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1989 INTERNATIONAL UFO SYMPOSIUM PROCEEDINGS

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UFOLOGY
THE EMERGENCE OF A NEW SCIENCE

Richmond, Virginia July 2-3-4

Albuquerque, New Mexico July 10-11-12

Chicago, Illinois July 5-6-7

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Austin, Texas—Some 700 people gathered in the Hyatt Regency Austin hotel on the shores of Townlake to celebrate the 25th silver anniversary of the Mutual UFO Network. The theme of the MUFON 1994 International UFO Symposium was “Ufology: A Historical Perspective.” The event was a weekend celebration of past accomplishments and future promise. Speakers recounted the histories of most of the major civilian UFO organizations, including both the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) and the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization (APRO). Richard Hall was unable to attend in person, but his paper on the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP) can be found in the largest symposium proceedings yet published (306 pages, \$20 plus \$1.50 postage and handling from MUFON, 103 Oldtowne Road, Seguin, Texas, 78155-4099). Host chairperson and MUFON state director Ellen R. Stuart, husband Monte Stuart, master of ceremonies Ed Surma, and all the other local volunteers or participants are to be congratulated on a most successful conference. The 1995 MUFON symposium, hosted by chairperson Judy Tuberg, will be held in Seattle, Washington.

THE 1994 MUFON UFO SYMPOSIUM

Report by Dennis Stacy/Photographs by Ansen Seale

The first speaker to the platform was researcher Karla Turner of Arkansas, herself an abductee and author of *Into the Fringe* (Berkeley, 1992) and *Taken: Inside the Alien-Human Abduction Agenda* (Kelt Works, 1994).

“My own experiences as an abductee and my subsequent work with other abduction reports,” Turner began, “has shown me that ufology’s current understanding of the abduction phenomenon underestimates the situation. . . we need an expanded definition of the abduction scenario if we are to make progress.”

In particular, Turner feels the two prevailing attitudes about abductions are too limited because they tend to omit many reported experiences that don’t seem to dovetail with either scenario. The two prevailing theories are of course the idea that extraterrestrial entities are engaged in a widespread program of genetic hybridization, or that the abductors “are our spiritual superiors here to assist the human race in its upward progression.”

After a detailed examination of the kinds of experiences reported by the eight female subjects of *Taken*, Turner said “we can see that the phenomenon involves much more than crossbreeding activities and spiritual elevation. And although the details shown here come from only eight cases, they are repeated in numerous other abduction accounts. The main areas I wish to emphasize concern 1) the frequent experience of undergoing brain operations, which has nothing to do with crossbreeding, 2) the forced sexual encounters, with varying scenarios from case to case (which would seem to have little to do with spiritual elevation), and 3) the repeated accounts of human military personnel and underground facilities.”

VIRTUAL REALITY SCENARIO

Turner also identified what she referred to as “an artificially induced virtual-reality scenario (VRS), an externally introduced event that to the witness is practically indistinguishable from objective reality.” An example of the latter, involving three witnesses, reportedly occurred in Florida when psychic Ted Rice was visiting two friends, Marie and Amelia. Awakened by Marie’s shouts, Ted ran down the hall to their room where he found her in shock, pointing at the other twin bed. An immobile Amelia lay there, surrounded by a huge, blue-glowing sphere of “electrical” light. She was talking to someone neither Ted nor Marie could see, and continued to do so



Karla Turner, Ph.D.

until the blue ball of light finally disappeared and she was released from the paralysis.

According to Amelia, the experience had begun with the sound of a helicopter overhead. Looking up, it was as if the roof and ceiling of the house were invisible or transparent. She said she could see a "helicopter" with two entities, who also appeared at the foot of her bed before the blue light vanished. The taller one had an egg-shaped head with slanted eyes and greenish "alligator" skin; the shorter one was bluish-black in color, like a raisin.

Presumably, Amelia experienced an artificially induced VRS, whereas Ted and Marie, neither of whom heard a helicopter, either, perceived only the application or byproducts of the technology—the electric blue light.

MUFON

John H. Schuessler, a founding member of MUFON and presently Deputy Director for Administration, reviewed the organization's humble origins, subsequent growth and current success, all attributable, said Schuessler, to MUFON's "grass roots nature, where a majority of the leadership and motivation is achieved at the local level."

John also referred to the *MUFON UFO Journal* as "our most significant means of sharing UFO sighting reports and vital information with our members throughout the world." He held up the first issue of *Skylook*, as the Journal was then called, and noted that when published in September of 1967, it went to a grand total of 27 people, all in the state of Missouri. Today, the Journal publishes more than 5000 copies a month and is distributed worldwide.

MUFON itself, then known as the Midwest UFO Network was founded on May 31, 1969, in Quincy, Illinois, where Walter Andrus was then employed with Motorola. The first annual summer symposium was held the following year, and the first published Proceedings appeared the year after that.

"Our Amateur Radio Net and computer BBS Network are also very active. We have a medical committee and an abduction committee. The abduction transcription project is quite successful. Our specialists are continuing the crash/retrieval work, animal mutilation research, photo and video analysis, crop circle investigations, landing trace data collection, and more. These are all signs of a mature and well functioning organization, one that is prepared to see this mystery through to a conclusion."

SOVIET "ABDUCTIONS"

The visiting Dr. Vladimir V. Rubtsov, co-director of the Joint USA-CIS Aerial Anomaly Federation, gave a very interesting talk on a handful of Soviet "alien contact and abduction" cases and the methodological approaches that might be needed to illuminate them. He also pointed out that there do seem to be differences between such



John F. Schuessler, M.S.

cases as reported in the West and in what is now the countries of the former Soviet Union, and that a detailed examination of these differences might prove fruitful. Unfortunately, in the case of the Confederation of Independent States, such an analysis will have to await a better database.

Ironically, Rubtsov noted, the problem has also been exacerbated by the collapse of the Soviet Union. "Only 15 years ago," he noted, "the sets of UFO reports in the West and the USSR were almost totally independent of one another" because of the closed nature of Soviet society. With the collapse of the prevailing political system, however, all sorts of "contamination" has poured into the field of ufology, from both within and without. As more and more reports from without filter in, the local population becomes more aware of the existing



Vladimir V. Rubtsov, Ph.D.

Western paradigms or established parameters. At the same time, the relative loosening of controls over every aspect of local life have allowed a dramatic rise in tabloid sensationalism and charlatanism in general, making the establishment of a reliable local database that much more difficult. Thus it may be that some of the more revealing comparisons or distinctions will come from analyzing USSR UFO cases from the 50's, 60's and 70's, as opposed to the most recent ones.

A statistical analysis of Soviet contact and abduction reports being practically impossible at this stage, Rubtsov could only address cases he had personally investigated. In one case, Mrs. S. G., a 35-year-old biochemist employed at a large research facility near Moscow, was in her bedroom on the night of September 3, 1977. Her husband and daughter were already asleep, the latter in another room. At about 2 AM she saw a Saturn-shaped UFO through the window, from which illuminated figures of uniformed Soviet soldiers flew in the direction of the residential area. One landed on her apartment balcony and explained, in the course of a two-hour conversation, that he was an extraterrestrial disguised as a soldier.

During the course of their conversation, many matters, technical, cultural and historical were discussed, but perhaps more significantly the "soldier" slowly changed his appearance to that of an acquaintance of the woman whom she liked. He then suggested she "behave with him as she did with her husband," a suggestion which she rebuked. Eventually he (and the other humanoids) flew away and re-entered the UFO, which then faded away. She thought she wouldn't be able to go to sleep but when she lay down in bed, she drifted off almost immediately.

According to Rubtsov, this "reproductive" aspect, common to Western abduction accounts, also seems typical of Soviet encounters (although other aspects aren't) and may lie "close to the heart of the matter." He cautioned, however, that given "the special sensitiveness of this topic and the role of sex in human life, one can soundly assume there is a lot of 'noise' in this information."

Rubtsov concluded by repeating the words of the late Dr. Felix Zigel, the father of Soviet ufology, who noted that a global phenomenon called for a global investigation.

APRO & UFOs

After lunch, Dr. James Harder, former director of research for the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization from 1969 to 1982, gave a historical summary of APRO's influence and impact on the field of ufology, including its involvement in some of the major cases, particularly the Travis Walton abduction.

APRO, the earliest civilian UFO research organization in the U. S., was founded in 1952 by the feisty Coral Lorenzen, shortly after her 27th birthday. While Coral was APRO's chief architect and advocate, she



James E. Harder, Ph.D.

believed, given the temper of the times, that it would be more well received with a man at its head, and so husband Jim was named director of the original 52 members. Two years later, APRO moved to Alamogordo, New Mexico, and in 1960 to Tucson, Arizona, where it would remain until the death of both Jim and Coral.

The organization grew over the years, with scientific consultants and representatives from various foreign countries being added. Alone or in company with her husband, Coral wrote and published three influential books, beginning with *The Great Flying Saucer Hoax* (1962), *Flying Saucer Occupants* (1967), and its update, *Encounters With UFO Occupants* (1975).

In general, the early UFO organizations tended to be skeptical of UFO occupant cases. But that slowly changed, thanks to Coral's support of the Betty and Barney Hill abduction case and other reports carried in the APRO Bulletin or Newsletter and the above mentioned books. The "unthinkable" gradually became acceptable.

Because of Coral's failing health, the Bulletin, first published in July of 1952, ceased publication in 1988. Jim Lorenzen had died two years earlier, on August 21, 1986, and been buried in Arlington National Cemetery. Coral died on April 12, 1988, and was buried next to her husband.

