

Minnesota MUFON Journal

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Directors Report

AN ESTIMATE OF THE SITUATION FOR 2003

By William I. McNeff, Minnesota MUFON State Dir.

This article is a continuation of my custom of looking back over the past year and providing an evaluation of the state of "The Phenomenon" and ufology at the beginning of each New Year. There have been some developments of at least moderate importance in the UFO field in 2002. The latest is a 20 hour series on the Sci-Fi channel titled "Taken". It was, as probably all of you know, a dramatization of the alien abduction subject. I understand it attracted a large audience. The value of such a series is several-fold: Perhaps most important, it most likely desensitizes its audience to the abduction subject. It acquaints a larger number of people with the idea of abduction, and gives them a fairly detailed knowledge of what people report as happening during an abduction. Unfortunately, I didn't have cable and have not seen the series, so I won't comment further on this series until I have seen it.

There was a previous program, also on the SciFi channel, which included interviews with 'abductees' or 'experiencers', whichever you would like to call them. One of these, I understand, was MUFON member Don Weatherbee, the computer programming expert who, together with Wendy Ban, created the MUFON UFO/ET database which is known as WUFOD. Once again, I didn't get to see this program, but Weatherbee is a credible, intelligent person. Each time such a person is interviewed on the media, the cause of ufology is surely advanced.

Yet another program on the Sci-Fi channel was titled "Roswell - The Smoking Gun". Ufology seems to be divided about Roswell. Some believe it is an important and well-documented case. Others feel that it was an invention of a few overly-enthusiastic ufologists and that the statements by alleged witnesses in some cases have been deceptive, have not been always been self-consistent, or consistent with the testimony of others. Still other good ufologists, are, to my surprise, 'not interested in Roswell'. Their feeling is that documenting the tens of thousands of UFO and ET reports is the most important work to be done. "The Smoking Gun" boiled down to archeological evidence that something side-swiped the ground and left a groove on the ranch managed by Mac Brazel, plus the David Rudiak translation of the 'Ramey Memo', which indicates that there were 'victims of the wreck' and a 'disk'. This writer is of the first opinion listed above; the variations in testimony seem to me to be no more than are to be expected after fifty or so years, and it is clear that something of great importance happened at Roswell.



Minnesota Mufon Meetings

Sat., Mar. 8th
&
Sat., Apr. 12th
1:30-5pm

**New Brighton Family
Service Center
400 - 10th St. NW
(located 1/4-mile S.W.
of Hwy 694 and 35W.)**

PARK FREE!

**The building is
designated as
non-smoking.**

**See map on back
cover**

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

All of these programs which give credible evidence of the existence of UFOs and associated aliens cannot help but raise the believability of The Phenomenon in the minds of the public. Slowly, public opinion on this subject is changing, I believe. Someday, public opinion and that of the news media and science may reach a critical mass, and government will be compelled to respond to the demands for the truth.

At the 2002 MUFON Symposium, David Jacobs, Ph.D., explained how he had decided to document just how many scientists and academics with advanced degrees have allowed their names to be associated with the study of UFOs. He listed 759 'Doctorates and Working Scholars' and 516 'Masters Degrees and Research Specialists' for a total of 1275. This is a nice number, when you consider that fifty years ago you could probably count the number of scientists who publicly stated their interest in UFOs on the fingers of one hand.

Finally, Raymond Fowler, long-time UFO investigator, has written what he calls his final book on the UFO subject, "UFO Testament". He describes his early experiences of The Phenomenon when he was a child and as a teenager, which he may have been programmed not to remember until more recently. Fowler notes that all the time he was investigating The Phenomenon, it was investigating him! Fowler does not shy away from reporting on other paranormal phenomena associated with UFOs in addition to ETs. The duplicity of the government, understandable in the light of national security, is clearly shown. This is an interesting and important book, which I can recommend. An autographed copy can be obtained for \$29.95 directly from: Ray Fowler, 249 Maguire Road, Kennebunk, ME 04043.

Then there is, of course, the continual drum beat of UFO and ET reports which arise over the entire world. We have received information on at least a couple of dozen reports in 2002, and due to the reluctance of most members of the public to report these things, it is likely that we see only the tip of the iceberg, and that about twenty times this many sightings are actually occurring. When you stop to consider that the population of Minnesota is about 4 million, and surveys have shown that 5% of the US population believe they have seen UFOs, then there must be around 200,000 people in the state who have seen UFOs. When you factor in that about 90% of these can be attributed to ordinary causes, you still have about 20,000 'good' reports

over the past 50 years. Assuming the average lifetime of state residents to be 40, there may be about 500 good sightings per year.

