



MUFON

Mutual UFO Network

UFO HOTLINE:
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(to report sightings)

ARIZONA CHAPTER

Volume 5 / Issue 12

The Truth is Out There . . .

MUFON-AZ WEB ADDRESS: noack&doitnow.com (NETSCAPE)

MUFON (INTERNATIONAL) WEB ADDRESS: <http://www.rutgers.edu/~mcgrew/MUFON>

**PROGRAM: PRE-EGYPTIAN AIRCRAFT AND CONNECTION TO NASA
-PLUS- HALE-BOPP COMET**

MEETING DATE: Wednesday, December 18, 1996 [One Week Early] • MEETING TIME: 7:30 p.m. SHARP

LOCATION: 5636 E. McDowell Road - National Guard Armory

(East of 52nd St. on McDowell; then North on Bushmaster Blvd. into Armory)

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DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

I don't recall offhand any time since I have become involved in UFOlogy that rumors and tales have been occurring on so many fronts and at such speed at which events are currently happening!

On the one hand, we have the Hale-Bopp Comet, discovered only a few months ago. The size alone of this comet seems to be outstanding. It also appears to have changed direction several times, and its closest approach to Earth is scheduled to be sometime in March of 1997.

Only a few weeks ago a companion object has been detected close to this comet; it's existence seems to have been confirmed by at least three observatories at the present time. This object is larger than Earth and is said to be sending radio waves which have been picked up by several radio telescopes.

The additional rumor is that a noted astronomer will soon step forward, perhaps by the time you

read this Newsletter, to verify this story . . .

Second, the launch of the Pathfinder on its voyage to Mars finally occurred on the third try on the morning of December 5 (after two weather delays). Richard Hoagland's press credentials were withdrawn by NASA, and he was refused permission to be present with members of the press, to televise the launch, or to ask that any photos taken by Pathfinder be released to the public without first being censored by NASA.

Third, the Egyptian government claims they are going to reopen an "empty chamber" under the Sphinx. Richard Hoagland claims this is a diversion, and what will actually be opened is a shaft which leads to the

Great Pyramid (predicted by Edgar Cayce many years before the existence of this shaft was discovered). This is also supposed to have occurred by the time you receive this Newsletter.

And fourth, it was recently announced on the major news networks that ice crystals had been discovered on the moon. At a UFO conference in Mesa several years ago I picked up a newspaper article which revealed this very fact. Wonder why it's taken so many years for the public to be advised of this discovery???

Don't forget that the December meeting is on December 18th. ONE WEEK EARLY again this month, this time due to the Christmas holiday.

Starting in January, we will be back to our regular FOURTH Wednesday of the month time slot for our meetings. And to start off the new year, we are presenting Glenn Campbell of Area 51 fame as our guest speaker for the January meeting. You will want to be sure to attend and hear Glenn, if you're not

Happy Holidays!



planning to be at the UFO Congress which will be held in Laughlin, Nevada. Plans are still being made to coordinate a caravan and possibly pre-registration for rooms in Laughlin; more about that at the December meeting.

We wish everyone happy holidays and a prosperous New Year -- may 1997 be the year the coverups are stripped away once and for all! Thanks to all of you for your support in making our MUFON chapter so active and interesting.

Keep your eyes to the sky!

Tom Taylor
State Director



Media Watch

by Tom Taylor

It's interesting to note that the small Nevada town that the aliens decide to invade in the new feature film "Mars Attack!", which opens December 13, is Pahrump, Nevada -- the same location radio talk show from which host Art Bell broadcasts. Ha ha!

KTAR Radio interviewed several A.S.U. professors on Pat McMahon's program December 15th. It was an interesting discussion on the water "recently discovered" on the moon. One wonders why the Pentagon made this recent announcement, since it had been announced by NASA scientists years ago (see prior comment also concerning this matter in my Director's Message)! Perhaps no one was listening the first time around . . . what next in the Leak of the Month Club???

For those interested in the controversy concerning the "companion object" reportedly traveling next to the Hale-Bopp Comet, it should be noted that the photographs of these two bodies circulating on the Internet and the ones which will be shown at this month's meeting, taken by Chuck Schramek (a Houston amateur astronomer) are just a few of over 160 such photos!

