

MUFON Minnesota Journal

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Singed by a UFO

By MUFON MN ASD Richard Moss

The time was 8:30PM and scout master Sonny Desvergers decided to bring the West Palm Beach scout meeting to an end. It was decided that he would take four of the scouts to their homes. As they drove along, Desvergers saw a flashing light moving through the pine thickets along the left side of the highway and asked the three scouts if they had seen the light. They had not seen anything. As the group drove on the light appeared for a second and was flashing on and off as it moved through the brush.

Thinking that someone might be in trouble, Desvergers told the boys to stay where they were and that he would take a look. Carrying a machete he moved through the undergrowth and slashed his way for about thirty yards. He then found himself in a clearing, but the odor was becoming oppressive along with a very high temperature. Desvergers sensed that he was somehow being observed. Looking up he could see no stars. The sky appeared to be black and he could no longer see the North Star. It was as though a black shadow had moved across the sky. He quickly realized that it wasn't a shadow, but that there was a large dark shape hovering above his head. The bottom of the object (alien craft) created a phosphorescent glow that lit up the clearing. Desvergers stood there for a while and gradually the craft came into a clearer focus against the night sky. Desvergers stood there looking up at the craft for at least five minutes.

Circular and slightly concave across the bottom of the UFO, its surface appeared to be smooth and bluish-gray in color. There was a dome on top and, all around the rim, were openings evenly spaced. The UFO had made no sound of any kind, but soon he heard the grinding, creaking noise of a door being opened. A cloud of red mist floated around the UFO as a ball of red fire moved straight toward his face.

Desvergers instinctively lashed out with his machete, but the red ball approached and his nostrils were filled with the smell of rotten eggs. Panic stricken, he dropped his machete and threw both arms across his face. He then collapsed into a thicket and became unconscious.

Fifteen minutes had passed, and back on the highway the three scouts were getting worried. They had followed their scoutmaster's progress through the brush by observing the ray of his flashlight. But, when they saw the red flare all three leaped from the car and ran down the road toward a farmhouse Desvergers had mentioned earlier. Excitedly, they told the farmer what had happened and quickly put through a telephone call to the sheriff's office five miles away.

Back in the thicket, Desvergers gradually recovered his senses and struggled to his feet to lean against a tree. He had no idea how long he



Minnesota Mufon Meetings

**Sat., Mar. 10th & Sat., Apr. 14th
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.)**

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had been unconscious and then, horrified, he remembered what had happened. His arms and hands were painfully burned, and singed brown holes were in his blue denim cap. Out over the clearing he could see that the flame-throwing UFO had disappeared. Desvergers turned and crashed his way back through the thickets to the highway. There, waiting for him beside his car, were the three scouts and a deputy sheriff. Another car soon arrived and took the boys to their homes. But for Desvergers, it was the beginning of a long investigation to determine whether a new and more dangerous kind of UFO was prowling the Florida skies.

His burns turned out to be rather minor and he was quickly treated by a doctor at a nearby hospital. And then came the almost endless interviews with Air Force investigators, news reporters, and police officials. Samples of grass and undergrowth were taken from that part of the clearing just below the given position of the floating UFO, and these were sent to the Air Force Lab at Wright-Patterson Base in Dayton, Ohio for analysis. The lab came up with a strange discovery. The roots of the palmetto bush were charred and burned. The Strange Case of the Scorched Scoutmaster remains unsolved to this day.

**International Director Stepping Down
Clifford Clift, International Director,
cclift@what-wire.com, 1/16/2012**

Effective January 31, 2012, I will be stepping down as MUFON's International Director. MUFON's Board of Directors unanimously approved Dave MacDonald as MUFON's new International Director, effective February 1, 2012.

Dave has excellent credentials within MUFON and the business world. Dave is currently on MUFON's Board of Directors, Assistant Director of Investigations, Star Team Administrator, and conducts testing for new Field Investigators, plus much more. As a business man, over the years Dave has had numerous successful business's. Currently, Dave runs a school for pilots and ground control, plus he owns and runs Flamingo Airline.

MUFON Headquarters will be moving to Cincinnati, Ohio, where Dave has his flight training center. MUFON will have room for office space, storage on site, and a merchandise store. The location will have high visibility to many new pilots

and airport personnel, which will be a real benefit to MUFON.

David has the time, ability, and energy to take MUFON into the future. He will do an outstanding job for MUFON. The Board of Directors feel David is a very capable person to run MUFON and they look forward to working with him.

I am not comfortable stepping down as International Director without explanation. The reason I am stepping down is the fact, I need and want to spend more time with my family. There are health issues with family members which may require my full attention in the very near future. My MUFON responsibilities would not allow me to do this.

My full attention, or any International Director, is required to maintain the continuity and integrity of our organization. Anything short of an International Director's full attention will not allow us to grow and fulfill our Mission. MUFON's mission and history are too important not to have a full time person in charge.

I want to spend more time with my family. As time passes, who knows how much time we or our loved ones have left? I don't want to miss a moment. "At my age I don't buy green bananas." I want to continue my time working with nature, which includes my Christmas trees and raising vegetables. I will be working with my church, which includes visiting the sick and elderly.

I can't do both effectively, so I am stepping down. My leaving as International Director of MUFON is very sad. I have been privileged to meet so many wonderful, thoughtful, and committed MUFON subscribers and volunteers. MUFON has many really good people. I will miss not having a daily interaction with you. I have been really impressed at how many dedicated and positive people belong to MUFON. We will succeed with our mission because of people like you.

MUFON's Board of Directors are truly amazing dedicated individuals with great wisdom and understanding of the UFO phenomenon and business. It has been a real honor to be included in their midst. I will miss our meetings and interactions. Of course, I want to thank those Functional Directors who really make MUFON run smoothly and provide new and better ways of fulfilling our goals of Investigations, Education, and Research.

I would like to give a special thanks to MUFON State Directors, Assistant State Directors, Chief Field Investigators, Field Investigators, subscribers, and all volunteers who stood behind MUFON and me. You're financial, emotionally, and good thoughts have supported MUFON and me during the financial difficulties and personal attacks on us over the past two years. MUFON is stronger because of you. Your support of me was and is humbling. Thank you.

Also, I want to thank Patti and Robyn, MUFON's office staff. They stepped in under very trying times and did an outstanding job for us. Many thanks to Patti and Robyn.

I will not be a stranger to MUFON, but rather I will continue to support MUFON in a positive manner. I will continue to research our archives and get this information out to the public via the media, Journal, and with a MUFON book about UFOs.

Yes, times change and we must march forward. The one thing I would like to say in my "Swan Song" is "we can work out all things, as long as keep our eye on our goals and have faith in each other". MUFON will succeed in our quest. Keep up the good work.