The state of ufology, while far from ideal, is getting better. But we have our work cut out for us.

SECRECY NEWS

(from the FAS Project on Government Secrecy),
Volume 2003, Issue No. 1, January 6, 2003

NEW INVENTION SECRECY ORDERS REPORTED:

The U.S. government invoked the Invention Secrecy Act of 1951 to impose new secrecy orders on 139 patent applications during fiscal year 2002, thereby blocking their publication. A total of 4,792 secrecy orders remained in effect at the end of the year, according to statistics compiled by the Patent and Trademark Office.

Secrecy orders can be imposed on patent applications at the discretion of government agencies whenever, in their judgment, disclosure of the invention could be "detrimental to national security."

The Invention Secrecy Act is one of two laws that permit the government to prevent publication of privately generated information. (The other law is the Atomic Energy Act.) The constitutionality of such authority, which appears to be at odds with the First Amendment, has never been tested in court.

Of the 139 new secrecy orders issued last year, 37 were imposed on private inventors or businesses who developed their inventions without government funding. Such orders, which are referred to as "John Doe" orders, are the most potentially problematic from a constitutional point of view.

The latest statistics on patent secrecy orders, obtained by FAS under the Freedom of Information Act, may be found here:

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/othergov/invention/stats.html>

Other resources concerning the Invention Secrecy Act of 1951 are available here:

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/othergov/invention/index.html>

Study Finds Huge Increase in UFO Reports in Canada in 2002 News Release: 12 February 2003

A new study by an independent research group has found that more people are seeing UFOs in Canada. The group collected UFO reports from private, public and government sources.

UFO sightings continue to be reported in significant numbers each year, says Chris Rutkowski, research coordinator for the study. People still report observing unusual objects in the sky, and some of these objects do not have obvious explanations. Many witnesses are pilots, police and other individuals with reasonably good observing capabilities and good judgement. Although most reported UFOs are simply lights in the night sky, he says a significant number are objects with definite shapes observed within the witnesses frame of reference.

Other findings of the study:

- * There were 483 reported sightings of UFOs in Canada in 2002 - at least one sighting a day.

- * There were about 29 per cent more UFO reports in 2002 than 2001. The number of UFO reports per year in Canada has increased almost 250 per cent since 1998.

- * In 2002, more UFOs were reported in the late summer than any other time of the year, but February also had an unexpectedly large peak in UFO report numbers.

- * In 2002, about 18 per cent of all UFO reports were unexplained. This percentage of unknowns falls to about 7 per cent when only high*quality cases are considered.

- * Most UFO sightings have two witnesses.

- * The typical UFO sighting lasted approximately 15 minutes in 2002.

Rutkowski cautions, a popular opinion to the contrary, there is yet to be any incontrovertible evidence that some UFO cases involve extraterrestrial contact. However, the continued reporting of UFOs by the public suggests a need for further examination of the phenomenon by social, medical and/or physical scientists. This research can give scientists the raw data needed to properly

evaluate this popular social phenomenon that is so pervasive throughout our culture.

The study is available online at:
<http://www.geocities.com/aristotl.geo>

For further information, contact: Chris Rutkowski
e-mail: rutkows@cc.umanitoba.ca

Note: A toll-free telephone number to report UFO sightings in Canada has recently become operational. This UFO Hotline is: 1-866-262-1989

The NIDS-FAA UFOdata Compact: Not- So-Strange Bedfellows by Larry W. Bryant

"Imagine what our government officials would learn about UFO reality were they to read their own UFO-related documentation." - Larry W. Bryant

Not known for their speedy processing of freedom-of-information requests, the FOIA managers at the U. S. Federal Aviation Administration thus failed to surprise me with their tardy, skimpy package of records sent to me on Jan. 18, 2002, in response to my FOIA request of Sept. 11, 2001. (Likewise, have I waited too long in getting around to this analysis of them?)

