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An Open Letter to UFOlogy

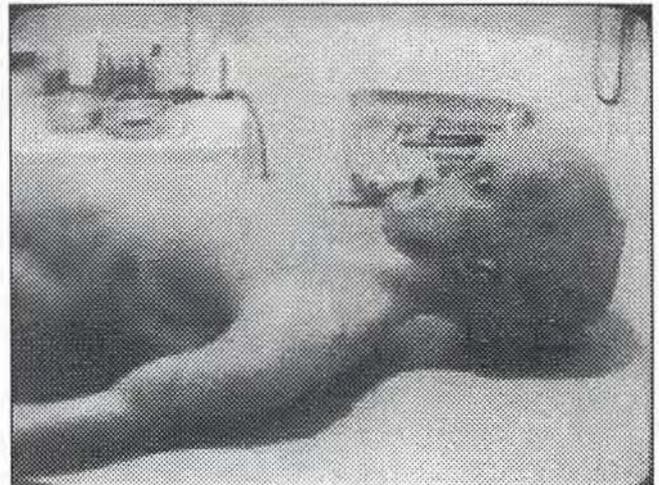
by Paul Fuller

Co-Editor "The New UFOlogist"

I have decided to post this statement because of the important issues which are currently being discussed and because of the likely effect recent developments may have on the world-wide perception of UFO research. This is my own personal statement, not an official statement from "The New UFOlogist" or any other research group (I resigned from BUFORA in September 1993).

Contrary to claims I have seen posted on this newsgroup I would like to stress that I have been investigating UFO reports since 1980 and I still believe that a small percentage of those reports represent what Allen-Hynek once described as "novel new phenomena". Over the past few months I have spent a great deal of time watching the latest developments over the alleged "Roswell" autopsy film and trying to find out the truth. In the past I have often been dismayed at the irresponsible actions of some UFO researchers, but for once I think we can hold up our heads and say that most UFO researchers have adopted a proper, sceptical attitude towards this issue. Please note that a whole series of internationally renowned UFOlogists have publicly dismissed the film as a fake. This list includes Kent Jeffrey, Stanton Friedman, Kevin Randle, Jenny Randles, Graham Birdsall, - even some of BUFORA's officers seem to have their doubts! In all my years of UFO investigation and research I have never seen UFOlogists unite in this way before - and I have never seen them so angry either.

Whatever the truth of the matter the Roswell case does not deserve to be sullied by the promotion of this



Santilli's released pictures (Internet)

autopsy film. Over the past two months we have seen some pretty damning evidence emerge which must cause considerable doubt about the film's authenticity. Here are some of the things which should make us all highly suspicious of the film:-

1) According to the Winter 1995 edition of Colin Andrews' newsletter, "The prestigious Royal Society in London agreed to assist with their high-tech. computer enhancement facility. Apparently results from computer enhancement were good and Ray Santilli said they only had a few more films to complete. He said that he had viewed all that had been developed and was confident of its authenticity."

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**Ontario
Digitized
Photos of
UFOs**

EDITORIAL WORDS

ABOUT THE NEW FORMAT

by Drew Williamson

As you will have noticed with this month's issue, the quality of paper and printing has been radically changed. The primary reason for this is the costs involved in printing a publication like ours, specifically, paper costs. The price of paper on which the newsletter has been printed up until now has skyrocketed. In addition to this, a clerical error contributed to the low cost we have been receiving up until now. The result is that the subscription fee we originally charged will not be nearly enough to cover costs for this year's remaining issues.

This sudden change in cost has left us with two options; abandon the newsletter or reduce its quality.

Rather than the undesirable option of abandoning the newsletter altogether we have elected to print on lesser quality paper for the few remaining issues. This means that in the new year if we wish to return to our original quality of printing there will have to be a increase in the cost for the newsletter. This would amount to a \$30 per year subscription fee and should be hammered down to a specific price before the last issue.

We would be very interested to hear your comments regarding this matter and if the additional cost would be acceptable to our readership.

Please contact us with your views at:
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Some UFO Home Pages

<http://erau.db.erau.edu:80/~elston/IUFOG/>
<http://www.westnet.com/~teack/ufo.html>
<http://valley.interact.nl/av/kiosk/sse/home.html>
<http://www.protree.com/vjentpr/ufos.html>
<http://ernie.bgsu.edu/~jzawodn/ufo/>
<http://www.ee.umanitoba.ca/~laurent/Disks/ORTK/ork.html>
<http://www.aloha.com:80/~k/ufo/ufo.html>
<http://www.protree.com/vjentpr/rfilmimg.html>

RECENT ONTARIO INVESTIGATIONS

by *Drew Williamson*

MUFON Ontario was involved in a couple of investigations in southern Ontario over the summer. The following include excerpts from the MUFON sighting reports written by this investigator.

The first was from the Georgetown area on June 23 when 5 people witnessed a triangular-shaped object at 11:30 PM. They were going for a nighttime walk on a quiet country lane when one of the witnesses saw three lights similar to an aircraft's landing headlights heading north towards them with no sound. Nigel said it was just an airplane to which the other witnesses said it wasn't. Nigel walked south on Fallbrook Trail to get out from under the foliage which largely blocks the view of the sky at this point on the road. Nigel then became distracted by a sound that was coming from the bushes to the west of Fallbrook Trail. They had heard this sound earlier but had paid little attention to it. Nigel described it as a high pitch lowering to a much lower pitch similar to what one would here in "a science fiction movie". When the craft was overhead it made a very loud roar similar to "standing under a 747 when it is landing". They were still able to hear the sound coming from the forest which Nigel had felt was very unusual. (Nigel is a former employee of MacDonal Douglas.) At this same time the underside could be seen along with many lights of different colours (red, blue yellow?). Nigel said he could see the surface of the craft near where the lights were emanating which he described as "freshly cut tungsten". After the craft had passed overhead there again was no sound, however the sound in the forest continued for awhile. The size of the craft was described as being approximately 1/3 the diameter of the moon. It appeared to be boomerang or delta shaped with no fuselage visible. He was busy consoling his son who was quite upset and crying, and did not see the craft after this.

As is often the case, the lack of time and manpower resulted in this case not being thoroughly investigated. I did investigate the possibility of this being an aircraft from a nearby airport but found that no aircraft of this size or type lands there. This area is also near the Toronto airport and its flight approach and landing lanes and so the possibility of this being an aircraft can't

be excluded, however it doesn't explain the unusual lights seen on the bottom of the craft by Mr. Smith.

