

# Minnesota MUFON Journal

## Issue #90 July/Aug. 2001

### Directors Report

By Bill McNeff, State Director, MN MUFON

A REGRETTABLE DISPUTE: RICHARD HALL vs. STEVEN GREER

Richard Hall has a long history of admirable service to Ufology. A longtime member of NICAP, he was editor of the first UFO publication that was formatted like a scientific journal, with UFO cases carefully described in a scientific manner, "The UFO Evidence". I have a copy of this excellent publication. He has recently edited a similar effort, as well as writing carefully scientific books on the UFO subject. Probably no one has done more to foster respect for Ufology than Richard Hall. He has now resigned from MUFON over the inclusion of certain speakers for the 2001 MUFON Symposium, including Dr. Steven Greer.

(Refer to website: <http://www.ufowatchdog.com>)

Dr. Steven Greer has a shorter history of presumed service to Ufology than Hall, but his efforts have resulted in more activity promoting public awareness of the UFO/ET subject than anyone else in a comparable time span. His activities include contacts with government officials, such as directors of intelligence agencies, senators and representatives, and an internationally viewed press conference at which 20 people, most of whom had responsible positions in the government or the military, presented the best set of public statements about UFO and ET presence ever put together in one place in a two hour time span, in my opinion. Dr. Greer has also engaged in the controversial activity of attempting to attract and communicate with ET's in their craft. But the spirit of science is to carry out experiments, document and analyze the results, and refine theories. I'm not sure how well documented and analyzed Greer's experiments are, but I believe that any experiment beats no experiment hands down. It is at least a starting place.

The word "Mutual" is an important part of "Mutual UFO Network". If MUFON is going to have participation of grassroots chapters of the organization, the Director of MUFON needs to give some authority and autonomy to local chapters such as Orange County. This is exactly what John Schuessler has done, and he should be commended.

I believe Richard Hall should have stated the specifics of his disagreements with Steven Greer's approaches, but in a respectful, low key manner that promotes dialogue rather than confrontation. Ufology has felt the sting of personalized attacks far too often, from "scientists" as well as "skeptics". Richard Hall has taken himself out of MUFON, but I hope he will remain active in other UFO research organizations.

There should be room in Ufology for a wide range of approaches, including the scientific, the metaphysical and whatever is meant by "New Age". Otherwise, we may never solve or even properly define the problem.

### Minnesota Mufon Meetings

Sat., July 14th  
&  
Sat., Aug. 11th  
1:30-4:45pm

Room 120, Fairview Center  
at 1910 West Co. Rd. B,  
Roseville, MN 651-415-2100

**PARK FREE!**

The building is designated as  
non-smoking.

**See map on back cover**

Note: This building has no  
special security or elevators,  
so you can come and go as  
you please and smoke  
outdoors.



[Editor's comment: To be accurate, Mr. Hall resigned because MUFON Dir. John Schuessler censored

(rejected) his negative article about the speakers selected for the upcoming 2001 MUFON Symposium, (including Dr. Steven Greer), which he wanted to appear in the MUFON Journal. Censorship is only adopting methodologies used by those who are the enemies of Ufology. We cannot afford to COVER-UP ideas just because we don't like them. Free speech is a right and a necessity even if you disagree with that speech. Rebuttals have the same right. The text of Hall's censored (rejected) article can be found here: [www.mnmufon.org/hall.htm](http://www.mnmufon.org/hall.htm). Joel Henry, Ed.]

<http://www.satcom.freereserve.co.uk/> is the URL for a European effort to document and display a variety of anomalous video and audio transmissions from shuttle launches and the International Space Station. Some are quite interesting. I recommend those who can go check out this site. Most files are in Real-Audio format (ver. 7 or greater).

### **Arthur C. Clarke Stands By His Belief in Life on Mars by Leonard David Senior Space Writer 07 June 2001**

### **NIDS Becomes Only Official Organization to Receive UFO Reports from the FAA**

NIDS is pleased to announce that the newly printed Federation Aviation Administration (FAA) manuals indicate the National Institute for Discovery Science (NIDS) as the sole contact point in the United States to which the FAA reports UFOs.

WASHINGTON -- Noted space visionary and writer, Sir Arthur C. Clarke, believes that new images of Mars clearly show the red planet dotted with patches of vegetation, including trees. Such a find may help spark a far grander space program more aligned with the adventure and exploration portrayed in the epic film, 2001: A Space Odyssey - the collaborative work of both Clarke and director Stanley Kubrick.

The following four FAA Manuals contain the changes: FAA Order 7110.65, Air Traffic Control FAA Order 7210.3, Facility Operation and Administration Aeronautical Information Manual (AIM), and Aeronautical Information Publication (AIP)

Clarke spoke last night, June 6, via phone from his home in Sri Lanka as key speaker in the Wernher von Braun Memorial Lecture series held here at the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum.

The FAA wording of the order mandating the changes is as follows:

Pouring over images on his home computer taken by the now-orbiting Mars Global Surveyor (MGS), Clarke said that there are signs of vegetation evident in the photos. "I'm quite serious when I say have a really good look at these new Mars images," Clarke said. "Something is actually moving and changing with the seasons that suggests, at least, vegetation," he said.

"In calendar year 1999, representatives from the National Institute for Discovery Sciences (NIDS) contacted the FAA Administrator to offer their research institution as the single point of contact recognized by the FAA in regard to UFO information. On April 14, 2000, after being referred by the FAA Administrator, NIDS representatives met with ATP-200 to finalize a course of action. This document change proposal is a result of that meeting and is official FAA recognition that NIDS is the single point of contact for UFO research."

Clarke repeated several times that he was serious about his observations, pointing out that he sees something akin to Banyan trees in some MGS photos.