In the interest of keeping the UFO topic before the public, the following is a list of programs on the subject

recently aired via television, radio and newspaper in recent weeks. We will attempt to list programs ahead of time whenever possible; unfortunately, we are often not notified of programs until it is too late to publish them in the Newsletter in time for members to view, hear or read them. In the case of TV and radio programs, ask at MUFON meetings to see if anyone is aware of someone who may have taped them to share.

Always be sure to check current TV listings before viewing!

Watch for the new film "Mars Attack" to be released December 13 and starring Jack Nicholson and Michael J. Fox.

We mistakenly thought Sightings had disappeared from all television; however, many thanks to Kevin Bowman, Yuma/Imperial Co., CA Section Director, who contacted Mary Hart with the information that Sightings can be seen on cable on the SciFi Channel on Fridays, 6 p.m. MST (repeated at 10 p.m.). The day and time of this broadcast may be different in Arizona.

Mike and Roger Bollinger put out an interesting quarterly publication called UFO Update. To subscribe to this publication, or for more information, call (602) 494-9279.

WEEKLY PROGRAMS:

DREAMLAND - KFYI Radio, 910 AM, Sunday evenings, 8:00 p.m. - Art Bell hosts this interesting radio program. The program is aired on the following stations in other cities in Arizona: Globe: 1240 AM; Safford: 1230 AM; Tucson: 1400 AM; Kingman: 1230 AM; and Flagstaff: 600 AM. Art also hosts "Coast to Coast" weeknights at midnight and often features UFO related guests and/or topics. A "Dreamland" repeat is also broadcast at 8 p.m. on Saturdays.

Jim Dilettoso hosts a UFO-related 15-minute program each Wednesday at 8:45 p.m. on Channel 10.

UFO AZ/UFO TALKS - Scottsdale TCI cable, Channel 28, Thursdays, 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. and still viewed (since we have not heard otherwise) on Channel 22, Dimension Cable, Monday and Tuesday at 9:00 a.m.; now also in Prescott on Channel 13

Friday nights at 9 p.m. and repeated on Tuesday at 3 p.m. Co-produced by Alan Morey. Ted, Peggy and Jim co-host this continuing series featuring interesting guests and topics related to all aspects of the UFO experience. Related radio program in the Tucson area on KTUC, 1400 AM, 10:00 p.m. Sundays (after "Dreamland").

The Extraordinary - Monday MORNINGS, 12:30 - 1:30 a.m. (set your VCRs), Channel 15.

Unsolved Mysteries - Fridays at 7:00 p.m., Channel 12.

X Files - NOW ON SUNDAYS at 8:00 p.m., Channel 10.

Dark Skies - Saturdays at 7:00 p.m., Channel 12.

Sightings - SciFi Channel, Fridays, 6 p.m. MST (repeated at 10 p.m.). (Thanks to Kevin Bowman, Yuma/Imperial Co., CA Sect Dir. for this tip)

Strange Universe - every weeknight at 10:30 p.m. on Channel 45.

Mysteries Around Us, KTAR Radio (620 AM), 12 midnight Saturday and 12 midnight Sunday, hosted by Frank Baranowski, a well-known hypnotherapist specializing in regression.

Late Night Cosmic Contact - Saturdays, 9:00 - 10:00 p.m., Channel 61 [TCI Tucson Public Access]. This new talk show features host Chris Maynard and guests who believe they have experienced contact with life from other worlds. Chris also examines national contact cases to evaluate facts, comparisons and trends of this growing phenomenon.

Classified Ads

Don't forget that we can advertise for you in the newsletter!! Ads up to three lines long are \$5.00; business-card sized ads are \$10 [we can reproduce your business card as the ad]. See Tom Taylor for price on larger ads. Submit your ad and payment by the first of the month to have it appear in that month's newsletter issue.

!!!! DON'T FORGET THE DATE CHANGE FOR NOVEMBER & DECEMBER MEETINGS !!!!



Many thanks to those submitting articles and book reviews, and if you haven't done so, here's an invitation to add to YOUR newsletter by doing so. Handwritten articles and those typed on a typewriter are fine, but if you do have a computer, it saves a lot of time if you can submit your articles on diskette. However, PLEASE save your articles in Word-Perfect 5.1 software or in ASCII (DOS text) format and put your name on them. Then send them (either the hard copy or the diskette) to Tom at 1433 W. Huntington, Tempe, AZ 85282 or fax hard copy articles them to Mary Hart at 907-0609.

