

Minnesota MUFON Journal

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Directors Report

WHAT SHOULD WE BE DOING?

By William I. McNeff

"MUFON's mission is the systematic collection and analysis of UFO data, with the ultimate goal of learning the origin and nature of the UFO phenomenon." So reads MUFON's mission statement, as printed on the masthead page of each issue of the MUFON UFO Journal. The Minnesota MUFON board, which is an informal body, adopted a similar statement, to the effect that our goal is the investigation of UFO reports and the education of the public about UFOs.

At the March Minnesota MUFON meeting we held a panel discussion on the question, "What would be the effect on the public if the US government revealed we are being visited by aliens -- i.e., should the public be told?" One of the panelists said she believed that the public should be told something about UFOs and aliens, but not everything. I think that is a very reasonable answer. Her answer pointed up the problem that the government group that manages UFO information has. Unless this group knows the purposes of the alleged alien visits, they would be forced to say, if they were honest, "Yes, UFOs and space aliens exist, but we don't know what their motives and plans are with regard to humankind. We don't know if they are simply studying us or if they plan to invade us, colonize us, come to live with us, or help us with the myriad problems facing us. We don't know whether it is a win-win situation or a lose-lose situation." If UFOs are real -- and I think the evidence is overwhelming -- then the public needs to be gradually made aware of that fact. Not suddenly aware, because there are people whose mental equilibrium might be seriously upset by the sudden realization that there are aliens out there, and not very far out there, at that!

The only body with official responsibility for the safety of the US populace is the government. But some things are too important to be left only to the government. Each human has the responsibility to be informed about situations that may affect their well-being, be it pollution of earth's air, water, and land, injustices that can lead to violence, the balance between resources spent for national defense vs. public works and education, and the possible presence of visitors from outside of Earth. Far too many people do not concern themselves with any of these things, but only with making a living and amusing themselves. I think it should be the goal of MUFON to make more people aware of the probability that earth is being visited, and the kinds of things that seem to be going on, such as the so-called abductions and possible genetic manipulations.

Recently I was in a discussion with some friends of MUFON. The statement was made, "MUFON should have 150,000 members, not just a few thousand. MUFON leadership should announce that UFOs are real, and that there is no controversy about that. They should refuse to play the game that the media continually foster, where MUFON researchers are invited to make statements and debunkers such as Phillip Klass ridicule them." The speaker went on to point to the success that a certain evangelist's organization has had. He seemed to be saying MUFON should be engaging in strenuous publicity

Minnesota Mufon Meetings

Sat., May 13th
&
Sat., June 10th
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.



efforts, perhaps even hucksterism. But it seems to me that to announce that there is no controversy about something is the most certain way to generate controversy. And when hucksters are recognized as such, their reputations crash.

The controversial MJ-12 Eisenhower Briefing Document, which seems to be gradually getting more respect from researchers, spoke of having a public announcement ready in case events should force the government to admit the reality of alien space craft. Presumably, whether or not the MJ-12 document is genuine, some group in government has such an announcement locked up in a classified file, ready to be read by a government spokesperson. It would be interesting to know what it says. It probably is reviewed and revised periodically. It would be premature for MUFON to take the bull by the horns and make such an announcement; we can't get too far ahead of history. Besides, what would we say? We don't know the ultimate purposes of the alleged aliens. Instead of shocking announcements, we need to continue to document and study all phenomena that seem to be related to possible alien visitation; eventually, the data will point toward some answers as well as new questions and directions of investigation. This is the way science works, when it is properly done. (The late Dr. J. Allen Hynek pointed out that science is not always what scientists do.) We also need to share the data along the way, so the final answers, if we ever find any, will not be too big a surprise.

New Research Casts Doubts On False Memory Syndrome **By Patricia Reaney**

http://dailynews.yahoo.com/h/nm/20000313/sc/health_memory_2.html 3-15-00

LONDON (Reuters) - British scientists say they have cast doubts on the prevalence of False Memory Syndrome and the idea that recovered memories are often bogus ones induced by therapists.

The theory that memories of events which never occurred can be constructed by suggestion during therapy has been used successfully as a defense by those accused of child abuse, to discredit children's testimony.

Researchers at University College London claim their study of data from 236 adults with recovered memories shows many are of true past events. "There is now consistent evidence that 'False Memory Syndrome' cannot explain all, or even most, examples of recovered

memories of trauma," the British Psychological Society said in a statement.

"There is increasing evidence that many recovered memories cannot be explained by so-called False Memory Syndrome. To date there is no convincing evidence for a specific False Memory Syndrome," Dr. Bernice Andrews, who conducted the study, told Reuters.

"What we've shown is that a substantial proportion of these memories have been corroborated," she said in a telephone interview. Contrary to common belief, she added, not all repressed memories are about childhood sexual abuse. They can result from many types of trauma and not all are recovered during therapy.

"People often come into therapy because they have started to remember things that have happened in the past. In our study around a third of cases were people who came into therapy after recovering memories," said Andrews.

