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# **UFO ENCOUNTERS**

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Worldwide coverage of the UFO phenomenon

Vol. 1 No. 3 \$2.50

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## **THE FACE ON MARS**

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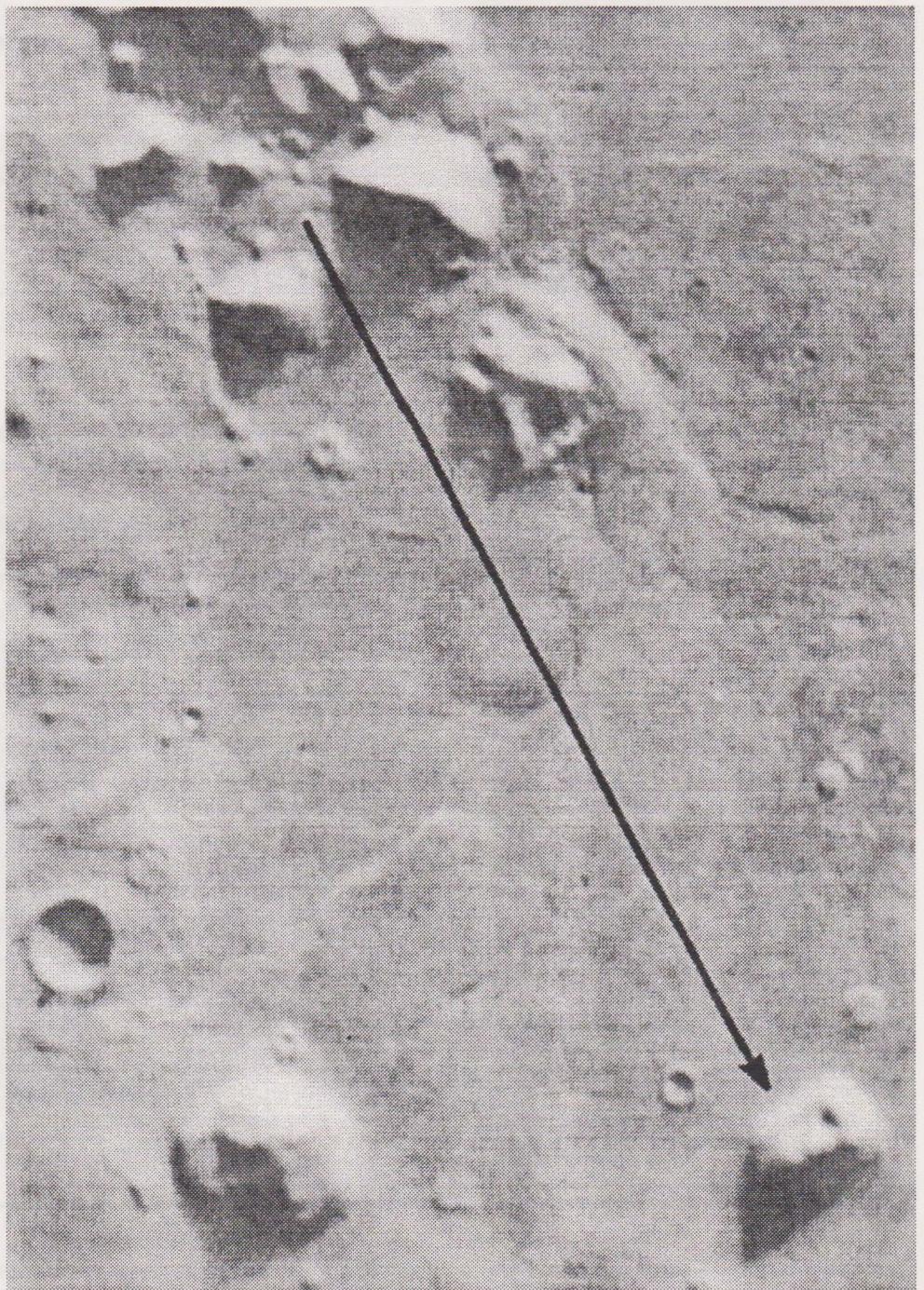
## **GEORGE WINGFIELD ON CROP CIRCLES**

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## **BIZARRE ENCOUNTERS IN COSTA RICA**

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## **UFO DETECTORS**



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# Richard Hoagland and The Mars Mission

by Mark Jaeger

Richard Hoagland, director of The Mars Mission spoke in Atlanta September 13, and gave a brilliant presentation of that group's findings. They have built a convincing case for the proposition that the Viking mission's orbiting observer has returned pictures of artifacts showing intelligent design, clustered in an area in the northern hemisphere known as the Cydonia plain (pronounced se-DOAN-ya).

Hoagland doesn't claim that there are Martians now living on Mars, or even that they were necessarily aliens. One scenario is that our ancestors may have made it to Mars sometime in our distant past, or may have even come from there, when the climate shifted from a proven "warm, wet epoch" to the inhospitable climate it now has.

The Mars Mission is a group of independent scientists studying NASA data from the Viking Mars imaging mission in 1976. Dr. Mark Carlotto of the Analytical Sciences Corporation, Lambert Dolphin of SRI International (a California

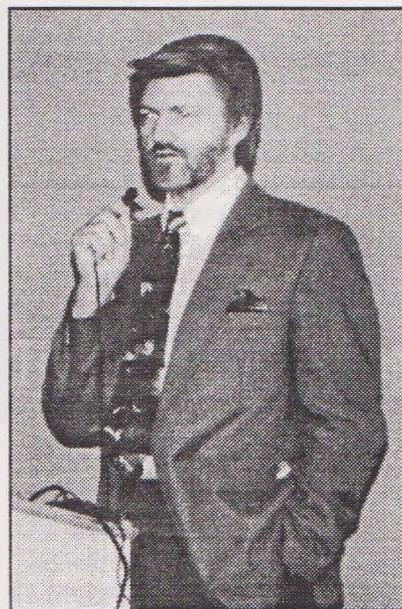
"think tank"), and Erol Torun of the Defense Mapping Agency, are some of the individuals comprising the team. The Defense Mapping Agency is responsible for determining the exact longitude and latitude of potential strategic enemy targets, and differentiating camouflaged targets from natural formations.

When Viking sent back a picture of a mile long face, it was dismissed by Viking project leader Gerry Soffen's offhand comment that "a picture taken a few hours later showed it wasn't there . . . it was merely a trick of light and shadow." Well, he was incorrect, because a few hours later the area was dark. A few days later when the face was photographed again, it showed a symmetrical object with regular facial proportions. There was even a suggestion of teeth in the mouth. It has been a source of controversy (and wonder) ever since.

Mainstream scientists have done their best to dismiss it and ignore it. The tabloids have used it in every scenario they can think of to increase their circulation. Many in the populous have wondered what the real story behind it is.

For the last 10 years The Mars Mission has been gathering an impressive collection of verifiable facts leading to the inescapable conclusion that it was not only intelligently designed, but also that it holds some important clues to basic questions about our past, present, and future.

First I'll cover the struc-



*Richard Hoagland*

tures themselves. The face is one mile long and fifteen hundred feet high, or a little less than a third of a mile high. The ratio of the length to the width is 1.6 to 1. This ratio is known as the "Phi ratio" - used since antiquity to design works of art and to build temples such as the Parthenon. The numbers are important.

Drawing a line perpendicular to the vertical axis of the face from the eyes shows that it would go straight to two other structures. About 10 miles to the left it intersects a point in the center of a cluster of six pyramids that Hoagland calls "the city." This point is surrounded by four knobs arranged at right angles like the points of a compass. From this vantage point, one could see the summer solstice sunrise directly over the face about 300 to 500 thousand years ago. (The planet is tilting like a top slowing down). Many ancient earth monuments are also aligned to the summer solstices. Behind the face one would see an artificially flattened horizon due to another apparently artificial object that Hoagland calls the "Cliff" and Randall Carlson (a teacher of Sacred



*"The Face," as photographed by the Viking Orbiter in 1976.*

Geometry here in Atlanta) calls the "Tor" because it is shaped like Glastonbury Tor. (Glastonbury Tor and Silbury Hill, both in England, are two of the largest and oldest artificial structures on Earth.) The Tor on Mars is at right angles to where the summer solstice was at during that time as well. Many ancient British monuments are surrounded by mounds. These mounds would also provide a flat horizon so that accurate astronomical observations could be made of the rising and setting times. (See "Stonehenge Decoded" by astronomer Gerald Hawkins.)

There is strong visual evidence that the Tor was artificial. It lies on the "ejecta blanket" of a crater, but it doesn't block the ejecta, indicating it was built since the crater was formed. Also, there is an excavated area to the right of it, of the necessary volume to construct the Tor!

The Tor is shaped like an arrow-head, and it points down directly toward an oval shaped mound five miles away that looks stunningly like Silbury Hill. An observer on top of the hill or "Tholus," would also see the resemblance of a face in the Tor. On both the Tholus (on Mars) and Silbury Hill (on Earth), there are the remains of a spiral walkway ascending the hills.

