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NEWS & VIEWS



PRESS CONFERENCE

Roger Leir and producer Chris Wyatt both objected to my characterization of the press conference that was held in Roswell in July ("Snapshots from Roswell," August Journal). Their responses follow:

On Friday morning, July 4th at 9:00AM, a press conference was held at the Pearson Auditorium, in Roswell, New Mexico. Dr. Russell Vernon Clark from the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, University of California, San Diego, explained to a surprised, overflowing audience of about three hundred representatives of the media and local townsfolk, that his research proved once and for all material believed to be from the crash site of a UFO in July of 1947, was composed of materials not of this world. He went on to present the scientific data proving his case. He also stated that he had obtained this material from an organization called The Fund for Interactive Research in Space Technology (F.I.R.S.T.), by way of the organization's founders, Dr. Roger Leir and Derrel Sims.

The materials were given to him as part of a double blind study to determine scientifically what the substance was composed of. The team of Sims and Leir told him they also had other material believed to be from UFO crash sites being analyzed by other laboratories.

The conference was opened by a brief introduction by Michael Lindemann from CNI News. He in turn introduced Paul Davids, producer of the Emmy nominated motion picture, "Roswell." Davids presented the chronology and history of the Roswell incident. Upon completion of his presentation he introduced Mr. Sims who thanked his co-founder and director of research, Dr. Roger Leir, Hollywood Producer Chris Wyatt, and Dr. Jessie Marcel Jr. He then, introduced Dr. Clark and Dr. Marcel, who told the audience that when shown the material by Sims and Leir, he recognized it as almost the same as some of the material he personally handled in 1947.

The press conference was organized by Abrams-Rubaloff & Lawrence of Los Angeles, California.

**Visit the
F.I.R.S.T. web
site at
<http://www.shw.com/first>**



Above. The alleged Roswell fragment.

The media's anger is understandable. However, this press conference was to inform the public of an amazing discovery that was made by mainstream science. That was all, nothing more.

Present on stage were Derrel Sims, Dr. Roger Leir, Dr. Jessie Marcel, and TV producers Paul Davids and Chris Wyatt.

The press conference ended abruptly after Dr. Clark's presentation in accordance with the planning of the PR firm. The participants were quickly ushered off the stage, out a back entrance and into a waiting car. Only Paul Davids was left to field questions from the media.

The result was confusion and a partial hostile press who openly voiced their dismay relating to the lack of opportunity to ask questions of the principals.

When producer Wyatt was asked about the success of the event, he told reporters that he was pleased with the coverage received and was only disappointed because this event was completely overshadowed by the Mission to Mars. Despite this, he stated that a headline appeared in the *Albuquerque Journal*, and also articles in the *Roswell Record*, *The Washington Post*, and AP and UP wire services. The event was also carried on CBS, ABC, MSNBC, and the Fox Network.

— Roger K. Leir

Each day across America, hundreds of press conferences are held to expressly inform the media of occurrences and information that are deemed valuable to the public. In turn, it is the media's responsibility to inform the public in a responsible and timely manner.

As a member of the media for the past ten years, I have covered over a thousand press conferences ranging the gamut in terms of genres. In all, it has been my experience, and it is the accepted norm, that at

least 40% of all press conferences do not have a question and answer session.

It is common practice for a police department, or even the White House to hold a press conference and not take questions from the media. It happens every day in almost every major city. As nationally evident in the JonBenet Ramsey case, not one of the numerous press conferences held by the Boulder police has allowed for a true Q&A with the media.

Our case is somewhat similar. We held a press conference and did not have a Q&A session. This was my sole decision. And of course, the media was upset. However, I do not blame them for their anger. But there is something far more important than 10-second sound bites here.

The media's anger is understandable. However, this press conference was to inform the public of an amazing discovery that was made by mainstream science. That was all, nothing more.

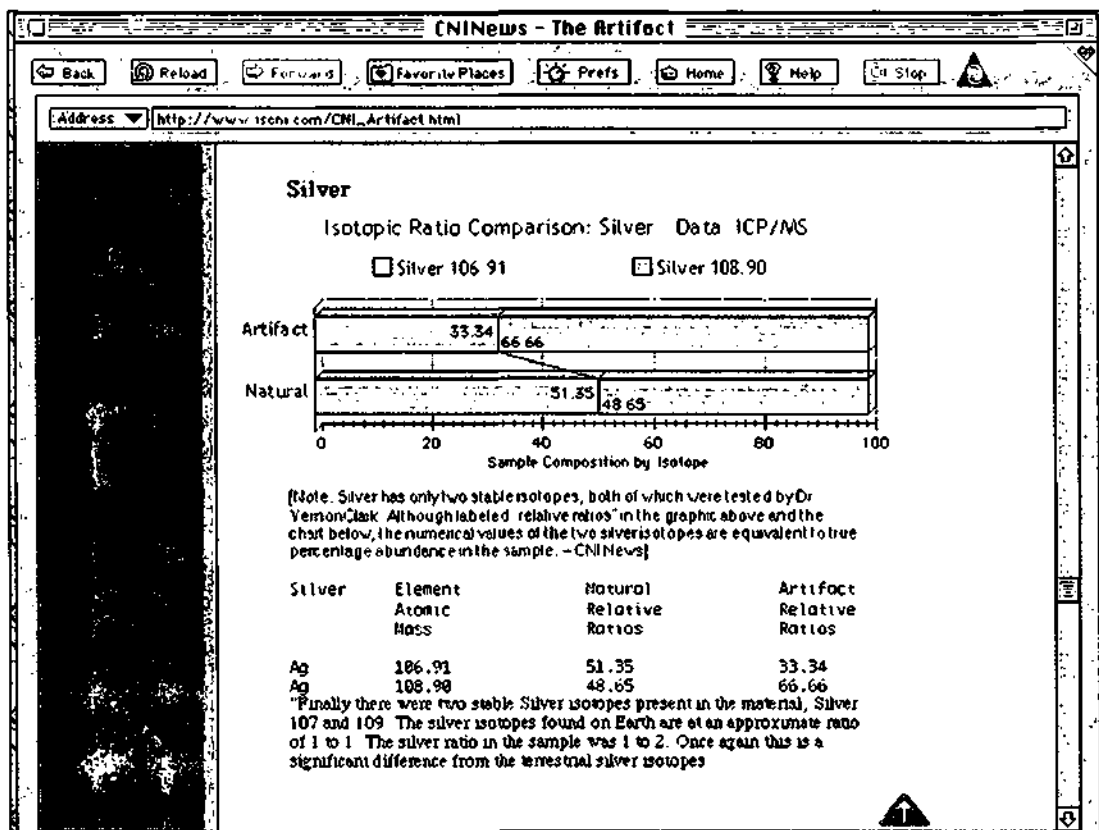
This is the first time in history that a scientist from a major university has made an announcement of this nature. In fact, this is the first time ever that a discovery of this nature has been made and carefully documented by the scientific community.

As I'm sure your readers are aware, Dr. Russell VernonClark made the announcement on July 4th in Roswell. However, what your readers do not know is that Dr. VernonClark is one of a number of mainstream scientists that have performed laboratory tests on this material. Astonishingly, all the conclusions point to two specific aspects, the material is extraterrestrial in origin and should be considered manufactured.

Dr. VernonClark took the initiative and had the courage to go public with this information. Without his foresight, this information would still remain a secret and your readers would have no idea of the scientific evidence that mainstream science has in its possession.

Due to the press conference, the other scientists involved in the testing will be going public with their laboratory test results. At that time, we will assemble a panel of scientists and take questions from the media.

It would have been unfair to have the media, all 200 of them present at Roswell, to be unleashed on Dr. VernonClark. First, he presented his and other scientists' test data at the conference. Since he has a Ph.D. in Chemistry, he is not qualified to discuss the



tests that were conducted by other scientist to determine the method of manufacturing and other aspects of this material. Now that he had the courage to come forward, the other scientists are willing to speak publicly.

If you have been following this story you no doubt are aware of the misinformation and misrepresentations already made by the media. Cases in point are both the Associated Press and the *Albuquerque Journal* articles.

The facts in this case have been so irresponsibly reported by the media that the Associated Press had to publish a national retraction and correction. The media has distorted the truths of this case and at times it seems there is an organized effort to discredit these findings. In my decade of experience as a member of the media, I have never seen anything like it.

