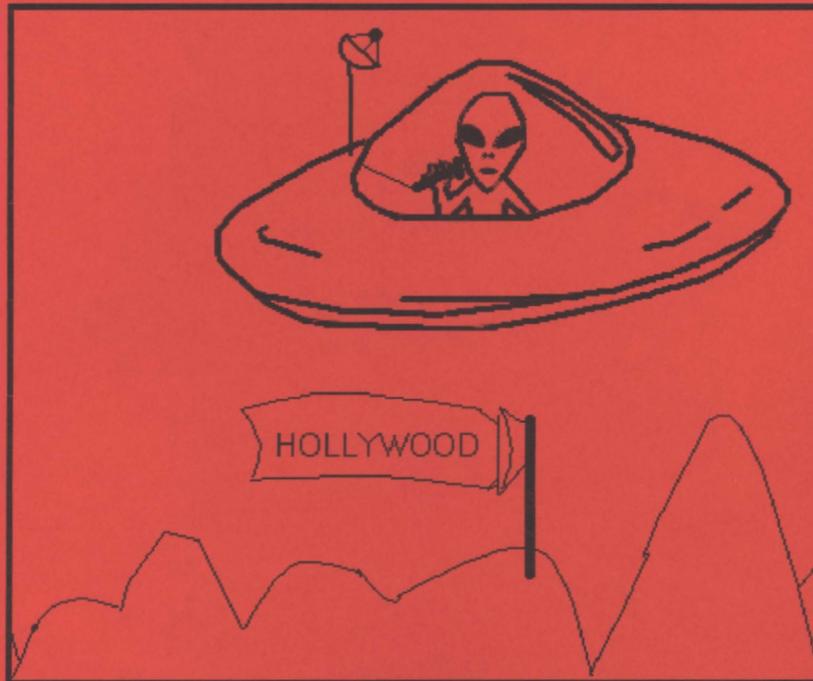


YUFOS

YORKSHIRE UFO SOCIETY

PROJECT RED BOOK

(Vol 3 #5 November 1999)



Your not going to believe this, they still d'ont know wether they went to the moon or not?

inside this document

AN INTERVIEW WITH JOHN SCHUESSLER

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SHEFFIELD'S 70's SAUCERS

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(pt2) Who can honestly say that at some time in their lives they haven't wanted to be a famous, globe-trotting, best-selling ufologist writing excellent and well-reasoned books and articles? I know I have. But we can't all be Jenny Randles, so here instead is the second part of my article telling you how to tell a beam-ship from...er... something that isn't.

YORKSHIRE UFO SOCIETY

224 BELLHOUSE ROAD
FIRTH PARK
SHEFFIELD
SOUTH YORKSHIRE
S5 6HT
Tel (0114) 2497270

e-mail: daybak@globalnet.co.uk
website coming soon!

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Editor, Chairman & General Dogsboddy

Dave Baker

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Research: *Arthur Putey, Ralph Mellish, Ann Elk, Stig O'Tracey, Keith Maniac and Arthur "Two Sheds" Jackson.*

To re-print articles in this magazine please enquire at the above address- that means me, Dave. I'm sure to say "yes", but it is nice to ask first, y'know?

The articles and views expressed in this magazine do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor, YUFOS members, or *Joe Beasley & Cheeky Monkey*

"Is THAT moribund?"

AN INTERVIEW WITH JOHN SCHUESSLER

John Schuessler has a background in the aerospace industry, and has had a long association with the Mutual UFO Network, the USA's largest civilian UFO organisation. He was the principal investigator on the infamous Cash/Landrum CE2 case, and is the author of "The Cash/Landrum UFO Incident" (Geo Graphics Printing Company 1998, 322p). He has investigated UFOs for more than 30 years.

Dave Baker: John, you became interested in ufology by a very unusual route... tell us a little about it.

John Schuessler: I began a career in aerospace in 1962. Working for McDonnell Douglas, I did a brief stint on the Mercury spacecraft program before being assigned to work on the Gemini spacecraft life support system. This work involved the specification, design, test, and operation of the Gemini life support system. My initial UFO eye opener came with the first flight of Gemini - GT-2, an unmanned orbital structural test article. Right after launch, the engineering work area was buzzing with the discussion of two objects seen on radar that followed the spacecraft for one orbit and then flew away. Naturally, the Gemini structural engineers were at first concerned that the objects represented a structural failure. Fortunately, that was not the case and the program continued as planned. On later flights with two astronauts on-board, I monitored the operation of the life support system. During a couple of flights, I heard discussions between the flight crews and ground control about seeing something out the little windows on the Gemini. Coupling that bit of information with what I had heard on GT-2, I was impressed that something else could be up there and decided to look into the whole UFO mystery. Actually, I thought that since we had built and successfully flown spacecraft that it would be easy to use general engineering skills to resolve the unknown nature of UFOs. That started my lifelong quest for answers. When I look back on the Gemini sightings now, I realise they were rather mundane. The crews did not see flying saucers. They only briefly saw an object fly past the little window in the door of the spacecraft. Nevertheless, it became my inspiration.

It has been revealed that Walt Andrus is retiring as head of the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON), and you will be taking over his role....

That is true. Walt Andrus will complete a thirty-year term as International Director of MUFON and will retire from that position in the year 2000. It is not his intention to abandon his interest in the subject, but he will leave the heavy workload of the leadership position. At the annual meeting of the MUFON Board of Directors in July of this year, I was requested to accept the job of replacing Walt. Those are big shoes to fill. Walt has led the organisation since soon after it was formed, always recognising the grassroots nature of MUFON. At times UFO activity was very high and the membership grew rapidly. After the Condon Report release in 1968, activity dropped drastically because of the negative nature of the report. It wasn't a case of UFOs not being seen. Instead, the difficulty was in getting people to treat the UFO mystery with openness. After all, Condon had used strong words to recommend against any further investigation of UFOs. Nevertheless, MUFON survived and grew. MUFON is now represented by volunteers all over the United States and in most other countries of the world. It is filling a need that has failed to be taken care of by governments, academia or industry.

What do you hope to achieve in the role?

Going into the new position, I realise that some people will expect a lot of change, others will be concerned about losing Walt Andrus from the leadership position, and the majority of MUFON members will just want stability in the organisation and a continued flow of good UFO information. Having worked in aerospace management for most of my career, I realise how difficult it is to satisfy the needs of large and diverse organisations such as MUFON. However, that experience leads me to believe that change, while upsetting to some people, is what keeps organisations vital and able to cope with the tough issues of the day. I look forward to the challenge. I guess that if I had to list my top priorities at this point in time, they would be as follows:

1. To listen to the membership and do my best to guide MUFON in the directions the members want to go.
2. To continue the strong positive values of MUFON, while bringing change in the areas that are seen as a problem by some of the members.
3. To establish stronger ties with the general science and engineering community as a whole.
4. To use the technology available today to make more UFO information available to the membership and also share it with the media. This is a difficult goal for a volunteer organisation, but a very necessary one.
5. To stimulate co-operation between organisations. I would like to see a loose federation of most of the UFO organisations in the world. I look at it as the United Nations of ufology. The power of a federation of this nature has outstanding possibilities for everyone involved. Working alone is often satisfying for individuals, but the chances of success in exposing the nature of the UFO mystery is slim to none in this mode of operation. On the other hand, a strong front shared by all groups, would be very difficult to ignore. And when the time comes that governments can no longer cover-up the UFO activity going on in the skies around us, this federation could be the base of social stability in the world, rather than total chaos.

MUFON have, in some quarters, attracted criticism about some of the articles and the general tone of the Journal. Do you think these are justified?

I feel that criticism, if it is constructive, is healthy. No journal should remain the same year after year. As a result of the criticism, changes were made to the journal and I am sure more changes will be made in the future. However, some of the criticism appears to be a little obtuse. Last year the membership of MUFON was polled to get their opinions on MUFON and the journal. Most people were happy with the changes that have been made. Some wanted more conservative articles, while

others wanted more liberal articles. To satisfy both camps, the journal editor tries to provide a balance in what is published. The one thing the membership was clear about was they wanted no bickering and sniping between individuals to be published in the journal. And I wholeheartedly support that feeling. Bickering is destructive and is usually done only for the purpose of boosting some individual's ego. What we need in co-operation and hard work. I propose to leave the bickering to the debunkers since that is what they do best.