All the best, Clifford Clift, International Director (until Feb 1, 2012)

The CE4 Corner
©2012 by Craig R. Lang, MS CHt
March/April, 2012 –The Tipping Point

In recent weeks, now that I am day-job-free, I have continued to delve deeper into activities such as UFO/CE4 research and hypnosis/hypnotherapy. I have found myself attending a quite a few meetings of spiritual-oriented organizations as well as studying meditation in more depth. Perhaps corresponding to our progression toward the end of the calendar year 2012, I have found a common theme among many of these activities, the idea that our society is approaching a critical threshold of change.

There is a deepening sense of transition, accelerating as it reaches a critical mass. The idea is that as more people deepen their psychic and spiritual growth, they affect the overall environment around them. At some point in the process, it reaches a critical point and the effect becomes self-perpetuating within society as a

whole. In systems theory, this is known as the tipping point.

Last month, I began studying Transcendental Meditation. I had flirted with this movement for many years, reading about it, attending a few workshops, etc. Ultimately, I found that other methods were just as effective and their instruction much more affordable. Yet now, I have found that TM has again become attractive so I am again studying that tradition, methodology, etc.

One of the teachings in TM is that the effect of meditation on humanity is additive. The more people meditate the more positive effect it has on the world. Just as I had heard in other schools of new age thought, TM teaches that there is a threshold, a tipping point at which a level of emergence will begin to occur. In the TM teachings, they claim that if one percent of the population meditates regularly, the effect will reach that tipping point, with a calming, enlightening effect on society as a whole.

The study of non-linear mathematics and chaos theory deals with complex, chaotic systems such as chemical reactions, societies, economies, political cultures, world climate, etc. It describes how a system behaves in response to a stress or influence. In politics, a new movement may occur, such as the Occupy movement. In economics, interest rates may vary. In the world climate, there is the ominous and ever-present greenhouse effect, now reaching (or surpassing) critical levels.

In each case, there appears to be a key point in the system. When an influence or stress on the system is less than that point, the system's response is limited. It absorbs, resists or responds in a limited way. A glass of water gets only slightly warmer when heated. The ocean absorbs moderate amounts of carbon dioxide; small changes in interest rates have only limited effect on the economy. Even within a chemical or nuclear reaction, a small adjustment to the inputs has only limited effect on the results.

At some point, however, as the stress or change factor increases, the system begins to reach a critical point. Some element within the system reaches a point of no return. The same glass of water suddenly begins to boil. Climate change reaches a level where greenhouse gas concentrations shoot upward, rising uncontrollably. Interest or default rates drive an economy to collapse (as occurred in 1980 with interest rates

and 2008 with defaults). A chemical reaction suddenly takes off and a fire or explosion occurs. These are all examples of the phenomenon in non-linear systems theory known as the tipping point.

Several recent studies in social theory have found that once a threshold of about ten percent of the population strongly adopts a belief, the belief will take on a life of its own and become a majority view. A recent [article in Discovery News](#) describes several studies in which about ten percent of the population strongly hold a particular view sway the majority to their viewpoint. A [paper in Physical Review Letters](#) (Phys Rev E), one of the premier journals in physics, describes the mathematics behind this ten-percent tipping point.

Going even further, according to the TM organization, one percent of the population practicing meditation (presumably TM) will produce an aggregate effect on the population overall, decreased crime, etc. Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, the founder of TM, claimed that if one percent of the people on Earth were to do so, there would be an end to war. They call this (of course) the [Maharishi Effect](#). More recently, they have claimed that, if the square root of that number practices an advanced form of TM, the [TM Sidhi program](#), there will be a deep calming effect on society. Thus, if about 8400 (square root of 1 percent of 7 billion) people worldwide, practiced advanced TM, this effect would occur.

Whether or not you believe this claim, it offers some very interesting parallels with numbers we see in close encounter research. In Chapter 9 of [The Cosmic Bridge](#), I explore the idea of psychic and spiritual emergence as one of the side effects of close encounters, where the experiencer finds him/herself becoming more psychic, more deeply spiritual, and more connected with others having similar abilities. Barbara Marx Hubbard describes this idea in detail in her book, [Conscious Evolution](#), where she develops the idea of a social tipping point or state change. When enough people develop an interconnected psychic awareness, the emergence will reach a critical mass and the awakening phenomenon will take on a life of its own, manifesting in overall humanity.

The article, [UFO Encounters, There May be More than You Think](#) on [www.craigrlang.com](#), discusses the estimate that roughly one percent of the population has had close encounter experiences. In the 1991 Roper Poll (unfortunately, the original poll is no longer on-line.) one percent (some analysts

say two percent or more) of the population met four of the five criteria to be considered an experiencer. Most of these criteria involve psychic or paranormal events in the life of the experiencer.

Could the Maharishi effect and the emergence effect of close encounters be related phenomena? If genuine, could they stem from the same mathematics, as described by Barbara Marx Hubbard? If so, then why would only one percent be required in the Maharishi effect, whereas in social theory, a critical mass of ten percent of the population is required? Furthermore, how can only a miniscule percent of the population, about eight thousand out of 7 Billion, force a critical change?

An [article in Digital Citizen](#), discussing the percentages required to start a movement and create lasting social change, states that while 10% of the population is required for lasting change, only one percent is required to establish a self-perpetuating movement. Thus, if one percent indeed experiences an awakening effect of sufficient magnitude, that effect can become self-perpetuating. Furthermore, perhaps the effect magnifies when a small strategically selected group within a sub-population tips that entire sub-population, which in turn eventually causes the overall population to reach the critical point - the square root of one percent becoming one percent, becoming ten percent. How would this work? What would be required for this to be effective? To me, the jury is out on this question. We need a whole lot more scientific boots on the ground before we even begin to understand this possibility.

If the psychic emergence effect is genuine, then is there a critical point at which a sufficient number of experiencers will bring about a tipping point within humanity at large? It seems likely that the one percent or greater of the population experiencing close encounters is already creating a self-perpetuating movement. Will that effect reach ten percent – and then a majority of the population?

Comparing notes with other close encounter researchers, many of us have noted that the phenomenon seems to be steadily expanding in scope. David Jacobs claims that it is expanding geometrically through entire family lines. My observations suggest that the growth is much slower, but definitely present - perhaps expanding to between two and five percent of the population. I usually ask sighting witnesses whether they have had additional sightings or experiences - UFO sightings, psychic events or other unusual

occurrences in their lives. An increasing number – now probably a majority – state that they have had at least some psychic experience or ability. If the percentage of people having had UFO or anomaly sightings is representative of the population as a whole, then perhaps this emergence phenomenon is indeed already affecting a critical percentage of the population.

Much remains to be validated about all of these claims. At this point, they are wildly speculative. Yet if true, they suggest that the close encounter phenomenon might have a very definite goal - bringing some form of psychic or spiritual awakening to a critical mass of the population. An intriguing experiment might be a new survey of experiences, equivalent to the 1991 Roper poll, to see if the numbers of experiencers has changed in the last twenty years.

Is the phenomenon, and its apparent corresponding emergence effects, growing in a deliberate way toward a critical point in society? And is this similar to the so-called Maharishi effect? We can only answer these questions with further research and investigation. Meanwhile, we find the number of experiencers growing, perhaps reaching and exceeding the all-important threshold in our society called the tipping point.

