

MINNESOTA MUFON

Newsletter

From the State Director

Last year's MUFON Symposium, "The Fiftieth Anniversary of LUFology" featured presentations which took a look at past UFO events. One of these was *1947: The Beginning of the UFO Era*, presented by Jan Aldrich.

Earlier in his professional life, Aldrich spent 16 years in meteorology but in 1995, he began working full time on "Project 1947," an effort funded by the CUFOS, FUFOR, AND MUFON Coalition. The project represents a weighty 10,000 pages of personal accounts, reports and documents submitted by 300 people.

After the first round of flying saucer sightings in 1947, an article appeared in *Astounding Science Fiction* called *Flying Somethings*, by editor and scientist John W. Campbell. During his long tenure as editor of *Astounding*, and later, *Analog*, no one could accuse Campbell of being a believer of flying saucers. However, he didn't think much of the explanation that the objects sighted were merely aircraft. He viewed them as visitors from the outside — certainly not a popular theory, especially for a scientist! Campbell speculated that if the occupants of these objects would ever capture humans, and later release them, their resultant accounts would be considered to be melodramatic stories of unbalanced people and would be laughed away.

This is a very interesting assessment of the UFO phenomenon from 1947, especially because such ideas of the possibility of "flying saucers" and "aliens" had not yet registered with the general population. In a Gallup poll taken two months after the Arnold sighting the idea of extraterrestrial craft did not even register as an answer.

About two months prior to Kenneth Arnold's sighting, meteorologists at Richmond, Virginia were tracking a balloon with a theodolite when they spotted a silver object just below the balloon. It was larger than the balloon, had a dome on top, was flat on the bottom and sped away on a level flight path.

In early 1947, a British fighter plane chased an object for 30 minutes which appeared to take efficiently controlled evasive action. Oddly, Project Blue Book later explained the case as a *visual sighting of an aircraft with accompanying radar contact being due to inversion effects*. If this had been an airplane, Aldrich wondered, why hadn't there been a solid radar return?

As the 1947 wave unfolded, the Air Force issued conflicting announcements as to whether or not they were interested in looking into flying saucers. The FBI made no such announcements and went ahead with an investigation. When the FBI Director found out that the Air Force wanted to investigate the

MINNESOTA MUFON Meetings

Saturday, March 14
and
Saturday, April 11
1:30 – 5:00 PM

**\$2.00 Speaker Fund
Donation Requested**

Science Museum of MN
Computer Education Center

Firstar Center
5th & Minnesota Sts.
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 1:15 and 1:30 PM

The next admittance time will be at the 3:00 PM break.

The building and ramp areas are designated as non-smoking.

phenomenon and let the FBI chase hoaxers, the FBI withdrew and adopted a passive roll. Aldrich said that this was unfortunate as some of the FBI investigations were among the best of that time. Their learning process was much faster than that of the military. Aldrich noted that in those early days, the FBI was asking about possible *radio interference*, but we don't know why. The Air Force was interested in exhaust trails and effects on clouds because in a Newfoundland case, a hole was apparently "burned" into a cloud by a UFO.

The Air Force had 122 cases on the books for all of 1947. Some years later, Ted Bloecher would write *Report on the UFO Wave of 1947*, which was a culmination of his research into 142 newspapers featuring 850 stories occurring between June 24 to July 10 of that year.

In his personal research, Aldrich concluded that the Air Force missed many sightings because didn't take them seriously, nor had they not gotten the word out to subordinate commands to collect data on unusual aerial phenomena. Flight crews, weather observers and test personnel at installations and proving grounds all reported sightings that never made it into the Project Blue Book files. Although Airline pilots generally didn't report sightings, United Airlines officials admitted that some crews had seen UFOs, but would not talk about them.

Hoaxes were all the rage. Television was still very new, so newspapers were the most

important means of communication. People called in phony reports just to get their names in the paper. Others called in false names, or gave names of friends as a joke. If editors did not check, they often found named witnesses calling to deny the story, which required the newspaper to print a retraction.

A theory was promoted that dust motes floating in the eyes caused flying saucers!

It's understandable that some editors became hostile to all UFO stories because of these pranks.

As an example, a pilot claimed he had knocked down a disc over Montana when the wind stream from the engine of his surplus P-38 caused the craft to break apart. This story was carried worldwide with some foreign newspapers reporting that he had *shot down* the disc. The pilot later admitted that the story was just a yarn, but not all the newspapers informed readers that it was a hoax.

