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Some MUFON members were invited by Dan Aykroyd in June to a private session of the Blues Brothers Band at the Pepsi Center in Denver. Aykroyd, a long-time MUFON member, has recently become a Life Member, and has agreed to serve as MUFON's Hollywood consultant. Left to right are, front, Dan Aykroyd and Jim Belushi; back, Dale Coats, Corrine Coats, Liz Coats, Lin Simpson, Tygh Simpson, and Bob Simpson. An interview with Aykroyd is scheduled for the September Journal.

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Post Office Box 369
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Tel: 303-932-7709
Fax: 303-932-9279

International Director
John F. Schuessler, M.S.

Editor:
Dwight Connelly, M.S.
14026 Ridgelawn Road
Martinsville, IL 62442
Tel: (217) 382-4502
e-mail:
mufonufojournal@hotmail.com

Columnists:
Walter N. Webb, B.S.
George Filer, M.B.A.
Jenny Randles
Stanton Friedman, M.S.

MUFON on Compuserve
"Go MUFON"
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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.

Urandir case: Smoking gun? Or smoke and mirrors?

By Dwight Connelly
MUFON UFO Journal editor

In the April issue of the *Journal* the dispute between reporter Linda Moulton Howe and MUFON Director for Brazil A. J. Gevaerd concerning the alleged abduction of Urandir Oliveira in Corguinho, Brazil, was summarized.

Then in the July *Journal*, MUFON Director John Schuessler made it clear that MUFON was not taking a position in support of the case, even though Ms. Howe was invited to speak about the case at the MUFON 2003 Symposium.

Since then, I have received additional information from Gevaerd, and we have the 40-page report prepared by Mrs. Phyllis Budinger, as well as additional information regarding studies of the physical evidence.

Information provided by Ms. Howe is, of course, available on Earthfiles.com. Additional research on the photos by the Seattle MUFON group has also been made available. I have talked with Mr. Gevaerd by phone and via email, and talked with Ms. Howe at the Symposium.

In this article I will look at the evidence presented, emphasizing those things which are normally considered in establishing the validity of a case of this type, such as the character and reputation of the alleged abductee, the alleged witnesses, the amount and quality of physical evidence, and the procedures followed by the investigators.

Throughout the report, I will use the name Urandir to designate the alleged abductee, as is the custom in Brazil.

The alleged abduction

In November of last year, Felipe Branco, an associate of Urandir (and an alleged abductee himself), sent details of the alleged abduction of Urandir out over the Internet.

Ms. Howe says, "What made this email unusual were the photographs attached. One showed 18 small disc-shaped stones that Felipe Branco picked up from the ground, along with Urandir's family, friends, and visitors who heard and saw dozens of the rocks fall out of the sky for several seconds around 7:30 p.m. on Sept. 15, 2002.

"Urandir Oliveira thinks the stones fell at the same time he was lifted from his bed through the ceiling and roof into an extraterrestrial craft operated by the tall,

The primary investigators

A.J. Gevaerd

A. J. Gevaerd is MUFON's National Director for Brazil and founder-editor of the *Brazilian UFO Magazine*, which has been in existence for 19 years.

He is also the founder and director of the Brazilian Center for Flying Saucer Research (CBPDV), the largest such organization in South America with more than 3,300 members. He has investigated numerous cases throughout Brazil, and is the author of *UFO Contact at Maringua*.

In 1983 Gevaerd was selected by Dr. J. Allen Hynek as representative of the Center for UFO Studies (CUFOS) in Brazil.

He is one of the international directors of the Annual International UFO Congress in Laughlin, NV, and has spoken in 29 countries around the world, as well as extensively in Brazil.

Gevaerd, 41, has a B.A. in chemistry, but decided in 1986 to quit teaching and devote his full time to UFO research.



A.J. Gevaerd

Linda Moulton Howe

Ms. Howe is a graduate of Stanford University with a masters in communications, and has received many awards for her work in film, TV, and radio. One of her best-known films was "A Strange Harvest," which explored the world of animal mutilations.

She is the author of *An Alien Harvest*, which continues her work with animal mutilations; *Glimpses of Other Realities*, volumes I and II, which concerns U.S. military, intelligence, and civilian testimonies about non-humans interacting with earth life; and *Mysterious Lights and Crop Circles*, which features eyewitness accounts and scientific research of biophysical and biochemical changes in affected cereal crops by complex energy systems.

She appears on Coast to Coast with Whitley Strieber, and has an internet news magazine called Earthfiles.com. She has spoken at many conferences throughout the world.



L.M. Howe

blond beings." According to Ms. Howe, after the rock fall, his family and friends rushed to Urandir's house and found him gone.

However, in the bedroom everyone was reportedly shocked to find imprints of a human body "melted" onto the bed sheet and scorched into the wood ceiling.

Ms. Howe says she is surprised that she is the only individual out of several receiving the email who decided to investigate. She contacted Felipe Branco, who paid her way to Corguinho to look at the case.

The investigation

In order to become more familiar with the area and the situation, Ms. Howe phoned A. J. Gevaerd, MUFON director for Brazil, publisher of *Brazilian UFO Magazine*, and a veteran ufologist who she already knew.

Gevaerd was, in fact, quite familiar with Urandir and his Project Portal operation, having investigated various claims by Urandir and his associates over a period

of several years, and having concluded that all were hoaxes.

He explained this to Ms. Howe, who told me that she concluded that Gevaerd was being too emotional about Urandir.

Ms. Howe visited the home of Urandir, observed and photographed a burned bedsheet and ceiling, and videotaped an interview (English-Portuguese translation by Luciano Didier).

The alleged abductee reported that he had been told in advance that he would be abducted, had taken a shower, and was on his bed, clothed only in his underwear shorts.

He reported that he was reading a book, with his right arm extended beyond the bed. His feet were also reportedly extended off the bed. Urandir said that a bright violet light dominated the room, forming a light tube which reportedly lifted him through the ceiling and into a spaceship, causing him to feel heat. He said he did not lose consciousness.

The burned outline on the sheet, as well as the less definite outline on the

ceiling (no right hand and no feet imprints on either the sheet or the ceiling), roughly matches that of a human body, although there is some question as to whether it matches Urandir's body.

In evaluating why there were no images of the right hand and the feet on the ceiling, Ms. Howe says, "The speculation is that the violet beam technology did not have to separate his feet and right hand from the bed sheet. So, the energy was different in those places when Urandir's body went through the ceiling without leaving feet or hand prints in the wood."

She questioned why the burning of the sheet and ceiling was necessary, however, since abductees have reportedly been moved from beds and through walls and ceilings with no burning of bed clothing or structures. In fact, as she noted, this is apparently the only case in history where such effects have been reported as part of an alleged abduction.

Urandir offered this explanation through the translator: "Because this was the only programmed abduction that he was conscious about, and he knew it was going to happen. There was no need to leave those marks actually, but they wanted to leave him with enough credits to the public and to the science community that these evidences are very clear....they wanted to have some proofs because they want to have the evidences to prepare the population for the arrival (of the beings)."

Ms. Howe asked Urandir to lie on the bed in the position he was in when he was abducted. He did so, sticking his feet from the bed and holding the book as if reading, but she noted that in this position the pillow would not have been burned. So Urandir repositioned himself, dropping his head onto the pillow, making the holding of the book outside the bed somewhat awkward.

Ms. Howe also noted that the body pattern on the ceiling was farther east and to the right of the body print on the bed. She says, "One speculation is that Urandir's body was moving forward toward the head of the bed as it was lifted upward by the violet beam technology." Another researcher has suggested that the bed had been moved prior to the arrival of Ms. Howe (more on this later).

Ms. Howe also wondered where the body marks were from the reported return trip from the spaceship to the bed three days later on Sept 18. Urandir said that the paralysis of his body in the reclining position, both leaving and returning, was calculated precisely by the non-human blondes to be exactly the same.



Burned shape of body on Urandir's ceiling.

"So no second set of marks," concludes Ms. Howe.

She collected samples from the sheet, pillow case, and ceiling, and obtained a number of the stones which allegedly fell during the alleged abduction. She was unable to view or take samples of the undershorts Urandir was wearing during the reported abduction, since they had reportedly been tossed into the wash.

Ms. Howe speculated to me that perhaps there were no burns on the undershorts because they were made of cotton.

No mention has been made of retrieving and analyzing the so-called "akashic records plates" of rough stone with scribbles on them (in the "extraterrestrial language") which Urandir supposedly retrieves from a special cave, shows to visitors (for a price), and gives to special followers.

The "abductee"

Contacts with American and Brazilian investigators, both inside and outside of Brazil, reveal that Urandir was no stranger to them prior to this latest alleged encounter with ETs.

One well-known American investigator, who asked that his/her name not be used in this article ("I don't want to lose friends"), said he/she had contacted "a few people" in Brazil in May about Urandir, and "none had anything good to say about him, and at least two do not like Gevaerd either." However, all agreed with Gevaerd's view of the case.

Later, he/she "queried about eight

other Brazilians who speak English, and all condemned Urandir as well. However, several quoted Gevaerd's UFO magazine as their main source of information about him."

Gevaerd lives about 30 miles from Urandir's Project Portal complex, and is the ufologist who has done the most investigation of Urandir's activities over the past several years as claims of crashed UFOs and other events have been publicized by Urandir.

However, another ufologist, Claudeir Covo, an electrical engineer, co-editor of Revista UFO, and president of the National Institute of Investigation of Aerospace Phenomena (INFA), says that he has also investigated Urandir's claims.

"I started to record in video all the presentations of Urandir, which started in 1997. Urandir used to bend coins and forks, said that he could cure AIDS and cancer, that he could resuscitate dead people, and could perform other phenomena.

"All these things were designed only to impress the viewer. By analysing Urandir's videos that I recorded in slow motion I noticed clearly that he used simple techniques of magic, manipulating several small objects out of sight from people.

"Thus together with other UFO researchers, I started to investigate his activities," explains Claudeir. "He used batteries of 12 volts and headlamps of cars at the distance of 200 meters from his visitors at night that could simulate UFOs.



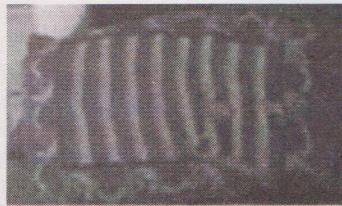
The photo of the burned sheet provided by Felipe Branco on the Internet in an attempt to get researchers interested in the Urandir case.



The photo of the burned sheet taken by Ms. Howe when she visited in February. There appear to be differences in the burned areas, the beds, the pillows, and perhaps the room and other items, as compared to the original photo on the left.



Pillow in photo provided by Felipe Branco.



Pillow in photo taken by Ms. Howe.

He also used laser pointers and other tools that generate light to fool people. Then Urandir started using advertisement balloons of three meters in diameter with a lamp inside to fool people.”

Fourteen members of Grupo de Estudos Ufologicos da Baixada Santista (GEUBS—UFO Study Group of Baixada Santista) emailed a statement to the MUFON UFO Journal which said:

“We hereby reject the groundless popularization of the false close encounter of Mr. Urandir Fernandes de Oliveira. It is a notorious and well known fact

throughout the Brazilian community of UFO researchers that this person does not have, nor has ever had, any kind of psychic powers whatsoever, and has never been involved in the abduction phenomenon. Whatever goes on in his estate, known as Projecto Portal, has been proven false and phony, nothing more than a huge setup aiming at profit at the cost of people’s good faith.”

Rodrigo Branco, radio DJ and GEUBS coordinator, adds, “The main means of communication in Brazil, either televised or printed media, have already shown all the farse of Mr. U.F.O. claims through a series of constant denunciation by the

truly Brazilian ufologists.

“Realizing that he doesn’t have any more space to spread his lies around here, Urandir decided to make an investment in your country, and unfortunately he found someone to support him...He was arrested for fraud, and claims to be capable of curing diseases like AIDS, cancer, and leukemia, charging a lot of money for this.”

There are, in fact, numerous other reports and complaints regarding Urandir’s Project Portal, including the illegal sale of land. The land sales were reportedly to people who were told that they would be safe on this land, protected by extraterrestrials, when a natural disaster came in a year or two.

Urandir’s Project Portal operations have been compared to the “Heaven’s

Gate” group and to the Jim Jones suicide cult.

The Seattle UFO/Paranormal Group has, in fact, produced a side-by-side comparison between Jim Jones’ Jonestown group and Urandir’s Project Portal.

According to Gevaerd, when someone complains about something or discovers they have been misled, he or she is threatened by Urandir or his followers.

“One of the most serious cases,” says Gevaerd, “happened to a manager from Sao Paulo who discovered in warehouses of the farm of Urandir, in Corguinho, motorcycles prepared to transit in rural areas and paraphernalia composed of radios, communications type walkie talkie batteries, mile lights, and varied instruments she did not know.

“When seeing that such equipment could only be used to produce the insistent lights in the hills of the area that everybody thinks are flying disks, she asked what the equipment was for. Urandir reportedly told the lady, ‘If you open your mouth you will be sorry.’ She says she received more than ten threatening calls from him or his followers after returning to Sao Paulo.”