You are perhaps best known to ufologists as the principal investigator of the infamous Cash-Landrum UFO case. (See *PRB Vol 2 #*)

I just happened to be at the right place at the right time when the Cash-Landrum UFO incident happened. A personal friend, a medical doctor, told me about this lady that was being treated for very unusual burns in a hospital in Houston. Medical ethics didn't allow him to tell me her name or give me access to her, but we did discuss the injuries and treatment almost daily. Later, when that lady, Betty Cash, left the hospital she called the NASA Johnson Space Centre requesting information and help. Clearly, NASA had no interest in the case, but did refer her to me since I had registered with the NASA Public Affairs office to receive UFO reports called in to NASA. The next day I visited Betty at her brother's home and found her to be a very ill and traumatised person. Her mother was caring for her and very worried about Betty's condition. Betty still showed the after effects of the radiation burns to her skin and the great loss of hair. I was impressed with the evidence and her openness. I told her that if she was completely honest with me and would make all medical and family information available to me, that I would stick with the case until we gained a resolution. Unfortunately, after 18 years, Betty died on the anniversary of her encounter – without a satisfactory resolution.

Have you ever reached any personal conclusions as to what it was that Betty, Vickie and Colby encountered?

As soon as the word got around that I was looking for information about the UFO in this case, I started getting inputs from the UFO community about what it was. Each person was adamant that he or she had the answer. Suggestions ranged from holographic images

to midgetman missiles. Included in the listing is a number of alleged government-related projects that might account for the incident. I treated all inputs with respect and spent hundreds of hours tracking down the possibilities. Not one suggestion ever panned out. What I did find, however, was a fairly significant number of world-wide reports of diamond-shaped UFOs. The latest report of this nature was from Canada on March 5, 1999, as reported by UFO*BC, a Vancouver-based UFO organisation. That leaves me with a database of information suggesting that a large diamond-shaped device is operating in our skies and the device was not manufactured by any government on Earth.

What do you think that we can make of the decision of the U.S. District Court to throw out the case? Evidence of some kind of cover-up?

Betty and Vickie were very disappointed that they would never get a chance to present their case, along with the evidence, in a court of law. As long-time patriots and good citizens they had faith that they would be treated fairly. It was devastating to them when they were treated poorly. I was not surprised at the outcome. I did not expect the U.S. District Court to allow this incident to end up in the official records of the court. I expected the underhanded treatment given Betty and Vickie and was surprised it got as far as it did. The original claim for damages filed by Betty, Vickie and Colby, was done at the suggestion of the U.S. Air Force lawyer at Bergstrom Air Force Base in Austin, Texas. The trio had gone there at the suggestion of the Texas senators with a promise of receiving help. They did not get help, but they were given the papers necessary to file a claim. When the claim was denied, I expected the legal route to be closed to us. Strangely, it was not. The denial of the claim came along with permission to sue the U.S. Government and that is what we tried to do. The discovery process, a way for the lawyers on both sides to gain facts in the case followed the filing of the lawsuit. This is the point where we found that we were not on a level playing field. Betty and Vickie made every bit of information they had accumulated available to the government lawyers in answer to the questions they received. The government lawyers were not quite as forthright we us. They refused to answer any of the questions that could have significant impact to their position and even gave false answers to some of the questions. Nevertheless, the court looked only at the

number of documents filed, not their content, so it appeared to be an open and shut case. No data was ever reviewed by the court. The case was killed by the judge's refusal to set a docket date to hear the case. Some called this cover-up, while others labelled it "dirty tricks."

Do you ever hear from Vickie and Colby? What does Colby remember, if anything?

I have stayed in touch with each of the victims on a regular basis since the investigation began. I believe that all UFO investigators should do this. I deplore the technique of getting a story and running with it while never caring about the welfare of the victims. We all have a duty to put the victim's needs first and make getting the report a secondary priority. By the way, this event was so traumatic to Colby that he remembers it very well. You never forget living through sheer terror.

I know that you still speak with Betty's family – what do they think about the government's decision to remain quiet and close the investigation?

You are correct, I am in regular contact with Betty's family. They are thoroughly disgusted with the treatment Betty received and have a very low opinion of the government officials involved. They watched Betty suffer year after year. They watched her struggle for justice and it never came. How else could they feel?

This case certainly seems to add credence to the existence of the mysterious Black Helicopters much loved by conspiracy theorists. Did you ever track down the source of these craft?

As noted in the book, we found three possible sources; but the government denied access to any records that would verify any of the sources. Since the 1980 event, many other examples of mystery helicopter operations have been recorded.

Is the case 'closed' now, or do you still keep digging to find out more?

As far as I am concerned, the case will never be closed until justice is served. And I am still finding more information to add to the database. In the past month or so I have testimony from a carload of people who watched a large number of helicopters return to

Fort Hood in Texas that night. In addition, a directory assistance telephone operator, one of five on duty that night, has reported on the number of calls they received about the incident as it was going on. Some of the operators even went outside the telephone company building and watched as the UFO flew past their location, followed by helicopters.

Thankfully, cases as shocking as the Cash-Landrum encounter are few and far between. Tell us a little about other cases you have investigated.

While seeking information to support the Cash-Landrum investigation, I discovered more than 400 other UFO incidents that resulted in the witnesses noting physiological effects as a result of their encounters. I documented the results in a catalogue of medical injury cases.

I know that you worked for a time as Project Manager for Space Shuttle Flight Operations at McDonnell Douglas Corporation. What sort of work did this involve?

My career was spent in the human space flight program. I began as a systems design engineer, and progressed to various management positions including Project Manager for Space Shuttle Flight Operations, Director of Engineering, and other positions. In each case I worked with the latest in space technology available. The Space Shuttle position was to provide leadership to the contractor team that supplemented NASA's workforce at the Johnson Space Centre to train astronauts and prepare the documentation that guided their flight operations.

As someone with working, inside knowledge of NASA, do you feel that they could possibly be involved in the sort of cover-ups of which conspiracy theorists accuse them of? Did we, for example, really go to the Moon, as discussed in recent issues of PRB?

One should always acknowledge there is something behind most conspiracy theories. The problem usually is to figure what really had happened or is going on. Of course NASA is capable of cover-up as are most government agencies. Did we go to the moon? I have no doubt we did. The evidence is overwhelming.

I personally know the people that designed the machines, wrote the flight plans, and made the journeys. There are plenty of real conspiracies out there, so it is not necessary to make up stories saying we never went to the moon. Such nonsense is akin to believing the earth is flat. If NASA is guilty of anything, it is a sin of omission – failing to do anything about the UFO mystery.

Do you think it is possible that some UFOs could be secret military or even NASA craft?

I am kept up to date on aerospace technology, as I work as an aerospace consultant on a part time basis and my university Master's Degree is in Technology Forecasting. I imagine some UFOs are a part of classified military operations. In addition, some UFOs are misidentified natural phenomena, aircraft, and even hoaxes. Essentially, all these things are identified flying objects (IFOs). The best way to evaluate this situation is to consider that we are not flying disc-shaped aircraft. The only ones ever built didn't exceed 200 mph. We do not fly cigar-shaped vehicles other than rockets and missiles. We do not fly half-mile wide triangular craft that can hover and then shoot away at light-speed. We do not fly spherical aircraft other than balloons that can move only with the wind, not against it. What I am saying that humans have been watching incredible flying objects in the skies around the world – flying objects that outperform the best human technology in whatever age they are seen. These objects are the UFOs that serious researchers are investigating. They are presently unidentifiable.

Okay, time for some sound-bites. What is your opinion on...

"Alien Abductions"?

Alien abductions are an extremely curious part of the mystery. Some UFO researchers are dedicating all their energies trying to uncover what is behind the abduction phenomena, why it is going on, how to intervene in abductions, how to measure abduction related effects, and how to recover artefacts such as implants. Unfortunately, we have too many abduction events and too few qualified abduction researchers, working with too little financial support.

The "Phoenix Lights"?

The March 1997 Phoenix, Arizona, events have evoked strong emotions among UFO researchers. The field is divided with some people believing the lights were caused by aircraft flares, while others consider this to be a ridiculous explanation. The argument tends to overshadow the reports of the huge triangular or wing shaped object that crossed the state of Arizona flying from north to south and going over Phoenix. I know a number of the excellent UFO investigators that have taken positions on both sides of the argument. Unfortunately, many have become so polarised in their positions that they have little or no respect for the other point of view.

What do you think about the claim that Kenneth Arnold saw pelicans?