Calendar

Pima County Chapter - No meeting is planned for December. June can be reached at 520/326-9978 for information concerning the group or its meetings.

Yuma County Chapter - Meeting December 15, 1:00 p.m. (Sunday) at Desert Lakes Clubhouse. Call Bobbie Jones at 520/627-2461 for exact address and details.

Cochise County Chapter - Meetings are the 4th Saturday of each month; call Whitey Reese at 520/378-2845 for exact address. Whitey's e-mail address is: wrees1@juno.com

Maricopa County Chapter: meeting December 18 (THIRD Wednesday), usual place and time (see page 1).

January 18-24, 1997 - 6th Annual UFO Congress, Laughlin NV at Gold River Resort. This could be a good trip for our group. Fax/phone 303/543-9443 for details.

January 22, 1997 - MUFON-AZ meeting, 7:30 p.m., National Guard Armory - Glenn Campbell, Area 51 Speaker.

MUFON-AZ T-SHIRTS

Those of you who ordered MUFON-AZ t-shirts can pick them up at the December 18th meeting. Earlene will have just a couple of extras for sale in addition to those pre-ordered. The cost of the t-shirts is \$15.00, and you can reach Earlene at 375-1942.

JUST CAUSE

One interesting newsletter to which MUFON-AZ members may be interested in subscribing is the one put out by Citizens Against UFO Secrecy. Barry Greenwood is the editor of this quarterly publication; the address is CAUS, P.O. Box 176, Stoneham, MA 02180, and they charge \$15 per year.

CURRENT EVENTS

Many of us clinicians who work with experiencers frequently get asked by our experimenter clients whether we think they are crazy. Some of us occasionally lapse into such moments of self-doubt ourselves. Solace comes from the establishment press. According to a poll released by Newsweek magazine dated June 30, 1996, over 48% of those interviewed believed that the Unidentified Flying Objects reportedly witnessed are actually real. Nearly half (49%) of all Americans think that the government is hiding proof of the existence of UFOs from the general public. One in eight said they personally had seen objects they thought were UFOs. These figures concur with a Scripps-Howard Newspapers poll taken last year, which asked similar questions.

As long as we're on the clinical topic of reality testing, UFOs and extraterrestrial encounters are not the only anomalous activities currently receiving worldwide attention. A report by Peter Sorensen states that on June 17, 1996, in England's ancient Alton Barnes site, a spectacular crop circle appeared. This enormous crop design was 648

feet in length, consisted of "double helix," DNA-type twin strands made from 89 circles of varying sizes. Three weeks later, on July 8, south of the famous Stonehenge monolithic monument, an elaborate crop circle appeared which was comprised of a series of Julia sets. the crop design was 900 feet in length and 300 feet wide. The Julia set is a pictorial depiction of fractal mathematical relationships within a Mandelbrot set, related to Chaos Theory. This crop design appeared during the 15-minute period between two fly-overs by planes in the area.

Many ET-contact specialist clinicians are finding that intermixed with their cases of extraterrestrial encounters are a few other cases of a most disturbing nature. These other reports involve experiencers (and other civilians) who have been forcibly kidnapped by military and other governmental personnel, taken to remote installations, interrogated, often abused or raped, drugged, and had their memories hypnotically reprogrammed to misremember the kidnapping as an "alien abduction" or to forget it altogether. sometimes the victim was hypnotized to misremember aliens as being involved in the kidnapping. While these reports are often difficult to verify, the following information obtained from Freedom of Information Act documents may offer some insight. Among documents recently obtained from the White House is interesting correspondence between former Naval Intelligence Commander/Human Potential Foundation director Scott Jones, Ph.D. and White House Presidential Science Advisor John Gibbons, Ph.D. In a February 17, 1994 letter, following up on a White House meeting between Laurance Rockefeller, Dr. Jones, and Dr. Gibbons on February 4, Scott Jones wrote: "Whatever Roswell [UFO crash revelation] turns out to be, it is only the opening round. I urge you to take another look at the UFO Matrix of Belief that I provided you last year. My mention of mind-control technology at the February 4 [White House] meeting was quite deliberate. Please be careful about this. there are reasons to believe that some governmental group has interwoven research about this [mind control] technology with alleged UFO phenomena. If that is correct, you can expect to run into early

resistance when inquiring about UFOs, not because of the UFO subject, but because that has been used to cloak research and applications of mind-control activity."

