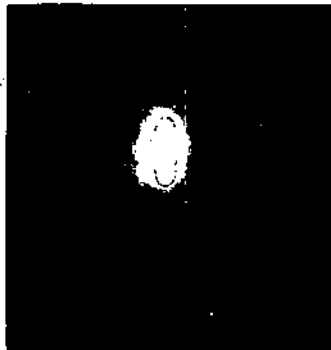


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March 2005

No. 443

\$4.00

# MUFON

Mutual UFO Network

# UFO JOURNAL



Did a Brazilian policeman die as the result of touching the Varginha creature? Dr. Cesario Lincoln Furtado says the death was "a strange death, without rational explanation." The article begins on Page 3.

March 2005

Number 443

# MUFON UFO Journal

(USPS 002-970)  
(ISSN 0270-6822)

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## Director's Message

By John F. Schuessler

### UFO Awareness Month

MUFON has designated the month of July as "UFO Awareness Month." MUFON state and local organizations are planning numerous activities aimed at bringing greater UFO awareness to their neighbors, schools, community organizations, libraries, newspapers, radio/TV, and police agencies.

They will provide speakers, educational programs and materials, information about the UFO investigative and research process, and historical reports of UFO activities in their local areas.

And, of course, they will be recruiting new members and new field investigator trainees. Many will be working with city mayors to obtain an official city proclamation of July as UFO Awareness Month.

In conjunction with the awareness theme, MUFON will host its 36<sup>th</sup> annual International UFO Symposium in Denver, CO, on July 22-24.



John Schuessler

### 2005 MUFON UFO Symposium

It is time to start the registration process for attending the annual symposium at the Marriott Tech Center Hotel in Denver.

A handy pull-out registration form is included in this issue of the *Journal*. To simplify the process, there will be two pre-registration packages this year.

The "Evidence Package" will be for those attendees interested only in the speakers programs. The pre-registration price is \$110. This is equivalent to \$10 per speaker presentation.

The "New Technology Package" includes all of the speakers' presentations, plus two special events—a Friday night dinner and program and a Saturday lunch and program. The pre-registration price is \$155 and includes the meal costs.

In addition, we are offering a bargain price of \$65 per night, plus tax, on the rooms at the Marriott Tech Center. That is a savings of \$35 per night as compared with room prices offered by other hotels in the area.

The MC for the 2005 symposium is **Tracie Austin-Peters**, host of the award-winning "Let's Talk...Paranormal" tele-

(Continued on page 22)

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The *MUFON UFO Journal* is published monthly by the Mutual UFO Network, Inc., Morrison, CO. Second Class postage paid at Versailles, MO.

Individual Membership: \$45/year U.S., \$55 outside the U.S.

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First class Journal delivery (in envelopes) U.S. and Canada only: \$12/year additional

Air Mail Journal delivery to all other countries outside the United States: \$35/year additional

Postmaster: Send form 3579 to advise change of address to: *MUFON UFO Journal*, P.O. Box 369, Morrison, CO 80465-0369

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

# Brazilian officer reportedly died after touching Varginha creature

Translated by C. Sannazzaro  
Provided by A. J. Gevaerd

MUFON National Director Brazil

In August, 2004, a long interview by researcher Ubirajara Franco Rodrigues with Dr. Cesário L. Furtado was revealed.

Dr. Furtado is one of the physicians who had attempted, without success, to heal the young policeman Marco Eli Chereze, who died less than a month after having been in contact with one of the mysterious beings captured in Varginha in January, 1996.

This interview was published in A.J. Gevaerd's magazine *UFO Brazil* of (No. 102), and on its web site <http://www.ufo.com.br>.

Since that interview was very long and contains repetitions, Gildas Bourdais presents here a shorter version. It is preceded by a presentation of the Varginha case by A.J. Gevaerd.

This new testimony comes in addition to that presented already in the French version of the book by Dr. Roger Leir, published in France in January, 2005, (before the American edition) under the title *Extraterrestrials Captured in Varginha, Brazil*. The New Roswell.

One of the most remarkable testimonies in that book, also quite new, is that of a doctor who had been commended by the military to perform an urgent surgery on one of the captured beings. (See August, 2004, *MUFON UFO Journal*.)

A most intriguing aspect, which renews the picture of the Varginha case, is that this surgeon reveals he had an intense telepathic communication with that being at the end of the surgery.

He has also provided a precise description of the being, whose extraterrestrial nature seems beyond doubt.

## I: Presentation by A.J. Gevaerd,

One of the most serious facts of the "Varginha case"—and one of the most appalling—was the death on Feb. 15, 1996, of Corporal Marco Eli Chereze, who was then aged 23.

As we know, he was part of the secret service of the Military Police (P2) which participated in the capture of the second creature on the night of Jan. 20, 1996.



*Cpl. Marco Eli Chereze*

The news of his death spread very fast during the first months of the investigations, which revealed that a policeman had died because of a generalized infection after having been in contact with the ET.

Faced with the gravity of the situation, the subject was treated with extreme caution by the investigators concerned with the case, as the lawyer and consultant to the *UFO review*, Ubirajara Franco

Rodrigues, discovered as he searched for information.

Rodrigues checked with the City Hall and determined that a policeman had died shortly after the capture of the creatures. The ufologist even obtained a copy of the death record, by which he was able to locate the family of the boy.

The same witness who alerted the investigators about the death of Chereze also declared that the creature, at the moment of capture, had attempted a light resistance, obliging the policeman to touch the creature's left arm without his gloves.

Some of his colleagues believed he would have been contaminated one way or another.

The family of Marco Eli Chereze managed to have an inquiry opened by the local police precinct in order to establish eventual medical responsibilities for his death.

At that time, searches seemed to be doomed to failure, but they continued in an effort to find the truth.

The parents wanted to know how the young man died, because a few days after Jan. 20 a small tumor, similar to a furuncle, had appeared under one of the armpits of Chereze.

## Brief background of Varginha case

A complete discussion of this case was presented by Bob Pratt and Cynthia Luce in the August and September, 1998, issues of the *MUFON UFO Journal*. Additional information was included in the August, 2004, *Journal*.

Briefly, the "Varginha case" in Brazil, involving the alleged capture of ETs, first came to light after three young women (then 14, 16, and 22 years of age) saw a strange creature as they were taking a shortcut through a vacant lot at about 3:30 PM on Jan. 20, 1996.

Frightened, they reported the incident, and ufologists initiated an investigation.

Later, as the investigation unfolded, it was reported that military police (the equivalent of state police in the U.S.)

had captured a creature earlier in the day in woods three blocks away from the vacant lot.

Then a witness told of seeing armed soldiers searching the same woods early that afternoon, hearing three shots being fired, and then seeing two body bags (one squirming, one still) being loaded onto an army truck.

There were additional reports of more creatures, unexplained carnage at the Varginha zoo, and the involvement of hospitals and firemen. There were rumors of an autopsy being performed on a creature.

Then, late in 1996, a new witness came forward saying he had seen a UFO crash near Varginha early in January.

That tumor, according to what was learned at the time, would have been rapidly extracted by the doctor in charge, at the very premises where he was serving.

We know today that this did not happen. But what most drew the attention of the boy's family was the lack of information about his health condition and, later, about his tragic death. Even months after his burial, nobody knew exactly the cause of his death.

#### Autopsy closed

The police superintendant himself, who led the inquiry, was not able to be present at the autopsy of the policeman, in spite of his insistence in the face of the police corps in which Chereze served.

The retention and dissimulation of information regarding that subject were purely and simply an affront to the family of Chereze and to the laws of the nation. Even worse, such an affront was committed by the Military Police itself.

It was one year after the event of Varginha, on Jan. 20, 1997, that things began to move, after the dissimulation of the facts had been denounced by ufologists and all the press.

Among the most disquieting facts put forward by the investigators was the absence of information regarding the death of Chereze, the most important piece of the headache named the Varginha Case.

Thus, in the middle of a press meeting at the first anniversary of the event, investigators denounced the silence and obtained for the family, the police superintendant, and the press access to the autopsy file. From its contents, soldier Chereze died from a generalized infection.

The policeman arrived home a certain night after the capture of the creature, suffering from a strong pain in the back. After the ablation of the tumor, he showed a gradual process of paralysis and fever which, becoming more serious, obliged him to go to the hospital Bom Pastor.

He remained confined and practically isolated from his family during several days.

Close relatives of the policeman, especially his sister, Marta Antônia Tavares, the one who went most frequently to the hospital, could not have contact with him, and had great difficulty meeting the doctor responsible for the treatment.

It was even more difficult for the family to discover what the illness was. Shortly

after his entry at the hospital Bom Pastor, the policeman was transferred to the hospital Regional Do Sul de Minas, also located in Varginha.

This is the same hospital where he would have brought, on the night of Jan. 20, the creature he had captured. Chereze was led directly to the center for intensive care and taken in charge by the very physician who reveals today publicly what he knows.

This is where Chereze passed away at exactly 11: AM on Feb. 15, 26 days after his implication with the extraterrestrial.

(Note by G. Bourdais: the following interview of the doctor gives a slightly different story.)

"Although all the tests and exams possible were applied in the search of a diagnosis, he could not be saved in time" stated the superintendant in charge of the inquiry, in the course of his deposition before the judge of the "COMARCA."

It was just discovered that the physicians who took care of Chereze at the time did not have the faintest idea of how to fight the illness which was striking him down.

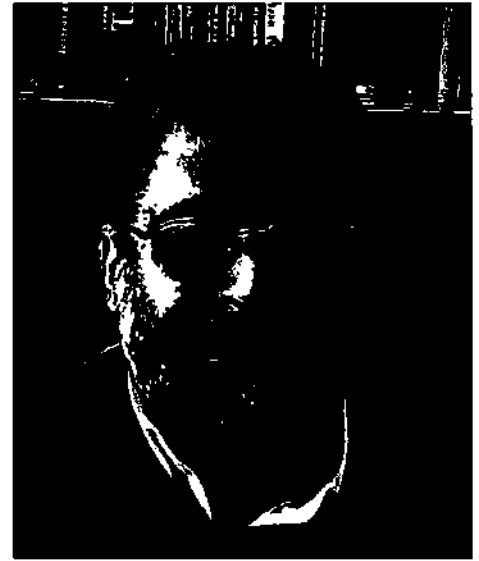
After the death of the boy had been unveiled before the press, the commander of the Military Police of the state of Minas Merais denied the facts immediately, including the presence of Chereze during that night of Jan. 20.

But in order to protect such an absurd story, they invented an even more crude one.

The family of Marco Eli Chereze confirmed that he was indeed on duty that night. Furthermore, he was not the only one to die because of his professional activities involving contact with an alien, but the creature he had captured also died after that contact, and much faster than Chereze.

"It seems clear that the death of the policeman has become the less controllable and the most dangerous piece of the process of dissimulation imposed by the military of ESA and the Brazilian Army," says Marco Petit, co-editor of the magazine *UFO*, who participated actively in the inquiry.

A.J. Gevaerd then presents the interview of Dr. Cesário Lincoln Furtado by Ubirajara Franco Rodrigues, stressing the considerable research of Ubirajara on Varginha, and the "extreme importance" of this document. Here is now the interview.



*Dr Cesário Lincoln Furtado*

## II - What was the cause of the death of policeman marco Eli Chereze ?

Interview of Dr Cesário Lincoln Furtado by Ubirajara Franco Rodrigues (summary by Gildas Bourdais).

Ubirajara Franco Rodrigues (Ubirajara hereafter) asks Dr Cesário Lincoln Furtado (Dr Furtado hereafter) what his role was in the treatment of policeman Chereze in the hospitals of Varginha in 1996. The following is the summary of his answers to several questions, condensed in chronological order:

**Dr. Furtado** - Marco Eli Chereze was first admitted in the Department "Prontomed" (emergency ward) of the hospital Regional by my colleague, Armando Martins Pinto (cardiologist), on Feb. 12, 1996. He entered there because of an intense pain in the lumbar area. Dr. Armando directed him to the hospital Bom Pastor, where he was rapidly taken in charge by Dr. René, who was cardiologist, general practitioner, and head of the Department of cardiology, and who ordered some exams. I was then involved, being at the time the supervisor (sort of coordinator) of cardiology at Bom Pastor.

Questioned by Ubirajara, Dr. Furtado explains that he worked in both hospitals. However, during that month of January, he did not work at the hospital Regional. He went every morning to Bom Pastor. The reason why Chereze was sent to Bom Pastor is not clear to him: perhaps because of lack of room at the Re-

gional, or rather because Chereze would have military medical coverage there.

**Dr. Furtado** - The next day, at the hospital Bom Pastor, we asked for new exams because Chereze was still suffering in the lumbar area. We asked for urine analyses, radios of the column, of the lumbar and sacrum areas, in addition to an examination by an orthopedist because the pain was intense and we suspected the presence of a herniated disc.

**Dr. Rogério Lemos**, in charge of orthopedy, examined him and said that there was no alteration, and that the problem did not come from there. He told us to continue our search of the cause of the pain, as fever began to appear.

The blood analyses, which arrived in the afternoon, showed a hemogram with a leucocytosis, a deviation to the left and toxic granulations in the neutrophils. This was the sign of an important infection, highly capable of provoking a poisoning (toxemia)—because there were those toxic granulations.

