

MINNESOTA MUFON

Newsletter

From the State Director

In this issue I will summarize the paper given by Antonio Huneus at the 1996 MUFON Symposium held in Greensboro, North Carolina. It was entitled *A Reference Guide to Foreign UFO Documents* in which he outlines general guidelines on UFO investigations made by foreign governments.

Antonio serves as International Coordinator for MUFON and is a member of several UFO and Fortean organizations. He has appeared on many TV programs, has given numerous presentations at conferences, and has received awards for his work on UFOs and Fortean phenomena.

The idea of an international UFO cover-up has become entrenched in the ufological community. Although the work done by Huneus finds existing UFO files in a few other countries, he thinks that the concept of a global conspiracy is misleading. It implies a collecting and sharing of UFO information among nations with a touch of disinformation to ridicule the phenomenon. Although this idea is popular with many, he finds little evidence to support it, even though UFOs are a burdensome

problem for bureaucracies everywhere.

The only governments which have undertaken formal and extended UFO studies have been the US (Project Blue Book and Condon Commission), Canada (Projects Magnet and Second Storey), France (GEPAN and SEPRA), and the old USSR.

Reporting UFOs falls under the purview of the air force, navy, or police in a few countries including the UK, Spain, Italy, and Brazil. Procedures to file and follow-up on reports made by pilots and other military people exist, but the personnel assigned to these duties are very limited. These investigations are mainly defense oriented and had a much higher priority during the Cold War. During the major UFO wave in Belgium, official involvement decreased once the number of sightings and media interest declined.

Huneus admitted that obtaining official documents is difficult because governments operated under strict rules of secrecy everywhere. Few countries have laws such as the Freedom of Information Act to provide a legal process to request documents.

Con't.

MINNESOTA MUFON Meetings

**Saturday, March 9
and
Saturday, April 13
1:30 - 5:00 PM**

Science Museum of MN
Computer Education Center

**Firstar Center
5th & Minnesota Sts
19th Floor**

SEE MAP ON COVER!

PARK FREE
Ramp entrance is on
Minnesota St.
Proceed to 5th Level

Because this is a secured building, to gain entrance you must be at the ramp door between 1:00 and 1:30 PM. Someone will be on hand to activate the elevator to take you to the meeting room. The next admittance time will be at the 3:00 break.

Don't be Late!

The building and ramp areas are designated as non-smoking. Coffee and soft drinks are **FREE!**

Plan now to attend the 1997 MUFON Symposium July 11, 12, and 13 in Grand Rapids, Michigan!

Most less-developed countries have no official UFO investigation of any kind. Their resources are too stretched to devote any money toward UFOs. An exception might occur as the result of a spectacular incident, but no more.

Our government's UFO files contain many foreign cases, some of which are very detailed. The first documents go back to the foo fighters of the mid 1940s and the Scandinavian ghost rocket scare of 1946. Two weeks prior to the Kenneth Arnold sighting, a secret report from Hungary was filed with the Chief of Staff of the US Army Air Corps. The report had to do with silver balls flashing across the sky in the daytime.

In 1979, the Citizens Against UFO secrecy filed under the Freedom of Information Act to acquire CIA UFO files. When they were declassified, it was found that more than a third of them dealt with foreign cases. Cold War hysteria loomed large in the picture. Their monitoring of foreign documents and radio broadcasts included many unevaluated press accounts.

France is one of the nations with the richest and longest official UFO archive.

Huneus then goes into some details of efforts made by specific governments, beginning with Argentina. Although there was a UFO flap in Argentina in mid-July of 1947, right on the

heels of America's first wave, their official studies didn't begin until 1962. Prior to that, an Air Force publication, the *National Review of Aeronautics*, had been the focus of official UFO discussions. One instance involved a photo taken by a journalist near Buenos Aires in 1955. The conclusion was that the picture had not been faked. Several big events shook the Argentine military in the 1980s, such as losing the Falklands War, followed by trials for human rights violations. UFOs were not a priority. There was a case in July, 1995 where an airline pilot reported a close observation of a UFO coinciding with a power blackout in Buenos Aires. Although the captain was very outspoken to the media and stated he thought it was an extraterrestrial spaceship, Argentine authorities declined any public statements. They gave the impression they were simply not interested.

