

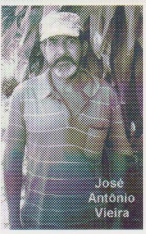
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Brazil's Valley of the Old Women is the scene of numerous UFO encounters. Bob Pratt's article begins on page 3.

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MUFON's mission is the scientific study of UFOs for the benefit of mankind through investigation, research, & education.

UFOs still haunting Brazil's Valley of the Old Women

By Bob Pratt

Anyone wanting to study the UFO phenomenon up close should head for the Valley of the Old Women in central Brazil.

For at least half a century now, the valley has been one of the most active UFO regions in the world. Countless sightings have been reported over the years, and UFOs are still being seen there.

Its proper name is *Vale do Rio das Velhas*, or the Valley of the River of the Old Women.

The valley encompasses 10,750 square miles of cattle ranches and farmland in low mountains and rolling hills in the center of the state of Minas Gerais. The river has many small streams feeding it.

The system originates near the city of Ouro Preto, southeast of the state capital, Belo Horizonte, and meanders north-northwest about five hundred kilometers before emptying into the Rio São Francisco, one of Brazil's largest rivers.

Just how much of the valley has been visited by UFOs is not known. To our knowledge, UFO investigators have searched only a small portion of the valley, but that research has yielded rich results.

Members of the Belo Horizonte UFO group CICOANI have gone to the valley hundreds of times since the late 1960s, documenting about 1,500 sightings and encounters. The valley has proved to be irresistible to us too.

Some encounters took place as long ago as the 1950s, and some just two to three months before our visit. We learned later that there were sightings after we left.

São Vicente is a small town about fifty kilometers in a straight line north of Belo Horizonte but about one hundred kilometers by car.

Three veteran investigators who live

in São Vicente, Ivan Leóncio Soares, José Cimália, and Maria Mércia Rodrigues, worked with us. Ivan is a former professional soccer player and a retired police officer, José is a businessman, and Mércia is a mathematics teacher.

Altogether, we looked into 26 cases, many of them with two or more witnesses. Most of the people reported seeing a big ball of light in the sky that lit up everything around it.

Frightened mother

Most of the people we talked to were frightened during their encounters. In 1991, Celsa de Fátima Soares, now 44, had one of the most terrifying incidents. She is a cook at Fazenda dos Poções and lives about ten kilometers from the farm.

"It was around 11 or 11:30 at night and I was going home in a pickup truck with my eight-year-old son and my baby," Celsa said. "The baby was eight months old."

She had to park the truck some distance from her house because the house is in the woods and there was no driveway.

"I was getting down from the truck, had a sack over my shoulder, held the boy with one hand and my baby in my other arm," she said. "As we started down the path toward the house, a light appeared in the sky ahead and lit up the ground all around us. I panicked and started running, pulling my boy with me and juggling my baby and the sack. I couldn't go very fast.

"We had to run through a lot of dense bushes and then over a log bridge over a stream. The light was going up and down, up and down, and it was right behind us. I thought it was chasing us. I really wanted to get away from it.

"I ran past a big tree and finally got to the veranda of my house and was screaming at my husband. I looked back and the light was right above that big tree, only fifteen meters away.

"It was red like fire. It was 50 to 60 centimeters in diameter in the beginning, but was getting smaller, maybe 35 to 40 centimeters. By the time my husband came out, it had gone away. It just went out and disappeared."

Celsa said she is afraid to go out at night anymore. "I always look to see if

About the investigators

This article was written by Bob Pratt in collaboration with Cynthia Luce, Tom Tulien, and Vera Filizzola. It is based on interviews the four of them had with UFO witnesses in May, 2003.

Bob, a veteran journalist and UFO researcher, is the author of *UFO Danger Zone—Terror and Death in Brazil*, as well as *Night Siege*, *The Hudson Valley UFO Sightings*, which he co-authored with Dr. J. Allen Hynek and Philip Imbrogno. He is a former editor of the *MUFON UFO Journal*.



Cynthia is an American researcher of anomalous phenomena who has lived in Brazil since the 1970s.



Tom lives in Minneapolis, MN, and is a founder of the Sign Oral History Project, the purpose of which is to preserve important historical information and to make it available for scholarly study.



Vera is a native Brazilian, living most of her life in Belo Horizonte. She has long been interested in UFOs and other paranormal phenomena and has a website, <http://www-jornalinfinito.com.br/>.

The interviews were conducted while Cynthia, Tom, and Bob were guests at Vera's farm.

there's a light around and I'm always ready to run if I see one. My brother Wilson saw a light one night shortly after that and he had to stay hidden in the bushes all night long because he couldn't get away from the light."

Couple terrified

The fear that these objects induced seems to be common in such encounters. For Silvandina Martins, such an encounter was the most terrifying event in her life.

One evening in 1993, she and her husband Raimundo, both then in their mid-sixties, had walked from their home in São



Bob Pratt

Vicente to a friend's farm three kilometers to the north. The friend had butchered a hog and the Martins bought a piece of it.

As they were walking back home with the pork in a basket about 10:30, a bright light appeared in the sky and came toward them. "We were afraid and we started running," Silvandina said.

As they ran, Raimundo abruptly fell down, and the light flew directly over them. Silvandina was terrified and thought he had died.

"Oh, my God, I lost my husband," she told herself, but Raimundo quickly got back up, and they continued running.

"We found a tree with vines around it and hid under the vines. It was the color of fire, very strong. Everything was so bright. Everything was lit up and the light kept going around and around above us. We heard a noise, like a low buzzing sound."

Sometimes the light hovered directly above their hiding place. The tree was about ten meters tall, and the light was just above the tree.

"I was so afraid I wet my pants," Silvandina said. "I am not ashamed. All my clothes were wet. I kept thinking, 'I am going to die. I am going to die.'"

A few minutes later the light disappeared, and the couple went on home. But Silvandina was depressed for two weeks and finally went to a doctor for help. "I have never gone outside at night since then," she said.

Asked if he goes outside at night, Raimundo said, "Yes, but I stay close to home. When friends ask me to go fishing with them, I say no."

Object on the road

One of the more curious encounters occurred when a 57-year-old dairy farmer named Mozart José de Alencar was driving home one night. Just as he was going over a hill he saw 12 to 15 cars, trucks and motorcycles parked in the highway just ahead of him.

Most of the drivers and passengers were standing looking at a brightly glowing object on the ground a hundred meters or so beyond them. It was shaped like an upside down washbasin, and was the size of a car or truck.

It appeared to be sitting on the pavement, and it glowed so brightly that everything around was bathed in red light.

"It was all red," said Mozart when we interviewed him at his farm near São Vicente. "The whole area was lit up." The object made no sound. No one seemed to be afraid, but no one knew what to expect.

About five minutes later, the object began to rise slowly into the air, still not



making any sound. As it went up, it still glowed red, but now seemed to give off greenish rays. A few seconds later, the object circled around as it rose still higher, and a minute later it blinked off and disappeared.

Mozart and the other people stood for a few minutes talking about what they had seen. "We all thought it was a flying saucer."

His sighting took place in 1997, but he doesn't remember what month. It happened on the highway going from Baldim to São Vicente, five kilometers to the south.

These accounts gave us a glimpse of the long-term presence of UFOs in the valley. What these people saw was more or less typical of what has been happening in and around Baldim and São Vicente from the beginning, and may be typical of the entire valley.

Swift light startles man

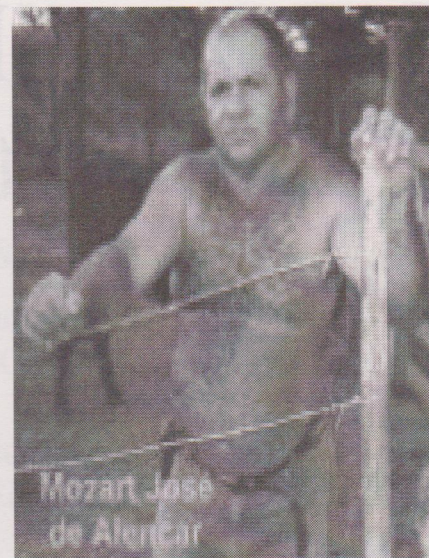
Many of the lights that we heard about were described as being so bright that the shape of the objects behind them could not be determined. Such was the case in one of the most recent sightings.

That sighting occurred about 10 o'clock one dark night last February as Cosme Rodrigues de Araújo was sitting in the doorway of his house on a farm near São Vicente. There was no moon.

Cosme's sons, 10-year-old Henrique and 9-year-old Danilo, were sitting beside him. They were simply watching the sky in the west.

"I could see lots of stars, and then I saw a light coming in the sky," said Cosme, a 38-year-old farm worker. "It was like the headlight on a car. It was bright and was all colors of the rainbow."

The object flew swiftly toward them,



but suddenly stopped just above some banana trees about 300 meters away. Cosme and the boys were so frightened that all three rushed inside the house. "I wanted to get a knife," Cosme admitted. "I felt I had to protect myself."

He and his boys watched the light from a window. It made no sound. To Cosme, it appeared to be five to six meters in diameter as it hovered above the trees. About 15 seconds later, the light suddenly shot back in the direction from which it had come and vanished. "It disappeared in seconds," said Cosme.

Farm sightings common

A number of sightings have occurred on or near Vera's farm. One of the earliest took place in the spring of 1986. The witnesses were Luciene Donata Gonçalves, then eight, and her brother Leonardo Malaquias Gonçalves, twelve. Their father is one of the managers of the farm.

"My brother and I were very young," said Luciene. "About 9 or 10 o'clock one night, we saw a light had been left on in the corral, so we decided to go turn it off."

The corral is 100 to 200 meters from the house where they lived. About halfway to the corral is a gate.

"The minute we got to the gate, a bright light turned on above the corral," she said. "It was about 30 meters above the silo and corncrib in the corral. It was about 50 centimeters in diameter, kind of bluish, and it was lighting up everything."

When the light turned on, it frightened them so much that they ran back to their house as fast as they could.

Her brother Leonardo, now one of Vera's sons-in-law, said, "When we got to the house I turned around and could see the light was getting smaller. It looked

like it pulled back and was going away from us. It kept getting smaller and smaller, and then it went out completely.”

A sizzling sound

Two or three months later that same year, 1986, Erlânia Maria Elias, now 34, had a sighting within 400 meters of that same corral as she was going home for the night. Now a cook for Vera’s family, she was then a 17-year-old maid.

“It was about 8:00 at night and we had just finished fixing dinner for Dona Vera and her family,” said Erlânia. With her that night was Maria Pinto, then 15 or 16, who also worked in the house.

“We left and went out the gate near the veranda, and as we were passing a stand of eucalyptus trees, Maria said, ‘Look, there’s a light!’” They continued walking through the trees, but seconds later they realized the light was getting bigger.

“We thought it must be a car stopped at the entrance to the farm, but Maria was scared and thought it might be a robber. The light was near the ground and then it started to go up into the air. We could hear a low sizzling sound.

“It was shaped like a washbasin, and everything around us was lit up. It was so bright we had trouble seeing. It started to go up. I turned to Maria and said, ‘This is a flying saucer!’ We started screaming and ran back to the house.”

Vera was still on the veranda and heard them screaming, but she didn’t see the light. By then, the light had shrunk in size and soon disappeared.

In almost half of the cases that we investigated, witnesses heard a noise. All described the sound as like a low or soft sizzling, buzzing, or frying noise, and one said a whirring noise like a fan.

Object chases two women

In February, 1985, Vildevina Marques Moura, now 66 and living in São Vicente, heard such a sound. She had gone to a nearby village to sell wood to a relative. Her eight-year-old daughter Maristela was with her. It was about 4 o’clock in the afternoon, but the man who would pay for the wood wasn’t there at the time.

When he returned about 6 o’clock and Vildevina got her money, she and her daughter started walking home. She stopped for a few minutes at a friend’s house near São Vicente. It was getting dark and her friend urged her to stay for the night, but Vildevina had to go because another child was waiting for them at home.

Not long after they continued on their way home, a bright light suddenly appeared in the sky behind them. “We thought it was a car and maybe would

give us a ride,” said Vildevina. “But the light came up and passed right over our heads. We were very frightened. It seemed to be going around and around above our heads.”

They started running, but Vildevina lost her sandals and fell down an embankment beside the road. Both of them scrambled up the bank and ran into the woods.

“We hid in the underbrush, and it was going around over our heads and it lit up the whole area. It was making all this noise, a low buzzing sound.”

The light was the size of a tire, and had come within 15 meters of them, she said. “It was a black color with the light coming from the middle. It kept making that noise. It went off (northeast) toward Gentil. I will never go on that road again.”

Children hide beneath cow

A more spectacular case occurred many years later in the village of Baú, 22 kilometers north of São Vicente. The witnesses were three other children, and their story came to us from Mércia Rodrigues, the math teacher and ufologist who lives in São Vicente.

“This happened on a moonlit night in January 1988,” Mércia said. “The children involved were Adriana Goulart, eight, and her brothers, Djalma, twelve, and Claudio, ten. I heard the story some months later when Adriana came to live with me and worked as a babysitter.

“The night this happened, these children had to walk across the countryside to a place about six kilometers away. When they were walking through a pasture, a light appeared in the sky. Everything lit up. It was a very intense light of many colors. They were frightened.

“There was no place to hide, no trees or anything, but a cow was standing nearby, and the three of them ran underneath the cow. It was frightened too and the light came very close.

The children clung to each other and stayed hidden under the cow as the light kept going around and around in a circle above them. The cow was in a state of shock, and she just stood there the whole time, not moving.

“The children felt a lot of heat from the UFO, and Adriana said the wind was so strong as the light circled around that



the grass was blown sideways.”

Mércia said this went on for several hours before the light disappeared. “They were there the whole time until it got light. There wasn’t anybody around, nobody there, just them and the cow.”

Farmer burned

While some witnesses believe UFOs chased them, Domingos Elias Lopes has no doubt about it, and it happened to him twice. He is a 68-year-old farmer whose farm is next to Vera’s.

“I was coming home at midnight,” he said, telling about the first incident, which took place in 1984. “I saw a star crossing the sky from right to left. When I got close to (a neighbor’s) gate I saw a light up on a hill like a car headlight. Then it came toward me and grew larger. Then everything around me got as bright as day.

