

MINNESOTA MUFON

Newsletter

From the State Director

It is hoped that subscribers to the Newsletter enjoy reading summaries of Symposium presentations. In the past we have sometimes shown a video of such a lecture, but it takes less time to read a short summary and is far less expensive. Even though the presentations and their write-ups in the Proceedings are copyrighted, a couple of years ago I was given a verbal "OK" via phone to do these by Walt Andrus, Director of MUFON. Since we operate under the MUFON umbrella, it seemed reasonable to me to give those who subscribe an overview of what MUFON's investigators and consultants have to say. Their conclusions are always supported by meticulous research.

In this final summary of a presentation from last year's MUFON Symposium in Greensboro, North Carolina, I will report on Vincent DiPietro's talk entitled Evidence For Life Beyond the Mars Face.

Vince DiPietro is a systems engineer employed as a contractor at Goddard Space Flight Center. He has designed and built several electronic hardware packages for use in image processing equipment at the Center. Almost everything that I have seen in the media concerning the Face on Mars is usually associated with the findings of DiPietro, Greg Molenaar, John Brandenburg, Mark Carlotto, or Richard Hoagland.

The Mars Face doesn't have any direct connection to UFOs, but shares the UFO mystique with regards to the possibility of life elsewhere. Evolutionists take the view that we are the result of random genetic changes over time and that given another chance, evolution on earth would produce something quite different from us. They would decry the possibility of a species so similar to us, as suggested by the Face, evolving on our neighboring planet. With this in mind, I have always harbored the thought that the Face might have been constructed by somebody from earth who went to Mars long ago. The riddle of early civilizations on Earth is equally as interesting to me as the idea of extraterrestrials.

In 1979 DiPietro found that there was an image of a human face on the surface of Mars [which had been] photographed from 1162 miles up in space. Vince and Greg Molenaar teamed up to do their own independent research. Many curious people made inquiries of their work. Scientists from MIT and Ohio State University were among many who were also curious and did research. In 1983, Richard Hoagland requested information. DiPietro states that after several years, and with a widening difference of opinion, he and Hoagland went on separate courses with their studies.

Many of their peers told them that the object was too big (a mile across) to be created by intelligent beings. Upon looking through *Encyclopedia Britannica* under the heading of "Architecture," they

con't

MINNESOTA MUFON Meetings

**Saturday, July 12
and
Saturday, August 9
1:30 – 5:00 PM**

Science Museum of MN
Computer Education Center
Firststar 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

1:15 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!**

found that there is a structure in France, Mont Saint Michel, that is more than one-half mile across. It was built in the 8th century when tons of granite had to be hauled up a 265-foot peak.

They obtained a computer that could digitally enlarge facial features. At this point, DiPietro explains the technical aspects of their work, including a discussion of pixels and a process called the "Starburst Pixel Interleaving Technique." In the end, they had created a new file with nine times as many pixels as the original data. They used their technique to process some Landsat data on the Dulles Airport and the Pentagon. Slides were shown to the audience so that the workings of their procedure could be understood.

A second image was found in the NASA files which, due to a higher sun, allowed for more detail than the first. They concluded that the facial features are *not* tricks of light, but that there actually *is* an object on the surface.

DiPietro said that he always had cooperation from NASA, but not with the Planetary Society or the Jet Propulsion Lab. In the beginning, their employer (Goddard) frowned on their private investigation.

Some people asked where all the roads, buildings, and cities were — things that would be expected on Mars if a civilization had existed there. In addition to cons of erosive forces wiping out such features, consider that a photo of Earth taken by the Galileo spacecraft from 600 miles showed no life on earth! Vikings cameras could not detect features smaller than a few hundred feet across.

When they did false color imaging, they found what appeared to be an eyeball with a pupil. This was further confirmed when a program designed to shift the gray value of the pixels was applied. The eye cavity

has a shape of its own and may be spherical. Enhancements made by Mark Carlotto reveal features in the mouth which appear to be teeth.

Another object found in the Cydonia region, dubbed the "D & M Pyramid," is a four-sided pyramid on which one edge has collapsed into rubble. One of its sides is perpendicular to the equator and points due north. DiPietro suggests that most of the geology in the region is due to volcanic plumes that have percolated to the surface and frozen into their shapes. But the face seems to have been "carved," whether by natural or intelligent forces. In 1973, the *Journal of Geophysical Research* put the age of the Cydonia region at 200 – 500 million years old.

A waterspout on Mars was discovered in 1978 and published in NASA Activities. The carbon-13 to carbon-12 ratio is 1/89 and the oxygen-18 to oxygen-16 ratio is 1/500. These are identical to the ratios found in Earth's atmosphere and suggests that Mars and Earth [were] formed from the same part of the original solar nebula.

