

**FORGOTTEN SPACE HERO FOUND**

# OMNIBUS

APRIL 1995

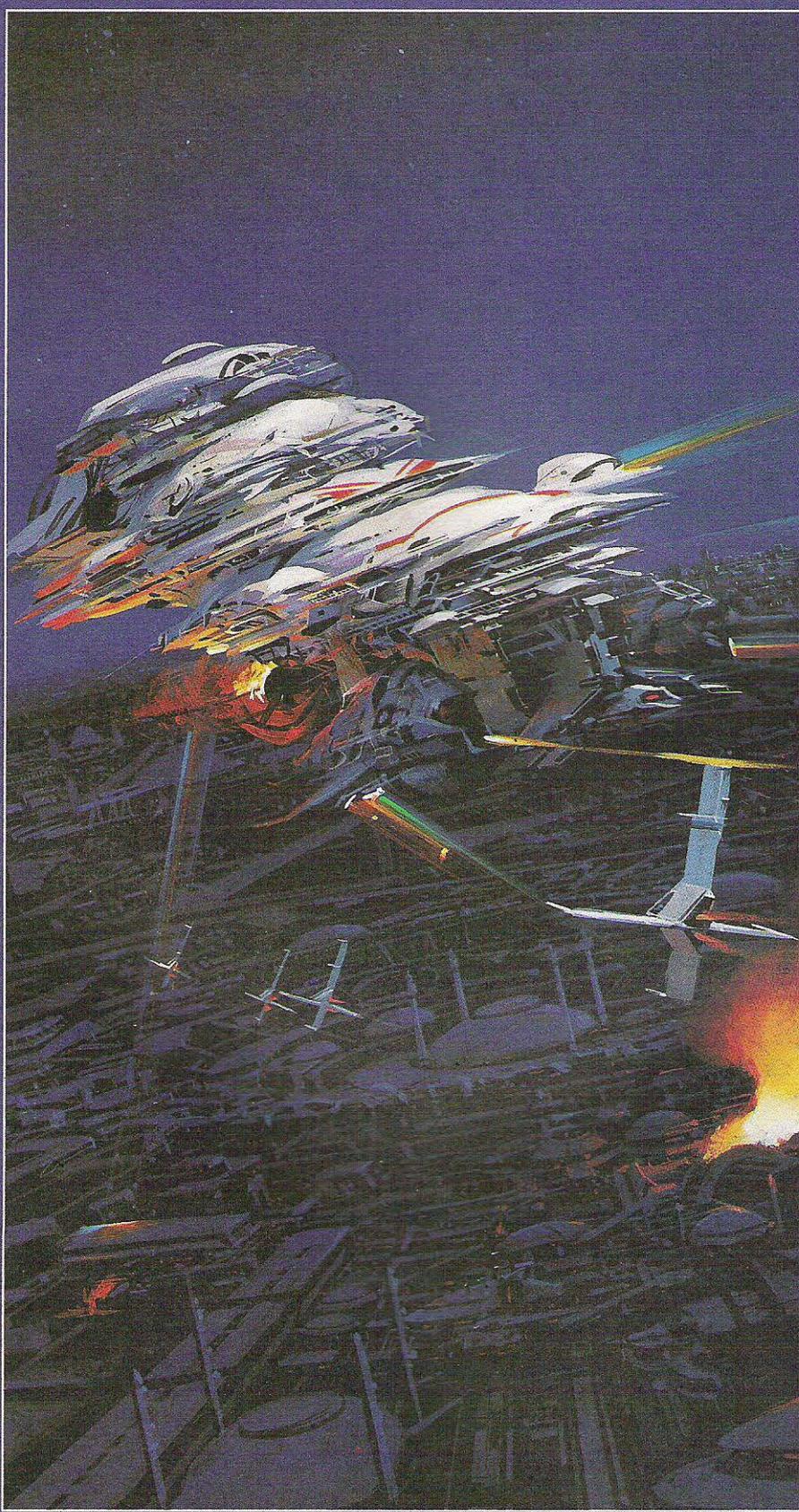
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# OMNI'S PROJECT OPEN BOOK



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For Richard Price, a single traumatic childhood incident has thrown a terrifying shadow over the last four decades of his life. One evening in September 1955, near a cemetery in Troy, New York, Price claims, he encountered a couple of humanoids who took him aboard their craft and injected an implant under his skin. Now, a scientist from a world-class university has analyzed that implant and reached a fascinating conclusion.

Price, who was then 8 years old, has never forgotten the episode, especially the moment the aliens implanted something into his—now that the Bobbitt trial has made the word media-acceptable—penis.

"I was tied down to a table in the center of the room," he recalls, "and they had used a machine to scan over my body up to my neck. Then they took this implant from the table and put it at the end of this long needle attached to some type of box and cable. When they inserted the needle into my skin I could see on a monitor in front of me an enlargement where it looked like they were hooking up wires underneath my skin. Then, after they took the needle out and shut everything off, one of them came over to me and, before he helped me put my clothes back on, said: 'Leave it alone, or you'll die.'"

Price reports he was too frightened to tell his parents

## ALIEN IMPLANT OR— HUMAN UNDERWEAR?



ARTICLE  
BY PATRICK HUYGHE  
AN MIT SCIENTIST  
ANALYZES  
AN ALLEGED ALIEN  
IMPLANT  
SUPPOSEDLY PLACED  
IN THE  
BODY OF ONE  
ABDUCTEE  
IN THE COURSE OF  
A TRAUMATIC  
CHILDHOOD EVENT.

about the incident. But in 1964 while in high school he did tell a girlfriend and within a week everyone in school was calling him "the spaceman." Finally, after getting into a fight, he was called to see the principal, who referred him to the school psychologist.

Price underwent a battery of psychological tests and was given various medications. But since no one had even heard of UFO abductions back then, he eventually ended up in a state hospital. He was released after three months, but only after "admitting" to the doctors on his case that the incident had never occurred.

More than a dozen years would pass before Price could bear to relate this bizarre tale again, once more trying to convince the outside world it was real. After talking to UFO investigators in 1981, Price was urged to visit a doctor who, amazingly, confirmed the presence of a foreign object in his penis. But since Price felt no discomfort from it, the doctor suggested that nothing needed to be done.

Then in June 1989, while getting dressed, Price noticed the "implant" protruding above the skin, and about two months later it came out. The object was roughly cylindrical, rounded at both ends, and had at least six small appendages. Tiny, measuring about 1 millimeter wide and 4 millimeters deep, it had an amber col-

ored interior and a white shell. Within two weeks Price had turned over a portion of the "implant" to David Pritchard, a scientist at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology who believes scientists should look seriously at the abduction phenomenon. Pritchard says he agreed to analyze the "implant" for one simple reason: "Proving that life exists elsewhere in the universe would be the biggest scientific discovery of all time."

