

Peter Robbins to Present in September

Words From the State Director



Hope everyone is enjoying their summer. My wife Becky and I are thoroughly loving being new parents. Alexandra Joy Konkolesky was born May 23 (8 lbs 1 oz) and pics of her can be found at konkolesky.shutterfly.com.

I must begin by notifying everyone that Patty Donahue has chosen to step down from her post as Assistant State Director and Store Manager due to many personal obligations. She will still be attending what MUFON meetings she can. Thanks so much for all your hard work, Patty.

I'm proud to announce that our fantastic team of Field Investigators has been consistently keeping Michigan among the top states of MUFON's CMS rankings. In fact, for June we were number one! Big thanks to Chief Investigator Gary Golem and all of our hardworking team of investigators. Way to go.

Exciting news. Renowned UFO investigator Peter Robbins (Ithaca, NY) will be coming to Michigan to deliver three outstanding presentations the weekend of September 18-19 for both our members and the general public.

On Saturday (Sep 18 – 7pm) at Henry Ford Community College in Dearborn, Robbins will be delivering “England’s Rendlesham Forest UFO Incident: Anatomy of a Best Case.” Robbins has extensively investigated the Rendlesham UFO event (sometimes referred to as “Britain’s Roswell”) first-hand and on-site and is the co-author of a book on the subject, “Left at East Gate.” The presentation will be in the same theater where Stanton Friedman (2007) and Erich Von Daniken (2000) have delivered presentations on behalf of MUFON.

For our regularly scheduled Sunday MUFON meeting at Walli’s East in Flint (Sep 19), Robbins will be delivering our 10am Field Investigator Training, entitled “An Informal Workshop on Case Investigation: Lessons, Examples, and Anecdotes Drawn from Thirty Five Years in the Field.”

For the afternoon, after our buffet, Robbins will be delivering “The Power of Ridicule vs. An Uncomfortable Truth: Why We Need to Take UFOs Seriously.”

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UFO Symposium
July 22 -25, 2010 Denver, Colorado

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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
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The Saturday night presentation at HFCC will be \$10. The Sunday double presentation (plus buffet) at Walli's will be \$20 (or \$14 members and \$16 non-members with a ticket stub from Saturday's presentation). Partial meeting and first-timer discounts will not apply for Sunday.

More details will be available as the event nears via newsletter and at mimufon.org.

In the meantime, there is still time to make arrangements to attend the 41st Annual MUFON UFO Symposium in Denver, July 22-25. There is a great roster of speakers, this year. For details on the event, please visit mufon.com.

One more thing...I was so surprised when I opened the May MUFON Journal to discover I was Volunteer of the Month. Thank you Gary Golem and David Twichell for submitting me for this honor. It means a lot to me.

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

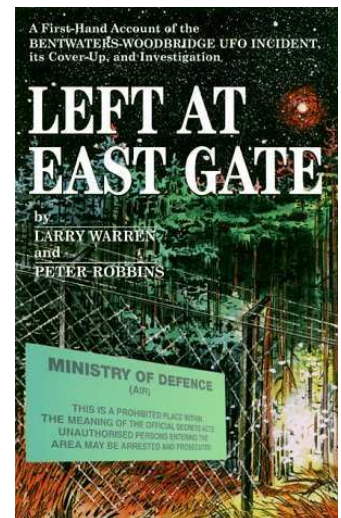
Enjoy the Michigan sunshine while it lasts and see you in the fall.



Peter Robbins Coming to MiMUFON in September

Peter Robbins is one of the best known and most respected investigative writers and speakers with regard to the study of UFOs and their implications. He's been involved in this field for more than thirty years, as a researcher, investigator, writer, lecturer, activist and author. A regular fixture on radio shows around the country, he has also appeared as a guest on and been consultant to numerous television shows and documentaries. He is also co-author of the British best-seller, *Left at East Gate: A First-Hand Account of the Rendlesham Forest UFO Incident, Its Cover-Up and Investigation*.

Plan to be with us in Flint, Michigan September 19, 2010 for this "must see" presentation.



Monthly Statistical MUFON Report for April & May 2010:

CMS continues to amass sighting reports from around the globe. In April 2010 there were 464 sightings reported to MUFON through CMS worldwide. Of these, 413 were in the United States, of which 19 were in Michigan. Most impressively there were 24 Landings, Hovering, or Takeoffs reported and 10 Entities observed worldwide.

In May 2010 there were 500 sightings reported to MUFON through CMS worldwide. Of these, 426 were in the United States, of which 10 were in Michigan. Most impressively there were 30 Landings, Hovering, or Takeoffs reported and 13 Entities observed worldwide.

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

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Correction to Last Month's Murphy Article.

Editor's Note: In the May issue, in transferring Bill Murphy's article to the newsletter, I failed to copy and paste the final portion. My apologies to Bill and the reader. The following should have been included:

Perspective: 2012 and UFOs:

Recently I viewed a video about UFOs in the skies over Mexico, and their possible connection with ancient Mayan prophecy and a new age of "earth changes" and "cosmic awareness" that's just about upon us. You are all familiar with this type of material; there's a full-blown industry of books and predictions right now tied into 2012 and the Mayan calendar. The problem with this particular video is that the "new age" that was predicted was not to start in 2012, but about 20 years previously. The anticipated "changes" cannot be said to have shown themselves, without some extraordinary special pleading.

So, it's now on to 2012. The larger problem is that, literally for millennia, people have been seeing "signs and portents" and betting their resources and their sanity upon such predictions and, so far, none of these speculations has panned out. The year 1000, the turn of the century at 1900, Y2K – these events spawned a tremendous amount of "end-times" worry among the general population. Ufology is rife with instances of "prophets" claiming imminent destruction or mental and spiritual elevation, or all three – just buy my books and DVDs, visit my compound in the mountains for a retreat, or come with me on a "sacred journey" to any number of a variety of "mystical sites" around the world. I have elsewhere touched upon the cataclysmic "earth changes" predictions of a suburban Chicago housewife surrounding December 21, 1954, how a dedicated following of above-average-intelligence people surrounded her, how they expected to be saved from the disturbances by a UFO, and how the group ended up looking foolish, people lost their jobs, and some were hauled into court on sanity hearings, as a result of their buying into her "channelings".

But of course, 39 people who staked their lives to Marshall Herff Applewhite's predictions tied into a comet's appearance lost far more than their wealth and good names on March 26, 1997. One of these days I suppose the modern-day "prophets" may get it right, but time and time again many have been fooled by "experts" using their own interpretations of mystical writings, coincidences, and astronomical cycles, and each time those fooled found that the messages seemed so believable, the reasoning so terrifyingly sound, the predictions so titillatingly grand.

People will tie their other enthusiasms up with ufology as a matter of course – most of us probably have multiple reasons why we find the field so interesting – but letting go of our sense of perspective will in no way help ufology gain the respect it should have.



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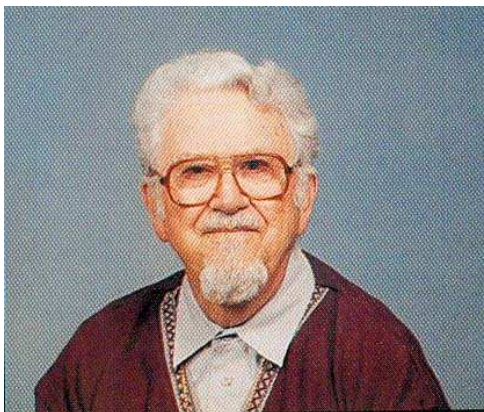


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Ralph R. Smith 1919—2010

Longtime MiMUFON member and Treasurer Wendy Smith reports that her father, Ralph R. Smith, passed away after a long and fruitful life.

