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Dr. James Deardorff



Dr. Bernard Harsch



Dr. Bruce Maccabee



Dr. H. E. Puthoff

Scientists
tell why
other
scientists
should
study
the UFO
phenomenon.

The article begins
on page 3.

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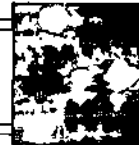
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Director's Message

By John F. Schuessler



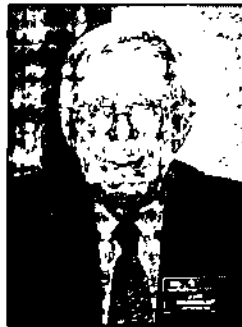
Call for reports

UFO reports have been coming in at a nearly record pace from all over the world. As most of you know, the hard work really starts after the report is in the hands of the state directors, assistant state directors, state section directors, and field investigators.

They go into the field to meet the witnesses and obtain their reports, photos, videos, and physical evidence. This is

probably the most interesting and exciting work that is done by MUFON.

Then we bring the results of the investigations to the pages of the *Journal* after the investigations are finished and the reports are submitted. Along with all of the investigative information, it helps us get the reports to the *Journal* readers more rapidly if a narrative version of the investigation is included



John Schuessler

in the final report. Our *Journal* editor is standing by ready to print the results of your work.

We hope you will swamp him with reports throughout 2005.

Spacing problem

Journal readers may have noticed a little extra white space between articles in the December issue. This was a production problem and should not occur again.

Our *Journal* editor produced a properly spaced layout, but when it was converted for printing the spacing went awry. The good news is that the excellent content was still all there.

Fund drive response

We want to thank you for the excellent response to our request for special contributions for MUFON.

With the cost of materials, postage, and services spiraling upward, the only way we can keep moving forward is through the generosity of our members. The fund drive runs to the end of January.

(Continued on page 22)

Change of address and subscription/extra copies inquiries should be sent to MUFON, P.O. Box 369, Morrison, CO 80465-0369.

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MUFON's mission is the scientific study of UFOs for the benefit of humanity through investigation, research, & education.

Four experts explain why scientists should study the UFO phenomenon

By Dr. James Deardorff, Dr. Bernard Haisch, Dr. Bruce Maccabee, & Dr. H. E. Puthoff.

(See About the Authors on page 5)

Introduction

The ever recurring question of why Earth has seemingly not been visited by extraterrestrials (ETs) has received considerable discussion under the topic of "Fermi's paradox."

The problem originated as a quip by Enrico Fermi to colleagues in Los Alamos over lunch one day in 1950.

Whether one assumes the existence of only one other civilization or of many alien civilizations in our Milky Way galaxy, and whether one assumes colonization involving interstellar travel at near-light speed or far below, diffusion modeling predicts colonization or at least visitation of all habitable planets in the galaxy on timescales of tens of millions of years, far less than the approximate 13×10^9 year age of the galaxy itself. Thus the paradox: Where are they [1]?

Theoretical possibilities unknown to Fermi make the paradox even stronger today. One can now rationally conjecture about prospects afforded by adjacent M-brane universes [2]. Indeed, if the multidimensions underlying superstring and M-brane theory are correct, there could be inhabited universes separated from our own by minute, orthogonal distances.

Also, anthropic reasoning has recently been applied to inflation theory, arriving once again at the conclusion that we should find ourselves within an enormously larger galactic civilization [3].

While the "We are alone" solution to Fermi's paradox was once a seemingly valid one, this answer is now incompatible with the infinite universe and random self-sampling assumption consistent with inflation theory.

We thus find ourselves in the curious position that current cosmological

theory predicts that we should be experiencing extraterrestrial visitation. At the same time, current physics and astrophysics suggest that such visitation may not be as impossible as had been thought.

Recent scientific advances

In recent astronomical discoveries, over 100 exoplanets have been catalogued, with detection sensitivity now increased to the point where, in one instance, a Jupiter-sized planet was deduced to be in a Jupiter-like orbit around a Sol-like star [4].

In the field of exobiology, much recent activity suggests that some of the building blocks for life may originate in space as well as be transported by meteorites [5-6]. The possibility of widespread panspermia has received new impetus [7-8]. These findings and studies make plausible the hypothesis that there is intelligent life elsewhere in the universe.

This is, of course, the fundamental assumption made by the proponents of SETI, the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence using microwave or optical means of detection.

The extraterrestrial hypothesis (ETH), that intelligent life from "elsewhere" in the universe could be visiting Earth, has become less implausible through suggestions that the velocity-of-light constraint—"they can't get here from there"—is not as restricting as had been assumed previously.

This restriction has its origin in the special theory of relativity, which we do not question. However, within the context of general relativity (GR) there are three approaches which may permit legitimately bypassing this limit, given sufficiently advanced (perhaps by millions of years!) knowledge of physics and technology.

One approach popularized by Thorne and Sagan concerns the possibility of wormholes, or cosmic sub-

Editor's Note

This article appears in the current issue of the *Journal of the British Interplanetary Society* (BIS), and is used with their permission. The BIS, founded in 1933, is the world's longest-established organization devoted solely to supporting and promoting the exploration of space and aeronautics.

Dr. Bernard Haisch, one of the authors of this article, notes: "This appears to be the first article on the UFO topic published in a mainstream scientific journal since the 1979-1980 articles in *Applied Optics* by Maccabee on the New Zealand sightings."

ways, a form of shortcut through the space-time metric [9].

Using the standard GR as a basis, certain mathematical requirements for traversable wormholes have been derived and published in the scientific literature, and it appears that there is the possibility of engineering a wormhole metric, at least in principle [10].

A second more recent approach published in the GR literature has been dubbed the "Alcubierre Warp Drive" [11-12]. Unlike the speed of light limit through space, there is no limit to the speed at which space itself might stretch.

Faster than light (FTL) relative motion is part of inflation theory, and presumably the universe beyond the Hubble distance is receding from us faster than c .

It was shown that a spaceship contained in a volume of Minkowski space could in principle make use of FTL expansion of space-time behind, and a similar contraction in front, with the inconvenience of time dilation and untoward accelerations being overcome.

A related approach involves con-

structing a "Krasnikov tube" [13] to connect spatially remote locales. Of course so-called *exotic matter* would be required for either case.

If GR itself were to be reinterpreted in terms of a polarizable vacuum as first proposed by Dicke [14], this would open the possibility of a different type of metric engineering in which the dielectric properties of the vacuum might be altered in such a way as to raise the local propagation velocity of light.

In effect one would be creating a local index of refraction of less than unity [15].

Finally, there is the conjectured possibility of making use of the additional dimensionalities of M-brane and superstring theory to transfer into adjacent universes, where the speed of light limit may be quite different, and reentering our universe at the desired location. This is by far the most speculative possibility.

Clearly, when it comes to engineering warp drive or wormhole solutions, seemingly insurmountable obstacles emerge, such as unattainable energy requirements [16] or the need for *exotic matter* [17].

Thus, if success is to be achieved, it must rest on some yet unforeseen breakthrough about which we can only speculate, such as a technology to cohere otherwise random vacuum fluctuations [18].

Nonetheless, the possibility of reduced-time interstellar travel by advanced extraterrestrial (ET) civilizations is not, as naive consideration might hold, fundamentally ruled out by presently known physical principles.

ET knowledge of the physical universe may comprise new principles which allow some form of FTL travel. This possibility is to be taken seriously, since the average age of suitable stars within the "galactic habitable zone," in which the Earth also resides, is found to be about 10^9 years older than the sun [19] suggesting the possibility of civilizations extremely advanced beyond our own.

There are further reasons why the "We are alone" solution to Fermi's paradox should perhaps be set aside in favor of the ETH.

A previously preferred solution, that

biogenesis is an exceedingly rare event in conjunction with both panspermia and interstellar travel being inoperative [1], is now scarcely tenable in light of the cosmological considerations already discussed. The ETH appears to be the most viable remaining solution, where "ET" is taken in a general non-Earthly sense that could include extra-dimensional realms, as in M-brane and superstring theory.

Given the highly advanced ET science and technology to be expected in considerably older civilizations, coupled with the many observational reports since WW II of highly advanced technology seemingly operating at will within Earth's skies, it is only logical to search for evidence of ET visitations in at least a fraction of the ongoing, unexplainable reports popularly referred to as "UFO sightings."

Reluctance to do so could result in our failure to realize that observations of "genuine" ET visitations have been occurring. This approach, which we follow here, explores the likelihood that we actually do belong to a large civilization, but are unaware of that fact. [3].

U.S. Air Force Response (1947-1969)

Reports of unknown objects in the skies, appearing as some sort of flying craft and exhibiting extraordinary maneuvers, first became known to the general public in 1947.

The first publicized sighting occurred on June 24 of that year, after which there were many hundreds of sightings during the following months. The phenomenon has been continuing ever since [20-24].

At first the Air Force collected the sighting reports for analysis in its operation Project Sign (1948-1949). This was succeeded by Project Grudge (1949-1952) and then Project Blue Book (1952-1969) [20,25].

Some 20% of Project Blue Book's sightings from 1953-1965 were left unexplained, if their "insufficient data" category is included [22].

The Battelle Memorial Institute (BMI; Columbus, OH) discovered, in their study of 3,201 reports from 1947 through 1952 that the percentage of unknowns (unexplainable sightings) *increased* with increasing quality of the

sighting information and reliability of the observers [21].

A surprisingly high percentage, 30% of the civilian sightings and an even more surprising 38%, of the military sightings rated as excellent in quality, were listed as unknown.

On the other hand, only about 16% of the civilian and 20% of the military sightings rated as poor were unknown.

The increase in the percentage of unknowns with increasing quality of the report is an unexpected result if sightings were all explainable as mistakes (failure to correctly identify the sighted phenomenon) by either the observer(s) or the scientists who analyzed the sightings.

In this collection of 3,201 sightings none were listed as hoaxes, and only 1.5% were listed as caused by psychological effects.

This result, discovered during the several year long BMI study, refutes the claim made in the Condon Report [22] that UFO reports are from "less well informed individuals" who are "not necessarily reliable."

It is worthy of note that Condon had access to the results of the BMI study, but there is no reference to it in the Condon Report.

Project Blue Book culminated in 1969 with the government sponsored Condon Report [22]. In the opening section of the Report its director concluded that, after years of investigation, the U.S. Air Force had found nothing truly new—nothing that supported claims of new physics or the ETH—and that continued investigation probably would not find anything truly new in the future.

The Report recommended that the Air Force end its investigation project, which it did in late 1969.

The Condon Report (1968)

In the late 1960s the U.S. Air Force issued a contract to the University of Colorado to carry out a scientific study of evidence concerning the UFO phenomenon.

The director of the project was Prof. Edward U. Condon, a distinguished and influential physicist who made no secret of his opinion even at the outset that no substantive evidence for extraterrestrial visitation was liable to result.

The study was relatively brief (two years) and had a notably low budget (approximately \$500,000) for a serious scientific study.

When the Condon Report was released in 1968, the American scientific community accepted its apparently negative conclusion concerning evidence for extraterrestrial visitation in a generally uncritical way, and to some extent even an enthusiastic way since it offered an end to a troublesome situation.

An endorsement of the Report by the National Academy of Sciences took place following an unusually rapid review, and the Air Force quickly used the Report as a justification to terminate any further public involvement with the topic.

The negative conclusion of the Report is more apparent than real, however, since there is a substantial discrepancy between the conclusion in the "Summary of the Study" written by Condon singlehandedly, and the conclusion one could reasonably draw from the evidence presented in the main body of the Report.

Such a dichotomy was possible because the study was a project for which the director, Condon, had sole authority; it was not the work of a committee whose members would have to reach some consensus conclusion.

An analysis of the Condon Report by Sturrock [26] details the many disagreements between Condon's dismissive summary and the actual data.

Given the thousand-page length of the Report, one can safely assume that very few in the scientific community would have devoted the time necessary to read the entire document.

The impact of the Report was thus largely due to Condon's leveraging his prestigious scientific reputation into an acceptance of his own personal views as representing the apparent outcome of a scientific investigation.

Indeed, as Sturrock documents, Condon actually took no part in the investigations, and indicated the conclusion he intended to draw well before the data were properly examined—hardly a scientific approach.

