

MUFON NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

• NEWSLETTER •

Mutual UFO Network, Inc. • Northern California Affiliate • March 1994

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR:

Response to the premier issue of the *MUFON Northern California Newsletter* has been very positive. I'd like to take this opportunity as editor to thank the people who have contributed to the newsletter in the way of material, ideas and words of encouragement. I'd also like to continue to take advantage of the various areas of expertise represented by our MUFON membership, and encourage our readers to submit material that may offer others new insight into the UFO phenomenon. We would like to see book or video reviews submitted, as few of us have time to read or view everything significant that's new in the field of ufology. Please refer to the gray-shaded box on page 12 for more information on newsletter contributions.



Last, but not least, welcome to Laura Steiger, who has joined our editorial staff as Assistant Newsletter Editor.

- Kathi Hennesey, Newsletter Editor

MARCH MEETING TO FEATURE TED OLIPHANT...

On Sunday, March 27, Ted Oliphant will make a special presentation at the MUFON Northern California general meeting in San Jose. Ted sent some biographical information to Ruben Uriarte, our Assistant State Director, and has given his permission for it to be reprinted in our newsletter. Thank you, Ted!

I've been involved in Media Communications since 1978. I've been employed at KPIX, KFRC, KBHK and KALX radio and television stations and I've also worked as a broadcaster in Michigan and in Frankfurt, Germany, where I worked for the American Forces Network. From 1986 to 1988, I was a public affairs spokesman for the Strategic Air Command. I became interested in the subject of UFOs shortly before I left the Air Force, not as a result of anything I learned on duty, but because many friends in my home

town told me their UFO stories. It was at their urging that I travelled across country to produce my first documentary, "UFOs: A Need to Know."

During the filming of that documentary, I witnessed a UFO myself in the deserts near Rachel, Nevada, and in the Appalachian Mountains of Fyffe, Alabama. It was the sighting of a large illuminated orb of some hundred feet in diameter in Fyffe that made me realize that the witnesses really were seeing something.

I moved to Fyffe, Alabama in December of 1990. Most of the witnesses were police officers, so I spent a lot of time with them riding in their patrol cars at night and soon many of the local officers had become close, personal friends of mine. A previous interest in law enforcement resurfaced on my part and I was hired as a police radio dispatcher in August of that year; a few months later in September, I was hired as a police officer and graduated from the North East Alabama Police Academy on February 28th of 1992.

Throughout my first year in Fyffe, there had been several scattered reports of strange lights in the sky from various communities, and as was typical, many of the witnesses were law enforcement professionals.

In October of 1992, several cattle mutilations were reported in Marshall County, 20 miles south of Fyffe.

- See OLIPHANT, p. 11

INSIDE...	
	<u>Page</u>
<i>Review</i>	2
<i>Training Notes</i>	4
<i>In the News</i>	5
<i>Articles: Coast Weekly/Part II</i>	6
<i>Magazines Feature UFO's</i>	8
<i>Case Summaries</i>	9
<i>Operation Right to Know Update</i>	11
<i>Calendar</i>	12

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REVIEW . . .

You Should Have Your Head Examined!

by Bufo Calvin

"Crackpots and dreamers...that's who reports UFO sightings."

We've all heard that argument, or at least seen the disparaging eyeroll which seems to say the same thing. Fortunately, a recent study¹ published in the *Journal of Abnormal Psychology*² provides us with a good defense, while giving us additional insight into the personality profile of UFO reporters.

This work, conducted using proper scientific methodology, tends to substantiate the belief that people who have had UFO encounters are not crazy...or at least no crazier than the general population. They also are not more particularly prone to fantasize, more easily hypnotized, nor do they demonstrate signs of temporal lobe problems.

This element of "not being crazy" was what I initially saw reported in the mainstream news media, including CNN. Although it is one important conclusion of the study, there are other indications which are worth summarizing. I certainly recommend the original article to anyone who wants to get really in depth on it. Be prepared for an academic paper. I had to take a crash course in statistics to get a better grip on some of it.

The study takes four groups of people and gives them various tests. The results of these tests indicate certain differences in the groups. The four classifications of people were: UFO non-Intense (pretty much observers of Nocturnal Lights); UFO Intense (UFO percipients beyond that, going from people who saw one close-up through physical contact, boarding the craft, telepathic contact, etc.); a group intended to represent the general population; and a group of introductory psychology students.

The twenty tests included various different factors: intelligence; self-esteem; schizophrenia; social potency; fantasy proneness; UFO beliefs; other "exotic" beliefs; hypnotizability; etc.

Interviews were also conducted with the members of the two UFO groups to get some information about the nature of the experience, and the experiencers' impressions of it.

So, what do we get out of all this? For one, we get a sense of how the four groups differ, giving us some clues about the element of the UFO phenomenon which we are best able to examine: the human beings reporting it. For another, we see what conclusions are drawn by the study. Third, we get to apply our own interpretations and make our own speculations on what the data mean.

This last is important, because we bring a different perspective to the analysis. In their first paragraph, the authors indicate that they do not consider the extra-terrestrial hypothesis as confirmed. While I and many other students of the phenomenon would certainly agree, it appears that they have taken this position without as thorough a survey of the literature as might reasonably be considered warranted. In their extensive list of references, there are

only two full books cited which can be considered general assessments of the UFO phenomenon. These are *UFOs Explained* by Philip Klass, and *The UFO Verdict: Examining the Evidence* by Robert Sheaffer. Both authors are certainly apt analysts, however they are undeniably associated with the skeptical point of view. Indeed, Klass publishes the recommended *Skeptics UFO Newsletter*³. Additionally, both books were published by the same house, Prometheus, which limits the perspective. Other sources listed deal either with specific elements of ufology, with the abduction phenomenon, or with psychology. For instance, while *UFOs: A Scientific Debate*, edited by Page and Sagan was consulted, only the chapter on Psychiatry and UFOs is cited. It would have given more weight to their lack of endorsement of a physical nature to UFO sightings if they had surveyed a greater portion of published material, particularly that which presents a differing viewpoint⁴. Being psychiatrists and/or psychologists, they have, not surprisingly, sought to find the answers in those disciplines. The same is often true of engineers, or military people, or mystics. There is a natural tendency to approach a problem from the position of one's greatest strength, whatever that might be. As a Fortean, I try to keep myself open to all possibilities.