“When it got closer, I could see it was shaped like an upside down washbasin. I jumped over a fence and hid in tall grass. The thing passed over me and everything went dark again.

“I jumped back over the fence and started walking in the road, but then I saw a tiny reddish light ahead of me. It would get bigger and smaller, and I thought it was a man coming toward me smoking a cigar.

“Then it became a big light again and started toward me, making a sizzling sound. I jumped over the fence again and hid under a tree.”

The light went out again, but Domingos stayed hidden until he heard a car coming. When it drew near, he jumped out into the road and stopped it.

That frightened the driver, José Gazire, who had not seen the light and thought someone was going to rob him. But when he saw it was Domingos, he let him in and they drove off. Neither man saw the object after that.

In the other encounter the object came even closer to him. “That was ten or eleven years ago,” Domingos said. “It was about 8 o’clock at night, and I saw a light in a soccer field not far from my home.”

Suddenly the light started rising into the air, making a low buzzing or sizzling sound. “It was sort of a wheel of light, but like fire. It was shaped like a washtub turned over. It was coming toward me and I began running to get away from it.

“It was so close I could feel heat on my back. When I reached my home I was in such a hurry that I kicked the door open and broke it.”

His wife Dorvalina thought a thief was trying to break in. She armed herself with a club and started outside before realizing it was her husband. She saw the light as it flew out of sight, making a sizzling

sound. The next day Domingos had blisters on his back, and later he came down with what appeared to be jaundice.

Man dies after encounter

To our knowledge, a jaundice-like illness is not common after being exposed to a UFO, but during our week in São Vicente we heard about two other such incidents.

For José Edígio Vieira, then 70, a close encounter one night in July 1975 may have contributed to his death. He had worked that day delivering bread for a bakery in São Vicente, assisted by a nephew, José Antônio Vieira, 13.

José Antônio, now 41, said that about 11 o'clock that night as they were taking their horses to a pasture, "A big light suddenly appeared in the sky. I asked Edígio what it was. He said, 'It must be a flying saucer!' It scared us, and we ran and hid in some bushes.

"It lit up the whole area. It looked like two plates, one upside down on the other. It kept going around and around in small circles just 12 to 15 meters above us.

"It made a whirring sound like a fan, and it was shining a greenish light down from the center. It stayed for half an hour or more and then it went away."

When he and Edígio thought it was safe, they went back home, arriving about 12:30 in the morning. The next day Edígio woke up sick with symptoms of jaundice, and shortly after went to a hospital.

"He died in the hospital 15 days later," José Antônio said. "The diagnosis was hepatitis." (Jaundice is often associated with hepatitis.)

Sheriff a victim

The victim in the other "jaundice case" was a sheriff in Funilandia, a town 18 kilometers west of São Vicente. The man is now dead, and the story came to us from Anterino Goulart da Silva, whose sighting in 1955 when he was seven and was playing with a brother and sister outside their house was described earlier.

The sheriff's name was José Leiro, and Anterino, 17 at the time of the 1965 incident, worked for him. "José Leiro had investigated the deaths of two men and was riding back home on his horse when a big light lit up above him," Anterino said. "He was very much afraid. He jumped off his horse and hid in the bushes.

"The light was right above him and he stayed hidden until everything got dark again and he sensed the light had gone away. He got back on his horse and went home. But he got sick with jaundice and it was a long time before he got well."



UFOs target families

It was not unusual for several members of some families to have been witnesses in the same encounters. We also talked with several members of one family who all had encounters but none of them at the same time.

Earlier Erlânia Maria Elias told about her encounter when walking home one night with a friend, Maria Pinto. Then we heard about the two encounters that Erlânia's father, Domingos, had—one of which left him with blisters on his back. And now we come to another incident involving Dorvalina Lopes, the wife of Domingos and the mother of Erlânia.

One night in 1985, Dorvalina and another daughter, Edna, then 15, were walking across a field filled with dense bushes and trees. "We saw a light way up high," said Dorvalina, now 67. "It was small. People had been seeing a light circulating in the region, and we were afraid. They said it comes right down on you. We ran to a big tree and the light was coming slowly down toward us. Edna said, 'Mama, there's a flying saucer coming! Let's run!'"

"So we started running, and the light came after us, and Edna sprained her ankle on rocks in the ground. She was having a lot of pain. She was limping along and we got under a tree. We stayed there for ten or fifteen minutes, quiet. The light had gone out, so we started hobbling along from one tree to the next, but the light came on again and was jumping along with us. It was making a soft buzzing sound."

After dashing from tree to tree for several minutes, they came to streetlights at the edge of a village, at which time the thing went away.

Truck paced by UFO

One man had a close encounter with a UFO even though he was speeding to get away from it. One morning in early 2000, João Batista Pinto and his teenage son Juninho were driving in a pickup truck to a rented pasture four kilometers

south of São Vicente. They kept some milk cows there.

"It was about 4:30 in the morning," said João, who also owns a small shop in São Vicente where he sells sandwiches and drinks. "As we got near the farm I saw a light in the sky. It was quite far away, but I could see it was coming closer.

"I had to slow down to turn onto a side road, and at that moment the light passed right over us, and it looked like it landed on the road. I said, 'Let's keep going,' but Juninho didn't want to because the light was there in the road ahead of us."

João quickly turned around and started back toward São Vicente. The light had been on his left side before, and the next thing he knew, it had lifted off the ground, passed over the truck, and taken up a position on his left side again.

"It was only three meters away from the truck. It was really close. It was round and there were rays of different lights going out of it. It was many different colors—green, red, blue-green. There was a rose color, and they varied in intensity. It would get bigger and smaller. I went faster, but it seemed like the faster I went the closer it would come."

When they finally reached a gas station on the outskirts of São Vicente, the light went away. João and his son waited until daylight arrived and then went back to the farm to milk the cows.

Hiding in an outhouse

Some debunkers say anyone who sees a UFO is crazy or drunk. Dalton Castro isn't crazy, but he had been drinking the night of April 25, 1998, when he had a run-in with what apparently were two UFOs, one just above the other.

"A friend had died, and I was at a wake at his house," said Dalton, a 46-year-old factory worker. "Sometime after midnight I left to go home. When I came out of the house I saw this big thing in the sky and it was coming closer.

"The center was bluish, and it was dull yellow around the edge—a flashing yellow light. It was about 60 centimeters in diameter, and there was a smaller object just above it. It was blue. I was scared and I ran. I looked back and stopped, and it stopped too. I hid under a mango tree for a while and thought it had gone away.

"But when I came out from under the tree, it came back again. So I ran down the street to an uncle's home, ran into the backyard, and hid in an outdoor toilet. After about a half hour, I peeked out, saw nothing, and went on home.

"But it came back again, and I could still see it from my porch. I stood watching for a while and then they started go-

ing up, up, up and then the two objects merged into one and disappeared.”

Dalton saw another blue UFO in 2001 when he and a friend were fishing in a stream five kilometers east of São Vicente. “It was about 1 o’clock in the morning, and suddenly a big round blue light rose up out of the forest. It was about 50 centimeters in diameter. We got scared and began running. It chased us for a while, but when we got close to home it went up and disappeared.”

The smell of sulphur

In only one case did anyone smell anything out of the ordinary. The witnesses, two women who are related by marriage, saw the same light, but from different locations.

Ivete Clemência Felipe, 23 at the time, was alone in the home of a sister-in-law, Ana Lúcia Felipe Silva, three kilometers from São Vicente. It was around 7 o’clock one evening in 1978 and the sky was dark.

“I looked out the window and saw a little blue light in the sky quite far away,” Ivete said. “Then it got bigger and turned reddish. It was moving faster and faster and coming closer. It was giving off flashes of light like fireworks. There were lots of different colors.

“I could hear a buzzing sound. It was going around and around. All the doors and windows were shut, but it lit up the inside of the house. I was so scared that I ran and hid under a bed.”

About the same time that Ivete first saw the light, her sister-in-law Ana Lúcia, then 25, was walking home from a sewing class in São Vicente. She was within 40 meters of the gate in front of the house when the light appeared in the sky. A cousin, Eurico Aprígio, then 50, was with her at the time.

“We had taken a shortcut through woods, and when we came out of the woods we saw the light,” Ana Lúcia said. “We thought it was a car with one light. We didn’t see any shape, just a bright headlight coming toward us. It lit up everything on the road. It was coming toward us, and we started running. Eurico lost one of his sandals.”

Instead of trying to reach the house, they turned back and ran into a grove of trees. Afraid to leave the woods, they stayed hidden until about 10 PM before deciding it was safe to go on to Ana Lúcia’s home.

We interviewed both women in Ivete’s home, and both said they smelled an odor during the encounter. “There was a smell of gas, like sulphur,” Ana Lúcia said. “Yes, I forgot to say there was a smell of sulphur,” said Ivete.



heads of the witnesses: José Edígio and his nephew José Antonio in 1975, Ivete and Ana Lúcia in 1978, Vildevina and her daughter in 1985, 8-year-old Adriana Goulart and her two brothers in 1988, and Silvandina and Raimundo in 1993.

Cattle ranch UFOs

Many of the reports we received came from people living or working at Vera’s farm, Fazenda dos Poções. Nearly all involved a very bright light in the sky.

A typical sighting occurred about 11 o’clock one night in 1996. Tarcísio Malaquias Gonçalves, now 53, was in the main corral at the farm, artificially inseminating a cow.

The farm has more than 600 cattle, and Tarcísio is in charge of them. He is also the father of Luciene and Leonardo Gonçalves, mentioned earlier in another sighting.

“I saw a light in the sky, and suddenly everything around me was lit up,” Tarcísio said. “I looked up and it was like a great headlight, very, very bright.” A few minutes later, the light disappeared. Tarcísio said none of the cattle in the corral reacted to the light. The farm has two corrals. The main one is located next to a milk barn and several other buildings. Cattle are also milked at the other corral about two kilometers away.

One night in early 2002, a bright light suddenly appeared in the sky above the second corral. The lone witness was Wanderley dos Santos Costa, a 25-year-old cowboy who was riding a horse on his way back to the corral.

“A cow had just given birth, and a man got hurt when the cow smashed him up against a fence,” Wanderley said. “I had taken him to be treated and was returning to the corral about 9:20 when I saw a bright light in the sky. It was a big ball of light that lit up everything below it.”

The cattle in the corral paid no attention to the light, but Wanderley’s horse was spooked. It bolted and took off running. Wanderley simply loosened the reins and let the horse run until it calmed down. “After about 20 minutes, the light went away.”

It is interesting to note that in five cases that occurred over an 18-year period, the U F O s c i r c l e d around and a r o u n d above the

A special UFO valley

Although there have been several sightings on or near Fazenda dos Poções, the farm is not the center of UFO activity in the Valley of the Old Women.

For more than 30 years, Hulvio Brant Aleixo and members of the UFO group CICOANI investigated more than 1,000 cases all around Belo Horizonte, but primarily in the valley to the north. A list of their field trips includes the names of more than 150 towns, villages and hamlets—many so small they do not appear on maps of the state—and dozens of cattle ranches and farms.

A humanoid encounter

One of the strangest incidents in Brazilian ufology did occur in Vargem Grande, a village adjacent to Vera’s farm. On the night of Sept. 9, 1976, Hermelindo da Silva, the owner of a small roadside bar, tangled with a humanoid creature that slid down a cable dangling from a UFO. The creature was stronger, and was able to slip a hook around Hermelindo’s right ankle.

Hermelindo was yanked off the ground and was being reeled up toward the UFO when his left foot hit the bottom of the UFO and knocked him loose as the UFO went away.

An abduction

Another incident, perhaps even better known, occurred near the village of Bebedouro, 20 kilometers south of São Vicente.

On the afternoon of May 4, 1969, a 24-year-old military policeman named José Antônio da Silva was fishing in a lagoon when he was overpowered by two small beings and forcibly taken aboard a UFO. He was released four and a half days later in a city far to the east.

Another death

More tragically, near the small town of Jabuticatubas, 27 kilometers southeast of São Vicente, a close encounter led to the death of Cecílio Higino Pereira, a farm worker.

On the night of Aug. 9, 1976, 30-year-old Cecílio left Jabuticatubas with two neighbor women to walk to their homes near the hamlet of Barreira da Paciência. On the way they saw a bright light in the sky coming rapidly toward them. They ran, but a strap broke on one of Cecílio’s sandals. He had to stop, and the women ran on without him.

As he tried to fix the sandal, the object came down and hovered just above his head, lighting up everything around him. He was momentarily levitated off the ground before the UFO went away. Cecílio became violently ill and never recovered, dying several weeks later. It is interest-

ing to note that the attacks on Cecilio and Hermelindo were one month apart and within 35 kilometers of each other.

An upward pull

Many encounters in the valley were nowhere near as dramatic, but were still of high interest. In Mocambo, eight kilometers northeast of São Vicente, a teenage boy felt an intermittent upward pull from a UFO as it passed over him one night.

In 1983 near the village of Patrimônio, eight kilometers northwest of São Vicente, a UFO levitated a young farmer about half a meter off the ground and carried him about ten meters before his wife could pull him back down.

Sightings at the farm

At the farm, Vera has had three sightings over the years. The first was in 1990, when the family's new house was being built. It is located four to five hundred meters north of the old house where Vera and her husband Arthur, known by the nickname of Souto, raised their seven children.

The new house was almost completed, but Vera and Souto still spent much of their time at the old house. It was a Sunday night, and she and Souto had fallen asleep at the old house while watching TV. They woke up when they heard dogs barking, and decided to go to the new house to sleep there, Vera said.

"We were walking, and all of a sudden Souto said, 'Look at the light!' There was a light above the silo next to the barns. Souto said he had seen it from the beginning, but it was going on and off. It was a yellow light, very beautiful. It didn't hurt your eyes."

At that time they were standing beside a gate about 100 meters from the barns. "Then Souto said there was another light above the corn crib that didn't go off. It was a red one and looked like a glowing coal. We were watching and Souto said, 'Notice how silent everything is.' We couldn't hear any birds or animals or anything making noise.

