

Minnesota MUFON Journal

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Directors Report

by MN MUFON State Dir. Dick Moss

When it comes to interpreting the data, Jacques Vallee is considered by some to be our most original and innovative UFO researcher. He is well known for his stand against the interplanetary source of the phenomenon. His reasoning for rejecting this notion runs through most of his later writings. Part of his 1990 book CONFRONTATIONS summarized his investigations in Brazil, where he found that UFOs do not interact with Brazilians in quite the same way that they do here. A couple of examples will illustrate.

In 1946 a man named Joao Prestes Filho was hit with a beam of light that eventually caused his flesh to detach from his bones almost as if he had been boiled in water. Although not in pain, he was terrified and villagers put him in a cart to take him to a hospital, but he died along the way. When his body was brought back, the flesh had fallen off to the point where his corpse appeared to be decomposed.

In August, 1962, a son of Rivalino do Aleuia Mafra went outside to get his father's horse and was confronted by two large spheres side by side a few feet off the ground. His father came out of the house and stopped short of the objects at which time they merged together. The newly formed object was larger and was giving off smoke that darkened the sky. Making odd sounds, it moved slowly toward the father, who was being enveloped by the smoke. His son ran into the cloud yelling for his father. When the smoke dissolved, the spheres were gone, and so was the boy's father.

In 1996 an entire book, UFO DANGER ZONE by Bob Pratt, was devoted to the situation in Brazil. Pratt began by documenting a large number of cases in which people had been lifted off the ground either by a light beam or some sort of whirling wind. Sometimes a lifting force was felt, but the person did not leave the ground. Some were lifted and then gently returned to the ground, but a few were dropped from a height and injured. Some of the people escaped being pulled up by holding onto a large plant or tree. Two people had hot oil poured on them by beings in the craft in an apparent effort to make them let go. Two men were victims of UFOs that lowered ropes with hooks on them. One was almost pulled into a UFO with a hook in his pant leg, but it broke loose when his other leg hit the edge of a hole in the craft. The other man was hooked on the back of his shirt, but he held onto a plant. His shirt finally tore and he fell to the ground. Most, if not all, of these encounters occurred at night. Many of the victims reported that they felt both hot and cold at the same time. The heat probably came from the UFO and the opinion was given by a doctor that the simultaneous sensation of cold was an internal reaction to shock.

Some of these men never worked again because they developed medical symptoms of various kinds. One refused to leave his house for the remainder of his life. Personality changes were common. Another type of episode occurred when an object came down and shined a light on a person. In one case men tried

hiding under a donkey although the usual way to cope was to grab onto a tree. In one case a man let go of a tree when the heat became unbearable. Later the tree snapped off a few feet above the ground and an inspection found that the remaining stump was badly charred.

Minnesota Mufon Meetings

Sat., September 11th
&
Sat., October 9th
1:30-5:00pm

Roseville Community Center
2800 Arona Street, Roseville,
MN 651-415-2100

Behind Centennial Methodist
Church on the corner of C2
and Arona.

PARK FREE!

The building is designated as
non-smoking.

See map on back cover

Note: This building has no
special security or elevators,
so you can come and go as
you please and smoke
outdoors, providing more
freedom than the old location.



The incidents described so far seem to involve a sort of alien cat-and-mouse game in which most of the victims never ended up inside the craft. But, there were many instances in which Brazilians were abducted in ways dissimilar to abductions elsewhere. One man was levitated eighty feet into a craft and kept for three days. One tooth was extracted and three others were broken off and all were bleeding when he was returned. His hair had been burned off with his ears appearing partly burned, but not his scalp. He could not eat or speak for days after he was returned and had to undergo intravenous feeding.

Pinheiro is a small city that attracted aliens for four months in 1977. People were harassed by UFOs almost every night. An object would appear without warning, creating instant daylight, and victims would run with the UFO in pursuit. All escaped, but some were burned by the light. The objects would sometimes rise rapidly and be lost among the stars only to return just as rapidly. People refused to go out at night. The light hurt their eyes and many developed a fever. Fishermen were so afraid that they would not go fishing for months. Some wouldn't even go out into their backyards at night to relieve themselves.

After the aliens left the Pinheiro area, they apparently became interested in the many small villages at the mouth of the Amazon. There, they harassed people for sixteen months, injuring at least forty and killing a man and a woman.

Vallee and Pratt certainly do their footwork. Each of their books, which form the basis for this writing, are loaded with case studies that are very detailed. You have to read CONFRONTATIONS and UFO DANGER ZONE to really appreciate the intensity of alien operations in Brazil. Pratt's book is based on cases that he discovered while on one of his many trips there. One can obviously assume that thousands of others must have had similar experiences. Most UFO events in Brazil are never publicized or known to anyone except neighbors and relatives. Commonality of reports from different parts of Brazil over many years is impressive.

The generalized comments here pertain to only a fraction of the incidents reported in CONFRONTATIONS and UFO DANGER ZONE. Hopefully, they convey the notion that there is a sadistic and dangerous side to this phenomenon. Most Brazilians would probably not deem aliens as lovey-dovey buddies here to help us solve our pollution problems, prevent nuclear holocaust, and pave the way toward the dawning of the age of Aquarius.

