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Ever wonder why military jets chase UFOs? One reader offers a suggestion in a Guest Opinion piece beginning on page 3.

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MUFON

Mutual UFO Network

UFO JOURNAL

DECEMBER 2010

No. 512 \$5

Niagara County Survey

Getting a clue: UFO study narrows geographical focus, eyes links to six key factors

By Philip Haseley, Isabel Beehler & Katherine Shorey

AFTER 60 YEARS, investigation of the UFO mystery desperately needs a new direction. Despite overwhelming numbers of case reports, media investigations into UFO “flaps,” and government inquiries both public and covert, we still don’t have a satisfactory model for understanding this puzzling phenomenon.

Effort certainly has not been lacking.

Statistical studies of UFO reports have been critically scrutinized. Surveys of the public’s UFO experiences by polling organizations in the United States and abroad have been ongoing since 1947. For the past three decades, studies of the psycho-social characteristics of abductees have held center stage.

Most notable—and controversial—was the 1992 national survey of UFO- and abduction-related phenomena conducted by the Roper organization with analysis by Budd Hopkins, David Michael Jacobs, and Ron Westrum. This study asserted that 3.7-million Americans suffer from “UFO abduction syndrome.” It was a big step in quantifying and seeking patterns

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- 6** bodily transport through solid objects



UFO JOURNAL

USPS 002-970

ISSN 0270-6822

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40meters — 7.237 MHz

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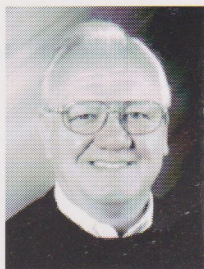
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MUFON UFO Journal is published monthly
by the Mutual UFO Network, Inc.,
Greeley, CO.

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

Let's pause to count our many blessings

By Clifford Clift

'TIS THE SEASON to be thankful, and to look with great expectation to the approaching New Year.

At this joyful time of year, I remember how many blessings my family and I have received in 2010—and I also consider how greatly MUFON has been blessed. I recall how far MUFON has come this past year due to our organization's wonderful supporters, volunteers, and members. I don't have enough room to list all the people for whom I am thankful, but I will start.

Janice Currie, the *Journal's* editor, has given MUFON a responsible, professionally edited monthly publication filled with useful information and well-researched articles. This issue, for example, features a cover story examining a survey of Niagara County, New York, residents and their UFO-related experiences. And don't miss the conclusion of a fascinating article about MUFON's investigation

of a multi-generational abduction case. Part two of that story begins on page 4.

I also am thankful for all of the MUFON members, as well as state directors, assistant state directors, and members of the board of directors who have donated money to MUFON. I'm especially grateful, however, for their untiring efforts to make MUFON a better and more professional organization.

Thanks to these people, MUFON now is in a sound financial position, and we are operating a more professional organization.

We also have a new Star Team, a Web site, and a radio network. CMS II is almost ready, and the new manuals for state directors and for field investigators are nearly complete. Our communication between MUFON members continues to improve. These are just a few of the items for which I am thankful.

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Seriously—why *do* military jets chase UFOs?

By Larry Cates

MILITARY JETS have been chasing UFOs for 60-plus years now. With nimble choreography, UFOs can easily outmaneuver and outdistance our best aerial peddle-to-the-metal technology. Why does the military persist? What's the payoff?

The Extraterrestrial Hypothesis has been around a long time. ET won't go away, and neither will the jets. If UFOs consist of

genuinely advanced technology, then it becomes clear that the ETs have it, the military wants it, and the ETs aren't talking.

The military chases suggest a mission to get closer to UFOs, perhaps within weapons range. There have been documented attempts to shoot down UFOs, but there surely are other ways to access that technology besides blowing it up.

Reverse engineering of ET technology might be akin to asking Thomas Edison to reverse engineer some integrated chip such as IBM's 5 Gigahertz z196 quad-core processor—after it's been hit with a hammer. It's doubtful that even the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) could reassemble this Humpty Dumpty.

DARPA's original mission, inspired by the Soviet Union beating the United States into space with Sputnik in 1957, was to prevent technological surprise. Today DARPA's mission also includes



creating technological surprise for adversaries of the United States. DARPA's main strategy is to search worldwide for revolutionary high-payoff ideas and then sponsor projects bridging the gap between discovery and military capability.

Staying within the known laws of physics doesn't appear to be a primary concern. This isn't to say DARPA is desperate to fund ludicrous projects. Their guidelines guarantee project viability, but one wonders if they have hidden guidelines they aren't discussing.

Let's revisit a more innocent era in UFO history when the Air Force got caught with their drawers on the ground. You may know about the events of July 1952 with the UFO *blitzkrieg* on Washington, D.C. UFOs buzzed over D.C. skies, even entering restricted airspace over the White House and the Capitol, on July 19 and 20 and again, more pointedly on July 26 and 27. The unparalleled publicity created an

avalanche of commotion. It even prompted then-President Harry Truman to ask what the dickens was going on. This hornets' nest fell on the Air Force brass, pressuring them to convene a hastily assembled press conference on July 29. The mandate, of course, was to explain the hullabaloo.

With evidence of multiple unknown radar contacts, multiple visual reports, and lots of scrambling jets on two consecutive weekends, the press conference was a flimsy house of cards. Not a single eyewitness was present. Giving credit where it's due, Air Force General John A. Samford managed enough razzle-dazzle to eliminate pestering from the press.

Nevertheless, he let slip that the military was "getting good observations on things that radar is not intended to observe." While he admitted that what was seen on radar was unknown, he implied a context of some natural yet not understood cause, like northern lights.

Then, oddly, he discussed plans to better understand radar readings in terms of equipping jets with cameras having diffraction gratings. Cameras with diffraction gratings are used to analyze waves of visible light, not radar microwaves. While the press conference tried to muddle the relationship between

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Two brothers continue to witness UFOs and to

[*Editor's Note: Part I of this story appeared in the October Journal. MUFON's investigation of the Reed family's stories paints a picture of some of the most compelling abductions by aliens that have yet been documented.*]

By **Steven White**

THOMAS REED HAS EXPERIENCED numerous UFO sightings. In 1970 he saw a cigar-shaped object in Southfield, Massachusetts. In 1973 or 1974, he and a friend watched a fireball Thomas describes as "the size of a Volkswagen" come toward them at 50 to 70 miles per hour from a mile or so away. The fireball shot up to clear a three-story house then dove toward the back of the house.

Sightings Stop, Then Restart

In 1982, Thomas was injured in a car accident, and all sightings stopped. Eleven years later, the sightings just as mysteriously began recurring.

In 1993, Thomas and his wife (the couple have since divorced) were traveling in their car in Connecticut. Thomas' wife observed the moon on her right. She then turned to face Thomas, who was driving, and saw what she thought was the moon on the left side of the car. She looked back toward the right and saw the actual moon. When she looked left again, the other object was there momentarily, then it shot off straight up in the sky. This was related by Thomas' ex-wife in a telephone interview.

In February of this year, Thomas awoke about 2 a.m. and found his body in the air with his legs pointing toward the ceiling. He said he felt as though he were being returned from an abduction.

She related some other strange incidents as well, which were verified by Thomas.

When the couple's son was about a month old and still was unable to turn himself over by his own power, she went in to check on him in the night. She is certain that she had placed the baby on his back, but when she walked into the nursery, the infant inexplicably was on his stomach. On another occasion, when the child was about the same age, his mother went in to feed him at night, leaving Thomas sleeping soundly in their bedroom. Her son was in his crib, but the rocking chair near the crib was rocking back and forth. She was very frightened by this and couldn't explain how it could have happened.

In 1994, the couple lived in Fort Myers, Florida, where they attended a MUFON meeting at Thomas' request. Thomas took along some papers on which he had drawn some

symbols that he had seen inside an alien ship when he was a child. Thomas' former wife doesn't know what happened to the papers. She is an intelligent and very credible witness, with a professional job.

The couple had only the one son, who appears to possess astounding mental and physical abilities. He is a capable athlete and also has demonstrated some psychic abilities. In 2004, he told Thomas that he had a vision of a white car in their neighborhood with four thugs in it who didn't belong in the area. Two days later, Thomas and his son were in their front yard, and they observed a white car similar to the one his son had described with four rough-looking characters driving slowly through the neighborhood.

