MUTUAL UFO NETWORK

UFO JOURNAL

JANUARY 1999 NUMBER 369 $3

Videotape of a peanut-shaped object over Ticonderoga, New York taken at 8 p.m. E.D.S.T. on July 2, 1998.

MUFON
UFO Journal
(USPS 002-970)
(ISSN 0270-6822)
103 Oldtowne Rd
Seguin, TX 78155-4099
Tel: (830) 379-9216
FAX (830) 372-9439

Editor:
Dwight Connelly
14026 Ridgelawn Road
Martinsville, IL 62442
Tel: (217) 382-4502
e-mail: bookdc@ccipost.net

Editor in Chief:
Walter H. Andrus, Jr.
103 Oldtowne Road
Seguin, TX 78155
830-379-9216

Columnists:
Walter N. Webb
Richard Hall
George Filer
Dan Wright

Art Director:
Vince Johnson

MUFON UFO Hotline:
1-800-UFO-2166

MUFON on the Internet:
mufon.com

MUFON on Compuserv
"Go MUFON"
to access the Forum

e-mail address:
mufonhq@aol.com

MUFON Amateur Radio Net:
40 meters - 7.237 MHz
Saturdays, 8 a.m. EST

TABLE OF CONTENTS

January 1999 **Number 369**

The Cover: Photograph made off TV screen of July 2, 1998 sighting in Ticonderoga, New York. (Courtesy of Bruce Maccabee).

In this issue

UFO video seems authentic by Bruce Maccabee.....3
MUFON investigator initiated by Paul Cook.....7
'The Love Bite' by Eve Frances Lorgen.....9
Filer's Files by George Filer.....11
Ufology Profile: Stan Gordon by Dwight Connelly.....12
Gordon finds UFO/Bigfoot connection.....13
The UFO Press: *The UFO Anthology*.....14
Malta UFO roundup by John J. Mercieca 15
MUFON Forum.....16
Perspective on December issue by Richard Hall.....18
Case of the Month by Dan Wright.....19
Readers' Classified ads.....21
The Night Sky by Walter N. Webb.....22
Director's Message by Walter Andrus.....24

MUFON's mission is the systematic collection and analysis of UFO data, with the ultimate goal of learning the origin and nature of the UFO phenomenon.

Change of address and subscription inquiries should be sent to MUFON, 103 Oldtowne Road, Seguin, TX 78155.

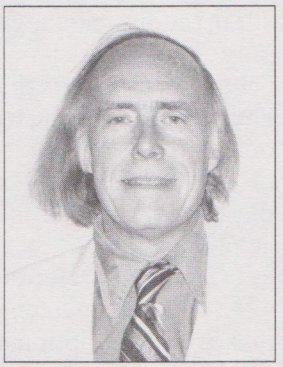
The *MUFON UFO Journal* is published monthly by the Mutual UFO Network, Inc., Seguin, Texas. Membership/Subscription rates are $30 per year in the U.S.A., and $35 per year foreign in U.S. funds. Second class postage paid at Seguin, Texas.

Postmaster: Send form 3579 to advise change of address to: *MUFON UFO Journal*, 103 Oldtowne Rd., Seguin, TX 78155-4099

'Flying peanut'/double UFO video seems to be authentic

By Dr. Bruce Maccabee

July 2, 1998. A quiet Thursday evening in Ticonderoga, NY (population about 3,500-4,000). Fred and Mary (pseudonyms; witnesses requested anonymity) were working in their yard. It was about 8 p.m. when Fred looked up at the partly cloudy sky in the southeast and saw it. He was immediately struck by the fact that he could not see any wings. No noise, either. Suddenly it dawned on him: maybe it was a UFO! He ran into his house to get the video camera which he keeps loaded and ready to use.



Dr. Bruce Maccabee

About 10 seconds later Mary saw him running out the door with the video camera. He pointed the camera upward and started videotaping. Mary looked in the direction the camera was pointing and she, too, saw the object traveling northward through the sky east of them as he got about 12 1/2 seconds of video before the object disappeared above a cloud. Fred walked to another location to see if it might come out of the cloud but ... no luck. That was it. The sighting had lasted perhaps 25 to 30 seconds, maximum.

About a week later Fred was wondering who to tell about this event. He managed to locate Stanton Friedman and a local MUFON investigator, Jim Bouck. Fred sent a copy of his video to Stanton, who then recommended that he call me, which he did on July 31. Subsequently he sent me his "affidavit" which recounted the history of the event and the original video for analysis. Fred wrote about their sighting as follows:

"(We) observed an object in flight moving through the clouds (and) blue sky (between clouds) from south to north. The craft was soundless and wingless and flew at a fairly fast rate of speed. The cloud ceiling level was 5,000 feet and (the object was) viewed at a 65 degree angle. It flew on the eastern side (of Ticonderoga, NY.) past St. Mary's Church. (My wife) viewed it with the naked eye and said it resembled a peanut, contoured some (i.e., narrowing down) in the center with a vertical black band or (vertical) line around the center portion of the object, and that she could hear no sound from it, nor did it have any wings. We both saw it as cream or beige in color. I also didn't see wings or hear any sound coming from it. That's the reason why I quickly ran into my house to get my video camera." The whole sighting took about a minute.

About the author

Dr. Maccabee holds the Ph.D. in Physics, and is a research physicist at the Naval Surface Weapons Center in Silver Springs, MD. He is a former member of NICAP, and was one of the founders of the Fund For UFO Research (FUFOR). He has written nearly 100 articles in publications such as the *Journal*, and co-authored *UFOs Are Real: Here's the Proof* with Ed Walters.

TECHNICAL ANALYSIS

Editor's Note: Figure 1 provided by Dr. Maccabee is not included in this edited article.

The MUFON investigation determined that Fred first saw the object coming from the southeast at an azimuth of about 125 degrees. It was last seen at an azimuth of about 65 degrees. It took 25-30 seconds to cover this angular distance. The analysis described below indicates that either there was a single object with a very small (so small as to be unresolved by the video) structure connecting two larger white structures, or else there were two objects, with the second traveling at a fixed spacing close behind the first. There is no clear evidence in the video imagery of a connection between the white images. However, since the resolution isn't good enough to prove there was no such connection, I refer herein to "the object(s)" in the singular, thereby allowing for either possibility.

The video begins with a wide angle view that shows the object(s) as a faint white dot in the sky, above thin clouds. The object(s) had passed its point of closest approach to the witnesses and was already traveling away when he began videotaping. During the first several seconds, Fred zoomed in on the object(s) and then he followed it as it moved to his left (north) past the cross on top of the church. After a few seconds it disappeared in the clouds just before it reached the edge of the roof of his house. The complete track of the object(s) recorded on video is a straight line about 10 degrees in length. The object(s) was optimally illuminated by the sun which was low in the west northwest at the time. Fred obtained about 378 frames, of which about five dozen have images clear enough for analysis. For most of the other frames, either the camera is out of focus, there is too much motion blur, or the object(s) is lost in the clouds.

Two whitish images

Figure 2 shows the object(s) just before it passed the top of the cross on the church steeple at an azimuth of about 70 degrees. The overall image consists of two whitish elliptical or ovoid images "end to end" with a darker space between them. This gap is more easily seen in the blowup inset which was ex-

tracted from a frame in the original video that occurred a few seconds after the object(s) passed the steeple. Blowups of the clearest images show that the two white ellipses are separated by a very small distance and that between the elliptical images there is what certainly appears to be blue sky. Although there is no video evidence indicating a structure connecting the two ellipses, the image resolution is not sufficient to rule out the possibility of a narrow connecting structure between them.

Probably 'bleeding' images

Because the white images are somewhat brighter than the blue sky, the gap between them appears as a dark area or vertical dark line, even though the area actually is a pale blue color (probably a result of the white images "bleeding into" the blue sky color in the gap). The two white ellipses traveled close together without changing the spacing between them.

The steeple is at an azimuth of about 70 degrees (east northeast). The top of the cross was about 140 ft above the camera and about 267 ft away horizontally, according to measurements made by Fred and MUFON investigator Jim Bouck. Thus the angular elevation of the top of the cross was about 28 degrees. Fred obtained the airport weather information for Glens Falls, NY. This showed about 20% sky cover at 5,000 ft, ground level visibility of 15 miles and zero wind speed. The object(s) was occasionally partially obscured, and at other times completely obscured, by thin clouds. Ultimately it was lost to view as it passed into or beyond a cloud at an altitude of at least 5,000 ft. Hence the radial distance from the camera as it passed the cross was at least 5,000/sin(28) = 10,700 ft.

Yardstick calibration

At my request Fred provided zoomed images of a yardstick at 69 feet. This allowed me to determine the angular size calibration. The analysis was done using computer-grabbed images from the original videotape of the object(s) and of the yardstick, for which distances are measured in pixels. At full zoom the yardstick image is 448 pixels long. The angular size of the yardstick at 69 ft is 0.0434 radians or 2.49 degrees (0.01745 radians per degree) so the angle per pixel is 9.75E-5 rad or 5.56E-3 deg.

As the object(s) passed the top of the cross its overall length was about 19 (+/-)1 pixels measured along the slanted axis (connecting the centers) of the elliptical image in Frame 189 (Figure 2). This corresponds to (1.85 +/- 0. 1)E-3 rad in angular length. The overall length of any object, as projected onto a plane perpendicular to the sighting line (a plane parallel to the focal plane), is the product of the distance to the object and the angular size of its image as measured in radians (a good approximation for angles less than 10 degrees). At a distance of 10,700 ft along the sighting line, the projected length of the image corresponds to 10,700 x (1.85 +/- 0. 1)E-3 = 20 +/- 1 ft. (If the object(s) were above cloud altitude the projected length would be larger than this.)

Because the image actually appears as two elliptical white areas that may be disconnected, a dimension more applicable to these images is the spacing of their centers. In Frame 189 this is about 9.5 pixels or 9.3E-4 radians. At 10,700 ft this corresponds to a projected spacing distance of about 10 ft. Thus if these were two elliptical objects flying along, each was about 4 ft in radius, and they were traveling with a spacing of only a couple of feet. Of course, if the distance had been greater, then these dimensions also would be greater. The length just presented is not the actual length of the object(s) since it was viewed at an oblique angle. (This is the length as projected onto a plane parallel to the focal plane.) It is now necessary to estimate the actual length.

Orientation assumption

The actual length can be calculated only if one makes an assumption about the orientation in space of the major axis of the object(s). I have chosen to assume the major axis was horizontal and that the object(s) traveled in a horizontal plane at a constant altitude, although I could not rule out the possibility that it traveled upward or downwards at a small angle. Using angles a and e the actual overall length of the object(s) can be calculated from the projected length, 20 ft, again assuming that the object(s) axis lies in a horizontal plane (comparable to, but smaller than, a Piper Cherokee Lance or Beechcraft Model 76, single engine propeller driven airplane). The height of the object(s), allowing for the natural diffusion of the edges of the elliptical images, appears to be about 1/5 or 1/4 of the overall length, i.e., about 4 to 6 feet if at an altitude of 5,000 ft. Similarly, the centers of the white images were separated by 10 ft/0. 84 which is about 12 ft if at an altitude of 5,000 ft.

Cloud calculations

The object(s) was occasionally partially obscured and occasionally totally obscured by the clouds. This means that the object(s) could have been at cloud height or above. If above, then the calculated size would be larger. For example, if it were assumed to have been at 10,000 ft altitude the range would have been 21,400 ft (4 miles) and the overall length would be about 48 ft (comparable in size to a business jet [Gates Learjet] or fighter aircraft [e.g., Grumman A-6E]), ; if at 15,000 ft, then it would have been 6 miles away and about 72 ft long; if at 32,000 ft it would have been about 12 miles away and about 145 ft long (comparable to a Boeing 707).