We then administered two antibiotics: penicillin and gentamicin, because we thought that there could be a pneumonia, owing to the localization of the pain, or a urinary infection.

His case was evaluated again on Feb. 13: same condition. The next day, still at the hospital Bom Pastor, he spent the day with fever and pains, but at an "acceptable level." Until the morning of the 15, where he woke-up very tired and in a state of torpor, with signs of cyanosis.

These symptoms seemed to confirm a general poisoning vehiculated by the blood, with a possible outcome in septicemia. He was then immediately transferred to the CTI (Intensive Care) of the hospital Regional, where he was put under medication.

At the CTI of the hospital Regional, one of the first exams was for HIV, with a negative result. His state of health deteriorated rapidly, and he died in a few hours, although he had been given antibiotics soon after his admission.

This intrigued everybody, and an autopsy was performed. It did not confirm a urinary infection, but that was later confirmed by the urine culture which had been ordered at the Bom Pastor. He also had a mild pneumonia.

Said **Dr. Furtado**: "In my opinion, the urinary infection was the cause of septicemia, because the pulmonary infection was so minimal that it could not have been responsible for such a state."

The close relatives of Chereze, mainly his sister Antônia, says **Dr. Furtado** suspected that the abscess Chereze had in the left armpit, after the military operation, had not been properly treated, which may have caused infections.

But **Dr. Furtado** denies that, because, when Chereze was admitted at the hospital, the abscess was practically cured. Furthermore, the abscess was due to another bacteria, a staphylococcus, which is normal for any small infection on the skin.

The main point, insists **Dr. Furtado**, is that the cause of his death—the causa mortis—has not been clarified. A few days before, the boy was in very good health, and at the beginning the infection looked relatively simple.

He never had in the past any difficult treatment which could have caused an immunodeficiency. And it could not be congenital either, because if such had been the case, he would not have reached the age of 23 years in good health.

This is why we can affirm that his immunodeficiency was "acquired," but we don't know how. His death was not caused by a pneumonia, neither by an urinary infection, nor by the abscess.

**Dr. Furtado** also says, "At the beginning, the diagnosis of an urinary or kidney infection prevailed because of the presence of enterobacteria. But, in less than 20 days, three bacterias attacked the policeman. THREE ! This is a very rare thing in the world.

"When Marco had a pulmonary infection, he already no longer had any immune defense. In that case, any bacteria can take control of a person."

At the request of Ubirajara, **Dr. Furtado** gives more medical details.

Ubirajara asks: "In the hemogram sent by the laboratory of Bom Pastor, it is said: 'Presence of cytoplasmic vacuoles. Presence of 8% of thin toxic granules in the neutrophils. Discret polikilocytosis.' How can you, as a physician, interpret the presence of 8% of those small toxic granulations in the neutrophils?"

**Dr. Furtado** - They appear in the neutrophils of a person who is victim of the aggression of a very virulent bacteria. This provokes a "battlefield," if we may say, which could reach 50% or 60%. The file mentions 8% because it refers to the first blood analysis. And that already demonstrates that there is an infection, which led to the prescription of antibiotics. Their presence denotes an important and serious infection. It is not frequent, except in

serious cases.

**Ubirajara** - in ufological circles, when some researchers will read this statement in the results of the hemogram, they are going to interpret that those 8% of toxic granulations were "unknown things," the presence of a new substance, or yet something else.

**Dr. Furtado** - No, nothing like that, absolutely nothing. As I said already, they don't appear in other infections, but are frequent in serious infections.

**Ubirajara** - During the time that you took care of the policeman, did you notice, at the Bom Pastor as well as the Regional, the presence of any unknown physician, from outside ?

**Dr. Furtado** - No, I did not notice any. I did not see either the superiors of Marco Eli Chereze, whether of the police or the army. They did not look for me, not even to collect the least information regarding the boy, during the two or three days.

**Ubirajara** - There is, in the medical inquiry following Marco's death, the deposition of a dermatologist. He mentions a blood infection, in which red cells would have been attacked by white cells. According to this dermatologist, those 8% in the blood examination could have denoted a contagion by the skin of an eventual toxic substance which would have attacked the red cells. What do you think of that?

**Dr. Furtado** - This has nothing to do with it. There is no connection between these elements. The report also says that a few days could have passed before the process materialized, but it is not so. If there were such a contagion by the skin, its effect would be blazing. We would be decimated every day that way.

**Ubirajara** - Could you see the body?

**Dr. Furtado** - No, I could not. It is not usual. After the death, the body is taken for the autopsy, and there is no other recourse. After a person is deceased, you inform the family—and in the case in question, I was not even the person who did that, because when they took him to the CTI, I transferred my responsibilities to the other doctor at the CTI.

**Ubirajara** - Did the family think of asking for an exhumation of the body?

**Dr. Furtado** - Not that I know of. In fact, an exhumation would not have brought any proof of what really caused the death. As for the death certificate, the cause of the death was not mentioned because there was not the faintest element permitting to guarantee anything.

**Ubirajara** - You mentioned that a

member of his family had affirmed that he wanted to know what this illness was about, because the policeman had participated in the capture of something strange. Was this told to you before, or after, his death?

**Dr. Furtado** - A few days later, when his death was still recent. I don't remember very well, but his sister was in great shock, and she came to talk with me.

**Ubirajara** - Let's stick to the facts regarding this interview. But, did you notice any other movement at the time, in one of these hospitals?

**Dr. Furtado** - I heard of many things, but I did not witness any particular movement. However, rumors were thriving at the maternity ward of the hospital Regional, but I never worked there, being not an obstetrician. Furthermore, the maternity was somewhat separate, the entrance and the rest of it. As for the hospital Humanitas, where I also worked at the time, I did not notice anything. Not even comments between doctors, nurses, and office personnels.

(Ubirajara asks further if there could be isolated areas in those hospitals. Dr. Furtado explains that, at the Regional, there was also a reserved aisle, used for contagious patients. At the Humanitas, there were few movements, and there were many rooms without activity. But, in 1996, there were no longer isolation premises, except in hospitals specializing in contagious illnesses.)

**Ubirajara** - Do you see other interesting aspects to mention about that episode?

**Dr. Furtado** - Listen, there is that story reported by the family (regarding the capture of the being), about which I don't know anything. But we don't find any rational explanation for the death of this boy. Because it was terribly fast, you understand?

**Ubirajara** - Could it be caused by a totally unknown bacteria, however improbable?

**Dr. Furtado** - Yes. Well, if we talk of something completely unknown, it is obvious that we could not risk any conjectures. There is no answer possible. Now, could something have penetrated inside his organism, something equally unknown, which would have deprived him of his immunity system? This is another question without answer.

**Ubirajara** - Could you tell what type of thing would be susceptible to provoke that, for instance?

**Dr. Furtado** - I don't know. That

might be an injectable "poison," an infection of injured skin, at the face or foot. It might be an injury caused by a nail, which would provoke tetanus, etc. But we know tetanus. A multitude of things, I might say, and this is just to enumerate some examples of what might have contaminated that boy and deprived him of immune resistance. I repeat that I say that it "COULD BE."

**Ubirajara** - Are you telling me that the death of Marco Eli Chereze was a strange death?

**Dr. Furtado** - A strange death, without rational explanation. In the course of my professional life, I have seen already two persons, aged about 25, die of an infection, but we knew that both had immune deficiency.

Both of them, if I recall well, had had removal of the spleen (splenectomy) following a past accident. After a certain delay, that causes immunodeficiency. In that situation, the person may deace rapidly if he finds himself in the condition of a septicemia. But, once again, it was not the case.

-Thanks to translator C. Sannazzaro, Gildas Bourdais, Ubirajara Franco Rodrigues, and A. J. Gevaerd.

## NC couple report high-flying UFO

On June 22, 2004, a 47-year-old college graduate and his 40-year-old wife were on the deck of their home in Mecklenburg, NC, at 6:10 PM when he noticed a flying object which appeared to be at a "very high altitude."

He watched it until it stopped, then went inside and got his binoculars, which he shared with his wife.

Through the binoculars the object appeared to be moving "in a tight geometrical pattern," and had a distinct shape. It appeared to be dull gray in color.

After about five minutes the object disappeared behind thunder clouds moving in from the west.

-Investigated by George E. Lund III, SD NC.



Kenny Young

## UFO researcher Kenny Young dies

Kenny Young, 38, veteran researcher of UFOs and other unusual phenomena, died Jan. 31 after a ten-year battle with leukemia.

He was a former State Section Director for MUFON, and an active contributor of reports to the *MUFON UFO Journal*. One of his recent articles for the *Journal* was the "screaming woman" case from Morehead, KY, which he investigated with researcher Donnie Blessing.

His sketch of "the deathbed account" case appeared on the cover of the February, 2003, *MUFON UFO Journal*.

Kenny's articles have also appeared in *UFO Magazine*, *FATE Magazine*, and *Equinox Magazine*. He was the host and organizer of the 39th Annual 2003 National UFO Conference.

Young's UFO investigations were featured nationally on the NBC Television program "Confirmation," as well as "Sightings" on The Sci-Fi Channel, and he appeared on numerous radio programs.

Kenny was a musician and artist, and was employed as a designer and producer for the Telecommunications Board of Northern Kentucky. He was also a freelance videographer and editor, specializing in graphic design.

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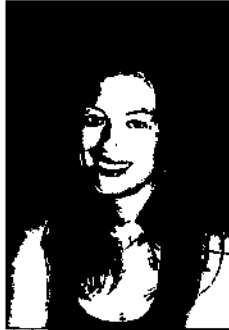
# History of UFO sightings in Turkey

By Esen Sekerkarar

MUFON Turkey Representative

There is no question that the history of UFO sightings and the ET visitations are as old as the history of our planet. As the technology develops, we have the chance to put this reality on scientific foundations, such as photographs, video footage, computer analysis and other data received from case studies.

Just like the rest of the world, UFO sightings, ET encounters, and abductions take place in Turkey. However, being a young "republic," the history of the sightings and the UFO investigations differ from the ones in the US.



*Esen Sekerkarar*

## UFO Organizations in Turkey

Actually, the major difference is not mainly about the organizations, but with the history of the UFO subject in our countries.

I would like to remind here that even though my country has a 700-year history as the Ottoman Empire, the history of the new, modern Republic of Turkey is quite young, as it was established in 1923.

When our leader Atatürk ended the empire, he also made various reforms, one of which was the changing of the alphabet. Until the establishment of the Turkish Republic in 1923, the Arabic alphabet was being used. But with a reform in 1928, a new Turkish alphabet was accepted nationally, with new letters, mostly taken from the Latin alphabet.

Today, we can't read or write in old Turkish, and would not understand it even if it was written with the new letters. We are completely alien to it, and it is almost impossible to access UFO reports or any related documents that were recorded during the Ottoman period.

Therefore, the history of the UFO subject in Turkey is only as old as the republic—which is 81 years.

The first centre for collecting and re-

searching ufological data throughout Turkey, Sirius, is the place where I served as vice-president, and it was founded only in 1998. Before then, UFOs and aliens were (and still are) mainly the subject of paranormal and/or new age groups.

In the US, I observe that there is mostly a strict separation between UFO organizations and new age organizations. Most of the UFO groups in your country reject the new age subjects, and some new age groups do not think there are such things like UFOs.

In my country, most of the people who are aware of the UFO fact are familiar with new age subjects—and vice versa. Even Turkey's first UFO Research Centre Sirius has gradually become more new age oriented as they started to run a new age magazine including UFO subjects. They still conduct research on UFO cases, though.

Another difference is that there aren't as many researchers in Turkey as you have in the US. When there is no variety, there is no versatility; for example, scientists do not become a member of such organizations here (the number of these organizations here is only two, and one of them concentrates only on debunking every single UFO incident).

Publications are also poor, because there isn't much awareness and interest. Therefore, the difference between our countries is huge. I also regret to say that public interest in the phenomenon is going down—and down rapidly.

People seem to have lost their faith in the truthfulness of some researchers. They are also more engaged with making their livings under unstable economic circumstances, which makes them see the ET phenomenon as a "light" issue.

## Most striking incidents

Here I would like to present the most striking incidents that have taken place in Turkey. I have chosen the cases that also made the papers, which is not something you can see here every day.

### Prime Minister's observation

On Jan. 26, 1983, Turgut Ozal, Turkey's 19<sup>th</sup> prime minister, who then became the 8<sup>th</sup> President of the country in 1989, made a UFO observation himself

together with his wife and other officials. He was in Ankara, at the Esenboga Airport, and his destination was Istanbul.

According to the general director of the airport, one luminous object appeared in the sky at about 6 PM. The governor's assistant stated that the object was first noticed and reported to the tower by a British Airways pilot.

Then all planes landing and taking off reported the same object to the control tower and asked what it was. This object emitted colorful lights, and was observed by the prime minister with great astonishment as it could be seen in a picture taken by a journalist.

He then joked to the reporters, saying, "Lucky you. Now you have a good headline!" He didn't comment further.

Later, two air force jets took off to examine the object, but the luminous object went so far that the jets weren't able to come near it.

### UFOs over the capital's airport

The prime minister's observation was not the only UFO case at our airports. On Feb. 2, 1989, at about 10 PM local time, 10 flying objects were observed over Ankara, Esenboga airport.