At any rate, here's what their transmittal letter tells us:

"Your request sought information concerning the National Institute for Discovery Science (NIDS) contract with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). The [letter] also requests all FAA generated and FAA received records pertaining to our agency's coordination, decision making, and implementing process that led to the selection of NIDS as the single point of contact for gathering UFO encounter information.

"Enclosed are the requested documents. To date, the FAA has not processed any reports to forward to NIDS. There are no fees associated with this request because the cost to process was under \$10."

The above reply bears the signature of one Michael A. Cirillo, program director for air traffic planning and procedures. He encloses four items: "Mr. Robert T. Bigelow letter dated December 22, 1999; FAA letter dated March 6, 2000; FAA letter: ATP-200 Alton Scott to Mr. Bigelow; publication change

sheet: FAA Order 7110.65 (Air Traffic Control); FAA Order 7210.3 (Facility Operation and Administration); and Aeronautical Information Manual."

Bigelow, of course, happens to be the NIDS founding director, based in Las Vegas See: <http://www.nidsci.org>

The closing words of his letter to the FAA administrator epitomize the symbiosis sought by his formal proposal to have his privately funded organization recognized as the FAA "single point of contact for UFO research."

"We are aware that Congressional hearings (not yet announced) may be held on the UFO topic in the next few months. One of the subjects to be addressed will be aerial encounters. We are offering to provide a heads-up.

"The Government officially stopped taking reports of UFOs in 1969 following release of the Condon Committee Report. Still, credible observations have continued. A few pilots and many other people have called FAA to report their sightings. Additionally, there is multisensor data supporting some cases. Currently there is no scientifically acceptable place to report these incidents. We want to be that place and would appreciate the opportunity to discuss a no-cost proposal. All that we are asking for is to be advised when an incident is reported to the FAA.

"Thank you for your consideration of this most serious offer to be of service."

Bigelow's letter encloses a two-page background sheet, which (teasingly) concludes with this insightful, behind-the-scenes perspective:

"The next step may be, is for us to come to Washington and hold discussions with Associate Administrator Steven Brown and any other FAA staff members deemed appropriate. We would like to provide a briefing that covers the following:

- * The historical basis surrounding the UFO phenomena as it related to aviation.

- * The reasons for vast differences between a substantial majority of the American public who believe UFOs are real and the opinion of the scientific community.

- * The results of previous studies including hard, multisensory evidence and veridical testimony of highly qualified witnesses.

- * The current situation regarding aerial encounters with unknown objects.

- * How reports of sightings are currently handled.

- * Why there is no Governmental agency formally tasked to respond to sightings.

- * Why a civilian organization should be willing and able to accept responsibility for research effort.

- * How NIDS functions and what we propose to do for the FAA.

- * The scientific and investigatory resources available and their application to this research effort.

- * How we anticipate the Congressional Hearings by the House Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics will unfold next spring.

- * The relationship of NIDS to those hearings.

- * Why the FAA would want to understand how those hearings might impact their agency."

Assuming that the above-cited NIDS "briefing" actually occurred, there's no record of it (handouts/charts/audio tapes/graphics) within the FAA-released material. We know, of course, that the touted congressional hearings have failed to materialize. But how many of us even have suspected that the subcommittee had been on the verge of holding them? And what, precisely, was the NIDS role in trying to facilitate them? What (and/or who) has caused their postponement or cancellation? Too bad that the FOIA doesn't apply to congressional entities/records!

Another two-page NIDS enclosure presents "Examples of Cases Involving UFO Encounters with Aircraft." Some of a few thousand such reports, the enclosure points out, "include electromagnetic interference with navigational equipment, communications equipment, and airborne radar. That certainly constitutes a safety hazard."

Bigelow's first enclosure uses the following pitch to make his case for FAA favoritism:

"As a research organization, NIDS wants to be able to investigate cases while they are as fresh as possible and not contaminated. What we are offering is very straightforward. If the FAA were to provide us timely information about sightings of aerial phenomena, we will do the following:

1. Follow up on all incidents that are referred to NIDS.
2. Provide confidentiality to all involved, including witnesses and administrators.
3. Conduct rigorous scientific investigations of cases that have sufficient evidence to merit commitment of resources.
4. Provide the FAA reports of our investigations and findings.
5. As appropriate, provide those witnesses involved in the sighting with information that can be validated."

Notice that whoever compiled that list of promised NIDS actions failed to add an all-important sixth one: Keep the general public promptly and fully informed of all NIDS-FAA activity as regards case investigations, findings, conclusions, and recommendations.

