



MUFON

Mutual UFO Network

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

ARIZONA CHAPTER

Volume 6 / Issue 12

The Truth is Out There . . .

MEETING DATE: *Wednesday, December 17***, 1997 ♦ MEETING TIME: 7:30 p.m. SHARP**
PROGRAM: RICHARD SAUDER -- "ALIENS AND UNDERGROUND BASES"

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

It seems hard to believe that another year has come and nearly gone!

Lots of interesting UFO events happened in '97, including the 50th anniversary of the Roswell incident, our March 13th Phoenix Lights sighting, declaration of possible life on Mars, the Hale-Bopp Comet, Philip Corso's new book ... one can't help but wonder what will happen next.

Our own MUFON chapter continues to grow, and some very good speakers have been lined up for next year. Also, we are finishing 1997 with a meeting on the 17th that you won't want to miss. Richard Sauder will be speaking on underground bases, and it is a very interesting presentation. I heard him speak several years ago in Scottsdale, and he included excellent slides of the places he mentions in his program.

I have asked and even pleaded with members to come up with someone in the Sedona and/or Flagstaff area to get a group going up in that part of the state. So far --

nothing. Will someone PLEASE step forward??

As you know, we rent the auditorium at the National Guard Armory for our meetings, and it has worked well. It's easy to find, plenty of seating, and a nice, full-size screen. I was informed a few days ago that our rent on the building will increase as of January. To offset this, we will have to charge a bit more for attendance at regular meetings. Meetings featuring special guests will be a bit more, as we usually have to pay the guest's air fare and hotel when they come to Phoenix. For instance, this month Richard Sauder is coming in from Maryland, and in January Antonio Huneus is coming from New York City. As always, we keep the meeting admission costs as reasonable as possible.

The 7th International UFO Congress Convention will be held in Laughlin, NV February 1-7, 1998. David Oates, the renowned "reverse speech therapist" who has been on the Art Bell radio show, is scheduled to give his presentation on February 3 at 7:30 p.m. at the Convention.

Thanks for all your cards and calls and show of support for me during my difficult health condition. I am hoping to make it to this month's meeting and look forward to seeing you all there.

Keep your eyes to the sky ... and happy holidays.

Tom Taylor
State Director



GIVE Gift Subscriptions TO THE MUFON-AZ NEWSLETTER -- A GREAT Holiday PRESENT THAT WILL LAST ALL YEAR!



Happy Holidays!



Media Watch

A few nights ago on the CBS evening news they had a report on global warming up in Alaska which was very interesting. It showed a blue pyramid that has been made visible from the melting snow!

On November 29th, "Hard Copy" showed implants taken from several abductees by a Dr. Sims in California. It was a very interesting segment.

For X-Files buffs, there is a full-length film coming out next June 19th. Mark your calendars.

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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!

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.

Mysteries Around Us, KTAR Radio (620 AM), 10:00 p.m. Sunday hosted by Frank Baranowski, a well-known hypnotherapist 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 (sporadic airings).

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. & 11:30 p.m. on Channel 45.

SIGHTING REPORTS

There was an unusual sighting of some sort on November 14th in the Seattle, Washington area. It happened about 9:15 PMT and consisted of orange globes or bells. As many as 35 were reported from as far north as British Columbia, Canada, to as far south as Sacramento, California, and as far east as Idaho. The possibility of the objects being meteorites was ruled out by the president of an astronomy group who saw it first hand and has spent over 400 hours in the field and declared the objects were traveling too slow to be meteorites.

Earlier this week, around December 1, strange lights were sighted south of Chicago and in the Kansas City area.

There have been several unconfirmed daylight sightings in the Phoenix area in the past few weeks.

The government of Chile has formed a UFO study group since

there have been so many reports in this South American country.

Tom Taylor

50+ YEARS OF ARIZONA SIGHTINGS 1946-1997

We have more 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 - 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 - Meetings are quarterly; no December meeting. Next meeting February 8, 1998, 1 p.m., Desert Lakes Clubhouse. Call the new Section Director, Joseph Murek, at 520/782-3906 for further details.

Maricopa County Chapter - Meeting ONE WEEK EARLY on Wednesday, December 17, usual place and time (see page 1).

