

# UFO INVESTIGATOR

NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE ON  
**NICAP** AERIAL PHENOMENA

NICAP ■ 3535 UNIVERSITY BLVD. WEST, SUITE 23 ■ KENSINGTON, MARYLAND 20795 ■ A NONPROFIT CORPORATION FOUNDED 1956

## METROPOLITAN D.C. BESIEGED WITH UFO ACTIVITY

Strange lights, unexplainable maneuvers, and craft-like shapes are continuing to puzzle residents of the Washington, D.C. area. Reports began in October and have continued through December at the NICAP office. Many of the reports have similarities while others are an entity onto themselves.

### VIENNA, VA.

On October 12 at 8:35 pm, Mr. James Payne observed what he described as one bright light the size of a pinhead and redish-orange in color. Mr. Payne had gone outside to lock his car when he noticed the light. There was no sound connected with the light source, but it appeared to hover at times and change its brightness. The light was only visible for a matter of seconds before disappearing over the horizon. The witness estimated its distance to be approximately 12,000 feet.

### SPRINGFIELD, VA.

On the same evening that Mr. Payne made his observation, Mr. Charles Stewart of nearby Springfield was camping and noticed a light so bright that it lighted the entire area. Mr. Stewart is a physicist with the Navy Department. The evening sky was clear and bright. There was no moon. The light was so intent that it cast shadows and appeared more like a "flash." Similar to the Payne sighting, the light appeared to hover for a few seconds before "fading out."

### BELTSVILLE, MD.

On November 11, Lawrence Albert sighted a solid, spherical, evenly distributed green light. The object was much brighter than the sky background and was sharply outlined. The witness stated the

apparent size was that of a quarter held at arm's length. He further stated that the speed of the object was twice that of a jet plane. His first impression was that perhaps he was observing a falling star. Albert stated, "because it moved so slowly and because it was perfectly round with no trail, I realized that it could not be a star. So, I then leaned up against my windshield to watch it closer trying to make out what it was. The object then seemed to either disappear or go behind trees. Whichever occurred, it was at treetop level." Mr. Albert estimated the object's distance at one point to be about a mile and one half high.

### ALEXANDRIA, VA.

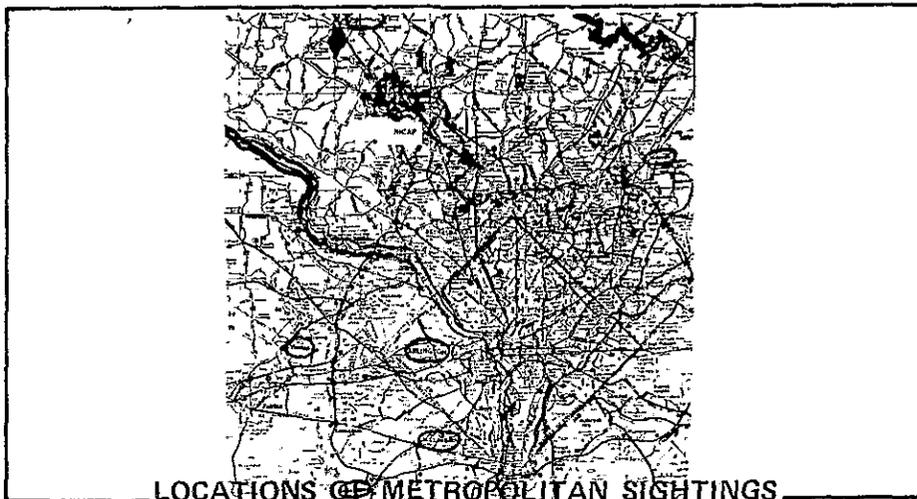
On the evening of November 1, Mr. and Mrs. Martin Price were surprised by a blue-white streak of light that flashed across their eyes. The couple had retired for the night and the brightness was so intense that this streak of light frightened them so that they both "jumped up in awe and amazement." Assuming that

they had both imagined the incident, they once again went back to bed and closed their eyes. The light reappeared and this time Martin and his wife felt what happened was very real. Martin, who wears glasses, claimed that his vision had improved for about a week after this incident.

