

# MINNESOTA MUFON

## Newsletter

### From the State Director

The 1996 MUFON Symposium speaker lineup included Dr. John Mack. His presentation was entitled *Studying Intrusions From the Subtle Realm: How Can We Deepen Our Knowledge*. A brief summary of his main points follows.

Dr. Mack has an MD degree and is professor of psychiatry, Harvard Medical School, Cambridge Hospital. He received a Pulitzer Prize in 1977 for his book *A Prince of Our Disorder*, a biography of T. E. Lawrence (Lawrence of Arabia). In 1990 he began working with people who have experienced encounters with unknown intelligence using non-ordinary states of consciousness to explore their experiences. Dr. Mack served as the role model for Richard Crenna's character in the 1992 CBS-TV miniseries, *Intruders*.

Science, as we usually think of it, has a methodology appropriate for studying the physical world. The observer is studying something separate from the observer. By focusing on the material realm, we virtually rid nature of spirit.

The subtle realm [of science] has to do with phenomena that seem to come from another dimension such as telepathy, near-death experiences, alien abductions, and the whole psychic domain. These events may manifest themselves in the physical world, but appear to come from an

unseen place and therefore, are matters which are not observable under ordinary scientific conditions. They make their presence known more subtly through an opening of consciousness.

Consciousness is seen as a phenomenon of the brain. Mack says that this is one of the basic assumptions we must challenge if we are going to study the subtle realms, which involve the relationship of consciousness to the material world. We have to consider the possibility that consciousness — spirit, self, soul — all have an existence separate from the material body.

Phenomena that really shake up our world view are those that seem to cross over from the unseen to the physical world. By the 17th century, theologians and other "spirited people" were given a mandate over the subtle or unseen realm and scientists were given jurisdiction over the material world. As long as the phenomena arrayed themselves neatly on its own side of the divide, there appeared to be no problem. If, however, phenomena is seen to cross that line, then a problem arises in our culture.

An alien abduction is just such a phenomenon. By its very

*continued*

### MINNESOTA MUFON Meetings

Saturday, January 12  
and  
Saturday, February 9  
1:30 – 5:00 PM

Science Museum of MN  
Computer Education Center  
**Firstar Center**  
**5th & Minnesota Sts**  
**19th Floor**

**SEE MAP ON COVER!**

**PARK FREE**  
Ramp entrance is on  
Minnesota St.  
*Proceed to 5th Level*

*Because this is a secured building, to gain entrance, you must be at the ramp door between 1:00 and 1:30 PM. Someone will be on hand to activate the elevator to take you to the meeting room. The next admittance time will be at the 3:00 break.*

**Don't be Late!**

The building and ramp areas are designated as non-smoking. Coffee and soft drinks are FREE!

nature, it seems to grab us "where we live" just because it crosses over and manifests in a language that we *do* understand — spaceships, implants, instruments, surgery, hybrids, babies, reproduction, etc. It all seems very physical and we ought to be able to study it by the methods of traditional science. But abductions do not yield their secrets to that approach. They challenge that sacred barrier we have created between the unseen and material worlds. They undermine the world view of the Western mind.

**Mack believes that a big blow to the human ego can be good for our collective development and help us grow as a species.**

Our materialist world view helps us construct reality. When it is challenged, it creates terror. Speaking of his own involvement, Mack believes that the resistance he has encountered derives from this. People have asked him if he ever realized that he might run into trouble. But like the frog who dies in gradually warming water, he thinks it "just kind of sneaked up on him!" Perhaps he would not have wandered off into insecure realms of knowledge unless he had been a little naive. If you know in advance the opposition you could encounter, you might not choose to take on the exploration. If what Bertrand Russell said is true about resistance being proportional to the square of the importance of what you are studying, then Mack thinks he must be studying something very important indeed.

Mack thinks it is useful for us to know that our work is stirring up resistance in the scientific community. We can stop concerning ourselves with the fact that there are people

who refuse to consider what we are trying to communicate and thus, we can devote our energies toward a deeper level of understanding the phenomena.

Consider the blows to humanity's collective ego created by the works of Copernicus, Darwin, and Freud. We have come to know that we are not at the center of our universe, that we are not the only God-given beings on earth, and that we are not even in charge of our own psyches. Abductions have shown us that we may not be the smartest guys in the universe! In a most basic sense, we may not be in control of ourselves. Little creatures with big black eyes can come and do what they wish and render us helpless. This is truly a fourth blow after what Copernicus, Darwin, and Freud had already done to our collective arrogance. Mack believes that a big blow to the human ego can be good for our collective development and help us grow as a species.

Mack began seeing people in 1990 who described experiences that did not fit into any psychiatric category. Child abuse, psychosis, neurosis, organic brain disease, fantasy-prone personality, etc. could not explain what he was seeing. Clinicians have made intense efforts to find a "something else," because the motivation is very strong to shoot this phenomenon down with what he calls the "anything but" syndrome — *anything but* that we are being visited by some unusual intelligence entering our world.

