

TUFOIC NEWSLETTER

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INTEREST AT A HIGH

Interest in the UFO phenomena it seems is at a high level. Recent television programs, newspaper items, general enquires from the public about the Centre and the UFO subject, plus the recent opening in Hobart of the "UFO Connection", a business venture that is aimed at collecting sightings from the public. All this has given the phenomena more than its normal exposure. However at the time of writing the UFO "drought" in Tasmania continues, the past twelve months producing just two Nocturnal Lights sightings. According to sceptics the recent added publicity for the phenomena should have seen a wave of UFO reports!

The first lights cases occurred in April at Strahan and was covered in our mid-year Newsletter. The second case which is still under investigation was reported within minutes of the sighting on August 9th at 6.30 pm. The Glenorchy report involved three witnesses who were able to provide accurate detail of the sighting. A yellow upright pencil shaped light was noticed in the North Western sky. From beneath the pencil there appeared to be sparks or lights falling for a short distance before they went out. The object passed over at a high elevation moving steadily away to the South East before fading from view into the distance. The incident lasted some one and a half minutes. Immediate checks were made for any aircraft movements but to date no air traffic has been located in the area.

Some older cases have also come to the Centre's attention, an auto stop report at Glen Huon dating from 1968, a daylight disc seen near Anthill Ponds in 1969, and erratic lights over Mt Wellington in May of 1980, more on these cases in future publications.

Guest Editorial: JUST CAUS NEWSLETTER (Citizens Against UFO Secrecy- USA)

Recently several persons have expressed their dissatisfaction to us about UFO research. "It seems like everyone has their own ideas about what UFOs are and it is all very confusing," said one. "There is so much controversy that it is difficult for an outsider to tell fact from fiction," said another. "The politics of UFO research seems to be incredibly bizarre," added a third.

The fact is that there are new people taking an interest in UFOs who are not familiar with the rather convoluted history many of us have lived with for decades. And it is a chore for one to comprehend not only the phenomenon but the people in it. The best sources of information tend not to be easily available anymore and costs have risen to a point where some UFO books make one decide whether having it is worth a week of meatloaf for supper or a weekend of the Three Stooges on TV instead of going to a ball game.

It is beyond the scope of this commentary to launch into a primer on the UFO field. However a few suggestions can be made without involving a reference work or quoting a prominent person with a history of UFO interest.

Contributions appearing in this Newsletter do not necessarily reflect the policy of the Tasmanian UFO Investigation Centre. TUFOIC, PO Box 99, Nth Hobart 7002.

1) There is no such thing as a "UFO EXPERT." If one says he/she is, doubt it. If someone says he/she is, doubt it. How can one be a UFO expert if they do not know what UFOs are, who's in them, where they come from, or why they are here? If they do claim to know any one or all of these things, they are either careless for not being able to offer proof of their extraordinary statements, preaching from a religious viewpoint instead of a scientific one in choosing to "believe" rather than considering information on its merits, or just plain lying for personal gain, self-gratification; etc. Judge UFO information by how logical and sensible it is, not by who says it. Don't be so overwhelmed by emphasis on one's credentials or affiliations that you accept their statements at face value, without question. Often a close examination of information from a supposed authority reveals that it is no more credible than your Aunt Hortense's speculations on Relativity Theory (unless your Aunt Hortense has done a lot of reading!). Flawed information from self-appointed authorities become ingrained in many individual minds from sheer force of personality, personality that shields their failings behind a facade of intellectual superiority.

2) Carve your own niche. If you decide to pursue an interest in UFO research, make sure you learn much about the world around you first. Handled properly, a UFO interest can motivate self-education in astronomy, meteorology, psychology and a host of other areas. Unlike what some pundits have said in the past, being into UFOs doesn't always send people off onto wrong pathways. In fact it probably generates as many people who become channeled into serious, hard-knowledge fields as it does ding-a-lings. Ideally, a society that is increasingly inclined to one-dimensional thinking and stereotyping will recognize that being interested in space mysteries does not always equate with eccentricity and instability. It is up to you how others will eventually perceive it.

3) You are not a "little person." You come into the UFO subject with a great deal of enthusiasm. You desire to contribute to the resolution of a long-standing mystery. Confronting you are prolific authors, "Whirling-Dervish" investigators, high-intensity personalities and groupie-like hangers-on, all from the high and low end of the likeability scale. Trying to fathom all of this seems impossible and you question whether you can after all contribute anything in such a marketplace of obscure and fantastic information.

