



MUFON

Mutual UFO Network

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

ARIZONA CHAPTER

Volume 7 / Issue 4

The Truth is Out There . . .

MEETING DATE: Wednesday, April 22, 1998 ♦ MEETING TIME: 7:30 p.m. SHARP

PROGRAM: "FACE ON MARS CAPER" - Latest Photos: April 22

LOCATION: 5636 E. McDowell Road - National Guard Armory
(east of 52nd St. on McDowell; then north on Bushmaster Blvd. into Armory)

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

Mary Hart
Newsletter Producer
602/907-0609

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Just when I thought things would calm down a bit . . . something else comes up, and that is the controversy surrounding the Face on Mars!

Have we, the American people, been duped again? Be sure you attend this month's slide presentation! You won't want to miss it!

I RECENTLY had a phone call from MUFON member Gerda Gallob. Due to poor health she is unable to get a group going in the very important Sedona/Flagstaff area. Can someone else please step forward to help?? Gerda has done an outstanding job of investigating sightings in the northern part of our state.

We also need someone to take the leadership down in Cochise County. Any takers?

The Conference held in Scottsdale a few weeks ago went very well. It gave me a chance to meet Peter Davenport from the National UFO Reporting Center in Seattle, as well as Travis Walton and Mike Rogers from Snowflake, Arizona. I also got to see Colin Andrews again.

His slides of the latest crop circles were most interesting. Peter Gersten, Ted Loman, Bob and Cecilia Dean, Francis Barwood, Ken Kerber, Alan Morey, and June Scherrer were also in attendance at the informative lecture.

I was recently made aware of the fact that several of you out there were wondering why our newsletter has no photographs. Good photographs are very expensive to copy in a newsletter; first a gray-scale image must be made before it can be copied into the newsletter itself. This can be a very time-consuming and expensive step. In addition, our newsletter barely pays for itself, by the time the costs of copying, folding, stamping and labeling are figured in. Secondly, I have no idea what type of photographs these people wanted to have included anyway. In spite of our repeatedly asking for help from all our members with articles to include in the newsletter, it continues to be produced by a very few people who take the time to write articles, compile information, and type the information into the newsletter format. The content of this MUFON-AZ Newsletter will be as good as **YOU** make it!! We continue to be in need of book reviews, articles, and

photographs from every one of you out there. Also, remember that the MUFON Journal is \$30 per year and has over 5,000 subscribers. We charge only \$15 per year and have only 200 subscribers. Their resulting budget is much larger than ours, which enables them to pay for those photographs, better paper, and more booklike style.

Keep your eyes to the sky, and make it a point to be at this month's meeting!

Tom Taylor
State Director

THE BIG DANCE

After 12 years of being involved with the Face on Mars and the Cydonia Region, Tom Taylor and I sat in front of my computer screen waiting to connect to a JPL web site to get our first Hi-Resolution for the Face on Mars. After being disconnected several times, we went to a mirror site and then waited for the long process of having the screen draw the image, line by line. This was really no different than when the Viking II mission sent its pictures back to Earth some 22 years ago.

We all watched it live on our home TV sets back then. As the area finally arrived where the Face was, both our hearts skipped a beat, and just as we were about to save the image, again we were dropped off the internet! Both Tom and I were prepared for what we were going to see, so the first pictures from Cydonia were a confirmation for us, not a disappointment. However, we both wondered -- who forgot to change the toner cartridge? There was a very faint area right down the center of the image from top to bottom.

To find out the rest of the story and how the biggest HOAX in history was pulled off, you will need to attend this month's MUFON meeting!

Richard F. Motzer
For the Mars Mission



Media Watch

Friday, April 17's episode of "Unsolved Mysteries" on Channel 5 in Phoenix will purportedly deal with The Phoenix Lights. Only 13 months later!

