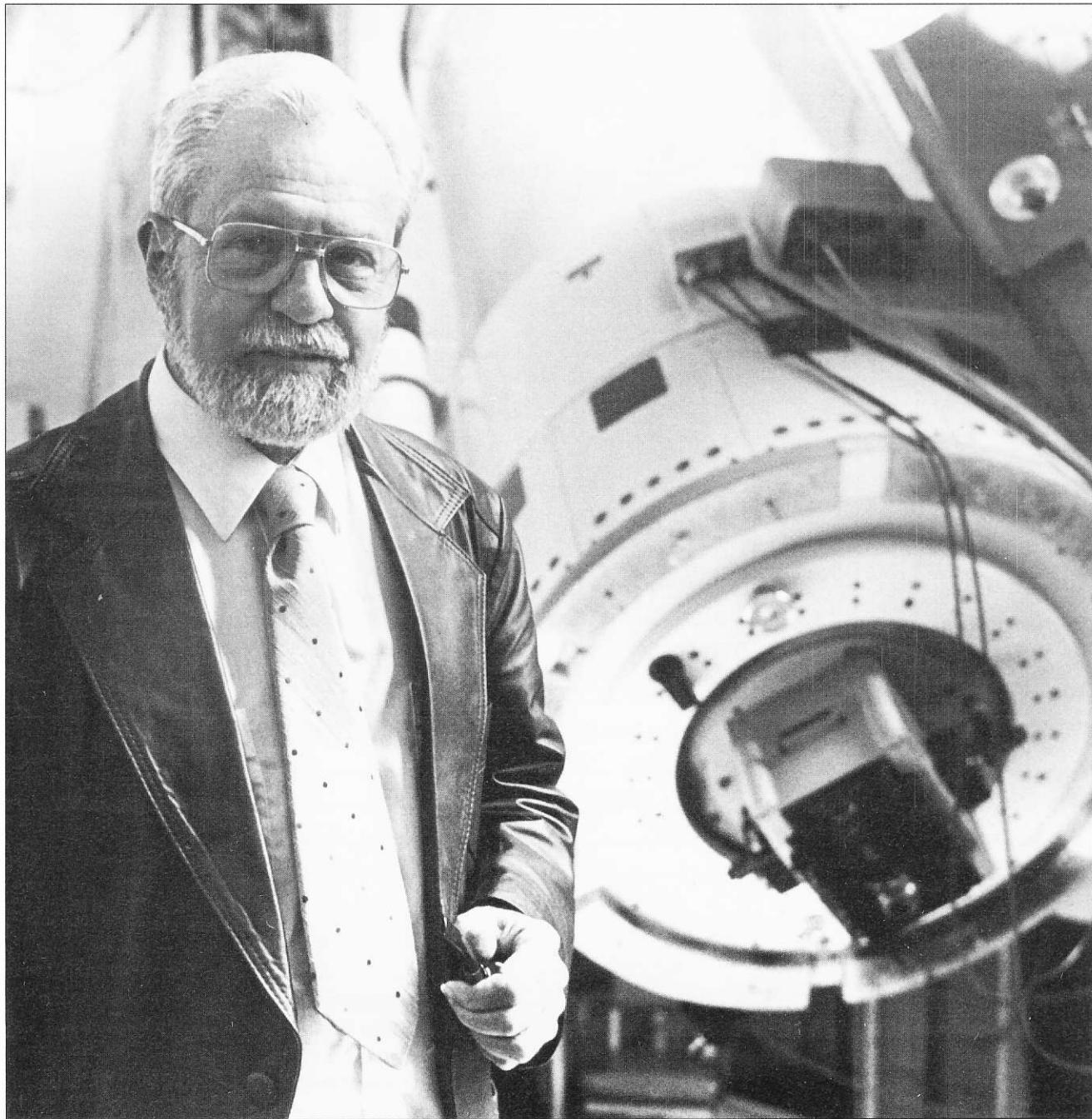


# IUR

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**ALLEN HYNEK AS I KNEW HIM,  
BY WALTER N. WEBB**

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# IUR

*International UFO Reporter*

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## EDITORIAL

# UP IN THE AIR

Sightings of boomerang shapes, sometimes described as flying wings, are nothing new to UFO history. Such objects were reported as early as July 1947. Four years later some particularly remarkable sightings took place, including an August 25, 1951, encounter over Sandia base, a sensitive atomic installation near Albuquerque, New Mexico. The witnesses, a security guard and his wife, provided a sketch to Air Force investigators. It is reproduced on page 233 of my book *The Emergence of a Phenomenon* as well as in other UFO books.

Such boomerangs have been at the center of at least two celebrated UFO waves, one centered in the Southwestern United States in the summer of 1951, the other in Westchester County and other New York suburbs in 1983 and 1984. In 1990 and 1991 enormous flying wings flew noiselessly over desert towns in southern California. As in the earlier cases, these strange craft could hover, travel at no more than a crawl, and even hover edgewise.

Torpedo-shaped flying objects have even deeper roots in the UFO-sighting tradition. When seen in northern Europe in 1946, they were called "ghost rockets." A year later they were subsumed under the heading "flying saucers." In the early morning hours of July 24, 1948, one such structure streaked so close to an Eastern Air Lines DC-3 that the pilots momentarily feared a mid-air collision. On August 5, 1992, a similar encounter took place over the desert of southern California.

Triangular structures have come into prominence only in the last decade, but they, too, are venerable inhabitants of the UFO universe. In the November/December 1987 and January/February 1988 issues of *IUR*, Don Schmitt recounted his investigations of such reports, spanning well over a decade, in south-central Wisconsin. Similar objects figured in a spectacular wave in Belgium in 1989. In recent years a number of witnesses in the Southwest have described the same sorts of UFOs.

Debates about these kinds of sightings and their meaning are all too familiar to students of ufology. Proponents argue that the witnesses are reliable; some, moreover, are technically trained. Other evidence includes photographs, films, and videotapes which depict what seem to be anomalous aerial phenomena. Debunkers claim that witness testimony can be discarded as the consequences of error, falsehood, or wishful thinking. Some point to psychosocial causes. For example, in a January 29 *New York Times* article

John E. Pike, who chaired a Federation of American Scientists panel which looked at and then rejected such reports, is quoted as suggesting that these imagined sightings result from "some of the deeper anxieties of American society."

Proponents, of course, retort that the debunkers come to such lame conclusions because they cannot bother to bestir themselves from their armchairs. If they were actually to go into the field and investigate the reports firsthand, they would appreciate the seriousness of the sightings.

All the while, of course, official quarters deny any

knowledge of any of this, notwithstanding testimony by military and civilian personnel who swear they have seen such craft, or parts of them, kept at government installations under conditions of great secrecy. Journalists and other investigators who have spoken with such individuals believe most are telling the truth. Debunkers who have kept a wide berth assume they are lying.

Those of you who are asking yourselves why I am bothering to rehash all this have not been reading *Aviation Week & Space Technology*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Jane's Defense Weekly*, *Newsweek*, or any of the other mainstream publications that have been chronicling the debate about whether or not supersecret spy planes, powered by a technology far in advance of any publicly known, are flying over America, especially (though not exclusively) the deserts of California and Nevada, as part of black projects rumored to be called "Aurora" or "Senior Citizen."

Most of the sightings listed above, however, are attributed to "unidentified flying objects." Those from the 1990s, on the other hand, are the ones that figure in the spy-plane debates. Some of the participants are well aware of at least some of the parallels with UFO reports, and debunkers try to tar spy-plane reports with the UFO brush. The *New York Times* article has John Pike making this unconsciously astute (if grammatically mangled) statement: an "understanding of the mystery aircraft phenomena [sic] is impossible outside the context of the UFO phenomena [sic]."

His point is that since UFOs don't exist, neither do spy planes. The reverse of that, naturally, is that if spy planes exist, so could UFOs. After all, the evidence is much the same. If people can report spy planes accurately, presumably they can do as much with UFOs. As an additional irony, spy planes and some kinds of UFOs even look alike—for reasons it would be great fun to speculate about, albeit

*continued on page 22*

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# ALLEN HYNEK AS I KNEW HIM

BY WALTER N. WEBB

**W**riting this article about my 31 years of sporadic association with Allen Hynek proved a rewarding experience. As I conducted the necessary research, I pored through a large collection of my diaries, books, articles, papers, and correspondence and found myself reliving many wonderful memories, particularly a 10-month period in 1957 when I saw Allen almost every day. Dr. Hynek was my boss and in charge of the Smithsonian's Optical Satellite Tracking Program for the International Geophysical Year (IGY). But I'm getting ahead of the story.

## FIRST ENCOUNTER

I clearly recall my first meeting with Allen, who was then professor of astronomy at Ohio State. The brief introduction took place atop a 200-foot cliff above Hynek's vacation cabin on Lake Duborne in Ontario. The date was August 26, 1954. One of my father's professor friends had loaned our family his cabin on the same lake for a few weeks. We had driven up to the top of the cliff for a view of the lake. As we surveyed the scene, Allen appeared from the trail below. I recognized him instantly, and I excitedly shook hands with him. Somewhat overwhelmed, he displayed that wry smile and modest "aw-shucks" demeanor he was famous for. Allen had recently returned from the June 30 solar eclipse in Iran.

## TRACKING SATELLITES

As part of a 67-nation scientific effort known as the International Geophysical Year (1957-58), the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory in Cambridge, Massachusetts, was assigned the responsibility for establishing and operating a worldwide network of optical tracking stations to follow the first artificial earth satellites. SAO director Fred Whipple invited Allen to join him as the observatory's associate director in charge of the Optical Satellite Tracking Program (STP). Excited by the new challenge, Hynek took a leave of absence from Ohio State and traveled to Cambridge in January 1956.

To accomplish its goals, SAO had to design and build 12 special tracking cameras to be installed at stations around the world. The observatory also set up Operation Moonwatch, a global network of volunteer observing teams. It would be Moonwatch's task to make the first visual observations of the new satellites. From this preliminary

information, STP in Cambridge would prepare orbit predictions for the Baker-Nunn tracking stations so that the camera-telescopes could be properly aimed to take precision photographs of the artificial "moons." The photos were then returned to STP headquarters for reduction and analysis. Finally, results would be reported to the scientific community. This program eventually led to important new values for upper-air densities and atmospheric heating, the size and shape of the Earth, and more precise distances between points on the planet's surface.

When Allen hired me in February 1957 (on the recommendation of my geology professor who knew the astronomer), my job consisted of generally assisting the STP staff. I performed routine office work, picked up and delivered both mail and personnel in our truck, prepared slides and other illustrative materials, assisted on warehouse inventory of tracking-station supplies, and did other "gofer" duties. Later I would become an observer at one of the tracking stations.

At this particular stage of his life, Hynek still was openly skeptical of UFO reality. This was confirmed on a memorable evening at his Belmont home the very first weekend after I joined his staff. Not yet aware of my own UFO interest (I don't think he even remembered our 1954 meeting), Allen invited me to dinner. Also present were two graduate astronomy students from Harvard and another from MIT.

After the meal Allen brought into the living room a batch of TWXs (teletypewriter exchanges) of UFO-sighting reports from Project Blue Book. As the project's scientific consultant, Hynek was to scan these brief sighting descriptions and assign a conventional explanation to each one.

As we divided up the sheets among us and started perusing them, I could see many of the sightings did indeed appear explainable in ordinary terms. But amid the "noise" I perceived some "signal." In one incident, as recorded in my diary, "an object approached a pilot on a collision course, veered, paralleled the plane and then shot upward, joined another object, and streaked away."

Allen tackled the chore with obvious relish, quickly going down his sheet and ticking off one explanation after the other. The students shared in the fun, plainly skeptical judging from their chuckles.

