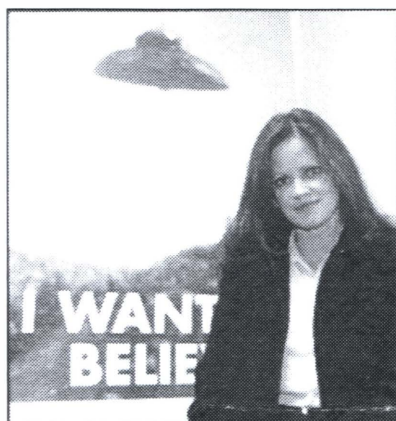


Autumn  
1998

# Michigan MUFON Newsletter

## Exclusive Interview With Jodi Dean



Jodi Dean, *Aliens in America*,  
Cornell University Press, 1998

Look for MUFON's  
exciting interview  
with Jodi Dean,  
Author of:  
*Aliens in America*,  
*Conspiracy Cultures*  
*from Outerspace to*  
*Cyberspace*

on page 9 of this issue.

## Words from the State Director

Our September meeting in Grand Rapids was outstanding. Ted Philips did a great job of presenting his program on "Trace Landings". He spoke for nearly two hours, which generated much dialogue. The only thing that could have been better was the attendance.

Again we bring in an outstanding, nationally known speaker, and we fail to show for his pres-

entation. We had 35 people attend and should see at least twice that many for speakers of this caliber.

This brings me to a question which needs your answer.

***What do you, as members, want at your membership meetings?***

Please respond via letter, phone, or e-mail. These are *your meetings* and you need to tell me what you would like.

## November Meeting in Flint

The 6th annual meeting of the Michigan Mutual UFO Network will be held in Flint, Michigan at Wallis Restaurant on Sunday, November 8th, 1998.

Field Investigators Training will begin at 9:00 AM followed by Brunch from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM. The guest Speaker is Beverly Trout. The State Directors meeting will be after the General Session and Speaker Beverly Trout.

Please RSVP with MR. Frank Bertrand at (810) 655-4749 by November 4, 1998 so that an accurate count can be established for the brunch. (by the way... Walli's has great food!) Please see page 14 for more information as well as directions to Walli's.

## Novembers Guest Speaker: Beverly Trout

**THE CHALLENGE OF CHANGE - Talking Back! To the Aliens and To Humans.**

As Iowa State Director for MUFON, Beverly Trout's work for the past seven years has focused on investigations into UFO sightings, encounters with UFO occupants (popularly known as "abductions"), anomalous crop formations, and landing traces.

In 1993, she decided that her own case of possible alien interaction needed investigating and so  
**Beverly Trout**

(Continued on page 7)

**Michigan MUFON  
Newsletter  
P.O. Box 363  
Eastport, Michigan  
49627-0363**

Tel: (616) 582-7097  
FAX: (616) 582-7097  
Email: rmm@freeway.net

**State Director:  
Richard McVannel  
(616) 582-7097**

**Assist. State Director:  
Robert Wagel  
(616) 782-6111**

**Editor:  
Landi Mellas  
P.O. Box 2466  
Dearborn, Michigan 48123**

**Editor-in-Chief:  
David E. Caywood  
P.O. Box 2466  
Dearborn, Michigan 48123  
Email: 4guys@worldnet.  
att.net**

**Photographer:  
Gary Golem**

**MUFON UFO Hotline:  
1-800-UFO-2166**

**Michigan MUFON on  
the Internet:  
[www.msu.edu/user/  
trumbll/MUFON.html](http://www.msu.edu/user/trumbll/MUFON.html)**



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**MUFON's mission is the scientific systematic collection and analysis of UFO / Abduction data, with the ultimate goal of learning the origin and nature and purpose of the UFO / Abduction phenomenon.**

## **-NOTICE-**

The Michigan MUFON Newsletter is issued for the Mutual UFO Network and Members of Michigan MUFON.

Unless otherwise specified, all articles and reviews were by David E. Caywood. As such, they reflect his personal views and research, and are not meant to be taken as the official views of the Mutual UFO Network or of it's membership. Articles from this newsletter may be reprinted in other newsletters. We would appreciate you crediting this newsletter as the source, and sending us a copy of your newsletter. If the article is by someone other than David E. Caywood, please include an additional copy so that we might send it to the author. Thank you.



We now offer Field Investigator Training, a luncheon/brunch, and we try to present an outstanding speaker. Now, I'm open for suggestions on any or all of the previous suggestions and ideas.

In January we have a planning meeting for 1999 for the state officers and the state section directors. we are hoping for input from all members, so we can present programs for 1999 that you want.

Some suggestions that have come to me are as follows:

1. Continue with the field investigator training.
2. Don't move the meetings around the state. have one location for all meetings.
3. Have meetings more centrally located to the S.E. Michigan area.
4. Don't have meetings like we have now, have speakers or lecturers come to a major university or some other location, advertise, and collect a fee at the door.

Please....let me know what you want so we can improve attendance. the cost of presenting quality speakers is exceeding our take at each meeting. At this rate we are

sinking our own ship.

The good news though, is that we are increasing our membership.

We are standing at 800 members, dues paying members, not just those that say they are one, is because your name doesn't appear on our membership list. in other words did you pay your dues? We have worked with you and tried to respond to each inquiry. when we have found no dues were received, you were eliminated from the mailing list.

The dues are \$15.00 per year per household membership. The dues are due and payable January 1<sup>st</sup> of each year, and will continue to be the same for 1999. However, due to increasing costs of the printing and postage for the newsletter, we will be looking at increasing the dues by the year 2000 in order to cover expenses.