Now, onto what the study says:

1. The UFO experiencers were more likely to believe in UFOs than the control groups. This is not too surprising. However, it is important to note that the study could not determine whether this belief existed prior to the experience. If it was pre-existing, it might be reasonable to postulate that this predisposition might enable someone to identify something as a UFO experience which another person might not. This can mean that they falsely identify another type of stimulus as a UFO. It can also mean that a non-believer might observe a UFO and consider it to be something else! For instance, I knew a mathematician who told me that he had twice seen things which appeared to him to be UFOs. In both cases, he convinced himself that he had seen *nothing*. This is particularly interesting in light of the fact that he told me both had turned out to have a mundane explanation, so he had in fact seen something.

2. The UFO experiencers were more likely to hold other "exotic beliefs," such as a belief in past lives (which is only an exotic belief in this culture). If the UFO event predated the positive assessments of other strange phenomena, it may be that seeing something which you have been told does not exist may open one up to questioning other authoritative assertions. It may also be that the person was "more gullible" to begin with.

3. The UFO experiencers were actually "better-adjusted" than the control groups! In particular, they were less likely

to view the world as hostile, and they had less stress. The authors of the study suggest this may relate to a feeling of being cared for by a superior being. For people who consider their UFO experience to be positive, this could certainly be true.

4. The UFO non-intense group, those seeing lights in the sky, scored significantly higher on the Intelligence test than the other three groups. This finding becomes more intriguing when contrasted with the Paranormal Experience scores. The authors of the study say that there was no real difference between the four groups in reporting paranormal experiences. To the untutored eye, the UFO nonintense group seems to have scored noticeably lower. The scores given were: UFO intense, M. of 42.2, with a Standard Deviation of 29.7; UFO nonintense, M. of 34.4, with a Standard Deviation of 28.7; Community group, 40.9, with a Standard Deviation of 33.2; and the Student group, with a score of 40.0 and a Standard Deviation of 33.2. If this does indicate that the UFO nonintense group reported fewer psychic happenings, and yet had higher intelligence scores, it fits in with the view that psychic abilities are intuitive rather than intellectual. It also may mean that they were somehow deficient in "psychic abilities." If this was true, it might be interesting to speculate that their nonintense experience might have become an intense one if they were more "normally psychic."

5. The UFO experiencers, as mentioned above, showed no more signs of psychopathology than the control groups...they weren't nuts. They also weren't more fantasy prone, more easily hypnotized, or more likely to have temporal lobe dysfunction.

6. The two UFO groups differed somewhat in their experiences. While both groups had about 80% of their encounters at night, the intense group also had about 60% of them which involved sleep...waking up, falling asleep, etc. The authors conclude that some of these events may involve sleep paralysis, and that the experiencers may not be as able to properly assess external stimuli while in a sleep-related state. While these are valid hypotheses, they do not cover an obvious fact if the events have a physical basis. An intense experience would be far more likely to interfere with sleep than a nonintense one. If you were already asleep, distant lights in the sky wouldn't be likely to wake you up, but a bright light from a nearby object (or for that matter, an "alien" tapping you on the shoulder) might.

7. The two UFO groups also differed in their interpretation of the events. While both groups about equally identified the event as positive, the intense group was far more likely to view it as negative. Sleep paralysis is associated with "extreme fear," and so people experiencing it would tend

to be more likely to consider their "encounter" as a bad thing. It is worth noting again that although some people are frightened by viewing lights in the sky, something more intrusive (such as an abduction) with the resultant loss of control over the situation might not be seen as being fun.

8. There were positive correlations between the intensity of the UFO experience and some of the other measures: fantasy-proneness, schizophrenia, perceptual aberration, and temporal lobe lability for some. Remember, though, that none of these scores were particularly high.

The authors conclude their study by saying that, "With respect to UFO experiences, these ideas suggest that beliefs in alien visitation and flying saucers serve as templates against which people shape ambiguous external information, diffuse physical sensations, and vivid imaginings into alien encounters that are experienced as real events." The authors are, of course, in the best position to assess their data. However, it seems to me that this conclusion, while applicable in some cases, doesn't cover a large percentage of those cited in the study (roughly 20% of the events did not occur at night; about 40% of the intense events were not sleep-related). I commend the authors on their thoughtful study, while choosing to find it a bit less condemning of a physical explanation to some sightings than they do.

Notes

1. *Close Encounters: An Examination of UFO Experiences*, by Nicholas P. Spanos, Patricia A. Cross, Kirby Dickson, and Susan C. DuBreuil. Correspondence address: Nicholas P. Spanos, Department of Psychology, Carleton University, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada K1S 5B6.

2. *The Journal of Abnormal Psychology*, 1993, Vol. 102, No. 4, 624-632. Published by the American Psychological Association, Inc., 750 First Street NE, Washington, D.C. 20002-4242.

3. *Skeptics UFO Newsletter (SUN)*, 404 "N" Street, Southwest, Washington, D.C. 20024-3702.

4. Some appropriate authors might include: Jacques Vallee, J. Allen Hynek, Aimé Michel, David R. Saunders, etc.

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Data line: (510) 432-8102 N-7-1 (Registration required). Readers may also be interested in two of his research services: NEARU (National Events by Area Registry of the Unexplained), a listing by county of strange events - UFO sightings included - and TAP (The Address Project), a listing of addresses of researchers in all anomallistic fields.

TRAINING NOTES...



Greetings from T.C.