The object(s) passed behind the lightning rod at the top of the cross. It required 4 frames (at 30 frames/

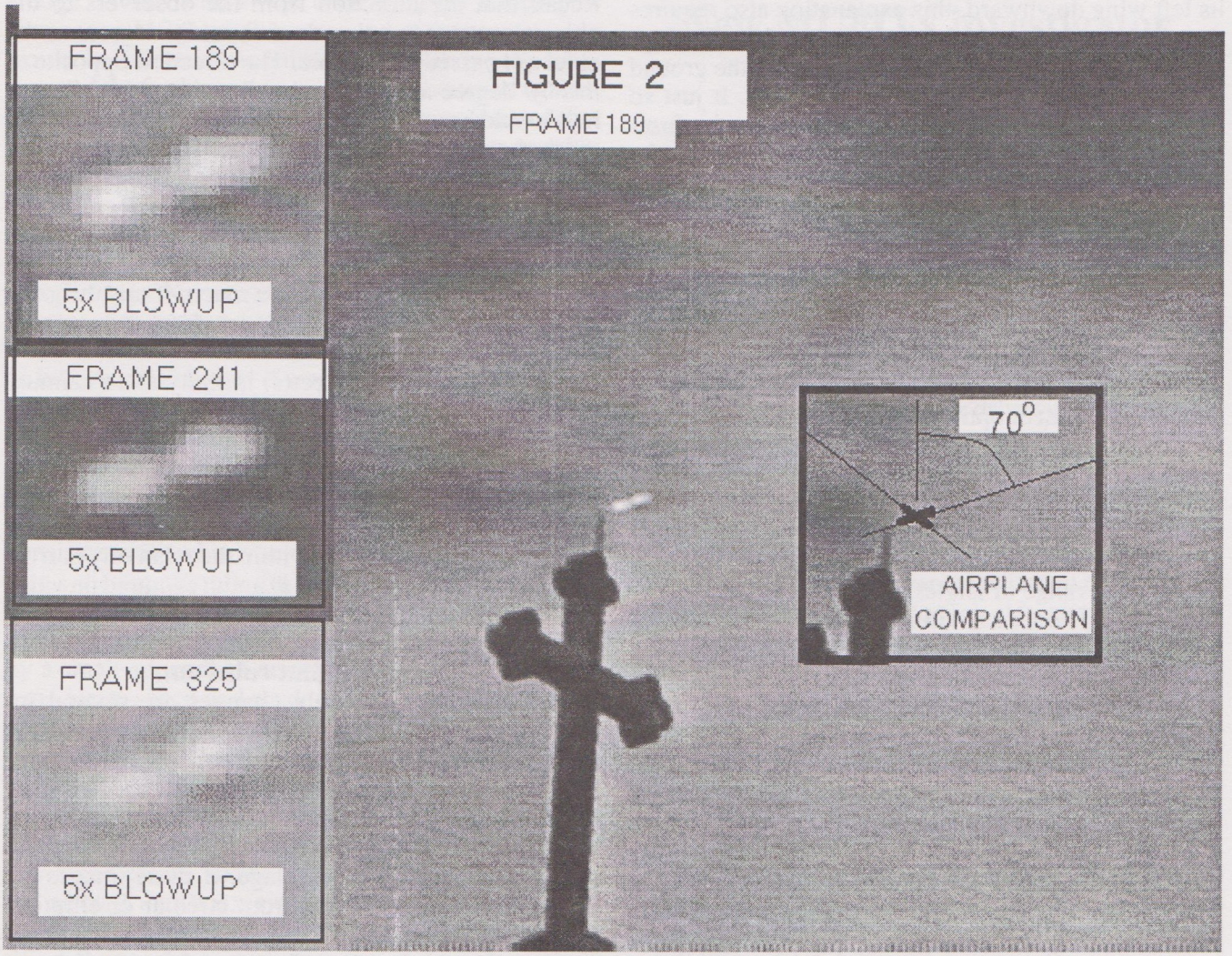


Figure 2

second) or 4/30 = 2/15 of a second to pass the lightning rod. If it were about 24 ft in length this would correspond to about 180 ft/sec or about 123 mph. If it had been twice as high, its speed would have been about 246 mph, and so on for other assumed heights. At a height of 32,000 ft the speed would have been nearly 746 mph, the speed of sound (at sea level). If this had been a large jet airplane "breaking the sound barrier" the witnesses might have heard a sonic boom even though the plane would have been about 13 miles away. Instead, on this quiet night with no wind, they heard nothing.

The only conventional non-hoax explanation for this sighting is that the witnesses misidentified an airplane. However, the airplane hypothesis is not without its problems: why didn't the witnesses hear the aircraft, why couldn't they see any wings, and why did it appear, oddly enough, as two whitish ellipses with a darker, bluish area between? In answer to the last question, Jeffrey Sainio, MUFON image analyst, has pointed out that a glint (a very bright reflection of the sun) off the fuselage, the center of which was blocked from direct view by the wing closest to the observers, could appear as two bright objects with a dark space between. The answers to the first and second questions then follow from the glint hypothesis: the airplane was so far away that the wings and other portions of the airplane were not visible (even though the bright glints were visible) and the sound was too faint for them to hear.

This explanation is based upon the idea that a glint actually occurred. It also assumes that the nearest wing blocked the direct view of the center of the fuselage, thus creating two approximately equal sized areas, to the front and back of the wing, which made the white images. Since it appears that the object(s) was flying along a level and straight trajectory, i.e., a hypothetical airplane was not turning left or "banking" with

its left wing downward, this explanation also requires that the wing be attached at the bottom of the fuselage so that it could be between an observer on the ground and the main body (sides) of the fuselage. It just so happens that many models of aircraft have the fuselage "riding" on top of the wing. For these aircraft the wing could obstruct the ground-level view of part of the fuselage even when the plane is flying level. If one assumes that this type of aircraft was flying past the witnesses, then one may propose the hypothesis that the two white images were glints from the front and rear portions of the fuselage while the nearest wing blocked the direct view of the center portion.

A particular angle

The glint or optimum reflection from a flat mirror (specular) surface takes place at a particular angle that satisfies the well-known reflection rule: angle of reflection (the "specular reflection angle") equals the angle of incidence. A non-specular (i.e., diffuse) but nevertheless smooth or "shiny" surface will reflect light over a wide range of angles, but the reflection will be brightest only over a small range of angles (a few degrees) centered about the specular reflection angle. The amplitude of the reflection will decrease considerably as the angle is tilted away from the specular reflection angle.

The glint hypothesis requires a particular alignment between the sun, the assumed airplane, and the observers. The sun was at an angular elevation of about 5 degrees and an azimuth of about 297 degrees (according to the Expert Astronomer computer program). That is, the sun was about 27 degrees north of due west. As nearly as can be determined the axis of the assumed fuselage was at an azimuth angle of about 17 degrees measured as rotation clockwise from due north.

Therefore, if the sun had been 17 degrees north of due west the sun rays would have been at an angle of 90 degrees (perpendicular) to the axis and the (specular) reflection angle would also have been 90 degrees to the axis. However, since the sun was 27 degrees north of due west the sun rays were hitting the assumed fuselage at an angle of 90 - (27-17) = 80 degrees measured as counterclockwise rotation from the direction the assumed airplane was traveling, i.e., from the 17 degree azimuth. This is the incident angle. The angle of reflection would be the same, 80 degrees from the axis, but measured as clockwise rotation from the direction opposite to the direction the airplane was traveling, i.e., 80 degrees measured clockwise starting at the 195 degree azimuth. The brightest glint would occur at this angle of reflection.

Along an azimuth

Thus the brightest rays from the glint would be traveling along an azimuth of 195+80 = 275 degrees as measured at the location of the assumed airplane. Recall that the direction from the observers to the object(s) was at an azimuth of about 70 degrees as the object(s) passed the steeple. The direction opposite to this 70 degree azimuth is the direction that reflected rays would have to travel from the assumed airplane to reach the observers. The opposite direction is 180 + 70 = 250 degrees. This is 25 degrees less than the azimuth for maximum glint, 275 degrees, calculated above. In other words, the observers' viewing location was 25 degrees away from the direction for an optimum glint, too far for the glint to be much, if any, brighter than the ordinary diffuse reflection from the assumed fuselage.

Fred saw the object(s) initially at an azimuth of about 125 degrees and he saw (videotaped) it again over the azimuth range from about 75 1/2 degrees to about 65 1/2 degrees. In other words, he saw it coming and going as it traveled in a straight line over a wide range in angles. A glint could not persist over such an angle range. Even within the relatively narrow range of about 10 degrees of azimuth captured on video one would expect a continual decrease in the glint brightness if there had been a glint.

Fuselage glint ruled out

However, the only changes are several instances where the brightness decreases and returns to the full value as the object(s) is obscured by clouds. The size of the angle away from the expected glint direction combined with the lack of brightness variation attributable to alignment with the sun rules out glints from an airplane fuselage. If these images are glints, then they are glints from circular or elliptical objects, for which there is always some portion of the surface that satisfies the reflection rule.

Since the glint explanation, with its accompanying assumption of great distance to a large airplane, is rejected, then the assumed aircraft must have been reasonably close (within several miles). In this case the most important reason for rejecting the aircraft explanation is the lack of any indications of wings. Fred and his wife have said they could see no wings on the object(s) even though they saw it over a wider range of angles than is represented in the video. The video images are small, but they support this claim. The right hand inset in Figure 2 shows a comparison image constructed to look the way a typical T-shaped airplane would look if flying alongthe same path as the object(s).

The question of wings

As can be seen from the comparison "airplane" image, if the object(s) had been an airplane seen at the same angular elevation and direction of travel relative to the sighting azimuth the wings would have been visible as protrusions above and below the image of the fuselage. Although the diagram shows the situation for a T shaped aircraft, the same situation would occur for

a large aircraft with swept back wings or a high performance jet (fighter): the outer end of the nearest wing would be silhouetted against the sky above the fuselage and the farthest wing would be silhouetted against the sky below the fuselage. Fred has demonstrated that his camera could have detected wings under roughly comparable viewing conditions by videotaping objects known to be aircraft. The wings are clearly visible.

Figure 2 also has several blowups of the image. These are representative of roughly four dozen other images for which wings should be apparent if the object(s) were an aircraft. These blowups also show that the spacing between the white images appears to be blue or pale blue, as if some of the white color from the elliptical images was "spilling over" into the darker blue area. Such "spillage" is common for optoelectronic systems such as video cameras

Not a distant aircraft

For all the reasons cited, then, the image is not consistent with what would be expected if the object(s) was a distant aircraft. On the other hand, it is consistent with what might be expected if two elliptical objects, white in color, close together and either connected by a small appendage or entirely separate, traveled at a moderate speed and moderate altitude (5000-10,000 ft) past the witnesses. In this height range each object would have been 8-16 ft in diameter.

The MUFON investigation indicates that this was not a hoax, since the witnesses are upstanding citizens of the community, are both employed in law-enforcement, and have requested anonymity. Since the aircraft and hoax explanations are ruled out, the image can be considered to be that of a single unidentified flying object with two major whitish sections connected by a narrow structure not seen on the video, or of two whitish elliptical unidentified flying objects traveling in a close formation. By way of comparison, the statistical study carried out by the Battelle Memorial Institute under contract to the Air Force (Project 10073, Special Report #14, May 1955, published by the Air Technical Intelligence Center, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base) carefully studied 3201 sightings (designated as "All Sightings") reported between January 1947 and the end of December, 1952. They determined that 689 sightings (21.5% of the total) were unexplained after analysis. Of these, 177 (26% of the unknowns) were of white or "glowing white" objects, 331 (48% of the unknowns) were elliptical, 64 sightings (9%) involved two objects (150 involved more than 3 objects), 56 sightings (8%) lasted 11-30 seconds and 61 (9%) lasted 31 to 60 seconds.

