November 2005
No. 451
$4.00

MUFON
Mutual UFO Network

UFO JOURNAL

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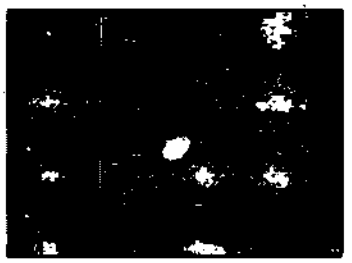

This photo was taken from the stern of a Carnival cruise ship in May. The MUFON report begins on page 19.

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Charles B. Moore, professor emeritus of physics at New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology at Socorro, displays a radar reflector similar to those on balloon trains in the Project Mogul experiments. Moore was involved with the project, which the Air Force says was responsible for debris at the Roswell crash site. Author Nick Redfern has other ideas. The article begins on page 3.

November 2005 Number 451

MUFON UFO Journal

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

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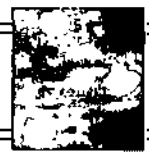
Director's Message



By John F. Schuessler

Special Incentive for New Memberships now Available

Elaine Douglass, co-state director for Utah, sponsored a project during the 2005 MUFON International UFO Symposium in Denver, CO, to reward new people joining MUFON with a special gift– an audio cassette tape of actual de-classified United States Air Force recordings of a startling real life event.

John Schuessler

This took place on the night of Oct. 7, 1965, at Edwards Air Force Base in California. In this **Samuel M. Sherman** presentation, an F-106 jet interceptor was scrambled to intercept luminous objects in the sky, and military personnel on the ground confirm seeing the strange flashing objects over the Edwards runway. Run time of the recording is 54 minutes.

MUFON is again offering this excellent recording of actual UFO evidence as a gift to anyone joining MUFON or giving a gift subscription to the *MUFON UFO Journal*. This offer will run through the end of 2005, or until the supply is exhausted.

Current MUFON members may also participate in this incentive program by giving a gift subscription to introduce MUFON to a friend or relative and receive a copy of the tape as a reward for their gift. Only one tape will be awarded per each new membership. Supplies are limited.

Case Management System Clarification

There has been some confusion about how to view the contents of the MUFON Case Management System (CMS). It is not necessary to use a password just to view the contents of the CMS. Simply go to www.mufon.com and click on "UFO Case Files" and then "Latest MUFON Reports" and view the reports.

State Directors (SD), Assistant State

(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.
Family members $10 per person additional
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Postmaster: Send form 3579 to advise change of address to *MUFON UFO Journal*, P.O. Box 369, Morrison, CO 80465-0369

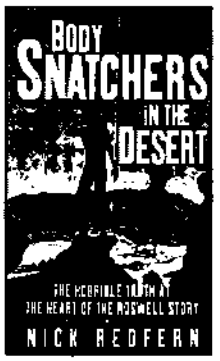
MUFON's mission is the scientific study of UFOs for the benefit of humanity through investigation, research, & education.

Redfern's Roswell *Body Snatchers* a perplexing tale with little substance

By Gildas Bourdais

A new theory on the Roswell crash has been presented by British ufologist Nick Redfern in his book *Body Snatchers in the Desert. The Horrible Truth at the Heart of the Roswell Story.*[1]

In a word, some "whistle-blowers" revealed to him that behind the "legend" of the Roswell UFO crash was hidden a real story of experiments on Japanese handicapped prisoners–so horrible that they had to remain hidden at all costs.



The curious title of this book will be explained later.

This new story, as strange as it looks, demands careful examination, given the notoriety of the author, who has written several good books on UFOs, including one on UFO crashes, *Cosmic Crashes. The incredible story of the UFOs That Fell to Earth (1999).*[2] He has also produced many articles and conferences.

Another comparatively recent explanation for the Roswell crash is that the debris was that of a Mogol balloon. Both theories cannot be true.

Not surprisingly, a major promoter of the Mogul explanation, Karl Pflock, has already expressed strong disagreement–with his usual wit–in an open letter entitled "Attack of the Mutant Mongoloids!"

I am going to plead here that these theories are both wrong, and that, consequently, the hypothesis of a UFO crash, near Roswell, in 1947, still holds.

Roswell: a brief background

On July 8, 1947, the base supporting atomic bombers at Roswell, NM, issued a press release announcing the recovery of a "flying disk" in the area.

But this spectacular discovery, in the midst of a wave of observations of these mysterious craft, was denied in the evening by Gen. Ramey, commander of the Eighth Air Force, in Fort Worth, TX: the Air Force officers at Roswell had simply found a weather balloon and its radar target, and had mistaken it for a flying saucer!

The press accepted at once this curious explanation, and the incident was forgotten for thirty years.

Gildas Bourdais

About the author

Gildas Bourdais is a leading French ufologist,. He is the author of *UFOs: The Gradual Release of Secrecy*, other books, and numerous articles. He is also a frequent presenter at UFO symposiums.

However, in 1978, American ufologist Stanton Friedman found almost by chance a key witness, Jesse Marcel, a former major who had been in charge of security on the base, and who had picked up debris at what is called the crash site.

Marcel, who was at that time retired in Louisiana, confirmed to Friedman that these materials were very strange and did not look like anything known. Since then, several teams of researchers have done considerable work and have found many witnesses who have made Roswell one of the best documented cases in ufology.

The theory of a UFO crash is based on three main elements: the press release by the Air Force base, testimonies about strange materials found at the site, and testimonies on the discovery of a craft and bodies near Roswell.

A question quickly comes to mind about the press release: how could these officers of an elite corps not only make such a clumsy mistake, if we believe the Air Force, but also worsen their case by making that dramatic announcement, contrary to the rules of military secrecy to which they were especially well trained?

If it had been such an incredible confusion with a balloon (or a balloon cluster in the Mogul story), they should have been severely reprimanded, yet this was not the case.

Col. Blanchard, who released the report to the press, had a remarkable career with significant promotions. Maj. Jesse Marcel, given high marks by his hierarchy before and *after* the incident, was promoted to a post of responsibility at the Pentagon.

Furthermore, if Maj. Marcel had made such a blunder, would he have talked about it 30 years later? It is interesting to note here that when Maj. Marcel was interviewed in 1982 by a student, Linda Corley, he told her that he had not revealed all that he knew, "for the sake of his country," Corley revealed twenty years later at the 2000 MUFON symposium.[3]

USAF "explanations"

In 1994, the US Air Force, pressed by an inquiry which had been opened by the General Accounting Office (GAO) of the Congress at the request of Steven Schiff, congressman of New Mexico, replaced the initial explanation of the weather balloon with a more complex one.

Now the Air Force claimed that the debris was from the crash of a "train" of 20 to 30 weather balloons attached to a line, code-named "Mogul," launched at the base at White Sands.

It was, they explained, a very secret

project to develop a means of detection of future soviet atomic explosions, and it is the reason why its discovery was hidden at the time.

But there is not the faintest bit of paper, telex, or archived note which would prove that this was what had been found in Roswell.

On the contrary, their documentation shows clearly that the balloon train Mogul number 4, the only one which might have caused that blunder because it was equipped with radar targets, had most probably never been launched!

It is absent in the reports of New York University (NYU), in charge of the tests, and geophysicist Albert Crary, who was the field manager, noted in his personal diary that it was cancelled because of cloudy weather.

In fact, he launched in the morning a small balloon cluster like the NYU team launched every day in June.

It is likely that Brazel found one of them, on June 14, as he told the press under pressure from the military, but he attached no importance to it, and it had nothing to do with the finding of the big debris field at the beginning of July.[4]

In any case, if the officers of Roswell had found a Mogul balloon train, they would have easily identified it as such.

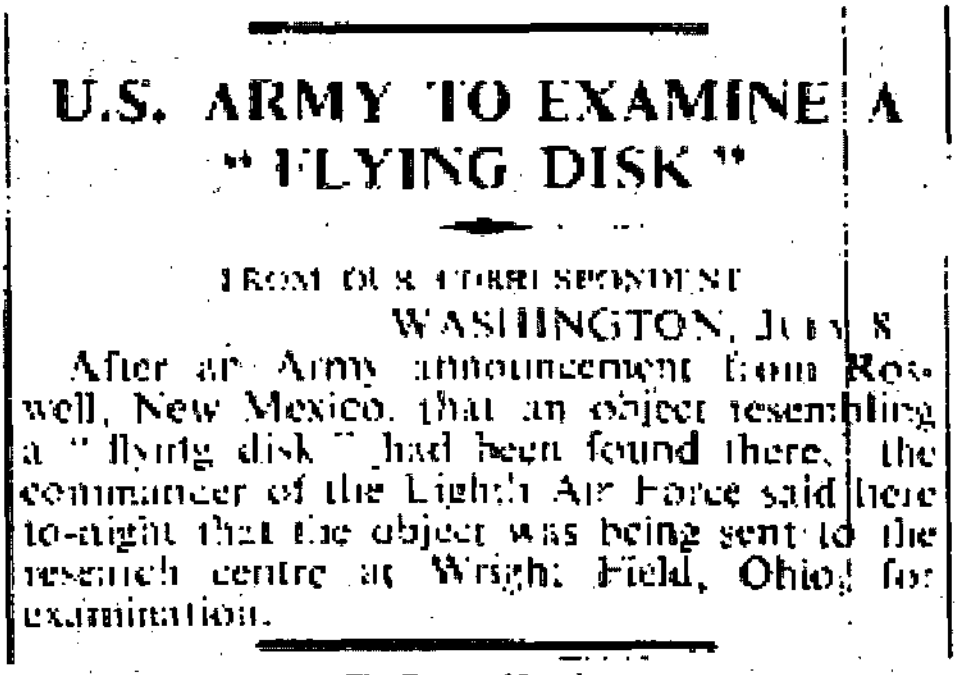
It would have been sufficient for them to identify only one element of this mundane gear to close the case, such as one of the instruments attached to the nylon line, which were not more mysterious: ballast reservoir, electric battery, radio transmitter, or "sonobuoy" which looked like a mere metallic can.

None of these instruments were found on the Foster Ranch, either by the rancher Brazel or by the military who came to retrieve the debris.

In 1997, the US Air Force published a second book to explain, this time, the testimonies on alien bodies. It suggested that the witnesses had confused memories of parachute tests which were made with wooden dummies.

But, as Walter Haut quipped, "You have to be a dummy not to recognize a dummy!"

Besides, these tests took place several years later, during the 50's. This time, the American press, which had



U.S. ARMY TO EXAMINE A "FLYING DISK"

FROM OUR OTTAWA CORRESPONDENT

WASHINGTON, July 8

After an Army announcement from Roswell, New Mexico, that an object resembling a "flying disk" had been found there, the commander of the Eighth Air Force said here to-night that the object was being sent to the research centre at Wright Field, Ohio, for examination.

The Times of London.

accepted rather easily the Mogul explanation, remained visibly skeptical about this new story.

The only positive aspect of the Air Force report was to have them discard other hypotheses, such as the crash of a secret plane, or a rocket, or an atomic bomber.

However, as noted above, such is not the opinion of new Roswell researcher Nick Redfern in his new book, *Body Snatchers in the Desert.*

Following is a summary of the Redfern story of Roswell, slightly abridged, given by Redfern himself in the conclusion of his book (pages 207 and 208):

The first crash

"In May 1947, an experimental aircraft that was borne out of the revolutionary aviation research of the Horten brothers of Germany was test-flown from White Sands, New Mexico.

"On board the vehicle were a number of physically handicapped people who had been found in the remnants of the Japanese military's Unit 731 laboratories and who were used in this dark and disturbing experiment–the purpose of which was to try to better understand the effects of nuclear-powered flight on an air-crew.

"The experiment ended in disaster when the aircraft crash-landed at White Sands, killing some of the crew.

The second crash

"Two months later, in early July, 1947," says Redfern, "a second and similar vehicle was once again flown from White Sands. In this particular instance, the aircraft was affixed to a huge balloon array that was based upon advanced Fugo balloon designs developed in the closing stages of WW II by Japanese forces.

"The aircraft was piloted by a crew of Japanese personnel who had been specifically trained for the task and crashed near the Foster Ranch after being catastrophically struck by lightning.

"The lifting-body-style aircraft, the balloon materials, and the bodies of the crew were retrieved under cover of overwhelming secrecy and–either deliberately or unintentionnally–hidden behind a smoke screen of crashed flying saucer stories.