It's easy for people to say that when you are joining another person in bringing forth experiences that you are contaminating the field, you are influencing and/or leading the subject.

But you cannot get away from the fact that in an exploration of human experience, each consciousness is connecting with the other, and what emerges is a result of that relationship. After that, you look at what you have found and apply rational judgment in analyzing the material. The clinician asks, "*Was this person trying to please? Was this authentic? Were the emotions appropriate?*" These are the yardsticks to apply in assessing what a client is reporting. They have nothing to do with belief. Mack feels that people are describing as best they can, what happened to them. They will ask, "*Can you make this go away?*" Mack will see tears when a person realizes that he/she was not dreaming. They will say, "*But if it's real, then it can happen again — and I can't stop it and you can't stop it.*"

John Mack employs his total self to be with a person, to create a safe environment in which the individual can bring forth these sensitive, troubling, confusing, most extraordinary experiences imaginable, at least in the world view of this culture. Contrary to what is said about hypnosis bringing about distortions of memory, he trusts what comes out in relaxation sessions more than in face-to-face interviews. The person is able to bring forth more ignoble, more humiliating experiences than in conscious and more social kinds of interaction. When consciously recalled, people tend to organize their thoughts in a way that is more palatable and appropriate to their own positive self-regard and world view.

Dr. Mack then turns to what appears to him to be the basic pattern and meaning of the abduction phenomenon.

• Abductees are being told repeatedly of threats to the earth and ecological devastation that we have undertaken. As one abductee put it, the phenomenon is an effort to bring about a "cosmic correction." The earth evidently has a place in the larger fabric of the cosmos, and we cannot be allowed to destroy it.

▲ This intelligence appears to function as a kind of intermediary between the Source of creation and us, emissaries perhaps, of that correction.

▲ We are being told that we have grown too far from the Source and have lost our connection with it.

▲ The hybrid program seems to be a kind of awkward insurance policy for the next step of evolution. Some have been told that hybrids represent a step being created for the time when we have destroyed ourselves so that some aspect of our genetic structure can be preserved.

▲ *The human-alien relationship is reciprocal.* We do not know from where the connection is being orchestrated — perhaps it serves both them and us.

Members are encouraged to obtain a copy of the 1996 *PROCEEDINGS* from MUFON for \$25 plus \$1.75 postage.

Dick MOAA

## PERCEPTION

by Craig R. Lang

Recently, I completed a field investigation in which the witnesses observed some anomalous-looking lights in the sky. However, it turned out that the lights corresponded closely to aircraft approaching a nearby airport. I concluded with some uncertainty that the objects were probably airplanes. This conclusion met with predictable skepticism from true believers. However, one comment was made by a person which I feel deserves greater consideration. That comment was, "Why state a conclusion at all?"

The gist of the argument was that *perception is important in its own right and reality is what we perceive it to be.* Thus, if the witness saw what they believed to be an ET craft in the sky, then for them, that is exactly what it was — regardless of any prosaic explanation which might exist. In short, why take away an interesting UFO sighting by turning it into an ordinary IFO sighting?

The comments stemmed from the excellent talk given by Dr. Bill Anderson at the Saturday, October 12 Minnesota MUFON meeting. In it, Dr. Anderson spoke of the relationship between perception and reality in close encounter experiences. He indicated that he felt that the most important thing in these cases was *perception.* The essential reality of such cases is whatever the experiencer perceives it to be. This may be what John Mack refers to as the "subtle realm." I will grant that this may be valid in the case of close encounters of the fourth kind (abductions), where

psychological factors may be the predominant issue. However, in the field investigation of anomalies such as daylight discs, nocturnal lights, physical effects, ground traces, etc., I believe that there is a hard reality. Either the sighting has a prosaic explanation, or a UFO was involved. Both cannot be true.

The post-modern philosophy of perception over reality may have its roots in the quantum physics concept of uncertainty. A subatomic particle has complimentary properties — both are true, but both cannot be fully manifest at the same time. For example, light is both a wave and a particle. When passing through a diffraction grating, it is a wave. When not observed, a photon of light holds both sets of properties. It is the act of measurement that resolves them. Within a theoretical uncertainty limit, we can measure both, but we can never know their exact properties at the same time.

However, this theorem does not apply to the macroscopic world. There is no quantum uncertainty involved, but there can still be uncertainties of observation. In the sighting investigation I described, there was uncertainty due to the inability to find exact flight schedules, and due to limits of my knowledge (to within a few feet) of the exact location of the witness. The object was what it was, but my limitations in determining the exact details caused some uncertainty. Thus my conclusion was a degree of approximation to an objective reality.

Our skies are full of interesting looking objects. Most of them are airplanes or other commonplace objects and perhaps some are ET craft. However interesting it would be

to imagine a given light in the sky as being some fuzzy airplane/UFO duality, in reality each light has one and only one cause. And this is true of the light sighted in the example I've described. The light could not be both UFO and IFO. It is the job of the field investigator to determine, as accurately as possible, whether an object sighted is UFO or IFO, and report the findings to a conclusion. The conclusion may disappoint the excited experimenter, but so be it. And who knows, the next sighting might just be the real thing — a UFO!