"The two dogs seemed paralyzed, looking at the light. I could hear a faint sizzling or frying sound, a very low sound, but Souto said he couldn't hear anything. The light kept pulsing, from very small like a star and then zooming very large."

Souto wanted to get closer, but Vera was afraid, and a few minutes later they arrived at the new house. "I opened a window in the kitchen and watched the light for half an hour," she said. "It was still pulsing all that time."

She went to bed without knowing when the light disappeared. "The next



morning I went to the silo and looked all around, but everything was OK, no burns or anything else."

That evening, however, she, Souto, and a maid left the house in a car to drive to Belo Horizonte. "When we got to the place where we had watched the light the night before, something very strange happened. All of a sudden from the direction of the silo came an astonishingly fluorescent green light that flew rapidly in a diagonal direction right over the car and disappeared in front of us. It turned off quickly.

"My husband was astonished. He stopped the car, got out and searched for the light, but he didn't find anything. That time he became nervous!"

Barking dogs

"I have eight dogs at my farm," Vera said. "Six sleep in the kennel all night, and two of them, a boxer and a basset hound, run free. On the night of Sept. 13, 2002, about 9:30, all the dogs started barking very much.

"All of a sudden the boxer went through the bushes and started to sniff everything, and then ran into the darkness of our big garden. The basset hound followed, and soon both of them started to sniff, then immediately stopped to bark and snarl.

"I had been watching TV, and at 11 o'clock I went to my room to sleep. The two windows were open, and I started to close one. It was almost closed when I saw a light next to our orchard. I opened the window quickly to watch it.

"It was hovering over a tree just beyond the fence. It was like a fireball twinkling all colors, red, yellow and white. All of a sudden the ball opened like a yellow flower, very beautiful. It was similar to a yellow poppy with a black center, and then the thing disappeared. It was there one minute and then it wasn't! The dogs kept barking all the time."

UFO returns to Fazenda

Cynthia, Tom, and I spent a week at Vera's farm in mid-May, going with Vera to São Vicente and nearby farms almost every day. Shortly after we went back to

our own homes, the former mayor told local investigators José Cimália and Ivan Soares that had he known we were there, he could have taken us to meet a man who had a sighting just three days before we first arrived.

That would have been around May 10. Further proof that the phenomenon is still around came a month later, on the evening of June 9, and again at Fazenda dos Poções.

"My husband Souto was driving back to the farm with my son-in-law Leonardo," Vera said later. "About 8 o'clock in the evening, just as they were driving through the gate at the entrance to the farm, they saw a bright light in the distance ahead of them. It was on the other side of the (Das Velhas) river, beyond the house.

"Souto rushed into the house shouting, 'Vera, the light is there on the other side of the river!' We ran to the veranda, and it was there, beautiful with golden yellow sparkling rays like I saw from my window the night of Sept. 13 last year. But this time it was bigger than the one I saw before. It changed shape inside its aura. Sometimes it was shaped like a pyramid with two balls of light below and one ball on top.

"Then it seemed like that 'flower' shape (in the 2002 sighting), but very much bigger. My husband is an engineer accustomed to calculations, and I asked him how big he thought it was from that distance. He said 15 centimeters."

About 8:30 they went in to eat dinner, and about 9 Vera looked for the light again. It was gone. "I felt sad. I sat down to watch TV, but I was so excited that from time to time I jumped up to look again. And at 9:30 it was there again."

It was still there when she went to bed. She slept fitfully, waking up from time to time to look, and each time it was still there. But when she looked again at 4:30 in the morning, it was gone.

Much of the Valley of the Old Women remains unexplored by ufologists. Who knows what other sightings and encounters have occurred in this region?

New UFO Awareness T-shirt

MUFON has just received a shipment of a new UFO Awareness T-shirt. It is whitewith black letters. The MUFON logo is on the left front and a slogan saying "you only thought you knew..." is on the back. It comes in S, M, L, and XL. \$12 +\$3 S&H. Please add \$4 additional for shipping outside the U.S

The Indigo Hypothesis

Is this a goal of the visitors' agenda(s)

By Craig Lang

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Editor's Note: Readers, authors, researchers, and experiencers range from strictly "nuts and bolts" ufologists to those who are willing to "push the envelope." Not so many years ago abductions were too "far out" for mainstream ufology, but today we are confronted with the question of what to make of those abductions. Mr. Lang discusses one possibility.

Introduction and observations

In the past few years, as I have worked with greater numbers of close encounter experiencers, I have informally noticed a pattern in their family lines.

David Jacobs in *The Threat*,¹ and Budd Hopkins in *Intruders*² both clearly state that the UFO abduction phenomenon is multi-generational in nature. Jacobs further says that in each family of UFO encounter experiencers, the entire next generation of offspring may also be experiencers.

However, in my work with close encounter experiencers, what seems to have emerged is that the multigenerational characteristics of the phenomenon seem to propagate down the maternal family line. I have informally noticed the propagation of the phenomenon from grandmother to mother to daughter and so on.

Another thing that I have noticed is that many experiencers—and, especially in this generation, the children of experiencers—seem to have a very gifted, and highly metaphysical nature—what I describe as "Awakened."

Are these children some of those who are so often called "The Indigo Children?" Is the Indigo phenomenon at least partly associated (deliberately or otherwise) with the close encounter phenomenon?

Let's look at some of the characteristics of indigo children, compare them with the characteristics of experiencers, and note whether there are resemblances.

If there is a pattern, is this perhaps a sign of "The Awakening"³, which has been suggested might be a goal of the Visitor phenomenon?

Alternatively, are these children simply reflecting the ideas and mind-sets of their parents/families?

About the author

Craig R. Lang is a Field Investigator for MUFON, and is a certified clinical hypnotherapist with the National Guild of Hypnotists.

He lives in Brooklyn Center, MN, and conducts UFO and close encounter research in the Twin Cities metro area of Minneapolis and Saint Paul and in surrounding areas in Minnesota and Wisconsin.

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The "Awakening" literature

In the section on the Indigo children on her website, www.metagifted.org,⁴ author Wendy Chapman describes the characteristics of the Indigo child as deeply empathic, visionary, intuitive, having a deep sense of mission/purpose, and a very thin veil between the physical and spiritual worlds.

In addition, she describes them as being intellectually gifted, resistant to authority, and having difficulties with the mundane, non-creative aspects of life—such as much of the education system.

Many of these same characteristics can also be ascribed to those adults who are undergoing, or have undergone, an Awakening—either as a result of the CE4 phenomenon or some other source.

In their book *Healing Shattered Reality*⁵ Alice Bryant and Linda Seebach discuss the spiritual/mental/physical effects of the Encounter Phenomenon on the experiencer.

In "The Awakening," a previous article for the *Journal*, I discussed many of the signs of spiritual awakening, and related them to the UFO/CE4 phenomenon. I asked whether the relationship is one of cause/effect, or are they parallel phenomena, perhaps with a synchronistic relationship between them?

Barbara Harris Whitfield in her book *Spiritual Awakenings*⁶ describes the many signs and characteristics associated with such awakenings. She describes many possible triggers for such an experience: near-death-experiences, deep

meditation and religious experiences, UFO/CE4 encounters, and personal health crises, as well many possible others. All of these seem to suggest that the Awakening phenomenon is triggered by powerful changes in a person's life.

Yet all of these changes seem to be spiritually-related. In some way, a person seems to "bring something back" from the experience that appears to be an extraordinary gift from "out there."

For the newly Awakened, the signs of the phenomenon seem to include:

(1) a sudden shift in perspective to a more spiritual/metaphysical viewpoint;

(2) shifts in spiritual/religious views, beyond any one religion, to encompass all religions and all people; and

(3) less patience with the more petty aspects of human society in the face of the environmental and spiritual issues that our society faces.

But foremost for our purposes is the onset of psychic abilities and increased intuition. This seems to be the key, as it affords the newly Awakened an avenue for increased awareness and shift in perspective.

As more than one experiencer has said, "It was as if my eyes were suddenly opened." As they have described to me, the Awakened seem to have more UFO sightings and experiences, either as a cause, effect, or synchronistic relationship with their other Awakening experiences.

Experiencers & Indigo children

What we also seem to notice as we look at the families of experiencers is that the characteristics emerging in newly Awakened adults seem to be already present in their children.

As indicated earlier, many close encounter experiencers describe their children as Indigos. As an informal observation, I have noted a disproportionately large number of such children among these families. It is as if these children were born Awakened.

A friend of mine, who is an educator and frequently teaches classes for gifted children, has observed that in her gifted classes there is a very large population of children who match the psychic, deeply-empathic, and deeply-intuitive description of the Indigo child.

In other classes she teaches, which are not at the gifted-children level, she

notes that there are far fewer children who match this description. She also notes that many of the gifted children seem to bear physical characteristics of experiencers, specifically scoop marks (she has observed this on their faces and foreheads, though it has been noted that for experiencers such marks are more typically on ankles, etc.).

This suggests that, as the children of experiencer families, they continue the family-line relationship with the Visitor phenomenon.

So might there be a correlation between the Visitor experience and the Indigo child phenomenon? Could there be a “genetic agenda” to the Visitor phenomenon which might result in an increased number of Awakened children?

We can understand more about the presumed genetic agenda behind the phenomenon in several recent books by close encounter researchers. In his *Watchers*⁷ book series, Raymond Fowler describes how the UFO abduction phenomenon seems to be guiding humanity throughout history, perhaps signifying such an agenda.

In *Sight Unseen* by Budd Hopkins and Carol Rainey,⁸ the authors discuss the potential feasibility of transgenics, or gene transplantation from one species to another. They describe possible instances of apparently-human beings who exhibit strange alien-like characteristics.

Similarly, in my article “Close Encounters of the Third Kind in Our Everyday World”⁹ I describe similar cases of apparently human beings with extraordinary characteristics. Among them are traits such as deep empathy, powerful intuition, and psychic ability. These are also characteristics described in the Indigo children.

In addition, the abduction accounts of many experiencers contain procedures done to them which seem to have fundamentally altered their very makeup—as one described it, “right down to the cellular level.”

Could this be seen as a tampering with the very genetic makeup of the experiencer? Could this perhaps be a back-insertion of the results of the hybridization process into the genetic makeup or other fundamental characteristics of the experiencer? Does such technology yet exist to accomplish this?

The motivation

What would be the motivation for such tampering with the human genetic makeup? What would an Extraterrestrial strategy^{10,11} be towards humanity? And why would external Visitors want to change humanity in such a fundamental way? A quick look at the modern history of humanity provides some immediate clues:

1. Humanity is now on the verge of de-

veloping interstellar flight.¹² Advances in zero point theory,¹³ the understanding of gravity, and other areas of physics¹⁴ suggest that within 100 to 200 years, humans might well be out among the stars.

2. Humanity has developed the capability for destruction on a planetary scale. We have developed multi-megaton nuclear weapons, which we could potentially¹⁵ unleash in a global barrage, resulting in multi-gigatons of explosive power unleashed into the planetary environment. Thus, we have the capability of destroying the entire ecosystem and civilization of our world—or possibly some other world.

3. In many ways, humanity is a fundamentally warlike being. Our largest single industry is war.¹⁶ During modern times, our history has been dominated by such cataclysms as World War I, World War II, and uncountable genocidal massacres.¹⁷

Thus, from the perspective of those presumed to be already existing “out there” in the cosmic neighborhood, we can ask, “Are these the types of folks we would want coming out into the neighborhood?”

In humanity’s current state of consciousness and behavior, I suggest that the answer is “No,” even though we may indeed be on the verge of star-flight. If we are going “there,” then it becomes vital to the neighbors that we somehow be changed (tamed) in order to avoid universal catastrophe.

Requisite Visitor technology

What remains to be established in our formulation of this hypothesis is the technology via which genetic back-injection might take place. Yet even here, known technology may be just over the horizon.

While humanity has not yet perfected the means to inject a new gene pattern into the overall cellular makeup of a higher-living being, gene therapy¹⁸ is an active area of research, and could soon become a viable technology. Furthermore, not every cell of the body would need to be modified—only the eggs or sperm of the parents.

Since it has been established that these can be extracted via human technology, we can easily imagine technology for re-insertion. Thus, for the Visitors, back-insertion of modified genes might be quite feasible.

CE4 researchers may wish to examine UFO abduction accounts to see if indeed, such procedures and technology are described.

This then, is what I call the “Indigo

Hypothesis”: that the genetic changes fostered by the Visitors may actually begin to be found in the general populace, in the new generation of humanity. We theorize a back-injection of hybridization changes by the Visitors into experiencers for the purpose of integrating them into humanity as a whole.

A result is the emerging Indigo generation we see today. The Indigo generation would thus be a manifestation of an effort by “them” to breed into our species an awakened being.

We can suggest that as these children take their functional place in society, we might see a more “awakened,” less-environmentally-impacting, and more-peaceful conduct of human affairs.

In addition, we may begin to see a new humanity, more ready for contact, and a resulting more-open manifestation of “them” to the general population of “us.”

The Null Hypotheses

As suggested earlier, perhaps there are other ways of viewing the relationship of Indigo children and experiencer families.

1. Nurture instead of Nature: Perhaps Indigo children are simply learning and adopting the views and mannerisms of their parents, who may have adopted “new-age” ideas, and/or have undergone a deep psychic/spiritual change. Perhaps the propagation of “Awakening” down the family line is the passing of memes,¹⁹ rather than genes.

2. No Correlation: Perhaps the Indigo Children reflect a more global social phenomenon, which has no correlation with the UFO/CE4 phenomenon. The Indigo Children might reflect either a fundamental metaphysical phenomenon which we do not yet understand, or a propagation of ideas as described in null hypothesis 1.

Testing the Indigo Hypotheses

The purpose of a hypothesis is to serve as a tentative model from which we can derive testable predictions. So what would be a good test of “The Indigo Hypothesis”? Here are some preliminary suggestions:

Genetics: Might the genome of Indigo children show common markers, not present in non-Indigos? If so, what characteristics would these genes code for? If we didn’t detect common but unique genetic markers among Indigo children, would this support one of the null hypotheses?

Genealogy: Does comparison of the

family lines of Indigo children with those of experiencers show a correlation? Are Indigo children more often found in the family lines of close encounter experiencers? If so, what does this imply? If no strong correlation is found, then would null hypothesis 2 be supported?