"It is these two incidents (and, as the whistle-blower testimony provided in these pages suggests, possibly several others in the vicinity of White Sands in the early to late summer of 1947) that led to the legend of the Roswell incident," says Redfern.

A bizarre story

A first reaction to Redfern's scenario may be one of perplexity when confronted with such a bizarre story, which he claims had been revealed to him

from 1996 to 2003 by several insiders–who remain anonymous in the book.

In any case, it seems to provide a global explanation of the Roswell case, encompassing as it does many aspects, even some of the most controversial ones.

The story of the alleged first crash, for instance, seems to explain the controversial story of the mysterious cameraman who, allegedly, sold the famous "Alien Autopsy Footage" to the British producer Ray Santilli, released in 1995.

The "atomic" aspect is very important in Redfern's theory. According to his insiders, it included loading radioactive material on board for an awful experiment of irradiation in flight.

In addition, it was supposed to be made at a very high altitude in order to evaluate mysterious "mutation" effects.

The victims selected for this dreadful test were supposedly mentally retarded, severely handicapped people, formerly prisoners of the Japanese for horrible bio-warfare experiments in Manchuria during WW II.

According to Redfern and his informers, it is this "Japanese connection" which had to be kept secret "at all costs."

There was no balloon for this first experiment (in effect, the cameraman did not mention one). The weird craft was supposedly towed on take-off by a DC-3 plane (or rather a C-47, the correct military designation), but was self-propelled afterwards (we don't learn exactly how).

Can we believe that story? Well, there are many big holes in it, as we are going to see. The first, and biggest one, probably, is that it was impossible for the American military to bring to the United States prisoners from Manchuria. Here is, briefly, the history of Japanese biological warfare experiments in Manchuria:[5]

·1932—Japanese troops invade Manchuria. Shiro Ishii, a physician and army officer who was intrigued by germ warfare, begins preliminary experiments.

·1936—Unit 731, a biological-warfare unit disguised as a water-purification unit, is formed. Ishii builds a huge compound—more than 150 buildings over six square kilometers—outside the city of Harbin. Some 9,000 test subjects, which Ishii and his peers called "logs," eventually die at the compound.

·1942—Ishii begins field tests of germ warfare on Chinese soldiers and civilians. Tens of thousands die of bubonic plague, cholera, anthrax, and other diseases. U.S. soldiers captured in the Philippines are sent to Manchuria.

·1945—Japanese troops blow up the headquarters of Unit 731 in the final days of the Pacific war. Ishii orders 150 remaining "logs" killed to cover up their experimentation. Gen. Douglas MacArthur is named commander of the Allied powers in Japan.

·1946—U.S. coverup of secret deal with Ishii and Unit 731 leaders–germ warfare data based on human experimentation in exchange for immunity from war-crimes prosecution–begins in earnest. Deal is concluded two years later.

No prisoners from Unit 731

Let's turn now to the Redfern story. According to his inside source, "Levine" (p 85):

"When the Japanese surrendered in the wake of the atomic destruction of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945, a number of these and a quantity of still-living people were found in the remains of Unit 731 facilities (and also German laboratories) by allied soldiers. These remains were subsequently transferred to the Los Alamos Laboratories, New Mexico, where this dark and disturbing research was continued."

Other informers told Redfern a similar story, but this is radically contradicted by all historical studies and sources.

In his references, Redfern mentions the book of Peter Williams and David Wallace, *Unit 731: Japan's Secret Biological Warfare in World War II*.[6]

It is a very complete history of these horrible experiments, and it clearly describes what happened at the end of the war.

When the Soviet army began to invade Manchuria, on Aug. 9, 1945, the next day the Japanese destroyed all buildings of Units 731 and 100, and killed all the prisoners. They had orders to destroy every trace of the experiments, and never talk about them.

This version is confirmed in the timeline mentioned above, and in other books, for instance *The Pacific War* by the Japanese historian Saburo Ienaga.[7]

No handicapped prisoners

Another important difference resides in the alleged use of deformed and handicapped people for all these experiments, according to Redfern's insiders.

This is an important element of the theory since it is supposed to explain the strange aspect of the victims of the crash (at least the first one), and it is repeated through the whole book (at least 16 times, from page 6 to page 207).

But it is wrong! Actually, the Japanese experimenters at Unit 731 preferred to have subjects *in good health*: "Unless you work with a healthy body, you cannot get results."[8]

So the real story of the end of Unit 731 seems quite different from the one in *Body Snatchers*.

Sunshine and body snatchers

In 1994, President Clinton appointed an "Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments "(ACHRE) which uncovered a long history of secret irradiation experiments conducted during the period 1944 through 1974.

Redfern mentions this in his book, and it is all true, but he insists then on a very special project called "Sunshine" which was proposed secretly in 1955 (pp. 164 to 166).

It was a plan to collect skeletons for such experiments by all possible means through certain "channels," and this was called "body snatching."

Hence the bizarre title of the book. Redfern admits that this "body snatching" project had nothing to do with Roswell, but he claims that it was "very similar to the top-secret Roswell-related events" described in his book.

However, this argument of secret radiation experiments can be turned against his book. The records of the ACHRE commission, which count the rather staggering number of some 3,000 tests of human irradiation, don't

mention at all his alleged radiation experiments in White Sands!

So there is a simple question: in the light of the ACHRE report, why hide these alleged White Sands irradiation experiments at all cost, since the whole story of similar experiments has been made public?

When I asked Redfern this, he stressed again that it was the "Japanese angle," with its horrible experiments in Manchuria, which was the cause of the extreme secrecy. But, as we have just seen, it is an impossible argument.

Regardless of its sheer impossibility, another argument can be made against this "Japanese angle."

If these White Sands experiments had been made with Japanese, they would have been identified as such when found in the areas near White Sands or Roswell–even if they were handicapped.

The second crash (Roswell)

The second crash is the famous one near Roswell.

This time the craft is supposedly affixed to a huge balloon cluster, derived from advanced Japanese "Fugo" projects (Fugo is the name of the balloon bombs of WW II), which is going to be used to explain the famous debris field on the Foster Ranch.

This time there is no "atomic" experiment. If you know the Roswell case well, you will remember that Maj. Marcel checked the debris at the Foster Ranch with a Geiger counter and found no radioactivity.

Thus Redfern's story seems to fit well with the Roswell testimonies regarding radiation. But a consequence is that there was no "reason" to carry handicapped people on that flight.

So, explains Redfern, there were normal Japanese for the second flight, trained as pilots to test this peculiar balloon and fast aircraft coupling.

I debated this point with Redfern on the Internet, and he did have an answer to it.[9]

Contrary to a general impression given in the book, in which he mentioned handicapped people all the time to explain the confusion with alien beings in Roswell, there were no handicapped beings in the second crash, near Roswell. They were not identified as Japanese, says Redfern, because the bodies were found and retrieved secretly by the White Sands people.

Thus, in Redfern's version, the legend of alien bodies found in Roswell came later from a merger with the rumors coming from the White Sands crash and its handicapped victims.

That's an ingenious story, but what is its credibility? As we have seen, there were no handicapped Japanese available in the first place. In addition, the question remains whether there could be such a confusion with handicapped bodies, wrongly identified as alien beings, whether it was in White Sands or in Roswell.

This is where Redfern throws in the famous "Alien autopsy footage," as a sort of visual proof of his story.

According to Redfern's mysterious informers, the "Alien Autopsy Footage," released in August, 1995, was actually showing one ot the handicapped victims of the White Sands crash!

This idea has been already discussed in depth, and many experts have discarded the idea that this was a human being suffering from a genetic illness.

In addition, a very simple objection can be made: if it were a human body, there would have been no need for a complete protection suit, such as is seen in the film (unless the whole film is a scam, but this is not at all what Redfern says).

Another look at Roswell crash

Let's quote again the final summary of the second crash, near Roswell (pp. 207, 208):

"Two months later, in early July a second and similar vehicle was, once again, flown from White Sands.

"In this particular instance, the aircraft was affixed to a huge balloon array that was based upon advanced Fugo balloon designs developed in the closing stages of WW II by Japanese forces.

"The aircraft was piloted by a crew of Japanese personnel who had been specifically trained for the task and crashed near the Foster Ranch after being catastrophically struck by lightning."

There is an obvious objection, from the start, to this second scenario.

The risk that the experiment would be exposed publicly would have been even higher, especially if the huge Fugo balloon cluster (much bigger than the Mogul balloon train with its small weather balloons) drifted in the wind to an undesirable place.

What about the risk of a crash landing in a populated area? But the experimenters were lucky: the balloon and craft, in the Redfern scenario, landed in the rather desertic area of Roswell.

However, such a strange assemblage, with the alleged huge balloons and a weird plane attached to them, would have been almost impossible to hide from curious eyes in the White Sands area.

The scenario of the crash seems also very acrobatic. According to Redfern and his mysterious informers, the craft and balloon were caught in a storm and struck by lightning. A part of the disabled plane and, presumably, most of the balloons, were torn away in the storm, together with one of the Japanese who was ejected from the craft.

They fell and landed together on the Foster Ranch, while the main body of the craft, carrying the rest of the crew, crashed some twenty miles farther away, where it was later retrieved secretly by the White Sands people.

In this new explanation of Roswell, we find again the problem, like in the Mogul story, of the people of Roswell not being able to identify a balloon or balloon cluster.

This question is now aggravated by adding the wreckage of a small craft, either wooden or metallic, or even a fragment of it.

The argument of balloons made of aluminium-coated polyethylene, put forward by Redfern in his book, could not explain at all the description of the very strong foil, impossible to tear, and yet scattered in a multitude of small jagged pieces like the result of a violent explosion.

In addition, they were impossible to burn. They just don't correspond to a balloon envelope.

In the debate on UFO Updates, David Rudiak pressed Redfern with embarrassing critiques about the debris, as he had done previously on Mogul. Then Redfern came up suddenly with

a new finding from his informers: he learned that, for the Roswell flight, aluminium foil, or "chaffe," had been used as a test to confuse radar.

So this new, providential element would explain the aluminium-like foil found on the Foster ranch! However, there was no logical reason to hide the flight on radar. On the contrary, there was every reason to track it.

Besides, in the scenario of an accident in a big storm, the aluminium foil would have been scattered over a very wide area, not just on the debris field of the Foster ranch.

Anyway, this aluminium foil, like the one used for cigarette wrapping, was very mundane, and did not fit the descriptions on the witnesses.

The informers

One of the most questionable aspects of Redfern's story is that all his informers were, one way or another, linked to secret services in Great Britain and in the Unites States. Here they are, in chronological order:

♦In *August 1996*, in London, Mr. "Levine" (pp. 79-81), is an agent of the Home Office. His colleagues are Mr. "T," intelligence agent at the MOD, and Mr. "D," a CIA "operative." They show him a long version of the "Autopsy film," first released a year before.

♦In July 2001, in Los Angeles, an old woman whom he calls the "Black Widow" approches him at the end of a conference (Chapter 1). She says that she worked on "special projects" in Oak Ridge, from the mid-1940s to the early 1950s.

The crucial year seems to be 2003, with:

♦The "Colonel," in November 2003. He is the main informer (Chapter 10). He said that he had "spent 15 years operating deep within the heart of American intelligence. In 1969, he found a top secret document at the Defense Intelligence Agency which "laid to rest the tales about flying saucers and alien bodies recovered from the desert of New Mexico in the summer of 1947 and told the true story about the Roswell events";

♦"Bill Salter," on Dec. 6, 2003 (p. 90). He is a former employee of the Psychological Strategy Board. He met in Oak Ridge "a man employed in a covert intelligence position," who had "previously worked for the Central Intelligence Group" (CIG). Salter had also been informed by an "old friend from DOE";

♦Al Barker, on Dec. 9, 2003. He worked for the Psychological Warfare Center (PWC) in Fort Bragg.

There is a remarkable coincidence here. Three separate informers approached Redfern, separately, in less than two months at the end of 2003, and told him the same story! This does suggest a concerted plan to disinform him.

The risk of disinformation

The question of possible disinformation has been raised, as could be expected. Redfern admitted that it was a possibility, but doubted it for several reasons.

Firstly, according to him, there has been, indeed, a lot of disinformation, but in the opposite direction: it was all aimed at propagating false tales of UFO crashes in Roswell and other places, such as Aztec. And this long lasting program of disinformation was implemented just to hide the horrible experiments in White Sands!

