



# MUFON

Mutual UFO Network

**UFO HOTLINE:**  
**1-800-UFO-2166**  
(to report sightings)

## ARIZONA CHAPTER

Volume 6 / Issue 11

*The Truth is Out There . . .*

**MEETING DATE: \*\*\*Wednesday, November 19\*\*\*, 1997 ♦ MEETING TIME: 7:30 p.m. SHARP**  
**PROGRAM: PETER GERSTEN -- "BEYOND A REASONABLE DOUBT: PROOF OF E.T. CONTACT"**  
**LOCATION: 5636 E. McDowell Road - National Guard Armory**  
(east of 52nd St. on McDowell; then north on Bushmaster Blvd. into Armory)

<b>Tom Taylor</b> State Director 602/967-6265	<b>Jim Ossipov</b> Asst. State Director 602/752-2280	<b>Dr. Ruth Hover</b> Experiencer Support Group 602/837-0446	<b>Ken Kerber</b> Pinal Co. Sect. Dir. 520/836-1185	<b>June Scherrer</b> Pima Co. Sect. Dir. 520/326-0078
<b>June Scherrer</b> Pima County Sect. Dir. 520/326-0078	<b>Doris Barley</b> Temp. Yuma Cty. Sect. Dir. 520/726-0570	<b>Herb Funston</b> Cochise Co. Sect. Dir. 520/378-3024	<b>Mary Hart</b> Newsletter Producer 602/907-0609	<b>Mike Hayes</b> Mojave Co. Sect. Dir. 520/692-1233

### NOTICE TO THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

Tom Taylor's health condition has precluded him from continuing alone in his capacity as State Director of MUFON-AZ, so he has appointed an *ad hoc* committee to help him in continuing the operation of MUFON-AZ for the next few months while his health condition is monitored. [See details below.] We know many will want to send cards and letters in support of Tom and to lift his spirits in this difficult time. His address is:

Tom Taylor  
1433 W. Huntington Dr.  
Tempe, AZ 85282

We apologize for the rather "low key" meeting in October -- not up to Tom's usual standards. We are sorry to disappoint the membership and guests, but the news of Tom's ill health was sudden and stunning to all of us, as it was to Tom. Please bear with us and bond together to support, encourage, and perpetuate Tom's hard work in Arizona MUFON.

**\*\*\*\* REMEMBER: WE'RE MEETING  
THE THIRD WEDS. IN  
NOVEMBER & DECEMBER!**

### DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Several weeks ago I wasn't feeling too well and had to rush myself to the doctor. To make a long story short, I'm back home and feeling pretty well, but I'm now hooked up to an oxygen machine. I had planned to step down as State Director, but at the urging of my friends I have been convinced that with a panel of "assistants" I can run most things from home, even though I can't attend the meetings. So let's give it a try and see what happens.

The Hovers, Pete Creelman, Jim Ossipov, and a few others have done an excellent job of lining up speakers through January 1988!

Please be sure to mark your calendar for the meetings which will be held on the THIRD Wednesday in November and December, due to the holidays. Then in January the meetings will move back to the FOURTH Wednesday, as we do every year.

There have only been a few sighting reports lately, and those involve daylight discs. There may be something further to report by the time of the meeting.

Please bear with the powers that be in my absence, and I'm sure the meetings will go well.

And remember to keep your eyes to the sky ...

Tom Taylor  
State Director

### OPEN LETTER TO TOM TAYLOR

This is an open letter of support and appreciation for all of your time, effort, energy, and creative direction given to our ARIZONA MUFON chapter.

No one can begin to comprehend the amount of work and the time you have invested as State Director, maintaining the state organization as well as our local chapter. You deserve all the kudos we can possibly send your way, and I know that I speak for all of us when I say this. (Are you aware that it is taking *fifteen* of us to come together as an *ad hoc* committee just to assist him in accomplishing the work. during this interim period, that you always carried off quietly and effectively yourself?)



You have nurtured this Chapter from a tiny, casual group meeting in an apartment clubhouse on Orange Blossom in Scottsdale to a large and varied group of almost 300 members! You have provided us with fascinating speakers and programs that have enriched not only those of us who are members, but the larger community as well who have attended out of interest as well as curiosity.

