



MUFON

Mutual UFO Network

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

ARIZONA CHAPTER

Volume 7 / Issue 2

The Truth is Out There . . .

MEETING DATE: Wednesday, February 25, 1998 ♦ MEETING TIME: 7:30 p.m. SHARP
PROGRAM: VIDEO: "INTERVIEW WITH AN ALIEN" HOSTED BY STEVEN WILLIAMS
and COMMENTS BY FRANCES BARWOOD

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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520/378-3024

Mary Hart
Newsletter Producer
602/907-0609

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

The flood of misinformation concerning new Phoenix UFO sightings continues.

It's sad that several well-respected and well-known names are being fed new misinformation. The sightings which occurred nearly a year ago were a one-time event. Recent UFO sightings taking place here in Phoenix are not UFOs! To those of you elsewhere around the country: don't pack your bags and head for Phoenix -- we are NOT a "UFO hot spot!!"

We just confirmed today that MUFON-AZ will celebrate for the third year "UFO Awareness Week" Friday through Sunday, August 21-23, at Christown Shopping Center at 19th Ave. & Bethany Home Road. Sign-up sheets to participate in that event will be available at meetings in the next few months, so plan now to help out with this worthwhile and interesting project.

In addition to the video being shown at this month's meeting, Francis Barwood has been invited to address us concerning her candidacy

for Secretary of State for Arizona. She deserves a lot of support from the UFO community, and we hope everyone will come to give her a very warm welcome. Not many political candidates have the gumption to ask: "What were those lights over Phoenix on March 13, 1997?"

See you at the meeting ... and keep your eyes to the sky!

Tom Taylor
State Director



Media Watch

I received the latest newsletter from Just Cause a few days ago. I was surprised and saddened to hear about the take-over of this well-respected UFO organization by people not involved with its operation for over 10 years. I suggest those interested in supporting a serious UFO organization send a check for \$15 to get its quarterly newsletter. Checks should be made out to Barry Greenwood. The new name of the organization is UFO Historical Review, and the address is P.O. Box 176, Storeham, MA 01280. This

organization was formerly "Citizens Against UFO Secrecy."

Peter Davenport from the UFO Reporting Center, Seattle, Washington, was on the Art Bell "Coast to Coast" program a few weeks ago reporting on a host of sightings in the Pensacola, Florida area. Whitley Streiber was on a few nights later, having seen the same thing himself! Peter supports his UFO Reporting Center with donations from the public to help defray costs. Donations of a few dollars, but nothing more than \$5, would be welcome and can be sent to P.O. Box 95623, Seattle, WA 98145.

A TV movie entitled "Alien Abduction of the McPherson Family" was shown a few weeks ago involving an abduction in Minnesota, I believe. Stanton Friedman was quoted out of context regarding this abduction. Many viewers who failed to see the cast of characters at the end of the movie and thought it was a real story!

If you haven't seen the film "Wag the Dog" with Dustin Hoffman, I suggest you see it -- you'll easily see how this type of situation could

easily apply to **creating** a UFO event. (It's a great comedy.)

In the March 1998 issue of Fate magazine, Antonio Huneeus writes an interesting article on UFO propulsion, both in theory and in human testing over the past 50 years.

Also in Fate's 50th anniversary edition is a very interesting article by Simon Groebner on 6,000 year old sculptures of Oriental astronauts, along with some interesting photos.

Several film crews were in town from Los Angeles and Japan recently to interview witnesses for upcoming programs on the approaching 1st anniversary of the March 13 Phoenix UFO event. Watch for MUFON-AZ press releases concerning our findings on the March 13 event.

Our own Dr. Ruth Hover was just interviewed by John Dupree of Channel 12, and the segment will appear on the 10 p.m. news on Channel 12 Thursday, Feb. 19.



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.

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

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

Strange Universe - Mondays thru Fridays at 1:00 p.m. & 11:30 p.m. on Channel 45.

CALENDAR

Cochise County Chapter - Sat., February 28, 1998, 1 p.m. at Sierra Vista City Library, 2950 E. Tacoma St., Sierra Vista, AZ. Contact Herb Funston at 520/378-3024 for details.