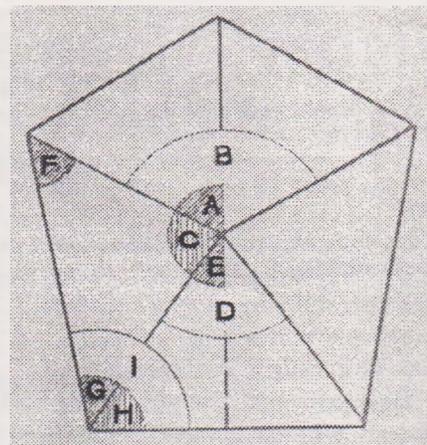
There is a small tetrahedral pyramid on the rim of the crater



*The D&M five-sided pyramid - along with its unique geometry.*

flanked by the Tor that forms a 19.5 degree angle with the Tholus as the vertex. That number is also important.

The piece de resistance is a huge 5-sided pyramid, called the D&M pyramid after its discoverers: Vince DiPietro and Greg Molenaar, (both computer scientists, and image-processing specialists). The D&M pyramid's apex forms a right triangle with the Tor and the Tholus. The ratio of the short to long sides are 1 to 1.6, (the "Phi ratio" again), matching the ratios of the face and Leonardo Da Vinci's famous figure - "man in a circle". In fact, one could superimpose one over the other and they would not only conform, but the tip holding the head would point



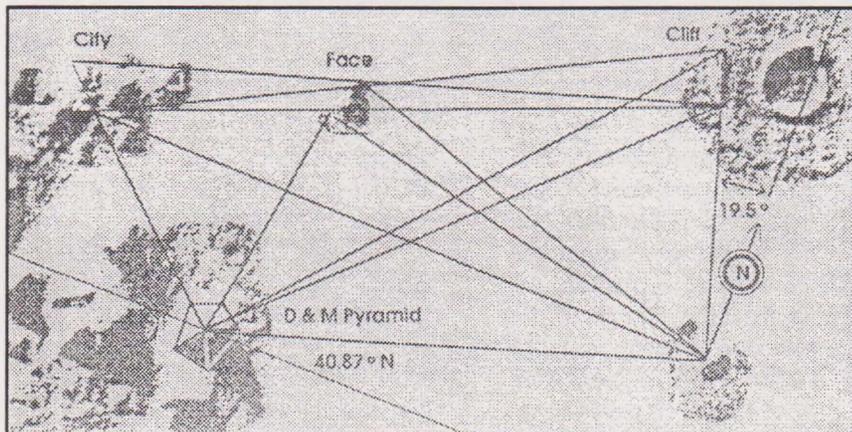
**D & M Angles**  
degrees          radians

<b>A = 60.0</b>	<b>= pi / 3</b>
<b>B = 120.0</b>	<b>= 2pi / 3</b>
<b>C = 85.3</b>	
<b>D = 69.4</b>	<b>= e / sq. rt. 5</b>
<b>E = 34.7</b>	
<b>F = 49.6</b>	<b>= e / pi</b>
<b>G = 45.1</b>	
<b>H = 55.3</b>	
<b>I = 100.4</b>	

directly toward the face! Also, the distance from the tip of the five-sided pyramid to the face is exactly 1/360th of the circumference of the planet Mars.

This is only the first of many indications that the designers of the complex used the same 360 degree system used on earth. This system has been traced back over 6,000 years to the Sumerian culture. They claim to have been taught the system by "gods" from another planet (hence the term "Sacred Geometry" - see "The 12th Planet" by Zecharia Sitchin). This is where we get the concepts of 12 inches to a foot, 24 hours to a day, 60 minutes, 60 seconds etc.

The Mars Mission has gone into an extensive mathematical study of the geometry of the complex. They believe that if the designers of the complex wanted to communicate to us, they would have to do it through the universal language of math.



*The "Geometric Relationship Model" of Cydonia.*

Hoagland has some personal experience with this because he and Carl Sagan worked together to design the symbolic message plaque aboard Pioneer 10 that is intended for ET's. The Pioneer 10 has now left our solar system.

Another advantage to a mathematical analysis is that it is an objective measure that anyone with a protractor and a picture can check for themselves (although I was only able to estimate within a couple of degrees with the pictures I've seen).

Erol Torun became fascinated with the 5-sided D&M pyramid because he was familiar with geomorphology (the study of the origin and development of land forms), and knew of no natural processes that could produce a 5-sided pyramid - much less one with such striking symmetry. He began a study of the geometry of the pyramid structure and was astonished to find that coded in the angles was a series of redundant mathematical constants: The squares root of two and three,  $e/\pi$ , etc. Further, he discovered the relationships expressed in three ways: in the angle ratios (60 degrees divided by 69.4 degrees =  $e/\pi$  = .865), in the trigonometric functions of those same angles (sin of 60 degrees =  $e/\pi$  = .865), and in the radian measure of a base angle (49.6 degrees = .865 radians =  $e/\pi$ ). (A

radian is the measure of an angle cutting an arc out of a circle matching the length of the circle's radius. There are  $2\pi$  radians in a circle and 360 degrees.)

Later, they found the same angles and relationships repeated not just in the D&M, but also in the whole Cydonia complex! Even the location of the complex repeated the same message. The tangent of the latitude  $40.868 = e/\pi$  or .865! It appears someone was trying to tell us something - but what?!

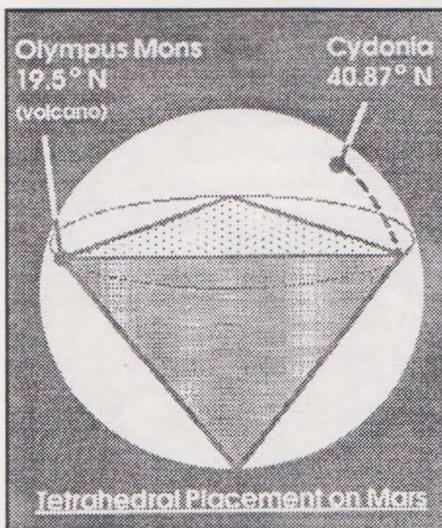
$E/\pi$  turns up in the math involved in super-string theory: An as-yet incomplete attempt to resolve the "Unified Field Theory" problem that Einstein was working on up to his death. It has implications literally as earthshaking as the atom bomb.  $E/\pi$  also turns up in the math of a tetrahedral pyramid circumscribed by a sphere. The ratio of the areas of a tetrahedron to the area of a circumscribing sphere equals  $e/\pi$ , which is equivalent to .865. The Mars Mission team has studied this for six years and now they feel they have begun to decode the message of Cydonia. If the sphere involved is a rotating planet, and the pyramid is placed so that one corner is at the north pole - then the other three corners will all be equally spaced 120 degrees apart, or one third of the way around the globe at 19.47 degrees latitude. (19.5 is another redundant angle from Cydonia - surprised?) If one places one corner at 19.5 latitude and the same longitude as the Cydonia complex, then the next corner falls directly under Olympus Mons - the largest volcano not only on Mars, but also in the solar system. The Mars Mission found that throughout the solar system great upwellings or disturbances of some kind are found at 19.5



Clay model of the "Face." Created by Kynthia.

degrees latitude at either north or south. The Great Red Spot on Jupiter, the largest shield volcano of Venus, and the largest volcano on earth - the Deccan Shield lava region (200,000 square miles of lava) - and the volcanic Hawaiian Islands (120 degrees away from the Deccan Shield), are all found at 19.5 degrees. Sun spots and hurricanes form around 19.5 degrees north or south. The Mars Mission became so sure this was the result of a law of physics, that they predicted that we should find some kind of upwelling of energy on Neptune at 19.5 North or South. They published this prediction on CompuServe weeks before the Voyager space probe returned beautiful photos of a swirling blue dark spot at (you guessed it!) 19.5 degrees!

The investigation has gone on for years now, and has been pursued by some very keen minds into areas so arcane it is difficult to follow, much less explain. It has to do with the multidimensional underpinning of reality, and how an understanding of it can lead to its exploitation. The theory is that when an object is rotating in three dimensional reality, it is also spinning in four dimensions as well, and is opening up an "energy gate," allowing energy from the 4th dimension through to the 3rd. The implications as I said, are earthshaking. It may lead to breakthroughs in the field of clean, alternate energy, or may provide a theoretical framework for already existing breakthroughs being claimed by MIT's Dr. Brian DePalma and others. Lieutenant Colonel Tom Bearden (U.S. Army Retired) states publicly that they are already using breakthrough energy sources in their



weapons programs. He is calling for them to be released to the public, so we can do something about pollution, the hole in the ozone layer and global warming. So far though, it has fallen on deaf ears.

This may also explain why The Mars Mission has had such an inconsistent record of acceptance in the governmental/scientific circles it has been dealing with. Richard Hoagland has been invited to speak at the United Nations, and at the NASA Lewis Research Center 3 times, as well as the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center once, but not without some threats of cancellation at the last minute. A planned satellite broadcast of the Lewis briefing was canceled at the last minute by NASA headquarters in Washington, D.C., in December of 1990.