This situation is typical of what is going on. In many of the classic UFO cases people arise to postulate a new theory, usually years after the witnesses have died. They make a lot of noise and get a lot of internet traffic going to discuss their concept. It is good for their egos, just as it is for those individuals that slam them for daring to think out of the box. A lot of people in the UFO field seem to need this form of mental masturbation in order to have an identity. My suggestion is to remember the phrase 'caveat emptor,' or buyer beware. As far as saying Kenneth Arnold saw pelicans and not UFOs, one might as well claim he saw Santa Clause and his eight reindeer (9 all total).

What do you think about CSICOP?

It is an organisation with a lot of paying members, many of them with excellent scientific backgrounds. What I don't understand is how they could be satisfied with the lame excuses about UFO sightings that have been stated as fact by a handful of their mind-shapers for many years. They have contributed very little to the solution of the mystery, and in fact may be contributing to keeping it a mystery. Scientists, by nature, generally question everything they read or see, except in this case they follow like sheep.

A recent explanation for Lonnie Zaroma's classic 1964 CE3 at Socorro is that he encountered some sort of Top-Secret balloon test, which has not-surprisingly divided ufologists. Where do you stand on this?

That is another off the wall explanation. It flies in the face of the evidence in the case. I trust the work done at the time of the sighting by Dr. J. Allen Hynek, Ray Stanford and others and none of the evidence they found points to a balloon as the answer.

Is the ETH a viable hypothesis?

The ETH is as good of an explanation for some UFOs as any other. I fully understand the problems of distance, speed, mass, etc., as we know them. I am currently involved in advanced propulsion concepts that could mimic a lot of technology we see evidenced in UFO reports. Nevertheless, to say the ETH is wrong because we cannot yet duplicate the type of travel necessary to get here from there, is short-sighted. The key thing to remember about the ETH is the last letter – the H stands for hypothesis. Until we resolve the UFO mystery, every claimed answer is just another hypothesis.

What about the Majestic Twelve papers? They still keep coming, don't they?

MJ-12 has become the title ascribed to a broad range of U.S. Government documentation relating to the UFO cover-up. I have no doubt that some of the material has been faked and fed to researchers as disinformation. Stanton Friedman did a good job of digging into the original MJ-12 material. Now we have Dr. Robert M. Wood and Ryan Wood digging into a host of new documents. I worked with Dr. Wood for a number of years and know him to be an outstanding and careful researcher. This research couldn't be in better hands. I have seen some of the new documentation that is original paperwork and it is outstanding material. It is time for other capable researchers to stop find reasons why they 'believe' this material is not real and start looking at the vast accumulation of documentation of data that indicates otherwise.

John, thanks for your time, and good luck in your new post with MUFON, and all your other endeavours.

A CENTURY OF SHEFFIELD SAUCERS

Part 5 - The 1970s

by Dr David Clarke

Earlier episodes in this series of articles have charted Press reports describing UFO phenomena over the Sheffield region from the early years of the 20th century into the "flying saucer" era of the 1950s and swinging '60s. News stories concerning aerial phenomena became more frequent as the subject was given more credence with the advent of space exploration and the appearance of films such as *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, and more people were encouraged to come forward with their stories. Indeed, it was the release of that particular film, with its mystical and semi-religious connotations, which first sparked my interest in the subject in 1978, and set me on the flying saucer trail as a wide-eyed schoolboy. Many things have changed since then - not least the flares and fringe - but the underlying frequency of UFO reports from Sheffield has continued. This article will list some of the more outstanding UFO sightings from the decade which preceded my own interest in this subject; next time I will look at some of the first cases I investigated in the late 70s and early 80s.

1970, March 24. Frecheville and Dronfield. A number of people contacted RAF stations at Bawtry and Finningley to report low-flying UFOs. One of them, steelworks sales clerk John Hall said: "I know they were not stars, although they were similar in size to the very brightest star, and they definitely weren't aircraft. They were flashing brilliant colours, red and green, and all the colours of the rainbow. The colours seemed to be moving round like the colours on the top of a police car." The lights disappeared after 11pm. The RAF admitted they had received three separate sightings and admitted "we can offer no explanation." In July, another 'low-flying' UFO was spotted by Paul Lucas, a 21-year-old student, over Crookes and Hunter's Bar. Bawtry said this was probably the Pageos-A satellite.

1971, July 13. Fulwood. Two flickering UFOs so intrigued Oakbrook Road resident David Burr that he jumped into his car and followed one up to Crosspool. There he said one of the two lights fell away and the other disappeared. Later he and wife Kathleen spotted another

object, even lower in the sky. She said: "It seemed to be fuselage-shaped and lit from inside in three sections." Bawtry Met Office admitted they were baffled and could offer only satellites as an explanation. Brilliant meteors or bolide-phenomena were also reported by dozens of people across the city on February 18 and September 27 that year.

1972. December 27. Aston, near Rotherham. Pottery worker Roy Newman, along with his wife and two friends reported seeing an orange ball-shaped UFO in the sky, sliced in half. Police, Bawtry and the Radio Space Research Laboratories were checked by The Star but none had received any further reports.

1976. July 29. Parson Cross. A group of Sheffield families claimed they had been buzzed by UFOs - in the form of glowing red cones of light - every night for three weeks! The group, who kept quiet for fear of ridicule, say the objects, as many as six per night, swept past at high speed after dark. RAF Finningley admitted they had received a number of similar reports from the same area, which had been passed to the MOD in London. One housewife from Holgate Crescent told the Star: "We joke about them, calling them little green men and all that. But now, we really want to find out what they are. Quite a few people around here have seen. They are reddish, cone-shaped and they move very fast across the sky. There is never any noise."

1977. November 22. Dronfield Woodhouse. Housewife Jennifer Vickers had boffins at Sheffield University's space physics department baffled by her sighting of a "whiteish-yellow light" passing over houses near her home. It was spotted by Mrs Vickers while she was out driving early one morning. "I watched for about ten seconds when this light faded from view. It was travelling horizontally in an east, south-east direction and appeared to be quite low in the sky." Mrs Vickers said it was not an aircraft or meteorite because there was no sound - and she had seen both before. The weather at the time was overcast with light snowflakes falling from the sky. The University admitted they could not

offer an explanation and said: "This is a very interesting sighting."

1977. September 7. Dozens of people in the Dearne Valley area of Rotherham watched in amazement at what appeared to be a "flying saucer" hovering above their homes. The flashing UFO first appeared over Bolton-upon-Dearne around 10pm, disappearing in the direction of Wombwell. One witness, Lillian Hudson, said: "Quite a few people came out to look, including a number of children who were all excited and flashing torches at it. My son rushed in to tell me about it and I thought he was pulling my leg at first. But when I went out I was amazed to see this peculiar-looking object with lights flashing on and off, but no noise. I am confident it wasn't a helicopter or a plane." Amateur astronomer Nigel Palmer, also of Bolton, claimed to have spotted mystery objects 93 times in the past three months in the sky over the area.

1977. September 12. Totley farmer Robin Barber could not believe his eyes when he saw what he thought was a flying saucer lying in the middle of a scorched patch of land in one of his fields. The gleaming, silver-dome shaped object was emitting a bleeping noise. Thinking Sheffield was about to be invaded by Martians, he called the police. An inspector and several police officers from Woodseats were called to the moorland field, but the threat of little green men soon receded. Examination of the "saucer" revealed it to be an 18-inch wide grinding wheel with a tin WW2 soldier's helmet welded to the top. An old transistor radio was responsible for the bleeping noise. Police removed the object and declared it was a hoax "but somebody seems to have gone to a lot of trouble." Insp Roy Hinds added: "We get quite a few of these calls, but this is the first time it looked as if aliens from another planet might be here."

1977. October 14. Schoolboy Timothy Cox was playing a game of football outside his home in North Leverton, near Doncaster, when he sparked a UFO alert. The 7-year-old watched an object in the sky over Cottam Power Station for several seconds before he ran inside to alert his parents. He said it was "bomb-shaped with a blue light and pieces falling from the fin at the rear." The little boy claimed it appeared to land in the Gainsborough area. Police and RAF took the sighting so seriously that patrol cars were sent out, and radar screens were checked. An RAF spokesman suggested later that the boy was

reliable "as he had been brought up with aircraft and knows what they look like...and he gave such a clear and accurate description that we thought it was too much to be imagination."