So if you don't receive your newsletter, check to see if your dues are paid first. If they are call me and I'll see that you get your copy of the newsletter and any back copies you missed while your dues were current.

Our next meeting is at Walli's in Flint, November 8, 1998. note the change in schedule, as we will be dining at 11:30 am. this is a brunch due to meal costs. we are ever watching your costs and try to keep your expenses to a minimum if at all possible. we

feel this increases attendance, when you have less out of pocket expenses.

The schedule is as follows: 9:00 AM field investigator training followed by a buffet brunch at 11:30 am to 1:00 PM. This allows for good conversation among members and allows for those running a little behind to be able to eat and make the afternoon speaker on time.

The speaker is Beverly Trout, Iowa state director for MUFON. she has an outstanding message to deliver. Beverly is an excellent speaker and expects to have a question and answer period following her talk. expect a very energetic talk with much enthusiasm.

The fees for the day are \$12.00 per person for the training, brunch, and speaker.

The state officer and state section director's meeting will follow the afternoon session. This meeting will be brief and is very important. I know that all the officers and directors want to head home ASAP, However, we do have some business to act on and we need the input from all officers and directors.

**Richard m. McVannel**  
State Director, Michigan



# Down-to-Earth About Aliens

**Mystery: Like it or not, the Mutual UFO Network is peopled by folks like your neighbors, friends and you.**

*By JOEL P. ENGARDIO, Special to The Los Angeles Times*

*Article Originally appeared on July 19, 1998*

**T**HOUSAND OAKS, California--Your real estate agent, airline pilot, even your doctor: They are the faces of the Mutual UFO Network, a national group of 5,000 everyday people and working professionals who like to talk about space aliens.

Determined to prove the existence of extraterrestrials, they track the skies armed with binoculars, a toll-free number and an insatiable desire to reconcile truth with conspiracy.

At MUFON chapters across the country--such as the one that meets each month at the Thousand Oaks library--members gather to hear lectures on crop circles, ancient bacteria on Martian rocks or any other mystery that would inspire a good "X-Files" episode.

The curious sit among the convinced, as professed alien abduction survivors swap stories with the hypnotherapists who treat them. The Ventura/Santa Barbara County chapter is one of MUFON's more active--and interesting--with more than 100 members.

There is "Ellen," who sells high-end property in Santa Barbara and says she has been the victim of multiple alien abductions. The most convincing time, she said, was the night her husband was awakened by a blinding light and noticed she was missing from the bed. A safe subject at MUFON, but she wouldn't dare tell her clients.

Joe Vallejo, a commercial airline pilot from Westlake Village, recalls the flight from Los Angeles to Denver when he and his cockpit crew watched an unidentified aircraft fly next to the 727, doing maneuvers that seemingly defied physics.

But the local member with the most talked-about claim--one that gets him booked on the UFO lecture circuit from Tucson to Tampa--is chapter president and Thousand Oaks podiatrist Roger K. Leir. He caused a stir after announcing he surgically removed apparent alien implants from some of his patients' feet. Call them wacky, but these UFO enthusiasts hold respectable day jobs and don't seem any different from your next-door neighbor. That is the way MUFON founder and national director Walt Andrus intended it.

"We don't contribute to the kook factor," Andrus said. "Our membership is by invitation only, based on professional occupation and education. We keep the kooks out. And if one slips in, they'll be dropped immediately." Andrus tries to distance his group from the "Roswell or bust" bumper sticker movement that drives UFO mania today. The Internet has spawned a cavalcade of conspiracy-peddling Web sites offering the latest alien update via direct mail videotape, while carnival-like UFO conventions draw thousands to hotels across the country. The hype, Andrus says, gives UFOs a bad name.

"There are fools and charlatans born every minute. People will say anything if they think they can make some money," Andrus said. "But we want to investigate and resolve the UFO phenomenon using scientific means." Indeed, UFO enthusiasts got a boost last month when a panel of scientists from Stanford, Cornell and Princeton universities--along with institutions in Germany and France--suggested that some UFO sightings do include unexplained physical evidence and deserve serious scientific study.

The first independent scientific review of UFOs in nearly 30 years, the study concluded that scientists might learn more--either to better understand or debunk alleged UFO sightings--if they can get past the ridicule that has prevented credible study in the past.

"This is a wake-up call that scientists better stop tee-heeing because the public is demanding a serious look at

*(Continued on page 5)*

(Continued from page 4)  
their claims," Leir said.

## MUFON Is Born

The UFO culture was just as outrageous--though less sophisticated--as it is now when Andrus helped start MUFON in 1969. It was the year the U.S. Air Force decided to stop officially investigating UFOs after an Air Force-commissioned study by the University of Colorado recommended that UFOs did not warrant further research.

The report noted the absurdity surrounding the subject, even surveying a UFO convention that sold hair from dogs from the planet Venus.

"They went to one circus convention and were put off by the malarkey," Andrus said. "They got a bad impression at the worst place they could go." So Andrus, who worked as a plant manager for Motorola, and a few of his friends--including a university chemistry professor and an aerospace engineer for McDonnell Douglas--organized MUFON in an effort to shape up the UFO counterculture and pick up where the Air Force left off in credible investigations.

For 30 years, Andrus has run the group as its only full-time staff member at the national headquarters in Seguin, Texas. Andrus himself answers the toll-free UFO hotline--which rings about a dozen times a day--while three part-time workers help transfer into a computer database tens of thousands of cases stuffed in file cabinets that clutter the small office.

