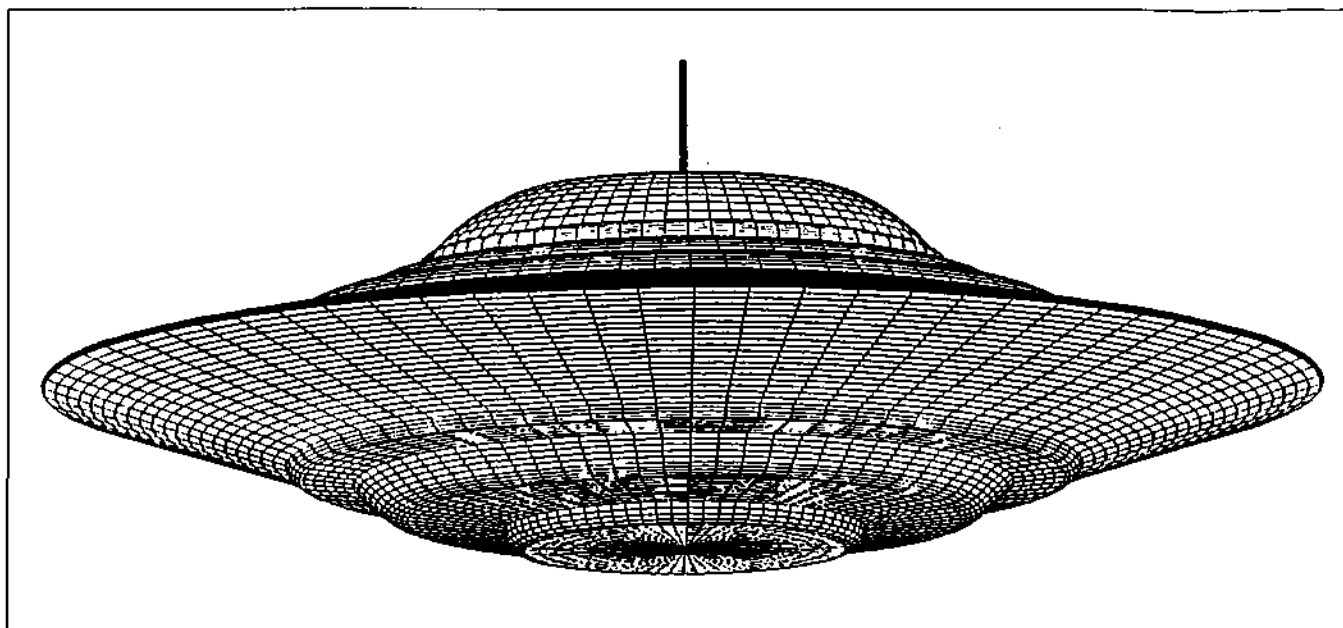
(In a blanket assault on the professionalism of all hypnotists involved, Pontolillo says, "A casual examination of all major pro-abduction books reveals the use of leading questions by researchers on their hypnotized subjects. 'Fact: Dr. Simon, a consummate professional psychiatrist, at no time attributed any validity to the Hills' accounts, and certainly didn't lead them. Their abduction scenario emerged, nevertheless.)

Since any objective reality behind reported abductions still falls short of scientifically acceptable proof, a reasoned and logical argument against their reality can be formulated. Others have made cogent arguments for abduction scenarios being only psychological creations with no objective reality. However, the dissimilarity in essentials between humans' persecution of witches and alien abductions, coupled with the failure of the leading abduction literature to support Pontolillo's assertions of a nearly exclusive focus on and victimization of women, mitigates against his more damning conclusion that abduction reports represent a pernicious, misogynistic perversion of our cultural milieu.

It appears Pontolillo's reasoning is colored by a strongly subjective agenda. The real focus of that agenda is revealed and underlined by his concluding statement in *Demons*: "...in the United States, the message of the alien abduction phenomenon could not be more clear: *women cannot have control over their own bodies, either in this world or an imaginary one* [Pontolillo's emphasis]." With this he would drag the already controversial UFO subject into the rancorous socio-moral schism over abortion that is troubling our society today. It will be interesting to see how successfully he can enlist support for this contentious view.

* * *

For reasons not made public, release of *Demons, Doctors and Aliens* as an International Fortean organization occasional Paper triggered marked dissent among the INFO Board of Directors after the fact. Differences were of a magnitude to provoke the resignations of several individuals, including Pontolillo. Perhaps the root of the controversy will come to light in due course.



TEN UFOs DRAWN IN AUTOCAD

By Donald Mann & Erich Aggen
Self-published, 41 pages, \$12

Reviewed by Dennis Stacy

Desktop publishing, consisting of an Apple Macintosh or IBM-compatible computer and the appropriate software, coupled with a laser printer or service bureau output, continues to be a boon to graphic artists and writers interested in the UFO phenomenon who might not otherwise find a professional name outlet for their work. In some cases, it can be a boon (or a burden) to the consummate student, too.