I will leave the opinions and conclusions of Vallee and Pratt for you to discover on your own in hopes that you will be able to fully read both books.

Conclusion UFOs Are Space Ships Given SAC in 1952

From: UFO Investigator Vol. II, No. 1, July-Aug. 1961

A 1952 evaluation of "flying saucers" as interplanetary devices, sent to Strategic Air Command Headquarters from MacDill AFB, has been disclosed to NICAP by former information Specialist Don Widener, one of the AF men concurring in this opinion.

The spaceship conclusion was based on numerous AF sighting reports, especially those in the MacDill area. It was drawn up by the MacDill UFO project officer, an AF intelligence captain with whom Widener served. As a member of the project, Widener had access to official AF sighting reports, some of which have never been released.

"Captain ----- and I drafted a report to SAC Headquarters," Widener has told NICAP. "It stated that in our opinion the unknown objects were of extraterrestrial origin. I imagine that his report is still gathering dust!"

Our source lists one case evaluated by the MacDill project, "hidden" sighting recently given NICAP by Widener. It described the MacDill radar tracking of a UFO at 40,000 feet and visual reports by a B-29 bomber crew ordered to chase it. The UFO, a glowing oval-shaped device, reversed course and raced off. The sighting was never explained.

CIA Rues UFO Cover-Up

By Robert Scott Martin Staff Writer

Source: www.Space.com August 18, 1999

Not only has the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency admitted its role in trying to "correct" public opinion about UFOs over the last half century, it now believes the policy caused "major problems" in dealing with the public.

In an internal report entitled "CIA's Role in the Study of UFOs, 1947-90," agency historian Gerald K. Haines portrayed the CIA as consistently and deliberately working to suppress reports of unidentified aerial phenomena since modern UFO sightings began with the Kenneth Arnold case of 1947.

Still, even in a paper filled with covert attempts on the part of both the CIA and the Air Force to "persuade the public that UFOs were not extraordinary," Haines himself continued the suppressive policy, perhaps unconsciously, by writing that the CIA "paid only limited and peripheral attention to the phenomena" since the early 1950s.

This tension in the report, written at the request of CIA Director R. James Woolsey in 1997, is a telling reflection of the government agency's troubled broader relationship with UFO sightings and literature. Haines' history is studded with depictions of the CIA not only repressing UFO reports and reviewing recommendations that agents monitor UFO clubs for subversive activities, but also trying to hide its own interest in the matter.

Indeed, the struggle to "carefully restrict" and "forbid" any public awareness of CIA involvement in UFO investigations eclipses the actual investigations as the major thrust of the agency's UFO efforts. Even though the agency had accepted the Air Force's conclusion that there was only "a remote possibility" that UFOs were interplanetary aircraft as early as 1952, investigations of the "massive buildup of sightings" went on, just in case.

Concealment of CIA interest

However, after 1953, when negative findings from a civilian panel motivated the CIA to "put the entire issue of UFOs on the back burner" entirely, Haines said the agency became almost exclusively concerned with covering up its own involvement in the world of unidentified flying objects. This aggressive policy of public non-involvement was important to the CIA for many reasons. First, a number of agency officials and study groups over the years urged the CIA to "conceal its interest" because such attention would seem to officially sanction to the existence of UFOs. Although the agency itself, like the Air Force, believed the chance of flying saucers posing a direct threat was minimal, the fear that even unfounded public belief in the phenomenon, if encouraged by government interest, could be enough to "touch off mass hysteria and panic."

Particularly in the 1950s, the Cold War heightened this somewhat obsessive concern with hiding any evidence of the CIA's involvement, said Haines. Although the agency's UFO study group did not see any security threat emerging directly out of flying saucers themselves, even if they actually existed, the CIA was deeply worried by the possibility that Soviet agents could use UFOs as "a possible psychological warfare tool" or cloak a more Earthly attack with fake UFO

reports. Tantalizingly, Haines also noted that at least one CIA Director, Walter Bedell Smith, "wanted to know what use could be made of the UFO phenomenon in connection with US psychological warfare efforts." The report does not mention whether the agency followed up on this opportunity to manipulate UFO reports in a more sophisticated manner for its own purposes.

As the 1950s wore on, the CIA became even less interested in UFOs in themselves and more concerned with covering up its own early involvement with the phenomenon. In 1955, only the possibility that the Soviets would eventually develop a flying saucer of their own kept the investigations from ending completely.

Meanwhile, ironically, the CIA had built its own "unidentified flying object," the U-2 surveillance aircraft, and sightings of these planes needed to be kept out of the media. According to Haines, Air Force investigators were "careful ... not to reveal the true cause" of U-2 sightings. However, having no other means of explaining the encounters, it is likely the field agents were forced either to lie or retreat into a suspicious silence.