Congressman Robert Roe, then chairman of the House Committee of Science, Space and Technology had a personal briefing and made the following public statements: "I've seen the studies and I've seen the photographs . . . and there do appear to be formations . . . not . . . of natural or normal existence. It looked like they had to be fashioned by some intelligent beings. . . . For this reason, I have asked NASA to provide assurances that the Mars Observer Mission will include this as one of its imaging objectives." Then in January 1991 Roe abruptly resigned as chairman of Science, Space, and Technology, in favor of a position as chairman of Public Works and Transportation (a committee in charge of toxic waste dumps!), and he has nothing further to say in public about Mars or Cydonia.

NASA has since been making disingenuous claims about their inability to guarantee that Cydonia can be imaged again. (The Observer is fully capable of maneuvering and targeting any area on Mars more than once.)

Since then a series of articles

have run in the tabloids almost custom-designed to destroy the credibility of the Cydonia face: "Ted Kennedy's Face Found on Mars! Pee Wee Herman's Face Found on Mars! The Face on Mars is Trying to Talk!" Etc., etc. Hoagland believes the people at the tabloids are being fed stories by the "powers that be" to discredit Cydonia. One could speculate on an even closer relationship.

As if the implications weren't already broad enough, researchers have found a pattern of angles in some crop circles suggestive of the tetrahedral geometry of Cydonia. There is some controversy even within The Mars Mission (and former members of The Mars Mission) about whether the numbers of the Cheesefoot Head crop circle actually support the tetrahedral connection. But, the Barbury Castle formation unmistakably points to a tetrahedron with suggestions of multidimensionality as well. Perhaps someone is trying to get the message across even to this day!

The mathematical studies are fascinating. Studies have been done, tying tetrahedral geometry to Stonehenge, Teotihuacan, and other ancient monumental sites in a cohesive world grid, and to the Hebrew alphabet, and Kabbalistic traditions. (The star of David can be represented as two tetrahedrons inscribed by a sphere, one with a corner at the north pole, and the other at the south.) This is just the beginning of this subject. Look into Stan Tenan's work at the Meru Foundation.

If you want more information you should read "The Monuments of Mars" by Richard C. Hoagland, and/or you can join The Mars Mission for \$25.00 a year, and you will get a subscription to the journal with the latest updates. Write to: The Mars Mission C/O Richard Hoagland 122 Dodd St.,

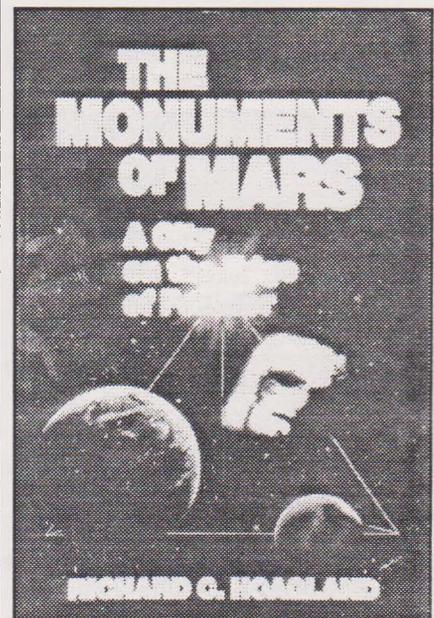
Wee Hawkin, NJ 07087. To order videos of the NASA or UN briefings call 1 (800) 424-0031.

If you smell something rotten in Denmark, join the club and write your congressman asking for a guarantee that the Cydonia complex be imaged by the Mars Observer (launched this September 92, arriving August of 93) and be covered on live television. The camera on the Mars Observer is 50 times as powerful as the Viking camera, and can discern objects as small as one meter across. That should resolve some questions as well as images!

#### References:

- The Monuments of Mars, Richard C. Hoagland
- The 12th Planet, Zecharia Sitchin
- The Martian Enigmas, Mark J. Carlotto
- The Excalibur Briefing, Tom Bearden
- Stonehenge Decoded, Gerald S. Hawkins

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# Puerto Rico - A Center for UFO Activity. Part II

By Michael Norris

I will be the first one to admit that UFO related incidents in Puerto Rico are more bizarre than anywhere else in the world. But, many credible witnesses and investigators testify that these events are true and accurate, and they report that the phenomenon continues to this very day.

In last month's article on Puerto Rico, we interviewed Jorge Martin - UFO investigator and publisher of *Enigma Magazine*. Mr. Martin explained that the event that seemed to have launched the current phenomenon in Puerto Rico was an explosion in the Cartagena Lagoon area in 1987.

After the explosion, witnesses claim that the area was cordoned off for two weeks while American personnel in contamination suits worked in the area. The night before the explosion a big ball of red light descended slowly to the lagoon and then was seen entering the water. Around 2:00 a.m., nearby residents reportedly witnessed a huge flying saucer circling the lagoon as if it "was looking for something." The next day, the underground explosion occurred.

During our discussion, Mr. Martin explained that "the situation in Puerto Rico continues happening" - UFO sightings, abductions and animal mutilations. Mr. Martin said that many abductees are warning that a "major cataclysm, or something, is going to happen."

According to Martin abductees talk of "a big meteor that is going to crash into the Earth in the next years." They also warn of "big earthquakes that are going to happen worldwide." Abductees say that

these things were told to them by two different types of beings - the tall blonde ones and the small gray types.

The small gray types have told abductees that "something big is going to happen on the island, and the signal to that will be the next total solar eclipse that will be seen in 1996." Martin expressed that this appears to be "the signal when everything is going to happen."

Martin told me that he has a couple of sources among the UFO abductees who say that "in 1998 there is going to be a polar shift: The poles of the Earth will shift and change positions." One source, he said, gives an exact date of September 22, 1998. *I've always been warned about those who give specific dates - but who knows?* The others he says, describe the same catastrophe, but do not give any specific dates.

"Of course, there is no way to know if this is real or not, but these are honest people, serious people. It strikes me that these people don't know each other and they say the same things," Martin said. "It's a little bit weird."

I asked Martin about the different types of beings who are allegedly describing these things to abductees. When I asked him about the gray types, he said, "Those are the most common that are being seen here." But, he told me many other types are described as well.

One type of being seen on rare occasions, Martin said, is a greenish lizard type. He described them as having pointed heads, red eyes - big and elongated, and fingers with claws. He said they were very

skinny and had a small mouth and pointy ears.

"There is another type of the so-called 'Grays,' that I would say is also greenish. The skin color is a little greenish-grayish, and they have small pointy ears. They seem to be, according to the witnesses we have, rather nice - opposed to the common grays, which are cold and seldom show any emotion at all," Martin said.

I questioned Martin about reports I'd heard regarding humans that were present with other creatures during abductions in Puerto Rico. "Yes, those are rare, but there are several cases in which the so-called 'grays' have been seen with human-like beings - the tall, blonde ones," he said. "This is very confusing because in some of the cases, the tall, blonde ones warned the witnesses about the small grays - saying that they are not reliable and that they are trouble - things like that. But, in other cases the grays warn the witnesses against the tall, blonde ones. And in other instances, they are together. So it is very confusing."

I asked Martin about reports where people have seen two and three feet tall fetus-like creatures. He said that those reports came from some recent abduction cases. "Witnesses say they saw something not exactly like the grays. They looked more like human fetuses with very pale skin, but not gray - more like ours," he said. "The eyes were like ours also, but bigger, and they looked like they were in a zombie state. It was explained to the witnesses that these were beings that were like organic robots. They were made in order to do some chores so the real aliens - the human looking and others - wouldn't have to go out in our hostile environment."

Martin and I also discussed the animal mutilation phenomenon on the island. I asked him specifically about the cattle mutilations, and if that is a big phenomenon in Puerto

Rico. "There are a lot of mutilations here - not only cattle, but also sheep, goats, ducks, geese, and chickens - all throughout the island. The authorities always try to explain it away. It's the same situation as in the States, and in some cases, there has been a direct relationship between UFOs and these incidents; UFOs have been seen where these things occur," Martin said.

Martin added that UFO activity has not always been limited to abductions and animal mutilations. He told me a fascinating story about two Navy jet fighters that disappeared after chasing a UFO on December 28, 1988.

"The UFO seen was described as a huge triangular shaped craft with a huge ball of yellow light underneath," Martin said. He explained that many witnesses said the two fighters were trying to intercept the object. One of the jet fighters, according to eyewitnesses, was about to collide with the craft when it just *vanished*. Mr. Martin stated that "the other jet, which was just to the right of the object, also disappeared."

In the month prior to this occurrence, a similar scenario was described by witnesses. "On November 16, 1988, another incident happened about 15 or 20 miles from Cabo Rojo. Martin stated, "In that case, it wasn't a triangular shaped craft that captured jet fighters, but it was a huge ball of yellow light." According to Martin, two fighters were pursuing the bizarre object, when one of them was overtaken by the ball of light. The other jet, witnesses say, broke away and was chased by two small balls of red light that came out of the main object. The main object then disappeared, moving away to the north. The fate of the second fighter is unknown.

