



MUFON

Mutual UFO Network

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

ARIZONA CHAPTER

Volume 7 / Issue 3

The Truth is Out There . . .

MEETING DATE: Wednesday, March 25, 1998 ♦ MEETING TIME: 7:30 p.m. SHARP
PROGRAM: BOB DEAN: "AFTER THE ANNOUNCEMENT, AFTER THE CONFIRMATION, THEN WHAT?"
LOCATION: 5636 E. McDowell Road - National Guard Armory
(east of 52nd St. on McDowell; then north on Bushmaster Blvd. into Armory)
****** SPECIAL PROGRAM: \$5.00 ADMISSION *****

Tom Taylor State Director 602/967-6265	Alan Morey Asst. State Director 425-9976	Jim Ossipov Maricopa Co. Sect. Dir. 602/752-2280	Dr. Ruth Hover Experiencer Support Group 602/837-0446	Ken Kerber Pinal Co. Sect. Dir. 520/836-1185
Mike Hayes Mojave Co. Sect. Dir. 520/692-1233	Bill Morris Pima Co. Section Dir. 520/762-5625	Joe Murek Yuma Co. Sect. Dir. 520/782-3906	Herb Funston Cochise Co. Sect. Dir. 520/378-3024	Mary Hart Newsletter Producer 602/907-0609

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

As we "celebrate" the first anniversary of the "Phoenix Lights," I wish to thank Richard Motzer, Alan Morey, Jim Ossipov, and Harry and Ruth Hover for all their work and endurance on the case. It has been a very enlightening experience, but also one which I don't think I want to go through again!

For you MUFON members not directly involved with the case, you have no concept of what all happened. A lot of the problem lies with people in the media not fully reading press releases and members not fully reading articles.

Elsewhere in this month's newsletter is a copy of the Press Release concerning the Phoenix Lights which was sent to all of the news media earlier in the week.

June Scherer, who has been the section director for the last several years, has stepped down and will be pursuing other interests. I wish to thank her for her time and hard work. Bill Morrison will replace June down in Tucson. Bill has written an open letter to our members which appears

elsewhere in this newsletter. I hope members will work with Bill and support MUFON in Pima County!

We are honored to have Bob Dean as our guest speaker this month. Bob has been a good friend for many years, and due to his busy schedule it's taken quite awhile for us to make arrangements for him to speak to our group again. I am sure you will find his talk most interesting and informative. For those who don't know, Bob has a very interesting military background that I'm sure you'll find fascinating. Bob was also Pima County Section Director for MUFON for several years until his travel for speaking engagements precluded him from continuing in that capacity.

Bill Goodman, one of our members, had a rare chance to view the recent solar eclipse last month from the Caribbean, and hopefully we'll get a report from him.

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

Tom Taylor
State Director



Media Watch

The White House calls it spin. The CIA calls it plausible denial. The USAF's official position is that there is no danger or threat to national security. Art Bell calls it disclosure.

What is the citizen to believe? Where does all this information fit into our lives? What choices do we make in our everyday lives as we plan our future?

1998 is developing as a year of change. We have begun to move from the warm and fuzzy place of complacency to the hard, cold reality of decision. The explosion of information surrounds us constantly. We move from one megabyte to another before we have fully digested the first one. And all the while we are being pushed deeper into a society where we must deal with this right now -- today -- immediately.

The Phoenix Lights.

Dr. Phillip Corso's book *The Day After Roswell.*

Dr. Richard Boylan's website story about Dr. Michael Wolf's alleged activities inside ultra classified projects.

Hollywood's box office attractions *Independence Day*, *Men In Black*, *Contact*, and *Sphere*.

The TV network sitcom *3rd Planet From the Sun* and The Learning Channel's documentary series on government coverups, assassinations, and stealth technology.

We are constantly being bombarded with questions that challenge the very basis of our being.

The new morals, ethics & character, as demonstrated in the Clinton sex scandals -- the polls which reflect his popularity and America's disdain about the attention given it -- and finally the housewife's double standards which pardon the President's dalliances while insisting loyalty/fidelity from her husband.