In Ms. Howe’s reports, Urandir is referred to as a “farmer.” However, Gevaerd states that Urandir is simply a promoter for Projecto Portal, but in the past has been a bricklayer, a gold washer/prospector, and an amateur magician.

In an interview with the publication *Zero Hora*, while in jail, Urandir was asked what he does for a living. He replied, “I have been working by myself these past four years, giving lectures. I used to work in the building industry, and I also have a publishing company.”

He said his lectures are about “mental evolution, apprenticeship in the manipulation of energy, and self control. I charge \$R 50 (about \$14.00 U.S.).”

According to Urandir, those coming to Project Portal pay “for tickets and food,” about \$11.00 per day for visitors and about \$4.50 per day for “associates.”

He said that Project Portal is “a place where people have parapsychological experiences, ecological and ufological. There are 490 hectares (of land), and my intent is to buy 1.5 thousand to form a community where I will raise cattle and fish. Associates will pay R\$ 1,4 thousand (about \$390 U.S.) for this.... There’s nothing as yet; we are gathering money.... We sold about 6,000 shares of the 490 hectares. Each person bought as much as they wanted.”

When asked if he owned the land he was selling, Urandir said, “The land is in the name of Zeferino Bingolin, a local resi-

dent of Campo Grande. I have a buy and sell contract, and I only have to pay the last mortgage to own the land.”

Asked if he had had any previous problems with the law, Urandir said, “No. Once I was arrested because of a domestic fight with my ex-wife with another woman, but there was nothing.”

In an interview by Ms. Howe and Whitley Strieber publicized by Ms. Howe on Earthfiles.com, Urandir claimed to have been shot by individuals lying in ambush. Ms. Howe noted that she has seen the “round (dark) scar on his left arm slightly below his elbow.”

This claim by Urandir was investigated by Gevaerd, who says, “Urandir hurt himself with a piece of wood from a wired fence in front of three people, one of them a former co-worker from Belo Horizonte, Fabiana Matias.

“About a month after that, while talking to a small group, Urandir said that he was shot and showed the scar, again in front of Fabiana, who immediately interrupted and said it wasn’t true. Then Urandir said it was, and that he was shot. This is the origin of this lie.”

Ms. Howe also quoted Felipe Branco as claiming that “A.J. has been there (Urandir’s compound) only once, almost seven years ago.”

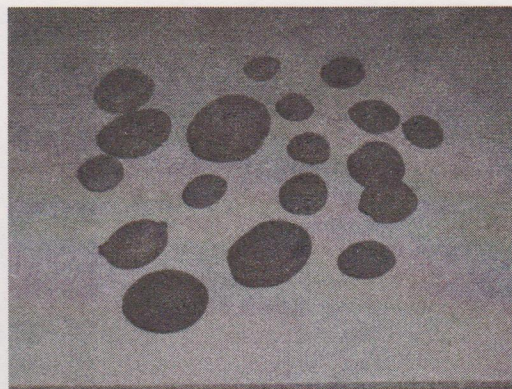
Replies Gevaerd, “Perhaps he should consult the local Campo Grande press, or even his boss, Mr. Urandir. I was at his pal’s property the last time in December, 2001, when he claimed that a UFO crashed at that man’s farm, which also proved to be another fake from the same scam going on. Urandir will certainly remember, as I noticed their contradictions to the press and interrupted.”

The “evidence”

The evidence in this case consists of the burned bed sheet, samples taken from the burned ceiling, and a number of stones which supposedly rained down on Urandir’s supporters during his alleged abduction.

Before looking at analyses of the bed sheet by various individuals, there is the question of whether the bed sheet viewed, photographed, and sampled by Ms. Howe is the original bed sheet promoted by Felipe Branco in his effort to get someone to investigate the alleged abduction.

The Seattle UFO/Paranormal Group, which cancelled a scheduled appearance by Ms. Howe because of their concerns with her support of this case, states that the photo of the bed sheet put on the



Some of the stones from Brazil.

Internet by Felipe Branco (i.e. the original photo) does not match the bed sheet photographed and investigated by Ms. Howe, even though Urandir and his associates stated that the room had been sealed immediately after the alleged abduction in September of 2002.

It is contended that the burns in the leg areas “are dramatically different,” the pillow is different (with what appears to be an additional pillow of some sort in the original photo), and the position of the bed is different (see photos on page 5), even though the lighting is similar.

The photo analysis was done by Charlette LeFevre, B.A. in Research at Wright State University and three-year member of the Ohio Academy of Science.

She also measured the torso of Urandir sitting on the bed, and compared it to the torso length of the burned area, and found “a difference of almost half, even taking into account photo perspective distortion and foreshortening.”

Thus there is some doubt as to the legitimacy of the bed sheet and pillow “evidence,” especially in view of the reputation of Urandir and his associates for producing fake UFO evidence.

The initial report by Ms. Howe of the investigation of the burned sheet involved an examination by W. C. Levensgood, a biophysicist who is known for his work with crop circles.

He indicated that the cotton threads interwoven with the polyester threads showed no signs of scorching, while the polyester had melted, despite the fact that polyester has a melting point of 500 degrees F and cotton has a scorch temperature of 300 degrees. He said he had “no idea” how the anomaly had occurred.

Also investigating the bed sheet for Ms. Howe and Levensgood was Phyllis Budinger, an analytical chemist and owner of Frontier Analysis, Ltd., who has investigated such anomalies as Betty Hill’s dress and material from the Delphos, KS, encounter.



The Project Portal compound on the "farm" of Urandir.



A Project Portal building.

She concluded that a fast burst of heat could melt the polyester without scorching the cotton due to polyester's faster conduction of heat.

Experimenting with a common household iron with a temperature of about 500 degrees F, Mrs. Budinger was able to melt the polyester without scorching the cotton.

However, Ms. Howe pointed out on her web site that the polyester on the sheet provided by Urandir was melted the same on both sides, while Mrs. Budinger's experiment on a sample did not look the same on both sides. She also noted that Mrs. Budinger's experiment had flattened the polyester, due to the weight of the iron, and that the sheet obtained in Brazil did not have that characteristic.

Ms. Howe also disputed whether the polyester would conduct heat ten times faster than cotton, citing Prof. Herbert Barndt, director of the Grundy Testing Laboratory, School of Textiles and Materials, Philadelphia University.

Mrs. Budinger responds that the iron experiment was to test whether the polyester could melt without the cotton being scorched, not to try to exactly duplicate the burns on the sheet being tested.

She adds, "Clearly a value of 0.280 for PET (polyester) and 0.029 for cotton shows that the PET transmits heat faster. My sources for these values are referenced in my report. Furthermore, the polymer chemists I consulted concur with me.

"On this case I consulted with five professional polymer chemists, four of whom are Ph.D.s. The total experience represented by these people is roughly 175 years. If you add my own professional experience, this comes to roughly 210 years," Mrs. Budinger noted.

Mrs. Budinger also points out that Prof. Barndt had originally said that the fiber strands were a mixture of polyester and cotton, while she had correctly reported that the polyester was cross-woven

with the cotton. Ms. Howe later acknowledged that Mrs. Budinger was correct.

Ms. Howe describes a section of the mattress cover which appears to have a missing vertical thread, and three horizontal polyester melts where the thread should have been, with none of the other polyester fibers affected, suggesting that this indicates a pinpoint heat source.

Mrs. Budinger says that particular sample was not sent to her, but that she found no evidence of pinpoint melting in any of the samples she did examine. "I suspect the missing thread went missing after the heat exposure, perhaps during the sampling procedure."

She concludes that her analyses of the material, along with her evaluation of the recent Earthfiles reports, show "no real evidence of an alien abduction."

Professor Barndt, who reportedly has been working in textile research for 35 years, tested a sample of the sheet with a small blowtorch at 1500 degrees F for two to four seconds.

It produced some melting, but Ms. Howe said, "The shape of your melted polyester; it's not quite identical to the Brazil." Prof. Barndt agreed that the burns were probably not caused by a torch similar to his.

He had previously dampened the sheet because Urandir had reportedly taken a shower before lying on the bed (and not dried off?). Ms. Howe also speculates that Urandir was sweating, due to the high temperatures in Brazil in September.

When asked how he would duplicate the burned sample, Prof. Barndt said, "I don't know exactly what I would do, but I can tell you we'd probably need a lot of bedspreads before we got it right. It wouldn't happen the first time, at least not what I see happening here. It's very unusual. And why didn't it just ignite and burn up? Probably because of the presence of moisture or something else

we can't explain."

He said it seemed reasonable that the burn happened quickly. "You are talking about no more than ten seconds in any one area, probably. Otherwise you would ignite it."

Mrs. Budinger says she feels the 1500 degrees of heat from the torch used by Prof. Barndt was "rather high and not very realistic, because polyester degrades rapidly at 1500 degrees F. So, it was my judgment that whatever source produced the quick burst of heat was in the temperature range of 600-900 degrees F."

When asked to explain the missing polyester thread, Prof. Barndt said, "How about I have no idea why that could have happened.... You'd almost have to have a very—a pinpoint heat source like a laser to do something like that." However, he said a laser could not have made the pattern on the sheet.

Asked for his "bottom line" conclusions regarding the burned sheet, Prof. Barndt said, "Oh, I can't explain it. The only thing I can tell you about it is there are obvious heat damage to the fabric.

"Surprisingly, the polyester has melted and the cotton has burned in some areas, but not all of them. It has the general shape, as you say, of a body. I would be at a loss to explain how a body could have been present in the amount of heat that was required to do the damage that you see here and not suffer serious burns.

"So, from a scientific standpoint, that's pretty much what I can tell you. I don't know exactly how this was done," Prof. Barndt concluded.

Turning to the disk-shaped rocks, both Mrs. Budinger and Nick Reiter, of the Avalon Foundation, separately examined the two stones submitted. Mrs. Budinger's examination included infrared (IR), and Reiter's included EDS techniques. Stone two was cut in two. Stereomicroscope photos were also taken.

It was noted that the rocks are similar

in shape to Moqui rocks found in Utah and Arizona, and that they could have originated naturally in the Corguinho area of Brazil, since "Brazil is known to have an iron-rich sandstone-type geology similar to that of the U.S. Southwest," says Mrs. Budinger. "Previous Earthfiles reports of the Brazil landscape also indicated this might be true."

She adds, "I suspect that the presence of titanium in the stone I examined could be a marker as to its origin. Mr. Reiter correctly indicated in our report that trace minerals vary with the local mineralogy in an area."

Gevaerd, who has lived in the area for many years, says the explanation is simple: "The hills around Urandir's place are covered with these stones. He sold them as extraterrestrial souvenirs. He has also done the rock fall from the sky routine before, with the aid of his workers, impressing his followers."

An Internet entry by a Pat Fish (patfish@luckyfish.com) says, "Identical stones were once commonly found all over the Channel Islands, and I have a dozen in my possession that I bought from an old fisherman who picked them up on San Nicholas in the 1930's. He told me the Chumash Indians thought of them as good luck stones, and he thought they were droplets of volcanic lava that had swirled into stones as they hit the sea... I bet the Natural History Museum has a lot of them."

Reiter obtained a Moquis marble for comparison with the Brazil stones, and found that "elemental composition (2 mm from the stone surface) is almost identical to that from the exterior of a reference to Moqui Marble. The data show the #2 stone contains major amounts of Fe, Si, O, and Al, with very minor amounts of K, Ti, Mg, and C.

"A Moqui Marble reference contains the same major elements, except there is a small amount of Mn instead of Ti and C. This minor variation is likely, and would vary with the local mineralogy of the area and trace minerals in the water when the stones were formed."

When asked what he had concluded, Reiter said, "In my own professional opinion, neither the stone nor the cloth samples represented any anomaly whatsoever. If indeed the stones in question are falling from the sky, then this would require documentation of a totally different sort.

"But without adequate evidence on that account, nothing otherwise that was brought to my attention seems to be unusual. My personal opinion is that a hoax or disinformation is likely."

Ms. Howe took stones to the University of Pennsylvania for x-ray diffractometry (XRD). "The XRD computer analysis produced a list of minerals, starting with quartz," she says, "which is the most abundant substance in the stones, and continuing in order of quantity: quartz, goethite, hematite, rutile (which contains titanium), albite, and cubanite.

"The mineral cubanite is very rare and strongly magnetic. Biophysicist W. C. Levengood had discovered magnetic fields in two Corguinho stones I sent to his laboratory before the cubanite was discovered."

Additional work on the stones was done by Prof. Goma Omar, described by Ms. Howe as "a rock expert, published in *Science*, and has taught and researched at the University of Pennsylvania Department of Earth and Environmental Science for 25 years. He is puzzled about the origin and creation mechanism of the several disk-shaped Corguinho stones that he examined."

Prof. Omar reported to Ms. Howe: "See the banding here in each one of these. In addition to the football shape, really the most important thing is the banding there. This is a mystery to me. I don't see it very often... The stone is primarily an iron matrix in which quartz crystals are embedded."

