

Michigan MUFON Newsletter

September 1999

Words from the State Director



Rich McVannel
MIMUFON
State Director

To start with, I want to say that our move to permanently locate our state meetings to Walli's Restaurant in Flint has been very successful. Our attendance is up and, overall,

communication has improved. The last meeting was especially gratifying because May is notorious for poor attendance. I want to tell you, when sixty plus people attended, I knew our selection of Walli's was successful.

During our Director's summer retreat in Eastport, many items of business were discussed and some decisions that affect our total Michigan MUFON were made.

First, let me share some statistical information with you. Michigan has approximately 130 members in the Mutual UFO Network, Inc. Now this depends on whose list you use to count names.

If you use the list from the International Headquarters, we have somewhat less than the 130 people, but if you use the expiration dates of each member from a col-

lection of quarterly lists, we have 130 members. This might not seem important but, when everyone is saying membership is declining worldwide, Michigan is staying the course. We have maintained this count now for several years, fluctuating between 130 and 140 people.

Michigan MUFON now has 84 dues paying members. This is an increase in the last twelve months of about 15%. Now, if we could retain all the people who have dropped out for various reasons, plus the increase, our membership would soon equal our Michigan International membership. Michigan is one of the top states for membership retention and percentage of international members in relation to state members.

One other outstanding statistic was our representative delegation at the MUFON International Symposium in Arlington, VA. Michigan had a group of twenty people attend. Other than the local hosts, we had the largest group of people. We have all heard that MUFON has an aging membership. Well, let me tell you, ten from our group were in the 20-30 year age category and

Inside this issue:

- Palmiro Campagna to speak at September Michigan MUFON Meeting.
- UFO Sighting in Mason, MI.
- 1999 MIMUFON Member Survey results.
- Coverage of the 1999 MUFON International Symposium.
- How you can help the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence at home.

Dr. David Jacobs to appear for Michigan MUFON in October... page 22!

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Internet:**

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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. Articles in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the official views of the Mutual UFO Network nor its general 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.

Thank you.

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this group is growing. Also, this statistic did not go unnoticed. Many comments were made about our young representatives. How positive!!!!!!

Back to the business at hand. Due to the increased expense of producing a newsletter, postage, the cost of making up unfilled reservations at the state meetings, and other necessary expenses, the Michigan MUFON Board of Directors has voted to raise our annual dues to \$18.00 per household per year.

Further, the Board has instituted a policy for renewal and date of dues payment. In the past two years, we have adjusted the annual dues after May 1, to create a prorated amount due for the balance of the year. This was done on a month by month basis. This was also done to encourage payment of dues to maintain, retain, and encourage new membership. ie: pay dues in July, you would pay \$7.50 instead of \$15.00 for renewal.

We discovered over time, that some late dues paying was happening just to save paying the full annual dues. By not paying dues on time for annual renewal hurts the whole organization financially. If you are a member on December 31, you continue to receive the newsletter and other announcements even if you haven't paid. So eventually you get yours for half price in you

wait to pay. NOT FAIR for the rest of us, who support Michigan MUFON wholeheartedly!!

The new policy is all dues are payable on an annual basis on January 1, each year. If you are renewing your membership your dues will be \$18.00 per household per year from January 1, through December 31, each year. If you are a new member joining for the first time or rejoining after an absence of some period of time your annual dues are \$18.00 per household per year or prorated to \$9.00 for the balance of the year joining after May 1. All dues are again payable on January 1 for renewal.

The prorated dues are used as a tool to recruit new members in the middle of the year. In a sense it is like using a coupon for discount if you join now.

Finally, we have a new Newsletter Editor. Bill Konkolesky has accepted this position. I'm sure you received the last letter in May/June. Bill was responsible for editing most of that newsletter, as well as for the printing. We, as a board, thought he did an outstanding job and, therefore, unanimously installed him as our editor. Any noteworthy or newsworthy information can be sent to Bill directly. Just contact me or check the newsletter to get with Bill.



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Mason Mystery Lights

From the Michigan UFO Files

Dan Wright

Michigan Chief Investigator

On an especially warm, clear Saturday evening in late April 1999, a Mason, Michigan couple was enjoying a hot tub experience at the home of the husband's brother who lives in the same town 20 miles south of Lansing. At approximately 10 PM, three of the four had stepped inside for snacks while "Jack" remained in the Jacuzzi.

Facing east, Jack's eye caught a glimpse of something approaching from the southeast at a very low height. He perceived seven white lights in a "v" formation. Presuming this to be some form of aircraft, he was quite amazed when the lights passed slowly and directly over the house, just above treetop height. As they came overhead, however, the formation was now a straight line. He saw no mass surrounding the lights and heard no sound. [The tub's water jets were turned off at this point.]

Before the anomaly was far enough distant to be hidden by neighborhood trees, the lights appeared to wink out simultaneously. Jack proceeded inside to tell "Jill", his wife, "You won't believe what I just saw."

Fifteen minutes later Jill had rejoined Jack in the tub. From nearly the same point in the southeast, the same or identical lights approached again. This time, they agreed, the configuration was a straight line of lights from the outset.

Once more the lights passed directly overhead, moving somewhat farther beyond the property before winking out. Jill was certain that there was no body attached in that, as she observed them pass beneath individual stars, the starlight was not interrupted.

It would be a few weeks before Jack approached an acquaintance, police officer Ed Hude, at a church social gathering. He wanted someone in authority and with objectivity toward such matters to know. But Jack was reticent to have their names used in any retelling. Ed was previously a MUFON member and retained an interest in the subject.

With Jack's permission, Ed phoned me and asked that I interview the couple. When I met them a week later, I found a sincere, quiet young couple, conservative in their lifestyle and thoughtful in all their responses.

Ed Hude had already confirmed that no other reports of the event had been made to the Mason Police or Ingham County Sheriff departments. My further checks with the Lansing PD, Michigan State Police Post in East Lansing, and Capital City Airport also revealed nothing more.

Hence, we have another instance of something very low and prominent over a fairly large town on a Saturday evening when many people were out and about. Was this event intended only for the edification of this one couple? Would it have even been possible for others to see it? Neither Jack nor Jill recalled anything else of a like nature in their lives, so the episode is truly inexplicable.



You Spoke. We Listened.

Results of the 1999 Michigan MUFON Members Survey

Twenty three individuals responded to the "1999 Michigan MUFON Members Survey" that was included with the May 1999 Michigan MUFON newsletter.