## We Have Hard Evidence!

by William I. McNeff

One of the crises of the skeptics has been that we have no hard, physical evidence of UFOs. Well, I believe it is time to say that we *do* have hard evidence!

By "we," I'm referring to the civilian UFO research community. While there is now plenty of evidence that the US government has extraterrestrial hardware in its possession, that material is at present, out of civilian reach. But let's consider what I believe is the most important evidence that is in civilian hands.

A very important piece of evidence surfaced in 1957, when a Brazilian columnist received a letter and a package from an anonymous person. The letter stated that the writer had been at the beach at Ubatuba, Brazil, when a shining object flew overhead and exploded over the ocean. Pieces of flaming material rained down and fell into the shallow water immediately off-shore. The sea water extinguished the flames and the writer and

others were able to retrieve small pieces of the debris. The material was a light weight metal, perhaps a sixteenth of an inch thick. The writer felt that the object which had exploded was a vehicle of some kind. The package contained pieces of the metal, covered with some sort of white residue.

The columnist turned the samples over to Dr. Olavo Fontes, the head of a Brazilian UFO research group, who sent a specimen to be analyzed by one of the best laboratories in the country, the Brazilian Ministry of Agriculture. After carefully cleaning the white coating off the sample, it was tested on an emission spectograph and pronounced to be pure magnesium, with no detectable impurities. Dr. Fontes then sent the rest of the material to his parent UFO research organization in the US, the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization (APRO). Other labs in the US have since tested the samples. Their findings also indicated that they are magnesium, and some labs detected measured impurities in a few samples.

While Dr. Peter Sturrock, member of SSE, says "*...after all these years, we still do not have a single reliable measurement of the actual impurities and impurity level of the Brazil magnesium,*" it is important to note that the Brazilian lab, MIT, Stanford University, and NASA could detect no impurities in the samples. Dr. Sturrock, in effect, admits that the samples may actually be pure magnesium when he says that "*none of the positive detection*" of impurities "*can be securely attributed to the interior of the metal.*" It is extremely rare for active metals such as magnesium to exist in nature in a pure form, so it is unlikely that a "bolide" (meteorite) was the source of the metal.

The most important result, however, was the density determination which the Brazilian lab made. Dr. Paul Hill, in his book, *Unconventional Flying Objects*, pointed out that this density can only be that of a magnesium isotope which is not found in pure form on earth. The only way to get this isotope in quantity on earth would be to carry out isotopic separation by one of the methods used by the Manhattan project to get A-bomb materials. We can be certain that no one on earth would have expended huge sums of money in 1957 to create such a hoax. Therefore, we must conclude that this material was extraterrestrial.

Other important material evidence was found in France. Around 1980, the French government set up an official organization to study UFOs, called GEPAN (an acronym). In January of 1981, a Frenchman named Colini reported seeing an object land on his property about 30 meters from where he was standing. It stayed for approximate a half-minute. GEPAN investigated and found a crown-shaped imprint on the ground, 2.2 meters in diameter. The investigators collected samples of soil and vegetation. The physical and chemical analyses of the samples indicated that the ground had been heated to between 300 and 6700 degrees centigrade and showed a probable deposition of trace quantities of materials such as phosphate and zinc.



The vegetation analysis showed that leaves in the immediate vicinity had a 30% to 50% reduction in chlorophyll pigments A and B. Young leaf shoots

underwent the highest losses and showed signs of premature aging. There was significant correlation between the effect on the plants and the distance from the center of the imprint on the ground.

The director of GEPAN stated, *"The effects on plants in the area can be compared with that produced on the leaves of other plant species after exposing the seeds to gamma radiation. Data show that a considerable amount of gamma radiation (10 rads) must be applied to produce a disturbance equal to that observed at the site. Should we consider the presence of ionizing (nuclear) radiation? Almost certainly not, since no measurable residual radioactivity is present in the plants."* Rather, he said, the effects were most likely caused by an electromagnetic field. To hoax such evidence would have required large expenditures. This case is one of the best offered of physical evidence associated with UFO sightings.

Very few people have heard "the rest of the story" of the famous "swamp gas" cases of 1966 at Dexter and Hillsdale, Michigan. College students reported what appeared to them to be a lighted craft maneuvering over a somewhat swampy area adjacent to a dorm. After Dr. J. Allen Hynek offered "swamp gas" as a possible explanation, no one noticed when the local civil defense director reported that his checks with a Geiger counter revealed that the ground, a "crustacean" (crayfish) and an "amphibian" (a frog or salamander) all showed abnormal levels of radiation, and that the animals moved slowly as if groggy (possibly an effect of radiation). This puts a new light on these cases.