The return of the repressed Haines argues that this suspicious silence was not a good strategy for the agency, but the established need for secrecy left the CIA with little choice while fervor over the government's role in "covering up" UFO information grew. Even though the agency itself "had a declining interest in UFO cases" by the late 1950s, it was still spending considerable resources looking out for "the more sensational UFO reports and flaps" in order to suppress them.

Ultimately, this policy backfired by highlighting the CIA's role in investigation -- or the ominous cover-up thereof -- only to "add fuel to the growing mystery surrounding UFOs." UFO researchers blamed the agency for starting the UFO flap of the 1950s for psychological warfare purposes, and the idea proved so persuasive that even CIA Director Stansfield Turner asked his staff whether the agency was "in UFOs" after reading a 1979 New York Times article.

At the end, Haines concluded, the tactics of silence and repression was a failure. "The UFO issue probably will not go away soon, no matter what the agency does or says. The belief that we are not alone in the universe is too emotionally appealing and the distrust of our government is too pervasive to make the issue amenable to traditional scientific studies of rational explanation and evidence."

Indeed, much of that "distrust" was the CIA's own doing, and the benefits appear to have been limited. Despite the agency's best efforts to keep UFO reports out of the media, according to Haines, "an extraordinary 95 percent of all Americans have at least heard or read something about UFOs, and 57 percent believe they are real."

Field Investigator Update: Sept., 1999

By Craig R. Lang (MN MUFON FI Coord.)

The last month or two have seen somewhat increased sighting activity, including a number of distant encounter (light-in-the-sky and daylight-disk) events, which have occurred in the last month or two. As a result, recent field investigation activity has picked up in pace.

In the last couple of issues, this column has focused on CE4 events and some of the more exotic aspects of the UFO phenomenon. But fascinating and exotic as such events are, we can still learn much from the more distant encounters as well. So, in this article, we will present a summary of some work on a very interesting multiple event sighting case which is currently being investigated by Bill McNeff, our assistant state director. The witness contacted Bill with the report of three separate sightings, soon after they occurred. Bill promptly interviewed the witness and got a full report of the events, while they were still fresh in the witness's memory. Bill's summary appears as follows:

July 3&4, 1999:

Location: Lake Mille Lacs, at the witnesses' cabin on the north shore of the Lake.

The witness and three friends were watching the sky for meteorites and satellites late at night, and saw an object, a point source of light, of a whitish-orange color. It looked like a satellite and was moving slowly toward the north, then it changed direction toward the west, underwent two accelerations, then began to move around the sky, at one point making loops past the Big Dipper. The witness stated that it moved at times from a point about 10 degrees west of north to a point that he estimated was over Garrison on the west shore of the Lake, and then back to the original point. It emitted four strobe lights "out the back" at one point. It was moving at such a high speed at times that the witness estimated "it could have gone from horizon to horizon in two seconds." It made 90-degree turns and hovered at times. The witness observed it from about 11:30 PM on July 3 until about 4:30 am the following morning, when it began to get light. It was still there at dawn.

Early morning on July 5, 1999 (originally reported as the evening of July 4th, because that was when the witness began watching the sky): Location: at a cabin near Lake Mille Lacs.

A glowing orange sphere, which the witness believed to be the same object that he had watched on July 3-4, was in and out of sight all night. The object was at varying elevations, and at times it was up in the clouds and illuminated them. At about 1:30 PM, it suddenly appeared crossing a 20 foot gap in a row of trees that was 50 to 75 feet away from them. It passed between the trees and his neighbor's cabin. The witness and his neighbor estimated that it was within 100 feet of them, at an altitude of 20 feet above the ground. This view during the close approach only lasted for half a second, he said. It was about 3:30 or 4:00 am when it made the close approach. They then "lost it in between the trees". The witnesses ran to the trees and around them to try to catch sight of it again, but the object was lost to sight. The neighbor was frightened by the close approach, according to the witness. The witness estimated it to be moving at between 25 and 50 mph during the close approach. He said it was about 5 feet in diameter, and that it had sharp, not fuzzy, edges. He estimated that a baseball or softball held at arm's length would have just obscured the object.

July 5, 1999:

Location: East Side of the city of St. Paul, near the intersection of Stillwater Avenue and 7th Street.

The witness was just leaving for work at 9:50 PM when he caught sight of the first object. Then a group of the objects came into view, appearing to have come up from a wooded back yard about a block and a half away. The objects were described as metallic or gray spheres, the size of beach balls - that is, about one and a half feet in diameter. The objects were slowly rising in altitude, "spiraling slightly" as they rose. As he watched the objects, they got whiter. There seemed to be a haze around the objects, which did not look natural. A plane flew above the group of objects at one point. They were "hovering below the plane at first." Relative size was somewhat smaller than the full moon. He watched them for two minutes, then shouted for his roommate to come out to see them. He then drove over to his parents' house a block away and called them out to see the objects. The objects were moving around a lot; it was hard to keep track of any one of them. They lost the objects in the clouds after a few minutes. They were definitely not airplanes, he said, and he doubts that they were balloons. He arrived at work, late, at 10:40 PM.

