

MINNESOTA MUFON

Newsletter

From the State Director

This month I will summarize Michael Strainic's presentation at last year's MUFON Symposium entitled *Ufology in the Great White North*. His interest in UFOs was aroused at age three when he saw photos of UFOs in a magazine. Strainic serves as National Director for Canada. He believes what we are seeing is not necessarily what we are getting. Too many incidents appear to be staged events, staged either by the phenomenon, or by the intelligence community. We have been looking at a rich variety of masks for decades, but probably have yet to see the real face behind the mask. His talk highlighted both historic and modern aspects of the UFO phenomenon in Canada.

The Airship Wave of the 1890s was documented both here and in Canada, with British Columbia having a large number of reports. At that time, a balloonist named Andre was attempting to balloon from Norway to the North Pole. Many sightings were assumed to be of the Andre balloon. But one newspaper made note that many reports of an object over north British Columbia could not have been Andre because accounts from Norway stated he had not yet begun his journey — and was thinking of postponing it until the following year!

Some of the objects didn't really behave as expected of a balloon.

One object was reported to have paused above a mountain peak, then made seven wide circles in the sky before finally speeding off in a straight course. Several sightings are described in detail, including one from which a shower of sparks seemed to drop like the sputtering of an arc light. Airships were absent from Canadian skies from 1898 until 1908 when additional sightings were reported. In 1915, an object dropped three balls of fire into the St. Lawrence River. This event led the police to order a blackout of Ottawa. Apparently believing that enemy aircraft were involved, marksmen were dispatched to the roofs of government buildings and ordered to shoot down any aircraft approaching the city. The expected invasion never took place and Ottawa citizens later laughed at this "scaroplane" scenario as a case of war nerves!

Students of UFO history know of a scientist named Wilbert Smith, who had been responsible for engineering everything concerning the use of radio in Canada. He had an interest in UFOs and proposed to the Department of Transport to establish Project Magnet. Smith believed that work in geomagnetics would be the link between our technology and that of the saucers. He wanted to study how magnetic and gravitational principles might account for UFO flight characteristics.

cont.

Minnesota MUFON Meetings

**Saturday, July 13
and
Saturday, August 10**

Science Museum of MN
Computer Education Center
American Bank Bldg
101 E. 5th St., Suite 1900
19th Floor

SEE MAP ON COVER!

PARK FREE

Ramp Entrance is on
Minnesota St.
Proceed to 5th Level

Because this is a secured building, to gain entrance you must be at the ramp door between 1:00 and 1:30 PM. Someone will be on hand to activate the elevator to take you to the meeting room. The next admittance time will be at the 3:00 break.

Don't be Late!

The building and ramp areas are designated as Non-smoking.
Coffee and soft drinks are
FREE!

It happens that Smith sent a memo in 1950 to the Controller of Telecommunications proposing to officially study UFOs. In the memo, he wrote that he had learned from Dr. Robert Sarbacher in Washington DC that the matter was the most highly classified subject in the US government; that their modus operandi was being investigated by a small group headed by Vannevar Bush, and UFOs were considered by authorities to be of tremendous significance. In 1953, Smith filed a report which said, in effect, that there should be a substantial effort toward acquiring as much as possible of this technology. Three months later, a flying saucer sighting station was operational ten miles from Ottawa. A gamma ray counter, a magnetometer, and gravimeter were in place. In August, 1954, the gravimeter recorded a disturbance, but no visual confirmation was made. Two days later, Project Magnet was shut down. Several reasons were given, but they did not include lack of results.

Then Smith began hosting meetings of an informal Flying Saucer Club. One night he took a break and went outside. A small spacecraft was hovering over the front lawn. For the next few years the ground beneath was scorched into sterility down four feet to bedrock. Smith's son later recalled that small spacecraft, monitor units, would perch in trees near their home. Leaves and branches would be scorched so that new leaves would not appear for a couple of years. They believed that the club was being monitored. [New readers should understand that there has always been nonsensical and deceptive behaviors surrounding this phenomenon. The question may not be whether or not they were being monitored, but rather why the phenomenon wanted them to think they were. —Moss] Smith died in 1961.