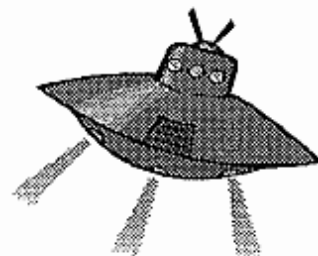
A theory was promoted that dust motes floating in the eyes caused flying saucers! It was explained that against a bright sky, these motes seemingly "fly" simply because of eye movement, which cause people to think they are seeing objects moving a great speed. The theory was widely accepted for a while, even though it couldn't explain how several witnesses could all describe a same, detailed occurrence.

Soon after the P-38 hoax, newspaper headlines told of a flying saucer captured near Roswell. Today we think of the Roswell event as a *spacecraft*. In 1947, this was not the case. People expected that the mystery would soon be solved, but they were not thinking in terms of a spaceship. The announcement that it was a weather balloon brought the 1947 wave to an end on about July 10th. Now, of course, we have volumes of testimony on Roswell. However, in 1947, the newspapers included the story for only two days.

Jan Aldrich gave many more comprehensive and anecdotal accounts of the way things were in 1947. This is only a summary of some of the highlights. Readers are urged to obtain a copy of the Symposium *Proceedings* from MUFON in Seguin, Texas and become familiar with the full text of all the presentations.

Dick Moss

For information contact:
Mutual UFO Network
103 Oldtowne Rd.
Seguin TX 78155-4099
(830) 379-9216
FAX (830) 372-9439



The Rise and Fall of Pine Bush

by Scott C. Carr

Scott C. Carr is the Editor of *"The Flying Saucer Gazette"* a monthly magazine dedicated to looking at the UFO phenomenon from a sociological perspective. He is also the Producer and co-host of *"UFO Desk"* a weekly radio show featured on 99.5 FM, WBAI, NY. Mr. Carr is a professional writer, and is currently seeking publication for *"Incident at Sardonica"* a novel about the UFO culture.

America's most uncelebrated UFO hotspot first came into the public perception in 1987, when it was mentioned in passing in Dr. J. Allen Hynek and Philip Imbrogno's, *Night Siege: The Hudson Valley UFO Sightings*. Though Pine Bush played only a minor role in the Hudson Valley UFO flap of the mid-1980s, it was just outside of Westchester and Putnam counties, where the bulk of the sightings were taking place. The Pine Bush sightings, however, would continue to grow, both in number and frequency. Even as reports of the Hudson Valley's much publicized "Westchester Wing" or "Westchester Boomerang" began to diminish after reaching a peak of nearly two thousand sightings between 1983 and 1987, just next door, in the Wallkill River valley area of neighboring Montgomery County, Pine Bush was becoming more and more active with unexplained phenomenon of its own. This tiny, rural farming community began to attract first the attention of curious and perplexed locals, and soon the attention of other outsiders and serious investigators.

In 1991, Ellen Crystall, a resident of New Jersey, published *Silent Invasion*, chronicling her eleven year investigation into the

mysterious activities surrounding Pine Bush. For the most part, unfortunately, the book fell on deaf ears. Many UFO enthusiasts scoffed at Crystall's reports of seeing up to a dozen strange craft in the sky at once, landing in and rising out of fields, often at close range, sometimes merely a stone's throw away. Still others remained skeptical of the unconvincing photographs which accompanied the book. Photos which were unclear, according to Crystall, were due to intentional magnetic or microwave disruption by the aliens, a direct attempt to maintain their anonymity.

But, even though it was overlooked by the media and mainstream UFO culture, Pine Bush did begin to slowly attract attention. *PM Magazine* did a segment, (and many years later *Sightings* and *Strange Universe* would visit), Ellen Crystall embarked on a short-lived talk show jaunt; *Joan Rivers*, *Geraldo*, *People Are Talking*. She brought *Omni Magazine* out into the fields, to see the strange lights for themselves. She took thousands of photographs. But for the most part, Pine Bush continued to go unnoticed.