I thank Fred and his wife for providing the original video along with calibrations and other video for the analysis.

New MUFON investigator initiated quickly

By Paul Cook

On Feb. 5, 1998 I received e-mail from Mel Podell, the San Diego MUFON Director. Though I correspond with Mel on a regular basis, this would turn out to be the beginning of my first case since completing and passing the Field Investigators Exam. I didn't realize how much would be expected of me so soon. This is how the e-mail began:

"Yesterday, Wednesday Feb. 4, Brad McLellan of Channel 10 phoned me about having someone check on a videotape taken by a truck driver in New Mexico. Gary Davidson has checked on previous videotapes, but has been recovering from the flu. He does not feel well enough to handle this. Since you are now a capable investigator with credentials, would you please if possible give this your best analysis." (snip)

He said that they wanted it for that night's news. I thought they wanted me to look at it, give an opinion, and then we would get the tape. I found out, after I showed up in wrinkled work clothes, that they wanted me on TV, and they wanted to know what this object was ... NOW. The logical and carefully phrased explanation that I gave as to how we would proceed with a serious and scientific investigation did not go over well with them.

Something more emotional

They did agree that I should investigate it thoroughly, but what they wanted for the nightly news was something more emotional, and since I didn't think I'd get the tape if I didn't produce something for them, I began a discourse with the phrase, "I believe in extraordinary possibilities." They chose the wildest of the comments, and while they were cutting and pasting the evening's brief, I got them to call Bill Sauter, the videographer and witness of the UFO, and arranged to meet with him to get a VHS copy from the original.

After an unsuccessful attempt (due to busy schedules) was made to get the tape, I finally went back to Channel 10 and talked them into making a copy from the one they used on the newscast. It wasn't very good, but I sent it to Gary Davidson, who is our local videoanalyst, to check it out. By the end of February I had his enhancement. The video looked like a balloon, except that it was moving steady and appeared to be in control, like a blimp. In the enhancement it appeared to me to be a saucer, but the light that was reflecting off of it made it hard to give it a shape. We needed the original.

Finally, on July 5, we were able to get the original from Bill, who had been out of town. By this time it had been featured on "Hard Copy," which had talked

with him while he was out of town. I had also posted a webpage[1] with information about it on our local website.[2] Though the video could be of some sort of blimp, Bill did not feel it was and said that it was capable of sudden acceleration. Here is a portion of the transcript of the interview which was conducted while filling out the MUFON report forms:

Bill Sauter: Well I was, Yeah I was headed westbound, back to ports California and, just to the west of Deming which would be exit 68...

Mel Podell: Deming, New Mexico ...

Sauter: yeah... that would be ...about ten miles west of Deming and approximately I'd say anywhere from ten to fifteen miles south of there... to southeast was where the spotting was and it appeared to be like a... best way to describe it is like a 747 without wings or a tail section... a metallic object...

Paul Cook: Could you do this, maybe, timewise. What was the first indication that there was something to look for?

Sauter: Oh there was jibber jabber on the CB radio from the people going in the other direction... they'll say "Hey look, what was that in the air out there?"... somebody says " Ahh.. It's just a UFO."

(edit)

Sauter: Yeah... yeah, I heard them talking first and then, you know, as they say ... me traveling westbound and this was to my southeast, so my first glimpse I caught of it was in my mirror, then I pulled over to a safe spot....

Podell: Oh, as you were listening you noticed in your rear view mirror that... the object was there, right after you heard the people describe it? Describe it as it looked through the rear view mirror.

Sauter: Like I say, it looked like a metallic object... like a 747 without wings or without a tail section... very shiny.

Podell: How fast was it moving?

Sauter: I have no idea.

Podell: You couldn't tell. You were still driving?

Sauter: Have no idea what the altitude was but, as they say, just from where those mountains are in the background, you know, I mean, normally a person can see anywhere from twelve to fifteen miles on flat ground with ... you know...

Podell: Describe the day. What type of day?

Sauter: 6:30 in the morning. It was very clear. Visibility was great. No overcast. No haze.

(edit)

Podell: OK, how far did you drive along before the next event happened? ... I mean, after you noticed it in your rear view mirror?

Sauter: Oh, I pulled in ... the next exit where I could pull off was exit 68, which, you know, was the safest place where I could pull off the road not the point where I got my camera out then.

Podell: So you kept a camera with you?

Sauter: Oh yeah, yeah, Camera's always(edit)

Podell: What kind of camera?

Sauter: 8 millimeter ... video

Podell: Do you use it very frequently?

Sauter: Uh hum

Cook: Does it have a zoom?

Sauter: Yeah.. it's a 10 to 1 or 1 to 10

Cook: 10 to 1?

Sauter: yeah, 10 x 1

Cook: Did you use it when you were videotaping?

Sauter: yeah

(edit)

Cook: Now, did you videotape it the entire time you were looking at it? or ... tell me what happened.

Sauter: Ahh, it was videotaped as far as I could, you know, and then the vibration was getting so bad as it was moving back...

Cook: So you weren't watching it before you got the videotape...

Sauter: No

Podell: You say it was vibrating....?

Sauter: Well, you know, vibrating as the truck, shaking up and down

Podell: Oh, I see, you were.. you didn't get out of the truck.

Sauter: No, that's what I was going to do, I was grabbed my tripod and get out of the truck

Podell: But, you didn't have time?

Sauter: Well, by the time I got it and was getting out of the truck, it was already gone.

(edit)

Sauter: It moved southeast.

Cook: In a straight line?

Sauter: yeah, horizontal

Since this interview, a good quality copy has been sent to Jeff Sainio, the MUFON videoanalyst. His response, so far, is:

"My initial indication is that this is a stationary (as best can be measured) sun-reflecting saucer, as seems obvious, at an angle. No video distortions are evident that would add artifacts to the image."

We are looking forward to more enhancements and feel that the video cannot be explained as a blimp because of the witness testimony. The witness is credible, and the investigation continues. I am continuing to gain valuble experience as an investigator and hope that others will have the opportunity to learn at a slower pace, though I must admit, I am enjoying it, every minute.

[1](http://n6rpf.com-us.net/sauter.hftnl)

[2](The San Diego UFO Information Homepage: http://n6rpfcom-us.net/)

'The Love Bite'

Alien-instigated human bonding dramas, relationship manipulations, and love obsessions

By Eve Frances Lorgen, M.A.

The reality of alien abductions seems to be the thorn in the side of the UFO community. As ufology struggles to maintain a credible, scientific, nuts and bolts approach, alien abduction reports continue to rise with subjective and nonsensical fervor. One can look at this thorn in the side as a symptom of a larger problem that has yet to be diagnosed in the body of humanity.

Eve Frances Lorgen

As an abductions researcher of 15 years, and from the perspective of female intuition, I contend that most ufologists and abduction researchers are so adamant about the nuts and bolts that they overlook the whole drama of what is taking place in abductees' lives. Specifically, I am referring to a variety of alien-orchestrated human bonding dramas, relationship manipulations, and love obsessions that are carried out in the abductee population.

Raggedy Ann & Andy

This angle of approach is better understood if you place yourself in the position of a drama director. Imagine, for a moment, watching a children's puppet show. Raggedy Andy meets Raggedy Ann. They flip and flop to the tune of an enigmatic love affair. Raggedy Andy courts his beloved Ann, wooing her to that anticipated kiss. Raggedy Ann swoons into a spell of romantic love. The curtain closes.

Next scene: Raggedy Ann is yearning for her newfound knight in shining armor. Raggedy Andy sees her, but instead of running to embrace her, turns around and walks off stage, leaving Ann grieved with unrequited love. Raggedy Andy and Ann are not really puppets; they're real people who have had lifelong alien encounters. The puppet masters are the aliens playing the role of the proverbial Cupid and his arrow.

Perhaps a puppet show is a harsh analogy for the lives of some abductees caught in the dramas of the alien matchmakers. But I adjure you to take a look from a different perspective, one that asks different questions regarding the modus operandi of the alien intelligence. Throughout my experience studying and counseling abductees and "experiencers," I can confidently say that the alien presence–or whoever is acting behind its image–exerts a heavy influence on their lives, sometimes down to the lovers they meet and even the very partners they choose to marry.

Budd Hopkins' famous Brooklyn Bridge UFO abduction investigation brought to light this rarely discussed aspect of alien directed human bonding arrangements in some abductees' lives. This investigation, described in Mr. Hopkins' book, *Witnessed,* recounts the dramatic story of "Linda Cortile's" UFO abduction in 1989 from an apartment window in Manhattan. Three men witnessed the extraordinary event, one of whom (Richard) Linda Cortile had previously met in her abductions as a child and young adult.

Alien-orchestrated bonding

These mutually shared encounters and dream-like scenarios that took place between Linda and Richard can be described as alien orchestrated bonding exercises. According to Hopkins, the bonding that Linda and Richard experienced are not isolated incidents in the abductee population, but are rare. Mr. Hopkins has observed the bonding dramas in 14 out of 650 cases, which accounts for roughly 2% of all his cases.

Barbara Bartholic, a hypnotherapist and abduc-

About the author

Eve Frances Lorgen has been a researcher in the alien abduction phenomenon for more than 15 years and conducts a support group for experiencers in north San Diego County, CA. She holds a Master's of Arts degree in Counseling Psychology, a Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry, studies in oriental medicine, dreamwork, paranormal and the occult, the Bible, reverse speech, alien implant research, fluorescence markings post abduction, and health and medical issues of abductees. She has published several articles internationally. Currently she is co-authoring a book with Barbara Bartholic entitled *The Love Bite*, which should be out sometime in 1999.

Editor's Note: If there are UFOs, if there are occupants, if there are abductions, and if aliens are somehow manipulating humans, then the scenarios described by Ms. Lorgen are not so far-fetched as they might appear at first glance. In fact, given the importance that we humans place on sex–in music, advertising, and affairs of the heart–perhaps it would be more surprising if aliens were not also interested in sexual manipulation. The term *alienation of affections* may have more ramifications than we have thought.

tions researcher of 25 years, has observed that many of these alien-manipulated bonding dramas result in dramatic love obsessions. Ms. Bartholic maintains that the bonding phenomenon carried out by aliens occurs much more frequently than one would think. Ignoring these dramas results in a serious lack of understanding concerning the alien intelligence and their motives for interacting with humanity.

A characteristic pattern

The bonding experiences exhibit a characteristic pattern and sequence of events that goes something like this: an abductee meets another abductee during one or more alien abductions or in very vivid dreams. The couple may interact on a verbal or physical level to initiate the bonding process. This can occur several times until a strong emotional connection occurs. The nature of the bonding exercises seems to be tailor-made to the individual.

The bonding interactions may or may not be consciously recalled by either partner. Often, only one partner will remember the experience, while the other has no memory or only a vague recall. When both partners meet in real life, there is an instant sense of recognition, and the couple may fall in love. There are variations to the pattern and sequence of events, but in most cases one partner falls in love more than the other and is left feeling unrequited.

A magnetic attraction

The relationship between the two bonded individuals is such that both persons are magnetically attracted to one another, often in unlikely situations. The love relationship set-up may include a number of bizarre synchronicities, vivid dreams, supernatural events, and bonding exercises during alien encounters. The orchestrated experiences are often intimate and sexual, such that one or the other develops an intense chemistry and love obsession with the targeted partner. Oftentimes, either person is married to–or has an existing relationship with–another mate. It makes no difference.

The emotional, passionate and even telepathic connection between the bonded pair is unlike normal relationships (whatever normal is, anyway). Some have described it as the most exhilarating love imaginable, to the point of total spiritual immersion or indwelling with their "beloved." Then the inevitable happens. It's absolutely devastating.