We had a very good session in Saratoga. Jim McCampbell gave a wonderful presentation on government involvement in the UFO phenomenon and discussed some of the physics involved. Tom Macris, from the San Jose Police Department, their chief forensic artist, gave an extremely informative presentation on working with eyewitnesses and how to best reconstruct visual aspects of a UFO occurrence. Last, but not least, Virgil Staff gave us the tools and procedures we need to utilize when digging in on an investigation - great! The next training session will either be in May or June and at this time I believe we will be talking about the psychological aspects that one should be concerned with when conducting an investigation. Also, it is hoped that we will have an actual investigator go through an investigation from beginning to end. Included will be the tools used, the sources utilized, and the forms that were actually put into use.

This session will be the last until sometime in the fall, as vacations and schedules are usually quite hectic during the summer.

Again, any input anyone has with regard to upcoming sessions, i.e. what they would like to see, would be greatly appreciated.

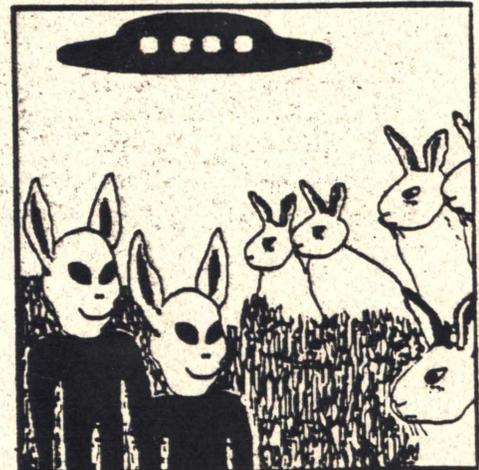
I think that overall the last session was extremely good, and we hope to see at least another 40 people show up at the next session. With regard to location, I have not yet decided, but the Rosebridge School may be utilized once again. Also, there is a possibility that with the help of someone, we might come up with a location in the Sacramento area. Details to follow.

- Les Velez, Training Coordinator

Cartoon from: The Aliens - Cartoons by Olian, reprinted with permission from Wildflower Press, P.O. Box 230893, Tigard, OR 97281

SPRING

1994



IN THE NEWS...



Scientist Finds 2 Planets Outside Our Solar System...

New York (Malcom Ritter, Associated Press)...As Archimedes said, Eureka! A scientist says he has confirmed the existence of two planets orbiting a dense star in the Milky Way Galaxy. They would be the first known planets outside our solar system.

"The thing, to me at least, is a clear-cut case," Alexander Wolszczan of Penn State University said Friday. Other scientists also called the new data convincing.

In 1992, Wolszczan and a colleague said they had found evidence that at least two planets were orbiting an extremely dense star called a pulsar about 1,300 light-years from Earth, in the direction of the constellation Virgo.

A light-year is the distance light travels in one year, about 5.9 trillion miles.

One planet appeared to contain 2.8 times the mass of the Earth, and orbit the pulsar every 98.2 days, at about half the distance between the Earth and sun. The other planet, with at least 3.4 times Earth's mass, appeared to orbit every 66.6 days at just over one-third the distance between the Earth and sun.

The planets have not been seen directly.

But the pulsar sends energy pulses toward Earth, and the evidence for the planets lay in irregularities in the pattern of those pulses. Those irregularities appeared to be caused by the pulsar's being pulled to and fro by the gravity of orbiting planets, the scientists said.

Wolszczan had said more study of the irregularities should show that the planets are tugging gravitationally on each other and so altering their orbits.

On Friday he said such evidence had been found and it "confirms that what we see are planet-sized objects."

Shri Kulkarni, an astronomy professor at the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena, called the new findings scientifically convincing and a triumph for the proposal that the planets exist.

"We know absolutely for sure now that there are planets there," said Frederic Rasio, a theoretical astrophysicist at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, N.J.

Besides the two planets detected originally, the data reveals a moon-sized object orbiting nearer the pulsar, and there may be still more orbiting objects, Wolszczan said. "It sort of looks like a full-blown planetary system around that star," he said.

* * * * *

Private Donors Keep Search for ET Alive...

San Francisco, January 14, 1994...(Associated Press)

Thanks to millions of dollars from private donors, someone will be around to answer when beings on other planets make that important first call to Earth, scientists at the SETI Institute say.

The contributions are compensating for money Congress cut from the Search for ExtraTerrestrial Intelligence Institute three months ago - just one year into its approved 10-year life.

"If you think what it must have been like in the 14th and 15th centuries when Columbus discovered the New World, that's where we'll be," Bernard Oliver, the institute's senior technical expert, said Thursday.

"We will not be able to see these new places, but instead we have the promise of communicating with them," he said.

Congress' decision to cut "Project Phoenix" was a major blow but maybe not a fatal one.

Enough people believe in the project to have raised \$4.4 million of the \$7.3 million needed to keep the quest going for another year.

Donors included science-fiction writer Arthur C. Clarke, Hewlett-Packard Co. co-founders David Packard and William Hewlett, Intel Corp. co-founder and Chairman Gordon Moore, and Paul Allen, co-founder of Microsoft Corp.

Astronomers working on the project describe it as solid basic science, not sci-fi.

"We believe today that most stars have planetary systems. In that case there are hundreds of millions of good Earths in this galaxy alone. And if there are something on the order of a hundred-billion galaxies, it is inconceivable that we are the only living beings in the universe," Oliver said.

Correction

Concerning the final paragraph of the Martin Cannon review in the January 1994 issue of the MUFON Northern California Newsletter, that portion reading "in which no later, known hypothesis was involved" is amended to read: "in which no later known hypothesis was involved." Apologies to writer Virgil Staff!

ARTICLES . . .

COAST WEEKLY ARTICLE/PART II:

In our last issue, we published the first of several installments we've taken from a feature article originally published in the November 4 - 11, 1993 issue of the Coast Weekly, Monterey County's largest circulation newspaper (based in Seaside, California). Because the Coast Weekly is a regional publication, and because the article focused specifically on local UFO activity, we requested and received permission to reproduce it in its entirety for our newsletter readers.

* * * * *

Out of This World...Local contact adds to the national debate about the existence of UFOs...

by Chuck Thurman (Associate Editor, Coast Weekly)

The government denies they exist. Supermarket tabloids make a living from sensational reports about them. And "rational" people don't talk about them in public.