These objects were emitting yellow, red, and green lights. They could be observed with the naked eye and were also detected by the airport radars. One of the objects came down so low on the #2 runway of the airport that people thought it was going to land. An F-16 and a fleet of F-4 Phantoms chased the objects.

Mustafa Ozatamer, general director of the state airfields, was sent to the airport by order of the minister of communications, and stayed there to watch until the morning. While the control official watched the objects, he is said to shout, "I see them... I see the UFOs. There, they're moving."

### Businessmen's sighting

Now a very interesting case. What makes it interesting is not only the size of the alleged UFO, which was said to had been kilometers in diameter; but also that all witnesses are Turkey's well-known businessmen!

On Sept. 17, 1985, a group of businessmen were sailing in their yachts on



the Bosphorus in Istanbul. According to the witnesses' testimony, at 3:30 AM they saw a huge set of lights approaching them.

It hovered over them, and everywhere was like daylight (see drawing at right). They said that the object was emitting a great deal of heat. The yachtsmen tried to talk to each other on the radio, but even though they tried 16 different channels, the radios just wouldn't work.

The whole incident lasted about five minutes, then the object flew away. They said that even after it went away, the heat remained for awhile. The observers were all shocked and frightened.

When their radios started to work again they contacted the coast guard radio, and learned that the coast guard also saw the same thing. But it could never be identified.

#### Summer of 1999

There have always been UFO incidents in Turkey, but there has been a sudden and a tremendous increase in the sightings since the huge earthquake we had in August, 1999, when 17 thousand people died.

Before the earthquake, we were receiving 15-20 calls every day at our Centre—at that time I was working at Sirius UFO Space Sciences. That was a very high number of calls to receive in a day. What was more surprising was that they were coming from the same areas.

Then the quake hit, and what we saw was that the places where the calls came from were the places where the quake hit the worst! UFOs were seen by masses of people even after the quake, and were recorded and broadcast on many national TV channels.

As you might know, sometimes UFO sightings increase before and after natural disasters. What could be the reason for that?

There is not a certain answer, but what I believe is this: If you were to examine a planet and gain more information about it and its nature, wouldn't you pay more attention to it when it was at its extreme points, such as volcano eruptions, earthquakes, and other natural disasters?

So such an increase in UFO sightings before and after these kinds of events might be that ETs monitor us intensely during such occasions to collect more information.

Most of those sightings took place at night time. And many people said they were not UFOs, but earthquake lights.



*UFO over yachts.*

However, earthquake lights last a few seconds. They don't hover in the sky, emit colorful lights, and move in different directions for minutes. Even the head of the National Earthquake Committee, Prof. Ahmet Mete Isikara, made a statement about this on a national TV channel, and said these objects were not earthquake lights. He said he had no answer to what they were!

#### Esme alien encounter

This is a unique case that took place in June, 2001, in the Esme village of the town Usak. This is the Aegean region of Turkey, which is the western part of the country.

Three villagers, Fevzi Can, his wife Selma Can, and their friend Aysel Topaloglu, left in the morning to hoe their tobacco field. They got on Mr. Can's tractor, heading for their farm. But on the way, at about 7 AM, they saw a strange being which was about 15 meters away in a field.

When Mr. Can saw it moving towards them, he stopped the tractor. Right at that time, the being started to go the opposite way. As the two women stayed on the tractor, Mr. Can got off to chase this thing.

He could approach it as close as 2 meters. The creature started to rise in the air, ascending as high as a tree. Then it stopped and hovered at that height. After staring at it for 3-4 seconds, Mr. Can thought of dropping the creature down with a stone, because he wanted to exam-

ine this thing closer to understand what it was.

Mr. Can says as soon as he had this thought of throwing a stone at this thing, the creature started to rise higher in the air. It was like it could understand what he was thinking. The man threw about 4-5 stones, but all missed. Then the creature headed the opposite direction, flying away from the villagers, but still facing them.

The witnesses say that the creature was not a tall one. It was about 60-70 cm. in height. It seemed to be wearing what the villagers describe as a "gelatin-like" thin suit. They could recognize the creases on it. The wife of Mr. Can, who is one of the witnesses, says that it looked as if the suit the creature was wearing hadn't been ironed!

On the top of his head, the being had a red light. Its eyes were black in color and oval-shaped. The witnesses say that its eyes looked as if they were "attached on the suit" or "drawn on the suit." So, they were not real eyes.

The being had no arms, and the legs looked as if they were stuck together. Its feet appeared to be rectangular in shape, and red in color. Also an orange-red color was shining from its abdomen.

Witnesses don't know if there was anything at the back part of the creature, because it never turned its back. Not even when it was flying away. But it made no sound. It was completely silent. It didn't



look like a living thing, but a kind of a robot.

The governor, Ayhan Cevik, and the town councilor, Mehmet Yildirim, say that they know the witnesses very well, and they are reliable and honest people who wouldn't make up such a story. I also met these people myself, and found them very sincere and reliable.

Actually they were extremely disturbed and uncomfortable about the attention they received for weeks from the media. Some of the TV channels brought them to Istanbul and had them as guests on their programs.

Mr. Can was complaining that he could not get down to his work on his farm because of the intense attention. He was also deeply sorry and regretful to have thrown stones at the creature. All of the witnesses thought that this encounter was kind of a gift, a favor from Allah to them.

Even though we had no doubts of the truthfulness of the witnesses, we asked them if they would take a lie detector test, and they immediately accepted it. We asked the Security Headquarters in Istanbul to provide us with a lie-detector.

They said we should write a petition to the Ministry of Defence. We did that, and this time the MoD said we should contact the Ministry of Interior Affairs. We talked to them on the phone, and they said they had a lie detector, but an official petition should be sent to them.

We sent the petition, but our request was rejected, saying they had no lie detectors, which is not true! Obviously they were disturbed by this idea because the villagers would pass the test.

I believe the being was some sort of a remote controlled robotic-type creature. I have no clues as to the purpose it had there, but one interesting thing is that Esme has large gold and uranium reserves. So, could it be for the gold, or the uranium, or both? I don't know.

A day after this incident, the same being was seen by two guards of a factory in Foca, which is not very far from Esme. The guards were so frightened that they ran inside and told their manager about the strange thing outside. When they all went out, the being had already left.

#### Head of the Department of Religious Affairs speaks

As this news was all over papers and TV channels every day for about two-weeks time, the head of the Department of Religious Affairs at the time, Mehmet

Nuri Yilmaz, had to make a press release saying:

"There are creatures not only in this world, but also in the space and the worlds beyond space. According to Islamic beliefs, there are more than 18 thousand 'alems.' There are genies, angels, and other creatures other than humans. UFOs [aliens] are in this category."

Well, it is very curious that the Kuran

## Pennsylvania had busy 2004

By Stan Gordon  
paufo@westol.com

Pennsylvania has historically been an active area of the United States where UFO sightings are constantly reported. Residents of the Keystone State have also reported many encounters with strange creatures, with hundreds of Bigfoot encounters reported from many locations in the state.



Stan Gordon

The Chestnut Ridge, which runs from Preston County, W. VA. through Westmoreland, Fayette, and Indiana counties in Pennsylvania, has been an area where frequent observations of giant-hair-covered man-like creatures have been reported.

Among the other strange creatures reported in the Pennsylvania woods and countryside have been sightings of mountain lions (which have been declared officially extinct in this part of the country for many years), black panthers, and Thunderbirds (giant birds with huge wingspans.)

When I began to take calls from the public in 1969 concerning UFO sightings, little did I realize how many other strange things were reportedly going on as well. Those people calling in were reporting everything from supposed haunted houses to close-range UFO observations.

It was in 1970, that I founded and directed the first of three volunteer research groups that investigated these matters over many years. Since 1993, I have continued to document current reports and investigate cases as time permits as an independent researcher.

says that in the universe there are more than 18 thousand 'alems,' which means "class of beings, realm."

For example, one type of alem is humans. The other is animals. Others—from the Islamic point of view—are plants, genies, spirits and angels, which makes six alems so far. Let's also add ETs to that. Wonder what the rest would be!

Next month, Part 2.

Yearly sighting reports from across the state continue to be reported on my PA UFO Hotline, or via e-mail. I also maintain contact with many researchers and organizations who also are interested in these reports. The National UFO Reporting Center (NUFORC) in Seattle, WA, also receives some Pennsylvania UFO reports as well.

It's been 45 years since I began to keep track of such oddities, and I still haven't seen a UFO, nor have I had a first hand Bigfoot observation.

Over the years I have been involved in the investigation of thousands of strange incidents reported from throughout Pennsylvania. From the time that I began to conduct firsthand investigations into these matters, I soon realized that many of the strange incidents reported could indeed be explained.

Many UFO sightings, some creature sightings, and various other anomalous occurrences commonly had a natural or man-made origin. Some cases however, are not so easily explained away.

Pennsylvania residents from 48 counties in the commonwealth reported many unusual incidents during 2004. UFO sightings, Bigfoot encounters and other creature reports, strange footprints, mysterious booms, and odd ground markings were some of the anomalies reported.

Some of the UFO sightings were determined to be misidentifications of the Planet Venus, bright meteors, and re-entry of space debris.

Some examples of the incidents reported from Pennsylvania during 2004 include:

#### Bigfoot sightings

I received reports of some possible Bigfoot sightings from several locations in Westmoreland County. The Pennsylvania Bigfoot Society (PBS), which also investigates PA Bigfoot activity, received

reports of Bigfoot activity from various areas of the state including Armstrong, Beaver, Carbon, and Fayette County.

In January, 2004, in a mountainous area of Somerset County, a frightened motorist reported seeing a tall dark hair-covered man-like creature walk up from a creek bed, then move over an embankment.

The PBS investigated some Bigfoot reports which reportedly occurred from August through October in Beaver County, located north of Pittsburgh. One sighting involved a man who said he saw a hair-covered man-like creature running through the woods near his home.

Another incident involved a lady who claimed that she saw three such creatures moving through a field.

Researcher Joe Nemanich provided me details of a Bigfoot sighting he investigated which occurred in Tioga County on July 20, 2004. This sighting, which occurred in daylight, was observed by a man working at a construction site.

The witness observed a dark, hair-covered man-like creature which he estimated to be 7 to 8 feet tall standing near a road in this very rural area. The man watched in amazement as the creature took three long steps and crossed the road.

The creature continued to venture into a swamp area. The ground cover along the path which the creature had traveled was found to have been smashed down. For more information on PA Bigfoot sightings, go to my web site: [www.stangordon.com](http://www.stangordon.com) or the PBS web site: [www.pabigfootsociety.com](http://www.pabigfootsociety.com).

#### Unidentified objects

In March, in a rural area of Westmoreland County, passengers in a vehicle came around a bend and the vehicle headlights struck an object that was sitting on the roadway ahead. The object appeared to be a small metallic cigar-shaped device.

As the people watched, the object rose straight up from the ground while illuminated by the headlights, then moved towards the right and continued off in the distance.

Researcher Jim Brown investigated a UFO sighting which occurred on April 4, 2004, near California, PA. A man observed a large triangular object in the sky above a nearby home. The object, which appeared to glow, also had a blue light at each corner.

While the witness continued to watch the triangular object, another strange ob-

ject also appeared in the sky which looked like a glass rod. While both objects were in the sky, a strange sparkling material began to fall from the sky towards the ground.

The first object moved off quickly towards the north. The other object had also left the area.

Near Punxsutawney, PA, in early June, a woman was gazing out her window during the evening when she observed a square-shaped object that looked as if it was made up of multitudes of light bubbles.

When it was first seen, the object was about 30 feet above the ground, and only about 50 feet away from the window. The witness observed the object for awhile, and watched as it began to rise slowly upwards into the sky.

As the object gained in altitude, it soon looked just like a light off in the distance.

## Man enveloped in beam of light

Event: light beam

Date: 10 PM, July 12, 2004

Location: Circleville, OH

Investigator: Pete Hartinger, Director, Roundtown UFO Society

On Monday, July 12, 2004, I received the call from the witness, and got to his home within 20 minutes, about 30 minutes after the sighting. The witness, who was still excited, showed me the area where the sighting occurred.

He had been grilling in his backyard after returning late from a little league baseball game. It was dark in his backyard, and the only light he had was from his grill before the sighting.

Although the witness said we could use his name (on file with MUFON), I think we should withhold it for now. On the MUFON sighting form the witness wrote:

"I was grilling in my backyard at or around 10 PM EST, and was on the phone with my mother. I saw a light before me, and it was focused on myself and the grill. I turned to yell at my son because I thought he had a flashlight on me, but there was no one there.

"Out of the corner of my eye at about 300-500 feet above me was an oval-shaped craft with a blue and white colored light fixed on myself. I thought it was a UFO.

"I told my mother what I was looking at. I thought I was in a dream, but when I started to explain to my mother what it

On the night of June 26, 2004, at approximately 10:50 PM, there were reports from witnesses in the Pittsburgh area, as well as around Greensburg, reporting the sighting of a bright orangish-red object with a long fiery trail moving rapidly across the sky.

The NUFORC also received many reports from Lancaster to Tionesta in Pennsylvania. The NUFORC also received numerous reports from other states of what was probably the same object. What was observed was a re-entry of Russian space debris.