For Pritchard, however, that dream must wait. Indeed, the MIT scientist found the object was made of "the kind of material elements and chemicals—carbon, oxygen, hydrogen, and compounds—one would expect if the object were biological in origin and formed right here on planet Earth."

A dermatopathologist at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, moreover, supports Pritchard's conclusion. Thomas Flotte found that the "implant" consists of concentric layers of fibroblasts, a type of cell found in connective tissue, extracellular material like collagen, and some external cotton fibers. The human body apparently produces such calcified tissue in response to injury, either from foreign material like a piece of glass or a wood splinter, or from a trauma of some kind, caused perhaps by a baseball or a table corner.

"This calcification process is common," says Flotte,

"though the penis is not a site of trauma all that often." The cotton fibers probably came from Price's underwear; they became incorporated into the body tissue as it hardened.

Pritchard, who with Harvard psychiatrist John Mack organized an abduction conference held at MIT in the summer of 1992, knows of one other penile implant case; upon examination, that implant, too, turned out to be calcified damaged tissue of terrestrial, and human, origin.

But despite the rather mundane outcome, Pritchard feels that the Price implant case is as good as anyone in the business of analyzing possible extra-terrestrial artifacts is likely to get. "I thought this object had an extremely good pedigree because it was associated with a conscious recollection," notes Pritchard, "and Price even has a doctor's report indicating that he had something under his skin 10 years ago."

While Pritchard found no sign that the "implant" was an alien artifact, he states his investigation does not rule out the extremely remote possibility that, as believers might argue, the calcified tissue was actually manufactured by aliens.

"It's possible," he explains, "that the aliens are so clever that they can make devices that serve their purposes yet appear to have a prosaic origin as

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THE NATURAL  
DEFORMITIES OF  
MAN.**



natural products of the human body and fibers from cotton underwear. So this case only rules out the possibility of clumsy aliens. It doesn't rule out the possibility of super-clever aliens."

Other ideas, however, might make more sense. For instance, given the recent connection some scientists have made between the mind and body, it has been suggested that Price may have "induced" the implant much like people who practice visualization exercises have been shown to improve their T-cell counts, boosting the immune system.

But psychologists reject the notion that Price's belief in aliens might somehow have provoked the growth. "To willfully create such a calcification is highly unlikely," says Kentucky psychologist Robert Baker, author of *Hidden Memories*, "almost as unlikely as an alien implant."

Baker also largely dismisses the possibility that Price might be using an alien encounter story to cover up an episode of childhood sexual abuse. "While such things are possible," he says, "it's not usually the case. In fact, over the years we've discovered that people remember very clearly cases of childhood sexual abuse. It's not a question of repression."

More likely, notes Baker, Price's so-called aliens were a hallucination associated

with a sleep paralysis episode. The paralysis typically results in very shallow breathing, which reduces the oxygen input to the brain. In some people, such oxygen reduction stimulates the sexual centers. "And then later on if he found anything wrong with his genitals," says Baker, "he would attribute whatever the problem was to what the hallucinated aliens did."

But how did the "implant" get there in the first place? William Cone, a psychologist in private practice in Newport Beach, California, thinks he knows the answer. "To my knowledge we have yet to recover an implant that resembles anything alien," he states. "Instead, the chances of somebody finding a little something wrong with his or her body are greater than we think. Statistically, if you look at the population at large, you are going to see a lot of people who have had growths and bumps and pieces of stuff stuck in their body. Out of that large population, some people interested in abductions are going to find things in their body, and as far as I am concerned, that is probably what happened here."

Meanwhile Price, in an effort to come to grips with the turmoil this and two subsequent alien encounters have caused, is in the process of writing a book about it all with a surprisingly down-to-earth title: *What Affects Your Life*. **DO**



Roger McGuinn of The Byrds once put it this way: If you want to be a rock-and-roll star, it's a relatively straightforward affair. "Just get a guitar and learn how to play." Musical rhetoric aside, much the same can be said of a UFO investigator. No special degrees or licenses are required—just a few basic chords.

As you go about making your UFO album, you'll find yourself returning to *those chords again and again*. The first one, presented in this chapter, is a basic UFO sorting system. When you've mastered it, you'll gain the virtuoso ability to recognize and classify potential UFOs. It stands to reason that, as a UFO hunter, this basic skill

will enable you to assess a sighting's importance, determining how much time and energy, and what instrumentation, you want to bring to bear on a particular case. A report of a bright white light that lines up with Venus's known position in the sky at the time, for example, should attract much less attention than, say, a competing case involving multiple witnesses, radar returns, and indications of a physical impact *on the environment*, such as broken tree limbs, scorched grass, piles of debris, and so on.

A classification system is necessary not only as a starting point, but also as an end result. Once your investigation is concluded, in other words, you should

## THE OMNI OPEN BOOK FIELD INVESTIGATOR'S GUIDE: PART TWO



ARTICLE BY  
DENNIS STACY

be able to assign the original stimulus to a particular and specific category, beginning, in broadest terms, with "identified" and "unidentified."

Identified means that a particular phenomenon or object can be attributed to a known natural or man-made source, be it a star, planet, weather balloon, or advertising blimp.

By the same token, unidentified does not in and of itself connote an *extra-terrestrial spaceship*; it merely indicates that the source or stimulus of the original sighting remains unknown and unidentified. While all *known* phenomena may have been ruled out as a possible explanation, other unknown, but perfectly mundane, phe-

nomena may have been operative at the time. Put another way: Unidentified Flying Object means only that the object was unidentified after investigation, not that it was from another planet and necessarily hellbent on abducting humans and/or mutilating horses and cattle, or otherwise wreaking high-tech alien havoc on the residents of Earth.

As humans, we have a built-in classification system to begin with, one that compares present experiences with past ones on an "as like" basis. Most of us have seen airplane landing lights at one time or another, Venus shining like a searchlight in the evening or morning sky, a full moon peeping through ragged clouds, and whatnot.

It's only when "Venus" suddenly executes an abrupt right-angle turn or divides into two smaller lights that streak away at high speed that we find our attention attracted and realize we may, in fact, be in the middle of a UFO sighting.

One of the most thoroughly investigated and well-documented UFO reports in history is that of Trans-en-Provence, so called for the small French village in which it occurred.

On the evening of January 8, 1981, Renato Nicolai was working in his garden when he heard a whistling noise. What he would later describe to government investigators as "a device in

the form of two saucers, one inverted over the other," then allegedly touched down on his property about 200 feet away. About five feet thick and the color of lead, the device reportedly rested on the ground for only a matter of seconds before lifting back up in the air above some pine trees and shooting away to the northeast. A circular ring just over six feet in diameter was partially scoured into the ground.

