

♪ **Stanton Friedman is coming to town!** ♪

Words From the State Director



It doesn't get any cooler than the legend Stanton Friedman. He is UFOlogy's Elvis, John F. Kennedy, and Bruce Lee all rolled into one. And he's coming to Michigan in a matter of weeks to deliver his presentation "Flying Saucers are Real!" This is the kind of engagement that you not only cannot miss, but you drag along your friends and family to show them why the topic of UFOs has gotten you so excited all these years. Invite everyone you know. Get your tickets today.

Friedman will be speaking at 7:30pm at Henry Ford Community College in Dearborn on Saturday, September 22nd. Tickets are \$12.00 and can be ordered in advance from mimufon.org or through the

campus radio station WHFR (their phone number is 313-845-6477). If the event doesn't sell out in advance, tickets will also be sold at the door.

Since 1967, Friedman has given his lecture "Flying Saucers ARE Real!" at more than 600 colleges and over 100 professional groups in 50 states, 9 provinces and 16 other countries. He has published more than 80 UFO papers and appeared on hundreds of radio and TV programs. He is the original civilian investigator of the Roswell Incident and co-authored "Crash at Corona: The Definitive Study of the Roswell Incident," "TOP SECRET/MAJIC", and has just released a new book on the classic Barney & Betty Hill abduction, co-authored by Kathleen Marden, Betty Hill's niece.

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NOTICE

The Michigan MUFON Newsletter is issued for the Mutual UFO Network and Members of Michigan MUFON. Articles in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the official views of the Mutual UFO Network nor its general membership. Unless otherwise specified, articles from this newsletter may be reprinted in other newsletters. We would appreciate you crediting this newsletter as the source, and sending us a copy of your newsletter.

Thank you.

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

Alien Abduction Experience and Research

**World's largest web site on alien abductions, featuring
bulletin board support group, experiences and research**

<http://www.abduct.com>

A great big thank you to Jay Korinek for arranging WHFR FM (89.3 FM) to partner with Michigan MUFON Inc to make this event a reality.

Also, more good news, although we won't be having a traditional meeting for September, when we return to Walli's on Sunday, November 4th, we will be fortunate to enjoy Dr. Levengood and Marilyn Ruben as our co-presenters!

Becky and I were unable to attend the MUFON International Symposium in Denver on August 10-12, but from the opinions of Michiganders who did attend, it was another great success.

At this year's Symposium, State Section Director Judy Kulka and her husband, former Assistant State Director Jerry Kulka graciously represented Michigan at the State Director's Meeting. Some highlights from this meeting are that MUFON is financially very healthy and actively exploring new avenues to promote the organization (chiefly through public presentation and via online...please look up MUFON on youtube and myspace). And, speaking of online, CMS continues to improve as a tool for UFO reporting and investigation through continuing updates and upgrades. With further regards to investigation, MUFON is currently seeking individuals to assist with abduction and historical research. Looking ahead to 2008, next year's Symposium will be held in San Jose, California (date to be determined).

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

And looking for more good downloadable reading? Please consider subscriptions to the Smoking Gun Research Agency's Dispatch (www.sgra-media.org) or the brand new Journal of Abduction Research (www.nicap.org/JAR_page.htm).

See you at the Stanton Friedman presentation! Invite everyone you know!! Get your tickets today!!!



“More than 10,000 sightings have been reported, the majority of which cannot be accounted for by any ‘scientific’ explanation... I am convinced that these objects do exist and that they are not manufactured by any nation on Earth. I can therefore see no alternative to accepting the theory that they come from some extraterrestrial source.”

Air Chief Marshal Lord Dowding, Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Air Force Fighter Command during the Battle of Britain, printed in Sunday Dispatch, London, July 11, 1954.



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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MICHIGAN MUTUAL UFO NETWORK, INC. TO THE INTERNATIONAL MUTUAL UFO NETWORK, INC. PERIOD JUNE 1, 2006 THROUGH MAY 31, 2007

SUMMARY:

Membership:

- International Mutual UFO Network, Inc. members in Michigan per list by central office: 71
- Michigan MUFON, Inc. Membership: 85
- State Section Directors: 13
Covering: 34 counties of 83 in Michigan (reports in counties outside of SSD jurisdiction are handled on a situational basis)

Treasury:

- Bank Balance \$3306.46
- Merchandise in stock for sale \$1471.00
- Estimated current value of office equipment and supplies \$685.17
- Estimated current value of library \$2071.00
- Grand total: \$7533.63.

Our MIMUFON lending library currently officially has counted 467 books, 37 audiocassettes, 25 CDs, 345 periodicals, and 273 videocassettes/DVDs. The video material, in part, includes copies of presenters we have hosted, as well as MIMUFON field investigator training.

Income sources: dues, (\$25.00 per mailing address, annually), sale of merchandise such as clothing, books, video tapes, newsletters, etc., speaker presentation and luncheon fees for membership meetings.

Disbursements: membership meetings luncheon, speaker fees and expenses, newsletter printing, postage, state director incurred expenses, equipment rentals for membership meetings, office equipment and supply purchases, and deposits for contract on meeting place.

The \$25.00 dues per mailing address entitles the member household to the newsletter (6 times per year, delivered either in paper, or online cost-saving PDF format), opportunity to borrow books and tapes from the state MUFON library, available at all membership meetings, and all training sessions (training sessions are open to all MUFON members) and the opportunity to hear quality speakers at a discounted rate over non-members.

Michigan MUFON T-shirts!

Want to show your support for your outstanding Michigan MUFON organization?

Michigan MUFON T-shirts and sweatshirts are available now!



⇒ **T-shirts only \$13 (M, L, XL)**

(natural or soft green short sleeve shirt with blue, red, white, & green quality screen print)

⇒ **Sweatshirts (natural, same print) only \$18 (M, L, XL)**

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

Meetings:

State membership meetings were held in September 2006, November 2006, January 2007, March 2007, and May 2007, with Field Investigator training before each except January's meeting, and quality speakers on the agenda for the afternoon session. The general meeting schedule is available to the membership several months in advance so everyone can plan ahead.

The cost of our general meetings is \$13 for MUFON and/or MIMUFON members, \$15 for non-members, and \$5 for first-time meeting attendees (regardless of membership status)

State Officer / Section Director Meetings were held as part of each of our state membership meetings, as well as in August 2006. These meetings are for planning and finalizing meetings, general business, and for reports of treasury, special committees, and investigations.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- Michigan MUFON Inc proudly maintains its 501(c)(3) status, due chiefly to the hard work and efforts of Assistant State Director Wendy Smith. Several members have taken advantage of this status to offer our organization generous tax-deductible donations, as well.
- We proudly welcomed a motivated new Chief Investigator, long-time Field Investigator and State Section Director Sunny Young.
- Presentations by State Director Bill Konkolesky on the topic of MUFON and UFOs were given to audiences at the Brandon Township Public Library in Ortonville, Hazel Park Library, and Waterford Library, as well as Mystiques West Metaphysical Shop in Westland. These presentations were well attended and the subject of UFOs was quite well received. Of particular note, the Waterford Library had an audience of 126 and the presentation was taped for cable access submission by the library. Leading up to the Waterford Presentation, Konkolesky was favorably interviewed by the Oakland Press newspaper, and WJR 760 AM radio.
- Michigan MUFON members Chuck Lietzau and Bill Konkolesky, as well as others from MUFON International were credited in author Linda Godfrey's new book "Weird Michigan," where the Mutual UFO Network is favorably mentioned. This book was very prominently displayed in Barnes and Nobles bookstores across the state and supported by book tours from the author.
- Due to technology initiatives over recent years, Michigan MUFON possesses and/or has readily available, equipment including: laptop computers, a digital projector, overhead projector, DVD, VCR, 5' movie screen, professional microphone, studio grade amplifier, webcam, portable thermal computer printer, laminator, and fax machine. Our guest presenters at our meetings and our members in the audience enjoy the robust audio-visual support we are able to provide.
- Utilizing these technologies, in May, we had a first for Michigan MUFON with a meeting where we hosted two guest speakers via webcam: MUFON's Director of Investigation Chuck Reeve (California) and Smoking Gun Research Agency's Jon Nowinski (Connecticut). The format was well-received and we look forward to inviting more presenters via webcam.