I hate to imagine what would have happened had we held a Q&A session at Roswell. We would have had 200 uninformed members of the media, without any scientific backgrounds, asking questions and making assertions that would have been grossly inappropriate and inaccurate. The story would have been mired in confusion and would have died there in Roswell.

All along it has been our intention to bring this material out to the public in the most credible and candid manner possible. As I'm sure your readers will agree with me, this information and its implication are very important. Full disclosure needs to be made public at the right time and in the right venue. It would not have been fair to Dr. Vernon Clark, the laboratory findings, the other scientists or the public to let the media at Roswell run with the story.

We accomplished what we set out to do. For the first time in history, the story is out there. The next step is full disclosure, which will come before the end of the year. All I can say is, stay tuned.

— Chris Wyatt
Producer, Los Angeles

From the CNI News online report of the Roswell fragment. Point your browser to http://www.iscni.com/CNI_Artifact.html

"Same Night" Abductions

If there was a clear clustering of reports on certain dates, conclusions could be drawn without the need for rehashing the usual endless arguments about the extent to which abductees' accounts are the products of their own minds.

Ever since claims of UFO abductions first emerged, the question has been asked whether they have any basis other than dreams or fantasies of individual abductees. This question is basic to any serious discussion of the topic. The purpose of this letter is to suggest a new approach that, with luck, might yield an answer.

(In what follows, the words *abduction* and *abductee* should be regarded as abbreviations for "abduction-type experience" and "person experiencing apparent abduction" respectively, with no interpretation implied.)

In recent years, one of us (RW) investigated a community of abductees who have a high abduction rate, some once a week or more. This group of abductees is located around a small community in Michigan near the Ohio border. We are not sure how large the group is, but it includes at least 20 people that we know about. The group is centered on a female abductee we will call "Judy," who has been our principal informant on the night-time events. Judy has been regressed about some of her experiences, but her conscious memory of many of the events is far greater than that of most abductees. The group had assembled initially after a neighbor of Judy's, who edited the local weekly newspaper, placed a notice in the paper inviting responses from persons who thought they might be abductees. She received a large number of responses, and some of the respondents began meeting together to share their experiences and feelings. There was a lot to share. Besides their high frequencies, the variety and strangeness of the experiences and aftereffects reported would rank high in any comparison with other abduction cases.

In the course of a conversation (with WK), Judy remarked that she and others had experienced a gap of several weeks without abductions, followed by a resumption of activity. The morning after her first post-gap abduction, she had calls from several others in the group reporting the same thing. Such synchronization, of course, is not what one would expect if the abductions represented independent mental events. (Other accounts we heard also pointed toward multiple abductions on the same nights.)

This consideration led to the idea that the simple procedure of having each member of the group of abductees keep an independent log of his or her experiences might yield important results. If abduction reports from separate households consistently fell on the same dates, this would be convincing evidence that they stemmed from a common cause external to the individual abductees, and not from dreams or fantasies.

Unfortunately this suggestion did not emerge until the abductees had largely ceased to interact as a group, and it could not be carried out. Our disappointment at the missed opportunity can be imagined. Rather than letting the whole matter drop, however, it seems worthwhile to ask whether there is any possibility of applying the same ideas elsewhere.

At this point we should pause and consider just what made this particular line of investigation seem attractive. We envisioned the data resulting from the study being displayed in a two-way table with columns corresponding to participants and rows to dates. If a subject's log showed an apparent abduction on a given date, a mark would be entered in the corresponding cell of the table. The question of interest would be whether marks were clustered in certain rows rather than being scattered at random. This should be apparent to the eye, but in any event could be tested statistically. (It is, of course, important that the logs be kept independently; ideally, each apparent abduction would be reported to a central registry on the day it occurred.) The key point is that the table of data would speak for itself, with little room for subjective interpretation. If there was a clear clustering of reports on certain dates, conclusions could be drawn without the need for rehashing the usual endless arguments about the extent to which abductees' accounts are the products of their own minds. For such a clustering would require some causative agent operating simultaneously on all the involved abductees on the dates in question. It is important to note, however, that the nature of the agent would remain a completely open question.

This approach could be pursued if another group of abductees could be identified sharing this characteristic of the one discussed above. We have no magic formula for doing this, but will venture a few sug-

for doing this, but will venture a few suggestions.

- A scan of Dan Wright's abduction data base might indicate the frequency of abduction reports exhibiting the desired characteristics, and might even provide some leads to promising cases.
- As noted, the group discussed above was assembled by advertising in a local weekly newspaper, netting numerous replies. Perhaps the same tactic would work again.
- Abductees often report seeing other apparent abductees sharing the abduction. A case of this type, upon further investigation, might provide the kind of data we are looking for.
- Many abductees are already gathered into groups that meet for mutual support and discussion. It might be worthwhile for the members of such a group to start keeping logs to see whether there were any signs of concurrent abductions.

— Wilfred Kincaid & Ron Westrum



From George A. Filer

MUFON Eastern Director
Majorstar@aol.com

Some of the following cases have been investigated. Others represent only raw data at this time.

NEW JERSEY

(Case 97/8/6) David Stein, a computer expert was driving home late from work on the Garden State Parkway, when he saw blue circular lights low over the highway. At approximately 10:00 p.m., his and other cars started slowing near the Hazlet exit about twenty miles south of New York City. The bright blue lights were not blinking, but seemed to contract and expand in intensity,

causing traffic to stop and look at the amazing sight. The UFO moved up and down and to the left and the right of the roadway. David believes other drivers must have seen the low flying craft, because so many cars stopped on the heavily traveled highway. The craft appeared as a disc about three inches in diameter at arm's length. David estimated its actual size was much larger than an automobile. After the traffic stopped, the bright blue lights suddenly flew off to the west between some trees at high speed and then traffic resumed. David Stein was very shaken by the sighting. He said, "I'd always been a skeptic about UFOs, but not any more. I feel no helicopter or other craft could perform those maneuvers." Further investigation is continuing.

GEORGIA

(Case 97/2/20) John Thompson, GA State Director has finished the investigation of a sighting over La Grange. The witness, a mechanic, saw four bright white lights in the Northeast sky. Each light was larger than Venus and formed a rectangle that stood 45 degrees above the horizon. He slowed his vehicle to obtain a better look and his truck lights angled up on a hill. The four separate lights suddenly merged at instantaneous speed and then flew almost straight up. The lights were like spotlights, brighter and larger than anything the witness had ever seen in the sky, except for the sun or moon. Total viewing time was over a minute. The exact date of the sighting is unknown, but occurred in the second half of February of this year.

FLORIDA

(Case 97/6/17) Jean and Eugene Brown, MUFON State Section Directors, and field investigators Carol Hammond and Polly Bryer have finished the investigation of a Tampa daylight sighting. Olga Booker, the primary witness, was driving home at 11:20 a.m. when she spotted what she at first thought was a blimp with red and white lights. She then realized it was not blimp and started to follow in her car. The object, which looked like a heavy iron pot, was moving slowly from the south to north low over some trees and buildings. The object was pyramid-shaped, with one side slightly curved, and with three pulsating orange to red-colored lights on each corner. There was

also a series of white twinkling lights on the UFO. About thirty lights were on the rear curved portion of the car-sized object. It was flat like a pancake and had no wings, tail, or windows. It was a dark green/grey/brown color. It had scratch or grain-like lines running left to right that reflected a copper or gold-like color on its surface. Two male witnesses also saw the object. One looked at the UFO and said, "What is it?" It flew off to the east at high speed.

The object was sighted just a few miles north of MacDill Air Force Base and coming from that direction. The Air Force said it wasn't theirs. Olga appeared on local TV showing a drawing she made of the craft.

KENTUCKY

A Mr. Hutch, age 24, reports sighting two UFOs at 12:20 a.m., August 12, 1997 near Buffalo, in central Kentucky. He and his wife saw two objects moving directly overhead at a high altitude, but too far away to tell the size or shape. They looked like stars, but were moving fast in random patterns. They moved too fast for normal aircraft, and too erratic for meteors. They both seemed to be moving at same time, but not in the same formation or direction.

It was a warm, dark night, there was a slight mist in the air and storms were forecast. The craft darted around the sky for 15 minutes. The sighting took place near an urban area, where there is an air route close by.

TEXAS

On the evening of Friday, July 25, 1997, Cliff S. and his young son were in their pickup truck going west on Farm Road 1488 in eastern Texas, when they saw something unusual in the sky. In their farm county, Cliff explained, he was used to seeing air traffic traveling between Dallas and Houston in a north-south direction, so when a strange object appeared in the western sky, he took notice.