February 1-7, 1998: 7th International UFO Congress Convention, Laughlin, NV. Call 303/543-9443 for further information.

DON'T FORGET: DECEMBER MUFON-AZ MEETING 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

LARGE TRIANGULAR UFO SEEN OVER SANTA BARBARA CHANNEL, CALIFORNIA

At approximately 10:05 p.m. on Friday, 14 November 1997, Dr. Ted Loder and Tony Craddock were checking out the new nightscopes from Tony's house overlooking the Santa Barbara Channel. Ted was using an ITT Night Mariner (Model G-3) and Tony a Litton NightMate (Model Nav-3), each with a light magnification of 30,000 to 50,000x.

They both happened to be looking through the nightscopes at Jupiter, which was about 10 degrees above the horizon and over the island of San Miguel. Simultaneously they both saw

a set of lights near Jupiter in the shape of a large triangle silently flying eastward down the Santa Barbara Channel. They followed it for about six seconds until it disappeared behind some trees. Both realized that the visible lights were on the outside edges of a large craft which was not itself visible in the night scopes.

A few seconds after the initial recognition, both saw the craft tilt slightly on its side so that its triangular shape could be more clearly seen. Its shape was delineated by five to eight lights along its edges clearly visible through the nightscopes. Ted Loder counted five or six lights in the shape of a triangle seen partly on its side, while Tony Craddock saw an additional one or two lights in the center toward the rear, making it appear chevron- or boomerang-shaped. Tony had the clearer nightscope, which may explain why he was able to see the extra lights. Both had the impression that it was not lights independently flying in formation but a solid craft. The length of the craft appeared to be longer than the sword on Orion's belt and shorter than Orion's belt itself.

The craft was not visible with the naked eye and was not seen by the two other people who were present without nightscopes.

It was later estimated that the craft traveled through a visible arc of 75 degrees in about 6 seconds. It was estimated that the craft was at a distance of five to ten miles, which would have meant it was traveling at approximately 4,000 to 8,000 mph.

Both Ted Loder and Tony Craddock are members of CSETI (Center for the Study of Extraterrestrial Intelligence) and attended CSETI's Congressional Briefing on UFO/ET in Washington, DC on April 9, 1997. Dr. Loder is a Professor of Earth Sciences at the University of New Hampshire. Mr. Craddock is President of an international petroleum consulting company and coordinates Santa Barbara's CSETI Working Group.

SEATTLE SIGHTING

On Friday, November 15, 1997 at 9:15 Pacific Standard Time, 25 objects were sighted over Seattle and extended over an area from British Columbia to Sacramento to Idaho. Peter Davenport reported about 50 telephone calls to

the UFO Hotline describing a "V" shape formation of lights.

The Director of the British Columbia "Skywatch" group logged 400 hours personally of observation and concluded "... it was not a meteor," as had been reported.

Tom Taylor called Sunny Barcliff (who has spoken at our AZ MUFON chapter), who lives in Washington, and she said that she saw orange-colored lights in the sky and that they moved at a slow rate of speed.

CHILEAN AIR FORCE SETS UP COMMITTEE ON UFOs

SANTIAGO (Reuters) - Chile's Air Force has appointed a committee to compile reports on unidentified flying objects and other unusual aerial occurrences, a government spokesman said Tuesday.

A spokesman for Chile's Air-Force-run Civil Aviation Authority confirmed a report published by the daily La Tercera about the creation of a three-member Committee for the Study of Anomalous Aerial Phenomena.

He said the committee would not take reports from ordinary people who claim they have seen flying saucers, but rather from what the Air Force considers more reputable sources.

"We have control tower operators and pilots who have seen unusual objects, not to say flying objects, because we don't know if they were stellar luminous phenomena," he said.

The committee's staff will not work full time on that job, the spokesman said, adding that no budget was specifically assigned for its operation.

Skywatch via the Internet

M.I.B. AND BLACK HELICOPTERS BOTHERING WRONG PEOPLE

Recently "Strange Universe" presented a segment on which two ladies told viewers how they were frightened and mistreated by some fellows in uniforms who not only flew black helicopters over their houses but landed and captured them.