Ten UFOs lies somewhere along that sliding scale, depending on your own particular personal interest in the phenomenon. The original idea was certainly an ambitious one: take some of the best UFO photographs available and convert them into the sort of "blueprint" diagram afforded by AutoCAD — Automatic Computer-Aided-Design — software. Once an object is reduced to its basic diagram or outline, it can be rotated and viewed from any angle at will, giving a 3-dimensional "reality" to apparently solid objects not normally captured in photographs, which confine the phenomenon to the two dimensions of height and width.

For the most part this vision has been realized. MUFON State Section Director Erich Aggen, Jr. of Kansas City, Missouri, supplied the original photographs and, presumably, the accompanying text. Graphic artist Donald Mann then undertook the painstaking task of converting these photographs into detailed plans allegedly accurate to a thousandth of an inch. The author(s) warn that the UFOs so treated are not necessarily authentic: "Using AutoCAD the draw-

ings have exact dimensions *whether or not the UFOs depicted in the photographs are accurate representations of actual alien spacecraft.*" [My emphasis.]

Thus the UFOs so detailed range from the reliable (the McMinnville, Oregon, photograph) to the highly dubious (George Adamski and Billy Meier). Other UFOs so treated include the Stock, Trindade, UMMO, Gulf Breeze and Barra da Tijuca UFOs. Meier's so-called "Pleiadian Beamships" account for three of the cases. Despite the fact that only ten UFOs are referred to, some 27 detailed drawings are reproduced (almost three a case). The accompanying text, while brief and to the point, could still have used more qualification in terms of which cases are considered reliable by mainstream ufology and which ones aren't, or at least remain under a cloud of suspicion. The fear here is that, once disseminated, these drawings will all be accepted by the general public as the "real thing."

Cautious students, however, will find much here to study. In terms of pure paper alone (41 pages) — if not necessarily man hours — *Ten UFOs* seems a wee bit over-priced at \$14 (\$12 plus \$2 postage). In addition, the quality of the printed text isn't quite on a par with that of the reproduced diagrams. But the latter are certainly superb. In fact, we've reproduced one above. Anyone who hungers for more of the same will find their appetite satiated.

It occurs to me that the authors of this work could probably also make their material available on floppy disks (in the form of TIF, GIF or PCX graphic files) for about roughly the same price. Then almost anyone with a computer could avail themselves of same, reproduction fees included.

Ten UFOs can be ordered directly from Donald Mann, Drawer A, 130 S. Terrace, Liberty, MO 64068. Tel: (816) 781-7329.

MUFON FORUM

Letters to *Mufon UFO Journal*

JULY KUDOS

Kudos to Dennis Stacy for putting together an excellent issue of *MUFON UFO Journal* (July, 1993, Number 303). Taken individually, each of the three main articles in this issue raises important issues about current trends in UFO research which any serious investigator must consider. Taken together, they represent a collection of significant challenges to the nascent field of "ufology."

Robert Durant's "Cortile Case: Missing Evidence" identifies several serious problems with Budd Hopkins' alien abduction "case of the century." The lack of corroborating evidence for various specific details in Linda Cortile's (and Rich's and Dan's) reports, while not sufficient to establish the case as an elaborate hoax, is nevertheless adequate to compel others to refrain from jumping on the bandwagon promoting what may ultimately become a serious embarrassment to some of ufology's leading alien abduction researchers.

Likewise, "UFO Abduction Survey: A Critique" by Robert Hall, Donald Johnson, and Mark Rodeghier points out several flaws in Hopkins' and Jacobs' *Unusual Personal Experiences* report. Specifically, the issue of the validity of the five indicator questions is raised. The authors' explanation of why these indicators are not valid for identifying potential abductees provides a strong reason to question the results of the survey as a whole. Further, advocates striving to achieve "scientific legitimacy" would do well to follow the authors' concluding cautionary note ("To get any serious scientific attention, we have to do research that is above criticism...Unfortunately, as evidence concerning the prevalence of abductions, this survey does not deserve serious attention."). I hope that Hopkins and Jacobs will finally acknowledge that this survey is indeed flawed and back off from their claim that millions of Americans are (potential) abductees. To continue citing the survey will only diminish their credibility in the eyes of those they wish to convince—serious scientists involved in mainstream research.