1978. October 5. Endcliffe Woods. Two schoolgirls, Diane Bragger and Joanne Richards, from Greystones, made tape recordings of a strange noise they heard after spotting strange lights moving up and down in the woods. The weird flashing lights made sounds "which were not like anything made by any aeroplane." Meanwhile, a housewife from Parson Cross reported have her third "close encounter" of the year - all of them frightening experiences, the strangest of which she claimed coincided with her washing machine "going bezerk." Evelyn Whiteway, of Deerlands Avenue, claimed: "I've never seen anything like it. What I saw was a long object like an aeroplane without any wings. It was about the length of two buses and was a silver colour. It was travelling towards Grenoside and not making any noise at all. As it travelled over our house our washing machine went beserk. Water and blankets in it started spilling all over the floor and there was a terrible mess to clear up." Mrs Whiteway said she had seen a large fluorescent object lit up by hundreds of coloured lights hovering above a nearby park in January, and a bright orange-reddish object like an upturned plate in August. She became so convinced the objects were following her that she had a magnetic "UFO detector" installed in her home. A spokesman for RAF Finningley was less convinced. He told the Star: "We receive a number of these reports but when they are investigated they often coincide with an aircraft in that area at the time of the sighting. The landing lights of aircraft when seen at a distance are often mistaken for UFOs."

1978. October 12. Gleadless Valley. A silver cigar-shaped UFO so terrified a young Sheffield girl that she was left too frightened to walk to school. Amanda Woodcock, then aged 11, spotted it on the way to Gleadless Valley School along with pal Wayne Thorpe and his sister Yvonne, who live nearby. She said the silver object was low in the sky and appeared to stop and move when she did. Their mums, Kathleen Woodcock and Linda Thorpe, also reported night-time sightings of a bright zig-zagging UFO, which they reported to the police and RAF Finningley. A puzzled RAF Flight Lieutenant asked her to try and capture the UFO on a telescopic lens camera if it

appeared again. "Unfortunately we don't possess one," said Mrs Thorp.

1979. January 4. Galeforce winds, thunder and lightning were the least of the New Year terrors which faced a family in Bentley, near Doncaster. Jenny Strutt and her two children Paul, 13, and Jane, 15, were left petrified by a saucer-shaped object which appeared behind their home in Rosslyn Crescent. The family were so disturbed that they called the police. Paul said the UFO was 50 ft long, and the size of two buses. "It frightened me to death," he said. "It was massive. The top part looked like it was taking photos. Every time it turned round in the direction of our house it sort of made a white flash." A spokesman for RAF Finningley said all military planes were grounded and suggested the family had simply seen a civilian plane flying at an unusual angle.

1979. April 21. Repeater witness and housewife Evelyn Whiteway reports what the Star called "her close encounter of the fourth kind." Evelyn knew something odd was about to happen when the magnetic UFO detector she had installed in her Parson Cross home started buzzing. She promptly dashed into the garden and had a sighting of a flying green cigar-shaped object. "It was flying over Ecclesfield and Grenoside and then it suddenly disappeared," she said. "It was long, green and cigar-shaped and seemed to have a window or a door in the middle, and lights at one end." She added: "I used to think people who saw UFOs were daft and that flying saucers appeared only in comic books. But I'm convinced they exist, now I've seen several."

(part 6 will be featured in the next issue.)

FORUM

"WILL THE FIRST WHISTLE-BLOWER PLEASE COME FORWARD?"

(OR MOONGATE: THE APOLLO X1 MISSION)

by Jonathan Slater

You cannot or should not underestimate the emotions of Neil Armstrong, Micheal Collins, and Edwin Aldrin must have felt as they ventured into the unknown around the morning of the 21st July 1969.

Personally I find it hard to believe the theorists who are adamant that the moon landings were an intricate hoax. Surely this would have been impossible to control even 30 years ago and some 'whistle-blower' should have come forward by now seeking fame and fortune.

Never-the-less my head is not buried in the sand. I admit that some of the photos are controversial and NASA's attempts to explain them are sketchy to say the least.

I agree with Brian O'Leary's explanation. The man who trained on the Apollo programme as an astronaut but never made it into space, and who worked alongside Armstrong and Aldrin for many years, had this to say when asked about the controversial photos:

"I guess if some of the photos were spoiled it is remotely possible they may have shot some scenes in a studio environment to avoid

embarrassment. That would make more sense to me than to suggest that they didn't go there!" (to the moon)

At one of YUFOS' monthly meetings, Iain McCafferty, who has a BSc in physics, space sciences and technologies was asked why the US flag appears to flutter (stand erect) even though there is no wind on the moon.

He replied, "*Do you think that NASA would be daft enough to go all that way to the moon just to show a flag drooping by the side of a flag-pole on television to a waiting American public?*"

His explanation, which sounds very plausible to me, is that NASA starched, or attached wire inside the flag to give the impression that the flag is fluttering.

So after 45 years of space exploration-according to *Darkmoon* - man never set foot on the moon...so I dread to think where 385 kilos of moonrock came from...

Jon Slater, YUFOS

A Die-Hard Issue

CIA's Role in the Study of UFOs,

1947-90 (part 2)

Gerald K. Haines

The 1950s: Fading CIA Interest in UFOs

After the report of the Robertson panel, Agency officials put the entire issue of UFOs on the back burner. In May 1953, Chadwell transferred chief responsibility for keeping abreast of UFOs to OSI's Physics and Electronic Division, while the Applied Science Division continued to provide any necessary support.⁽³⁷⁾ Todos M. Odarenko, chief of the Physics and Electronics Division, did not want to take on the problem, contending that it would require too much of his division's analytic and clerical time. Given the findings of the Robertson panel, he proposed to consider the project "inactive" and to devote only one analyst part-time and a file clerk to maintain a reference file of the activities of the Air Force and other agencies on UFOs. Neither the Navy nor the Army showed much interest in UFOs, according to Odarenko.⁽³⁸⁾

A nonbeliever in UFOs, Odarenko sought to have his division relieved of the responsibility for monitoring UFO reports. In 1955, for example, he recommended that the entire project be terminated because no new information concerning UFOs had surfaced. Besides, he argued, his division was facing a serious budget reduction and could not spare the resources.⁽³⁹⁾

Chadwell and other Agency officials, however, continued to worry about UFOs. Of special concern were overseas reports of UFO sightings and claims that German engineers held by the Soviets were developing a "flying saucer" as a future weapon of war.⁽⁴⁰⁾

To most US political and military leaders, the Soviet Union by the mid-1950s had become a dangerous opponent. Soviet progress in nuclear weapons and guided missiles was particularly alarming. In the summer of 1949, the USSR had detonated an atomic bomb. In August 1953, only nine months after the

United States tested a hydrogen bomb, the Soviets detonated one. In the spring of 1953, a top secret RAND Corporation study also pointed out the vulnerability of SAC bases to a surprise attack by Soviet long-range bombers. Concern over the danger of a Soviet attack on the United States continued to grow, and UFO sightings added to the uneasiness of US policymakers.

Mounting reports of UFOs over eastern Europe and Afghanistan also prompted concern that the Soviets were making rapid progress in this area. CIA officials knew that the British and Canadians were already experimenting with "flying saucers." Project Y was a Canadian-British-US developmental operation to produce a nonconventional flying-saucer-type aircraft, and Agency officials feared the Soviets were testing similar devices.⁽⁴¹⁾

Adding to the concern was a flying saucer sighting by US Senator Richard Russell and his party while travelling on a train in the USSR in October 1955. After extensive interviews of Russell and his group, however, CIA officials concluded that Russell's sighting did not support the theory that the Soviets had developed saucerlike or unconventional aircraft. Herbert Scoville, Jr., the Assistant Director of OSI, wrote that the objects observed probably were normal jet aircraft in a steep climb.⁽⁴²⁾

Wilton E. Lexow, head of the CIA's Applied Sciences Division, was also skeptical. He questioned why the Soviets were continuing to develop conventional-type aircraft if they had a "flying saucer."⁽⁴³⁾ Scoville asked Lexow to assume responsibility for fully assessing the capabilities and limitations of nonconventional aircraft and to maintain the OSI central file on the subject of UFOs.