In fact, the history of ufology in the United States shows, on the contrary, a hard line of denial of UFOs in general, and especially of UFO crashes.

"A second reason for not being disinformed, pleaded Redfern, is the convergence of independent informers, telling the same story, and of documents revealing certain aspects similar to his story.

Yes, several informers told him the same story of prisoners from Unit 731: Mr. Levine in 1996 (p. 85), the Colonel in November 2003 (p. 108), Bill Salter on Dec. 6, 2003 (p. 91), and Al Barker three days later! (pp. 91 and 141).

But this story is false, and this convergence raises the question of a kind of concerted disinformation.

As for the documents, the example already mentioned of the "Sunshine" and "Body Snatchers" program shows the weakness of this argument.

It was not related at all to the alleged experiments in White Sands, and the same can be said of other documents quoted in the book.

Actually, there is not one piece of documentation sustaining the story.

Notes

[1]Nick Redfern, *Body Snatchers in the Desert. The Horrible Truth at the Heart of the Roswell Story*, Paraview Pocket Books, Simon & Schuster, New York, NY, 2005.

[2]Nick Redfern, *Cosmic Crashes. The incredible story of the UFOs that fell to Earth*, Simon & Schuster U.K., London, 1999.

[3]Linda Corley, "For the sake of my country," MUFON 2000 International UFO Symposium proceedings.

[4]Descriptions of these properties and the shape and size of the debris field from various people can be read, for instance, at the web site of David Rudiak: www.roswellproof.com/debris_main.html

[5]From the web at http://www.cnd.org/njmassacre/recent-news2.html)

[6]Peter Williams and David Wallace, *Unit 731: Japan's Secret Biological Warfare in World war II* . London, Hodder & Stoughton Ltd.,1989.

[7]Saburo Ienaga, *The Pacific War, 1931-1945*. Iwanami Shoten Publishers, Tokyo, 1968. (American edition by Pantheon Books, Random House, New York, 1978).

[8]Quote from the text: "Unit 731. A half century of denial," at http://www.technologyartist.com/unit_731 (cited by Jan Aldrich in a message of June 22 on the list UFO Updates).

[9]UFO UpDates. See the archives at http://www.virtuallystrange.net/ufo/updates/

A concurring opinion

Redfern's book is overly ambitious and flawed. He dismisses too much contrary evidence to advance a thesis supported by limited testimony. His conclusion that the UFO crashes at Roswell and elsewhere are no more than disinformation has no merit.

Redfern is ingenuously promoting disinformation fed to him by those actively seeking to sow confusion in the study of the UFO phenomenon and the ETH.

–Michael E. Salla, PhD
Chief Editor, *Exopolitics Journal*

Part Two

Animal reactions to UFO encounters

By Joan Woodward

Sightings with animal reactions tend to be more complex than lights in the sky that simply zip by.

Of 92 sightings with animal reactions, 63 of the reports had an estimated duration for the sighting. Of these, 11 percent were less than 1 minute, 54 percent were between 1 minute and 10 minutes, 30 percent were between 10 minutes and 1 hour, and 5 percent were more than an hour.

Joan Woodward

In 60 of the 92 animal reaction sightings (65 percent), the UFO is described as maneuvering in some way. Most common were hovering part of the time (27 times), landing or near landing and departure (17 times), slow moving, meandering, or repeated passes (11 times), and rocking behavior or falling leaf movements (5 times).

In addition, UFOs not reported to maneuver but described as flying by slowly and/or at low altitude were reported 11 times. UFOs that flew by with no further description were reported 13 times. The remainder lacked any details about the movements of the UFO.

This is not meant as an analysis of maneuvers, but only to demonstrate that complexity was a part of the majority of the UFO events where animals were reported to react.

General Observation 4.–Relationship to reported sound: Sounds from UFOs are often reported when animals react, and rarely reported when they do not. Because many animals hear both lower and higher frequencies than humans do, and because their hearing is often more acute than human hearing, sound is harder to judge than some other features of UFO sightings.

Nonetheless, when witnesses reported animals reacting to the UFO's presence, they also reported sound from the UFO 49 percent of the time. When witnesses reported animals did not react to the UFO, they reported sound only 8 percent of the time.

Of the 92 sightings with animal reactions, witnesses reported sound 45 times. Of these 45 sightings, the animal reaction most commonly reported was fear (27 times) or alert-alarm behavior (11 times).

Interestingly, in the 12 reactions when all animals present seemed unaware of the UFO, sound was reported only one time. Later, when looking at how particular types of animals react during UFO events, sound appears potentially important in the reactions of dogs, cats, and ungulates, and will be examined in more detail with each of these groups.

General Observation 5.–Relationship to secondary UFO features: As data concerning the UFO itself was collected for this study, certain aspects of the UFO intuitively seemed to have potential in terms of having effects on animals. These are referred to as secondary features of the UFO.

In order from most often to least often reported, these are: sound (discussed above); light beams and/or terrestrial lighting; physiological effects during the sighting; EM effects; wind generation; vapor/mist production; and odor.

UFO sound aside, the other secondary features of UFOs did not have an apparent relationship to animal reactions, but their collective, near-total absence is noted in sightings where animals did not react.

Light beams and terrestrial lighting are fairly commonly reported, but their impact on animals appears associated with nighttime ungulate reactions.

All of these will be discussed later as specific animal group reactions are addressed. Otherwise, a variety of these secondary features are scattered among sightings in low numbers, but no individual feature appeared to correlate with particular animal reactions.

However, in sightings where animals did not react or did not react fearfully, all of these secondary features were lacking.

Secondary features, including sound, distance of the UFO, and altitude of the UFO may have a circuitous relationship in terms of animal reactions. Distance may be the determining factor that results in secondary features being noted and reported by witnesses, and in the reaction or non-reaction of the animals that are present.

The secondary features may not be

Editor's Note

This article, Part Two in a series, is abridged from Ms. Woodward's full presentation, including charts, case descriptions, and other material, which is included in the MUFON booklet *Animal Reactions to UFOs*. The full report is also included in the *2005 MUFON Symposium Proceedings*. (See UFO Marketplace, page 23.)

About the Author

Ms. Woodward worked with the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP) in the 1960's, assisting with the original *UFO Evidence* (1964). She returned to ufology in 1996 as a field investigator for MUFON and the Fund for UFO Research after retiring from the U.S. Geological Survey as a research technician.

She assisted Richard Hall in developing an index of James E. McDonald's correspondence in the Donald E. Keyhoe Archives, and worked on data compilation for Hall's *Alien Invasion or Human Fantasy?*

Ms. Woodward later took over the animal reactions section of Francis Ridge's special evidence section of the NICAP web site. She also has extensive experience with both domestic and wild animals.

heard or seen by a witness when the object is at greater distances. However, in closer encounters, the secondary features may be more obvious to witnesses, and at least some of them noted by animals.

For the 92 sightings with animal reactions, a very rough calculation of altitudes and distances based on whether or not secondary features were reported suggest this may be true.

Where a range is given for distance or altitude in a sighting, an average is used for the calculations below.

• Where animals reacted, and one or more secondary features were reported, the average UFO altitude was 238 feet, based on 57 sightings with altitude estimates. The average UFO distance was 319 feet, based on 55 sightings with distance estimates.

• Where animals reacted, but no secondary features were reported, the average UFO altitude was 354 feet, based on 20 sightings with altitude estimates. The average UFO distance was 838 feet, based on 15 sightings with distance estimates.

(A questionable animal reaction sighting with an estimated 12-mile distance to the UFO (AR104) was not used in this calculation.)

Carrying the distance hypothesis on to the 12 sightings with no animal reaction, and which also have no secondary features reported, the average altitudes and distances become greater.

Where there were no animal reactions and no secondary features (except one sighting with a sound reported), the average UFO altitude was 886 feet, based on 10 sightings with altitude estimates.

The average UFO distance was 1,620 feet, based on 5 sightings with distance estimates.

The closer encounters are more likely to have witnesses report secondary features of the UFO and animal reactions.

Slightly greater distances and altitudes may be associated with no secondary features noted by witnesses, but animals may still react, quite possibly because of their excellent hearing or other sense.

UFO events at greater distances and attitudes have neither secondary features nor animal reactions reported. Much more data is needed for further evaluation, particularly in sightings where animals do not react.

One of ufology's classic cases, that of Betty and Barney Hill, involved the actions of their dachund, Delsey, during their encounter with a UFO in 1961.

Generalization Observation 6.– Relationship to UFO Shape: The reported shapes of UFOs are variable, and generally do not seem to relate to particular animal reactions.

This report contains 107 descriptions of UFO shapes. These were compared to a much larger Worldwide UFO Database (WUFOD) compilation table of 1,694 reported shapes as of Jan. 30, 2004 (online at www.indianamufon.com).

Shape categories were combined for simplicity because shapes are so dependent on angle of vision. As one would expect, UFO shapes in the animal reaction reports were a subset of UFO shapes reported in general.

With the rather small sample size in this report, no relationship was found between UFO shapes and specific animals or animal reactions.

One possible exception involves sightings with ungulates. Of the 21 sightings where hoofed mammals are present and reported to be uneasy to fearful, 24 percent involve suggested or clearly described hemisphere shapes. The remainder of the sightings involve 9 or 10 other shapes represented by only 1 or 2 sightings each.

Another possible exception involves angular UFOs and their association with relatively mild, less fearful animal reactions. Although sizes and exact shapes vary, six sightings describe boxy, rectangular, or square objects.

In 4 of 5 sightings with dogs present, the dogs were described as not reactive, calm, or interested (AR19, 61, 85, 95). The most intensive reaction was a dog that barked (AR20). In the final sighting a cow was reported frightened by the boxy object (AR10)

Data sets for different types of animals

Because the senses and behavior between animals differ, and because information about the UFO event is relayed through human senses, a comparison of the perceptual worlds of various animals and humans is worth noting.

Visual acuity is a measure of the ability to see details. Only birds have better vision than humans. The acuity of the others animals is not as good as humans, but they are all extremely sensitive to motion.

All of the animals have a much better sense of smell and of hearing than humans do, with the exception of birds, who have little sense of smell, and whose hearing is more restricted than that of humans.

The temperament of dogs varies widely. One behavior problem with

many dogs is sound sensitivity. This means the dog has a very fearful reaction to a non-threatening, commonly encountered sound.

Examples would be fear of thunder, fear of a flag snapping in the wind, fear of electrical transformers on poles, or fear of the noise of a garage door. This behavior may become worse with age.

Six sightings report reactions of chickens (4 times), ducks (2 times), geese (2 times), and pheasants (1 time).

Five of the six describe birds that are disturbed, and the remaining incident (AR95) describes calm birds.

All sightings with disturbed birds took place at night, and witnesses reported bird reactions by hearing them, rather than by seeing them.

When birds were disturbed, the UFO altitudes ranged from 80 to 2,000 feet. In the sighting with calm animals, the altitude was 100 feet. Among the birds that were disturbed, the consistent overhead position of the UFO at some point during the sighting is interesting.

Only one sighting (AR47) clearly states that the animals reacted as the UFO passed overhead. In the remainder the overhead position is relative to the witness, and only a rough approximation for the animals.

Unfortunately, none of the sighting reports give details as to the exact locations of the birds (in a chicken coop, barn, or outdoors) or whether or not the sky was visible to them.

If they could see the sky, their reaction may have been a typical visual response to an aerial predator.

Another interesting possibility is that birds may have felt the UFO's presence through a series of "touch" receptors scattered through their bodies.

"Herbst" corpuscles are highly developed in birds, and are sensitive not only to touch, but also to pressure changes and low frequency vibrations.

Finches, experimentally deafened, were trained to detect vibrations from 100 to 3200 Hz through Herbst corpuscles along the backs of their upper legs (Welty, 1962).

If the birds were responding to vibrations or pressures that they felt, this might explain the importance of the overhead position of the UFO. If they were responding to sound or vision, the overhead position may be of much less importance.

Ackerman (1989) suggests a side effect of UFO propulsion may be a magnetic field around the UFO, which is interesting in that there is speculation that birds use geomagnetic clues in migration.

Exactly how the magnetic field is detected and used by birds and other animals is a subject of much speculation.

The two leading possibilities are (1) tiny crystals of magnetic particles (magnetite) have been found in the olfactory tract in the brains of some birds that act as a compass and/or (2) a chemical reaction that involves certain eye pigments that become weakly magnetic when they absorb light (Levy, 1999).