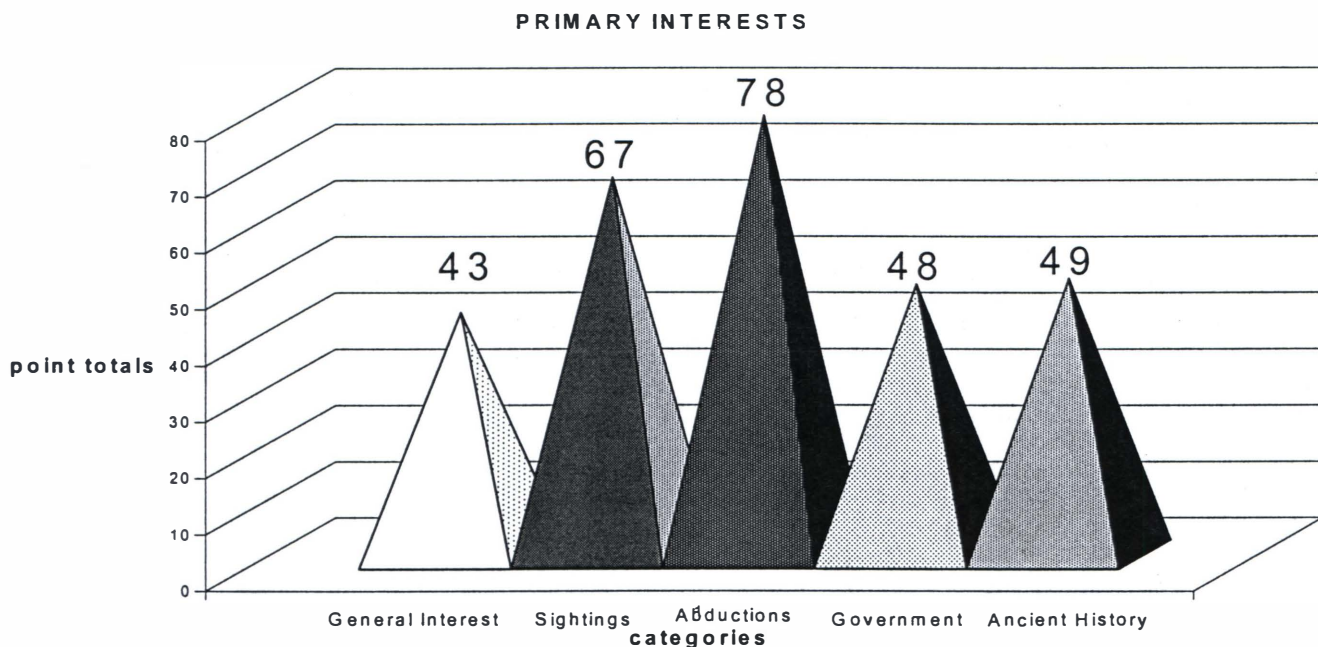
Thank you. Your comments go to improving our already great Michigan MUFON organization.

The goal of togetherness was a universal theme from responding members.

Here is a sampling of the results.

General Interest

From the 19 members who selected their preferences by rank order of the topics that intrigued them most from the UFO phenomena, the following chart was created with a point scale devised by inverting the original scale (where 1 = highest ranking, 5 = lowest) and adding up points, accordingly. The higher the point value on this scale, the greater the agreed upon interest.



Other topics of interest included: Physics applied to the phenomena, crop circles, and animal mutilations.

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MUFON Does Well

Here are a few selected comments by members as to what Michigan MUFON Does well:

"Meetings are generally well organized. Newsletter is informative. Speakers are well versed as to specific subject matters."

"Rich McVannel invites people to get more involved with tackling tasks in the organization. There's a sense of sincere empowerment."

"Michigan MUFON puts us in contact with like-minded people with UFO interests."

"Flint is a great meeting location."

MUFON room for improvement

The overwhelming idea is the good news that people would like to get together more often:

- "It's difficult to communicate with anyone between meetings."
- "Meet more frequently during the year"
- "Organize sky watches"
- "Are there abductee support groups in the area?"
- "Allow more audience participation and/or organize more meetings at people's houses for more personal discussions."
- "Publish lists of members in each community"
- "I enjoyed the general discussion that Cinthia Leacock began. Further personal recollection interests me, if members are willing to share."

In response to these comments:



Michigan
Mutual UFO Network

If you would like to meet with members more local to yourself and more often during the year, introduce yourself to your State Section Director (if you haven't, already), and share ideas on how to possibly get something together. A list of State Section Directors is on the next page .

Interested in giving input to share with others? Please see page 8.

Many of you also say you want to hear more of local sightings and experiences.

We are working to keep you informed of these, both in the meetings and the newsletters. The best time to hear of sightings during the meetings is during the field investigator training. At present, there is not much new available in terms of physical trace cases.

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Michigan MUFON Contact List

Rich McVannel

The following people are the State Section Directors for Michigan. If you have questions, comments, sightings, or any other report, please contact the State Section Director covering your county.

Bob Wagel, 616-782-6111
Berrien, Cass, Van Buren

Len Keeney, 734-769-7645
Lenawee, Washtenaw, Livingston

Gary Golem, 313-459-7514
Wayne, Monroe

Kathy Yates, 517-272-9990
Jackson, Eaton, Ingham, Clinton

Jon Long, 616-738-3049
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Bill Konkolesky, 248-435-6266
Oakland

Harold Marquardt, 248-463-5553
Macomb

Wayne Erickson, 810-364-9938
St. Clair

Frank Bertrand, 810-655-4749
Shiawassee, Genesee, Lapeer

Josh Winklestein, 616-452-3017
Wanda Smith, e-mail wasmith2@ibm.net
Ottawa, Kent

John Weaver, 616-744-8798
Muskegon, Newaygo, Mecosta

Linda Andrews, 616-894-4377
Oceana, Mason

Rick Reed, 517-348-3231
Roscommon, Crawford, Oscoda, Ogemaw

Judy Kulka, 231-599-2594
Grand Traverse, Leelenau, Kalkaska, Antrim

Brenda McVannel, 231-582-7097
Charlevoix, Otsego, Emmet, Cheboygan, Presque Isle
You will note that not all counties are covered with section

directors. In that case you can contact any of the following state officers.

Richard McVannel, 231-582-7097
Michigan State Director

Bob Wagel, 616-782-6111
Michigan Assistant State Director, Administration

Jerry Kulka, 231-599-2594
Michigan Assistant State Director, Treasury

Dan Wright, 517-321-8647
Michigan Chief Investigator

Randy Baker, 810-794-3876
Michigan Webmaster

Kathy Yates, 517-272-9990
Michigan MUFON Librarian

Bill Konkolesky, 248-435-6266
Michigan Newsletter Editor

Harry Willnus, 810-437-9545
Michigan MUFON Consultant

Please be patient when calling these people. The telephones are not always answered during the day. When leaving a message, clearly state your name, city, telephone number so we can respond, and a brief message.