More and more Americans are participating in stock speculations, foreign currencies & Asian markets expecting the economy and the bull markets to continue prospering. There are new breakthroughs in medicine, genetics and robotics. There are neuron chips, telemeers (immortality hormones), tissue harvesting, and head/body transplants. There are paradigm shifts in cosmology and science through the discovery of water on the moon, black holes, time travel, and the Hubbell telescope pictures of an expanding or contracting universe. There are emerging energy concepts of anti-gravity, magnetic, cold fusion, and hydrogen. There are psychological adaptations of bio-feedback, visualization firewalking, the psi-factors like remote viewing, and of course virtual reality. We now have so many choices, we hardly know where to begin.

And so, each of us come to MUFON for our own reasons. Some of us want to educate ourselves. Others are energized with the information as we find a special topic or speaker as a motivation. Fellowship

and sharing of current information serves all of us equally. Some of us take a role or responsibility to aid the organization itself. Some of us seek to take the experience outside the organization to the world at large, educating society. And still others seek to find personal answers to personal experiences. Whatever our motivation, each of us are a vital part of the overall picture. What we choose to do will have an effect on the world we live and move in.

"Johann"



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. Weeknights at 9 p.m., Channel 30 (cable).

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

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

Calendar

Cochise County Chapter - Contact Herb Funston at 520/378-3024 for details.

Pima County Chapter - Contact Bill Morrison at 520/762-5625 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, March 25, usual place and time (see page 1).

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

March 29: "Expose the Hidden Agenda" - Holiday Inn Sun Spree Resort, 7702 E. Indian Bend, Scottsdale. Features Travis Walton, Colin Andrews, Peter Davenport, Francis Barwood and Jim Dilettoso. \$29 in advance, \$35 at the door. Call 704-1040 for more information.

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.



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 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

OPEN LETTER FROM NEW PIMA CO. SECTION DIRECTOR

I would like to take this opportunity to let everyone know how pleased I am to have been appointed Pima County Section Director effective March 1, 1998. I would like to thank June Scherrer for recommending me to Tom Taylor for this position. I would also like to thank June for a job well done in her capacity as Pima County Section Director, and I would like to wish her the best in the future. June has done a great job in promoting MUFON not only to Pima County residents but people all over the United States.

My goals will be to carry on June's programs as well as to actively promote MUFON in this area. I look forward to hearing from all the MUFON members in Pima County with their suggestions on how and what they would like to see happen in the future. We will endeavor to get some monthly meeting set up within the next month or so. Again, I welcome suggestions from our members on the direction they would like our Pima County chapter to take.

Bill Morris
Pima County Section Director

ALIENS, EBEs AND HOAXES

A few weeks ago some of us saw the TV program "Alien Abduction of the McPherson Family." It seems that 50% of viewers swallowed the whole business hook, line & sinker. Are we that naive, or were we just impatient to watch to the end and read the credits? Even an "Alien 1" and "Alien 2" were listed as actors! To act to the confusion, several "experts" were deliberately quoted out of context.

At the last meeting we saw the "Interview With An Alien" video. Another beauty! To begin with, the film opens with Bob Lazar, not exactly the best reference in my humble opinion.

Then came a misleading statement whose victim was one of the most respected researchers, Robert Dean. At first, he was introduced as a Sergeant-Major with NATO. A few minutes later he was promoted as "Former NATO Commander," a position usually held by a 4-star General. But how many of us know that, right?

Then, if you look carefully, the unfortunate alien appears different as his head is changed. "Interview" is conveniently conducted in "Telepathese." Sure, make it easy!

In my previous article I was wondering why the alien would submit himself to such indignities for all that time, when aliens barge in and out through solid matter (unless this alien is a masochist). I still wonder.

"Victor," the provider of the alleged film, could easily join Falcon, Condor, and other birds for being equally and mysteriously nebulous.

Opinions on the film, as usual, are divided. Some "specialists" label it as a hoax. Some minor "experts" endorse it with enthusiasm. So, "Victor," after cashing a "fat check," it appears (if ever) to tell the whole truth, let's be cautious. There is enough BS and disinformation already.

Jim Ossipov
Maricopa County Section Director

MUFON MEMBERSHIP BADGES

Orders are being taken for your MUFON Membership Badges. These are the 1-1/4" x 3" blue badges with 3 lines and white print listing your name on the first line, "Arizona MUFON" on the second line, and a title or phrase such as "The Truth is Out There" on the third line. The cost is \$4.50 each unless we have enough orders to get a price break, and then they'll be less. See the sign-up sheet in the front lobby at the meeting. You can also fax your order to Ruth & Harry at 602/837-0094 or send the order via mail to: Ruth & Harry Hover, 16218 Glenview Place, Fountain Hills, AZ 85268. Their phone number is 602/837-0446 for further details.