"It seemed to hang in the sky and not move, so we watched it for a while. I reached back and got my binoculars (which I'd left in the truck since the (Hale-Bopp) comet, and pulled over. I looked at it. It was about the size of an airliner, but much closer. I could see a faint gleam of a cockpit in the middle, with window panes. I was having a weird feeling, such as I remember

having as a kid whenever I'd seen unusual things in the sky."

Cliff's son took the binoculars and confirmed the sighting. Then Cliff watched and said, "Now that I realized that they were very close, I couldn't hear any sound. I turned off the truck engine to hear better, and we both got out. It was just overhead, but the only sound around it was like its wings cutting through the air. Directly overhead...we couldn't see the outline, but it seemed triangular. It was black or dark. No red lights visible from below. A pair of white lights close together, side by side...then another pair behind it, less bright, then another pair, bright again, at the rear. They also had two bright white spotlights at the tip of each wing. It seemed to be following our (farm) road to the east, and would slowly bank to one side, then to the other." (Many thanks to Steve Wilson Sr. for this news story.) UFO ROUNDUP #31, Editor Joseph Trainor, Masinaigan@aol.com

ARIZONA

On 5 Aug. 1997, in Ash Fork, AZ. Wheels Wegener II reports seeing two sets of very bright blue/greenish lights. He reports, "The lights were hovering over a peak across the valley from where I live, with one American-made chopper with them. The chopper was in the area the day before. One set of lights turns on end, and drops into the top of the mountain, or behind it, then comes back up and into horizontal formation and all three leave." A couple of days before, a bright silver ball was in the sky moving toward Phoenix. It vanished into a bright blue circle and then the blue circle vanished. Thanks to Wheels165@aol.com and Skywatch International at Skywatch@wic.net

FINAL REPORT ON AMERICA WEST AIRLINE CASE

The UFO Research Coalition has published the *Final Report On The America West Airline Case*, May 25-26, 1995, dated July 1996. A copy may be obtained for \$10.00 plus \$1.50 for postage and handling by writing to MUFON in Seguin, Texas.



This year's Symposium Proceedings were dedicated to Zimbabwean UFO researcher and author, Cynthia Hind. Walt Andrus presents her with a complimentary copy. Cynthia is MUFON's Continental Coordinator for Africa.

GRAND RAPIDS SYMPOSIUM

**Selections Edited by Dennis Stacy
All Photographs by Ansen Seale**

The 28th annual MUFON Symposium was held in the elegant Amway Grand Plaza Hotel in Grand Rapids, Michigan, the weekend of July 11-13. Congratulations for a job well done to the symposium coordinator, David E. Toth, Bill and Linda Murphy, Co-State Directors, and the entire symposium committee.

The 300-page Proceedings, commemorating the 50th Anniversary of Ufology, the Symposium's theme, are available from MUFON for only \$25 plus \$1.75 shipping and handling. This special anniversary edition, destined to become a collector's item, is printed in gold and black on a plum-colored leatherette stock.

Edited selections from the speakers' presentations follow.

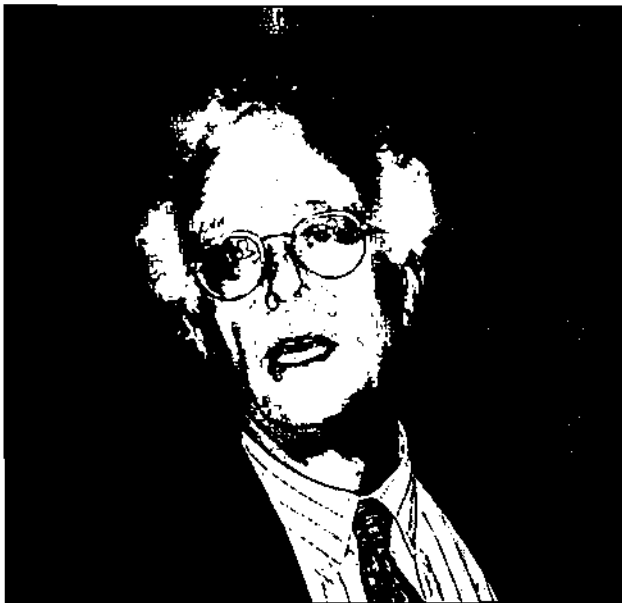
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MUFON Board of Directors meeting. From left to right, Dan Wright, Linda Murphy, Carolyn McNellis, Robert Wood and Walt Andrus.





UFOs AT FIFTY: SOME PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS by David M. Jacobs

Abstract

Since I have been researching the UFO phenomenon, we have had a steady increase in our knowledge of it. There have been setbacks, wrong tracts, and enemies, but our understanding of the phenomenon has grown. As the new knowledge accrued, we have had to reorder our assumptions and engage in new paradigms to understand the phenomenon. We must continue to work for clarity free from New Age entanglements, upgrade our profession, and engage the expertise of others as we enter into the twenty-first century...

...I first became involved with studying UFOs in the mid-1960s while an undergraduate at UCLA. We were both in our youth; the public UFO phenomenon was about eighteen years old and I was twenty-three. I am not sure why I became so interested in flying saucers, perhaps they satisfied a need for fantasy in my life. Whatever it was, the subject took hold of my imagination. One of my earliest forays into the UFO world came about when I took my wife and some friends to Frank Stranges' "Phenomenon 7.7" convention in Los Angeles in 1966. We sat in the balcony while several speakers talked about UFO sightings and Air Force cover-up. After the intermission, the main event finally came—a film of an actual flying saucer. And there it was on the screen: big, shining, spinning, and splendid. If you squinted hard enough you could almost avoid seeing the string that suspended the fly-

ing saucer. It was all quite embarrassing and by rights I should have given up my interest in UFOs and gone about having a normal life. But in spite of the embarrassment, I was hooked...

The Scientific Community

The scientific community was a more difficult area to attend to. We did not realize at the time that the politics of science was so powerful and so all-encompassing, that few scientists would be able to break away from the political constraints of their professions. Ridicule reinforced this encasement and the two worked together to prevent the scientific community from engaging productively with the UFO evidence. The scientific community's inability to recognize the UFO phenomenon's importance is without doubt the most significant scientific scandal in history, and the UFO research community's inability to make meaningful inroads into the scientific establishment has constituted its greatest failure to date. This is all the more ironic because important discoveries in astronomy in the past fifty years have lent credence to the idea that life other than ours could exist in space. With scientists on the verge of discovering new planets, and even microbial life, they are still careful to distance themselves from the UFO phenomenon and the ridicule attendant upon it. Hynek's statement, "Science is not always what scientists do" certainly hits the mark. To be a UFO researcher is to gain a healthy disrespect for the courage and vision of the scientific community...

....Studying the UFO phenomenon directly proved difficult. It was not courteous. It would not wait until it could be scientifically analyzed. Still, the reports themselves could be analyzed and generalizations drawn from them. We amassed hundreds of thousands of reports from around the world. We learned a tremendous amount about sightings. In fact, we eventually learned practically everything we could—given the limited information that comes from sighting reports. We studied UFO effects on the environment, the witnesses, the times of day or night of the sightings, the number of witnesses, the proximity of the witnesses to the objects, how long the objects were in view, their movements, the colors, their proximity to the ground, how they appeared and disappeared, radar traces, photographs, movies, tapes, occupants, and so on...

...But all this information did not come easily. We often found ourselves playing a cat-and-mouse game with the UFOs. When you wanted them to appear they did not, and when you least expected it, they appeared. Their actions seemed purposeful and puzzling. For me, and for other investigators, the

UFOs' actions subtly imbued the objects with a life and personality of their own. This was in part because the contactee controversy and the ridicule that the subject had endured prevented conservative and intellectually cautious researchers from fully engaging with the idea that the objects were probably piloted or controlled by aliens from another planet—although everyone fully understood that this might very well be the case...

...And there is evidence that the government has covered up. It was secretive about its Project Blue Book, Sign. and Grudge. It covered up its Project Mogul balloon project. It covered up the 1953 Robertson Panel. And when information about the Robertson panel was released in 1958, the Air Force covered up its CIA connections. It has released heavily censored documents. It has investigated more individual UFO events than had been previously thought. This was important to learn because it pointed to the idea that the government could be hiding even more important facts and programs...