CIA's U-2 and OXCART as UFOs

In November 1954, CIA had entered into the world of high technology with its U-2 overhead reconnaissance project. Working with Lockheed's Advanced Development

facility in Burbank, California, known as the Skunk Works, and Kelly Johnson, an eminent aeronautical engineer, the Agency by August 1955 was testing a high-altitude experimental aircraft--the U-2. It could fly at 60,000 feet; in the mid-1950s, most commercial airliners flew between 10,000 feet and 20,000 feet. Consequently, once the U-2 started test flights, commercial pilots and air traffic controllers began reporting a large increase in UFO sightings.(44) (U)

The early U-2s were silver (they were later painted black) and reflected the rays from the sun, especially at sunrise and sunset. They often appeared as fiery objects to observers below. Air Force BLUE BOOK investigators aware of the secret U-2 flights tried to explain away such sightings by linking them to natural phenomena such as ice crystals and temperature inversions. By checking with the Agency's U-2 Project Staff in Washington, BLUE BOOK investigators were able to attribute many UFO sightings to U-2 flights. They were careful, however, not to reveal the true cause of the sighting to the public.

According to later estimates from CIA officials who worked on the U-2 project and the OXCART (SR-71, or Blackbird) project, over half of all UFO reports from the late 1950s through the 1960s were accounted for by manned reconnaissance flights (namely the U-2) over the United States.(45) This led the Air Force to make misleading and deceptive statements to the public in order to allay public fears and to protect an extraordinarily sensitive national security project. While perhaps justified, this deception added fuel to the later conspiracy theories and the coverup controversy of the 1970s. The percentage of what the Air Force considered unexplained UFO sightings fell to 5.9 percent in 1955 and to 4 percent in 1956.(46)

At the same time, pressure was building for the release of the Robertson panel report on UFOs. In 1956, Edward Ruppelt, former head of the Air Force BLUE BOOK project, publicly revealed the existence of the panel. A best-selling book by UFOlogist Donald Keyhoe, a retired Marine Corps major, advocated release of all government information relating to UFOs. Civilian UFO groups such as the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP) and the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization (APRO) immediately pushed for release of the Robertson panel report.(47) Under pressure, the Air Force approached CIA for permission to

declassify and release the report. Despite such pressure, Philip Strong, Deputy Assistant Director of OSI, refused to declassify the report and declined to disclose CIA sponsorship of the panel. As an alternative, the Agency prepared a sanitized version of the report which deleted any reference to CIA and avoided mention of any psychological warfare potential in the UFO controversy.(48)

The demands, however, for more government information about UFOs did not let up. On 8 March 1958, Keyhoe, in an interview with Mike Wallace of CBS, claimed deep CIA involvement with UFOs and Agency sponsorship of the Robertson panel. This prompted a series of letters to the Agency from Keyhoe and Dr. Leon Davidson, a chemical engineer and UFOlogist. They demanded the release of the full Robertson panel report and confirmation of CIA involvement in the UFO issue. Davidson had convinced himself that the Agency, not the Air Force, carried most of the responsibility for UFO analysis and that "the activities of the US Government are responsible for the flying saucer sightings of the last decade." Indeed, because of the undisclosed U-2 and OXCART flights, Davidson was closer to the truth than he suspected. CI, nevertheless held firm to its policy of not revealing its role in UFO investigations and refused to declassify the full Robertson panel report.(49)

In a meeting with Air Force representatives to discuss how to handle future inquiries such as Keyhoe's and Davidson's, Agency officials confirmed their opposition to the declassification of the full report and worried that Keyhoe had the ear of former DCI VAdm. Roscoe Hillenkoetter, who served on the board of governors of NICAP. They debated whether to have CIA General Counsel Lawrence R. Houston show Hillenkoetter the report as a possible way to defuse the situation. CIA officer Frank Chapin also hinted that Davidson might have ulterior motives, "some of them perhaps not in the best interest of this country," and suggested bringing in the FBI to investigate.(50) Although the record is unclear whether the FBI ever instituted an investigation of Davidson or Keyhoe, or whether Houston ever saw Hillenkoetter about the Robertson report, Hillenkoetter did resign from the NICAP in 1962.(51)

The Agency was also involved with Davidson and Keyhoe in two rather famous UFO cases in the 1950s, which helped contribute to a growing sense of public distrust of CIA with

regard to UFOs. One focused on what was reported to have been a tape recording of a radio signal from a flying saucer; the other on reported photographs of a flying saucer. The "radio code" incident began innocently enough in 1955, when two elderly sisters in Chicago, Mildred and Marie Maier, reported in the *Journal of Space Flight* their experiences with UFOs, including the recording of a radio program in which an unidentified code was reportedly heard. The sisters taped the program and other ham radio operators also claimed to have heard the "space message." OSI became interested and asked the Scientific Contact Branch to obtain a copy of the recording.(52)

Field officers from the Contact Division (CD), one of whom was Dewelt Walker, made contact with the Maier sisters, who were "thrilled that the government was interested," and set up a time to meet with them.(53) In trying to secure the tape recording, the Agency officers reported that they had stumbled upon a scene from *Arsenic and Old Lace*. "The only thing lacking was the elderberry wine," Walker cabled Headquarters. After reviewing the sisters' scrapbook of clippings from their days on the stage, the officers secured a copy of the recording.(54) OSI analyzed the tape and found it was nothing more than Morse code from a US radio station.

The matter rested there until UFOlogist Leon Davidson talked with the Maier sisters in 1957. The sisters remembered they had talked with a Mr. Walker who said he was from the US Air Force. Davidson then wrote to a Mr. Walker, believing him to be a US Air Force Intelligence Officer from Wright-Patterson, to ask if the tape had been analyzed at ATIC. Dewelt Walker replied to Davidson that the tape had been forwarded to proper authorities for evaluation, and no information was available concerning the results. Not satisfied, and suspecting that Walker was really a CIA officer, Davidson next wrote DCI Allen Dulles demanding to learn what the coded message revealed and who Mr. Walker was.(55) The Agency, wanting to keep Walker's identity as a CIA employee secret, replied that another agency of the government had analyzed the tape in question and that Davidson would be hearing from the Air Force.(56) On 5 August, the Air Force wrote Davidson saying that Walker "was and is an Air Force Officer" and that the tape "was analyzed by another government organization." The Air Force letter confirmed that the recording contained only identifiable Morse code which came from a known US-licensed radio station.(57)

Davidson wrote Dulles again. This time he wanted to know the identity of the Morse operator and of the agency that had conducted the analysis. CIA and the Air Force were now in a quandary. The Agency had previously denied that it had actually analyzed the tape. The Air Force had also denied analyzing the tape and claimed that Walker was an Air Force officer. CIA officers, under cover, contacted Davidson in Chicago and promised to get the code translation and the identification of the transmitter, if possible.(58)

In another attempt to pacify Davidson, a CIA officer, again under cover and wearing his Air Force uniform, contacted Davidson in New York City. The CIA officer explained that there was no super agency involved and that Air Force policy was not to disclose who was doing what. While seeming to accept this argument, Davidson nevertheless pressed for disclosure of the recording message and the source. The officer agreed to see what he could do.(59) After checking with Headquarters, the CIA officer phoned Davidson to report that a thorough check had been made and, because the signal was of known US origin, the tape and the notes made at the time had been destroyed to conserve file space.(60)

Incensed over what he perceived was a runaround, Davidson told the CIA officer that "he and his agency, whichever it was, were acting like Jimmy Hoffa and the Teamster Union in destroying records which might indict them."(61) Believing that any more contact with Davidson would only encourage more speculation, the Contact Division washed its hands of the issue by reporting to the DCI and to ATIC that it would not respond to or try to contact Davidson again.(62) Thus, a minor, rather bizarre incident, handled poorly by both CIA and the Air Force, turned into a major flap that added fuel to the growing mystery surrounding UFOs and CIA's role in their investigation.

Another minor flap a few months later added to the growing questions surrounding the Agency's true role with regard to flying saucers. CIA's concern over secrecy again made matters worse. In 1958, Major Keyhoe charged that the Agency was deliberately asking eyewitnesses of UFOs not to make their sightings public.(63)

The incident stemmed from a November 1957 request from OSI to the CD to obtain from Ralph C. Mayher, a photographer for KYW-

TV in Cleveland, Ohio, certain photographs he took in 1952 of an unidentified flying object. Harry Real, a CD officer, contacted Mayher and obtained copies of the photographs for analysis. On 12 December 1957, John Hazen, another CD officer, returned the five photographs of the alleged UFO to Mayher without comment. Mayher asked Hazen for the Agency's evaluation of the photos, explaining that he was trying to organize a TV program to brief the public on UFOs. He wanted to mention on the show that a US intelligence organization had viewed the photographs and thought them of interest. Although he advised Mayher not to take this approach, Hazen stated that Mayher was a US citizen and would have to make his own decision as to what to do.(64)

Keyhoe later contacted Mayher, who told him his story of CIA and the photographs. Keyhoe then asked the Agency to confirm Hazen's employment in writing, in an effort to expose CIA's role in UFO investigations. The Agency refused, despite the fact that CD field representatives were normally overt and carried credentials identifying their Agency association. DCI Dulles's aide, John S. Earman, merely sent Keyhoe a noncommittal letter noting that, because UFOs were of primary concern to the Department of the Air Force, the Agency had referred his letter to the Air Force for an appropriate response. Like the response to Davidson, the Agency reply to Keyhoe only fueled the speculation that the Agency was deeply involved in UFO sightings. Pressure for release of CIA information on UFOs continued to grow.(65)

Although CIA had a declining interest in UFO cases, it continued to monitor UFO sightings. Agency officials felt the need to keep informed on UFOs if only to alert the DCI to the more sensational UFO reports and flaps.(66)

(part 3 next issue)

NOTES

(37)See Chadwell, memorandum for Chief, Physics and Electronics Division/OSI (Todos M. Odarenko), "Unidentified Flying Objects," 27 May 1953.