Even when things are this unusual, the natural human impulse is to classify and dismiss what we see. The French contractor at Trans-en-Provence, for example, felt he was witnessing some sort of secret aerial device built and flown by the French military.

Other witnesses in similar sightings have suggested that apparently inexplicable objects were weather balloons or the Goodyear blimp, anything, in fact, *but* a UFO.

Contrary to public opinion, we are not primed to see UFOs everywhere at the drop of a proverbial hat. And most UFO reporters are not unabashed publicity seekers.

Conservative indications are that fewer than one in twenty UFO sightings are ever reported to anyone other than immediate family members and friends. Indeed, many witnesses start out in denial. Startled and surprised by what they see, they generally make repeated efforts to explain it to

themselves or dismiss it altogether before even considering the possibility of classifying it as an Unidentified Flying Object.

The intended end goal of any proper UFO investigation, of course, is to sort through *all* possible explanations in order to arrive at the most likely solution. Sometimes the UFO hunter can easily attribute a sighting to some mundane source, natural or manmade. At the same time, other sightings will remain unidentified or unknown after the investigator's best attempts to explain.

As we'll see, however, a classification of "unknown" presents its own problems and requires its own further classification system if the UFO hunter is to make any sense of the phenomenon at all.

One such system comes to us from the Air Force, which used it to evaluate the quality of the unknowns. Were they worthy of further investigation? Or were they just too vague and amorphous, too cloudy, to pursue at all?

The system, developed by the Air Technical Intelligence Center (ATIC) at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Dayton, Ohio, also home of Project Blue Book, held, first of all, that would-be witnesses had to time the duration of the sighting itself. When a sighting was less than 15 seconds, according to the ATIC guide-

lines, "the probabilities are great that it is not worthy of follow-up. As a word of caution, however, should a large number of individual observers concur on an unusual sighting of a few seconds' duration, it should not be dismissed."

The Air Force observed, no doubt correctly, that sightings of extremely short duration generally turned out to be meteors, incoming space debris like satellites falling out of orbit, or some other mundane object only briefly glimpsed.

The Air Force also placed value on multiple witnesses and a sighting's geographical range. "As an example," the ATIC memorandum noted, "twenty-five people at one spot may observe a strange light in the sky. This, however, has less weight than two reliable people observing the same light from different locations. In the latter case a position-fix is indicated." Of course, it goes without saying that 25 witnesses in a single location will hold more weight than two witnesses also at a single locale.

The Air Force considered the investigator's proximity to the case crucial as well. That makes sense. Obviously if you live in Albany or Trenton, the chances of personally investigating any UFO case, however compelling, in, say, Denver or San Francisco—never mind France or Russia—are greatly diminished. While much

can be inferred and confirmed by telephone, a personal, on-site investigation is best.

The Air Force also placed some emphasis on the reliability of the witness; the more reliable the witness—the more professional, the more educated, the more sane—the more the Air Force encouraged investigators to pursue the case. This is a subjective call, admittedly, but one we have to consider. Rightly or wrongly, most of us regard a 57-year-old astronomer or retired fighter pilot as somehow more reliable—and therefore more believable—than, say, a couple of high-school kids in a parked car. Chalk it up to human nature.

To some extent, however, the perception is correct. The astronomer and the fighter pilot *are* trained observers. They are familiar with much of what happens in the sky simply because that's what they get paid to do. At the same time, an advanced degree in astronomy or a pilot's license does not confer infallibility.

For that matter, one of the most famous hoaxes in UFO history was perpetrated by a former Navy officer with a Ph.D. degree in biochemistry. Ultimately, it is up to the individual investigator to establish or confirm the credentials and bona fides of his or her witnesses, and to corroborate their sighting as best he or she can.

The Air Force also con-

sidered the amount of elapsed time between when the UFO was sighted and when it was actually reported or investigated. ATIC recommendations noted that "if the information cannot be obtained within seven days, the value of such information is greatly decreased." However, in cases where "physical evidence exists," the Air Force conceded, "a follow-up should be made even if some of the above criteria have not been met."

Ideally, any case should be investigated as soon as possible after it comes to the investigator's attention, but this is not always feasible. Most of us have day jobs and family lives, as do most witnesses. Coordinating schedules is not always easy. Nor are all of us suited to the personal interview situation and its demands. Moreover, much valuable historical UFO information remains essentially unplumbed and unmined.

In one prominent example, the front-page headline of the *Roswell* (New Mexico) *Daily Record* once announced in bold type that the Army Air Force had recovered a flying disc nearby. That headline, dated Tuesday, July 8, 1947, lay buried in the *Record's* files for more than 30 years, until it was discovered by UFOlogists in the late 1970s, setting off an investigation which has resulted in at least four books and which

**A BASIC UFO SORTING SYSTEM WILL HELP YOU ASSESS A SIGHTING'S IMPORTANCE, DETERMINING HOW MUCH TIME AND ENERGY AND WHICH INSTRUMENTATION YOU WANT TO BRING TO BEAR ON THE CASE.**



continues to this day.

So the Air Force's seven-day limit should be taken with a grain of salt. Besides, some investigations *should* be historical by nature and design. A few years back, for example, I approached the Sunday magazine supplement of my local newspaper with the idea for an article based on San Antonio residents who had previously reported UFOs. Part of the purpose of the article was to see whether the average citizen still stood by, or even remembered, his or her sightings years after the fact. From the offices of the Mutual UFO Network in nearby Seguin, Texas, I was able to examine the files of some ten past reports, the oldest having occurred a decade previously. Only one or two witnesses no longer lived in San Antonio. Somewhat to my surprise, the others remembered their sightings as if they had happened yesterday. "I'll never forget it as long as I live," was an almost universal response. Equally interesting, despite the passage of time, was the fact that the events dredged up from contemporary memory were remarkably consistent with the original report, with little or no embellishment on the witnesses' part.

I was able to conclude that, whatever the source of the UFO stimulus, its impact and impression on percipients was both dra-

matic and relatively "permanent." So, while sooner is no doubt better than later as a general rule of thumb, a week or more of elapsed time between a UFO event and the onset of an investigation isn't necessarily the kiss of death the Air Force would have had us believe.

The intended results of any investigation should also be considered. If you want to examine how the national press treated UFO reports during the Korean War, for instance, or the origin of the phrase "little green men" and its derogatory association with the UFO phenomenon in general, it doesn't make much difference when you get started—only how deep you're willing to dig. And believe it or not, these questions are important. They help us place individual sightings in cultural or historical context, provide a referential base of meaning for the language used by witnesses, and illuminate the social significance of the phenomenon as a whole.

