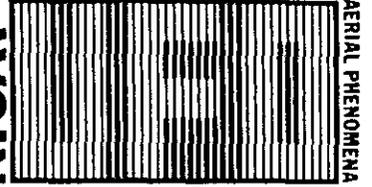


UFO INVESTIGATOR

NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE ON

NICAP



AERIAL PHENOMENA

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POLICE CHIEF'S NIGHTMARE: REAL OR CONTRIVED?

For several months NICAP's area investigator in Georgia has been examining data regarding an incident that occurred last October 17, at the height of the 1973 UFO flap. The results that investigator Marion Webb sought to find regarding this bizarre case were approached from many angles, one of which was to determine if the incident was a hoax. Thus far only strong supposition can be used to explain the events of that autumn night, a night which introduced insurmountable problems to a young lawman, Jeff Greenhaw.

Greenhaw was Chief of Police in Falkville, Alabama. Everything was proceeding routinely that particular October evening until Greenhaw received a phone call from an unidentified woman who claimed a UFO had just landed near her home. The chief sped to the area, which was on the outskirts of town, and edged down a narrow gravel road. Suddenly his headlights shone on a six foot silver-suited subject which was standing in the middle of the road. The law officer got out of the car and spoke to the human-like object and simultaneously began snapping pictures. The object took a step toward Greenhaw, who flipped on the light atop the police car. The "creature" suddenly turned and dashed down the road, and the Chief began pursuit in his auto. Greenhaw, who later reported that he could not catch his suspect at a speed of twenty miles per hour, had the misfortune of getting caught in loose gravel and lost his traction. The silver being disappeared into the night, leaving its only witness shaken by a frightening experience.

Jeff Greenhaw believed in what happened to him; he had photos as evidence. The incident received wide publicity, and everyone knew what had happened to the Falkville policeman. After initial investi-

gations were begun, an official received word of a rumor that several firemen from a nearby community may have collaborated on a hoax which involved their "borrowing" silver firefighting uniforms. Such outfits are used by firemen stationed at air fields; the silver material deflects ninety per cent of the heat and enables the wearer to remove victims trapped in the wreckage of airplanes.

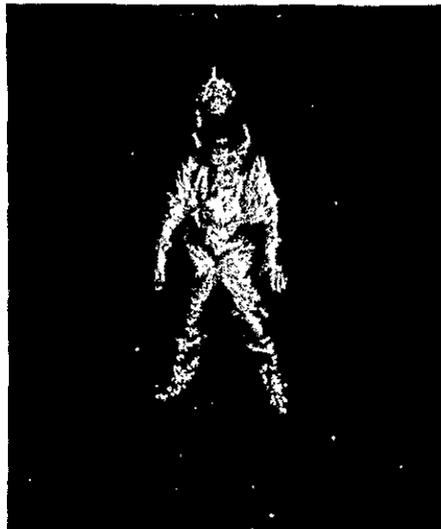
NICAP investigator Webb donned the fireman's suit and added some aluminum foil to the feet and hood. His picture was taken and then compared to Greenhaw's photos. There were definite similarities, particularly in the areas where foil had been added.

Webb found the uniform to be very bulky and cumbersome, making quick movement difficult. Why then was Greenhaw unable to catch the fleeing "creature"? Webb surmises that the Chief probably drove only a short distance before spinning in the gravel and losing his quarry. "He could have accelerated

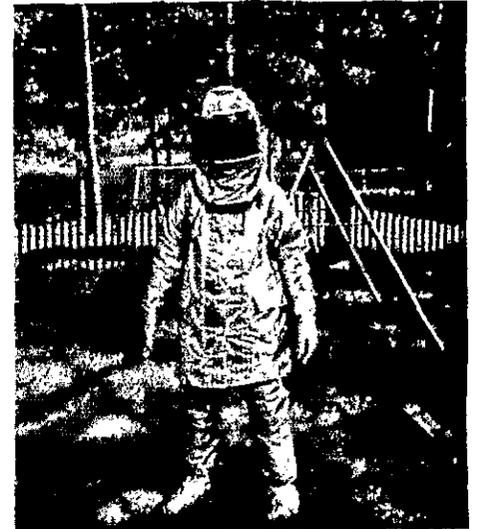
rapidly enough to quickly attain twenty miles per hour before spinning out and thereby not really covering much distance." Webb continued, "I've always pondered the role of the woman caller who told the Chief that she saw a space craft. This woman was never identified and could have been part of a prank."