The official date for all FAA offices to receive the new manuals is July 12, 2001, but NIDS has confirmed that many FAA offices have already received the manuals.

Science met its match

Joining Clarke in last night's lecture was a panel of space authorities, Apollo 17 moonwalker, Eugene Cernan, science fiction writer, Ben Bova, and space historian Fred Ordway. Cernan said that he has concluded there's little difference between science fiction and science fact. He said that the only difference is time, a dimension we know so little about.

**Site has audio/video of space anomalies by Joel Henry, Ed.**

'Standing on the surface of the Moon in sunlight, you are surrounded by the blackest black that you can allow

your mind to conceive. Not darkness, but blackness," Cernan said.

That view affords a person a face-to-face look at the endlessness of time and the endlessness of space, with Earth moving through that blackness. What you see is infinity, he said. "I have looked and focused as far as I can focus on infinity. I can tell you that it literally does exist," Cernan said.

Awestruck by the vista from his trek to the Moon, now over a quarter of a century ago, Cernan said that he came to a point "where science did not have an explanation" for what he saw. "It was just too beautiful to have happened by accident. Science met its match," he said.

The other things

Cernan decried the fact that the country's space exploration agenda today rings hollow compared to the past. "What's it going to take to get people to dream again, to realize they can once again do the impossible?" Cernan asked. "John F. Kennedy said that we plan to go the Moon 'and do those other things'...we haven't done the other things yet," he said.

Ben Bova said that NASA's program is driven by politics. If there's no political push and no political will, then "I think it's going to have to come from the private sector," he said.

How to reactivate America's space program to do bold things "is the \$64 trillion question," Clarke responded by phone. Space tourism may act as a trigger, he said, as could some major discovery, such as new findings on Mars.

Ordway said that 2001: A Space Odyssey, and the vision it portrays, came at a time "when space was on everybody's agenda," he said.

Old and new worlds

"I think there's a real possibility there may be a propulsion breakthrough," Clarke said. "The rocket is going to play the same role in space as the balloon did in aviation. It will be superseded by something much better," he said.

Cernan said he remains optimistic about the future of space exploration. In the future, people will not only be living on Mars, "they are going to be coming back to see where their forefathers grew up," Cernan said. "I think someday they will be talking about the Old World and the New World, and we're going to co-exist together. That's science fiction today, but give us time," he said.

Clarke said however, that such a scenario has one problem. "I'm afraid the great, great grandchildren won't be very happy back here on Earth at three times normal gravity," Clarke said.

## **Italian Team Claims to Have Revived Meteorite Bacteria**

**By SPACE.com Staff, 11 May 2001**

[http://www.space.com/searchforlife/italian\\_bacteria\\_010511.html](http://www.space.com/searchforlife/italian_bacteria_010511.html)

An Italian team reportedly has found and revived bacteria harbored in an ancient meteorite, a finding that points to the existence of extraterrestrial life but has yet to pass scientific muster.

Bruno D'Argenio of the Italian National Research Council (CNR) in Naples and Giuseppe Geraci of the University of Naples discovered the bacteria, called "cryms" or cristallomicrobi, within the crystalline structure of space rocks found in several parts of the world, the Italian newspaper La Stampa reported.

The bacteria could be 2 billion years old and resisted the extreme pressures and temperatures of entering Earth's atmosphere while inside the meteorite, the researchers say. They publicized their findings at a press conference to the Italian Space Agency in Rome, Reuters reported earlier this week.

The bacteria bear DNA chemistry identical to that within Earth-based life, reproduce normally and are sensitive to antibiotics, the researchers say. In addition, the reports indicate the cryms were found in several other Earth rocks -- which could contradict the claim of extraterrestrial origins.

If true, the finding would support not only the existence of life beyond Earth but a theory that life came here from space, rather than emerging from a primordial soup on this planet.

NASA scientist Everett K. Gibson, who has suffered his share of slings and arrows for ongoing work on Martian meteorites that can be interpreted as bearing signs of fossilized life, was quite skeptical of the Italian reports, noting they provided no detail on where the meteorites were found.

Gibson, a senior scientist at NASA's Johnson Space Center, was the co-leader of a group that announced evidence in 1996 that could be interpreted as ancient life in a Martian meteorite.

"In this case," Gibson said of the Italian findings, "there is not enough evidence that we see from the report to assume anything other than the characterization that it's similar to 50 terrestrial rocks," Gibson said. "That strongly suggests that what they are seeing is something from a contaminant."

Those who study early life on Earth use eight criteria for judging whether a sample is likely to bear signs of life, he said. The toughest hurdle requires researchers to demonstrate that the chemistry in their rock comes indeed from the rock, not from chemistry the rock has picked up in its travels.

The Italian sample quite likely was contaminated by Earth bacteria or chemical factors upon arrival, Gibson said, with bacteria borne via atmospheric or surface gases.

"It's extremely likely that [incoming meteorite] material will pick up contaminants from the Earth," he said. "These are terrestrial bacteria. So the burden of proof lies with the investigator to prove that what he has is truly indigenous from the sample he is studying."

In an open letter to La Stampa, Ennio Marsella, also of the CNR, likened his colleagues' findings to the 1996 discovery. He called the creatures "dormant" bacteria with the ability to endure indefinitely within the crystalline structure of rocks.

Cryms measure a few ten-thousandths of a millimeter or smaller," Marsella said. "Extracted from rocks on Earth, they can, 'with rather simple techniques, once placed in the appropriate conditions,' regain mobility and begin to reproduce," he said.

Scientists have long debated the origin of life on Earth, with life dated back 3.8 billion years, just half a billion years after the birth of the planet.

Some researchers believe comets transported life to Earth, while others say some form of electromagnetic radiation catalyzed a combination of chemicals on Earth to jump-start life.

