



## IN THIS ISSUE

- Page #2 - Communiques and Bits N' Pieces.  
Page #3 - Exeter Revisited!  
Page #5 - Some Questions and Answers posed at Exeter, NH Conference.  
Page #7 - Pease AFB Overflight - The Exeter Connection!  
Page #8 - Blue Book listing 1-5 SPT. 1965.  
Page #9 - Letter to Moore & Shandera from Stan Friedman.  
Page #10 - MUFON An Organization At Risk! Hardly  
by: Dan Wright.  
Page #12 - UFO Cover-Up? Alive And Still Crazy After All These Years. By: Dr. Richard Crowe (Part 2).

\*\*\*\*\*

The Thing At Exeter.

"It was silent. No hum. Nothing. Just moving through the air silently. And the light, so bright it lighted up the whole field."



## COMMUNIQUES AND BITS N' PIECES

In this issue - we again are carrying a little of something for everybody. Much of what is published here deals with an event that took place twenty-five years ago - The Incident At Exeter. This case is one that still remains, after close scrutiny by both government and civilian investigators, unidentified. (Refer to USAF Blue Book, 1 - 5 SPT. '65 listing, on p. #8.)

There has been alot of television coverage, most have been appearances by Howard Blum promoting his book, Out There. The reviews on his book have been everything but mixed. In fact, it seems at this present time, only the NY Times Book Review (9 Spt. '90) has said much in favor it. In my opinion, the book's greatest deficiency is that it reads like a fictitious 'spy vs. spy' novel. Either through sloppiness or lack of 'true facts', Blum's effort to bringforth the revelation that the government/MJ-12 UFO cover-up and its UFO Working Group is wholeheartedly trying to get to the bottom of the UFO picture, falls way short of the finish line. The book does not carry both sides of the MJ-12 controversy, but instead, the author dives into his research with shallowness, reflecting numerous descrepencies throughout. Reads like a spy novel and hopefully we will not hear the book 'uncovered the truth', too much longer.

Unsolved Mysteries (NBC) aired an intriguing segment (19 Spt.'90) on the Kecksburg object. Some of the people involved in finding the downed object were interviewed and gave interesting testimony on what went on in there quite town, 25 years ago. According to a few clippings from the PA. Association for the Study of the Unexplained, sent by Director Stan Gordon, a few residents were displeased that this segment was aired because they say nothing fell out of the sky. James Romansky, of Derry, publicly came forward a few weeks ago to tell his story. He claims just before sundown on Dec 9, 1965, a few witnesses reported seeing a fiery object streak across the sky over Michigan, the tip of Ontario, and western Lake Erie, and landed in a wooded area near Kecksburg. He described the object as 8 feet in diameter, 12 feet long and acorn shaped. Other witnesses said an empty military transport truck drove to the scene and left sometime later with a tarpaulin covered object on the back.

There was a multiple witness report from the Ashbee, MA. area on 6 Oct. 1990. According to C.D., of Ashbee, at approximately 2330 hrs. she heard a low rumbling sound. She thought it was a possible earthquake. Subsequently, E.M, her mother, telephoned her from Lunenburg to explain that she to heard a low rumbling noise, directly over her house, and dashed to the window in time to notice white sparks falling from the sky. C.D. received another call, from a cousin in Dunstable, MA. regarding the low rumbling noise. E.M., the mother, described the rumbling noise as metallic sounding which ended abruptly. A follow-up interview is pending.

Correction is needed - Regarding Jennie Zeidman's resignation published in Orbiter #25, for the record, CUFOS board member Jennie Zeidman did not resign from MUFON totally. She still remains a basic member and the GB case was not her primary reason for resigning from MUFON's Board of Directors.

From the letter Box - I have reprinted a letter which has been circulating throughout most of the UFO community. The letter is authored by Stan Friedman and addressed to his now 'ex-colleagues'- Bill Moore & Jamie Shandera. It appears that considerable problems have surfaced at the Fair Witness Project and is having an effect, of sorts, on the refreshing research being done by CUFOS's Schmitt and Randle on the Roswell incident. I believe we will be hearing more on these new developments and Stan would like the readers of this newsletter to be aware that his "Final Report On Operation MJ-12" (104 p.) is obtainable for \$12.00, including postage, to Stan Friedman, POB 958, Houlton, ME. 04730, USA.

## EXETER REVISITED!

This past Sept. 3rd, 1990, marked the 25th anniversary of the UFO Incident at Exeter. The New Hampshire case was made prominent in the annals of UFO history, by John Fuller, through his book, Incident At Exeter (G.P. Putnam's Sons, NY. 1966).

Twenty-five years ago, (3 SPT.'65) at approximately 2.24 a.m., a shocked Norman Muscarello entered the Exeter police station. He reported to Patrolman Reginald (Scratch) Toland, working the desk, that he was hitchhiking north on route #150, from Amesbury, MA., to his home in Exeter. It was 2 a.m., the traffic was sparse, when he was passing an open field near Kensington, NH., a huge object came out of the sky and moved directly toward him. Muscarello called it "The Thing" and described it as being 80' - 90' in diameter and had brilliant pulsating red lights outlining an apparent rim. It wobbled and yawed as it maneuvered toward him, making no noise whatsoever. He felt he needed to protect himself and dived into the shallow shoulder of the road.

He watched the object back off and drift over a nearby house. When it backed off further he then ran to one of the houses and began banging on the door, the occupants of the house did not answer thinking it may be a drunk. At that moment he ran frantically to the road and waved down a car which drove him to the Exeter police station.

Toland was impressed with Muscarello's sincerity and called cruiser #21, driven by Patrolman Eugene Bertrand, to the station. Upon his arrival Bertrand, an Air Force veteran with experience in air to air refueling on KC-97 Tankers, remarked that he had just discovered a distraught woman parked on a by-pass on Rt. #101. The woman told him of a huge, silent airborne object, with flashing red lights had trailed her from the town of Epping, nine miles away, and came within a few feet of her car.