What are Jeff Greenhaw's conclusions regarding the occurrences on October 17? Unfortunately he has been incommunicado for months, and all efforts to contact him have failed. It seems that the events of that evening led to several other misfortunes in his personal life. Very probably they are the results of the publicity received regarding the incident, which Falkville people believe was a hoax perpetrated on Officer Greenhaw. In the short time that has passed since that night, Greenhaw's wife has divorced him, his mobile home was burned, and he has given up his career as a law enforcement officer.

—Continued on Page 2



Strikingly similar photograph to the one taken by Chief Greenhaw.



Similar disguise photograph taken under better lighting conditions.



POLICE NIGHTMARE

Continued from Front Page

NICAP has run many articles concerning police reports of UFO activity because officers are trained observers and have learned to act rationally in situations. It cannot be disputed that ex-chief Jeff Greenhaw had a devastating experience that night in 1973. It must also be remembered that it happened at a time when all of the United States was alerted to UFOs. Was the event real or just a cruel hoax which may have nearly ruined a man's life? No one can know for sure, but most of the townspeople have their opinions and feel strongly about what happened to a man they once described as good natured, likeable, and rational. Perhaps pranksters will think twice before pulling such a stunt again, for as Marion Webb puts it, "If it were a hoax, the perpetrators may wish to express sadistic pride in their accomplishments."

The Von Daniken Controversy . . .

Editor's Note: The UFO subject may overlap with many other fields. It is apparent from letters and phone calls received by NICAP that Erick Von Daniken has stimulated interest among NICAP members concerning his theories on extraterrestrial visitation during ancient times. The pages of the *UFO Investigator* are usually devoted to articles dealing directly with UFOs, or background information relating to UFOs. However, there are times when general interest is high concerning a subject which may or may not relate to UFOs, and because of this interest we feel that this article deserves inclusion on these pages.

Mr. Robert Sheaffer submitted the following article to NICAP for publication in our newsletter. It is being presented herein without NICAP comment on either Mr. Von Daniken's or Mr. Sheaffer's theories. We would be pleased to print a rebuttal to Mr. Sheaffer's article, if one is received. Whether or not you agree or disagree with Mr. Sheaffer, we are sure you will admit that he has presented data worth considering.

ERICH VON DANIKEN'S CHARIOTS OF THE GODS

SCIENCE OR CHARLATANISM?

by Robert Sheaffer

Was God an ancient astronaut? Do centuries-old legends of gods and heroes tell of space travellers who came to earth from distant parts of the Cosmos? Are some of the ruins of antiquity remnants of great airfields, the favored landing sites of extraterrestrial craft?

"Yes!" writes Erich Von Daniken in his runaway bestselling book, *Chariots of the Gods?* This phenomenally successful book is now in its forty-fourth printing, with over four million copies currently in print. Von Daniken's sequels to this book, *Gods From Outer Space* and *The Gold of the Gods* are also selling well, as are flocks of imitations.

The popularity of such a sensational theory should not be surprising. Immanuel Velikovsky created a similar stir almost twenty-five years ago with the publication of his *Worlds in Collision*, suggesting that the present state of the solar system can be explained by a series of spectacular catyclisms among the planets. It has been over twenty-seven years since "flying saucers" burst into the public's awareness, and UFOs still continue to generate excitement and controversy. Sensational hypotheses such as these generate such levels of interest that they tend to become self-sustaining, quite apart from the question of whether they are true.

