

Happy New Year.

Words From the State Director



2006 turned out to be a challenging year personally for many of us in Michigan MUFON, but we remain focused and optimistic looking into 2007.

I have already had one speaking presentation promoting Michigan MUFON this year at the Hazel Park Library on January 17 and look forward to more potential engagements this year at other venues.

Please remember to pay your 2007 MIMUFON membership dues now (\$25 per family) if you haven't already done so. Otherwise, this will unfortunately be the last newsletter you receive until payment is received. You can renew membership by:

- PayPal at mimufon.org (http://www.mimufon.org/MiMufonSpecific/Michigan_Mufon_Store.html)
- Cash or check at our January 28 meeting
- Check mailed to:
Michigan Mutual UFO Network, Inc.
PO Box 8532
Kentwood, Michigan 49518-8532

Checks should be made payable to Michigan MUFON, Inc.

continued...

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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. Unless otherwise specified, 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.

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.

Alien Abduction Experience and Research

**World's largest web site on alien abductions, featuring
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Donations are always greatly appreciated as well and, as Michigan MUFON enjoys non-profit status, your donations are tax-deductible. Thank you!

Our meetings (including buffet) remain \$13 for members and \$15 for non-members, and \$5 for anyone under 18 accompanied by an adult.

And, remember, as an effort to invite in new potential members, anyone who is attending his or her first ever MIMUFON meeting will only have to pay \$5 (including buffet) for that first meeting. So, please take advantage of this opportunity to invite your friends and family to their first MIMUFON meeting!

Our first meeting of 2007 will be January 28 at Wallis in Flint. There is no NFL football on TV that day, so, come on out.

In keeping with our traditional January meeting open microphone opportunity, the offer is extended to anyone who would like to speak briefly at this upcoming meeting on a UFO topic. There has already been some interest on the part of some members to speak. If you already know you would like to share something with the group, by letting me know ahead of time, we can best budget our time for the meeting. The microphone opens at 1pm, followed by something else you won't want to miss...

Our featured afternoon event will be a showing of the truly great 2003 documentary "Out of the Blue – The Definitive Investigation of the UFO Phenomenon." This DVD is VERY rare (try looking for it online) and regarded by many as the best documentary ever produced on UFOs.

MIMUFON Board Members, please arrive early for our 11am board meeting (which will allow us to scoot out at the end of the afternoon's presentation). There is no otherwise scheduled morning activity, but by all means, everyone is welcome to come in and socialize a bit before brunch.

Don't forget, Michigan MUFON Newsletter subscribers, if you would prefer to download a printable electronic MIMUFON Newsletter to your computer in full color, rather than receive a printed black and white copy in the mail, please let our Newsletter Editor David Twichell know and provide him with an email address where he can send you a link to download your newsletter off the internet in PDF format. To contact David by email, write to news@mimufon.org.

See you Sunday January 28 at Walli's for the film "Out of the Blue" and an open-microphone opportunity.

Oh, and please take the time to read the article on President Gerald Ford in the March newsletter. His quote on UFOs from the 66 Hillsdale flap is good history.

Reminder: Members must pay their 2007 MiMUFON dues in order to continue receiving the full newsletter in 2007. Otherwise, they will be receiving an invitation only to the next meeting.

Please use the form on the last page to mail in your 2007 dues or pay online at: http://www.mimufon.org/Michigan_Mufon_Store.html. You may also pay Wendy Smith at the next meeting.



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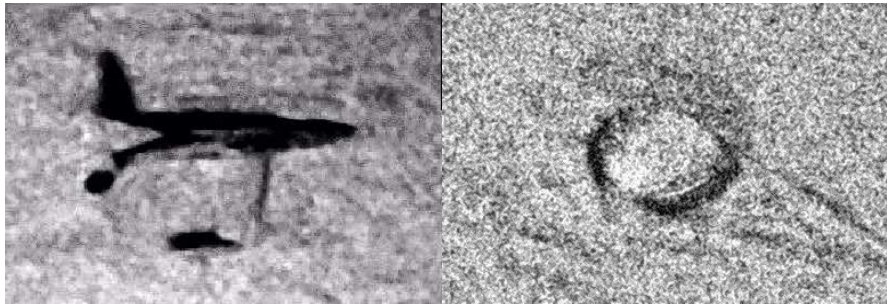


The Kinross Controversy: Hoax, Fraud, Men-in-Black or Genuine Discovery?

Dirk Vander Ploeg

October 5, 2006

<http://www.americanchronicle.com/articles/viewArticle.asp?articleID=14364>



The mystery deepens as summer discoveries fade and questions remain unanswered. Journalists, writers, opportunists and perhaps even men-in-black have contacted or attempted to contact members of The Great Lakes Dive Company.

The company has acknowledged the discovery of a 1953 F-89 Scorpion fighter jet and an unknown object, both sitting on the bottom of Lake Superior.

Although, new revelations concerning both craft were revealed the dive season ended with the company still waiting Canadian government permission to use remotely operated vehicles (ROVs) to gather additional information including video, photos and artifacts.

During August and September things really started to get interesting as new images were released that utilized side scan sonar suggesting a possible collision between the crafts and hinting that the majority of the mystery craft still lies below the lake's sand and silt with only the dome exposed.

In the last week or so the company's website, www.greatlakesdive.com has disappeared completely. A "Whois" search confirms that the domain name is owned by Adam Jimenez the company spokesman. The domain name does not expire until 2007.08.09. Also, he has not been returning email or phone messages for the past week or so.

Many, who have been taking a wait and see attitude toward the reported discoveries, are now madly jumping off the band wagon and screaming fraud and hoax!

What surprises me is why the United States Air Force or American Aviation Historical Societies or clubs weren't tripping over each other for the opportunity of confirming the discovery of the almost pristine condition Scorpion lost in 1953. I would have thought that one of these organizations would want to raise the F-89 for historical preservation. The mystery surrounding the plane itself would guarantee increased revenue for the successful organization as thousands of enthusiasts would travel to witness this piece of history.

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or email wjk@mimufon.org
or phone (248) 515-9568 to inquire how to order.

Next, why have not the U.S. Air Force not requested the bodies of the crew of the F-89 Scorpion - First Lt. Felix Eugene Moncla (USAF) and Pilot and First Lt. Robert L. Wilson (USAF), Radar Information Officer. With reports that the canopy of the jet fighter was still intact after more than 50 years the possibility exists that the remains of the crewmen are still onboard. Surely, the families would be like the bodies returned and finally interred as per military custom.

The authorities have known for over 50 years where the crash site was located. Why has no one excavated the site or recovered the bodies.