The Royal Australian Air Force began conducting UFO investigations in the 1950s. Many of their files have been released but in January of 1994, they ceased investigating and collecting "unusual aerial sightings."

Brazil has a more extensive history of official inquiries. Their first era, beginning in 1952, was one of openness towards the media and public. It was led by Colonel Joao Adil Oliveira. In 1954 he openly stated that it was impossible to deny the existence of flying saucers. They are not "ghosts" from another dimension. The flying

saucer is a fact confirmed by material evidence.

...the pilot was tuned to UHF Channel 11 linked with the radar, when...children's voices were heard laughing and saying, "Hi, how are you? Hi! Hi!"

1968 and 1969 saw a wave with dozens of landing and humanoid cases. In 1977 the northern Amazon state of Para was host to a UFO wave characterized by hostility to witnesses, some of whom were injured by beams shot from UFOs. This wave was discussed by Jacques Vallee in his book *Confrontations*. More recently, the Brazilian military has reportedly captured aliens near the city of Varginha.

In Chile, no government documents have been released with the exception of some articles published in an official magazine, *Informacion Aeronautica*, listing some radar cases and pilot sightings. Huneus told of receiving information of a report in the above mentioned magazine describing a near collision of a UFO and an airliner in southern Chile in 1988.

France is one of the nations with the richest and longest official UFO archive. Many books and articles have been published about the dossiers of the French Air Force.

Some Italian Air Force UFO files have been released that involve encounters with their own helicopters and jets. One pilot-

radar-photo case involved a Fiat reconnaissance plane which filmed a cylindrical UFO. Later the Italian Ministry of Defense stated that the object had been identified as a cylindrical balloon made of black garbage bags. In a still later listing of UFO sightings, this report was oddly evaluated as "unidentified."

According to Huneus, Spain has one of the richest military dossiers. In late 1972, the Ministry of Defense began a systematic review and declassification of UFO files. One bizarre incident in 1979 is described in a 3-page summary. A passenger jet pilot had such a close observation of a UFO that he changed his course and landed at Valencia rather than the original destination. A Spanish Air Force jet was scrambled. In 1994, a 140-page

document about the case was declassified. This larger document also described two additional scramble incidents. One of these, which occurred over Motril, is surrealistic and hard to believe except that it is described in this document. Radar had detected an unknown — a jet was scrambled. After a fruitless search, the pilot initiated a return to Albacete, then saw three strong lights forming an isosceles triangle. The jet headed toward the center of the triangle. As the relative distance didn't seem to diminish, and being unable to approach the lights, the jet turned back. While doing so, the pilot was tuned to UHF Channel 11 linked with the radar — some children's voices were heard laughing and saying, "Hi, how are you? Hi! Hi!" The transmission, however, was not

heard by the radar operators.

Due to time constraints, Huneus was not able to touch upon a large number of countries. He concluded by suggesting that the United Nations should establish an agency to coordinate UFO research from member nations.

This is a very "sketchy" summary but the entire article and presentation go into great detail on many UFO incidents. Members are encouraged to obtain a copy of the 1996 Proceedings from MUFON in Seguin, Texas.

Dick Moss

RICHARD MORRIS: A SMOKING GUN?

by William I. McNeff

On Wednesday evening, January 15, KSTP-TV (Minneapolis/St. Paul) aired a Prime Time Live interview with Richard Morris, former political advisor to President Clinton. At one point, they were discussing the call girl whom Morris admitting seeing, and the interviewer asked Morris, "Is it true that you told her that there are only seven people who know that there is life on Mars?" Morris hemmed and hawed and squirmed and ultimately, neither confirmed or denied this.

What do I believe this means? If the quote is correct (and I have not yet been able to verify this), Morris surely did not mean people who were aware of the results of the analysis of the Martian meteorite that indicated there was microbial life on Mars; thousands of people, not just seven, were and are aware of this. Even before the NASA announcement, I understand there were quite a number of scientists who were aware that microbe-like forms had been seen in the meteorite. Furthermore, even the proponents of this view do not quite use the words "I know there was life on Mars." Instead, they state (and quite properly) that there is "strong evidence" for that view.