Nevertheless, thousands of people across the country believe that they have either seen or been in contact with beings from outer space. And their experiences, coupled with evidence explored by scientists and the US government, suggest there might be more to the UFO question than mainstream science is willing to acknowledge.

"You bring up something like this and people feel like they not only have to say, 'I don't believe in it,' which is fine with me," says Watsonville resident Anne DeSoto, "but they have to say *you're crazy!*"

Diana Celeste Cornetto, a Santa Clara-based hypnotist, has hypnotically regressed four people who have visited her in the hopes of recalling more of the details surrounding their experiences. Cornetto also works with an ongoing San Jose support group for abductees. Although she makes no personal judgement about whether or not there are visitors to earth from outer space, she is emphatic in defending her clients' sanity.

"The experiences that these people have are very real to them," says Cornetto.

"There's a lot of trauma, it's very emotional and it's very scary. These are people who are very put-together, very credible people. These are people who are very rational.

"Usually what happens when they do come to me, they know they've had an experience and they come to me to find out that they're not crazy. What we do is reassure them that they're not the only ones."

That, alone, makes the subject of UFOs so fascinating. Far from being isolated experiences, there has been a

veritable flood of UFO sightings in the United States, dating back to the mid-1940s. Although the vast majority of those sightings are easily explained through ordinary science and logic, there remains a significant number of sightings that neither government agencies nor mainstream science have been able to explain.

"Although she makes no personal judgement about whether or not there are visitors to earth from outer space, she is emphatic in defending her clients' sanity..."

In his business life, Lester Velez is a Los Gatos business owner who sells electronic parts to Silicon Valley manufacturers. For the last four years, Velez has filled his free hours working as a Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) field investigator. He describes the most common experience related by people who say they've had contact with UFOs.

"The person is driving down the road and a person notices something in the sky and gets closer and closer until suddenly this object is gone. Later, they may find marks on their body that weren't there before, or maybe "suntan" that wasn't there before, some physical mark.

"Under hypnosis, we find the ship did come down. The car dies because of an electromagnetic field. The people get out. They are put in some beam of light. They are escorted by some sort of alien and go on board the ship.

"They are examined - various probes are sent up their nose or ears. Sometimes probes are implanted. Sometimes sperm and egg samples are taken and then the person is taken back out to the vehicle. A short time later they come to consciousness. A lot of times they have no conscious recollection, sometimes they just remember a light."

Under hypnosis, it is also frequently revealed that contactees have had similar circumstances since early childhood. One such contactee is DeSoto.

For years, she had a troubling memory from when she was four years old. "I remember being in a field and seeing a small, wooden house and knowing that I had come there for something. I remember there were a lot of women in the house and they were putting food on this big long wood table. I go past them to where there's a small room and there's a fireplace and there's an old man sitting in front of the fireplace and he's facing it in a rocking chair with a patchwork quilt over his knees and he's just this kind of tall, old man.

"I kinda creep up behind him because I'm a curious little kid. And I tentatively peek around to look at his face and next instant, I am screaming, I just rip away from him and I'm screaming. I just remember looking at his face, not seeing his face. I don't remember his face, even under hypnosis I could not remember his face. I do remember running in cold, bloody terror. The fear was so intense. I wanted to run until I fell off the side of the earth.

"I fell on the ground and I remember being face down on the ground and feeling that I wanted every pore of my being to be sucked into the earth. I just wanted the earth to hold me.

"I lay there for three or four seconds and I became aware that there was someone standing in front of me. So I lift up my eyes. I see these little brown shoes, like they wore in the '50s and you had to polish every week, and these bobby socks and these little legs. Slowly I keep looking up and it's this little boy. He's wearing little shorts and he has blond hair and blue eyes. And he's talking to me but he's not using his mouth, he's just talking to me. He's very gentle. He's talking at me and he knows what's happened and he's saying it's okay, no one's going to hurt me, I just felt this enveloping gentle peace, protective love. It was the most wonderful feeling to go from cold, heart-stopping terror to everything's okay. He reaches out and takes my hand and my memory stops right there. All my life, that has bugged me."

In December 1988, DeSoto underwent another event that ultimately forced her to take a closer look at her previous experience. While driving along West Beach Road near Pajaro Dunes around 5 p.m., DeSoto and her boyfriend had a close encounter.

"We're just driving along and it's clear. All of a sudden we're in an enveloping fog and he's going, 'That's funny.' And I remember going, 'Yeah, that's funny.' And the next thing I know, we're both blank, we are both completely blank, we're like automatons. This is conscious. I remember just sitting there blank, my mind wouldn't work, nothing. At the same time, we're both turning; we're automatons, looking to this field. The fog is about two feet off the ground, and about eight feet off the ground, enshrouded in the fog, is this humongous, gigantic, circular thing in fog totally surrounded by this orange light. We just kind of look at it and turn our heads back to the road."

DeSoto says the total time elapsed was less than 10 seconds and that she and her boyfriend continued to drive during that time. They made an immediate right hand turn on to San Andreas Road to investigate the object only to discover that there was nothing there. "We're just looking at each other, like 'Explain this to me.'"

Four years later, in December of 1992, after DeSoto and her boyfriend had parted ways, she sighted a UFO outside the condominium where she now lives. She called the UFO hotline, where her case was passed along to Kristle Jones and Lester Velez, who investigated the case. After determining that DeSoto had a compelling story to tell, they convinced her to undergo hypnosis with Cometto.

When Cometto asked DeSoto if there was anything she wanted to explore, DeSoto says the primary thing that concerned her was her experience from age four. Although DeSoto says she is still unsure whether or not she was hypnotized, she says the session brought forth a

flood of thereto unrevealed memories. DeSoto recalled the hypnosis session for *Coast Weekly* and the following memories are taken from that account.

