

MUTUAL UFO NETWORK

UFO JOURNAL

DECEMBER 1995

NUMBER 332 \$3



MUFON UFO JOURNAL

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MUTUAL UFO NETWORK SINCE 1967

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DECEMBER 1995

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MUFON UFO JOURNAL

(USPS 002-970)
(ISSN 0270-6822)
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The MUFON UFO Journal is published monthly by the Mutual UFO Network, Inc., Seguin, Texas. Membership/Subscription rates: \$25 per year in the U.S.A.; \$30 foreign in U.S. funds. Second class postage paid at Seguin, TX.

POSTMASTER: Send form 3579 to advise change of address to: MUFON UFO JOURNAL, 103 Oldtowne Rd., Seguin, TX 78155-4099.

UFO INTERCEPT

Robert Durant

For six months UFOs had been spotted over the skies of Belgium by thousands of observers on the ground and by military and civilian radars. These intrusions were discussed secretly at the highest levels of the Belgian government, in consultation with a handful of UFO researchers.

As a key NATO ally in a geographically strategic buffer location, Belgium was furnished with the latest equipment to repel a Soviet attack. This included the "hottest" jet fighter, the F-16, as well as top-of-the-line radar for ground control of interception missions.

The puzzle presented to the Belgian authorities parallels that faced by American officials since 1947 — what was the source of the eyewitness and radar reports? Every effort was made to determine if the UFOs might be some highly advanced aircraft, such as the Stealth or Aurora. The answer was "no." And if they were not "ours" then they must be "theirs." First choice for "theirs" being Soviet, but Soviet vehicles with amazing flight characteristics, flying over NATO territory with insolent impunity, night after night.

Exasperated, and genuinely worried about the profound security implications of allowing Soviet (or even extraterrestrial) aircraft to roam unchallenged over their country, the authorities made a terribly difficult decision. At the next clear opportunity, armed fighters would intercept the UFO.

On the evening of March 29, 1990 thousands of observers reported anomalous flying objects. Military radars were tracking the same targets. At a few minutes before midnight a flight of two F-16s rose from a NATO airfield with orders to intercept the UFO.

Only the mysterious nature of the target made this mission different from the hundreds of intercepts accomplished as war training exercises by the pilots of the F-16s. Usually the "enemy" was another NATO fighter, merely part of the exercise, known to be friendly. Occasionally they were sent to identify a civilian or military craft that had strayed off course and out of radio communications.

But the equipment and techniques are the same. Two jets is the rule, dictated by the requirements of modern air combat tactics. One pilot is the "leader," the other is his "wingman." The combination provides enhanced offensive capability and improves defense when under attack.

The story of the great Belgian UFO event has been detailed elsewhere. In an action without precedent, the Belgian government freely opened the files on the case to the public. The Air Force officer in charge of the operation and the Minister of Defense gave a press con-

NV 90 is the call sign of this flight. Five by five is another way of saying "loud and clear." The radar controller has the UFO on the screen and gives the pilots the bearing and distance of their quarry. The chase has begun.

ference and answered all questions honestly. None of the traditional "swamp gas" and "weather balloon" nonsense. During the intervening five years nothing has emerged to cast doubt on the veracity of the Belgian government's statements, or to elicit a prosaic explanation of the UFO sightings.

Among the great mass of data released to the public is the transcript of radio conversations between the radar controller and the fighter pilots sent to intercept the UFO. What follows is a translation from the original French, together with commentary to ensure that this extraordinarily dramatic chase is comprehensive to the layman.

(I am indebted to my wife for the translation, and to my friend Col. B of the U. S. Air Force, who reviewed the transcript and lent much insight based on his experience as a fighter pilot and expert on the F-16. The translation required several steps, from French to English, then from the highly technical and idiosyncratic jargon of the pilots into ordinary language.)

The transcript begins at seven minutes past midnight, rendered in the transcript as 07M. Both jets are airborne. The wingman is three to five miles behind the leader, using his onboard radar and distance measuring equipment to maintain his position. At night and in clouds, visual contact with the other airplane is impossible, so standard practice is to make the leader a "target" on the wingman's radar. Attempting to fly a tight formation would invite a disastrous mid-air collision.

The controller gives the direction of the target from the jets in degrees, followed by the distance to the target. Usually this direction is relative to the nose of the airplane, so that 030 would mean clockwise 30 degrees from the nose, and 310 would be between the nose and the left wing. At other times the controller will give the interceptors a heading to fly, based on the same 360 degree plan, with 360 being magnetic North. The leader repeats the instructions to insure that he understood them correctly.

The transcript begins as the jets have left the airfield tower frequency and are checking in with the radar intercept controller. Controller = C, pilot = P.

07M

- C: *I hear you loud and clear, how do you read me?*
 P: *Five by five. NV 90*
 C: *Run a check on your armament*
 P: *OK, it checks*
 C: *For your information, the echo is at 310 degrees, 15 miles*
 C: *Confirmed*

NV 90 is the call sign of this flight. Five by five is another way of saying "loud and clear." The radar controller has the UFO on the screen and gives the pilots the bearing and distance of their quarry. The chase has begun.

07M30S

- P: *Terrific! Great! We hear you five by five*
 C: *Great! Same here*
 C: *At the moment, I have no altitude readout for the echo*
 P: *We are both moving toward the target, NV 90*
 C: *Roger, and both echoes are to your right, 310 degrees, to the right*
 P: *OK, right to 310*
 C: *The last known altitude for the echo is from another airplane, NV 210. Keep turning. Turn towards 320*
 P: *320*

08M

- C: *320, 17 miles. And for the moment level off at a maximum of ten thousand feet*
 P: *Steady on 320*
 C: *Roger. 330, five to ten, the correct distance is 15. Possible altitude 10,000 feet*
 P: *Steady at ten thousand No contact*

09M

- C: *Contact 330 distance 10. Eleven thousand feet. Right 330*
 P: *330, steady*
 C: *330, 5, the correct distance is 9*
 P: *No contact, keep talking*
 C: *345, distance 7. Slow down. Maneuver slowly*
 P: *Roger, maneuvering slowly*
 C: *Still at ten thousand feet, bearing 345, distance 5*
 P: *Confirm the altitude*

A lot of talk in three minutes. This is deadly serious business. The pilots and the controller are obviously excited and probably nervous. The UFO is now only five miles from the pursuing jets, a very short distance in air combat.

10M

- C: *Last altitude ten thousand feet, repeat, ten. The dis-*

The F-16 has his airborne search radar operating. It has found the UFO and is showing the pilot that the target is heading 250 degrees at an incredible 970 knots, or 1,100 miles per hour. This is nearly twice the speed of sound, and well above the top speed of the F-16, which is about 800 knots at this altitude.

tance is three. Left side two miles. No altitude. The echo went over

- P: *No contact*
 C: *Just passed under you*
 P: *Repeat?*
 C: *Right now he is right under your plane. Both of you vector at 090 degrees. Contact at 090, distance two. When steady, verify 090, distance three. Maneuver slowly. Turn toward the inside, four nautical miles, 060, three*
 P: *Blinking light right in front of you. Do you see it just under your plane, an orange light? (This is the wingman speaking to the lead pilot)*
 C: *Distance is 3,060, 3*
 P: *Heading 180. Roger, return towards 180 degrees. Do you have visual contact with me, Meel? (Leader is asking his wingman, code named Meel, if he has him in sight. The term "roger" means "I understand.")*
 P: *Roger, have contact with you. If you do a turn to 180, one mile, you should find him straight ahead. A blinking orange light. It's on the ground. (Wingman replies that he does have the leader in sight, and gives instructions to the leader concerning the blinking orange light that appears to be on the ground.)*
 P: *Efflux, do you still have contact? (Efflux is the code name for the radar controller.)*
 C: *Yes, for the moment, the echo is 020, 15*
 P: *Confirm 020*
 C: *020, five miles*
 P: *Look at the blinking light, I mean (unintelligible word) flash*
 C: *030, six miles*
 P: *The contact on the ground looks like a light*
 C: *Another echo now, 360, ten miles*
 P: *360, ten*

13M

- C: *Altitude 11,000 feet, 350, 11 miles*
 P: *I have a contact at 9,000 going toward 250 at 970 knots*
 C: *May be your target*
 P: *A contact straight in front at 9,000 feet, speed 310*
 C: *Distance 6*
 P: *Eddy, you're confirming the contact? Now I have the*

same in B15 (B15, C8, etc., are general areas in the airspace)

C: Echo at three miles. Straight ahead, three

P: I've got intermittent contact

C: Roger. And now, at two miles. Make an inside turn to the right, level one mile. Accelerate to your right, going toward 130

P: 130

C: 140, distance three

The F-16 has his airborne search radar operating. It has found the UFO and is showing the pilot that the target is heading 250 degrees at an incredible 970 knots, or 1,100 miles per hour. This is nearly twice the speed of sound, and well above the top speed of the F-16, which is about 800 knots at this altitude. Eddy is the call sign of the leader, just as Meel is the wingman's personal call sign. The UFO slows to 310 knots, changes direction of flight. It now appears to be playing with the interceptors.

14M

P: Confirm the direction of the target, Efflux

C: 130, same. 120. Keep going towards 180. It is now at 170, four. Verify that your camera is working OK. 160, three

P: Camera ready. I have a contact at 550 knots in C6, altitude ten thousand

15M

C: Just above. If possible, take maximum pictures

P: Can I suggest that I keep using the HUD? I'll keep it

C: At your six o'clock, two

(The HUD is a Heads Up Display, projecting some of the flight instruments on the windshield of the jet. This allows the pilot to focus visually on his target, while at the same time being able to note the basic parameters needed to fly the airplane, such as airspeed and attitude, without moving his head or taking his eyes off the target. The camera can be switched to see what the pilot sees through the windshield, or to record what the radar scope sees. The Belgian government released all of the radar scope camera footage for public viewing. Short fragments of this material have been shown on television programs dealing with the Belgian incident. Usually interceptors switch to the HUD display when they are close to the target and attacking. The pilot is expecting a successful run any moment, and opts to keep the HUD mode for the camera.)

P: Unintelligible words

P: Efflux, give me a new vector

C: Go to 360, 360. Continue right to 030

P: 030

C: He is now at 050, three. Altitude ten thousand, five hundred feet. Keep turning toward 090

P: Steady 090

C: 090, straight ahead two

P: An aircraft just went under me. Efflux, is that possible?

C: At what altitude?

P: I see it, Efflux

C: Straight ahead, two miles

P: Meel, do you see it, just under my aircraft there? Efflux, do you have a new vector?

C: South, two

P: Give me the altitude

C: NV 105, echo 130, 130, three. Last known altitude ten thousand feet, straight ahead two

P: Come in, attack

C: You just passed the echo, altitude ten thousand feet.

P: I am at 9,000 feet

C: Still no contact?

P: Still no contact! Vectors, please!