WE ARE NOT ALONE:



David Twichell's local cable TV show is now a one-hour radio show. Broadcast from Henry Ford Community College, **WHFR (89.3 FM)** is commercial free, non-profit, public radio - hosting the best in alternative music and programming.

Sunny Young was our guest on Sept. 1st. **Bob Peterson** will guest on Oct. 6th. Tune in on the first **Saturday of each month at 10:00 AM (EST)** with a new show each month.

Out of the area? Go to: **whfr.fm** and click on "tune in Live". The archives should be up at the website soon.

- We continue to heartily increase the size of our Michigan MUFON library with books, tapes and DVDs. This was accomplished chiefly this year by donations from members and video recording our guest speakers. These items are kept in our library available for all MUFON members by our librarians David and Darlene Bleicher.
- Our MIMUFON store proves to be a continued success. We sell t-shirts, sweatshirts, caps, stickers, etc. with our Michigan MUFON logo. In addition, we also sell new and used books, periodicals, journals, and tapes. Becky Konkolesky has admirably managed the store for seven years and now passes the torch to member Patty Donahue.
- We continue to issue Michigan MUFON membership cards so that membership can be verified for internal uses like library lending and also for the value of promoting credibility of the organization to those outside of Michigan MUFON. These cards are laminated for durability.
- MIMUFON's regularly scheduled Field Investigator training at our March, May, September, and November meetings and open to all MUFON members, has continued to be popular. Those individuals not a member of the Michigan MUFON are allowed to attend without paying MIMUFON dues. This enables all MUFON members to continue training and attend meetings to benefit from our speakers and to relate with others in MUFON.
- Due to geographic concentration of the membership, as well as budgetary considerations, the meeting place for all meetings is in the area of the city of Flint, not far from the Detroit Metro area. The restaurant where we meet is the best centralized location for the majority of the members. Our current average attendance is 30-40 people. There is a commitment from the facility to host us on a regularly scheduled program, which also includes a guarantee of meal cost per person.
- In 2006-2007 we continued with a management team that includes many state officers involved in various decision-making processes.

GOALS:

- MIMUFON Inc, in conjunction with Henry Ford Community College radio station WHFR is preparing to host a public presentation with Stanton Friedman in September 2007 at Henry Ford Community College, Dearborn, as part of our drive for youth membership in MUFON and public visibility for the organization. A similar prior presentation featuring Nick Redfern at Oakland Community College in 2005 successfully recruited active new young members to MUFON/ MIMUFON.
- Identify and implement advantages of our newly attained 501(c)(3) status to help Michigan MUFON grow. Already, we have enjoyed tax free meals at our meeting place Walli's and solicited for tax-deductible donations of library materials, office equipment, and money for Michigan MUFON from our members.
- Increase membership in both MUFON International and Michigan MUFON Inc.
- Identify methods to attract members and promote MUFON in underrepresented areas of Michigan.

KEEPING IT LIGHT



- Carefully develop leadership in the counties of Michigan that have no State Section Director and appoint quality leadership.
- Expand our utilization of the Computer Management System (CMS) online sighting database.
- Identify and implement methods of improving and comprehensively completing a greater number of sighting and abduction investigations.
- Promote the professional investigation of UFO sightings and/ or abductions by maintaining open communication with local law enforcement and news media across the state of Michigan.
- Continue to inform the public about UFOlogy and promote MUFON through public relations efforts and participation in interviews and speaking engagements. Several of our Michigan members have in the past and continue to further engage in these activities. As just one successful entrepreneurial example of this, Michigan MUFON Newsletter Editor David Twichell has maintained a local cable access television program on UFOs called "We Are Not Alone" for several years and continues to produce new episodes, while also writing and publishing UFO-related books like his recent collaboration with MUFON Eastern Regional Director Maj. George Filer on the "Filer's Files" book.
- Continue to support smaller local MUFON gatherings for members and others who may seek to discuss UFOlogy in a smaller, more personal environment.
- Update our MIMUFON store with new and different appealing items for purchase.
- Maintain a positive administrative attitude to continue full participation of all MUFON members, state officers and State Section Directors.
- Maintain open communication with the International Director, the International Board of Directors, and their support staff.
- Continue open lines of communication with all MUFON members.

Michigan is in strong shape and optimistically geared toward cooperative further growth. We are healthy financially and are blessed with an active team of officers and general membership.

In short, Michigan MUFON looks forward to another good year.

Respectfully submitted,
William J. Konkolesky
State Director Michigan Mutual UFO Network, Inc.



Monthly Statistical MUFON Report for June & July 2007

CMS continues to amass sighting reports from around the globe. In June 2007 there were 213 sightings reported to MUFON through CMS of which 174 were from the US. Of these, 14 were from Michigan. Most impressively there were 9 Landings, Hovering, or Takeoffs reported and 10 Entities observed worldwide.

In July 2007 there were 198 sightings reported to MUFON through CMS of which 150 were from the US. Of these, 12 were from Michigan. Most impressively there were 9 Landings, Hovering, or Takeoffs reported and 12 Entities observed worldwide.

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



The Journal of UFO Studies, New Series, Volumes 1-9

Bill Murphy's Column

**edited by Michael Swords (Vols. 1-5) and Stuart Appelle (Vols. 6-9), with Mark Rodeghier (Consulting/ Associate Editor) and George M. Eberhart (Managing Editor), *et al.*
Chicago: The J. Allen Hynek Center for UFO Studies, 1989-2006**

This is a very ambitious review, covering as it does 17 years and 9 volumes of the most scientific English-language series on UFOs. The review will have to be more impressionistic than detailed, but I hope nonetheless to convey at least some specific examples of the value of the effort.

Every discipline that strives to be taken seriously in the academic world requires a forum where its main lines of thought and research can be presented after peer review, and debated at the highest levels by its leading thinkers. *The Journal of UFO Studies* (*JUFOS* for short) serves as that intellectual playing field, and sometimes battleground, at least for the United States (and, to read a recent French-language review, it sets a standard of excellence for the world). It may be observed that only the *Journal of Scientific Exploration* occupies a similar position in the field of research of anomalies. *The Journal of UFO Studies* volumes average over 170 pages, and cover numerous aspects of the ufological spectrum, but with an emphasis on the scientific approach. Authors not only present their conclusions, but also their methodologies, data and statistics, being careful to provide references and list estimates of uncertainty where possible. Learned readers may follow the mathematical or scholarly reasoning themselves; they are not asked to take statements on faith. Yet for most of the rest of us, those of us who are not numbers whizzes or psychology majors, this series will also prove valuable on numerous levels. This review will attempt to recount some of those.