HBO is running a Sunday night 12-part mini series "From the Earth to the Moon." HBO was free on April 4 & 5, so anyone was able to see the first episode, which was very well done. Tom Hanks had a big part in this miniseries and is fascinated with space exploration. Tom was a guest on the April 6 showing of "The View," a talk show hosted by Barbara Walters, during which space exploration and the possibility of life on other planets was discussed. Tom stated he didn't know how anyone could stand out in their yard on a summer night, look at all the stars, and believe we were alone in the universe.



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; unfortu-

nately, 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

Pima County Chapter - April 28, 3 to 5 p.m., Pima County Library. Also June 27, 1 to 4 p.m., Pima County Library. Contact Bill Morrison at 520/762-5625 for meeting details.

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, April 22, usual place and time (see page 1).

Experiencer's Meeting Monday, April 27, 1998 at 7:00 p.m. Call Dr. Ruth Hover for information at 837-0446.

May 8-10 - Star Knowledge Gathering, Corbett Center, New Mexico State University, Las Cruces, NM. Features Chet Snow, Standing Elk, Richard Boylan and plenty of others! For information, phone/fax 605/384-5152.

May 21: (Thursday) - "The Biggest Secret" - British author David Icke 7:00 - 10:00 p.m., Red River Music Hall, 730 N. Mill Ave., Tempe (just north of Tempe bridge on west side of street). \$15 or \$25/couple. For details and ticket information, phone Pamela Richard, 602-8746 or Alice Ferguson.

June 26-28: MUFON International UFO Symposium, Denver, CO. Details in MUFON Journal.

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

Jim Ossipov continues to add to his comprehensive listing of reported Arizona UFO sightings, and they will be 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 one of the following formats: MS Word (any version), WordPerfect 7 for Windows or WordPerfect 5.1 for DOS, or ASCII (DOS text). Be sure to 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 Mary at Mary_Hart@Yahoo.com

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.

MENTAL MUSINGS THE YEAR OF COMPLETION?

During the past few years an emerging phenomenon has brought a remarkable change or shift in attitude regarding UFOs. Credible evidence has always been the focus of investigations and research. Eyewitness accounts have been the hallmark of scrutiny in that process. The following abbreviated list is illustrative:

- January 1948: "Skyhook" sighting & death of Capt. Thomas Mantell now testified to by: JS Duescher, Intelligence Officer; Herbert Kidd - Control Tower operator; Quenton Blackwell, Radar Tech; William McCoy & Alfred Ludding, Tech. Services & Eng. Design specialists.
- July 1954: Gososeberry, Labrador - UFO sightings by British pilots sworn to secrecy by Churchill memo - James Howard - British officer
- Kaikura incident between Wellington & Christ Church, New Zealand witnessed by: Ian Uffindell, Warrant Officer; Dan Dourdy, Radar officer; Keith Heine, Pilot; Ian Terry, Pilot; Vern Powell, Pilot; and Quentin Fogarty, news reporter.
- Bentwater AFB, England: Staff Sgt. James Kinneston
- UFO Briefing Document commissioned by Laurence Rockefeller (a first legitimate attempt to

document official U.S. Military intelligence reports)

- White House briefing in early Clinton administration involving Jack Gibbons, Science Advisor; Bruce Lindsay, attorney to the Clintons; Anthony Lake, Nat'l Security Advisor; and Adm. Woolsey, CIA Acting Director.
- General Phillip Corso's book, The Day After Roswell
- Michael Wolf's book, The Catchers of Heaven

In short, there have been a growing number of first-hand eyewitness reports by credible military personnel who publicly admit to a planned coverup of UFO information/phenomena and a black budget to finance secret agendas/research. There has been so much evidence that some people are now saying UFO sightings are no longer the issue. Rather, our concern should be about the ET's or EBE's and their societies, technology, cosmological truths.

Thus, all of us are being brought to the threshold of a new belief structure. Science, quantum physics, philosophy, spirituality, sociology demand a new thinking. We no longer have the safety of complacency. There is no longer a place to escape these issues ... to hide out.