For the few who did notice, and were curious enough to journey to the small town to see for themselves, however, Pine Bush proved intriguing enough to bring

them back. Again and again. A small, eclectic group of eccentric investigators and dedicated skywatchers began to form, returning regularly to the mysterious fields and backroads. And the phenomenon itself was becoming stranger all the time, and harder to define. Reports of lights in the sky abounded, back then. Phantom beings and strange animal sightings were not uncommon. Mechanical rumblings from deep underground were often heard. Farmers reported seeing strange lights over their fields at night, only to discover large sections of earth had been moved, as if by tractors, the next morning. Warm gusts of air were felt blowing from out of the woods, even on the coldest of nights. Strange white orbs of light (affectionately referred to as "Tesla Globes") and intrusive red mist began to appear regularly in photographs, though nothing was seen when the pictures were actually taken.

The abduction craze was spreading like wildfire throughout the country, and Pine Bush was no exception. Abductees began to come forward, organizing meetings and support groups, and planning excursions into the fields to go skywatching, or "UFOing" as the locals have termed their nocturnal pastime. And, though rumors abounded among the small, yet growing, group of sky-

watchers who gathered almost nightly on West Searesville Road, Whitley Strieber was still half a decade from admitting that much of his own experience, eerily and starkly described in his best-selling *Communion*, did in fact take place in his cabin in Pine Bush.

Cornet claimed to have discovered underground transmitters sending polarized magnetic photon beams up into space.

Even as the core group of locals continued to watch the skies, keeping to themselves and eschewing all newcomers and outsiders, the number of interested people making the sojourn to the small farming community continued to grow, until, by 1995 you could find a line of cars parked along West Searesville Road on virtually any weather permitting night. Dedicated UFO enthusiasts would gather together to discuss the paranormal, to fling wild theories, and watch odd lights dart about the skies. It was this ever growing, evolving group of people who began to define the personality of Pine Bush. While some of them were genuinely deluded, seeing UFOs and conspiracies everywhere, some were quite level headed. Some skeptical, some convinced. But all inexplicably drawn to this place for no reason other than to gaze up at the night sky, up to the stars, hoping against hope to catch a glimpse of the unknown.

In the summer of 1992, Ellen Crystall was contacted by Dr.

Bruce Cornet, a geologist who, after reading *Silent Invasion*, felt compelled to visit Pine Bush. By this time, the first signs of encroaching urban development were becoming evident, as civilization began to close in on the rural hotspot. Ms. Crystall's own investigation was winding down, and she began to frequent the area less and less. Dr. Cornet, on the other hand, could be found almost on a regular basis, and was initiating an investigation of his own. He conducted magnetic and geologic surveys of the area, and came to some rather startling conclusions. Cornet claimed to have discovered underground transmitters sending polarized magnetic photon beams up into space. His theories went on to become even more esoteric. He boasted frequent close encounters and interaction with extraterrestrial craft which he called TLPs (Transient Luminescent Phenomenon), as opposed to the more generic term UFOs. He claimed telepathic communication with the entities behind the phenomenon, and believed that they were gradually educating him, slowly revealing their presence and intentions, in a way that he could handle on an intellectual level.

As Dr. Cornet continued to immerse himself in the Pine Bush phenomenon, the continued urbanization of the area began to seriously threaten the sanctity of the skywatchers. New homes were popping up everywhere, and with them, "No Trespassing" and "Private Property" signs appeared in places that had traditionally been open to skywatching.

Sightings were at an all time

low, and Dr. Cornet's theories were becoming more unorthodox. Hotels, restaurants, banks, and convenience stores began to appear, almost overnight, and Dr. Cornet announced his belief that, according to his most recent geologic studies, the entire Wallkill River valley area was an exact scale replica of the Martian landscape *Cydonia*, home of the infamous and much alleged "Face" and "Pyramid." He dubbed Pine Bush "Cydonia II", while police began to quietly patrol the once quiet backroads, courteously asking skywatchers to keep it down, or to please find somewhere else to park. The Pine Bush saga was at an all time low.

And then, on May 17, 1997, Dr. Bruce Cornet, along with Marc Whitford and Dinah Bertran, recorded, on high eight video, the flight of a mysterious black triangle at close range. In a time when Pine Bush was going through an inordinate, paranormal dry spell, this was a much needed reaffirmation of the existence of a true enigma. Though not necessarily supportive of any of the particular theories or wild speculations that had cropped up during the phenomenon's recession, this was a refreshing confirmation of the persistence and faith of the dedicated skywatchers.