Recently, implants allegedly placed into people by ETs have made the news. Thoroughly documented recoveries of three objects, two from a woman's foot and one from a man's hand, took place in August 1995. Besides the surgeon, a videographer, a still photographer and two writers were present. Darrel Sims, head of the Houston UFO Network, who coordinated the session, had the objects analyzed by an independent lab and the University of Houston. The objects appeared to have been encased in the patients' own skin to prevent rejection by the body. Nerve cells were present in the tissue surrounding the object. Said the surgeon, *"The nerve cells don't belong there, because anatomically, they don't have any position in the soft tissue surrounding the toe, which is mainly fat and fibrous connective tissue. You don't find nerve cells."* The objects themselves were metallic and magnetic, and the metals, when analyzed, had an isotopic ratio that indicates they are "extraterrestrial."

Those of you who have been with Minnesota MUFON for the past decade will recall the object which MUFON's Central Region Director, the late George Coyne, found on the floor after an unusual (for him) violent sneezing fit. George believed he had sneezed the object out of his nose. Photomicrographs and a spectrogram were published in the Minnesota MUFON Newsletter for March/April 1990. The object had been broken into three or more pieces and photographed using an electron microscope. The pictures show a rough surface with a pair of tapered hollow tubes sticking out of it. The walls of the tubes contain fibers or wires which extend slightly beyond the end of the tubes. It appears that

the tubes had been stretched until they had broken, and the "wires," being more ductile, stretched a little further before they broke. From my measurements of the photomicrographs, the tubes were four-thousandths of an inch long and 500 millionths of an inch in diameter at the base. The spectrogram showed the highest peak for potassium, with peaks for chlorine, sulphur, calcium, phosphorus, aluminum and magnesium. I believe it is likely that the construction of such tubes is beyond the technical capability of any facility on earth at present.



Then, there is the radar and photographic evidence to consider. I have carried out research in the Project Blue Book files in the National Archives in Washington, DC. A friend told me of a case which occurred October 24, 1968, near Minot, North Dakota. The Blue Book files include prints of radar film taken on a B-52 which reported an oblong orange-glowing UFO. The prints show that the UFO zipped from a position off the left wing of the B-52 to one off the right wing, a distance of 2.8 miles in three seconds or less! This calculates to a speed of 3,200 mph or greater! Then, it instantly decelerated to the landing speed of the B-52, a feat of which no known terrestrial aircraft is capable, even today.

Finally, there are the Gulf Breeze photographs taken by Ed and Francis Walters. While there were several rounds of analysis and debate over these, no one, to my knowledge, has challenged the final analyses by Jeff Sainio of Wisconsin MUFON. Therefore, these photos must be considered genuine until and unless someone can

produce reasonable grounds for suspecting them to be otherwise. Mr. Sainio and other analysts have shown many other photographs to be most probably genuine. For example, the McMinnville, Oregon/Paul Trent photo has been exhaustively analyzed and excellent reasons have been found to believe it to be genuine. (See the *Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects* report of the research conducted by the University of Colorado, released in January 1969.)

To conclude, it is my contention that the physical evidence has reached a "critical mass," which will sooner or later explode in the faces of the overly skeptical. It can no longer be fairly said that there is not hard evidence of the extraterrestrial/UFO phenomenon.

## ALIEN FRAMES?

by Theresa Carlson

While much has been written on the topic of the Alien Autopsy footage, most of it has concentrated on the people and events involved in the footage being made public. Though these things are important to the overall picture, the footage itself deserves an evaluation as well.

The consensus in ufological circles seems to be that the footage is a hoax, with the expectation that if it is not, then it should be proven real. There are two favored opinions for the hoax hypothesis. One is that what we are seeing in the footage is a human body, the other is that the body was created by movie special effects artists. As any researcher knows, the facts in any case being investigated must fit the theory. Both of these theories leave some unanswered questions.

Many of the comments made about the footage are simply incorrect. Some of this is because many people have commented only on the footage shown on various television programs, rather than the entire footage itself. Others have watched the full footage but apparently not examined it thoroughly. Contrary to what is being said, not all the frames in the footage are out of focus. Close and thorough examination of the images reveals details missed during cursory examination.

## HUMAN BODY THEORY

First we have to ask, "Who was she?" Judging by her muscular build, she appears well cared for and healthy, regardless of her deformities. If this was a human, a girl, suffering from some genetic disorder or rare disease, someone would have known her, family, doctors, or neighbors. As she was seen by millions of people all over the world, it is a wonder that no one recognized her. At this time, I won't go over all the defects and deformities of the body, as they are numerous and obvious. However, no one has yet explained the extreme deformities satisfactorily with any known human diseases or disorders.

Do we have an explanation for the eye coverings? If they were a protective covering to keep the eyes moist, as speculated, why would the doctors remove them during the procedure? Also, why would they preserve these coverings? Can we explain the obscure, transparent article removed from the chest area?

