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Directors Report

NASA & LIFE OUT THERE

By William I. McNeff, MNMUFON State Dir.

NASA is currently working on projects that indicate an interest in alien life forms under its Exobiology Program. Exobiology is the study of the origin and evolution of life on planets with suitable conditions such as the presence of water, nutrients and sources of energy. It includes study of the interaction of various substances and energy that yield an auto-catalytic system capable of passing genetic information from one generation to the next.

Extreme environments should not be ruled out as having life supporting potential. Life on Earth has been found thriving at volcanic sea vents called black smokers, 10,000 feet below the ocean's surface. Not only is there no light, but the pressure and heat are enormous, not to mention the drastic water chemistry. Yet life does exist in these locations, and life may very well have begun in places like these. According to Keith Cowing, "Life is an inevitable consequence of the organization of matter, at all levels of organization in this universe."

Life has also been discovered in solid rock and in ice cores over 100,000 years old that can be cultured and grown. Life on Earth has managed to survive in inhospitable ecological environments, giving us ideas of what is possible on other worlds. Some scientists now think Earth's biological evolution did not occur gradually as many believe. They think it occurred in giant leaps, plateau to plateau-sudden bizarre leaps in diversity. Scientists have discovered provocative evidence that indicates life may well be a common phenomena in the universe. Complex organic chemistry has been discovered within interstellar clouds.

Water may be everywhere in space, if in fact comets are primarily ice. Life may be hailing down on planets everywhere. Complex organic substances are constantly found in meteors. The idea that life floats through space and rains down anywhere gravity brings it is called "panspermia." Meteors may be the seeds of the universe. Once water flowed across the surface of Mars, and it is now suspected that Jupiter's moon, Europa, has oceans of water under its icy exterior. Saturn's moon, Titan, is also thought to have water vapor in its atmosphere. With the recent discoveries of ice on our Moon and Mars, as well as meteors with possible traces of fossil microorganisms, research and growth in the exo/astro-biology and bioastronomy fields has increased. This has sparked new programs at NASA.

The goal of NASA's exobiology program is to understand the origin, evolution, and distribution of life in the universe. Program manager Michael A. Meyer states, "The goal is to study the evolution of advanced life." The study seeks approaches to investigate the distribution of life elsewhere in the universe, searching for answers in non-terrestrial settings. NSCORT is NASA's Specialized Center of Research and Training.

Minnesota Mufon Meetings

Sat., March 11th
&
Sat., April 8th
1:30-4:45pm

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.



NSCORT trains young scientists and communicates with scientists, students and the general public about the field of exobiology. NSCORT is also working with high schools developing exobiology programs to be included in biology courses.

The term "astrobiology" came from a book published in 1959 by a Russian scientist named Gabriel Tikhov, then was officially coined in a USAF lunar and planetary exploration colloquium by Hubertus Strughold. Now the term astrobiology is commonly used at NASA Ames Research Center to describe specific research activities.

Astrobiology seeks to understand the origin of life, the compounds that create life, and how it is affected by the environment from which it arose. The goal of the astrobiologist is to provide a philosophical and systematic understanding of life's place in the universe. One of the programs at the Astrobiology Institute will be the careful study of life growing under severe conditions on Earth.

The Space Science Program at the Ames Research Center has formed a private research consortium. This consortium consists of NASA, San Francisco Bay Area universities, and local industries. The primary goal of this project will be to understand the origin and distribution of life in the universe. This consortium is now developing an astrobiology Institute (NABI) that will provide training and certification for the Astrobiology Academy Program. Many universities have jumped on the NABI Astrobiology bandwagon. NASA recently picked eleven academic and research institutions out of 53 proposals submitted. The proposals were submitted to NASA for funding to become a part of the new Astrobiology Institute.

A major part of the new project will be run under the Origins Program. Because the members are not in one geographic area, much of the institute will be carried out on the Internet. This "virtual" institute will bring together astrophysicists, biologists, chemists, physicists, paleontologists and geologists.

The institute will be at the forefront of the important link between astronomy and biology and will sponsor conferences and produce publications. Funding for the institute began with \$9 million in 1999 and will increase to \$15 million in 2000. Institute members include universities at Harvard, Penn State, Los Angeles, Boulder and Arizona. Other organizations include Ames Research Center, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Johnson Space Center and The Woods Hole Marine Biological Laboratory. Some of the questions addressed in the research are: How do habitable worlds form? How does life emerge and evolve? What leads to complex multi-cellular intelligent life? What processes does a biosphere take to become a

congenial habitat for supporting life? What conditions enable life to begin on a planet? Do comets and asteroids deliver the seed of life? Did life once exist on Mars? Do planets have to be close to their sun to host life?

Utilizing the Internet will streamline research efforts for the Astrobiology Institute. All new discoveries and developing information will become part of a virtual common consciousness of digital data instantly accessible from anywhere in the world. This kind of approach needs to become common place and should occur in all scientific fields. It is to be hoped this will set precedents for other scientist and research facilities to follow.

This article is adapted from an article by Matt DeBow (used by permission) which was taken from his website UFO Chronicles listed below. Matt DeBow has a book for sale for \$20 plus shipping: 925-945-5500.