JUFOS publishes general and theoretical articles that “review, discuss, or advance theory, or focus on problems, contemporary issues, or recent developments in ufology”. “[E]xperiments, the outcomes of survey or data analyses, or examinations of evidence related to UFO cases” also may be published (see the inside of the back cover of Volume 9 -- 2006 -- for this characterization). Book (a consistent feature) and literature reviews, research notes, and comments and responses to issues raised in previous *JUFOS* volumes may also appear. The first two volumes (1989 and 1990) featured “Issues Forums” on UFO Abductions and the Tectonic Stress Theory, respectively, which afforded proponents of differing viewpoints to make their cases succinctly and respond to challenges raised by other scholars to their viewpoints, all in the same volume. These were the closest things I have seen to a live debate in print, and preserved a flavor of the sharpness of the scholarly give-and-take you may sometimes see in professional symposia on other subject areas. There are usually about six articles per *JUFOS* volume, and these are therefore substantial treatments.

The topic of UFO abductions, besides its dominance of Volume 1 *via* the “Issues Forum”, generates about twenty articles, research notes, and book reviews. Contributors include Budd Hopkins, David M. Jacobs, John Carpenter, Thomas Bullard, Leo Sprinkle, Kenneth Ring, David Gotlib, Mark Rodeghier and Stuart Appelle. The last three on this list teamed with abductee Georgia Flamburis to develop the Ethics Code for Abduction Experience Investigation and Treatment as an outgrowth of the M.I.T. conference on abductions; the Code is presented in Volume 5 (1994). Bullard’s three articles “Hypnosis and UFO Abductions: A Troubled Relationship” (Vol. 1); “Folkloric Dimensions of the UFO Phenomenon” (Volume 3 – 1991); and “False Memories and UFO Abductions” (Vol. 8 – 2003), contain probably the most readable scholarly writing to-date in that arena, and should rank as milestone contributions to that many-faceted and troubled subject. Michael Swords has contributed 5 articles, a research note, plus 5 book and two literary reviews over the course of the series, in addition to his editorship of the first five *JUFOS* volumes. Swords’ main interests here center on the Extraterrestrial Hypothesis and Science, as well as the history of ufology in the United States through the University of Colorado UFO Project and the end of Project Blue Book, but he also has something to say in a Volume 3 Research Note on the soil analysis of the Delphos, Kansas, CEII.

Delphos soil analysis is also covered in an article by Erol Faruk in Volume 1, and a new analysis by Phyllis Budinger in Volume 6. Budinger and another researcher also have articles on “Angel Hair”.

In fact, most *JUFOS* articles reflect the scientific method of presenting and testing hypotheses, or carefully collecting and quantifying data to develop explanations. Thus, abductees and their stories may be studied by surveys; the results will not please those skeptics who claim abductees are psychologically distinct from “regular folks”, but some of the findings will be troubling for those who want to see event-level “proof” of abductions in the sameness of abductee stories or the genuineness with which those stories are recounted; and hypnosis as a method of “proving” the reality of abductions suffers a mortal blow. Besides the Delphos incident, the Ubatuba metal fragments and Trans-en-Provence CEII cases receive articles, there are articles on geophysical parameters and UFO sightings, and four photographic analyses, including two concerned with the STS-48 Space Shuttle videos. The Stefan Michalak (Falcon Lake)

case, crop circles, Australian ufology, and press coverage of UFOs get treatments. How children portray UFOs and the effect of the label “UFO” on memory for ambiguous pictorial stimuli are two contributions that get at popular views of UFOs and how they may affect the mind-memory connection. Volume 6 (1995/1996) contains an article providing a comprehensive identification of cases discussed in the Condon Report.

The literature and book reviews extend the value of the *JUFOS* series. Besides a Volume 7 (2000) review of recent abduction literature by Thomas Bullard, Michael Swords has literature reviews in Volume 5 (1994) of SETI/ETI and UFO works on the one hand, and crop circles literature on the other. Two dozen additional of the best and/or most important works since *JUFOS*’s inception are evaluated in separate book reviews, by Ron Westrum, Peter M. Rojcewicz, Richard Haines, and others, in addition to Swords, Mark Rodeghier, Stuart Appelle, and Bullard. The excellence of Swords’ review of Edward J. Ruppelt’s *The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects*; Charles Emmons’ “take” on *The Gods Have Landed*, edited by James R. Lewis, and David Jacobs’ treatment of Steven Dick’s *The Biological Universe*, as well as Richard Hall’s presentation of John Schuessler’s *The Cash-Landrum UFO Incident*, have affected my plans towards covering those works myself in future.

So far I have sketched out the vast territorial expanse of *The Journal of UFO Studies* – nearly 1600 pages of top-level articles on many of the most pressing and interesting subjects in ufology – but I have not provided much sense of the flavor of the essays or their impact upon the subject, or why I believe that anyone who has more than a hobbyist’s interest in ufology needs to read these volumes. Having finished the easy first part of my review, I will now venture into the deep waters of the second portion. My course will be to concentrate upon the initial, and the most current, volumes in the series, along the way adding a few vignettes from the intervening issues.

The 1989 volume that begins the *JUFOS* series focuses on abductions, mostly by way of its Issues Forum, which brings together the talents and opinions of leading researchers in the field. Although not part of the Forum, Thomas Bullard provides the first treatment of the abduction subject with his “Hypnosis and UFO Abductions: A Troubled Relationship”. To research the value of hypnosis as applied to abduction research, Bullard compares: abduction stories obtained by hypnosis with those generated from natural recall; the findings of different investigators whose “slants” on abduction vary widely; and also accounts from “real” abductee claimants with stories made up by hypnotized non-abductees. Bullard’s findings are that the form and content of abduction stories seem independent of hypnosis. The same key story traits appeared with similar frequency among hypnotized and non-hypnotized abductee reports, the beliefs and personalities of investigating hypnotists showed little influence on the frequencies of the story elements, and “real” abductees tell more coherent stories than do non-abductees. These findings indicate that hypnosis cannot be tasked with creating abductions as its critics have claimed, and that a core of experience seems necessary for the formation of abduction stories – though the value of hypnosis in recovering “true” facts about the experience is problematic.

The Issues Forum on UFO Abductions has two “Rounds”, following a framing introduction by Michael Swords. In Round One each of six experts provides a concise review of their findings and points of view on the subject, with Swords adding a commentary on some of the methodological issues involved. Robert A. Baker, Peter M. Rojcewicz, Stuart Appelle, D.C. Donderi, Hilary Evans, and Jean Mundy are the co-contributors in both Rounds, leading off in the first with their position papers. Round Two allows the primary discussants the opportunity to rebut the points made by their colleagues, and to insert additional material into the intellectual fray. There is wide coverage of the abduction opinion spectrum here, although, as Stuart Appelle remarks in his Round Two article “Reactions to the Abductions Forum Co-Contributors” the comments ran the gamut from unabashed disbelief to the conviction that a definitive conclusion is premature, and Mike Swords adds that two proponents of the ET hypothesis had agreed to participate but subsequently dropped out due to other commitments. Points of agreement among the authors in this Forum would include that abduction studies to-date would have benefited from a more rigorous, scientific approach, and that the subject is a serious one. The views diverge as to whether the subject does in fact merit further research. “Hard-liner” Robert A. Baker seems to resort to emotion and typical CSI (formerly CSICOP) techniques to denigrate the claims as “nothing other than a behavioral aberration, i.e., a fantasy, a delusion, or a hallucination” ... [u]ntil better and more persuasive evidence is forthcoming.” (Volume 1, page 143). One wonders whether Baker would read any of the evidence that abductees are more “normal” than he suggests here, that can be found in the later *JUFOS* issues. At the close of the Forum Richard Haines proposes a “Three Stage Technique” for hypnosis that he believes reduces the possibility of leading or otherwise biasing the witness while under hypnosis, a step towards better investigation of the subject.