C: 270, two

P: Confirm 260

(The pilot nearly got a clean lock-on and run on the target aircraft. Apparently there was a fleeting visual contact. But after 12 intense minutes of high "G" pursuit, the UFO escapes, again. The pilot is frustrated, sounding almost desperate.)

19M

C: 270

P: Maneuvering towards 270. Steady on 270. Ten thousand feet

C: No contact for the moment

P: Meel, go over to frequency xxxx (Leader asks wingman to tune another frequency on his second radio. The wingman will be talking to an air traffic controller, coordinating the entry of the jets into airspace beyond that controlled by Efflux. In addition to directing the interceptors, Efflux is talking to air controllers at Brussels on the telephone. This is necessary because of dense commercial airline traffic in the area.)

C: Could you contact Brussels on frequency xxxx, it's started to go away! (Efflux also sees the jets leaving his airspace, and repeats the order to contact the Brussels civilian air traffic control agency. The chase continues, and extreme caution is needed to avoid crashing into an airliner. The UFO momentarily disappears from the Efflux radar scope.)

21M

C: Keep turning to your right, 090

P: Steering towards the left 090. Efflux, we are now steady to the East

C: Roger. Maintain this heading

P: We have positive contact

C: No more contact on the screen for the moment

22M

P: We don't see it either. My fuel level is OK. We might have a target at 19 miles, 800 knots, and 5,300 feet.

Confirm this, Efflux. A contact at five miles, on the left side, high speed

23M

C: No contact for the moment
 P: At four miles on the left
 C: I'm disengaging for a minute to check

24M

P: I'm checking. Turning to a heading of 034. Brussels is calling us, but no contact
 C: The target is coming at you from 320, distance 15 miles. A possible contact at 270, distance 12. Turn right

25M

P: Let's turn right to 270
 C: This target seems to be a civilian aircraft
 P: Repeat, Efflux
 C: This contact is a civilian aircraft

26M

P: Let's turn toward 277
 C: Roger. Maintain a heading of 170 from Efflux
 P: Speak to me, Efflux
 C: Tell me what you have seen up there
 P: I had a kind of flashing light straight ahead at five miles
 C: And did this light come from the South?

27M

P: The light is not moving
 C: When did you fly over the light? Give me a signal when you start your run
 P: I'm turning left to fly at ten thousand feet over the light, and to give you the location of the light. I'm flying just over the light right now
 C: Roger
 P: Coordinates 50 degrees, 32.08 North, 04 degrees, 11.08 East. I'm turning back toward the East, at ten thousand feet
 C: Roger
 (The light was later found to be a warning beacon on top of a factory chimney.)
 P: Possible contact at 020, 12 miles
 P: 12 miles, I'm looking
 C: Very high speed. Turn to 040
 P: 040
 C: Bearing 115, turn right to 060
 P: Have a contact straight ahead at ten miles
 C: That's the target. We don't know the altitude
 P: Contact at five thousand feet, 740 knots. A good new contact. Investigating. A contact straight ahead at seven miles
 C: Disengage for a moment and verify the target. Check your armament

32M

C: Last known altitude ten thousand feet, 070, ten
 P: 070, ten. Confirmed turning toward 070, altitude seven thousand feet. Lost contact. Need more information, Efflux
 C: We have also lost contact. It should be at 090, ten. Turn to 100

33M

P: 100
 C: Straight ahead. Distance five. Do you have contact?

34M

P: No contact
 C: 095, distance 18. Seventeen, right, both right, toward 310
 P: Right, 310. Fuel 044
 (The jets have been airborne over 40 minutes, engaging in constant maneuvering, including bursts of speed requiring the full power of the engines. Fuel supply is beginning to become a concern. The leader reports that he has 4,400 pounds of fuel left.)
 C: Seventeen, verify the time that you have left
 P: Remaining time 15 minutes
 P: Seventeen, 310
 C: Roger, 17. Maintain this direction for the moment. A civilian airplane at 315, distance 12, at 5,000 feet in the TMA. (The TMA is protected airspace surrounding an airport.)

38M

P: I'm looking. Contact at six thousand feet, slow moving at C
 C: It is a civilian airplane. Passing at your two o'clock, five miles, five thousand feet. Verify at 310, eventual contact at 12 miles
 (In addition to giving target directions by the 360 degree system, the controller used the "clock face" method, so that three o'clock is the right wing, six o'clock is the tail, etc.)

39M

P: Ten miles, straight ahead, ten thousand feet. Contact
 C: Straight ahead, distance seven

40M

P: I have it, too
 C: Verify that your camera is on

41M

P: Camera on
 C: If possible, take a maximum of pictures.
 P: Movement of target is very slow
 C: Verify the altitude of the contact
 P: I still have the contact, five miles
 C: Any altitude?

P: No altitude
 C: At your three o'clock, two miles
 P: At three o'clock, two miles
 C: It's moving from left to right
 P: Repeat
 C: Above, on your left
 P: I'm looking, I see a ground light straight ahead

42M

C: A civilian aircraft to the West, ten miles
 C: Contact 100. Turn right 100
 P: Roger, turn right 100
 C: Civilian traffic 300, five miles
 P: Civilian traffic 300, five miles, steady at 120
 C: Continue at 100
 P: 100
 C: Same 060 now. 060, five
 P: Steady, 060
 C: 060, three, do you have a contact?
 P: A contact, but his speed goes from 100 to 600
 C: I have the same echo
 P: Slightly on the right, five miles
 C: Confirm. Maneuvering rapidly
 P: Steady on East heading now
 C: Roger
 P: Lost contact
 C: Both of you vector to 180

The UFO is being tracked by the onboard radar on the F-16. The radar shows the speed of the target, and the pilot watches it accelerate from 100 knots to 600 knots. The lower speed is slower than a high-performance jet can fly without stalling, but the higher speed, particularly the earlier very high speed run, can only be achieved by a few experimental aircraft. What can this target be? Both the speed and maneuverability of the UFO seem to far outstrip any known airplane.

44M

P: Turning to the right, South
 C: Contact to the South, higher
 P: We're looking. Steady heading, South
 C: At your nine o'clock, three. Excuse me, at your three o'clock
 P: Steady toward the South. No contact

45M

C: Forget that echo. Turn quickly to 360
 P: 360 to the left. Checking the fuel
 C: Eventual contact 350, distance ten
 P: 350, ten
 C: Two contacts attributable to civilian aircraft, same position, 345, nine, left 330, seven, left 330

46M

C: Civil traffic 340, distance seven
 P: We have contact with this traffic

C: At five thousand feet, another contact at 325, the distance is, no altitude
 P: I have radar contact
 C: Verify your camera is on
 P: Camera is on. We're losing contact
 C: He is now at 345, the distance is five
 P: We have the same in B8, ten thousand, Meel (The wingman, Meel, reports that his radar confirms the controller's target bearing and distance.)
 C.: 350; three
 P: Radar contact. We have a weak contact on the left, eight miles. We just lost contact

47M

C: It is now at your 360
 P: Asking permission to turn towards the North
 C: You can disengage
 P: Steady toward the North, Efflux
 C: Roger. No contact?
 P: Negative
 C: Return to the South

The pursuit continued for another six minutes. Low on fuel, and completely frustrated by a target that outsped and outmaneuvered them, the physically exhausted and emotionally drained F-16 pilots returned to their home base.

Colonel B is skeptical about UFOs, and believes that the most likely explanation for this incident is Electronic Counter Measures (ECM) devices, probably on board another NATO aircraft in the vicinity. In other words, the radar target being tracked by the ground controller and by the fighters was phony, an artifact of sophisticated electronic gadgetry designed to fool radar. Such devices were used with great success during the Gulf War.

On the other hand, he is puzzled by some central aspects of the chase. "I've been on several intercepts against jamming targets (ECM)," the Colonel told me. "The ground controller in Belgium was able to maintain contact with civilian aircraft in the vicinity, and that is not possible with the ECM jamming I have encountered. So that's very strange." Moreover, it is beyond his experience with ECM to have jamming that simultaneously gives the same false target to both the ground radars and the airborne radars.

The Colonel is most persuaded to believe that this was ECM by the fact that there was no sonic boom produced as the UFO exceeded the speed of sound. This has exercised all of the technical analysts, including those who have examined — and dismissed — the ECM theory. This UFO also generated thousands of eyewitness reports from observers on the ground.

How likely is it that an ECM test, or repeated overflights of a super-secret American airplane, would be carried out over a densely populated foreign country? The fighters were armed, and could have collided with each other or with a civilian airliner during the chase,

causing tremendous loss of life. Assuming that risk for the sake of a test of Belgium's air defense posture is preposterous. Nor is it reasonable to test any device of such potential military importance over foreign territory, where a chance error or mechanical failure could literally drop it into the hands of the enemy. And one would suppose that the "test" would be revealed in due time to the Belgian government, but nothing of the sort has occurred.

But regardless of the nature of the target, Colonel B, a veteran of many intercept missions, some successful and some not, says the transcript has the ring of perfect authenticity. "I can sympathize with those guys. They were having a very bad day up there."

NOTES

The 1990 wave of sightings in Belgium continues to attract attention in Europe, where the European Parliament is considering establishing a central UFO research bureau at least partly because of the notoriety of this unresolved case. The London *Sunday Express* for September 17, 1995 quoted a letter sent to British researcher Derek Sheffield by former Belgian Minister of Defense Leo Delcroix to the effect that "Despite the most rigorous official investigation, no earthly explanation has been found," that there was at least one earlier attempt by Belgian F-16s to intercept a similar UFO, and that he had ruled out the possibility that the UFO reports were caused by an AWACS or Stealth aircraft. And Dr. David Clark, spokesman for the Labour Party, in a complaint reminiscent of Congressman Steven Schiff's problems with U.S. Defense Department stonewalling, said about the British Ministry of Defense, "They have official recorded information and our view is the MoD is being far too secretive. They ought to be much more open on this issue. If it wasn't a UFO and was a Stealth bomber then we should be told."

In August 1995 Mrs. Marie Galbraith of the BSW Foundation met with General De Brouwer in Brussels, where he assured her that this case still remains unsolved and of the greatest interest to the Belgian government. In a telephone conversation in October 1995, ufologist Antonio Huneus received the same information from the General, in addition to the news that he will retire from his position as head of the Belgian Air Force and will return to civilian life in early 1996.

SOBEPS, the Belgian civilian UFO research organization, published a book detailing their exhaustive investigation of the 1989-1990 sighting wave, and recently produced an updated version. Unfortunately, the book is not available in English but it is of exceptional value as an example of what can be accomplished by dedicated ufologists determined to place on record all the facts in this very rich and provocative case. In a highly technical chapter dealing with the radar data, physics professor Auguste Meessen concludes that some of the ground radar images of the UFO were almost

certainly caused by unusual atmospheric conditions, but then finds that the airborne radar images could not be explained in that way. The book is 504 pages long, and contains over 200 illustrations, many in color. Write to SOBEPS, Avenue Paul Janson 74, B-1070, Brussels, Belgium for ordering information.