Toland directed Bertrand to go back to the field where Muscarello was frightened. Bertrand was still trying to calm him. He parked his cruiser and they both walked down the sloping field, Bertrand was probing the trees in the distance with his flashlight. The night was clear, moonless, and warm. There was no wind, and the stars were brilliant. They reached the fence of the corral and still saw nothing, and Bertrand tried to convince Muscarello that he must of seen a helicopter. Muscarello insisted he was familiar with all kinds of conventional aircraft and would have recognized a helicopter.

Then, as Bertrand turned his back to the corral to shine his light toward the tree line north of them, the horses at the Dining farm began kicking and whinnying. Dogs in the nearby houses began howling. Muscarello screamed, "I see it! I see it!"

Bertrand turned, looked toward the trees beyond the corral. Rising up slowly from behind two tall pines was a brilliant roundish object. It made no sound. It moved toward them like a leaf fluttering from a tree, wobbling and yawing as it did so. The entire area was bathed in brilliant red light. The white sides of Carl Dining's house turned blood red. Bertrand reached for his .38, then thought better of it and shoved the gun back in its holster. Afraid of infrared rays he grabbed Muscarello and yanked him towards his cruiser.

Bertrand called Toland at the Exeter station. "My God," he shouted, "I see the damn thing myself!"

Under the half-protection of the cruiser roof, Bertrand and Muscarello watched the object hover. It was about 100 feet above them, about a football-fields distance away. The pulsating red lights seemed to dim from left to right, in a 5-4-3-2-1-, then 1-2-3-4-5 pattern, taking about two seconds for each cycle.

After several minutes, the object began moving slowly eastward, toward Hampton. Its movement was erratic, defying all conventional aerodynamic patterns. "It darted," says Bertrand. "It could turn on a dime. Then it would slow down."

At that point, Patrolman David Hunt, 26, pulled up in another cruiser. "I could see the fluttering movement," Hunt says. "It was going left to right, between the tops of two big trees. I could see those pulsating lights. I could hear those horses kicking out in the barn there. Those dogs were really howling. Then it started moving, slow like, across the tops of the trees, just above the trees. It was rocking when it did this. A creepy type of look. Airplanes don't do this. After it moved out of sight, toward Hampton, toward the ocean, we waited awhile. A B-47 came over. You could tell the difference. There was no comparison."

David Hunt filed a written report on it, but he will no longer discuss the case.

Moments after the object slid over the trees and out of sight, Toland took a call from an Exeter night operator. "She was all exited", says Toland. "Some man just called her, and she traced the call to one of them outside booths in Hampton, and he was so hysterical he could hardly talk straight. He told her that a flying saucer came right at him, but before he could finish, he was cut off."

The Air Force says that an operation known as "Big Blast" was being conducted by the 8th Air Force in New England that night by B-47 aircraft. It says the "general description of flashing lights is consistent with previous reports of aircraft, refueling operations, or low level photographic missions." But it concedes that the operation had been ended and none of the "Big Blast" aircraft were in the area after 1:35 a.m.

Bertrand says, "We saw something out in that field. It was silent. No hum. Nothing. Just moving through the air silently. And the light, so bright it lighted up the field. There was something there. Dave Hunt and the kid saw it. We weren't all seeing something that wasn't there." (sources: LOOK - 22 Feb. 1966 & 1967).

In observance of the 25th anniversary, of the Incident At Exeter, the Exeter Public Library extended invitations to the general public and held a week long celebration of activities including a presentation on the Exeter case. On September 11th, Reginald "Scratch" Toland, Eugene Bertrand, and NH. UFO researcher Pete Geremia treated a 'standing room only' slide presentation, on the events that occurred on that memorable day. The library staff turned away approximately two hundred people after the two conference rooms were packed.

Regrettably, a couple of days when he was due to arrive in Exeter, for the conference, John Fuller suffered a stroke and was hospitalized in CT.

With the absence of Fuller, Geremia picked up the reins and with never-before-released material gave those in attendance a recreation of the 'Incidents' on that day - 25 years ago. Some of this material was of aerial photography shots from where the object rose. These photos showed great detail of the swampy area and power lines behind the tree line. Additional slides were of landmarks and highways where other encounters occurred on that day.

(Front page print from Readers Digest May 1966. Outer Space Ghost Story By: John Fuller.)

A Thought For The Day:

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle wrote, "When you have eliminated the impossible, whatever remains, however probable, must be the truth."

Some questions and answers posed at The Exeter Conference.  
(PG: Pete Geremia) (EB: Eugene Bertrand) (RT: Reginald 'Scratch'  
Toland) (Q: Question from participant).

Q: "Were there any noises associated with the lights"?

PG: "There were absolutely no noises, I have talked to nobody that heard any noises. In fact, when I interviewed Norman he said when he was crouched down by the side of the road near the stone wall. That everything went dead silent, even the crickets stopped making noise. He said the only thing he could hear was like an internal cough in his head. Everything around him was like a dead silence when this thing floated over the house."

Q: "Do I correctly recall from the book that the object came close enough that the officer felt threatened and was thinking of going for his gun or he grabbed it"?

PG: "You're right it was in the book. Interestingly, in the Keene case the officer was standing next to his car and he had a shot gun in there and one of the people standing next to him said, 'don't you think you ought to get your shot gun'. And he was thinking of going for it to. So it's a natural reaction."

Q: "Where is Norman now? How old is he now, and what is his general impression of what happened twenty five years ago"?

PG: "I don't know how old he is, let's see he was eighteen at the time so probably 43. He lives in Exeter, on Front St. I think he is probably not pleased with the ridicule that sometimes comes down the pike. I really don't know, I can't answer for him. But I think it would be difficult, because sometimes people are cruel."

PG: "There is one question I wanted to ask these law officers here. Have you guys been harrassed or brutalized or whatever inspires the general populations concern about the sighting?"

RT: "Well they made in-fun of us. I didn't see it but Gene (Bertrand) did. One thing I want to tell you. I was on the desk when Muscarello came in and reported it and there were two or three others in there. And this reporter a good friend of mine, who wrote for the Manchester Union and the Portsmouth Herald. And that night and every night, when I was on the desk, he would stop in and see me about 2:30 a.m. or after. And on that night, when this happened, when I sent him (Bertrand) out with Muscarello to look at the place where the 'thing' was in the field. Well, I saw this guy drive up (the reporter) on a motorcycle. He had a big helmet on with glasses, gloves on and a big jacket. So, when he came into the office, I jumped under the desk!"