One other helpful detail that we need from each member is an e-mail address if you have one. This is most important as technology advances, we will contact you more and more by e-mail. Also when filing your application, please include your e-mail for acknowledgement. Remember, these are for Michigan MUFON purposes only and will not be shared with anyone not connected to MUFON business. Please include your current telephone with new area codes. This information has not been updated in some time and needs to be corrected.

Speakers

(Continued from page 6)

Of the speakers you said you wanted to see speak at a MUFON meeting, these speakers received multiple votes:



- Michigan's own David Caywood & Dan Wright each got 3 votes.
- Linda Moulton Howe also received 3 votes.
- Dr. David Jacobs, Stanton Friedman, & Dr. John Levensgood each got 2 votes.

Members will be pleased to know that Dan Wright will continue to give his morning field investigator training sessions in future meetings and David Jacobs is coming to speak to Michigan MUFON on October 10th.

Thanks again for your response! Now, it's time to make things happen!!!



The Michigan MUFON Newsletter is looking for contribution.

At this time, we are looking for:

A la Cindi Leacock, when did you first realize that the UFO phenomenon was a truly anomalous phenomena ("the one, first thing in your life that made you say, Hey, this stuff is for real!")?

Please, either email your contribution to

thegrayhouse@yahoo.com

Or mail it traditionally to

**MIMUFON Newsletter
5004 Mansfield, Apt 222
Royal Oak, MI 48073**

Your entry could appear as soon as in our October newsletter! Please state how you would like your name to appear, as well.

The 1999 MUFON International SYMPOSIUM

Transcending Politics and Comfort Zones in UFOlogy
July 2-4, 1999
Arlington, VA

Bill Konkolesky

The 1999 MUFON International Symposium in Arlington, Virginia, was a truly exciting event. Members from all across the US and a few from other countries filled the Hyatt Regency Crystal City Hotel July 2-4 for an event both educational and entertaining (Michigan had quite an impressive member presence at this year's Symposium, as well!). Vendors offered a plethora of books, videos, and other paraphernalia (Budd Hopkins' Intruders Foundation [IF] table was quite popular). There was an art gallery, featuring the work of artists' David Huggins and Betty Luca. And, naturally, the speakers were of top-caliber.



Rich & Brenda McVannel enjoying their 4th of July, in Arlington

Here are some quick notes on the speakers and their topics:



Saturday

Richard H. Hall

"Fifty Years of UFO Politics & Discomfort Zones"

Hall offered that we have to "look in the mirror" to see how we present information to the public. His message is that we must be respectable to earn respect.

On one difficult group to win-over, Hall observed that, "Scientists say that UFOlogists are unrealistic, but they have their own biases, presumptions, and lack of investigation."

It's still uphill for UFOlogy, even with all of the evidence we already have, believes Hall.

Jenny Randles

"A Walk on the Weird Side"

Randles challenged basic assumptions in UFOlogy.

Some examples were to always keep in mind the questions, "Is there really just one big answer to all ufological phenomena?" "If specific phenomena aren't ongoing, then are they still important?" and "Is it possible to confuse a near-death encounter and an abduction by

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aliens?" Randles feelings on these matters are, respectively, no, yes, and yes. She went on to cover many more aspects, as well.

Randles also told an unusual story about a "UFO sighting" in Britain where the UFO investigators determined that a glowing ball seen descending over a schoolyard was actually a military jet dumping fuel. The weird part is the embarrassed military denied that they were responsible and replied, "Maybe it really was a UFO." "UFO's" Randles said, "Are real when they serve the government's purposes."

Kelly Cahill

"Are Multiple Witnesses & Scientific Anomalies Enough Proof of a UFO Reality"

Ms. Cahill spoke twice during the Symposium on her experiences of being confronted by malevolent beings, once at the lectern and then also during a special brunch to promote her book, "Encounter." Her book details specifically an event that occurred to independent witnesses, including her husband and herself, in three different cars on an Australian highway when a massive UFO descended in 1993. You may remember Cahill from a video of encounters in Australia, shown during the Grand Rapids Symposium in 1997.

Robert P. Swiatek

"Acceptance of the Incredible: The 1952 Washington National Airport Sightings"

The host of the Virginia Symposium reviewed an incident very close to home for him, the 1952 flap over Washington D.C.

Betty Ann Luca

"Watchers/Elders Physical Make-up, Syndromes and Message Reviews"

Mrs. Luca reviewed the behavior of the grays, based on her first-hand observations, and leaned toward the conclusion that they are either machinations or they are close to what we would term autistic. She supports her theory by stating that they: behave repetitively, do not show emotions, and are mathematically inclined.

Bruce MacCabee, Ph.D.

"Immediate Saucer Alert: The Mystery of December 6, 1950"

Dr. MacCabee was quite a presence during the Symposium. He not only spoke twice, due to the wealth of information he was presenting, but also occasionally performed on the piano throughout the hotel.

His presentation was a potpourri of events he has investigated and his perspectives on them.

He began by describing a solid UFO sighting from 1950 that was absurdly dismissed in many ways, including misidentifying migratory birds. He then moved on to other items.

One highlight was his investigation of a Phoenix case where photos taken of a UFO over a duration of time seem to indicate that the photographer lost some time during the shoot, based on the obvious passage of time in the background of the pictures.

Another highlight was some convincing footage of a glowing daylight disc. And, on the subject of daylight discs, MacCabee feels that the infamous Mexico City footage is a hoax based on discrepancies in camera focus.

Budd Hopkins

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"A 1961 Car Levitation UFO Abduction Case"

Hopkins' speech was very warmly received by Symposium attendees.

He stressed the importance of trying to identify the behaviors of the beings who operate UFO's. Hopkins humorously criticized the way that UFO's had been historically investigated by scrutinizing details of the craft that they travel in, saying, "We were trying so hard to get the license plate of the getaway car that we didn't really know what crime had been committed."

Hopkins new area of study is the occasional phenomenon of invisibility during abductions and he says to look for something written from him in the not-too-distant future on the subject.

Joe Firmage

"The Truth: The UFO Philosophy of Joe Firmage"

Founder and former CEO of USWeb Corporation's Joe Firmage promoted his new creation, the International Space Sciences Organization.

He feels that some major organization must step forward to champion cutting edge cosmological discoveries, including UFO investigation, as "neither of the two independent ontologies, science or religion, are ready to accept UFOlogy."