I glanced at Allen's answers penciled in next to the sightings and pointed out a number of dubious solutions which didn't seem to fit the facts. The astronomer could see

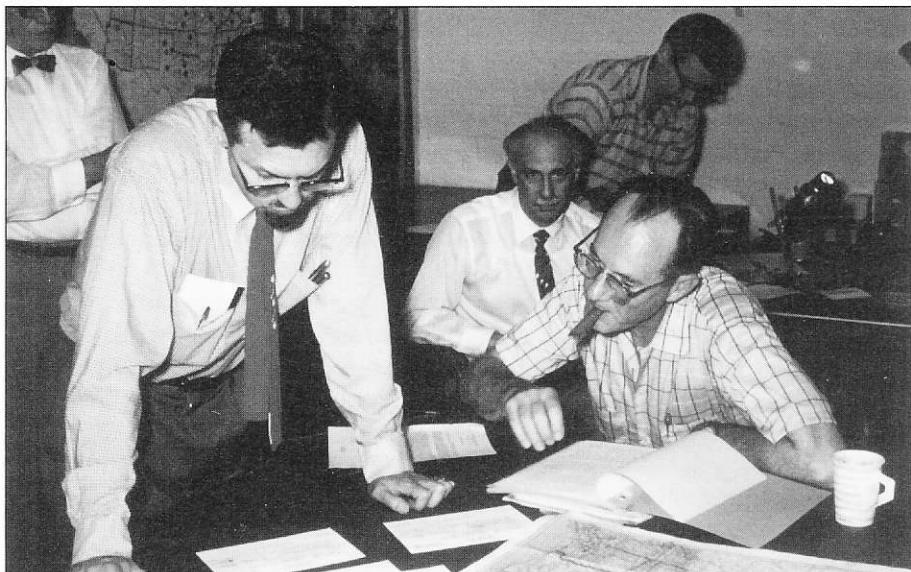
how interested and serious I was and so proceeded to discuss the subject with me. He indicated his displeasure with the Air Force's handling of the UFO problem, dismissed Harvard College Observatory director Donald Menzel's mire theories, and recounted his extensive work on the tragic Mantell pilot chase (1948) and the South Dakota radar-visual incident (1953).

Along with Allen and me, STP's electronics research technician Andrew "Bud" Ledwith rounded out our troika of staffers who pursued the UFO topic with more than average curiosity but kept quiet about it. Bud, it turned out, was the former Hopkinsville, Kentucky, radio engineer-announcer who had investigated one of the most bizarre yet seemingly credible CE3 events ever reported: the Kelly-Hopkinsville episode of August 21-22, 1955.

Even today this case is recognized for its combined elements of duration (all-night "siege"), the number of witnesses (10), its unique humanoid entities (floppy-eared, strange behavior), and the thoroughness of the investigation (by Ledwith and the late Isabel Davis). Bud was on the scene six hours after the end of the encounter to interview all seven adult witnesses, draw sketches of the entities from the principals, descriptions, and then write an account of his inquiry. Bud's narrative became part of Isabel Davis' carefully documented report. While Bud, Allen, and I read the Davis manuscript in 1957, incredibly it required another 21 years before this excellent document was finally published (by CUFOS as *Close Encounter at Kelly and Others of 1955*, by Davis and Ted Bloecher, 1978).

While Allen continued to visit Project Blue Book periodically during his four years at SAO, he maintained a decidedly low profile with regard to his UFO involvement. Noting my youthful enthusiasm for the UFO subject, my boss urged that I be cautious, too. Just a week and a half after I came to work, he forwarded to me the agenda notice for the just completed organizational meetings of the brand new NICAP: the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena. Maj. Donald E. Keyhoe had been appointed director of the fledgling association. Attached to the notice was a note from Hynek: "I'd be pretty careful about getting involved!" Much later I did become not only a special advisor to NICAP but also a good friend of the organization's assistant director Richard Hall.

In 1957 Hall, a philosophy student at Tulane University, had attempted to print and distribute a UFO newsletter called *Satellite*. Dick proposed that I contribute an article. Because of Allen's vulnerability at SAO, I decided to



Allen Hynek (left) and Fred Whipple at the Cambridge, MA, headquarters of the Optical Satellite Tracking Program, July 19, 1957.

approach him about the article. While leaving the final decision up to me, he pointed out some of the risks involved if I chose to use my name and affiliation. If a UFO story written by Bud or me, he said, should happen to cross the desk of the IGY's U.S. National Committee executive director Hugh Odishaw, SAO's Whipple, or Smithsonian Institution's Leonard Carmichael, it might look as if Allen, in his own words, "was hiring flying-saucer enthusiasts instead of trained personnel." He added, "The trouble is the thing is either black or white with most people, and if you believe in saucers, you're a crackpot."

The idea that someone on the U.S. National Committee might see such an article was a real possibility. The committee's Office of Information had passed along to Hynek a copy of a story about Moonwatch in the first issue of NICAP's *U.F.O. Investigator*. Information director Arnold Frutkin remarked, "We here do not plan to cooperate in this kind of thing."

I compromised on the *Satellite* article. I would write the piece ("how to photograph a UFO") but anonymously, also insisting that my job not be divulged. I respected my boss too much to take a chance. As it turned out, the project had to be scrapped when Dick was forced to discontinue his newsletter.

Following his visits to Blue Book, Allen would sometimes draw Bud and me into his confidence and tip us off about current official developments. On one occasion he told us he had arrived in the middle of a flap in the Blue Book office, sparked by two pilot sightings headlined in the press the same day.

In the first incident, two pilots flying a company DC-3 from Beaumont to Houston, Texas, on March 8, 1957, reported an encounter with an unidentified object bearing three brilliant white lights. After the UFO sped past their aircraft, it slowed down. When the DC-3 caught up to it, it

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accelerated rapidly ahead. This cat-and-mouse chase continued for some 10 minutes.

The second episode was of more concern to the Air Force, since it involved injuries to airline passengers. About 3:30 a.m. on the ninth, PAA Flight 257, en route from New York to San Juan, had to pull up into an abrupt steep climb to avoid an apparent collision with an approaching fiery object. Four persons on board suffered various injuries during the evasive action. At least five other airline flights along the route reported seeing the same blazing, greenish-white object. Pilots of three of the aircraft asserted that the object split apart before disappearing below the horizon. At least one pilot thought it could have been a meteor.

According to Hynek, Capt. George Gregory, the Blue Book chief, complained about being unable to get many details concerning either incident. Requests for sighting data to air bases nearest the areas of the two occurrences proved fruitless. The Air Force Chief of Staff himself was breathing down Gregory's neck. Gen. Nathan Twining had called and asked what was going on.

As a consequence of the appearance of inaction and laxness across the intelligence network with respect to the twin sightings, Hynek said, "new top-level orders will be issued for intelligence officers and pilots to make full reports."

The Pan American sighting had all the earmarks of a fireball (bright meteor). And eventually that was the official explanation. Interestingly, when I consulted sources for this article, I discovered that the Air Force public information officer Lt. Col. Lawrence J. Tacker had written this statement in his 1960 book *Flying Saucers and the U.S. Air Force*: "As a final check all data for this sighting was submitted to the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory [Hynek?] and they [sic] confirmed and concurred with the Aerospace Technical Intelligence Center's conclusions."

The March crisis at Blue Book precipitated the February 1958 revision of Air Force Regulation No. 200-2. These were the "new orders" of which Allen had spoken. After another trip to ATIC, our boss called Bud and me into his office and gave us a preliminary draft of the revised regulation to read. The still-confidential document included Capt. Gregory's own comments in the margins.

AFR 200-2, first issued in August 1953, outlined the responsibilities and procedures for preparing and submitting UFO reports at Air Force bases, as well as releasing information to the public. This latest revision continued the practice of having the officers of the Air Intelligence Service Squadron (Air Defense Command) conduct all field investigations into sightings, while ATIC performed the final analyses and evaluations.

Gregory wanted some changes made, including emphasis placed upon "prompt reporting" and "strict compliance with this regulation by all commanders." He also hoped to engender a new attitude among investigating personnel. "The attitude of all personnel," the regulation read in part, "should, at all times, reflect courtesy, serious-

ness, and consideration . . ." The Blue Book head's margin note stated: "New approach. One reason we have been plagued with bad, incomplete, or silly reports and TWXs." Unfortunately—so far as I've been able to determine with access only to the official 1959 version of the regulation but not 1958's—the worthy "attitude" paragraph appears to have been stricken from the final document.

Something else was added to the regulation for the first time: "Air Force activities must reduce the percentage of unidentifieds to the minimum." This statement, of course, reflected the official belief that if sufficient data were available, all unidentifieds could be accounted for in prosaic terms. There could be no such animal as a *real* UFO—or, in Allen's oft-quoted expression, "It can't be; therefore it isn't."

Finally, the improved AFR 200-2 freed ATIC's UFO project from the responsibility of answering routine correspondence from the public and releasing information. Henceforth, all public relations matters would be handled by the Pentagon's Office of Information Services (for the public) and the Office of Legislative Affairs (for Congress).

Some of the best opportunities for UFO chats with Allen occurred when I drove him to and from various appointments. During one such excursion to Boston in May 1957, he remarked that as scientific consultant he wielded some influence at Blue Book and Gregory "will listen to what I say." Allen therefore proposed that I draw up a memo of recommendations for improving the Air Force project, a list that he could bring to Gregory's attention.

Flattered to be asked, I dutifully wrote my memo. Prefaced by a plea for a total change of attitude in the official investigation, the note made three basic suggestions embracing the need for an expanded staff with *scientific* credentials, special tracking stations, and the release of "every detail and fact known about UFOs."

There was little likelihood, it seemed to me, that Gregory or the Air Force would act upon any of these ideas, much less even consider them. And sure enough, after handing over my memo to Allen, I recall hearing nothing more about it.

Hynek himself didn't help matters. Parroting the official line, he believed all sightings could be explained if enough information were furnished with each report. He said he could find no evidence for the existence of some unknown phenomenon. He nevertheless refused to dismiss UFOs outright as most scientists had. But he wanted more evidence. A recurring theme of Allen's throughout his life was the need for really good photographs of UFOs. To this end, he showed us the miniature pocket camera he always carried with him. (Later he stored in his briefcase a preset stereo camera, a small spectroscope, and a diffraction grating [as an aid to resolving a glowing object's spectrum]. Two of Hynek's books displayed two exposures of an unidentified object that he photographed through an airliner window.)

## DAWN OF THE SPACE AGE

Even though the Soviets had announced that they, too, intended to launch a satellite during the IGY—issuing additional details in the summer of 1957—most Americans laughed off the prospect as just so much Communist propaganda. But SAO's Whipple took the announcement seriously, putting the STP staff on general alert beginning July 1. While we had had two pre-Sputnik, nationwide Moonwatch tests, the first Baker-Nunn tracking camera still was untested and unproven. In August I was promoted to the post of observer and assigned to the Hawaiian tracking station. Current plans for Hawaii, however, called for it to be the last to start operations. That would change drastically within three months.

It was a Friday evening, October 4, 1957. Everyone at the observatory had departed for the weekend except Allen and his administrative officer. Suddenly the telephone rang. A Boston newspaper reporter asked Hynek, "Do you have any comments on the Russian satellite?" The Soviet Union had just launched the world's first artificial earth satellite, Sputnik I.

Recovering from their stunned amazement, the STP director and his assistant rounded up the staff and alerted some of the Moonwatch teams. Soon the press and media were gathering at our building, Kittredge Hall, located across the street from the main SAO offices. The place was so ablaze with media lights that someone living several blocks away called the fire department, which dispatched two fire trucks to the scene.

Unaware of the launch, I returned home from a party about midnight. Early Saturday morning a secretary awakened me and told me I'd better get over to headquarters. "Something important has happened," she said. "The Russians have launched a satellite!"

When I arrived, I found that many staffers had been up all night. There was confusion all around me. I was sent off to Boston to pick up some radio-receiving equipment, and when I got back, Bud and I rigged up two WWV receivers and antennas to pick up both Sputnik's beeps and a precise time signal. I remember staying until 4 a.m. to listen in fascination to the weird chirp of the Soviet satellite as it passed overhead every 96 minutes—the sound that captivated the world and shocked the United States into an educational and scientific revolution.

Allen's STP headquarters was in the center of the storm. The media besieged Kittredge Hall for weeks; reporters often camped out round the clock. E. Nelson Hayes, in his history of the Smithsonian tracking program, *Trackers of the Skies* (1968), wrote, "The observatory became quite literally the information center for the entire Western world on this new and frightening object in the sky. It was in many ways a terrible responsibility. The slightest word of Whipple or Hynek to the press carried enormous weight."

Hynek and Whipple held two press conferences every

day. A telephone/teletype information center was set up. We staffed it in shifts 24 hours a day seven days a week. Thirsting for details about mankind's first venture into space and eager to see the object, the public and press called to ask questions, express concern, and report their observations, many of which turned out to be misidentifications of aircraft, meteors, or Venus.