Nosebleeds, Streetlights

Thomas' son has had nosebleeds most of his life. Some are severe enough to cause large bloodstains on his pillow cases.

Often when Thomas' son drives or rides in a car underneath streetlights, they pop off, as though he is generating some sort of static charge.

His son has another mental ability that seems quite out of the ordinary. On one occasion, I chose four random numbers and scrambled them. I then chose one of the four numbers and withheld it, and told the other three numbers to Thomas' son. After a short pause, he told me the missing number. I have observed him do this with two other persons, and he was right both times. It's as though he can read thoughts.

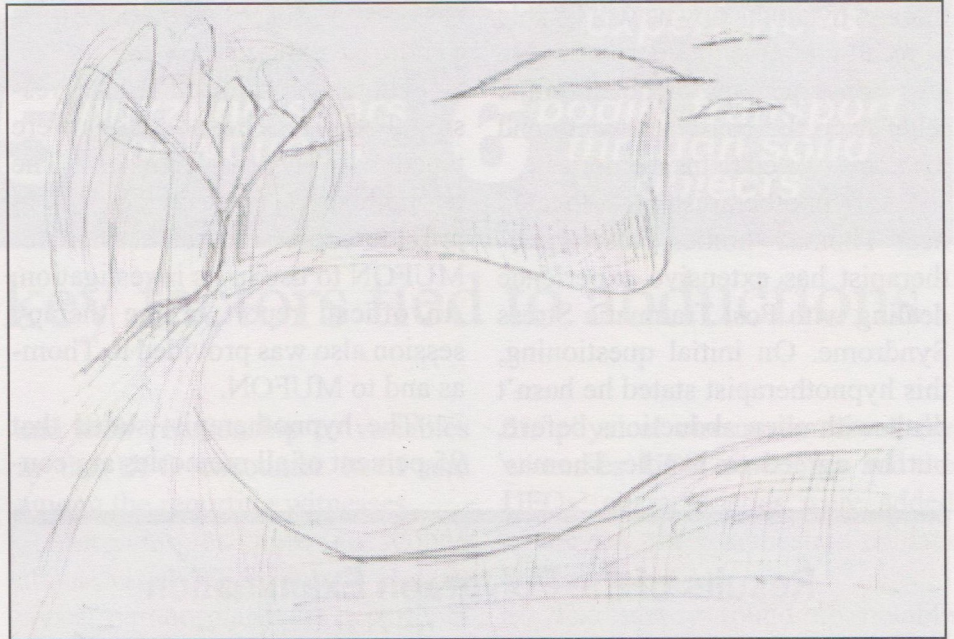
experience other strange, inexplicable incidents

In February of this year, Thomas awoke about 2 a.m. in his home in Knoxville, Tennessee. His body was in the air with his legs pointing toward the ceiling. Thomas grabbed the headboard of his bed and held on. He said that he felt as though he were being returned from an abduction, but he doesn't recall any other details to support that he was abducted at that time.

In the course of my MUFON investigation, I saw Thomas' finger marks in the dust on his headboard and photographed them for the CMS file. I also photographed two marks on Thomas's arm, which look like small scoop-type scars. Thomas does not know where they came from, but he doesn't believe they were caused by either of his two car accidents.

Thomas' brother Matthew recalls that in June or July of 2009, he saw a UFO while driving near his home in Brownsburg, Indiana. Matthew said that he lost one hour and 20 minutes of time after he saw the UFO. One minute he was driving home, then suddenly, he was out of his truck standing with mud on his boots in a field not on his typical route home. He doesn't know how he got there and is confused about what happened to him.

Matthew reported that his truck has had electrical problems and he had to replace his dashboard gauges as though they had been fried from too much electricity. Since the accident, the analog hand of his formerly very accurate Casio digital/analog watch shows the correct time,



Thomas' drawing of the willow-tree scene he says he was shown during his first abduction experience in 1966. In addition to Thomas, several members of the family find that willow trees exert a powerful calming effect on them.

but the digital part of the watch is an hour off.

Matthew reported this incident to MUFON at Thomas' urging, and the case is under current investigation. Thomas said that investigators, in connection with Matthew's case, have videotaped a compass spinning over Matthew's truck.

Willow Trees

Matthew mentioned something that he says is unique to him and other members of his family. Since their strange encounters, all of them have developed a fascination with willow trees. At every house where they have lived, they either have or plant willow trees. Matthew can't explain this, but he wanted to pass the information along.

According to Matthew, the incident in 1966 changed his family, Thomas most of all. Matthew hopes that the MUFON investigation will bring his brother some comfort.

Thomas requested that MUFON set up hypnotherapy sessions for him and a polygraph examination. It was explained to Thomas that this would have to be done at his own expense, since MUFON lacks funding for those procedures. Thomas agreed.

Thomas said that he wanted to undergo these examinations in order to validate his claims regarding his abductions and subsequent strange incidents. He wants to prove to himself and to the world that he is telling the truth. He hopes that

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Thomas has sought hypnosis, polygraph testing

Continued from page 5

through hypnotherapy he will be able to recall more than he does now. He also hopes perhaps to obtain some relief from the constant anxiety and insomnia related to his memories.

A hypnotherapist was located near Thomas' home. This hypnotherapist has extensive experience dealing with Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome. On initial questioning, this hypnotherapist stated he hasn't dealt with alien abductions before, but he agreed to handle Thomas'

case as a Post Traumatic Stress Syndrome experience.

Thomas completed two regression therapies. These sessions were taped with Thomas' consent. The hypnotherapist consented as well to provide copies of each session for MUFON to use in its investigation. An official report of the therapy session also was provided to Thomas and to MUFON.

The hypnotherapist stated that 95 percent of all memories are con-

scious memories and that hypnosis is able to add only small details.

Thomas also brought his son to the hypnotherapist. After interviewing and assessing Thomas' son, the hypnotherapist supplied Thomas with a report stating that the young man appears exceptional with some extraordinary mental abilities.

Investigator's Opinion

In September, Thomas and Matthew attended the Tennessee MUFON conference, where they related their story in a professional manner using Power Point presentations. They did this at their own expense.

It is the opinion of this investigator that this family of professionals has undergone some extraordinary events both individually and as a family. Although Thomas appears to be the main target of the abductions, all of the family members have been affected. All of them except Thomas have for some reason tried to suppress their memories. They all have agreed to come forward for Thomas' benefit.

Thomas said that he desires to have his story told in order that it may perhaps benefit him now and others in some unforeseen way in the future. It is this investigator's belief that all the witnesses interviewed are telling the truth. ■

Steven White is a field investigator in Tennessee. He retired in 2006 as a detective for the Miami-Dade Police Department in Miami, Florida.

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Results of the Polygraph Examination

A professional polygraph examiner was located in Tennessee. The examiner is a retired police officer who has worked in the polygraph field more than 20 years. He uses the computer method of polygraphs. He had never before done a polygraph on purported alien abductees, and he appeared skeptical. The following is the examiner's written narrative portion of the polygraph examination:

During the pretest interview Mr. Reed recounted several encounters that are believed to involve aliens from space. After listening to the details concerning each encounter or events, it was decided that the encounter that was the most detailed would be the focus of this examination. The event occurred in 1966 in Massachusetts. He gave many details concerning the abduction, being on a space ship, and being confronted by aliens. The questions for this exam are focusing on whether or not he is deliberately lying to this examiner about the encounter and being on the spacecraft.

Relevant Questions

Question 1: Have you intentionally lied to me today about your 1966 experiences concerning the craft? **Answer:** No.

Question 2: Is your statement to me about your 1966 experience on the craft an intentional lie on your part? **Answer:** No.

Results

The subject received a polygraph examination on the date indicated above, resulting in the following Final Call: No Deception Indicated to the above questions.

- 1** vivid UFO dreams
- 2** paranormal-light experiences
- 3** sleep paralysis & 'presence' experiences
- 4** missing-time episodes
- 5** puzzling scars or wounds
- 6** bodily transport through solid objects

Examining six key factors tied to abductions

Continued from page 1

in what previously was a remarkably obscure aspect of human experience. Yet much of what UFO investigators "know" remains poorly quantified and impossible to study comparatively. Local and regional populations have received virtually no attention from UFO researchers.

