



P.I.P.E. LINE

2 Cherry Rd.
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Spotlight

NATIONAL UFO INFORMATION WEEK, 1985

Plans for the first National UFO Information Week continue to grow. In fact, the growth has now spread beyond the borders of the U.S., and has now enveloped Africa! Please keep this information within the P.I.P.E. Committee only, until it is announced at the Symposium in St. Louis. Cynthia Hind has contacted us to announce that she and her group in Zimbabwe will also hold a National UFO Information Week to coincide with ours, and will sponsor a one-day Forum along with other activities. Cynthia has also contacted the British UFO Research Organization and requested that they too, join in this effort to inform the public about the UFO subject. Thus, our National UFO Information Week may actually be International!

On the domestic front, our own MUFON State organizations are expressing a great deal of verbal enthusiasm for this venture, and have been submitting many great ideas for projects they plan to undertake during that week. Our problem seems to be in getting them to back up that enthusiasm with funding.

I refrained from putting this in the Newsletter, but feel it needs to be said, so please keep this within our Committee. It has been absolutely appalling how many requests we have been receiving for items to be sent to individuals and groups free of charge. These requests have been for such materials as videotapes, audio cassettes, hard cover books, bumper stickers, and computer catalogs of UFO resources. Those of us who have personally funded the production of these items for the benefit of the entire organization and for other UFO researchers from other serious organizations, cannot afford to send out free materials. Perhaps these individuals making the requests don't realize that these materials are being funded by individuals' personal funds. Maybe they are under the wrong impression that MUFON as an organization is paying to produce these materials for distribution nationwide. At any rate, this situation needs some immediate clarification. The question is: which is the best way to do this? Should Walt mention it in his Director's Message? Should it be mentioned in the Newsletter? Let me know what you think.

Marge

ON THE SCREEN

As mentioned in the Newsletter this month, our UFO documentary for television is now completed. Although the film quality may not be up to national network quality, the content of the program is probably one of the best we have to date. This is because it covers many aspects of the UFO subject to the exclusion of sensationalism or time wasted on skeptics' attempts to explain the phenomenon away. Dr. David M. Jacobs, in particular, is to be commended on the fine job he has done of hosting the program. Dr. Jacobs' introduction and conclusion are particularly excellent, and he has also done an admirable job of linking the various segments of the program together and providing introductory comments for each segment.

The experience of putting together this film has been a very educational one for those of us who were closely involved with it. The video-camera opens a wide range of possibilities for the production of films for a wide variety of purposes. Keep this in mind as you brainstorm for ideas for our committee to implement during the next year. At our meeting on June 28, I would like to get a fresh crop of suggestions from you for next year's programs.

POSTER TO APPEAR ON JOURNAL COVER

Dennis Stacy has notified me that he plans to probably use Tom Deuley's poster design (for National UFO INFORMATION WEEK) on the cover of either the June or the July issue of the Journal. This is a great idea, and would serve to remind everyone of the week, and of the correct dates of the week.

BLETCHMAN ADDRESSES GIFTED YOUNGSTERS

Bob Bletchman has recently addressed a class of academically gifted & talented youngsters on the subject of the UFO phenomenon. Bob reported that the experience was exhilarating. Those of us who have worked with the gifted on courses on the UFO phenomenon know this to be the case. Those of you who have not had this experience should volunteer to speak to such a group. You will be amazed at how receptive these students are to the subject. Good work, Bob!

Marge Christensen recently addressed the Massachusetts chapter of MENSA, billed as the organization of the world's most intelligent persons. Barry Greenwood and Jim Melesciuc also attended, and Barry joined in a discussion of govt. documents and in the question and answer session following the hour-long slide presentation and lecture.

Prior to the meeting, the MENSA meeting chairperson warned that this group would be very scientific and skeptical. To the contrary, very little skepticism was evident in their reaction to the presentation on the UFO subject. In fact, one MENSA member, an astronomer-physicist, took an application to join MUFON. Several of the MENSA members told of sightings they had experienced or members of their family had experienced. There were many good questions and the question and answer session lasted well over an hour.

In opening, Marge jokingly told the MENSA group that we both have organizations with a 5-letter acronym starting with M, and we both meet during the 2nd week of each month both in Belmont (until recently, when Mass. MUFON moved to dinner meetings elsewhere), at churches. However, to join MENSA, one must have an IQ of 130, and to join MUFON, one must have an IQ of 150! This evoked a chuckle from the audience.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the audience was rather surprised to hear Marge quote from two polls taken by MENSA (one in the USA and one in France) on the subject of UFOs. Interestingly enough, in the U.S. poll, taken in 1976, 64% of MENSA members polled believed that UFOs are spaceships from other planets. Fifty-one percent of their membership felt that these spaceships are carrying passengers who are studying our behavior. Sixteen percent said that had had UFO sightings themselves. And, 67% said that they would accept an offer to board a UFO if its occupants were not visibly hostile. In the French MENSA poll, taken in 1975, 93% of the people polled felt that UFOs exist.

LIBRARY CARDS EVOKE RESPONSE

In the last Newsletter, you received a sample of a card on MUFON sent to libraries in Massachusetts by Mass. MUFON. We have since been contacted by libraries asking us to furnish folders of info. on UFOs for their vertical files. Thus, it seems to have been a worthwhile venture to send out these cards. Marge has heard from two or three State Directors who have indicated that they will also be sending out similar cards in their respective States now.

As a result of a few recent instances in which we have discovered that persons trying to locate the nearest UFO research organization have called their local libraries, Barry Greenwood suggests that perhaps it is time for us to begin to encourage the public to report UFO sightings to public libraries rather than to their local law enforcement agencies. The reasons for this are that librarians are less likely to ridicule witnesses than are police officers. Also, if we provide libraries with MUFON information cards such as the ones sent out with the May Newsletter, libraries will be better equipped to put witnesses in touch with their local UFO organization than are police depts. True, we also have furnished the police with our cards, but those often tend to be buried under other papers on a bulletin board. Also, eventually, there are plans to offer our computer catalog of UFO resources for sale to public libraries and university libraries, thus helping to better equip libraries with information on the UFO subject.

TEENS AND UFO ORGANIZATIONS

CAN WE HELP?

Recently two or three statewide UFO organizations for teenagers have been formed in the U.S. Walt Andrus has appointed George Gregg, Jr. (age 15) as a sort of liaison or coordinator for these teen groups, and MUFON Headquarters, in Seguin, TX. Walt hopes to present a detailed plan for the operation, titles, privileges, ID card identification, etc. for this new and important committee within MUFON. The plan will be presented at the Annual Corporate Meeting in St. Louis.

Marge Christensen has already sent a package of information and activities and UFO-related exercises geared for gifted youngsters to the New Jersey newly-formed group of Future UFO Investigators, (mentioned in last month's Newsletter). Can you think of anything else our committee can do to encourage these teen UFO groups?

AUG.

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NATIONAL UFO
INFORMATION WEEK