PRESS RELEASE

MUTUAL UFO NETWORK ARIZONA CHAPTER THE UPDATED REPORT ON "THE PHOENIX LIGHTS"

As we draw close to March 13, 1998, the first anniversary of the Phoenix Lights, there are more questions unsolved than answered. There were two main events that night, one centered around 8:30 p.m., and the last just before 10:00 p.m. The 10:00 p.m. event was resolved by the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) on May 14 and then verified by other sources from that date forward as a flare exercise by the Maryland Air National Guard.

The Big Story then and now is the 8:30 p.m. event for the evening of March 13, 1997. There was no shortage of witnesses, as the object or objects made its or their way from the northwest corner of our state to Phoenix and then back to Kingman that night. All witnesses agree on four things:

1. The formation was very large - perhaps as much as a mile in length!
2. Its movement appeared slow at times and fast at others. The formation or object traveled from Prescott Valley to Carefree in approximately 20 minutes and glided over Phoenix in a southerly direction before heading back north toward Kingman.

3. It made no noise.
4. It did not appear on radar as it passed over Sky Harbor International Airport.

The 8:30 event remains an unknown, or UFO, not necessarily of extra-terrestrial origin.

AN ET/UT CONTACT OVERVIEW AVAILABLE NOW

1998 March 8:

You may have read in the March 5-11, 1998, issue of Phoenix New Times a provocative article by Tony Ortega questioning the public behavior of some people who are known to UFO-Show buffs as UFO info investigation Experts. There's lots of eye-opening and negative stuff in Ortega's carefully researched article.

Fortunately for those of us seeking a thoughtful, positive spin on all the UFO, IFO, abductee, contactee, experiencer, Black budget secret information and disinformation to which we are exposed via radio, TV screens, Interneted PCs, books, newsletters and magazines, and via channelers and conferences and crop circle scenes, a decidedly positive spin has been keystroked into a PC at Georgia State University in Atlanta, Georgia. It is a 24-page briefing intended as an overview by its author, Mark Woodhouse, a Professor in GSU's Department of Philosophy.

One of the most respected UFO information investigators, R. Leo Sprinkle, Ph.D., has this to say about Mark's overview: *"In my opinion, his stance is an excellent balance between courage and caution on the one hand and compassion and competence on the other. I hope that Mark's information is correct about Federation plans."*

To obtain a copy of Mark's thoughtful overview, send a large self-addressed, stamped envelope (\$.78 postage for the 12-page, 2-sided enclosure) and \$2 in cash to: Mark B. Woodhouse, Ph.D., P.O. Box 187, Lakemont, GA 30552. Also, a copy of Mark's overview is posted to his WEB site where future updates may also be found: www.markwoodhouse.com

R. Max Petersen
MUFON-AZ Member

TO THE UFO COMMUNITY: CAUS COMMENTARY

For two days I have read both criticisms of, and support for, both Jim Dilettoso and the article featured in the New Times. The article discusses specific allegations against Jim personally, as well as attacking his professional ability. Some of the allegations, in my opinion, if false, might be considered libelous if malice can be proven. Whether the allegations are true, partly true or totally false, the reputation of the UFO community has been damaged. If the allegations are totally false, we must respond to this attack through the judicial process ... in the spotlight of an open and fair hearing. We must demonstrate that anyone contemplating another attack should be prepared for a swift and just response. If partly true, we must determine what allegations are true and acknowledge the impropriety, taking whatever action the UFO community deems appropriate. If the allegations are totally or substantially true ... then, with all due respect to a person I had respected and admired, Jim Dilettoso must be sanctioned in accordance with his actions and conduct. The UFO community has a responsibility of policing its own house. It seems, for whatever reason, we have been remiss in doing this. I think it's time we take our search for the truth to a higher level.

Two weeks ago CAUS called for a statement by Dr. Steven Greer with respect to a controversial posting on the CSETI website. That statement has yet to come forward. CAUS is now calling upon Jim Dilettoso to come forward and issue a statement as to the truth or falsity of each of the allegations in the article. The UFO community is entitled to know the truth ... especially if it is about one of its members.