It is believed that the double-ringed crater "LYOT" was created when a large meteorite hit Mars, sending pieces of Mars into space with some of them finding their way through space to Earth. One such piece was found in Antarctica and is called "Elephant Moraine." Entrapped gases had a composition similar to the Martian atmosphere as reported by Viking. It also contained high concentrations of organic carbon dated between 400 – 600 million years old. Another meteorite found in Egypt (also from Mars) was studied by Dr. Bartholomew Nagy in 1975. His remarks indicated that he had found organic fossil evidence from another world. *It is between 1 – 2 billion years old.*

There is also a set of photos which indicates some form of lettering on a canyon wall on Mars.

Vincent DiPietro has published a small book with pictures of most of the information given at the Symposium. Members are encouraged to obtain a copy of the *Proceedings* for the complete presentation which contains 46 pages of pictures and charts.

Dick Moss



REMOTE VIEWERS: A Book Review & Some Thoughts

by William McNeff

Remote Viewers: The Secret History of America's Psychic Spies by Jim Schnabel, is a most interesting book. Schnabel details the past 25 years of psychic spying sponsored by the US government and also covers, to some extent, the former Soviet Union. Schnabel, who in my opinion, did something of a hatchet job on crop circles in England, seems to have done his homework on this one. For one thing, he tried his own hand at remote viewing under the tutelage of two of the better know viewers, Ingo Swann and Ed Dames, and got results that he termed "satisfying." He conducted numerous interviews with the participants at all levels of the remote viewing programs. He cross-checked stories among sources, gathered much documentary evidence, and stated his sources. In short, he exercised, he says, "the standard techniques of investigative journalism." *con't*

Why should a UFO investigator even consider remote viewing? — Because it offers a potentially valuable method for dispelling some of the mysteries of UFOs and ETs, to say nothing of other mysteries of existence itself.

The prime questions with regard to remote viewing (RV) are: 1) Does it work at all; and 2) If it works, how accurate is it? Schnabel makes plain the answers are 1) YES; and 2) Not as accurately as the government and its various agencies wished.

Some of the limitations of remote viewing are that it is difficult to pick up fine detail such as letters and numbers, or to read words, or to count a group of objects. Because of this, the basic nature of the scene being viewed may be misread. An amusing example of this was an effort by Richard Bach, author of *Jonathon Livingstone Seagull*. Bach once visited Stanford Research Institute, where some of the early efforts at RV took place. He was given a Methodist church as a target. He identified the altar as an airline ticket counter, and a gold cross on the wall as "the logo of the company...it looks like a big gold fleur de lis." Metaphorically, he wasn't so far off. ("Step right up, folks, get your ticket to Paradise!")



There were, however, cases in the book where names were picked up. Ken Bell, while looking for a downed aircraft, kept picking up the word "bald." He later learned that the hill the plane had crashed into was called "Bald Knob!"

Remote viewing should be considered to be just one of many forms of psychic phenomena. In a number of ways, it operates in the same way as

dreams. In our dreams, the information is often presented to us in coded form.

If we carefully consider the objects and events in our dreams, we may recognize what they really represent.

I have had two dreams which seemed to foretell the future; one of which I mentioned in a previous Newsletter article. The other occurred early on April 22, 1994. I dreamed I was driving a car along a road and saw a woodpile of sawed logs — fireplace sized — alongside the road. Stuck in the pile was a sign bearing the name "CONLEY." Immediately after the dream, I woke up enough to think to myself that this was a dream with some important meaning, and I got out of bed briefly. It was mostly dark but I managed to print "CONLEY" on the notebook I kept on a chest of drawers beside the bed. In the morning, I wrote a summary of the dream beside my notation.

That evening, when the Yankton daily newspaper arrived, I checked the "Daily Record." There, I learned that "A 1977 Ford driven by Christopher Diedrich, Yankton, collided with a 1987 Chevrolet driven by Colleen Conley, Yankton, which collided with a parked 1986 Chevrolet owned by Terry Fiedler, Mission Hill, at 9:11 AM Thursday in the 200 block of Broadway. Conley sustained possible injuries..."

Notice the following: The spelling of the name was correct, although I did not recall ever seeing this name before. Also in the dream, an auto was involved; the woodpile represents "broken-ness" or "cutting," either of which may have happened in the accident; and my dream occurred a few hours before the event.

Many others, of course, have had dreams that predicted the future more or less accurately. The point is, human beings seem to have some built-in capability to "see" the future to some degree.

How accurate can remote viewing be? Joe McMoneagle, in his book *Mind Trek*, says his accuracy varied from 15% to 85%. During one session, Joe was targeted against a site somewhere in the world, but found his attention drawn to an object over the site. He perceived a flat, discoid, metallic craft which seemed to be moving, he estimated, at 4,500 mph! It was powered, he said, by some kind of plasma.