CIA SEES "LITTLE LIKELIHOOD" OF FINDING DOCS ON SECRECY REFORM
SECRECY NEWS from the FAS Project
on Government Secrecy
Vol 2011, Iss No. 105, Nov. 14, 2011

There is "little likelihood" that the Central Intelligence Agency will be able to produce any records documenting the CIA's implementation of the Fundamental Classification Guidance Review that each classifying agency is required to conduct, the Agency said last week.

The Fundamental Classification Guidance Review (FCGR) was ordered by President Obama in his December 2009 executive order 13526 (section 1.9) as a systematic effort to eliminate obsolete or unnecessary classification requirements. It is the Obama Administration's primary response to the problem of over-classification, and it has already achieved some limited results at the Department of Defense and elsewhere. But it can't possibly work if agencies don't implement it. And so far there is no sign of any such implementation at CIA, despite the fact that compliance is not optional.

In response to FOIA requests over the past year for records on the CIA's progress in conducting its fundamental review, the CIA said it still had no records on the FCGR that are subject to the FOIA requests. In an earlier response, "we informed you that a search was conducted and no records responsive to your request were located," wrote Susan Viscuso, CIA Information and Privacy Coordinator, on October 26. "Although there is little likelihood that an updated search would produce different results, we will be glad to do so."
<http://www.fas.org/sgp/news/2011/10/cia102611.pdf>

Ms. Viscuso's letter appeared to hint that responsive files might be contained in CIA "operational files" that are exempt from search and review under the CIA Information Act. But such a claim would be substantively and legally spurious, especially since responsive records on the FCGR would have been "disseminated" outside of their source files (e.g. to the Information Security Oversight Office), which would nullify their exemption from search and review.

Meanwhile, another intelligence agency, the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO), proved more responsive. The NRO said in a report on the FCGR that was released last week under the FOIA that it had scheduled all of its classification guides for a fundamental review, as required. The NRO, which is responsible for U.S. intelligence satellites, also said it was preparing an integrated classification guide that would be "more agile, timely, consistent, uniform, and flexible in providing classification guidance and principles at the lowest appropriate classification level."
<http://www.fas.org/sgp/othergov/intel/nro-fcgr.pdf>

The Secrecy News Blog is at: <http://www.fas.org/blog/secrecy/>
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Steven Aftergood-Project on Government Secrecy
Federation of American Scientists
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President Eisenhower had 3 secret meetings with aliens, former Pentagon consultant claims By Anthony Bond,
15th February 2012

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2100947/Eisenhower-secret-meetings-aliens-pentagon-consultant-claims.html>

-Ex-President met with extra-terrestrials on three separate occasions at New Mexico air base

-Eisenhower and FBI officials organized the meetings by sending out 'telepathic messages'

Former American President Dwight D. Eisenhower had three secret meetings with aliens, a former US government consultant has claimed.

The 34th President of the United States met the extra terrestrials at a remote air base in New Mexico in 1954, according to lecturer and author Timothy Good.

Eisenhower and other FBI officials are said to have organized the showdown with the space creatures by sending out 'telepathic messages'.

Bizarre: Former American President Dwight D. Eisenhower had three secret meetings with aliens, a former US government consultant has claimed

Bizarre: Former American President Dwight D. Eisenhower had three secret meetings with aliens, a former US government consultant has claimed the two parties finally met up on three separate occasions at the Holloman Air Force base and there were 'many witnesses'.

Conspiracy theorists have circulated increased rumours in recent months that the meeting between the Commander-in-Chief and people from another planet took place. But the claims from Mr Good, a former U.S. Congress and Pentagon consultant, are the first to be made publicly by a prominent academic.

Speaking on Frank Skinner's BBC2 current affairs show *Opinionated*, he said that governments around the world have been in regular contact with aliens for many decades.

Odd meeting: It has been claimed that Dwight D. Eisenhower met the extra-terrestrials at the Holloman Air Force base in New Mexico

Odd meeting: It has been claimed that Dwight D. Eisenhower met the extra-terrestrials at the Holloman Air Force base in New Mexico. 'Aliens have made both formal and informal contact with thousands of people throughout the world from all walks of life,' he added.

Asked why the aliens don't go to somebody 'important' like Barack Obama, he said: 'Well, certainly I can tell you that in 1954, President Eisenhower had three encounters, set up meetings with aliens, which took place at certain Air Force bases including Holloman Air Force base in New

Mexico.' He added that there were 'many witnesses'. Eisenhower, who was president from 1953 to 1961, is known to have had a strong belief in life on other planets.

Extra-terrestrial: Eisenhower, who was president from 1953 to 1961, is known to have had a strong belief in life on other planets

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The former five-star general in the United States Army who commanded the Allied Forces in Europe during the Second World War, was also keen on pushing the U.S. space programme. His meeting with the cosmic life forms is said to have taken place while officials were told that he was on vacation in Palm Springs, California, in February 1954. The initial meeting is supposed to have taken place with aliens who were 'Nordic' in appearance, but the agreement was eventually 'signed' with a race called 'Alien Greys'.

Mr Good added: 'We know that up to 90 per cent of all UFO reports can be explained in conventional terms. However, I would say millions of people worldwide have actually seen the real thing.'

According to classified documents released by the Ministry of Defence in 2010, Winston Churchill may have ordered a UFO sighting to be kept secret. The UFO was seen over the East Coast of England by an RAF reconnaissance plane returning from a mission in France or Germany towards the end of the war. Churchill is said to have discussed how to deal with UFO sightings with Eisenhower.

**BRIBE Bombshell! Phil Klass Offered \$10,000 to Steve Pierce of The Travis Walton Abduction Case!
GIULIANO MARINKOVIC,
February 5, 2012**

BRIBE BOMBHELL! STEVE PIERCE WHO WAS WITH TRAVIS WALTON WHEN HE WAS ABDUCTED CLAIMS THAT HE WAS OFFERED A \$10,000 BRIBE FROM THE LATE DEBUNKER PHIL KLASS TO STATE THAT THE ENTIRE TRAVIS WALTON ALIEN ABDUCTION CLAIM WAS A HOAX!

WHY WOULD KLASS OFFER SUCH A BRIBE SINCE HE BELIEVED ALL "ALIEN ABDUCTION" CASES WERE "CLEARLY HOAXES" UNLESS THE WALTON EVIDENCE WAS SO STRONG THAT IT SUGGESTED OTHERWISE?!

THINKING ALOUD: What would happen to the C-R-E-D-I-B-I-L-I-T-Y of the general UFO community if the REVERSE was ever proven to be true and someone in UFOlogy offered a \$BRIBE\$ to a witness to claim that an "alien abduction" had transpired when in fact it did NOT?!

