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UFO Mysteries in Indiana

By MUFON MN ASD Richard Moss

Corydon is a small town in Indiana. A man had witnessed a round-shaped object emitting a light so bright that the surroundings seemed like daylight. Later observations suggested landings, telepathy and abductions. Silence about the event could not continue for long as sightings were occurring and people began talking with each other about what they had been seeing. They realized that something odd was going on. Many people were seeing something that wasn't supposed to be in their skies. As more and more sightings were occurring, they began talking to each other and additional sightings were being discussed.

Upon comparing their observations with others, it became obvious that there were several craft appearing so often that they could be recognized. They ranged from the size of a baseball to a huge craft the length of a football field. The UFO that seemed to be the most common had amber-colored lights which sometimes became white and extremely bright.

Cigar-shaped craft were often seen which had portholes. The light inside was of a pale yellow color. One witness observed the silhouette of something moving about inside. This craft was seen moving just above the trees and, as usual, it made no sound almost as if it was a glider.

The technology of aliens seems incomprehensible. Small white glowing objects no larger than baseballs were seen many times. A number of ufologists believe that these small fast-moving spheres of light are creatures perhaps for whoever are inside the craft. One frequently-seen large object was boomerang shaped. There was also a report of an orange-colored light sitting in the middle of a road.

One breath-taking display involved two UFOs, one of which pulsated a very bright light. A second craft began to pulsate a strong white light in synchronization with the other. As this continued the two UFOs created a spectacular light show as it changed colors from white to red to blue to amber to green and back to white.

Evidence of landings have been discovered many times and are simply burnt circles on the ground. Animals can play the role of an early warning system for the appearance of UFOs. Almost without fail a UFO causes coyotes to howl, dogs to bark and nearby animals to create a commotion.

The frequency of sightings has always varied. There were many sightings in 1987 and 1988 when objects were witnessed every night.



Minnesota Mufon Meetings

**Sat., Jan. 14th & Sat., Feb. 11th
2pm - 5pm**

**New Brighton Family
Service Center
Room 224
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
is also an elevator.)**

In this Issue:

- *UFO Mysteries in Indiana* - Page 1
- *CE4 Corner* - Page 2
- *Sylvan Lake Case* - Page 3
- *Scour the Moon for ET* - Page 5
- *ETs and the Effects of EM* - Page 6
- *UFOs and Gov.* - Page 7
- *UFO Flap in July* - Page 10
- *Obama's Secrets* - Page 12
- *Odds of Life* - Page 12
- *Military Pays SETI* - Page 14
- *Declassified Docs Find Home* - Pg 14
- *MUFON MN Info* - Page 15
- *Meeting Map* - Page 16

Witnessing a UFO can have bizarre effects upon people. There have been cases in which some within a group were not able to see a UFO, and some were. This raises the possibility that an alien can somehow control what a witness perceives. One case involved three women who were traveling together in a car looking for a UFO. When one was finally spotted the driver pulled over to the side of the road in order to get out of the car and have a better view. We could assume that anyone getting out of a car would be looking up at the sky. This, however, is not always the case. One woman got out of her car and proceeded to look down at her feet. Another was preoccupied with unfastening her child's seat belt. Two of the three ladies totally missed the spectacle simply because they were not looking up.

Alien control over the minds of witnesses has possibly extended to those who would try to photograph them. There have been numerous occasions during which people have had cameras in their hands. But, at the critical moment they did nothing. Those few who have photographed a UFO have been in the right place at the right time but typically receive nothing for their efforts. More often than not, attempts to film a UFO are useless.

This telepathic hold may have its sinister side. While some are compelled not to see the UFOs, there was one case in which the aliens seemed to "call" someone. In the spring of 1988 a woman felt a strange compulsion to leave her house and drive down the road to the farm. She felt that this was something that she had to do. Upon arriving, she saw three white lights moving silently towards her over the corn field. All of a sudden the cows went into a panic and behaved as though they were trying out for a rodeo.

There had been two cases of abductions in the area. In both, the people who had been abducted had the notion that they had been somehow examined but could not describe the entities who examined them. Both abductees had marks on their legs and experienced nightmares. In addition to the two abductions which have been revealed, there may be others that people are not talking about. There has also been a case in which a white sphere of light seemingly tried to get into a house with an infant inside. In the mystery of whatever was flying over Indiana some twenty years ago, there are probably others that were seen but never described.

Many people had come to Harrison County in hopes of seeing a UFO. But, nobody made an

attempt to communicate with the entities, which perhaps was a wise decision.

One evening some ladies were conversing about the local UFO situation when dogs in the area began barking. The women then watched a ball of white light, perhaps three feet in diameter, noiselessly glide over the corn field. Most were astonished, but one lady had been seeing low-flying UFOs for years. She ran over to her car and rapidly clicked the headlight on and off three times. The UFO paused in its flight and returned the same signal. It then vanished in front of everyone.

The CE4 Corner
January/February 2012
A frightened experiencer or a good actor
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Late one night, as I was sitting on the couch in my studio reading a novel, the phone suddenly rang. This was after 11:30 PM - nearly midnight. Who would be calling at this hour? The only things I could think of were a family emergency, a UFO sighting occurring in real time, a prankster, or a frightened experiencer. I picked up the phone and answered. It was apparently one of the latter two.

I won't use any names, but the person identified himself, slowly, fearfully, haltingly. He told me he was in his late teens – just a kid, actually. I finally coaxed his first name out of him and asked him what had happened. He said his name was “Ted” (a pseudonym) and he had experienced an alien abduction only a few hours before. I asked him to describe what had happened and from his speech, the tone of his voice, etc., it sounded like the incident - whatever it was - had scared the tar out of him.

I asked him where he was. He gave me the name of a little town that I had never heard of, somewhere in the Nevada desert. I asked him for his phone number and he asked me why. Didn't I have caller ID? Secretly, my intent was to see if the number he gave me matched the number I would later look up on my caller ID. I told him that the number wasn't visible (actually, I was telling the truth, it wasn't actually visible at that moment). Still, he hedged, unwilling to tell me his number.

Having the experiencer decline to identify him/herself usually makes me suspicious of the

veracity of the call but the hesitation could be due to fear, as well. Was the man really a frightened experiencer, or was he simply trying to have a good laugh at my expense? Still, sympathetic to the fear in his voice, I gave him the benefit of the doubt and said OK. Furthermore, I knew I could get his number from my Caller ID, later.

Continuing on, I asked him to describe what had happened and he proceeded to tell his story. His voice cracked as spoke, describing in slow painful steps, what had happened. He told me that he had been walking out of the factory where he worked the late shift, sometime in the wee hours (he wasn't sure of the exact time, but it is clearly well after Midnight). He was walking across a large, deserted parking lot, preoccupied with his own concerns. He suddenly found his thoughts interrupted as some type of an alien-looking device/craft appeared a few hundred feet from him.