The FAA acceptance letter to Bigelow of March 6, 2000, offers this perspective:

"Administrator Garvey has asked me to respond to your letter concerning aerial phenomena and your request for your institution to be the scientifically acceptable place for reporting incidents.

"Federal Aviation Administration Order 8020.11A (dated August 2, 1991), Aircraft Accident and Incident Notification, Investigation, and Reporting - paragraph 87(e) - states: 'When AT receives a report of a UFO, refer the individual to the nearest scientific establishment or institution of higher learning that has expressed interest in such reports. If concern is expressed that life or property might be endangered, refer the individual to the local police department.' We believe your institute may fall into this category and we have enclosed a copy of this order for your review.

Representatives from my staff would like to meet with you and your organization to discuss the agenda included in your letter. For an appointment,

please contact Mr. Alton Scott, Manager, Special Operations Division, ATP-200, at (202) 267-7682. If we can be of further assistance, please let us know."

Apparently, the ensuing meeting of April 14, 2000, resulted in the FAA decision to issue, effective July 12, 2001, the three document changes - each of which would contain the following wording:

"Unidentified Flying Object (UFO) Reports: Persons observing UFO activity should contact the National Institute for Discovery Science (NIDS) via the following methods:

(702) 798-1700 (Voice); (702) 798-1970 (Facsimile); <http://www.nidsci.org>

NIDS will have a series of questions (verbal and/or questionnaire) to learn more about the events. NOTE: NIDS is the single point of contact recognized by the FAA in regard to UFO information. They will maintain a national database on anomalous phenomena and periodically share that information with the FAA. If concern is expressed that life or property might be endangered, also refer the individual to the local police department."

That, more or less, would be the end of the NIDS-FAA story had I not received a phone call from a NIDS official shortly after he'd been informed (by some discomfited FAA contact) that I was prying a bit too deep with my FOIA probe. Let's name him "Dr. J. B. Nidster."

During the 40-minute conversation that fall of 2001, Nidster chastised my daring to put the FAA community on the spot as to how much UFO info they've been sharing, to date, with the Institute. One or more of his (unnamed) FAA contacts, he said, had made it plain to him their reluctance to fulfill their part of the bargain if the likes of Larry W. Bryant were to keep injecting FOIA requests into the deal. This repercussion poses two key points: (1) Nowhere does the U. S. Freedom of Information Act authorize agencies to retaliate, in any way (either directly or indirectly), against requesters. Indeed, such reprehensible conduct on the part of any public official would be an anathema to the letter and spirit of the Act. (2) By condoning (or excusing) that conduct, Dr. Nidster has compromised the integrity and credibility of his organization; and that loss raises questions as to how much further the Institute's cozying up to

officialdom will extend (and why and at what cost to principle).

If those congressional hearings ever do occur in my lifetime, I want them to subpoena from Nidster the names of the FAA officials with whom he has been complicit in trying to punish or thwart the (FOIA) messenger of bad news.

In Search of EBE's by Richard Moss, MN MUFON ASD

Bill Hamilton gave a presentation entitled In Search of EBE's at the MUFON 2002 International UFO Symposium held in Rochester, New York.

Bill read Donald Keyhoe's book, Flying Saucers from Outer Space, when he was in grade school and has been pursuing the subject ever since. He has personally seen over a hundred UFOs.

He has written a number of books and magazine articles and has appeared many times on radio and TV. Hamilton has been active within MUFON since the early 1980's. He is currently Executive Director of Skywatch International which has a website at: <http://www.skywatch-international.org>.

This is a condensed summary of his presentation and will concentrate on connections between Astrobiology and UFO concerns. It is Hamilton's idea that new findings in biology have a bearing on UFO studies.

The number of known planets gives credence to the possibility of ET intelligence. Although the public remains interested, the political climate for continued funding remains cool. SETI scientists do not interact with scientists engaged in UFO studies. Some UFO researchers feel that SETI is a waste of time and money because the presence of UFOs might be evidence for the existence of ETs.

NASA's Terrestrial Planet Finder is planned for launch in 2012. It is designed to take a look at 250 stars to determine if any of them might have life-sustaining planets. Its images will be 10 to 100 times better than those of the Hubble Telescope. Refer to: <http://tpf.jpl.nasa.gov>.

