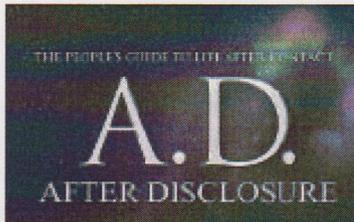


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Barry Downing critiques *A.D. After Disclosure: The People's Guide to Life after Contact*. You can read his review starting on page 3.

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MUFON

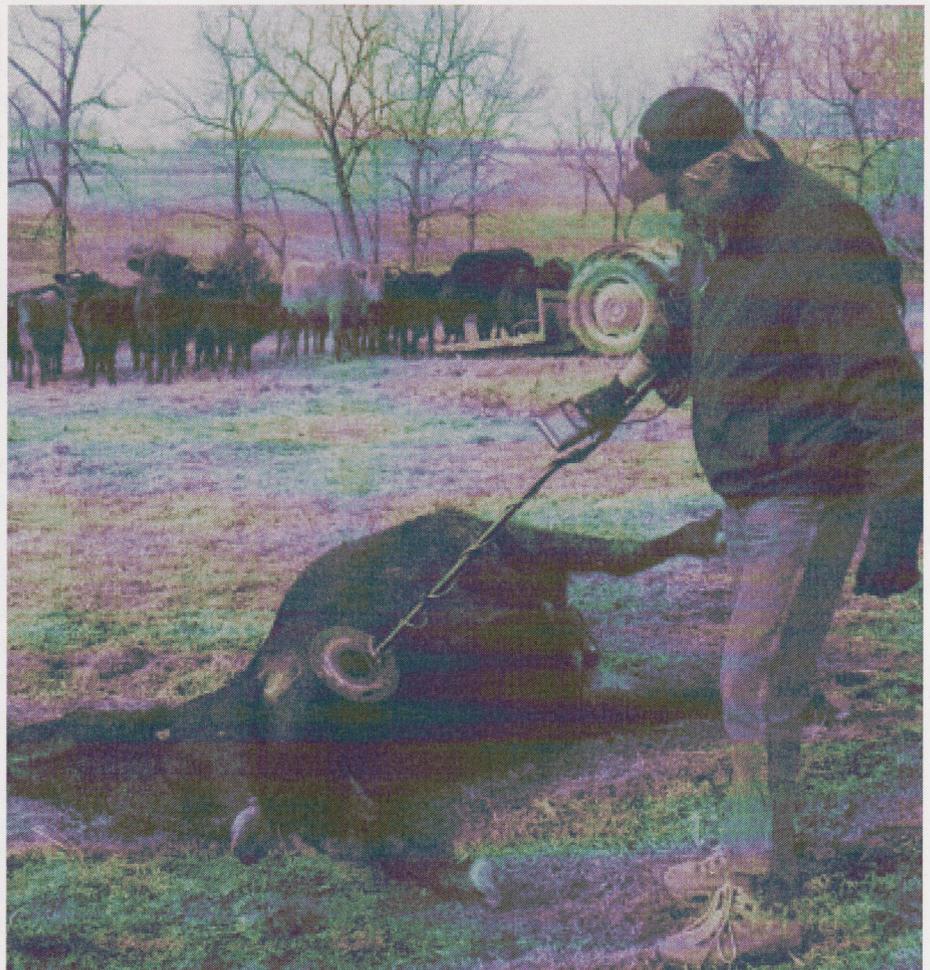
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Animal Mutilation Redux



COURTESY K.W. STORCH

K. W. Storch is shown running a metal detector over the mutilated heifer discovered on a Missouri ranch in February, 2009. Storch, a retired law-enforcement investigator, discloses new information pertaining to this case—including what was found in the animal's ear. A surprising video taken by a neighbor the night the animal died indicates UFO activity in the near vicinity at the same time. *Story begins on page 4.*



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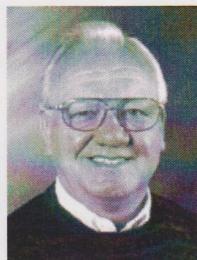
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director's message

MUFON's board moves to an upbeat tempo

By Clifford Clift

MUFON's spring board meeting on April 1-3 in Greeley, Colorado, was attended by Tom Deuley, Jan Harzan, Marie Malzahn, Chuck Reeve, Rob Swiatek, John Schuessler, Tom Whitmore, and Dr. Bob Wood. Board members discussed MUFON's financial position, ways to fulfill our mission statement and goals, and definitions of MUFON categories of subscriber, volunteer, and benefactor.

Sound Finances

After financial problems in 2009 and 2010, MUFON's financial condition now is very sound. Sales have increased from MUFON's store, and there has been an increase in new *Journal* subscribers, field-investigator applications, and gifts from donors. Because of this, MUFON once again will be able to provide funds for UFO research, abduction research, and public education. These activities had been suspended for the past

two years, but thanks to increased revenue, they can resume.

The MUFON store has doubled its sales compared to last year at this time. *Journal* subscribers have increased to about 2,900 from 2,800. Field-investigator applications have soared in the past six months, and headquarters has had to hire a part-time employee to handle related mailings. Donors have contributed more than \$3,000 during the first quarter of 2011.

MUFON is moving forward in a positive way. Many people have the same desire as MUFON—to discover the “what, why, how, and where” aspects of UFOs. MUFON is the best place for them to obtain the latest and best information about UFOs. MUFON also is the place where people who are interested in UFOs can connect with like-minded individuals. MUFON continues to lead all other UFO organizations with UFO investigations.

Continued on page 19

EDITORIAL POLICIES

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Book about Disclosure addresses fundamental concerns about technology-freedom trade-offs

By Barry Downing

PROBABLY AMERICAN taxpayers have given millions of dollars in black budget money to a think tank like the RAND Corporation to produce a document that outlines the probable implications for economics, science, international politics, defense, religion, and the future of human civilization if the United States were to announce that UFOs are real, and are piloted by aliens.

Dr. Steven Greer's "Disclosure Project" gave a name to something UFO researchers since Donald Keyhoe have expected—the day the governments of the world stop lying about UFOs and come clean.

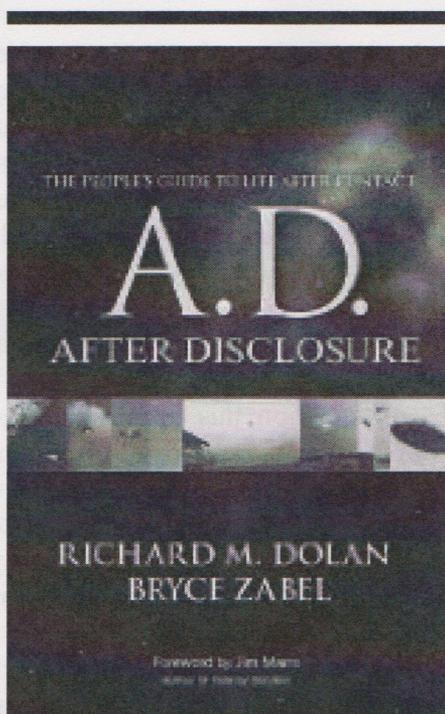
We still are waiting.

Imagining the Future

Richard Dolan and Bryce Zabel concluded that while we are waiting, we might as well imagine what the "Day of Disclosure" will look like, and what the consequences will be. I assume they have produced their work without the benefit of millions in black budget money.

The good news is that the president of the United States and members of Congress are free to read *A.D.*, unlike the classified report that the RAND Corporation might produce, which would be off limits to our elected leaders.

Such is life in the United States now, with our elected leaders having no "right to know" about UFOs. Only those in what Dolan has come



Title: *A.D. After Disclosure: The People's Guide to Life After Contact*

Authors: Richard M. Dolan and Bryce Zabel

Publisher: Keyhole Publishing, Rochester, New York

Pages: 321

ISBN: 978-0-9677995-3-7

Price: \$24.95

to call a "Breakaway Civilization" have the UFO facts, a group which may have started as MJ-12, but now is much expanded, is clandestine, international, and probably oriented toward exploiting UFO technology through private multinational corporations.