I have had the unique opportunity of corresponding by email and by telephone with Mr. Jimenez during the past few months. From my very first contact with him he stated that the prime goal of his group was the discovery and restoration of Great Lakes shipwrecks. Their members were either engineers or professional divers. They took great pride in their activities and thought of themselves as archaeologists.

I have already told the story about how they were trying to find two French minesweepers when they determined that the dive season would end before they were finished. So they decided to put off this search until the next season and concentrate on locating the lost F-89 Scorpion. They had the general location as provided by the military in 1953 and additional information that had been written by investigators over the years. With modern GPS the general area was easily located and a search pattern drawn up and implemented. Within a relatively short period of time a large metallic signature was discovered and upon further investigation it was concluded that the object was an airplane and was in fact an F-89!

The last thing this group of Michiganders wanted was to get swept up in a 50-year old UFO controversy, but that is exactly what they got.

Strangers started to call offering large amounts of money for partnership and sponsorship opportunities for the recovery and documentation including movie rights on the objects sitting on the lakebed.

I was approached by a group of influential persons, some of which are members of a private UFO and paranormal mailing list. The members of this list are writers, producers, politicians, lecturers and other associated with the field of UFOs and the paranormal. They mentioned claimed that their main objective was to recovery the F-89 and the mystery object. They claimed that they were genuinely concerned with the U.S./Canadian governments or some other agency or entity covertly recovering the objects.

This group sounded credible and after a series of emails and phone calls with various members including the president of the group, I passed the email onto Adam Jimenez. I simply forwarded the emails to Jimenez leaving it up to him and his partners to contact the party if interested.

Adam and his partners contacted the group and were, to say the least, unimpressed. Apparently, these influential parties were not prepared to accept "let us think about this for a while" and get back to you. This group attempted to scare and intimidate Adam and his partners and shortly thereafter I received an email containing this section:

"I wanted to drop you an email and let you know that we have no interest in working with the group that emailed you about us. Over the past couple of days we have determined that this individual or group have misrepresented who they are and who they are affiliated with. We have received threatening emails and outright lying voice mails from this group or individual. We still value your input and integrity on this project, but please do not forward any contact (email or otherwise) from this group or individual to us."

What's ironic about receiving this email is the fact that I stressed that it was my opinion that any group wanting to work with The Great Lakes Dive Company had to be patient and allow them to discover that they needed the group to complete this project and achieve the best results.

So, is the whole thing a hoax, complete with doctored photos and false news reports? Is Adam Jimenez a genius of media exploitation? Was Linda Moulton Howe, Gord Heath and myself fooled into believing that there was a real story here?

Certainly I have doubts. Like you unless I can touch the object or see indisputable video proof of it, how can anyone be sure. I honestly don't know the truth, but I do believe in Adam Jimenez. I believe they took their website down for the fall and winter just to give themselves the opportunity to digest what has happened and to create a plan for the future. Hell, they just weren't overwhelmed they were terrified by the attention of the conspiracy whackos and well intentioned investors!

WE ARE NOT ALONE:



David Twichell's local cable TV show is now a one-hour radio show. Broadcast from Henry Ford Community College, **WHFR (89.3 FM)** is commercial free, non-profit, public radio - hosting the best in alternative music and programming.

Local investigators, as well as world-renowned scientists and UFOlogists share their latest evidence in support of the UFO reality.

Tune in on the first **Saturday of each month at 10:00 AM (EST)** with a new show each month.

Out of the area? Go to: **whfr.fm** and click on "tune in Live".

We should all just take one step back and let the story unfold in its own way. The Great Lake Dive Company owners are not unsophisticated and they have taken appropriate measures to safeguard and protect their discoveries.

The mystery has remained unsolved for 53 years. Another few months really shouldn't make any difference.

Editor's Note: Dirk Vander Ploeg is the editor and publisher of UFODigest.com and PsiTalk.com. As for now, the jury is still out on this one.

MiMUFON Editor's Note:

In the November 2006 issue of the MiMUFON Newsletter, I carried an article on the F-89 and mystery object find by the Great Lakes Dive Company. The day after the newsletters were in the mail, my copy of the November 2006 MUFON UFO Journal arrived with an extensive lead article by Dwight Connelly questioning the veracity of the claims by Adam Jimenez and the little known diving operation. It is highly important that scientifically-minded investigators take a look at the opposite side of the coin before drawing any conclusions. It is equally important that the claims are not dismissed out of hand before such scientific investigations have concluded.

Next spring and summer should shed some light on the subject when the waters are more suitable for further exploration.

Assuming Jimenez's claims are authentic, it is understandable that he would take down his website and go into hiding after being harassed by financial speculators, government agencies and UFOlogist alike. Threatening messages (that he claimed to have received) would be the topping on the cake. One thing is virtually certain; if the claims are true and the long lost plane along with the unknown disk-shaped object have truly been located, both the US and Canadian governments will conduct their own dives at that coordinance and Jimenez and company will never stand a chance of proving their claims.

Below are a few legitimate questions, posed by the UFO BC, challenging the authenticity of the Dive Company's claims. This is not presented to cast doubt on the matter but to emphasis the importance of thorough investigation of both sides before drawing a conclusion.

The entire article may be found by going to <http://www.ufobc.ca/kinross/greatLakesDiveCo/PossibleHoax.html>

Who is Great Lakes Dive Company?

According to Adam, Great Lakes Dive Company first discovered the F-89 in the summer of 2005. They sat on the discovery for almost a year before revealing it to anyone. To do this search, they need some very expensive equipment, and a fairly large boat. Adam indicated that GLDC was involved in the search of other missing shipwrecks; however, it seems that no one in the Great Lakes shipwreck searching community has ever heard of Adam Jimenez or his project.

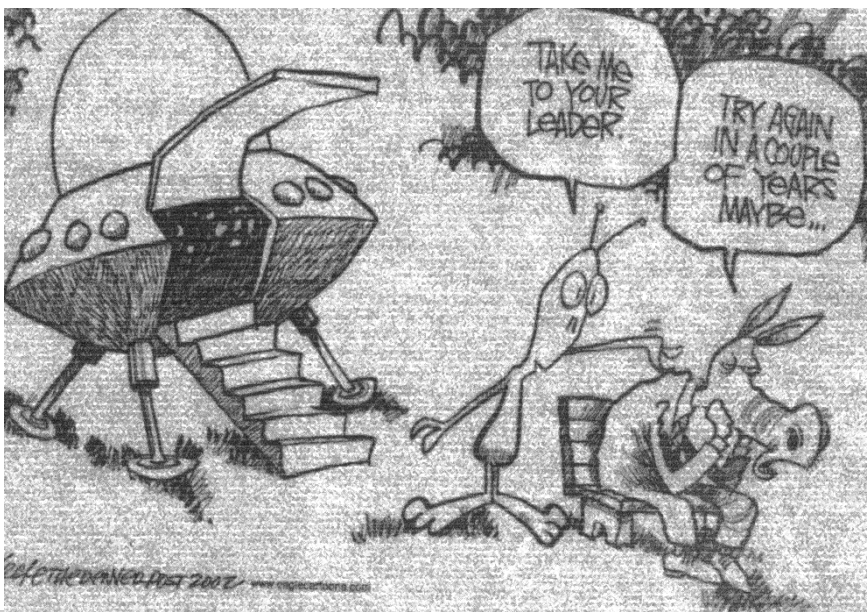
Their name appears in no other web related citations concerning shipwrecks, side scan sonar or Great Lakes diving.