Psychic Abilities: Do Indigo children have greater psychic abilities? Perhaps this can be tested via experiments such as those at the PEAR lab at Princeton University,²⁰ which has been developing scientific tests of ESP and non-local consciousness.

Effects on World Affairs: Observing cultural, scientific and political events over the next ten-plus years, as the current generation of Indigo children becomes active in society.

As this generation reaches a political-social critical mass, what effect does this have on the politics of our civilization? Is there a trend away from war and environmental destruction? Is there an incorporation of intuition and spirituality into mainstream society and politics?

Open Contact: As the above changes take place, is there an increase in open, multi-witness UFO and CE3 events over the next few years?

All of these tests, and others which I have not yet thought of, might better establish the validity or non-validity of this hypothesis.

Conclusion

If this hypothesis is true, then it implies that the Visitors want us to grow and eventually join the cosmic community. To me this offers hope: that humanity can become an awakened cosmic/star-faring civilization—and that there is a cheering section out there for us. At least in part, this is the core of the idea which I call “The Indigo Hypothesis.”

References:

¹David Jacobs, *The Threat*, discusses the “dark side” aspects of a possible alien agenda.

²Budd Hopkins, *Intruders*, discusses multi-generational trends and a possible genetic agenda.

³“The Awakening,” by Craig R. Lang MS CHT, published 2002 in *MUFON UFO Journal*; also found at www.craigrlang.com/awakening.htm.

⁴The Indigo children section of Metagifted.org: www.metagifted.org/topics/metagifted/indigo.

⁵Bryant and Seebach, “Healing Shattered Reality, Understanding Contactee Trauma.”

⁶Barbara Harris Whitfield, *Spiritual Awakenings*.

⁷Raymond Fowler, *The Andreasson Affair*; *The Andreasson Affair, Phase 2*; *The Watchers*; *The Watchers II*; and *The*

Andreasson Legacy.

⁸Budd Hopkins and Carol Rainey: *Sight Unseen*.

⁹“Human-Aliens: Close Encounters of the Third Kind In Our Everyday World,” by Craig R. Lang, MS CHT. Published 2003 in *Minnesota MUFON Journal*.

¹⁰An excellent piece of speculation on “A Possible Extraterrestrial Strategy for Earth” found in the book *Alien Update* by Timothy Good.

¹¹*Making Contact* edited by Bill Fawcett, many aspects of potential human-E.T. contact.

¹²An excellent book on current concepts on possible star-flight is *The Starflight Handbook* by Eugene F. Mallove and Gregory L. Matloff. This book shows how starflight might be accomplished with physics as we know them today. An excellent site which covers many advanced space propulsion systems is the Advanced Propulsion Concepts website.

¹³One excellent paper on Zero-point physics is by Bernard Haisch of the Society of Scientific Exploration: These articles can be found at: <http://www.calphysics.org/research.html>.

¹⁴Another location on the internet with excellent articles on physics, potentially leading to starflight, is Jack Sarfati’s website: www.stardrive.org

¹⁵An assessment of future nuclear threats from the U.S. Department of Defense can be found at: <http://www.dtra.-mil/about/organization/future.pdf>.

¹⁶Several reports can be found online showing the growing level of resources devoted to military power: <http://www.globalissues.org/Geopolitics/ArmsTrade/Spending.asp> http://www.cyberdyaryo.com/features/f2002_1009_05.htm.

¹⁷A powerful summary of genocidal rampages in modern times can be found at the website: <http://www.genocide.org/>

¹⁸American society for Gene Therapy website can be found at: <http://www.asgt.org>. Gene Therapy information on the Human Genome Project website can be found at: http://www.ornl.gov/sci/techresources/Human_Genome/medicine/genetherapy.shtml.

¹⁹An excellent discussion of memetics can be found in Richard Brodie’s book *Virus of the Mind*.

²⁰The Princeton Engineering Anomalies Research (PEAR) Laboratory: <http://www.princeton.edu/~pear/>.

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.

Georgia woman reports object at treetop level

By Tom Sheets

MUFON Georgia Director

The witness is a 57-year-old female resident of Duluth, GA, employed by an internationally famous Atlanta area university. She is from a “scientific” family, her father being involved in atomic research during the WW II era.

On 7 Jan 04 at about 7:30 PM, the witness was driving through her neighborhood, and as she prepared to turn onto her street she noticed overhead a set of bright lights beginning to glide past.

Upon looking closer she noticed that the lights were attached to the bottom of a large dark triangular object (WUFOD “actual size” data field entry indicating 100-300 feet).

She continued watching, then turned onto her street, keeping the object in sight. The witness stated that her first impression was that the object was a “stealth type” craft. She described it as being very low in altitude (treetop), with no sound noticed (vehicle windows rolled up).

She indicated that it was low enough that she had no trouble observing a suction cup-like configuration around the steady white lights, one in the middle and also one on each of the three corners, totaling four. At that point, it was traveling parallel to her and a little bit ahead.

She sped up, but it appeared to be going a bit faster than her vehicle. The craft then began to ascend, banking slightly to the left, and departed the scene.

Simultaneous to the above, the witness was attempting to get out her cell phone in order to summon her friend to run outside and look skyward, but the phone was dropped onto the floorboard. She noticed two neighbors outside at the end of the street and intends to speak with them as soon as possible.

Within a few minutes, the witness arrived home and called the local police, Atlanta’s Channel 11 (NBC), and Atlanta’s Fernbank Science Center, but no object had been reported.

As with all such preliminary reports, this case requires additional scrutiny, including an in-depth interview with the witness, as well as other detailed investigation. Thid witness has agreed to an interview with our investigators, and the case is being assigned to SSD/FI David Brown of Norcross.

Hamilton, Ontario, Canada

UFO observed entering water

By Carl Feindt

In late August of 1981, between five and six PM, three men and two women were driving west from a mountain area slightly east of Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, and south of Lake Ontario.

Following is the account from one of the women, a commercial artist:

"It was late August, around 5-6 PM. The weather was clear, sunny; I do not recall many clouds. A group of five, including myself, sighted a red saucer type craft with a dome while driving down what is referred to as the mountain in the area.

"One of the occupants of the vehicle initially sighted the craft to the right of us enroute to the bay/harbour area of Hamilton and proceeded to alert us to the phenomenon by commenting in an excited manner along the lines of 'Oh my god, look at that ... look at that ... over there !!!' (I remember a lot of Oh my gods, etc.

"Clear as day, the five of us saw a bright red saucer craft with a dome and yellow lights radiating from the base/bottom part of the craft.

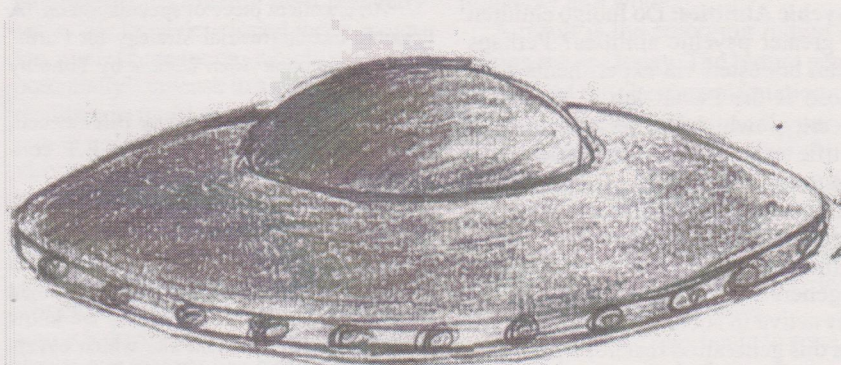
"The radio in the vehicle became static, and I recall the driver turning the radio off due to the excitement of the sighting and not wanting to have any further distractions while driving.

"There were many comments regarding where it was going, and then someone had mentioned, 'Follow that UFO!' All were in agreement. From the position we were at, at the onset of the sighting while driving down the mountain, our view of the downtown area and the bay/harbour was not obstructed in any way.

"A rough estimate as to the size of the craft length wise would compare to approximately 3-4 medium car sizes, perhaps even larger.

"As far as how fast it was going, I can't properly gauge—slow enough to keep track of it while driving down the mountain. How high up I also cannot properly gauge the distance. The craft's movements and location in the sky could be compared to a plane coming in for a landing.

"The craft was sighted to the right of us, moving in and towards our direction, and then crossed our path moving left, just ahead of us, and then proceeded to—or it appeared to—slow down just above the bay/harbour, and then appeared to just level itself down into the water ever so gently and totally submerge.



"The yellow lights of the craft appeared to settle into more of a pale yellow to white lights, and then seem to dull out. At this point we were still on the mountain drive, and the distance of the craft was further away. I do not recall seeing any major disturbance of the water.

"There were more excited comments along the lines of 'Oh my god—it just went into the water ...' etc. All of us were wide-eyed and I think in a form of shock. Other comments were about driving down to the waterfront, and while doing so whether we would miss anything going on down there.

"The driver of the car sped up in order to get down to the area quicker, just in case. We arrived at the waterfront—I believe it may have been a park area. The road leading into where we decided to park was a gravel/dirt road, and I remember a lot of grass/wildflower overgrowth growing in and around the road. We had forested areas on either side of the road area.

"We had managed to find the right spot, and if the UFO was still parked in that water then we would have had a direct view right in front of us—although us on land and the UFO in the water.

"When we had arrived at the waterfront and exited the vehicle we noticed slight wave motion in the water. Some comments as to whether this may have been related. We stayed in this area for hours. Many a conversation ensued regarding what we had witnessed—from government experimental craft to aliens.

"Conversations and questions, such as how deep is the bay?, radar, and whether anyone else had spotted it and would call it in. Wondering when the influx of planes/helicopters would appear.

Wondering whether the craft would emerge. Wondering if we were taking a risk by being there, and later on wondering why no police or anything else along those lines were not at the waterfront questioning us, etc, etc, etc.

"All was quiet. No planes, no helicopters, nothing. Nothing until about 12:30-1:00 in the morning. At this time is when what appeared to be submarines emerged, or part of what could have been, and what looked like suspicious submarines.

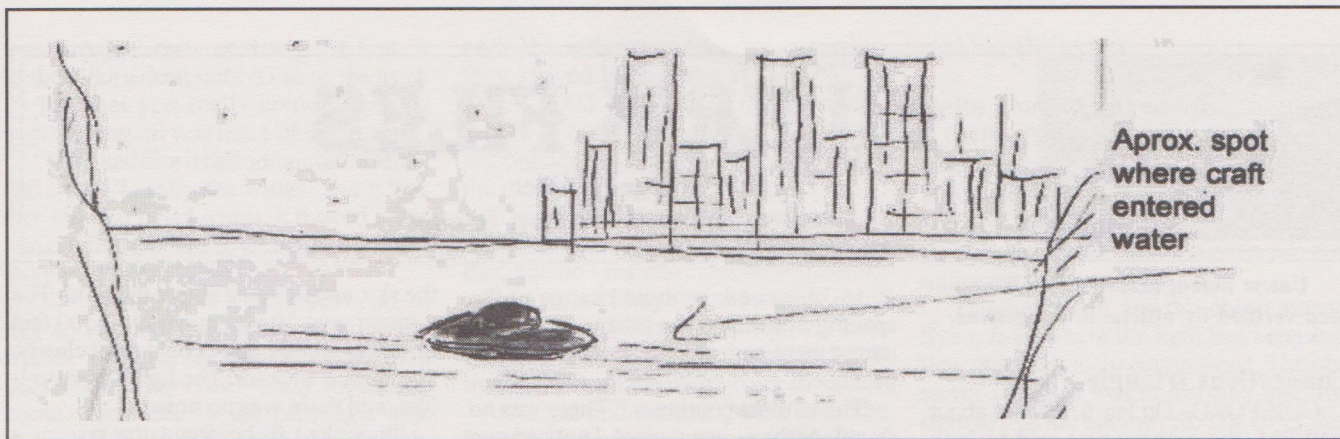
"One was on one end of the water body, and another across from it. If the craft (UFO) was still parked where it went down, then it would have been sandwiched between the subs.

"Of course more conversation and excitement regarding this element. Was this a part of the craft, or were these objects in actual fact subs? One of the objects looked like a periscope type thing, and the other object looked like a box on top of a bigger box. We had one set of binoculars and took turns looking out for whatever during the whole time we were there.

"We did not need the use of the binoculars to spot and have a view of the periscope looking thing and the other box that emerged from the water. These objects stayed there unmoving all the while we were there, and who knows how long they were parked there after we left.

"We left about an hour or so later at about 2 AM or so, and the objects were still there at that time. We finally left tired and hungry, feeling somewhat disappointed that nothing else exciting happened, but also rather relieved."

The witness said the object was "not a small craft," and indeed it wasn't. I mea-



sured two cars belonging to family members that are of "medium size." They average out to 15' 7" in length and 4' 6" in height.

This would put the UFO in the area of 46' 9" to 62' 4" in diameter and 13' 6" in height. Slightly smaller than the B-25 Mitchell bomber of WW II.

At the point of the object's entry into the water (rough approximation) it can be seen on a nautical chart that the water depth is 7 or more meters (23 feet), and gets deeper in the direction of Lake Ontario, so the UFO had at least 10 feet to spare. Therefore a craft of 13 feet in height could be covered by water. There are many cases of UFOs submerging in shallow waters.

The question of these two objects being submarines came up, and the Canadian Navy states that it does not use the few subs they have in the Great Lakes.

Another possibility regarding the emerging objects might be the tide going out and revealing some fixed underwater

object. This portion of the sighting is the most speculative and should not detract from the sighting of the craft.

It has been almost 22 years since the sighting. It would have been advantageous if we had the testimony of at least one other witness, but as this witness states, "I haven't been in contact with the four other witnesses for over 20 years. They were work related acquaintances, and I cannot even remember their names."

Since the exact date cannot be determined, it is impossible to get weather data for the sighting. This of course would have clarified whether the object was something being blown by the wind.

However, even if the wind had a vector in the direction the UFO took, the possibility of it being a balloon or light object is still ruled out by the fact that it immediately entered the water, whereas a balloon or light object would have floated for a period. And a balloon with lights??