He described the device as about the size of a phone booth (actually, he used the words "police call box" – hmmm, shades of Dr. Who?). Two beings, a man and a woman, appeared from the object and approached him. He described them as being beautiful, tall, blonde hair and blue eyes (a.k.a. 'Nordics'). They spoke to him without their lips moving. The male continued on elsewhere, apparently involved in some other mission, while the female escorted him into the craft.

Ted described the inside of the craft as being huge, far bigger than the exterior. It was full of control panels, technological devices, etc. The woman looked into his eyes, conveying some form of telepathic information. Then everything went blank. His next memory was of lying in the dirt in the spot where the object had appeared. It was now about two hours after he had originally left work.

I again asked him his phone number and again he refused to tell me. I said "OK, I understand," and left it at that. While I could look it up on caller ID, I wanted to see what his reply would be. Again, it made me suspicious. I gave him the name of the MUFON director for his area. He thanked me and we ended the conversation.

As I hung up the phone, I was uncertain of the veracity of the case. Was this man a frightened experiencer or a good actor? I suspected the latter.

I looked up his phone number and name on my caller ID. To my surprise, it displayed a name, which I will give as "Jim Smith." The name

appeared to have nothing to do with anyone living in his area, and/or with "Ted," the name he had given me. Furthermore, when I did a reverse phone lookup on-line, I found the phone registered to someone in southern California (I'll say San Diego). The location, just like the name, had nothing to do with the phone number and name of the person who had called me. In short, nothing checked out.

Passing it off as a prank, I ignored it as one of those annoying events that dot the picture of life. Like rain during a picnic, a fly on the wall, etc., it was ultimately of no real consequence. Still, I wonder. If this guy was making all of this up, he was passing up a great career as an actor, or maybe as a science fiction writer. This kid had sounded scared, scatterbrained and generally distressed. Hoaxing that was certainly possible, but for what reason? Why waste his talent on something like giving me a rough time?

People do things for any number of reasons. Like other aspects of the phenomenon, and human nature in general, these can often be a mystery. Still, whoever he was, I wish him well - either as a close-encounter experiencer with a hell of a story to tell or as a pretty good actor.

THE SYLVAN LAKE CASE William McNeff, MUFON MN ASD Dec. 8, 2011

In 2009, the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) signed a contract for funding of UFO investigations with Bigelow Aerospace Advanced Space Studies (BAASS). This is a company owned by Robert Bigelow, a Las Vegas multi-millionaire who is building space craft. With this funding, MUFON put together a "rapid response" team of investigators, called the STAR team, intended to go quickly to the site of anything that appeared to be a landing or a crash of an extraterrestrial craft.

If an extraterrestrial craft, a "space ship", landed, it might leave behind evidence in the form of traces left on the ground, such as marks on the ground or deposits of material. There have been many such cases. One investigator named Ted Phillips has documented over 4000 of these "trace cases". These cases, after analysis, could provide good clues about the methods of propulsion of the craft and the technology involved. Of course, if a craft crashed, the remains could provide even better information, and it might be possible to "reverse engineer" the remains and figure out the technology

involved. This, of course, is what is alleged to have happened in the Roswell cases. (There may have been three crashes near Roswell in July 1947.) So it would make sense that Robert Bigelow would be very interested in such cases.

I volunteered to be one of the STAR Team investigators. Unfortunately, in the only one of these cases that occurred in 2009 in Minnesota, I had another obligation and was unable to go investigate. An investigator from Nebraska drove up to investigate and several problems ensued, with the result that MUFON Minnesota opted out of the STAR program.

What happened was that on July 28, 2009, the Forest Lake, MN Times online newspaper said that a 'Credible Eyewitness' reported that a sizeable object had fallen into Sylvan Lake. Sylvan Lake is located just to the southeast of the much larger Forest Lake, which is a northeastern suburb of the Twin Cities. A housewife, who was doing the laundry in the lower level of her home, reported seeing waves spread out from where she believed an object had splashed down a little before 2 p.m. on Monday July 27, 2009. She did not see an object fall, only the aftermath; she saw a large swirl and it appeared the water was churning or rotating.

The search and rescue team from Forest Lake Fire and Rescue responded with its airboat to a call from the housewife. The search and rescue team spied air bubbles in a 20 foot diameter. The Washington County Dive Team also sent nine members, who searched below the surface through murky water to depths of around 26 feet without locating anything. They were severely hampered by the extremely murky water. According to Forest Lake Fire Chief Gary Sigfrinius, the caller thought the wave action was from a helicopter. Sigfrinius told the Forest Lake City Council there was no petroleum film from a boat/plane wreck or debris floating on the water surface. "We don't know what it was," he said."

Washington County sent some men out in a boat with a side scan sonar and it located an object, roughly a cube about one yard on each side, on the bottom of the lake. The Sheriff said they would send the dive team out again in September to locate the object as part of team practice. They probably assumed that someone had dumped an old washing machine out there and it had partly sunk into the mud, which is a reasonable assumption.

Because I wasn't available to investigate, the STAR team sent an investigator from Nebraska, Rich

Webb. Webb drove his car instead of flying as he might have done, starting out early Saturday morning. By then, the new MUFON State Director, Lorna Hunter, was off work and able to drive to the Twin Cities. She kept in touch with Rich Webb by cell phone. She also phoned Bob Engberg, MUFON Field investigator and former Minnesota MUFON State Director, and arranged for him to meet her at a restaurant in Forest Lake. She also phoned Webb and he promised to meet them at the restaurant at a certain time that afternoon. Lorna and Bob rendezvoused at the restaurant, but the time for Webb to arrive came and went. After waiting a while, they decided to go out to Sylvan Lake and look around.

When they got to the Lake, they parked on the street in front of the address of the woman who had reported the lake disturbance. Soon the woman and her husband appeared. Bob and Lorna explained why they were there, and the couple offered to take them on their pontoon boat out on the lake to the spot where the disturbance had been.

After they got out to the spot, and the woman had told her story to Lorna and Bob, they saw Rich Webb back on the shore. Their hosts brought the pontoon back to shore and picked up Mr. Webb, who then interviewed the witnesses.

Later, Webb, speaking in the name of MUFON, said that the housewife's story was "not consistent." This statement may be based on Mr. Webb's misunderstanding of some of her statements, which appear consistent to several of us in MUFON Minnesota.

The Washington County Sheriff's dive team went out to do their practice dives on the 9th of September. The Channel 5 news crew was out too, so the witness' husband and the witness got out of there. The witness has had more than enough embarrassment caused by MUFON saying her story wasn't "consistent," along with the gross misrepresentation in the newspaper articles; she didn't want to be anywhere near the news crew.