Some words are appropriate here on the give-and-take in this Forum and the other two Volume 1 (1989) articles as demonstrating scholarship at work in the ufological field. While some of the comments and commentators seem harsh, this type of interchange is not unique to the ufological field, but can be found in all branches of scientific and academic discourse. We need to keep this in perspective when our hackles are raised by some of the stuff we read and see from particularly the arch-skeptic zip codes on the ufological map. I think many of us are taken aback by what seems excessively unfair treatment of the subject by such scholars. Unfair it may in fact be, and the unfairness may be heightened in our eyes by the importance we attach to the subject (after all, the presence of extraterrestrial or other poorly-known intelligences operating upon our globe – and upon our people! – certainly seems more momentous to us than how the Greek city state came to be, for example). But the scholarly community or elements therein often behave,

well, in an unscholarly way at times, whatever the subject, and we should expect more of this treatment regarding a “borderline science” field like ufology. Answering debunking “arguments” calmly and dispassionately, and with fact-and-logic based answers may require restraint, but it is necessary, if ufology is ever to assume a respected place among the recognized disciplines. And I would argue that such a result is necessary. The Volume 1 article by Erol A. Faruk on soil analysis and appraisal of the Delphos case illustrates this proper scientific manner to approach a ufological subject. Michael Swords’ “Science and the Extraterrestrial Hypothesis in Ufology” is a broader look at how mainstream scientists have viewed the possibility (read “probability”) of life elsewhere in the universe, and makes a case for the following summary points (page 96):

- a) The UFO phenomenon is a proper field of scientific study.
- b) Some UFO researchers have proceeded with the elementary first steps of the scientific method in a proper fashion.
- c) Some UFO researchers have pursued the more advanced steps of the scientific method properly, albeit with the difficulty expected in a complex, uncontrollable, de novo science.
- d) The ET hypothesis is a proper alternative hypothesis for use in evaluating UFO reports.
- e) Reasonable scenarios within the ET hypothesis are consistent with debated and puzzling characteristics of many unexplained UFO reports.

It is proper to ask about the currency of the earlier *JUFOS* volumes. I believe that, unhappily, ufology has not progressed far beyond its state in the 1990s, and so these articles still have great value as indicators of the positions and problems still resident in the field. Certainly I do not believe that Baker has changed his stance, and it still typifies that of the larger group of debunkers. There has been some progress in “abductology” – at least in exploring the phenomenon, if not in resolving it. Thomas Bullard’s “Folkloric Dimensions of the UFO Phenomenon” in Volume 3 may be the best-written and certainly one of the best-researched contributions in the whole series; while intensively exploring the relationships between abduction accounts, it makes the case for a distinction in the coherency of abduction reports. However, Bullard states that this finding “says more about what abductions are not than what they are. The question remains whether the mystery lies in a misunderstanding of how narratives work and therefore holds interest mainly for folklore specialists, or lies in a human process of primary concern for psychology or related disciplines, or lies in an extraordinary event of utmost significance for all mankind.” Research studies reported in *JUFOS* volumes following the first one support the contention that abductees are not “crazy” (thankfully I cannot remember the use of that word anywhere within these volumes) and not significantly different from the rest of the population unconscious of such anomalous experiences. However, Bullard’s “Literature Review” in Volume 7 (2000) finds a major challenge to abduction research in a 1999 book -- Kevin Randle, Russ Estes, and William P. Cone’s *The Abduction Enigma: The Truth Behind the Mass Alien Abductions of the Late Twentieth Century* (New York: Forge Books, 416 pp). For these authors, says Bullard, “abduction is a human rather than an alien creation, a poisonous convergence of abductee personality, cultural ideas, and investigator influence meeting to form false memories” (Volume 7, page 95).

On pages 92-93 of his Volume 8, 2003 article (see also below), Bullard further explains the Randle-Estes-Cone synthetic theory of three interacting causes:

1. People who become abduction experiencers have a predisposition to imagination and fantasy, or a susceptibility to suggestion and role-playing that hypnosis magnifies.
2. The raw material for abduction reports swirls around in folk, mass, and popular culture, all the more so now that the abduction phenomenon itself has become common knowledge, so that everyone has a head full of abduction images and themes.
3. Abduction investigators bring an agenda to their relationship with claimants, and guide subjects made pliant by hypnosis to imagine the story these investigators want to hear.

While we all are aware of cases and data that chip away at the broad generalizations just stated, the point is that many, perhaps a majority, of reported abduction cases are liable to attacks based upon these propositions.

In his Volume 7 (2000) literature review Bullard adds that “All of these explanatory elements have appeared before, but never have skeptics applied theory so effectively to reality. In this flexible, wide-ranging solution, the authors have succeeded better than any predecessor in defining step by step the conventional mechanism that creates, propagates, and lends consistency to this fantastic story.” (page 104), and “we all owe a debt of bruised gratitude to Randle, Estes, and Cone. Either they have essentially solved the mystery of UFO abductions, or they have provided the kick in the seat needed to stir ufologists out of their trenches and into a more disciplined attack on the phenomenon.” (page 106).

In the next volume of the *JUFOS* series, Bullard comes back with “False Memories and UFO Abductions” (Volume 8, 2003), covering many of the most recent psychological studies on abductees, other groups of people reporting other extremely anomalous experiences, and the false memory syndrome. Bullard concludes that, despite some equivocal data, “as a group abduction experiencers do not appear to enter the territory of serious disturbance that many of these comparison groups occupy” (page 142) – and “This psychological distinction draws perhaps the most unequivocal partition between abduction experiencers and other claimants accused of false memory.” (page 150). However, the final eight pages of Bullard’s article (pp. 144-151), while concluding with the point just made

and his 1991 -- Volume 3 observations on the consistent memories of abduction experiencers, form a "must-read" critique on the results of serious research into the issue.

The most recent volume (9 – 2006) in *The Journal of UFO Studies* continues the excellent scholarly tradition of the series. "A Report on the Demographics and Beliefs of Alien Abduction Experiencers" is followed by an article on "The Effect of the Label 'UFO' on Memory for Ambiguous Pictorial Stimuli". "An Analysis of Multiple UAP Photo Images (May 23, 1971), Austrian Alps", leads another "Examination of the Trajectories of Anomalous Objects Imaged during the STS-48 Space Shuttle Mission". Two pieces on "Angel Hair" analyses round out the articles, and Michael Swords' review of *Life's Solution: Inevitable Humans in a Lonely Universe* by Simon Conway Morris closes out the contributions. Swords again shows us how studies in more mainstream, (although in this instance still speculative -- extraterrestrial intelligence) scientific areas can benefit ufology, and how ufology may have something to say to such more "respectable" areas of scholarly endeavor. I have elsewhere remarked that Thomas Bullard showed how ufology can provide new insights to folklore studies, thus satisfying one condition set for a discipline worthy of academic study, that it be able to contribute to understanding in other fields. Perhaps we will not see a "Chair of Ufology" at a major university in the near future. But I would argue that *The Journal of UFO Studies*, whether in its ongoing discussion of abductions, its attention to Tectonic Stress Theory, or its consistently high-level explorations of puzzling photographic, trace case, and other issues in ufology, makes the strongest case that this field is capable of rigorous, scientific study, and deserves its eventual recognition as an accepted academic discipline. Until that time, familiarity with this series is a requirement for the serious UFO student.