An account of the Belgian sightings with emphasis on the radar "chase" was published in the *MUFON UFO Journal*, No. 268, August 1990.

The Belgian case joins other classics like Bentwaters and Tehran in which UFOs invaded heavily guarded airspace and frolicked at will, neutralizing the most advanced operational military defenses.

UFO DATA - Continued from Page 12

sure of reliability (that the event did occur as described). Index data for Reliability are distributed over a wide range of values, from 0.25 to 1.0, and the distributions are nearly the same for CEs and non-CEs. The overall average, 0.55, is also the average for both CEs and non-CEs separately. Combining this with the fact that only 33 percent of the cases have values below 0.5, the theoretical average, we surmise with cautious conservatism that testimonies of witnesses, overall, do describe events as they were experienced.

Using Values for Selection

A selection of cases having high credibility, based on their Certainty Index values, may be beneficial in the future. For today, only about 60 percent of the reports have been evaluated. If a selection rule was established to get only the best reports for statistical analysis, too many reports would not even be considered — a situation that will change once the database has grown significantly. For this report, no selection process will use the Certainty Index values.

PREVIEW OF SECTION 2

In the next section of this report, studies of the years, months, days, times, and durations are discussed. Some findings have surprises that cannot be fully explained.

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Examining MUFON's Computerized UFO Data

Section 1: Reports, Sighting Types, and the Certainty Index

By T. David Spencer, Deputy Director, Investigations

This begins a series of eight planned reports involving the statistics of the data in the computer UFO Database. Over 500 Field Investigators have individually devoted many hours to UFO reporting and have contributed valuable information to MUFON. The information currently in the database (used for these reports) is from about 350 Field Investigators working in teams or individually. To avoid any confusion, the credit for this data and all of its findings belongs to the Field Investigators. This report puts the information together to extract value from the Field Investigators' efforts.

Although the inferences and deductions drawn from the data do not necessarily reflect the future, there are now enough data over enough time to examine the possibility of trends, providing limited capability to make projections. The data analyses given in these articles are not highly sophisticated but are enough to build some hypotheses. In part, an effort is made to provide a basis of support for what ufologists rationalize today — at the risk of being boring and tedious. If nothing else, these "So what?" conclusions help establish the reasonableness of the data. In turn, the reasonableness helps certify the findings that may suggest changes to traditional ufological paradigms.

There is far too much information to present in one or two articles. The current plan is to provide eight sections on the major aspects. (See Outline.)

AN OVERVIEW OF THE DATA

All data are from UFO reports of investigations done by MUFON Field Investigators, and all reports were reviewed and approved before their entry into the database. The data includes the information identified in the UFO SIGHTING QUESTIONNAIRE — COMPUTER INPUT (FORM 2), as appropriate for each event.

This report examines data existing in the computer database as of mid-October 1995, and it includes reports of events as early as the late 1940's. Since the reports submitted before 1987 are not yet reviewed for database entry, nearly all of the reports of events before 1987 were written between 1987 and 1995. There are still reports submitted in 1987 and 1988 that require more study before they are entered, and there are several recent reports placed on hold, awaiting more information. For these and other reasons, the number of events recorded for any year should increase over time.

The inclusiveness of the database is restricted to cases that are consciously remembered without the aid of hypnosis or other known psychological influences on

OUTLINE

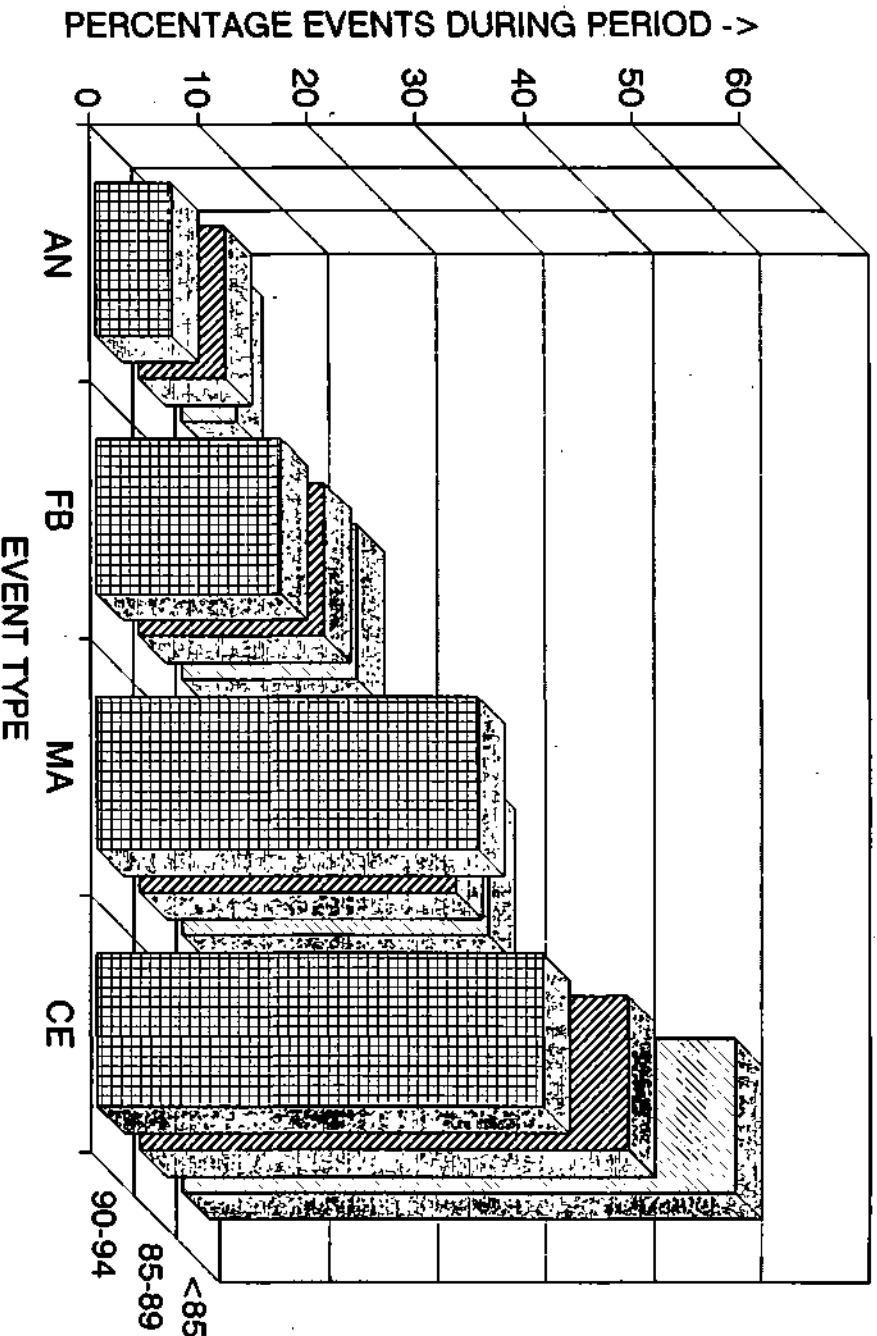
Section 1	UFO report quantities and qualifications, types of sightings, and the Ballester-Guasp Certainty Index.
Section 2	Times of sightings (Year, Month, Day, Hour).
Section 3	Locations (geometric coordinates) of sightings within the contiguous USA.
Section 4	Observed objects, single and multiple object sightings, reported sizes, colors, emissions, sounds, altitude, distance, and landings.
Section 5	Effects observed during and from sightings, additional evidence obtained, sighting correlations, multiple events on the same day, and multiple events on sequential days.
Section 6	Witnesses, including quantities, genders, ages, occupations, what they were doing, and how they responded.
Section 7	Unusual psychological or physiological effects, multiple sightings by single witnesses, and observed entities.
Section 8	Summary of information related to investigation and reporting methods and how MUFON became informed.

memory (such as drugs), although event details remembered through interviewing techniques intended to help the witness' recall are acceptable if the witness is not obviously led by the interviewer.

In addition, the database does not include reports that have strong evidence of being IFOs or hoaxes. A separate file is kept for the probable IFO/hoax cases, for potential corroboration purposes. A corroborating report could change the status of a report in this file and could lead to its being readdressed as an addition to the database.

There are presently 603 event reports recorded in the database, 590 of which are claimed sightings of UFOs. To have a clear delineation of data, most results shown in this report are from the 598 reports of events occurring before 1995. For several studies, the data was restricted to events occurring in the 48 adjoining United States, since the handful of reports from outside the 48 states could cause an improper bias on the statistics.

CHART 1-1. RELATIVE EVENT TYPES (Percentages < 1995)



For analysis of possible trends, the data is separated into three periods: (1) Events before 1985, (2) Events starting 1985 through 1989, and (3) Events starting 1990 through 1994. The number of reports in each period is in Table 1-1.

Table 1-1. Reports by Period

PERIOD	ALL	48 STATES
BEFORE 1985	108	101
1985-1989	230	225
1990-1994	260	258
BEFORE 1995	598	583
1995	5	5
TOTAL	603	588

Different quantities of events participate in each analysis, i.e. fewer numbers than total reports. This is because the events which do not participate are lacking the appropriate data. When this occurs, the results or discussions include defining the quantities.