She and her colleagues interviewed 108 qualified therapists about the 236 patients. They said the most common triggers for recovering memories were events concerning patients' own children that they associated with violence or fear that they felt themselves. Less often books, videos and memory recovery techniques were used to help patients recall the events.

"Therapists in the majority of cases do not use aggressive, suggestive techniques to get their clients to remember things. They (memories) come up just as a matter of course during therapy and are often accompanied by a lot of emotion as though the person is reliving the event in the present," Andrews explained.

The researchers said their study cannot prove that all recovered memories are true. "You certainly can't explain all instances of people recovering memories in therapy in terms of so-called False Memory Syndrome," Andrews added.

DECIPHER OF GENERAL RAMEY'S ROSWELL MESSAGE

Neil Morris writes that Christopher Farmer was able to decipher some of the message held in General Ramey's hand and photographed by Bond Johnson in 1947. The General was posed in his office for the photo in front of the Roswell crash debris fifty years ago. Chris was able to spend considerable time with the photograph and utilizing new commercial software has deciphered one line of the message. Chris states, "I was able to

conclusively come up with the following in Line 2 of the message. It isn't exactly the way you have it on your website and I quote. The first word of that line which is not indisposed to be analyzed is "extract". The second word is "the", so the line actually reads:

EXTRACT THE VICTIMS OF THE WRECK AND CONWAY ON TO THE" (Ft. Worth, TX).

We looked at that line by the pixels so we hope this helps. When I have time I will look at the other segments. Thanks to Neil Morris and Chris Farmer.
<http://adm2.ph.man.ac.uk/ftw-pics/index.htm>.

Editor's Note: Victims and a wreck seem to rule out a balloon and infers some type of craft crashed in 1947 at Roswell. The story below also confirms this theory.

ANOTHER NEW ROSWELL WITNESS

I was at Roswell in 1947 to early 1950. I was as at the time a gunner in the 393rd Bomb Squadron, 509th Bomb Group and a member of Captain Frederick Ewing's B-29 combat crew with tail number 44-7301 (Straight Flush).

On Wednesday, July 9, 1947, our crew transported a crate to Carswell Army Air Force Base, Fort Worth, Texas in 1:55 minutes. The mission and cargo was classified. The crate was hauled in the front bomb bay and armed guards rode in that bomb bay with the crate. When I removed the down lock, I saw a Major and a Technical Sergeant in the bomb bay and some others in there. They rode the whole trip in the bomb bay and did not return with us. We flew unpressurized at about 8,000 feet. Our bombardier made a safety check of the shackles which held the platform secure. Those shackles were rigged so that the cargo could not be jettisoned. The corporal tail gunner and I saw the crate when we removed the down locks from the from the bomb doors. The crate was covered with a tarp when unloaded and taken away on a trailer at Carswell. I would guess the crate was about 12 x 6 x 6 feet. The engineer and I talked about weight and balance. They evidently had not given him a firm figure on the weight. He said with a laugh, "As long as it isn't more than five thousand pounds our center of gravity should be okay." We knew that Ft. Worth was to be our landing point, and we might get to see the new B-36 bomber. Someone made a remark about carrying "The General's Furniture". There had also been rumors for a couple of days about a spaceship crash, but we were only told it was classified cargo and to stay back.

On the way home, I went forward to chat with Warrant Officer Landry about minor problem with a prop. We had the Curtiss Electric's and there was concern that one

of them was hunting a bit. Major Jessie Marcel rode back to Roswell with us and I talked briefly with him. He was always interested in the enlisted men on flight crews. He wanted gunners to be good observers when on long missions. I don't think his questions that day were probing. We were useful mostly as scanners because we had only tail guns. He asked if I was anxious to get into B-36's? We were told repeatedly not to talk of this incident, not even to our wives. I held that inside until 1988 when books began to appear. To this day I am in touch with one other member of our crew. Most of the others are no longer alive. Major Ewing was killed in a B-47 crash in Florida in 1952.

Sometime afterwards, about three to six months later, the wives began talking among themselves about the cleanup detail. This originated from the wives of men on that duty. One such was a neighbor of ours in July 1947. They moved across town, but I would sometimes see him and I ask him what he had seen out there. He was upset and told me, "You don't want to know." I think he was a baker because he would leave for work in the early morning, like 0130 hours. A time or two when I'd come in from a late flight he would be standing on the corner waiting for a ride. They did not own a car. Based on the wives gossip we heard that he had seen a body.

Later, I became a pilot and while in SAC and was an instructor in the Aero-clubs and moonlighting as a crop duster. Aviation has been my life. While in SAC KC-97's at March AFB our crew had two weird experiences, with something that officially wasn't there. You may put the story in your Filer's Files. Thanks to a Roswell B-29 gunner. Editor's Note: The government claims what was brought to Fort Worth under guard was an unclassified Mogul Balloon that they launched regularly from White Sands Proving Grounds with printed instructions on the side for a reward if found. Our witness claims there were multiple guards inside the bomb bay. Even Atomic bombs did not normally warrant guards inside the bomb bay and certainly not an officer with the rank of Major. The witness verifies parts of the message held in General Ramey's hand such as the debris was forwarded to Fort Worth as ordered below:

FOUR RAMEY MESSAGE COMPARISONS

Neil Morris writes from the University of Manchester in England. Several distinguished groups are attempting to interpret the writing on a message held in General Ramey's hand taken in the Commander's 8th Air Force office by photographer James Bond Johnson in July of 1947. David Rudiak's sent his "take" of the message and allowed me to include it in the comparisons of readings taken from a message that takes up a tiny portion of the photograph.