She says she remembers the young child escorting her to the forest, then:

"All of a sudden it's there. I see a white thing. It's a ship. I have to admit, a very pretty little ship and it's on the ground. It's this really vanilla, almost see-through white, I wish I could describe it...it's all one piece, this kind of oval shape. Where it opens, it just opens, you can't see a door, it just opens. There are about five beings standing around the door. And it's like they know me and they're waiting for me. There's this one being with *really* long fingers, he's reaching out to touch my hair, I had really soft pretty blond hair, and remember pulling back, feeling "I don't *think* so." DeSoto describes the fingers as being long and frog-like in nature.

"I remember going in. It was dark, cool. I don't really remember a smell, but (when pushed for a recollection), what comes to mind was the way the earth smells when it rains, a nice, comforting smell. There were these lights, pretty little lights. I see a table, I'm really scared, the next thing I know I'm on the table and it's like a block of pewter metal, it was just one piece. I'm just laying on this table. I remember the beings on both sides of me doing something over my middle. I remember these metal things like something from the dentist's. Sort of reminded me of a spider with long legs. And I remember this thin metal thing that is blinking and it has something at the end of it. Like a round thing that almost had a light in it, a different colored-light, it had grippers at the end of it. I just remember them putting this thing in my nose, I was crying and sobbing because they were putting this thing in my nose. I remember them putting a spreader in my throat."

Unwilling to remember the rest of the examination process, DeSoto and Cometto shifted their focus to the night of December 1988 when DeSoto and her boyfriend had their close encounter. Under hypnosis, DeSoto remembered that although her boyfriend's house was only a five-minute drive from where they encountered the ship, they did not arrive home until after 9:30 p.m.

After laying sleeplessly in total dread until approximately 4 a.m., DeSoto says she finally gave up and lay in bed helplessly. Although she does not recall falling asleep, under hypnosis she discovered it was an action-packed few hours between then and the time she got up.

"It's four something in the morning with my arms crossed over my chest and I'm scared out of my mind. I see 'them' start to walk through the wall, just like you would step over a log. I've never heard of this, I've never seen this, I've never read this and I'm like, oh, whoaaa, it's like they're just stepping right through like it's made of air. I just saw 'em coming through and they were the ones I saw as a kid."

"There were about five of the brownish ones and two of

the gray ones. One of the brownish ones is stepping through the wall and our eyes met, and I remember thinking at him, 'What are you doing here?' It was like a split second communication, it's not like I could see an expression but I know that (the being felt) surprise and embarrassment. He went to the end of the bed. I didn't recognize the other ones. People say they all look the same. They don't. You know the difference. If you drew them on paper they'd all look the same, but they're not."

The beings then proceeded to "float" her boyfriend out of the room.

"I saw two grays. The only reason I say they were grays is because I saw part of their face and their eyes scared me. They are skinny, and the brown ones didn't have anything on, they have soft hair. The two gray ones were flopping around in coveralls like painters would wear. Les says, 'What about their eyes, and I'm like I don't want to look at those eyes. They're black, they're deep, it's like you can't see them but they can see into you. They know you. They go over to (DeSoto's boyfriend) and he's like hiding, he's real scared.

"He's laying in a fetal position and they just floated him through the wall. His back is to the ceiling. I remember his eyes they're just wide open terror. And he's screaming. Not audibly. He couldn't move. His soul was screaming, that's the only way I could describe it."

Mr. X is a Pacific Grove resident who spoke about his experiences on the condition of anonymity. Although he hasn't undergone hypnotic regression, he does have conscious memories of *something* strange happening in his life. It bears some unusual similarities with DeSoto's recollections.

"In 1991, I lived in Seaside. In a nutshell, what happened is, I was awakened by my wife looking across the bed, her eyes wide open, at something. She's telling them to 'go away, go away.' I immediately turned to my left to see what she was looking at and this black figure went darting through the wall.

"It was maybe five feet in height and I would almost have to say that it was robed. My mind took a snapshot, a billionth of a second later it was moving, going, gone."

Mr. X says this was neither his first nor his last experience with the unknown. Although he now works with computers (and studies physics as a hobby), he was once working in a restaurant when a man he didn't know came up to him and, according to Mr. X, said, "I feel like I need to tell you. I have been abducted three times, once in Watsonville'...

"What he described to me was driving along and he saw what appeared to be a bullet-shaped water tower above a telephone pole, and there were flames coming down."

The man pulled to the side of the road to find out what was going on, where he met what he described as firemen with large black eyes who told him, "The mother ship will be here, don't worry."

(Editor's note: The Coast Weekly article continues with a totally different tale of E.T. contact as related by Carole Austen, a Carmel resident who describes her experiences. This is where we'll continue next time!)

MAINSTREAM MAGAZINES FEATURE UFOS. . .

Spring has brought a bumper crop of magazines dealing with the UFO phenomenon to millions of readers. Note the circulation numbers for the following magazines, then consider how many of those copies are also passed around, read in doctors' and dentists' offices, etc. Circulation numbers represent monthly (not necessarily for the specific issue cited below) paid copies (subscriptions & single-copy sales). Talk about exposure!

Psychology Today (March/April '94 issue; 257,000 copies) features an article about John Mack ("UFO Abductions: Harvard Prof. Tells All") in which both he and Budd Hopkins are interviewed on their work with alien abductees or experiencers. This article is a prelude to Mack's new book *Abduction*, due to be published April 20. The article digs into the background of a man who is "one of the best and brightest," and who is in the eye of a storm of controversy surrounding the alien abduction phenomenon. Included in this controversy and also examined in the article is the issue of using hypnosis for memory retrieval of alleged alien abductions. Unfortunately, the article virtually ignores the body of consciously-recalled testimony by close encounter experiencers, and the correlations with recall enhanced through hypnosis. The reports of physical after-effects and their correlation to memory recalled consciously or via hypnosis are also brushed aside by the writer after she sees some photos that she deems unconvincing. In spite of its shortcomings, this is a must-read piece for anyone serious about keeping abreast of abduction related issues.

Popular Science (March '94 issue; 1,800,000 copies) features as the cover story, "Secret Air Base," taking a look at the Groom Lake (Nevada) facility, the secrecy surrounding various government projects based there, and plans for the Air Force's land grab of 4,000 acres of public land.