The targeted love partner becomes "switched off," and the love-struck other-half becomes painfully unrequited. The switching off is described as an emotional and sexual disinterest in their once "attractive" partner. The chosen partner may have an initial attraction or even a strong love for the other, but then loses interest, often right after an abduction or vivid dream. If one or the other abductee has a good recall of their dreams and abduction memories, they may remember being previously bonded together in one or more experiences.

Some abductees report spontaneous remote viewing images and visions of the intended partner in such a way as to elicit emotions, such as jealousy, obsessive love, yearning, and grievous unrequited love pangs. The alien-manipulated love obsession process is akin to a carrot being dangled just enough to get the obsessed lover into a constant cycle of love and unrequited love. This can extend from relationship to relationship and is emotionally exhausting.

Barbara Bartholic and I have compiled a number of abduction cases where a love obsession, relationship manipulation, or some other type of obsession took place as part and parcel of the alien abduction experience. In our co-authored book, *The Love Bite,* I take a closer look at the modus operandi of the alien intelligence by the very nature of the orchestrated dramas themselves.

The Love Bite will consist of actual cases of alien-directed human bonding matches, relationship manipulations, and dramatic love obsessions. A significant portion of the work comprises a brilliantly portrayed commentary on a psychological, mythical, mystical, and spiritual warfare perspective. The various "love bite" cases range from the less spectacular relationship manipulations (marital break-ups and questionable sudden urges to marry a particular mate) to blatant infatuations and love obsessions with unlikely partners, replete with high emotional drama and disastrous chaos.

For example, one person, while engaged, suddenly, without rhyme or reason, broke off the engagement and decided to marry another mate within a short period of time. Thereafter, the abductee's children start having alien encounters, while the non-abductee spouse (or abductee spouse who is in denial) is unbelieving, leaving their marriage partner in emotional isolation. The marriage ended in divorce, either from lack of compatibility, or a combination of things–including alien interference.

Partner in denial

In other cases, both husband and wife may be having alien contacts, while one partner is in denial of what is happening. The marriage may be manipulated such that one partner is switched off (usually after a series of abductions or wave of activity)--leaving the other partner vulnerable for further manipulation by the aliens. (Compound this with the normal temptations of infidelity.) The rejected mate and the "switched off" spouse is then open for another love bite set-up with other partners, if not kept in check. The real culprit is the lack of awareness of how the aliens interfere–and how to combat the effects–before the relationship or

family unit is destroyed.

Some abductees handle the bonding experience well, especially if they are on the non-unrequited end of the love bite, or if the bonding engendered a mutual friendship. But for those who developed a love obsession with a partner and were unable to consummate the love, it is very difficult.

Abusive marriages

Many female abductees have entered into controlling and abusive marriages, ensuring a constant life of victimization and crisis that prevents them from addressing the core issues of abductions. I believe these types of relationship problems are primarily due to unresolved abduction-related psychological issues, other personal family affairs, and direct interference by the alien handlers.

The point I want to make here is that these relationship issues are unique to the abductee population. They need to be addressed as such, taking into consideration the reality of alien abductions. In other words, simply going to counseling, hypnosis, or other psychological therapeutic modes is not fully effective in treating these complex relationships.

In another anonymous case, a married couple went on a camping trip together. Everything was fine in the relationship until after an abduction during the camping trip. Afterwards, the partner who was abducted became emotionally and sexually switched off from their spouse and started using drugs. The substance abuse destroyed the marriage, and abductions increased–further undermining the strength of the marriage and the family unit.

Barbara Bartholic has investigated cases that would shock most researchers–let alone the uninformed mainstream. In fact, there seems to be an unspoken "no talk rule" about the more taboo elements of "negative" abduction reports, especially if shape-shifting reptilian aliens are reported! This serves to maintain the secrecy of alien abductions, forcing many experiencers into the inevitable "Stockholm Syndrome."

Shift in attitudes

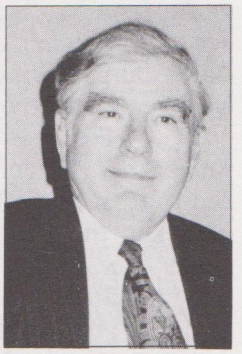
In fact, some therapists and support group facilitators across the country and abroad have admitted to me in private that there appears to be a shift in abductees' attitudes towards alien contact. Many experiencers have accepted the reality of lifelong alien interaction, and may even welcome it. Instead, they choose to focus primarily on the positive aspects of being an experiencer, such as having psychic and spontaneous healing abilities.

The distractions outnumber the nuts and bolts in the UFO abduction phenomena. If we can get through the cloak and dagger confusion that the alien intelligence presents, then perhaps we will find that the very heart of the matter is in the human drama itself.

Filer's Files

By George A. Filer
MUFON Eastern Regional Director,
Majorstar@aol.com (609) 654-0020

Albert M. Chop, deputy public relations director, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and former United States Air Force spokesman for Project Blue Book stated, "I've been convinced for a long time that the flying saucers are real and interplanetary. In other words we are being watched by beings."



George Filer

Kentucky object

Kenny Young reports an unusual "blue-object" was spotted in Northern Kentucky on Dec. 13, 1998. Blue UFOs, suspected black helicopters, power outage and earth tremors were reported in Northern Kentucky Sunday evening. A caller to the Bill Boshears radio program "Sci-Zone," on A.M. Radio 700 WLW, reported visually observing a "blue-colored" object descending from the sky in an area near the Eastgate Mall, located off of Interstate 275 in Clermont County. The caller questioned if the object he observed could have been a meteor. While Pennsylvania researcher Stan Gordon, the guest for the program, listened intently, the caller reported the blue-colored object around 10:35 p.m. during the radio program.

A separate, independent report of a blue-colored object seen near Hopeful-Church Road in Boone County, KY, was received at 12:30 p.m. by telephone from a resident of Florence, KY. This person, whose name will be withheld to honor privacy concerns, left her place of employment near Burlington, KY, at 11 p.m. and was driving home. She had not heard the radio program and is an independent source. While traveling south on Hopeful-Church Road at 11:15 p.m., she reported spotting a large triangular object that seemed to be hovering. The object was composed of very prominent blue lights which blinked or traced in a vertical pattern. This vertical arrangement struck the witness as very unusual. She said that she almost hit a curb while looking at the object. With her car running, she could not discern any noise. She was impressed of a triangular structure behind the lights by discernible against the "skyglow" caused by light pollution in the Florence area, and by a partial luminance of the

(Continued on Page 20)

Ufology Profile

Stan Gordon continues to search

By Dwight Connelly

Thirty-three years ago a 16-year-old kid began an investigation that has yet to see a conclusion. The kid was Stan Gordon, and the incident was the Kecksburg, PA, landing case which he has helped to make famous. Stan was, in fact, already an experienced researcher by the time he began investigating Kecksburg, having started his career in ufology six years earlier at the tender age of 10.

Like many ufologists, he got hooked on the subject after listening to exciting radio programs. This led to trips to the local library by the 10-year-old researcher, then to actually calling up witnesses. Six years later, in December of 1965, came the case that has held Stan's interest to this day–Kecksburg.

"I really wanted to get involved with that case," he explains, "but I didn't get very far then. However, I began to get more and more bits of information on up through the 1980's. In 1987 our ufology display at the Greengate Mall resulted in finding our first primary witness, Jim Romansky, who actually saw the object on the ground before the military came in."

As time passed, more witnesses were found, and Stan recently created a 92-minute VHS video tape documentary which covers Kecksburg in detail (see June 1998 MUFON UFO Journal). However, he says the case is still open, despite the many witnesses which have been located and interviewed. "The paper trail has been well hidden," he notes.

Through the years Stan has investigated numerous cases, including one that had the unusual elements of both a UFO and two "Bigfoot" type creatures (see sidebar article). Some of his early work was with the UFO Research of Pittsburgh organization, an outgrowth of the NICAP group, which also included Stan Friedman. Gordon served as the coordinator for telephone reports, and it was his job to decide if the reports coming in warranted an investigation. Around 1970 this group disbanded, and Stan continued on his own, setting up a UFO hotline.

"There were too many reports to keep up with by myself," he recalls, "so in 1970 I founded the Westmoreland County UFO Study Group." He notes that the group included scientists, law enforcement personnel, and military retirees. In 1975 the organization expanded to become the Pennsylvania Center for UFO Research.

In 1981 Stan formed the Pennsylvania Association for the Study of the Unexplained (PASU). This group included volunteers in many specialties, including scientists, engineers, technicians, law enforcement personnel, and former members of the military. "We had a lot of good equipment," says Stan, "ran a 24-hour operation, and met every month. People didn't get bored." He notes that some people came to meetings as skeptics, but often left as convinced members. This group was active until 1993.

Stan and Debbie Gordon.

Gordon says one of the keys to getting good cooperation from law enforcement personnel is continuous contact and continuous education. "Most police agencies in our area–and sometimes out of the area–automatically call me when there is a report," he notes. "They are glad to have someone to refer cases to."

Stan says he began hearing about abduction cases in the Pittsburgh area in the late 1960's. "The pattern seemed to be landings, being taken aboard, and being questioned," he says, "but I don't recall a lot of physical examinations reported. I do recall at least one case in which a propulsion problem was reported."

Another case that Stan recalls involved a businessman going for parts, then finding himself hours away on the Pennsylvania Turnpike. Under hypnosis he gave a very detailed description of the interior of the craft, the equipment, and symbols observed, from the perspective of where he was lying on a table.

There have also been some physical trace cases, stretching over many years. "There have been some interesting materials left," he notes. "Though man-made, why were they found at these particular

locations?" Other sites have had burn marks. He says a number of these, oval-shaped in this case, were found in Butler County in 1990 in conjunction with witnesses reporting "something strange" in the area. Analysis of one of the sites a week later showed no sign of an accelerant being used. While the investigating team was there, a UFO described as "like a child's top rotating" appeared in the sky, and three people videotaped it. A woman a mile down the road was videotaping it at the same time.

Gordon has also investigated a couple of crop circle cases without reaching any conclusions, "but there were no tracks going in or out of the area."

After nearly forty years of investigating, Stan has not lost his enthusiasm. "UFO investigations have affected every part of my life," he says. "It never stops. Many times I wish I had never heard of UFOs, but ufology is so intriguing and important that I can't stop. I did semi-retire in November of 1993 when I got married, but I got back into it and my wife Debbie is very supportive."

And what has Stan concluded about UFOs after 40 years of investigation? "Well," he says, " I've never seen one myself. It is my feeling that there is more than one source for the UFO sightings which remain in the unexplained category. A small number of these are probably extraterrestrial. Some are likely related to little-known natural phenomena, and there are the high strangeness reports which contain elements of the paranormal and are reported by seemingly responsible individuals."

Gordon reports on case that caused him to reconsider Bigfoot

By Stan Gordon

Twenty five years ago, I was directing the Westmoreland County UFO Study Group based in Greensburg. I had started this volunteer research group in 1970. In 1973 a major UFO wave broke out across the country, and hundreds of sightings were being reported in the Keystone State. Then to make the situation even stranger, sightings of Bigfoot-like creatures began to be reported over a multi-county area in both western and eastern Pennsylvania. These reports continued for several months, then began to slow down.

Reports taken seriously

Interestingly, the media and police agencies for the most part took the reports seriously, and our UFO Hotline number was literally deluged with reports and questions. I had set up a communications center in my home, and we were radio dispatching investigators to the sites as reports were coming in. We were conducting this research around our regular jobs, but in many cases, we had teams on site within minutes to hours after a UFO or creature sighting was reported. But it was one case which occurred that made us aware that there were some aspects of the UFO and Bigfoot mystery that are even stranger than were first apparent.