It has taken fifty years and modern computers to attempt to read the message. There are several interpretations of the message and we should emphasize that the various "takes" are far from being set in stone and represent a "snap-shot" of a work in progress as of April. The interpretations, I am sure, WILL change and evolve as time goes on.

- 1) CAPITALS denote firm interpretation.
- 2) Lower space are guesses but may be incorrect
- 3) "*" denote unknown letter,
- 4) My line format is to the best I can conclude, correct to the grid layout of the typed text

(M) - Neil Morris at U. of Manchester.
(B) - Don Burleson's interpretation MUFON Journal March 2000.
(C) - Tom Carey/Don Schmitt interpretation 3/2000.
(DR) - David Rudiak, March/April 2000
(F) - Chris Farmer/Filer

Line 1.

???xxxx-xxx--x-xxxxxxxx xxx--xx-xxx xxxx xxx--xx-x xx
xxx
(M) reco VERY Was ROSWELI Head olc giveN AS THE
(B)- RECO---- OPERATION WITH ROSWELL DISK 074
MJ--AT THE
(C) RECO ... OPERATION AT THE
(DR) recovery operations WEre fo und NEAR site two,
at one

Line 2.

???xxxx xxx xxx xxxxxxxx xx xxx xxxxx xxx xxxxxxxxxx xx
xxx
(M) ext 4*S EXp VltiMS of THE WReck and CONVAy
ON TO THE
(B) - --- THE VICTIMS OF THE WRECK YOU
FORWARDED TO THE
(C) JULY 4TH THE VICTIMS OF THE WRECK YOU
FORWARDED TO THE
(DR) todaY All THE VICTIMS OF THE WRECK YOU
FORWARDED TO THE

Line 3. ???xxx xx xxxx xxxxxx xxx.

(M) *** at FORT WORTH. Txe.
(B) TEAM AT FORT WORTH. TXE.
(C) AT FORT WORTH. TEX.
(DR) teaM AT FORT WORTH, TEX.

Line 4.

??xxxxxx xx xxx xxxxxx xxxx xxxx xxxx xxx xx-xxx xxx-
xx-
(M) w**S** SOrTei *e**** thAT- ONUS raaF T&E
A3**9* Landparty
(N) (B) ----SS-- ON THE "DISK" MUST- HAVE
SENT -0- A-AM-- A-----D(C) ESSOR

ON THE "DISK" MUST THUS SAVE FOR ATOMIC
LABORATORY

(DR) ----ses in THE "DISC" THEY will ship FOR Ac-as2
Arrived

Line 5.

??xxxx-xx xx-xxxx xxxxxx xx xxxxxx xxxxxxxx xx xxxxxxxx
xxx
(M) SOught CRASHes *O**** are needed slTEone
** *s***** locate
(B) -- URGENT. POWERS ARE NEEDED SITETWO AT
CARLSBAD,NMEX--
(C) URGENT. POWERS ARE NEEDED SITE TWO NW
ROSWELL, N.MEX.
(DR) by b29 OR c47. bomber sq AsSist
flights AT ROSWELL.
AS---

Line 6.

??xx-x-xxxxxx xxxx xxxx xxxxxxxx xxxxxxxx xx xxxxx xxx
xxxx
(M) MIDDAY 509# TOLD newspaPeR segment of
STORY Adv ****
(B) - SAFE TALK NEWSPAPER MEANING OF STORY AND

(C) SAFE TALK WANTED FOR MEANING OF STORY
AND MISSION
(DR) (at noon)todaY SAID SenD MiStatEd rElease AS
STORY And said
(F) "TOLD GA50 UNKNOWN SGMNTS OF
STORY...etc."__

Line 7.

??-xxxxxx xxxx xxxx xxx xx-xx xxxxxxxx xxxxxxxx xxxxx
xxxx
(M) LLY ThrY EVEN PUT for AF WEATATN BALLOONS
raDar WERE
(B) ONLY SHOW ---- ---- BY WEATHER
BALLOONS 400-KW WAVE
(C) NEXT CREW OUT TODAY. WEATHER BALLOONS
WOULD MAKE
(DR) (news)theY nEXt send out is of WEATHER
BALLOONS would make