Wendy said:

“Mr. Ralph R. Smith died on April 27 at age 91. He was very proud of his service in World War II, as a member of the 605th Tank Destroyer Battalion. He and I attended the last reunion of his Battalion in September 2008.

“Father had a thirst for knowledge, a great capacity for volunteer activities, and he asked questions, and really, when I think about it now, these are the things that led me to MIMUFON.”

I’m sure I speak for our entire membership when I say that our thoughts and prayers are with Wendy and her family.



On a much happier note, Michigan State Director Bill Konkolesky and his wife Becky celebrate the birth of their first child!

The following email was received on May 24, 2010 from Michigan State Director, Bill Konkolesky:

“Friends,

Alexandra Joy Konkolesky was born Sunday, May 23, at 1:24pm (8 lbs 1 oz, 20 inches). She's just delightful and both Becky and baby are recovering just fine.

Pics can be found at konkolesky.shutterfly.com. “

Congratulations, Bill and Becky and welcome to the world, Alexandra!



I Know What I Saw Now Out on Video

Acclaimed UFO Documentary, *I Know What I Saw*, Released on DVD

Film Exposes Covert U.S. Investigation of Worldwide UFO Cases

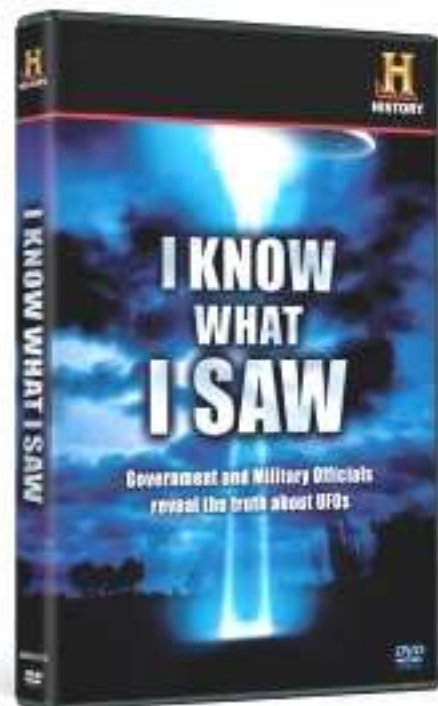
UFO documentary, *I Know What I Saw*, is officially released from History Channel and being offered on DVD from director James Fox. A thousand autographed copies are now available (with 30 minutes of bonus material) from our website, www.iknowwhatisawthemovie.com.

50% of the proceeds will go towards a screening in Washington D.C. where Congressional members and media could interact with witnesses after viewing the documentary. This event would promote more responsible policy in Washington, as well as, educate the media on the serious and real nature of the phenomenon. Be a part of History through the Official IKWIS website.

Thank you all for your continued support,

Director, James Fox

www.iknowwhatisawthemovie.com



UFO picks up Laconia, NH car with teens and drops 180 feet away

By Roger Marsh



Windshield cracked and air bag deployed. MUFON image.

Two New Hampshire teenagers sitting in a parked car were approached by a black-colored UFO in Laconia on March 20, 2010, lifted into the air and then dropped back onto pavement 180 feet away, according to testimony from the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) database. MUFON New England State Director Steve Firmani confirmed his investigation of the case today by telephone and said witness interviews had been completed.

The 18-year-old girl and 16-year-old boy both offer testimony about their encounter: The two used the girl's mother's car and went to a Laconia destination that has not been released. "We were just sitting there and I looked up at the moon," the female witness stated. "I saw this weird black-shaped object. And then, I said to my boyfriend, 'What was that?'"

Both accounts describe the same events. They saw an object coming toward them from the sky and began to panic. When they attempted to drive away, the car they were operating was lifted up off the ground. Both describe an odd smell during the incident.

When the car hit the pavement 180 feet away, the windshield cracked and the air bags deployed. Firmani said there was no damage to the body of the car, but that there was about \$5,000 damage to the underside of the car.

The male witness described the UFO: "I don't know how to explain this but it turns into a ball when it wants to slow down and move around quickly and when it wants to go fast, straight, it turns into a flat plate with maze box-shaped lined lights. These were on all the time."

He describes attempting to drive away: "The front end got picked up and the car could not move. We steered left and right but the car just kept on going up into the air." When the car hit the ground, they drove quickly away to the girl's home where her mother called the police.

Firmani said there were three-inch divots in the curbing at the impact point where the car hit the ground. He said further study would be made to the under carriage body parts, which MUFON has retained from the body shop.

Laconia is a city in Belknap County, New Hampshire, population 16,411. This case was originally reported to Peter Davenport at the [National UFO Reporting Center](#). Davenport referred the case to Firmani. The following is the witness testimony from this case:

NH, March 20, 2010 - 2 Witness Accounts (Credit: Peter Davenport - NUFORC). [MUFON Case # 22880](#).

My name is E and I'm eighteen years old. I live in Laconia. Last Saturday night, my boyfriend D came up to see me and we went out. When we got to (edited), in Laconia, we parked in the back in the separate parking lot. We turned off the car and it was totally silent. We were just sitting there and I looked up at the moon. I saw this weird black-shaped object. And then, I said to my boyfriend, "What was that?" He looked up at it and he said, "If it gets any closer, we need to leave."

I kept staring at the moon to see if it was just a plane or something. It moved back across the moon. It was huge and it looked like it was zig-zagging or changing shape. I couldn't tell. He said, "I think it's coming closer." It flew so fast over the trees getting closer to where we were. It felt like it was zeroing in on us. It blocked the moon. And then, we started panicking and driving away.

KEEPING IT LIGHT





Photo: Asphalt impact area and tire marks in the grass. MUFON image.

I thought we were going to hit the Bingo building. We turned left but it felt like we went off of a jump – you know that feeling? Like we were on a rollercoaster? And we were in the air. I was trying to pay attention to everything that was going on but it felt like I couldn't. When I looked up, everything was black. The smell was not nice but it was like something you could stand. It was an odor I've never smelled before. I heard absolutely nothing – it was silent. I felt immobilized like I had no control over what I was doing or over my body. I could see nothing. It was like opening your eyes in a pitch black room. I felt really nervous and scared. I don't remember crying or screaming. I held on to the center console because I felt like I was lifted. I was holding on so tight that my thumbprint is imprinted on the center console. And then, when I finally realized what was happening, I was so close to the windshield that my body was going forward with my arms behind me. Everything was black. I heard a loud noise like a horn. Once. And then, the car just dropped.

I hit my eye on the dashboard and the airbags came out. I couldn't believe what had just happened. I held my face and I looked over at my boyfriend. I saw that his left arm had blood. I said, "Are you OK?" I looked at the windshield and it was cracked, totally, but only on the passenger side.

I could see D but I couldn't see anything outside. The only thing that made the car drop was the sound of the loud horn. When the car dropped, there was a loud boom. After that, we just drove so fast out of there. The smell went away after we drove away. And I started crying. And I said,

"What the h—I just happened?" My boyfriend said, "I don't know, I don't know." I didn't feel like they were following us.

When we got home, my Mom said that she could hear me from the outside while I was freaking out. I couldn't stop crying. My Mom said, "Calm down and tell me what happened." I said, "You're never going to believe me."