For those of you who have been in hibernation during this hard winter, let me recount some facts! Twenty-five years ago, the CIA funded two well-known scientists (Russell Targ and Harold Puthoff) at Stanford University to study remote viewing. This study showed statistically significant results; that is, that it was highly probable that the results the viewers were getting were not just chance. In fact, the program had some startling successes.

con't.

Richard Morris: A Smoking Gun?

For example, Pat Price viewed a Soviet beam weapon facility and got the diameter of a thirty-some meter steel sphere correct to within 18 inches. It is said that later, remote viewing was developed to even higher accuracy and utility. A participant in these remote viewing efforts, Major Ed Dames, and his pupil, Dr. Courtney Brown of Emory University, have claimed to discover, through remote viewing, that there are intelligent beings on Mars.

Now, I believe that the statement attributed to the "lady of the night" — if it can be confirmed — means that a few elite leaders in our government, including the President, are aware of the existence of intelligent humanoids on Mars.

A few years ago, when information on the crash at Roswell first began coming out, I said *"The cat is now part way out of the bag, and cannot be put back in..."* Now, I would say the cat is about 60% out of the bag! If, as Dr. Courtney Brown says, the Martians need sanctuary on this earth, it is important that the cat come *all the way out of the way out of the bag* so that we humans can be prepared to offer such sanctuary. At least, this is the way I see it.

**THE HARD WAY**

by Craig R. Lang

Recently the UFO community has been inundated with promises of easy answers. Insiders emerge with convenient explanations of how anti-gravity drives function, tantalizing us with tales of the ET federation visiting Earth, and promising to expose the great cover-up. Contactees and remote viewers appear with the truth behind the galactic federation, the Martians, and even the great religious figures of history. All of this brings to mind an old maxim: If it sounds too good to be true, *it probably is!*

Presumably, anyone reading this newsletter sincerely wants to believe that ET life is out there and is probably visiting us. It is stating the obvious to say that ufology is probably the most promising way to establish the viability of this idea. As a result, each of us in the UFO research community has at one time or another wished for the one great event — the ultimate smoking gun — that would decisively reveal the truth. Unfortunately, there is no short cut — UFO research is just plain hard work.

The investigation of UFO sightings involves many hours spent interviewing witnesses, surveying sighting locations, collecting photos and evidence, digging through archives, etc. We often find out about sightings long after they happen — when the trail has become stone cold. Other times the trail of evidence leads to a dead end:

Witnesses don't agree, somebody lies, evidence is lost or compromised, an event turns out to be a hoax. Yet still we persevere. Eventually we see the fuzzy beginnings of a picture of the UFO phenomenon — but still we find no smoking gun. There are no easy answers.

What do we need to prove the existence of ET? Probably the most convincing would be physical evidence. However, this evidence must be definitive. It must be analyzed by many organizations (just one won't do). Each researcher must be subject to peer scrutiny. Each must make his/her results known promptly to the scientific community at large. All involved must approach the task cautiously — being careful to avoid any claims of success until there are absolutely sure of their results. Finally, the results must be unambiguous. All must agree that the evidence points to an ET — and not other — explanation.

What do we need to prove the existence of ET?

There are two possible ways in which we could acquire such evidence. One is the sudden, definitive smoking gun. Unfortunately, we have seen enough false alarms in recent times, that in my view, this is unlikely to happen. If it does, the possibility of a hoax will always hang over us. The second way is the slow painstaking work of investigating sightings. With so

many unexplained sightings by credible people, a compelling picture is beginning to emerge. With a lot more work, I feel that this picture can become clearer.

After the hoaxes, the remote viewing, and the channeled revelations are stripped away, we are left with the compelling core of unexplained UFO events, both past and present. In my view, these could one day yield solid evidence for ET visitation. However, to credibly determine this will require much careful, high-quality research. It will be slow, tedious work — one case at a time. But in my view, this will be the only way for ufology to succeed — by doing it the hard way.



THE NEMESIS Asteroid Is Doomsday Just Around the Corner?

by Erich A. Aggen, Jr.

Since 1992, NASA has made little or no effort to implement a project called the "Spaceguard Survey" to detect errant asteroids, comets and other dangerous "N.E.O.s" or Near Earth Objects.

Most asteroids are found in the Asteroid Belt between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter. But a sub-class, known as Earth-crossing asteroids, are located in orbits that bring them *closer to the Sun than the Earth's orbit*. Estimates place the number of asteroids in this sub-

class between 1000 – 4000 objects larger than one kilometer across.