"The Navy denied everything," Martin said. "They don't want to acknowledge anything at all. But the thing is, there were so many

witnesses that it can't be denied." Martin told me the investigation is continuing: "We are doing our investigation at this moment, and we have our sources inside and they are trying to dig up more answers - if there really were Navy jet fighters, and possibly names of some of the people involved."

During his investigations, Martin began publishing articles on the events in his magazine. "As soon as we began publishing articles on what happened there, the C.I.A. began subscribing directly out of Washington," he explained. "The order was through the library division of the C.I.A. in Washington, D.C., and it was sent by C. Philips." Puzzled by this, Martin commented, "Why would they subscribe directly to the magazine and make it so obvious? Maybe they were giving us a message, or perhaps they needed to have more information - Who knows."

I asked Martin if this was the only encounter he has had with a government agency. "I have to be honest with you, it seems that my telephone is tapped, because of noises and things," he said, "but that's normal in these types of situations."

While doing research for this two-part article, I spoke with Peter Geremiah - State Director for MUFON in New Hampshire. He told me about a peculiar incident that one of his Assistant State Directors - Cheryl Powell - experienced on a recent trip to Puerto Rico.

At first, Peter asked me not to publish this story until he could arrange for further investigation. He was concerned that if everyone knew about this incident, it might have ruined possible opportunities for some very interesting research. But, since the situation has changed, he told me to go ahead with this portion of the article.

I called Cheryl Powell after

talking with Peter to ask her about her trip to the island, and also learn more about the incident Peter told me about. She told me that she corresponds with Jorge Martin in Puerto Rico, but for the most part, worked independently while she and others visited the island.

On one occasion, Cheryl said that while she was walking along a path in a rain forest (El Yunken), when she suddenly ran into an invisible wall. "It shocked the hell out of me," she told me. She said that the locals who were with her knew about the wall. "The others knew about it, so they were chuckling - waiting for a reaction from me," she said.

I asked Cheryl to describe to me more about this mysterious barrier. "The only thing I can think of is, if you're not aware of it, it's like bumping your nose into a wall," she explained. "You're walking down the pathway, and it's like 'clunk.'"

Cheryl told me that she could get through the shield-like presence once the locals, who were with her, said to walk slowly through. She described going through the wall: "It's like when you walk through waist high water - there was a very noticeable resistance." Cheryl said the barrier was taller than she, and she experienced the same presence when coming back down the path on her way back. Atop the mountain where Cheryl and the others were walking, she says there is a top-secret U.S. military installation.

Since the time that Cheryl has returned from the island, she was informed that the off-limits area has been expanded beyond the location of this bizarre presence. After Peter Geremiah learned this, he saw no use in withholding the story, since no formal investigation could be done. I thought this experience was fascinating, because I have never heard anything like it before.

Cheryl said while in Puerto Rico, she interviewed many people who have had close encounters, including

abduction experiences. One interesting case involved a lady Cheryl described as "a very religious woman who works for the church."

She told Cheryl that one night a couple of years ago she was waiting for her son to come home from a sports event. When it was getting dark and her son was late, the woman kept walking outside to look for him. At one point she walked out in the yard, and upon turning around to go back into the house, she saw a UFO hovering right above her home.

As she stood there watching, she saw a blue beam come out of the craft - travelling horizontally away from the object. As she followed the beam with her eyes, she found that it

went over to another UFO she hadn't noticed. According to the woman, a being came out of the first ship, and walked across the beam to the second one. This was just one of the many bizarre cases Cheryl had discovered during her visit to the island.

It looks like Puerto Rico will continue to be a true hotbed for UFO activity. What's a shame though, is that there are more of these types of encounters being reported than there are investigators to look into them. But, there are still plenty of known cases in Puerto Rico to keep researchers scratching their heads for a long time to come.

\* \* \* \* \*

various UFO literature.

Four of these mysterious events from STS-48 were recorded by Donald Ratsch, who lives in Baltimore, Maryland. He videotaped them while watching NASA Select Television, which broadcast the STS-48 mission live on his cable channel six (Dundalk Community College). The fifth event, which was taped by another individual, will be discussed later.

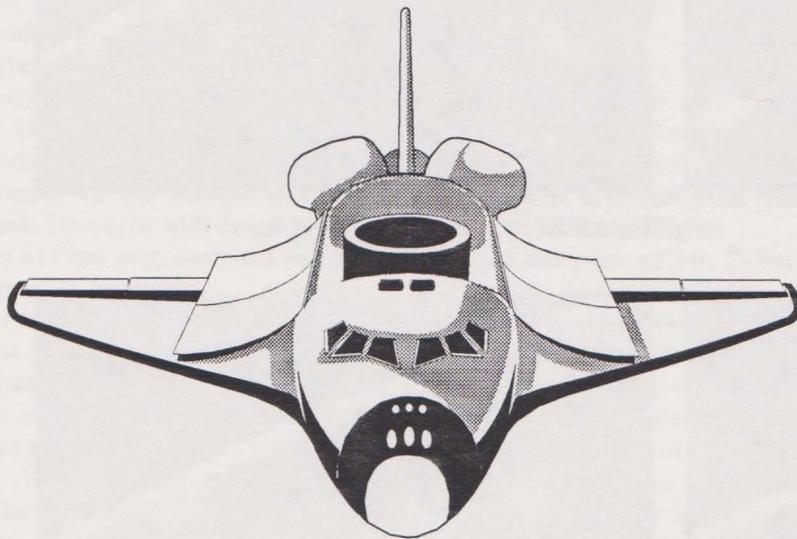
Ratsch noticed while reviewing what he recorded from the mission, there were four footage segments that seemed to show unidentified flying objects. The one event from the recording that has generated the most interest and controversy though, is what is called event #2 (see photos).

In event #2, an onboard camera on the *Discovery* was recording a view looking toward the Earth, as the shuttle was approaching New Zealand in its orbit. The scene showed several objects that moved into the camera's view (see figures 1&2).

The videotape reveals that one of the bright objects (figure 3) - which is of extreme interest to many investigators - seems to appear from out of the clouds. The object is then seen moving in a northwest direction just below the horizon of our planet. Suddenly, a flash of light appears in the lower-left of the screen (figure 4), and the object, which was moving in a northwest direction, immediately makes a 145 degree right-hand turn. It then seems to disappear into outer space (figure 5).

The moment the object appears to move into outer space, a fast moving projectile zips across where the object was traveling before it suddenly changed course (see figure 6).

The incident that was later called event #5, was acquired by Harry Jordan of Omaha, Nebraska. He was listening to the STS-48 mission on his short wave radio. As he was listening to the astronauts talking, he heard one of them say, "What's that? What is that?" Jordan then phoned a friend,



## The STS-48 Mission

By Michael Norris

On September 12, 1991, the Space Shuttle *Discovery* (STS-48 mission) lifted off the ground for an orbit around the Earth. During the mission, the onboard cameras captured a number of very interesting events, and many people do not

believe the official explanation NASA is giving for them.

In all, there were five separate incidents from the mission that raised suspicion. They have been discussed on *Larry King Live*, the popular TV show *Sightings*, and in