NICAP's regional investigator, Mr. Roger Zero, asked the witnesses if they had reported the occurrence to anyone else. Mr. Price informed him that he had called the Alexandria Police Department and Andrews Air Force Base. Both agencies stated that there had been no unusual reports of this nature on that evening. However, the police department did recall that a similar incident had been reported about two months prior.

### ARLINGTON, VA.

The following report made by Donald Pricer varies somewhat with the other sightings because it was a daytime observation. Mr. Pricer was driving westbound on the George Washington



LOCATIONS OF METROPOLITAN SIGHTINGS

Parkway at approximately 9:45. He was watching some jets come in toward National Airport when the witness noticed that they appeared to be extremely close to one another. He then realized that one of the assumed planes was not a conventional craft at all. The object was quite different from the nearby jets. Pricer had the impression that the object seemed to be "pacing" the jet, keeping abreast of it off the right wing-tip, but when he looked back up to observe it again, the object started moving away at incredible speed at a 90° angle. The object looked like "a white 25° ellipse. It appeared to be painted white and reflecting the sun's light coming from behind me. The length of the object was about ¾ the length of the plane's wing and about twice that distance from the plane's wing when it was first sighted. The object showed no signs of appendages at anytime and kept its perfect elliptical shape. Another 'odd' quality about the object was that it didn't reveal any third dimension. It appeared as if the object were nothing more than a 'flat piece of paper cut out.'" The witness stated that he had the impression that the object displayed some dark areas toward the top, but the object was bright enough in general that it was difficult to be sure in the time allowed. As the object moved away, the witness pulled off the road to try and observe it more closely. The craft moved straight and fast and disappeared behind tall trees on the opposite side of the road. Mr. Pricer began driving again in an effort to relocate it. He saw it again headed on the same course at the same speed (approximately 300-400 mph). The object dipped toward earth slightly and gently and rose back to the initial altitude and disappeared for the last time behind some tall trees.

#### GAITHERSBURG, MD.

On December 20, a witness who wishes to remain anonymous and her daughter observed a "simple, white light" in the nighttime sky. There was no moon and many clouds with very few faint stars. The daughter of the witness was lying in bed when she began watching what she thought at first to be conventional craft. However, as she continued to watch the light, it began moving in an "unconventional" manner. She called to her mother who came in to watch the

light with her. They were able to observe the object for more than fifteen minutes. It was not a dramatic sighting due to the distance and therefore no shape could be described. However, it was the movement behavior that had them mystified. At first, the light appeared to be motionless for several minutes. Then it began to move off slowly in a westerly direction. It stopped once again, hovered, and then began to move toward them. When the light reached approximately the same position as it was when first sighted, the object hovered again for approximately ten minutes. Then all at once, the light began to ascend straight up passing in and out of clouds until it vanished from sight.

When the light was first observed, there were other aircraft in the sky. The witness stated that by the time the object had vanished it was at a much higher point than the aircraft had been.

NICAP's concensus of the above sightings is not as yet conclusive. However, as one witness stated, "it was not very dramatic," is true of all the reports. However, as previously stated, there does seem to be similar characteristics with some of the cases. As further information is available, it will be revealed through your newsletter.

### FORMER UFO STUDY LEADER - PLANE CRASH VICTIM

Robert James Low, 54, and his wife Rosemary, 49, were killed in a plane crash on November 29. This tragedy was a shock and misfortune to all who knew and worked with them.

In 1969, Robert Low recommended that the Air Force discontinue investigating all UFO reports. It was Low's opinion that UFO research was not warranted.

Mr. Low directed an 18 month study into UFOs at the University of Colorado. The conclusions made regarding UFOs ultimately resulted in the Air Force debunking and dropping its probe into UFO reports.

Mr. Low was regarded as an expert in the fields of astro and geophysics.

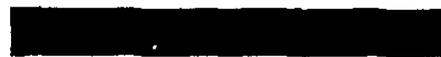
## HUGE OBJECT SEEN OVER FLORIDA

As this issue of the UFO INVESTIGATOR goes to press, reports are being evaluated of a very large UFO observed over northern Florida.

News reports have stated that the object was "the size of two football fields." NICAP has found that witnesses have reported the object to be "about the size of a five story building," or 50-70 feet in diameter. The UFO was first reported to the St. Augustine Sheriff's Office.