Between 1989 and 1991, various asteroids have come menacingly close to the Earth's orbit, intersecting it at less than half the distance to the Moon in one case and 400,000 miles in another. In 1978 an explosion in the South Pacific, once thought to be a nuclear bomb test, is now thought to have been the impact of a relatively small asteroid in the water.

Asteroids larger than one kilometer across are thought to strike the Earth about once or twice every million years. Such asteroids are large enough to damage the global ecosystem and may one day wipe out whole species of animals, insects, and plants — including humankind.

The asteroid or comet that caused the extinction of the dinosaurs 65 million years ago is estimated to have been at least six miles in diameter. It struck the coastline of the Yucatan Peninsula. The resulting explosion was equivalent to a *hundred million-million tons of TNT* and it left behind a crater of 106 miles in diameter. It threw dust high into the atmosphere causing a nuclear winter. Global acid rain and massive wildfires also followed.

Smaller asteroids and comets can also cause a vast amount of destruction. The Tunguska object in Siberia, 1908, for example, is thought to have been only several hundred feet across yet it exploded with the force of 12 million tons of TNT

and decimated a forest the size of Rhode Island.

The Spaceguard Survey was proposed in 1992, when NASA concluded that a network of six two-or-three-meter telescopes could detect most of the larger asteroids that pose a threat to the Earth along with 35% of potentially dangerous comets.

Unfortunately, NASA has been unwilling to actively promote the survey because it considers other projects more important. In addition, some scientists claim the survey would be a waste of money.

...a large (¾ miles) newly discovered asteroid missed the Earth by 1.9 million miles on May 25 of this year...too little time (and distance) to have destroyed it or deflected it had it been headed...for Earth!

The scientists opposed to the survey claim that there *aren't likely* to be any asteroid collisions with Earth in the next few hundred years. But the real question is...*how do they know this?* The answer is, *they don't!* They have no way of knowing exactly when the next large asteroid will strike the Earth. For all they know, the next one could be headed for Earth as I type these words! It (or they) could hit the Earth at any time!

Fortunately for humankind, a few University of Arizona scientists and students have taken it upon themselves to search

the night skies for rogue asteroids under a private project called "Spacewatch." Tom Gehrels has led the project for the past 15 years from an observatory in southern Arizona.

Hopefully, they will detect any "doomsday" asteroids(s) on a collision course for Earth (generically nicknamed "Nemesis" asteroid), in enough time to destroy the asteroid(s) with nuclear bombs or deflect it or them away from the Earth.

Just recently, the *L. A. Times* reported that a large (¾ miles) newly discovered asteroid missed the Earth by 1.9 million miles on May 25 of this year.

The asteroid was discovered May 8 by astronomer Robert H. McNaught of the Siding Spring Observatory in New South Wales, Australia.

The asteroid was discovered only [when it was] 18 million miles from Earth — *far too little time (and distance) to have destroyed it or deflected it, had it been on a collision course for Earth!*

♦ ♦ ♦

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EARTH-CROSSING ASTEROIDS AND COMETS