I vividly recall the night Sputnik's rocket was scheduled to make its first possible evening appearance over the Boston area. Instead of the satellite, however, two high-flying jet aircraft displaying bright belly lights deliberately "crashed" the spotting party at the precise moment the satellite was due. The pilots' stunt, together with an unusual red display of the aurora, triggered a deluge of calls to our communications center. Allen and I, who saw the whole show from the roof of our building, cursed the pilots, who never were identified. When radio and TV reported that the satellite wasn't observed after all, our phones jangled again, from people insisting that they had seen it (they had, of course, seen the jets).

With everyone peering skyward, it could be expected that apparently genuine UFO sightings would be called in from time to time. For example, the tower operator at South Weymouth Naval Air Station southeast of Boston telephoned this observation which Penny Kreidl logged on my watch:

Sighted a constant, conical, greenish-blue, phosphorescent glow at 7:24 p.m. EDT on October 9. Observed it with binoculars. In sight approximately 1 1/2 minutes. No navigation lights seen through binoculars. Traveling faster than a jet plane on a track from NE to SSW. Came out of NNE horizon and toward end of path made three "crazy" gyrations (like oscillation) then vanished, possibly behind a cloud coverage. Object had no tail like a comet or meteor.

From Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, came another intriguing report:

October 10, 11:15 p.m. Plainly seen by five persons. Naked-eye object. Zero magnitude. Color orange to yellow. No sound. Speed  $2^{\circ}$  to  $3^{\circ}$  per second. Seen for one minute. Observed in zenith traveling WSW. Described an elliptical path and disappeared in SE. Shape crescent, not round. No other lights. All persons are experienced AAVSO observers [American Association of Variable Star Observers].

The last description somewhat resembles a formation of migrating geese reflecting ground lights. The shape, apparent angular speed, direction, and time of year point to such an identification. Had I not witnessed such a nocturnal flight myself 12 years later, I would not have recognized the 1957 event as a possible misidentification.

## THE FALL 1957 FLAP

During the first two weeks of November 1957, the U.S. experienced one of the most unusual and significant concentrations of UFO activity in the history of the phenomenon. Particularly because the commencement of the sight-

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ing wave seemed to coincide with the orbiting of the second Sputnik, the nation's normally UFO-silent press covered the sightings with abandon, devoting banner headlines and front-page space to the mystery objects.

Actually, as Jacques Vallee would point out, a global UFO wave had been in progress even earlier. The emotional turmoil over two Russian space launches within a month had much to do with the American press interest in reports of strange aerial objects. Similarly, the Air Force's notorious mid-November news release allegedly explaining five of the cases helped bring an end to the wave.

On the night of November 2-3, motorists on the roads around Levelland, Texas, independently reported encountering a huge, glowing, red egg-shaped object squatting on the highway and cutting off engines and headlights. I later performed a special study of the multiple sightings, gathering firsthand information from the Levelland and other Texas newspapers, as well as from a taped interview with the sheriff borrowed from a local UFO investigator. Allen based much of his account of the case in *The UFO Experience* upon my report.

On the fifth Bud and I happened to attend Whipple's regular afternoon press conference at which he was asked for comment about the current wave of UFO sightings. Rather than speculate himself, Whipple got on the telephone and asked the Harvard Observatory director and self-anointed UFO expert Menzel to come over to the conference to respond. Menzel appeared and proceeded to "explain" the Texas UFO as a mirage and the stalled engines as due to a "nervous foot."

Meanwhile Blue Book's Gregory had concocted an equally preposterous answer for the "flying egg." Based upon reports of rainfall in the area, the Air Force concluded that the motorists had witnessed a "weather phenomenon of electrical nature, generally classified as 'Ball Lightning' or 'St. Elmo's Fire' [actually two different phenomena]." Though Blue Book appeared to be stumped by the stalled vehicles, it nevertheless suggested that "wet electrical circuits" could have been the cause.

Hynek later said Gregory had telephoned him about his ball-lightning hypothesis, and based upon the Air Force's information about thunderstorms in the area, Hynek "hastily concurred." Allen subsequently discovered, as I had, that while it was cloudy that night at Levelland, with some scattered light rainfall, there were *no* electrical storms. Only one of the 10 witnesses (in seven stalled cars and two combines) mentioned that it was raining at the time of his sighting.

A minor sidelight to the Levelland affair: in his and Lyle G. Boyd's 1963 book *The World of Flying Saucers*, Menzel unaccountably changed the circumstances of the November 5 press meeting. Blaming a reporter for giving him a "sketchy summary of the incident," the Harvard astronomer said he falsely concluded that one of the witnesses, Pedro Saucedo, might have seen an "unusually bright meteor" and then "accidentally have killed the

engine." Menzel seemed upset that the reporter wrote a "facetious story," using the alleged mirage-and-nervous foot explanation referred to earlier. I kept not only my original notes taken at the press conference but also the Boston newspaper clippings of the story. These all attest that Menzel never mentioned a meteor and in fact did employ the mirage-nervous foot answer. Two reporters for two different local papers accurately transcribed the Harvard theorist's statements.

Menzel then turned around and supported the Air Force position in his book: Ball lightning had to be the culprit, and Saucedo's engine died because of (take your pick) a soaked ignition or plugs, clogged fuel line, or oxygen starvation. Throughout his discussion Menzel focused on only one of the many encounters at Levelland, possibly because Saucedo's sighting *somewhat resembled* a few of the characteristics of ball lightning.

A final note on Menzel and Levelland. Early in 1964 I wrote him a lengthy criticism of *The World of Flying Saucers*. In a strangely subdued and even complimentary response, Menzel commented upon the Texas episode:

I was very much interested in the information you apparently have concerning the Levelland affair, which apparently is considerably more than we were able to get. . . . I do like your approach and your critical comments. And would be glad to have you send us any additional material that may be around. . . . Perhaps the three of us [Menzel, Boyd, and Webb] could get together for lunch sometime or other.

I declined the invitation.

## OFF TO HAWAII

After Sputnik II went up, the rush was on to get observers to their tracking stations. My station atop 10,000-foot Mount Haleakala on Maui, Hawaii, became the first one overseas to be equipped and staffed. Using a borrowed Super-Schmidt camera from Whipple's Harvard Meteor Project in New Mexico, I assisted Richard McCrosky (also on loan from the meteor project) on Maui for five and a half months. We tracked Sputniks, Explorers, and Vanguards. Among the highlights: We were on hand when America finally lofted its first satellite, Explorer I, on January 31, 1958, and our Super-Schmidt snapped the free world's first scientific picture of the third Sputnik's carrier rocket.

Returning to New Mexico with the interim camera (and a two-day visit in Alamogordo with Jim and Coral Lorenzen of the Aerial Phenomena Research Organization), I flew on to Boston and a brief reunion in Cambridge with Allen and Bud. Deciding to leave the satellite program for greener pastures, I bade farewell to my two UFO colleagues on June 6, 1958.

Incidentally, while nothing out of the ordinary was photographed at the Hawaiian station during my stint there, occasional anomalous trails showed up on later photos in the Baker-Nunn network. As I recollect, Bud started to

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examine both tracking station film and Moonwatch reports for UFO traces. Hynek did comment on "oddities" that appeared on both the tracking photos and Moonwatch observations:

I certainly know that in the satellite tracking mission we got a number of things that appeared on the films that were never tracked down; they weren't part of the mission! A person who says that the Baker-Nunn cameras never picked up anything is just dead wrong because I know they did. I was in charge of the project! We just didn't bother about it. It would have been too much work to investigate some strange lights; it would have diverted men from the job they were supposed to do. . . .

We received many reports from our Moonwatch stations concerning the strange lights that certainly weren't satellites. Many of these witnesses were amateur astronomers and generally well acquainted with the skies.

## THE LATER YEARS

Following the exciting days at the Satellite Tracking Program, my contacts with Allen became infrequent. I had departed the program in 1958; Hynek did so two years later to become chairman of the department of astronomy at Northwestern University. There were occasional bursts of correspondence which I invariably initiated, usually to compliment him on an article or book. And of course I always treasured a rare get-together.

I believe more than nine years passed before our first reunion took place. It was during a special celebration at the observatory in Cambridge, commemorating the 10th anniversary of SAO since Sputnik. The date was October 6, 1967—propitiously a Friday, 10 years to the day that Smithsonian and the world had entered the Space Age.

Seeing a familiar UFO face in the crowd, Allen came over and suggested retreating to a local soda parlor up the street. We sat down at a table and began to reminisce. I especially remember Allen's reviewing two recent events which had deeply affected him. One was the infamous "swamp-gas" episode of the previous year.

In March 1966 Blue Book sent Hynek to Michigan to quell what amounted to public hysteria regarding a rash of UFO sightings at Dexter and Hillsdale. Pressured by the Air Force to come up with a quick answer, Allen seized upon "swamp gas" as a *possible* solution for *some* of the lights/objects observed. As a result of the "UFOs-are-swamp gas" headlines, Hynek and the Air Force became the object of ridicule and lampoon across the nation—and subsequently the reason for Congressional hearings which ultimately led to the formation of the Condon Committee (and finally to the termination of Blue Book itself). Allen obviously had recovered from the derisive publicity and now even chuckled over the swamp-gas cartoons which he collected.

The other incident he spoke of concerned a newcomer on the UFO scene, University of Arizona atmospheric physicist James E. McDonald. Fresh from a visit to Blue

Book, an angry McDonald descended upon Hynek and pounded on his desk. Allen told me McDonald had accused him of sitting on the data all these years without letting the scientific community know about the impressive cases buried in Air Force files. Though Allen tried to explain the difficult position he was in, McDonald would have none of it. At the same time Hynek said he felt a great sense of relief because finally here was another scientist who actually took the UFO problem seriously.

Like McDonald (with whom I exchanged data for several years prior to his untimely death), I found myself somewhat critical of Allen's conservatism and toward his early refusal to speak out on the issue. He responded to my criticism in the following letter dated February 17, 1967:

I know you have always felt I have been overly conservative and even being somewhat of a debunker. Actually, I feel I have gone as far as I can without either a personal experience or some authenticated photographs (or hardware, of course) in pushing the idea of scientific respectability for UFO's. There is a real phenomenon and the problem is to find out really what it is. . . .

Of course, now he had begun speaking out in both scientific and public forums. It seems clear that a trio of experiences in 1966—the March swamp-gas debacle, the April House Armed Services Committee UFO hearings, and the June confrontation with McDonald—all combined to act as a catalyst for change. Evidence of Hynek's more activist stand came in an open letter ("UFOs Merit Scientific Study") published in that year's October 21 *Science*, and his popular-audience article ("Are Flying Saucers Real?") in the December 17 issue of *Saturday Evening Post*.

Hynek and McDonald appeared together at one of the most significant convocations on the subject ever held—the General Symposium on Unidentified Flying Objects at the 134th meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Boston on December 26-27, 1969. And it was held in spite of strong objections by the likes of Edward Condon.

Though a total of 14 papers were presented by the big guns in the field, unfortunately few of the registered scientists attended the UFO symposium. The reasons were multiple: the Condon Report, with its negative conclusions, had been issued early that year; Blue Book's termination was announced just nine days before the convention; the worst storm of the early winter lashed the city on the first day of the symposium; and the meeting site happened to be several blocks from the center of AAAS activities.

I was there to hear Allen's paper "21 Years of UFO Reports." The now ex-Air Force consultant devoted some attention to the close-encounter cases, mentioning associated physical effects and humanoid entities. He concluded that a small residue of sightings were not identifiable; the same phenomenon was reported from widely separated places on earth; the descriptions originated from credible witnesses; they were not of known physical or psychological events; and they resisted explanation by known pro-

cesses. Hynek emphasized that no hypothesis adequately accounted for this residue of reports.

In 1972, when Allen's trail-blazing *The UFO Experience* was published, I wrote to praise him for producing one of the best books ever written on the topic. Since I had seen no reviews as yet, I asked what I could do to help spread the word. In his reply he complained about the low-volume printings and absence of promotion by the publisher. It was then that I was able to do a guest review of the book in the *Boston Globe* (December 3, 1972). Allen thanked me in a handwritten note, remarking that book sales were "doing quite well." That would be the last time I would get a letter from him. With the founding of CUFOS in 1973, he was simply too occupied to personally answer all the mail addressed to him.