Andrus talks regularly to MUFON's state directors, trying to get a handle on the latest UFO trend. Local chapters train members to become field investigators, following a meticulous protocol used to track sightings, interview witnesses, make drawings and comb the ground for evidence.

The Ventura/Santa Barbara County chapter plans a training session later this summer. Before thinking flying saucer, Andrus said, investigators are taught to first try to rule out anything else the sighting might have been.

Though a firm believer in UFOs and even alien abductions, Andrus admits that 90% of the reports his group investigates are nothing more than a meteor shower or the Goodyear blimp. Not to mention all the kids who place prank calls to the hotline. "It's that 10% that defies any earthly explanation we call UFOs," he said.

## 'The Aliens and the Scalpel'

A thousand UFO enthusiasts packed a Greensboro, N.C., auditorium at MUFON's national symposium two years ago, rapt by images of the surgical extraction of tiny, T-shaped objects--in the minds of audience members, alien implants--embedded deep in feet that both doctor and patient swear had never been operated on before.

After cheers and a standing ovation, the crowd swarmed the podium, pressing programs toward the presenting doctor for his autograph. Roger Leir, the 61-year-old podiatrist from Thousand Oaks, had come out of the UFO closet to a celebrity's welcome.

"It was a bit disconcerting at first," said Leir, who initially used the moniker Dr. X to protect his reputation and the 30-year podiatry practice he had built. "I didn't want problems with my patients or colleagues. People might think I was a kook if word got out I was working in a field looked at by some with a jaundiced eye."

While attending a UFO convention in 1995, Leir was asked to read some foot X-rays. The podiatrist noted he saw some foreign bodies that looked like wires or screws; typical remnants of reconstructive foot surgery. But medical records did not indicate any operation, and the patient claimed to be a victim of alien abduction. Leir was intrigued. Using the justification that the patient clearly had something foreign in her foot, Leir decided to operate. Whether it was of alien origin or simply a carpet nail she stepped on didn't matter.

He sent the little T-shaped objects, covered in a dense, shiny membrane, to New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, commonly known as New Mexico Tech, for analysis in the metallurgical engineering department. One word in the lab report--"meteorite"--convinced Leir he was on to something. It was real scientific proof, he

(Continued on page 6)



*(Continued from page 5)*

said, that he used as the highlight of his UFO lectures.

"The lab says particles of meteorite, and my patient sure hasn't been stepping on any meteors," Leir told his audiences. But New Mexico Tech associate professor Paul A. Fuierer, the author of the metallurgical study, said the meteorite theory has been taken out of context.

"The object reminded me of what could be meteorite material, but I'm not prepared to say it is meteorite," Fuierer said, noting that the objects consisted of common elements such as aluminum and iron.

"I have to admit they were odd-looking samples, but I'm by no means saying these are alien implants." Despite the controversy, the mystery surrounding the objects created such a buzz that X-rays began pouring into Leir's office. And it wasn't just feet anymore. There were films of hands, legs, even jaws. Limited as a podiatrist, Leir enlisted the help of three colleagues in the Los Angeles area--a dentist, a radiologist and a general surgeon--who were willing to read X-rays and MRIs, pass on their medical opinion and perform more operations.

There have been seven such procedures, with plans for more. But Leir is cautious. "They have to do more than just say they have implants before I'll consider them a surgical candidate," said Leir, who ends up rejecting most cases because perceived anomalies in the X-rays can be explained more often than not. "If they think something is still there, they can pursue it somewhere else. It's up to hard science--not me--to determine what the objects are. I'm just looking for real evidence, not to prove someone's abduction was real."

### **Going Mainstream**

Despite his continued plunge into UFO research, Leir still maintains two podiatry offices in Thousand Oaks and Camarillo that serve 200 patients. He cut back to a four-day workweek when he was named the local MUFON president but is protective of his profession. "I don't involve my practice with my hobby," Leir said. "No one wants to go to the doctor and be dragged into UFO talk."

But Leir's otherworldly pursuits are no secret among his patients, considering his appearance on the TV show "Hard Copy," his Web site and the 250-page manuscript he has been shopping around to book publishers. "The Alien and the Scalpel" is the working title.

Leir's interest in UFOs dates to July 1947, when, as a young boy, he remembers his father reading aloud a newspaper article with the headline "Air Force Captures Flying Disc." That early news report about an alleged alien crash-landing outside Roswell, N.M., became the touchstone of the modern UFO movement.

"My dad was really upset when the Air Force came out and denied it the next day," Leir recalled. "He threw down the paper and yelled, 'I'm not falling for that! They know the difference between a weather balloon and a UFO.' His reaction made an impression on me." Leir said deciding to go public was easier when he saw national polls such as one done by Newsweek magazine that said half of Americans believe UFOs are real and think the government knows about it, too. "I also believe," he said. "And I wouldn't be surprised if we've been secretly [studying and possibly utilizing] alien technology all along."

With extraterrestrial talk jumping from the supermarket tabloids into highly successful TV series and movies such as "The X-Files" and "Men in Black," Leir said today's UFO-friendly climate lets him worry less about people thinking he is "nuts."

"Years ago, if you said you saw a UFO, it was, 'Yeah, sure, you saw swamp gas and were drunk,'" Leir said. "Now you see little aliens selling Volkswagens on TV commercials. People accept the notion, and it's the skeptics and debunkers who are more likely to be laughed at now."

