

Minnesota MUFON Journal

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Directors Report

Are ETs Seeping into the Public Mind?

Editorial by William McNeff, MN MUFON State Dir.

You can learn a lot from comics and cartoons. The comic section of the Minneapolis Star Tribune for October 19, 2003 has a section titled: <http://www.4kids.org>. It has an item titled "Of Otherworldly Origin." It says:

"Keep an eye on the sky because you might be Kidnapped by UFOs at: <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/aliens/>. You'll find interviews with believers and skeptics. Budd Hopkins explains his daytime UFO sighting on Cape Cod. Paul Horowitz, a physicist at Harvard University, discusses methods to contact extraterrestrials, such as using a radio telescope. Hover over the case of a woman who was seen floating with three aliens below a UFO near the Brooklyn Bridge."

The website is titled "Kidnapped by UFOs? Exploring the Alien Abduction Phenomenon." It is headlined by a warning: "This feature contains disturbing material." It has "pro" articles by Budd Hopkins, John Velez and John Mack, and "con" articles by Carl Sagan, Paul Horowitz and Philip Klass.

Sagan says, "To be taken seriously, you need physical evidence that can be examined at leisure by skeptical scientists: a scraping of the whole ship, and the discovery that it contains isotopic ratios that aren't present on earth, chemical elements from the so-called island of stability, very heavy elements that don't exist on earth," etc. Sagan asks for a bit much when he asks for a scraping of the whole ship (abductees typically don't have the ability to do this!), but the unusual isotopic ratios have been reportedly found, as previously documented in this newsletter.

Asked his opinion of abductions, Horowitz says, "We hear people say that certain things happen to them. And if we ask them for some evidence, such as a garment left behind, or a bolt that fell off the landing gear of the flying saucer that landed in their backyard, or an alien cigarette lighter souvenir, we never get anything. Sometimes we're told that there have been -- had an implant. But the implants never seem to materialize. In the last 30, 40, 50 years now, we've been hearing about flying saucers, we've been hearing about, more recently, abduction phenomena and so on. But there is zero hard scientific evidence of any sort. There are only anecdotes, experiences earnestly believed but not buttressed by any sort of real evidence. Blurry photographs. Sketches of aliens that, to me, look far too much -- far too humanoid, far too much like life on earth, that are not the way I believe extraterrestrial life really will look." Here Horowitz falls back on



Minnesota Mufon Meetings

Sat., Nov. 8th

1:30-5pm

&

Sat., Dec. 13th

1:30-5pm

**New Brighton Family
Service Center
400 - 10th St. NW
(located 1/4-mile S.W.
of Hwy 694 and 35W.)**

PARK FREE!

**The building is designated as
non-smoking.**

See map on back cover

**(Note: The building has no
special security, so you can
come and go as you please
and smoke outdoors. There
are elevators for those who
may need them.)**

“belief” instead of science. Horowitz may not know that several scientists have pointed out that there are excellent reasons why we should expect extraterrestrial beings to have humanoid forms similar to ours. As for implants, the latest Journal of UFO Studies from CUFOS describes 84 separate implant cases.

Horowitz does show some appropriate scientific humility. He admits, “Of course, as a physical scientist, I’m not an expert on abductions. I think it’s extremely improbable that these things are happening. I haven’t studied it in the kind of depth in order to be able to say it’s complete balderdash.” Horowitz concludes by saying “We like to be hard-nosed about scientific evidence that aliens are walking around on earth. We don’t accept such things lightly. It’s an extraordinary claim, it requires extraordinary evidence. On the other hand, let me just say: Physical law does not rule out interstellar space flight. Nor does it rule out interstellar life. It permits both those things, although at great cost. If a flying saucer were to land on my lawn, tomorrow morning, I would be the happiest person on my block.” (Be careful what you wish for!)

There is also a final article titled, “Where’s the Physical Evidence?” by the Nova producer, who doesn’t bother to identify himself. (It is dated 1996.) He writes, “One MIT physicist, a fervent proponent in alien abductions and in the process of scientific inquiry, has confirmed that there is not one, single, independently confirmed piece of scientific evidence for an alien abduction.” This statement is most likely not true. It depends partly on what one means by independent.