When the dive team got out on the lake, the witness' husband said a military helicopter, with its flood lights on, flew a bee-line over the lake. Again a week later, a military chopper circled the lake's perimeter several times, then hovered over the spot where the disturbance was. The chopper was said to be "quite low." The witness' neighbor said it was there for 10 - 12 minutes, and took photos of it. The

witness' husband said to have 2 military choppers fly over in a week was extremely rare, because "they never fly over here."

The dive team found nothing! It seems unlikely that anyone would have bothered to fish out an old washer or dryer, and it would not be easy to do unless you had sonar, a good sized boat, such as a pontoon, and some good equipment like a hoist. Could this object have simply sunk into the floor of the lake? The mud and plant stalks and roots on the bottom would provide resistance to this happening. I doubt this is the explanation.

This makes me wonder. It seems to me that if this object is really gone, it was possibly either:

1. A piece of military hardware that was, somehow, secretly retrieved, which is unlikely, as it is a small lake with no public access, or:

2. An alien craft. Again, unlikely as it seems, strange flying objects of just about any size or shape that you can imagine have been reported by people who by reasonable standards would be considered reliable.

I think this might have been "the one that got away"!

QUESTIONS TO BE INVESTIGATED: WHAT VERTICAL VELOCITY WOULD A 3 FOOT CUBE NEED TO MAKE WAVES A FOOT HIGH? If the waves were caused by a splash-down, the fact that they were only 6" or a foot high suggests that the object controlled its descent!

Could this object have simply sunk into the floor of the lake? The mud and the plant stalks and roots on the bottom would provide resistance to this happening. I doubt this is the explanation. But it could be checked out.

(Note: Funding by BAASS for the STAR Team has since ended, but the STAR program has been continued by MUFON on a self-funding basis.)

We should scour the moon for ancient traces of aliens, say scientists

Ian Sample, science correspondent, guardian.co.uk, 25 December 2011

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/science/2011/dec/25/scour-moon-ancient-traces-aliens>

Online volunteers could be set task of spotting alien technology, evidence of mining and rubbish heaps in moon images.

Hundreds of thousands of pictures of the moon will be examined for telltale signs that aliens once visited our cosmic neighbourhood if plans put forward by scientists go ahead.

Passing extraterrestrials might have left messages, scientific instruments, heaps of rubbish or evidence of mining on the dusty lunar surface that could be spotted by human telescopes and orbiting spacecraft.

Though the chances of finding the handiwork of long-gone aliens are exceptionally remote, scientists argue that a computerised search of lunar images, or a crowd-sourced analysis by amateur enthusiasts, would be cheap enough to justify given the importance of a potential discovery.

Prof Paul Davies and Robert Wagner at Arizona State University argue that images of the moon and other information collected by scientists for their research should be scoured for signs of alien intervention. The proposal aims to complement other hunts for alien life, such as the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence (Seti), which draws on data from radio-telescopes to scour the heavens for messages beamed into space by alien civilisations.

"Although there is only a tiny probability that alien technology would have left traces on the moon in the form of an artifact or surface modification of lunar features, this location has the virtue of being close, and of preserving traces for an immense duration," the scientists write in a paper published online in the journal *Acta Astronautica*.

"If it costs little to scan data for signs of intelligent manipulation, little is lost in doing so, even though the probability of detecting alien technology at work may be exceedingly low," they add.

The scientists focus their attention on Nasa's Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO), which has mapped a quarter of the moon's surface in high resolution since mid-2009. Among these images, scientists

ETs and the Effects of Electromagnetic Radiation

By Bill McNeff ASD MUFON MN

have already spotted the Apollo landing sites and all of the Nasa and Soviet unmanned probes, some of which were revealed only by their odd-looking shadows.

Nasa has made more than 340,000 LRO images public, but that figure is expected to reach one million by the time the orbiting probe has mapped the whole lunar surface. "From these numbers, it is obvious that a manual search by a small team is hopeless," the scientists write.

One way to scan all of the images involves writing software to search for strange-looking features, such as the sharp lines of solar panels, or the dust-covered contours of quarries or domed buildings. These might be visible millions of years after they were built, because the moon's surface is geologically inactive and changes so slowly.

The seismometer on Nasa's Apollo 12 mission detected only one impact per month from roughly grapefruit-sized meteorites within a 350km radius. According to Davies and Wagner, it could take hundreds of millions of years for an object tens of metres across to be buried by lunar soil and dust kicked up by these impacts.

An alternative approach would be to send tens of thousands of amateur enthusiasts images over the internet for examination, though this could lead to disagreements over what constituted an unusual, and potentially alien, feature.

The easiest artifact to find would probably be a message left behind intentionally. This might be held in a capsule and left in a large fresh crater like Tycho in the moon's southern highlands, the scientists write. Some longer-lasting messages could be buried at depth but fitted with transmitters that penetrate the lunar surface, they add.

Alien life might once have set up a lunar base in the underground networks of lava tubes beneath the moon's dark, basaltic plains, and perhaps have left rubbish when they departed. "The same factors that make lava tubes attractive as a habitat imply that any artifacts left behind would endure almost indefinitely, undamaged and unburied," the scientists write. © 2011 Guardian News and Media Limited or its affiliated companies. All rights reserved.

A friend and I were discussing effects of radio and cell phone waves on humans. There is serious concern about brain cancer caused by cell phone radiation. All or most electromagnetic waves -- from low frequency radio to at least visible light -- heat materials they strike, including tissue, to varying degrees. For example, about 9GHz is the resonant frequency of water, so it heats water very efficiently and is used for microwave ovens. Certain other frequencies are resonant frequencies of the motion of certain molecules, parts of molecules, atoms, and various sub-atomic particles. Besides heating, this might have other effects. One experiencer, a friend of mine, was allegedly told by ETs that they could re-write his DNA. I asked him for more detail on that, and here is what he wrote:

"They said they could read and write human DNA on the fly in a machine that looked like an MRI...I saw the damn thing, looked like a fast version of a MRI, only with a green laser like beam [that] performed the I/O function..."

"If you are technically minded and not afraid of them, they will talk to you and tell you what they're doing if you ask questions...Anyway therefore when you think about it they have the power of God, life over death, infinite life." [End Quote]

Joe McMoneagle, one of the presenters at the MUFON symposium this summer, claimed that some Russian researchers have learned to do this. A quick Google search turned up this, which is essentially what McMoneagle was saying:

<http://www.agoracosmopolitan.com/home/Frontpage/2007/05/15/01569.html>

[Russian Human Genome Project discovers Extraterrestrial abilities to modify DNA thro](#)

"Some recent Russian DNA discoveries documented by Grazyna Fosar and Franz Bludorf in their book *Vernetzte Intelligenz* have been summarised by Baerbel. 'The human DNA is a biological Internet' with evidence that DNA can be 'influenced and reprogrammed by words and frequencies.' This suggests that 'our DNA is not only responsible for the construction of our body, but also serves as data storage and communication.' The Russian scientists and linguists have found that the genetic code 'follows the same rules as all our human languages.' In effect, human language did

not appear coincidentally but is a reflection of our DNA.