This faith and dedication would soon be put to the test, however. Just as sightings and reports of strange lights and phenomenon began once again to pick up pace, with a renewed vigor not seen in nearly five years, so did the continued urban development. New homes along West Searesville threatened issues of freedom and privacy. It was not long before the new residents of these homes

began to take notice of the men and women outside, staring up into the star filled sky, searching for flying saucers. Conflict was inevitable as, for the first time in my experience, the general public confronted the UFO culture on common, neutral ground. For the first time, public perception of the UFO phenomenon is taking place on a personal level, free from the sensational glamorization of the media. This is a unique, unprecedented occurrence, and the sociological implications are fascinating. Only human culpability and open-minded understanding will determine the future of UFO watching in Pine Bush.

Update:

As of January of this year, skywatching has been banned in Montgomery County. Though the legalities of this are uncertain at the time of this writing, apparently anyone found guilty of trespassing or parking with the intention of "skywatching" will be subject to incarceration and/or fine.

Scott Carr's fine newsletter, The Flying Saucer Gazette, may be found online at

www.erols.com/sardonica



Zero Point Energy and UFOs

by William I. McNeff

Asst. State Director, MINNESOTA MUFON

Since the early 1900s, there has been an awareness among physicists that "empty" space may not be all that empty. It was theorized that space is filled with all kinds and frequencies of electromagnetic waves. Physicist Paul Dirac paid special attention to this idea, comparing it to the waves which continually move on the seas, and the theory was nicknamed "The Dirac Sea" in his honor. According to modern physics, a vacuum isn't a pocket of nothingness — it churns with unseen activity even at absolute zero, the temperature defined as the point at which all molecular motion ceases. For that reason, it has more recently been called "zero point energy."

Exactly how much zero point energy resides in the vacuum is unknown. Some cosmologists have speculated that at the beginning of the universe, when conditions everywhere were more like those inside a black hole, vacuum energy was high and may have even triggered the Big Bang. Today the energy level should be lower — but to a few optimists, a rich supply still awaits if only we knew how to tap into it. Wally Moe once gave a presentation to MINNESOTA MUFON on zero point energy. He told us that physicists have calculated that the energy contained in a volume the size of an ordinary light bulb is enough to boil away all of Earth's oceans! It is now believed that this energy comes from all types of force fields — electromagnetic, gravitational and nuclear. Some physicists have postulated that vacuum energy could explain cold fusion, inertia and other phenomena and might someday serve as part of a "negative mass" system for propelling spacecraft. The negative mass idea now seems to have been disproved but zero point energy is a fact, shown by various effects. One effect is the *Lamb shift*, which refers to a frequency change in the light emitted by excited atoms. Another is a particular kind of noise in electronic circuits.

Perhaps the most dramatic example though, is the *Casimir effect*. In 1948, the Dutch physicist H.B.G. Casimir calculated that two metal plates brought sufficiently close together will attract each other very slightly. Steve Lamoreaux, a physicist at the University of Washington, recently measured this attraction in a very difficult and delicate experiment.

Harold Puthoff, the director of the Institute for Advanced Studies, has been testing various apparatus designed to gather zero point energy. So far, he has found none that yield a genuine energy gain.

Now, NASA scientists have developed the mathematical theory behind vacuum energy and have linked it to electromagnetism. If their interpretation of the equations is correct, a space drive using electromagnetism could theoretically be developed.

Could this be the motive power behind alien spacecraft?

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It's 10:30 : Do You Know What The Kids Are Watching?

by Candy Peterson

Our television culture is liberally sprinkled with UFO and alien programming like *X-Files* and *Third Rock From the Sun*. Even the Maytag repairman learns about a new stain-fighting washing machine from magical high-tech saucer jockeys. *The Jetsons* reruns are still being shown, and many cartoons occasionally utilize flying saucers and their occupants as characters in their stories.

The Disney Channel has an interesting daytime children's series called *Katie and Orbie*. Orbie just happens to be an ET, and *sleeps upside down at night in Katie's bedroom closet*. The program is aimed at preschoolers, with gentle themes about life's normal learning experiences such as visiting the library for the first time, accepting new friends, and roller skating at the park. None of the politically correct characters they encounter seem to notice that Orbie is an alien life form. He is a small humanoid, usually naked, pink with dark pink spots. Orbie doesn't look like a typical grey alien. He has a large head, a prehensile nose, and large "normal" eyes with black pupils within the whites. His eyes are set high on his head with expressive eyebrows floating above.