"Is it my car?" she asked. And I said, "Let me explain," because I felt that if I didn't explain it fast enough, it was just going to go away from my mind.

At about 12:15 AM, a cop arrived. I told him what had happened while I was sitting down at the dinner table. My boyfriend was sitting next to me – it was then that I noticed that there was no more blood on his arm or his clothing. The cop didn't believe me at first until he finished looking at the car. He told my Mom that there was no reason for the air bags to come out because nothing else on the car was damaged. He didn't check underneath the car but we found out later that the underside was totaled. The cop said that he was going to the place where we had been.

I just felt thankful that we'd gotten out of there. But I couldn't stop crying for more than 2 hours afterwards. My Mom said, "You should go take a shower and get the airbag dust off of you." But I didn't want to be alone at all. I felt lucky. And there were no scratches or anything anywhere on my body.

The first night, my dream was that I was a little girl, maybe 6 or 7 years old, in an Elementary School classroom. I was looking at myself as a little girl. And then it was like the teacher called me up and I couldn't talk or say anything - but everybody else seemed to say something for me. Like everything I wanted to say, everybody else was saying it except for me. They were saying exactly what I wanted say. I have never had a dream like this before – where I am a little girl and see anything about the past. I did not feel right at all.

I am better now. I still worry about seeing this thing again and I pay attention to the sky at night. I really don't go out at night, anymore, because I'm scared.

2nd Witness Account:

My name is D. I am sixteen years old and I live in New Hampshire. Last Saturday night I went out with my girlfriend, who lives in Laconia, when we had the following experience: I was with her around 11. We wanted to take her Mom's car because it was nicer and we wanted to go look at the stars. We went to (edited) at the back parking lot in Laconia. There were 8 cars already there when we arrived. Little by little, the cars started leaving one by one. We were the last car in the parking lot. Then the lights of the parking lot and the lights of the houses around us and the lights of the houses down the street started to go out one by one. Then my

WE ARE NOT ALONE

Awarded the Silver Mic in the category of "Interviews" for 2010 by The Michigan Association of Educational Broadcasters.



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

Investigator and Author **Frank Feschino (Shoot Them Down)** will guest on **July 6, 2010**.

James Fox (I Know What I Saw) will guest on **August 3, 2010**.

Tune in on the **first Tuesday of each month at 1:00 PM (EST)** with a new show each month.

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girlfriend noticed something blocking the moon and asked, "What was that?" I knew it wasn't a cloud because it moved back against the wind and blocked the moon again. I don't know how to explain this but it turns into a ball when it wants to slow down and move around quickly and when it wants to go fast, straight, it turns into a flat plate with maze box-shaped lined lights. These were on all the time.

The colors were dim yellowish white and did not change. I cannot tell whether these were part of the bottom or not. It flipped a lot. I did not know which side was right or up on it. It was doing this over the trees across the street from the parking lot. It suddenly crossed the street towards our car. Its size was as big as 14 houses. It was really quiet. That's when we had to leave. But I did not have time to turn on the headlights. We put the clutch in to start the car and jammed it into 1st and floored it. The front end got picked up and the car could not move. We steered left and right but the car just kept on going up into the air. My girlfriend was scared and she had boogers coming out of her nose while I was cursing. The car was going up and the back wheels were off of the ground. Then I looked out of my window and saw that the parking lot park lines started getting smaller. Both our windows were down this whole time. The front windshield started to crack and shake and the cracks spread from the passenger side to the driver's side. It popped outwards like it was pulled out. Something yanked my wrist. Not aggressively. And the whole time in my head something was telling me "Don't panic," or "Don't be scared." And it wasn't in English in my head but I got the meaning. It wasn't a language – I don't know how to explain it. And on my girlfriend's side, it had her half-way out of the window. Her butt was off of her seat, maybe one-and-a-half or two feet and the car was pointed almost completely straight up at the stars – yet I saw no stars. Every time I tried looking at it, in front, a white film went over my eyes. It was kind of like staring at the sun with your eyelids closed. I could not hear her screaming but I know that



Photo: Asphalt impact area and tire marks in the grass. MUFON image.

she was screaming. My ears felt like they kept on popping from the altitude. I couldn't hear. The smell was like unbearable, like you want to close your nose. It was spicy, like pepper-sprayish, and clean at the same time – it was a smell that you could stand but you would close your nostrils because it still smells bad.

When I tried to fight and get my wrist back in the car, that's when the grip got stronger. It was pulling my left arm up out of the window – there was no pain but it was strong. I was trying to fight off the grip on my wrist. My tongue was numb. The horn beeped by accident and the grip got a little loose. It beeped again in the struggle and my arm flopped down in the car. My girlfriend also fell back in her seat and we realized we were still up in the air!

It took 2 seconds for the car to drop. When we dropped, the air bags came out. We floored it as fast as we could through the town. It was almost a straightaway to go to my girlfriend's house with very few turns to take. During this time, both of us couldn't stop crying. We arrived at her house and her Mom asked, "What happened?" All this took place from 11PM to 12:30 AM. It seemed like we were in the air for 10 minutes and it felt like it was forever. Her Mom called the police, and a policeman came. The policeman did not believe us when we first told him what had happened until he looked at the vehicle. There were no scratches or dents or anything. He said that there was no reason for this to have happened to the car when there are no dents or scratches and no reason for the windshield to shatter and pop out the way it did. He had no explanation for why the windshield popped outwards. Also, when I went to open my cell phone in front of the policemen, I got shocked by it.

On Monday, I went to my doctor to get a whole physical to make sure I was OK. My wrist had a puncture wound while my forearm has a cut that is semi-circular and there's blood on it. I do remember that when I first looked at my arm after I got it back in the car, it was red with blood. But by the time we got to my girlfriend's house, there was no blood anywhere. On the center console of the car, there is an imprint of her hand. I don't quite understand what the policeman said but it was something about the skin of her hand leaving an impression.

Now, I don't like to feel bumps in the car, or feel anything that trembles like a boombox. I don't want to be out in dark areas at night. I also don't like to walk out to my Mom's car, anymore, outside. "

Source: <http://www.examiner.com/x-2363-UFO-Examiner~y2010m4d18-UFO-picks-up-Laconia-NH-car-with-teens-and-drops-180-feet-away>



Captain Engineer Omar R. Pagani, Director of the Argentine Navy UFO investigation team in the 1960s. As a result of a series of observations at Argentine and Chilean meteorological stations on Deception Island, Antarctica, in June and July 1965, Captain Pagani disclosed at a press conference that:

"The unidentified flying objects do exist. Their presence and intelligent displacement in the Argentine airspace has been proven. Their nature and origin is unknown and no judgment is made about them." (Sánchez Moreno, *ibid.*)

July 2010 MIMUFON Article

Bill Murphy's Column

It's early June now and the grass and the trees beyond our deck still sport that impossible hue of green that I associate with postcard views of an Irish countryside. I'm not sure whether it's because the spring has been so unusually lush, or whether it's just that I now have more time to notice such things, but I am more aware of Nature these days, and willing to tolerate such inconveniences as an explosion of dandelions and their associated yard work in return for such wonderful scenes.