Calculations indicate that there might be 30 billion planets in our galaxy. If 1% of these were earth-like there could be 300 million suitable for life. A few of

them could someday be within reach of ultra-fast spacecraft.

The question of the nature of ETs has always been an interesting speculation. Biologist C. D. Darlington has suggested that a form similar to ours is by no means unlikely.

Quoting him, "There are such great advantages in walking on two legs, in carrying one's brain in one's head, in having two eyes at a height of five or six feet, that we might as well take quite seriously the possibility of a pseudo man and a pseudo woman with some physical resemblance to ourselves." Encounters with UFO entities perhaps support this viewpoint.

NASA has done experiments to simulate conditions within interstellar dust and gas. They froze and then irradiated the most common carbon-bearing molecules found in space. This resulted in organics of the kind that served as building blocks for the development of life on Earth. Refer to the journal Science for Feb. 19, 1999.

Data from instruments on airplanes during last year's Leonid shower showed that the seeds of life could have survived a fiery passage through Earth's ancient atmosphere. These findings provide support for the idea of panspermia, which holds that life on Earth was seeded from space.

In addition scientists have announced, amidst immediate skepticism, that they found an alien bacterium ten miles above earth. Panspermia, now called the theory of Cosmic Ancestry, is gaining support from astrobiologists.

After briefly explaining research on four different propulsion methods, Hamilton quoted an aerospace engineer, Marc Millis, to the effect that in order for a warp drive to be possible there must be breakthroughs in control over gravity and the ability to exceed the speed of light.

Alien events often involve behaviors that seem to defy the laws of physics. Although skeptics reject the possibility of these behaviors, we must consider hypotheses beyond the usual ET hypothesis. This brings us to a much more obscure subject - the extra dimensions of theoretical physics.

Hamilton conjectures that alien behaviors, such as passing through walls or materializing from an orb of light, suggest that they are from extra-

dimensional worlds possibly as close to us as our breath.

He ended the presentation by recounting his own participation in attempting to contact aliens using a procedure pioneered by John Otto.

In 1958 he was part of a group who gathered in the desert north of Yucca Valley. A light beam transceiver had been wired to a car with the car's spotlight as the carrier. The group took turns talking into a microphone asking ET to either reply or fly by. Within minutes a barbell-shaped object streaked across the sky in front of them. They got the same response by sending mental messages which could get them to fly over.

The light beam communicator, based on Bell's invention of the photophone, utilizes a beam of light as a carrier for audio modulated signals. Dr. Steven Greer's attempts at communicating with aliens may be nothing new, but Hamilton gave him high marks for organizing such an effort, defining terms, and training groups to accomplish CE-5.

UFO sightings and close encounters cry out for greater scrutiny and interdisciplinary investigations. Both scientific and UFO communities have been fractionalized and disputes are common. Since we are all seeking answers to the same questions, a greater spirit of cooperation and unification of effort should be promoted.

As usual, this is part of an ongoing series of brief summaries of the main points made by speakers at MUFON's annual Symposiums. Some of it is paraphrased and some is given verbatim.

If any reader wishes to get a more complete account of Bill Hamilton's presentation, along with those of the other presenters, send a check for \$27.50 to MUFON, PO Box 369, Morrison CO 80465-0369 and request a copy of the MUFON 2002 International UFO Symposium Proceedings.

Habitable planets may be common Exclusive from New Scientist (1/3/03)

One in four of the planetary systems identified to date outside the Solar System are capable of harboring other Earths, say astrophysicists, a much higher proportion than anyone expected.

The researchers decided the race to detect an extra-solar Earth-like planet is taking too long. So, instead of scanning the skies, they modeled all the planetary systems known so far to work out which could be hiding habitable planets.

Since 1995, astronomers have unveiled dozens of planets orbiting nearby Sun-like stars. Current methods can only detect gas giants like Jupiter but life, at least in the form that we know it, can only get started on a solid surface where water can pool. A small terrestrial planet made of rock would be a more likely abode, but it could be years before we are able to detect such planets.

To narrow the search, Serge Tabachnik and Kristen Menou of Princeton University in New Jersey, US, have created computer simulations of the 85 systems known in August 2002, the time of their research, to estimate which might harbor habitable planets. Although similar work has been carried out for a few individual solar systems, this study, which will appear in *The Astrophysical Journal*, is the first to address the entire known set.