Completing the trio of articles is Dr. David Gotlib's "False Memory Syndrome" describing a psychological condition which has been receiving much press lately with respect to adult claims of repressed memories of childhood satanic ritual abuse. Dr. Gotlib correctly draws the parallel between the methods used by therapists to uncover SRA with those used by abduction researchers to "help" abductees recover memories of alien abduction. Both use hypnosis, which has been shown in many studies *not* to be a reliable method of recalling memories. In fact, studies show quite the opposite: that hypnosis will tend to create artificial memories. It is time abduction researchers acknowledged the inadequacy of

hypnotically-recalled memories as reliable evidence of objective events. Dr. Gotlib's article provides evidence that awareness of these issues is rising among researchers.

Also, Dennis Stacy's review of Zecharia Sitchin's *Earth Chronicles* series provides a refreshingly objective point of view. After giving a brief overview of Sitchin's main arguments, Stacy quite effectively skewers them, concluding that "they do make for wonderful reading, but then so does the Bible." Indeed.

In conclusion, this issue of *MUFON UFO Journal* provides a sorely needed breath of reality to a field which is normally characterized by hearsay and overzealous fantasizing.

—Anson Kennedy
Duluth, GA

SITCHIN DEFENDED

I believe that the *MUFON UFO Journal* has been unduly harsh to Mr. Zecharia Sitchin by allowing Dennis Stacy's opinion to show up in the *Journal* under the guise of a critique.

It is easy to criticize I would say to Mr. Stacy; but who among us can offer a more viable overall scenario as to the true history of our planet that covers the 450,000 year span Mr. Sitchin deals with?

Though, I too have trouble with *two* of Mr. Sitchin's tenets, I say that nobody else in mainstream science is willing to try to put down on paper "The History of the World 500,000 years before now," as Mr. Sitchin tries — and does well I might add. I agree with Dennis Stacy on the following points: I can't imagine the Nifilim living so far out in deep space and experiencing the hundreds of degree differential temperature that such a large orbit would produce. And, I wonder about 1 Nibiru year equaling 3600 earth years: maybe those theories will be changed as new discoveries are unearthed. Wm. Bramley (*The Gods of Eden*) on this point suggests that perhaps, & just perhaps the Nifilim's apparent longevity (if in fact they do exist) is due to their being able to have continuity of consciousness between incarnations coupled with other advanced souls being able to recognize these souls. These are very thought provoking theories and not easily discussed or easily accepted by the masses — even at the "just considering it" level. But I would expect MUFON to be more open to the idea of supporting Mr. Sitchin's overall view and weighing the possible against the probable.

And just to remind Dennis Stacy (§ 4): Organic molecules do exist in the cold depths of space. Even conservative Mr. "Billions & Billions," Carl Sagan speaks of our being "star stuff."

I sensed Dennis Stacy's bias of being overall derogatory towards Mr. Sitchin. A specific example of his wanting to show Mr. Sitchin in bad light: on page 18, in § 1: Dennis Stacy states, "...relies on it almost as if it were an eyewitness account of events, although no one

would have been alive at the time, or survived the subsequent cataclysm." I know that, he must know that. That is where his bias jumped off the page.

That would be like saying continents don't drift because no one saw them move. Or that dinosaurs never existed because no one saw them move either (yes, we have their bones but we also have the bones of the celestial collision Mr. Sitchin speaks of: namely, the asteroid belt, the moon — anomalous as it is — and the comets with their retrograde orbits and the outer planets that are turned over and Pluto which orbits outside the plane of the ecliptic, etc.). The puerile answer to Dennis Stacy's bewilderment is too simple to mention, but here goes: The information was told to us by people more advanced than we. It is possible. Also, it is not the "hammered Heaven," it is the "hammered Bracelet."

I would expect reviews such as this from Carl Sagan, not MUFON. Sure there are problems in Sitchin's theories — but Stacy went beyond criticizing the books, he criticized the man. And it came through loud and clear. Stacy's tone was too harsh to be just critiquing books.

In ¶ 2 on page 18 Stacy/MUFON is sounding more like Carl Sagan again: no Ph.D. and you're left with only B.S. Is MUFON now waiting for the government to tell us what is going on? I joined MUFON because I was tired of closed-mindedness.

In ¶ 4 on page 18, let me nit pick: Marduk/Nibiru according to Mr. Zecharia Sitchin did not run into Tiamat; her moons did. Did Dennis Stacy merely read the book jacket for his book report?

And the haughty paragraph I'd like the readers to review is the penultimate. Dennis Stacy has now reduced the Bible down to "wonderful reading." How benevolent of him. I would say to Dennis Stacy, try reading it in the original Hebrew text, not the version you find at your favorite motel chain.

I have read all six books twice and believe that they deserve more respect than I saw MUFON give them this time around.

— Jay J. Wheatley
State Section Director
Fairfield, CA

Just thought I'd give you a quick bit of feedback from one Journal reader. Thank you for the excellent article by Hall et al on how a scientific survey should be designed, measured, quantified and analyzed. The other articles, such as Dr. Gotlib's on False Memory Syndrome, in the July issue were also very well done. If this kind of article replaces the diatribes full of accusations and rhetoric, I look forward to maintaining my membership.