Your even-tempered "grace under pressure" has soothed the occasional confrontations and inevitable disagreements that always seem to be present in this field. Your written responses to those whose reactions to the often chaotic personality clashes we find in this curious UFO arena have been articulate, gracious, and extremely astute. Your representation of MUFON to the media and at events such as the Christown Mall UFO Awareness Week exhibition have led us into solid mainstream society interest without slipping into the abyss of the "lunatic fringe" or "new age crazies." No small job! We now thank you for your under-appreciated role in this field and as our State Director (and to many of us, role model). Although we named you "The Big MUFON" in jest -- how true it is!

That you have carried all of this off while pursuing your profession as a herpetologist and fulfilling leadership roles in other organizations as well as MUFON, making countless contributions to schools and science projects all over the valley and the state, is just an additional "gold star" in our point of view.

We thank you with sincere appreciation and know that the entire membership sends you our best wishes and support during this difficult time for you. *YOUR* shoes will never be filled by others, but we can mobilize together to assist you in carrying on the work you have so ably set in motion for us. Thank you, Big MUFON! WE LOVE YOU!

[NOTE: As a result of his current illness, Tom Taylor has appointed an

*ad hoc* committee to assist him in the many tasks involved in the operation of the Arizona MUFON chapter during the next few months. This committee consists of Jim Ossipov, Richard Motzer, Alan Morey, and Ruth and Harry Hover, with additional members who have volunteered to assist. Their telephone numbers are as follows:

Jim Ossipov	752-2280
Richard Motzer	998-3966
Alan Morey	665-7245
Ruth/Harry Hover	837-0446

Tom will continue to approve all actions taken or to be taken by this committee and the organization.

The Committee

### NEW MUFON INVESTIGATORS ARE TRAINED

MUFON members Christopher Block, Cynthia Holt, Harry Hover, Audrey & Joel Rencsok, and Greg Presto have completed the six-week "MUFON Investigator Training" and took the exam for Field Investigator appointment. The exams have been returned to MUFON's general headquarters in Seguin, Texas. **Congratulations, new Investigators!** Currently certified Investigators Ray Ambrosini and Alan Morey contributed their expertise and will greatly assist in the assignment of new cases for Investigators.

### PETER GERSTEN ATTORNEY AT LAW

Our speaker this month is Peter Gersten, premier attorney responsible for the Freedom of Information Act. He has spoken to our group in the past, and this month's program promises to be very informative. Be sure to see the flyer concerning Mr. Gersten enclosed with this newsletter.



## Media Watch

The Discovery Channel was here last August to do a program on the Phoenix Lights. They interviewed many of the witnesses and Councilwoman Francis Barwood. They also showed then-Governor Symington and his "alien friend." They did a very fair report, probably one of the best on the whole affair.

The bad news was that the program aired on the Discovery channel at 11:00 p.m. on a Sunday night and again at 3:00 a.m. the following Monday morning. Fortunately, Richard Motzer has taped the program. "Unsolved Mysteries" will also be covering the case on Thursday, November 13 at 9:00 p.m. (see channel, time, and day change notice below) -- we will see what kind of job they do and possibly have both tapes at a future monthly meeting.

Stranger than fiction ... singer John Denver, who was killed recently in the crash of his private plane, was born in Roswell, New Mexico.

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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. ***If you know of additions, deletions or changes to the list of programs presented, please notify Tom Taylor in time for the listing to be changed for the next newsletter.*** 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!***

MUFON-AZ WEB ADDRESS: <http://www.idowebpages.com/mufon.html>  
MUFON (INTERNATIONAL) WEB ADDRESS: <http://www.rutgers.edu:80/~mcgrew/mufon/index.html>  
MUFON (INTERNATIONAL) E-MAIL ADDRESS: [mufonhq@aol.com](mailto:mufonhq@aol.com)



**WEEKLY RADIO 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; Yuma: 560 AM; and Flagstaff: 600 AM. Art also hosts "Coast to Coast" weeknights at 11 p.m. and often features UFO related guests and/or topics. A "Dreamland" repeat is also broadcast at 8 p.m. on Saturdays.