The 1970s Fuhr case from Saskatchewan is well-known. Edwin Fuhr was swathing his field when he spotted five aluminum-colored domes

spinning just above the ground. They rose into the air, assumed an echelon formation, emitted some smoke, and flew away. The swirled circles they left behind would be better described as "saucer nests," and not as crop circles.

Another high-strangeness event took place in Williams Lake, BC in 1990. A woman found a 39 foot ring pressed into her dirt driveway about one inch deep. Some of the rocks had been crushed and some had been driven flush into the ground. The ring was six inches wide. It was twelve feet from the house and had centered itself perfectly within the limited area of the yard. This had happened around 5:00 PM. Later, at 4:30 AM, a huge cone of red light was seen hovering over an apple tree in their son's yard next door. After about twenty minutes it left. The next day they found that every apple on the tree was gone! No apples were on the ground, no broken twigs, and the tree had not been damaged.

Strainic told of several crop circle situations with accompanying phenomena. There were reports of dizziness and nausea when in the proximity of the circle. Dogs would bark excessively prior to the discovery of a formation. While investigating one formation, it was noted that Canadian geese were feeding in a field nearby. Various sized groups would leave the big flock and head for a destination that would have taken them directly over the formations. But they would always detour around the circle and continue on their course. Sometimes a small group would split up with some going to one side, and others to the opposite side of the formation, before joining up again. No goose ever flew over the formation. Odd sounds were also heard, such as that of a seemingly huge bird flapping its wings, or the sound of footsteps. But nothing was ever seen.

Canada also has its share of animal mutilations, sometimes with an odd

twist such as internal organs that have been liquefied. A flattened porcupine was found in one crop circle. Its quills were arranged in a way that suggested they had been swirled by the same force that had affected the wheat. Quills and wheat were intertwined. A porcupine can weigh as much as *sixty pounds*, so the force that flattened it down to a one-to-three inch thickness must have been considerable.

In another case, a farmer's blind Blue Healer dog had disappeared in August and was found in October near a circle in a flax field. The dog's head was missing and later found about 200 feet north of the body. Strainic said that flax is very dense and difficult to walk into, yet this blind dog had walked a quarter mile into it. This circle was part of a group of six circles located close to the house. All were only ten feet across. Nothing had been seen or heard.

Finally, there is the Shag Harbour, Nova Scotia case of 1967. At 11:00 PM on October 4, a sixty-foot diameter UFO was seen hovering over the water near this fishing village. It then dropped rapidly and hit the water producing a bright flash and explosive roar. Witnesses called the RCMP office, thinking a plane had ditched into the harbor. When they arrived, the object was still on the water. It was glowing yellow and producing a yellow foam. Then the object went under. The sulfur-smelling yellow foam continued to well up from the point where the UFO sank and a slick developed. Seven Navy divers searched during daylight hours. Five days later the search was canceled.

As always, the full text of the presentation contains much that is not summarized here. Consult a copy of the 1995 MUFON Proceedings for Michael Stainic's full account.

Dick Moss

The UFO Phenomenon and The Scientific Method

by Craig R. Lang

During a recent discussion with another MUFON member the question arose of "what exactly is science?". In the context of the UFO phenomenon and related anomalies, the concept of "science" is not always well understood. Thus, in my view, this question is one which cuts to the core of UFO investigation.

Science is just one discipline which attempts to deal with the UFO phenomenon. Other areas, such as the new age movement, spirituality etc. have their own sets of rules and beliefs. While I do not wish to dispute their beliefs, I suggest that we need to clearly distinguish between the discipline of science and any other approaches.

I suggest that overall, conservatism in science is good. The burden of proof is upon us.