The program's opening sequence shows a small domed flying saucer arriving from outer space. It lands in Katie's backyard in the Great Lakes area of the

United States. There are three stories in each half-hour program. It's completely narrated by Leslie Nielson, with modest sound effects, musical score, and engaging tootling and burbling noises to represent Orbie's speech.

The show uses Orbie & Katie's equivalently naive need to learn as a vehicle for entertaining and instructing little kids. The lessons are sweet and moral, so it appears Should a little girl's closest companion and roommate be an extraterrestrial alien? Is there nefarious cultural indoctrination involved, or is this just a clever new way to present enduring lessons to children? It may not be wholly different from using anthropomorphic animals and mythical characters to inspire and entertain kids; but we should be aware that children have much more access to televised UFO and alien motifs than we might otherwise be aware of unless we are paying attention.



Lyrics for the theme song to *Katie & Orbie*:

Far away out past the moon, came a little pink friend all alone.

There's a house with a girl inside; Katie sees a friend in need: Orbie.

It's Katie & Orbie, and here's a bunch of stories 'bout Katie & Orbie and all the things they do.

Katie's friend Orbie now has a brand new family; to teach him that people all have some good inside.

Fly a kite, find a snake, dance outside, or learn to skate; build a snowman with your friend Orbie.

Adventure & playtime, should always last a lifetime; and with friends like Orbie, the fun is guaranteed.

Katie & Orbie are ready with their story, playing and learning 'bout all the things they do.

As the sun begins each day our new friend is here to stay.

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Wonder and Rationality

The Dilemma of a Scientific UFO Investigator

By Craig R. Lang,

Field Investigator Coordinator, MINNESOTA MUFON

I recently completed the field report of a sighting investigation which, in my view, provides a classic microcosm of the "wonder vs skepticism" dilemma which confronts the UFO investigator. I call it the *skeptic's dilemma*: "It just can't be true, yet it couldn't be anything else". More than any other issue, this dilemma has bedeviled UFO research for the past 50 years. And I suspect that it will continue to do so far into the foreseeable future.

I am writing this article for a publication read largely by UFO believers. However, before proceeding further, let's step back and imagine that we are part of the *rational*, skeptical, mainstream scientific community. We are grounded in the reality that nothing travels faster than light, there is no such thing as anti-gravity, etc. To us, interstellar or interdimensional travel is science fiction — and only that. Thus, when confronted with an account of an extraordinary experience, our goal would naturally be to find some mundane explanation which would account for it. This, then, forms the backdrop for this case. The event in question concerns a close encounter (presumably of the first kind) which occurred this fall in a remote location in western Minnesota. The witness was awakened by a noise in her yard. She looked out of her window to observe a brilliant white light

hovering over a field a few blocks away. She awoke her husband, who took a look at it and dismissed it as a helicopter. He then went back to bed while she continued to observe it, and several smaller companion objects, for several hours. During the entire event, she experienced what she described as both extreme fascination and absolute terror. In addition, her account of the final stages of the encounter suggests that a more involved (CE4) experience might lie beneath the surface.

"Believe me" she said emphatically, "This was not the moon". The tone of her voice suggested an unspoken "Oh come on now, I'm not stupid...!"

As a standard part of the investigation, we checked the usual mundane possibilities: lights on the clouds, yard lights, helicopters, etc. All results were negative. Her description of the object as being close did not prompt me to check for astronomical bodies. However, subsequently, when reminded of a couple of other similar sighting cases in which the moon was misidentified, I looked up the moon's position for the date/time in question. Sure enough, I found it. The rising which she described the UFO. My first impulse as a "rational skeptic" would have been to immediately dismiss the sighting as a misidentification of the moon.

However a follow-up consultation with an investigator who knew the witness, indicated that she was not the type to make such a basic mistake. The witness was an intelligent adult, not given to flights of fancy. Thus the question arises as to how the witness could be so frightened by something as ordinary as the moon. In addition, the witness' descriptions of the object indicate that it hovered in the same place for a couple of hours. The rising moon would have changed position in the sky. Thus we are confronted by a "tempting" explanation which doesn't quite fit the facts.

Furthermore, when I asked the witness about the possibility of the object being the moon, she indicated that she had seen the moon many times rising in approximately that location. "Believe me" she said emphatically, "This was not the moon". The tone of her voice suggested an unspoken "Oh come on now, I'm not stupid...!"