We find more questions in the opened body. The internal organs are not human. The brain is not human. The reflected skin reveals no subcutaneous fat layer. While some diseases will diminish body fat considerably, the reflected skin shows no fat whatsoever. Also missing from this body are veins, arteries, mamilla, and a navel.

How do we explain the injuries? The right leg shows extensive damage. The right hand is partially severed, though not disconnected from the arm as has been claimed, and appears badly burned.

How would a girl suffering from a rare disease get hurt this badly and no one know about it?

It is important to note here that there is more footage showing another autopsy. While not released to the public, several people have seen and described this other autopsy footage. The body in that one has the same deformities and defects but without the injuries. The same body could not be in both films, since dissection occurs on both bodies. Do we have twins with the same disease or defects? That would be even more of a wonder in that they never made it into medical textbooks, or that someone didn't know of them.

The possibility of an altered human corpse has also been mentioned, however, it would require so much altering to make a human corpse look like what we see here that it would no longer be human. Again, two corpses with the same alterations would be needed to do this. Among the alterations, the internal organs would have to be replaced, and the skin replaced. During the reflection of the scalp, we clearly see the "peeling" of the skin from the skull. The film is rolling during this, so there isn't time to rig it as they go along. This sequence, not shown in most TV broadcasts, is missed by most people.

Apart from the basic form being humanoid, there is nothing about this body that appears to be human when closely examined.

## SPECIAL EFFECTS CREATION

This theory would answer most of the questions and problems brought up by the human body theory, though it raises a few questions of its own as well.

These days, special effects artists can create practically anything, but this footage being created by some amateurs as a practical joke is not particularly likely. It required considerable time, work and money to produce the autopsy film. We must ask, "Who did this?" and look at what it would take to create what we see in the footage. As a special effects production, it's carefully scripted and

planned. There are too many details for it to have been accidental or thrown together in a hurry.

For instance, the props in the footage are correct for the period the footage supposedly depicts. The creators researched and obtained these. It was first thought that the telephone was the wrong year, but later it was later proven to be correct for the time. Even the electrical outlets are consistent. It is not unusual for anachronisms or props to be wrong even in high budget Hollywood films, so we expected to find some in this footage. After exhaustive examination, there are none.

The clock is a particularly important prop. The entire autopsy footage is scripted so that the timing was perfect. That means that if they had to stop the clock for any reason, such as touch-ups or adding body parts, they had to carefully set it back to the correct time for the procedures depicted. Interestingly, the electrical cord on the clock has a kink. That kink remains consistent in the footage, from beginning to end. This means that if they moved the clock, they carefully put that cord back exactly the same way it was every time. Other options may be a wall switch controlling the outlet, or a remote control device of some kind to stop and start the clock at precisely the right times. Perhaps this kind of detail is second nature to people who work in special effects. In any case, the accurate timing is evident, and shows careful attention to details. Due to statements made that the autopsy procedures performed in this footage were not standard, I attended several autopsies as part of my research. No two were exactly the same. However, the general, overall procedures in the footage are those used in autopsies. Therefore, the producers of this footage did research this area. The high cut on the neck, noted as non-standard, however, is used if removal of the skin on the face is anticipated. We don't see this procedure in the footage, as it ends while the doctor is still working on the head, but since it is an "alien autopsy," presumably they would want to skin the face and

examine the underlying structures. Good thinking by the special effects creators!

One puzzling detail is one of the props. The human brain is a gel-like substance and after removal during an autopsy it's suspended in a jar of liquid to "fix" it. The brain in this body is a solid organ, and so doesn't need such suspension. Yet, sometime during the reflection of the scalp the type of jar used for this is placed on the table, with the liquid in it. This shows remarkable insight on the part of the effects people, since they would have known the brain was a solid organ and they would not need that jar. However, they must have known that some of us were going to look for it. Had it been part of a "standard autopsy props" kit one would expect it to be there from the beginning of the procedure, like the flask, the Bunsen burner and other items on that table are.

While there are many details missed about the body itself, the one fact that may be the most important is that many people believe it to be a real body. This, it seems to me, would be the highest compliment that could be paid to anyone in the special effects field, implying that the creators were highly talented. However, as a special effects production it's intentionally made to depict an alien autopsy. So why didn't the creators make it look like the common aliens, the small, thin, frail, gray-skinned creatures that have become so popular in the past decade?

A detail, probably not noticed by many, is the jointed fingers on at least one hand. The hand gets caught on the doctor's suit and the fingers curl up. The hand catching may have been an accident but the finger bending was not. Also, the hands show creases and lines in the palms, much as our hands have, a wasted detail as most people miss it due to the intentional out of focus camera work. This camera work is planned and scripted and has to be considered very well done. Moreover, the autopsy room is not an open set as has been claimed. The four walls do appear in the footage.

However, one has to look for them as they are not obvious. Of course, this doesn't mean that it isn't a set, only that it is a more complex set than what most people think. The producers hired the actors or played the various roles we see in the footage themselves and provided the costumes they wear. Another, puzzling detail: in one short sequence there is an extra person in the room wearing the same costume. At least five people were involved in the making of this film and so far, no one is talking.