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

Pinal County Chapter - Contact Ken Kerber at 520/836-1185 for meeting information.

Yuma County Chapter - Meetings are quarterly. Call Joseph Murek at 520/782-3906 for further details.

Maricopa County Chapter - Meeting Wednesday, February 25, usual place and time (see page 1).

Experiencer Support Group will meet Monday, February 23, at 7:30 p.m.

in Fountain Hills, AZ. Contact Dr. Ruth Hover at 837-8446 for details.

March 20-22, 1998: 6th Annual Gulf Breeze UFO Conference, Pensacola, FL. For more info. call 850/432-8888 or fax 850/438-1801.

April 10-12: 10th Annual Ozark UFO Conference, Eureka Springs, AR. For more info call 501/354-2558.

June 26-28: MUFON International UFO Symposium, Denver, CO. More information later.

July 3-5: Roswell Days, Roswell, NM. For more information write International UFO Museum, P.O. Box 2221, Roswell, NM 88202 or call 505/625-9495.

August 21-23: MUFON-AZ UFO Awareness Week, Chris Town Shopping Center, 19th Ave. & West Bethany Home. More details to come later.

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.

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 Dimitri at 609 E. Tulane, Tempe, AZ 85283. Be sure to include your address. Your Arizona Sightings copy will be sent to you by return mail.

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 Dimitri at 609 E. Tulane, Tempe, AZ 85283. Be sure to include your address. Your Arizona Sightings copy will be sent to you by return mail.



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

COCHISE CO. SECTION REPORT

As planned, we have established a confirmed meeting schedule for 1998 through January 1999. Meetings will be held from 1300 hours to 1600 hours on the fourth Saturday of each month with only 2 exceptions. The November meeting will be held on the 3rd Saturday and no meeting will be held in December. Meetings will continue to be held in the Sierra Vista Library conference room.

Our January meeting focused on the use of scientific methods in gathering and analyzing data. A video was shown on the life of Galileo which gave many examples of our subject and showed how to project solutions from given data.

An early January call from an individual in the far eastern part of the county provided general information on this person's alleged prowess in experiencing many sightings and close encounters from UFOs. Extensive questioning revealed that virtually no substance of a quantitative nature, i.e. times and place of alleged events, apparent nature of the objects, details of activities in the events, could be ascertained. The credibility of the individual has been deemed to be practically non-existent and any follow-up contact was not indicated.

A later call from another individual with whom this section has had previous contact made to the home of our Assistant Section Leader purported to be passing information about a sighting witnessed by two unnamed individuals in the same area. Previous incidents reported by this individual have seriously lacked quantitative substances and therefore no further action was taken on this report by our section. The lack of credibility of this individual has been well established over a period of several months. She is involved in a small group operating in the south central part of our country, the major goals of which are (1) publicity and (2) attempting to show transcendental features of alleged sightings.

This person did, however, state that she had

Again, substantial and quantitative details were lacking and further investigation was not indicated. This individual did, however, state that she had contacted the recently released Tucson Section Leader, whom she personally knew, and that this person volunteered to perform an investigation of this alleged event and do so completely out of her operational jurisdiction and without the knowledge and consent of our section.

Herb Funston
Cochise Co. Sect. Dir.

GELATINOUS MATERIAL FALLS ON SMALL TOWN

Three years ago a mysterious gelatinous material fell from the sky over Oakville, WA (pop. 700) when a rainstorm left more than the usual puddles.

One witness, Sunny Barclift, found small lumps of clear gel at her mother's farm. Shortly thereafter, she witnessed, in her words, "(black) helicopters that were unmarked and not numbered . . . [that] flew very low" over the area. These helicopters were followed, according to Barclift, by a large triangular craft that "made absolutely no sound whatsoever, and glowed all around the periphery." She estimated its size as "80 ft. x 100 ft."

Unlike most "star jelly," which seems to coincide with falling stars, this gel did not dissolve almost immediately. Barclift, a former National Safety Council employee, collected samples and began a journal of "gel shower" incidents.