He concludes his article by saying, “With expert testimony from Carl Sagan, from repressed memory researcher Elizabeth Loftus, Pulitzer prize-winning cult investigator Richard Ofshe, and many others, our program spins an original answer to the question of what really might be behind the strange, sad stories told by alien abductees.” He uses the word “spins” – it would seem he has applied some spin to this subject. We know what kind of an expert Carl Sagan was; after offering to evaluate abduction evidence he refused to look at evidence offered by Budd Hopkins. I have always suspected that Sagan may have actually been “in the know” about aliens and was participating in the government cover-up; this would explain the “change of tune” he had in regard to UFOs and aliens from his earlier years.

The comic section also had a “Dennis the Menace” strip in which Mrs. Wilson is feeding pie a la mode to Dennis, who asks Mr. Wilson if he believes in space aliens. With Dennis in mind, he replies, “They’re usually little creatures who INVADE people’s homes...They make humans subservient to their EVERY NEED...and the poor Earth people don’t even realize they’re being MANIPULATED.” As Dennis helps himself to more pie, he asks, “Gosh! Could that happen in REAL life?” This is our question, too.

A friend of mine who is a teacher wrote to me:

“This Friday, I taught an Honors English class at _____ High School. Hmmm, what was hanging from the ceiling but 2 plastic “blown-up” 2 foot aliens! There was a purple one near the windows and a green one hanging near the door. Well, it’s about time. The kids in all grades are being increasingly exposed to this reality. You should see the literature textbooks in the elementary grades, which are loaded with extraterrestrial references. They are being prepared.

More than once, I have poo-pooed the alien situation, only to have kids grades 5 through 9 tell me, “Oh, no, this is real. You don’t know what’s going on.”

It seems to me that the ideas that aliens are around and are abducting people are seeping into the minds of the general public. How soon this will have significant results is a big question.

**GRANT CAMERON:
WHAT DID THE PRESIDENTS KNOW?
By Bill Mc Neff, MN MUFON State Dir.**

One of the prime questions has been, “What did the various Presidents of the United States know about UFO’s?” Grant Cameron gave us at least a good part of the answer to that question in his Minnesota MUFON-sponsored presentation on Sept. 11, 2003. He recounted how it is said that then CIA-head George H. W. Bush told President Jimmy Carter, who had asked for a briefing on UFOs, that he “didn’t have the need to know.” It is standard in the security community for classified information to be given only to those who have the “need to know”. Unless I misunderstood, Ron Pandolfi, who has the “weird desk” at the CIA, told Cameron “How dare you make that claim! If the story were

true, Geo. Bush would have been fired!" Cameron points out that Carter did in fact fire Geo. Bush.

Well-known activist attorney Daniel Sheehan (he was a prime mover in the "Pentagon Papers" case) did a UFO study for Pres. Carter. In the Madison Building in 1977 he looked at the Blue Book files. In the vault he found a picture of a crashed saucer. His study was presented to 150 scientists at JPL.

Sheehan twice tried but failed to get the files on UFOs from the Vatican.

Carter is said to have been given one briefing on UFOs, in which he was shown 15 minutes of film from Holloman AFB. Others who claim to have seen this film says it shows a UFO landing and humanoid beings getting out. Robert Emenegger was offered a copy of this film, but the offer was later withdrawn. Linda Moulton Howe also saw this film.

Gerald Ford, before he was President, said, "Reliable people see UFOs." He later pushed for and got Congressional hearings on UFOs.

Stephen Spielberg once gave an advance screening of the film "ET" for Pres. Ronald Reagan. After it was over, Reagan told Spielberg, "I bet there aren't six people in this room that know how true this is!" There were about 30 people in the room, but Cameron hasn't been able to get a list of them from the Reagan library.

Other Reagan tidbits: Reagan and astronaut Harrison Schmidt visited Roswell together. Reagan gave the well known speech in which he said our differences would vanish if we were facing an alien threat. Colin Powell said the movie "The Day the Earth Stood Still" was Reagan's inspiration for the Star Wars program. Powell also said one of his jobs was to "keep aliens out of Reagan's speeches!"

Bill Clinton had at least 50 (150?) people working on searching out information on UFOs. Webster Hubbell told of how he was stonewalled in his efforts.

