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Barney Hill viewing a UFO with his binoculars in 1961.
Photo illustration by Kathleen Marden.

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Director's Message

By James Carrion

A new year always brings with it the promise of new beginnings. As you make your New Year's resolutions, you may want to add to your list to tell a close friend or family member about your interest in UFOs. You may be surprised at their reaction, ranging from complete skepticism to complete agreement. The important thing is to keep the message alive that UFOs are real and their mystery still haunts us after sixty plus years.

MUFON has been in the hunt for answers to the UFO phenomenon since 1969, making 2009 our 40th anniversary. Are we any closer to discovering the truth after all this time? Even though we still do not have unequivocal answers, one thing is for sure, we have accumulated a lot of data along the way. I still believe that in that mountain of data lie the answers we have been seeking. Hopefully 2009 will be the year that our long awaited breakthrough occurs.

I have been hearing much chatter in UFO circles about the possibility that disclosure has increased with the new incoming Obama administration.

Although I would welcome a full and truthful disclosure of the UFO phenomenon, I am also reminded that the disclosure carrot has been dangled before ufologists many times over the last 30-40

years but has not come to fruition. In other words, although I am hopeful that disclosure will occur sometime, I am also cautious as to whether or not that will occur this year. In the meantime, MUFON must continue its mission. Thank you for being a part of this adventure.



James Carrion

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MUFON'S MISSION IS THE SCIENTIFIC STUDY OF
UFOs FOR THE BENEFIT OF HUMANITY THROUGH
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Pseudoskeptics' Deception about the Betty and Barney Hill UFO Encounter

By Kathleen Marden

I have nothing against healthy skepticism. The fact is that I consider myself a skeptic. I do, however, find the intentional dissemination of false and misleading information abhorrent. There is a growing movement of pseudo-skepticism afoot that threatens scientific progress. The pseudoskeptics often adhere to a theistic belief in science—



Kathleen Marden

although many are self-proclaimed atheists—marked by cynicism and the manipulation of data to fit their beliefs. They target frontier sciences such as psi phenomena and UFOs and work to suppress scientific exploration in these fields.

Historically, when new paradigms have threatened existing dogma, those who clung to archaic ideology have worked to suppress emerging scientific ideas.

For example, British Ornithologist Francis O. Morris wrote the following about Darwinism (1877): "If the whole of the English language could be condensed into one word, it would not suffice to express the utter contempt those invite who are so deluded as to the disciples of such an imposture as Darwinism." Pierre Pochet, a professor of physiology at Toulouse wrote of Louis Pasteur (1872): "...theory of germs is ridiculous fiction." An editorial in the *Boston Post* wrote of Joshua Copperfield, who was arrested for fraud for attempting to raise funds for the development of a telephone (1865): "Well informed people know it is impossible to transmit the voice over wires and that were it possible to do so, the thing would be of no practical use." Britain's leading scientist, Lord Kelvin wrote (1897): "Radio has no future." and (1900) "X-rays are a hoax." American engineer Floyd Parsons wrote of the atomic bomb (1931): "Nothing is gained by exaggerating the possibilities of tomorrow. We need not worry over the consequences of breaking up the atom." Adolf Hitler called physics "Jewish pseudoscience." Ernst Mach, professor of physics at the University of Vienna wrote (1913) "I can accept the theory of relativity as little as I can accept the existence of atoms and other such dogmas."

Today it is apparent that similar forces are engaging in ad hominem attacks against frontier scientists, disseminating lies and misrepresenting factual information. Examples of this type of cynicism are abundant on the Internet. Below you will



Betty and Barney Hill with their dog Delsey in 1966. Betty was Kathleen Marden's aunt.

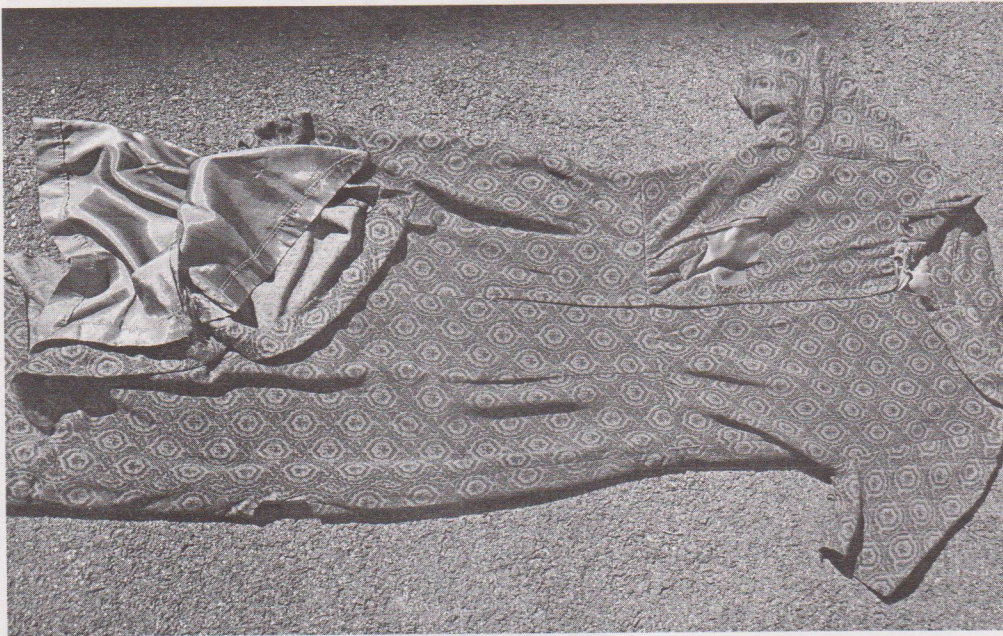
find a list of false information disseminated by pseudoskeptics about the September 19-20, 1961, Betty and Barney Hill UFO experience, along with the truth.

False: The Hills spotted a star-like object in the sky that seemed to be following them. Although it remained star-like, the Hills thought that it must have been a flying saucer. Betty thought it was a spacecraft but Barney always thought it was an airplane.

True: The Hills initially spotted a brightly lighted object in the sky. However, they soon observed its unconventional appearance and flight pattern. Two miles south of Indian Head, the large, silent craft descended to within hundreds of feet of the vehicle, and finally stopped 80-100 feet above the Hills. As Barney observed it through binoculars, he saw a brilliantly lit double row of windows along the curved exterior of the disk shaped craft. With military precision all but one of the figures moved to a rear panel along a corridor, while one remained at the window. His intense stare frightened Barney who thought that he was about to be captured like a "bug in a net." Fear of ridicule prevented him from reporting the figures to Pease Air Force Base when he reported the UFO. (Reported to Pease Air Force Base 9/21/61, NICAP 9/26/61 and 10/21/61.)

False: Betty phoned their close friend, Major Paul Henderson at Pease Air Force Base.

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Betty Hill's dress, showing tears and discolorations.

True: When the Hills arrived home on the morning of 9/20/61 they had full conscious recall of a close encounter with an 80'-100' silent hovering craft. (See the Project Blue Book report.) Barney reported his observation of figures aboard the craft to my father within two days of the event. On 10/21/61 he told Walter Webb the following: "The figures, according to Barney Hill, were of human form dressed in shiny black uniforms and black caps with peaks or bills on them (which could be seen when the figures turned their heads). The uniforms were like glossy leather. When they were standing at the windows he could see down to their waists.

Pseudoskeptics

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True: The Hills had never met Major Paul Henderson.

False: The Hills became nervous when a star-like object appeared to be following them and they turned onto narrow mountain roads, becoming lost.

True: They reported that, while the object was above their vehicle after it had "swooped down," they heard a series of short loud "buzzes" which they described as sounding like someone had dropped a tuning fork. They reported that they could feel these buzzing sounds vibrate in their auto. The Hills thought that the object had departed (Pease AFB 9/21/61), yet without warning, Barney made a sharp left turn approximately twelve miles south of the close encounter site.

He told psychiatrist Dr. Simon, "I was driving and driving and driving, and I made a turn and I never knew this. I don't know why I had to make that turn. And I was lost. I was on a strange area of the highway and I had never been there before. And I was being stopped." (1964 Hypnosis session) Barney had turned off U.S. Highway Route 3 onto NH State Highway Route 175. It is not a narrow mountain road. It runs parallel to Route 3 through the rural villages of Thornton and Campton. It increased the Hills' travel distance by approximately five miles.

False: When the Hills returned home they had vague memories of observing a star-like object in the sky that seemed to be following them. It wasn't until after Betty had a series of dreams about a UFO encounter and alien abduction that they became convinced they had experienced a close encounter with a UFO. Nearly the entire experience was recalled through hypnotic regression.

When they moved backward to the wall, their legs were partially visible. The figures reminded the observer of the cold precision of German officers; they moved smoothly and efficiently and showed no emotion except for one fellow operating a lever who, Mr. Hill claims, looked over his shoulder and smiled. The approaching UFO finally filled up the entire field of the binoculars.

"The 'leader' at the window held a special attraction for the witness and frightened him terribly. The witness said he could almost feel this figure's intense concentration to do something, to carry out a plan. Mr. Hill believed he was going to be captured like 'a bug in a net'."

Letters written by the original investigators indicate that from the outset Betty's amnesia was of shorter duration than Barney's. She recalled a turn off from Route 3, whereas Barney's conscious recall ended near North Woodstock. Both remembered a second series of beeping/buzzing sounds that seemed to shake them out of an amnesic state and restore their verbal communication. They were perplexed by memories of a fiery orb and a roadblock, but they couldn't recall the location. (NICAP Report 10/26/61)

False: Betty said the compass needle seemed to move erratically over six, strange, shiny spots the size of a dollar on the car's trunk. However, when Barney tried the same test the needle acted normally.

True: There were 12 to 18 shiny spots on the car's trunk. Barney stated, "The spots were shiny and perfect circles. [They were] about the size of half dollars ... silver dollars. I put the compass close to it and the compass would spin and spin, and I could move the compass a few inches to a spot [place] on the trunk that did not have a spot and the compass would drop down, and I could not understand this." (1964 conversation with Dr. Benjamin Simon)

False: Betty Hill wrote to Donald Keyhoe who, despite the fact that he received over a hundred letters a day, homed in on this initially unremarkable case. Within 24 hours, Keyhoe had arranged for the Hills to be visited by top-level scientists, including C.D. Jackson, who had previously (definitely not coincidentally) worked on psychological warfare techniques for President Eisenhower.

True: Richard Hall (NICAP secretary), read the letter and replied on 10/17/1961, almost a month later. NICAP investigator Walter Webb, an astronomy lecturer (not military), interviewed the Hills separately for 6 hours on 10/21/61, over a month after the encounter. Not Robert Hohmann and C.D. Jackson, and not fast. The C.D. Jackson who visited the Hills on 11/25/61 was not the one who worked for Eisenhower.