Such searches also help with the broader goal: deciding whether a UFO is worth investigating in the first place. Once you have made that decision in the affirmative, you must be able to categorize the particular sighting—to place it in the appropriate slot so it can be compared to other similar sightings that have come before. Toward that end, a usable classification system is a must.

The first classification system to gain widespread currency among civilian UFO investigators was that proposed by the late Dr. J. Allen Hynek in *The UFO Experience* (Henry Regnery Company, Chicago, 1972). Hynek certainly knew whereof he spoke; from the summer of 1947 until December 1969, he had served as the Air Force's scientific consultant on UFO reports. The Hynek system had the advantage of being both simple and, as it turned out, memorable. (In fact, cinematic wunderkind Steven Spielberg would base one of the highest-grossing motion pictures of all time, *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, on Hynek's evocative nomenclature.)

Hynek's system was based on both numbers and phenomenology. Most UFOs were reported as brilliant light sources seen in the nighttime sky, so his first category, or classification, was the self-explanatory "nocturnal light."

Although significantly fewer in number, many UFOs were seen by the cold light of day, and the majority of these tended to be shaped like a circular plate or saucer, hence the popular phrase "flying saucer," and Hynek's second category, "daylight discs."

Some daylight discs were reported by witnesses and, simultaneously, captured by radar. To these cases Hynek assigned the descriptive

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KIDNAPPED BY THE  
ALIENS AND  
BEAMED ALOFT.**

term "radar-visual."

All of the above, tantalizing as any single case might have been, still represented remote observations, whether by human beings or electronic monitoring equipment. More troubling—and therefore ultimately more interesting—were those UFO reports that could loosely be defined as "close encounters." And UFO researchers found the closer the better in terms of the potential information that could conceivably be gathered for review.

Hynek was willing to consider the Air Force's basic contention that most UFO reports represented the simple misperception of ordinary objects or phenomena—particularly when the UFO was seen at a distance. But Hynek also felt that the "misperception" theory tended to lose credence and viability in those cases in which percipients claimed to have actually touched, or been taken aboard, a landed UFO.

Hynek broke close encounter cases into three separate categories: those of the first, second, and third kind. All were assumed to have taken place within 500 feet of the UFO stimulus.

A close encounter of the first kind, subsequently abbreviated as CE I, was a UFO report in which the witness or witnesses claimed that the UFO physically approached within 500 feet of their position but otherwise

FLYING SAUCER, VERSUS UFO

Believers and skeptics alike agree that much of the problem revolving around a dispassionate discussion of the so-called UFO phenomenon stems from basic linguistics. Kenneth Arnold, for example, whose June 24, 1947, sighting arguably initiated the modern era of UFO reports, never once mentioned "flying saucers" or UFOs. What Arnold told Associated Press reporter Bill Bequette was that the nine crescent-shaped objects he saw behaved "like a saucer skipping over water." An anonymous headline writer coined the phrase "flying saucer," and the rest is pretty much history.

UFO—Unidentified Flying Object—also implies by definition that some sort of physical flying *object* is involved in each and every UFO report, when it is not clear that this is the case. As astronomer J. Allen Hynek pointed out, "the U in UFO stands for 'Unidentified.'"

As with flying saucer, the original coinage of UFO remains in some dispute. In the opening pages of his classic *The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects*, former Air Force captain and Project Blue Book director Edward Ruppelt claims to have invented the phrase out of whole cloth. "UFO," he says unambigu-

ously, "is the official term that I created to replace the words 'flying saucers.'" In a briefing—classified secret at the time—given the Air Defense Command in December of 1952, Ruppelt reiterated, saying, "We don't like the name 'flying saucers' and only rarely use it because it seems to represent weird stories, hoaxes [and some] sort of joke." But earlier that same year Ruppelt had contributed an article to *Air Intelligence Digest* in which he referred to UFOs as UAOs—Unidentified Aerial Objects.

UAO, however, had first been used by Project Sign, Project Blue Book's prede-

cessor, in USAF Report No. F-TR-2274-1A, which dated from February of 1949. In addition, a 600-page report released in December of that same year (Technical Report No. 102-AC49\15-100)—two years before Ruppelt assumed the Project Blue Book mantle—was titled "Unidentified Flying Objects—Project Grudge." Clearly, the UFO acronym had crept into official Air Force usage before Ruppelt's time. The true originator of the phrase, in other words, was undoubtedly some lower-echelon staff person who will probably forever remain anonymous. ☐

left no lasting impression or residual effects on the surrounding environment. In other words, it was a visual sighting only.

At 6:05 on the morning of February 6, 1966 at Nederland, Texas, for instance, one of the most famous close encounters involved at least three witnesses and lasted for approximately five minutes. As the primary witness described it, "the neighborhood was lit up in a red glow. My first thought was that a police car was parked nearby or a fire truck. I called to my wife that something must be wrong in the neighborhood and to come and see. Suddenly I realized the light

was coming from overhead. I looked up and saw the outline of an object moving out past the pitch of my roof, approximately 250 to 500 feet high. The red glow was coming from beneath the object, about center. It appeared as a stream of light coming from inside through a hole."

A close encounter of the second kind (CE II) represented a sighting in which the UFO was not only seen at a distance of 500 feet or less, but also during which "measurable physical effects on the land and on animate and inanimate objects are reported."

