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An on-campus chapter of MUFON offers a number of advantages. Read about Nebraska's positive experience on page 10.

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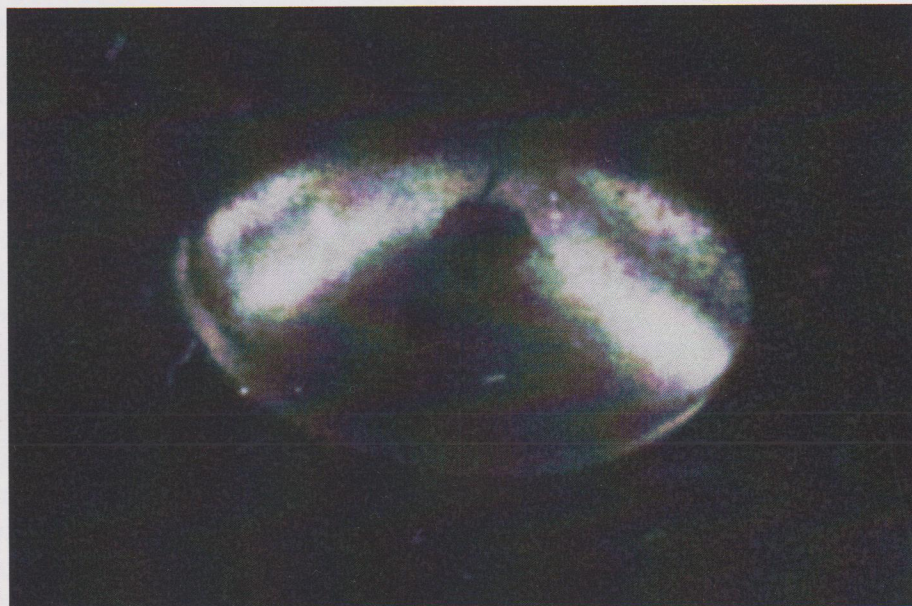
MUFON

Mutual UFO Network

UFO JOURNAL

OCTOBER 2010

No. 510 \$5



COLLECTION OF BERNARD THOUANEL

This striking photo of a mysterious disk over Costa Rica is from Leslie Kean's book, *UFOS: Generals, Pilots, and Government Officials Go On the Record*. It was taken in 1971 by a Costa Rican mapping aircraft. Extensive analysis of the image by the French government is discussed in Kean's book.

The *Times* (and other media): Are they finally a-changin'?

LESLIE KEAN'S BOOK ABOUT UFOs, which went on sale in August and already has landed on the *New York Times* best-seller list, is receiving unprecedented coverage by mainstream media, including such diverse organizations as National Public Radio (NPR) and *USA Today*. This is just dandy with Kean, who says she wrote the book to increase awareness about UFOs among skeptics. Veteran newspaper reporter Bill Ryberg's interviewed Kean for the *Journal*—a publication that's always been dedicated to maintaining an open attitude toward the phenomenon. *Story on page 4.*

Read Dwight Connelly's review of Kean's book on page 8, and a related opinion piece on page 9.

MUFON
Mutual UFO Network
UFO JOURNAL

USPS 002-970

ISSN 0270-6822

*MUFON's mission is the analytical
and scientific investigation of the UFO
phenomenon for the benefit of humanity.*

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40meters —7.237 MHz

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Individual: \$50 hard copy of the *Journal*;
\$35 electronic; \$55 for both

Seniors and students (18 and younger):

\$40 hard copy of the *Journal*;

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International: \$60 (+postage) hard copy

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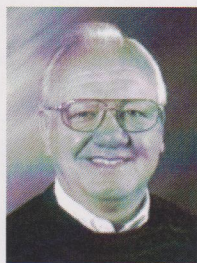
MUFON UFO Journal is published monthly
by the Mutual UFO Network, Inc.,
Greeley, CO.

Second-class postage paid at Versailles, Mo.

Postmaster: Send Form 3579
to advise change of address to:

MUFON UFO Journal
2619 West 11th St. Rd. Suite 21
Greeley, CO 80634

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director's message

First-class members deserve top treatment

By Clifford Clift

IS CHANGE NECESSARY for MUFON? Yes and no. MUFON has been going through many changes over the past seven months in an attempt to stabilize our financial situation. As we continue to gain members, more changes are needed for MUFON to remain the No. 1 UFO investigative organization in the world. While we don't need to change our basic approach, we do need to improve on it.

MUFON already has first-class members—now we need to become a first-class organization.

MUFON operates with three constants: 1) a dedication to the scientific study of the UFO phenomenon, 2) volunteers, who form the heart and soul of our organization, and 3) a commitment to remaining a non-profit corporation.

The scientific study and investigation of UFOs is MUFON's reason for being. This hasn't changed, nor will it. MUFON's field investigators are doing an outstanding job.

The Star Team has been developed to support and enhance our investigations.

Since MUFON's field investigators are volunteers, they have jobs and families, and are not always able to conduct an investigation within 24 to 48 hours as required for Category 3 cases. MUFON's newly initiated Star Team will be able to deploy within this time frame.

Star Team members are appointed by State Directors and approved by Chase Kloetzke, Star Team manager, and Chuck Reeve, director of investigations. The Star Team will not replace field investigators but will work in conjunction with them and with the state directors. Star Team members also will be experienced in the use of sophisticated scientific equipment.

MUFON's Star Team will begin on October 15. Chase Kloetzke has

Continued on page 11

EDITORIAL POLICIES

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Hollywood inspired by serious UFO research

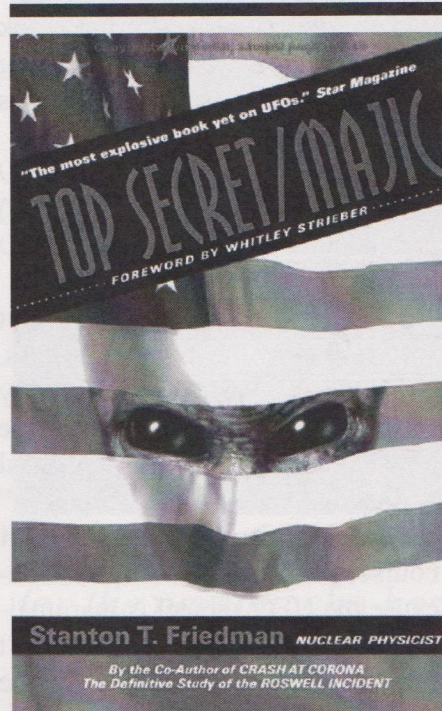
By Stanton Friedman

AS A SCIENTIST WHO OVER THE YEARS has authored or coauthored many books and scientific papers as well as writing a monthly column for *MUFON UFO Journal*, I obviously am a fan of the written word. But now I'm currently quite excited and hopeful about a new Hollywood film project—*Majic Men*—that's been in the discussion stages for roughly a year.

Majic Men takes its title from the security marking "Top Secret—Majic" that appears on the controversial briefing document sent to President Dwight Eisenhower on November 18, 1952. The movie will be based on two books—*Top Secret/Majic*, which I wrote, *Witness to Roswell*, written by researcher Don Schmitt and Tom Carey—as well as Don's life story and my own.

Others Involved

Others involved in the launch of this project include movie producer Don Most (yes, the same guy who played Ralph Malph on the *Happy Days* television series) and his good friend and Hollywood producer, director, and scriptwriter, Bryce Zabel. I've known Bryce 15 years. He was the creator of the television sci-fi drama series *Dark Skies*, which dealt with conspiracy theories surrounding a secret group of Majestic-12-type scientists, military experts, and government leaders investigating UFOs. Bryce's company, Stellar Productions, will be producing *Majic Men*.



An early cover of the book that sparked interest in the film project

Over the years I have talked to a number of Hollywood types about various projects, and I'm especially enthusiastic about *Majic Men*. Both Bryce and Don Most are knowledgeable about the subject and have been doing their homework. Bryce even is coauthor with Richard Dolan of a new book, *After Disclosure: The People's Guide to Life After Contact*. [Editor's Note: Look for a review of *After Disclosure* in a future issue of the *Journal*.]

Don Schmitt and I have been competitors, colleagues, rivals, and friends for many years. I began the original civilian investigation of the

Roswell incident in 1978, and Don has investigated the same incident, with various partners, for more than 20 years. We did some joint interviews with such important witnesses as Air Force Brigadier General Thomas Jefferson DuBose and Counter Intelligence Corps' (CIC) William Rickett. (Testimony of 27 key witnesses is featured in the DVD *Recollections of Roswell*.)

Don was a consultant for Paul David's prize-winning television movie *Roswell*, and I was a scriptwriter and consultant for the 1979 theater documentary film, *UFOs Are Real* (also available on DVD). I arranged all the interviews for that project, which included an interview with Jesse Marcel, a major in the Air Force and an intelligence officer at Roswell. To be honest, I found movie-making very frustrating. It requires a great deal of effort to get a few minutes of usable film.

Everyone involved in the production of *Majic Men* has high hopes that the story will make a dramatic, thought-provoking, and exciting film. Researching Roswell and Majestic-12 has been a long and difficult process with many highs and lows. Don Schmitt and I each have worked with more than one research partner.