Firmage joked about how advanced an extraterrestrial race might likely be, compared to us Earthlings, saying, "Some civilization out there must possess a better means of propulsion than a controlled firecracker."

Sunday



S. Peter Resta, Ph.D.

"Alien Abductions: Perception and the Mental Health Establishment"

Dr. Resta reviewed the phenomena as it has been covered by the psychological sciences.

He states "The good news is that abduction stories are being included in the psychological textbooks, at last. The bad news is that the stories are absurdly trounced." Says Resta, "These books lump abduction memories in with multiple-personality disorder and Satanic Ritual abuse."

Resta states that those psychologists who would like to be supportive of abductees' accounts face the danger of being sued for contributing to false-memory syndrome and are, therefore, very difficult to come by.

Eve Frances Lorgen, M.A.

"Alien Orchestrated Human Bonding Dramas"

Ms. Lorgen spoke of cases where aliens have apparently played cupid, orchestrating romances between unwitting individuals.

Her book on the topic, "The Love Bite," is available at www.arkives.com.

Beverly J. Trout

"Talking Back – To Aliens and to Humans"

Ms. Trout reprised the subject she recently covered to Michigan MUFON members – the dichotomy of human/alien relations. The "repulsion-fascination syndrome," as Ms. Trout calls it, has abductees both outraged and enamored toward the aliens as the extraterrestrials both frighten

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and impress their human captives.

Thomas Eddie Bullard, Ph.D.

"What's New in UFO Abductions? Has the Story Changed in 30 Years"

Dr. Bullard studied trends and compared/contrasted abduction data collected since 1966, the year the Hill case came to light (for details on Dr. Bullard's data, please see the 1999 Symposium Proceedings).

He concluded, in terms of UFO literature, "Although different authors emphasize different factors of cases, the cases are all pretty much the same. If you take the names off of the books and then strip them down to the facts, you really can't tell them apart."

Stanton T. Friedman, M.S.

"Star Travel? Yes!"

Friedman opened his presentation by stating his major conclusions since the modern UFO era began in 1947:

- 1) Evidence is overwhelming that Earth is being visited by Extraterrestrial (ET) spacecraft. Some UFO's are ET spacecraft. Most are not (forget them!).
- 2) The UFO subject is a kind of "Cosmic Watergate." Some officials have known since 1947.
- 3) All the "noisy negativist" arguments against points 1 and 2 collapse upon serious scrutiny.
- 4) Flying saucers are the biggest story of the millennium (the ET visits and the "Cosmic Watergate."

Most of Friedman's presentation detailed his

support of the idea that mankind could (given enough time) travel easily through the cosmos and, therefore, any alien civilization just hundreds of years ahead of us, technologically, will likely have already gotten to Earth.

Panel (Question and Answer Session)

The Symposium concluded successfully with the annual question and answer period.

The 1999 MUFON International Symposium was an exquisite production.

One of the best things about Symposiums, though, is simply meeting others from around the nation (and even world) who share the desire to discover and reveal the truth about the UFO phenomenon. For this reason, alone, all MUFON members should at least taste one Symposium in their lifetime.

Deputy Director of Investigations, (Michigan's own) Dan Wright, says that "Symposiums really recharge your batteries." One returns home from a Symposium filled with new knowledge and new energy.

Find out for yourself, next summer, in St. Louis. See you there!



Items from the MUFON 1999 International Symposium

\$25 MUFON 1999 International UFO Symposium Proceedings 201 pages

(with \$1.75 S+H = \$26.75 check or m.o.) available from

MUFON, 103 Oldtowne Rd, Seguin, TX 78155

\$19 each or \$69 set Video Tapes of 1999 Symposium

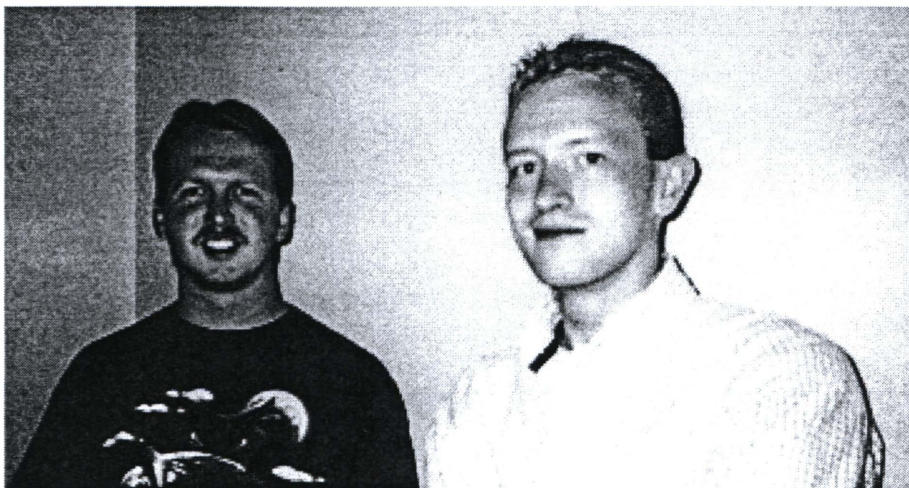
- 1) Richard Hall, Jenny Randles, Kelly Cahill
- 2) Robert P. Swiatek, Betty Ann Luca, Dr. Bruce S. MacCabee
- 3) Budd Hopkins, Joe Firmage
- 4) Dr. S. Peter Resta, Eve Frances Lorgen, Beverly Trout
- 5) Dr. Thomas Eddie Bullard, Stanton Friedman, Q&A Panel

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You can also contact Ms. Swiatek by phone (703) 250-0709 or email swiman@pop.dn.net.



Michigan Webmaster Randy Baker and new State Section Director for Allegan and Barry Counties, Jon Long, mingle with other International members in Virginia



**Remember...
Recycle!**

Encounter, by Kelly Cahill. Sydney, Australia: Harper Collins Publishers, 1996. Paperback. 239 pp.



Review by Bill Konkolesky

"How far from average could a person get than to be a UFO experimenter? I knew that wherever I went in my life, this knowledge would intrude and I would be different – odd. And by going public with my case I had, in effect, given my life away. In some sense I had become public property. Who on earth would have thought, and only a couple of years ago, that I would eventually find myself sitting in a Pizza Hut, celebrating my daughter's birthday with a journalist who had come to interview me."