Each new day brings yet another revelation. NASA's admission that there is water on the moon. The real possibility of life on Mars, whether it be bacteria samples from the past or homo sapiens as we plan a future landing with astronauts. Black holes, worm holes, other dimensions, virtual reality ... where does it all end? Or are we standing at the beginning of a new history of humanity? One where we are challenged to think differently; change/metamorphose into a new species.

Just as the UFO witnesses of the past 50 years are coming forward to tell their stories ... just as the security of our old world gives way to the unanswered questions of our new future ... we have now come to a time when we exchange our old and comfortable mind set of yesterday for the immediate and perplexing mind growth of tomorrow. Are you ready?

According to numerology, 9 is the number of completion. We are told to look to the millennium, the year 2000 or 2001. However, this year, 1998 contains 3 nines. Also, $9 \times 3 = 27$ and $2 + 7 = 9$. September 9 of this year will add two more 9's, or $9 \times 5 = 54$ and $5 + 4 = 9$. Could it be that the disclosures will build to an event? Are we witnessing something even bigger than our imaginations? Are we being readied or positioned for a major news release, the granddaddy of all press conferences?

Keep your eyes to the sky and your mind to the possibilities. We will all find out together.

"Johann"

CITIZENS AGAINST UFO SECRECY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Citizens Against UFO Secrecy, Inc. (CAUS), a nonprofit Arizona activist organization dedicated to ending all secrecy surrounding this planet's contact with an extraterrestrial intelligence, filed the first of three important Freedom of Information Act (FOI) lawsuits in the Phoenix U.S. District Court on Wednesday, March 25.

In 1961 CAUS filed suit against both the National Security Agency (NSA) and the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) for UFO-related documents. In 1982 the U.S. Supreme Court refused to hear the CAUS appeal, thereby allowing the U.S. District Court's decision to stand in the NSA lawsuit. The District Court had found that the NSA was justified in withholding 135 UFO documents, stating that the NSA's "continued need for secrecy far outweighs the public's right to know."

CAUS is once again back in court and now asking a federal judge to help in its search for the truth. This time CAUS is going after the Department of Army for documents confirming certain observations made by former Army Lt. Col. (Ret.) Phillip Corso as described in his book, Day After Roswell. According to Corso, a well-respected and decorated military officer, he personally observed in 1947 what appeared to him to be non-human corpses which he believes were recovered from the crash of an extraterrestrial vehicle. He further

states in his book, and confirms in subsequent interviews, that years later he came into possession of the autopsy reports of these bodies. Corso states that the reports refer to the bodies as extraterrestrial biological entities (EBEs).

The Army has stated that it has no records confirming Corso's statements or acknowledging the existence of the bodies or autopsy reports. CAUS hopes that by seeking a judicial solution in an open and adversarial proceeding, the truth will eventually surface.

The federal court complaint and the prior requests can be found at the CAUS website located at

<http://www.caus.org>

For further information regarding CAUS, contact Peter A. Gersten, Esq., 602/818-8249. His e-mail address is:

Ufolawyer@caus.org

GLOBAL SURVEYOR SCHEDULES IMAGING OPPORTUNITIES FOR VIKING, PATHFINDER, CYDONIA REGIONS OF MARS

MEDIA RELATIONS OFFICE
JET PROPULSION LABORATORY
CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF
TECHNOLOGY
NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND
SPACE ADMINISTRATION
PASADENA, CA 91109
818/354-5011
<http://www.jpl.nasa.gov>

The Mars Global Surveyor project has resumed scientific observations of the surface of Mars and has scheduled opportunities to image four selected sites: The Viking 1 and 2 landing sites, the Mars Pathfinder landing site, and the Cydonia region.