Dr. Ruth Hover
MUFON-AZ Member

SETBACK FOR SAGAN

[Reprinted from Houston Chronicle, 7/4/96:

Ailing astronomer Carl Sagan, who underwent a bone-marrow transplant 15 months ago, is back in the hospital for diagnosis and treatment of a blood disease. Tests in Syracuse, NY revealed abnormalities that could indicate a recurrence of myelodysplasia, a condition that can lead to leukemia, a Cornell University spokesman said. The 61-year-old Sagan returned to the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle last week.

THE GOVERNMENT LIES, SAYS SAGAN

[Reprinted from Houston Chronicle TV Guide, 7/21/96

In an article entitled "Paranormal takes over airwaves," mainly about the X-Files, the author makes reference to the opinions of Carl Sagan as follows:

"Carl Sagan, perhaps the most media-savvy man of science in human history, despairs at The X Files' ongoing aliens-among-us plot line in light of the series' "anything goes" acceptance of the likelihood of ghosts, alien abductions, UFOs and any number of unreal story hooks.

"Instead, they're skeptical about the government," Sagan said. "And I don't blame them. The government lies all the time. *The idea that there's been a government cover up and tiny aliens are languishing in Air Force freezers has a certain superficial plausibility about it.* [emphasis ours]

"The contention seems, to me, extremely improbable, because the Air Force is fighting budget reductions. If we were in the midst of an alien invasion, what a

wonderful opportunity for the Air Force to increase its budget."

For a guy who's done so much for our understanding of the cosmos, Sagan is a real stick-in-the-mud when it comes to popular culture's preoccupation with the paranormal.

UFO Potpourri Newsletter
John F. Schuessler
August 1996

SAN PEDRO RIVER CASE

Subject: Preliminary Sighting Report
Cochise Case #830612A(CE3)
Investigator: E.C. (Whitey) Reese
Type: Missing time, craft, humanoids
Date/Time of Sighting: 11 or 12 June 1983, approx. 2300 hrs.
Place of Sighting: Route 90 crossing San Pedro River near Sierra Vista, AZ.
Local Evaluation: To be determined.

Background: After local publicity in newspapers and radio about MUFON organizing in Cochise County, a male witness [who insists that he remain anonymous] called me on the phone on the morning of 13 October 1996. He reported that during June of 1983 he and a girlfriend had a "missing time" incident during which he recalled seeing a landed UFO with several humanoids around it. I made appointments for personal interviews.

Sighting Account: On a household moving trip from Lordsburg, NM to Sierra Vista, AZ (left Lordsburg at 2100 hrs MST sharp and arrived at Sierra Vista at 0030 hrs MST the following morning) during June of 1983, the witness's girlfriend, who was driving, saw a large humanoid standing by the roadside somewhere west of Texas Canyon on I-10. the prime witness (riding as a passenger) did not see it. Shortly a bright "star-like" light paced their vehicle. A little while later the vehicle seemed to "drive itself" with no control by the girlfriend. After they turned off I-10 onto Arizona Route 90 the witness saw a bright light flash high in the sky to his right. Still later and farther down the highway, the witness found that he was in the driver's seat, his companion was riding in the passenger seat, and they appeared to be on a different highway unknown to him at the time. When he turned off onto a gravel trail to the left in

preparation for turning around, he saw a large disc-shaped craft in front of the vehicle with eight or nine short humanoids milling around it. three of them started to approach the vehicle, and the witness remembers nothing else until they appeared to be traveling on the proper highway again, with the witness still driving. The trip from Lordsburg to Sierra Vista took 3-1/2 hours without any planned stops. the witness stated that the vehicle had been traveling continuously at 65 mph or more. After undergoing a personal interview lasting about 2-1/2 hours and a second planned interview, the witness believes he has found the location where the craft and small entities were seen. Another interview lasting about one hour and 15 minutes followed, and this second interview was recorded and transcribed. the witness and this investigator have made plans to visit the suspected site of the craft sighting, but plans have been delayed due to road and bridge construction in the area. A gentleman's agreement between the two of us prevents the investigator from attempting to locate the witness's girlfriend for a specified length of time, as the witness is planning a relocation in about five months. Upon the witness's relation, attempts to interview the girlfriend will be made, provided she has been located by then. A MUFON Field Investigator from another state and/or section will more than likely be recruited to aid in the investigation, depending on where the girlfriend is located.