A Personal Highlight

For me, one of the highlights of this film experience for me was discovering, to my astonishment, *Continued on page 16*

A look at Leslie Kean and why her book may

By Bill Ryberg

FOR THE PAST DECADE, investigative journalist Leslie Kean has focused her work on a serious examination of the UFO phenomenon, publishing articles, co-organizing a prestigious international news conference on the topic, and helping to produce a documentary film on the subject.

Her efforts so far were capped this year with the release of her book *UFOs: Generals, Pilots and Government Officials Go On the Record*. The book went on sale in August and has earned a place on the *New York Times* best-seller list, reaching as high as No. 29.

"I'm very pleased," says Kean, who lives in New York City's Manhattan. Kean has been interviewed about her book by Fox News, NPR, MSNBC, *USA Today*, and others.

'A Fresh Look' at UFOs

Harold Puthoff, Ph.D., director of the Institute for Advanced Studies at Austin, a scientific think tank in Texas, says the book "gives us a fresh look at the UFO subject as seen through the eyes of government officials and high-ranking military aviation experts. Their credibility and integrity cannot be questioned, and their firsthand observations cannot be ignored."

Puthoff, a professional acquaintance of Kean and a researcher on advanced concepts concerning energy and propulsion for spaceflight,

describes Kean as a top investigative journalist and says her book "goes a long way toward bringing the controversial subject of UFOs into the mainstream."

In an interview with the *UFO Journal*, Kean (pronounced "cane") talked about her book and the UFO phenomenon.

She is both surprised—and not surprised—by the book's success. "There's one part of me that really isn't surprised because I don't see how anybody can read this material and not have a strong response," Kean said. "On the other hand, of course, you're always surprised because the UFO subject is marginalized and ridiculed, and it doesn't generally get much respect in the mainstream."

Kean thinks a lot of interest in her book has been propelled by what she calls "its unique qualities," such as pieces written by people in high-level positions about encounters and investigations.

"I think it's something really new and ... something different," she said.

The book's reception also has been helped because it's being published by a mainstream publisher, Harmony Books, a part of Random House, and because of the stature of the people who are part of the book. The forward, for example, was written by John Podesta, a White House chief of staff for President Clinton.

The purpose of the book, Kean said, is to increase awareness of the subject among members of a usually skeptical public, to persuade the

U.S. government to change its approach to the issue, and to promote serious consideration and investigation of the UFO phenomenon in the mainstream news media.

Writing to a New Audience

While Kean believes her book will appeal to people already interested in the UFO phenomenon, she is primarily looking for a broader, new audience.

"This book was written for the person who has never read a book before on UFOs and wouldn't choose to normally," Kean said. The objective is to convince the reader that the UFO phenomenon can be viewed as an issue worthy of serious governmental concern and investigation, she added. She wants the book to be read by political figures and policy makers, helping to compel them to change their attitudes about UFO information and investigations.

One of her main goals is to see a small government UFO office established. The office would cooperate with and share information with other similar agencies around the world. In the United States, the office would set up a network of scientific professionals who would be available to assist in investigations of major UFO events. Most importantly, the office staff would have access to all official data immediately following any incident, and could interview all witnesses.

Civilian investigators simply aren't given the broad and imme-

alter the way Americans think about UFOs

mediate access to all information that is necessary to conduct a thorough and speedy investigation, providing the best opportunity for reaching meaningful conclusions, Kean said.

“This is what other countries do,” Kean said. “They have official focal points. They have official agencies that take on these cases and deal with the government files that are already there. That’s another aspect of this—trying to bring out more of the files that have not yet been released.”

The new agency would act as a focal point so UFO incidents could be investigated properly, with the results made public, Kean said.

“The bottom line is the government is going to have to be willing to acknowledge that they can’t explain something if they can’t explain it, which so far they have not been willing to do. They usually want to make up something to explain it away, after trying at first to ignore it all together,” Kean said.

Governments in many other countries are willing to be more open about the UFO issue and to acknowledge their inability to explain certain incidents when they happen, Kean said.

Kean has had some past discussions with important contacts well-connected in Washington and hopes to resume them in the future now that the book has been written and can itself be used as a tool to show the need for such an agency.



“This book was written for the person who has never read a book on UFOs before.”

—Leslie Kean

She hopes the book will help continue the UFO phenomenon’s progress toward being viewed as a serious subject by the news media and the general public.

Kean says she senses a shift in recent years in media coverage. “I do see a trend toward more coverage of the subject and more serious coverage of it in the media,” she said.

Sightings are more likely to be covered in the mainstream media, Kean said, but usually only as brief items. “What we don’t see is in-depth investigative work ... I’m hoping that the book will inspire some of these really talented investigative reporters who have been

digging into many issues for years to take an interest in this.”

She also hopes the book will prompt other officials to go on the record about their own investigations, knowledge and experiences as witnesses. “Even though I have five generals (from other countries) who have contributed to this book and gone on the record, we do not have an American general who has done that,” Kean said. A number of UFO investigators may have spoken to retired American generals with interesting accounts, but none of those generals has been willing to go on the record with significant information so far, she added.

“I’m certainly hopeful that this book will motivate others,” Kean said.

Kean said writing the book was a natural evolution stemming from the years of work that’s she’s devoted to the subject as a journalist.

Also playing a role was a landmark 2007 Washington, D.C., news conference about UFO investigations that Kean co-organized with UFO documentary filmmaker James Fox. The event gave her an opportunity to meet some of the high-level, credible witnesses that would eventually become part of her book.

The news conference received much attention in the mainstream media around the world, but only for a day or two, Kean said. The media’s short attention span prompted Kean to realize that something more was needed to break down

Continued on page 6

Kean continues to urge Washington officials

Continued from page 5

barriers which so far, she said, have prevented a rational public dialogue and proper examination of the subject. Sound bites in films and short news stories have not been enough to do the job, she added.

Kean decided the best vehicle for the mission would be a serious, detailed, powerful book that was also fascinating and exciting to read—a book that went beyond a listing of case studies and research too detailed and esoteric for the mainstream reader. Her new book is designed to fill that role.

Kean's Early Years

Born in New York City, Kean has lived much of her life in Manhattan, but also spent 15 years in the San Francisco Bay Area. In college, she started out as a music major and then switched to biology. She completed her thesis for a bachelor's degree from Bard College in Annandale-on-Hudson in upstate New York in the mid 1980s, but is part of the graduating class of 1973.

She carved out a career as an independent investigative journalist in both print and radio. Kean's articles on a variety of topics have appeared in major newspapers and magazines in the United States and abroad, including *The Philadelphia Inquirer*; *The Atlanta Journal Constitution*, *The International Herald Tribune* and *The Nation* magazine.

While she had some familiarity with the subject, her professional interest in UFOs began in 1999, when a colleague in Paris sent her a copy of the COMETA Report, a

UFO white paper written by former high-ranking French officials, including four generals.

"They actually made the conclusion in the report that they thought the 'extraterrestrial hypothesis' was ... the most likely explanation for the cases they studied," Kean said. "This was something that I could really work with as a journalist, that I could report on. It opened the door for me to be able to take this on professionally."

Using the COMETA Report and other sources, Kean wrote an investigative feature story that appeared in *The Boston Globe* in 2000, was syndicated by *The New York Times* wire service and was reprinted in European media. The subject of UFOs then became the focus of her professional work.

In 2002, she co-founded the Coalition for Freedom of Information (CFI), an organization advocating greater government openness about UFOs and urging responsible media coverage of the subject.

She worked as producer on the 2009 independent documentary *I Know What I Saw*, directed by James Fox, which grew out of the 2007 Washington, D.C., news conference and featured UFO accounts from witnesses such as military generals, astronauts, military and commercial pilots, and government officials.

To write the book, she drew on her journalistic work on the issue over the past 10 years. Her reputation as a serious reporter interested in facts, rather than unsubstantiated claims, helped her convince sources to go on the record for the book.

"I think a lot of it was that they

were comfortable with the way I approach the subject and they knew that the approach in the book was going to be something that they were compatible with," Kean said.

One of the book's themes is that there is definitely a physical phenomenon that repeatedly behaves in certain ways and can't be explained. The "extraterrestrial hypothesis" is one possible explanation, but it hasn't been proved, Kean said. Other theories that some have proposed include time travelers or visitors from another dimension.

"It's very likely that at least some UFOs are extraterrestrial visitors, but we still need to establish that one way or the other," Kean said. "The experts and military people that I've interviewed ... call it the 'extraterrestrial hypothesis.' ... It's the most likely explanation given the knowledge that we as human beings have about our universe, which is limited."

Has Never Seen a UFO

Kean has never seen a UFO, but says that may be to her advantage because it preserves her role as an objective reporter about the subject rather than a participant affected by a sighting.

Kean emphasizes that she is primarily a journalist rather than a researcher, so she doesn't speculate on some UFO questions, but is familiar with theories that others have proposed. Among those often-asked questions: Why don't the visitors just make contact?