Barclift sent samples to the Public Health Laboratories in Seattle for analysis. The analysis showed the gel was full of harmful bacteria (the report listed "pseudomonas Flourescens" and "Enterobacter Cloacae") and human white blood cells. It would be a short time, however, before this report came back. In the interim, the town had no idea what was in the gelatinous material.

Within a few days of the first shower, Barclift's mother became ill (with an inner ear infection, according to her doctor) and more than a dozen kittens on the premises died.

Neither the FAA, nearby McCord Air Force Base, nor the State Health Department had an explanation for the falling gel.

Oakville police chief Gerry Greub didn't take Barclift's first call seriously until three days later when a police officer's patrol car was covered by more falling gel. After the officer and other townspeople became so ill they had to be hospitalized, Greub looked into the matter.

They (McCord AFB) told me it was from bombing off the coast," Greub said, "that it was probably jellyfish being thrown into the air and then blow inward."

In the last three years, Barclift has cataloged "gel showers" around the country, and finds most occur near Air Force bases. She said, "Literally hundreds of people across the country have witnessed the same thing in their own communities."

One author, Jim Keith ("Black Helicopters Over America"), said the gel and strange triangular craft are not a coincidence but evidence of military experiments on the population.

"From the research I've done," Keith explained, "I think a testing of a bio-warfare agent took place over Oakville, Washington."

Three weeks ago another "gel shower" took place in Oakville, indicating, if Keith is correct, that the experiments continue.

From Pete Creelman
Via the Internet

ALIEN ATTRACTION

It's a strange phenomena. Folks everywhere have been seeing unidentified flying objects -- some have even claimed actual encounters with creatures from another planet. We're not sure what to think about all that, but we can verify one alien sighting in the town of Pekin, Illinois. That's headquarters for this business that's offering you an alien head magnet. The 1½" rubber magnet features the large-eyed, green being we've all come to know and love. To get one, send \$1.00 P&H and ask for Alien Head Magnet. Mail your request to Retzer's, 14082 Townline Rd., Pekin, IL 61554.

FAMILY CAN'T EXPLAIN WHAT FLEW OVERHEAD

The family was sitting in their front yard last night, enjoying the cool air of the far northeast corner of the valley, the Tanque Verde area, when the son leaped up and explained, "What is that?"

The parents, Carl and Irma Compitello, turned around to peer into the western sky where son Ken, 15, pointed. They saw it, too, a fast-approaching craft of some sort with brightly glowing lights.

Enormouse, they said, but shaped like no airplane they'd ever seen.

It swooped down over their house. Climbing rapidly, it disappeared over Redington Pass. The time was 8:26 p.m. The three didn't now what they saw, but swear it wasn't an ordinary aircraft.

"I couldn't tell you how big it was; it was just so huge," said Mrs. Compitello. "I've never seen anything in the sky so big so close to me."

They compared its lights to the beam of a lantern-style flashlight. It took only a few seconds to pass. Ken dashed inside to grab his camera, but the craft was almost over the horizon when he emerged.

Instead of a turbine's whine, the sound they said they heard was an odd, enveloping hum. After the craft had gone, a cloud of dust hung in the air. But they felt no breeze.

Most puzzling was its apparent shape. Four bright lights, white with a reddish center and two dimmer white lights, were arranged in an asymmetrical pattern, unlike an aircraft.

The pattern resembled the Little Dipper, with three of the brighter lights bunched toward the cup end of the handle, the less-intense lights marking the cup's bottom.

"Bubble" and "cockpit" were words they used to describe the bulge on one end, although they saw no outline -- only lights.

Ken reported the incident to Davis-Monthan Air Force Base. A short while later the family received a call from a member of the Tucson-based Aerial Phenomena Research Organization.

A spokesman for the group said an investigator had been assigned to check the sighting.

Casa Grande Citizen
June 6, 1978

AIRCRAFT IS SOURCE OF MYSTERY

A mysterious group of dozens of aircraft flew over Tucson early Monday morning, but authorities here say they do not know what's up -- if anything.

The aircraft were picked up on radar at the Tucson International Airport tower at 12:15 a.m. Monday and spotted later by a Tucson Police Department helicopter pilot, authorities said.