As I have stated since this event, most unexplained UFO sightings are not reported with Bigfoot encounters. And most sightings of Bigfoot have no association with UFO reports. But here in Pennsylvania we investigated a few cases where both were seen at the same time. In other cases, A UFO would be reported in an area, and soon Bigfoot reports would come from that area, or vise versa.

Cases historically true

What association there exists between the two anomalies, if any, remains open to speculation. I must stress that these cases are historically rare, and some are well documented. It was my position as an investigator to gather the data, and present the information, not to hide the facts that were uncovered because it would cause controversy from both cryptozoologists and ufologists who have their theories as to what these phenomena represent. Briefly, on the night of Oct. 25, 1973, my UFO Hotline was active with UFO reports from around the state. About 10:30 p.m. that evening, I received a call from a state trooper from the Uniontown barracks concerning an incident which he had just returned from investigating. One of those involved was put on the phone for me to interview.

At about 9 p.m. about 15 people had observed a very large red spherical object hovering low in the sky which began to descend towards a pasture. The witness and two boys proceeded up the field and observed a white dome-shaped object on the ground that illuminated the area and was making a loud whirring sound. It was estimated to be about 100 feet in diameter. They were about 250 feet from the object, and about 75 feet from a fence line. Walking along the fence line were two tall figures, 7 to 9 feet tall, covered with hair, with arms hanging down past the knees, and displaying glowing green eyes.

The creatures were fired upon. First tracers were shot overhead, then live ammo was used. The largest of the two creatures turned towards the other, almost touching it, and at the same time the object in the field disappeared, and the sound stopped. The creatures slowly walked towards the woods. One boy had already run home. The other two left the field, went to the farmhouse, moved the family members to a neighbor's home, and called the state police.

A glowing area

When the trooper arrived he and the main witness went to the site, and where the object had landed there was a glowing area that, according to the trooper,

was about 150 feet in diameter. He said he could read a newspaper from the amount of light that it was emitting. The farm animals refused to go into the area. The witness we talked with has always stated that before they left the field, the largest of the two creatures was seen in the woods about 10 feet from them, and he shot at it and it struck the fence that stood between them.

Later that night our team arrived in the area. Radiation levels were normal, and the glowing area was now gone, but animals still wouldn't go near the spot. Strange events began to occur during the early morning hours in this dark, secluded location.

Farmhouse lights up

A farmhouse several hundred feet from us was seen by some in the party to suddenly light up like daylight for several seconds. A bull in the field and a dog seemed unconcerned about us, and were looking into the woods. The main witness, a rather large individual, while being questioned suddenly began to growl, throwing his father and my assistant, George Lutz, towards the ground. The man ran into the field growling like an animal and emitting screams, one which was near innuman. His own dog approached him as to attack, then ran off whimpering. The man suddenly collapsed onto the ground. Then two of my team members began to complain that they were having trouble breathing.

Suddenly the air was filled with a strong odor that can best be described as rotten eggs. The man, as he came out of what appeared to be an almost trance-like state, began talking about visions he saw about the end of the world, etc. Not knowing what could happen next, we helped each other back to our vehicles. It was apparent that professional help was required in this case, and eminent psychiatrist Berthold E. Schwarz was contacted. Dr. Schwarz traveled to Pennsylvania at his own expense and interviewed all of those involved, including the eyewitnesses and the state trooper.

The follow-up

There is much more detail to this case, and I spent years following the life of the principal involved. There were many paranormal events which reportedly occurred in the years following this episode. And many years later, in a follow-up interview, an MIB event associated with the case was revealed.

For a more detailed account of the case see Dr. Schwarz's article, "Berserk," in *Flying Saucer Review*, Vol. 20, No. 1 (Jan-Feb, 1974), or "An Encounter in Fayette County" in *True Tales of the Unknown*, Vol.II, published by Bantam Books, November, 1989.

This was a well-documented event involving numerous individuals who had no interest in the unusual. If you are aware of any similar cases please contact me. Please check out my website at www.westol.com/~paufo

The UFO PRESS

***The UFO Anthology*, Volume One, CD-ROM, Dreamland Interactive, $34.95.**

Reviewed by Dwight Connelly

This is an easy-to-use, general introduction and reference CD which is decidedly pro-UFO, pro-animal mutilation ties with UFOs, pro-government coverup, pro-abduction, etc. While the disk can be run on computers without sound capability, this is not advisable.

Those expecting to find as much on this six-hour CD as one would find in, say, Jerome Clark's *The UFO Book* will be disappointed, though the trek through the CD will probably be more fun. There is a wealth of photos and a fair amount of editorial material, all enhanced with special effects and sound.

Access to the material is through a pyramid system of choices. The first thing to greet users is a triangular UFO with three light beams: one for the Introduction by retired Command Sgt. Maj. Robert O. Dean, one for "How to use this disk," and the third for the actual anthology.

In using the anthology, you first click on a broad topic, such as UFO Descriptions, UFO History, UFOs Worldwide, U.S. Government, Crop Circles, Abductions, or Mutilations. Then you go to a sub-topic, such as (in UFOs Worldwide) Brazil, Ireland, United States, etc. As another example, you can move from the general topic of Abductions to the specific topic of Famous Abductions (Antonio Villa Boas, Betty and Barney Hill, the Anders Case, Patrolman Shirmer, Travis Walton, Kathie Davis, Betty Andreasson, and Linda Cortile).

Some viewers might quarrel with the selection of the specific eight "famous" abduction cases, wondering why their favorite case, such as Pascagoula, was not there. In Clark's 705-page *The UFO Book*, for example, there are 15 abduction cases. Overall, however, this CD covers a great deal of material–though not in much depth. There are references to various printed materials at the end of the presentations, so those looking for more information have a place to go.

Among those involved in this production are Colin Andrews, Yvonne Smith, Dr. Richard Haines, Dr. Roger Leir, Jaime Maussan, Prof. Sun Shi Li, Jaime Rodreguez, Jorge Martin, Linda Moulton Howe, and Peter Sorenson. Additional volumes are apparently planned, but there is no indication of how they might work in conjunction with this one.

Malta UFO roundup

By John J. Mercieca and Walt Andrus

John J. Mercieca, MUFON Representative for Malta and member of the Malta UFO Research organization, has shared the organization's UFO file, starting with a June 18, 1845, sighting and extending to Sept. 13, 1998. Each of the sightings has been entered into their computer data base from the three major islands that compose the state of Malta in the Mediterranean Sea. It would not be feasible to publish all of the full reports in the *Journal.* However, some of the more interesting UFO sighting reports have been screened for publication.

18 June, 1845. Witnesses: Sailors of the ship "Victoria"; location: Latitude 36, 40'56"N, Longitude 13, 44'36"E. Source: *The Malta Times,* 18 June, 1845. The ship "Victoria" was 900 miles from Adalia, Turkey, when the crew spotted three white objects coming out of the sea about half a mile from the ship. These objects were watched for about 10 minutes by numerous sailors. (Report of the British Association, 1861, page 30) The coordinates given are actually in Maltese waters.

Summer 1947. Witnesses: Pawlu Zammit and others; location: 20 miles south of Malta; Object: Black Submarine. Fishermen on a boat 20 miles south of Malta were raising their nets with a catch of fish when they saw an object floating on the water's surface. The fishermen were frightened because they thought it looked more like a monster than a submarine, so they quickly pulled their nets and started the boat's engine. At that moment a bright light from the "submarine" lit up the whole area and "little men" began running over the deck of the object. The fishermen couldn't make out much detail from their boat, but whenever the light illuminated the "little men" they could see some sort of apparatus around their waist. When the witness was asked how tall these men were, he replied, "About the size of a 10-year-old boy." After a few minutes, the "little men" entered the "submarine" which began to glow so brightly that the fishermen couldn't see the object. It then submerged.

25 June 1977. Witnesses: Raymond De Giovanni and Charles Mamo. Location: On a boat in the Grand Harbour, Malta. The first ever photos of a UFO taken by a Maltese. The photos show two bright luminous objects which seem to move at great speeds, enough to leave bright, zig-zagging streaks on film taken at 1/250th of a second shutter speed. These photographs were published in the newspaper, *It-Torca.* Source: *The Times of Malta.*

6 May 1996. Witness: J. J. Mercieca (myself); Location: Mriehel Bypass (near Qormi); Object: cylinder shape; Sound: too far off to hear anything. At 12:20 p.m. (noon), I noticed an "aircraft" in the sky in the direction of Qormi. What caught my eye was the seemingly bright sun's reflection off the fuselage, which was blinding when looked at directly. The reflection dimmed in a couple of seconds as if the "aircraft" was banking and suddenly the "plane" was not there anymore! It just blinked out! The sky was cloudless, so it couldn't have flown into a cloud. The object was roughly 2 cm long at arm's length.

27 September 1996 Witnesses: Mario Borg and family; Location: "West side of Malta"; Object: Red and orange cylinder; Sound: none. At 6:15 p.m., Mario Borg was out on the balcony feeding his birds when he looked up and saw a red and orange cylinder (approximately 1 foot long, but distance to the object remains unknown). The object stayed still for about 10 minutes and then slowly faded while leaving a zig-zag line.

13 September 1998. Witnesses: Joseph Farrugia, wife and children; Location: Blue Lagoon, Comino. Object: Three orange flashing lights: Sound: none. Joseph Farrugia, his wife and children were on their boat near the Blue Lagoon near the small island of Comino when they saw three flashing orange lights in the shape of a triangle. The lights remained stationary for five minutes and then disappeared. The time of the sighting was roughly 7 p.m.

Some of the long narrative reports have not been published due to space limitations in the *Journal.* The Mutual UFO Network expresses its appreciation to Mr. Mercieca for allowing MUFON to file his submitted UFO sighting reports for Malta. As an international organization, we need more sightings from foreign countries investigated by our Foreign Representatives and National Directors.

Photos of recently appointed State Directors

Counter-clockwise from the right:
Kenneth E. Cherry, TX
Mark D. Gilley, TN
Scott R. Voight, KY

MUFON FORUM
Letters to *Mufon UFO Journal*

The Ramey letter

I am the director of one of the computer labs at Eastern New Mexico University/Roswell campus, and am a Research Specialist for MUFON. With the aid of computer hardware and software, I have been working on the "Ramey letter" problem, and think I should pass along at least some partial and tentative, but potentially important, results. (A portion of the letter is printed at the bottom of this page.)