There are various explanations, said Kean. For example, she said,

to set up a small, government UFO agency

“It’s very likely that at least some UFOs are extraterrestrial visitors, but we still need to establish that one way or the other.”

Michio Kaku, Ph.D., a theoretical physicist, author, and a popularizer of science on TV and radio, thinks the visitors just might not be interested.

“The way he sees it is that they would have to be so much farther advanced than us to be able to get here—thousands or millions of years—that they just simply may not be that interested in us,” Kean said.

Kaku likens the situation to human explorers in a jungle, coming across an ant hill, says Kean. She says Kaku suggests that “we wouldn’t go to the ants and try to bring them gifts or communicate with them. We wouldn’t take a particular interest in them.”

There are other perspectives, Kean adds, such as those of researchers who investigated incidents in which people say they have been abducted by aliens.

Stephen Hawking, one of the world’s leading scientists, has suggested that humanity might be better off doing everything it can to avoid contact with UFO visitors because their impact could be devastating.

Kean has a different view. “He made the point that over history if a more advanced civilization comes in contact with a lesser one, that it’s usually doomsday for the less advanced civilization,” Kean said. “I don’t think that means we should

ignore the issue, even if that’s true; I think as a civilization we want to know. Knowledge is a positive and empowering thing. If, indeed, we are being visited by advanced civilizations, I think we all should know that, regardless of what its ultimate consequences might be. Then we can be better prepared. Pretending that it doesn’t exist is not going to solve any possible problems that could come as a result of this phenomenon.”

Kean added: “The other point is that we’ve been seeing them for a long time, and so far nothing dire has occurred.”

Secret Information

Another often-asked question is whether or not the government has a great deal of UFO information that is being kept secret. Kean delves into both sides of the question in her book.

“I think it’s likely that somewhere there is some kind of special-access project involved with a secret investigation, or that there are people within certain agencies that look into the issue. As to what they actually know, I don’t know what the answer to that is,” Kean said.

“A lot of people in the UFO community believe that our government retrieved a craft and bodies in 1947, and there have been all these other

crashes which they’ve retrieved, and they know that these are extraterrestrial and they’ve been covering it up for over 50 years. I can’t stand by that, just because as a journalist I don’t have enough data to prove that it’s true. It might be true. It doesn’t mean I’m saying it’s not true. It’s just that as a responsible journalist I can only work with certain kinds of information, and I don’t have enough documentation to establish that at the level required.”

She adds that at the other extreme, the U.S. government certainly has classified records tucked away somewhere about some aspects of the issue, but that overall it may be as baffled as anybody else about what’s really going on.

Sometimes citing concerns about spreading panic, back in the late 1940s and 1950s a CIA panel recommended that government agencies adopt a policy of debunking UFO reports, in order to manage the situation and try and explain them away, Kean said. The government attitude needs to be shifted to one of openness, she added.

For now, Kean is being kept busy with the launch of her book. Down the road are plans for a new project with a documentary film company, and, of special importance, renewed efforts on convincing officials in Washington to establish a small, government UFO agency.

“I am very committed to seeing this through,” Kean said. ■

Bill Ryberg is a former reporter for the Des Moines Register.

Kean's book skirts abductions and crop circles

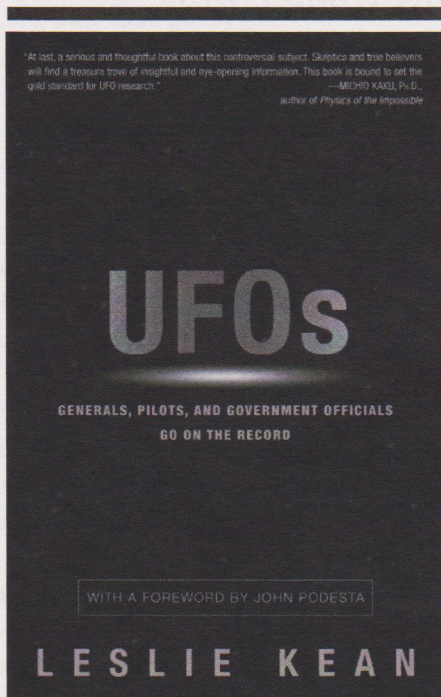
By Dwight Connelly

LESLIE KEAN PROVIDES an impressive look at the UFO scene from the perspective of 18 individuals from nine countries who have excellent credentials and who have had significant contact with the phenomenon. The book appears to be aimed at individuals who have the power to bring UFOs into the mainstream—primarily government officials, mass media, and scientists.

There are excellent descriptions of specific UFO encounters, such as the 1976 aerial “dogfight” over Iran and a similar encounter over Peru in 1980. Other first-person descriptions by key witnesses are detailed in “The Extraordinary Incident at Rendlesham Forest” by retired Col. Charles Halt and retired Sgt. James Pennington. Former Gov. Fife Symington discusses his role in the “Arizona lights” incidents.

Other contributors provide significant information regarding their experiences with government agencies, incidents in other countries, debunking, and why there is such a widespread taboo regarding UFOs.

Kean explains that she is pushing for those in power to seriously study the phenomenon, but that she is doing this as a “UFO agnostic.” By this she means she is taking no position as to what the UFOs are, where they come from, or why they are here, only that they are significant enough to warrant research by scientists and the government, as well as to warrant respect for this research by most scientists and the mainstream media.



Title: *UFOs: Generals, Pilots, and Government Officials Go On the Record*

Author: Leslie Kean

Publisher: Harmony Books, N.Y.

Price: \$25.99

The author takes a very conservative approach. Although Budd Hopkins and David Jacobs are acknowledged for their assistance, there is nothing regarding abductions. Kean acknowledges the research of Nancy Talbott, but there is no mention of crop circles. No doubt these omissions are intentional, as abductions and crop circles still are too controversial for most mainstream media personnel.

It is a bit puzzling, however, that ground traces are alluded to, but there is no mention of Ted Phil-

lips' massive research on this topic. One would think his work would have provided additional evidence.

Kean asserts that “UFOs are not belligerent. Even when provoked by human aggression, they do not retaliate.” Many researchers in the field have cited evidence to the contrary. If the topic is too controversial for a balanced presentation, perhaps it would have been better to have said nothing.

Although this book's basic case material of aerial encounters is 30 or more years old, world reaction to these incidents has changed noticeably during the past decade. Other countries—France, the United Kingdom, and Belgium, for example—have moved toward disclosure and the serious study of UFOs. The United States continues to lag behind.

Although Kean's optimistic work toward disclosure is an echo of a generation or more ago, perhaps the initiative shown by other countries will finally have some effect. Her founding of the Coalition for Freedom of Information in 2002 is certainly to be applauded.

This is a very good book, with excellent writing, organization, illustrations, documentation, and index. The firsthand accounts from Iran, Belgium, and the United Kingdom are reason enough to make it a part of any UFO library. ■

Dwight Connelly is a former editor of MUFON UFO Journal and author of The World's Best UFO Cases.

It's high time for a meta-narrative reformation

By Barry H. Downing

ONE OF THE MOST ENLIGHTENING chapters in Leslie Kean's *UFOs: Generals, Pilots, and Government Officials Go On the Record* is "Militant Agnosticism and the UFO Taboo," by political scientists Dr. Alexander Wendt and Dr. Raymond Duvall.

They suggest that the only thing that makes UFOs taboo is moving from saying UFOs are real to saying UFOs are extraterrestrial. They propose resistance to official denial by "militant agnosticism." They believe that no position on whether UFOs are extraterrestrial should be taken until they have been systematically studied. Neither denial nor belief in the extraterrestrial hypothesis is justified; we simply do not know.

Not How Science Operates

This approach misrepresents the way science operates. When Einstein presented his theory of relativity, he didn't have experimental proof his theory was valid. The experimental verification came later.

I believe there is a better term than "taboo" to describe resistance to believing in UFOs. "Meta-narrative reformation" is a term sometimes used in theology to refer to unconscious beliefs about the way the world works. We all have different kinds of "faith concepts" by which we live. I would not drive a car if I didn't believe I am supposed to drive on the right and obey the traffic laws. Nor would I drive if I didn't believe almost everyone else accepts the same road rules. I don't have scientific proof that others will

obey these rules, but if this were not my road meta-narrative, I wouldn't drive. The English have an alternative road narrative that requires them to drive on the left.

Until the 1500s, the meta-narrative in the Western world was this: God made the Earth the center of the universe. Man is made in the image of God. We are dealing with oppressive biologically driven powers, but if we struggle faithfully, we can make our way to the Promised Land of life after death.

Then Copernicus and Galileo demonstrated that the Sun, not the Earth, is the center of our solar system, and Charles Darwin held that life is not created by God but rather has just evolved in an expanding universe. This ushered in a scientific meta-narrative of life and how it came to be that I believe largely has replaced the Jewish/Christian/Islamic meta-narrative.

As UFOs enter the scene, they offer the opportunity for a new meta-narrative reformation, one that builds on elements from our religious past and our scientific present. The new meta-narrative in brief is this: The space aliens made us, and they probably have a purpose for us. They probably are the "angels" in the Bible—not supernatural beings but rather hi-tech masters of the universe. This is the controversial thesis of Erich von Daniken's *Chariots of the Gods?*

Kean has high praise for the French COMETA report on UFOs, but she fails to mention its sig-

nificant section on religion, which supposes that beings from other planets might come here to guide the development of life.

