

Nov. 2008



MUFON's "UFOs Over Earth" Aired on Discovery Channel

Words From the State Director



Some exciting news...MUFON's new TV series "UFOs Over Earth" is now up and running on the Discovery Channel, giving MUFON's Field Investigators due attention and credit for all their hard work. Please check listings at discovery.com for upcoming airings of the show.

Big thanks to Patty Donahue and Michelle Schwartzfisher for representing Michigan MUFON at the October 19th day of the Paranormal Conference at the Garden City Historical Museum. I had a chance to present a bit of Michigan UFO history at the event, as well, which otherwise had a strong ghost-hunting focus. Some attendees indicated we might be seeing them at one of our MIMUFON Meetings, too.

I also presented on UFOs and MUFON to receptive audiences at the Detroit Public Library and the

Southfield Campus of Oakland Community College during October. Hopefully, we'll be seeing some of those attendees at upcoming meetings, as well. Early next year, on Thursday, January 15th (7pm), I'll be presenting at the Novi Library, as well as the Roseville Library on Saturday, February 21st (afternoon time tbd).

In my humble opinion, our September 14 MIMUFON meeting was one of our better gatherings in

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OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE MICHIGAN MUTUAL UFO NETWORK

MICHIGAN MUFON



Michigan
Mutual UFO Network



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MUFON's mission is the scientific systematic collection and analysis of UFO / Abduction data, with the ultimate goal of learning the origin and nature and purpose of the UFO / Abduction phenomenon.

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recent memory. Our afternoon speaker, Bill Murphy delivered an outstanding presentation, the Brad Sparks video for our morning Field Investigators training had people talking all day, and at least a third of those in attendance were first-timers.

Keeping the ball rolling, our next MIMUFON meeting is Sunday, November 16th, at Walli's East.

SSD and seasoned Field Investigator Gary Golem will again be leading our morning Field Investigator's training session. If you happen to have a copy of the Field Investigator's Manual, please bring it. Either way, please try to attend.

Our afternoon speaker is our own Dr. Chuck Lietzau who will be scientifically reviewing a variety of classic high-profile UFO cases and pointing out how, in many ways, the hypothesis that these particular events are indeed "other-worldly" is, interestingly, the possibility most strongly supported by the evidence.

Looking ahead...for our January 2009 meeting, we are going to try something a bit different. We are looking into another venue for that day - the Delta Township Library in the Lansing area. The meeting will also be on a *Saturday* (the 24th) with pizza on the menu. Details available soon (please watch mimufon.org).

Speaking of 2009, our membership for 2009 will remain at \$25 per household and meeting admission will remain \$13 for members and \$15 for non-members. Please consider this November meeting a good opportunity to renew for another great year. Thanks so much.

Don't forget, Michigan MUFON Newsletter subscribers, if you would prefer to download a printable electronic MIMUFON Newsletter to your computer in full color, rather than receive a printed black and white copy in the mail, please let our Newsletter Editor David Twichell know and provide him with an email address where he can send you a link to download your newsletter off the internet in PDF format. To contact David by email, write to news@mimufon.org.

See you Sunday, November 16th, at Walli's for Gary Golem's morning Field Investigation training session and afternoon presenter Dr. Chuck Lietzau.

Editor's Note: According to Discovery Channel's upcoming schedule, MUFON's new TV series "UFOs Over Earth" (parts 2 and 3) will air on November 24, 2008 from 9:00 to 11:00 PM. Each installment is one hour in length.



Monthly Statistical MUFON Report - for September - October 2008:

CMS continues to amass sighting reports from around the globe. In September 2008 there were 557 sightings reported to MUFON through CMS worldwide. Of these, 469 were in the United States, of which 17 were in Michigan. Most impressively there were 20 Landings, Hovering, or Takeoffs reported and 37 Entities observed worldwide.

In October 2008 there were 590 sightings reported. Of these, 497 were in the United States, of which 21 were in Michigan. Most impressively there were 29 Landings, Hovering, or Takeoffs reported and 29 Entities observed worldwide.

To review the CMS data yourself go to www.mufon.com and click on "UFO Case Files" to 1.) Easily look at the Last 20 Sightings, or 2.) Do a customized search of the CMS database by date and/or location, or 3.) Logon to CMS for even more detailed UFO sighting information about your State and the World.



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Science Close to Unveiling Invisible Man

Jonathan Leake, Science Editor

From The Sunday Times

August 10, 2008

INVISIBILITY devices, long the realm of science fiction and fantasy, have moved closer after scientists engineered a material that can bend visible light around objects.

The breakthrough could lead to systems for rendering anything from people to large objects, such as tanks and ships, invisible to the eye – although this is still years off.

Researchers at the University of California at Berkeley, whose work is funded by the American military, have engineered materials that can control light's direction of travel. The world's two leading scientific journals, Science and Nature, are expected to report the results this week.

It follows earlier work at Imperial College London that achieved similar results with microwaves. Like light, these are a form of electromagnetic radiation but their longer wave-length makes them far easier to manipulate. Achieving the same effect with visible light is a big advance.

Underlying the work is the idea that bending visible light around an object will hide it.

Xiang Zhang, the leader of the researchers, said: "In the case of invisibility cloaks or shields, the material would need to curve light waves completely around the object like a river flowing around a rock." An observer looking at the cloaked object would then see light from behind it – making it seem to disappear.

Substances capable of achieving such feats are known as "meta-materials" and have the power to "grab" electromagnetic radiation and deflect it smoothly. No such material occurs naturally and it is only in the past few years that nano-scale engineering, manipulating matter at the level of atoms and molecules, has advanced sufficiently to give scientists the chance to create them.

The tiny scale at which such researchers must operate is astonishing in itself. Zhang's researchers had to construct a material whose elements were engineered to within about 0.00000066 of a metre.

The military funding that Zhang has won for his research shows what kind of applications it might be used for, ushering in a new age of stealth technology.

Source: http://technology.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/tech_and_web/article4494440.ece

Editor's Note: I believe it was the late Carl Sagan who said "If UFOs were real the skies would be full of them". As Budd Hopkins demonstrated in his book "Sight Unseen", perhaps they are and we simply are unable to see them. If extraterrestrial civilizations are advanced enough to get here from there, I'm sure they are a few steps ahead of our science in cloaking technologies as well.



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Shirts available for purchase at all meetings,
or email wjk@mimufon.org
or phone (248) 515-9568 to inquire how to order.

Chupacabras Creature Spotted in Michigan



On Saturday July 5, 2008 at approximately 4:41AM, I witnessed a strange creature as I drove south on N. Holly Road towards Holly Michigan. This event lasted 9-10 seconds. This incident occurred when I was under a mile away from Grange Hall Road. I was coming back from dropping off a volunteer that I work with at an art center in Davison. I didn't drink anything and wasn't on any medication or illegal drugs. I was drinking soda and I didn't feel that tired even though it was late. My speed was slower than the posted limit, about 45 mph, and my brights on. I do this so I can be prepared when a deer decides to cross my path. No other vehicles were present.

As I was driving, I slowed down because there appeared to be a very large creature digging in someone's trash next to the right side of the road. It was located 20-25 feet away from my car. I began to slow down to get a better look. This thing was really tall and too huge to be any 'average' animal that I normally see in roadside trash bins at night. My first thought that came to mind was, "What is it??" I remember calling out words of animals in my head to determine what this thing could be. I thought, "rat no too big..kangaroo? It's grey! Red eyes..rabbit..no.not a cat..it jumps and leaps kind of like a rabbit...I don't know what I'm looking at..can't be a Chupacabras??.Could it..In Michigan??"