This is a complicated explanation for birds reacting to nearby UFOs, but a thought to be tucked away for future reference.

In the 1976 case in Kentucky involving the abduction of three women from an auto, one of the women, Mrs. Smith, discovered that her four-year-old parakeet would have nothing to do with her following the abduction.

Questions to be answered about barnyard birds

More information is needed to verify or refute the overhead position of the UFO relative to bird reactions.

If verified as a consistent factor, then an interesting next step would be to evaluate sound versus feeling versus vision as a factor in the birds' reactions.

Quite possibly the birds will respond to more than one thing, such as anti-hawk reactions when outdoors in the daytime, and to sound or vibrations when confined at night.

If the UFO is reported to be silent or high-pitched by the witness, birds will not hear it, as their hearing is more restricted than that of humans. All of the sightings in this report occurred at night. Does the excellent vision of birds become a factor in daytime and/or outdoor sightings?

Are geese present? Barnyard geese are great "watchdogs," and their alarms could cause other birds to react.

Sightings with non-reactive barnyard birds present would be of great interest.

Reactions by cats

The presence of cats was reported in nine sightings. Eight sightings occurred at night, and one in predawn light. The cats' reactions fall into the following categories: fearful behavior (5 sightings), interested/approach (1 sighting) and no reaction (3 sightings).

Altitudes in the nine sightings ranged from 150 feet to 1,600 feet, with no real differences between the behavior groups. The distances, sound, and secondary effects did differ.

In the sightings where cats were fearful, the UFOs tended to be closer, to make noise, and to demonstrate other secondary effects. This contrasts strongly with non-fearful cats, where the objects are generally farther away and no secondary effects were reported.

The weakest fearful cat reaction is described in AR60. The cat was described as "fearful," but further described only as "fussing to get into the house" as the witness watched a UFO at least 500 feet away. Possibly the cat's

behavior was coincidental to the UFO event.

The overhead position of the UFO (3 of 5 sightings) is interesting in that cats' whiskers are embedded in highly packed, sensitive nerve endings.

Through their whiskers, cats are thought to detect small changes in pressure, air movement, and temperature. Possibly cats not only heard the UFO, but also, like barnyard birds, may have felt its presence.

Cats can hear high frequencies better than either humans or dogs, so it is always possible that cats hear sounds to which humans are oblivious. Humans can hear low-pitched sounds that cats do not hear, but possibly cats can feel them.

The sightings with fearful cats tend to have sound associated with them, and unfamiliar, harsh, and/or loud sounds are the leading inanimate cause of startle or fear responses in cats. At least two of the sounds reported above fit into harsh or loud category, and none are described as high pitched.

A theoretical thought about cats and sounds: we know harsh and loud sounds frighten cats. Low or moderate humming sounds may also be threatening if one thinks about the similarity of that sound to the growl of a dog, for instance.

On the other hand, cats can, as already noted, hear very high-pitched sounds, and can pounce on a mouse by hearing its ultrasonic squeak. Thus, within some loudness parameters, high-pitched sounds (i.e., prey sounds) may not be disturbing to cats, or may be interesting to them, and deep, low pitched sounds may be perceived as threatening.

Questions to be answered by investigators about cats

Does the overhead position of the UFO occur frequently in sightings where cats react fearfully? Does the witness detect any vibration, pressure change, or air movement during these sightings?

Is the sound low, moderate, or high-pitched? Is it harsh and loud or soft? Is it steady or cyclic? To what might the sound be compared? Do cats react fearfully when UFOs are silent or high-pitched?

Ungulates

The most common reaction noted for ungulates in UFO events was fear.

Of the 22 sightings in which cattle (14 times), horses (10 times), goats (2 times), and sheep (1 time) were present, sometimes in combinations thereof, fearful reactions were reported in 20 sightings, nervous reactions once, and calm reactions once (AR95).

No sightings were found that mentioned ungulates that did not react, so a comparison cannot be made between sightings with and without reactions.

Because cows, horses, and sheep are frequently out in fields or in barns at some distance from witnesses, their reactions are probably not noticed unless they are eye or ear catching.

Seven sightings took place in daylight or twilight, 14 took place at night, and one took place after sundown with lighting conditions unknown.

Distances and altitudes

Where estimated, the UFO altitudes ranged from landed or near landed (6 times) to a maximum estimate of 450 feet (1 time). The most common altitudes reported were between 25 and 200 feet (8 times).

The distances ranged from overhead (4 times) to 3-5 miles away (1 time), although I am suspicious that the horse in AR02 was reacting to the distant light. Next farthest was about 1 mile, and appropriately, the cattle were not reported fearful, only nervous.

The most common distances were evenly distributed from overhead (4 times) and from roughly overhead to 200 feet away (4 times), with farther estimates being 300 feet away (2 times), 600 feet (1 time) and a quarter mile (1 time).

Referring again to the study of wild animal anti-predator reactions to human vehicles (Frid and Dill, 2002), cattle will react fearfully to an unfamiliar piece of equipment or unfamiliar vehicle, so possibly the existence of the UFO vehicle itself would be disturbing to them.

Wild cattle have a flight zone, the point where they break and run, of about 300 feet (online at www.BueLingo.com), comparing favorably with UFO distances of 200 feet or less to 300-500 feet.

Secondary UFO effects

Putting aside AR02 and 28, with their 1-mile or greater distances to the UFO, 19 sightings describe fearful ungulates, and all of these had some secondary feature described.

AR87 is an atypical sighting with an atypical secondary effect: a 30-foot, brilliant blue ring was observed over a field containing cattle that were racing away from it as power lines were swinging in a 6 foot arc.

The remaining 18 sightings all have one to 4 secondary features. Many of these secondary features could theoretically affect animals, but occur so erratically that they do not seem to be of overall importance.

Possibly wind or air generation from the UFO, mist or vapor escaping the UFO, and odor could all be connected in terms of transporting a scent from the UFO that animals can detect.

Witnesses rarely report an odor, but the animals' sense of smell is far superior to ours.

Possibly microwave or electromagnetic waves cause the feelings of heat, electricity, and immobilization reported by witnesses as well as EM effects on machinery–all of which could potentially affect animals.

These secondary features may be factors in a given sighting, but they do not appear regularly in sightings where ungulates react fearfully, while other secondary features do regularly occur.

Sound and terrestrial lighting

The more consistent secondary factors in these sightings are sound from the UFO and terrestrial lighting. Both of these are considered fear triggers.

In the 18 sightings above, all have either sound or terrestrial lighting reported, and four sightings report both. Sound is reported by the witnesses 14 times, and its presence is unknown in AR45, where a mower with the engine running during the sighting prevented the witness from knowing if the objects made sound.

Terrestrial lighting is reported in 6 of 12 nighttime sightings and is suggested in AR37, where the UFO is described as the size of two rooms and "bluish-white ... like the glow around a welder's arc."

Unfamiliar sounds, particularly loud

and/or high pitched, stress and scare cattle and horses, supporting the importance of sound in ungulate reactions.

Even when sound is not reported by witnesses, ungulates may be hearing ultrasonic sounds, although they cannot hear as high frequency sounds as cats and dogs.

In AR44, the witness reported that a flat-bottomed oval object about 200 feet in altitude remained directly overhead as he ran to his house. Only when the object was directly overhead could he hear an eerie high-pitched sound, but his dog and cattle were reacting when the object was at distance from them.

Lights and shadows are disturbing to ungulates. One way to stop cattle dead in their tracks and possibly send them stampeding in the opposite direction is to throw an unexpected light (or shadow) across their path.

Safety suggestions for handling or moving these animals at night or in dim light involve solid board fences (so lights will not shine between the boards), frosted/dim bulbs that cast no shadows, and avoidance of any bright, glaring light (Grandin, 1989, updated 2002; online BueLingo.com.).

Put into a UFO scenario, imagine a field swept by lights and shadows as lights on a low flying UFO sweep through the area.

AR 11 is an excellent example because this object was moving slowly, did not land, and had no sound reported, but the cattle stampeded as its brilliant red light lit up their field. A bonus in this report is the observation that the 50 cows calmed down once the UFO departed.

When prey animals such as ungulates are confined in barns, they are in a vulnerable position because they are trapped. If something frightens them, their instinct is to run, but if they are tied or penned in a barn, they cannot.

So unfamiliar sounds and/or lights and shadows that sweep through the cracks and windows of a barn could be extremely disturbing. Witnesses will hear vocalizations and hoofs hitting wood as the animals startle and try to escape.

Of four sightings with animals in barns, three had UFO sounds reported, and one, possibly two, had terrestrial lighting. Animals in barns could be reasonably expected to react to either unfamiliar sound or unfamiliar lights flashing through the barn, or to both.

UFO Shapes

As mentioned in the generalized section on UFO shapes and animal reactions, dome-shaped or hemispheric UFOs are presented in greater numbers than other shapes among the sightings with ungulates, being reported in 5 sightings (AR03, 40, 44, 45, and 52).

For comparison, the next most often reported shapes are domed discs (3 times). Football-shaped, Saturn-shaped, round, angular, and light only (no shape) are all reported 2 times each.

Comparing the domes reported in the five sightings, four have a solid, clearly seen structure, and one (AR40, Delphos) was reported to be so brightly glowing that the surface could not be seen.

Only AR45 was a daylight sighting that involved five hemispheric objects near the ground, and it is also the only sighting where sound was not reported. The witness had a mowing engine running, so did not know if the five hovering domes made any noise.

Of the other four sightings, humming was reported one time (AR03) and rumbling, high-pitched sounds were reported for the remaining three.

Size estimates fell into two categories: 25 feet in diameter or length (AR03 and 52) and 8-12 feet. In all cases the objects were reported to linger, hover, or land.

Years of the sightings were 1953, 1971, 1974 (February and then September), and 1980. Whether the dome shape has any significance to sightings with ungulate reactions remains to be seen, and is pointed out with hopes of gathering more information.

Questions for investigators to answer about ungulate reactions

The reactions of these animals may be in response to all aspects of the UFO sighting, to some of them, or to only one part. Without sightings involving animals that do not react, it is much harder to theorize about which part of the UFO experience is disturbing.

To help with this process of eliciting information on non-reactive animals, the witnesses might be asked:

1. Were any animals present during the sighting? Were they indoors or outdoors?
2. Could the witness see the animals?
3. Did the animals remain unaware of the object or did they react to it?
4. How did they react? What exactly did they do?
5. Where was the UFO relative to your location and the location of the animals?
6. Are the animals accustomed to low-flying aircraft?
7. If the animals reacted, when did they calm down?

And, another helpful piece of information would be about the quality and harshness of the sound of the UFO, if any. Was the sound soft, medium, loud, or harsh; was it low-pitched, medium pitched, high-pitched? Can the witnesses think of anything they have heard to which they could compare the sound?

If terrestrial lighting or light beams are reported, helpful information would be what terrestrial areas were lit? Was it the field with horses/cattle present, the adjoining field, outside of the barn, or some more distant area?

(Continued next month)

Space ships may be made of plastic

NASA scientists have invented a groundbreaking, polyethylene-based material called RXF1 that's even stronger and lighter than aluminum. This new material is a first in the sense that it combines superior structural properties with superior radiation shielding.

The safest way to go to Mars may be aboard a plastic spaceship. Protecting astronauts from deep-space radiation is a major unsolved problem because a round-trip could last as long as 30 months and be outside Earth's magnetic field. Some scientists believe going to Mars now with an aluminum spaceship is undoable.

Plastic is an appealing alternative, since polyethylene is 50% better at shielding solar flares and 15% better for cosmic rays. Plastic-like materials produce far less secondary radiation than heavier materials like aluminum or lead.

Alien videotaped in Mexico? Second video reported

A night watchmen at a power station in Altamira, a town in Mexico's state of Tamaulipas, claims that the image of an alien was captured by his plant's security cameras.

According to the Mexican newspaper *Hoy Extramex*, "widespread panic has been unleashed in Altamira after a strange creature was videotaped in the section containing the energy-producing turbines of that city's thermoelectric plant, spreading once more the theory that there is an extraterrestrial base in the area."

Elsewhere in Mexico, a UFO reportedly flew over the eastern part of Ramos Arizpe in Coahuila state, and was reportedly recorded between 3:07 and 3:34 AM on Oct. 3 by the urban cameras of the Municipal Public Security's O-60 security system.