Remember that they all started the same way, from a complete lack of knowledge of the UFO phenomenon. You have to build your background slowly, patiently. You must regard yourself as being as good as anyone else in pursuing UFOs. As previously stated, there are no experts so don't idol-worship UFOlogists. Respect them if they are honest and truth-seeking and follow such an ideal yourself. Hold untruth, chicanery, exaggeration, pretentiousness, pomposity and greed in great disregard and express such in a way that will discourage others from wanting to pursue those negative attributes. Then you know you will be an important contributor to improving our knowledge.

Welcome to the UFO field!

Worldwide UFO Data Bases
UFOCAT (USA)
Project URD (Sweden)
UNICAT (USA, replaced UFOCAT)
WAURLD (Belgium)

National UFO Data Bases
UFODATA (Denmark)
UFOCOMFILE (UFO Computer
FILE, Australia)
UFODOC (Holland)
TASCAT (TASmania catalogue of
UFO events, Tasmania, Australia)
BUFORA Computer Project (The
United Kingdom)
LFOBANK (Italy)
BECASSINE (France)
ARGENCAT (ARGENTinian
CATalogue, Argentina)
COMPITACAT (COMPuterized
ITACAT, Italy)

Fresh crop of circle hoaxers

★ LONDON — The cream of Britain's crop circle hoaxers did battle yesterday displaying their craft in a bid to win \$7686 for the best fake.

In a competition organised by landowner Edward Dashwood, a dozen teams worked through the night on fields hired out for the event in West Wycombe, Buckinghamshire.

They used baseball bats, pipes, ladders and planks to forge their work.

CROP CIRCLE CHAOS

If you were thinking, like me, that you hadn't heard much about the crop circles this year, here's the reason why!

Apparently the season got off to a good start with a couple of very intricate pictograms, (one like a snail, which after you've read this, could be seen as indicative of how fast we are progressing as a species.)

It would seem that a national pastime has caught on along the lines of "Lets test out the believers " and every man and his dog are out there creating the most intricate circles and then casting the bait to see if any body will pronounce it "Real" whilst the "Con- Artists" wait in the wings.

If all that wasn't enough, some commercial enterprise is running an advertising campaign throughout England in the form of a Crop Circle Hoaxing Competition!!!

What can I say except that I can almost see the intelligence behind the "Real" circles shaking its head.

It's embarrassing being an Earthling sometimes.

Anne Fellowes.

STOP PRESS....Dark Shapes and Rumours.

You should be reading Douglas Lockhart's Book Review here, however, it has been overrun by tales of dark shapes and rumours. Initially on Sunday September 13th we received many calls from George Town to Hobart of something blazing across the sky near 9.10pm. When all the calls were in, it would appear that space junk or a meteor had burnt up all over the state. Witnesses described seeing a bright light to their north, which then broke up into a number of lights with tails and sparks as they crossed the eastern sky. The duration of the reports were from 10 seconds to well over 30 seconds.

Then on the Tuesday two rumours reached the Centre, one via the UFO Connection, the other from the Mercury. The story was that a cigar-shaped something had been seen from Australian Airlines Flight 405 in Hobart at 1pm on Monday (14th). Telephone contacts with Civil Aviation & Australian Airlines all proved fruitless. A press release was run on the Wednesday but again no witnesses to the alleged event surfaced, although more calls came in about the Sunday "burn up".

Amongst the reports, though, was one about a dull cylinder object seen on the Sunday night from near Bronte. Two witnesses watched for over 5 minutes as the object, with a number of small lights nearby, crossed the sky to the east. As it moved away the lights merged with the main cylinder and it disappeared. Another dark rocket shape was seen at Bridgewater on the Monday afternoon. It was heading south. Both cases are under investigation.

VUFORS June 1992. No other information is available on this sighting.

27 1 92 Three witnesses camping at Friendly Beach, Freycinet Peninsular, East Coast Tasmania. It was dusk when the observers sighted a bright object move very quickly from north to south. The object consisted of approximately 6 separate bright lights. It disappeared behind cloud covering soon after sighting. At time of sighting it was dusk, but still light enough to see clouds and no stars were visible. Very soon after we looked up to see what to us looked like a round disc consisting of approximately 9 separate lights. The distinct separate bright lights every 1-2 seconds, dimmed then brightened again.

Aliens are on the take . . .

BARBARA NOVOVITCH reports from New York . . .

Alien beings have repeatedly snatched humans from earth to conduct breeding experiments, according to a book of interviews with those who say they were abducted.