This creature was holding a piece of trash..didn't appear to have paws.. more slender hand-like. It had huge, round and red glowing eyes. It reacted and looked kind of surprised to see me as if it thought no one will ever find out that it existed. That was my impression. Its eyes just stared at my vehicle while holding onto a piece of trash for nearly 4 seconds. Its triangular-like grey face reminded me of a dog but it was more pointier and triangular towards the end of the nose and mouth. Its presence didn't seem ordinary and those gigantic glowing red eyes made me feel something was out of place here.

Its ears were large and rounded sort of like a mouse. Its arms were bendable and closer to its body than its long flexible legs. The body was heavier in the bottom and kind of reminded me of a kangaroo body but he was completely grey. Maybe, grey short haired fur I am not sure, but the body was definitely grey in color. It had a skinny tail that was similar in appearance to a rat's tail but it was much longer and slightly wider. I barely noticed the creature's tail until it maneuvered out of the way from the garbage can.

I sketched this image and a few others. My fiancée is a brilliant artist and he can create images on Photoshop very quickly. I guided him on where to add color and shades of light. I hope the glowing red eyes don't give you nightmares!

In summary, this is the way the creature reacted when I came upon it. I noticed the creature digging in the garbage and it was holding a piece of trash. It stared at me for 3-4 seconds then dropped the trash forcefully like a human would with both hands. It was standing upright and appeared to be over 3 feet tall in height. The creature bent down to the ground and jumped forward on all fours then got up a bit and turn to the left to aim for the woods. It reached for the ground again with its front arms and jumped forward with its back legs swinging in front of it like a rabbit.

The creature didn't make any sounds that I could hear even with my windows open and it didn't try to attack me or hiss at me. When the event was over I wanted to turn around and find out what that thing was. I knew that would not be a good idea. My gut tells me that this thing had to be a Chupacabras. I looked up a Chupacabras on the internet the next day discovered a photo that was taken by a rancher in 2004 that shot and killed one. The creature in that photo looked very similar to the one I witnessed, except, the dead animal had less flesh on its bones and I couldn't see slender hands but it was hard to tell from the photo. I was planning on getting some land so I could let my pet cat out at night but now there is a change of plans.

Source: Coast to Coast with George Noory: <http://www.coasttocoastam.com/gen/page2646.html?theme=light>



Editor's Note: This story was originally filed with MUFON's CMS as well as NUFORC and UFOs Northwest. It found its way to George Noory's Cost to Coast and who knows where else. It seems to have made quite an impression. Although I originally questioned whether this story was better investigated under the heading of "cryptozoology" as opposed to UFOlogy, one wonders how closely related the two sciences might be.

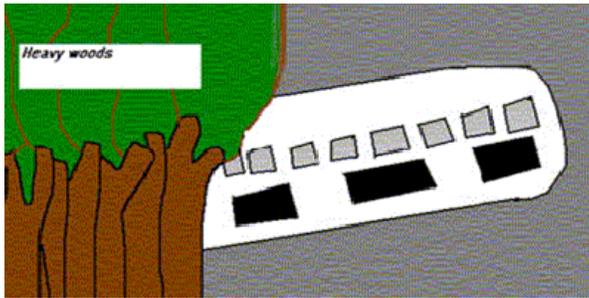
I would tend to agree with the conclusion found at UFOs Northwest: (http://ufosnw.com/sighting_reports/2008/hollymi07052008/hollymi07052008.htm)

"The witness said that the above photo taken of a dead animal resembled what she had seen. It is my understanding that tests were performed on the above animal and these tests indicated that it was a dog. The witness saw red eyes and apparent hands on the creature. This would result in a creature different than the above photo. The witness saw the creature at night and for only a brief time. This could reduce the accuracy of her observations. However, her sighting should not be discounted. Others who (have) seen unusual creatures in this area are urged to file a report."

David Twichell, MiMUFON Newsletter Editor.



Cigar-Shaped UFO in Evansville, Indiana



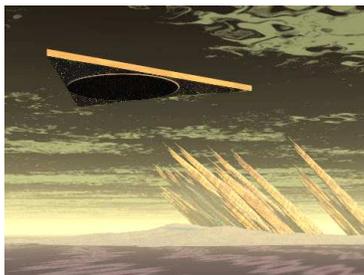
I can't believe I am reporting this because my boyfriend and I talked about not telling anyone since this would make us seem crazy or people would just not believe us anyway. On August 17, 2008, *was the scariest night of our lives.* We were driving down Morgan Avenue at 9:30 PM, with corn fields on each side of the road, right across Ohio River from Kentucky. I had seen a car parked on the side of the road and then another not too far up the road. I had a feeling they were watching something and looked over at the fields and noticed two bright lights that were not close to each other, but at the same height. They looked like they were above the trees and in front of them. The color was not right or normal and was kind of a bright yellow.

The light to the left descended and disappeared, but the other light that was closer to us was still there. We turned on one of the country roads off Morgan Avenue and were trying to drive towards the lights. We could tell we were getting closer and I thought we would just find out it was a radio tower. The road was dark, and my boyfriend said, "It's moving towards us." I was scared and told him to stop the van, and we stopped and it started moving the opposite direction. It did NOT turn around like an airplane; it just started going in the opposite direction away from us rather fast. We kept following but there were heavy trees everywhere blocking our view. In between breaks in the trees, we could see the light and it was getting smaller and disappeared.

We decided to turn around and as we turned in on his side of the road was this big long fat cigar shaped thing. It was huge. Lights were going down the sides of it, and they were going in a row down the side of it and then instantly they would go down the side of it again. *I was so scared; we couldn't believe what we were seeing and it changed my life.*

It was huge and he turned and backed up and then it was on my side. The trees were heavy and thick and there was this "thing" the size of an airplane, kind of shaped like an airplane without any wings. It was kind of like a big fat whitish cigar. It was so close to us. It was going down behind the trees looking like it was landing, but it made absolutely no noise. We were so scared. *I kept telling my boyfriend, "To go, go, go!"* He drove fast and finally we made it back to the main highway. Duration of sighting was 8 to 10 minutes and I kept looking back and didn't see it anymore. We could not believe what we had seen. The lights were so weird as they flickered down a row down the side of the "craft."

Thanks to William Puckett UFOS Northwest <http://ufosnw.com>



The Art Cafe, a nonprofit art center in Davison Michigan is seeking artists to submit their UFO themed artwork for an upcoming show. Our group displays work by professional and emerging artists. Our group hosts workshops for local youth and adults with an outreach component. Their is a special focus on work by disabled people and Native American artists. Mail 3-5 photos submissions to The Art Cafe, 217 Shoppers Alley Davison Michigan 48423. Artists may email pgs of artwork to: staff@artcafeonline.org For more information, visit www.artcafeonline.org. Kurt Kohl has created artwork that has been featured on abductee.net. He had artwork on

exosci.com. He was also featured on Stephen Wilson's book on Art and Nanotechnology. Kurt also had work at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. Interested parties can email him at khurit@yahoo.com. (See Kurt's "One Big Triangle" above.)

KEEPING IT LIGHT

Special thanks to **Connie O'Very** of **Mi-MUFON** for the "musical aliens"



"These illegal aliens are getting easier to spot!"

Profile: Gary McKinnon

By Clark Boyd Technology correspondent

Gary McKinnon has lost his appeal in the UK's House of Lords against extradition to the US on hacking charges. The BBC News website profiles his history and his motives.

Please turn on JavaScript. Media requires JavaScript to play.

Gary McKinnon talks to Huw Edwards on BBC News in July 2006

To hear the US government tell it, Gary McKinnon is a dangerous man, and should be extradited back to America to stand trial in a Virginia courtroom.

One US prosecutor accused him of committing "the biggest military computer hack of all time". But Mr. McKinnon has said his motives were harmless and innocent - he was, he says, simply looking for information on UFOs.

If found guilty, Mr. McKinnon could face decades in US jail, and fines of close to \$2m.

'Bumbling nerd'

The charges against Mr. McKinnon are extensive.