Science has the criteria that it deals strictly with assertions that can be verified by experiment. To overcome the "giggle factor," UFO research must conform to this criterion, perhaps even more closely than other more established areas of science. This article addresses some of these areas and looks at how UFO research can (and often does) use the practice of "good science" to discover the truth behind the mystery.

How is Science Done? The Scientific Method

First of all, what is science? Fundamentally, science is a formalized process for discovering the nature of the world around us. It is based upon the idea that the nature of

the world can be understood using rational, systematic inquiry. By reasoning, observation, and experimentation, we can construct — then validate — a model of reality that closely approximates the real world.

By definition, a scientific investigation is one which follows the scientific method. This method is described in several different ways, depending upon which text one reads. For instance, in the Bear, Connors and Paradiso, text, "*NeuroScience*," the scientific method is described as consisting of the following components:

- **Observation:** Data is gathered about a phenomenon by experiment, field observations, etc.
- **Replication:** The observation must be reproducible to verify that it was done correctly and to show that there are not other possible factors accounting for the data.
- **Interpretation:** Data from the observations is interpreted in the context of current knowledge (or lack thereof...). The hypothesis may be confirmed, revised or disproved based upon the data.
(*Note: This is the one step of science which is the most vulnerable to human failings.*)
- **Verification:** Other experiments which may or may not be similar can be performed to confirm or revise the hypothesis. ***This is the all-important step distinguishing science from other fields. All experimental results must confirm the theory, or the theory must be revised.***

Another view of the scientific method is described in W.I.B. Beveridge, "The Art of Scientific Investigation". In this view, scientific investigation is a progression, based on observation and experiment, from initial observation, to hypothesis, to

theory, to law of nature. Scientific investigations generally follow this progression, often over many years, or even many lifetimes, and often backtracking in the face of new evidence.

A scientific investigation usually begins with initial observations or experiments, which are interpreted to develop one or more theories of the phenomenon in question. A testable hypothesis is developed, which can be verified by an experiment. The hallmark of a good hypothesis is that it can be used to derive a prediction. It is best when multiple hypotheses are developed making differing predictions which can then be confirmed or refuted by experiment.

An experiment, or other means of observation, is then performed. The analysis of the results either confirms or disproves the predictions of the hypothesis (or sometimes results in a surprise). Conclusions from interpretation of the results usually suggest further tests of the theory giving rise to the hypothesis. Usually verification of a theory is the result of a series of experiments. Conclusions are re-verified by still more experiments, ad infinitum.

Science, Politics and the Mainstream

By nature, science is conservative. For every new assertion there will always be skeptics who demand compelling evidence. This has the advantage of preventing "erroneous science" from making it into the mainstream, but it has obvious disadvantages for the studies of UFOs. Still, I suggest that overall, conservatism in science is good. The burden of proof is upon us.

Unfortunately, scientists are human and are subject to human failings. Few, scientists included, are willing to easily give up a comfortable world view even in the face of solid evidence. It is often easier to overlook the new evidence - even if it is

compelling. Thus, data at variance to the prevailing view is unfortunately sometimes rejected for other-than-scientific reasons. This is a problem that anomaly researchers will always have to face. At present, probably the best that we can do is to conform strictly to the scientific method, offer compelling evidence, and let a gradual paradigm shift take its course.

Applications to UFO Studies

UFOs, by nature, do not lend themselves to laboratory experiments. Therefore, we have to settle for field observations during sightings. This means that the key difficulty in UFO studies is the inability to reproduce results — a fundamental requirement in understanding any phenomenon. However, the problem is no different for UFO researchers than it is for those studying earthquakes, weather, or other sporadic phenomena. We "merely" require a reliable means of recording the phenomena whenever it occurs, for later analysis.

Skeptics require compelling evidence and I feel that the "smoking gun" does not yet exist to explain the UFO phenomenon. Still, events such as radar/visual cases, ground traces and multiple witness sightings have provided evidence — often quite convincing. While this is encouraging, to me the evidence remains ambiguous.