This bucolic image conjures a thought that applies to how we in the early-21st century look at the world around us, a wider theme that offers us material for reflection on the narrower matters of how scientists dismissive of UFO possibilities, we as ufologists, and the majority of Americans in between the two different camps view the subject. For we are all awash in the same general flood of life complications, uncorrelated data, media blitzes, and ramped-up demands upon our time and focus. What is particularly distressing is that, as our technology is trending on an accelerating curve toward the critical Singularity point (see later in this piece), the general state of American individual mental development is, in my opinion, arrested and/or on a downward spiral. Put simply, I'm seeing a dumbing-down and depersonalization of the American mind, and of course I'm not alone in this perception. We spend more time and technology on getting there faster, communicating quicker and with more ease, than on the quality of what we do when we get there, and of what we say when we communicate. Sometimes our technological "needs" themselves collide with one another, literally, as with texting causing traffic accidents. The information and communication explosion has multiplied the average person's circle of "friends" about twenty-fold, but these relationships have mostly changed from "solid" ones to those of casual "texters". Due especially to the perceived pressures of time, online dating services account for an ever-increasing percentage of relationships. At the same time, someone has observed that if the cyber-matchmakers are so good at what they do at connecting people with possible life-partners, why do these services require long-term subscriptions? In short, we are creating generations of shallow people with shallow relationships, shallow experiences, and shallow minds. Press of time, the needs and pleasures of the moment and the increasing acceptance of mass-communication-diluted inputs are making us less discriminating, less rational, and less truly human.

"Citified", civilized humanity is becoming less human in part because of that urbanization. As a species we are moving further away from the soil, away from the understanding of Nature and her ways, away from the inherent spirituality that close contact with our environment has bred in us, and even away from understanding our history, our place in time. So we are divorcing ourselves from our context, from where we do and should fit in – and the results of this can be disastrous. Ironically we are closing ourselves as a people to the outside world at precisely the time when our ability through science to understand it is better than it ever was. No matter what justifications one can make for it, I am struck by the irony that city kids go to planetariums – *inside* – to see the stars! I see the BP disaster as another metaphor – how Nature was compromised upon the altar of our transportation needs. And those we turn to for information themselves all too often lack the background and perhaps even the inherent good sense to be trustworthy resources. I will always remember seeing a Lansing TV newscaster ask her colleague what the weather was like out in space. Those who tout themselves as "authorities" to us on a subject may, in complete good faith, be spreading summarized illogic, incompletely reasoned opinion, and tenuous "data" as fact. We may also be tempted to accept anything that promises more spirituality, more out-of-the norm excitement, more substance, more *certainly* from these people – uncritically -- because we sense that at least what they *say* seems more tangible and meaningful, less transitory, than what *is* surrounding us.

So, what does this rumination on how we've insulated ourselves from the past, from the world around us, and from intelligent thought and relationships have to do with UFOs?

One good example of this comes from the excellent website www.ufoskeptic.org, which calls itself "An information site on the UFO phenomenon by and for professional scientists." It is maintained by Bernard Haisch, former Director of the California Institute for Physics and Astrophysics, staff scientist at Lockheed Martin, and Editor of the *Astrophysical Journal*, as well as serving for 11 years as Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Scientific Exploration*, the world's foremost source for intelligent research and discussion on paranormal studies. On Haisch's site you can download tons of valuable articles such as his "take" on the Peter Jennings 2005 "Seeing is Believing" TV program, and the article he co-authored with Bruce Maccabee and others that was apparently "the first article on the UFO topic published in a mainstream scientific journal since the 1979-1980 articles in *Applied Optics* by Maccabee on the New Zealand sightings." There are too many, too worthwhile items to do justice to them all without a separate MIMUFON article, but let me mention in passing Peter Sturrock's "Analysis of the Condon Report" and the late Marcello Truzzi's "On Pseudo-Skepticism". Contributors to the Haisch website range from Richard Dolan to Michael Shermer, so the reader is afforded the full spectrum of current perspectives on UFO subjects. Now there are several articles on the website that bear upon one of the classic arguments against extraterrestrial UFOs: the "They Can't Get Here from There" dictum. You may recall my arguing in other presentations that scientists view UFO possibilities with the same 20th-century (still) frame of reference: such proclamations that "Einstein's right, Faster-Than-Light travel is impossible"; "If they (ETs) were here, we would know, because we would have sensed these incursions unequivocally with our state-of-the-art instrumentation"; and "We are the apex of Creation/the Evolutionary Tree." I have also noted Dr. J. Allen Hynek's salutary caution against 20th-century "temporal provincialism", about how we "forget that there will be a 21st-century science, and indeed, a 30th-century science, from which vantage points our knowledge of the universe

may appear quite different”, W.M. Braselton, Jr.’s March 1995 article in the prestigious and mainstream *I.E.E.E. Aerospace and Electronic Systems Magazine* proposing interstellar human flight in the 21st-century based upon a projected breakthrough in fusion propulsion, and Stan Friedman’s observation (see his *Flying Saucers and Science*, page 60) that almost invariably, real technological progress comes from doing things differently, in an unpredictable fashion – the future, technologically speaking, is *not* an extrapolation of the past. Well, one article on Haisch’s website, by Jim Giglio and Scott Snell of the National Capital Area Skeptics, titled “The UFO Evidence: Burdens of Proof”, is worth your reviewing along these lines. While Giglio and Snell do make some good points in their effort, their article suffers from several weaknesses that militate against uncritical acceptance of everything they say. The authors accept a truism that physical principles that have been accepted for 100 to 400 years are well-nigh immutable; they claim that the passage of time and accruing scientific knowledge make the case against the possibility of E-T visitation ever stronger; and they treat the conclusions of the so-called “Condon Report” as Holy Scientific Writ.

I want to tackle the matter of scientific faith by skeptics about the solidness of physical principles first. Now I am not arguing that some or all of those principles actually are invalid; physics is not my field and I wouldn’t be surprised if the principles were valid at least as descriptors of much of existence. What I am attacking is the arrogance of ignorance of some scientists who, forgetful of the past, think that their current beliefs are written in stone, an opinion that has been proven wrong time and again. The geocentric universe was held as fact for far more than 400 years by most of the scientific community, sanctified by religious backing, until Galileo and Copernicus brought it finally down, and the Newtonian universe, the source of many of the principles Giglio and Snell adhere to, was proven an incomplete explanation of “Life, the Universe, and Everything” by Einstein and is undergoing serious further challenge by Quantum Physics.

The general claim that the advance of Science renders more and more unlikely the possibility of extraterrestrial visitation, the “They Can’t Get Here from There”, position, is attacked by Dr. Haisch’s article “The Speed-of-Light Limit Argument”, in which he concludes that “even without suspending the laws of relativity it [the FTL “limit”] may not be valid”, by some of his comments in the article on the Peter Jennings program, and once again by history, which has continually rendered invalid and nonsensical such authoritative proclamations as “you can’t go faster than the speed of sound without a craft disintegrating”, and “Space travel is utter bilge.” In his “Shermer’s Last Law” article, Michael Shermer himself quotes the late Arthur C. Clarke’s “First Law”: “When a distinguished but elderly scientist states that something is possible he is almost certainly right. When he states that something is impossible, he is very probably wrong.” Let us also recall the Braselton article mentioned earlier, which proposed interstellar travel *without* going FTL. And let us further return to the Singularity point that I brought up near the outset of this piece. Since the 1950s various forward-looking thinkers have opined that human progress was accelerating towards, at some time in the 21st century, a critical moment when Everything would change. Noting that “Science and technology have changed our world more in the past century than it changed in the previous hundred centuries”, Michael Shermer suggests that at this Singularity point “total computational power will rise to levels that are so far beyond anything that we can imagine that they will appear near infinite ... When this happens the world will change more in a decade than it did in the previous thousand decades.” Shermer then extrapolates out a hundred thousand or a million years to suggest how advanced an older ETI (Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence) might be, “and we get a gut-wrenching, mind-warping feel for just how godlike these creatures would seem.” Whether applied to extraterrestrials or human terrestrials, much of Shermer’s argumentation should encompass technology, and that would seem of necessity to include modes of transport. So it seems to me that, without ripping them too much out of context, one arch-skeptic’s arguments can be used to refute the general claims of two other skeptics. (For more on the Singularity consult mathematician and sci-fi author Vernor Vinge, who views the Singularity as that point when greater than human intelligence will be created, either through Artificial Intelligence (AI), or what he terms Intelligence Amplification (IA) – access his stimulating and challenging article at <http://mindstalk.net/vinge/vinge-sing.html>).