This is surprising because studies of local populations are a staple of disciplines as diverse as political science, epidemiology, and evolutionary biology, and often offer clues to unlocking the nature of the phenomena being studied that are invisible in broader surveys. Many problems of interest in ufology, such as UFO "hot spots" and relationships to ecological variables, can profitably be studied in no other way.

About This Survey

This survey seeks to obtain a statistical portrait of the UFO experiences of the adult residents of Niagara County, New York. It also looked for patterns of association between the characteristics of UFO encounters and demographic and familial factors of UFO witnesses.

Attention focused on six factors linked to the abduction experience

and their relationship to variables in the UFO encounter itself and among the reporting witnesses.

Interviewees were questioned about vivid UFO dream experiences, paranormal-light experiences, paranormal-sleep paralysis and "presence" experiences. Questions about extended missing-time episodes and puzzling scars or wounds of undetermined origin also were included. In addition, a question about witness reports of "bodily transport through solid objects" was included as a sixth factor.

All six factors are part and parcel of UFO-abduction stories, though the transport factor is much more rare than the other factors. This factor seems entirely characteristic of abduction stories and lacks the ambiguity of reference and context surrounding the 1992 Hopkins survey questions about "flying through the air" and "out of body" experiences.

Is Kinship Relative?

Niagara County residents also were surveyed concerning UFO experiences of their kin relatives. A series of questions concerned with

the physical circumstances of the witnesses' UFO experience and the UFOs' characteristics were added in the last three semesters of data collection.

The survey found no notable relationship between UFO experience and any demographic factor except age. Individuals over age 45 were significantly more likely to report UFO encounters than younger individuals. This may purely be due to a longer life and greater opportunity, but it may be that younger interviewees were more reluctant to disclose their experiences to age-group peers who interviewed them.

High Number of Witnesses

UFO witnesses constitute 16.7 percent of the full sample. This is higher than in earlier national surveys, where the percentage of UFO witnesses in samples ranged from 7 to 14 percent. Niagara County researchers believe this reflects a genuinely higher frequency of unidentified light phenomena observed over Lake Ontario and the Niagara River. Researchers acknowledge, however, that despite its rural

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How do UFO witnesses, non-witnesses differ

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nature, Niagara County has a surprisingly large amount of air traffic. Niagara Falls is home to both a commercial airport and an Air Force base, and Niagara County is in close proximity to International Airports in Buffalo, New York, and Toronto. There are numerous smaller regional and private airports on both sides of the border as well. This situation offers opportunities for misidentification that are an unknowable percentage of the total.

Witnesses vs. Non-Witnesses

Of primary concern is how UFO witnesses differ from non-witnesses in their experience of the six factors that are the focus of the Niagara County survey. These six factors are reported in witnesses and non-witnesses alike, but not with the same frequency. UFO witnesses were far more likely to experience all of these unusual phenom-

ena than were non-witnesses. In fact, this is significant statistically at a probability of less than .0001 for all six factors.

Moreover, UFO witnesses with three or more sightings were more likely than witnesses with only one or two encounters to experience four of these factors. These four factors include UFO dreams, paranormal-light encounters, missing-time episodes, and puzzling wounds or scars. A fifth factor, paranormal sleep paralysis, borders on statistical significance as well.

The difference between these two groups of UFO witnesses can be seen in another way. Witnesses with two or fewer UFO encounters who had at least one experience of a factor numerically exceeded chance expectations by 95.5 percent, averaged over all six factors. That same average for witnesses with three or more UFO encoun-

ters was 276 percent greater than chance expectation. These results were not affected by statistical control for any demographic factor, and they were significant in all the semester samples, the Niasamp, and the full data set.

Family Associations

Among other findings were associations between kinship and married relatives and the UFO experience. The survey indicates UFO witnesses were much more likely to have biological family members who have had UFO encounters than non-witnesses.

All categories of relatives contributed to this finding with greater than expected numbers of UFO witnesses, with grandparent/parent experiencers (84 percent) and those with multiple relatives who were UFO experiencers (285 percent) at the extremes of the distri-

What Kind of Place Is Niagara County?

Niagara County is located in the extreme northwestern corner of New York State. Bounded on the north by Lake Ontario and on the west by the Niagara River, it shares a common boundary with southern Ontario, Canada. Primarily a rural county, it has a steady stream of tourists visiting the largest of its three cities to view the natural wonders of Niagara Falls. The 2000 census recorded a resident population of approximately 220,000 with an adult population (those age 18 and over) of 165,000.

The area boasts a rich history of UFO events, going back to 1833 when a group of awestruck visitors on both sides of the border watched a large, luminous square object hover over the Falls.

As is true of Lake Erie to the southwest, Lake Ontario has been continuously associated with unusual lights and more rarely with unidentified craft hovering, diving, and emerging from its depths. In the 1960s and '70s, UFOs regularly were observed near the massive Niagara Power Project and in the city of Niagara Falls near the now-defunct Bell Aerospace plant, an important cog in the Mercury and Gemini space programs

Niagara County has had its share of close encounters, rumors of crashed saucers, and reported abductions. Along the lake shore, unidentified light phenomena continue to be so common that many residents consider these hardly worth comment.

in regard to key factors related to abductions?

bution. These results were significant for three of the four semester samples, the Niasamp and the full data set.

Again, UFO witnesses with three or more encounters were significantly more likely to have relatives with a UFO encounter than those witnesses with only one or two encounters. Notably this was due to an excess of children and multiple relatives who had UFO sightings among the group of witnesses with three or more UFO encounters.

UFO witnesses were much more likely to have a spouse who was a UFO witness than were non-witnesses. The survey, however, did not find that UFO witnesses with three or more encounters were significantly more likely to have UFO-reporting spouses than were UFO witnesses with one or two encounters. The overall difference between UFO witnesses and non-witnesses was significant for all four semester samples, the Niasamp, and the full data set. All of these results were unaffected by statistical control for demographic factors.

Relationship to Distance

Accurate distance estimation—even with recent observation—always is a matter of doubt. After a passage of time, the matter often becomes an exercise in frustration. The Niagara County survey did find some associations between UFO distance from the viewer and the six UFO-related factors.

UFO witnesses whose closest encounter was 500 feet or less were

Witnesses with three or more encounters were significantly more likely to have relatives with a UFO encounter.

significantly more likely to report missing-time episodes and transport experiences than those whose encounters were at distances greater than 500 feet.

There also were excesses of “close encounter” witnesses reporting paranormal-light encounters and UFO dream experiences that did not reach statistical significance.

Time of Day

Relationships also were explored between distance and time of day of the UFO observation. When distance was broken down into three categories (500 feet or less from the UFO, 500 feet to one mile away, and greater than one mile away), a significant association was found between distance and the time of the UFO observation.

The result primarily was due to a 37-percent excess of witnesses with daytime UFO encounters at 500 feet or less and a 51 percent excess of witnesses with dawn or dusk encounters with UFOs at 500 feet to one mile. The latter were in considerable excess in two of the three semester samples where data was collected, and in the Niasamp and the full data set.

Puzzling Results

One of the more interesting and puzzling results concerned the number of UFOs seen in an observer’s closest encounter and that number’s association with the six UFO-related factors.

UFO witnesses who observed more than one UFO in their closest encounter had a far greater likelihood of experiencing five of the six survey factors than those whose closest encounter involved a single UFO. The lone exception—puzzling scars and wounds—still is very near the accepted level of significance.

To illustrate further, in 16 of the 18 factor/sample combinations, there was an excess of multiple-UFO observers who reported having that experience. In 11 of 18, these are statistically significant excesses. Similarly, in the Niasamp sample, three of six factors show significant excess of multiple-UFO observers and all factors do show some excess of those UFO observers who reported having had the factor experience.

Five of the six survey factors previously were used by Hopkins, Jacobs, and Westrum as markers for the abduction experience. It may be that a multiple-UFO encounter also may be an alert signal for possible abduction experiences. Its usefulness will need to be tested against a variety of abduction witnesses and their stories.

It is interesting to note, however, that the multiple-UFO observation seems more closely associated

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A consistent link is found between abduction-

Continued from page 9

with these six marker factors than other possible precursors to abduction that have been examined.