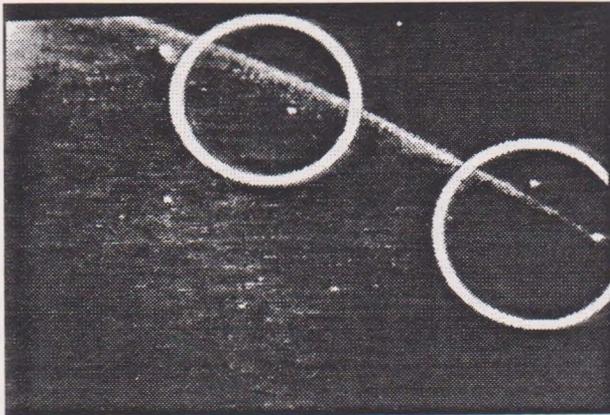


Figure 1

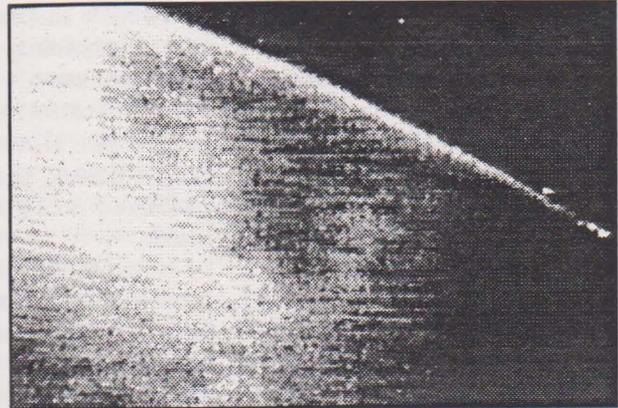


Figure 4



Figure 2

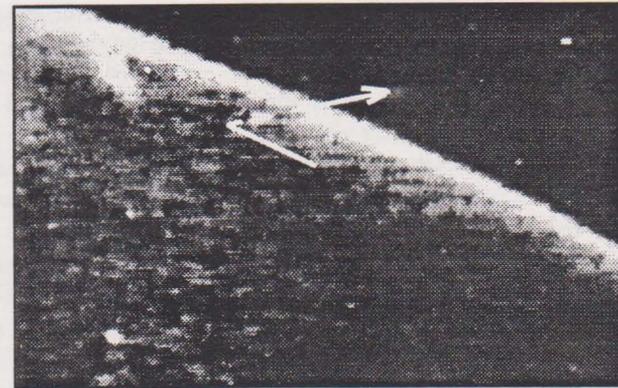


Figure 5



Figure 3

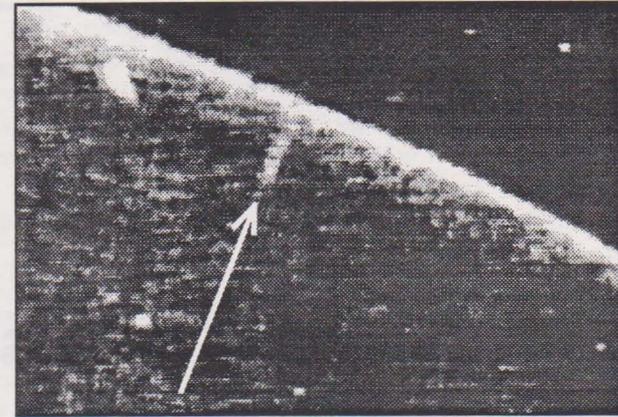


Figure 6

*Figure 1: Shows objects appearing on the scene recorded by the Discovery's on-board camera. Figure 2: Video blowup of the lower two objects from figure 1. Figure 3: Blowup of the top object from figure 1 that appeared seemingly out from the clouds heading in a north-west direction.*

*Figure 4: Sudden flash of light fills the screen. Figure 5: Immediately after the flash, the north-west heading object makes a swift 145 degree right-hand turn. Figure 6: A projectile leaving a suspicious trail, zips across the pathway the former object was traveling before quickly turning and disappearing into outer space.*

Clair Roberts, who then adjusted his satellite dish and tuned into the NASA frequency and pressed "record" on his VCR.

Mr. Roberts recorded an object on his VCR that zipped across the screen from right to left, and so event #5 was born. All these events comprise the evidence that has spurred a great deal of controversy.

Some ufologists, after reviewing event #2, believe that the object that did a 145 degree turn, was an alien spacecraft. They also say the flash of light, which was followed by a zipping projectile, was the result of an armed response to the craft by SDI (Strategic Defense Initiative). NASA officials, along with other scientists disagree with those claims.

After Ratsch realized that he had recorded some bizarre footage from the mission, he sent copies of the events to Vincent DiPietro in Sykesville, Maryland, for video analysis. That's when it all began.

DiPietro is an engineer at Goddard Space Center and an active member of the Mutual UFO Network. He works with image processing and has even designed and built image processing equipment. DiPietro told me during an interview that he has analyzed images from space in the past, and is skeptical of the idea that the images seen on the tape are spacecraft.

After DiPietro analyzed the videotape and did computer enlargement and enhancement, he sent a copy of his results to Representative Beverly B. Byron, in Washington, D.C. Representative Byron then forwarded the tape to the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee for review and comment. George E. Brown Jr., Chairman of the committee, responded to Representative Byron with the following explanation:

The Honorable Beverly B. Byron  
2430 Rayburn House Office  
Building, Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Ms. Byron:

Thank you for forwarding to me the letter and video tape that was sent to you by your constituent Mr. Vincent DiPietro. As you recall, these materials depict events filmed during the STS-48 mission of the Space Shuttle which Mr. DiPietro thought were "curious".

I asked my staff to review carefully the materials as you requested. I might add that my staff has accumulated a great deal of experience in these matters and would be happy to meet with you or Mr. DiPietro.

My staff tells me that the objects that Mr. DiPietro observed are probably ice crystals. Each day the Space Shuttle dumps overboard a significant volume of waste water. This water forms crystals that travel along with the Shuttle. When lighting conditions are proper, these crystals can be seen floating by in various directions.

This is a phenomenon that is seen on all Shuttle flights.

At one point of Mr. DiPietro's Event #2, he notes that several of these objects make a radical change in direction in response to a flash that occurs to the left of the TV screen. This flash was most likely the firing of an attitude control rocket on the Orbiter--these firings are normally in the form of very short bursts which appear (as it does on the DiPietro video) as a bright flash. In response to this firing, the ice crystals that are in the path of the rocket's exhaust are propelled rapidly in a direction opposite the flash.

As I noted earlier, these are common events that occur on all missions of the Space Shuttle. This no doubt accounts for the lack of attention by the astronauts and everyone in Mission Control to the events noted by Mr. DiPietro even though it is clear that the astronauts

were looking in the direction of the camera and the ground controllers were watching the transmissions from the camera.

I am confident that when NASA responds to your request their conclusions will be similar, if not much more detailed.

Thank you again for contacting me about this concern of your constituent.

Sincerely,  
George E. Brown, JR.  
Chairman

Scientists at NASA also agreed with this explanation.

I received a copy of the STS-48 mission tape in the mail from Fearon Hicks. After watching the tape several dozen times, I was still puzzled about the different events.

Don Ecker, California UFO Research Director, acquired a copy of DiPietro's tape and appeared on *Larry King Live*. On the show, he debated with James Oberg about the identity of the objects.

DiPietro heard that the program was going to air and was one of the two callers on the show. He told me later during our discussion that when he called the show, he tried in a "rational sort of way" to explain what he felt was going on - the objects were nothing more than ice crystals.

DiPietro said to me that he was surprised to see a copy of *his* videotape with the blowups and video enhancements on the show. He said that because no one called him to ask questions of the data or even the results of his investigation.

Expressing concern and annoyance, DiPietro felt that investigators were just "running with the story" without doing their homework. DiPietro told me that he wishes ufologist would just drop the case, because he believes the tape could potentially be embarrassing to serious UFO researches and may

even set back ufology.

DiPietro explained that he did detailed analysis of the events in the video. When I asked him what he thought of the main object in event #2 (see figure 3), he said that when he zoomed in on the object, it didn't get much bigger, suggesting that it was not very large to begin with. He said that if it was a big object, it would get extremely large when you zoomed in on it - and this didn't happen. Also, he told me, if you look very closely at the object when it accelerates after making its turn, pieces of the object appear to flake off as if it was ice that was just hit by gas from a trim rocket.

I asked DiPietro if he saw the show *Sightings*, which ran an episode of the STS-48 mission. He told me that he did. I asked him about the argument presented during the show which said that the flash of light seen on the lower left-hand side of the screen (see figure 4) was not a trim rocket adjustment because no change in the position of the horizon line of the Earth was apparent after the flash of light. DiPietro then said that was not even an argument. "The trim rockets will alter the course of the spacecraft by very *minute* amounts - not even in degrees, minutes or even seconds of arc," he said.

I asked Mr. DiPietro if he remembered seeing Dr. Jack Kasher, Professor of Physics from the University of Nebraska, during the *Sightings* show, which he said he did. Asking him about Kasher's claim that NASA's explanation defies the laws of physics, DiPietro said he disagreed with his analysis.

Dr. Kasher says that only two of the objects he tracked on the tape moved in the direction they were supposed to if a booster rocket actually fired. Four of the objects, he said, continued the trajectory they were following before the flash of light. Also two of them went up to the left, in the opposite direction, according to Kasher.

I asked Mr. DiPietro what of all

the events from the mission, if any, still leave a question mark next to them. He responded by saying that the two projectiles that appear to zip toward the objects that turned, are still very suspicious to him (see figure 6).

DiPietro explained that the projectiles left a trail similar to a rocket, and the fact that they appear as attempting to strike the path of the two objects in the video, may be *more* than coincidental.

All in all DiPietro said, the events "produce a weak case for UFOs if any, and to keep publicizing that these are UFOs, just discredits legitimate UFO investigations." Summing up his final verdict, DiPietro said, "I have a very open mind with these things. The problem I have with STS-48 is, I believe, except for a few things that I cannot explain - your not seeing UFOs."

So there's where it ends. Were the objects taped during the STS-48 mission alien spacecraft and a demonstration of SDI technology? Or, were the objects nothing more than ice crystals, along with the wishful thinking of a few UFO researchers who remain in hot pursuit of the smoking gun. We may never know.

\* \* \* \* \*

## UFO Detectors

*One objective of this publication is to search for novel technology that might bring new breakthroughs in ufology. A man by the name of Wesley Ellison, from Baldwin City, Kansas, is developing detection instruments that may fully verify what*

*researchers have long speculated - UFOs are truly physical objects and are not figments of peoples' imagination. What Ellison is creating are UFO detectors.*

*Ellison is an electrical engineer who worked for the military for 10 years. He specialized in photographic reconnaissance and ECM type systems for the SR-71 Blackbird and the U-2. Both were spy planes operating for the U.S. Government. Ellison told me that when he left the military in 1979, the Government was about 20 years ahead of civilian technology and research.*

*Today, Ellison works for the Space Technology Center at the University of Kansas. He has designed a particular detector that is very simple, but truly unique. At the end of this article, I will explain how anyone can receive the plans for building Ellison's detector for themselves. All of the parts can be purchased from Radio Shack.*

### Inexpensive Magnetic Field Detector

By Wesley Ellison

One of the major problems facing the ufologist is having a means of detecting a UFO that doesn't cost an arm and a leg to build. My goal was to design an effective detector, but to keep the cost at a minimum.