The US government alleges that between February 2001 and March 2002, the 40-year-old computer enthusiast from north London hacked into dozens of US Army, Navy, Air Force, and Department of Defense computers, as well as 16 NASA computers.

It says his hacking caused some \$700,000 dollars damage to government systems.

What's more, they allege that Mr. McKinnon altered and deleted files at a US Naval Air Station not long after the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001 and that the attack rendered critical systems inoperable.

The US government also says Mr. McKinnon once took down an entire network of 2,000 US Army computers. His goal, they claim, was to access classified information.

In July 2005, Mark Summers, another official representing the US government, told a London court that Mr. McKinnon's hacking was "intentional and calculated to influence and affect the US government by intimidation and coercion".

Mr. McKinnon's supporters point out that these charges have never been put before a court. Instead the US government voiced them unopposed as it sought his extradition.

For his part Gary McKinnon, or Solo as he was known online, paints a very different picture of himself, and his motivation. In a BBC interview in 2005, Mr. McKinnon said that he was not a malicious hacker bent on bringing down US military systems, but rather more of a "bumbling computer nerd".

He said he's no web vandal, or virus writer, and that he never acted with malicious intent.

But he did admit that he hacked into dozens of US government computer systems. In fact, he calmly detailed just how easy it was to access extremely sensitive information in those systems.

"I found out that the US military use Windows," said Mr. McKinnon in that BBC interview. "And having realized this, I assumed it would probably be an easy hack if they hadn't secured it properly."

Using commercially available software, Mr. McKinnon probed dozens of US military and government networks. He found many machines without adequate password or firewall protection. So, he simply hacked into them.

UFO search

But for some, his method of hacking is not nearly so interesting as his reason for doing it.

Mr. McKinnon got his first computer when he was 14 years old, and has been a hobbyist ever since. He left school at 17, and became a hairdresser. But, in the early 1990s, some friends convinced him to get a qualification in computers. After completing a course, he started doing contract work in the computing field.

WE ARE NOT ALONE:



Tune in to David Twichell's one-hour radio talk show, "We Are Not Alone" on **WHFR**, broadcast from Henry Ford Community College (**89.3 FM**).

Author Philip Imbrogno (Night Siege: The Hudson Valley UFOs) will guest Dec. 6, 2008. Philip Imbrogno returns Jan. 3, 2009 (Interdimensional Universe).

Tune in on the **first Saturday of each month at 10:00 AM (EST)** with a new show each month.

Out of the area? Go to: <http://whfr.fm/index.php> and click on "Listen Live now". The latest shows are now archived. Click on "The Forum" button on WHFR's Homepage and click on the earliest date of each month.

By the late 1990s, Mr. McKinnon decided to use his hacking skills to do what he calls "research" on an issue he firmly believes in. Mr. McKinnon told the BBC that he is convinced that the United States government is withholding critical information about Unidentified Flying Objects.

"It wasn't just an interest in little green men and flying saucers," said Mr. McKinnon. "I believe that there are spacecraft, or there have been craft, flying around that the public doesn't know about."

Mr. McKinnon further explained that he believes the US military has reverse engineered an anti-gravity propulsion system from recovered alien spacecraft, and that this propulsion system is being kept a secret.

In that sense, Mr. McKinnon said he sees his own hacking as "humanitarian." He said he only wanted to find evidence of a UFO cover-up and expose it. He called the alleged anti-gravity propulsion system "extra-terrestrial technology we should have access to".

"I wanted to find out why this is being kept a secret when it could be put to good use," he said in the BBC interview last year.

Gary McKinnon's search turned into an obsession, an addiction. As he probed high-level computer systems in the United States, his life in Britain fell apart. He lost his job, and his girlfriend dumped him. Friends told him to stop hacking, but to no avail.

"I'd stopped washing at one point. I wasn't looking after myself. I wasn't eating properly. I was sitting around the house in my dressing gown, doing this all night."

Net lockdown

Eventually, Mr. McKinnon got sloppy. He started leaving behind clues. At one point, Mr. McKinnon began posting anti-war diatribes on the screens of the US government computers that were his targets. He has insisted, however, that he never attempted to sabotage any operations.

When Britain's hi-tech crime unit finally came for him 2002, Mr. McKinnon was not surprised. He told the BBC: "I think I almost wanted to be caught, because it was ruining me. I had this classic thing of wanting to be caught so there would be an end to it."

He thought he would be tried in Britain, and that he might get, at the most, three to four years in prison.

Then, later that year, the United States decided to indict him with charges that could mean up to 70 years in a US prison. It has never been entirely clear why it took US officials until 2005 to begin extradition proceedings.

Gary McKinnon's been fighting extradition ever since, on the grounds that he never intended anything malicious by his hacking. He's been free on bail, but it has been a strange kind of freedom.

For a period he had to sign in at his local police station every evening, and could not leave his house at night. The court also forbade him from using any computer connected to the internet. After losing the High Court battle against the extradition, Mr. McKinnon took the fight to the House of Lords. This backed the call for extradition on 30 July 2008.

Mr. McKinnon remains contrite about what he did, although he has admitted that he thinks US officials are making him a scapegoat. He has said that in the course of his hacking, he found evidence that hundreds of others from around the world were also trying to hack the same networks.

His supporters say that instead of prosecuting him, the US government should thank him for pointing out massive computer security lapses in critical systems. As for his quest to find evidence of a UFO cover-up, Mr. McKinnon has said that he found some circumstantial evidence online to back his claims, including what he said are photos with what he speculated were alien spacecraft air-brushed out of the picture. He said the photos in question were too large to download to his own computer.

When the BBC asked him if he ever felt like hacking again, Mr. McKinnon replied, "No, not at all." He said he wished he had listened to his friends when they told him to stop.

Clark Boyd is technology correspondent for The World, a BBC World Service and WGBH-Boston co-production.

Story from BBC NEWS:



Michigan MUFON State Section Directors Meeting Minutes September 14, 2008

The September 14 state meeting was held at Walli's Restaurant in Flint, Michigan.

Bill Konkolesky, State Director, called the Section Directors' meeting to order at 4:10 PM. In attendance were David Twichell, Rebecca Konkolesky, Darlene and David Bleicher, Linda and Bill Murphy, Patty Donahue and Wendy Smith.

Bill began with a word of appreciation to the 12 people attending their first MIMUFON meeting today. He welcomed the addition of Linda and Bill as consultants to the administration, and mentioned that Patty, the new Assistant State Director, is assisting him with recruiting quality speakers at minimal cost to the organization.

Patty introduced a location option for State meetings and events, Delta Township Library, located near the I96/I496 intersection in Lansing. The library has a large meeting room that can be reserved at no cost. Audiovisual equipment is available, and the facility has a kitchen area, which provides opportunities for catered events. The library is open from 10 AM to 4 PM on Saturdays.

The group discussed the possibility of holding our January 2009 meeting at this facility. Linda noted that in the past, meetings held in either Lansing or Flint were equally well attended. Several possibilities regarding food were suggested, ranging from meeting for lunch before the meeting and providing only coffee at the library, to potluck, to ordering pizza.

Bill noted that the January 2009 meeting would not include Field Investigator training. He plans to open the microphone to members, screen a UFO related film, or schedule time for both these options.

MIMUFON will be represented at the Paranormal Conference in Garden City, MI, October 18 and 19. We will have a vendor's table with space for two members and be provided two free passes each day. Bill requested help with manning the table, especially Saturday, and Patty and Linda graciously offered their time.

The event sponsors have requested raffle items from the vendors. David Twichell agreed to donate a DVD. MIMUFON agreed to donate a one-year subscription to our Newsletter and three of David's books.

Bill suggested that MIMUFON membership dues for 2009 remain at \$25.00 per year.