The radar showed 12 to 15 groups of aircraft, each containing at least four to six individual planes, said Patrick O'Sullivan, air traffic manager for the Federal Aviation Administration. The aircraft were flying across the city from the southwest to the northeast during a one-hour-and-15-minute period, said O'Sullivan and his assistant manager, George Sullivan.

The radar tracked the objects roughly from near Ryan Field on the far Southwest side to the Redington Pass area on the far Northeast side, Sullivan said.

The craft were traveling approximately 300 mph, he said, which is in the speed range of military aircraft. Military flights often run missions without coordinating with the FAA, he said. They are not required to do so. Sullivan said the FAA is not sure the aircraft were military, but he guessed that they were.

Military spokesmen for bases around the state said they had no such flight groups in the area. Sgt. Stephen Cox, a spokesman for Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, said the base was not contacted during the passes nor was the military investigating the occurrence. "I don't know anything about it. It's not ours, so I couldn't comment," said Cox.

Spokesmen at Luke Air Force Base, Williams Air Force Base, both near Phoenix, the Yuma Marine Air Corps Station and Fort Huachuca all said they had no record of any such flight originating or stopping over at their bases.

Tucson Police Sgt. Douglas Russell said Officer Timothy Clark, who was piloting the department's helicopter at the time, was contacted by the Tucson International Airport tower, which asked him to check on the cause of several unidentified radar blips. Clark spotted several white position lights leaving the city over the Redington Pass area, Russell said. The lights were similar to those used to mark the tail of airplanes.

Clark reported he could not estimate the speed of the objects except that they were going too fast for him to catch, Russell said. Clark was flying at 4,000 feet and estimated the altitude of the objects at 6,000 to 7,000 feet, Russell said.

Robert G. Marsland, investigator for the group, said it is too early to say if the lights are "a trick, a secret Air Force project, or real. They do go faster than a helicopter," he said.

"We're trying to do an in-depth scientific survey," he said. "Something peculiar is going on, and before we'd comment we'd like to know what." Marsland said he has talked to the radar operator in the airport tower, the helicopter pilot, and a maintenance person at the airport who said he saw the blips on weather radar.

He said the maintenance person, whom he declined to identify, switched on the weather radar after hearing a conversation between the tower and the police helicopter.

The maintenance person said the weather radar indicated the aircraft were moving through in three groups of 25 to 30 planes each. Marsland said weather radar normally does not show airplanes but picked up these objects as individual dots.

The objects on the weather radar were flying at more than 300 mph at about 3,000 feet, he said.

"We have airplanes go through that don't talk, but nothing like that," O'Sullivan said about the large number of aircraft. He said Tucson's skies are virtually empty at that hour. The only people flying at that hour are military or other "people who have to fly." He also said that the "targets" on the radar could each be more than one aircraft. Planes flying in tight formation show up as only one "target," he said.

He also speculated that the objects were military flights. "It looks like military, but I hate to say that without knowing. But that type of operation parallels a military scenario."

Casa Grande Citizen
June 6, 1978

SCIENTISTS CAST NEW DOUBT ON LIFE-ON-MARS THEORY

Washington: Organic chemicals found in a martian rock may be contamination from earth and not evidence of life on the Red Planet, new studies suggest. But NASA scientists say the reports "don't shake our belief one bit."

Laboratory studies at the University of Arizona and the Scripps Institute of Oceanography conclude that amino acids and carbon found in a rock from Mars probably got there after the rock landed on earth and lay on Antarctic ice for thousands of years.

This disputes a theory by two NASA scientists who say evidence indicates that martian microbes once lived inside the rock and left behind fossil-like blobs and organic chemicals.

"Neither paper changes our original hypothesis," said Everett K. Gibson, Jr., a NASA researcher. "They don't shake our belief one bit."

Gibson and David S. McKay, both of the Johnson Space Center in Houston announced in August 1996 that they had found evidence of life in a meteorite from Mars. The rock, called ALH84001, was found in an ice field in Antarctica and has been identified chemically as originating from Mars.

The theory that the rock once contained Mars microbes has failed to win universal support among experts, and the new studies, to be published today in the journal Science, are the latest to offer alternate explanations for the life-like chemistry found inside the rock.