Gravitational tugs

The first thing they looked for in each system was whether a small terrestrial planet could exist in a stable orbit. The gravitational tugs exerted by gas giants can force smaller planets into unstable orbits or eject them from a system altogether.

So for a smaller world to be habitable, it must be far enough away from its larger cousins so that their gravitational pull does not seriously affect its orbit. The planet must also be within the "habitable zone": the region surrounding a star within which a planet can support liquid water at all times.

The researchers found that around a quarter of the systems contained regions where life-friendly planets could in principle exist. This is much higher than previously thought, says Tabachnik. Extrapolated across the entire Galaxy, that makes a lot of new Earths.

Greg Laughlin from the University of California, Santa Cruz, has done similar calculations with a smaller number of systems, and agrees with these new results. "[They are] in line with what I would have expected," he says.

But the authors warn that their results are preliminary. There could still be other gas giants,

further away from the stars, which have not been detected yet, they point out. That could affect the stable regions that have been found so far.

Mark A Garlick, Researcher Steven L. Wilson, Sr

**It's True, Men Really Are From Mars
And so are women, thanks to an
invasion by Red Planet microbes
by Paul Davies, October 30, 2002,
The Guardian - UK**

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/comment/story/0,3604,822088,00.html>

A hundred years ago it was widely believed that there was life on Mars. The American astronomer Percival Lowell even produced detailed maps of canals he claimed had been constructed by water-deprived Martians. Then in the 1960s space probes sent to Mars failed to reveal any sign of life, let alone intelligent canal-building life. But the coup de grace came in 1977 when the US space agency NASA landed two Viking spacecraft on the Martian surface with the specific aim of searching for signs of biological activity. Not so much as a bacterium was found. The surface of Mars appeared to be a freeze-dried desert, utterly hostile to any form of life.

Today this pessimistic assessment seems too hasty. I believe not only that Mars has harbored life, but it may actually be the cradle of life. This conclusion arises because of the recent discovery that our biosphere extends deep into the bowels of the Earth. Microbes have been found thriving at depths of several kilometers, inhabiting the pore spaces of apparently solid rock. Genetic studies suggest these deep-living organisms are among the most ancient on the planet. They are, in effect, living fossils.

Because temperature sharply rises with depth, the subterranean microbes tend to be extremely heat-tolerant. There is, however, a limit. Estimates suggest that 150C is probably an upper bound for life as we know it. After Earth formed about 4.5bn years ago it remained very hot, both from enhanced radioactivity and the violence of the planet's birth. Temperatures below ground would have been lethal, even for heat-loving microbes. On the other hand the surface was pretty uncongenial too. Astronomers think that for about 700m years a barrage of giant asteroids pounded the planet. The big impacts would have swathed the globe with

incandescent rock vapor, boiling the oceans and sterilizing the rock beneath.

By contrast, Mars cooled quicker because it is smaller. The comfort zone for deep-living, heat-tolerant microbes would have been deeper sooner. All in all, the Red Planet offered a more favorable habitat for life during the early history of the solar system. We don't know where life began, but a kilometer or two below the surface of Mars seems a good place. How, then, did life get from Mars to Earth? The answer is straightforward. The same asteroid impacts that made early life so hazardous also served to splatter vast quantities of Martian rock around the solar system. A fraction of this hits Earth; indeed, it does so today. So far, a couple of dozen meteorites have been found that can be traced back to Mars.

If there was life on Mars, then it is possible that some Martian microbes will have hitched a ride inside the ejected rocks and made their way to Earth. When I suggested this idea about 10 years ago, few scientists took it seriously. They found it incredible that any form of life could survive being blasted off a planet and subjected to the inhospitable environment of outer space. Yet evidence is steadily growing that microbes could withstand the violence of ejection, the savage radiation of interplanetary space, as well as the heat of atmospheric re- entry. Studies of the Martian meteorites show they were not highly shock-heated when propelled into space. As for the microbes, cocooned inside rocks a meter or more across, they would be shielded from the worst effects of radiation.

Initially Mars was the more bio-friendly planet; Earth was a scalding hell. Once life got going on the Red Planet, it quickly spread through the subsurface zone - a good refuge from impacts. However, those microbes living near ground zero of a major impact would have been flung into orbit round the sun. The lucky ones, buried deep inside large boulders, could have survived in space for millions of years. A few of those boulders would, over such durations, hit the Earth. Although many microbes would perish in space, and more would die on high-speed entry to Earth's atmosphere, it would take just one viable organism to seed our planet with life.