He said the stones had to originate as hot liquid iron, and that the quartz grains were floating in this iron... "But as to the banding and the stratification going from the center outward, that has something to do with spinning force that we were talking about before. That's the most likely explanation so far, and I really don't know what would cause this spinning force to form this... It would be nice to know how this happened."

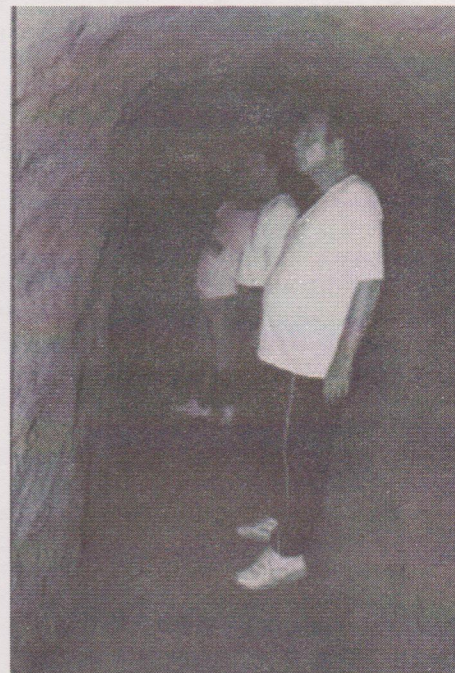
Even though the rocks are interesting to Prof. Omar, he does not believe they are extraterrestrial, as claimed by Urandir. In an email to an associate of Gevaerd, Prof. Omar said, "Professor Johnson and I have always known that these rocks are of terrestrial origin. Based on scientific curiosity, we were only after characterizing the mineralogical content of these rocks and determining the spatial relationship between the minerals. We did that."

Conclusions

With the key witness and his associates having below zero credibility, all alleged physical evidence becomes sus-



Urandir talks to his followers.



The special cave at Project Portal where the "plates of Akaschicos Registers are given to special followers called "plaquistas."

pect. There is, as already noted, the basic question of whether the sheets were switched and the bed moved between the time of the alleged abduction in September and Ms. Howe's visit in February. The photos indicate that this is possible.

There are also questions as to the ceiling image, and questions as to whether the images match Urandir's body. And why are the undershorts missing?

Mrs. Budinger, a very well qualified scientist familiar with the UFO phenomenon, spent many hours researching the materials in question. She wrote a 40-page report which indicates that she found no evidence of anything that could not be duplicated by humans.

Prof. Barndt said he could not explain



Phyllis Budinger

the burned areas, and indicated it would take much trial and error to duplicate the burns, but he did not indicate that the burns could not be duplicated by mortal man.

Levengood's initial excitement over the burned material appears not to be as exciting as first thought.

Thus the burned bedsheet and pillow do not support a claim that the burns are extraterrestrial in origin.

What of the stones? Mrs. Budinger's and Mr. Reiter's work on the stones from Brazil did not indicate any sort of anomaly, and the conclusion was that they were most probably naturally-occurring in Brazil, similar to naturally-occurring stones found in Utah, New Mexico, and elsewhere.

While the geologists who tested the stones indicated they had not seen anything like them before, this hardly makes the stones extraterrestrial—only unusual and outside their particular experience.

University professors tend to be very specialized, even within a specific discipline. It may be significant that none of the rock experts consulted were from Arizona, Utah, California, or Brazil, where they might have been more likely to encounter such stones.

In fact, one must question why an independent Brazilian rock expert has not been consulted by Ms. Howe.

As already noted, Prof. Omar and Prof. Johnson have concluded the stones are not extraterrestrial in origin.

The stones had always been especially suspect, because reliable sources have reported that similar stones were used previously in the Project Portal scams as extraterrestrial sales items and as "rains of extraterrestrial rocks" from the sky.

Not only is the physical evidence in this case of little consequence, the investigation itself and the reporting of the research on the physical items is also

flawed. Ms. Howe went only to the alleged abductee and his supporters to obtain information and physical samples—the same group of biased individuals who paid for her trip.

Although she contacted Gevaerd prior to going to Brazil, she chose not to believe what he told her about Urandir and his associates, and did not contact Gevaerd or other Brazilian ufologists while in Brazil.

Miss Howe still seems not to believe what Gevaerd, a respected ufologist, says about Urandir and his associates,

but she appears to believe (and report) every negative thing that Urandir and his associates say about Gevaerd.

A statement by Ms. Howe at the MUFON symposium requires special clarification. In response to a question by a member of the audience regarding whether Gevaerd was looking carefully enough at the physical evidence, Ms. Howe said the following:

"Yesterday Whitley Strieber told me that he had gotten email from Urandir Oliveira saying that the University of Pennsylvania scientists were ludicrous. Now I think that says just about all you need to know about Mr. Gevaerd."

The wording itself does not make sense, but it seemed clear from the context of the statement, as well as the response by the questioner and the audience, that Ms. Howe was saying that Gevaerd was making this statement—although the origin of the information apparently came from Urandir.

I asked Gevaerd if he had communicated anything regarding the scientists to Strieber. He said he had commented positively on Mrs. Budinger's study, and had pointed out that Prof. Omar had stated that the stones were not extraterrestrial in origin. Gevaerd denied saying anything about any of the scientists being ludicrous.

Regarding the study of the stones, Gevaerd had earlier said, "It looks like the professor contacted by LMH found some unusual patterns in them, thus leading the investigative journalist to accept the hoaxer's claim that they have extraordinary origin or nature. The professor would not speculate beyond his knowledge. It seems that LMH, once again, as with Phyllis Budinger, just jumped ahead."

Although Ms. Howe has sought the scientific study of the physical items which she brought back, her interpretations of test results appear to be less than

objective. Moreover, she has not shared results negative to Urandir in a timely and unbiased manner.

Mrs. Budinger, for example, has stated, "It is my opinion that the Earthfiles website report utilized only minimal and carefully chosen excerpts from my final report, interspersed with comments which appear to disagree with my analysis by 'textile expert' Prof. Barndt.

"Additionally, I think this has been done in a deliberately misleading manner, completely devoid of any professional objectivity."

When I asked Ms. Howe why she had not presented any of Mrs. Budinger's research at the Ozark UFO Conference, she told me she had not gotten the results of the study prior to her presentation on April 12 at the conference.

Mrs. Budinger, however, told me that she had phoned Ms. Howe to verbally give Ms. Howe the results of her study prior to Mrs. Howe's presentation on April 12 so that this information could be incorporated into the talk.

In addition, another researcher who was familiar with Mrs. Budinger's findings suggested to Ms. Howe prior to the April 12 talk that Ms. Howe include the results in her presentation. But there was nothing about Mrs. Budinger's study in Ms. Howe's presentation at the Ozark conference, or during a somewhat heated argument about the case after her talk.

A partial report of the Budinger research was presented on Earthfiles later in conjunction with findings by Prof. Barndt, as already noted. Whether there are additional negative studies of the physical evidence which have not been reported is not known.

Bottom line

Research on the alleged abductee, the physical "evidence," and the investigative procedures clearly indicate that the Urandir case is a hoax, as originally reported by Gevaerd.

However, hoaxes such as this, supported by a high-profile individual, die hard, and it seems likely that Urandir, potentially one of the more dangerous hoaxers, will continue to be promoted.

Another aspect of this case which should be of concern is the wasting of the very limited research capabilities available to ufologists on a case that should never have been pursued.

Mrs. Budinger, for example, spent almost two months on this case at no pay. She says, however, that "on the good side, it has generated more samples for me from cases that have possibilities, and put me in contact with other researchers who can be valuable for the future."

Arkansas crop circle probably genuine

BLT RESEARCH TEAM INC.
PO Box 400127
Cambridge, MA 02140
(www.bltresearch.com)
ph: 617/492-0415

-FIELD REPORT-

Event Location: Knobel, Arkansas

Date Occurred: June 6, 2003

Date Found: June 7, 2003

Crop: Mature wheat, ready for harvest

Date(s) Investigated: June 16 and June 25, 2003

Field Personnel: JoAnne Scarpellini

Formation Characteristics: A 3-armed fractal-like spiral consisting of 10 circles, the center circle approx. 31' in diameter, with 3 circles in each "arm" of decreasing sizes down to 8' in diameter. Circles in arms spaced approx. 10' apart, and with a slight curvature clockwise. Crop lay was reported to have been clockwise, in all circles.

Associated Phenomena: Several reports from local residents of unusual aerial light phenomena about 2 weeks prior to formation being discovered.

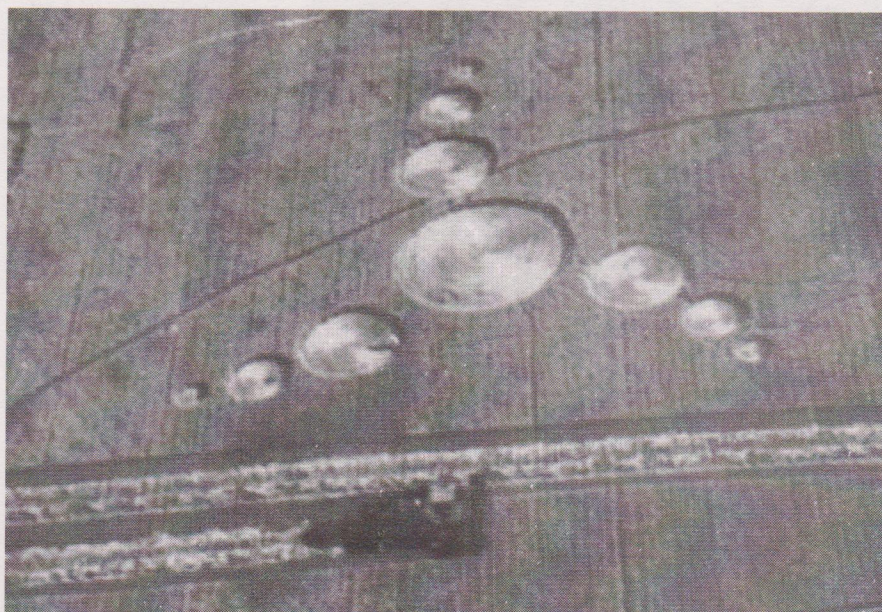
A bird's nest (of a tree-nesting species) was found, unscathed and with eggs intact, on top of the flattened crop in one of the spiral-arm circles; the nearest trees estimated to be approx. 550' away.

Multiple daytime photo anomalies, including an unusual object in one, and "fogging" in at least two aerial shots directly over the formation at about 800'.

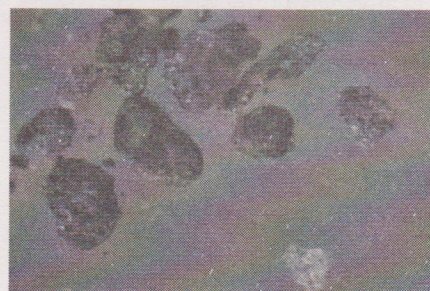
Field Investigation (6/16/03): Because farmer Todd Young had cut the field almost immediately after he discovered the formation, Ms. Scarpellini's first visit concentrated on interviews with adjacent home-owners and local reporters who had visited the formation.

Local residents and reporters who did enter the formation reported crisp edges to all the circles and the presence of the undisturbed bird's nest in one of the "arm" circles, with several eggs inside it, completely intact.

Several people were located who had taken photos, although very few of these were taken inside the formation on the ground. Unfortunately none was taken of the bird's nest.



Aerial view of Knobel crop circles (top), ground view (center), and enlargement of magnetic particles (right).



Field Investigation (6/25/03): Ms. Scarpellini returned on the 25th to obtain negatives of some of the "anomalous" photos and to take soil samples.

The farmer, Todd Young, stated that he had disced the field, down to about 2-3 inches, and planted soybeans, but he was able to locate where the formation had been.

Scarpellini then took soil samples from what had been the central circle and from each of the three circles in one of the "arms" (a total of 10 lb. of soil).

Control soils (3 lb.) were taken 500' dis-

tant from a presumed edge of the spiral. No magnetic particles were evident on the surface.

Magnetic particle concentration: These samples yielded the highest concentration of magnetic material ever reported by the BLT Team in a crop circle: 30.29 mg/g soil. [The highest concentration one might expect to find in "normal"

soils is 0.4 mg/g soil.] This distribution level was the same in all of the circle samples. The particles, which were magnetic, have a considerable range in size, with many clearly visible to the naked eye.

Ms. Scarpellini's microscopic examination revealed a mixture of irregularly-shaped rust-colored particles mixed in with smaller spherical, and partially ablated (rounded), shiny black particles.

An SEM/EDS will be obtained to determine the sizes of the particles and their elemental content.

NO magnetic material whatsoever was found in the control soils.

COMMENT: Without plant samples to examine we have only the soil results (and possibly the anomalous photos) to help us determine this event's causative agency.

Because a large number of crop formations world-wide, in which the plants have been found to contain anomalies, have also revealed magnetic particles in their soils in excess of "normal," we know that this parameter is a good indicator of authenticity.

The fact that under the microscope we can see both spherical and partially ablated particles here, the fact that there were NO magnetic particles found in the control soils, and the fact that the concentration in the circle samples was so great, all indicate that this formation was not mechanically-flattened.