"The TRAVIS WALTON ENCOUNTER" Hosted by Investigative Journalist GEORGE KNAPP, Sunday, January 29, 2012:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LgHh5zt8qo> [39:25 min]

The OFFICIAL TRAVIS WALTON WEB SITE:
<http://www.travis-walton.com/>

This audio set could be useful in the future for any kind of public debate where arguments versus pseudo-skepticism will be needed. In this release I've made two (2) versions of audios (one version for Broadband users and another for Dial up users):

Audios Download Link (high quality version for broadband users): <http://tinyurl.com/7xtbqr8> (25 mb)

Audios Download link (version for dial up users): <http://tinyurl.com/7a39qnu> (4 mb)

Excellent companion piece by Don Ecker with audio too: <http://tinyurl.com/82nok8n>

Audio guide is at the end of this post.

Description of the audio set:

Just as you started to think that there couldn't be anything new within history of pseudo-skepticism (I equally respect skepticism as any other objective research, but pseudo-skepticism is a completely separate beast), uninvited demons of the past arrived again!

On Sunday, January 29, 2012, Travis Walton was a guest on "Coast to Coast AM" and the host was George Knapp. I was reading some comments over the Internet, but I still couldn't find that anyone has mentioned the most important part of the show from my perspective. The most exclusive part of the interview was a rare appearance of STEVE PIERCE and John Goulette, Travis' companions who witnessed the UFO incident in 1975.

In the past, Travis was primarily interviewed together with Mike Rogers, so it was refreshing to hear statements from the OTHER participants. During the 4-hour interview, Pierce produced a bombshell. He stated that Philip Klass offered him a \$10,000 BRIBE to say that the event was a hoax (check audio number 4 from the download link on the top of this post).

Recap of the show is available here:

<http://tinyurl.com/7karbhg>

Has this info about the bribe EVER been in the public domain thus far?! There is NO need for a special introduction of infamous Phil Klass, one of the founders of CSICOP. CSICOP is still active with a new name - CFI - which is its legal successor. I still remember "Strange Days Indeed" - episode of the radio show back in September 2005, when Richard Dolan talked about the discovery of the Phil Klass letter (check audio number 3 from the download link at the top of this post).

More on it here: <http://tinyurl.com/3w4bp7y>

At the time, I was shocked with the specific style of the letter, although I've been aware about methods that Klass used. Just to mention other problems that he caused to Dr. James McDonald and Professor Robert Jacobs. More on it here: <http://tinyurl.com/67ppqpp>

Reference about an interesting connection between Phil Klass and Admiral Bobby Inman is available here: <http://tinyurl.com/7propxw>

Because of Klass' letters, professor Robert Jacobs even got fired from the University of Maine (check audio clip number 2 from the download link at the top of this post).

Anyway, the implication about Klass' bribe of \$10,000 is obvious. This latest revelation should be noted as an additional argument versus the integrity of institutional continuity of CFI. I hope that you will find it useful. If a similar affair was discovered about some first-class UFO researcher, the field would be dragged through the mud for years.

Guide for the audio files that you will get after the download:

1) Intro - Phil Klass Interviewed On Voice Of America - January 1, 1978 (Good introduction to his philosophy of debunking - credits to Faded Discs - my extraction from the 30-minute show)

2) Strange Days... Indeed: Interview with Professor Robert Jacobs - May 4th, 2002 - source here: <http://tinyurl.com/78fvph5>
Jacobs recalls how he lost his job at the University of Maine because of Klass.

3) Strange Days... Indeed: Interview with Richard Dolan - September 24, 2005 - source here: <http://tinyurl.com/84g34qf>

Richard Dolan comments on the discovery of Phil Klass Letter

4) Coast To Coast AM: Interview with Steve Pierce - January 29, 2012 Steve Pierce recalls how Phil Klass offered him \$10,000 to proclaim a Travis Walton case as a HOAX!

5) Coast To Coast AM: Interview with Travis Walton: January 29, 2012: Travis Walton recounts the aftermath of the case, DIS-information and Phil Klass' attacks.

Compiled and Edited By: Giuliano Marinkovic

**De Void - Klass act, no principles
by Billy Cox, February 20, 2012**

<http://devoid.blogs.heraldtribune.com/12797/klass-act-no-principles/>

A blast from the past animated the blogosphere earlier this month when a buddy of famed "Fire in the Sky" UFO abductee Travis Walton accused a dead debunker of attempted bribery. Steve Pierce said he — Pierce — had been offered \$10k to say Walton had hoaxed the whole thing back in 1975.

Debunker Phil Klass' relentless ad-hominem attacks on UFO eyewitnesses begs the question: What was he so afraid of?/CREDIT: www.gpposner.com

De Void has no insight into this moot and meaningless kerfuffle. But De Void knew Phil Klass, the target of the allegation. Or rather, De Void talked to Klass on a number of occasions, because Klass was always the go-to guy journos contacted whenever they drew the short straw and had to write about UFOs. He seemed the logical choice. As senior editor for Aviation Week & Space Technology, Klass was Mr. Insider, the establishment's sensible "reality check" authority you could always count on for "balance." Klass never met a UFO he couldn't explain, and he made it his life's calling to reassure the Fourth Estate they were wasting their time, that they'd be better served chasing rocs and griffins.

Klass was a prolific writer who dismissed the Walton controversy as confabulation in his 1983 book UFOs: The Public Deceived. De Void was just beginning this forlorn and dreary journey back then. No reason for a newbie to doubt him. Except for, well, maybe this one case in Klass' book concerning three people who suffered acute UFO radiation burns in Texas in 1980. Klass' take on

what became known as the Cash-Landrum incident stopped me cold. Because I'd actually done my homework on that one. And that's when I got that first queasy feeling that the American press was routinely quoting a man who had a pathological disregard for truth.

I'd gone to Texas and interviewed the victims — Betty Cash, Vicki and Colby Landrum — as well as other witnesses who'd seen the military helicopters that were either escorting or pursuing the UFO. Cash and the Landrums authorized MUFON investigator John Schuessler to share their medical records with me, which he did. The story was complex and gruesome.

For years, Klass had badgered the victims, and Schuessler, for access to their hospital records. Aware of his proclivities, they refused to comply. "I said, look Phil, why don't you come up with what you think happened, publish it, and after you do that, we'll be happy to supply you with the records," recalls Schuessler from his home in Colorado.

Klass condensed Cash-Landrum into a single page. Rather than posit an alternative scenario, he simply ascribed the whole thing to a hoax founded upon pre-existing medical conditions. Even the Army's own Inspector General investigation specifically cited a lack of evidence for a hoax.

"Klass was a low-life and a bully who used his Aviation Week credentials to hold himself up as an expert," says Schuessler, retired project manager for space shuttle flight operations at Johnson Space Center. "He just made up stories any way he saw fit."

De Void had one face-to-face encounter with Klass in 1987, during a MUFON symposium at American University. Whitley Strieber's first-person abduction epic, *Communion*, had just rolled and was making bestseller lists in the nonfiction category. Klass, who attended Strieber's keynote speech, had written that Strieber was probably suffering from brain damage.