Participants had a good laugh!!

RT: "The reporter said, what's the matter with him, I said oh I thought you were one of them!" (laughter)

RT: "When the story broke, he told me he was acquainted with every pilot at Portsmouth, airfield. He said everyone of them have been in on chases, where they chased UFOs and government keeps denying it. Because he says it's true and everyone of them will tell you, but they won't tell you outside because they don't want to be in trouble. That actually happened."

PG: "I think the anolgy that the government gave back then for not wanting to release the information to the general public because it will cause a panic, quote panic, really doesn't hold water. Because if you look at the gallop polls that they run through out the years better than fifty percent of the people believe that UFOs do exist anyway."

Q: "Why was it that officials were called out at Pease AFB at the time of the 'incident'? Were they checking for radioactivity or were they checking...?"

PG: "I don't know what the Air Force did has far as investigating other than they did send out two officers to interview."

EB: "They came out the very next day. One was a captain the other was a lieutenant, base operations officers. I was called by the chief of police to come down to the police station and told the gentleman in the room what happened. They said we would appreciate it if you would just keep this quite. I told them it was too late the Manchester Union was here at the station and knows about it. It was going to be in the paper, it's too late."

Participant: "Very Lucky!"

PG: "We were! That's just very fortunate that happened that way."

Q: "Did the UFO leave anything behind, any evidence?"

PG: "Good Question. I was talking with Ray Fowler, trying to get an update and his impressions. And he said he had heard, but can't verify, that there were some physical traces left in that field. Now if any of you here know about that or can direct me to somebody who might know about that I sure would appreciate it. He said he heard it as a rumor. But so far as we know, officially, no."

Q: "Did the object appear to radiate heat at all. Did Muscarello feel warmth?"

PG: "Did you feel any warmth Gene?"

EB: "No."

PG: "His impression was dead silence when he was crouched down. Dead silence, the crickets weren't even making any noise and very bright red lights."

Q: "Could these gentlemen give a description of how high above them it was and how large it was?"

PG: "If you read the report, the report says that neither officer, (not audible) officer Hunt could give an actual size of the object. Norman says he thought it was 68 ft. in size. I guess you could answer that better than I as far as it looked like. The lights must of been to bright to see."

EB: "I didn't really get a good idea what the shape was. All we saw was lights going from left to right. Which was somewhat like side to side, on that idea. But we never did get the shape of it."

PG: "I think in the report it said the lights were so bright it would be like looking into a headlight."

Q: "If this occurred in the area of the transmission lines, was there any reported operations or significant power fluctuations in that area?"

PG: "Not that I read or heard of."

PG: "I think this would be a good time to ask this question. Does anybody here recall if a member of their family or possibly themselves having a sighting during that time frame (1965) of the incident at Exeter. Interesting, we probably have about a dozen people."

Pease AFB Overflight - The Exeter Connection!

On the same evening the Exeter events occurred there was a strange development at Pease AFB only nine miles away - as the crow flies. Robert Mark, currently the Chief of Police at Hampton, NH., who, in 1965, was a sergeant attached to the 509th Security Police Squadron relates the following account:

It was about 12 a.m. when I and two other airmen were at the Main gate to Pease. One of the airmen yelled, "Look at that!" I turned around to see an object drop out of the star-filled sky. It was coming straight for the guard shack at an altitude of about 300 to 400 feet. The lights were approaching at a very fast rate of speed. What I saw as the object was coming straight on, was what looked like two headlights that were very bright.

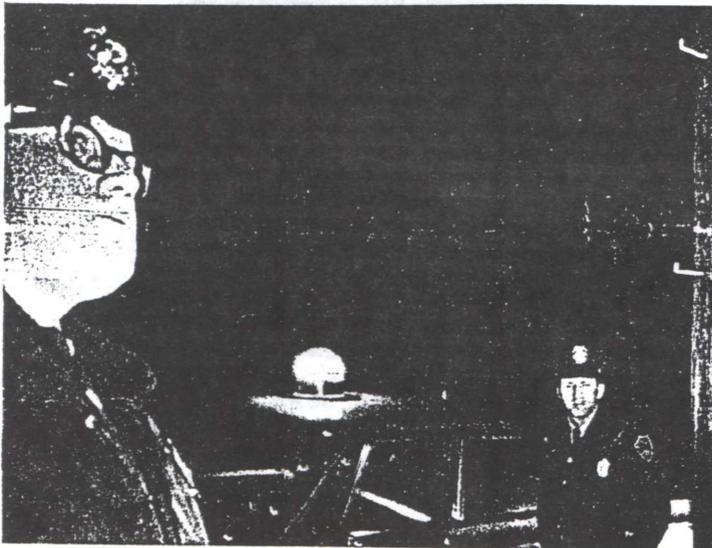
As the object passed over the lighted areas of the base, the lights would go out as if someone were breaking the bulbs as they went by. It passed directly over the guard shack, but the men could not hear a sound, only the wind. When I first saw the two bright headlights drop out of the sky and come towards the shack, I thought it was a B-52 approaching, but this was dismissed when there was no sound whatsoever.

One of the airmen ran for the shack and grabbed the red hotline phone, which is a direct to to CSC (Central Security Control). He began crying and yelling into the phone about what he was seeing. Then he dropped to his knees and lost all control of himself. I had to grab the phone away from him and shake the airman, telling him to control himself, that the thing was not going to kill him. As this was going on, the object headed towards the north end of Pease. When it flew over, the lights there went out also. They remained out for about thirty to forty seconds, then came back on. The whole area was black when the object passed over.

The object was described by Mark as being elongated, but was unclear on detail to the the brightness of the lights. He recalled running up into the base radar tower just in time to overhear a pilot transmitting, "I can't get them; there too fast! I'm at max." Mark saw the fighters gaining ground on the object but only to be outdistanced. He recalls seeing the rear of the object while being pursued by the two aircraft: "It looked like the object had lights in the rear, like you see behind a jet where the flame comes out."  
(Source: Clear Intent - Greenwood/Fawcett)

The above account took place two hours before the Incident At Exeter. After filing FOIA requests, for further information on this account, and others at that time, Pease fervently denied any knowledge of base reports during the Exeter events.