We've all heard for years about strange guys called Men In Black. Usually they arrive in a black limousine, dressed like undertakers or sometimes in military uniforms. They mumble that they are from some official agency and proceed to threaten a person they visit and strongly advise them to forget all about UFOs. They even mention "act of treason" -- then they declare that they are "out of energy," stumble out, and promptly disappear.

They look weird. Once one of them wore lipstick, another had his wig askew. Their clothes are black, and most of the time they are ill-fitting. They sometimes stutter, pausing as if they are searching for words.

That was then. The new generation of M.I.B. is modernized and more dangerous. Now they arrive in helicopters, after cruising over the victim's house. They are more violent. They beat people, choke them, and "interrogate" them (whatever that means). They still mention "treason." They still look weird, but now they wear paramilitary uniforms and are more articulate. This new breed (or is it) is more unpleasant ... and equally stupid!

They are barking up the wrong tree. Just think for a moment: who are their victims? Mostly they are ordinary people who by chance sighted a UFO or were abducted against their will. That is their "crime." Is this treason?

But how about us? Some of us attend meetings, speak about them, or organize conferences and symposia. What about those who write books on UFOs, talk about them on the radio or TV, or vociferously accuse the government of cover-ups and all kinds of conspiracies?

How about all these "Archbishops of UFOlogy"? They are well-known publicly. Are they bothered by M.I.B.s or helicopters?

So far I have never heard that any one of them was visited by M.I.B.s or whacked by guys in helicopters.

So I came up with an idea: Let's find out. It is an innocent question. I plan to ask about 100 to 200 of them if they were ever bothered by these creeps. That's all. Now, I figure that response may be meager. Some may think I'm an agent-provocateur, or just

flipped in my old age ... but I think it's worth a try.

So, ladies and gentlemen, your opinion is needed: to whom should I send this question, and how should it be formulated? Thanks for your input.

Jim Ossipov
MUFON-AZ Asst. State Director

STRANGE LIGHTS SEEN ALL OVER WASHINGTON STATE

Reports continue to pour in concerning the mysterious "Seattle Lights" that were seen after 9 p.m. in Washington State on Friday, November 14, 1997. Dale Goudie of the UFO Reporting and Information Service hotline reported receiving 44 calls from witnesses that evening.

In Gig Harbor, Washington (pop. 2,429), a small town on Puget Sound seven miles north of Tacoma, June Akiyama and her friend Leslye Stewart were driving north on Highway 16 "when they saw bright lights in the sky. They and other motorists pulled off the road to watch." "It looked like a huge bottle rocket moving slowly across the sky," Akiyama said.

In Tacoma, Washington (pop. 176,664), a Police Department spokesman said "We've had reports from Roy to Brown's Point." Tom Dyer of Lakewood said he was in his car at the intersection of Gravelly Lake Drive SW and Washington Boulevard SW a little after 9 p.m. when his son spotted multicolored lights in the sky. When Dyer looked up, he saw three or four rows of lights. "It looked like an oceangoing cruise ship," he said.

In Centralia, Washington (pop. 10,809), a city on Interstate Highway 5 approximately 81 miles south of Seattle, Frank Frazee said he and his family saw the lights moving across the sky. "It looked like a falling star," said Frazee's daughter. "It was fire-colored, orange-reddish with a head that was white."

In Aberdeen (pop. 18,739), a port city on Grays Harbor 108 miles southwest of Seattle, a witness spotted the lights at 9:07 p.m. "I moved to an exterior landing that just happened to be facing north and couldn't believe what I saw," he said. "A large group of mixed-size objects, red-orange in color, were traversing the

sky from west to east approximately 30 degrees above the horizon. Most of the smaller objects appeared to be 'spark like' in appearance. Two red-orange objects longer than the rest appeared to lead the smaller objects."

Callers to KXRO Radio in Aberdeen reported "one entire streak of light."

In Wenatchee (pop. 17,257), a town on the Columbia River 147 miles east of Seattle, a witness reported "I thought at first I was seeing a reflection of traffic [in the window]. I saw [four of them]; they were not moving that fast, and there was a definite formation. I told my husband to look, and he and my son ran out in the parking lot just in time to see them disappear over the plateau, moving east. It is pretty ridiculous to expect anyone who saw it to believe it was anything that plunged into the Pacific. I could see them passing between me and the hills. I could see that the objects were between me and the towers. They were below the mountain top, in the valley. It was no optical illusion, and I had plenty of time to watch it."