A key to understanding and verifying the phenomenon will probably lie in rigorous and extensive data-gathering, such as is increasingly being done by UFO research organizations (MUFON, CUFOS, etc.) From this, there are possibilities for statistical analysis of sightings data, analysis of ground traces and artifacts, etc. Objective "experiments" such as instrumented skywatches (such as those in Gulf Breeze, Florida) using formalized procedures should also be considered.

By analyzing the data we can draw general conclusions about UFOs such as size and shape distributions, flight

dynamics, descriptions of entities, etc. We can characterize the general behavior of UFOs (and their presumed occupants). We can then use this characterization to form hypotheses which hopefully, we can find some way to verify.

After many years of research, we are still only acquiring and analyzing initial data. The field of UFO studies is still just beginning to form hypotheses of explanation. At present several theories exist to explain the UFO phenomenon: The nuts-and-bolts ET hypothesis, spiritual and inter-dimensional interpretations and more skeptical views. However, at this stage, it does not seem to me that any of these ideas are verifiable. I suspect that eventually a testable hypothesis will be confirmed by a combination of observation and compelling physical evidence. But we have a long way to go and a lot of science to do before this phenomenon is accepted as scientific reality.

Craig Lang

References:

- 1) W.I.B. Beveridge, "The Art of Scientific Investigation"
- 2) Bear, Connors and Paradiso, "NeuroScience, Exploring the Brain"
- 3) Paul Davies: "The Mind of God, The Scientific Basis for a Rational World"
- 4) J. Allen Hynek: "The UFO Experience"
- 5) Paul Hill, "Unconventional Flying Objects, a Scientific Analysis"

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Field Investigator Group Update

by Craig R. Lang

Over the last couple of months, we have had an encouraging upsurge of people interested in doing field investigator work. Since this is one of the primary reasons for the existence of MUFON, we want to encourage this as much as possible. We have just begun the process of training a new group of investigators (myself included), and setting up an investigator network.

An interest sheet has been posted at the last Minnesota MUFON meetings. If you are interested in field investigator training, or would like to help set up our field investigator network, please sign up on this sheet at the next meeting, or contact:

Craig Lang,

Home: 612-560-1532,

Work: :612-572-5035,

e-mail:

craig.lang@medtronic.com

Field Investigator Study Group

The first step is to get as many people as possible to pass the MUFON Field Investigator's exam. To that end we have set up a field investigator study group. We plan to meet in June and July on the dates of Wednesday June 12, June 26, July 10 and July 24. The meetings will be at Craig Lang's house at 7:00 PM. We currently have six people signed up for this group.

Since we all have diverse schedules, and live in diverse locations, there will be some people who will be unable to attend the sessions we have set up. For those people, a second study group can probably be organized (as of this writing one may

have, but I am unaware of it).
Contact me if you are interested.

Tentatively, we envision going through the 100 question field investigators exam, looking at approximately 25 questions each session. In addition we can look at pertinent aspects of the manual, or other related literature as needed. We are always open for suggestions/ideas.

Everyone attending the group should have a copy of the MUFON field investigators manual — and should read it. You'll also need a copy of the test. Call Joel Henry at 431-2426 or Tim Watts at 985-5747, or contact me if you need a copy.

Organizing the Network

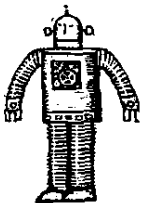
This is the hard part. Work is just beginning in this area and we are open to suggestions. In my view, the prime need is to establish a cadre of available field investigators, and to develop close ties with law enforcement authorities and the local/regional press. Kathi Hilton has begun to work on this aspect of the effort. For more details, or if you'd like to volunteer your assistance, Contact her at

612)484-6492,

E-mail: kathi.ts@ix.netcom.com);
or Dick Moss at 612-732-3205
or me at 612- 560-1532.