The second case has some similarities to the first as you will see, and occurred two months later on August 23 between 1:30 and 2:30 AM south of Hamilton. The following is my sighting account again from the MUFON report which I prepared.

Mrs. Harvey, who is in her eighties and visiting from England, was staying at her sons' residence woke early on the morning of Aug. 23, 1995 and observed through her bedroom window a very bright light through the trees approximately 1 kilometer distant and NW of her position. The light then slowly moved in her direction until it had passed over the house. Mrs. Harvey said the light emanating from the object was so bright as to illuminate the ground as if it were daylight. At this point from a window on the east side of the house, Mrs. Harvey observed that approximately over RR 9 it stopped then took off rapidly to the NE thereby describing a 'V' shaped flight path. According to Mr. Harvey she described the shape of the light as triangular and had heard a "whooshing" sound as the object passed overhead.

This case was more thoroughly investigated by myself and Joe Ingino, a publisher of an Oshawa newspaper who was tagging along to see just how these sightings are investigated. We discovered that no one else in the immediate vicinity had witnessed anything unusual that night. However the owner of a small airstrip, the Seneca Aero Club, said that Mrs. Harvey was describing exactly the flight path used by aircraft from the nearby Hamilton airport at Mount Hope. This was confirmed by talking with the Office of the Control Tower the next day who said that they had 7 flights during the period of 1:30 AM to 2:30 AM on Aug 23, 1995; 3 arrivals and 4 departures. The aircraft ranged from light twin engine to 737s and 727s. They also confirmed that they use the flight path described by the Seneca Aero Club operator.

It would seem that given the age and state of alertness after having just awoken, could possibly explain the discrepancies between this being a UFO and a conventional aircraft. It is impossible to be 100% sure this was an aircraft, but given the coincidence of the flight path and the path stated by the witness it seems most probable. This is often the case with investigations, having to balance common sense with wishful thinking, but it is a balance we should be duty-bound to if we are to be scientific in our approach.

Open letter - Continued from page 1

I have a letter from the Royal Society dated 12 June 1995 which states "Thank you for your letter of 8 June. The Royal Society does not have a 'high-tech computer enhancement facility' for films. Any claim that the Society agreed to assist in enhancing the film is without foundation."

2) At present we have not the slightest proof that an authentic 1947 film even exists, let alone that it shows what Mr Santilli claims that it shows. Mr Santilli, in a statement dated June 2nd, appears to believe that he has documentary proof that the film has been authenticated by Kodak as proven 1947 film stock. As Mr Santilli himself admits, even this would not be proof that the film really did show the autopsy of dead aliens at Roswell in 1947. On 28 June I spoke to Nick Fielding at the "Mail on Sunday" newspaper and he told me that he had again spoken to Peter Milson at Kodak and again Kodak had denied this crucial claim. Why ?

I am curious that Mr Santilli should offer documentary proof of this claim to two people (John Ratcliffe and Michael Hesemann) and then deny them the opportunity of publishing the name of the Kodak employee who, apparently, has authenticated the age of the film. I challenge Mr Santilli to put this documentary proof up on the WWW immediately. I respectfully request John and Michael to tell us whether or not they have spoken to the Kodak employee named on the document and whether or not they have established that this Kodak employee is qualified to make the statement he is alleged to have made.

3) At present we have not the slightest proof that the camera-man who allegedly took this film exists. It is not good enough to claim that the cameraman has insisted on anonymity and that Mr Santilli has seen documentary confirmation of his alleged background. Again I challenge Mr Santilli to put on the WWW specific information about the camera-man which can be verified by independent researchers. Now that the name of this alleged camera-man has been widely published I am surprised to see that Mr Santilli has not denied the name in order to protect the camera-man. This seems a very strange way to treat someone who - allegedly - is very much in fear of retribution by the US authorities for stealing their film.

Since this camera-man is the most-important-person in the world with regard to this film I would have thought that Mr Santilli would have

immediately denied the name of this person in a statement.

4) According to some messages posted in this newsgroup Dr Chris Milroy has provided "the official Home Office pathology report". This is not true. I have a letter dated 13 June 1995 from Rob Smith, Senior Information Officer at the Home Office at 50 Queen Anne's Gate, London, SW1H 9AT. In this letter Smith states "Your letter of 10 June refers to a 'senior Home Office pathologist'. This is media shorthand for pathologists who are accredited by the Home Office.

They are not employees of the Home Office and we therefor do not speak for them." I have learnt that Dr Milroy has been paid money to produce this report and has honourably paid this money to a local charity.

I find it interesting that in his response to a question put to him during a conference on the MUFON Encounters Forum on June 24 Mr Santilli speaks about bringing in five medical experts from London, Paris and Rome who "confirmed that the creatures are real and possibly not human in addition". This is a quite remarkable statement given the available evidence. Nowhere in Dr Chris Milroy's report does he describe the entity on the film as a "creature". Neither does he suggest that the entity is not human. I challenge Mr Santilli to post the names and addresses of the other four "medical experts" cited in this conference and the contents of their autopsy reports so that researchers can verify what he is claiming on their behalf. Again in my conversation with Nick Fielding of the "Mail on Sunday" he reported that Dr Milroy was not suggesting that the entities seen on his portion of the film were extra-terrestrial, something George Wingfield confirmed in an earlier post. I have written to the Chancellor of Sheffield University (my old university) to verify why Dr Milroy has allowed such an unfortunately worded statement to be posted on the net and whether or not he intends to clarify his statement.

5) Numerous claims about the emergence of the film have now been made in various newsgroups on the internet by those closely involved in the promotion of this film. Many of these claims can be shown to contradict each other. Others - such as the claim that the Archbishop of Canterbury had viewed the film in private - have been denied (see "Fortean Times" issue 81 page 43). One of the most suspicious claims is that in 1947 the US government had in its possession the most

Continued on page 14

UFOLOGY IN CANADA Past, Present & Future

by *David Haisell*

Presented to BUFORA's 2nd London International
UFO Congress,
London, England, May 25, 1981.

Part Three

Four weeks after the House of Commons fiasco an ironic, or as some might venture to suggest, humorous, twist occurred, which, although never publicly revealed, was the subject of an RCMP report which is now filed at the Hertzberg Institute of Astrophysics, Planetary Sciences Section, National Research Council, Non-meteoritic sighting file, N69-077. Reminiscent of the famed alleged UFOs sighted in restricted air space over Washington, D.C., in 1952, this Canadian event involved UFOs spotted directly over Parliament Hill and over the Prime Minister's residence on Sussex Drive in Ottawa.