Melvin Laird, former Secretary of Defense, who worked for Laurance (sp.?) Rockefeller, briefed Clinton on UFOs. Rockefeller tried to get Clinton to release information on UFOs, sending Jack Gibbon to meet with Clinton and ask for the Roswell information. Clinton told the Air Force to write a

report, but the AF "whitewashed" the subject, issuing their famous "pre-emptive strike".

Sarah McClendon, the late dean of the Washington press corps, asked Clinton about UFOs. Clinton leaned over close to Sarah and told her, "There is a secret government within the government and I don't control it!"

Bill Clinton gave a speech in Belfast. Afterwards a boy by the name of Ryan asked Clinton about Roswell. Clinton replied, "Ryan, there was no crash at Roswell. If the USAF did recover alien bodies, they didn't tell me, and I want to know."

Hilary Clinton is also very interested in UFOs. Pres. Bill Clinton was invited to a briefing on UFOs by Laurance Rockefeller at his Wyoming ranch in the Tetons; he passed on this but Hilary attended it. NASA had been holding off on putting the "Face on Mars" on their website. Robert Williams asked Hilary about this and six hours later the "Face" pictures were on the NASA website.

Cameron made good use of humor in his presentation. He told how one of the tabloids quoted an alien by the name of P'lod as saying that Clinton would win the election, and of course he did. (I guess this could be said to contradict my statement that no "predictions" by alleged aliens have ever come to pass. But I don't take this very seriously; P'lod and the tabloid had a 50/50 chance of being right, which they probably felt was worth taking.) More recently a tabloid ran an article "Hilary Adopts Alien Baby", complete with a picture. Hilary told Jay Leno all about the alien during her appearance on his show.

During the 2000 Presidential campaign, MUFON member Charles Huffer asked Geo. W. Bush if he would release information on UFOs. Bush said to him, "Yes, I will!" On a second occasion, Huffer asked the same question, and Bush said "Yes." But no information has yet been released by Bush.

Dick Cheney appeared on the Diane (?) Show on Apr. 11, 2001. Cameron asked him, "Have you ever been briefed on UFOs?" Taken off guard, Cheney replied, "If I had been briefed on it, it would have been classified, and I wouldn't be able to tell you anything." Cheney, said Cameron, made a critical error in saying it is a classified subject.

Some of the earliest bits of history of U.S. government UFO knowledge: Cordell Hull, then

Secretary of State, showed his cousin a UFO in the basement of the Capitol in 1939.

After the 1947 Roswell crash, Harry S Truman met with General Vandenberg for two minutes on July 9th or 10th. The record does not show what they discussed. Military aide Landry briefed HST on UFOs every three months. Frank Edwards said that after the big night of UFO sightings in July 1952 that HST issued a "Shoot 'em down!" order, but Einstein told HST "You don't want to start something with a galactic power that you might not be able to finish." The order was withdrawn.

When FDR died, Truman had been told nothing about things like the atom bomb and UFOs. Truman vowed not to treat his successor that way. After Eisenhower was elected, he was briefed by HST. Two days later, Ike was briefed in the vault allegedly on MJ-12.

When Ike was President, in California he disappeared for several hours. None of his staff could tell reporters where he was. Later the explanation that was issued was that he had gone to a dentist, but it is said that in fact he was flown to a nearby air base and shown crashed UFOs. Ike went to church the next day, but Ike hated church!

Brig. Gen. Steven Lovekin was "in the loop" and was Ike's chief aide. He said that the famous "military/industrial complex" speech was an expression of Ike's UFO concerns.

The Republican presidents knew more about UFOs than the Democrats. Cameron said Steven Greer is accurate about the Presidents and UFOs.

After the Kecksburg crash, the LBJ Library said that LBJ, the head of NASA, the Governor of PA and the Joint Chiefs of Staff all met at the LBJ Ranch. The next day, LBJ met with Buford Ellington, head of OEP (FEMA equivalent) "off the record".

At the time of the 1965 blackout, "unknown phenomena" (UFOs) were one of three things the government and LBJ looked at as possible causes.

Per Kenny Young, Jackie Gleason talked to three Presidents about UFOs. In 1973, Richard Nixon and Gleason went to Homestead AFB and looked at alien bodies, according to Gleason's wife. In her book, she said Gleason was shaken by the experience.