But I continued to see him at intervals. In October 1974 we met for breakfast at an Atlanta planetarium-educators conference at which he was the banquet speaker.

Three years later, in November 1977, he appeared in Boston for a television interview right in my planetarium lobby. Allen was there to publicize the opening in three weeks of the movie *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*. I learned from him that he had been paid relatively little for his services as technical advisor for Spielberg's great film—the movie that made famous for millions of people Allen's term for UFO reports involving humanoid occupants. But he seemed happy with the outcome anyway. Before he left the planetarium, he presented me with an autographed copy of his just released third book on UFOs, *The Hynek UFO Report*.

The year 1981 proved to be a bonanza, for we happened to meet twice that year. Massachusetts MUFON hosted the annual Mutual UFO Network UFO Symposium that year, and it was held on the MIT campus July 25-26. Hynek, now retired, accepted the invitation to give a paper.

Two evenings prior to the symposium, I drove him from Dover to Boston so that he could appear with WRKO's David Brudnoy. The normally erudite, arrogant, garrulous talkmaster met his match that night. Allen's articulate, soft-spoken manner and total mastery of his topic quickly converted the radio host's flip behavior into respectful silence. It is the only time that I can ever recall Brudnoy at a loss for words.

Hynek's paper opened the symposium. It was titled "Ufology as a Profession—A Manifesto." He attempted to throw out a challenge to the UFO community:

The fact is that [ufology] presents to the outside world a most fantastic hodge-podge of unprofessional actions, statements, maneuvers, intrigues, and balderdash. . . . I mean it very seriously when I say that to get anywhere in the next decade ufology must become a profession with accepted standards of action. And that simply means a house-cleaning.

Sadly, it would seem that we haven't yet heeded Hynek's manifesto.

Five months after the MUFON gathering, Allen re-

turned to the Boston area for a family visit during the December holidays. At that time I arranged to have him and Mimi over to my house to discuss our favorite subject. Investigator Joe Nyman and his wife Joan, along with my brother Dave, joined us. Our informal exchange continued four hours until midnight.

## FINAL ENCOUNTER

For me it has been a fascinating process to have watched this man's gradual transformation through both his writings and our personal conversations over the years. Allen's change from UFO debunker to believer in a genuine unsolved phenomenon required many years of slow, agonizing appraisal. Despite my own early criticisms of what I deemed to be his painfully conservative approach toward the subject, I came to appreciate the tough position he was in and the courage he exhibited in the face of career-wrecking scientific orthodoxy.

Actually, in his cautious behavior toward such a bizarre and elusive phenomenon as UFOs, Hynek had simply followed the tenets of the scientific method, just as he was trained to do. It must be remembered that for years Hynek was virtually alone among scientists in this country in devoting so much of his time to this heretical field. And even he had recognized that without substantive physical evidence to present, any premature declaration before the scientific community could have been professional suicide.

Nevertheless, since the early 1950s, not only had Allen tried guardedly to call the scientific community's attention to the importance of the UFO problem, but he also had tried repeatedly to get the Air Force to revamp its investigation.

My last visit with Hynek took place August 15, 1985, eight months before his death.

The occasion was Massachusetts MUFON's second annual UFO Forum to be held that weekend in Beverly. Allen was scheduled to present a paper. I offered to pick him up at Boston's Logan Airport and drive him to Marge Christensen's house for supper.

It was a miserably hot, humid afternoon. Allen appeared tired, apparently the combined result of an overseas trip, recuperation from surgery, and the weather. Chauffeuring this worldwide UFO authority once again took me back 28 years to the old STP days when I transported him to appointments. Joining us at Marge's were John and Kathy Schuessler from Texas (he was the chief investigator of the 1980 Cash-Landrum burns case) and Marge's husband Dave.

As part of a moving tribute to Hynek in her May 1986 *MUFON Newsletter* (distributed to the organization's state directors), Marge recalled the astronomer's comments that evening at her home:

He told us that he was "an old man in a hurry," and there was a great deal to be done in the UFO field. He yearned for greater cooperation among the major UFO research organi-

*continued on page 23*

# WILL THE CIRCLES BE BROKEN?

BY CHRIS RUTKOWSKI

**W**here exactly is cereology heading? According to Paul Fuller, editor of the *Crop Watcher*, a British magazine, cereology could be in for some real trouble. In a recent issue he wrote:

"Even the paranormally inclined cereologists have admitted that 1992 produced fakes galore, with few prepared to stick their necks out and claim that a single British circle qualified as 'genuine.' In some ways this restrained response could be construed as an over-reaction to last summer's hoax revelations, but in reality the awful truth has dawned on cereologists everywhere—that most modern crop circles really are man-made hoaxes and that if there ever was a 'genuine' phenomenon in the first place it has now been utterly swamped by a smoke screen of wishful thinking and media-inspired mythology. Sad words indeed but a fact which most researchers now seem to be accepting with some reluctance."

Later on Fuller notes that "leading cereologists accept that they have lost the crop circle battle and that it is time to flee the sinking ship." A number of cereologists are said to be emigrating to the United States.

As for the remaining "meteorologically caused" circles, Terence Meaden, that theory's main proponent, has now stated, "Anything other than a simple circle is definitely a hoax." He has now restricted the number of "genuine circles" to "fewer than a dozen a year." Fuller remarks, "It remains to be seen whether Meaden's meteorological theory can survive such trauma."

Later in the issue a map of England shows the locations of "Known Crop Circle (Groups of) Hoaxes." Fuller notes that "there are so many known hoaxers that we couldn't squeeze them all in!" Good old Doug Bowers and Dave Chorley, who got all the publicity, are on there with their small number of formations.

In North America we know that Rob Day made a few hoaxed circles in Alberta. A farmhand was caught by my colleagues and me in Manitoba, and at least one set of hoaxers admitted to some circles in the American Midwest.

## FADING PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

But what about all the physical evidence for crop circles? The radionuclide issue is all but dead. When first told of the unusual readings inside crop circles, I was surprised. Crop-circle "experts" were convinced that their readings were

correct and that something abnormal about the creation mechanism for crop formations resulted in bizarre nuclear reactions. Yttrium? Protactinium? Tellurium? As soon as I saw the list of elements, I knew the cereologists were off on a wrong track.

To create such elements, the proposed mechanism (a neutron beam) would have had to make other elements as well. But these were not detected. Therefore I knew the findings were probably spurious. Because there rarely had been any detectable radiation associated with circular, swirled impressions previous to the cereology furor, it was odd that these new versions of unidentified ground markings (UGMs) were suddenly littered with unstable elements. For those researchers who insisted that crop circles were something other than the traces catalogued by Ted Phillips, the radionuclide discoveries were proof that the crop circles were abnormal and a new phenomenon altogether. For those who considered the British crop circles only a new twist on an old phenomenon, the radionuclides were only red herrings.

What about the unusual characteristics of the circles? Things like the woven nature of the wheat and the claims that the stalks were bent, not broken? The fact that "expert" cereologists were fooled on more than one occasion suggests that these characteristics are not so cut and dried as one would like to think. And as Fuller points out, the 1992 formations are suspect, and no one is willing to declare them authentic.

As my experiment at the Strathclair site indicates (*IUR*, September/October 1992), wheat stalks can be bent by manual or mechanical means in ways that would not leave breakage. To complicate matters, the quality of the wheat will affect this characteristic. The diameter of the stalk, the moisture content, the weather, the soil nutrients, and a host of other factors will all affect the bending/breakage.

One oft-repeated mystery is the abnormal "crystalline structure" of wheat-stalk sections, as discovered by a British laboratory. Micrographic photos of these sections were reproduced in a number of cereology books and magazines as proof of an enigmatic force at work in the circles. But as soon as the photos were published, some researchers became suspicious. What exactly was the procedure that generated the crystalline analyses? What devices were used?

Some circle magazines related that questions about the analyses were rebuffed by the reporters of the information.

Only through continued requests did it become known that the procedure was actually "spagyrical analysis," a technique developed by an alchemist hundreds of years ago and without much scientific credibility. In an interview published in the summer of 1992, Colin Andrews conceded that the analyses were not acceptable as scientific methodology and that the results were dubious.

Finally, the remaining physical evidence: the appearance and abnormal growth of wheat seeds taken from within crop circles. Reported originally by Michael Chorost, the seed tests were performed by W. C. Levengood at Pinelandia Laboratories in the United States. Seed samples were obtained from circle sites in Canada, America, and England. Microscopic examination showed that the outer seed shells were irregular in shape, with many "pits." When grown in a laboratory, the seeds from inside crop circles grew better than control samples. It was therefore concluded that some force probably caused an alteration in the genetic structure of the wheat.

It will be interesting to see if this claim stands the test of time. Samples from Canadian crop-circle sites are being prepared for sending to Dr. Levengood and other researchers in a double blind test of this theory. One wonders if the samples from last year were from sites that were actually hoaxed. Because of the difficulty of establishing the genuineness of a site, it would be odd indeed to have all the previously tested samples produce consistently positive results.

## TRANSLATING THE MESSAGES

Another popular claim has to do with the similarity between crop-circle formations and ancient hieroglyphics. Some cerealologists have "translated" crop formations and discovered a warning from space beings, communications from Sumerian priests, and "diatonic ratios." The most scientific of these interpretations was reported, by a noted archaeologist, in *Science News*. He observed that whatever was creating the crop formations in England had a knowledge of geometrical theorems. Four theorems were "proven" through the appearance of some sites, while a fifth theorem was postulated. It was argued that random hoaxers could not possess such abilities.

If most crop formations are hoaxes, then *any* discussion of "translating" the formations' text is pointless. Aside from a few definite Arabic lettering examples at sites (and one "reply" to the aliens/Sumerians), reading obscure alphabets into crop formations has led only to confusion over whether the circle creators were Hebrew, Sumerian, Egyptian, or alien. Of course, if the circle creators knew enough about terrestrial alphabets to begin with, one would think that a better medium could have been selected. And since the identification of the circle formations with old alphabets involves some artistic license, advanced circle creators might make their attempts at communication more

precise and open to less interpretation.

## FADING PHENOMENON

All this is hair-splitting compared to the real problem: why crop circles seem to be the most prevalent in southern England. Some records (such as they are) suggest over 2000 circles have been found during the late 1980s and early 1990s. Yet the number or complexity of the formations is not evident in other areas of the world.

A puzzling aspect of the UFO phenomenon is its presence around the globe, with cases in Asia as well as America. Indeed, simple crop-circle UGMs have been discovered in virtually all corners of the globe. But complex crop formations exist only in England. Why? Is this an indication of a profound new kind of physical phenomenon, as some cerealologists propound?

Probably not. As the ratio of suspected crop-circle hoaxes to "real" circles climbs higher with each new evaluation, it is my guess that the British crop-circle wave will reduce to a flap of standard flattened grass/wheat UGMs, to a level comparable with worldwide activity. There *may be* a new phenomenon at work in southern England, but the data so far presented provide no convincing support for the proposition.

A recent excellent analysis of British data (finally available) published in *Crop Watcher* went to greater length to attempt to support the Meaden vortex hypothesis. It was shown that a preponderance of sites were in geographical positions favorable to wind-related effects, as per the theory. But Meaden supplied the data and mentioned nothing about a filtering of hoaxes. This is of particular importance. According to Fuller, Meaden has now reduced the number of "real" sites under consideration.

Thus the bad news: *no* definitive evidence suggests a "real" crop-circle phenomenon at work in Britain. Physical evidence is debatable, "expert" opinions are questionable, and proposed theories are not supported by known physical mechanisms. Who, then, is responsible?

Certainly not Doug and Dave. An army of technically skilled hoaxers? Hard to imagine? During the crop-circle peak estimates of a dozen new formations per day were considered accurate, if not conservative. One thing generally forgotten is that most crop-circle sites were only singles or doubles. Such UGMs are painfully easy to hoax. But why weren't the hoaxers seen? How did they do it at night? Hard to say.