The Great Lakes Dive Company website was brought online about the time that Adam announced the alleged F-89 find. During the whole time it was online, it never once provided a list detailing the members or owners of the alleged "Great Lakes Dive Company". Investigators who have tried to track down any registration or license for the company have found nothing.

KEEPING IT LIGHT



Special thanks to **Connie O'Very** of **Mi-MUFON** for the "musical aliens"



Does the company consist of any other person besides Adam Jimenez? It is difficult to tell because no one appears to have had any contact with anyone else but Adam and there were never any photographs of anyone from GLDC posted to their website.

Does the company have any assets such as a boat or side scan sonar equipment? This is also difficult to tell as GLDC never posted any pictures of the boat and the side scan sonar equipment.

Was the company ever on Lake Superior? You would think that anyone who was engaged in such a search would bring a camera and record the search and discoveries. Note that Adam claimed that GLDC had actually performed ROV surveys of the F-89 and "mystery object" and had taken photos or video of the F-89 and mystery object. But not a single photograph from the vessel was ever posted to the site. This certainly seems very puzzling.

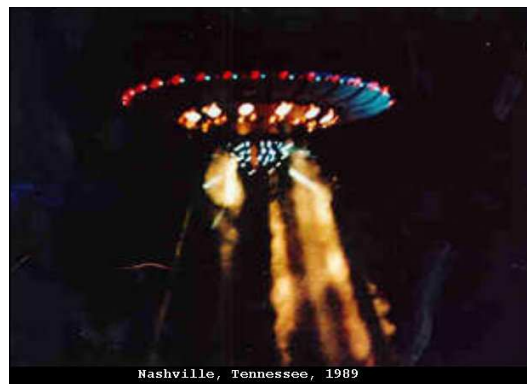
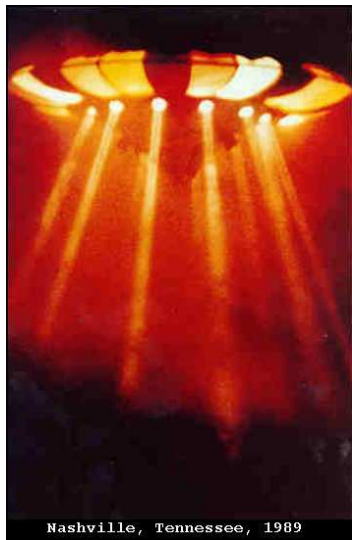


Commander Graham Bethune (US Navy Ret.) Dies



It is with deep sadness that I wish to tell you all that our beloved friend Graham has left this earth this morning to continue his work for us in a different place/space time. During the Disclosure Project, Commander Bethune revealed his Flight 124 from Keflavik, Iceland was involved with a near miss of a UFO. He provided this close up photo (below, left) of a UFO over Tennessee for the cover of David Twichell's and my book. He spoke at the National Press Club about his UFO sighting as a Navy transport pilot. We spoke together at the University of Toronto. He will never be gone in all of our hearts...and remembered always as a beautiful friend and soul. Together as a group of his friends so privileged to know him, we extend our love for a joyous and blessed voyage to his 'journey home'.

George Filer (Major, US Air Force, Retired).



The photographs of these UFOs were provided by Commander Graham Bethune of the US Navy. He obtained these photographs of a FS-143 saucer from a close friend who claimed to have rendezvoused with another intelligence and requests anonymity. These photographs were allegedly taken on September 27, 1989, near Nashville, Tennessee and used to build a model for theatrical events. The photographs show strong circular columns of light shining down from the craft that suddenly stop in mid-air. Our spotlights do not function in this manner.



Michigan MUFON State Section Directors Meeting Minutes November 5, 2006

The November 5 state meeting was held at Walli's Restaurant in Flint, Michigan.

Bill Konkolesky, State Director, called the State Directors' meeting to order at 3:15 PM. In attendance were David Bleicher, Darlene Bleicher, David Twichell, Ann Huff, Judy and Jerry Kulka, Jane and Bob Wagel and Wendy Smith.

Bill reported the sale of \$4.00 worth of newsletters from the MIMUFON store. David Twichell generously donated \$17.00 to MIMUFON from the sale of his books after the meeting.

Bill stated that he still plans to send a list of people sent invitations who do not attend meetings and a suggested script for telephone calls to State Section Directors. The contact list might also include attendees to the 2003 MUFON International Symposium.

Bill also suggested that mention of Todd Lemire's former website michiganufos.com should be removed from the MIMUFON Newsletter and website. Regarding potential newsletter exchanges with other states, Bill said the Minnesota organization's newsletters were actually available online.

The group discussed the value of the 143 meeting invitations that are currently mailed to non-members at a cost of \$79 each mailing. It was decided that invitations would no longer be mailed to this list of people because very little or no increased meeting attendance has resulted.

David Twichell reported that the Postal Service has stated that our Newsletter is not easily processed by the USPS' automated equipment, resulting in mangled Newsletters that sometimes fail to reach their destination. After a general discussion it was decided that David, with Ann's kind assistance, would experiment with the time and expense necessary to use envelopes to mail the Newsletters.

David Bleicher reported that he had received a request for a video copy of an item in the MIMUFON library. Bill suggested that the requestor be told that they may borrow the item as soon as they join our organization.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Wendy Smith, November 23, 2006.



Brightly Glowing, Structural UFO Photographed In MA



UFO Photo from
Lynn MA USA
From Fredrick N.
Date: Tue, Dec.
12, 2006

Left:
Photo 1 of 2

Right:
Same photo with
false color en-
hancement.



Jeff,
My kids and I saw this incredible UFO in the eastern sky on Dec 11th at around 5 PM. No sound just moving back forth up and down then exited.

One picture is enhanced with false color clearly showing the dome top above the bottom lights.