UFO Roundup
Volume 2, #45
11/23/1977
Via Internet

AT THE THRESHOLD: UFOS, SCIENCE AND THE NEW AGE Charles F. Emmons Ph.D.

1997, Wild Flower Press (800-898-0286), 268 Pages; Extensive Bibliography, Glossary and Index.
\$17.95 Paperback.

As we say in cyberspace, BUY THIS BOOK! It will show you how Ufology became a deviant science, what you can do about it, and on the way it will cover every modern reference, author, title and article in the known universe which might be attempting to deal, in a scholarly manner, with the subject of UFOs. This book might even be a serious textbook contender for a class taught by a card carrying member of The Committee For Skeptical Study of the Unexplained because their name will surely be in this comprehensive book!

Since about 1947 we have felt "At The Threshold" of the scientific treatment and understanding of UFOs. Professor Charles F. Emmons of

Gettysburg College will show you why Ufology remains in the realm of deviant science and why I suspect, we may remain at the threshold for a long time to come. He delineates the debates within and without the Ufology field in a balanced and fair-minded way and he gives us some great mini biographies of some of your favorite Ufologists including our favorite object of boos, hisses, and derision, the alas, necessary, thorn-in-the-side, Philip Klass.

This is the book for your skeptical friends, but you must first get them past the beautiful Maynard Demmon art work on the cover which suggests an ephemeral, paranormal, spiritual, and possibly mystical content. Publishers are faced with the economic reality that a book about UFOs which has a cover that looks too academic, will probably not sell well to a Holistic, New Age, Holographic crowd with a few Ufologists sprinkled in their midst. Thus, the beautiful chambered nautilus mirroring and emerging from the cosmos to merge with the crop circles of England. It will help to sell this book, though the content is far from warm and fuzzy.

We nuts-and-bolts types however are not those who are easily dissuaded from going beyond the cover, and therein lies a treat. No matter what your bias, Emmons has conceptualized, categorized and contextualized your favorite theory's pros and cons and identified those who share your view by name, rank, and title. He tops it all off with the best bibliography on UFOs I have seen in quite a while.

Professor Emmons calls our attention to the way in which the acceptance of quantum physics by the "normal scientific" community has opened the door for serious Ufologists. If one can conceive of and be confused by ten dimensional super string theory or, at the other end, the reductionist ideas of a unified quanta, a "God Particle", then a "new science" examination of UFOs with their plethora of evidence should not be such a great leap.

In fact in Chapter Seven, "The Crumbling of Certainty," he shows us some of the cracks in the dikes holding back the academically and administratively challenged members of "normal science." But those dikes of scientific methodology were built to last and the paradigm shift (Emmons

refers to "Paradigm bending...Reality shattering experiences) it will take to allow a flood of common sense through, is only just beginning, with a sprinkling of Ph.D. here and there willing to venture into the uncharted, untenured oceanic void of Ufology. Better to deal with the safer subjects of hyperspace, worm holes, baby universes, chaos theory and the paradoxical behavior of electrons as both particles and waves if you must insist on surfing on the edges of the "new science"!

I have only one brief criticism of this book. Its style is pedantic and a bit repetitious in places. But Professor Emmons tone is non-confrontational and consultative. "Come let us reason together" might be his appeal to the academics in his reading audience but quoting Robert Anton Wilson, he reminds us of the limitations of a narrow kind of orthodoxy often found in normal science. "To deny dogmatically" is to claim, tacitly, that you already know the full spectrum of the possible. In a century in which every decade has brought new and astonishing scientific shocks, that is a huge, brave and audacious faith indeed." (p.139)

The single most important contribution that the new science makes to the speculation about how ET UFOs could travel more easily than previously thought (and coincidentally contribute to the possibility of legitimate study of UFOs) is the idea that there are ways around the speed-of-light limit. "This does not usually mean breaking the speed limit. Instead it involves finding short-cuts through the universe and even drawing a new road-map that sees the structure of the universe in ways that are almost impossible to visualize." (p.121)

If you can imagine a large piece of Swiss cheese rolled into a tube and then visualize the short cuts that could be taken from one point on the cheese to another you will sense some of the near magic encompassed by the new physics. A magic which can make the old Newtonian/Einsteinian explanations of UFO travel seem almost plausible no matter how much they stretched our minds. But as Emmons points out it is these very mind boggling concepts in new physics which drive new cracks in the old dike and offer some hope that the breakthrough threshold may be near.