The RCMP Constable who first spotted the UFOs on the evening of March 4th, 1969 from his station at the Privy Council door stated, "At 7:45 p.m., an object was seen from Parliament Hill, going through the sky at a terrific rate of speed, heading from south to north. This object stopped and appeared to hover in the sky over Hull (a city on the other side of the Ottawa River). It gradually moved in a northwest direction and at 9:34 p.m. disappeared from view."

Six more RCMP officers stationed at various positions around the Parliament buildings also watched the same object and reported it to National Defense authorities at the Royal Canadian Air Force Uplands Base. Incredibly, the RCAF Captain to whom they spoke told them "he would not be taking any active action concerning the object". (The names of the persons involved are in the quoted report, but one condition of public access to this file is that witness names not be revealed publicly.)

Thirty minutes later another RCMP Constable reported two UFOs hovering above Sussex Drive between the Prime Minister's residence and the Governor-General's house. The witness reported, "At approximately 10:00 p.m., while on foot patrol from the police lodge at Government House to the

Prime Minister's residence, I noticed two rather bright flashing red lights in the sky. At first glance, I assumed they were aircraft, but could hear no sounds of engines. One of these lights proceeded east and was lost from view within a minute or less, while the other one travelled in a westerly direction. The lights were first seen directly overhead at a point slightly inside the gates to Government House and were very bright red. No definite shape could be distinguished nor was there any type of trail visible behind these lights."

The same lights were spotted by two other RCMP constables on Parliament Hill. As soon as it appeared overhead it shot straight down toward the river as if it were going to crash. Just before impact it suddenly reversed direction shooting back up into the sky where it performed a 90 degree turn and disappeared.

These activities lead one to speculate that the UFOs, almost apathetically (or otherwise) brushed off by the House of Commons a few weeks before, were trying to make a point. If that was the case, the point was re-emphasized three months later on the evening of June 5, when three Parliament Hill RCMP constables and three tourists spotted a luminous craft hovering over the Ottawa River behind the Parliament Buildings. They watched the object emit a range of various colours as it changed from red to green to red again and then to white. (40) Then security officials on Parliament Hill became concerned when, according to the RCMP, "At 10:10 p.m., all the lights on Parliament Hill - East, West and Centre Blocks - went out. Mr. L.T. of Ontario Hydro was notified, but he said the cause could not be ascertained at the time." (41) There is no record of whether the cause was ever determined.

Because Parliament Hill was now in darkness it was easier to see the UFO which was travelling eastward in a strange up and down motion. As it reached a point across the river from the Prime Minister's residence it stopped, remained motionless for five minutes or so, lights flashing on and off and then "proceeded west of Hull at an altitude of approximately a thousand feet and came across the river in the Ottawa area and disappeared from view behind high buildings on Wellington Street at about 10:35 p.m. All this while, the object was of no discernible shape". (42) The same witnesses again saw a bright luminous object to the south of Ottawa twenty minutes later, accompanied by a second smaller object 500 or so feet below it, but it was not certain this was the

same UFO spotted before. The object hovered another 15 minutes and then disappeared.

The final incident in this series of post-debate sightings took place on the morning of July 20. An employee of the National Research Council was on her way to work when she spotted an orange oval-shaped object hovering over her. It then darted noiselessly across the Ottawa River, stopping directly above the Parliament Buildings where it remained motionless for several minutes. Then with a sudden burst of speed it disappeared. This UFO was spotted by many Ottawa and Hull residents, one a police officer, and NRC was swamped with calls. NRC did not conduct an investigation because they had insufficient information. (43) They seemed to forget that one conducts investigations to acquire information.

This is not the only time UFOs made an appearance in Ottawa. Wilbert Smith reported seeing small metallic discs hovering outside various houses where meetings on the UFO subject were taking place during the 1950s. Upon leaving one such meeting one day he saw a disc, metallic in appearance and three to four feet in diameter, suddenly appear from a ditch at the foot of the front garden and speed rapidly away in a vertical direction. A couple of years ago, in a personal conversation, Smith's son, Jim, who is still living in Ottawa, related to me an incident which he witnessed himself as a child during his father's investigative period. Jim was leaving his house through the front door one day when he noticed a metallic-looking disc hovering in the branches of a tree on the front lawn. He stood motionless, watching it for a few minutes, feeling that it was watching him. Then it suddenly shot straight up into the sky at an incredible speed without a sound. The leaves which had been close to the object were charred and wilted. According to Jim these "mini-UFOs", as he called them, were prevalent in the neighbourhood during the time of his father's research, and quite often their neighbours used to complain about burnt lawns and shrubbery. Wilbert Smith referred to these craft as "monitors", feeling they were listening in on what took place at their meetings.

Smith's son, who is a leading member of his community in Ottawa, teaches music at both high school and university, and has also been an announcer for CBC radio in Ottawa, does not get involved in the UFO controversy. Their existence, from the results of his father's research and his own observations, is obvious to him he says. What they

are and what they are doing will eventually be known, he speculates, and until such time, he is more concerned with the problems of day-to-day life. There are times when I wish I could be so nonchalant about the issue.

Thusfar, I have presented much evidence to indicate that the government either cannot or will not publicly undertake a serious constructive analysis of the UFO problem. To say they are not interested is ludicrous in view of the information the CIA has been forced to release thanks to recent civilian legal action. We know, in fact, that they are interested, but do not want the public to know of this interest. A CIA memo declassified April 20, 1977, and dated August 1, 1952 on the subject of flying saucers states, "It is recommended that CIA surveillance of subject matter, in coordination with proper authorities of primary operational concern at ATIC, be continued. It is strongly urged, however, that no indication of CIA interest or concern reach the press or public, in view of their probable alarmist tendencies to accept such interest as "confirmatory" of the soundness of "unpublished facts" in the hands of the U.S. government.

Similarly, in a DOT memo dated September 15, 1969, which advised "that the documents reporting the results of the Second Storey (sic!) studies in project "magnet" be declassified," one finds the following comment:

"Since the question of flying saucers is still attracting public attention and since this file (Second Storey) covers documents relating to the studies behind project "Magnet" and, indeed, records much of the discussion in the Department of Transport surrounding project "Magnet" which is confidential in nature, it is recommended that this file be down classified at least to the confidential level. At no time should it be made available to the public."

Are we to infer that as long as there is public interest in UFOs, it is not good policy to indicate there is also government interest? Why not? Could it be that the government does not want us to be aware of their ineptitude in dealing with the phenomenon? Or is it that they have made some astounding discoveries which would throw the public into a panic and perhaps permanently affect the political and economic structure of our world? From previous revelations of government ineptitude, I suspect the former is more likely the case.