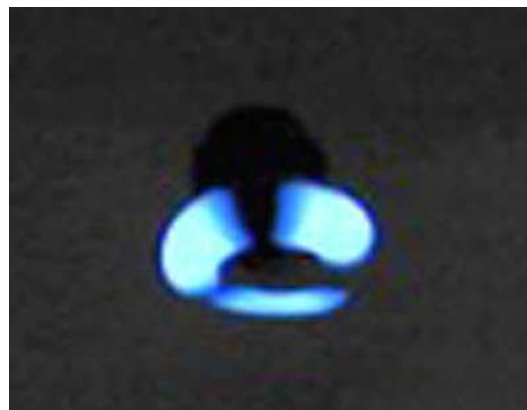
The pictures are from a digital camera and not re-touched at all, other than brightness and contrast and false color.

Please share!
Fredrick N.
Lynn, MA USA



Left:
Photo 2 of 2

Right:
Same photo, cropped and
enlarged.



Comment

From "AR"
12-13-06

This is the Single best UFO photo ever! Two reasons- Its extremely crisp, and it was taken in the dark of night with a fairly recently manufactured DIGITAL Camera, You see, I am a PHOTOGRAPHER by trade and the ccd's of most newer digital cameras have the ability to pick-up nearly-visible and invisible light. Can you guess where that beautiful blue lies in the spectrum??. Yup that's right- UV If you take the image and adjust the brightness and contrast, you will not see a dome over a structure, you will see a perfect sphere with three glowing energy tracers (for lack of a better word) These energy tracers are proof positive that whatever this thing is, its generating ultraviolet radiation and if you look closely, the "tracers" seem to be rotating counter-clockwise and slightly overlapping. I'm totally floored by this, please put this out to your readership and let them run with the ball, thanks. Anthony Two related links:

http://msp.rmit.edu.au/Article_01/13.html

<http://imagers.gsfc.nasa.gov/ems/uv.html>

Thanks to Rense.com <http://www.rense.com/general74/bright.htm> (other enhanced photos at this site) and MiMUFON member, John Castle for sending to the editor's attention.

"I can report today on a story which is positively spooky, not to mention chilling. British scientists and air-men, after examining the wreckage of one mysterious flying ship, are convinced these strange aerial objects are not optical illusions or Soviet inventions, but are flying saucers which originate on another planet. The source of my information is a British official of cabinet rank who prefers to remain unidentified. 'We believe, on the basis of our inquiry thus far, that the saucers were staffed by small men ---probably under four feet tall. It's frightening, but there is no denying the flying saucers come from another planet.' This official quoted scientists as saying a flying ship of this type could *not* have been constructed on Earth. The British Government, I learned, is withholding an official report on the 'flying saucer' examination at this time, possibly because it does not wish to frighten the public."

American Journalist Dorothy Kilgallen. May 1955.

Scientists Create Cloak of Invisibility

By RANDOLPH E. SCHMID, AP Science Writer

Thursday, October 19, 2006

(10-19) 18:07 PDT WASHINGTON, (AP)

Scientists are boldly going where only fiction has gone before — to develop a Cloak of Invisibility. It isn't quite ready to hide a Romulan space ship from Capt. James T. Kirk or to disguise Harry Potter, but it is a significant start and could show the way to more sophisticated designs.

In this first successful experiment, researchers from the United States and England were able to cloak a copper cylinder.

It's like a mirage, where heat causes the bending of light rays and cloaks the road ahead behind an image of the sky.

"We have built an artificial mirage that can hide something from would-be observers in any direction," said cloak designer David Schurig, a research associate in Duke University's electrical and computer engineering department.

For their first attempt, the researchers designed a cloak that prevents microwaves from detecting objects. Like light and radar waves, microwaves usually bounce off objects, making them visible to instruments and creating a shadow that can be detected.

Cloaking used special materials to deflect radar or light or other waves around an object, like water flowing around a smooth rock in a stream. It differs from stealth technology, which does not make an aircraft invisible but reduces the cross-section available to radar, making it hard to track.

The new work points the way for an improved version that could hide people and objects from visible light.

Conceptually, the chance of adapting the concept to visible light is good, Schurig said in a telephone interview. But, he added, "From an engineering point of view it is very challenging."

The cloaking of a cylinder from microwaves comes just five months after Schurig and colleagues published their theory that it should be possible. Their work is reported in a paper in Friday's issue of the journal Science.

"We did this work very quickly ... and that led to a cloak that is not optimal," said co-author David R. Smith, also of Duke. "We know how to make a much better one."

The first working cloak was in only two dimensions and did cast a small shadow, Smith said. The next step is to go for three dimensions and to eliminate any shadow.

Viewers can see things because objects scatter the light that strikes them, reflecting some of it back to the eye.

"The cloak reduces both an object's reflection and its shadow, either of which would enable its detection," Smith said.

The cloak is made of metamaterials, which are mixtures of metal and circuit board materials such as ceramic, Teflon or fiber composite.

In an ideal situation, the cloak and the item it is hiding would be invisible. An observer would see whatever is beyond them, with no evidence the cloaked item exists.

"Since we do not have a perfect cloak at this point, there is some reflection and some shadow, meaning that the background would still be visible just darkened somewhat. ... We now just need to improve the performance of cloaking structures."

In a very speculative application, he added, "one could imagine 'cloaking' acoustic waves, so as to shield a region from vibration or seismic activity."

Natalia M. Litchinitser, a researcher at the University of Michigan department of electrical engineering and computer science who was not part of the research team, said the ideas raised by the work "represent a first step toward the development of functional materials for a wide spectrum of civil and military applications."

Joining Schurig and Smith in the project were researchers at Imperial College in London and SensorMetrix, a materials and technology company in San Diego.

The research was supported by the Intelligence Community Postdoctoral Research Fellowship Program and the United Kingdom Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council.

On the Net:

Science:

www.sciencemag.org

URL: <http://sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?file=/n/a/2006/10/19/national/a064936D81.DTL>



Sixteen New Planets Found in Milky Way

The Hubble Space Telescope has located what are likely sixteen new planets in our Galaxy. NASA astrophysicists deduce there are billions of planets in the Milky Way. It is logical to assume that life exists on some of these planets. Hubble found 16 new planets deep in the Milky Way. Some 200 planets have been identified outside our solar system. The new ones Hubble found are at least ten times as far from Earth.

The planets can be found at the center of the galaxy, as well as near our solar system, shows that planets are likely to be everywhere in our universe. Billions of planets indicate Earth like planets with intelligent life is likely. Planets were discovered moving across the light coming from stars in deep space. There is often a wobble in a star's motion that occurs when the planet orbits. There is also periodic dimming of the star light caused by planet transits. Thanks to NASA.



Mexico UFO Sighting



PUEBLA -- The Journal of Hispanic Ufology reports a photo was taken by renowned Mexican journalist Jose Luis Moreno Reyes on October 4, 2006. According to Mr. Moreno's account, he was on Kilometer 40 of the Atlaxco-Izucar de Matamoros highway, ready to take photos of that section of road, since he was planning to write an article for his website about the paranormal events that have taken place in that area.