And, lastly, the treatment by the two skeptics of the Condon Report: quite simply, as I believe the History Project will demonstrate in its upcoming book on government involvement with the UFO phenomenon, the conclusions of the Colorado Project were written by a man (Dr. Condon) who had very little engagement with the Project, they differed mightily from what the data included in that Project’s massive Report supported, and they to a high degree of probability were at odds with what most of the people involved in the Project felt about the value of the study. None of those considerations is mentioned in Giglio and Snell’s article. Now, one can suggest that the two skeptics are guilty only of “over-summarizing” for purposes of brevity in their article. One could also infer or insinuate that the authors were ignorant of the arguments against the validity of Condon’s conclusions, judged those objections unworthy of mention, or even that they purposely failed to mention the arguments because their own premise would have been weakened. The discourse on the skeptical side is riddled with such cases of uneven logic, muddled historical thinking, unbalanced argumentation, and sloppy research, and all, including the general public and the skeptical community itself, must be aware that whatever “ore” may exist on this side of the subject must often be extricated from the surrounding matrix.

The last observation applies to the ufological side of the debate; take as an example the “Ancient Astronauts” field. As a species we look at those who went before us in near-mystification: why did they observe the heavens so closely; how did they move stones so big, so far? Our self-removal from contact with the earth, our divorce from the agrarian mindset, leads to some real howlers on the pro-UFO side, which set us up as a group for dismissal by the general public, accompanied by derisive barbs from the skeptical camp. In a recent History Channel series on “Ancient Aliens”, we are led to believe that the ancient Egyptians, the Dogon tribe of Mali, and the Hopi Indians revere Sirius because aliens from that multiple-star-system came to Earth and gave us civilization. There are simpler, better explanations for the interest attached to Sirius that should be obvious. Sirius

is the brightest star in the northern sky. As such it is the Queen of astral IFOs, second only to Venus as the most confusing heavenly object. Sirius' heliacal rising (when it first becomes visible on the eastern horizon just before sunrise) heralded the flooding of the Nile in Egypt, the single most important event in the Egyptian year, as everything the Egyptians had came from and depended upon that flooding. As for the Dogon of Mali, their surprising but inaccurate astronomical knowledge of the Sirius system does not square with the information that could have been provided by its putative inhabitants were they to have journeyed to Earth, but it does tally with the accretion of imperfect knowledge from European travelers onto the Dogons' own living traditions. While we must be wary of falling into the same trap as some modern scientists have with their "never" pronouncements, Occam's Razor makes the more conventional explanations for African interest in Sirius still preferable to those of alien interference.

In "Ancient Aliens" one researcher proclaimed that the ancients built in stone "as a message that our past was different from what we are being taught in school." If people look around, they will note that there is a lot of stone lying around; ever since cavepeople days, folks realized stone was a pretty good source of protection, and humans the world over have been building with it since. Stone lasts longer than wood, or paper, or the possible wishes of some popularizers that their audience would be so gullible as to swallow this assertion without thinking. Another commentator tells us off-handedly that Lord Pacal (Pakal) of Palenque was 7 or 8 feet tall, and provides no support for this remarkable statement, but moves quickly on to another assertion, leaving the minds of the viewers unable to take the time to process and question this "fact" if they are to keep up with the advancing program. This kind of tactic is, unfortunately, commonplace in such visual presentations.

So these are some instances where the TV programs I saw made claims that won't fly upon logical examination, by summarizing too much and/or taking things out of their natural context and trying to make the viewer think only about the possible explanations they want the viewers to entertain. But I found the most persistent example of this separation from context to occur when the "Ancient Aliens" programs dealt with the Great Pyramid of Khufu itself. You will remember my point last Newsletter about Khufu's monument being less special, less unique, than many theorists want us to believe it was. Well, while the "Ancient Aliens" commentators droned on about the uniqueness of Khufu's Pyramid, approximately 90% of the accompanying exterior shots focused on the Pyramid of *Khafre*! It would appear that either the series producers were unaware that they were showing the wrong pyramid, or they knowingly featured Khafre's pyramid instead of the one they were talking about, because Khafre's structure is more visually important – it's got that jaunty "cap" of casing stones, it's on higher ground and thus appears taller than the Great Pyramid, and it's physically more attached to the undeniably photogenic Great Sphinx. So that "unique" and "special" Great Pyramid apparently wasn't "special" enough to those who brought us that series. These and other such weaknesses in the treatment accorded ancient Egypt in the episodes I watched should make one wonder about the quality of the logic and data presented on non-Egyptian subjects.

The copyright page to a reprint of an "Ancient Astronaut" classic warns that the book is a work of fiction, and that names, places, characters, and events were created by the author's imagination or were used fictitiously. And yet, some of the material in the books, articles, and videos I've been discussing is undeniably worthwhile, and I would suggest that both the general subject of UFOs, and the subsidiary topic of Ancient UFOs, are worthy of respect. So how should we approach these fascinating but minefield-ridden studies? When we go to buy an automobile, we don't see a big sign in the dealer's window saying; "Note to the Buyer: Much of what your salesperson will tell you about the merits of the vehicles herein is exaggeration, much about the virtues of the competition will be left out, you will not instantly be offered the best possible deal, and you probably will not need all the 'add-ons' you will be pressed to pay additional for if you *do* close a deal with us." But we -- sometimes from hard experience -- know that we will be in for such adventures and, girding our mental loins and bucking up our resolve, we boldly venture into the dealership, usually having conducted some prior comparative research on our own, and sometimes even having an advisor/moral supporter/relative/all three along. That's rather what we need to do to really touch the soul of the ufological subject: if we are truly to be educated in this field, we need to do the comparative research, we need to read the differing viewpoints, we need to make the effort to understand what has been discovered so far in the various historical and scientific disciplines, and how solid that knowledge may or may not be. We need to go beyond the "noise" generated by this early-21st-century society, replete with its snares telling us to accept without reflection the quick answer, the quick sell, just because they are enticing.

And here's the larger problem: as long as the mass-media messages favorable to this subject are replete with illogical and unsupportable speculations, the debunkers have a field day, if they even feel the need to come out of their intellectual warrens to attack the silliness, and Science and Archaeology remain unmoved and immune to further growth. This is symptomatic of that larger UFO problem, an answer to one of my long-standing MIMUFON colleague's frustrations at why there has been no progress in the field in the last twenty years. Nonsensical proclamations by debunkers are swallowed without question, as they comport with the *status quo*; claims of novelty, precisely because they shake things up, get some attention and, if *they're* paper-thin on backup support, are reflexively shot down in the intellectual community. The "talking heads" on both sides of the issue get their air time and sell their DVDs, people just out for a bit of intellectual fun buy up the stuff, the cottage industry churns on, and nothing of real, lasting value is accomplished.