Courtney Brown, whom Schnabel mentions only once in his book, says that by having more than one remote viewer attempt to view the same target, accuracy can be increased. More recently, Brown has discovered that the beliefs and mind set of the person who selected the target originally can influence what the remote viewer sees. Brown is attempting to get rid of this bias. Schnabel also mentions the strange phenomenon of "telepathic overlay." Sometimes the remote viewer reproduced erroneous data that some other viewer had come up with, and sometimes picked up data from the mind of the monitor. "It was the kind of thing that had been reported since the early days of mesmerism and hypnosis, and there didn't seem to be much one could do about it, aside from keeping the monitors blind to the targets in operational sessions." Unfortunately, this means that two different remote viewing sessions, by two different remote viewers, might not be as independent as one might hope.



South African Shootdown:

The story behind the alleged ET interrogation.

This is an update on the video shown recently on the Strange Universe TV program. Michael Hesemann was permitted to view the full 45 minute video and he thinks it is real. Hesemann believes the video portrays the interrogation of an alien being that was recovered from the shootdown of an ET craft.

A bizarre report came to the attention of UFO researchers toward the end of 1989 involving a UFO shoot down by the South African Air Force (SAAF) on May 7, 1989, in the Kalahari Desert near Botswana, South Africa. Many of the details of the incident were disclosed at a UFO conference organized by the Yorkshire UFO Society in England, on September 23, 1989. The two principal investigators in the case were **Anthony Dodd**, a retired police officer, and **Dr. Henry Azadehdel**, a scientist.

According to Dodd, a SAAF intelligence officer informed him that a UFO had been retrieved from the desert by military personnel and taken to a secret US base. The informant stated in a letter to Dodd that "South African Intelligence does not have the facilities or knowledge to pursue this matter alone." American military officials were allegedly called in to coordinate the investigation. The informant indicated to Dodd that he would send to him official documents discussing the case under separate cover. Several weeks later, Dodd received what appeared to be an official South African Top Secret document containing five pages of information.

The documents state that as the UFO entered South African airspace

at 1:52 PM local time, two Mirage jet fighters were scrambled to intercept. At 1:59 PM the squadron leader radioed that he had visual and radar contact with the craft. He was given the order to fire at the object. The squadron fired a Thor II experimental laser cannon at the UFO, apparently striking it and causing it to waver and eventually crash-land in the central Kalihari Desert. The Thor II has been described as a SDI experimental particle beam laser weapon.

A retrieval team located the UFO embedded in scorched sand. According to Dodd, recovery helicopters were flown to the crash site, but when the first one flew over the object, its engine stalled, and the helicopter crashed, killing five crew members. It was soon discovered that when other vehicles approached the object, the too, developed engine trouble, later determined to have been caused by an electromagnetic field emitted by the UFO. A special paint compound was brought to the site and dumped on the UFO to help neutralize the field.

The object was moved to an Air Force Base underground compartment. Dodd said that an American team of specialists from Wright-Patterson AFB were called in. A hydraulic pressure device was used to force open a side door on the craft. With the door open, Dodd claims, two small entities came out of the craft and were arrested by security personnel. One of the entities appeared to be injured, but doctors withdrew when one of the aliens clawed a doctor in the face and chest.

The UFO and its occupants were flown by US Military Air Transport to Wright Patterson AFB in Dayton, Ohio. The cargo was flown out on two C-5A Galaxies on June 23rd, 1989, accompanied by USAF personnel.

Hesemann stated that one of the aliens subsequently died and the

other alien was taken to Area 51 where the interrogation depicted in the video allegedly took place.

Tony Dodd reported in "Quest international (The Journal of UFO Investigation," Volume (, Number 2, that "A drawing of the humanoids and the alien craft were attached to the main report." Interestingly, an insignia on the surface of the craft showed a remarkable resemblance to an insignia that appeared on a landed UFO observed by Deputy Marshal Lonnie Zamora in Socorro, New Mexico, on April 24, 1964.

Dodd reports a phone call was made to NORAD in which the officer in charge of the Tracking Department confirmed that an object was traced as entering the atmosphere and heading towards Africa in the approximate time frame of the incident.

A SAAF officer, not the original informant, met with Dodd and Azadehdel in England and supplied them with additional details of the crash as well as the names of American and South African officers who participated in the operation. The informant signed an affidavit stating that this TOP SECRET operation did take place and that the facts listed here are true. The informant said that he was one of 23 South African Intelligence and Security officers to participate in the recovery of the downed UFO. He also states that he was one of five SAAF personnel who worked jointly with seven American Military Intelligence officers assisting in the recovery and transportation of the craft to a USAF base in Africa and later to Wright-Patterson AFB in the USA.

Azadehdel and Dodd claim that they have made numerous telephone contacts to verify this story. Dodd said that a call was made to the squadron leader in South Africa, who supposedly confirmed that he fired the Thor II just once at the UFO. Dodd also states that he spoke to a source in the US military who

confirmed that a section of Wright-Patterson AFB was in a state of alert on the very day the UFO was to have arrived there.

Several documents exist that are official-looking and seem to bear the signatures and seals of high-ranking officials. However, the written evidence in this case has been largely found to be tainted by disinformation and lies.