Wendy reported that the MIMUFON treasury balance as of the morning of September 14, 2008 is \$2,675.70, not including today's meeting income and expenses. 38 people were present at the meeting, including the speaker, and 12 were first time attendees. Two of those newcomers joined the organization.

Patty reported that the MIMUFON store sold \$81.00 worth of merchandise.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Wendy Smith, September 29, 2008.



Bill Murphy's Column

Witness to Roswell: Unmasking the 60-Year Cover-up,

by Thomas J. Carey and Donald R. Schmitt. Franklin Lakes, NJ: The Career Press, Inc., 2007

"Truly, something extraordinary crashed outside of Roswell, N.M. in July 1947"

-- CBS News/ 48 Hours, as quoted in first pages of Witness to Roswell

It is an established fact that an extraordinary event occurred in early July of 1947 around and at Roswell Army Air Field. It is also without question a fact that the Army base at Roswell, New Mexico, announced the acquisition of a "flying disc" as part of the central core of this event, and that, hours later, the identification was recanted by higher-ups. Beyond these bare facts, almost everything is contentious.

Witness to Roswell: Unmasking the 60-Year Cover-Up, by Thomas J. Carey and Donald R. Schmitt, is neither the full story of Roswell nor the final word on this tortured slice of ufological history. But it may be far the most compelling book yet written on the subject, and to my mind rates as one of the more dramatic works of history I have ever read (and I have read an awful lot of historical works during 39 years of studying the subject).

Witness to Roswell is not intended as a basic or comprehensive explanation for the totality of the Roswell event, but as a powerful argument for the quantity and the general agreement of the witness attestations to the case. The result is a gripping, well-constructed, and I would opine, convincing tale. The authors focus on the Roswell eye-witnesses and eye-witness accounts to weave a tightly woven narrative, with well-argued points, centering upon their main conclusion that an extraterrestrial spacecraft and its occupants came to earth, that hundreds of humans were involved in the retrieval and sequestering operations that attended this cosmic crash, and that their personal stories, related first-, second-, and third hand to the primary investigators, often in the face of real or implied threats to their persons or pensions, provide undeniable, juridical proof of the amazing reality of earthly visitation by unearthly guests.

I have not had the opportunity to meet with Thomas Carey, but Donald Schmitt strikes me as a man on a mission: to preserve the voices of those who experienced the Roswell event, before those voices are stilled forever by the inexorable imperatives of time and the human lifespan. Mr. Schmitt is just as committed to assuring that those who have possessed the unusual courage to speak out, to him or to others, are eventually justified against the scorn and vituperation that have been heaped upon them by debanking and/or sloppy writers.

This important book is an excellent example of oral history, with its attendant strengths and weaknesses. Strengths include the immediacy of the narrative; you often feel as if you were there, with the authors, as their contacts unfolded their own slices of the Roswell story. Weaknesses include the limitations of human memory, especially against the strong injunction placed upon so many witnesses to forget what they had seen and heard, as well as the inevitable and, in several outstanding examples, justified concerns raised about elaboration and outright hoaxing. However, the sheer amount of data, the general way in which the disparate tales fit together, and the positive attestations by several key people of dramatic truths, all combine to make the narrative one that cannot be discounted. Those "on the fence" about a possible ET component to Roswell will find themselves strongly nudged over towards the positive side, with all the staggering implications that has for their world- and indeed universe-view. Those who have been skeptical about the possibility that Roswell represents more than just a secret test gone awry will, or at least should, find their predispositions strongly challenged.

The earnest, direct, and powerful drive and care I have noted in Donald Schmitt demonstrates itself early in the book: Chapter 2, "Myth or Reality: The Undeniable Truths" is exceptionally effective in its listing of 18 uncontestable reasons for taking Roswell seriously. Chapter 7 is equally supportive in supporting the credibility and capability as a witness of Major Jesse A. Marcel, the man who, along with Mac Brazel, was most involved in the maelstrom of events that was Roswell. Chapter 13, "Get These [Bodies] Over to the Base Hospital", will concern both those who choose not to think about occupants, and those who accept mortician Glenn Dennis as a star witness. While arguing that Dennis is "impeached" as a Roswell witness, Carey and Schmitt provide an array of evidence from independent sources for the historicity of dead bodies of extraordinary origin (see also Chapter 22, "Deathbed Confessions: Ohh...the Creatures!"). The authors also present a great deal of work regarding the various flights out of Roswell Army Air Field after the debris from the crash came to the base.

One of the criticisms made against many Roswell ufologists is their refusal to acknowledge statements of witnesses that contradict their own personal views of the case. Chapter 19, "You and I Never Saw This", tackles this problem of "resistive or untruthful witnesses", especially Sheridan Cavitt who, with Jesse Marcel, was one of the experts first on the crash scene. Chapter 23, "A Voice from the Grave: The Sealed Statement of First Lieutenant Walter G. Haut", is of course, a blockbuster, which has been much discussed. Skeptics and debunkers should have great difficulty sidestepping this final word by the man who put out the press release that riveted the world's attention upon this sleepy part of New Mexico in the summer of the year that began modern ufology.

Aside from the fact that the book is not, and was never intended, as a complete review of the Roswell event, the book has a few flaws. I would have liked to have seen a better map, and perhaps located near the front of the book. The exact number of crash sites and the chronology of the events might have benefited from Appendix discussions and even charts. The bibliography could have been extended to works by Klass and Korff, as well as Friedman. But these are relatively minor quibbles. This book and the hard work its authors have admirably carried out deserve your respect and review. In my opinion, one which I think Thomas Carey and Donald Schmitt would find the highest compliment, Witness to Roswell is a fitting tribute to those courageous people whose stories it enshrines for the ages.



Evidence Found of Solar System Around Nearby Star

By Robert S. Boyd, McClatchy Newspapers Robert S. Boyd, McClatchy Newspapers

WASHINGTON — For the first time, astronomers think that they've found evidence of an alien solar system around a star close enough to Earth to be visible to the naked eye.

They say that at least one and probably three or more planets are orbiting the star Epsilon Eridani, 10.5 light-years — about 63 trillion miles — from Earth. Only eight stars are closer.

The host star, slightly smaller and cooler than our sun, is in the constellation Eridanus — the name of a mythological river — near Orion in the northern sky.

Epsilon Eridani is much younger than the sun, about 850 million years old compared with 4.5 billion years for our system.

"This really is a system like our solar system was when it was five times younger than it is now," said one of the discoverers, Massimo Marengo, an astronomer at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics in Cambridge, Mass. "It's like a time machine for our solar system."

"This system probably looks a lot like ours did when life first took root on Earth," said Dana Backman, of the SETI Institute in Mountain View, Calif., the lead author of a report to be published Jan. 10 in *The Astrophysical Journal*.

SETI chose Epsilon Eridani as one of the first targets in its long — but so far vain — search for signs of extraterrestrial intelligence in 1960.

The suspected planets are too far away to be detected directly, so their presence has to be inferred by indirect measurements. Their star is so near, however, that some astronomers think that they may be able to see its planets with better telescopes within the next decade.

One of the planets, a gas giant 1 { times heavier than Jupiter, was discovered in 2000 by Barbara McArthur , an astronomer at the University of Texas in Austin . She measured the slight wobble in the star's position as the planet swung around it. Further observations by the Hubble Space Telescope in 2006 confirmed its existence, McArthur said at the time.

Now Backman's team has deduced the presence of at least two more planets, after space- and ground-based telescopes separately revealed two belts of rocky asteroids and an outer icy ring circling Epsilon Eridani.

The inner asteroid belt is about 280 million miles from its host star, the same distance as our own ring of asteroids orbiting between Mars and Jupiter. The second belt is about the same distance as Uranus is in our system.

Finally, a wide, third ring of icy objects extends billions of miles beyond Epsilon Eridani, resembling the so-called Kuiper Belt of mini-planets outside Pluto.