Fermi's Paradox and the Preparation for Contact Hypothesis

By Bernard Haisch, Ph.D.

There are at least 100 billion, and perhaps as many as 400 billion, stars in our Milky Way Galaxy. Carl Sagan once said: "There may be a million worlds in the Milky Way Galaxy alone which are at this moment inhabited by other intelligent beings" (Cosmos, episode XI). A recent study of several hundred solar-like stars shows signatures of heavy elements in their spectra from which one can infer that material to form Earth-like planets should be abundant. Astronomer Norman Murray of the University of of habitable planets around solar-like stars proves to be less likely than that, one might expect there to be at least a few other civilizations in the Galaxy. If that is the case, one can draw the conclusion statistically that unless civilizations tend to extinguish themselves once they discover sufficient technology to do so, most alien civilizations would be older and more technologically advanced than we are. It can then pretty easily Toronto reported at the 2001 AAAS meeting that: "There is evidence that there is terrestrial-type material orbiting most of the stars in the solar neighborhood. So, the implication, if this result holds up, is that there are Earth-like bodies in orbit around most of the stars in our galaxy." Even if this turns out to be overly optimistic and the formation be argued that a few million years would suffice for such an advanced civilization to spread across the Galaxy even at sublight speed by colonizing habitable planets, eventually sending out second waves of colonization from those planets, then third waves, etc. Astronomer Ian Crawford recently wrote about this in Scientific American. His diffusion model leads to "full galactic colonization" in 5 to 50 million years (Sci. Am., Nov. 2000, p. 8), a small fraction of the age of the Galaxy. Naturally this all assumes human-like behaviour and motivation. The bottom line is that if even only a few alien civilizations have arisen in the 10 billion or so year history of our Galaxy, most of the habitable parts of the Galaxy would likely be colonized by now.

The famous physicist, Enrico Fermi, was referring to such an argument when he asked: "Where are they?" Since he was a prominent (and very smart) scientist, his simple question has been given a duly profound name: Fermi's paradox. The paradox is resolved, of course, if the answer is: "Well, they are already here!" (and possibly have been for a very long time and perhaps have even been involved in the rather sudden emergence of homo sapiens sapiens, but that may be over the top, so ignore that last conjecture if it is too much, though I seem to recall that even Sagan considered that possibility at some point). Their being here -- but surreptitiously -- would answer Fermi and at the same time address a second common objection to the UFO phenomenon by scientists: that the observations indicate such utterly nonsensical, bizarre behaviour that it just could not possibly be real. Intelligent visitors just would not pull such disreputable antics as have been reported.

Between 1969 and 1972 astronauts visited the moon about twice per year and, while there, did mostly (apart from a few astronaut shenanigans) reasonable and rational things that one would expect an intelligent alien observer to recognize as scientific exploration. The nature of the reported UFO sightings and encounters, on the contrary, does not reflect the kind of purposeful behavior that we terrestrial scientists would expect from our extraterrestrial colleagues. By some estimates over a million UFO events have been witnessed. Even if one discounts 90 percent as misperceptions or hoaxes, that leaves far too many events to attribute to the kind of careful, sophisticated, efficient, high-tech exploration we scientists would expect from our alien counterparts, especially ones who would necessarily be more advanced than we are to have gotten here in the first place. In addition, the kinds of objects sighted range from little floating things the size of a baseball to giant lighted craft bigger than a stadium (yes), again posing incredible inconsistencies.

It is tempting to argue, as some do, that since the visitors are not behaving like proper alien explorers, there are no visitors in the first place. (For some reason this logic brings to mind Galileo attempting to get the Cardinals to look through his telescope.) To counter this argument, I would like to suggest one possible rationale that might, in principle at least (no real world guarantees), account for the widespread, disjoint kind of behavior that the UFO phenomenon has manifested over 50 years. The reason for proposing this "preparation for contact hypothesis" (which is certainly no original idea of mine) is simply to facilitate a "suspension of disbelief" so that the UFO evidence can be confronted on its own terms without the mental roadblock that the phenomenon violates all common sense, or more precisely the common sense of modern western society, and that of the scientific community in particular, and hence cannot be real.

The discovery and open recognition that alien beings (especially more advanced than we) exist and that they are already here would be a fundamental turning point in civilization. That revelation would constitute a one-time phase transition in human knowledge like that from ice to water. The societal significance of initial contact seems to me to be indisputable, and it is only less indisputable by epsilon that whoever or whatever they are (if indeed they are here) they are well aware of the consequences of initial contact, since unless they happened to be the first civilization in the universe, they must have gone through initial contact once themselves. (And even the first civilization would have seen the effect of initial contact on another.)

The working hypothesis -- and that is all it is -- is thus that we are being monitored by extraterrestrials and that they are coaxing us into awareness of their existence slowly enough to not disrupt our self-centered civilization ("gradually turning up the gain" as one of my colleagues put it). We are beginning to take our first steps into space, and though our primitive behavior -- warfare, terrorism, bigotry, intolerance, senseless violence, greed -- is not yet a danger to any extraterrestrial civilization, it could be someday. It has also been suggested that the diversity of life on our planet constituting a rich genetic bank of living organisms may have something to do with it. Perhaps the Earth is a greenhouse and nursery of some importance and value beyond its own confines as a biological databank. It could be that wet, green, just-right worlds are not all that common, and perhaps the Earth is special within some limited region of the cosmos, such as the local neighborhood (astronomical jargon for the volume of space within a few dozen parsecs in our spiral arm of the Milky Way) as a repository or laboratory of life forms. Unfortunately we who happen to live on this biologically rich planet are on an ecologically destructive course that will eliminate a third or more of the Earth's species in this century. This lack of stewardship may not have gone unnoticed. For such reasons, perhaps events are being staged involving a few people at a time, so that little by little the belief system of our society is challenged and altered. Our neatly packaged worldview is being deliberately unraveled by things that do not fit into our reality. The dramatic "landing on the White House lawn" that scientists demand as confirmation is exactly not the right thing to happen. At least not yet.

To repeat, this is merely a mental-roadblock-clearing hypothesis. But on the other hand, there is no doubt that the attitude of society has changed dramatically over the last 50 years to the extent that over half the population in the U.S. now believes in the reality of ongoing extraterrestrial visitation of Earth. That was certainly not the case in 1950. If public opinion polls are correct, the average person today appears to be pretty prepared for open contact, while we scientists would be quite jolted if UFOs proved to be real and extraterrestrial. (A nice, safe, distant radio signal from Tau Ceti would be more to our liking.) The "preparation for contact" hypothesis is merely a plausible idea, but it may be part of the explanation of the seemingly bizarre UFO behavior.

In any event, whether the above is merely fantasy or not, the duty of the skeptic is to confront the evidence, even if it seemingly violates all common sense.

Source: <http://www.calphysics.org/haisch/index.html>

Thanks to MiMUFON member Jean Waskiewicz for submitting this article.



Admiral Roscoe Hillenkoetter, first Director of the CIA (1947-50). In 1957, he joined the Board of Governors of the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomenon (NICAP), a UFO investigating group. In 1960, he stated:

"Unknown objects are operating under intelligent control... It is imperative that we learn where UFOs come from and what their purpose is..." (Maccabee, Bruce, "What The Admiral Knew: UFO, MJ-12 and R. Hillenkoetter," International UFO Reporter, Nov./Dec., 1986.)

He also recommended:

"It is time for the truth to be brought out in open Congressional hearings. Behind the scenes high ranking Air Force officers are soberly concerned about the UFOs. But through official secrecy and ridicule, many citizens are led to believe the unknown flying objects are nonsense." (Statement in a NICAP news release, February 27, 1960.)