Three opportunities to image each of the four sites using the spacecraft's high-resolution camera will take place over the next month, beginning on April 3 at 1:58 a.m. Pacific time, when Global Surveyor passes over the Viking 1 landing site. The spacecraft will next pass over the Viking 2 landing site at 1:37 p.m. Pacific time on April 3. On April 4, Global Surveyor will try to image the now-silent Mars Pathfinder lander at 1:16 a.m. Pacific time. It will then capture a portion of the Cydonia

region of Mars, location of the so-called "Face on Mars," on April 5 at 12:33 a.m. Pacific time.

Attempts to rephotograph the sites will occur during two additional opportunities falling about nine days apart. A detailed schedule of the imaging attempts is listed below. Uncertainties in both the spacecraft's pointing and the knowledge of the spacecraft's ground track from its navigation data will provide only a 30 to 50 percent chance of capturing the images of each site.

All of the selected targets are located south of Global Surveyor's periapsis, or point of closest approach to the Martian surface. Shortly before the spacecraft reaches this point, the Global Surveyor spacecraft will rotate slightly so that when it nears the selected target, the camera's field of view will sweep across the target as the spacecraft flies south and rises away.

The spacecraft will begin transmitting to Earth data stored on its onboard solid-state recorders about seven hours after the images are acquired, concluding about three hours later. Currently, it takes radio signals from Mars Global Surveyor about 20 minutes to travel from the spacecraft to earth.

Data will be received at one of NASA's Deep Space Network tracking stations at Goldstone, CA, near Madrid, Spain or near Canberra, Australia, and then sent by satellite to NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, California. There the images, along with all of the rest of Global Surveyor's science and engineering data, are placed in the project database for access by flight controllers. This process takes only seconds for each bit of data. Consequently, the image data will not be available until about 10.5 hours after they are acquired. Data received overnight will not be retrieved until 9 a.m. Pacific time on the following workday.

When image data are retrieved by camera operators, the information is assembled into "raw" images. Raw images may contain data errors or dropouts introduced by noise in the telecommunications channel between the spacecraft and the ground, as

well as very slight picture element variations inherent in the camera. This data processing takes about 30 minutes.

Raw images will be posted on three web sites: JPL's Mars news site at <http://www.jpl.nasa.gov/marsnews>; the Mars Global Surveyor project home page at <http://www.mars.jpl.nasa.gov>; and NASA's Planetary Photojournal site at <http://www.photojournal.jpl.nasa.gov>

Information identifying the acquisition time, predicted center latitude and longitude of the target location, and the local solar time will accompany these images. Contrast enhancement will be performed by JPL's Multimission Image Processing Laboratory and posted on the web a few hours later. The Global Surveyor project home page also contains spacecraft orbital velocity and distance to the planet in real time.

Images of the Viking and Mars Pathfinder landing sites will not be posted until image enhancement and identification of the vehicles have been completed, because the small spacecraft will be at the limits of the camera's resolution. This process will take about 24 hours.

Mars Global Surveyor is part of a sustained program of Mars exploration known as the Mars Surveyor Program. The mission is managed by the Jet Propulsion Laboratory for NASA's Office of Space Science, Washington, DC. JPL's industrial partner is Lockheed Martin Astronautics, Denver, CO, which developed and operates the spacecraft. JPL is a division of the California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, CA.

From Richard Motzer
via the Internet

If "community" is a close circle of "Archbishops of Ufology" and other "celebrities," with the rest of us 'mortals' outside, then let's forget the whole business and walk away.

But reality is more complex: everyone who is interested in UFOs and assorted subjects could be considered as a part of the "community." And what a mixture this is! Only a Baloan goulash could match it!

Let's see: there are "nuts and bolts" people, or those using the scientific approach. Then there are the New Agers, contactees, almost religious devotees, and others devoted to their own aggrandizement (oh, yes!).

There are true believers, skeptics clamoring for proof before being convinced, and yes ... systematic debunkers.