One and half years following the aforementioned memo there was an indication that the Canadian government was still studying the UFO problem. In March, 1971, in response to a letter from Canadian ufologist Arthur Bray to Prime Minister Trudeau, the Department of External Affairs replied in part, "The Canadian Government does not underestimate the seriousness of the question of UFOs, and this matter is being kept under consideration and study in a number of departments and agencies." (44) Since there have been no leaks that I know of during the past ten years it would seem that security is much tighter than that which surrounded project "Magnet".

Turning to the civilian study of UFOs in Canada we find the last three decades have been volatile ones, with groups forming and dissolving so frequently that many are never aware of the existence of others until after their demise. Most have been more in the form of social clubs and societies than serious investigative and research groups, being content to collect media reports on alleged UFO incidents and use these as the basis for group discussions at weekly or monthly meetings. There have been a few groups over the years which have hung together for a significant period of time, motivated by either a strong or publicly known leader, or by the occurrence of, and subsequent reverberations from a UFO flap or controversy. One such group was the Ottawa New Sciences Club which came into being as a result of Wilbert Smith's work. In fact, he was associated with the group, and wrote several articles for its publication "Topside". The group persisted several years after his death, but eventually dissolved due to lack of leadership and public interest.

Similarly the Canadian Aerial Phenomena Research Organization was in its heyday around the time of the Michalak affair. The Manitoba Centre for UFO Studies came into being sparked by Dr. Allen Hynek's creation of the Center for UFO Studies in the U.S., as did the UFO Research Centre: Ontario. Both, however, are merely discussion groups. There are similar groups in Vancouver and Edmonton, but neither have the resources nor the motivation for serious UFO research.

A few times in the past, individuals involved in Canadian research have recognized the need for some sort of Canadian unification if progress is ever to be achieved. Brian Cannon tried it in the 1960s with little, if any, success. A group in Ontario called Project SUM (Solving the UFO

Mystery) tried again in the 1970s by initiating the Canadian UFO Report Exchange Network (CUFOREN) wherein participating groups would at least exchange sighting reports. This lasted for about a year, after which exchanges gradually petered out, and Project SUM dissolved, although which came first is difficult to determine. It has been suggested that groups are hesitant to exchange reports with others, and jealously guard their investigations. This may be true, but from what I have seen in Canada it is more a case of one group being embarrassed to report on its investigations to another - embarrassed because of their ineptitude to carry out an effective investigation. There is, of course, the problem of one group not wanting to associate with another because of what the group believes. Some already claim to know what UFOs are, where they are from, and what they are doing here - they are thus not interested in constructive research, merely in convincing others that their ideas are correct. Speculation is fine as long as it does not lead to bias on the part of the speculator, but groups and individuals such as these are displaying out and out bias. Other groups have such contempt for one group or another that they are so quick to jump on the negative aspects of a comment or proposal, that the positive points are not noticed. Constructive criticism is a sign of positive cooperation but destructive criticism has never been an incentive toward collaboration. However, I will have more to say on this in my conclusions.

There are, however, a few bright lights on the horizon, if you'll pardon the metaphor, which are identifiable by their persistent efforts over the years. As a result of the formation of the Provisional International Committee for UFO Research (PICUR) here in London in August of 1979, I faced the task of forming some sort of national body in Canada to interface with PICUR. At the same time, however, I didn't want to form another group because of the horrendous task of coordination this would require in view of the geographic problems I have previously mentioned. Therefore, I decided once again to try to inspire existing groups and individual researchers to cooperate with one another on a national basis, and perhaps form a committee or confederation which would present a unified interface with the international body. With this in mind I contacted sixteen known groups and individuals involved in UFO research in Canada and presented my proposal.

The replies I received, as you can well imagine, ranged from very positive to completely apathetic. However, reading between the lines, the apathy in most cases was a confession of a lack of capability or facilities, rather than a lack of interest. Here is a sample of what I mean.

"Due to other priorities I regret any meaningful contribution is not possible at this time."

"Some years ago we attempted a training program for interested investigators - but found little real interest...For the past few years membership has declined to about a dozen or so; there are at the most 20 regular attendees of meetings. But almost all have only a casual interest. Probably I'm the only one who has devoted a fair amount of time and money to the subject."

"...There is, at present, no one in our organization who has either the time or money to act as a representative in such a project..."

Now, I am at a loss to explain this last comment since I expressly clarified that a group would be a contributor to this project merely by carrying out well-planned, rigorous investigations in accordance with the generally accepted, standardized format. Each group would still maintain complete autonomy. What this latter group was really saying then was that there was no one in their organization who had the time or money to carry out effective UFO research, period. Why does the group exist?

I am happy to announce, however, that on October 1, 1980 Project UFOCAN was officially formed, with the following participating members:

John Musgrave, individual researcher, Edmonton, Alberta
 Ufology Research of Manitoba, Director Chris Rutkowski
 Cambridge UFO Research Group, President Bonnie Wheeler
 Stratford UFO Research Team, Director Pat De la Franier
 U.P. Investigations Research Inc., Director David A. Haisell.

Recently, nuclear physicist Stanton Friedman, a well-known full-time ufologist, has become the sixth member, representing the Canadian Maritime provinces. Currently I am serving as provisional chairman of Project UFOCAN, and as such am representing Canada on the Provisional International Committee for UFO Research, but UFOCAN is organized in such a way that any

participating member may be a representative to PICUR.

UFOCAN is a committee representing the core of UFO research in Canada, and is dedicated to ensuring that input from Canadian groups and individuals is conveyed to PICUR in regard to: establishing standards for an international minimum UFO data base, and for the format and procedures necessary in order to maintain this data base, and to retrieve information from it, and establishing standardized training methods and techniques for field investigation and report preparation.

It will also ensure that information about Canadian UFO events is coordinated and recorded in such a way as is to be determined by PICUR for entry into the international data base, once established. It will further ensure that all standards agreed upon by PICUR regarding international cooperation are conveyed to participating Canadian groups and individual researchers.

As publisher and editor of Journal UFO, I have offered the services of our publication to make UFOCAN and PICUR information available to the general public in order that they be kept up-to-date on the progress of international UFO research.

Because of Canada's geographic size and sparse population density, it is the opinion of UFOCAN that national collaboration is the only route toward progress in our field. In view of the lack of success of individual group efforts in the past, and their often conflicting approaches, it is imperative that they cast aside their differences and learn to work together. The United Nations is not going to lead the way, as was recently made obvious, but a strong international stand on the part of civilian groups may go a long way toward encouraging UN support, or at the very least, UN recognition. But without national cooperation among groups, international cooperation will be very difficult to achieve.