Psychological, Cultural Pain

I believe meta-narrative reformation is an important and necessary part of the multidisciplinary approach that's needed to deal with the UFO mystery. To say the least, however, the process is psychologically and culturally painful.

When Kean published an article on UFOs, she was surprised that nothing happened, and she writes: "It was as if everyone was pretending that [UFOs] didn't exist." UFOs aren't just taboo, they add confusion to our two warring meta-narratives—science and religion—and offer an alternative that neither side wants. The result is a society operating like Americans who find themselves in London looking the wrong way for oncoming traffic. The issue runs deeper than a taboo. ■

Barry H. Downing, a retired Presbyterian minister, is a theology consultant for MUFON and author of The Bible and Flying Saucers.

editorial policy

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On-campus chapters offer unique benefits for

By John Powers

HOW MANY MUFON MEETINGS have you missed because the library or church you use for meetings books another event, forcing an unexpected cancellation or change in accommodations? How many meetings have you attended where the audio/visual equipment was substandard or non-existent? My MUFON group used to regularly encounter these problems.

These and other reasons led us to investigate the possibility of beginning a MUFON chapter on the campus of the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO). The results have been very satisfactory for our local organization.

Colleges and universities are ideal for MUFON meetings. They frequently offer state-of-the-art conference rooms that are equipped with high-tech audio/visual equipment. The schools themselves are committed to fostering education in their student population.

Specific Benefits

As a six-year student at UNO and an active member in student organizations, I'd like to share with you some of the benefits of establishing a campus presence for your MUFON chapter, as well as make a few suggestions about how to go about setting up an on-campus chapter based on our experiences at Nebraska. Specifics will vary from one campus to another.

■ **Scheduling:** Most MUFON chapters conduct their meetings on weekends. Because universities



tend to hold fewer classes, if any, over the weekends, this means that there is ample parking and a larger number of available rooms. Average classrooms and conference rooms can seat between 20 and 120 persons, and even larger spaces often are available on campus.

■ **Technology:** Classrooms on college and university campuses usually have a number of multimedia presentation systems and multiple video players. The standard wireless overhead projectors can receive input from computers, VCRs, DVD players, and other visual-presentation systems. The standard university computer has high-speed Internet access and has an installed DVD player. If some rooms don't have everything you need, university tech support staff often can set up portable devices to accommodate your group.

■ **Promotion:** On-campus promotional services may be available for free or at a reduced price. These include such things as advertisements in the student newspaper and on the school's Facebook and Twitter pages. Campus groups also may be entitled to free server space on the campus computer network. This can be used for archiving docu-

ments important to your MUFON chapter, as well as to create home pages promoting your organization and its activities. Campus organizations also have the right to distribute literature and to sponsor speakers and movie screenings.

■ **Special events:** Recognized campus organizations can reserve very large rooms for special events, such as symposiums or conferences. The UNO UFO Study Group, in conjunction with MUFON Nebraska, sponsored a symposium in May. Free parking was available for participants, and the talks took place in a high-tech conference room that seated 500 people.

■ **Study and research:** Universities have excellent libraries, a valuable tool for research on the diverse topics associated with ufology.

■ **Savings account:** Many institutions also will establish a tax-free or 501c savings account for established student organizations.

Getting Started

The best part is that these benefits are free to established student organizations. Here's how to go about setting up your group:

■ **Student connection:** To transfer your MUFON meetings to a campus, you will need a student MUFON member who is enrolled at a university that will suit the needs of the group. Perhaps your group has or can attract some college students who are interested in UFOs, or perhaps someone in your group has a child enrolled at a local university.

UFO study and research

■ **Office of student organizations:** Most colleges and universities have an office dedicated to student organizations. Individual institutions have different requirements regarding elected officers of the group. UNO requires at least four students to fill the positions of president, vice-president, treasurer, and secretary. The students themselves must start the process of setting up the campus-based chapter. Once the faculty advisor and the students work out the club/organization details, they can add your MUFON chapter to the group constitution as a community affiliate. Institutions of higher education always are interested in establishing new liaisons with the local community.

■ **Faculty advisor:** Your group also will need a faculty advisor. This may be a full-time professor, a part-time or adjunct professor, or a retired professor emeritus. At UNO, the faculty advisor happens to be a regular member of Nebraska MUFON. If your group does not have a member on the faculty of the local college or university, members of your group who are connected with the college will need to approach professors to see who might be willing to serve as a faculty advisor. Academia can be fairly accepting when it's explained that MUFON is an organization dedicated to the pursuit of all study and knowledge.

■ **Constitution:** A final step will be to write a constitution for your cam-

pus-based organization. This document establishes rules of conduct for elections, and roles and duties of all of the group's officers. The constitution also establishes which set of rules your group will use to conduct your meetings. Your local college or university may be able to provide an organizational template for you to use as a guideline when setting up your constitution. Remember to add your MUFON chapter as a community affiliate.

At Nebraska, the arrangement with UNO has proved very beneficial for MUFON. Information is disseminated more efficiently, and our group has superior meeting locations that also are available on a more consistent basis.

The Nebraska MUFON organization meets once every two months, but a number of UNO members meet weekly in a hybrid study group with MUFON members from Omaha. The Omaha UFO Study Group is a community-based assembly designed for MUFON members who want to meet more frequently than every two months.

During the school year, the group also presents a science-based radio program from 5 to 7 p.m. each Friday. The stream for this show is unomavradio.com; podcasts are at omahaufostudygroup.com. ■

John Powers is a Nebraska field investigator and co-host with Dave Pares of a science-based UFO radio program Fridays at 5 p.m.

director's message

States asked to make annual contributions

Continued from page 2

done an outstanding job developing a procedural manual, and she will be in charge of deploying Star Team investigators. Questions may be directed to Chase at **912.674.7770** or mufonstarteam@yahoo.com.

Without our volunteers, MUFON wouldn't exist. The amount of time and money volunteers spend in our quest separates us from all the other UFO groups. I continue to be amazed at how much our volunteers do.

As a non-profit corporation, MUFON relies solely on membership dues and donations. The organization has a duty and obligation to provide the best and most efficient service possible to all of our members.

For this reason, MUFON is asking each state to make a voluntary annual contribution using the following guidelines:

0–50 members, \$100.

51–100 members: \$250.

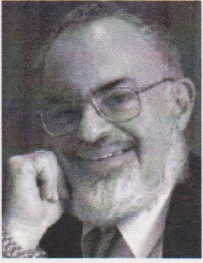
101–150 members: \$500.

151 or more members: \$750.

This contribution should be paid by December 31 of each year.

The November issue of the *Journal* will feature an article by John Ventre explaining some of Pennsylvania's success organizing fund-raising events.

While MUFON needs to make some changes, we don't need to change the basics—our mission, the service we provide to members and volunteers, or our non-profit status. We need only to improve. ■



It's hard to understand what motivates people to tell fraudulent UFO stories

By **Stanton Friedman**

I OFTEN HAVE TAKEN NOTE of the myriad false claims made by UFO deniers and debunkers—there's no evidence to suggest some UFOs are of extraterrestrial origin, governments can't keep secrets, aliens couldn't get here from other solar systems, etc.

I must admit, however, that false claims frequently have been made on the pro-UFO side as well. I still am surprised by how often I am asked my views about such believers as Lt. Colonel Philip J. Corso and Robert Scott Lazar. The evidence that they haven't been telling the truth has been around a long time. The Internet certainly has been partly responsible for newcomers to ufology being smitten by their quite extraordinary claims, and I believe that this is a good time to review the evidence of fraud.

Philip J. Corso's book *The Day after Roswell*, written with Bill Birnes, was published in 1997 to mark the 50th anniversary of Roswell. Corso (1915–1998) already was an old man. His claims were quite special. When working for General Arthur Trudeau, head of Army research and development at the Pentagon in 1960, Corso supposedly worked in the Foreign Technology Division (FTD). He claims to have been given a filing cabinet of wreckage from the Roswell crashed saucer and instructed to determine what technologies were involved. He allegedly was to

see to the transfer of this information to various industrial organizations who wouldn't know that the genesis of those technologies was alien. The list of these breakthrough technologies was quite long and included lasers, kevlar, microcircuits, and optical fiber. The enthusiastic foreword for the book was written by the late U.S. senator, James Strom Thurmond (1902-2003). Corso had worked on Thurmond's campaign for the presidency on the segregationist ticket in 1948. Thurmond later withdrew his foreword to the book, claiming it had not been written for that purpose at all.

A Problematic Story

There are many problems with Corso's story. There are no references in the book so one can't follow how the technology got from Corso to industry. Corso was neither an engineer nor a scientist. The Army FTD consisted of two people. Corso was the junior officer, and the senior officer died before I could question him. The Corso scenario totally neglects the simple fact that the FTD at Wright Patterson, which certainly received wreckage from Roswell in 1947, had a large and thriving group of engineers and scientists. Surely they didn't bury their material?