— Claudia Yapp
Needham, MA

CURRENT CASES

■ **Log #930519C:** August 25, 1992, Durant, OK. Bryan County. Investigated by Chuck Pine, Tuttle, OK. On Tuesday evening at 10:51 p.m., Mr. "P" was lying in bed and looked out his west window, which was open. He saw a light that he first thought was an aircraft, but then it rapidly moved from one position to another behind some trees and a clear opening. It jumped to the right and stopped, swung like a pendulum, swayed back and forth and stopped again. He yelled for his wife and two house guests and eventually they all went outdoors for a better view. Mrs. "P" said the object was at an angle and she could see a portion of the underside, which was a darker area. The object appeared to be conical with light rays emitting down and out from the bottom edge. The third witness, Mr. "N," said that the object was blue on top, yellow in the middle, and white on the lower one-third. They watched it for 30 minutes.

■ **Log #930526C:** March or April, 1988, Henly, Texas. Hays County near Hwy 290. Incident investigated by T. David Spencer, Austin, Texas. At about 5:30 a.m. a young man was preparing to leave for work. He was facing west, putting equipment in his truck, when something low in the south-southwest sky caught his attention. He thought to himself, "What is going on?" A very large upright equilateral triangle came over a hill. The apex was straight up and the bottom of the triangle was parallel to the ground. The object was flying at an estimated altitude of 300 feet. Almost immediately behind it came another equilateral triangle about 50 feet higher in the sky, 20 feet behind, and westward of the first. As the objects drew closer to the witness, five smaller triangles were visible clustered around the tail ends of the two larger ones and spread out behind them in a tight formation. The larger objects appeared to be about 45 feet across and the smaller ones half that size. The seven triangles looked like flames on a gas furnace, except that, rather than blue, they were a golden color. As they drew even with the witness, he could see that they were leaving a trail of gold dust or flakes that faded out at one end, like a contrail. One of the small triangles seemed to "backfire, cough, and sputter." The witness could not see anything inside the triangles except stars. He is convinced that he was watching some sort of Stealth equipment belonging to the military. The triangles were in view for about 9 seconds before they left his range of vision.

READER'S CLASSIFIEDS

FREE READING LIST & other sources of reliable information on the UFO phenomenon, including more than 50 book titles, organizations & publications. Also lists 45 publications (books, reports, videotapes & gov't documents) offered by the Fund for UFO Research. Send name & address to: Fund for UFO Research, P. O. Box 277-M, Mt. Rainier, MD 20712.

AREA 51 VIEWER'S GUIDE: Detailed milepost log of Nevada Hwy 375, home of Black Mailbox & many UFO reports. Viewing sites, back roads, services, maps, references. \$15+\$3.50 priority postage. Glenn Campbell, HCR Box 38, Rachel, NV 89001.

SKEPTICS UFO NEWSLETTER (SUN) by Philip J. Klass, published bimonthly, offers a different perspective. Send \$2.00 for recent sample copy to: Skeptics UFO Newsletter, 404 "N" St. Southwest, Washington, D.C. 20024-3702. All members of MJ-12 subscribe, so perhaps you should too.

SUBSCRIBE TO THE ISLANDER NEWSPAPER, your UFO connection in Gulf Breeze, Florida. One year subscription, 52 issues by mail, \$18. Limited number "Gulf Breeze Sightings" magazine still available. \$2.00 plus \$1.50 postage. The Islander, P. O. Box 292, Gulf Breeze, FL 32562.

UFO CONFERENCE FLYER MAIL LIST: Sponsors of the 1993 Gulf Breeze UFO Conference will be hosting numerous UFO conferences around the country beginning in 1994. If you wish to receive an information/registration flyer on each conference, write to: CONFERENCES, P. O. Box 730, Gulf Breeze, FL 32562, or call 1-904-934-1247.

VIDEO/AUDIO TAPES on UFOs, crop circles, aviation mysteries, near-death experiences, Face on Mars & other fascinating topics. Free list & sample newsletter from The Eclectic Viewpoint, Box 802735-M, Dallas, TX 75380. Future lecture hotline (214) 601-7687.

CONTACT FORUM, the Round Table of Universal Communication, is a newsletter that provides a forum for researchers, therapists, experiencers (abductees, contactees, channelers, etc.) & others interested in actual contact to exchange ideas & information freely & without necessarily divulging their names. For info, call (800) 366-0264, leave address.