### **The Future of MUFON**

More than 60 people attended last month's local MUFON meeting at the Thousand Oaks library, many of them first-timers who signed up as members. Brian Noble and his fiancée Jeannie Casse, both of

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*(Continued from page 6)*

Camarillo, went to their first meeting. She is a believer, he is a skeptic. "I feel there might be extraterrestrial life somewhere, but I don't think they've made it down to Earth yet," Noble said. "He wants proof, but I just know," Casse said.

"I'm sure there are hoaxes out there, but they are just helping camouflage the truth." Noble said he was apprehensive about MUFON, expecting to find a group of eccentrics. But after looking around the room and reading the chapter newsletter, he changed his mind. "I see everyday, normal people from all walks of life," Noble said. "And there are some scientific people here, which impresses me."

Bobbie Lambert of Thousand Oaks also became a new member last month. She had already attended several meetings and found them fascinating. As for the inevitable fringe element associated with UFOs, Lambert said that is easy to ignore, since a bit of "wackiness will attach itself to anything controversial." She keeps her new interest mostly to herself, though.

"I'm cautious about who I tell because it's not completely accepted by the mainstream yet," Lambert said. "But if you just put out a little feeler, it's amazing to discover the people you would never expect who end up having a whole lifetime of experiences. They're just being cautious, too."

MUFON founder Andrus said the more people begin to talk openly about UFOs, the better the chance of finding some definitive answers.

After 30 years of gradually helping move UFOs into the consciousness of pop culture and now the scientific community, Andrus said he looks forward to a time when MUFON has no reason to exist.

"If we could resolve the UFO phenomenon tomorrow, we'd close down," he said. "And that's just more incentive to keep digging."

You can search the archives of the Los Angeles Times

*Special Thanks to Joel P. Engardio, and to The Los Angeles Times for letting us reprint this article in its entirety.*

for similar stories. Copyright 1998 Los Angeles Times

*(Continued from page 1)*

## **THE CHALLENGE OF CHANGE - Talking Back! To the Aliens and To Humans.**

she began undergoing a series of hypnotic sessions with Grey Woodman, M.D. (psychiatrist) in Clinton, Iowa.

In the Fall of 1993 came two conscious encounters only twelve weeks apart - the first encounter in a motel in Winnemucca, Nevada, the second episode taking place at her residence in Iowa.

In the past, when she has lectured on UFOs in Iowa, she has not revealed her own abduction encounters to audiences in her home state.

However, when she has been asked to speak at out-of-state conferences, she has talked of her own experiences. She has recently spoken at the Ozark UFO Conference at Eureka Springs, Arkansas and at a Nebraska MUFON meeting in Omaha.

**Articles** written by Beverly Trout on the UFO subject have appeared in the MUFON JOURNAL, OHIO UFO NOTEBOOK, and HEARTLAND UFO JOURNAL.

Twice a year, she teaches a UFO class series of six sessions for the Des Moines School District Adult Education program.

Her subject for the November 8, 1998 MUFON meeting in Flint, Michigan will be: **THE CHALLENGE OF CHANGE - Talking Back! To the Aliens and To Humans.**



## TSUNAMI

By Landi Mellas

**O**n August 24th of this year, something very special happened, not just for me, but for everyone on planet earth. Let me backtrack two years ago, when I was given a vision of an event to come. The vision consisted of seeing a tsunami hit the coastline.

It could have been any coastline. There were three waves to this tsunami, each progressively stronger than the one before. As the series of waves hit, many people were unprepared and were washed out to sea. There was very little warning and not much time to seek shelter.

However, the ones who did survive the first wave were told to go within the interior of a pavilion on shore for safety. At the time, I had no idea what this vision meant, but knew it was symbolic and wrote it down, as I have learned to do over the years.

Now, to the present. On or about August 24th of this year, the first wave of the tsunami hit. How do I know? Because I was kept awake all night feeling the light energy bombarding the planet.

These waves of light bring expanded knowledge and concepts to be incorporated into our awareness. During this night of powerful energy, I



Landi Mellas

realized the symbology of my tsunami vision, and knew that we were truly experiencing the first wave. I also realized that this was not something to fear, but was a gift to every living thing on earth.

A gift of consciousness expansion that will help us shift from our 3rd dimensional reality into a 4th dimensional one. I believe we are around dimension 3 1/2, which means that these realities are overlapping. What does all this have to do with UFO's? After all, that's what this newsletter is all about, right?

The consciousness of people on earth is evolving from 3D to 4D, and at an accelerated rate. Many aspects of the UFO/alien abduction phenomenon are being played out in 4th dimensional reality.

That is where many of these off-



planet beings originate from. That is where many of us go when we are taken out-of-body. And that is why it is so difficult for Experiencers and researchers alike to understand and compartmentalize many aspects of

the UFO phenomenon into neat, orderly conclusions.

As our consciousness expands and dimensional doors open, so will we gain a greater understanding of UFO experiences, along with an understanding of who our alien visitors are, why they are here, and what our part is in the final outcome.

That still doesn't explain my vision of the tsunami? Here's my interpretation. For those who resist the waves of light now coming into our planet, the shift from 3rd to 4th dimensional reality will be extremely painful, confusing and quite literally, mind-boggling.

Many will probably not make the shift. And that is all right, as we all have free will to choose how and when we will progress.

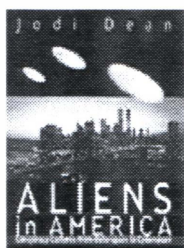
For those who do wish to accept an expanded reality, the doorway of survival opens from within, by asking in your meditations that you make that transition, and then accepting the gift that you will.