In 2002, Alice Quillen , an astronomer at the University of Rochester in New York state , reported that unusual clumps of material in the outer ring probably indicated the presence of a Saturn -size planet in a Pluto-like orbit. Her finding hasn't been confirmed, but "I still think there is a planet out there of this size," Quillen said in an e-mail.

According to Marengo, the gaps between these belts were created when clouds of dust and rocks consolidated into planets, as happened in the early days of our solar system. He likened the process to the formation of Saturn's famous rings, which are separated by spaces cleared out by little moons.

"The easiest way to explain the gaps is to say there are planets there," Marengo said. "It's the same way as the rings of Saturn are kept stable by the moons of Saturn ."

"I think these rings are probably telling us about how systems clear out after planets have formed," Quillen said. "It's pretty exciting to catch such a nearby system in this critical stage."

Marengo raised the possibility that more Earthlike planets might exist in the space between Epsilon Eridani and the inner dust ring.

"The inside belt is cleared, like in our solar system," he said. "There could be terrestrial planets inside, but we can't detect them yet."

Source: http://news.yahoo.com/s/mcclatchy/20081027/sc_mcclatchy/3082054_1

Thanks to MiMUFON member Ann Huff for submitting this article.



Groups Wants Next President to Disclose 'Truth' About UFOs

By Dave Demerjian October 07, 2008

We don't need to tell you that the next president of the United States is going to have a lot to do. He has to fix the economy, the environment and Wall Street.

And he's going to have to explain the whole UFO thing to the U.S. public, if the Paradigm Research Group has its way.

The group, which says it is dedicated to ending the "government imposed Truth Embargo regarding an extraterrestrial presence engaging the human race," is launching a pressure campaign it hopes will force the government to fess up. Its Million Fax on Washington campaign is just that: an initiative to bury the next president in faxes and mail, all of it demanding that the U. S. government reveal the truth about its alleged knowledge of UFO activity.

In an interview with Wired.com, Paradigm founder Stephen Bassett says that President Carter, who reported seeing a UFO in 1969, signed off on two studies after taking office but that they were kept under wraps for national security reasons. Bassett says reports of extraterrestrial sighting have been on the upswing since the end of the Cold War, creating pressure on the government to "disclose."

"Witnesses are coming forward," Bassett says, "and 50 percent of the U.S. public believes that this is real."

Adding to the pressure is recent moves by other nations.

"You have the U.K. declassifying reports of extraterrestrial sightings," Bassett says, "and members of the Mexican Air Force videotaping what they think are UFOs." He says China is also conducting UFO research, but France is the most likely nation to disclose unilaterally. "They are a proud, independent people," he explains. "And they're very sensitive to their legacy. This is an area where they can take the lead."

Extraterrestrial work is nothing new for Bassett, who in the 1990s studied at the Program for Extraordinary Experience Research in Cambridge, Massachusetts. (Laugh if you want but the organization was founded by Dr. John Mack, a Pulitzer Prize-winning author and psychiatry professor at Harvard Medical School). In 1996, Bassett founded Paradigm with the goal of "using all means possible to confront the United States."

In 1999, he got political by founding the Extraterrestrial Phenomena Political Action Committee, the first PAC in history to target the politics of UFO/ET phenomena. Paradigm's work has included supporting political candidates, lobbying for congressional hearings on extraterrestrials and hosting the annual X-Conference, an event designed to share collective knowledge about the government's involvement with extraterrestrial phenomena.

Bassett says disclosure offers the incoming president an ideal chance to win over a tired, mistrustful public.

"You're coming off eight years of an administration known for its secrecy," he says. "Disclosure is a way to break with the past and start fresh." He calls Barack Obama "an innocent on the issue" but says John McCain would have more to explain for. "He's been in Washington for a long time. With all his military contacts, you have to wonder if he already knows."

Bassett seems confident that his fax campaign will be a success, and is counting on viral marketing to help spread the word (his Facebook group has only 76 members, but it's early). For Bassett, the big question is not whether disclosure will happen, but what will follow.

"It is going to be fascinating to watch the tug of war between the people and the government once this gets out," he says. "The people will want to know everything, but some of the information will be held for national security reasons."

Bassett says disclosure would be the most profound event in human history. "With all due respect to the Christ event," it took a long time for that information to be disseminated. "With this, the impact will be instant."

Source: <http://blog.wired.com/cars/2008/10/next-president.html>

While running for president in 1976 Jimmy Carter mentioned his 1969 UFO sighting which he reported to the International UFO Bureau in 1973. Later in the campaign he stated he would, "make every piece of information this country has about UFO sightings available to the public and scientists." After he was elected approximately **10,000 letters** arrived at the White House calling on the new President to follow through on that promise. This created quite a stir and prompted the Carter White House to sign off on two extraterrestrial studies - both of which were resisted and quietly shut down by the Department of Defense and other agencies. The Cold War would not be over for another 14 years. It was too soon. If 10,000 letters in 1977 launched two ET studies, what might 1 million letters, faxes and emails in November of 2008 accomplish?

Formal acknowledgement of an extraterrestrial presence engaging the human race - Disclosure - is close at hand and already under consideration by elements within the United States Government. But it is not a *fait accompli*. It could be withheld due to events or loss of political will. It is critical the American people act in concert now to help close the deal. There has never been a more profound opportunity for you to make a difference and change the course of history.

Between November 5, 2008 and January 20, 2009 - seventy-seven days - send a letter, fax and/or email to the senatorial office and transition headquarters of the President Elect calling for the next administration to end the Truth Embargo regarding an extraterrestrial presence and release as much relevant information to the American people as possible within reasonable constraints of national security. You won't be alone. The goal is one million.

It is time for the people to know the truth about the world they inhabit.

Maintaining the Truth Embargo has cost a fortune, undermined the social contract, and led to abuses of secrecy and power.

Until this Truth Embargo is ended there will be no public access to technologies derived from ET vehicles at a time of mounting economic and environmental challenges.

Letters are best (all are opened, all are read), Faxes are next best (but there is only so much fax receiving capacity), Emails are better than nothing.

If you really want their attention, sign it with your name, address and phone number.

Scripted submissions are not effective. Write it your way.

Brief is better, but make your point.

Important: **The soonest after the election you can send your letter the better.**

Important: Please copy or notify Paradigm Research Group at PRG@paradigmresearchgroup.org when you send a letter / fax / email to the President Elect. This will help PRG to generate media interest in this effort.

Send to:

The Honorable Barack Obama
President Elect of the United States
713 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Fax: 202-228-4260
Email: <http://tinyurl.com/3cyu4v>



The Truth Is Out There: On the Eve of Disclosure

Glenn Gould

September 15, 2008

Many who research the phenomenon associated with unidentified flying objects and the probable extraterrestrial nature of some such events feel that there has been an unnecessarily high level of secrecy and deception. While some governments have released information about their several UFO experiences, the United States has been annoyingly obtuse about its participation in these events. Recently, highly credible associates of the government have spoken out in agreement with the UFO community that the truth should be revealed and a full disclosure be made of the details of these events and related programs.

There is a growing movement to encourage full disclosure by assembling a preponderance of testimony from highly credible witnesses and participants. The Disclosure Project, whose spokesman is Dr. Steven Greer, is a movement whose proponents envision a utopian disbursement of extraterrestrial technology that would ultimately redefine human civilization. Reasoning that were enough credible witnesses to come forward, authorities would then be constrained to admit what they have been keeping secret for decades. While a technological windfall would undoubtedly solve a number of human problems, particularly those involving energy, some believe the cost of free energy would be far too expensive to bear.

Behind the veil of national security, governments have continued work on the general issue of UFOs and extraterrestrial contact. Artifacts and other physical evidence have been amassed for at least six decades. Many "scientific breakthroughs" are attributable to these strokes of fortune. The controlled release, to private corporations, of some of these technological bonuses permeates our culture today, and has become so mundane that we believe there is nothing improbable about their existence. But the psychological conditioning which has been present for three generations has predisposed the majority of us to dismiss the topic from serious consideration.