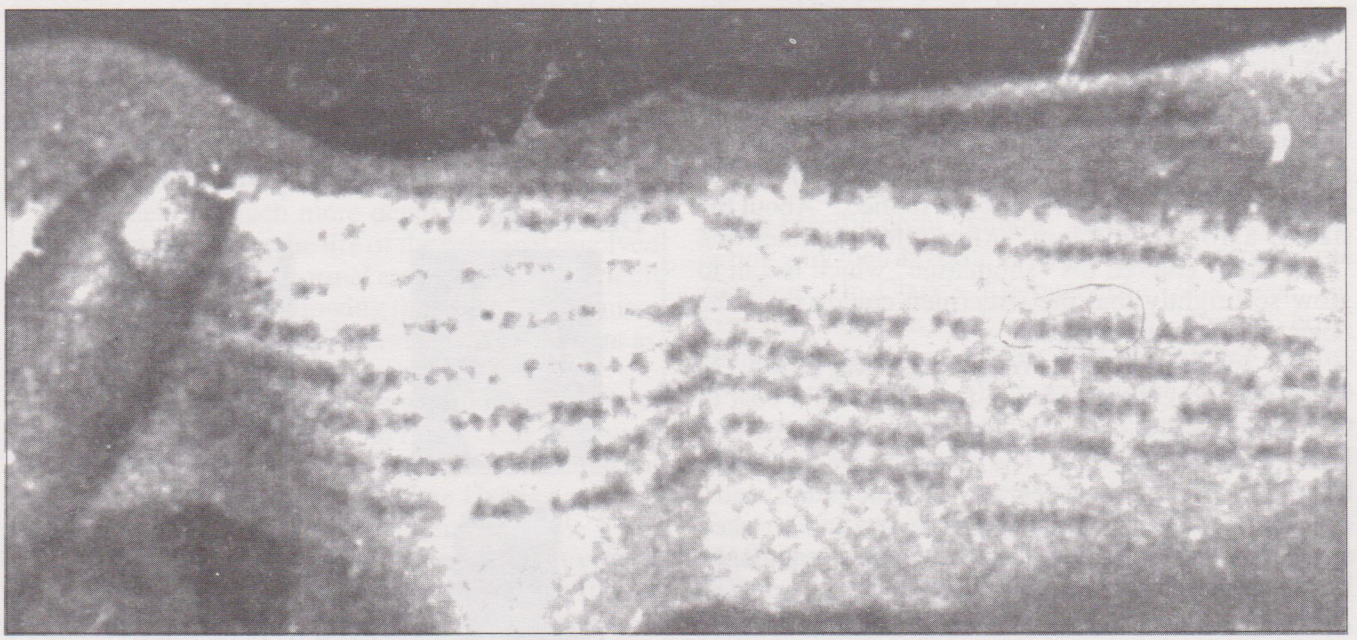
Using (so far) two different image-enhancement software packages, I have been able to look at the image both on-screen and in laser printouts, and have been able to try many different combinations of light/dark, contrast, size, image stretching, zooming, negativizing, and the like. To date I have been able to corroborate most of the Filer transcription given in the November 1998 issue of the *Journal,* with one possibly significant difference.

Where the Filer transcription gives (on the same line with "DISK") the reading AT 0984, some of the 70-or-so different printouts I have produced seem to show a different result. First, the 8 is just about certainly a 4, and I make the most likely reading of the four-digit sequence as 0940, though at best some of these digits are less than clear. It appears that there is a hyphen immediately in front of them that has been missed. Further, the Filer reading gives AT for the two-character sequence preceding, but in some of my printouts there is considerable doubt about the A, and in fact some printouts suggest an intriguing alternative: in some versions, if one uses a magnifying glass, the letter may well be an M. The second letter in the sequence in any case looks, under magnification, like a J, and if this whole sequence really says something like MJ-0940, I scarcely need point out that it would raise some interesting questions about when and how Truman put the whole "Majestic" structure together. (Have a look at the much-disputed Majestic briefing document and you will note a reference to a contingency designation MJ-1949-04P/78, so that the MJ+four-digit configuration perhaps has good precedent.)

The line above "DISK" appears to say THE VICTIMS OF THE (as in the Filer transcription) with a five-character group following what looks like MAJ(something)(something). It looks like MAJOR, but I can't see what sense that would make in context.

At the beginnings of the line including "DISK," right up next to Gen. Ramey's now famous thumb, there appears to be a word starting with M and perhaps containing SS; with a little stretch it might say MESSAGE, for example. Then it's ON THE "DISK" (ON could conceivably be IN) and the words following appear to be something like MUST HAVE SENT THE. At that point we're back up to what might or might not say MJ-0940.

In these imagings of the crucial letter, the A-versus-M question is tricky at best (it's the light



Extreme enlargement of a portion of the Ramey letter, as provided by Dr. Donald R. Burleson.

part rather than the dark that looks like M), and I would say, having worked on the whole problem for hundreds of hours by now, that (1) short of using exceedingly sophisticated software (e.g. fast Fourier transform algorithms, the sort of thing one would presumably find in, say, an FBI lab), we are all going to continue to have serious problems reading this thing; and (2) it's going to take many people trying many different approaches to get, eventually, a reliable reading overall.

But we have to get one. As I see it, this is turning out to be the most important problem anyone in the field of UFO studies has ever worked on.

Donald R. Burleson, Ph.D.

Pine Bush revisited

I was surprised when several people called to tell me I was in a current article on Pine Bush in the MUFON Journal—let alone a positive one. My only problem with the article is the wrong and outdated information put forth by Scott C. Carr--as well-intended as it may have been:

(1) My talk show career was far from short-lived and is far from over. Between 1987 and 1996, I appeared on Geraldo, People Are Talking, Joan Rivers (twice), Larry King, Sonja Live, Sightings (now out on video tape), Encounters, Strange Universe, Dennis Wholley, appeared in a Japanese documentary on UFOs (NIPPON TV), and there are others I'm probably leaving out. I've been on at least 300 radio talk shows, including Radio Free Europe. I've been written about in the *New York Times* and many other newspapers and magazines. I'd hardly call this having my book, *Silent Invasion*, fall on "deaf ears," as Carr writes. The only deaf people have been in the UFO community–a small number considering the vast population on this planet.

(2) Carr writes, "As of January of this year [1998], sky watching has been banned in Orange County [NY]. Though the legalities of this are uncertain ... apparently anyone found guilty of trespassing or parking with the intention of "sky watching" will be subject to incarceration and/or fine. Many of the researchers have moved their efforts to ... Wanaque, NJ ... and have dubbed it The New Pine Bush."

I don't know where Carr got this information, but it is wrong. There is no such law in Orange County–a huge county north of NYC. Pine Bush is one tiny little town in it. Anyone trespassing on private property was, and still is, always subject to the owner's whims–as it is across America. Pine Bush police tell me there is still an onslaught of UFO watchers from all over the world coming to the town, and they direct them toward the proper streets. Many police officers on and off-duty pull over to "sky watch," and they encourage people to do it safely–and to let the police know if you are having a sighting so they can see it.

I already have extensive evidence that most of the operation has been pulled underground and have most of a second book finished.

Ellen Crystall, Ph.D.

Scott Carr replies:

The information concerning the skywatching restrictions were taken from reports and personal experience. As noted in the article, I questioned the actual legality of what I and others saw taking place around us in Pine Bush in 1998.

Connection between ME and Aliens?

I am about to begin researching what I believe may be a possible connection between "Myalgic Encephalomyelitis" (Chronic Fatigue Syndrome) & Alien abductions.

I am employed as entertainer/marketing manager/Project Launch Leisure Industry and also a contributing writer For *Alien Encounters* magazine UK (now defunct). I have been a UFO researcher for 10 years and have had an interest in the subject since sighting a craft at age 9. I previously requested via the Internet that those interested in taking part in this cuurent project contact me, and Katharina Wilson has expressed an interest. Her input is valued and most welcome, as well as a number of others.

Over the past two years I have lent a friendly ear to a 32-year-old female abductee from the UK who, as well as having a long history of other medical problems, has been diagnosed with M.E. (Chronic Fatigue Syndrome). Even more interesting is that she is part of a 20-member abductee group who meet once a month in London. These people are a fair cross-section of the population, and travel from all around the country to the meetings. The other day I was interested to learn that out of the 20 members of the group, 14 have been medically diagnosed with Myalgic Encephalomyelitis.

As this 70% figure is extremely high, this must warrant further study. If any good is to come from this study, it is required that my investigation be meticulous in the way in which I gather the data and analyse it. I will endeavor to employ the help of professionals.

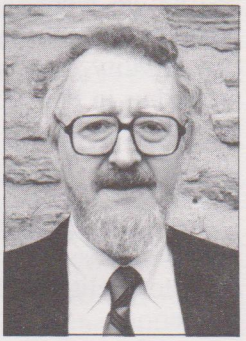
I am open to suggestions. I feel that 500 to 1000 abductees globally would have to submit data to provide an accurate study. Comments and help in this investigation would be greatly appreciated.

Max Burns
AlienHype1@aol.com

Perspectives

Richard H. Hall

This issue is particularly impressive, touching as it does on all the significant areas of serious UFO research and, mercifully, containing very little on the "sociological" side. The focus on hard-core science and research includes investigation of data, methodology, investigative standards, real experimental science, and professional ethics.



Richard Hall

In order to make a point, I will comment on the content of this issue out of order, instead in the sequence standard to scientific inquiry. First of all, we have the basic "data": UFO sighting reports as represented in Filer's File. Although not all cases have been investigated, it is important to know as accurately as possible what people are reporting. Dan Wright discusses the importance of following up with meticulous investigation, which I strongly endorse. The field investigation component of MUFON, though sometimes unsung, is absolutely vital, and Dan sets an important standard for methodology. The people who do this work deserve recognition.

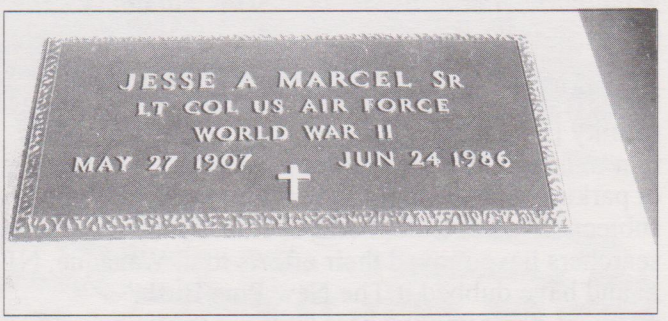
Then there are abduction reports, which for the most part are very difficult to investigate scientifically and which contain strong subjective elements that can elude "hard" science and make it nearly impossible to find final answers. But, they CAN be studied scientifically in terms of attempting to verify the physical reality of the reported events. Several entirely meaningful avenues of approach are possible, and here I agree wholeheartedly with the main thrust of Katharina Wilson's article. Although the idea of "morning after" medical tests is complicated by the fact of delayed recall in many cases, such tests are greatly to be desired when possible.

Roger Leir's work, if monitored by objective parties and subjected to standard peer review, adds very important experimental science with the potential to provide real proof. Dr. Leir's book, reviewed in model fashion by Dwight Connelly, is an unorthodox approach to making laboratory analysis results available for other scientists and medical professionals to review, but given the prejudices against UFOs in the scientific community, finding a mainline scientific journal to publish the results probably is out of the question. Until mainline scientists become aware of serious scientific evidence, however, their prejudices will remain intact and only "believers" will take the findings seriously. It is a vicious circle. Some way needs to be found to reach the scientific community.

Having been X-rayed probably a near world record number of times, and having had surgery several times, I was puzzled by the number of medical personnel needed by Dr. Leir and the extensive shielding required for such a relatively simple operation. Both seemed excessive, but perhaps that is related to the particular jurisdiction in question.

Joe Lewels rightly emphasizes the ethical issues, especially the importance of keeping the abductee's welfare uppermost in mind. Many of us have observed that standard scientific investigation methods do not apply well to abduction cases; a teamwork approach combining therapeutic support, scientific analysis, and detective work is required.

Then there is the controversy surrounding the work of Dr. Duke. Mr. Jordan is entitled to his opinion and I am entitled to mine. Neither of our opinions matters that much. Peer review is the required scientific method for resolving such controversy, and that is what I advocated. I also feel that MUFON consultants ought to review Dr. Duke's work and report on it in the *Journal.* Then we might be closer to doing some real science in regard to his claims.



MUFON member Hayes Marcel, a nephew of Lt. Col. Jesse A. Marcel, Sr., has advised that a new bronze marker has been placed on Col. Marcel's grave at the Matherne Cemetery in Houma, LA. The government had failed to place a marker on the grave as promised, so another nephew, Issac Savoie, purchased the marker and had it installed after a 12-year delay to mark the final resting place of one of the important participants in the Roswell incident.