Be ready for the second wave around the end of 1998.

Can we stop the waves? No, but we can go within the ocean of consciousness and learn to surf.







# Aliens in America

Conspiracy Cultures from Outerspace to Cyberspace



**A**liens have invaded the United States. No longer confined to science fiction and tabloids, aliens appear in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, and *The Wall Street Journal*, at candy counters (in chocolate covered flying saucers and as Martian melon-flavored lollipops) and on the Internet.<sup>4</sup>

Aliens are at the center of a faculty battle at Harvard. They have been used to market AT&T cellular phones, Milky Way candy bars, Kodak film, Diet Coke, Stove Top stuffing, skateboard accessories, and abduction insurance. A Gallup Poll says that 27 percent of American believe

space aliens have visited Earth. A Time/CNN poll says 80 percent of its respondent believe the U.S. government is covering up its knowledge of the existence of aliens. Sixty-five percent believe a UFO crashed in Roswell in 1947.

In a provocative and sophisticated analysis of public culture and popular concerns, Jodi Dean examines how serious UFO-logists and their pop-culture counterparts tap into fundamental phobias, paranoia, conspiracy theories, and mass skepticism of the public sphere. What does the widespread American belief in extraterrestrials say about our society? How common are our assumptions about what is real? Is there any such thing as "common sense"? Aliens, the author shows, provide cultural icons through which to access the conditions of democratic politics at the mil-

lennium. The technological complexity of our age has created a situation where political choices and decisions are virtually meaningless, practically impossible. How do we judge what is real, believable, trustworthy, or authoritative? When the truth is out there, but we can trust no one, Dean argues, paranoia is indeed the most sensible response.

Jodi Dean and I spoke on several occasions. I found her to be insightful, highly intelligent and ingratiating. The following is a compilation of my conversations with Jodi Dean about her ideas, views and work as they relate to her spectacular new book, *Aliens in America, Conspiracy Cultures from Outerspace to Cyberspace*.

**David:** What influenced you to write this book? Isn't the subject of UFO's and Alien Abductions academically dangerous

and seemingly out of left field for a Political Science Professor?

**Jodi Dean:** "When I heard that Dr. John Mack, Harvard Chair of Psychology, had written a book and was speaking about alien abductions as real, I knew that there had to be something to this and not just fantasy on the part those claiming abduction experiences. Surprisingly, Phillip Klass had influenced me as well. When I read his abysmal accounts and ludicrous explanations against UFO's and abductions in *Abductions: A Dangerous Game*, I knew I had to counter his rhetoric and provide a more democratic view of the subjects. Especially, his overtly anti-woman, "Queen-Bee" comments and how come the aliens didn't choose someone like Dolly Parton to mother the new hybrid species, etc..."

(Continued on page 10)

**DEC:** *What do you believe to about the ET question?*

**JD:** "Honestly— I don't know. I do at a fundamental level have some beliefs but nothing concrete."

**DEC:** *Using any adjective you'd like, describe your view of consensus reality in America today.*

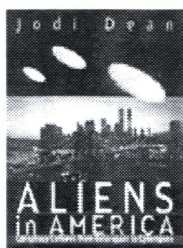
**JD:** "Exclusive! Exclusive on many levels. There are views in America which present themselves as consensus and broadband but are actually exclusionary. Example: Mainstream Science says to Ufologist and abductees alike:

You don't share our view of reality so therefore we can't take you seriously or investigate your experiences let alone talk to you.

This type of consensus reality is not only "not consensus" but undemocratic and unscientific as well. Exclusions are necessary and not all them are evil but one has to be careful of the exclusions one chooses to have. Seemingly in America today we have moved from consensus reality to virtual reality"

**DEC:** *What criticisms if any, have you faced from your academic colleagues?*

**JD:** "Some people have become unsettled by my unwillingness to decide whether I believe the abductions are or not. They wanted to pin me down to one side or the other. It has been my experience that they are doing this to see on whose side of the consensus reality fence I fall. Mainly so that they can use the before mentioned criteria mainstream science uses when deciding to listen to, and/or investigate UFO/Abduction claims. They want me to share their consensus reality. Otherwise they feel they can not talk to me. The truth is they want to listen to what I have to say, not so that



they can understand but rather, to respond with their next thought or argument. I won't play that game."

**Jodi Dean** teaches political, feminist, and cultural theory at Hobart and William Smith Colleges in Geneva, New York. She received her BA from Princeton University in 1984 and her Ph.D. from Columbia University in 1992. She is the author of *Solidarity of Strangers: Feminism After Identity Politics* (University of California Press, 1996) and the editor of *Feminism and the New Democracy: Resiting the Political* (Sage 1997). Her current projects continue to address conspiracy and cultural studies. She is editing a collection, *Political Theory and Cultural Studies*, to be published by Cornell in 1999, and working on a new book, *Three Fables of Conspiracy*.

Michigan MUFON is very grateful to Jodi

**"...ufological discourse upholds the criteria for scientific rationality that mainstream science uses to dismiss it."**

-Jodi Dean, *Aliens in America*

Dean for granting this interview. My personal thanks to Jodi Dean for taking time to speak

with me at length and for the open spirit of intellectual inquiry she has brought to the forefront of thought on issues of abductions and Ufology.

***Aliens in America***, by Jodi Dean from Cornell University Press, 1998, is as superb and engaging as it is entertaining and compelling. A definite *must read* book !