To report a UFO or Bigfoot sighting, or other strange occurrences in Pennsylvania, contact Stan Gordon. PA UFO Hotline (24 hours) 724-838-7768 e-mail: [paufu@westol.com](mailto:paufu@westol.com) Write to Stan Gordon at: P.O. Box 936, Greensburg, PA 15601 Visit Stan's web site at: [www.stangordon.com](http://www.stangordon.com).

was doing, the light went out, and it moved at an upward angle and was out of sight in a second or two."

On the form, he described the object as being grayish colored. There was no sound or smell to it. He did not experience any physical disturbances. He thought that it was three times the size of a full moon, and stated that it left a trail when it departed very fast. The sighting lasted about 30 seconds. He also did a crude sketch of the object hovering over him.

The witness' wife, who was in the house at the time, stated that the television flickered during that time period. Later in talking to him he brought up the idea of taking a lie detector test. I thought that was a positive.

The next day, July 13, I checked with the Circleville Police Department and the local Pickaway County Sheriff's Office. Neither had any reported UFO sightings.

I also checked in the local neighborhood with no results. I also phoned and talked to the witness' mother, asking her if she heard any unusual sound in the background while on the phone with her son. She had not.

In checking with Peter Davenport's website I did notice that Portsmouth, OH, had a sighting that included 4 beams of lights coming down to the ground. This was just five nights later on July 17. Portsmouth is just 64 miles south of Circleville.

## Analysis indicates unknown object

# Woman photographs UFO from front porch

**Reported by:** William I. McNeff, MN  
State Director

**Investigators:** Richard Moss/William  
I. McNeff

**Date/Time of Sighting:** 11-08-03  
approximately 5:30 PM CST

**Place of Sighting:** Glenwood, MN

**Local Evaluation:** CE1 unexplained

**Summary Report:** Field Investigator  
Assistant Kimberly Courreau

**Sighting Background:** The sighting  
was reported by a single witness, Cindy  
Lou Schmidt, Glenwood, MN. The wit-  
ness submitted her report to William  
McNeff of MUFON MN via several  
e-mails.

**Sighting Account:** Summary of wit-  
ness statements:

"The light was oval in shape. It came  
from the east in a horizontal position. It  
was turning to its side, or vertical, as I  
was proceeding to take the picture [from  
her porch]. It emitted a reddish glow of  
reflection around it, but was clearly BRIL-  
LIANT white itself.

"It stopped and remained sideways for  
a few seconds, then before I snapped  
again it simply blinked off—just disap-  
peared. The moon was rising to the south-  
east of my vantage point; the air was sur-  
real, and it was quiet.

"I may only add that when it was com-  
ing in horizontal from the east it was more  
of a blue color .... I later watched the  
eclipse." [There was an eclipse of the  
moon that evening.]

**Additional Witnesses:** none

**Weather Conditions:** The National  
Weather service record for sighting date  
11-08-03 stated a high of 27 degrees and  
a low of 14 degrees with zero precipita-  
tion.

**Explanatory Phenomenon Check:**  
In viewing the photos the witness has  
provided, I think it is logical to rule out  
the misidentification of a conventional  
craft, a weather anomaly, such as a me-  
teor, which doesn't behave in the manner  
described, or a misinterpretation of a  
planet such as Venus. The nature of the  
witness' description indicates a solid ob-  
ject.

**Sighting Evaluation:** CE1—unex-  
plained.

### Investigator's

**Analysis:** The  
UFO photograph is  
shown at upper  
right. I asked the  
witness to take a  
couple of reference  
photos from the  
same position she  
photographed the  
UFO so that I could  
estimate angular  
image size and dis-  
tance.

One of the pic-  
tures was taken in  
the regular (un-  
zoomed) mode, and  
showed the hill over  
which the UFO was  
photographed in the  
background, and a car in the foreground.

The other photo was intended to show  
the same area in daylight where she had  
photographed the object at night with the  
4x digital zoom.

The witness provided the following  
additional information:

"It is our estimation that the object or  
light was 30 feet long in the vertical posi-  
tion. The distance from the porch [to the  
car] is 46 feet.

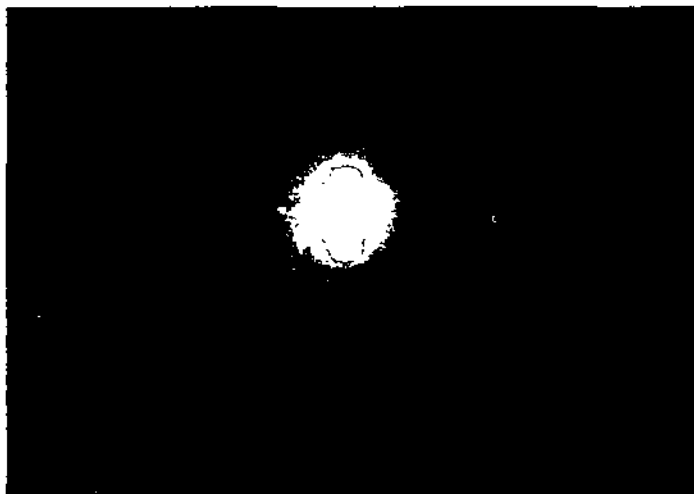
"The camera is an HP320. The  
Hewlett-Packard 320 has 2 IMP with 4x  
digital zoom. The photos were processed  
through the Polaroid Photo Max SE pro-  
gram. My computer is HP XT963."

### Photo Analysis:

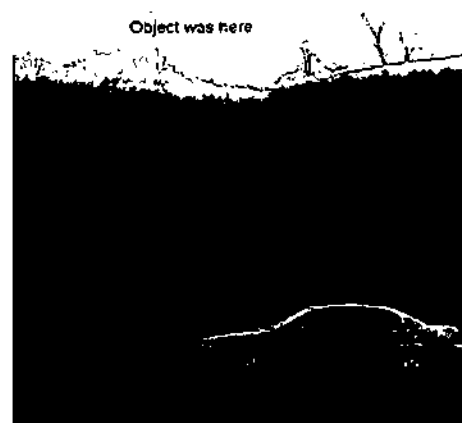
By measurements of the photos with  
a ruler it was verified that objects in the  
4x zoom mode were twice the height or  
width of the same objects in the regular  
mode.

To roughly calibrate the distance to the  
top of the hill over which the object was  
photographed, it was estimated that the  
trees on top of the hill were about 30 feet  
tall. Trigonometry gives a distance to the  
top of the hill of about 900 feet.

The estimate that the UFO was 30 feet  
long in the vertical position, approxi-  
mately the same dimension as the esti-  
mated height of the trees, makes it rea-  
sonable that it was also about 900 feet



*Above photo was taken by witness about 6 PM. Lower  
photo was taken by witness in daylight for use by investigators as  
a reference. (The originals are much sharper.)*



away, and therefore was hovering over the  
hill.

Examination of the picture indicates  
that the ground beneath the trees was  
being illuminated by the UFO or was re-  
flecting light from the UFO.

It also appears that a beam of light  
from the UFO slanting down toward the  
viewer's left was illuminating part of the  
trees.

Overall, the impression is that the UFO  
was perhaps somewhat farther away than  
the trees, and the distance may have been  
1,000 to 1,500 feet.

The UFO and reference photos were

sent to a photoanalyst, Glenn Fishbine, who has done photo analysis for NASA and has access to some very good photo analysis software.

He writes: "There is no detail within the object. The absence of detail indicates the CCD was saturated, as shown by blooming patterns around the light.

[This means that it was a very bright light as the witness stated. This raises the question of whether the object emitted a reddish glow as the witness stated, or if she noted this later on the photograph.—WIM]

"It is possible to overlay the daylight shots with the night shots, as seen in the attached. [The photographer's] position was off perhaps 5 degrees between the night shot and day shot, but the distance matches.

With that, it's clear that the night shot shows no indication of horizontal motion effects.

"If there was any vertical motion it would have shown as a blurring of the horizon, which is not apparent in the variable layers shown below. This is consistent with a continuous light source moving towards the photographer or moving in an upward direction."

The witness noted that the "air was surreal and it was quiet." This condition has been noted by witnesses in other cases and is part of the complex known as the "Oz" factor.

The sudden vanishing of an object is also unusual, but not atypical of UFO sightings. These items are further indications of a genuine anomaly.

The reference photos allow calculation of angular diameters. The angular diameter of the UFO at the narrowest part is 0.32 degrees. Since the full moon is approx. 0.5 degrees, the object could not be the moon. The witness stated that the moon was rising to the southeast of the object, and that it went into eclipse later, which is true.

The witness' estimate that the object was 30 feet in the vertical dimension is reasonable, based on the measurements and calculations.

The witness states the picture was taken on a digital camera. Since an ordinary digital camera cannot take multiple exposures, the statement by another UFO researcher that this was probably a multiple exposure is incorrect.

My conclusion is that the object is unusual and unidentified.

—William I. McNeff

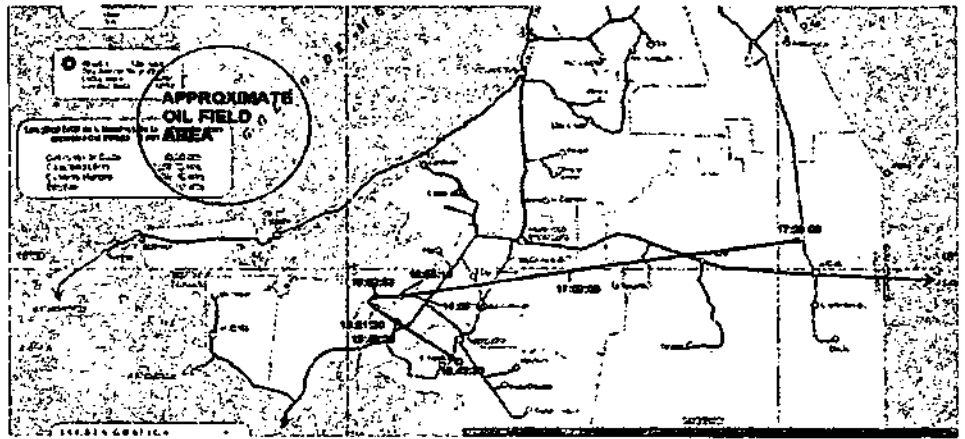


Figure 1.

## Maccabee analyzes 2004 Mexican flight radar & flir images

By Bruce Maccabee

MUFON Photo Analyst

### Introduction

During a Mexican Department of Defense (DOD) surveillance flight over the Yucatan peninsula on March 5, 2004, the flight crew encountered a strange radar target and subsequently recorded on videotape what appeared to be a small fleet of unidentified infra-red (ir) radiation sources traveling along with the plane.

The crew and passengers believed that at one time the plane was surrounded by unknown objects detected by radar and by a forward looking ir (flir) imaging system. They could visually see none of these objects, yet they were clearly evident on the flir viewing screen and appeared to be only a few miles away.

According to the DOD, an investigation of the event was carried out by the Mexican Air Force and no solution was found. Then, about a month and a half after the sighting, the DOD offered the videotape which had been made during the sighting by the flir viewing system to news reporter Jaime Maussan.

Maussan, who is well known for investigating UFO sightings in Mexico, interviewed the witnesses, viewed the flir videotape, and then made a public announcement about the event during a TV show on May 9.

Two days later he held a press conference at which he presented the result of his investigation and invited other interested researchers to carry out their own investigations of the flir videotape.

The report of these sightings created

a great amount of immediate worldwide interest, with portions of the flir video shown on major news network presentations. People who are interested in the UFO phenomena complimented the Mexican DOD for its "open door" policy of releasing the information related to this UFO sighting.

Some called these the most important sightings ever because they were officially endorsed by the Mexican Air Force, even though the Air Force did not say the lights and radar targets were UFOs.

However, in a reaction similar to the worldwide response to the announcement of the (then) famous New Zealand radar/visual/movie sightings about 25 years earlier (Dec. 31, 1978), numerous skeptics proposed explanations without carrying out their own investigations.

In retrospect (now that an investigation has been done) it is clear that no one, at the time of the press announcement, knew what had actually happened.

A careful reconstruction of the events has shown that the original story of the sightings, as publicized in early news releases, was quite incorrect. This was apparently because the flight crew members, while recounting the events from memory, were somewhat confused as to the sequential order of events.

Fortunately it was possible to reduce this confusion by careful analysis of the flir videotape, which contains images of ir sources of varying brightness (herein called "flir lights") and ground and air scenery, reports by the radar operator, and comments by the crew.

After all the available data are consid-

ered it appears that the initial radar target remains as a True UFO (TRUFO) for reasons outlined below. The sources of the flir lights, which were the basis for the public interest, are less certain.

Although one light may have been related to the first radar target, it appears that most, or all, of the other lights were (hot) ground sources that were quite distant from the plane (over 50 miles), or bright sunlight reflections from cloud tops.

Because their identification is still not certain, the flir lights are not the subject of this paper. A detailed analysis of the FLIR lights and a transcript of the flir tape is available on the internet at <http://brumac.8k.com/MexicanDoD5mar04.doc> (download the WORD document and scroll down to the section on the FLIR lights).

Although the analysis of these lights is not presented here, they are discussed below as part of the sighting history.

#### Summary of sighting events

These sightings occurred during the afternoon of March 5, 2004, as a C-26 surveillance airplane operated by the Mexican DOD was flying over the Yucatan peninsula along the track illustrated in Figure 1. (The location of the plane at any time is determined by the latitude and longitude presented by the infra-red viewing system described below.)