We don't really know that the autopsy only took two hours, because the clock is a twelve-hour clock; it may have taken fourteen hours or twenty-six hours. Actually, what we are looking at is most likely about two hours' worth of procedures. However, human autopsies are done in about half an hour, and sometimes less. The viscera and necessary tissue are removed, the body is closed up and released. The in-depth examination takes place later. The person who wrote the script for this footage realized this and added extra time, since it supposedly is an "alien autopsy." The doctor is still working on the body when the film ends, so it could have taken longer.

Also, if they had done a very lengthy examination, it would surely be evidence that this was a hoax. Consider that if the military was responsible for this autopsy, the scientific study of this thing would not necessarily be a priority. They were in the business of defense and the first thing they would want to know is how to defend against them. There would be more interest in how to kill it than in what made it tick. The scientific analysis could come later. Again, the scriptwriter was paying attention to detail.

Not as much can be said about the debris footage included in this production, mainly because there isn't much of it. Still, the debris would had to have been designed and created especially for this footage, as these aren't scraps that one can find lying around in any junk yard. Comparing the approximate size and shape of the hand prints on the

panels to the hands on the body, they appear to be consistent.

In the debris part of the footage there was an actual tent set up outdoors or a set that included wind. The sides of the tent billow, as though there was a breeze outside it. Another wasted effect, as very few people notice it. The special effects theory is certainly a possible explanation for what we see in this footage. But it's put together with considerable care and attention and is not a simple prank. The producers went to great lengths to try to convince someone that this was a real event. They went above and beyond what is needed for a simple money-making scheme.

### CONCLUSIONS?

With these new details pointed out, can we now decide which theory best fits what we are looking at in this footage: Is it a human body, a special effects creation, or something else?

Theresa Carlson © 1996

This article originally appeared in the Mutual UFO Network UFO JOURNAL, November 1996.

## A Philosopher Looks at the UFO Controversy

by John Bryant

Many people believe that scientific questions can be settled only by scientific investigators, but in fact there are always other dimensions to such questions, which bear significantly on their answers. Such nonscientific dimensions are usually what might be called "philosophical," and are often involved with the methods of gathering data, or the interpretation of that data. One field in which philosophical considerations are particularly important is UFO research.

Perhaps the most striking example where philosophy bears upon ufology is in the question of whether UFOs exist. The philosophical aspect of this question, at least when it is asked in the form, "Do you believe in UFOs?" is that it is *completely illegitimate*. The question that should be asked is, What is the probability that you attribute to the existence of UFOs? In case it is not obvious, the distinction here is nontrivial, for if one is offered the choice between saying he "believes" or "disbelieves," then if he is less than absolutely certain (and how many of us are absolutely certain about *anything*?) he will probably answer that he "disbelieves." The problem here, however, is not just a matter of the results of surveys on UFO beliefs, but is rather the far more subtle and troublesome one of what individuals themselves *think they think* about UFOs. More specifically, if a person believes that one must either "believe" or "disbelieve" in UFOs, *they he will not even recognize that there are other alternatives*, namely the set of statement *I believe in UFOs with probability p*, where  $p$  ranges between 0 and 1. And when people are constricted by linguistic conventions to think that there are only two alternatives when there are actually an infinite number, it is no wonder that their thinking about UFOs is confused.

With the above analysis in mind, it now becomes possible to assert on philosophical grounds that it is more likely than not that UFOs exist, and the UFOs are probably the product of extraterrestrial life forms. The argument for the existence of UFOs is simple in the extreme: The reports of UFOs are widespread, persistent and numerous; they are usually given by reliable witnesses who have no ulterior motive for giving false accounts

(indeed, they often have a motive not to give *any* account, namely, ridicule); and the accounts are consistent in crucial details in spite of coming from widely divergent and unconnected sources. The argument for the extraterrestrial hypothesis is equally simple, namely, the consistent-in-details reports from contactees, combined with the virtual certainty that our universe is teeming with other intelligent life forms. These facts make the ET hypothesis the simplest explanation fitting the facts, and thus (by Occam's Razor) the most scientifically acceptable one.

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**[The question] "Do you believe in UFOs?" is... completely illegitimate. The question that should be asked is, *What is the probability that you attribute to the existence of UFOs?***

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While it is sometimes said — and with good reason — that extraordinary hypotheses require extraordinary proof, I believe that we are fully justified in saying that the reasoning given above supplies the "extraordinary" proof required for the existence of UFOs and the ET hypothesis. It may, however, be helpful to the reader to be a bit more precise in stating our proof. To explain, we recall from elementary probability theory that the probability of getting heads in a single flip of a "fair" coin is  $1/2$ , since this is the approximate ratio of the number of heads to the number of flips in any long series of flips. Also, we may calculate the probability of getting two flips in a row by multiplying the probability of getting a head on the first flip by the probability of getting a head on the



second flip, i.e.,  $1/2 \times 1/2 = 1/4$ ; and in general we may calculate the probability of getting a series of heads by multiplying the probability of getting a head on the first flip by itself  $n$  times (i.e., by raising this number to the  $n$ th power. Note that the larger the  $n$ , the smaller the probability.)