Setting up the network should be our next priority. Our end result should be a group of trained, credentialed investigators, along with a means of rapidly alerting them to current sightings.

Happy Investigating!



UFOs in Elementary School? You bet!

"How much is \$1 billion?" asks Bob Schultz. The 14 fifth graders react loudly when he pulls a stack of 100 \$1 bills out of his briefcase.

He asks one student to measure the stack's height, and then proceeds to take the class step-by-step through the necessary mathematics to reach the conclusion that a stack of 1 billion \$1 bills would be 78 miles high.

"Half the way from here to Duluth," says Schultz.

Billion-dollar budgets, spy rockets, alien saucers, men on the moon. These are just some of the topics Schultz covers during his 10-week mini-course at Pike Lake Elementary. "The science, politics and history of UFOs." Ron Sweeley, a fifth grade teacher at the school, encouraged Schultz to teach the class on a volunteer basis.

Schultz's class about UFOs has generated substantial interest among the fifth graders. Because of limited space, only the first 14 of the 60 students applying for the class were admitted this spring.

Schultz taught the first UFO class last fall. Because it is an unusual subject matter for young students, he requested that parents attend with their children. In some ways, this made the first class more productive because it stimulated discussions at home about the topic.

"One parent came up to me in a store and told me that her daughter guarantees that she's going to be an astronaut, and that she's bought the telescope and is doing ground training because the class captured her imagination."

In fact, current students are so intrigued they would like to start a UFO club. Schultz, a retired electrical engineer, says this is exactly why he became a volunteer in the schools.

"I tell kids to not just believe everything I say, but rather, do their own

research. I always say to them, that they have three choices: to believe, not to believe, or think *maybe*."

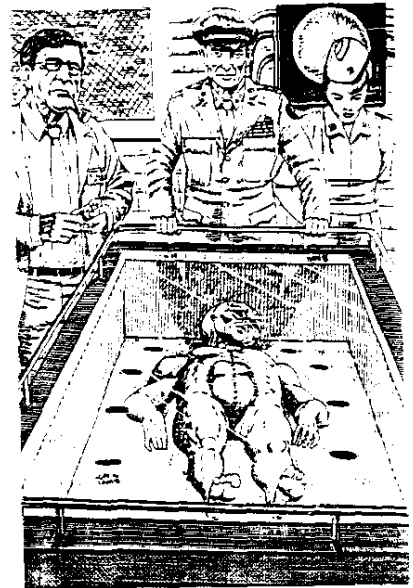
With the help of magazine articles, simple science experiments and videotapes, Schultz talks about the science of flight, chemistry, physics, astronomy and mathematics.

"I want to teach them that science is a neat thing," he says. "That there's a lot more out there than you know about. I want to encourage them to strike out on their own."

By exposing the students to some of the complexities of science now — such as velocity formulas and the theories behind anti-gravity flight — Schultz says he hopes they are not intimidated by it in the future.

Actually, I can't believe all the stuff they get," he says. "The kids will surprise me. Last week, three students came to class with library books on related topics that they had looked up and found."

Bob has been asked to add a second class in the fall of this year. Needless to say, he's thrilled that the class is drawing so much positive attention, and who knows... He may be responsible for a whole new crop of budding field investigators! *Well done, Bob!*



Wes Crum©

Remote Viewing and Cosmic Voyage

by William I. McNeff

The validity of remote viewing, especially "Scientific Remote Viewing" (SRV) as described in the book, *Cosmic Voyage — A Scientific Discovery of Extraterrestrials Visiting Earth*, by Courtney Brown, Ph.D., is potentially of great importance. If SRV does not work, or does not work anything like as well as Brown says it does, then the book is worthless, and the ufological and scientific communities have lost a potentially useful tool. Therefore, I have expended some efforts to evaluate the validity of remote viewing, and SRV in particular, which includes reading the latest *Journal of Scientific Exploration*.