The portion of the Condon Report that contains its sighting analyses does

About the Authors

Dr. James Deardorff graduated from Stanford University with a B.S. in physics in 1950, then earned a B.A. in meteorology at UCLA in 1951.

Following a tour as a Naval officer, he received the M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Washington in meteorology.

He worked at the National Center for Atmospheric Research, eventually becoming a senior scientist.

After 16 years there, he went to Oregon State University as a research professor in the Department of Atmospheric Sciences, becoming interested in UFOs in the 1970s.

It was about this time that he had the first of what would be five or six UFO sightings. In 1986 he took early retirement and began to devote his time to ufology and New Testament research.

His concentration has been on the Billy Meier case, which involves both UFOs and the Talmud of Immanuel (TJ), which, if genuine, he believes is the source of the gospel of Matthew.

From his study of the TJ came his first book, *Celestial Teachings: The Emergence of the True Testament of Immanuel (Jesus)*. He later wrote two additional books, *Problems of New Testament Gospel Origins*, and *Jesus in India: A Reexamination of Jesus' Asian Traditions in the Light of Evidence Supporting Reincarnation*.

He has also written articles on UFOs.

Dr. Bernard Haisch was born in Stuttgart, Germany, but is a U.S. citizen. He graduated from Indiana University in 1971 with a BS (high distinction) in astrophysics, and the Ph.D. in astronomy from the University of Wisconsin in 1975.

He is currently chief science officer at ManyOne Networks. Previous employment includes staff scientist for Lockheed Martin, scientific editor for *The Astrophysical Journal*, deputy director of the Center for EUV Astrophysics, editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Scientific Exploration*, visiting scientist at the Astronomical Institute, and research associate at the Joint Inst. Lab. Astrophysics at the U. of Colorado.

He has written more than 130 papers in various journals, as well as co-authoring two books *Solar and Stellar Flares*, and *The Many Faces of the Sun: A Summary of the Results from NASA's Solar Maximum Mission*.

Dr. Haisch has served as a member and leader in numerous scientific organizations.

Dr. Bruce Maccabee holds the B.S. in

physics from Worcester Polytechnic Institute, and the M.S. and Ph.D. in physics from The American University.

He began his long career at the Naval Surface Warfare Center in 1972, and has worked on optical data processing, generation of underwater sound with lasers, and various aspects of the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) and Ballistic Missile Defense (BMD), using high power lasers.

He is the author or co-author of about three dozen technical articles, and more than 100 UFO articles. He wrote the last chapter of *The Gulf Breeze Sightings*, and co-authored with Edward Walters *UFOs Are Real, Here's the Proof*.

His more recent books include *The UFO/FBI Connection* and a novel, *Abduction in My Life*.

He has been involved with UFO research since the 1960s when he joined the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP). He became a member of MUFON in 1975, and has served as MUFON State Director for Maryland for many years, as well as a MUFON photo consultant and Symposium speaker.

In 1979 he was instrumental in establishing the Fund for UFO Research, and served as chairman for 13 years. He currently serves on the board of the Fund.

He has investigated a number of high-profile UFO cases in detail, including the McMinnville photos, Gulf Breeze photos, the 1997 Mexico City video, and the 2004 Mexican Air Force images.

Dr. Harold E. Puthoff is a 1967 graduate of Stanford University, and since 1985 has served as director of the Institute for Advanced Studies at Austin.

His professional background spans more than 40 years of research at General Electric, Sperry, the National Security Agency, Stanford University, and SRI International.

He has published numerous papers on electron-beam devices, lasers, and quantum zero-point-energy effects, and has patents in the laser, communications, and energy fields.

His current interests range from theoretical studies concerning gravitation, inertia, cosmology, and energy research to laboratory studies of innovative approaches to energy generation and space propulsion.

He is the author of a textbook, *Fundamentals of Quantum Electronics*, as well as numerous papers and articles.

not support the "Summary of the Study" written by Condon [26].

Many of the events presented within its Case Studies section do fall into the "unidentified" category of UFOs, for which the Report's definition was, in essence: "A puzzling stimulus for a report of something seen in the sky or landed on the earth that could not be identified as having an ordinary natural origin."

In a detailed review of this Report, however, it was noted that "The sheer bulk of the report, much of it 'scientific padding,' cannot conceal from anyone who studies it closely that it examines only a tiny fraction of the really puzzling UFO reports, and that its scientific argumentation is often unsatisfactory. Of roughly ninety cases that it specifically confronts, more than thirty are conceded to be unexplained." [27]

Four of the cases, reanalyzed and reported in detail at the 1969 AAAS Symposium, disclosed how unscientific the Condon Report's treatment of them had been; the reanalyses have since gone unrefuted.

Hence we cannot agree with the Condon Report's assertion that the phenomenon provides no new subjects for science to explore, given that many sightings were left unexplained.

Furthermore, in many of the cases that the Report claimed to have identified, that goal was achieved merely through assuming that the witnesses had seen something differing in detail from what they had reported.

Also, a committee of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics in 1971 found "it difficult to ignore the small residue of well-documented but unexplainable cases that form the hard core of the UFO controversy" [2B]. Clearly, the Condon Report was left in an unsatisfactory state. [20,24-26,29-30]

The primary conclusion of the Condon panel sidestepped the main issue, the failure to explain every sighting, by saying, "The evidence presented on Unidentified Flying Objects shows no indication that these phenomena constitute a direct physical threat to national security.[22]

This is not inconsistent, however, with some fraction of unexplained re-

ports representing actual ET visitations.

(To be continued in the February Journal.)

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Large triangular object reported in India

Hard on the heels of the mysterious MiG-21 crash in the desert west of Bikaner came two sightings of a very large triangular UFO in India.

One of these, on Nov. 5, 2004, involved the Bhadha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) in Trombay, a suburb of Mumbai, India's largest city, where workers saw a bright light beyond the windows of the plant's Cirrus 40-megawatt heavy water reactor building.

When they went outdoors, into the parking lot, they saw "a large triangular UFO hovering silently" overhead. The object then flew slowly over the plant grounds and hovered above the building containing BARC's Dhruva 100-megawatt heavy water reactor.

The object remained in view for several minutes, making no noise, before it retreated in a northwesterly direction.

"We think it may have been heading back to the Himalayas," Krishnari Bai Dharapurnanda, UFO Roundup correspondent in India, reported.

The BARC plant was built in 1957 by Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and named in honor of Homi Bhadha, India's leading nuclear scientist.

-Thanks to UFO Roundup, Vol. 9, No. 47. Editor: Joseph Trainor

Crew of Navy plane has encounter with UFO

By Major Donald E. Keyhoe

From the NICAP records

It was early in 1959 when I learned of this hidden report—a startling encounter with a UFO. The lead came in a brief message from Adm. Delmar S. Fahrney, former Navy missile chief, whom I had known for years. “Capt. James Taylor, USN, Ret., has an important UFO sighting made by a naval pilot and his crew. Call him at Spacetratics, Inc., in Washington, District 7-9481.”

That night, when Capt. Taylor gave me this dramatic Navy report, I could see why it had never been released to the public. Later, Adm. Fahrney and I met at the Army-Navy Club and discussed the details. Fahrney knew, as well as I did, of other hidden UFO cases—some of them highly significant.

But this one stood out in importance. It had happened in 1956. Cruising at 19,000 feet, a Navy R7V-2 transport—a four-engine Super-Constellation—was flying west across the Atlantic Ocean. The next stop was Gander, Newfoundland. Final destination, Naval Air Station, Patuxent, MD.

The night was clear, visibility unlimited. In the senior pilot’s seat, Commander George Benton was checking the dimly-lit instruments. At 34, Benton had a decade of Navy flying behind him. He had made the Atlantic crossing more than two hundred times.

Back in the cabin were two extra Navy air crews, enroute home from foreign duty. Most of these men were asleep. Including Benton’s regular and relief crews, there were nearly 30 airman-pilots, navigators and flight engineers aboard the Constellation.

As Cmdr. Benton finished his cockpit check, he glanced out at the stars. Then he leaned forward, puzzled. A few minutes before, the sea below had been dark. Now there was a cluster of lights, like a village, about 25 miles ahead.

Benton looked over at his co-pilot, Lt. Peter J. Mooney. “What do you make of those lights?” Mooney peered down, startled. “Looks like a small town!”

“That’s what I thought.” Benton quickly called the navigator, Lt. Alfred C. Erdman. “We must be way off course. There’s land down there.”

“It can’t be land.” Erdman hurried forward from his map table. “That last star sight shows—” He broke off, staring down at the clustered lights.

“Well?” said Benton.

“They must be ships,” said Erdman. “Maybe a rendezvous for some special operation.”

“They don’t look like ships,” said Benton. He called radioman John Wiggins. No word of any unusual ship movements, Wiggins reported. And no signals from the location of the lights. If they were ships, they were keeping radio silence.

“Wake up those other crews,” Benton told Erdman. “Maybe somebody can dope it out.” In a few moments, two or three airmen crowded into the cockpit. Benton cut off the automatic pilot, and banked to give them and the men in the cabin a better view.

As the transport began to circle, the strange lights abruptly dimmed. Then several colored rings appeared and began to spread out. One, Benton noticed, seemed to be growing in size. Behind him, someone gave an exclamation.

Benton took another look. That luminous ring wasn’t on the surface—it was something rushing up toward the transport. “What the devil is it?” said Mooney. “Don’t know,” muttered Benton.

He rolled the Constellation out of its turn to start a full-power climb. Then he saw it was useless. The luminous ring could catch them in seconds. The glow, he now saw, came from the rim of some large, round object. It reached their altitude, swiftly took shape as a giant disc-shaped machine.

Dwarfing the Constellation, it raced in toward them. “It’s going to hit us!” said Erdman. Benton had known normal fear, but this was a nightmare. Numbed, he waited for the crash.

Suddenly the giant disc tilted. Its speed sharply reduced, it angled on past the port wing. The commander let out his breath.

He looked at Mooney’s white face, and saw the others’ stunned expressions. Watching out the port window, he cautiously started to bank. He stopped as he saw the disc. It had swung around and was drawing abreast, pacing them at about one hundred yards.

For a moment he had a clear glimpse of the monster. Its sheer bulk was amazing; its diameter was three to four times the Constellation’s wing span.

At least thirty feet thick at the center, it was like a gigantic dish inverted on top of another. Seen at this distance, the glow along the rim was blurred and uneven.

Whether it was an electrical effect, a series of jet exhausts or lights from opening in the rim, Benton could not tell. But the glow was bright enough to show the disc’s curving surface, giving a hint of dully reflecting metal.

Though Benton saw no signs of life, he had a feeling they were being observed. Fighting an impulse to dive away, he held to a straight course. Gradually, the strange machine pulled ahead.

Tilting its massive shape upward, it quickly accelerated and was lost against the stars. Commander Benton reached for his microphone, called Gander Airport and identified himself. “You show any other traffic out here?” he asked the tower.

“We had something on the scope near you,” Gander told him. “But we couldn’t get an answer.” “We saw it,” Benton said grimly. “It was no aircraft.” He gave the tower a concise report, and back at Gander teletype messages were rushed to the U.S. Air Defense Command, the Commanding Officer, Eastern Sea Frontier, the Director of Air Force Intelligence, and the Air Technical Intelligence Center.

When the Constellation landed at Gander, Air Force intelligence officers met the transport. From the start, it was plain they accepted the giant disc sighting as fact. For two hours, Benton and the rest were carefully interrogated [debriefed], separately and together.

From the answers to scores of ques-

tions, the majority opinion emerged. The flying disc was between 350 and 400 feet in diameter, and apparently metallic. No interference with ignition noted, instruments not observed, and radio not operating during this brief period.

Time for the giant disc to climb to the transport's altitude, between five and eight seconds; indicated speed between 1,400 and 2,200 knots; the disc had accelerated above this speed on departure.

If the other circles below were also flying discs, in a rendezvous as some suggested, they apparently had raced off while the other one was checking on the Constellation.

At one point, an Intelligence captain asked Benton if he had seen any indication of life aboard the disc. "No, but it was intelligently controlled, that's certain. That size, it would hardly be remote-controlled, would it?"