<http://www.UFOChronicles.com>

The article is based on information from the following NASA office:

Exobiology Program
Office of Space Science
National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Michael Myers, Ph.D., Program Manager
NASA Headquarters, Washington, DC

BEIJING JOURNAL

U.F.O. Boom Doesn't Worry Officials

By ELISABETH ROSENTHAL

COPIED FROM: NY TIMES on line – Jan. 11, 2000.
<http://nytimes.com/library/world/asia/011100china-ufos.html>

BEIJING -- The last few months have been a boom time for U.F.O. enthusiasts in China. Just before the start of the year 2000, there were dozens of sightings. Strange shining objects were observed scooting through the sky by hundreds of people, from former airport workers to college deans.

"Warning Wuhan! Warning Dalian! Warning Xian! Jiangsu! Beijing! Shanghai!" exulted the Jiangsu U.F.O. Research Society's Web site. "Frequent U.F.O. visits have enveloped all of China."

Buoyed in part by the sightings, the ranks of the research societies in major Chinese cities devoted to unidentified flying objects have grown to more than 40,000 members.

More important still, the normally conservative official news media have been lavishing attention on U.F.O. news, with documentaries on the main government television station, CCTV-1, and credulous newspaper articles. "The level of interest and acceptance is definitely rising," said Sun Shili, a retired Foreign Ministry official who is president of the Beijing U.F.O. Research Society. "Because of the frequent sightings recently in Beijing, Shanghai and other cities that have had many witnesses, even the media -- which are very serious and careful -- have been paying attention."

Of course, in many ways it would seem a most awkward time for fleets of extraterrestrials to be buzzing China, what with the government jailing leaders of the Falun Gong spiritual movement and a few other groups, also associated with the traditional Chinese practice of qigong exercises, for "superstitious" and "anti-scientific" behavior. But so far, at least, the government has decided to tolerate the U.F.O. craze even if it does not financially support it. Wildly popular and politically unthreatening, U.F.O. research is the kind of unorthodox pursuit that is allowed in China today. Anyway, government officials and citizens alike tend to view U.F.O. research as science or at least possibly scientific. And officials of U.F.O. societies are determined to keep it that way.

"The study of U.F.O.'s is fundamentally different from other things like Falun Gong and qigong, which have come under criticism lately," said Jin Fan, an engineer who heads the Dalian U.F.O. Research Society in northeast China. "This is a purely scientific field, whereas Falun Gong deals with cults and superstition."

Indeed, a large portion of China's U.F.O. enthusiasts are scientists and engineers, not the sci-fi buffs or apocalyptic stargazers who are the stereotype in the United States. Many of China's U.F.O. research societies require a college degree and published research for membership. The Chinese Air Force attends important U.F.O. meetings.

"If our conditions for membership weren't so strict, we'd have millions of members by now," said Mr. Sun, a cheerful intellectual in a gray sweater and striped tie, who seems to embody the movement -- a bit offbeat, yes, but also scholarly, serious and strictly establishment. In his cluttered Beijing study, he proudly displays old photographs of himself interpreting for Chairman Mao and a more recent vintage Alien

Collection set containing models of a Nordic alien and of those reportedly found in Roswell, N.M., for example.

Applauding the Chinese government's "enlightened and practical attitude," Mr. Sun said: "In the U.S., scholars investigating this are under pressure and have been derided. But in China the academic discussion is quite free, so in this area American academics are quite jealous of us."

The cluster of dozens of sightings in the last four months has given China's enthusiasts new grist for discussions. Most episodes involved glowing orange-yellow objects that were reported to have lingered in the late-afternoon or night sky for more than 15 minutes before disappearing in an instant.

In a country where camcorders and cameras are now common household equipment, many were captured on film, and the images found their way into newspapers and onto television. Mr. Jin videotaped some suspected U.F.O.'s over Dalian on Dec. 25. "I believe what I saw was a U.F.O., based on its pattern of movement, its glow, its shape and its appearance," he said. "It had substance and dimensionality -- it was clearly an object."

Mr. Jin, an engineer, said the turns and dips made by the objects, as well as their rapid acceleration, could not have been the maneuvers of man-made planes or rockets. He added that he had been researching the subject long enough to distinguish a true U.F.O. from an "atmospheric phenomenon."

Experts have various theories about the recent rash of U.F.O. sightings. A recent article in the Journal of U.F.O. Research, published by the Gansu Science and Technology Press, notes that sightings in China peak each year around Oct. 1, China's National Day.

"If you think about it, it makes a lot of sense that visitors from an extraterrestrial civilization would come now," Mr. Jin said. "We're entering a new millennium, so any extraterrestrial civilization that's been observing us would want to document the state of our civilization at this particular moment, as sort of a historical snapshot."

He attributed the high frequency of sightings in China to its population density. And club officials say more than half of Chinese are interested in U.F.O.'s and believe that they might exist. The Beijing U.F.O. Research Society has 280 members, and 30 percent are managers or Communist Party workers. The yearly research meetings of the national U.F.O. society are covered by reporters from the major news organizations. This is an extraordinary reversal in a country where 25 years ago life was so focused on Communist politics that most people could not imagine anything so ethereal as

an unidentified flying object, and expressing belief in them might have been a ticket to jail.