W.C. Levensgood and John Burke, in their 1995 paper ("Semi-Molten Meteoric Iron Associated with a Crop Formation," *J. Sci. Exploration* 6:2, 191-199) hypothesize that microscopic particles of meteoric iron which are entering the earth's atmosphere constantly as meteors burn up in the upper atmosphere get drawn into a descending plasma vortex system.

[Plasmas have strong magnetic fields associated with them and they also emit microwaves when they spiral.]

The idea is that the meteoric debris is both drawn into the descending plasma vortex by its strong magnetic field and then heated to a molten state by the microwaves emitted by the spiraling plasma.

The molten, and now magnetized, particles then form spheres and particles with partially rounded surfaces as they cool on the way down to the earth's surface, and are left in the soil in the crop circle area as the plasma vortex impacts the field. This theory is the most reasonable yet

offered to explain the presence of these magnetic particles in so many crop circle soils, all over the world.

The hypothesis that a plasma energy system of some sort is involved is also borne out by years of laboratory work documenting the typical changes to plants at crop circle sites.

Additionally, the "fogging" effect in several of the aerial photos (photos taken at about 800' up in the air above the formation) is very similar to other cases in England, cases where the laboratory work again indicated a non-mechanical source of the crop formation.

There are a number of indications that, in some crop formations, there is some sort of remnant energy...an energy which can interfere with battery function (cameras, watches, cell phones, etc.), as well as animals and sometimes people, and which appears to linger in some cases for several weeks after the original event.

There is growing evidence that, in some cases, this energy extends UPWARDS into the air above the circles....perhaps in this case to 800' above the crop surface. More work on the negatives may provide additional information.

Whether the unusual aerial light phenomena reported by at least two local residents two weeks prior to the arrival of the circle was in any way related to it is unknown.

RESULT: Probably genuine (not mechanically-flattened), but without the plant work we cannot be certain.

Nancy Talbott
BLT Research Team Inc.

Sc-Fi Channel announces UFO documentaries

This fall, the SCI FI Channel will introduce a series of original two-hour primetime documentary specials "in the spirit of last year's highly successful 'The Roswell Crash: Startling New Evidence.'"

The SCI FI Declassified franchise will launch with what they call "two groundbreaking investigations," hosted by Bryant Gumbel, "that uncover stunning new evidence utilizing the quantifiable, forensic tools of modern science."

SCI FI will feature "fresh forensic testing" in connection with two unsolved cases involving unknown objects from space—Kecksburg in Pennsylvania, and Rendlesham in Great Britain.

Astronomers find planetary system similar to ours

By Dr. David Whitehouse
BBC News science editor

Astronomers have found a planetary system similar to ours—a Jupiter-like world circling a Sun-like star in roughly the same orbit that Jupiter follows around our Sun.

Of the 100 or so other planetary systems known, this one more closely resembles ours than any other found thus far.

Researchers speculate that this system may contain other worlds, such as smaller rocky planets like Earth, either in orbit around the star or around the Jupiter-like world itself.

The planet's parent star, called HD 70642, is slightly too faint to be seen with the unaided eye, but is easily visible in the southern sky using binoculars.

At just 95 light-years away, the gas-giant planet, bathed in the light of a yellow-dwarf star, is on our galactic doorstep. Like Jupiter, its atmosphere could be mottled and streaked with wind patterns and weather systems.

Dark-red methane clouds may scurry across its face beneath a high-altitude frosting of bright ammonia crystals. At its poles, aurora may glisten and lightning bolts pulse across its night-time face.

The planet detected orbiting HD 70642 is not the first Jupiter-class world to be found circling another star. All of the planetary systems found so far contain gas giants like Jupiter.

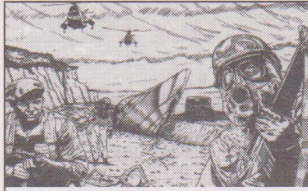
But the interest in this system is not principally because of what we know is there, but rather because of what else we suspect may be lurking unseen around the star and its planet.

There could be other worlds, smaller and rocky—possibly Earth-like. These are currently below the limits of our detectability.

"This is the closest we have yet got to a real Solar System-like planet, and advances our search for systems that are even more like our own," says Hugh Jones of Liverpool John Moores University, UK, who helped discover the new world.

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FILER'S FILES

By George A. Filer
Director, MUFON Eastern Region

Unless noted, these reports have not been verified by official investigations.

Georgia hovering object

HELEN - Tom Sheets, MUFON Georgia Director, reports that on May 13, 2003, a married Tennessee couple was visiting the Blue Ridge Mountains and lodging at one of the motels when at 11:30 PM the woman noticed a white flashing light moving slowly over a nearby ridgeline.

The craft stopped and began to hover. She noticed that the red, blue, and green lights did not appear to be like any standard aircraft.

Her husband had gone to the motel office, so she ran in and grabbed their video camera and began to take footage of the object. He returned in about 15 minutes, and the craft was still in place. The object vanished after 30 to 45 minutes, but not before two similar craft appeared. These also vanished.

The crafts were saucer-shaped with an apparent size of a penny at arm's length. They flew at an estimated altitude of 500 feet, at less than one mile. They moved in a straight-line path before taking up their extended hover, and seemed to fade in and out, all against a cloud cover.

The lights were steady, but then seemed to also pulsate. Duration of the event was thirty to sixty minutes. They are submitting a copy of the video to MUFONGA for analysis.

Saucer-shaped object in the UK

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE — Stuart Wood reports, "I spotted what I thought was a low-flying plane out of my living room window in Great Missenden on June 25, 2003, at 11:20 PM.

"I soon realized that there was no engine noise, and that it could not be a hot-air balloon at that time of night. It was saucer-shaped with four metallic legs hanging from the undercarriage that were bent in the middle, almost in a crouching stance, with three amber lights, one of which lit up the leg-like structures.

"It also had one red and one white

blinking light situated on the port or starboard (left or right) side of the object. I think it was about one-half to three-quarters of a mile (0.8 to 1.2 kilometers) away.

"My friend also witnessed this. The object never moved; it just hovered. After two or three minutes of staring at it, it disappeared." Thanks to UFO ROUNDUP Vol. 8, # 24, July 2, 2003 Editor: Joseph Trainor

Illinois: alien on a trash bin

SPRINGFIELD — A man reports, "My wife arrived home from work late at 10:30 PM, on June 10, 2003, in a state of panic and terror. She was pounding on the front door, so shaken she was unable to get her key into the lock. It was very disturbing for me to see my wife going through the fear she was experiencing and I assumed she had been assaulted or raped.

"As I was getting ready to call the police, she calmed down somewhat and told me to put the phone down—that it would not do any good anyway. Confused and shaken I asked why? She explained that as she was pulling into our apartment complex, she noticed what appeared to be a small child playing around a large steel waste dumpster in the corner of the parking lot about 15 feet from her.

"She got out of her car to get her briefcase and saw movement out of her periphery. Her next concern was whether this child was too young to be playing out in the dark late at night. She began to slowly walk towards the dumpster to ask where the child's parents were.

"As she approached the dumpster she could make out the contrasting shape of a head peeking out from one corner as she calmly spoke.

"She approached to within 6-8 feet when she heard a loud banging noise and this 'child' suddenly had the ability to high jump 5 feet. It was then standing on top of the dumpster's steel lid staring down at her.

"At this point she described feeling a pressure in her head, nausea, and dizziness. She told me she strained to identify if it was a neighborhood child who was staring at her for about 20-30 seconds, a kind of 'standoff.'

"Just as she realized this was not a child, the 'being' produced a glowing-white orb of light about the size of vol-

leyball in its hands and held on to it at about chest height. The light cast off from the glowing orb illuminated its head for several seconds and she described a large almond-shaped head with big black eyes staring intently at her movements.

"She told me that she just stood there in stunned silence trying to understand. Everything was happening in slow motion. The 'being' seemed to tighten its grasp on the glowing orb of light, and it jumped feet first into the dumpster and disappeared without making any noise.

"Right after that is when she began to breakdown emotionally and run to the apartment. Between the time she entered our apartment and calming her down and debriefing her was about an hour.

"With much reluctance—I'll admit I was really crept out to do this—I went back out to the exact spot she described with my metal softball bat and D-Cell Mag-Lite. I examined that whole area, even to the point of looking inside the dumpster, and I did not see or notice anything.

"Over the past several years we have seen many electric white-blue streaks of light in the evening around this parking lot, and have had frequent, but brief, power outages. My wife and I conclude that these may be related to what she experienced.

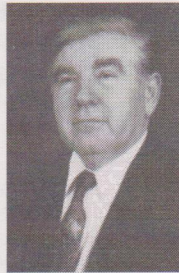
"This is going out on a limb here, but my wife thinks that the orb of light was some kind of device that gave this 'being' an ability to disappear, conceal, or transport itself." Thanks to Peter Davenport NUFORC

Low-flying saucer in Holland

KATWIJK-AAN-ZEE — A 63-year-old retired public officer from a Dutch sea-resort, had a "close encounter" for almost one and a half hours during the night of July 8, 2003.

The witness states, "It was 3:10 AM when I saw this strange saucer-shaped object, round and flat, that looked like sort of a white button with four dark holes in the middle. Somewhat outside of it, there were small square lights that didn't emit real light, but a kind of hazy shine.

"The object was about 10 meters in diameter, and hovering 6 to 7 meters above my garage. The object itself was twirling around very fast, like a bicycle wheel. It was striking that the object



George Filer

made the same half circle over and over again; northwards and then back to my house.

"I watched for quite some time, but I didn't dare go outside. I opened the window and found it quite remarkable that I could hear no sound from such a big object. About 4:15 AM, it got lighter outside, and I could merely see the curves of the object. It became blurry, but still visible.

"It didn't fly away, but as it became lighter, the contours of the object faded, until I couldn't see it anymore. I got an enormous headache, the whole day after it also."

The sighting made a deep impression on the witness, and she can't stop talking about it. BTW: I'm investigating a detailed sighting of a triangular-shaped object that was seen near a Dutch Air Force Base on the night of June 28, 2003.

Thanks to Toine Trust Site Admin @ UFOPlaza site: www.UFOPlaza.nl mail: Dutch UFO Disclosure "

Blue crescent in Texas

WAXAHACHIE - The observer went outside on June 15, 2003, and was enjoying the cool breeze when he saw a plane heading for Love Field and DFW Airport to the north at 10:25 PM.

The witness reports, "It took only a second to realize this thing was moving too fast with a faint blue crescent, or what may have been lights around the leading edge and sides with a faint yellowish circle in what would appear to be the middle.

"It was traveling at 1200 to 1500 miles per hour at around 10,000 to 15,000 feet. It crossed roughly 30 % of the sky in about 3 to 4 seconds. There was no noise from its engines.

"I grew up around the airline industry and was unable to identify it." Thanks to Peter Davenport NUFORC

Flying triangles in Belgium

ANTWERP - A 19-year-old resident from Edegem first spotted a triangular-shaped object on May 14, about 1 a.m. while driving home on his motorcycle. On June 20, he sighted the triangle again, with flashing lights hovering 125 meters above a house.

He drove to the object, and the UFO gradually departed and accelerated. The biker had to speed up to 20 km/h to keep up.

Somewhat farther, the object halted again above a house. The witness put his motorcycle aside and waved to it, but there was no reaction and no sound.

From beneath, it looked like a triangle, but without sharp edges. Besides the

flashing lights, the object had blue and red lights. From behind, the object looked like a "flattened pyramid-shape."

He tried to make contact with a laserpointer, but didn't succeed. After a minute, the object began accelerating again, first jerkily and then fast. The biker got on his bike, and followed it to the next town, at high speeds.

Near a bridge the UFO accelerated and disappeared. Thanks to Toine Trust <http://www.ufoplaza.nl/>

Flying triangle in California

CAMARILLO - A doctorate level professional in education saw a chevron-shaped black object flying low and slow with no sound on June 6, 2003.

The observer was driving south on Lewis Road near the Point Mugu Naval Air Station, and saw three Navy planes flying low along the foothills of the Santa Monica Mountains that veered around mountains to the south and went out of sight.

"I thought it was cool, a free air show, like the Blue Angels," said the witness. "Then at 5:30 PM I looked to my left (east) and saw a large, low-flying black chevron-shaped craft moving slowly. I thought stealth bomber, because of its low altitude and a straight-on view.

"It appeared completely flat on top, unlike the stealth bomber. It flew overhead with no sound. I parked and looked towards where it had been heading. Nothing was there. It had been flying east to west. I assume it is some craft I'm not familiar with." Thanks to Peter Davenport NUFORC

Wisconsin high-speed object

STRATFORD - The witness reports, "The object I saw I had seen before in Mosinee last summer. I know Mosinee has a large airport, but this was no plane. The first time, last summer, I was with a good friend and we were fishing at night.

On June 29, 2003, at 11 PM, I saw it again. I was outside with my cousin, smoking a cigarette, when we saw a strange object headed over Stratford, flying towards Wausau.