Well, the Sirens of the yard are calling, persuading me that it I should go out and, once again, have at the dandelions. I have decided that it is timeless Nature herself who is beckoning to me, and not the need to keep up to subdivision standards, one of the pressing societal demands of the immediate Present.



Extraterrestrials may not need UFOs to visit us on Earth

By Steve Hammons

People who wonder about or even actively research the topics of UFOs and visitors from elsewhere sometimes begin with certain assumptions that may only be partially correct. We might assume that if we are being visited, these intelligent beings are all biological life forms, though they might be quite different from humans. We could also conclude that they are from another planet and they travel here aboard advanced spacecraft, possibly warping or surfing space-time in some way.

However, there are also theories and indications that, although those basic concepts might generally be accurate in some cases, there could be other developments going on as well. For example, it might be possible that there are several kinds of intelligent visitors on Earth. Some researchers also suggest that certain unconventional beings might not be visitors at all, but somehow native to our planet, though they reside in hidden dimensions or operate in mysterious ways.

And even those who do travel here from a home world of some kind might also be able to visit us by slipping in and out of these mysterious dimensions without the need for sophisticated spacecraft. In addition, although many might be biological entities or have a biological component, some anomalous beings might be some kind of energy operating outside of what we think of as normal biological life.

MYSTERIES WITHIN MYSTERIES

The other important questions regarding either extraterrestrial visitors from another planet or other mysterious beings of various kinds involve their possible motives and objectives. Are they friendly, hostile or somewhere in between? If there is some hidden agenda, what is it? Are they straightforward and honest or deceptive? And if there deception – why? Is it simply “operational security (OPSEC)” of the kind we use ourselves in certain activities to help ensure success? If so, this could work to our benefit if their mission is to help us.

Some people believe in angels and the activities of good entities who watch over us and help humankind in many ways. These types of beings, if they truly exist, are said to operate in discreet, unseen and secret ways, much like some sort of intelligence agents. Could other kinds of intelligent beings, including extraterrestrial and/or extra-dimensional ones, also work in similar secretive and covert ways?

A related consideration is that other intelligent beings, possibly of many kinds, could be trying to educate us and affect our thinking. They might be waiting for, or even actively assisting humanity in the development of a more advanced consciousness within us.

People try to persuade and influence each other all the time through many kinds of “perception management.” These can be applied constructively to help a target population or damaging if used toward harmful outcomes.

Some researchers indicate that the field of study involving UFOs, extraterrestrials and other mysterious kinds of phenomena are full of deception and perception management cover stories, both by the unusual phenomena themselves and by some of the humans involved in trying to deal with them.

PREPAREDNESS AND DISCLOSURE

When we discuss the idea of “disclosure” of government files about UFOs and visitors from the stars or other dimensions, we might also want to recognize the limitations of what this alleged government-held information might tell us.

There certainly seem to be strong indications that the U.S. and other governments and organizations have been looking into these kinds of anomalous phenomena for quite a while, at least since the mid-1940s. There has probably been useful information obtained as well as attempts to interpret what it all means. Puzzle pieces involving possible different technologies and various types of beings could be part of these scenarios. And, it is also possible that we have not yet put all the puzzle pieces together. There still may be several unknowns in play.

A major consideration in greater understanding about these possibilities seems to be the mental, emotional and even spiritual preparedness of humans about these mysteries.

And, it may not be as simple as friendly visitors from another planet who want to help us and show us their advanced technologies, though those could be aspects of the situation. This is why some people advocate a safe and discreet orientation and acclimation process to educate Americans and people worldwide about the nature of the possible elements involved.

It might not be simply that “we are not alone.” The very nature of Nature and the dynamics of the Universe or multi-verse around us and within us might be different than what we learned in school.

Source: <http://jointreconstudygroup.blogspot.com/>



Michigan Ranked Number 1 in Sighting Reports Completed

Below is the graph (partial) that was published in the recent International MUFON Journal. As documented, Michigan Field Investigators are now number one in the country for completing follow up investigations with those who report UFO sightings. Congratulations and keep up the good work.

Rank	State	Director	Weighted Rank (50/50)	Assigned	Completed
1	Michigan	William J. Konkolesky	100 %	85/85	142/142
2	Tennessee	Eddie Middleton	100 %	61/61	63/63
3	Kansas	Steve Winans	100 %	19/19	31/31
4	Utah	Elaine Douglass	100 %	9/9	6/6
5	Kentucky	David MacDonald	100 %	24/24	29/29
6	Idaho	Marie C. Malzahn	100 %	16/16	21/21
7	Iowa	Jim King	100 %	17/17	27/27
8	Montana	Marie C. Malzahn	100 %	11/11	11/11
9	South Dakota	Lorna Hunter	100 %	5/5	5/5
10	Indiana	Jerry L. Sievers	99 %	59/60	77/77
11	Florida	Bland Pugh	99 %	170/171	191/191



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To register for the 41st. International MUFON Symposium July 22—25, 2010, go to
<http://mufon.com/symposia.htm>

This is one you won't want to miss!

Recent Michigan Sightings

Yale, MI

On the evening of April 22, 2010 my 15 year old daughter claims to have witnessed a strange triangular object hovering in our yard. It all started when she was swinging back and forth on the swing and she noticed something in the sky off to the west. It was quite a distance away and as it began to get closer she thought possibly it was a helicopter getting ready to land in our yard but as it continued to get even closer she knew it was too small to be a helicopter. It started from the west in an eastward direction then shifted slightly to the north and back eastward until it was over our roof and into the east side of our yard. It suddenly remained stationary for a few seconds. She describes it as being dark, triangular shaped and thick like a rock with a metallic look to it. She said it remained for a few seconds then basically disappeared to the north. What was even more astonishing was the speed at which it departed. It was so incredibly fast that it seemed to disappear right before her eyes. Immediately after her experience she came into the house and stood there with this dumbfounded look. I won't ever forget the look on her face as she was trying to tell us what she just saw, but we were oblivious as we were all laughing and arguing about something that I really don't remember at this time. She had this nervous laugh that almost seemed to be mixed with heavy breathing and panting as she was having difficulty getting any words out. And then the words came out, "I think I saw a ufo" that was when we all began to lower our voices and focus solely on her. I must admit sarcasm wanted to get the best of me initially following her comment but her laugh turned immediately into sobbing and she was so visibly shaken that I thought she was going to collapse. All I could do was go over to her and pull her into me to calm her. After she told us what happened we all went outside to see if we could see anything and by this time darkness was falling. We all witnessed approximately 4-5 aircraft in the night skies over St. Clair County. I personally believe the aircrafts were from Selfridge and maybe they tracked this strange object on radar. Needless to say I probed my daughter with questions. I asked her if it had windows- no. I asked her if it was large enough to hold people- she didn't think so. I asked her exactly where the orange lights were located on the craft- she claimed that the corners were glowing dim and that she didn't see any direct bright lights. I wanted to know just how close this thing was and so I asked her if she thought a rock could possibly hit it if she threw one and she replied yes (omg). I also asked her if there was any type of noise coming from the object and unfortunately she had earphones on listening to music from her mp3 but she did turn off the music at some point during the encounter and with her earplugs still in, she still didn't hear any noise. I also want to mention that the entire object was rotating in an unusual manner- not just in an up & down fashion but sideways as well (at the same time). The bottom was flat, metallic and smooth and the top was thick and maybe domed shaped? It had some sort of pattern to it that she isn't very clear about but claims that it sort of resembles a rock cut in half. I am just amazed by the fact that it was that close!!! Anyway, I still continue to question her.