False: It was Jackson who drew the Hills' attention to their missing time period. Until he did so, the couple had not realized that their memories of that fateful night were incomplete. It was Jackson who suggested hypnotic regression as a means of unlocking it.

True: The Hills were already aware of the fact that they arrived home later than anticipated. It wasn't until they drove along their close encounter route with Hohmann and Jackson that they realized they were missing a full two hours, even accounting for their stops and period of slow driving. Air Force Major Jim McDonald suggested hypnosis, although Betty had mentioned it in her first letter to NICAP dated 9/26/61. Hohmann and Jackson agreed that hypnosis might be a good option.

False: It was Jackson who then arranged for one of the Army's top psychiatric experts to undertake the regression, under which the full story of the joint abduction "emerged".

True: Dr. Duncan Stevens, the civilian psychiatrist Barney was seeing because of his bleeding ulcer and high blood pressure thought that Barney was making a good adjustment in his marriage to Betty and life in New Hampshire. However, following an exploratory trip to the White Mountains, he mentioned his UFO encounter and apparent amnesia to Dr. Stevens. Dr. Stevens thought this was significant and referred Barney to Dr. Benjamin Simon, a civilian psychiatrist for many years, who had specialized in hypnotic regression to treat traumatic amnesia during WW II. He set up the psychiatric unit at the Mason General Hospital on Long Island. After the war, he taught at Harvard, owned a private psychiatric hospital, and later, went into private practice in Boston's Back Bay. The Hills saw him in his Back Bay office.

False: Many researchers have since demonstrated that a careful review of the timings actually shows that there was no missing time at all.

True: Skeptics have made this claim but it can't be supported. I and others have driven along the Hills' route at

their reported rate of speed, lingered at the reported stops, and followed their route precisely. We could not account for the time differential. I also attempted to become lost for two hours and couldn't.

False: The anxiety caused by Barney's increasing racial sensitivity during his trip caused him to misinterpret a conventional aircraft for an unconventional flying object. He did not encounter a UFO.

True: Although Barney engaged in introspective thought about racial prejudice on three brief occasions over a three day period, no overt discrimination was exhibited toward him. When Dr. Simon inquired about his mood, Barney stated, "I felt in good spirits. I felt in high spirits."

False: Barney was so tired that he must have been hallucinating.

True: In a conscious interview with Dr. Simon Barney stated the following: "I was well rested from the night before. We had spent a delightful day and I knew I could drive on from the White Mountains down to Portsmouth. So, I didn't stop. I didn't feel too tired."

False: Betty wrote and rewrote accounts of her dreams during a two-year period prior to hypnosis. She probably told the story over and over again until Barney's "ears fell off."

True: Barney told Dr. Simon that he overheard Betty tell her dreams to NICAP investigator Walter Webb while he waited in an adjacent room. He also heard her dream account on 11/3/1963. She did not write and rewrite them. She initially wrote them on note paper. She wrote one and only one account titled "Dreams or Recall?"

False: Betty had vivid nightmares in which she was taken from her bed onto an alien ship, and had medical procedures performed on her. The information revealed during the Hills' separate hypnosis sessions is essentially identical to Betty's dream account.

True: Betty did not dream that she was taken from her bed onto an alien ship. There are significant differences between Betty's dreams and information recalled separately by Betty and Barney during hypnotic regression. My next paper will reveal the correlating data not present in Betty's dreams. In the interim, refer to *Captured! The Betty and Barney Hill UFO Experience*, by Stanton Friedman and myself.

False: The Hills were stripped naked and underwent intrusive medical examinations focusing on their genital organs.

True: No, they weren't stripped naked. Betty remained dressed in her underwear, including a slip. Barney's clothing was pushed up or lowered. The exam did not focus upon their genital organs. Betty's genital organs were not examined

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Pseudoskeptics

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but a needle was inserted into her navel. The exams focused on the differences between them and us—skin, skeletal structure, mouths, eyes, etc.

False: There are reasonable mundane explanations for the damage to Betty's "purple" dress, examined by a group of crop circle investigators, such as dust mites, moths and mold.

True: There was a 2" tear in the stitching along the top right side of the fabric next to her zipper on Betty's blue dress. There was a 1" tear in the thick zipper fabric along the top left side. The lining was torn from waist to hemline and the hem was hanging down. All of this during a drive through New Hampshire? Later, when Betty retrieved it from her closet, the dress was coated with a pink powdery substance and badly stained, especially along the hem, around the sleeves, and along the top of the bodice. Betty reported that her captors had touched the dress in the stained areas. Although it initially underwent testing in 1978, BP-Amoco analytical chemist Phyllis Budinger, M.S., did the most thorough analysis from 11/2001-10/2003. (She is not a crop circle investigator) She compared Betty's dress to a 40-year-old control dress that had hung in a closet for the same duration. She found dust, cat hair, etc. on both dresses. Otherwise, there were no similarities.

False: You almost never hear a critical treatment of their story.

True: This is patently false. The pseudoskeptics have invented largely bogus accounts of the Hills' UFO experience and have widely disseminated them in books, magazine articles, radio and television programs and on the Internet.

False: The Betty and Barney Hill abduction story has every indication of being merely an inventive tale from the mind of a lifelong UFO fanatic.

True: The Hills had little or no interest in UFOs prior to their close encounter. They had a wide range of interests, including civil rights, human rights, politics, church activities, gardening, and their jobs. The statement that Betty was a lifelong UFO fanatic is an outright lie. She was 42 when the UFO encounter occurred.

False: In her original written stories, she described the aliens' star map as three dimensional. Under hypnosis, she redrew it on paper, in two dimensions. It's seven or eight random dots were connected by lines.

True: In "Dreams or Reality?" Betty described a two dimensional star map that rolled up like a window shade. Later, during hypnotic regression, she remembered a three dimensional hologram. She drew it on paper as the result of a post hypnotic suggestion by Dr. Simon. There were not 7 or 8 random dots; there were 16 precisely drawn dots of varying size, connected by solid, dotted or dashed lines.

Marjorie Fish built 26 three-dimensional models of our local galactic neighborhood before she was able to find a match. She found that all the pattern stars are the right kind for planets and life, even though less than 5% of the stars in the local neighborhood qualify, and all the sun-like stars in the volume of space taken up by the 3D model are part of the pattern. There have been many estimates made of the probability that it was just a coincidence from one in a thousand to one in a million. Her work was vetted and found to be very accurate by Dr. Walter Mitchell of the astronomy department at Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio.

There is ample reason to be skeptical about some aspects of the Betty and Barney Hill UFO abduction, especially regarding Betty's statements that are identical to her dream account. Although the Hills' UFO encounter provided an abundance of forensic evidence, only Betty's dress underwent scientific laboratory analysis.

My comparative analysis of the hypnosis tapes vis-à-vis Betty's infamous "Dreams of Recall?" account provides correlating data that is clearly amenable within the framework of social science. It is apparent that *something* anomalous happened to Betty and Barney Hill on September 19-20, 1961. I welcome healthy skepticism by respectful rationalists. However, denigrating remarks, lies and personal attacks are not acceptable in intelligent discourse.

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White House Extraterrestrial Affairs Commission

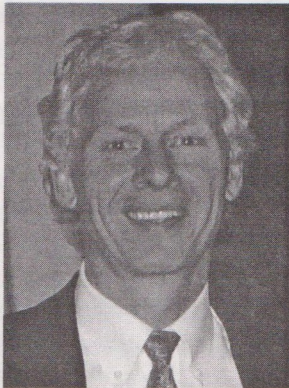
Author of Denver Ballet Initiative puts it on hold

Denver, CO, Dec. 3, 2008 — The possibility of a new White House Extraterrestrial Affairs Commission has put the Denver ballot initiative to create a similar commission on hold—for now. Jeff Peckman, author of the Denver initiative, has already applied for the position of project coordinator of the anticipated new White House commission and is urging others to apply for positions.

Only 21% of Americans voted to elect Barack Obama as President. Three to four times that many Americans believe that the U.S. government has covered up secret files concealing evidence of extraterrestrial beings frequently visiting our planet. Testimony from hundreds of credible whistleblowers would support the claim that these secret UFO files contain trillions of dollars worth of critical solutions for clean energy, economic growth, job-creation, national security, and reducing government waste.

The new White House administration includes strong advocates for disclosing the secret UFO files. White House transition co-manager John Podesta has stated publicly, “I think it’s time to open the books on questions that have remained in the dark on the question of government investigations of UFOs. It’s time to find out what the truth really is that’s out there. We ought to do it really because it’s right. We ought to do it because the American people, quite frankly, can handle the truth. And we ought to do it because it’s the law.” Bill Richardson of New Mexico, home of the 1947 Roswell extraterrestrial vehicle crash, has stated that “The federal government has not come clean on all that issue [Roswell UFO] and should.”

The Rockefeller Initiative briefed Senator Hillary Clinton on the UFO issue. Gov. Napolitano of Arizona surely knows that former Arizona Gov. Fife Symington has admitted to seeing the “Phoenix Lights” UFO that he thought to be “some



Jeff Peckman

sort of alien spacecraft.” He also believes the government has used disinformation tactics to try to discredit thousands of other witnesses.

Supporters of the “Extra Campaign” are now being urged to support the Million Fax on Washington campaign instead. It was launched by Stephen Bassett of the Paradigm Research Group to motivate the world’s people to send a clear collective statement to the President-Elect to:

1. Demand and receive a full briefing from his military and intelligence heads regarding the extraterrestrial presence issue;
2. Press the new Congress to immediately call hearings to take government witness testimony to relevant events and evidence;
3. Formally acknowledge the extraterrestrial presence to the American people; and
4. Release for peaceful development extraterrestrial derived technologies studied and reverse engineered for six decades in classified research programs.

Opening the books on the secret files about extraterrestrial visitors is consistent with President-Elect Obama’s promises for change and openness. But if his administration chooses not to provide the benefits of these long kept secrets, then the People of Denver might still have to act for the vast majority of Americans and lead the way.

For more information visit: www.extracampaign.org and www.faxonwashington.org

Press Release issued by the Extra Campaign. Submitted by David J. Wisbey, Newsletter Editor, Colorado MUFON While the Extraterrestrial Affairs Commission ballot initiative is on hold, Jeff Peckman is writing a column as the “Denver UFO Examiner.”

<http://www.examiner.com/x-2024-Denver-UFO-Examiner>

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Please contact Jan Harzan at

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if you are both willing and able to work as part of the CMS II development team.

The Need for Substantiation of our Research

By Douglas Wilson

By far one of the most difficult aspects of the research and investigation of UFOs has been the inequity of what is considered as “acceptable proof.” While the rest of the scientific community works from a hypothesis (a working assumption), and finishes with a theory (an educated guess based on the best information at hand), we are constantly asked to “produce hard evidence.” If other researchers are found to be mistaken in their findings, their methods of research can be reexamined, their hypothesis may be revised, and their theory entirely replaced, but their research is certainly encouraged to go on.