"It flashed on and off like a strobe light. It moved a great distance between flashes, like two miles or so. It was I'd say 3000 feet up. At Mosinee, when I saw it, it came from way up and almost landed in the water. It came to a sudden stop like nothing moving at that speed could.

"It hovered, and my friend and I could actually feel it watching or observing us. We got the hell out of there. One thing in Mosinee, though, it shined a light on the

water like a search light, but the beam did not spread out; it was straight up and down, like a five-foot wide beam. And as it went higher above the water, the beam did not change size or shape."

Thanks to: Mike D. and UFO Wisconsin http://www.ufowisconsin.com/c o u n t y / r e p o r t s 2 0 0 3 / r2003_0629_marathon.html

Missile/UFO near plane in Italy

BENEVENTO - The commander of a Alpi Eagles Fokker 100 that was set to land in Naples with 80 passengers at around 8 PM on June 25 reports they were buzzed by a missile-shaped object.

The commander called the control tower to report having observed a strange and large elongated "missile-like" object coming towards him from the opposite direction, and passing very close underneath the plane.

The alarm involved ENAV (the National Flight Assistance Agency), ENAC (Civil Aviation National Agency), ASV (Flight Security National Agency), the Ministry of Transportation Services, and the First Minister Crisis Unit, featuring the activation of the usual security procedures.

In the report drafted the following day, the commander described an "unidentified flying object" approaching him at an altitude of approximately 8000 feet: it was cylindrical in form, 3 to 4 meters in length, white in color, and reflected the sun rays.

The object, observed by both pilots, was reportedly not detected by radar systems. For security reasons, however, the state prosecutor in Naples opened an investigation and confiscated the radar recordings and the tape recordings of dialogue between the aircraft and the control tower.

Thanks to Edoardo Russo for the Italian Center for UFO Studies (Centro Italiano Studi Ufologici), www.arpnet.it/ufo/ultime.htm

NASA expert backs ET travel

Mitch Battros (ECTV) writes, "There are new scientific studies which show there is in fact a speed faster than light. New evidence, which is currently meeting the trials of intense scientific peer reviews, show the speed of gravity is at least one hundred times faster than light, and some researchers suggest a thousand times faster.

"Live on Tuesday's ECTV's 'Radio Hour,' my guest, Dr. Tom VanFlandren, NASA astronomer and author of *Dark Matter, Missing Planets and New Comets*, hit us with an unexpected surprise.

"While discussing the inter-planetary

play of asteroids, comets, and minor planets, Dr. VanFlandren disclosed his groundbreaking research with regard to the speed of gravity.

"He stated unambiguously that due to his (and several colleagues) findings of the speed of gravity, 'that it is highly possible there has been, and currently is, extraterrestrial travel.'

"Dr. Van Flandren has worked for NASA for at least two decades and spent 20 years at the US Naval Observatory, where he became the chief of the Celestial Mechanics Branch."

"Go to 'audio/video' page to listen to this groundbreaking interview. at: www.earthchangestv.com/secure/Audio_Video/mp3_2003.htm. Subscription required."

Missouri triangle

KANSAS CITY — The witness reports, "On Sunday, June 8, 2003, at about 11 PM, we were driving south on Highway 435, ten miles from the Kansas State line, when myself and my two passengers asked each other what was that object we all had been watching?"

"It was a quarter of a mile away and was large and very bright. It looked about the size of a football field, and the top surface seemed to be covered in very bright lights. The lower side was dark with rotating red and blue lights.

"We stopped on the highway, got out, and watched the object for five minutes as it just hovered, not moving. After five minutes it started a very slow forward motion. It flew over a hill and descended and disappeared. There was no engine or propeller noise." Thanks to Peter Davenport, NUFORC

Disc/fighter dogfight in NC

SYLVA - A Ph.D. professor of computer science in a university called to explain he had a life-changing experience on July 9 at 11:30 AM when his family observed a disc-shaped UFO being chased by an F-14 fighter.

The disc looked similar to a garbage can lid, and was only slightly smaller in diameter than the fighter aircraft was long. The professor estimated the diameter of the disc at fifty to sixty feet.

He felt our understanding of physics was very wrong after seeing the performance characteristics of this UFO. He stated, "The fighter would dive toward the disc, and it would simply move to another spot in the sky. It seemed to jump from place to place; actually it would dissolve from one spot and appear a mile away.

Tennessee glowing object

ARDMORE - Brian Vike reports that in early June a couple was coming home about 9 PM when they got a glimpse of a very bright light off to the north, not very high up, over the tree tops. It was more of a glowing or illumination!

The witness told her husband to look up, but he said it was a plane. She states, "I told him that it was not a plane, and since it was moving slow, I was going to follow it, and we did. We took back roads and tried to keep it in sight. At one point, we went down a dirt road and it looked like it just hovered above the trees, maybe 1500 feet or so.

"It was a giant egg-shaped object. One thing for sure, it was something I had never seen before. There was no sound at all, and it was moving very slowly. Not once did it speed up. As it moved out of sight, we had to drive a short distance to be able to see it again, and it was moving southwest.

"We followed the object for 30 to 45 minutes. As we got into town, where we could see it better, it was moving higher. It was an inch and half to 2 inches in size at arm's length. It never made a sudden movement, and never sped up.

"It was the color of a fluorescent light, glowing and putting off a lot of light. It was oval shaped, with the egg lying on its side. My husband said it was probably a blimp, but it flew too slow and low. Later, I was talking to a friend and told her about it, and she remembered she had seen it also." Thanks to Brian Vike, Director HBCC UFO hbccufo@telus.net

Nevada luminous object

Rachel - The witness reports, "On Wednesday, July 9, at about 9:30, Ike Bishop and I, together with two friends, met at the Little'aleinn. We drove to the Mailbox Road on the famous Extraterrestrial Highway 375, twenty miles west of Rachel, and our friends were facing east, while Ike and I were facing west.

"They started to holler and point to the east. I turned around in time to see a bright, luminous object about ten degrees above the Tikaboo Peak horizon, moving from north to south. I saw it drift for about one-second, then plunge straight down behind Tikaboo Peak.

"The others observed this object for a total of about five seconds. The object was as bright as the moon, and about 50 feet in diameter. It's circular shape was clearly defined and not just a luminous glowing light. Tikaboo Peak is about 11 miles from Mailbox Road." Thanks to Gary Emry glemry@cableone.net

Puerto Rico ruby red lights

SE COAST — A former US Infantry officer and 3,000-hour commercial pilot writes, "My wife and I live on the SE coast of Puerto Rico, and we are in the habit of sitting on our roof at night looking at the sky, since it's cooler and breezier up there.

"Three months ago, at about 11 PM, on a clear night, we both became aware, simultaneously, of three ruby-red lights, bright and distinctly visible, like car tail-lights or red aircraft navigation lights.

"They were approaching us from south to north, as we viewed them, in a symmetric V formation, one leading and two trailing. After three seconds of this motion, the three lights diverged, the lead light continuing straight, each of the trailing lights turning 90 degrees away from the original direction of motion.

"The lights passed more or less overhead as they made this divergence, then they didn't fade away into the distance, but simply vanished out of sight. In about two seconds, pouf, they're gone.

"We had the 'impression' that they were several thousand feet above sea level, and that the rate of movement must have been much faster than our fastest fighters."

Thanks to Brian Vike, Director HBCC UFO Research Hotline 1 866 262 1989

218 UK constables see UFOs

Toby Manhire of the "The Guardian" reports, "If you need convincing the truth is out there, what better authority than the British constabulary?"

"In *UFO Magazine* (July), Gary Heseltine, detective constable No 1877 of the British transport police, presented the results of a year's work compiling police officers' observations of unidentified flying objects. 'The last 12 months have literally flown by,' recounted Heseltine.

"But his feet were firmly on the ground as he presented a database bulging with encounters of the first, second and third kind—a total of 84 incidents spanning the period from 1950 to 2002, involving more than 200 police officers.

"Given that well over half the number of incidents were corroborated by other police officers present at the time, this dispels any notion that all of the 218 officers could have been mistaken or imagining things," said Heseltine.

"And he was keen to find more members of the flying saucer squad: "I firmly believe that this report is only the tip of the proverbial iceberg," he said."

Thanks to *The Guardian*, July 9, 2003, www.guardian.co.uk

“The UFO Continuum: Past, Present, & Future”

2003 Symposium features 11 speakers

The 2003 MUFON International Symposium July 4-6 in Dearborn, MI, featured 11 speakers under the overall theme of “The UFO Continuum: Past, Present, and Future.”

Papers from these talks are included in the *2003 MUFON International Symposium Proceedings*, available from MUFON Headquarters for \$25.00 plus \$2.50 p&h (\$4.00 outside U.S.) Video and audio tapes of the talks and panel discussion are available from Lost Arts Media, P.O. Box 15026, Long Beach, CA 90815, or by credit card at 800-952-LOST, or on the internet at WWW.-LOSTARTSMEDIA.COM.

David Walks-As-Bear, a writer, private investigator, and game warden, dealt with the Kinross incident of Nov. 23, 1953.



Walks-As-Bear

This case involved the pursuit in northern Michigan over Lake Superior by the two-man crew of an Air Force F-89C all-weather interceptor of an unidentified target moving 500 mph on radar. When the two targets (plane and UFO) merged, both faded from the radar screen, and nothing was again heard of the plane and the two individuals aboard. Walks-As-Bear has used this case as the basis of a novel, *The Murmurings*.

Tedd St. Rain, owner of Lost Arts Media, is involved in document research, video production, e-books, DVD authoring, and other activities. He has amassed nearly 20,000 pages of documentation on a variety of subjects.



St. Rain

His talk, entitled “Enigmatic Mysteries and Anomalous Artifacts of North America: a Connection to the Ancient Past,” dealt with such topics as pre-historic mines near Lake Superior, and an Egyptian-like mummy case that would have held a 12-foot person.

Bruce Maccabee, MUFON State Director for Maryland, author, photo ana-

lyst, and long-time UFO investigator, is employed at the Naval Surface Warfare Center in Dahlgren, Va.



Maccabee

lyst, and long-time UFO investigator, is employed at the Naval Surface Warfare Center in Dahlgren, Va.

He has been heavily involved in such cases as the Kenneth Arnold sighting, the Gulf Breeze photos, the McMinnville photos, and the Phoenix lights. His talk was on “The USS Supply Sighting of Remarkable Meteorors.”

Dan Wright, who recently retired as a researcher and policy writer for the state of Michigan, has served as MUFON Deputy Director of Investigations, authored three chapters of the *MUFON Field Investigator's Manual*, and directed a MUFON research project involving 250 verbatim accounts of abductions.



Wright

His presentation, “The Marian Visitations: Miracles, Hoaxes, or Alien Encounters?” dealt with three focal events in Roman Catholic lore involving the appearances of Mary, the mother of Jesus, and comparing these with ufological reports.

Jim Hickman, host of radio's “Wake UP USA” show on the Stardust Radio Network, has been a NICAP investigator, is a Research Specialist for Media Operations for MUFON, serves as staff consultant for CAUS, has appeared on numerous radio programs, produces the Hickman Report on the internet, and is the author of two UFO books—with a third one being written.

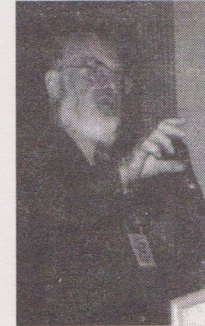


Hickman

His talk, “The Back Roads of the Universe,” dealt with capsule summaries of

numerous reports of UFOs over the years.

Stanton T. Friedman, nuclear physicist, author, researcher, and the best-known UFO lecturer in the world, presented “Critiquing the Roswell Critics.”



Friedman

As the earliest of the Roswell researchers—and one of the most persistent and professional—he is in the position to quickly see where the various Roswell critics—from the Air Force to recent magazine articles—have gone wrong.

John Greenwald, Jr., 21-year-old creator of The Black Vault website, has used the Freedom of Information Act to compile an on-line library of more than 108,000 pages of government documents related to the UFO phenomenon over the past seven years—all available to the public at no charge.



Greenwald

He is the author of the recently-published *Beyond UFO Secrecy* (to be reviewed in the *Journal* in September), and recently launched an online radio network. He spoke on “It Never Stopped,” explaining how the various government departments and agencies have never stopped compiling information about UFOs, despite announcements to the contrary.

Neil Freer, researcher, writer, and lecturer, is the author of *Breaking the Godspell*, which explores what he believes are the ramifications of the archaeological, genetic, and astronomical proofs for our being a genetically-engineered species, and presents what he sees are the consequences. He has recently completed his

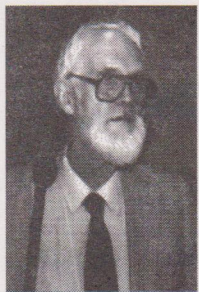


Freer

second book, *God Games*. His talk, "The Alien Influence: an Expanded Perspective," dealt with the modern theme of aliens as entities who fly saucers, abduct, and communicate, as well as the descriptions from ancient histories and the Old Testament of what could have been alien craft and beings.

Freer discussed the research of Zecharia Sitchin involving the Anunnaki coming from the planet Nibiru to the Earth and inbreeding with humans, and how this information fits into our genetic makeup.