"I couldn't say," replied the Air Force man. Nor would he tell what the Gander Airport radar had shown about the disc's speed and maneuvers. "What's behind all this?" demanded Mooney. "Up to now, I believed the Air Force. You people say there aren't any flying saucer—"

"Sorry, I can't answer any questions," said the captain.

After the Constellation reached Patuxent, the air crews were interviewed [debriefed] again by Navy order. Each man made a written report, with his opinion of what he had seen.

Five days later, Cmdr. Benton had a phone call from a scientist in a high government agency. "I'm informed you had a close-up UFO sighting. I'd like to see you."

Benton checked, and found the man was cleared by the Navy. Next day, the scientist appeared, showed his credential, and listened intently to Benton's report. Then he unlocked a dispatch case and took out some photographs. "Was it like any of these?"

At the third picture, Benton stopped him. "That's it!" He looked sharply at the scientist. "Somebody must know the answers, if you've got photographs of the things." The other man took the pictures. "I'm sorry, Commander." He closed his dispatch case and left.

MUFON FORUM

Letters to Mufon UFO Journal

Dear Dwight,

Re. Bev Trout's recent article, "Serpents of Wisdom? Or Snakes in the Grass..." which appeared in *MUFON UFO Journal* issue #437, September 2004, I would be most interested in having her reference her claim about "other records [pointing] to Adam and Eve...having unusual skin." (On p. 12, that issue.)

I have discussed at length with two other UFO research investigators, who are Jewish, Trout's claim that the Haggadah describes Adam and Eve's "reptilian skin" shedding off when they ate forbidden fruit off the Tree of Knowledge in the Garden of Eden.

These very experienced investigators state most definitely that the Haggadah text describes the exit of the Israelites from Egypt, and NOT anything about Adam and Eve and the Garden of Eden.

Since this same claim re. the Haggadah describing Adam and Eve's "reptilian skin" appeared very recently in another article in a research journal (I don't know whether it was the *MUFON UFO Journal* or not) I feel an obligation to question this being put forth repeatedly in UFO literature without references.

I would appreciate your contacting Bev Trout about this and asking her to inform us precisely what page of what edition of the Haggadah describes her claim, so that readers can look up, for themselves, whether or not Adam and Eve's (original) skin was "reptilian" in nature.

Ann Druffel

Following is Bev Trout's response:
Hello, Ann,

I have not researched the Haggadah myself, instead relying on quotes from a book by R. A. Boulay entitled: *Flying Serpents and Dragons* with a subtitle, *The Story of Mankind's Reptilian Past*, in which Boulay quotes the Haggadah on many pages of his book.

Specifically in Boulay's book, the quote attributed to the Haggadah re the

"horny skin" appears on Page 122 (although there are many references and quotes from the Haggadah in Boulay's book, as can be ascertained from the Index).

In the Bibliography on Page 267 of Boulay's book is the following: [*Legends of the Bible* by Louis Ginzberg. The Jewish Publication Society of America, 1956. This is an abridged edition of *Legends of the Jews*, originally published in seven volumes in 1909.

"The Legends" is a vast store of Jewish stories and lore forming the oral tradition of the Bible known as the Haggadah."

Boulay also refers to a Christian Gnostic tract dating to the First Century AD quoting the following: "Now Eve believed the words of the serpent. She looked at the tree. She took some of its fruit and ate, and she gave to her husband also, and he ate too. Then their mind opened. For when they ate, the light of knowledge shone for them; they knew that they were naked with regard to knowledge. When they saw their makers, they loathed them since they were "beastly forms." They understood very much."

Boulay's take, then is that since Adam and Eve (first man) were created in "the image of god" that our ancient gods were not human mammals like us, but an alien reptilian form.

Whatever the total truth of who or what interfered in our evolution, it does appear that the serpent (in whatever form) has been a very big player in mankind's past—and encounter reports, including my own, would seem to substantiate some sort of role on a reproductive level continuing on into modern times.

Not necessarily a comforting assessment, but seeming to demand a close look at the phenomenon (as best we can) for what it is, rather than what we want it to be

Hope this helps.

Bev Trout



The first photo, with insets of other photos taken.

Photos from Turkey appear to show genuine UFO

Two amateur mountaineers, Cem Arat and Mehmet Safak, both 20 years of age at the time, took a series of photos in 1996 which still await detailed analysis by MUFON, but which have been declared authentic in two tests conducted in Turkey.

The photos were taken on Feb. 19, 1996, at Yamanlar Mountain Park, Karagol, near Izmir, Turkey.

The two explained that they had taken a camera with them to shoot "memory" photos of each other, as they anticipated being called into the Army.

The UFO reportedly appeared suddenly, they told UFO investigator Michael Hesemann when he interviewed them in 2001. They said the object startled them, and "was definitely nothing built on Earth."

They said the object could hover on the spot, increase to tremendous speed, shoot up and down, and rotate around its axis—all very fast and completely soundless. The sighting lasted about two minutes before the object disappeared "in the blink of an eye."

The sighting was investigated by the Sirius UFO Space Sciences Research Center in Istanbul. Founder and chairman Haktan Akdogan reports that the photos were analyzed by Dr. Ahmet Imancer of Egean University, who could find no evidence of a hoax.

The photos were also analyzed by ON Kodak Photo Labs in Istanbul by Ahmet Bayramusta, who reported in June 2002 that the 35mm negative film image "is original, and the photo developed out of this film is not manipulated. Also, the negative and the photo have not been manipulated in a computer environment."

Efforts by the *Journal* to obtain the negatives for analysis by MUFON have been unsuccessful. Mr. Akdogan reports that he contacted the two witnesses on behalf of MUFON, and that they "cannot send the negatives overseas."

—Thanks to Esen Sekerkarar, MUFON representative for Turkey.

Distant, cold object discovered in elliptical orbit of Sun

When astronomers from Caltech, Gemini Observatory, and Yale University announced the discovery of the coldest, most distant object known to orbit the Sun, some observers concluded that this "planet" in an elliptical orbit might be the elusive Planet X.

The object was found at a distance 90 times greater than that from the Sun to the Earth—about three times further than Pluto, the most distant known "planet."

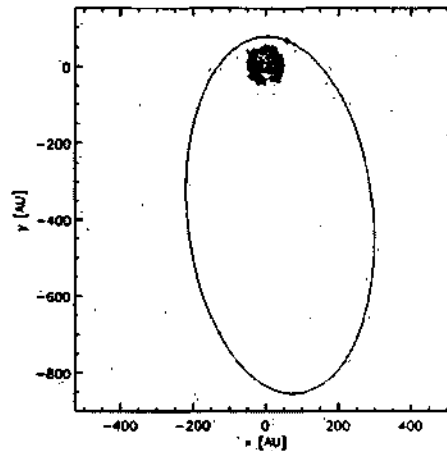
Even more interesting, the orbit of Sedna is extreme elliptical, in contrast to all of the much closer planets, and it takes 10,500 years to circle the Sun.

The discovery was made on the Samuel Oschin Telescope at the Palomar Observatory east of San Diego.

Because of its frigid temperatures, the object has been named Sedna, after the Inuit goddess of the sea from whom all sea creatures were created.

Sedna is the most distant solar system object ever discovered. It is twice as far from the Sun as any other solar system object, and three times farther than Pluto or Neptune.

Discovery images of Sedna show only a point of light, so scientists cannot



Elliptical path of Sedna. The Sun is in the middle of the swarm of solar system objects at the top of the drawing.

directly measure the size of Sedna from this point. The light that we see has travelled from the Sun, and been reflected off the surface of Sedna,

Sedna is at most about halfway in size between Pluto and the largest known Kuiper belt object, Quaoar.

Sedna is not a planet, according to some definitions of planets, but then neither is Pluto.

Motorist reports gigantic UFO near Cardiff, UK

On Oct. 14, 2004, at 10 PM. Mark A. was driving about four miles (7 kilometers) west of Cardiff, South Wales, UK, when he had a most unusual encounter.

"I was driving along a fairly busy road heading west just outside of Cardiff city," Mark reported. "Something caught my eye, so I pulled over. I also noticed that other people, about 15 other drivers, had done the same, and were now outside their vehicles looking up at what I just couldn't believe.

"At about 3,000 feet was the largest flying object that I have ever seen—something like, say, the new Airbus A380, not yet in service, or a Boeing 747, would have been dwarfed by it.

"The crazy thing was—absolute silence! We stood dumbstruck as this thing moved slowly through the air almost directly above us. There was also complete silence from everyone observing this amazing event from the roadside.

"Other drivers were now stopping, and people were getting out of their cars to take a look. I am a pilot, and have a fairly good idea of how motions of normal aircraft can 'trick' people into seeing a UFO. This was in no way normal.

"There is an international airport located about four miles west of the sighting site. My next move was to telephone the control tower at the airport and ask if anything unusual had just taken off.

"Air traffic control said that a (Boeing) 737 had just departed a few minutes ago. This object was too big and too silent to be a 737. I then asked if they had anything on radar. 'Nothing,' they said."

Mark then called the Cardiff RAF base. He reports, "Again, 'nothing.' This thing was almost the size of a very large container ship. It didn't have any visible wings or any other way of showing how it could stay in the air.

"If I saw it on the ground, I would bet money that it was not able to fly. The



weather was good with ten miles visibility. There were light clouds at 500 feet (150 meters) and very light winds.

"I watched this object keep the same speed and altitude, and then it passed behind some mountains to the northeast of Cardiff."

Two days later, on Oct. 16, Mark added, "I saw a friend and told him about the sighting. He was almost speechless when I started to describe the same thing that he had seen moments after me.

"He had been out with a girlfriend, on Oct. 14 and was driving home when she

spotted the object from her passenger seat. They both got out of the car, along with the other road users who had stopped their cars.

"This was almost a reconstruction of what had happened five minutes earlier, with me, only it was happening now to the northeast of Cardiff city.

"His account is identical to mine in the size of the object, the height of the object, and its speed. I would love to know what I and everyone else that night had seen."

Sasquatch or Skunk Ape creature reportedly sighted in Florida

Jennifer Ward, 30, says she was driving on Moore Road in the Green Swamp area in northern Polk County, near Lakeland, Florida, a few days after Hurricane Charley's passage through the area when she glanced to her left and saw something she says has haunted her ever since.

She describes it as a creature with a human form that was covered with dark hair or fur, with whitish rings around its eyes. Ward says the mysterious animal stood erect in a drainage ditch along the road, and she estimates its height at 8 feet.

Based on her description, it might have been foraging in the ditch

when she surprised it, as she says it looked like it was doing something. "It was focused on something," Ward says. "Whenever it saw me, it probably took on the facial expression I had on, because I was dumbfounded. It just watched me as I drove by."

Asked if it might have been a bear, she replied, "No chance at all." Ward says she didn't stop because her two daughters were sleeping in the back seat, and she feared the animal might attack her Toyota 4-Runner if given the chance.

She went back to the scene later to search for hair or footprints, but she didn't find any conclusive evidence.

The Braxton County Monster—The Cover-up of the Flatwoods Monster Revealed by Frank C. Feschino, Jr., Foreward and Epilogue by Stanton E. Friedman, Pictorial Histories, 1125 Central Ave., Charleston, WV 25302, www.flatwoodsmonster.com, 6 x 9 hardback, 352 pages, \$29.95 plus \$3.50 shipping.

Reviewed by Dwight Connelly

This book reveals details about the Flatwoods, Braxton County, West Virginia, "monster" which should have been fully documented years ago by ufologists—but hasn't been.

Although ufologist Gray Barker was on the scene soon after the 1952 event, interviewed some witnesses, and wrote about it in the first issue of *Saucerian*, the investigation was superficial.

Also on the scene early was naturalist and anomaly investigator Ivan T. Sanderson, who provided a reasonably accurate, but quite incomplete, description of the encounter.

Both Barker and Sanderson missed at least four key witnesses.

Local journalist A Lee Stewart, Jr. covered much of the sighting soon after the encounter, recording and quoting witnesses in a straightforward manner, but, publicly at least, did not cover several important details.

Respected ufologist Stanton Friedman, who wrote the Foreward and Epilogue of this book, has long defended this encounter as worthy of serious consideration, but even he did not find time to do the detailed research necessary to make this an impressive case.

But author Feschino, who spent more than ten years researching the key encounter and what he believes are related events, has finally pulled enough evidence together to make this a solid case—and he completed his research just in time, as one of the key witnesses, National Guard Capt. Dale Leavitt, has since died.