Having a UFO sighting at less than 500 feet and seeing a structured craft are both experiences that one might expect to be frequently reported by abductees. Sighting a UFO at less than 500 feet has a significant relationship with two factors, while seeing a structured craft has a significant relationship with one factor. Multiple-UFO encounters, on the other hand, are significantly associated with five of six factors.

Summary

The Niagara County survey found the six test factors to have a highly significant link to the UFO experience in the Niagara County sample. UFO witnesses were significantly more likely to experience all six UFO-related factors than non-witnesses.

Those UFO witnesses who had three or more encounters had significantly greater likelihood of having UFO dreams, paranormal-light encounters, missing-time episodes, and puzzling wounds and scars than witnesses with only one or two UFO encounters.

The survey found UFO witnesses were significantly more likely to have biological relatives and spouses who also had UFO experiences. UFO witnesses with three or more sightings were much more likely to have relatives who also had UFO experiences than were those witnesses with only one or two UFO sightings. These results are consistent over semester samples and in the Niasamp representative sample as well.

The survey found that “close encounter” witnesses (those who observed UFOs at 500 feet or less) were significantly more likely to

experience missing-time episodes and transport experiences than witnesses who observed UFOs at a greater distance.

A significant relationship was found between distance from the UFO and the time of the encounter. Daytime UFO encounters of 500 feet or less, and dawn or dusk UFO encounters at distances between 500 feet and one mile, were in considerable excess over chance proportions.

Finally, the Niagara County survey found that witnesses whose closest encounter featured multiple UFOs rather than a single UFO were statistically much more likely to experience five of the six UFO-related factors than single-UFO witnesses.

The abduction-related markers are much more closely associated with multiple UFO observations than such measures as viewing a

Methods Used for Collection and Analysis of Data

Analysis is based upon four independent data samples collected in four consecutive semesters in 2008-09 by student volunteer researchers recruited from anthropology classes at Niagara County Community College. Each semester new volunteers were trained in basic interview techniques, in reading non-verbal cues, and in administration and use of the prepared survey form.

Lack of funds and access to experienced research personnel made the use of student interviewers the best alternative for data collection. Each semester's sample, though independently collected by different volunteers, is what is disparagingly called a “convenience” sample with unknown devia-

tions from random sampling. Inference from such samples to a larger population is statistically questionable. The Niagara County survey's claims are based upon consistency of results across multiple samples independently taken.

A randomly drawn sample (referred to in the main article as the Niasamp) was created from the full data set. The Niasamp closely matches the proportions of the Niagara County population in sex, age, race, and education. Any Niasamp results consistent with those in the semester samples confirm analyses in a sample that is not biased for any of the demographic variables pertaining to the study population.

related markers, multiple UFO observations

UFO from a distance of 500 feet or less, or viewing a structured craft. Again, these findings are consistent over various samples tested and in the full data set.

This study illustrates again the separate status of the “repeater” UFO witness, in this case those with three or more encounters. The personal experiences of UFO investigators have linked these UFO witnesses with a host of paranormal phenomena. The strong association found between paranormal-light encounters, sleep paralysis, and presence episodes in these multiple-encounter UFO witnesses reinforces this connection.

Researchers' Conclusions

Niagara County researchers suggest that UFO experiences are part of a greater paranormal complex whose boundaries are not confined to abductees or even to UFO witnesses collectively. To date, the American research community has pursued investigation of UFO links to the paranormal with the greatest of reluctance. This is understandable since fears that ufology might be carried yet further to the margins of scientific respectability are not without foundation.

Uneasiness about the continued viability of the much-treasured Extraterrestrial Hypothesis also may be at work, the researchers speculate. Nonetheless, they believe that it is necessary to pursue the data wherever it leads if progress is to be made. Niagara County researchers are of the opinion that greater interaction with those involved in

Questions from the Survey

In the following questions, participants were asked how often the following experiences had happened to them. They could choose from possible answers of a) has happened once or twice, b) has happened more than twice, c) has never happened, and d) don't know or no response.

- Seeing an unidentified flying object (UFO).
- Having vivid dreams about unidentified flying objects (UFOs).
- Seeing unusual lights or balls of light in a room without knowing what was causing them or where they came from.
- Waking up paralyzed with a sense of a strange person or presence or something else in the room.
- Have you ever experienced a period of time of an hour or more of which you have absolutely no memory, i.e. cannot remember where you were, and don't know why you don't remember (not due to alcohol, illness, or drug use)?
- Have you experienced the sensation of being physically transported through a wall, ceiling, or other solid object while you felt you were fully conscious and aware?
- Have you found puzzling wounds or scars on your body and neither you nor anyone else remembers how you received them or where you got them?

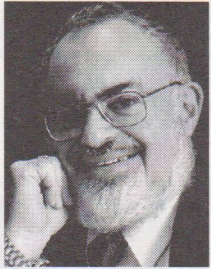
other areas of paranormal research as well as access to those researchers' findings would be most fruitful.

Niagara County researchers certainly are aware of some of the deficiencies of their survey. They admit that the use of inexperienced student interviewers to collect data, resulting in samples with deviations from random sampling, is far from ideal. Nonetheless, the survey samples have been independently collected, and they are large in size. For the most important findings, the Niagara County samples are consistent in what they indicate.

It is the researchers' hope that others will take the study of local

populations further and do it better. With forethought, an informative and systematic set of local studies can be carried out and the results directed toward answering all kinds of UFO-research questions. Ufology then can advance, adding with each new study collective weight and coherence to the case for UFO reality. ■

Philip Haseley is a professor of anthropology at Niagara County Community College in New York and section director for Western New York MUFON. Isabel Beehler and Katherine Shorey are field investigators for Western New York.



In a recent debate concerning UFOs, a

By Stanton Friedman

THE EDMONTON (ALBERTA) SUN and in other Sun papers in Canada recently published a debate between Chris Rutkowski, an astronomer affiliated with the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg, and American Robert Schaeffer.

Rutkowski has for years been collecting and publishing an annual report concerning sightings from all over Canada. He also has published books about UFOs and, as befits his academic affiliation, he is very conservative in his conclusions. Schaeffer has been closely connected for many years with the old debunking group the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal (CSICOP), which now is known as the Committee for Skeptical Inquiry (CSI).

In brief, Rutkowski believes that a number of UFO sightings are worthy of scientific investigation. He carefully avoids saying any are alien spacecraft.

Schaeffer clearly indicates all reports of UFO sightings are baloney. In the past he's made false claims about the Betty and Barney Hill case, the JAL1628 case in Alaska, and many others. He was a close associate of the late Philip Klass, who also was a debunker associated with CSICOP.

Both Rutkowski and Schaeffer framed the debate around the questions "What are UFOs?" or "Are all UFOs ET spacecraft?"

The proper question to be debating, however, is this: "Are any UFOs intelligently controlled extraterrestrial spacecraft?" In every other field of science we focus on data relevant to the problem. The question is not "Do all chemicals cure disease?" but "Do any?" It's not "Are all isotopes fissionable?" but "Are any?"

Rutkowski mentioned "Project Blue Book Special Report 14" but failed to cite any of its very impressive data. He also referred to the National Aviation Reporting Center for Aerial Phenomena (NARCAP). Schaeffer cited no sources.

Both wanted more data to make the case for UFOs, such as a UFO sitting low in the sky for a long period of time, seen by thousands of people, and photographed by many.

Things Not Mentioned

Neither Rutkowski nor Schaeffer seemed to feel that significant data about UFOs are being withheld by the government, although if some UFOs are ET spacecraft known to the government, data about those UFOs obviously would be withheld.

There was no mention of the 160 pages of pre-1980 top-secret code word NSA UFO documents, on which one can read only one sentence per page because the rest of the information has been whited out. There was no mention of the many top-secret CIA UFO docu-

ments with all but a few words totally blacked out. And there was no mention of General C.H. Bolerender's statement in which he said reports about UFOs that could affect National Security were not part of the Blue Book System.

Rutkowski said there is no incontrovertible evidence to prove that aliens are visiting earth. Why must the evidence be incontrovertible? There are a myriad of cases that cannot be identified as conventional phenomena. Appearances from all over the world suggest these involve manufactured objects whose clearly intelligently controlled behavior indicates they are not made on Earth—ergo, they are of ET origin. If they were ours, they would be used in warfare.