INDIANAPOLIS: "Are We Alone?—Current Case Studies for the Extraterrestrial Hypothesis," to be held Nov. 20-21 at the Adam's Mark Hotel, 2544 Executive Drive. Researchers include: Budd Hopkins, John Carpenter, Michael Lindemann, Dr. Brian O'Leary, Forest Crawford and Skye Ambrose. Cost is \$50 before Nov. 6; \$55 after and at the door. Optional events: Researchers Banquet, Workshops, Hypnotherapists, and Experiencers Group Meeting. Call (417) 882-6847 or write TRIAD, 4033 S. Belvedere, Springfield, MO 65807.

CORRECTION OF 900 PHONE NUMBER: ET & UFO story by telephone. Jeanna Orion's 17 year ET Experiences. Detailed Earth Changes Predictions from ETs/Topic 1024 & 1025. Jeanna's encounters investigated, Dr. John Mack,

Harvard. Entire story, 1-900-678-3647/Topics 1010 thru 1026, 3 to 4 mins. ea. \$1.49 min. Touch tone phone. FREE titles list, 1-800-966-9668.

GULF BREEZE UFO CONFERENCE Oct 22-24 Pensacola Beach, FL. Speakers: Dr. John Mack (Conference Advisor), Budd Hopkins, Dr. Michael Zimmerman, Dr. Judith Miller, Dr. Susan Fox, Stanton Friedman, Robert Dean, John Carpenter, Leah Haley. Info: Box 730, Gulf Breeze, FL 32562 or call Vicki Lyons at (904) 432-8888.

A TRIAD RESEARCH CONFERENCE. "Is There Evidence of Contact From Our Universe?" will be presented in Houston, TX on Oct. 16-17 at the Wyndham Warwick Hotel. Speakers Budd Hopkins, Dr. Richard Haines, John Carpenter, Jeff Sainio, George Wingfield, Michael Lindemann, Leah Haley, Dale Goudie & Jim Klotz. \$50 before Oct 9, \$55 thereafter. Banquet, workshops optional. Call (417) 882-6847 or write TRIAD, 4033 S. Belvedere, Springfield, MO 65807.

COMING OF AGE: Interactive newsletter. Parapsychology, UFOs, alternative medicine. Participate in the Experience Laboratory. Subscription 1 yr. \$25, sample \$2. Box 19-214, 2250 E. Tropicana Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89119.

ATTENTION TWINS! UFO/ET researcher wishes to contact twins, twin families, individuals with twin birth anomalies & individuals who feel they had a twin & have had UFO or paranormal experiences. Contact Caryl Dennis, 1245 Palm St., Clearwater, FL 34615, (813) 441-2270.

ABDUCTED BY ALIENS & MILITARY PERSONNEL: Leah Haley tells story of lifetime experiences & struggle to cope in her new book, *Lost Was The Key*. Hardcover, 160 pages. Check or M.O. to Greenleaf Publications, Box 70563, Tuscaloosa, AL 35407-0563, \$22.45, postpaid.

UFO VIDEOS: UFOAZ TALKS is a comprehensive UFO talk show. Live interviews with Bill Cooper, Wendelle Stevens, Ken Peterson, etc. Live footage of sightings, STS-48, German saucers, Dulce, NM, etc. For list of VHS tapes send SASE to UFO Videos, 5655 E. River Rd., Ste. 101-190, Tucson, AZ 85715.

UFOLOGIST & TELEVISION HOST (deceased) has collection of varied UFO books by various authors. Also, varied magazine collection, space & UFO only. All used, but in excellent condition. (Magazines 1975-1993). For availability & price list, write: E.T. Monitor, Box 310 Windsor, PA 17366. Enclose SASE.

READERS' CLASSIFIEDS: To place your own personal ad in this section simply enclose a check for \$15 for each issue of the *Journal* in which you wish it to appear. Limit 50 words, please. Acceptance is at the discretion of the editors and in no way implies endorsement by the Mutual UFO Network, its Board of Directors or the *Journal*. Send sample, ad copy and check or money order (payable to MUFON) to Dennis Stacy, Box 12434, San Antonio, TX 78212.

The NIGHT SKY

Walter N. Webb

October 1993

Bright Planets (Evening Sky):

Reddish Mars (magnitude 1.5) is very low in the WSW, setting only 3/4 hour after the Sun in midmonth. Using binoculars, try spotting it only 2° above brighter and orange-tinted Mercury on October 4 and in the same binocular field with the crescent Moon on the 16th. The pair of planets is higher and easier to see from the southern states.

Saturn (0.6), in Capricornus, stands low in the SE at dusk and advances westward across the southern sky. The quarter Moon lies above Saturn on October 23. The ringed world resumes direct (eastward) orbital motion on the 28th.

Bright Planets (Morning Sky):

Venus (-3.9) rises about 5 AM daylight time in the E in mid-October. The lunar crescent is nearby on the 13th.