Argentina is another country which has just gone through an exercise similar to ours in Canada. The Argentine Federation for the Study of Extraterrestrial Science is a cooperative project of eighteen organizations in that country. There is a restriction in Argentina requiring groups of fifty or more to be officially registered with the government and thus be subject to surveillance. Most organizations are viewed with suspicion by the government, and this discourages the formation of

large groups, perhaps accounting for the fact that there are so many small groups. The formation of the Federation, in view of these restrictions, is thus an encouraging sign in that country, even if their name, which refers to the Study of Extraterrestrial Science, shows a measure of bias on their part.

Speculating for the moment that some UFOs do represent an extraterrestrial intelligence, in view of the tribal warfare nature of international politics on this planet, why would they want to make contact? Is it not ironic, then, that those responsible for this speculation also exhibit their own version of tribal warfare? UFO research is only going to progress in the hands of those who do cooperate and coordinate their investigations.

We have seen that governments can't do it, although full marks must go to France for her recent efforts. We have seen that individual civilian groups have been flailing away independently for thirty years without much success. The only remaining approach is national and international collaboration. When constructive research is attempted, it attracts the scientific community; and when the scientific community becomes involved, public support is aroused, and when public support is aroused, governments may listen, and cooperate. Then and only then might we get somewhere.

Bertil Kuhlemann has suggested that our first important task is to prove without a doubt that there is indeed a phenomenon to investigate. I suggest that to a certain extent this has already been accomplished in the statistical study to which I previously referred, called Project Blue Book Special Report #14 (BB#14). Unfortunately, the conclusions of the study, namely that "all unidentified aerial objects could have been explained if more observational data had been available" (45) did not accurately reflect the data analyzed in this report. The study analyzed 4000 sighting reports collected between June 1, 1947 and December 31, 1952, and among its many tables of results was one containing a comparison between those sightings labeled as either excellent, good, doubtful or poor, depending on factors such as witness reliability, observing conditions and completeness of report, etc. In the "excellent" category 33.3% were classified as unknowns, while only 4.2% were felt to have had insufficient information. Similarly in the "good" category 24.8% were called unknowns, while only 3.6% had insufficient information. (46) It would seem logical then, that more observational data could only have

been made available with an actual craft retrieval. Could it have been possible that the conclusions were politically motivated? This seems most likely in view of the fact that when the report was finally published in May, 1955, "copies were made available only to the military even though the report was unclassified". (47) Only the conclusions were made available to the media.

With international cooperation, it ought to be possible to repeat this study with a much larger data base, and once and for all demonstrate that we are dealing with a real phenomenon. Our data would of course be publicly available. This may provide the impetus to motivate and mobilize the public support Kuhlemann identifies as imperative to the execution of our cause.

But we must be careful in defining what UFOLOGY is. Let us not forget that our investigations are probably going to reveal many previously unknown or misunderstood natural phenomena. Some of you may be familiar with the work Michael Persinger is doing in Canada in relating severe geological stresses to the discharge of electromagnetic energy which may appear as globes of light, and spark some UFO reports. (48) He is having his own problems convincing his fellow scientists of the validity of his theory, but if he is correct, a number of UFOs will become IFOs, and become a study for geophysicists.

In the same vein some UFO reports may be identifiable as a previously unknown meteorological phenomenon - enter the meteorologist.

For example, our meteorological consultant at U.P. Investigations Research Inc., Gene Duret, is doing some original research in isotropic wave theory and has come up with some startling discoveries. Gene is a graduate in Engineering Physics, and also has a Master's degree in Meteorology. He is currently teaching in the Physics Department at Humber College, where I teach Computer Studies. I asked Gene for a short abstract of his work to include in my paper, and this is what he provided.

"In many problems regarding wave motion, it is sufficient to consider a wave system as a one- or two-dimensional system for all practical purposes. But a wave actually exists in three dimensions, and if it is in mechanical equilibrium, must exert an equal pressure in all directions. Viewed as a method of transferring energy, a wave system must transport energy at the same rate in all directions. A wave on the two-dimensional surface of a fluid

must, for example, develop a third wave in the form of a vertical component, carrying energy into the air at the boundary, where, being in a different medium, it takes on different characteristics.

In many cases of practicable interest, it is possible to channel, guide, or otherwise direct the main energy flow in one direction, while interpreting the energy flow in the other direction in terms of 'losses' requiring no further explanation. If, however, the third wave is examined in detail, it reveals much about the fundamental structure of the waves themselves, and answers some of the mysteries often associated with the motion of certain types of ocean waves.

The energy in the third wave can appear in various guises, depending on the nature of the principal wave system and the media involved. It can appear, for example, in the form of heat, sound or even light, sometimes causing optical and accoustical effects which might often appear to be illusory but which are just as real as the two-dimensional waves with which they are associated. Such efforts are to be expected whenever shearing forces are brought into play by the sliding of one body over another, as when ocean waves are generated by the wind, or earthquakes are generated by slippage in the rock layers in the Earth's crust."

This may help explain a portion of the strangely behaving lights often reported as UFOs, especially over water. There have been many such incidents over Lake Ontario in Canada during the last few years. There may even be a chance that Duret's work may be related to Persinger's, and if it proves correct, will convert another type of UFO to an IFO.

The field may further be reduced if some of T.J. Constable's speculations prove correct, namely that some UFOs are a previously unknown form of high altitude life - enter the biologist. (49, 50)

We are all aware of the parapsychological nature of some UFO encounters - if such encounters are eventually revealed to be purely parapsychological - enter the parapsychologist.

There is suspicion that some reported UFOs are secret test craft of our own design. What better way to secretly test a new technology? With the current attitude toward UFOs who is going to believe you anyway if you sight and report one of these craft? If this proves to be the case, there goes another portion of UFOs becoming IFOs.

All of these possibilities should not upset the ufologist who feels there is an extraterrestrial intelligence behind some UFOs. In fact, they would be a positive sign, rather than a negative one because even now when 90% of all sightings can be explained, the remaining 10% is still an enormous number - and this in itself argues against the extraterrestrial hypothesis unless you want to propose that our planet is the "Grand Central Station" of the Universe. I would speculate that a one percent or fewer unknowns would probably lend more credence to the ET hypothesis.

But if, as some suspect, some UFOs do turn out to be alien space craft - enter the ufologist? Not likely. Try the politician, the military and the scientist. What is left for the ufologist? To say "I told you so."

How about the parallel universe concept? If that proves valid its implications will be staggering, but rather than result in the origin of a new scientific discipline, it will probably extend existing ones.