This book has already received quite a bit of publicity in the media, due in part to Feschino's public appearances in promoting it. Unfortunately, many of the recent media reports have focused—and negatively commented—on the least documented and most contro-



versial part of this book—alleged encounters between military aircraft and UFOs.

What could have been simply a badly-needed re-investigation and report on the Flatwoods encounter has thus

been weakened by the author's unsubstantiated speculation that the Braxton County object had been damaged during an encounter with military aircraft.

While the object which landed at Flatwoods may have been damaged, as suggested by oil and metal pieces at the site, there is no evidence that this damage resulted from an encounter with a military aircraft.

Feschino seems to have come up with this theory after discovering several reports of fiery objects moving in trajectories that suggest they originated just off the east coast, where he speculates an air battle ensued.

These objects were not meteors, as no meteors were recorded on that date, but Feschino's conclusion that these fiery objects were showing damage from an encounter with military planes is also not warranted—and speculation that there were rescue UFOs, plus other UFOs guarding the rescue activities, is just that, speculation.

The author does not document any missing military planes off the east coast, nor any reports of encounters with UFOs, but he does spend several pages trying to turn an explainable missing plane incident over the Gulf of

Mexico into an unexplainable encounter with a UFO, despite the lack of any real evidence.

Feschino describes as fact a blow by blow encounter between Air Force jets and UFOs, as well as a background accounting of what President Truman was allegedly doing—all without evidence being presented.

It should be noted that the author's extensive search of newspaper files and Blue Book did result in locating an impressive number of meteor-like fiery objects—as well as at least one report of an object described as a "flying saucer"—around the time of the Flatwoods encounter, and over a wide area of the eastern U.S., but not over the Gulf of Mexico.

Unfortunately, there is another problem in making this case as impressive as it should be with the general public, and that is the continuing description of the object encountered by witnesses as a "monster," even after Feschino has presented impressive evidence that it was a mechanical device.

While "monster" was apparently the terminology used by at least some of the frightened witnesses and the media back in 1952—and probably by those in the Flatwoods area even today—there is now no reason to keep using that description—at least without quotation marks.

Unfortunately, "monster" is used not only in the title of the book (without quotation marks), but also by the author throughout the book. It is even the title of his website. Perhaps he feels that the terminology has become so ingrained that it would confuse matters to simply use "Flatwoods encounter."

But adding to the early sensationalizing of the encounter was the widely publicized drawing of the "monster" by a TV artist, complete with arms, claws, and other monster-like characteristics which were not described by witnesses.

Fortunately, the author is an excel-

lent illustrator, and he presents a very realistic and accurate rendition of the object on the cover of the book.

In spite of the shortcomings noted, Feschino has now provided enough impressive information that this case should take its rightful place among legitimate encounters.

The main incident began for the Flatwoods witnesses as a bright object (the author suggests there may have been more than one) was seen moving across the countryside around dusk on Sept. 12, 1952, and apparently landing on a small mountain or hill just outside the little town of Flatwoods.

Among the witnesses uncovered by Feschino was Jack Davis, described as a prominent businessman in the area, who says he saw a lighted object the size of a garage, not traveling at an excessive speed and apparently controlled, silently move just above the trees, slow down, and apparently land.

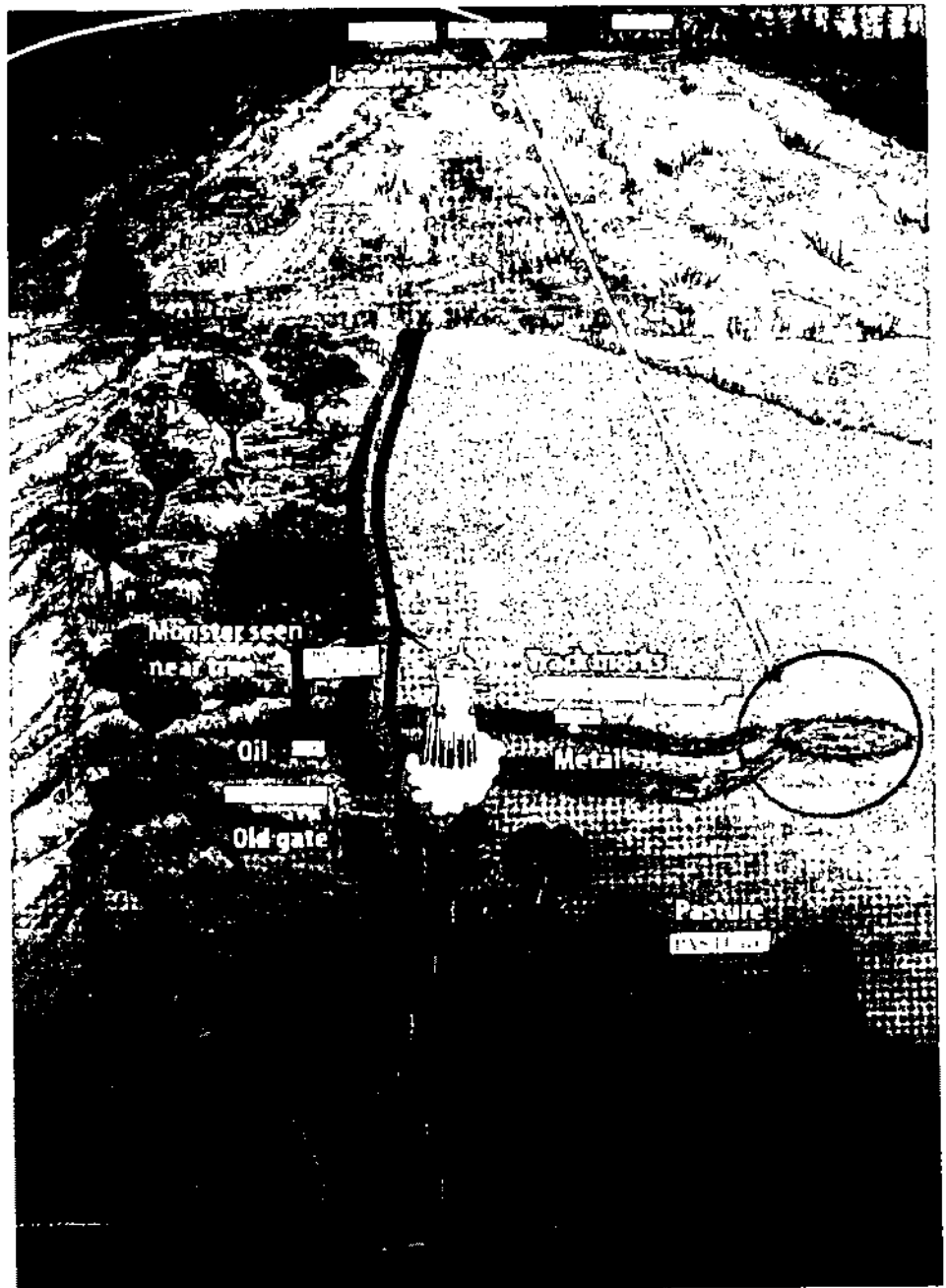
He says the object "had a clearer, brighter illuminated light from the top, and kind of an orange-red. The top of it had the reflection of a light that I would describe today as a mercury vapor light. It did not resemble a meteor to me. To me, the object that I saw was a craft."

A report was also made to the sheriff's office by Woodrow Eagle of Duck Creek, who was traveling towards Flatwoods when he saw what he thought was an airplane on fire crashing into the mountains.

What were to be some of the key witnesses, however, were 10 boys playing football in Flatwoods who saw a fiery object move over their heads and apparently land on the mountain top.

Most of the boys took off in the direction of the landing site, creating enough noise to cause people to come out of their houses to see what was happening. When they came to the Lemon house, they rushed in to report what they had seen to Mrs. Kathleen May, the mother of one of the boys.

She decided to accompany some of the boys up to the landing site, as did young Eugene Lemon, who took his dog along, and six-year-old Tommy Hyer. It was now about 7:40 PM, and darkness was closing in. Mrs. May grabbed a flashlight, as did Lemon.



Led by Lemon, the group made their way up the mountain to the Fisher farm. Eventually they found themselves on a path with a fence line and a pear orchard to their right. Some of the older, taller members of the group said that at that point they could look off into a valley and see a fiery spherically-shaped object about the size of a barn sitting and pulsating.

Other members of the group, such as little Tommy Hyer, were apparently too short to see beyond the vegetation and into the valley. The author does not say whether Mrs. May saw the object in the valley, and it seems strange

that the entire group was seemingly not alerted to this significant observation, since this was apparently the main object they were looking for.

As the group moved a little farther up the mountain they became aware of a fog-like mist, along with a pungent, nauseating odor that affected their noses and throats.

Mrs. May describes the odor as "kinda metallic," saying, "It affected me in the throat and chest area." Freddie May said the group also heard a noise like an electrical compressor being shut down. Suddenly Lemon's dog began to growl, then ran ahead of the group,



The sensationalized version as drawn by a TV artist.

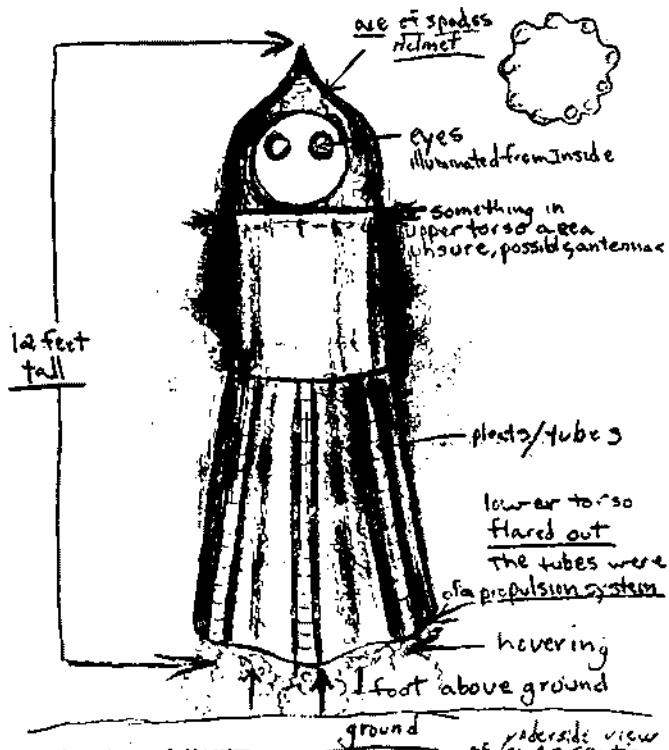
and began to bark loudly.

Moments later it ran back down the mountain and raced past the group. It was later reported that the dog had gone all the way back to the village, vomited all over the veranda, and subsequently died, according to researcher Sanderson.

With Mrs. May now leading the way, the group came up to a large oak tree near the path, where they heard what sounded like bacon being fried, combined with the sound of "flipping a silver dollar or something against a piece of canvas."

Seeing what they at first thought was an animal with bright eyes up in the tree, they directed their flashlights on it and were horrified to see what appeared to be a towering figure, about 12 feet high. The dully glowing "eyes" of the object lit up brilliantly, then projected an eerie orange light outward, cutting

Fred May sighting 25-30 feet.
The figure was made of metal.



Sketch of the Starwoods Monster by Frank Beacham, Jr. and Freddie May.

9/12/95

The correct version, as drawn by the author using witnesses' description.

through the fog and illuminating the area.

The object seemed to be dark-colored, but also appeared to be heating up and beginning to glow. It then rose a bit from the ground and glided toward the path and the group. Lemon dropped his flashlight and fell to the ground, but quickly got back up.

As the object moved past the group, Mrs. May was closest to it. As it made hissing and frying noises, it sprayed oil on Mrs. May's nurse's uniform, but not on her skin.

She says the top of the monster behind the lighted "eyes" was like the ace of spades, the middle body was round and smooth, like metal, and the bottom part flared out like a series of tubes, which she believes provided the propulsion that allowed the object to glide along the ground.

Between the upper part and the middle part was "something like antennae sticking out from it," says Mrs.

May. An artist for a TV show depicted these antennae-like devices as arms with claw-like hands. The tubes were depicted on TV as a flowing skirt, and the smooth middle section was made to look like the upper body of a witch-like creature, creating the "monster."