Indeed, Mr. Sun said he did not appreciate his one and only U.F.O. sighting -- a "bright object in the sky" -- in 1971, when he was sent to the countryside as a young Communist Party worker during the Cultural Revolution. "I assumed it must be some sort of monitoring device, since relations between China and the Soviet Union were very tense at the time," he said, laughing. "It was only years later, when I got more access to foreign materials, that I realized what I'd experienced."

He and others credit China's two decades of liberalization and market reforms for allowing U.F.O. fever to flourish. "As China has opened to the outside world in the last 20 years, people's thinking has also opened," he said.

Some of the current U.F.O. research in China centers on investigating sightings, but much of it involves trying to create new forms of propulsion to try to explain how U.F.O.'s might work. Mr. Sun describes with great excitement a small balloonlike device invented by one of his members that moves faster than other man-made devices. Although it exists now only as a small model, the society is planning to test it, first on water and then on land and in space.

The research societies also share information and reports on the quirkier aspect of U.F.O.'s, like alien abductions. They are looking into the case of a Beijing worker who said that in December he was held for two hours on an alien spacecraft, where he was studied as part of a medical experiment. But Chinese U.F.O. society officials say they prefer to maintain a sober exterior, often playing down controversial topics, which they prefer to discuss in private.

And so the most recent issue of the Journal of U.F.O. Research, published in November, scoffed at the notions of a millennial apocalypse -- even as it carried articles on "interstellar migration" and the notion that the Egyptian pyramids were instruments for communication with extraterrestrials.

And U.F.O. enthusiasts say they will avoid the troubles that have befallen qigong. "We're very careful and cautious to present things scientifically and to filter out things that head in a superstitious direction," Mr. Sun said, "since there's a great deal of fakery in the U.F.O. field as well as real occurrence."

More on China:

China sees UFOs and calls it science, not superstition

By CHARLES HUTZLER, Associated Press

PUSALU VILLAGE, China (AP) - Poor farmers in Beijing's barren hills saw it: an object swathed in colored light that some say must have been a UFO. They're not alone. People in 12 other Chinese cities reported possible UFO sightings last month. UFO researchers, meanwhile, were busy looking into claims of an alien abduction in Beijing.

At the cusp of the new millennium, China is astir with sightings of otherworldly visitors. And for a country usually straightjacketed by its communist rulers, alien sightings are getting serious treatment.

China has a bimonthly magazine - circulation 400,000 - devoted to UFO research. The conservative state-run media report UFO sightings. UFO buffs claim support from eminent scientists and liaisons with the secretive military, giving their work a scientific sheen of respectability. "Some of these sightings are real, some are fake and with others it's unclear," said Shen Shituan, a rocket scientist, president of Beijing Aerospace University and honorary director of the China UFO Research Association. "All these phenomena are worth researching."

For thousands of years, Chinese have looked to the skies for portents of change on Earth. While China is passing through its first millennium using the West's Gregorian calendar, the traditional lunar calendar is ushering in the Year of the Dragon, regarded as time of tumultuous change. "All of that sort of millennial fear and trepidation fits in so nicely with Chinese cosmology - and also the Hollywood propaganda that everybody's been lapping up," said Geremie Barme, a Chinese culture watcher at Australia National University.

In Pusalu, a patch of struggling corn and bean farms 30 miles (48 kilometers) from Beijing, villagers believe cosmic forces were at play on Dec. 11. As they tell it, an object the size of a person shimmering with golden light moved slowly up into the sky from the surrounding arid mountains. "Some say it was caused by an earthquake. Some say it was a UFO. Some say it was a ray of Buddha. I'm telling everyone to call it an auspicious sign," said Chen Jianwen, village secretary for the officially atheistic Communist Party.

What "it" was remains a topic of debate. Many villagers are fervent Buddhists. But local leaders want to play

down any religious overtones, fearing that government censure may spoil plans to attract tourism to Pusalu. "It was so beautiful, sort of yellow," villager Wang Cunjiao said. "It was like someone flying up to heaven." State media ignored religious interpretations and labeled the celestial events in Pusalu, Beijing, Shanghai and 10 other Chinese cities in December as possible UFOs. But UFO researchers have largely dismissed the sightings as airplane trails catching the low sun.

"If the military didn't chase it, it's because they knew it wasn't a UFO. They were probably testing a new aircraft," said Chen Yanchun, a shipping company executive who helps manage the China UFO Research Resource Center.

Operating from a dingy three-room flat in a Beijing apartment block, the Resource Center keeps a version of China's X-Files: 140 dictionary-sized boxes of fading newspaper clippings and eyewitness accounts of sightings. The collection has, among others items, accounts that the military scrambled planes in 1998 in unsuccessful pursuit of a UFO.