Present Status of Investigation: Interviews totaling roughly four hours have been accomplished thus far with the witness. His recall has improved somewhat with the interviews, but the possibility that the witness is also gradually building the case tighter as we move along is still a good possibility. He still recalls nothing about an actual abduction, but I rather suspect at some point he will start recalling something about that, also. A quite thorough investigation into the witness's credibility is planned.

It is projected that this investigation will cover a rather long time span, possibly another seven to eight months. I will keep you informed.

E.C. "Whitey" Reese
Cochise County Section Director

BOOK REVIEW

Encounter at Buff Ledge, A UFO Case History

by Walter N. Webb

CUFOS, Chicago 1994; \$19.95 in Trade Paper; Extensive footnotes, diagrams, photographs, bibliography, and index. 306 pages.

Those who suggest that no serious scientific methodology has ever been applied to the study of UFOs are invited to peruse Encounter at Buff Ledge. Regrettably, this is also the book to read if you really want to fall asleep in a hurry! And it seems unlikely that it will show up as an inexpensive paperback reprint, for it lacks the dramatic tension that one finds in the near-fiction accounts of Whitley Strieber, Raymond Fowler, and other authors of the UFO genre. This is a classic encounter tale. We have read about similar events in numerous anecdotal abduction accounts.

Nevertheless, because this work stands as one of the most thoroughly researched and documented UFO abduction episodes ever reported, it illustrates very clearly the painstaking methods which must be used in UFO research if scientific credibility is to be obtained for these persistent and perplexing events which are so easily dismissed by those who will not listen to the messenger unless he or she is wearing the royal robes of scientific methodology.

The August 1968 abduction involves two young camp counsellors, "Michael and Janet," at a summer camp on Lake Champlain near Burlington, Vermont. Separated by circumstances for 11 years immediately after their twilight encounter, the abductees were extensively and separately interviewed and tested over a five-year period during which numerous other witnesses and corroborative detail emerged. What is unique

about the treatment Webb offers is the lesson he furnishes in how to conduct a credible investigation. Here are only a few gleanings, reminders, and recommendations from his effort:

1. Malleable memory which allows events to be reconstructed with each retelling demands that investigations begin as soon as possible after the event and that the subjects be allowed initially to completely tell their story using a tape recorder without interruption and without questions.
2. A UFO designation should be assigned to a case only after a persistent and dedicated effort has failed to turn up a conventional answer for the observation.
3. It is almost impossible to avoid leading questions in sessions of hypnotic recall. Abductee regression stories no doubt contain some mixture -- and the proportions are critical -- of fact, fantasy, and creative imagination.
4. Abductee experiences tend to be more reliable than contactee experiences. The latter are anxious to share and often embellish their stories while the former are reluctant to draw attention to themselves and the trauma they experienced.
5. Psychic interpretations of abduction events, e.g. birth trauma imagery, Jungian archetypal symbols, and seismically generated hallucinations, fail to account for multiple witness close encounters, physical traces and physiological injuries detailed in studies such as Webb's.

Quoting MIT Professor Philip Morrison, Webb reminds us that "... a witness's statement should be regarded in much the same light as the reading of a barometer or the printout of a computer. A large number of judgments, inferences, assumptions, and hypotheses are necessary to interpret it. The analysis of that chain is the essential feature of scientific evidence."

One wonders if the sheer weight of the contemporary chair, of anecdotal

evidence and some future major media event will not render all such scientific "analysis" somewhat inconsequential. Most of us do not need to know why our computers work, or phone calls go through, our lights come on, and why sex and religion work. We merely accept that they do and proceed to use them. So may it be with some future mass acceptance of these anomalous phenomena.

For thirty years (since Webb's first research into the "Interrupted Journeys" of Barney and Betty Hill) we have found UFOs intriguingly titillating and intellectually interesting. Now they are fast becoming a working, some would say mythic, fact of everyday life. A fact which may never be fully understood.