Everyone began running back down the hill, not stopping until they reached the Lemon home, and some not even stopping there. Mrs. May, a nurse, tried to tend to the traumatized youngsters. Some had cuts and scrapes from the run back home, while others were coughing and vomiting, including Eugene Lemon, who reportedly vomited off and on all night.

Mrs. May called the sheriff's office, but was told that all the law enforcement people were out looking for a reported plane crash. The sheriff's office contacted state trooper Ted Tribett, who also could not go to Mrs. May's home, but he did send a journalist who worked closely with the police, A. Lee

Stewart, Jr., from the *Braxton Democrat*, who did go to Mrs. May's home to interview the witnesses.

Stewart was one of the key witnesses that Feschino was able to track down, even though the journalist had left the Braxton area six years after the incident and moved to North Carolina.

Stewart confirmed to the author that "it was sheer turmoil" at Mrs. May's house. "Three boys were very sick," he recalls, "and all of them were wheezing and coughing. Mrs. May's eyes were as red as they could be, and sort of weepy."

Stewart convinced two of the older boys to accompany him back up the mountain to the area where the object was seen. Three or four other individuals, including Mrs. May's father, also went. All carried firearms.

Near the site, Stewart discovered that some of the odor described by the witnesses still lingered near the ground.

The group made a sweep of the area, and located "skid marks," which were two paths running roughly parallel, each about 30 feet long, ten or eleven feet apart, and 24 to 30 inches wide. They led from the valley up to the area where the frightening object had been seen.

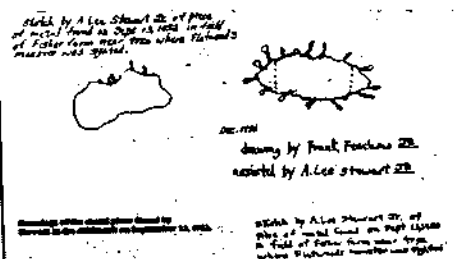
Feschino also tracked down another key individual involved in the incident, Col. Dale Leavitt, who was a former paratrooper and commander in the West Virginia National Guard.

Initially reluctant to talk, Col. Leavitt, who had been a captain at the time of the incident, eventually accompanied the author to the sighting area.

He said that National Guard members from throughout the area had been alerted that night, and that he had been asked by the Air Force to assist in locating a reported downed aircraft.

He and about 30 troops had arrived in the Flatwoods area at about 1:30 AM. They were later joined by about 20 to 30 additional troops. He said he had remained at the actual location of the landing for about 45 minutes, but that the troops stayed in the area the rest of the night "to see if something else was going to happen."

He said he had two specific missions to accomplish: (1) to prevent unauthorized entry into the area, and (2) to gather samples of leaves and dirt and



Sketch of pieces of metal found.

any other material he could locate. He said he sent what he gathered to the Air Force, but never heard any results.

Col. Leavitt says the leaves he sampled had not been burned, "but I got some of this oil." He apparently also found at least one piece of metal.

In describing what appears to have been the landing site, he says, "I saw all this stuff pushed over and everything, and it landed right here. Well, it landed gently because it didn't go down in the dirt or anything like that." He said the landing area covered about 20 feet, and it was not burned.

Col. Leavitt had also discovered the skid marks or tracks, saying, "The tracks just stopped here, and that's all there was to it, and it got out just the same way." Leavitt acknowledged that there was oil in the area where the object had sat down.

He also mentioned another incident reported that evening involving a UFO shutting down the engine of an auto in the Duck Creek area. Leavitt concluded, "Something was a cover-up. There was something down below, too, but I don't really know what it was."

Asked by Feschino if he thought it was an experimental craft or if it came from someplace else," Col. Leavitt replied, "No, I think it came from someplace else, personally."

At about 7 AM on the day after the sighting, Stewart was back at the scene, the first to view it in daylight. Like Col. Leavitt, he also noticed the apparent landing area with the grass pushed down; "round and I'd say about 20 feet across."

Stewart walked the "skid marks," and, says Feschino, noted that even though there was apparently no ground contact made in creating these tracks, some outside force had turned over some rocks.

Feschino suggests that the evidence

indicates that the main object had initially landed on top of the mountain, then took off and landed a second time in the valley.

The "tracks" or "skid marks" were apparently made by the frightening object encountered on the mountain as it came and went from the larger, barn-sized object in the valley.

While checking out the skid marks, Stewart realized he was getting oil on his clothes, as he had the night before. But he also found something else as he walked the skid marks: a piece of metal.

"It looked like somebody had taken a soldering iron and just dripped solder," he explains. "The piece of metal was shiny and silver, very easy to see in the daylight... ragged on the edges like any dripped metal would be."

Stewart says he later tried to melt the metal with a soldering torch, "and I couldn't melt it." He says he took it to a welding shop, and they couldn't melt it either.

Three people who said they worked for the Treasury Department, but who claimed they were not representing the government, came to his home to inquire about the metal and the oil that Stewart had on his clothing.

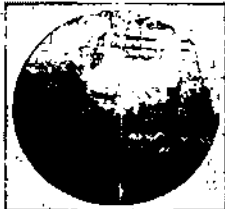
Using tin snips, he cut off a piece of the metal for them, and placed the rest in a vial. He also allowed them to scrape the oil off his clothing. The next day, while he was at the newspaper, the rest of the metal disappeared.

Mrs. May was also visited by two individuals claiming to be journalists—a claim she later felt was false—and they took oil samples from her uniform. She kept the uniform for awhile, then apparently discarded it as unwearable.

Feschino covers much, much more in this book, including other sightings in the area, numerous illustrations, and additional details suggesting not only interest in the case by the government, but also evidence of a government cover-up.

There is so much material—and it so scattered—that the lack of an index is regrettable.

This book is well worth reading and purchasing. Feschino has done an excellent job in locating key witnesses missed by other researchers, and in giving credence to this historic case.



FILER'S FILES

Director, MUFON Eastern Region

Note: These reports are presented in order to keep readers informed of some of the vast number of sightings being reported. However, these reports have not been officially investigated.

CIA Report

H. Marshall Chadwell CIA Director of Scientific Intelligence, 1952:

"All this time, the reports of incidents convince us that there is something going on that must have immediate attention....Sightings of unexplained objects at great altitudes and traveling at high speeds in the vicinity of major US defense installations are of such nature that they are not attributable to natural phenomena or known types of vehicles."

Scientists fear Mars attack

Scientists have warned we may soon be under attack from planet Mars. They are concerned that the Earth's defenses are too weak and unprepared to withstand a determined alien invasion from the Red Planet.

Sounds like science fiction? Well, it's a fact—space probes exploring Mars may contaminate Earth with deadly diseases on their return.

Experts say humans could be at risk for infections for which there are no known cures, and which could wipe out life on our planet. The warning comes after scientists studied data from the probe Opportunity, which landed on Mars in January.

Jeffrey Kargel, of the US Geological Survey, told *The Sun*: "Before proceeding with sample returns or human missions to Mars, we must review measures for planetary biological protection." Dr Kargel said it seemed increasingly likely that life had existed there.

A possible abduction?

BOCA RATON—The witness went

to bed with his wife about 1:15 AM while watching TV on Nov. 20, 2004. He remembers turning off the TV, and quickly falling into a deep sleep.

He states, "In what seemed an instant I was awakened by my wife, who asked, 'Where were you?' My immediate response was 'in our bed.'"



George Filer

"My wife then explained to me that she awoke and I was not in bed with her, so she searched the whole house and even walked to the guard house of our community to see if the guard had seen me. Nobody had

come into or gone out of the community.

"Upon her return, she burst into the room and found me in our bed. She stated that my car was in our driveway, and that my wallet, cell phone, and money was just as I had left it, which further upset her. The covers in our bed on my side looked exactly as if I had pushed them down and left.

"I glanced at the clock, and it was about 2:30 AM when she stormed into our bedroom and awoke me. I tried to comfort her, and confirmed that I had not left our bed, not even to use the bathroom.

"In the morning, I asked her to confirm what had happened during the night, and she confirmed I had been missing. I am willing to have this event investigated. I am not sure what really happened, but the evidence suggests I was somehow physically missing from my home for 45-60 minutes without my knowledge.

"I was told to examine myself for any marks, and did not find any. However, from the base of my throat to the

middle of my chest it is mildly red like a sunburn." Thanks to Peter Davenport, Director, www.UFOCenter.com

New York object covers stars

HAMPTONS BAY—On Dec. 8, 2004, at 7:23 p.m., Sandra Bilinski reports that she "was in my hot tub watching the skies on Long Island 60 miles east of New York City. As I was looking up, I saw the stars above me disappear.

"I then realized there was an object in the sky above me. It was dark with no lights. I thought it was some space debris that was falling, but it was moving slowly with no signs of friction and it wasn't falling. It traveled over my house for two or three seconds, and then disappeared.

"While it moved over my house and over me it rotated, but I saw no signs of an engine. It was shaped like a radar dish, the one with antennas and concave in the middle. It was dark grey or bluish, and lighter at the edges. It appeared to be only 60 to 70 feet above my house, and the size of a small car. It had no lights, no sound." Thanks to UFO ROUNDUP Vol. 9, #50 12/15/04, Editor: Joseph Trainor: <http://www.ufoinfo.com/roundup>

Maryland white disc

WOODLAWN—Bill Bean reports, "I just wanted to report a major sighting that I had at 9:10 PM from my home on Nov. 29, 2004. I observed a very large white disc-shaped UFO hovering and tilted downward in the southeast.

"It was about 5,000 feet in altitude. I watched it for nearly a minute and could not take my eyes off it. This thing was very big, and the white part was very bright with black edges. I was in awe of this amazing craft and didn't move.

"I initially thought the object to be the moon, as I could see the light

through a thin layer of clouds. But as the clouds passed, I saw the entire shape of the UFO.

"Suddenly, the stationary object swiftly moved away to the south, and it seemed to ride on the clouds and was descending.

"It was like watching a speedboat on the water. Thanks to Bill Bean <http://ufoman104.tripod.com>

California object photographed

NIPOMO—Mike, an electrical engineer with a fair knowledge of satellites, reports walking outside to assist his wife unload groceries. He looked up and saw a VERY bright light in clear skies on Dec. 9, 2004 at 6:39 PM.

His wife indicated it was a possible satellite with a very blue center and a very green ring around the exterior. He reports, "Ten minutes later the lights were still there, so I waited another 20 minutes and returned with my camera and took a series of still images with a 5MP and 3.5 MP camera of lights 5 to 10 miles away.

"The object appeared to hover at specific locations, and the images CLEARLY indicate a blue and green object flying at 1000 to 2000 feet. I managed to get some excellent still images. There appears to be a green ring around a circular object." Thanks to UFOC.

Lights play in the UK

LONDON—The observer was out jogging when he saw three lights going back and forth constantly and at a very quick rate above the scattered clouds on Nov. 21, 2004, at 10:14 PM. The lights reportedly flew "a mile per second or more and stopped instantly."

The witness says, "They would go back, split into three, merge, and play with each other.

"A police car with flashing lights tried to go through some red traffic lights, and the lights in the sky noticed and came directly above the police car and stopped, and flashed as quickly as the police cars lights.

"They seemed to mock the police car lights until they drove off. Then the three lights continued their back and forth movement." Thanks to Peter Davenport, UFOC.

Michigan flying triangle

CLIO—The witness reports seeing a flying triangle with three white lights on each side on Nov. 22, 2004, at 7:30 PM.

He states, "My Radio in my car cut out, and my phone didn't have a signal in a place where it should always have one. All it did was hover over the intersection like a bobber floating in a lake. I parked my car and watched it for about five minutes. I reached for a pen and paper to draw the object, and when I looked back up, it was gone." Thanks to Peter Davenport.

Minnesota cylinder

MINNEAPOLIS—The witness reports, "On Nov. 12, 2004, at 1:15 PM I was traveling east on Hwy 55, and as I approached 46th Street I saw a silver cylinder-shaped object without any tail and wings traveling very slowly.

"At times it was hovering without motion above Walgreen's Drug Store. Then the silver metallic cylinder moved slowly from east to west. I turned the car around at 50th Street, and by the time I reached 46th it was gone." Thanks to Peter Davenport.