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## **Comparison of Unidentified Triangular or Deltoid Aircraft Location Patterns in**

## **Three Independent UFO Databases: NIDS, MUFON and Larry Hatch National Institute for Discovery Science - <http://www.nidsci.org>**

In April 2001, the National Institute for Discovery Science (NIDS) published a summary of research into a subset of our database that comprised reports of low flying triangular objects.

(See: [www.nidsci.org/articles/pdf/triangularcraft.pdf](http://www.nidsci.org/articles/pdf/triangularcraft.pdf))

In that report we concluded that the extremely low altitudes reported in over thirty separate cases from around the country may constitute a safety hazard.

NIDS then examined the relationship between triangular object sightings and the locations of a small subset of United States Air Force bases: i.e. the bases under the Air Force Materiel Command (AFMC) and Air Mobility Command (AMC). Combined, these two commands control the logistics of troop and equipment deployment within the United States and internationally. NIDS found an interesting scatter of triangular object sighting locations around air corridors between AFMC and AMC bases. (See: [www.nidsci.org/articles/pdf/triangularcraft\\_addendum.pdf](http://www.nidsci.org/articles/pdf/triangularcraft_addendum.pdf)).

In the latter report, we pointed out a gap in the part of the United States encompassing the plains states from which both triangular object sightings and AMC/AFMC bases were absent.

In order to examine the integrity of our data, we solicited reports on triangular aircraft sightings between 1990-2001 from MUFON (Wendy Ban and Don Weatherby) and from Larry Hatch who currently manages one of the largest UFO databases in the world.

(See: <http://www.jps.net/larryhat/index.html>).

Both these databases fulfill our requirement of being totally separate from the NIDS data collection. NIDS obtained the data on over 450 additional sightings from MUFON and Larry Hatch.

NIDS plotted the sighting locations on maps of the United States and then superimposed the locations of the AMC and AFMC bases.

We find that (a) the broad trend of many triangular craft sighting locations occurring between AFMC and AMC bases in both MUFON and Hatch databases is consistent with our previous report and (b) a corridor in encompassing the plains states that is devoid of either triangular craft sightings or AFMC/AMC bases emerges

from both MUFON and Hatch databases. This corridor is also consistent with the previously published NIDS data.

Based on these data from over 500 eyewitnesses (assuming minimal overlap between three databases), we hypothesize that the United States Air Force has been flying large triangular or deltoid shaped aircraft between AFMC or AMC bases. We invite comments from the interested public on this hypothesis. Comments can be sent to: [nids@anv.net](mailto:nids@anv.net).

The report can be viewed at: [www.nidsci.org](http://www.nidsci.org) under the "What's New" section.

### **The secret of matter discovered by BBC News Online Science Ed.**

**Dr. David Whitehouse 14 May, 2001**

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/english/sci/tech/newsid\\_133000/1330190.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/english/sci/tech/newsid_133000/1330190.stm)

Scientists have announced the final result of one of nature's best-kept secrets. It is called direct Charge Parity (CP) violation and the subtle effect explains nature's preference for matter over antimatter.

It explains why we are here at all. When the Universe was born there should have been equal amounts of matter and its counter-part, antimatter. But shortly after the Big Bang all the matter in the Universe should have disappeared as matter and antimatter collided, destroying each other.

But it seems that there is a tiny difference between matter and antimatter that left a bit of matter remaining, out of which galaxies, stars, and you and I formed.

#### **Real effect**

To find the effect, scientists looked at the behaviour of a particular sub-atomic particle, called a neutral K meson, created for a fleeting moment in a giant atom smasher.

Following ten years of detector development, data collection and analysis, the new result is based on the observation of 20 million of CP-violating neutral K meson decays. The tiny difference in the decay rates of neutral K mesons and their antiparticles has been determined with a precision of one part in a million.

Scientists say that the study of direct CP violation is an example of the rigor involved in the establishment of scientific facts.

The first experiments took place at the Cern laboratory in Switzerland and at Fermi National Accelerator

Laboratory (Fermilab) in the US. But the initial results, published in 1993, were not precise enough to confirm that direct CP-violation was a real effect. More accurate measurements were clearly needed.

Both teams have now measured the effect with several times greater precision than their predecessors and both results conclude that direct CP violation exists. Symmetry

The essence of Charge Parity (CP) is the concept of symmetry. Both C and P are symmetries that are conserved in most particle interactions. C represents swapping the electric charges of all the sub-atomic particles in an interaction; in other words, swapping particles and antiparticles. P is called parity and it corresponds to looking in a mirror that reverses all three spatial co-ordinates.

Physicists once thought that both C and P were conserved in particle interactions, but in 1956 T Lee and C Yang demonstrated that P could be violated in certain interactions. However, the combination of C and P was still thought to be conserved, but this has proved not to be the case.

The predicted CP-violation was first observed at the US Brookhaven laboratory by scientists in 1964 when their Nobel prize-winning experiment showed that particles called long-lived neutral kaons occasionally decay into two pions, a CP-violating process.

Now they have a precise measurement of CP violation and the difference between matter and antimatter, scientists are a step closer to understanding how it was all made in the first place.

### **New UFO novel by Bruce Maccabee**

I have just published a new book entitled "Abduction In My Life." This is a novel for people who know about the UFO subject, but more importantly, to alert the "non-UFO world" to UFO reality and to provide some clearly described factual information for people who don't know about the subject, and wouldn't be interested in reading a typically "dry" UFO tome (such as my previous book, THE FBI-UFO CONNECTION). This is a novel with a fact book built into it... complete with references.

My hope is that the story will grab the reader's interest sufficiently that he/she/(it) will be willing to read the "real stuff" right along with the fiction. Of course, the fiction is also based on real stuff, but not as specific as in the fact book. Also, this book contains a discussion of "OK, they're real... so what do we do about it?"