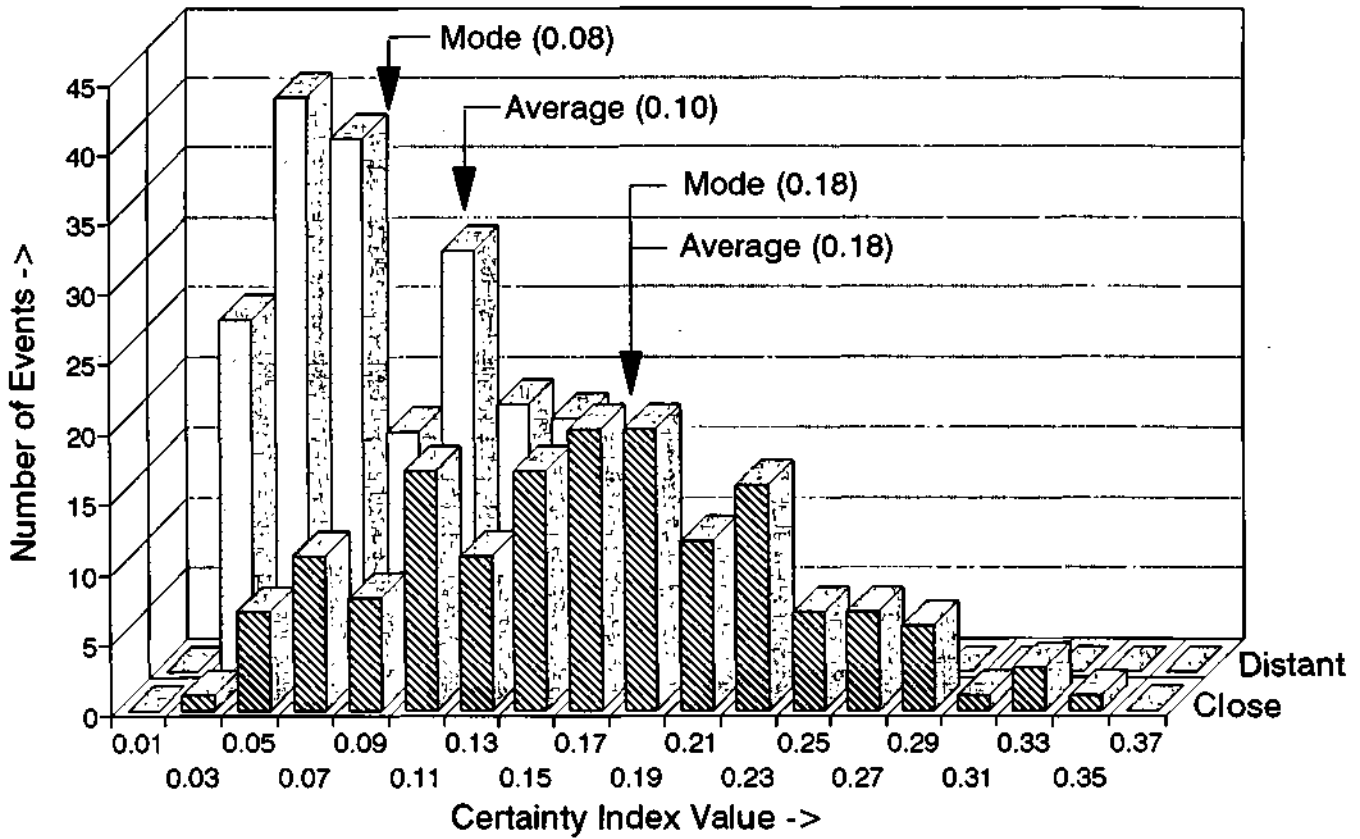
TYPES OF EVENTS

Classifications

Every event in the database is classed as either a Close Encounter (CE), Maneuver (MA), Fly-By (FB), or Anomaly (AN), and each classification has subclassifications numbered from one (1) to five (5). This classification system, developed by Jacques Vallee and presented in his book *Confrontations* (Ballantine Books, New York, 1990), is discussed in detail in the fourth edition of the *MUFON Field Investigator's Manual*, February 1995.

Very briefly, the CE regards objects witnessed as on the ground or at a distance of less than 500 feet. The MA is associated with a distant object observed to have unusual movements, or no movement at all. The FB regards a distant object having a linear trajectory. Normally, the AN is an unexplained event, such as a sudden flash of light, which may not be reliable to an object.

CHART 1-2. CERTAINTY INDEXES (165 Close, 210 Distant < 1995)



A classification of AN-1, CE-1, FB-1, or MA-1 says there were no lasting effects or observed entities. The twos are associated with sightings in which physical effects occurred. The classification of three relates to events in which entities were witnessed. The classification of four says the witness' reality was shifted to that of the entities. Physiological effects, injuries or deaths resulting from the event are in the last classifier, five.

Quantities

From the data of Table 1-2, there are 267 CE types, of which 84 percent are of the CE-1 classification (no lasting effects and no entities seen). Physical effects (CE-2) were observed in 20 cases; entities (CE-3 and CE-4) were observed in 21 cases, and two cases documented that the witness experienced lasting physiological effects, such as an injury (CE-5).

Physiological effects were experienced in relation to two distant sightings, one MA-5 and one FB-5. Entities were seen in four distant sightings, but only one incidence of observed distant entities has been reported to occur since 1984.

Table 1-2. Quantities by Type and Classification.

TYPE	CLASSIFICATION					ALL
	1	2	3	4	5	
AN	33	7	1	1	0	42
FB	99	2	0	0	1	102
MA	184	5	1	1	1	192
CE	224	20	10	11	2	267
ALL	540	34	12	13	4	603

The CE types represent 44 percent of the data; the MA types account for 32 percent, the FB types are attributed to 17 percent, and the AN types trail with 7 percent of the data. Over the years, the relative proportions have not changed greatly, but the proportion of CE types may be on the decline.

As illustrated in Chart 1-1, using data from Table 1-2, relative proportions of CE types have changed. Data before 1985 has an average of 51 percent, but data between 1985 and 1989 has a lower average of 45 percent. Data for the period 1990-1994 exhibit an even lower average of 41 percent.

Table 1-2. Quantities by Types and Years.

TYPES	YEAR RANGE			
	<1985	1985-1989	1990-1994	<1995
AN	5	19	18	42
FB	17	40	45	102
MA	31	67	91	189
CE	55	104	106	265
ALL	108	230	260	598

Offsetting the decline of CEs, the proportion of MA types may be increasing. The average for the MA types has jumped from 29 percent before 1989 to 35 percent for 1990-1994.

Data regarding events before 1987 are the result of witness recollections over a significant time span. Coupling this with the fact that "old" recollections of close encounters are more likely to be reported than are recollections of distant encounters, the apparently larger percentage of close encounters in the first period (< 1985) is understandable.

This decreasing proportion of CEs taken together with an increasing proportion of MAs during the last two periods suggests that more people now are watching the skies than before, a point that will be more strongly supported in the discussion of object shapes (Report Section 4).

The statistics associated with the AN, FB, and MA types are often combined and called distant sightings, to make direct statistical comparisons with close encounters.

BALLESTER-GUASP CERTAINTY INDEX

Description

A method for evaluating reports to obtain a measure of relative "goodness" was introduced to the database measures by Jerold R. Johnson in 1992. This method, developed by Vincente-Juan Ballester Olmos and Miguel Guasp, provides an objective way to assess the strangeness and witness reliability associated with a sighting and the quality of its investigation. A complete discussion is in the fourth edition of the *MUFON Field Investigator's Manual* (1995). The possible values range from zero (no credit) to 1.0.

Distributions

Chart 1-2, illustrates the distributions of index values for close encounters and distant sightings from 375 of 378 Certainty Indexed reports before 1995. The three close encounter indexes that are not in the chart have values of 0.41, 0.47, and 0.70. Although not shown, these values are included in the statistics. Overall, the average Certainty Index before 1995 is 0.134, based on the indexed reports. Since the Certainty Index is a multiple of the Quality, Strangeness, and Reliability indexes, the theoretical average (using the average for each component) is $0.5 \times 0.5 \times 0.5 = 0.125$, meaning that the aver-

age for the database is about 7 percent higher than the theoretical average.

Compared to the distant sightings, the close encounters have a much wider range of index values that can be approximated as forming a normal distribution. The average (median) and mode values of the close encounter indexes is 0.18 and the sample standard deviation is 0.084. Being well distributed, the values indicate they do distinguish reports according to their relative merits, but whether the differences of values are deserved has yet to be determined.

The distant sighting indexes appear to form a Poisson distribution, and they have a much lower average value (0.10) and mode (0.08) than close encounter indexes. These lower values are partly due to the Certainty Index component for strangeness (appropriately) giving close encounters more weight.

By separating the distant sightings according to type (AN, FB, and MA), the MA sighting reports are found to have a wider range of index values than the FB sighting reports. Similarly, reports of FB sightings have a wider range of values than AN sightings. The FB distribution (69 samples of indexes) is strongly Poisson-like, while the MA indexes (120 samples) resemble a skewed (left side) normal distribution. The AN distribution of indexes is poorly defined, probably due to the small sample size (21).

The Certainty Index has three components. One component, Strangeness, relates to how unusual the sighting is; another component, Reliability, is associated with witness credibility for the sighting, and the third component, Quality, addresses the interviewing and investigation by the Field Investigator. Strangeness and Reliability are discussed in this section, but Quality is discussed in Section 8.

Strangeness

The Strangeness component weights the Certainty Index based on how unusual the sighting appeared, such as whether it seemed to defy physical possibilities, had entities, and left evidence. The overall average for the database is 0.3 — less than the theoretical average of 0.5. Only 5 percent of the events had values over 0.5. As suggested earlier, the CEs have a higher average (0.39) than the non-CEs (0.23).

At this time, the only conclusion drawn from the data is that, apparently, most reported events are not exceptionally unusual. Almost 29 percent of the cases (48 percent of the distant sightings) claimed only one of the seven possible identifiers, which was nearly always "anomalous appearance."

Reliability

The count of witnesses, their occupations, activity, age, and other identifiers are combined to get a relative mea-

Continued on Page 8



ARGENTINA AIRLINES UFO SIGHTING

by Walter H. Andrus, Jr.

On July 31, 1995, Aerolíneas Argentinas flight 734 departed from Buenos Aires, Argentina, and was scheduled to land at San Carlos de Bariloche, Rio Negro Province, Argentina, about 870 miles southwest of Buenos Aires, at 8:10 p.m. The flight had been normal with the exception of the infrequent slice of pizza served on board, together with a lemon mousse. The flight routine had been altered by the efforts a crew member had to make to put a young passenger, who had both legs in a cast, in a reclining seat in the sixth row.

However, at 8:10 p.m., the estimated landing time, a sudden maneuver was clearly felt by the 102 passengers aboard as reported by Mariano De Vedia, a reporter from the newspaper *La Nación*, who was one of the passengers flying to the ski resort city. After the sudden maneuver to gain altitude, many passengers were concerned by the delay in landing, which the pilot had promised would be in 20 minutes. Quite a few passengers were scared and started to pray.

At 8:25 p.m., when the passengers would normally be expected to pick up their luggage, the aircraft was still climbing. The captain of the flight was heard on the public address system, explaining that a blackout that had affected the electrical power at the airport was the reason why they had to keep circling until the lights could be restored and a landing authorized. This announcement prompted all of the passengers to instinctively look out the windows, where they were surrounded by total darkness.