Graham Birdsall wrote an article on this case in "Quest International" magazine. In it, he states that he supports the efforts of Azadehdel and Dodd and that the facts in this case seemed to point to one or two probable scenarios: "Either this is by far the largest disinformation exercise ever mounted by the intelligence services of at least three nations, or it is the best evidence to date that a UFO has crashed and been retrieved." In May 1990, investigators were privy to additional documentation from US military sources that would indicate that an object did indeed crash onto the Kalihari desert on May 7, 1989, and that it was not a satellite. Michael Hesemann has spent eight years researching this case. At this time, he believes that there was a UFO shot down in the Kalihari desert and that the craft and its occupants were taken to the US, where subsequently, the surviving being was subjected to the interrogation shown in the alleged Area 51 interrogation video.

*With thanks to
N.E. Maryland MUFON
<http://206.156.4.37users/bol9083/04-ART3.HTM>
Contributed by Bob Schultz*



Distant Encounters

by Craig R. Lang

An amusing incident occurred on a recent vacation, while at an exhibit at Sea World in Orlando, Fla. We were standing at a window into the whale tank. But from our vantage point no whales were visible, there was only empty water. I surmised that the whales were probably in another part of the aquarium, perhaps because this section was being maintained. As my wife and I began to move on to the next window, a nearby tourist quipped that the tank was not really empty, declaring "If you truly believe in whales, they will appear to you". We smiled and moved on...

A couple of weeks ago, I was investigating a rather high profile UFO sighting involving a number of lights in the night sky over a northern suburb of Minneapolis. When I interviewed the witnesses, they described lighting patterns and flight paths which roughly matched those of aircraft flying out of the Minneapolis/St. Paul airport. I concluded (as always, with some uncertainty) that at least some of the objects were probably aircraft. As usual, I was criticized as a "skeptic" and a "debunker". But the best comment I got was from an e-mail correspondent who indicated that as long as I maintained such an analytical approach, I would probably never see a UFO.

Part of her argument was that in order to observe UFOs, a paradigm shift is necessary. If you do not make that shift, you will never see UFOs. If you do, then of course, you will see them. But what, I need to ask, *are* the UFOs that you will be seeing? Are they truly anomalous objects that had somehow been invisible to you unless you believed in them? Or will you simply classify objects as UFOs,

which before you would have "dismissed" as normal objects? To me, this is a question that cuts to the core of the "distant encounter" UFO report.

Perhaps there is indeed something which we are seeing, but not recognizing. Perhaps the "Visitors" are in fact overhead, and for some reason some of us just don't see them. Yet, while we can try in novel ways to recognize what is out there, we must avoid seeing things which might not be. We must avoid looking into the empty aquarium and wishing whales into existence.

[I] would dearly love to see a UFO... But rather than seeing one where it might not exist, I would prefer to see the real thing.

The UFO phenomenon presents us with a wondrous and fascinating mystery. *What are UFOs? Why are they here? What is the nature of their interaction with us?* It is the job of the UFO investigator to honestly and objectively seek answers to these questions. To do this, we need to draw on all of the skills in our tool box. In some cases, we need the analytical skills of the detective, in others the people skills of the diplomat. But always, we need the skills of critical reasoning. We need to find out, in detail, what occurred, and what the witnesses observed. If and when we have eliminated the less exotic explanations, we can begin to think in terms of anomalies in the sky.

On any given night an observer can see many moving lights in the sky — frequently several at a time. By observing the path and properties of the light, the observer can usually make a determination as to its nature: Is it an airplane, a satellite, or

some other object? By critical reasoning he/she can eliminate most of these objects as potential UFOs, leaving only truly anomalous objects for our consideration. In distant encounters, it is such truly anomalous cases that the field investigator looks for. For example, did the object make a sudden rapid acceleration or an impossible high-angle turn that would distinguish it from an ordinary aircraft?

I sometimes marvel at how easy the eye can be fooled. Normal nighttime lights can, under certain circumstances, look deceptively strange. Airplanes moving in your direction can seem to be hovering "just above the treeline". Throw in an element of "will to believe" and the result can be another "light in the sky" UFO report. This report then competes with other, truly anomalous, cases which may include close-up daylight disks, close encounters (including abductions) and possible physical evidence cases.

It is my sincere belief that unexplained UFO reports represent a true and profound mystery. Since I have an avid interest in both UFOs and astronomy, I am often staring up at the sky. I see many moving lights in the sky, generally common IFOs, and would dearly love to see a UFO. But rather than seeing one where it might not exist, I would prefer to see the real thing.



It Happened in '94

Shafer, MN, 12:15 AM. Sally Barott and her cousin were on their way to visit a friend, driving on Co. Rd 20. The sky was clear, the moon was full/ About 3/4 of a mile from the friend's home the clouds in the southern sky lit up twice "in a very fast upward motion." Both Sally and her cousin saw the light and then "2 small reddish beams" that scanned their car.