A brief excerpt and further description are at: <http://brumac.8k.com>. Anyone who wants an autographed copy can contact me directly.

Bruce Maccabee

**The German News Agency (dpa) has just put out this piece of news: Turkish department of religion takes position in UFO discussion June 13th, 2001, 11:58 CET**

Istanbul (DPA) - Following reports of alien visits in Turkey the Department of Religion has taken position in the current UFO discussion. According to the Islam religion there were not only beings on earth but also in space, the Turkish newspaper 'Sabah' cited the head of the dept. UFOs could be real, it was said. The past few days several people had contacted the dept., reporting aliens which they had seen in West Anatolia.

**UK's CAA Files Document 30 UFO Near Misses**

<http://www.100megsfree4.com/farshores/ufomiss.htm>

**[Original headline: Jetliners' 30 near misses with UFO's - Story originally published by Western Daily Press, Bristol, England, June 15 2001]**

Hundreds of passengers were within a split second of Britain's worst aviation disaster when two jets missed colliding by just 100ft at Heathrow airport. The public was shocked and public confidence severely dented. But what air travelers didn't know was that in the last two decades there have been around 30 similar near misses - with UFOs.

The Western Daily Press has uncovered a dossier detailing the sensational incidents. The Civil Aviation Authority's X-Files are now in the possession of top investigative author Nick Redfern who has shown the contents to the Daily Press.

The CAA's hidden files, only recently released after years under wraps, documents pilots' and air traffic controllers' descriptions of the unidentified flying objects which were close to bringing down jets loaded with passengers.

Last night the CAA's spokesman Chris Mason said of the classified papers: "Our reports are from highly trained pilots and air traffic controllers. We have no argument with what they say they have seen, even if what they

saw can't be explained. We admit that in some cases the aircraft which were nearly in collision with the aircraft have never been traced. We keep an open mind about UFOs. Some things just can't be explained, but they have been reported by top professionals and we do take that into account."

The CAA has been carefully and quietly collecting and analysing data pertaining to near-collisions between airliners and UFOs for a number of years. And while such a claim might sound like something straight out of an episode of The X-Files, it is one supported by the CAA's own records.

"I've never seen anything like it before and can't explain what it was," said British Airways pilot Mike Dalton, of his sighting of a large, silver disc-shaped object from his Boeing 737 from Rome to Gatwick on the night of November 5, 1990. "My co-pilot and I called in two cabin crew to see it and then it went out of sight. Ground radar couldn't pick it up, so it must have been travelling at phenomenal speed."

Subsequent investigations determined the UFO had seen by a second BA pilot and the pilot of an RAF Tornado aircraft who was obliged to take "violent evasive action" to avoid a collision with it.

On the night of 21 April 1991, the term 'close encounter' took on an altogether more significant meaning for the crew and passengers of a London-bound airliner. At 9.00pm Captain Achille Zaghetti, who was piloting a McDonnell MD80 aircraft, was amazed to see an unidentified flying object pass his aircraft as it flew over the coast of Kent at a height of more than 22,000 feet. As the UFO was no more than 1,000 feet above the airliner, and the incident therefore classed as a 'near-miss', an official inquiry was launched by the CAA.

Approximately two weeks later the following brief statement was issued: "The pilot said the object was light brown, round, three metres long, and did not describe any means of propulsion.

"The aircraft was under the control of London air traffic control centre who had no other aircraft in the vicinity, but consistent with the pilot report, a faint radar trace was observed ten nautical miles behind the Alitalia aircraft.

"Extensive inquiries have failed to provide any indication of what the sighting may have been."

But more was to come. The next incident to occur took place on June 1, 1991 when a yellow-orange cylindrical object, ten feet long, was seen at close quarters by the

crew of a Britannia Airways Boeing 737 en route to London from Dublin.

Sixteen days later, yet another cylindrical-shaped UFO was sighted, this time by one Walter Leiss, a German engineer aboard Dan Air flight DA 4700 as it headed toward Hamburg.

Air traffic controller: 'was it, er, an aircraft?'

January 6, 1995: Captain Roger Wills and co-pilot Mark Stuart were beginning their descent towards Manchester Airport in a Boeing 737 twin jet with 60 passengers on board.

Seventeen minutes before touchdown, a mysterious, triangular-shaped UFO flashed past the right-hand side of the aircraft at a distance described as being "very close" - so close, in fact, that the crew instinctively "ducked" in their seats.

This is an extract from the conversation between crew of the B737 and the radar controller.

B737: "We just had something go down the RHS just above us very fast." MANCHESTER: "Well, there's nothing seen on the radar. Was it, er, an aircraft?"

B737: "Well, it had lights; it went down the starboard side very quick [and] just slightly above us, yeah."

MANCHESTER: "Keep an eye out for something, er, I can't see anything at all at the moment so, er, must have, er, been very fast or gone down very quickly after it passed you I think."

B737: "Okay. Well, there you go!"

Nick Redfern is the author of three best-selling books on UFOs. The latest, Cosmic Crashes, is published by Simon and Schuster at £6.99.

## **A Nuclear Catastrophe in Paleoindian Times? Science Frontiers, ARCHEOLOGY No. 135, May-Jun, 2001, PP. 1 & 2**

Introduction. We introduce here a remarkable theory of terrestrial catastrophism that seems to be supported by evidence that is equally remarkable. One of the authors of this theory (RBF) is identified as a nuclear scientist at the Lawrence Berkeley Nuclear Laboratory. The second author (WT) is a consultant. The authors' credentials seem so good that we must take a close look at their extraordinary claims concerning a natural phenomenon that they believe reset radiocarbon clocks in north-

central North America and---potentially---elsewhere on the planet. We will be most interested in the reception accorded these claims by the scientific community.