In the question and answer session, there were the following:

Q. Why the secrecy about UFOs and ETs?

A. Probably fear of panic about the blackouts, abductions, etc.

Q. What do you think of the MJ-12 documents?

A. I think they may be slightly altered genuine documents. If you make changes in a real classified document, it is automatically declassified, but when you issue it, you still get the story out of basically what happened.

NOTE: The Grant Cameron and Deborah Lindemann lecture video tapes are available for \$10 each. Pick up / order your copies at the Minnesota MUFON monthly meeting.

**Sci-Fi Channel Announces Possible
Kecksberg Lawsuit
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The Sci-Fi Channel announces possible lawsuit in relation to the Kecksberg incident

A press conference was held this morning at the National Press Club in Washington, and announced that a legal suit was quite likely in their effort to obtain information from the Government related to the Kecksberg crash. Prior to the planned press briefing, the Sci-Fi Channel was interviewed by a Reuters reporter, and the story is already being carried by the wire services:

<http://www.reuters.com/newsArticle.jhtml?type=topNews&storyID=3652335>

SCI FI Channel May Sue Government for UFO Documents Tue October 21, 2003 12:05 AM ET By Michael Learmonth NEW YORK (Reuters) - The truth is out there, and the SCI FI Channel is determined to find it, even if that means suing NASA, the Department of Defense, the U.S. Army and Air Force for documents related to unidentified flying objects.

SCI FI, a cable channel that airs fictional programming such as *Battlestar Galactica*, as well as documentaries that explore the line between fact and science fiction, is part of a group pressuring the federal government to de-classify UFO information.

Last year SCI FI joined forces with an investigative journalist, a Washington, DC law firm, and former President Clinton chief of staff John Podesta, to gain release of documents relating to an incident it calls "the new Roswell," a UFO sighting in Kecksburg, Pennsylvania in 1965.

"Now, one year later, despite serious effort to uncover the facts, NASA and the Department of Defense are still maintaining their wall of silence," said SCI FI Channel president Bonnie Hammer. "Whether or not this has anything to do with UFOs the public has the right to know."

Now the SCI Fi Channel is supporting what could turn into a series of lawsuits, first against NASA and then against the Department of Defense, the Army and Air Force, to get classified documents released to the public. The group said it expects to file the suit against NASA within a week. Representatives from NASA and the Department of Defense were not immediately available for comment.

NASA was chosen as the first agency to be sued because SCI FI and the groups' attorney, Lee Helfrich of the Washington, DC- based firm, Lobel, Novins and Lamont, believe that they've fully exhausted their administrative options with the agency, a prerequisite for a judge to agree to hear the case.

While news organizations routinely pursue Freedom of Information Act requests with the government, it's relatively rare for a cable channel, especially one focused on fantasy, not the gathering of news, to pursue such a course of action.

But Hammer sees a great deal of programming potential in pursuing government documents related to UFO sightings, part of the channel's effort to "find the line between science fiction and science fact."

"As we grow the channel, this will become more and more important," Hammer said.

In December 1965, residents of Kecksburg, Pennsylvania watched a fireball descend into a heavily-forested area 40 miles from Pittsburgh. That night the area was cordoned off by the military, trucks and helicopters came and went, and the town was briefly placed under martial law.

The next day, headlines in the Greensburg, Pennsylvania Tribune- Review read "Unidentified Flying Object Falls Near Kecksburg" and "Army Ropes Off Area," but residents of Kecksburg were never told why the military cordoned off the area and what, if anything, was found.

The results of SCI FI's new investigation into the incident will air Friday in a documentary hosted by Bryant Gumbel called "The New Roswell: Kecksburg Exposed."

In Kecksburg it hired a forestry expert from West Virginia University who discovered growth patterns and core damage to trees there that support a "traumatic event" in 1965.

SCI FI, a unit of Vivendi Universal, is among the assets recently sold to General Electric Co.'s NBC. Hammer sees the integration with a network news operation as a potential boon for SCI FI's newsgathering efforts.

"If it's something that seems credible, absolutely," said Hammer on the potential of working with NBC journalists. "But we're not going to do it just to create buzz." ==end Reuters report==

During the press briefing, it was stated that an analysis of the data eliminates the possibility that the Kecksberg object was American or Soviet space debris, as has been widely speculated. I'm sure that much of this will be covered in the Sci-Fi Channel's Kecksberg documentary on Friday.