Michigan MUFON State Section Directors Meeting Minutes July 14, 2007

The July 14 state meeting was held at Henry Ford Community College in Dearborn, Michigan.

Bill Konkolesky, State Director, called the Section Directors' meeting to order at 12:45 PM. In attendance were David Twichell, Rebecca Konkolesky, David Bleicher, Darlene Bleicher, Jay Korinek, Gary Golem, Patty Donahue and Wendy Smith.

The group spent most of the meeting discussing the September 22 lecture by Stanton Friedman at Henry Ford Community College. The following arrangements and decisions were made.

The event will be held in the HFCC conference center, which includes a 380-seat auditorium (with room for 400 with extra chairs) and a lobby. General admission is \$12.00, \$10.00 for HFCC students with ID.

Jay noted that the college would provide all necessary audiovisual equipment, including a rear screen slide projector. A college A/V assistant may be required. Jay will notify HFCC's security personnel. David Twichell will videotape the lecture for inclusion in the MIMUFON library.

Jay will prepare numbered tickets. They can be purchased through Paypal on the MIMUFON website and held for pickup the evening of the event, purchased at HFCC's radio station, or purchased at the door.

The question of the Paypal fee was discussed. Currently MIMUFON is paying this fee for all transactions through the website. The group agreed that the Paypal fee should be added on top of the admission or membership cost for all future transactions.

In the lobby tables will be placed for ticket sales and pickup, MIMUFON literature, and Friedman book sales.

It was decided to hold a small reception for Stanton Friedman after the lecture, with invitations to MIMUFON members and college personnel. Jay kindly volunteered his home as a site for the reception.

David Twichell volunteered to prepare a draft of an advertising poster. Once finalized Jay will place posters on the HFCC campus. The college will prepare a press release with pictures and send it to the two weekly Dearborn newspapers, and Detroit radio and television stations. Information about the lecture will be included in the HFCC newsletter, 4000 copies of which are printed and available on campus. They will also be available at a Dearborn homecoming event to be held in early August. Bill volunteered to inquire about the possibility of a telephone interview with Friedman one to two weeks in advance of the event, to be broadcast on WJR. Bill will also contact the MUFON Journal for inclusion in their calendar section. The lecture will of course be posted on the MIMUFON website, and included in the September Newsletter

This attendee left the meeting at approximately 2:30 PM, shortly before adjournment.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Wendy Smith, July 29, 2007.



Flatwoods Monster 55th Anniversary and Flying Saucer Extravaganza

CHARLESTON, W.Va. - Proof that a 12-foot creature with fiery red eyes spooked Braxton County schoolchildren in 1952. Proof that aliens crashed a spaceship near Roswell, N.M., in 1947. Proof that the U.S. military engaged alien spaceships in battle over the Atlantic Ocean more than 50 years ago.

"You're going to see some hard evidence" at the Flatwoods Monster 55th Anniversary and Flying Saucer Extravaganza on Sept. 7-8 in Charleston, said promoter Larry Bailey. "That's a promise. That's not just promotional talk."

The UFO conference coincides with the 60th anniversary of an unexplained sighting of a crashed aircraft in New Mexico that is still a source of controversy and speculation of a government cover-up. It's also the 55th anniversary of sightings of a noxious-odor-emitting monster in Flatwoods in Braxton County.

Go to <http://www.flatwoodsmonster.com/>



2007 MUFON Symposium Notes

Friday's session got the 38th Annual International UFO Symposium off to a strong start. Stanton Friedman gave his usual entertaining presentation, with the subject matter centering around "60 Years of Roswell". Along the way, Friedman laced his presentation with rather witty asides about some of his recent debates with CSI's Michael Shermer. Friedman bested Shermer on a George Noory "Coast to Coast" radio program by about 80%-20% in a listener's poll, which Stan allowed might have been biased some by the composition of that listening audience, but I would think that the audience who saw their latest Larry King semi-confrontation (with Noory and four or five other participants present) would have felt the same way. Friedman's best trait, besides the fact that he has actually investigated the things he talks about, is to me his lawerly marshalling and presentation of cogent facts, rather than diversions, opinions, generalities without specifics in support, ad hominems, and attempts to trivialize the subject at issue.

Next, George Knapp gave what I think flat out was the best presentation of the whole weekend, a truly creepy recounting of the story behind his and Colm Kelleher's Hunt for the Skinwalker. Knapp, who had visited the Utah ranch where all the claimed paranormal events took place, is himself an accomplished public speaker, and able to mix in major points with fascinating detail. His documentary on the whole affair, when he finally is able to put it together, will be in my opinion a "must-view". Incidentally, having read the book myself just before Chuck Lietzau's exposition of the story at a MIMUFON meeting earlier this year and comparing these with Knapp's Denver speech, confirmed my opinion of the excellent job Chuck had done in relating the events.

Incidentally, both Friday night's dinner and the luncheon on Saturday were in my opinion the best meals we'd seen at one of these International Symposia outside of Michigan, though Friday's service was a trifle slow for some tables. The taste and portion size of what I at least had were excellent (consider also my large size!), and the presentation of the desserts in particular was – shall we say? – stellar.

Saturday began with Kathleen Marden's provision of new insights into the Betty and Barney Hill abduction. This presentation continued the practice of the actual investigators – those "who were there" – speaking, as Kathleen was Betty Hill's niece and was one of the first to hear the initial story from Betty and Barney themselves, and was very familiar with the mostly-New England area where the events took place. Kathleen also has access to the complete tapes of the Benjamin Simon regressions with the Hills, and these background qualities enabled Kathleen to retrace the chronology and geography of the Hills' September 1961 encounter, and in the process bring to light new information and suggested corrections to the classic John Fuller account. Kathleen's meticulous attention to detail was most impressive. Her book Captured!: The Betty and Barney Hill UFO Experience, written with the collaboration of Stanton Friedman, is now available.

Impressive, too was Michael Nelson's talk on new information in the April 1966 Portage County, Ohio, Police-UFO chase case. In 1985 Nelson, then a Portage County deputy sheriff, happened upon a set of unusual "cold" case files while cleaning out the Sheriff's Office, and was allowed to keep them. It was not until 1998 that Nelson, now a professional archaeologist nearing his Ph.D, actually sat down and began to review these files, which dealt with an in-house investigation of officers Spaur and Neff's encounter with the extraordinary, and Mike Nelson got hooked. As someone who had never given UFOs any consideration, what animated Nelson perhaps more than the subject matter (he would still consider himself an open-minded UFO-skeptic), was the injustice done particularly to these two Ohio peace officers in the aftermath of their experience. Nelson's new information fills in some details and raises some new questions and possibilities, particularly when a piece of material found at the initial site of the UFO's appearance is fully analyzed and reported in his forthcoming book.

John Greenewald, who did his usual efficient job as Symposium Master of Ceremonies, gave a candid, informative, and interesting luncheon presentation and Q & A session.

In "Faded Giant – The Malmstrom Air Force Base Encounters", Robert Salas gave the background and some of the story of the apparently UFO-related shutdown of two flights of Minuteman Missiles in 1967. Salas recounted his efforts to research the incident for his book Faded Giant: The 1967 Missile/UFO Incidents, which he wrote with the collaboration of UFO investigator James Klotz. In the course of their exhaustive researches, Salas discovered that two flights of Minuteman missiles – about 18 missiles -- were taken out of operation, rather than the one flight of which he had been a Missile Combat Crew member. Although the last few minutes of his talk diverged from the heavily research-supported to the speculative of "what this all means", his closing opinions were identified as such and testified to the great humanity of this person and the impact on a sensitive person of the enormous power and responsibility that he had once wielded. Reflecting upon Captain Salas' speech makes one appreciate just how fortunate we are to have come through the Cold War intact, and some of the people who helped get us through it.