MUFON has focused on the scientific dimension of UFOs, but the organization long has been aware that the ramifications of UFO contact are multiple. In *A.D.*, Dolan and Zabel help explore the wide range of issues associated with Disclosure. Dolan is best known for his book series, *UFOs & The National Security State*, written from the point of view of an historian and not a scientist. Bryce Zabel is a media professional, having created NBC's *Dark Skies* series and worked with the Spielberg-produced miniseries *Taken*. (The foreword to *A.D.* was written by Jim Marrs; the preface by Stephen Bassett.)

Two Voices

There is no indication that the authors divided the writing tasks between them by chapters, although I presume Zabel had a strong influence on chapter 1, "Day One: The Day Everything Changes," which reads like a docudrama, and chapter 4, "Endgame: When the Impossible Becomes the Inevitable," which explores the influence of movies and television on our expectations about ET contact. Richard Dolan's hand is clearly visible in chapter 3, "Breakaway: How Secrets Created a World Within a World," which continues the theme he developed in his "National Security State" series.

Given the task that the authors are undertaking, the book is highly

Continued on page 18

ANIMAL

MUTILATION

By K. W. Storch

MOTION PICTURES and *UFO Hunters* did an episode on the animal mutilation case reported in the March issue of the *Journal*. It is to their credit that they tried to tell the story from an investigative point of view. I for one think they failed miserably.

This show treats the topic as entertainment, and it's apparent that this attitude is foremost in the minds of the producers. Readers must understand that while I might disagree on how the investigation was handled, I was not in charge.

Stake-Out Scenario

An obvious case in point: The producers decided to focus one segment of the show on a stake-out of the carcass and the herd, basing their thinking on the idea that because the perpetrators had demonstrated they could return to the scene, they might come back a third time.

My investigative partner Bob and I have a combined total of more than 50 years experience doing stake-outs and running investigations. Our work has included many clandestine operations: telephone taps, surveillance, counter-surveillance, etc. Neither of us was consulted about doing the stake-out concerning this animal-mutilation case. None of the three main characters of the show had any stake-out experience, nor did any members of

the film crew or the producers. Yet they asked Bob and I to sit on a hay bail in the middle of the pasture in subfreezing weather solely for the pleasure of the viewing audience. Although I protested that this made little sense, I was told that it did make for good TV. I took quite a pounding from my colleagues in law enforcement for that one.

I mention this because behind the scenes there was a serious investigation going on. Bob and I uncovered additional evidence to show that something extraordinary happened on Galen's ranch the morning of February 9, 2009.

I believe we were dealing with a legitimate case of animal harvesting in which mutilated animals are missing blood, soft disposable organs such as the heart, lungs, and sexual organs, as well as eyes. In such cases there is very little sign of trauma to indicate how the animal died. Most have been in good health, and usually other animals are near by. Galen's heifer fits this definition. Its ear, however, was not taken by whoever performed the initial mutilation, but by Bob and me.

It was my suggestion that we ask a veterinarian to determine the cause of death of Galen's heifer. The producer agreed. Findings from the veterinarian's examination were jaw-dropping, yet none of this information appeared on the show.

Why not remains a mystery.

The veterinarian found that Galen's heifer died from rapid loss of blood, and it is his opinion that this was not due to predation. I concur. There was no sign of any trauma to the animal other than the eye and internal organs being removed. The veterinarians also found that the animal's tongue had been severed with surgical precision deep into the throat after the animal was dead. He based this on the fact that there was no blood in the heifer's mouth nor anywhere near the muzzle. Any time an animal sustains serious injury to the mouth, there is a copious amount of blood.

Precise Surgical Cuts

He also noted that there was no blood around the uterus, the udder, nor the anus, and yet all had been removed with what appeared to be precise surgical cuts.

The veterinarian believed that the animal died while eating and that its death was almost instantaneous, as if the blood just evaporated and the animal fell over. The veterinarian had examined this herd several months before the event, and the herd was in healthy condition at that time. All of the cattle were fat and well-fed. Several were carrying calves.

Galen told us that he started his herd from a bull and cow from his father's ranch in Texas. He had

More evidence in the Missouri case indicates unexplained craft in the sky at time of the event

moved to Missouri in the late 1970s, and had brought the stock from his father's ranch with him. Galen said that a series of strange deaths and mutilations occurred at his father's ranch in Texas in the '50s and '60s. Galen has lost 21 cows to death by strange circumstances since 1991. After our investigation, Galen sold off his herd and now is out of the cattle business, due in large part to the strange things that had been happening at his ranch.

The connection to events in Texas is interesting, but there is no way to verify if the deaths of animals on his father's ranch were due to harvesting.

Strange Craft in the Area

Shortly after the television show about the case aired in 2009, Bob and I received a phone call from a woman named Joan. She told us that she may have captured something on video that we might be interested in. Bob and I piled into my truck and drove back to Missouri. Joan lives about 11 miles due north of Galen's ranch, as the crow flies, or 15 miles if you drive the distance. By this time Bob and I no longer were on the payroll of Motion Pictures, and the company had no knowledge that Joan had contacted us.

Joan told us that she and her husband had seen strange craft flying around both in daylight and at

Circumstantial evidence points to a connection between the unusual craft seen that night and the mutilation of the heifer.

night. Joan decided to keep a camera handy to film some of them.

Her husband is an over-the-road truck driver who leaves home at all hours of the day and night. On the morning of February 9, 2009, he left the house at approximately 3 a.m. He noticed a bright light in the southern part of the sky. The night was overcast (remember there was a storm coming), and he knew the light was not a star. He called his wife, who went outside and faced south toward Galen's property. For several minutes she filmed a mysterious pulsating object in the sky.

There are three radio towers that can be seen in daylight from the area where she was filming. Their location can be established on the video from their blinking red lights designed to avert aircraft collisions. Based on that and the landmarks we could see, the unidentified object was almost if not directly over Galen's ranch. The recorder verifies

the date as 02092009 and the time as 0355 hours. Joan gave us a first-generation copy of her video.

A fellow colleague in Denver, Todd, is a retired computer forensic specialist. I gave him the film and asked him to do whatever he could do to enhance its quality and see if he could draw out any additional information from it. Todd went through the film frame by frame, and he was able to improve enough to uncover more information. The craft appears to be structured and stationary, yet it also appears to radiate with power.

A Second Flying Object

Todd found several frames that show an object leaving the ground and flying to the motionless craft. When Todd slows the film down frame by frame, an orb can be seen to come up from the ground and merge with the craft.

I cannot say with certainty that this craft is directly over Galen's ranch, nor can I say that the orb seen lifting off of the ground is harvesting Galen's heifer.

I can say that this is powerful circumstantial evidence in this case. There is direct evidence that something extraordinary happened to this cow. There is a veterinarian's statement backing that up. In Joan there is an independent witness who filmed two strange craft

Continued on page 6

ANIMAL MUTILATION

Continued from page 5

at approximately the time the event occurred on Galen's ranch. Joan doesn't know Galen and didn't know about the case until *UFO Hunters* aired that episode. Joan was unaware of the orb coming up from the ground until I showed her what Todd had uncovered.

And Then There's the Ear

Now to the ear. The cow's ear was removed by Bob and me. We brought the ear back to Oklahoma, where we froze it in a block of ice. We did this because in all other legitimate animal-harvesting cases that we have investigated the ear always has been removed in the initial harvesting. Galen's mutilated heifer showed all the classic signs of being a legitimate case—but the perpetrators did not take the animal's ear. Why was it left behind?

It was not until months later that I thawed out the ear and started examining it. I found what looked like a fiber material embedded in the ear canal. Initial analysis shows it to be amino-acid- and protein-based. I do not yet have the results of additional testing.

My opinion, based on the evidence to date, is that these animals are tagged, tracked, and then harvested. I am not sure of the motive. I do not think it is for DNA or any monitoring. The perpetrators could get DNA from some skin cells, and they could simply draw a little

blood to give them all the information they would need if that was the reason.

I don't know if the animals are being harvested as a food source either. The ears, hooves, skin are all items that take the longest to decompose in the woods. There is very little nutrition in an animal's ear.

Why is just one ear taken and not both? Why only one eye? Why peel away the skin around the muzzle and eye to the bone?

I think these animals are tagged by the insertion of an implant into the ear. Ranchers now tag their animals in the ear. This implant has several functions. It allows the perpetrators to track the animal or at least to know its exact location at any given time. It may even monitor the animal to signal when the time is right for harvest.