Some are interested in UFOs only, while others prefer to deal with Ancient Astronauts, conspiracies, crop circles, cattle mutilations, Area 51, underground tunnels, and government coverups. Some manage to be all of the above.

There are hundreds of groups and thousands of independent individuals spread all over the world. Did I forget anyone?

And most of the time, everyone disagrees with the rest. Even within the same "UFO discipline" it happens all the time. Just to mention a few recent examples: bickering about Roswell and the Phoenix lights (has anyone counted bruised egos?).

One theory is accepted by one group and rejected by the other. Some "celebrity" is a villain for some and a hero for others. Try to untangle that!

Under the circumstances, if some individual gets into hot water, for whatever reason, it is doubtful that the reputation of the whole community will be damaged. No one is big enough to affect the world community. What seems to be a big deal is, for example, the good ol' U.S.A. will be little in Japan or Paraguay, even in spite of faxes and e-mail.

If there are "sanctions" to be applied -- Mission Impossible! As we stand, while one part would kick this individual in the pants, the others will place him or her on a pedestal -- while the majority does not give a damn.

Sure, the community should police its own affairs -- and it does. Just look back some years. Remember how many loud "celebrities" faded into oblivion. The community rejected them, and it will happen in the future.

As we see it, the UFO community is a mixture of everything. Just name it. It is not, thank God, a regimented mass. This is great!

At least governments, the New World Order, political correctness, and whatnot, leave us alone. We can express our opinions (however silly they might be), and pursue our research on our own. Let it be! God forbid if some "Führer" or "Messiah" attempts to put some order. No way! We prefer our own diversity, bickering and all. We will survive. Out of variety, perhaps, truth may appear. So far, the truth is -- that we still know very little.

Dimitri "Jim" Ossipov
Maricopa Co. Section Director

NEWS RELEASE

Sarah McClendon
White House Correspondent

Washington, DC: Unidentified Flying Objects, a term given for many years to unexplained sightings of craft in the skies over every state in the Union, are actual visitors from other worlds, believe a community of scientists and technicians employed by government.

The real danger to the U.S. and perhaps this whole planet is the government which has placed a heavy blanket of secrecy upon this issue. So much secrecy, that those in government who have knowledge showing UFOs are identifiable feel the subject cannot be discussed by those in the know without serious repercussions. Others are afraid their friends and co-workers will think they are crazy if they even so much as insinuate that UFOs are identifiable as

UFO COMMUNITY: MISSION IMPOSSIBLE!

In the March issue of our Newsletter there was an article addressed to the "UFO Community." That makes you wonder: What is a UFO community? How do you determine it?

manned craft from outside the earth. This particularly applies to newspaper editors and publishers, reporters, and analysts. Thus the U.S. is denying itself the chance to learn more about UFOs or to encourage research despite the fact the U.S. stands to gain from such discussions.

Not publicized but true is that the Clinton administration, soon after coming to office, had many briefings on the subject. Laurence Rockefeller provided the information for the President and Mrs. Clinton. Others provided documents and verbal briefings to presidential advisors Jack Gibbons (science), Bruce Lindsay (personal), Anthony Lake (national security), and Vice President Albert Gore. About the same time a three-hour briefing was given by Dr. Steven Greer (Director, Center for the Study of Extraterrestrial Intelligence [CSETI]) to the sitting Director of the C.I.A., Admiral Woolsey.

Subsequently, Clinton instructed Webster Hubbell, when naming him to the position of Associate Attorney General at the Justice Department, that he wanted him to investigate and report back to him on two things: circumstances surrounding the death of President John F. Kennedy, and the existence of UFOs. Hubbell, despite his position and the presidential imprimatur, was boxed in at the Justice Department and never was able to find out. All of this was disclosed in Hubbell's memoir, Friends in High Places.