A Quintessential Case of Close Encounters: Review by William McNeff

Deborah Lindemann gave a presentation entitled, "The Stan Romanek Story -- A Quintessential Case Of Close Encounter" on Oct. 11, 2003 at the New Brighton Family Service Center under the sponsorship of Minnesota MUFON. Ms. Lindemann C.H.T. is a clinical Hypnotherapist and MUFON consultant in Fort Collins, CO. Since 1985 she has extensively researched the topic of UFO abduction, working with hundreds of abductees.

Mr. Romanek has had several UFO sightings, at least two of which had a number of other independent witnesses, some of whom also photographed the UFO. Some of these incidents raised the suspicion that abductions might have

taken place. In interviewing Romanek prior to regression, Lindemann found some curious things. While living near Grand Forks, ND, at the age of 5 or 6, his brothers saw a large orange UFO over a water tower. His father was summoned to the air base early that morning, but his father won't talk about UFOs due to his high security clearance.

Romanek was born in 1962. At the ages of about 5, 8 and 11 Stan (and in one case his mother) has seen a strange woman. Once when he and his mother were at a playground, the woman approached them and said to his mother, "You have a nice boy, a very special boy, take care of him."

In one case Stan saw and videotaped a UFO which consisted of four large spheres above and six smaller spheres below, with a "very black space" in between the spheres on the bottom. On another occasion he saw a "red orb" UFO, which MUFON International Director John Schuessler also saw.

Besides an account of the several sightings Stan Romanek has had, Lindemann gave the results of several regressions she has carried out with Stan. During the regressions he recounted abductions by "beings". He described the perpetrators (he didn't want to call them aliens, because he "doesn't want to believe in this stuff") a little over 5 feet tall. They had elongated faces (he called them "possum people"), big eyes "with an oriental slant" with whites, blue irises and pupils, small noses ("how can they breathe thru them"), small mouths, and skinny necks. There was a "female" wearing a robe (she appeared to have breasts) and two "males" wearing jump suits. The female answered his questions with equations and sketches.

Even though Stan's education stopped at the 4th grade, he was able to write the equations down so accurately that Jack Kasher, Bernard Haisch and Hal Puthoff (Ph.D. physicists) recognized the Drake Equation, Lenz's Law and an equation for producing a "wormhole" in space. There is a theory that "wormholes" can allow you to traverse great distances in a short time.

The theory is that "wormholes" can be produced by stressing space so that it is warped. The female gave Stan a sketch that appears to show two points brought close together by warping space. He also drew the Orion constellation with a circle around the right hand star in the belt of Orion, indicating the home of the aliens.

Romanek also believes that he received a message that something bad will happen to the world, perhaps within two years. His impression is that earth will pass through a photon stream or belt, and the beings were warning him about this. (A word of caution: To my knowledge, no "predictions" by alleged aliens have ever come to pass.)

Ms. Lindemann had reported on this case at the IUFOC. Since then, she said, a lot has happened to Stan. Three blurry pictures appeared inexplicably on his digital camera. Two could be interpreted as faces. More importantly, he and his wife have been hearing inexplicable audio tones in their house. One was emanating from his wrist watch, during which the crystal cracked! More marks have appeared on his body and he and his wife had another UFO sighting. He recorded sound from a UFO which sounds like Billy Meiers' "beamship" recording.

During an 11-18-02 incident, a UFO apparently left marks on Stan's back lawn. William Leavengood believes the marks were caused by radiation such as microwaves. An apparent abduction occurred on this date and Stan came back with a black substance like pumice in his hand. This was analyzed by Phyllis Budinger. Under the microscope, this material had dark gray and light gray layers. One layer contained bismuth. Other elements present were aluminum, silicate, magnesium, calcium and carbon.

To summarize, there is a variety of physical evidence, photographic evidence, and multiple eyewitness evidence. Ms. Lindemann said, "This is the most remarkable case I have ever seen." There is to be a future article in the MUFON UFO Journal on this case.

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Five Early Upper Midwest Reports by Richard Moss, MN MUFON Assist. State Dir.

At 6:30 AM on Oct. 11, 1952 a supervisor of Sky Hook balloon manufacturing at General Mills and another man were flying at 10,000 feet observing a "Grab Bag" balloon. They saw a brightly glowing object SE of the University of Minnesota airport.