The claims. In the authors' words:

Our research indicates that the entire Great Lakes region (and beyond) was subjected to particle bombardment and a catastrophic nuclear irradiation that produced secondary thermal neutrons from cosmic ray interactions. The neutrons produced unusually large quantities of  $^{239}\text{Pu}$  and substantially altered the natural uranium abundances ( $^{235}\text{U}/^{238}\text{U}$ ) in artifacts and in other exposed materials including cherts, sediments, and the entire landscape. These neutrons necessarily transmuted residual nitrogen ( $^{14}\text{N}$ ) in the dated charcoals to radiocarbon, thus explaining anomalous dates.

Some North American dates may in consequence be as much as 10,000 years too young. So, we are not dealing with a trivial phenomenon!

Supporting evidence. Four main categories of supporting evidence are claimed and presented in varying degrees of detail.

# Anomalously young radiocarbon dates in north-central North America. Example: the Gainey site in Michigan.

[Other map sites include Thedford & Zander, Ont.; oils, NY; Shoop, Penn.; Alton, md.; Taylor, Il.; Butler & Leavitt, Mich.; and far to the north Grant Lake, Nunavut; and in the far southwest Baker, N.M. - TWC]

# Physical evidence of particle bombardment. Example: chert artifacts with high densities of particle-entrance wounds.

# Anomalous uranium and plutonium abundance ratios in the affected area.

# Tree-ring and marine sediment data.

The authors claim that the burst of radiation from a nearby supernova, circa 12,500 years ago, not only reset radiocarbon clocks but also heated the planet's atmosphere, melted ice sheets, and led to biological extinctions.

If verified, the claimed phenomenon would also "reset" archeological models of the settlement of North and South America. To illustrate, we may have to add as many as 10,000 years to site dates in much of North America!

(Firestone, Richard B., and Topping, William; 'Terrestrial Evidence of a Nuclear Catastrophe in Paleoindian Times,' \*The Mammoth Trumpet\*, 16:9, March 2001. Cr. C. Davant III. This off-mainstream journal is published by the Center for the Study of the First Americans, 355 Weniger Hall, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR 97331-6510.)

Comment. Thus we add another potential cause of an often-hypothesized 12,500-BP catastrophe that is said to have changed the world's history. Competing theories involve asteroid impact, volcanism, a Venusian side-swipe, etc.

**The Heavens at War**  
**New Scientist magazine, 02 June 2001**  
<http://www.newscientist.com/newsletter/features.jsp?id=ns22931>

The final frontier is set to become a battleground. How will the superpowers fight it out for space supremacy, asks James Oberg.

IN A remote valley in New Mexico's Manzano Mountains, the US is tooling up for war. Here, in a four-story building with walls more than a meter thick, it runs a secret particle-beam project. The weapons it's developing will never be used on Earth because they only work in a vacuum. But that's no problem--the idea is to fire them in space. Once, space was empty and there was nothing there worth fighting for. Now it's teeming with valuable equipment and tensions are mounting. The US believes a war in space is a virtual certainty--just last month defense secretary Donald Rumsfeld announced plans for upgrading its military presence there. Russia and China are also preparing for combat. And while there are no offensive weapons in orbit today, there's nothing to stop nations from putting them there tomorrow.

True, particle beams and other sophisticated weapons are at least a decade away. But some space weapons are so simple that dozens of nations are already capable of building them.

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**Scientists Becoming Believers In  
Spiritualists' Paranormal Powers**  
**By Robert Matthews**  
**Science Correspondent 3-4-1**  
<http://www.telegraph.co.uk>

A unique scientific experiment has produced startling evidence that some "spirit mediums" may indeed have paranormal talents. Scientists involved in the study at the University of Arizona say that the findings are so extraordinary they raise fundamental questions about the survival of consciousness after death. Until now, the whole issue of the "afterlife" has been dismissed by most mainstream scientists, with spiritual mediums being regarded as either self-deluded or charlatans. Now the first serious laboratory study of a group of mediums has found that they share an uncanny ability to state facts about the deceased relatives of people who come to them. The experiments, details of which will be published this week, involved five mediums and two "sitters" unknown to the mediums, whose deceased relatives they were asked to contact.

In the first experiment, each medium spent an hour with one of the sitters in a laboratory, with a screen preventing visual contact. Under constant video surveillance, each began talking about aspects of the sitter's deceased relatives. The sitter was only allowed to respond to specific questions from the medium with the words "yes" or "no". At the end of each session, the information gleaned by the mediums was analyzed for its accuracy.

The transcripts of each session showed that the mediums typically produced more than 80 pieces of information about the deceased relatives, ranging from their names and personal idiosyncrasies to the precise circumstances of their death. When analyzed for factual accuracy, the mediums achieved a success rate of 83 percent, with one achieving an accuracy of 93 per cent.

Similar success was achieved in experiments involving the second sitter, and even when the mediums were not allowed to communicate with the sitter in any way. Skeptics have long argued that the success of mediums is due to so-called "cold reading", in which mediums make educated guesses about deceased people - such as asking if a husband died of heart disease, which is a common cause of death. The team claims to have dealt with this objection after a panel of more than 60 people was asked to supply the same information as the mediums about the sitter. The average score was only 36 per cent, with the most successful guesser achieving just 54 per cent.



Reporting their findings in the forthcoming issue of the Journal of the Society for Psychical Research, the researchers conclude:

"Highly skilled mediums are able to obtain accurate and replicable information." Professor Gary Schwartz, who led the team, told The Telegraph: "The bottom line is that there is a class of highly skilled mediums who are doing something extraordinary." The secret of their success is unclear: every precaution was taken to rule out unconscious cheating or outright fraud. In one experiment, a medium claimed to have been in communication with the sitter's deceased mother three days before the meeting - and supplied a prayer that the mother used to recite for the sitter as a child.