Peter A. Gersten, Esq.
Director, Citizens Against
UFO Secrecy, Inc. (CAUS)
e-mail: Ufolawyer@caus.org
website: <http://www.caus.org>

Water discovered on moon

Could ease settlement

By Lawrence Spohn
Scripps Howard

ALBUQUERQUE — Water has been discovered on the moon, fueling scientific excitement over the prospect of human settlement of Earth's only natural satellite.

The historic discovery was made by an instrument developed at Los Alamos National Laboratory and flown aboard NASA's orbiting Lunar prospector.

"There is water," said Alan Binder, chief Prospector mission scientist. "This is the first unquestionable result

indicating a significant amount of water at both lunar poles."

There could be as much as 7.2 billion gallons of water frozen in the shadows of lunar craters.

Although the water is widely dispersed over the moon's poles, scientists said Thursday that the amount detected in a football-field-size area of the moon would be enough to:

- Support a crew of six for a 10-year lunar-settlement mission.
- Power a fuel-cell plant that could

— Please see WATER, Page A2

Water discovered on moon

— WATER, from Page A1

produce 10 megawatts of energy for such a settlement.

- Cut such a mission's cost in half.

They also said the total amount of water detected so far would be enough to support a lunar community of 2,000 people for a century.

The scientists said Prospector has opened the door for many follow-up missions to the moon.

Water is considered vital to human settlement, and its presence could mean easier exploration and exploitation of lunar resources.

Some scientists, including Binder, see the moon as a crucial frontier outpost for the exploration of space.

Not only are lunar geologists enthusiastic, but Prospector's data is important to space scientists and developers who long have advocated building a staffed lunar colony.

Scientists estimate the amount of water detected so far would cost \$60 trillion dollars to put into Earth orbit using the best anticipated rocket technology over a series of launches.

"The presence of water ice at both lunar poles is strongly indicated by data from the spacecraft's neutron spectrometer instrument," NASA said in an official announcement today during a news conference at its Ames Research Center in California.

"Our data are consistent with the presence of water ice in very low concentrations across a significant number of craters," said Bill Feldman, a mission co-investigator and the spectrometer developer at Los Alamos National Laboratory.

During numerous passes over the

lunar pole, the neutron spectrometer revealed "distinctive 3.4 percent and 2.2 percent dips in the relevant curves," said Binder, a space scientist at the Lunar Research Institute in Gilroy, Calif.

"This is the kind of data signature one would expect to find if water ice is present."

The spectrometer's data provides more direct and independent confirmation for previous claims that lunar polar ice exists, based on radar observations made by the joint Department of Defense and NASA Clementine Mission.

Binder and Feldman said that based on only one month of observations, the spectrometer data strongly suggest that water is confined to the lunar poles.

There it is locked up in ice at a ratio of about 1 percent to 0.3 percent of the moon's rocky soil, or about 4 gallons per cubic meter, scientists estimate.

Still, Binder said that while the amount of water per cubic meter of soil is small, in aggregate it would fill an Earthly lake 2 square miles at the surface to a depth of about 40 feet.

Within the 18-inch soil depth that the spectrometer can analyze from Prospector, the scientists estimate the existence of an overall range of 11 million to 330 million tons of lunar water.

The tests also show about twice as much water exists at the Northern Lunar Pole, where it is dispersed over 3,600 to 18,000 square miles. At the South Lunar Pole, the spectrometer data suggest an additional 1,800 to 7,200 square miles of "water ice-bearing deposits."

Feldman said that while extrac-

tion techniques would have to cover large areas, "this is a significant resource that could support a modest amount of (lunar) colonization for centuries."

"The implications could be significant, possibly profound," said mission scientist Jim Arnold of the University of California at San Diego.

Arnold praised the mission for delivering spectacular results to the American people for "about a third the cost of a Hollywood movie."

Prospector, whose mission could be expanded beyond its 17-month period, is costing about \$63 million.

'Phoenix Lights' witnesses credible, hard to dismiss

When the "Phoenix Lights" were reported last year, I yawned. I didn't see them, and breathless TV broadcasts were underwhelming. It seemed easy enough to dismiss the lights as flares or military aircraft. UFOs? You've got to be kidding.