DIAMETER			
LESS THAN 33 FEET	33 FEET TO 330 FEET	330 FEET TO 3,300 FEET	GREATER THAN 3,300 FEET (0.6 ML)
NUMBER			
BILLIONS	150 MILLION	300,000	APPROX. 2,100
IMPACT RATE			
CONSTANTLY FOR DUST-SIZED PARTICLES; EVERY FEW YEARS FOR THE LARGER END OF THE SCALE.	EVERY 10 YEARS FOR SMALLER OBJECTS; EVERY FEW CENTURIES FOR THE LARGER END OF THE SCALE.	EVERY 50 CENTURIES (5,000 YEARS).	EVERY 500,000 TO 1,000,000 YEARS.
SUMMARY			
THE MAJORITY OF DUST-SIZED PARTICLES BURN UP HIGH IN THE ATMOSPHERE. HOWEVER, A SMALL NUMBER OF THE DENSER METALLIC METEORS SOMETIMES REACH THE EARTH'S SURFACE AND CAUSE MINOR DAMAGE. THEY USUALLY FRAGMENT INTO PEBBLE-SIZED PIECES UPON IMPACT.	SMALLER ASTEROIDS IN THIS SIZE RANGE USUALLY BURN UP IN THE UPPER ATMOSPHERE. IF ONE OF THE LARGER OBJECTS IN THIS SIZE RANGE WERE TO IMPACT ON THE EARTH'S SURFACE IT WOULD BE EQUAL TO DOZENS OF NUCLEAR WARHEADS EXPLODING AT ONCE.	THE MAJORITY OF ASTEROIDS AT THE LOWER END OF THIS SCALE USUALLY REACH THE GROUND INTACT, CREATING CRATERS OVER 1 MILE IN DIAMETER AND <u>EXPLODING WITH A FORCE EQUIVALENT TO HUNDREDS OR THOUSANDS OF NUCLEAR WARHEADS.</u> ASTEROIDS THIS SIZE COULD DESTROY WHOLE STATES OR COUNTRIES.	OBJECTS THIS SIZE IMPACT <u>WITH THE FORCE OF MILLIONS OF NUCLEAR BOMBS</u> AND LEAVE CRATERS OVER 10 X LARGER THAN THEIR OWN DIAMETER. OBJECTS LARGER THAN 1 MILE IN DIAMETER WOULD EJECT DUST HIGH INTO THE ATMOSPHERE CAUSING A NUCLEAR WINTER AND WIPING OUT ALL LIFE ON EARTH INCLUDING MANKIND.



FIELD INVESTIGATOR UPDATE

by Craig R. Lang

It's been another very busy couple of months for we who are involved with field investigation. We now have a core group of about ten active field investigators. In January, we held our quarterly meeting to discuss field investigation business and compare notes on sighting investigations. We discussed general procedures for field work and the Minnesota MUFON policy on field investigation. As UFO investigation can be very time consuming, we also determined how much time each of us had available. This will be helpful when dispatching some of the more involved sightings cases.

We talked about specific investigations in progress. The eighteen cases being investigated by various team members involve old sightings, some of which new information may have emerged, and others which are relatively recent. Several of these cases are nearing completion.

We have also been contacted by several possible close-encounter experiencers and are actively investigating many of these cases. We welcome all experiencer reports but since we are not doctors, we must approach any reports of possible UFO-related medical or psychological trauma with caution. We are attempting to develop working relationships with one or more medical/psychological professionals who would be able to assist in

this area. We'll have more information on this in the future.

The next field investigator class is tentatively scheduled for Wednesdays, March 12, 19 and 26. The class will focus on how to conduct field investigations, interviewing the witness, filing field reports, and preparing for the MUFON field investigator's exam. Requirements to become an investigator include joining the MUFON national organization as a field investigator trainee and the purchase of the MUFON Field Investigator's Manual. For more information contact Craig Lang via phone at (612) 560-1532, or e-mail, crlang@mm.com.

Check the Minnesota MUFON web page for details of current sightings, possible close encounter investigations, and other timely news.

As spring approaches, and people can once again spend time outdoors (and look up at the sky), we can expect to receive a lot more UFO sighting reports. The next few months promise to be eventful! We're always in the need of more investigators — if you're interested and feel that you have the time, the commitment and the objectivity, please join us!

Happy Investigating!



Unique Film

Offerings: Peter Morris

What if you had an ant farm, and, just for the hell of it, you selected one ant and tossed it a "smart crumb"... Then, you came back a while later and observed what you'd stirred up! Both of these films tell the classic tale, the reaction of society to the elevation of one of its own. Don't be different, even if it's not your fault! All you create is confusion, denial, attack... Be smart, lay low, be anonymous, or your reward will be as told in these two fables!

PHENOMENON 1995

Director: Jon Turteltaub

When George, a likable ordinary mechanic in an idealistic little town (with an eccentric doctor), is zapped — not abducted — by a light in the sky on the night of his birthday party, he is thereafter spotlighted. Suddenly he grows brilliant and develops extraordinary powers. He solves problems, helps people, wins a girl with whom he is smitten; but also, he alerts a relentless, paranoid government agency. Counterpointing the government with his girlfriend's children, George expounds some truths, extricates himself from the government and resolves his own fate. The story ends a year later at a birthday party for George. Pay attention for some memorable messages, e.g., "Everything is on its way to somewhere."