In ufology, if the slightest part of our research is seen to be in error, it is pointed out as proof that every other aspect of our research is invalid, that because we have erred on one point, all of our findings must be contrived. Because of these inequities, we must always strive to hold ourselves to a higher standard and insure that our research is supported by facts and our findings are logical. If the only ones reading our material were fellow UFO researchers, there would be little need for concern; but the real reason we do research is

What is “acceptable proof”?

to give credence to the subject. We strive to educate the general public, advance global awareness and promote the scientific investigation of UFOs. In order to do this, we must at least hope that people of other minds than our own will read our research. In the conventional sciences researchers present their findings to a peer review before taking them public, perhaps we should consider something similar.

In “Some Thoughts on the Socorro Object: Calculations on radioactive half-life supports extraterrestrial hypothesis” (by Donald R. Burleson, Ph.D.; November 2008, issue No. 487, of the *MUFON UFO Journal*), the author sets out to offer new evidence in support of one of the most famous and well documented UFO incidents of all time. Burleson establishes a well documented timeline populated by well known personalities and does an impressive job of explaining the mathematics involved in figuring radioactive half-life and how it could be applied in a case such as the Socorro Incident.

What Burleson does not do is give us, and more importantly our critics, any evidence to support a need for his calculations. The crux of the entire argument is the assumption that Senior State Patrolman Ted Jordan’s film was damaged by radiation. If Jordan’s film was not damaged by radiation, there is no argument, no need for half-life calculations, and no point to this research.

Burleson relates that J. Allen Hynek told State Police Senior Patrolman Ted Jordan that “the reason the Air Force hadn’t returned Jordan’s pictures was that the film was

fogged, evidently by radiation.” The first question becomes, did Hynek state that the reason the film was fogged was radiation, or has this supposition been arrived at by Jordan, Burleson, or someone else? It is important to establish whether Hynek *knew* the film was damaged by radiation, or if he only *claimed* it was fogged, or if he simply said it was *damaged*. If it could be proven that the film was fogged by radiation then Burleson has a case for his theory. Unfortunately, at the time of the Socorro Incident, Hynek was still a debunker for the Air Force and a claim that the film was fogged or damaged would be a typical ploy to deny the existence of photographic evidence; and without proof to the contrary, this is exactly what UFO detractors would say, thereby negating any value of Burleson’s work.

Another problem with Burleson’s work is establishing a reason to believe in the existence of the radioactive material that he postulates fogged the film. His own statement of his hypothesis is:

“If the blue flash that Zamora observed was do to some phenomenon involving radioactive emanations, producing a radiation field intense enough to fog Ted Jordan’s film at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, 24 April, and if that radioactivity had sufficiently dissipated by early Saturday morning, 25 April to go “undetected” by Chavez’s film, there are intriguing implications about the *half-life* of the radioactive materials involved.”

Simply put, *if* the flash involved radioactive emanations, and *if* said emanations produced a radiation field intense enough to fog film, and *if* those emanations had sufficiently dissipated so as not to fog subsequent film, *then* there would be intriguing implications about the half-life of the materials involved. In order for Burleson’s calculations to have any meaning he must, at the least, show reasonable cause to believe, if not prove (and proof would be infinitely better) that the flash did involve radioactive emanations, that Jordan’s film was fogged by radiation, and that said radiation had dissipated to a level that would not fog film. Only one of these three points is addressed and that single point proves nothing.

Aside from failing to prove or even give good reason to accept his conclusions, Burleson offers debunkers a legitimate, alternative explanation for the possibility of having radiation fogged film one day and unaffected film the next day, when he states, “the arroyo is dotted with trace pockets of uranium. . .” Whether or not these pockets of uranium are hot enough to fog film, the detractors would state that Jordan was standing over one such deposit and that Chavez was not. Just allowing for the *possibility* of such isolated radioactivity occurring negates any reason to attribute the fogged film to any unearthly explanation.

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Substantiation of Research

Continued from page 7

Without offering any proof, or at least dispelling reasonable doubt of his theory that "...the short half-life considerations... described will go a long way toward arguing that the Socorro craft was not of this world," Burleson completely fails to justify any reason to accept his work as anything more than a well thought out idea or opinion which will not carry the argument either of the craft's existence or its origins so much as a single step forward. No matter how well intentioned or how well thought out an argument may be, if it is not supported by facts and at the least carries the ability to dispel reasonable doubt of its validity, any statements made regarding a UFO case, particularly a well known and well documented case, goes much further towards assisting in debunking the case than it does to proving it. We may not be able to offer solid proof for a case, but we certainly should not be assisting our detractors in their efforts to insinuate negative connotations into our research.

Burleson should be commended for his excellent efforts and should be encouraged to pursue his research in which he may find proofs for some or all of the "ifs" he sets forth in

his hypothesis. In my opinion, Burleson has done an admirable job of applying mathematics to UFO research. We need the demonstrable evidence that mathematics lends, from more fields of study to scientifically bolster the research of UFOs. The point of this article is not to attack Burleson (who I esteem as a fellow researcher of a difficult topic) or his efforts (which I honestly applaud) but to point out a common failing in the research of UFOs: that being, the failure to substantiate our work and guard against leaving openings into which the detractors can insinuate any lack of honesty, competence or validity into our research. Unfortunately, as it stands, if this research were used in conjunction with any other research, it could be used to infer that all other evidence presented with it is just as flawed, as this work *may be perceived* to be. When presenting a case for ufology, guilt by association can be as damning as the original flaw.

Douglas Wilson has a degree in behavioral anthropology and has been researching and investigating UFOs for over 20 years. He has been a MUFON Field Investigator for 2 years. He resides with his family in Denver, Colorado, where he is a planner scheduler for the Denver Public School District.

Regarding the Socorro Object

Dear Editor:

Donald R. Burleson's thoughts concerning radiation associated with the Socorro, New Mexico, landing (*MUFON Journal* No. 487, November 2008) were very informative. His article is very thought provoking and insightful. The Socorro landing is still classified as an Unknown, and is perhaps the best ever event that points towards the extraterrestrial hypothesis for UFOs.

However, Mr. Burleson apparently makes a broad assumption in his theory. In his article, Mr. Burleson states that Allen Hynek told Lonnie Zamora that the reason the Air Force hadn't returned Ted Jordan's pictures was that the film was fogged, evidently by radiation. I cannot find the specific reference where Dr. Hynek stated that the film was fogged, "evidently by radiation". Being a scientist and at the time a representative of Project Blue Book, it seems unlikely that he would have made the "apparently by radiation" comment.

A more mundane explanation for the condition of the Jordan film would be degradation due to heat. Conditions under which film is stored has a significant impact on overall quality of the image stored on it. Heat can affect the film emulsion tone scale and color, the results of heat impact on film can be mistaken for radiation fogging. Additionally, ambient radiation slowly fogs film.

We know that State Police Senior Patrolman Ted Jordan had a camera in his vehicle, an Argus C-3 with Kodak 35mm color slide film in it. He would need a camera to take photos during an accident investigation. What we do not know about the film is very important to conducting a proper evaluation of the event.

These film unknowns are:

- When was the film purchased?
- What was the manufacture date of the film?
- How long had the film been in the Officer Jordan's vehicle?

The above questions are important in that they hold the key to the fogging condition of the film. I have lived and worked in Alamogordo, New Mexico, for several years. The New Mexican desert is very hot in the summertime. If Officer Jordan had the film in his camera for any length of time during the summer months it surely would have suffered from heat damage.

Additionally, in his article, Mr. Burleson states that in October of 2008 he and his wife stopped at the Socorro landing site and took radiation measurements. They discovered that the readings at the site were somewhat above normal background levels, but that local residents gave him the understanding that the arroyo is dotted with trace pockets of uranium that would account for the abnormal readings.

Again, we do not know how long Officer Jordan's camera was in his vehicle, nor do we know if the abnormal radiation of the area had any impact on the fogging condition of the film.

What we can take away from the Socorro landing from a field investigator's standpoint is that it is very critical to document all information about such events, regardless of how small the detail may seem at the time. This is especially true for photographic evidence.

Anthony J. Tambini

Northern California Field Investigator

More speculation than science?

I really appreciate and support the comments made by Andrew Becker in his letter to the editor regarding the monitoring of aliens (*MUFON Journal*, Nov. 2008, No. 487, p. 5).

I have noticed a disturbing amount of cases that are or were conducted only partially and improperly. While I know there are some very honest and respectable people investigating the UFO and abduction phenomena, there are also others looking to use peoples' curiosity and desire to believe for profit. With today's relatively inexpensive and widely available technology, there is no reason why more thorough and scientific investigations can't be conducted. Skeptics look at the data published and note that there always seems to be a missing piece of the puzzle. MUFON's mission statement highlights "scientific study," but there seems to be much more speculation than science going on, even in its own journal. We can't always conduct perfect investigations or experiments, but we can surely do a lot better.

Mike Yoh
Monterey, CA

Reports that harm serious ufology

Dear Editor,

In the November 2008 edition of the *Journal* there is a report that really caught my eye—that of the October Uniontown, PA, sighting on page 10. As the writer of the report correctly states, he usually would have written this off as a hoax, and he really should have.

It is way too incredulous that ET goes bargain shopping

at JC Penney. Whatever this witness saw, or claims to have seen could have many other explanations. Has anyone ever seen someone on chemotherapy and steroids? If this was the case, how hurtful and discriminating of the mother mentioned and the witness to react in the way they did. Then for the witness to look around in the movie theater to look for "the stranger" is quite silly, unless of course ET not only likes shopping at JC Penney but enjoys the movies too. How coincident for her (Barbara) to forget not only directly after the encounter on the way to the movie theatre but also for three following months to tell anyone about it; repressed memory sounds great here, although traumatizing events are usually dealt with in other PTSD related ways than just forgetting them.

It is a common phenomenon that individuals with certain mental disorders (not that I would suggest that) are absolutely unwavering in their memories, or what they believe to remember.

Reports like this are in my opinion a blow to the gut of the entire field of serious ufology. In a journal that is limited to evidence for UFOs such as blurry black and white images taken at night (sometimes even of garden lights!!! (p. 9 Photo1) it is not affordable to publish reports that ridicule and embarrass the people who try to investigate this interesting phenomenon seriously any more than they already are by the general public. In a case like this, true or false—how about not printing it? I'm really looking forward to the day that a witness with a camera actually manages to get "in focus, well exposed, non tampered with" photos.

Dr David Resuehr
Tallahassee, FL

Take a look at ...

<http://dsc.discovery.com/space/top-10/strange-universe/space-10-weirdest-things-universe.html>

Top 10 Strangest Things in the Universe, *by Dave Mosher*

This online article, with wonderful illustrations, begins with the introduction:

The more we look among the stars and galaxies, the weirder things seem to get.