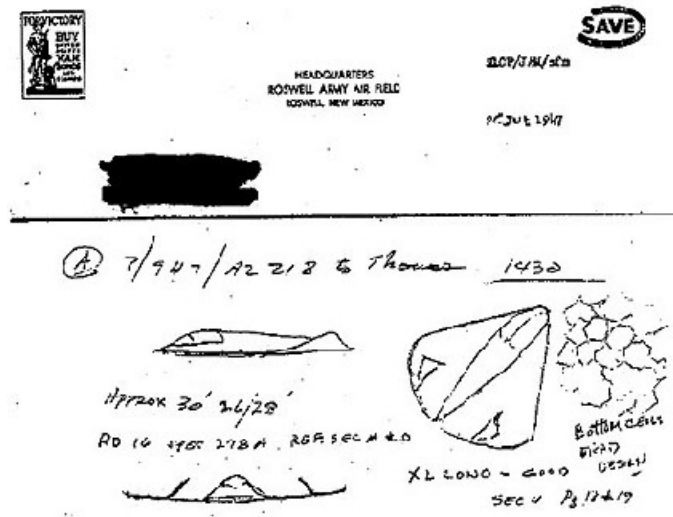
Line 8. ??-xxxx-x xxxx xxx xxxx xxxxxxxxxx xxxxx.

(M) And Land L*** denver ofww3
(B) ---- -- 9 AND LAND L--- DENVER CREWS.
(C) . . . 509 HAS LAND SURVEYOR CREWS.
(DR) (a good)storY. ADD LAND Displayer crewS.

Line 9. xxxxx-

(M) *****
(B) TEMPLE
(C) "R RAMEY"
(DR) rAMEy
(F) TEMPLE

Thanks to Neil Morris, Dept, of Physics, University of Manchester.



BRIMBERRY OVERHEARD GENERAL RAMEY ON ROSWELL

Researcher Tom Carey reports, "I was able to interview Mr. Marion Brimberry a little over six months ago. It was clear to me that he was sorry that he ever said anything about it in the first place. It was like pulling teeth to get him to say anything to me. In brief, all he would tell me was that, back in late 1947 or early 1948 when he was stationed at Ft. Worth Army Air Field, he was part of a flight crew waiting on the tarmac for a B-29 to taxi up for boarding. In the group waiting was General Roger Ramey who was talking to some of the officers in Brimberry's crew. Brimberry told me that he overheard Ramey tell one of the officers that, "It [the weather balloon story] was the biggest lie they ever made me tell.", and that the real stuff was really, "Out of this world." That's basically all that I could get out of Mr. Brimberry who is a very reluctant witness. Thanks to Tom Carey.

Abstract from: 'La Tercera' newspaper Saturday, April 22 by Alejandro Ahumada

Expert Finds That Footprints Do Not Match Any Animals Known In This Area

Investigator Victor Espinosa, of Ecology Department, assisted by local police found that the footprints do not match any animal known in this region. He is making

plaster molds of the footprints and taking some hair samples for later Lab analysis.

"The paw prints do not match those of horses, cows, goats, pigs, felines or wild dogs". "After the lab examination we will be able to know what kind of animal it is" said Espinosa.

Espinosa points out that the animal walks on two legs and only attacks hot-blooded animals and not snakes or lizards of the region. Also, he points out the lack of fecal or urine close to the attacks.

Witnesses described the "animal" to be one meter (3.5 feet) tall, covered in hair, yellow eyes and walking on two legs.

NOTE: We also received other reports: Police and local ufologists received reports of strange red lights (UFOs) in the region. Anti-narcotic police went to investigate the area looking for a clandestine trafficker airport, but to their surprise, found a perfect triangular mark. Locals said they never had seen that mark before the 'Chupacabra' attacks.

Photos of the Chile footprints look to match the ones we took here in Miami during the 'Chupacabra' attacks in 1996.

Dr. Virgilio Sanchez-Ocejo
Miami UFO Center

<http://www.geocities.com/Area51/Corridor/1341/index.html>

RUSSIAN COSMONAUTS CLAIM UFOs ARE REAL

Cosmonaut Alexandr Baladin stated that "flying saucers" have come into close proximity to the MIR space station as well as the Baikonur Cosmodrome. He added there is sufficient evidence to warrant a scientific study of the phenomenon, and that it is time that world governments officially acknowledge the UFO phenomenon's existence. "General Vladimir Ivanov, former commander of Russia's Military Space Forces, recalls that three objects flew at a considerable altitude over Baikonur Cosmodrome and were picked up on radar. There is no way they could have been airplanes." insisted the cosmonaut. Baladin disclosed December 23, 1998, at Brazil's First International Ufology Forum, that he and fellow cosmonaut Musa Manarov had seen UFOs. During docking operations between his space capsule and the MIR, Baladin saw a glowing object a short distance away. Manarov managed to capture the strange phenomenon on videotape, that was shown during the UFO congress in Brazil. Baladin claimed that the

recording and other evidence presented during the Congress, "must be studied by an international scientific commission." Baladin insisted that the Russian military has a great contribution to make to UFO research, giving as an example the multiple-witness case at the Kaputsin Yar missile base, whose personnel sighted a semi-circular object flying at low altitude lighting up the bases facilities with a powerful searchlight in June 1989. "Many of my old comrades, who are now working at top-secret military facilities, acknowledge having seen UFOs. Thanks to Rubén Sobrino.