Now the lid on UFOs is gradually coming off. There is a national drive underway to get one million signatures on a petition calling for an open Congressional hearing for government employee witnesses. Dr. Steven Greer devotes most of his time seeking disclosure of government evidence proving the existence of craft manned by non-humans. Another who feels that positive proof exists within government is Lt. Col. Philip J. Corso (ret.) who reveals in his recent book, The Day After Roswell, that he was in charge of the Roswell files during his tenure as head of the Army's Foreign Technology Division. He states unequivocally that these files confirm the crash which occurred at Roswell, New Mexico, was an alien spacecraft. This completely refutes the Air Force

denials and subsequent explanations. Corso says that the crashed vehicle was studied and proved to be manufactured of materials unknown as to source and usage in this country. In time, he says, this and other UFOs provided technologies which were "worked into the commercial world via front companies." Incidentally, he vouches for the fact that this has proven to be a valuable contribution to U.S. aircraft design and other commercial products.

After the Roswell incident, the Air Force replied to reporters' inquiries that this was all part of research using weather balloons and other equipment. Corso and hundreds of others who work or have worked in secret defense and scientific agencies are willing to swear under oath that alien craft are repeatedly penetrating our air space.

Whenever the military agencies are asked to look into this matter further, the answer is always the same: "We do not investigate UFOs."

[Contact: McClendon News Service, 202/483-3791 or fax 202/328-1818].

Art Bell's Web Site

NO MORE NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

We have been once again told by "The Arizona Republic" that it is not legal to reproduce newspaper articles. Unfortunately, we must therefore discontinue that very informative practice as part of this Newsletter. Mary Hart does not have the time to retype each and every newspaper article to include in the newsletter. However -- if anyone out there would like to volunteer to type some articles each month and e-mail them to Mary for inclusion in the Newsletter, please see Tom at the next meeting. It would surely be appreciated.

VAST WATER VAPOR 'FACTORY' FOUND IN ORION'S SWORD

What looks like a pink star in the sword of the constellation Orion is actually a vast gas cloud churning out enough water vapor to fill Earth's oceans 60 times -- each day,

astronomers reported Thursday. This distant water vapor "factory" may offer clues about where all the water in our own solar system came from, physicist David Neufeld said. This is significant, since water is seen as a necessity for life on Earth or anywhere else. The "factory" is located about 1,500 light-years from Earth -- about 8,900 trillion miles away -- hanging from the belt of Orion. In Orion's starry sword, one apparently pink star is in fact composed of many bright stars embedded in a gaseous cloud, said astrophysicist Martin Harwit.

From the internet
Via the Nieri Brothers
MUFON-AZ Members

ALIEN LIFE 'WILL BE FOUND BY 2050'

The Scotsman - 8 April 1998: *Expert predicts planet-hunting space telescope will track down extraterrestrials*

BY ALASTAIR DALTON and DEREK LAMBIE

Life will be discovered on planets going round other stars before the middle of the next century, a leading Scottish astronomer is predicting. Dr. Alistair Glasse will tell the Edinburgh International Science Festival tomorrow that he expects an ambitious European space project to find extraterrestrial life.

Dr Glasse, of the Royal Observatory in Edinburgh, is a telescope specialist on the Darwin Mission, which is competing for funding from the European Space Agency. The project involves launching five rockets containing separate telescopes out towards the orbit of Jupiter to search for life.

The telescopes would be linked to create an instrument with 40 times the power of the Hubble space telescope to detect light from planets previously hidden by the glare from their stars. The mission would involve a two-year journey to a spot 400 million miles away from the Earth. The ESA is expected to rule on Darwin and a rival proposal, Gaia, in 2000, with the mission to be launched in 2015.

Dr Glasse said: "I think it is likely that there is life elsewhere in the universe and it is highly likely that this mission will detect something. You cannot say for certain there is life until you detect it, and it is important to have hard evidence. But if there is life on any of the 120 stars we are looking at, then Darwin will detect it," he added.