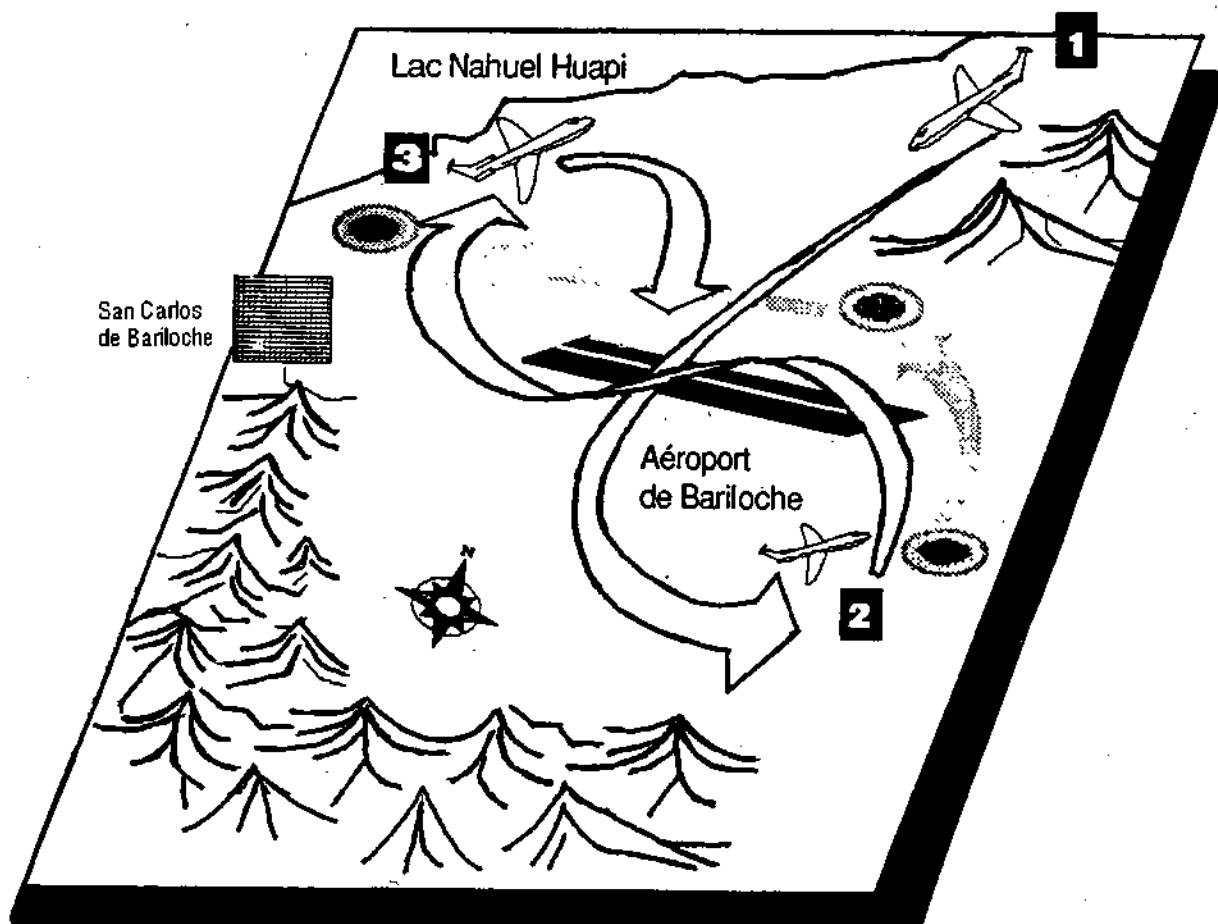
The announcement of the blackout also halted the cabin attendants' visits and service to their passengers. With their safety belts buckled up, some passengers,

among whom were members of the National Commission of Atomic Energy and the Balseiro Institute, recalled last week's flight, when wind, and a snow storm made another Aerolíneas Argentinas flight turn back to Buenos Aires without landing at Bariloche. Captain Polanco, in his second communication to the passengers, promised an imminent landing as soon as the electricity had been restored, but that took longer than anticipated. Landing at 9:10 p.m., one hour later than their scheduled ETA, the passengers were in such a hurry to get to their destinations that they lost interest in really learning the reasons for the delay.

The data included by Captain Polanco in his report was confirmed by Air Force Major Jorge Luis Oviedo, the airport chief, in his statements to the press. He confirmed that the pilot could not land in his first attempt due to the sudden appearance of a strange object in his path, just when the airport was blacked out. Oviedo said that the mass of light was observed by personnel in the control tower. He felt that the passengers in the airliner may not have noticed the mass of light because the cabin lights were lit up. However, it was very apparent from the pilots' cockpit, where the lights were dimmed. Major Oviedo stated that the aircraft was at 5,500 feet altitude, with the object beside it. All of the airport's radio support was cut off, and there was a blackout of the whole city.

PILOT REPORT

An interview with pilot Jorge Polanco by Carolina Arenes revealed the following quotes: "We cannot go on believing that we are alone in all the immensity of the universe." "What we saw was not a plane, it was nothing



1. Aerolineas Argentinas Flight 734 descending to land at the airport in San Carlos de Bariloche.
2. UFO on a collision course with the Boeing 727. The pilot placed the aircraft into a rapid ascent to avoid an impending collision. It then followed the airliner on the right side as the pilot continued his climb.
3. The UFO then dashed to position 3 where it hovered until the plane landed. The UFO then disappeared at a very high rate of speed. The UFO looked like a very brilliant pulsating light which was also observed by a border patrol plane flying 600 meters above the Boeing.

that responded to the physical laws as we know them." A special report submitted to the authorities of the Bariloche airport describes the phenomenon that, for the first time in the history of Argentine aerial navigation, was seen from at least three different positions and by flight experts: the Aerolineas Argentinas pilots, the control tower personnel, and a Gendarmerie pilot flying over the area. "We saw something similar to the image of an inverted flying saucer, as large as a Boeing 737 and with a very powerful illumination that was blinding us," Jorge Polanco claimed.

UNEXPLAINABLE BLACKOUT

After a total blackout lasting ten minutes, the control tower authorized the descent and landing of flight 734. The four crew members of the Boeing 727 were Jorge Polanco, pilot; Carlos Dortona, co-pilot; Jorge Allende, flight engineer, and another pilot from the same com-

pany; all noticed the appearance of the object. "At first we worried because it was coming at us at full speed, but it stopped some 100 meters from us. When we called the control tower to learn if there was another plane in the area, they confirmed that the only other one was from the Gendarmerie, which was flying 600 meters above us," said Polanco. It was Ruben Cipazuk, pilot of the Gendarmerie's turboprop PA 315/GN who filled them in about the whereabouts of the UFO: "I'm seeing it and I don't know what it is, but it follows you," he stated. When the airliner began its approach to land, the object placed itself some 100 meters to the right of the plane and accompanied its descent.

In the tower, the instruments "went crazy" and, unexplainably, the night once again swallowed the lights of Bariloche and the landing strip disappeared in the darkness. "I then made a so-called escape maneuver and went back up to 3,000 meters, but the UFO," said

Polanco, "with aerial motions that are impossible for our planes, and at a speed that is unknown by human technology, remained hovering at 3,000 meters." When the Aerolineas plane began its second descent, the strange craft disappeared at high speed behind Mount Otto. Jorge Allende, the flight engineer, said that "in my 15 years experience I never saw anything like it. I never believed we were the only beings in the universe, but all the same I'm very excited. Nobody is ready to see such a dazzling confirmation."

Credit for this report is made to Mrs. Ruth Gerstel, Buenos Aires, Argentina, via Mrs. Jane Thomas Guma (translator), Glendale, Arizona. We are indebted to both of them for this very significant sighting report.



REPORTS OF 1995 EVENTS

By T. David Spencer

MUFON Deputy Director, Investigations

LOG # 950406E, CE-1, 01/16/95. *Investigator: Mary Zimmer*

The first of three 1995 sighting events began for Jack (pseudonym) on January 16 while he was assisting a customer at his book store in a local shopping center of a major city in Florida. A flash of silver above the facing buildings caught his eye. An oval, metallic object, edge down, was close to Jack and getting closer. It was dark in the middle and had a small red light at one end. Noiselessly, the object was turning over and over ("pirouetting," according to the customer witness), as if rolling across the sky.

Jack and the customer rushed to get a better look, but as soon as they were outside, the object sped away "four times faster than a jet" and went out of view behind the buildings.

LOG #950402E, MA-1, 01/28/95. *Investigator: Mary Zimmer*

At 1430 hours on January 28, Jack was working with two customers at the counter of his book store when he had his second 1995 experience. Glancing out the window, he saw what appeared to be the bottom of a dark disk in the sky. Jack stopped what he was doing to watch the object, estimated ten feet in diameter, which spun and moved northward until out of view. About an hour later, Jack saw other objects farther away headed in

the same direction, but these objects were wobbling, sometimes appearing light — reflecting light — and sometimes appearing dark.

Within another 30 minutes and intermittently until about 1800 hours, Jack saw several similar objects appear and disappear, and all but the last one seemed to be "about one-fourth the size of the full moon." According to Jack, the final object passed by at a low altitude, was shaped like a boomerang, and had "a thin object [protruding from] the back." As he watched, the object's shape appeared to change to a deltoid (triangle). Jack believes this event caused the other witnesses to leave his store.

Not to let the series of events pass without some verification, Jack took several pictures, but the resulting processed film was a full roll of double exposures.

LOG # 950401E, MA-1, 01/28/95. *Investigator: Mary Zimmer*

Jack's UFO-related experiences that day (see Log #950402E) were not over when he left his book store at about 2000 hours that evening for his home in a small town north of the city. At his normal exit from the freeway, Jack saw a stationary light above and in front of him. A beam of what appeared to be a tube of orange and yellow light aimed at a steep downward angle was being emitted by the light. The beam disappeared, then reappeared, and the object moved off slowly until it was out of sight.

LOG #950905bC, CE-1, 06/19/95. *Investigators: Beverly Trout and Ken Mott*

Visiting a friend at his home in a rural area of Iowa at 2200 hours on June 19, Bill (pseudonym) and his friend saw a light which appeared to be moving back and forth over a clearing about 2.5 miles away. They decided to drive to the area and see what was happening. When the two arrived near the area, they stopped on the shoulder of the road and looked toward a timbered area where four, chartreuse green glows seemed to be emanating upward from the ground. From their vantage point about 1,000 feet away, the two men estimated that each glow was about 20 feet in diameter, and the glows were separated by about 100 feet.

Without further investigation, the two left and drove to the opposite side of the timbered area. They saw two greenish lights and one intensely bright white light floating about 20 feet above the ground and not more than 150 feet from them. Bill saw a green beam angling downward toward a tree line and sweeping back and forth in an arc. The white light swung around from in front of them to their side, stopped, and appeared to focus on the car. Frightened, they chose to "back up and get out of there!" (emphasis added). Bill saw green lights behind the car as they turned away.

Back at the house, at about 0100 hours, the men saw a ball of light across the road, perhaps 500-600 feet away. They went to the road and watched until the light was gone a few minutes later, leaving when the two turned their heads away to look at something else. Although Bill was sure he and his friend stood on the road no more than 15 minutes, when they returned to the house over an hour had passed. It was then 0230 hours.

Outside during the early morning hours, Bill saw similar lights in the distance NW and SW of him. One light to the NW was green and larger than the others. Bill explained it was the size of a barrel they had been burning in the barnyard.

Bill began talking to the light, making statements such as, "Please don't scare me too much," then "Can you flash once for 'yes' and twice for 'no'?" He was sure a light to the WSW of him responded by flashing once. Another question resulted in another flash. Finally, he asked, "Can't you leave me a sign or some kind of evidence?"