After his thorough examination of the various schools and theories to account for UFOs, Emmons offers his take on the phenomenon, which because of space limitations I have greatly condensed and brutally simplified: 1. They are other-worldly in origin, from somewhere/ somewhere.... 2. They have interacted with earth and its inhabitants for at least thousands of years. Their technology is so advanced that we are bound to misunderstand much of what they are doing. 3. There is no evidence of active "evil" intent but they seem not to care much about human rights or autonomy. 4. Some human groups (governments especially) are probably deceiving the public about what they know. 5. The UFO phenomena are complex rather than a single mystery capable of an easy solution. (p.213ff.)

There is no single static answer to a simple question, "What are UFOs?" There is only an evolution of understanding. Richard Hall states that abductee "reports are at once compellingly credible and totally inexplicable in terms of conventional scientific knowledge." So, if you are scientific in spirit and refuse to let imagination substitute for evidence, you suspend judgment. Who could ask for anything more from a scientist operating under the true spirit of open inquiry that is supposedly part of the scientific ideology or ethic? (p.220)

As physicist Niels Bohr put it, "Anyone who is not shocked by the quantum theory does not understand it." (p.131) In the same spirit Dr. Emmons tells his Sociology students, "If you are not confused by this material, then you don't really understand it." (p.204) He has done much however to alleviate our confusion and broaden our understanding with this broadly drawn look at the emerging science of Ufology on the threshold of its next great leap.

Herb Moran
MUFON-AZ Member

Pathfinder finds evidence of Earth-like conditions in Mars' past

BY PAUL RECER
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The Pathfinder robot uncovered evidence that Mars was once warm, moist and more like Earth than its forbidding surface might now suggest.

All of this is "a shot in the arm for the possibility of finding evidence of life" on the Red Planet, said one researcher.

"The body of evidence returned by Pathfinder are suggestive that conditions had been conducive for the formation of life early in Mars' history," said Matt Golombek, a Pathfinder mission scientist and lead author of a research report in the journal *Science*.

Golombek said several lines of evidence have produced a strong consensus among scientists that

Pathfinder landed July 4 on a Martian plain that was sculpted by liquid water sometime in the past and that such water proves the planet once was a warmer, more life-friendly place.

Although Pathfinder and its faithful wheeled rover, Sojourner, found no definite evidence of life, the report in *Science* said the spacecraft studies "appear consistent with a water-rich planet that

may be more Earthlike than previously recognized, with a warmer and wetter past in which liquid water was stable and the atmosphere was thicker."

Finding evidence of liquid water, said Golombek, "is a shot in the arm for the possibility of finding evidence of life. If there was no liquid water, then there would be no need to search for life on Mars."

Collision predicted for Milky Way

By Paul Recer
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Images of two huge galaxies colliding in a caldron of violence spawning thousands of stars may be a preview of what is in store for the Earth's own Milky Way.

New pictures taken by the Hubble Space Telescope include the most detailed images ever seen of the churning explosion of energy that occurs when two galaxies — made up of millions of stars and immense clouds of hydrogen gas and dust — merge into a single giant galaxy.

Astronomers said Tuesday that such a collision is expected to be the ultimate fate of our own Milky Way galaxy. A nearby galaxy, the Andromeda, is bearing down on the celestial home of the solar system and the two stellar formations will eventually merge.

Humans need not worry, said Brad Whitmore of the Space Telescope Institute. Even though the Andromeda is racing toward the Milky Way at 300,000 miles an hour, the collision won't occur for about 5 billion years.

By then, it is expected that the sun will be a burned-out husk and the Earth, if it still exists, will be a lifeless chunk of frozen space rock.

Whitmore said close-up photos of the Antennae galaxy, 63 million light-years away, clearly show it was formed by the collision of two spiral galaxies, such as the Milky Way.