Kelly Cahill has put forth a truly personal account with her new book, "Encounter." The cover might lead one to believe this book is merely a first person narrative of a close encounter on a rural stretch of Australian highway and the ensuing investigation of this multiple witness event – that is, a pretty cut-n-dried account by modern UFOlogical literature standards. Never judge a book by its cover. Ms. Cahill invites you into her life and lets you see her world through her eyes – eyes that have seen much more than the close encounter blurb on the cover would lead you to believe.

"Encounter" makes the reader a fly on the wall of Ms. Cahill's home, privy to Kelly being interviewed by a visiting reporter by the name of Wendy Ryder. The interview spans the entire book with Kelly confessing her experiences, not just from the fateful highway visitation on August 8th, 1993, but of other unusual happenings occurring in her home life.

Ms. Cahill has had quite an adventure, as well. She tells of her struggles of trying to fit her experiences into the paradigm of Christianity, as scarlet-eyed beings visit her at her bedside at night, she believes, to steal her soul. These same beings terrorize her and her husband on the night of her close encounter. She endures ridicule, physical scars, and a divorce during her ordeals.

Ms. Cahill's memories of her paranormal experiences are blended into her accounts of day to day existence on the pages of "Encounter" to weave a tapestry of life and other-life, not unlike the writings of Whitley Strieber. This is a crucial element of the abduction experience that many writers, who are not experiencers themselves, often don't concentrate enough on – how it affects the experimenter at the breakfast table the next morning.

The only possible flaw in "Encounter" is that Kelly, as the main character of her own book, is sometimes a difficult figure to figure out. She often sways back and forth between painting herself as being completely naïve of UFO phenomena and being a learned saucer-philosopher.

Also, placing herself as the main character, although there are other independent witnesses from two other vehicles, to the highway close encounter that is a large part of Ms. Cahill's story, they are not mentioned at any length until about page 200. This is Kelly's book.

Encounter is not deeply scientific, but is sincerely personal. It is a section torn from a diary in the secret life of an experimenter - someone just like the average neighbor next door, but with strange visitors come-a-calling late at night.

Overall, Ms. Cahill's  *Encounter* is a quick

Use Your Home Computer to Assist The Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence

J.W.

I do not know about you, but in the past I have often wondered whether it was better to turn off my computer when I was done with it, or leave it on.

It is better to leave it on.

Why?

Two reasons. First, left on, it is ready to work when you are, no endless wait for it to boot. The second reason? When do light bulbs burn out? When you turn them on! The same is true of computer monitors. Leave it on and it will last longer and do you more good.

But even the most ardent computer user spends more time away from the keyboard than at it. Most of the time the computer is on, it isn't working. What a waste!

But this no longer has to be true. Due to a marvelous exercise in distributed computing (distributed computing is the science of breaking a task down into smaller parts and having these parts worked on at various locations, with the final result collected and reassembled at some central location), you can use your home computer to assist in the search for extra-terrestrial intelligence.

"SETI@home is a scientific experiment that harnesses the power of hundreds of thousands of Internet-connected computers in the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence (SETI). You can participate by run-

ning a free program that downloads and analyzes radio telescope data. There's a small but captivating possibility that your computer will detect the faint murmur of a civilization beyond Earth." - home page from: <http://setiathome.ssl.berkeley.edu>
How does this happen? One of our best bets for detecting traces of another advanced civilization is through their broadcast radio emissions. How do we receive these? Through radio telescopes, like the one at Arecibo Radio Observatory (South America). But what do we do with these radio waves after we receive them? After all, it is unlikely that the transmissions will be in English (or the latest Offspring hit single) and there is a lot of natural radio in the universe.

What we do with the transmissions is analyze them for patterns that might be broadcast from an alien civilization. A complete, technical overview of this can be found at <http://setiathome.ssl.berkeley.edu/sciencepaper.html>



Where your computer comes in is the setiathome program, which runs as a screensaver and does many of the calculations on data acquired at Arecibo. You go to the setiathome website, download a work unit of data and then log off and go about your business. When you are not using your computer, the setiathome screen saver comes up and the CPU starts crunching numbers for SETI.

When you use your computer, setiathome stops running.

This continues until you have performed all the calculations necessary on your work unit of data,

(Continued on page 18)

From the Editor's Desk



Six Eyewitnesses Encounter Flying Squirrels Over Northern Michigan!!!

Bill Konkolesky

The following is all true and, therefore, to any kith and kin that I reference in the following, you know I still love ya.

From a humble experience of late, last summer (1998), I learned a lesson of how hard it's gonna' be to convince the world we are being visited by UFO's (and my experience had nothing to do with UFO's).

It was a warm summer night at my friend's cabin in Lewiston, Michigan, when we saw them. In the big lush oak trees that encircled our host and his wife, a second couple, and my girlfriend and I, little critters sprang and sailed effortlessly above our heads. As they dashed back and forth for nibbles from the cobs of corn that were hanging from the squirrel feeder in the back of the cabin, we scored a perfect inspection of them from a distance of less than two yards with the help of our flashlights. They were squirrels all right, *flying squirrels* – dead ringers for the illustrations of their kind in a nature book at the cabin. Not even knowing before the encounter that Michigan even had flying squirrels, I felt privileged that they came so near to us.

As I would find out upon our return home to the Metro Detroit area, many others also did not know that our state was the home to such animals, nor, for some strange reason, were they ready to accept it.

On the Monday after the weekend trip, my surprise began at the office where I was working at the time. A co-worker asked me how my weekend at the cabin went and I told her, "It was really something. My friends and I saw flying squirrels, Saturday night."

"Are you sure they weren't bats?" she asked. I said that we got good looks at them and they were certainly not bats, going on to explain their appearance and the fact that they didn't really fly, but actually glided from tree to tree.

She wasn't kidding when she replied, "Chipmunks can jump pretty far, you know. Maybe you saw chipmunks." I was curious why she wouldn't just take my word for what I said I saw.

Minutes later, at another part of the office, I came upon another co-worker who also asked me about my weekend and I told him of the flying squirrels.

"I hate to break it to you," he said, "but what you saw was bats." After I did the whole contrast bit, he changed his theory to birds, "probably sparrows or crows."

I thought he was kidding. He wasn't kidding.

Later that day, when the three of us office-mates were together, he went on to initiate his own brand of kidding, though.

"Bill, look, a flying squirrel" he said and pointed out the window to a stray cat in the parking lot. We all had a chuckle. Soon, however, the two

of them were drawing my attention to notepads, staplers, and even other co-workers with the imperative for me to look at the "flying squirrels."

This was just the beginning, though. Here and there, over the next few weeks, other co-workers, friends, and even family members of my girlfriend and mine all unbelievably told us we were likely mistaken about what we had seen – most of them citing (yes) bats.