One of the puzzles about life's appearance on Earth is that it happened so quickly after the bombardment abated about 3.8bn years ago. There

are distinct traces of life in Australia dating from 3.5bn years ago, and hints of life in rocks from even earlier times. This is readily explained if life came from Mars. We can imagine a continuing rain of microbe-laden Martian debris falling on Earth during the bombardment. As soon as conditions finally settled down, these colonists would have flourished. Martian life probably established itself here many times, only to be destroyed by the next big impact. If I am right, then you and I are the direct descendants of the first Martians able to burrow hot and deep, and ride out the remaining fury of the cosmic bombardment.

· Paul Davies is a member of the Australian Centre for Astrobiology in Sydney and a visiting professor at Imperial College. His book *The Fifth Miracle: the Search for the Origin of Life* is published by Penguin. astrobiology@els.mq.edu.au

**Gravity Waves Analysis Opens
'Completely New Sense'
St. Louis - Oct 29, 2002,
Source: SpaceDaily**

<http://www.spacedaily.com/news/gravity-02c.html>

Sometime within the next two years, researchers will detect the first signals of gravity waves - those weak blips from the far edges of the universe passing through our bodies every second. Predicted by Einstein's theory of general relativity, gravity waves are expected to reveal, ultimately, previously unattainable mysteries of the universe.

Wai-Mo Suen, Ph.D., professor of physics at Washington University in St. Louis is collaborating with researchers nationwide to develop waveform templates to comprehend the signals to be analyzed. In this manner, researchers will be able to determine what the data represent - a neutron star collapsing, for instance, or black holes colliding.

"In the past, whenever we expanded our band width to a different wavelength region of electromagnetic waves, we found a very different universe," said Suen. "But now we have a completely new kind of wave. It's like we have been used to experiencing the world with our eyes and ears and now we are opening up a completely new sense."

Suen discussed the observational and theoretical efforts behind this new branch of astronomy at the

40th annual New Horizons in Science Briefing, Oct. 27, 2002, at Washington University in St. Louis. The gathering of national and international science writers is a function of the Council for the Advancement of Science Writing.

Gravity waves will provide information about our universe that is either difficult or impossible to obtain by traditional means. Our present understanding of the cosmos is based on the observations of electromagnetic radiation, emitted by individual electrons, atoms, or molecules, and are easily absorbed, scattered, and dispersed.

Gravitational waves are produced by the coherent bulk motion of matter, traveling nearly unscathed through space and time, and carrying the information of the strong field space-time regions where they were originally generated, be it the birth of a black hole or the universe as a whole.

This new branch of astronomy was born this year. The Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory (LIGO) at Livingston, Louisiana, was on air for the first time last March. LIGO, together with its European counterparts, VIRGO and GEO600, and the outer-space gravitational wave observatories, LISA and LAGOS, will open in the next few years a completely new window to the universe.

Supercomputer runs Einstein equation to get templates.

Suen and his collaborators are using supercomputing power from the National Center for Supercomputing Applications at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, to do numerical simulations of Einstein's equations to simulate what happens when, say, a neutron star plunges into a black hole. From these simulations, they get waveform templates. The templates can be superimposed on actual gravity wave signals to see if the signal has coincidences with the waveform.

"When we get a signal, we want to know what is generating that signal," Suen explained. "To determine that, we do a numerical simulation of a system, perhaps a neutron star collapsing, in a certain configuration, get the waveform and compare it to what we observe. If it's not a match, we change the configuration a little bit, do the comparison again and repeat the process until we can identify which configuration is responsible for the signal that we observe."

Suen said that intrigue about gravity waves is sky-high in the astronomy community.

"Think of it: Gravity waves come to us from the edge of the universe, from the beginning of time, unchanged," he said. "They carry completely different information than electromagnetic waves. Perhaps the most exciting thing about them is that we may well not know what it is we're going to observe. We think black holes, for sure. But who knows what else we might find?"

Related Links:

SPACE SCIENCE

ESA To Look For The Missing Link In Gravity Paris - Sep 19, 2002. Although you can never be certain of predicting future developments in science, there is a good chance of a fundamental breakthrough in physics soon.