Similarity to a Taser

The implant may send a signal that travels to the animal's brain to paralyze its motor responses much the same way a taser does. (I was certified to use a taser while in law enforcement. Part of that process of certification required that I had to be tased, which is done with a 9-volt battery. The process freezes your voluntary muscles, but the involuntary muscles continue to function. I was frozen in place standing up. It hurt like hell. I could hear and

see but was unable to move.) By rendering the animal incapacitated, a perpetrator could then insert a needle into the heart or artery and with aid of a pump drain the animal of its blood. A wound to the aorta of any animal will empty its body of blood in seconds.

Once the animal is dead, the implant may return to the ear. Perhaps the last act by the perpetrators is that they take the ear containing the implant. At Galen's ranch, they were interrupted, so they came back. I believe that my metal detector or the ensuing storm or the combination of the two disrupted the implant and it could not or would not return to the ear. I don't have any idea what happened to it.

We took the ear hoping that we would find an implant or something to indicate that one was there. The fiber-like material we discovered in the ear is not natural in cows' ears. I am hopeful that additional testing will provide clues about how these animals are harvested. It may be that we should look at herds that have had animals harvested and check animals for the presence of some sort of tracking implant. ■

K.W. Storch is a retired law enforcement officer living in Oklahoma. He has worked as a detective, and a SWAT officer, and he has been a MUFON field investigator in Colorado.

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SR-71 explanation for the Big Bang of 1973

IN REGARD TO JOSEPH TESTER'S response in the April *Journal* to my article, "Scientists should look closely at the Big Bang, 1973's great wave of UFOs," about an unusual boom accompanied by numerous UFO reports, I would like to thank him for his research showing that the book *SR-71 Blackbird: Stories, Tales, and Legends* discusses a flight of the SR-71 on the same night.

Tester attributed the boom that I described to this flight. I didn't have access to this information, when I researched my paper. My research involved looking at seismograph recordings with a Ph.D. geologist who specialized in such recordings, collecting newspaper clippings, and contacting specialists in related fields.

Although the information about the SR-71 flight is useful, there

are several discrepancies in the information about it and the boom that I described, including those of time, location, and description of the boom.

Description of the Flight

The flight described in the book took off from California at 5 p.m., and, at the speed that it traveled, should have arrived in New York in a little over an hour. The airplane traveled in a straight line to Griffiss Air Force Base. The pilot reported "...we took off from Beale Air Force Base in aircraft 979 at about 1700 hours heading for Griffiss Air Force Base, with one in-flight refueling over Nevada.

"As we headed east at Mach 3 and 80,000 feet our route took us south of Chicago and north of Indianapolis, then directly to Griffiss Air Force Base." The SR-

71 can make a flight of this distance in a little over an hour, and refueling normally takes about 15 minutes. Thus, its sonic boom should have crossed the area at around 6:15 to 6:30 p.m. The boom I investigated occurred around 9 pm.

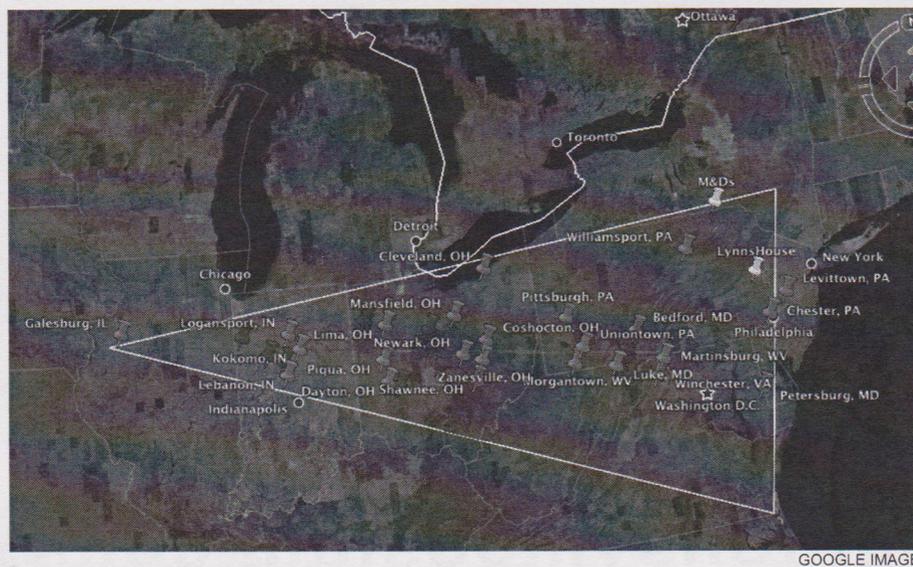
In addition, the boom I reported on didn't appear to come from the SR-71's location. For example, the SR-71 flew south of Chicago, and then toward Griffiss Air Force Base, which is located in Rome, New York, about 15 miles northwest of Utica (which is east of Oneida Lake and further north in longitude than Massachusetts). This course would have taken it near Cleveland and Buffalo.

The general newspaper reports of the boom I came across, from such national newspapers as the *Washington Post*, didn't mention Chicago. The accounts generally showed that the boom was felt across 10 states including Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Maryland, and West Virginia. This area is quite far south of the SR-71's trajectory.

Map Discrepancy

Tester showed a map in which he said he plotted the path of the SR-71 traveling from Illinois to Griffiss Air Force Base. This plot, however, in general extends directly eastward from approximately the middle of Illinois, through central Ohio and Pennsylvania, and points to the area around Washington, D.C., and Philadelphia.

This plot shows the area where the sound commonly was reported.



This map shows the purported path of the SR-71 Blackbird that flew from Illinois to Griffiss Air Force Base in New York on the evening of October 11, 1973. It follows the reported boom but veers north of the plane's route.

poses some thorny problems

It is not the reported course of the SR-71, however, which was much farther north. A plot of the SR-71 path would pass south of Chicago, then pass close to Cleveland and Buffalo, and point toward Vermont. This would be quite a bit further north than Tester's plotted route.

In fact, a sonic boom extending into Maryland and West Virginia, could have been heard around 400 miles to the south of the plane's trajectory and, thus, the width of the boom might have been 800 miles wide, which is quite large.

Ohio Seismograph Records

The sound from the SR-71 would have been the most intense over Cleveland, because this city would be very close to its flight path. The only actual seismograph records I could obtain came from the Carroll, Ohio, station, near Cleveland.

These records showed no detectable evidence of the boom (as I mentioned in my *Ohio Journal of Science* article). I saw no reports that it was heard in Cleveland, Buffalo, or Toronto. Thus, the location of the boom reported in the newspapers did not appear to coincide with the SR-71's trajectory.

In addition in the early 1970s, it was quite common to hear sonic booms, particularly in the region in and near Ohio, because SR-71s flew from Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. People regularly heard the booms. They generally just looked for the airplane and didn't normally call the

newspapers. What was unusual about this sound was that it was reported in newspapers across the country. This suggests that there was something unique about it, because other sonic booms didn't receive this kind of coverage or cause people to check with authorities in many fields. For example, a typical nighttime sonic boom from an SR-71 was reported on October 21 in Norwalk, Ohio.

According to the *Norwalk Reflector*, this boom had a width of about 50 miles. In addition, although Norwalk residents had not been warned in advance, the sound's source was quickly identified as an SR-71. The October 11 sound was also unusual because observers didn't see the airplane and because there was a sudden increase in UFO sightings throughout the area, beginning at about the same time as the sound.

Several Other Booms

Several other booms were heard and felt that night particularly in areas around Auglaize County and Wapakoneta in Ohio, for example to the north of Auglaize in Allen County, Ohio, the sheriff's office received calls at 1:20, 3:20, and 3:30 a.m. the following morning.

I didn't hear the boom myself, but I thought that it was atypical because of the unusual attention paid to it in the press and because the generally reported boom didn't appear to match the known trajectory of an aircraft.

—Irena Scott

Reader recalls Bob Pratt, praises Travis Walton case

In the 1970s I became acquainted with Bob Pratt, who happened to be paid to chase down UFO reports for the *National Enquirer*. He was an open, honest, articulate and likeable man. I enjoyed listening to him tell about the latest UFO cases that had been assigned to him and about the adventures that were part of each story.

He noted that the year the Travis Walton case won the *National Enquirer's* top prize for the best UFO case, he was assigned to go to Arizona and deliver the \$5,000 check to the seven-man logging crew involved. After he presented the prize, he rode with the crew to the exact spot of the encounter.