Another report of what may be the same object was made to the Civil Defense Headquarters at Bradenton, Florida. In this report the UFO was seen on December 21 at approximately 10:00 pm. The witness and her sister were driving along Route 19 north of Weeki Wachee Springs, Florida at a speed of about 65 mph. They noticed a bright light to the right of their car which was moving slightly faster than they were driving. They stopped the car and observed the object circle then move straight up with a "flip flopping" motion. Before losing sight of the craft, the witnesses saw that the object was "shaped like a mushroom top, was an off white color, and very large."

NICAP's investigations are continuing and additional information will be found in the February issue of the UFO INVESTIGATOR



MEMOS  
FOR  
MEMBERS

Membership processing usually takes approximately forty-five days. The reason for this delay is computer programming. If you renew your subscription and then receive a second notice, please disregard it until your next issue of the newsletter arrives. Thank you for your cooperation.



# ALLEGED ARIZONA ABDUCTION

As with all contactee cases, the alleged abduction of a 22 year old forestry service crew member has created undue excitement and interest throughout the country.

NICAP's regional investigator William S. Bickel has done a thorough job of uncovering the "unpublished" and more factual information pertaining to this case.

Travis Walton, a longtime student of UFOs, claimed to have been taken on board a "spaceship" on November 5. The six woodcutters were working in east-central Arizona when they claimed to have seen a lighted object hover at tree-top level in a wooded area south of Heber, a small town near Holbrook Arizona. The men reported to the Sheriff's department that Walton spotted the object, left their truck and approached the object. Walton's co-workers said a "bluish" light then hit Walton and he fell to the ground. The crewmen became frightened and left the scene, but then turned back. Upon their return they found Walton and the object missing . . .

Five days later, Walton was found slumped in a phone booth near a Heber service station. He told the Sheriff's department that he had been taken aboard the spacecraft by "three hairless human-like beings wearing blue, tight-fitting clothing." Walton claimed that he saw the spacecraft fly off and was able to make it on his own into town where he called his brother-in-law.

At first it was claimed that Walton was under doctors' care in a Phoenix hospital. This later was admitted to be a fabrication and supposedly was done to protect Travis Walton from the questions of the news media.

Further reports appeared in the newspapers that five of the six men (excluding Travis Walton) had taken and passed a lie detector test.

NICAP's investigator, Dr. William S. Bickel began his report "the Holbrook UFO case which started with a bang ended in a fizzle." The strongest point about the alleged abduction is that the five-witnesses have taken and passed a lie detector test. The test was administered in three basic parts:

A—Was each witness involved with foul play or mad at Travis Walton (kidnapee)?

B—Did each witness know if anyone else involved with foul play?

C—What did you see?

Dr. Bickel concludes that correct answers to "A" and "B" constitute "passing the lie detector test" even if question "C" was failed totally. Question "C" is of course the only question that is relevant to confirming the report of the abduction by a UFO. According to the Sheriff of the county in which the occurrence allegedly took place, Travis Walton called a radio talk show BEFORE the event took place and volunteered to be on the show. The MC of the show called him a "kook" and refused to have him on the air. Then AFTER the event, Walton again called the talk show and said, "who's a kook now?" These facts naturally throw the case under great suspicion and would seem that either a hoax has been committed or that a psychological phenomena is involved.

## EDITORIAL

by:  
John L. Acuff, President

Throughout the first fourteen years of NICAP's nineteen years of existence, continual pleas for donations were commonplace. NICAP's members always responded when called upon and donations accounted for a major portion of the organization's income.

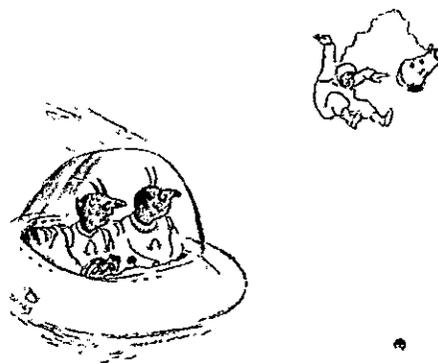
In 1970, the Board of Governors decided that NICAP should operate in the manner in which it was designed, i.e., as an individual membership organization devoted to the research of UFO phenomena, and that its primary financial support should come from membership dues. Since 1970 NICAP has operated in this manner, and is a financially sound, although not a wealthy, organization. Additional income is needed by NICAP to

continue existing programs at their present level and to institute vitally needed new programs.