The Trans-en-Provence sighting mentioned earlier

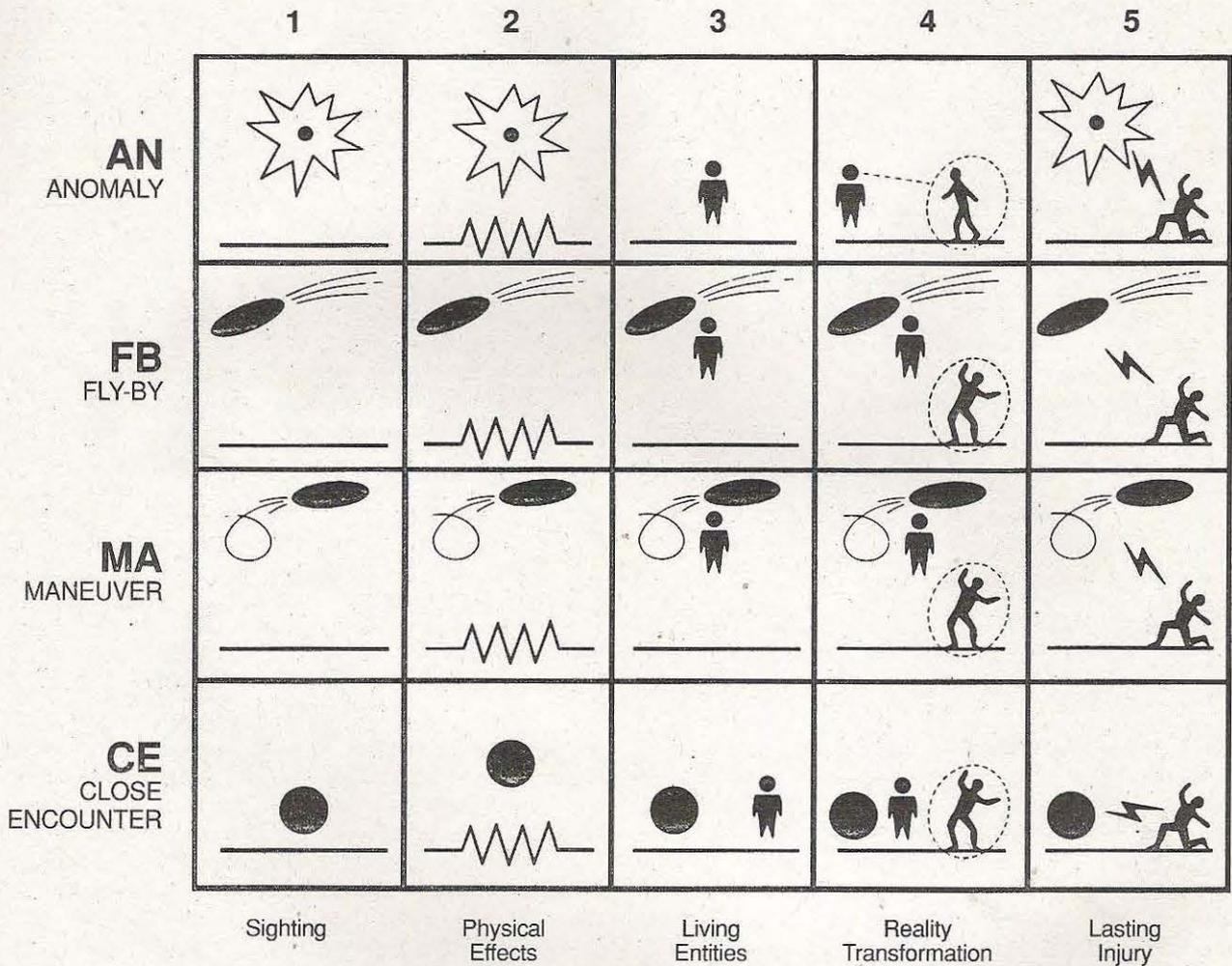
is a perfect example of a CE II case. The witness was within 500 feet or less of the object, landing traces were found, and scientists were later able to determine an implied physical effect on the environment apparently caused by the UFO source. In this case, physical effects were most pronounced in plant samples, which registered a measurable reduction in the green pigment known as chlorophyll.

Many CE II cases involve individuals whose car engines stall and headlights go out, as was reported by two witnesses at Loch Raven Dam, Maryland, on October 26, 1958. The pair had just driven over the dam and

were approaching a bridge when they noticed "a large, flat, sort of egg-shaped object" hovering about 100 feet above its superstructure, at which point the car's electrical system apparently failed.

The engine died and the dashboard lights and headlights went out. Then "a brilliant flash of white light" emanated from the object and both witnesses "felt heat on our faces." A "dull explosion" was heard, the object began rising vertically and disappeared from view in a matter of five to ten seconds.

A CE III was defined, in Hynek's words, as one "in which animated entities (of-



ten called 'humanoids,' 'aliens,' or 'occupants') have been reported."

One of the more celebrated and controversial CE III cases involved policeman Lonnie Zamora of Socorro, New Mexico. On the afternoon of April 24, 1964, Zamora said he broke off chasing a speeding motorist when his attention was distracted by a descending object emitting flames. It

finally passed out of sight behind a small hill.

Eventually, Zamora was able to drive his patrol car within 150 feet of the object, which, he said, now resembled an egg-shaped craft parked atop metallic legs at the bottom of a gully. Two white-cloaked figures stood nearby, he reported, and he could see a kind of insignia on the side of the craft. At Zamora's approach the two

figures reportedly climbed inside the craft, which then took off vertically and shot off horizontally.

To his dying day, Hynek remained concerned and perplexed by the growing new category of UFO reports known as "abductions" (sometimes referred to as CE IVs), those instances in which witnesses claim to have been "beamed" or otherwise transported aboard UFOs

against their will, often in a state of physical paralysis. The most famous such case, perhaps because it was one of the first, involved Betty and Barney Hill of Portsmouth, New Hampshire. On the evening of September 19, 1961, the two were returning home from vacation in Niagara Falls along an isolated highway when they reportedly experienced two hours of "missing time."

Under hypnosis, the Hills filled in their memory gap with an account of abduction. While inside the starship, both said, they were subjected to invasive medical procedures performed by alien beings dressed in shiny black uniforms and caps. Afterward, the Hills were allegedly returned to their car and allowed to go on their way.

While more serviceable than anything the Air Force ever managed, the Hynek classification system, also had its shortcomings, as was readily apparent. For example, not all daylight UFOs were shaped like discs. Triangle-, cigar-, box-, boomerang-, teapot-, and globe-shaped UFOs have also been reported, and not just once or twice, but on numerous occasions.

Moreover, not all nocturnal lights are necessarily simple pinpricks of luminosity. Multicolored beams and rays of light have been reported over the years, as have diffuse areas of illumination that can only be described as glowing shapes.

And then there were the "high-strangeness" cases, those reports in which the UFO allegedly "morphed," or changed shape, divided into two or three, disappeared from view altogether, or otherwise violated the known norm of physics. Nor were the reported physical effects always lined up like neat ducks in a row. Sometimes a UFO seemed to

burn, scar, or otherwise harm its nearby percipients—on rare, unconfirmed occasions fatally—while at other times the effect, or by-product, of a UFO close encounter could only be described as healing or beneficial, almost enlightening, in nature. To paraphrase Forrest Gump: "UFO is as UFO does."

Indeed, one has only to review a small number of the abduction cases that can now be found somewhere in the media almost every day to see the principle illustrated. Some abductees claim that the aliens are brutal, inflicting untold pain and torture with each new encounter. Others, however, say that the aliens are benevolent visitors, here to help us transcend our own frailties so the human species can prevail.

Given all the fine distinctions, it fell to computer scientist Jacques Vallee, author of several pioneer UFO studies, to fine-tune Hynek's system of UFO case classification. In its final version (see chart), Vallee maintained Hynek's basic distinction of UFO sightings as either distant or extremely near events. To reflect the fact that certain aspects of the UFO phenomenon often seem related to anomalous experiences in general (poltergeists, near-death, out-of-body experiences, and so on) he added the category of Anomaly to those proposed by Hynek.