MULTIPLE UFOs

Much can be learned from multiple witness UFO cases, but much can be learned from cases involving multiple UFOs, too, according to Dr. Richard F. Haines, a retired perceptual psychologist with NASA-Ames, who has written the book on the subject, *Project Delta: A Study of Multiple UFO* (to be reviewed in a future issue).

The need for such a study, said Haines, was obvious: "The more objects there are, the harder it is to explain them away in rather simple, prosaic ways." Drawing on



Richard F. Haines, Ph.D.

NICAP's *The UFO Evidence*, Air Force Project Blue Book, and his own extensive files as well as those of other researchers, he was able to collect some 230 multiple UFO sightings from 40 states in this country and 35 countries abroad.

"The cases," Haines said, "were grouped into 17 flight dynamic categories to see if they might somehow display similarities or differences. The conclusions from this review are quite simple. In a large majority of these reports, the multiple objects all appear alike and are usually oval or disc-shaped."

Haines added that they also "possess no visible means of propulsion, appear metallic and possess no markings, wings, vertical stabilizer, or other surface detail. They fly in a rigid formation across the sky, and show a single rigid formation throughout the sighting."

Moreover, Haines added, "only a very tiny fraction of all the sighting reports studied here can be explained as flocks of birds, precision acrobatic airplanes, or some astronomical event. The majority are clearly under intelligent control. It isn't likely that our intelligence is high enough to build and fly such marvelous craft as these. Only time will tell whether or not we ever will."

WHAT THE RUSSIANS KNOW

George Knapp is the well known award-winning producer of at least two video UFO documentaries, with more no doubt to come. A former news anchor with the CBS affiliate in Las Vegas, Nevada, he is now a Senior Vice President for Altamira Communications.

Frustrated by our own government's stonewalling of UFO documents, Knapp and his colleagues glimpsed a unique opportunity in the collapse of the Soviet Union and the subsequent opening of many government files. Through his congressman, Jim Bilbray, Knapp was able to obtain a meeting with the respected Russian physicist,

Dr. Nikolai Kapranov, while the latter was on a year-long sabbatical in this country in 1992.

Dr. Kapranov agreed to try to find out what he could about any Soviet UFO sightings or reports. Altamira put him on retainer and helped set up an office in Moscow. By March of the following year it was felt that he had accumulated enough useful information that Knapp, accompanied by journalist Bryan Gresh and photographer Bryant Blackburn, left for a ten-day whirlwind visit even though Moscow itself remained gripped by political turmoil. "The only proviso we gave Kapranov," Knapp said, "was that we wanted to avoid any of the Russian UFO figures who were already known in the west. We didn't want to rehash some of the same stories which had already been told on American tabloid TV or at UFO conferences. We wanted to uncover a new level of information, new sources, people who may be in positions to know about UFO research but had never attempted to attract attention or cash in on sensational claims."

One individual, Knapp and company were put in touch with was Boris Sokolov, a retired Red Army Colonel from a distinguished military family. According to Sokolov, in 1978, the Ministry of Defense issued an order to report and investigate all UFO reports which essentially "transformed the entire Soviet Union into one gigantic listening post."

Sokolov said that thousands of reports were collected. "The military was interested for three reasons," he said, "because of the unpredictable movement of UFOs, the quick changes in course movement, and because UFOs observed visually were not always seen on radar, and those seen on radar could not always be seen visually. They thought that if the secrets of the UFOs could be discovered, we would be able to win the competition against our prospective enemies in terms of



George Knapp, M.A.

velocity, materials and visibility” in order to build their own Stealth technology.

Over a period of ten years, Sokolov compiled his own capsulized dossier from the reports that crossed his desk. Engaging in a bit of admitted “checkbook journalism,” Knapp and the Altamira team were able to purchase Sokolov’s files and have since had them translated into English. “I would like to be able to tell you that they contain incredible insights into the UFO mystery,” Knapp said, “but they don’t. Most could be classified as run-of-the-mill UFO encounters...The real significance of the MOD files is not found in the details of individual cases, in my opinion, but rather in the scope of the overall study effort.”

Through Sokolov and others, Knapp was put in touch with the civilian who currently heads the military’s alleged UFO study, code named “Thread 3.” According to related documents, Soviet studies of the phenomenon may date to the 1947 Roswell incident, which Stalin himself reportedly expressed interest in.

HUMAN-ALIEN CONTACT

By his own admission, Michael Lindemann, founding director of the 2020 Group, is perhaps best described as a historian, political scientist and futurist rather than a ufologist. Since 1989, however, he has taken serious interest in the subject, particularly as regards its possible implications for official secrecy and covert policy.

Lindemann noted that two terms he would be referring to frequently needed defining: government and alien. As for the first, Lindemann said he wished to emphasize “that I do not regard our elected government as the bad guy with respect to the UFO situation. In fact, it seems probable that most elected officials know absolutely nothing about UFOs or alien activity. However, there are undoubtedly powerful and secretive individuals within our government who essentially ‘manage’ the UFO situation, as far as that is possible. Unless otherwise noted, it is these people I refer to henceforth when I use the term ‘government,’ and I describe them as follows: An elite group, mainly non-elected, who guide the evolution of policy from behind the scenes, who transcend partisan politics, and who consider themselves the final guardians of geo-political reality. In effect, this group represents a secret government behind the visible, legitimate government, and experience suggests that they operate above the law, an attitude not unlike the ‘Divine Rights of Kings.’

“By alien I mean an unidentified, non-human, intelligent being. Aliens might be extraterrestrial, but not necessarily. They might be indigenous to the earth. They might come from another dimension, from a parallel universe, or even a different point in time. They might be all of the above or none of the above. In fact, the testimony of experiencers indicates a variety of alien types. They probably hail from a variety of places, and they seem to have a variety of characters and agen-



Michael P. Lindemann

das. You’ll notice that I didn’t say good or bad because, frankly, I don’t know. The evidence is extremely ambiguous. We probably shouldn’t be quick to make moral judgments of any kind whatsoever.”

The presence of aliens on the planet represents what Lindemann refers to as a “meta-lever,” an “influence capable of disrupting the momentum of history on a global scale in completely unpredictable ways. A meta-lever can create a historical discontinuity, a point past which the future cannot be easily imagined or predicted.”

A meta-lever inevitably represents a political dilemma, Lindemann said, because it puts the future itself at risk in terms of its predictability and the survival of the status quo. “Non-predictability is something that you can’t invest in. If you can’t predict, you cannot plan, you cannot build, you cannot bet. Everything becomes intolerably risky and unstable. The status quo in all its aspects—science, religion, social order—is entirely up for grabs if the UFO reality is as big and as strange as it appears to be.”

Continuing, Lindemann said he regarded “the presence of alien intelligence on the earth as the unique meta-lever of our time; indeed perhaps the unique meta-lever in all of human history. Though it is not at all likely to cause widespread physical destruction of the kind associated with nuclear war, I nonetheless predict that most people in this room will live to see the day when this meta-lever is causing enormous, unpredictable global changes in the way we view reality and in the way we conduct our lives.”

Typically, said Lindemann, “the potential impact of a meta-lever is not immediately obvious. Public perception evolves through three major phases.” These are 1) denial and rationalization, 2) confusion and debate, and 3) recognition and mitigation of the problem. “At the present time, human society as a whole remains stuck in the phase of denial and rationalization concerning claims of

an alien presence on earth. But there are clear signs that we're on the verge of entering phase two, confusion and debate; and once that happens, I believe things will start to move very quickly.

"In the meantime, I think we can agree that our government has a problem. How are they going to explain this alien presence to you? What are they going to say that does not render them either bald-faced liars or impotent, irrelevant non-leaders, or both? Are they not, in fact, between the proverbial rock and hard place?"

"As far as I've been able to determine, the only thing they can do, and the thing they are now doing, is to promote a gradual release of information or a gradual easing of restrictions on stories and images of alien activity, with the effect of slowly inundating us all with a wide variety of information that is meant to move us from the stage of absolute denial into the stage of confusion and debate.

"Whether our final wake-up comes with a whimper or a bang," Lindemann concluded, "I think we'll eventually recognize some kind of relationship, some kind of ancient rootedness, in these phenomena. The Really Big Secret, I think, is that the alien presence is not new; it's as old as history."

THE LINDA CASE

Abductee Linda "Cortile" offered a personal look behind the experience of what some are now referring to as "the case of the century." Many of you will be familiar with the basic details of her case, how early on the morning of November 30, 1989, she was allegedly floated outside her New York apartment building and into a hovering UFO, accompanied all the while by three diminutive alien beings. How it was later learned that two security operatives, known only as Richard and Dan, claimed to have been nearby and to have witnessed the abduction while in the company of an even more mysterious "third



Linda "Cortile"



Yvonne R. Smith

man," rumored to be a former high UN official. How she was later abducted off the street by the two and subjected to a more than two-hour-long interrogation. How a possibly unbalanced Dan kidnapped her alone later, how skeptics made her name public and so on. Budd Hopkins is said to be at work on a book about the subject. Linda's own feelings about the case seem to continue to focus and center on the health of her own nuclear family, which includes a husband and two sons, age 11 and 18. Apparently, it hasn't been easy.

ABDUCTION ANATOMY

"An abduction can occur to anyone at anytime," noted California psychotherapist Yvonne Smith, director of abduction research for MUFON-LA. "However, research shows that it usually begins in childhood and continues throughout that person's life."

Most abductions appear to involve a period of between 30 minutes and two hours or more of "missing time," and what is referred to as a "bedroom visitation," meaning that the experience takes place while one is lying in bed. Consciously, or via hypnosis, the individual often remembers being floated aboard a beam of light into what appears to be a circular-shaped craft. They are then led into something much like "a hospital operating room," where they suddenly find themselves naked, "although there is no memory of being undressed," and subsequently subjected to a physical examination.