No Monopolies on Government Eavesdropping By Joseph Fitchett

Paris, Monday, February 28, 2000
Source: The International Herald Tribune

The wave of concern in Europe about U.S. intelligence services' intercepting commercial phone, fax and e-mail messages around the world has been surprising, diplomats say, mainly because it seems to demonstrate deepening international fears about the global reach of U.S. power.

The only new element in the discussion, triggered by a European Parliament report last week, is that Washington has for the first time dropped its denials that U.S. agencies routinely tap private conversations on a huge scale.

For more than a decade, after an earlier report first raised questions about worldwide U.S. electronic intelligence capabilities, Washington has maintained officially that the National Security Agency and National Reconnaissance Office and other U.S. listening agencies targeted only military and political antagonists.

Now the European Parliament report, filed in December and debated publicly last week, has taken a fresh and deeper look at Echelon, as the system is known.

While not entirely new, these disclosures - that the United States and its closest allies have developed a post-Cold War system that can record up to 2 billion telephone messages daily - fit a pattern of diffuse, persistent fears that Washington is ready to use any means, fair or foul, to advance toward U.S. global hegemony in power and business.

In a bid to clear up some misapprehensions, U.S. and European officials and specialists, some with links to intelligence services, were willing to disclose some aspects of current signal intelligence, as electronic

eavesdropping is known, on the condition that they not be identified.

They all asserted that listening to private conversations was common practice among governments, including those of Britain, Australia and Canada, which are associated with the United States in a worldwide effort.

France, too, where the media and some officials have gone furthest in accusing the United States of commercial espionage, has its own worldwide network to listen to international telephone communications, the officials and specialists said.

A secret facility in French Guiana is targeted on the main commercial communications satellite frequencies over North America and also has antennas designed to pick up calls inside the United States, they said.

Declining to comment on current French practices - except to praise Paris for cooperation in this area against international terrorists - the sources said France had a record into the 1990s of turning over secrets to French industry, which until recently has been largely state-owned.

Similar charges have been leveled at the U.S.-run worldwide program. In the European Parliament report, this complaint - that information gleaned by the National Security Agency and other U.S. intelligence agencies is given to American companies to help them against foreign competition - cites two often-mentioned cases where U.S. companies beat out French rivals at the last minute.

Providing fresh detail about these deals, which involved aircraft in Brazil and in Saudi Arabia, the sources disclosed that the U.S. government did use intelligence information and phone intercepts to influence the outcome by proving that the French bids involved bribery.

"We just gave them the stuff, the tapes, and they were faced with the evidence," said a person with access to the secret records of both cases. Confronted with this proof, Brazil felt compelled to award the contract to Raytheon and Saudi Arabia to McDonnell-Douglas, the source said.

The United States, and more recently France and other European countries, have passed laws against corruption in sales to foreign governments. As a result, recent U.S. administrations have felt entitled to use their secretly acquired information to prevent American companies from losing important deals because of bribes from competitors, presumably from American as well as international rivals.

Star trekking By Robert Matthews

Source: <http://xxx.lanl.gov/>
(archive gr-qc, abstract 0003092)

But the sources vigorously denied, as U.S. officials have consistently done, that intelligence information about rivals is ever passed on to individual American companies.

The clarifications were aimed at blunting suggestions in France and other European countries about the uses to which eavesdropping is put. In the widespread European rumor, U.S. electronic intelligence, developed as a military arm in the Cold War, has been redirected at targets in allied countries for commercial advantage.

U.S. officials have tried to dispel this suspicion, but their efforts seem to be hindered by the reluctance of the intelligence community, notably the branches involved in signal intelligence, to open up radically to allied services, even during joint operations in the Gulf and the Balkans, the sources said.

Governments in Europe have responded to the growing U.S. electronic reach by emulating it, albeit on a smaller scale.

The secret facility in French Guiana scans across the Caribbean in hopes of capturing phone traffic within the United States. France has two other main installations, one in Dordogne, in southwestern France, and one in New Caledonia.

The distinctly muted official reactions in Europe to the controversy over Echelon has other explanations, too: Few of these countries have any substantial safeguards against official eavesdropping on their own citizens.

"If they go too far in denouncing us, they are liable to end up with questions at home about the fact that the French authorities, for example, can do almost whatever they want," said an official involved in bilateral intelligence.

Another hard-to-quantify factor is the changing European perception of Britain. Echelon, in which Britain is the technical linchpin and direct beneficiary in Europe, is being viewed by some Europeans as confirmation that London is a Trojan horse of U.S. power in Europe.

But that image is blurring now that the government of Prime Minister Tony Blair is seriously exploring European military cooperation with Paris and other EU capitals.

FASTEN your seatbelts and hold on tight--intergalactic space travel is back on the agenda. Skeptics who dismiss the idea of faster-than-light travel through "wormholes" in space may have to think again, because new calculations based on Einstein's general theory of relativity suggest that wormholes large and stable enough to allow intergalactic travel really can exist.