OMNI magazine (April '94 issue; circulation: 711,000 copies) pulls out all the stops with a special issue (complete with an eye-catching red/orange cover): "Special: 50 Years of Close Encounters." Inside, V.P./Editor Keith Ferrell announces "Project Open Book," OMNI's inquiry into the UFO phenomenon.

See MAGAZINES, p. 12

CASE SUMMARIES . . .



by Virgil Staff, State Director,
Northern California

CASE #1

Sometime during the night or early morning hours of September or October, 1987, Beatriz Stedly (pseudonym), of Loomis, California, awakened to find a luminous entity "almost hovering over" the foot of her bed. "She sat straight up and gasped. She felt the entity was observing her. As soon as she gasped, she heard or perceived a sound that she described as being like someone screaming under water. Her attention was drawn to the eye or eyes of the entity. It had one large eye or two big eyes very close together. She stated that 'the eyes very definitely had mass and the mouth was almost protruding and moving as it was talking, just like something talking through...like cellophane...it screamed high pitched, trying to communicate...it was almost like a scream, but it wasn't like a loud audible scream, it was muffled, like an underwater type scream."

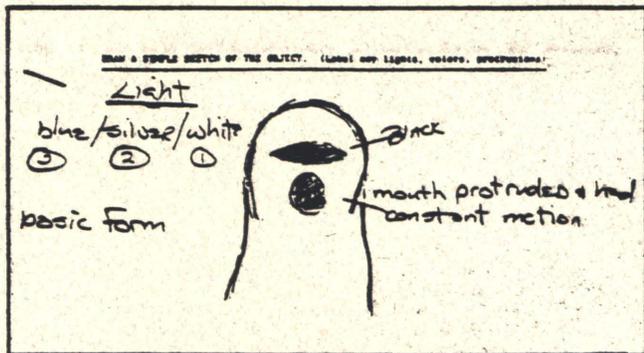


Figure 1: Sketch of Being in Case #1

The Being had no solid form, but rather an almost blue-white-yellow light image. There was form without mass. "I could see that whatever it was, it was contained. I was definitely aware of the mouth and the eye. I looked and I just sat...I was speechless. I was so frightened I couldn't scream, I couldn't speak, and I was aware that my fear had repelled whatever it was. Whatever it was, was not masculine or feminine, but I was aware that whatever it was, was not young...it was...beyond time, it was...it didn't have an age or a gender..."

Beatriz was unsure of how the entity disappeared. "...I want to say it just went backwards. It just kind of disappeared backwards...I mean it didn't go up through the ceiling and it didn't go out through the window, it just went backwards and disappeared somehow."

Two days later, Beatriz met with two other ladies who had frequently met together to compare experiences. One of

the ladies, LA, said, "Did either of you have anything interesting happen this week?" A.B. looked at LA and looked at me and she started in with exactly the same story. She saw the same thing on the same night." And A.B.'s five-year-old daughter had run into her mother's bedroom and experienced the same phenomenon as her mother.

John G. Malone, who investigated this case, found that following this five-second experience, Beatriz has experienced declining health to the extent that her immune system has "become susceptible to dust, molds, and animal hair. She is now a light sleeper, and sometimes wakes to see things 'going across the room.' Sometimes she awakes to find 'people standing next to her bed."

The mouth of the entity was described as "round and protruding, not like lips, but maybe like a funnel. Its shape was described as cylindrical and rounded at the head. It had definite shape without physical borders. The eye(s) was described as very dominant, solid black, as though it were a large pupil with no iris. She believed the entity was observing her and expressing her emotions, mirroring them back to her. It appeared to hover rather than walk. It did not appear mechanical. She definitely perceived it to be telepathic. She felt that it was desperately trying to communicate with her, "but somehow picked up her fear and "was giving it right back to her..." She feels that if she had responded differently, the entity would also have responded differently."

"After she gasped in fear and the entity recoiled and disappeared, she does not remember the rest of the night; she doesn't remember going back to sleep or waking up, or thinking of the experience again until she met with her friends two nights later. In a telephone conversation she told me that the entity had backed up as she gasped and disappeared 'as though a door had closed.'"

Because of conditions beyond our control, this investigation was not completed until 1993. Because contact has been impossible with the other two ladies, this must presently be considered to be a one witness sighting. Our classification and evaluation is Borderline due to incompleteness and withdrawal of subject. We consider this case to be a HumCat Type E; Berliner: Strangeness - 9; Credibility - 3; Coefficient of usefulness - 27; Speiser: Strangeness Factor - S4, Probability Factor - P3; Vallee: AN3; Hynek Rating (Speiser method): 7; Hynek: CE III, Entity encounter with no UFO associated with the reported event.

There is a tendency to classify similar cases as CE III. Such a classification may result from failure to recognize the presence of invisible life forms in our midst. Concerning the apparition, we wrote to the Western Regional Director that "we have classified the event as a CE III, Type E, although such categorization rests on a certain presumption that there must have been an anomalous contrivance in the area at the time." But we have no such evidence, and there is no reason why this apparition could not have been kindred to the spirit world with no need for any type of mechanical

contrivance. This is not to indicate we believe that entities, able to cloak, require or do not require anomalous go-carts. UFOs appear to be transportation devices, and we have reports in Northern California of orbs, in various sizes, that function as conveyances for entities moving about from place to place. But the ability to move with dispatch out of one location is not the same as cloaking, and there should be no presumption that the apparition was extraterrestrial.

CASE #2

Just after sunset, on the evening of October 5, or possibly October 6, 1993, Milicent Tombrey (pseudonym) stepped out onto her deck which provides a spectacular view overlooking Clear Lake. Her home is high on the hill, on the east side of the lake, and she has become accustomed to strange aerial contraptions, and light configurations, passing over the top of her hill.