...Finally, I believe that we are in a new stage of UFO research. When the UFO mystery is solved we must begin the task of confronting it honestly and intelligently with a maximum amount of valid information. Coping with the phenomenon is going to be extremely difficult, if possible at all. As Bette Davis said in *All About Eve*, "Fasten your seat belts. It's going to be a bumpy ride." We have a lot to do and as the 21st century approaches we must be ready with new ideas and new methodologies to meet the challenges that confront us. The truth is out there and we will attain it. Nobody said it was going to be easy, and the history of UFO research amply demonstrates this, but in the final analysis, we are right about the phenomenon and we have been right all along. We will prevail...



**CONNECTIONS: A LIFETIME OF
SHARED EXPERIENCES**
by Beth Collings & Anna Jamerson

Abstract

Our talk will be presented in segments, each describing our individual reactions and feelings about the abduction phenomenon as we delved deeper into our pasts. *Connections: Solving our Alien Abduction Mystery*, which we co-authored, will be the basis for our talk, since the book describes not only our shared experiences, but more importantly, how we dealt with those experiences and what we discovered about ourselves along the way...

... The talk will be accompanied by slides depicting recalled experiences, presumed alien beings we've both witnessed, and in some cases had interaction with, and the interior and exterior of craft seen over many years...

Beth Collings

I would have felt a lot better about these revelations had I been able to view them in a more detached way. If these experiences, for instance, had been restricted to just Anna and myself, it would have been easier to cope. But I was forced into a stark realization when my granddaughter, who at the tender age of four, presented me with a poster she had drawn depicting a thin man with an oversized head and large black eyes who she called "Nu." This little man, she explained, came and took her to places she had never been before. They "went flying," she whispered to me. In the center of the poster, she had drawn a large triangular shaped object with lights swirling around it and faces peering out of windows along its edge. There was a small kite drawn in pencil over this shape...

... This, she explained, was not really part of the "flying machine," but had been added to show that the machine flew as quiet as a kite...

Anna Jamerson

What I recalled under hypnosis, though, was so realistic, so intense, that I knew in my heart it was something I was experiencing right then—not like remembering in detail, but actually reliving with all the attending sounds, smells, feelings, and emotions. What was even more astounding was that the things I saw and the events I experienced turned out to be so similar to those reported by Beth in her earlier session that they could not have been either imagined or coincidental. This was really happening, and it had been happening all our lives. Now all we had to do was learn to deal with it!...

Beth Collings

As time passed, Anna and I found we could assimilate some of the less traumatic experiences into our daily existence, yet to this day we are often unreasonably anxious and sometimes experience panic attacks both before and after an abduction. We are trying to deal with the experiences in an abstract and detached way so that we are not ruled by our emotions. But this has proven to be very difficult indeed. We found we were living two separate and distinct lives: One was the public face we put on for those who were not associated with our dilemma; the other was the more relaxed and open face displayed in front of the aware. We found we couldn't continue to live this way, though, and in December of 1993 we decided to blend the two and go public with our experiences...

... Several things might be accomplished by this action, we believed: Our own accumulated stress from hiding behind normalcy that no longer existed would be eased; those experiencing similar problems and believing they were either crazy or making it up would realize they were not alone; and by talking to others we might actually begin to purge the devils in our life that we felt had taken control away from us. We were, in fact, taking control back...

... The abductions continue for both of us on an irregular basis. We have attempted to "catch them in the act" by the use of various detectors, sensors, and video equipment, but thus far we have been unsuccessful. Friends and associates who have volunteered to keep watch over us have sometimes experienced strange happenings themselves, making it frustrating for us all, yet we haven't given up. Perhaps one day the aliens will provide us with something tangible as proof of their existence and interaction with the thousands of abductees out there. We all desperately need to know one way or the other; either these events are real or they are the result of some as yet unknown pathology. Too many people have described the same experiences for coincidence to be considered plausible. So, this is either happening as reported or it is not, but it surely can't be both...

Anna Jamerson

Whatever it turns out to be, we will have to deal with it—each in our way. Beth and I have found that humor, directed at ourselves as well as the aliens, relieves the tension. And lots of long talks with each other and ourselves have helped us to maintain some equilibrium. In short, we have learned to live again-on this plane...



FIVE THEMES Further Findings of the Abduction Transcription Project by Dan Wright, Project Manager

Abstract

In this latest report on the Abduction Transcription Project, five themes forming the core reasoning for abduction events are presented. Despite obvious differences in physical appearance and abilities, separate entity groups interacting with persons across the continent are shown to have common agendas. Prominently illustrated among over 140 passages from hypnotic and related sessions are the development of a "hybrid" species and a critical task which the subject must "soon" carry out. A strong interest in abduction episodes by our Government is revealed as well. The controlling theme in many cases is apparently an enigmatic connection between captive and captor...

Introduction

MUFON's primary effort to date to study incidents of human physical abduction by alien intelligences was initiated by the author in April 1992 at the Abduction Study Conference held at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Over the past five years, contributions have been received from nineteen researchers whose focus is on abduction cases.

This paper addresses the results of 906 transcripts, the great majority prepared from submitted audio cassettes of hypnosis sessions and attendant interviews, involving 254 separate cases...

Earlier reports by the Abduction Transcription Project (hereinafter the Project) outlined all conceivably important elements of abduction events, from the exterior and interior of the alien vehicle, through the physical characteristics and behavioral attributes of the captors, to the effects, physiological and otherwise, on the human subjects ("abductees" or "experiencers," if preferred). In this update, concentration is given to five key elements — or themes — which go to the heart of abduction phenomena:

- Entities' interest in human sexuality and reproduction
- Subject's "alien connection" born in a realm ostensibly outside this conscious life
- A "mission" subjects must perform at some unspecified point in the near future
- Impending geophysical and other dramatic changes to the Earth, as shown to subjects
- The U.S. Government's involvement and/or acquiescence in alien abductions

As previously conveyed, regressive hypnosis cannot irrefutably uncover truth stemming from significant events in one's life. Whether such episodes actually entail emotional or sexual abuse, a fanciful personality or some other prosaic explanation, the subjects in this Project nonetheless have concluded that unearthly beings are responsible for their recovered memories. Further, in that there are no conclusive means to discern fact from fiction in their recorded accounts, no greater weight is given to a particular case over any other. The passages selected here from hypnosis sessions and conscious interviews are intended only to illustrate commonalities within the transcripts.

Entity Primer

It is the author's considered opinion that a significant number of entity groups have been intruding into the human consciousness over many years. A group may be defined to include from a few to several distinct entity types (or "species"). Each type has unique physical attributes, mental abilities ranging from quite limited to seemingly magical, and — at least in terms of the abduction sequence — an assigned role and comparative rank within the group. The number of separate groups at work is difficult to estimate but may be upwards of a dozen.

As a rule of thumb, short beings (i.e., well under 5 feet) with a greyish to off-white skin tone, either unclothed or wearing a tight-fitting one-piece uniform, generally constitute what may be termed the group's "away team" (whimsically, the "flight attendants"). Their principal duties are to (a) invade the target subject's home (or, on fewer occasions, to stop the subject's auto or compel him/her to venture outside the house); (b) fell the subject, usually via an unseen force likened to physical paralysis; then (c) remove the person to a vehicle usually waiting some hundreds of feet aloft. Once aboard, the subject is not likely to observe these original captors again until it is time to return home.

Within the confines of the ship, the subject may encounter one or more "doctors" who are generally described as taller than the away team and with a different skin tone (from darker grey to tan or other color). They may wear a one-piece jumpsuit, lab-type coat or long robe, among other garment types. The attire is more likely to have adornments such as a collar, piping or an insignia. The doctor(s) takes the lead in performing basic (and sometimes radical) medical procedures and displays an air of authority.

Technicians onboard may look much like the away team, similar to the doctors, or entirely different. Depending on the size of the ship, these may number only a few or dozens. They appear to have precise duties, some in support of the medical procedures, either directly as attendants at the examining table or indirectly at a nearby computer panel. Others are seen carrying out functions seemingly unrelated to the subject such as flying and maintaining the vehicle. But all appear clearly subservient to the "doctor(s)" or other entity in charge.

Occasionally, the subject is approached by a "female" entity, generally depicted as such by reason of its demeanor rather than by any obvious physical characteristic such as breast mass. This entity is evidently beckoned when the subject is especially distraught, offering sympathetic thoughts (conveyed telepathically), sometimes stroking the subject's hair or limbs to restore a tranquil state. So-called females likewise are seen in the ship's "nursery" of infants or fetuses in gestation.