Chen said the center had 500 reported UFO sightings in 1999, but after investigation confirmed cases will likely number 200 or so. He's currently checking on a worker's claims that aliens entered his Beijing home in early December and, with his wife and child present, spirited him 165 miles (265 kilometers) east and back in a few hours.

"The increase in flying saucer incidents is natural," said Chen, a former Aerospace Ministry researcher with a Ph.D. in aerodynamics. He cited more manmade aerospace activity and radio signals from Earth penetrating farther into space

NEW PHYSICAL EVIDENCE OF ABDUCTIONS

Filer's Files #07--2000, MUFON Skywatch Investigations
George A. Filer, Director, Mutual UFO Network Eastern
Feb. 18, 2000, Majorstar@aol.com (609) 654-0020
Web Site at www.filersfiles.com

Marilyn Ruben at Alien Abduction Experience and Research reports that a significant breakthrough in the search for trace physical evidence of alien abductions may have been uncovered in ordinary household dust according to biophysicist Dr. William C. Levengood of Pinelandia Biophysics Laboratory of Michigan. Microscopic glassy particles have been found in household dust of individuals claiming to be abductees. Glassy particles have been found in bedrooms, kitchens, family rooms, hallways, basement stairs, and

so on. Glassy particles have not been found in dust where abductions are not known to occur. The glassy particles come in a variety of shapes, including hollow or solid spheres. The particles are occasionally amber in color and vary in size from 1 micron or more, which is 1/1,000 of a millimeter or larger. Other more elongated particles include a "pseudo crystal" and an octopus shape. These forms are often clear and contain definite non-cellular, non-plant structure. A visual inspection of the "pseudo crystals" under 450x magnification gives the appearance of a fiber optic arrangement, while the octopus structure sometimes appears to have exploded outward at its center as if releasing something.

Household dust is best collected from areas not commonly dusted, such as the top ledges of doors and window frames. Unexplainable whitish dust in recently cleaned rooms of abductees' homes has also tested positive for these glassy particles. While abductees' homes have produced two or more styles of particles, no abductee's home to date has produced all styles of particles. Dr. Levengood is continuing his research into uncovering the origin of the currently unexplainable glassy particles. Thanks to Marilyn Rueben and Nancy Talbot. Particle photos can be seen at: <http://www.abduct.com/aaer2/r9.htm>.

Article Editor's Note: This evidence is very convincing and in the past I have frequently asked abductees to collect this type of evidence for BLT Research. Any person who has intruders in their home has the right to ask that their situation be investigated. Now we have a method for determining that unusual particles have been left in the abductee's home. I consider this a break through in helping to prove that strange things are happening in abductee's homes.

Canada reaps bumper harvest of crop circles The truth is out there, believers advise

Jim Bronskill, Southam News

<http://www.ottawacitizen.com/national/000205/3548132.html>

Judy Arndt, Circles Phenomenon Research Canada / This is a portion of an impressive 11-circle formation discovered near Neilburg, Sask. They inspired aboriginal celebrations, prompted reports of bizarre electrical malfunctions and may have even made people nauseous.

It was a bumper year for Canadian crop circles in 1999, those strange patterns that seem to magically appear in farmers' fields each summer. A new report says 20 circular and geometric figures were discovered in six

provinces last year, a 33-per-cent increase from 1998. Some of the largest and most impressive formations ever seen in Canada showed up in Prairie fields, says the annual report of Circles Phenomenon Research Canada, compiled by group director Paul Anderson.

"In short, 1999 was a banner year for crop circles in Canada, and may indicate that we need to be keeping a closer eye on what is going on in the fields of our farmlands."

CPR-Canada relies on members, farmers, the media and other contributors for information about circles. Some have dismissed the circles as elaborate hoaxes, particularly following recent admissions from British pranksters who used wooden planks to craft patterns in grain fields.

However, Mr. Anderson's organization notes some patterns show evidence of altered plant and soil composition. Some circles have turned up in remote locations during stormy or moonless nights. And there are eyewitness accounts of shapes being formed.

Circles appeared last year across North America as well as in Britain, the Czech Republic, Germany, Netherlands and Israel.

In Canada, 10 circles were discovered in Saskatchewan, the country's primary locale of crop oddities since the 1970s, when the phenomenon was first documented. Four turned up in Alberta, three in Ontario and one apiece in British Columbia, Prince Edward Island and Quebec. The longest crop formation to date in Canada - almost 100 metres -- was one of two patterns to appear in wheat fields on the New Credit Reserve near Hagersville, Ont., last July. Members of the native community held ceremonies in the fields to mark their appearance.

CPR-Canada investigators reported malfunctioning camera equipment in and around the formations, a common phenomenon at circle sites sometimes attributed to high electromagnetic frequency emissions. Some people also experienced headaches or nausea.

A complex, swirling pattern was discovered in early September near Neilburg, Sask. Researcher Judy Arndt visited the site with her husband, taking several measurements and photographs. "We can't judge the authenticity of this formation, but we can say this: it was consistently neat," she later reported. "There were no signs of breakage of the stems."

