



1985 P.I.P.E. COMMITTEE MEETING REPORT

For those of you on this committee who were not able to be present at the annual meeting of the P.I.P.E. Committee in St. Louis this year, the following is a brief summary of items covered:

- (1) It was decided to keep National UFO Information Week entirely separate (as far as time scheduling goes) from the annual MUFON Symposium rather than to hold this week during the dates of the annual Symposium next year.
- (2) Public service announcements for radio were furnished and read by John Timmerman (CUFOS), and these are being sent to all State Dirs. for use during National UFO. Info. Week.
- (3) A press release (by Walt Webb) was summarized, and it was decided to use a shortened version of this for distribution during Natl. UFO. Week.
- (4) A letter regarding the possibility of seeking funding for a PBS documentary in response to the NOVA program on UFOs was read and discussed. It was decided that this sounds good, but is not realistic, and that we would be better off waiting to see what the HBO documentary has to offer, and then giving our support to a second documentary by Ron Lakis.
- (5) It was decided that TELUFONET must be revised so that it is effective, and able to contact the entire country in a short time. Dan Wright is currently working on a new proposal for this. This is an important item, and as soon as Dan's proposal is received, it will be reviewed and most likely implemented as soon as possible.
- (6) It was decided that next year's thrust should not be simply to inform the public at large, but should be aimed in particular, at persons in positions of influence.
- (7) Members of the committee agreed that they would like to continue to receive the P.I.P.E.Line, and find it useful.
- (8) It was emphasized that we need to work on increasing the membership, and, in turn, the funding we have to work with.
- (9) No resignations have been received, so the same members will remain on the committee for the upcoming year.

HELP WANTED

Toward October, (after we get through the Natl. Info. Week) we will be gearing up to spearhead some new projects, and will need committee members to take charge of them. These projects will include the following:

- (1) We need to really aggressively attempt to vastly increase the number of members of MUFON. These may be mainly Journal subscribers, but this is one way of providing UFO information to a much greater segment of the public. This may entail changes in the Journal, to make it more appealing to the "thinking public" or to scientists. It may mean changes in Journal policy and the soliciting of advertising from companies which sell products which we all support, such as telescope equipment, photographic items, etc. As editor, Dennis Stacy should have input into this project. Obviously, also Walt Andrus and John Schuessler should be involved with this project as MUFON administrators.
- (2) In regard to our 1986 thrust toward public information of those in positions of influence, a statement of purpose and strategy for achieving this needs to be worked out. This is a task for more than one person, and it should probably involve persons in the same geographical area or persons who are willing to spend time on the telephone working on this.
- (3) We will initiate a new program of issuing monthly press releases to the wire services and major tv networks, even if they do not use them, in order to make them aware of our presence and credibility in the event that a big UFO story should break, and they should be in need of a credible UFO research organization to contact. This task must go to a person or two persons who are excellent writers. There are several such persons on this committee. Good potential candidates would be: Dan Wright, Dennis Stacy, Bob Bletchman, Walt Webb, Barry Greenwood. Any volunteers?
- (4) An emphasis on fundraising needs to be made, and we are in need of someone or more than one person to undertake a nationwide fundraising effort. This could be done simply using a word-processor or the telephone, but it needs some research, planning, and direction. Any takers?

NEXT MONTH

All State Directors have been asked to submit a written report or to make a phone call to furnish same information to Marge Christensen, upon the conclusion of National UFO Information Week, and to offer their evaluation of the week's events in their particular States. They were further asked to state which projects they felt were the most effective and which were the least effective. These reports will be compiled into one national overall report and will be included in an upcoming Journal article. It is hoped that this information will provide us with a greater insight into what is needed as we begin to plan next year's National UFO Information Week.

A SUGGESTION FROM ST. LOUIS

On Saturday night following the panel discussion at the 1985 Symposium in St. Louis, while many of you were enjoying the stars from the rooftop Zodiac Room at the Chase Hotel amidst loud music and clouds of cigarette smoke, two of us from this committee sat in the quiet cafe downstairs picking the brain of Ron Lakis (KPIX TV-San Francisco, and director of the "UFO Experience" documentary). Paul Cerny and Marge Christensen (and our spouses) bent Ron's ear until close to 2:00 a.m., but it was worth it. Ron has a wealth of good information. Perhaps that is why his documentary is one of the best we have. The suggestion to submit press releases to the wire services and networks monthly is Ron's. (see reverse side of P.I.P.E.Line).

Another of Ron's suggestions is that we capitalize upon the easy access of movies through rentals on videotape now, and that we designate someone among us who is well-versed and articulate on the UFO subject. We then approach colleges and line up a program whereby two or three popular movies with the theme of space exploration or extraterrestrial visitation is employed and show those films on the college campus. Following that, our lecturer would then present a lecture (maybe with slides) in regard to what we actually know about this subject in contrast to how Hollywood portrays it in the movies of 1985. Ron feels that this would attract large audiences and would be a great fund-raiser as well as an effective method of public information to benefit a large number of persons. This could actually be done in several areas of the country at the same time and would necessitate a few good lecturers rather than just one. It would be imperative to have the right type of speaker for such a presentation. Let us hear from you as to what you think and if you have any persons to recommend for this task.

Editor's Memo

If you haven't already read Dick Hall's "Blueprint for Progress" article in the June issue of the MUFON Journal, please take the time to do so. The article makes some extremely valid points, and offers a blueprint which our committee might do well to follow in planning out our 1986 program of events and projects.

In short, Dick's blueprint involves five steps:

- * The need to realize that UFOlogy is not a science, but is a scientific problem in dire need of proper funding and thorough, objective investigation by qualified scientists.
- * The need to clearly differentiate our ranks from those who hold less than objective or scientific views but make the most noise and generally get the greatest media coverage. We need to make it clear that we are in no way connected to these groups or individuals, nor do we share their views.
- * The need for sophistication, and the recognition of who our real foes are and how to deal with them.
- * The need for scientific emphasis on our investigative techniques and procedures. This also underlines the need for thorough and careful documentation and the use of careful logic in supporting our arguments.
- * The need to self-police our own ranks, and the need to likewise publicly denounce those who engage in ego-building, or unscientific claims or faulty logic in order to promote their own biases or loose thinking on the UFO subject.

The article underscores the importance of the work of our committee. We appreciate the "plug" from Dick. We have a great deal of work yet to be done, however. If we learn or recall only one thing from this article, I think it should be that to date, so-called "UFOlogists" have been the worst enemies of the UFO subject. The bottom line is that we must get our act together and represent ourselves as serious, objective, dedicated professionals to the public and to those in positions of influence. That has been the main thrust of our committee's work over the past year, and we must continue to pursue this end until it has been accomplished thoroughly.

Although we have come a long way in the past year toward professionalism and organization within MUFON, there are still several State organizations which have a long way to go, and there are still State Directors who are mere names on a piece of paper, but who are not actively involved and who do not yet consider UFO research as a "voluntary profession" and who have not demonstrated the type of serious commitment to the subject necessary for a State Director to have if he or she is going to be at all effective in raising the public respect or even the public awareness of the UFO enigma and the need for genuine scientific study of it.

Marge Christensen