The next day, I met Klass at a deli for lunch. He repeated his assertion that Strieber was plagued with frontal lobe epilepsy. Then he lowered his voice, drawing yet another reporter into his sage confidence, and said he wanted to go off the record. "Whitley Strieber is a troubled man," he said. He produced a sad smile, like some wise old avuncular Yoda. "Unfortunately, I wouldn't be surprised if he tries to take his own life." Goosebumps.

We know the rest of the story. Klass died in 2005. Whitley Strieber is alive, well and continues to write. But one thing we'll never know is the full extent of the damage Phil Klass did to American journalism's tepid inquiry into The Great Taboo. The first word that comes to mind: Irreparable.

RECENT UNIDENTIFIED EVENT REPORTS By William I. McNeff, ASD

MUFON CMS Report (33699)

This event occurred in Chaska on or about October 22, 2011 in the evening.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE EVENT: First saw ufo. Then dog bark turned into long yelping human dog yelping and then female screaming

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE EVENT:

While having my bonfire talking to my friend I suddenly spot a large glowing white object within the clouds. As I look at it the white glowing object it immediately jets off to the east in a straight line. My reaction: I got up out of my seat and ran to get a view of where it might be but I reacted too late. 15 minutes later: My friend and I both hear a dog barking; we didn't think too much of it at first. A short moment passes without much noise; as we walk back to the house we hear some more dog barking but this time we hear a female human sound like falling and hurting herself. So naturally I wanted to go help but my friend had a really unsettling feeling about this and urged me not to go. Well, as we're talking about it we noticed a few low level noises; all seemed ok until the screaming..... The sound of this screaming sounded like a dog yelping but morphed into what quite clearly was a woman. We're petrified by what we're hearing. Long yelping female gurgling choking coughing dogish humanish female very, very loud screams. Me and my close friend now have problems sleeping and wish to god we never heard what we heard. Furthermore I asked around a little and I spoke with an older woman who also heard the very loud screams and said it was like nothing she has ever heard before in all of her days. I went to the station and made a report about it; the officer was, of course, very dismissive.

FIELD INVESTIGATORS REPORT:

A discussion with the prime witness over the phone satisfied me that he is a reasonably reliable observer. About a dozen emails were exchanged with the witness to tie down some details. The older woman who also heard the screams lives

several blocks away, per the prime witness. This is an indication of how loud the screams were.

On 10-22-2011, the wind was zero from 5 pm to 11 pm. The temperature was 55 F at 6 pm and dropped exponentially to 40 F at 9 pm, where it remained until 11 pm. It would have been a good night for a bonfire. The winds were calm from 5:53 pm to 10:53 pm. From 5:53 pm to 9:53 pm, the sky was clear. At 10:53 pm there were scattered clouds. This would indicate that if the 22nd was the night of the events, the events happened some time after 9:53 pm. On the previous day, the sky was clear all evening, and the following evening (the 23rd), the sky was clear except for fog at 9:53 pm. All of this data makes it more likely that the events happened on the 22nd around 11 pm.

CONCLUSIONS: The UFO observation by the prime witness seems to be based on reality. The appearance and actions of the object led to the conclusion that it is an unknown aerial vehicle. The relationship of the UFO to the screaming episode which occurred 15 minutes later is questionable. It is the Field Investigator's opinion that this episode likely has some conventional explanation, such as a test of a "sound effects tape" for a Halloween "haunted house", or an accident by some woman walking an active dog, which could have wound his leash around her legs, causing her to fall down, and then the leash ended up across her throat, tending to choke her. I plan to investigate this further, as even at this late date someone in the area should have heard this extremely loud screaming and may be able to explain it.

MUFON CMS Report (34873)

This happened on Jan. 15, 2012 at about 4:20 or 4:25 am in front of (west) of the church of St. Nicholas in New Market, not far from Lakeville.

Detailed Description of the UFO Event: Me and my cousin were in the car around 4:25 am to go to [a church service]. We had just parked the car when she asked me if I was seeing what she saw. She noticed two lights in the reflection of the window in front of us, because the thing was happening behind us.

She saw it first and told me that it was two lights and it looked like they did a little dance and then collided [and] became one. When I saw it, it was a huge red glowing flame electrical circle right above the tree line. We were outside [looking west toward St. Josephs Street] and it was silent. My first thought was it could have been a helicopter because

they hover, but I heard nothing. The light was BIG and it had a hole in the middle of it. It lasted about a minute but it seemed for a while. It slowly descended toward the tree line in a downward line [toward the tree line] and then we lost it in the trees ... it was completely silent.

My feelings during this were as if I was being watched. I remember holding my breath and then once it was done just being in a state of confusion and disbelief. I never really believed in UFO sightings because I just thought people could make really good video's. But this ... was something that made me lose sleep and I'll never forget that.

Field Investigators Report

Report revised 2-27-2012. I misread the time as 4:20 pm; it was actually 4:20 am. Weather: The temperature at 4:20-4:25am was 23F. The wind was 7 mph from the SE. Sky was overcast. I exchanged emails with the prime witness to get some additional detail. I made a site visit on about Jan. 19 and took three pictures. This was about 3:00 pm. The pictures indicate that for any lights to be reflected by the school windows, they would have had to be fairly bright. Looking to the west, the direction the unknown object departed toward, the town is on hills well covered with trees between the houses. The New Market water tower is to the southwest a few blocks away. A drive out west of the town found nothing but farm land, with a few scattered residences, nothing that might have sent up some kind of fireball, and there was no good place from which to launch a hot-air balloon. At 4:20 am, it was too early for clouds or objects to be tinged red by a rising sun, which was still far below the horizon. The sky being overcast rules out a meteor. The initial account of two lights circling around each other, then uniting to form the large red glowing circle with a hole in the center, does not fit any conventional aircraft or anything conventional that I can imagine. This leads to the conclusion that the witnesses saw two unknown aerial vehicles which combined into one.

MUFON CMS Report (35259)

Brief Description of the Event: This sighting took place in Inver Grove Heights between 7:00 pm & 8:00 pm on Jan. 24, 2012. Saw this very large flaming ball which then went up at a 30 degree angle.

Detailed Description of the Event: Sitting in living room, I saw this very large flaming ball outside through trees which then went up at a 30 degree angle, so I went out front to observe, then through

back door to continue to watch its path. It angled sharply upward then, all the time looking like it was afire, and finally, after maybe 3-5 minutes, disappeared when it was very high in the sky. It was traveling in a northeast direction. We have a lot of plane traffic but it was definitely not an aircraft. My first reaction was that it looked like a hot air balloon burning.