\*\*\*\*\*



Police officers David Hunt, left and Eugene Bertrand of Exeter, NH., joined Muscarello back at the site where he had reported seeing a large, luminous, flying object.

\*\*Sightings reported to\*\* 1 - 5 SEPTEMBER 1965 SIGHTINGS  
Project Blue Book.

DATE	LOCATION	OBSERVER	EVALUATION
1 Sep	Rehoboth, Massachusetts	[REDACTED]	Other (MISINTERPRETATION OF CONVENTIONAL OBJECTS)
8 1-30	Ellington AFB, Texas <i>See HOUSTON AUG-DSC</i>	46 Reports <i>see report</i>	(Ellington Folder, August, December)
19 Sep	Fayetteville, Arkansas	[REDACTED] (PHOTO)	Insufficient Data
1 1	Pittsburg, Pennsylvania	[REDACTED]	Insufficient Data
1 1	Chicago, Illinois	[REDACTED]	Satellite (ECHO II)
2 1	Yellow Springs, Ohio	[REDACTED]	Satellite (ECHO II)
3 1	Manistee, Michigan	[REDACTED] (PHOTO)	Aircraft
4 1	Bakersfield, California	[REDACTED]	Photo: Insufficient Data
5 2	Nebraska Missile Site	Military	Aircraft
6 2	Chicago, Illinois	[REDACTED]	Astro (JUPITER)
7 2	Chicago, Illinois	[REDACTED]	Satellite
8 2	Laredo AFB, Texas	[REDACTED]	Aircraft (T-37)
9 2	Dayton, Ohio	[REDACTED]	Satellite
10 2	Biloxi, Mississippi	Not Reported	Satellite (ECHO II)
11 2	Clearmont, Iowa	[REDACTED]	Satellite (ECHO II)
12-3	*** Exeter, New Hampshire	[REDACTED]	UNIDENTIFIED (3 Witnesses)
23 3	Portland, Indiana	[REDACTED]	Astro (STARS/PLANETS)
24 3	Moraine, Ohio	[REDACTED]	Astro (JUPITER)
25 3	Columbus, Ohio	Not Reported	Insufficient Data
26 3	Laredo, Texas	[REDACTED]	Aircraft
3 3	Waynesville, Ohio <i>CASE MISSING</i>	[REDACTED]	Astro (METEOR)
3 3	Damon, Texas <i>SEPARATE FOLDER in preceding box</i>	[REDACTED]	UNIDENTIFIED (2 Witnesses)
4 4	Tempa, Florida	[REDACTED]	Satellite (ECHO II)
78 4	Ozone Park, New York	[REDACTED]	Satellite
99 4	Laredo, Texas	[REDACTED]	Insufficient Data
00 4	Cleveland, Ohio	[REDACTED]	Aircraft (ADVERTISING SIGN)
01 4	Conway, New Hampshire	[REDACTED]	Satellites
02 4	Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	[REDACTED]	1. Astro (METEOR) 2. Other (REFLECTION)
03 4	Ketchikan, Alaska	[REDACTED]	Astro (METEOR)
04 4	Pike County, Missouri (See 26 Jul)	[REDACTED]	Aircraft (HELO)
05 5	Corpus Christi, Texas	[REDACTED]	Aircraft
06 5	Corpus Christi, Texas	[REDACTED] (PHOTO)	Other (CLOUD)
07 5	Corpus Christi, Texas	[REDACTED]	Astro (STARS/PLANETS)
08 5	Dayton, Ohio	[REDACTED]	Astro (STARS/PLANETS)
09 5	Dayton, Ohio	[REDACTED]	Satellite (ECHO II)
10 5	Corpus Christi, Texas	[REDACTED]	Insufficient Data
11 5	Michigan, Minnesota, Ontario Area	Multiple Air/Gd	Astro (METEOR)
12 5	Cheyenne, Wyoming	Military	Insufficient Data
13 5	Tacoma, Washington	[REDACTED]	Satellite

ADDITIONAL REPORTED SIGHTINGS (NOT CASES)

DATE	LOCATION	SOURCE	EVALUATION
Sep	Forthill, Oklahoma	[REDACTED]	
Sep	Mexico	[REDACTED]	
14 1	Czechoslovakia	Saucer News	
2	England	Flying Saucer Review	
2	Tacoma, Washington	Newsclipping	
3	Epping Forest England	Flying Saucer Review	

STANTON T. FRIEDMAN  
NUCLEAR PHYSICIST - LECTURER

79 PEMBROKE CRESCENT  
FREDERICTON, NEW BRUNSWICK E3B 2V1  
CANADA

(506) 457-0232

Mr. William L. Moore, Mr. Jaime Shandera  
4219 W. Olive St., Suite 247  
Burbank, CA 91505 and 6027 Laurel Grove  
N. Hollywood, CA 91606  
Dear Bill and Jaime: August 28, 1990

I am appalled and chagrinned at both the tone and content of your claims and charges in yours of August 17.

My response is as follows:

1. I wish to publicly completely dissociate myself from your views as expressed in the two items.
2. I am hereby resigning from the Board of Directors of the Fair Witness Project.
3. I would strongly advise you to withdraw the charges and apologize to Schmitt and Randle.

There are a load of false charges made in these items, some of them involving me and most based on ignorance of the facts and seemingly delusions of grandeur. Why lash out at others for their successes? Jealous rage, frustration, and arrogance hardly make for a strong case. I have better things to do with my time than respond in kind.

Sadly and angrily,

  
Stanton T. Friedman

Also, from "The Letter Box", we hear from MUFON's Deputy Director of Investigations, Dan Wright. Dan's response to Marge Christensen's article, which was reprinted here in Orbiter #25, is as follows:

MUFON An Organization At Risk? Hardly  
By: Dan Wright

I read with interest the article by Marge Christensen ("MUFON, 1990 - An Organization At Risk,") appearing in the July-August issue of Orbiter. In that I was close to the scene during the period she outlined, I wish to clarify a few points from which your readers might derive misimpressions of the actual circumstances. I preface this rebuttal with a restatement of my friendship to, and admiration for, Marge.