New Jersey ovals

RIDGEWOOD—The witness reports, "Our 8-year-old son noticed 'UFOs' and called us out to witness four oval-shaped lights flying in formation on Nov. 16, 2004, at 6 PM. They were flying around in circles.

"There were three others that joined in, so a total of seven oval-shaped lights flew in formation for ten minutes, maneuvering overhead. They may have left trails since there were contrails in the sky, but these may not be related. They then disappeared." Thanks to Peter Davenport.

New Jersey circle formation

MENDHAM—On Nov. 18, 2004, a lawyer stopped to get the mail at 6 PM, and noticed four separate round lights in sort of a circle formation flying well below an airplane.

They moved counterclockwise incredibly fast, then moved in toward each other, and then away.

The witness says, "I then noticed an-

other set of lights over my neighbor's house, and drove down my road two-tenths of a mile and noticed the left set of lights following right above my car, causing me to panic.

"I turned around and sped back to the top of the driveway and tried to dial the police on my cell phone, but I was not able to get it to work. I went to my neighbor, who is also a lawyer, and asked her to come outside.

"She was in disbelief as she saw the lights. There was nothing we could think of that could explain what we were seeing." Thanks to Peter Davenport, Director, www.UFOCenter.com.

Indiana flying triangle

BLOOMINGTON—Lynn Taylor reports, "At 7:10 PM, the witness was southbound on Walnut Street on Nov. 13, 2004, approaching the intersection of State Highway 45, when she observed a large triangle-shaped object traveling southeast, toward the busy intersection ahead.

"As the object approached, the witness could see two red lights, one on the tip of each trailing edge.

"She also described the center of the craft as having an amber-colored light or lights that constantly changed shape.

"As the object crossed the intersection, the witness momentarily looked away to check the traffic conditions. When she looked up again to observe the craft, only a single red light was visible.

"She was insistent that the object was triangle-shaped, and was not an advertising blimp.

"The witness indicated her confidence in the object's shape because its lighting partially illuminated the underside. She further offered that the object was much too fast and low to be a blimp anyway.

"From her conversation and description of the sighting and my familiarity with the area, I would estimate the object was flying approximately 120 feet above the ground." Thanks to Lynn Taylor Sentinel Files.

Florida gold object

CEDAR KEY—Eric reports, "I was locking my gate to my property in Tiger Island on State Road 374 about 9

miles from Cedar Key at 9 PM on Nov. 22, 2004. I looked up just as a very bright welders-like light lit up the forest on a state preserve.

"It was a white hot light the size of a Volkswagen, and was about 50 yards in off the paved road. It had a smoke trail exiting out the bottom, and was about 40 feet off the ground just below the tree tops.

"It illuminated the woods from left to right as far as I could see! It went out in two seconds! Having two close encounters in 1995 in the same place, I didn't even lock the gate—and drove off at 100 mph." Thanks to Eric.

Hawaiian sighting of an oval

HONOLULU—On Nov. 28, 2004, at 10:30 AM, two witnesses spotted three flying football-shaped objects. The witness states, "My friend and I saw three mysterious looking objects gliding literally right above Waikiki Beach. It looked as if they were creating an arc, flying a mile away from the beach and gliding back and forth.

"The objects then gradually gained altitude as they were still moving back and forth: Eventually, those three objects got high enough to hide behind the clouds. These were not commercial aircraft, but funny oval-shaped orange lights." Thanks to Peter Davenport.

Tennessee triangle

KINGSPORT—On Dec. 9, 2004, at 9 PM, three witnesses described a very large triangular craft passing over, slowly illuminated by the city lights against clouds. It was nearly black, with four blue lights arranged in a diamond shape and a large single appendage on the bottom which was glowing reddish-orange.

It was circled by many smaller red, blue, and green strobing lights. The back of the craft had a long appendage which produced an eerie bluish light. The witness' wife noted several odd markings on the bottom, and the craft made a slight humming sound.

Several small, fast, red and blue illuminated ball-like objects playfully flew around the sky in all directions. The craft was the size of a large television set at arm's length. We can assume the object was quite low and large.



Bristol, TN, photo shows familiar triangle shape.

Another Tennessee triangle

BRISTOL—The witness reported that on Dec. 9, 2004, at 9:10 PM, he was carrying his camera when he saw a strange triangular shape moving across the sky. He used his digital camera to take a series of photographs.

The object was quite large and moved behind a nearby mountain to the west, which is the area of a sighting reported earlier that night in Kingsport.

This photo (above) has not been enhanced and the witness stated that the bright spot between the three smaller lights was not visible when he took the photographs. Thanks to Kim Shaffer, MUFON TN SD.

Iowa flying triangle

OTTUMWA—The witness reports seeing a triangular object with red and blue lights. The lights were turning in a clockwise manner while the object was moving from northwest to southeast on Nov. 29, 2004, at 11:47 PM.

It was about as far up as a small aircraft would travel. As it passed over, it seemed to be standing still.

The witness states, "I was standing next to a fire, and it seemed to be watching what was going on. It had no blinking lights at all. It had no tail, no wings. After a few seconds it continued on to the southeast and did not make a sound. It seemed to be quietly gliding on the air. The craft stopped right over my head as I had to tilt my head all the way back to see it. It was NOT an airplane." Thanks to Peter Davenport.

Pennsylvania orb sighting

MCKEESPORT—The witness was outside his house when he saw a bright light in the sky. He states, "I called my

wife out to see, and we watched for twenty minutes around 1PM on Nov. 28, 2004. The light changed directions five times, then just shot off very fast." Thanks to Peter Davenport.

Canadian Sasquatch reported

BRITISH COLUMBIA—Bobbie Short, B.C.T.V. Global News, reported on Dec. 9, 2004, that two women driving in a car on the Island Highway at 8:30 PM, between Port Alberni and Tofino narrowly missed hitting a large Sasquatch that had stepped on to the roadway in front of them.

According to the witnesses, the Sasquatch stood its ground directly in front of the vehicle until it became scared by other approaching cars and quickly ran into the forest. This is the same area where there was a sighting by the Frank family in 2002.

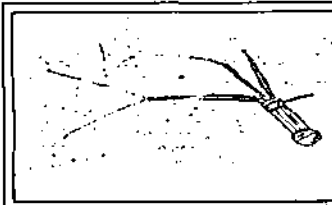
The women described the animal as covered in dark fur and between six and seven feet tall. They stated it looked more human than ape-like.

Veteran Sasquatch investigator and biologist John Bindernagel did an interview for BCTV News showing various tracks castings he and his wife had found near Great Central Lake on Vancouver Island.

He also mentioned that he believed it would only be a matter of time before a Sasquatch is hit by a car, providing proof to the scientific community that North America's Great Ape does exist. Thanks to Bobbie Short.

Case reports

Investigators. Please send a copy of your case reports directly to the *MUFON UFO Journal*.



PERCEPTIONS

By Stanton T. Friedman

Absence of evidence

I really goofed in the column in the November issue. I said 18 Sept., 1952 as the date of the Eisenhower Briefing Document. The actual date was 18 Nov., 1952. My only excuse is that my daughter's birthday is Sept. 18.

Over the years I have often recited the four basic rules for debunkers of UFOs (and most other topics): 1. What the public doesn't know, I won't tell them. 2. Don't bother me with the facts, my mind is made up. 3. If you can't attack the data, attack the people. 4. Do your research by proclamation, rather than investigation. Sometimes I have added a corollary: 5. Absence of evidence is not evidence of absence.

There are many examples of this latter approach, such as Phil Klass saying that there could not have been a Roswell crash or a Majestic 12 Group because the 900 pages of UFO material released by the CIA in response to a legal action in 1980 said nothing about either.

Of course he neglected to mention that there were no formerly TOP SECRET documents in the pile. Karl Pflock took a similar approach in his book on Roswell. There are many other examples. But one of the most egregious examples of this false reasoning arrived in the mail in November 2004.

The author of this 35-page tract is James T. Westwood of Military Science and Defense Analytics, who does "historical research" for various clients, including some UFO researchers.

He claims to have shown, using "historiographical" methods and primary historical resources, that a UFO did not crash, and thus was not recovered, in New Mexico in July, 1947.

His subject is "Proving a Negative: The Ruse That Was Roswell."

The three sources are *Truman in the White House: The Diary of Eben Ayers*, R.H. Ferrell ed. 1991, U. of Missouri Press; *The Forrestal Diaries*, Walter Millis, Viking Press 1951, and

a small diary kept by Truman himself, but not found until 2003.

The lost diary can be found at www.trumanlibrary.org/diary/transcript.htm. JW also places great trust in an unnamed source who claims to have been engaged in military duties



Stan Friedman

in Forrestal's office until mid-September 1947, and "there never occurred in his keeping any printed or voiced material, data, or other information whatsoever concerning the crash recovery of a spaceship from a distant planet."

No reason is given for thinking he would have been aware of everything, no matter how classified, that happened in the office.

Obviously Westwood hadn't checked the web or he would have noted that Truman's journal about his decision to use the atomic bomb "was kept even from Eben Ayers, who had been directed to prepare an account of the atomic bomb decision during the Potsdam Conference" (see www.he.net/~douglong/guide3.htm).

Ayers was a press secretary. Would he be expected to have access to everything? Hardly likely. The first problem with JW's conclusions is that the three written sources are all unclassified. Certainly one wouldn't expect to find TOP SECRET or TOP-SECRET Code Word material in them.

Some say that surely all the material from 1947 has been declassified! NONSENSE. The Eisenhower Library told me in 2003 that they still have about 300,000 pages of classified material.

JW himself notes that the Forrestal

material had been carefully reviewed before being released in 1951. The second problem is: why should we expect that any of the sources cover everything that happened during the time period that was covered?

I did an article in 2003 about the Truman diary. It only contained 42 handwritten entries. The first 160 pages contain member listings and advertisements from the Real Estate Board of New York, which had given him the diary. It was NOT classified.

The July 2003 press release about the diary notes that Truman was an erratic diarist. Indeed. There are no entries between Jan. 16 and March 2; between March 31 and June 27; between Oct. 1 and Nov. 17; and between Nov. 17 and Dec. 13.

Would Westwood have us believe that Truman did nothing during these periods? In actuality, 1947 was a very busy year, what with the Marshall Plan, the growing cold war with the Soviet Union, the formulation of the Defense Department, the conversion of the Central Intelligence Group into the CIA, the establishment of the US Air Force separate from the Army Air Force, the establishment of the NSC, etc, etc, etc.

According to George Else, who worked for Truman the entire time he was in the White House, from April 1945 until January 1953, Truman was very security conscious. Else walked in one time when Truman was chewing out a senator for being careless about security.

The diary entries seemed to be brief, mostly personal, notes such as a few which led press people to think that Truman was anti-Semitic when talking about a meeting he had with Henry Morgenthau about refugees.

Westwood says nothing about having visited the Truman Library in Independence, MO, or the Firestone Library at Princeton University where the Forrestal papers are housed.

Having spent time at both, I can at-

test to the fact that there are huge paper collections, including daily calendars in which are mentioned various meetings. Frequently the entries give no clue as to the subject of discussion.

Westwood says nothing at all about the eyewitness testimony of people who were directly involved in the Roswell crash such as Maj. Jesse A. Marcel, Intelligence Officer for the 509th Composite Bomb Group; his son (now Dr.) Jesse Marcel; retired Gen. Thomas Jefferson DuBose, chief of staff in 1947 to Gen. Roger Ramey, head of the 8th Air Force, to whom reported Col. William Blanchard, head of the 509th.

He makes no mention of the rancher, Mac Brazel, or his son Bill, or neighbor Loretta Proctor. Are these all liars? He doesn't mention the contemporary newspaper coverage in front-page stories in evening papers from Chicago west on July 8, 1947.

I am surprised he doesn't try to use absence of an article about Roswell in the *NY Times* on July 8 as evidence for the absence of the crash. The press release had gone out too late to make the *NYT*.

Westwood can't be bothered referencing the books, which note the testimony and results of serious investigations, such as my and Don Berliner's *Crash at Corona: The Definitive Study of the Roswell Incident*. (Autographed copies still available).

Westwood's finding is: "The three diaries make no mention, direct or by innuendo, of such a bizarre, sensational, and unlikely event as an ET 'hardware' crash and recovery in July, 1947, sensational books by such authors as Randle, Friedman, Moore and Berlitz and others since 1980 to the contrary. All of the diaries are frank ... Ayers spoke with the President almost every day...."