Surface: Yellow Orange

Distance from witness: 101 to 500 ft (Estimate)

Object: Changed direction, ascended, appeared solid, glowed

FIELD INVESTIGATORS REPORT:

A Google map showed that the long axis of the witness's house ran close to due north and south. The house is pretty well surrounded by trees, with a wooded area to the west. I phoned the witness on Jan. 28 and asked for a few more details. I verified that the front door of the house faces west. The witness said that she saw the "flaming" ball out of the living room window through trees and called it to the attention of her husband. He said it was just an airplane, but she replied with words to the effect that it was no airplane, and she then went out the front door and saw the object climbing at about a 30 degree angle. She said it looked as if it was burning, but no flames were visible. It was moving toward the northeast. It seemed about the size of a hot air balloon, she said. Note that her estimate of distance at the closest was 100 to 500 feet. She watched the object until it was occluded by the house. The occlusion by the house confirms that the object was moving toward the northeast. She went into the house and out the back door to the patio, which is located at the northeast corner of the house. She saw that the object was going up faster and at a steeper angle. She watched it for three to five minutes until it went out of sight very high in the sky.

Based on the witness accounts, the maximum time elapsed for the observation was about 3+1+ 5 or 9 minutes. By rough estimate, the object moved at a rate of 1000 ft in two or three minutes until it was occluded by the house, or four to six miles an hour. Just to pick a number for purposes of making a very rough calculation, if the cloud cover was at an altitude of 2 miles, and the "steep angle" was 60 degrees, the object moved about 2.5 miles in 3 to 5 minutes, or 30 to 50 mph during the steep climb. Per www.wunderground.com, between 7 & 8 pm, the wind went from 4 mph to 0. The wind at 7:00 pm was from due south. The sky was overcast; the ceiling was not given. Visibility was 7 miles. The

wind direction and speed do not agree with the direction and estimated speed of the object, indicating it was a powered object.

The witness was not familiar with MUFON and asked her son where she should report it. He referred her to the MUFON website and she filled out the CMS form.

South Robert Trail, the local arterial highway, runs southwest/northeast about 600 feet northwest of the house. Most of the area between the house and South Robert is heavily wooded. There appears to be a roughly rectangular pond or dark area, perhaps wet mud, about 600 feet west and a little south of the house. If the object had taken off from this point and flew northeast, it would have been 400 feet from the witness at its closest distance. This course comes close to fitting the witness description of the flight path. It would have paralleled South Robert about 200 feet away, and should have been easily visible by cars on the highway. Traffic between 7:00 and 8:00 pm should have been moderate; a few cars should have passed by during this sighting. That no one else reported the object is interesting, but not unusual.

The witness was sincere but low-key, and seemed to be intelligent, and was able to estimate angles.

Weather sources showed that between 7 & 8 PM the sky was about 95% overcast and the temperature was 22 degrees. Between 7 & 8 PM, the wind went from 4 mph to 0. The wind at 7:00 pm was from due south. The sky was overcast; the ceiling was not given. Visibility was 7 miles. Late on the night of Jan. 24th it was snowing, but not at 7:00 to 8:00 pm. The wind direction and speed do not agree with the direction and estimated speed of the object, indicating it was a powered object.

The prime witness when telephoned was calm, rational and low key. She is in her early 70s. She showed technical ability in being able to describe the climb angle of the object. I would judge her to be intelligent and very reliable. The area to the west of the witness's house is wooded. A hot air balloon, the only conventional object that the description of the unknown might fit, would have had no good place to take off in this area and more important, the manned balloons are not flown at night because of the danger. Of course, someone might have sent up a large, lighted, unmanned balloon as a hoax. Note that the climb angle of the object changed from about 30 degrees to "sharply upward", indicating powered flight under

intelligent control. Conclusions: All details point away from conventional objects, and point toward the conclusion that this was an unknown aircraft, glowing a yellow-orange color.

Sighting Location: Burnsville, MN

Sighting Date/Time: Sunday 19 feb 2012 12:15A.M. Duration: 5min

1. I was driving southbound on Interstate 35, in the left most lane. I was also talking on my phone (w/bluetooth).

2. It appeared to be a couple of lights, which then seemed to be out of place.

3. Just a light- the topography of the area in question is a river valley, one goes "down" from Bloomington into the Minnesota river valley and then "up" into Burnsville. There are many businesses on either side of the freeway. But as I passed Hwy 13 I noticed the lights had moved out above the freeway and therefore must be in the sky.

4. As I was talking on the phone, I told my friend that I am seeing 3 UFOs, then I described them to her. They were small red lights, not blinking and in a strait line diagonally to the south west. I checked my mirrors to check traffic, and slowed down a bit. The lights "flew" over my car, and I looked at one of the lights specifically. The red light seemed to be emitted from the front of it and was bright enough to prevent me seeing any structure behind it. I got the impression that they were small, perhaps 20-30 ft wide. They passed over me and after adjusting my drivers side - side mirror, I saw them spread out and slowly curve to the west, as if to follow the river/valley. I did not have a camera or video equipment with me. By the way there is an airport near this area and I am quite familiar with airplane lights, these lights went AWAY from the airport.

5. Three red lights, when first seen sort of blended into the sea of lights on the west side of the freeway. then they moved out above the road. So they were traveling slowly from the SW to the NE and when they got to the river valley they spread out and curved to the west.

6. Objects flew behind natural land formation.
Observed: 3 Red Sphere Lights

Scientists Suggest Moon Photos May Reveal Extraterrestrial Visitation

Alejandro Rojas, 12/28/11

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/alejandro-rojas/scientists-suggest-moon-p_b_1173124.html

Scientists from Arizona State University are proposing that closely examining high resolution photographs of the moon, retrieved by the Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter (LRO), may reveal "incontrovertible signatures of non-human technology." They argue that such a project is worthwhile and could be accomplished with a small budget.

ASU's Dr. Paul Davies and undergraduate student, Robert Wagner, submitted their paper, "Searching for alien artifacts on the moon", to *Acta Astronautica*, the official journal of the International Academy of Astronautics. In the abstract they state that the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence (SETI) has a low probability of success, and should broaden their search from simply listening for extraterrestrial radio signals. They say, "Alien civilizations may have sent probes to our region of the galaxy."

To hunt for these tell-tale signs of alien visitation, they suggest that a project be set up to carefully scrutinize the high resolution pictures being captured by the LRO. In order to save money, they suggest the job could be outsourced to the general public, similar to the SETI@home and Galaxy Zoo projects. In other words, once the pictures are released to the public, citizens could report anomalies to scientists for examination. According to the Guardian, the LRO has already taken over 340,000 images and is expected to have taken one million by the time it is finished.

Another reason the scientists believe the moon is a good place to look for signs of alien technology is that "the lunar environment could preserve artifacts for millions of years." So if aliens stopped off at the moon and left behind debris or footprints, because of the environment on the moon, the remnants would still be visible even if that visit was hundreds of thousands of years ago.

A popular theory amongst those who believe aliens have already visited our solar system is that there is evidence of alien technology in ancient architecture, such as the pyramids in Egypt, the Nazca lines in Peru, or Stonehenge in England. This theory has been popularized recently on the History channel's television show, *Ancient Aliens*. Filmmaker Ridley

Scott says he also suspects that extraterrestrials may be responsible for humankind's technological development. An idea he says he has added to the plot of his upcoming movie *Prometheus*. If these theories hold true, perhaps the best evidence awaits us on the moon.