W.C. Levensgood, most noted as the "L" in the BLT crop circle research team of Burke, Levensgood, and Talbott, has spent the past 13 years researching the energy relationships and plant-soil transformations in worldwide crop circle formations at his lab in Grass Lakes, MI.



Levensgood

His talk, "Multiple Anomalies Within Crop Formations," dealt with such anomalies in legitimate crop formations as significantly elongated or expanded nodes on plant stems, expulsion cavities, deposits of magnetic material in the soil, insects adhering to seed heads, and fundamental changes in the respiration patterns of plants and seeds.

Linda Moulton Howe, award-winning film producer, TV and radio personality, author, and internet journalist, discussed "Field Research of Mysterious Lights Reported in Norway and Brazil."



Howe

The Norwegian lights explored were in the area of the Hessdalen valley of Norway, while the Brazilian lights were in the area of Corguinho. The Brazilian trip primarily involved her investigation of the Urandir Oliveira abduction case, which she discussed in detail.

Jon Nowinski, 22-year-old head of the

Smoking Gun Research Agency, a paranormal investigation organization, is currently attending Norwal College in Connecticut, majoring in journalism and media arts. He is a MUFON consultant in parapsychology and journalism.



Nowinski

He discussed "Big Media and Little Green Men," pointing out the many ways in which ufologists can successfully deal with the media.

MJ/UFO Retrieval Conference slated

A Majestic Documents/UFO Retrieval Conference will be held Nov. 14-16 at the Sunset Station Hotel and casino at Las Vegas, NV.

Information is available at www.majesticdocuments.com or at 720-887-8171.

Scheduled speakers included Robert Wood, Ryan Wood, Greg Bishop, Grant Cameron, Art Campbell, Jonathon Downs, Stan Friedman, Stan Gordon, Linda Howe, Richard Miller, Nick Redfern, Kenn Thomas, and Mathew Williams.



Photo of location of sighting, with object drawn in by witness.

Witness reports:

Saucer hovers over Utah mountain

Reported by Somers Pfeuffer

It was late October, 2001, while driving north on I-15 on my way to Wyoming to see my cousin. I had left Las Vegas early and stopped in Beaver, Utah, for gas and a breakfast sandwich.

About forty miles north of Beaver there is a mountain range where I saw this saucer sitting between two mountain tops. It was huge, and I was really astounded.

It just sat there. It didn't wiggle or wobble. I immediately looked at the clock, aware of this missing time thing, and it was exactly 10:30 AM. Of course I slowed to a crawl and moved over to the side of the road.

There was other traffic, but not a lot. Probably, if I had stopped and waived to others they may have stopped also. It was almost impossible to miss this thing unless one drove with blinders on and just stared at the highway.

I drove toward Fillmore, the next town, for at least fifteen more miles at a very slow pace and this saucer did not

move. Eventually the mountain obscured the saucer.

I have read many descriptions of UFOs concerning their shapes and colors. This was a typical saucer shape, and the color was pewter. Silver but not shiny. The dome, in my estimation, was small in comparison to the size of the saucer.

Since the UFO sat there so long I had the feeling that it was not there observing, but rather making a statement, "Look, here we are." This thing was just beautiful and to me an epiphany.

This was a bright sunny day without a cloud in the sky, but unfortunately I didn't have a camera. Now, however, I never go anywhere without one.

I went to Utah several times to get a picture of the mountain. Once the film was not good and the second one clouds obscured the sight. This time there was some haze when I took the pictures. I still get excited when telling this story and I hope someday to see this again.

Photos needed

The *MUFON UFO Journal* welcomes photos from MUFON meetings and other events. Please clearly list, left to right, who is in the photo and what is taking place. These may be sent snail mail or electronically.

Alien Conspiracy: Unraveling the UFO/Alien Mystery, Limited researcher's edition, volumes 1 & 2, by Chris B. Evans, 2003, Alarm Clock Publishing, P.O. Box 1389, Ceredo, WV 25507, 6x9 soft cover, 282 pages plus Appendix, Bibliography, and Index, \$29.95.

Reviewed by Dwight Connelly

This book is not as "far out" as the title and cover would suggest. Evans, who describes himself as an amateur scientist and inventor, explains that this volume has been condensed down from 400 pages. Still, it contains a great deal of material, from reviewing the field of modern ufology in part 1 to looking at ancient writings which may be related to UFOs in part 2.

Evans says of the book, "This writing is not pro alien, nor is it an effort to debunk any known possibilities. Rather, it is one author's gloved attempt to sift through a mountain of preconceived notions that may have left a wobbly and confused foundation in recounting modern UFO history."

He says he feels "it is important to emphasize caution toward any euphoric notion that the entities behind alien abductions might be engaged in a humanitarian mission—when viewed in the sense they might be our 'space brothers.' In fact, human logic tends to dictate otherwise."

Like many other researchers, Evans sees the probable involvement of the government in debunking and hiding information. His sources for UFO cases and reports, which he utilizes mostly in looking for patterns, are a mixture of reliable and questionable. He observes, however, that "the real issues are mostly established by the testimonies of the first-hand witnesses: common people who—through their natural and intuitive bearings—have come to realize that they have seen and/or experienced something that was out of the ordinary."

One of the interesting cases discussed by Evans is the famous Maury Island encounter, which was investigated in part by Kenneth Arnold. Among the many interesting details brought out in this

chapter is the fact that Fred Crisman, supposedly the employer of one of the witnesses, was later tied into the Kennedy assassination investigation by New Orleans District Attorney Garrison as an undercover operative, possibly connected to the CIA.

A significant portion of the book deals with Andrea Roberts, who has a history of consciously-recalled encounters, beginning in childhood, including the effects that a light seemed to have on her father. A particularly interesting aspect of this case is the fact that Ms. Roberts' blood type switches, such as from type A to type O.

In looking at the whole picture, Evans concludes that there has been an ongoing interaction between entities and mankind "over the course of thousands of years." He adds, "Research tends to suggest that a grand scheme was formerly conceived in the distant past, and, similarly, has been patiently allowed to unfold."

In discussing this ancient past, Evans is aware that he is dealing with sensitive issues. "Some readers may at first react to this material as if it were sacrilegious or goes against their religious teachings," he says.

"To the contrary, the verses we review may serve to explain certain truths that are long-since forgotten, while possibly defining the nature and purposes behind their original themes, as viewed by the ancient patriarchs who attempted to describe what they saw and heard. It is not the intent of this segment to postulate religious theory, but rather to offer historical parallels that hint of interactions that might have occurred between ancient men and higher beings in the distant past."

There is much more, of course, in this lengthy book which attempts to cover both the ancient and modern history of UFOs.

The Appendix features documentation of the blood-type shifts of Ms. Roberts, the Bibliography lists 49 books of varying quality, and there is a helpful index.

If there is a criticism of Evans' efforts, it would be that he tries to cover too much, does not always zero in on the best cases,

and sometimes explains and speculates in too much detail. Yet one has to be impressed, for the most part, by the extensive research and the incisive thinking that has gone into this effort to deal with a very complicated topic.

This is not light reading, but it should be quite interesting to anyone who wants to explore what the agenda(s) of UFOs and entities might be—a question whose answer continues to elude most of us.



Dear Forum Editor,

Re "Fire lookouts see anomalies" in *MUFON UFO Journal* No. 422, June 2003: the description on page 5—"shadows seemed to cast onto the object, even though the light seemed to be coming from it"—is worth comparing with testimony from Bentwaters, 30 December 1980.

See page 216 in either edition of the 1984 Prentice Hall book by Fawcett & Greenwood (The book was first titled *UFO Cover-Up* and then *Clear Intent*): "the men walked around the object and noticed an interesting effect...shadows would appear to advance one pace more and then stop." The account adds that shadows were cast "probably by bright 'light-alls' in the field."

Considering the similar fire lookout case, that opinion may be wrong. A correct interpretation may be much more profound.

—Thomas M. Olsen



Gordon Creighton, 95, long-time editor of the UK's *Flying Saucer Review (FSR)*, died July 16.

Field investigator t-shirt

The field investigator t-shirt has the MUFON logo over the left chest pocket and "MUFON Field Investigator" on the back. It comes in S, M, L and XL in white with a blue logo (\$12 + \$3 S&H) or black with a white logo (\$15 + \$3 S&H). MUFON, P.O. Box 369, Morrison, CO 80465-0369. (Check, MO, or cash, U.S. dollars.)



PERCEPTIONS

By Stanton T. Friedman

Frequently-Asked Questions

I was very busy at the MUFON 2003 Symposium in Dearborn, MI, July 4-6. Mostly I was answering questions after my lecture "Critiquing the Roswell Critics," during my workshop on "UFOs: The Cosmic Watergate," during the speakers' panel, and while manning my vendor table behind my various books, videos, and papers.

Mostly the questioners were looking for answers to why, rather than dealing with specific facts. Facts are generally the focus of my presentations, but people still want to know why. Or How come? I thought it might be useful for me to deal with a number of these.

One unexpected problem that developed was that rather than my workshop consisting of a small informal group of people in a small room, it was held for a few hundred in the main speaker's hall.

I had planned to avoid using slides and to make good use of my paper, "The Cosmic Watergate," which includes a number of quotes helping to establish that there is a coverup by US government agencies of UFO data, and to show the blacked out and whited out UFO documents issued by the CIA, NSA, etc.

Why the coverup?

Of course, when I answered the inevitable question, "Why the coverup?," I had to preface my remarks with the obvious caveat that I do NOT speak for the US government, but here are the reasons which I think have kept all governments from wanting to release the best data—from crashes, the best multiple witness radar visual cases, physical trace cases, etc:

1. They want to figure out the method of propulsion and the method of manufacture of the high-strength, lightweight materials used in constructing them, along with electronics and other unique devices.

Flying saucers do make wonderful weapons delivery and defense systems.

Even though the cold war is over, there is no shortage of governments trying to find more efficient ways of killing their enemies, better ways of delivering nuclear and other Weapons of Mass Destruction, and keeping enemies from delivering theirs.

Rule number 1 for security: one can't tell one's friends without telling one's enemies.

2. What if "The other guy" figures out how they work before we do; how do we defend? We don't want them to know we know that they know.

3. What if an announcement were made by two individuals highly trusted around the world that some UFOs are ET spacecraft (we could have a competition to figure out an appropriate pair. Maybe the Queen and the Pope?)

What would happen? Church attendance and mental hospital admissions would go up, stock markets would go down, and the younger generation would push for an earthling orientation rather than the nationalistic or religious ones insisted upon by governments.

I know of no governing body that wants its citizens to owe their primary allegiance to the Planet rather than to that body. Those in power want to stay in power.

4. Pat Robertson and Jerry Falwell have loudly proclaimed UFOs are the work of the devil, and that we are the only intelligent beings in the universe. They would be up a religious creek without a paddle if an announcement were made. The votes of their followers are very important.

5. If an announcement about peaceful alien visitors were made, many would expect that, since they are obviously technologically superior, soon there would be new methods of energy production, ground and air transport, computers, and communications.

Economic chaos would ensue, such as happened when Eastern Europe accepted freedom, democracy, elections, and capitalism. They haven't benefited much. We are not good at large-scale economic transitions.

6. What if the government were to admit that many pilots had been lost chasing and trying to shoot down saucers? I have heard half a dozen cases of several planes going up and fewer coming down. Both the USSR and the USA shot down "enemy" planes doing reconnaissance

too close to their borders. Neither side said a word for decades. Families were lied to, too.

Why Come Here?

Often the next question would be, but why would any aliens want to come here from hundreds or thousands of light years away? I have to point out that within only 54 light years there are 1000 stars, of which 46 are similar to the sun and probably have planets and life.

One pair, Zeta 1 and Zeta 2 Reticuli, are, after all, only 1/8th of a light year apart from each other, only 39 light years away from us, and a billion years older than the sun. So why worry about distant stars and ignore those in our own backyard?

Then I go into a quick list of reasons for coming here (26 are in my 1975 MUFON paper). But I finish by saying I think they are here primarily to quarantine us, because we are such a primitive society whose major activity is obviously tribal warfare.

At the end of WW II, during which we Earthlings killed 50 million of our own kind and destroyed 1700 cities, it would have been perfectly obvious to alien observers that soon we would be moving out, based upon the obvious development of nuclear weapons, large rockets, and radar (electronics).

Southeastern New Mexico was the only site on Earth where all three of these new technologies could be studied.

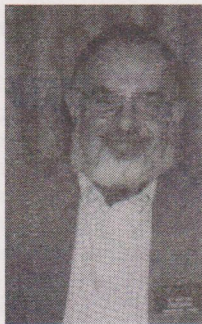
Surely it is not a coincidence that Roswell and White Sands Missile Range were in that area where the first nuclear bomb was exploded, where the captured German V-2 rockets were being tested, and where we had our best tracking radar following the often errant missiles.

But wouldn't you expect them to make official contact with us? In the first place we don't know that they haven't. In the second place, why? They hold the cards.