The 27-minute-long video shows a UFO described as "a round object with a grey-colored ring and a black circle in the middle, rotating.

It was recorded at different times as it approached and withdrew. Mayra Gallegos Muniz, a radio operator of the O-60 system, who was on duty at the time, said the object "appeared very large, four or five times the size of a star."

The video is being made available to researchers.

–Muchas gracias a Scott Corrales y Dr. Ana Luisa Cid Fernandez y Jesus Jimenez pos esos articulos de diario.

–Thanks to UFO ROUNDUP, Vol. 10, No. 40, Editor: Joseph Trainor.

Notice

The December issue of the *Journal* will be prepared and printed earlier than usual. Hopefully this will result in faster delivery during the usual heavy holiday mailing period.

The January issue will be printed at the usual time, with delivery for most U.S. subscribers occurring around the middle of the month.

The UFO PRESS

Raw material of ufology

Grass Roots UFOs—Case Reports from the Timmerman Files by Dr. Michael D. Swords, 2005, Fund for UFO Research, Inc., Center for UFO Studies, P.O. Box 1621, Lima, OH 45802, 5 ½ x 8 ½ soft cover, 251 pages, $22 (including postage).

Reviewed by Dwight Connelly

***Journal* editor**

This is an important book, not because it thoroughly documents specific, fully-investigated cases, but because it indicates the great number of ordinary people who have had UFO experiences.

Like Dick Hall's *UFO Sightings in the New Millennium* (reviewed last month), the cases reported in this book have not been investigated.

As John Timmerman, who compiled the cases, notes, "Our main purpose in creating this book has been to capture some firsthand testimony for the ages, if not the hard evidence that Carl Sagan once told me was needed for useful scientific analysis."

He adds, "I call it 'the raw material of ufology.' They have for me the lingering taste of truth."

Swords notes that each case represents "a dynamic and natural conversation, not an Investigator's Manual checklist, and so some stuff gets left out...The reports–in vast majority–seem particularly honest."

The way in which Timmerman collected this material is a story in itself. It goes back to 1980 when the Center for UFO Studies (CUFOS) assembled a UFO exhibit for a mall in Dallas, TX.

An estimated 50,000 people viewed the Dallas exhibit, and this encouraged CUFOS to expand it–eventually creating two identical exhibits.These were then displayed in 92 malls, schools, universities, banks, and other facilities over the next twelve years in locations ranging from Nova Scotia to Guam to Puerto Rico.

At the first exhibit, in Dallas, viewers freely talked about their sightings. Notes were taken, and these began to pile up.

From Dallas the exhibit went to Grand Island, NE, and a tape recorder was set up to document the interviews. By the time the exhibit had its final engagement in Sterling, IL, in 1992, the taped interviews totaled 1,179.

One of the traveling exhibits was sold to the International UFO Museum in Roswell, and the other exhibit went to the town of St. Paul, Alberta, in west Canada as a permanent display to attract visitors.

Those involved with the project knew the reports should be transcribed, and Timmerman was able to find an individual to do this–a difficult job, since not all the speakers had clear voices.

It was also difficult to make sure the names of witnesses were spelled correctly–which was not a problem for this book, since names are not used. However, some place names may be misspelled.

The 22 three-ring notebooks containing the transcripts were taken to Lima, OH, and Swords, a retired natural sciences and environmental studies faculty member at Western Michigan University, began the task of coding the cases and extracting what he felt was the most important information. This process took more than a year.

Swords grouped cases into 40 sections devoted to different categories of UFO experiences. He comments, "Sometimes that may be puzzling. Well, don't worry about it. Just enjoy the stories."

And finally, he added drawings of the cases. "Almost no one gave John a drawing of their experience's UFO," says Swords. "Almost all of the simple

line drawings in this document are made up out of my reading of the case....As with the honesty and tone of the story condensations, I tried to give as unembellished a line drawing as the words in the case allowed."

Within the 1,179 cases there were 781 shaped objects, 291 with lights or "unseeable structures," 35 "classic" UFOs, and 72 cases with no UFO reported.

Of the 781 shaped objects, 651 were discs and "objects with radical symmetry," 85 had "odd" shapes, and 45 were triangles or boomerangs.

CE II reports include 14 involving vehicle interference, 14 with physiological effects, 16 leaving traces with UFO present, and 18 leaving traces without a reported UFO.

CE III cases feature 36 involving entities with a UFO, and 35 with entities but without a UFO reported.

Interestingly, these cases reported to Timmerman over a span of 12 years pretty well match what are generally considered heavy (flap) and light years of UFO reports, as both Timmerman and Swords point out.

The famous Edwin Fuhr sighting at Langenberg, Saskatchewan, on Sept. 1, 1974, is treated at length in a reprinting of a 1991 interview involving Fuhr, Timmerman, and Canadian researcher Chris Rutkowski.

Section 44 of the book includes a helpful alphabetic listing of sightings by cities, towns, and locations, and Section 45 lists by date and location where and when the exhibits were displayed.

GrassRoots UFOs is unique, well done, and timeless. It is great reading, and would make an excellent addition to anyone's UFO library.

The weird and interesting

Unnatural Phenomena, A Guide to the Bizarre Wonders of North America by Jerome Clark, 2005, ABC Clio, 7 x 10 hardcover, 369 pages, available from Sheridan Books, Inc., 100 N. Staebler Rd, Ann Arbor, MI 48103, $85.00.

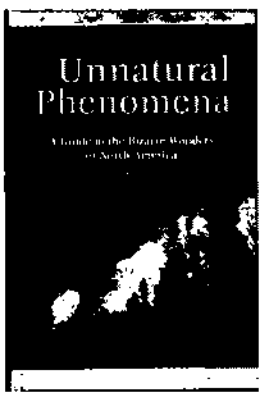
Reviewed By Dwight Connelly

Journal editor

This book by respected ufologist Jerry Clark is the result of the author's longtime interest in anomalies, and his decision to go back to 19th and early 20th century sources to locate material similar to what Charles Fort was famous for documenting.

Much of this research was done on the internet, a process which took "a solid year of long days, usually seven of them a week," according to Clark.

The result is an interesting collection of "Fort-like" anomalies that are "not in Fort's books, and 90 percent or more have never been between book covers before," says Clark, who is perhaps best known for his excellent *UFO Encyclopedia.*



Those familiar with Fort will know what to expect–ghost lights, serpents, airships, objects falling from the sky, spiritual manifestations, and much, much more. For the most part, the reports are "exactly as written" by a newspaper reporter or editor.

Clark is well aware that some of these reports are probably the result of a reporter or editor needing to make up something to fill space or sell a newspaper.

He also points out that "anomalous occurrences may be experientially real, but it does not follow that all of them are 'real' on an event level." In other words, humans may not always see what they think they see.

The book is well organized, as one would expect from Clark. The reports are divided by states, and the table of contents lists all of the reports that will appear under each state.

In addition, there is an excellent index for those who want to look up various types of reports, be it by subject or geographical locale.

The 14-page Introduction is excellent, setting the stage for the reports, and providing insight and background that only someone like Clark could provide.

Those who enjoy Fort's books should like this surprisingly expensive (yes, $85.00 is not a misprint) book very much, as should all those individuals who enjoy actual reports of strange animals, strange lights, and strange occurrences.

MUFON Forum

Dear Mr. Connelly,

I would like to comment on the article by Dan Wright in the August, 2005, issue of the MUFON UFO Journal. I think it would interest anyone involved with meteors and meteorites.

Throughout my life I heard my mother speak of a meteorite that she once witnessed. Her description of the event was always pretty much the same, so I have no reason to doubt her account.

When she was around age ten she lived with her parents on a farm in rural Iredel County, NC.

As she played around in the yard, not far from the house, she was startled by something impacting the ground nearby. She ran over to it to see what it was.

She described it as a red-hot rock partially imbedded in the soil. It was too hot to touch, so she ran into the house and called her mother out to see the rock. After it had cooled, they retrieved the rock and put it to use as a door prop.

She described the appearance of the rock as having imprints about the size of the fingers, which I took to be ablation marks caused by interaction with the atmosphere.

What this suggests to me is that the atmosphere can slow down what is left of a falling meteorite from something like seven miles per second at the time it is captured by the Earth's gravity until it impacts the ground at only a fraction of such a speed.

I commented to my mother on more than one occasion that she was extremely lucky to have witnessed the falling of a meteorite at close range. She lived to be 93 years old.

Kind Regards,
Robert D. Null

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 cases have not been officially investigated.

California triangle

SAN DIEGO — On July 4, 2005, at 9 PM a bright triangle with orange lights was spotted above Mission Bay, so the witnesses parked on a hill to observe it.

"Very high over Mission Bay," says one of the witnesses, "I saw a very bright orange ball, and as it got closer it looked like a V. It had five bright orange lights on each arm of the V.

"It moved very fast to the left, stopped, then moved forward and to the right. There also appeared to be some type of dripping orange fire from it, like a flare, but this only happened twice.

"Then the lights went out one at a time on the arms, and it just looked like a star that faded out. I was sober as hell and still pretty freaked out about it.

"I am an educated middle age woman, and never saw anything like it. I just can't believe we were the only ones to see it. I'm watching the news for it. Most people were watching the fireworks." Thanks to Peter Davenport.

Japanese crew films at Area 51

Eugene Cuthbertson writes, "I go a long way back in UFOlogy to NICAP and APRO. I've had a few sightings, accompanied a Japanese NHK video team to Area 51, and had a very brief close encounter.

"The Japanese NHK film crew got some good stuff, and I have a copy of it on video, which I am going to convert to CD and into this Dell computer, as an MPEG.

"The Japanese were careless, and worried me a great deal. This has been a few years ago, before Freedom Ridge was closed. The Japanese monitored the security patrols, and you can hear the patrol radio back that his area is clear.

"When the patrol went back, the Japanese waited a short time, continued to monitor security, illegally I think, then followed him back in, but I don't know how close we actually were.

"On the video you can see a fairly large lighted craft emerge straight up. It either issued another craft or another craft which was red went up with it, screened off from us, and appeared.

George Filer

"Both maneuvered for several seconds or a minute, then went back down to the base. We were on the backside of Groom Mountain.

"On the VCR, if you pause the video and press the tracking buttons, the static confetti will be deleted and it is possible to make out both discs for what they are.

"This was part of a six-hour miniseries in Japan, and I have the final two hours of it. For years I didn't think much about the tape, assuming that most people in Ufology already knew about it."

New Mexico flashing object

ALBUQUERQUE — A brightly flashing object was seen in broad daylight at 12:50 PM on June 19, 2005. It rose suddenly, hovered, then dived and sped away after five minutes.

The witness reports, "I stopped and watched it; the flashing continued in an irregular, fluttery fashion, and it continued its southerly motion against the wind.

"After perhaps two minutes of observation, the object was due south of me. It suddenly rose very rapidly to a position probably 70 degrees above the horizon and stood motionless. It continued to flash, and I could see a black phase alternating between the bright ones.

"There was no discernable shape, and the size was just sufficient to give me the impression of angularity." Thanks to Peter Davenport, Director, www.ufocenter.com.

Oklahoma disc

LAKE HALL — Blake reports to Skywatch International, "Last night on July 1, 2005, I was fishing when a line of thunderstorms began to move into the area. My back was to the lake when suddenly there was this bright flash of lightning, but no thunder.

"There was still a bit of a glow left in the sky. I turned around, and there was this saucer-shaped thing hovering over the lake! It didn't make a sound. It seemed to be greenish yellow in color and had a small protrusion attached to the bottom.

"I was overcome with fear, and jumped into my truck and got the heck out of there! I've been in combat, but I've never felt fear like that before! Today, after I calmed down a bit, I called a friend who suggested I call Jim Hickman, who studies UFOs."

Thanks to Blake, Jim Hickman, and Skywatch International.

Six spheres spotted in Illinois

CAROL STREAM — Last week, I'm not exactly sure of the date, two friends saw an orange glow above the baseball park adjacent to the lake. One of the witnesses reports, "I thought at first there were fireworks, but there were six spheres flying in formation, three in front and three in rear.

"The front formation was a diagonal

line of three. The rear was a triangle pointing to the front formation. It would have seemed a large single craft if they weren't oscillating freely. They moved slightly in and out in perfect formation.

"This formation continued across the sky, which was a clear dusk sky. The individual objects were an amber, blue, gray all put together. The light was an iridescent glow. They appeared very high in the atmosphere, and were moving over the horizon very quickly, but soundless.