The scientists write:

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 "Battle of LA," 70 Years Ago Today: 5 Irrefutable Arguments Why It Was Actually a UFO Attack

By Richard Connelly, Feb. 23 2012

<http://blogs.houstonpress.com/hairballs/2012/02/ufo-s aliens battle la.php>



The truth is out there

Seventy years ago today, the Battle of Los Angeles occurred, a vicious fight that resulted in three civilian deaths. Haven't heard of it? We're not surprised.

<http://ufos.about.com/od/bestufocasefiles/p/losangeles1942.htm>

The U.S. government said what happened was nighttime anti-aircraft crews protecting Los Angeles got nervous -- it was just two months after Pearl Harbor -- and opened fire on a weather balloon.

The crews also set off flares, and all the confusion just built on itself. So we're told. Others say the night featured an attempted UFO landing, in which the valiant gun crews fought aliens trying to land. It's pretty obvious the latter is true. Obviously the

aliens not only attempted to land, they succeeded. Just look at what's happened in Hollywood since then. The logic becomes inescapable.

The quantity of UFO/alien movies has increased dramatically

Between 1911 and 1941, UFOs and flying saucers were occasionally a subject for films. Since then -- especially since the 1950s, after a necessary period of time to learn the equipment and infiltrate studio management -- movies about UFOs exploded. Coincidence? who's being naive, Kay?

The quality of UFO/alien movies has increased dramatically

In the 1930s, UFOs were laughably portrayed on screen, obvious frauds. While it understandably took a decade or two to import the necessary technology from the home planet to Earth, all of a sudden you got Close Encounters of the Third Kind, Independence Day and the Transformers series. The aliens' unstinting desire for complete accuracy in movies is inspiring

Very, very strange people like Tom Cruise and Arnold Schwarzenegger have reached the pinnacle of Hollywood success

One fiercely believes in aliens and Xenu as if he knows it was true and the other became an influential box-office legend despite documentaries that proved

- a) he could barely speak English, and
- b) he was a cyborg sent from the future to kill a specific human. Luckily for the U.S. -- and the world -- the aliens overreached when they had him elected California governor as a first step towards getting his finger on the nuclear button (Yes, their plans included overturning the "natural born citizen" section of the Constitution.)

The attacks suddenly stopped

If it was a case of "itchy trigger fingers," why weren't there countless more up and down the coast? Answer: Because the aliens had succeeded in landing and needed no more attempts. Sherlock Holmes's "dog that didn't bark" theorem FTW, bitchaz.

They never found the "weather balloon" that started it all

The feds would have you believe the following:

- 1) A weather balloon was shot at by a lot of anti-aircraft guns.
- 2) It, or its pieces, fell to the Pacific Ocean. If that's true, why couldn't they produce the balloon? Surely the balloon (or the pieces thereof) would have

floated in the Pacific for some time, and the Pacific is known by oceanologists to be, as they say, "not very big." So why couldn't the government find this alleged "balloon"?

MN MUFON Celebrates 25th Anniversary with Guest Kevin Randle

Bill McNeff was State Director for MN MUFON in 1987. He thought it would be a good idea to get the state's five members together once a month to discuss their obsession with UFOs. It is now 2012 and at our April 14th meeting MN MUFON will be celebrating 25 years of monthly meetings!

Dr. Kevin D. Randle, USAF Ret. will be the guest speaker for our anniversary meeting. Dr. Randle served in Viet Nam as a helicopter pilot and in Iraq as an intelligence officer. Kevin has been investigating UFOs for over 40 years and has been called the most prolific writer of UFO books. He has lectured at several UFO conferences and symposiums and is a frequent guest on Coast to Coast radio.

The following is an excerpt from his bio on Coast to Coast website: *Kevin Randle has been a professional writer for nearly 30 years with published works that include science fiction, action-adventure, techno-thrillers, and over 20 books of non-fiction. Randle has a varied military background and was decorated in two wars. He holds four degrees including a PhD in psychology and a Master of the Art of Military Studies.*

Kevin is probably best known for his relentless work on Roswell, which continues today with the Roswell "Dream Team" of investigators. His latest book is "Reflections of a UFO Investigator" which covers the how and why he's been involved in UFOs so many years. This will be the topic for the April 14th presentation. Kevin will also be signing books for one hour prior to the meeting.

Everyone is welcome to come and meet Kevin and join us for our 25th Anniversary party! April 14, 2012. Book signing 1 – 2 pm. Presentation begins at 2pm, followed by Q & A with a break for cake and coffee, at: New Brighton Community Center, 400 10th St. NW, New Brighton, MN. Room 224. Admission \$5 per person. (for more info on Kevin and a list of archived Coast to Coast shows:

<http://www.coasttocoastam.com/guest/randle-kevin-d/5654>)

Check out Kevin's blog:

<http://www.kevinrandle.blogspot.com/>

A Letter to the Editor of Science News By Bill McNeff, MN ASD, March 3, 2012

Mr. Tom Siegfried, M.A.
Science News Editor in Chief
1719 N Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Mr. Siegfried,
As one of your readers wrote in “Feedback” in the Feb. 11, 2012 issue, I appreciate your editorials. I was struck by one line in your editorial in that issue: “Long regarded by neuro-scientists as a taboo topic...” There are other taboo topics in science, and one of the biggest is unidentified flying objects (UFOs) or (a better term) unexplained aerial phenomena (UAP). It would seem that the bulk of scientists do not want to touch that topic with the proverbial ten foot pole, due to the ridicule or “giggle” factor. However, a few open-minded scientists have fearlessly looked into the subject, and most of those who have taken such a look pronounce it to be a topic well worth studying. This should not be surprising, since any topic which promises to reveal information about technology or energy sources which may permit travel over astronomical distances, and reveal scientific information far beyond ours, should be worthy of study. But as Hofstadter wrote (p. 30), “We ... draw conceptual boundaries around entities that we easily perceive, and in so doing we carve out what seems to us to be reality.” IMHO, that is how the present-day scientific paradigm has been constructed and has become today’s dogma.

Eminent scientist Rupert Sheldrake recently wrote: “I have spent all my adult life as a scientist, and I strongly believe in the importance of the scientific approach. Yet I have become increasingly convinced the sciences have lost much of their vigour, vitality and curiosity. Dogmatic ideology, fear-based conformity and institutional inertia are inhibiting scientific creativity. With scientific colleagues, I have been struck over and over again by the contrast between public and private discussions. In public, scientists are very aware of the powerful taboos that restrict the range of permissible topics; in private they are often more adventurous. I believe that the sciences will be more exciting and engaging when they move beyond the dogmas that restrict free inquiry and imprison imaginations.”