The time was approximately 11:45 AM and as he was about to take a photo of an "Ahuehuete" tree, he noticed that the sun's rays were shining off a flying object. He then decided to move to the center of the road to see it better and secure the evidence. Jose Luis Moreno took two photos of the possible UFO and others where the cars on the road do not allow for good visibility. He used a Canon PowerShot A-310 camera. www.analuisacid.com



"I'm one of those people who believe that with some two billion planets scattered around our universe, there has to be a couple of more that can support life on it." — Barry Goldwater

Blimp or UFO?

By David E. Twichell

Michigan MUFON's Chief Investigator, Lisa Shiel was assigned the case of a UFO sighting that occurred on August 16, 2006 at 9:43 PM. She then passed it onto State Section Director, Gary Golem and I for further investigation. S. W., the witness, observed a typical disk-shaped object in the night sky for about eight minutes before it departed and was able to take at least one excellent picture of it.

Below are the picture (untouched) and her report to MUFON.



"I was driving home after having been to a circus in the town of Plymouth, Michigan. I was crossing a RR track near my home while looking to be sure the tracks were clear, I noticed it to my right hovering above the tracks in the distance. I decided to see what it was, so I drove towards it hoping to get a better look at it while calling my sister to tell her what I was seeing. I had taken my camera with me to the circus, so I grabbed it and started taking pictures, the sky was very dark and I at first couldn't get it to show up (although the object itself was illuminated).

"I stopped in a parking lot where I had a clear view, there were no sounds coming from it at all. I continued to take pictures while talking to my sister. I looked at my camera to try and change the settings and when I looked back it was moving away from where I had been watching it. I got in my truck and started following it.

"As I was driving down Plymouth Rd., I keep wondering why no one else was stopping to see it. I was very alarmed yet curious and somewhat scared at what I was seeing.

"As I came around a bend in the road I saw airplanes, approx. 4-5, and also a helicopter. I noticed that it had stopped again and was hovering just above the treetops. I couldn't get over the enormous size of it. It appeared to be at least the size of a house. All the while I was taking pictures, hoping to get at least one good picture while talking to my sister, who I had put on speakerphone. Then I heard the helicopter and I looked to my right to see it. When I looked back to my left where the object had been hovering, it was no longer there.

"I was very nervous and excited the entire time. I gave my sister a play-by-play as the events unfolded. She kept asking me exactly where I was just in case something was to happen. The object appeared to be translucent and very, very bright. The entire thing lasted about ten minutes, although it seemed a lot longer. I watched the local news that night and checked the newspapers and was very shocked to see no mention of it. I can't believe that I was the only who saw this."

Gary Golem asked the witness in a telephone interview how high the object was. She stated that the object was approx. 6-8 poles in height over the tracks. She also stated that she believed the object to have headed in a Southeasterly direction.

The event obviously aroused the interest of the witness' sister, L.W., who, a couple days later, scoured the internet for similar sightings in that area around the same time that evening. She found three reports at www.ufoevidence.com and immediately alerted her sister. A twenty-four year old man, traveling with two other witnesses observed a similar object while traveling from downtown Detroit to Southgate, Michigan along the Detroit River. The witness states:

"Approximately 10:35 PM (August 16, 2006) my mother, sister and I left the Joe Louis Arena parking garage in downtown Detroit and headed south on Fort Street towards the "downriver" area. We spotted an object over the Detroit River that resembled a blimp but it was glowing with a bright light and was keeping the same pace as us (about 45 MPH). We continued down Fort Street keeping sight of the object for about 20 minutes. We lost sight of the object for about 10 minutes while stopped at my parent's house. When I got back on the road and headed towards my house, I spotted the object above me in the area of Dix and Northline. The object was glowing with a bright almost white light and a small blinking red light was in the bottom center of the object. It was rounded on top and flat on the bottom. It was moving at a pretty fast speed. It continued to move around in this area for another half hour before I lost sight of it. There was a man in the car next to me who was looking up at it also, so I am certain other people saw it. I tried to take a picture with my digital camera but because it was so dark they didn't come out very well. I checked around with people the next couple days but no one else saw anything but the roads were pretty light with traffic being 11 at night on a Wednesday.

"However, a few days later a co-worker said she saw a report on channel 4 news that a man reported strange activity in the sky on Wednesday the 16th. This would have been the Thursday the 17th 11 pm news. I could not find any reports on their website and came across this website by searching Google for UFO sightings in Detroit.

"It was definitely not a natural object. I highly doubt it was a blimp due to the bright light and speed of the object. I would think a satellite would have been higher but I have never seen a weather balloon so I have no explanation for the strange object."

"I really never thought much about UFO sightings until now. I wish I could find an explanation for this but I'm glad I came across this website and found other proof that someone else saw the object."

At 10:30 PM, two witnesses in Windsor, Ontario, Canada reported a similar object for less than five minutes. The report states:

"My friend and I had decided to drive towards the Detroit River when we noticed a huge bright saucer-like object in the sky. At first we thought it was a blimp but at 10:30 on Tuesday in the suburb/rich part of Windsor that seemed very unlikely. It was shaped too circular to be a blimp and was very florescent with blinking lights. We drove up an over pass and could still see the figure. We continued to drive to the river (about 2 minutes not even) and turned back around to find it again but it had disappeared. We drove around for another 15 minutes or so and still couldn't find it in the sky. Very scary."

The witness also reported his sighting to local TV and newspapers.

In a separate report from Windsor to ufoevidence.com, four people witnessed the same or similar object. She reported:

"It was around 10.30 PM when my husband went to the windows to close the blinds for the night. He spotted a well-lit flying object and woke me up to show it. It was not an airplane shaped object, but something of a different shape, sometimes looked octagonal, sometimes like huge saucer, well-lit, luminous object, moving not too fast but occasionally lost from view as they were passing tall trees. We could follow it for at least 15 minutes from our living room. Huge object, very exciting and scary at the same time."

"I have heard and read about UFOs. But never seen one or believed in one. But yesterday I sure believed what I saw. I was convinced it was something unusual, extraordinary and unnatural."

I attempted to contact ufoevidence.com for the contact information of the Canadian witnesses or to have my email address forwarded to them. To date, there has been no response; therefore, further investigation of the Downriver and Canadian witnesses has stalled.

Longtime MUFON photographic analyst, Dr. Bruce Maccabee, was sent a copy of the photograph taken by S. W. to which he replied, "Since I know nothing about this sighting, except that the photo looks real from previous experience and the shape, I would suggest checking on the possibility of an internally lighted blimp... unless there is something about the sighting that positively rules out such a blimp."