Kind of like Life, the Universe, and Everything, 42!

Reviewed by Herb Moran
Member, MUFON-AZ

AN EVENING WITH ZECHARIA SITCHIN

Zecharia Sitchin spoke at the Mesa Community and Conference Center on November 6th to introduce his latest book, *Divine Encounters*, the seventh in a series which began with the *12th Planet*, published in 1977. There was an attentive audience of about 400-450 people out to hear him. His talk included extensive slides to illustrate key points. There were no questions and answers after the talk, which is unfortunate.

Is it possible that intelligent extraterrestrial life visited this planet some 400,000 years ago and had a lot to do with the development of the species we now know as humans through biogenetic engineering? This is a basic premise of Sitchin's writing and research. He says these visitors to Earth bio-engineered a human species, using hominid types that were already here to create a more intelligent work animal which they could use in their mining operations on this planet. He talks about this in his first book, the *Twelfth Planet*.

Sitchin defines himself in one word as a reporter. He reports today what people in antiquity knew. By

dealing with the past he believes he is dealing with the future.

On his various tours/expeditions, participants have asked him how he happened to be on this trip and be involved in this research. He said it all started as a school boy in Palestine. He studied the Bible in its original Hebrew. He referenced Genesis, Chapter 6--the Great Flood. He asked his teacher why he used the term "giants of the earth." His teacher criticized him for questioning the Bible.

He was further led to study ancient mythology. His study of all these mythologies (Greek, etc.) really stemmed from one source--the Sumerian civilization. It appeared between the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers" now known as Iraq about 6,000 years ago. This highly developed civilization appeared suddenly and it aroused Sitchin's curiosity as why it appeared in this way.

His talk this evening would take us on a journey--beginning 6,000 years ago--with Sumerian civilization. They are credited with 100 firsts which have survived to our times, including the invention of the wheel, the development of cuneiform writing, and use of clay tablets among many others. They used writing to record mythological tales, contracts, laws, and proverbs. They created music and instruments to play it. They had very sophisticated mathematical knowledge.

Most amazing, he said was Sumerian knowledge in the field of astronomy. They had accurately measured the distances between the planets. They could predict lunar eclipses 50 years in advance, for example. The Sumerians were the first to describe the earth's progression through the twelve constellations. Zodiac descriptions came from them.

Sitchin asked how the Sumerians could know these things 6,000 years ago. They claimed they were taught by the Annunati--ancient astronauts from another planet. How did communication take place between the Sumerians and these visitors? Dreams were a very important method of communicating between the visitors Sumerians. An example

he used was the Sumerian who dreamed of a tablet with a building's architectural rendering. When he awakened, he found that tablet near him.

The Sumerians also had a knowledge of DNA and genetic engineering.

In his slide show, Sitchin showed a number of slides depicting objects of clay showing what looked like ancient astronauts. Perhaps they are the source of the Sumerians advanced knowledge of astronomy. He showed a slide depicting the Sun and twelve planets in our solar system lined up in proper perspective. (There are nine known planets and astronomers believe there may be a tenth.) The Sumerians referred to the Earth as the 7th planet, not the third. This would be counting from the outside in. An astronomer who had read one of Sitchin's books said if the Sumerians referred to earth this way (7th planet) "everything else must be true in your book."

Sitchin's theory is that a planet he called "Marduk" collided with another planet in orbit between Jupiter and Mars, splitting it in half. One part changed orbit and became what is now known as Earth. The other part became the twelfth planet with a long elliptical orbit, coming near our planet every 3,600 years.

Ancient maps depict South America near the continent of Antarctica" without an ice cap. These maps come from Mesopotamia --possibly Sumeria. Part of Sitchin's theory is that the ice cap was caused to slip into the ocean by the gravity exerted by the orbit of The Twelfth Planet which passed near to earth on its 3,600 year elliptical orbit. It is part of Sitchin's theory that this other planet periodically swings by our planet potentially wreaking great havoc and earth changes in its close passes to the Earth. Are we due for another close pass soon?

Sitchin further theorized that, before the Jews lived there in ancient times, Jerusalem served as a command/control space center. He showed a slide showing an aerial view of the area. Mars then served as a "way station" between the twelfth planet and the Earth.