Still, as the March 13 anniversary of the sightings approached, I was curious enough to seek out some witnesses. I suspected most would turn out to be UFO devotees. My skepticism was heightened by a *New Times* story last week that debunked the extraterrestrial theorizing and discredited a leading local theorist, Jim Dilettoso, as a "quack scientist."

I found several people with credible credentials who witnessed the lights. At the least, their stories are interesting. Even if you regard their accounts dubiously, as I do, they raise legitimate questions.

Enough questions, says Peter Davenport, director of the National UFO Reporting Center in Seattle, that what happened that



STEVE WILSON
Republic Columnist

night "may rank as the most dramatic UFO event in the past 50 years."

First, a little background. The lights were spotted between 7:30 and 10:30 in the evening over a 300-mile corridor from the Nevada line through Prescott Valley and Phoenix to the northern edge of Tucson. Some reports indicate that a single "V" formation traveled across the state, while

others suggest multiple UFO events. The lights were seen by hundreds of people.

Here are four:

• Dr. Bradley Evans, 47, is a clinical psychiatrist from Tucson. He and his wife, Kris, were driving north on Interstate 10 to a swimming meet in Tempe. They watched the lights for 20 minutes or so move slowly south in a diamond formation and pass over them at an estimated 1,500 feet. Even then, with the car's moon roof open, they heard not a sound from the sky.

He was "awed" by the experience and has no idea what he saw. Kris said she couldn't explain it either and guesses it was "something military."

• Trig Johnston, 50, is a retired commercial airline pilot who lives in north Scottsdale. His 22-year-old son was looking for Comet Hale-Bopp that night when he noticed the lights and told his dad.

"I looked up and remember saying out loud, 'I'm going to chalk this up to an illusion.' It was the size of 25 airliners,

moving at about 100 knots at maybe 5,000 feet, and it didn't make a sound. I've flown 747s across oceans and not seen anything like I saw that night," Johnston said.

"I don't expect anybody to take my word for it," he added. "This was something you had to see for yourself to believe."

• Max Saracen, 34, is a real estate consultant who lives in north Phoenix. He and his wife, Shahla, were driving west on Deer Valley Road when they saw a huge triangular craft. They pulled off the road, got out and watched it pass overhead.

"It was very spooky — this gigantic ship blocking out the stars and silently creeping across the sky. I don't know of any aircraft with silent engines."

• Dr. X is a physician who lives near Squaw Peak in Phoenix and asked to remain anonymous for fear of ridicule.

Her home has an elevated, panoramic view of the Valley, and she has some of the best known videotape and photographs of the lights. Though she had no prior interest

in UFOs, the episode prompted her to begin her own investigation.

"I think what happened is mind-boggling," she said. "I'm trying to be as scientific as I can, and a number of things just don't compute."

I'm not given to an otherworldly answer. But neither do I think these four people are so many others who saw the lights are all exaggerating or delusional.

Of all the explanations, a U.S. military operation of some sort, maybe testing experimental aircraft, seems most likely. Mitch Stanley of Scottsdale said he could clearly see several planes when he pointed his telescope at the lights. But if it was a classified operation, why conduct it directly over the nation's sixth-biggest city? And if wasn't, why hasn't the military simply acknowledged it?

You don't have to be a ufologist to be puzzled about what lit the sky that night.

Steve Wilson can be reached at 444-8775 or steve.wilson@pni.com via e-mail.

Lights in Valley sky a story too good for an easy explanation

They're here. Or not.
At least they *were* here — maybe.

Whether it was an extraterrestrial occurrence or media-hyped nonevent, one year later the hubbub over those mysterious lights that appeared over the Valley continues at checkout stands, water coolers and the corner bar.

Many believers will look skyward today, the first anniversary of "the lights over Phoenix," in search of answers. Others will hope these celestial gazers will get a life and move on.

Call it distrust of government, call it too good for ratings to keep off Valley television news shows, still the lights are a phenomenon that lingers in the local mind, and lingers, and lingers.

Never mind that Arizona National Guard spokeswoman Capt. Eileen Bienz, who said she got "one too many" phone inquiries about the floating, mysterious lights, found the answer last July. The lights, she said, were special flares ignited by Maryland National Guard aircraft training over the Arizona desert at the same time of most sightings, roughly 8:15 to 10 p.m., March 13, 1997.