## OUTSTANDING QUESTIONS

The good news: labeling crop formations as hoaxes does not eliminate or solve the problem. How *were* some of the sites made in darkness and in fields supposedly under surveillance? Furthermore, it is possible that the vortex theory *can*

*continued on page 23*

# THE SPANISH AIR FORCE UFO FILES

BY VICENTE-JUAN BALLESTER OLmos

**S**ince 1988 I have been engaged in a research project with my colleague Joan Plana dealing with (a) the history of the involvement of the Ministry of Defense and other state institutions in Spain with the UFO problem and (b) the collection and analysis of UFO experiences reported by military personnel, Civil Guard, and police.

An essential objective in this work has been to establish good contacts with the authorities, especially the Air Force, Army, Navy, Civil Aviation, and other bodies, in order to identify the UFO cases they might have in their archives, attempt to have them publicly disclosed, and offer a consultant role in their relationship with the UFO phenomenon.

The Air Force, of course, holds responsibility for control of the nation's air space, and it receives UFO reports from aircraft pilots, ground radar stations, and like sources. In Spain UFO reports of official origin were classified as "reserved matter"—secret, in other words—since March 1979. Until then UFO information was graded as Confidential.

Official UFO files were known to exist in the Air Safety/Air Space Section, Division of Operations, Air Force Headquarters, Madrid.

## OPENING UP

In 1990 I started to visit and correspond with officials in such headquarters, mainly the Public Relations Office and the Air Safety Section, bringing to the attention of the Chief of the Air Force Staff memoranda, reports, and arguments proving that (1) UFOs pose no threat to the national security and (2) UFOs represent a legitimate scientific problem, not a military one. In consequence, I argued, existing UFO documents should be declassified

and the corresponding material should enter the public domain.

Over two years I developed multiple and close contacts with the Air Force at various levels, through personal meetings, mail, fax, and telephone. I provided a great deal of documentation showing that reliable, scientific treatments of UFO data existed beyond journalistic and popular coverage.

Finally, in May 1991, the colonel in charge of the Air Safety Section prepared an internal memo to the General, Division of Operations. The memo mentioned my contacts with the Air Force, my role as a UFO researcher, and my requests. It summarized the procedures applied by the Air Force to the UFO subject, included a list of the 55 files that comprised the archives under his control, and explicitly concluded that the UFO files should be declassified and made public to interested parties.

This Informative Note started a declassification process which has been under my close scrutiny and surveillance since. In January 1992 responsibility for handling the UFO question by the Air Force was transferred (along with actual files) to the Mando Operativo Aereo (MOA—Aerial Operative Command in English). The MOA has prepared undated procedures on reporting and investigating UFO events witnessed by military personnel. In March the Joint Chiefs of the Staffs (Air Force, Army, and Navy top staff generals) decided to downgrade the UFO subject from secret to "internal reserve," a minor reserve level similar to Confidential, for which the Air Force Chief of the Staff has the power to declassify fully.

Previously nothing could have been declassified without the prior approval of the JUJEM, Junta de Jefes de Estado Mayor (Joint Chiefs of the Staffs).



Vicente-Juan Ballester Olmos

The August/September 1992 issue of *Revista de Aeronautica y Astronautica* (*Journal of Aerodynamics and Astronautics*), the official magazine of the Spanish Air Force, carried an article, "The Air Force and the UFOs," by Col. Angel Bastida, Intelligence Section, MOA. It recounted the history of the Air Force's involvement and presented statistics for 66 files for the period 1962 to 1991. (This higher number was a result of action on my 1991 recommendation that all Air Force regions submit to headquarters any UFO reports for centralization purposes before the declassification process was initiated.) The paper related that the declassification process was in effect and that once every individual report was reviewed, in chronological order, it would be proposed for actual declassification and disclosure.

This historical article made one reference to civilian ufology. The book *Los OVNIS y la Ciencia* (*UFOs and Science*), by Miguel Guasp and me, was used to compare statistics from a national catalogue of 3500 UFO sightings developed by us with the yearly distribution of UFO sightings officially reported to the Air Force.

One of the mandated tasks of the MOA was to review each of the available UFO files and submit to the Air Force Staff Chief a proposal for declassification, where witness names, military investigators, names, and other sensitive information would be eliminated. The first official UFO reports were declassified in October 1992. The only censored information was the names—understandably. The files were disclosed in their entirety, including internal correspondence, radar trackings, transcriptions of pilot-ground control conversations, and more.

At this writing (January 15) eight files have been declassified already, covering UFO events up to September 1968 and totaling over 100 pages. The 66 pages may represent some 100 independent sightings, inasmuch as one file sometimes groups a number of reports that took place around the same time period.

Recent actions by MOA, with our encouragement, may yet unearth additional reports from various official sources (radar sites and air bases, for example). Progress in this area is underway.

We have established cooperation from some major defense establishments. We are living in an exciting time, and as I remarked to Walt Andrus recently, I feel as if I were in the eye of a hurricane. I see parallels in this opening-up process with Spain's transition from authoritarianism to democracy beginning in 1975. The way the Spanish military has handled this whole process is a model for others to follow.

**INFORME QUE FORMULA EL TTE. CORONEL DEL ANEXO DE AVIACION (3.V) D.M.  
[REDACTED] JEFE DEL GRUPO DE SERVICIOS DE LA ESCUELA DE REACTORES, SOBRE ANOMALIAS OBSERVADAS EN LA PANTALLA  
DEL G.C.A. EN LA FECHA QUE SE INDICA.**

El día 14 de Enero del actual y teniendo prevista la llegada del avión DA-2C, EC-BXV con el Sr. Ministro de Agricultura a bordo, continuaron en servicio nocturno la Torre de Control, G.C.A. y demás servicios de ayuda a la navegación.

El controlador de G.C.A. al efectuar reconocimientos en la pantalla de exploración observó desde las 1915Z hasta las 1940Z aproximadamente, la presencia de ocho movibles, hasta un total en cierto momento de 7 ó 8, oscilando en 300, 301, 302 y 303, entre los radiales 120° y 160°, llegando en sus evoluciones hasta 12 millas de cabecera de pista 31. Se llamó la atención los diversos cambios de velocidad en los ocho, desde mantener velocidad relativamente reducida de avión convencional hasta alcanzar las altas velocidades de avión reactor. Incluso notó como algún ocho se mantenía con velocidad muy reducida aproximándose a él otros ocho hasta llegar a colapsarse.

Identificado en pantalla el avión EC-BXV referido, manejó la antena en todos los angulos hasta el máximo, con el fin de conseguir la detección de los ocho propios observados, consiguiendo solamente recibir la codificación SIF por lo que estímó, ya que la pantalla no daba información alguna de altura, que los ocho no identificados debieran estar muy por encima de los 25.000 pies.

Coincidieron estas evoluciones en pantalla con la presencia del avión EC-BXV cuando este se encontraba a unas 36 millas de Talavera. Este avión al ser preguntado confirmó no traer escolta. Se llamó a Ballester que respondió no tenía ninguna misión en la zona.

Sobre las 1940Z el controlador de G.C.A. observó que los ocho se alejaban en un rumbo aproximado de 120°-150°. El avión EC-BXV tomó tierra sin novedad en la Base a las 1946Z, reemprendiendo el regreso a Barajas a las 2026Z.

En la mañana del día 15 se consultó telefónicamente al Mando de la Defensa, quien confirmó no haber tenido ningún ejercicio la noche anterior.

**Badajoz, 15 de Enero de 1.975  
EL TTE. CORONEL JEFE GRUPO SERVICIOS**

Informe procedente de la Escuela de Reactores del Ejército del Aire Español, en Talavera la Real (Badajoz), en el que se da cuenta de la presencia de varios ovnis el 14 de enero de 1975.

Typical example of an official Spanish government UFO document.

As a result of the Ballester-Olmos and Plana civil investigation project, we have been able to gather over 300 UFO cases from military and police (only a small fraction were officially reported). Around 50 percent have been explained satisfactorily. The rest remain unidentified.

This general topic will be the subject of my lecture at the forthcoming MUFON UFO symposium, Richmond, Virginia, July 3-4. There I will detail the Spanish Air Force's UFO involvement and exhibit files, memos, procedures, and other military documents. ♦

Vicente-Juan Ballester Olmos is a prominent figure in Spanish and international UFO research. CUFOS published his A Catalogue of 200 Type-I UFO Events in Spain and Portugal in 1976.

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# A LETTER TO CARL SAGAN

BY BUDD HOPKINS

*Dear Carl,*

I'm glad that you did me the honor of sending me your proposed article on UFO abductions, but I'm surprised and disappointed by its content. Perhaps I should say that I'm most surprised that you wrote it in the first place and that you intend to publish an excerpt in *Parade*. The analogy is somewhat inexact, but I'm certain you would be amazed if I had written an article for *Parade* on the Big Bang theory, particularly if I went on to say that the reason the evidence appears weak to me is that I've not spent much time looking into it.

I'm afraid that though your article expresses your *opinion* about the abduction phenomenon, it also suggests that you have no idea of the extent of the evidence, the weight of the literature, or the range and thoroughness of the work in the field. Sagan on the UFO abduction phenomenon and Hopkins on the Big Bang theory suffer the same glaring insufficiencies. I will offer another analogy: A confirmed creationist announces in *Parade* that he finds the evidence for the Darwinian theory of evolution to be "extremely weak," and his article goes onto reveal that he knows next to nothing of either current or past work in paleontology. If you apply this analogy to yourself with regard to the abduction phenomenon, you become the creationist and Thomas E. Bullard, David M. Jacobs, John E. Mack, and many other researchers become, along with me, the paleontologists.

I do not have to remind you that the public at large—in this case the readers of magazines such as *Parade*—regard you as the supreme arbiter of almost all scientific issues, a kind of "Pope of Science." At the same time these readers do not know how to discriminate between areas in which you speak with great firsthand authority and knowledge, and other areas, such as psychiatry, folklore, and abduction research, in which your opinion is just that—the *opinion* of an intelligent member of society with personal research experience. Your article suggests the wide range of your reading in the history of science, but the sources cited, from the past 50 years to centuries ago, may have no bearing on the data accumulated by current abduction researchers. As I'm sure you know, one of the dangers of arguing from perceived historical precedent is that sincerity can falsely be thought to prove relationship.

Though I mean no disrespect, I must confess that the problems your article raises keep distilling themselves in my mind as tabloid newspaper headlines: POPE OF SCIENCE DECLINES TO REVIEW LABORATORY RESULTS, CALLS RESEARCH DATA "UNTHINKABLE."

Or, SCIENCE POPE JEERS PSYCHIATRISTS FOR "HERETICAL" CONCLUSIONS. Or, LIBRARIAN MOUNTS BATTLE AGAINST FIELD INVESTIGATIONS.

When we did that TV program in Boston a number of years ago (1988?), you said that I should inform you the next time I had what I considered to be a promising abduction case. You stated that you would "look into it" with me. I waited until I had a good, potentially rewarding case in your area. I wrote to you on January 17, 1990, and asked you to look into it along with me. I was careful to suggest that you could approach the investigation any way you wished. There were subsidiary witnesses involved, and I pointed out that if hypnosis was called for, you could supply the hypnotist. You declined my invitation to investigate cooperatively. Your letter of rejection comprised six dismissive lines, implying the worthlessness of "anecdotal evidence" and ignoring the presence of physical evidence in the case.

I hope I'm not being too harsh, but that's the way your piece reads. I don't intend a line-by-line reading or defense of the reality of UFO abductions. As it stands, your article leaves only one thing in need of defense, and that is your implied claim of expertise in a very new field of research. It is amazing.

What do I wish you had written? It's simple, and it goes like this: "As someone trained in astronomy and astrophysics and as a contributor to several NASA research programs, I am well aware of the technical difficulties of interstellar space travel. It is therefore almost impossible for me to accept the apparent ease of movement described by many observers of *unidentified* flying objects. My scientific background and personal beliefs lead me to doubt the existence of intelligently controlled 'alien' craft operating in our atmosphere."

"Though I, like the public at large, have heard of accounts of the abduction of humans by the occupants of such craft, I have not had the time—or, perhaps, the inclination—to study the developing literature in this bizarre field. I am aware that after firsthand investigation, certain prominent and highly experienced psychiatrists and psychologists say that these encounters are not explainable by currently known and understood psychological mechanisms.

Though it is my firm *opinion* that these events cannot literally be taking place, I have so far turned down any opportunity to look into the matter on a firsthand basis.

"I do not expect ever to investigate such accounts myself, for reasons both rational and, perhaps, irrational. But in the meantime, whatever their individual causes, I

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# DON'T BOTHER ME WITH THE FACTS. . .