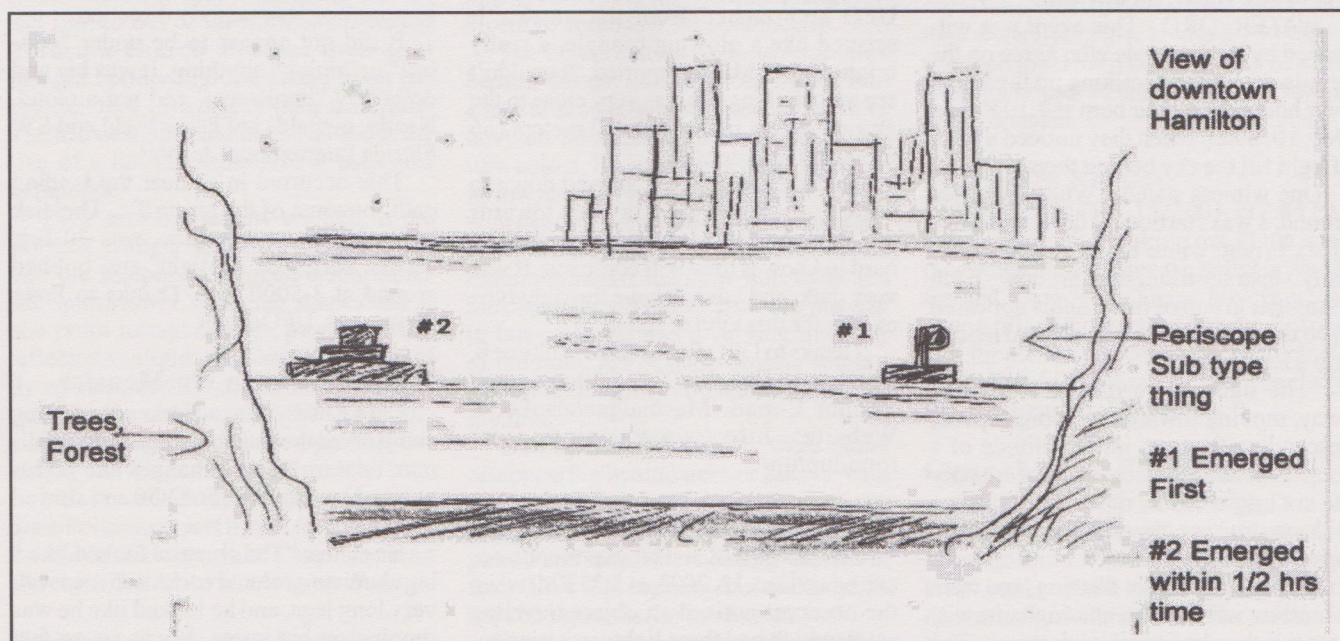
Conclusion

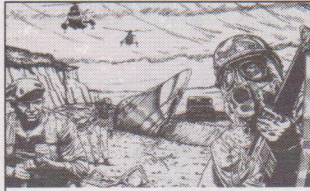
This report was entirely done through

e-mails and snail mail between the witness and myself. This format is not very desirable, as there is no immediate interchange of ideas, emotions, and measurements such as angles and distances.

However, the witness now resides far from Hamilton, making an on-site investigation economically impractical. The case, as old as it is, is still interesting and, I think, illustrates how an event of this kind can etch itself into the memory banks of our minds, as she remembers the sighting fairly well, but could not remember the events prior or after the sighting.

The witness was very cooperative and quick to answer all the messages sent to the best of her ability. Where the facts were fuzzy, she stated that, and yet the item of focus, the UFO, was clearly remembered. Based on my experience with water-related cases, her surprise at the ease of entry into the water could be expected, but there are many cases of just such an entry. I believe that she had witnessed a UFO event.





FILER'S FILES

By George A. Filer
Director, MUFON Eastern Region

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

Connecticut triangle

GUILFORD - On Jan. 6, 2004, at about 8:40 PM, the witness was told to look outside by her little sister who was observing something in the air. She went to the door and saw something rising straight up in the shape of a flying triangle with an estimated 400 lights.

The witness states, "After a few minutes, it stopped, and the blinking lights were not visible, and it flew right out of sight.

"My dogs were freaking out the whole time the UFO was near. The UFO rose straight up in the air, nose up, then stopped, straightened so the nose was pointing at us, and then flew away."

Peter Davenport, director of the National UFO Reporting Center (NUFORC), spoke with this witness, and she sounded quite sincere and credible.



George Filer

Vermont light formations

WATERFORD - This event was witnessed by three people who agree on the details. They were walking up the hill to their house from their barn at 7:10 PM on Dec. 10, 2003, when they noticed a flash of light fill the sky behind them.

One witness stated, "When I whirled around, I was startled by the appearance of six bright, white lights in two apparently separate triangular groups. Each triangular group of three lights appeared to be the size of a folded postcard held at arm's length.

"The lights were maybe 250 yards away, moving toward me at high speed, descending from an initial altitude of a couple of hundred feet. There were only the six bright lights, quite small in size, with no structure discernible around them or between them."

The lights were not flashing, and were a constant white color, although one witness felt they had some pink tinges. The two triangular groups moved together for

10 to 15 seconds with no change in the spacing between them other than an apparent increase in size as the object(s) approached.

The witness continues, "There was no sound. At the same moment, I noticed two military aircraft flying one in front of the other well behind the lights and at a higher altitude with navigation lights and strobes.

"We border military area Y-2 in New Hampshire. The triangular lights were near the ground and moving northeast in an entirely different direction than the planes. After 10-15 seconds all six lights disappeared at exactly the same moment. They simply vanished at once while in motion towards me, as though someone turned off a light switch.

"The two chase aircraft made a wide, sweeping turn around our property, and in a minute another two aircraft joined the pattern, circling our property. The planes remained circling overhead in a fairly tight turning pattern for one hour and twenty minutes." Thanks to Peter Davenport, UFOcenter.

Northern Ireland triangle

CLOGHER, COUNTY TYRONE - On Thursday, Dec. 11, 2003, Milton Clarke was outdoors in his hometown when a UFO approached from the north. "It seemed like a glowing triangle, a really bright glow," Milton reported. "I couldn't see any markings. It was very close to the ground at one point, only 20 meters (66 feet) off the ground.

"It came in very fast, slowed down to a stop, then flew away very fast towards the west. I took some pictures, but it's hard to know if they will come out. It was very dark, and I didn't have the right type of film for this kind of thing."

Thanks to UFO ROUNDUP Volume 8, Number 48 Dec. 17, 2003 Editor: Joseph Trainor E-mail: Masinaigan@aol.com Website: <http://www.ufoinfo.com/roundup/up/>

Illinois triangle hovers

LOVES PARK - The experience occurred on Dec. 12, 2003, at 5:35 PM, when the observer noticed an object traveling south which had three lights in a triangular shape. It was moving slowly across

the sky, and hovered above the field. The witness says, "It was maybe 100-300 feet off of the ground, and I could see it clearly. It was dark in color. The lights were yellow, and there was no noise.

"It looked to be about the size of a small airplane and was moving south, then it turned northeast at a fast rate of speed. It then turned back south, then traveled really fast and disappeared. The lights were in a triangular shape, one light on each corner of the object.

"The sighting lasted about 20 minutes, and I never encountered anything weird and scary like this before," he said. Thanks to Peter Davenport, UFOcenter.

Silver disc in Florida

FT. MYERS - An object appeared almost the size of the full moon as it flew over on Jan. 4, 2004, at 2:30 PM, according to the witnesses, who had a very clear and "razor sharp view" of a very thin disc.

The "bottom" surface appeared shaded, and the upper surface was highly reflective and showed a wide low bulge nearly filling the diameter.

It was definitely a disc, said the witnesses, and definitely nearly flat on its "upper" and "lower" surfaces. It behaved like a balloon—drifting and turning, climbing and dipping, bobbing weightlessly, in a more or less easterly direction.

It did not appear to be under "control" or "doing" anything. It was big and definitely "hardware," and not a cloud. Nearby airfields are Paige Field and SW Florida International Airport.

This occurred in or near the landing path for some of the air traffic. The disk had a bulge on one face, was 30 feet across, reflected sunlight, and bobbed around at 3-5000 feet. Thanks to Peter Davenport, UFOcenter.

Missouri - Alien Or Monster

CHAFFEE - The witness was driving about 55 mph when he saw a dull aluminum bent up "clothes hanger like" creature on Dec. 9, 2003, at 12:50 and slowed to 40 mph.

He states, "The creature looked like a big aluminum colored cockroach man with very long legs, and he looked like he was running on his knees. It was seven feet tall, but we saw no face or eyes, and it

was hunched over as it ran. At first, it looked like a deer, until it ran by the truck so fast that you really couldn't see its legs moving...it was more like scurrying.

"It looked like it had some sort of arms, and I didn't really see wings...but it was moving as if it had wings. It moved faster and ran further than anything living that I have ever seen.

"It was similar to a pumpkin head, or like an imp, but only taller. I said to my friend, 'Did you see that we almost hit a deer?' He said, 'Yes.' Then something zoomed ten feet by the passenger side door up to thirty feet in front of the truck.

"I sped up to about 65 mph and passed the creature, and looked over my shoulder to the back of my truck. It was behind us and was running fast, then caught up and was running along side of us for a good four seconds, then it zoomed past the truck again, to about 20 feet in front of us and jumped straight into the air and disappeared.

"We will never know what it was, but I really don't see myself going back to this spot at night." Thanks to Peter Davenport, UFOcenter.

Indiana police chase object

HUNTINGTON - Three police officers who say a strange object drifted through the skies over this northeastern Indiana city are trying to find someone else who saw it. Officer Chip Olinger was warming up his car about 2:30 PM on Dec. 26, 2003, when he reported seeing a circular object in the sky and radioed officers Greg Hedrick and Randy Hoover, who also saw it.

All three say they watched as the object moved out of the northwest, drifted toward a church steeple, then shot straight north without a sound in an encounter that lasted less than a minute. The trio describes the object as about the size of a hot air balloon or a backyard trampoline.

They said it was low enough in the sky that Olinger thought it might crash into the steeple. It stopped a few times and spun slowly, changing shapes and at one point turned orange, possibly from reflected sunlight. "It wasn't any kind of flying machine that I can think of," Olinger told *The Herald-Press*. "And it's not like a 1950s flying saucer. It was that big, but it didn't have a hump in the middle."

No one called city, county, or Indiana State Police to report it, and for a few days the three officers didn't say anything about it. Thanks to *Huntington News*.

White oval object in Canada

HOUSTON - A man had just trans-

ported his wife from a friend's house when they arrived back home at 8:45 PM on Dec. 8, 2003. They pulled into their long driveway only to see the two kids standing outside yelling and pointed towards the mountain behind their home.

The husband stopped the car quickly and both parents jumped out in fear, as they had no idea what was wrong, thinking the worst. They noticed a white oval-shaped object sitting stationary over their property with a solid ring of blue lights moving around the white colored object.

A slight and annoying hum could be heard. The mother went over and grabbed the two children and went into the house. The father followed, but they watched from inside.

The object lit up the trees in a white light for a good distance and after four minutes it slowly started to move, dropping white sparks off the bottom.

It rose up rather slowly, and as it reached the top of the mountain they lost sight of it. Thanks to Brian Vike, director, CANADA HBCC Research.

Cigar shapes in Arizona

SELIGMAN - Three friends were driving back from Las Vegas, on Jan. 5, 2004, when the driver commented on "the really bright stars" that had appeared about 45 minutes before sunset. The objects seemed to be moving.

Within minutes, they saw a bright light change to a cigar shape that turned red very suddenly. It appeared to explode, and the witnesses watched intently as the first object began to fall, while the second white object turned a bright red and hovered over the mountain range adjacent to Interstate 40 southbound.

The object started to do several other bizarre things, such as breaking out into a lateral acceleration that seemed to have covered 50 miles within seconds, stop, turn colors, lift into the sky and return to its low altitude, go in reverse immediately with rapid speed, and then rocket off again.

After reaching the near-end of the mountain range, the view improved and the object joined five or six more just like it, but each one was a varying intensity of red light. All of these objects demonstrated their agility and handling, just as the first.

One by one, the objects were either disappearing behind trees or hills or vanishing into thin air. The witnesses saw several other objects that were clearly airplanes and helicopters during the rest of their drive that evening, but nothing like the red lights on the mountains.

Peter Davenport spoke with this witness, and he sounded sincere, and quite

credible. UFOcenter.

Delta shape in Ireland

DUBLIN - The witness was on his way to college in a bus at 7:45 AM on Dec. 15, 2003, and looked out the window and saw a bright blue rectangle light high up in the sky. He is certain it was not a star nor a conventional aircraft.

The light faded, and this object started flying from where the light had been and flew quite fast to 20 degrees east. The observer states, "I was in disbelief and lost sight of it as the bus moved. The UFO was dark and delta shaped, and had a light on three corners, and one was blinking.

"Ten minutes later a rectangle of light was seen where I had seen it the first time. I noticed it was moving, but as the bus moved we were not gaining any ground on it, then the light faded in a flash. This was undeniably not a plane since it was flying at about 2000 feet, way too low for a commercial aircraft in an urban area." Thanks to Peter Davenport, UFOcenter.

Arrowhead objects in England

BURNHAM-ON-CROUCH - On Dec. 13, 2003, at 8:30 PM the witness was in his garden when he looked up to see two objects heading north, shaped like curved edge arrowheads, flying straight.

The witness reports, "They were performing maneuvers and crossing each other's path in an almost DNA-like spiral. They were illuminated by a dull light underneath, with a soft-fuzzy and pale yellow light, and were about the size of planes, but I'm convinced they were not planes.

"There was no noise from them, and they were flying low at about 250 feet. I watched them until they flew out of sight over my house." Thanks to Peter Davenport, UFOcenter.

Triangle in Norway

OSLO - On Dec. 15, 2003, at 7:45 PM the observer was looking out of his window when he saw three white lights which formed a triangular shape hovering just over a hill about one mile away. It stood still for about 15 seconds, then "ducked" behind the hill without sound. Thanks to Peter Davenport, UFOcenter.