The latter typically begins at the feet and continues upward over the entire body. Males are subjected to the humiliating extraction of sperm, females to the removal of their ova, or eggs. Females may also be shown a "hybrid baby" to hold and nurse.

"Another very common procedure involves the head area," Smith said. "A long, thin, needle-like instrument



Reverend Barry H. Downing, Ph.D.

or probe may be used to insert a small device in either ear, behind the eyes, or deep within the nasal cavity.” During such procedures, a taller alien being seems to stand nearby and provide a calming influence as necessary, often looming nearly nose-to-nose.

Hypnosis can be viewed as a sort of information overload which triggers the natural “fight or flight” response. In this case, flight or escape occurs, as the individual’s breathing becomes more shallow and the body more relaxed. “Environmental” hypnosis is often achieved in ordinary day-to-day life because of the overwhelming sensory input.

Smith concluded that “it is frustrating to work with many abductees on a very personal level, because I do not have definitive answers to their most fundamental questions. These include: What is their purpose, where are they from, and are their intentions benevolent or malevolent?”

UFOs & RELIGION

Dr. Barry Downing, a MUFON consultant in religion, celebrated an anniversary of his own. It was in 1968 that his book, *The Bible and Flying Saucers*, was first published. “At the time,” he noted, “I thought the final revelation of what UFOs were all about was just around the corner. Now I think just the opposite, that a final revelation will probably never occur in a public sense.”

The change in Downing’s thinking is the product of years of meditation on the nature of both UFOs and the Judeo-Christian God. The key may lie in the fact that both appear to be able to control their visibility, visible one minute, invisible the next. In God’s case, invisibility is a means of both increasing and testing faith.

Downing does not suggest, however, that we believe in UFOs on faith and faith alone. What he implies instead is that UFOs may choose those to whom they will appear; at the same time, their motives, particularly

in terms of moral interpretation, may remain invisible to almost everyone. This latter aspect makes it particularly difficult to interpret abductions in simple, dualistic good/bad terms. The Jewish Passover—which killed the first-born Egyptians—was “good” if you were Jewish, but very bad if you were an Egyptian!

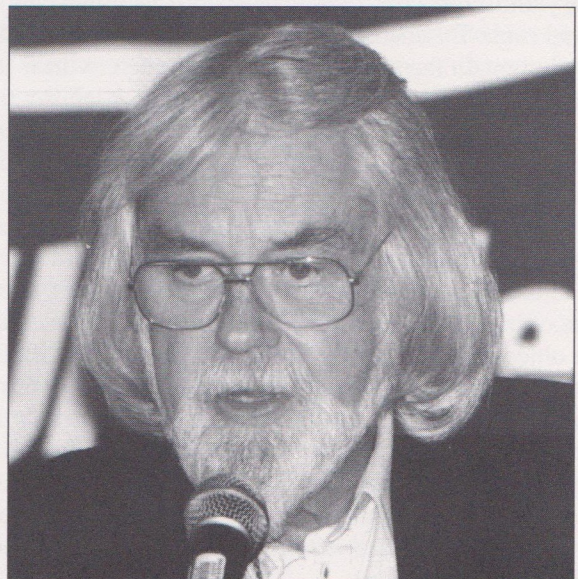
“We need to keep this in mind,” Downing concluded. “We are not God, we have only been made in the image of God. We get to play God in this world in the same sense that the scientist is God to his rats. But there is a world above us, and we need to suppose that from the point of view of that world, we are the rats and not the scientists. And we are probably only going to know what the head scientists want us to know. The rest will remain invisible.”

UFOs & HISTORY

During the early 60’s, Robert O. Dean served in the NATO Operations Division of SHAPE, Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe. It was during this time, reportedly in the wake of numerous UFO incidents and a lack of response from both Washington and London, that SHAPE conducted its own investigation, published in 1964 as *The Assessment*.

According to Dean, only 15 copies of the eight-inch-thick document were printed, which, as an intelligence analyst with “cosmic top-secret clearance,” he says he was allowed to read. Among other items reported, according to Dean, was the recovery of a 90-foot disc with bodies near Bremen, Germany.

Dean said “*The Assessment* reached three basic conclusions: 1) the Earth has been spied upon by several extraterrestrial civilizations for thousands of years; 2) these civilizations appear to be peaceful since they are so advanced they could have taken over our planet by now; 3) the visitors are increasing contact with us in a



Robert O. Dean

gradual unfoldment of a plan in which they eventually interact with Earth's inhabitants."

CROP CIRCLES

George Wingfield is now the editor of *The Cerealologist*, one of the earliest publications devoted exclusively to the study of the crop circle phenomenon, a subject increasingly embroiled in controversy because of widespread human hoaxing.

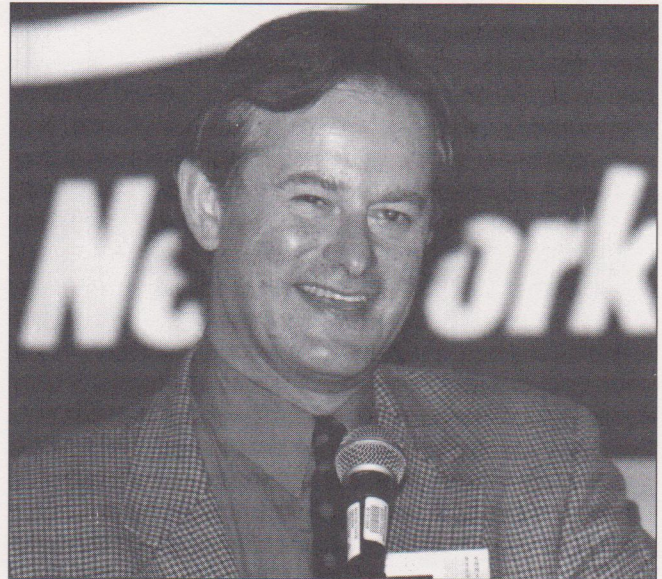
However, UFOs have also been reported in association with the formation of crop circles, depending on how one wishes to define UFO. Reports of structured craft are rare, in other words. More common, according to Wingfield, are luminous orange balls of light that are usually completely silent and appear to be polymorphous, "often changing size and shape and sometimes moving with a bobbing motion or like a falling leaf. The movement is often more suggestive of a living thing, rather than a craft, but certainly appears purposive."

In addition, "they seem to have a transient existence within our dimensions, often blinking out or vanishing abruptly. 'Place' also seems to be of primary importance, since these UFOs appear to consistently frequent certain venues, such as the Wiltshire and Warminster areas."

SHUTTLE VIDEO

On September 15, 1991, the Space Shuttle *Discovery* videotaped an unusual aerial ballet involving at least two glowing light sources and two streaks of light. At the time, between 20:30 and 20:45 GMT, *Discovery* was approximately 355 miles above the Earth's surface. Approximately 65 seconds later, the camera, attached to the rear of the Shuttle's cargo bay and aimed at the Earth's horizon, ceased broadcasting.

Fortunately, UFO researcher Donald Ratch of Maryland taped the sequence on NASA Select, a national cable TV channel that broadcasts NASA activities. Ratch thought the sequence unusual enough to draw it to the attention of his congresswoman, Ms. Helen Bentley. He also contacted Vincent DiPietro, a NASA engineer at the Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, MD, who also contacted his congresswoman, Ms. Beverly Byron. In turn, Ms. Byron sent the tape to George E. Brown, Jr., chair of the Congressional Committee on Science, Space and Technology. He and several members of his staff viewed the videotape and concluded that the objects were probably ice particles from the Shuttle. Their apparent change of direction was probably attributable to the firing of one of the Shuttle's attitude adjuster rockets, and indeed a brief flash of light can be seen in the lower left-hand corner of the video. It was also shown to Martin P. Kress, an assistant administrator for legislative affairs at NASA, who concurred with the ice particle theory.



George Wingfield, M.A.

"To the best of my knowledge," Dr. Jack Kasher told the Sunday crowd, "the individuals who suspected ice particles merely watched the videotape and did no further scientific analysis." Kasher, a MUFON consultant in physics and Nebraska state director, has worked with NASA in the past and presently teaches physics and astronomy at the University of Nebraska, Omaha. In fact, said Kasher, the objects behaved oddly for ice, or any other kind of particles. Assuming their change of direction was caused by the firing of a Shuttle rocket, their directional paths should trace back to a single source, but according to Kasher's detailed analysis, sponsored by a grant from the Fund for UFO Research, they don't. Moreover, one of the particles appears to remain motionless for almost half a second. Any acceleration should have been continuous. Equally mysterious, streaks of light appear to pass through the space vacated by both objects after their abrupt change of direction. In all, Kasher demonstrated five different proofs that completely discounted the ice particle theory.

"It's hard not to think that the objects were some kind of spaceship at a considerable distance from the Shuttle," said Kasher, "and although it's only speculation, the streaks of light look like missiles fired in their direction."

Depending on the exact distance from the Shuttle, the acceleration value in g's would have been anywhere from 10.5 to 18,000! The final velocity, assuming a distance of one mile to 1710 miles, would have varied from 250 miles per hour to a staggering 430,000 mph. Either way you look at it, that's some ice particle!

Photo Continued on Page 20

THE COGNITIVE INTERVIEW

A Non-hypnosis Memory Retrieval Technique for the UFO Researcher

By C. Leigh Culver, Cl.H.

If you are a UFO researcher you may have been asked to investigate a possible UFO sighting. Perhaps you drove out to the site and interviewed several witnesses that saw a UFO land on their property. Did you get all of the information available from the witnesses? Did you know that there is an interview technique that enhances memory recall and that significantly increases the amount of accurate information available from a witness? Well, there is such a technique, and it's called the cognitive interview.