Certainly nothing any aliens have done to Earthlings can match what other Earthlings have done to Earthlings. They may well be being kind to dumb animals.

But Isaac Asimov and others have suggested if they neither make themselves publicly obvious (land in the middle of the World Soccer Cup?) nor don't hide from us, they must not be coming here!

Of course we all know that science fiction writers are experts on the behavior of aliens, even if they totally ignore the



Stanton Friedman

data related to observations of those aliens and their craft.

The geologists among them may be concerned that we, over the past 100 years, have developed a strong interest in a number of very dense rare metals that have special characteristics, but are likely to be more abundant here (because Earth is the densest planet in the solar system) than on nearby planets.

These could include such dense exotica as rhenium, platinum, uranium, osmium, tungsten, gold—all with densities much greater than that of lead, and with various special metallurgical characteristics.

Why abductions?

But why abductions, then? Who knows? Genetic manipulations, hybridization, search for genetic diseases? Or maybe to determine how much our genetic makeup has changed from what it was when our ancestors were dropped off here to colonize the place, or as prisoners on Earth, the Devils Island of this corner of the galaxy.

We don't understand serial killers or child molesters very well, but they are real. The biologists among them may just be on field trips, doing graduate theses.

Why do UFOs crash?

Well, OK, but if aliens are so advanced, and their materials are so strong, how could the saucer wind up in small pieces on the debris field near Corona?

I had to point out to a number of people that the steel and concrete remains of the Oklahoma bombing were still strong and hard though in small pieces instead of big pieces. The materials weren't atomized as in a nuclear blast, nor dissolved as in a bath of acid.

A tracking radar (or lightning bolt) known to be on in the Roswell area, for example, may have induced guidance problems for one or both of a pair of saucers moving along—or created a problem with an electro magnetic propulsion system, causing a mid-air collision or the dumping of a lot of energy in to the skin of one or both of the saucers.

How about Robert Lazar?

Why don't you believe in Robert Lazar? He certainly sounds sensible. Yes, he does. However nothing about him checks out at five different offices at MIT, at Cal Tech, or at Los Alamos (he worked there briefly for a subcontractor not for the lab).

His high school said he finished in the bottom third of his class, he didn't graduate with his class, the physics professor, Dr. William Duxler, he claimed he had at Cal Tech, never taught there, but only at Pierce Junior College in Southern Califor-

nia where Bob was at the very same time when he was supposedly at MIT 2500 miles away. The element 115 scheme makes no sense, etc. There is an article at my website and in TOP SECRET/MAJIC.

How about Col. Corso?

Don't you think Lt. Colonel Corso's story is an important piece of the UFO story? No, there is no substantiation in his book, he overstated his government role (he was not a member of the NSC, was not a buddy to J.E. Hoover, etc). There is an article on the website.

Why is the press so negative?

Why has the press been so negative? Again I don't speak for the press, but I have observed them a lot since giving my first lecture 36 years ago. The big city press seems to suffer from the David Susskind Syndrome. I did a program with David 30 years ago.

They, like David, take great pride in knowing about everything that is important: If some UFOs were really alien space craft, that would be important. But if it were important, we would know about it and we don't, so why waste our time on this nonsense?

Terry Hansen's book *The Missing Times* certainly makes a strong case for major media often being in bed with government, which most definitely adds to the problem. The recent fuss at the *New York Times* shows that truth has not always been the major concern of the press.

It would be fun to see a debate between a team of knowledgeable scientists and top journalists. Or for that matter between ufologists and SETI cultists who are so opposed to flying saucers, but so enamored with listening for signals. My debate challenge to SETI Specialist Dr. Seth Shostak has been refused.

Why are you opposed to SETI?

If there were no evidence of alien visitations, then I would be interested, particularly in optical SETI. But almost all the literature of the so-called science is based on wild conjectures, including such weird notions as that there is no evidence for UFOs, interstellar travel is impossible, wherever there is life out there it had to have originated at that location, that there is no colonization or migration, that radio is the most advanced means of long distance communication, that there is no national security aspect to flying saucers, and that SETI cultists are knowledgeable about behavior patterns of earthlings, no less aliens.

Look at their books and papers and study their references, or, in most cases, the absence of relevant references. Astronomers, in particular, are not qualified to talk about astronautics or behavior of

ETI or UFOs any more than the sci-fi writers who also have no qualms about speaking on these topics. That surely hasn't stopped them. I wish they knew as much about ufology as I know about setiology.

Isn't interstellar travel limited?

Doesn't the fact that the speed of light is the absolute limit for movement of anything forever prohibit interstellar travel? There are several answers here:

A. No reason to assume that each small saucer observed here in our atmosphere just came here from another solar system. There may well be bases in the local neighborhood.

Huge mother ships flitting between the stars may well warp space and time with white holes, black holes, worm holes or clever techniques about which we know nothing. One doesn't need or want speeds even close to the speed of light in a planetary atmosphere. Hard to meet somebody for lunch when going around the earth in 1/70 of a second.

B. Remember, too, that pilots moving at 99.99% of the speed of light only age a bit more than 6 months while travelling a distance of 39 light years.

C. Limits related to the increase of mass at speeds close to the speed of light are irrelevant if the acceleration is produced by cosmic freeloading or the production of very high energy charged particles in appropriate fusion reactions such as Deuterium-Helium 3.

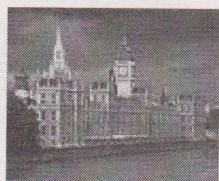
D. Though it is tough on our egos, I see no reason at all to assume we know all there is to know about flight or communication technology. The laser was invented less than 50 years ago, and now there are a zillion different uses for lasers, ranging from CD Players, checkout counters, classroom pointers, to welding, attaching retinas, drilling holes in baby bottle nipples, and producing an incredible energy density, albeit for a very, very short interval, of a million, million, billion watts per square cm!

Any bets on technological breakthroughs 50 years from now?

Nuclear physicist lecturer Stan Friedman can be reached at fsphys@rogers.com His website is www.v-j-enterprises.com/sfpage.html

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VIEW FROM BRITAIN

By Jenny Randles

Perspectives on our field

In recent months UFOlogy seems to have been very much on a downer, with many classic cases being supposedly re-investigated and found wanting—not by skeptics, but often by fellow UFOlogists.

Inevitably this causes anyone who thinks deeply about the subject to question our own opinions as to whether there is anything real behind the UFO mystery at all, as a wave of negativism sweeps the field.



Jenny Randles

When I considered the cases that still impressed me I was struck by how UFOlogy is very much a field of perspectives. How ever you tend to view things affects quite considerably the manner with which you approach any case.

Skeptics look at a case already certain that it must fail, seeking any answer to consign it to the trash can.

Rational investigators accept negative evidence with the philosophy that not all UFO sightings will remain unsolved. Indeed most, based on past experience, clearly will not. So they embrace the findings and move on.

Enthusiasts, those who treat UFOlogy rather like a game of poker with the powers that be, tend to ignore any problems because the case, as a case, is what matters. Since it only becomes a useful asset if it remains unassailable, it tends to take on an air of invulnerability that it may not always deserve.

What makes a good case?

If you asked yourself what makes a really good case I dare say that few of us would end up with the same answer. Most would plump for multiple witnesses tied to some kind of physical evidence and/or radar or film footage from multiple locations that offer independent verification.

Such cases are, understandably, not in abundance, and even they are not immune to the shadow of demystification.

One case I spent a long time on (20 years on and off) involved cine film evidence and multiple witnesses at three independent locations. But it was solved in the end thanks to a combination of good fortune and perseverance.

The UFO was an aircraft ejecting blazing fuel that got trapped by a freak thermal layer into a short-lived, but very real, "fireball."

The solution proved more important here than the UFO case (this event happened right on top of a junior grade school with potentially catastrophic consequences). But do you hear any kind of public outcry about this? Not at all. Yet TV programs were made about the case when it was deemed to be a UFO, including one in which a noted skeptic and science writer offered the wonderfully absurd "explanation" that it was a meteor.

Slight problem, as UFOlogists discovered on day one, but said "expert" had not bothered to check: there was full cloud cover at under 2000 feet. No meteor could have flown that low without its impact becoming obvious.

You might think it odd that one of the cases that has impressed me the most in recent years does so from the kind of evidence that would cause a skeptic to write it off without even trying—on the pretext that single witness events always can be assumed to be lies, illusions, etc, etc.

Happily, UFOlogists do not fall for such cop-outs, which is really just an excuse not to have to think too hard about the events. And whilst I absolutely agree that we should strive for hard evidence and multiple witnesses and assign proper merit to these cases, they are not, per se, greater cases because they possess these attributes.

An ideal case

A case that impresses me does so for reasons very different from those likely to impress even other UFOlogists. We are back to those perspectives again.

It was first told to a friend who is a local folklore investigator, and who conveyed details to me knowing of my UFO interest. It was never reported in that context, but if this is not a UFO case, goodness knows what is.

Briefly, on 16 June, 1991, a business-

man was returning from a meeting (where he had drunk only coffee—though lots of it) and stopped at a beauty spot in Staffordshire known as Rudyard Lake (incidentally, from where writer Rudyard Kipling got his name). It was 1:30 AM, dark and deserted, but a mild night.

His intention was to relieve himself of excess coffee, but he discovered a golden ball of light hovering on top of some standing stones, part of an ancient monument of Neolithic origin. As he watched the ball of light, it moved towards him, spraying sparks of electricity towards the ground.

Not surprisingly fearful, he climbed back into his car to discover it was totally drained of all power—neither lights nor engine would fire. Getting out, hoping to fix it, he now saw that the ball of light was closer, and he was swamped by strange physical sensations.

A heavy pressure was pushing him into the ground, his level of consciousness was fading, and there were tingling sensations over his body and a shooting pain behind his eyes. He crashed to the ground, losing all further recall.

An unknown time later, he awoke on the ground, feeling light-headed and disorientated. He literally had to crawl through some bushes looking for his car (he was only a few feet from it), and fell when he tried to stand.

He noticed that his shirt and shoes were missing (he has no idea why, and they were in fact next to the car by the spot where he lost consciousness). As he brushed the dirt off his clothing and (still lacking bodily coordination) gingerly got dressed, sparks of static electricity shot out from the clothing.

He stumbled into the car, relieved to find that it was working perfectly, and the keys were still in the ignition where he had left them. But it was now 3:05 AM. Over 90 minutes had disappeared during his period of unconsciousness.

Reactions

It is easy to write this case off as a dream or fantasy, and no doubt most skeptics will do precisely that, relieving them of any obligation to really ask what it means.

Many UFOlogists would perceive its

merit as limited, even though this man was an impeccable witness. He has zero interest in publicity, being a major businessman with much to lose if those he worked with considered that he saw strange things.

In such circumstances, sadly, most witnesses never do speak up, and we miss impressive cases for that reason. To me this man's motivations are vital.

Of course, many other UFOlogists would immediately regard this as an abduction, and presume that during the "missing time" there is a "hidden memory" of some kind of alien contact. No doubt this would explain why his clothes were found on the ground. The aliens did it after some kind of probe.

In this situation, a lot of UFO groups would persuade this man to have regression hypnosis to seek out this missing part of his story. We know this because it has happened often in similar scenarios. And I have very little doubt that if they succeed, then some kind of "story" would emerge.

What I cannot at all be certain of is that this story would reflect any actual event. Hypnosis generates fantasy much as it stimulates recall, and here the end result could quite frankly be either. In my view it would be dangerous and misleading to even consider using hypnosis in this situation.

Thankfully this has never happened, as the witness has no interest in hypnosis, nor any belief that he was anything other than unconscious during the missing 90 minutes. Indeed, in many similar UFO encounters, I suspect witnesses often think that way until UFOlogists convince them otherwise.

The human desire to plug any gap in memory is powerful, especially when given a boost by people taking undue interest in you because they think your story will add to their knowledge of alien abductions.

Either the abduction or a period of unconsciousness view is valid here, and I feel we should err on the side of caution—not seeking to add to this story any dimensions that we have no proven way to demonstrate it really ever possessed.

Yet to me this is a hugely impressive case for one simple reason. It is consistent with a type of phenomenon that is widely reported.

Many of the relatively obscure features in this story (such as the static electric charge left on clothing, and the temporary loss of muscle coordination in the aftermath) scream out from case after case if you look deep into the evidence.

You often need to look only at what

we really know—minus any aspects tacked on later via hypnosis. I have collected literally dozens of cases that are nearly the same as this one, and from all over the world.

They are not always even reported in a UFO context. Without any doubt these cases reflect a genuine, physically real phenomenon whose origin we do not yet understand.

They are so much of a pattern that those scientists who allege that they would study UFOlogy if it ever offered a consistent stream of evidence that could be investigated are shown to be mistaken by believing that it has not yet been identified.

The evidence exists. The data is out there. Sadly, too many scientists flee from looking for such evidence, not because it lacks inherent strength, but because of the weaknesses added into it by a UFO

community who tend to take the data several steps too far when seeking to justify a theory about UFOs (usually that it involves alien contact).

Their perspective on the case urges them to do so, but I wonder if they don't dilute the power of the case by so doing.