The witness works third shift and is used to being up at night, hence the large number of late-night and overnight observations. It is not known if the witness has had additional sightings or encounters, but these sighting reports, by themselves, contain a wealth of information. While attention focuses on the more exotic close encounter cases, most UFO sightings are like the ones described above. It is cases like these, which will provide many of the keys to unlock the UFO mystery.

If you know of any information that might bring to light any sightings or encounters, or have any further information on events discussed in this column, please contact: Craig Lang, phone: 612-560-1532, e-mail: crLANG@mm.com, or contact Minnesota MUFON through the website: www.mnmufon.org. You can also check the website for current sighting reports and the results of completed investigations.

For those wishing to become a field investigator themselves, classes are conducted approximately three times a year, as sufficient interest is indicated. If you are interested, and feel that you have the necessary time, energy, and objectivity to be a UFO investigator, please contact Craig Lang. If you have not already done so, you also will need to join MUFON as a field investigator trainee and purchase the MUFON field investigator's manual.

We always need more investigators in our effort to better understand the UFO and CE4 phenomenon. For those who seriously take up the study of UFO events, challenge and mystery will never be in short supply. Happy investigating...

Out of the Past...

By Bill McNeff (MN MUFON ASD)

I searched my files and found my handwritten notes, dated April 25, 1976, on the Medford, MN case:

"Moore on Sunday" (TV Program anchored by Dave Moore of WCCO-TV?) UFO seen by 20 people a few months ago on a high school football field, including the Richard K. (Kay?) family.

"It was really big!" It was a bright red-orange inside [was this seen through "portholes"?]. It was visible for one minute, displaying rotating lights, then just disappeared. Police also saw it, but at first thought it was a hoax, perhaps a balloon with a flare. It left burnt grass where it hovered low over the field. Dr. J. Allen Hynek said, "Samples of the grass were found to

have been subjected to considerable heat. This is similar to hundreds of other cases." [End of notes]

The statement that the object "just disappeared" is provocative. We could wonder if something else happened that the witnesses do not recall, that is, was there possibly some missing time? My guess is that this happened in the fall of 1975. In addition my best recollection is that soil samples taken inside the burned circle fluoresced, while control samples taken outside did not, as tested by a lab in Iowa. Ted Phillips wrote that he took the samples and Dr. Hynek interviewed the people. Surely CUFOs and/or MUFON have some good records on this.

I was also interested to note that a number of so-called animal mutilation cases were happening in 1975. And I also found in my file a letter dated December 28, 1975 from my Canadian pen pals, which lived near Morden, Manitoba. Here is an excerpt, the reason I had put this letter in my UFO file: "And this UFO thing -- well this farmer not too far from here lost 40 horses during the night.

Mounties have been investigating and [could] find no trace of tracks leading away from his corral, and no vehicle tracks. It was very nerve racking for this fella, as his neighbor had spotted a UFO the week before and taken pictures, which was published in the paper. This happened a few months ago and no clues have been found. If you come up this summer, we might be able to fill you in." I'm sorry to say I wasn't able to go there in the summer or any other time, and I regret I didn't ask them to send clippings from the paper. With luck, an article and pictures would still be in the newspaper's files, and the farmer might still be alive to interview.

METAL SAMPLE ANALYSIS

By Casey Holt (MN MUFON FI)

A test was performed on a small section of metal sample that I got from David Shoemaker in Feb 1999. David is a gemologist from New Mexico who has collected a number of debris pieces from a few different sites. The piece I had tested was part of the so-called "Hot Landing" specimens found splattered on a blacktop road in southwest New Mexico in 1998. Within and around an impact area of about 15 feet by 25 feet were various metal fragments, which had been melted into the asphalt. More information about this site can be found on David's web page at: <http://www.crashdebris.com>.

The piece I had tested resembled aluminum in color and weight but seemed a bit stiffer. It looks something like a melted piece of aluminum pop can. I measured the density at between 2.4 g/cm³ and 2.8 g/cm³ which is also consistent with aluminum which has a density of 2.69 g/cm³. The test used at the lab was semi-quantitative analysis using Energy Dispersive Spectroscopy (EDS) on a small section measuring less than 1/8" square. The surface of this small piece was too rough for a SEM microprobe procedure that would give more information of the internal structure.

The EDS test results verified the main composition was aluminum of 90.3 % by weight but also showed a surprising silver content of 1.6% by weight as well as the elements of iron, manganese, and molybdenum which are common materials used in steel. The chart shows the quantities of each of these by weight percent and atomic percent based on the number of atoms of each element.

	Weight Percent	Atomic Percent
Aluminum (Al)	90.3	95.6
Iron (Fe)	4.5	2.3
Manganese (Mn)	2.9	1.5
Molybdenum (Mo)	0.6	0.2
Silver (Ag)	1.6	0.4
Other Elements	< 0.5 %	< 0.5 %

The origin of the debris is unknown and some possibilities could include a meteorite fragment, crashed satellite, crashed piece of UFO, or hot metal falling of a truck. Further testing might be done to determine the internal crystal structure or element isotope ratios.