POWDER 1995

Director: Victor Salva

In this story, the protagonist is hardly ordinary although he lives in a rural town, sequestered. He is

born during a thunderstorm and as the story unfolds, he leaves during a thunderstorm — as if recalled. But first, he is thrust into society where his appearance stirs prejudicial emotions, and when he wards off physical reactions with his electromagnetic powers, he becomes somewhat of a pariah. How would you feel if you were confronted by a shy, brilliant young man with ghostly white skin, totally hairless and with an affinity for lightning?! MUFONauts might even speculate that he is a human/Gray hybrid!



Books in Review

The Day After Roswell

by Colonel Philip J. Corso and co-authored by William Burns; published by Pocket Books, division of Simon & Shuster

Written by a high-level military figure, this book will blow the lid off the famed Roswell incident!

Col. Corso was retired from the Army in 1965 after a 21-year military career. He served as a key Army Intelligence Officer on President Eisenhower's White House staff and on the National Security Council. He also headed the Foreign Technology desk at the US Army's Research and Development Department. He was honored with 19 medals, decorations and ribbons for meritorious service.

The book will lay bare the US government's astonishing cover-up and closely guarded secrets. Backed by newly declassified documents, Col. Corso reveals his personal stewardship of alien artifacts from the Roswell crash, how

these items changed the course of the 20th century and proves the alien theory.

The Day After Roswell is scheduled for publication in July, 1997.

Peter Morris



The Demon Haunted World

by Dr. Carl Sagan

This work is deeply reviled among UFO believers, thus, it was with some trepidation that I picked it up from the bookstore shelf. After reading the many scathing reviews of it in UFO publications, I full expected to open it and find a skeptibunking work of little or no merit. I was pleasantly surprised.

The book has both good and bad points. I disagree with some of Dr. Sagan's arguments but I cannot fault his ability to eloquently put them onto paper. Rather than being just another debunking piece, I found this to be a well thought-out defense of rational inquiring and the philosophies of mainstream science. The primary theme in this book is the importance of the tools most necessary to conduct science: skepticism and rational thinking, balanced with a sense of wonder and curiosity. I fully agree with him.

Much of the book discusses the need for skepticism — which brings him directly into conflict with the UFO and New Age community. Much of his criticism of New Age and postmodern thought is stinging — the chapter "Balony Detection" looks as if it came straight out of a CSICOP "manual!" Still, although not pleasant to hear, his criticism has balance. CSICOP also finds itself clearly within his gunsights for its overzealous debunking of any and all fringe science.

Best part of the book: The section on witch trials of the late middle ages in which he effectively illustrates consequences of allowing superstition to replace reason in our understanding of the world. He compares the writings of that time period with some of the darker aspects of the New Age movement — in some cases, the similarities are chilling.

Weakest part of the book: His handling of UFOs and the abduction phenomenon. It has been severely criticized by several leading UFO researchers — in particular, by Jerome Clark (*Summer, 1996 issue of International UFO Reporter*). In my view, Mr. Clark's criticisms are valid. Dr. Sagan's treatment of the topic is cursory at best, and does little to provide a balanced perspective. Sagan accepts the official line on Roswell as the truth, and ignores the vast amount of work done by Kevin Randle on the topic. He also overlooks the unresolved nature of the classic cases in ufology. Contrary to his assertions that there is no physical evidence for UFOs, the literature describes such evidence for a number of these cases.

In my view, Dr. Sagan was out of his element when dealing with the UFO topic (a much more skeptical view of UFOs is offered in *Watch the Skies* by Curtis Peebles). But he does make some excellent, if stinging, points. The foremost is that proof is vital; that is, physical evidence and verifiable observations. These must be obtained by methods that are reproducible (or subject to peer review). They must be, as much as possible, immune to hoaxing or misinterpretation. Evidence must corroborate other evidence. With some notable exceptions, these requirements are lacking in UFO research. While he may not have his details right, Sa-

gan's criticism still hits home. Had more accurately cited many of the details of UFO research, he might have hit harder still.

Dr. Sagan's main theme is not that any particular belief or claim is *wrong*, only that one must view such a claim with a skeptical eye.

I recommend *The Demon Haunted World*, not because it is an accurate portrayal of UFO studies — it isn't. Rather, I recommend it because it is a good study in the philosophy of mainstream science, with all of its strengths and weaknesses.