The object, with a halo around it and a dark undersurface, was moving to the west at a high altitude and speed. It slowed down and then started to climb slowly in "lazy circles." The pattern was like a falling leaf, but inverted and these gyrations lasted for about two minutes.

The pilot called the Univ. of Minn. airport where observers using a theodolite could not move it fast enough to keep it in the field of their instrument. Two hours later the men in the airplane spotted another one which disappeared to the east.

At Williston, North Dakota, on Sept. 22, 1956, an amateur astronomer spotted an object in the sky at about 7:50 PM. The witness first noticed the object just east of the Great Northern Railroad smokestack and it seemed to be following the course of the river. Its size was at least as large as an airliner and tiny pinpoints of light were visible on it. It had a shiny metallic gleam and moved at an estimated speed of 150 mph.

There was no sound from it and it was described as being "circular, as well as V-shaped." It moved from side to side much like a slow pendulum.

The witness notified the Weather Bureau which, in turn, notified both the police and Wright-Patterson AFB. The account appeared in the Williston Plains Reporter.

East of Pierre, South Dakota at 12:43 AM on Nov. 25, 1956 law enforcement personnel were looking for a stolen pickup truck when they spotted a bright, deep red object hovering in a gully.

It was shaped like half an eggshell with the bottom being round and looked like someone was shining a red light on a mirror. The object, about the size of a car, was bright enough to make the highway's center lines gleam. When it moved it changed colors showing different shades of green, red, and white. It displayed a light red color when it then rose to an estimated 7000 feet altitude. Several pictures were taken which appeared in the Nov. 28th edition of the Minneapolis Star and confirmed the object's described shape.

At Gills Rock, Wisconsin at 1:05 AM on Sept. 13, 1959 a 28-year-old man was outside picking up worms for fishing. He heard a loud pulsating noise from an object he could see in a field about two miles away.

It started to ascend and, as it did, the bottom of the object displayed a large yellowish ring of light. There were eight very bright flickering blue lights just inside the yellow ring and a ring of very large red lights inside the ring of blue lights. The lights were apparently on the bottom of the object which went straight up until out of sight. The sky was clear and there was no moon so that the object's shape could not be determined.

At Cottonwood, Minnesota at 11:45 PM on Dec. 25, 1960 a man was outside for a breath of fresh air. He observed a light to the north which approached him. It was soon close enough for him to see that it was shaped like a "half-ball" with a small dome on top. On its left side there was a porthole with light emanating from it. The UFO was a large tan-colored object outlined with a silvery glow.

It fluttered down while rocking gently and then hovered. A small, white object was ejected and traveled off to the west. The larger UFO then descended and ejected two red objects simultaneously. They flew to the southeast and kept a constant distance from each other. One object shot a beam of green light at the other, which in turn returned a similar beam. After a few such exchanges they went off in different directions..

The large UFO climbed to a higher altitude, stopped, and hovered. Suddenly, two small red objects (apparently the two that had been ejected) were seen to enter the opening. The small white object was also returning to the large UFO and entered the same port, which then closed. The UFO left in the direction from which it had come. The event lasted about ten minutes.

Probing the minds of Alien Abductees

<http://www.goldsmiths.ac.uk/press-releases/pressrelease.php?releaseID=238>

Are extraterrestrials really abducting people against their will and conducting experiments on them, or are such reports simply a product of the human mind, a modern myth? Psychologists at Goldsmiths College, University of London, are to about to begin research into this fascinating phenomenon.

According to Professor Chris French, Head of the Anomalistic Psychology Research Unit (APRU) at Goldsmiths' Psychology Department, which will undertake the research:

“Abductees report a wide range of experiences; the research project aims to test not only the psychological aspects of the abduction experience, but also to find out more about the other kinds of experiences that abductees report, and includes some tests for psychic abilities.”

The research is supported by other UFO investigators. Nick Pope, head of the UK Government’s UFO project in the early 1990s, gives his opinion: “Whether you think the phenomenon is psychological or parapsychological, you should welcome this study. Whatever the true nature of the phenomenon, we’ll learn more about it.”