First, I would like to recount my personal experience with what I believe to have been a form of remote viewing (RV). Those who have studied RV have found evidence that it works going either forward or backward in time. Quoting from my diary of Tuesday, August 7, 1984: "... [early] this morning... I had a vivid dream. My mother was... in the living room in the old house on the hill" (the family farm in Nebraska). In my dream, my mother was sitting in a chair, when she slid out of the chair and to the floor so that her feet were touching or entangled with the pedals on the piano. This dream was so vivid that "I awoke and checked the time, because I wondered if my mother had actually died and this was a message. I told my dream to Larry (a friend at Control Data) this morning, and he was alarmed by it. He told me of a pre-cognitive dream or vision which he had several years ago... Early one morning, he awoke crying and said 'Mr. G. (a friend who lived nearby) is going to die of cancer!' His wife witnessed this. Later in the day, she

phoned to say that Mr. G. had taken sick suddenly and had been taken to the hospital. Within two or three days he died, from abdominal cancer.

He (Larry) also told of a vision of a friend of his, lying in a bed in a white nightgown in a room furnished only with a night stand. A phone call to his friend confirmed this: the room had been emptied for re-decorating."

The next entry in my diary is for August 9, Thursday: "My father phoned this morning and told us that Mark (my nephew) had been killed in a tractor accident. Another nephew, Ken, had been driving the tractor, packing the silo... after dark. Mark had stopped on his way home from his job (to see Ken, and was riding on the tractor with Ken). (The silo was on above -the-ground type with concrete walls about 15 feet high.) The tractor [slipped sideways and] fell off the wall and killed Mark instantly. Ken is injured."

Those who have studied dreams tell us that much of what we see in our dreams is symbolic. I believe the accident that my mother had in my dream was symbolic of a family tragedy — the loss of a child — because she had already experienced such a loss — a daughter had been stillborn. It has been theorized that the emotion from such an event can cause a harbinger of the event to project backwards in time. There were elements in the dream that corresponded to elements in the accident: the chair (tractor seat); a fall, and pedals (the clutch and brake pedals on the tractor). Of course, I may be reading too much into those elements, but it is clear to me that Larry and I recognized the dream as having to do with death. These three incidents, along with others, pretty well convinced me that remote viewing is a reality.

Early last fall the CIA announced that it had convened a scientific panel to review experiments in re-

mote viewing that it had sponsored. I now quote from the *Journal for Scientific Exploration*, Vol. 10, No. 1:

The extent of government-funded psychic remote viewing research has been a long-standing topic of speculation. The declassification and release of a 270 page SRI report (out of an estimated 80,000 pages of program documents that remain classified) and the commissioning of a retrospective review of these programs... finally resulted in at least partial public disclosure of these 24-year long efforts that took place at SRI (1972-1990) and later at SAIC (1990-1995). The outcome of the CIA-sponsored review was unusual in that two reports were issued — one by Prof. Jessica Utts, a statistician at the University of California, Davis, and one by Prof. Ray Hyman, a psychologist at the University of Oregon — which came to opposite conclusions concerning the underlying reality of so-called psy phenomena. We also note that the director of the SAIC effort, Dr. Edwin May, has raised serious criticisms concerning limitations on information made available to or allowed to be used by Utts and Hyman by the CIA.



Now, really! Are we to believe that the CIA sponsored this research for 24 years with only negative results the whole time? If true, this would call into question the judgment of the CIA program managers. The articles in the *JSE* make it plain that the program had some remarkable successes. For example, in an article by Harold Puthoff (p.75):

"With regard to admission by the government of its use of remote views under operational conditions, officials have on occasion been relatively forthcoming. President Carter, in a speech to college students in Atlanta in September 1995, is quoted

by Reuters as saying that during his administration a plane went down in Zaire, and a meticulous sweep of the African terrain by American spy satellites failed to locate any sign of the wreckage...The head of the CIA turned to a woman reputed to have psychic powers. She gave some latitude and longitude figures. We focused our satellite cameras on that point and the plane was there."