American scientists have already claimed that conditions on one of Jupiter's moons, Europa, are capable of supporting life. Research on a Martian meteorite has also suggested that there may once have been life on Mars.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration revealed last month that it had found water on the moon. In the Darwin Mission, scientists would search for signs of life, ranging from plants to intelligent aliens, on planets believed to be orbiting nearby stars.

The five infrared telescopes would examine the signals from the planets for traces of oxygen or water, which could signal the presence of life. Dr Glasse said: "It goes back to how life on Earth started. In the early days of Earth, the atmosphere was just carbon monoxide, but algae developed into plants which produced oxygen.

"So far, planets in our solar system have showed no signs of life, but using modern technology gives us the chance of looking for signs elsewhere in the universe. The problem we face is that we are looking at something which is a very long way away."

The combined power of the five space telescopes would be required because of the difficulty of picking out the planets against the glare of the stars.

Dr Glasse said: "It's like trying to detect a glow worm which is beside a furnace from a distance of 350 miles. To detect them we would have to have a telescope 100 metres in diameter in space but we cannot launch something like that. What we will do is launch five together and they will join to map out a big mirror to help us see further."

The five telescopes would join up in a set pattern in an orbit somewhere between Mars and Jupiter and will take up stations about 50 metres apart. Their images would be combined in a central control unit where a technique called nulling interferometry would be used to cancel out the light from the star being examined making it possible to detect light from the planets.

To build up a full picture, the telescopes would be moved in a precise pattern which would be measured by lasers to within a millionth of a metre. The first stage would be merely to establish which stars have planets in orbit round them. The next would be to read the patterns in the light reflected from the planets to tell which chemicals -- particularly water and oxygen -- are there.

A separate spacecraft would be used for distance measuring and communications with the Earth.

From The Nieri Brothers
Via the Internet

MAPPING THE BOUNDARIES: WHERE DOES OUR SOLAR SYSTEM END?

In order to map the heliopause, that space just beyond our solar system, scientists propose to bounce UV radiation off it using technology that hasn't been made yet.

Los Angeles, CA; April 1: U.S. and German astrophysicists have proposed a way to figure out the boundary of the solar system. They say their method can determine the location of the heliopause, the outermost reaches of the sun's influence, by studying reflected extreme ultraviolet radiation.

Mike Gruntman of the University of Southern California in Los Angeles and Hans Fahr of the Institute for Astrophysics and Extraterrestrial Research in Bonn say the first direct measure of this distance should be forthcoming in the next few years as the spacecraft Voyager I passes out of the sun's reach. Their expectation marks the spot at at least 125 times Earth's distance from the star. Solar radiation reigns supreme in the

intervening space, called the heliosphere, its force overpowering that of interstellar winds from any other star. The trick in mapping the solar system's outer boundary, according to the study authors, is to obtain as many observations as possible of the oddly shaped heliosphere.

The region between the sun and its outer limits lacks any spherical symmetry. Rather, the boundary lines bulge out of shape on the side facing away from the center of the Milky Way Galaxy. In this scantily populated region of the heavens, relatively few stars offer a counterforce to the sun's radiation. Voyager Data Not Enough "To map the heliopause accurately, we need many, many more observations than what Voyager I will provide," Gruntman says. "And these observations will have to be made from Earth and its vicinity." The unique proposal calls for measuring the reflected extra- ultraviolet radiation that is bounced off the heliopause. While no instrument sensitive enough for the job yet exists, the space explorers feel confident one can be manufactured. "We would need instruments sufficiently sensitive to measure the faint radiation," Fahr says. "This would require improving current instruments by three orders of magnitude, not an impossible task." So why are these star gazers so gung-ho on getting this information? "The study of the heliopause will help astrophysicists better understand the nature of the Local Interstellar Medium," Gruntman explains.

That's what lies beyond the solar system's boundary - interstellar plasmas and gas, magnetic fields and cosmic rays, the stuff of fable, fiction and fact.

From The Nieri Brothers
Via the Internet

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