Judith Jaafar, Chair of the British UFO Research Association (BUFORA), comments: “I am pleased that an academic body in Britain taking steps to understand the source of this compelling phenomenon. It may throw up more questions than answers, but that has always been the way forward in true, objective scientific endeavour.”

Malcolm Robinson, Founder of Strange Phenomena Investigations (SPI): “Chris French and his team should be commended for undertaking this study that will shed a little more light upon this modern mystery. SPI looks forward to the results of this project with eager anticipation.”

Anyone who believes that they have had an alien abduction experience and would like to take part in the project should email apru@gold.ac.uk or contact Rachel Fox, 020 7919 7171 (ext 4389), for further information.

Notes to Editors

The ten-month project, which begins in October, is being supported by the Bial Foundation of Portugal, which has provided a 36,000 Euro grant. The project team includes Chris French, Rachel Fox, Krissy Wilson and Julia Santomauro (APRU members) and Dr Michael Thalbourne (parapsychologist, APRU, University of Adelaide), with James Basil and Mark Gibbons (Foundation for the Research of Extraordinary Trauma & Support for Abductees) acting as consultants.

For further information

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STRANGE HAPPENINGS REPORTED IN ARIZONA – UFO Roundup

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On Saturday, October 11, 2003, at 4 p.m., eyewitness B.H. reported, "My daughter had just stepped out the back door" of their home in Prescott Valley, Arizona (population 23,535) "and came running back in, yelling at me to come quick. As I stepped out, she was pointing almost directly overhead."

"I looked up to see a perfectly round dark cloud spinning very slowly like a pinwheel. As it turned, it was drawing in tiny puffy white clouds. The rest of the sky was basically clear. There was no sound nor wind of any kind."

"It was approximately a quarter-mile (0.4 kilometers) in diameter. We sat on our patio and watched it for approximately 10 minutes. Then the cloud broke up all of a sudden, going every which way."

"Approximately 7 to 8 minutes later, two jet fighters came out of the east and turned just before coming over town and went north."

"At approximately 11 a.m. the next morning (Sunday, October 12, 2003), we saw four black helicopters flying low across town."

"The next day (Monday, October 13, 2003) there was a huge camouflaged helicopter flying over town." Later "the same day, as we were getting gas at Albertson's, we pulled up to see a big white van with black tinted windows with the words Area 51 on the front (license) plate. There were dishes, antennas and other strange contraptions all over the top of it. Your Web address was on the window in black letters."

(Editor's Note: There it is again--the elusive UFO Roundup van! For five years now, this strange-looking white van has been seen all around the USA, several times in Arizona. However, it is neither owned nor operated by Joseph Trainor and John Hayes of UFO Roundup.)

"I spoke with the tall, gray-haired and bearded gentleman and told him about our sighting. He

said, 'That wasn't a cloud, was it?' with a grin. He said he was usually up north but had been here for a while, and that Prescott Valley had had quite a few sightings. And that he was going back north but would be down here again shortly."

(Editor's Note: This time, the driver seems to be about 20 to 25 years older than the male driver of the van's previous appearances.)

"When I mentioned the black helicopters, he said, 'Don't they always show up a day late and a dollar short?'"

"He was dressed eccentrically, but I had the feeling he was here in an official capacity. I asked a lot of questions, but he was very careful not to directly answer any of them."

On Wednesday, October 8, 2003, at 6 a.m., Curtis Fields was at his home in Paulden, Arizona, a town on Highway 89 about 20 miles (32 kilometers) north-northwest of Prescott Valley, when he "saw a UFO go from south to north. It was a bright object with lights shining in the back. It would travel for a few seconds and then stop. It would reverse direction and come to a stop. And then it made square moves. It was brighter than a star and it was pulsating. It seemed to return to the same spot. It did not depart. It was getting too bright to see the object at around 7 a.m."

Prescott Valley, Ariz. is on Highway 89 about 90 miles (144 kilometers) north of Phoenix. (Email Form Reports)

**Field Investigator Update:
November/December 2003
By Craig R. Lang - MN MUFON FI
Coordinator**

As we near the end of 2003, we find the ongoing investigations of the last few months continuing. But we also find high-strangeness events beginning to manifest more in the last month or so. The primary example of this seems to be the frequency of close encounter experiencers that are coming forward with descriptions of their encounters.