No mention was made of physical-trace cases or of radar-visual cases or of pictures that pass muster. A criminal court judge once told me only a very small percentage of cases before him involved such incontrovertible evidence as DNA or fingerprints. "We depend on eyewitness testimony with prosecutors and defense attorneys following various rules of procedure to determine the truth," the judge said.

Anyone looking at cases of identified UFOs knows that these depend on accepting eyewitness reports as being reasonably accurate. It is only reasonable to say that witnesses also are accurate when one can't find a conventional explana-

great many pertinent facts were not mentioned

tion—especially when the data show that the higher the quality of the sighting, the more likely it involves a truly unidentified object.

Schaeffer is willing to accept that a UFO landing on the White House lawn would be convincing, but he wants one to sit at low altitude to be seen and photographed by myriads of people. In other words, flying saucers would have to do what we wanted in order to provide convincing evidence of their existence. This is akin to politely asking a bank robber to remove his mask and show some identification before leaving the bank.

No Definitive Evidence?

Rutkowski made this comment: “It is not reasonable to conclude a UFO crashed on Earth in 1947. We don’t have enough definitive evidence to conclude anything like that happened.”

We don’t have definitive evidence? Of course we do. We have testimony from respectable people directly involved, like retired General Thomas Jefferson DuBose, Chief of Staff to the head of the 8th Air Force; from Major Jesse Marcel, intelligence officer of the 509th, who handled wreckage himself; from Walter Haut, navigator and bombardier who also worked in public relations for the 509th, and from ranchers.

Clearly, if an alien spacecraft was involved, pieces and analysis

Do flying saucers have to do what we want in order to provide convincing evidence for their existence?

would not be made available outside of classified channels. That has major security implications.

Schaeffer provided a real gem: “The universe is unimaginably vast, and the best estimates are that intelligent civilizations would be thousands of light-years apart. That implies travelling for thousands of years at the speed of light.”

Best estimates by whom? What nonsense. We have no directory of advanced civilizations or their travel plans, but we certainly know that there are about 2,000 stars within only 54 light-years, or more than 1 million within 1,000 light-years. The neighborhood is crawling with stars, at least 5 percent of which are similar to our Sun and would be expected to have planets. New planets are being found all the time as our observational techniques steadily have improved. The total already stands at more than 450.

In 1969 Edward Condon in the *Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects* stated: “We are quite unable to directly observe any planets associated with stars other than

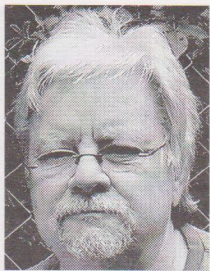
the sun.” He also claimed: “We consider that it is safe to assume that no ILE (intelligent life elsewhere) outside of our solar system has any possibility of visiting Earth in the next 10,000 years.”

That truly absurd statement is a splendid example of what I call dart-board physics. Condon also never bothered to mention that 30 percent of the cases his people investigated couldn’t be identified. The rules for him and Schaeffer appear to be: “Don’t bother me with the facts, my mind is made up,” and “What the public doesn’t know, I am not going to tell them.”

TV Show about Roswell

A television station in Albuquerque, New Mexico, recently carried a piece about Roswell. It’s “expert” was Dave Thomas, a debunker who referred to authors Tom Carey and Donald Schmitt as “discredited.” One could argue about some details in their book *Witness to Roswell*, but “discredited”? By whom?

The focus of the TV show was an archeological dig by the University of New Mexico at the Foster Ranch crash site, which unearthed no evidence. Why would any rational person expect wreckage of a crashed alien spacecraft to be found more than 40 years after the fact? Surely one would not expect such valuable material just to be left laying around? The security implications would be enormous. ■



outside the box

Close encounters: New mysteries focus on tarps, lights, and a really big bird

By Ted Phillips

ON THE EVENING of January 15, I had placed imaging units 15 feet outside a shed close to an area of intense activity involving cattle. The units were covering two fields of interest, and I was trying to keep the extremely cold wind out of the very old shed. I placed tarps over a doorway opening with no door, and around the west end and south side of the structure, where there was only wire screen instead of walls. The tarps were suspended with bungee cords. This kept the wind out but the shed remained quite cold.

At 9:10 p.m. I was watching the monitors and decided to make a video sweep of the equipment. I finished that about five minutes later and shut down the camcorder. Suddenly, I heard an extremely loud sound like air being forced through an almost-closed valve. It clearly came from the south and passed the southwest corner of the shed, then continued toward the north. The sound dropped off, as you would expect, when it passed in front of my location. It moved past the doorway opening, and instantly there was silence.

As I was catching my breath and pausing for my blood pressure to drop back down to normal, I heard what sounded like the flapping of the biggest wings I could imagine. Never in my life have I heard anything like it. The flapping sound lasted for perhaps 20 seconds

and was followed by silence. I ran outside, but I could see no sign of any giant bird or flying creature. The night was very quiet.

I started writing down everything that I could remember, and I recalled a witness in Marley Woods hearing a similar sound. After a few minutes, I stood up to turn up the propane lantern a bit.

Crashing Noises

There was an incredible crashing sound at the southwest corner of the shed. It sounded like something quite large and heavy was walking rapidly through brush and branches. The steps seemed to be robotic, nothing like any human or animal I've heard before. The crashing sounds continued until whatever was making the noise stopped in front of the doorway opening covered by the hanging tarp.

At first I thought the sounds must have been made by the ranch employee who lived only feet away. Then I remembered that he had left two hours earlier in a very loud pickup truck, and I had not heard his truck return.

I moved toward the doorway opening until I stood about eight feet from the hanging tarp, and I gave out a loud hello. I received no response, so I uttered a louder hello. This time I received a response, but it was not the one I wanted.

Slowly, eight feet in front of me and at eye level, an indentation no

more than two inches in diameter was appearing on the tarp. It was pushing the tarp in and back, creating an opening between the tarp and the door frame as if someone was about to look around the opening at me. This continued until the tarp was pushed back to create an opening nearly 10 inches wide.

I knew whatever was on the other side of the doorway opening could see my shadow through the tarp because I was standing in front of the lantern. I had a 9mm automatic pistol in one hand. With my other hand I was about to chamber a shell. Whatever it was stood there about 20 seconds before it moved, returning the tarp to its normal position. I held the gun up so it was projecting a shadow on the tarp that anyone with a brain could identify.

As my heart rate was coming back down, the tarp once again was disturbed, but this time it was pulled away from the door frame leaving a larger opening. Again, no face appeared. Whatever was there had to know there was a guy with a gun on the other side of the tarp.

My impression was that someone or something on the other side of the tarp was trying to decide what to do. After many—too many—seconds, the tarp fell back. I heard the sounds of lots of brush and tree limbs breaking in the area leading from the doorway opening to the north end of the shed. Then the thrashing and

crashing ended abruptly, and there was total silence.

I slowly went to the doorway and looked out. I saw nothing except broken branches and brush. I called the rest of the team, who were about 10 minutes away. I asked them not to drive or walk to the shed in case there might be tracks, but none ever were found. The broken branches revealed nothing.

A Similar Tale

Thanks to Albert Rosales, editor of the *Journal of Humanoid Studies* for permission to write about the following case. It originally was published in Vol. 1 No. 6. of the *Journal of Humanoid Studies*.

On the evening of August 26, near South Greensburg, Pennsylvania, just after dark, four people were sitting in a yard having a barbecue and enjoying the beautiful weather. Suddenly their attention was drawn skyward by a swishing or swooshing sound—or as one witness put it: “like air coming straight down.”

Several of the observers yelled out: “What the hell is that?” They were startled to see a tremendously large bird flying over a tree in the yard. The man who was doing the cooking looked up to see the creature fly above him at a height of about 40 feet. As the creature passed the tree, it veered slightly to the right to follow the road ahead, maintaining its low-level path.

When first observed, the creature’s massive wings were in an upward position and slowly were beginning to droop. The swooshing sound could be heard when the wings were moving. After the bird had flown about 125 yards down the road, its wings began coming back up. The enormous bird passed very low over a house and was lost from sight about

More about the Dogs

Over a five-day period, remote cameras imaged a small light ball in the area where the dogs are kept. The first image was taken at dusk. The property owner is seen doing the chores, and behind her a light ball the size of a baseball is clearly visible in front of some trees. The light ball has two circular lights on each side, and the light is extremely bright.