Richard Dolan's speech, "The Extraterrestrial Presence on Earth: Why it is Revolutionary", was marred somewhat by his having to truncate his conclusions due to time constraints. Most of the speech was spent building up the case for a massive years-long coverup, ground he had already covered in a previous Denver Symposium. Dolan displays a ready mind and wit, and I have no doubt his next book, whose eventual publication he humorously discussed, will be interesting, and will hopefully treat the title topic in more detail. The "potent questions" he was able to sketch at lecture's end certainly are thought-provoking, and I would like to see this agile mind explore them in greater depth.

Continued on Page 18

Recent Michigan Sightings

Saginaw, MI. 8/12/2007 8:21:03 PM 20:21 Duration: 45 seconds

I was watching TV in my living room when a bright light caught my eye coming from outside the window in an adjacent bedroom. It was as if something flashed across the sky. I quickly got up and ran over to the window to investigate. Initially when I looked out I couldn't see anything, but it was when I looked straight up that I saw it.

The object that I saw was a triangular shape with several white lights on it, 4-7 I'd say. It was extremely low moving at a steady but slow pace; I was able to track it from one end of the house to looking out the window on the other end of the house for about 45 seconds.

I would say it was flying about as low as a crop duster plane would, if not lower. I heard absolutely no sound from the object. There is a small airport nearby and I often here planes fly over that are much higher than this object. It was heading North East and the airport is North West. To recap, very low, triangle shape, many bright white lights on craft, and no noise.

Grand Rapids, MI. 8/11/2007 2:30:58 AM 02:30. Duration: 1 minute.

I was outside in my backyard looking up at the sky when I noticed directly over head two lights approximately 4 inches apart at arms length slowly heading in a northerly direction. They would inch forward together in unison, then stop, inch forward once more, then stop. They proceeded to do this until they were out of sight. I saw another object, but different, a 1/2 hour later.

Richmond, MI. 8/10/2007 22:15 (Entered as: 08/10/07 22:15). Duration: 2 minutes.

It is Friday night, August 10, 2007.

I am a 41-year-old male, married 14 years with an 11-year-old daughter.

She was having a friend spend the night, and wanted to sleep in the yard in the tent. We started a small fire, set up the tent, and made smores. As night fell, we turned out the lights to see the stars. At approximately 10:20 p.m. we saw an oval object appear in the sky. It had no definite shape, but was glowing orange on the top half.

My daughter, her friend and I moved through the back yard to keep it in view around the trees. It was about 30 degrees above the horizon, and moved from our west to south. Its speed appeared to be slower than when we have watched planes. There were no lights (red, blue, green or white), only the orange glow.

We all 3 remarked how it looked like something burning. I have witnessed shooting stars, comets, aircraft, hot air balloons, and even the occasional faint satellite, and this was none of those. The size was similar to that of a dime held at arms length.

My immediate thoughts were that there had been some sort of disaster with the shuttle or space station. My daughter said maybe a plane on fire, but we figured a plane would not keep speed and altitude if it were burning (plus there were no other lights).

I know that the confirmation of 2 11-year-old girls may not hold much weight, but we all saw something very different tonight.

Dearborn, MI. 7/19/2007. 22:00

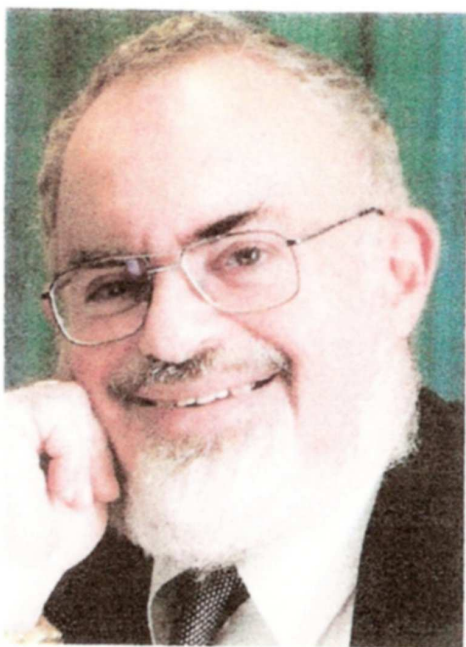
I was in the basement of my house trying to find my second garage door opener for my dad, who was working on his car. My mother was outside, sitting on a chair in the driveway. When I came outside, I see my neighbor at the fence with her boyfriend. She's telling me to look up at the sky, because there were some lights she didn't recognize as a plane. I look up and see two lights that look like stars about two inches apart moving in the sky. I turned to tell my mother to look up at it, when I looked back the lights were there for just a split second before they disappeared. It seemed like one light went out before the other, but it's hard to say. My neighbor and her boyfriend said they had been watching the lights for a while before coming over to the fence to look for me. Her boyfriend said that at one point he could see stars between the two lights, like seeing through something. I think that meant he figured each light was independent of the other. I think they were part of the same structure, personally. I only saw the lights move slightly in the sky by the time I looked up, and it appeared in unison, suggesting a craft of some sort. I first thought the two lights were stars when I looked up, but stars don't move or disappear, obviously. My father was in the garage the whole time, but there were four witnesses altogether. Me, my mother, my neighbor and her boyfriend. We all saw it. We have an airport not too far away from Dearborn in Romulus, that frequently attracts a lot of air traffic over our area. But this had no FAA red lights on it and made no noise. We are savvy enough to know what are planes, and what aren't. The whole experience for me lasted probably 10 seconds. For my neighbors it lasted longer, more like a couple minutes.