There is ample history about the development of the technologies that Corso claims to have been of alien origin. Jack Kilby, for ex-

ample, received a Nobel Prize in physics for his work on microcircuits done a couple of years before Corso went to the FTD. Another Nobel Prize went to the discoverers of the laser in 1960. They had nothing to do with Corso.

Corso claimed in a sworn statement that he had been a member of President Dwight Eisenhower's National Security Council (NSC), the highest presidential advisory group. It's difficult to determine why a Lt. Colonel would have been so privileged. I checked with the Eisenhower Library and learned that Corso never attended any NSC meeting. Corso was shown the Library's letter, but he refused to withdraw his false statement.

Corso claimed that he had seen an alien body from Roswell in a special crate at Fort Riley, Kansas, on July 6, 1947. I asked him how he knew the exact date. His response: "I know when I was transferred there." It turns out his transfer was in March or April.

Rancher Mac Brazel came in to Roswell on July 6, went back to the ranch followed by Jesse Marcel and Sheridan Cavitt that day, stayed overnight and brought some wreckage back the next day. Normal security protocols demand that something as important as an alien body or nuclear weapons components be continuously guarded. Corso would never have had access. There was no shortage of planes or security at

Roswell, so it makes little sense not to fly such remains rather than truck them through Fort Riley.

Corso claimed to be buddies with J. Edgar Hoover, director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). In Corso's FBI file, however, Hoover called him a rat. Yes, I met Corso. He was a pleasant person but clearly a wannabe hero.

Robert Scott Lazar is more technically sharp than was Corso. His claims also are quite impressive. He claims to be a nuclear physicist and to hold a master's degree in physics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and one in electronics from the California Institute of Technology. Edward Teller supposedly recommended him for a position back-engineering UFOs at Area 51. Lazar claims to have figured out they worked using element 115 and gravity-wave amplifiers (whatever those are).

Lazar also claims to have been employed as a physicist at Los Alamos National Lab (LANL). A friend of Lazar's asked what it would take to convince me that Bob was legit. I suggested copies of diplomas, a resume, list of professional papers and organizations to which he belongs, and the title of his master's thesis. Nothing ever was sent.

No M.I.T. Records

Lazar claims all his M.I.T. records have been wiped clean, but a lawyer for M.I.T. assured me that would be impossible. In addition to not showing up on any official M.I.T. records, Lazar also has no listing in any M.I.T. yearbook. His high school records indicate that he took only one science course, and that he ranked in the bottom third of his class.

Lazar names William Duxler as a physics professor who would re-

I don't know why people like Corso, Lazar, and Kruvant enlarge the truth. I'm a physicist, not a psychiatrist.

member him from Cal Tech. I located Duxler and learned that he never taught at Cal Tech but did remember teaching Bob in a class at Pierce Junior College in the San Fernando Valley at the time Lazar claimed to be attending MIT.

A few atoms of 115 have been produced by operating a huge accelerator for weeks. The half-life of this element is less than a second, so there is no way the Los Alamos National Lab (LANL) could have collected 500 pounds of the stuff as claimed by Lazar.

Lazar is bright, built a jet-powered car, and puts on fireworks displays for crowds of people. He did work for professors who spent time at the Clinton D. Anderson Meson accelerator at LANL. He has sold a lot of videos of his story. At one time there was even supposed to be a movie about the courageous young physicist. When interviewed by a radio interviewer along with a Stanford physicist, however, Lazar was unable to answer the physicist's questions.

Corso is featured in a book *The Light at the End of the Tunnel* by Paul Hellyer, former minister of defense for Canada. Hellyer blindly accepted everything Corso claimed, and he also accepted the testimony of another ufology fraud, Michael Wolf Kruvant.

Six Degrees of Fraud

Kruvant claimed six advanced degrees, including Ph.D.s in physics from M.I.T. and Cal Tech, a master's from McGill University, a law degree from Georgetown University, and two other degrees. He also claimed to have been an Air Force pilot, an advisor to Majestic 12, and an advisor to President Clinton.

I had many phone conversations with Kruvant before he started making extraordinary claims. He supposedly was president emeritus of a Connecticut company employing 70 people. He alleged to have set up a foundation in honor of his wife and son who had been killed in an automobile accident. Proceeds from sale of his self-published book, *The Catchers of Heaven*, were to be used for charitable purposes. None of these things was true, although Kruvant talked a good game. Neither I nor Dunn and Bradstreet could find any evidence of the company. After his death I spoke with relatives of his who told me that Kruvant had no degrees from anywhere, was never married, and had spent a lot of time in a mental hospital.

I'm frequently asked why people like Corso, Lazar, and Kruvant enlarge the truth. I'm a physicist, not a psychiatrist. Maybe they want attention, or maybe there is satisfaction in pulling the wool over the eyes of the public.

There have been only about a dozen Ph.D. theses about UFOs. I would like to see two more—one about debunkers who choose not to believe in UFOs in the face of clear evidence, and another about the motivation behind fraudulent claims related to UFOs. ■



outside the box

Many eerie events continue to occur in the area known as Marley Woods

By Ted Phillips

THIS MONTH I'D LIKE TO PROVIDE a clearer picture of the Marley Woods. There is no such place. I originally gave this name to five farms located in a relatively small area. Over the past two years, I have used the same name to include a number of additional sites. The entire area now is referred to as the Marley Woods Project.

Extreme activity, including "light ball nests," has been taking place at the Marley Woods locations. I am pleased to report that the primary sites have electronic surveillance 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Such coverage allows me and seven other investigators to go into the center of "hot" areas in an attempt to observe and record the displays at very close range. Over the next few months, I will describe some of these investigations and our observations. There are cases in the physical trace files that are quite similar to some of the Marley Woods events. We also will compare the events at Marley Woods with the paranormal incidents at Skinwalker Ranch in Utah.

Marley Woods has produced a big stack of outside-the-box events. In my research, a "normal" UFO observation includes a large saucer or oval-shaped device with what appears to be a metallic surface. It lands, sometimes tearing up trees during its descent. In 18.7 percent of the trace landing reports, one or two little guys get out and muddle

around. After the witnesses have experienced a good deal of anxiety, the object silently ascends. There are almost 5,000 such events on file, and they are excellent pieces of the UFO puzzle—but outside-the-box incidents present a real challenge.

Outside the E.T. Box

Invisible yet physical evidence lets us move to a place where we are not chained to the idea of little men building ships on a distant planet and flying them to Earth. Perhaps there is much more to be considered outside the ET box.

In 1999 in Marley Woods, two normal, intelligent adults saw a large saucer-shaped device with many lights on it fly by their farmhouse. It was on a descending trajectory headed for their neighbor's farm. Thinking it might crash, the couple jumped into their truck and headed there. The owner of the nearby farm was gone, and everything looked normal. The two witnesses returned to the farm the next day and drove to a point some 50 feet from a trailer, where the husband parked the car. The wife remained in the car, watching her husband as he headed toward the trailer. It was a clear day without any breeze, but the husband suddenly disappeared from sight in the high weeds.

His wife stepped out of the car and called to her husband, but there was only a faint reply. She then spotted her husband face down with

a pool of blood under his legs. As she was about to help him up, she was hit by two sharp impacts to her upper back and was knocked face down to the ground.

After several minutes the two finally managed to stand up. Before the wife could mention the impacts to her upper back, the husband told her he was hit by two severe blows to his upper back. The impact opened a long gash in his upper leg. He was hospitalized for two weeks with a blood clot, and at one point was at risk of dying.

This is but one of a number of eerie cases involving a unseen forces at work. A truck with no engine and the drive-train locked was pushed 12 feet down a gravel driveway leaving two deep grooves by wheels that were unable to turn. Steel gates have been shoved to the ground with heavy steel pins turned 45 degrees—with no marks on the gates, no storms, no high winds, and no way any vehicle could have caused the damage. A rancher watched as his cattle were forced into a tight group in one corner of a field and held there for more than 30 minutes. All these inexplicable things occurred in broad daylight.

We should be investigating and logging these events that seem to be so different than events in which physical objects leave behind physical evidence. In the out-of-box incidents there appears to be the joining of the physical with invisible

and very powerful forces.

In 2006 I experienced an event that was a bit on the creepy side. I decided to spend an evening in a hollow of dense trees where many light balls had been observed over the years. I had taken cameras and other equipment, and I started to get comfortable in the tall grass. As the area darkened, the absolute quiet was interrupted by a thrashing noise to my left. I turned to see a tall tree twisting violently.

My first thought was of a small tornado. The problem was that nothing else in the hollow was moving even slightly. The creepy feeling increased when I noticed the tall grass at the base of the tree was motionless. The thrashing continued for almost a minute before it stopped as quickly as it had started.

Nothing else happened that night, but I did think how comforting it would be to have my large sheepdog there with me. I checked with a meteorologist friend the next morning and learned there had been no reports of storms. The wind speed was logged at less than three miles per hour.