The relevance of this to the question of the existence of UFOs is that we may calculate the probability that a series of reports is false (which is, *greater* than the probability that all sightings are false) by taking the probability of the falsity of each one, say  $f$ , and raising it to the  $n$ th power. Thus consider two reports of unconnected individuals, each one of which gives the same crucial details about an ET encounter: It is intuitively obvious that, if the accounts were false, the likelihood of both persons giving the same crucial details is extremely unlikely. Hence if the two accounts square in crucial details, then the probability of either account's falsity is very small. So consider the probability that a series of  $n$  accounts by unconnected persons all giving the same crucial details is false (this is a necessary condition of the truth of the nonexistence of UFOs): This is represented as  $f$  raised to the  $n$ th power, a vanishingly small number. Hence the probability of all the accounts being true approaches 1 asymptotically, i.e., it is virtually certain that all such accounts are substantially true. An important conclusion to be drawn from the above is that debunking of particular UFO cases has ceased to be relevant to the question of UFO existence, although such debunking may have other uses such as exposing some particular individual's lucrative fraud. The reason for this irrelevance is that the data is so overwhelming that if a substantial number of cases — even the majority — were found to

be false, this still would not affect the reasoning that we have given above.

Another way in which philosophical considerations enlighten the UFO debate is noting that the argument of skeptics to the effect that UFO believers have a psychological "need to believe" is not only irrelevant to the question of UFO existence, *but is more than likely a covert recognition on the part of skeptics that they have a need to disbelieve*. That is, if UFOs were shown unequivocally to be real, this would be a psychological doomsday for the skeptics, whose beliefs are rooted in a comfortable conventionality in which everything is stable, predictable, known or otherwise "under control." Of course, the psychological dislocation that unequivocal proof of UFO reality would bring the world may perhaps be why so many vociferous skeptics are operating — they may well be government agents who are hoping to postpone UFO recognition long enough to allow the disbelievers to die off so society will not find the reality so shocking.

Speaking of skeptics, it is well to realize that the philosophical orientation of most such individuals is a humanistic/atheistic one (Paul Kurtz, founder of the debunker's organization CSICOP, is a former president of the American Humanist Association), and that because of this, skeptics view UFOs as a form of modern mythology akin to religion. And while it cannot be denied that there is a religious element in the faith of the UFO "true believers," it should also be noted that ufology presents religion with one of its most serious challenges ever, for not only does the existence of UFOs completely upend conventional cosmological beliefs, but it virtually spits in the face of religion's man-centered dogmas.

Yet another philosophical consid-

eration that throws light on the question of UFO existence is the fact that the world-picture that has been put together by establishment science is in serious disarray in many other areas besides UFOs. There are, for example, serious challenges to science in the areas of bacteriology (Royal Rife, Gaston Naessens, et al); physics (the logical inconsistencies of relativity, the determination of the electronic charge); AIDS research (Peter Duesberg); cosmology (Big Bang theory); medicine (chelation therapy, vitamin C therapy) and so on through a list far too long for this article. The point is that establishment scientists arrogantly presume themselves to be the high priests of knowledge, and anyone who dares to challenge their status is automatically dismissed as a kook. Accordingly, ideas that challenge the "old paradigm" — to use the phrase of one of the best-known critics of science, Thomas Kuhn — are simply not going to get a hearing until the old generation of scientists dies off.

Perhaps the most important thing about the UFO debate is its demonstration of power of Establishment ideas, even when these ideas directly conflict with what most people believe. In particular, even though a majority express a believe in UFOs, this subjects is absent from the academic journals, and nearly absent from the mass media except for the lowest forms such as the tabloids. However, UFOs are by no means the only subject to demonstrate a hiatus between Establishment opinion and popular belief. For example, the racial politics of the establishment — affirmative action, race norming, minority set-asides, school integration, forced busing and similar policies — are widely hated, and yet the government has managed to implement these

policies nationwide with minimal resistance. I think we ought to be frightened about what this easy manipulation demonstrates about our society, our government and most especially, ourselves.

Reprinted with permission by John Bryant. The article originally appeared in *MENSA BULLETIN, One Mensan's Opinion, January/February 1996*

John Bryant's latest book is *Systems Theory and Scientific Philosophy* (University Press of America, 1991). John Bryant, P.O. Box 66683, St. Petersburg Beach, FL 33736-6683.



## WITNESSED

by Budd Hopkins  
Reviewed by Craig R. Lang

This is a fascinating tale of Hopkins' investigations into the "Linda Cortile" UFO abduction case and the complicated web of events surrounding it. The UFO, hovering over a building in New York City, was fully visible to a large number of witnesses, several of whom described aliens accompanying the abductee. These witnesses reported seeing Linda ascending in a beam of light into the waiting craft. Among the witnesses were two security officers, "Richard" and "Dan," and an unidentified VIP, whom Hopkins refers to as "The third man."