The possibility that the cosmos is peppered with short cuts through space and time has intrigued people ever since 1915 when German theorist Ludwig Flamm found hints of their existence in Einstein's equations. While attempts to unify the fundamental forces of nature suggest that tiny quantum wormholes may exist, most experts suspect that some fundamental law of physics prevents the formation of large wormholes--not least because these would theoretically allow time travelers to go back in time and, say, prevent their own birth by accidentally killing one of their parents.

Now a Russian theorist has found a new type of wormhole that is compatible with the known laws of physics, yet can be as big and stable as you like.

According to Sergei Krasnikov, a relativity expert at the Pulkovo Observatory in St Petersburg, the standard arguments against large wormholes assume that they all have the same basic shape, and need to be crammed with "exotic matter" to keep them open

Such exotic matter has never been seen, but theory suggests it can be created literally out of nothing when space and time are curved in the right way. What Krasnikov has found is a new type of wormhole that can create its own supply of exotic matter--and in sufficient quantities to make it big enough and keep it open long enough for people to use.

"This new wormhole, like every other, needs exotic matter for it to form, and like some others can produce it by itself," Krasnikov told New Scientist. "What's new is that this wormhole actually generates enough to make it arbitrarily large." Other theorists admit to being intrigued by the new work, but remain cautious.

"It's worth taking seriously," says Ian Moss, a relativity expert at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne. "The main worry is that it could fall down on some technical detail." Paul Davies of Imperial College, London, adds that proving something is theoretically possible does not prove it actually exists: "My feeling is that the matter is still open," he says.

Krasnikov accepts that testing his claims by building a wormhole is far beyond present technology. Even so, such wormholes may have been left over from the big bang, he says--and finding one would have a dramatic effect on interstellar travel: "If there is a wormhole connecting the vicinities of the Earth and the star Vega, one can take a short cut by flying through it."

Physicist Ponders God, Truth and 'a Final Theory'

By JAMES GLANZ

FROM: NEW YORK TIMES on the web – Jan. 25, 2000,
SCIENTIST AT WORK / Steven Weinberg

AUSTIN, Tex. -- Dr. Steven Weinberg is perhaps the world's most authoritative proponent of the idea that physics is hurtling toward a "final theory," a complete explanation of nature's particles and forces that will endure as the bedrock of all science forevermore. He is also a powerful writer whose prose can illuminate -- and sting.

Frank Curry for The New York Times Physicists are still searching for evidence to prove one of Dr. Steven Weinberg's greatest ideas. But they believe it, and it won him a Nobel Prize in Physics in 1979.

His withering essay on the dangers of utopian thought was prominently featured in this month's Atlantic Monthly. The third volume of his "Quantum Theory of Fields," a weighty work on matter and energy at its most fundamental levels, is soon to be released by Cambridge University Press. And he recently received the Lewis Thomas Prize, awarded to the researcher who best embodies "the scientist as poet."

All of this combines two of his major passions: theoretical physics, which won him a Nobel Prize in 1979, and his often polemical writings on culture, religion, philosophy and, in particular, the history and politics of science.

At 66, he shows little sign of cutting back.

Dr. Weinberg, who grew up in the Bronx and is now a professor of physics and astronomy at the University of Texas, has little patience with the attempts by philosophers to explain how and why scientific theories are constructed, an activity that he regards as a squirrely intrusion on working scientists. He dislikes any suggestions that the "truths" of science might to some degree be artificially constructed, and therefore subject to change by different human cultures at different times.

As for human spirituality, "I don't even know what it means," he said. He sees no redeeming value in religion and considers it nonsense.

But though his writing reveals him a sometimes hard-edged thinker who follows the evidence without regard to tradition or sentiment, face-to-face he is frankly romantic, deeply touched by music and poetry in ways he admits reason can never justify or explain. "I love grand opera," he abruptly confessed in an interview in his book-lined study. "I can't hear 'La Bohème' without dissolving."

He enjoys hanging out with politicians, artists, writers and ranchers, and has friends outside the university orbit, in the heart of the Bible Belt. "There's a lot of good humor here," he said, adding that when he expounds his views on religion a common reaction goes something like, "There's old Steve. He will go on that way."

Dr. Weinberg was driving his red Camaro to work at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, in 1967 when he had an idea that changed physics. He realized that it might be possible to use a paradoxical-sounding idea about nature's fundamental order called broken symmetry to find the underlying unity in two of nature's four known forces or interactions.

The first, called electromagnetism, involves the everyday forces applied by electric and magnetic fields, and the second, called the weak force, causes the radioactive decay of elements like radium and uranium.

Electromagnetic forces are thousands of times as strong as the weak interaction, and they are transmitted by a particle with no mass, called the photon. As it turns out, the weak interaction is transmitted by very heavy particles called the W and Z.