Similar Event Reported

Two months ago on another ranch in Marley Woods, the owner told me he had experienced a similar event. He was standing in a small field that had produced lots of light balls. As dusk was falling, he heard a loud noise behind him and turned to see a tall tree twisting along its length. He said there had been no wind and nothing else in the field was moving—including the grass at the base of the tree. He was completely unaware of my experience four years earlier.

In a remote area not far from Marley Woods is an old factory

*Invisible yet physical
evidence lets us
move to a place where
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a distant planet.*

that employs about 25 workers. Last month one of the workers (I'll call him Bob) was cleaning up after hours when he was overwhelmed with a feeling of sadness, despair, and fear. He stepped outside and was astonished to see a large, black "cloud" shaped like a dome slowly approach the ground, blacking out the stars. Bob ran back inside in a state of panic, pulling the thick wooden door behind him. He used his cell phone to call a friend who was scheduled to pick him up, and asked the friend to hurry.

Suddenly every door in the building began opening and closing. Bob watched the extremely heavy front door open and slam shut. This door had a strong pull-spring attached, so it would take a powerful force to open it. There was a sound outside like a heavy object repeatedly slamming against the building. Bob ran to the far back room. As he stood in the middle of the dimly illuminated 12- by 12-foot room, he had a deeply disturbing feeling that he was being watched.

When he looked to his left, he saw a very tall, thin, dark human-like figure standing less than five feet away and looking at him. Bob said that was the worst part was that the figure's face looked more

like that of an animal than a human. Bob ran as fast as he could though the swinging doors trying to call his friend again, but his cell phone was dead. When he was about 10 feet from the front door, everything went silent.

Bob pushed the door open, and the cloud-like dome was gone. The stars once again were visible, and there was no sign of wind or rain. In less than five minutes his friend turned in the lane to the building. The next day the two men went around the building but could find no damage. A check with the nearest weather station disclosed that there had been no storms in the area the previous night.

A Very Current Event

A mere four nights ago I was watching on a laptop an area where there had been a lot of light-ball activity in the past. I had set up an astronomical CCD (charge-coupled device) imaging device to which I had attached a 35mm camera lens giving good magnification, resolution, and a fairly wide field. The field of view was centered on an area 1,200 feet away where dense woods give way to a field backed with dense trees. It still was daylight and I could see fence posts and at one time four deer playing in the field. At 7:19 p.m. a small blue-white sphere emerged from the trees on the right and glided smoothly just above the ground. In front of the wire fence it slowly ascended to a point near the tops of the trees. It made a turn and slowly descended to a point three feet or so above the grass before disappearing into the trees. The observation lasted just less than one minute, and, yes, my equipment did capture some images. ■

calendar

October 9—Casa Grande
MUFON presents Len Kasten discussing Project Serpo at 1 p.m. at Eva's Restaurant on Pinal Avenue in Casa Grande, Ariz. Meals may be ordered or attendees may pay a \$10 fee.
azmufon@rocketmail.com

October 9 & 16—MUFON Pa East Coast Conferences will be at the Sheraton Bucks Co. in Philadelphia (Oct. 9) and at Westmoreland Community College in Pittsburgh (Oct. 16). Cost is \$30 and \$20, respectively. For more information, visit www.mufonpa.com. Tickets may be ordered at www.johnventre.com.

October 16—Phoenix MUFON presents Dennis Balthaser discussing Roswell, Area 51, and the pyramids of Giza at 1:30 p.m. at Vision Quest Bookstore in Scottsdale, Ariz.
www.phoenixmufon.com

October 23—"Mysteries of Space and Sky VII: UFOs and the Paranormal," a conference in the Annapolis, Md., area, will feature talks by Carl Feindt, Norman Gagnon, Ed Weibe, Ron Fink, and Rob and Sue Swiatek. For more information, please contact S. Peter Resta at spr100@aol.com

list your calendar event

Submit MUFON-related events to editor@mufon.com. Please include the word "calendar" in the subject line of your e-mail. Items are limited to six lines. They will be printed as space is available.

November 6—UFO Club of Virginia Beach, VA, meeting at the Kempsville Public Library.
757.217.8401.

November 20—Phoenix
MUFON presents Carol Rosin, former spokesperson for Wernher Von Braun, at 1:30 p.m. at Vision Quest Bookstore in Scottsdale, Ariz. Von Braun disclosed a government plan for making ET threats appear to be hoaxes. Rosin is president for the Institute for Cooperation In Space (ICIS) and has testified before Congress against the weaponization of space.
www.phoenixmufon.com

Postponement—The 8th Annual UFO Crash-Retrieval Conference has been rescheduled November 2011 in Las Vegas. Further details will be available in the spring.
www.ufoconference.com ■

UFO-based radio show

STEVE HUDGEONS, MUFON state director in Texas, is the host of a new radio show, "Texas UFO Network." The one-hour show will broadcast on *Spiritual Journeys Radio Network* at 9 p.m. on Tuesdays. Log in to listen to the most recent show at www.sjrn.net. ■

majic men: the movie

UFO-inspired film coming sometime to a theater near you

Continued from page 3

that Harvard astronomer, Donald Menzel, amazingly was named as a member of Majestic 12. Menzel was a well-known UFO debunker who for decades led a double life working as a high-security cryptographer and consultant to the National Security Agency (NSA) and the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

Don Schmitt was able to locate a number of new witnesses, but he also experienced the frustration of discovering that a star witness, Frank Kaufmann, actually was lying through his teeth. I discovered that a primary witness, Gerald Anderson, had forged a phone bill for reasons that never have become clear.

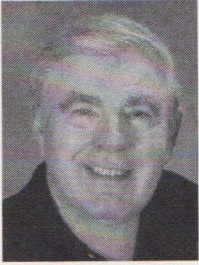
We both have had frustrations with television interviewers, including Larry King and Ted Koppel. We both have appeared on *Coast to Coast Radio* and many times at the annual UFO Festival in Roswell. All four of us—Don Most, Don Schmitt, Bryce Zabel, and myself—recently appeared together on *Coast to Coast Radio*. ■

MUFON'S 2011 SYMPOSIUM

E.T. Contact: Implications for Science and Society

JULY 29-31

IRVINE, CALIFORNIA



filer's files

By George Filer

[Editor's Note: This roundup of UFO sightings is presented to keep Journal readers informed about some of the vast number of sightings being reported. Unless otherwise noted, these cases have not officially been investigated.]

Multiple sightings of triangular-shaped craft over Lake Ponchatrain

Hammond, Louisiana—At 8 p.m. on August 27 and later dates, I have been standing on my porch and noticed a star that was twinkling various colors. The first time, I told my family, then grabbed binoculars. I observed a triangular object slowly passing in the western sky. I live on the north shore of Lake Ponchatrain in an area of piney woods. Now every night at dusk a triangular ship drops out of the sky and slowly flies either north or northwest. The ship's front light glows many colors—red, blue, green, yellow, orange, white, and sometimes just amber. It has two 45-degree angled wings with lights that either twinkle in synchronicity or do not blink at all. My husband is in the Air Force and has watched the lights each night, but he has no idea what kind of craft they may be on. The lights often are visible through my bedroom window. My husband falls asleep, but I have watched it almost every night as it floats away. (WWW.UFOSNW.COM)

Kentucky man terrified by low-flying triangle

Edmonton, Kentucky—At 9:30 p.m. on September 4, as I was driving in a rural area, I saw a bright light next to a cell-phone tower. At first I thought it was another tower. It was very bright and flashed every second. Then realized the light was moving, so I assumed it was a plane but it was flying too close to the ground. As I watched, I noticed several lights that were in the form of a triangle, which was coming toward me. I stopped my vehicle. I got a very close look at the object, but all I could see was the bottom lit up with very bright white lights similar to LED lights. I was frightened and floored the gas pedal as I felt the object was following me, but it did not pursue me. (WWW.UFOSNW.COM)

A quartet of white lights hover over South Wales

Barry, South Wales—At 9:10 p.m. on September 11, I was walking back from a shop on Holton Road when I noticed four solid bright white lights moving in the sky. The third one was slightly lower than the rest. Shortly they changed into one bright orange ball of light that was slightly bigger than all the white ones put together. They changed direction and flew over the houses close to my street. Then they flew out of sight. (MUFON CMS)

Kayakers in Oregon witness two objects in sky over Ross Island

Ross Island, Oregon—At 3 p.m. on September 1, I was kayaking on the Willamette River when I saw two objects in the sky. They were hovering and at first appeared to change shape. I was on the east side of Ross Island. For 10 minutes I watched the objects drift to the southeast over Sellwood. They got a bit smaller as if they were moving away, but they remained the same distance apart and had a silver shine to them. If they were balloons the distance between them would have changed. Three other kayakers saw these objects, and I also pointed them out to a couple in a motor boat hoping they had binoculars to get a better look. They didn't, but they verified that it was hard to explain what these objects might be. As I paddled farther south on the river, I looked back and saw that they had disappeared. (WWW.UFOSNW.COM)

Red light in Illinois skies

Fox Lake, Illinois—On September 9, I was walking outside and noticed a flying bright red light. Something flashed about 500 feet to the left of the object. After that flash, the bright red object started to become smaller and smaller as if it were going straight up. It traveled over my head and appeared to fly off into space. (MUFON CMS) ■

A small sampling of types of cases regularly

[Editor's Note: The following cases represent a fraction of the many cases investigated by MUFON this year. They were selected by Rob Swiatek, who reviewed the case files and then provided these excerpts.]