Prof. Schwartz said such evidence is consistent with claims of mediums to deal directly with the dead, rather than merely with the minds of the sitters. He said: "All the data gathered so far is consistently in accord with survival of consciousness after death. Based on our data to date, the most parsimonious explanation is that the mediums are in direct communication with the deceased."

Skeptics said that while the results are intriguing, they leave many questions unanswered. Dr Chris French, a leading expert at Goldsmiths College, London, said: "Parapsychologists have become disillusioned with studies of mediums because the results are usually nothing more than you would expect by cold reading. This study has results that are so out of line that one would want to have a very close look at how it was done.

The implications of the study are to be discussed at an international meeting in Arizona this week. Prof. Schwartz admitted that the findings were likely to disturb many people. He said: "Some of our colleagues would like us to do this research elsewhere."

### **NASA satellite to give best view yet of Big Bang by Broward Liston**

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla., June 30 (Reuters) - A NASA satellite built to give scientists their best picture yet of the early universe was launched from Cape Canaveral on Saturday, its mission to find and measure the "fossil light" left from the Big Bang.

The \$145 million Microwave Anisotropy Probe, or MAP, satellite left Earth aboard a Delta II rocket launched from the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station at 3:46 p.m. EDT (1946 GMT).

"The whole science community is agog over this mission," said Alan Bunner, a NASA cosmologist. He said MAP should produce "an image of the universe as seen in the fossil light that is still present from the Big Bang."

By studying the remnants of light that existed 14 billion years ago scientists believe they can reconstruct the birth of galaxies and better predict the ultimate demise of the universe as we know it.

This mission is a follow-up to NASA's 1992 Cosmic Background Explorer mission, which first detected variations in the microwave background of the universe. MAP's sensors are about 1,000 times more accurate, NASA said.

The MAP satellite, 12-1/2 feet (4 meters) high, with a circular solar-energy panel that makes it look like a futuristic beach umbrella, will spend about 14 months making the measurements that scientists will use to create their best map of the early universe.

Cosmologists have known since the 1920s that the universe was not always as we know it today, one of galaxies and stars, matter and energy.

Since the universe is constantly expanding they reasoned that it must once have been very small -- "a region perhaps smaller than the size of my hands," said David Spergal, a MAP scientist from Princeton University, cupping his hands together to form a ball.

### **BIG BANG**

Then came the Big Bang, the rapid expansion of space that still continues.

Although the Big Bang began as a theory, subsequent scientific observations support it, though cosmologists still question the forces at play and the speed at which the universe initially grew.

Generally, though, they agree that after the Big Bang, but before the emergence of stars and galaxies, the universe was a roiling cauldron of heat and light.

In the 1960s, scientists discovered a remnant of that early universe, which existed about 400,000 years after the Big Bang. All of space in that period billions of years ago was permeated by ultra-violet light, and it exists everywhere now as a faint crackle of microwave energy.

Some of the "snow" seen on a television screen when it is off-channel is caused by that energy.

MAP's job is to take up position about a million miles beyond Earth's orbit, using its solar-energy panels to

shield its instruments from the heavy microwave emissions from the sun and Earth.

There it will begin to take some S million readings, measuring the temperature of the microwave sky. Back on Earth, scientists will use that data to make a map of the universe as it existed about 400,000 years after the Big Bang.

If the model of the universe most cosmologists adhere to, called the inflationary model, is true, then that map should answer a lot of questions.

"The inflationary model makes very specific predictions," said Spergal. "And since MAP will make a precision map of the microwave sky, we will be able to test this inflationary model to very high accuracy."

Among the things scientists hope to learn: How many atoms are in the universe, and how much total matter? How is space curved -- back upon itself like a ball, or outward like a saddle seat?

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## **Field Investigator Update: July 2001 By Craig Lang - MN MUFON FI Coord.**

The last couple of months have seen the skies over North America become busy with interesting events. A quick perusal of Filers' Files and other reporting forums finds them abuzz with new reports. This recent spate of activity has not passed Minnesota by. And the new investigators, as well as the old guards are finding themselves busied with new sighting reports.

New sighting reports being investigated to Minnesota MUFON include several multiple witness sightings, and a couple of objects which have been captured on video. Some of these recent events were briefly mentioned in our last issue, but have been more thoroughly investigated. Some of the MN MUFON sighting cases are described as follows:

### **Anomalous "Satellite":**

In a new case being investigated by Bill McNeff and Wendy DeVore, a witness wrote to MUFON with an account of an unusual light-in-the-sky sighting. While many such sightings turn out to be aircraft or satellites, in this case, the man is a skilled scientist and trained observer. He analyzed the course, and determined the flight parameters of the object. He has developed an excellent argument that the object could not have been a conventional air or space craft. Wendy and Bill have interviewed the witness. They are continuing to

investigate and have located at least one additional witness. More on this fascinating case in future issues.

### **Afton Sighting:**

This case is being investigated by Bill McNeff who writes: Earlier in the day on May 18 a man in Hastings, near Afton State Park, reported seeing an apparent sphere which resembled a "translucent soap bubble". The witness writes, "On May 18, 2001, I was on the back deck with a friend at 7:50 PM. The contrast of the green leaves against the blue sky was quite beautiful. I noticed an unusually bright star that was visible even though the sun was still up. The light wasn't moving and I was able to point it out to my friend. Observing with the binoculars the light was too large to be a star. I got my telescope and looked at the light almost directly overhead and saw a round blue white object.

It was whiter around the edge and darker in the middle, giving the impression of a translucent soap bubble. I observed it for about 10 seconds in the scope after focusing. It did not appear to move, but suddenly it flew very quickly out of the scope's field of view. It was not a satellite because they move too fast, nor a plane because those move and they're not round. It wasn't a star or a balloon because it was stationary for too long and later moved too fast."