**UFO-AZ Radio Show** - In the Tucson area on KTUC, 1400 AM, 10:00 p.m. Sundays (after "Dreamland").

**Mysteries Around Us**, KTAR Radio (620 AM), 10:00 p.m. Sunday (*note day/time change*), hosted by Frank Baranowski, a well-known hypnotist specializing in regression.

**WEEKLY TV PROGRAMS:**

If you find UFO-related television programs we have not listed, please call Mary Hart at 907-0609 and leave a message containing the title, day, time, and channel of the programs.

**Unsolved Mysteries** - DAY, TIME AND CHANNEL CHANGE: Thursdays at 9:00 p.m., Channel 5.

**X Files** - Sundays at 8:00 p.m., Channel 10.

**Sightings** Wednesdays, 8:00 p.m., cable SciFi Channel.

**The Visitor** - Fridays at 7:00 p.m., Channel 10.

**Strange Universe** - Mondays thru Fridays at 1:00 p.m. & 11:00 p.m. on Channel 45.

**50+ YEARS OF  
ARIZONA SIGHTINGS  
1946-1997**

We have just printed a new batch of Jim Ossipov's comprehensive listing of reported Arizona UFO sightings and will have them for sale at the MUFON-AZ meetings for \$6.00. They have been spiral bound with a soft cover and may also be purchased by sending \$7.50 check or

Money Order (made payable to Dimitri Ossipov). Send the check or Money Order to Mary Hart, 9048 W. Holly St., Phoenix 85013. Be sure to include your address. Your Arizona Sightings copy will be sent to you by return mail.

**Calendar**

**Cochise County Chapter** - Meeting on Saturday, November 22, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. at Sierra Vista City Library, 2950 E. Tacoma St., Sierra Vista, AZ. November's agenda will be a class on using various kinds of maps in investigating and analyzing a IFO/UFO event and a critique of our section's event report of the IFO event of 10 Sept 97. Call Herb at 520/378-3024 for further details. NOTE: There will be no December meeting. The next meeting will be January 24, 1998.

**Pima County Chapter** - Call June at 520/326-0078 for information.

**Yuma County Chapter** - Next meeting Sunday, December 7, 1:00 p.m. Call Doris Barley at 520/726-0570 for details.

**Maricopa County Chapter** - Meeting ONE WEEK EARLY on Wednesday, November 19, usual place and time (see page 1).

November 15: Academy of Close Encounters Therapists, Carmel Mountain Ranch Country Club in San Diego, featuring Dr. Ruth Hover, Dr. Richard Boylan, Barbara Lamb, and Carol Fraley. \$75.00 admission; call 619/451-2723 to register. Applications available at the MUFON-AZ meeting from Dr. Hover.

**DON'T FORGET: NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER MUFON-AZ MEETINGS IN PHOENIX WILL BE ON THE THIRD WEDNESDAY INSTEAD OF THE FOURTH WEDNESDAY DUE TO THE HOLIDAYS!!**

**Classified Ads**

Be smart and advertise in the MUFON-AZ 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]. Call Ruth Hover for prices on larger ads. Submit your ad and payment by the first of the month to have it appear in that month's newsletter issue.



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 or WordPerfect 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 Mary Hart, 9048 W. Holly St., Phoenix, AZ 85037, or fax hard copy articles to Mary at 907-0609. You can also send them via internet to her husband's internet address, which is: taz7211@ix.netcom.com

**THREE KINDS**

In UFOlogy there are three kinds of people:

First, true believers who indiscriminately swallow anything -- the more exotic, the better. Everything, from New Age beliefs to underground bases full of aliens or right-wing conspiracies by pot-bellied capitalists, is unquestionably accepted. Sometimes, even, they sit in the desert waiting for benevolent space brothers who will tell them not to smoke, to eat only vegetables, and not to play with atomic bombs.

On the other end are the debunkers. This is a hopeless lot. A UFO full of greys can land in their own back yard, and they would still stubbornly deny their existence.