She described several companion star-like objects which interacted with the main object. At one point in her sighting, the position and brightness of several very bright stars could conceivably have accounted for this observation. Yet, at other points in the sighting, this explanation simply does not apply. Thus, again, we are confronted with a "tempting" explanation which does not quite

fit the facts — almost, but not quite...

The dilemma for the conservative scientific mind is this: UFO's and other extraordinary phenomena stretch our world view beyond comfort. We should not jump to conclusions which invoke them if we can possibly avoid it. Yet, in this case, no other explanation than the extraordinary

seems to fully fit the facts of the case.

Thus the questions:

- Do we force a mundane explanation to fit the case, as would a "true" debunker?
- Do we say that the object must have been an ET craft as might a UFO "true believer"?

- Or do we accept, as a skeptical investigator, that no explanation has been found, and simply say that the event is unexplained?

You decide...

Road Rage on the Information Super Highway

by Candy Peterson

With the advent of the Internet, UFO and entity information is more widely available than at any time in history. Because there is no quality control associated with the content, it can be very difficult to discern fact from fiction, or help from hurt. This is especially a concern for abductees, who, by the very nature of these involuntary abductions, may well be in a very fragile state of mind when they turn to someone for help. We are aware of at least one person, who has used his fee-based Internet service for abductees as a vehicle to vent his scorn for any who may voice ideas and concepts not akin to his own.

The Abduction Information Center (AIC), promised access to quality information and an ongoing private interactive e-mail conference for "all abductees" in a "safe" environment. Because the

AIC is linked to Budd Hopkins' Intruders Foundation Online (IF), its creator is able to ride on the coattails of this very respected author and abduction researcher to attract clients.

The trouble started when this particular web master became incensed about a discussion that the members of AIC were having. A mother related that she has tried to help her children cope with life by teaching them to "take control" and "empower" themselves as much as possible in all situations. "This means," she explained, "talking and taking peaceful control of what you can." Above all, her children are told that their parents love them very much, and even though they can't prevent the abductions, the kids are lovingly reassured that "they will always come back home — always!" Apparently, her children are well adjusted and are not fearful individuals. To this authority in charge of all aspects of the membership, this was "New Age thinking" — not to be tolerated!

He started an irrational tirade by blasting the woman for stating

the consensus view that abductions can't be stopped. He eventually agreed with this consensus — but apparently, she shouldn't have stated the fact in her communication! Moreover, he went on to accuse her of teaching her children to sublimate and accept trauma, and that her actions are actually helping the aliens! The woman, as did several others, tried to explain to him that he misinterpreted her remarks, but this only served to further infuriate him. "...Her blatant 'New Age' belief systems conflicts with the stance of plain common sense and reliance on the available data that AIC represents."

If the story ended there, we could shrug our shoulders, chalk up the incident to a misunderstanding, and go on from there. But as more expressions of solidarity with the woman were registered, this man erupted into a bizarre diatribe that included insults and name-calling of everyone not in total agreement with his philosophy of abduction. He described several paying clients, his friends, and others, as

"morons," "idiots," "serious dead weight, and "flaky assholes." Regarding the woman herself, "Lock the bitch out of any part of my web site completely, please, and ASAP." Regarding the sympathizers, "Go away and take your 'airy fairy' nonsense garbage with you please." He likened his attempts to get rid of the "air heads" as "swatting flies." This statement says it all: "The little buggers are already poking their little pointy new age heads above the fence. Like cockroaches, I'll stomp 'em with my pointy Puerto Rican shoes even if they run for a corner."

Just who is in charge of AIC?

He describes himself as 48 years old with a background in human services and graphic art. He says he's been "working closely with Budd Hopkins" for five years, and has had the "benefit of training with Budd Hopkins." He also "spent time" with "the likes of Linda Moulton-Howe, David Jacobs, and John Mack in casual settings...and ask advice and counseling from them." And finally, his personal statement: "AIC is the result of all my years of work and effort to bring a sense of sanity and reason to an insane and completely unreasonable phenomenon." What more "unreasonable phenomenon" than a person denigrating the very abductees he claims to help?!"

Let's review the AIC statement of purpose:

"Welcome All! I dedicate this web site to 'The People.' I have created AIC because I wanted to offer abduction experiencers a

place where they can access the very best information available. [And] As well as to afford people the opportunity [sic] to interact with each other in an environment where no-one will try to impose any belief systems upon them or, try to sell them a 'bill of goods!'"