[Editors Note: The ability to detect gravity waves could also result in detecting gravity wave propulsion, thus proving the existence of ET's capable of interstellar travel.]

Mac Tonnies <macbot@yahoo.com>

'The Truth Behind Men In Black'

(Book Review) 8 Feb 2003

"The Truth Behind Men In Black" by Jenny Randles reviewed by Mac Tonnies.

When "The Truth About Men In Black" was first published to correspond with the comedy film "Men In Black," I assumed it was a hasty rehash of familiar cases and didn't read it. But I should have; Randles' "The Truth About Men In Black" is nothing less than the best book about the bizarre "Men In Black" phenomenon I've read or am likely to read, addressed with skepticism, wit and good journalism.

Randles not only cites compelling cases you've likely never heard of, but furnishes a chillingly plausible explanation for who the notorious "Men In Black" really are--but not before exploring exotic possibilities a la John Keel's "The Mothman Prophecies."

"The Truth About Men In Black" is both a balanced treatment of a myth in the making and a rare look at a hidden, thoroughly disturbing reality. This is a must for readers not afraid to look behind the curtain of mainstream ufology.

For more: <http://www.mactonnies.com/ufobooks.html>

From: Don Johnson, ufocat@CUFOS.ORG

Date: Wed, 8 Jan 2003

**Subject: Prediction For March 15 2003
Worldwide UFO Wave**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Based upon a careful analysis of trends in historical UFO reports in the UFOCAT database, I am making the following prediction.

There will be a worldwide UFO wave in the month of March 2003 that will reach its maximum between March 15 and March 25. I am reasonably confident that this wave will involve Northern Europe. Another likely region is the Pacific Ocean, including Japan and the Hawaiian Islands, and possibly the Alaskan Aleutian Islands.

I wanted to go on the record now, a full seven weeks before the anticipated peak in UFO activity, before any upswing in reporting starts. A paper outlining my reasons for this prediction will follow.

Donald A. Johnson, Ph.D., UFOCAT archivist
Center for UFO Studies, ufocat@cufos.org

(ED. - We'll keep an eye out and see if his prediction comes true.)

Casey Holt, Minnesota MUFON Field Investigator Passes at 39

CASEY HOLT 2/25/1963 - 12/24/2002

He had apparently gone out onto a lake (to ice skate) in northern Wisconsin and fallen through the ice. He was missing until 1/4/2003. Funeral services were at St. Joseph's Church in Kellnersville, WI on 1/11/03. A memorial potluck dinner for Minnesota MUFON members, family, and other friends was held on 1/18/03.

Casey was a brilliant field investigator, and a true electronics wizard. He had conducted many fascinating experiments with magnetic levitation, temperature sensing related to anomaly studies, etc. He had been heavily involved in field investigation of UFO sightings since we formed the current investigator group in 1996. In addition to

being a science/technology wizard, he was also a true spiritual seeker. The combination of the two had led him to involvement in many fascinating adventures.

Casey will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

A memorial fund has been established in Casey's name. You can send memorials to: Joan Holt, 1545 South 38th St., Manitowoc, WI 54220.

E-mail letters of condolence may be sent to the Holt family at: jrp@lakefield.net

IFO Database on the Internet

The IFO Database: <http://ifo.s5.com/> is an excellent source of images for the identification of non-UFO's for UFO Field Investigators or anyone who actively looks for or thinks they have seen a UFO. 90-95% of UFO's seen end up as IFO's (identified flying objects) or other explainable phenomena. It's a good idea for us to get a look at some of those things that are mistaken for UFO's so we don't end up making the same mistakes.

Columbia Shuttle Disaster

It is with great sadness we mourn the loss of the Space Shuttle Columbia and all the Astronauts on board. We know that space travel is a risky business. Let's all hope it was not a case of negligence like the Challenger disaster. Time will tell.

Editors Note:

Due to circumstances beyond my control there was no Jan/ Feb 2003 issue of the MN MUFON Journal.

There will only be 5 issues this year with a price increase due to increasing costs.

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

National MUFON Hotline

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

Go to: www.mnmufon.org/mmj.htm for back issues of the Minnesota MUFON Journal.

Your news or editorial contributions to this journal are welcomed and appreciated. Please direct your articles or inquiries to the Editor.

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