BY KEVIN D. RANDLE

**U**FO debunkers often offer assumptions which they boldly declare to be facts, when in reality the evidence supports quite different conclusions. In the instance we are about to consider, a debunker took an interpretation of events as written by others and used it to argue that a witness changed his mind and that he did not believe an event in which he participated was as significant as ufologists have made it out to be.

According to English skeptic Christopher Allan, Leonard H. Stringfield discounted the importance of a key player in the Roswell drama, Maj. Jesse A. Marcel, when he first learned of it. (Marcel was the Roswell Army Air Field intelligence officer who examined the debris field near Corona, New Mexico, in early July 1947 after rancher Mac Brazel alerted authorities.) For this reason, Allan claims, Marcel's testimony did not appear in Stringfield's paper "Retrievals of the Third Kind," published in the 1978 Mutual UFO Network symposium proceedings.

Allan writes, "When Len Stringfield gave his July '78 MUFON crash/retrievals paper, he never mentioned Marcel or the Roswell case. He lists it as abstract 18 in his January 1980 brochure but no such case appears in his 1978 paper, despite the fact that he interviewed Marcel by phone on April 7, 1978.... Marcel could recall no names or dates and, obviously, Stringfield did not consider Marcel's 1978 testimony important enough to merit inclusion. Yet by early 1980 he did. Why?"

These are legitimate questions, of course. They happen to have legitimate answers. Stringfield says he wrote his paper for the MUFON conference during the winter of 1978. MUFON director Walter H. Andrus, Jr., calls for papers to be delivered early so that they can be published in the symposium proceedings, which are sold at the organization's annual conference. Stringfield mailed his paper to MUFON in early April 1978. A copy of the paper is dated April 5, 1978, which is two days before Stringfield spoke with Marcel.

Nonetheless Allan speculates, "The most likely reason is that during 1979, when Moore finally located the newspaper reports and he and [Stanton T.] Friedman interviewed him several times, Marcel had his memory 'refreshed' and planted with a lot of crashed saucer lore."

This is speculation without evidence. Allan goes on to speculate in the same vein, "I wonder now if Marcel had remembered anything about the strength of the material or the supposed 'alien' writing thereon until he was shown the press reports."

Having spent some considerable time examining those "press reports," I wonder where Allan gets the idea that anything in them could have "prompted" Marcel's memories of a spaceship crash. In fact, they would have done quite the opposite. Almost universally, if they mention the debris at all, they cite the weather-balloon explanation the military was peddling to uncritical journalists.

The debris is described as flimsy. As Philip J. Klass puts it, "Brazel was quoted as saying there was 'considerable scotch tape and some tape with flowers had been used in the construction. No strings or wire were to be found but there were some eyelets in the paper to indicate that some sort of attachment may have been used.' (Curious construction techniques for a very advanced ET society to use in building spacecraft intended to traverse jillions of miles.)"

In contrast, in a 1978 interview with Bob Pratt, Marcel said that "we started picking up fragments which was [sic] foreign to me. I'd never seen anything like that. I didn't know what we were picking up. . . . I recall very distinctly. I wanted to see if some of this stuff would burn. . . . I lit the cigarette lighter to some of this stuff, and it didn't burn."

As for the writing, Marcel talked about it long before 1980. In the 1978 interview Marcel was asked if there were "any markings." Marcel replied, "Yes, there were. Something indecipherable. I've never seen anything like it. . . . I call them hieroglyphics."

Stringfield had the clear impression that Marcel thought of the event as significant. Marcel remembered vividly the details of the retrieval.

## NO PRESERVED CLIPPINGS?

Allan asks, "If the incident was as important to Marcel as Roswell proponents claim, how come he never kept the press reports anyway? If you had such a momentous experience, wouldn't you?"

To answer that question, we have to speculate about the thought processes of a man we can no longer question. But we can, looking at the facts, draw a few conclusions. First, it is true that Marcel kept no press reports. Forgetting for the moment the significance of the event, let us look at a purely personal aspect, the fact that Marcel's picture accompanied many of the newspaper stories. By itself that would be sufficient for most of us to keep a copy. It is not every day, after all, that our pictures appear in the newspaper. Marcel did not keep a copy even of those reports with his picture.

Neither, for that matter, did Thomas J. DuBose, the

chief of staff of Eighth Air Force, another participant in the early stages of the Roswell episode. Yet DuBose's picture had also appeared in newspapers. In fact, he asked us for copies because he wanted them now.

In short, we can draw no conclusion about the importance of the event from Marcel's failure to preserve newspaper clippings. The fact that his picture was in the newspapers seems sufficient justification for his retaining copies, but such was not the case.

## PLANTED MEMORIES?

Allan concludes, "Yet Randle and [Donald R.] Schmitt insist in their book (p. 204) that 'Marcel knew the moment they saw the debris field that the crash was of something not manufactured on earth.' Strange that he forgot this in 1978 but had 'remembered' it by 1980."

Stringfield told me that Marcel remarked that the debris was "not of this world" during their first conversation in April 1978. Stringfield did not recall Marcel's using the word "extraterrestrial," but he unambiguously indicated that the military personnel involved in the incident believed they were dealing with something from space.

In another 1978 interview Marcel said, "It came to earth but not from earth." In other words, he was convinced that the craft that crashed was something from space.

Allan fails to understand the circumstances surrounding the Marcel interviews. He sees a report dated July 1978, and knowing that the author had talked with Marcel several months earlier, he leaps to conclude that Marcel's testimony did not impress Stringfield. Yet he cannot be bothered to ask Stringfield for an explanation. Had he asked, he would have learned why Marcel's account had not been included and that the answer was as simple as date of authorship. Stringfield did not include it because he did not know about it.

For his suggestion that memories were planted, Allan characteristically offers no evidence, preferring instead only to speculate further. But we have good reason to believe that Marcel told a consistent story from the beginning. All the elements Allan desires at the early date—that is, Marcel's claims of the strangeness of the material, the high-strength properties, and the peculiar writing—exist prior to 1980 and are documented as early as 1978.

## UNRELIABLE MEMORIES?

Another critic, debunker Philip Klass, has argued that 40-year-old memories are unreliable, and he cites numerous examples of discrepancies in the testimony. But when the discrepancies are examined carefully, it turns out that the problem is not with witness statements but with the interpretations of those statements by a third party.

For example, Klass writes, "According to Moore's book (*The Roswell Incident*) when Marcel (now deceased) was interviewed in the late 1970s, he said that 'one photo

(taken in [Gen. Roger] Ramey's office showing Marcel examining the debris) was pieces of the actual stuff we found. It was not a staged photo. Later, they cleared out our wreckage and substituted some of their own. Then they allowed more photos.' Yet all of the photos taken in Ramey's office on July 8, 1947, including two (not one) with Marcel, clearly show the same debris."

Only Moore reports that Marcel claimed the photos in Fort Worth were of the real debris. In fact, he provides us with three versions of that one interview, one published in his book, one circulated last year, and another in *Focus*, his publication. Stringfield, who interviewed Marcel on a number of occasions, asserts that Marcel never told him about photos of the "real" debris.

But we can take this one step farther. When shown a copy of one of the photos printed in *Roswell Incident*, Marcel said, "No. No. That picture was staged. That's not the stuff I brought home."

A disinterested third party, Johnny Mann, reported that to me. The exchange between Mann and Marcel was witnessed by another man, Julian Krajewski.

The point of the dispute is not Marcel's memory, then, but the *reporting* of his testimony. We have testimony from a variety of witnesses, including those who showed Marcel the pictures, that refutes both Moore's claim and Klass' assumption.

## THE NECESSITY OF EVIDENCE

We must be cautious about drawing conclusions based on others' reporting. We cannot suggest that Marcel was unconcerned with the events of July 1947 because Stringfield failed to mention them in the original draft of his first (1978) status report.

But even more importantly, we must be sure that we have the latest evidence before we suggest something. Though Stringfield had no opportunity to update his paper for the printed symposium book, he did revise his speech on July 20, 1978. In a copy of that, dated July 29, 1978, the date of the MUFON symposium, Stringfield has incorporated the Marcel testimony as abstract #18 on pages 17 and 18. He identifies Marcel as Major J.M. because at the time he did not have Marcel's permission to use his name.

As further corroboration, if more is necessary, Stringfield wrote me on January 25, 1993, "Allan is confusing the contents of Status Report I (*Retrievals of the Third Kind*) with those appearing in Status Report II. See also, for clarification of the two editions of Status Report I, in my new book, *The Inner Sanctum* (Status Report VI) under the heading of 'Availability of UFO Literature,' page 142, where I clearly describe the two editions in items #1 and #2."

And we cannot conclude that Marcel was unimpressed with the events because he did not keep the newspaper clippings. We must stick to the facts and speculate only

*continued on page 24*

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# THE SMALL PICTURE

BY D. C. DONDERI

The intelligence perspective on UFOs is *not* a scientific perspective, as science is now understood and practiced. *Scientific intelligence* is something entirely different. A book that explains this idea clearly is R. V. Jones' *Most Secret War: British Scientific Intelligence, 1939-1945* (1978). The author was director of Scientific Air Intelligence for the British during World War II. At several points in the book Jones points out the dangers of relying on one's own scientists for an assessment of what the "enemy" is capable of doing.

The reason is simple. "Your" scientists are following their own ideas. They are using techniques they understand to do things they know how to do. They are professionally unprepared to concede that the enemy's scientists might have different ideas, or different techniques, which produce weapons or technologies which your scientists have not yet thought to develop. Your scientists, in other words, will be prepared only to recognize exactly what they are working on. If you find evidence that the enemy has developed another weapon or technique, your scientists may not even be prepared to believe that it is possible.

In Britain, during the Second World War, Jones (in 1939 a 28-year-old physics Ph.D. himself but with an intelligence viewpoint) had to convince very skeptical, very senior audiences of unbelieving scientists that (1) the Germans were using electronic-beam guidance for their bombers over Britain and (2) the Germans were building a ballistic missile—the V2—which was capable of reaching Britain. Needless to say, both discoveries, made by Jones' scientific-intelligence system, were correct.

The parable of the blind men studying the elephant is also relevant. Each science specialist is like one of the blind men, dealing only with the specialty he or she is trained in and never venturing outside that relatively narrow field of specialization. As a result each scientist, reacting to a large, complex phenomenon, picks out the part he or she understands and confidently preaches that the whole consists of just that one part.

It requires a much broader perspective to appreciate the UFOphenomenon. The scientific "blind man" will say, The data I pay attention to are just about fitted by my theory (say, electrical fields, created by tectonic strain, producing light or influencing susceptible brains). There are no "other data"; all else is explained as "noise" from my grand, but narrow, approximation.

The scientific specialist is not interested in construct-

ing, and does not try to construct, a "broader picture"—one that deals with the established phenomena from a variety of sources: consistent abduction accounts, trace evidence, accumulated CE3 accounts, radar/visual evidence, and so on.

The "scientist's" defense is that if a plausible hypothesis can be constructed within a conventional specialist field (say, psychological personality aberrations), then it is intellectually more appealing to accept the "conventional" hypothesis, despite its poor approximation to the actual evidence, than it is to speculate on a hypothesis for which we can produce no mechanism acceptable to our understanding or to our peers.

This defense is, of course, exactly the intelligence trap Jones warns us about. "Science" works quite effectively with well-established channels, but it takes a major theoretical upheaval to send it out of those channels. Evidence that "science" is not adequately explaining a complex, multifaceted phenomenon is not well received by scientists. Their business is explanation, not exploration.

Exploration and extrapolation *from raw data* are no longer high scientific values. You have to look a long way to find the unreconstructed naturalist, or laboratory tinkerer, who works from the evidence to the hypotheses, and not the other way around. This relatively rare scientist type may be far better qualified than the average scientist to play the role of the scientific-intelligence expert.

The art of scientific intelligence is to look both widely and critically at the interrelated phenomena of interest. There will always be misleading clues, especially where human testimony is involved. The scientific UFO intelligence expert has to be interested in many questions simultaneously. Can contactees be separated from abductees? Are there sub-classes of abductees? Is there consistency across hypnosis and nonhypnosis abduction accounts? Are there correlations between physical traces and abduction accounts? How much independence is there in abduction accounts? Can we find evidence of contagion in the reporting of abductions? Is there consistency over time in these reports? Are there psychological correlates of abduction experiences? Are these correlates a cause, or an effect, of the experiences?