Some corporations connected with technology distribution projects blatantly advertise their association with ET technology, using it as a marketing tool. Due to the inundation by the media of all things ET, in movies that mitigate the topic through desensitization, and in journalism that demeans alleged contact, the public is largely confused and ambivalent regarding the subject. As researcher Jim Marrs has stated, acceptance of the subject matter is based more upon one's existing paradigm, or point of view, than upon the merit or credibility of specific ET events or testimony.

When considered objectively, the open acknowledgement of any ET liaison with our government would mean its sure and unequivocal demise, either from internal strife and rebellion or from the inevitable collapse of the values associated with its standing as a sovereign nation. Since energy (i.e. petroleum and coal) is currently such a valuable commodity, and the dollar is tied to it as the basis for the valuation of petroleum, any energy source that jeopardizes that status quo is something our government cannot allow. But that evaluation is not based upon selfish desire alone. We have all mutually agreed to allow our government to protect our way of life.

The government equivocates acquiescence to the release of the truth of its alien involvement and the subsequent acceptance of alien assistance and technology with allowing communism to spread. While these two concepts have nothing in common, we have tasked our government to protect us and they are doing that job.

Given the magnitude of the potential collapse of the American (and global) financial empire, brought about by an uncontrolled release of technology to the public, and the subsequent demise of our nation, it is inconceivable that anyone who has sworn to protect the country from all enemies, foreign or domestic, would wish any facts to surface, nor any technology release, without careful control. And it is logical, within that paradigm, that alien technology would be commandeered as much as possible for national security applications, rather than for public consumption.

If we begin to see that keeping secrets from us, according to their view, was in our best interest, then we can understand why the truth of our government's dealings with ET over the years has been handled the way it has been. We as a people have insisted, albeit indirectly, that they do so.

Many who doubt the existence of such conspiracies point to the overwhelming level of confidence needed for a large number of people to actually keep a secret. How could so many people be involved and not leak something? Those involved patriots are actually behaving in a patriotic fashion, keeping the truth from us to protect our freedoms and way of life. But some who have felt less inclined to keep secrets have leaked things for years.

Most participants are on a "need to know", compartmentalized knowledge level of security. In other words, many high level participants have only a small section of the puzzle. The big secrets and the big picture are kept even from them.

And what are the big secrets?

One program the government struggled with involved human genetics and was called Project Garnet. This study revealed information that was so unbelievable that the program was allegedly completed, having "determined all that was necessary" for it to accomplish. Another study, and field of investigation, was religion. Among the classified documents given to alleged participants were papers that described the purpose of religion, and the corresponding effect it has on humanity. The big secrets are to humanity

Humans would not do as well, behaving as we do, in interstellar space as we have done on earth. We will unavoidably pick a fight with the wrong people and cause ourselves no end of sorrow. So on that note, let us thank our government for protecting us from this tragedy for so long.

Another big secret is that as it is here, it is out there too. Where we are the neighborhood bullies, pillaging the planet, exploiting everything in our paths, driving to extinction species of animal and vegetable, performing genocide on our brothers, there are those out there of a similar mindset, but with much greater and more bizarre appetites. In fact, some of our ET visitors are worrying the other folks in the neighborhood. Due to its association with ET, our government is conscious of this and has particularly tried to avoid further contact with those types. We need to appreciate the basic distrust our governments inculcate, rather than being open to anyone and anything coming our way.

Our governments know that they are completely helpless in providing protection from this celestial enemy – and have allegedly acquiesced to many agreements with those who can offer some protection. This bit of information would only serve to further reduce any government's effectiveness by admitting its inability to provide and necessity to accept outside help for our security. This is tremendously embarrassing for a world super-power to confess. It is also destabilizing.

In our government's view, stabilization is essential – keeping things the way they are. Stabilization is the organizational counterpart to homeostasis in living organisms. After all, that is what we expect from them. We do not want to go to bed in one system only to wake up in a totally different political or economic system. We want our property to retain its value, our money to remain liquid and our values to be firm. We would not want radical change – even if it were to mean perfect social equality.

In the end the probability of disclosure depends on at least two things. First, we, as a people (humans), need to decide if chasing money for a few decades and dying on Social Security (or its international equivalent) really makes sense. Can we take a real, objective look at our lives and determine whether what we have been doing is not just some form of psychosis or not? Can we continue to define our existence by consumption and obeisance to the old social norms or is there really something else for this divine human animal? Disclosure will change all that and render meaningless what we have all worked for. Humans will not be the same again. And there will be no going back. Once that genie is loosed, it will not go easily back into its bottle. By the natural course of disclosure, our world political and economic systems will evolve and become something quite unrecognizable from what we have today. The first will be last and the last first, so to speak. Are we really ready for that? Or is that slim chance we may win the Wall Street lottery enough to continue our support of oppressive dehumanizing economic systems?

Secondly, if we are ready for it, then how do we vouchsafe personal freedom to those who have kept the secrets from us for so long? Undoubtedly, there have been nefarious deeds done in the name of national security. People have been maimed, maddened, economically destroyed and professionally discredited, and killed as well. There are many crimes against humanity that, revealed, will become collateral damage for any real disclosure movement. Good people have worked hard in keeping this business classified and have done some things we cannot simply, as a people of law, "raise our eyebrows" concerning. Without an ironclad amnesty policy and national and international laws governing the release of previously classified information related to any extraterrestrial issue, very few people will ever let their cats out of the bag. We need to be prepared to pardon all actions related to keeping secret what happened in the past. All actions. Even hideous and unforgivable atrocities against whole nations, or cities and portions thereof, need to be pardoned. No recriminations for their actions to date.

Changing the way humans have thought since the middle of the second millennium is an unimaginably difficult task. Our faith in finance surpasses all religions in its permeation of our cultures – it is a world religion of its own. There are far too many human individuals and nations involved for a homogenous understanding of a completely new meaning of life to evolve. Abandoning our instinct to collect and amass provision is probably not going to happen without a change to our actual genetic structure. In addition, the inculcation of the injunction to "turn the other cheek" and to absolutely forgive people for their sins is completely beyond the reach of us humans. We would walk on water easier than forgiving all wrongs done to us. An open and full disclosure of the truth of alien intervention, both past and present, depends on at least two things which are simply not currently within the pale of human emotion.

Source: <http://www.americanchronicle.com/articles/74244>



"We have, indeed, been contacted - perhaps even visited - by extraterrestrial beings, and the U.S. government, in collusion with the other national powers of the earth, is determined to keep this information from the general public.

"The purpose of the international conspiracy is to maintain a workable stability among the nations of the world and for them, in turn, to retain institutional control over their respective populations. Thus, for these governments to admit that there are beings from outer space... with mentalities and technological capabilities obviously far superior to ours, could, once fully perceived by the average person, erode the foundations of the earth's traditional power structure. Political and legal systems, religions, economic and social institutions could all soon become meaningless in the mind of the public. The national oligarchical establishments, even civilization as we now know it, could collapse into anarchy.

"Such extreme conclusions are not necessarily valid, but they probably accurately reflect the fears of the 'ruling classes' of the major nations, whose leaders (particularly those in the intelligence business) have always advocated excessive governmental secrecy as being necessary to preserve 'national security.'"

(Marchetti, Victor: "How the CIA Views the UFO Phenomenon," Second Look, Vol. 1, No.7, Washington, D.C., May 1979.)