The cognitive interview was developed by researchers who wanted a non-hypnotic memory-retrieval technique that would enhance the completeness and accuracy of eyewitness reports. The method is easy to learn and upon completion of reading this article you will be able to conduct a cognitive interview.

Since the 1950s, hypnosis has been used by law enforcement investigators in this country for the retrieval and enhancement of eyewitness memory. Information is the most important element in a criminal investigation. The ability of investigators to obtain accurate and useful information from witnesses and/or victims of crimes is crucial to making and prosecuting criminal cases. Often an eyewitness will tend to focus on the victim, or on a weapon, and important details will become lost and not remembered. Standard interviewing techniques have not always been found to be effective in obtaining reliable testimony. Because of this, the techniques of investigative or forensic hypnosis are often employed.

Hypnosis has been found to be a very useful tool for memory retrieval both in studies and in the courtroom. Forensic hypnosis, however, occasionally has legal problems due to the concept of tampering with the evidence, i.e. the witness or victim's mind. Because of this, other memory retrieval techniques have been explored, and out of this research the cognitive interview technique was developed. This technique is a valuable tool for law enforcement investigators and it can be an equally valuable tool for the UFO researcher. Unlike hypnosis, the technique can be easily learned and it doesn't require a great deal of training.

The cognitive interview technique was developed in 1984 by Martin Reiser, Ed.D., Director of Behavioral Science Services for the Los Angeles Police Department, along, with other researchers from the UCLA Department of Psychology. In 1985, the National Institute of Justice published, in the December issue of *Research In Brief*, the results of the UCLA study.

The results showed that the cognitive interview and hypnosis elicited significantly more correct informa-

tion than the standard interview. The study also demonstrated that there was no significant increase in incorrect information. Tables 1 and 2 will help illustrate the results of the UCLA study.

TABLE 1. Facts recalled in three types of interviews:

TYPE OF INTERVIEW:

| | <u>COGNITIVE</u> | <u>HYPNOSIS</u> | <u>STANDARD</u> |
|------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Number Correct | 41.15 | 38.00 | 29.40 |
| Number Incorrect | 7.30 | 5.90 | 6.10 |

TABLE 2. Recall of the 20 most critical facts:

TYPE OF INTERVIEW:

| | <u>COGNITIVE</u> | <u>HYPNOSIS</u> | <u>STANDARD</u> |
|------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Number Correct | 12.0 | 12.3 | 9.2 |
| Number Incorrect | 1.1 | 1.7 | 1.4 |

As you can see from the results, they were very positive. In all, there were five different experiments conducted, and it was found that the cognitive interview and hypnosis had very similar results; however, standard interviewing techniques were found to be less effective.

The cognitive interview shifts the focus to how people remember. The more elements a memory retrieval aid has in common with the memory of the event, the more effective the aid is. Memory has several access routes, so information that is not accessible with one retrieval cue may be accessible with a different one.

The cognitive interview uses four general methods and several specific methods of cuing memory. The first two methods attempt to increase the overlap of elements between retrieval cues and stored memory. The last two methods attempt to increase the amount of retrieval access routes.

The basic techniques of the cognitive interview are: (1) reconstruct the circumstances, (2) report everything, (3) recall the events in a different order, and (4) change perspectives. The method is systematic and the order of the techniques is important. During the interview start with 1, then 2, then 3, and then 4.

The cognitive interview was developed by researchers who wanted a non-hypnotic memory-retrieval technique that would enhance the completeness and accuracy of eyewitness reports.

RECONSTRUCT THE CIRCUMSTANCES

In this method the researcher instructs the witness to reconstruct the circumstances of the event in general. The witness presents a narrative from beginning to end. This will give a general overview of the incident. Never have the witness start with the event itself, but with ordinary events that occurred before the incident in question. What was the witness saying, doing, feeling, seeing just before the incident? An example might be, "I got up this morning and made breakfast. After breakfast I decided to walk my dog, 'Lad.' So Lad and I went out to the field. That's when I saw the UFO sitting behind the trees...."

REPORT EVERYTHING

The researcher explains that some people hold back information because they feel that it was not important. Ask the witness not to edit anything, even things that they feel are not very important. As the witness presents the narrative, encourage reinstatement of everything happening—for example, the weather, time of day, all surrounding properties, lighting, nearby people, everything. Focus on each change of context and then focus on the feeling yielding information at each point. Use the present tense, "What do you see? What is your immediate reaction?" "Is there anything about the feeling?"

RECALL THE EVENTS IN A DIFFERENT ORDER

Explain to the witness that it is natural for one to go through the incident from beginning to end, however, you would like him or her to start at the end and then go back to the beginning. You might start with something that impressed the witness most and then move forward or backward.

Make use of the witness's change in context. Break up streams of activities, then back up. "What is going on before the door of the UFO opens?" "Describe everything about the scene." Then repeat, "Is there anything else that you remember?" "Of what you have told me, what stands out?" Go on to the next scene and repeat the process.

This method is good at finding out lies, too. Lies are created and are in a logical order. Having the witness start at various stages confuses that order. As the truth is a matter of recall, not creation, the order of repeating can actually aid in the memory process.

CHANGE PERSPECTIVE

Have the witness attempt to recall the incident from another perspective, perhaps in the role of another indi-

vidual who had significance in the event, or from a different location relevant to the event. "If you were standing where your dog was located what would you have seen?" The witness might reply, "I wouldn't have seen the emblem on the alien's uniform."

Having the witness mentally change perspectives while recalling an incident, enhances the completeness of the report. Often a witness has a variety of perspectives on the incident, but most people will report what they remember from only one perspective.

PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

During the narrative phase of the investigation, the researcher might use specific techniques to obtain more detailed information. For example:

"Does the individual remind you of anyone that you know, a friend, a movie star?" "Try to think of why." "Was there anything unusual about the individual's clothing or appearance?" When asking for facial descriptions get trait descriptions and go from there. "Is it a pleasant face?" "What makes it pleasant?"

NAMES. Have the witness use the technique of going through the alphabet. "How many syllables did the name have?" "What letter did the name start with?"

NUMBERS. "Were numbers involved?" "Was it a high number or a low number?" "Were letters used along with the numbers?" "Were there colors involved?"

SPEECH CHARACTERISTICS. "Was the voice rough? Pleasant?" "Was there any kind of accent?" "Does the voice remind you of anyone?" "If the voice reminds you of someone, why?"

CONVERSATION. "Think about what was said . . . were there any unusual words or phrases?" "What was your reaction to what was said?" Have the witness describe the tone of voice. "Was the voice excited, threatening, young?"

Some practical hints include taking your witness interview notebook and writing on the inside cover methods 1 through 4. Number 1, reconstruct the circumstances, number 2, report everything, and so on. During the interview starting with number 1, title your notes. Then go to 2, then to 3, and then to 4. Don't skip around even if the witness seems repetitious. Remember the cognitive interview is systematic, and the order is important. Make certain that questioning stays non-leading and non-directional, and deals only with what is related by the witness. For multiple witnesses, use the same techniques, but keep the witnesses separate. At the end of the interview, review your notes and then write your report.

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As a researcher you have probably been using many of these techniques already. However, you will discover that you can greatly increase the amount of accurate information using all of the above methods. My personal research has demonstrated the value of the cognitive interview technique. I have found that the technique doesn't work as well when there is a complete mental block in memory as is common in the abduction phenomenon. Hypnotic memory retrieval techniques are best used in these cases. In a future issue of *UFO ENCOUNTERS*, you will find a profile on investigative hypnosis.

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The UFO PRESS

"ROSWELL" ON SHOWTIME

Reviewed by Larry Lowe

Roswell, New Mexico is as good an allegory for the American spirit as any small town can be. All but lost on the eastern plains of New Mexico, it is out of the way from anywhere to anywhere else. That other American icon, Route 66, runs through the northern part of the state and Albuquerque. If the weather is bad, or you are going to Texas, you'll take the southern route through Lordsburg, Deming and Las Cruces on your way to El Paso. In between, on the far side of the Capitan and Sacramento mountain ranges from where the Rio Grande valley cuts the state in half, is Roswell, with a populace less than 45,000.

You can trust your neighbors in Roswell. Generations who settled the city had to work hard together. People acknowledge one another on the street and outside of town will stop to help a vehicle in trouble. In exchange for the rigors of the remote locale they get air they can breathe, a future they can expect and a government they can trust.

South of the town lies an industrial park located on the remains of the former Army Air Field that gave the city its dose of furtive notoriety. Just after World War II Roswell could boast the world's only atomic bomb squadron, the 509th Bomb Group. At the time such dis-

tingtion was no cause for public scrutiny. It's exactly the obscure location that would allow such a sensitive military asset to find a home in Roswell.

But atomic bombers came and went and Roswell lapsed into the timeless small town routine that Ward Cleaver would call the good life. Then, in the middle seventies, odd stories began to surface about the activities of the 509th in the summer of 1947. Twenty years and four books later, the name Roswell is now inextricably linked with the most remarkable set of allegations to be made in the dense web of public confusion that is the phenomenon of Unidentified Flying Objects.

The investigators Kevin Randle and Donald Schmitt claim that, at the height of a wave of sightings of flying crescent-shaped discs that swept across the country in the summer of 1947, one of the discs crashed into the base of a bluff about 35 miles northwest of the front gate of the air base. They also claim that, after securing the area, removing the debris, bribing and threatening the populace into secrecy, elements of the United States Government have managed to keep the fact that an extraterrestrial craft crashed there secret for nearly half a century.

If indeed that is the case, it is about to change. Producer Paul Davids and Director Jeremy Kagan have made the movie that is to the still-obscure-by-normal-standards Roswell Incident what "JFK" was to the Kennedy Assassination. In doing so, Davids and Kagan have very nicely framed arguments about the existence of a cover-up and the reasons for one. Not to mention documenting the event for anyone with cable television or a VCR.