I found it more than a little interesting that the initial reaction of good folks to the statement, "We saw flying squirrels, Saturday night," was a resistance of a singular bent...

- Not one of inquiry: *Oh, really? What did they look like?*
- Not even one of suspicion: *I don't think that Michigan has any flying squirrels.*
- But one of dismissive counter-hypothesis: *You saw bats.*

This is a first reaction of non-witnesses! And it's only flying squirrels!!

This is the part where I dare you to ask me why I haven't told many people of the UFO's I've seen in my lifetime?

If the paradigms of some good everyday people can't find the room to accept a cuddly new form of wildlife in their home state, where does UFOlogy begin to enter the picture in our everyday culture...and just how far behind that is the idea of abduction?

Open-minded individuals will say they'll need more information on that one.

Closed-minded individuals will say they doubt that day will ever come.

Debunkers (strangers, acquaintances, and, regrettably, even loved ones) will say the issues are mired in swamp gas.

Maybe that's what we saw in Lewiston, leaping and sailing from tree to tree, nibbling on the cobs of corn...swamp gas.

Hey. I figured it out all by myself.



*i've been sleeping in the basement
slipping through the cosmos
spiraling complacent...
almost
almost*

Daryl Stangl Speaks at May MUFON Meeting

Bill Konkolesky

Michigan MUFON was privileged to have Iowa MUFON Assistant State Director Daryl Stangl speak at our May Meeting.

Mr. Stangl spoke of the difficulty of coming to grips with himself being an abductee with respect to his being raised in a conservative Catholic farm environment. It has been difficult for him to live two lives, that as a teacher and that as an abductee. Stangl advised wisely that the important thing for those living this "duality reality," as he calls it, is to never lose grip on the day to day existence – as mundane as it may seem, compared to being taken by aliens. It is important to stay rooted in our human world.

He has been helping other abductees to stay rooted and to reach other abductees, through his abductee support organization, "BRIDGES." A primary goal of BRIDGES is to link an expansive network of abductee support groups.

Stangl also told our Michigan audience in May, "Never oversimplify the complexity of the phenomena. There is an eclectic agenda going on." He insightfully opined that by trying to fit all aspects of the UFO phenomena into a neat little box, the whole thing might not fit.

Looks like the investigation blazes forth for MUFON.



seti@home

(Continued from page 15)

This continues until you have performed all the calculations necessary on your work unit of data, then *setiathome* reminds you to log back on to the Internet, where it uploads the completed work unit to its system in Berkeley, CA, and downloads another work unit. MY PC is on its 750th work hour, and 12th data unit.

So. How do you get the software, and the work units of data? Easy: just go to <http://setiathome.ssl.berkeley.edu> and follow the simple directions and before you know it you and your computer will be assisting in the search for extra-terrestrial intelligence whenever the screen saver is running, rather than just using up watts. Even if you choose not to participate, there are some great pictures and interesting articles at the SETI site which are recommendable to any MUFON member.



A Few Words on Upcoming Meetings

Rich McVannel

September 19, 1999, is our next state meeting. For details go to the website, www.geocities.com/~mimufon. For reservations you can call me at 231-582-7097 or e-mail me at rmm@freeway.net.

Reservations are necessary, as we have to account to Walli's for a head count for brunch and for meeting set up by Wednesday of the week before the meeting. All our charges are based on this count as a minimum number attending. Generally, a 5% overage is allowed by the restaurant if you show up with no reservation. Usually, this works because we have people that reserve and then never show without reason. We have to pay for these no-shows, as Walli's has prepared for them, as well as the 5% overage.

I don't mind being over our count, as I can usually persuade the management to set extra places and supply additional food. But, keep in mind we still pay for those that don't show. For this reason we **MUST** take reservations.

If at the last minute you discover you can make the meeting, **PLEASE** come. As I said above, I can work with you, it's the no shows that kill us!

Of special interest we have been able to get Dr. David Jacobs to speak on October 10, 1999. This will be held at the Weber Inn in Ann Arbor. Brunch will be served prior to the lecture. Cost will be \$16.00 per person for all events. Reservations are needed by October 1, 1999. Reservations after October 1, or gate show ups with no reservations, will be charged \$18.00 per person for all events. Those that reserve by October 1, will receive a special information packet at the door.

Again we are accountable for head count and set up fees. If we don't get the numbers ahead of time it gets expensive for these events.

We Also set the winter and spring 2000 meeting dates. Please mark your calendars as follows: **March 12, 2000**, and **May 7, 2000**. These meetings will be at Walli's Restaurant in Flint, as usual. We will keep you updated as to whether there will be Field Investigator Training sessions at these meetings.

You will note that the dates are a little earlier than previous years. This is because we always scheduled these dates when everyone was either on "Spring Break," in March, or it was "Mother's Day" or "Graduation," in May. We thought these new dates would fit schedules better (and, historically, the weather is usually good for that weekend in March – don't ask).

Keep in mind our last state meeting for 1999 will be November 7, at Walli's Restaurant, in Flint.

See you September 19, 1999 at Walli's Restaurant in Flint. Walli's is on Pierson Road off I-75 just north of Flint. Take the exit east off I-75 and Walli's will be immediately on the left next to the East Side of I-75. As always, we will meet in the lower level.



Palmiro Campagna to Speak at September Meeting

Randy Baker

What do Ottawa's secret files reveal about contact with extraterrestrial beings? Is there a concerted government cover-up of close encounters in North America – from the Roswell Incident in New Mexico to the Stefan Michalak case in Manitoba?

Palmiro Campagna tackles these and many other questions regarding the UFO Phenomenon in North America. Finally, the in-

side Canadian connection is exposed.

Palmiro Campagna, P.Eng., works for the Department of National Defence in Ottawa. He has acted as the Canadian representative to NATO in the area of electromagnetics in military aircraft. He is the author of the bestseller *Storms of Controversy: The secret Avro Arrow Files Revealed* and *The UFO Files, The Canadian Connection Exposed*.



Dan Wright: Chairman of the Committee

Michigan's own Dan Wright has been selected to chair a committee to bring MUFON, International into the 21st century – an understandably large and important task. Duties of the committee include creating long-range objectives, revising bylaws, and restructuring the organization, in general.

As this committee must submit its current recommendations by January 15th of 2000, Dan has been tremendously busy.

Therefore, regrettably, Dan is unable to prepare a Field Investigator's Training lesson for this upcoming meeting.

Good luck, Dan. We are looking forward to more Field Investigator Training sessions in the future.

Make Your Meeting Reservations TODAY!