The galaxies include 1,000 to 2,000 clouds of hydrogen gas, each one 60 to 300 light-years across. As the galaxies merge, the clouds lead to the rapid-fire formation of stars that light up like a series of firecrackers, said Francois Schweizer of the Carnegie Institution of Washington.

"The collision crunches the hydrogen gas and new stars form all over the place," Schweizer said.

Also formed are hundreds of globular clusters, tight stellar formations each with thousands of stars.

Whitmore said the photos show in great detail how the globular clusters form, a phenomenon that has long puzzled astronomers. Most clusters formed early in the history of the universe and can be seen only faintly by the best of telescopes.

But the Antennae galaxy is close enough to answer some fundamental questions about the clusters.

"By studying this nearby example, we can find what was happening early in the universe," he said.

The Antennae has two long wisps extending from a central heart-shaped core. The galaxy got its name because the wisps resemble the antennae of insects.

Wednesday, October 22, 1997

The Arizona Republic

Extraterrestrial encounters hardly alien to the believers

"I could feel someone standing in my room, looking at me. I opened my eyes and I'm looking at a little being standing right next to my bed. I said to myself I should be screaming in stark terror. But I didn't.

"Then I noticed he had, as if it were, a covering of gray — I'm going to call it skin, but there were no indications of buttons or seams or belts or anything. . . . He had the big head that narrowed down to the chin. Great big black eyes and one aperture for a nose or a mouth; I couldn't figure out which was which.

"His head was on a long, spindly, little neck. His arms were very long and thin. I saw one hand just barely, and it was wrinkled. Three digits."

You know what's coming. In a scenario ingrained in popular culture from reams of books and miles of film, Carol Fraley is describing what she considers her "one conscious experience" with . . . what?

She knows what you're thinking. Wacko. Nuts. That's why for nearly 24 years, she said, she only told close family and friends.

"It seemed like a kooky kind of area," she explained. "I did not really want to get involved in that. Only in the past several years have I become more focused on it, wanting to learn more. I want to find out if I'm involved in something that I don't fully understand."

Next weekend, Fraley — today a family therapist in California — will be regressed by another fam-



TAMARA DIETRICH

STAFF
COLUMNIST

ily therapist at a San Diego workshop of the Academy of Clinical Close Encounter Therapists.

She doesn't know what trauma she'll resurrect. But if it's an ET experience, it won't bother her as much as you'd think.

Because, she said firmly in a phone interview, as the little being stared down at her that night, "there was a glimmering movement behind his big, black eyes. It sent to me a feeling of loving, caring and warmth. I always say those three words."

Fraley was lucky, by abductee standards.

"Rarely are the first encounters something that people enjoy," says Fountain Hills therapist Dr. Ruth McKinley-Hover, who conducts a local experiencers support group. "No one wants to be an abductee."

Women usually go screaming, she said. Men go fighting.

But if they relax and go with it, she said, often they're communicated with, even shown around the spacecraft.

When she first looked into the abduction experience many years ago, McKinley-Hover said, she considered whether we were evolving a new mental illness. Or perhaps a cultural-sociological

shift, transferring a "belief" in witches, ghosts or angels to space aliens.

Today her hunch is that these experiencers are on to something.

"I think most of the people in this field are saying, yeah, it's pretty weird. I know it's bizarre. But if the person talking to me also knows it's bizarre and is putting themselves out on a limb to tell it to me," McKinley-Hover said, "the least I can do is not ridicule them and listen to it.

"I don't think the information should be held close to the chest just because we're afraid people will laugh at us. I think we need to perceive ourselves as being on the leading edge, not the fringe."

OK, I'm willing to suspend disbelief until the end of this year. I'm suspending so hard I'm practically weightless. But I'm only doing it because UFOlogists claim 1997 is the year Space Visitors will finally make "an actual formal, semi-public landing."

But on this, Day 4 of my own personal Alien Watch, still no contact with off-world beings. The closest I've come all year is that live press conference in June when former Gov. Fife Symington dressed his chief of staff in a silver spacesuit and told a roomful of journalists to go find a funny bone.

Tamara Dietrich is metro columnist with the Tribune. Have a story idea? Want to sound off? Call 898-6534.

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