Domed disk in snow listed as 'unexplained'

UFOs occasionally appear when weather conditions are poor. During a heavy snowfall about 8 p.m. on February 10, a man entering a Dunkin' Donuts in Bayonne, New Jersey, was surprised to see a domed object drop through a hole in the clouds. The witness said that the domed disk resembled a bowl atop a plate. It was dark gray with a series of windows or vertical lines at the junction between the dome and "plate." He reported the lines extended perhaps 10 percent of the distance to the apex of the dome. Air around the object seemed to be distorted or wavering as though from intense heat.

The witness initially thought that the object was a jetliner in distress. This idea was dispelled when the UFO hovered for some seconds, then slowly moved south-southeast below the clouds toward the Verrazano Bridge. The witness estimated the UFO to be the size of an airliner. He thought it was moving at an altitude of 3,000 to 4,000 feet. The UFO disappeared completely after about two minutes. MUFON field investigator Chuck Streb listed the case as unexplained.

Cigar-shaped object appears over St. Cloud

A giant, cigar-shaped UFO—sporting dozens of illuminated windows—ploughed through the darkened skies near St. Cloud, Minnesota, early in the morning March 22. The witness in the case looked out her window at 2 a.m. and was surprised to see only a single star, some haze, and no clouds. Thinking the situation curious—there should have been an abundance of clouds given the almost complete absence of stars—she was taken aback to realize that a portion of the sky was blotted out by a large, cylindrical UFO at least three times the length of a conventional jetliner. It was flying at a very low altitude over some buildings and a railroad yard a block and a half away.

Despite the darkness, the witness was amazed to see a single long row of windows trailing in an undulating fashion behind the main cigar-shaped body of the UFO like a tail. Each window was oval, about twice as wide as it was high, and backlit by white light. The object itself was not observed to have any wings, protuberances, visible means of propulsion, or any other lights. It emitted a low hum as it moved steadily to the northwest. The witness estimated the object to be about the width of a dinner plate at arm's length, with the "tail" being about three-fourths the length of the cigar-shaped portion.

When the witness moved to

view the object from another window, she was unable to locate it again, and concluded it had moved out of sight. Sighting duration was estimated to be from three to four minutes.

MUFON investigators Lorna Hunter and Robert Engberg subsequently ascertained skies were clear that night over St. Cloud, with a visibility of 10 miles and no winds. The absence of jet-engine noise, the sheer size of the UFO, its low altitude and peculiar appearance collectively argue against a conventional explanation for this case.

Retired police officer spots triangular object

At 4:30 a.m. on April 12 near North Ridgeville, Ohio, a retired police officer who had just let his dog outside was surprised to see the animal suddenly stop and look up to the east. Following the dog's gaze, the man observed a small triangular object—which he characterized as "chevron-shaped" with sharp edges—quickly cross the sky from east to west. Between two to six feet in length, the object sported three lights: one in the center and two others on its apices. The UFO appeared to be no more than 100 feet high and passed directly over the witness's house. When the man moved to the other side of his house—a process involving mere seconds—he no longer was able to see the UFO.

The witness lives some miles

investigated by MUFON

west-southwest of Cleveland Hopkins International Airport, and he noted that the object did not resemble any commercial aircraft he regularly observes in the skies over his house—and the object was traveling much faster than conventional aircraft. Repeated efforts by MUFON investigator Thomas Wertman to contact the witness for a follow-up interview were unsuccessful, and a number of relevant questions remain unanswered.

UFO pursued by 'jets' in skies over Tennessee

At 9:28 p.m. on May 3, a dramatic encounter between military jets and an apparent UFO unfolded in the skies above Knoxville, Tennessee. A man who walked out of his garage into the night air immediately was assailed with a tremendous, window-rattling, rumbling noise. Scanning the sky for its source, he saw what he originally thought were at least 12 jets in rough formation to the north of him. In a subsequent interview, he said that they merely sounded like jets. The jets seemed to be attempting to surround a glowing white object, although with little success. As the aircraft flew west to east-northeast at very low altitude, the white object flew north to south among them, unimpeded.

The scenario was so unnerving that the witness shouted for his wife to hurry outside to see the unfolding spectacle. Adding to

the unreality of the scene was the barking of all the neighborhood dogs, apparently provoked by the noise from the sky. The man and his wife watched the game of jets-and-UFO from 45 to 60 seconds, with the UFO occasionally lost from sight as it dipped below the tree line. After the assemblage had moved past the witnesses into the distance, three more aircraft appeared, flying side-by-side and apparently tailing the first group. The noise of the jets persisted for some minutes after they were out of view.

The witnesses to the Knoxville events live fairly close to McGhee Tyson Airport, which also serves as the base for an air-refueling wing of the Tennessee Air National Guard. They are familiar with the commercial and military traffic coming into and out of the airport. Neither had ever seen such an aerial display. One further odd fact distinguishing the episode was that the jets used only red lights, not the standard red and green running lights required for all aircraft. This made it easy to track the white glowing object in the pell-mell of the chase, but it also planted doubt about whether jets actually were involved.

McGhee Tyson Airport had no comment about the event when MUFON chief investigator Max Mitchell called during the course of his investigation. ■

Rob Swiatek is a member of the MUFON board of directors.

obituary

Wendelle Stevens, UFO pioneer, dies at his home

UFO RESEARCH PIONEER Wendelle C. Stevens died of a heart attack September 7, 2010, at his home in Tucson, Arizona.

Lt. Colonel Stevens was born in 1923 in Round Prairie, Minnesota. He enlisted in the United States Army in 1941, transferring to the Air Corps in 1942 and serving in the Pacific Theater during World War II. In 1947 he was assigned to a classified project in Alaska that involved photographing and mapping the Arctic where data-collecting equipment onboard B-29s detected UFOs. He debriefed pilots who had witnessed UFOs, and forwarded radar, film, and photographic evidence to Air Force authorities. Stevens later served as U.S. air attaché in South America. He retired from the Air Force in 1963 and worked for Hamilton Aircraft until 1972.

In his 54 years of research in ufology, Stevens collected more than 4,000 photographs, served as Director of Investigations for the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization, and authored or co-authored more than 22 books, including *UFO Contact from the Pleiades*, based on the Billy Meier case in Switzerland.

In December 1997 Stevens received an award for lifetime achievement at the First World UFO Forum in Brazilia, capital of Brazil. He was a founder and Director of the International UFO Congress. ■

membership price changes

DUE TO INCREASES in printing costs, MUFON must raise membership costs. We recognize the difficult economy may present a hardship for some members, so we have included the alternative of receiving the *Journal* on our Web site. An electronic version of this *Journal* will be available after the printed version has been distributed.

Effective October 1, 2010, MUFON's annual membership fees will change as follows:

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Hard-Copy and Electronic Journal

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Effectively October 1, 2010, the price of *Field Investigator Manuals* will increase as follows:

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1. Publication Title: *MUFON UFO Journal*. 2. Publication Number: 0270-6822. 3. Filing Date: September 23, 2010. 4. Issue Frequency: Monthly. 5. Number of Issues Published Annually: 12. 6. Annual Subscription Price: \$45.00. 7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication: 2619 11th Street Road, Suite 21, Greeley, Colorado 80634. Contact Person: Clifford Clift. Telephone: 970.352.5319. 8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher: 2619 11th Street Road, Suite 21, Greeley, Colorado 80634. 9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor: Publisher—Clifford Clift, 2619 11th Street Road, Suite 21, Greeley, Colorado 80634. Editor and Managing Editor—Janice Currie (both Editor and Managing Editor), 2619 11th Street Road, Suite 21, Greeley, Colorado 80634. 10. Owner: MUFON UFO Network, 2619 11th Street Road, Suite 21, Greeley, Colorado 80634. 11. Known Bondholders, Mortgagees, and Other Security Holders Owning or Holding 1 Percent or More of Total Amount of Bonds, Mortgages, or Other Securities: None. 12. Tax Status: Has Not Changed During Preceding 12 Months. 13. Publication Title: *MUFON UFO Journal*. 14. Issue Date for Circulation Data Below: September 2010. 15. Extent and Nature of Circulation:

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17. I certify that all the information on this form is true and complete. (signed) Clifford Clift

18. Date: September 21, 2010

CMS rankings

CONGRATULATIONS to Donald R. Burluson (New Mexico), Marily K. Carlson (Oklahoma), Elaine Douglass (Utah), George A. Filer III (New Jersey), Cheryl Ann Gilmore (South Carolina), Jimi Hughes (Montana), Lorna Hunter (Minnesota and South Dakota), William Jones (Ohio), William J. Konkolesky (Michigan), David MacDonald (Kentucky), Marie C. Malzahn (Idaho), Eddie Middleton (Tennessee), Bland Pugh (Florida), Ruben J. Uriarte (Area 1 California), John Ventre (Pennsylvania), and Steve Winans (Kansas) for being at 100 percent in September's Case Management System (CMS) rankings! The top 10 state directors are highlighted on the chart at right.