In January, Michigan Guardsmen conducted similar training, leading to similar public inquiries and another explanation from Bienz.

Yet the eerie music and the grainy video of a V-shaped squadron of lights over the Valley on the evening news continues, particularly in ratings months. Count on big play in tonight's broadcasts.

TV can't resist: *The X-Files* is too popular and there are always plenty of people willing to at least suspect the government isn't tell-



**MARK
SCARP**

COMMENTARY

Say there was nothing Out There and people will cry cover-up. Say there was something and they will think you're only giving a partial answer, holding back the oozy, pungent alien details.

Frances Emma Barwood, the former Phoenix city councilwoman and candidate for Arizona secretary of state, has maintained for months that the matter needs a thorough investigation.

"Here we are in these days of terrorism, and something invades our airspace, is seen by thousands of people and our government, to whom we pay their salaries, isn't even interested," she said. "Isn't that a little puzzling?"

Whatever thousands say they saw, it was "slow, low, very huge and totally silent," Barwood said.

Meteorologist Ed Phillips of KNXV-TV (Channel 15), said he thinks the lights belonged to drone, or pilotless, aircraft that are even quieter than the well-known stealth-type bomber and fighter planes.

"If you look at it on a scientific basis, and I get calls all the time on stuff up in the sky, the vast majority of things can be explained," Phillips said.

Barwood said it was either a

ing us everything.

The government is partly at fault for some of this suspicion because it has stopped trying to probe these sightings. But who could blame them?

Government officials know a no-win situation when they see it:

military flight, a hoax, or "something unknown."

"It doesn't matter what it is, because to me, we need to find out how it was done, the truth," she said. "If you don't tell people things, their imaginations will take off from there. And that is one of the biggest problems going."

Paul Cook, an Arizona State University professor and science fiction novelist who researches UFOs, is fascinated by what he terms government stonewalling.

"These people aren't lunatics, they aren't hicks. They are folks just like the rest of us," he said. "The government or the media tends to look at people who see UFOs as if they were cranks."

A lack of official explanations just plays into the hands of the government-conspiracy theorists, Cook said.

Barwood and Cook are right about this. For the money we pay for it, the government needs to check out these things. Our leaders need to have enough confidence in us to know that we won't break out in riots just because they may not have all the answers about the prospect of extraterrestrial visitors.

But the public also has an obligation to avoid cynicism.

Whether space aliens exist requires about as much argument as is needed over when the Chicago Cubs will win the World Series.

It will be resolved on the fateful day, and not before, when "they" show up and say howdy — or vaporize us with a heat ray.

It's out of our hands. So, get a life.

Mark J. Scarp is community affairs editor of The Tribune.

Light in sky sparks more UFO calls

ASU researcher says mystery just a balloon

BY PAUL MATTHEWS
THE TRIBUNE

At least three Valley television stations took the calls last week. More strange lights. More UFOs.

Unlike the still-disputed, widely publicized lights that passed over Phoenix last year, these UFOs may be nothing more than a weather balloon launched by Arizona State University scientists.

"If (people) have a vivid imagination, they might come to the wrong conclusion," said Julian Hunt, professor of environmental fluid dynamics at ASU.

The 15-foot balloon is part of a \$425,000 air quality project jointly directed by ASU and Grand Canyon University.

During the two-year project funded by the National Science Foundation, ASU scientists will study how pollutants disperse at various elevations in a desert