This same witness had had a sighting as a boy 27 years ago:

Sighting Date/Time: Summer 1964, Approx. 7:30 PM.

Sighting Location: Sighting occurred while playing with friends at Ames, Iowa

### **Sighting Description from the witness:**

In the summer of 1964, I saw my first UFO when I was seven. (I'm now 44 years old.) The sun was low with no clouds, but it was still daylight. My four friends were playing when I looked up and saw a round object. It was stationary and not rotating. It was bluish-white, the same color as the moon and almost as bright. I could clearly see dark ring-shaped markings on its whiter background. There was a large ring in the center and five smaller rings spaced evenly around, but not touching, the center ring. I could see this object absolutely clearly. Its apparent size was almost the size of a quarter at arm's length. It made no sound. I pointed to it and my friends all stopped to look. Then someone tagged me and it was gone.

### **Mounds View Video:**

Casey Holt also writes about a case which he has been investigating, (CL Note: could this be another sighting of the same object as the Afton report?):

A man near the intersection of Hwy 10 and 135W videotaped a glowing object at about 9:38 pm from the yard of his home. This object was in view for at least 10 minutes and proceeded from ESE to WNW, apparently against the surface wind direction. Winds aloft not checked yet. At one point, a glowing object appeared to fall from the main object, then faded out. This appearance and behavior is similar to that of a hoax hot air balloon, powered by candles; the candles eventually burn down and may fall from the balloon. However, the object may have been too bright to be a dry cleaning bag balloon.

The video shows the object after it had passed, so you are looking at the end view and the brightness will overexpose the CCD image some, so the rounded effect. Both witnesses described the object when it passed overhead as like a large orange glowing brick shape with pulsating streams of orange light flowing through the main rectangular section. Like liquid metal was the term used. In the front were two round more whitish areas maybe similar to intake tubes. The orange areas seemed to be set against a dark background structure and there was a large whitish almost transparent dome top something like a jellyfish. They interpreted the size to be as big as a large airplane and perhaps 5000 to 10,000 feet high. About 5 to 8 whitish lights came shooting out after it had passed, of which some are seen on the video.

The time of fall of the glowing part allowed an estimate of distance to be made based on the gravitational formula. Using some assumptions, the estimated distance was 1.5 to 3 miles and 4000 feet up when it was last seen on video going behind tree branches and in a W-NW compass direction of 298 degrees. More study is being done.

That evening on the Bob Davis show, 1500KHz, a man called in and it was reported that he had stopped the car he was driving, got out and shot video footage of a glowing object. Since the other witness says that he called the station, this may be his report rather than an independent report.

#### Beaver Dam, WI Video:

Another case, occurring in Beaver Dam, WI - which Casey Halt has been investigating in cooperation with Wisconsin MUFON, Casey writes that he was contacted over the MN MUFON hotline. His description from the call is as follows: An object somewhat distant that was flying around with strange behavior for about 40 minutes. It was about 8:00 PM on Saturday (June 9). It seemed to have short wings and a main body but different than an airplane and bigger than a bird. At least 2 people saw this in the east and were able to get

some on video. Possibly it was also seen from another town, Mayville about 15 miles to the east. They showed the video to the Dodge County sheriff dept. and they weren't sure of what it was but suggested maybe a Harrier type plane. They should be sending me a copy of the video to have us look at it.

Subsequently, Casey writes:

I have the video from Beaver dam and its something dark up at a distance that sort of floats around. The shape has seems to have delta wings and a pointed tail section The behavior is similar to a kite but they described it as being too high and too large for a kite and no string was visible.

Another case, which comes to us from Filer's Files, and is being investigated by Minnesota MUFON:

CHISHOLM, MN -- ISUR (International Society for UFO Research) reports the witness was out in her yard at 7:00PM on June 23, 2001, while her 15 year old son was testing our new digital camera. He was shooting the sky, the river, our 40 acres of land, etc. When we went to download the images to the computer today, two UFO's showed up! He did NOT see them while testing camera. My husband was near him, he did NOT see or hear anything.

The photo's show a disk shaped, metal object. One is going toward the ground, as though crashing to the ground with FIRE out the back end. It is about 80 feet above our yard. The next picture is another UFO, two minutes earlier, hovering above our swamp, a foot above the ground. They are identical objects, with metal. They were NOT airplanes; they were very small, about the size of a small car. We went to the location, we looked at the tree line in the photos, but cannot get to the spot, since it is in the swamp. Thanks to Tom Sheets and ISUR. This case has been assigned to Steve Hero, our investigator in the Duluth/Iron-Range area of the state.

Bill McNeff also writes about some older cases which he had described before in this column, but for which the investigations have now been completed:

#### Mille Lacs July 3-4, 1999:

The witness was at his cabin on the north shore of Lake Mille Lacs in central Minnesota. Since the witness is a third shift worker (about 9:30 PM to 5:30 AM) he is used to being awake during the night hours. He was watching for satellites and meteors at about 10:30 PM on July 3, 1999. He saw what he at first thought was a satellite in the northern sky, until it made a 90 degree turn and then did loops past the Big Dipper. It also hovered at times. The object was a yellow-orange light. He continued to watch until around 4:30 AM. During that

time he saw what he presumed was the same object carrying out similar maneuvers from time to time. At one point four strobes [light flashes] were seen from the object, at which time the object "sped up"; each time it flashed, the speed increased. The description and actions fits no known aircraft or conventional object.