Recent Michigan Sightings

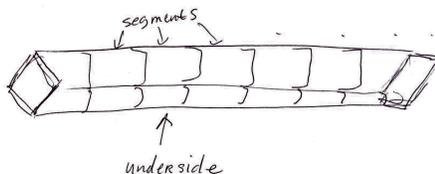
Milan, MI. October 3, 1008:

"It was 10:30 am on 10/3/08. I was approaching service drive going toward US 23 north off of Carpenter Rd in Milan. I was headed toward Ann Arbor. While going around the loop, something made me look over my left shoulder in an upward direction. Sky was clear blue with full sun shining reflecting off of the silver object hovering in the southwest. The entire object was silver. I was amazed in wonderment as to how beautiful it was. It was approx 100 ft above the ground in the Plank Rd area. It was rectangular in length - about as long as the Goodyear blimp and had square segments similar to a plastic pill box. There was no traffic, and I kept driving off onto the shoulder because I kept looking back at it. This happened 2 times, and when I got back on the road, I looked back again and it was gone. The segment lines were clearly defined, and the silver object glistened in the sunshine. Absolutely stunning! I have never seen anything like this. Although I was moving, it appeared to be hovering. The outline of the object was clear against the blue sky. What was even more strange is that I immediately forgot the sighting until a friend of mine mentioned a UFO sighting up north. This was that evening. There was no "missing time". I went about my business the rest of the day. I drove the same route the next day and there was nothing in the sky. I was wondering if those segments would separate and take off!"

Follow up investigation:

I spoke with the witness personally at her home in Milan, MI on October 7, 2008. She was quite adamant that the object she witness on October 3, 2008 was a daylight sighting of a UFO. She was unable to compare the object to any known craft. The closest she could come was a "blimp"; however, she knew it was not a blimp. There were no markings or lettering of any kind that she was able to observe on the object. The "segments" to which she referred would not qualify the object as a blimp.

I asked the witness if the road was straight or if she had gone around a bend in the road just before losing sight of the object. She replied that the road was straight. This would dispel the idea that her view of the object was blocked by trees etc. had she went around a bend in the road.



the length of the Goodyear blimp

On my return trip home from interviewing the witness, I had occasion to pass the area to which she referred (US 23 and Plank Rd.). I looked closely for any advertising balloon or other objects at or above tree top level that she might have mistaken for a UFO. There was nothing that I could see to indicate as much.

I have known this witness for several years and can vouch for her sincerity. She has had UFO sightings and paranormal experiences in the past. This would appear to be one more.

The witness has included a sketch of the object in question in this report.
David Twichell, FI MiMUFON

Chelsea, MI, August 30, 2008:

"Last night about 12:30 A.M., I was putting my dogs outside and saw white lights in the sky like those on the tips of an airplane wings. At first I thought he was going to land but could not think of where. As I was watching I saw it was erratically moving around, going up, down, backwards, and forwards. Then the white lights turned into a row of white lights. Then the lights changed color. Red Green White and Yellow. The sky was clear - visibility unlimited - not a cloud in the sky. Do to the fact that a cold front came through. They reflected off what look like fog or a cloud. Then there was a flash of light bigger than the object. Then it went up higher as a white light where it bounced around. It came back down to the same location. I came in the house and woke up my wife to show her. I was looking for my binoculars and glasses. I showed my wife the object that now looked the same as an airplane with landing lights. Then it did the same thing about three times. On the fourth time it can down horizontal to the earth where I saw a circle of colored lights. Inside the ring of colored light was another circle of colored lights. It also had a flash of lightning. It went back up and bounced around again. When it came down again I got my camera and tried to catch (it) on film which I have not developed. Watched it do the same thing about two more times then about 3 am it took off in an easterly direction. I made a mark on the porch today. I used a compass which made it about 28 degrees of mag north. The reason I watched it for 2 and a half hours is because it fascinated me. I have never seen anything move or act the way it did. It did not fly anyway a normal plane or helicopter would fly.

Follow up investigation:

The witness reported this anomaly for three consecutive nights. On the third evening of his sightings, one of the objects came down to about 38,000 ft. He stated that it looked like a "Ferris Wheel" on its side with red, green, yellow and white lights in a ring on the periphery and a like ring of lights within it. The lights flashed and the object was silent. The object then turned to a vertical position before darting back up and out of sight within a split second.

David Twichell, FI MiMUFON.



Dr. Charles Lietzau to Speak at Nov 16. Meeting



Dr. Charles Lietzau will present at the November 16 meeting at Walli's East in Flint, MI. Dr. Lietzau is a Consultant for the International MUFON as well as the Michigan state chapter and a "former" High School educator of Biology, Chemistry, and Science. Once again, our congratulations are extended to him on his recent retirement. But around the local MiMUFON group, he is just "Chuck".

When asked for a short bio and a teaser for his upcoming presentation he replied:

Apparently my interest in spaceships, Aliens, and the unknown seems to date back to 1951, when, at the age of 7, I was treated by my father to my first "Science Fiction" film, the original of "The Thing From Another Planet." I wanted to leave when the scary title music began but

Dad insisted that we stay. His advice was, "If it was really that dangerous the camera man wouldn't have been there." This is advice that I've often paraphrased to others who were "intimidated" by the unknown when I point out that "we wouldn't have first hand stories if the witnesses didn't survive to tell them." As for "The Thing," it made quite an impression on me and I actually felt sorry for "It" when it had to be destroyed "for the safety of the world." I guess that a seed had been planted in me to become the "Professor" who tried to save It.

I revelled in every science fiction movie during the 50's and 60's. On my first date, we walked 17 blocks to see "The Blob." I was even warned by the usher "to keep quiet or be thrown out" when I told my date that "if it was really that dangerous, the camera man wouldn't have been there." I was especially influenced by my 11th grade Chemistry teacher, "Father/Doctor Feuerstein, S.J." who answered in the "speculative positive" when I asked if Adam and Eve might have been amoebae, and if Jesus Christ might have been an "Alien."

In "The Thing," the scientists were subjected "to enforced isolation" in the Arctic, surrounded by thousands of square miles of wilderness. In 1984, I was subjected to "enforced isolation" as I worked on my dissertation at WSU's summer field station near Watersmeet in Michigan's UP. I also was restricted to only two places, the 1,000 acres of wilderness that formed the biological station, and the "nearly on-site tavern" since the drinking age was 18 and I had to "chaperone" the students. I was forbidden to "waste my time" investigating the nearby Watersmeet-Paulding Mystery Light. After I received my Ph.D. in Zoology, the next year, my wife and I returned to Watersmeet to scientifically investigate the "Mystery Light," and so began my career as a field investigator.

I've had the chance to view the paranormal from both sides, as an enthusiastic investigator, and as a scientist. I realize that the two do not need to be mutually exclusive although the scientific paradigm of our times does not. In Bill Murphy's presentation, we found out that scientists not only do not always stick to the "Scientific Method" themselves, but also are unable to recognize when paranormal investigators do, (which is, unfortunately, a rare occurrence). Hence, my upcoming presentation entitled, "Encounters With UFO Evidence; How Close Are We?" which will scientifically evaluate the evidence presented by some of the "best" "classic" cases. It will cover "where we stand presently, where we have to go from here, and why it is important that we dedicate ourselves to "The Scientific Study of UFOs for the Benefit of Humanity."



MUFON Field Investigator's Training

Field Investigator training to start at 10:00 am. SSD and seasoned Field Investigator Gary Golem will again be leading our morning Field Investigator's training session. If you happen to have a copy of the Field Investigator's Manual, please bring it.

Make Your Meeting Reservations Today!

Phone in your reservations to State Director Bill Konkolesky at (248) 515-9568 or email at wjk@mimufon.org no later than **Wednesday, Nov. 12, 2008**. Please leave your name, number attending in your party, and a telephone number where you can be reached, in case we need to contact you. Please let us know as soon as possible, whether you will be attending. Thank you.