As difficult as it is for some to allow that the crash near Roswell, New Mexico in July of 1947 might have been that of an extraterrestrial alien

spacecraft, and that such craft have been and are continuing to visit Earth today, a careful consideration of the vast evidence for these should result in a recognition that here is a scientific mystery well worthy of study and attempts at solution. You have perhaps read that the number of hits from “Googling” the subject of “UFOs” is second only to the subject of “sex”. If you haven’t already, I would ask you to take a good look at the UAP/UFO/ET subject. Good sources are the following authors, most of whom have PhDs: Richard F. Haines, Leslie Kean, John E. Mack, David M. Jacobs, Jacques Vallee, Robert K.G. Temple, J. Allen Hynek, and Stanton T. Friedman, and the organizations NARCAP, CUFOS, and MUFON.

I won’t ask you to trumpet to the world what you learn. That would probably be professional suicide. I only urge you to learn as well as you can what the facts are, so that you will be prepared when and if the day of UFO/ET disclosure arrives, or will be in a position to hasten it.

Sincerely,
William I. McNeff, B.S.E.E.

**Want to help find E.T.? Now you can
Adler team launches website to let
public help in search for extraterrestrial
life By Rex W. Huppke, rhuppke@tribune.com
, Tribune reporter, February 29, 2012
<http://www.wgnradio.com/news/local/breaking/chi-want-to-help-find-et-now-you-can-20120229.0.4821790.story>**

Look out, extraterrestrials. Regular human beings — the same folks who struggle to figure out self-checkout lines at grocery stores — are now listening to your every move.

Astronomers at Adler Planetarium launched a website today that allows anyone with a computer to join in the search for possible radio signals from alien life. The site is www.SETIlive.org — SETI is an organization whose name stands for Search for Extra Terrestrial Intelligence.

Computers already monitor radio signals collected by a California-based array of radio telescopes. But researchers believe the computers can’t filter through the full spectrum of signals — many of which are just interference caused by satellites and cell phones — and humans may be more likely to identify what could be signs of alien life.

“Humans have this unique ability to pick out all sorts of complicated signals, even when it’s noisy,” said Adler astronomer Chris Lintott, who led the project. “Think about talking to a person in a crowded room. The plan is to search for signals from alien civilizations in a way that hasn’t been done before, which is to get human brains to look at data as it comes off the telescope live.”

The radio signals appear on the website as patterns, everything from an array of dots to a spaghetti-like swirl of solid and broken lines. The site provides a tutorial on how to differentiate common interference signals from unusual signals that might be worth investigating. If someone sees something intriguing, that person can tag it on their Web browser.

The telescope moves about every three minutes. But if a certain number of people — for now it’s about five — mark the same signal, the telescope will be directed back to re-examine the point the signal came from.

“This is what real alien hunting looks like,” Lintott said. “The pictures aren’t as pretty and it’s not as exciting as a flying saucer landing at your gate, but it is real science.”

All the stars being examined are in the Milky Way, a few thousand light years out. Lintott said, “We’re pointing deliberately at stars where we know there are planets and those planets have the right conditions to have liquid water. That allows us to up the odds.”

And it also allows us to retain supremacy — for now — over our electronics.

“The good thing about this,” Lintott said, “is if we do discover alien life, at least humans will discover it and not computers.” Copyright © 2012, Chicago Tribune

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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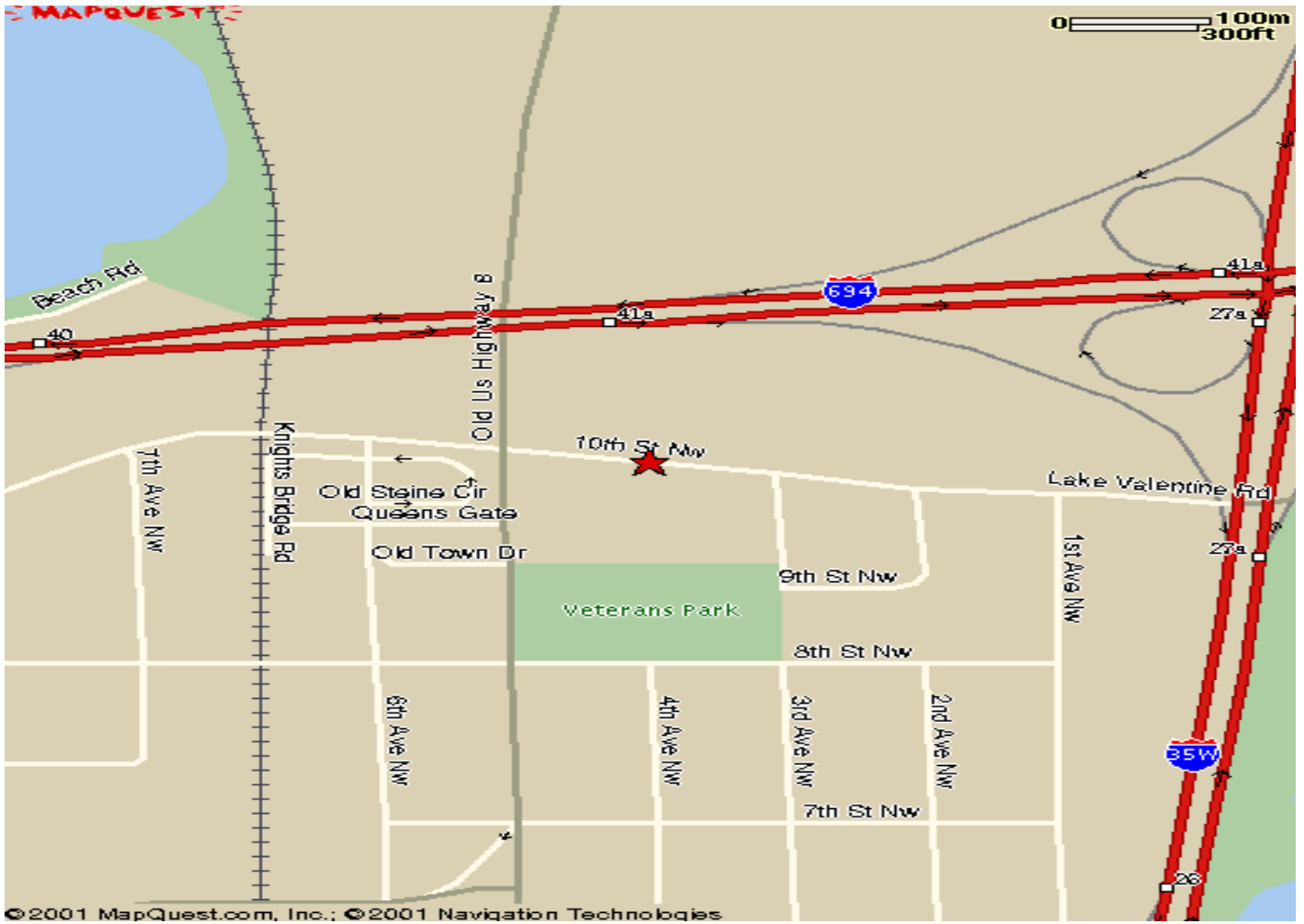
National MUFON Hotline

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

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