Saturn sets in the W about 2 AM in midmonth.

Meteor Shower:

The Orionids peak on the mornings of October 21 and 22—about 20 or 25 meteors per hour toward dawn. Observers are favored after midnight with no moonlight interference. A dark sky is essential in order to glimpse these mostly faint, swift meteors. The blazing particles appear to radiate from Orion's upraised club—an effect of perspective due to the fact that the Earth heads in that direction in space at this time of the year.

Moon Phases:

Last quarter—October 8



New moon—October 15



First quarter—October 22



Full moon—October 30



The Stars:

At 9 PM in mid-October the nose of Pegasus, the winged steed of mythology, touches the celestial meridian in the S. At that hour the Summer Triangle remains prominent high in the SW.

Below Pegasus, the only bright objects in the entire lower southern sky are the yellowish planet Saturn in Capricornus the Sea Goat, and lower still the white star Fomalhaut in Piscis Austrinus the Southern Fish. Of all the 1st-magnitude stars seen from northern latitudes, Fomalhaut ("fish's mouth") is the southernmost and often overlooked. Because of its isolation from other bright stars, it has been called the Solitary One.

Both the V-shaped Hyades and dipper-shaped Pleiades star

clusters (in Taurus the Bull) appear for the first time above the eastern horizon—a hint of the winter season yet to come.

CALENDAR

September 17-19 — Midwest Conference on UFO Research, Quality Inn, just north of I-44 and Glenstone, Springfield, MO. For information call (417) 882-6847 or write to Midwest UFO Conference, 4033 So Belvedere Ct, Springfield, MO 65807.

September 24-27 — 5th Annual National New Age Conference, Holiday Inn, Phoenix, Arizona. For information call (602) 230-5381.

October 9-10 — The UFO Experience, Holiday Inn, North Haven, Connecticut. For information contact John White, Omega Communications, P. O. Box 2051, Cheshire, CT 06410.

October 15, 16 & 17 — National UFO Conference, Days Inn in Bordentown, New Jersey, just off Exit #7 of the New Jersey Turnpike. For further information write to Pat Marcattilo at 138 Redfern St., Trenton, NJ 08610.

October 16-17 — Houston, Texas "Is There Evidence of Contact From Our Universe?" at the Wyndham Warwick Hotel. Call (417) 882-6847 or write to the Triad Research Conference Found., 4033 S. Belvedere, Springfield, MO 65807.

October 22-24 — Gulf Breeze UFO Conference "The Search for Answers," Clarion Suites Convention Center, Pensacola Beach, Florida. INFO: Call Vicki Lyons at (904) 432-8888 or write P. O. Box 730, Gulf Breeze, Florida 32562.

November 13 — The Second Delaware UFO Symposium: 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Copeland Lecture Hall, Winterthur Museum and Gardens, suburb of Wilmington, DE. For reservations call (302) 328-3804 or (302) 737-6127.

November 20-21 — Indianapolis, Indiana: "Are We Alone? Current Case Studies for the Extraterrestrial Hypothesis" at the Adam's Mark Hotel. Call (417) 882-6847 or write to the Triad Res. Foundation at 4033 S. Belvedere, Springfield, MO 65807.

November 28 - December 5 — Third International UFO Congress, Film Festival and "EBE Awards," Las Vegas Showboat Hotel Convention Center, Las Vegas, Nevada. For further information write to Robert Brown, 4266 Broadway, Oakland, CA 94611 or call (510) 428-0202.

MUFON 1993 INTERNATIONAL UFO SYMPOSIUM PROCEEDINGS

"UFOs: The Emergence of a New Science"

Price:

\$20 plus \$1.50 for postage and handling

Order From:

MUFON, 103 Oldtowne Rd., Seguin, TX 78155-4099

UFOs, MJ-12 AND THE GOVERNMENT: A Report on Government Involvement in the UFO Crash Retrievals (113 pages)

by Grant Cameron and T. Scott Crain

Price: \$19 plus \$1.50 for postage and handling

Order From: MUFON, 103 Oldtowne Rd., Seguin, TX 78155-4099

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE - Continued from Page 24

dates are being solicited immediately for a full four-year term. This is an opportunity for present state directors, assistant state directors, state section directors and other leaders in the eastern region to accept greater responsibilities within the Mutual UFO Network. The eastern region is composed of the following states: ME, VT, NH, MA, CT, RI, NY, PA, NJ, DE, MD, WV, VA, NC, SC, GA, FL, PR and VI. The Regional Director is elected by the members within the above states. Any interested person is invited and encouraged to submit their name to either their respective state director or **Walt Andrus** in Seguin as a candidate for this vacancy by October 15, 1993, so an election may be conducted by mail. This prestigious position is only one of the four MUFON Board of Directors elected by the membership that they represent.