Bill claims the light "zipped" up to him then backed off and performed a bouncing motion about 1/4 mile away.

The coming of daylight ended Bill's light show.

LOG #950905aC, MA-1, 07/26/95. Investigator: Beverly Trout

The witness, Charlotte (pseudonym), has a history of psychic experiences. At 2200 hours on the night of July 26, Charlotte left work with a strong feeling she should go to a nearby lake and wait for some type of communication. She obeyed the urging and waited there for several minutes. Just as she started to leave, a large but dim starlike moving object caught her eye. The distant light passed directly overhead in what appeared to her to be a zig-zag, sometimes straight, flight of about 10 seconds. The light then shut off ("blinked out") for several seconds.

"You're gone? That's it?" Charlotte asked in disgust.

Suddenly, where the light had disappeared, there was a large flaring of soft white light topped with a red crescent in an oval shape. The shape seemed to have a distinct boundary.

Within about two seconds, the apparition was gone, and Charlotte was left with the impression that she should report what she had seen.

1995 UFO SYMPOSIUM PROCEEDINGS

The *MUFON 1995 International UFO Symposium Proceedings* are now available by mail from MUFON in Seguin, Texas. Order your copy now for this 315 page ivory leatherette 8-1/2" x 11" perfect binding paperback book for \$25 plus \$1.50 for postage and handling in U.S. funds from MUFON, 103 Oldtowne Road, Seguin, Texas 78155-4099 U.S.A.

NEWS & VIEWS

URGENT MESSAGE

Dr. Karla Turner, UFO abduction researcher and author of *Into the Fringe*, *Taken* and *Masquerade of Angels* (with Ted Rice), has contracted a very dangerous form of cancer. Her doctors believe it will be fatal without treatment, which is expensive. Dr. Turner's own finances have already been depleted, so she needs your help. A nonprofit fund has been set up. Please send your donations to:

Karla Turner Fund
c/o Boatmen's Bank
P.O. Box 1681
Little Rock, AR 72203-1681

Don't let this fearless investigator who has fought against government coverups and exposed so much of the abduction mystery perish for lack of a helping hand. Remember, the Bible says that gifts will be repaid threefold. And many contactees have reported that they have been told by extraterrestrials that we "Earthlings" need to learn to love one another unconditionally. Please pass this message on to all your friends, internet web sites, etc. Thank you for your help.

FIELD INVESTIGATOR UPDATE R.E.M. REBOUND

It has come to my attention that it is well known within the medical community that certain drugs, even over-the-counter ones (like Benadryl) which state on the label, "May cause drowsiness," are those which typically affect the brain's neurotransmitters. These drugs suppress R.E.M. (Rapid Eye Movement) sleep, setting the stage for "R.E.M. rebound" to occur.

The body, when deprived of normal R.E.M. sleep (i.e., an overworked, busy college student), may at a later time (when the student is in a relaxed state) begin to spontaneously flash into an R.E.M. state, even to dream while awake. This can be very scary, but is not dangerous and is entirely normal.

A tip-off to when R.E.M. rebound is occurring is that the room about one is observed to be jerking or shaking back and forth somewhat while one is awake. One may simultaneously experience voices, or other dream activity, in addition to the "jerking."

An alcoholic who stops drinking can experience R. E. M. rebound while awake due to no longer having his/her normal R.E.M. activity suppressed by the al-

cohol (D.T.'s) Also, people who take Prozac (then either reduce or discontinue the drug) can experience such vivid dreams while awake that they are convinced that the dreams are reality. They should be warned that this can occur.

Schizo-typal personalities usually have weak egos, which allow their subconscious imagery to come forward into the waking state. No medication is required for this to occur, but it should be considered when people report anomalous occurrences.

All of the above must be considered when investigating UFO sightings, or when considering one's own or others' anomalous experiences.

— Anastasia Wietrzychowska
MUFON State Director
Connecticut

ROSWELL INITIATIVE UPDATE

Kent Jeffrey, Coordinator

The International Roswell Initiative (IRI) continues to gain momentum, both internationally and in the United States. Roswell Declarations are now being collected by organizations in ten countries, with the number continuing to increase. Over 20,000 signed Declarations have been collected so far. In addition to hundreds of scientists and engineers, the signatories include two retired Air Force generals and two former U.S. astronauts, one of whom walked on the moon.

The ultimate goal of the IRI remains an Executive order for a blanket declassification of any government held information on Roswell, UFOs in general, or extraterrestrial intelligence. Indications are that the vast majority of U.S. citizens favor such an open policy and that many would support a political effort to achieve it. The growth potential for the IRI is tremendous. Efforts will be stepped up after the first of the year.

Originally the plan of the IRI was simply to collect a large number of signed Roswell Declarations and then, in a one-time effort, deliver them to members of the U.S. Congress and the President, hoping in the process to generate enough political and media support to eventually bring about the desired Executive order. Due in part to an overwhelmingly positive response, it has been decided to keep the International Roswell Initiative an ongoing effort. A strategy of continual pressure ("hammering away") generally has a far greater chance of success in the long term than does a "one shot" approach.

The revised strategy of the IRI is to continue to collect and keep on file as many signed copies of the Roswell Declaration as possible, enter the information from these Declarations into a confidential database, and then periodically deliver computerized printouts of

all signatories to the Declaration (categorized both by state and Congressional district) to members of Congress and the President. The plan is for the first formal delivery of lists of signatories to Congress and the White House to take place in 1996. Simultaneously, organizations in other countries will deliver lists of Roswell Declaration signatories in their countries to their respective American embassies.

VOLUNTEER AND MEDIA SUPPORT

The IRI has been a true grassroots movement, as all work has been done by volunteers who have paid their own expenses. Many have helped by making copies of the Roswell Declaration and distributing them to others, sometimes in large numbers, at meetings and conferences. Others have volunteered to help, using their home computers, with the monumental task of recording the data from signed Roswell Declarations into the IRI database. Packets of 500 Declarations, along with the necessary software, are being sent to each volunteer. All in all, those involved are motivated solely by their desire to help in this quest for the truth.

The effort has also been helped immeasurably by certain media organizations, most notably *Omni* magazine, when they published the Roswell Declaration in their October 1994 issue. More recently, *Sightings* aired a nice human interest story (produced by Rob Morhaim) about the efforts of high school students in Londonderry, New Hampshire, who collected over 800 signed Roswell Declarations.

THE SANTILLI FILM

Unfortunately, this unwelcome monstrosity remains with us. When a hoax overshadows the real event, credibility suffers. The situation has been greatly exacerbated by the cheap hype and irresponsible, so-called journalism of the FOX network special, *Alien Autopsy, Fact or Fiction*, which aired on August 28, 1995. The FOX presentation gave the impression that a multitude of interdisciplinary experts felt that there was a real chance that the Santilli film was genuine. In reality, that is anything but the case. The FOX special was a classic example of a selective presentation of the facts and selective editing.

The Roswell production for British television, which aired on the same date, was far more objective and superior to the FOX presentation. However, even the British production could have spent more time on the actual Roswell case and a lot less time on the obviously hoaxed Santilli footage.

On September 16, 1995, the American program *Sightings* aired an excellent short (8 1/2 minutes) expose on the Santilli film. Also, TF1, a French television network, has been carrying out a diligent and thorough investigation of the Santilli film for a number of months. Many of the findings of their excellent effort were pre-

sented on a network show broadcast in France and hosted by Jacques Pradel on October 23, 1995.

As inconsistencies, contradictions, and lies regarding the Santilli film continue to surface, it seems incomprehensible that anyone who looks at the facts objectively could think that there is even a scintilla of a chance that this film is genuine. In my opinion, many of the statements made by so-called expert witnesses and researchers concerning the Santilli film are reprehensible. I have been in frequent contact with the TFI investigative team in France and plan a comprehensive follow-up to my earlier bulletin on the Santilli film (IRI Bulletin #2 — also published as an article in the June 1995 *MUFON UFO Journal*).

FUTURE ROSWELL RESEARCH

Equally important to the political effort in resolving the Roswell matter is the research effort to find surviving witnesses to the 1947 event and to investigate all leads and other possible sources of information. There are still a number of possibilities to pursue.

THE ROSWELL WORLD WIDE WEB PAGE

The temporary address of the IRI web page is: <http://users.aol.com/IUFOG>. The IRI can also presently be contacted at the following email address: RoswellDec@aol.com.

The IRI web page should be available on the Internet under its permanent domain name by the end of November. The domain address will be: <http://www.roswell.org>.

Using the Roswell web page, it will be possible for people to electronically sign the Roswell Declaration using their email address in lieu of a handwritten signature. This has the potential to increase the number of signatories substantially.

All future IRI special reports will be available on the web page. There will be a special report on the Santilli film available in early December and a special report on the 1994 Air Force Report on the Roswell Incident sometime after the first of the year. Starting in January 1996 there will be regular Roswell updates posted on the IRI web page at the beginning of each month.

CONNECTIONS

by Beth Collings and Anna Jamerson
Wild Flower Press, PO Box 726, Newberg, OR 97132,
\$17.95, available Dec. 1995

Reviewed by Andrea Pritchard

For abduction investigators the double first-person common-sense accounts in *Connections* offer a wealth of information.¹ The authors do not slant the material to fit an overall interpretation. As Collings and Jamerson

look into the events they recount, evidence accumulates. Sometimes the new information helps to explain life long puzzles; other times it only contributes to the mystery. Either way the material is clearly reported.

Connections is also a book for experiencers. This case is investigated and reported by the experiencers themselves and deals with many of the concerns that trouble experiencers.

"Should I seek help and what kind do I need?" Suggestions are offered throughout this book. Investigators, fellow experiencers, therapists, support groups — all are explored in the search for truth.

"Strange things happen to me but I don't feel that I'm an abductee" — that's where Anna Jamerson is as this book begins. Her explorations, of course, are particular to her, but reflect a thorough determination to understand what is happening.

"Will it help to explore this?" Beth originally thinks not, Anna feels compelled to find more information. As they keep their journals, explore events through hypnosis, puzzle certain questions and ask family and friends about them, the reader gets a feeling for what kinds of information can be found through such exploration, and what kinds can not.

Connections is also a book for the general public. At present our society is not equipped to deal with the extraordinary happenings recounted by experiencers. Society wants evidence, but this is tricky to collect and evaluate. Yes, auto mechanics can attest that a car's electrical system is fried, but they can't confirm the disoriented perceptions of the driver or the bizarre story which later surfaces. Doctors can't find evidence of alien-induced rape and pregnancy but these certainly have caused considerable distress.

Besides evidence, society also wants explanations. Beth Collings and Anna Jamerson don't claim to have the answers, but they tell their stories with great courage and clarity and they provide a wealth of material we can all use when looking for explanations of the great mystery of our times — alien abductions. May we all join Collings and Jamerson in seeking "Connections."