(38)See Odarenko, memorandum to Chadwell, "Unidentified Flying Objects," 3 July 1953. See also Odarenko, memorandum to Chadwell, "Current Status of Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOB) Project," 17 December 1953.

(39)See Odarenko, memorandum, "Unidentified Flying Objects," 8 August 1955.

(40)See FBIS, report, "Military Unconventional Aircraft," 18 August 1953 and various reports, "Military-Air, Unconventional Aircraft," 1953, 1954, 1955.

(41)Developed by the Canadian affiliate of Britain's A. V. Roe, Ltd., Project Y did produce a small-scale model that hovered a few feet off the ground. See Odarenko, memorandum to Chadwell, "Flying Saucer Type of Planes" 25 May 1954; Frederic C. E. Oder, memorandum to Odarenko, "USAF Project Y," 21 May 1954; and Odarenko, T. M. Nordbeck, Ops/Sl, and Sidney Graybeal, ASD/Sl, memorandum for the record, "Intelligence Responsibilities for Non-Conventional Types of Air Vehicles," 14 June 1954.

(42)See Reuben Efron, memorandum, "Observation of Flying Object Near Baku," 13 October 1955; Scoville, memorandum for the record, "Interview with Senator Richard B. Russell," 27 October 1955; and Wilton E. Lexow, memorandum for information, "Reported Sighting of Unconventional Aircraft," 19 October 1955.

(43)See Lexow, memorandum for information, "Reported Sighting of Unconventional Aircraft," 19 October 1955. See also Frank C. Bolser, memorandum for George C. Miller, Deputy Chief, SAD/Sl, "Possible Soviet Flying Saucers, Check On;" Lexow, memorandum, "Possible Soviet Flying Saucers, Follow Up On," 17 December 1954; Lexow, memorandum, "Possible Soviet Flying Saucers," 1 December 1954; and A. H. Sullivan, Jr., memorandum, "Possible Soviet Flying Saucers," 24 November 1954.

(44)See Gregory W. Pedlow and Donald E. Welzenbach, *The Central Intelligence Agency and Overhead Reconnaissance: The U-2 and OXCART Programs, 1954-1974* (Washington, DC: CIA History Staff, 1992), pp. 72-73.

(45)See Pedlow and Welzenbach, *Overhead Reconnaissance*, pp. 72-73. This also was confirmed in a telephone interview between the author and John Parongosky, 26 July 1994. Parongosky oversaw the day-to-day affairs of the OXCART program.

(46)See Jacobs, *The UFO Controversy*, p. 135.

(47)See Peebles, *Watch the Skies*, pp. 128-146; Ruppelt, *The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects* (New York: Doubleday, 1956); Keyhoe, *The Flying Saucer Conspiracy* (New York: Holt, 1955); and Jacobs, *The UFO Controversy*, pp. 347-49.

(48)See Strong, letter to Lloyd W. Berkner; Strong, letter to Thorton Page; Strong, letter to Robertson; Strong, letter to Samuel Goudsmit; Strong, letter to Luis Alvarez, 20 December 1957; and Strong, memorandum for Major James F. Byrne, Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence Department of the Air Force, "Declassification of the 'Report of the Scientific Panel on Unidentified Flying Objects,'" 20 December 1957. See also Berkner, letter to

NEW EVIDENCE FOR POSSIBLE HUGE PLANET BEYOND PLUTO

Is It the Sumerian Nibiru Predicted By Zecharia Sitchin?

(CNI News -- Vol. 5, No. 16, Part 1 -- Oct 16, 1999)

The astronomy world buzzed with excitement on October 7 as newly announced evidence from two separate research teams appeared to confirm the existence of a huge planet-like body far beyond the orbit of Pluto.

For decades, astronomers have speculated that such a planet must exist. "Wobbles" in the known outer planets seem to require it. Now, observations of incoming comets apparently ejected from the extremely remote Oort Cloud by some strong gravitational force lend credence to the idea of a giant planet circling our solar system at a distance of perhaps three trillion miles, or half a light year.

Dr. John Murray of Britain's Open University has been studying the behavior of so-called long period comets for decades. He has focused attention on thirteen such comets whose behavior suggests the gravitational action of a large body near the Oort Cloud, a field of primordial rock, ice and dust that envelopes the entire solar system.

Speaking to BBC News Online, Murray said, "Although I have only analysed 13 comets in detail, the effect is pretty conclusive. I have calculated that there is only about a one in 1,700 chance that it is due to chance." In a research paper to be published in mid-October in the Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society, Murray suggests that the so-far unseen planet is several times larger than Jupiter. Furthermore, he says, the planet appears to orbit the sun in the "wrong" direction, opposite the orbit of all the known planets. This could mean that the huge object may be a so-called "rogue planet" that drifted in from very deep space and was captured by the sun's gravity.

Similar conclusions have been separately reached by physicists John Matese, Daniel Whitmire and Patrick Whitman at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. They too were watching the oddly orderly behavior of certain long period comets and began to suspect that a very large body was moving near the Oort Cloud. "We were driven to this

by rejecting everything else we could think of," Daniel Whitmire told ABC News.

The findings of John Matese and colleagues will be published in an upcoming edition of the journal *Icarus*. In that article, Matese refers to the object as possibly a "brown dwarf" and estimates its mass at three times that of Jupiter.

According to Murray, if the presumed planet were in a circular orbit, it would take nearly six million years to circle the sun. Also, despite its enormous size, it would be extremely faint, giving off no light of its own, and probably could not be detected even by the Hubble Telescope. But the next generation of space-based telescopes, which would include ultra-sensitive infrared sensors, might be able to find it.

Meanwhile, the discussion of a huge new planet has aroused the particular interest of researchers familiar with the work of Sumerian scholar Zecharia Sitchin. In a series of books called *"The Earth Chronicles,"* Sitchin has eloquently argued that the ancient Sumerian civilization knew very well about this huge outer planet and described it -- and its extraterrestrial inhabitants, whom they called the Anunnaki or Nefilim -- in great detail.

Indeed, says Sitchin, the very origin and early history of the human race are intimately tied to this planet, which the Sumerians called Nibiru.

Neil Freer has studied Sitchin's work for more than two decades and has written a book, *"Breaking the Godspell"* (Falcon Press, 1987), in which he further develops the possible implications of Nibiru's influence upon past and current humanity. On hearing of the discoveries of David Murray, John Matese et al, Freer wasted no time publicly pointing out the obvious parallels with the predicted existence of Nibiru.

Freer's open letter to BBC Online News Science Editor Dr. David Whitehouse, posted to the internet, provides a brief but authoritative introduction to Sitchin's ideas and

to the history of scientific discoveries in support of the reality of Nibiru. Freer has granted permission to CNI News to reproduce his letter to Whitehouse in full, as follows:

Re: Announcement by Dr. John Murray, UK's Open University of possible tenth planet in our solar system through analysis of cometary data

I wish to call to your attention that Zecharia Sitchin, Sumerian scholar and author of the Earth Chronicle Series of books, revealed the existence, size, orbit, and detailed characteristics of the tenth planet in our solar system 25 years ago through the translation of the *Enuma Elish* (When in the heights...), a major document unearthed at the archaeological digs at Nineveh by Layard, and translated by L. W. King.

It gives a complete account of the formation of our solar system, including the gravitational capture into the system of this tenth planet (known to the Sumerians as Nibiru and the Babylonians as Marduk); its subsequent collision with a large planet, Tiamat, orbiting then between Mars and Jupiter; the formation of the asteroid belt, comets and meteorites from the impact; [and] the translation of the larger part of the impacted native planet into our orbit to become Earth.