Initially the plane was headed northwest and was flying near Candelaria when the first radar target was detected. The plane made a turn to the left and followed the target as it traveled toward Ciudad del Carmen.

Figure 1 shows the track after this initial left turn that occurred at about 16:43:15 (4:43 PM and 15 seconds). (Times are given in 24-hour notation. For example, 13:00:00 is 1 PM, 14:05:10 is 5 minutes and ten seconds after 2 PM, etc.)

However the plane was running out of fuel, so at about 16:51:30 the pilot began a right turn to travel eastward toward the air base. This turn was completed at about 16:53, and the plane traveled directly eastward for several minutes before turning onto a heading of about 82°.

(Azimuth angles relative to the ground are based on clockwise rotation from true north. North is 0°, due east is 90°, due south is 180°, due west is 270°, etc. Negative azimuth numbers are rotations to the left: -90° is due west, the same as a rotation to the right of 270°).

At about 4:42 PM the plane was at an

altitude of about 2 miles (statute miles are used in this report unless otherwise noted). It was flying at about 230 mph (statute miles per hour), heading approximately northwest, and was near the city of Candelaria.

It was nice flying weather with a somewhat hazy atmosphere, a 6 mph tailwind from the southeast, and scattered cumulus clouds, many with tops at the altitude of the airplane.

The radar, which was tilted about 30° down and continually rotating about a vertical axis (thus sweeping out a conical volume beneath the plane), suddenly detected an unexpected target about 5 miles ahead. It was moving approximately northwestward, but more slowly than the C-26 surveillance aircraft.

This target was about 30 degrees to the left of straight ahead of the C-26. The immediate assumption by the crew was that they had detected a small airplane that had just taken off, probably from an airfield near Candelaria, so the C-26 turned to follow it.

Over the next couple of minutes the C-26 approached to a radar-determined distance of about 2.4 miles as the object increased speed in a somewhat erratic way. The C-26 followed the object for about 10 minutes, never getting any closer.

The crew noted four unusual characteristics of this radar target: (a) its sudden appearance at a short distance, (b) somewhat erratic speed changes, according to the radar, (c) "invisibility" (it could not be seen visually despite the short distance) and (d) lack of a thermal signature, as it was not detected by the "forward looking infrared" (flir) viewing equipment on the airplane.

The operator of the flir device (which can look in all directions, not just forward) began a search for the radar object ("target") as soon as it was reported by the radar operator.

The flir output was recorded on a videotape that recorded flir imagery (and occasional, brief normal TV images) as well as recordings of the conversations by the air crew. This flir videotape is the primary source of information about the sighting events.

The flir device can detect not only the hot engines, but also the body of the aircraft itself, making an image which can be recognized as that of an airplane. The flir operator used the variable elevation and azimuth of the flir optical system to search the sky and ground in the general

direction of the radar target.

Numerous ground level objects, which were either sunlight reflectors or sources of heat, were observed, but no flir light seemed to definitely correlate with the radar target.

However, just before the plane turned to fly eastward, a bright flir light was detected which might have been in the same direction as the radar target. Then, because of low fuel, the C-26 had to make a right turn eastward toward the air base.

The radar target continued on its west-northwest track, thus moving away from the C-26. It was followed by radar until it arrived in the vicinity of Ciudad del Carmen on the northern coast of the Yucatan Peninsula, more than 40 miles behind the plane.

By that time its speed had increased to over 380 mph, according to the radar system, and it then faded from the radar.

The consistency of appearance on the radar scope, the continuous motion with acceleration, and the short distance to the radar target during most of the time seem to remove this from the general class of spurious targets known generally as "radar angels."

#### Questions raised

The radar data raise two important questions: (1) what object that is large enough to be detected by the (3 cm) radar radiation at a distance of up to 40 miles would, in spite of its size, be invisible to the human eye and to a flir system when it was only about 2 miles away, and, (2) what type of object can travel at hundreds of miles an hour without generating a heat signature of some sort?

Just before the plane began its right turn to the east, the flir operator picked up a very bright light (a heat source or a reflector of sunlight) about 12° to the right of straight ahead and at an angular elevation of about -4° (four degree angle downward).

The sudden appearance raises the following question: if this light was on the ground, as suggested by the downward elevation, why wasn't it detected earlier (by this time the plane had been flying in the direction of this light for many minutes)?

The air crew apparently thought that this light was the radar target. Unfortunately it was recorded on the video tape for only a few seconds, not enough time to prove that it was (or wasn't) the radar target.

Although numerous other anomalous

flior lights were observed later on, this is the only one which was detected ahead of the aircraft. All the others were 90° or more to the left of straight ahead.

The flior videotape has a "time jump" of 61 seconds (recording turned off) while the plane turned about 148 degrees to the right. When the video recording resumed, the plane was leveling out on the new track, flying due east.

The video at this time shows various views of the side and top of a cloud. As the flior operator searched for the previous light, a much dimmer version of it or what was, more probably, a completely different light suddenly appeared from behind the right side of a cloud.

It seemed to move to the right past the clouds. It appeared to be at the distance of the clouds or beyond the clouds. To its right was a much brighter light that the flior operator apparently did not notice because it was at the right edge of the field of view for only a few frames of the video.

The flior operator tracked the dimmer light (not the very bright one). It seemed to be at the level (altitude) of the aircraft, and seemed to be traveling along with the plane. (Note: the appearance of "traveling along with the airplane" can be an illusion caused by watching very distant light as the plane passes by relatively nearby clouds.)

During this time the radar target continued toward Ciudad del Carmen, finally disappearing at the limit of the range of the radar, somewhat more than 40 miles.

At that time the flior light which was first seen after the right turn was at about -135 azimuth (135° to the left of straight ahead) and the radar target, as stated by the radar operator, was at about the 7 o'clock direction (-150°).

(In "clock" notation, hours become angles relative to the forward direction of the plane. Thus, 12:00 is straight ahead, 9:00 is 90° to the left, 3:00 is 90° to the right and 6:00 is directly behind.)

The individual "hours" are 30° apart, and each "hour" represents an angular width of +/- 15° centered on the hour or half hour. Thus a target at 7:00 could be anywhere from -135° azimuth to -165° azimuth.)

If the radar target was exactly at 7:00 then it was about 15° to the left of the flior light. If, however, the radar target was at the "upper limit" of 7:00, i.e., at 7:30, then the two could have been in the same direction.

However, the radar target traveled almost directly away from the plane. Had the flior light traveled away from the plane it would have gotten dimmer during the observations.

Instead, the flior light seemed to maintain its brightness level, suggesting that it did not get farther away. Hence the flior light that was seen and tracked after the turn was not the radar target.

This light was occasionally blocked by small clouds, but then it disappeared behind a larger cloud. The flior operator searched again as the plane flew along. Suddenly, instead of a single light he found a group of lights that formed a line.

### The twins

The most notable of these are a pair of lights (herein called "the twins") that were so bright that they saturated the dynamic range of the flior electronics, making large round overexposed images.

A few minutes later, as they passed behind a cloud, one could count as many as 15 lights accompanying the "twins." These were lost behind a large cloud.

Later, new lights (or the same ones) were detected in a different roughly linear arrangement that include two bright "triplet arrays" (herein called "the triplets") instead of "twins." One light in the "triplets" split into two parts.

It was at this time that the flior operator reported to the crew that he saw 11 lights. (This event was featured in the initial press release of the video.) These lights passed behind clouds that were estimated by parallax and triangulation to be more than 20 miles from the aircraft.

Triangulation of the lights themselves, using the airplane track as the baseline, indicates that they were more than 50, and probably as far as 100, miles away (see the above web address for further details).

During this flior sighting the radar operator detected nothing. He thought this was because of a "dead space" in the radar coverage (radar blocked by some portion of the airplane) that happened to be approximately in the direction of these lights, which were, again, about 135° to the left.

However, the triangulation analysis suggest that another possible reason for failure to detect them on radar: they were far beyond the 40-mile limit of the radar.

After a couple of minutes the "triplets" were lost behind a cloud. The flior tape recorder was turned off for about 4 minutes.

When it was turned on again it recorded a very bright light and two not-as-bright lights against a dim, featureless background (no clouds as before). The lights were at the left side of the aircraft at the 9:00 o'clock position (90° to the left).

Several minutes later only a single bright light appeared. It was viewed through the rotating propeller and went behind a cloud top that was estimated at about 14 miles away.

There was also a new radar target, this time ahead of the aircraft. The new radar target was traveling at a "ground speed" of about 60 mph and the plane was catching up with it.

At 5:19 PM the flior operator turned the flior forward and obtained images of the rising moon when it was only about a degree above the horizontal. These images provided useful data for calibration of the pointing accuracy of the flior system.

Over the next several minutes the flior operator searched the sky, but found only a few small, bright cloud tops (reflecting the setting sun). Then the flior operator found a very bright light that appeared against a featureless background. This light was detected almost directly behind the aircraft.

Its brightness decreased as the plane traveled along. In the meantime the radar target had disappeared at the right side after the airplane caught up with it. (It may have been a moving radar reflector on the ground, such as a truck.)

The videotape ends, while showing a dim light almost directly behind the plane, at 5:28 PM.

It has been proposed that the groups of flior lights ("twins" and "triplets", etc.) were actually fires burning waste gas from oil wells in the Cantarell oil field which, as shown in Figure 1, was in the same area as the groups of flior lights after the right turn.

In principle it should be possible to match up each flior light with a gas fire. However, it has not been possible to do this simple test. The oil field explanation could be proven or disproven by reflying the flight during similar weather.

However, despite numerous requests, the Mexican DOD has not (to my knowledge) done this experiment. For analysis of the proposed oil field explanation see the above web site and also [www.alcione.org/FAM/FLIR\\_CONCLUSION.html](http://www.alcione.org/FAM/FLIR_CONCLUSION.html).



## Saving humanity

*The Allies of Humanity, Book Two, Human Unity, Freedom & The Hidden Reality of Contact* by Marshall Vian Summers, 2005, New Knowledge Library, nkl@greatercommunity.org, 303-938-8401, 202 pages, 6x9, soft cover, \$14.95.

Reviewed by Dwight Connelly

This second book in the series is essentially a repetition of the first (see review by Virgil Staff in the May, 2001, *MUFON UFO Journal*), so if you missed that one you may be interested in this latest version.

The content is based on "contact" by Summers with a small group of extraterrestrials who supposedly want to help humans resist the influence of other extraterrestrials who are using humans for their own purposes. These good ETs are called the Allies of Humanity.

The Allies reportedly come from some secret place in space, have observed Earth from nearby, want to help humans remain free as we encounter the Greater Community (space/universe), have lost four of their nine members as they tried to physically contact Summers on Earth, and have now left our vicinity to protect themselves from those other ETs invading the Earth.

This contact by the Allies with Summers has supposedly been sanctioned by the Creator (God), and Summers was allegedly chosen as the one person on Earth to receive the briefings from the Allies.

"He is a man who has been sent with a Divine mission," states the Allies through the author, "to help prepare humanity for its encounters with the Greater Community and to represent The Greater Community Teaching in the world, a teaching in the Greater Community Way of Knowledge."

According to the introduction by The

New Knowledge Library, Summers had, prior to the briefings by the Allies, been working for more than 20 years with "an Angelic Presence that he had increasingly grown to trust," and "what began as an inner voice experience over time grew to be a potent relationship" which "prepared him for the magnitude of The Teaching in Greater Community Spirituality that he was destined to receive and to represent. During these years he wrote some 20 volumes, all in a state of revelation."

This reportedly set the stage for his relationship with the Allies of Humanity, "who were also students of these Teachers of the Greater Community."

It is explained that Summers is the only person contacted because of the concern that more than one contactee might result in confusing the message: "When Jesus came, were there a hundred Jesuses, all competing with each other?"

Yet the message itself seems relatively simple in concept, if not in execution:

1. We are being visited by extraterrestrial races that want to use our physical and biological resources for their own purposes, and who will take away our individual freedoms, says Summers. They are not evil, but have needs that Earth can fill.

2. These ETs are attempting to conquer us by offering technology, using subterfuge, and carrying out breeding programs. They are not permitted by the Greater Community to use force.

3. They can do these things only with the permission or silence of humans, according to the laws of the Greater Community.

4. Humans throughout the world must unite in understanding the threat and in repulsing it.

Those individuals looking for hard evidence that any of this is true will be disappointed. Instead, we are told to look inside ourselves to find that this is indeed something that we just know to be true—an intuition, a "gut feeling."

In looking at Summers' (or the Allies') description of what is occurring on Earth, there appears to be some agreement with

at least one leading abduction researcher.

Dr. David Jacobs, in his book *The Threat*, suggests that a breeding program is underway with the ultimate goal of a takeover by the aliens. This idea of a breeding program and hybrids has also been suggested by other researchers, such as Budd Hopkins, while still others seem to find a less threatening scenario connected with the ET phenomenon.

If this attempted takeover by ETs is indeed occurring, then what does Summers (the Allies) want us to do about it? The following suggestions are made:

1. Develop your own awareness by reading the Allies Briefings.
2. Share the message with others.
3. Support human unity and sovereignty in our world, speaking out against national, cultural, and religious conflict in any form.
4. Support the work of Summers by making financial contributions.