Even space itself is puzzling, for example. Recent studies suggest that the fabric of the universe stretches more than 150 billion light-years across—in spite of the fact that the cosmos is 13.7 billion years old.

From super-fast stars to the nature of matter, here we cover other strange and mysterious elements of the universe.

The ten strangest things described and illustrated are:

10. Hypervelocity Stars
9. Black Holes
8. Magnetars
7. Neutrinos
6. Dark Matter
5. Dark Energy
4. Planets (and Exoplanets)
3. Gravity (and Gravitational Waves)
2. Life
1. The Universe

Blue Star: Fulfilling Prophecy

By Miriam Delicado. Victoria BC: Trafford Publishing, 2007. ISBN 978-14251-3207-1. 198 pages, softbound. Available from the publisher at www.trafford.com or the author at www.alienbluestar.com

Book Review by Warren P. Aston
Copyright 2008

Miriam Delicado grew up under difficult family circumstances in a small Canadian town, eventually leaving for the bright lights of Vancouver in her teens. *Blue Star* tells a straightforward story that well-read ufologists will be familiar with. Awareness from childhood that she was “different” from others and had a “mission,” coupled with some developing psychic abilities, is gradually integrated into her life. In 1988, aged 22, she has an apparent OBE experience in which she is “pulled” through a tunnel to meet and converse with a strange tall man and woman.

This prepares her for the first alien encounter soon after while driving at night with friends—the car is followed for a long period by strange lights and when it stops her friends are “switched off.” Two craft land and Miriam is met by small grays who take her aboard one of them to meet the same tall people. They begin instructing her. There would be 3 hours of missing time.

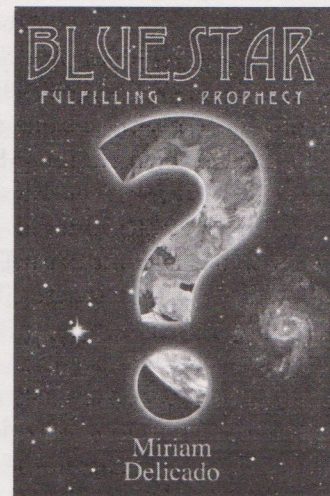
A significant aspect of Miriam Delicado’s encounters is that they primarily revolve about what she terms the “Tall Blondes,” rather than “Grays.” The latter make an appearance but seemingly only as subordinate helpers (whether as some kind of biological robots or a species in their own right) of the more human-like Blondes. While some researchers see the Grays as *the* aliens and humanoids as merely their cloned creations, Delicado’s experiences suggest just the opposite. In this respect they dovetail nicely with the claims of other credible cases such as the multiple-witnessed Travis Walton abduction in 1975.

The 1988 event held the key to releasing her repressed memories of earlier encounters and the realization that her own father was also an abductee. After the initial physical encounter, contacts are usually telepathic but now also include frequent encounters with other people ranging from apparent military operatives monitoring her, Men-in-Black type events and other possible aliens working incognito.

“Orb” probes and sometimes structured craft are seen as she begins uncovering the reason for her fascination with the Hopi people and the Four Corners area. She receives information from the aliens and releases some of it in this book. It centers on events in the near future, environmental concerns, our need for self-sufficiency and the alien role in



Author Miriam Delicado



guiding us through a cosmology of three previous creations. Meeting others in the UFO community and attending the first UFO Congress in Tucson in 1991 helps Delicado come to terms with where her life is taking her.

The book’s title refers to where this still-ongoing case appears to be headed: the fulfillment of ancient Hopi Indian prophecies of the appearance of a “blue star,” the last in a sequence of events heralding dramatic changes for the earth and our civilization. Delicado believes she has a role to play in what is to come, even if that role is not yet fully known to her or able to be defined in the book.

In common with many other works of this genre, *Blue Star* would have benefited greatly by better editing. Unnecessary detail in some sections slows the flow of the story dangerously. Other, crucial, events are often left vague and the reader has to piece facts together to appreciate their significance. Photography of the events recounted—which were often captured on film by Delicado—should have been an integral part of making the story credible and a simple author’s photograph would have made her more real as a person. (Photo above is from website.) Her message would have emerged much more clearly as a result.

In the end, however, it is impossible not to be convinced of the author’s transparent sincerity. The impression of honesty is only reinforced when watching Miriam speak about her life (see, for example, her interview on www.projectcamelot.com). Whatever the underlying reality of these events proves to be, ufology needs to take account of them as another piece of the mosaic snaps into place.

Frank Joyce

Frank Joyce passed away on Tuesday, October 6, 2008. He grew up in Alabama and Roswell, New Mexico. He graduated from Roswell High School in 1941 and participated that year in the North-South All Star game. Joyce continued his education at the University of Alabama, then served his country as a corporal in the U.S. Army where he earned a Bronze Star. In 1947, Joyce was a disc jockey at KGFL Radio in Roswell.

On July 6 he called Sheriff Wilcox to see if there were any items for the newscast. Wilcox handed the phone to a man in his office named Mac Brazel who told Joyce of a field of strange metallic debris on a ranch where he was foreman. Joyce was the first reporter to cover what would become a nationally recognized UFO incident. The event became one of the most important events in New Mexico history.

Over the years, Joyce was interviewed and depicted in several films and documentaries. Because of his honesty and integrity, he became a valuable voice in explaining this significant UFO case. He appeared on *Nightline* with Ted Koppel and many other television shows. He followed his radio career as a reporter for KOB-TV in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Submitted by Ron Edwards, MUFON member, Phoenix, AZ

James M. McCampbell

I have the sad responsibility to tell you of the passing of one of NARCAP's National Technical Specialists, Mr. James M. McCampbell. He passed away Sunday afternoon, December 7, 2008 in Belmont, California after a relatively short illness. Jim had many professional accomplishments that included his project management of a significant part of the Alaskan pipeline with the Bechtel Corp, San Francisco and also serving as MUFON's Science Director for many years. He wrote and published the book *UFOLOGY: New Insights from Science and Common Sense* in 1973. He was an experimentalist and carried out studies on the effects of microwaves on various substances and apparatus components and magnetic fields on compass needle rotation, among others. But Jim had many other "extracurricular" interests as well.

He prepared a rather comprehensive catalogue of impact craters all over the Earth and studied ancient religious sites looking for spatial patterns in both.

I knew Jim beginning in the late 1960s when Carol and I lived in Los Altos. Jim and I would meet periodically to review recent sightings and share insights into what they could mean. I know that I will miss these meetings and his creative approach to ufology and his wit.

Jim's wife Jean would appreciate any donations made to the American Cancer Society in his name.

Sent to NARCAP colleagues by Dick Haines, Chief Scientist, NARCAP, www.narcap.org. Submitted to the MUFON Journal by Ruben Uriarte

Virgil Staff

Mr. Virgil Staff died at approximately 3 AM on Friday December 26, 2008 due to health complications.

Virgil was California's Western Regional MUFON Director, former State Director for Northern California and field investigator. An accomplished author and photographer, he wrote several books on railroads and also was recognized several times in *Who's Who in America*.

Both he and his wife Lavada Staff have been members of MUFON for many years. I will have more details later about his life's biography and services.

His favorite sayings were "I am on top of the World" and "On with the Good Life."

He was a very great friend and mentor to me. He will be missed!

Submitted by Ruben Uriarte.

Calendar. . .

January 24, 2009. Pennsylvania Mutual UFO Network presents UFO Conference. John Ventre, Bill Birnes, David Jacobs. Bucks County, PA. Call John Ventre, 724-836-1266, or www.pamufon.com.

January 25, 2009. MUFONGA Atlanta Area UFO Study Group Meeting. Chamblee Library, Atlanta GA. Special guest speaker, Kathleen Marden, co-author of *Captured! The Betty and Barney Hill UFO Experience*.

February 22-28, 2009. 2009 International UFO Congress. 7 days and 8 nights of events. 30 speakers from around the world. Laughlin, NV. www.ufocongress.com

April 17-19, 2009. X-Conference 2009. Gaithersburg, MD. www.paradigmresearchgroup.org/X-Conference2009/X-Conference2009.htm

August 6-9, 2009. MUFON 2009 International Symposium. Denver, CO. MUFON's 40th Anniversary. Watch this space for more information as it becomes available.

October 17, 2009. Pennsylvania MUFON UFO Conference at Westmoreland Community College, Youngwood, PA. John Ventre, Stan Gordon, Dr David Jacobs. Call John Ventre 724 836 1266 or www.12-21-2012-a-prophecy.com/.

In Memory of . . .

Eric Morris

It is with great sadness that I must tell you about the death in early December of Eric Morris, as a prominent Ufologist over the last 25 years.

Eric died in Gibraltar in early December and was discovered by his wife, Linda. Initial reports suggest a ruptured spleen as the cause of death.

Eric Morris was a colourful figure on Britain's UFO scene and first began his involvement with the quest back in the 1970s whilst serving in the Royal Navy. Eric served as a combat medic in the Falkland Islands conflict of 1982, tending the injured on board ship as well as in the field. After 15 years' service he left to follow a long career in nursing, a profession he enjoyed and which he continued to follow after leaving England for Gibraltar in early 2008. Not content to work the long hours his chosen profession required, he studied hard, and was awarded a specialist Nursing Degree in 2000. He worked as a Supervisor and Team Leader in a number of Cheshire hospitals and nursing homes as a result.

One of his passions was ufology. He attended numerous events, appeared on TV programmes and wrote articles for a number of X-Files spin-off publications in the 1990s.

When I met him in 1996 at the Staffordshire UFO Conference in Rugeley, his British UFO Studies Centre, run from Winsford then Northwich, was well-known on the scene and Eric knew all the major players. He would drive hundreds of miles to investigate a case.

Initially, he focussed on claims of Close Encounters and "alien abductions" but became very skeptical about these in later years. We regularly travelled to Conferences, meetings and events. Eric acted as a sort of security man for me on occasions, his boxing abilities being of use on more than one occasion in 1998-1999!

From the mid 1990s onward, Eric, myself and up to a dozen others regularly visited Wiltshire during the summer to investigate crop circles and associated phenomena. In 1998, we staked out the UK Headquarters of the CDCN near RAF Rudloe Manor and subsequently located the government's

new emergency bolt hole at a nearby quarry, much to the interest of Channel 4 news and the chagrin of their full-time reporters. Who said ufological investigations can't be fun?!

In 2004 Eric appeared in a TV documentary made by Jon Lundberg titled "The Mythologist" that investigated his early dealings with Henry Azadehdel, aka Armen Victorian, whom he met on a number of occasions in the late 1980s.

From 2000, I worked with Eric organising a number of small but successful Paranormal Conferences in Runcorn that raised hundreds of pounds for the Cat's Protection League. This was Eric's other main passion, evidenced by a houseful of rescued cats that ruled the roost! He donated thousands to Cat's Protection over the years.