But as he drove along in his Camaro, Dr. Weinberg saw that the same equations could describe the two interactions if a kind of energy, called a scalar field, permeated all of space. The field would in effect nudge the interactions in different directions, so that the underlying symmetry of the equations was broken, or hidden.

Physicists are still searching for direct evidence of that field -- it should spawn something called the Higgs particle -- but they have accepted Dr. Weinberg's idea, now called the electroweak theory. His paper explaining it became the most frequently cited paper in the recent history of particle physics.

"It was absolutely like lightning suddenly flashed," said Dr. Freeman Dyson, a physicist at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton.

"It was immediately obvious that it was great."

In 1979, Dr. Abdus Salam, a physicist from Pakistan, and Dr. Sheldon L. Glashow, a classmate of Dr. Weinberg at the Bronx High School of Science, shared the Nobel Prize for the work.

The core of the electroweak theory went on to inspire a successful and experimentally verified theory of the strong force, which holds atomic nuclei together. The results were bundled together in what physicists call the Standard Model, a theory that includes all the known forces except gravity and amounts to a particle physicist's bible.

Dr. Edward Witten, a physicist at the Institute for Advanced Study, described the theoretical innovations at the heart of the electroweak theory as "the main lessons of elementary particle physics in the last half century."

Beyond his many research papers, Dr. Weinberg has also made a mark with writings that include scientific monographs like "Gravitation and Cosmology" and "The Quantum Theory of Fields," popular books like "Dreams of a Final Theory" and "The First Three Minutes: A Modern View of the Origin of the Universe" and articles and essays on culture and science in publications like The New York Review of Books, Scientific American and George magazine.

Steven Weinberg was born on May 3, 1933, and he grew up so close to Yankee Stadium that "the lights kept you up at night," he said. His mother and his paternal grandfather immigrated from Europe.

Much of his mother's family in Germany perished in the Holocaust. His father made a living as a court stenographer.

As a boy, he absorbed classical music on the radio and learned chemistry from a hand-me-down set, ChemCraft #5. Despite his proximity to the ballpark, he was not a sports fan. (He still prefers baseball to football because, he said, it is easier to tell who has the ball.)

At Bronx Science, where "it was considered very uncool not to have learned calculus on your own," he began to blossom as a physics student, particularly after he encountered a popular book by Sir James Jeans that mentioned quantum physics, and its mysterious equations and engrossing idea that nature was based on simple but powerful laws.

"There was something at the bottom that was much simpler than the appearance," he said. "That was the cutting edge of knowledge."

He attended Cornell on scholarship, where he studied physics and fell in love with a fellow student, after hearing her sing in a student production. They married and today Louise Weinberg is a professor of law at the University of Texas.

After a "wonderful, romantic first year" in Copenhagen, where he did research at what is now called the Niels Bohr Institute, the couple returned to the United States, where he earned his Ph.D. at Princeton and worked at a series of universities, including Columbia, the University of California at Berkeley, M.I.T.

and Harvard, where Ms. Weinberg studied law. In 1980, she won an appointment at the law school at the University of Texas and in 1982, he followed her there.

It was there that he carried out the biggest battle of his professional career.

He and other physicists believed they would need a gigantic particle accelerator to find the Higgs particle; eventually the government proposed building it near Waxahachie, Tex. But vigorous lobbying by scientists could not overcome Congressional dismay over delays and high costs for the multibillion-dollar Superconducting Supercollider, and Congress killed it in 1993. Dr. Weinberg attributed its death to overzealous cost-cutting by freshman Democrats.

Though the loss of the collider was a terrible blow to physicists in the United States -- many believe leadership in the field has shifted now to Europe -- Dr. Weinberg has happy memories of the battle, recalling with particular fondness an appearance on the "McNeil-Lehrer News Hour" with Senator Phil Gramm, a conservative Texas Republican.

"It was the only time Phil Gramm and I were aligned," said Dr. Weinberg, whose politics are sharply liberal.

Today, one of his major battles is with postmodernist thinkers and philosophers of science who maintain that scientific theories reflect not objective reality but social negotiations among scientists. In its rawest form, this philosophy would say that the theories of the most persuasive or politically powerful scientists become accepted fact.

Dr. Weinberg wrote of one such book on the subject, "Constructing Quarks," by Dr. Andrew Pickering, that social negotiations in research are similar to the planning that mountain climbers might undertake together before

tackling Mount Everest. But no one would think of writing a book called "Constructing Everest," Dr. Weinberg said; once they had seen the mountain peak, most people would accept that it, like the elementary particles that leave their traces in particle detectors, had been shown to exist and had not been "constructed" by social agreement.

In general, Dr. Weinberg said, he believes that "half-baked philosophy has sometimes gotten in the way of doing science."

And then there are his pronouncements on religion and deism, including his much-quoted aphorism, "The more the universe seems comprehensible, the more it also seems pointless."

But in the seldom-cited passages that follow, Dr. Weinberg professes belief in his own kind of conviction, the idea that the scientific effort to uncover a complete theory of the universe is one of the things that can in itself add dignity and meaning to human existence.

As for conventional religion, though, his views are uncompromising: it is not only silly but damaging to human civilization.