The overriding contentions in her commentary are that (1) the Walters episodes in Gulf Breeze, Florida were manufactured by that family; (2) Walt Andrus, MUFON 's International Director, dismissed Marge from her position due to her stated views on the Walter's photographs and account; and (3) MUFON does not abide by scientific principals in its pursuits.

Whole trees have already been sacrificed to explore on paper the pro and con arguments of the Walters case, so I will not belabor what is already known. Rather, I take issue first with an early paragraph in her paper:

"At that time (late 1988), I voiced similar objections to both Walt Andrus and Don Ware to no avail....They accused me of being too conservative, and Walt Andrus then announced the appointment of a new Director of Public Relations to replace me."

It is certainly true (from my many phone conversations with Marge) that she had misgivings about the Walters claims. However, it is not fair to suggest that Walt removed her from the P.R. position based on those views. Marge herself had previously sought to resign from MUFON, only to be dissuaded by Walt. I know personally that she was distraught over a less-than-expected response from some MUFON state directors to her monthly newsletter. Also, she was at that time resuming post-graduate education and felt she had little time to devote to UFO matters. Nonetheless, Walt convinced her to retain the position of public education director and thereafter named a new director of public relations who could devote substantial time to the task.

In a later cryptic paragraph, Marge asserts:

"In short, the party's over and it's time for the charade to end. Let's face the facts. MUFON is not a serious, scientific research organization. Rather, it has become nothing but a pop club for people with mutual interest in reading good stories about UFO cases."

Two major initiatives by MUFON in the past year, known by Marge yet unmentioned, go to the heart of MUFONs' commitment to seriously resolving the UFO enigma. First, the organization has been a major participant and financial supporter of one effort to organize professionals for abduction case characteristics. Second, MUFON devised a new, 350-factor computer input form, purchased state-of-the art software, and organized a group of investigative veterans to categorize the many thousands of case records in its files for later comparative analysis.

These efforts have been accomplished at no small cost of finances or personal commitment. Surely, in light of their potential significance, one cannot fairly say that we are a "pop

club".

Like other skeptics concerning the Walters episodes, Marge has conveniently ignored the approximate 200 other UFO witnesses in the Greater Pensacola area over the past three years. Several dozen of these people have reported something that was up close and personal - not a distant conventional aircraft or any other type of commonplace IFO. Having initially sat on the fence concerning the Walters matter, I became increasingly convinced over two and a half years that all those people were not deluded. They, more so than most Americans, were familiar with all manner of aircraft due to their proximity to Air Force and Navy bases.

By her total omission of these many separate witnesses in the same timeframe and vicinity (many of whom knew only vaguely of the Walters case or not at all), Marge would have us believe that Gulf Breeze means Ed Walters, period. A town council member, a physician and his wife, a newspaper publisher, hardened bluecollar workers, children - it doesn't seem to matter. By this reasoning, Ed was lying and so all the rest were suddenly and fanciful seeing UFOs in what they had viewed all of their lives as airplanes and helicopters.

If the "mass delusion" claim is applied to this series of events following the Walters experiences, then we ought to discount every localized flap of activity after publication of an initial report. Certainly, copycats are a consideration to be scrutinized by the investigator, but does one then ignore a host of close encounter events, many involving multiple witnesses?

We as a community of UFO proponents have reached the unfortunate juncture whereby there a bound to be winners and losers, based on the Walters case. Some have concluded, despite all of the objective tests Ed Walters passed (polygraph, voice stress, and general psychological), that he is, in Marges's word, a "con man".

To render that judgement, one must conclude that he convinced his wife Frances as well as their teenage son and daughter to lie on his behalf, for they all claim to have taken part in the events. Given his in-laws' testimony that they saw the same object at the beginning of the episodes, they also must be lying. So too must Duane Cook, the Gulf Breeze Sentinel publisher, for he was present when Ed took a Polaroid photo outside his truck, watched as it developed, and vouched for its authenticity.

Hence, according to the accusation, over a three-year period five adults and two teens have kept a dirty secret without even one contradiction on their part coming to light. Meanwhile, a couple of hundred people from the community fell for this scam and deluded themselves, often at close encounter range, into believing that a mundane aircraft, satellite, meteor or star was really an anomalous vehicle. This from Marge Christensen, who has never met any of the witnesses, visited the sites, or spoken with any of the collateral contacts.

Now, who's being scientific?

\*\*\*\*\*

NOW YOU KNOW!

It will take the Voyager spacecraft about 100 million years to cross just one sixth of the distance between our solar system and the center of the Milky Way galaxy, according to the Omni Space Almanac.

## UFO Cover-Up? Alive And Still Crazy After All These Years.

By: Dr. Richard Crowe. (Part 2)

According to previously classified memoranda released by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) in December 1978, it is quite clear that the USAF concern over UFOs was not because there was any evidence that UFOs were either extraterrestrial or Soviet craft, but rather because there was fear in some quarters that the U.S.S.R could exploit mania in the United States and stage a surprise nuclear attack. The U.S. Air Force by August, 1952, had already concluded that "the sightings [of UFOs], given adequate data, can be explained either on the basis of misinterpretations of known objects, or of as yet little understood phenomena". The Air Force was able to identify 80% of the UFO reports it received (80% of UFOs thus became IFOs), and believed that another 10% could be explained if more information, or more accurate information, were available. The CIA had noted in 1952 that "there is not a shred of evidence to support this [extraterrestrial] theory" for UFO reports. The Robertson panel, a team of five distinguished scientists convened by the CIA to independently evaluate the UFO question, concluded in 1953 that "there is no evidence that the phenomena indicate a need for the revision of current scientific concepts". In early 1969, The Complete Report of the Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects, commissioned by the USAF and prepared by a group under physicist Edward Condon at the University of Colorado, stated that "further extensive study of UFOs probably cannot be justified in the expectation that science will be advanced thereby". A panel convened by the National Academy of Sciences endorsed the Condon report, saying "on the basis of present knowledge, the least likely explanation of UFOs is the hypothesis of extraterrestrial visitations by intelligent beings". It was after this that Project Blue Book was closed down and the files "retired" to USAF Archives. Clearly, this was the most sensible course of action to take. Three independent panels of nationally-recognized scientists had reviewed the available UFO evidence, and each had concluded that there was no legitimate evidence to support the extraterrestrial hypothesis. It is also useful to point out that all of the UFOs left "unidentified" by Dr. Condon's team have subsequently been converted to IFOs through the investigations of Philip Klass, Donald Menzel, Ernest Taves, and James Oberg (Sheaffer, 1980).