The next evening three images were taken showing a bright light high and in the distance, the second image clearly shows the circular light lower and closer. The third image has the brilliant light ball very close to the steel post where one dog is chained at night. This one is very much like the evening before with the baseball in the middle of two circular lights that appear to be attached or very close behind.

Two nights later a light ball was captured in two images. In the first the light is close to the steel post where the dog is kept, and the dog seems to be looking at the light. Three minutes later the same camera shows the light ball clearly visible on the opposite side of the post.

—T.P.

a quarter of a mile away. It took that creature about 20 seconds to go the quarter-mile distance.

The witnesses estimated that if the bird was on the ground it would stand between four-and-half to five-feet tall. Its body was dark brown or black, and its body width was 25–30 inches. It appeared “bulky and husky.” The head was oval-shaped, and the beak was short for the size of the bird. The pointed tail was about two feet long. Witnesses estimated the wings at 10 feet or longer.

The description of the sounds made by this creature are quite similar to those I heard, but I can’t believe any kind of bird could have generated the things I witnessed.

Mystery Light on Film

Near the end of October the mystery light was observed by three witnesses and for the first

time captured on video. One of the ccd units recorded the entire event lasting seven minutes and 52 seconds. The light can be seen on or very near the ground in a grove of trees. It appears as a pale oval with beams of light coming out of the top vertically.

As the light slowly rises out of the trees, it becomes bright amber. It slowly moves toward the north, becoming much larger and brighter until it leaves the camera frame. Witnesses watched the light move past that point, and they report that it turned sharply to the east and accelerated, disappearing in the distance.

Two nights later a team member and I saw a bright white light ball ascend vertically out of a field 400 to 500 feet away. When it was some 50 feet above the ground it turned with a smooth motion to the south and disappeared in some trees. ■

What military hopes to gain by chasing UFOs with jets

Continued from page 3

visual sightings and radar observations, here was an unintended and subtle association made by Samford between the mysterious lights and radar evidence. This kind of slip-up is caused by withholding the bigger picture while illustrating a puzzle of separate pieces. How sweet the innocence of the 1950s!

This is unlike today's Air Force, which still squirms at the mere mention of D.C. sightings. Ever since the Condon puppet show in the 1960s, the Air Force publicly has dumped UFOs—but the chase goes on.

Highly Developed Sensors

Today our military F-16s, F-35s, and F-whatevers are equipped with what, besides 25mm cannons? The name of the game seems to be specialized sensors designed to provide lots of information. A search in September of the DARPA Web site for projects and project solicitations related to sensors disclosed 1,410 hits. Biomedical sensors, chemical sensors, specialized magnetic sensors, sensor webs, even "quantum sensors." Where does all of this sensor development lead?

Our state-of-the-art capabilities are exemplified in this description from a Lockheed Martin F-35 brochure: "Advanced integrated avionics processing data from a variety of onboard and net-enabled, off-board sensors provide the F-35 with true 5th-generation fighter capabilities. The most powerful sensor suite ever to fly on a fighter aircraft brings a seamless real-world, real-time, 360-degree display of the bat-

lespace, with detailed information prioritized to the situation at hand, and allows the F-35 pilot to be a tactician rather than a technician."

The brochure also offers this prediction: "In the battlespace of the future, information is power. The F-35 is the first fighter in history specifically designed to be a key node in a "system of systems"—a lethal information gatherer and transmitter in a vast network."

The military no longer appears foolish enough to attempt shooting down UFOs. In the MUFON report on UFO activity around Stephenville, Texas, the F-16s all but publicly ignored the situation—yet three witnesses still reported two military jets hounding UFOs under the public radar.

The MUFON report additionally suspected an Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) plane had a bird's-eye view of events from nearly eight miles up. Such an aircraft is the epitome of electromagnetic sensing and recording. The F-16s, while older aircraft than F-35s, have god-knows-what electronic retrofits. Some information might be obtainable without a chase. Unfortunately, we civilians must guess the military data-acquisition capacity and methods as well as the information acquired.

With the military's technologically sleek eyes-in-the-sky equipment likely developed through DARPA, it isn't unreasonable to assert that whatever the military knows of any surreptitious poking about by ET, DARPA also knows.

There are 50-plus years of an intimate development-feedback loop between DARPA and the military. The question is what electromagnetically sensed data has the Air Force supplied to DARPA and what improvements to data-acquisition hardware has DARPA been able to fund on behalf of the military? The answers, in all probability, are a matter of national security.

Physics and UFOs

Electromagnetic effects associated with UFOs appear in an enormous number of reports. If UFOs are radiating and/or reflecting anything electromagnetic, it's a good bet that the Air Force is soaking it up from every point of view—digital, analog, and from every lock-on they can manage, however brief.

Massimo Teodorani, an Italian astronomer, considers radar a major means of data collection. He has suggested that the search for time correlations between measurable physical parameters could shed much valuable light on the physical mechanism that creates the UFO phenomenon. Knowledge of such physics could definitively establish whether UFOs are previously unknown natural phenomena or propelled machines.

DARPA and our military probably already have quite a lead on this. If only MUFON had similar resources. ■

Larry Cates is a MUFON field investigator from Florida.

Some may *want* to believe fraudulent UFO claims

THIS LETTER IS IN RESPONSE to Stanton Friedman's column in the October *Journal* about what motivates people to tell fraudulent UFO stories

I've never investigated any cases, but I have studied some of the better-known cases in various books and TV programs. I love Stan Friedman. He's fun to listen to, and obviously he's the "godfather" of UFO researchers.

Being a UFO researcher is a tough job. Everything has to fit, or the entire story gets discounted. UFO researchers who get taken in by a hoax see their credibility go down the drain right along with the story.

Luckily, the rest of us can decide for ourselves what makes sense. I don't pretend to know the motivations of a Philip Corso or a Bob Lazar. Since I'm not an investigator, I'm not required to subscribe to the notion that just because some parts of a story can't be verified—or even have been proven false—that means that there is no truth to any of the story or that those telling it are crackpots.

Philip Corso was a high-ranking military officer with a distinguished career. Assuming that his mind and memory still were sound when he wrote his book, he could have possessed a great deal of knowledge about government UFO investigations. Perhaps he decided to add facts from several different crashes to his report about the Roswell case, simply because Roswell would sell the most books. Maybe he did see an alien body at some time, but it wasn't from Roswell.

UFO researchers who get taken in by a hoax see their credibility go down the drain right along with the story.

Maybe it was from another crash, or maybe it wasn't at Ft. Riley. He could have changed the story just enough to avoid violating a security oath. Or maybe he was simply another government disinformation agent. I've seen him interviewed, and I admit that he does sound like a bit of a braggart—but he still could have knowledge about UFOs. Unfortunately, we'll probably never know.

Bob Lazar is an enigma. Despite being subjected to dismissal and downright ridicule, he has stuck to his story for 20 years. He doesn't appear to have profited to any great degree from it. To his credit, the guy has developed a unique hydrogen fuel system for a car that apparently works. Intuitively, this suggests a level of scientific knowledge greater than that of a mediocre student who took little more than an electronics course at a junior college.

I agree that very little is verifiable in Lazar's story, which makes it easy for investigators to dismiss him as an attention-seeker. But there are a couple of things that give one pause. There's evidence that

Lazar did work for a time at Los Alamos in some capacity. How did he get there? Even a janitor probably needs a security clearance. And assuming he wasn't a janitor, how could he have secured any position at a top-secret facility with neither enough education nor previous employment experience to meet minimum job requirements?

Maybe Lazar met someone at Los Alamos who actually worked on alien spacecraft, and Lazar decided to protect that person's identity by making the claims himself. I realize that's wild theory on my part.

Was Lazar just looking for attention? He had to know that most of his story could not be verified. Maybe he does suffer from some personality disorder that makes him conjure up stories. I'm fairly certain UFO researchers run into an inordinate number of such people. But this question leads me right back to my original one: Could such a person get a job at Los Alamos?

We're left to ponder these claims as they become part of UFO lore. They persist because of people like me, who haven't had all of the i's dotted and t's crossed to our satisfaction—or maybe we simply want to believe. —Barb Landa

editorial policy

Guest Opinions and Letters

to the Editor may be submitted by e-mail to editor@mufon.com. Please include your full name. Pieces chosen for publication may be edited for length and clarity.