Established science has always shied away from such remarkable claims. "It took courage to write this book, and it will take courage to read it", says Von Daniken. "Even if a reactionary army tries to dam up this new intellectual flood, a new world must be conquered in the teeth of all the unteachable in the name of truth and reality." (Presumably the reader here is expected to shout, "Right on!") Does science avoid Von Daniken because it is afraid to face up to the truth? Let's examine some of his many claims, to see if they are serious scientific theories, or mere humbug.

On page 9, Von Daniken serves up a "basic rocket equation," derived by one Professor Akeret, purporting to show how time slows down for space travellers who zip along at velocities near the speed of light. This is an important consequence of Einstein's theory of relativity. Yet a quick glance at this "rocket equation" shows that it isn't an equation at all! Every equation is a mathematical statement of the equality of two quantities:

this equals that. But his "equation" contains no equal sign, and hence it cannot be a real equation; it must be intended as window dressing, since it serves no legitimate mathematical purpose. Yet that is not the only absurdity in this non-equation. A term in the denominator is multiplied by a very strange constant! ONE! Did Professor Akeret think that multiplication by one was a necessary step in his calculations? Von Daniken himself must have known better, as even schoolchildren learn that any number times one equals itself! There are, of course, many legitimate equations which deal with this aspect of the relativity of time. Why then has Von Daniken selected such an obvious humbug to support his "scientific" claims?

What is the history of our earth-moon system? "... a satellite was captured by the earth. As it was pulled toward the earth it slowed down the speed of the earth's revolutions. It finally disintegrated and was replaced by the moon." (p. 19)

Proof of this theory, he writes, can be found in the symbols on the *Great Idol* in the Old Temple at Tiahuanaco, one of his favorite archeological Wonders. Supposedly this message, dating back 27,000 years, tells of how this satellite emeritus made 425 revolutions around the earth a year, which was then only 288 days.

If the earth formerly circled the sun every 288 days, Kepler's third law implies that the earth must have been at that time much closer to the sun, almost where Venus is now. Are we expected to believe that during the great Ice Ages the earth was some twenty million miles closer to the sun than it is today? On the other hand, if the year remained unchanged but each day is shorter, we are faced with another difficulty: since the year is now 365 days, the earth's rotation is faster than in 25,000 B.C., not slower as Von Daniken claims. How could a satellite slowly spiraling earthward pull both earth and satellite farther away from the sun? Where are the fragments of this disintegrated moon, and where did our current moon come from? Von Daniken gives no answers.

On ancient Egyptian astronomy: "... why a Sirius calendar? ... If Sirius appeared on the horizon at dawn at the same time as the Nile flood, it was pure coincidence. . . this very interest in Sirius

—Continued on next page

seems rather peculiar because seen from Memphis, Sirius can be observed only in the early dawn just above the horizon when the Nile floods begin." (p. 64-65)

Reader, beware—we're dealing with one who knows the art of deception! Sirius, he neglects to mention, is the brightest star in the sky. His claim that Sirius was hardly visible at all to the Egyptians is simply false. Sirius, in fact, is visible from anywhere on earth except the extreme North Polar region, and observers in Egypt see that star higher in the sky than we do here in the northern United States, where it dominates the sky on crisp winter evenings.

There is no dark mystery behind the development of the Sirius-based calendar in Egypt. The priests there noticed a simple regularity: each year, when that brilliant star first became visible in the morning sky, the Nile flood began. Does this not prove that the Egyptians had contact with a race of space travellers?

On the mysteries of the great Pyramid of Cheops: "Is it coincidence that the area of the base of the pyramid divided by twice its height gives the celebrated figure $\pi=3.14159?$ " (p. 77)

Here our slippery trickster has made a claim which is easy enough to understand, but its refutation requires a higher level of mathematical sophistication—which is all the better for letting the deception go unnoticed! Without going into too much detail, let us observe that the famous number Pi (π) is what is called a *dimensionless constant*: it is a pure number, with which no units of measure are associated. However, the ratio of an area to height is *not* dimensionless, hence such a ratio cannot yield Pi. By choosing our units carefully, we can obtain the number 3.14159, but the ratio will not really be Pi, which is independent of any units of measure. If we measure the same pyramid, Von Daniken style, in inches, feet, and yards, we will obtain three different ratios. Choose your own units, and the ratio can be made to equal any number at all! Von Daniken writes that the pyramid of Cheops "has inspired hundreds of crazy and untenable theories". Not satisfied with this collection, he has given us one more.