At no time will it be possible to give a definitive answer to all of these questions. Nevertheless it is the scientific intelligence expert's job to provide tentative answers to all of the relevant questions on the basis of existing evidence,

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## LETTERS

### MEMORIES OF GRAY BARKER

*To the editor:*

I enjoyed Michael D. Swords' article about Gray Barker ("Tales from the Barker Zone," *IUR*, November/December 1992). Swords obviously did more research at the Clarksburg-Harrison County Library in three and a half days than Barker or I ever did, and I want to comment on a few points.

The "hush-up" of Albert K. Bender was indeed the turning point in Barker's ufological career. By mere coincidence I first became involved in ufology just a few weeks after the hush-up occurred, and I came to know Barker, August Roberts, Dominick Lucchesi, and others at that time. I was interviewing people for an intended UFO book and inadvertently contributed to the general paranoia by asking routine questions of everyone involved with the International Flying Saucer Bureau. No doubt they all thought I was a government agent, at first. Some in ufology still believe that I am!

I never took the Bender hush-up very seriously, but Barker and his co-workers did. Bender was, in my opinion, a rather unstable character whose background as a hobbyist was in the field of horror comics, horror movies, Dracula, the Shaver mystery, and so on. Roberts has photographs of the permanent horror display in Bender's small apartment, and he attended horror shows Bender put on for guests. In 1952, for some reason, Bender became interested in UFOs as well and organized the IFSB. Perhaps government agents did indeed become curious about some of the IFSB activities, but Bender was most likely a victim of his own paranoia as far as the hush-up was concerned.

Bender not only wrote his ridiculous book *Flying Saucers and the Three Men* in 1962 but also spoke to a UFO-lecture group in New York City—one of a series of monthly lectures I sponsored throughout the 1960s. In all, I met Bender several times and was unimpressed with him.

Eventually—at exactly what point I do not know—Barker lost faith in Bender's story. Apparently he had a great admiration for Bender, and when he realized (as I did much sooner) that the hush-up was not significant, he became, disillusioned and permanently lost all serious interest in any solution to the flying-saucer mystery.

Thereafter Barker relied on his sense of humor and his marvelous sense of wonderment and became an entertainer rather than a researcher. He wrote purple prose for the faithful in his books and entertained himself, his friends, and his fans with the semifiction he could write—and he was a good writer. He did this to earn a living and to satisfy his love of fantasy, a love he also satisfied with his connection with the film industry, as a motion-picture booker. In no way did he fear persecution by the government or the "three men in black."

But when the State Department and the FBI started investigating the Straith letter, Barker panicked in the face of a *real* problem. He cut the offending typewriter into pieces and somehow buried it in a wet cement wall somewhere around Clarksburg. He would never tell even me where it was, but future archaeologists may find pieces of this typewriter some day and wonder what happened.

In his article Swords has revealed for the first time anywhere the name of the "unnamed confederate" in the Straith-letter hoax. The purpose of such hoaxes was for fun and to keep the pot boiling in ufology. There was no deeper motive.

What did Barker really believe? He never quite spelled it out to me, though I often asked. He *seemed* to believe that the cases that could not be explained as mistakes or hoaxes could be solved with psychological explanations. (He had an interest in psychology.) When pressed, he would concede that a real phenomenon might exist but that it would be fourth-dimensional and thus beyond our understanding.

For over 30 years Barker and I visited each other several times a year and corresponded with and phoned each other frequently. In Barker's last years he moved from Clarksburg, West Virginia, to a farm house he owned near Sutton, site of the famous Flatwoods monster case of 1952. Barker's wonderful sense of humor gradually deteriorated, as did his health and finances. He died in December 1984, probably of AIDS. I still miss him very much.

Jim Moseley  
Key West, Florida

### GERALD ANDERSON RETRACTED, MORE OR LESS

*To the editor:*

Continued investigation into the reported 1947 crashes of two alien craft in New Mexico has caused the authors of the newest book on the subject to reevaluate their position on one major information source.

Don Berliner and Stanton Friedman, authors of *Crash at Corona* (Paragon House, New York, 1992), no longer have confidence in the testimony of Gerald Anderson, who claims to have stumbled upon a crash site with members of his family. Anderson has admitted falsifying a document, and so his testimony about finding wreckage of a crashed flying saucer near the Plains of San Agustin in western New Mexico, and then being escorted out by the U.S. military, can no longer be seen as sufficiently reliable.

The authors regret the need to take this step but feel it is absolutely necessary if they are to stand behind their book and subsequent research into what continues to be the most important story of the millennium. This does not mean they

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feel there was no crash at the Plains of San Agustin; there is considerable impressive testimony to such an event. Nor does it mean that everything reported by Gerald Anderson is without value.

*Don Berliner  
Alexandria, Virginia*

## MORE ON TESTIMONY AND MEMORY

*To the editor:*

I am writing in reply to letters by Barbara Becker and Cynthia Hind in the September/October 1992 issue of *IUR* and continuing the debate on visual memory and eyewitness testimony.

It is reassuring that Becker's original article did in fact draw on published resources, though it is obvious that not every expert in the field has the same opinion. Becker and I have cited divergent research which is indicative of the intense exploration into the nature of memory and its underlying structures. It also reflects some of the lively debates in this area.

I am concerned that recent and accurate knowledge be cited in any work, especially in a field in which such extraordinary controversy exists. An illustration of this is found in studies that give citations of early findings by Loftus or Neisser without mentioning more recent sources which offer contradictory evidence. McClosky's work, cited in my article "In Defense of Memory" in *IUR*, May/June, for example, sharply challenged the degree to which Loftus' findings (as well as many laboratory studies) can be generalized to real-world settings. McClosky's findings stimulated a whole new flurry of research.

Neisser was himself an early critic of laboratory studies of memory which had little application to the real world. He, however, felt that flashbulb (FB) formation was due to rehearsal of events after their consequentiality was historically established. He based his opinion in part on what he felt was his own erroneous memory of hearing about the attack on Pearl Harbor (Neisser, "Snapshots of Benchmarks?" in *Memory Observed: Remembering in Natural Contexts*, W. H. Freeman & Co., San Francisco, 1982). In fact Neisser's memory was later proved correct (Thompson and Cowan, 1986, "Flashbulb Memories: A Nicer Interpretation of a Neisser Recollection," *Cognition* 22, 199-200).

Neisser himself rescinds much of his earlier position concerning FBs following the Loma Prieta earthquake (this in a paper written in coordination with the Palmer paper cited in my earlier article). Neisser, in finding, as did Palmer, almost perfect memory of events by those directly experiencing the earthquake even after a year and a half, felt that being personally involved in an event is more memorable than just hearing about it; Neisser remarked, "It is a pleasure to report that some recollections can be right on the money—even if it takes an earthquake to make them so"

(Neisser, Winograd, and Weldon, "Remembering the Earthquake: 'What I Experienced' vs. 'How I Heard the News,'" presented at the Psychonomic Society, 1991, San Francisco).

Concerning the discussion of visual versus verbal memory, Becker states that forced-choice questionnaires are the foundation of MUFON investigations, but she neglects to mention that *drawings* are requested right after the individual gives his name, which is quite appropriate. In most cases witnesses *are* going to discuss (rehearse) a sighting with friends and family, and the longer it takes an investigator to arrive at the scene, the more chance there may be of verbal overshadowing. I believe it is still imperative, however, that field investigators gather as much nonverbal testimony as possible prior to embarking on narratives of the event.

On a more personal note: it is not that I am unconcerned about the Gulf Breeze sightings, as Becker implies, but rather that I simply lack opportunity to study the case or to discuss its merits; there is little in the way of a Florida field investigation that can be accomplished from California.

Where Hind's commentary from Africa is concerned, I find it marvelous that any people could be so nonchalant about UFOs as she implies, regardless of personal belief. But it would seem that if a chemically or physiologically based FB mechanism does exist, that mechanism would operate species-wide. Only the *trigger* for the mechanism's firing might reflect cultural differences.

The mechanism probably hails from our primitive origins in the first place, to a time when it was necessary for survival to assess a dangerous event at a glance, including all the details of time, place, and circumstance, and to be able to recall that scene in its entirety during the next hunt or the next migration. After all, the definition of "flashbulb" implies that an event is "of personal significance to the individual," which is exactly what Neisser found after the California quake. If any stimulus were to lack an element of surprise, emotional arousal, uniqueness, or personal significance, then the flash simply would not trigger. This is not evidence of its nonexistence.

*Linda Kerth  
Pittsburg, California*

## CORRECTION

*To the editor:*

The brief bio note at the head of my article "Abductions: Imagined or Imaginal?" in the July/August 1992 issue of *IUR* describes me as a psychiatrist. In fact, I am not a psychiatrist but what we call in Canada a "GP Psychotherapist." This is a physician (M.D.) who has taken extra training in psychotherapy (and, in my case, hypnotherapy, too) but has not taken a full residency program and licensing in psychiatry.

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David A. Gotlib, M.D.  
Toronto, Ontario

IUR apologizes for the error.—*The editors.*

## GULF BREEZE LIGHTS STILL UNEXPLAINED

First, the Lindstrom photograph (Figure 1) in my "The Medjugorje UO" (IUR, March/April 1992) is upside down. Second, the November 5 photo by Patti Weatherford (page 12, January/February 1992 issue, and page 18, March/April 1992) is also upside down. [We at IUR apologize but will spare readers an explanation of how this happened. Steps have been taken to ensure these sorts of mistakes will not happen again.]

The series of R/W UFO (red/white UFO) sightings of red lights that turn white began in Gulf Breeze, Florida, in late November 1990 and ended on July 13, 1992. Few sightings of any type have occurred since, despite a continual nighttime skywatch by members of the Gulf Breeze Research Team (GBRT). Thus a series of sightings unprecedented in documentation and number of witnesses has apparently come to an end. We are left to ask, what happened? Were these lights all hoaxes or all True UFOs (TRUFOs), or was there a mix of the two?

An R/W UFO light was first seen by a number of witnesses in Pensacola on September 12, 1989 (for details see my "Gulf Breeze Without Ed," 1991 MUFON proceedings). Then similar lights were seen in Gulf Breeze on January 8, 1990, and during the first three weeks of April 1990. The January 8 sighting includes a photograph which shows that for about four seconds the light changed colors (red, white, yellow, green, and blue in random order) at the rate of 25 changes per second. No simple flare or incandescent light could do this. By triangulation, using observational and photographic evidence, it was determined that the R/W UFO seen on April 18, 1990, was traveling over land at a speed of about 40 mph across a gentle 6 mph wind. After the concentrated series of sightings began in late November 1990, the witnesses recorded an average of two to three sightings per week for the next year and a half, except for two-week periods in March and August 1991 when there were no sightings. The longest stretch of nightly sightings, 10 in a row, occurred during May 1992.

The total number of reported events approaches 180, with about 170 of them having been recorded by Ann Morrison, who was a witness to most of these. Ann's husband Bruce recorded most of these events on videotape. Hundreds of people in the area have joined the night watches, including Air Force, Navy, and Coast Guard personnel, and many (including Air Force personnel) have even written letters to the newspapers (*Gulf Breeze Sentinel*, *The Islander*) testifying to their observations and to their inability to identify the lights.

From the time the sightings began, GBRT members

seriously considered the possibility that the lights were part of a hoax using incandescent lights or flares on balloons. As the sightings continued, however, they began to doubt the hoax hypothesis for a number of reasons, not the least of which is that the sheer number of events would indicate an unprecedented persistence on the part of the assumed hoaxter or hoaxers.

Many characteristics of the lights strained the simple hoax hypothesis, which is: Tie a light source (candle, small flashlight bulb and battery, road or marine flare, burning gas lamp) on an aerial support device (kite, hot air, or helium-filled balloon or small blimp, model airplane) and send it into the sky. For example, in many cases the lights moved against the wind over land. In two of the triangulated cases, the calculated speeds were as high as several tens of miles per hour in spite of wind speeds near zero. Suggestions that the speed could be explained as a result of a boat or car pulling at tethered balloon (assumed to be the support for the light) were ruled out when it was found that pulling causes the balloon to move downward.