J. Warren Beck of the UA, a co-author of one study, said his group analyzed part of ALH84001 for organic carbon, an essential chemical for life. He said there were four types of carbon found and most of it originated on earth, probably from contamination that got into the rock while it was on the ice.

But Beck acknowledged that his team found "a mystery carbon component" that could be extraterrestrial.

"What we found does weaken their case, but it does not rule out the possibility for life on Mars," Beck said.

"We have left the door open to there being extraterrestrial organic carbon in this rock."

Jeffrey L. Bada of Scripps, however, said that his study clearly disproves the Gibson-McKay theory.

Arizona Republic
January 16, 1998



BILL FLOW/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Image: An 8-by-7-foot alien is unveiled on the side of a U-Haul truck on Monday in Roswell, N.M. The image will appear on 300 U-Haul trucks by the end of the month. The image shows a green alien looking up at the sky with a background image depicting the purported 1947 crash near Roswell.

-Haul unveils out-of-this-world design

GIBLIN
JUNE

U-Haul on Monday unveiled artwork that will boldly go where no moving campaign has gone

before. The company introduced its new graphic design for its fleet of earth-bound rental trucks in Roswell, N.M., on Monday. The design features an unfortunate traveler — a bug-eyed

space alien and its crashed saucer. The scene is meant to depict the "Roswell Incident" of 1947.

U-Haul International Inc., which is based in Phoenix, will put the little green man on the sides of more than 300 moving trucks.

The first truck was shown at the International UFO Museum and Research Center in downtown Roswell. About 150 Earthlings attended the event on Main Street.

Museum director Deon Crosby

gave high marks to the design by Gilbert artist Steve King.

"It's an alien that is longing to be back in the sky. It's very emotional," Crosby said.

The UFO design marks the first new artwork for U-Haul moving trucks in five years. The company will roll out about 10 new designs this year to launch a second "Salute to America" campaign.

The original campaign was started in 1988 and depicted more

than 100 American icons such as the Statue of Liberty, Mount Rushmore and the Golden Gate Bridge. Each design represented a U.S. state or Canadian province.

Initially, the concept was intended to show consumers that the company had updated its fleet of silver-and-orange trucks, said Michael Shoen, U-Haul president of Phoenix operations.

► Please see **U-HAUL**, Page

U-HAUL: Unveils out-of-this-world design

From Page B

Since then, the designs have become an important part of the company's corporate identity, he said.

The new series will be based on "thought-provoking" concepts.

A line of text on the UFO trucks asks the ominous question: What happened in Roswell?

According to UFO enthusiasts, a space saucer crashed near Roswell. Government officials, of course, have staged a five-decade cover-up.

Another truck design in the new series will be based on Area 51, the

secret military test site in Nevada, Shoen said.

U-Haul executives made first contact with Roswell officials in October. The concept came together quickly, Crosby said.

Roswell officials welcomed the idea. The town lays claim to the largest mozzarella cheese manufacturing plant in the world, but UFO-inspired tourism is the town's main industry.

The UFO museum, which advertises only in southeastern New Mexico, attracted 192,000 people last year. The U-Haul trucks will generate public awareness

across the United States and Canada in places where the museum could never afford to advertise, Crosby said.

"It's like 600 billboards on every major highway and on smaller highways and sitting in people's driveways," she said.

The decals will be affixed to trucks in U-Haul plants in Massachusetts and Pennsylvania beginning last this month, according to the company.

U-Haul rents 85,000 trucks and 85,000 trailers across North America.

Navajos decry human ashes on holy moon

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WINDOW ROCK — NASA showed gross insensitivity to American Indian culture and religion in sending cremated human remains aboard a spacecraft to the moon, Navajo Nation President Albert Hale says.

"The moon is a sacred place in the religious beliefs of many Native Americans," he said.

The unmanned Lunar Prospector spacecraft's mission is to search for water, minerals and gases.

The 4-foot, 650-pound drum-like craft also contains an ounce of the ashes of Eugene Shoemaker, a planetary scientist who trained the Apollo astronauts in lunar geology in the 1960s and early 1970s and always yearned to fly to the moon. He died in a car crash last summer.