Surely Westwood is well aware of the need not only for high level security clearances, but a need-to-know for the information for the person involved. One might hope he would provide evidence that people with such clearances and need to know would discuss highly classified matters in unclassified entries, books, and comments.

Often, most people in a particular group would have a clearance—but no

need to know—for particular TS Code word information. Amazingly, Westwood gives no example of such situations.

President Truman became Vice President in January of 1945. He was not informed about the very expensive Manhattan Project to develop nuclear weapons until well after becoming President upon the death of President Roosevelt in April 1945. He hadn't had a need to know.

President Eisenhower in his book *Mandate for Change* describes a meeting that he, as President Elect, had with President Truman at the White House on Nov. 18, 1952, two weeks after the election, but two months before his inauguration. Ike makes no mention of the fact that he and his advisors went directly to the Pentagon from the White House for a briefing on high level national security matters.

We know the meeting happened, not only because of an article in the *NY Times*, but because of desk calendar entries from others who were there, such as Army Chief of Staff Collins and USAF Vice-Chief of Staff and Majestic 12 member Gen. Nathan Twining.

The entries, of course, give no classified information as to what was discussed. That Ike didn't mention it certainly doesn't mean that it didn't happen.

Nov. 18, 1952, is, of course, the date of the Eisenhower Briefing Document describing Operation Majestic 12. There surely weren't contemporary unclassified documents about the very highly classified Project Solarium in July, 1953, which set national policy vis a vis the USSR for many years.

Westwood can't be bothered telling the reader why he considers the crash and recovery of ET hardware "bizarre, sensational or unlikely." There were 2000 sightings of flying saucers during the summer of 1947. Why would it be surprising if some of them crashed? Plenty of our aircraft have crashed.

The first clue that the US government had that the Germans were developing rockets during the early years of WW II came from analysis of a piece of "bizarre" wreckage from a German test rocket that had crashed or exploded in Sweden.

Westwood chastens those of us who have written in-depth investigations of the Roswell incident: "None of the eminent ufologists that have written and spoken at insufferable length about the Roswell UFO event have ever mentioned yet the Ayers and Forrestal diaries and what they do not reveal." This is true, but truly absurd.

There are literally millions of pages at the Truman and Eisenhower Libraries and a multitude of other archives that say nothing about Roswell. Gold ore is worth mining if there is an ounce of gold in a ton of ore. Only one of hundreds of naturally occurring isotopes is fissionable.

Should we say there is no gold in them thar hills or that no isotopes are fissionable? It is the evidence we have that matters, not that which we don't have.

Westwood brags that even the Air Force reports on Roswell didn't take note of his "sources," but makes the claim that "they do make much of historical research and historiographical method."

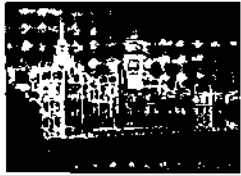
Quite frankly both government reports are loaded with false and misleading statements and lies, and are easily shown to be splendid examples of propaganda—such as I have described in a paper, "The Roswell Incident, The USAF, and the *New York Times*" (27pg. 1994, \$4. Postpaid from me at POB 958, Houlton, ME 04730-0958).

Remember that the USAF "Case Closed" tried to explain reports of small bodies noted in connection with NM crashes as crash test dummies, none of which were dropped until at least six years after Roswell, and all of which were 6' tall and weighed 175 pounds. This isn't research. It is baloney.

Most scientists that I know say that one shouldn't try to prove a negative. Westwood brags about doing so, and complains that others don't. If this represents historiographical research, then I want no part of it.

I don't feel my visits to 20 Archives and discussions with dozens of witnesses have been in vain. My goal has always been to find out what did happen, not to determine what didn't.

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VIEW FROM BRITAIN

By Jenny Randles

Foo Fighter legacy

Sixty years ago this winter marked in many ways the starting point of the modern UFO mystery. The world was still in the final throes of war, and there was a heady mix of fear, dread, hope, and anticipation in the air.

Amidst all this, the bomber crews flying from the UK into France, Germany, and other occupied European lands were seeing strange lights that seemed to play tag with their aircraft and then just zip away. They were given the name foo fighters, and remain the source of much fascination and debate.

It seemed to me a good idea to ponder those early UFO reports from 1944/45 and see how they have influenced the way we approach matters today. Also to see if we can learn any useful lessons, as history is at its most instructive when we apply its message to the world that we confront today.

What is going on?

I have met a few witnesses who were directly involved in the foo fighter situation. One of these was Michael Bentine, who became well known in Britain as a comedian (part of the group of young wits that inspired the later Monty Python era on radio and early TV, and went by the name of "The Goons.")

During the war Bentine was an intelligence officer who had the job of debriefing the crews that returned to the UK from free Polish bombing missions on the German rocket plant at Peenemunde. It was they who told him of these strange lights in what were some of the very first sightings.

Bentine, describing to me his reactions, illustrates well how the mindset of human beings is always shaped by

the circumstances that we face. His first question, of course, should have been what these lights were.

But this was not phrased in the context of scientific endeavor; despite his personal scientific training.

Yes, he briefly considered and dismissed the standard options, such as St Elmo's Fire or similar atmospheric electrical discharges that might cause weird glows to form near aircraft.

But his concern was principally whether these lights were targeting the bombers, and whether that meant that they were weapons, presumably developed by the Nazis.

As with his colleagues, Bentine phrased his questions to the puzzled witnesses entirely from the framework dictated by this presumption. What did the lights do, he asked? Nothing, was the mystified reply. So they were not much use as a weapon then, was his relieved conclusion.

This did not help to solve the riddles posed by the foo fighter sightings, as Bentine well knew. But he had a very specific remit: to assess them as a threat. And once it was clear that they were not a threat, then it was really no longer important to the war effort to know what else they might be.

As he told me years later, they are probably what we now call UFOs. But unless UFOs were interfering with the aim to defeat the Nazis, then they were not a priority.

This might seem almost absurd, given our personal interest in UFOs, but it is perfectly reasonable if we put ourselves into the context of 1944.

Sixty years later

Shift forward six decades and we see the reason, I think, that modern UFO reports are treated with equal lack of imagination or application by both the powers that be and the scientific community.

Put bluntly, they do not seem to be a priority to either source, because they are neither a threat nor an obvious cause

of real expectation that they might further progress.

I think that UFOlogy suffered enormously from the legacy of the foo fighters when the sightings that we regard as part of our mystery began to be collected in the late 1940s.

The question posed again was one of threat potential. Were they Russian weapons, or, a little later, alien probes?

Always these matters were pursued with a view to assessing the potential to disrupt. This perspective drove both official and scientific study into the hands of military and intelligence agencies, leaving them to make these threat assessments with very little recourse to either knowing or caring what the UFOs otherwise really were.

So long as they were not causing us clear and immediate dangers, then they were not to be of much concern.

The problem was that outside this rejection the sightings went on, and were not just witnessed by easy to control people such as military bomber crews, but by everybody who could merrily talk to the growing media community.

Whatever the assessments made by military and intelligence officers the UFOs themselves remained real and mystifying.

The self imposed secrecy and denial of the negative conclusions being formed inevitably made the blossoming UFO community imagine all sorts of conspiracies at work behind the denial of importance—behind what pioneer UFOlogists understandably saw for the escalating evidence.

The result was, in my view, the mistaken and distracting pursuit of cover-ups and secret knowledge obscured by the powers that be which has dominated too much of UFO thinking ever since, and yet that I doubt ever really existed.

We lost sight of the true question, just as had those military and intelligence officers for their own different reasons.



Jenny Randles

Israeli citizens left wondering

Abduction report, UFO sightings

By Mike Hallowell

South Shields Gazette, England

Recently I related to readers the chilling tale of Uri Sakhov, a retired cook who lived in Upper Nazareth, Israel.

On Sept. 16, 1996, Sakhov was apparently abducted by an egg-shaped UFO as he walked to his local post office. Not everyone believed Sakhov's account, as there were no other witnesses to corroborate his strange story.

All that was to change, however, when another UFO appeared within hours. At 2 AM the following morning, a small but steady line of traffic

Karl Pflock suffering from mysterious illness

UFO investigator and author Karl Pflock has contacted several individuals, including *Journal* editor Dwight Connelly, with the unsettling news that he is suffering from "continuing and rather mysterious physical difficulties."

He says, "I won't bore you with the details, but manipulating a keyboard and mouse is a major chore. Needless to say, this puts more than just a crimp in my ability to write, respond to e-mail, etc."

He adds, "My neurologist has referred me to a world-class specialist in neuromuscular diseases—Mayo Clinic trained and on the staff of University of New Mexico Hospital. We shall see what he's able to do for me.

"I'm also looking into what's available in the way of Mac-compatible voice-activated word processing software.

"Meanwhile, please do not rely on e-mail to communicate with me, as I will only infrequently be at the Mac and online for the foreseeable future, and will have an 'unable to respond right now' auto reply up. Instead, please use snail mail (10 Caminito Trail, Placitas, NM 87043-9417 USA) or the phone: 505/867-0793."

We all wish Karl a speedy and complete recovery.

was still snaking along High Road in the Ramat Aviv area of T61 Aviv. Suddenly, one car screeched to a halt, forcing others to pull up sharply behind it.

One by one, the drivers left their vehicles and stared incredulously into the night sky.

Within minutes the call center at the Tel Aviv police headquarters found its phone lines jammed as scores of witnesses rang in to tell them about a "light-emitting UFO" carrying out spectacular aerial acrobatics above the city. Police officers and military personnel were amongst the witnesses.

There is a climate of fear in Israel, as there is in Palestine, due to the ongoing unrest. Perhaps instinctively, soldiers from the Border Police offered to shoot at the object in an effort to bring it down.

Thankfully, wiser heads prevailed. The crowd turned on the soldiers and told them in no uncertain terms not to fire. One elderly woman, Maria Alimi, a shopkeeper, shouted, "Are you crazy? What are you trying to do? Do you want to start a war between our world and theirs?"

Just before sunrise, the UFO ceased its amazing display of flying maneuvers and arced through the sky in an easterly direction, seemingly following the path of Shaul Hamelech Avenue.

Not to be outdone, dozens of motorists jumped into their cars and drove at speed down the same road in an attempt to keep the UFO in view. Perhaps not wanting to be followed, the craft suddenly reversed direction and flew straight back to Ramat Aviv.

It hovered again for a few moments, and then disappeared.

On Sept. 25, the newspaper *Ma'ariv* carried the headline "Policemen and Citizens Saw a UFO in the North." That very morning, just after 3 AM, hundreds of Bedouin Arabs, along with police officers, soldiers, and other citizens, saw a large UFO hovering over the village of Nugidat, near Upper Nazareth.

One resident told reporters that the

craft emanated violet and blue rays which lit up a small mound behind a local mosque. The UFO was, "shaped like a diamond," he stated.

For four hours crowds watched intently as the strange object slowly bobbed and wove through the sky. Soon after sunrise it took off, leaving onlookers shaking their heads in bewilderment.

The Chief of Police in Nazareth, Maj. Samuel Marmelstein, was soon faced with some extremely searching questions. To his credit, Maj. Marmelstein did not make up any silly cover stories. He simply told the truth: police officers had been dispatched to Nugidat, and, yes, they had indeed seen the UFO.

Then other UFOs started to appear. Sixteen such encounters were reported in the daily newspaper *Ma'ariv* alone. As word filtered out of Israel, some people wondered if the encounters were the fulfillment of Biblical prophecies. A few believed they signalled the end of the world.

They didn't, of course, but these encounters still left people wondering—wondering what they were, and, just as importantly, would they ever come back again? Only time will tell.

Alexander Mebane dies at the age of 81

Alexander D. Mebane, 81, one of the original members of Civilian Saucer Intelligence of New York, died at his home in Venice, FL, on Dec. 4.

"He helped make Civilian Saucer Intelligence the serious and effective group it became during the 1950's and early 1960s," says researcher Ted Bloecher. "His work and original thoughts on the mystery of the UFO phenomenon will not be soon forgotten."

Researcher Dick Hall comments, "Lex was one of the most intelligent, gifted thinkers I have ever known. His views on the phenomenon were always fascinating."