**"Showalter writes... "it will take dedication and persistence to counter sensational news reports, rumors and fear"—as if there were one truth available that simply needs to be discovered. As if we can know the difference."**



# Announcements



## Field Investigators Training

### THIS ONE SHOULD NOT MISSED!

As a follow-up to Ted Phillips' Lecture at the September General Meeting, Chief Investigator, Dan Wright will address physical evidence cases at the November 8th meeting in Flint, Michigan, at Walli's.

Dan's Slide presentation will show you how to identify false and genuine traces, photograph the scene, plot ground marks, gather experimental and control samples and how to store the evidence.

The workshop begins promptly at 9:00 AM. All serious investigators should avail this opportunity to learn how to handle these critical cases.

### Dan Wright

Chief Investigator, MUFON



*Crop Circle  
from Ohio,  
1996*

### Newsletter Editor and Assistant Editor Due to Resign

Due to commitments from his career and his commitments to writing and publishing two books, David E. Caywood will be resigning his position as Newsletter Editor-in-Chief and Public Relations Director for Michigan MUFON.

Sighting similar obligations, Landi Mellas, Assistant Editor of the Newsletter, will also be resigning as well.

It is with great regret that the State Director has to accept David and Landi's resignations, but understands the need to move forward with ones endeavor to accomplish personal goals.

David and Landi will be hard to replace, as they have done an outstanding job of promoting Michigan MUFON and creating a new newsletter format.

David and Landi's resignation will be effective January 1, 1999, but they have promised to help make the transition to a new editor and public relations person a smooth process and will be available for consultation. He and Landi plan to remain members of Michigan MUFON and therefore, will be close at hand,

Thank you David E. Caywood and Landi Mellas for your contributions to Michigan

MUFON.

### NEWSLETTER EDITOR WANTED

Anyone interested in becoming the Newsletter Editor and/or Assistant Editor or willing to Help with the Michigan MUFON Newsletter, please contact Richard McVannel at (616)582-7097 or write to P.O. Box 363, Eastport, Michigan 49626-0363, and list your interests and qualifications.

Additionally, if anyone knows of a person outside MIMUFON who would be willing to do the task, do not hesitate to recommend them or have the person contact me as listed above.

## 1999 MIMUFON Dues Reminder

**Yep! It's that time again and January is just around the bend. Think of it...**

**You can pre-pay your dues for last time this Century!!!  
Go to the *CONTACT US* page for more information.**

**Thank you for making 1998 such a great year!**



# From the Editors Desk

## The Abduction of Spirituality

By David E. Caywood

**E**lecting an Experiencer/Abductee as the Editor-in-Chief of the Michigan MUFON Newsletter can make (hopefully) for some interesting articles and points of view, even points of view that may or may not be so popular at the time. This is one of those times. So here goes:

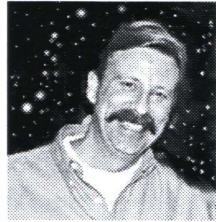
**Spirituality is central to solving the UFO/abduction and scientific mysteries of our time. Not adjunct to solving to them but—central.**

So there. I've said what many, *many* of us have wanted to say for years. I've spoken scientific and Ufological blasphemy and it feels, well—good.

The issue of spirituality has long been the ugly stepchild in the family of UFO/Abduction related phenomena. Spirituality is so taboo that it has been all but completely ignored, sequestered and basically "abducted-out" of the clinical and published works of many scientists, Ufologist and researchers. One thing I'll share with you about such taboos: They are often put in place to keep hidden a truth.

**Why are spirituality, Ufology and science taboo when combined?**

Why? Well, before I get into 'why?' be mindful here that I am not talking about religion. Rather, I am speaking about spirituality. The difference being (as I see it) that religion is what I did with my Sundays for about an hour and Spirituality is what I do with my life. Religion, like science de-



David E. Caywood

mands that you take someone else's "word for it" concerning God, the existence of the soul and all things heretofore metaphysical. Mainstream science and religion are two sides of the same wall. Spirituality, on the other hand, says you decide. Religion and science can't abide by this because you may come up with a different answer. Where, then, would this leave room in our lives for their explanations. Take your own "word for it", whatever that may be from moment to moment, through self-discovery and remembrance. In my book science and religion are mutually unrelated and distinct from spirituality. I am not bashing religion and science, I am simply only stating what is so.

**As to the "why?", of it.**

Now as to the 'why?'. Well, I can sum it up fairly easily – **Fear**. With a capital "F". Fear of blurring the lines between religion and science. But remember, I am speaking about Spirituality not religion. So there's no need to bring up what happen to poor Galileo or the Heavens Gate religious cult. Although I do believe that these and numerous other bad experiences have contributed greatly to the fear state and the bad feelings it has left in many people's lives.

Sadly, fear as a weapon has been used on some of us who have consciously chosen to publicly integrate the nature of being human as Mind, Body, *and* Soul. I know all too well that fear as a weapon can be very powerful when used to inflict ridicule. But what no one told

you (me) is that fear is self-created. What I finally realized about fear (and believe me I know about fear) is that as long as I give into creating it, I provide the very weapons with which I can be threatened. I am here to tell you that there is nothing to fear about remembering your spirit, as echoed by Oprah Winfrey, Dr. Joe Dispenza, Dr. Richard Thompson, and Landi Mallas among others, and the list goes on, *ad infinitum*. Your (my) spirit is a part of you, a part of each of us. "All", really is one.