The author provides no techniques to aid abductees (Experiencers) in resisting these bad ETs—usually described as having considerable powers.

Do abductees Just Say No, do they call upon religious figures for assistance, or what? Veteran ufologist Ann Druffel has at least come up with some specific techniques, which are described in her book *How to Defend Yourself Against Alien Abductions* (1998).

With the Allies now gone from the vicinity of Earth, will there be future revelations, or is this it? What do you think?

## Crop circles for kids

*Crop Circle Quill-Do's*, written by Joanna Emery and illustrated by Kevin Cook, Boo Bed Books, 22-11 Pirie Drive, Dundas, Ontario, Canada, L9H 6Z6, 905-627-2472, www.cropcirclequilldos.com, soft cover, 32 pages, \$13.00 in Canadian funds (bank check or international money order).

Reviewed by Dwight Connelly

Described as "the first crop circle picture book for kids," this colorful book is designed for children 3-7 years of age. Written by a MUFON member who is





the Ontario coordinator of the Canadian Crop Circle Research Network ([www.cccrn.ca](http://www.cccrn.ca)), it is based on a case from Saskatchewan. Ms. Emery is also writing a juvenile novel featuring crop circles.

The book tells the story of a rabbit, a porcupine, and a crop circle. Miss Penelope, the porcupine, has a very curly coat of hair, thanks to a crop circle being formed around her as she looked for food.

The rabbit also wants a curly coat, so they go to the crop circle and wait for whatever formed the formation to return—which it does—and the rabbit also gets a desirable makeover in the form of twisted ears: “We’ve had such fun in these fields,” said Mrs. Bunny.

This may be a book that is better read to children, as some of the words (incredulously, craving, superb, etc.) might be beyond the vocabulary of the targeted age group. There are also some French expressions (*merci beaucoup*, *bon appetit*, *voilà*, etc.) that may not be familiar to all children. The text is fun to read, and the illustrations are quite appealing.

As for what children might learn about crop circles from this book, the answer seems to be that crop circles are fun and relatively harmless, which a great many crop circle researchers would question.

I also have to wonder about the final page of the book, which provides an epilogue describing what happened to a real porcupine that was caught in a crop circle. Its quills “were swirled in the same direction as the crop circle-like formation,” but the real porcupine was “rather squashed.”

Not exactly a happy ending for the model for the book’s star, which one would presume the young reader was somewhat fond of.

Of course if the book is being read to a child, this part could be omitted. And with children of her own, Ms. Emery should be a good judge of what kids can handle.

But I think this book points out some real problems in writing children’s books about ufology, including books about their little entity “friends.”

Ufology is a complicated, sometimes frightening, poorly understood subject, even for adults, and unless a youngster has had a personal experience with the phenomenon, perhaps it is a topic best left for older readers.

Hopefully the talented writing and illustrations found in *Crop Circle Quill-Do’s* can be utilized in a future book dealing with a topic more suitable for children.



Mike Driscoll, left, and David Marler, right, with one of the teachers.

## Illinois MUFON presents school lectures

By David Marler

Illinois MUFON State Director

In the spirit of MUFON being an educational organization, the members of Illinois MUFON have attempted to present UFO lectures to both adult organizations and school groups over the past few years.

Most recently, representatives from Illinois MUFON comprised of Mike Driscoll, State Section Director, and myself were invited to two public junior high schools in Moline, IL. These schools are using a textbook in their critical reading classes entitled: *Aliens & UFOs* (published by Jamestown Publishers a division of NTC/Contemporary Publishing Group). They have been using this textbook for almost three years now.

According to the teachers, the kids love the subject of UFOs and it is this very reason that they chose to use this book. They needed to capture the attention of the children with a subject they would be willing to read about.

As a result, the children are learning about a variety of cases, such as the Roswell crash, Lubbock lights, Lonnie Zamora sighting, Incident at Exeter, Kecksburg crash, Delphos landing traces, Allagash abductions, men-in-black, Cash-Landrum case, and many others.

At the same time they are developing critical reading skills. It is truly a diverse learning experience for them, as well as the teachers.

Mike Driscoll’s grandson was a student in last year’s class at Wilson Junior High School, and happened to mention to the teacher, Ms. Kested, that his grandfather investigated UFOs for an organization

called MUFON. It was this passing comment in class that eventually launched a series of lectures in Moline. Immediately, Ms. Kested invited Mike to lecture to the children that year, which was well received by all the students.

Then another teacher, Mrs. Kelly, from John Deere Junior High School, heard about the lectures Mike had done. She requested that he come and lecture to her critical reading classes the following semester, since they too were using the same textbook.

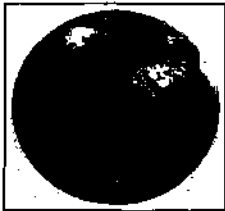
Mike agreed to do so, but with one caveat—he needed some assistance. Mike contacted me and requested that I travel to Moline to assist him with the future lectures. I was most willing to do so.

On Jan. 11 I traveled to Moline, and on the 12th we lectured at Wilson Junior High School throughout the day to a total of five classes, each comprised of approximately 15 to 20 kids. The following day, we lectured at John Deere Junior High School to five classes, each of comparable size.

The kids were an excellent audience. They asked articulate and intelligent questions, and Mike and I were most impressed by their interest, knowledge, and courtesy.

It should be mentioned that we also had in the audiences a number of teachers and even the principal of one of the schools. The adults were equally interested in the UFO subject as well as MUFON.

After returning home I was surprised to receive at least 100 articulate and complimentary thank you letters from the kids. I was also gratified by a letter from one of the teachers.



# 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.

## New Jersey sphere

SICKLERVILLE - Ernest, working on a Blueberry Farm, reported seeing a UFO that looked similar to a pale daytime full moon on Jan. 4, 2005, at 9:50 AM. It was maybe 10,000 feet up, and a finger wide. Sometimes the light was seen through the clouds, other times not.

The object was spherical, with rough edges like on a round faceted diamond, and was spinning rapidly counterclockwise. It traveled in excess of 100 mph S/SW towards Vineland, NJ. It was four human hand widths up from the horizon.

The object appeared back in its original location, but a little higher in view, for 10-12 minutes, but was only in view for about 1 minute at its second appearance. It grew larger to what appeared to be more than 100 feet across as it approached before going behind clouds.

He called his friend to check on any astronomical or meteorological events going on that could explain the moon-like object, and nothing showed up in the space or weather calendar.

As they were talking the object again came into view. Ernest got really excited and stated that it was getting a little larger and that he could see it rotating counterclockwise very rapidly. There were edges on the object "like a Susan B. Anthony coin."

This is a hot bed for sightings in the past 50 years, and Ernest says he has seen other UFOs over the Mullica River in Southern NJ since he was a child. Other members of the community and his family also have stories, including one night when an entire local bar stood outside watching some maneuvers.

At 10:13 AM, the object was back in sight, but it disappeared behind the cloud cover a minute or so later, and he hasn't seen it again. He did say there was a mo-

mentary glow through the clouds when it disappeared, which he said wasn't the Sun or a sundog. It was rotating as it flew away.

Just before the second call ended the Sun had come out, and the object was in the same area of the sky, but lower and much more solid.

Ernie has lived in the Pine Barrens of New Jersey all of his life and is very knowledgeable about his natural environment, since he works outside the majority of the time.



George Filer

He is also a trained EMT, so is good with details and observation. He was definitely excited about something he saw, and he says the

idea of a UFO did not enter his mind until it started to move. Thanks to John Schuessler, Director, MUFON.

## Wisconsin speeding light

GRANTON - The witness reports, "I was driving home from work on Jan. 17, 2005, at 8:28 PM, and noticed a white light blinking in the northwesterly direction. It was doing the coolest maneuvers. It was going up and down, then made the most spectacular U turn within a second and did more maneuvers.

"There were lights on its body that blinked, at least a couple, and the blinking would follow from the first light to the last light. This object was quite a few miles away, so I could not tell if it was making noise or get a clear look at it. It was also 8:15 P.M. at night, so it was dark.

"As it moved westerly it did not seem to get smaller. So this gave me the feeling this object was huge. And then the most incredible thing was that the lights would stop, but would still be on, and then it would shoot into the night sky at an alarming speed.

"It made some more of those cool

maneuvers, then shot into space again and disappeared! Whatever it was, it was big and could make a U turn in a second and shoot upwards with tremendous speed!" Thanks to Peter Davenport.

## British Defense allows for life forms

LONDON, (AFP) - Officials at the British defence ministry are refusing to rule out the existence of alien life forms visiting Earth, the *Financial Times* reported Feb. 3. It quoted from a hitherto confidential letter by an official acknowledging that the ministry recorded accounts of people claiming to have seen alien life in Britain.

According to the letter, obtained under recent legislation on freedom of information, such reports are collected "solely to establish whether what was seen might have some defence significance."

While admitting that "only a handful of reports in recent years have warranted further investigation and none revealed an evidence of a threat," it went on say the ministry was "totally open-minded" about the hypothesis of alien life.

Two weeks ago an anonymous caller reported "strange lights" above Kent in southeast England, while another claimed to have seen a flying saucer sailing above Stoke in central England. The defence ministry said such calls were only a fraction of the thousands it has recorded.

## California shiny discs

CUCAMONGA - The witness reports looking north towards the San Gabriel Mountains and seeing four disc-shaped objects heading east on Jan. 22, 2005, at 7 PM.

They were shiny and reflective, not unlike polished aluminum. A small propeller aircraft just south of the mountains started to approach, and the four objects disappeared immediately as the aircraft came into view.

## California boomerang

MODESTO - R. David Anderson writes, "I received an e-mail from a local

man who saw a boomerang type UFO on Jan. 11, 2005, at 9:10 PM. He wrote me about his sighting.

"He said, 'I was a skeptic until something unexplainable crossed my field of view. Facing due south in the spa, a boomerang-shaped, translucent object entered my field of vision (from behind and to the right), moving from NW to SE.

"Lack of visual reference cues makes this thing impossible to size, but it moved like a big object, and the reflection of the street and city lights glowed dimly off the curved bottom surface at a seemingly moderate height, well below the airliner traffic.

"I've never seen anything like this before, and never want to see it again. All I want is some kind of rational explanation for this stuff."

"I responded to his e-mail and told him that I have seen these types of UFOs also. I had my sightings of several boomerang types of UFOs back in November." Thanks to R. David Anderson.

#### **Connecticut saucer**

NEWTOWN - The object was hovering at 45 degrees above the woods behind my house on Jan. 24, 2005 at 7 PM, says the witness. "The trees are about 30 feet high, and the craft was about two inches across at arm's length. The craft was shaped like a classic cartoon flying saucer—round with colored lights all around it, and a bubble shape on top.

"It appeared silver. It was silent and still for several seconds while its orange, red, yellow, and green square-shaped lights circled around it. It is unclear if the craft itself was spinning. I looked away and it was gone." Thanks to Peter Davenport

#### **Connecticut "minivan" UFO**

OXFORD - "We were driving along a winding, suburban Connecticut road," reports the witness, "when we saw what we thought was a jetliner on Jan. 20, 2005, at 11 PM. The craft turned around and was heading towards us, shining a bright light towards the ground.

"I turned to look at everyone else's speechless faces as it moved within 100 yards from us above the treetops, hovering near large colonial homes, then going down beyond the treetops.

"It looked like a large minivan without wheels or wings, with an ambulance-like door on the back of the object. The door was lit-up, or glowing.

"This was absolutely not a helicopter or an airplane, because we heard no noise. This was a lit up object moving slowly, then jumping quickly and hovering above the woods and homes." Thanks to Peter Davenport.

#### **Delaware chevron formation**

LEWES - The witness reports he was heading south towards Lewes when he saw four solid red lights in a chevron formation on Jan. 19, 2005, at 7 PM. They were hovering, and remained stationary for 45 seconds before fading away, as if turning down a dimmer switch.

A few seconds later, what seemed to be the same formation appeared in the opposite quadrant of the sky, remained lit for about 45 seconds, and again dimmed. The distance between the two points would have been far too great to have been traversed by a conventional craft.

Shortly after the second appearance, a formation of 8 US fighter jets approached the area where the lights had appeared. Thanks to Peter Davenport Director,

#### **Oregon huge craft**

PORTLAND - The witness was looking at a mysterious white light in the sky on Jan. 19, 2005. There were several aircraft on approach for PDX international airport with their landing lights on. The sky was clear to the south, a 1/2 moon was in the west lighting up the 3:30 AM sky.

He noticed a large object several miles south at a very high elevation approaching faster and higher than the incoming jets. He says, "The first thing I noticed was the speed and size of the object, then I realized there were no lights or strobes.

"It was grey in color as illuminated from the moon. I called my friend, and he said, 'Why are there no lights?' It was a huge unmarked grey flat bottom solid shape, at very high altitude, extremely fast flying, and totally silent straight line flying object.

"It flew north in a straight line that if it remained on this path it would fly directly over PDX. The tower must have seen this craft."

Thanks to Peter Davenport .

#### **Tennessee silver disc**

BRISTOL - Kim Shaffer, MUFON SD, reports, "A couple had just arrived home at about 5 PM on Jan. 17, 2005,

when the husband saw a large silver disc with a flat bottom at about 70 degrees to his east. He described the object as being highly polished, with a smaller dome shape on the main body.