So at the risk of being accused of shortsightedness, I believe ufology is not a science. It is indeed, a process of analysis - ufologists are the analysts - and must utilize a systematic approach. And while analysis is underway, pre-supposing the result(s) of that analysis is self-defeating. We must not only be careful in defining what ufology is, we must be careful in carrying it out. Anybody who is drawn into ufology with a "golly-gee-whiz-wow!" attitude should seriously reconsider his or her motivation, and if not prepared to become involved in the long, drawn-out, tedious process of analysis, should return to armchair involvement. It is frustrating work, but the rewards could be tremendous.

As Dr. Allen Hynek has speculated, we may be on the edge of a quantum leap in our understanding of the Universe. And since we are an integral part of this Universe, I tend to agree somewhat with Dr. Jacques Vallee who feels that the solution to the whole problem does not lie "in some secret file in Washington. The solution lies where it has always been: within ourselves." (51) Ironically, unless we unite, we may never find that solution. Thank you.

Sources:

(40) Non-Meteoritic Sightings File, op. Cit., N69-104.

(41) *ibid.*

MYSTERIOUS DISAPPEARANCES

by Hugh F. Cochrane

There have been numerous cases where people and things are said to have mysteriously vanished without a trace, often in the presence of credible witnesses. Such incidents have been reported in "abduction cases involving UFOs and in cases where there was no evidence of any alien participation. Mysterious disappearances are also common in the field of parapsychology.

While these reports get wide circulation there is never any follow-up to explain how such an event might occur. If we are to accept these reports as valid, then we must conclude that time, space and matter are far different from what has been revealed in centuries of scientific investigation.

Even so science is not stagnant and the new theories being put forth by reputable scientists reveal that matter is not as "solid" as it seems and is said to be composed of 99% nothingness. One widely accepted theory proposes that there is actually no difference between energy and matter and that matter is simply the result of interactions between complex, spinning energy fields. Others have proposed that time may not be a continuous and unbroken stream and may instead be doled out in individual bits

Curiously enough, some of these beliefs were held to be true by the ancient philosophers who proposed that reality was not what it appeared to be, and that time was composed of discontinuous bits coming one after the other, each bit representing the absolutely smallest bit of time in which no change occurs from beginning to end. In fact in Einstein's theory of relativity, the smallest bit of time is said to last only 10⁻²³ second and each bit is called a "Chronon."

Trying to translate these theories into explanations of how individuals can appear to vanish and reappear elsewhere, or how aliens are able to pass through solid walls, materialize and dematerialize at will or defy the laws of time and gravity, is a task that requires much speculation.

But if time is actually made up of discontinuous bits of reality and the smallest bit of time is a changeless period from beginning to end, then during that ultra-microscopic period there would only be a static bit of reality followed by a slightly changed bit of static reality, also changeless from beginning to end. Therefore all change would need to take place in the interval between each bit of time before the next bit of time began.

This would be a paradox. Because the interval between these time-bits would be a no-reality period when time did not exist, and therefore material reality would not exist. So how could material matter be changed?

The answer would be speculative. Since any attempt to measure the duration of a single bit of time would result in no change and trying to measure the interval between bits of time would require instruments able to exist in a non-reality realm.

What might help resolve the problem are the theories put forth over the last few decades by Drs. Burr, Ravitz, Sheldrake and others who have proposed that simple and complex invisible resonance's exist as the basic pattern for all material things in the entire cosmos. These resonance's would be responsible for the neutrons, protons and electrons making up atoms and each atom would be governed by a resonant field which in turn would form molecules and collections of molecules, all controlled by even larger fields until these simple and complex combinations of resonance's give rise to the shape and form of all material matter from microbes to insects, plants and animals, even humans. This would also include planets, solar systems and the cosmos itself. Each of which would be controlled by its own overall resonant field-- which would contain the complete pattern for the object and all of its component parts.

In this way the dominant resonant field--the "pattern field" or simply the PF--would be the master plan or blueprint for that material object throughout its existence, guiding its shape, form and purpose.

But there's more. Because these PFs are said to exist before the material object comes into existence to provide guidance for the thing's beginning and growth and all change would occur

first in the PF's resonances of that thing before it appeared in the actual material form.

This seems contrary to the contemporary belief that the DNA is the master plan. Yet the DNA is identical in cells and requires something else to tell it to form the toenail of a human or elephant and not a wing, and that "something else" needs to exist before the material matter comes into being.

Nonetheless, if all matter is the product of, and is controlled by, the resonances in these invisible PFs, and the matter they produce lasts for only a microscopic bit of an instant, with all change taking place in a non-reality realm beyond our material dimension, then these PFs would exist outside reality and be more philosophical than real.

In short, time and reality would be analogous to a movie film in which each static frame of the film represents one bit of unchanged time and all change occurs in the space between the frames. The dynamic nature of the film is consciously perceived from the rapid flow of frames which move too fast for the human eye to detect.

Likewise, if reality exists only as a static bit of time replaced by the next and slightly different static bit of time, then with consciousness as a product of reality, it would be unaware of the extremely rapid flow of individual time-bits and would perceive reality as a continuous and dynamic state.

This seems fine until we realize that all of our material reality would simultaneously cease to exist throughout the cosmos during these no-time intervals and would have to be simultaneously recreated for every single bit of time. Such a task would seem to be enormously impossible and improbable given the amount and diversity of matter contained in the cosmos.

Not to worry, because the PFs are made up of a complex of non-material resonances and these resonances exist continuously and represent the complete pattern for the type and location of all the material and its purpose in the cosmos.

The problem is: how could these untold billions and billions of resonances give rise to all material matter simultaneously throughout the entire cosmos to provide each microscopic bit of time with its bits of static reality?

The answer, again, might be analogous to the movie film which depends on the effect of light acting on the images in the film's emulsion to produce the scenes on the screen.

Likewise, these PFs may exist within an even greater PF, a Cosmic Background Field, or CBF, whose unchanging pulsations give rise to the fundamental resonance in our cosmos, and whose field is a micro-fine, three-dimensional cubic lattice filling the entire cosmos. This would be something like the imaginary lattice proposed by Werner Heisenburg in the 1940s as a substitute for the continuous line of space-time.

However, in the model proposed here the intersections of this lattice would be energy points activated by the pulsations of this fundamental cosmic resonance. With each pulsation of this CBF, each and every energy point would be simultaneously activated throughout the cosmos in an attempt to produce an absolute unity everywhere, and each energy point would have the capacity to interact with and attempt localize and minimize any disunity anywhere within its domain.