Erring on the side of caution, Dr. Maccabee did not rule out the possibility of a blimp while verifying that the object appeared to be an authentic "unknown" based on the shape and his previous (and extensive) experience.

Mr. Golem checked with the Mettetal Airport in Canton, the closest small airport near Plymouth, MI, and spoke with the airport manager, regarding the night of August 16. He was told that nothing was reported or anything special happened that night. Nor were there any flights that he was aware of out of that facility. Golem also called the Helicopter service at Mettetal airport. The helicopter service had no flights that night either.

I personally called a Caryn Johnson at the Gross Isle Airport where advertising blimps are normally moored for special events in the Detroit metropolitan area. Ms. Johnson referred me to Amy Caulder of the Lightship Group that dispatches the blimps to the area from Madison, Wisconsin. I sent the photograph of the Plymouth object for her inspection via email. She replied:

Hello there David,

To me it clearly looks like the SANYO blimp. I am attaching a daytime photo of the ship so you can compare the lettering on the sides of each picture. We have an internal light system so the ship appears to glow from within while flying at night. Hope this helps. Thanks, Amy



Left:
Daytime picture of the Sanyo blimp as sent by Amy Coulder.



Right:
Nighttime picture of blimp over city taken from Sanyo's site.

I sat for some time trying to “see the lettering on the sides of each picture” without success. I sent Ms. Caulder’s email along with both pictures to Ms. Johnson at the Grosse Isle Airport to see if she could see something that I was missing. She replied:

“Thanks for sending the pictures from the woman in Plymouth and from Sanyo. I can see how you don’t see the resemblance that she says is there -- it is a stretch! Was Amy able to confirm if they were in this area on August 16, 2006?”

Once again, I wrote to Amy Caulder and asked:

1. Does the SANYO blimp have a large red light on the tail section?
2. Are they allowed to (or do they ever) fly with the internal light system off and the advertisement not displayed?
3. Was the SANYO blimp moored at the Grosse Isle Airport or flying in that area on the evening of Aug. 16, 2006?

She replied:

Hello David,

Let’s see what I can help you with here. Yes we do have a red light on the tail. Yes we do fly with the lights off, however the SANYO lettering is a decal that can not be taken on and off quickly so no, we never fly without that. However there are plain white blimps with no advertisements on them at all. Lastly we do use Grosse Isle quite often. On the evening in question, we were in Grosse Isle, I have the days activities from our log book listed here: Transit to Detroit from Madison along I-94E into Milwaukee WI then direct to Benton Harbor MI, then continuing along I-94E through Kalamazoo, Brooks, Albion, Jackson, continuing into Night Aerial Display while arriving into Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti, Northern Detroit Communities, Downtown Detroit/ Windsor Canada, then along the river to Grosse Isle Naval Airfield That should be able to answer all questions from your investigation let me know if not.

Thanks, Amy



I attempted my own computer analysis of the Plymouth photograph in Paint Shop Pro, adding “glowing edges”. (See photo on left.) Unlike the Sanyo blimp, the glowing edge lines clearly depict a copula on top of the object and no gondola on the bottom. Nor does this picture emphasize any lettering on the side of the object that would be blatantly apparent if they existed.

Another experiment using “emboss”, which emphasizes the lines in a photograph, did not reveal lettering. It did, however, emphasize the existence of a copula on top and lack of a gondola on the bottom. Furthermore, the overall shape, lighting configuration and lack of bright internal lighting, does not suggest to me that the Plymouth object and the Sanyo blimp are one in the same.

The fact that the Sanyo blimp was in the area of downtown Detroit and traversed along the Detroit River on the evening of August 16, 2006 could easily account for the sighting reports from the Downriver/Windsor area. It is regrettable that those witnesses could not be contacted for further testimony. The fact that these witnesses are unable to tell the difference between an advertising blimp and an unknown object is troubling, however. It may be that the blimp was too far away and moving toward or away from them, disallowing them to view the lettering on its side. All of the witnesses involved reported that the object was very bright. I have seen the Sanyo blimp personally and can verify the fact that it is indeed very bright. However, the Downriver witness reported that the object was directly above him at one point and it was “rounded on top and flat on the bottom”, and “moving at a pretty fast speed”, both of which is inconsistent with a blimp. The Windsor witnesses considered the possibility of a blimp but concluded that “It was shaped too circular to be a blimp”.

The Plymouth sighting is another matter. According to Amy Caulder of the North America Group that dispatched the blimp, unless it diverted from its known course, it moved eastward along I-94, which would have taken it over the Romulus area. Plymouth is sixteen miles due north of Romulus (as the blimp flies) from the I-94 and I-275 intersection. S. W., the witness in Plymouth, stated that the object headed off in a southeasterly direction. The Detroit/Windsor area is indeed southeast of Plymouth where witnesses reported their sighting a half hour to forty-five minutes later.

Advertising blimps generally fly over events where throngs of people congregate. Would a circus in Plymouth, Michigan qualify? Would airplanes and helicopters be part of the show? Why would the helicopters approach the blimp? And why would the blimp depart the scene when approached by them? Why couldn’t S. W. finally conclude that it *was* a blimp when she had several minutes to observe it?

The most baffling question is the photographic evidence captured by the Plymouth witness. Until someone with computer software and an expertise better than mine can confirm otherwise, the Plymouth object remains an unknown.

David Twichell

FI MiMUFON



Recent Michigan Sightings

Associated Press

Published January 1, 2007, 9:48 AM CST

CHICAGO -- Call it a close encounter of the O'Hare kind.

Some airline workers reported seeing a mysterious, elliptical-shaped craft over O'Hare International Airport last fall but say their bosses and the government wouldn't take them seriously.

The Federal Aviation Administration has dismissed the reported Nov. 7 sighting by United Airlines employees as a likely weather phenomenon.

United spokeswoman Megan McCarthy said there is no record of the UFO report and company officials don't recall discussing any such incident.

That doesn't sit well with the employees, who are upset that neither United nor the FAA investigated the incident.

A group of workers, including pilots, told the Chicago Tribune on condition of anonymity in remarks published Monday that they saw a dark gray, flying saucer-like object hover motionless in the sky above the United terminal around 4:30 p.m. that day.

After several minutes, the object -- described variously at 6 feet to 24 feet in diameter -- bolted noiselessly upward through thick clouds so powerfully that it left an eerie hole in the clouds.

The FAA acknowledged that a United supervisor called its air-traffic control tower at O'Hare, asking if controllers had spotted a spinning disc-shaped object. FAA spokeswoman Elizabeth Isham Cory said no controllers saw it and a preliminary check of radar found nothing out of the ordinary.

"Our theory on this is that it was a weather phenomenon," she said. "That night was a perfect atmospheric condition in terms of low (cloud) ceiling and a lot of airport lights. When the lights shine up into the clouds, sometimes you can see funny things."