Pratt described how several members of the crew celebrated for some hours on the trip, and a fair share of alcohol was consumed. What Pratt found interesting was that he never heard one slip of the tongue suggesting that the UFO event was a hoax.

After leaving the *National Enquirer*, Bob continued to chase UFOs on his own dime for years. He wrote several books and investigated bizarre UFO events in Brazil's delta region. He died in 2005.

To view his extensive work see www.mufon.com/bob_pratt.

—Harry Willnus

Readers respond to suggestion regarding 'insufficient data' classification for CMS

Clearing up misconceptions about CMS designations

I'M A FORMER CMS administrator, and after reading David Kreiter's guest opinion in the April *Journal*, I feel the need to clear up some misconceptions about CMS.

Mr. Kreiter states that "the "insufficient-data" disposition is discouraged by some MUFON officials and might soon be eliminated." I can vouch for this statement in part. Not "some" MUFON officials but "all" officials involved in CMS decision-making and improvements have been and still are in favor of eliminating this designation. Why, you might ask?

The insufficient-data designation has been used as a wastebasket for cases that on the surface don't fit the UFO, IFO, or hoax designations. As a CMS administrator, I spent months doing "spring cleaning" on long-neglected case files. I easily was able to find proper designations for at least 90 percent of the insufficient-data cases based on witness statements in the case file and a little research.

I feel that making more or less out of a case using Mr. Kreiter's criteria is not a good investigative strategy. My experience supports the view Mr. Kreiter reported was expressed to him by MUFON Deputy Director of Investigations Terry Groff that the designation is being overused. I wholeheartedly agree that it should be eliminated. It does not serve any purpose other than

send cases to CMS limbo where they are in danger of being lost.

The 10 percent of insufficient-data cases that I could not classify as UFO, IFO, or hoax I had no problem designating as "unknown-other." As a MUFON investigator for more than 30 years, I've reviewed hundreds of cases. I've had no difficulty staying within the UFO, IFO, hoax guidelines.

"Educated guesses" also can be labeled in the investigator summary, for example, as "probable" or "possible" star, aircraft, etc. If the witness information and sighting description are exceptionally vague, then the case does not belong in CMS because it contains no scientific, research, or data-collection value.

Mr. Kreiter mentions that he could not "in good conscience" use the alternative dispositions in cases for which he could not obtain an interview. The interview in itself does not solve the case. The investigator, following up and researching the data that has been presented, is what results in compiling a plausible explanation for every sighting report that comes to MUFON.

I strongly disagree that making an educated guess on an obvious IFO only because you have not obtained an interview is "scientifically dishonest." Science is based on theories and educated guesses. It all comes down to how much you trust your instincts as a MUFON investigator when presented with the data.

—Steve Firmani

Reader defends retaining 'insufficient data' category

I'M A FIELD INVESTIGATOR, and I have to agree with David Kreiter that the "insufficient-data" designation for CMS cases has to be kept. Witnesses often do not provide enough information or none at all, or no contact information. In situations when an initial interview cannot take place, one simply cannot make an educated guess as to a case disposition. This is true even in cases in which the witness has given good information in the CMS report. As Mr. Kreiter points out, an investigation often ends at the point where the witness refuses to agree to an interview. This is where the "insufficient-data" disposition is warranted.

There are a number of reasons why a witness might not want to be interviewed. I feel eliminating the "insufficient-data" disposition would pressure an investigator into bombarding witnesses with numerous phone calls or e-mails just so an alternative disposition can be obtained. This is something I certainly would not do, nor would I make an educated guess simply because there is no other alternatives.

In cases in which an interview cannot be obtained, if the "insufficient-data" designation is removed, I would not make an educated guess. Instead I would stop investigating and list the status of the case as "Incomplete."

—Duncan Campbell

Phone interviews serve several important functions

DAVID KREITER MAKES a compelling case for applying the “insufficient-data” classification to some UFO reports made to MUFON. I heartily agree with him about this.

He then goes on to advise against initial witness contact by phone, saying that this is intimidating to witnesses. After 19 years as an investigator, I strongly disagree.

The witness knows that he or she has reported an incident to MUFON. A quick telephone contact from MUFON seems logical, and to put it bluntly, allows the witness to understand that we care.

When a report is assigned to me, and I find an e-mail address, but no phone number, I immediately e-mail the witness to ask for a phone number. Why? So that I may contact them, hear their voice, and—this is very important—allow them to hear my voice.

I do not prolong the phone conversation. My experience is that the witness usually lengthens the conversation. It is the witness who wants to talk with someone who has familiarity with UFO phenomenon.

My aims in that initial phone call are as follows:

I identify myself as a representative of MUFON, and say, “We’re very interested in your case.” I quickly follow this up by stating that MUFON does not disclose the identity of any witnesses.

After I have assured the witness of anonymity, I may refer to something in their narrative as an encouragement for them to either repeat or enlarge on that information, if they wish. This allows them

to bring up any additional concerns.

I am primarily concerned with helping the witness to relax so that trust can be established between us. As a representative of MUFON, I am paving the way—or to put it another way—I am priming the pump for further interaction with the witness. Obviously, I’m going to call on whatever social and interviewing skills I possess. This can include my tone of voice, my phrasing and choice of words for my part of our dialogue, and my listening skills as the conversation progresses. All this is done in order to help the witness feel comfortable in interacting with an investigator.

It also is important to me as an investigator to get some sense of where the witness is coming from, so to speak. The witness’ narrative in the UFO report may disclose a few hints, but beyond that I’m looking for what I can further learn when I as an investigator (without sounding interrogational) give the witness an opportunity to express whatever he or she wants to say. There’s great value in listening, and in hearing how the witness expresses and responds during that phone conversation. This can pave the way for an investigator to continue a productive interview approach during a later face-to-face interview.

An initial phone call, of course, does not in most cases obviate the need for a face-to-face meeting with the witness. I quickly seek a meeting with the witness, and I am careful to always point out that this meeting is to be scheduled at the convenience of the witness.

I always let witnesses know that MUFON is trying to learn about the

UFO phenomenon, and that information they provide makes our learning possible. I try to establish an equality of benefit for both witness and investigator. If the witness quickly agrees to a meeting with investigators, I settle the details and bring the conversation to a quick close.

An added advantage of an initial phone call is that it provides an opportunity to hear the witness on more than one occasion. There is value in careful questioning and hearing more than once what the witness has to say. An initial phone call plus a later meeting provides that opportunity. An investigator may pick up some information about which some differences later may emerge. Or perhaps the investigator will have established that the witness’ information narrative remains the same as originally stated.

To summarize, the investigator can glean certain types of information from speaking to the witness on the phone. The witness in turn will have the opportunity to further consider his or her own experience during the incident reported to MUFON. The aim is for both investigator and witness to better be able to communicate when a later meeting takes place, one in which they together seek further information relative to the sighting.

—Beverly Trout

editorial policy

Guest Opinions and Letters to the Editor may be submitted by e-mail to editor@mufon.com. Please include your full name. Pieces chosen for publication may be edited for length and clarity.

UFO activity observed on interstate highways

By Beverly Trout

WITHIN THE LAST two and a half years Iowa MUFON has investigated three cases of UFO activity at or very near our two interstates. These unidentified objects consisted of two triangles at Interstate highway 35, and one small object about 12 inches in diameter above Interstate highway 80.

All three sightings were described as flying very low and very close to the witnesses involved.

The most recent case was observed at 5:50 a.m. on March 22 at Interstate highway 35 about six miles south of the West Des Moines exit. A silent triangle very slowly approached to within 200 feet of the witness at an estimated altitude of 350 feet, traveling at what the witness thought should have been "stall" speed. At this near approach, the witness could see that the triangle was huge.

A Very Large Triangle

How big is huge?

The witness, currently a Delta aircraft mechanic with 21 years of past military experience working on helicopters, estimated the trailing edge points as 250 to 300 feet apart. The distance from leading edge point to trailing edge was estimated at 325 to 350 feet.

This means that the triangle was big enough and low enough to guarantee that someone would pay attention, presenting investigators with the need to at least speculate about the possibility of a purposeful

No apparent attempt was made to prevent humans from observing these close-approach objects, which raises a number of unanswerable questions.

and unambiguous approach of such an object.