Normal earth elements contain isotopes of the element in fixed ratios. For example natural Earth magnesium is a combination of Mg 24, Mg 25, and Mg 26 having atomic weights of 24, 25, and 26 with each isotope having a different number of neutrons. If an element was found to contain an abnormal ratio of isotopes it might be evidence for extraterrestrial origin.

If someone finds an unusual piece of material and would like to have it tested I might be able to direct them. My e-mail address is: Caholt@juno.com.

Does 'Dark Energy' Pervade Empty Space?

Source: The Salt Lake Tribune, 24 June 1999

WASHINGTON -- It sounds more like "Star Wars" than real science, but astronomers are taking seriously new evidence that a mysterious "dark energy" pervades

empty space. You can't see it or feel it, but this strange force is so powerful that it counteracts gravity and makes stars and galaxies fly apart faster than scientists previously thought. Without it, the universe would have caved in ages ago.

"There is now tantalizing evidence for an extra repulsion force that overwhelms gravity on cosmic scales," Martin Rees, Britain's astronomer royal, told a symposium at the Library of Congress last week. Understanding this force will be "one of the grand challenges for the millennium to come" said Neta Bahcall, a leading cosmologist at Princeton University. In scientific papers and talks, the dark force goes by a variety of exotic names: "cosmic dark energy ... negative gravity ... vacuum energy ... zero-point energy ... X-matter." To describe it, cosmologists have even revived the ancient term "quintessence" -- the name medieval scholars gave to an invisible substance in which heavenly bodies supposedly floated. Some scientists equate the force with the "cosmological constant" -- a notion proposed more than 80 years ago by Albert Einstein to explain why gravity doesn't cause the universe to collapse of its own weight. The "constant" was a number Einstein inserted in his equations to make them come out even -- a gimmick your high school math teacher probably would call cheating.

The great physicist later repudiated his own idea, calling it his "biggest blunder," but it has popped up again in respectable scientific circles. A repulsive force is now considered the best way to explain why the universe appears to be expanding ever faster.

In the 70 years since astronomer Edwin Hubble discovered the universe is getting bigger, scientists have debated whether it will continue to grow or slow down, halt and reverse course under the pull of gravity.

Early this year, two international teams of astronomers announced that recent observations of supernova -- massive exploding stars at extremely great distances -- provided convincing evidence that the expansion is not only continuing but also gaining speed. These observations "suggest that the expansion of the universe is accelerating, indicating the existence of a cosmological constant or dark energy," Princeton's Bahcall wrote in the May 28 issue of Science magazine. The supernova evidence is forcing a major shake-up in astrophysics, the science of space-time, Bahcall said.

"The most popular explanation is that space itself could have additional properties, a kind of springiness, an energy, a negative pressure, that tends to make space expand all by itself," Robert Kirshner, associate director

of the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics in Cambridge, Mass., said at a NASA science briefing.

Though this exotic form of energy is difficult to measure, astronomers believe it dominates the universe. The best available data indicate that matter - atoms, chairs, trees, people, planets and stars -- makes up barely one-third of the universe, according to Michael Turner, chairman of the department of astronomy and astrophysics at the University of Chicago. The remaining two thirds consists of gravity-defying negative energy, such as Einstein's cosmological constant.

"We need the cosmological constant to balance the books, since matter makes up only 35 percent of the density of the universe," Turner said. The balancing act was described by Sean Carroll, a theoretical physicist at the University of California, San Diego, as a tug of war. "In a universe with both matter and vacuum energy, there is competition between the tendency of [vacuum energy] to cause acceleration and the tendency of matter to cause deceleration," Carroll said. "The ultimate fate of the universe depends on the precise amounts of each component."

As they try to figure out the nature of the dark force, astronomers who usually deal with outer space are drawing on the latest theories of inner space -- the weird world of subatomic physics. Modern physics teaches that a vacuum, such as space, is not really empty, but rather is filled with infinitesimally small particles that constantly flicker in and out of existence.

"Space is a simmering sea of particles living on borrowed time and borrowed energy," Turner said. "Otherwise empty space is seething with these ghostly entities," astrophysicists Fred Adams of the University of Michigan and Greg Laughlin of the University of California, Berkeley, declared in their new book, *The Five Ages of the Universe*.

"The energy required to make these particles is borrowed from the vacuum and then quickly repaid when the particles annihilate each other and subsequently disappear back into nothingness," Adams and Laughlin explained. It is these particles, they believe, that create the "negative pressure" that drives the universe to expand at an accelerating rate. Engineers at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala., and at Lockheed Martin, the giant aerospace company headquartered in Bethesda, Md., are tinkering with possible ways to extract useful sources of power from the vacuum -- ultimately perhaps driving spaceships to the stars. Although dreams of interstellar voyages fueled by anti-gravity are probably at least a century away from being

fulfilled, the idea of some such dark force, once considered outlandish, is now in the scientific mainstream. "We have to take it seriously," said Harvard's Kirshner. © Copyright 1999, The Salt Lake Tribune.