The Dalles Visitor, Summer 1995

Melinda Leslie, Abductions & the Military

by Candy Peterson

Melinda Leslie is the founder and director of UFO Lectures of Orange County, and has hosted over 70 of the top speakers in the UFO field. Thanks to the marvelous efforts of organizer Joe Dundovic, Ms. Leslie was the guest speaker for MINNESOTA MUFON on Saturday June 14th.

Melinda Leslie's area of concern is the military's interest in the UFO field, particularly when "alien abductee" experiencers are harassed by, or even re-abducted by, what appear to be uniformed members of the US military. She included a lot of material to explain her introduction to Ufology, her extensive abduction experiences, and she suggested reasons why the military may be so interested in abductees.

Melinda explained that she was heavily involved in the New Age movement before her UFO interest ever began. Prior to 1989, she "had zero interest in UFO's," except for the possibility that channelers could allow extraterrestrial entities to speak through them. In 1989, she went to what she thought was going to be a New Age type of sky watch and meditation near Area 51. She was surprised to discover that she was in the company of scientifically inclined UFO investigators laden with technical equipment!. They agreed they saw at least 15 clear UFO's that night, displaying falling leaf motions, "impossible" accelerations, and other classic UFO maneuvers. On three such trips over several weeks, she met many serious UFO investigators and she too got caught up in the study of UFO's.

It has been reported that some people feel they are drawn into this field of interest as though they were following a subconscious alien-designed plan. Whether or not this was the case for Melinda, since 1989 she began to have dreams and memories surface of her childhood abduction experiences. Her family recalls that she had been missing for a long period of time, and they witnessed her walking straight into closed sliding glass doors! This confused the young Melinda because she remembered walking *through* the doors in her nighttime excursions!

She has developed several criteria for determining whether her experiences are actual abductions. These include: other witnesses (either involved in the experience or who notice when she's missing); physical evidence (marks on her body such as unexplained bruises, scoop marks, or cuts); premonitory sensations of strangeness in the days before an abduction, and some amount of conscious recall afterwards. She says 80% of her experiences are consciously recalled. In addition to the humans involved with her abductions, she has seen seven types of aliens — short & tall greys, Nordics, hybrids, and a type she first saw just three months ago that has wrinkly foreheads.

Around 1990, Melinda experienced two and a half hours of missing time during what should have been a typical (short) two minute seated meditation. Her roommate noticed that she was not in her room during that time, and later mentioned hearing unexplained noises in their home. The next morning Melinda woke up with various unexplained bruises and marks on her body, and began to realize that her experiences were beyond her ability to handle alone. In her hypnotherapy

regressions, she recovered memories of having eggs removed from her with a long needle when she was 12 or 13 years old, and that she's had eggs removed from her many times. She was shown a couple of hybrid children which she was led to believe are her offspring. Of the 300 abductees she knows, 280 have seen or held hybrid adults or babies. A particular detail found in reported hybrids is a huge pupil, surrounded by a narrow ring of blue iris, and small whites. She also suspects from her own encounter, that the military might be monitoring and re-abducting experiencers in order to remove the hybrid fetuses before the aliens return for them.

Of Melinda's 30 or so abductions, only three involved humans in military-like capacity. In two instances, aliens were involved as well as the humans. She is good friends with Budd Hopkins, who, although he downplays the military presence, has at least five cases where they are reported present. She stresses that "Military involvement" means uniformed humans of some sort. The uniforms in her experiences are Naval, Marines, or medical, but the people behave and speak like members of a military organization. Her slide presentation showed artists' sketches of her descriptions, various catalog photographs of the types of Naval and medical uniforms and equipment she has seen in her abductions. Based on her descriptions, three of her "insiders" have confirmed to her that they think she was taken to the China Lake Annex in California.

Melinda offered some intriguing questions. *If there really are no alien abductions, why would UFO experiencers be subjected to all the harassment, phone & mail tampering, helicopter & other surveillance, MIB*

intimidation, and so on? If DSP spy satellites and the space shuttles just happen to track UFO's occasionally, then how many secret devices could be operating to track our skies for UFO's?

She has endured helicopter harassment seven times, four with other witnesses. She sees a likely three-way connection in the same individuals being involved in PSI research like remote viewing, military intelligence/R&D, and UFO research. Is there a core truth hidden under all the cover-up and disinformation? Melinda points out that as many as *one in forty people believe in or are seeing UFO's*, as well as those who are reporting the abduction experience. The same proportion of anything else in the population would be considered an epidemic, and would certainly get some attention from the mainstream.