Columns running verti-

**IN HIGH-STRANGENESS CASES, UFOS ARE ALLEGED TO HAVE "MORPHED" OR CHANGED SHAPE, DIVIDED INTO TWO OR THREE, DISAPPEARED FROM VIEW, OR OTHERWISE VIOLATED THE KNOWN NORM OF PHYSICS. SOMETIMES A UFO SEEMED TO BURN, SCAR, OR OTHERWISE HARM ITS NEARBY PERCIPIENTS—AND ON RARE, UNCONFIRMED OCCASIONS, WITH FATAL RESULTS.**

cally down Vallee's chart reflect the various categories. AN stands for Anomaly. Fly-By (FB) and Maneuver (MA), are basically equivalent to Hynek's distant encounters (that is, Nocturnal Lights, Daylight Discs, and Radar/Visuals), with the difference that Vallee's terms ultimately reflect the behavior of the phenomenon itself, as opposed to the circumstances (day, night, radar) of the actual sighting. Vallee's final category is also the CE, or Close Encounter.

Each of these basic categories has five "degrees" of horizontal complication, as reflected in the chart and roughly equivalent to the distance of the observer from the phenomenon. These horizontal elements include: (1) Sighting, (2) Physical Effects, (3) Living Entities, (4) Reality Transformation, and (5) Lasting Injury. Each category is represented by a telling icon.

Thus, for those tapping into Vallee's system, AN1 would represent anomalous events such as amorphous lights or sounds with no obvious source and no lasting physical effects.

AN2 are anomalies that display lasting physical effects—for instance, objects that appear out of nowhere or fields with mysterious, flattened swirls of grass.

AN3 would involve any report of an entity, be it an alien, an elf, or a ghost.

AN4 would be those anomalous experiences in

which the percipient reports interacting with the entity; here Vallee includes religious visions and miracles, near-death experiences, and some out-of-body experiences.

AN5 represents anomalous healing, injury, or death—associated phenomena include spontaneous combustion, miraculous healing, and even some instances of spontaneous remission.

FB1 would be a simple sighting of a UFO flying in the sky, the most common of all UFO reports.

FB2 is a fly-by with associated physical effects, such as a fall of alleged "angel hair."

FB3 is a fly-by in which living entities are seen on board the UFO, usually inside a clear dome or through windows or portholes.

FB4 represents a fly-by in which the witness's sense or experience of reality is affected at a distance. This might involve a loss of memory or a momentary feeling of paralysis.

FB5 would represent lasting injuries as a result of a fly-by. This could range from the "sunburn" experienced by Richard Dreyfuss's character in *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* to more serious radiationlike burns reported by other UFO witnesses.

Vallee's Maneuver (MA) category describes distant UFOs. Unlike their Fly-By counterparts, objects in

MA sightings are said to execute abrupt changes in trajectory—a right-angle turn, for instance, or a rapid approach.

Vallee's final category is the Close Encounter (CE) and its now self-explanatory permutations, ranging in complexity, as with Maneuvers, from Sighting to Lasting Injury.

Vallee also applies what he calls the "SVP credibility rating" to individual UFO incidents, in which the initials stand for Source reliability (credibility of witnesses), site Visit (credibility and efficacy of investigators), and Possible explanation. Each letter in order is assigned a digit from 0 to 4 as follows. S, Source reliability: (0) unknown or unreliable, (1) known source of uncalibrated reliability, (2) secondhand reliable source, (3) firsthand reliable source, (4) firsthand personal interview by reliable investigator; V, on-site Visit: (0) none or unknown, (1) casual visit by individual not familiar with phenomenon, (2) visit by person or persons familiar with phenomenon, (3) reliable investigator with some past experience, (4) one or more visits to site by skilled analyst(s); P, Possible explanation: (0) if data is consistent with natural causes, (1) data indicates only a slight deviation from possible natural cause, (2) data suggests a gross deviation of at least one natural param-

**NOT ALL DAYLIGHT  
UFOS ARE  
DESCRIBED AS DISC-  
SHAPED. UFOS  
IN THE SHAPE OF  
TRIANGLES,  
BOOMERANGS,  
BOXES,  
CUBES, CIGARS,  
GLOBES,  
AND EVEN TEAPOTS  
HAVE BEEN  
REPORTED ON  
NUMEROUS  
OCCASIONS AS  
WELL.**

eter, (3) data indicative of gross alterations of several parameters, (4) best available evidence indicates no natural explanation.

Under Vallee's SVP Credibility Rating system, then, an average "good" UFO report might be rated 222 in terms of overall "weight" or reliability. This would mean that the report, although secondhand, was from a reliable source (S2), that the actual sighting site had been visited and investigated by persons familiar with the UFO phenomenon (V2), and that at least one accepted law of nature would have to be grossly distorted to assign the sighting a natural explanation (P2).

If the Vallee classification system seems too confusing or complex or too far out at first glance, then you might want to stick with Hynek's for the time being, at least until you gain more on-the-job experience. The important thing is to keep a detailed record of your investigation; that way other investigators will be able to assign credibility ratings of their own.

Now that you know how to classify UFO reports, you're ready to venture out in the field on your own. Next month, we'll describe the tools of the UFO hunter's trade. After you outfit yourself lock, stock, and barrel, you'll be able to start your investigation of the best UFOs. ☐

### Close Encounters of the Orange Kind

For quite a few years my family has been aware that something strange has been happening to us. The innocence and insight of my two young children finally defined what these strange events were: abductions.

I eventually sought the help of Dr. David Jacobs of Temple University. I did this in an attempt to deal with and understand this phenomenon that so plagues my family.

Because so little documentation can be found on this subject, I set out on an investigative course of my own. I have kept detailed notes and charts. I have countless photos of physical "aftermaths" of abductions found on our bodies. I have also opened up our experiences to scientific investigation and willingly played "guinea pig" to various types of equipment set up in our home.

Through the above-mentioned course of action and my strong-willed desire to stop these intrusions, I have become more aware of the signs and symptoms of abduction events. On the morning of December 22, 1993, various signs and symptoms of an abduction were found on my seven-year-old son. When I woke up my son for school, I noticed some dried blood on his nose. Further investigation of his bedclothes revealed a

substantial amount of dried blood on his pillow, indicative of a nocturnal nose-bleed. This is quite common among abductees.

The child also had three large bruises on his left lower stomach area which had not been present the evening before. The third and most unusual of the signs found on the child is what prompts me to write this letter. On his right lower stomach area was a blotch of brownish/orange residue that, like the bruises, was not evident the night before.