Big Bang machine could destroy Earth

By Jonathan Leake, Science Ed. 19 Jul 1999

<http://www.sunday-times.co.uk/news/pages/sti/99/07/18/stinwenws02029.html?999>

BRITAIN- A nuclear accelerator designed to replicate the Big Bang is under investigation by international physicists because of fears that it might cause "perturbations of the universe" that could destroy the Earth. One theory even suggests that it could create a black hole. Brookhaven National Laboratories (BNL), one of the American government's foremost research bodies, has spent eight years building its Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider (RHIC) on Long Island in New York state. A successful test firing was held on Friday and the first nuclear collisions will take place in the autumn, building up to full power around the time of the millennium.

Last week, however, John Marburger, Brookhaven's director, set up a committee of physicists to investigate whether the project could go disastrously wrong. It followed warnings by other physicists that there was a tiny but real risk that the machine, the most powerful of its kind in the world, had the power to create "strangelets" - a new type of matter made up of subatomic particles called "strange quarks".

The committee is to examine the possibility that, once formed; strangelets might start an uncontrollable chain reaction that could convert anything they touched into more strange matter. The committee will also consider an alternative, although less likely, possibility that the colliding particles could achieve such a high density that they would form a mini black hole. In space, black holes are believed to generate intense gravitational fields that suck in all surrounding matter. The creation of one on Earth could be disastrous. Professor Bob Jaffe, director of the Centre for Theoretical Physics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, who is on the committee, said he believed the risk was tiny but could not be ruled out. "There have been fears that strange matter could alter the structure of anything nearby. The risk is exceedingly small but the probability of something unusual happening is not zero."

Construction of the £350m RHIC machine started eight years ago and is almost complete. On Friday scientists sent the first beam of particles around the machine - but without attempting any collisions. Inside the collider, atoms of gold will be stripped of their outer electrons and pumped into one of two 2.4-mile circular tubes where powerful magnets will accelerate them to 99.9% of the speed of light. The ions in the two tubes will travel in opposite directions to increase the power of the collisions. When they smash into each other, at one of several intersections between the tubes, they will generate minuscule fireballs of superdense matter with temperatures of about a trillion degrees - 10,000 times hotter than the sun. Such conditions are thought not to have existed - except possibly in the heart of some dense stars - since the Big Bang that formed the universe between 12 billion and 15 billion years ago. Under such conditions atomic nuclei "evaporate" into plasma of even smaller particles called quarks and gluons. Theoretical and experimental evidence predicts that such plasma would then emit a shower of other, different particles as it cooled down.

Among the particles predicted to appear during this cooling are strange quarks. These have been detected in other accelerators but always attached to other particles. RHIC, the most powerful such machine yet built, has the ability to create solitary strange quarks for the first time since the universe began. BNL confirmed that there had been discussion over the possibility of "perturbations in the universe". Thomas Ludlam, associate project director of RHIC, said that the committee would hold its first meeting shortly.

John Nelson, professor of nuclear physics at Birmingham University who is leading the British scientific team at RHIC, said the chances of an accident were infinitesimally small - but Brookhaven had a duty to assess them. "The big question is whether the planet will disappear in the twinkling of an eye. It is astonishingly unlikely that there is any risk - but I could not prove it," he said.

Return to Tunguska

by BBC News Online Science Ed. Dr. David Whitehouse
Source: BBC News Online: Sci/Tech, Mon., 6/28/99

Scientists hope to solve the mystery of the greatest cosmic impact of the century by undertaking an expedition to a remote region of Russia. The impact happened on 30 June 1908, at Tunguska in central Siberia. With no warning, a small comet or meteor hurtling through space collided with the Earth and exploded in the sky. The impact had a force of 20 million tons of TNT; equivalent to 1,000 Hiroshima

bombs. It is estimated that 60 million trees were felled over an area of 2,200 square kilometers. If the explosion had occurred over London or Paris, hundreds of thousands of people would have been killed. The first expedition to reach the site was led by Russian scientist LA Kullik in 1938. His team was amazed to find so much devastation but no obvious crater. So began the mystery of Tunguska: What was the object that caused such destruction and why did it leave no crater?

Lake bottom:

It may have been a small comet, made of rock and ice, that was fragile enough to be vaporized in the explosion before it struck the ground. Alternatively it may have been a low-density meteorite. To search for answers, the second University of Bologna expedition is about to travel to the isolated region taking with them a battery of high-tech equipment. One of the team, Dr Luigi Foschini, told BBC News Online that one of their main aims would be the study of sediments at the bottom of Lake Ceko. This lake is 8km (five miles) away from the center of the 1908 explosion. The lake is about 500 meters wide and 47m deep. "We will be using a 'sub bottom penetration system,' to make a structural map of it to decide where to drill for samples from the lakebed," he said. At the same time, a "side scan sonar" will take ultrasound photographs of the lake bottom. A remotely controlled, underwater telecamera will also be used in the research.