Funny is just how some controllers in the tower view the incident.

"To fly 7 million light years to O'Hare and then have to turn around and go home because your gate was occupied is simply unacceptable," said O'Hare controller and union official Craig Burzych.

Information from: Chicago Tribune, <http://www.chicagotribune.com>

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/illinois/chi-ap-il-ohare-sighting,0,5526147.story>

Editor's Note: This story didn't come to light for two months after the sighting took place. A CNN article quoted a witness as stating that all of the witnesses were told that the event never happened and they were to say nothing about it to anyone. The witnesses finally broke their silence when they became tired of being ridiculed. Sound familiar?

More on this story in the next issue.

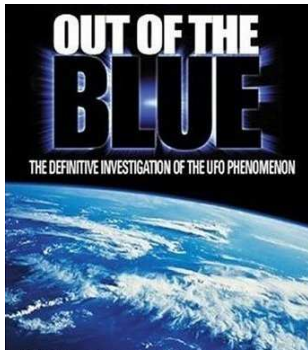
David Twichell, MiMUFON Newsletter Editor.

CLINTON -- On Friday, September 8, 2006, my wife and I were watching the moon rise. The moon was big and orange and looked great, so we got our binoculars and were passing them back and forth and my wife told me, "Hey, there's something in front of the moon". She passed the binoculars to me and I saw what appeared to be a small black object that was in front of the moon. The object was not visible to the naked eye, but through the binoculars it looked like it was triangle shaped, and the object was slowly moving. It seemed to tumble end over end until it moved off the left side of the moon and disappeared. The object was in our view for maybe a minute total. This wasn't like any plane or blimp or goose or anything like that. We live out in the country, and are familiar with satellites as well.

Jones, MI: The witness states, "As I was driving on M-60 east, there was a glowing orange oval coming from the left side of the road crossing to the right side of the road right above the tree line about a 1/6 mile away from a bar in Jones, MI (we were heading from Indiana and were expecting a truck that just pulled out to be a drunk, **we did not go to the bar**). It appeared to me to be about 8 inches to a foot, at arms length, moving in a smooth arch and just glowing orange. I wasn't going to say anything but my friend yelled "did you see that?" Then I knew it was there. According to him it had steam coming off it (it was cold last night) so we knew it was giving off heat. He also said he could actually make out the shape. I only had a couple second glimpse and it looked like an oval to me. First thought in my head is "what bird glows in the dark?" It was just really, really odd. This isn't the first time I've seen one of these but it is the first time I've had someone with me to back up my claim. Also of note, there was no noise. My window was partially down and the radio was off.



“Out of the Blue” Presentation at January meeting



Out of the Blue, which first aired on the Sci-Fi Channel, is an excellent, sound, and sober documentary that ends up being as much about the cover-up as the UFO phenomenon itself, which is only to be expected since the two cannot be separated until the dark veil of truth is finally torn asunder. While you can't even begin to examine more than a few of the most compelling UFO cases in such a short amount of time, the video does offer a good overview of the history of UFO activity and highlights a select number of important sightings and events from various parts of the world. A vast array of experts (scientists, astronauts, cosmonauts, physicists, pilots, military officers, government officials) are consulted, and many competent witnesses describe what they saw or experienced. Roswell, Rendlesham Forest, the 1976 Iranian air force encounter, and the more recent Phoenix Lights are all mentioned, but the scientific rigor of the presentation precludes any mention of more sensational topics such as alien abduction. Among the most significant (but less famous) events touched upon are Gordon Cooper's

filming of a craft landing and taking off from a California military base in 1955 (the film disappeared after it got to D.C.), footage (computer illustration) of a Trident missile being blown apart by laser-beam-like weapons from a UFO, and the disabling of 10-20 nuclear missiles in Montana missile silos by a UFO which hovered over the base in broad daylight).

The second half of the video really gets to the heart of the official cover-up, wherein, in America, a completely covert group even denies requests for information from presidents (Carter), senators (Goldwater), Congressmen (Steven Schiff of New Mexico), and FBI directors (including J. Edgar Hoover). While some provocative information has somehow been obtained via the Freedom of Information Act, the paper trail of government lies extends as far as the eye can see, typified by the infamous Condon report, an "objective" study led by an academic who made clear his unrestrained bias both before and after he wrote his bogus summary of the group's findings (findings which included several unexplained cases with a high probability of being extraterrestrial in origin). The government's contempt for and ridicule of those who would press them on the UFO issue is best typified by Arizona's disgrace of an ex-governor, Fyfe Symington, who - five hours after vowing a serious investigation into the source of mysterious lights seen by thousands of concerned citizens - held a live press conference in which he dressed his chief of staff in an absurd alien costume and had a big laugh identifying this "alien" as the culprit.

In contrast to the USA, whose highest leaders have no idea themselves as to what covert group actually knows the truth, other governments have been much more forthcoming with serious information about documented UFO incidents. The 1999 COMETA report (little reported outside of France itself), based on a study by the Institute of Higher Studies for National Defence, sets a new standard for the proper and serious investigation of the UFO phenomenon by a professional group of objective scientists and military men. This report does not state categorically that UFOs are real, but it does conclude that "Only one hypothesis takes into account the available data: the hypothesis of extraterrestrial visitors," and stresses the importance of figuring out what the goal of any such visitors is on this planet.

Out of the Blue truly raises the bar for all quality UFO documentaries now and in the future.

Reviewed by Daniel Jolly for Amazon.com

MUFON Field Investigator's Training

There will not be any Field Investigator's Training this month.

Please watch for details of a training session in March.

Make Your Meeting Reservations Today!

Phone in your reservations to State Director Bill Konkolesky at (248) 515-9568 or email at wjk@mimufon.org no later than **Wednesday, Jan. 24th**. 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. Please let us know as soon as possible, whether you will be attending. Thank you.

Michigan MUFON Meeting

at Walli's East Restaurant

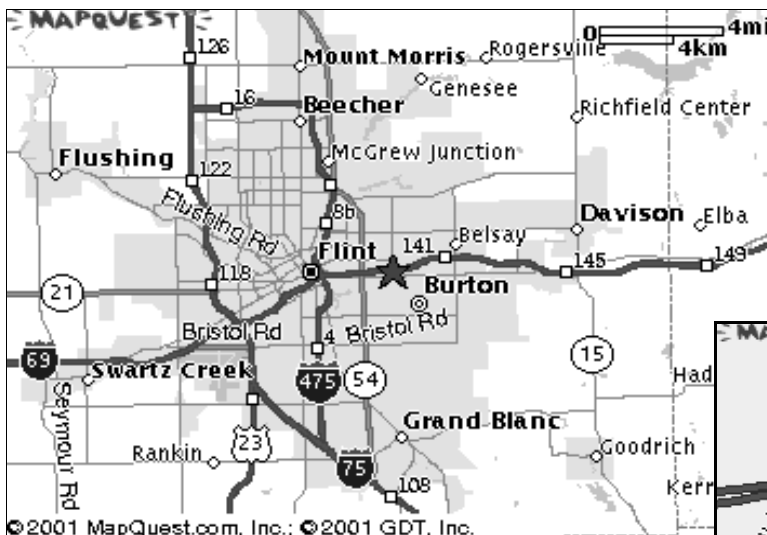
Sunday, January 28, 2007

Members \$13.00 / Non-Members \$15.00

First time guests are \$5.00.