We all know the financial pressures caused by the inflationary period of the past five years. An organization is no different than an individual in its ability to continue to provide services during times of inflation. If an organization or an individual is "living on a fixed income," they rapidly see the buying power of their dollar diminish. Fortunately during the past five years, NICAP has seen the size of its membership grow and this resultant increase in income has enabled NICAP's programs to continue.

NICAP has not increased membership dues since 1970 and would prefer not to take such action. However, because of rising costs some research programs are now in jeopardy and no new programs can be started.

Your donations are needed. If each member donated \$5.00, NICAP would have almost \$25,000 for use in funding its desired and existing programs. Your donations are fully tax deductible and will be deeply appreciated by your organization.



THE SATURDAY EVENING POST

"You report it if you want to, Zazgbs—I don't want to get involved."

# REGIONAL INVESTIGATOR POSITIONS OPEN

## Applications Now Being Accepted

Most members are aware that NICAP is the largest, most widely recognized UFO research group in the world. In part, NICAP's reputation has been built and maintained by the active, loyal support given by our Regional Investigators throughout the country.

These individuals have worked diligently in evaluating the UFO phenomena and have made great strides in obtaining assistance from "outside" independent organizations and government agencies.

Mr. Ernest Jahn is NICAP's New York Regional Investigator. His work is an example of achievement levels with local, state police departments, and planetariums. For an example of how local and state police can assist NICAP, see the October issue of the UFO INVESTIGATOR, page 4. Mr. Jahn would be willing to assist any NICAP INVESTIGATOR in achieving this type local cooperation.

The qualifications needed to become a NICAP Regional Investigator are listed below. This position with NICAP is on a

voluntary basis. Because of his vital role in NICAP's research program, each Regional Investigator should have the necessary background and training to properly use scientific methods of investigation. It is also important for him to be sufficiently established in his community, so that he is able to work effectively with law enforcement, government, and other local authorities. To become a Regional Investigator, it is necessary to meet the following minimum requirements:

1. You must be an active NICAP member.
2. You must be at least 25 years of age.
3. It is preferred that you have educational or occupational training in the physical, social, or behavioral sciences, or have experience in another specialized field, such as law, medicine, education, or engineering. Applicants who do not meet this requirement may still apply and will be judged on the merits of whatever alternative qualifications they may offer.

4. You should be able to cover a minimum geographical area of 50 miles in radius or one-hour driving time in any direction. NICAP reserves the right to assign your specific jurisdiction to prevent conflict between areas. In most cases, no Regional Investigator will be assigned an entire State or more than one area.
5. A Regional Investigator should act solely as a NICAP representative and not serve concurrently as an investigator for another UFO group. You may be a member of another without prejudice to your status as a NICAP representative. All information obtained by a Regional Investigator must be treated as proprietary and not distributed to other organizations or individuals.

The following states are in need of additional investigators, because of the size of territories being covered by existing investigators:

ALABAMA  
ARKANSAS  
ALASKA  
CANADA  
COLORADO  
DELAWARE  
HAWAII  
IDAHO  
ILLINOIS  
INDIANA  
IOWA

KANSAS  
KENTUCKY  
LOUISIANA  
MAINE  
MASSACHUSETTS  
MICHIGAN  
MINNESOTA  
MISSOURI  
MONTANA  
NEBRASKA  
NEW MEXICO

OKLAHOMA  
SOUTH CAROLINA  
SOUTH DAKOTA  
TEXAS  
UTAH  
VERMONT  
VIRGINIA  
WASHINGTON (state)  
WEST VIRGINIA  
WISCONSIN  
WYOMING

If you desire to become a Regional Investigator and feel that you meet the above qualifications, please request a Regional Investigator application form from the NICAP Headquarters.

As previously mentioned, NICAP's investigators serve in a vital capacity by conducting and providing the thoroughness that NICAP requires for all case analysis.

If you meet the requirements and are approved by the selection committee, you will be notified of your appointment and may start serving in an official capacity for NICAP.