Large fragments:

Undisturbed samples will be collected by using a "box corer." Dr Foschini hopes to collect microparticles from the disintegration of the cosmic body to determine once and for all what it was. They will also continue a search for microparticles preserved in tree resin. This was carried out on the earlier expedition in 1991. The researchers will also undertake an accurate aerial survey of the region and compare their data with that obtained in 1938 by Kullik.

The comparison between the 1938 pictures and the new survey should give further information on the direction of the trees felled by the explosion. Some scientists believe that large fragments may have reached the ground before the main impact. If the cosmic body was a meteorite, then it may be possible to find these fragments. A search will be made for them among the ground rocks of Tunguska using neodymium magnets together with a metal detector.

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IMPLANT Conspiracy or "It's not just the Aliens anymore"

Companies Want Biochip Implants To Control and Monitor Employee Performance

By Steve Bevan (www.sunday-times.co.uk) 5-10-99

BIG BROTHER could soon be watching from the 'inside'.

Several international companies are consulting scientists on ways of developing microchip implants for their workers to measure their timekeeping and whereabouts. The technology, which has been proven on pets and human volunteers, would enable firms to track staff all around a building or complex. The data could enable them to draw up estimates of workers' efficiency and productivity.

Professor Kevin Warwick of Reading University, a leading cybernetics expert, has been approached by several firms including a leading software company with a British subsidiary and Blackbaud Inc., the American software giant.

Warwick hit the headlines last summer when he had a silicon chip transponder surgically implanted in his forearm. He was subsequently able to show how a computer could monitor every move he made using detectors that were scattered around the building in which he worked. In his experiment, Warwick showed how the system could also benefit workers by programming it to switch on lights, computers, and heating systems as he entered a room - and turning them off when he left.

The technology is likely to have a strong appeal to companies with high labor costs, for which small increases in staff productivity can have a big impact on profits. It is also relatively cheap - just a few pounds for each person, according to Warwick.

"For a business the potential is obvious," he said. "You can tell when people clock into work and when they leave the building. You would know at all times exactly where they were and who they were with."

Warwick admits that people will be "shocked" by the idea of companies asking their employees to have such implants. He said: "It is pushing at the limits of what society will accept but it is not such a big deal. Many employees already carry swipecards. I think this is just a step on from that." (!!!!!)

His research follows earlier experiments by companies such as the telecommunications firm AT&T that showed how smart cards carried by staff could be programmed to relay a worker's position back to a

central computer. AT&T Laboratories in Cambridge has been working on its "smart badges" for two years. They use ultrasound to tell the main computer exactly where the wearer is, allowing their desktop computers and phone calls to "follow" them around the building. The company has, however, stopped short of suggesting staff should have devices inserted into their bodies.

The first practical application of such technology is, however, not in humans but in pets. Under the government's new "passports for pets" scheme, which replaces the quarantine system from 2001 dogs, will have a microchip implanted beneath their skin to identify who they belong to. Representatives from police forces in Britain and the United States have also expressed interest in the implant technology, according to Warwick. He believes that submitting to an implant could be made a condition, for example, of being granted a gun license.

FRENCH REPORT ON UFOS

<http://www.anomalist.com/>

FLASH! A new and quite startling UFO report has been issued in France. It is not a government report but was produced by a group of individuals who have held high positions in military, government or quasi-official agencies or institutions. (COMETA) Entitled "UFOs and National Defense: How Should We Prepare Ourselves?" the report was published on July 17th as a special issue of the French magazine, VSD. In short, the report concludes that UFOs are probably extraterrestrial and they recommend that a global response be called for. The report's preamble is written by Professor Andre Lebeau, former head of CNES, the French scientific research agency. The preface is by General Norlain, former director of the Institute of Defense Studies and the foreword is by Air Force General Denis Letty. A brief summary is available on the web in French. More on this later as it becomes available.

CROP CIRCLE APPEARS IN HAMEL, MN

by Bob Schultz & Casey Holt (MN MUFON FI)

The Hamel MN crop circle found on 7/11/99 was sampled on 8/1/99. There were 22 days between discovery and photo. So, there are quite a few walking paths to the south, to the north, between the 10 small circles and between the small circles and the ring around the center circle. Witnesses living close by say the formation was more distinct earlier. Many of the

stalks originally laid flat are starting to upright themselves.

The circle can be seen on an upslope in a wheat field from the North side of Hwy 55 about .6 miles West of Hwy 101 in Plymouth, MN. North is towards the top of the photo. The wheat rows run north and south. The formation consists of a center circle 35 feet in diameter surrounded by a thin ring 60 feet in diameter and 5 small perimeter circles on each side moving outward from the ring as in a spiral. Widest point is 120 feet. Rotation of lay is CCW in all parts. The field is predicted to be harvested soon.

Casey Holt, Tex Ritter and Bob Schultz took crop and dirt samples on August 1st. Samples are being sent to Dr. Levengood of the BLT Research Team for analysis. See photo below:



UFO ISSUES LOBBYING GROUP OPENS IN WASHINGTON

Source: States News Service July 26 1999 (c)

The first lobbying group dedicated to UFO issues has opened for business on Capitol Hill. The Extraterrestrial Phenomena Political Action Committee, X-PPAC, will lobby for more openness from the federal government about possible evidence of alien life. The group's overriding goal, said founder Stephen Bassett, is open congressional hearings on what he says is a massive government secrecy effort that extends back to the famously rumored 1947 crash in Roswell, New Mexico.

