



P.I.P.E. LINE

2 Cherry Rd.
Beverly, MA 01915

ISSUE # 17

FEBRUARY, 1986

JOURNAL SITUATION UPDATE

As a result of Marge Christensen's original letter to Dennis Stacy in regard to the quality of the Journal and the need for improvement, several letters and phone calls have been prompted. These have all been in favor of improving the Journal. Marge had a lengthy phone conversation with Walt Andrus on Jan. 25, and Walt requested that members of the P.I.P.E. Committee be asked to submit articles for publication in the Journal regularly. Since our task is to provide professional public information and since the Journal is indeed our best vehicle for providing public information on a monthly basis, we must do our part to ensure that the content of the Journal is excellent. I would like to request that you submit articles as soon as possible on either recent case reports you may have worked on, or any research you have been doing, or any govt. document releases you are involved with and which you feel would be interesting to the readers of the Journal. If none of these areas are practical for you, then I would appreciate your writing an editorial type article on some aspect of the subject on which you feel strongly.

It is of little value to complain about a situation if one is not willing to work to rectify it. Good intentions are not good enough at this time. We have all agreed that the Journal is in dire need of help. Please let us see articles in upcoming issues from members of this committee. For the most part, the members of the P.I.P.E. Committee are also the persons who are the most active and involved in MUFON and in the UFO field, and are proficient writers as well. We, in a sense, have the most to contribute in the way of articles, so let's do it.

In exchange for this assistance, we request that Dennis ensure that the material be meticulously edited and that the layout be improved. By working together, we can bring about an improved publication, and one that we can all be proud to place in our public libraries or to lend to a friend interested in the UFO subject. Thanks for your assistance in this very vital matter.

Marge

As the P.I.P.E. Line was going to press, a request came in from Dennis Stacy for a Book Review Editor to take the responsibility of arranging for book reviews. The manuscripts of these would be forwarded to Dennis for final editing. Such reviews might cover not only UFO books, but also other works that might be germane to the subject, such as Carl Sagan's Contact, or a book on Halley's

DISTINGUISHED AWARD FOR

OUTSTANDING WORK IN THE UFO FIELD

Sherman Larsen, the new director of the Center for UFO Studies, has conveyed to Walt Andrus some of Dr. J. Allen Hynek's feelings about the newly proposed award for outstanding work in the UFO field. Dr. Hynek apparently feels that the idea of presenting such an award is an excellent one, but he does not wish to have the award named in his honor. We, therefore, must simply name the award the MUFON AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING WORK IN THE UFO FIELD.

Walt Andrus will take care of placing a ballot in the March issue of the MUFON Journal in order that members may cast their ballots for the individual of their choice.

Walt will tabulate the ballots and arrange for a plaque to be engraved for the award recipient. The award will be presented at the symposium in Michigan.

PLAQUE FOR DR. HYNEK

In order to recognize Dr. J. Allen Hynek for a lifetime of contributions to UFO research and public information, we would like to present him with an engraved plaque at the symposium in Michigan. Should Dr. Hynek not be able to accept the plaque himself, (which is probably the case) we will ask that someone accept it for him and see that he receives it.

TELUFONET TO BE ACTIVATED

In order to determine what types of projects and activities are planned for National UFO Information Week, 1986, we will activate the TELUFONET during the weekend of March 1 & 2. The message will simply be to remind the State Directors to send a report on their planned activities for National UFO Information Week to Marge. If that weekend will be inconvenient for anyone who is included in the network, especially Dan Wright, Paul Cerny, Jim Melesciuc, Bob Bletchman, Mildred Bieseles, or Walt Andrus, please notify Marge prior to those dates.

Comet. The individual assuming this post might also wish to review movies, videos, and/or media in general. Anyone interested should notify Dennis Stacy or Marge.

In order to build and maintain the credibility of the Mutual UFO Network, and of the UFO subject, the following guidelines must be stringently adhered to:

I. PROVIDING PUBLIC INFORMATION AS AN OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF MUFON

- A. Since MUFON is a UFO research organization, any lectures, presentations, or media appearances must be limited to the UFO subject. While paranormal or other borderline subject matter may have a relationship with the UFO phenomenon, it is not wise to present such a vast amount of varied information to an uninformed public in a limited amount of time such as a one-hour presentation or radio or television interview. Such a situation merely serves to cause confusion for the audience and to erode our credibility.
- B. Providing inaccurate, undocumented, incomplete, or exaggerated information to the public or to the media (print or electronic) must be avoided.
- C. Speakers must be prepared with the facts and supporting data on UFO cases and on the various aspects of the UFO subject. The bottom line is: DO YOUR HOMEWORK before you discuss the UFO subject publicly, and, in particular, before making any radio or television appearances or giving a newspaper interview. Do not be afraid to admit that you do not know an answer. Never fabricate one. Avoid letting television or radio talk show hosts intimidate you or cause you to be on the defensive. Be ready to counteract their charges and their misinformation.
- D. When speaking before school or college groups or teaching UFO classes, the speaker must exercise care to present the facts objectively, both pro and con sides, and not try to push his/her own personal viewpoint or theories.
- E. When quoting government documents released under the Freedom of Information Act, be sure to explain that the document was obtained via F O I.A. (i.e., legally obtained), and quote the document verbatim. Do not read into the document information that isn't there. Absolutely refrain from fabricating information, and research the document to make sure that it is, in fact, a bona fide document, and is not a hoax document.
- F. Inform your respective State Director prior to any speaking appearances you make, and if appearing on an out-of-state radio or television program, notify the State Director in that location prior to your appearance.

II. DISSEMINATION OF CASE INFORMATION TO THE PUBLIC OR TO THE MEDIA

- A. The identity of a witness of a UFO case must be kept confidential unless written permission is obtained from the witness.
- B. Incomplete or unsupported case data should not be released to the media. A thorough investigation must be completed, and a unanimous agreement on the part of all investigators and witnesses involved must be made prior to any contact with the media.
- C. Since it is the tabloids, unfortunately, which are apt to offer remuneration for a UFO story or case information, and since the tabloids tend to be irresponsible, it is strongly recommended that no representative of MUFON have any official dealings with the tabloids whatsoever.

III. PERSONAL GAIN FROM UFO INFORMATION

- A. Lecture fees from educational or civic organizations or institutions, or remuneration paid by reputable publications or periodicals, are acceptable.
- B. Remuneration paid by disreputable publications or questionable organizations are frowned upon. Providing UFO information to such organizations merely serves to undermine our credibility and sincerity as official representatives of MUFON.

Failure to abide by these guidelines may result in one or more of the following actions:

- 1. Possible revocation of MUFON membership.
- 2. In cases of inaccurate data being published in newspapers or periodicals MUFON's P.I.P.E. (Public Information and Public Education) Committee will assign one of its members to publish a correction in the form of a letter to the editor of the publication involved.

These guidelines are not intended to be dictatorial or to infringe upon the personal rights of MUFON members. Instead they are designed to enhance our credibility and our professionalism as serious UFO researchers and investigators.