Per the JSE, a recently unclassified report (Mumford, *et al.*, 1995), concerning a remote viewing program called Star Gate, cites the role of the CIA and DIA in the program, including acknowledgment that a cadre of full-time government employees used remote viewing techniques to respond to tasking from operational military organizations.

Another startling success for remote viewing (JSE, p.87) concerned a Soviet complex, apparently concerned with research on beam weapons. Viewer Pat Price sketched a giant gantry crane at this site, getting the number of wheels (eight) correct as well as the general shape, and describing a huge steel sphere being welded together in sections *inside the building* — out of view of spy satellites. This was not known to the US until two years after Price's death. Price had the diameter of this 60 foot sphere correct to within 18 inches.

But in spite of all the successes, there were political reasons that the CIA did not want the responsibility for the remote viewing research when asked by the DIA. They had just had a huge operational and public relations failure in the Alrich Ames scandal. Also, it appears that the CIA was and still is secretly using remote viewing. By publicly pooh-poohing remote viewing, the CIA could attempt to prevent knowledge of the program by potential adversaries, while still being able to use RV for intelligence purposes. Finally, the

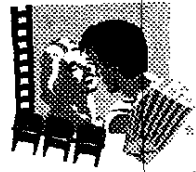
research program was badly mismanaged and made ineffective under the DIA, for reasons too complex to go into here. (See JSE, p 105)

The CIA "stacked the deck" for their "scientific" evaluation panel. In his report, Ray Hyman says "Our evaluation will focus on the ten experiments conducted at SAIC." This is the typical procedure of excluding data which might prove exactly the opposite of what you want to "prove." The ten experiments were a set that had a low rate of success, compared to those performed earlier over a period of years at SRI. But even evaluating these ten, Prof. Utts stated: "*Using the standard applied to any other area of science, it is concluded that psychic functioning has been well established.*"

Prof. Utts also stated: "*I am clueless as to why Ray Hyman is making claims in the media that we had access to the operational work for our review. I do not think he was given access to any information not shown to me.*" Of course, all researchers on the panel should have been given access to the same information.

Perhaps the most interesting statement in the JSE about remote viewing was made by Russell Targ, one of the main SRI researchers: "*...it is my belief that the remote viewing data has made a significant contribution to our knowledge of our relationship to a non-local universe in which we are interconnected and increasingly interdependent. It is my hope that our awareness of this interconnectedness...will also promote greater compassion among all people.*" It is a statement that could be taken several ways.

W/M



MOVIE REVIEW

by Todd Amundson

The Arrival

Charlie Sheen plays a radio astronomer searching for intelligent signals from space. As scientist, Zack Zabrinkski, he is known for his creative ideas. When he decides to search the FM band, violating SETI protocols, he finds his message, but when he reports the exciting news to his boss, he loses his job under the guise of "company downsizing." No one will hire him so he takes matters into his own hands, borrowing neighborhood satellite TV dishes for his own program to verify the original signal, and somehow get the news in the hands of the public. He runs into some rather astounding problems in the form of aliens who are able to morph themselves into humanoids.

Overall, "The Arrival" is an action film with science fiction overtones, reminiscent of the paranoid thrillers of the cold war years. The creature design is very good, making the aliens both unusual and believable. The special effects enhance the story, rather than overpowering it. There is a silly subplot involving a climatologist studying global warming, but in total, this is an enjoyable film. See this one now, and compare it with "Independence Day" later this summer.