The *Enuma Elish* says that the intruder planet settled into a huge elliptical orbit of 3600 years around our sun in the "wrong" direction, counter to the orbital direction of the other planets, [and] that it returns to the inner solar system through the asteroid belt area periodically. It gives the details of the path it can be observed taking through the constellations as it approaches and the disruptive events its close passing causes on Earth.

Tombaugh, searching for the tenth Planet X, discovered Pluto in 1930. Christie, of the U.S. Naval Observatory, discovered Charon, Pluto's moon, in 1978. The characteristics of Pluto derivable from the nature of Charon through the two Pioneer spacecrafts' data demonstrated that there must still be a large planet undiscovered because Pluto could not be the cause of the residuals, the "wobbles" in the orbital paths of Uranus and Neptune which had to be caused by a large planet. The IRAS (Infrared Astronomical Satellite), during 1983-'84, produced observations of a tenth planet so robust that one of the astronomers on the

project said that "all that remains is to name it" -- from which point the information has become curiously guarded. In 1992, Harrington and Van Flandern of the U.S. Naval Observatory, working with all the information they had at hand, published their opinion that there was, at least, an 85% possibility of a tenth planet, even calling it an "intruder" planet. Andersen of JPL [Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, California] later publicly expressed his belief that it could possibly be verified any time. Harrington invited Sitchin, having read his book and translations of the *Enuma Elish*, to a meeting at his office and they correlated the current findings with the ancient records. Harrington acknowledged the detail of the ancient records while confidently narrowing its current location to below the ecliptic in the southern skies, even acknowledging the possibility of a retrograde orbit.

Sitchin definitively answers the question How could our earliest civilizations know of this planet? With the thoroughly substantiated thesis that the transcultural "gods" known to all the ancient civilizations were not mythological but flesh and blood humanoids whose home planet was, is, indeed, this tenth planet. They came here 432,000 years ago, created our species as a slave race for their gold mines by crossing their genes with those of Homo Erectus, moved us up to limited partnership subsequently and taught us civilization and science and astronomy, eventually phased off and left us on our own to find our own species identity.

Regardless of whether one accepts his evidence and thesis or not, one must face the clear and simple fact -- as Harrington was enough of a real scientist to do -- that the information about this tenth planet -- and all the others in our system -- is there in the ancient documents and is continually being verified in finer and finer detail. The obstacle to Sitchin's thesis is not scientific. It is the very unscholarly, traditional, pervasive, preclusive mindset of academicians and scientists, long fostered by the religious absolutism that put Galileo under house arrest and burnt Bruno at the stake, that this history and information is to be disregarded as mythological.

This is not to denigrate the impressive, sophisticated and astute work of Dr. Murray or to detract from his findings. Credit, however,

should be given to whomever it is due in proper measure. The recognition of the information that Sitchin has published on the tenth planet and its utilization would save the astronomers great time and effort and is precise and robust enough to provide all data necessary for a computer modeling of our universe from its beginnings. The Enuma Elish describes Nibiru's visual path through the constellations as it approaches the inner solar system to perigee in the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter. A computer modeling would furnish a prediction of the time and path of Nibiru's return to the inner solar system, highly significant because the Enuma Elish details the disruptive physical effects it creates on Earth by its close passing. The work of Harrington, Van Flandern, Ritchie, the IRAS project, and now that of Murray and Matese continues to reinforce and refine the

details already known to humans for thousands of years, lost and recovered, and uncovered and revealed again by Sitchin 25 years ago. As to naming the planet, Sitchin already has written years ago to the Planetary Society, charged with naming planets, to formally notify them of the fact that it already has been named Nibiru for thousands of years. Although too modest a scholar to put himself forward in this case, I personally think that Sitchin should receive a Nobel prize for his research and master thesis. Let proper credit be given in due measure where it clearly should.

EDITOR'S NOTE: *What do PRB readers think of all this? Fuel for another Forum debate anyone?*

SIGHTING REPORT

DATE: Monday 11th October 1999

TIME: 10:00 am

LOCATION: Shiregreen, Sheffield

The following report comes from YUFOS member and PRB producer Jon Slater on behalf of the witness, his mother.

On the morning in question she was at home when she spotted a bright, singular object, round and silvery, moving across the sky over the Shiregreen Estate.

She watched the object move across the sky parallel to their home for a couple of minutes before the object appeared to vanish.

She did not take her eyes from the object and is sure that it did not fade from sight but actually vanished, as if winking from existence.

WITNESS: Mrs. B.Slater

The weather was sunny, with high clouds, making the object very easy to see.

Although Mrs. Slater is sure that she witnessed something unusual, I think that this was probably an aeroplane reflecting the sunlight, thereby obscuring wings, tail etc from her sight. The object's flight-path is similar to that of aircraft coming to and from Sheffield Airport.

Interestingly, though, this is the same location from which Jon himself witnessed three brightly-glowing, orange, ball-shaped UFOs (also witnessed by others in the Shiregreen area of Sheffield and well documented in YUFOS magazine Vol #2, no.1) –Dave Baker

(Source: YUFOS files)

FROM AROUND THE WORLD... AND BEYOND!!

UFOs, conspiracies, paranormal and fortean events compiled by Dave Baker

OZ SPY BASE NURRUNGAR CLOSED

The Joint Defence Facility spy base 'Nurrungar' in South Australia [s31:22 e137:10] designed to analyse satellite data was closed today 12 Oct 99.

A DoD report tells us that a new modern ground relay system will begin operating at (that alleged hot UFO location) Pine Gap. The decision to close Nurrungar was reported to be made largely for technological reasons. The equipment at Nurrungar was developed in the 1960s, but more modern technology allows data analysis to be done back in the United States.

The relocation of the Nurrungar spy base in South Australia to Pine Gap would mean that Australian analysts would no longer be working closely with their US counterparts. As a result, many American analysts will be transferred home.

To make things even stranger, a senior Australian official confirmed that the redeployment of American staff to the US gave Australia an opportunity to maintain expertise in monitoring ballistic missile launches [?].

About 400 Australians and Americans are employed at Nurrungar. About 40 Australian intelligence officers were involved in analysing some of the data.

The United States satellite station Nurrungar is a ground station for the US Defence Support Program (DSP). It is said to control a set of Pacific/Asia geostationary satellites that are designed to detect and track objects.

Using infrared telescopes, visible light and ultraviolet sensors, and a nuclear detonation detection (NUDET) sensors.

The IR detectors & UV sensors are designed to sense the radiation emitted by missile boosters & fluorescing gases from flight dynamics.

High Resolution cameras on the satellites

transmit pictures important ground data images to Defence Facility Nurrungar.

In an E-mail to PRA Post dated 1998/09/14 Author: Allen Thomson said:

"Is there any indication of a Regional Sigint Operations Centre [RSOC] being created in Australia? With the move of the DSP/SBIRS relay station from Nurrungar to Pine Gap, the latter is starting to look a bit like an austral version of the Denver RSOC – and I wouldn't be surprised if it were to be designated an RSOC itself. Have any of the service cryptology agencies (e.g., NSG) set up shop down there?"

(Phenomena Research Australia [PRA])

U.S. MOSQUITO PLAGUE 'WAS BIO-TERRORISM'

The CIA is investigating suspicions that the brain-swelling mosquito-borne virus that has claimed seven lives in New York might have been an attempt at bio-terrorism.

According to a report in this week's *New Yorker* magazine there is a "whiff of concern" at the Central Intelligence Agency that the West Nile-like virus, never before seen in the Americas, might have been sent to the United States deliberately.

The virus, which killed five people and made at least 27 others ill, is believed to have been passed to people from mosquitoes that bit infected birds. Spraying to wipe out the mosquito population has been going on in parts of New York state for over a month and in some areas residents have been called on to take blood tests to see how extensively the virus has spread.

Many experts have been warning for years that the US is vulnerable to a bio-terrorism attack. However, none ever named West Nile as one of the potential weapons - anthrax, botulin toxin and even bubonic plague are considered to be the weapons of choice.

The Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) have been asked to check whether the virus, which can develop from flu-like symptoms into potentially fatal encephalitis, could have been spread deliberately.

"We're taking it seriously. We'll see where the data take us," the magazine quoted a source at the CDC as saying. Navy Secretary Richard Danzig commented: "Even if you suspect biological terrorism, it's hard to prove."