Due to the length of this article, the remaining portion will be continued in the November issue of the UFO Investigator.

NEW YORK MAN UNKNOWINGLY RECORDS UFO ON FILM

Bernard C. Brody, a general contractor from New York, recently visited his daughter and son-in-law in California. Like most vacationers, he recorded his trip on film, this time with an eight millimeter movie camera. On a drive from San Diego to Las Vegas, Nevada, Mr. Brody photographed scenery along the way. Upon returning to New York, he had the film developed and was quite surprised to see bright, dislike objects streaking across it. Mr. Brody's son slowed down the film, looked at it frame by frame while discussing it with his brother-in-law, and then contacted NICAP.

NICAP's regional investigator Diana Russell viewed the film and found a cattle scene which was followed by approximately twelve frames showing two bright, silvery discs moving rapidly from east to west across the film. They appeared to come out from behind one hill and move upwards, banking slightly for a turn before disappearing. They also seemed to travel much faster than a normal aircraft. Mr. Brody commented that he was using a long distance lens for the scenery.

It is unusual for a witness to film a "UFO" without seeing what he is filming. Most such cases are found to be explained as lens flairs, film defects, camera light leaks, etc. However, NICAP will investigate further.

HOVERING OBJECT SHINES SPOTLIGHT ON POLICE CAR

Two Kingston, New York, policemen were making a routine check at 1:00 AM on July 9, when one officer noticed hovering lights. Alerting his partner, the patrol man attempted to get a better look by illuminating the area with a spotlight. At this time, the UFO turned a bright beam on the patrol car and sped off toward the Hudson River.

"It seemed as if they acknowledged our signal. It had a few lights—red and green—and something like a white haze underneath," reported one of the men.

The sighting lasted two to three minutes. Both officers stated they were at first reluctant to report the incident, but were convinced what they had seen was not natural. "If it were a plane and it was that close, I would have known it was a plane," each stated and denied the possibility of a balloon.

NEVADA SIGHTING

On July 1, 1974, NICAP's regional investigator, Ed Dickman, contacted a witness who had reported seeing an object at approximately 10:00 p.m. on that same evening. The witness claimed that the object appeared to be first yellow in color and then changed to a brilliant green. She stated to Mr. Dickman that the UFO appeared to come straight down from the sky and land somewhere in the Carson Valley region of Nevada. Mr. Dickman revealed to the witness that he too had witnessed an object of the same description at approximately the same time but in Reno, which is about 30 miles away.

As the object was on its descent, it seemed to illuminate the area with a very bright glow. While conducting the interview, the witness kept repeating how tremendously large the object seemed to be. She claimed that she had never seen any craft that size.

On July 2, 1974, Mr. Dickman contacted another person who had claimed to have seen three very large objects land across the street from her house on October 28, 1973.

The reason for the delay in reporting this incident was due to the fact that Mrs. Imogene Proctor has been all these months unsuccessfully trying to find the proper authorities to give her report to. Evidently, the police in the area gave no credence to her testimony nor did they help her to locate someone to investigate. Mr. Dickman sent NICAP a tape of his interviews with Mrs. Proctor and is still presently trying to obtain more information pertaining to this incident.

In the early a.m. on October 28, Mrs. Proctor was having difficulty sleeping and went to the window to find to her amazement 3 very large saucer shaped objects hovering across the street. She claimed that a "ground crew" of approximately 10 to 12 figures were milling around the area wearing "cube type" uniforms. There were no features or extremities in view, but they seemed to have a dull glow about them and working in a systematic way as though trying to examine the area. Mrs. Proctor opened the window to listen for any sound that might be coming from the objects. A very interesting and perplexing point regarding this was that there were no night sounds

—Continued on Page 4

FEEDBACK / Readers write

Helen W. Walsh, Asst. to the President
NICAP
3535 University Blvd. W.
Kensington, Md. 20795

Dear Helen:

My first reason for writing is to tell you how much I enjoyed my afternoon at NICAP. You have a talent for making people feel at home.