"We're calling for open hearing from government witnesses who have approached us and want to testify, openly, about the big stuff," Bassett said. "There are dozens of people and they want to talk. If we get those hearings, the cover-up is over."

Bassett helped launch a national petition in 1997 to ask for open hearings. He said that now that the Cold War is over, the government has less need to hide information. The group will also back open government reforms like the bipartisan Government Secrecy Reform Act which was introduced by Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan, D-N.Y., in January and is now sitting in the Governmental Affairs Committee.

U.S. GOV. UFO PROOF RELEASED:

Audio tapes of a genuine UFO Alert at Edwards Air Force base and studied by the Foreign Technology Division at Wright Patterson Air Force Base, are now available for distribution to the public. Lunar Astronaut Dr. Edgar Mitchell was at Edwards the night the UFO chase occurred. The 6th person to walk on the moon said, "The night it happened I investigated it myself and this was a real event." Sam Sherman's audio documentary tape called THE EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE ENCOUNTER on the night of October 7, 1965, uses the actual voice recordings provided by the Air Force. During this event 12 high tech luminous UFOs invade secure air space and came down low over the runways at Edwards AFB. Tower operator Sgt. Chuck Sorrels spotted them and notified the Air Defense Command. Sgt. Sorrels is heard on the original tapes and in a new segment where he verifies the event as it is heard on the archival recordings. The UFOs are described and a decision is made to launch F-106 fighter interceptors. You're there for an important part of UFO history.

Hear it for yourself, it's the best UFO tape ever made. Tape cost is \$14.95 each plus \$2.00 for shipping -- total \$16.95 -- you can send either a personal check or money order to: Independent International Films, Box 565, Dept. GF, Old Bridge, New Jersey 08857.

[This all-new website features audio recordings of Air Force personnel on UFO alert plus visual documents. Verify it yourself. See the website: <http://www.edwardsufo.com>.]

From the Editor

by Joel Henry (MN MUFON FI)

Carl Sagan proposed that (with emphasis toward the UFO phenomena) extraordinary ideas require extraordinary proof. One might accept this idea as reasonable except for one fatal flaw in logic: What justifies calling the idea extraordinary?

In the beginning, with the help of much propaganda, UFO's were relegated the bizarre and unbelievable. Today, almost all scientists will admit to the high likelihood of life in the rest of the universe being the rule rather than formerly the exception. They still draw the line at aliens visiting the Earth.

The majority of people in the USA believe aliens exist and probably have visited the Earth at some time. The percentages are even higher in Canada and Europe. This means the UFO phenomena IS NO LONGER EXTRAORDINARY at all and really never was. Why should phenomena be labeled extraordinary just because certain philosophies, belief systems, religions, or political attitudes viciously deny them?

In science, such prejudiced attitudes do not belong. You read all the time about new discoveries that were previously laughed at or ignored. Does anyone apologize for their previously held arrogant beliefs after they have been proven wrong? Nope. They pretend like they were never even associated with them.

The same proof necessary to prove any other idea applies to UFO's. Social belief systems have no place in science, trying to dictate the likelihood of an idea being true or not. That is exactly what the extraordinary moniker is, a prejudiced social belief, not scientific, or even logical.

Those that have adamantly opposed the idea that UFO's are real and extraterrestrial in nature continually redraw the line on what constitutes as proof, even as more proof is obtained. It will ultimately come to the point where a UFO will have to crash on their house or someone dropping a dead alien on their doorstep to get the naysayers to accept it.

It reminds me of Galileo when he claimed the Earth was not the center of the universe. The Catholic Church didn't take too kindly to that, even though it was THEY who were dead wrong. There are still some people who think the Earth is flat. I'm just glad they don't burn you at the stake anymore for proposing unpopular or unconfirming ideas.

I wonder if Phil Klass thinks the universe revolves around him?

LOCAL EVENTS

JOHN CARPENTER will appear at the Holiday Inn Convention Center in Eau Claire, Wisconsin on **Sept. 11 (Sat.) at 7pm**. He will talk about his latest info on alien abductions. Cost is \$8. For more info call Chad Lewis (WI MUFON State Dir.) at: 707-833-4639.

ROSWELL LECTURE A SUCCESS!

Don Schmitt's locally held lecture Aug. 1st on the latest on the Roswell crash (co-sponsored by MN MUFON) was enjoyed by all who attended. A well done presentation Don! His new book is available in pre-release form. For more info, write:

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National MUFON Hotline

To report UFO news, sightings, etc. call 1-800-836-2166

Go to: www.mnmufon.org/mmj.htm for back issues of the Minnesota MUFON Journal.

Your news or editorial contributions to this journal are welcomed and appreciated. Please direct your articles or inquiries to the Editor.

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