Eastern Region State Directors should mail their UFO sighting reports to **Jerold "Ron" Johnson**, MUFON Deputy Director of Investigations, 12700 Silver Creek, Austin, TX 78727, until such time as a new Eastern Regional Director is elected.

MUFON 1997 SYMPOSIUM

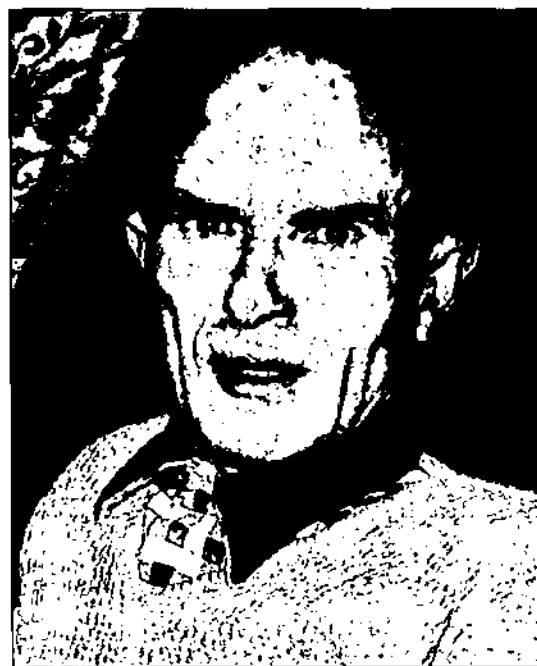
Michigan State Director, **Shirley Coyne**, has submitted a bid to host the MUFON 1997 International UFO Symposium in Ann Arbor, MI, or another suitable location. Michigan hosted the 1976 and 1986 affairs where a qualified and competent team exists. Bids are being invited from the Eastern Region for 1996 and the Western Region for 1998. (**Kenyon Spencer** advised that Denver has declined for 1998.)

MUFON 1994 SYMPOSIUM

The MUFON 1994 International UFO Symposium will be hosted by Texas MUFON at the Hyatt Regency Hotel on Town Lake in Austin, TX on July 8, 9 and 10. **Ellen R. Stuart**, State Director, will be the host chairperson. Special plans and speakers are planned to recognize MUFON's 25th anniversary (silver) and symposia. Speakers already committed are **George Wingfield** (English Crop Circles), and from the historical view of the past 25 years, **James A. Harder, Ph.D. (APRO)**, **Richard H. Hall (NICAP)**, and **John F. Schuessler (MUFON)**.

THE ALLAGASH ABDUCTIONS

The Allagash Abductions: Undeniable Evidence of Alien Intervention, authored by **Raymond E. Fowler**, MUFON Director of Investigations, was shipped to book stores on June 15, 1993, both in Casebound ISBN 0-926524-23-2 for \$23.95 and Quality Trade Paper 0-926524-22-4 at \$16.95. A preview was published in the April 1993 issue of the *MUFON UFO Journal*.

**AIMÉ MICHEL OBITUARY**

Famed French UFO pioneer, author and researcher Aimé Michel, died on December 28, 1992, at the age of 73 in his home village of St. Vincent-les-Forts, in the Alpes de Haute Provence. Having suffered from polio in childhood, he was left with life-long physical effects, the growth of his legs having been stunted, while his arms and torso remained unimpaired.

In the early 1950's Mr. Michel, while working as a journalist with the French Radio and Television Services, became seriously interested in the UFO phenomenon. He authored two UFO books during this era titled, *Lueurs Sur Les Soucoupes Volantes*, and *Mystérieux Objets Célestes*, both published in French. After being translated into English, Criterion Books, Inc., in New York, NY, published these books with the titles *The Truth About Flying Saucers* (1956) and *Flying Saucers and the Straight-Line Mystery* (1958). The publishers acknowledged their gratitude to Isabel Davis (deceased), Ted Bloecher, and Alexander D. Mebane, of Civilian Saucer Intelligence of New York for their generous assistance in editing and checking the data for the American editions.

Alexander "Lex" D. Mebane, a MUFON member living in Venice, FL, wrote an Appendix to the second book titled "The 1957 Saucer Wave in the United States" to theoretically test the orthotonic lines in the U.S.A. as proposed by Michel. Isabel Davis authored a booklet on the *Hopkinsville/Kelly Case of 1955* and Ted Bloecher wrote and published the book *Report on the UFO Wave of 1947*. Mr. Bloecher is a former MUFON State Director for New York.