1 Some readers may have been introduced to this case by CDB Bryan's book *Close Encounters of the Fourth Kind: Alien Abductions, UFOs and the Conference at MIT* and want to compare the two accounts. Here's an opportunity to check out investigator bias and also investigator emphasis. Not surprisingly, Beth Collings and Anna Jamerson emphasize connections more than Bryan. Of course they also include more information on their case.

**UFOs, MJ-12 AND THE GOVERNMENT:
A Report on Government Involvement in
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Ron Felber of "Searchers"

by Sean Casteel

Ron Felber is a journalist and novelist who stumbled onto the UFO and abduction fields almost by accident when a business associate of his told him a story which was recounted to Felber's associate by a couple the man considered to be among his best friends. The associate told Felber the tale of Steve and Dawn Hess, who had encountered what they took to be a UFO one weekend, an experience which lingered in their memories as one of extreme terror and from which they still had not recovered emotionally and psychologically.

Felber admitted that he was at first skeptical of what he was hearing, and did not think the story worth pursuing. When he actually met the Hesses, however, he was struck both by their sincerity and by the fact that the intense emotions with which they recounted their story served to indicate that something real had happened.

Felber's further investigation into the Hesses case is documented in his book *Searchers: A True Story of Alien Abduction* (St. Martin's Press, 1995, paper, \$4.99). I spoke to Felber by phone from his home in New Jersey, and asked him to briefly retell the story of the Hesses for the sake of newcomers to the couple's case.

"Here's a couple," Felber began, "and the husband is an avid hunter and has missed a buck deer, a mule deer, that he had had a shot at the week before. And he missed the shot. Being a very competitive fellow, he wanted to go back. And because mule deer are pretty much territorial, he knew that if he returned to a pretty desolate area of the Mojave Desert, that he probably would be able to track this mule deer again.

"He invited his wife along," Felber continued. "They go over a very rugged terrain that really starts to scare her. She's really had some bad premonitions about this whole thing. And it probably scares him a little bit too in the sense that it is totally desolate. They get there and they're cooking some steaks. He looks up and sees a UFO and it's a real eerie feeling, a spine-tingling sensation. A couple of hours later, when it really becomes dark, they see nine glowing orbs in the sky. He tries to explain it away with weather balloons, military craft—anything that his wife might buy other than UFOs.

"Then, all of a sudden," Felber went on, "they look out and—it's the blink of an eye—they see over Table Top Mountain, this truncated mountain range, a sprawling 'M.' These nine glowing orbs have formed a sprawling 'M.' Soon after that, the entire nighttime sky becomes filled with hundreds of shining objects that start



Ron Felber

descending and then rushing towards them from perhaps five hundred yards away.

"At this point, Steve Hess was contemplating fighting them off with his shotgun, while his wife Dawn is thinking what they're seeing is some kind of military invasion from who knows? The Russians?

Then Dawn is told telepathically "Get in the back of the camper, and you won't be hurt. Try to resist us and you will be killed." She convinces Steve to get into the back of the camper with her. Over the next several hours, they will encounter four different types of aliens.

"Two stump-like beings," Felber said, "gray, almost electrical force-type beings, stand guard at the lip of the camper so they cannot get out. The camper has windows all along the sides, and they just stare out and they see hundreds of pairs of red eyes just staring back at them. And these are the second type of beings—these gremlin, monkeylike beings, very frisky, malevolent, agitated and weightless. They actually hang on the branches of trees without bending the branches.

"Every nighttime sound stops," Felber goes on. "What they see next are illuminated beings. Shiny, glowing, let's call them four feet in height. They have the bodies, perhaps, of a five-year old, three fingers, and their heads are oversized with almond eyes. Steve and Dawn have opportunities to look into the eyes, and they

see a kind of vortex. No pupils. It's sort of like a funnel that goes down to nothing. It's frightening. From there, they endure tremendous psychological torment that brings them literally to the brink of madness and close to heart failure on more than one occasion. They're made to relive horrible life-time experiences. They're projected into terrible circumstances where Steve, for example, lived—not in vision—but literally lived out a fantasy where he is pursued, killed and gutted like an animal, where his wife relives a rape, where they both have visions, but again, they're so real that they literally, physically react to them.

"They went through a real roller coaster of emotions," Felber said. "Their feeling was that they were put through these emotions so that the beings could study how human emotions work. When they were at the very brink of madness, an angelic presence, the fourth and final type of being, made itself visible, telling them to bear with things, that they're almost through it, and so they were."

But the "problem" didn't go away. When the Hesses returned to their home in La Mirada, California, they felt their bed was surrounded by these beings. They could smell them and see them, and they experienced a disquieting sensation of being watched. They discovered two puncture wounds on the side of Dawn's neck, which, under hypnosis later, she was convinced were made for the sake of inserting tracking devices.

In the aftermath of their initial experience, the Hesses sought the comfort of religion to help them cope with the strangeness of what had happened to them and the lingering shock that plagues most abductees.

"The Hesses became devout Mormons," Felber said. "Their lives were in a shambles, literally. Steve lost his job and he had no motivation to do anything. Everything he tried to do seemed 'dwarfed' by the experience. Dawn became obsessed with UFOs. All she talked about and all she read dealt with UFOs. They turned to religion because their children started to be affected."

Felber said that one evening at home they heard one of their children scream. They ran into his room and found their five-year old son Steve Jr. in a trance-like state and spinning like a top. They stopped him and put him back in his bed, and the boy said, "Don't turn the lights out!" "Why?" his mother asked. The boy answered, "Because when you turn the lights out, the little monsters come." Dawn tried to tell him there was no such thing as monsters, to which the child replied, "Oh, yes there are. They're small and they're ugly and they have red eyes."

The Hesses said they had very conscientiously tried not to discuss their experiences in front of the children and thus found this incident doubly upsetting.

"As a result," Felber said, "they turned to the Mormon Church, which was Dawn's background,

loosely, and became devout Mormons. They wound up moving to Salt Lake City, and, believe it or not, when the hardback version of *Searchers* came out, they shared it with their bishop, who demanded that the book be removed from his house, that it was the work of Satan, and that their family was possessed by demons. And that they had to refrain from any support of this project."

The Mormon Church even asked Felber to discontinue his relationship with the Hesses. "Up until that time," Felber said, "I stayed in contact with the family. But then I got a letter from a Mormon attorney, an attorney who represents the Mormon Church, requesting that I desist from any further contact with the family."

Felber said that he had done as requested and has reluctantly stepped out of the family's situation.

As to what it all means, Felber's belief is that the alien abduction phenomenon is not "something new under the sun. My gut take on this whole thing," he said, "is that, if you put military stuff aside, and put theories about child abuse, which John Mack might talk about, put that aside, my feeling is that this is sort of an ancient phenomenon and not a new one. That this phenomenon, these kinds of abductions, although they wouldn't call them 'abductions' five hundred years ago or a thousand years ago, have been going on for a long time. And they've been side by side with the reality we know right now. There are forces at work that influence the lives of human beings and have for a long, long time."

Felber said he had a memory from his childhood which helped him put the matter in a clearer perspective. "I remembered something I learned in grammar school," he said, "which was a Catholic grammar school, about miracles. One of the ways the Catholic Church gauges whether something is really a miracle is, did it change that person's life dramatically? Meaning, did whatever happened, was it so out of context for this person that their entire life changed? And that was one way of validating that a miracle had occurred.

"I applied that same criterion in an odd way to this story," Felber concluded, "and said, 'Here are people that had good careers, had a stable home, stable family, no real pressures to speak of, nothing outside of the ordinary. But one experience, on a weekend in the desert, literally turned their whole life upside down. What could do that that I've ever encountered?' And the answer, really, is nothing. Nothing that I've ever encountered or known of. So, at some point in time, my gut tells me that Steve and Dawn are going to wake up one morning and say, 'You know, this just isn't right.' And this story will continue."

Sean Casteel is a freelance writer with an interest in UFOs and a frequent contributor to these pages. He lives in Ventura, California.

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Second annual UFO & Alien Abduction Research Conference, May 4-5, 1996, Holiday Inn. Confirmed speakers include Budd Hopkins, David Jacobs, Jesse Marcel, Jr., Yvonne Smith, Katharina Wilson, Kim Carlsberg, and Darryl Anka. For ticket info & registration, call or write Shannon Kluge, 102 Woodridge Circle, Greenville, S.C. Ph: (803) 675-9328.

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The NIGHT SKY

Walter N. Webb

January 1996

Bright Planets (Evening Sky):

Radiant Venus ascends higher in the SW, not setting now until about 7:30 PM in mid-January and about 8:15 by month's end. Early in the month Mercury can be found some 15 to 20° below our dazzling neighbor planet, and fading Mars some 5° or so below Mercury. (You'll need binoculars and an unobstructed horizon, however, to glimpse the latter two objects.) Mars sets an hour after sunset on the 1st. A crescent Moon lies to the right of Venus on January 22.

Saturn, in Aquarius, closes rapidly with Venus throughout the month in the SW, finally approaching to within 2° above the brighter planet at month's end. This world with rings sets about 10 PM on the 1st and about 8 PM on the 31st. Telescopically, Saturn is worth watching as Earth again nears the giant's ring plane. Sunlight shining from below the rings causes the north face of the system to appear as a dark line across the planet. Late in January the rings' shadow itself becomes increasingly pronounced as it is cast onto the planet's oval face.

Bright Planets (Morning Sky):

Jupiter, in Sagittarius, emerges into the SE morning sky, rising about 5:45 in mid-January. It can be seen below the lunar crescent on the 18th.

Moon Phases:

Full moon — January 5



Last quarter — January 13



New Moon — January 20



First quarter — January 27



The Stars:

The night sky of January features some of the brightest stars in the heavens. Orion the Hunter now dominates the southern sky and with its characteristic hourglass figure is perhaps the easiest of all the constellations to spot. Because of its position above the equator, Orion is visible from many places on Earth. The pattern played an important role in the mythology of cultures throughout the world.

The great warrior serves as a guidepost to almost all of the interesting stars of the season. A line through the three belt stars toward the SE points to the brightest luminary in the night sky, Sirius the Dog Star. The same line extended in the opposite direction points to the fiery eye of the Bull Taurus, the star Aldebaran. The tiny star cluster called the Pleiades is supposed to be a spear-wound in the bull's shoulder. Aldebaran and Sirius are two of the 1st-magnitude stars which form the Winter Circle surrounding Orion.

Don't forget to look at the fuzzy middle "star" in the hunter's sword — the great Orion Nebula, a glowing cloud of gas and dust and a seasonal favorite of amateur astronomers.

Finally, a trip to the country will afford a view in the darkened rural sky of the Milky Way, our star city home in the universe. The faint band of pale light flows like some celestial river directly overhead from NW to SE.

CALENDAR

March 15-17, 1996 — Gulf Breeze UFO Spring Conference on the beach of the beautiful Gulf of Mexico. Speakers to be announced in next issue. For information: Call 904-432-8888 or Fax 904-438-1801 or write: *Project Awareness*, P.O. Box 730, Gulf Breeze, FL 32562.