In 103 of the 254 recorded cases, the subject expressed a familiarity with a specific being from previous encounters, often with a certainty, even when several of identical appearance were together. In some cases the "familiar" being had been a regular feature of virtually every encounter. The one familiar to the subject was variously a "flight attendant," a technician on the craft, a "doctor" or a "female." This is not to suggest that such a being has in all cases been compassionate or even friendly toward

the subject, only that it was recognized over multiple events.

Three decades of abduction literature have also borne out extremely tall beings (typically over 7 feet). With a pale but humanlike skin tone, high cheekbones and forehead, and robust physique, they have come to be known as the "Nordics." In the Project's cases, such an individual has often been seen standing alone at a distance, simply observing the medical procedures. Many subjects have related an eerie familiar attraction to this entity.

Not uncommon within the Project are "reptilian" beings — generally 5 to 6 feet in height, with a greyish-green or brownish-green scaly skin. They may be naked or wear either a jumpsuit or robe. While one's instinct is to immediately assign evil intent to these creatures, the files are a mixed bag of harsh, neutral/unemotional, and even friendly behaviors.

SIGHTINGS FROM AN AFRICAN CASEBOOK by Cynthia Hind

Danie van Graan was a small-time farmer, wiry and fit, and living in a small village called Loxton, some 75 miles from Beaufort West in the desert-like Karoo of the Cape, South Africa. Not only was the village isolated, but the road leading to it ran through bleak countryside, with stunted gray bushes and an almost Mars-type landscape, where the tops of the hills had been shaved off by the wind to leave flat, table-top edges.

On the cold, misty morning of July 31st, 1975, Danie rose early to check out his sheep in their enclosure or kraal. The reservoir serving Loxton was on the top of a hill behind the village, which spilled if the winter rains were heavy. To protect the village, an earthen wall 10 feet high had been built to divert the water. As Danie crested this earthen wall, he saw the aluminum roof of a trailer standing in his sheep enclosure.

He knew there were some government prospectors around, looking for uranium, and a bit surprised that they had not asked his permission to locate there, he decided to go and have a cup of coffee with them. However, as he drew closer, he realized the windows were not the normal windows of a trailer, and that instead of standing on wheels, he could see three tines which supported the object. He also observed four men inside and noted that their movements appeared to be in slow motion. They were a bit on the smallish-side, he said, "In fact,

they were rather thin and pale. They were about 40 inches tall, wearing cream-colored overalls with hoods pushed back off their heads. They had fair hair, slanting eyes and high cheek-bones coming down to a pointed chin. Three of them appeared to be using an instrument and the fourth was standing near a panel with flashing triangular lights."

There was a low, intermittent humming sound coming from the machine. When Danie reached within ten feet of it, he suddenly heard a "click" sound. He saw the men all look up at him and at the same time, a bright beam of light hit him in the eyes. He staggered and felt as though he was drowning. He felt ill and confused and fought to get out of the light. The beam went off suddenly and Danie realized that his nose was bleeding. The humming sound increased and the machine took off at an incredible speed, just missing his windmill by centimeters, (inches). In 20 seconds the craft was gone, moving away at a 45-degree angle. Subsequently, Danie suffered from double vision and what he called "lazy eye"-- difficulty in opening his eyes when waking in the morning.

JUNE 24TH, 1947: HOW IT ALL BEGAN THE STORY OF THE ARNOLD SIGHTING by Bruce Maccabee

June 24, 1947. You will not find any conventional history book that even so much as mentions that on this date there began the public awareness of a phenomenon of such importance that it could well be the most significant phenomenon discovered in this century, or even in the history of humanity. The important event of this date was the sighting, by Kenneth Arnold, of a group of strange flying objects which eventually became known throughout the world as flying saucers. Unidentified Flying Objects or UFOs (English, German, Japanese, etc), OVNI's (Spanish, French) or NLOs (Russian).

Since Kenneth Arnold's story was publicized around the world fifty years ago, sightings of UFOs/OVNI's/saucers have affected the lives of thousands of people the world over. So, why haven't history books mentioned this very important event? Because the subject of flying saucers has been considered to be largely nonsense. Even though no one has yet offered a credible explanation for Arnold's sighting, it has been tacitly assumed by the majority of the academic community, the community most likely to write history books, that Arnold's sighting, and the tens of thousands of others since his, have been explained in many ways.



**AN ANALYSIS OF THE 1940 UDO
WARTENA CASE: DISCOVERING THE
ALIEN AGENDA**
by Warren P. Aston

Abstract

My paper examines a day time 1940 landing and contact case from Montana which has remained unpublished in UFO circles until now. The witness spent over two hours with the humanoid pilots of a large craft who explained to him the purpose of their mission, personal details and the propulsion system enabling them to achieve faster-than light travel. I have spent more than three years of investigation, including visits to the U.S., locating and interviewing the people involved, and in related research. Because of the quality of the information resulting, I believe that this case will become recognized as a landmark in Ufology.

After presenting the facts of the case, analysis of the implications, I will draw conclusions – supported in every instance by other cases – regarding the agenda of at least one alien group which has long visited our earth. In the process I discuss the duality within UFO phenomenon which researchers ignore at their peril, question what is really happening in “abductions” and discuss new reasons for government cover-ups.



**MONITORING AIR FORCE
INTELLIGENCE: SPAIN'S 1992-1997
UFO DECLASSIFICATION PROCESS**
by Vicente-Juan Ballester Olmos

Abstract

The author played a key role in stimulating the Spanish Air Force to start in 1992 the release of UFO files, kept secret since 1962. This so called declassification process, which just finished in the last weeks, has been monitored by the author thanks to a loose cooperation agreement Mr. Ballester Olmos established with the intelligence unit in charge. It has permitted him to watch over the process rather closely and to exert some influence to a certain extent with the purpose to make the Air Force search for missing reports in various times. The discreet interactions with the author, MUFON representative in Spain and a long-time UFO researcher, ensures the integrity of the full disclosure of Defense UFO archives. Told for the first time, this paper shows the detailed history from the inside. As an added value, it also presents a statistical overview of the military cases.



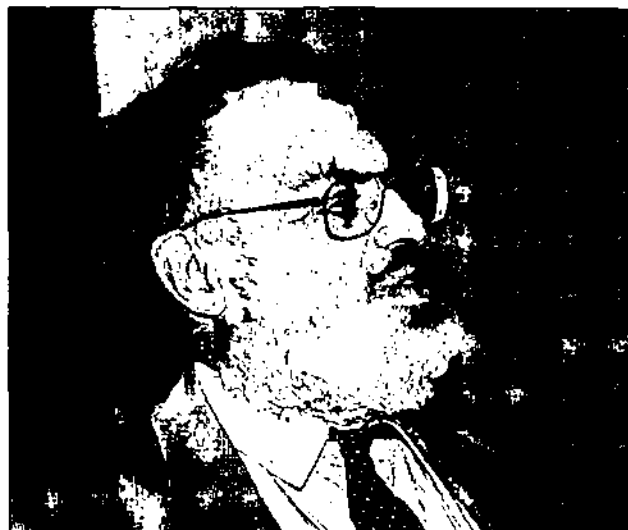
**THE BEGINNING OF THE UFO ERA
PROJECT 1947
by Jan Aldrich**

Abstract

After more than two years of extensive investigation, the huge amounts of new material I have found reveal interesting facets of the beginning of the modern UFO era. There are indications that officials in other countries did indeed recognize that strange aerial objects required investigation much earlier than previously thought. After examining more than 45% of the available 1947 newspapers in North America, many new observations are available for analysis. The new material shows that the official investigators drew conclusion and made decisions on the UFO problem with only a small amount of the available evidence.

On December 18, 1947 it was reported that "General Spaatz says Flying Discs' investigation is still in progress." General Carl A. Spaatz, Chief of Staff of the Air Force, said he was not convinced that such objects existed, but did not want to discard the possibility the saucers were the results of foreign experimentations. He asked for reports for the public.

Early in the next year a government scientific board concluded that UFOs represented no scientific problem. Just a few months later at a meeting of another scientific board, one of the Air Force's scientific advisors, an intelligence officer revealed that the Air Force had started an exhaustive investigation of the aerial mystery. Such contradictions would go on for almost the next fifty years.