Squeezed in between is an array of open-minded skeptics who accept only facts -- once they are proven. The best example of an open-minded skeptic is St. Thomas (was he an



engineer). He demanded proof. Once he got it, he fully accepted it and even died for it.

Without going that far, this is a right path in UFOlogy. Besides, skeptics do not omit data in order to fit their preconceived theories, since by definition they don't have any. Their beliefs are facts only.

I consider myself as one of them. Strictly nuts and bolts and extraterrestrial tendency. No socio-psychobabble for me. But as we progress -- and we do -- new discoveries, especially on the spiritual level, may alter my position just for basic honesty's sake, (but they'd better be convincing).

If the editors of this newsletter will allow me, I would like to start a series of short articles dealing with UFO problems, sometimes writing as a skeptic and sometimes as "devil's advocate" in order to provoke an answer or rebuttal.

Our newsletter is excellent, but let's enliven it more -- it may prove to be quite interesting.

Dimitri "Jim" Ossipov  
Asst. State Director

### TO BOLDLY GO WHERE NO DUMMY HAS GONE BEFORE ...

On June 24, 1997, Col. John Haynes, USAF, held a press conference at the Pentagon to announce the results of his historical research which he felt addressed the question of alleged bodies associated with the Roswell story. His report, now widely publicized, reached four main conclusions, quoted verbatim below:

1. Air Force activities which occurred over a period of many years had been consolidated and are now represented to have occurred in two or three days in July 1947. [He meant that supporters of the Roswell crashed UFO theory have consolidated the stories and condensed the time, not the Air Force. -Ed.]

2. Bodies observed in the New Mexico desert were probably test dummies that were carried aloft by U.S. Air Force high altitude balloons for scientific research.

3. The unusual military activities in the New Mexico desert were high-altitude research balloon launch and recovery operations. The reports of military units that always seem to arrive shortly after a crash were actually accurate descriptions of Air Force personnel engaged in the dummy recovery operations.

4. Claims of bodies at the Roswell Army Air Field Hospital were most likely a combination of two separate incidents. One was a 1956 KC-97 aircraft accident in which 11 Air Force members lost their lives, or a 1959 manned balloon mishap in which two Air Force pilots were injured.

Contrary to many people's impressions, the Air Force has not altered its stance on the Roswell story. Col. Haynes did not intend for his research results to replace the earlier Air Force report that so-called crash wreckage recovered near Roswell in 1947 was debris from top secret Project Mogul. That report still stands. Haynes was specifically addressing the question of recovered bodies, which was not in the Mogul report.

It was clear from the press conference that Haynes was quite proud of his research and his report. Regardless of its effect on the Roswell question, he felt that this was intriguing and fascinating research done by the Air Force, and was worth publicizing for its own value. He also pointed out that this is not a case of the Air Force waiting an inexplicably long time to declassify the information, because none of the research was ever classified. It was merely overshadowed by public excitement with the much flashier space program.

Press conference attendees quickly spotted what appeared to be a major hole in Haynes' theory that test dummies dropped from high altitudes accounted for reports of recovered alien bodies.

Q. Colonel, how do you square the UFO enthusiasts saying that they're talking about 1947, while you're talking about dummies used in the '50s, almost a decade later

A. Well, I'm afraid that's a problem we have with time compression. I don't know what they saw in '47, but I'm quite sure it probably was Project Mogul. But I think if you find that people talk about things over a period

of time, they begin to lose exactly when the date was. And there were lots of dummies dropped.

Q. ... but this is 10 years ...

A. I don't know why they can't associate that time period. I'm sorry. I just don't have any information for that. All I know is what the Air Force did, and that if you overlay much of their claims and you look at the Air Force scientific research, you can see it's obvious that what we're talking about at Roswell -- and I don't mean Roswell in '47, because that was Project Mogul, that was unmanned. I want to make that very clear. And that's the first report. But over that period of time, dummies were dropped all around there.

So there we have it. The Air Force has made it clear that it now considers the Roswell question to be closed, and there will be no subsequent reports or work done on the subject. Perhaps this is just as well. It is unlikely that the Air Force, which did not exist in 1947, will have any further records at its disposal which could shed more light on the subject. Someone may have records, but not the Air Force. They weren't there.