“The Russian researchers believe that ‘Living chromosomes function just like a holographic computer using endogenous DNA laser radiation. This means that they managed to modulate certain frequency patterns (sound) onto a laser-like ray which influence DNA frequency and thus the genetic information itself. Since the basic structure of DNA-alkaline pairs and language is of the same structure, no DNA decoding is necessary. One can simply use words and sentences of the human language! This, too, was experimentally proven! Of course the frequency has to be correct.” But for the purposes of this article, the Russian research shows how science now can demonstrate a way to reprogram DNA through language and frequencies.

"Experiencers" who manifest unusual languages, such as Rochelle (see the video Expressions of ET Contact: A Communication and Healing Blueprint?) call these ‘soul languages’. Rochelle vocalises them when doing energy work and healing. Healing with sound and frequencies takes on a new meaning in this context. It could mean that Rochelle and others like her may well intuitively be able to change or reprogram DNA though such frequencies while healing. We already know that our subconscious is affected by subliminal frequencies and hypnosis, and the Russian research may have given us a scientific explanation why such techniques work so well. The question is whether the specific frequencies of these languages are designed to affect or reprogram our human DNA? This may well give us grounds for reviewing ancient texts in regards to our origins.”

This article has a lot of ideas that aren't entirely clear, and neither is it clear how far they have developed such techniques. It would be interesting to have more detail on this subject. But it seems reasonable that if the Russians can modify DNA, ET should have much greater capabilities in this regard.

UFOs and Government: Proposing a New Way Forward

Leslie Kean, 11/15/11

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/leslie-kean/ufos-and-government_b_1094028.html

In UFO circles, much fuss has been made about a recent response by the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) to two petitions on extraterrestrial/human communications, posted on a government website. Phil Larson, who was tasked to respond, has been accused of everything from lying, to cover-ups, to gross incompetence. But the real problem lies with the inappropriate and fundamentally flawed content of the petitions themselves -- not with the government reply to them. The critics seem to have lost sight of what the petitions actually said and did not say, while insulting and lashing out at Larson.

One petition asks the Obama administration to "immediately disclose the government's knowledge of and communications with extraterrestrial beings" and the other to "formally acknowledge an extraterrestrial presence engaging the human race." The former asks for congressional hearings about "this subject" (communications with ET) while the latter requests the release of documents about "this phenomenon" (an extraterrestrial presence). Thousands of people signed on to the assumptions that extraterrestrial beings have been secretly talking to our government or somehow are involved with the whole human race. Try thinking about these bizarre and murky statements from the perspective of a scientifically-oriented government official. How is he to make sense of such absurd requests?

Neither petition had anything to do with the subject of UFOs, as properly defined; no request for data on UFOs was included. And, chances are, Larson knows very little, if anything, about the evidence for UFOs. Like most government scientists, he likely dismissed the subject long ago as baseless and therefore irrelevant to space policy, and has never looked into it. Consequently, it's entirely logical that Larson would not make the leap from the question of extraterrestrial communications to the issue of physical unidentified flying objects. Did the petitioners not expect that their requests would be taken at face value?

Without asking for acknowledgment of evidence for UFOs, you can't slam Larson for not providing it. He addressed the petitioners' concerns with an update on the current status of the scientific search

for extraterrestrial life: "The U.S. government has no evidence that any life exists outside our planet or that an extraterrestrial presence has contacted or engaged any member of the human race. In addition there is no credible information to suggest that any evidence is being hidden from the public's eye." The "any evidence" here refers specifically to evidence of ET interacting with humans, not to evidence for UFOs. Within the realm of science and logic, his statement happens to be true. Unfortunately, the badly worded petitions asked for the wrong thing -- something obviously impossible for the White House to deliver. And, sadly for all of us, the subsequent attacks on Larson's statement (called "a travesty against the public" by one leading UFO researcher) will not serve to motivate officials to help our cause.

It's important to realize that these two petitions received attention only because they acquired the requisite 5,000 signatures (now the minimum is 25,000) along with hundreds of others. Larson's response does not represent some kind of formal government statement on the UFO issue -- far from it. Larson simply provided an obligatory scientific response to citizens seeking an announcement of contact with extraterrestrials. The significance of his statement should not be blown out of proportion or spun as something that it is not.

I would like to share some comments from government insiders whom I asked to read the petition about an "extraterrestrial presence," since this one garnered the most signatures. Ed Rothschild, principal with the Podesta Group, a leading government relations and public relations firm in Washington, is "a seasoned veteran at strategic communications" with "dynamic experience in both Congress and the public interest community," according to the firm's website. <http://www.podesta.com/talent/ed-rothschild> Ed has provided assistance to my group, the Coalition for Freedom of Information, in the past, and is an expert at positioning the UFO issue in Washington. His response to the petition is as follows:

Those who claim that extraterrestrials are here are simply propagating nonsense -- a non-scientific belief that defies credibility. This is counter-productive and undermines efforts to get serious government attention for the issue of the existence of life beyond our solar system. I can't imagine this silly statement would go anywhere except into government office waste baskets.

The only way to approach the issue of unexplained aerial phenomena in Washington and expect results is to present the facts and seek a legitimate inquiry into the small percentage of well-documented cases worthy of serious investigation. The approach represented by this petition has been shown many times before to be a failure. Further, those propagating this nonsense choose to make outrageous claims simply to get media attention, rather than focusing on the hard work that science requires.

Nick Pope, who worked for the UK's Ministry of Defense for 21 years and was in charge of the government UFO project in the 1990s, also has serious concerns:

Any statement that implies the government is lying is going to be counter-productive. When someone accuses you of being part of a cover-up, you can't and don't engage with them. I got this sort of thing all the time at the Ministry of Defense, and no meaningful dialogue was possible with such people. I simply gave them a polite brush-off, and I understand exactly why this is necessary within government. To get results, a constructive request should stress the reasons why the phenomenon is worthy of official investigation.

And what about members of Congress? The best I could do is approach a high level Hill staffer with knowledge of this issue, who wishes to remain anonymous. He works for a member from a relevant committee. "As is often said, politics is the art of the possible. Overly broad statements and fantastical claims of cover ups serve only to poison the well for anyone interested in advancing any subsequent suggestion for research or review of policies. Enthusiasm and conviction is no substitute for reason and evidence."

Scientists are a difficult bunch to convince. Yet theoretical physicist Michio Kaku acknowledged on national television: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2pw13F7ahjY> that the strongest UFO cases cannot be explained and appear to defy the laws of physics. But when asked if this confirms that there is extraterrestrial life, Kaku replied "No, we don't have that smoking gun" yet. Astronomer Derrick Pitts was swayed by the same evidence, accepting it because it did not involve "fantastic claims of alien visitation."