**THE ROSWELL STORY, 1997
by Stanton T. Friedman**

Abstract

Mostly because of the movies and various television shows, much of the world has become aware of the notion that one or more flying saucers crashed not too far from Roswell, New Mexico, in the summer of 1947. People are also more or less aware that the U.S. government supposedly collected the saucers and alien bodies and has covered up the wreckage and the bodies ever since with both intimidation of civilian and military witnesses, and stonewalling of the General Accounting Offices's attempts to get more information. Unfortunately, much of the information put out in the media is either flat-out wrong or seriously misrepresents the facts. With the feeding-frenzy expanding at the approach of the 50th Anniversary (July 2) of both the crashes near Corona, and in the plains of San Augustin, New Mexico, and of Kenneth Arnold's famous sighting of June 24, it appears useful to review recent developments.



ENCOUNTERS: NOW AND THEN

by John S. Carpenter

Abstract

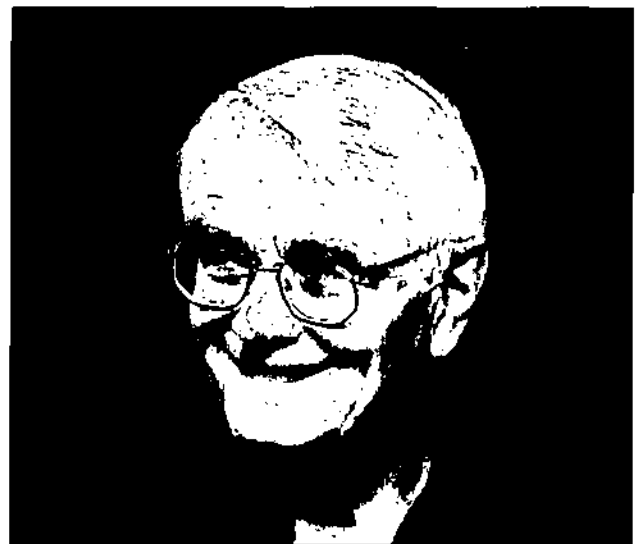
This paper shall present information on present-day encounters occurring around the world as well as extensive documentation of unexplained encounters from records kept over many centuries. Are the same kinds of extraordinary events occurring both now and then? Are biblical "burning shields" the same as present-day glowing discs? Are tales of magical fairies abducting children and adults the same as those of small-figured aliens floating people away? How can common folks on the remote island continent of Australia describe the same details about bizarre visits from reptilian beings, praying mantis creatures, and little gray humanoids with big black eyes? Whether it is here or there, now or then, strange encounters with unusual beings have been occurring worldwide, presently, and for centuries.

Introduction

Traveling around the world to Holland, England, Mexico, Brazil, Chile, and Australia in the past two years has allowed this author to compare notes on UFO encounters on a worldwide basis. Research into these bizarre topics has been quite serious for over the past 50 years in nearly all of these countries. Many good cases and quality investigations have occurred. All report the same kinds of creatures, crafts, and procedures. For example, through Jenny Randles' report at the M.I.T. Abduction Study Conference in June, 1992, we were led to believe that the majority of alien contact cases in Great Britain were the Nordic or "tall blonde" type of entity. However, my recent visit to England and Scotland revealed that the statistics were in fact exactly like those found in the United

States. According to Britain's highly respected UFO abductions researcher and retired police officer, Anthony Dodd, reports of Grays comprise about 75-80% of alleged encounters while Nordics, Reptilians, and Praying Mantis types round out the other 20-25%. Amazingly, on the other side of the world on the remote island continent of Australia, the same kinds of creatures and statistics are documented.

Emotional reactions and psychological responses are alike worldwide. Credible witnesses did not wish for these events nor need for them to intrude into their lives. Hearing accounts from Australians in great detail and emotional intensity was impressive. Describing small triangular burns, electrical disturbances in the home, enhanced psychic abilities, plus particular but little known aspects of Reptilians and Praying Mantis types are not things one would expect to hear twice anywhere else. Because of the worldwide correlations, it would be simply astounding if this whole phenomenon were *not a reality*.



THE UFO PHENOMENON AND THE SUICIDE CULTS — AN IDEOLOGICAL STORY

by Budd Hopkins

Abstract

The media attention recently afforded the Heaven's Gate Suicide cult presented serious UFO researchers with a unique opportunity. We were able to demonstrate the contrast between our laboriously acquired knowledge of the UFO phenomenon and the suicide cult's uninformed, quasi-religious cooption of UFO imagery.

Unlike the followers of Marshall Applewhite, scientifically oriented researchers freely admit that the answers to most of the basic questions about the UFO phenomenon are still unknown. For example, we do not claim to know who the UFO occupants are, where they come from, or what ultimate plans they have for us. Put starkly, the bottom-line question—whether the UFO occupants will turn out to be friends or foes—is still very much open.

On the other hand, through careful investigation of physical evidence and eyewitness testimony, UFO researchers have amassed a great deal of information about the aliens' patterns of behavior and the physical, psychological and emotional procedures they regularly inflict upon their human captives. Surprisingly, though members of "UFO" cults like Heaven's Gate usually have detailed answers to all of the open questions I've listed above, few of them claim to have had personal UFO experiences. As I've written elsewhere, the cults are all beliefs and no miracles, whereas the UFO phenomenon can be said to be all "miracles" and no beliefs.

Centrally I address the theme common in various suicide cults and in the writings of some influential figures within the UFO community: "Life here on earth is so flawed that only godlike UFO occupants can save us from ourselves. The planet is dying, governments cannot be trusted, religions cannot be believed, and most of mankind is morally bankrupt." I demonstrate how such sweeping negative ideas have been promulgated by suicide cults, factions within the UFO community, and right-wing, racist militias. Pessimistic politics makes strange bedfellows.



**UFOLOGY IN THE FAR EAST - CHINA,
JAPAN, KOREA**
by Antonio Huneus

Abstract

A few general observations about sociocultural attitudes regarding ufology and credibility of cases in the Far Eastern countries; China: Historical UFO cases in ancient China; The birth of modern ufology in the late 1970s and the creation of the China UFO Research Organization (CURO). Examination of US Government documents obtained under the FOIA regarding Chinese cases, including the mass sighting of July 24, 1981. The contribution of Chinese researcher and author Shi Bo and two landing cases in the Gobi Desert. An interview with CURO President, Prof. Sun Shi Li, and discussion of a physical evidence case in Guizhou province in southern China in 1994; a near collision case with a Chinese airliner in 1995; and the abduction case of Zhao Guo in Harbin, Japan. An update of the Cosmo Isle Hakui space museum and the many rumors preceding its official opening on July 1996; refutation of these rumors. South Korea: a visit to Seoul in January 1997 to lecture at a large UFO exhibit. Some UFO photo and video cases in 1995.

Introduction

This paper continues the work of outlining the history of UFO cases, investigations and social attitudes in various countries, published in previous MUFON Proceedings. I will concentrate this time on the Far East, specifically the People's Republic of China, Japan and South Korea. Although I am not fluent in Oriental languages, I've had some first-hand experience in the Far East. I visited Japan three times between 1990 and 1995 for lectures and professional activities (I currently publish a monthly UFO column in the Japanese magazine *Borderland* and visited South Korea once in 1997.

While I've not yet visited China, I have followed Chinese ufology from its beginnings in the late 1970s, publishing several articles about UFO cases in China. More recently, I had the opportunity of interviewing in Spanish one of the Presidents of the China UFO Research Organization (CURO). Professor Sun Shi Li, who briefed me on several cases with strong physical evidence reported in 1994...

The 1947 flying saucer wave reached China as well...Unlike most other countries in the world, however, the flying saucer issue was quickly forgotten in China as the civil war between Nationalists and Communists engulfed the nation. After Mao's victory in 1949, China became isolated from outside influences and the subject of UFOs was not discussed at all or even mentioned in the government-controlled media until the period of social and eco-

conomic reforms, launched by Deng Xiaoping in the late 1970s, when Western influences and the discussion of various subjects were finally allowed. Thus, on November 13, 1978, the *People's Daily*, China's leading newspaper and the official organ of the Chinese Communist Party, finally gave a "green light" to the coverage of UFOs. Other newspapers, magazines and journals followed suit.

By 1980, a group of students from Wuhan University in Hebei province, headed by Cha Leping, formed the China UFO Research Organization (CURO), obtaining some degree of support from the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. A newsstand magazine, *The Journal of UFO Research*, was launched in February 1981 with 300,000 copies...