Michigan MUFON Meeting

at Walli's East Restaurant

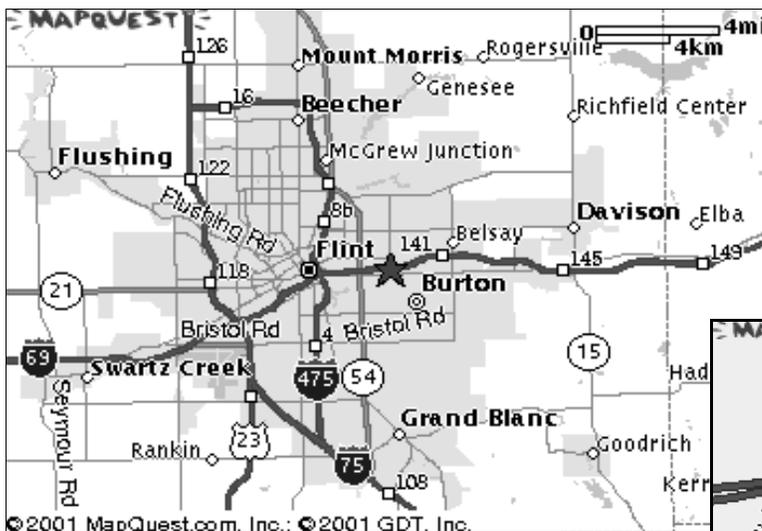
Sunday, Nov. 16, 2008

Members \$13.00 / Non-Members \$15.00

First time guests are \$5.00.

10am FI Training: Conducted by SSD Gary Golem
12pm Buffet Lunch
1:30pm Presentation by Dr. Charles Lietzau
4:00pm MIMUFON Announcements & Necessary Business

MIMUFON Board members: Please plan to attend the brief meeting following the guest speaker.



Walli's East Restaurant
G1341 South Center Rd
Burton, Michigan
(810) 743-9600



- Exit 139 off of I-69
- Just East of I-475
- SE Corner of South Center Rd & Faith Way

From The Editor's Desk



David Twichell

Seeing is Believing (the Sequel)

On September 16, 2008, ABC Primetime aired the sequel to the late Peter Jennings' "Seeing is Believing". Stanton Friedman has referred to the original special as the "UFO Mockumentary" ever since it aired. However, I would not consider the September 16th program as "Mockumentary II". I feel that it was decidedly more fair and balanced. The one hour original was expanded to an hour and a half but contained quite a bit of footage from the original. If you watched closely, you were able to catch a few seconds of our own Bill Konkole-sky being interviewed.

The segment on the Stephenville, Texas case was added to this installment and was reported with great respect to the facts and witnesses. There was no attempt to discount the event as a misidentification or hoax.

Highly qualified witnesses and their accounts were introduced, such as military and civilian airline pilots from around the world, military personnel, law enforcement officers and credible citizens.

The 1980 Bentwaters case, which has received much attention on CNN's Larry King Live as well as other TV shows, was re-hashed with no attempt to put the blame for the event on that sinister lighthouse.

This latest installment omitted much of the debunker's noises, although clips of "comedians" James McGaha, Seth Shostak and Susan Clancy were re-aired espousing their stock explanations. Clancy insisted that all abductees were simply suffering from "sleep paralysis". SETI's Seth Shostak believes that ET is out there but that there is no evidence that they have ever been here. What he didn't say is that if UFOlogists are right, SETI would be a pointless endeavor and he would be out of the best paying job he has ever enjoyed. McGaha reiterated that the lights over Phoenix were nothing more than flares dropped from Air Force planes over the mountains and that people are simply connecting the dots in their minds to form one solid object. What he *didn't* say was "I'm a backyard astronomer and if I've never seen a UFO they couldn't possibly exist."

I do think that the producers chose to leave out some well deserved footage. The late John Mack of Harvard University had been interviewed for the original special and none of his comments were aired in either installment. Budd Hopkins was prepared for the typical "sleep paralysis" argument when interviewed and made certain that his comments got on tape. None of that was aired on either installment.

In light of the recent proclamation of the UFO reality by Dr. Edgar Mitchell and its ensuing worldwide buzz, I was totally prepared to see footage of an interview with him as was done on Fox news and MSNBC. Unfortunately his name was never even mentioned.

However, to the producer's credit, it was admitted that the government's denial and ridicule policy was a deliberate one dating back before and including the infamous Project Blue Book. This admission goes a long way in bolstering UFOlogy's position if not silencing the UFO cynics.

On the whole, Seeing is Believing II, was a noticeable softening of mainstream media's usual frivolous attitude toward the scientific study of the UFO phenomenon. It is to be applauded for its balanced reporting of the facts.

It would seem that more and more mainstream television programs on the subject are presenting the facts more accurately and openly with less and less of the "giggle factor". They are not quite prepared to declare UFOs and their occupants as gospel, nor are they discounting the evidence. It's as if they're saying "Here's the facts, folks. You're intelligent people – figure it out for yourselves."

"Making the Case for UFOlogy" was the title of Bill Murphy's presentation at Walli's in Flint on September 14, 2008. If you missed it, you missed a good one. Bill made a compelling case for UFOlogy that would make an excellent TV special or documentary. His illustrated Power Point presentation was geared toward the skeptic and those who are sitting on the fence between skepticism and acknowledging the phenomenon.

Bill employed just the right amount of humor to keep the audience's attention to a very serious subject.

He briefly covered the gamut of UFO cases since Roswell (and before) to present day. He addressed every objection the skeptic could come up with and promptly proceeded to knock it down with logic as well as direct and circumstantial evidence. He mentioned the fact that much of the denial by mainstream science is an effort to protect funding for other scientific endeavors and how pursuing the UFO phenomenon has jeopardized ones standing in the scientific community. One only has to recall the late J. Allen Hynek as an example of that.

Bill concluded his presentation by suggesting ways that serious scientific studies can further the knowledge of world – providing the world has a desire to break through that barrier of ignorance and the world governments will allow it to happen.

If you were unfortunate enough to have missed Bill's presentation, don't despair; a copy in DVD format will soon be available in MiMUFON's library.

David Twichell, MiMUFON Newsletter Editor



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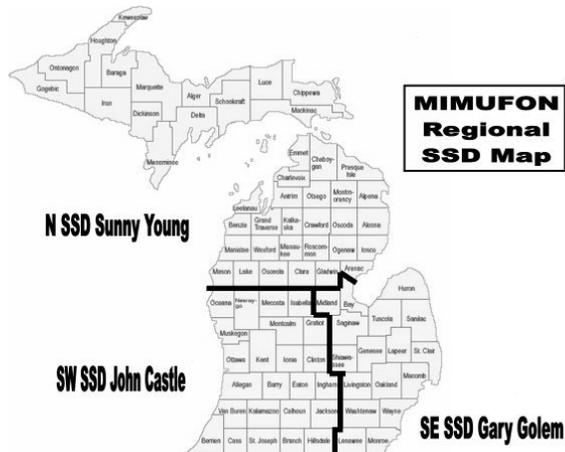
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When possible, contact by e-mail is the best method to reach most of the people on this list, but does not preclude using the telephone numbers if desirable. If you call please be patient as most of the people are not available during the daytime hours. When you leave a message, please speak clearly and leave you telephone number, city, state, and brief message explaining your contact. We will return your call at the earliest convenience.



ATTENTION: If you would like to start receiving your newsletter or invitation via email, please email the editor at news@mimufon.org

Suggestion Box.

Please help us improve our organization with your comments and suggestions.

What is your interest in the UFO phenomenon?

What kind of events should MIMUFON sponsor?

Do you have any suggestions for future speakers at state meetings?

Any other comments or suggestions?

Mail to: Michigan MUFON, PO Box 8532, Kentwood, MI 49518-8532

For the 2008 calendar year memberships (if you are a member) or subscriberships, please use the form below and send it, with a \$25.00 check or money order to:
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