Melinda related three theories for the military's motivation to abduct UFO experiencers. 1) We already have some level of official (but secret) interaction with aliens, yet we spy on them via the abductees to see if the aliens are complying with the agreements. 2) We have no official interaction with aliens, so we spy for whatever information we can get, and to see if we can beat them by learning more about their technology via abductees. 3) PSI Factor issues, wherein abductees seem to have certain mental qualities that aliens and the military are both interested in. If UFO's require a mental interface to operate, then the PSI ability of some humans could make the alien technology work. Reports do indicate that UFO's sometimes respond to thought. Abductees may have a different way of thinking than the rest of the population, or have some innate or genetically altered proclivity which the aliens are nur-

turing, and the military wants some of the action. The UFO caseload includes psychic effects, healings (sometimes of one ailment but not others in the same individual), and reports that many abductees are shown alien technology and instructed how to use it. Another major theory is that the phenomenon behind the UFO/alien experience is creating the *illusion* of humans in uniforms, either in three dimensional form or solely in the minds of the experiencers.

Our thanks to Melinda Leslie for taking time out of her busy life to visit Minnesota MUFON to share her experiences and theories. And thanks to Joe and Penny Dundovic and all those who so graciously offered assistance and donations.

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COMMENTARY

Beyond Heaven's Gate: Must Ufology Die, Too?

by Theresa Carlson

In the aftermath of the recent Heaven's Gate suicides I have noticed that many involved in study and investigation of the UFO phenomena are shying away from the field and related topics. Some of this reaction is due to embarrassment and a desire to dissociate from such things. Some may be experiencing feelings of "guilt by association".

This is understandable particularly with all the media hype that followed the incident and the references to the UFO field, the subtle and the not so subtle finger pointing and blame placing. I probably went through the whole range of emotions the same as many others. My emotions ran the gamut; from wanting to hide under a rock, to feeling angry about the way

the story of the incident and Ufology was presented to the public. I decided to take a step back and look at it from a different perspective.

This incident really had nothing to do with UFOs. This was a cult act, a religious act, if you will. Keep in mind these people died for something they strongly believed in. The most popular and most powerful religion in the world is built on stories of just such a martyr.

The act didn't have to be dependent upon a UFO at all. If there were no Hale-Bopp, perhaps an earthquake might have signaled a "sign" that it was time to go. Would the geologists stop working if had that been the case? Perhaps a specific date might have sufficed that it was "the time" to leave this earth.

As did many others, I originally thought that this event would set the study of the UFO phenomena back to the dark ages—that it would put anyone involved in the field into the category of "crazies" or "out on the fringe." But that doesn't have to happen. Ufology doesn't have to die because of this.

In a recent correspondence, Dr. Bruce Maccabee reminded me that the same "fear of extinction" arose in 1969 with the release of the Condon report. Everyone thought the scientific study and investigation of UFOs was forever gone. Instead, the field continued to gain momentum throughout the '70s. Dr. Maccabee said, "The problem with 'bad press' as a result of 'UFOloony' has plagued the careful study of UFO phenomena since the beginning." He makes some suggestions as to what can we do about it.

* Anticipate the garbage to be thrown and try to counteract it in advance.

* Be patient with reporters, but assume they are out to create a story that will support them, that is, it has

to sell...and we all know what sells (sex, violence, mystery, scandal, etc., the more the merrier, but not necessarily in that order!).

* Concentrate on *provable* stuff, such as government documents, well researched sightings, etc. (These may not be sexy or violent, but they can lend an air of mystery and.....gulp.... *cover up*, which is a form of scandal; and, yes, the "X-files" are/were real... in a sense!)

* Minimize speculation unless in "good company." (Reporters generally are not "good company", unless you like to see your name appear in print in a less than favorable manner!)

* Hunker down for the long haul. Anti-UFO storms and general stupidities have threatened Ufology numerous times in the past and for better or worse...we're still here!

There will always be people, *within and without the UFO field*, with whom we *don't want* to associate, or from whom we need to dissociate ourselves.. And we go on with our business in spite of them. Yes, the Heaven's Gate affair was a tragedy, but it would have been a tragedy even if there were no UFOs or UFO references involved. In any tragedy there is a tendency to try to place blame — somehow, there is comfort in knowing who or what is responsible and why. In this case only those who chose to leave this world in such a manner are responsible or are to blame, and they are forever silent now.

What would also be a major tragedy is if we let this incident stop or slow down research or flow of information in the UFO field. Any setback because of the Heaven's Gate affair will be temporary. It's how we, as UFO researchers and interest groups, react to it that will determine

if those setbacks are irreparable. Instead of [hiding] we should be speaking out even louder against dangerous cults of any kind. We must make it absolutely clear that the serious ufologist is not involved in cult activity — this is *not* what UFO research is all about.

We can't change what people believe in. However, people can and do change their own beliefs according to the information that is available to them. If we can offer facts — if we can be straight forward, and give them the chance to make informed decisions, we are doing the best we can.

We should be pushing our noses even more to the grindstone, and searching even harder for answers. We must raise the public's awareness to the serious research going on in the UFO field. The last thing we need is to give the impression that we give up when the going gets tough. No, we are not responsible for what happened to the Heaven's Gate members, but we are responsible for what we do next.