Clearly, we can't make the leap from the existence of unknown airborne objects, for which we have proof, to claims of extraterrestrial communications,

which can't be proven, if we want to appeal to scientists. Neal Lane, Rice University professor of Physics and Astronomy, was the director of the OSTP under President Clinton. "Implausible explanations for UFOs such as this one, made by enthusiasts and conspiracy theorists, are not effective in approaching government," he explained after reading the petition. "A strong case has already been made for a new U.S. role in cooperative investigations of UFO phenomena, involving U.S. cooperation with other countries in investigating the credible reports and making the results public." That "strong case" is the one I am proposing as an alternative rallying point, because it is steadily gaining the support of many key players who know how government works.

Despite our own personal beliefs about alien spaceships, extraterrestrials, or government cover-ups, we have to adopt a strategy that will work. Our assumptions and conclusions are completely irrelevant -- and can be harmful -- to this process. It is crucial to realize that the vast majority of U.S. officials are both uninformed about and uninterested in UFOs. And if they are open, they are so afraid of ridicule that they have limited capacity to act. We have to educate them by presenting refined, concise, and well-documented official data on the UFO phenomenon. Timing is important, too; unfortunately, an election year is not the time to attempt this.

An effective strategy involves establishing the fact that a UFO, by definition, is simply something unidentified (the acronym does not mean "alien spacecraft"); it helps to use the acronym UAP (unidentified aerial phenomena) whenever possible. The agnostic position, the scientifically sound one, acknowledges the accumulated evidence of an extraordinary, physical phenomenon but recognizes that we don't yet know what it is. Secondly, we need to provide a reason that government should care about UAP, such as pointing out that we could be vulnerable to exotic foreign spy planes or drones if we ignore reports; that these objects raise significant air safety issues; that we're losing potentially valuable scientific data about the nature of this recurring phenomenon. Thirdly, we have to invite government to engage in an investigation because we need its expertise, making its participation sound necessary and beneficial, rather than being accusatory.

Specifically, we need a small government office to serve as a U.S. focal point in the investigation of carefully selected cases, in cooperation with the

international community. A staffer would have immediate access to all pertinent data and witnesses when investigating a UFO incident, working in conjunction with a qualified civilian oversight board. This proposal has received the support of generals, former and current government and military officials, scientists, and many other VIPs from around the world.

John Podesta, President Clinton's former chief of staff who served as co-chair of Obama's transition team, has been one of the more public proponents of what he calls "a new way forward." Labeling himself a "curious skeptic," he wrote in 2010 that "It is definitely time for government, scientists, and aviation experts to work together in unraveling the questions about UFOs that have so far remained in the dark." He says that the plan for a small U.S. government agency is "an idea worth considering."

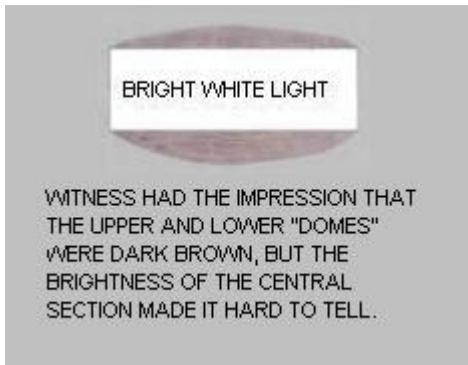
Former Arizona Governor Fife Symington witnessed a spectacular UFO event while in office, but felt he had to keep that secret until ten years later. He knows from experience that change in government policy is desperately needed, and in response, he has publicly urged establishing this office, as have those in charge of government agencies investigating UAP in other countries.

I have gathered a powerful coalition of high level government, military and scientific experts who support a rational, scientific approach to the UFO problem, as outlined here. We are all fortunate that such respectable figures have offered advice on how to frame this sensitive issue and work effectively with our government. Doesn't it make sense to take our cues from them? I invite all of those who are serious about UFOs to align themselves with this well-tested, productive approach. Once we have even the smallest change in the official position -- such as acknowledgment that UAP are worthy of investigation -- the door is opened. After that, anything will be possible.

UFO FLAP IN WESTERN AND NORTHWESTERN SUBURBS IN EARLY JULY

By Bill McNeff, ASD MUFON MN

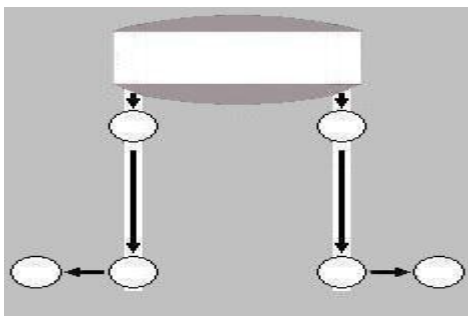
July brought a particularly interesting series of reports, starting with a retired man in Becker, Minn., northwest of the Twin Cities, who reported seeing in the middle of the night, on July 5th, an object hovering over his neighbor's back yard, about 100 feet to the northwest of his house (see sketch):



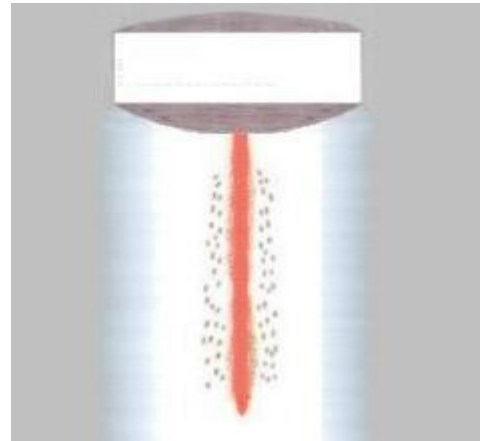
The distance of 100 feet should be a fairly accurate estimate because there is a grove of tall trees on the west side of his neighbor's back yard, and, based on what the witness saw, the craft must have been on the east side of the trees. This witness did not have a computer, and therefore could not report his sightings to MUFON's computerized Case Management System (CMS).

According to the witness, who appears to me to be reliable, this object put on an amazing show, first sending down two beams of white light. Rather than shining all the way to the ground, the beams were truncated a few feet above the ground. Then one white ball of light (BOL) traveled most of the way down each beam and each went away horizontally, one to the left and one to the right.

The arrows in the sketch below, which is based closely on the witness' sketch, show the direction of motion of the BOLs when they left. The right beam then turned off.



About one minute later, the balls of light returned to the left beam, merged together and then went back up the beam. The beam then turned off. Then what appeared to be a flame projected down from the center of the object, to about two feet from the ground.