The witness reported seeing white steady lights at each of the rear angles, with two steady white lights at the leading point. The object was described as slanted downward instead of straight ahead. The UFO approached from the southeast heading northwest. When it reached within 200 feet of the witness its two "headlights" switched off, and the object abruptly made a right-angle turn to the northeast, and moved away. The witness continued driving south on Interstate highway 35 toward his destination in Texas.

The second incident occurred at 7:30 p.m. on November 9, 2008, at about the same location on Interstate highway 35 about seven miles south of Des Moines. Two witnesses heading south on Interstate highway 35 saw a light ahead of them, which they at first thought was a helicopter.

They discovered that it was instead a triangular UFO hovering at an estimated altitude of 150 feet over the north-bound lane of the interstate. The object was estimated to be 35 feet from leading point to trailing edge, with a width of 20 feet from trailing edge point to point. The witnesses estimated the object's height to be about 10 feet.

When first sighted, the narrow, leading edge point was headed south, but at the end of the object's two-minute hover, the leading edge point of the object rose vertically. To the astonishment of the witnesses, it then moved off in that vertical position toward the northeast, which took it in the direction of West Des Moines.

Another Sighting

A couple of weeks later, Iowa MUFON learned that Interstate highway 35 triangle sighting, was followed by another UFO sighting at 8 p.m. that same night (November 9, 2008). This was a much smaller object, which was spotted as it passed very low over a woman's back yard as she stood on her deck watching her two dogs. She estimated the object to be about six to nine feet in diameter. That sighting occurred in West Des Moines to the northeast (the direction the original triangle had traveled as it moved away).

This perhaps coincidental sighting led investigators to ask a question for which we probably never

in Iowa

will find an answer, but which, nevertheless, should be considered: Was the smaller object perhaps an object that emerged from the triangle sighted earlier that night on Interstate highway 35? None of the separated witnesses was aware of the details of the other sighting reported that same night.

Previous Report

The third interstate incident, occurred at 11:30 a.m. on June 19, 2010, on Interstate highway 80 a few miles west of the Colfax exit. [This was described in the August, 2010, *MUFON Journal*.] The small object was about 12 inches in diameter and came to within a few feet of the passenger door of a vehicle containing two witnesses. It then executed a right-angle turn and moved off into some trees beside the interstate. Because the approach was so close, the passenger witness said she could have reached out and touched the object.

There obviously was no attempt to prevent humans from seeing these three low-level, close-approach objects making themselves visible in the vicinity of busy interstate highways. For investigators and witnesses alike, this raises a number of questions for which we simply do not have definitive answers. ■

Beverly Trout is chief investigator for the Iowa chapter of MUFON.

State Director challenges MUFON chapters to double their membership in 2011

From looking at the MUFON member break-down by state and country in the December issue of the *Journal*, it should be painfully apparent that the survival and vitality of MUFON depend on increasing the membership base.

To that end, I have issued a challenge to the members of the states for which I serve as director. That challenge is to double our membership this year. I've asked every one of my members to: recruit one more member, hand out our MUFON business cards and literature, direct someone to the MUFON Web site, invite a friend to a MUFON meeting, or invite a skeptic to a MUFON meeting! In short, I'd like to see everyone in our organization get involved in helping us grow.

If, when the member list is published at the end of 2011, the states of Minnesota, South Dakota, and Hawaii have all doubled in membership, I promise to dye my hair green, dress like an alien and stroll through the Mall of America.

I further issue a challenge to all other State Directors to double their membership this year. If every state succeeds in doubling membership I think it then would not be exceptionally unreasonable for us to expect our International Director to dye his hair green and strut through downtown Denver on their busiest day of the year.

As our membership grows, our State and Regional Directors need to welcome new members and visitors alike to MUFON. Our meetings need to be a place where people can come and feel comfortable: able to express their ideas and opinions about the UFO phenomenon, as well as share their personal experiences of the UFO phenomenon without fear of ridicule.

I hate to resort to quoting Larry the Cable Guy, but let's "get 'er done!" MUFON members!

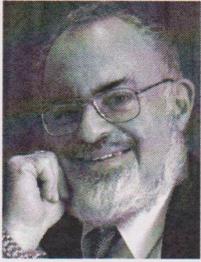
—Lorna Hunter

MUFON's 2011 SYMPOSIUM

E.T. Contact: Implications for Science & Society

JULY 29-31

IRVINE, CALIFORNIA



More irrationality, bias, ignorance

By Stanton Friedman

TWO YEARS AFTER receiving my masters degree in physics from the University of Chicago in 1956, I read a book about flying Saucers. The book was a lucky first choice, U.S. Air Force Captain Edward Ruppelt's *The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects*. He headed Project Blue Book in the early 1950s. Most of the books about UFOs that I have read since don't measure up. Back then I was naive enough to believe that journalists and scientists had a common goal: to determine and then report on the truth, admitting ignorance and trying to avoid bias and arrogance.

I since have come to realize that much of what has been written by scientists and journalists about flying saucers is nonsense. I frequently offer examples of this incredible failure to adhere to the tenets of science and journalism.

Time Urges Us to Relax

This month I take note of four. The March 28 issue of *Time* magazine has a really bad article by Jeffrey Kluger entitled "Relax: You Don't Need to Worry about Meeting E.T." Kluger writes: "If exobiologists have learned anything, it's that you and your kids and their kids' kids will probably never hear the slightest peep from an alien. . . . Most stars are too far from the Earth to hear from the theoretical inhabitants of any of the theoretical planets orbiting them. A signal from a star

1,000 light-years away would by definition take 1,000 years to get here . . . and that is just next door in an observable universe with a radius of 14-billion light-years."

There are more than 1,000 stars within only 55 light-years. What if they have been sending signals throughout the neighborhood for thousands or millions of years? Does Kluger think they would be using the same technology all that time?

Then he quotes astronomer Don Brownlee: "If the nearest hundred or thousand stars don't have life, we probably won't ever, ever, ever know about it anywhere else." This is just silly proclamation. What about interstellar travel, or the simple notion that advanced communication techniques may have sent signals past us for billions of years? And, of course, there is no mention of the huge amount of evidence that would lead anybody who bothers to study it to the conclusion that Earth is indeed being visited by E.T. life. (Astronomers seem very reluctant to study the UFO evidence or techniques for interstellar travel.)

Neither is any science brought to bear when Kluger mentions the strange, totally unsubstantiated views of Paul Davies, an astrophysicist at the University of Arizona. Davies thinks we should be looking for alien life (microbial, of course) right here on Earth, similar perhaps to the many extremophile bacteria

that have been discovered in difficult environments. These supposed scientists seem to believe that if there were anybody out there, those being already would have communicated directly to them.

Star Trek Analogy

A non-scientist got into the silliness act as well. Roger Ebert, a highly respected film critic for the *Chicago Sun Times*, wrote a review of the new science fiction movie *Source Code*. It includes this stupid line: "After all, space travel beyond the solar system is preposterous, and yet we couldn't do without *Star Trek*." This is about as sensible as saying that worldwide Internet is impossible because smoke signals don't move fast and can't be seen in the dark.

Skeptic or Debunker?

Our next example of irrational nonsense comes from Michael Shermer, publisher of *Skeptic Magazine* who also writes a monthly "skeptical" column in *Scientific American*. "Debunker" would be a more appropriate description of Shermer than skeptic.

He and I have had close encounters. We both were guests on the *Larry King Live* television show in 2007, along with Jesse Marcel, Buzz Aldrin, George Noory, Fife Symington, and James Fox. Shermer's major contribution was playing with alien dolls and interrupting others.

Two weeks later Shermer and I debated the reality of flying saucers on George Noory's *Coast to Coast* radio program. Shermer's first comment set the stage. He indicated that with all paranormal phenomena, there always is about five percent that can't be explained. Why would flying saucers be considered "paranormal"? I was astonished by this silliness and proceeded, after noting that this was totally untrue, to point out that Project Blue Book Special Report 14, the largest study ever done for the U.S. Air Force, determined that 21.5 percent of the 3,201 sightings investigated had to be listed as "unknowns," completely separate from the 9.3 percent listed as having "insufficient information."

I noted that according to a special UFO subcommittee of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, 30 percent of the 117 cases studied by the University of Colorado Condon Committee could not be identified, and I mentioned that 18 percent of the 4,500 cases reported in Richard Hall's *The UFO Evidence* could not be identified.