Two "perfectly circular" patterns in a blueberry field were discovered in August by a farmer near Tignish, P.E.I. The RCMP investigated a formation consisting of

a teardrop and diamond shapes in a corn field near Lowville, Ont., and reportedly collected samples for lab testing. An amateur researcher heard an unusual humming sound around the formation, recorded odd compass movements and found a white cobweb-like material under flattened stalks.

In most cases, says the report, there was no direct evidence of a hoax, such as footprints in the circles or tracks leading in or out of the patterns. The report acknowledges the percentage of phoney circles is "a source of heated debate" among researchers, but contends that pranks are usually obvious upon close examination.

The Canadian group says laboratory studies have repeatedly found unexplained physical anomalies in samples taken from many crop circles, including swollen, stretched or split nodes on plant stems, dehydrated or shrunk seeds, and significant changes in growth rate.

Bovine Intervention: High-powered research team tries to get to the bottom of cow mutilations

By J. Douglas Allen-Taylor

Source: METRO - Silicone Valley's Weekly Newspaper
<http://www.metroactive.com:80/metro/slices-0003.html>
For the Week of January 20-26, 2000

Are extraterrestrial aliens swooping down on the cattle ranches of our Western states, pouncing on unsuspecting cows, cutting out their vaginas and other interesting body parts, and carrying them back to their home planets for weird science experiments?

The National Institute for Discovery Science isn't ready to say yes, but they're not throwing out the possibility, either. The privately funded research organization is conducting a serious study of what it calls the "controversy regarding the alleged connection between cattle mutilations and UFOs."

"We've been able in a few cases to rule out predators, scavengers and infectious disease, and we've been able to show, using veterinary pathology, that sharp instruments were used on these animals. That's as far as we're prepared to go," says NIDS deputy administrator Colm Kelleher. "Who's using the sharp instruments, why they're using them, we have no idea. In most of the cases there has been an absence of vehicle tracks around the scene. We don't know what that means. A lot of ranchers have reported a lot of unusual activity in the sky to us, but we're not in a position of drawing a cause and effect between UFOs

and animal mutilations without more evidence. There's not a smoking gun, so to speak."

At first glance, it's easy to dismiss the folks at NIDS as a bunch of, well, nitwits. Not counting people who have chosen to isolate themselves from humanity by several hundred miles of desert, who actually believes that extraterrestrials are cutting up our cows? And why, of all the locations on earth for a national headquarters, did this organization's management choose Las Vegas? The last time we associated extraterrestrials with Nevada's gambling capital, they were zapping peace doves and singing backup vocals for Tom Jones in Tim Burton's *Mars Attacks*.

But these people are serious. The organization's founder, Robert Bigelow, is a successful national business developer, the owner of Budget Suites of America. Kelleher, his second in command, holds a Ph.D. in biochemistry. One member of the organization's Science Advisory Board once served on the Manhattan Project, which developed the atomic bomb; another is the provost of the University of Nevada at Las Vegas; and a third, former Apollo astronaut Edgar Mitchell, was the sixth man to walk on the moon.

And they conduct serious investigations.

In one report on a mutilated cow by a NIDS investigator studying a 1998 incident in northeastern Utah, the organization alleged that the cow's left eye and ear had been removed, an "unusual, formaldehyde containing blue gel-like substance was found on the eye, the ear and the anus of the animal, its heart was shredded, and though no fetus was present, it tested positive on two different pregnancy tests."

Kelleher says that this is one of perhaps a half-dozen cattle-mutilation cases NIDS has documented in its four-year existence that cannot be explained by so-called natural phenomena, such as scavengers or human poachers.

Lest anyone wish to distance themselves from the issue by several hundred miles of parched desert, NIDS has received "lots of reports from Northern California" that the organization has not been able to investigate (NIDS hotline: 702.798.1700.)

"Ninety-five percent of the calls involve cattle," Kelleher says. "But occasionally we hear about a horse, or an elk, or a buffalo."

According to the NIDS website, missing body parts of dead cattle include lips, tongue, skin and muscles of the lower jaw, rectum and/or genitalia (vulva, vagina,

sometimes the entire uterus), penis, scrotum (with or without testicles), eyeball (with or without eyelids; usually only one, on the upper side, when the animal is lying on its side), tail, mammary gland (the whole udder or teats only) and ears. An online graph indicates that the most commonly reported missing parts are rectums and vaginas.

Another mutilation investigator, former Alabama police officer and now Bay Area resident Ted Oliphant III, talks in a 1997 article on his website about a dead cow found in Red Bluff (Sonoma County): "It was found missing teats from the udder, its jaw had been stripped and an ear was missing. Then it happened again, and again and again. By the time the first year had passed, the Bartons had lost four head of livestock." Oliphant attributes the mutilations to a government conspiracy rather than alien invaders.

But according to the Idaho Falls Post Register, animal-mutilation investigator Linda Moulton Howe, author of the book *An Alien Harvest*, believes that extraterrestrials are definitely behind the cattle killings. "I've talked to dozens of eyewitnesses who have seen silver discs landing in their fields," Howe is quoted as saying.