"They resembled a magnified human egg, round with an inner circumference and an outer. Only my friend and I saw it, that we know of. As the crafts continued across the dusk sky, we both observed them vanish one by one, front of the formation to the back. Please contact me at Guitardude823@aol.com." Thanks to Peter Davenport.

Idaho close encounter with disc

MERIDIAN — The male witness states, "I was approached by a strange flying light while driving home on July 8, 2005. I was driving home to Meridian with my aunt and her grandkids from Fruitland, OR, and we left close to midnight.

"I took the Franklin exit off of Interstate 84 by mistake. So I just headed north till I hit Cherry Lane Road, which is a back road to Meridian. There was no other traffic, and all we could see was a lot of open unused fields.

"From out of nowhere a strange light approached the side of the car at ground level and then flew right over us. It hardly made any sound. All I could see were four bright white lights that were round in shape.

"It felt like I was being watched for a split second. After it flew over the car it dove down into the field next to us and its lights went out. I saw that it didn't look anything like a plane. It looked more like a long wing or saucer shape.

"I saw one light come on after the bright ones went out. It was a small blinking blue light. After it had swooped down in the field, I saw it whip around and jump back up into the sky.

"I felt lucky this thing didn't crash into us, and I just kept driving. I looked back in my rear view mirror, and it was just hovering above the trees."

The female witness states, "We were going back to Meridian, ID, and were driving along west on Cherry Road. All of a sudden a strong light from out of nowhere beamed on us.

"It was a bright white light. The object flew right in front of us and passed us in to a field. A beaming strong light shined on us as the object flew by. The lights went out, and a blue flashing light came on. The object stopped and turned around and went back up in the sky."

New Hampshire cigar shape

EXETER — An Instructor Flight Engineer on the P3 Orion and EP-3 Reconnaissance aircraft with 10,000 hours of flight time called Peter Davenport to report "an enormous silver cigar-shaped object in the sky at about a 40 degree angle above the horizon about 3:15 PM on July 20, 2005."

He reports he was shocked to see the object hovering almost motionless, back-dropped by clear, blue sky in partly cloudy conditions with a west wind at 9 mph.

The witness states, "I am a retired Navy chief with 22 years of service. I also worked for Boeing in Everett, WA, as a quality assurance manager leading a team of 65 people in the Systems Installation Division on the Boeing 777 Production Line.

"I've flown over the entire globe, and never seen anything like this cylinder. This object was about twice the size of a modern day US Navy Nimitz Class aircraft carrier flying without sound.

"I thought it was between 2,500 and 3,500 feet in altitude, because the clouds were at 5,000 feet. There was also a row of large windows evenly spaced around the entire perimeter of the object a little bit higher than center.

"The object was moving from the west directly toward me, heading in an easterly direction and moving very slowly at less than 100 knots.

"There was this strange looking cloud of orange/red flames that started growing and billowing underneath the entire bottom of the object.

"The billowing fiery clouds reminded me of the way napalm rolls along on the vintage war film footage of Viet Nam I've seen on television, except that there was no smoke associated with it. It looked as if the air itself had been suddenly ignited in a large billowing cloud of flames.

"Just as I was about to turn and run into the house due to fear, the fiery cloud grew larger, and it seemed to be pushing back toward the western end of the object.

"Once it reached its peak (probably about half the diameter of the object), the object seemed to stretch out about twice its original size toward the eastern end, thus filling the entire sky in front of me, and then in the wink of an eye the western end of the object caught up with the eastern end and it simply disappeared right in front of me.

"This was absolutely one of the most amazing things I have ever seen in my life, and in my opinion this was not something man made–and it was far too big to be a blimp or an airplane. I believe it was not of this Earth."

Peter Davenport was impressed by the demeanor, eloquence, and apparent sincerity of the witness. Thanks to Peter Davenport.

Indiana object photographed

ROANN — The witness reports, "I saw a silver diamond shape craft on July 1, 2005, at 7:05 PM and thought it was an airplane. It was still, then it flipped to its side and vanished.

"I had my digital camera, and just started taking pictures of where it had been as I kept driving. I saw nothing except traces in the sky, like smoke or rocket trails.

"When I downloaded the pictures I found five or six photos of the UFO, with two pictures showing smoke circles and a zigzag pattern in the sky. It must have been traveling real fast, because the camera caught what I could not see.

"It was a ball of fire with a black object in the center. I am very pleased with these photos." Thanks to Peter Davenport

UFOs sighted in the UK

BRACKNELL NEWS — UFOs were sighted in the sky over Crown Wood on July 19, 2005, when Maurice

Jones looked through his binoculars that he uses to spot birds. But when he and some of his family saw not one, but two UFOs hovering above their house at 4 PM, they knew something strange was happening.

They got some neighbors to look as well. Maurice, 50, a Parcel Net courier, said his 12-year-old daughter Alaina spotted the strange object first.

Maurice reports, "The first object was huge, and the shape of a plane fuselage or a cigar tube. It was brown and rotating in the sky. When it caught the sun it had a metallic appearance. It came right over the top of us."

Another witness, Mr. Jones, said the object was in the sky for around 20 minutes before disappearing. But the group could not believe their eyes when they saw the second object a few minutes later–a flying saucer spinning fast. Both objects were in the Heathrow Airport flight path.

Missouri sphere

ST. LOUIS — A lit up sphere-shaped object was seen moving very slowly southeast over the city on June 17, 2005, at 7:08 PM.

The family was outside cooking when the husband pointed out a round silver metallic object that turned bright yellow, either lit up or reflecting the sunlight.

It traveled very slowly from northwest to southeast. It went behind a cloud, but witnesses could still see the yellow shining through. It then came out of the clouds and continued in the same direction that it had been moving, still very slowly.

Ten minutes later the object was still slowly moving to the southeast. Thanks to Peter Davenport.

New York rectangle

ASTORIA — At 5:35 PM on June 1, 2005, the witness saw a rectangular-shaped grayish black object making a lazy circle over Queens at about 1,000 feet.

The object was thin when viewed head-on. It appeared to be at least 500 feet, but less than 1,000 feet, long, and 100-200 feet wide. The object flew over Astoria Boulevard, then made a wide circle and flew over the East River to the island of Manhattan, turning to fly south down its spine on Manhattan's west side.

The duration of the sighting was five minutes. It was similar to a banner being towed. "However," says the witness, "at no time did I see an airplane towing it, and there was no writing or advertisement on the grayish black object." Thanks to Peter Davenport.

Wisconsin objects

GALESVILLE — The observer reports seeing dark circular objects at 9 PM on June 20, 2005. They would disappear and then reappear in a different location.

"One object," says the witness, "seemed to have the shape of a dome on top. I saw one, then two and three, but there were usually two.

"The odd thing is that as I was taking pictures of these dark objects, I began to notice the clouds changing away toward the right of them. I took three pictures of the changing formation.

"I was using a digital camera, and when I took the picture of the large configuration, my camera went totally black except for the normal information readout. I have never had this happen before.

"I tried repeatedly to take a picture, and it just wouldn't work. Even the viewfinder was black. I had to turn it off and on again. By that time the large configuration was gone." Thanks to Peter Davenport.

Florida bright orange light

WEEKI-WACHEE — Seven witnesses were on a fishing trip in the Gulf of Mexico on July 3, 2005, when they saw a bright orange light just above the water at 2:48 AM.

The witness says the object "tilted, stayed there for about a minute, and then slowly went horizontal. It looked like it was spinning, and was almost alive with color.

"It was on the starboard side when seven of us saw the object as it appeared in an instant in the dark night sky. The light was a very bright beautiful orange that was not an oil rig, space shuttle, aircraft, or vessel, since we know what they look like out there at night.

"I reached for my camera, but the battery was dead, even though it was brand new. They had been in the camera for a couple of hours, and the camera worked fine until we saw the light.

"Even the lights on the boat dimmed before the object blinked out. I'm still beside myself about this sighting, and have felt different. I just want to know what this was." Thanks to MUFON Case Management System.

New York orange disc

BROOKLYN — On July 11, 2005, the witness was walking home at 7:03 PM looking at the sky. He states, "I watched a jet climbing at about 7,000 to 10,000 feet altitude heading west out of JFK airport, making a slow, wide turn, and at the same time I noticed an orange/red balloon-shaped object flying east at about 5,000 feet in front of and below the jet.

"As the jet flew over the object, the object made a slow tight circle underneath and towards the jet as if it were watching the jet make the turn southeast.

"I saw clearly this object was disc-shaped as it waited twelve seconds and started moving smoothly straight up to 15,000 feet and through the top of a very large cloud bank and out of sight. It was about 1/20 the size of the 727." Thanks to MUFON Case Management System, **http://www.mufon.com/**

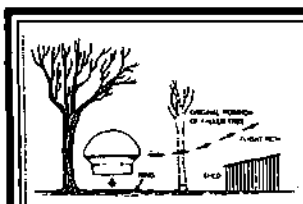
Oregon spheres in thunderstorm

PORTLAND — Thirty-plus spheres were observed flying in formation during a thunderstorm, due to large multiple lighting flashes at 9:46 PM on June 19, 2005.

The witness reports, "Multiple lighting flashes illuminated a large formation of bright white spheres traveling together in an oval pattern. They were visible for about 1 1/2 minutes, and were quite impressive.

"My apartment lights flickered briefly as we watched these large ships. This was not ball lightning. On the next large lightning flash in the same area of the sky, the sky was clear."

NUFORC Note: Peter Davenport spoke with this witness via telephone, and he seemed quite credible. Thanks to Peter Davenport.



Physical Traces

By Ted Phillips

The Tuscumbia, MO, case

Report # 196715

Location: Tuscumbia, Missouri

Date of Event: Feb. 14, 1967

General Location: Miller County, MO, south of Jefferson City.

Astronomical Conditions: N/A - daylight–sunrise 07:04

Meteorological Conditions: 22 degrees F, clear sky, very light winds from north.

Ted Phillips

Primary Witness: Claude Edwards, 64, farmer, no interest in flying saucers or publicity. He requested his name not be used, but he is now deceased. I learned of the case from a friend of his brother. After several weeks I managed to locate his very remote farm.

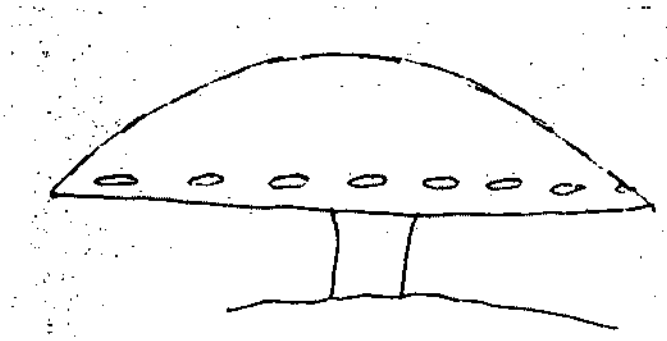
Case Details

I visited briefly with Claude at his modest home, gaining his confidence that I wouldn't reveal any information about the location or his name as long as he was alive. He didn't like talking about the event at first, but became more comfortable as we discussed the weather and world events.

I asked him to relive the event in real time, and we began on his front porch, which faces the large barn near the landing area.

On the morning of the event he left the house at 07:00, four minutes before sunrise. The area was already brightly illuminated, as it was a clear, crisp day.

As he walked down the long, rocky slope toward a large barn, he had covered 258 feet of the 310 feet between the house and barn when he noticed the cattle looking toward a field to the east. Through scattered trees to his left he saw a gray-green object "like a giant mushroom" in the field east of the barn. At this point he was 180 feet from the landed object. When he reached the barn, Claude placed the feed bucket he was carrying inside the barn and latched the door.



Tuscumbia object sketched by Claude Edwards.

As he turned to look again at the device, he could see several small figures moving rapidly under the object. Claude decided at this point that something very odd was in the field. He had a clear unobstructed view of the object resting on the ground 70 feet away.

Between him and the object were scattered cows and two fences. He climbed over the first gate, and as he reached the second fence the small figures started moving around behind a vertical central shaft under the object.

The small figures were gray-green in color, and less than 1 meter tall. They moved around directly beneath the device. As they moved, he could see arms or levers moving rapidly.

They had either wide-set large eyes or goggles. He noted a protuberance where the nose and mouth would have been. He could see no legs or movement on the lower part of their bodies.