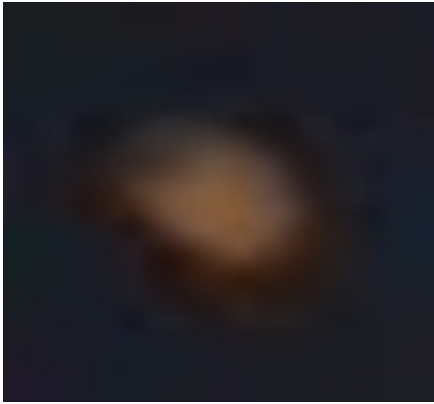


In spite of the object being so close, no sound was heard at any time.

The witness told his next door neighbor what he had seen, and asked the neighbor to check his back yard grass for possible evidence of the "flame". The neighbor found nothing out of the ordinary.

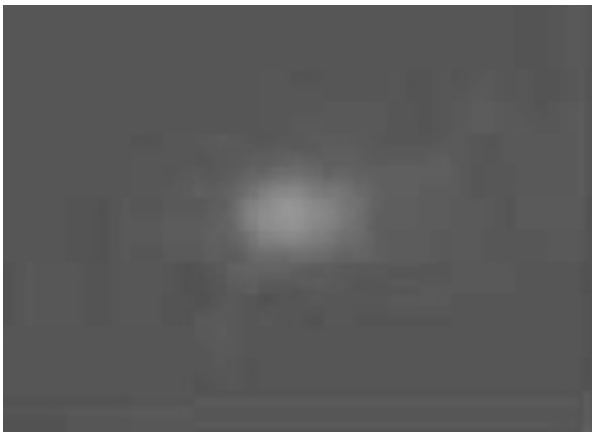
On July 7th, 9th and 11th, again in the middle of the night, the witness saw what he presumed to be the same object again, but on these dates the object did not send down beams or the "flame", at least while the witness was watching. On each of the three nights, the object was progressively further away compared to the first occasion. On the 11th, he estimated that the object was several miles away.

Then, on July 13th, at about 1:45 am in Maple Grove, a western suburb of Minneapolis, two women in their twenties driving home from a party saw an orange glowing sphere moving off toward the southwest. The one who was a passenger pulled out her cell phone with a high resolution video camera and shot 56 seconds of video of the object.



Above is a blowup of the object from one of the first frames of the video.

The nearly full moon appears in the middle of the video, so it should be possible to accurately determine the direction and motion of the object. (Later, a photo-analyst was unable to identify the object, and stated that he doubted that it was a “Chinese Lantern”, which is a small hot air balloon.) Meanwhile, the driver, after dropping off her friend at her home, drove to her own parent’s home and parked in the driveway, where she arrived about 2:20 am. When she got out, she saw a small round object hovering to the north, close enough that she was immediately alarmed. She estimated the object to be about the size of a VW “beetle”. But she had the presence of mind to pull out her cell phone and take 30 seconds of video, before going on into the house. The video shows an oblong white object, which, if it is the size the witness estimated, might be about a half mile away.



The picture above is blown up by a factor of 4 and has the brightness enhanced.

Within minutes after the witnesses had taken the video, they emailed copies to a friend of theirs who had been at the same party. He subsequently looked at the videos on his computer, and telephoned me on the same day as the sightings, July 13th. Neither he nor the prime witnesses

reported the sightings to CMS. The video shows that this object hovered for a short time, then began to drift slowly to the right, going a bit lower in the process, then drifted slowly back to the left. No other lights associated with the object show in the video. This was definitely not a conventional aircraft or any other ordinary object, in my opinion. Investigation of this object, including photo-analysis, is not complete. But I don’t believe it is a spotlight on a cloud layer, because of the carefully controlled nature of the motion. Also, no beam is seen.

Radar data was obtained from the FAA covering the time period of 1:30 am to 2:30 am. William Puckett, a radar data analyst, was asked if he would be willing to help analyze the data, which was in the form of a large text file. He was willing, and I emailed a copy of the data to him. The initial reports from the witnesses were that the 1:45 am object was moving toward the west, and this information was sent to Puckett. He was able to load the data into an Excel file, and located a radar track of an object moving in a westerly direction at about 1:45 am, at 60 mph. This track did not coincide with any highway. Airport radars are designed not to pick up ground objects, but sometimes do so under certain conditions such as a temperature inversion. The friend of the prime witnesses, who was in the area at the time of the sightings, and outside for part of that time, described the weather conditions to his astronomy professor, who advised him that there should not have been a temperature inversion under those conditions. The professor is going to check weather records to investigate the weather conditions further and advise us.

Much further investigation of the videos and the radar data will be needed before the cases can be considered completed, but enough has been learned about these sightings to show that these objects are unidentified. No further interviews of the prime witnesses will be necessary or will be carried out, since the best evidence in physical form has already been obtained. Stay tuned for further results.

[The article below, while not a UFO article, can also refer to UFO information availability through the FOIA. - Ed.]

Obama's Secrets

By LA Times | Editorial, 01 November 11

<http://readersupportednews.org/opinion2/269-36/8202-obamas-secrets>

The Obama administration should rethink its outrageous proposal that would allow the government to lie to citizens about whether documents exist.

One of the most disappointing attributes of the Obama administration has been its proclivity for secrecy. The president who committed himself to "an unprecedented level of openness in government" has followed the example of his predecessor by invoking the "state secrets" privilege to derail litigation about government misdeeds in the war on terror. He has refused to release the administration's secret interpretation of the Patriot Act, which two senators have described as alarming. He has blocked the dissemination of photographs documenting the abuse of prisoners by US service members. And now his Justice Department has proposed to allow government agencies to lie about the existence of documents being sought under the Freedom of Information Act, or FOIA.

At present, if the government doesn't want to admit the existence of a document it believes to be exempt from FOIA, it may advise the person making the request that it can neither confirm nor deny the document's existence. Under the proposed regulation, an agency that withholds a document "will respond to the request as if the excluded records did not exist."

This policy is outrageous. It provides a license for the government to lie to its own people and makes a mockery of FOIA. It also would mislead citizens who might file an appeal if they knew there was a possibility that the document they sought was in the possession of a government agency. Such an appeal would allow a court to determine whether the requested document was covered by an exemption in FOIA.

Even without the new rule, federal law enforcement agents have denied the existence of important documents. In a lawsuit involving surveillance of Muslim organizations in Southern California, the FBI was reprimanded by a federal judge. "The Government cannot, under any circumstance,

affirmatively mislead the court," wrote Judge Cormac J. Carney. The FBI justified its misrepresentation by citing national security.

An appeal to national security underlies many of the Obama administration's decisions to withhold information of public interest. But, as with past presidents, a stronger motive seems to be to protect the government from embarrassment. Take the case of a lawsuit against an aircraft services company accused of helping the George W. Bush administration transport suspected terrorists to other countries for interrogation. In invoking the state secrets privilege, the administration told the court that proceeding with the case would be "play[ing] with fire." Yet the details of the rendition program had long been public.