If you have read the material, you will recognize "Roswell" as an accurate docudrama. If not, you might



Paul Davids, Executive Producer

think it an intriguing bit of fiction. It is that blurry duality that represents the core problem in addressing the clear and substantial evidence of UFO's which points to technology or other forces operating with a deliberate agenda of deception from a base outside our normal reality. It is too easy to dismiss accounts as fictional if they fall too far outside the parameters of common belief. And using fictional drama to present the best estimate of an unknown reality, such as Whitley Streiber did in his literary treatment of the same case, "Majestic," has the potential to add to the public's confusion as much as to enlighten the masses.

Writing a documentary screenplay about a mystery with no firm solution is a difficult task. Davids, the driving force behind the project, has managed to do just that. The "Roswell" story is not one of aliens, but of one man's quest for truth and redemption. The searcher is an aging Major Jesse Marcel, (nicely played across several decades by Kyle MacLachlan) one of two army air corps officers to initially examine the debris and recognize it as not of this planet. As an element of the cover-up, Marcel was sworn to secrecy and then made to look the dunce by superior officers during a press conference. General Roger Ramey claimed the intelligence officer could not tell the difference between a spacecraft and a weather balloon. Over time, Marcel's duty to remain silent is at greater and greater odds with his sense of dignity and fairness.

The docudrama unfolds during a 1970's reunion of the 509th, where Marcel takes the last opportunity of his life to query former squadron members and attempt to piece together the events of 1947. Bit by bit, pieces of the story are found, some coming quickly from casual observers, others dragged out of reluctant witnesses.

Any one of them is at best a fuzzy memory. Not all of them fit together. Those that do have jagged edges. Some directly contradict others. The picture that forms confirms Marcel's opinion and provides a suggestion of an alien presence on earth much more serious than that proffered by the tabloid press. Along the way, the story mirrors the investigation of Randle and Schmitt, showing the difficulty of correlating different versions of events.

Eventually, Marcel's curiosity gains him the attention of a shadowy figure played with appropriate self-confidence by Martin Sheen, who takes him to an abandoned hanger and sketches in the missing portions of the picture. A crashed alien craft at the beginnings of a Cold War between the US and a paranoid super power. A clandestine effort to care for the one alien left alive and reverse engineering of the phenomenal craft. A rationale for secrecy to avoid provoking preemptive action by an all too human enemy. A self-reinforcing conundrum of deception and ridicule by now so convoluted that no sitting government could admit to having been involved in it. An escalation of explanation from the mundane to the inescapable. At the climatic moment we hope and pray that the blanket of denial will be torn away and the truth, whatever it is, will be laid bare.

It is.



Left to right: Xander Berkeley as Sherman Carson and Kyle MacLachlan as Jesse Marcel.

You have to see the film to appreciate the cosmic irony of the hangar scene. I shall not reveal the logic that concludes the confrontation between one man searching for the truth and the nameless representative of his government who dangles it before him. I will suggest you tape a copy of the Star Trek: The Next Generation episode "First Contact" and "Roswell," then watch them back to back. The two stories are flip sides of the same coin.

"Roswell" the movie has the honest look of a small town main street. Given the option of telling the story with the confines of a SHOWTIME budget or risking not telling it at all, Davids elected to do the former. The resulting focus on the people and the period instead of speculation-by-special-effects of what actually hit the ground on the night of July 4, 1947 helps the piece. In the tradition of "Fire in the Sky," but without the studio's intrusion on the facts of the case, we see the effect of a very unusual event on the lives of generally usual people. The momentum of the story suffers occasionally from the process of maintaining consistency with the facts in the case.

All in all "Roswell" is a good watch, as good as any in the summer cable line-up. The baseline of understanding in the ongoing debate on-line and elsewhere about UFO's and E.T. has been raised. If you feel compelled to offer an opinion about extraterrestrial life and/or the capability of the government to keep secrets, make sure you have seen this movie and read the book by Randle and Schmitt before you do so or risk being flamed as a newbie.

Davids presents the essential questions of the unresolved UFO cover-up controversy very well indeed. While thankfully avoiding side issues such as the debate about one or two crash sites or the archaeologists presented in the 1994 Randle and Schmitt book "The Truth about the UFO Crash at Roswell," the movie touches all the bases dear to the UFO community. "Roswell" will give anyone—believer or hardened skeptic—pause for thought about the other side of the UFO issue.

The closing scene shows a determined Marcel back at the crash site, making a final futile effort to find a solid piece of evidence, one tangible remainder of an event that has haunted him for years. As the sun sets behind the Capitans, Marcel realizes that no amount of hoping will uncover the lost piece of alien craft that would prove once and for all the government is lying. As we pull back to realize how vast the plains are and how hopeless his quest, we see Jesse Marcel as the best allegory for the American spirit any man can be.

Watching the film makes it clear that if any of the alleged incident is true, or something like it is, then the American public is the unknowing victim of the most heinous form of repression conceivable. Contact with extraterrestrial life is the most significant step a planetary civilization can take. The prospects for good are beyond description. Who gets to make the decision that we

who have settled this planet are not ready for the fact that we are not alone? The argument against an overtly aggressive alien presence is simple and persuasive. Given that they can *get* here, across interstellar distances or dimensional shifts, then they have the technology to wage a devastating war and win it decisively were that their purpose.

Logic dictates a net non-aggressive position on the part of any alien race that may have already discovered us. More likely, they are waiting patiently for us to grow beyond the aggressive response patterns of our lower origins. Indeed, we may have committed the most grievous error of welcoming the early reconnaissance of visitors from other worlds with attempts to shoot their craft down. Extraterrestrial contact, if or when it occurs, is too important to be left to government, least of all paranoid elements of the intelligence community in whose hands "Roswell" (and most of the UFO community) claims it lays.

What the movie offers is an appreciation of how the truth could be hidden more or less in plain sight, varnished with a thin layer of denial and ridicule. It is also clear that whatever the case may have been in the 1940's, if a coverup was started at that time, it is by now so ingrown that only an extremely clear political message from the people in whose name the secret is being kept can provide the impetus to end it. "Roswell" is a movie that took a lot of perseverance and moxie to make. The consequences of it being even close to the truth are too profound to be dismissed. If you don't dismiss it as an intriguing fiction then download the *Roswell Declaration* on America Online, sign it and send it in. In that manner, the consequences of making "Roswell" will be worth the investment and risk the filmmakers have taken.

Killing a president is one thing. Denying a society the truth about their place in the cosmos and, possibly, their origins is another. No amount of investigation or revelation will bring John Kennedy back to life or change our history back to what it might have been had he not been shot. But the revelation of the facts about what happened at Roswell is the reversal of policy needed to make things right with our growth as a species. The cold war is over. The world is still in crisis, but the enemy is anarchy, not totalitarianism. Any justification for a cover-up of the sort depicted in "Roswell" no longer exists.

Whatever happened outside Roswell, the government has not properly explained it. To this day, new explanations are still arriving, all of which are contrived and unsatisfactory. And whatever it was, it scared the government so much that extraordinary measures were taken to hide it from the American people. If you have any threads of the spirit of '76 in your soul, if you can explain to your children why they held the Boston Tea Party—or worse yet, if you can't—then watch this movie. It premieres on July 31, shows four times in August and then four more times in December on the SHOWTIME cable network.



SHOWTIME®

*(Left to right) Martin Sheen and Kyle MacLachlan star in **ROSWELL**, an original film about a controversial UFO crash in Roswell, New Mexico in 1947. Also starring Dwight Yoakam, the film premieres exclusively on SHOWTIME.*



Photo Credit: Kelvin Jones



Credit Line

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SHOWTIME®

Kyle MacLachlan (left) stars as Major Jesse Marcel in *ROSWELL*, an original film about a controversial UFO crash and one man's desperate attempt to learn the truth. The film, scheduled to premiere exclusively on SHOWTIME on Sunday, July 31 at 8:00 PM (ET/PT), is based on a non-fiction book about the subject. (Right) The real Major Jesse Marcel upon whom the book is based, is shown with balloon wreckage in 1947.

UFOLOGY AS THEOLOGY

Ufologists and debunkers alike occasionally draw parallels between current UFO reports and the vast body of world mythology and folklore. For the debunkers, it's a demonstration that reports of small grays with big eyes have no more validity than Arthur Conan Doyle's fairy photographs, or *Weekly World News'* latest two-headed baby. For some ufologists, its evidence that UFOs and their occupants occupy some uncertain state between the physical and psychic worlds. Other ufologists prefer we keep our enquiries to post-1947, where more tangible evidence is to be found.

The debate between the "nuts and bolts" and the "elves and archetypes" crowds is often felt to be a hollow one, in that it takes away from the productive time of gathering evidence. However, what evidence there is still requires interpretation at some stage, and the Balkanization of ufology continues, with the usual consequences of entrenched viewpoints and bruised egos.

Is the UFO a craft, or a "window"? Whatever its nature, the UFO acts as a mobile Rorschach blot, allowing us to project our fears and hopes on it. The "elves and archetypes" crowd uses this argument to their advantage, extending it to an operational principle: the particle/wave duality in quantum physics is said to find its epistemological twin in the UFO. Depending on the question we ask it, the mysterious object is either retrospectively a metallic craft or a bad dream.

What's interesting is the way this hoary old debate is now playing itself out among current researchers, particularly those involved in studying abduction reports. The ambiguous nature of the phenomenon threatens to make theologians of us all, nattering away like medieval scholastics on the nature of angels. I mean that quite explicitly. Consider the work of Budd Hopkins, and more particularly, David Jacobs. Nothing good at least on the personal level is seen from the invasive procedures of cold, clinical ETs. Yet Whitley Strieber, or John Mack, can find transformational, transpersonal material in the abductee's experience that allows for spiritual growth.