The question remains as to whether Col. Haynes' belief that the test dummies account for witnesses' testimony of alien bodies is correct. Certainly the descriptions of the alien bodies vary significantly from the dummies which, according to the Air Force, were "anthropomorphic," or human in appearance. The reported outrageous and threatening behavior of military personnel to the townspeople involved does not jibe with the recovery of debris from a non-classified project. In fact, we have to ask, since Haynes mentioned 300 to 400 dummies dropped, did bad-tempered soldiers go out and threaten witnesses' lives over the matter 300 or more times, all over Arizona and New Mexico? Did they go to the nearest town and ask to have coffins made for the dummies? And of the people who have inexplicably mixed up 10 years of their lives, how accurate is their recall of the 10 years before that, and the 10 years following?

The Roswell question may never be solved to our complete satisfaction, but thanks to Col. Haynes, we now have some new questions to keep us



for awhile longer. [Perhaps "they" are the dummies?]

UFOCUS, Vol. 1, No. 4

## U.S. LIED TO EXPLAIN AWAY UFO SIGHTINGS, SAYS CIA

According to a study recently released by the CIA, U.S. national security officials systematically concocted false explanations to hide the fact that super-secret U-2 spy planes had been spotted in reconnaissance flights over the United States.

Gerald K. Haines, a historian at the National Reconnaissance Office, recently wrote an article for "Studies of Intelligence," a once-secret CIA journal which now releases an unclassified version semiannually. The article, entitled "CIA's Role in the Study of UFOs 1947-90" is remarkable because it reveals officially for the first time the admission of federal deception on the UFO issue.

According to Haines, over half of UFO reports in the 1950s and 60s were known internally within the CIA to be actually sightings of the U-2, the existence of which the military was unwilling to reveal. The U-2s, which were silver in color, glinted in the sun to appear as "fiery objects to observers below," especially at sunrise and sunset, says Haines. Later, U-2s were painted black, and the SR-71 Blackbird, successor to the U-2, was black from the beginning.

Air Force UFO investigators were aware of the secret U-2 flights and tried to explain away sightings by linking them to natural phenomena such as ice crystals and temperature inversions. During the height of the cold war, the CIA, which was monitoring UFO reports, concealed their interest because they were concerned that if word came out that they were doing so, it might lead to a national hysteria that could be exploited by the Soviet Union. Haines says, "While perhaps justified, this deception added fuel to the later conspiracy theories and the cover-up controversy."

According to the report, the CIA paid a lot of attention to UFO reports until the early 1950s, but it has paid only limited and peripheral attention since then. The report did not address

the question of whether any other agency may have assumed responsibility for monitoring UFO reports since that time.

Since publication of the article, both the CIA and the Air Force have defended their decision to keep the U-2 and Blackbird intelligence programs secret rather than to put them at risk by giving truthful explanations to the unusual observations. "We sometimes take extraordinary means to protect national security assets," says Air Force spokeswoman Gloria Cales. "We have classified programs that we need to protect."

Not everyone agrees that eh military deception was justified. John E. Pike, director of space policy for the Federation of American Scientists, says that this study raises the question of other possible government cover-ups involving UFOs. "The flying saucer community is definitely onto something" when accusing the military of hiding information, he told the New York Times.

The full 23-page text of Haines' historical study is available on the Internet and can be read at:

<http://www.odci.gov/csi/studies/97unclas/ufo.html>

## BOOK REVIEW Connections - Solving Our Alien Abduction Mystery

by Beth Collings and Anna  
Jamerson, Wild Flower Press, 1996,  
355 pages, Soft Cover, \$17.95  
Reviewed by Herb Moran

We have heard these stories before: Betty Luca; Whitley Strieber, Debbie Jordan and Kathy Mitchell, and Denise and Bert Twiggs just to mention a few, but each telling has the ring of personalized truth which compels us to ask again why these things are happening. Each of the tellers of these tales has offered their own explanation of the motives of the abductors. These range from benevolent intervention in the survival of humankind to the malevolent survival of the alien species at the expense of man.