Case of the Month

By Dan Wright
Deputy Director, Investigations

The report of a lighted object over a 24-hour period on Aug. 28-29, 1998, in Yuma, AZ, was reminiscent of too many sent to me for review a decade ago. According to the field investigator trainee, several witnesses in and near the city, including two police officers and the trainee herself, observed the anomalous vehicle (possibly separate objects, given certain discrepancies in the descriptions) over two nights, both hovering and moving about for up to an hour at a time.

Dan Wright

With proper investigative follow-up, this might have proved to be one of the most important cases of the year. However, the case report consisted of only brief second- and third-hand entries attributed to each witness. There was no mention that personal interviews were conducted. No sighting forms were completed. Air traffic control personnel were apparently not contacted, nor was a request made for the police officers' incident report.

State MUFON officers presumably remained unaware of the events, so they did not step in to help. As importantly, the write-up illustrated an absence of training in essential investigative procedures and report preparation. In short, an opportunity was lost. While no one did anything wrong, not enough was done right. Thus, the case report must be listed as incomplete and not entered in our computer catalog.

In contrast, the basics of investigative effort have certainly not been lost on field investigator John Thompson of La Grange, GA. From a three-second sighting that others might well have passed off as not worth their time, he developed a credible argument for the appearance of a daylight disc.

In the early afternoon of Sept. 25, 1998, a man was adjusting a ladder along the exterior of a house near Reel Town, AL. Directly overhead he happened to notice a shiny metallic object, probably oval in shape, at extreme altitude (estimated two to three times that of commercial air traffic) in a nearly cloudless sky. The wingless object streaked westward. In those few seconds, covering 60 degrees of arc before nearby trees obscured his view. With a one-eighth-inch apparent size at arm's length, its actual length may have been hundreds of feet. John interviewed the witness three days later, judging him to be articulate, serious-minded, and believable. A written account and Form 1 were completed that day.

For many investigators that would have been sufficient, but John had only begun. He e-mailed NORAD and wrote to the public information office at Maxwell Air Force Base in search of a very-high-altitude aircraft. [Neither had replied as of the case report writing.] He contacted the Auburn, AL, airport, which confirmed that no westward traffic was in the area at that time. A local radio station was contacted but had no other witness reports.

Not yet done, John communicated with three professional astronomers for their assessments. One in particular indicated that no visible meteor in bright daylight conditions had been reported in over two decades, that if this ***were*** one the astronomical community would have been abuzz. The other astronomers discounted the notion of a satellite (likewise not visible in daylight) and an atmospheric balloon, given the great velocity described.

John's case report was prepared "by the book," i.e., offering witness background and detailing his investigative activities, not glossing over his unsuccessful inquiries to the military, yet offering a sober appraisal why this was likely something out of the ordinary. Walter Sheets, state director for MUFON of Georgia, reviewed the case report and found it to be complete and compelling as written. So do I.

When we step back from those enormous (abduction case) trees before us and look at the entire forest, it becomes clear that all incidents of genuine UFOs are really of equal value. For each is one solid link in a chain of intrusive events.

We might soon learn of a close encounter involving an ovular craft on the day of 9/25/98. In that circumstance, this "lightweight" sighting will become heavy indeed.

Encyclopedia of UFOs contributions

Ronald Story, compiler/editor of the Encyclopedia of UFOs, reports that he has received 50 confirmed contributions thus far for the updated, expanded version which he plans to publish in the year 2000.

He is accepting cases, features, photos, and biographies from contributors. Guidelines are available from him at P.O. Box 58228, Tukwila Station, Seattle, WA 98138-1228. e-mail: storys@23worldnet.att.net

Filer's Files...

(Continued from Page 11)

body due to the blue lights reflecting from its surface. She thought white lights may have also been present, and is most confident that this object was not a helicopter. Further, she claims to readily recognize all commercial air traffic, living under a north-south runway for Greater Cincinnati-Northern Kentucky International Airport in Erlanger.

She speculated that this object could have been a military airplane, but doesn't know why it would seem to hover with blue lights. She added that the object departed at a low elevation to the south-east, in proximity to the airport, but not along a flight-path to approach the runway. Special note: CINERGY (Cincinnati Gas and Electric) explained the reason for numerous 1995 power failures. The categories were: Equipment Failure, Animal (squirrel chews through line), Weather Related, Automotive (car hits a pole), and UNKNOWN. A sizable portion of unknowns were relegated to failures that "happen mostly at night." Thanks to Kenny Young — UFO Research http://home.fuse.net/ufo

Arkansas triangle

WEST MEMPHIS—Joe Trainor describes a triangle UFO sighting in Arkansas. The sighting report, forwarded by Michael J. Long of Mississippi UFO Files, reads:

On Sunday, Nov. 29, 1998, at 7:55, a witness who asked to remain anonymous "was at my brother's yard" in West Memphis, Ark. "when I looked up and saw a triangle-shaped craft flying just above the tree tops. I got a good look at it because the streetlights were shining on the bottom of the shiny silver craft. It had dim yellow lights on each corner. It was flying horizontal to the ground, and then the nose of it rose to a 45-degree angle, and it kept flying straight ahead. The craft then turned sharply to the left and disappeared behind the tree line." Trainor says the man added that within minutes "several low-flying planes began circling" the area "for 30 seconds, and then they left also," 12/7/98, UFO Roundup Vol. 3 #49, Joe Trainor editor, (Masinaigan@aol.com)

Canadian phenomena

LAKE ONTARIO—"ORBWATCH" is the name of a group of "observers" who are currently monitoring the anomalous phenomena in the area of the western end of Lake Ontario, Southern Ontario, Canada. These phenomena comprise: Unexplained aerial activity in the form of "Nocturnal Lights" which have been seen moving over the water's surface, hovering and often submerging. At times these lights have also been seen moving under the water surface and reemerging. Unexplained aerial activity in the form of "Diurnal Lights" which seemingly "appear from nowhere" and are just "there."

Excellent photographs have been taken in recent months of the orbs, and the site was last updated on Nov. 25, 1998. They often remain in a certain spot, change shape, luminosity, height, width, and, at times, appear to have some form of solid object within the light itself. Sometimes these objects appear fifty feet above the surface. Thanks to Orbwatch at: http://www.per.to/orbwatch/

Australian 'Ezekiel's wheel'

A message dated Dec. 10, 1998, from Ross Dowe of the Australia National UFO Hotline reads: The Hotline has been very busy taking sighting reports from most parts of Australia over the last 48 hours. UFO reports are coming from Melbourne, Victoria; Perth, Western Australia; Darwin, Northern Territory; Brisbane, Queensland; Canberra, Australian Capital; and Albury, New South Wales. All these reports are similar in nature. Respondents are claiming that they have sighted a very large black or dark triangular shaped object with an illuminated array underneath, descriptive of "Ezekiel's wheel." The UFO was seen standing still, rotating, and moving slowly passing overhead. Ross Dowe (ippoz@eisa.net.au)

Pennsylvania light hovers

A witness has reported an incident which she claims occurred at about 6:30 a.m. on the morning of Dec. 14, 1998. The location of the sighting is about 10 miles from the city of Erie, and about a mile from the lake shore. The observer was unloading some items from her car when she was startled to see a bright white light with a tail that appeared to pass low directly over her head. The object was moving from N. to S. and no sound was apparent.

The object continued to move to a distance of about 30 feet and stopped directly above the roof of her home. It then appeared as a solid round white light and was motionless. It then began a pattern of blinking off, then blinking on (in about one second intervals) several times. The witness became frightened at this point and ran inside, and that was the last the object was observed. The observation was short lived, with all activity occurring during the several seconds of observation.

The observer's first impression was that she was watching a meteor streak through the sky, until it stopped just above her house. The witness was still bothered by the observation several days after the event. –Thanks to Stan Gordon at www.westol.com/~paufo

READER'S CLASSIFIEDS

JOURNEY TOWARD MILLENNIUM
March 19-21, 1999,
Pensacola Beach, FL
Gulf Breeze UFO Conference

Hear famous sons Edgar Cayce, Jr. and Philip Corso, Jr., plus Whitley Strieber, Michael Lindemann, Bob Oeschsler, Linda Howe, Prudence Calabrese, and Nancy Talbott. Check out www.projectawareness.com or call 850-432-8888 for your free program guide or write P.O. Box 730, Gulf Breeze, FL 32562. Cocoa Beach, FL.

THE ANDERSON LEGACY

Ray Fowler's latest book *The Andreasson Legacy* (UFOs and the Paranormal: The startling conclusion of the Andreasson Affair), hardback (463 pages) personally autographed, is now available from MUFON for $24.95, P&H included. Send orders with check, postal money order, or cash to MUFON, 103 Oldtowne Rd. Seguin, Texas 78155. (For orders in U.S.A. only)

MUFON 1998 UFO SYMPOSIUM PROCEEDINGS

Published papers by twelve speakers at Denver, Co. (192 pages) $25 plus $1.75 for postage and handling. Order from MUFON, 103 Oldtown Rd., Seguin, TX 78155-4099.

FREE

7 fantastic UFO magazines, large source packet when purchasing book *Around and About The Saucer World* only $8.99. UAPA-A, Box 347032, Cleveland, Ohio 44134

CRYPTOCOSMICA
1011010111 – 100101 – 101000100111 ...

I would like to find out more about the origin, the meaning and the implications of this sequence of binary digits, and would be grateful for any help. Please contact Robert Ash, 30 rue Verlaine, 54000 Nancy, France.

FREE

7 classic UFO magazines, large collectors edition source packet, all with a 4 issue subscription to *Flying Saucer Digest*, $9.99. Box 347032, Cleveland, Ohio 44134

CASH-LANDRUM UFO INCIDENT

Three Texans are injured during an encounter with a ***UFO and Military Helicopters*** by John F. Schuessler, 323 page softcover book now available from MUFON, 103 Oldtowne Rd., Seguin, TX 78155 for $19.95 plus $2 for postage and handling.

THE EXCYLES

Mia Adam's true story about her contacts with ET's & romance with intelligence agent. Included is the agent's report outlining the agendas of alien confederations on Earth & intelligence agencies network created to deal with them. Send $16.95 + $2.95 s/h to: Excelta Publishing, P.O. Box 4530, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33338. (Credit Card orders - Toll Free 1-800-247-6553, $16.95 + $3.95 s/h)

MUFON MERCHANDISE

Wear official MUFON T-Shirts (royal blue printing on white cotton), sizes: S, M, L, & XL. Two styles of baseball caps (blue with white logo or dark blue with blue logo on white front). T-shirt price $12.00 and baseball caps $8.00 S/H for each is $3.00 or if both ordered together is only $3.00. MUFON, 103 Oldtowne Rd., Seguin, Texas 78155-4099. (Check, money order or cash in U.S. dollars).

PA UFO CRASH/RETRIEVAL
92-Minute Video Documentary

You've heard about Roswell, now learn startling new details about what happened in PA in 1965. Researcher Stan Gordon has produced ***"Kecksburg, The Untold Story."*** Call: ***1-888-UFO-VIEW:*** $29.95+ $5.95 shipping and handling (PA residents add applicable sales tax.) Was there a coverup?· ***www.westol.com/~paufo***

BOOK FOR SALE

"Survive the Polar Shift in the Year 2000, and we have the Skeleton of an Alien! Aliens are Real!" Send M.O. or check for $25.00 to Mike Coonrod, P.O. Box 1136, Talihina, OK 74571. $30.00 for orders outside U.S.A.

MUFON Merchandise

Official MUFON gift items for sale. Ceramic mugs with blue logo - $8.00, Ten inch diameter, battery operated wall clock with logo in black on white face - $15.00. S/H for each is $3.50. MUFON, 103 Oldtowne Rd., Seguin, Texas 78155-4099. (Check, money order or cash in U.S. dollars.)