The splitting and overlapping of viewpoints in ufology can get quite Byzantine. At a recent conference in Seattle I listened to former Las Vegas news producer George Knapp say how he can accept quite a bit in the UFO rumour mill, but draws the line at channelled messages from abductees. I then heard John Mack, who is more sanguine about channelled messages, address an incredulous question to Knapp about crashed discs, a topic presumably a bit too overtly extraterrestrial for the Harvard prof.

Where one researcher's paradigm stops, another's begins.

In a recent issue of *Mondo 2000*, writer Terence McKenna, (who believes interdimensional entities can be contacted by ingesting psychoactive substances), describes John Mack as a "screwball" for thinking that reports of implants in abductees are genuine.

To those few debunkers paying attention, it must all seem like a great waste of time, like a bunch of bald old men fighting over a comb.

The upshot of all this is that there is as yet no science of ufology. There is a scientific *topic*—UFOs—and there are researchers using the tools of science, but what we have today is closer to a theology than a science. The theology of ufology, at this point, has as its clerics a mishmash of popes, antipopes, bishops and heretics. On the one hand, we have the upholders of the mystical, gnostic order, those like Jacque Vallee or John Keel, who hold that the phenomenon of UFOs is a projection from a paranormal realm swollen with imagery from the collective unconscious. On the other hand, we have the fundamentalists like Stanton Friedman and Timothy Good, who argue that these are discrete craft from a neighbouring star system. Plus there's the millennialist visions of the Bills (Lear and Cooper), who, wandering around in the deserts of Nevada, fulminate about underground Hells run by evil ETs. But fear not, deliverance is only a short hyperspace jump away to the Heavenly realm of the Pleiades, and the peaceful, blonde "nordic types" of contactee Billy Meier.

Of course, no system of belief is complete without its complementary non-believers. The atheism of the debunkers is perhaps the most potent belief system of all, robust enough to deny the demonstrable miracles and graces recorded on videotape and radar screens. (The debunker's faith in scientism will be sorely tried if evidence for the Roswell crash—ufology's own Shroud of Turin—is ever finally authenticated.)

I don't mean to be facetious in suggesting there is a theological bent in today's ufology. It makes no difference to the reality of the phenomenon itself. The Babel of conflicting languages we find ourselves in, and the fractured UFO theology, may well be a function of the phenomenon.

If Jacques Vallee was right in seeing a pattern of scheduled reinforcement in waves of sightings—sightings that likely stretch far back into the mists of prehistory—then perhaps we wouldn't be surprised at the current situation. Whether or not UFOs are extraterrestrial or something else entirely, the reconstruction of religion and mythology seems to be one of its most substantial by-products, even if it's an unintended consequence of "their" influence.

Consider the "mysterium tremendum" of the abductee's experiences, with its strange reported mix of terror and love, so reminiscent of the stories of "experiencers" in the Old Testament. Consider the ambiguous

evidence of implants and marks on the bodies of abductees, so parallel to the folklore of shamanism and witchcraft. How can we be anything *but* theologians? Or at best, alchemists, fitfully struggling with our own ignorance and the nascent makings of a new science.

If ufology is as yet not a true science, but a theology of sorts, that puts those of us doing research in the field in the position of a theocracy, a priesthood. We may be unwittingly midwiving a new religion into being for the next millenium, with all the attendant dangers and responsibilities that implies. In calling ufologists a priesthood I don't mean to diminish the intentions, or quality, of the work being done. One could argue that the mainstream scientific establishment is the greatest priesthood of all. But just as Darwin and Mendel's work was twisted in a fairly short time into eugenics and Aryanism, we may find some uncomfortable mass beliefs disseminated from the foundation of ufological study. (There is certainly an undercurrent of right-wing ideology, and the chosen-people myth, in the contactee stories of the fifties.)

Alternately, or simultaneously, we may see the emergence of a new gnostic, "Gaian" mythos, with the UFO as its mandala. Abductees tend to take a high interest in ecological issues, and various "new age" ideas. Though normally they're non-joiners, suspicious of organized religions, their influence on the overall culture is harder to gauge.

Few doing research in ufology would like to think of themselves aiding and abetting the emergence of a new world mythos, but that's exactly what we may doing, with more than a little help from above. Certainly the UFO phenomenon has proven itself to be subtle and sophisticated enough to push the process along, with all of us, researchers and debunkers, believers and non-believers, as co-conspirators in some ongoing cosmic caper.

—Geff Olson

Vancouver, British Columbia

COME TOGETHER!

In the past couple of years I've seen some disturbing trends evolving in the UFO research community, trends that have forced me to feel isolated, disillusioned, and, at times, even hopeless about our ability as researchers to ever bring ourselves closer to the threshold of truth.

Having two choices, one of immobilization and one of action, I have decided on the latter and offer up these five simple ideas to all my colleagues and fellow deep thinkers and shadow chasers. Again, they are simple...but they are crucial if we are to strengthen and unify our investigative efforts.

1. *Question authority!* Including our own. No one is an expert on the unknown, and *no one* can possibly own the conversation on UFOs. We cannot take everything we are told by either skeptic or believer at face value, just as we cannot trust most of what we are told by our own governing agencies.

2. *Find the fence and ride it!* In line with #1, we must remain both open-minded and skeptical. I call it "healthy skepticism," and urge all of my colleagues to cultivate it quickly. Only by using a balance of intellect and instinct will we be able to best deal with the issues and evidence placed before us. Find that comfort zone on the fence and get your balance. How better to keep an eye on both sides of the ever-unfolding UFO phenomenon?

3. *Share!* Open those lines of communication and share information, case studies and evidence instead of jealously guarding it so nobody else can steal your glory. Hey, folks, check your egos in at the door. If you want to be a star, you came to the wrong place.

4. *Celebrity or subject matter?* Like I said, if you wanna be a star, go to Hollywood. What are we focusing on here? Seems much more attention is being paid to specific lecturers and researchers that the body of work they are doing (which, in some cases, is bodiless). If we want to be taken seriously as researchers, if we truly want to find out the truth about UFOs, if we *sincerely* want to advance our field of science, why don't we start *acting* more like scientists and less like hotshot celebrities and wanna-be-stars. I'm really starting to wonder, what is the *true* motivation of some of these so-called UFO experts flooding the lecture halls? Attention??? Or the spread of knowledge and education? Go figure ...

5. *Hypnotherapists, Heal Thyselfes!* Perhaps the most important, and most disturbing, trend I have noticed (along with many of my like-minded colleagues) is a distressing influx of poorly and/or inadequately trained hypnotherapists into the abductee marketplace. I hate to sound so commercial, but that's what I see happening, a real commercialization of what I feel is a very serious and often dangerous phenomenon. In the past year alone I have seen hypnotherapists who hand out business cards with glamour head shots (what are you, a model or a hypnotherapist?); hypnotherapists who go under a cutesy singular name, like Madonna; questionnaires for the general public that are so leading they would convince *anyone* of being an abductee; even discount coupons for hypnosis sessions! Hey, folks, I hear K-MART is having a blue light special! Get two abductions for the price of one!!!

This is *not* a beauty contest, a popularity contest ("I've been on Donahue more than you have, Nya, nya, nya!!!"), or any easy money-making scheme. This is a *serious* field of study, and by looking at the severely lacking educational backgrounds and training of some of these so-called hypnotherapists, many of whom claim certification based on a couple of weekend courses or a six-month stay at the local hypnosis institute (yes, folks, in many states that's all that's required for "certification"), I think it's fair to say that we are placing the mental safety of abductees into incapable hands. This is both irresponsible, and dangerous. There are many

highly qualified and well-trained individuals currently out there, with strong backgrounds in the fields of psychology, human behavior and related areas, and many others who through sheer dedication and personal responsibility have read and studied the subject matter in order to provide a service to people who need it. Perhaps in the future, UFO organizations should demand more stringent qualifications and credentials of the hypnoterapists they work with and recommend. It won't keep all the charlatans, wanna-bees and attention addicts out of the picture, but it's a start.

So, there it is, in five easy pieces. I'm sure there will be criticism, I *know* there will be feedback. It doesn't matter. It needed to be said.

Like that great Beatles song, we all need to "come together" right now.

Over truth.

Thanks for listening.

—Marie Jones
Burbank, CA

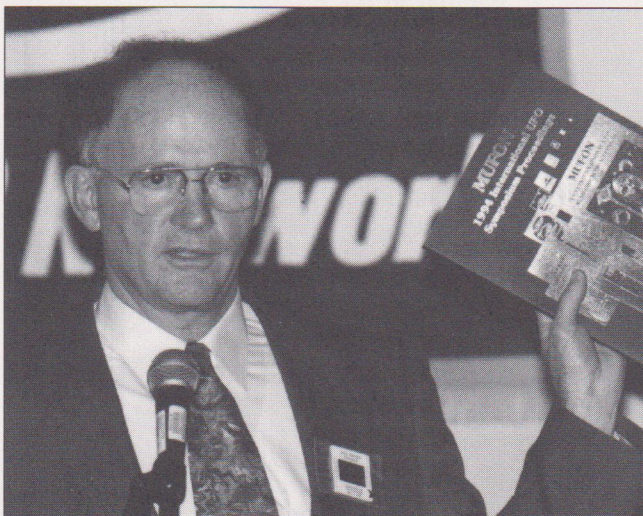
U MEANS UNIDENTIFIED

Because of the scarcity of incontrovertible and enigmatic material evidence as well as conclusive, scientifically definitive instrument-recorded UFO data, researchers study UFO *reports*, rather than UFOs per se. This situation presents a serious problem that should be acknowledged by responsible ufologists who speculate on the nature and origin of the UFO phenomenon.