Beth Collings too offers explanations based on the encounters she experienced. "Chanting passages from the Bible or praying for relief do not seem to have any affect on these creatures. They have an agenda, a job

to do, and although a higher authority may be privy to their plans for us, we apparently are not considered worthy of that knowledge." (p. 280)

And under hypnosis Anna Jamerson is asked (p.278), "When you have been involved ...have you ever felt a sense of love from them?" Her reply, "No. Duty," hardly seems the angelic benevolent sort of motivation one wants to experience from a possible Good Samaritan escape capsule crewman!

A bit scary too is the "thought bomb" implanted in Anna's subconscious by an alien known as the "pink lady." It was to be unleashed in 1997. Why this selfish, secretive sequestering of knowledge? Can we not handle El Niño, Hubble space telescope discoveries, and a falling stock market? It's enough to give one the jitters.

C.D.B. Bryan spoke in Alien Abductions, UFOs and the Conference at MIT (previously reviewed here) of his extensive interviews with "Carol and Alice." At the time that he conducted these interviews it was apparent that their accounts had a significant influence on his conversion from UFO skeptic to open minded inquirer. We now know from Connections that "Carol and Alice" are the co-authors Beth and Anna.

Bryan came away from the 1992 MIT conference as many of us do after an initial second hand encounter with UFO knowledge. We have no personal scoop marks or traumatic memories we can point to as compelling evidence of some alien encounter or abduction, but we listen to the stories of those who claim they do, and we hear a ring of truth. And even after discounting 98% of the stories we hear as having terrestrial, mundane, prosaic explanations, we are still left with the 2% (some would argue even more than 2%) of these stories which cannot be dismissed. Something common to Ufology which I call The Hynek Dilemma.

It is into this vortex of dilemma that a seeker of truth in this field is either pulled or repelled. Organized skeptics (as in other organized religions, it seems) manage to skate around this experiential black hole and never even acknowledge its presence. They seem to prefer the safer ground of commenting on the naked King Klass' illustrious robes of skepticism



rather than venturing a non-institutional stab at a possibly divergent smidgen of reality and truth.

Bryan, as with many of us, tripped on the edge and was sucked into the abyss. We saw those beginnings in "...MIT" where he mentions Beth and Anna, and it is clear that these personal accounts were so powerful that he came away with a new appreciation of the persuasive power of first hand anecdotal evidence.

Now you can do the same as you hear the story in their own words. It is told in a somewhat stuttering style, which is frustrating to follow until the threads become more closely intertwined in the last half of the book. Each author alternately deals with her growing awareness of decades long (single and joint) abduction experiences and that of their families. Both, being rather independent and skeptical by nature and a touch cynical by experience, come away from their encounters with an anger at their loss of control and the facile way in which they are manipulated by the gray aliens.

By the middle of the book it is apparent that Beth's synonym for the aliens, the pejorative "gray shits," also represents a judgment about the real nature of any seeming benevolence in the alien purpose and lends fresh insight into one of the dictionary renderings of "gray" as being "between moral and immoral."

Perhaps too, you, will feel a familiarity with Anna when you see her picture next to the author profiles. This was clarified for me when I reread Bryan's interview with Anna where he noted how he was struck by her resemblance to Andrew Wyeth's portraits of the young Helga, and I realized that Anna and Beth have that girl-next-door look of familiarity.

Perhaps you also will experience a familiarity with their stories. These are not flaky airheads looking for a new age nostrum, they are down-to-earth women we know and have known. And you will be familiar also with the truth which Bryan alludes to in his treatment of this subject matter as he quotes A. Conan Doyle's Holmes, "When you have eliminated the impossible, whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth." The authors have done much to eliminate

the impossible and to illuminate the improbable.

## DECEMBER PROGRAM

December's meeting will feature Richard Sauder speaking on Aliens and Underground Bases. We're sure you won't want to miss this exciting and thought-provoking presentation. And remember, it will be on December 17, the THIRD Wednesday in December, due to the holidays.

The Tribune 10/10/97

## LIFE MAY BE POSSIBLE ON JUPITER'S EUROPA

Organic compounds hint at greater chance

BY PAUL RECER  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The discovery of organic compounds on two of Jupiter's moons increases the possibility that all of the elements for life are present on another of the planet's moons, Europa.