An Objective Model for PSI

By Craig R. Lang

Over the years, UFO researchers have made many observations, which would suggest the reality of parapsychology or PSI phenomena (This includes some possible indications in my own case files). In addition, many books and articles in the literature ("*Margins of Reality*" by Jahn and Dunne, "*The Conscious Universe*" by Dean Radin) also built an excellent case for an objective reality to PSI. But while evidence would appear to exist to suggest a solid reality behind PSI, the lack of a theoretical mechanism very much hinders the acceptance of this data by the scientific community.

Recently in a web course which I took through the University of Arizona (<http://conscious.arizona.edu>) entitled "Consciousness at the Millenium, Quantum approaches to Understanding the Mind", the instructors explored some potential mechanisms which might underlie the phenomenon of consciousness. They built what I thought was an excellent, if unproven, theoretical framework for consciousness studies – including PSI phenomena, from several very solid theoretical perspectives.

One theory seemed very well developed, and to me it looked very promising. This was a hypothesis by Roger

Penrose, Michael Conrad and Stuart Hameroff (the course facilitator) that quantum behavior of substructures called microtubules (or MTs), within nerve cells, could be the site at which quantum behavior is manifest. The mechanism, entitled Orchestrated Objective Reduction (abbreviated Orch-OR), is explored in detail in Roger Penrose's book "Shadows of the Mind". This theory suggests that microtubules may be the underlying structures supporting consciousness. Interestingly, this theory would also allow for non-locality of consciousness - critical for PSI.

Microtubules are a well established component of the nerve cell. They are cylindrical structures composed of protein molecules called tubulins. Each tubulin has a structure which specifically allows it to be affected by quantum mechanics. Tubulins can interact both with each other, and with random quantum influences in the environment - which Penrose suggests may be the zero-point fabric of space itself. It is this zero-point interaction which might allow Tubulins to be affected by non-local influences, a mechanism for PSI. In addition, interactions between Tubulins, might allow a coherent quantum field to form within the large scale neural network of the brain.

Microtubules interconnect within neurons and also interact across synaptic gap junctions between neurons. According to the authors, quantum field behavior would be able to couple across these junctions. Thus, coherent quantum effects could manifest themselves on a moderate to large scale within the brain. Computer models described by the authors show how a periodic cycle of quantum and classical behavior would occur. At a rate of approximately 40 times per second, a quantum field would develop within the microtubule network and would manifest for a time strictly defined by Heisenberg's uncertainty principle, at which time the field would resolve itself into specific states of the Tubulins (a process known as objective reduction). The authors suggest that this cyclical, but chaotic signal of approximately 40 Hz corresponds with the electronic "noise" which is often observed in measurements of brainwaves, even within EEG traces taken by electrodes within the brain itself.

What needs to be more clearly established, in my view, is the means by which quantum wave behavior affects the currently understood electrical properties of nerves, and what role microtubules play in this process. The authors state that answers to this class of questions appear to be in the works. They also state that microtubules are integral parts of the nerve cell, controlling many facets of the neural behavior, but do not build a very clear picture of this.

To their credit, their theory offers some very concrete predictions. Many of these involve electronic behavior of nerve cells, and properties of EEG waveforms, which can be clearly measured. In addition, they postulate that responses of the brain and of consciousness to certain anesthetics should have very well-defined properties. Thus, this theory is, at least in principle, verifiable.

If the authors are right, we may be well on our way to a concrete understanding of the PSI phenomenon. If this is the case, then the holy grail of PSI researchers might be in reach - a well-defined physical paradigm to understand the PSI phenomenon.

Six-Toed Sasquatch?

<http://ufobc.org/sixtoed.htm>

On January 4th, 2000, we received an e-mail from Robert Epp in Penticton, BC, recounting a very interesting story from 5 years ago. Here is his e-mail:

My name is Robert, I live in Penticton BC. I usually don't tell this story because everyone laughs at me, here it is, take it or leave it. About 5 years ago, I was mountain biking with friends NE of Penticton, BC, when I came across footprints that were about 18" long, a left foot and a right. They were about 4" in the ground, which was very hard (an old railway bed). They had 6 toes, yes 6 toes on each foot and the prints had grain and lines to them like your hand does. I left them and went to get my friends, when I came back with my friends they all laughed, they thought I did it as a trick. Honestly, I couldn't reproduce what I found even if I wanted to, I have thought about how a forgery could have been made but the details on the print itself, and the fact they were 4" in the old train tracks, truck tire tracks only sink in maybe 1 inch. The prints were heading west down a very steep bank, to the east was a cliff about 35-40' straight up.

Assuming the tracks were real, it appeared the bigfoot had jumped down the cliff onto the tracks and continued down the embankment, explaining the depth of the prints. One of my friends convinced that I had created these prints destroyed them later with his pick-up. Should that friend Ryan ever get to read this story I would like to remind him that he is an idiot. To make a long story short I never got to plaster cast these prints. I have told this story to Thomas Steenburg a researcher from Alberta, as well as Rene Dahinden from BC. Both were amazed by the fact that the prints had 6 toes, but not surprised as there are a lot of oddities in nature. I know a guy with 3 nipples!

Like I said, these are the facts as I know them, take it or leave it!