The relative size to the witness was that of a basketball at arm's length. He immediately alerted his wife, who exited the car to also see the same object moving away eastward and ascending. The entire sighting lasted no longer than 20 seconds. Thanks to Kim Shaffer, MUFON (eastern TN) SD.

#### **Washington pyramid lights**

PORT TOWNSEND - On Jan. 18, 2005, the witnesses were about to cross the Hood Canal Bridge near Bangor Military Base when they saw two objects flying directly above one another, about 100 feet apart.

They each had three white lights in a pyramid pattern. They swooped around in a way that planes can't, the witnesses reported, "and then disappeared—into the water? We couldn't tell." Thanks to Peter Davenport.

#### **Florida multiple types of objects**

OCALA - On Jan. 15, 2005, at 7:30, the 33-year-old witness drove south on Highway 301 from Jacksonville, and noticed a hovering object with a small solidly lit red light on each side.

In the direct center of these lights at about 1 second intervals, a white light blinked. Alternately, above each red light a very small and fast white light would flash after the center white light would flash.

The witness reports that a second object then appeared in the sky to the west of the first one, hovering in the same way. "I watched the objects hovering as I drove, and stopped at a gas station. As I turned S on I-75, still watching, I phoned my girlfriend and described the very large, bright white object that flew over I-75 out over the fields.

"The red-lighted object flying left to right in front of me flew directly over the highway with a very small white object blinking to the right. Three to six multiple white blinking objects began blinking right over I-75.

"They weren't bright—small star type brightness and flashing very fast, then maybe off for a second or so. It appeared that after a couple of minutes that I traveled underneath the fast blinkers, and I

couldn't see them any more.

"The constant hovering large white light, plus now three of the red-lighted objects, moved back and forth and flew over I-75. At this point the white object flew parallel with the highway and decreased altitude so rapidly and came so quickly towards me that the diameter of the light easily doubled in size and intensity.

"I started yelling into the phone as the object rocketed down and towards me, and slammed on the brakes and pulled off the road as the bright object slowed down and dimmed. But I saw three tiny green lights in a slim triangular shape as if it wasn't quite perfectly horizontal.

"I could see slight illumination of the three green lights at the points of the triangle, and could easily make out the edges of the object connecting the green lights as a triangle. Then, it turned on a super bright beaming spot light towards me so that all I could see was a large white ball again.

"Back on the highway, I saw numerous red objects, and about 200 yards down the road the trees ended and everything opened up to a vast farm field. I could still see many objects out there, so I pulled over again. And again, the sky went nuts with activity. At one point I could easily count up to six red light objects flying in different directions.

"I'm convinced they weren't airplanes, blimps, or helicopters." Thanks to Peter Davenport.

### **UFO shines light in Finland**

HELSINKI - The witness reports, "My friend and I were walking our dogs at 5 PM on Jan. 17, 2005, in an open field, and suddenly strange lights appeared and the dogs started to bark. The lights were coming from the sky, and all we could see was this bright light upon us.

"It was like some kind of spotlight, and it lasted for about ten seconds, and then something happened and the light went off. We could see the whole craft.

"The dogs stopped barking and the craft went away with great speed and flames that were blue." Thanks to www.UFOCenter.com.

### **New Zealand wing-shaped object**

AUCKLAND - The witness reports, "I saw a huge wing-shaped, boomerang-shaped object at 10:35 PM on Jan. 15, 2005. I couldn't really tell how high it was

traveling, as it was white in color, but very translucent.

"This made it difficult to tell how high up and how wide it was, but if I had to guess I would say about 2,000 ft up, and about 200-300 ft wide. The object was traveling very fast with no sound." Thanks to Peter Davenport.

Note: During December many UFO reports occurred over Northern New Zealand.

### **Large saucer over Florida base**

TAMPA - A saucer-shaped object about the size of two football fields was reportedly seen traveling at high speed over MacDill Air Force Base at 5:30 PM on Jan. 1, 2005.

The witness reports, "My brother and I were with my wife at Picnic Island Park having a New Year's cookout, and I noticed above the tree line a fast-moving disc-shaped object that was about the size of two football fields.

"The craft had a row of lights around its outer leading edge. The object appeared to be in the outer atmosphere over the base, moving at a high rate of speed." Thanks to Peter Davenport, Director, www.ufo.center.com.

### **Three objects over Chicago**

CHICAGO - Three objects were reported moving south over the near-north side of Chicago at 1:45 AM on Jan. 1, 2005. They flew over the downtown area and out of sight.

All three objects were the same color and did not appear to be emitting any light of their own, according to the witness, but possibly reflecting the lights of the city.

The color of the objects was a muted pinkish hue, about the same color as the haze on the horizon glowing from the city lights.

"At first I thought the objects were clouds or smoke from New Year's Eve fireworks," says the witness, "but then I realized that the sky was perfectly clear, and two of the objects were changing shape in what appeared to be a controlled movement.

"One object was flying significantly higher, but its shape was unlike any aircraft. They all followed the same slow path, but the lower objects were amorphous, tubular, and long.

"They kept twisting and contorting themselves, moving towards each other

and back away, at times meeting with each other to form new shapes."

Thanks to Peter Davenport, Director, www.Ufo.Center.Com

### **Indiana object near power station**

ROCKVILLE - A married couple saw a red glowing craft hovering over the high power wires that travel across the Wabash River east of the power station at the Public Service generator on US 41 on Dec. 18, 2004, at 7 PM.

According to the witnesses, it was about 35 feet in diameter, glowing red all over, and was extra bright on the bottom. It was hovering about 150 feet high and had fast strobing lights on the top and bottom that were white.

"We kept driving," says the witness, "because it was a terrifying event! It was not an aircraft; it WAS a UFO!" Thanks to Peter Davenport, Director, www.ufo.center.com

### **Rhode Island circle**

PAWTUCKET - At 8 PM on Jan. 2, 2005, a sphere hummed overhead while flashing red and blue, then slowly departed to the east into South Attleboro over Route 95.

"We saw it for five minutes," says the witness. Thanks to Peter Davenport, Director, www.ufo.center.com

### **New Zealand slow moving disc**

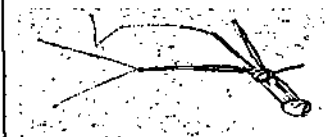
HASTINGS - "At 9:20 PM on New Year's Eve, Dec. 31, 2004, we saw a bright orange glowing large upside down cup-shaped object," says the witness.

"It was like the shape of an upside down tea cup on a saucer. It flew under the very low clouds quite slowly, darted up on an angle, and then turned left and headed straight up. The saucer was clearly visible for around 15 minutes.

"We took photos, but strangely, all photos on the film before and after the event turned out, but the five photos taken from different positions of the saucer came out totally blank, with just the date on them. The saucer-shaped object glowed white and faded away three times." Thanks to Peter Davenport.

### **Case reports**

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



# PERCEPTIONS

By Stanton T. Friedman

## Speed of light and UFOs

As MUFON UFO Journal readers know from the recently reprinted outstanding *British Interplanetary Science Journal* article by Deardorff, Haisch, Maccabee, and Puthoff, it is no longer necessary to claim that the laws of physics prevent interstellar travel.

The article looks at advanced theoretical concepts such as string theory to provide truly exotic travel mechanisms, or parallel universes. However, it hasn't really been necessary to exclude not-so-exotic techniques for many years.

The fusion propulsion systems I worked on 40 years ago can eject charged particles having 10 million times as much energy per particle as they can get in a dumb old chemical rocket.

I bring this up because I keep running across proclamations about interstellar travel claiming that it would take thousands of years and huge amounts of energy to go to even nearby stars.

Usually no basis is given, other than things can't go faster than the speed of light, and it is many light years to the nearest star ad nauseum.

Here is a quote from a soon to be published book, *Is ET Here?*, by Robert Trundle, PhD, referring to negative academics: "aliens from another solar system would have to travel many tens of thousands of years from even the nearest star system."

This is balderdash. After all, even at half the speed of light it would take only about 10 years to get to the nearest star. But how about the time to accelerate to the speed of light (listed as  $c$ )?

The problem here is that most noisy negativists have no idea how to relate acceleration to the real world, nor how to relate to the speed of light.

On many occasions when speaking on a college campus I have had the opportunity to do classroom visits and sometimes physics or astronomy seminars or colloquia. Typically I talk about "Flying Saucers and Physics."

Often I am quietly warned by the student I am dealing with that the professor

is quite negative about UFOs. In these cases I make sure to cover topics I have found most academics know nothing about, such as fission and fusion nuclear rockets, nuclear aircraft, and the electromagnetic submarine.



Stanton T. Friedman

I put diagrams on the board and explain, and then I ask if everyone is familiar with these systems. Almost never is anybody familiar.

Then I ask two easy questions: 1. What is the value of  $G$ , the acceleration of gravity at the surface of the

Earth? and 2. What is the speed of light in a vacuum?

All the students immediately answer 9.8 meters per second squared to the first, and 186,000 miles (or 300,000 km) per second to the second.

These are correct, but meaningless, as they realize when I ask how does 1G relate to a Corvette? I get only blank stares.

We physicists are terrible when it comes to using measurement units that mean anything in our real world. Nobody measures anything in terms of meters per second squared or miles per second.

A much simpler way to understand is that 1G is about 21 miles per hour (mph) per second. So if one accelerates at a constant rate to 60 miles per hour in 6 seconds, that would be an acceleration of 10 mph per second or about 0.5 Gs.

I point out that how many Gs pilots or astronauts or anybody else can handle without damage depends on many factors, such as the duration, direction, magnitude, restraints, etc.

A trained pilot can perform a tracking task while being accelerated at 14 Gs for 2 minutes. That is about 300 mph per second. This leads to 36,000 mph at the

end of the 2-minute period. Astronauts have to withstand several Gs for many minutes at the beginning and end of each orbital flight.

Then I get somewhat sneaky and ask a multiple choice question: How long does it take at 1 G to reach  $c$ ? 1,000, 100, 10, or 1 year? Many vote for 100 or 1,000 years. The correct answer is 1 year.

I also point out that  $c$  is about 670,000,000 miles per hour. This is convenient because planetary distances in the solar system tend to run in the hundreds of millions of miles.

Radio signals from the Cassini spacecraft in orbit around Saturn take about 1.4 hours to reach earth. Even Pluto is only a few light hours away.

Rarely do the naysayers bring up the fact that time slows down for things moving close to the speed of light. How much time dilation occurs is dependent on how close to  $c$  one gets.

At 99.9% of the speed of light, one can travel 37 light years in 20 months pilot time. At 99.99% of the speed of light one can travel 37 light years in 6 months pilot time.

But horrors, say the negativists, the people left behind would age 74 years during the round trip. So? Sounds like the gift of immortality to me. One might want to take one's family along in the huge mother ships that have been seen.

The skeptics haven't finished, of course. They point out that just as time slows down at speeds close to that of light, the mass increases, and it would take a truly enormous amount of energy to accelerate.

There are two important kickers here. One is that in a fusion system fusing deuterium and helium-3, the very energetic charged particles are born with a huge amount of energy and do not need to be accelerated to high exhaust velocity.

The second point is that one would undoubtedly take advantage of cosmic free-loading, such as using the gravitational energy of large bodies along the way, just as Cassini got free boosts from Venus, the Earth, and Jupiter on its way to Sat-

urn. No need to replenish the gravitational field of the planets: They won't miss the energy.

Another objection is that "Look, we don't know anything about traveling at close to  $c$ . We would be splattered by deep space radiation."

We were working on electromagnetic shielding in the 1960s. Fact is we make particles in large accelerators that travel better than 99.9%  $c$ . Mother nature also produces cosmic rays, some of which move at very close to  $c$ . We study their characteristics when they produce new energetic particles when interacting with molecules of the atmosphere.

There are, of course, other objections that are equally false, such as man can't stand such high speeds. This reminds me that in the early 19th century it was thought that it would be impossible to breathe on trains that were moving as rapidly as 50 mph!

As a matter of fact, people on the earth's surface are moving at 1,000 mph just in the rotation of the earth near the Equator. That is why we try to launch spacecraft as close to the equator as possible.

In our passage around the Sun, the Earth covers a distance of almost 600 million miles in a year. So that speed is about 65,000 mph. The whole solar system is moving at about 12 miles per second or more than 40,000 miles per hour around the center of the galaxy.

The speed isn't the problem. Sudden changes in speed (acceleration or deceleration) can be a major problem. Don't forget that one scientist (Colonel Stapp) took 43 Gs when his rocket sled stopped very quickly from 620 miles per hour to 0, and lived to tell the tale.

Many other schemes have been put forth for interstellar travel, such as anti-gravity, laser propulsion, warping space and time, etc.

One involves the use of a possibly real particle, the Tachyon. This comes from the Greek Tachus, meaning swift. It has the very strange property of always moving faster than the speed of light, if it is real.

Thoughts of its possible existence come out of certain theoretical physics equations which don't prohibit its existence. In the past, this has often meant that such particles (anti-particles) actually do exist.

To date, experimental detection of tachyons has eluded researchers looking at

cosmic ray interactions. If real, they would also violate causality, and might mean that one gets somewhere before leaving—rather a neat trick.

I am not trying to minimize the difficulty or cost of interstellar travel for a primitive society such as ours, whose major activity is tribal warfare and has only had advanced technology for roughly a hundred years.