Director's Message

(Continued from page 2)

You are all wonderful, and we appreciate you a lot.

2005 International UFO Symposium

The 36th annual MUFON International UFO Symposium will be held on Friday, July 22, through Sunday, July 24, 2005, at the Marriott Tech Center Hotel in Denver, CO.

The Marriott Tech Center is a world-class hotel in a tech campus setting, and the rooms are again priced at \$65 per night. A limited number of rooms will also be available at that price starting on Wednesday for anyone wanting to arrive early for vacation.

In addition to all of the speakers' presentations, we will host a Friday night dinner and program, as well as a Saturday luncheon with a program. These two events will require pre-registration because of the hotel's cut-off date for meal planning.

We will soon begin taking early registrations by mail and on the MUFON website. Mark your calendar now, and we will see you in Denver this summer.

Position announcements

We are pleased to announce that **Bobby Lee Walker** of Moss Point, MS, has accepted the position of State Director for Mississippi. He has a criminal justice background and works in the law enforcement field.

Kathleen Anderson, MUFON State Director for Western Washington, has moved to another state. **Laurence Childs**, of Bothell, WA, has been selected to replace Kathleen as the new State Director for Western Washington. He has been serving as Assistant State Director. **Marilyn Childs** has graciously agreed to serve as the new Assistant State Director for Western Washington. We thank Kathleen, Larry, and Marilyn for their service to MUFON.

Bruce Widaman, MUFON State Director for Missouri, requested the following corrections for his state organization: **Dave Rapp** is Assistant

State Director for Missouri; **Tom Ferrario** is Assistant State Director for Investigations; and **Ted Phillips** is the Missouri State Director of Investigations. We want to thank **James Kross**, the outgoing Missouri State Director for Investigations, for his great service.

New Field Investigators

Kathleen Marden, Director of Field Investigator Training, has announced that **Debbie J. Craft** of Greeneville, TN; **Don A. Craft** of Greeneville, TN; **Jay Jordan** of Tifton, GA; **James R. Leming** of Snoqualmie, WA; **Stace Tussel** of Englewood, CO; **Allen C. White** of Golden, CO; and **Richard Williams** of St. Louis, MO, have successfully passed the MUFON Field Investigator's Exam and are now MUFON Field Investigators.

All Field Investigator Trainees are urged to study the *MUFON Field Investigator's Manual* and take the exam. The manual provides excellent guideline for UFO investigations and reporting.

It is available from MUFON Headquarters for \$25 plus \$3.50 p&h in the U.S. Total price for delivery outside the U.S. is \$32.50. It may also be purchased via the Internet at www.mufon.com, using PayPal.

New Lifetime Members

MUFON has four new Lifetime Members. It is a pleasure to announce that **Shirley Ellis** of Chelsea, MI; **John Emmett** of Thorold, Ontario, Canada; **James E. King** of Albia, IA; and **William McKie** of Mountain View, CA, are now MUFON Lifetime Members.

We are extremely grateful for this vote of confidence and level of support for MUFON. Thank you Shirley, John, James, and William.

New media by MUFON members

Dan Aykroyd and **David Sereda** are starring in a new DVD entitled "Dan Aykroyd Unplugged." It was produced and directed by David, and was reviewed in the December *Journal*.

For the first time on film, Aykroyd shares his personal wealth of knowl-



March 6-12—International UFO Congress Convention and Film Festival, Laughlin, NV, featuring Delores Cannon, Joe Lewells, Barbara Lamb, Ann and Jason Andrews, Wendelle Stevens, A.J. Gevaerd, Paola Harris, Donald Ware, Nick Begich, and others to be confirmed. www.ufocongress.com.

April 1-3—Aztec UFO Symposium, Aztec, NM, featuring Linda Moulten Howe, John Greenwald Jr, Rob Swiatek, Susan Swiatek, Dr. David Rudiak, Moreen Skully, Travis Walton, and Dennis Balthaser. 877-823-5810 aztecufo@sisna.com, www.aztecufo.com.

April 8-10—17th annual Ozark UFO Conference. Eureka Springs, AR, featuring Wendelle Stevens, Grant Cameron, Linda Moulton Howe, Timothy Good, and others to be confirmed. ozarkufo@webtv.net, 501-354-2558.

July 22-24—36th annual MUFON UFO Symposium, Marriott Tech Center Hotel, Denver, CO. 303-932-7709, www.mufon.com.

edge and insights into the strange and paranormal world of UFOs, government cover-ups, MIBs, inter-dimensional beings, extraterrestrials, and quantum and theoretical physics. In the multiverse of Aykroyd's mind, we are not alone. **Dan Aykroyd** is MUFON's Hollywood Consultant.

UFO Politics at the White House is a new book by **Larry Bryant**. The book features an in-depth foreword by respected UFO researcher **Grant Cameron**, a "story behind the story" essay from Bryant detailing the book's genesis, and an appendix surveying the UFO-related correspondence received by the presidential administration of Harry Truman.

The book is available for \$14.95 + p&h from the Fate Bookshop, P.O. Box 460, Lakeville, MN 55044.

"Roswell—The U.F.O. Cover-up" is a 91-minute DVD from Republic Pictures; it is also available from the Fate Bookshop for \$12.95. The Executive Producer is **Paul Davids**.

The DVD says "it took 350 eyewitnesses and 30 years to tell this story."

UFO MARKETPLACE

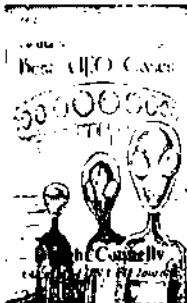
For advertising, contact John Schuessler, schuessler@mho.net, 303-948-6224.

World's Best UFO Cases

By Dwight Connelly

Editor, MUFON UFO Journal

A new book. This is a collection of the very best cases of the past 50 years, investigated by the very best researchers, up to the current Romanek case. Essentially, it is "The Best of the MUFON UFO Journal."



Included are contributions by Stanton Friedman (Betty Hill star map), John Schuessler (Cash-Landrum), Ray Fowler (Allagash abductions), John Carpenter (video-taped abduction), Bill Chalker (alien DNA), Don Burleson (deciphering Ramey message), David Rudiak (Ramey message), Nancy Talbott (crop

circles), Ted Bloecher (New Berlin repair case), Dr. Roger Leir (implants), Stan Gordon (Bigfoot), Phyllis Budinger (analysis of Delphos soil; analysis of Betty Hill dress); Walter Webb (Buff Ledge abductions), Kathleen Marden (niece of the Hills) and Len Stringfield (Kentucky abductions).

Other cases covered include the Hickson-Parker abduction at Pascagoula, Betty & Barney Hill, Travis Walton, Kelly Cahill, McMinnville photos, Father Gill's sighting, animal abduction/mutilation, historic UFO art, and the ongoing Stanley Romanek case.

The compiling, writing, and editing of this 240-page soft cover book is by Dwight Connelly, MUFON Journal editor.

Order from: Bookseller, 14026 Ridgelawn Road, Martinsville, IL 62442. \$9.95 plus \$2.50 shipping (single or multiple copies). Signed or inscribed copies on request.

The Cash-Landrum UFO Incident

By John Schuessler (forward by Bob Pratt). 323 pages, soft cover, 5 1/2 X 8 1/2, \$20.00 plus \$2.50 post. Please add \$4 additional for shipping outside the U.S. Available from MUFON, Box 369, Morrison, CO 80465-0369.



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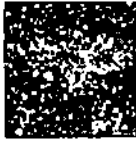
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Advertising deadlines

Issue	Ads due
February, 2005	1-1-05
March, 2005	2-1-05
April, 2005	3-1-05
May, 2005	4-1-05
June, 2005	5-1-05

(Occasionally these deadlines can be modified. Please check.)

The MUFON UFO Journal reserves the right to refuse advertising for any reason.



The Night Sky

By Gavin A. J. McLeod

February 2005

Moon phases:

Last Quarter—Feb. 2

New Moon—Feb. 8

First Quarter—Feb. 16

Full Moon—Feb. 24

Bright planets (evening sky)

Mercury (magnitude -0.7 to -1.5):

Mercury will be difficult to observe this month except for the last few days of the month when it will be very low in the west during evening twilight.

Saturn (magnitude -0.2): In Gemini. Saturn will stand about 50 degrees high in the east-southeast at the end of evening twilight and will set in the west-northwest as morning twilight begins.

Bright planets (morning sky)

Venus (-3.8): Venus will not be visible this month.

Mars (1.4 to 1.2): Moving from Ophiuchus to Sagittarius. Mars will rise about 2.5 hours before the Sun in the southeast and will remain low in the southeast at the beginning of morning twilight.

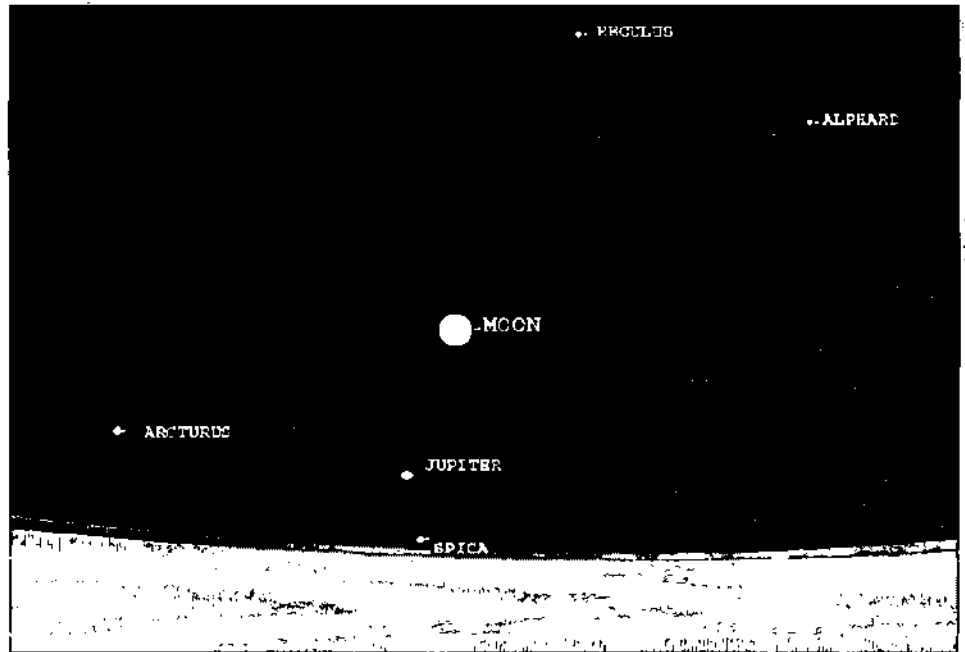
Jupiter (-2.2 to -2.3): In Virgo. Jupiter will rise in the east before 10 PM, and will be more than 30 degrees high in the southwest at the beginning of morning twilight.

Zodiacal light to be visible in some areas

Zodiacal light will be visible in northern latitudes in the West after evening twilight, beginning Saturday, Feb. 26, and lasting two weeks. The phenomenon is visible only from very dark locations.

Zodiacal light is the result of sunlight bouncing off dust grains in our solar system.

These grains lie mostly in the plane of the solar system. Look for a pyramid of light in the evening sky somewhat similar to the light from a city or town just over the horizon.



Planetary Conjunction

Feb. 26, 2005, at 10:00 PM.

The Moon, and Jupiter as well as the bright stars Arcturus and Spica will be close together in the southeast sky.

Planetary conjunctions, especially when the brighter planets and/or stars are involved, can be a source of sightings reports as observers unfamiliar with the night sky notice the grouping of bright lights in the sky.

Conjunctions and Occultations:

Feb. 27: Jupiter 1.2 degrees north of the Moon.

Extraterrestrial life may be studied with bacteria

A team of Australian scientists headed by Mike Dyall-Smith (Melbourne) has succeeded in cultivating unique bacteria with rectangular and square-shaped cells. The majority of bacteria cells are spherical or rod-like in appearance.

It was discovered that the microbe is extremely tolerant to magnesium chloride, which makes it the perfect organism for studying what life might be like in extraterrestrial corners of the solar system.

Scientists says that successful isolation and cultivation of square bacteria is also a very important step in understanding the role they play in saline lakes' ecosystems.