The craft maneuvered into lunar orbit Sunday. After the craft completes its yearlong mission and runs out of fuel, it will be directed to crash into the moon so it will not become orbiting debris. "It is one thing to probe, to study, to examine and even for men to walk upon the moon," Hale said Sunday. "But it is sacrilegious, a gross insensitivity to the beliefs of many Native

Americans, to place human remains on the moon."

John Lawrence, chief of operations and program support at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in Houston, said NASA tries to respect everybody's religious beliefs.

"Almost regardless of what you do, you're going to step on toes somewhere," he said.

"It's a collision of beliefs," he said. "Obviously, to much of our culture, sending remains into space or to other planets or on interplanetary trajectories is highly desirable and a significant tribute to the deceased."

But Hale said other tribes also are offended by the placement of human remains on the moon.

Most, if not all, American Indian people have various legends, beliefs, traditions or rituals that related to the moon, he said.

Ted Rushton, a spokesman for the Navajo Nation but not a Navajo himself, said Monday that Navajos believe it is proper to bury a body only on Earth "because we come from the Earth and we go back to the heart."

"The moon is a holy place. We do not bury bodies there. We do not bury bodies under the floor of a church," Rushton said.

THE TRIBUNE, TUESDAY

JANUARY 13, 1998

Maoists for Martians: Here, UFOs Make For Serious Science

Chinese Scholars, Who Believe
The Truth Is Out There,
Tap Flying-Saucer Physics

By KATHY CHEN

Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL
BEIJING — In ever-changing China, which in places has rocketed from agrarian poverty to urban modernity in less than a decade, nothing seems impossible these days.

Not even UFOs.

That may explain why 60-year-old Sun Shili, professor of international trade at Beijing's University of International Business and Economics, is holding court at China's hallowed Academy of Science along with a South Korean delegation from something called the Embassy of Extraterrestrials.

In the West, unidentified flying objects and alien abductions are the stuff of Hollywood pulp and supermarket tabloids. But in China, UFOs are a matter of great national importance. Prof. Sun's group, the Chinese UFO Research Association, receives government grants, and its members include some of the nation's most respected scientists and academics — even Communist Party officials.

These enthusiasts aren't merely trying to prove the existence of UFOs: They are attempting to figure out what makes them fly and then harness that power for everyday use in China.

"UFOs are faster than any airplane or car," Prof. Sun explains. "We hope to use the UFO phenomenon to resolve China's energy and efficiency problems." The professor, who once worked as a translator for Mao Tse-tung, adds that while "the focus of foreign UFO studies on sightings is a little passive," in China "we've always linked our research with science."

Of course, classifying the study of UFOs as "science" protects Prof. Sun and his group from Communist Party prohibi-

tions against engaging in superstition. And China does have its official skeptics: Ji Fusheng, general director of the Department of Basic Research and High Technology of the China Association for Science and Technology, says "the study of UFOs does no harm, but I believe it won't have any concrete results."

A serious scholar with a dignified air, Prof. Sun experienced what he says was his first and only close encounter in 1969, when he spotted a bright orb honcing like a yo-yo above the horizon during a Maoist learn-from-the-peasants campaign at a rural cooperative. Not having heard of flying saucers, "I thought it was a Soviet reconnaissance plane," he recounts. Mr. Sun only considered the other-worldly possibilities of his sighting after the author of a Spanish-language book on UFOs sent him a copy to translate. At the time, Mr. Sun was working for the government, even translating for Mao during meetings with Spanish-speaking dignitaries.

Before long, Mr. Sun had become the

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Maoists for Martians: In China, UFOs Make For Serious Science

Continued From First Page

nation's leading UFO expert. He attended official conferences organized and funded by the government. A vice premier, Yao Yilin, wrote a commentary in 1980 urging the Chinese to respect his findings.

Sitting in his Beijing apartment in a study crammed with UFO books, Mr. Sun recounts how he helped transform the nation's UFO association from a science-fiction club, founded at Wuhan University in 1979, into a nationwide organization with 5,000 members.