Mille Lacs July 5, 1999:

The following evening, the witness and a man from the neighboring cabin again saw a similar object or objects, climaxed by an alleged close approach of a five foot diameter glowing orange sphere to within 150 or 100 feet of the witnesses. This close approach frightened the neighbor, according to the prime witness. Based on this sighting, the witness believes that all of the objects he had seen on the night of July 3-4 were what he called "orange orbs". At the first interview, the witness didn't know the name of the man from the neighboring cabin.

On 2-8-01 the prime witness gave me the other witness' name, who also lives in the Twin Cities. I phoned this witness and he told me that he remembered the object flicking out over the lake. It was not moving in a straight line, and he watched it for about 5 minutes. It was definitely something strange, he said. He thought it was huge, but was far away. This partly disagrees with but partly confirms the statement of the prime witness, who originally said the object was 100 to 150 feet away. The second witness described the shape as sort of roundish, but skinnier in front, but not quite a pyramid shape. But he said he did not remember the incident well. Both witnesses agree that it was larger than a point source. Their estimates of angular size varied from about 0.3 degrees to about 3 degrees. Ball lightning would be a possible explanation for the sighting, but all accounts of ball lightning that I have read record it as drifting or moving at slower speeds. The laws of electricity rule out sharp changes of direction. Hoaxing can be ruled out based on the fact that other witnesses saw these objects at the same time as the prime witness. Aircraft are ruled out since the lights were larger than point sources and no sound was heard. These objects remain unidentified.

Chisago County Video:

In a case described briefly last month, Craig Lang referred to a sighting in Chisago county which also had associated video. This sighting occurred to a family in their lake side home. The husband, wife and daughter all observed the object using naked eye, telescope and a video camera. The video from this case has now been sent to Marilyn Ruben of the BLT research team for analysis. Craig's write-up is as follows:

As the wife was looking to the south over the lake through the picture window of their home, her attention was caught by a bright light at the tree line on the opposite side of the lake, about 10 degrees west of due

south. She shouted downstairs to her husband that there the strange lights across the lake were back (they had observed anomalous lights the night before). He was reluctant to come upstairs, but at her repeated insistence, he went to look, and saw the lights across the lake. They had about half of a video tape (Sony 8mm) left over from a recent vacation, and that this was still in their camcorder. He grabbed the camcorder, and began to film the lights. They observed the lights over the next one to two hours, intermittently recorded a total of about 25 minutes of film. The wife and daughter also grabbed a spotting telescope, which was near the picture window, and observed through that as well.

Account of 8:30 Event:

Initially they observed single light emerging from tree line across the lake. It appeared to be hovering at the tree line, almost imperceptibly ascending. It did not appear to be moving toward, or away from them. At some points during the sighting, there appeared to be a very slow horizontal component to the movement as well, with an overall horizontal "drift" of about 10 degrees to the west throughout the sighting.

Over a span of about 10 minutes, the object slowly ascended to an elevation just above the tree line. The witnesses both estimated it to be a thumb-length (held at arm's length). After several minutes, as the first light was well clear of the tree line, a second light appeared at the tree line, slightly to the west (right) of its position (angular distance of about 1 hand width, held at arm's-length). This object also appeared to be ascending slowly, and about the same brightness as the first. They continued to observe these for close to an hour, until the first, then the second light descended toward the tree line and faded out.

Sighting Account:

Sighting At about 10PM, the wife and daughter were still watching out the picture windows, looking for any emergence of the lights. At that point, the daughter noticed two bright lights to the ESE, and brought it to the mother's attention.

The lights were closer and brighter than the ones to the south. They watched for what they estimated to be about 10 minutes to 1/2 hour. The left most light remained in position for about 5 to 10 minutes, then dimmed out and moved to the right. The right-most light remained for about 10 more minutes until it too, dimmed and was lost to sight. This object was also captured on videotape.

Object Description:

The objects appeared as bright lights - point sources to slightly spherical in shape. They were several orders of magnitude brighter than the surrounding stars, and

appeared of similar brightness to aircraft landing lights. They appeared to move slowly. The light remained steady, to a slight flicker or twinkle. Through the telescope, they remained essentially point sources of white light. They were surrounded by a visual halo or points, which were also white, and did not vary appreciably over time.

For further details on these and other UFO sightings investigated by Minnesota MUFON, please check our website at: [www.mnmufon.org](http://www.mnmufon.org). Also stay tuned to this column each newsletter as we discuss the most current MN MUFON sighting cases. In addition, if you know of any information that might bring to light any sightings or encounters, or have any further updates on events discussed in this column, please contact Craig Lang (phone: 763-560-1532, e-mail: [crlang@mm.com](mailto:crlang@mm.com)), or contact us through our webpage.

New reports seem to come in almost daily. Cases not yet described above, are now being investigated by several of our new investigators. With each event, the opportunity to become involved in UFO studies continues to expand. For those wishing to become a field investigator themselves, classes are conducted approximately three times a year, as sufficient interest is indicated. If you are interested, and feel that you have the necessary time, energy, and objectivity to be a UFO investigator, please contact Craig Lang. If you have not already done so, you also will need to join MUFON as a field investigator trainee and purchase the MUFON field investigators manual.

Classes are conducted approximately three times a year, as sufficient interest is indicated. We already have several people interested in the next class, which we will probably conduct this Summer. If you are interested, and feel that you have the necessary time, energy, and objectivity to be a UFO investigator, please contact Craig Lang. If you have not already done so, you also will need to join MUFON as a field investigator trainee and purchase the MUFON field investigators manual. We always need more investigators in our effort to better understand the UFO phenomenon. The mystery beckons...

Happy investigating...

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### **MN MUFON WEB PAGE**

<http://www.mnmufon.org> - Joel Henry, Webmaster

**MUFONET: 7.237mhz Sat. at 7:00am CST,**  
**Bob Shultz, Net Control**

### **National MUFON Hotline**

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

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