What about the allegations made by "Falcon" and "Condor", who supposedly are government intelligence contacts? After all, their credentials were researched and verified by pro-UFO investigators William Moore and Jamie Shandera (who lately have been publicizing the Majestic-12 documents that are strongly suspected to be a hoax even by other UFOlogists). Whether or not these contact agents have authentic government credentials, it is prudent to point out that claims to this effect have been made before. In 1977, a man named Todd Zechel claimed to have been employed for ten years by "two civilian intelligence agencies", where he said he had uncovered hard evidence for a government coverup. However, Philip Klass (1983) discovered by making a few key telephone calls that, in fact, there was no record of Zechel having worked for the defense department, and that for the ten years he was supposed to have been involved in intelligence, he was actually serving in the U.S. Army and working in a Wisconsin factory as a carpenter and fireman. Hence, we have every reason to be skeptical when we hear more claims by intelligence agents for a widespread government coverup of evidence for extraterrestrial spaceships.

Condor made the familiar claim that "we know they carried on with a covert operation after [the closing down of Project Blue Book]". This claim is demonstrably false. In December of 1978, following the passage of the Freedom of Information Act, the CIA released almost 900 pages of documents (including duplicates) detailing the CIA's interest in UFOs over the 30 years from 1949-1978. The contents of relevant memoranda have been reviewed by Philip Klass (1983). They show conclusively that the USAF and the CIA had not changed their official viewpoint on the UFO question (i.e., that there is no evidence for extraterrestrial spacecraft) since the report of the Robertson Panel in 1953. Furthermore, there was no group within the CIA, as recently as 1976, that was actively interested in, or investigating UFOs, on an official basis. Although some low-level personnel were unofficially monitoring UFO phenomena for interest, it is ridiculous to postulate that such personnel knew some incredible secret that top-level officials did not.

Of course, the well-known "crashed-saucer" story was retold on UFO Cover-Up? Live! by William Moore (co-author of The Roswell Incident,

1980) and Stanton Friedman, who apparently earns \$1000 a lecture telling people that "flying saucers are real". The original tale was exposed as a hoax in 1952 (cf. Klass, 1983), but old UFO legends never die. What happened was that on June 14, 1947, Bill Brazel found airborne debris on his ranch, which was later identified as instrumentation from a radar calibration balloon. This explanation was dismissed on the program by Jesse Marcel Jr., whose father (a Major Jesse Marcel) examined the debris and became convinced that it was "not from this earth, or from this universe" because "hieroglyphic symbols" were inscribed on it. However, as Klass (1983) has explained, there are many good reasons for believing that the "crashed saucer" tale is a complete fabrication: (1) When the CIA papers were declassified in 1978, there was not a single memorandum over the previous 30 years referring to any crashed UFO. (2) If a flying saucer had really been found, why hasn't saucer technology been exploited by the U.S. government during the past 40 years? (3) How could Presidents Truman, Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Ford, Carter, and Reagan (as well as top-level intelligence officials in high government agencies) keep a secret of such magnitude for 40 years from everybody (except a few UFO believers) when other important "secrets" such as the bombing of Cambodia, the Watergate break-in, the Pentagon Papers, and Iranian arms scandal, to mention a few, are invariably leaked to the press within a relatively short time? It is almost certain that the "crashed saucer" story is a hoax, kept alive by people that have a vested financial interest in promulgating this tale, and by overly-credulous believers who harbor a general distrust for big government.

The viewing audience of UFO Cover-Up? Live! was also presented with the "evidence" provided by the so-called MJ-12 documents for a massive government cover-up. These are supposedly "Top Secret" documents, released publicly by Moore, Friedman, and Shandera in 1987, which reveal that the U.S. government apparently recovered two crashed saucers before 1950 as well as four extraterrestrial (ET) bodies. These documents also purportedly show that in September, 1947, President Truman gave his authorization to create a top-secret panel of scientists, military leaders and intelligence officials, called operation Majestic-12 (MJ-12), in order to analyze the contents of the crashed saucers and make recommendations for a suitable U.S. response to potentially hostile alien actions. The viewing audience was told that the MJ-12 documents present proof of a "complex intragovernmental chain of command" to maintain secrecy regarding physical evidence of UFOs. The program featured discussions with Moore, Friedman and Shandera, along with corroboration from their contacts Falcon and Condor, and the audience was assured that together they have "amassed an enormous amount of information about the government's UFO program". Of course, we have already seen that there was a UFO investigation program of relatively low priority, but which had nothing to do with crashed saucers. One might readily ask why the Robertson Panel was convened in 1953 to "appraise the available evidence" for UFOs if two saucers (one with alien bodies) had already crashed several years earlier? Also, how is it that eight U.S. presidents have all been in agreement that this crashed-saucer information must be kept secret, even though they don't agree on other important issues such as economic and foreign policy? As for the MJ-12 documents themselves, Philip Klass has shown convincingly in two articles recently published in Skeptical Inquirer magazine (1988a, 1988b) that they are undoubtedly fraudulent.