The New Yorker cites a book written by a man using the name Mikhael Ramadan, who claimed to be an Iraqi defector and said Saddam Hussein was planning to make a weapon out of a strain of West Nile virus. He described it as being "capable of destroying 97 per cent of all life in an urban environment".

(*EVENING STANDARD ON LINE* October 11, 1999 by Molly Watson)

ALIEN EGG TOY MISTAKEN FOR HUMAN FOETUS

A toy designed to resemble an alien baby closed down a train station after it was mistaken for a human foetus.

Police and paramedics rushed to the London Underground station at Buckhurst Hill, Essex after a supervisor found one of the Alien Eggs on a platform.

The mistake was only realised when it was examined by doctors in a hospital.

The £1.99 (\$3.27) Alien Egg contains what looks like a tiny baby curled up in a foetal position amid a covering of sticky goo.

(*BBC Ceefax* 11/3/99)

BRITISH VET CLAIMS UFO CRASHED IN WALES

A new book by researcher Nick Redfern makes the claim that a UFO crashed in a remote valley in the Clwyd district of Wales back in January 1974.

The bodies of two dead aliens were reportedly recovered from the wreck.

"Farmer Huw Lloyd, 39, was a boy of 14

watching TV at home in nearby Llandrillo on the night of the crash in January 1974. He said he saw a large object followed by a train and a blinking blue light. Huw recalled, 'I was amazed at how quickly the police responded and how many people came here.'

Among the arrivals, according to Redfern, were British Army units, one of which took custody of the two alien bodies.

The mysterious craft came down in the Berwyn Mountains, Clwyd...In a chilling echo of the infamous Roswell incident in New Mexico (in July 1947, scores of troops were dispatched on a secret mission to retrieve the wreckage.

One soldier, quoted in the book under the pseudonym 'James Prescott,' was ordered to Llanderfel with four others and loaded two oblong boxes into their armoured truck. The truck ferried the boxes back to the Chemical and Biological Defence Establishment at Porton Down, near Salisbury, Wiltshire under strict orders not to stop for anything.

Retired Mr. Prescott, who is too afraid of reprisals to be named said that once they arrived, "the boxes were opened by staff at the facility in our presence. We were startled to see two creatures which had been placed inside decontamination suits.

"It was obvious that the creatures were not of this earth, and, when examined, were found to have died.

"The bodies were about five to six feet tall, humanoid in shape, but so that they looked almost skeletal with a covering skin. Although I did not see a craft at the scene of the recovery, I was informed that a large craft had crashed and was retrieved by other (British) military units."

The incident has remained classified, and the (UK) Ministry of Defence has refused to comment.

(*Daily Mirror* October 22, 1999, 'How Alien's My Valley?')

Uh-oh!Over to you, Andy Roberts...Ed

HERE'S WHAT JUST
SOME FAMOUS PEOPLE
HAVE SAID ABOUT
YUFOS and PROJECT
RED BOOK...

"One of the few true UFO monthlies. Excellent. I shall mention it my latest book, out on Thursday. And in my next book, out on Saturday." Jenny Randles

"I like the issue printed next year the best." Uri Geller

"Not enough trains." Rory Lushman

"A really good magazine. And can I just say that I have presented over 5000 lectures in over 2000 Universities in 45 countries." Stanton Friedman

"A very very strange bunch of chappies." Eric Morris

"Not as good as BEYOND magazine, available in shops now! Just ask for BEYOND Magazine!" Tim Matthews, BEYOND magazine

"If this isn't the best UFO monthly, then my name's not 'Peter'." Nick Pope

"Not enough Little Grey Dudes or beautiful young Carpenters from Galilee." Bob Dean

"This magazine does not exist. It's just a bolide. Or swamp gas. Or a pelican! A pelican! Sure, that's it... yeah!" Phil Klass

"*****" Andy Roberts
(quote removed on advice of solicitors)

"Too much PSH!" Jerry Clark

"Too much ETH!" John Rimmer

"Too much about 'The Sheffield Incident! The Sheffield Incident, The Sheffield Incident! All I hear is the bloody Sheffield Incident! I'm sick of it! Sick of it you hear me!" Dr. Dave Clarke

"Good." Timothy Good, (though he could have just been introducing himself.)

"And anyway it's The HOWDEN MOOR Incident!" Dr. Dave Clarke again.

**NEXT
MEETING...**

Deck The Halls With bolide
meteors, it's CHRISTMAS!!!
Do you like to

Ignore the Queen's speech?
Play "Spot the Christmas Clothes" in
the pub on Xmas Day?
Tell Carol Singers that they're "too
early" (even on Xmas Eve -chortle!)
Refuse to wear the paper hat from
your Xmas Cracker?
Add rude words to Christmas Carols?
Sing "Merry Christmas Everybody" by
Slade far, far too loudly?

**THEN
YOU are invited to :
THE YUFOS
CHRISTMAS
PARTY!!!**

on
Tuesday, 14th December
At 7:00- 11:00pm
At
THE THREE CRANES!

"THE LAST MEETING OF THE
MILLENIUM!!!"

**EAT !
DRINK !
BE MERRY!
DRINK MORE!
PLAY GAMES!
DRINK EVEN MORE!
FALL DOWN!**
Ring Dave for details..

THE IDIOT'S GUIDE TO UFO-SPOTTING (Pt 2)

Or: Removing the 'Un' from Unidentified...

By Dave Baker

Nocturnal Lights (Continued)

In the first part of my article I described how planets and stars can easily be misidentified and interpreted as something unusual and even frightening by the unwary. Venus, Sirius and Mars can indeed be pesky little buggers at times, but there is much more in the heavens above us that can lead those unfamiliar with the skies into visions of hovering beam-ships and sinister Black Triangles, as we shall see below...

THE MOON

The Moon is one of the first astral bodies we learn to recognise as a child, yet some people still misidentify it at certain times and under certain conditions. Indeed, it is probably the fact that it *is* so familiar that we *can* be so easily fooled when it appears distorted or unusual. Atmospheric changes, clouds obscuring it's face, and those damned ice-crystals¹ can all be held accountable for turning this planet's solitary satellite into a hovering beam-ship teeming with anally-fixed probe-wielding Greys...

The most common optical illusion occurs when the Moon is viewed close to the horizon, usually when it is setting. Due to atmospheric distortion it can appear bloated and over-large, or flattened and 'squashed' and a burning orange or deep red in colour. Clouds drifting before it can further distort its normally familiar shape, and create pulsing cigars, glowing discs, or hovering ellipses.

In their book "*Phantoms of the Sky*", Dave Clarke and Andy Roberts relate the following perfect example...

"One such case, at first baffling, was investigated by David Clarke in South Yorkshire. At 4 am on 16 March 1981 two night-nurses at Doncaster Royal Infirmary noticed an unusual light low on the horizon to the south. As they watched the light, it became clear that they were looking at a "domed

saucer". Studying it closely, they could see that it was a definite 'craft', even having portholes around the side. The drawing they made for the investigator was a 'classic' flying saucer. The top of the object remained stationary whilst the lower half turned clockwise, displaying a row of white lights.

After thirty minutes, the UFO vanished in the early morning haze. Intensive investigation discovered that at the same date and time the moon was in exactly the same part of the sky, at the same angle of elevation as that at which the UFO was sighted. The witnesses did not see the moon, so it is logical to conclude that they had observed the moon through the refractive layers of the Earth's atmosphere and overlaid this with their ideas about what a UFO should look like - a domed disk with portholes - gleaned from the UFO mythology which surrounds us all."

However, the Moon can still be responsible for UFO sightings even when the witnesses report that they did see it elsewhere in the sky. Particles of ice in clouds can catch and reflect the Moon's light and reflect it, causing a vague, hazy shape to appear close by. This phenomenon is called 'a moon dog' or 'a false moon', and is particularly telling by the fact that it remains 'tied' to the real Moon and does not move independently. The sun can give a similar optical illusion, and are called, not surprisingly, "False Suns" or "Sun Dogs".

And let's not forget plain old human error²; in her book *UFO Study*, Jenny Randles tells the charming tale of an elderly lady who, not wearing the spectacles she was prescribed, watched an orange, spherical object with 'astronauts' moving about inside hovering over her house. Staring at the bright object for an extended period of time caused dark spots to appear in her vision, which her escalating imagination- fuelled by the conviction that she was observing something unusual- turned into 'astronauts'. Could happen to us all....

(Next... meteors, satellites and more.)

¹ Copyright NASA. For Everything.

² *The Magoo Factor, or "Bad Eyes"*