CMS rankings

CONGRATULATIONS to Donald Burleson (New Mexico), Christine Dickey (Arizona), George Filer (New Jersey), Cheryl Ann Gilmore (South Carolina), Jimi Hughes (Montana), Lorna Hunter (Minnesota and South Dakota), William Jones (Ohio), William Konkolesky (Michigan), David MacDonald (Kentucky), Marie Malzahn (Idaho), Eddie Middleton (Tennessee), Brent Mitchel (Alaska), Bland Pugh (Florida), Steve Winans (Kansas), and Debbie Ziegelmeyer (Missouri) for being at 100 percent in November'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 Reeve, 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 Burleson	100 percent	28/28	31/31
2	Michigan	William Konkolesky	100 percent	118/118	112/112
3	Tennessee	Eddie Middleton	100 percent	60/60	55/55
4	Kansas	Steve Winans	100 percent	32/32	21/21
5	Ohio	William Jones	100 percent	102/102	90/90
6	Missouri	Debbie Ziegelmeyer	100 percent	94/94	73/73
7	Minnesota	Lorna Hunter	100 percent	30/30	30/30
8	Kentucky	David MacDonald	100 percent	39/39	33/33
9	Florida	Bland Pugh	100 percent	135/135	162/162
10	New Jersey	George Filer	100 percent	51/51	40/40
11	South Carolina	Cheryl Ann Gilmore	100 percent	19/19	20/20
12	South Dakota	Lorna Hunter	100 percent	4/4	3/3
13	Montana	Jimi Hughes	100 percent	13/13	16/16
14	Arizona	Christine Dickey	100 percent	102/102	117/117
15	Idaho	Marie Malzahn	100 percent	21/21	24/24
16	Alaska	Brent Mitchel	100 percent	6/6	9/9
17	Indiana	Jerry Sievers	99 percent	188/119	105/106
18	Texas	Steve Hudgeons	99 percent	174/175	186/187
19	Pennsylvania	John Ventre	99 percent	124/125	144/144
20	Georgia	Ralph Howard	98 percent	72/74	67/67
21	Oklahoma	Marilyn Carlson	98 percent	32/32	30/30
22	Oregon	Thomas Bowden	97 percent	81/81	62/65
23	West Virginia	John Ventre	96 percent	13/14	12/12
24	Utah	Elaine Douglass	96 percent	25/25	26/28
25	Iowa	Jim King	96 percent	24/26	24/24
26	California (Area 1)	Ruben Uriarte	90 percent	109/135	138/138
27	Nebraska	John Kasher	90 percent	18/21	23/24
28	Colorado	Leslie Varnicle	89 percent	66/67	45/56
29	Washington	James Clarkson	87 percent	64/81	57/59
30	Maryland	Donald Borton	85 percent	31/36	22/26
31	California	Georgeanne Cifarelli	81 percent	162/169	127/191
32	Delaware	John Ventre	75 percent	1/2	4/4
33	New Hampshire	Steve Firmani	74 percent	10/17	19/21
34	Maine	Steve Firmani	68 percent	11/18	16/21
35	Alabama	Roy Patterson	65 percent	12/31	25/27
36	Hawaii	Lorna Hunter	60 percent	5/7	1/2
37	Rhode Island	Steve Firmani	57 percent	1/7	13/13
38	Connecticut	Steve Firmani	56 percent	8/26	19/23
39	Vermont	Steve Firmani	52 percent	1/7	10/11
40	Louisiana	Vivian Walker	50 percent	30/39	6/25
41	Massachusetts	Steve Firmani	49 percent	11/42	31/43
42	Virginia	Susan Swiatek	48 percent	22/35	12/35
43	New York	Samuel Falvo	42 percent	36/90	43/96
44	Illinois	Samuel Maranto	42 percent	41/111	45/93
45	North Dakota	Lawrence Gessner	41 percent	2/4	1/3
46	Wyoming	Richard Beckwith	38 percent	3/5	1/6
47	Mississippi	Norman Walker	36 percent	2/9	5/10
48	Arkansas	Norman Walker	32 percent	7/25	12/33
49	Nevada	Ellen Bullock	17 percent	6/28	5/35
50	Wisconsin	Nathan Tomisich	5 percent	0/30	5/44



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.]

Louisiana witness reports unusual black object, large ball of white light

Lake Charles, Louisiana—About 6:45 p.m. on October 24 my husband and I were in our backyard when I noticed a black object moving over the treetops. I pointed it out to my husband. The object was slowly moving sideways. It had a glowing white tail flowing beneath it. We watched along with our children as the object sped up slightly, moved east, and then suddenly disappeared. I went into the house, but my son called me back. The object was silently hovering directly over him and my stepson. It was definitely a craft of some kind. I tried to take a photo, but the memory card on my camera was full. After a couple of minutes the object disappeared again.

Then 10 planes began circling our house as a large white bright ball of light moved fast across the sky and grew dim, turned red, and disappeared. We then saw two more "chases"—each with a fast-moving solid ball of light that disappeared. (MUFON CMS)

Sparkling soccer-ball shape seen from the air

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania—Recently I saw what looked like a metallic soccer ball flying near a commercial flight on which I was a passenger. We were descending toward the Philadelphia airport and were just east of the Delaware River when I noticed the object 150 yards away. It sparkled as it flew. I thought my eyes must be deceiving me and that the sparkly look was due to a bird flapping its wings, but it was too big to be a bird. The pilots must have seen this thing, too. It appeared to have flat spots in the same configuration as a soccer ball, and it was flying west. It was in my view for 15 seconds. (MUFON CMS)

Cigar-shaped craft seen in Lebanese photos

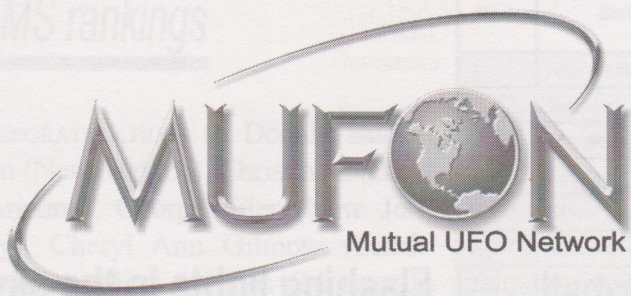
Lebanon—I took thousands of pictures of the sky over my village in southern Lebanon this summer. It's located 1000 meters above sea level. Some of my pictures contain an unusual cigar-shaped object, apparently zipping through the area at high speed. Recently I saw a bright light bigger than a star, very low, that flew away in a blink of an eye. After half an hour seven of us saw the same thing again. We now are looking at this phenomenon with an open mind. (WWW.WORLDDUFOPHOTOS.ORG)

Flashing lights in the sky draw the attention of a witness in Mongolia

Baatar, Mongolia—The afternoon of September 30, I was riding a bus and watching the sky. I saw a flashing high-intensity light. It also was ejecting some kind of dim smoke. After two minutes, the UFO disappeared. I was checking its trajectory when suddenly the object reappeared. It was a huge silver-colored disk. The object began blinking a light again and then suddenly disappeared. I called the local airport and the military radar-control tower and learned that no planes currently were landing. (WWW.UFOCENTER.ORG)

Flying 'soup can' hovers in Oklahoma skies

Midwest City, Oklahoma—At 1 p.m. on September 17, I was traveling north on Sunny Lane Road when I noticed a very white high-altitude object almost overhead. It was stationary but very high. I viewed it through both my windshield and the sunroof. Tinker Air Force Base is a couple of miles away, but this clearly was not a jet. It did not float, move, flicker or change direction. At a traffic signal I was able to watch it hover a full minute. The object was cylinder-shaped and looked like a large soup can. (WWW.UFOCENTER.COM) ■



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Indiana	48	South Dakota	3
Iowa	43	Tennessee	50
Kansas	28	Texas	162
Kentucky	22	Utah	17
Louisiana	24	Vermont	2
Maine	22	Virginia	73
Maryland	59	Washington, D.C.	6
Massachusetts	62	Washington	88
Michigan	84	West Virginia	13
Minnesota	62	Wisconsin	33
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Zecharia Sitchin dies at age 90

IN MEMORIAM: Zecharia Sitchin (July 11, 1920—October 9, 2010).