But my first computer less than 20

years ago had a "huge" hard disk storage capability of 20 megabytes. New ones are running around 200 gigabytes, or 10,000 times as much, and operate at least 40 times faster than my old one.

Surely we can't rule out alien visitations on the basis of pronouncements from degreed professionals who know nothing about interstellar travel.

fsphys@rogers.com www.v-j-  
enterprises.com/sfhome.html.

## Sighting results in vehicle & phone failure, and possible missing time

**Investigator:** Roger Sugden, MUFON ASD Indiana

**Location:** Near Ft. Wayne, IN

**Event date & time:** 1/25/05 at approximately 9:43 PM to 10 PM.

**Witness:** female driver, plus probable occupant(s) of another auto, currently unidentified.

The witness told me on 1/26/05 that the previous evening at 9:43 PM she was driving her car home from a friend's house when she noticed the driver of the car in front of her turned the corner and nearly lost control.

She called a friend on her cell phone, since she was concerned for her safety as she drove behind this erratic driver on a rural road.

She told me that her cell phone lost its signal and her car lost all power as she saw to her left what looked like a shooting star come down. The car in front also lost its lights and came to a stop approximately 100 yards in front of her.

She said a large green and white glow, the size of a football field, came over the road from the opposite side and lit up the area and both cars, and then a white column of light came down over the car in front of her.

The next thing she remembers is that all the lights were gone and the car in front of her was gone. She said her car was extremely cold, and she was extremely cold.

After restarting her car and turning on the heater, she noticed that a small plastic bottle of lotion she had with her had expanded considerably.

She then drove home. She did not

get much sleep that night, and it bothered her about the disappearing car. She mentioned numerous times that she has a nagging feeling of lost time.

I met with the witness, and we went to the site on Jan. 30, 2005, with Field Investigator Robert Taylor.

She seemed to be bothered by the incident, and said that she had had two previous encounters nearby.

Also of interest was a neighbor and his son who live next to the field who heard a loud noise the same night, and the father lost his satellite dish signal. The son said he has lived there all his life and has seen silver balls of light in the field.

This is an ongoing investigation by Jerry Sievers, MUFON Indiana State Director; Roger Sugden, Assistant State Director; and Robert Taylor, Field Investigator.

## Tsunami quake slowed rotation of Earth

NASA scientists studying the Indonesian earthquake of Dec. 26, 2005, calculated that it slightly changed our planet's shape, shaved almost 3 microseconds from the length of the day, and shifted the North Pole by several centimeters.

R. Benjamin Fong Chao, of NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, and Dr. Richard Gross, of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, said all earthquakes have some effect on Earth's rotation.

It's just that the effects are, usually, barely noticeable. This one was not usual, registering nine on the modified Richter scale, making it the fourth largest quake in one hundred years.



# Director's Message

(Continued from Page 2)

vision program. Tracie had a UFO sighting while living in England. That was a life-changing event, causing her to seek more information about UFOs, so she hosted several UFO conferences in England.

At one of the conferences in 1999, she met **Jim Peters**, former Colorado MUFON Assistant State Director. She moved to the United States, and two years later they were married and her television career was underway. This is an excellent opportunity to meet Tracie and find out what else is ahead in her future.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Exopolitics Expo Award

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Exopolitics Expo (X-Conference) is scheduled for April 22-24, 2005, at the Hilton Washington, DC, North/Gaithersburg.

In addition to an excellent speaker lineup, conference organizer **Stephen Bassett** has announced that retired MUFON International Director **Walter H. Andrus, Jr.** will be awarded the Paradigm Research Group Hall of Fame Lifetime Achievement Award at the Saturday evening banquet.

Walt will also be one of the speakers at the event. For information about the conference, see the calendar on this page.

## Position Announcements

**William E. Olinger**, MUFON State Director for Wisconsin, has announced a new organization plan for the state. It has been divided into four districts, and each district will have an assistant state director, reporting back to him.

**Nick Roesler** is the Assistant State Director for the Southeast Area, which includes Milwaukee, Racine, Kenosha, and the surrounding counties. **Jim Grubb** is the Assistant State Director for Northwestern Wisconsin, which includes all of the area from Steven's Point and west to the Minnesota border and north from Steven's Point to the northern Michigan border. Another two Assistant State Directors will be added later. **Tim Whiteagle** has been appointed State Section Director for the counties of Eau Claire, St. Croix, Pepin, Clark, and Dunn.

**Jan Oller** of Las Vegas, NV, has accepted the position of Research Specialist in Anthropology and Translator for the Spanish and Czech languages.

**Carl Frazier, Jr.**, of Grand Junction, CO, has accepted the position of Research Specialist in Criminal Science.

## New Lifetime Member

It is a pleasure to announce that **Tom Cook** of Las Vegas, NV, is now a MUFON Lifetime Member. We are extremely grateful for this vote of confidence and level of support for MUFON.

## New Field Investigators

**Kathleen Marden**, Director of Field Investigator Training, has announced that **Janet Bunke**, Post Falls, ID; **Marilyn Carlson**, Yukon, OK; **Richard Carlson**, Yukon, OK; **Richard Webb**, LaVista, NE; and **Nathan Weitzel**, LaCrosse, WI, have passed the MUFON Field Investigator's Exam and are now MUFON Field Investigators.

All Field Investigator Trainees are urged to self-study the *MUFON Field Investigator's Manual* and take the exam. State Directors usually have the resources in place to assist in field investigator training and to help with the difficult parts of the exam.

The manual is available from MUFON Headquarters for \$25 plus \$3.50 p&h in the U.S. Total price for delivery outside of the U.S. is \$32.50. It may also be purchased via the Internet at [www.mufon.com](http://www.mufon.com) using PayPal.

## New Media by MUFON Members

*UFO Politics at the White House*, a new book by **Larry W. Bryant**, longtime MUFON member and Director of Governmental Affairs, is available from the Fate Magazine Bookshop at 1-800-728-2730.

The book is a continuation of Larry's quest to end UFO secrecy. If you are at all curious about President Jimmy Carter's promise to release all government information on UFOs when elected, you need to read the book. It contains 268 pages in a 6 x 9 soft cover format and is priced at \$14.95 plus shipping and handling.

## Estate planning

Planned giving can be beneficial both to MUFON and to your own tax and estate situation.

If you wish to have more information on various options and benefits, please contact MUFON headquarters.

## CALENDAR

**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, Dr. Nick Begich, Sean David Morton, Dr. Tom Valone, Dr. Rudy Schild, William Henry, Dr. Simeon Hein, Dr. Michael Salla, Freddy Silva, Jaime Maussan, Steve Jones, Ron Russell, Dr. Roger Leir, Charles Hall, Jim Marrs, Dr. Thomas VanFlandern, and others to be confirmed. [www.ufocongress.com](http://www.ufocongress.com).

**April 1-3**—Aztec UFO Symposium, Aztec, NM, featuring Linda Moulton Howe, John Greenewald Jr, Rob Swiatek, Susan Swiatek, Dr. David Rudiak, Moreen Skully, Travis Walton, and Dennis Balthaser. 877-823-5810 [aztecufo@sisa.com](mailto:aztecufo@sisa.com), [www.aztecufo.com](http://www.aztecufo.com).

**April 8-10**—17th annual Ozark UFO Conference, Eureka Springs, AR, featuring Wendelle Stevens, Grant Cameron, Linda Moulton Howe, Timothy-Good, David Marler, Nancy Talbott, and others to be confirmed. [ozarkufo@webtv.net](mailto:ozarkufo@webtv.net), 501-354-2558.

**April 16-17**—UFO/ET Congress, Bordentown, NJ, Days Inn, Rt. 206 at exit 7 of NJTP. Pat Marcattilio, 609-631-8955 (11 AM-3 PM or Sat/Sun) or Tom Benson at 609-883-6921 (after 6 PM).

**April 22-24**—Second Annual Exopolitics Expo (X-Conference), featuring Stephen Bassett, Cheryl Jones, Paul Davids, Richard Dolan, Stanton Friedman, John Greenewald Jr, Paola Harris, Dr. Michael S. Heiser, Dr. Lynne Kitei, Jaime Maussan, Dr. Richard Sauder, David Sereda, Alfred L. Webre, Walt Andrus, Dr. Robert Wood, & Ryan Wood. [www.paradigmclock.com](http://www.paradigmclock.com), [www.x-conference.com](http://www.x-conference.com), 202-215-8344, [ParadigmRG@aol.com](mailto:ParadigmRG@aol.com).

**July 22-24**—36th annual MUFON UFO Symposium, Marriott Tech Center Hotel, Denver, CO, featuring Phyllis Budinger, Richard Dolan, Elaine Douglass, Frank Feschino Jr, Stanton Friedman, Paola Harris, Alan C. Holt, Dr. Roger Leir, Dr. Edgar Mitchell, Scott Ramsey, Dr. Leo Sprinkle, & Dr. Claude Swanson, 303-932-7709, [www.mufon.com](http://www.mufon.com).



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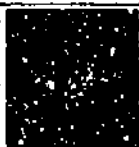
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(Occasionally these deadlines can be modified. Please check.)

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



# The Night Sky

By Gavin A. J. McLeod

**April 2005**

## **Moon Phases:**

Last Quarter April 2

New Moon April 8

First Quarter April 16

Full Moon April 24

## **Bright Planets (Evening Sky):**

**Jupiter** (magnitude -2.5 to -2.4): In Virgo. Jupiter will rise in the east before sunset, reach its zenith near 11 PM, and will be low in the west-southwest as morning twilight begins.

**Saturn** (magnitude 0.1 to 0.2): In Gemini. Saturn will stand about 50 degrees high in the west-southwest at the end of evening twilight, and will set by about 1:30 AM in the west-northwest.

## **Bright Planets (Morning Sky)**

**Mercury** (magnitude 5.2 to 0.7): In Pisces. Mercury will reach its maximum height above the horizon on April 26, but will not be easily visible in the northern hemisphere until mid June. For southern observers the best view will be at the end of April at the beginning of morning twilight.

**Venus** (magnitude -3.8): In Pisces. Venus will be very difficult to observe until early May.

**Mars** (magnitude 0.9 to 0.7): Moving from Capricornus to Aquarius. Mars will rise about 2.5 hours before the Sun in the east-southeast, and will be low in the southeast at the beginning of morning twilight.

## **Other Celestial Phenomena**

**Daylight Saving Time:** begins on April 3 (Sunday)

### **Lyrids Meteor Shower:**

April has one major meteor shower, the Lyrids. The Lyrids peak on April 22, but some may be seen from April 19th through the 24th.

This shower peaks at about 12 meteors per hour, or about one per every five minutes on average.

The Lyrids are caused by the debris expelled by the comet Thatcher as it moves through its orbit. Comet Thatcher is a long period comet that visits the in-

ner solar system every 415 years or so.

Despite this long period, there is activity every year at this time, and because of this fact, it's theorized that comet Thatcher must have been visiting the so-

## **Three UFOs reported in Huntington Beach area**

On Tuesday, Nov. 30, 2004, at 6:30 AM, Kimberlee Schultz was driving on Interstate Highway 405, the San Diego Freeway in Huntington Beach, CA, (population 185,594) when she spotted what appeared to be three unusual objects in the morning sky.

"They appeared to be traveling from a southwesterly to a northeasterly direction," Kimberlee reported.

"The sky was bright and clear. I noticed airplanes all over the sky, and the reflection of the Sun would make them appear as a little speck, and some had a small trail behind them.

"This craft was large compared to the airplanes, and it also had a trail. There were also two smaller crafts side by side in front of the large craft. The larger craft was at least 50 times bigger in size.

"The smaller crafts were also leaving trails of light, so I could tell they were moving. The smaller crafts were 100 times larger than the airplane specks. But seeing as how they appeared to hover in the sky, maybe this is why they appeared to be much larger.

"The large craft was somewhat of a triangular shape, but the outlines were not well-defined. It was almost a little blob-like. The two (smaller) crafts in front looked more round. This was rush hour in southern California on a busy freeway.

"After traveling on another freeway, I couldn't see them, as I was facing east, and they were now southwest of my car.

"I was telling a co-worker about it, and she was about 45 minutes northeast of where I was at the time, and she saw it at around the same time.

"But she didn't see the two lights leading the larger craft. She thinks she may have seen it from the back, and I was seeing it from the side."

lar system for quite a long time.

Over this long period, the debris left with each pass into the inner solar system has been pretty evenly distributed along the path of its orbit.

This material isn't quite evenly distributed, however, as there have been some years with outbursts of higher than usual meteor activity. The most recent of these outbursts occurred in 1982, with others occurring in 1803, 1922, and 1945.

These outbursts are unpredictable and one could even occur this year. Unfortunately this year, the 95% illuminated Moon will destroy any chances for observing in 2005

### **Lunar Eclipse:**

On April 24, 2005, a faint penumbral eclipse of the Moon will be visible in the western half of North America, the Pacific region, New Zealand, and eastern Australia. This event will be a challenge to observe as it will consist of very slight shading along the Moon's northern limb.

### **Conjunctions and Occultation's:**

April 22 (Friday): Jupiter will be 0.6 degrees north of the Moon.

April 26 (Tuesday): Antares will be 0.7 degrees south of the Moon.