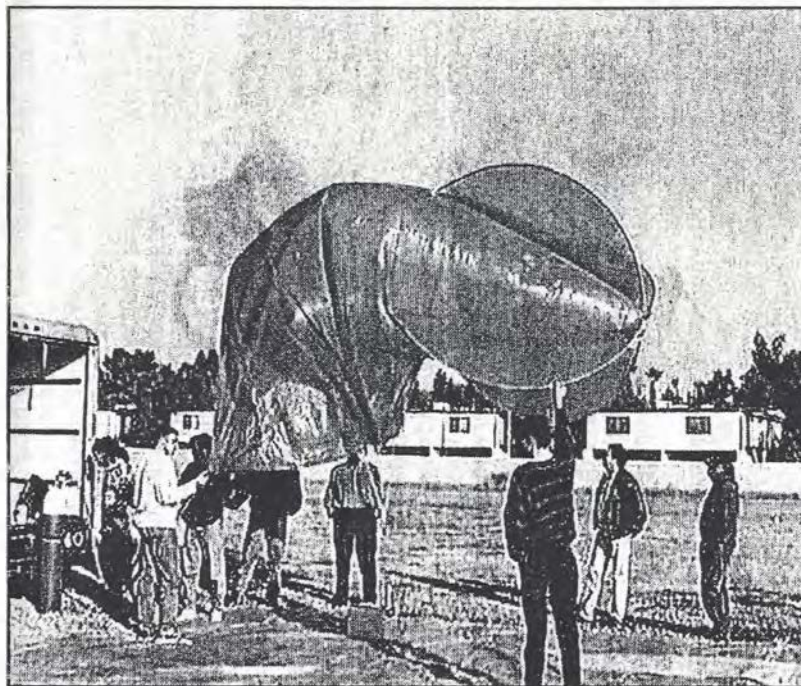
surrounded by mountains.

Scientists from ASU's geography, environmental thermodynamics, chemical engineering and mathematics departments will be working with Grand Canyon students to "study what types of pollution there are in the Valley, how they spread and how they spread at different times of day," Hunt said.

The tethered balloon, launched from an athletic field at Grand Canyon University, 3300 W. Camelback Road in Phoenix, made its maiden flight Jan. 14.

The balloon is designed to go as high as 1,500 feet. One light is affixed to make it visible to aircraft, Hunt said.

Andy Ramirez, assignment editor at KNXV-TV (Channel 15), said his station fielded at least 30 calls about strange lights one night last week. KSAZ-TV (Channel 10) and KPNX-TV (Channel 12) also took calls.



COURTESY ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

Otherworldly mission: Students inflate a balloon designed to measure pollution particles at high altitudes. Arizona State University researchers believe some people may have mistaken a light atop the balloon as a UFO.

Asteroid may have Earth in its sights

By David L. Chandler
Boston Globe

Could this be the asteroid that has Earth's name on it?

Astronomers reported Wednesday the discovery of a mile-wide asteroid that will come closer to Earth, in the year 2028, than any other celestial object — not counting the ones that actually hit, such as the asteroid believed to have wiped out the dinosaurs 65 million years ago.

"The chance of an actual collision is small, but one is not entirely out of the question," said Brian Marsden, head of the Cambridge, Mass., bureau that serves as a clearinghouse for astronomical discoveries. Most likely, he said in an interview Wednesday, the object will pass about 30,000 miles from Earth — about one-tenth as far as the moon — and provide a spectacular sight as it moves across the sky for a few hours.

This is the first time the University of Arizona Spacewatch program, designed to discover objects that might be

— Please see **ASTEROID**, Page A6

Asteroid may be drawing bead on Earth, astronomers warn

— **ASTEROID**, from Page A1

on a collision course with Earth, has found exactly the kind of quarry it was intended to search for. The asteroid, called 1997 XF11, was discovered Dec. 6 by James Scotti of the Spacewatch team, using a 36-inch diameter telescope on Kitt Peak. But only after many weeks of follow-up observations did it become clear that the object would come so close to Earth in 2028.

The approach — by far the closest ever predicted — will occur at 10:30 p.m. (Arizona time) on Thursday, Oct. 26, 2028, according to Marsden's calculations.

"That evening, the object should be visible with the naked eye," Marsden said.

But it will take detailed follow-up observations during the asteroid's next few approaches to Earth, in 2000 and 2002, to

determine the object's orbit precisely enough to know whether an impact is likely.

If so, the amount of warning time should be ample to plan and execute a space mission to deflect it from its target. But some astronomers are concerned that if such a mission were mounted — as it is in two Hollywood movies scheduled for release this summer about doomsday asteroids — the attempted cure might make the problem worse by shattering the object and producing multiple impacts.

Further observations will continue to determine exactly how close FX11 will come.

The asteroid's orbit takes it around the sun about once every 1¼ years.

The closest the object will come in the next few years is on Oct. 31, 2002, when it will pass 6 million miles from Earth — about 24 times the moon's distance.