THE GOD HYPOTHESIS by Joe Lewels

For those who have experienced first hand what it is like to be in the presence of the beings, the transformation is shocking, mind shattering and sometimes life shattering. For others, who gain this knowledge through research, like myself, the transformation may be gradual, sometimes taking half a lifetime. But whichever way it happens, once the knowledge is received, the person is transformed. No longer can he accept the consensus view of the scientific community regarding what it considers the "impossibility" of travelling among the stars. No longer can he accept the church's teachings regarding the nature of God and of the universe. Such a person is caught in no-man's land — that place between science and religion where all the rules have been changed and for which there is no guidebook.

For the researcher, the enigmas of the Unidentified Flying Object and of "alien" visitations are extremely complicated and all-encompassing. The researcher

quickly learns that one cannot delve too deeply into these mysteries without getting entangled in an intricate web of related, paranormal phenomena including out-of-body experiences, angelic or demonic-like apparitions, psychic abilities, past-life memories, and precognitive visions. He also finds that it is impossible to try to understand these phenomena without becoming deeply involved in such diverse fields as the study of the origins of the human race, ancient civilizations, ancient and current religions, the latest findings in quantum physics, neurophysiology, and psychiatry, to name but a few...

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Reference to my un-answered letter of July 14 which I am following up with by enclosing an article that appeared in *The Chronicle of Higher Education* on July 25, which was another skeptical viewpoint of the celebrated and controversial Roswell, N.M. UFO crash back in July, 1947.

This article highlighted a new book, scheduled to be released this month, entitled *U.F.O. Crash at Roswell: The Genesis of a Modern Myth*. The publisher is the esteemed Smithsonian Institution Press. The authors are unknowns, namely two anthropology professors and a retired atmospheric professor, who have joined the ranks of fellow debunkers, such as your own Kent Jeffrey, author of "Roswell — Anatomy of a Myth," and Karl Pflock, reviewer of *The Day After Roswell* by retired Lt. Col. Philip J. Corso, both of which appeared in the June issue of the *MUFON UFO Journal*.

Thought you would be interested in this, inasmuch as you seem to lean over backwards to discredit the crash of an alien space craft in the New Mexico desert fifty years ago. This article is just more ammunition that you can use in your attempt to put down the claims of eyewitnesses and UFO researchers who attest to the governmental cover-up of the most celebrated crash retrieval case in our history.

You should inform yourself about the elusive UFO enigma and especially about our government's involvement with suppressing the facts in the case by listening to the *Art Bell Coast-to-Coast* radio talk show aired over the Chancellor Broadcasting Network from Nevada. The daily program is broadcast throughout the United States and is an undisputed source of accurate and objective news reporting. You would then hear about the true facts involved in the massive UFO cover-up by our federal bureaucracy.

If you ever gather up enough courage to respond to my comments, then I'd be glad to hear from you.

—Fred R. Chaffee
Hendersonville, NC

READER'S CLASSIFIEDS

UFOs 1947-1997: 50 YEARS OF FLYING SAUCERS

Edited by Dennis Stacy & Hilary Evans. published by Fortean Times. 30 contributors, hb, illus., 272 pp. \$27.95 plus \$3.00 s/h. Checks or Money Order payable to Dennis Stacy, Box 12434, San Antonio, TX 78212.

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OCT 31-NOV 2, 1997, Fourth Annual Tampa UFO Conference, Camberley Plaza Hotel, Tampa, FL, featuring Michael Lindemann, Dea Martin, Robert Ghost Wolf, Whitley & Anne Strieber, Dolores Cannon, David Adair, Melinda Leslie, abductee, & Debra Lindemann. Info, call 904-432-8888, Fax 894-438-1801, Email UMRB73A@PRODIGY.COM or write Project Awareness, PO Box 730, Gulf Breeze, FL 32562.

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OHIO UFO NOTEBOOK: new issue #14 just published. 48 pages. Send \$5.00 to Mid Ohio Research Associates, Inc., c/o William H. Jones, Box 162, 5837 Karris Square Drive, Dublin, Ohio 43016.

THE AGENDA: What does the Bible say about abductions, UFOs and Angels? Non-fiction, \$12.50. **MASTERPIECE UFOs**, an ancient civilization, angels and Roswell. There are those in space and on earth ready to kill to stop the truth. Science-fiction, \$15.99. Both include s/h. From Silver Fox Press, P.O. Box 6057, Walker Branch, Roswell, NM 88202.

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The NIGHT SKY

Walter N. Webb

October 1997

Bright Planets (Evening Sky):

Venus (magnitude -4.3) continues low in the SW at twilight, setting about 8 PM daylight time. The brilliant object is higher from the southern states. During the month Venus changes position with respect to the nearby planet Mars and the star Antares. From October 4 to 6, a crescent Moon passes by the trio; Mars and Antares are just to the S of Venus. The latter lies 1.7° above Antares on the 16th, is between Mars and Antares on the 18th and 19th, and closes to within 2° below the red planet on the 26th.

Mars (1-1), moving from Scorpius into Ophiuchus, remains low and hard to see in the SW at dusk. It sets in the WSW shortly after 8 PM in mid-October. Our little planetary neighbor is 3° above its red rival star Antares on the 11th and 2° above Venus on the 26th. (See Venus above.)

Jupiter (-2.5), in Capricornus, stands in the SSE at dusk and advances westward during the evening. The giant world resumes its normal motion against the stars on October 8 (eastward). This is its actual counterclockwise revolution around the Sun shared by all the planets. The Moon lies near Jupiter on the 10th and 11th. Saturn, in Pisces, reaches a point in the sky opposite the Sun on October 10. The 0.2-magnitude object then rises in the E near sunset, remaining in view all night in the southern sky. The full moon is near it on the 15th.

Bright Planets (Morning Sky):

Jupiter sets in the W about 1 AM in mid-October.

Saturn sets in the W near sunrise.

Mission to Saturn:

The barrage of planetary missions continues this month as the Titan-Centaur rocket launches the U.S.-European Cassini probe to Saturn. In order to reach the ringed planet in 2004, the spacecraft will employ two gravity assists from Venus, one from Earth, and another boost from Jupiter. Cassini's goal is to study Saturn's thick atmosphere, rings, and satellites and to eject a second probe into the atmosphere of the moon Titan.

Moon Phases:

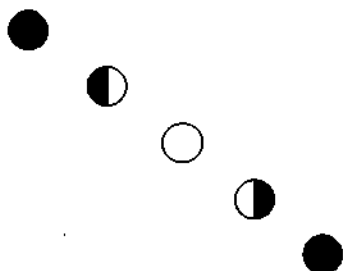
New moon—October 1

First quarter—October 9

Full moon—October 15

Last quarter—October 23

New moon—October 31



The Stars:

During midevening hours the nose of Pegasus, the upside-down Flying Horse, touches the celestial meridian. The horse's body, the Great Square, can be seen high in the SE. And attached to the NE corner of the square is the constellation Andromeda the Princess, composed of a double row of stars curving outward from the star Alpheratz in the square.

The Big Dipper skims along the northern horizon at this season. Late autumn is the asterism's poorest evening showing of the year.

On the night of October 18-19 the gibbous Moon occults (or covers) the 1st-magnitude orange star of Taurus, Aldebaran. In Hawaii the occultation begins around moonrise in mid evening. On the West Coast the event occurs after 12:30 AM, and on the East Coast after 5 AM. The star is hidden for periods ranging up to more than an hour depending upon one's location.

CALENDAR

September 13 & 14 — 1997 New Hampshire MUFON UFO Conference at the Yokens Convention Center in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. For information write to New Hampshire MUFON, P.O. Box 453, Rye, NH 03870.

October 4 & 5 — Second Scandinavian ET Conference, Oslo, Norway.

October 11 & 12 — "The UFO Experience" at Holiday Inn in North Haven, Connecticut. Contact Omega Communications, P.O. Box 2051, Cheshire, CT 06410.

October 17-19 — Australian International UFO Symposium 1997 at Carlton Crest Hotel, Brisbane, Australia. For further information write to Glennys Mackay, P.O. Box 2183, Mansfield MC, Brisbane, QLD 4122, Australia.

October 31 - November 2 — 4th Annual Tampa UFO Conference. Camberly Plaza Hotel, Tampa, Florida. For information write Project Awareness, P.O. Box 730, Gulf Breeze, FL 32562 or call (904) 432-8888.

November 2 — First Annual Long Island UFO Conference at Levittown Hall, Levittown Parkway, Hicksville, New York. For information contact Joanne Steele (516) 386-1493 or Janet Russell (516) 654-3353.