Shermer obviously hadn't paid any attention to those facts and he restates the same silly argument at the end of his column in this April's *Scientific American*, which he titles "UFOS, UAPS and CRAPs." The subtitle is "Unidentified Aerial Phenomena offer a lesson on the residue problem in Science." He writes: "In all fields of science there is a residue of anomalies unexplained by the dominant theory. That merely means more work needs to be done to bring these anomalies into the accepted paradigm."

A rational person would then have noted the enormous number

I since have come to realize that much of what has been written by scientists and journalists about flying saucers is nonsense.

of new discoveries resulting from a real scientist's careful examination of the residue. Think of the discovery of penicillin, of nuclear fission, of the Van Allen Belts, radio waves from Jupiter, of cosmic rays, of superconductivity, etc., etc.

Shermer defines CRAP as "Completely Ridiculous Alien Piffle" such as crop circles, cattle mutilations, alien abductions, anal probes, and human alien hybrids. How very clever: Lump these all together and then do no investigation of any.

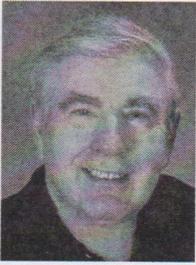
Here is another gem: "For decades black triangular-shaped objects have been labeled UFOs." He should have said included a qualifier such as "some." Shermer quotes De Brouwer's descriptions of very slow movement without any significant noise, but in several cases accelerating to very high speeds. Then he makes this truly startling and baseless claim: "Even seemingly unexplainable sightings such as De Brouwer's could simply have been an early experimental model of a stealth bomber that secret-keeping military agencies were understandably loathe to reveal." One would think that the United States and Russia were so small they couldn't find any place to test a secret aircraft and were so stupid as to fly it over a densely populated area.

'Brain Droppings'

The fourth example of irrationality comes from Neil De Grasse Tyson, astrophysicist and head of the Hayden Planetarium in New York. He certainly is not new to the debunking scene. In 2005 he was on Peter Jennings' ABC mockumentary "UFOs—Seeing is Believing." He outdid himself then with the comment that our fastest spacecraft, Voyager, would take 70,000 years to reach the nearest star, and scientists like to receive their data while they are alive. He left out one crucial fact: Voyager has no propulsion system and has been coasting since it left the Earth. His statement was like suggesting that one could determine the time it takes to cross the ocean by dropping a bottle in it.

Tyson recently spoke to 1,800 people at Penn State University on the topic: "Brain Droppings of an Astrophysicist." A reporter noted Tyson brought a rhetorical knife to cut down popular mythology over purported alien visits and UFOs. Tyson's view is: "If you see lights in the sky and don't know what they are, you don't know what they are. You don't make stuff up just to support theories that lack evidence."

This is a foolish comment by a smart guy. Serious ufologists spend very little time on lights in the sky. How about objects with definite size, shape, and surface texture observed visually and by radar that are behaving in ways we can't duplicate? He also said: "The government is really bad at keeping secrets. . . . look at how much we know about President Clinton's genitalia." What he seems to mean is: "Laugh, don't think." I would like to debate him, but I don't think he has the courage. ■



filer's files

By **George Filer**

[Editor's Note: This roundup of UFO sightings is presented to keep Journal readers informed about some of the vast number of sightings being reported. Unless otherwise noted, these cases have not officially been investigated.]

Massive UFO event seen by thousands in Siberia

A UFO EVENT of Roswell proportions has taken place in Russia and is being ignored by Western media. On March 1 in the Irkutsk region of Siberia, a huge object, glowing pink and blue according to some accounts, was seen by thousands of locals as it hurtled towards Earth. An enormous explosion was then heard over a wide area. Curious residents inundated various police departments with phone calls. The military confirmed that it had not been doing any exercises in the area.

One villager, Sergei Ivanov, described what he saw: "It did not look like an aircraft, more like a UFO or some other unexplained object." Soon a large array of military and law enforcement officials, and geophysicists and avionics experts made their way towards site of the alleged crash. They declared the event classified and announced to the media that the specific area of impact would not be disclosed.

Meanwhile a sizable number of journalists arrived in the region and fanned out in search of witnesses.

They found them in the hundreds. Some locals blamed the event on an alien UFO base said to exist beneath Lake Baikal. Others talked of intense UFO activity leading up the event.

The head of a primary school in the town of Vasilevka recounted how she saw a giant pyramid-shaped UFO in the skies above the area in June 2010. The mayor of Bayanday, Anatoly Tabinaev, talked of a giant flying saucer that shot a ray of light onto the ground near his house. Another group of residents talked about an odd object that "crashed" near the village leaving behind only mysterious footprints.

Only hours prior to this event, air traffic controllers in Yakutsk, Siberia picked up a UFO on radar. When they tried to speak with the crew they heard bizarre cat noises. (ALLNEWSWEB.COM)

Spinning lighted object observed over California

Santa Clara—On April 1, I noticed something in the night sky so I grabbed my monocular from my truck. When I focused, I saw this spinning object with lots of bright lights shining. It looked alive. I handed a buddy who was with me the monocular and ran for my camcorder. I filmed for 10 minutes. I didn't see any planes near the airport, and the next day I woke up with my mouth and nose bleeding. (MUFON CMS)

Projectiles in Canada

Campbell River, British Columbia, Canada—At 11 a.m. on April 2, my daughter and I were walking in Ostler Park when I looked out over the docked tugboats and saw three sets of twinned brilliant projectiles shoot out from the ocean. They became invisible in the sky. I immediately thought of 'drones' or birds, but then dismissed the idea.

(WWW.SIGHTINGS.COM)

Chevrons seen in Texas by astronomy student

San Marcos, Texas—Around 9:45 p.m. on March 2, I went outside to look at the stars to study for my astronomy class, and I saw objects flying in the sky that covered up the stars as they passed by. All of the objects seemed to be close by, and all had tiny dim lights all over them. They were flying pretty slowly, with a soft swooping gliding sound as they passed overhead.

The first sighting had a crescent shape, and I wanted to label it as a bird or something. I took another look and noticed there were dim lights all over the object, ruling out it being a bird. A few minutes later I spotted another chevron. These objects were dark so some parts of them blended in with the night sky.

These objects were too close to be planes, and they had unusual lights all over. I am certain that I saw UFOs. (WWW.UFOCENTER.COM)

Missouri police officer has close encounter with 4-foot-tall humanoid

A retired police officer in Missouri reports that in the very early hours the morning of April 5, 2011, he saw a 4-foot-tall humanoid creature in his backyard while a 50-foot-wide black triangle hovered above. The man's German Shepherd began barking at 3:15 a.m., which caused the witness to get out of bed to investigate. "As I walked through the kitchen I stopped. I could see a whitish-bluish bright light coming in the windows," he reported. "I had never seen any lights like this and thought it must be a helicopter looking for someone. I did not hear any sound, and thought that was odd."

The witness then went back to the bedroom to retrieve a gun before continuing. When he opened the back door the light blinked out. He looked up where the light was, and saw a very dark dull black triangle above. It had no lights on at that point. He said that the object appeared to measure a width of 50 feet, and just floated above him without moving.

When the witness heard a noise at the back fence, he returned to the kitchen for a flashlight. He heard a sound in the hallway behind him that sounded like two clicks. He shined the flashlight there for a few seconds but saw nothing. He then

went back outdoors and shined the flashlight in the direction of the noise he had heard outside.

"I saw a very strange, short, 4-foot tall, gray, humanoid looking creature with big eyes standing there looking at me for just a second or two," the witness said. Then the creature "just disappeared." The witness said that he then looked up and saw that the craft also was gone. He did not see it leave. The witness, who spent 30 years in law enforcement and has had FBI training, reported that he stood there "frozen in fear," and that his dog refused to go outside.

The witness later realized that he experienced about 90 minutes of missing time. His wife was sound asleep, and he did not wake her or tell her about what happened. Although he thought he was gone only 10 minutes, his clock showed he returned to the bedroom at 4:46 a.m. In the morning he discovered that the skin of his face, neck, and arms was red, like a sunburn. At that point he told his wife that he had seen a light outside and went to investigate because she was worried about the sunburn. (MUFON CMS)

Objects seen emerging from the sea, flying in Puerto Rican skies

Cabo Rojo and Lajas, Puerto Rico—José A. Martínez reports that he and several others got together in the vicinity of La Parguera in Lajas on the island's southern shore, which is one of the most important locations for sightings of objects emerg-

ing from the sea. They headed toward Laguna Cartagena, a location known for UFO sightings, and they spent the night there.