On this evening, the sun had just set. The splendour of the western sky was emblazoned across the lake, and she ran off four shots with her 35mm Fuji camera. She then put the camera away and went about her normal tasks. On the return of the pictures from the processor, she was shocked to find what she called "13 UFOs on the fourth color negative."

For some six weeks or so she pondered whether or not to inform us of what she had. We met at her home in December, and since that time we have spent considerable time in evaluation. The State Director's evaluation was forwarded to the Western Regional Director on January 5, 1994, and the photograph should shortly receive further evaluation.

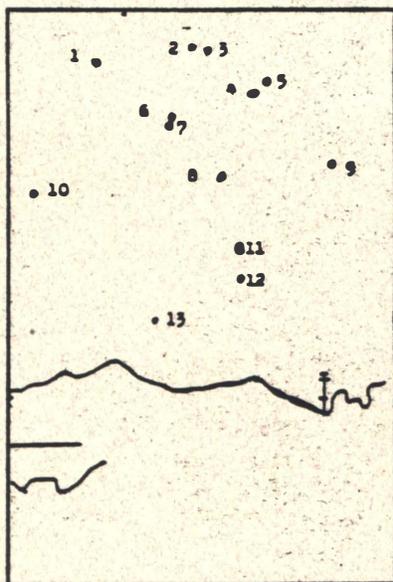


Fig. 2

It should be noted that the aerial luminosities were not noticed by Milicent Tombrey. "Only on receipt of the photographs did she comprehend something of what had been present in the western sky at the time she shot the fourth exposure. The self-luminous sources appear to be above Mount Konocli, but since Konocli is roughly seven miles distant, they are probably this side of the mountain...There is some cloud cover, but the visibility was almost unlimited. The luminous sources appear to be this side of the cloud cover. But they may also be within it."

"It is conceivable, perhaps, that the luminous sources are

dust within the camera that did not appear on the other color negatives. If so, their shape and apparent luminosity is unusual for dust particles, and the smear of luminosity, which tends to indicate some speed beyond the capability of the camera to stop the source, would seem to indicate that we are not here dealing with flying dust."

"It is known that when used in darkness, a camera with an automatic flash may catch the particles of mist in the area, and produce out-of-focus reflections from the water droplets. But the necessary weather conditions for this situation do not seem to have been present. Moreover, one would expect reflections in the darker, lower portion of the photograph. Such reflections are absent." The sun has set and the lake beneath is darkened.

"An exposure employing a wide aperture will produce highlights around a streetlight. The center will look round, but the edges may appear somewhat triangular. Certain of these luminous sources are perceived as somewhat triangular, but it does not seem that these conditions were present this early in the evening."

"A cursory perusal of this photograph seems to indicate at least thirteen" and possibly fourteen "significant luminous sources in the sky above the Clear Lake/Mount Konocli area. Color prints were studied in eleven (11) different densities. Under magnification, all but Nos. 8, 12 and 13 appear to be diamond in configuration, and these too could be diamonds. Number four (4) appears to be composed of two diamonds, and the configuration of Nos. 8 and 13 are not clear. The spread of light within the diamonds,

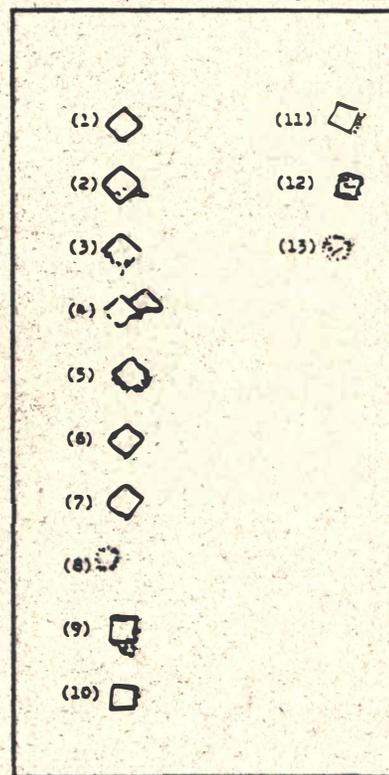


Fig. 3

and outside the basic configuration, indicate that these are not reflections. The sun is behind these light sources, and the terrain below is dark and not likely to be creating reflectance. It is our conclusion that these visual stimuli are composed of extended self-luminous sources. These 13 extended sources are emitting their own luminous energy. They are not reflective of any foreground or background luminance" or reflectance. "Movement may be relatively easy to see, such as with Nos. five (5) and nine (9). All visages, or self-luminous sources, appear in the color negative and are not defects on the print."

"Most of the thirteen (13) extended sources appear to be square or rhombus shaped. Some outlines are rather definite, although most are not sharp. The presumption here is that this condition arises from a tremendous luminous intensity, in addition to movements at speeds beyond the capacity of the shutter to freeze the details."

Our evaluation is Very Significant, Unknown. The following classification is believed to be relevant: Berliner Strangeness Scale: 1; Berliner Credibility Scale: 6; K/U Factor: 6; Speiser Strangeness Factor: S4; Speiser Probability Factor: P4; Hynek Strangeness Rating (Speiser): S4 + P4 = 8; 1993 Vallee SVP Credibility Rating: S4, V3, P2; Gepan: Type C; Arthur Bray: Class II; Ronald Story Sensory Experience: SE1K--Sensory Experience, Physical Construct.

OLIPHANT - from Page 1

Throughout my first year in Fyffe, there had been several scattered reports of strange lights in the sky from various communities, and as was typical, many of the witnesses were law enforcement professionals.

In October of 1992, several cattle mutilations were reported in Marshall County, 20 miles south of Fyffe. Eventually the mutilations started being reported closer to my own DeKalb County where I worked for the Fyffe Police Department.

Because of the film, "UFOs: A Need to Know," many of the locals knew about the cattle mutilations elsewhere and soon many farmers started contacting me directly rather than calling their local police agency.

This created a political situation that would later interfere with various investigations by various law enforcement agencies.

The investigation I lead has recently been included in Linda Moulton Howe's new book, "Glimpses of Other Realities," and in her soon-to-be released documentary, "Strange Harvests 1993." The investigation further received competent coverage by George Knapp. I was also featured in Fox Television's "Sightings" in its season finale, prior to cancellation.