Michigan
Mutual UFO Network

Phone in your reservations to State Director Rich McVannel at (231) 582-7097 or e-mail at rmm@freeway.net no later than **Wednesday, September 15th**. Please leave your name, number attending in your party, and a telephone number where you can be reached in case we need to contact you.

*1999 Michigan MUFON meetings will be held at
Walli's Restaurant in Flint.*

Sunday September 19th, 1999

Schedule of Events

1999 MIMUFON Meetings

March 28th, 1999

May 23rd, 1999

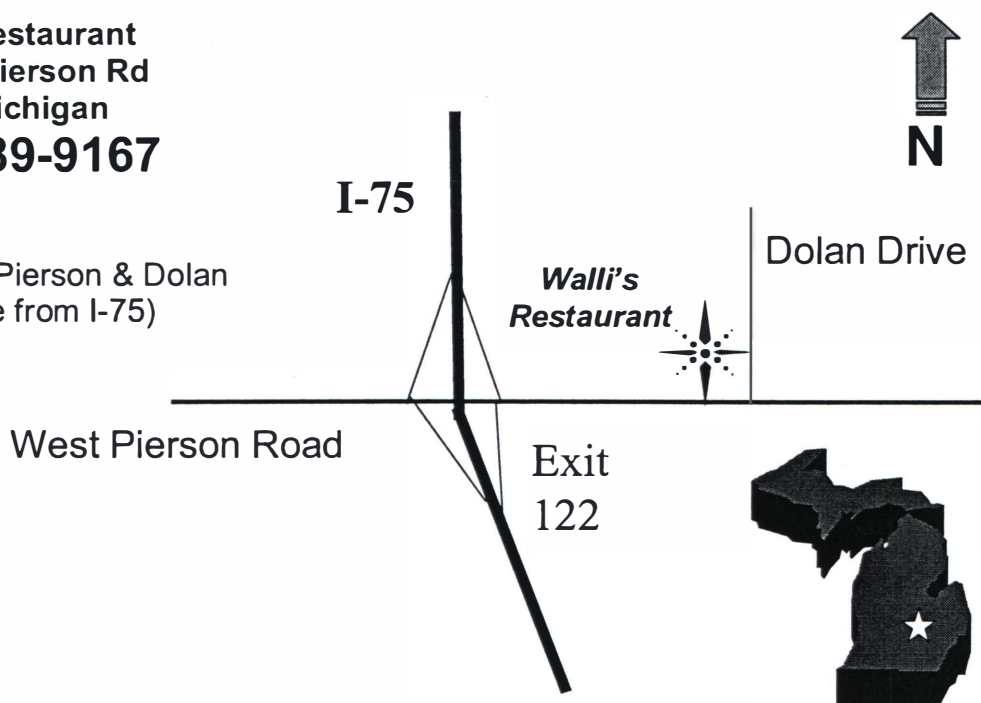
September 19th, 1999

November 7th, 1999

- No Field Investigators Training
for this Meeting
- Walli's Buffet Brunch **12:00 PM**
- General Meeting
with Guest Speaker Palmiro Campagna **1:30 PM**
- MIMUFON Announcements
and Necessary Business **3:45 PM**

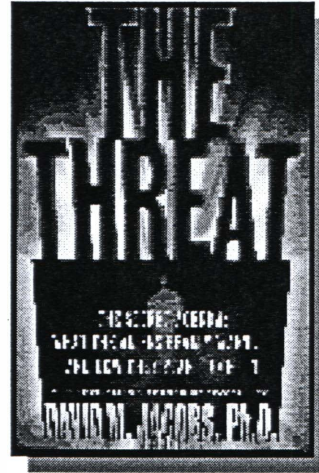
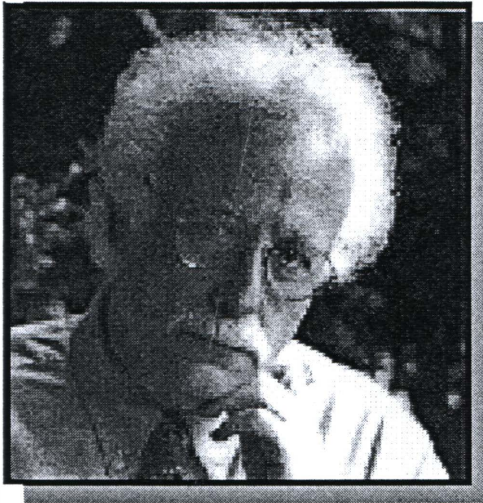
Walli's Restaurant
G146 W. Pierson Rd
Flint, Michigan
(810) 789-9167

Exit 122 off of I-75
NW Corner of W. Pierson & Dolan
(Restaurant visible from I-75)