There are several approaches to this problem, but most are rather expensive. The easiest method of detection is by taking full advantage of the most noticed effect that UFOs produce - that being very strong magnetic fields. This detector is designed to pick up these fields and alert the ufologist to their presence. The detector uses a simple pocket compass as the magnetic field detector. The device is oriented to magnetic north, which causes the pointer of the compass to block a beam of infrared light. The slightest presence of a magnetic field causes the compass pointer, or needle, to point toward the source of

the field. The light beam, now unblocked, strikes a photo transistor that in turn activates an audible alarm and turns a relay on to control other things - such as a clock to determine the time of the event, or a camera shutter to take a picture of the object.

This device can be built by someone with little electronics knowledge and for a cost of about \$45 to \$50, depending on the compass being used. I have supplied data such as the schematic and parts list as well as a circuit description of the device (see below). Construction time is about 2 1/2 hours. The device is battery powered, which makes it ideal for the field investigator. I welcome any ideas that a person may have on how to improve it, or other ways to use it. Good Luck and good hunting!

Ellison is using techniques he learned from the military to design his UFO detection devices without compromising military secrets. Besides this simple detector, Ellison has developed other devices that are more complex, to be used for a higher level of detection and analysis.

Ellison is presently consulting the Mutual UFO Network in areas of infrared photography, infrared detection, sound detection, laser

imaging radar, and the design and assembly of devices to pick up magnetic fields (such as the device referred to earlier).

A truly fascinating concept of detection, is using laser imaging radar. Ellison developed a prototype model based on this idea four months ago.

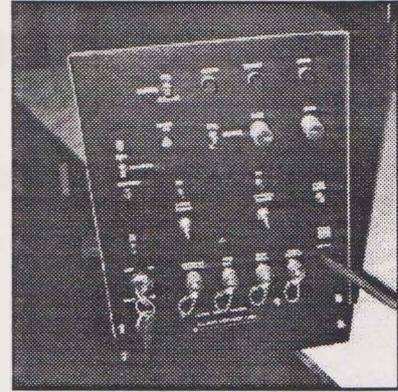
The final unit he wishes to build will use a high power infrared laser to give pulses of light at an unknown object. A computer will keep track of when the pulse was sent, and when the pulse is received; this will enable the computer to calculate the distance of the object. Since the unit will work on a horizontal and vertical scan, the computer will keep track of where the object is in each particular frame. This will allow researchers to determine the speed of an unknown craft as well.

But, the beauty of this device, according to Ellison, is it will receive the image back in infrared, which once received can be converted to visible light and then be recorded on a video recorder. The military presently uses this type of technology for detecting aircraft and other things, but Ellison wants to use this technology for UFOs.

Researchers around the world can set up these devices in UFO hot areas to record data. They can

send recorded information on sightings to a central location where it can be analyzed and checked for recurring patterns. This type of evidence is what ufology critically needs, and might just change the thoughts of many close-minded skeptics along the way.

Besides this highly complex



*LIDAR's rear panel*

laser imaging radar system, Ellison is designing another UFO detector similar to the one mentioned in his above article.

This detector will use a fluxgate compass instead, which will save the hassle of aligning a detector to magnetic north. Ellison wants to have these units manufactured, so they can be available to researchers. Final cost of these detectors will be less than \$150.

Abduction researchers, including Budd Hopkins, are taking an interest in such devices as possible alarms for oncoming abductions. Since all abductees describe an experience of being taken into a craft, and since UFOs are believed to emit magnetic fields, these devices may serve as warning mechanisms.

Better yet, a device that generates a visual and/or audible stimulus, may bring people out of whatever state they're in due to oncoming intruders.

Whatever the use, the UFO detector will surely prove to be a valuable tool for researchers, and may even turn up new evidence that ufologists are anxiously looking for.

*For the plans for building the simple UFO detector mentioned in Ellison's article, send \$10 to Wesley Ellison, R.R.3, Box 215, Baldwin City, Kansas 66006. Price includes shipping and handling.*

\* \* \* \* \*



*Ellison's Laser Imaging Radar (LIDAR).*

# George Wingfield on Crop Circles

By Michael Norris



George Wingfield

I had the pleasure of listening to George Wingfield from the *Center for Crop Circle Studies* speak on the crop circle phenomenon in early October at a lecture sponsored by the Atlanta UFO Forum. George has much to say about the phenomenon, as well as some other related issues that are quite interesting.

Wingfield began by defining a crop circle as "a geometric area in the crop fields which has been flattened to the ground usually in a spiral swirl in which the plants have been sort of flattened. They are noticeable because they are geometric. Usually they are perfectly circular, but in more recent years all sorts of shapes have appeared."

According to Wingfield, "circles almost always appear at night, and there are very few cases of people actually seeing circles appearing." Wingfield said he could count on one hand how many people have actually seen circles forming, and the ones seen are usually very simple circles, not the complex geometric ones.

Witnesses who have seen circles

forming say that they form very rapidly - in four or five seconds. They describe the surroundings before the circle appears as being very still, and it is either early dawn or dusk. They hear a rustling of the crop, and then see the crop open up like a lady's fan, according to their descriptions. The agency that causes it remains invisible.

Wingfield said some people like to think that UFOs just come down and sit on the crops to form the patterns, but he says it's not quite that simple. There is no indication of weight on the soil nor any indentation on the soil itself. Wingfield said, "The crop is gently swirled around, and the stems are almost invariably bent, but not broken." Some pictures of circles Wingfield showed were completely flat and swirled, except for a curious looking strand in the very middle of the circle which remained standing upright.

Wingfield explained that one of the first places crop circles were seen was in Wiltshire, England, in the late 70's and early 80's. One early location, in Warminster, a 30 ft. crop circle appeared. This was one of the first known appearances of a circle in England, and the area where it formed had experienced a UFO flap 15 years prior. The UFO flap in Warminster had begun on Christmas day, in 1964.

During this period, all sorts of strange noises were heard around Warminster, strange objects were seen falling from the sky, and luminous globes and craft were seen around the area. People came from all over to visit the small town to stand among the hills late at night and look for UFOs.

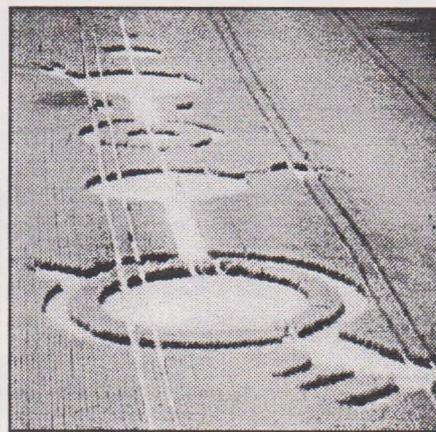
By the middle of the 80's, Wingfield claims that the circles began to get more complex in design. By 1988, circles began to take on patterns which resembled crosses in the fields. The phenomenon, what ever it is, seemed to be becoming more intelligent.

In 1990, circles began appearing as dumbbells (barbells) - two circles connected by a straight passageway.

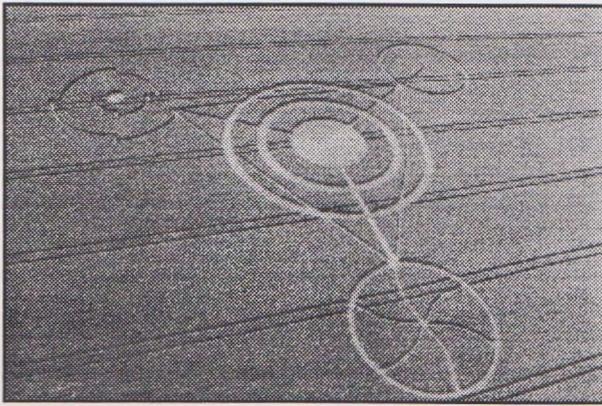
On July 12, 1990, an enormous set of circles - known as the Alton Barnes Pictogram (see below) - appeared overnight in Pewsey Downs in Wiltshire. Wingfield said that people came from all over the country to look at the formation. There was great excitement with people who walked among the formation. "People were absolutely drawn to them," he said. "There was a sense of unseen energy inside those circles - they had an amazing effect on people."

The night that the set of circles appeared, one farm worker nearby said he heard an extreme humming noise coming from the field. At about one or two in the morning, Wingfield said that the dogs in the village nearby reportedly went crazy. The following morning, many cars wouldn't start around the area and their batteries were totally dead. Wingfield commented that the evening was a dry summer night.

Wingfield called 1991 the



*The Alton Barnes Pictogram*



*The Barbury Castle formation.*

"golden year of the circles." He described them as "quite unbelievable," and very articulate.