Yours truthfully, Robert Epp
Penticton BC

Strange footprints discovered in the Quebec forest by a wildlife specialist. Journal de Montréal

Following the recent publication of an article in the Journal de Montreal about the discovery of strange holes and mysterious beings, the Quebec Association of Ufology received a call from 3 people who claimed they had discovered the footprints of an animal not known to any specialist. We must stress that those 3 people are themselves expert in the field of tracking forest animals, having spent a large part of their lives in the forest.

Their incredible adventure begins on November 14, 1997 when the three witnesses decided to help out a friend who wanted to clear a snowmobile track in the forest. It was snowing the night before so the ground was covered by snow in many places. After a few minutes of walking the three witnesses saw a strange animal footprint on the snow. It was totally unknown to any of them. It looked like three fingers with claws and was 8 to 9 inches long. A little later, Mr. Réal Descoteaux (who graciously authorized us to publish his name) continued to walk alone toward a nearby clearing besides a frozen swamp. As he reached the clearing, he suddenly felt a great heat coming out from the ground. The heat then stopped as soon as he continued past the clearing, leaving only the cold air of a november to fill the void. That fact really ticked him off and Mr. Descoteaux was quick to see the link between that strange heat and the footprints 300 feet away. It was around noon time.

Later on, the second witness (Mr. E) came back from the close mountain and met Mr. Descoteau at the clearing and then, he felt the same sensation of heat coming from the ground at the same exact spot. When the third witness arrived at 5 pm, he too described a sensation of heat in the clearing near the swamp. They suddenly realized that they were confronted to an unknown but very real phenomenon. Real, who couldn't get out of his mind the events of the day, decided three days later to go back. That time, he brought a camera.

The snow had melted, and this was fairly typical of November. But as a consequence the footprints had disappeared. Undaunted, he decided with another

witness to carefully inspect the area and after walking a hundred feet along a small stream, he was amazed to find five to six footprints identical to the one they discovered in the snow a few days earlier. He took pictures and brought them back to provincial government wildlife specialists. Those specialists (who asked not to be identified) couldn't identify the footprints and were extremely curious about them. As we said earlier, Mr. Descoteaux is himself a well known wildlife specialist, lecturing at conferences and being consulted by many.

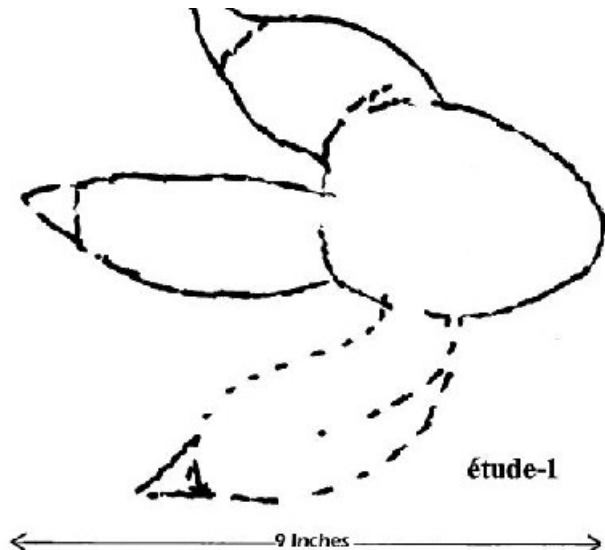
After receiving a call from Mr. Descoteaux on August 28, 1999, Gilles Milot, the actual president of A.Q.U (Quebec association of Ufology) decided to investigate this case by visiting the area in the hope of seeing for himself similar strange footprints. He saw the pictures took by Real and was greatly impressed. After a day of carefully inspecting the area, taking pictures and being taught about recognizing animal footprints by Mr. Descoteaux, nothing had been discovered and he was forced to go back home empty handed.

On November 15 1999, the Quebec Association of Ufology was contacted by Mr. Yvon Leclerc, a world authority on fossil footprints. Having heard of the case, he wanted to meet with us to discuss the footprints and take a look at the pictures. His professionalism greatly impressed us and he was very interested and serious about the case. He too couldn't identify the footprints and as of today, we still keep a close contact with Mr. Leclerc as he continue to research the origins of those footprints. We greatly appreciate Mr. Leclerc's collaboration and hope that he will help us shed a little light on that mystery.

Could it be that an unknown and previously undiscovered animal exist in our province? Or is this a case about an animal that we thought had disappeared long ago but is still alive and well? The challenge is great in discovering what lies behind that mystery. What about the heat? How is it related to the footprints ? Is this an unrelated and natural event? Or something else even more mysterious and incredible? Maybe we will never know as the line is thin between fiction and reality.

In the attachments you will find a drawing of the footprint along with a map of the center of the province of Quebec. The footprint photographs cannot be distributed immediately since Mr. Descoteaux is waiting to obtain a copyright on them. We call on anyone who would have any information about this case or on similar cases elsewhere to contact us at: Association Quebecoise d'Ufologie (514) 865-0546. Email: a.q.u.@videotron.ca.