Their first sighting occurred at 7:40 p.m. Before the sighting took place, one of the witnesses saw a powerful flash that reflected on passing cars. When they located the source of light, it stopped issuing flashes. One witness turned on a camcorder and tried to scan

the quadrant where the flash came from, but the object dimmed. Within seconds of when the camcorder was turning off the object lit up again, and flew toward Salinas de Cabo Rojo at breathtaking speed, which set the neighborhood dogs howling.

A second sighting involving another object occurred 45 minutes later as if it were emerging from the sea. (INEXPLICATA) ■

Fundamental issues related to Disclosure include concerns about religion and freedom

Continued from page 3

speculative. But to those who have been involved in UFO research for a long time, they will read little here that they have not either read before, or at least wondered about. What is valuable here is the authors make it clear that there are justified fears in releasing UFO information, but that in the process of creating a world of super-secrecy, perhaps a "Breakaway Civilization," we Americans have lost our power as citizens to control our future.

Modern technology makes it easier each day to keep track of private citizens. Although we are not implanting computer chips in U.S. citizens yet (as far as I know), we have the ability to do that. What kind of "crisis" would give the government the "authority" to do it?

Technology vs. Freedom

Dolan and Zabel raise a fundamental question: Do the dangers of our modern hi-tech civilization require us to give up much of our freedom as citizens? Has the UFO reality forced the situation we are now in, or as Dwight Eisenhower warned, have the members of the "military-industrial complex" used UFOs as an excuse for a power grab?

The book posits that release of UFO information will lead to the discrediting of most major institutions. How did they not see the elephant in the living room? The press have done nothing to expose the UFO lie. Our major universities

Is Disclosure going to happen? Dolan and Zabel believe that there are many things that might force Disclosure to happen against the will of the secret-keepers, ranging from high-level leaks of UFO information to a decision by the aliens that it's time to show themselves openly.

are silent about the UFO mystery. We well may learn that many scientists sold out "scientific truth" for the sake of "national security."

It seems likely that the government would be the least "discredited" by Disclosure, since we expect governments to lie. The authors expect a new generation gap after Disclosure. Just as in the 1960s, there will be a "(New) Age of Aquarius." Young people will adapt well and quickly to the new reality, the older generation, not so well.

Religious Issues

Chapter 8, which focuses on religion, gives a good survey of the issues. The authors see Islam and the Mormon faith as in a better position to adjust to UFO revelations, since they already believe in life in other worlds. There are of course cult groups like Scientology that have incorporated ET themes. The authors know that some conservative Christians are

aware of UFOs, and are sure they are demons. Dolan and Zabel also dare to ask the big religious questions: What if the aliens "have created us," or if we come to suppose that "Jesus or Mohammed or Buddha are seen as one of 'them'?" The authors do not see religion being eliminated by Disclosure, as do some (the History Channel's "Ancient Alien" series, for instance), but rather they see religion being transformed. This is what I have elsewhere called "Meta-narrative reformation" [see the October 2010 *MUFON UFO Journal*].

The authors envision three types of possible disclosure: full, partial, and false. Full seems unlikely if technological secrets are involved. Partial is most likely. In a "false" disclosure, the government would admit UFOs are real but claim they are our own technology. (One can imagine the government pointing to the work of Michael Schratz to bolster this argument.)

Is Disclosure going to happen? MUFON Director Clifford Clift

has said: "After years of keeping the public from knowing the truth through disinformation, half-truths, and ignoring the questions, I doubt if the government now will release anything significant" [See the February 2011 *MUFON UFO Journal*].

To this Dolan and Zabel would reply that there are many things that might force Disclosure to happen against the will of the secret-keepers, ranging from high-level leaks of UFO information to a decision by the aliens that it's time to show themselves openly, with mass sightings that could not be denied.

Part of our task in the UFO field is to do as much as possible to prepare the public for Disclosure, to soften the cultural shock when it hits.

My complaints about this book are minor. I wish it had an index and bibliography, but the table of contents, which lists each chapter sub-heading by page number, does some of the work an index would do. I also think there might be two distinct levels of Disclosure: One in which the government would have to say: "We have had no direct communication from the aliens, and therefore we do not know their purpose in being here," and one in which the government says, "We now present our alien friend Zorg, who will talk to you about the future of planet Earth."

Either scenario has its own special problems. Perhaps Dolan and Zabel could deal with these possibilities in a sequel. ■

Barry H. Downing, a retired Presbyterian minister, is a theology consultant for MUFON and author of The Bible and Flying Saucers.

director's message

Field investigator documents get an overhaul by the board

Continued from page 2

Another item on the board's agenda was approval of the revised documents that new Field Investigators must sign prior to being approved by MUFON.

The Board of Directors and volunteers have been working on revising the documents for new field investigators for the past three months. The specific documents include MUFON's "criminal background check," "at-will agreement," "volunteer agreement," and a "non-disclosure agreement."

These four documents have been required for new field investigators since January 15, 2010. They were implemented in an effort to protect witnesses, MUFON, and the public. The Board of Directors discovered the original versions of the documents contained excessive amounts of legal terminology, making them difficult for many people to understand. Language has been clarified in the new documents, which now are available.

I would like to take this opportunity to explain the purpose behind MUFON's requirement of "criminal background checks" for field investigators. Some have told me that they feel this represents an invasion of their privacy.

MUFON has public records checked for evidence of any criminal activity by the applicant. We do not check with credit bureaus, employers, or any other organization.,

If an applicant has a criminal background and has been out of

prison or jail for two years, they may be allowed to become a MUFON field investigator. The background check is to prevent the possibility of MUFON sending a known sex offender, pedophile, or murderer into the home of a witness.

The board meeting was characterized by an upbeat attitude. Our most important goal is the desire to see MUFON succeed in fulfilling our mission statement and goals by incorporating more volunteers and subscribers in our quest.

I hope to see all of you at this year's Symposium July 29–31 in Irvine, California. We have an exciting cadre of speakers, including astronaut Story Musgrave as our "keynote" speaker. ■

calendar

May 7—Paola Harris will introduce her new book *Expolitics: Stargate to a New Reality*, at a meeting of Phoenix MUFON 2 p.m. at the University of Advancing Technology in Tempe, Arizona. phoenixmufon.com ■

list your calendar event

Submit MUFON-related events by the 15th of the month preceding the event to editor@mufon.com. Items are limited to six lines. They will be published as space is available.



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To contact the Editor of *MUFON UFO Journal*

E-mail Janice Currie at editor@mufon.com

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CMS rankings

CONGRATULATIONS to George Filer (New Jersey), Cheryl Ann Gilmore (South Carolina), Steve Hudgeons (Texas), Jimi Hughes (Montana), Lorna Hunter (South Dakota), William Jones (Ohio), Jim King (Iowa), William Konkolesky (Michigan), David MacDonald (Kentucky), Eddie Middleton (Tennessee), Brent Mitchel (Alaska), Bland Pugh (Florida), John Ventre (Delaware and West Virginia), and Steve Winans (Kansas) for being at 100 percent in April's Case Management System (CMS) rankings. The top state directors are highlighted on the chart at right.

For help with investigations please contact MUFON International's Director of Investigations, Marie Malzahn, at mcmalzahn@gmail.com. ■

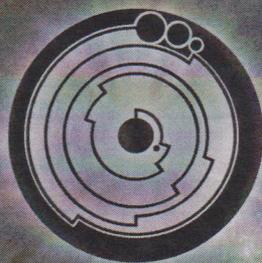
understanding the chart

The CMS Report is based on two measures of UFO Investigation effectiveness—(1) assigning reports within 72 hours of receipt and (2) completing all investigations within 90 days of being assigned.

- **Assigned** 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.
- **Completed** is the number of cases completed beginning 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.
- **Weighted Rank** is the average of the two columns expressed as a percentage.