"It will be left up to each individual to make of it what they will. I think folks are intelligent enough to make up their own minds. We will also have an opportunity to interact with each other and openly discuss anything that we may choose to address together as a group."

"...Maybe by sharing and communicating with each other we can begin to put those pieces together. ...We can also explore and evaluate the ideas and theories that are currently being bandied about by others outside of the phenomenon. ...Through AIC, ... we can reach out to each other, 'communally' assist those among us who may require it... Together we stand, divided we fall!"

"This web site was created by UFO/abduction experiencers for the benefit of all UFO/abduction experiencers everywhere — this is YOUR web site!"

AIC's computer programmer finally stepped in and removed the AIC files from the Internet site and created a new discussion e-list and web site under the name of ACE, a truly open discussion for the issues of interest to abductees and experiencers, with no fee. But AIC's creator says it's only a matter of time before the AIC files are moved to a different web site, merged to Budd Hopkin's Intruders Foundation, still taking new [unsuspecting] clients, and

still moderating a discussion group of potentially vulnerable people who turn to AIC.

This author's repeated messages to him went unsatisfied. Reasoning with him had no discernible effect about his: 1) original mistakes; 2) subsequent inaction to repair the damage; 3) escalation of the intolerant verbal assaults against blameless abductees; & 4) little if any sense of accountability or remorse. Should such a person be in a position of authority over abductees?

We don't know if Budd Hopkins is aware of this deplorable episode, but we would hope he does and that his reaction would be swift & appropriate to protect his name, Intruders Foundation, and the people who might join AIC solely because of its close association with Mr. Hopkins. Testimonials from other people were prominently displayed on his last web site, and those people might want to reconsider their support.

In summary, we ponder his statement: "I have always been a very solid and well grounded individual." Yet his hateful, damaging words tell us his true nature. This Road Rage monger has left his tracks on the Information Super Highway — and his particular road certainly doesn't lead to empathy and understanding for bewildered abductees. No, his road needs a warning sign prominently posted:



"The Threat" by David Jacobs

THE SECRET AGENDA: WHAT THE ALIENS REALLY WANT...
AND HOW THEY PLAN TO GET IT



Reviewed by Craig R. Lang

Every so often a book emerges that truly shakes a topic to its roots. David Jacobs' *The Threat* is one of those books. This book takes much of what we believed about the close encounter (CE4) phenomenon, and turns it inside out. It turns our ideas of alien contact, viewed by many with a sense of wonder, into a picture of darkness and peril.

Dr. Jacobs begins his book by describing the history of his research into the UFO phenomenon, beginning with the study of sightings in the 1960's and 1970's, and moving into abduction research from the 1980's to the present.

He describes how he amassed a large database of CE4 cases, and isolated a number of common themes. He states that many of these themes agree with findings by Budd Hopkins, etc., and the pervasiveness of these themes argues against a merely psychological origin. What emerges from his research is a grim picture of exploitation by a truly sinister phenomenon.

His arguments fly in the face of the spiritual interpretations of the "new age" movement, which he describes as "naïve". He thinks, this phenomenon is anything but spiritual — merely nuts and bolts technology. Though far more advanced than our own, there is nothing magical or metaphysical about it. Unfortunately, "they" are using this technology to exploit humanity for their own ends. He further builds a case for this exploitation as being genetic in nature — to create a race of human-alien hybrids for purposes that only "they" know. He portrays every aspect of the phenomenon, as being

in support of this hybridization program.

Dr. Jacobs discusses hypnosis techniques in detail, and criticizes the methods of many of what he terms "Positive" researchers, such as John Mack, Leo Sprinkle and Richard Boylan. He states that in their desire to provide therapy for the abductee, they allow an unrealistically positive interpretation to emerge. He claims that this positive image is an artifact of hypnosis, while his more sinister results reflect the reality of the phenomenon. He states that any view of the CE4 phenomenon as benevolent, denies reality. He criticizes John Mack in particular, for his metaphysical views, and the more neutral term "experiencer", which Dr. Mack uses to describe those having CE4 experiences. Dr. Jacobs claims that a person subject to the CE4 phenomenon is, in fact, an "abductee". They have been abducted against their will, and no less meaningful a term should be used for it.