UFOMANIA

The best UFO book to come along in years. With 7 classic UFO magazines, source packet, only $7.95. UAPA-U, Box 347032, Cleveland, Ohio 44134

YOUR AD HERE

Reach more than 4,000 readers and fellow ufologists. Promote your personal publications, products, research projects, local meetings or pet peeves here. Fifty words or less only $20 per issue. Add $10 for box and bold heading. Send ad copy and check, made out to MUFON, to Walt Andrus, MUFON, 103 Oldtowne Rd., Seguin, TX 78155-4099. Must be MUFON member or *MUFON UFO Journal* subscriber to advertise.

The NIGHT SKY
Walter N. Webb

February 1999

Bright Planets (Evening Sky):

Venus and Jupiter, the two brightest objects in the night sky after the Moon, approach each other during the month and appear to almost merge to the naked eye on the 23rd at dusk–a spectacular sight! (Just days prior, on the 18th, the crescent Moon joins the pair.) Though both planets stand out in the WSW, Venus (at magnitude -3.9) is about 5 times brighter than Jupiter (-2.1). Below and to the right of the two objects, look for the planet Mercury. And higher in the SW can be seen Saturn. All 4 planets can be viewed together at twilight from late February to early March.

Mars (0.2), moving from Virgo to Libra, rises in the E about 11 PM in midmonth. It rises 3 degrees below the Moon on the 6th.

Saturn (0.3), in Pisces, rides high in the SW at dusk. The ringed world sets in the W about 10:30 PM in mid-February.

Bright Planets (Morning Sky):

Mars stands about 30 degrees above the SSW horizon at dawn.

Moon Phases:

Last quarter--Feb. 8 ◑

New moon--Feb. 16 ●

(No full moon this month)

First quarter--Feb. 22 ◐

The Stars:

The brilliant bluish-white star Sirius appears due S at 9 PM (mid-February) and thus is at its highest altitude above the horizon. Also dominating the southern sky are Orion the Hunter and the Winter Circle.

In the NE Ursa Major the Great Bear, which contains the more easily seen Big Dipper, climbs the heavens.

A very early hint that spring isn't far off: Leo the Lion, the celestial symbol of spring, has already appeared above the E horizon by midevening. Between the Sickle of Leo and the Twin Stars of Gemini, look for a very dim patch of light. Requiring a clear dark sky without interference from lights, this little blur is resolved with the aid of binoculars or a telescope into a wedge-shaped cluster of stars in Cancer the Crab called the Beehive.

Observers in the southern states (below 38 degrees latitude) can now see the two brightest nighttime stars together. Sirius, the brighter at magnitude -1.5, and Canopus (-0.7) lie one above the other and separated by only 37 degrees.

CALENDAR

February 21-27, 1999, 8th Annual International UFO Congress Convention and Film Festival in Laughlin, Nevada. For information contact: 9975 Wadsworth Pkwy #K2-274, Westminister, CO. 80021. Phone (303) 643-9443, FAX (303) 543-8667.

March 19-21, Journey Toward Millennium, Gulf Breeze UFO Conference, Pensacola Beach, Florida. Check out www.projectawareness.com or call 850-432-8888 for free program guide or write P.O. Box 730, Gulf Breeze, FL 32562.

April 9-11, 11th Annual Ozark UFO Conference, Inn of the Ozarks, Eureka Springs, Arkansas. For details write to: Ozark UFO, 2 Caney Valley Drive, Plumerville, AR 72127-8725. E-mail inquires to: *ozarkufo@webtv.net*

July 2-4, 30th Annual MUFON 1999 International UFO Symposium at Hyatt Regency Crystal City Hotel, in Arlington, Virginia near Reagan National Airport. Hosted by Northern Virginia MUFON. (For details see Director's Message.)

Director's Message...

(continued from page 24)

cash plus $100 in MUFON publications or merchandise. Please submit entries to Walt Andrus, the *Symposium Proceedings* co-editor. The deadline for cover designs is April 1, 1999.

NOMINATIONS FOR WESTERN REGIONAL DIRECTOR

The term of Mrs. **Marilyn H. Childs**, M.S. (Bothell, WA) as the Western Regional Director will expire in 1999. Marilyn and her husband Larry provided the leadership for the very successful MUFON 1995 UFO Symposium in Seattle, WA. Through her many contacts, Marilyn has been instrumental in promoting MUFON in the public education areas. She will not run for a second term because of the need to be gainfully employed again. MUFON will regretfully miss her talent on the Board of Directors.

Candidates for this important Board of Directors position could be past or present State Directors, Assistant State Directors, or State Section Directors, where they have secured leadership training within the MUFON organization. Potential nominations could also come from individuals who feel they are qualified and interested in serving MUFON and their fellow members in this vital capacity. A candidate must reside in one of the following states to be eligible: MT, WY, CO, NM, ID, UT, AZ, NV, WA, OR, CA, AK and HI.

If nominating a friend or colleague, you must obtain the permission of the candidate and his/her assurance that he/she will accept the responsibilities of the position if elected.

Candidates must mail a letter, stating their reasons for desiring this post and their qualifications, to **Walt Andrus** before Jan. 30, 1999.

An election will be conducted by mail (through a ballot insert in the March 1999 *MUFON UFO Journal* to all current members in the above listed states.

Since this is only one of four Board of Directors elected by the membership, it is imperative that all eligible members participate and vote in the election.

NEW DEPUTY DIRECTOR INVESTIGATIONS

State/Provincial directors should now send their processed UFO sighting reports to **Dan R. Wright** at 3628 Aragon Dr., Lansing, MI 48906 instead of **T. David Spencer.** Dan's telephone number is (517) 327-8266.

FUNDS NEEDED FOR MUFON UFO MUSEUM

In 1994, when the Bigelow Foundation was providing financial help to all three members of the UFO Research Coalition, MUFON obligated itself to initiate specific new programs that we could not have financed otherwise. One of these was the MUFON UFO INFORMATION CENTER AND MUSEUM, located in an office complex on the main north-south highway Bypass 123 through Seguin, TX. This is a separate facility only a few blocks from MUFON's business office at 103 Oldtowne Road.

The fundamental purpose of the "UFO Information Center" is public education for the general public and media, as well as UFO aficionados. This is the only UFO museum in the United States east of Roswell, NM. MUFON members from coast to coast and border to border have visited the museum, including visitors from eight different countries. We do not charge admission, but solicit donations only. Obviously, the donations do not cover the monthly rent of $350 for the 500 square foot facility.

After the museum was assembled in 1994, Bob Bigelow abruptly withdrew his financial support in July 1995, leaving MUFON with an additional expenditure that exceeds our annual budget. Even though our information center and museum is very attractive and popular, it does not approach the tens of thousands of people who tour the International UFO Museum and Research Center in Roswell–and their donations.

Over the years MUFON has received donations that are I.R.S. tax deductible for the donor in their annual income tax report. These gifts are very much appreciated; however, they are far from adequate to cover the annual rent of $4200 for the museum. MUFON has never before in its nearly thirty years of operation ever solicited funds from our members to support projects. In order to keep the doors open at our museum, so as to continue to educate the public, we are taking this occasion to ask for donations.

Those of you who have visited our museum recognize its importance and the unique displays. We have had photographs in the *MUFON UFO Journal* for those of you who haven't had the privilege of seeing this one-of-a-kind unique display. The MUFON office acknowledges all donations or gifts of any size with a letter that you can attach as evidence to your annual income tax statement.

If you want to see our UFO Information Center and Museum continue to share its displays, exhibits, and photographs with people interested in learning more about the UFO phenomenon, this is your opportunity to step forward and make a generous gift consistent with your financial status. May we thank you in advance for your consideration?

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Walter Andrus

NEWS FROM AROUND THE NETWORK

NEW OFFICERS

International Coordinator **J. Antonio Huneeus**, appointed **Rodrigo Fuenzalida** (Santiago, Chile), a sociologist, to be MUFON's Representative for Chile. Our new Representative for the Middle East nation of Jordan is **Issa George Saman**, B.A. (Amman). **Kenneth E. Cherry**, B.A. (Keller), the Texas State Director, has designated the following people for promotion to created vacancies: **Robert D. McKenzie,** Capt. USN (Retired), (Irving) to be his Assistant State Director of Northern Texas; and **Cynthia L. Wootan** (Dallas) to State Section Director for Dallas County.

Upon their retirement as Co-State Section Directors for the Tampa, FL, area, **Eugene** and **Jean Brown** (Indian Shores) selected **Shannon** and **Sara Smith** (Tampa) as their successors. The **Browns** have built their local organization into the largest MUFON section in the United States. When **Fay M. Barfield** had to relinquish her position of State Section Director in Louisiana, due to health, **Gregory J. Avery,** J.D. picked her daughter, **Gwen M. Snyder**, B.A. (Hackberry) as her replacement. Mississippi State Director, **J. R. Gillis** appointed **Marlin E. Seale**, B.A. (Gulfport) as the State Section Director for the Gulf Coast counties to replace **Donald L. Hirth**. **Saul M. Glick,** B.A. (Pittsburgh, PA) volunteered to be the State Section Director for three counties around Pittsburgh.

Robert B. Friedman, M.D. (Jonesboro, GA) volunteered as a Consultant in Medicine, joining **John F. Schuessler's** MUFON Medical Committee.

NEW FIELD INVESTIGATORS

The following three ladies passed the Field Investigator's Exam this past month: **Brenda C. McVannel** (Boyne City, MI), **Judith E. Kulka**, M.A. (Kewadin, MI); and **Monica L. Stallard** (Mayking, KY).

MUFON 1999 UFO SYMPOSIUM

Mrs. Susan Swiatek, hostess for the MUFON 1999 International UFO Symposium, has provided a current status report for the thirtieth MUFON annual symposium. It will be held at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City, 2799 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA 22202, near the new Ronald Reagan National Airport, on July 2, 3, and 4, 1999. The theme of the '99 Symposium is "Transcending Politics and Comfort Zones in Ufology," which is quite fitting due to the proximity of Washington, D.C., just across the Potomac River. Confirmed speakers to date are **Beverly J. Trout, Budd Hopkins, Stanton Friedman** (Canada), and **Jenny Randles** (England).

An attractive room rate of $89 per night has been negotiated for the symposium, and this price allows up to four (4) people per room. When making reservations, be sure to identify the MUFON symposium and specify that you want one king-size bed or two doubles. Make your reservations directly with the hotel at 1-800-228-9000.

To register for the symposium, please mail a check or money order payable to: MUFON '99 International UFO Symposium to 7873 Heritage Dr., Suite 574, Annandale, VA 22003. Attendance to all presentations is $65 before June 9. It is $75 thereafter. Advance registration for the buffet/party on Friday evening 6-9 p.m., is $20 (or $25 at the door).

Our MUFON Symposium will conclude at approximately 6 p.m. on Sunday, July 4th, giving everyone adequate time to get situated for the National Fireworks on the Mall, starting at approximately 9 p.m. With all the fascinating archives, museums, and monuments to see, there is clearly something for the entire family to enjoy. Plan to visit Washington, D.C., for the Fourth of July weekend.

SYMPOSIUM PROCEEDINGS COVER CONTEST

The success of the 1996, 1997, and 1998 Symposium Proceedings cover design contest has prompted MUFON to make this an annual competition. Previous winners have been **Fran Geremia, Anson Seale,** and **Liz Coleson**. The cover design should reflect the symposium theme, "Transcending Politics and Comfort Zones in Ufology." In addition to the theme, it must include the wording "MUFON 1999 INTERNATIONAL UFO SYMPOSIUM PROCEEDINGS," the location, "ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA," and the symposium dates, "July 2-4."

The contest submissions must be "camera ready" and not simply attractive designs, symbols, or artwork. The contest prize winner will receive $100 in

(Continued on Page 23)