He further described the figures as appearing "like a penguin, not human, with no visible neck."

Claude picked up two rocks, "pretty good size they were," and went over the second gate determined to "knock a hole in the thing and keep it on the ground."

In full sunlight, Claude reached a point 15 feet from the device and was stopped by an unseen force which seemed to extend around the object. He couldn't feel it or see it, "it was just a pressure."

He backed up about 10 feet and tossed a rock at the object, but the rock hit something at the 15-foot point and bounced back into the field. There was no sound of impact. Determined, he threw the second rock toward the area above the device. The rock skipped as if on water, with no sound, into the field beyond the object. Claude was a bit upset, but felt compelled to stand there 15 feet away watching it.

The surface was seamless, like gray-green silk. The object, "just looked like a big shell, grayish-green looking outfit," said Claude.

"And underneath there were oblong holes where the lights were coming out. They were so bright you couldn't see when you got up there."

Around the lower rim were evenly spaced oval openings. They were 12 inches long and about 12 inches apart. They were displaying brilliant colors from inside each opening. The colors changed rapidly as if a color wheel was turning inside the object.

The central shaft was the same color as the main portion of the object, tubular in shape, extending from the underneath section and positioned in the center of the circular base. The object had a diameter of 18 feet, and was 8 feet thick; the central shaft was 3 feet tall. There was no sound at any time.

The object suddenly and silently

rocked back toward him slightly three times, and on the third time lifted quickly off the ground. The central shaft was seen pulling up into the base until it was flush and invisible to the eye.

The object gained speed rapidly, leveled off, and flew towards St. Elizabeth to the NE, disappearing quickly into the distance.

"The whole thing took over five minutes," explained Claude, "maybe ten. I never seen anything like it."

When I arrived at the scene more than three months after the event, the site was still quite visible. There was a one-meter slightly irregular circle where the shaft had rested.

The soil was extremely dehydrated in contrast with the surrounding soil.

There was a depression 20 mm deep sloping to 30 mm at the central area. In the center there was an imprint, oval in configuration, 100 mm x 65 mm.

The imprint extended vertically downward to a depth of 100 mm with an extension 25 mm long,the depth of the imprint shaft.

Desktop fusion reactor developed

For more than half a century, physicists have been trying to harness fusion, the nuclear reaction that makes the sun shine and hydrogen bombs explode.

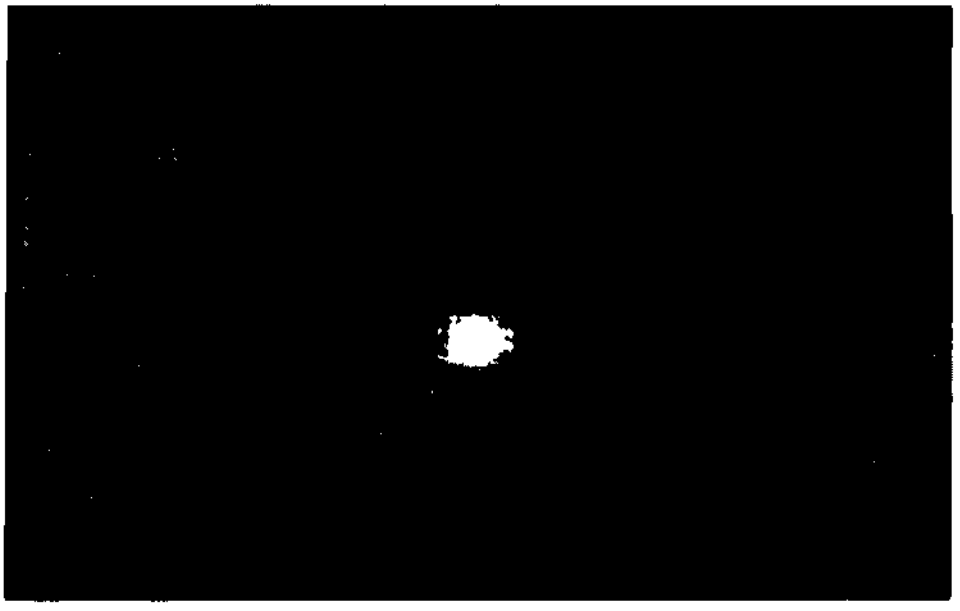
But experimental reactors built so far have been gigantic, expensive furnaces that produce less energy than they consume.

Now UCLA researchers have built a fusion reactor the size of a lunch bucket–and they say they can prove it works.

The reactor uses heat to create electricity in a crystal bathed in deuterium gas, an isotope of hydrogen. The resulting charge strips electrons from the deuterium atoms, repelling them and focusing them into a fast-moving stream so energetic that it triggers fusion when it collides with a target.

The device still produces less energy than it consumes. But the neutrons released by the reaction could be useful for irradiating tumors, scanning baggage or even powering a spacecraft.

–John Horgan, *Newsweek*.



One of the photos taken by Troy Wallis on March 5 from a Carnival cruise ship two to three miles off the coast of Baja, on their way to Puerto Vallarta, Mexico.

Man, wife observe UFO from Carnival cruise ship

Investigator: Charles C. Reever, N. California MUFON, Chief Investigator, State Section Director.

Referred by: Ruben Uriarte, N. California State Director.

Witnesses: Mr. and Mrs. Troy Wallis.

Date of sighting: May 5, 2005.

Time of sighting: 11 PM

Duration of sighting: 30-40 minutes.

Other: Photos taken by witness.

Narration

In May of this year, Troy Wallis, 33, and his wife were on a Mexican cruise, three days at sea. At about 11 PM they were on the stern of the ship looking at stars when an object which seemed far away was seen flickering.

Mr. Wallis had recently purchased a Minolta digital camera with 4 mega pixel resolution and a zoom lens, so he began taking photos of the object, the first photo without zooming.

He reports that the ship was steady, and he made an effort to brace himself as he took the photos. He zoomed the camera at high resolution and took several photos from the same location.

The object, which appeared to be in the shape of a circle, changed color, fluttered, turned sharply, changed shape, and hovered. It appeared to be solid, and one photo shows a definite disc shape with structure.

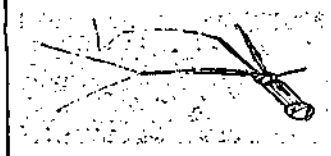
The disc appeared to be about 70 % illuminated, but it is not known if this was self illumination, from lights on the cruise ship, or partially enhanced by the camera's automatic exposure setting.

Some of the photos appear to show jagged flight lines, and a star can be seen in two of those photos as a disc of light and not fuzzy, indicating that the camera was not moved and was in focus.

Mr. Wallis does not think the jagged light maneuvers were made by the disc-shaped object.

He was not yet familiar enough with the camera to be able to tell the investigator the shutter speed at which he was shooting. Although he has Photoshop, he says the images were not enhanced in any way.

The witness, who is manager of a graphic design shop, was judged to be sincere and reliable. Although a hoax cannot be ruled out, as the witness has graphics experience, this is unlikely.



PERCEPTIONS

By Stanton T. Friedman

A visit to China

Over the years I have heard many bits and pieces about ufology in China, and had met with Paul Dong, who had written a book about UFOs in China years ago.

And I had also met with Moon Fong, a MUFON representative and UFO activist from Hong Kong, in California a few years back. Therefore, I was quite pleased when a Wisconsin MUFON member referred me to Yan Jin, who lived in the same Wisconsin town.

Yan's father is Fan Jin, who is president of the Dalian UFO Society, vice president of the International Chinese UFO Association, and executive chairman of the World UFO Convention.

I was informed that there would be an international UFO conference in Dalian, China, a large coastal city in Northeastern China, in September, 2005. I expressed interest, and we had a number of e-mails back and forth.

There were a lot of details to be pinned down, such as how my airline tickets and other expenses would be covered. I offered to speak for no fee, since the thought of a trip to China was very enticing.

I then heard from Ms. Moon Fong, who was planning to go to the Dalian Conference with a few of her colleagues, but would be interested in having me speak for her organization, The Hong Kong UFO Club, which often sponsors lectures by international visitors

She would handle travel arrangements. I had to provide a written formal paper for Dalian, and used my 2005 MUFON Symposium paper, "Government UFO Lies," which was later translated into Chinese, and is included in English in the *36th International UFO Proceedings* of the 2005 MUFON Symposium.

The dates for Dalian would be Sept.8-10. I would fly to Hong Kong on Sept. 4, and spend a few days doing interviews with Hong Kong media people. We would fly up to Dalian (3.5 hours) for part of the Conference, then back to Hong Kong where I would speak on "Flying Saucers ARE Real" the afternoon of Sunday, Sept. 11, at Hong Kong Polytechnic University.

They were charging about $80 HK admission, or about $10 US. I appreciated their willingness to possibly lose money.

Stan Friedman

There was a lot of discussion about the translation. Consecutive or simultaneous?. I have done both before, but consecutive has two major disadvantages.

One is that lecture time is effectively cut in half, and it is hard to concentrate when doing many short bits, waiting for translation, etc.

When speaking in Mexico, one simultaneous interpreter had stood next to me. I spoke English, she used the microphone, and was only a few seconds behind me in Spanish! That was a real treat.

No such luck in China. I think they were all surprised that I didn't read my lectures and couldn't just hand them a transcript. This I have never done. I speak "extemporaneously" (well rehearsed), using the slides as pointers along the way.

Frankly, I don't like to be read to, except perhaps by a poet reading his or her own poetry. Moon wanted my script and was shocked when I said there wasn't one.

I had some slides put on a CD which was also used for a small booklet they prepared. I then took a lot of time to sort of write out my "oral" slide illustrated lecture so she could work on translating.

Anyway, things went more or less as planned–at least in Hong Kong. I did seven interviews. All the interviewers were friendly, no automatic debunkers. Newspaper articles appeared.

The lecture was sold out almost a week in advance (300 seats + 20 last minute standing room only places). The questions made sense. Many were in English, as of course Hong Kong was run by Britain for many years.

I was on one side of the stage, and the panel of three translators was at the other side of the stage. They had translated in advance some of my lecture to make it faster and more accurate and easier. My slides went over well, with a very unusual slide machine featuring an assistant feeding one slide at a time.

One of the interpreters was Dr. Joseph Wong, a professor and laboratory manager at the City University of Hong Kong. I was able to visit his lab and spend some time with him. I was frankly very impressed. He and Moon were sort of co-hosts.

I did get to see a few multistory shopping malls and, thanks to Dr. Wong, a very crowded and very extensive sort of outdoor bazaar area at which vendors were selling almost anything you could imagine.That was quite a contrast to the malls.

Things were much more complicated in Dalian. The facility was not impressive; I suddenly found that I was limited to 20 minutes, that the interpreter would be at the back of the hall, and they had no slide projector, although I had requested one many months before.

This was the first time in my 38 years of lecturing that a projector could not be found. We delayed a day while a projector was sought in Dalian; no luck, although metropolitan Dalian has a population of almost 5 million.

We had prepared, as a backup, to show a portion of my two-volume DVD "Flying Saucers ARE Real" with one

Left to right, Prof. Sun Shi-Li, chairman of the International Chinese UFO Association; Ms. Moon Fong, founder/chairman of Hong Kong UFO Club; Stanton Friedman; and Prof. Leu Yin-Jong, author, founder of Taiwan UFO Research Association, and vice-chairman of the International Chinese UFO Association.

of our team from Hong Kong translating. The sound didn't work on the machine.

My microphone went out several times, so the translator couldn't hear me some of the time! We got through it. Interestingly, my paper, in Chinese translation, was given an award for excellence. There was an interesting paper by Bill Chalker of Australia.

The hotel wasn't as comfortable as the one at the City University of Hong Kong campus guest room in which I had stayed. I met lots of people from Japan, Taiwan, China, a woman from Israel, a Hungarian ufologist, etc. There were about 200 attendees.

I believe the next world conference will be in two years in Hong Kong. There were printed English versions of several of the papers.

Titles included "Research and Analysis on Chinese Twist and Fan-Like UFO," "On the Utility of Cosmic Energy and the Spaceflight Power," "Unified Cosmic Model and Crop Field Hypothesis," "The Exploration of Crop Circles," "UFO History and Present Topicality in Hungary," and "A Night Visit of the UFO to Hen Mountain."

This latter case involved a number of military witnesses to what sounded from the written summary like a very intriguing case. I did stress, in a short opening ceremony presentation, the need for all of us to think of ourselves as Earthlings rather than with nationalistic labels. I also noted that Canada is slightly larger than China, but has only one-fortieth as many people.