The lights displayed unusual characteristics. One was the color change from red to white (hence the R/W UFO designation), usually followed by a change back to red before the light would go out. Another characteristic was the intense, rapid (large changes in 1/30 sec as recorded on video) flashing that occurred while the light was white. This flashing cannot be explained as due to variations in the electrical power to a powerful (many tens of watts) incandescent light because of the thermal inertia of the filament. Neither the color change nor the flashing is characteristic of red road or marine flares.

Generally a single light appeared at any one time, but during many sightings following September 4, 1991, there were rings of lights associated with some structure which blocked out the stars. (I saw a ring of eight white lights on September 16. It moved toward us without swaying and then faded out after 70 seconds.) The black and white photo taken by Patti Weatherford (referred to already) is one of about 20 taken that night. Many of these have single elliptical images, but three of them show a uniformly lit elliptical bottom light (described by the witnesses as being red), an arc of five lights above that, and a single light above the arc. The videotapes confirm this and, combined with triangulation data, show that the lights are separated by eight to 10 feet.

On February 7, 1991, an R/W UFO was photographed with a camera which was fitted with a diffraction grating. A diffraction grating splits light into its component colors in a manner similar to a prism. About an hour later a red flare was burned at a distance of nearly two miles, comparable to the triangulated distance of the R/W UFO, and photographed for comparison. The witnesses to the two events claimed that the colors were different, and their claim was borne out when the two spectra were compared. It was found that both spectra had a predominance of red (as expected)

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but that the blue-to-green ratio was much higher for the R/W UFO than for the flare. Since all commercial red pyrotechnic devices use roughly the same formulation (red is based on burning strontium), it would require a special pyrotechnic formulation to achieve the R/W UFO color spectrum.

One dynamical characteristic is of importance: is the motion rectilinear (straight line) or oscillatory (swinging back and forth)? If the R/W UFO was a light hanging under a moving suspending device (balloon, blimp) or under a kite, the air motion would cause it to sway back and forth in a largely irregular manner. During the spring of 1992, about half a dozen of the videos and some time-exposure photographs show that a few of the lights moved with a quite regular oscillation. During most of the sightings, however, there was no evidence of oscillation (purely rectilinear motion), despite speeds of several tens of mph. Though the few sightings of regularly oscillating lights may be explainable as lights hanging from balloons/blimps, it is difficult to explain the sightings for which there was no swaying.

The above-listed R/W UFO characteristics, and others not discussed here, are inconsistent with the simple hoax model described above. If the sightings were all hoaxes, then rather complex hoax devices must have been used, including means for self-propulsion, means for creating the colors and for causing the color changes, means for causing the white light to flash rapidly, and means for supporting multiple light arrays. In most cases there must also have been means for stabilizing the lights so that they would not sway back and forth (oscillate) in an irregular manner. A device with such capabilities might include a small (several-foot at least) motorized blimp supporting a dynamically stabilized structure (complex? expensive?) with one or more light sources.

My studies lead me to conclude that if these were hoaxes, they were certainly not simple. They required a continual output of effort, a considerable sophistication in design, and a considerable expense on the part of the hoaxter or hoaxers. And to what purpose? Surely there is a limit to funnin' with the natives! To discredit previous sightings, perhaps? Furthermore, even though law-enforcement authorities ignored these sightings, they amounted to evidence of illegal activity, endangering residents of Gulf breeze (and occasionally of Pensacola; imagine a burning pyrotechnic device falling on a house and starting a fire, or a battery or piece of framework falling on someone) and threatening airline passengers landing or taking off from the Pensacola airport (since many of these lights were determined to be several thousand feet above ground).

Before closing I should point out that, except for several sightings immediately recognized as hoaxes, no physical evidence of massive hoaxing has been found: no crashed balloons, no blimps, no kites, no burned-out pyrotechnics, no flashlights—nothing, despite the number of events. And no one has claimed responsibility for the

sightings.

Bruce Maccabee  
Sabillasville, Maryland

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## EDITORIAL—*continued from page 3*

without any but the most circumstantial evidence for a link. Still, the similarities are indeed striking, and one does not have to look hard to find well-placed individuals who hint at, or state bluntly, a connection of this sort.

These “super-super-black” projects, according to some aviation journalists, appear to have produced prototypes in the late 1960s, and since then, in the words of one, “quantum leaps” in technology have occurred. Yet the secrets have been so well kept that only those with a firm need-to-know are aware of them. Among the excluded are virtually all elected officials and a great many individuals with high security clearances. Reading these sorts of things, one inevitably is reminded of the classification arrangements said to surround the materials recovered at Roswell—materials that no one any longer seriously maintains belonged to the U.S. government.

*IUR* will be monitoring this fascinating series of events, claims, and counterclaims, in the expectation that Pike’s words will be validated in ways even he does not anticipate.

A couple of short notes: There must be a special circle of hell reserved for those who have used their power and influence to suppress inquiry into subjects they deemed illegitimate but which subsequently proved vastly important to the progress of human knowledge.

In his time Sir Richard Owen, a Victorian biologist, was a hugely famous figure, well known to everyone for both his scientific and popular writings. He also had a reputation for spouting off on every conceivable subject, even ones far removed from his area of expertise. He was also the major debunker of his time. His specialty was the debunking, which he performed with less than compelling competence, of sea-serpent sightings, which occupied the same role in the nineteenth century as UFO sightings do in ours. In fact, the British Admiralty actually hired him to debunk all reports that came to its attention.

Today, however, Owen is best remembered for only one thing: his bitter and sustained opposition to Charles Darwin when the latter came forward to propose his theory of evolution by natural selection. Virtually nothing else Owen did as a scientist—and he was a talented, even brilliant member of the profession—has survived. He was a man who, having to choose sides in the most important intellectual controversy of his era, took the wrong side and used all the authority and power at his command to squelch the emergence of a world-shaking new truth.

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Are you listening, Carl Sagan?

Finally: To those of you who have written and called about the many rumors in circulation about developments in CUFOS' Roswell investigation, please be assured that *the full story will be told*. Our investigation has entered an extremely sensitive phase, in which premature airing of information would prove counterproductive. Our purpose is to end a cover-up, not commence one of our own. Be patient, and rest assured: the wait will have been worth it.

Well worth it.—Jerome Clark

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## HYNEK—*continued from page 10*

zations, and for stricter standards of professionalism in our field. He expressed a strong desire to encourage more scientists to join our ranks and to accord the UFO phenomenon scientific respectability as a legitimate area of study.

After supper, author/investigator Ray Fowler appeared, and we all drove to Barry Greenwood's place in Stoneham for a tour of Barry's extensive UFO library.

As heat lightning illuminated distant clouds to the north, I left with Allen and proceeded to Waltham, where he planned to stay overnight with his son. I'll never forget the tone of the conversation en route. Allen shied away from UFO talk, focusing instead upon his failing health and the importance of loved ones and family. I believe he knew then that he had only months to live.

Some 300 persons attended the August 17-18 UFO Forum at the Beverly Golf and Tennis Club. Registrants hailed from 17 states and Canada. Marge opened Saturday's sessions by presenting Hynek with a special edition of the Christensens' "Computer Catalog of UFO Resources." The document's supplement listed all catalog references bearing the astronomer's name as author and was offered to him in recognition of his outstanding work in the UFO field.

This preceded his paper "The French Connection"—an account of his recent trip to France at the invitation of the French space agency and GEPAN. Hynek, however, felt too ill to give his paper, and so moderator David M. Jacobs read it for him. Meanwhile, Marge called for an ambulance which rushed Allen to the hospital. Recovering somewhat, he returned later that day. On Sunday Allen participated in the speakers' panel discussion, and that was the last I saw of him. I am told it was his final UFO conference.

I feel privileged to have known J. Allen Hynek. The epitome of the stereotypical absent-minded professor in both appearance and manner, Allen also was a charismatic figure. His eloquent, gentle discourses on UFOs are remembered fondly by all who heard them. For all his fame and the respect he commanded worldwide, Hynek always appeared warm, cheerful, down-to-earth.

He was one of the very few *true* scientists whom I have ever known and, in his later years, certainly one of the most courageous.

Though he died without establishing the nature of UFOs and without winning the scientific acceptance for the subject he had so long hoped for, Hynek's legacy will not be forgotten. Notwithstanding his professional contributions to the field of astrophysics and his role as a gifted and popular astronomy teacher, history will most remember him for his association with the UFO subject and his attempts to bring respect to this much maligned enterprise. And he was proud of doing that.

Allen Hynek has sometimes been called the Galileo of ufology. Like that seventeenth-century astronomer whom he himself loved to quote, it would not surprise me if someday Allen is honored by the world of science for his pioneering efforts in ufology. ♦

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*Walter N. Webb, astronomer and ufologist, was a longtime friend of J. Allen Hynek. His "Inside Building 263: A Visit to Blue Book, 1956," appeared in the previous issue of IUR.*

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## CIRCLES—*continued from page 12*

account for some simple formations. But which ones?

As for the possibility that aliens were responsible: still a possibility. The extraterrestrial hypothesis is almost always invoked when a UGM is discovered, with or without a UFO sighting. There are some videos of lights bobbing about British fields around crop-circle sites, and one disputed video of a small daylight disc flitting across a field. On the other hand, vortex theorists produce eyewitness testimony of winds creating flattened circles.

As much as debunkers would like to believe the crop-circle issue is solved in terms of Doug and Dave's antics, more to the problem remains. The much broader "phenomenon" of cereology is still in need of examination. Is there a residue of unexplained cases among the hopelessly contaminated ones? Why has the subject attracted so much attention? Why so many sites in southern England? If hoaxers were behind so many of the formations, what was their motivation? How does the crop circle fervor compare with that of other historical and mythological physical traces such as fairy rings, megaliths, witches' sabbaths, linear mounds and petroforms? And on and on. ♦

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*Chris Rutkowski, an IUR contributing editor, publishes Swamp Gas Journal and is an active investigator of UFO and crop-circle reports in his native Manitoba. His most recent article on the latter subject was published in the September/October 1992 IUR.*

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## SAGAN—*continued from page 15*

recognize that these thousands of worldwide reports of abduction by UFO occupants constitute, collectively, an extraordinary phenomenon. As a scientist devoted to the search for truth, I believe that an extraordinary phenomenon demands an extraordinary investigation. It would be intellectually irresponsible to ignore such a widespread and potentially important collection of physical evidence and verbal testimony. Ridicule and outraged rejection are as out of place as uncritical acceptance. The issue must be squarely faced and the case reports thoroughly investigated. Science can be satisfied with nothing less."

If you had written something like this, Carl, science would have been better served.

Sincerely,  
Budd Hopkins

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*Budd Hopkins, author of Missing Time (1981) and Intruders (1987), heads the Intruders Foundation.*

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## FACTS—*continued from page 17*

cautiously. Does this mean that such questions should not be asked? Of course not. But once the answers have been offered, we must move on. ♦

*Kevin D. Randle, an IUR contributing editor, is coauthor, with Donald R. Schmitt, of UFO Crash at Roswell (1991). He and Schmitt are at work on a new book which will considerably expand ufology's knowledge of the Roswell incident.*

## PICTURE—*continued from page 18*

and to draw the most likely conclusion from the *broad spectrum of available evidence*.

By filling in your own answers to the questions in the paragraph above, you can build your own big picture. There are probably other questions to ask and other areas of evidence to consider. Having opened up the approach, I will close this short essay by suggesting that the most telling question one can ask about a "scientific" UFO theory is: how much of the available evidence does it gloss over or leave out?

"Intelligence" conclusions are always more risky than "scientific" conclusions. Intelligence conclusions are always presented as a basis for action, not just contemplation. On the other hand, "scientific" conclusions are apt to be so riskless and belated as to be totally useless in anticipating or preparing for an uncertain future.

The irony of this story is that R. V. Jones, my hero of "scientific intelligence" and now an 80-year-old retired professor of physics at the University of Aberdeen, thinks that UFOs are nonsense. Something of a practical joker, Jones played "UFO" pranks on his own investigators in the relaxed days after the end of the war. I corresponded with him about 10 years ago and found him unconvinced about the whole thing on the basis of the evidence available to him. My conclusions are different, but they have been reached by his own methods. ♦

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*D. C. Donderi, Ph.D., is associate professor of psychology at McGill University, Montreal, Quebec.*

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