SUBSCRIBE TO YOUR MUFON-ARIZONA NEWSLETTER!

Subscription dues are only \$15 for a full year of MUFON-AZ Newsletter issues (one issue per month). Whether you are already a subscriber and need to renew your subscription or you are subscribing to the MUFON-Arizona Newsletter for the first time, please put your name, current address, and telephone number in the space provided below. Make your \$15 check out to Dimitri Ossipov (DO NOT MAKE YOUR CHECK OUT TO MUFON, PLEASE) and mail to: Dimitri Ossipov, 609 E. Tulane, Tempe, AZ 85283. DON'T MISS A SINGLE ISSUE!
-- Thanks for your Support!!

NAME: _____ PHONE NO.: _____

ADDRESS: _____
Street City State Zip



MUFON-AZ

Tom Taylor
1433 W. Huntington
Tempe, AZ 85282



HISTORICAL
UFO National Review
P.O. 176
Stoneham, MA 02180

PRESS RELEASE
MUTUAL UFO NETWORK, ARIZONA CHAPTER
THE UPDATED REPORT ON "THE PHOENIX LIGHTS"

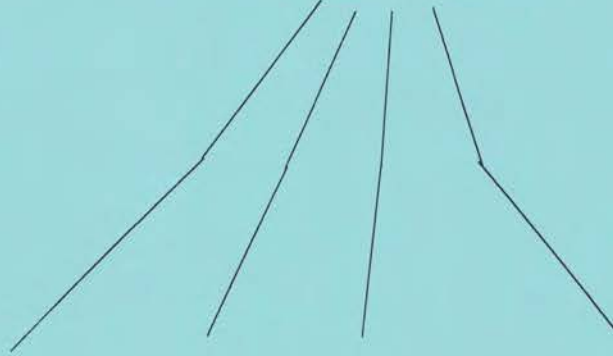
As we draw close to March 13, 1998, the first anniversary of the Phoenix Lights, there are more questions unsolved than answered. There were two main events that night, one centered around 8:30 p.m. and the last just before 10:00 p.m. The 10:00 p.m. event was resolved by the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) on May 14, 1997, and then verified by other sources from that date forward, as a flare exercise by the Maryland Air National Guard.

The Big Story then and now is the 8:30 p.m. event for the evening of March 13, 1997. There was no shortage of witnesses, as the object or objects made its, or their way, from the northwest corner of our State to Phoenix and then back to Kingman that night. All witnesses agree on four things:

1. The formation was very large - perhaps as much as a mile in length!
2. Its movement appeared slow at times and fast at others. The formation or object travelled from Prescott Valley to Carefree in approximately 20 minutes and glided over Phoenix in a southerly direction before heading back up north toward Kingman.
3. It made no noise.
4. It did not appear on radar as it passed over Sky Harbor International Airport.

The 8:30 p. m. event remains unknown, or a UFO, not necessarily of extraterrestrial origin. (For further details, contact Tom Taylor, Director of Arizona MUFON at (602) 967-6265; Alan Morey, Assistant Director at (602) 425-9976, or Dimitri "Jim" Ossipov at (602) 752-2280.

At your next **MUFON** meeting



An exclusive video interview of
Selman Graves pertaining
to the . . .

— **Paradise Valley** —
**Crash
of
1947**

For more information call 967-6265, 752-2280

Date: Oct 22, 1997 (Fourth Wednesday)

Time: 7:30 pm Wednesday Evening

Doors open at 7:00 PM meeting
starts promptly at 7:30 PM

--- No food, smoking, or drink inside
the auditorium

Location: Russell Auditorium
National Guard Armory
Bushmaster & McDowell

Donation: Members \$1.00
Guests \$2.00

At your next **MUFON** meeting

Face on Mars Caper

Did you get sucked in too?
Find out
WHO DID IT!

An extensive video & slide presentation will
show you how it was pulled off !

Latest Photos

More information call the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON)
967-6265 425-9976

Date: April 22, 1998 (**Fourth** Wednesday)

Time: 7:30 pm Wednesday Evening

Doors open at 7:00 PM meeting

starts promptly at 7:30 PM

--- No food, smoking, or drink inside
the auditorium

Location: Russell Auditorium
National Guard Armory
Bushmaster & McDowell

Donation: \$2.00 Members
\$3.00 Guests