Moon Shots and Ghost Astronauts:

Did Deke Slayton Take His Last Flight After Dying?

by Loyd Auerbach and Martin Caidin

The following is reprinted from the Internet with the authors' permission. In checking out this amazing account, I spoke with Deke Slayton's wife, Bobbie Slayton, a Houston resident (and Houston Sky reader), to see whether she would deny the story. To my surprise, she confirmed almost all of it, saying that the FAA citation is still in her possession. — Houston Sky Editor

The late, great, world-famed astronaut Deke Slayton co-authored the book *Moon Shot*, adapted as a two-part special for Turner Broadcasting Systems (TBS) July 11 and 13, 1994. Slayton, during his life, was a crew member of the 1975 US-USSR Apollo-Soyuz mission, one of the original Mercury Seven astronauts, former test pilot with the USAF, and an avid racing plane pilot. He died at his home in Texas at 3:22 a.m., June 13, 1993. With him were his wife, Bobbie, and their daughter, Stacey.

But, as shown at the end of the second part of the TBS adaptation, that was not the last time Deke Slayton made his mark on this planet. Slayton's final flight took place hours after he died.

Later the same day he died (June 13, 1993), at 7:57 a.m. local time, at John Wayne Airport in southern California, a Formula One racing plane with large FAA required registration letters and numbers on the fuselage, N21X, took off from the airport and performed various flight maneuvers.

With a high-speed propeller, the extremely noisy aircraft was seen and heard by many people, who clearly identified the type of aircraft and wrote down the N21X registration. The Federal Aviation Administration determined that a noise level mandated by law had been exceeded, and issued a letter of citation against the registered owner and pilot.

On July 20, Bobbie Slayton received a letter in the mail dated June 28, 1993, from the FAA to Donald K. Slayton, notifying him that he was being cited for violating FAA regulations. The letter had been sent to a

condo at which the Slaytons sometimes stayed, and its delivery was delayed until Mrs. Slayton picked up the mail.

Upon receipt of the letter, Bobbie Slayton telephoned the FAA and inquired if they had all gone crazy — pointing out that Deke Slayton had been dead for six hours before the reported incident in Orange County.

She further added that this particular racing plane, N21X, had been in an aircraft museum in Sparks, Nevada (located northeast of San Francisco), since March 1993 — and that before being placed in the museum, the engine had been removed from the aircraft and was still in the museum, next to the plane!

To save weight, the plane Slayton had flown had no electrical starter, and the engine could be started only by a person outside the plane who would swing the propeller while the pilot worked the controls inside. The plane sighted at the airport, however, had taken off on its own.

So how could the plane have been there... hours after Slayton died, when the plane, minus an engine, [was] in an aircraft museum?

Bobbie Slayton remarked that the reason for the delay Deke took before getting into the air in his racing plane was that "he probably took six hours to find Gus" [Grissom, his best friend, who died in the Apollo 1 fire on Pad 34 at Cape Canaveral] "to prop the plane for him."

Witnesses at the airport who were questioned first by the local authorities, and then by pilots talking to other pilots, and then by still more pilots and investigators sent to Santa Ana for further confirmation, all agreed that

the airplane taking off the morning of June 13, 1993, was not only clearly identified as N21X, but that this particular airplane, which had flown for years with this federal registration, was an all-red Formula One racing aircraft, that it departed from the airport in Orange County, flew through various maneuvers in the area, and then flew off in a steady gradual climb on a westerly heading — and was never seen again. Martin Caidin, paranormal investigator, series advisor for *Moon Shot*, expert on aviation and manned and unmanned space shots, and author of the books *Ghosts of the Air* and *Natural or Supernatural?* has quoted Slayton as saying: "No matter what happens, no matter how rough it gets, no matter how impossible it becomes — always keep the dream alive."



According to Bobbie Slayton, the day after the incident, she phoned the Nevada museum to ask whether the plane was still there. The person with whom she spoke assured her that it was and had never been gone.

— Houston Sky Editor ♦

Houston Sky

No. 9, Feb./Mar. 1996

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Subscriptions: \$15 per year.
Individual copies: Send SASE, and
check for \$15.

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Saturday of each month, 1:30 p.m.
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The Minnesota MUFON Newsletter
is printed six (6) times during the year.
Annual subscription rate is \$12.00.

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