Recently (Saturday, March 6th, 1994) another mutilated cow was discovered. Two weeks earlier, area residents reported the return of unmarked helicopters, seen landing in area cow pastures; one location was where a mutilation occurred in 1993.

During my two hour address to Bay Area MUFON, I will separate fact from fiction in the Fyffe UFO cases and in the pursuant cattle mutilations.

Looking forward to speaking to your group.

Sincerely, Ted Oliphant III

OPERATION RIGHT TO KNOW UPDATE

Michael Jamieson, State Section Director for Napa and one of the founders of Operation Right to Know, submitted the following update on a letter writing campaign that's one of ORTK's current projects.

Operation Right to Know has initiated a letter writing campaign - targeting at first several members of the House of Representatives - to encourage support for the recently announced G.A.O. inquiry of the Roswell case.

Specifically, ORTK suggest that people write to express their support for this inquiry and also to recommend two courses of action for members of Congress:

- 1) Review and confirm the extensive testimony and records related to the Roswell event.
- 2) Begin an attempt to identify federal expenditures within the military and intelligence portions of present and past budgets that have been directed to covert and/or classified government operations related to UFOs.

The following persons have been targeted for this ORTK letter writing campaign:

- 1) General Accounting Office
Comptroller General
Charles Bowsher
441 G St. NW
Washington, D.C.
- 2) Speaker of the House
Hon. Thomas S. Foley
- 3) Chairman of the House Government Operations Committee
- 4) Ranking Republican for Government Operations
Hon. William F. Clinger
- 5) Chairman of the House Armed Services Committee
Hon. Ronald V. Dellums
- 6) Ranking Republican for Armed Services
Hon. Floyd D. Spence
- 7) Chairman of House Select Committee on Intelligence
Hon. Dan Glickman
- 8) Ranking Republican on House Select Committee on Intelligence
Hon. Larry Combest
- 9) Member of Congress whose efforts resulted in G.A.O. Inquiry, Hon. Steven H. Schiff

Address letters to members as follows:

The Honorable _____
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

- See ORTK, p. 12

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



April 22 - 24, S.F. Whole Life Expo, Fashion Center, 8th & Townsend, San Francisco: Speakers scheduled to date include Travis Walton (appearing 4/23), Colin Andrews, Linda Moulton Howe, Dan Drasin, John West, Stanley McDaniels, Brian O'Leary, Zecharia Sitchin. For more information, call: (415) 721-2484.

March 27, 1994: MUFON Northern California General Meeting. Location: Divine Science Church, 1540 Hicks Ave., San Jose, 1 - 4:30 p.m. Ted Oliphant will be featured speaker, along with media updates, announcements, case summaries and more. \$3.00 charge.

May 28/29 (9 am to 5 pm), Advanced Hypnotherapy Training: "Regression Work with Extra-Terrestrial Contactees and Abductees," HCH, Lafayette, CA: The Hypnosis Clearing House presents Barbara Lamb, M.S., MFCC, who will give a workshop designed to acquaint certified hypnotherapists with evidence of ET/human interaction, and will train them to do important regression therapy work with clients disturbed by their close encounter experiences. For more information, call: (510) 283-3941.

July 8 - 10, 1994: The 1994 MUFON International UFO Symposium, "UFOLOGY: A Historical Perspective." (Silver Anniversary) Hyatt Austin Regency Hotel on Town Lake, Austin, Texas. Speakers planned include Robert Dean, Yvonne Smith, Richard Haines, Karla Turner, Michael Lindemann, George Wingfield, James Harder, Richard Hall, George Knapp, Barry Downing, Vladimir Rubtsov, and John Schuessler. See *MUFON UFO Journals* for more info.

Also look for...Dr. John Mack's new book, Abduction, scheduled be out April 20. To promote the book, Dr. Mack will be appearing on various television and radio shows, including the television program "48 Hours," currently in production. He is tentatively scheduled to come to the San Francisco Bay Area in the beginning of May as part of the publicity tour, however at press time we had no particulars. Several chapter members are reading advance copies of Dr. Mack's book and we hope to have a review written up. In the meantime, to learn more about the man and his work, beg, borrow or buy the March/April issue of *Psychology Today*.

MAGAZINES, from p. 8

OMNI states that Project Open Book is designed as a clearinghouse for hard, documented information about alien encounters and especially about government coverups of

alleged encounters.

OMNI's editorial staff felt it was time to "open the topic of UFOs to the hard light of rational scientific and journalistic inquiry."

So begins a multi-part series, to unfold over the next few months, that will look back at 50 years of coverup and also opens up two avenues to promote present and future progress in the field of ufology. First, OMNI invites its readers to submit hard evidence by mail. The second avenue is via the establishment of an on-line (computer) arena where readers can engage in debate, share information and network with other parties interested in UFO phenomena. This all sounds great, but is this really something new?? Will OMNI make the big breakthrough?

Some comments...a cursory look at the various articles reveals no "surprises" for those who keep up with the literature in ufology. *MUFON UFO Journal's* Editor, Dennis Stacy, writes an excellent kick-off article on attempts to pry information loose from the government, along with some resources for those who want to pursue this topic. The abduction article is somewhat of a disappointment, as it is mostly recycled information on the Linda Cortile case. Otherwise, this is a great issue to share with family, friends, co-workers, etc. who want a crash course on some of the hot issues in ufology today.

ORTK, from p. 11

ORTK is also encouraging everyone to write to their own Congressional representatives. Finally, if a member of Congress responds with any request for further information, please notify Fred Whiting of the Fund for UFO Research. Mr. Whiting has prepared an updated briefing on the Roswell case for members of Congress.

Attention: Do you have any favorite "Far Side" (by Gary Larson) cartoons dealing with UFOs - preferably very clear copies? We are requesting legal permission to reproduce (4) cartoons of our choice in the newsletter. Send your gems to the P.O. box shown below. Thanks!

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