On the morning of July 17, 1991, Wingfield said he received a call from a friend who had a bizarre encounter the night before. The man said he was out watching the stars with a few friends near Barbury Castle - an Iron Age hill fort five miles south of Swindon. As they were gazing into the star-filled night, they noticed some pulsing lights that appeared in the sky.

The witnesses described the pulsing lights as appearing green, red, and white. They said some lights remained stationary, while others came close to them. Some, they claimed, just blinked out.

One white object came very close to the witnesses and stood absolutely stationary for some time before disappearing. Another object shined a beam halfway to the ground. A dark object, which the witnesses described as very large, flew very swiftly across the sky, blanking out stars from view as it went by.

Wingfield said his friend talked very excitedly over the phone about the experience for over an hour. His friend told him he had never seen UFOs before, and was really quite frightened by what he saw.

No more than five minutes had passed after talking with his friend, when the phone rang again. This time it was another friend who was a

helicopter pilot. The pilot told Wingfield he must see a new crop circle that had formed the night before - it was located in the vicinity of Barbury Castle! Neither Wingfield nor his friend who saw the UFOs, knew anything about the fresh crop circle pattern before their phone conversation.

On other occasions, the forming of crop circles was very elusive, even to researchers camping out overnight. Wingfield told a story of an acquaintance, who in the summer of 1991, stood outside all night watching for strange occurrences that might occur on a beautiful star-lit night. The next morning, he noticed a huge formation which had appeared during the evening about 300 yards away from him. Whatever created it completely eluded him, because he said he was looking around all night long and never saw anything. The man said when he went into the crop circle that morning, it was "extremely powerful. Most people, including researchers, feel that this phenomenon is very benign, and something very beneficial and positive is taking place.

A very strange story from 1991, was an event surrounding a crop circle that formed in Germany (see photo). While discussing this crop circle, Wingfield commented that the formation was different from most English crop circles.

After the formation appeared, hundreds of people came to see the bizarre formation. The farmer started charging the equivalent of \$2 per person to view the sight,

which didn't stop anyone.

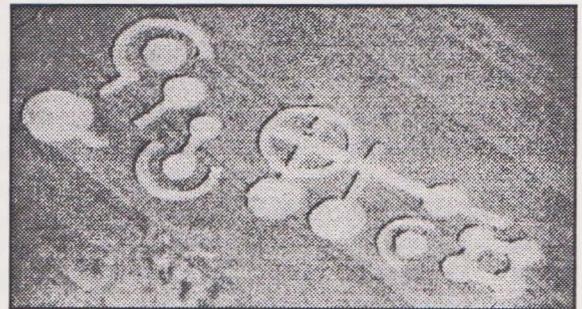
After about a week, Wingfield said one man showed up, paid his money, and asked if he could use his metal detector on the formation. The farmer said ok, and the man buzzed around with his metal detector for about an hour. He reportedly marked three places on the ground with paper handkerchiefs where he found very strong signals.

The man went back to the farmer and asked, "Do you mind if I borrow a spade?" Taking a shovel, the individual began digging in all three places - he dug about 16 inches in each spot. At each location, the man uncovered very heavy plates. The size of the plates were about one foot in diameter and they were very heavy and encrusted with dirt.

He went back to the farmer and said that the plates were a very important find, and he needed to take them immediately for analysis. The man went off with the three plates - and was never seen again.

However, the individual later contacted the farmer and told him all three plates were of different metals - they were made of gold, silver, and bronze. He said the metal plates were of incredible purity, and were absolutely fantastic.

The man said embossed on each of the plates was a pictograph of the crop circle formation itself! He sent photographs of the plates to the farmer, but refused to give his telephone number, where he lived, or where he was from - probably afraid of being accused of stealing the



*A bizarre German crop circle.*

plates.

Wingfield said, "Two of these plates (bronze and silver) have showed up recently - they have been bought by a German business man." Wingfield explained that a friend of his has negotiated to meet with the businessman to view one of the plates. When asked what all of this means, Wingfield said, "I can't give you any answers," appearing to be in just as much wonder as all of us who were listening to him.

Wingfield talked about what has been phrased, "The Doug and Dave scam". In September of 1991, Doug Bower and Dave Chorley made the claim that they had created the majority of the Hampshire crop circles over a thirteen-year period. Although researches didn't take their claims seriously for many reasons, the international media bought it hook, line and sinker. *Today* newspaper broke with a story with a headline that shouted "MEN WHO CONNED THE WORLD - The mysterious corn circles that baffled scientists around the world are a gigantic hoax, *Today* can reveal."

Peter Jennings of ABC dished up the story as if there was no question of its authenticity. *Time* Magazine did a full page article based on *Today's* story uncritically.

What the *gullible* media failed to realize were some points that Wingfield summed up best in an article to *The Cerealogist*:

"Even if we accepted Doug and Dave's claim at face value, it provided no explanation at all for hundreds of circles which had occurred in the Silbury Hill area of Wiltshire in the preceding four years, or for dozens more which had occurred up and down the country as a whole. And, what too of the circles which had been appearing in remote parts of Canada, Australia, Russia and Japan, to name but a few countries?

"There was no explanation for the immense formation at Barbury Castle which would have taken a whole team

of hoaxers hours and hours to make, if indeed they could produce such incredible precision at night. And there was no explanation of how hoaxing could produce remarkable molecular changes and variations in radioactivity levels in the circles which have been shown by recent scientific tests."

-*The Cerealogist* #5, pg 3, Winter 1991/2

1992, Wingfield said, suffered from an intense campaign of disinformation, hoaxing, government inspired hoaxing, and political attempts to deceive researchers that "cast a blight over the whole phenomenon."

A friend of Wingfield's, who used to work for the intelligence services, and has attempted for many years to expose the disinformation game, has acquired some new evidence which is very revealing.

Wingfield explained that researchers know about two men who are paid agents who are hoaxing circles and spreading disinformation in order to discredit crop circle re-

search and confuse the whole issue. Wingfield's ex-intelligence friend, has taped a conversation with one of these men - nicknamed "the snake" - after speaking to him disguising his voice as a foreigner. The tape is very revealing as to the extent of the disinformation campaign and the concern of this phenomenon by governments worldwide.

The story of the tape and this cover-up campaign was recently discussed in Wingfield's publication, *The Circular*. But, Wingfield said, he recently heard that his whole issue over in England that contained the story was impounded - what agency was responsible he wasn't for sure yet. More on this event, along with the full contents of the tape, in a future article of *UFO Encounters*.

So that's the brief history, according to George Wingfield, of the struggle of researchers to find answers to one of the greatest mysteries in ufology. So, Miller Lite commercials can poke fun all they want - the crop circle mystery appears as if it will continue to mystify us for a long time.

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## Encounters in Costa Rica

On April 2 of this year, around 12:30 in the morning, sightings of an unidentified craft were reported by many residents of Costa Rica including 15 to 20 radio-patrol policemen. News about the sightings reached the U.S. via a newspaper article distributed among UFO investigators. Timothy Good (author of *Above Top Secret*) from England originally received the newspaper article from another investigator. The article was written by the Costa Rican newspaper *Tico Times*.

Unfortunately, the *Tico Times* article was only partially correct, because it was written as a "tongue-

in-cheek" story, since the sightings took place so close to April Fool's day.

The *Tico Times* story began as follows: "Unidentified Flying Object (UFO) using what officials describe as a 'tractor beam' sapped energy from the Arenal hydroelectric plant early Thursday morning, causing a nationwide blackout that lasted half an hour, officials said."

Quoting several workers from power plant including the plant manager, the article said they saw a craft shining a beam onto the main generator, and witnessed a dropping energy output that caused a nation-

wide blackout afterwards.

The story went on to say that the UFO was spotted in many different locations after it left the power plant, and was last seen descending into the crater of the Arenal Volcano. The *Times* published a photo of the object that was supposedly taken by "April Fuller" of Oshkosh, Wisconsin (April Fooler was more like it). Several government agencies, the newspaper said, were involved in the investigation of the sightings.

After reading the article, I immediately went to work to determine the validity of the story. I called Jeffrey Sainio, who lives in Wisconsin, to see if he had any investigators who could trace down this "April Fuller" from Oshkosh. He commented on the suspiciousness of the name - a point with which I agreed - and said he would get back with me. Meanwhile, I contacted some Costa Rican officials to see if they could give me any information. Fearon Hicks, a UFO investigator from Auburndale, Florida, gave me a contact with the Embassy of Costa Rica in Washington, D.C.

I was told when I called the embassy that they had no information on the incident. But, they gave me the telephone and fax numbers for the *Tico Times* and the Minister of Information in Costa Rica.

The Minister of Information, Lic. Alejandro Matamoros Bolanos, who I contacted first, responded with a fax that stated, "I have no information on this incident, nor any other UFO incident." He then suggested that I contact the *Tico Times* newspaper.

I then spoke by phone with Peter Brennan, a reporter with the *Tico Times*. When I asked him about the article from April 3, he sort of chuckled and said that it was a "tongue-in-cheek" article the paper did. The picture published with the story, he explained, was something the paper's photographer made up.