A UFO report attempts to reconstruct, using witness narrative description (primarily), a coherent account of a short-duration event or series of events which, according to the witness, appeared to contradict currently accepted paradigms of contemporary physics and/or violate his or her own sense of reality. Unfortunately, the report invariably contains witness perceptual and memory errors as well as witness/investigator communications and/or documentation-related errors. It can also be contaminated by the cultural mind set, expectations and wishful thinking of both the witness and the investigator. Moreover, the possibility that some UFO sightings can be attributed to deliberately "staged" events perpetrated by sources unknown also must be acknowledged.

A typical UFO report thus constitutes an inherently flawed representation of the event or stimulus responsible for the sighting. Depending on myriad factors, some reports will be more reliable and contain more factual information than others. The late Dr. J. Allen Hynek, who served as the chief scientific consultant to all of the U.S. Air Force's public UFO investigation programs, was acutely aware of this fact. Indeed, he considered it to be the fundamental problem of UFO research. Hynek expressed his concern about the validity of witness testimony as a simple yet strikingly profound question: "Did what the witnesses say happened really happen in the way they said it happened?" The implications of this question, together with the knowledge that approx-

MUFON 1994 SYMPOSIUM - Continued from Page 10



John C. "Jack" Kasher, Ph.D.

imately 90% of all raw UFO reports have a conventional explanation, should serve as a constant, sobering reality check for all UFO researchers and investigators who exhibit an uncritical, face-value acceptance of UFO-related claims.

If the reported anomalous event remains unidentified after (to the extent feasible) a thorough and unbiased investigation consistent with the comprehensive protocols delineated in the *MUFON Field Investigator's Manual*, all we can say with a reasonable degree of confidence is that a "true UFO" was seen. *Nothing further can be said about the nature or origin of the object or light reported.* As Dr. Hynek stated repeatedly, the "U" in UFO simply means unidentified! We cannot extrapolate beyond this provisional evaluation (which itself can be downgraded to an Identified Flying Object status upon further review of existing or subsequently gathered testimony, records or hard evidence) and conclude that the UFO observed was an extraterrestrial craft. It *could* be a spaceship, but that's *all* we can say about it.

An evaluation of the extraterrestrial hypothesis (ETH) or any other hypothesis cannot be performed in a scientific manner until indisputable physical evidence is made available to qualified researchers. This evidence could then be independently subjected to rigorous, comprehensive, and controlled replicate testing and analysis. The ETH is just *one* possible explanation among the many different hypotheses that have been postulated in an attempt to ascertain what UFOs really are. All we can say now is that the data gathered thus far does not seem to reflect a manifestation of our current technology nor fit the parameters of what is commonly known about our own world. Something very unusual is happening on this planet but exactly what that "something" is remains a mystery.

—Robert A. Galganski
West Seneca, NY



READER'S CLASSIFIEDS

THE ALIEN JIGSAW

By Katharina Wilson, Intro by Budd Hopkins, 59 illustrations. Katharina's carefully documented abduction case encompasses childhood experiences, teaching dreams, camouflage, screen memories, visions & shades of military/government involvement. \$26.95 pp. Check or M.O. to Katharina Wilson, PO Box 230023, Portland, OR 97281-0023. Hard cover: ISBN 0-9639916-0-4.

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

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HISTORICAL RESEARCH: Pre-Arnold and early UFO era, 1947-1954, reports investigated in an informal research newsletter. Looking for others conducting archival and library research. J. L. Aldrich, 534 Westminster Road, Canterbury, CT 06331.

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THE ANOMALIST

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MUFON Annual Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Advancement of the UFO Phenomenon

It is with the deepest gratitude that I accept this award from my many colleagues, the members of MUFON. The democratic basis of your decision makes the honor even more precious to me. I would be here to receive the award except for a complicated schedule this month, culminating in my first one-man exhibition of paintings and collages in quite some time. My show opens in three weeks in Provincetown, Massachusetts, and because of my odd dual professional life must temporarily take precedence over attending this conference.

I would not be telling the truth if I did not admit that the work I do with UFO abductees — the work that many of us do — is hard, sad, and often discouraging. Yet, if lives are helped even a little, the emotional rewards for me are immense. This honor from my colleagues makes the difficult work even more worthwhile.

I have asked Linda Cortile to accept this award for me. She stands as a symbol of personal courage and strength, particularly in the light of the sufferings she, her husband and children have had to endure in recent years. We must never forget that all of those who are joined with me in this crucially important labor — Linda, her family, and you, our many colleagues — have the most powerful weapon of all on our side — the simple, unassailable truth. Eventually science and society as a whole will be forced to consider our discoveries. In the meantime, patience, kindness and hard work will see us through, until the world at last can see what we have known for many years. Again, my heartfelt thanks.

— Budd Hopkins

The NIGHT SKY

Walter N. Webb

SEPTEMBER 1994

Bright Planets (Evening Sky):

Venus, though low in the WSW twilight sky, achieves greatest brilliancy in the evening sky on the 28th at magnitude -4.6. The imposing planet sets about 8 PM daylight time in mid-September and about 7:30 toward the end of the month. It forms a nice pair with the lunar crescent on the 8th.

Jupiter (-1.8), in Libra, lies in the same region of the sky as Venus. The crescent Moon, after passing the brighter planet the night before, stands a few degrees below Jupiter on September 9. The giant sets in the W about three-quarters of an hour behind Venus.

Saturn (0.5), in Aquarius, is opposite the Sun on the 1st and thus rises in the E about sunset, remaining visible all night in the southern sky.

Bright Planets (Morning Sky):

Mars (1.1), in Gemini, shows signs of brightening this month as our Earth begins to overtake it. The reddish body rises in the NE about 1 AM in midmonth, moving to a point high in the ESE by dawn.

Saturn sets in the W about sunrise.

The Solar Polar Probe:

A NASA/European Space Agency probe named Ulysses continues its unique odyssey to explore both poles of the Sun from above them. After launch in October 1990, the spacecraft was deliberately hurled out of the solar system's orbital plane by Jupiter's gravity in February 1992 and back toward the Sun. The space slingshot positioned Ulysses about 200 million miles above the Sun's S pole this month and 80° below the solar system plane—the highest out-of-plane latitude ever achieved by an Earth-launched object. After studying our star's polar atmosphere, magnetic fields, solar wind, and other particles, the probe will survey the Sun's N pole next year.

Moon Phases:

New moon September 5



First quarter September 12



Full moon September 19... Harvest Moon



Last quarter September 27



The Stars:

With the approach of the fall season, during midevening hours the Great Square of Pegasus ascends high in the SE. Diaper-shaped Capricornus the Sea Goat straddles the celestial meridian in the S. The rest of the dim constellations of "The Sea"—Piscis Austrinus the Southern Fish, Aquarius the Water Bearer, Pisces the Fish, and Cetus the Whale—follow close behind Capricornus. The Summer Triangle remains a prominent sight high in the S.

In the N the Big Dipper slides ever closer to the horizon. Curving westward from the North Star is the much fainter

Little Dipper. Between the Little Dipper and the crooked "W" of Cassiopeia the Queen lies her less noticeable consort, Cepheus the King, shaped something like an upside-down house with a peaked roof.

Be aware of the following near-horizon objects of midevening, low enough to be subject to refraction effects and therefore false UFO reports: Arcturus (in WNW), Antares (in WSW), Saturn and Fomalhaut (in SE), and Capella (in NE). Somewhat earlier Jupiter is low in the WSW.

CALENDAR

September 9, 10 & 11 — Third Annual Midwest Conference on UFO Research, Hotel Radisson, Springfield, Missouri. For further information call (417) 882-6847.

September 10-11 — 4th Annual New Hampshire MUFON Conference, Yokens Convention Center, Portsmouth, NH. For information write to: N.H. MUFON, P.O. Box 453, Rye, NH 03870 or call (603) 436-9283 or (603) 673-3829.

September 16-17 — 31st Annual National UFO Conference, Radisson Inn near Cleveland, Ohio Airport. For information write to UAPA, P.O. Box 347032, Cleveland, OH 44134 or call (216) 826-1357.

October 8-9 — "The UFO Experience" - Holiday Inn, North Haven, Connecticut. For information contact Omega Communications, P.O. Box 2051MJ, Cheshire, CT 06410-5051, U.S.A.

October 14-16 — 2nd Annual Gulf Breeze UFO Conference, Pensacola Grand Hotel, Pensacola, Florida. For information write to Project Awareness, P.O. Box 730, Gulf Breeze, FL 32562 or call (904) 432-8888.

November 27 - December 4 — 4th International UFO Congress Convention. Peppermill Oasis Resort in Mesquite, Nevada (1 hour north of Las Vegas). For further information contact Bob Brown, 4266 Broadway, Oakland, CA 94611. Tel: (510) 428-0202.

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NEWS RELEASE

NBC-TV has commissioned "Unsolved Mysteries" to present a recreation of *The Allagash Abductions* planned to air on Sunday, September 18, 1994. The author of the book, Ray Fowler, was filmed in a number of sets for this big time production and mentioned MUFON several times, hoping to obtain national exposure. Ray is MUFON's Director of Investigation.

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE - *Continued from Page 24*

1995 International UFO Symposium at the Red Lion Hotel Seatac in Seattle, Washington on the weekend of July 7, 8 and 9. North Carolina MUFON is making preliminary plans to host the MUFON 1996 UFO Symposium in Greensboro, NC on July 5, 6 and 7. Michigan MUFON, hosted by **Shirley A. Coyne**, State Director, has reserved the Radisson Hotel in Flint, MI for the MUFON 1997 International UFO Symposium for July 11, 12 and 13. The nearby planetarium will feature a light show for the viewing enjoyment of attendees at a convenient time. Opened in 1994, the Bishop International Airport now has a beautiful new terminal building to welcome air travelers to Flint.