**Nothing New Age here.**

As "new age" as that may sound, there is nothing "new age" about it. All is one. It's ancient knowledge, ancient age. As long as you fear your spirit and any mention of it, you fear yourself as a whole. That is to say, a whole and complete being: Mind, Body and Spirit. The separation of consciousness of science and spirituality is what is adjunct to ufological/abduction related research. The view that we are separate from our very nature *is* what has been driving us insane-literally! The view that we are somehow separate from each other, mother earth and the grand scheme of things (yes, Virginia there is a grand scheme to all things) are the very views which have led to polluted skies, oceans, rivers, lands and our relationships with one another. Ask yourself this: If the (my) past efforts and models of the universe have worked so well for (me) us, why (am I) are we in this mess of confusion, paranoia and conflict with regard to even the simplest of answers regarding the most basic of questions about UFOs, Abductions and the nature of reality?

Put another way—looking at only one

(Continued on page 13)

or two brush strokes will not tell you the subject matter of the painting and neither will looking at one or two aspects of UFOlogy/abductions give us the answers we seek.

Of those Experiencers/Abductees, UFOlogist and others with whom I am close and have known for years, spirituality is either becoming the central theme of their lives or has already become so, through a process which I and many others describe as "waking-up".

The amazing thing is about this process of "waking-up" is that it is not ~~exclusive~~ <sup>exclusive</sup> to Experiencers/Abductees alone. Indeed, it is happening to everyone, and everything, everywhere and is not confined to the human species. No matter how anthropomorphic that may seem to some. Remember the ancient age premise that "All is One." What one does for another, ones does for self and vice-versa. We are in this together.

All things (beings) have existence in duality. The physical and the metaphysical. Quantum Physics bears me out on this, only they call it atomic and sub-atomic. Psychiatrists call it the conscious, subconscious or super-conscious and the ego. Whatever descriptions you choose, the reality paradigm is still the same: mind, body and spirit make one whole being, place or thing. There is life and existence on many levels. Not just one or two. Just because some choose not to explore these areas as significant to the whole of the UFO/abduction phenomena does not mean that it does not exist or that spirituality is not central to the ultimate understanding of why these experiences have happened in the first place.

I believe— no, rather I know, that we are spiritual based beings not physical

based beings. So where better to begin to seek some real answers to the mysteries of UFO's and abductions than at the beginning and not at the end result or side effects of abductions. Spirit knows everything. It is the conscious separation from spirit which keeps us from knowing the "all of it" and who we all (really) are to each other.

### **Our thoughts/words create reality.**

It has been my direct experience and knowledge (not belief) that our thoughts and words create our reality. If a hypochondriac can think themselves sick, then how ill have we made ourselves through the thoughts and words of separation consciousness

Nothing, that is to say "no-thing" is purely any "one-thing" and one thing only. Even the smallest of the smallest particle has a multi-layered existence and quantum expression in multi-dimensional realities. It is therefore logical to conclude that we (we who are made up of these same multi-dimensional particles) are at our essence multi-layered, multi-expressed on many dimensions as well. Quantum Physicists have confirmed that the very act of observation of ~~upon~~ high particle experiments actually affects and changes the outcome of the retrievable data, providing scientists with even more questions than answers. Think of it...their thoughts about and during the experiment directly created and influenced the reality of the outcome! Tangible, hard evidence that our thoughts create the reality we experience. What then do our "creative" thoughts about the UFO/abduction phenomena say?

**And the answer is...**

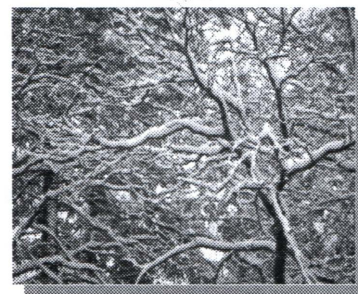
I don't have all the answers, nor do I

claim to. These are merely my observations of what is so. However, my sense of direction tells me that the answers aren't found solely in hypnotic regression or physical trace evidence, recovered flying disks, back engineered spacecraft or even the surgical removal of implants. No, these are *part* of the answers. Not *the* answer in and of themselves *or* taken together.

Additionally, I do know (innately so) that many of the questions to the UFO/abduction mysteries can and will one day be solved and it will be in the one place few have had the courage to look. I have a good suggestion as to where to begin. Paradoxically, it's been with me (with all of us) all along. Look within. If we are not part of the answers or if the answers themselves are not *within*, than we will surely go *without*. Thus, will continue the abduction of spirituality from our investigations and lives at the peril of our own confoundment. ■

*Peace, Joy and Unity to all and a very  
Happy Holiday Season and A Rousing,  
Life*

*Affirming, Jubilant, Healthy,  
Blessed, and Prosperous 1999.*



*This is  
the last year of the  
Millennium—let's make it the best  
one we've ever  
created!*