Eric was a caring man, despite his somewhat brusque deportment and non-nonsense in public attitude. He was very kind man and always extremely generous with presents for my daughters. Eric also nursed our good friend David Kelly, another BUFOSC member, at the time of his death from cancer in 2000.

Similarly little known was Eric's passion for the music of Jimmy Hendrix and The Who. He was known to members of the band and the band's fan club and collected a great deal of rare merchandise and memorabilia over the years.

More recently, whilst organising his long-planned emigration to Gibraltar, a place he came to know and love during his Navy days and which he visited on many occasions subsequently, Eric started to re-investigate some older UFO cases he'd been involved in including the Rendlesham Forest ferrago. He came to some interesting conclusions about possible hoaxing in relation to this and it is to be hoped that we can recover this material for subsequent publication.

Eric maintained his passion for Ufology until the end. He will be greatly missed by those of us who were privileged to know him.

Excerpted from UFO Updates. Posted on December 13, 2008 by Tim Matthews.



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Robert H. Bletchman

Robert H. Bletchman, 76, of Farmington, CT, died June 18.

In the 1990s, Bletchman organized a symposium on UFOs at the United Nations in New York to a sold-out audience. "It was very well received," his wife said. "He tried to push the UFO agenda."

Bob Bletchman was a teacher, a lawyer, a mentor, a poet, a husband and an actor. But he was best known for his defense of the phenomenon known as unidentified flying objects, or UFOs.

He was the youngest of three sons born to Abel and Ida Bletchman of New Haven, who owned a hardware store. After graduating from Hillhouse High School, Bletchman spent a year at the University of Connecticut but dropped out for a while.

After meeting Adrienne Kugell, a student at New Haven State Teachers College (now Southern Connecticut State University), he decided to return to school and graduated from the teachers college in 1957. The couple married soon after and had no children.

Bletchman and his wife moved first to San Diego, where he taught elementary school, but he spent many off-duty hours acting with local theater groups. After four years, he returned to Connecticut and taught in Willington. He became intrigued by the law and enrolled in the University of Connecticut School of Law when he was 33.

He graduated in 1968, and after practicing for several years, he opened his own office, a general practice in Manchester, handling house closings, divorces, property transfers, wills and other matters, sometimes waiving a fee for a client with little money. He volunteered to serve as a hearing officer in small-claims matters and worked pro bono with prisoners.

Bletchman acted with the Mansfield Players and with the Little Theater of Manchester, where he also served as a board member. In the 1970s, he became chairman of the Manchester Human Relations Committee, was president of the local Democratic club and worked as a mentor with the Big Brothers organization. He retired from the law in 1995.

At some point early in their relationship, Adrienne Bletchman mentioned to her husband that she was interested in the question of whether there was life on other planets or in other galaxies.

"I said it was absurd not to believe there wasn't life in other universes," she said. "It's absurd to believe we are the only life that exists."

More than a decade later, Bletchman began to study the question of extraterrestrial life seriously. He read a lot, studied articles and monographs and investigated various

claims until he became convinced there was such a thing as an unidentified flying object. Over the years, he gathered information and tried to convey his conclusions to countless others.

Bletchman became active with MUFON, the Mutual Unidentified Flying Object Network, and served as its public relations director for about 20 years. Besides teaching an adult-education course on the UFO phenomenon, he often gave lectures and wrote articles on the subject. He also appeared frequently on radio and television to defend his belief in the existence of UFOs.

"You'd see things in the sky and not know what they were," said Adrienne Bletchman. "We saw things that were not explainable."

Bletchman's interests were far broader than just extraterrestrial life. He loved to talk politics over the dinner table, saw countless movies, especially foreign ones and those dealing with science. He was also fascinated by history. He read newspapers avidly and wrote letters to the editors of major newspapers — *The New York Times* and the *Washington Post*.

Although he had strongly held beliefs, friends say he never sought to impose them on others and was open to all opinions. An agnostic, he could discuss religion amicably with a Roman Catholic. Bletchman never seemed fazed that his interest in UFOs wasn't more widely shared and was able to ignore skeptics.

"He respected that you had another belief," said Sandee Sorel LeDuc, a close friend. "He would never argue the point."

"Many [people] believe in a life other than ours," said Louis Kugell, his brother-in-law.

"He didn't believe in any flags," Kugell said. "He felt the world was one community. He believed everyone was everyone else's brother. He truly was a humanitarian. He loved everybody."

Excerpted from The Hartford Courant, article by Anne M. Hamilton, December 7, 2008. Original Copyright © 2008, The Hartford Courant. Submitted to the MUFON Journal by Jim DeManche.

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Allow your work to live on. . .

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Please contact MUFON HQ at 970-232-3110 for more information.

Pseudoskeptics

Continued from page 3

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Author, researcher and lecturer Kathleen Marden received her B.A. degree with honors from the University of New Hampshire and participated in graduate studies in education at The University of Cincinnati and U.N.H. She is also a certified hypnotherapist. During her fifteen years as an educator, she innovated, designed and implemented model educational programs. She also held a supervisory position. Additionally, she taught adult education classes on UFO and abduction history. Kathy is the director of field investigator training (emeritus) for the Mutual UFO Network. In 2003, MUFON publicly recognized Kathy for her outstanding contribution of advancing the scientific study of the UFO phenomenon and demonstrating positive leadership. Her book Captured! The Betty and Barney Hill UFO Experience, (coauthored with Stanton Friedman) was published in 2007.

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Perceptions

By Stanton T. Friedman

Defamation Physics (Cottle)

Every so often people have suggested to me that I must get a hard time from the press or the attendees at my lectures, usually "Flying Saucers ARE Real" because of expressing such strong positive views about flying saucer reality, the Cosmic Watergate, Roswell, etc. They all seem surprised when I point out that I have had only 11 hecklers, two of whom were drunk, despite having given more than 700 lectures and done loads of radio and TV programs and campus classroom sessions, and coming on very strong indeed. I guess I spoke too soon.

I've had only 11 hecklers over 700 lectures and loads of radio and TV programs and more.

In early November 2008, I was strongly and publicly castigated separately by two Professors of Physics at Florida State University (FSU) in Tallahassee, Florida. A local museum, the Mary Brogan Museum of Arts and Sciences, had earlier decided to bring in an extensive exhibit about the Roswell Incident. This same exhibit had been shown at the Southwest Florida Museum of History in Fort Myers, Florida, a few years ago. They had brought me in as the original civilian investigator of the Incident to give two lectures and were very pleased with the response to the exhibit and my programs. The Brogan had decided to bring me in as well on November 7 and 8. One talk would be the "The Real Roswell Story." The second would be "Star Travel? Yes!"

The museum had asked if I would be interested in doing something in classes or seminars over at nearby FSU

to help promote the lectures and the exhibit, and, of course, I agreed. I did tell them that usually it is the student activities people on campus that bring me in, not the academic departments. I noted I have done a number of seminars, colloquia, etc. sometimes set up to try unsuccessfully to embarrass me by physics departments.

I was told that nobody had wanted me over at FSU, so I thought that is fine, less work to do. I was quite shocked, therefore, when on Nov. 4 the *Tallahassee Democrat* Newspaper (circulation of 50,000) had carried a defamatory letter from Dr. Paul Cottle, an FSU Physics Department Professor, whose field of research was nuclear physics. This was rather ironic since I had been interviewed the previous week by the *Democrat* which ran a generally favorable article on Nov. 6. Cottle, with whom I had had no previous contact, called me a "well known charlatan" and a "pseudoscientist" and apparently disbelieved, for reasons unknown, that I was a nuclear physicist. I have no reason to believe he knew anything about me or had read any of my books or seen the exhibit or gone to my website which has a bio. I am not hard to track down. A Google search on "Stanton Friedman" obtained 52,000 hits.

Chucha Barber, executive director of the museum, responded quickly with a letter highlighting my background, my degrees from the University of Chicago, my work for GE, GM, Westinghouse, etc. etc. This was responded to by Dr. Gregory Boebinger, director of the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory at FSU, one of the top facilities of its kind in the world. He at least didn't mention my name, but again linked pseudoscience with Roswell and UFOs

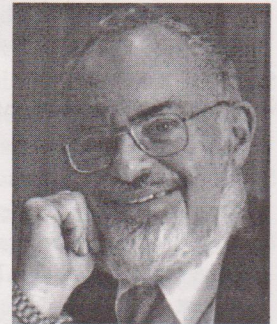
and wondered if the museum was planning to host future exhibits on palm reading or astrology? What an incredible stretch of irrationality!

I had responded via email to Cottle, providing background information, demanding an apology,

offering to debate him, referring to my website and my four books and the 10 PhD Theses on UFO related thesis topics, and stressing that he had defamed me. No response. I also emailed Boebinger. No response. Others sent me copies of letters sent praising the Brogan for bringing me in.

Surely being a Professor of Physics at a major university does not place one above the law or even rules of fair criticism and good taste, or the use of the scientific method. A keystone of that method is to have facts in hand before putting computer in gear.

To the best of my knowledge, neither physicist attended either the exhibit or my lectures; I asked at both. The Roswell lecture was to an overflow crowd. Attendees paid \$10 each. I don't know if any were students at FSU. The museum sold all the copies of my books that I had provided. Apparently Cottle was particularly incensed by being asked by the museum to give extra credit to students for attending my lectures and also by my being called a nuclear physicist. That was my job title for major corporations even though I don't have a PhD and don't work in



Stanton Friedman

academia. I have been a member of the American Physical Society, the major professional organization for physicists, for 50 years and the American Nuclear Society and the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics for more than 40 years.

I sent copies of the various letters to several reporters including Billy Cox of Sarasota, Florida, who has attended my lectures and is very very knowledgeable about UFOs. He had also taken the trouble to talk to retired General Thomas J. DuBose, one of the key Roswell witnesses. He writes incisive blogs for the *Sarasota Herald Tribune*.

Billy Cox blog: "Scientists refuse to defend themselves" [against slander] Cottle: I'm not going to comment further."

His blog got much attention on the internet under the title, "Scientists Refuse to Defend Themselves." He had contacted both of the offenders. Boebinger didn't respond. Cottle sent a brief note saying, "I'm not going to comment further. My letter to the editor was a message to my local community, and I'm going to leave it at that."

A professor of physics could say this in a world in which the internet flashes articles all over in a short time? Does he really believe that it is OK to libel if the paper "only" goes to 50,000 people? As a nuclear physicist I always worked on the basis that claims should be based on facts and evidence, not made up of whole cloth as these were. None of us has license to defame or slander someone. Slander is oral defamation. Libel is in print. Neither is fair comment.

I was "fortunately" already familiar with the libel laws, having successfully brought an action years ago against a newspaper in the UK and a researcher who had libeled me, both as quoted in the paper and in a much nastier letter to the paper. I would have settled for a full and public apology by both, but the

researcher refused. The newspaper had early on realized that they hadn't checked the facts and were ready to apologize right away. I eventually reached a settlement and received both a payment and a full published apology from the researcher and the newspaper.