Thanks to MUFON CMS.

Beverly Hills, MI. May 20, 2010 7:15 PM. Duration: 5 seconds

I saw a very large metal craft, cigar shaped, flying extremely low and fast going from North to South over 13 Mile Rd about a mile or two from where I was. I honestly thought it was a 747 making a crash landing on Woodward Ave, it was that big! This is in a highly populated area so surely someone else saw this thing. I thought it might possibly be a blimp, but after checking around the web, there are no events where you might find a blimp in this area. Also, I've never seen a blimp move at that rate of speed. This was at 7:15 PM, still very sunny outside at that time of day.

Thanks to NUFORC.com

Mt. Clemens, MI. May 19, 2010 7:00 PM. Duration: 3-4 min.

Best I Can Describe Is A Flying Submarine. I Set Up My Telescope Early Because Skies Were Clear and The Moon Was Out And My Wife Was Viewing Moon Through Telescope When Something Bright Caught My Eye. With The Sun Low In The Sky The Reflection Was Really Bright. I Had A Pair Of Binoculars Right Next To Me And Grabbed Them While Yelling To My Wife What Is That. Several Jumbo Jets Could Be Seen In The Air Further Away And The First Thing I Noticed Was This Object Was Leaving No Trail Or Any Sound. While Viewing With Binoculars I Could See A Cigar Shaped Craft With A Dome In The Middle. Dome Had A Dark Stripe Horizontal Across The Middle And What Looked Like Some Kind Of Mast Or Antenna Sticking Up From Dome. After Handing Binoculars To My Wife So She Could See I Ran In The House And Called My Daughter To Come Out And Grabbed Another Pair Of Binoculars Out Of The Garage To Share With My Daughter. Craft Was Moving From Southwest To Northeast Much Lower Than Jumbo Jets In The Area But Higher Than Private Craft Fly. This Craft Seemed To Move Effortlessly Like It Was Floating Rather Than Propelled. As Craft Traveled Northeast It Came Out Of The Sun And Was Not So Bright And Easier To View. It Took About 3 Or 4 Minutes Until I Could Not See It Anymore. I Have Been Looking Up For Years At The Night Sky And Never Have I Seen Anything Like This. Best I Can Describe It Was A White Flying Submarine Shaped Craft With No Wings.

Thanks to NUFORC.com



Unexplained Sheep Attacks Caused by Aliens in UFOs Claim Experts

Published date: 09 April 2010 | Published by: Richard Jones



BIZARRE animal deaths in Powys (England) are being blamed on visitors from outer space, UFO experts have claimed. Furious farmers from Montgomeryshire and Radnorshire have recently been waking up to find their animals dead after seemingly being “experimented on”.

Over the past 12 years there have been many reports of animal deaths in Powys, and in 2001 UFO hunters established the Animal Pathology Field Unit, a non-profit making organisation committed to carrying out research into the animal mutilation mystery. The team is linking the mutilations - including the removal of sheep brains and eyes - to the increased sightings of mysterious red and oranges spheres in the sky.

Last weekend the 15-strong unit staged a night time stake-out in the Radnorshire Forest and witnessed a scene described by a local expert as something that “looked more like a Star Wars battle.” 53-year-old Phil Hoyle, of Shrewsbury, has spent nine years probing the riddle of livestock found killed in Powys and in 2001 co-founded the Animal

Pathology Unit.

“Things kicked off really early and just after 10pm my colleague spotted a bright burnt red light hanging over an isolated ravine near a highly forested area known as New Radnor, near the Radnorshire Forest,” he said, when asked about the stake-out.

“At first we thought the light was from an isolated farmhouse or dwelling but it soon became clear this light was hovering, it also had company because an identical red sphere appeared to the bottom right of the first light about a quarter of a mile away.

“The lights kept changing shape and emitting beams of light and small spheres that covered large areas of distance in a blink of an eye. At times the spheres would morph into different shapes firing beams to the ground and discharging small spheres that darted backwards and forwards across the valley floor as though they were looking for something.

“During the sighting beams of light would be fired out of the forest at the small spheres travelling across open fields. We could not discern where these beams were coming from, or who or what might have generated them, but for a short while it looked more like a Star Wars battle by two opposing forces. At one point in the sighting the two red spheres disappeared from the valley below only to re-appear to our right, just behind a small hill where we were camped. Then, suddenly, an intense narrow white beam passed down the hill just behind us and at times we thought the red spheres not only knew where we were there but they were watching us.

“These spheres are clearly not Chinese lanterns and do not conform to any known conventional aircraft or meteorological manifestation.”

Phil says the UFOs like to roam a specific 50-mile corridor between Shrewsbury and Powys, but Dartmoor and the Forest of Dean in Gloucestershire are also hunting grounds. Sheep have been found with neat hole and their brains and other internal organs removed.

Anyone with information regarding the animal mutilation mystery or sightings of unconventional craft can contact Phil Hoyle by emailing phil.hoyle@yahoo.co.uk or calling 01743 245574. All information will be treated in strict confidence.

Source: <http://www.countytimes.co.uk/news/87168/unexplained-sheep-attacks-caused-by-aliens-in-ufos-claim-experts.aspx>

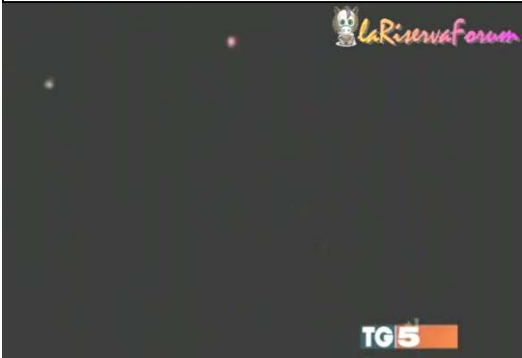


“It was the darndest thing I’ve ever seen. It was big, it was very bright, it changed colors, and it was about the size of the moon. We watched it for ten minutes, but none of us could figure out what it was. One thing’s for sure: I’ll never make fun of people who say they’ve seen unidentified flying objects in the sky.”

Former President of the United States, Jimmy Carter following his sighting along with many others of a UFO at Leary, Georgia in October 1969.

UFO Filmed Over the Vatican by U.S. Ambassador Security Guards

Maurizio Baiata | Jun 09, 2010



St. Peter's Basilica:

Was Rome visited by Unidentified Flying Objects? Definitely, and once again the sightings in the skies over Vatican City stirred newspaper headlines and numerous TV news reports in Italy. According to recent reports, it seems that a UFO flap is taking place in Rome and that strange objects were also recorded on camera several times. The most important one is the footage of an odd luminous formation taken by three security guards stationed in front of the residence of the U.S. ambassador to the Vatican (Holy See). These were qualified witnesses since they are artillerymen, trained experts in air surveillance.

It was at 4 am in the night of June 7th when three men belonging to the 17^o antiaircraft Regiment at the "Santa Barbara" station in Sabaudia (Latina province),

spotted three spherical bright objects hovering in the sky above St. Peter's dome in the Vatican, right in the center of Rome. They promptly filmed the unexpected nocturnal air show with a cell phone.