Cigar shape in Tasmania

LAUNCESTON - On Saturday, Dec. 13, 2003, at 10:05 PM witness A.B. reports, "George and I were at my country property just north of Launceston in Australia's island state of Tasmania, sitting outside, having a smoke.

"George noticed a long, cigar-shaped

glowing object approaching from the northeast, high in the sky. As it approached the property, it slid lower into the sky and appeared as if it would land.

"As fast as it appeared, it flew away, with only a slight tingling in the air to confirm it had ever been there at all. It was about 80 meters (264 feet) above ground, lowering to about 20 meters (66 feet). At its minimum speed, I would say it approached 200 kilometers per hour (120 miles per hour)." Thanks to Peter Davenport, UFOcenter.

California egg-shaped objects

HAYWARD - The witnesses were driving southbound on Mission Boulevard on Jan. 4, 2004, at 10:40 PM, and saw an object in the sky about 100 feet above the street. The object was white and egg-shaped, and light reflected off it, but it was not a flashy or metallic reflection.

The witness reports, "It was about five feet in diameter at its thinnest point and moved north just over us as we drove southbound. Then, I saw two more objects, about 3/4 that size. I decided to pull over to look and grab my camera.

"They were also egg-shaped, but gray, non-metallic. The white egg shape then changed shape slightly into a smoothened diamond-like shape about 200 feet above me. The two gray craft stopped in mid-air, and the white craft joined them briefly in a delta formation over our heads.

"The white craft then again sped off towards the north, and the two gray craft quickly went straight up and disappeared. The white craft followed us south as we drove off and then sped off. I took several pictures." Thanks to Peter Davenport, UFOcenter.

Canada shuttle-shaped triangle

WEST DUBLIN, N.S. - The object was heading northwest, up the LaHave River toward Bridgewater, on Dec. 17, 2003, at 11:30 AM. As witnessed by two 40-year-old males, it was described as shuttle shaped, but flying upside down with something, perhaps a rudder, pointing downward.

The object was triangular shaped and reflecting sunlight. It was observed for ten minutes, moving quite slowly and across the easterly wind at an estimated height of 7,500 feet as it crossed over the witnesses. It was the size of a dime at arm's length. No sound. Thanks to Sheldon MacLeod, CKBW, Bridgewater.

Netherlands flying triangle

ALMELO, Overijssel - A 47-year-old witness was walking a dog outside on Sunday, Jan. 11, 2004, around 8:15 PM,

when he saw a huge massive triangle-shaped object. At the moment of the sighting the sky was very clear and the stars were very clearly visible.

The huge triangle had red lights on each of the three corners. The witness states, "In the middle of the object there were five lights in a small triangle, there were three indigo blue-colored lights in the middle, and two red lights on each side. The wind blew suddenly very hard from another direction, possibly caused by the craft. There were no engine sounds.

The craft moved slowly from the east to the west with two bright white sphere lights on top. The object was very big, much bigger than a jet, and was 250 meters distant and at a height of also 250 meters. It was moving slowly at a constant speed of 30 km/h as it passed overhead."

When the object had passed the witness, he noticed that above the object it had a hilly shape, and on top of that two sphere-shaped bright lights. The sighting caused some psychological side effects: "I came home nervously and stayed in that condition for a couple of hours. I had a strange, restless feeling. During the sighting I was for a moment frightened, a kind of panic almost."

He also reported the sighting to the Air Force Base Twente, but they said they don't do anything with the report. However, even though it was Sunday, a half hour later he could hear fighter jets fly over!

Thanks to: Toine Trust Site Admin UFOPlaza, UFOportal Editor UFOPlaza Nieuwsbrief site: www.UFOPlaza.nl mail: ganzEgal-@UFOPlaza.nl : UFOPlaza@hotmail.com

Australia glowing orange lights

ADELAIDE - Two witnesses observed on Jan. 4, 2004, at 12:30 AM, on the Main North Road near Parafield Airport, four dull glowing orange lights hovering over the area. Mark, 23, and his wife Elizabeth stopped the car and got out for a better look.

At first the objects were hovering in the shape of the Southern Cross. After maneuvering backwards and forwards for a while they formed a line, one after the other. During this time they flashed a little and moved off into the distance. One faded out and then they all faded.

This is interesting because Adelaide does have a curfew on take-offs and landings (11 PM). Conclusion: Garbage bags or balloons cannot go back and forth! Thanks to Debbie Payne, AURA-AUFORN, and Diane Harrison, Australian Skywatch Director.

Florida triangle over highway

MARATHON (FIESTA KEY) - The witnesses were driving toward Key West from Miami on US 1 at about 12:30 AM Jan. 4, 2003, and as they drove over a bridge they saw something with a green and red light. The witness reports, "I noticed it and told my friend I thought it was the balloon that transmits Radio Marti to Cuba. (Many people may not know that the US government has a large balloon located at Cudjoe Key, FL, that transmits Radio Marti to Cuba, but they were too far away to see this balloon.)

"When we got closer to the lights, the driver lost them, but the passenger saw a red and white light 100 to 250 feet hovering directly over the highway.

"He also saw a black mass between the lights in what looked like a triangle, but didn't totally point at the top. From his account the white light was on the top, and he saw a red light on the corner of one of the bottom of the points.

"There was never any sound made. We opened the windows of the truck when we were close to it, and it was just quiet. I had to go about 1000 feet to turn around. When we went back, there was nothing there." Thanks to UFOcenter.

A correction

An article in Filers Files in the Jan 2004 *MUFON UFO Journal* is labeled "Louisiana object blocks sky." However, the references to Arlington, Cedar Hill, and Highway 287 appear to match an area in the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex better than any place in Louisiana.

The previous article, "Scary sight in Louisiana," refers to Abbeville, a town of about 11,000 inhabitants in south central Louisiana. The sighting dates are the same, Nov 19, 2003, but no time is listed for the Arlington event.

The Abbeville sighting happened at 2:30 pm. Since the descriptions of the objects are similar, by knowing the time of the Arlington sighting, we might estimate the speed of the objects (if they are indeed the same). Also, we might find other observers along a line connecting the two observations.

It is interesting that a line connecting Arlington, TX, to Abbeville, LA, passes very near Nacodoches, TX, a city that made national news when the space shuttle Columbia disintegrated and dropped hundreds of pieces in and around Nacodoches.

-Les P. Beard

(Editor's Note: The error in labeling was by the Journal editor, not Filer. Thanks for the correction.)

The Other Sky—Reclaiming Who We Are and Why We Came Here by Landi B. Mellas and David E. Caywood, 2003, Blue Star Productions, Book World, Inc., 9666 E. Riggs Road #194, Sun Lakes, AZ, 85248, 5 1/2 X 8 1/2 soft cover, 333 pages, \$16.95.

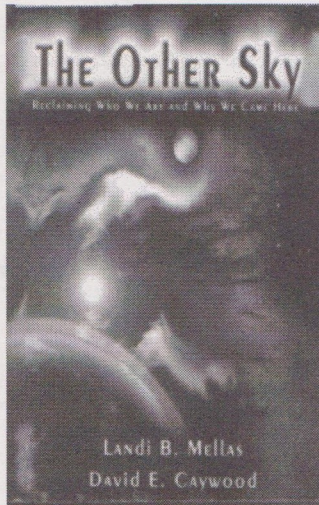
Reviewed by Dwight Connelly

It is quite difficult to properly review a book of this type if the reviewer "hasn't been there"—and I haven't.

Mellas and Caywood describe "The Other Sky" as "our all-encompassing term for realms beyond our own third dimension; the place of ETs and fantastic happenings; the realm of the 'Others.'"

Like several recent books, this is a story of interaction with extraterrestrial entities. For each of the authors, this interaction reportedly began in childhood, and was initially frightening, but gradually developed into what they have come to feel is a greater understanding of themselves, mankind, religion, and the universe.

They touch in a surprisingly breezy



manner on such topics as reincarnation, telepathy, implants, and out-of-body experiences. Mellas even describes an interaction with Mary, the mother of Christ.

The authors explain that "Earth is but a fairly new child in comparison to other systems spinning out their lives in this vast universe. But our spirit is even much older than the eldest planet. Therefore,

we can only conclude that this child-planet Earth is not the only place our spirit has taken on a physical form. Any planet of residence, for the experiences it can provide, is our choice....

"We have to conclude that what at first we thought to be an abnormality—the instant recognition of many of the beings that we encounter within the realms of The Other Sky—in fact turns out to be the remembrance of souls whom we have

known in our never-ending existence.

"The differences that we note in the physical appearances of the non-terrestrials then becomes a moot discrepancy, and the saying 'Beauty is only skin deep' becomes self-evident. As the beings have told us often, *We know you by your light.*"

In what has become almost a routine warning by extraterrestrials, the authors are told, "...within the last few decades the situation on your planet has almost reached a point of no return. It is desperate."

This situation "might affect the whole neighborhood. God, the Source, loves all creation unconditionally. But...after a child is reprimanded so many times and still does not listen, the child may need a good spanking."

What "a good spanking" of the Earth might entail is not explained.

As with much in the field of ufology, this is a book describing extraordinary experiences by ordinary individuals. This brief review only skims the surface, perhaps distorting as much as informing.

As noted at the beginning of this review, I do not have the background to say yea or nay on whether real experiences are described. If the topics are of interest, buy the book and decide.

Hubble telescope mission to end

NASA has decided to stop servicing the Hubble space telescope due to budget problems and safety concerns, effectively bringing its mission to an early end, US space officials said.

Hubble will remain in orbit as long as it can fulfill its duties, then be brought crashing back into Earth's atmosphere, with re-entry expected in 2011, officials said.

John Grunsfeld, chief scientist for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), said, "We will get as much life as we can out of the Hubble telescope."

A previously-planned mission, scheduled for mid-2005, was to install a new wide field planetary camera and a super-sensitive ultraviolet spectograph designed to observe new hot stars, quasi-stellar objects, and the interstellar medium.

But it would have required expensive shuttle safety updates that are not necessary for the shuttle's only other job, working on the International Space Station, Grunsfeld said.

"It was a question of looking at the risk elements involved to support the mission," Grunsfeld said. Hubble depends on periodic service calls by spacewalking astronauts who upgrade its equipment.

It was unclear how long the telescope would continue to function without the 2005 supply mission. "It could die tomorrow, or it could last to 2011," Dr Steven Beckwith, director of the Space Telescope Institute at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, MD, said. NASA has no further trips to the Hubble planned until a final "close-out mission" in 2010.

The announcement marked the first change to an existing NASA mission since President George W. Bush two days earlier announced new directions for the space program, saying he wants to send manned missions to the moon from 2015, and eventually to Mars and beyond.

But the space agency was allocated only an additional billion dollars over five years, in addition to its annual budget of \$15.4 billion, to work toward that goal.

The decision to stop servicing the Hubble devastated scientists, since the telescope has provided a wealth of information and stunning images of the universe since being dropped off in space in April 1990. NASA plans to put a new-generation orbital observatory, the James Webb Space Telescope, into orbit in 2009.

MUFON field investigator t-shirt & cap

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 has a black cap with white MUFON logo to match the field investigator black t-shirts (The caps also look great with the white t-shirts). Screen printed is \$12 + \$3 S&H. Embroidered is \$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

Less than meets the eye

Popular Mechanics has done it again. The February 2004 issue has a cover story about UFOs. The title on the cover is "WHEN UFOs ARRIVE"; the cover subtitle is "What Will You do? The US Government already has a multimillion Dollar TOP-SECRET Plan Ready to Go."

A further promise of exciting new revelations is given by the subtitle in the article itself: "The US and other world governments already have detailed secret plans for first contact."

These are splendid examples of falsity in

advertising. The story is as silly as their June, 2003, cover story "OFFICIAL US GOVERNMENT ROSWELL FILES. The Startling Facts Declassified."

Both articles are by Jim Wilson, who has done others about UFOs.

The 2003 piece tried to get rid of Roswell with three basic claims:

1. That Frank Kaufmann, who had been shown to be telling false tales, had been involved from the start in the Roswell claims made by believers (implying that therefore the story had collapsed);

2. That the base morning reports for the July 4, 1947, weekend, said nothing about the Roswell incident (implying that that meant it had not happened), and

3. That the USAF had declassified all their Roswell Files.

All of these are false or misleading.

1. Kaufmann doesn't show up on the scene until 13 years after I began the intense civilian investigation of Roswell with my first conversation with Major Jesse Marcel in 1978, and at least 18 years after my conversation with Lydia Sleppy.

2. The morning reports were not classified, and covered personnel changes, not highly classified events like recovery of a crashed saucer.

3. The Air Force declassified nothing about the Roswell incident.

In the new article Wilson provides no evidence whatsoever for a multimillion dollar Top-Secret Plan by the US, and no

evidence at all for such a plan by any other government.

He does mention a totally unofficial gentlemen's agreement by SETI specialists as to how they (as if they were official spokesmen for us and governments, which they are not) would respond to the first claims that a signal from ETI had been received.

Unspoken, but nevertheless true, is that they assume it would come from a civilization dozens if not hundreds or thousands of light years away. No government has signed on to the protocol, quite frankly, because it is totally unrelated to implications of a visit to Earth by an alien spacecraft, the only scenario that Wilson discusses.

He talks about Air Force optical telescopes and radars picking up a spacecraft between the Earth and the moon. Apparently he is unaware that the SETI community seems totally convinced that interstellar travel is impossible, so, according to them, such a scenario can never occur!

One reason for this foolish attitude is that, not surprisingly, astronomers have essentially no knowledge of advanced flight technology. They also assume there will be only very slow, very long distance radio communication using techniques such as we use—despite our enormous youth compared to the history of the galaxy.

SETI has no status

The SETI Community has no status at all with governments of the world. It has nothing to do with national or international security, nor with the development of technology useful by the military—which is a very large fraction of the budgets of governments around the world.

The development of systems able to reach Earth from some other solar system clearly indicates a very much higher level of technological sophistication than so far manifested on Earth.

The same thing applies with regard to small Earth Excursion Modules able to flit around the earth at very high speed and with great maneuverability. Surely these would make wonderful weapons delivery and defense systems.