I have had advice from two persons familiar with libel laws. One made it explicit that I had a strong cause of action for *libel per se*. That means "on its face" because of the "Well Known Charlatan" remark. The best defense against a charge of libel is Truth. Obviously there is none here to be applied. I don't relish spending my time on legalities, but certainly cannot let such false charges go unanswered. If no apology is provided, I may well proceed with the legal action. I have two years to decide. I should stress that in the USA a legal decision known as "Sullivan vs. *New York Times*" indicates that almost anything can be said about a public figure. I suppose that with all my lectures and radio and TV programs I can be considered a public figure. However, libel per se describes a situation in which the charge is so bad that a reasonable person would lose his reputation if the charge were true. For example, calling somebody a convicted murderer or convicted rapist or charlatan, would be libel per se, if the charge was untrue. One reason for wanting a public apology, is that hopefully it would send two messages. I am not a charlatan and it is not okay to make such defamatory charges without paying the price.

In trying to get a handle on the reason for Cottle's charges, I did determine that he had been heavily involved in a statewide committee about educational standards with a primary focus on whether it is OK to teach creationism as well as evolution. Perhaps he and Boebinger linked me (for no good reason at all) with the Florida fundamentalists who espoused creationism.

Strangely, one of the 11 hecklers I mentioned above was a Professor of

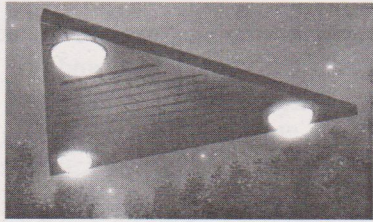
Physics at a State College in Cortland, New York. He started the Q and A session after my lecture with this statement: "I have never in one night heard so much nonsense as I did tonight." I asked if he could be more specific. He then made a number of "You said that..." statements. I had to point out after each one that it wasn't what I had said. For example, he said "You said that Betty and Barney Hill were taken to Zeta Reticuli and back within 2 hours." I said, "Sorry, but what I said was, 'They were taken on board a UFO for 2 hours. It didn't go anywhere'." After several more of these off-the-wall claims, somebody shouted, "How about taking some sensible questions?" The heckler left. I asked "Who was that?" He was a professor of physics. Sometimes a PhD means piled higher and deeper, I guess. Obviously

One reason for wanting a public apology is that hopefully it would send the messages I am not a charlatan and it is not okay to make such defamatory charges.

he hadn't heard what I said any more than Dr. Cottle knew anything about me or UFOs or Roswell.

Perhaps Samuel Johnson (1709-1784) had it right when he said: "The greatest part of mankind has no other reasons for their opinion than that they are in fashion." Debunkers foolishly believe everybody agrees with them, so no investigation is needed.

Stan Friedman fsphys@rogers.com
www.stantonfriedman.com



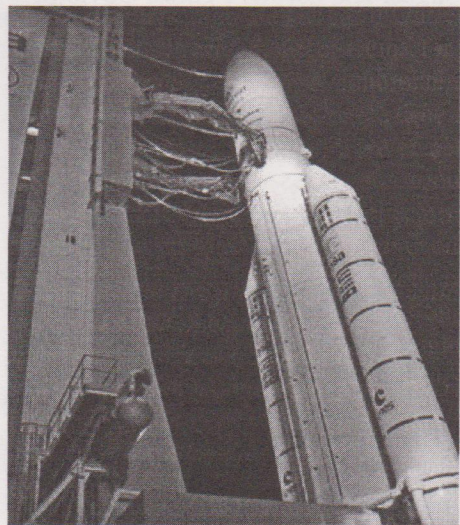
Filer's Files

By George Filer
Director, MUFON Eastern Region



European Space Agency Official Supports UFO Disclosure

Jeff Peckman, Denver UFO Examiner writes: "Dr. Peter Creola, a retired Swiss chief delegate at the European Space Agency (ESA) and head of the Swiss office for Space Policies, has joined forces with those who demand the truth about UFOs. ESA is the European version of NASA. On the topic of disclosing the truth about UFOs, Dr. Creola said "...you cannot unconditionally trust NASA."



ESA Ariane 5 launcher lifts off from Kourou, French Guiana on December 20, for the sixth launch this year.

Robert Fleischer, Coordinator of Exopolitics Germany praised Dr. Creola by stating, "There are not many European high officials who dare to step forward when it comes to the reality of the UFO phenomenon... As chairman of the 'Ariane Programme Board', he played a key role in launching the first European carrier missile 'Ariane' and has been involved in numerous key projects of ESA."

Fleischer also shared comments by Dr. Creola from a recent interview published in *Mysteries*, a German magazine: "Question:

In your opinion, would a scientific investigation of the UFO phenomenon and the propulsion systems used by UFOs bring new possibilities for terrestrial space activities?"

Creola: Of course – not only for our space activities, but maybe even for the future of mankind! I always found it astonishing that sightings of silent crafts, which are obviously not bound to our gravitational laws, are being ignored by science – at least officially.

Question: Do you think that the US space agency NASA is covering up evidence about UFOs?

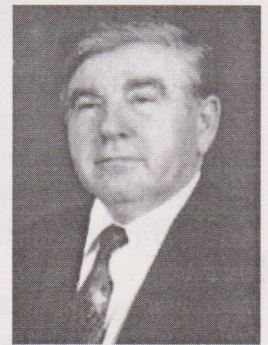
Creola: Well, NASA is part of the government system. Whatever is the official policy also applies to NASA and has to be carried out in that fashion. If, for example, the official line is not to comment on certain topics related to UFO sightings, or if some of these sightings involve National Security, then NASA will obviously follow that doctrine. Indeed, in this case, you cannot unconditionally trust NASA. That, of course, also applies to Roswell. If indeed something extra-terrestrial crashed there in 1947 and if the US government has successfully managed to keep it undisclosed to this day, then NASA would also be bound to this policy (not to disclose)."

Dr. Creola's comments are consistent with whistleblower testimony from the Disclosure Project and other high ranking former government leaders around the world. Let's hope his courage and honorable intentions will inspire a similar effort at NASA in the U.S. Read more about "silent craft" in the "Secrets of Antigravity Propulsion: Tesla, UFOs, and Classified Aerospace Technology" by Paul A. LaViolette.

<http://www.examiner.com/x-2024-Denver-UFO-Examiner~y2008m12d22-EU-space-official-supports-UFO-disclosure-says-NASA-cant-be-trusted>

Alabama - Moving Lights

GEORGETOWN – About 8 PM., I walked outside and saw a very large bright star on December 18, 2008, but then realized it was too large to be a star. I noticed green, red, and blue lights as it hovered. It clearly wasn't a plane because after ten minutes it had not moved. I then called my Mom and daughter out to see what they thought, and my Mom said, "It was moving." As we watched it, it moved slightly in all directions, stopping after each move.



George Filer

I told my daughter to go get the camera and with 48x zoom lens it looked like a ball or oval shape and was moving very quickly back and forth as if it were plotting points on a map. I captured an object moving that left streaks of multi-colored light behind it. We all took turns taking 70 pictures. Eventually we noticed a plane flying toward it; the UFO disappeared.

Thanks to MUFON CMS.

Arizona – String of Lights

LA PAZ – On the night of December 12, 2008, about 7:17 PM, I was traveling south on Highway 95 and saw 8 to 10 lights all in a straight line. The lights were extremely bright. I know aircraft lights when I see them. These most definitely were not aircraft lights. (Not this configuration.) They were extremely high. I could not tell you how high up they were, but high enough that if in fact they were aircraft lights, they would not have been that bright or that large at such a height. I saw them for maybe six seconds and then they just disappeared. I want to say the color of the lights was sort

of a soft yellowish to white. The lights were EXTREMELY bright for the distance. I was so fixed on the sighting that I never really thought to determine the distance. I estimate that the lights were 1 mile to 10 miles away.

Comments: Sightings of aerial strings of lights are certainly not unusual in Arizona. The witness presented a reasonable argument that the lights were not normal aircraft lights. Per comments from the reader below the lights could have been "rapid ejection" flares from the Yuma Proving Ground which is to the south of the location of the witness. A reader reports, the string of lights could well have been flares dropped by aircraft engaged in supporting night exercises Yuma Proving Ground.

Thanks to William Puckett UFOS Northwest <http://ufosnw.com>

California

LOS ANGELES – I was driving down the 710 Freeway towards Los Angeles to get to work around 7:42 AM, looking towards the mountains because they look so pretty and glowing with snow when out of nowhere some bright circular rotating lights came out of the foggy rainy clouds top of the mountains. I am 100% sure that it wasn't an airplane or any helicopter because the light was extremely bright white and was rotating like in a circular rotating motion the object was moving for like 15 seconds until it disappeared in the clouds. I don't know how big it was because it was far away. I believe what I saw was a UFO, because this is not the first time I have seen some weird object around the mountains.

Two months ago, I saw a shiny chrome or metal type object, but I didn't give it much attention until two weeks ago when my sister-in-law called and said there was a UFO around the 605 and 210 highways, but her sighting was witnessed by more people and the highway patrol. It was on a Sunday afternoon; people on the freeway got out of their cars and were taking pictures and video.

Comments: This is an interesting sighting and one that doesn't have an explanation.

Thanks to William Puckett UFOS Northwest <http://ufosnw.com>

Florida - Fast Moving Round Objects

JENSEN BEACH – I was sitting on the patio facing east and saw two fast moving white/yellow round objects moving west

just over the St. Lucie River inlet between Stuart and Jensen Beach on October 30, 2008 at 9:35 PM. I stood up to get a clear view before they moved out of sight. The slower one dipped down and out of my line of sight. They were flying as low as a news helicopter, but there was no sound.

Thanks to Peter Davenport Director <http://www.ufocenter.com/>

Hawaii - Over Looking Kahala

HONOLULU – I was using my new camcorder I got for Christmas to zoom in on the city and then some star like lights appeared. It started off as two lights and they were moving in unison together. I was not sure what it was so I just followed it with my camera. The lights were so far away that I could not see them with the naked eye. I could only see them through the view finder. As it moved behind a building, I went ahead and started to record.

The two lights turned into three. Then the three turned into four. All lights were traveling at a constant speed with one another so that made me feel like it was one piece instead of each light being separate. The craft was 700 to 1500 feet long and pretty far away as it flew behind Haunama Bay which is very far away.