One of his first moves after taking the helm in 1986 was to use his connections in government and academia to move the association's membership away from mostly students and laborers. He stepped up contact with the outside world, attending international conferences and posing for photos with dress-up aliens. Today, he brags, "80% of our members are college graduates or above."

Gao Ge is characteristic of the members Prof. Sun has been trying to recruit. The 52-year-old scientist at Beijing Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics holds three Chinese patents and one U.S. patent for aerospace-related advances, as well as China's National First-Class Invention prize for his research on improving the efficiency of jet engines. Ever since spotting what he says was an orange UFO in Miami, where he was a visiting professor at Florida Atlantic University in 1990, Mr. Gao has been trying to build his own. What he envisions is an ellipsoid with tiny wings that he says can take off vertically and move like an alien spaceship, albeit at subsonic speed.

The WALL STREET JOURNAL, Nov. 7, 1997
FRONT PAGE ARTICLE!

Beds and Dragonfly Wings

Mr. Gao says he has test-flown a wooden prototype with the dimensions of a king-size bed. He is confident that, someday, with his craft's maneuverability and energy-saving "vortex generator" (a device that creates lift much like dragonfly wings) "you won't need airplanes anymore." He can't offer much more than a description, however: He says Beijing Institute has labeled his invention top secret and has banned him from showing even blueprints to outsiders.

Strolling by a lily pond at a senior citizens' recreation center in the southern city of Guiyang, another UFO buff and association member, Ma Ruian, 54, envisions a future filled with superfast submarines, floating cars and energy-saving ships shaped like flounders — all gunned by his patented flying globe.

Mr. Ma conducts some of his experiments on this pond, using rudimentary models to test his theory. He believes that by redirecting air or water flow, his globe can decrease resistance, significantly speed up moving objects and save energy. To demonstrate, he releases a balloon fit with a special plug that controls the out-trust of air. The balloon moves fast as it deflates, but Prof. Sun has his doubts about Mr. Ma's theory. "It could be a little exaggeration that the globe's speed could exceed that of a rocket," the professor says.

Fountain of Youth?

Perhaps the boldest dream belongs to Liu Zhongkai, 47, an official at the Beijing Meteorological Bureau with wild eyes and vertical hair. Patent authorities are weighing whether or not to register his invention, which he describes as a magnetic field that produces as much as a third more energy than it requires to run. Among other things, he claims, his magnetic field can alter time. "If you live to be 140 on Earth, in my UFO you will be able to live at least 100,000 years," he says.

Tinkering with his contraption — two steel bars with coils of copper wire at each end — Mr. Liu says his self-generating energy machine "is what UFOs must use to fly long distances because they can't use gas. It's a simple logic thing."

Which, of course, begs the question: How do these scientists know what makes a UFO run, since none claims to have ever been inside one?

"I've studied many photographs of UFOs," Mr. Ma says with a shrug. "In physics, you can work backward to figure out the theory."

That isn't to say the quest isn't tough. Says Mr. Sun: "Working with UFOs is more complicated than translating for Mao."



Sun Shili and 'alien'

Alien embassy promises close encounters, but no parking

Hi. I'm not on A2 very much. You usually see Tamara or Doug or Sherry up here. But I'm the special correspondent *The Tribune* uses whenever people want to build an embassy for aliens in Phoenix.

So, guess what happened Monday?

The International Raelian Church, a worldwide organization claiming 40,000 active members and \$7 million in ready cash, held a press conference to announce the possibility of building an embassy for extraterrestrials in Phoenix.

Really.

The embassy would be constructed to welcome the Elohim, a race of extraterrestrials mentioned in the Bible (see what happens when you skip parts?) who look like us, and created us in their image. The Elohim, so say the Raelians, "want to officially land on Earth at an embassy bringing back with them all the the prophets of all the major religions as predicted by the Scriptures."

The initial choice for the Raelian embassy was Jerusalem, but an embassy there is unlikely. Phoenix is a possible backup city (Careful—we got the Cardinals this way!) because of its frequent UFO activity. The Raelians aren't asking for money. They seem aware that Armageddon wouldn't work here if it needed a quarter-cent sales tax.