May 4-5, 1996 — 2nd Annual UFO & Alien Abduction Research Conference, Holiday Inn, Greenville, South Carolina. For further information, call coordinator Shannon Kluge at (803) 675-9328.

July 5-7, 1996 — Twenty-seventh annual MUFON International UFO Symposium, Holiday Inn Four Seasons/Joseph H. Koury Convention Center in Greensboro, North Carolina. Details for reservations will appear next month.

July 27-28, 1996 — Great Plains UFO Conference, Howard Johnson Convention Center, Sioux Falls, South Dakota. For information call 603-497-2633 or write P.O. Box 84131, Sioux Falls, SD 57118.

UNITED NATIONS VIDEO

On October 2, 1992, a UFO presentation was made at the United Nations in an effort to reopen Decision GA 33/426. The two-hour VHS video tape includes Mohammad A. Ramadan, Stanton T. Friedman, John F. Schuessler and Robert H. Bletzman. Tapes of this monumental UN presentation may be purchased by Postal Money Orders, personal check made payable through a U.S. bank or U.S. cash for \$19.95 plus \$2 for p.&h. to MUFON, 103 Oldtowne Rd., Seguin, TX 78155-4099, U.S.A.

NOTE NEW AD RATES!

Effectively immediately: 50 words or less for \$20 per issue, add \$10 for box and bold heading. Send ad copy & check, made out to MUFON to Dennis Stacy, Box 12434, San Antonio, TX 78212. Must be MUFON member or Journal subscriber.

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE - *Continued from Page 24*

The 1996 AT&T Business Buyer's Guide National 800 Directory was just published so it is conceivable that this may increase the number of calls received.

To send letters to every police department and sheriff's offices throughout the U.S.A. would obviously be both expensive and time-consuming. We would like for every State Director, State Section Director, Field Investigator, and Field Investigator Trainee to notify your local sheriff, police chief, and state highway patrol office of MUFON's 800 number via a postcard that they may post on their bulletin boards.

Presently, we are attempting to answer all calls "live." An answering box records the calls received late at night or early mornings. These sighting reports will be mailed or telephoned to the nearest State Section Director, State Director, or Field Investigator for a personal interview. Brief replies to these cases under investigation may be made to MUFON on the 800 number. (The answering box is limited to three minutes.) However, this number is not to be used for other MUFON communications. The MUFON business office number is (210) 379-9216. Please advise by postcard or letter to which agencies you filed the UFO hotline number 1-800-UFO-2166. Your help is sincerely appreciated.

SEASON'S GREETINGS

The cover of the December 1995 issue of the *MUFON UFO Journal* represents our annual Christmas card from the *Journal* staff and the MUFON Board of Directors to all our friends throughout the world. We wish each and everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year as we enter MUFON's twenty-seventh year. We want to again express our thanks to our staff artist Wesley S. Crum for his artwork for this year's cover.

SEATTLE SYMPOSIUM VIDEOTAPES

We are proud to announce that **Eddie J. Melvin** has been delivering videotapes of the 14 speakers at the MUFON 1995 International UFO Symposium in Seattle, WA. They are available in several combinations and prices include shipping. A single speaker tape is \$26.95 and all 14 speakers is priced at \$149.95 in the U.S.A. Orders from some foreign countries must be converted to the PAL recording system. Single speaker tapes converted cost \$56.95, whereas all 14 speakers cost only \$184.95. If your country uses the NTSC system, like the U.S.A., so specify in your order so the conversion price will not apply. You may call (360) 629-4030 or 1-800-636-8633 if there is a question or to receive an order form. (A letter with ordering specifics is adequate.) Please order from: CS ENTERPRISES, 3723 Village Road, Stanwood, WA 98292.

MUFON NORTH TEXAS CHAPTER

The North Texas Chapter of MUFON held an organizational meeting at the Walnut Hill Branch of the Dallas

Public Library on November 4 and followed with their second meeting on December 2, 1995. Additional monthly meetings are scheduled on the first Saturday of each month at 1:00 p.m. at the same location - 9495 Marsh Lane in Dallas, Texas. The meetings are open to the public. A "hot line" number has been established for reporting UFO sightings (817) 625-9118. The State Section Director for North Texas is Herb Prouty who may be contacted at (817) 320-5366. (Mr. Prouty is MUFON's Director of Legal Affairs.)

JOURNAL RENEWAL NOTICES

Starting with the September 1995 issue of the *Journal*, only three renewal notices have been enclosed in the front of the magazine. Everyone will be advised twice in advance that their membership/subscription will expire within two months. Please renew when you receive the first notice, especially in foreign countries where it takes two to three months for surface mail to be delivered. The last notice will indicate with a red check that your subscription "expires with this issue."

If a person allows their subscription to expire, it will be resumed with the next current issue. Back issues, when available, may be purchased for \$3 each for those that you may have missed. When new members join, their first issue will begin with the next current issue. We recommend and encourage a subscriber who has moved or changed their address to notify MUFON with a letter, postcard or the Postal Service "PS Form 3576, May 1994" (or the Canadian equivalent). MUFON cannot be held responsible for replacing copies which the postal service is unable to deliver and subsequently destroys. Second class mail is not forwarded by the Post Office unless the subscriber has guaranteed to pay for the additional postage. The U.S. Postal Service advises MUFON via Form 3579 and charges 50 cents for a change of address notification.

These procedures are being reviewed with our subscribers in the interest of providing more efficient service to our members. At the same time, we need your help to guarantee that your subscription continuity is maintained.

SYMPOSIUM PROCEEDINGS COVER DESIGN CONTEST

The theme for the MUFON 1996 International UFO Symposium is "UFOLOGY: A Scientific Enigma." We endeavor to depict this theme in the cover artwork. Obviously, this requires considerable ingenuity and something unique in design. The 8 1/2" x 11" size will be printed in black on a light pastel color leatherette stock. Since small and intricate details do not print well on a leatherette stock, please take this into consideration in your design. The winning design may also be used on the symposium program in Greensboro, NC. The deadline for submission is April 15, 1996. The winner will receive an honorarium of \$100 cash plus \$100 worth of MUFON publications of your choice. Good luck.

DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE**Walter Andrus****NEWS FROM AROUND THE NETWORK****ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP/SUBSCRIPTION INCREASE**

It may seem amazing to most *Journal* readers that the annual membership/subscription price has not increased for nine and one-half years, whereas inflation, paper, printing costs, employee labor, and postage charges have raised significantly. The more expensive kem-coated *Journal* cover is a radical improvement over the light-weight yellow cover on the February 1986 issue, giving our magazine a professional appearance along with the overall quality improvement in the contents. We were able to hold the annual price at \$25 in the U.S.A. and \$30 foreign through a steady increase in subscriptions and by supplementing publishing costs and labor from other sources. The *Journal* is our most important communication medium to our members worldwide, however it must be financially supportive of itself, not a liability.

MUFON overhead has increased substantially over the past five years with the employment of the International Director, Assistant to the Director, UFO Database Administrator, and the Abduction Transcription Project Manager who were all formerly volunteers. Support income from the Bigelow Foundation to fund expansion and research was abruptly discontinued in July 1995, necessitating a study of MUFON's financial status so as to continue its solvency. In both the September and October issues of the *Journal*, all readers were advised of the study being conducted by the Executive Committee on a new dues structure.

As the world's leading UFO organization, we want to continue to cultivate membership worldwide. However, we are cognizant of the exchange rate of the U.S. dollar to foreign currency in many countries, where the subscription price is already prohibitive for the average person who would like to join MUFON. The MUFON Board of Directors has recommended that the annual membership/subscription price in the U.S.A. be increased from \$25 to \$30 and retain the present \$30 for foreign countries. It has also been recommended that a study should be conducted three years hence (1998) for a similar evaluation of MUFON's financial status to determine the validity of this increase. The new dues structure will become effective January 1, 1996. The cover price for a single copy will remain at \$3.

We pride ourselves for having published the finest monthly UFO magazine in the world and expect to continue to do so with your loyal support. The UFO enigma still represents the greatest mystery of the space age, therefore your most valuable asset to staying abreast of the phenomenon is your monthly *MUFON UFO Journal* magazine.

NEW OFFICERS

MUFON's new Representative for Saudi Arabia is **Abdullah Ali Al-Musharria**, a civil engineer living in Jeddah. Presently a State Section Director and Consultant in Law. **Peter R. Van Tyle**, J.D. (Thetford Hill, VT) has accepted the position of Vermont State Director. Mr. Van Tyle visited the UFO Information Center in Seguin last spring. New State Section Directors volunteering their leadership this month were **Christine A. Sanderson** (Las Vegas, NV) for Clark County; **Terry L. Taliaferno** (Lulkin, TX) for Angelina, Trinity, and Houston Counties; **James M. Carraway, Jr.** (Kinston, NC) for Lenoir, Jones, Craven, Onslow, Carteret, Pamlico, Beaufort, Greene, Tyrell, Dare, Washington, and Duplin Counties; and **Robert W. Tidwell** (Gardendale, AL) for Jefferson, Shelby, and Blount Counties.

NEW CONSULTANTS AND RESEARCH SPECIALISTS

Three new consultants volunteered their talents this month: **Eue Jin Jeong**, Ph.D. (Austin, TX) in Physics; **Jose J. Aldrich**, M.D. (Miami, FL) in Medicine; and **Roger E. Anderson**, Ph.D. (Livermore, CA) in Physical Chemistry. Seven new Research Specialists joined MUFON this past month: **Tina G. Flores**, M.A., M.S. (Moore, TX) in Bilingual Bicultural Studies; **Reinhard H. Bartelmann**, M.S. (Worcester, MA) in Civil Engineering; **Gary A. Wheeler**, M.S. (Florissant, MO) in Aeronautical and Astronomical Engineering; **Jim H. Abrams**, M.A. (Montpelier, VT) in Psychology; **Frances B. Franey**, M.A. (Magnolia, NJ) in Education; **Connie L. Pennell**, M.S. (Spokane, WA) in Psychology Counseling; and **Russell L. Scarborough**, M.A. (Wadesboro, NC) in Theology.

MUFON NATIONAL UFO HOTLINE

MUFON has been cautiously introducing its National UFO Hotline 1-800-UFO-2166 or 1-800-836-2166 to the public. Designed to obtain UFO sighting reports from police agencies nationwide, we are now prepared to expand its coverage. All State Directors were advised by a letter nearly a year ago to utilize this number for filing hot UFO cases that came to their attention. A letter announcing the 800 number was mailed to all sheriff's offices and police chiefs in Texas last spring as a means of testing and evaluating the effectiveness of the system.

The majority of our calls, to-date, have been from people who called the 800 directory and asked for "UFO" to report sightings or to seek UFO information.

Continued on Page 23