These cases prove merely that something truly fascinating, of clear physical dimensions, with predictable effects and scientifically analysable features, is occurring all over the world. By all definitions this is a real UFO phenomenon.

It demonstrates why we should still be pursuing this mystery, not abandoning it at speed.

If only we could recognize the importance of the data that we have already uncovered, and stop finding answers before we have even realized the right questions to ask about what these cases mean.

Strange light at Georgia airport

By Tom Sheets
Georgia State Director

MUFONGA's Michael Hitt has advised me that a witness who had recently approached him has now provided initial information regarding a 17 Feb 2000 night event.

The preliminary interview revealed that this witness, an adult male in his thirties, was at Atlanta's Hartsfield Airport along with other family members. They were awaiting the arrival of an international flight in order to meet their parents.

This was an auspicious occasion for all, and a video camera had been brought along to record the reunion. While waiting, the witness observed a round bright light in the sky that seemed different from the typical lights seen in such areas—i.e. landing aircraft, approaching aircraft lights etc.

This particular white light was pulsating and began to change position by moving and darting up and down in a dramatically noticeable fashion. The witness then began to videotape the bright light as it loitered in the same general airspace, recording its unusual movements.

At one point the light, its approximate apparent size being that of a pencil eraser, seemed to shape shift from round to a sort of jelly-like shape. During this video sequence, a portion of a building was captured on the tape, lending some perspective to the event.

The other family members also observed this activity during its approxi-

mate twenty-minute duration. Upon conclusion, the light zipped away vertically at such great speed that it appeared as a streaking blur.

Michael has made an initial inspection of the video and indicates that he detected a slight tint of red in the light. Michael stated that thus far, there appears to be no indication that this event is anything other than what has been described: a family group being in the right place to view an aerial light/object that appeared radically different from routine airport area traffic.

MUFONGA frequently receives reports of darting, chasing nocturnal lights, and as a general rule these are usually distant, star-like lights, perhaps indistinguishable from the average star except for their quick and bizarre maneuvers. This case and its video seems to go much beyond that.

We have here a light that appears substantial in size or is much closer than the average "nocturnal light." Its apparent change of shape also seems unusual.

While atmospheric conditions and/or viewing conditions might cause aircraft lights or any aerial lights to take on unusual characteristics, the darting movements and its very fast vertical departure calls for closer scrutiny.

Lastly MUFONGA has investigated several solid events involving "unknowns" in relative close proximity to Hartsfield Airport, and of course the various FAA personnel knew nothing.

The NIGHT SKY

Walter N. Webb

September 2003

Bright Planets (Evening Sky):

Venus (magnitude -3.9) emerges at dusk, first for observers in the southern states during the latter half of September. Otherwise, our bright neighbor remains inconspicuous this month.

Mars, retrograding in Aquarius, continues its rare and dazzling appearance all month. Its -2.9 magnitude at the start of September makes it 3 times brighter than Jupiter! The red planet advances from the ESE across the southern sky during the night. On the night of the 8th-9th, it appears near the full moon. For details about observing Mars, see the August Night Sky.

Bright Planets (Morning Sky):

Mercury has its best morning appearance of the year, reaching its farthest angular distance from the Sun on the 26th. Look for the orange-tinted planet in the last week of the month into early October low in the E at twilight.

Mars sets in the WSW about 4:30 AM in mid-September.

Jupiter (-1.7), in Leo, rises in the ENE just as twilight begins (before 5 AM in midmonth) and so it remains low in the dawn sky. Jupiter and Mercury can be seen near the lunar crescent on Sept. 24.

The enormously productive Galileo Jupiter probe finally ends its long career by plunging to its doom into the big planet's atmosphere this month.

The spacecraft was launched way back on Oct. 18, 1989, and had orbited Jupiter since December 8, 1995. The project succeeded far beyond all expectations.

Saturn (0.1), in Gemini, rises in the NE about 12:30 AM in mid-September and stands high in the SE at dawn.

Moon Phases:

First quarter—Sept. 3
Full moon—Sept. 10 Harvest Moon
Last quarter—Sept. 18
New moon—Sept. 25

The Stars:

The six constellations involved in the Royal Family legend come into view in the eastern half of the late-evening sky.

High in the N look for Cepheus the King of Ethiopia (shaped like a house with a peaked roof) and Cassiopeia the Queen (crooked "M" shape).

In the E their princess daughter Andromeda is formed by two rows of stars curving out from a corner of the Great Square of Pegasus the Flying Horse.

Below Andromeda in the NE is her rescuer Perseus ("J" pattern). Finally a rather nondescript Cetus the Sea Monster can be found low in the E and ESE.

The complex story (made famous by the movie "Clash of the Titans") develops when Perseus, returning home on the back of Pegasus after his battle with Medusa, spies Andromeda in the grasp of Cetus.

Our hero holds up the cut-off Medusa's head whose stare turns the monster to stone. The princess is rescued and rides off with the celestial warrior.

CALENDAR

Sept. 6-7—National UFO Conference (NUFOC), North Hollywood, CA., anndruffel@aol.com 323-256-8655

Sept. 13—Roswell International UFO Museum, Gloria Hawker. damom15165@aol.com

Oct. 11-12—Halifax, Nova Scotia, International UFO Symposium. 902-463-4728 or info@ufohalifax

Oct. 12-13—Pat Marcatillio's UFO Conference, Bordentown, NJ www.drufu.org

Nov. 14-16—Majestic Documents/UFO Crash Retrieval Conference, Las Vegas, NV. www.majesticdocuments.com or 720-887-8171

A reminder

State and local MUFON organizations which have address changes, email changes, or web site changes need to immediately contact MUFON Headquarters so that this information is included in our files and on our website.

Director's Message...

(Continued from page 24)

Illinois State Director **David Marler** appointed **Sam Maranto** to the position of State Section Director for the counties of Cook, Will, Kendall, LaSalle, and Kankakee.

Oregon State Director **Tom Bowden** appointed **Keith Rowell** to the position of State Section Director for the Portland Metro area.

Robert E. Farrell, Erie, PA, has accepted the position of Consultant in Plastics Engineering; **Robert H. Miller**, Deerfield, NH, has accepted the position of Research Specialist in Biophysics, and **Gregory Kautz**, Sherman Oaks, CA, has joined the Astronomy group.

New Field Investigators

Kathleen Marden, Director for Field Investigator Training, announced the following Field Investigator Trainees have successfully completed the Field Investigator's Exam and are now MUFON Field Investigators: **John A. Bielun**, Henderson, NV; **Terry L. Groff**, Dallas, TX; **Bill Roache**, Worcester, MA; and **Alejandro T. Rojas**, Golden, CO.

All Field Investigator Trainees are urged to study the *MUFON Field Investigator's Manual* and take the exam. The manual provides guidelines for UFO investigations and reporting.

It is available from MUFON Headquarters for \$25 plus \$3.50 p&h in the U.S. Please add \$4.00 for orders shipped outside the United States.

The exam is available from MUFON Headquarters and is mailed free to trainees when studies are completed.

Kathleen Marden Recognized

Public recognition was bestowed on **Kathleen Marden** in July by the dedication of the *MUFON 2003 International UFO Symposium Proceedings* in her honor.

During her twelve years with MUFON she has held a number of important positions and is always ready to support MUFON initiatives in the most positive way.

She began as a Field Investigator Trainee and soon completed the necessary training to be certified as a MUFON Field Investigator. In 1995 she accepted the position of State Section Director for Rockingham County in New Hampshire.

About a year later the Position of Director for Field Investigator Training became available and Kathy zestfully accepted the position that she still holds today..

UFO Marketplace

The Mission by Ed Benjamin. UFO black comedic novella, written by a retired Air Force colonel. Download a digital copy for only \$6.95
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10/03

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8/03

The Cash-Landrum UFO Incident by John Schuessler (forward by Bob Pratt), 323 pages, soft cover, 5 1/2 X 8 1/2, \$20.00 plus \$2.50 post. Available from MUFON, Box 369, Morrison, CO 80465-0369.

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Issue	Ads due
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Jan. 2004	12-1-03
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DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

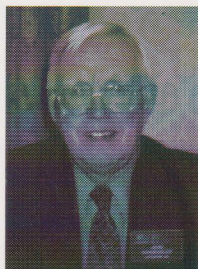
By **John F. Schuessler**
MUFON International Director

Successful 2003 Symposium

The MUFON 2003 International UFO Symposium, held July 4-6 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Dearborn, MI, was a huge success.

The speakers were professional with their presentations, and cordial with the audience. The hotel's meeting facilities were excellent, the food great, and the hotel site easy to access.

Upon arrival we were treated to the sight of 600 antique Ford cars because their owners were attending the Ford anniversary event that week.



John Schuessler

All in all it was an excellent weekend. A hearty thank you and a round of applause goes to MUFON State Director **Richard McVannel** and his symposium team. They made it all happen.

MUFON Pandora Project

In recent issues of the *Journal* I have talked about the MUFON Business Board decision to turn the many file cabinets of paper UFO reports into electronic reports.

This has been a long-standing need, but the job is very large, and no one seemed to know how to get things underway until late last year when Colorado businessman and MUFON State Section Director **James Carrion** agreed to take the helm.

The first thing he did was to define a project plan and present it to the Board. Then in the spring of 2003 he beta tested the plan using a set of the MUFON UFO report files. Because MUFON didn't have the resources to purchase the equipment necessary for the project, James loaned equipment to MUFON to get the project started.

Then we needed a location to do all of the work, so Board Member **Robert Simpson** and Director of Membership **Lin Simpson** volunteered to host the project at their home in Parker, CO. The project, now known as the **Pandora Project**, officially got underway on the first weekend in August with training of volunteers that will be doing the work.

The **Pandora Project** is a huge under-

taking for a volunteer staff, but it is important to save this 34-year old historical database and to be able to make it available electronically for future researchers.

We would welcome financial help that would turn this into a fast track project by buying some additional equipment and paying the salaries of three or four people to do the work five or six days a week, rather than depending on volunteers to do it on weekends in addition to their regular jobs.

Please contact me at (303) 932-7709, or mufonhq@aol.com, or MUFON, P.O. Box 369, Morrison, Colorado 80465-0369 with suggestions or offers of financial help for the **Pandora Project**.

We are already looking forward to **Pandora Project II**, where we plan to scan all past *MUFON UFO Journals* and *MUFON Symposium Proceedings* and make them available in electronic form.

UFO Case Reports Needed

MUFON receives notice of UFO reports by telephone and via WUFOD on the website at www.mufon.com on a daily basis. We depend on all of our great volunteers in the field to investigate and report on each of these incidents.

One of the steps in the process is to send a copy of the report with supporting data (maps, charts, drawings, news clippings, photos, etc.) to MUFON Headquarters. These in turn go to the *Journal* and into the archives being turned into an electronic database by the **Pandora Project**.

We are finding that many of the reports have not made it back to Headquarters from the field, and that will hurt the completeness of the electronic database until those reports are sent in to us.

Everyone in MUFON has a hand in making the **Pandora Project** a success by going to their files and sending this material to us over the next several months. Our goal is for this to be the most comprehensive, current, and useful database available.

MUFON Radio Program

Another result of meetings in Dearborn during the recent symposium was a plan to inaugurate a weekly MUFON Radio Program.

Board member **Clifford Cliff**, working with MUFON Media Operations Specialist **Jim Hickman**, formulated a plan for a weekly radio program to air starting the

first Wednesday in September.

I am scheduled to be the first program guest, setting the stage for MUFON state directors, state section directors, consultants, research specialists, field investigators and more to bring the current state of UFO investigations and research to the attention of the public.

New Lifetime Members

It is a pleasure to announce that **Doris Alvarez**, Branford, CT; **Dan Aykroyd**, Los Angeles, CA; and **Alexander Mebane**, Venice, FL are MUFON's latest lifetime members. We are extremely grateful for this vote of confidence and outstanding level of support.

Membership Fee Increase

Meeting in Dearborn, MI, in July, the MUFON Business Board of Directors considered the continual increase in costs for postage, printing, purchase of wares, supplies, new initiatives, improvements to the *MUFON UFO Journal*, a forthcoming new and upgraded web site, and for general operations, and opted to increase the annual membership fee, rather than cutting services or quality.

Therefore, effective Dec. 1, 2003, the cost of membership in the United States will be \$45 per year and \$55 per year outside of the United States.

Members will be allowed to renew early, before the Dec. 1 deadline, at the current rate for one, two or three years.

Position Announcements

Canadian National Director **Eugene Frison** has announced the formation of a Canadian Cases Investigation Committee, and will be providing the details of its operation for a future issue of the *MUFON UFO Journal*.

To oversee the operations of the committee, he has appointed **Chris J. Styles** as Canadian Director of Investigations. Chris was the MUFON Eastern Regional Director for Canada. **Michael Bird**, former Provincial Director for Ontario will replace Chris as Eastern Regional Director for Canada.

We are pleased to announce the appointment of **Susan Swiatek** to the position of State Director for Virginia. Sue was the Symposium Coordinator for the very successful MUFON 1999 International UFO Symposium held in Arlington, Virginia.

(Continued on Page 22)