Video is on YouTube. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lt8tYDAZqHQ&feature=channel>

Michigan - Orbs

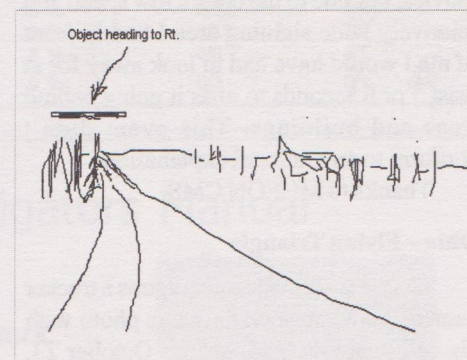
HOLLAND – Since the end of August, nearly every night with good visibility there have been very strange fire colored orbs in the southwest area of Lake Michigan. This past week I once again witnessed these strange fireballs dance and bounce around, almost in a seemingly playful matter, almost like playing tag. They have extreme movements and the ability to just vanish and reappear in a completely different spot. I have also seen fighter jets as well. The light will appear, and within 15-20 minutes several jets head in the exact direction of the strange objects. The orbs just dim and disappear once the jets get close. I live smack in the center of three airports ...Holland, Grand Haven, and Grand Rapids. Like clockwork every night at 11 PM, the triangle stealth fighter flies over with unique light patterns, and an extremely bright landing light that actually illuminate the lake for miles. My friend tried telling me they were probably planes, so I had him look with

binoculars. It didn't take him long to realize it was not a plane, because there were planes and orbs in the same area.

Some of the orbs are huge, a mile from top to bottom, and seem connected somehow, because of the ever so slight movement. A triangle appeared with two orbs closest to lake, with the top orb at the tip of the triangle above it moving slowly higher. They only moved slowly in formation, any other time they were bouncing around. Thanks to MUFON CMS

New York - Disk and Gold Beam

NEW WINDSOR – I caught sight of a very bright object that looked to have blue strings of light forming a cone at the top and bottom of craft on December 17, 2008, while driving home to Newburgh. It was bumper to bumper on 17 K which runs the length of Stewart. You could see other planes in and around the area as well as stars. The craft hovered about 800 feet above the airport. I stopped at a friend's house to show them what was going on. My friend has a farm 1 mile from the airport. Her husband also witnessed the object and took pictures of the event. The object was seen for about an hour. I was totally excited at what we were seeing. I am a disabled air force veteran and live 2 miles from the airport and have seen craft over the airport before.. Pine Bush, NY is only 10 miles from my house, which is world known for its sightings for which I have seen up to 12 ships at once. Thanks to MUFON CMS



North Carolina cylinder

North Carolina – Cylinder

RALEIGH – I was driving roughly west on the Raleigh Inner Beltline near the Six Forks Road exit on July 3, 2008, at 11AM, when I saw directly in front of me what obviously was an airliner flying at low

Continued on page 20

Filer's Files

Continued from page 19

speed. It was at extremely low altitude and seemed about 2 or 3 miles away flying just barely above the trees and straight across my path. I stared at it for maybe 2 seconds. It was a long slim cylinder of shiny metal with two colored sections—one red and one black each about 1/3 of the length of the craft. I saw no wings, tail or engines but assumed this was due to looking from the side of the plane and maybe some subtle reflection of sunlight was hiding the tail. Also, since it is extremely common to see aircraft approaching nearby Raleigh/Durham International Airport, I instantly dismissed it as an airliner.

So I looked slightly away from it to maintain my lane position but glanced right



back within about one second to confirm what type of plane it was. Within that one second it had vanished. I blinked my eyes repeatedly like you see people do in the movies, but due to the craft's low speed and relatively wide sighting area I had in front of me I would have had to look away for at least 5 or 6 seconds to miss it going behind trees and buildings. This event didn't conform to any rational explanation.

Thanks to MUFON CMS.

Ohio – Flying Triangle

EMPIRE – Linda Howe reports a trucker named Tim Comstock took this photo with his cell phone at 3:45 AM on October 23, 2008, on Route 7 in Empire. He saw a triangular craft with lights on three corners that was above a glowing object which seemed to be rising up to the triangle. She interviewed two witnesses, trucker Tim Costock and a security guard named Sarah who both saw, on the same night in Empire, Ohio, a triangular shaped craft and a glowing “pod” or “cocoon”-like object. They described the triangular craft as dark or

charcoal in color and as having a rough texture or crystalline structure.

Thanks to <http://www.earthfiles.com/>

Outside USA Reports Chile – Flying Triangle Video

SANTIAGO – A cameraman recorded the best UFO recording over Santiago, Chile, on December 9, 2008!! The lights were dancing and dimming and increasing in a triangle formation at 9:33 PM. The lights were seen several nights in a row.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dbBdvuaRa0>

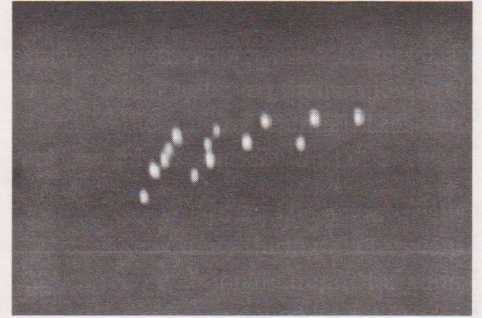
Canada - Bright Orb

PASADENA, NEWFOUNDLAND – On December 2, 2008 at around 4:00 AM, I went to the bathroom, when I returned I gazed out my window, while trying to fall asleep, I saw an object that was slowing, stopping, and backing up in the sky in a back and forth motion. It wasn't the crescent moon that was aligned with the planets either. I watched it for about an hour, sometimes it would be lost in the clouds, then I'd see it again, flying in the same area. I lost sight of it again. Then I saw what looked like some kind of bright burst or explosion and then it was gone. I didn't see it again after the explosion.

Thanks to Brian Vike, Director of HBCC UFO Research. <http://www.hbccufo.org/>

Netherlands – Seven Bright UFOs

WAALRE – At 17.35 PM, on the 19th December 2008, after dark, 7 bright orange UFOs flew over Waalre, the village I live in. They flew in a distinct formation. They made absolutely no sound and were bright orange and circular. From my distance they looked the size of a green pea. I have two eye witnesses that saw them also at another location in Waalre! There were no flickering lights or noise to be heard as is the case when you see regular aircraft. I saw them for about 3 minutes until they passed over



Santiago, Chile

my house. When I checked on Google later that night, I found that there are more reports of orange UFOs all over the world. Is there really something going on? I have made two photos via the camera on my phone. When I first noticed them, I saw them through my kitchen window downstairs. When I raced up to my upstairs window I saw that there were more following. After I opened my window I heard no sound! At first when I saw the first object, I thought it might be Mars because it is also orange. Then I thought it might be a plane, but there were no flickering lights and no noise!!!!

They flew in a formation that they stayed in very accurately, flying straight on from Veldhoven towards Maastricht. Steady flight, not slow, not fast, but steady constant speed. It was too bright to see the possible actual structure that made the bright light. I was in amazement and excited enough to call my parents, who then saw them also from their backyard. I am still amazed! I lost sight of the objects after they flew over my house. Thanks to MUFON.

Note: These Filer's Files reports are presented in order to keep readers informed of some of the vast number of sightings being reported. However, these cases have not been officially investigated, unless noted.

This month's Filer's Files include excerpts from File #52, December 24, 2008.

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AERC IS LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS

AERC, the Abduction Experiencer Research Committee, under the auspices of MUFON, is looking for volunteers to participate in a research study. If you believe you have been abducted or had contact with an alien entity please contact Lester Velez, Co-Chairman and Assistant State Director for MUFON in Northern California. Lesterv424@aol.com (408-268-2837)

Field Investigator's Corner: CMS Rankings

By Chuck Reeve

MUFON Director of Investigations

Here is December's CMS Ranking Report for all State Directors. Congratulations to **Donald R. Burleson** (New Mexico), **Cheryl Ann Gilmore** (South Carolina), **Lorna Hunter** (South Dakota), **John Ventre** (West Virginia), **Jim King** (Iowa), and **Tracey C. Smith** (Kansas), for being at 100%! The top ten State Directors are highlighted.

The report is based on our two measures of UFO Investigation effectiveness: assigning reports within 72 hours of receipt, and completing all investigations within 90 days of being assigned.

The "Assigned" column is a six-month running average of the number of cases assigned within 72 hours divided by the total number of cases received in that six month period.

The "Completed" column is the number of cases completed beginning sixty-two (62) days back and going back six months from there (for a total of eight months back) divided by the total number of cases reported in the same period.

The "Weighted Rank" is just the average of the two columns expressed as a percent.

State Directors can improve their scores by assigning all cases within 72 hours, and following up with their Field Investigators to ensure all reports are completed within 90 days. To be considered complete, a report must have been investigated and placed in one of the three completed status codes (Unknown, Hoax or IFO) by the State Director.

If you have any questions or need help with your investigations please contact me, Chuck Reeve, at 530-414-4341 or 530-582-8339 or via e-mail at wizard@telis.org.

Rank	State	Director	Weighted Rank (50/50)	Assigned	Completed
1	New Mexico	Donald R. Burleson	100 %	24/24	41/41
2	South Carolina	Cheryl Ann Gilmore	100 %	34/34	32/32
3	South Dakota	Lorna Hunter	100 %	3/3	2/2
4	West Virginia	John Ventre	100 %	18/18	22/22
5	Iowa	Jim King	100 %	23/23	15/15
6	Kansas	Tracey C. Smith	100 %	23/23	18/18
7	California	Ruben J. Uriarte	99 %	117/119	126/126
8	Pennsylvania	John Ventre	99 %	232/232	168/169
9	Florida	Bland Pugh	98 %	139/142	144/144
10	Minnesota	Richard D. Moss	98 %	31/31	32/33
11	Texas	Kenneth E. Cherry	98 %	316/320	245/247
12	Kentucky	Earle T. Benezet	97 %	36/37	36/37
13	Georgia	Walter Sheets	96 %	39/40	36/38
14	Indiana	Jerry L. Sievers	93 %	116/119	134/150
15	Michigan	William J. Konkolesky	90 %	87/104	99/102
16	Colorado	Leslie H. Varnicle	88 %	91/92	76/97
17	California	Georgeanne Cifarelli	87 %	162/163	137/181
18	Tennessee	Eddie Middleton	83 %	21/30	30/31
19	Utah	Elaine Douglass	82 %	17/18	12/17
20	New Jersey	George A. Filer, III	81 %	27/41	37/38
21	Idaho	Janet L. Bunke	79 %	7/12	13/13
22	Illinois	David Stockman	76 %	85/123	95/114
23	Louisiana	Michael D. Sandras	73 %	25/29	16/26
24	Washington	Laurence Childs	73 %	37/65	54/60
25	Ohio	William Jones	72 %	58/87	56/71
26	Massachusetts	Steve Firmani	67 %	29/50	45/59
27	Oklahoma	Charles L. Pine	54 %	5/30	25/27
28	Arizona	George C. Parks	52 %	36/91	67/101
29	Nebraska	John C. Kasher	51 %	8/15	8/16
30	Nevada	Mark Easter	50 %	4/43	50/54
31	Oregon	Thomas Bowden	49 %	25/68	44/70
32	Wyoming	Richard Beckwith	48 %	6/10	3/8
33	Alabama	Roy E. Patterson, Jr.	45 %	3/22	13/17
34	New York	James G. Bouck, Jr.	43 %	67/97	19/102
35	Wisconsin	Timothy G. Whiteagle	42 %	18/29	8/36
36	Vermont	Steve Firmani	35 %	0/6	5/7
37	North Carolina	Richard Lang	25 %	3/39	18/41
38	Maryland	Sheila Smith	23 %	3/29	13/36
39	Virginia	Susan L. Swiatek	22 %	3/34	13/36
40	Arkansas	Norman D. Walker	15 %	6/26	1/13
41	Connecticut	Erik Kubik	10 %	4/20	0/27
42	Missouri	Bruce A. Widaman	8 %	3/40	4/45
43	Maine	Steve Firmani	2 %	1/17	0/14
44	Mississippi	Walker Bobby Lee	0 %	0/12	0/14
45	Rhode Island	Dave Allaire	0 %	0/12	0/7
46	North Dakota	Kurt Pflieger	0 %	0/8	0/5
47	Delaware	Ralph P. Flegal	0 %	0/2	0/1