November 15 — John Carpenter Abduction Presentation, University of Wisconsin, at Stout, WI. For information write to Chad M. Lewis, 3204 Venus Ave., Eau Claire, WI 54703

November 22 & 23 — 5th Symposium on Ufology and Exobiology. Sindipetro, Santos, SP Brasil. For further information call 55 (043) 336.3719 or 55 (011) 5513.7107.

December 7-14 — First World UFO Forum, Brasilia, D.F. Brazil at Parlamundi Convention Center. Sponsor is Legiao da Boa Vontade (LBV) and Coalition of Leading Brazilian UFO researchers. For information write to Caixa Postal 2182, 79008-970 Campo Grande (MS) Brazil.

February 1-7, 1998 — The 7th Annual International UFO Congress Convention and Film Festival. To be held at the Gold River Resort in Laughlin, Nevada. For information contact the UFO Congress, 9975 Wadsworth Pkwy. #K2-274, Westminster, CO 80020. Phone/Fax (303) 543-9443.

June 26, 27 & 28, 1998 — MUFON 1998 International UFO Symposium, Renaissance Denver Hotel, Denver, Colorado.

Please list authors or UFO researchers you would like to have submit articles for the Journal:

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2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
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MEMBERSHIP JOURNAL SURVEY

Please complete this survey for improvement of the *MUFON UFO JOURNAL* and attach further suggestions. Please return promptly to MUFON, 103 Oldtowne Road, Seguin, TX 78155. Thank you for your help in this vital work.

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Columnists on staff that should be retained.	Walter Webb	John Carpenter	David Spencer	Dennis Stacy	Walt Andrus	John Schuessler

Columns on subjects that should be retained:

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>		<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Feature Articles	—	—	Current Cases	—	—
The UFO Press	—	—	MUFON FORUM (Letters)	—	—
Reader's Classifieds	—	—	The Night Sky	—	—
Calendar	—	—	Director's Message	—	—
Big Foot	—	—	Crop Circles	—	—
Abduction Notes	—	—	Book Reviews	—	—
(Carpenter)	—	—	Communication Numbers	—	—
UFO Report Statistics	—	—	UFO Pot Pourri (Schuessler)	—	—
(Spencer)	—	—	Animal Mutilations	—	—
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Please list the additional types of articles or subjects you would like to see in the Journal:

1. _____	2. _____
3. _____	4. _____
5. _____	6. _____

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE - *Continued from Page 24*

directors to become her Assistant State Directors. They are **Doris Upchurch** (Corpus Christi, TX) for south Texas and **Kenneth E. Cherry**, B.A. (Keller, TX) for northern Texas.

Nine new or reassigned State Section Directors assumed their responsibilities this month. They were **Glenn C. Lee, Jr.**, M.B.A. (Pasco, WA) for Franklin County; **Sidney B. Gire**, B.A. (Richland, WA) for Benton and Walla Walla Counties; **James R. Hodge**, M.S. (Paris, TN) for Henry and Weakley Counties; **Chad M. Lewis** (Eau Claire, WI) for Eau Claire, Chippewa, Dunn, Pepin, Buffalo, Clark and Trempealeau Counties; **William W. Masuck**, M.Ad. (Pawtucket, RI) for Providence County; **Graham K. Mills** (Barrington, RI) for Bristol, Kent, Washington, and Newport Counties; **Jack R. Williams** (Midland, TX) for Midland, Andrews, Martin, Howard, Ector, and Glasscock Counties; **James P. Carrion**, M.A. (Greeley, CO) for Weld and Morgan Counties; and **Mark J. McWhorter**, D.V.M. (Yakima, WA) for Kittitas County.

NEW RESEARCH SPECIALIST

Raymond E. Hall, M.S. (Reston, VA) volunteered to become a Research Specialist in Geology.

1997 SYMPOSIUM PROCEEDINGS

This issue of the *Journal* is our annual UFO symposium issue covering the events at Grand Rapids, Michigan, speakers, their photos, and an abstract of their speeches. The complete text of each of their speeches is contained in the *MUFON 1997 International UFO Symposium Proceedings*, titled the "50th Anniversary of Ufology." This 300-page paperback book is available from MUFON in Seguin, TX for \$25 plus \$1.75 postage and handling. Recognizing the 50th anniversary of modern ufology, the plumb colored cover is inscribed in gold.

MUFON LAPEL PINS

The new MUFON lapel pins were placed on sale for the first time at the Grand Rapids symposium. The oval-shaped pin has the MUFON logo in blue on a white background outlined in gold. The one-inch long pin has a clasp on the back suitable for fastening to clothing. These attractive pins were very popular items at the symposium. You may order yours from MUFON in Seguin, TX, for \$5 plus \$1 for P&H. This is an opportunity to let people know that you are a MUFON member by proudly wearing our new lapel

pin. The lapel pins are being mailed in a special bubblepack envelope to protect them from damage.

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DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Walter Andrus

NEWS FROM AROUND THE NETWORK

MUFON 1998 UFO SYMPOSIUM

Three potential UFO conferences are planned during the June/July 1998 period in three adjoining western states, creating a possible conflict. After a big 50th anniversary celebration in Roswell in 1997, "Roswell Days" is now scheduled for July 3, 4 and 5, 1998. MUFON has scheduled our 1998 International UFO Symposium for June 26, 27 and 28, 1998, at the beautiful Renaissance Denver Hotel in Denver, Colorado, one week before the Roswell affair, so our members may attend both events if they so desire. I have advised the sponsors for Leo Sprinkle's meeting at the University of Wyoming in Laramie about the above dates so they will be able to schedule the Rocky Mountain UFO Conference on a different weekend, if possible.

JOURNAL MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

At the State Director's annual meeting in Grand Rapids, Michigan, on July 11, 1997, the participants voiced their opinions about the contents of the *MUFON UFO Journal*. Since the *Journal* is a membership publication and not a newsstand magazine, it is essential that we know what our readers expect from their magazine in order to improve upon its format and articles. With all of the competitive publications, electronic news media, and computer nets competing with the *Journal*, we have noted a significant decline over the past two years in membership/subscriptions. As the voice of the world's largest UFO organization, it is imperative that our magazine not only reflect the current trends in ufology but contain the material that is of primary interest to our members.

When one considers the vast range of intellect, education, experience, and age of the MUFON members reading the *Journal*, a survey to determine their primary interests is going to be vastly diversified. Too many people feel that the *Journal* is written specifically for them and their preconceived ideas or beliefs, without regard to the thousands of other readers. We must remember that the primary goal of MUFON is to attempt to resolve the UFO enigma utilizing the scientific method, not simply wishful thinking. This means keeping an open mind to new ideas and theories that could conceivably lead to solving the most important scientific mystery of the space age. We cannot permit

ourselves to accept one writer's interpretation and reject the others. The only thing that we can say about Roswell, with certainty, is that a monumental event occurred that our government is trying to cover up with downright stupid explanations. Is this their calculated approach to revealing that they have been lying about UFOs for fifty years?

When you are completing your survey form, we want your personal evaluation, however, keep in mind that many other people will be expressing their opinions also, so do not be disappointed if all of your personal suggestions are not implemented. In order for the *MUFON UFO Journal* to take some major steps forward, as our major communication vehicle with our readers, we are hoping to achieve "the best of all worlds."

A membership survey is being conducted at this time to evaluate the contents of your *Journal* and thus take evolutionary steps to meet the wishes and desires of our readers for improvements. With the inauguration of *SKYLOOK* in 1967, our monthly publication has been able to stay abreast of advancements and current trends in ufology, however, in order to maintain our worldly position, dramatic steps must be taken immediately. For this reason, we are seriously seeking the guidance of our readers, because you are the people who represent MUFON to the world.

A survey form is enclosed with this issue of the *Journal*. Please complete the survey form and return it promptly to MUFON headquarters in Seguin, TX. Please attach any and all suggestions in a narrative format to your survey form, because we could not have covered every item of importance on one page. It is not necessary to sign the survey, but we hope that you will, so we can inquire further about your suggestions for improvement. We need your help. Thank you for your gracious assistance.

NEW DIRECTORS

Dan R. Wright, M.A. (Morrice, MI) was reelected to the MUFON Board of Directors on July 13 as Director of the Abduction Transcription Project. He was formerly on the board as Deputy Director, Investigations and Central Regional Director. **Gregg B. Knight** (Wallace, WV) was promoted to State Director for West Virginia from Assistant State Director, when **Ted Spickler** moved to Pennsylvania. **Ellen R. Stuart**, State Director for Texas, promoted two state section