"The whole history of the last thousands of years has been a history of religious persecutions and wars, pogroms, jihads, crusades," he said. "I find it all very regrettable, to say the least."

Actually, Dr. Weinberg does occasionally entertain the possibility that there might be a God. While sitting in his study, with its striking view of Lake Austin, he imagined himself in the role of the biblical Abraham, whose faith God tested by commanding that he sacrifice his own son.

"Even if there is a God," Dr. Weinberg said, "how do you know that his moral judgments are the correct ones? Seems to me Abraham should have said, 'God, that's just not right.'"

Fergus Falls Meeting

A Minnesota MUFON informational meeting was held at Fergus Falls, MN on April 27 at 7:30 PM in an Ottertail Power Company community room.

With about thirty people in attendance, Richard Moss explained the origin and objectives of MUFON with an emphasis on field investigations.

Many in the audience were well-versed on the UFO phenomenon and a good discussion resulted.

The group agreed to meet again on Tuesday, May 9. A program on the early years, contactees, and Roswell will be presented.

JOIN Minnesota MUFON Members in Laughlin UFO Conference Video Library

As in the past, we will be asking members to join in the latest round of International UFO Conference lecture tapes. We normally purchase 10-12 tapes of the most wanted lectures as indicated by those who join by donating \$10 to the video tape fund. Candy Peterson has been our acting librarian. Those who join can check out 1 tape per month and return them at the meetings.

Some of the speakers on the videotape series are:
Dr. Nick Begich, Ryan, Michael Hesemann, John Carpenter, Joe Lewels, Robert Raith, Dr. Jonathan Reed, A.J. Gevaerd, Ron Russell, Graham Birdsall, Santiago Yturria Garza, Dr. Michael Newton, Dr. Steven Greer, Giorgio Bongiovanni, William Buhlman, Leonard Buchanan, James Gilliland, Wendelle Stevens, George Knapp, Peter Davenport, Larry Warren, Constance Clear, Dolores Cannon, Gildais Bourdais, Russel Callaghan, Daniel Sheehan, Ron Regehr, Dr. Roger Leir

NOTE: If you don't come to the meetings, this will not work out since we need tapes back each month to redistribute to those who haven't seen them yet. If you do decide to join, please be conscientious about returning the tapes.

To Join, see Bob Schultz at the meeting or contact him at: uforobert@aol.com

UFOs On Film

Now out on DVD is Ultimate UFO! - a compilation of 250 UFO film clips from 26 countries. Also included on the twin DVDs are a selection of documents obtained under the US Freedom of Information Act, together with some of the controversial MJ-12 papers. There are also links with a selection of websites, and informed commentary from Peter Robbins, Michael Hesemann and J. Antonio Huneus. But it's the film clips that will be of most interest, I suspect, and these include footage from Mexico, Gulf Breeze and from NASA. The DVDs contain over five and a half hours of material. Check out

www.ufocity.com for order details and further information on this product.

A note about Minnesota MUFON Field investigations

From our experience, it is sometimes difficult to find out about UFO sightings, etc. while they are still "hot". Anyone knowing about a sighting or knowing someone else who has is requested to let us FI's at Minnesota MUFON know about it ASAP, so we can get on it and get the evidence and reports while still fresh. It is a lot easier to get corroborating reports as well if we know about the occurrences immediately after.

We depend on many sources for reports, but the best are first or second hand directly to us. We have had some difficulty getting information from National UFO Reporting Center so we can do a local investigation. Any help and cooperation is always appreciated. Thanks.

Joel Henry, Ed., FI, Webmaster.

UFO EVENTS

MUFON presentations at MarsCon 2000.

Friday May 12, 2000 8 to 10PM (tentative schedule)
MUFON presentations at MarsCon 2000. Radisson South Hotel, Bloomington, MN. Tentative Schedule:

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

The MarsCon 2000 website is:

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

Craig Lang, MN MUFON Coordinator for Field Investigation, will be on Jerry Modjeski's show - UFO Update: Friday Night/Saturday Morning May 26/27, 2000 - Midnight to 2AM on KFAI 90.3FM in Minneapolis, 106.7FM in St. Paul.

Jerry's website: <http://www.scc.net/~critter/mts/>

(The real-audio link from the KFAI website is: <http://kfai.org/kfai2/kfailive.ram>)

We will be continuing our discussions of MUFON investigation activities, close encounter work, etc...

The 2000 MUFON International Symposium

will be held July 12-14, at the Sheraton West Port Hotel (Lakeside Chalet), 191 West Port Plaza, St. Louis, MO 63146.

Speakers confirmed to date include John S. Carpenter, Stanton Friedman, Irena Scott, Ted Phillips, John Schuessler, Gerald Rolwes, Linda Corley, Kevin Randle, and Stan Gordon.

The hotel can be reached at 1-800-822-3535; be sure they know you are a symposium attendee.

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**MUFONET: 7.237mhz Sat. at 7:00am CST,
Bob Shultz, Net Control**

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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