	State	Director	Weighted Rank	Assigned	Completed
1	Kentucky	David MacDonald	100 percent	49/49	39/39
2	Tennessee	Eddie Middleton	100 percent	59/59	55/55
3	South Carolina	Cheryl Ann Gilmore	100 percent	18/18	17/17
4	Michigan	William Konkolesky	100 percent	101/101	110/110
5	West Virginia	John Ventre	100 percent	10/10	11/11
6	South Dakota	Lorna Hunter	100 percent	2/2	3/3
7	New Jersey	George Filer	100 percent	48/48	55/55
8	Kansas	Steve Winans	100 percent	29/29	32/32
9	Ohio	William Jones	100 percent	73/73	94/94
10	Alaska	Brent Mitchel	100 percent	11/11	6/6
11	Texas	Steve Hudgeons	100 percent	201/201	182/182
12	Iowa	Jim King	100 percent	18/18	18/18
13	Florida	Bland Pugh	100 percent	174/174	154/154
14	Delaware	John Ventre	100 percent	1/1	1/1
15	Montana	Jimi Hughes	100 percent	7/7	9/9
16	Pennsylvania	John Ventre	99 percent	108/110	107/107
17	Georgia	Ralph Howard	98 percent	73/75	72/72
18	Indiana	Stewart Hill	98 percent	69/71	90/90
19	Minnesota	Lorna Hunter	98 percent	38/39	27/27
20	Missouri	Debbie Ziegelmeyer	98 percent	60/62	68/68
21	Oregon	Thomas Bowden	98 percent	50/50	58/60
22	New Mexico	Donald Burleson	97 percent	22/23	29/29
23	Oklahoma	Charles Pine	96 percent	35/38	36/36
24	Louisiana	Vivian Walker	91 percent	53/54	40/47
25	District of Columbia	Donald Borton	91 percent	5/6	5/5
26	Arizona	James Mann	90 percent	94/111	95/99
27	Nebraska	John Kasher	90 percent	12/15	16/16
28	Washington	Marilyn Childs	87 percent	44/52	59/66
29	Colorado	Douglas Wilson	86 percent	59/60	51/69
30	New York	Samuel Falvo	86 percent	66/69	56/73
31	California	Georgeanne Cifarelli	85 percent	160/168	122/162
32	North Dakota	Lawrence Gessner	83 percent	7/8	4/5
33	Utah	Terry Groff	80 percent	19/20	13/20
32	Maryland	Donald Borton	79 percent	33/35	21/32
35	Virginia	Susan Swiatek	79 percent	33/33	20/34
36	Rhode Island	Steve Firmani	78 percent	5/7	6/7
37	Idaho	Marie Malzahn	77 percent	11/15	14/17
38	New Hampshire	Steve Firmani	74 percent	13/17	11/15
39	Hawaii	Lorna Hunter	71 percent	8/8	3/7
40	Alabama	Roy Patterson	71 percent	12/28	25/25
41	Maine	Steve Firmani	59 percent	16/21	7/16
42	Massachusetts	Steve Firmani	59 percent	21/32	20/37
43	Vermont	Steve Firmani	58 percent	2/4	4/6
44	Illinois	Samuel Maranto	52 percent	26/68	58/87
45	Connecticut	Steve Firmani	52 percent	14/22	10/24
46	California (Area 1)	Ruben Uriarte	49 percent	13/144	124/139
47	Wyoming	Richard Beckwith	39 percent	3/6	2/7
48	Arkansas	Norman Walker	34 percent	6/27	8/17
49	Wisconsin	Nathan Tomisich	34 percent	15/28	4/25
50	North Carolina	Marie Malzahn	25 percent	14/46	8/39
51	Mississippi	Norman Walker	25 percent	1/6	2/6
52	Nevada	Marie Malzahn	7 percent	5/32	0/24

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the night sky

By **Gavin A. J. McLeod**

Bright Planets (evening sky)

■ **Saturn** (magnitude 0.5 to 0.7): In Virgo.

In the northern hemisphere Saturn will begin the month above the east-southeast horizon at sunset and will set below the western horizon 1 hour before sunrise; by month's end Saturn will be very high above the southern horizon at sunset. In the southern hemisphere Saturn will begin the month above the eastern horizon at sunset and will set below the western horizon 2½ hours before sunrise; by month's end Saturn will be above the east-northeast horizon at sunset.

Bright Planets (morning sky)

■ **Mercury** (magnitude 0.9 to -0.2): From Pisces through Aries into Taurus.

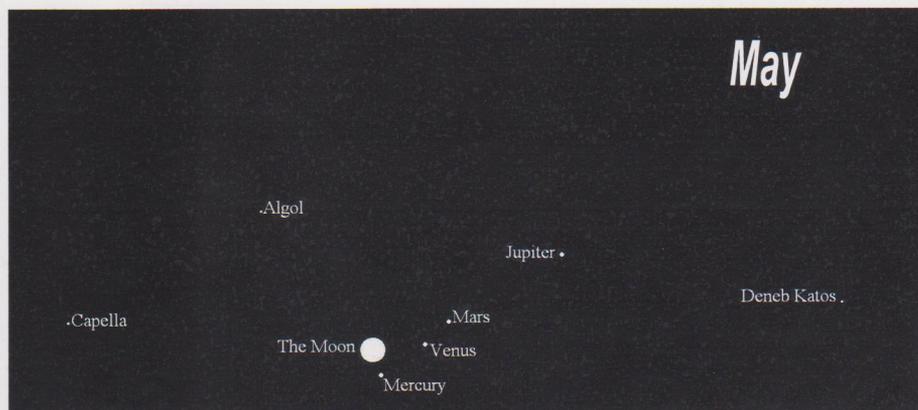
In the northern hemisphere Mercury will begin the month rising above

moon phases

new moon: May 3
first quarter: May 10
full moon: May 17
last quarter: May 24

conjunctions & occultations

May 1: Mercury 8 degrees south of the Moon; Mars 0.4 degrees north of Jupiter; Jupiter 6 degrees south of the Moon
May 7: Mercury and Venus 1.4 degrees apart
May 10: Mercury 2 degrees south of Jupiter
May 11: Venus 0.6 degrees south of Jupiter
May 14: Saturn 8 degrees north of the Moon
May 18: Mercury and Venus 1.4 degrees apart
May 20: Mercury 2 degrees south of Mars
May 22: Venus 1.1 degree south of Mars
May 29: Jupiter 6 degrees south of the Moon
May 30: Mars 4 degrees south of the Moon
May 31: Venus 4 degrees south of the Moon



Observers who look to the east just before sunrise on May 31 will see the Moon, Mercury, Venus, Mars, and Jupiter clustered together.

the eastern horizon 1 hour before sunrise and will be low above the eastern horizon at sunrise; by month's end Mercury will be rising above the east-northeast horizon 1¼ hour before sunrise. In the southern hemisphere Mercury will begin the month rising above the eastern horizon 2¼ hours before sunrise and will be above the horizon at sunrise; by month's end Mercury will rise above the east-northeast horizon 1 hour before sunrise.

■ **Venus** (magnitude -3.8): From Pisces into Aries.

In the northern hemisphere Venus will begin the month rising above the eastern horizon 1 hour before sunrise and will be low above the horizon at sunrise; by month's end Venus will rise above the horizon 1 hour before sunrise. In the southern hemisphere Venus will begin the month rising above the eastern horizon 2½ hours before sunrise and will be above the east-northeast horizon at sunrise.

■ **Mars** (magnitude 1.2 to 1.3): From Pisces into Aries.

In the northern hemisphere Mars will begin the month rising above the eastern horizon ¾ hour before sunrise and will be very low above the horizon at sunrise; by month's end Mars will rise above the east-northeast horizon 1½ hours before sunrise. In the southern hemisphere Mars will begin the month rising above the eastern horizon 1½ hours before sunrise.

■ **Jupiter** (magnitude -2.1): In Pisces.

in the northern hemisphere Jupiter will begin the month rising above the eastern horizon ½ hour before sunrise

and will be very low above the horizon at sunrise; by month's end Jupiter will rise above the eastern horizon 2 hours before sunrise and will be high above the horizon at sunrise. In the southern hemisphere Jupiter will begin the month rising above the eastern horizon 1½ hours before sunrise and will be low above the horizon at sunrise.

Other Celestial Phenomena

■ **A Gathering of Planets:** The Moon, Mercury, Venus, Mars, and Jupiter will appear together just before sunrise May 1 and 31. Mercury, Venus, Mars, and Jupiter will appear together just before sunrise May 18. ■