Digital cameras and cell phones were everywhere. Some people had obviously seen videos of me, from their comments, and wanted their pictures taken with me. Again the press was quite friendly.

Of course I heard far more English in Hong Kong, which had been under British rule for so long, than in Dalian. Our hosts gave us a very pleasant tour of Dalian.

I was certainly impressed by the fact that, judging from business cards, there were a great many professional people involved in ufology in Taiwan and China. In some of the papers, various skeptics were noted, including James Oberg.

The new Hong Kong Airport is one of the most impressive I have seen. It was not only very attractive to look at and walk through, and with great train service to town, but I was frankly much more comfortable there and at the Dalian Airport than I am these days in most North American airports.

Getting through security, customs, and immigration was a breeze. I used my Canadian passport. Shoes were not removed. Everybody was courteous; no searches. There were even free meals on the China Air flights.

Hong Kong was especially impressive, both as seen from a restaurant high up one of the mountains and from freeways. There was sometimes dusty air pollution coming in from the mainland.

Never have I seen so many 50 or more story buildings in such a relatively small area.

I didn't learn as much as I had hoped to about Chinese ufology, partly because of the language problems in Dalian.

There are conspiracy theorists in Asia as well as here. For example, many seemed to think that Dr. John Mack had been assassinated in Britain, rather than being a victim of a drunk driver.

I explained that when I was in England and in Hong Kong where people also drive on the left side of the road as opposed to the right side as in North America, I had to be very careful when walking not to look the wrong way when stepping off a curb.

After returning to Canada I learned that the drunk driver involved had been sentenced to 15 months in prison, despite a plea for clemency from John's family, which apparently was also convinced that it was a very unfortunate accident. In Mainland China they drive on the right side–very aggressively at that.

I was on nonstop flights from Newark, NJ, to/from Hong Kong. These went by polar routes, including flying over Siberia, which felt rather strange.

They lasted 15 hrs and 40 minutes, and were the longest flights I have ever taken. Fortunately the 777s were not full, so there was a little extra space.

Would I go back to Hong Kong? I certainly hope I have the opportunity. Interestingly the Chinese UFO Society expects to be distributing about ¼ million copies of its newsletter.

For those who worry about such things, I should mention that even though the Communist Party runs China, it was certainly one of the most capitalistic places I have ever visited. Construction was everywhere.

My wife and daughter, who were on a tour in China, at the same time coincidentally, but at different locations, thought the same thing.

fsphys@rogers.com

Director's Message

(Continued from page 2)

Directors (ASD), State Section Directors (SSD), and Field Investigators (FI) are granted another level of access to the database so they may enter and update cases. This level of access is password protected.

When a member is assigned to one of the aforementioned positions, **Kathy Schuessler** adds their information to the access database, thereby allowing access to the system.

MUFON 2006 International UFO Symposium

The 37th Annual MUFON International UFO Symposium will be held at the Marriott Denver Tech Center Hotel in Denver, CO, July 14-16, 2006. The theme of the event is "Unconventional Flying Objects: The Best Evidence."

Registration information will be posted in early 2006. Very special hotel room rates will be available at the Marriott. Mark your calendars now and plan to attend this exciting event.

Annual MUFON Fund Drive

All MUFON members will soon receive a notice of the annual MUFON fund drive. The last fund drive allowed us to proceed robustly with the Pandora Scanning Project. Thousands of pages of MUFON case files have now been saved in a digital format.

However, we still have many thousands more to go. We hope you will support the fund drive with a generous 501(c)(3) tax deductible donation before the year ends.

MUFON Amateur Radio Net

Robert Schultz, a Minnesota member of MUFON who has been serving as coordinator of the MUFON Amateur Radio Net for about ten years, has changed the time for the net from 7 AM to 8 AM on Saturdays. The net frequency is 7.237 MHz.

Position Announcements

Mark Ausmus, State Director for Georgia, has appointed **David Marchant, Sr.** to the position of State Section Director for Chatham, Liberty, Bryan, and Effingham counties.

Kenneth Cherry, State Director for Texas, has appointed **Scott Hill** to the position of State Section Director for the Houston area for the following seven counties: Harris, Waller, Fort Bend, Liberty, Walker, Montgomery, and Brazoria.

Linda Roesler of Milwaukee, WI, has accepted the position of Research Specialist in Social Work.

New Field Investigators

Kathleen Marden, Director of Field Investigator Training, has announced that **Conrad Engel** of Boston, GA; **Michael Kinsella** of Bowling Green, KY; **Lyn Moore** of Aurora, CO; **Dr. Emmett R. Reary** of Salem, MO; and **Ray Reed** of Tulsa, OK; 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, Assistant State Directors, State Section Directors and State Chief Investigators are good sources of help and training.

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

Special Event with the Famed Blues Brothers

The Blues Brothers, **Dan Aykroyd** and **Jim Belushi,** and the Sacred Hearts Band performed at the Gala 2005 fund raiser for the Children's Hospital in Denver, CO, on Sept. 17.

MUFON guests in attendance were **Lin Simpson, Troy Simpson, Judy Orsatti, Ken and Helen Storch, Barbra and John Maher, Armand Guerrero,** and **John and Kathy Schuessler.**

Armand presented a special one-of-a-kind bronze sculptured award to Dan for his service to MUFON and the UFO community.

New Media by MUFON Members

Majic Eyes Only is a new book by **Ryan S. Wood,** chair of the annual UFO Crash Retrieval Conference in Las Vegas. It is a landmark synthesis and review of every credible UFO crash retrieval event uncovered worldwide to date.

He presents 74 UFO crashes dating from 1897 to the present, supported by compelling evidence in the form of official documents, eyewitnesses, and in some cases physical evidence.

While every one of the cases may not prove to be of extraterrestrial origin, Ryan has provided a body of technological evidence that strongly suggests that vehicles not made on Earth have crashed here, and that some of them have been recovered.

This important book is available from: Wood & Wood Enterprises, 14004 Quail Ridge Drive, Broomfield, CO 80020, or see:

www.majiceyesonly.com.

MUFON Lifetime Memberships Still Available

MUFON Lifetime Memberships are still available for $1,000. Become a lifetime member and proudly wear the MUFON Benefactor's Jacket. We are indebted to our cadre of lifetime members for their outstanding level of support for MUFON.

CALENDAR

Nov. 4-6–Third annual UFO Crash Conference, Las Vegas, NV, featuring Jim Marrs, Linda Moulton Howe, Dr. Roger Leir, Richard Dolan, Philip Mantle, Dr. Tom Valone, Peter Robbins, Chuch Zukowski, Debbie Ziegelmeyer, Reme Baca, Ken Storch, Nick Redfern, Dr. William Hamilton, Dr. Robert Wood, and Ryan Wood. www.ufoconference.com, rswood@majesticdocuments.com, 720-887-8171.

Nov. 5-6–FortFest, Baltimore, MD, 304-876-0932, www.forteans.com.

July 14-16, 2006–The 37th Annual MUFON International UFO Symposium, Marriott Denver Tech Center Hotel, Denver, CO. The theme is "Unconventional Flying Objects: The Best Evidence."

Available from MUFON

MUFON 2005 INTERNATIONAL UFO SYMPOSIUM PROCEEDINGS

"Unconventional Flying Objects: the Body of Technological Evidence, Pt. 2" Includes papers by Phyllis Budinger, Richard Dolan, Alan Holt, Elaine Douglass, Stanton Friedman, Paola Harris, Roger Leir, Edgar Mitchell, Scott Ramsey, Esen Sekerkarar, R. Leo Sprinkle and Claude Swanson

Available from MUFON Headquarters in hard copy or CD-ROM. Price: $32.50 in U.S. and $36.50 Outside the U.S.

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By Joan Woodward

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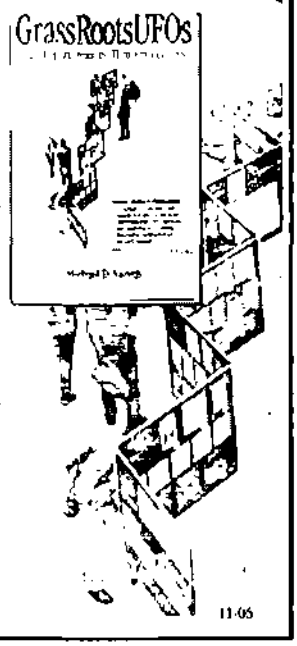

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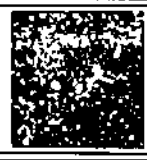

The Night Sky

By Gavin A. J. McLeod

December Sky

Moon Phases:
New Moon Dec. 1
First Quarter Dec. 8
Full Moon Dec. 15
Last Quarter Dec. 23
New Moon Dec. 31

Bright Planets (Evening Sky)

Venus: Moving from Sagittarius into Capricornus. For northern hemisphere observers, Venus will set more than 2.5 hours after the Sun, and will stand about 10 degrees high in the southwest just before the end of evening twilight.

For southern hemisphere observers, Venus will set about 2.5 hours after the Sun and will stand about 10 degrees high in the west-southwest at the end of evening twilight. Venus will be at its greatest brilliancy on Dec. 9.

Mars: In Aries. For northern hemisphere observers, Mars will stand about 45 degrees high in the east-southeast at the end of evening twilight, transit about 60 degrees high before 9 PM, and will set in the west-northwest about 3.5 hours before sunrise.

For southern hemisphere observers, Mars will stand about 45 degrees high on the meridian at the end of evening twilight, and will set near 2 AM in the west-northwest.

Bright Planets (Morning Sky)

Mercury: Moving from Libra through Scorpius into Ophiuchus. Mercury will brighten as it slowly emerges in the morning twilight late in the month in the southeast sky.

Jupiter: In Virgo. For northern hemisphere observers, Jupiter will improve in visibility in the predawn sky. At midmonth Jupiter will rise nearly 4 hours before the Sun in the east-southeast, and will stand nearly 20 degrees high in the southeast at the beginning of morning twilight.

Less favored southern hemisphere observers will find Jupiter only about 10 degrees high in the east at the beginning of morning twilight.

Saturn: In Cancer. For northern hemisphere observers, Saturn will rise near 8 PM in the east-northeast, and will stand about 50 degrees high in the west-southwest at the beginning of morning twilight.

For southern hemisphere observers, Saturn will rise near 10 PM in the east-northeast, and will stand more than 40 degrees high at the beginning of morning twilight.

Other Celestial Phenomena

Dec. 21 (Tuesday): Winter Solstice (Marks the first day of winter for Earth's northern hemisphere, and first day of summer for the Southern hemisphere).

Meteor Showers:

Geminids: The annual Geminid meteor shower will peak on the night of Dec. 13/14. This shower is one of the better showers, since as many as 100 meteors per hour may be seen. While this certainly doesn't rival the Leonids in recent years, this is still a very high rate for a regular meteor shower.

This is an unusual shower in that the source of the shower is not believed to be a comet, but rather from an object known as 3200 Phaethon. This object is currently classified as an asteroid, but some scientists believe that it might be an extinct comet with a thick crust of interplanetary dust.

Another thing that makes the Geminids unusual is that one doesn't have to wait until after midnight to catch this shower. The radiant rises early and meteors can be seen around 10 PM local time, but the best view will still be after midnight local time.

This shower also boasts a broad maximum, lasting nearly one whole day, so no matter where you live, you stand a decent chance of catching sight of some Geminids.

The actual peak will occur around 04:00 UTC on the 14th (6:40 PM EST, 5:40 CST, 4:40 MST, and 3:40 PM PST on the 13th).

Unfortunately the Moon will be near its full phase, so will greatly diminish the enjoyment in viewing the Geminids this year.

Ursids: The Ursids peak on Dec. 22/23 and have a peak hourly rate of 10 or so, but in some years the hourly peak has risen as high as 50.

The Moon will be a problem this year as it will be between its full and last quarter phases.

Conjunctions and Occultations

Dec. 4: Venus 2.0 degrees north of the Moon.

Dec. 12: Mars 1.3 degrees south of the Moon.

Dec. 19: Saturn 4.0 degrees south of the Moon.

Dec. 27: Jupiter 4.0 degrees north of the Moon.

Dec. 29: Antares 0.2 degrees south of the Moon.

Estate planning

Planned giving can be beneficial to both 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.