Brennan told me that although

the *Times* did an April Fool's story based on some UFO rumors, they later discovered that there really were some bonafide sightings of a UFO that night by several police officers. He said he would fax me a copy of the serious story that was written in the *Times* about two months after the original story. Concerning the April article, Brennan commented that I could believe what I wanted - he stated that some people felt that parts of the mock story actually took place. But, he said I would never find "April Fuller."

After speaking with the *Tico Times*, I called Jeffrey Sainio to tell him that "April Fuller" from the original article was a false lead. He told me that he already discovered that after looking into it. I explained to Jeff that although the April article was a spoof, there really were sightings of a craft that night, and the *Times* did a second follow-up story of the actual events that took place that evening.

The following are the events as reported by the *Tico Times*' second article, dated May 29, 1992. I have been assured by the paper that the story is accurate, and is not a "tongue-in-cheek" article.

The story from the *Times* was headlined: "NO APRIL FOOLING! Did UFOs Really Visit, Cause April 2 Blackout?" According to the article, a six-page report by Lorrissa Minsky appeared in the Sunday magazine of *La Nacion* (a Costa Rican daily) saying that many responsible people saw UFOs on April 2. Minsky interviewed multiple witnesses, including two radio patrolmen: MAJ. Roberto Guevara and Capt. Oscar Meono. They reported seeing bright lights illuminating the sky at the same moment their patrol car engines and radios mysteriously died.

Guevara said he was driving along the Pavos highway in west-

ern San Jose at 12:15 a.m., when he noticed a bright light in the sky. "Then I saw several blue, white and red lights that resembled stadium lights," he said. "They were so intense that I had to cover my face with my hands. Behind them I saw a metal structure, and then I was filled with fear, because I thought they were going to kidnap me." Guevara rushed to a phone to call headquarters to ask for reinforcements.

Captain Meono was serving as Chief of Operations that night and learned of Guevara's request over the radio. Meono thought, "He must be crazy if he's seeing flying saucers." But, Meono said, he decided to go and check it out for himself.

As Meono and his partner approached Tobias Bolanos Airport in Pavas, they saw a bright light in the distance. "At first it seemed to come from an airplane," Meono said, "but then we saw a set of blue and purple lights, like those in a discotheque [dance club]. As we got closer, we could see a circular object - round on top and flat on the edges, suspended in the air some 15 meters above the ground." The object was so bright, Meono claimed, that he had difficulty seeing it clearly. A few minutes later, the object rose and headed to the north.

Encounters with the craft didn't end there. Other patrol units, near Juan Santamaria International Airport, reported an explosion-like sound and a bright light near the airport beacon.

Meono was heading toward Alajuela when he spotted the strange light again. The mysterious object was moving in the direction of the airport. "As it [the object] passed over them, the neighborhoods would be left without lights," Meono said. "Then it parked right above us and turned on some very strong lights. I was very scared - I leaped out of the car, grabbed the radio relay, and started to shout, 'Control, control, I'm seeing it!' But, the radio was

completely dead."

Capt. Meono stated afterwards that between 15 and 20 patrolmen, as well as taxi drivers and residents, all reported seeing the object during the early morning hours of April 2 - during the nationwide blackout.

Seventeen-year-old Alvaro Matarrito and his sixteen-year-old sister Olivia, both from Loma Bonita de Nicoya in Guanacastle, also reported seeing a bizarre craft. The youths claimed that while they were inside their home, the lights went out and the battery-operated cassette player they were listening to went dead.

They looked outside and saw "a round plate with three or four yellow lights that revolved in circles. It was still for a while and then began to

move slowly until it was hidden behind trees and disappeared." Alvaro and his sister both said they were teased by high-school classmates, but insist that what they saw was real.

Shortly after the incident, the Costa Rican Electricity Institute (ICE), announced why they believed, the nationwide blackout occurred. They said a fire in a sugar-cane field near the Canas substation caused a short circuit at the Arenal plant sparking automatic shutdowns in a series of key plants.

ICE officials also said that the mysterious glows and lights seen in various parts of the country were nothing more than a climatic phenomenon. They said that this is common at the end of a dry season

when there is much dust and moisture in the air.

According to ICE engineer Ricardo Chinchilla, dust and moisture accumulate around the "isolators" that separate high-tension wires from the towers and generate an intense white glow that appears to move (sorry, I don't buy it).

Chinchilla added that the so-called "corona effect" - a bright "halo" caused by a magnetic field created when electric current passes through aluminum cables - was also visible that night.

Yet, nobody at ICE could explain why batteries from cars and radios went dead at the same moment that the so-called explainable phenomenon appeared.

## The Case for RUFOS

By Jeff Sainio

Although media attention has concentrated on RUFOS (red UFOs) in the Gulf Breeze area, similar objects have been recorded from widespread areas.

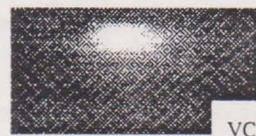
First, RUFO characteristics: Rectangular shape, red to white luminescence, a red glow cast underneath (but not above).

Video-captures (VCs) 1-4 show a Gulf Breeze RUFO as shown on "America's Best-Kept Secrets"; note the glow on clouds under the object, which is best seen in VC 4. VCs 1&2, taken less than a second apart, show considerable nearby cloud motion, indicating the UFO is not balloon-borne. If the clouds were between the UFO and the camera, the glow would also appear above the UFO. VC3, which is not overexposed, reveals the flat UFO structure.

VC5-6 shows a RUFO seen over Newfoundland. Without clouds, the red underglow in VC5 is less apparent, but the rectangular UFO shape is evident. VC6 shows a small bright spot (arrow), which hints of a large dark body, and gives an idea of the resolution of the camera.

VC7 is a daylight Washington state RUFO videotaped at dusk; the contrast enhancement obscures the fairly-bright blue sky. The UFO shape is cloud-like, and the red underglow is faint, as might be expected, competing with skylight. The dark right side is an electronic artefact.

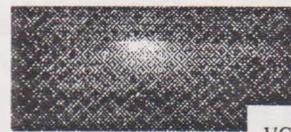
VC8 is Santos Rosa's southern California video as seen on



VC1



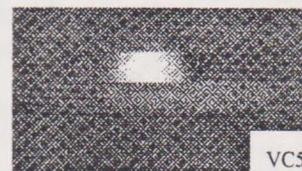
VC2



VC3



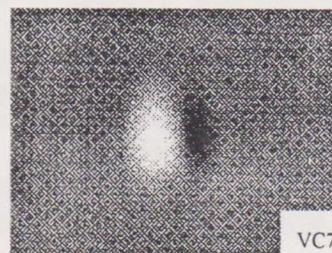
VC4



VC5



VC6



VC7



VC8

FOX-TV's "Sightings" September 11, 1992. The video is too overexposed to determine any shape, and only a faint red underglow is visible, but the witness description, a rectangular orange UFO jumping and stopping, matches the witness description of VC5-6.

Besides these videos, I have a 30-second, time-exposure photo of a drifting RUFO in Ontario. Because I have no release authorization for this photo, I am unable to include it at this time. I will say that the object appears too distant, and the time exposure obscures any red underglow.

In all videos, reference objects were checked to verify that the red underglow is not an electronic arte-

fact.

The black-and-white halftones shown are obviously inadequate for those wishing to check further: interested investigators can receive a color copy by sending a SASE and two 29-cent stamps to the address below.

Taken separately, these are just more distant sightings luckily recorded. But together, they represent a pattern. I urge the reader to report any similar cases, with or without physical evidence, and to forward any possible explanations consistent with the evidence.

Jeff Sainio  
 MUFON Staff Photoanalyst  
 200 Millington #2  
 Hartland, WI 53029-1611

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 Call (510) 428-0202.

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 Box 728, Ardsley, NY 10502

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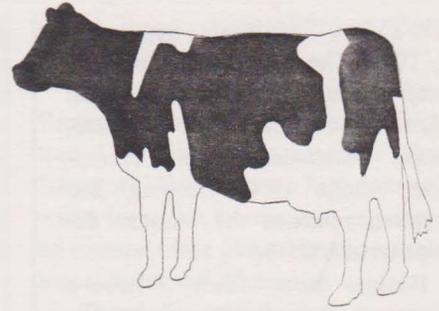
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## Coming next month:



***Animal Mutilations*** - A bizarre report on animal mutilations spanning the last year.

***Atlanta Discovery EXPO 92*** - Three top UFO researchers - Budd Hopkins (abductions), Colin Andrews (crop circles), and Stanton Friedman (nuclear physicist) - talk about the latest discoveries and issues among the UFO field.

***Dr. Steven Greer and the CSETI group*** - Greer's goal with *CSETI* is to initiate a direct human/alien contact (CE-5). Recently in England, he came real close - witnesses say Greer along with others attracted a real UFO craft - so close they got a good description!

***"The Snake"*** - Paid government agent spreading disinformation? Find out.

***And as always, more sightings - so don't miss out!***

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