Sitchin was perhaps the best-known proponent of the paleo-contact theory, which credits humanity's origins to ancient astronauts. He was born in Russia and raised in Palestine. After studying economics in London, he worked as a journalist in Israel. He moved to New York in 1952.

From his childhood Sitchin was interested in the Mesopotamian language—the pictographs and cuneiform scripts depicting stories of the cosmos and creation, which he interpreted as literal and not mythological.

What became his life's work was jump-started by an experience when he was 9 years old and attending Bible school in Palestine. The discussion concerned a passage from Genesis (6:4-1) about the Nephilim, a Hebrew word usually translated as "giants," who married the daughters of men and had children by them.

In a 1986 radio interview, Sitchen said that when he asked his teacher: "'Why do you say giants when the word in Hebrew is Nephilim, which literally means those who had come down and does not mean giants or tall people?' the teacher said, 'Sitchin, sit down, you do not question the Bible.' But of course I did not question the Bible, I questioned an interpretation of the Bible." Thus began Sitchin's search to discover the identity of the Nephilim, which he came to believe were the Anunnaki, a race of extraterrestrials from a planet

beyond Neptune called Nibiru. He believed this planet follows a long, elliptical orbit in the Earth's solar system, passing through the inner solar system every 3,600 years.

In 1976, Sitchin produced *The 12th Planet*, the first in his seven-book Earth Chronicles series, which outlines his theory of the Annunaki and the genetically manipulated creation of mankind.

Other books by Sitchen include: *Genesis Revisited: Is Modern Science Catching Up with Ancient Knowledge?; Divine Encounters: A Guide to Visions, Angels and Other Emissaries; The Lost Book of Enki: Memories and Prophecies of an Extraterrestrial God; The Earth Chronicles Expeditions; Journeys to the Mythical Past; and The Earth Chronicles Handbook.* —J.C. ■

director's message

MUFON wishes you a joyful season

Continued from page 2

I would be remiss if I failed to thank Jan Harzan, Tomas Karlsson, and others for putting together CMS II; and also Chuck Reeve, Marie Malzahn, Dave MacDonald, and Tom Sheets for our new manuals and field investigator tests.

Now is the time of year to consider ways to reduce your federal or state tax liability. One way is to donate to MUFON, which is an approved 501-c-3 nonprofit organization. You also can donate stock, and you may be able to deduct the current value of the stock as a do-

December 11—UFO Club of Virginia Beach, VA, meeting 1 p.m. at the Kempsville Public Library. **757.217.8401**

December 13—Kansas City MUFON holiday party 6:30 p.m. at Westport Flea Market, 817 Westport Rd., Kansas City, MO. Bring a \$5–\$10 gift to exchange. **rachon704@yahoo.com**

December 15—St. Louis MUFON meeting 6:30 p.m. at Culpeppers Restaurant, 12316 Olive Blvd, Creve Coeur, Mo. **mufondiveteam@netscape.net ■**

list your calendar event

Submit MUFON-related events by the 15th of the month preceding the event to **editor@mufon.com**. Items are limited to six lines. They will be published as space is available.

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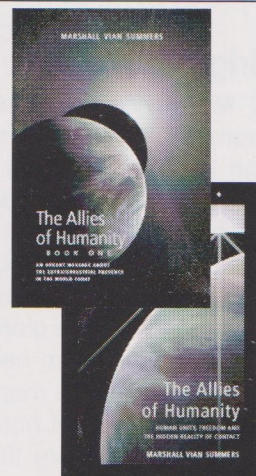
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the night sky

By Gavin A. J. McLeod

Bright Planets (evening sky)

■ **Mercury** (magnitude -0.4 to 5.1): From Libra through and Ophiuchus into Sagittarius. In the northern hemisphere, Mercury will begin the month low over the southwest horizon at sunset and will set 1¼ hours later. By the third week of the month Mercury will become lost in the glare of the Sun.

In the southern hemisphere, Mercury will begin the month rising above the east-southeast horizon 1 hour before sunrise. Before the third week of the month it will become lost in the glare of the Sun.

■ **Mars** (magnitude 1.3 to 1.2): From Scorpius into Ophiuchus. In the northern hemisphere, Mars will begin the month above the southwest horizon at sunset and will set 1 hour later. At month's end it will be low above the horizon and will set ½ hour later.

In the southern hemisphere, Mars will begin the month low over the west-southwest horizon at sunset and will set 1½ hours later. At month's end it will be low above the horizon.

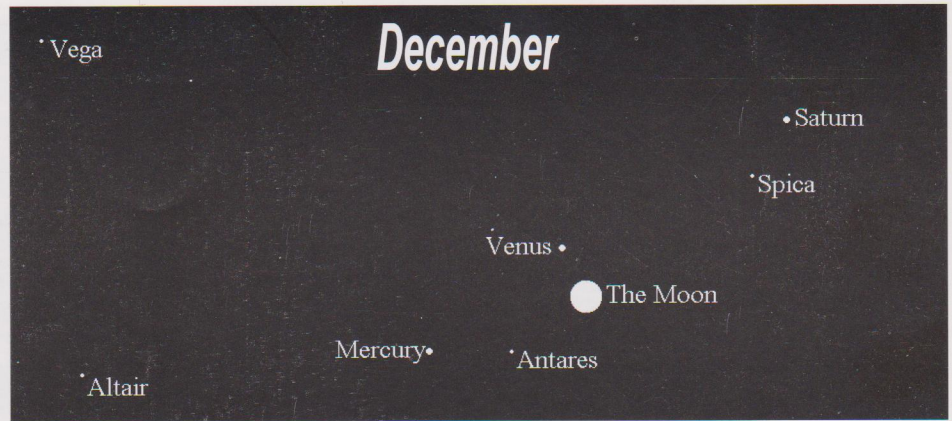
■ **Jupiter** (magnitude -2.6 to -2.4): In Aquarius. In the northern hemisphere, Jupiter will begin the month high above the southeast horizon at sunset and

moon phases

new moon: December 5
first quarter: December 13
full moon: December 21
last quarter: December 28

conjunctions & occultations

December 2: Venus 6 degrees north of the Moon
December 6: Mars 0.5 degrees south of the Moon
December 7: Mercury 1.8 degrees south of the Moon
December 14: Jupiter 7 degrees south of the Moon
December 29: Saturn 8 degrees north of the Moon
December 31: Venus 7 degrees north of the Moon



Observers who look to the southeast just before sunrise on December 31 will see the Moon, Venus, Mercury, and Saturn together in the sky.

will set below the western horizon 6 hours before sunrise. At month's end Jupiter will be high above the southern horizon at sunset and will set below the western horizon 6½ hours later.

In the southern hemisphere, Jupiter will be high above the northern horizon at sunset and will set below the western horizon 2¾ hours before sunrise. At month's end Jupiter will be very high above the northwest horizon at sunset.

Bright Planets (morning sky)

■ **Venus** (magnitude -4.9 to -4.7): In Virgo. In the northern hemisphere, Venus will begin the month rising above the east-southeast horizon 3¼ hours before sunrise and will be high above the horizon at sunrise. At month's end it will rise above the east-southeast horizon 4 hours before sunrise.

In the southern hemisphere, Venus will begin the month rising above the east-southeast horizon 1½ hours before sunrise and will be high above the eastern horizon at sunrise. At month's end Venus will rise above the horizon 2½ hours before sunrise.

■ **Saturn** (magnitude 0.9 to 0.8): In Virgo. In the northern hemisphere, Saturn will begin the month rising above the eastern horizon 4½ hours before sunrise and will be very high above the south-southeast horizon at sunrise. At month's end it will rise above the eastern horizon 7 hours before sunrise and will be very high above the south-southwest horizon at sunrise.

In the southern hemisphere, Saturn will begin the month rising above the eastern horizon 2 hours before

sunrise and will be above the horizon at sunrise. At month's end it will rise above the horizon 4 hours before sunrise and will be high above the north-east horizon at sunrise.

Celestial Phenomena

Winter Solstice: December 21. In the northern hemisphere, this is the shortest day of the year. In the southern hemisphere, it is the longest.

Total Lunar Eclipse: The eclipse will be visible after midnight December 21 in North and South America. The beginning of the elcipse will be visible from northern Europe just before sunrise. The end of the eclipse will be visible rising at sunset for Japan and northeastern Asia. ■