FOIA doesn't provide a blanket right to public access to government documents. It's reasonable to have exceptions for certain classified national security or foreign policy documents if their release would damage American interests. The government should be free to withhold those documents, subject to review by the courts, but it would be unacceptable - and deeply undemocratic - to pretend they don't exist. The Justice Department should discard the rule and start over. And Obama should reread his pronouncements about transparent government.

Earth-like? Habitable?

New system would assess odds of life on other worlds By Robert Streng

WSU News, Nov. 21, 2011

<http://news.wsu.edu/pages/publications.asp?Action=Detail&PublicationID=28889&TypeID=1>

PULLMAN, Wash. – Within the next few years, the number of planets discovered in orbits around distant stars will likely reach several thousand or more. But even as our list of these newly discovered "exoplanets" grows ever-longer, the search for life beyond our solar system will likely focus much more narrowly on the relatively few of these new worlds which exhibit the most Earth-like of conditions.

For much of the scientific community, the search for alien life has long been dominated by the notion that our own planet serves as the best model of conditions best suited to the emergence of life on other worlds. And while there's an undeniable logic to seeking life in the same sort of conditions in which you already know it to be successful, there

are scientists like Dirk Schulze-Makuch, an astrobiologist with the Washington State University School of Earth and Environmental Sciences and Abel Mendez, a modeling expert from the University of Puerto Rico at Aricebo, who also see such a model as the product of a potentially limiting form of earthling-biased thinking.

To Schulze-Makuch and his nine fellow authors – an international working group representing, NASA, SETI, the German Aerospace Center, and four universities – the search for life on other worlds is really driven by two questions.

"The first question is whether Earth-like conditions can be found on other worlds, since we know empirically that those conditions could harbor life," Schulze-Makuch said. "The second question is whether conditions exist on exoplanets that suggest the possibility of other forms of life, whether known to us or not."

In a paper to be published in the December issue of the journal *Astrobiology*, Schulze-Makuch and his co-authors propose a new system for classifying exoplanets using two different indices – an Earth Similarity Index (ESI) for categorizing a planet's more earth-like features and a Planetary Habitability Index (PHI) for describing a variety of chemical and physical parameters that are theoretically conducive to life in more extreme, less earth-like conditions.

Similarity indices provide a powerful tool for categorizing and extracting patterns from large and complex data sets. They are relatively quick and easy to calculate and provide a simple quantitative measure of departure from a reference state, usually on a scale from zero to one. They are used in mathematics, computer imaging, chemistry and many other fields.

The two indices proposed by the group mark the first attempt by scientists to categorize the many exoplanets and exomoons that are expected to be discovered in the near future in accordance with their potential to harbor some form of life.

"As a practical matter, interest in exoplanets is going to focus initially on the search for terrestrial, Earth-like planets," said Schulze-Makuch. "With that in mind, we propose an Earth Similarity Index which provides a quick screening tool with which to detect exoplanets most similar to Earth."

But the authors believe that focusing exclusively on earth-based assumptions about habitability may well be too restrictive an approach for capturing the potential variety of life forms that, at least in principle, may also exist on other worlds.

"Habitability in a wider sense is not necessarily restricted to water as a solvent or to a planet circling a star," the paper's authors write. "For example, the hydrocarbon lakes on Titan could host a different form of life. Analog studies in hydrocarbon environments on Earth, in fact, clearly indicate that these environments are habitable in principle. Orphan planets wandering free of any central star could likewise conceivably feature conditions suitable for some form of life."

The paper's authors concede that attempting to rate the probability that life of some unknown form could exist on any given world is an intrinsically more speculative endeavor. But the alternative, they argue, is to risk overlooking potentially habitable worlds by using overly restrictive assumptions.

"Our proposed PHI is informed by chemical and physical parameters that are conducive to life in general," they write. "It relies on factors that, in principle, could be detected at the distance of exoplanets from Earth, given currently planned future (space) instrumentation."

The paper, entitled *A Two-Tiered Approach to Assessing the Habitability of Exoplanets*, was written by Alfonso Davila, of SETI; Alberto Fairen, of NASA; Abel Mendez of the University of Puerto Rico at Aricebo; Philip von Paris, of the German Aerospace Center; David Catling, of the University of Washington; Louis N. Irwin, of the University of Texas-El Paso, and Marina Resendes de Sousa Antonia, Carol Turse, Grayson Boyer and Dirk Schulze-Makuch, all of Washington State University. Source: Dirk Schulze-Makuch, WSU School of Earth & Environmental Science, 509-335-1180, dirksm@wsu.edu

US military pays SETI to check Kepler-22b for aliens - 'Space situational awareness' cash for Allen Array

By Lewis Page, 6th Dec. 2011

http://www.theregister.co.uk/2011/12/06/seti_checks_out_kepler_habitable_exoplanets/

The Search for Extra Terrestrial Intelligence (SETI) has announced that it is back in business checking out the new habitable exoplanets recently discovered by NASA's Kepler space telescope to see if they might be home to alien civilisations. The cash needed to restart SETI's efforts has come in part from the US Air Force Space Command, who are interested in using the organisation's detection instruments for "space situational awareness".

"This is a superb opportunity for SETI observations," said Jill Tarter, the Director of the Center for SETI Research, in a statement issued yesterday. "For the first time, we can point our telescopes at stars, and know that those stars actually host planetary systems - including at least one that begins to approximate an Earth analog in the habitable zone around its host star. That's the type of world that might be home to a civilization capable of building radio transmitters."

NASA has just announced the discovery of many exoplanets orbiting other stars by its Kepler spacecraft, including the world Kepler-22b - described as Earth's "twin" by the space agency - which orbits a Sun-like G type star some 600 light-years away at such a distance that it could well have liquid water on its surface and thus be home to life along Earthly lines.

Intriguingly, SETI notes that its resurgence and new mission of examining the Kepler-discovered planetary systems is partially funded by the US military:

The restart of SETI work at the ATA has been made possible thanks to the interest and generosity of the public who supported SETI research via the <http://www.SETIStars.org> website. Additional funds necessary for observatory re-activation and operations are being provided by the United States Air Force as part of a formal assessment of the instrument's utility for Space Situational Awareness ...

Could it be that the Pentagon are doing something useful for once and making sure that if there are any potentially hostile alien civilizations out there, they'll find out early on?

Well no, sadly for those who like their aliens. In fact Space Command are much more concerned [1] about tracking satellites in orbit around Earth, and consider that the innovative Allen Array could be handy in picking up transmissions from spacecraft so as to help the existing military Space Surveillance Network keep a handle on where they are.

Even so, should SETI detect signs of radio-using life at any of the newly pinpointed potentially habitable star systems, Space Command will probably be very glad they helped to fund the Institute's restart.