For some reason, this time period seems to be a "time of remembering". In the week prior to this newsletter going to press, I have been contacted by four new experiencers, for whom memories of encounters have only recently begun to emerge. In

addition, one experiencer, who had previously filed a report with Minnesota MUFON, has again come forward to describe additional memories of events.

One of the experiencers who recently contacted me had originally intended to report a sighting. This event occurred in 1979, and appears to be closely correlated with the other 1979 sighting wave which Minnesota MUFON has documented in recent years. However, instead of being a close encounter of the first kind – the sighting of an object at moderate range – this sighting appears to be more than a sighting.

The witness describes this event as beginning at a known time 10:20 PM. She suddenly looked outside of a window in her house and saw that the entire yard was brightly lit from above. This light remained for "quite a few minutes", and was accompanied by a loud but very low hum which she had "never heard anything like it before, or since". She felt tremendous fear, and was unable to move during the time the light shone on the area. After quite a few moments, she felt that light was growing dimmer, as the source of the light ascended. Then the light was gone. A few moments passed, and once having "re-grounded", she quickly checked on the other members of their family. All present and accounted for – sound asleep in their beds. While this event was over twenty years ago, she indicates that she will never forget it, as long as she lives. She felt deep down, as she described it to me, that considerably more must have gone on than she remembered.

This appears to be the first possible-CE4 we have learned of, associated with the 1979 wave. My bet is that there are plenty more of them out there, and that we may begin to hear from more on this from experiencers as time goes on.

What was the 1979 wave? Was it simply a statistical blip in the sighting rate? Or was it a deliberate coordination of UFO events, for some reason that we don't yet understand. While we will probably never really know the full picture, a look at the sightings we have documented may help shed some light on the dynamics of the sighting wave. The sightings we know about seem to be mostly in the northern Minneapolis suburbs, in the early to mid Fall of 1979. Two very pronounced events – which might have been different views of the same event – occurred in New Brighton, at the intersection of I35W and I694. One witness described how she and her daughter pulled off the

highway to watch as an object hovered and maneuvered over the southeastern quadrant of the intersection. She described the object as roughly saucer-shaped, and having a distinct rim with lights on it.

Another sighting which may have occurred at approximately that time (not clear of the exact correlation of times), occurred when the witness was coming out of a store on Silver Lake Road and I694. She followed the object as it moved slowly north, approximately along I35W. Reaching the northern end of Silver Lake Rd. she had to wait for a red traffic light. While she was waiting, the object abruptly shot off to the northeast.

Another series of sightings appears to have occurred at about this time, along the St. Croix valley, as documented by Bob Engberg. Yet other sightings have been documented by Bill McNeff. This time period also includes the famous Val Johnson case, in which Mr. Johnson, a sheriff's deputy in Marshall County apparently had a collision in his squad car, with a UFO, resulting in significant damage to the car.

Thus, the statistical frequency of events in 1979 suggests that for some reason, Minnesota was of great interest to "somebody", at that time period. Why? I certainly don't know. But I suspect that a better understanding of the dynamics of this and other sighting waves would provide a big piece of the jigsaw puzzle that is the UFO phenomenon.

Investigators Wanted:

This month we finish the fall, 2003 field investigator training class – bringing us one very enthusiastic new investigator. Let's welcome Kyle Pennington to the ranks of the MUFON field team.

For others wishing to become field investigators, classes are conducted as sufficient interest is indicated. We try to hold classes approximately three times per year, and hope to hold the next one this fall. We plan to hold a beginning class, as well as a refresher class for those who want to beef up their skills at UFO fieldwork. If you are interested, and feel that you have the necessary time, energy, and objectivity to be a UFO investigator, please contact the author. If you have not already done so, you also will need to join MUFON as a field investigator trainee and purchase the MUFON field investigators manual.

In addition, perhaps you the reader, might have had a sighting of your own, or might have one in the future. Or perhaps you know someone who has. If you have any further updates on the events in this column, or know of information on other sightings or encounters, please contact Minnesota MUFON. (We can be reached through our website <http://www.mnmufon.org>, or contact Craig Lang (phone: 763-560-1532, <http://www.craigrlang.com>, e-mail: crlang@craigrlang.com). Also, please stay tuned to this column in each newsletter as we discuss more local and regional sighting cases.

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