From their point of observation in the Roman Monteverde area (overlooked by the Gianicolo hill), they immediately stopped a police patrol. Well trained in spotting aircraft, the artillerymen excluded the possibility of a commercial plane, a jet fighter or a balloon. They described the object's swift maneuvers, mentioning a "darting move toward the sky," a "delta formation," and "luminous dots suspended at about three hundred feet above the ground." They added that there is "no way a conventional airplane can do such things." The UFO disappeared and reappeared for brief moments, with sudden changes of altitude before it darted west-bound at a 40 degree angle. The police patrol took the report very seriously and the central police station in Rome was immediately alerted. The footage, more than a minute in length, was acquired by the Italian police, pending further investigations.

Thanks to the technical background of the witnesses, many TV networks took the news seriously. "Studio Aperto" (Mediaset, Italia Uno newscast) anchorwoman Elena Guarnieri introduced the segment saying: "We will show you now an exclusive video footage of a UFO sighting in Rome, this video was filmed by three soldiers, take a look." Staff journalist Paolo Capresi then describes the images: "They are three flying objects and they are floating in the air, they were filmed last night in the sky above Rome. The images were taken with a cell phone by three soldiers who were in service in front of the U.S. ambassador's residence in the Vatican City (Holy See), Monteverde district, two steps from St. Peter's Square, and were immediately handed over to the Carabinieri [police]. As you can see there are no objects around to use as reference points that can give us the exact distance and size of the UFOs. It seems that they are spherical in shape and they hover above the Vatican. They appear and disappear often changing altitude."

The journalist concluded, almost ironically: "The soldiers who have filmed these objects are based in the antiaircraft division and are specialized in recognizing the flight path of aircraft. Since 1978 it's the Air Force that is in charge of registering sightings (over Italy)". Colonel Marco Picciau of the Italian Air Force specifies that "statistics of sightings reported before 2001 were 300, after 2001 we have a more precise statistic on 50, 55, sightings [every year]".

You can see the full coverage by the Italia Uno network here: <http://www.openminds.tv/vatican-ufo-film/>

About the Author

Maurizio is an investigative reporter, magazine editor and UFO researcher. He started his journalistic activity in the late Sixties as a free lance journalist and then editor of several Rock Italian magazines, reaching the peak of his career as Editor in chief of "Rolling Stone" magazine's Italian edition. In 1981 he moved to New York working as radio correspondent for the Italian state network RAI and then becoming editor-cultural page of the daily newspaper "Il Progresso Italo Americano". Seven years later Baiata moved back to Italy and concentrated on UFO research, focusing on the Roswell incident. He produced many documentaries with large diffusion through all media and released the Autopsy Footage in 1995. In 1997 he published two books of the late Col. Philip Corso, "The Day After Roswell" and "Dawn of a New Age" (Corso's original diary never published elsewhere). In Italy Baiata directed "Notiziario UFO", "UFO Network", "Dossier Alieni", "Stargate""Area 51" and "X Times" and two multimedia encyclopedias: "UFO Dossier X" and "Stargate - Enigmi dal Cosmo". He has presented at numerous lectures worldwide, including two appearances at the International UFO Congress in Laughlin.



From The Editor's Desk



David Twichell

Stephen Hawking Flip-Flops on ET Existence

Stephen Hawking is one of the most brilliant scientific minds since Albert Einstein. For decades he has been one of the most ardent dissenters on the question of intelligent life elsewhere in the cosmos. Whether it is truly his personal opinion in an effort to protect some government grant or to simply conform to conventional wisdom of the scientific community, he has, heretofore, held the position that life on planet earth is a fluke and we humans are the masters of the universe.

However, in a new documentary series, Hawking has done a “one-eighty”. Scientific discoveries in the past fifteen years, like the discovery of 450 planets orbiting distant stars, leads him to believe that the universe is teeming with life – and rightfully so.

Hawking admits that “most of it will be the equivalent of microbes or simple animals”, but intelligent life is now far from out of the question for him. “To my mathematical brain, the numbers alone make thinking about aliens perfectly rational,” he admits.

Although he admits that extraterrestrials are almost certain to exist “instead of seeking them out, humanity should be doing all it can to avoid any contact”. He believes that intelligent aliens could pose a threat to our way of life. Hawking has gone so far as to suggest that “contact with such a species could be devastating for humanity”. He said, “If aliens ever visit us, I think the outcome would be much as when Christopher Columbus first landed in America, which didn’t turn out very well for the Native Americans.”

Many in the UFO community would agree that Hawking’s warning comes decades, if not millennia, too late. Hundreds of thousands (a conservative estimate indeed) have already made contact with otherworldly beings – and not by choice, I might add. It’s not as though they have the luxury of saying “Hold on, pal. I was warned by a very brilliant man not to communicate with you. So, if you’d excuse me . . .”

The human/alien tête-à-tête has been ongoing for a while now and, unlike the “Native American” reference, it has not forced us westward or onto reservations. It has, however, opened up much controversy as to the alien’s agenda here on earth, even among mainstream science – if only in covert conversations.

Former Canadian Minister of Defence Paul Hellyer weighed in on Hawking’s comments by saying: “I think Prof. Hawking is indulging in some pretty scary talk there that I would have hoped would not come from someone with such an established stature. I think it’s really sad that a scientist of his repute would contribute to what I would consider more misinformation about a vast and very important subject.”

Is it possible that Hawking’s cautionary view against contact with intelligent extraterrestrials stems from his knowledge of human history? Is it appropriate to use humanity’s social bad behavior as a yardstick with which to measure that of off-world intelligences? Professor Hawking speaks as if he has met them personally and knows them to be scoundrels. Although possible, I highly doubt that such is the case. Besides, if a global takeover *was* the alien’s agenda, I suspect it would have already happened.

Is it possible that, like the recent flip-flop position of the Vatican, Hawking is making an attempt to get ahead of the curve in the matter of extraterrestrial visitation to our planet? In the past sixty-three years, the evidence has been mounting and public sentiment has been changing. Like the rest of the world, perhaps Professor Hawking realizes that the secret that has been hidden in plain sight for so long cannot sustain denial forever. When that day comes, the diehard debunkers will be left with egg on their faces and Hawking certainly doesn’t wish to be counted among them.

Whatever his personal opinion might be as to contact with aliens, I for one, am happy to hear him weigh in on the subject. I consider it one more positive step toward official disclosure.

David Twichell

MiMUFON Newsletter Editor

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“I suspect there could be life and intelligence out there in forms we can’t conceive. Just as a chimpanzee can’t understand quantum theory, it could be there are aspects of reality that are beyond the capacity of our brains.”

Lord Rees, the astronomer royal.

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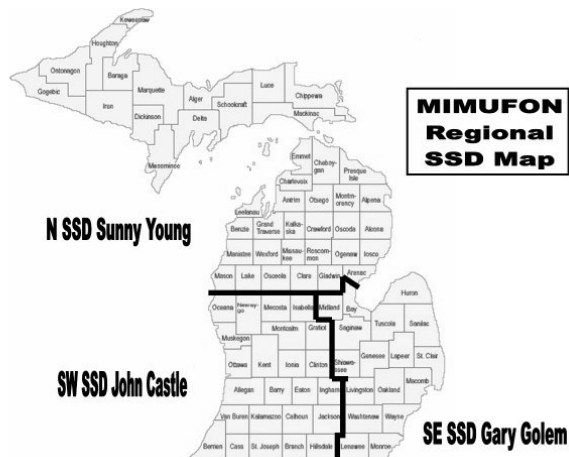
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When possible, contact by e-mail is the best method to reach most of the people on this list, but does not preclude using the telephone numbers if desirable. If you call please be patient as most of the people are not available during the daytime hours.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



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