Links: <http://www.seti.org/afspc>

Declassified Documents Find A Home On The Internet

John Greenewald, Jr., <john@greenewald.com>

December 18, 2011

<http://www.theblackvault.com/m/news/view/Declassified-Documents-Find-a-HOME-on-the-Internet>

NORTH HOLLYWOOD (BlackVault) December 18, 2011 As 2012 is right around the corner, the world is sure to face new challenges, obstacles, and battles to overcome. Some theorize the end of the world in 2012, while others beg for a more open world society to calm the masses.

World governments and politicians alike are scrambling to find a way to bring peace to global uprisings; whether they are peaceful or aggressive. And regardless of where in the world these protesters reside, they seemingly all want the same thing knowledge and information whether it be on their money; their future; their well-being; their families; their government or most of all their future.

Many of the protesters around the globe will probably contest that Sir Francis Bacon may have said their message best, scientia potentia est, or as we know it today, Knowledge is Power. And to gain that knowledge, some are taking it to the streets, while others, take it to the pen and paper. Well, in 2011, maybe it's more of a keyboard.

The Freedom of Information Act, or FOIA, has been responsible for the release of literally MILLIONS of pages of knowledge and information. Declassified from the bowels of the U.S. Government and Military archives, very rarely does the public know, or even understand, what is truly available to them. In 1996, John Greenewald, Jr. of The Black Vault internet archive (www.theblackvault.com), realized that

problem and began archiving nearly three quarters of a million pages of this material, which grows nearly every day.

Now, more than fifteen years later, in an attempt to bring the knowledge base of the archive to the next level, Greenewald has opened up the archive to all researchers, organizations and even government agencies that have no time or resources to archive the data by offering a free home for the documents released under the FOIA. FULL credit is given to the submitting entity individual or otherwise (no credit is also an option, if desired).

The Black Vault has the resources to archive literally millions of pages of records, whether they be textual, photographic, or cinematic. They are not sold rather they are released for FREE on the archive, and preserved for decades to come.

The submission process is simple. Ideally, the document is submitted in a .pdf format to john@greenewald.com, with your FOIA response letter attached (the entire correspondence chain is preferred, but not required). This ensures you did have an active case number, and the agency truly sent you the document. (The Black Vault is NOT WikiLeaks and does not release leaked documents) All personal information will be blacked out by The Black Vault, ie: any identifying address, etc., but will leave name/agency attached, unless otherwise specified. Once the document is received, and verified, it will be added to the archive in the appropriate category, and the submitter e-mailed with the link to share.

Knowledge IS Power and despite its critics, the FOIA has produced some amazing results on the federal, and on the state, level. Don't let the information you obtain stay in a filing cabinet share it with the world.

John Greenewald, Jr., The Black Vault Headquarters
<http://www.theblackvault.com>,
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For up to date information on MUFON Minnesota meetings and agendas, including special speakers, visit: <http://www.mnmufon.org/agenda.htm> or <http://www.mnmufon.org/event.htm>

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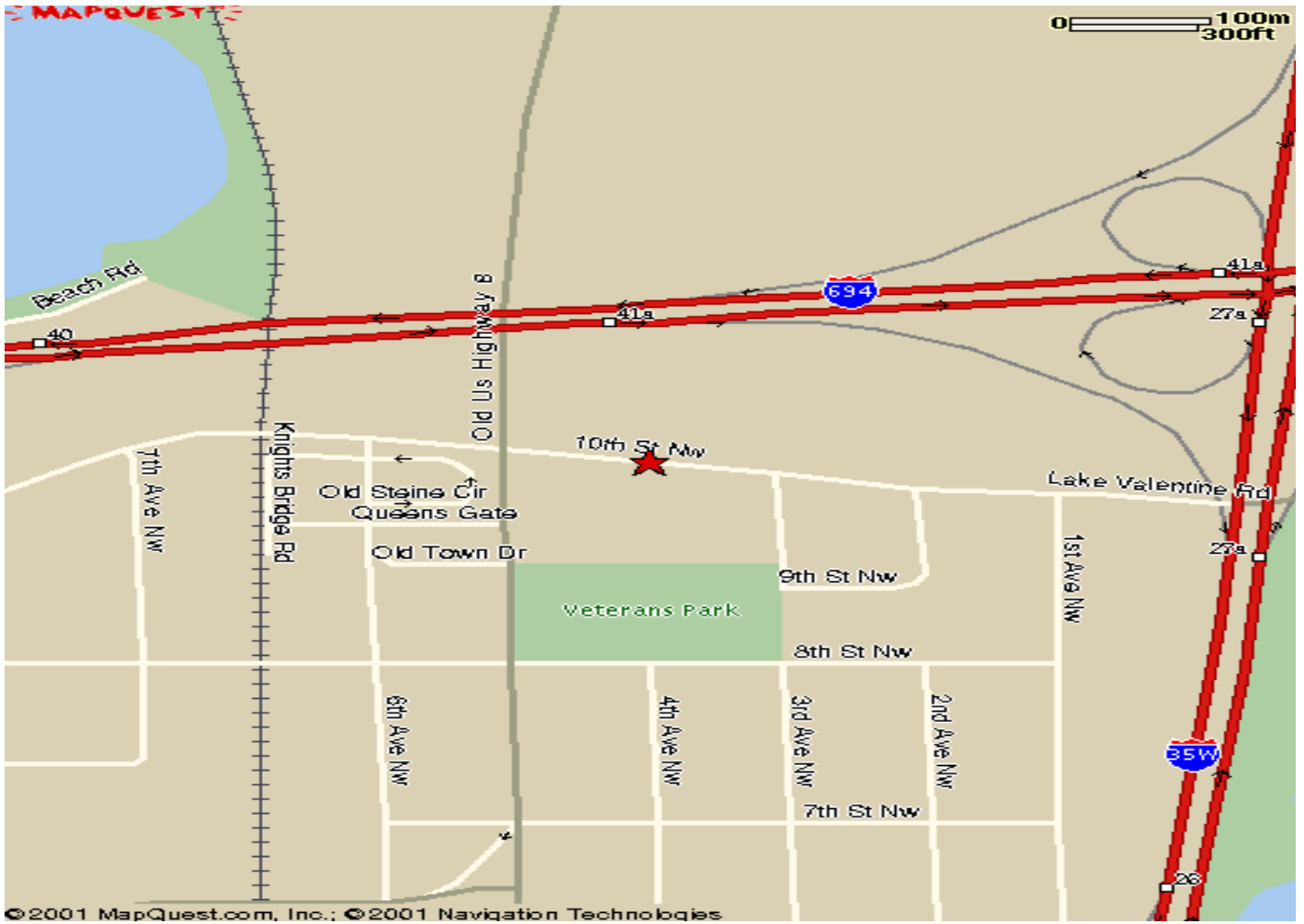
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To report UFO news, sightings, etc. call 1-800-836-2166

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