I have read Ray Fowler's new book and plan to give it a short, favorable review in my Books in Brief column; probably in the Sept. 20 issue. (ed. note. Mr. Ryan is the editor of THE CATHOLIC SPIRIT, the newspaper of the Catholic Diocese of Wheeling, W. Virginia.)

I think "UFOs: Interplanetary Visitors," would prove appropriate as a handy introduction to the subject. Along with a number of cases described in the first two-thirds of the book, Part III, An Estimate of the Situation, is the most worthwhile portion of the whole piece.

Now let me turn to something that's been on my mind since our conversation. Do you remember our discussion of how UFOs could be capable of achieving such tremendous speeds in our atmosphere? Since their antics seem to defy the laws of Physics, as we know them, I suggested that "They" might have learned to manipulate matter, i.e., transform it into some stable form of energy *a la* the "transporter" used in the Star Trek TV series. A number of characteristics of UFO reports have suggested this idea to me. I often wonder why these craft are frequently described as changing color and/or intensity of brightness, and usually in the red spectrum. If the material of which they are made is not translucent, perhaps the changing colors are caused by some sort of transmutative process (matter into energy). By way of analogy, I think of the changing color of metal subjected to heat; from its normal color to "red hot," to "white hot" and visa versa. Could the intense heat reportedly given off by UFOs (usually, when

taking off) be caused by some transformation of the objects molecular structure? Such a process might conceivably account for various electromagnetic effects reported.

Question: Have you come across any articles along these lines? If not, do you know if any of the people studying the phenomenon have considered this or similar ideas? If not, is there anyone connected with NICAP to whom you could mention the idea, and who might be willing to speculate on the possibilities?— (He'd probably have to be a physicist.)

All of this is merely the "off-the-top-of-my-head" speculation of an ignorant layman.

Regards,

J.T. Ryan, Jr.

NEVADA SIGHTING

Continued from Page 3

of any sort—no crickets, dogs barking, etc. The street lights seemed brighter as though they had an extra power source.

Another unusual happening was that Mrs. Proctor's family dogs were absolutely silent. She said, "it was almost as though they had been drugged." The only sound that Mrs. Proctor heard that evening was a very low pitched hum. Everything else was soundless and extremely motionless.

As two of the subjects approached the witness' driveway, she became very frightened and got back into bed and pretended to be asleep for fear they may have seen her watching. For some unexplainable reason, the witness fell asleep, for the next thing she realized was that it was morning and that the objects were gone and left no traces of ever having been in the area. Mrs. Proctor stated that she felt sure that there would have been scorched areas on the ground.

The witness did not mention the incident to many of her neighbors at first for fear of ridicule. However, she later decided she didn't care what people thought of her and asked if anyone else had seen the objects, but so far has found no one else to corroborate her testimony.



MEMOS
FOR
MEMBERS

During NICAP's early years (1956-1969) financial problems were always present. Monthly appeals for donations were common and the membership always responded generously enabling NICAP to continue its important work. Since mid-1970, NICAP has operated within a budgeted income and appeals for donations have not been necessary.

Donations have been received without solicitation, which has enabled NICAP to enter into research that would not have been possible under the budget.

At this time each year, many members are considering tax planning for their 1974 income. May we suggest that you consider a tax-deductible donation to NICAP as part of your planning. Any amount is helpful and will enable NICAP to start research projects which would otherwise remain undone due to lack of funds.

THINK CHRISTMAS: Give a NICAP membership to all those people on your list for whom you can never seem to find the right gift. A NICAP membership is something to be enjoyed for a long time, and the recipients will think of you everytime their newsletters arrive.

SPECIAL OFFER FOR MEMBERS ONLY

The *UFO Evidence* which normally sells for \$5.00 has been discounted to \$3.50 while the supply lasts. To take advantage of this special 30% discount offer, send your check to NICAP today.