Craig Lang

CRL: This article was initially submitted prior to Dr. Sagan's passing. While I strongly disagreed with him regarding UFOs, I have considered an inspiration. I will miss him.



Extraterrestrial Telepathic Intelligence Phenomenon Prodigies

by Robin Andrews Quail

Robin Quail was a speaker at the October *National UFO and Unexplained Phenomena Conference* in Bloomington, Minnesota. Her \$12.00 book has an intriguing title for what turns out to be a mixed bag of a few interesting ideas and generally disappointing scholarship. She describes herself as a certified hypnotherapist and parapsychological counselor who began her hypnosis practice soon after moving to Atlanta, Georgia, in 1972. Ms Quail reports a long history of interest in metaphysics including an experience of psychic ability at the age of ten, various altered states of consciousness, and a multiple witness half-hour UFO sighting in 1971. Many of the people Quail defines as "ETIP Prodigies" have unusual characteristics similar to those described in Brad and Fran-

cis Steigers' book *The Star People*. These can include uncommon physical traits, and certain emotional and intellectual qualities which set them apart from the general population. "*The concept is that 'they are descendants of visitors from the stars, sent to guide humanity into a new Golden Age'.*" (p. 12)

Quail has garnered many interesting impressions from her work "with over six hundred of people (sic) who have had UFO experiences. A large portion have been abductees." (p. 8) However, she doesn't report any actual figures, very few dates, and even innocuous quotations tend to be from anonymous sources. Quail says she had information which pre-dates the advent of recently popularized contact indicators. But her information is not particularly impressive in light of Kevin Randle's work about many decades of Pop Culture influences on our concept of UFO's and aliens. In particular, Quail's "early" (1979) data came primarily from one man's account of an implant which would direct him, via buzzing sounds in his head, to a monthly UFO meeting for recharging (p. 4-5), and his "channeled" predictions of an underground base in Bedford, Pennsylvania, past lives, and alien invasions (p. 7).

Certainly Quail's personal experiences and insights seem genuine, but her data are highly suspect when her reports and methods are reviewed. For her research, she apparently relies on subjective and anecdotal testimony from her clients, which is not uncommon. Unfortunately, Quail collects this information after first briefing the clients on what she *expects* to find. She may not be even be aware of this constituting a problem. She acknowledges the potential for dominating the recall of the experiencer: "We have all heard the

discussion that hypnotists plant suggestions into their subjects (sic) head and ask them leading questions to prove their own agendas. I can imagine that it does happen rarely, however, a trained, professional hypnotherapist knows better than to do this." (p. 35) Nevertheless, two sentences later, she contradicts this by explaining her method, "I begin the ETIP Prodigy mind-link support group by *explaining the ETIP Prodigy concept to any newcomers.*" (pp. 35-36, italics mine. See also p. 30) This is only one of many drawbacks I found in the 60 pages of text and 11 pages of appendixes.

Quail's unorthodox mind-link methodology may originate from her cosmic beliefs, "...the mind is so interconnected and we are all, aliens included, part of a universal consciousness that flows like the ocean." (p. 7). Bordering on a spiritual faith, Quail's sense of mission appears on page 9, "I had an uncanny feeling that I had been 'chosen' to work with these people and they somehow knew how to contact me." She clearly sees her purpose as altruistic, "My role as a society (sic) is to help these people integrate their experiences into their lives by offering them support and an open mind." (p. 58) But the problem is that she goes far beyond that. In her sessions, Quail encourages shared fantasies and channeling of guides, angels, or alien contacts. "I continually encourage the group to vocalize even the slightest images, thoughts, feelings, physical sensations, impressions and/or emotions. When one begins to verbalize, the others seem to follow and it seems to begin a flow." (p. 37) It is no surprise that she also reports, "At one time I worked with a group of twelve people who, when hypnotized together, remembered a shared past life in Atlantis." To

me, it sounds more like imaginative fantasies and wishful thinking than evidence of recalled events.