Interestingly enough, I have heard Richard Boylan level the criticism against Dr. Jacobs and Budd Hopkins, [saying] that it is actually the "dark side" interpretation of the phenomenon that is an artifact of hypnosis. Dr. Boylan suggests that it is really David Jacobs and Budd Hopkins whose methods are wrong. Who is right? I certainly don't know...

My primary criticism of the book is not of its view. Dr. Jacobs could well be right — and he has done much homework to back up his claim. However, I disagree with his assertion that "we now know the answer" to the UFO phenomenon.

This claim reminds me of those that have been made by many scientists throughout history — claims that nearly all the answers — no matter what the field — have been found, and only a few details remain to be worked out. History usually proves this view wrong. Similarly, I suspect that the phenomenon will hold many more surprises for researchers, including Dr. Jacobs.

According to most abduction researchers, hypnotically obtained accounts of events occurring during a CE4 are considered reliable if proper regression techniques are used. However, information which is said to be given to abductees by the aliens themselves has generally proven to be untrustworthy. Yet Dr. Jacobs builds much of his case for the acute period of the "hybridization program" on abductee accounts of how the aliens themselves have explained their program to the abductees. Thus, although *The Threat* is at least as plausible as any other "alien agenda" theory to date, some of his arguments seem to me, to rest on shaky ground.

In spite of my criticisms of this book, I commend Dr. Jacobs' presentation of a solid working hypothesis. I feel that this book will serve as a powerful call to action for others in the field. I wish I could say that this book was pleasant to read. It wasn't. I found it spooky and unsettling, like a well written ghost story. But once I started it, I couldn't put it down. In the end, I hope that Dr. Jacobs is wrong, but at the same time, he just might be right. If he is, then — like Dr. Jacobs — I fear for the future.

The Threat, Simon & Schuster
\$23.00

MINNESOTA MUFON

STATE DIRECTOR	Dick Moss 320/732-3205
ASST STATE DIRECTOR	Bill McNeff 612/890-1390
FIELD INVESTIGATION COORDINATOR	Craig Lang 612/560-1532
NEWSLETTER	Lynn Bell 612/645-9576 lynnmbell@pclink.com

Thank you, contributors!

Scott Carr • Craig Lang
Bill McNeff • Dick Moss • Candy Peterson

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The Theosophical Society
meeting at
The First Unitarian Society
Minneapolis
900 Mount Curve Avenue
(Kenwood, above the Guthrie)
7:30 PM

For dates & program information,
contact:

Peter Morris, 923-1393 or
Rolf Canton, 822-3155

Field Investigator Update *by Craig R. Lang*

The winter months have been busy with several on-going investigations beginning to pick up speed, and a few more sightings recently coming to light. We have also just completed the season's Field Investigator class, and now have two new field investigators joining our ranks. A warm welcome to the FI group for these folks.

Several of these on-going investigations have heated up over the last few months. The 1978/79 wave has yielded a few more witnesses. This case was discussed in detail in the last issue of the MINNESOTA MUFON newsletter, and will not be elaborated upon here. However, the investigation continues, and we learn more information with each new witness interview. Thanks go out to **Casey Holt** for his continuing efforts in this case.

In addition, investigations have begun into various sightings and close encounters which apparently occurred in northwestern Wisconsin over the last few years. These appear to have happened generally in the same area, approximately over the same time span. Again, a pattern of UFO encounters seems to emerge, although it is not clear whether this pattern is real, or due to limitation in the way we find out about such events. While UFO waves appear to be documented phenomena, some researchers maintain that they are merely a statistical illusion. Many, such as David Jacobs, insist that the phenomenon is centered around the individual experiencer, rather than being geographical in nature. Only time and further investigation will tell who is correct. Stay tuned.

Many new sightings, continuing investigations, completed case reports and several close encounter cases (all anonymous) are listed on the MINNESOTA MUFON web site. Check often for the latest details. If you or someone you know has information on these or other sightings, a sighting or experience to report, please contact one of the Minnesota field investigators, contact the web site, or MUFON in Seguin, Texas, via the UFO hotline.

Field investigator classes are usually conducted three times during the year, when sufficient interest is indicated. If you have the interest, the time, energy and objectivity, please contact me (e-mail: crlang@mm.com; phone: 612/560-1532). We also place a sign-up sheet on the table at the back of the room at each MINNESOTA MUFON meeting. For those of us who seriously take up the study of UFO events, challenge and mystery will never be in short supply!

Happy Investigating!

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