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Walter Andrus

NEWS FROM AROUND THE NETWORK

MUFON ANNUAL AWARD

Each year MUFON honors a person in Ufology who their colleagues select for having made the most outstanding contribution to the advancement of the UFO phenomenon during the past five years. The distinguished recipient will be presented with an engraved plaque and a monetary award of \$500 from MUFON. Candidates may live anywhere in the world and do not have to be members of the Mutual UFO Network to be nominated for this prestigious award. This was each members opportunity to express their appreciation and personal thank-you to the person you so highly regarded for their Ufological accomplishments. A deadline of September 1, 1993, was selected so the names of the candidates could be listed in the September issue of the *MUFON UFO Journal* Number 305 as the first step in the balloting procedure.

In order not to influence the election, but to rely entirely upon the individual's recognized accomplishments, only the candidates names and state will be listed in alphabetical sequence. The following candidates were nominated for this honor: **Edith Fiore**, Ph.D. (CA), **John Ford** (NY), **Stanton T. Friedman** (NB, Canada), **Cynthia Hind** (Zimbabwe, Africa), **Budd Hopkins** (NY), **Linda M. Howe** (PA), **Pat Marcattilo** (NJ), **Dennis Stacy** (TX), **Leonard H. Stringfield** (OH), **Doris Upchurch** (TX), and **Donald M. Ware** (FL).

The balloting and election will be conducted by mail via a postcard or letter in the U.S.A. Members in foreign countries should use air mail for their ballots. Please select one person from the above list who you feel deserves this award for their outstanding work in scientifically advancing the UFO phenomenon. The deadline for receipt of ballots to MUFON in Seguin, TX has been extended to December 31, 1993. Announcement of the 1993 award winner will appear in the February 1994 issue of the *MUFON UFO Journal*. Please vote now while the subject is fresh in your mind. A significantly large popular vote is essential if MUFON is to continue this annual award.

NEW OFFICERS

Sigurjon H. Kristjansson (Reykjavic) was appointed our new Representative for Iceland. **Michael R. Downey** (Portland) has been elevated to State Director for Oregon and **Skip D. Schultz** (Salem) will assume the role of Assistant State Director. New State Section Directors recently volunteering are the following: **Robert D. Timmons** (Prairie du Sac, WI) for Sauk,

Dane, Columbia, and Iowa Counties; **Timothy A. Landrith** (Davis Creek, CA) for Modoc, Lassen and Siskiyou Counties in northern California; **Donald T. Morar** (Great Cacapon, WV) for Morgan, Jefferson, Berkeley and Hampshire Counties; **Li F. Wong** (Newport, OR) for Lincoln County; and **Marc J. Davenport** (Manhattan, KS) for Riley, Geary and Pottawatomie Counties. Tennessee State Director, **John Komar**, appointed **Steven M. Alsop** (Murfreesboro), a state section director, to also serve as Director of Field Investigations for Tennessee. **William E. Jones**, Ohio State Director has selected **Delbert E. Anderson** (Laurelville) to also serve as Asst. State Director for southeastern Ohio. Oklahoma State Director, **Jean Waller-Seifried**, has appointed **Charles L. Pine** (Tuttle, OK) as Assistant State Director for Training and **Richard D. Seifried** (Norman, OK) as Assistant State Director for Investigations.

CONSULTANTS AND RESEARCH SPECIALISTS

Three new Consultants selected this month are **Hans-Joachim Runkel**, Ph.D. (Ulm, Germany) in Mathematics; **Doris V. Bright**, Ph.D. (Columbia, MD) in Sociology; **Les P. Beard**, Ph.D. (Oak Ridge, TN) in Geophysics; **Francis B. Bliven**, Ph.D. (Baldwinsville, NY) in Parapsychology; and **John M. "Doc" Barry**, Ph.D. (Phoenix, AZ) in Religion. New Research Specialists offering their expertise are **Kathleen J. Prokorym**, M.S.W. (Albany, NY) in Clinical Social Work and **Kevin L. Wilson**, M.A. (Portsmouth, VA) in Religion.

MUFONET-BBS NETWORK

The success of the worldwide computer MUFONET-BBS NETWORK headed by John W. Komar (Memphis, TN), Administrator and State Director for TN, may be realized when a few of the statistics are reviewed. To date, there have been over 20,000 phone calls (901) 785-4943 to John's headquarters BBS. In addition, there are also 80 BBS's receiving calls. Computer Bulletin Board Services are located in 27 states, in addition to Canada, Australia and South Africa.

Over 250 MUFON members access the MUFONET-BBS Network, which includes 14 State Section Directors, two Assistant State Directors, and seven State Directors or Country Directors. Australia calls Mr. Komar three times per week and South Africa will be calling on Sundays. Congratulations to John Komar and the many members of the MUFONET-BBS for their dedication to UFO computer communications.

EASTERN REGIONAL DIRECTOR ELECTION

Due to a vacancy on the MUFON Board of Directors for the position of Eastern Regional Director, candi-

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