An example of Quail's intended method of mind-linking will illustrate what I think is a disturbing and possibly unethical contamination of clients' memories:

"During the second regression with Scott, *Ted also went under* and was able to follow vividly everything Scott was seeing. Scott's wife and I were also able to visualize and follow the progression of his experience. *Scott can talk and describe what he is seeing and Ted is able to tap into what Scott is seeing and pick up more details.*" (p. 20, italics mine)

Is this good scientific research or even good therapy? In the dozens of audio-taped research sessions I've worked on for the MUFON Transcription Project, I've not encountered group techniques where the therapists participate in such fabrication with hypnosis.

Most perplexing to me are the provably false claims and dubious stories which Quail apparently never examines for authenticity. For example, the reader discovers that "Alex" not only met with Einstein twice at age nine to present his own paper on time travel, but at age 13 he worked with his mentor Dr. Wernher (sic) Von Braun on a rocket project. These are remarkable claims by themselves, and harder for the average reader to check than this from page 24: "Later in life he developed a telescope so powerful you can see a Volkswagen on the moon and a plane 100 miles in the dark (sic)." I think Quail is much too trusting, or presumes a much more gullible readership, perhaps.

For another example of a conceptual needle in the suspicion haystack, there are two prodigies who take up 10% of the book.

"BB" is reported to be a female prodigy who worked "with the famous contactee, George Van Tassel" (p. 33), which should raise flags of warning, yet isn't further explained. "BB" and "Vinny" are personal friends and they are interviewed together, during which he "just remembered" that he was supposed to be a twin, too. (p. 53) This convenient detail just happens to support BB's anecdotal "vanishing twin phenomenon" research. (Section, pp. 52-56) It's doubtful to me that the pseudonymous BB has over 100 documented case histories with medical records of sets of twins where one has "vanished" in utero. Not because the phenomenon itself couldn't exist, but because of the unfortunate multiple efforts to lend supernatural credibility to the story. Either "BB" or Quail has thrown in a gratuitous metaphysical connection to Nikola Tesla which is verifiably untrue. The 100 case histories "mysteriously appeared in her life shortly after she purchased the property in Cripple Creek [Colorado]" (p. 52) which is where Tesla "produced lightning in a jar and did much of his important work. Many 'amazing and powerful things happened' on this land..." (p. 33-34) In reality, Colorado Springs is where Tesla worked on large-scale electromagnetic effects for less than a year, according to various biographies. Elsewhere in the book, client IQ's don't actually seem to have been tested, though claims are made that they double and sometimes fall by half. (pp. 15, 18, 25-26) ETIP-channeled Egyptian hieroglyphics are not further investigated by Quail, though such "communicated" entity evidence should have been a high priority for translation. This is particularly strange because this is from the same case she described at the October conference which in-

involved her witnessing a UFO. Quail writes of nightly sessions with "Evan" for almost four months, in front of a growing audience of a wide variety of curious spectators. She writes, "*He always provided a fascinating 'show'.*" (p. 3) This daily spectacle cannot be considered to have been a professional therapist/client relationship, or an example of standard research procedures, as indicated on page 7. The parlor tricks, the "amazing feats," and "very dramatically enacted" scenes from his former life as an Egyptian pharaoh, leaves this particular reader wholly underwhelmed.

Since the self-published book is riddled with gross punctuation, factual, and typographical errors, suspicions increase of the author's general level of education and related abilities. [She acknowledges ETIP & author Caryl Dennis for helping write and type the manuscript, as well as conduct interviews and collaborate on a PRODIGY conference in Georgia.] The oversights and unscientific assertions are at least a distracting indication of poor editorial work, if not outright deception. This contrasts highly with her rather painstakingly scientific demeanor at the October conference.

Maybe Robyn Andrews Quail, with metaphysics and mind-linking, is actually one step ahead in investigating the UFO phenomenon. Perhaps she has developed a special discernment so she can bypass those pesky systematic methods saddling other researchers. I think she could stand to develop some basic critical skills to analyze whether there isn't a lot of chaff in with her wheat. It's inattentive work like this that gives UFO research a bad name, and the gleeful debunkers more ammunition. # # #

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**Meeting Notes****Theosophical Society**

900 Mount Curve • Minneapolis, MN
(Kenwood, above the Guthrie)

7:30 PM

Contacts: Peter Morris, 926-1393, Rolf Canton, 822-3155

International Tesla Society

Meets the 3rd Saturday of each month,

1:00 to 5:00 PM • The Pavak Wireless Museum

3515 Raleigh Avenue • St. Louis Park, MN

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