In this model the PFs and their resonances making up everything in our reality would be interpenetrated by this CBF and would appear as disunities in this cosmic field. Therefore the activated CBF energy points would immediately interact with all of the PF resonances of everything everywhere in an attempt to localize and minimize these disunities in the CBF. In the process it may be that the lattice in and around each PF could be warped and distorted as the energy points seek to eliminate or minimize these disunities, confining them in such a way that this compression results in the effect that we perceive as gravity.

As a product of this interaction between two different types of resonances, all of the resonances in each and every PF would produce a difference resonance or "beat" which in turn could result in a standing wave the remains fixed and unchanging for the duration of each interaction. But because the PFs are unable to make any changes to their internal resonances while involved in the interactions, all change would be restricted to the non-interaction interval. Therefore these standing waves may be the resonances our sensory systems are tuned to and is the thing we perceive as our material reality.

This suggests an interesting possibility. Because, since the PF would require some sort of

feedback regarding the overall state of the resonances under its control, the human subconscious may exist outside our reality and reside with the PF to provide it with maintenance information on the state of the PF's resonances for instituting the necessary corrections. But the consciousness, tuned to the rapid flow of standing wave resonances, acts as an interface to provide the subconscious with sensory system data relating to the reality being produced during each time-bit.

The main problem with this model is that it smacks of the old etheric field which science has rejected. But it keeps cropping up under other names as an equally theoretical field that cannot be detected by material means. Even so the non-reality realm of the PFs would be the logical place and causality since that is where all change takes place and causality is change dependent.

With all of its inherent faults, the above model is convenient because it allows that, if the complete PF of an object or human could be "shielded" in some way to prevent any interaction with the CBF energy points, then the material object represented by that PF would fail to materialize in our reality during the next interaction period and would remain so as long as the shielding continues. When the shielding is removed, the PF would immediately resume its interactions and producing what we perceive as a material form and the missing object or person would suddenly materialized as if out of nowhere.

Further, since a shielded PF would be non-interacting and not producing the standing waves perceived as matter, then it might be transported to a new location at a speed greater than light and arrive in the space of a few individual time-bits. It might even be held at the same location and its presence might remain undetected.

With this model there would be no need for teleporting an object atom by atom as some have proposed. Instead, the entire non-interacting PF would contain all of the information for instantly reconstructing the object in its exact material form when the shielding was removed and interaction resumed.

Since all change would be restricted to the PFs and their resonances, and could only occur during the non-interacting intervals, all required changes might normally be made in small increments over a large period of time-bits.

However if a change involved correcting a defect in the PF, possibly due to detuned resonance that produces incorrect matter during the interaction periods and is perceived as physical ailment, such small changes would be seen as a normal physical healing process. But if a large correction occurred in only a few non-interacting intervals, it could appear to be a miraculous healing because of its apparent suddenness.

In this latter case, the subconscious may normally be slow acting while dealing with such routine maintenance tasks and may require the intervention from the consciousness to suddenly bring such a dramatic event about. But the change would still be involve the control the subconscious has over the state of the PF resonances.

While there may be no way to determine the duration of the intervals between these time-bits, it's interesting to speculate that the interval between time-bits may be sufficient to allow the PF resonances of other realities to come into existence and be gone before ours begins again. The existence of these "other dimensions" and their possible inhabitants could be unknown to us because of a phase difference in their PF resonances that causes them to interact with the CBF pulsations when our PFs are not interacting.

If our reality was constructed in this way, it might mean the alien entities being reported are from another dimension and have already developed a technology for phase-shifting their PF resonances to allow them to visit neighboring dimensions, or to transfer beings from this dimension into theirs. If they are beings from some distant location in our own cosmos who have acquired the means to temporarily suspend their PF interactions, this might allow them to almost instantly travel across vast regions of space in minutes instead of centuries. If these beings and their vessel did not exist in a material state during the voyage, the laws of physics which limits the speed at which matter can be accelerated would not apply.

This raises another question. If human consciousness emerges from the extremely rapid flow of the time bits, these other beings might also be restricted. During their non-material trip to this planet they might be confined to a subconscious state. It would seem that, since the subconscious mind has more to do with controlling the majority of the autonomic functions in the human body, it should reside with the PF where it could remain in

control of the resonances and conduct the necessary changes during those periods when the material body does not exist.

Nevertheless, if the abduction reports are valid, it would seem these entities are making use of their technology for their own purposes and have shown no inclination to share it with us.

To carry this speculation further, another equally important possibility needs consideration. There may be instances in which a PF's interactions are temporarily suspended by a purely natural phenomenon that suspends a PF interaction and transports the PF to a new location. Such a natural phenomenon might explain some so-called teleportation cases in the UFO and paranormal fields in which people or objects are mysteriously moved from place to place for no apparent reason and with no evidence of human or alien involvement. It might even help to explain those incidents where an individual accidentally observes a brilliant aerial object at close range and a beam of light from the object strikes the observers who find themselves miraculously healed or physically injured.

This is one of the most puzzling elements in UFO encounters. Because it seems there are times when the percipient's mental attitude can affect the phenomenon's progress. If the attitude is fearful, harm may result. If the phenomenon is perceived as benevolent, the encounter may be beneficial. If the percipient seeks a logical explanation for a dark, ill-defined aerial object, the object may change shape to a conventional aircraft and fly off. This amenability to human intent and expectation has led some to believe that an intelligence is behind the phenomenon and is trying to communicate. Yet it seems more likely that the percipient's own subconscious mind is responsible. It is the "Merlin factor" that is more clearly defined in parapsychological events in which a human is the poltergeist agent.

Finally, if the PF resonances proposed here are responsible for our material realm, and the human conscious and subconscious minds have the capacity to manipulate these resonances to satisfy their intent and expectations, then "action at a distance" may be an extension of that capacity. Remember, the original meaning of emotion is to reach out.

Hugh Cochrane is a MUFON member and a regular newsletter contributor.

Open letter - Continued from page 1

important film shot in the history of the human race and that they allowed over an hour of this film to be stolen.

According to Mr Santilli they then failed to recover this priceless film from someone who was intimately involved in recording this alleged event and who hid the film under his bed for many decades.

Don't you think that this would be the very first place the US military authorities would have come searching under such circumstances? Can we really believe this astonishing claim?

6) At best Mr Santilli has had possession of this film for six months during which time he has appeared to be remarkably reluctant to allow third parties the opportunity to authenticate the film or the cameraman's story. In my opinion Mr Santilli's comments about UFO researchers (posted on June 3 and the promotion of the photograph showing alleged hieroglyphics on the wreckage is a gross insult to UFOlogists world-wide. It should be noted that despite his very low opinion of UFOlogists Mr Santilli met with George Wingfield at his office the day after he posted this message and he has since met (for at least the third time) with Colin Andrews. Just what is going on here?