My husband and I had seen a substance similar to this only one other time. Some months before, my four-year-old daughter, who also recalls detailed accounts of abductions, woke one morning with this orange substance splattered all over her face. We questioned the child and investigated the room for the possible origin of this substance (for example, food, toys, play makeup, and so on). We came up with nothing. I took a few photos of my daughter's face and then, having no other course of action, proceeded to wipe the substance off.

Two weeks following the incident with my daughter, I investigated this event through discussion and hypnosis. We found that this substance was indeed applied during an abduction event and it served a dis-

tinct purpose. My husband and I were devastated at the notion of having found material used in "outer space" and of not having the foresight to obtain samples before wiping it off. When we saw the same residue on our son we made sure we took samples.

I took photographs of the orange material on my son's stomach and photos of his bruises as well. I photographed his face where the dried blood was around his nose and, to this day, still have the blood-stained pillow put away for whatever. I then immediately called an abduction researcher. I explained to him what we found on my son and sought his guidance. It was my understanding that many attempts by other abductees to retain samples of this substance had failed because the residue has a tendency to fade/evaporate/disappear. I did not want this to happen to us.

My husband and I soaked a few cotton swabs with rubbing alcohol and proceeded to wipe the substance from my child's stomach. The cotton swabs containing the residue were then wrapped in plastic, set in an airtight container, and placed in a dark cupboard. One set of swabs was sent to the abduction researcher, another set given to Dave Jacobs, and I kept the two remaining

samples. Two major universities and one independent laboratory have run tests attempting to determine the makeup of this unusual compound. Though the exact nature of the compound hasn't been defined, it is certain that the combination of elements contained therein resembles nothing known to be found in a normal household environment. All test results exhibit a high sulfuric content as well as other common elements. The EDS scan shows a significant spike labeled to be Rubidium, which has an atomic number of 37 and has radioactive properties. More sophisticated spectroscopic analysis would prove to be of great value in determining the contents of this compound.

Apart from what has already been submitted, I just received word from one of the universities that further testing has been completed on this orange material. It is my understanding that no organic components were identified.

I understand that whatever this substance is finally determined to be—no matter how extraordinary—that it in and of itself does not prove the existence of UFOs nor will it validate in a skeptic's mind the reality of the abduction phenomenon. What I do hope is that this may help provide, at best, another tangible "clue"—verifiable

by the scientific community—toward the ultimate search for answers.

I am not a UFO fanatic. I am, however, an unwilling participant caught in the web of the abduction experience. I am willing to work with any reputable persons in an attempt to gain knowledge in this area. I am willing to openly tell my family's story if sharing our experiences will help to educate others. I want this intrusion to stop!

I appreciate the long-awaited serious approach that *Omni* is taking in addressing this issue.

Name withheld  
by request

*Editor's Note:*

*Omni's Project Open Book is currently investigating the information this reader submitted. Results from the investigation will be published in a future issue.*

**Alien Crop Sculptures**

I have seen a lot of television programs about crop formations and small metallic balls that supposedly create these awesome crop sculptures. What the hell is going on out there? Europe is being invaded by extraterrestrial artists and I feel like no one cares except for a few UFOlogists and locals. These crop sculptures are too perfect to have been created by humans with tools and they are too perfect to have been created by nat-

ural weather occurrences.

In order to create these you would need a bird's-eye view and very large tools or electromagnetism. Someone is leaving messages in fields and I want to know why and what they mean. Most that I've seen appear to be symbols of unknown meaning, yet they are familiar in some subliminal way. Could aliens be easing their way into our lives and minds via crop sculptures?

I'm assuming that aliens communicate using symbols and these sculptures are more than just unique designs with no significance. They are doing this for a reason and we should take it seriously. We finally have physical proof that aliens exist and it is time to investigate the evidence. Crop sculpture may be one step closer to a formal relationship with aliens.

J. Case  
Scottsdale, AZ

**A Tale of Two Sightings**

I had an incredible sighting in September 1989. My girlfriend and I had just spent the whole day at the Grand Canyon in Arizona. It was evening, we were on the highway heading to Flagstaff—approximately ten miles south of the Grand Canyon—and I noticed what appeared to be satellites in the sky—first a few, then many. They had the appearance of fireflies in the night sky. The indi-

I AM NOT  
A UFO FANATIC. I  
AM, HOWEVER,  
AN UNWILLING  
PARTICIPANT  
CAUGHT IN THE  
WEB OF THE  
ABDUCTION EXPERIENCE. I AM  
WILLING TO WORK  
WITH ANY  
REPUTABLE PERSONS  
IN AN ATTEMPT  
TO GAIN KNOWLEDGE IN THIS  
AREA. I AM WILLING  
TO OPENLY  
TELL MY FAMILY'S  
STORY.