Wilson, incredibly, seems to believe that the radar and optical tracking systems of the US and other governments have never previously noted such high

performance systems. The data they record is born classified. He might wish to examine (though I doubt it) several excellent radar visual sightings described by Dr. James McDonald in his 71-page Congressional Testimony of July 29, 1968 (Available for \$10. Postpaid from UFORI, POB 958 Houlton, ME 04730-0958).

Many other cases

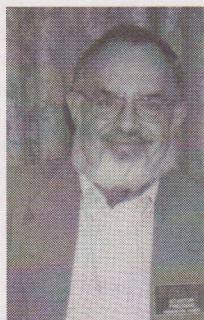
Richard Hall included many radar-visual sightings in both the 1965 and more recent versions of his *The UFO Evidence*. Wilson is apparently unaware of the 5,000 physical trace cases collected by Ted Phillips from 90 countries (16% involving reports of humanoids), and the more than 1,200 sightings by pilots in Dominique Weinstein's outstanding collection—and the many more on file with NARCAP (National Aviation Reporting Center on Anomalous Phenomena).

Wilson even has the gall to say, "Unique as the appearance of an alien piloted spacecraft may be...." The cover and the article use graphics that might have come straight out of "The Day the Earth Stood Still," complete with the White House in the background and military vehicles ready to pounce on an intruding alien saucer sitting on the White House lawn.

He goes on to suggest that the three groups who would be involved, in Haz Mat suits no less, would be the FBI, a Department of Energy Nuclear Emergency Search Team (NEST), and a Department of Agriculture's Animal Disease Center on Plum Island off Long Island.

The alien would be poked and probed by NIH doctors rather than allowed to sleep in the Lincoln Bedroom at the White House!

Wilson claims that "Scientists are of two minds regarding the existence of extraterrestrial Intelligence": skeptics who think Earth is so unique with regard to its magnetic field and the moon, etc, that intelligence hasn't developed anywhere else, and "The opposing camp sees the prospect for discovering alien life in more mathematical terms. Its touchstone is the Drake Equation which links the probability of discovering extraterrestrial intelligence to factors such as the size of the universe and the number of stars with earthlike planets. With the discovery of each new planet beyond Earth's Solar



Friedman

system—there are now more than 100—the odds of encountering intelligent life increase.”

These comments obviously ignore those scientists such as myself who have become convinced by extraordinary evidence that aliens have been, and are, visiting Earth.

Plain and simple nonsense

The comment about the Drake Equation is nonsense plain and simple. The Drake Equation purports to tell us how many civilizations there are in the galaxy and has nothing to do with the probability of discovering ETI. Furthermore discovering that there are other planets in the neighborhood tells us nothing about the odds of encountering ETI.

We have absolutely zero knowledge of how many planets are inhabited by ETI. We have zero knowledge of whether we will or won't encounter them out there. We have a great deal of evidence indicating that aliens have been coming here for a very long time.

Wilson sets up a Proposed Welcoming Committee that *Popular Mechanics* would prefer to see on the job as opposed to one (consisting mainly of astronomers) outlined by the International Academy of Astronautics. They have no binding contract with anybody.

PM's American team

Popular Mechanic's American team (they have a composite picture of all of them as though they were together) would be chaired by John Glenn (former astronaut and senator), Dr. Frank Drake (science officer), Dr. Hal Puthoff (powerplant engineering), Dr. Sheila Widnall (from MIT and formerly secretary of the USAF, and who approved the Roswell Report), Dr. Ning Li (propulsion systems—worked with rapidly rotating superconducting magnets seeking a reduction in gravity), Dr. K. Eric Drexler (structural systems—expert on nano-technology), and Jane Goodall (communications officer—“primatologist who has proved her ability to communicate with intelligent nonhumans.”

These are all respectable people. I don't see any diplomats or UN Representatives.

Apparently Wilson envisions a saucer landing on the White House lawn being grabbed by NASA, the vehicle hauled off to labs in New Mexico, and the alien pilot(s) to be poked and prodded. This isn't even good science fiction.

Does he really think an alien spacecraft would just be wandering by the first time and land in public without having collected a great deal of information about us, our military and detection capabilities,

our general approach to each other (hostility)?

It is almost as if he is assuming that we are more advanced than our visitors instead of the other way around... even though our technological history is only a few thousand years long and there are stars a billion years older than the sun just down the street.

Wilson mentions the unclassified Brookings Institute Study, done for NASA 40+ years ago, and its suggestion that contact between two societies at different levels of development is usually to the detriment of the less advanced.

But then he says we ignored the Brookings Institute advice by putting a plaque on the Pioneer Spacecraft practically inviting aliens to come.

It won't be there soon

He mentions it is 7 billion miles (about 10 light hours) from Earth and heading toward Alderbaran, as though it would be there soon. That star is 80 light-years away. It seems to me very likely that the USAF and Operation Majestic 12 would have had very highly classified studies done as to the impact of contact.

Note that mention is made in the Eisenhower Briefing Document that “a Contingency plan (MJ-1949-04P/78) should be held in continued readiness should the need to make a public announcement present itself.”

Wilson says, “Skeptics often ask why UFO sightings seem to take place only in remote locations instead of on busy city streets [a typical stupid skeptical question based on ignorance of the facts]. Perhaps ET knows what Earthlings have in mind when it lands.”

One would think that an ET spacecraft was just wandering around in the neighborhood and would have set down for tea or a beer in the middle of a large city. How long would it take to figure out that the rule here is shoot first and ask questions later?

How many times would a UFO have to be chased by an Earthling jet to get the picture? How many nuclear weapons tests would have to be observed to gain understanding of Earth's “civilizations”?

Popular Mechanics obviously recognizes that putting “UFOs” on the cover helps sell magazines. Pity they couldn't use non-fiction articles.

www.stantonfriedman.com
sfphys@rogers.com

Newsletters appreciated

The *MUFON UFO Journal* staff appreciates receiving newsletters from local MUFON groups.

Bright light, circle reported in Kansas

Henry C., who lives on a farm near the small town of Louisburg, KS (population 2,576), not far from Kansas City, reports:

“On the night of (Monday) Dec. 15, 2003, as my wife and I were pulling into our driveway after a dinner out, we watched a bright light back in our fields.

“We live on a farm, you see, and our fields extend for a mile behind our house. It was raining, and the air was thick as fog, but we could see the bright light out in the field.

“We thought it was someone's headlights, since a row of houses runs along the back of our property. All of a sudden, though, the light shot straight up into the sky, disappearing into the darkness. I didn't see anything, but a big ball of light.

“I wanted to get out there right away, but the rain made it very hard to get back into the fields. The ground gets so muddy that even a tractor can get stuck in certain places. So we waited until the next day when the rain stopped.”

On the morning of Tuesday, Dec. 16, 2003, Henry and his wife walked about half a mile, just over a hill, “when we saw it. The ring of mud on the ground. I swear to God on the Bible, the ring had not been there before.

“The ring seemed to be around 10 feet in diameter, and the mud in the ring is almost like quicksand.

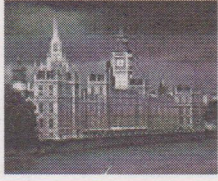
“I never believed in UFOs before,” he added, “And had never seen anything like this. Maybe we can find out if someone else has seen anything like this, too.”

—Thanks to UFO Roundup, Vol. 9, No. 2; Editor: Joseph Trainor.

Two Special Products

The new MUFON logo has been reproduced in light blue on white T-shirts, now available to MUFON members for a limited time at the special price of \$10 + \$2.50 shipping for sizes small through extra large. 2XL shirts are also available for \$12 + \$2.50 shipping.

MUFON has a limited supply of crop circle T-shirts designed by Connie Isele of Divide, CO. Sizes are limited to large and extra large. These are available while supplies last for \$10 + \$2.50 shipping.



VIEW FROM BRITAIN

By Jenny Randles

Faking UFOs

Recently I came under some fire on a British internet site because I had suggested, in passing, that, in certain circumstances, it can be acceptable to deliberately fake a UFO sighting.

I think it is important to try to defend this controversial idea, and to explain my reasons for believing it.

Firstly, I should explain the context in which I made this comment.

A UFOlogist in the UK claims to have investigated a sighting during which an RAF aircraft might have been downed after a close encounter with a UFO. Another UFOlogist who had investigated the same case reached very different conclusions—namely that there was no jet crash and that the UFO was prosaically explained as an astronomical phenomenon.

Such disputes happen all of the time, and those who have not investigated the case can form their own judgement by balancing the evidence from both UFOlogists and deciding what we think most probably occurred.

However, in this case a colleague of the skeptical UFOlogist chose to go one step further and organise a hoax story that tied in with the jet crash, hoping to sucker in the investigator with opposing views on the incident and, presumably, exposing his shortcomings if he fell for the deception.

As things transpired he did not get entirely caught by the ruse, which, when it was admitted some time later by the skeptical UFOlogist, stirred up a heated discussion on the rights and wrongs of this attempted hoax.

I am not endorsing the methods used in this particular case—although I understand why they were considered necessary by the skeptic. Personally, I would draw the line at deliberately trying to deceive specific individuals unless doing so was the only way to reveal important information that the UFO community



Jenny Randles

needed to see. Here, I believe, the case could best have been argued over through the relative strength of the evidence for each interpretation of the facts.

The setup detracted from that pure debate and put the issue into a personalized framework that distracts most people from what really matters. Which is why I personally would not have considered doing it.

So when I argued that hoax experiments can benefit UFOlogy I was not defending any one example. Rather I was countering the view that this sighting had generated: that if one UFOlogist sought to hoax any UFO incident that might potentially deceive a colleague, then this was not only utterly unacceptable, it was a heinous offense.

On the contrary I believe that it sometimes can be of great value. How can I justify such a suggestion? There are three reasons.

Witness perception

Firstly, it is important to gain specific information on witness perception. In UFOlogy that is often impossible, because we rarely know for certain what was seen, and so almost always cannot judge how accurate are the accounts of even the most basic parameters, such as size, speed, time of observation etc.

Yet knowing how well witnesses report such information is invaluable. It helps us to grasp how to evaluate the mass of eyewitness testimony regarding genuine UFO sightings.

So, it makes sense that from time to time we run observational experiments where we create an IFO that we know will fool witnesses. This should be done under carefully controlled conditions as a properly organized experiment, and all the necessary permissions granted and precautions taken so as to ensure that no dangerous situations follow.

If run correctly this research can provide the raw data that tells us how unusual stimuli in the sky are being witnessed and reported. I consider this good research, not a deception. Many other professions use similar techniques to gather data.

Reporting/investigating process

A second reason that it can be valuable to conduct hoax experiments is to

test the reporting and investigation process. This is a little more tricky to justify, but it can be beneficial to use a well set up IFO as a method of tracing the various sources that will seek to investigate, report on, or otherwise use the sighting.

By this route we can gain information on how to use media sources, based on the way they tackled a case that has been carefully controlled, and give dry runs to various investigation methods that might come in very handy in future real UFO cases.

I should make very clear that I do not support this kind of experiment except under very strictly controlled circumstances and at very exceptional times. For example, as a way of defining the channels of communication in a UFO window area where we suspect that witness hoaxing might be rife.

Also I would not support it unless it was designed in such a way as to avoid bringing deliberate ridicule upon colleagues.

Moreover, it should be carefully documented and the results published (again avoiding naming names and exposing colleagues just to score political points).

This should also be done as soon as the experiment is over. Sitting on data for any length of time turns what might be a bona fide experiment into a cruel hoax carried out without due concern for our compatriots. That I could not condone.

Improving standards

The third way in which hoaxing a sighting can be useful is to improve standards. There was a very good example of this in the UK some years ago when a hoax photo of a UFO from a hot spot in Wiltshire was seeded into the UFO community.

The experimenters deliberately included within the case sufficient clues to at least allow for serious doubts to be entered into, or even for the hoax to be exposed if the investigation was conducted with enough depth.

It became more of an examination of the skills of those UFOlogists who pitted themselves against the case. As such, when the truth emerged, those who succeeded in sensing the dubious nature of the photo could judge that their approach to cases was working, whereas those who

had not spotted the clues could re-evaluate their way of investigating all potentially real UFO photographs.

It was noticeable to me that not many UFOlogists who failed this test saw it in a remotely favorable light. They railed against the perpetrators as if they were intending to make all UFOlogists look foolish. There were even charges of duplicity or that they were agents of disinformation. But viewed as I think it was intended, as a controlled test of investigator capabilities, it had the power to benefit the whole UFO community and to raise standards if it had been taken in the right spirit.

I would add, before anyone gets the wrong idea, that I have never set up or been involved in any hoaxes of the kind outlined here. Or indeed of any kind. I only ever would do so in very special circumstances and if I can see positive benefits for UFOlogy that outweigh the criticism that such experimentation will always inevitably draw.

These conditions would not occur very often - indeed if we started hoaxing left, right and center then this would rapidly become very much the wrong thing to do. So I would have to think long and hard before agreeing to participate in any such operation.

My point is only that I think there are times when it is genuinely in the interests of our subject to consider the possibility. However contentitious anything that brings useful data and can improve the quality of our work is at least open to argument.

Author Charles Berlitz dies at age 90

Charles Berlitz, 90, of Fort Lauderdale, FL, a well-known linguist and author of *The Bermuda Triangle*, as well as *Without a Trace*, and *The Roswell Incident* (with William Moore), and *The Philadelphia Experiment—Project Invisibility* (also with Moore) died Dec. 18 at University Hospital in Tamarac, FL.

He was the grandson of Maximilian Berlitz, founder of the international chain of language schools.

Berlitz spent 13 years on active duty in the U.S. Army, mostly in intelligence.

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 website.

The NIGHT SKY

Walter N. Webb

March

Bright Planets (Evening Sky):

Parade of Planets: All five naked-eye planets (plus the Moon) are visible in the early evening sky for around two weeks starting about March 22.

Mercury achieves its best evening appearance for the year in the last half of March, reaching its farthest eastern point (elongation) from the Sun on the 29th. Look for this tiny glowing ember low in the W at twilight below brilliant **Venus**.