The finding, from instruments on the Galileo spacecraft orbiting Jupiter, suggests that Europa may have all three of the ingredients scientists consider essential for life: an energy source, liquid water and organic molecules, said planetary scientist Thomas McCord of the University of Hawaii.

"This doesn't mean there is life on Europa," said McCord, lead author of a study to be published today in the journal *Science*. "The exciting thing now is the evidence that Europa may have all three of the ingredients."

Europa is already known to have water and internal heat sources.

Dale Cruikshank, a research scientist at NASA's Ames Research Center, said the work of McCord and his team should sharpen the research concentration on Europa, which already "is the subject of very special interest."

"This finding increases the plausibility for life on Europa," Cruikshank said. "It also supports the idea that there were organic molecules streaming throughout the solar system."

The study of Jupiter's moons is part of a growing effort by astronomers and planetary experts to find evidence of life within the solar system, particularly on Mars.

A major goal of NASA's Mars exploration, for example, is to search for the fingerprints of life on the Red Planet. Researchers have determined that Mars once had vast pools of water and there is speculation this could have led to the evolution of life. Some believe there may be evidence of life in frozen underground water.

NASA researchers also have found what some believe may be the fossilized remains of microbes in an asteroid that fell to Earth from Mars. The interpretation of that finding, however, is controversial.

In the case of Jupiter's moons, instruments on Galileo detected the complex organic molecules on the surfaces of the moons Callisto and Ganymede, suggesting that such organics are also present on Jupiter's other two large moons, Europa and Io.

"What we have on Callisto and Ganymede are some of the kinds of organic molecules that could be the basis for life," said McCord. "These are the basic ingredients."

And if Callisto and Ganymede have these compounds, said McCord, then it is highly likely that they also exist on Europa.

Water and an energy source, McCord said, are "two angles on the triangle of life." Now, by finding organics present on two other Jovian moons, there is a strong suggestion that the third angle of the triangle may be present on Europa, he said.

Life on Callisto, Io and Ganymede is considered unlikely because they are dry.

No organic chemicals have been detected on Europa, but researchers have speculated that there may be a rich organic soup below the moon's ice cap and that this could be a warm, liquid place for the evolution of life.

None of the research so far has proved that life exists or has ever existed on any of Jupiter's moons, McCord emphasized.

He compared the research progress to how a cake is made.

"We've got the flour and sugar and the water to make the dough," McCord said. "And there's a suggestion that the oven is on."

But assembling the ingredients does not mean the cake has been made, he said.

# Cable channel discovers Arizona's UFO

**O**ur notorious UFO flyover of last March gets the documentary once-over at 11 tonight on cable's Discovery Channel.

Several locals — including KTAR talk host Bill Strauss, *Arizona Republic* reporter Richard Ruelas and Tempe Village Labs UFOlogist Jim Dilettoso — were interviewed for *UFOs Over Phoenix: Anatomy of a Sighting*, an hourlong special produced by Termite Art Productions of Los Angeles.

Producer Erik Nelson said his goal was to examine the phenomenon of such a vivid sighting and its effects on a community — not necessarily prove or disprove the various theories about the wedge-shaped array of lights that seemed to float over town.

"In the usual documentaries about UFOs, the deck is very stacked toward spooking viewers and making people think that UFOs exist," he said in a telephone interview last week. "We wanted to examine the anatomy of a sighting, by laying out in a very clinical, non-biased way, exactly what happened."

"The point of the show is to track what happened in Phoenix, both during the sighting and after the sighting. How did the town of Phoe-



**DAVE WALKER**  
Republic TV Writer

nix react?"

In addition to interviews with witnesses, pundits and other observers, the special also examines the reactions of various public officials, including Phoenix City Council member Frances Emma Barwood, who called for an investigation of the sighting, and then-Arizona Gov. J. Fife Symington III, who ridiculed the public's fascination with UFOs and aliens.

"In another 50 years, people can take this out and look at it and say, 'This is how a modern American city in the 1990s reacted to a UFO sighting,'" Nelson said. "And see the sort of cultural baggage that went along with it."

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