10am	FI Training: None this month.
12pm	Buffet Lunch
1:30pm	Presentation of "Out of the Blue"
4:00pm	MIMUFON Announcements & Necessary Business

MIMUFON Board members: Please plan to attend the brief meeting from 11:00 – 12:00 AM before brunch.



Walli's East Restaurant
G1341 South Center Rd
Burton, Michigan
(810) 743-9600



- Exit 139 off of I-69
- Just East of I-475
- SE Corner of South Center Rd & Faith Way

From The Editor's Desk



David Twichell

Another Myth Put to Rest.

The waters of UFO research continues to be muddled by misinformation.

An article by self-proclaimed UFO researcher Bill Knell has been making the rounds on the internet for the past few years regarding the alleged UFO sighting by none other than the living legend of the news media, Walter Cronkite. In an effort to verify the story, I wrote to Mr. Cronkite and included the entire article for his assessment.

Below is an excerpt of the article that addresses the UFO claim and below that is Mr. Cronkite's reply:

In the 1950s Cronkite was part of a pool of News Reporters brought out to a small South Pacific island to watch the test of a new Air Force missile. After a short inspection of the new system by the reporters, they were lead to an area that was a safe distance from the launch site. The missile was mounted on a specially-built launcher that was attached to a cement base. It was obvious that the area had been quickly built just for the test. The details about the missile were going to be given to the reporters in the form of hand-out sheets and press releases after the test.

Cronkite mentioned that he and the other reporters had been warned that photography of the missile test and any audio transmissions or recordings by the press was forbidden. They would have to give a written account of the event. Just as the test was ready to proceed, everyone was writing as fast as they could. As Air Force Security personnel walked around the perimeter of the test area with guard dogs and the news reporters watched, the missile was fired up and about to be released. Just then, a large disc-type UFO appeared on the scene.

Cronkite guessed that the object was about 50-60 feet in diameter, a dull grey color and had no visible means of propulsion. Because the noise of activity around him and the missile engine was so loud, he couldn't tell whether the disc made any noise. He did not notice any coming directly from the object.

As Air Force guards ran toward the UFO with their dogs, the disc hovered about 30 feet off of the ground. It suddenly sent out a blue beam of light which struck the missile, a guard and a dog all at the same time. The missile was frozen in mid-air about 70 feet from the launcher as it had taken off. A guard was frozen in mid-step and a dog frozen in mid-air as it had jumped at the disc. Cronkite reminded me that this all happened within the space of about five minutes or less.

Suddenly, the missile exploded! After that, the disc vanished. The guard and dog looked alright, but were quickly taken away by medical personnel always present at tests in case anyone became injured. At the same time, guards rapidly ushered the reporters into a concrete observation bunker. After about thirty minutes of sitting in that hot box, they were brought out into the air again and addressed by an Air Force Colonel.

The officer told them, "It was all part of the test." Obviously making it up as he went along, the Colonel said that the event was "staged" to test media reaction to UFOs. He reinforced the usual line to the reporters that Flying Saucers were probably not extra-terrestrial, but what people were actually seeing were secret planes being tested by the Air Force. This test was designed to show the media how "shocking" it could be to suddenly view a new technology. Well, Cronkite was certain that what he viewed was a new technology, but he was also sure it was not an Earthly one. He didn't believe the Air Force explanation then, and he still didn't believe it at the time when he told me the story.

The full report may be viewed at <http://cknell.tripod.com/unexplained/cronkite.html>

On the left is Mr. Cronkite's prompt reply.

I appreciate Mr. Cronkite's reply to my inquiry and certainly respect his opinion on the UFO matter. Sometimes the reports and photographic evidence in UFOlogy become so bizarre, and the disinformation becomes so convoluting, that even I begin to question the validity of the phenomenon. Then I stop and think, "Then what was that huge object that hovered over my head in 1962 in the presence of my whole family and hundreds of people in the Detroit, Michigan area?"


If one has never witnessed such a sight, it is understandable that conventional wisdom, coupled with the plethora of UFO hoaxes, leads them to the conclusion that we are indeed alone in the universe. Unfortunately, some of us don't have that luxury.

Dear Mr. Twichell:

I cannot in any instance recall such a story as you claim regarding a missile test on a remote South Pacific island in the 1950s. I am sure that if I had witnessed such an incident I would have at some point reported it – most certainly in my book *A Reporter's Life*.

I did not then and do not now give any credence whatever to the existence of UFOs.

Sincerely,


Walter Cronkite
(dictated)

Michigan MUFON Contact List

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, 269-782-6111
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Harold Marquardt, 586-463-5553
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Randy Baker, 810-794-3876
shadowresearch@hotmail.com
St. Clair

Wendy Smith, 616-261-0690
wapsmith@umich.edu
Ottawa, Kent

Oceana, Mason, Muskegon
Contact Wendy or Jon Long

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ufoquilter@torchlake.com
Grand Traverse, Leelenau, Kalkaska, Antrim

Sunny Young, 616-665-4606
Caboogie2u@yahoo.com
Calhoun, Kalamazoo, Van Buren, St. Joseph

Isabella, Mecosta, Oseola, Clare
TBA

You will note that not all counties are covered with section directors. In that case you can contact any of the following state officers.

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Michigan Newsletter Editor
and Public Relations Director

Dave Bleicher, (810) 797-5551
Umore@provide.net
SSD, Genessee & Lapeer

When possible, contact by e-mail is the best method to reach most of the people on this list, but does not preclude using the telephone numbers if desirable. If you call please be patient as most of the people are not available during the daytime hours. When you leave a message, please speak clearly and leave you telephone number, city, state, and brief message explaining your contact. We will return your call at the earliest convenience.

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http://www.mimufon.org/Michigan_Mufon_Store.html

Jan. 2007

Michigan MUFON
P.O. Box 8532
Kentwood, MI 49518-8532

For the 2007 calendar year memberships (if you are a member) or subscriberships, please
use the form below and send it, with a \$25.00 check or money order to:
Michigan MUFON, P.O. Box 8532, Kentwood, MI 49518-8532

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