Following the regional rotation plan of MUFON's annual UFO symposia, 1998 will be in the western states, 1999 in the eastern region and the year 2000 is scheduled for the central region. Considering our growth in Canada, Ontario, Quebec or British Columbia are potential hosts that could be interjected into the advanced schedule, starting in 1998. Bids to host future symposiums are now being solicited. Please write to Walt Andrus for further information and submission of your bid.

FIELD INVESTIGATOR'S MANUAL OUT OF PRINT

The third edition of the *MUFON Field Investigator's Manual* is temporarily out-of-print. It has been removed from the MUFON Publications List. Work is progressing very well on publishing an expanded version to be identified as the fourth edition in the near future. Please do not delay conducting Field Investigator training classes due to the absence of the fourth edition. Some sections or chapters of the present manual are only being updated, whereas new sections on abduction investigations, animal mutilations, crop circles, and polygraph will be added. Explicit instructions on completing Form 1 and Form 2 will also be new. The expanded section on interviewing witnesses by Dan Wright will be another asset to the new manual.

The availability date and price will be announced in the *Journal*. Please do not back order the new manual since it will be doubled in size, and the price has not been determined from the printer. We are excited about the fourth edition, since it will be a state-of-the art publication.

FINANCIAL BREAKTHROUGH IN UFO RESEARCH

A coalition council composed of the officers or representatives of the three major UFO groups in the United States—CUFOS, FUFOR and MUFON—has been organized to administer cooperative grants for UFO research projects. **Thomas P. Deuley** was designated to be the fund administrator. The Bigelow Foundation is providing the financial support for this monumental and vitally important endeavor.

If you are interested in submitting a proposal for a UFO research project, please contact one of the UFO organizations listed above who will provide the proper forms. It is planned to conduct quarterly meetings of the coalition council to review and make decisions on the proposals, giving priority to those agreed upon and allocating funds.

DIRECTOR OF LEGAL AFFAIRS VACANCY

The recent resignation of **Kenneth A. Wong**, J.D. as Director of Legal Affairs has created an opportunity for one of MUFON's 29 consultants in Law to volunteer to fill this vacancy on the MUFON Board of Directors. The position is basically to head up and coordinate our diversified nation-wide legal staff and provide legal advice to the MUFON Board of Directors upon request. We invite interested attorneys to contact **Robert H. Blechman**, J.D., 360 E. Center Street, Manchester, CT 06040-4440; telephone (203) 643-2433 or Walter Andrus in Seguin, TX at (210) 379-9216.

ESTABLISHING A NEW UFO HOTLINE

With the loss of Bob Gribble's UFO Hotline, we have also lost a valuable asset that brought MUFON important leads to UFO cases. We need a replacement "UFO Hotline" and are asking for ideas on establishing a new service. We are also looking for a person or group that wants to be in the business of operating the new service. Please send your name and proposal to MUFON in Seguin, Texas for consideration.

Peter B. Davenport, former State Section Director, called Walt Andrus on August 7 to advise that a dozen volunteers in the Seattle area are going to reinstate Bob Gribble's UFO hotline number 1-206-722-3000 on a 24-hour basis with FAX and Internet capabilities within five days. Mr. Davenport will submit a written proposal of their plans to comply with our request. This is good news.

LARRY KING TNT SPECIAL

On October 1, 1994, Larry King will do a live, on-location TNT special from Rachel, Nevada "in the shadow of the U.S. government's super-secret air base known as 'Area 51.'" It's called "The UFO Cover Up: Live from Area 51." Area 51, TNT explains, "also known as Groom Lake, is an enormous military installation hidden deep in the hostile Nevada desert—so secret the Pentagon won't confirm its existence." Larry's guests will include Glenn Campbell, who heads the Secrecy Oversight Council in Rachel, and technology expert Mark Farm (aka Agent X), "who specializes in spying on secret government aviation projects." (This sounds like "shades" of the FOX-TV program aired on July 22, 1994.) Kevin Randle is also scheduled to be interviewed, relating to Roswell.

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Walter Andrus

NEWS FROM AROUND THE NETWORK

NEW OFFICERS

Keith Basterfield, renowned Australian UFO researcher from Adelaide, S.A., has again become MUFON's Continental Coordinator for Australia/New Zealand and nearby islands, replacing **Harry Griesberg** (Gosford, N.S.W.) who has assumed the position of State Director for New South Wales. At the recommendation of **James F. Nelson** and **Kenyon A. Spencer**, Mrs. **Margaret "Peggy" Gainer** (Littleton) was approved as the new Colorado State Director and Mrs. **Lulin "Lin" Simpson** (Littleton) the new Assistant State Director. Peggy Gainer attended the annual state/provincial director's meeting in Austin, TX, where she was properly indoctrinated with successful ideas.

Former State Section Director, **Daniel L. DeMar** (Albuquerque) has been promoted to State Director for New Mexico to replace **Richard** and **Maria Rowlette** at their recommendation. **Jon Spear** (Knoxville, TN), presently the State Section Director for Knox, Union, Anderson, and Blount Counties and former state section director in Texas, has enthusiastically accepted the position of Tennessee State Director to fill the vacancy created when **Randel Kjelland** moved to St. Augustine, FL.

Eight new State Section Directors were selected during July. They were: **Charles L. "Chuck" Hawes** (Summerville, SC) for Dorchester and Charleston Counties, reporting to **Richard M. "Buck" Coffman**, State Director; **Gary C. Matteson** (Norfolk, NE) for Madison and Pierce Counties; **Charles R. Breese, Jr.**, M.S. (Incline Village, NV) for Washoe, Storey, Lyon, and Douglas Counties; **Gayle Nesom**, M.A. (Houston, TX) for Harris County; **Don A. Craft** (Afton, TN) for Greene, Hawkins, and Cocke Counties; **Barbara W. Thompson** (Lewisville, NC) for Forsyth and Stokes Counties; **Warren E. "Ed" Benjamin**, M.S. (Wichita Falls, TX) for Wichita, Clay, Archer, and Wilbarger Counties; **Lavada "Sue" Pitts** (Huntsville, AL) for Madison, Morgan, Marshall, and Limestone Counties; and **Alice E. Leavy** (Newbury Park, CA) for Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties.

CONSULTANTS AND RESEARCH SPECIALISTS

Five new Consultants volunteered their expertise this past month. They are: **Spencer DeVault**, Ph.D. (Cranston, RI) in Clinical Psychology; **Peter M. Rettich**, Ph.D. (Dearborn Heights, MI) in Psychology; **Peder A. Anderson**, J.D. (Springfield, VA) in Law; **Leo P. Gaten**, J.D. (Sequim, WA) in Law; and **Stephen J. Brown**, D.D.S. (Harrisonburg, VA) in Dentistry.

Thirteen new Research Specialists offered their services to MUFON during July. They were: **David J. Russell**, M.S. (Los Angeles, CA) in Film and TV Studies; **Donna Long**, M.S.W. (Cranston, RI) in Social Work; **Jacob C. Hack**, M.S. (Las Vegas, NV) in Pharmaceutical Chemistry; **Jeremy H. Bishop**, M.A. (Pasadena, CA) in Animation/Graphics; **Rabia L. Clark**, M.A. (Austin, TX) in Counseling; **Carol F. Walker**, M.A. (Minneapolis, MN) in Human Development; **Daniel A. Kealey**, Ph.D. in Psychotherapy; **Gretchen M. Fink**, M.S.W. (Lancaster, NH) in Social Work; **Antigone Stallings**, M.S. (Brewster, MA) in Psychology; **Hoyt A. Stearns, Jr.**, M.S. (Phoenix, AZ) in Electrical Engineering; **Sheldon L. Gunnerson**, M.A. (Clare, MI) in Sociology; **Gayle Nesom**, M.A. (Houston, TX) in Linguistics; and **Charles R. Breese, Jr.**, M.S. (Incline Village, NV) in Limnology.

WESTERN REGIONAL DIRECTOR VACANCY

Robert J. Gribble (Seattle, WA), Western Regional Director and former Washington State Director, has resigned as of July 25, 1994. He has also discontinued his long-standing UFO telephone "hotline," that was known nationally (1-206-722-3000). After faithfully dedicating himself to manning his UFO hotline for over 20 years, and a columnist (starting in July 1987) for the *MUFON UFO Journal* with his popular column titled "UFOs—Looking Back," Bob has apparently decided to enjoy his retirement that he so justly deserves. Mr. Gribble has established himself as one of the pioneers in ufology in North America through his dedicated work and will be sorely missed.

Mr. Gribble's four-year term as Western Region Director would have normally expired in December 1994, however due to his resignation MUFON is now seeking candidates for this prestigious position on the Board of Directors. The Western Region is composed of the following mountain states: Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, and all states west of these including Alaska and Hawaii. We are soliciting individuals who have had previous MUFON leadership positions such as State Director, Assistant State Director and State Section Director. If you are interested in accepting greater leadership responsibilities, please write to **Walt Andrus** expressing your desire to fill this role and your qualifications.

Until such time as a new Western Regional Director is elected, all State Directors in the western region of states should send their completed UFO sighting reports directly to the Deputy Director - Investigations, **T. David Spencer**, 6700 Woodcrest, Austin, TX 78759.

FUTURE MUFON UFO SYMPOSIUMS

Chairperson and Washington State Director, **Judy Tuberg**, is inviting everyone to attend the MUFON

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