In *Secret Life — Firsthand Accounts of UFO Abductions*, David Jacobs, a Temple University professor whose speciality is 20th century US history, acknowledges the bizarre nature of the evidence he presents, more often the stuff of sensationalistic tabloids dismissed as bunk by most serious scientists.

But he said in a recent interview that "down to the most precise detail," the 60 abductees' stories of more than 300 incidents are remarkably similar, and he has found no reason to disbelieve them.

"What we have here is an enormous number of people saying unbelievably incredible things, things that fly in the face of reason, yet all their stories are the same, down to the most precise detail," Jacobs said.

Dr John Mack, a Harvard University Medical School professor who plans his own book on the subject, said in a foreword to Jacobs' book: "Population surveys suggest that hundreds of thousands and possibly more than a million persons in the United States alone may be abductees."

Dr Mack, a psychiatrist, said he had worked with some 40 people who have had these experiences.

Far from being close encounters with benign beings, as imagined by fiction writers or screen directors, the abductees in Jacobs' book describe their experiences as "horrendous, heart-rending, a daily dose of pain."

They tell of being abducted usually at night from their beds, when they are physically lifted by a beam of light to an unidentified flying object, disrobed and physically examined from feet to head, with particular emphasis on the genitals.

One of the first popular accounts of UFO abduction was published by *Look Magazine* in 1966: the story of Betty Hill and her husband, Barney, who said they were abducted in 1961.

The Hills said they were subjected to a physical examination aboard the space craft. That incident became the subject of a book by John Fuller, which in turn became *The UFO Incident*, a 1975 television film.

EXAMINER 10/7/92.

12-4-92

UFO experts check Wivenhoe

UNIDENTIFIED flying object experts are investigating a possible sighting near the Wivenhoe Dam in the Brisbane Valley.

A spokesman for the UFO Research (Qld) Flying Saucer Reports, Dr Martin Gottschall, said seven campers had

seen three yellow lights in the sky about 3am on Sunday.

The lights were said to have held steady for several minutes just above the horizon, before one descended and the others dimmed and disappeared.

"We checked the area

in the morning and found nothing."

About 100 sightings are reported each year.

Dr Gottschall said most were lights moving across the sky but when the lights converged or crossed the same point in the sky it was more likely to be a UFO.

Words fly in UFO Inc

RECENT sightings of a new body of so-called UFO experts in the Brisbane press have led to the outbreak of a very earthy war of the words.

Members of UFO Research Queensland, which claims to have operated under the name since 1956 and boasts a membership of more than 200 worldwide, have been outraged by the appearance of a new group of spacewatchers incorporated under the same name.

According to the chair of the "official" UFORQ, Sheryl Demichelis, the group had been trying to incorporate it-

self but was pipped at the post by an alienated former member.

The rebel group, believed to have a membership of seven, has demanded Demichelis's group cease using the name. It has refused and is seeking legal advice on the matter.

In the meantime, the group without the Inc has issued a press release warning that the rebels are not competent to deal with any UFO investigations.

No doubt they also have their fingers crossed that any pending extra-terrestrial visits will be postponed until the matter has been resolved.

AUSTRALIAN 10/8/92

Our say News

Were we visited?

LOCAL people can take their pick of reasons put forward to explain the many sightings of UFOs in the area last weekend.

Space junk, meteors and flashing lights have all been noted as possible explanations for the strange sightings.

One thing is clear. Something was going on.

There were too many reported sightings to simply dismiss them as hallucinations or the ramblings of a few.

The two ends of the spectrum in the UFO debate are those who believe wholeheartedly and those who totally dismiss the idea.

Most people have beliefs which fall somewhere between those two.

"They might exist but I'll believe in them when I see them," is a common response.

The fact is that many people on the weekend did see them, or at least believe they did.

Those people, indeed the whole community, would like to know what they did witness.

It may well be there is a perfectly logical explanation.

In fact, this would be the likely outcome of any thorough probe.

But until such an investigation is carried out, there will remain a niggling doubt in the minds of many.

Albert & Logon News - May 6th 1992

6 — SUNDAY EXAMINER, December 8, 1991

Near miss of earth by space object

★ TUCSON, Arizona — A mystery space object swooped within 460,000km from earth early yesterday — an astronomical "near miss" — but astronomers still aren't sure what it was.

Asteroid-watchers at the University of Arizona hope a radar observation next week will confirm their belief that it was an asteroid rather than space junk. The object passed on a swing by the South Pole.