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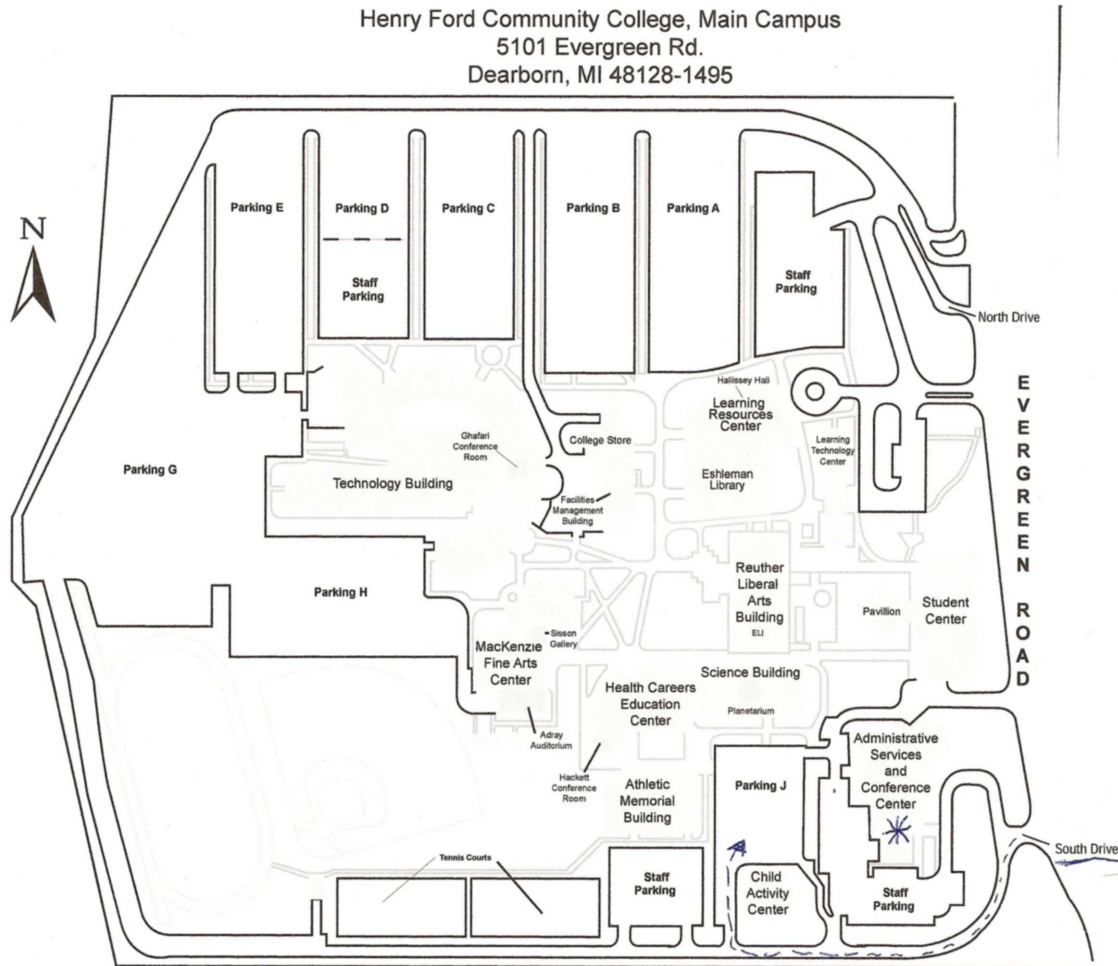
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Tickets are \$12.50 (general public) and \$10.00 for HFCC students. (ID required.)

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Michigan MUFON Meeting at Henry Ford Community College 5101 Evergreen Road, Dearborn, Michigan 48128 Saturday, September 22nd. 2007 Members \$12.00 / Students with ID \$10.00



Andrew Mazzara Conference Center, on the main campus of Henry Ford Community College, 5101 Evergreen Road, Dearborn, Michigan 48128. (Free Parking.) Just south of Ford Road and west of the Southfield Expressway, near Fairlane Town Center.

Take South Drive behind the Conference Center and park in parking lot "J"

Saturday, September 22nd at 7:30 PM. (Doors open at 7:00 PM.)

This is the big one, so order your tickets early.

2007 MUFON Symposium Notes Continued from page 14 . . .

Timothy Good's talk on Military/Intelligence involvement with UFOs was Saturday's capstone presentation. I had particularly wanted to hear Good speak, but got a seat in the back of the auditorium where the sound quality was bad – this sound problem and some imperfect AV coordination were two of the less-successful elements of the weekend. On DVD, however, these problems are mostly absent, and I would highly recommend this presentation. Good's main thesis was partly that the military means more than just the U.S. forces, and that the military-UFO confrontation goes back well before Kenneth Arnold and June 24, 1947. Good seems to repose more trust in single sources than other investigators might grant. Some of his conclusions, such as that the aliens destroyed numerous military and civilian aircraft in retaliation for military attempts to shoot them down, also seem to have rather less support than others. However, the man brings enormous "street cred" to the subject, and it was a great experience to see him in person. The U.S. publication of his book Need to Know: UFOs, the Military and Intelligence is eagerly anticipated.

The Sunday presentations began with Dr. Rudy Schild's offering on "The University Community Response to UFO Research". Schild was a former friend and colleague of the late professor John Mack, and I had expected to hear Schild present about the subject of the treatment of UFOs and UFO researchers by academe. Instead, Schild described the theories of some New Physicists on how the universe is filling up with "Divine Intent" by the production of Black Holes due to star evolution, combining with the super-black-hole "MECOs" already resident at the center of most galaxies. It was only in the last few minutes of his presentation that Schild, forced by time constraints, got around to aliens and their mode of travel by using "Element 115" and tapping into this cosmic intent to travel – sort of – through the universe (Note: both Linda and I remember Schild as saying "115" in the presentation, and the Schild Symposium DVD confirms this, although it is "113" in the Symposium Proceedings. The overall reach of Schild's theories is truly mind-expanding, but unfortunately much of the presentation, perhaps again due to the limited time, boiled down to unsupported assertions, each a little more startling than the previous, and seemed more typical of some of the New Age conventions one finds in California and other travel destinations than a scientifically-inspired organization. Of course, the Sunday morning MUFON Symposium presentations have tended to be more philosophical in tone.

Brad Sparks gave what is probably the most controversial presentation of the Denver Symposium, a revisionist paper on the 1980-1981 disinformation campaign waged against ufologist William L. Moore and others by U.S. Air Force Office of Special Investigations Special Agent Richard C. Doty and others. Sparks contends that the nature of this operation to provide false information supports Sparks' conclusion, from his own 2000 discovery of the TOP SECRET U.S. government policy response to Roswell, that something extraordinary did in fact happen at Roswell that was worth discrediting, although both Sparks and former collaborator in this Symposium paper Barry Greenwood do not support the ET hypothesis. Sparks and Greenwood also, it appears, differ strenuously as to the motives behind the disinformants, Sparks characterizing Greenwood as seeing the miscreants motivated by greed, and great acrimony has accrued around this Symposium paper and its genesis. Of greater import, as MUFON International Director James Carrion has noted in a recent online blog, is the challenge the Sparks paper makes to the genuineness of the famous "MJ-12" documents, and we shall expect to hear Stanton Friedman defend the legitimacy of some of them, and Dr. Robert M. and Ryan S. Wood make the case for most of them, in future *MUFON UFO Journals*.

Sam Maranto provided an entertaining talk on the recent O'Hare and Tinley Park, Illinois sightings, which was marred by the non-arrival of dramatic footage of the events that had been promised to Mr. Maranto. What Sam did have, however, was an interesting exposition of some of the facts in the case and insights into the press coverage surrounding them. Sam's entrance to a "Nazareth" music piece and his exit video were delightful.

The Speakers' forum had the standard kinds of questions asked of the presenters, and was mostly uneventful. I was particularly impressed that all of the speakers, with the exception of Mr. Sparks, stayed for this final session. The closest thing to an interchange was a welcome Richard Dolan intervention, with comments that possessed both science and good sense, when an older speaker claimed that the formation of the different races of humans could only have occurred through alien intervention. Closing notes: Special presentations were made to the late Robert Pratt and to Stanton Friedman for their lifelong contributions to ufology. Stan was clearly moved and rendered nearly – note the word "nearly" – speechless by this honor. The title of this year's Symposium was "An Estimate of the Situation: the ET Hypothesis". I'm not sure that much overt attention was given to fleshing out this theme in Denver on August 10-12, although Richard Dolan specifically echoed it in his presentation title, and most of the speakers came to grips with it in one way or another. From a brief conversation I had with International Director James Carrion, I understand that the proceedings of the special MUFON meeting held earlier this year to consider the ET hypothesis exhaustively will be forthcoming. All in all, the 2007 MUFON International Symposium was I think one of the better ones I have attended.

Submitted by Bill Murphy.



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TBA

You will note that not all counties are covered with section directors. In that case you can contact any of the following state officers.

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

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

What is your interest in the UFO phenomenon?

What kind of events should MIMUFON sponsor?

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

Any other comments or suggestions?

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

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