The Raelians are nice people with enormous medallions and lots of literature. They believe that humans didn't evolve a la Darwin nor were we created by an omniscient God. They believe we were bred here, laboratory-style — kind of a big science fair experiment — by alien beings of human form who have monitored



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STAFF
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us ever since. Our technological progress, especially in fields such as cloning, are bringing us near the point of near-equality, when our alien creators will reveal themselves to us and unveil further mysteries of the universe.

But they

can't just pull up to the curb.

"They watch us, they monitor us," said Ricky Roehr, president of the United State Raelian Church, "but they don't want to return without our permission. They respect us that much."

But an embassy? We can't just leave a light on for 'em? "Well, when you want to welcome people," Raelian Bishop Level Five Jean Gary said, "you don't just welcome them in the street."

The embassy seems less a tangible possibility than a conversation starter for Raelian doctrine. No land has been selected. The dandy, multi-domed model at Monday's announcement featured tiny fir trees and no parking. Alien existence is a matter of opinion, but if you're building in the Valley and don't allow for parking, you're clearly living in a fantasy world.

It might be tempting to paint these well-intentioned folks as lunatics. But explain the narrative particulars of any religion to the uninitiated, and see what kind of looks you get. Religious creeds aren't easy to believe — if believing them were easy, there would be no trick to having faith.

Actually, I can buy the possibil-

ity of aliens. (Although what aliens would look down us and say, "They need another embassy — there's not enough bureaucracy down there?") Where I get off the Raelian riverboat is in the one-stop shopping convenience of an alien arrival that reveals all we need to know.

Anyone who has ever pounded the snooze alarm on a Monday morning knows that believing in life's purpose is a daily challenge. But answers and encouragement come in subtler ways from more familiar places: the quiet moment with the spouse, the workday that goes inexplicably right, the sound of his or her child's voice. "You can't always get what you want," sings the incredibly unreligious Mick Jagger, "but you get what you need."

It would be nice for a saucerful of aliens to land with every exalted prophet, holding all of life's answers like the back of a junior high math book. For that matter, it would be nice if the saucer contained my '79 prom date, every nun who frightened me in parochial school, and the squirrelly guy who robbed my house that time — and they were all "real sorry."

But it doesn't work like that. Personally, I think life's answers come within the work of living. I don't think they come with an embassy and an extraterrestrial production number.

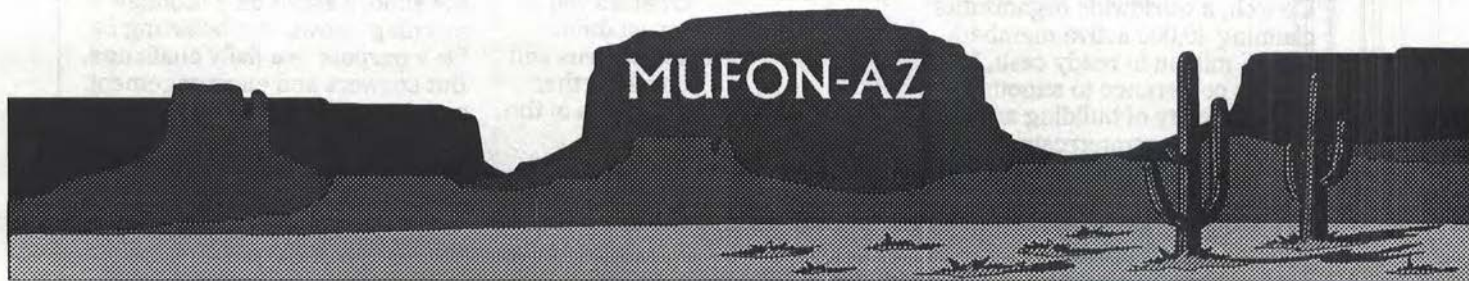
But, I could be wrong. Perhaps the most unnerving aspect of it all is that the Raelians could be right: A large, saucer-like craft could set down in Phoenix one day, spilling Jesus, Buddha, Mohammed and Moses down the ramp. And what's the first thing this lofty assemblage is going to say? "Bring us that smart-aleck guy from *The Tribune*."

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