Special October Lecture for Michigan MUFON by Dr. David Jacobs

Randy Baker

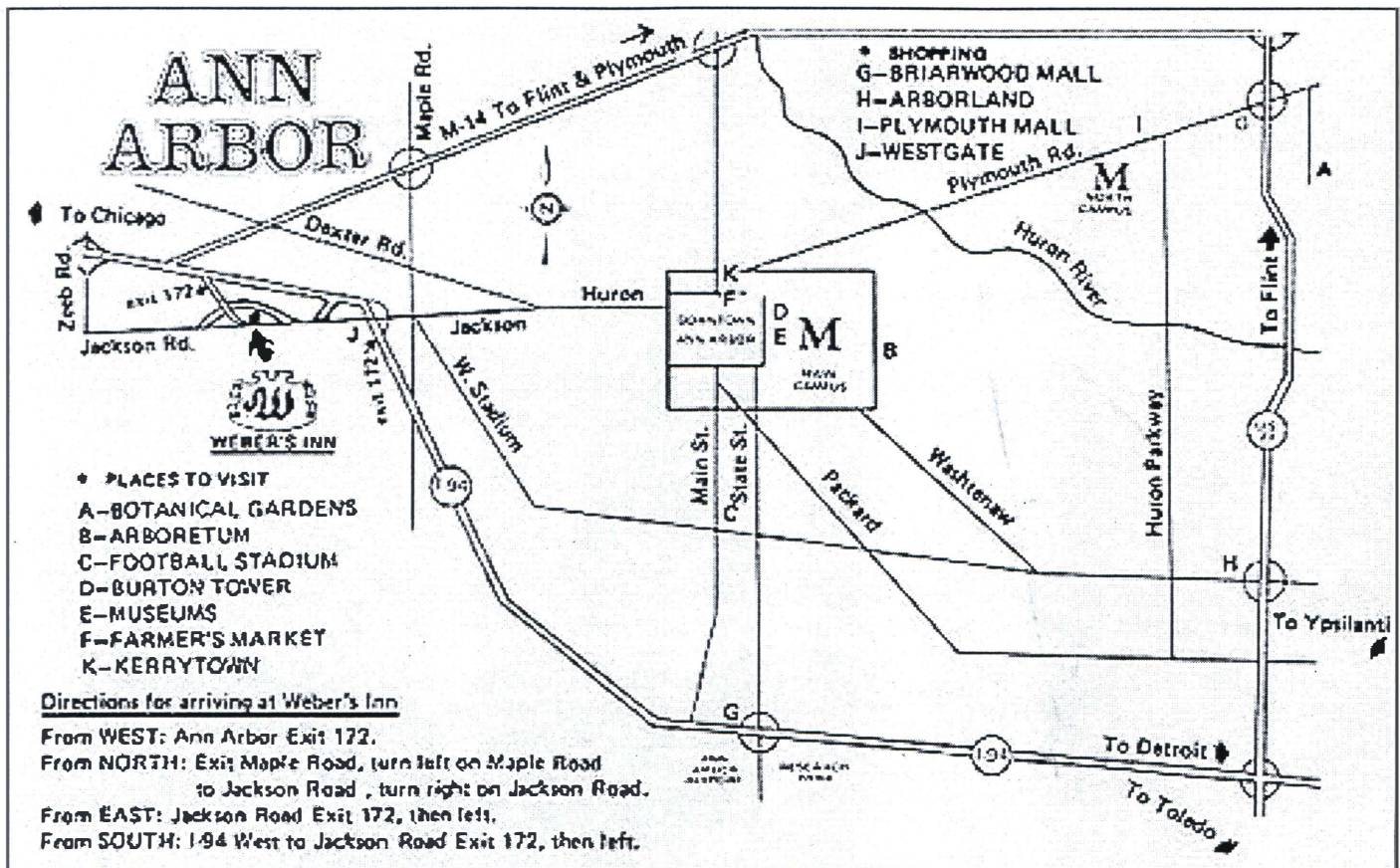


Professor and abduction researcher David M. Jacobs will be speaking at a very special Michigan MUFON event Sunday, October 10, 1999 at the Weber's Inn, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

David Jacobs is Associate Professor of History at Temple University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and is Director of the International Center for Abduction Research. He is a specialist in the social and cultural history of the United States during the Twentieth century and a pioneer in the field of UFO research and the abduction phenomenon. Since 1978, he has taught the only regularly scheduled undergraduate university course on UFOs in the country.

Dr. Jacobs is, perhaps, best known as author of groundbreaking and controversial abduction books *Secret Life* and *The Threat*.

Make plans to attend the special meeting October 10, 1999 and enjoy a fine lunch, then sit back to listen to a powerful lecture by one of America's leading abduction researchers.



Dr. David Jacobs

- ♦ DATE: OCTOBER 10, 1999
- ♦ TIME: 11:00 TO 4:00 PM
- ♦ LOCATION: WEBER'S INN, 3050 Jackson Road, Ann Arbor, MI
- ♦ COST: \$ 16.00 PER PERSON (Includes lunch, lecture and information package)
- ♦ RESERVE EARLY CALL: 231-582-7097 OR 810-650-5068

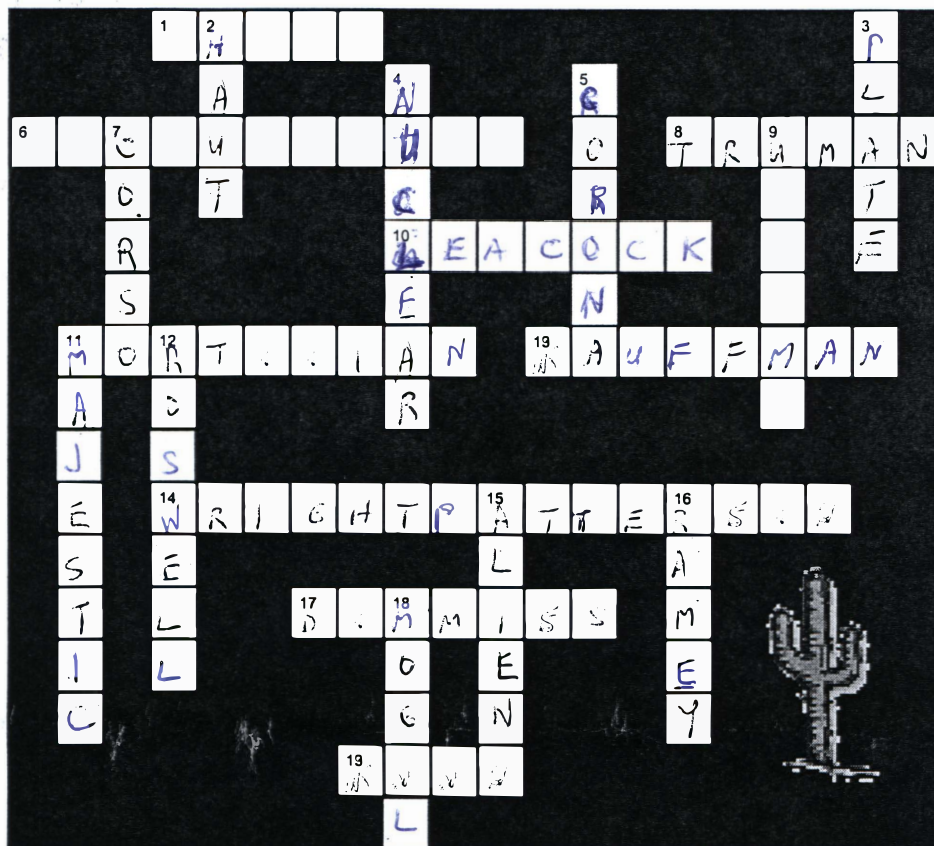
Crossword Puzzle

Roswell

Bill Konkolesky

Across

1. Actor who played Major Marcel in the Showtime movie "Roswell."
6. Bribe allegedly given to rancher Mac Brazel by the government to silence him.
8. Michigan MUFON member and author of book "Roswell: Have You Wondered?"
9. Glenn Dennis was contacted by the military, immediately following the crash, seeking his professional opinion as a ____.
13. Witness at the "second crash site," who confessed what he saw many years later, just before he passed away.
16. Air Force base, to where the bodies were believed to have been shipped.
19. At St. Mary's Hospital, two ____ saw a falling 'fireball' on the night of the crash.
17. The official government explanation for 'alien bodies' found at the crash site.



Contact Us

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(Dues and Subscriptions and General Correspondence)

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