MUFON Field Investigators Manual

NEW!! Version 5.0

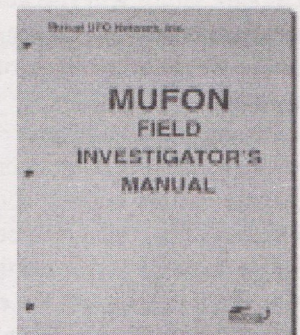
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Director's Message

continued from page 2

Position Announcements

Roger Marsh has been appointed to the position of **MUFON Director of Communications**. **Ruben Uriarte** has been appointed as the **CMS Administrator and Manager for International Groups**.

Foreign Representatives

John Tomlinson has been appointed as the new **Foreign Representative for France**.

State Directors

Brent Mitchel for Alaska; **Andre Morin** for Quebec, Canada; **Jim DeManche** for Connecticut; **Carl Feindt** for Delaware; **David MacDonald** for Kentucky; **Debbie Ziegelmeyer** for Missouri; **Richard Lang** for North Carolina; **Lorna Hunter** for North Dakota; **Steve Firmani** for Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont.

Assistant State Directors

Cinde Costello for Southern California; **David Stockman** for Illinois.

Section Directors

Lenard Lasko for Jo Davies County, Illinois; **Patrick Waldyn** for McHenry County, Illinois; **John Jenner** for Sangamon County, Illinois; **John Fegel** for Grant County, New Mexico.

Field Investigators

Brent Mitchel of Nenana, Alaska; **Eugene Keys** of Bentonville, Arkansas; **Nicholas Mihora** of Los Angeles, California; **Dori Alsop Paden** of Loveland, Colorado; **Mick Rubinger** of Stockton, California; **Nancy Felipe** of Fremont, California; **Michael O'Neill** of Tamarac, Florida; **Carl Paulson** of Gainesville, Florida; **Paul Clapp** of West Point, Georgia; **Michael Boss** of Mililani, Hawaii; **Rick Duggins** of Kokomo, Indiana; **Jason Czech** of Monson, Massachusetts; **Zachary Walworth** of Ann Arbor, Michigan; **Joseph Kolb** of Harris, Minnesota; **Bobby Walker** of Moss Point, Mississippi; **Leah Walker** of Moss Point, Mississippi; **John Massie**

of Kansas City, Missouri; **John Michael Kledis** of Asheville, North Carolina.

William E. Jones of Columbus, Ohio; **John Ventre** of Greensburg, Pennsylvania; **Carol Sutley** of Guy Mills, Pennsylvania; **Brian Seech** of Aliquippa, Pennsylvania; **Theresa Seech** of Aliquippa, Pennsylvania; **John Royer** of Emmaus, Pennsylvania; **Howard Chambers** of San Antonio, Texas; **John Mullican** of Woodbridge, Virginia; **Nathan Tomisich** of Kenosha, Wisconsin.

Congratulations to you all!

Reminder: Send in Field Investigator Exams

Just a note that all MUFON Field Investigator exams should be sent to:
David MacDonald
262 Wilmer Ave.
Cincinnati, OH. 45226.

The old version 4 exam grading and Field Investigator Certification will expire March 31, 2009.

Chuck Reeve,
Director of Investigations

February Night Sky

Continued from page 24

Saturn (magnitude 0.0): In Leo. For northern hemisphere observers, Saturn will begin the month rising above the east-northeast horizon about 3 1/2 hours after sunset and will be found standing above the western horizon as the Sun rises; by the end of the month Saturn will rise about 1/2 hour after sunset and will be found low over the west-northwest horizon as the Sun rises.

For southern hemisphere observers, Saturn will begin the month rising above the eastern horizon about 1 1/2 hours after sunset and will be found standing high above the northwest horizon as the Sun rises; by the end of the month Saturn will rise about 1/2 hour after sunset and will be found low over the western horizon as the Sun rises.

Other Celestial Phenomena

Zodiacal Light: Zodiacal light will be visible in northern latitudes in the west after evening twilight beginning Wednesday, Feb. 12, and lasting two weeks. The phenomenon is visible only from very dark locations. Zodiacal light is the result of sunlight bouncing off dust grains in our solar system. These grains lie mostly in the plane of the solar system. Look for a pyramid of light in the evening sky somewhat similar in appearance to the light from a city or town just over the horizon.

Planetary Groupings

A close grouping of the Moon, Jupiter, Mercury and Mars. (See illustration)

Conjunctions and Occultations:

Feb. 11: Saturn 6 degrees north of the Moon.

Feb. 17: Mars 0.6 degrees south of Jupiter.

Feb. 17: Antares 0.04 degrees south of the Moon.

Feb. 22: Mercury 1.1 degrees south of the Moon.

Feb. 23: Jupiter 0.7 degrees south of the Moon.

Feb. 23: Mars 1.7 degrees south of the Moon.

Feb. 24: Mercury 0.6 degrees south of Jupiter.

Feb. 27: Venus 1.3 degrees south of the Moon.

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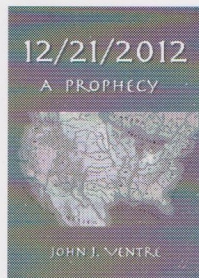
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The Night Sky

By Gavin A. J. McLeod

February 2009

Moon Phases:

First Quarter: Feb. 2
Full Moon: Feb. 9
Last Quarter: Feb. 16
New Moon: Feb. 25

Bright Planets (Evening Sky)

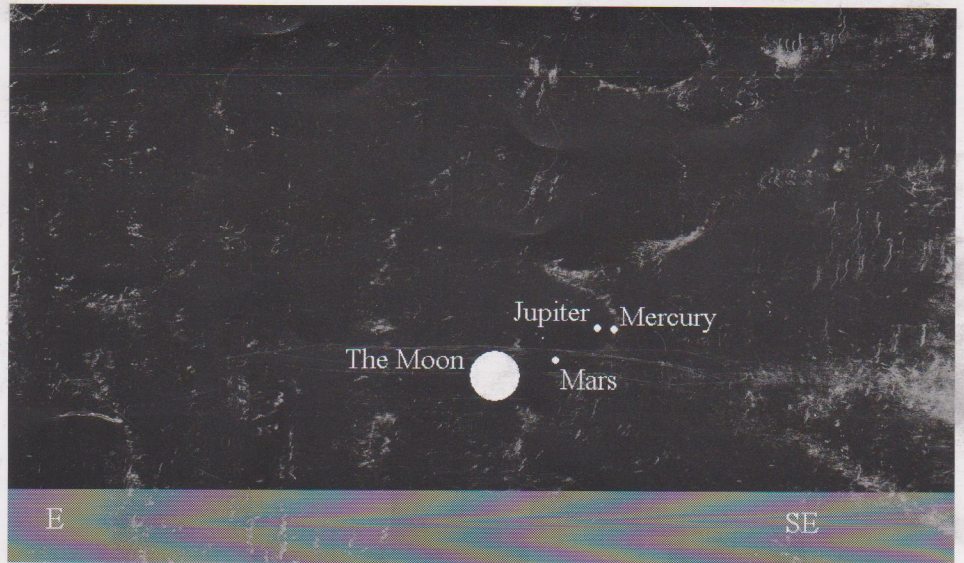
Venus (magnitude -4.5): In Sagittarius. For northern hemisphere observers, Venus will begin the month standing very high above the southwest horizon as the Sun sets and will follow the Sun below the horizon about 3 1/2 hours later; by the end of the month Venus will be setting about 3 hours after the Sun.

For southern hemisphere observers, Venus will begin the month standing high above the west-northwest horizon as the Sun sets and will follow the Sun below the horizon about 1 1/2 hours later; by the end of the month Venus will be setting about 1/2 hour after the Sun.

Bright Planets (Morning Sky)

Mercury (magnitude 0.6 to 0.0): From Sagittarius into Capricornus. For northern hemisphere observers, Mercury will begin the month rising above the eastern horizon about 1 1/2 hours before sunrise and will be standing above the south-east horizon as the morning Sun rises. As the month passes Mercury will sink slowly towards the horizon.

For southern hemisphere observers, Mercury will begin the month rising above the east-southeast horizon about 1 1/2 hours before sunrise and will be standing well above the eastern horizon as the morning Sun rises. As the month passes Mercury will rise earlier and earlier until about mid-month after which it will slowly sink towards the horizon.



A close grouping of the Moon and Jupiter just before sunrise on February 23rd 2009

Mars (magnitude 1.3 to 1.2): Moving from Sagittarius to Capricornus. For northern hemisphere observers, Mars will begin the month rising above the east-southeast horizon about 1/2 hour before the Sun and will stand low over the southeast horizon as the Sun rises; as the month progresses Mars will rise earlier and earlier until, by the end of the month, it will rise about one hour before the Sun.

For southern hemisphere observers, Mars will begin the month rising above the southeast horizon about 1 1/2 hour before the Sun and will stand above the east-southeast horizon as the Sun rises; as the month progresses Mars will rise earlier and earlier until, by the end of the month, it will rise about 2 hours before the Sun.

Jupiter (magnitude -1.9 to 2.0): In Capricornus. For northern hemisphere observers, Jupiter will begin the month rising above the east-southeast horizon shortly before dawn; as the month progresses Jupiter will rise earlier and earlier until, by the end of the month, Jupiter will rise about 1 hour before the Sun.

For southern hemisphere observers, Jupiter will begin the month rising above the east-southeast horizon about 1/2 hour before dawn; as the month progresses Jupiter will rise earlier and earlier until, by the end of the month, Jupiter will rise about 2 1/2 hours before the Sun.

Continued on page 22