The tale describes Linda's experiences as revealed under hypnotic regression and the early attempts to track down Richard, Dan and the

third man. From that point forward, the investigation takes repeated bizarre turns involving the identities of the officers and their unusual relationship to Linda. Against this backdrop emerges the apparent involvement of the aliens in world political affairs at the highest level — associated in some way with the third man.

We learn also of apparent alien experiments into lifelong relationships between humans. Under repeated hypnotic regression, Linda describes meeting a stranger during her abductions whom she refers to as "Mickey." As it turns out, Mickey is one of the key figures in the drama.

As one reads the book, it is easy to forget that this is a story of a UFO investigation, and rather, that it's a darned good detective novel! However, it appears to be a thoroughly documented investigation into a bona fide UFO experience. The hallmarks of classic UFO cases are all present, including multiple corroborating witnesses, electromagnetic effects, physical evidence, etc. The investigation is on-going, and only time will tell how the case is resolved.

One must assume that the material in *Witnessed* is genuine — and I have no reason to doubt this. However, debunkers will take pot shots at the material, and Hopkins acknowledges this. He describes some steps to allay potential criticism by skeptics, but does not do much to answer more general criticisms of hypnotic regression. This would be understood as being beyond the scope of the book.

I felt that there were a number of unanswered questions raised by details in the book, but then, aren't unresolved mysteries just a part of the game in UFO research?!

In conclusion, I found the book to be a well-written, absorbing account of a fascinating mystery. It is a highly

readable, chronological account, keeping close to the facts and avoiding any far out speculations. I highly recommend *Witnessed* for both UFO believers and for skeptics — and certainly for anyone who just likes to read a good detective story!



## UNIQUE FILM OFFERINGS

by Peter Morris

*The Arrival*, 1996  
Director: David Twohy

Finally, the secret is out which MUFONauts have been suspecting! When a radio astronomer detects signals from space, he is fired from his position. Trying to vindicate himself, he learns the ETs are already here, well ensconced, not only underground by topside as well. They are subtly terra-forming the Earth for suitability to their metabolism. This movie will frighten you far more than any "Freddie" film! With him, you know where you stand, but in *The Arrival*, whom can you trust?!

*Harrison Bergeron*, 1995  
Director: Bruce Pittman

By the year 2053, the dumbing-down of America has been accomplished by "1984" type do-gooder elitists. However, a young, incorrigible, congenital genius is conditioned to serve in the secret government. Apparently imbued with the enforced conformity, he sees through the "humanity" and attempts a coup. He fails, but counter attacks by martyring himself. Seemingly, that fails, too — but...!

☺ ☺ ☺

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**Visit the MN MUFON WEB PAGE!**  
<http://www.wavefront.com/~jhenry/index.html>

Joel Henry, Webmeister

**Field Investigator Update** *Craig R. Lang*

Our Field Investigator Network continues to take shape. In October, we held a kick-off meeting where we set up the "nuts and bolts" for the FI organization, and determined the means by which we dispatch sightings assignments to investigators. We also adopted an informal supplement to the MUFON field investigator's manual which provides an overview of investigation procedures specifically tailored for Minnesota MUFON for sightings in our region.

We now have about ten cases under investigation, including both old and recent cases, which involve sightings and/or close encounters. Updates can be seen on the MN MUFON web site.

We also continue to broaden our association with other UFO investigative and reporting organizations such as the National UFO Reporting Center and the UFO Investigative Agency. Additionally, several of the cases we are currently working on have been initiated through the help of UFO Roundup. A big "thank you" to everyone for your help!

We are always trying to locate resources which could help us in our investigations. These might include scientific equipment, experts in key UFO-related fields, scientific analysis facilities, etc. If you can be of help in these areas, please let me know.

As always, we are seeking new investigators! The next class will be held in spring — probably March. If you're interested, have the time and willingness to participate in UFO investigations, contact me via e-mail, [crlang@mm.com](mailto:crlang@mm.com), or phone 612-560-1532. *Happy investigating!*

**Meeting Notes****Theosophical Society**

900 Mount Curve • Minneapolis, MN  
(Kenwood, above the Guthrie)  
7:30 PM

Contacts: Peter Morris, 926-1393, Rolf Canton, 822-3155

**January 6: Robert C. H. Parker**  
**"Are You Ready for the Millennium?"**

**February 3: Justin O'Brien**  
**"A Meeting of Mystic Paths"**

**International Tesla Society**

Meets the 3rd Saturday of each month,  
1:00 to 5:00 PM • The Pavek Wireless Museum  
3515 Raleigh Avenue • St. Louis Park, MN

Contacts: Jeff Rafferty 493-9060 Bob Bartholomew 420-4137

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