#### EBE and Friends

However there is still more to this story. According to "Falcon", another (third?) saucer crashed before 1950 and one of its occupants survived (the story seems to be evolving to respond to the critics!). Moreover, the claim was made that two more EBEs (Extraterrestrial Biological Entities) were recovered alive in recent years, and that since 1982, one has been residing in an area of Nevada (called A-51) as a guest of the U.S. government. The second of these aliens is supposed to have written a yellow book (the "Bible" of the MJ-12 community, in English no less), which describes the EBE's home planet, society and life among the Earthlings. The EBE's allegedly made an agreement with government intelligence officials, who "won't disclose [their] existence if [they] do not interfere in our society". One is thus tempted to ask why Falcon now takes it upon himself the responsibility of disclosing this secret information when he could be jeopardizing public safety? How does he know

the aliens wouldn't react in a hostile manner to this disclosure? What gives him the authority to say these things after years of "secrecy" by eight presidents, as claimed? Also, why bother keeping some of them in a remote area of Nevada when their colleagues are apparently abducting people all over the United States? Or is this another group of aliens from some other star system? Needless to say, these questions were not asked on UFO Cover-Up? Live! Nonetheless, some revealing information did come to light on the program. Host Farrell asked where the EBEs hail from. Falcon's answer was Zeta Reticuli! This at least makes the story consistent with school teacher Marjorie Fish's analysis of the Betty Hill star map, supposedly seen by Mrs. Hill while she was aboard an alien spacecraft. Unfortunately, Fish conveniently left out 11 stars from the original Hill sketch, and besides, the scale of the map was later shown to be inaccurate by Charles Atterberg (Sheaffer, 1980). Furthermore, Dr. Benjamin Simon, a Boston psychiatrist who placed Mrs. Hill under hypnosis, characterized the abduction story as "a fantasy...in other words, it was a dream. The abduction did not happen."

What do the EBEs look like? Falcon describes them at great length: 3'4" -3'8", large eyes, inner lids, small mouth, no teeth, one organ doing the job of both heart and lungs, hard elastic skin, more complex brain with several lobes, hearing better than that of dogs, hands without thumbs, web-like feet, sexual organs present (implying male and female genders), typical age 350-400 years, IQ over 200. The Zeta Reticulans enjoy all music (especially ancient Tibetan), and are especially fond of vegetables and strawberry ice cream. Furthermore, they believe in the Universe as the Supreme being. In fact, this description sounds similar to the alleged creatures reported by abductees such as Strieber (1987), and is not unlike the appearance of the ETs seen in Close Encounters of the Third Kind. The aliens are always depicted as small, two-eyed, humanoid, and gray or white; they always arrive in outmoded "flying saucers"; they are here either to save us from destroying ourselves, bring us knowledge and enlightenment, find a better home for themselves, or seek out new life or new civilizations (Baker 1987). These are very predictable characterizations, which could easily have been taken from popular science fiction stories or sensationalist tabloid reports. However, according to biology and astronomy experts, such descriptions are very probably totally unlike real extraterrestrial alien life, if it exists (see Extraterrestrials: Science and Alien Intelligence, 1985). Why, for example, should we expect the EBEs to be able to communicate with English-speaking humans? Successful communication would most likely employ mathematical language, and prominent astronomers and mathematicians would have to be informed of the existence of EBEs. There is no evidence that this has happened, and hence, the facts are at odds with the claims made. It is more likely that Falcon's description is a composite of the popular conception of what alien ETs should look like, based upon exposure to fiction, rather than what real alien beings, assuming they exist, actually look like. Needless to say, the reference by Falcon to the Zeta Reticuli star system further undermines the whole story, and we are left to conclude that the EBE guests of the U.S. government almost certainly belong in the realm of fiction.

#### Summary

At the outset of the UFO Cover-Up? Live! program, it was stated by host Farrell that only 33% of the American Public deny the existence of UFOs, as revealed by a Gallup poll. It is clear that the American public has largely been brainwashed into believing the extraterrestrial hypothesis. A survey of professional astronomers taken in 1977 revealed that, although 53 of the 2611 scientists polled said that they had experienced a "UFO sighting", only 3% of some 1360 respondents thought that UFO reports submitted by other astronomers (who presumably are credible witnesses) might involve extraterrestrial craft (Klass, 1983). In other words, the people who are most knowledgeable about celestial phenomena (i.e., astronomers) think that the extraterrestrial hypothesis is the least likely of all explanations which have been advanced for UFO sightings. It strikes me that this information is very revealing about the Gallup poll statistics. Most people find it difficult to formulate alternative explanations for strange unfamiliar objects or lights in the sky, because (1) in the modern-day era of space travel and planetary exploration, when life on other worlds is being discussed seriously, we almost expect aliens to drop in on us; (2) there is a general lack of

understanding of the scientific method (see Americans respect science, don't know much about it, 1986), which consists of (1) making observations, (2) formulating a hypothesis to explain the observations, and (3) testing the hypothesis by making new observations which can confirm or disconfirm. UFOologists frequently stop after step two and draw their conclusions, but this is only speculation and not science. The distinction is made by carrying out the third step of the scientific method. Some UFOologists even speculate that the aliens can transcend the laws of physics as we know them. However, this represents nothing less than the abandonment of scientific methodology and the return to a belief in supernatural magic.

Host Farrell acknowledged that many UFO-related stories (such as those of George Adamski and Billy Meier) are hoaxes, but then went on to say "thousands of sightings are not so easily explained", implying that they must be due to extraterrestrial craft. This is like saying "if it is not Saturday, it must be Sunday". As we have clearly seen in the above analysis, there are plenty of alternative explanations for UFO sightings, and sometimes a rigorous analysis is required before a positive identification can be made. According to the Center for UFO Studies, over 90% of all UFO reports have prosaic explanations; this does not mean that the remaining 10% are due to extraterrestrial spaceships. In fact, Philip Klass (1983) estimates that about 98% of all UFO-related incidents can be accounted for by natural or man-made objects, while the remaining 2% are almost certain hoaxes. UFO believers sometimes claim that the only aim of skeptics is to "explain away" sightings (Falcon also said this about the Project Blue Book investigators), but this misses the point completely. It is important to realize that alternative explanations for "unexplained" UFO incidents cannot always be ruled out, and that in the meantime, extraordinary claims demand extraordinary evidence. As NASA contact person David Williamson explained on the program, no physical evidence on the program, no physical evidence of UFO visitations has yet been presented to NASA for analysis during the past 11 years.