All in all, Sitchin's talk was a fascinating 2-1/2 hours and this brief summary does not really do it justice. I saw a number of MUFON members there and I'm sure they found it as stimulating and thought-provoking as I did.

Pete Creelman
MUFON-AZ Member

LOST IN SPACE?

Many of us may recall a certain spacecraft that was launched a few years ago by NASA. Its mission was to explore the planet Mars. Unfortunately, a problem with an on-board tank of propellant, which we were told malfunctioned, caused the spacecraft to explode in space. It was quite an unfortunate loss both to the space agency and to science. *Or was it?*

A course correction?

Perhaps what the public was told in regard to the ill-fated craft was not entirely true. Is it too far-fetched for us to believe that during its voyage information became available that might have prompted scientists to say the mission was lost? Probably not, but then again . . . what if this craft were able to land on Mars, and maybe even more implausible, it made a discovery that was so monumental as to have implications that might alter our entire view of the entire universe. Now how would scientists break this earth-shattering news to the rest of the world?

How about a nice meteor story?

Of course, that's presupposing that they would want to. And then again, maybe they recognized that they might not have a choice. So here we have a secret mission that finds much more than just a few single-celled amoebas. What do we do? Well, let's break it to the public gently. After all, even this news will have everyone talking about the end of earth's reign as the center of universal intelligence. Not to mention the possible religious implications. Science must tread softly. So here we have it -- the truth. Albeit a bit watered down. Are we being prepped for something?

Galactic Observer
August 1996

Scientists hope to catch 'the face' again

Gannett News Service

One of the strangest images the Viking mission ever sent to Earth 20 years ago was that of "the face," a mile-long human-like visage on the surface of Mars.

NASA says the face is natural rock rising 1,500 feet, eroded by wind and enhanced by light and shadow. But there are plenty of others who insist the rock and nearby formations were carved by aliens as some kind of message to Earth.

Scientists for the Mars Global Surveyor mission say they'll try to photograph the region to resolve the controversy. From orbit 234 miles above Mars, Surveyor's cameras can see

objects as small as 6½ feet across.

But the scientists can't guarantee the craft will have its high resolution camera on when it's over that area.

For one thing, there are 4,000 high-priority science targets to shoot elsewhere on Mars during the 687-day mission. And Surveyor must alternate its sharpness settings to achieve its goal of mapping the entire planet.

But if the spacecraft is in a position to see the face on a given day, "rest assured, I'm going to try to take a picture," said camera designer Michael Malin, of Malin Space Science Systems in San Diego.

When he can, Malin plans to

announce in advance on the Internet when the spacecraft will pass over the face, and he'll post the images.

Richard Hoagland, author of *The Monuments of Mars*, says NASA is "doing everything they can to leave themselves a legal loophole" to withhold the images if they show signs of alien handiwork.

Malin, who says he believes the face is natural, says he has no reason to hide anything.

"Either way I win," he said. "If it turns out to be artificial, I'm the guy who took the picture. If it turns out to be natural, then the images will go a long way to providing the confirming evidence on something I've done the research on."

Monday, October 21, 1996 The Arizona Republic

FYI

Launch windows

A "launch window" of favorable planetary positions for sending spacecraft to Mars opens for about two months every two years. Three launches are planned when the window opens this fall:

MARS GLOBAL SURVEYOR (NASA):

- Earliest launch: Nov. 6.
- Reaches Mars: September 1997.
- Mission: Orbit Mars for two years or more, carrying instruments to map surface shapes and minerals and to monitor weather.
- Arizona involvement: Mineral-mapping experiment is headquartered at Arizona State University.

MARS 96 (Russia):

- Earliest launch: Nov. 16.
- Reaches Mars: December 1997.
- Mission: Study Mars with 12 instruments aboard an orbiter. Drop two soft-impact landers and two "penetrators" for ground-level studies.
- Arizona involvement: Researchers at U.S. Geological Survey, Flagstaff, and at ASU are on mission's science teams.

MARS PATHFINDER (NASA):

- Earliest launch: Dec. 2.
- Reaches Mars: July 1997.
- Mission: Land on Mars and deploy a small rover to study a site that appears to have been flooded in the past.
- Arizona involvement: Rover's camera is headquartered at University of Arizona. ASU researchers developed wind-measurement experiment.

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