CALENDAR

Feb. 8-14—13th Annual International UFO Congress, Convention, & Film Festival, Laughlin, NV, featuring Jim Marrs, Ed & Kris Sherwood, Matthew Hurley, Joe McMoneagle, Wynn Free & David Wilcock, James McCanney, Dr. Claude Swanson, Adrian Dvir, Russell Callaghan, Mary Rodwell, George Filer, Rich Dolan, Haktan Akdogan, Stan Gordon, Budd Hopkins & Carol Rainey, Leah Haley, Riley Martin, Lisette Lrkins, A.J. Gevaerd, Wendelle Stevens, Michael Horn, Dr. Norman Bergrun, Santiago Yturria Garza, and Daniel Sheehan. www.ufocongress.com, 303-543-9443, ufocongress@msn.com.

March 19-21—Aztec UFO Symposium, Aztec, NM, featuring Freddie Silva, Art Campbell, Dr. Roy Craig, Mark Kimmel, Scott Ramsey, and George Green. 505-334-7658, azteccuf@sisna.com, www.aztec1948.com.

March 27-28—UFO-ET Congress, Days Inn, Bordentown, NJ, Pat Marcattilio at 609-631-8955 or Tom Benson at 609-883-6921.

April 9-11—16th Annual Ozark UFO Conference, Eureka Springs, AR, with Timothy Good, Linda Howe, Wendelle Stevens, Grant Cameron, Nancy Talbot, David Rudiak, plus others to be named. ozarkufo@webtv.net.

April 16-18—1st Annual Exopolitics Expo, Hilton, Washington, DC, featuring Stephen Bassett, Dr. William Birnes, Philip Corso Jr., Paul Davids, Richard Dolan, Stanton Friedman, Timothy Good, Dr. Steven Greer, Terry Hansen, Paola Harris, Richard Hoagland, Dr. C.B. Scott Jones, Jim Marrs, Dr. Bruce Maccabee, Nick Pope, and Dr. Michael Salla. Paradigm Research Group. www.x-conference.com.

July 16-18—MUFON International UFO Symposium, Marriott SE, Denver, CO: "Unconventional Flying Objects—The Body of Technological Evidence."

Venus also reaches its farthest point E of the Sun on March 29. Glowing then at magnitude -4.4, it stands above **Mercury** in the W at dusk, not setting until about 10 PM. A thin lunar crescent lies only 2 degrees N of the gleaming planet on the 24th.

Mars (1.2), in Taurus, is next in line higher up in the WSW and sets in the WNW about 11 PM. The ruddy world can be seen very near the crescent Moon on March 25.

Saturn (0.0), in Gemini, hangs high up in the S at dusk, shifting westward after dark. Previously retrograding (illusory westward orbital motion), the ringed planet resumes its normal eastward orbital direction on the 7th.

Jupiter (-2.5), in Leo, reaches a point opposite the Sun (opposition) on the night of March 3-4. At that time the giant planet will be visible all night. As the Earth rotates, Jupiter moves from the ESE sky westward.

Bright Planets (Morning Sky):

Jupiter sets in the WNW about sunrise.

Saturn sets in the NW between 1 and 3 AM during the month.

Moon Phases:

Full moon—March 6
Last quarter—March 13
New moon—March 20
First quarter—March 28

The Stars:

This month we begin to see in the E the constellations which will be prominent in the skies of spring—Leo (Lion), Coma Berenices (Queen Berenice's Hair), Virgo (Maiden), and Bootes (Herdsman).

And yet the winter patterns still are to be seen in the W—Orion (Hunter), Canis Major and Minor (Big and Little Dogs), Gemini (Twins), Auriga (Chariot Driver), and Taurus (Bull).

The orange-hued star Arcturus in Bootes is one of those celestial objects causing false UFO reports when it is low in the sky. It rises in the ENE about 7:30 PM in mid-March.

The Big Dipper climbs high in the NE, turning its bowl almost upside down. The Pointer Stars on the end of the bowl point nearly to Polaris the North Star.

Significant Waking

This commentary is about something that I have called Significant Waking. I have been researching this for the past eight years, and I believe that it is relevant to the UFO mystery. It should concern anyone who is looking at all aspects of the UFO mystery.

The event occurs when a person, usually someone connected with ufology or an abductee, awakens from a sleeping state to a waking state and notices the digital clock displaying a time, such as 2:22 AM or more often 3:33 AM, 4:44 AM etc.

These times occur over a period of months and years at irregular intervals. They may occur to one family member, or all members of the family. In one case I have been documenting since 1994, the husband and wife will sometimes awaken at the same times, although this is rare.

The phenomenon usually involves other significant events associated with abductions or alien entities, but there are also times when no events are present. These wakings sometimes occur on auspicious dates, such as Christmas Eve.

Sometimes the person remembers dreams of events that seem very real. Other times they simply wake up startled and note that the time on the clock is 3:33 or another such time.

Since these times are repeated, there is somewhat of a pattern. In some cases there are physical anomalies present on the body.

Those of you who have read Raymond Fowler's book, *The Andreasson Legacy*, will notice that in the back of the book there is a chart with these significant waking times of 3:33, 2:22, etc.

It would seem to me that this is significant by the very fact that it does occur repeatedly to those who have had experiences in ufology, and that it occurs when one is waking from a sleeping state.

Also worth noting is the fact that some of these people, while driving in their car, will feel the urge to look at the digital clock, and when they do they notice that the times are 2:22, 3:33, 4:44, etc.

I have documented the times of one family over the past seven years, and it seems that for this family at least the 3:33 AM time is very prominent.

There you have it folks. I don't claim to have the answer to this event—and I'm not sure that it has to do with time as we

think of it. However, I do think that it is worth taking a serious look at. I would like to thank Jerry L. Sievers, Indiana State Director, for his help in researching this, and his encouragement to me to document it. If anyone has any input into this Significant Waking, please send me an e-mail at zulu_28@hotmail.com.

—Roger Sugden

The Aztec "crash"

I am concerned over what appears to be a positive spin on the long discredited Aztec Saucer Crash of 1948 (or whatever year you choose).

The best explanation has always been that a couple of con artists formed a confidence scheme out of flying saucers and early crash rumors. The idea was to help them sell phony oil property with the idea that they had a special "doodle-bug" device from the crash of a flying saucer which could detect oil.

The lucky marks would be let in on this "hush, hush" secret discovery. People like to be in on such secrets, especially if they will make you money. And UFOs were making enough appearances in the Southwest to create a plausible con!

So I ask readers to beware of such miraculous "doodle-bug" schemes. Even those which may be peddled today?

—Brian Parks

A puzzling sighting

On Dec. 31, 2000, at approximately 7:15 AM, I observed a craft in the desert near my home, which is Pearce, AZ. This sighting was very unsettling to me, and I wanted to ensure my recollections were clear. Immediately upon arriving home I drew to the best of my ability the craft I had observed.

I'm writing now to see if anybody else has reported a design of this kind and, if it may be military or a true UFO.

I had driven off the side of the highway and got out of my vehicle to stand outside in order to observe it. Much regarding the craft was only coming back to me many months after the sighting.

This craft was definitely metallic. Prior to the craft gaining altitude it rotated somewhat and came very close to me. I saw two visible windows that were, to me, completely black, but were very deeply inset.

At that point, I became afraid and



The object reported by Hovdestad

found myself standing behind my vehicle observing it. As this craft was traveling from the SW to the NE in front of me, I found myself looking away to the left at the ground, and would look back again at the craft to make sure I was seeing what was traveling across my view. The craft tilted in the opposite direction from me to gain altitude.

I saw a huge glowing circular spot on the underside of the craft. What I thought were legs proved to be a power source that was perfectly formed, but as the craft gained altitude it made a hissing noise. The upper stack was so pronounced that it looked out of proportion to the rest of the craft. (See drawing above.)

I saw no visible markings, no ingress or egress on the craft, but it was definitely metal, as the sun was just coming up and the top portion of the craft was reflecting the sun. I was able to hold my hand up in comparison to the craft as it was closest to me. The craft was visible on both sides of my hand while it was fully extended from my body.

This vehicle traveled to the NE until it faded from my view. As a former paratrooper of the 101st Airborne, I am well aware of what a human's definition of a craft being able to fly and not fly. This craft had such a profound effect on my emotions that for at least the following 18 months I would think of it on a daily basis.

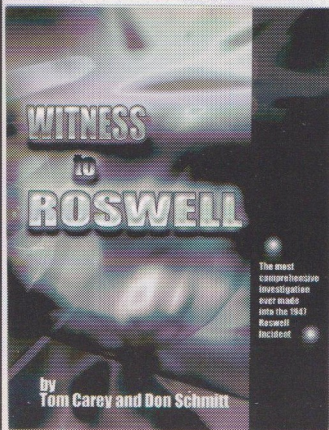
The first year I would feel like crying for some unknown reason when thoughts of this craft would enter my mind. This is the first time that I have gone public with this information, although I have told close friends and my family of this incident.

—Stanley M. Hovdestad, Pearce, AZ

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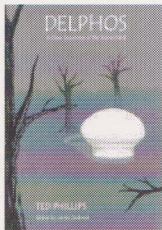


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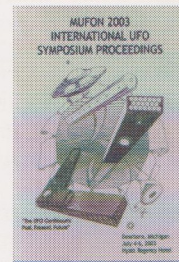
7/04

Delphos, A Close Encounter of the Second Kind

MUFON has this recent book available for immediate delivery. It was written by Ted Phillips and published by the UFO Research Coalition. 8 1/2 x 11 format, soft cover, 177 pages. \$20 + \$2.50 S&H. Please add \$4 additional for shipping outside the U.S. Order from MUFON, P.O. Box 369, Morrison, CO 80465-0369



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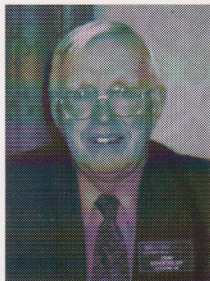
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By **John F. Schuessler**
MUFON International Director

MUFON 2004 International UFO Symposium

We are pleased to announce that the 2004 annual symposium is scheduled for July 16-18, 2004, at the Marriott South-east Hotel in Denver, CO. The theme of the symposium is "Unconventional Flying Objects: The Body of Technological Evidence."



John Schuessler

The speakers will be providing documented evidence of UFO events and the technology involved in those reports.

The symposium will begin on Friday with a social hour, a sit-down dinner, and then a special program to set the stage for a weekend of hard-hitting presentations and workshops.

Symposium Chairperson **Lin Simpson** negotiated the best hotel room rates possible for this event. Rooms with one king bed or two double beds are just \$62/night. Room availability will be limited and must be reserved by July 1, 2004.

The special rates are available from July 13-19. Please contact the Marriott directly to reserve your rooms. You may book your rooms online at <http://www.staymarriott.com> by clicking on the Where to Stay column or by calling 303-779-1100 or 800-228-9290 and asking for Group Code "MUF."

Lin has also arranged a **MUFON Day at Six Flags** at a special rate on Thurs-

Estate Planning

Some members and friends of MUFON have already included MUFON in their estate plans. We hope you will consider this opportunity to make a major gift.

Planned giving can be beneficial both to MUFON and to your own tax and estate situation. If you wish to have more information on various options and benefits, please contact MUFON headquarters.

day, July 15, for anyone wanting to arrive early and enjoy the theme park in Denver.

These special tickets will be included in the price of one of the symposium ticket packages for anyone wanting to participate in the event.

The low hotel room rates will be available for attendees who want to arrive early.

A symposium registration form will be included in the March issue of the *MUFON UFO Journal*. Registration may also be done online at www.comufon.org using PayPal.

MUFON experts to be featured at April conference

The X-Conference, 1st Annual Exopolitics Expo, is scheduled for April 17-18, 2004, in the Washington, D.C., area. Conference organizer **Stephen Bassett** invited MUFON experts **Ann Druffel**, **Stanton Friedman**, **William Hamilton**, **Dr. Bruce Maccabee**, **Ryan Wood**, and **Dr. Robert Wood** to participate in the event. Information about the X-Conference may be found online at the www.paradigm-clock.com/X-Conference/ website.

New MUFON Website ready for debut

The new MUFON website at www.mufon.com is ready for its debut. MUFON board member **James Carrion** has been working with **Pamela** and **Christopher Cisneros** of Prologix, Inc. to bring the new website on line. Our thanks go to these folks for making it happen.

New Lifetime Member

It is a pleasure to announce that **Maynard Augst** of Montgomery, MN, is our newest lifetime MUFON member. We are extremely grateful for this vote of confidence and outstanding level of support to MUFON.

Position Announcements

MUFON Canadian National Director **Eugene Frison** has announced the following appointments: **Linda Chernabrow**, Montreal, Eastern Regional Director (Quebec, Newfoundland, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia); **Mike Bird**, Toronto, Central Regional Director (Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Northwest Territory); **Gavin McLeod**, New Westminster, Western Regional Director (Yukon, Alberta, British Columbia); and **Ed Barker**,

Winnipeg, and **Michael Strainic**, North Vancouver, Co-Directors of Canadian Cold Case Archives and Research.

Richard McVannel, Michigan State Director and 2003 Symposium Chairperson has announced his intention to step down as leader of the Michigan team in March 2004. He will be replaced by **Bill Konkolesky** as the new State Director.

Bill has served MUFON as a State Section Director and as the MUFON Webmaster for several years. We appreciate all they have done for MUFON.

New Field Investigators

Kathleen Marden, Director for Field Investigator Training, has announced that the following Field Investigator Trainees have successfully completed the Field Investigator's Exam and are now MUFON Field Investigators: **Jon P. Fry**, Circleville, OH; **Mark Kravitz**, Marietta, GA; and **David A. Woods**, Ph.D., Gaffney, SC.

Final Report on the America West Airline Case, 1995

MUFON has a limited supply of this classic 1996 publication by Walter N. Webb, published by the UFO Research Coalition. 8 1/2 x 11 format, 27 pages. \$5 + \$2 S&H. Please add \$4 additional for shipping outside the U.S.

Ryan and Bob Wood Majestic Documents Now Available from MUFON:

Majestic Documents Book (190 pgs) \$18 + \$2 p&h
SOM1-01 Manual (Reproduction) \$8 + \$2 p&h
CD-ROM - The Secret \$16 + \$2 p&h

For orders outside the U.S. please add \$4 p&h per document.

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