SUMMARY

I appeal to UFOlogists world-wide. Keep your feet on the ground. Don't make positive statements about this film which are unsupported by the evidence. There are many suspicious features about this film and there are many unanswered questions which Mr Santilli has to address if he wishes the public at large to accept the authenticity of the material in his possession. Remember to exercise caution; premature statements of support for this film's authenticity would provide ammunition for those who would use such statements to discredit UFOlogy for decades to come. In particular I appeal to Colin Andrews and George Wingfield to stop and think again. Please, step back and reconsider your positions very carefully.

Editor's note:

Due to mounting suspicious evidence about this particular case and its speculative content, MUFON ONTARIO will no longer pursue its coverage.

ARCHIVES

Ottawa, Ontario NCR's UFOs

Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) apparently buzzed the National Capital Region (NCR) the evening of 4 March 1969.

UFOs were spotted directly above the Parliament Buildings on Parliament Hill and Rideau Hall. Yurko Bondarchuk in "UFO sightings, Landings and Abductions" (1979) quoted the testimony of an RCMP constable stationed near the Privy Council entrance the evening of March 4:

At 7:45 p.m., an object was seen from Parliament Hill, going through the sky at a terrific rate of speed, heading from south to north. This object stopped and appeared to hover in the sky over Hull. It gradually moved in a northwest direction and at 9:34 p.m. disappeared from view. It appeared to be round in shape and much smaller than the moon in size.

The object was seen by six other RCMP officers at various locations on Parliament Hill. Later that evening an RCMP constable patrolling the part of Sussex Drive between Rideau Hall, the Governor General's Residence, and 24 Sussex Drive, the Prime Minister's Residence, observed flashing red lights:

At approximately 10:00 p.m., while on foot patrol from the police lodge at Government House to the prime minister's residence, I noticed two rather bright flashing red lights in the sky. At first glance, I assumed they were aircraft but could hear no sounds of engines. One of these lights proceeded east and was lost from view within a minute or less, while the other one travelled in a westerly direction. These lights were first seen directly overhead at a point slightly inside the gates to Government House and were very bright red. No definite shape could be distinguished nor was there any type of trail visible behind these lights.

Three months later, on 5 June, at 10:12 p.m., three RCMP constables and three tourists on Parliament Hill were surprised to see a luminous craft hovering over the Ottawa River behind the Parliament Buildings. Bondarchuk noted, "They watched as the vessel emitted a dazzling array of lights, changing from red to green to red to white." At 10:10 p.m.,

"all the lights on Parliament Hill - East, West and Centre Blocks - went out . . . Ontario Hydro was notified, but. . . the cause could not be ascertained at the time." Then the UFO moved eastward "with an up and down ping-pong-ball-like trajectory," finally settling above eastern Hull and Pointe-Gatineau across the river. It proceeded west and then disappeared from sight behind high buildings.

Bondarchuk commented on the lack of official interest in the incidents which he found disturbing. "It is equally disturbing that neither the sighting nor the blackout received noticeable press coverage. A check of subsequent editions of the Ottawa Journal and the Ottawa Citizen failed to reveal any reference to either event. Whether this omission was intentional or accidental does not alter the fact that while two potentially explosive events were taking place, the public was left virtually in the dark."

Ufology in Canada - Continued from page 1

- (42) *ibid.*
- (43) *ibid*, N69-128.
- (44) Letter to Arthur Bray from the Dept. Of External Affairs, dated April 13, 1971
- (45) Journal of UFO Studies, Vol. 1, No.1, p.89.
- (46) *ibid*, p.79.
- (47) *ibid*, p.79.
- (48) Space-Time Transients, Persinger & Lafreniere, Nelson Hall, 1977.
- (49) Sky Creatures, Trevor James Constable, Pocket Books, 1978.
- (50) 'Space Critters', John White, Frontiers of Science, Vol. 3, No. 2, Pp.30-34
- (51) The Invisible Collage, Jacques Vallee, Dutton, 1976, p.206.

UFO UpDates The BBS of MUFON Ontario

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INTERNET

ASTRONOMERS PREDICT FASTER THAN LIGHT SPACE TRAVEL

[ISCNI*Flash thanks Mary Jackson for sending this article from "The Sunday Times" (UK), dated August 13, 1995.]

It is boldly going where no reputable scientific body has gone before.

Contradicting Einstein, the normally conservative Royal Astronomical Society is about to publish a report predicting that mankind will be able to travel faster than the speed of light.

The breakthrough means that Star Trek fantasies of interstellar civilisations and voyages powered by warp drive are now no longer the exclusive domain of science fiction writers.

The report was written by Ian Crawford, an astronomer at University College London, who believes not only that man will one day see stars at close quarters, but that we had better start preparing ourselves for the consequences, including contact with aliens.

His paper, "Some Thoughts On The Implications Of Faster-Than-Light Travel," has been validated by independent referees in the scientific community and will be published next month. Its publication coincides with the formation by British and American scientists of the Interstellar Propulsion Society (IPS) which is dedicated to finding a means of taking astronauts to the stars.

Crawford argues that modern physics may allow two possible ways around Einstein's theory, which says that because bodies have infinite mass at the speed of light, no amount of energy can make them go faster.

The first is to pass through "wormholes", rifts in the fabric of space caused by intense gravitational fields such as those found around the collapsed stars known as black holes.

Crawford says that such fields may allow the traveller to enter a wormhole from one point and then to leave it at another, possibly thousands of light years away.

Previously, scientists have assumed that any astronaut who was caught in such a powerful gravitational field would be pulled into something resembling a piece of spaghetti.

However, Crawford said last week that recent research had suggested wormholes could be stabilised and manipulated to create short cuts between any two points in space. "The proofs are complex and mathematical, but more and more astrophysicists are satisfied that in theory it is possible," he said.

Should wormholes fail, however, Crawford proposes a second possible route to the stars. He draws on a recent paper by Miguel Alcubierre, of the University of Wales, in the journal *Classical and Quantum Gravity* to suggest the possibility of propulsion systems which distort space by compressing it in front of a spaceship while expanding it behind.

Such a system would effectively bend space, creating a form of "warp drive" reminiscent of the Starship Enterprise of Captain James T. Kirk in Star Trek.

The theories will boost growing interest among scientists in the possibility of travelling faster than light. The IPS, whose members include several NASA engineers, starts its first conference shortly in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

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