With thanks to Dr. Bruce Maccabee

Horses Run Amok in Holland!

According to the Dutch newspaper *Brabant's Dagblad*, "A group of ten horses were shocked enormously...by something in the sand dunes near Udenhout. The horses ran off and left the children, who had been riding them, behind. At the same time, another horse, hitched to a wagon ran away." In yet another town, citizens reported a horse running in the street. "We haven't seen anything like this in years," said local veterinarians, "Must be something in the air..." !!!

REVIEW

by Craig R. Lang

The last week of May represented somewhat of a hiatus from the subject of UFO's for my wife and me. Instead of discussions of "them coming here", the topic of the day was "us going there" — the human exploration of space.

The National Space Society's International Space Development Conference (ISDC 97) was a fascinating week of talks on such diverse topics as Mars exploration, the origin of life, NASA politics and funding, the history of rocketry, and last but not least, suggestions of a possible breakthrough in antigravity physics.

I spent much of the conference in the "Mars" series of lectures. These included a Plenary address by Robert Zubrin — author of "The Case for Mars", on his "Mars Direct" concept, an inexpensive (relatively) mission plan to conduct sustained exploration of Mars using existing technology, within NASA's foreseeable budget constraints. The "Mars" talks also included one on the details and origin of the "Mars meteorite", along with one on the status and details of the ongoing Mars Pathfinder and Mars Global Surveyor missions. I also attended a talk on future plans for Mars exploration — which was presented by David Kaplan, the project engineer for the Mars sample return mission, to be conducted in approximately the 2005 to 2008. This is a precursor mission to test much of the technology for anticipated human trips to Mars, which are currently planned to begin in 2012 to 2015.

Another lecture which I attended was a panel discussion on space exploration and the social sciences. This addressed questions such as: What will the politics of space be like? for example what will the political allegiances be of people born and raised on Mars, or on L5. It also addressed the question of how to reconcile the concepts of "limits to growth" on an Earth populated to capacity, with a dynamic and expanding space frontier. The speaker made the point that Earth society in the 21st century will require a space frontier — while obviously, maintenance of the "life support system of Spaceship Earth" must be a top priority. The speaker stressed that in our civilization of the next century, the environment can not be maintained without a human presence in space.

In all of the sessions I attended, probably the most profound was the talk on "Gravity Modification", by Dr. Ning Li, a physicist at the University of Alabama, Huntsville. Dr. Li described experiments which she is conducting to reproduce apparent "antigravity" effects reported by a research team in Finland. Much of her research is based upon Dr. Hal Puthoff's theories of zero point energy and gravitational/electromagnetic coupling. The presentation was very low-key and very abstract. Most (including me) could not follow it fully. But the implications were not lost on any of us. If her experiments are successful, it could mean that antigravity is an attainable reality. This would mean the eventual end of the need for gigantic rockets to launch even

modest sized objects into space (for every pound launched into space, roughly nine pounds of rocket fuel/oxidant are required). For a society dedicated to the human exploration of space, the possibility of easy escape from Earth's gravity would be a dream come true.

I came away from this conference with a profound sense of hope. *Things are happening.* Humans are going to space to stay. We are going to Mars — and beyond. For someone like me, who was raised during the "space race" and grew up with science fiction by George Pal, Irwin Allen and Gene Roddenberry, the idea that human exploration of the planets might still occur in my lifetime is indeed a reason for hope and excitement.



**Open
WIDE!**

Having a tough time trying to swallow the military's lame explanations of what happened in Roswell, NM 50 years ago? Let's see, back in '47, the alleged crashed "alien craft" was really a weather balloon. In September 1994, after the investigation ordered by the GAO, we were told that the weather balloon was a secret project called "Mogul." Now, a book being published by the General Printing Office says the Mogul was a Fugo! And just this past week the USAF announced that the "aliens" were really crash test dummies — yet the "Drop the Dummies" project happened 6 years later!

Yup — pretty tough to swallow, isn't it?!!!

CROP CIRCLES IN THE SKY

George Reynolds of Maryland, contacted Minnesota MUFON's Bob Schulz via the MUFON Ham Radio Net on Saturday, June 21 to report some recent, very unusual happenings.

Reynolds said there have been a number of reported sightings of cloud circles in the sky. They do not have the fuzzy edges normally associated with clouds. Rather, they have very sharp edges — witnesses describe them as looking "as though a cookie cutter had cut them out!"

One Dr. P... from the University of Delaware, looked up in the sky on May 30, 11:30 AM and noticed the cloud circles. He rushed out to buy a throw-away camera and managed to get a few photos. The clouds were visible for 45 minutes! Reportedly, a scientist from the university was able to video tape the circles but Reynolds has not yet been able to view the tape.