New update: We have received two reports from people (4 witnesses in one case and three in the other) who saw exactly the same footprints in Quebec's forest. It's interesting to see that the sightings are located many hundred kilometers from St-Paulin which is approximately 50 Km (30 miles) from Three-Rivers. See attached map.



Quebec Print: Computer generated drawing made by Mr. Yvon Leclerc from the photographs.



Quebec Map: Map of the province of Quebec

Field Investigator Update: March, 2000

By Craig R. Lang
MN MUFON FI Coord.

The Winter months usually bring a lull in local UFO reports. The earliest months of the year 2000 have been no exception. After a rather active Fall, the UFO phenomenon apparently has become somewhat quieter in the local skies.

As an investigator, this gives me the chance to go back and continue work on some ongoing sighting reports over the last few months. One sighting, occurring this Fall here in the Twin Cities area, deserves some note. The event occurred in the western suburbs in September 1999. Once again, it was a triangle sighting. The witness was driving on a side street in a moderately populated area. Looking up, she observed a bright light above the tree line. Her view being partially obscured by foliage, she slowly inched her car forward to a better vantage point. When she looked up again, she saw that where the light had been, there was now a large, dark triangular shaped object.

As with the majority of other triangle reports, this was of an object slightly smaller than a house, which moved slowly in a straight to gently curving path, at treetop level. The witness watched for several minutes as it passed almost directly overhead. The object moved in the direction of the triangle's leading vertex. She noted that there was one red and one green light on the trailing vertexes. She continued to observe it as it passed into the distance, eventually becoming lost in the distant tree line.

The similarity between this sighting and one or more other triangle sightings in the local area is extremely close. This extends to the sighting angles and the object description, as well as the movement of the object and witnesses relative to each other. It also includes the coincidence that the witnesses in each case had experienced previous phenomena. From this coincidence, perhaps we can wonder if there might be a relationship between the object and the witness. If this were to be the case, it would have significant implications for our understanding of the phenomenon. We can only understand more about this mystery by learning of and analyzing more sightings. So keep those sighting and investigation reports coming...

In addition, another sighting which occurred in August 1999, has come to light in the last few months. In this event, a family was driving westbound on a detour off of highway 12, in Wright county, when they observed a large, disk-shaped craft moving west to east, parallel to the road. Several of the witnesses have been interviewed, and this case is now in followup.

investigation. Hopefully, in the next few months we should know more as we reach all of the witnesses to the event.

If you know of any information that might bring to light any sightings or encounters, or have any further updates on events discussed in this column, please contact Craig Lang (phone: 612-560-1532, e-mail: crlang@mm.com, or Minnesota MUFON through our webpage at: 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 investigators manual.

We always need more investigators in our effort to better understand the UFO phenomenon. Those who seriously take up the study of UFO events, will always find a trail of challenge and mystery to follow.

Happy investigating...

A Book on Chinese UFO's reviewed by Joel Henry, Ed.

The Chinese Roswell: UFO Encounters in the Far East from Ancient times to the Present by Hartwig Hausdorf (New Paradigm Books).

This book is a history of UFO's and paranormal phenomena in China and the surrounding areas where information about such things is scarce. It took 7 years for the author to gather all the information. It's almost like Chariots of the Gods in China. There is some information on recent events as well. It is a reasonably good source (and one of very few) for Chinese UFO info. It's a good read, and just goes to show that UFO's are present throughout the Earth.

The publisher is offering a deal for readers of the Minnesota MUFON Journal: 30% discount if you mention you heard about it in this journal. That's \$9.77 +\$3.20 ship/handling = \$12.97.

Contact info: E-mail: jdc@flinet.com, Fax: (561) 852-8322, Phone: (561) 482-5971, or write to: New Paradigm Books, 22783 South State road 7, Suite 97, Boca Raton, FL 33428.

The following URL is a report on a UFO the size of a football stadium in Yukon Territory, Canada: <http://ufobc.org/yukon/22index.htm>

MUFON presentations at MarsCon 2000.

At the Radisson South Hotel, Bloomington, MN.

Tentative Schedule: Friday May 12, 2000, 8 to 10PM

8PM - Don Schmitt: Current Roswell Topics.

9PM - Craig Lang: UFOs and Close Encounters in the Present Day.

10PM - Open Discussion on the UFO and close encounter phenomenon. Format is TBD: 1:1 with experiencers, or general Q&A.

MarsCon 2000 website is: <http://www.MarsCon.com/m2k>

Minnesota MUFON

State Director: Richard Moss (320) 732-3205

Assist. State Dir: William McNeff (612) 890-1390

Field Invest. Coord.: Craig Lang (612) 560-1532

Journal Editors:

Joel Henry, PO Box 240631

Apple Valley, MN 55124

(612) 431-2426 jhenry@visi.com

National MUFON Hotline

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

MUFONET: 7.237mhz Sat. at 7:00am CST,

Bob Shultz, Net Control

MN MUFON WEB PAGE

<http://www.visi.com/~jhenry/index.html>

Joel Henry, Webmaster

(Your news or editorial contributions to this Journal are welcomed and appreciated. Please direct articles or inquiries at the above address.)

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