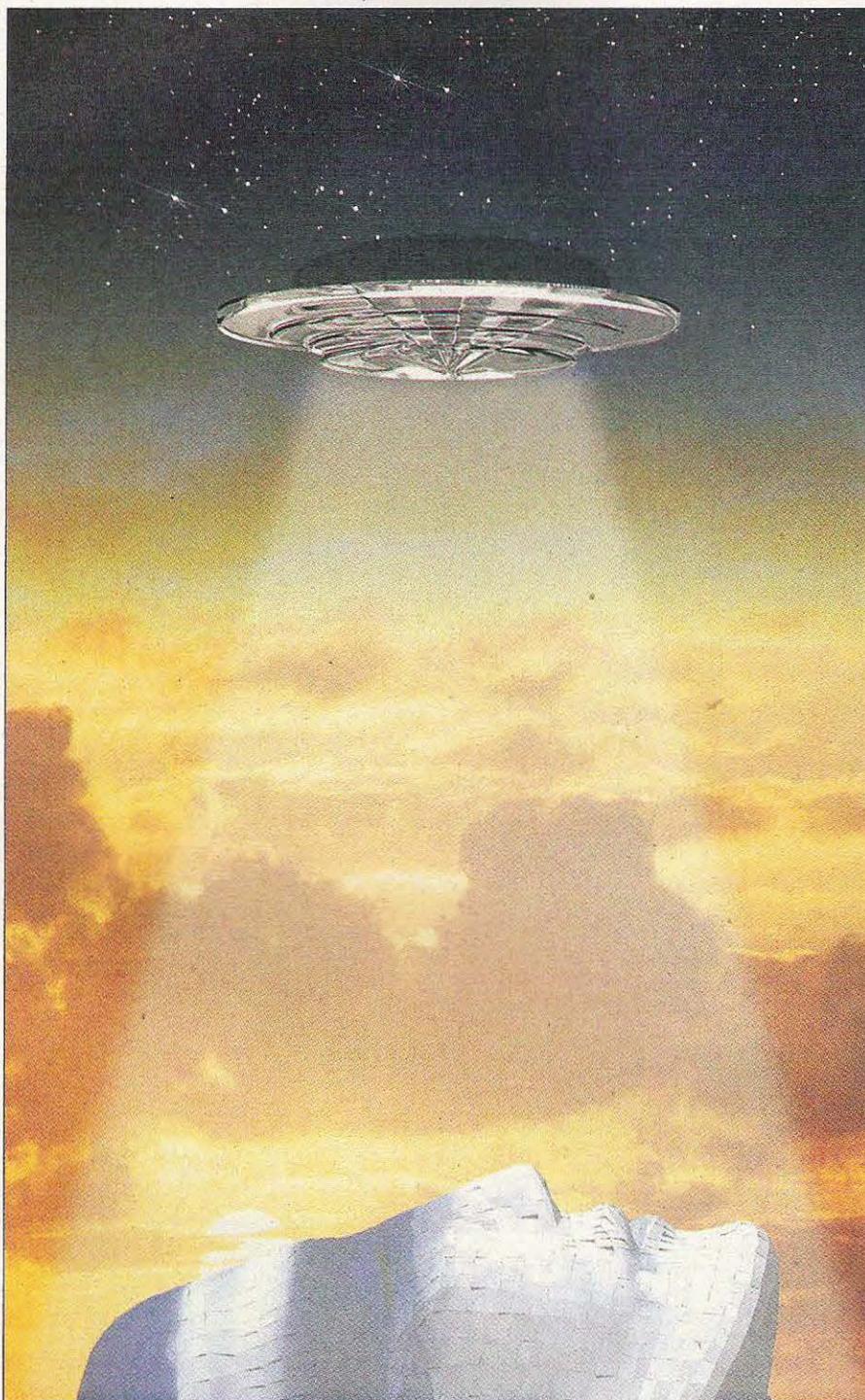
vidual lights began to "jockey for position" moving up and down at 90 degree angles. They suddenly became huge and formed a great stacked formation in the sky—then slowly moved across the sky keeping their formation.

My girlfriend and I were both watching this incredible event and both agreed that "these were definitely UFOs." Unfortunately the highway was empty at the time, it was approximately 9:00 p.m. I intuitively felt a connection with the event and feel that a letter *M* was being created, which is my first initial.

About three months after the event I was walking down Fifth Avenue and 23rd Street, intensely remembering the experience. For some reason I looked up, there were two objects hovering far above the Empire State Building. They hovered there for about 45 minutes.

During both events I was stone cold sober and I am absolutely not prone to hallucinations. The first event was witnessed by two totally awake, sober, intelligent, college educated individuals. I have been left with a deep feeling of anger for any skepticism concerning UFOs, but understand that unless someone actually sees them, they will probably be skeptical.

Marshall Jacobowitz  
New York, NY



# UFO CRIME LAB



ARTICLE BY  
PATRICK HUYGHE

If UFO abductions are real, there should be real evidence for them. That simple premise has led Victoria Alexander, a writer and UFO researcher in Santa Fe, to advocate the use of crime-scene investigative techniques to obtain evidence in UFO abduction cases. "After all," she says, "crimes are supposedly being committed. The aliens are accused of unlawful entries, kidnappings, assaults, and rapes. So I think it's time we start looking at the typical bedroom abduction as a police crime-scene unit would."

Alexander's interest in a forensic approach grew out of her frustration over the lack of physical evidence in abduction cases, the helplessness of the victims, and the apparent willingness of many UFO researchers to simply accept such stories as true. Though the crime lab approach has never been proposed—let alone attempt-

ed—in two decades of UFO abduction investigations, Alexander felt it was the next logical step.

"Since the vast majority of abductees claim the aliens are humanoid, not robots," she argues, "there should be biological and chemical traces of their presence. If these are real events, if the aliens are real, if contact is taking place, there has to be real evidence for it—latent fingerprints, fungi, particles, whatever. It's a basic tenet of criminalistics that when any two items come in contact there will be an exchange of microscopic particles."

But the only way to gather such evidence, Alexander realizes, is to recruit the cooperation of "conscious repeaters," those people who claim to be abducted over and over again and remember it the next morning. The first thing they should do is take a urine sample, she says. "Lab tests of urine should show if the body has undergone any stress. And if the abductee wakes up with a bloody nose, they should keep a sample of that, too, for later analysis."

Otherwise, anything the aliens have come in contact with—any part of the abductee's clothes they may have touched, any portion of bedroom floor or carpet they may have walked over—might yield tangible evidence: hair, secretions, prints, or particles from

their skin, clothes, or craft.

Alexander is calling on abductees to collect this evidence themselves. "There is not an emergency room in the country that is going to say 'Oh, you've been raped by aliens? Let's run some tests,'" she notes. "No police department is going to believe such a story and go through your place with a fine-toothed comb. Abductees have to do it themselves. And UFO investigators can help. It has to start this way. Then, later, maybe we can attract the help of professionals."

Thomas Van Valkenburgh, bureau chief of the Department of Public Safety's crime lab at the New Mexico State Police headquarters in Santa Fe, finds Alexander's suggestion feasible. "We should be able to use forensic techniques in this situation," he says, "though I have a problem with people doing their own crime scene because they are not trained." He admits, however, that since some police bureaus may turn down requests, people "are probably going to have to do it themselves, at least at first."

The reaction to Alexander's proposal in the UFO community has been generally positive. "I think it's great," says John Carpenter, director of abduction research for the Mutual UFO Network, "if it's done properly. My main concern is who is doing it and how well

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PARTICLES  
FROM THEIR SKIN,  
CLOTHING,  
OR SPACECRAFT.**



it's done. Having the abductees do it themselves might stir up new claims of hoaxing and improper procedure. Ideally, it should be done by an outsider."

Temple University historian David Jacobs, author of *Secret Life: Firsthand Accounts of UFO Abductions*, also gives the proposal a thumbs-up. "Any effort to gather evidence is worth doing," he says, though he doubts the aliens have fingerprints, based on the reports he has from abductees who have seen their captors' fingers close-up.

Victoria Alexander is now working on a manual describing collection protocols, and she's designing a kit to be used by abductees and investigators. "We have to at least make the attempt," she continues. "Even if it all fails, if the prints are sloppy or don't come out. At least we will be changing the abductees' mind-set about the experience. I want them to stop thinking of themselves as victims and start thinking about trying to find an answer. Doing this has to change their whole experience. This sort of participation should empower them."

Skeptics, not surprisingly, tend to regard such proposals as futile. "In my opinion," says Philip J. Klass, "if abductions were fact and not fantasy, we would have had impressive evidence a long, long time ago." **☐**