Two radio stations — Elkton and Wilmington, Delaware — contacted Reynolds for interviews regarding the cloud circles. Hearing the story repeated on the air, a prominent astronomer (known by Reynolds) called in and said he saw those same cloud formations on that same Friday morning over Washington, DC!

Reynolds contacted Nancy Talbot of the famed BLT Research Lab and she said the clouds had also been sighted in Gulf Breeze, New Hampshire and Iowa. The Gulf Breeze formations had appeared at night.

Although there are no answers, Bob suggests "Sounds like a portal to a parallel universe ala 'Sliders'!" Either that, or Doug and Dave have passed on to the Big Cornfield on High... Hmm!

GHOST PLANE CRASHES AGAIN...AND AGAIN...AND AGAIN

The Emergency services were left baffled after being called out to a reported aircraft crash on a remote Yorkshire moor which left no apparent wreckage. On the night of 24 March 1997, a number of witnesses reported seeing a twin-engined aircraft crash and explode. A Sea King from 202

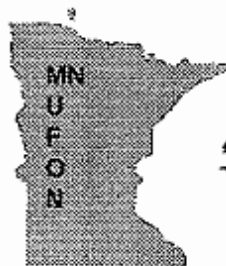


Squadron at Leconfield took part in the search which involved 150 police and

mountain rescue team personnel. The operation was called off after 24 hours.

Since a fatal Dakota crash in 1945, a number of mysterious sightings involving phantom aircraft have been reported over the years. One paranormal investigator told a TV crew reporting on the phenomena: "There's nothing supernatural about this. The ghost 'image' of the Dakota is merely a form of electromagnetism between 380 and 440 millimicrons of the infrared spectrum. When weather conditions are exactly right, the spectral plane reappears again to fly its last mission."

Contributed by Robert Engberg



SIGHTING REPORT

A UFO was sighted Monday, June 16, at 11:10 PM near St. Hilaire, MN. St. Hilaire is located south of Thief River Falls in the northwestern part of the state.

Three Newfolden young women spotted the UFO as they were driving west on County Road 3, coming from Grand Forks, ND. The UFO

followed adjacent to their car, about 300 feet from it, as they drove north from St. Hilaire to Thief River Falls. They were driving at 60 mph and the UFO kept pace with the car for about three miles.

Other drivers also saw the UFO, but none have come forward.

The 21-year-old driver contacted Pennington and Marshall County

sheriff's departments. The National Weather Service and the Grand Forks Air Force base had no reports of the UFO as of the writing of the sighting.

The UFO was reported to be a 100-foot disc bright enough to light up the immediate area. It was of a shiny silver metal with windows around it and a red light at the rear.

This information was contained in the June 18, 1997 issue of the Grand Forks Herald.

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call 1-800-836-2166



MUFONET: 7.237 MHz
7:00 AM, CST, Saturdays
Bob Schutz, Net Control

Visit the MN MUFON WEB PAGE:
<http://www.wavefront.com/~jhenry/index.html>
Joel Henry, Master of the Web

Field Investigator Update: June 1997 -

by Craig R. Lang, FI Coordinator

It's been "business as usual" during the months of April and May with the sighting reports coming in at a steady pace. A lot of these have turned into investigations, a significant number of which have turned up some major unknowns.

Many sighting reports come to us through the MN MUFON web site. Others are brought to our attention through a letter or phone call to a member of MN MUFON. Occasionally, a sighting or two comes to us through official channels, such as from the National UFO Reporting Center. However, by far the major source of sighting reports comes to us by word-of-mouth — learning of a sighting from a friend, co-worker, or relative. And in fact, in the past few months, I've found these "informal" channels to be the most productive.

It is suggested that up to 90% of all UFO sightings are never reported. I'm sure each of us has learned of one or more people who, we were surprised to hear, has seen a UFO. We often find out about these during casual conversation — often involving people with whom we'd never associate with UFO phenomena. I sometimes refer to these cases as "accidental" sighting reports, and they are frequently extremely reliable. Several significant leads of the "accidental" variety concerning sightings have come to my personal attention, and one is the subject of a major investigation now in progress.

Most new sightings, on-going investigations and completed case reports are listed on the MN MUFON web site. Please feel free to check there for the latest info. Also, if anyone has additional information on sightings, or has a UFO sighting or experience to report, please contact one of the Minnesota MUFON field investigators, let us know via the Minnesota MUFON web site, or contact MUFON via the UFO hotline at: 1-800-UFO-2166.

For those interested in becoming a field investigator, classes are conducted approximately three times a year, when sufficient interest is indicated. If you have the interest, the necessary time, energy and objectivity, please contact Craig Lang (e-mail: crlang@mm.com, ph#: 560-1532).

Happy investigating...

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

Contacts: Jeff Rafferty 493-9060 Bob Bartholomew 420-4137

MUFON 1997 UFO SYMPOSIUM

MUFON's 28th International UFO Symposium will be held
July 11, 12, and 13 at the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel in
Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Plus many more national and local speakers!

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