***From your Friends and  
Colleagues at Michigan  
MUFON***

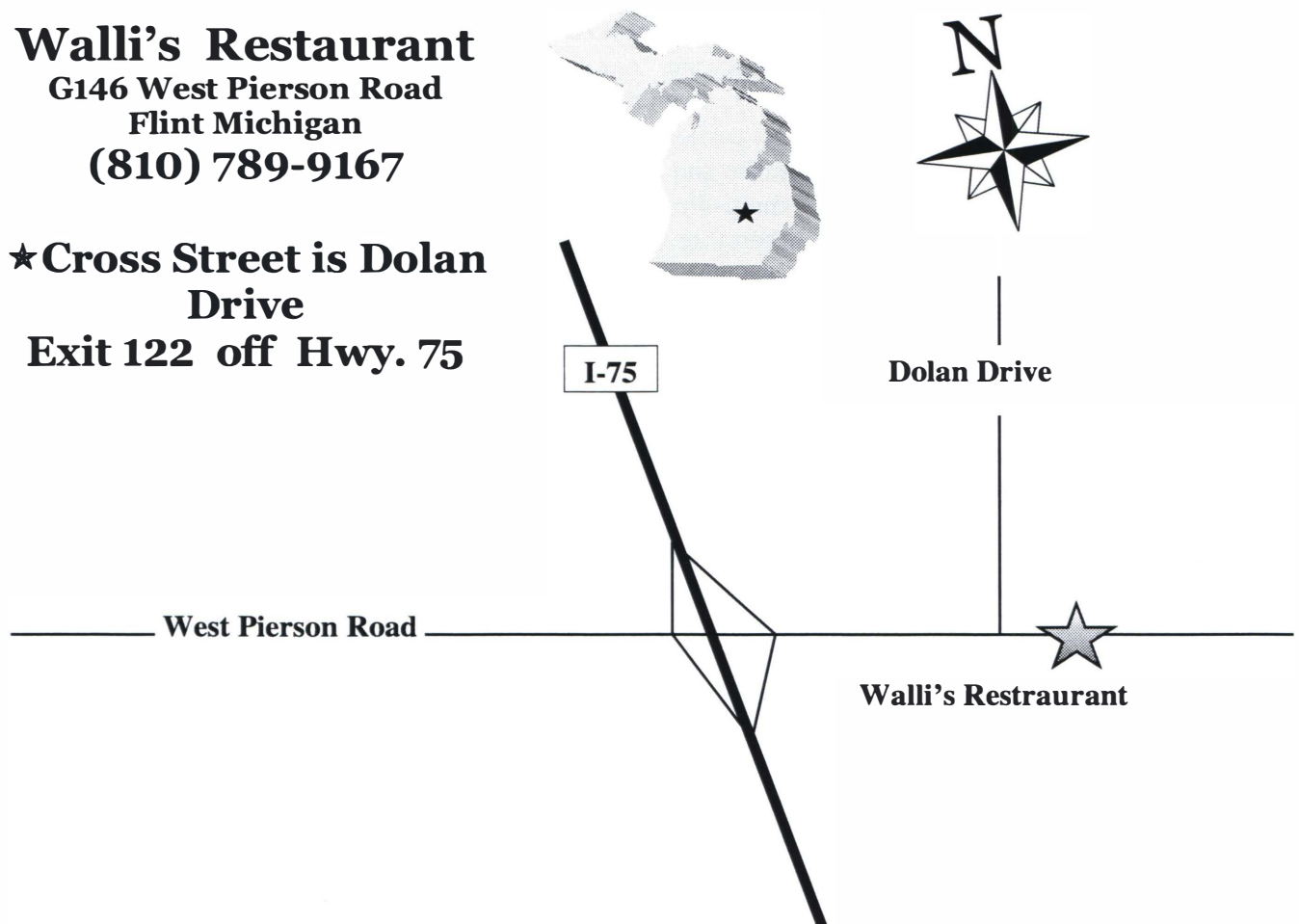
## Michigan MUFON General Meeting will be held at Walli's Restaurant in Flint Michigan

**Your Contact Person is Frank Bertrand at:  
(810) 655-4749**

<b>Schedule of Events</b>	<b>Sunday November 8, 1998</b>
<b>Field Investigators Training Course 3 With Chief Investigator, Dan Wright</b>	<b>9:00 AM</b>
<b>Brunch at Walli's</b>	<b>11:30 AM</b>
<b>General Meeting with Guest Speaker: Beverly Trout</b>	<b>1:00 PM</b>
<b>State Directors Meeting will held promptly after the Guest Speaker and General Session</b>	<b>Buffet : \$12 Lecture: \$6</b>

**Walli's Restaurant**  
G146 West Pierson Road  
Flint Michigan  
**(810) 789-9167**

**★Cross Street is Dolan  
Drive  
Exit 122 off Hwy. 75**



*\*(Please leave a message with Contact Person. Include your contact phone number and the number of persons who will be attending the Brunch)*



# Contact Us

## Michigan MUFON

*(Dues and Subscriptions and General Correspondence)*

**Michigan MUFON**  
**P.O. Box 363**  
**Eastport, Michigan**  
**49627-0363**

**Telephone: (616) 582-7097**  
**Email: [rmm@freeway.net](mailto:rmm@freeway.net)**

**Website: <http://www.msu.edu/user/trumbull/mufon.html>**

### -NOTICE-

The Michigan MUFON Newsletter is issued for the Mutual UFO Network and Members of Michigan MUFON. Unless otherwise specified, all articles and reviews were by David E. Caywood. As such, they reflect his personal views and research, and are not meant to be taken as the official views of the Mutual UFO Network or of it's membership. Articles from this newsletter may be reprinted in other newsletters. We would appreciate you crediting this newsletter as the source, and sending us a copy of your newsletter. If the article is by someone other than David E. Caywood, please include an additional copy so that we might send it to the author. Thank you.

**For the 1999 / 2000 calendar year Memberships (if you are a member) or subscriberships, please use the form below and send it, with a \$15.00 check or money order to Michigan MUFON.**

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**Are you a member of the Mutual UFO Network, Inc.** yes no *(Please circle your response)*

**Would you like to receive your copy of the newsletter via email?** yes no



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WE ALL Share The Same Planet...  
(and Universe too!)

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