For help with investigations please contact MUFON International's Director of Investigations, Chuck Reever at **530.414.4341** or **530.582.8339**, or by e-mail at merlin@suddenlink.net. ■

understanding the chart

The CMS Report is based on two measures of UFO Investigation effectiveness—(1) assigning reports within 72 hours of receipt and (2) completing all investigations within 90 days of being assigned.

- **Assigned** is a six-month running average of the number of cases assigned within 72 hours divided by the total number of cases received in that six-month period.
- **Completed** is the number of cases completed beginning 62 days back and going back six months from there (for a total of eight months back) divided by the total number of cases reported in the same period.
- **Weighted Rank** is the average of the two columns expressed as a percentage.

Rank	State	Director	Weighted Rank (50/50)	Assigned	Completed
1	New Mexico	Donald R. Burluson	100 percent	20/20	39/39
2	Michigan	William J. Konkolesky	100 percent	71/71	80/80
3	Tennessee	Eddie Middleton	100 percent	40/40	54/54
4	California (area 1)	Ruben J. Uriarte	100 percent	132/132	112/112
5	Kansas	Steve Winans	100 percent	6/6	17/17
6	Oklahoma	Marilyn K. Carlson	100 percent	19/19	31/31
7	Utah	Elaine Douglass	100 percent	18/18	14/14
8	Pennsylvania	John Ventre	100 percent	99/99	126/126
9	Ohio	William Jones	100 percent	53/53	59/59
10	Minnesota	Lorna Hunter	100 percent	20/20	24/24
11	Kentucky	David MacDonald	100 percent	20/20	24/24
12	Florida	Bland Pugh	100 percent	103/103	170/170
13	New Jersey	George A. Filer III	100 percent	21/21	39/39
14	South Carolina	Cheryl Ann Gilmore	100 percent	15/15	24/24
15	South Dakota	Lorna Hunter	100 percent	3/3	5/5
16	Montana	Jimi Hughes	100 percent	9/9	10/10
17	Idaho	Marie C. Malzahn	100 percent	18/18	16/16
18	Indiana	Jerry L. Sievers	99 percent	70/71	56/56
19	Georgia	Ralph O. Howard Jr.	99 percent	48/50	67/67
20	Missouri	Debbie A. Ziegelmeyer	99 percent	53/54	46/46
21	Arizona	Christine Dickey	99 percent	79/80	110/110
22	Texas (SD)	Steve A. Hudgeons	98 percent	121/123	189/191
23	Oregon	Thomas Bowden	97 percent	42/42	41/43
24	Iowa	Jim King	96 percent	13/14	14/14
25	West Virginia	John Ventre	94 percent	8/9	7/7
26	Washington	James E. Clarkson	91 percent	29/34	38/39
27	Colorado	Leslie H. Varnicle	90 percent	36/36	48/59
28	Alaska	Brent Mitchel	87 percent	3/4	13/13
29	California	Georgeanne Cifarelli	85 percent	182/187	126/170
30	New Hampshire	Steve Firmani	80 percent	9/15	17/17
31	Maryland	Ron Fink	78 percent	14/17	21/28
32	Nebraska	John C. Kasher	75 percent	12/17	12/15
33	Illinois	Samuel Maranto	61 percent	33/56	37/58
34	Alabama	Roy E. Patterson Jr.	59 percent	7/17	11/14
35	New York	Samuel A. Falvo	50 percent	38/65	34/80
36	North Dakota	Kurt Pflieger	50 percent	1/2	1/2
37	Rhode Island	Steve Firmani	48 percent	2/8	8/11
38	Louisiana	Karen Bravata	45 percent	8/15	10/27
39	Massachusetts	Steve Firmani	39 percent	3/26	23/34
40	Mississippi	Norman D. Walker	37 percent	2/8	6/12
41	Connecticut	Steve Firmani	35 percent	3/15	11/22
42	Wyoming	Richard Beckwith	33 percent	2/3	0/8
43	Delaware	John Ventre	33 percent	0/3	2/3
44	Arkansas	Norman D. Walker	32 percent	7/25	11/29
45	Maine	Steve Firmani	27 percent	2/14	10/24
46	Nevada	Ellen Bullock	19 percent	7/25	5/42
47	Vermont	Steve Firmani	11 percent	1/8	1/9
48	Virginia	Susan L. Swiatek	10 percent	4/26	2/31
49	Hawaii	Lorna Hunter	8 percent	0/2	1/6
50	Wisconsin	Nathan Tomisich	7 percent	2/28	3/43



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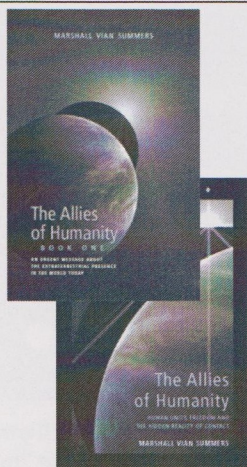
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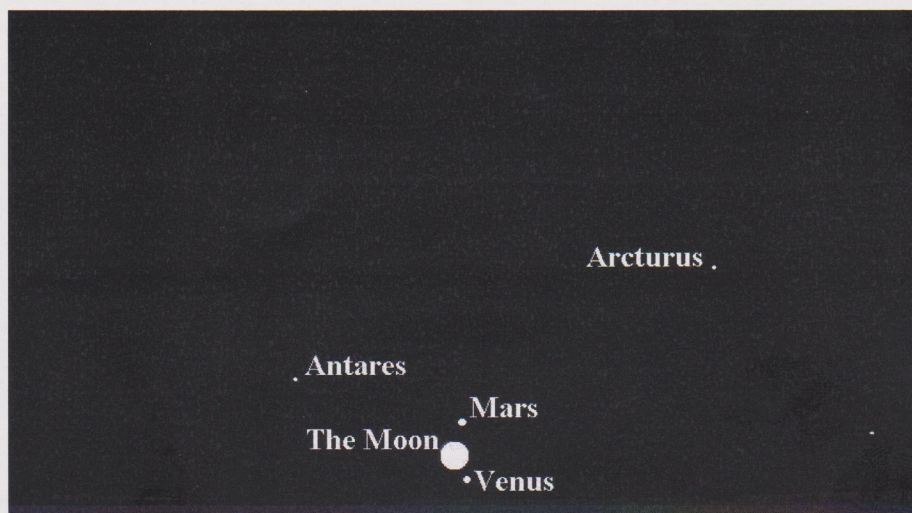
By Gavin A. J. McLeod

Bright Planets (Evening Sky)

■ **Venus** (magnitude -4.8 to 4.2): From Virgo into Libra. In the northern hemisphere Venus will begin October low above the southwest horizon at sunset and will set below the west-southwest horizon about 45 minutes later; as the month passes Venus will sink and be lost in the glare of the setting Sun. In the southern hemisphere Venus will set below the southwest horizon about three and a half hours after sunset.

■ **Mars** (magnitude 1.5): In Libra. In the northern hemisphere Mars will begin October above the southwest horizon at sunset and will set 75 minutes later; by month's end Mars will be above the southwest horizon and will set about one hour later. In the southern hemisphere Mars will set below the western horizon three hours after sunset.

■ **Jupiter** (magnitude 2.9): From Pisces to Aquarius. In the northern hemisphere Jupiter will begin October low above the eastern horizon at sunset and will set below the western horizon about 45 minutes before sunrise. By month's



Observers who look toward the southwest just after sunset on October 9 will see the Moon, Venus and Mars close together in the evening sky.

end Jupiter will be very low above the eastern horizon and will set below the western horizon about one hour before sunrise. In the southern hemisphere Jupiter will be low over the eastern horizon at sunset and will set below the western horizon one hour before sunrise.

Bright Planets (Morning Sky)

■ **Mercury** (magnitude -1.1 to -1.4): From Virgo into Libra. In the northern hemisphere Mercury will begin October rising above the eastern horizon one hour before sunrise; by month's end Mercury will sink and be lost in the glare of the setting Sun. In the southern hemisphere Mercury will be low above the eastern horizon at sunrise.

■ **Saturn** (magnitude 0.9): In Virgo. In the northern hemisphere Saturn will begin October very low above the western horizon at sunset and will set about 10 minutes later; as the month passes Saturn will slowly rise until it is standing high about the east-southeast horizon at sunrise. In the southern hemisphere Saturn will begin the month lost in the glare of the setting Sun; as the month passes it will rise until it's

standing low above the eastern horizon at sunrise.

Celestial Phenomena

Zodiacal Light will be visible in northern latitudes in the East before the start of morning twilight from October 5 to 19. Zodiacal light is sunlight bouncing off dust grains in our solar system. Look for a pyramid of light just over the horizon somewhat resembling light from a city or town. ■

moon phases

last quarter: October 1
new moon: October 7
first quarter: October 14
full moon: October 23

conjunctions & occultations

October 9: Venus 3.0 degrees south of the Moon
October 10: Mars 4 degrees north of the Moon
October 20: Jupiter 7 degrees south of the Moon