Yet the belief in UFOs as extraterrestrial spaceships persists. This is in part because of the efforts of pro-UFO enthusiasts like Moore, Friedman and others, who stand to lose financially unless they can keep the myth alive. It is also part because news media that give great prominence to a UFO report when it is first received subsequently devote little, if any, space or time to reporting a prosaic explanation for the case after the facts are uncovered (Klass, 1983). There are numerous cases like this; some of them were even cited on the program as unexplained, such as the Jimmy Carter sighting, the Tehran air chase, the UFOs over the White House, the Soviet rocket test, and the death of Captain Mantell. But perhaps the strongest reason of all for the persistence of the UFO myth is the deeply human wish to look to a higher entity for salvation, especially when global political stability deteriorates. It is very clear that many people envision hope in the form of UFO aliens (Curran, 1985). No wonder Star Trek has retained its popularity! No wonder, as Douglas Curran found, "every single flying-saucer group I encountered in my travels incorporated Jesus Christ into the hierarchy of its belief system"! Is it not obvious that these concepts come from within us, and not from some objective reality in the form of UFO aliens? Why bother trying to solve our earthly problems? The aliens will do it for us! It is probably not a coincidence that the UFO era began in 1947, shortly after the people of the earth were recovering from the damage created by World War two. Instead of the angels of the Lord, flying saucers now keep watch over us, and the aliens will intervene to save humanity whenever the next holocaust appears imminent, just as God was expected by ancient peoples to save them from great peril. (This by the way, is the underlying theme of the movie The Day the Earth Stood Still.) It is abundantly clear to myself and others (cf. Baugher, 1985) that the UFO belief system represents a space-age religion, which fulfills a need for those people who no longer find conventional religions spiritually meaningful in modern day society.

With billions of stars in our own galaxy, and possibly billions of galaxies in the Universe, some astronomers (such as SETI's Thomas McDonough, who appeared on the program) have speculated that there is reasonable possibility that planets orbiting other stars may harbor forms of life. Perhaps some worlds have spawned intelligent beings capable of space travel. However, interstellar space is so vast that even at a speed approaching that of light (which it is physically impossible for any

material object to exceed), alien beings might take hundreds of years expending impractically large quantities of energy just to come here and buzz airplanes, chase cars, or tell a few Earthlings to make peace, not war. According to Joseph Baugher (1985), a trip to Barnard's star (6 light years away) at a maximum velocity of 13% the speed of light (using thermonuclear fusion rockets) would require about 50 times the current power level generated by all the nations of the Earth! Zeta Reticuli, by comparison, is about 35 light years away. Even this relatively low-speed travel would be incredibly expensive in terms of energy, while space travel at speeds close to that of light will likely always remain prohibitively expensive. If these EBEs really have such power available to them, they would not be using flying saucers and it is unlikely that they would find Earth technology very interesting. Interstellar space travel is impractical at best. There is a cheaper and more effective method: communication by using electromagnetic radiation such as radio waves, which does not require such enormous amounts of energy and which travels at precisely the speed of light. Therefore, most SETI scientists interested in extraterrestrial contact do not take UFO reports seriously, because they expect advanced civilizations to send signals before attempting to make direct contact, and so far, no such messages have been received (Goldsmith, 1987).

Perhaps we are not alone, but I do not believe that we have yet been visited by alien creatures. The evidence provided by UFO sightings and UFO abduction tales does not warrant this conclusion. At the end of UFO Cover-Up? Live!, host Mike Farrell asks questions that a viewer might reasonably ask. Has our government lied to us? Are ETs here? Does our government have UFOs hidden away in a warehouse? Could the U.S. government have covered up the most significant event of the 20th century? Is a congressional investigation warranted, based upon the available evidence, as 87% of the callers watching the program seemed to think? Following the analysis given above, I think that answer to all these questions is almost certainly no. We can be open-minded on the subject of UFOs and still reach this conclusion. We have considered the evidence, and on the basis of what has been presented, we should reject the extraterrestrial hypothesis. Any other conclusion is illogical. Anthony Standen (1981) has proposed that henceforth, we should refer to UFOs as UAAs (unexplained aerial appearances), since the term "flying objects" biases us towards thinking of them as extraterrestrial spaceships, and so far this is almost certainly not the case. If only we could convince all UFO believers and media personnel to heed this advice!

#### REFERENCES

- Baker, R.A., 1987, The Alens Among Us: Hypnotic Regression, in Skeptical Inquirer Vol. No. XII, pp. 147-162.
- Baugher, J., 1985, On Civilized Stars, Prentice-Hall.
- Berlitz, C.E. and Moore, W.L., 1980, The Roswell Incident, Grosset and Dunlap.
- Condon, E.U., 1969, The Complete Report of the Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects, Bantam Books.
- Curran, D., 1985, In Advance of the Landing: Folk Concepts of Outer Space, Abbeville Press.
- Frazier, K., 1986, Americans respect science, don't know much about it, in Skeptical Inquirer Vol. No. X, p. 298.
- Goldsmith, D., 1987, Who Speaks for Earth? An Essay on Extraterrestrial Intelligence and Contact, in The Universe, Preiss, B. and Fraknoi, A., eds., Bantam Books.
- Hopkins, B., 1987, Intruders, Random House.
- Hynek, J.A., 1977, The Hynek UFO Report, Dell publishing Company.
- Klass, P., 1974, UFOs Explained, Random House.
- Klass, P., 1983, UFOs: The Public Deceived, Prometheus Books.
- Klass, P., 1988a, The MJ-12 Crashed Saucer Documents, in Skeptical Inquirer Vol. No. XII, pp. 137-146.
- Klass, P., 1988b, The MJ-12 Papers: Part 2, in Skeptical Inquirer Vol. No. XII, pp. 279-289.
- Menzel, D.H. and Taves, E.H., 1977, The UFO Enigma: The Definitive Explanation of the UFO Phenomena, Doubleday and company.
- Radner, D. and Radner, M., 1982, Science and Unreason, Wadsworth.
- Regis, E., Jr., ed., 1985, Extraterrestrials: Science and Alien Intelligence, Cambridge University Press.
- Sagan, C., 1980, Cosmos, Random House.
- Sheaffer, R., 1980, The UFO Verdict: Examining the Evidence Prometheus Books.
- Standen, A., 1981, The Semantics of UFOs, in Paranormal Borderlands of Science, Prometheus Books.
- Story, R., 1981, UFOs and the Limits of Science, William Morrow and Company.